



# LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR  
LONDON BIRD REPORT  
SYSTEMATIC LIST EDITORS



LONDON NATURAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY

## **LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (LNHS)**

is a Registered Charity.

We would love to hear from people with relevant experience and enthusiasm to be a part of a successful team, for the following three vacancies:

### **LONDON BIRD REPORT SYSTEMATIC LIST EDITORS**

to take over from our current Editors once the Report for 2023 has been published in May 2025.

They have served in this role for seven years.

#### **NOTES:**

These are **VOLUNTARY POSITIONS**  
as are all other positions in the LNHS.

We consider that the successful applicants - if non-members - should have an active interest in natural history.

### **HELP NEEDED WITH LONDON BIRD REPORT ! !**

Do you read the London Bird Report?

Do you have editing skills?

The Report has been a birding fixture since 1936, but the data, once sparse, is now vast.

LNHS are asking for your help in collating and editing the ups and downs of all our bird species.

**IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT :**

Pete Mantle on 07753 696 444

or at

[petemantle@yahoo.com](mailto:petemantle@yahoo.com)

## JOIN THE LONDON BIRD REPORT EDITORIAL TEAM

CONTINUOUS POSITIONS IN THE LNHS

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The London Bird Report (LBR) is an outstanding example of an annual, ornithological publication which has been published since 1936. It is currently a handsome 256 page publication and counts amongst its editorial team some of the best known names in London and the home counties as well as people who are personalities on the wider British scene.

The authoritative publication brings together the efforts of professional ornithologists and casual bird watchers to produce an annual distillation of bird records in the recording area of the London Natural History Society (a 20-mile radius of St Pauls Cathedral). See map on page 4.



The core of the LBR is the systematic accounts compiled by a team of volunteers who carve up the accounts between them using records submitted by hundreds of observers. In addition in the LBR there are a numbers of papers including Ringing Reports, reports of Surveys, site-specific accounts and a mix of other popular and scientific papers. The LBR is elegantly designed to show tables and graphical data to best effect and is a full colour publication with use of photographs and illustrations. Many people volunteer to take on a range of tasks from copy editing to the compilation of species accounts and the commissioning and editing of papers. The work is overseen by a strong LBR Editorial Board. There are three vacancies that have arisen on the Editorial Board offering an opportunity to be a part of this prestigious team. A summary and full details of the vacant roles are described on pages 4 and 5. The LBR for 2023 will be published in May 2025.

# LONDON BIRD REPORT SYSTEMATIC LIST EDITORS

## Summary

To commission and collate the writing of species accounts for the main systematic list, and to edit all contributions into one consistent account which follows an agreed house style.

(See the sample species account on page 6.)

*LNHS Area map. (Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database rights 2012). In the LNHS Area, 361 species of bird have been recorded in an apparently wild state since 1900. Of these, 236 were recorded during the year 2021 and written up for the London Bird Report.*



## Detailed tasks

- Update Templates for writers if necessary.
- Update Guidance for writers if necessary.
- Update Background Information for each section.
- Commission writers for each section with agreed dates for completion.
- Send data, guidance, template and background information to each writer.
- Chase writers for completed sections.
- Edit writer sections checking for accuracy of dates, accuracy of site names, order of recording area sections, coverage of section, length of section, format.
- Form Draft Birds of London section, including any necessary summary tables and charts, with 'not-yet-approved' rarities at front and circulate to writers, Recorders, Editorial Board and others for comments.
- Take in comments and produce Final Birds of London section.
- Keep record of any changes made during preparation of Birds of London Area section.
- Circulate Final Birds of London section to Editorial Board and Recorders.
- Prepare Appendix III.

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LONDON BIRD REPORT NO.86 2021

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.  
**RBBP**

Brooding reports this year showed a slight increase on last year, with one pair confirmed breeding in Middlesex, three other pairs and 13 singing males. The total number of males on territory, 17, is the highest since 2017, when 19 territories were held, indicating that last year's exceptional low of just seven territories was likely due to the impact of the pandemic on inner city recording. Brooding records are shown in the table and records for other sites are listed below.

Black Redstart:	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Essex	-	-	4
Herts	-	-	-
Middx	1	1	1
Kent	-	-	-
Surrey	-	1	-
In Lond	-	2	8

Essex: Banbury Res, one on Oct 22nd. Beckton; singles on Feb 13th, Jun 2nd and 8th. Beckton SW, one on Mar 21st. Chingford Plain, one on Apr 9th. KGV Res; one on Jan

*Black Redstart is singing on as a London breeding species, and can sometimes be heard singing above the morning commute. (Eugene Dillon-Hooper)*



## Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

The total number of broods was 234, down from 329 last year, but more comparable to 252 in 2019. The spike last year is assumed to be due to lockdown exercise walks during the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in an increase in observations at local sites such as urban parks.

The peak count was 778 on March 2nd at Swanscombe Marshes, substantially higher than 283 at Rainham Marshes last year, and the highest count since 870 at Panshanger Park in 1995, which is believed to have included up to 500 birds released for shooting. The peak summer count was 250 at Coopers Green GP on July 22nd (177 at Connaught Water in August last year), however note that this count may relate to releases for shooting.

The table below shows regularly watched sites that had a count of 150 or more. Breeding records and other high counts are summarised below the table.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	132	145	123	85	65	47	41	50	50	195	53	290
HR Coopers Green GP	15	-	4	5	-	-	250	180	-	130	200	188
Stanborough Lakes	50	-	-	2	-	-	-	180	176	80	250	130
MX Q. Mary Res	11	13	2	22	19	8	17	42	261	12	-	34
KT Swanscombe Marshes	21	571	778	126	38	29	18	25	108	32	38	28
SY Putney Bridge-Barnes	30	-	20	54	-	-	-	-	220	275	187	199
Richmond Park	150	120	50	57	40	25	64	25	40	20	40	80
Wetland Centre	122	83	117	130	132	159	118	145	143	141	152	143

Essex: 59 broods from 19 sites. Connaught Water, 130 on Nov 26th. Dagenham Chase, 105 on Jul 28th. Ingrebourne Valley, 100 on Oct 16th. Mar Dyke Valley, 141 on Nov 10th. Rainham Marshes (29). Walthamstow Wetlands, 120 on Oct 7th. Wanstead Flats, 140 on Oct 17th. Wanstead Park, 125 on Nov 20th.

Herts: 49 broods from 27 sites. Hilfield Park Res (11). Radlett, 106 on Sep 30th. Stocker's Lake, 101 on Mar 13th.

Middx: 61 broods from 35 sites. Brent Res, 110 on Jun 24th. Hampstead Heath, 105 on Oct 10th.

Kent: 31 broods from 15 sites. Bradbourne Lakes, 105 on Sep 19th. Kelsey Park, 130 on Sep 21st.

Surrey: 29 broods from 24 sites. Beddington Farmlands, 119 on Oct 16th. R Thames: Kew Bridge to Barnes Bridge, 107 on Nov 21st. R Thames: Kew to Richmond, 103 on Dec 28th. R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth, 274 on Dec 30th. R Wandle: Mitcham Bridge to Morden Hall Tram Crossing, 104 on Dec 19th. Truss's Island, 126 on Oct 19th.

In Lond: Five broods from four sites. Battersea Park, 80 on Jul 24th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 50 on Jun 26th, c50 on Aug 10th and Nov 25th. Regent's Park, 50 on Dec 16th. St James's Park, 75 on Jul 10th. Victoria Park, 82 on Mar 20th. Wapping Canals, 54 on Oct 28th.

## 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

Helen Baker MBOU, A. J. Barratt, D. Bevan FLS,  
J. A. Edgington PhD, FLS, J. F. Hewlett PhD,  
Colin W. Plant BSc, FRES, R. John Swindells, Mike West

## OFFICERS FOR 2025

### PRESIDENT

Vacant

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mark Burgess, Maria Roberts, Edward Tuddenham MD,  
Michael Wilsdon MBOU

### SECRETARY

Annie Wilson

### TREASURER

James Lovely

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Robin Blades

## SECTIONS

BOOKHAM COMMONS SURVEY

BOTANY

ECOLOGY & ENTOMOLOGY

HAMPSTEAD HEATH SURVEY

LONDON BIRD CLUB