



# LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR  
**AUTHOR: REVIEW OF THE YEAR**



LONDON NATURAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
(LNHS)**

is a Registered Charity.

We are seeking applications for the position of  
AUTHOR OF 'REVIEW OF THE YEAR' FOR THE  
LONDON BIRD REPORT (LBR) 2022 ONWARDS  
to take over from our previous Author  
who has retired after 13 years in this position.

**NOTES:**

This is a VOLUNTARY POSITION  
as are all other positions in the LNHS.

We consider that the successful applicant should have a keen interest in birds and a good knowledge of the birds of the London Area, and be able to summarise a large quantity of data into concise, readable form.

The deadline for receipt of applications  
is 1st January 2024.

For further information, please see the following pages.

## **AUTHOR OF LBR 'REVIEW OF THE YEAR'**

A CONTINUOUS POSITION IN THE LNHS

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### **Job description and reference material**

The Review of the Year has been written for the LBR by Nick Rutter every year from LBR 2009 to LBR 2021. Nick has now stepped down from this role, and we are looking for someone to take over.

The Review of the Year is a six-page section of each issue of the London Bird Report (about 3,500 words in length). The usual format to date has been to have three sections: a short introductory section covering the main highlights of the year; a section covering the seasonal highlights; and then, the longest section, a month-by-month summary of highlights. This information must be produced using the Birds of London section of the LBR, once that is completed.

### **References**

Nick Rutter has kindly outlined his procedure, overleaf.

The text of the 2021 Review of the Year is appended after page 6.

For a PDF file of the LBR 2021 Birds of the London Area section (3MB), please email Mike Trier: [LBRdesign@lnhs.org.uk](mailto:LBRdesign@lnhs.org.uk)

### **Timing**

The writing of the Review is quite time constrained, as it can only be started once the draft copy of the Birds of London section of the LBR is ready. This is usually about the third week of January. The review will then need revising once the final version of the Birds of London section is ready (about the third week of March).

So, we are looking for someone who could work on this during the period from about 22nd January 2024 to late March 2024 - and annually thereafter.

**To apply for this position, please email the LBR Secretary, Annie Wilson:**

**[secretary@lnhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lnhs.org.uk)**

**by 1st January 2024 at the latest.**

## LBR REVIEW OF THE YEAR - PROCEDURE

NICK RUTTER

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Writing the review of the year for the LBR starts with the near-final draft text of the species reports which is issued fairly early in the New Year. I would go through this text, making notes under the following headings:

1. Notable sightings for the year (particularly species where there are few sightings for the London area, or species are nationally scarce or London specialities);
2. Interesting records for each month, including year highs for each species; and
3. Overviews of each season (divided into first Winter, Spring, Breeding, Autumn and second Winter). Many of the reports of breeding species in particular are hampered by under-recording, so I tended only to include those of scarcer species or ones where I felt the data appeared robust.

My guiding principles were no more sophisticated than judging whether I would be interested in the record, and whether it would be helpful in deciding where to go in any given month.

Having made these notes, I would then write them up into a draft report, adding information on the weather where relevant from the Met Office annual summary. I would typically start with the monthly summaries, and finish by writing the year highlights and seasonal reviews, though I put these at the start of the report. As many of the sites are recorded repeatedly in the report, I would typically use abbreviations (for example, RaMa for Rainham Marshes) to reduce the amount of typing and then use find and replace when I've finished the draft.

I would also include a total of the species recorded in the London area, just by totting up the numbers from the draft report. As some of the records in the draft text of the species reports are still under review, I would put the text relating to these in square brackets to facilitate finding these if they needed amendment.

I would then send the draft to the Editor, who would review, and raise a number of comments, questions and corrections. In addition, the draft report is highly likely to need updating as the text of the main body of the report is updated to reflect, in particular, rejected records.

Preparing the first draft would typically take about 4 weeks from start to finish, working for an hour or so most days. The comments and updates then take a few more days' work in March.

## ABOUT THE LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1858

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The London Natural History Society (or LNHS as it is commonly known) is a local natural history society within the UK concerned with recording the wildlife of London within a circular area of 20-miles radius from St. Paul's Cathedral. The Society's aims are to foster the appreciation and study of London's wildlife and natural environment, and to assist in the conservation of wildlife in the London area by helping to record London's wildlife.

The LNHS consists of a number of active sections. This results in a highly varied programme of talks, organised nature walks and other activities. The variety and number of events for members make the LNHS one of the most active nature societies in the world which is run entirely by volunteers. Whether it is purely for recreation, or to develop field skills for a career in conservation, the LNHS offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Beginners are welcome at every event and gain access to the knowledge of some very skilled naturalists.

On top of its varied public engagement, the LNHS also has a raft of publications free to members. The London Naturalist is its annual journal, with scientific papers as well as lighter material such as book reviews. The annual London Bird Report is an important compilation of bird records during a year. Furthermore, there is a quarterly newsletter, which carries many field trip reports and useful announcements, and a six-monthly illustrated Programme of events and information.

The LNHS maintains its annual membership at a modest level, representing fantastic value for money.

### FIND OUT MORE

Website: [www.lnhs.org.uk](http://www.lnhs.org.uk)

Instagram: @londonbirdclub

Twitter: @LNHSoc and @LondonBirdClub

Facebook: London Natural History Society

Email: [secretary@lnhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lnhs.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 206228



**LONDON NATURAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY**

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

A. J. Barratt, D. Bevan, FLS, R. M. Burton, MA, FLS,  
J. A. Edgington, PhD, FLS, J. F. Hewlett, PhD

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Vacant

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Annie Wilson

secretary@lnhs.org.uk

#### TREASURER

Michael West (retiring)

treasurer@lnhs.org.uk

#### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Robin Blades

### SECTIONS

BOOKHAM COMMONS SURVEY

BOTANY

ECOLOGY & ENTOMOLOGY

HAMPSTEAD HEATH SURVEY

LONDON BIRD CLUB



# LONDON BIRD REPORT 2021

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LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY





## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021

### 236 species were recorded in London during 2021 (excluding escapes and subspecies)

No new species for London were recorded, though 2020's Dark-eyed Junco did remain in Chiswick til mid-April. Notable sightings for the year included London's third Dusky Warbler, fourth Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 12th Little Bunting and Black-winged Stilt, the first Velvet Scoter and Alpine Swift since 2012, the first Long-tailed Skua since 2013, the first Hooded Crow since 2016, the first Leach's Petrel and Spotted Crake since 2017 and the first Purple Heron since 2018. Spoonbills were seen at 12 sites, Cattle Egrets at 29 and Great White Egrets at 73; there were single records of Crane and Glossy Ibis. Raptor records included a Goshawk, up to three Hen Harriers and two White-tailed Eagles. Seabirds included up to four Gannets, two Shags, four Roseate Terns, two Great Skuas, at least five Arctic Skuas and Common Guillemots and one Puffin. Gull records included about 130 Caspian, ten Iceland and two Glaucous Gulls. Waders included a Temminck's Stint, two Pectoral Sandpipers and a Grey Phalarope. There were also three Wrynecks and single records of Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Penduline Tit and Snow Bunting. Nine Yellow-browed Warblers were seen this year.

The first Winter period saw cold weather in the first two months, with a particularly cold spell in early February. Records from the period included Bittern from six sites, Common Sandpipers at 19 sites, Green Sandpipers at 30 sites and Short-eared Owls at 11 sites. Eight Long-eared Owls were recorded. Woodcock records were up, with records from 56 sites. 176 Water Rails were recorded in the first four months. Probably 116 White-fronted Geese remained from the 2020 influx, with records from 32 sites, while three Tundra Bean Geese and 84 Brent Geese were recorded. Other wildfowl included two Ring-necked Ducks, at least six Scaup, up to five Velvet Scoter, five Smew and three Red-breasted Mergansers. Three Great Northern Divers were seen. The hard weather saw movements of Lapwings between 8th and 16th February. Bearded Tits were at four sites. Three Yellow-browed Warblers remained from 2020, with a further one seen in March. Chiffchaffs were recorded from 107 sites; one or two Siberian Chiffchaffs remained from 2020, and five new birds were found. Wintering Blackcap numbers reached 203 from 132 sites. Three Dartford Warblers remained from 2020, and six new birds were found. Stonechats were recorded from 110 sites. Further remnants from 2020 influxes included 566 Lesser Redpolls and 65 Crossbills at four sites.

After a chilly early start, April was the sunniest on record since the sunshine baseline date of 1919, but was followed by an exceptionally wet May. Passage included 18 Osprey, at least 160 Bar-tailed Godwits and 200 Ringed Plovers, up to 270 Whimbrel and 55 Greenshank. Small numbers of Grey Plovers, Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Wood Sandpipers and Spotted Redshank were recorded. Mediterranean Gull numbers were up slightly at 224 records. It was a very poor year for Black Terns, with only 24 spring records; 17 Little Terns and up to 23 Sandwich Terns were seen. There were possibly six Turtle Dove records, with one staying to July, while Cuckoos were reported from 136

sites. Among the passerines, records included four Woodlarks, two Wood Warblers, 62 Ring Ouzels, 45 Spotted Flycatchers from 35 sites, higher numbers of Redstarts (49 from 33 sites) and Whinchats (69 from 39 sites), 17 Tree Pipits, and six Pied Flycatchers from six sites. Wheatears were recorded from 122 sites.

As ever, inconsistent coverage made it difficult to discern trends in breeding success for many species. Two pairs of Marsh Harriers bred at Rainham Marshes, with 101 pairs of Redshank and possibly 14 Avocet pairs there. Another pair of Marsh Harriers nested at Swanscombe Marshes). Among the ducks, 14 broods of Shoveler, 27 broods of Gadwall and 62 broods of Pochard (at 20 sites) were recorded. At least six pairs of Red Kites bred across the recording area. A pair of Mediterranean Gulls bred successfully, the first for the recording area. Four pairs of Barn Owls, five pairs of Little Owls and nine pairs of Tawny Owls were confirmed to have bred. Only one territory of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers was confirmed, with one other possible. At least 31 of 69 Kestrel pairs were successful, while Hobby were at 26 territories, with 13 pairs confirmed breeding. Peregrines were at 59 territories, with 30 of these successful; 80 young were fledged, including 23 in Inner London. Ten territories of Raven were recorded, with confirmed breeding at four sites. Marsh Tits were confirmed to breed at two sites. There were 13 confirmed breeding pairs of Bearded Tits, eight of which were at Rainham Marshes. No breeding Woodlarks were recorded, but 322 Skylark territories were recorded from 72 sites (including 50 at Rainham Marshes). Cetti's Warbler again increased (369 territories, up from 340). A pair of Marsh Warblers attempted to breed at one site, while Grasshopper Warblers were at 14 territories across seven sites and Firecrest territories were also recorded at eight sites. Six pairs of Stonechats bred at Richmond Park, while 18 male Black Redstarts were recorded on territory, and there were 16 Nightingale territories across 12 sites. Tree Sparrows continued to cling on, with only seven nests at their sole remaining site. There was one confirmed breeding record of Hawfinch. Among the Buntings, there were at least 129 singing male Reed Buntings and 14 singing male Corn Buntings, and 93 singing male Yellowhammers.

Autumn saw seven Osprey records between July and September. Wader records included about 160 Ringed Plovers, up to 60 Whimbrel, ten Bar-tailed Godwits, 36 Turnstone, 89 Greenshanks, three Spotted Redshanks and 13 Little Stints; species with low numbers included a maximum of only three Knot, a single Curlew Sandpiper and only six Grey Plovers. A heavy passage of 305 Sandwich Terns was recorded; eight Little Terns and up to 54 Black Terns were seen. Passerine records included six Woodlarks, two Wood Warblers, 40 Ring Ouzels, 28 Pied Flycatchers and 59 Redstarts. Spotted Flycatchers were recorded from 71 sites and Wheatears from 64.

The second Winter period saw two Pink-footed Goose records, while 17 White-fronted Geese were seen across seven sites. Bitterns were recorded from four sites, Woodcocks from 47, Common Sandpipers from 24 and Short-eared Owls from 11. Maxima of seven Scaup and three Great Northern Divers were recorded, while two Slavonian Grebes were at Staines Res. There were 165 records of Water Rail. Bearded Tits were recorded at three sites. Wintering Chiffchaffs were at 77 sites; there were two records of Siberian Chiffchaff, five Yellow-browed Warblers and 11 Dartford Warblers. A Whitethroat was singing in December. Stonechats were recorded from 35 sites and 291 Lesser Redpolls were recorded.

**January:** The month saw year highs at Rainham Marshes of 2,000 Lapwings, 250 Great Black-backed Gulls, 10,000 Herring Gulls (a joint year high) and 3,000 Starlings. Year peak counts at other sites included 60 Mandarin Ducks at Hampstead Heath, 45 Red-crested Pochards at Bury Lake, 500 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 4,000 Jackdaws and 14 Water Pipits at Beddington Farmlands, 754 Carrion Crows at a roost at Perivale Wood, at least 35 Coal Tits at Symondshyde Great Wood, 2,000 Fieldfares at Swanscombe Marshes, 210 Pied Wagtails in Watford, 850 Chaffinches and 750 Linnets at Ridge, 100 Lesser Redpolls (a joint year high count with one in February) at Banstead Wood and 100 Reed Buntings in Ingrebourne Valley. The year started with three Tundra Bean Geese at Laleham, staying til 5th, while a Goldeneye remained from 2020 at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens until 2nd. On 5th, a Glaucous Gull was at Q. Mother Res. A Glossy Ibis was at Bedfont Lakes CP on 25th, while another Inner London Goldeneye was recorded at Burgess Park from 30th til February 1st.

**February:** Year peak counts this month included 1,859 Wigeon at Rainham Marshes, 55 Red Kites at a roost in Surrey, 11 Grey Plovers at Dartford Marshes, 13 Woodcocks at North Ockendon, 132 Snipe at Rye Meads, at least 1,800 Common Gulls at Wanstead Flats, six Caspian Gulls at Beckton SW, 500 Stock Doves at Navestock Heath and seven Firecrests at Sutton at Hone. A Common Redpoll was at Stocker's Lake on 1st; other records came from Chafford Hundred on 13th and Chiswick House on 16th. A Common Guillemot was on the Thames in the Chiswick-Hammersmith area on 14th. A Stonechat was at Primrose Hill on 23rd. On 27th, a Bewick's Swan was at Dartford Marshes, while a day total of 137 Buzzards was recorded across the London Area.

**March:** The month saw year highs of 308 Shoveler and 92 Pintail at Rainham Marshes, 778 Mallards, 11 Rock Pipits and 11 Short-eared Owls at Swanscombe Marshes, 50 Goldeneye and 14 Black-necked Grebes at Staines Res, 15 Jack Snipe at Rye Meads, 150 Magpies at a roost at Waterworks NR and 56 Yellowhammers at Coopers Green GP. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers were at KGV Res from 2nd to 15th, with a further record there on 21st. On 6th, a White-tailed Eagle flew over the City of London, while on 7th a Common Guillemot was on the Thames at Erith Reach and Rainham Marshes. A Common Redpoll was at Chafford Hundred on 8th. A Long-tailed Skua was at Rainham Marshes on 12th, while 350 Golden Plover were over St Albans on 13th. A total of 139 Buzzards were recorded across the London Area on 19th. A Pheasant was seen on Fleet Street on 22nd, while a Crane flew over Beddington Farmlands on 23rd. An influx of Wheatears on 29th saw 203 birds recorded across 37 sites, including 30 in Totteridge Valley.

**April:** Year high counts this month included six White Storks over Essex, 12 Whimbrel, seven Ruff, 165 Redshank and 100 Arctic Terns at Rainham Marshes, 60 Little Gulls and six Black Terns at Staines Res and 320 Meadow Pipits at Harold's Park Farm CP. A Blue-headed Wagtail was at Rainham Marshes on 2nd; other records this month were at Beddington Farmlands on 29th and 30th. There was also a hybrid Channel Wagtail at Coopers Green GP on 12th. Kittiwake passage from 4th to 6th included 55 at Hilfield Park Res on the latter date. On 8th, a White-tailed Eagle from the reintroduction

scheme flew over Beddington Farmlands. A Ruddy Duck was at a site in our Herts sector from 10th to 29th, with further sightings there from 4th to 9th May. On 12th, 11 White Wagtails were at Staines Res, while a Rook was seen at Primrose Hill on 13th. Redstart passage peaked on 14th, with single birds at eight sites. On 20th, a Black-winged Stilt was at Rainham Marshes, while a Curlew and a Tree Pipit flew over Primrose Hill; a further Tree Pipit was reported at Burgess Park on 28th. A Grey Phalarope was at Staines Res on 21st. On 22nd, a year high 72 Bar-tailed Godwits were at Swanscombe Marshes, with 50 recorded at Rainham Marshes that day, followed by 52 at Rainham Marshes on 23rd. A Bee-eater was heard over Rainham Marshes on 23rd. A busy day of passage on 24th saw 11 Whimbrel flying N over Regent's Park, three Spotted Redshank at Rye Meads, while at Rainham Marshes there was another Spotted Redshank (staying til 30th) as well as seven Greenshank. That day also saw 189 Little Gull records across nine sites, including 51 at KGV Res, 32 at Walthamstow Wetlands and at least 25 at Broadwater Lake. On 25th, a Dotterel was at Hawley and an Iceland Gull was at Rotherhithe. A Glaucous Gull was at Rainham Marshes and Crayford Marshes on 27th, staying at Rainham Marshes until 8th May, while a Lesser Whitethroat seen at Burgess Park on 27th remained to 9th May. On 28th, two Arctic Skuas were seen at Beddington Farmlands and a year high 74 Yellow Wagtails were at Coopers Green GP. Hirundine passage on 29th saw counts of 400 Sand Martins at Rainham Marshes and Staines Res, 400 Swallows at the latter site and 150 House Martins at Hilfield Park Res. That day also saw a Merlin at Rainham Marshes.

**May:** May saw year highs of 129 Shelduck at Rainham Marshes, four Garganey at Beddington Farmlands, seven Turnstones over KGV Res, ten Sanderling at Q. Mother Res and 23 Green Woodpeckers at Darent Lakes. The year's peak count of Hobby was 12 at Horton GP on 2nd. Dunlin passage on 4th saw 87 recorded across ten sites, including 26 at Coopers Green GP. Common Sandpiper passage peaked on 5th and 9th, with 38 recorded across the London Area on both days. A Wood Warbler was at Barnes Common on 7th, with a further record of a singing bird at Richmond Park on 12th. A Merlin was at Rainham Marshes on 8th and a Temminck's Stint was at Beddington Farmlands on 9th. A Whinchat was at Primrose Hill on 11th. On 14th, a Purple Heron was at Amwell NR, while a Nightjar was at Battersea Park on 15th. A year high 3,200 Swifts were at Staines Res on 25th. A Cuckoo was at Burgess Park on 27th, and a Golden Oriole was at Totteridge Valley on 30th.

**June:** Year peak counts this month included 759 Canada Geese at Walthamstow Wetlands, 66 Great Tits at Mar Dyke Valley and 31 Ringed Plovers at Rainham Marshes. A Kittiwake was at Rotherhithe on 2nd. On 6th, three Roseate Terns flew over Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), heading towards QEII Res. On 18th, 11 Common Scoter were seen at Walthamstow Wetlands, with a female staying there til 23rd. An Alpine Swift was found grounded and taken into care at North Cheam on 22nd.

**July:** A quiet month saw a year high count of 152 House Sparrows (including 32 juveniles) at Latchford Farm, Upminster. A Goshawk was seen at Rickmansworth on 25th, and an Oystercatcher was at Battersea on 26th.

**August:** Year highs this month included 474 Gadwall at Rye Meads, 820 Cormorants at Staines Res, 33 Common Sandpipers at KGV Res, 25 Green Sandpipers at Beddington Farmlands and 56 Yellow-legged Gulls at Q. Mary Res. At Walthamstow Wetlands, a count of 55 Little Egrets was a year high outside the breeding season. The year's joint highest count of Sand Martins was of 400 at Staines Res on 8th. Single Wood Warblers were recorded at Primrose Hill on 11th and at Dagnam Park on 16th. Autumn Common Sandpiper passage peaked on 14th, with 47 recorded across the London Area. A Tree Pipit was at Primrose Hill on 14th, followed by four at Richmond Park on 29th. A Pied Flycatcher was in Bloomsbury on 24th. A Common Guillemot was at Rainham Marshes on 25th. On 27th, a joint year high six Spotted Flycatchers were on Hampstead Heath. On 28th, a Shag was at Erith and a Wryneck was at Alexandra Park.

**September:** The month saw year high counts of 3,051 Tufted Ducks and 963 Coot at KGV Res, 80 Avocets and 44 Jays at Rainham Marshes, 150 Blue Tits at Banstead Wood and 70 Long-tailed Tits on Hampstead Heath. A Caspian Gull was at Burgess Park on 3rd. On 4th, a Great Skua was seen at Rainham Marshes and Swanscombe Marshes; there was another record at Rainham Marshes on 13th. A Wryneck was at Wanstead Flats from 4th to 6th. Peak Whinchat passage from 4th to 5th saw 59 birds at 16 sites on the former date and 56 at 18 sites on the latter, including 14 birds at Staines Moor. Pied Flycatcher passage on 5th saw 13 birds across seven sites, including Burgess Park, Primrose Hill and Regent's Park. A Spotted Crake was at Beddington Farmlands from 5th to 6th. A large group of 23 Buzzards was at Wanstead Flats on 6th. A Common Guillemot was at Gallions Reach on 6th; there was another record on 18th from West Thurrock Marshes and Rainham Marshes. On 9th, a Dotterel flew S at Staines Res, while peak Wheatear passage on that day saw 36 recorded across the area. A Pectoral Sandpiper found at London Wetland Centre on 12th stayed til 29th; one found at Rainham Marshes on 24th stayed til 10th October. A busy day of tern passage on 14th saw year high counts at Rainham Marshes of 250 Common Terns, seven Little Terns and 159 Sandwich Terns, with 108 of the latter species at Thames Barrier on that day, while three Arctic Skua were at Q. Mother Res. On 20th, 11 Spoonbills were at Bedfords Park. Single Gannets were recorded at Hilfield Park Res, Wanstead Flats and Swanscombe Marshes on 26th.

**October:** Year highs this month included 440 Greylag Geese at Sevenoaks WR, 205 Egyptian Geese at QEII Res, 778 Teal at Crossness and 168 Moorhens at London Wetland Centre. A count of 38 Grey Herons at Dagenham Chase was the highest number outside the breeding season. On 2nd, a year high count of 600 House Martins were at KGV Res. On 7th, Staines Res recorded a Roseate Tern and on the 8th a Gannet and a Leach's Petrel were seen at Q. Mother Res. The same or another Gannet was also seen at Staines Res on that date. On 9th, a Ring Ouzel was at Primrose Hill, while two were recorded at that site on 22nd. A Stonechat was at Burgess Park on 10th, followed by two at Regent's Park on 11th. Thrush movements on 13th saw 60,000 Redwings reported across 71 sites, including a total of 26,013 SW over Banstead, with one flock of 1,500. That day also saw 57 Song Thrushes moving SW at Totteridge Valley. A Hawfinch flew N at Primrose Hill on 14th. A Penduline Tit was at Beddington Farmlands from 16th to 17th, while a Hen Harrier was at Rainham Marshes on the latter date. On 22nd, two Red-breasted

Mergansers were at Hilfield Park Res. A Whooper Swan was seen over Stanwell Moor, then Q. Mother Res on 23rd. On 24th, a Rook flew over Primrose Hill, thousands of Starlings were recorded across the area (including 1,182 at Banstead) and 655 Chaffinches flew SW at Richmond Park. On 25th, a Rock Pipit was at Primrose Hill, and the month ended with a Snow Bunting at Beddington Farmlands on 31st.

**November:** The month saw year highs of 175 Pochards at Broadwater Lake, 120 Red-legged Partridges at Orsett Fen, ten Cattle Egrets and 30 Curlews at Rainham Marshes, five Great White Egrets at Walthamstow Wetlands, 645 Feral Pigeons at Wanstead Flats, 84 Collared Doves at Hogsmill SW, 44 Mistle Thrushes at Valentines Park, 100 Bramblings at Marden Park Woods and 200 Goldfinches at Beddington Farmlands. A Hoopoe was at Portsmouth Road FB, Surrey, on 1st. Woodpigeon passage peaked from 2nd to 3rd, with a year high count of 21,213 over Mill Wood on the latter date. On 3rd, 12 Hawfinches (including a flock of seven) were recorded at Greenwich Park; later in the month, single birds were recorded at Russia Dock Woodland on 10th, and at Primrose Hill on 13th and 24th. On 4th, over 4,000 Fieldfares were recorded across 27 sites. The next day saw 1,684 Fieldfares SW over Banstead, 102 Blackbirds at Colley Hill and peak passage of Starlings involving 2,904 birds, including 1,241 at Plumstead Common. A Rook flew over Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens on 7th, while one was recorded at Primrose Hill on 9th. On 17th, a year high count of 113 Greenfinches were recorded flying SE at Garston and a Hen Harrier was at London Wetland Centre; there was another record of Hen Harrier at Rainham Marshes on 18th. A Pink-footed Goose was at Amwell NR on 20th. A Ferruginous Duck seen at Thorpe Water Park on 25th, stayed to the year end. An exhausted juvenile Puffin was found at Victoria Park on 21st. On 22nd, a Long-tailed Duck was at Staines Res; the next day, a Hooded Crow flew over Rainham Marshes. A Pale-bellied Brent Goose was at Q. Mother Res on 27th.

**December:** Year high counts this month included 257 Barnacle Geese at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 139 Mute Swans at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 29 Goosanders at Weald CP, 19 Grey Partridges at Orsett Fen, 176 Great Crested Grebes at Q. Mary Res, 208 Black-tailed Godwits at Crossness, 1,100 Dunlin at Rainham Marshes, 9,100 Black-headed Gulls at Ravens Ait, 300 Skylarks at Eynsford, 200 Siskin at Stocker's Lake and 26 Goldcrests at Kew Gardens. Roosting Ring-necked Parakeets recorded from Athelstan Rec, Kingston-on-Thames reached a year peak of 10,000. A Red-throated Diver was at Q. Mother Res on 7th. On 9th, a Merlin was at Sloemans Farm; later in the month, one was at Rainham Marshes on 28th. A Red-necked Grebe found at KGV Res on 11th stayed to the year end. Scarcities came to the fore on 14th, with a Dusky Warbler found at Walthamstow Marshes (staying into 2022) and a Little Bunting at Upper College Farm, Kent, where it stayed to the year end. An unseasonal Whitethroat was singing at Alexandra Park on 15th. A White-fronted Goose was at Burgess Park from 21st to 31st, while a Pink-footed Goose was at Coopers Green GP from 22nd to 23rd being seen also at Stanborough Lakes on the latter date. A Shag was at Rainham Marshes on 22nd. On 27th, 12 Bewick's Swans were at Littlebrook Pools.