

LONDON BIRD REPORT 2012

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society publishes ornithological and other natural history records for the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. As well as Ornithology, other interests in natural history are catered for through the Society's Sections which record and study the major groups of flora and fauna, and the habitats in which they are found. Meetings organised by each Section are open to all members.

New members, beginners and experts alike, are welcome. An extensive programme of talks and field meetings, open to all, is provided throughout the year. As well as the annual London Bird Report, the Society publishes a journal, *The London Naturalist*, each year and its Newsletter and Bulletin of the London Bird Club every quarter. Members have access to a large lending and reference library of natural history books and can join one or more of several reading circles which circulate many natural history journals at a fraction of the cost of subscribing direct.

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Robin Blades, 32 Ashfield Road, London N14 7JY.

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Front cover: Buff-bellied Pipit. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Back cover: Egyptian Geese. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

LONDON BIRD REPORT

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NO.77 FOR THE YEAR 2012

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Society

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[Links to sections and full versions of papers on the LNHS website](#)

Full and Short Gazetteers of Sites

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

Ringling Report (see page 179)

WeBS Counts in the London Area, 2011-2012 (see page 207)

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm/LBR2012>

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LONDON BIRD CLUB

The London Bird Club is the section of the London Natural History Society
for those with a particular interest in birds.

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>
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LONDON BIRD REPORT FOR 2012

This London Bird Report has been produced by an Editorial Board, comprising:

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Introduction

We have made some changes in this report. We have changed the name of Rock Dove to Feral Pigeon and we have changed the name of Stanstead Abbots GP to Stanstead Innings. We also have a short form of our Gazetteer in this report, which includes all the main bird watching sites and sites that we didn't have in our online Gazetteer for *LBR* 2011. Our full Gazetteer of Sites is again posted on our website.

Lapwing at Beddington Farmlands. (Peter Alfrey)



Where the quantity of data in some papers is too great to include in the printed journal, we have again published summaries only and have posted the papers in full on our website; links to the website are given. However, in the case of Highlights from well-watched sites, links are given to an external website containing detailed reports from the site, where this exists.

As always, your comments on this issue are very welcome, especially any suggestions as to how we could improve things even more. My contact details are given below.

Andrew Verrall, our Proof-reader since *LBR 2007*, has stepped down from this post. I would like to thank Andrew for all the hard work he put into this task and for helping to make the process more efficient. His suggestion that the position should be shared by a number of people has proved to be very satisfactory (see **Acknowledgements**).

Finally, I would like to remind people sending us records from new sites, to send OS grid references for these sites; otherwise it can take quite a lot of work for us to locate them (see page 8).

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the London Natural History Society, I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have contributed their records. Without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual *London Bird Report*.

I would also like to thank all those who helped with the production of the report: the 23 authors of the Review of the Year and the Systematic List and the authors of the papers (listed above); Dawn Painter and Jan Wilczur for their illustrations; all the photographers who kindly donated their photos; Garganey Consulting Ltd for the ringing recovery maps; Nigel Partridge for advice and for designing the covers; Gay Carr, Mavis Pilbeam, Mike Howard and Richard Carpenter who proof-read the text; and Derek Turner who has provided help with data problems. Thanks also to all the members of the Editorial Board.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, who, in addition to the time-consuming tasks of inputting all the data for their area, checked the species accounts in the Systematic List and provided comments and corrections. I would also like to thank the many people who looked at the draft text and made comments to improve it. If you would also like to see draft copies of future reports for comment, please let me know. Thanks also to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to our members, and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

BirdGuides, British Birds Rarities Committee, British Trust for Ornithology,
Buckinghamshire Bird Club, East London Birders Forum,
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC,
Hertfordshire Natural History Society, Kent Ornithological Society,
Londonbirders Yahoo group, Surrey Bird Club

Pete Lambert, Chair of the Editorial Board, June 2014
109 Gloucester Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 6AF
Email: plamb@phonecoop.coop
Phone: 020 8531 9814

RARITIES COMMITTEE AND RECORDERS

RARITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bob Watts

Members: John Archer, Richard Bonser, David Bradnum, Andrew Moon,
Andrew Self and Nick Tanner.

LNHS LONDON & SECTOR BIRD RECORDERS

London Recorder: Andrew Self

16 Harp Island Close, Neasden, London, NW10 0DF

Email: a-self@sky.com

Bucks: Andrew Moon

46 Highfield Way, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 7PR.

Email: andrew.moon@talk21.com

Essex: Roy Woodward

62C High Street, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 0AH

Email: roy.rkwoodward@ntlworld.com

Herts: Joan Thompson

73 Raglan Gardens, Watford, Herts, WD19 4LJ

Email: lnhshertsrecorder@jkssthompson.plus.com

Inner London: Richard Bonser

Flat 7, 96 Rope Street, Surrey Quays, London, SE16 7TQ

Email: richbonser8181@hotmail.com

Kent: John Archer

8 Smead Way, London, SE13 7GE

Email: john_archer@gofast.co.uk

Middlesex: Sean Huggins

206 East Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 3AY

Email: shuggins@hotmail.co.uk

Surrey: Nick Tanner

11 Collins House, Newby Place, Poplar, London, E14 0AX

Email: nick_tanner@talk21.com

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

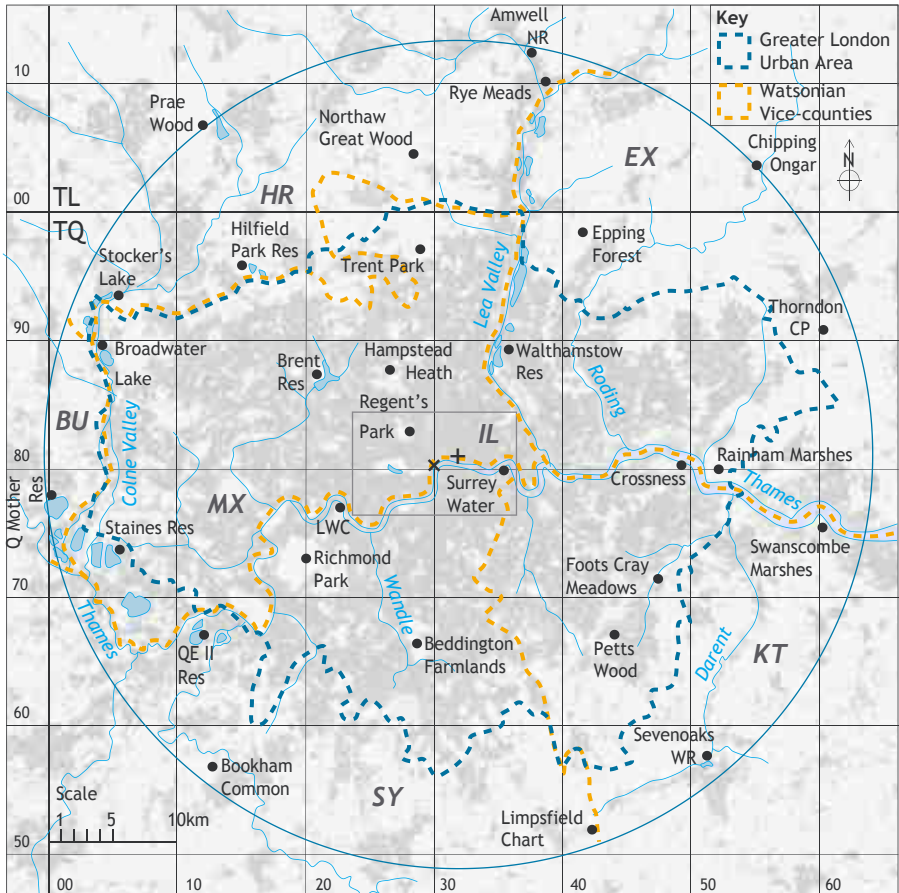
The London recording area covered by this Report, 'the London Area', lies within a 20-mile radius of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, we still use the Watsonian vice-counties in this Report rather than the present administrative areas (but we combine vice-counties 18 and 19 as Essex). These vice-county boundaries are all shown on the map opposite. We also use a special recording zone for 'Inner London', which covers parts of Middlesex, Surrey and (just) Kent. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square.

All records are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. We would particularly like information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on passage (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations, notes on behaviour, as well as details of unusual birds. Many of the common birds in London are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same sites are a great help in seeing population trends, and such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. Our Guide to Contributors of Records on pages 247 to 255, together with the Breeding Criteria on page 256, gives guidance on what information we would like for each species. Records should be sent to the appropriate Recorder listed on page 7 but if you are not sure which Recorder to send them to, send your records to the Chair of the LBR Editorial Board. Please use site names as listed in our Gazetteer (see below) if you can, when sending in records. **If you send in details from sites not listed in the Gazetteer, please give an OS Grid Reference for the site.**

It would be very helpful if you could send in records on a spreadsheet; a sample and instructions are on our website (under 'Subject Group', then 'London's Birds', then 'LNHS Bird Recording Form'). Otherwise contact one of our Recorders or the Chair of the Editorial Board. It would also help if you list different species in the order used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area.

Records of nationally rare species have to be considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Their website (www.bbrc.org.uk) gives details. You should send these records as soon as possible after the sighting, with a copy to the relevant Recorder. Breeding records of rare species should be sent to the relevant Recorder. Details will then be sent to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (www.rbbp.org.uk). Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence. Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are considered by our Rarities Committee before being included in the London Bird Report. Species for which we need a full description or brief description/field notes are listed in the Guide for Contributors. Please send these as soon as possible after the sighting.

Our records are stored with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) and if you would like to use any of our records for study purposes, please contact GiGL for details: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/contact/>



LNHS Area map with locations of some well-known bird-watching sites. Boundary sites give an indication of the extent of the LNHS Area. A grey background shows a built-up area. (Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database rights 2012)

Gazetteer of Sites

A mini-gazetteer of sites is listed on pages 10 to 13. All the main sites mentioned in this Report are included, and all the sites added to the Gazetteer this year are in *italic type*.

The Full Gazetteer is online at <http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm> and lists open spaces and the names of towns, villages, etc. Neither Gazetteer lists streets; you should be able to locate these easily with a street map, but contact us if you have difficulty.

Each site name is followed by the vice-county and an OS Grid Reference; this should help you to find the site on a map. The Grid Reference either refers to the centre of the site, or to a point of particular ornithological interest. Not all of these sites are open to the public; some are private, for some you need to have a permit. Contact the Chair of the Editorial Board if you need information on any site (details on page 6).

MINI-GAZETTEER OF SITES

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

Only sites mentioned in this Report are included below. Those in *italic* type are sites which have been added to the Gazetteer this year.

<i>Abbey Hill Park</i>	(KT)	TQ469728	Burgess Park	(IL)	TQ335778
Abney Park Cemetery LNR	(MX)	TQ333868	Bury Lake	(HR)	TQ053938
Addington Hills	(SY)	TQ352644	<i>Bushey Bank</i>	(SY)	TQ386564
<i>Admirals Walk Lake</i>	(EX)	TL377082	Bushy Park	(MX)	TQ160690
Aldenham CP	(HR)	TQ170955	Canada Water	(IL)	TQ355793
<i>Alexandra Lake</i>	(EX)	TQ584789	Canons Farm	(SY)	TQ248577
Alexandra Park	(MX)	TQ300900	<i>Carew Manor Wetland</i>	(SY)	TQ298657
Amwell NR	(HR)	TL378128	<i>Carr Road Wetland</i>	(SY)	TQ141842
Arbrook Common	(SY)	TQ143632	Cassiobury Park	(HR)	TQ090970
Ashford Common	(MX)	TQ087697	<i>Castle Wood</i>	(KT)	TQ431763
Ashted Common	(SY)	TQ175595	Cely Woods	(EX)	TQ560830
<i>Avery Hill Park</i>	(KT)	TQ443741	<i>Central Park, Harold Hill</i>	(EX)	TQ546921
Banstead Downs	(SY)	TQ252610	Cheshunt GPs	(HR)	TL370030
Barking Bay/Marsh	(EX)	TQ477820	Chess Valley Walk	(HR)	TQ058959
Barnes Common	(SY)	TQ224758	Chorleywood Common	(HR)	TQ033963
<i>Barnet Wood</i>	(KT)	TQ415657	<i>Churchfield Wood</i>	(KT)	TQ506737
Battersea Park	(IL)	TQ282772	Claybury Woods & Park	(EX)	TQ435912
<i>Battersea Reach</i>	(IL)	TQ266764	<i>Clothworkers Wood</i>	(KT)	TQ448769
<i>Battlebridge Basin</i>	(IL)	TQ304834	Cobham Floods	(SY)	TQ106595
Beddington Farmlands	(SY)	TQ290667	<i>Coburg NR</i>	(IL)	TQ337780
<i>Beddlestead Valley</i>	(SY)	TQ390578	Cole Green Tip	(HR)	TL265112
Bedfont Lakes CP	(MX)	TQ078726	Colnbrook Landfill	(BU)	TQ025778
Beech Farm GP	(HR)	TL190086	Coopers Green GP	(HR)	TL201097
<i>Beechengrove Wood</i>	(HR)	TQ046970	Coopers Green Lane	(HR)	TL192096
Belhus Woods CP	(EX)	TQ570825	<i>Cornmill Gardens</i>	(KT)	TQ380756
<i>Bell Common</i>	(EX)	TL451013	Cornmill Meadows	(EX)	TL380011
Bentley Priory	(MX)	TQ155927	Coursers Farm	(HR)	TL205046
<i>Big Wood</i>	(MX)	TQ256887	Crayford Marshes	(KT)	TQ532775
<i>Biggs Hill Woods</i>	(KT)	TQ503747	<i>Crayford Rough</i>	(KT)	TQ511743
<i>Birdbrook Road NR</i>	(KT)	TQ413755	Creekmouth, Barking	(EX)	TQ452827
Bookham Common	(SY)	TQ130565	Crossness	(KT)	TQ490808
<i>Bourne Hall Park</i>	(SY)	TQ218628	Croxley Common Moor	(HR)	TQ082948
<i>Bower Wood</i>	(EX)	TQ517942	Crystal Palace Park	(KT)	TQ347707
<i>Boyles Court Farm</i>	(EX)	TQ578915	<i>Culvers Island</i>	(SY)	TQ279658
Brent Res	(MX)	TQ215870	Dagenham Chase	(EX)	TQ514858
Bricket Wood Common	(HR)	TL130010	<i>Darenth CP</i>	(KT)	TQ567726
Brockley NR	(IL)	TQ363764	Dartford Heath	(KT)	TQ516733
Broxbourne Woods	(HR)	TL329073	Dartford Marshes	(KT)	TQ544774
Buckingham Palace Gardens	(IL)	TQ288796	Davy Down	(EX)	TQ592803
Bulphan Fen	(EX)	TQ633864	<i>Downe Bank</i>	(KT)	TQ438609

Duck Wood	(EX)	TQ555923	Hilly Fields Park	(MX)	TQ323985
Dulwich Park	(SY)	TQ335735	Hither Green NR	(KT)	TQ390740
East India Dock Basin	(MX)	TQ391808	Hoddesdonpark Wood	(HR)	TL352084
East Sheen Common	(SY)	TQ195745	Hogsmill SW	(SY)	TQ197682
<i>East Wickham Open Space</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ461768</i>	<i>Holly Oak Wood Park</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ458739</i>
Enfield Chase	(MX)	TQ290988	Holmethorpe SP	(SY)	TQ295515
Epping Forest	(EX)	TQ420985	<i>Holt Farm</i>	(HR)	<i>TL121036</i>
Epsom Common	(SY)	TQ190605	Holyfield Hall Farm	(EX)	TL384038
Epsom Downs	(SY)	TQ219582	Holyfield Lake	(EX)	TL378045
Esher Common	(SY)	TQ135625	Home Park	(MX)	TQ166676
Fairlop Waters	(EX)	TQ459905	Horsenden Hill	(MX)	TQ162844
Farthing Downs	(SY)	TQ299576	Hounslow Heath	(MX)	TQ123745
Fir & Pond Woods	(MX)	TL276011	<i>Howletts Hall</i>	(EX)	<i>TQ523977</i>
Fishers Green Goosefield	(EX)	TL380038	<i>Hurlingham Park</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ250758</i>
Fishers Green Island	(EX)	TL376037	Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns	(IL)	TQ274804
<i>Folkes Lane Woodland</i>	(EX)	<i>TQ577895</i>	Ingrebourne Valley	(EX)	TQ538843
Foots Cray Meadows	(KT)	TQ478715	Island Barn Res	(SY)	TQ140670
Frays Valley LNR	(MX)	TQ055865	Jersey Farm	(HR)	TL174097
Frogmore Lakes	(HR)	TL150033	Joyden's Wood	(KT)	TQ500715
Fryent CP	(MX)	TQ194877	<i>Jubilee CP</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ435679</i>
Galleyhill Wood	(EX)	TL394034	Jubilee Gardens	(IL)	TQ307800
Gallion's Reach	(EX/KT)	TQ445801	Kelsey Park	(KT)	TQ376688
Garsons Farm	(SY)	TQ125639	Kemnal Manor College	(KT)	TQ447721
Gatton Park/Lake	(SY)	TQ271525	Kempton NR	(MX)	TQ116706
<i>Glebelands LNR</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ269911</i>	<i>Kemsing Down NR</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ550593</i>
Gobions Wood	(HR)	TL256035	<i>Kenley Common</i>	(SY)	<i>TQ332586</i>
Godstone SP	(SY)	TQ345518	<i>Kensal Green Cemetery</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ227825</i>
<i>Grange Farm</i>	(EX)	<i>TQ438946</i>	<i>Kenton Recreation Ground</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ165890</i>
Grays Gorge	(EX)	TQ608789	Kew Gardens	(SY)	TQ182769
Greenland Dock	(IL)	TQ361791	<i>Kilburn Grange</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ251845</i>
Greenwich Park	(KT)	TQ390775	King George V Dock	(EX)	TQ432803
Grey Goose Farm	(EX)	TQ629807	King George V Res	(EX)	TQ374964
Gunnersbury Triangle NR	(MX)	TQ201787	King George VI Res	(MX)	TQ041732
Hackney Marsh	(MX)	TQ366861	<i>Kings Wood</i>	(SY)	<i>TQ352604</i>
Hainault Forest	(EX)	TQ476932	Knights Wood	(EX)	TQ409931
Hall Marsh Scrape	(EX)	TL373017	Lake Farm CP	(MX)	TQ091803
Hampermill Lake	(HR)	TQ095942	Lamorbey Park	(KT)	TQ465731
<i>Hampstead Cemetery</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ248856</i>	Larkhall Park, Stockwell	(IL)	TQ299767
Hampstead Heath	(MX)	TQ273866	<i>Layhams Farm</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ398625</i>
Hampton Court Park	(MX)	TQ166676	Lee Mouth	(MX)	TQ394807
Hatfield Aerodrome	(HR)	TL205085	Leg O Mutton NR	(SY)	TQ218774
Hatfield Park	(HR)	TL240080	Letchmore Heath	(HR)	TQ155977
Havering CP	(EX)	TQ505930	Leyton Flats	(EX)	TQ397885
Hayes Common	(KT)	TQ405652	<i>Leyton Jubilee Park</i>	(EX)	<i>TQ369868</i>
<i>Hayes Street Farm</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ406666</i>	<i>Lillie Road Rec</i>	(IL)	<i>TQ237774</i>
Hersham GP	(SY)	TQ128663	Limpsfield Chart	(SY)	TQ431521
Highgate Cemetery	(MX)	TQ284871	<i>Linder's Field LNR</i>	(EX)	<i>TQ415944</i>
Highgate Wood	(MX)	TQ283887	Lion Gorge	(EX)	TQ599786
Hilfield Park Res	(HR)	TQ158959	Lippitts Hill	(EX)	TQ392976
<i>Hilly Fields</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ372754</i>	Littlebrook Lake	(KT)	TQ553756

London Wetland Centre	(SY)	TQ228770	<i>R Thames: Putney Bridge-</i>	
Long Running	(EX)	TQ434997	<i>Barnes Bridge</i>	(SY) TQ232772
<i>Longlands Recreation</i>			<i>R Wandle: Butter Hill-</i>	
<i>Ground</i>	(KT)	TQ456722	<i>Morden Hall Park</i>	(SY) TQ280665
Lullingstone Park	(KT)	TQ520645	<i>R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds-</i>	
Lynsters Farm	(HR)	TQ034920	<i>Wandsworth</i>	(SY) TQ265750
Lynsters Lake	(HR)	TQ038916	<i>R Wandle: Mill Lane/</i>	
Maple Lodge NR	(HR)	TQ036924	<i>Bridal Path</i>	(SY) TQ305652
Mar Dyke Valley	(EX)	TQ600805	<i>R Wandle: Phipps Bridge</i>	(SY) TQ264686
<i>Marlborough Park</i>	(KT)	TQ464735	Radlett Aero GP	(HR) TL155035
<i>Mayfield Farm</i>	(MX)	TQ078734	Rainham Marshes	(EX) TQ525800
Millwall Docks	(MX)	TQ377795	Rammey Marsh	(MX) TQ374996
<i>Millwall Park</i>	(MX)	TQ383788	<i>Redbridge Lakes</i>	(EX) TQ421908
Molesey Heath	(SY)	TQ132672	<i>Redwell Wood Farm</i>	(HR) TL207026
Mollands Lane GPs	(EX)	TQ604820	<i>Reevesgate Farm</i>	(EX) TL413034
Morden Hall Park	(SY)	TQ264687	Regent's Park	(IL) TQ281828
Mores Plantation	(EX)	TQ566968	Richmond Park	(SY) TQ200730
Mudchute Farm	(MX)	TQ381786	Rickmansworth Aquadrome	(HR) TQ057940
Nazeing CP	(EX)	TL387057	Ripple NR	(EX) TQ468827
North Mymms Park	(HR)	TL215045	Roding Valley Meadows NR	(EX) TQ430943
Northaw Great Wood	(HR)	TL285044	<i>Roding Valley Park</i>	(EX) TQ418913
<i>Oaks Park</i>	(SY)	TQ275615	<i>Rookery Lake</i>	(KT) TQ412680
<i>Orient Way, Leyton</i>	(EX)	TQ375865	<i>Rosebery Park</i>	(SY) TQ208604
Orsett Fen	(EX)	TQ628833	Ruislip Woods	(MX) TQ094890
Otford to Filston	(KT)	TQ521602	Rushett Farm	(SY) TQ173608
Oxhey Hall	(HR)	TQ103943	Russia Dock Woodland	(IL) TQ362797
Oxhey Woods	(HR)	TQ105925	Ruxley GP	(KT) TQ473700
Oxleas Wood	(KT)	TQ445759	Rye Meads	(HR) TL383103
Oxshott Heath	(SY)	TQ139612	<i>Rye Park</i>	(HR) TL377093
<i>Oxted Quarry</i>	(SY)	TQ384543	<i>Seears Park</i>	(SY) TQ246640
<i>Paddington Basin</i>	(IL)	TQ267814	<i>Selhurst Triangle</i>	(SY) TQ333673
Panshanger Park	(HR)	TL283130	Selsdon Woods	(SY) TQ362616
<i>Parish Wood Park</i>	(KT)	TQ451739	Sevenoaks WR	(KT) TQ522570
<i>Parkfields</i>	(SY)	TQ368662	Seventy Acres Lake	(HR) TL374030
<i>Parndon Wood</i>	(EX)	TL441069	Sewardstone Marsh	(EX) TQ379985
Perivale Wood	(MX)	TQ159836	Sheen Common	(SY) TQ196746
<i>Perretts Field</i>	(SY)	TQ248643	<i>Shootfield Wood</i>	(KT) TQ466574
<i>Piggotts Farm</i>	(EX)	TQ464972	<i>Shrewsbury Park</i>	(KT) TQ447771
Poplar Dock	(MX)	TQ382803	Smallford GP	(HR) TL197071
Poyle Poplars NR	(BU)	TQ030764	South Norwood CP	(SY) TQ353684
Prae Wood	(HR)	TL121068	South Norwood Lake	(SY) TQ341693
Prince's Coverts	(SY)	TQ160610	<i>Southern Park</i>	(KT) TQ401792
<i>Priory Park</i>	(MX)	TQ300890	<i>Southmere Park</i>	(KT) TQ480802
Purfleet Chalk Pits	(EX)	TQ566785	Southwark Park	(IL) TQ352789
Purley Beeches	(SY)	TQ330619	Spencer Road Wetland	(SY) TQ279665
Queen Elizabeth II Res	(SY)	TQ120670	<i>Spring Park Wood</i>	(SY) TQ374655
Queen Mary Res	(MX)	TQ070695	St James's Park	(IL) TQ294798
Queen Mother Res	(BU)	TQ007768	St Katherine's Dock	(IL) TQ340805
Queens Wood	(MX)	TQ288886	<i>St Luke's Gardens</i>	(IL) TQ323825
R Darent, Otford Road	(KT)	TQ526582	Staines Moor	(MX) TQ033734

Staines Res	(MX)	TQ051731	<i>Victoria Embankment Gardens</i>	(IL)	TQ305806
Stanborough Lakes	(HR)	TL230108	Victoria Park	(IL)	TQ363840
Stanmore Common	(MX)	TQ156940	<i>Victoria Tower Gardens</i>	(IL)	TQ303792
Stanmore CP	(MX)	TQ173928	Waddon Ponds	(SY)	TQ309650
<i>Stanstead Innings</i>	(HR)	TL388112	<i>Walpole Park</i>	(MX)	TQ173802
Stanwell Moor GP	(MX)	TQ034744	Walthamstow Forest	(EX)	TQ313912
Stocker's Farm	(HR)	TQ052933	Walthamstow Marsh	(EX)	TQ350878
Stocker's Lake	(HR)	TQ046935	Walthamstow Res	(EX)	TQ353890
Stone Marshes	(KT)	TQ568755	Walton Downs	(SY)	TQ220573
Streatham Common	(SY)	TQ305709	Walton Heath	(SY)	TQ232540
Stubbers OPC	(EX)	TQ575845	Walton Res	(SY)	TQ122685
Surrey Water	(IL)	TQ356800	<i>Walton on the Hill</i>	(SY)	TQ225550
<i>Swanley Park</i>	(KT)	TQ513696	Wandle Meadow Nature Park	(SY)	TQ264710
Swanscombe Marshes	(KT)	TQ605760	<i>Wandle Valley Wetland LNR</i>	(SY)	TQ278668
Symondshyde Great Wood	(HR)	TL195110	Wandsworth Common	(SY)	TQ275740
Syon Park	(MX)	TQ173765	<i>Wandsworth Park</i>	(SY)	TQ247752
<i>Telegraph Hill Park</i>	(KT)	TQ358761	Wanstead Flats	(EX)	TQ410864
Tenchleys	(SY)	TQ419512	Wanstead Park	(EX)	TQ415875
Thames Barrier	(EX)	TQ415795	Warley CP	(EX)	TQ583925
Thames Chase	(EX)	TQ584863	Warlies Park	(EX)	TL412017
Thamesmere Lakes	(KT)	TQ460807	Warren Gorge	(EX)	TQ597794
<i>The Grove Park</i>	(SY)	TQ282647	Warren Hill	(EX)	TQ413952
The Ledges, Esher	(SY)	TQ122628	<i>Water Hall Farm</i>	(HR)	TL296097
The Mores	(EX)	TQ561965	Waterlow Park	(MX)	TQ286872
<i>The Tarn</i>	(KT)	TQ427733	Waterworks NR	(EX)	TQ363868
<i>The Warren, Bexleyheath</i>	(KT)	TQ493746	<i>Watton Farm</i>	(EX)	TQ531952
<i>The Warren, Copped Hall</i>	(EX)	TL433007	<i>Well Hall Pleasaunce</i>	(KT)	TQ423751
The Withey Beds LNR	(HR)	TQ078941	West End Common	(SY)	TQ125632
Theobalds Park	(HR)	TL345005	West Hyde GP	(HR)	TQ034913
<i>Thistly Marsh</i>	(HR)	TL367019	West India Docks	(MX)	TQ376800
<i>Thorndon CP North</i>	(EX)	TQ608912	<i>West India Quay</i>	(MX)	TQ374804
<i>Thorndon CP South</i>	(EX)	TQ627903	West Thurrock Marshes	(EX)	TQ583767
Thorpe Water Park	(SY)	TQ030681	<i>Westcombe Woodlands</i>	(KT)	TQ393778
Tolworth Court Farm	(SY)	TQ200650	<i>Whitehorse Meadow</i>	(SY)	TQ331685
Tooting Common	(SY)	TQ293720	Whitewebbs Wood	(MX)	TQ323997
Tottenham Marshes	(MX)	TQ354910	<i>Willersley Park</i>	(KT)	TQ461737
Totteridge Valley	(MX)	TQ240930	Willowbank	(MX)	TQ057853
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	(MX)	TQ370823	Wimbledon Common	(SY)	TQ227721
Trent Park	(MX)	TQ290970	Woodoaks Farm	(HR)	TQ033933
Trevereux	(SY)	TQ433509	<i>Woodredon Estate</i>	(EX)	TQ424999
Troy Mill Lake	(HR)	TQ039905	<i>Woodside Green</i>	(SY)	TQ344672
<i>Tylers Wood</i>	(EX)	TQ574905	Wormwood Scrubs	(MX)	TQ221818
Tyttenhanger GP	(HR)	TL191052	Wraysbury GP	(BU)	TQ015735
Valentines Park	(EX)	TQ438878	Wraysbury Res	(MX)	TQ025745
Vauxhall Park	(IL)	TQ304776	Yeading Brook Meadows	(MX)	TQ105822
Verulamium Park	(HR)	TL138069	Yiewsley Lake	(MX)	TQ050804
Vicarage Farm	(MX)	TQ304979			

We apologise for some inaccuracies in the spelling of site names in the text. These were discovered after a data check on the text, but it was too late to make corrections. It in no way reflects on the accuracy of the proof-readers, as the gazetteer was not available to them.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2012

Highlights included double records of Buff-bellied Pipit (the first for London) and of Bonaparte's Gull, London's first Baillon's Crake for over a century and the first Melodious Warbler since 2000. Other records included London's fourth Spotted Sandpiper, fifth White-tailed Eagle, eighth Tawny Pipit and eighth Dotterel (a trip of 15), tenth and eleventh Little Bitterns and eleventh and twelfth Black Kites, the first Rough-legged Buzzard since 2007, the first Marsh Warbler, Red-throated Divers and Fulmar since 2008 and the first Twite and Richard's Pipits since 2009. It was a good year for Great Egrets, Brent Geese, Avocets, Kittiwakes, Yellow-legged, Caspian and Iceland Gulls and Crossbills.

Unusual records in the first winter period included two Whitethroats. Cold weather in February saw movements of plovers, some 40 Smew records and widespread reports of Jack Snipe, Fieldfares and Redwings. Bitterns were at 20 sites, but Waxwings were only reported at 12 sites.

Spring saw a better passage of Pied Flycatchers, a good passage of Wheatears and Yellow Wagtails, and the first March record of Glossy Ibis. Exceptionally, three skua species were seen on one April day.

The lack of consistent data hampers analysis of breeding trends for many species. Those doing well included Mute Swan, Little Egret, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Peregrine Falcon and Blackcap. The first confirmed London breeding of Teal since 2002 was recorded at London Wetland Centre, while Regent's Park saw the first Inner London breeding Reed Buntings since 2008. Black-necked Grebes bred again. Mixed fortunes were recorded for Black Redstarts and Tree Sparrows. Species faring poorly included many geese and ducks, Great Crested Grebe, Little Ringed Plover, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Sand Martin, Meadow Pipit, Sedge Warbler, Starling and Yellowhammer. Other summer records included the first June Storm-Petrel, and a long-staying Red-backed Shrike in July.

Autumn Ring Ouzel passage saw numbers similar to spring, while unusual records included Pectoral and Purple Sandpipers and a Manx Shearwater. Passage of Pied Flycatchers and Bramblings was stronger than in 2011.

In the second winter period, Waxwings appeared in numbers from November, peaking at 618.

January: Records at Rainham Marshes included Merlin (2nd and 18th), Snow Bunting (6th), 11 Bean Geese (15th) and five Water Pipits (30th). On 8th, a Red-necked Grebe was at William Girling Res. On 15th, Mandarin Ducks (at Connaught Water) and Coot (at Brent Res) recorded year-highs, while a Ferruginous Duck was at Thamesmore West Lake (to 25th). Glaucous Gulls were at Horton GP and QE II Res on 22nd; one found at Q. Mother Res on 28th was also seen on 30th and Feb 12th. A record 620 Black-tailed Godwits were at Rainham Marshes on 24th, while the year's largest flock of White-fronted Geese was at Greatness Pits on 27th. A Great Grey Shrike was at Rye Meads on 31st and again in late February.

February: Year-highs of Cormorants (at Q. Mary Res) and Red-crested Pochards (at Regent's Park) were recorded on 4th. The 5th saw a Dartford Warbler at Dartford Marshes, a Curlew over Regent's Park and four Jack Snipe at Gallion's Reach. Cold weather movements on 6th saw 600 Fieldfares, 1,060 Redwings, six Wigeon and a Common Snipe at Regent's Park; a Smew found there stayed until March 19th. Six Scaup were at Hilfield Park Res from 6th. On 5th, 82 Avocets were at W. Thurrock Marshes. A Bean Goose was seen at Horton GP on 6th, and later seen at three other sites in West London until late March. Three Slavonian Grebes were off the Lower Thames Marshes on 8th, with 16 Little Gulls past Rainham Marshes, while 26 Smew were at Wraysbury GP. A Little Stint was at Grays on 10th. On 11th, a White-tailed Eagle was at Rye Meads, while four Goosander were at Regent's Park. A Bittern was at Hampstead Heath from 14th-26th. On 19th, eight Bewick's Swans were at KGVI Res. Rainham Marshes saw records of Hen Harrier (19th), Merlin (19th-21st), Curlew Sandpiper (24th and 26th) and Little Stint (26th). On 27th, a Great Egret was at Beddington Farmlands.

March: On 3rd, Shelducks reached a year peak at Rainham Marshes, which also saw a Merlin (10th), Snow Bunting (10th and 20th), four Iceland Gulls (16th) and a Kumlien's Gull (16th- 21st). The same Kumlien's Gull was also at Beddington Farmlands (19th-21st). Red Kites were recorded over Fulham (24th) and, on 11th, at Regent's Park, which saw a Stonechat on 13th. On 14th, two Glossy Ibis and a Red-throated Diver were at QE II Res, while seven Woodcock were in Richmond Park. On 15th, three Black Redstarts were at Tower Bridge. On 22nd, two Twite were at Walthamstow Res and an Osprey flew over the Houses of Parliament. Thirteen Ruff were at Beddington Farmlands on 29th. On 30th, a Shag flew upriver at Crayford/Dartford Marshes and Black-necked Grebes reached a year-peak at Hilfield Park Res.

April: Four Garganey were at Hayes Farm Trout Lake on 1st. Regent's Park records included three Goldeneyes and a Marsh Harrier (8th), Kittiwake (16th) and Whimbrel (21st). Passage of Meadow Pipits on 8th included 150 at Beddington Farmlands. On 14th, a Shag was at Wraysbury GP. A Rough-legged Buzzard was at North Weald Bassett on 15th. On 21st, five Ring Ouzels were at Bushey Bank. Whimbrel passage peaked on 23rd, including 33 over Wanstead Flats. On 24th, Arctic Tern passage peaked, while a year-high of four Red-breasted Mergansers were at Rainham Marshes. There were 93 Little Gulls seen on 25th, including 46 at Staines Res, while a Hen Harrier was at Rainham Marshes. On 27th, a Cuckoo was at Bankside, six Black Terns were at KGV Res, and a Stone Curlew was at Swanscombe Marshes. On 28th, a Great Egret flew past Q. Mother Res. The 29th was remarkable for a hat-trick of Skuas, with Pomarine at Q. Mother Res, and Arctic and Great at Rainham Marshes. The 29th also saw a Bar-tailed Godwit movement, including 50 over Amwell NR.

May: On 1st, Rainham Marshes saw nine Greenshanks, followed by a Hen Harrier on 2nd. Bar-tailed Godwit passage peaked on 3rd, with 70 over Bankside and 56 at Crayford/Dartford Marshes, where a Little Stint was also recorded. On 4th, 15 Dotterel were at Canons Farm, while a Spotted Redshank was at London Wetland Centre and 75 Yellow Wagtails were at Beddington Farmlands. Single Wood Warblers were at Scadbury Park (4th), Hampstead Cemetery (5th) and Alexandra Park (12th); two singing Wood

Warblers were at Frogmore Woods (24th, with one staying to 27th). On 6th, two Cranes were at Romford. A Cuckoo was at Regent's Park on 7th. On 8th, a Roseate Tern toured the West London reservoirs and was at Q. Mother Res the next morning. A White Stork was over Tyttenhanger GP on 12th, while a Temminck's Stint was at Brent Res on 13th. On 14th, a Black Kite was at Brookmans Park, followed by a Red Kite at Tower Bridge on 15th, with a further Red Kite at Fulham on 22nd. A Melodious Warbler was found in Leyton on 16th, staying until 18th. On 18th, a Little Stint was at Rainham Marshes, with another sighting on 28th. A Bonaparte's Gull was found on 19th, frequenting Barking Bay and Crossness until 29th; a second joined it at Crossness on 26th and 29th. A Fulmar found at Staines Res on 26th sadly died.

June: On 1st, a singing Marsh Warbler was found at Rainham Marshes, staying until 8th. On 10th, 11 Hobby were at Horton GP and a Little Bittern was at Stocker's Lake, remaining until 17th. On 12th, two Storm-petrels flew past Crayford /Dartford Marshes. On 20th, a Great Egret was at Rainham Marshes. A Gannet was at Walthamstow Res on 23rd-24th. On 24th, a Spotted Sandpiper was at Hilfield Park Res. A White-winged Black Tern was at Staines Res on 25th.

July: Single Spoonbills were at Rainham Marshes and London Wetland Centre from 5th. On 6th, seven Wood Sandpipers were at Rainham Marshes; a Curlew Sandpiper was there on 12th. A Red-backed Shrike was at Lake Farm CP from 11th-22nd. A White-winged Black Tern was at Staines Res on 28th-29th.

August: A Honey Buzzard was at Alexandra Park on 6th, while a Pied Flycatcher was at Regent's Park, with a further record there on 18th. A Wood Warbler was at Alexandra Park on 8th and 12th; on 30th, one was at Long Running. On 12th, Black Terns reached a year-high at Staines Res. Rainham Marshes records included a Little Stint (15th), 11 Ruff (17th), a year-high of Ringed Plovers (20th) and an Arctic Skua (26th), while a Black Kite (23rd) and Guillemot (29th) were seen from the Lower Thames Marshes. On 15th, five Little Terns were at Gallion's Reach, where eight Sandwich Terns were also recorded, and a juvenile Mediterranean Gull was at Rotherhithe. A Tawny Pipit was at Barking Bay on 19th. On 25th, a Little Gull was at London Bridge. Wanstead Flats recorded a Wryneck (25th-30th), four Common Redstarts (26th) and eight Whinchats (31st). On 27th, a Curlew Sandpiper was at Staines Res, and 246 Common Terns were at Gallion's Reach.

September: Records at Rainham Marshes included the Baillon's Crake (7th-23rd), year-highs of Yellow-legged Gulls (6th) and Little Egrets (9th), ten Hobby (6th), a Dartford Warbler (9th and 21st), and Sabine's Gull and three Arctic Skuas (24th). A Manx Shearwater was at Q. Mother Res on 2nd. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Walthamstow Res on 5th. A Guillemot was seen from Blackfriars Bridge on 7th. On 14th, Gadwall reached a year-peak at Rye Meads, and a Purple Sandpiper was at Staines Res. On 15th, a Little Bittern was at Sevenoaks WR. Long-tailed Skuas were at Q. Mother Res (17th and 23rd) and Beddington Farmlands (25th). A Gannet was at Beddington Farmlands on 17th (with another at Chess Valley North on 27th), followed on 23rd by a Great Egret and a Little Stint. On 25th, an Arctic Skua was at Crayford Marshes and a Great Egret was at Amwell NR. Regent's Park records on 28th included a Ring Ouzel, and passage of 341 Meadow

Pipits and 1,068 Swallows. A Honey Buzzard was at Alexandra Park on 29th, while House Martin passage on 30th included 2,800 over Wormwood Scrubs.

October: On 6th, three Woodlarks were at Canons Farm. On 7th, a Richard's Pipit was at Colnbrook, a Gannet was over Staines Moor and a Long-tailed Duck was at KGV Res (with one at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens on 12th and one at William Girling Res from 14th until late December). Records on 9th included 25 Pink-footed Geese at Northfleet and a Great Skua at QE II Res. A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Q. Mary Res on 13th. On 14th, a Glossy Ibis was at Crayford Marshes and at Rainham Marshes as well, where it stayed to the 15th. Large movements of Starlings, Chaffinches and Meadow Pipits were reported on 20th, while a Short-eared Owl was at Victoria Tower Gardens. Regent's Park sightings included two Ring Ouzels (21st), a Red-breasted Merganser and Short-eared Owl (both on 23rd) and two Rooks (31st). On 21st, a Snow Bunting was at Q. Mother Res. On 23rd, a Lapland Bunting flew over Rainham Marshes, where London's latest ever Little Ringed Plover was recorded on 24th. Movements of Brent Geese between 24th and 27th included 166 over Beddington on 26th. On 28th, Woodpigeon passage peaked, while finch movements included 575 Chaffinches and 37 Bramblings over Northfleet. A year-high of 26 Common Scoters were at Gallion's Reach on 28th. On 29th, a Hen Harrier was at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. On 30th, a Short-eared Owl was at Aldgate East Station and 33 Bramblings were over London Wetland Centre.

November: On 1st, a dead Woodcock was at Liverpool St Station; another casualty was at Shadwell (15th), while a live individual was in Regent's Park from 14th. On 4th, a Hen Harrier was at Rainham Marshes, while a Hawfinch was at Regent's Park on 5th. Over 4,800 Fieldfares were recorded on 6th, while a Merlin was at Tyttenhanger GP. A Goshawk was at Woodford Green on 8th. On 10th, a Great Egret was over Abbey Hall Park. Another Great Egret was over Holmethorpe SP on 17th and a Richard's Pipit was at Rainham Marshes. On 19th, a Merlin was at Wanstead Flats. Records at Q. Mother Res included Snow Bunting (16th), Red-necked Grebe (from 19th to 15th December) and Long-tailed Duck (from 26th which stayed into 2013). On 23rd, a Guillemot was on the River Thames at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. On 26th, a Great Egret was over London Wetland Centre and Richmond Park. On 28th, two Velvet Scoter were at Island Barn Res (to 9th December).

December: Up to four Short-eared Owls were at Staines Moor. Records at Rainham Marshes included Snow Bunting (3rd), three Bewick's Swans (8th), Hen Harrier (16th) and Merlin (23rd). Long-tailed Ducks were at Grange Waters (2nd and 29th), Q. Mother Res (one from November which stayed to 2013) and The Mores (26th). Records on 8th included four Bewick's Swans at Tyttenhanger GP and a Red-necked Grebe at KGV Res, with one at William Girling Res the next day. On 11th, the only Whooper Swan of the year flew downriver at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. On 12th, a Buff-bellied Pipit was at Q. Mother Res, staying until 26th, when it was joined by a second. A Water Rail was at Regent's Park from 14th-19th, while a Shag was at Walthamstow Res from 15th-23rd. A Red-throated Diver was at Q. Mother Res on 10th and then at Q. Mary Res on 16th, 19th and 23rd and at KGV Res from 27th-30th. Goosanders reached a year-high at Wraysbury GP on 18th. The year ended with 151 Waxwings at Lakeside Shopping Centre on 31st.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2012 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been omitted inadvertently.

Abid H	Ayers R	RA	Beaumont R	Bodini L	Bryant D		
Abrahams D	Aylen P		Beaver J	Bodman L	Bryant P		
Acton-Brown JR	Ayres D		Beazley C	Bonner-Morgan	BTO Heronries		
Acton-Brown N	Ayres R		Beckenham P	GR	Survey		
Agar N	Bacon S	SB	Beddard R	Bonser RH	RHB	BTO WeBS Unit	
Agombar D	Bagon K		Beddington Farm	Boorman H	Buckel V		
Akrill S	Bailey A		Bird Group	Boorman J	Buckell S		
Aldred J	Bailey J		Beer D	Booth D	Buckingham S		
Alexander I	Bailey K		Bell A	Boothby C	Bull P		
Alexander R	Bailey-Wood M		Bell D	Borion N	Bullock I		
Alexandra Palace	Baird J		Belman P	Boscock H	Bullock R		
Ornithology	Baker A		Benajeh N	Boulby Maria	Burden P		
Group	Baker DG		Benham A	Boulby Mel	Burgess R		
Alfrey PR	Baker H	PRA	Bennell I	Boult P	Burgum N		
Alkenyne J	Baker P		Bennett B	Bournat M	Burkmar R		
Allan JP	Baker S	JPA	Bennett J	Bournat O	Burnett C		
Allday S	Ball P		Bentley D	Bournatt M	Bushell J		
Allen R	Banks C		Berks Bird Club	Bowles D	Butcher J		
Allum S	Banks F		Berryman A	Boydle D	Butler M	MB	
Anderson B	Banks S		Bertrand N	Bracey J	Butler W		
Anderson D	Barfoot A		Bessant C	Braddock R	Butlin R	RB	
Anderson J	Barker T		Bessant N	Bradnum D	DBr	Butson P	
Anderson N	Barnes D		Bessantt C	Bradshaw D		Buxton R	
Andrews D	Barnes G		Bexley JR	Bradshaw H		Byrne C	
Andrews R	Barnes GJ		Billin D	Bradshaw HT		Cackett F	
Andrews T	Barnes R	RBs	Birch T	Bradshaw I		Caiden M	MCa
Angus P	Barnett D		Bird A	Brandt A		Caine T	
Angus R	Barrett D		Bird C	Briggs D		Caldwell S	
Appleton AJ	Barrington J		BirdGuides	Briggs P		Callahan D	
Arbon J	Barron D		Birkett C	Bright-Thomas P		Callf R	
Archer J	Barrow K		Birkett J	Brimble D		Calvert S	
Archer JK	Barry S	JKA	Birks A	Brodie E		Campbell D	DCa
Archer L	Bartolini M		Bishop B	Brooker A		Canny G	
Armstrong D	Bassett A	ADB	Bishop P	Brooker I		Carill P	
Arnfield R	Bast D		Bishop S	Broom F		Carpenter BR	
Arnold L	Bater S		Bishop W	Brown A		Carpenter C	
Arwood L	Bates D		Blake A	Brown E		Carr E	
Ashwell TY	Bates R		Blake S	Brown M		Carr G	
Astley H	Batten L		Blake T	Brown P		Carter D	
Astley J	Batten N		Blanchard B	Brown S		Carter N	
Astley S	Beabley M		Blatcher P	Brown T	TBn	Carter S	
Attewell R	Beach C		Block S	Browne A		Carter SJ	
Austin M	Beale J		Blow M	Browne N		Carter T	
Austin T	Beasley A	AB	Bloys I	Browne R		Cass J	
Avery S	Beaumont E		Bloys R	Bruff M		Casselton PJ	

Castle J	Coldrey C	Dalby C	Duhrsen R	Fisher S	SF
Catchpole A	Coleman DA DAC	Dale RJ	Duncan B	Fisher SL	
Cawley D	Coleman J	Daniel M	Duncan KP	Fitz L	
Cawthorne M	Coleman M MCn	Daniels S	Dunwoody R	Fitzgerald B	
Cealey N	Collard M	Dar S	Dykes W	Flack I	
Cedley N	Collins P	Darbyshire I	Eagles R	Flanagan TC	
CFBW Bird Group	Collins S	Darrell-Lambert	Easom L	Fleiss A	
Chalmers S	Collinson I	D DGDL	East London	Flesher R RFr	
Chambers B	Colmans J	Darvill A	Birders Forum	Fletcher D	
Chambers M	Colmans JP	Davies K	East T	Flinn G	
Chandler F	Colson R	Davies P	Edwards D	Flower L	
Chandler J	Colvill B	Davis P	Edwards E	Fogg S SFg	
Chapman C	Combes D	Dawton B	Edwards I	Ford A	
Chapman J	Connor N	Day S	Edwards J	Forgham J	
Chapman JA	Connor S SC	De Silva D	Edwards N	Forsyth T	
Chapman JW	Cook D	de'Ath A	Edwards P	Foster CW	
Chapman P	Cook J	Dean D	Ellam C CE	Fotheringham A	
Chapman R	Cook R RC	Debenham E	Elliott R	Frampton P	
Charles G	Cooke J JC	Dee C	Ellis C	France M	
Charles P	Coombs T	Delaloye P	Ellis I	Francis G	
Charleson E	Cooper A	Denison N	Ellis IS	Francis K	
Chasteauneuf P	Cope H	Dennis R	Ellis M	Francis R	
Chastell L	Cornwell D	Denny K	Ellison D	Franklin T	
Chastell S	Corp N	Dent D	Ellwood M	Frankling M	
Cheadle K	Cottingham FJ	Dent J	Elmes J-P	Fraser B	
Cheeseman A	Cotton C	Dent M MD	Elsom S	Frearson S	
Cherry K	Courson P	Derbyshire I	Elton P	Free J	
Chown PK	Cousins R	Dewey R	English P	Freeland-Haynes	
Christopher R	Cowan D	Dewhurst V	Epstein B	L	
Churches B	Cowlard P	Dickens J	Etches C	Freely R	
Clancy A	Cowlem D	Dickson C	Evans L	Friends of West	
Clancy T	Cowley D	Dingain L LD	Evans LGR	Ham Park	
Clark B	Cox A	Dingley H	Evans M	Frost C	
Clark D	Cox D	Dixon J	Evans S	Frost P	
Clark FC	Cox G	Dobson JR	Evershed R	Fucher L	
Clark JM	Cox J	Dolt D	Facer R	Fuller D	
Clark JS	Cox P	Donald J	Fairley M	Fuller P	
Clark K	Crabtree G	Donegan T	Falkner R	Fure A	
Clark T	Crampton S	Donetti A	Farr J	Furmston S	
Clarke J	Cripps B	Dorey S	Farrell C	Gale J	
Clarke M	Cripps RJ RJC	Dorman A	Farrell M	Gale S	
Clarke T	Crockford S	Douglas R	Fearnside J	Gallagher K	
Clayton B	Croft N NC	Dowle J	Fell J	Gallear G	
Cleal D	Croydon Ducks	Downman S	Feltham A	Gallear N	
Cleary J	website	Drake S	Felus A	Galley A	
Clements-	Crump J	Drigley H	Fennell C	Game M	
Partridge A	Culshaw A	Driver P	Fennell S	Gammage L	
Clench K	Culshaw AJ	Driver PW	Fenton R	Gardener A AG	
Cliffe P	Cumming L	Drummond L	Ferguson D	Gardener L	
Coates A	Cumming S	Dryden P	Ferriday N	Gardiner A	
Coath M MCh	Cunningham G	Dryden R	Fisher I	Gardiner G GG	
Cobb T	Curry G	Duckett AR	Fisher J	Gardner A	
Cockley S	Dack D	Duffield I	Fisher K	Gardner NJ NJG	

Gatley SJ	Green G	Hartnell M	Hilton A	Hutchins PE	
Geary P	Green Grandad	Hartnett K	Hines T	Hutley D	DHu
Geary R	Green J	Harvey S	Hoare J	Hyde C	
Gentry G	Green R	Harvey W	Hobbs M	Hyland P	
Gibson C	Greenhalgh R	Harwood J	Hobson A	Ilett M	
Gibson E	Greenwood D	Haslem S	Hochstetler W	Imperial College	
Gibson N	Gregory M	Hatfield A	Hodge C	volunteers	
Gibson S	Grewcock J	Hatton A	Hodge TN	Ingold R	
Gibson TA	Grey C	Hatton W	Hodges A	Ingram M	
Giddens S	Grey P	Hawgood G	Hodgson P	Innes A	
Gilbert J	Griffin M	Hawkins K J	Holden D	Innes M	
Giles P	Gross RD	Hawkins P	Holden T	Innes RE	REI
Gilham R	Gunkel P	Hawksworth	Holm M	Ishii R	
Gill E	Gurr P	A	Holmes A	Jack J	
Gill M	Habben M	Hay G	Holtby C	Jackson A	
Gilley D	Hague PM	Haydon R	Honey MR	Jackson B	
Gilry A	Haines B	Hayes D	Honnon D	Jackson D	
Girdlestone L	Haines W	Haylock J	Hopkins P	Jackson I	
Girvan D	Haire S	Haylock T	Hopkins R	Jackson P	
Girvan DA	Hale P	Haynes A	Hornby K	James A	
Gisseleire Y	Hall A	Haynes K	Horrocks C	James C	
Given Q	Hall D	Haynes P	Horton J	James G	GJ
Glanville C	Hall K	Hazelhurst G	Housden M	James GA	GAJ
Glover J	Hallam M	Hazell C	Housley D	Jaques L	
Glynn B	Halley-Frame V	Healey SJ	Houston T	Jarrett S	
Goble R	Hamilton S	Heard CDR	Howard C	Jarvis KM	KMJ
Goddard AP	Hammond S	Heathcote P	Howard T	Jeffcock R	
Godden R	Hanlon J	Henderson ACB	Howarth D	Jeffrey D	
Gold J	Hannam J	Hennessey D	Howarth I	Jeffrey D	
Gompertz D	Hardie E	Hennessy S	Howdon D	Jeffreys D	
Goodall M	Harding C	Henry C	Howe R	Jeffries D	
Gooding J	Harding G	Henson G	Hoylake T	Jelboys D	
Goodman M	Hardy H	Henty M	Hudson J	Jenkins P	
Goodman P	Harper M	Herbert RJ	Hudson P	Jennings P	
Goodrick R	Harrington S	Herring L	Huggins S	Jennings S	
Goodwin S	Harris A	Hersham RG	Hughed J	Jobbins D	
Goss T	Harris AMO	Herts BNA	Hughes A	Johnson A	
Gouldstone A	Harris B	Hewitt JH	Hughes C	Johnson D	
Gowrley R	Harris DM	Hickman M	Hughes E	Johnson M	
Graham AG	Harris M	Hicks M	Hughes J	Johnson S	SJ
Grant C	Harris N	Hicks R	Hughes N	Jones B	
Grant H	Harris NG	Hider N	Hull C	Jones CDR	
Grant I	Harris T	Higgins G	Hulls CAR	Jones G	
Grant J	Harrison A	Higgs N	Hulls T	Jones GW	
Grant JS	Harrison L	Hilfield Reservoir	Humphries D	Jones I	
Grant M	Harrison P	Bird Report	Hunt I	Jones J	
Gravatt JC	Harrison R	Hill D	Hunt M	Jones JR	JRJ
Gray A	Harrison S	Hill J	Hunter J	Jones R	
Gray C	Harrowing R	Hill L	Hurry N	Jones S	
Gray G	Hart M	Hill T	Hurst F	Jones Simon	SJs
Gray P	Hart P	Hillion E	Husband B	Jordan D	
Green B	Hart T	Hillson R	Husband R	Jordan M	MJ
Green C	Hartmann B	Hilson R	Husband RA	Jupp CR	

Kalli G		Lee P	Manfield F	Miller D		Newnham W
Kaye R	RK	Lee R	Mann T	Miller I	IM	Newson J
Keith R		Leeke S	Mansfield P	Miller N		Newton D
Kelly W		Legge C	Mantle P	Mills R		Nichols G
Kendrick J		Leicester A	Marchant K	Mingay C		Nicholson D
Kennedy J		Leonard D	Marett A	Mitchell A		Norcott B
Kennelly T		Leonard R	Margetts C	Mitchell D	DML	Norcott D
Kerr K		Leppert P	Marks W	Mitchell E		Northall N
Khan N	NK	Lethbridge J	Maroevic FJ	Mitchell M		Nottage A
Kilby B		Levy J	Maroevic FM	Montier DJ		Nowers T
King M		Lewis A	Marsh J	Moon AV	AVM	Nugent F
King S		Lewis D	Marsh R	Moor B		Nuttall R
Kings MP		Lewis E	Marshall O	Moore C		O'Connor J
Kitchen S		Lewis M	Marshall S	Moore G		O'Hare F
Kitchener P		Lewis P	Marshall SK	Moore K		Oakenfull P
Kite P		Lime J	Martin P	Moore KE	KEM	Oakland M
Knight A		Lin Y-H	Martin RN	Moore P		Oates S
Knight G		Lindo D	Marylebone	Moore PD		Orchard M
Knight M		Lindsay C	Birdwatching	Moore S		Ormondroyd S
Knott A		Lindsell D	Society	Morgan M		Orwin R
Knott N		Ling D	Mason A	Morris D		Osborn S
Knott S		Lockett K	Mason S	Morris DJ		Osborn T
Laban K		London Bird Club	Mason T	Morris P		Osborne AJ
Lacey H		wiki	Massey A	Morris R		Osborne S
Lachio S		Long B	Massey L	Morrison D	DMn	Osorio N
Laird A		Lott M	Matt B	Morton ER		Page K
Lambert D		Lovegrove P	Matthews H	Morton R		Page R
Lambert P	PLT	Lowden P	Maxwell C	Mosley A		Paice MR
Lamsdell C		Lowe C	May N	Moss J		Paine I
Lamsdell D		Lowe S	McCallum L	Moss L		Painter D
Langford J		Lowen JC	McCarthy D	Moss P		Painter J
Langsdon C		Lowther JM	McGilvray K	Moule J	JM	Painter S
Langsdon P		Luckhurst A	McGough D	Mugridge J		Pakton M
Lappert P		Luscombe A	McKee MJ	Munro B	MJM	Paleocrassas P
Lapworth G		LVRPA	McKenzie DT	Munton P		Palmer J
Larkin R		Lycett I	McLean D	Murray I		Palmer M
Last W		Lyness D	McLeary M	Murray K	KMy	Papps S
Laurie P		Lyons D	McManus KJ	Murray S		Parish J
Lawrence J		Lyons W	McManus M	Musk N		Parish N
Lawrence N		Mac M	MM	Napper E		Parker D
Lawrence P		Mackay A	Merchant G	Narbone AL		Parker M
Lawson AR	ARL	Mackenzie-Davies	Messenbird GDJ	Nash C		Parmerter D
Lawston P		C	Messenger V	Nasir J	VM	Parr M
Lea D		Mackenzie-Davies	Messenger C	Naylor P	PN	Partridge A
Leach D		R	Messenger K	Ndunge T		Partridge AC
Leach G		Mackie H	Messenger M	Neal S		Partridge J
Leadbeater L		Macky A	Messenger P	Netherwood MJ	PM	Pashby CA
Leaderman T		Macrow F	Metcalf O	Netville L		Patel S
Leahy B		Mahieu N	Middleton J	Newbigging G		Patel SK
Leahy E		Main SJ	Middleton R	Newbound PJ		Payne D
Leckie G		Mak M	MMk	Newham J		Payne R
Ledgerton K		Malins D	Middleton S	Newman P		Peak D
Lee A		Maltby C	Miller A	Newmark P		Pearce A
			Miller B			

Pearce K	Proddow E	Robinson D	Shand S	SS	Smith M
Pearce N	Purdey KL	KLP	Robinson M	Shannon T	Smith MJ
Pearce S	Pursall K	Robinson S	Sharman K	Smith ML	MLS
Pearce V	Pyrarh R	RJP	Sharp C	Smith N	NS
Pearson A	Quail J	Rodwell J	Shaw G	Smith P	PS
Pearson M	Quig A	Rollinson MN	Shaw I	Smith S	
Pearson R	Quinn A	Roper P	Sheehan M	Smith T	
Peel C	Rad S	Rose C	Sheerin A	Smith TA	
Pepper G	Rae A	Rose G	Shelley D	Smout C	
Perce I	Ralphs G	Rose I	Shelton P	Snell E	
Perfect E	Ramesh A	Rose W	Shenton L	Solomon R	
Perfect S	Ramsey S	Rosset C	Shenton L	Solomon R	
Perrier L	Randall A	Rosset C	Shephard M	Sones M	
Perry L	Randall G	Rosset C	Rother S	Sorrell D	
Petch L	Randall P	Rosset C	Shepherd M	Spall T	TS
Pezet D	Randon N	Roxbrough-Smith S	Sheppard S & S	Sparkes R	
Phillips K	Rare Bird Alert	Roy J	Sherlock C	Sparks R	
Phillips N	Raven P	Royston P	Sherriff R	Spencer P	
Phillips P	Rawlings N	RSPB	RSPB	Spencer PA	
Pickering P	Rawlins T	RSPB Aylesbury	Sherwood J	Spencer R	
Pickthall W	Read D	RSPB Croydon	Shippey S	Spooner SJ	
Picton J	Read S	Local Group	Simmonds V	Spottiswood JM	
Pitcher L	Reaney A	Ruebridge M	Simmonds Y	Stachnicki IA	
Pizzafurs B	Reaves B	Ruggins M	Simmons J	Stafford T	
Place S	Redbond A	Ruislip & District	Simmons M	Staines J	
Platt A	Redfern M	NHS	Simms D	Stallard B	
Pledge D	Reed B	Ruscoe M	Simms O	Stanger A	
Podmore A	Reed M	Russell L	Simons E	Stanley D	
Polain G	Reeder A	Russell M	Simon A	Stannard P	
Polcey D	Rees D	Ryan L	Simpson C	Stansfield RH	
Polly D	Reeves J	Ryder G	Simpson F	Starson J	
Pond D	Regent's Park	Rye Meads	Simpson RDH	Stead R	
Porrit D	Bird blog	Partnership RMP	Sinclair C	Stebbing S	
Porritt D	Reid A	Sadern R	Sinden N	Steel R	
Posen S	Reid J	Salmon A	Skelton M	Steele A	
Potter B	Reveley J	Sammels C	Skerry J	Stern N	
Potter D	Reynolds A	Sanders J	Skotnicki A	Stevens A	
Powell B	Reynolds B	Sandford-Smith B	Slack C	Stevens M	
Powell N	Reynolds S	Saunders P	Slack H	Steventon A	
Powell R	Rhodes P	Saunders R	Slade C	Stewart A	
Poynter S	Rhovey M	Savery R	Sluman N	Stewart AW	
Prater F	Richards G	Sawtell G	Sluman S	Stewart G	
Prater G	Richardson J	Sawyers M	Slumen N	Stewart I	IS
Pratt E	Richardson K	Scott A	Sly D	Still B	
Pregenza P	Riches G	Scudern R	Smart P	Stimpson J	
Presh C	Richings O	Scully M	Smith A	Stock J	
Pressland D	Ridge J	Sdwan Ja	Smith B	Stocks NR	NRS
Preston P	Ridley MJ	Searle M	Smith C	Stockwell B	
Price N	Righelato R	Sek M	Smith D	Stokes N	
Priestnall S	Rimes D	Self AMS	ASMS	Stone D	
Prior H	Rivoire J	Selge J	Smith G	Stone H	
Pritchard D	Roberts S	Senior J	Smith H	HS	
Pritchard J	Robertson D	Sevens M	Smith J	JS	
		Seward L	Smith K	Stones A	
			Smith L	Storan D	

Street P	PSt	Thomas B		Unwin P		Watson M		Wileman A
Stretch B		Thomas BJ	BJT	Upstone M		Watson P		Wilkinson M
Stretch P		Thomas N		Utton BM	BMU	Watts RC		Willett JD
Strickland I		Thomas P		Vale M		Watts RJ	RJW	Williams B
Stride H		Thomas S		Valentine E		WeBS		Williams N
Stringer J		Thomason E		Valentine L		Wedge J		Williams RE
Stroud A	AS	Thompson J		Van Der Veen N		Wee E		Williamson V
Stubbs C		Thompson V		Vanstone AE		Weekend O		Wills D
Summers J		Thornhill R		Vaughan A		Welch D		Wilson A
Sunters A		Thorpe S		Vaughan B		Welland S		Wilson AH
Surbition &		Thrush P		Vaughan H	HV	Weller R	RWe	Wilson G
District Bird		Timms N		Vaughan P		Wells J		Wilson J
Watching		Tinlin TC		Veal S		Welsh Harp		Wilson M
Society		Tinner S		Verlander N		Conservation		Wilson T
Surrey Bird Club		Todd B		Verrall AG	AGV	Group		Winn A
website		Todd R		Vila S		West N		Winn AC
Surtees S		Toegeny P		von Hagen C		West R		Winstanley A
Sutton G		Tomczinki A	ATo	Waite M		West S		Witt J
Sutton K		Tomkins M		Wakerling V		West V		Wood T
Sutton P		Toombs K		Waldron P		Westley G		Woodham C
Swallow M		Toone L		Walford M		Weston D		Woodley V
Swan J		Topham S		Walgate R		Westwick R		Woods A
Swan Jan	JSn	Topping J		Walker P		Wharton J		Woodward I
Sweetland J		Torpey S		Walker V		Whately R		Woodward R
Sweetland T		Townsend A		Wallen M		Wheatcroft D		Woolcock S
Swithinbank J		Townsend P		Wallen T		Whelan M		Woolfendon S
Tanner A		Tregenza P	PT	Waller D		Whitbread J		Woolston J
Tanner N		Tregerry P		Wallis G		White G		Worby M
Taplin C		Trevett F		Wallis R		White GJ	GJW	Worman M
Taylor DW		Trevis B		Wanstead Birders		White M		Wren A
Taylor G		Trim C		Ward J		White PD		Wren Group
Taylor K		Tuck D		Ward P		White R		Wright BE
Taylor M	MT	Tucker K		Wardell A		White T		Wright M
Taylor N		Turner D		Warden M		Whiteman P		Wright T
Taylor P		Turner E		Warden R	RWa	Whitfield J		Wyatt M
Taylor R		Turner J		Warre-Bursy	LW	Whittle M		Wyatt R
Taylor S		Turnham C		Warren D		Widdowson D		Yates J
Telford P		Tusa F		Washington D		Wiggins G		Young A
TeRNS		Tusa S		Wasse J	JW	Wilczur JPP		Young G
Terry J		Tweed A	AT	Waters C		Wildfowl &		Young S
Tester A		Twine J		Waters D		Wetlands Trust		Younger S
Thain M		Twyford N		Watmough B				
Thatchel V		Underwood J		Watson C				
The Scrubbers		Unite R		Watson I				
Thomas A		Unwin G		Watson J				

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA, 2012

WITH SOME ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

A Report on Bird-life within Twenty Miles of St Paul's Cathedral

The nomenclature of species in the systematic list of this report is based on the *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, Fourth Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2012). The sequence of species still follows *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, Third Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2010). A Checklist of Birds of the London Area appears on pages 247 to 255.

The six counties within the London Area are denoted in the report as follows: Essex or EX, Herts or HR = Hertfordshire, Middx or MX = Middlesex, Bucks or BU = Buckinghamshire, Kent or KT, Surrey or SY, and In Lond or IL = Inner London (the central rectangular area shown on the map on page 9). Other abbreviations are:

BBS	= Breeding Birds Survey	o/h	= overhead
CP	= Country Park	OS	= Open Space
FB	= Filter Beds	PF	= Playing Field(s)
GC	= Golf Course	PS	= Power Station
GP	= Gravel Pit(s)	QE II	= Queen Elizabeth II
KGV	= King George V	Q. Mary	= Queen Mary
KGVI	= King George VI	Q. Mother	= Queen Mother
LBR	= London Bird Report	R	= River
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	Res	= Reservoir(s)
m, f/fem	= male, female	RG	= Ringing Group
imm, juv	= immature, juvenile	SF/W	= Sewage Farm/Works
NR	= Nature Reserve	SP	= Sand Pit(s)
N, S, E, W	= North, South, East and West	WR	= Wildfowl Reserve

Observer abbreviations are shown only against records for species which are rare in the London Area. A list of all the observers who have contributed records for 2012 appears on pages 18 to 23. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list refer to occurrences since 1900.

The term 'Lower Thames' is used for the section of the R Thames from Crossness to the eastern edge of our recording area. The term 'West London reservoirs' is used for the following reservoirs: Island Barn, KGVI, QE II, Q. Mary, Q. Mother, Staines, Walton and Wraysbury.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Status: Common breeding resident.

The number of breeding records was 102, up on last year and nearer the levels in previous years (87 in 2011, 105 in 2010 and 110 in 2009). They bred in many urban areas including, once again, the Inner London sites of St James's Park and Battersea Park. Coverage varies from area to area, being particularly good in the Hertfordshire sector. More marked, however, was the decline in the number of large flocks. Counts of 50 or more were only made at eight sites (13 last year), and only one of these exceeded 100 (cf. three last year and ten in 2010). Some of the highest counts are given below.

Mute Swan breeding records (incl. nest building)

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
No. of records	13	29	28	6	22	2	100

Essex: Harrow Lodge Park, 165 on Jan 19th; this was the highest count and this site also had the highest count in 2011. Walthamstow Res, 82 on Oct 12th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, 49 on Oct 14th. Bury Lake, 72 on Feb 13th. Troy Mill Lake, 63 on Oct 16th.

Middx: Brent Res, 78 on Jul 22nd. Home Park, 70 on Oct 6th.

Bucks: Wraysbury & Horton GP, 51 on Jan 10th.

Surrey: Walton Res, 45 on Aug 17th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 98 on Dec 9th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

There were three records of 15 birds, similar to last year, but numbers vary a lot from year to year as the table below shows. There was one record of eight birds in the early part of the year and two records of seven birds in December, when two family groups were seen on the same date. For the third year in a row there was a record from Rainham Marshes. One of the Tyttenhanger GP birds in December had a neck collar which was put on in 2007 in the Netherlands. It appeared at Arundel in 2010, at Welney in 2011 and Nene Washes in February 2012.

Bewick's Swan records 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	0	38	6	5	16	54	5	3	11	12	94	21
No. of records	-	4	2	4	5	6	2	1	4	3	9	5

Essex: Rainham Marshes, three (two adults and one juv) on Dec 8th (HV, RBs, JW).

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, four (two adults and two juvs) on Dec 8th (SBL *et al*).

Middx: KGVI Res, eight adults on Feb 19th (REI, KLP, AVM).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Status: rare winter visitor.

Just one record again at the end of the year as in 2011.

Kent: Crayford & Dartford Marshes, one adult flew downriver on Dec 11th (KMJ).

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Status: occasional migrant and rare winter visitor.

At the start of the year a flock of 11 flew over the Lower Thames Marshes. This was followed by a long-staying bird recorded at three sites in west London. This bird was present in Surrey just outside the London Area from February 7th to April 27th. Two records of 12 birds is reasonable for recent years (see table below).

Bean Goose records 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of records	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	1
No. of birds	-	6		18	3	-	-	17	-	-	30	1

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 11 *rossicus* E on Jan 15th were the birds seen earlier at Crossness and later over West Thurrock Marshes (HV).

Middx: Laleham, one *rossicus* bird on several dates between Feb 11th and Mar 17th (REI, KLP, AVM).

Bucks: Horton GP, one *rossicus* on Feb 6th (CDRH).

Kent: Crossness, 11 *rossicus* E at 08:50 on Jan 15th (JKA).

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, one from Feb 13th-Mar 22nd (DGDL).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: scarce winter visitor.

There was just one record this year of 25 over Northfleet in early October. There were other reports but no descriptions were received (see App III for details). This makes four consecutive years of records following five years with no records (see table below).

Pink-footed Geese records 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of records	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	2
No. of birds	-	3	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	10	101	62

Kent: Northfleet, 25 S on Oct 9th (BEW).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

It is hard to say how many birds or records there were this year, as one flock at the end of the year was only heard and several records of one or two at the start of the year may all have been the same birds. But there were at least 12 records of 55 plus birds. Numbers vary a great deal from year to year as the table in *LBR 2011* showed.

The first of the year was one at Sevenoaks WR on January 4th, and further records of singles there on February 1st, 8th and 18th, March 28th and 30th, and April 9th were presumably the same bird. There were also one to two recorded at Rainham Marshes and Ingrebourne Valley on several dates in January from 6th. A flock of 25 at Greatness Pits on January 27th was the largest of the year. In February, two at Ingrebourne Valley on 5th followed by singles at Belhus Woods CP and Ingrebourne Valley, were followed by two at Rainham Marshes from 15th-25th, with four there on 22nd; once again these may all have

been the same birds. There was also a single at Sundridge Park on 22nd. In March and April there were just records of singles at Ingrebourne Valley and Sevenoaks WR.

The first birds of the autumn were 12 at Rainham Marshes on October 26th (four adults and eight juvs) which were seen later flying high down the Thames from Crayford/Dartford Marshes. On the same day, a single bird at Walton Res was identified as being of the European race. In November, one was at Rainham Marshes on 9th and there was a flock identified by call as it flew over Pinner on the night of 29th. The only December records were eight south at Beddington Farmlands on 12th, and three east over Horton GP on 18th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common breeding resident, controlled.

There was another decline in breeding records, with only 38 broods this year (69 in 2011 and 82 in 2010). Most of these were again at Walthamstow Res; regular counts from more sites would be welcome to see if there is a genuine recent decline. BBS data for England shows a 50% increase from 2006-2011 (BTO website). A bird ringed at Sevenoaks WR in 2002 was recorded in Kent in 2012, so was at least ten years old.

The biggest count was, typically, at Sevenoaks WR, with 500 in September, which was up on last year's count. There were counts of 50 or more at 21 sites which was similar to recent years. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/broods if known in brackets), along with some of the highest counts in each sector.

Essex: Harold Wood SW (1). Nags Head Lane Fishery (1). Walthamstow Res (21); 160 on Jul 1st. Rainham Marshes, 321 on Dec 8th. Wanstead Flats (1).

Herts: Amwell NR (1); 64 on Sep 9th. Harefield (1). Lynsters Farm (3). Lynsters Lake (2). Radlett Aero GP (1). Rye Meads, 80 on Jan 31st. Stocker's Lake, 100 on Oct 1st. West Hyde (1).

Middx: Laleham, 34 on Mar 11th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 130 on Feb 12th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 205 on Feb 10th. Darenth Lake (2); 95 on Feb 7th. Sevenoaks WR (bred, 47 goslings in May); 500 on Sep 24th. The Tarn (1).

Surrey: Trevereux, 304 on Aug 12th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 282 on Jun 26th. Regent's Park, 57 on Oct 6th. St James's Park (1); 78 on Jan 23rd.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.

There were 420 birds recorded, which makes it the best year since 1997 when c450 were seen. The vast majority, 329 birds, were recorded from October 24th-27th. Unusually, two were seen on January 1st at the Lower Thames Marshes; they had gone by 3rd. The next arrivals were on 15th when five flew past Battersea PS followed by another about two hours later. On the same day four were seen at Rainham Marshes which may have been some of the same birds. On 16th, one flew south over Beddington Farmlands and also 14 were seen at the Lower Thames Marshes. The only February record was 16 north at Crayford Marshes 7th. A single at Rainham Marshes from March 20th-21st was followed

by singles at Beddington Farmlands, Sevenoaks WR and Staines Res on 21st. There were more singles at Barking Bay/Crossness on May 26th and at Rainham Marshes on June 14th. Both these records are unusual, the May record was the first since 2008 and the last June record was in 2006.

The first birds of the autumn were seven at Fairlop Waters on September 23rd and there were no more until October 11th when five were at Beddington Farmlands. There were singles at Gallions Reach on 21st and Crayford/Dartford Marshes and Q. Mother Res on 24th. The main movement of the year started on 25th. Up to 27 were seen at sites at the Lower Thames Marshes, 28 were seen over Staines Moor (thought to have come from Wraysbury Res); six went south-west over Greenwich Park (believed to be the first record here) and were later seen over Beddington Farmlands. There were also five at Q. Mother Res and one SW over Wormwood Scrubs. The highest count of the year though was on 26th, when a flock of 166 went south-west over Beddington; there were also flocks of 42 at Rainham Marshes and 28 at Crayford/Dartford Marshes as well as one at Walton Res. On 28th there was just one over KGVI Res. There were about 23 birds in November and December including two inland on fields; one at Colnbrook with gulls on November 25th and one at Theobald's Park Farm on December 21st. The last of the year was one over Wanstead Flats on December 31st.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional visitor from self-sustaining population outside the London Area.

We have split the records into winter wanderers and those believed to be resident/summer birds; the latter appear in the Escapes section. Just one group this year.

Surrey: Apps Court Farm, 52 from Dec 24th-29th flew in high from the E and departed high to the NW (DMH). They had previously been at Bough Beech Res, Kent from Dec 4th-6th.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Status: very common, introduced breeding resident, controlled.

The variation in records from sector to sector suggests that it is still under-recorded in some areas. There was a further decline in the number of broods reported, down to 138 from 158 in 2011 and 250 in 2010. Breeding was recorded at 58 locations, although almost half were in Hertfordshire. The most important breeding site, Walthamstow Res, registered a slight increase in numbers, to 35 broods. There were no breeding records for Inner London. BBS data shows a 25% decline in England from 2006-2011 (BTO website). Breeding records of three or more pairs are given below (no. of pairs/broods in brackets), followed by a selection of the highest counts for each sector. Most of the largest counts were of midsummer moulting groups. The Walthamstow Res maximum was even higher than that of 2011 (704).

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 200 on Oct 7th. Walthamstow Res (35), 107 goslings; 733 on Jul 1st.

Herts: Aldenham CP, 211 on Feb 12th. Bury Lake (3); 224 on Aug 19th. Hilfield Park Res, 229 on Sep 21st. Maple Cross, 600 on Sep 11th. Rye Meads, 440 on Sep 1st. Stocker's



Greylag Goose. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Farm, 207 on Dec 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, 230 on Sep 26th.

Middx: Brent Res (6); 103 on Dec 22nd. Laleham, 77 on Feb 4th. Q. Mary Res (4); 58 on Jul 21st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 404 on Aug 7th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR (bred, 34 goslings); 233 on Sep 25th. Swanley Park, 175 on Sep 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (14). London Wetland Centre, 251 on Jan 24th. Mitcham Common (5). Trevereux, 174 on Oct 21st. Walton Res (8).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 151 on Jun 26th. Regent's Park, 220 on Sep 16th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Status: increasing, introduced breeding resident.

Breeding has been patchy ever since the first London record in 1992. There was more than last year, both in the number of broods (35) and the number of sites (25) where young were raised - about the same as in 2010. In addition to the broods listed, there were several instances of juveniles at sites where breeding was not proven. But the increase of the species continued: it was recorded at more sites than ever before (see table below for details); and a count of 80 at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens was the largest in recent years, perhaps ever. The map shows the breeding sites this year. All breeding records are given below, with the no. of broods/pairs in brackets, along with some high counts.

Egyptian Goose - no. of sites recorded

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
23	27	21	7	15	21	15	129

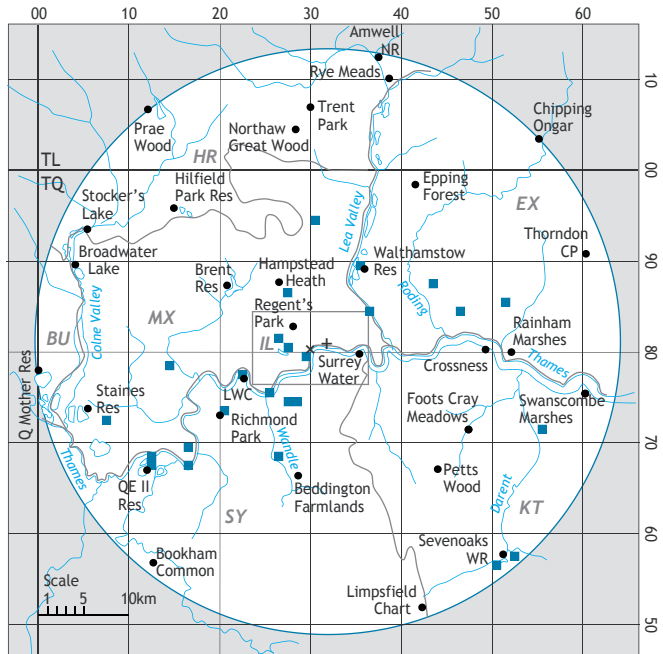
Egyptian Goose breeding records

- Breeding record(s) in 1-km square
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries

GIGL

Based on data mapped by Greenspace Information for Greater London
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Essex: Dagenham Chase (1). Holyfield Hall Farm, 28 on Dec 28th. Mayesbrook Park (1). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Maple Cross, 27 on Sep 26th. Woodoaks Farm, 18 on Sep 24th.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Bushy Park (2); 21 on Sep 28th. Grovelands Park (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Home Park (1); 21 on Sep 20th. Osterley Park (1).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 44 on Aug 29th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake (1). Darenth Lake (1). Sevenoaks WR (1); 27 on Nov 4th.

Surrey: Clapham Common (2). London Wetland Centre (1); 22 on Nov 19th. Morden Hall Park (1). QE II Res (1). Richmond Park (4). Walton Res (1). Wandle Creek (1). Wandsworth Common (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5); 80 on Dec 24th. Little Venice (1). St James's Park (1). Regent's Park, 63 on Sep 16th. Victoria Park (1).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Status: passage migrant, decreasing breeding resident on lower Thames, regular visitor to major waters where it breeds in small numbers.

Breeding success was poor this year with just seven broods reported (15 last year), though a further 19 pairs, at least, summered (16 last year). But the number of birds present appears to have been similar to other years. The highest count was 140 at Rainham Marshes. The highest counts seem to be declining, (190 in 2011, 275 in 2010, 304 in 2009) and WeBS data for England suggests a decline in numbers since the late 1990s (BTO website). All breeding records are given below (no. of broods in brackets), and some counts.

Essex: Barking Bay, 114 on Jun 3rd. Dagenham Chase, pair present in breeding season but did not breed. Fairlop Gravel Works (1), one young. Rainham Marshes, 140 on Mar 3rd. Walthamstow Res (3), 33 young.

Herts: Rye Meads, pair in breeding season did not breed. Tyttenhanger GP, pair in breeding season probably did not breed.

Middx: Bow Creek, 27 on Feb 12th. East India Dock Basin, 24 on Jan 19th. Q. Mary Res (1) at least two young, two additional pairs present.

Bucks: Horton Fields, three pairs in breeding season but no proof of breeding; also seen at Q. Mother Res.

Kent: Crossness (2), 17 young; 100 on Jun 19th & 30th. Greenhithe, pair in breeding season but no proof of breeding.

Surrey: Walton Res, 16 on Apr 4th.

In Lond: a pair summered in Regent's Park but did not breed.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

There were a disappointing 19 broods this year, compared with the 2011 figure of 29 and the 43 in 2010. But much of this difference is due to lack of reports from sites rather than decline; there is though sign of decline at Richmond Park. BTO data has no available population trends, although WeBS data for 2011/12 still shows an increase in numbers (BTO website). More regular reports on breeding success from sites would be very welcome. At Hatfield Aerodrome a female was seen flying out of a Kestrel/Owl nest box in late March - an interesting, if perfectly logical development for this species. All breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and significant counts are given below.

Essex: Connaught Water, peak of 73 on Jan 15th. Noak Hill (1).

Herts: Aberford Park (1). Aldenham CP, 25 on Dec 2nd. Beech Farm GP (1). Coopers Green GP (1). Essendon GC (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1).

Middx: Bushy Park (1). Darlands Lake, 26 on Jan 22nd. Ferny Hill Farm, 36 on Dec 1st. Forty Hall (1). Grovelands Park (1); 30 on Jan 2nd. Hampton FB (1). Town Park, Enfield (1). Trent Park (4); 35 on Oct 4th.

Kent: Cornmill Gardens (1).

Surrey: Millers Pond, two mating pairs on Apr 6th. Putney Heath/Wimbledon Common (1). Richmond Park (1); 52 on Feb 15th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, peaks of 54 on Feb 25th and 56 on Dec 2nd.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor with occasional summer records.

As usual Rainham Marshes had the highest count but numbers fell much more quickly there as spring approached, with 400 in March compared with 1,000 12 months earlier. Although there were records in all months, none summered this year and only in September did numbers get anywhere near three figures. There has been an 8% decline in the UK wintering population from 2000/01 to 2010/11 (WeBS 2011/12 survey). Monthly peaks from sites recording one or more totals of 100 or greater are given in the table, with other significant counts below.

Eurasian Wigeon		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Belhus Woods CP	-	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
	Holyfield Lake	1	405	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rainham Marshes	1500	600	400	3	2	-	3	-	103	100	140	510
HR	Aldenham CP	322	196	149	-	-	-	-	1	51	104	59	36
	Amwell NR	61	14	148	2	1	-	-	1	10	14	12	70
	Bowyers Water	140	81	2	-	-	-	-	-	11	113	120	125
	Hilfield Park Res	262	198	50	9	-	-	-	4	42	91	27	37
	Radlett Aero GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	120
MX	Kempton NR	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	15	-
	Q. Mary Res	-	153	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
	Staines Res	84	504	104	24	-	1	-	1	53	47	87	185
BU	Wraysbury GP	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	40	194	21	20
KT	Crayford Marshes	130	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	-	-
SY	Walton Res	71	187	111	2	-	-	-	-	6	61	36	81

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, 78 on Jan 8th. Netherhall GP, 60 on Feb 11th.

Herts: Helicon/Lynster/Pynesfield Lakes, 85 on Feb 14th.

Middx: Hampstead Heath, 62 on Dec 15th.

Bucks: Orlitts Lakes, 70 on Dec 8th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 82 on Nov 26th.

Surrey: Richmond Park, 95 on Nov 17th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, three on Dec 7th. Regent's Park, peaks of six on Feb 6th & 9th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

There were only 25 broods this year which is a big fall from the 42 in 2011; this is due to the numbers at Rye Meads falling from 35 to 13 broods. There was also no breeding at Battersea Park this year. On the positive side, there were six sites with more than one brood this year, rather than the two in 2011. So hopefully this well-spread species will strengthen its status as a well-established breeding species. Rye Meads had the highest count with 365 on September 14th, a much higher than usual autumn influx. WeBS data for 2011/12 shows a 25% increase in the last 5 years (WeBS 2011/12 survey). Counts for the major sites are in the table, with other peaks and all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and Inner London records given below.

Gadwall		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Holyfield Lake	-	232	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rainham Marshes	29	-	14	22	-	40	14	14	32	27	16	62
	Walthamstow Res	-	63	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	151
HR	Aldenham Res	184	190	56	7	7	-	-	40	78	103	20	23
	Amwell NR	116	219	45	31	40	20	30	25	32	105	206	105
	Bowyer's Water	250	49	20	4	-	-	2	-	2	42	45	32
	Maple Lodge NR	-	-	5	12	5	46	61	25	22	11	17	22

	Rye Meads	95	81	199	55	214	100	50	40	365	324	233	104
MX	Brent Res	114	93	18	42	-	73	32	83	146	180	150	101
	Kempton NR	12	46	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	60	40
	KGVI Res	3	73	9	10	4	1	5	3	9	-	-	7
BU	Wraysbury GP	126	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	233	102	197
	Horton GP	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	74	84
KT	Crossness	145	230	109	35	18	41	21	8	4	13	46	151
SY	Beddington Farm	38	28	22	10	7	6	5	3	10	28	32	35
	Wetland Centre	36	34	28	21	12	24	11	20	65	31	38	62
	Island Barn Res	32	51	10	5	6	3	-	-	10	4	9	11

Herts: Hilfield Park Res (1). Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads (13).

Middx: Brent Res (2). KGVI Res (1)

Kent: Crossness (2). Dartford Marshes (1). Swanscombe Marshes, 43 on Jan 1st.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (2). Thorpe Water Park, 178 on Feb 7th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, peak of 45 on Feb 14th, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, peak of six on Apr 27th. Regent's Park, peak of 40 on Feb 7th.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

It is difficult to know how many birds wintered at the Lower Thames Marshes, but there seems little evidence of much change. WeBS national data suggest a 5% decline over the last five years (WeBS 2011/12 survey). Although the large Inner London parks regularly record small numbers, the singles at Tower Bridge in January and Lambeth Bridge in December were very rare records for these parts of the river. A pair bred at London Wetland Centre, which was the first confirmed in London since 2002. Although pairs remained into May at some Hertfordshire sites there was no confirmed breeding there. Figures for the major sites are recorded in the table below, with significant records from other sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Bow Creek	217	442	121	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	383
Creekmouth, Barking	-	20	330	64	-	-	-	86	227	453	412	-
Gallions Reach	140	300	-	-	-	-	-	22	149	12	190	-
Rainham Marshes	1500	-	96	20	1	-	6	45	300	100	239	146
HR Rye Meads	88	47	51	14	2	2	3	20	60	67	104	163
MX Brent Res	95	40	55	52	-	2	-	24	51	122	125	234
E India Dock Basin	340	460	130	42	-	-	-	34	115	280	260	295
KT Crossness	-	300	-	42	2	-	3	137	300	420	300	500
Sevenoaks WR	75	65	19	20	-	1	-	10	56	38	65	115
SY Beddington Farm	170	200	160	50	53	-	2	20	200	325	325	350
Wetland Centre	310	570	71	38	1	7	18	100	111	125	120	164
Staines Res	144	33	8	62	-	1	-	10	40	41	78	96

Essex: Abbey Mills, monthly max of 400 on Feb 1st-3rd. R Lee, Bromley-by-Bow, 550 on Feb 9th. West Thurrock Marshes, 403 on Dec 9th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 342 on Nov 25th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (1). Watermeads, 200 on Feb 5th.

In Lond: Lambeth Bridge, one on Dec 19th. Regent's Park, 29 on Feb 9th. St James's Park, three on Jan 4th. Tower Bridge, one on Jan 17th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

There were 276 broods/territories this year, well down on the 345 last year, but the Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012. As usual this species was under-recorded and more breeding records would be welcomed. The table below records sites that have a maximum count of 200 or more and breeding/territory records are summarised below.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HR Beech Farm GP	24	46	-	22	15	26	26	26	226	160	1	160
Panshanger Park	84	80	86	102	88	52	132	300	300	-	-	185
Rye Meads	60	58	71	33	40	44	12	20	310	63	107	60
Verulamium Park	146	154	134	148	148	170	-	168	184	162	-	212
SY R Wandle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	342

Essex: 8-9 broods from 6 sites.

Herts: 75-83 broods from 28 sites.

Middx: 38 broods from 7 sites.

Bucks: 2 broods from 1 site.

Kent: 28 broods from 10 sites.

Surrey: 111 broods/territories from 15 sites.

In Lond: 5 broods from 4 sites.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer visitor.

There were no summering birds again, with the last of winter 2011/12 on April 2nd and the first returning bird on August 29th. The 2011/12 WeBS report shows a national decline of 47% from winter 2000/01 to 2010/11, but this is not reflected in the numbers at Rainham Marshes over that period. The Inner London record was the first since 2009. The table below gives counts for the key sites, followed by all records from other sites.

Northern Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	21	32	23	6	-	-	-	1	3	6	12	15
KT Crayford Marshes	9	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
SY Wetland Centre	6	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	8

Essex: Banbury Res, one on Sep 1st. Bow Creek Ecology Park, one on Feb 3rd, 10th, 16th & 28th. Broadfields Farm, one on Dec 15th. Connaught Water, one on Nov 6th. Creekmouth, Barking, two on Mar 3rd. Gallions Reach, two on Feb 5th. Holyfield Lake, singles on several dates in Jan and Feb with two on Feb 26th and one on Dec 2nd.

- Kelvendon Hatch, five on Feb 13th. KGV Res, three on Jan 14th, four on Feb 9th and three on 11th. Langridge Scrape, six on March 14th. Netherhall GP, six on Feb 11th.
- Herts:** Amwell NR, three on Feb 7th, one on Mar 13th. Cheshunt, one on Feb 15th. Hilfield Park Res, four on Feb 6th, one on Mar 16th. Rye Meads, singles on Feb 6th-10th, Sep 29th and Dec 22nd. Stocker's Lake, one on Sep 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Feb 1st.
- Middx:** Bow Creek, a female from 2011 on several dates up to Feb 12th. Brent Res, up to two from Feb 10th to Mar 2nd, then singles Dec 1st & 9th-13th. East India Dock Basin, one on Jan 4th & 29th and Feb 15th & 26th. Hampstead Heath, two on Mar 13th. KGV Res, three on Feb 11th & 12th, two on Mar 23rd & 25th, one on Sep 29th and Oct 27th. Q. Mary Res, one on Feb 4th. Staines Moor, two on Feb 10th. Staines Res, 21 on Feb 25th, three on 26th, two on Mar 25th, singles intermittently from Sep 14th-27th with two on 15th then one on Nov 7th.
- Bucks:** Q. Mother Res, 17 on Feb 25th. Wraysbury GP, singles on Feb 4th, Sep 17th & 20th and Oct 18th.
- Kent:** Crossness, three on Jan 15th, two on Jan 16th, singles on Feb 7th and Mar 21st. Dartford Marshes, two on Jan 29th, one on Feb 4th, 14 on 8th, two on 16th, one on 17th, two on Dec 17th. Greenwich Peninsula, one on Feb 15th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Jan 10th.
- Surrey:** Beddington Farmlands, nine SW on Feb 4th, singles on Feb 14th, 15th, 19th, Mar 2nd-15th and three E on Oct 26th. Holmethorpe SP, up to four Feb 2nd-7th. QE II Res, one on Sep 9th. South Norwood CP, one circled on Oct 28th. Walton Res, one on Oct 13th & 26th. Walton-on-Thames, one on Mar 24th. Wandsworth Park, two on Feb 9th and six on the Thames on 19th.
- In Lond:** Regent's Park, two on Nov 25th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter; occasionally breeds.

The wintering bird from 2011 stayed until January 6th. The first returning bird was on March 14th, slightly earlier than last year. Two males were still present in early June, with the last on 6th. The first returning bird was on July 5th. They were recorded at just 14 sites (24 in 2011 and 16 in 2010). All records are given below, although summarised for some sites.

- Essex:** Rainham Marshes, two on most dates from Mar 29th-Apr 18th, singles on several dates from Aug 7th-Sep 15th and on Oct 5th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 7th.
- Herts:** Amwell NR, one on Mar 14th, Apr 30th and May 19th. Rye Meads, one on May 12th & 20th-22nd and Jun 2nd-3rd, singles on many dates from Aug 15th to Oct 16th. Verulamium Park, one on Apr 25th.
- Middx:** Kempton NR, one on Mar 21st & 26th. Staines Res, one on Jul 22nd, singles on many dates from Sep 4th to Oct 5th. Wraysbury Res, one on Sep 10th.
- Bucks:** Wraysbury GP, one on Sep 19th, Oct 17th-18th & 20th.
- Kent:** Crayford/Dartford Marshes, singles on May 6th, Jul 29th and Aug 3rd. Hayes Farm Trout Lake, four on Apr 1st.
- Surrey:** Beddington Farmlands, two on Apr 14th, singles from Jun 3rd-6th, Jul 5th, Sep

3rd-5th. Holmethorpe SP, one from Dec 2011 until Jan 6th. London Wetland Centre, singles from Apr 3rd-9th, May 16th, Aug 21st and Sep 2nd.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with small numbers recorded in summer.

There was one breeding record in Hertfordshire this year, after two records last year. Most of our wintering population had left by mid-April and returned from mid-August. Monthly figures for the key sites are given in the table and show no obvious change. Significant records for other sites are given below and all Inner London records. A female at Greenwich Park in February was the first since 1966.

Northern Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	16	-	51	40	-	-	7	16	109	34	70	169
HR Amwell	3	44	70	20	4	2	1	12	13	21	28	34
Rye Meads RSPB	42	36	51	20	5	3	6	43	91	102	70	87
Stocker's & B Lakes	180	114	30	2	-	-	-	-	-	15	29	42
MX Brent Res	30	6	13	21	2	8	-	35	112	140	21	28
Staines Res	50	197	194	28	-	1	5	3	171	70	106	11
SY Beddington Farm	50	82	56	12	4	2	5	25	64	94	100	70
Wetland Centre	97	107	100	18	3	2	7	34	78	123	34	93
Walton Res	91	19	48	3	-	1	3	23	35	41	22	13

Essex: Creekmouth, 82 on Mar 10th. Gallions Reach, 61 on Feb 26th and 49 on Mar 11th. Walthamstow Res, 61 on Feb 5th and 160 on Oct 12th.

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Hilfield Park Res, 53 on Mar 15th. Seventy Acres Lake, 184 on Feb 12th. Slipe Lane GP, 49 on Feb 25th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 80 on Feb 4th. Osterley Park, 49 on Feb 9th. KG VI Res, 59 on Sep 15th. Stoke Newington Res, 43 on Jan 11th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 49 on Nov 29th.

Red-crested Pochard at Stocker's Lake. (Andrew Moon)



Kent: Crossness, 33 on Feb 5th. Southmere Lake, 33 on Feb 5th. Thamesmere West Lake, 80 on Feb 11th.

Surrey: South Norwood CP, 29 on Jan 5th. South Norwood Lake, 29 on Dec 15th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 34 on Feb 5th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 46 on Dec 14th. Regent's Park, peaks of 34 on Nov 25th & 29th and 64 on Dec 2nd.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Status: localised breeder from introduced stock.

In general the spread of records was broadly similar to 2011 although the highest individual total (again at Regent's Park) was down from 78 to 68, with Bushy Park providing the highest total outside the inner area. There was very little evidence of breeding: excluding St James's Park, only one site reported a juvenile bird and at only one other site was breeding identified as probable. The map is adapted from one to be published in the forthcoming London Atlas 2007-13.

Essex: Barking Park, one from Feb 16th-19th. Holyfield Lake, one on Jan 1st. KGV Res, one on Feb 11th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, two on Jan 4th and a single from Jan 6th to Feb 14th. Amwell NR, singles on Jan 1st & 27th, Feb 28th and Oct 28th. Bowyer's Water, one on Jan 1st. Bury Lake (probably bred); present on many dates from Jan 2nd to Jun 24th, with a peak of 15 on Feb 4th; then on four dates between Nov 3rd and Dec 14th, with a peak of 18 on the latter date. Croxley Hall GPs, one on Feb 13th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 18th. Lynsters Lake, two on Jan 20th and one on Mar 13th. Maple Lodge NR, two

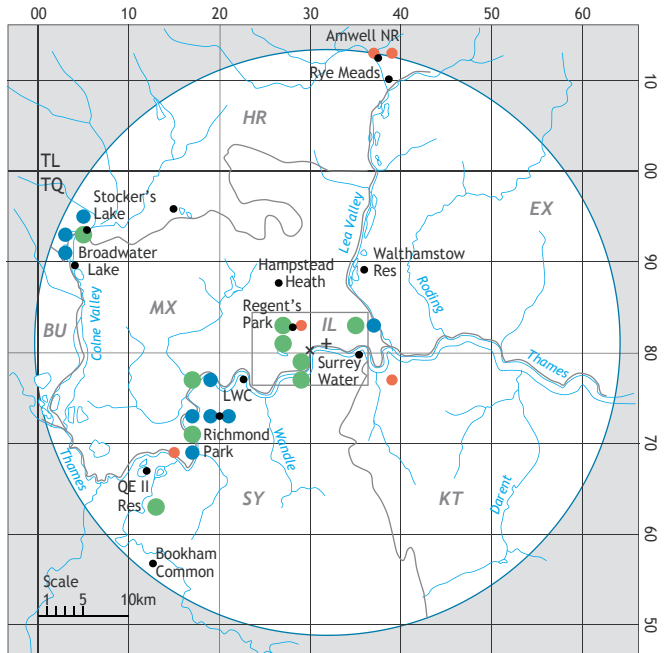
Red-crested Pochard breeding distribution 2007-2013

- Confirmed breeding
- Probable breeding
- Possible breeding
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries

Dots that appear to be outside the LNHS Area are in a 2km square that is partially within the Area.

Based on a map produced by Neil Smith using BTO/LNHS London Atlas data.

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on Sep 3rd. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, two on Jun 28th. Stanstead Innings, one on Sep 30th. Stocker's Lake, present on a range of dates from Jan 2nd to May 16th with a peak of 11 on Jan 10th, then further records from Nov 17th to Dec 31st with a peak of 12 on Dec 19th.

Middx: Bushy Park (1); present throughout year with peak of 20 on Jan 20th and 28 on Sep 26th. Two pairs and a juv were seen on Jul 13th. Hampstead Heath, three on Jan 13th. Horsenden Hill, a pair on May 13th-14th. Ruislip Lido, three on Jan 27th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, four on Feb 5th. Wraysbury GP, four on Nov 28th, one on Dec 1st and from 18th-29th.

Kent: Darenth Lake, one on Nov 2nd.

Surrey: Richmond Park, recorded on several dates with a peak of 25 on Nov 11th. Walton Res, seven on Nov 18th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, between one and three on several dates between Mar 13th and Jul 3rd - did not breed this year. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Feb 27th, three on Apr 27th, six on May 28th, eight on Jul 25th and Aug 30th then up to six on several dates between Oct 19th and Dec 30th. Regent's Canal, two on Mar 1st. Regent's Park, in first winter 68 on Feb 4th and 62 on Feb 25th, in second winter 36 on Nov 5th, 44 on Nov 28th and 48 on Dec 12th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

The highest count was 400 and there were five counts exceeding last year's high of 237 but the overall picture for wintering birds showed little change. There was a further decrease in breeding numbers, with 30 broods from 10 sites (45 from nine sites last year and 61 from 20 sites the year before). All monthly peak counts of over 60 birds are shown in the table below for the main sites, followed by other peak counts and all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets).

Common Pochard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Netherhall GP	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	331
Stubbers OPC	-	129	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	144	154	-	-	-	-
HR Aldenham CP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157	105
Hilfield Park Res	154	116	-	-	-	-	91	240	-	-	-	-
MX Staines Res	220	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BU Wraysbury GP	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	237	220

Essex: Grange Waters, 83 on Dec 29th. Rainham Marshes (1). Walthamstow Res (3). Wanstead Park, 65 on Oct 30th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 62 on Jan 18th. Bury Lake, 74 on Nov 18th. Rye Meads (13).

Middx: Alexandra Park (2). Brent Res, 65 on Feb 8th. Chiswick Pier (1). Grovelands Park (1). Kempton NR (1).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (4). Richmond Park (1-2). Thorpe Water Park, 152 on Jan 8th and 177 on Oct 31st. Walton Res 109 on Feb 13th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (2). Regent's Park, 91 on Nov 28th.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Status: rare vagrant.

Only a single record, as last year, which is about the average for occurrences of this attractive duck within the London area. It is only the second to appear in January since 1990 (see table below).

Ferruginous Duck dates 1990-2011 20 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	1	3	5	3

Kent: Thamesmere West Lake, a female on Jan 15th, and again from Jan 23rd-25th (RHB, JKA).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

There was no significant difference in Tufted Ducks numbers this year, at least as far as wintering and moulting flock sizes were concerned. Walthamstow Res had the peak of 2,405 in August when Staines Res also recorded a four-figure total, both due to moulting birds. The only winter flock approaching that size was 1,000 at Broadwater Lake during the severe weather in early February. The table below shows peak monthly counts of 100+ at all those sites where there was at least one record of 500+ birds.

The breeding position showed a significant deterioration, with a total of 138 pairs/broods reported from 31 sites, down from 160 and 41 respectively in 2011, although there was an increase at the key site of Rye Meads. This is a concern, although it does not reflect the true picture: regular monitoring of sites during future breeding seasons would help establish the position more accurately. The sector breeding counts, plus the key breeding sites (no. of broods in brackets), are given below.

The marked birds from Portugal referred to in the 2011 report were seen intermittently at East India Dock Basin throughout the year and also at Millwall Docks. The female of this pair seems to have sampled the delights of other locations during the year, having also been noted at Hilfield Park Res and Thamesmere West Lake. Other marked birds were noted at Wraysbury GP and Staines Res.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	2115	2405	-	-	-	-
MX Broadwater Lake	-	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KGVI Res	269	285	-	-	-	-	608	940	312	168	-	303
Q. Mary Res	-	873	-	-	-	-	-	-	264	-	-	-
Staines Res	387	681	190	-	-	-	629	1350	251	178	221	182
BU Horton GP	521	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	191	436	615
Wraysbury GP	748	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	855	683	925
SY Walton Res	332	487	274	108	-	-	550	621	166	117	106	113

Essex: 16 broods: Walthamstow Res (13).

Herts: 56 broods: Maple Lodge NR (5). Rye Meads (45).

Middx: 14 pairs/broods: Alexandra Park (3). Bedfont Lakes CP (4).

Kent: 2 broods: Crossness (2).

Surrey: 36 broods: London Wetland Centre (17). South Norwood Lake (7).

In Lond: 6 broods: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 85 on Feb 27th. Paddington Basin (3).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

Allowing for some duplication, records for 2012 showed a slight improvement on 2011, with around 40 birds recorded from 19 sites (34 from 15 sites in 2011); a significant proportion of these records occurred during the very cold spell in the first half of February. The highest count was six at Hilfield Park Res during that period.

Essex: Creekmouth, Barking, an immature on Feb 11th. Stubbers Outdoor Pursuits Centre, a female on Feb 10th was followed by a drake on several dates between Feb 14th and Mar 9th. Walthamstow Marsh, a drake on Feb 8th. Walthamstow Res, a drake From Feb 8th-16th, then probably a different bird on Mar 22nd. William Girling Res, two females on Feb 12th.

Herts: Amwell NR, a first winter drake on Dec 14th. This was present just outside the LNHS Area from Oct 31st-Dec 31st. Hilfield Park Res, up to six birds (four drakes and two females) from Feb 6th-11th, then a pair from Feb 19th to Mar 19th; in the second winter there were two on Dec 20th, with one remaining until 31st. North Met Pit, one on Oct 15th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Jul 27th. KGV Res, a female on Sep 1st. Q. Mary Res, a drake and two females on Feb 11th & 12th then one of the females until Feb 26th. Staines Res, as many as five different birds present from Jan 1st to Apr 9th, with a peak of four on Feb 24th; then at least four different birds from Oct 20th to Dec 30th although never more than two on any day.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, a 1st-winter female on Mar 13th and a drake on Oct 14th & 15th.

Surrey: Barnes, a female on the R Thames on Feb 12th. Holmethorpe SP, a 1st-winter

Common Scoter. There was a significant increase in records of this handsome sea-duck this year. (Michael McKee)





After just one record last year, 2012 saw something of a return to form for Long-tailed Duck. (Michael McKee)

drake from Feb 13th-17th and another on Dec 18th. London Wetland Centre, one on Dec 8th. Thorpe Water Park, one on Jan 15th. Walton Res, a drake on several dates between Nov 18th & 30th.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Status: scarce recently, but was annual visitor.

This year saw a welcome return to a more traditional pattern after last year's single record. All of the records were in the last quarter of the year.

Essex: Grange Waters, a female on four dates between Dec 2nd & 29th (PH, DMn). KGV Res, a drake on Oct 7th (NS). The Mores, one on Dec 26th (AS). William Girling Res, a drake from Oct 14th to Dec 21st (RW, DHu *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a female from Nov 26th which stayed into 2013 (CDRH *et al*).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a drake on Oct 12th (MM).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

A considerable improvement in numbers this year, with an estimated 138 birds reported from 18 sites (49 birds in 2011 and 97 in 2010). Exact figures are difficult to determine, given in particular that birds moving along the river are likely to be recorded from both banks (see this year's records from Rainham Marshes and Crayford Marshes). There were fewer midsummer birds this year, the bulk of the records coming in autumn: the highest total was 26 at Gallions Reach on October 28th.

Essex: Gallions Reach, 12 on Feb 7th, one on Sep 23rd, six on Oct 27th and 26 on Oct 28th. KGV Res, two from Nov 11th-17th. Rainham Marshes, three on Apr 19th, three on May 18th, one on Sep 22nd, 14 on Sep 24th, one on Oct 12th and two on Oct 25th. William Girling Res, three from Apr 9th-10th.

Herts: Amwell NR, five on May 22nd and two on Nov 27th. Hilfield Park Res, one from Nov 29th to Dec 12th.

Middx: KGV Res, one from Dec 1st-8th. Staines Res, seven on Jul 6th, six on Aug 19th, one on Sep 23rd, then two from Oct 22nd-28th, with a third present on 23rd. Trent Park, ten on Nov 5th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Oct 6th & 22nd, three on 26th, singles on 30th and Nov 16th-17th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, one on Apr 8th followed by three on Apr 19th, three on May 18th, 14 on Sep 24th and two on Oct 25th. Crossness, one on May 9th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, two on Jun 21st. QE II Res, four on Apr 14th then one from Jul 17th-23rd. Walton Res, one on Jun 10th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Only one record this year, suggesting that this species is reverting to type after the exceptional number of sightings in 2010.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, two fem/imm from Nov 28th-Dec 9th (DMH).

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer records.

The records for 2012 look very similar to those for the previous year. The highest count was 60 at Wraysbury & Horton GPs (one better than Staines Res last year) and the number of sites recording more than 15 birds was ten (eight in 2011). Peak counts at those sites are set out below. As usual some stayed into May, with a pair remaining at Stocker's Lake until 5th. There were June records at three sites, the last on 24th, and one or two in July. Most returning birds began to appear in October. All the spring and summer records are listed below, as well as the only record for Inner London.

Common Goldeneye	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Holyfield Lake	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KGV Res	20	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Walthamstow Res	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
HR Amwell NR	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stocker's Lake	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
MX Broadwater Lake	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KGV Res	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	21
Staines Res	48	54	53	42	-	-	-	-	-	17	16	41
BU Wraysbury GP	52	13	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	27	53
SY Walton Res	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Herts: Bury Lake, two on May 17th and one on Jun 24th. Stocker's Lake, two until May 5th, with one on several dates until Jun 9th.

Middx: KGV Res, one on Jun 23rd then two on Jul 21st & 28th. Staines Res, a female from Jul 1st throughout the month.

Surrey: Richmond Park, one from Jun 14th-20th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, three on Apr 8th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

This year saw birds recorded from 32 sites, an improvement on last year's 24, but only two sites saw counts in double figures as opposed to three in 2011. Birds were much more numerous in the first winter than in the second, with the adverse weather conditions in February bringing birds in. By the middle of February there were probably 40 in London. This influx was notable at Wraysbury GP where after a peak count of seven in January, numbers jumped to 15 on February 3rd. They reached 24 and 26 a few days later, which were the highest counts there since the 1980s. There was a smaller increase at Staines Res at this time and also at Holmethorpe SP and Seventy Acres Lake. This is an improvement on recent years but, as we pointed out in *LBR* 2011, it is a far cry from counts in the 1950s or even in 2000. Birds were present until March 21st and then again from December 1st. Counts of five or more, monthly peak counts from the main sites, and the one Inner London record are given below.

Herts: Amwell NR, seven on Jan 28th, six on Feb 11th & 19th. Seventy Acres Lake, eight on Feb 12th.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP, five on Jan 21st. Staines Res, 21 on Feb 15th, six on Mar 3rd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, seven on Jan 12th, 26 on Feb 8th, seven on Dec 30th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, six on Feb 4th increasing to seven by Feb 17th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, first winter drake present from Feb 6th to Mar 19th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Records of this attractive duck in 2012 were virtually identical to 2011: 22 birds seen at 16 sites, with in a couple of cases the same bird being noted at different sites. As last year, Rainham Marshes had the highest count of four on April 24th but there was a reasonable geographical spread, including the first record in Inner London since 2000. The latest spring record (if accepted) was on May 9th, as with last year at Amwell NR, with the first arrival of the autumn coming at Regent's Park on October 23rd. All records are given.

Essex: Banbury Res, the regular female intermittently from Jan 14th to Feb 22nd but not at the year-end for the first time since December 2005; also a pair on Feb 5th. Gallions Reach, one on Apr 29th. KGV Res, a female on Feb 28th. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 4th, four on Apr 24th and one on Nov 5th. Walthamstow Res, female on Feb 3rd & 10th, with two males on 4th. (As in past years, one female in the Lee Valley accounts for several of these records, as well as the Tottenham Marshes record below.)

Herts: Amwell NR, a pair on Apr 5th, then a drake from May 4th-9th.

Middx: Staines Res, a drake on Apr 14th. Tottenham Marshes, a female on Jan 17th. Trent Park, a female on Mar 8th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, a pair on Apr 24th and a drake on Nov 5th. Crossness, a drake on Apr 29th seen earlier at Greenhithe.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, a drake on Jan 13th and a 'redhead' on Nov 5th. QE II Res, a drake from Jan 9th to Mar 20th. Walton Res, a drake on Feb 3rd & 19th was the QE II bird.

In Lond: Regent's Park, a female on Oct 23rd was the third record for the site.



Wintering Goldeneye numbers were high at Wraysbury GP. The hard first-winter period brought quite a few Smew into London water-bodies; these were at Wraysbury GP. (Peter Gasson)

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

This year birds were recorded from 78 sites, a welcome increase on the 63 last year: the hard weather in February may have been a significant factor in this. However, only three sites recorded totals of more than 20 birds, the highest being 32 at Wraysbury GP (down from 39 at Weald Park in 2011), so it may be that a similar number of birds were present, just spread over more sites. A drake at Thorney CP remained until the very late date of May 23rd, the first autumn arrivals were at KGV Res on September 30th. Counts of ten or more are given below, except at the more popular sites where the monthly peak count is given, and the two Inner London records.

Essex: Holyfield Lake, 11 on Feb 11th and 15 on 12th, 18 on Dec 28th. KGV Res, 12 on Feb 11th. Sewardstone Marsh, 12 on Feb 13th. Walthamstow Res, 11 on Feb 9th.

Weald Park, ten on Jan 22nd and 12 on 25th. William Girling Res, 13 on Jan 1st.

Herts: Seventy Acres Lake, 15 on Feb 12th. Turnford Marsh GP, 13 on Jan 29th.

Middx: Bentley Priory, ten on Feb 22nd. Broadwater Lake, ten on Feb 7th. Wraysbury Res, 20 on Feb 14th, 22 on 23rd and 23 on 25th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, peaks of 18 on Jan 10th, 20 on Feb 1st and 32 on Dec 18th.

Surrey: QE II Res, 13 on Jan 18th, 25 on Feb 13th and 13 on Mar 8th.

In Lond: Battersea Bridge, one on Dec 12th. Regent's Park, four on Feb 11th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: formerly a widespread winter visitor and localised breeder of non-native origin; now much declined due to nationwide eradication programme.

Following the introduction of the national cull in 2005 (see previous LBRs) the inexorable decline of this non-native duck continued. In 2012 it was recorded from only 14 sites, down from 19 in 2011. There were only two sites, Hilfield Park Res and Brent Res, at

which a birdwatcher could have a reasonable expectation of seeing this species. Interestingly it bred at both of these sites, in contrast to the previous year when there were no reports of breeding. However, the culling remains controversial, and it is very probable that some records are not submitted by those who remain opposed to it. Peak monthly counts of four or more are given in the table below, followed by county summaries and breeding records.

Ruddy Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HR Hilfield Park Res	4	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
MX Brent Res	7	6	5	4	-	-	4	5	10	11	6	11
Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-

Essex: Recorded from four sites.

Herts: Recorded from three sites. Hilfield Park Res (1)

Middx: Recorded from two sites. Brent Res (2)

Kent: Recorded from one site.

Surrey: Recorded from three sites.

In Lond: Recorded from one site.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Again the vast majority of records are from farmland in Essex and Hertfordshire north of the River Thames. Atlas work in Herts accounted for a minimum of 49 pairs. Otherwise the species was a rare sight. All records are given for Middlesex, Kent and Surrey, elsewhere high counts, and all breeding records (nos. of pairs/territories in brackets).

Essex: Recorded from 16 sites, several in breeding season. Bulphan, 40 on Oct 20th.

Epping (1). Frieze Hall (2). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (3); max 163 on Oct 25th. Stapleford Tawney, 112 on Sep 5th. Thornwood Common (1).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (2+). Bell Bar (1).

Brookmans Park (1+). Cheshunt (1). Coopers

Green Lane (1). Cuffley (1). Elstree (1).

Essendon (up to 4). Essendonbury (1). Gobions

Wood (1+). Great Amwell (1). Hatfield (1).

Hatfield Aerodrome (1+). Kentish Lane Farm

(1+). Kings Langley (1). Maple Cross (1). Monks

Green (1). Newgate Street (1+); pair seen

distracting fox from five juvs, 10 on Oct 28th.

North Mymms Park (5+); 15 on Jul 25th.

Northaw (1+). Northaw Great Wood (1+).

Radlett area (2+). Redwell Wood Farm (5+); 25

on Feb 12th. Roe Hyde (1). South Mimms (1).



Ruddy Duck is an emotive subject but, no matter what your feelings, it is a pretty rare bird in London these days. (Russ Sherriff)

Tyttenhanger Farm, 44 on Mar 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP (2+); up to 10 in Mar. Water End (1). Welham Green (1+). Wildhill (1). Woodoaks Farm (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1+). Wormleybury (1).

Middx: Brayside Farm (1). Ferny Hill Farm, six on Dec 15th. Hampstead Heath, one from Apr 1st-2nd. Holly Hill Farm, seven on Oct 12th. KGV Res, pair on May 13th and Jun 4th. Park Farm (1). Parkside Farm (1). Plumridge Farm, pair on Apr 16th. Rectory Farm, one on May 8th. South Lodge Farm (1). Staines Moor, two on Apr 9th & 13th. Stanwell Moor, one on Dec 2nd. Totteridge Valley, one on Apr 4th. Vicarage Farm, pair on Apr 2nd.

Kent: Darenth Lake, six on Jan 17th. Eynsford (1+). Manor Farm, one on Apr 3rd.

Surrey: QE II Res, one on Apr 7th. Richmond Park, one from Apr 11th-13th. Ridlands, two on Sep 3rd. Rushett Farm, four on Mar 25th, one on Jun 20th, two on Sep 21st and c10 on Nov 11th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

There were just four probable breeding pairs which is a poor showing compared with six in 2011. Records came from ten sites this year (down from 14 in 2011). There is no sign of any change to the decline of this species in London. All records are given below with numbers in brackets for pairs in breeding season.

Essex: Grays, two on Mar 12th. Grey Goose Farm (1).

Herts: Beech Farm GP, five on Dec 8th which were the observer's first record there since 2008. Cole Green Tip, two on Mar 12th. Hatfield Aerodrome (2); peak of five on Dec 8th. Hatfield Park (1), the first recorded in the area for over 10 years. Redwell Wood Farm, one on Jan 1st.

Middx: Staines Moor, two on Oct 28th considered releases.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, one on Oct 11th. Westerham, ten on Dec 15th.

Surrey: Rushett Farm, 12 on Mar 3rd, five on Apr 14th, c12 on May 12th and one on Jun 20th.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor.

This was a good year with four or five birds with a typical spread of mid-summer records. The Orsett observer continues an amazing track record recording the species there for the sixth year running.

Essex: Orsett Fen, two males on Jun 1st and one bird seen running along the edge of a stubble field on Aug 20th (RBs).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 1st-summer male from Jun 14th-27th (KMJ). Eynsford, male at 21:15 on Jul 23rd (IS).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status: common breeding resident, of introduced origin.

There were few records received from Essex and Surrey although extensive census work

in Hertfordshire produced 44 territorial males/pairs. All breeding/territorial records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) are given below, with other records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Mar Dyke Valley (3+). Orsett Fen (4); 33 on Nov 6th. Thornwood Common (1).

Herts: Aldenham CP (1). Bedmond (2+). Beech Farm GP (1). Bell Bar (1), two young. Brickendonbury, 26 on Jul 31st. Brookmans Park (1). Broxbourne Woods (1). Coopers Green Lane (1). Cuffley (1+). Elstree (1+). Epping Green (1). Essendon (5+); 28 on Apr 21st. Essendonbury (3+). Fir & Pond Woods (1+). Gobions Wood (1+). Harefield (1). Hatfield (1+). Hatfield Aerodrome (1+). Hatfield Park (1+); 15 on Feb 26th. Howe Green (1). Kingswood (1). North Mymms Park (1). Northaw (1+). Northaw Great Wood (1). Radlett (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Ridge (1); 19 on Jan 8th. Roe Hyde (1+). Rye Meads (3), two broods; 13 on Dec 30th. St Albans (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1); 17 on Feb 17th. Welham Green (1). West End, 13 on Dec 31st. West Hyde (1). Wildhill (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1). Wormleybury (1+); 10 on May 7th.

Middx: Brent Res, male on Jan 18th and Apr 6th. Hampstead Heath, male on Mar 15th & 20th. Home Park (4). Horsenden Hill (1), three juvs reared. Perivale Wood (1+), raised four young, the first confirmed nesting in recent years. Tottenham Marshes (3+). Vicarage Farm (1), three juv seen. Wormwood Scrubs, male on Apr 11th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, up to two present Apr 13th-May 10th. College Farm, two on May 19th. Crossness (2), predated egg seen on May 5th. Dartford Marshes (1). Foots Cray Meadows (1). Greenwich Park, two males from Jan 1st-4th with one remaining until Feb 15th. Manor Farm, 14 on Apr 3rd. River Pool Linear Park, male on Oct 24th. Scadbury Park (2+). Sevenoaks WR (1+), fledged young seen. Sundridge Park, one or two on several dates from Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec. Westerham, five on Dec 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, five in Jan, one or two in Mar, Oct and Dec. Bookham Common, two on May 4th. Island Barn Res, singles on Mar 22nd and Apr 28th. London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 4th & 6th. QE II Res, one on Jan 6th. South Norwood CP, four males on Dec 21st. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one on Jan 1st.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

After no records for three years, there were four records this year, all at West London reservoirs. Probably only two birds were involved as the records at Q. Mother Res, KGVI Res and Q. Mary Res were thought to have been the same bird. The arrival dates are all very typical for this species.

Middx: KGVI Res, juv/1st-winter from Dec 27th-30th (KLP, REI). Q. Mary Res, 1st-winter on Dec 16th, 19th & 23rd (REI, KLP, AVM).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Dec 10th circled low then flew SE (CDRH).

Surrey: QE II Res, one on Mar 14th (DMH).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

There were perhaps six birds seen in the first winter, including one present at the end of 2011. In the second winter there were probably just two juveniles, which both arrived



Quail is a difficult bird to hear in London, let alone see. 2012 was a good year, with up to five birds. (Mick Southcott)



Whilst Great Northern Diver is the most numerous of the Gavia to occur in London, it is not often you see two in one shot! (Michael McKee)

on December 16th. One was at Hilfield Park Res just for one day and the other was at Q. Mother Res for five days, before what was presumed to be the same bird was then relocated on Staines Res on December 21st and on KGV Res from 23rd.

Essex: KGV Res, two from Jan 14th to Feb 28th (DHu *et al*).

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, juv on Dec 16th (TB, IB).

Middx: KGV Res, juv on Dec 23rd, 28th & 30th (REI, KLP). Q. Mary Res, a 2nd-calendar-year bird (remaining from 2011) on several dates between Jan 15th and Mar 17th (REI, KLP). Staines Res, a second calendar year bird from Jan 1st to Feb 17th with two on Jan 25th (one probably the Q. Mary Res bird), one on Mar 8th & 13th and Apr 9th, then juv on Dec 21st which had moved from Q. Mother Res (REI, KLP *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, juv on Jan 12th and from Feb 3rd to Apr 24th with a second from Feb 12th to Apr 14th; then a juv from Dec 16th-20th, which then moved to Staines Res (CDRH, MJM *et al*).

Diver *Gavia* sp

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one flew N on Feb 22nd (PLt).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding numbers were similar to the last two years with around 108 pairs (111 in 2011, 101 in 2010). In Surrey, a complete survey of the R Wandle, including Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth and the Croydon Arm starting at Waddon Ponds, found nine territories.



Little Grebe at Rainham. (Basil Thornton)

At Regent's Park, a record number of four or five pairs raised five broods of young. Most records come from inland waters, so one on the R Thames at the Isle of Dogs in January was unusual.

A summary is given below, along with breeding records from the main sites (no. of pairs in brackets) and the maximum count from each sector.

Essex: 15 pairs at five sites. Rainham Marshes, 36 on Aug 15th. Walthamstow Res (11 broods, 24 young fledged).

Herts: 34 pairs at 13 sites. Hilfield Park Res (7 broods). Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads (14); 38 on Sep 14th.

Middx: 16 pairs at eight sites. Alexandra Park (2). Brent Res (2). Hampstead Heath (3-4). Kempton NR (3). Pymmes Park (2). Tottenham Lock, 21 on R Lee on Feb 5th

Bucks: No breeding records. Wraysbury GP, seven on Jan 10th and Nov 29th.

Kent: 10-11 pairs at five sites. Crossness (4+). Greenhithe (3); 12 on Mar 4th. Greenwich Park, one here was uncommon for the site.

Surrey: 38 pairs at 13 sites. London Wetland Centre (8). R Wandle (9). South Norwood CP (3). Walton Res (4 broods); 26 on Oct 12th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (2). Regent's Park (4-5); 16 on Aug 9th (including nine young). Victoria Park (3).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding numbers dropped to around 83 pairs, down from 115 in 2011 and 134 in 2010. This fall can partly be explained by a lack of breeding information from some sites, particularly in Herts, but a real decrease was noted at other sites. At Walthamstow Res, numbers dropped from 17 broods in 2011 to eight broods this year, and at Brent Res from ten broods to three or four broods. The largest winter count came from Q. Mary Res, where 338 were seen on February 12th.

Monthly counts from the more significant sites are shown in the table below, with breeding totals (no. of pairs in brackets) and significant counts from other sites shown below that.

Great Crested Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HR Hilfield Park Res	62	39	24	20	18	24	37	75	81	34	27	30
MX KGV Res	10	8	12	32	73	39	22	12	12	15	18	9
Q. Mary Res	161	338	89	76	52	38	54	74	-	18	12	17
Staines Res	19	21	36	35	33	10	31	46	24	19	6	7
SY QE II Res	27	58	34	28	46	21	27	26	22	20	25	20

Essex: 11 pairs/broods at four sites. Walthamstow Res (8 broods, 19 young fledged). KGV Res, 75 on Oct 3rd.

Herts: 23+ pairs at 12 sites. Hilfield Park Res (6 broods); 81 on Sep 4th. Tyttenhanger GP (3 broods).

Middx: 11-12 pairs at seven sites. Brent Res (3-4 broods); 37 on Apr 8th.

Bucks: Horton GP, 22 on Oct 25th. Q. Mother Res, 48 on Jul 28th. Wraysbury GP (2 broods); 54 on Nov 29th.

Kent: 19 pairs at seven sites. East Quarry, Bluewater Shopping Centre (11). Chipstead Lake, 27 on Feb 10th.

Surrey: 12 pairs at six sites. Gatton Lake (4). London Wetland Centre (3). Island Barn Res, 29 on Jun 6th.

In Lond: Five broods at three sites. Battersea Park (one pair made two attempts, with one young fledged). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3 broods); 19 on Apr 27th. Regent's Park (1 brood). Victoria Park, two on May 19th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Assuming the two December Essex records are the same bird, the total of three matches that of 2011 and continues a run of mostly poor years which began in the mid-2000s, with the total of seven in 2010 being the one exception to this run (see table below).

Red-necked Grebe records 2001-2011		41 records									
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	8	4	6	4	1	2	1	3	2	7	3

Essex: KGV Res, one on Dec 8th (DBr). William Girling Res, singles on Jan 8th (DHu) and Dec 9th (RA).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 1st-winter from Nov 19th to Dec 15th (CDRH *et al*).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

As usual, movement between sites means it is difficult to assess overall numbers. However, the sightings probably involve ten individuals, which is similar to the last few years. The table below summarises recent records, and details of all 2012 sightings follow.

Slavonian Grebe records 2001-2011		88 records									
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	11	16	13	6	3	7	3	2	10	9	8

Essex: Rainham Marshes, three on Feb 8th (MD *et al*)

Middx: KGVI Res, two from Feb 18th to Mar 25th, with one staying to Apr 7th (AVM *et al*). Staines Res, two on Feb 18th then went to KGVI Res, one on Mar 20th, two on 29th and one on Apr 3rd were all thought to be the KGVI birds (KLP, REI, RWa); one on Oct 13th (RWa).

Kent: Bluewater Shopping Centre, one on Mar 4th (ARL, BEW). Crayford/Dartford Marshes, three on Feb 8th, same as Rainham Marshes (KMJ).

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one on Dec 10th (DMH). Thorpe Water Park, one from Nov 7th-27th (DH *et al*). Walton Res, one from Feb 23rd-25th, moved to QE II Res on 26th (DMH).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

Breeding again occurred successfully at Hilfield Park Res but was not recorded at the second Herts site where an attempt failed in 2011. However, at a site in Essex, eight birds in breeding plumage were seen on the late date of May 5th, and were reported by local fisherman to have been present for around two weeks. It is considered most likely that these were late migrants, but the location name has been withheld as there is potential breeding habitat at the site.

Winter counts on William Girling Res were slightly lower than last year, though no counts were received for July or August. At the other regular wintering site, Staines Res, numbers were much higher in March this year than before. Hilfield Park Res had the highest March count. Monthly maxima for the three main sites are shown in the table, followed by records from other sites.

Black-necked Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX W Girling Res	18	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	18	23	11
HR Hilfield Park Res	2	16	23	19	17	14	15	4	2	-	-	-
MX Staines Res	2	7	12	3	2	3	4	4	3	5	3	1

Essex: Site A, eight on May 5th. Fairlop Waters, one on Mar 27th. KGV Res, one on Apr 7th. Rainham Marshes, two on May 4th. Walthamstow Res, one from Feb 11th to Mar 11th and then two on Mar 29th.

Herts: Amwell NR, two on Jul 1st. Hilfield Park Res, counts of 23 on Mar 30th and 17 on Apr 8th and May 2nd, at least one juv raised.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Mar 11th. KGVI Res, one from Sep 26th-30th, up to two from Oct 20th-28th. Q. Mary Res, two from Feb 11th-12th, were the first site record for the observer.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one in summer plumage on Mar 22nd.

Kent: Littlebrook Lake, one on Feb 22nd.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, two on Apr 10th, two on Aug 17th, then one from Sep 6th-12th. Richmond Park, one from Mar 14th-15th, then two on May 13th.

*Manx Shearwater occurred for the sixth year running. (Andrew Moon).
2012 was an excellent year for lost Gannets, with this bird seen at
Walthamstow Reservoirs. (Richard Bonser)*



Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Status: rare visitor.

Just one bird this year which soon died. Surprisingly it was almost exactly the same date as the last records which were on May 25th and 26th in 2008. The table below shows all the recent records.

Northern Fulmar 2000-2011 7 records

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of records	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

Middx: Staines Res, one in poor condition when found on May 26th sadly died overnight (REI, KLP, AVM, CDRH). This is only the third record for the site.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Status: rare visitor, usually in autumn.

The sixth year in a row that this species has occurred in the London Area, as shown in the table below. By far the best time to look for them is in September: the 2012 record at Q. Mother Res means that 13 of the last 17 sightings have occurred during this month.

Manx Shearwater records 2001-2011

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	2	3

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one present all day on Sep 2nd (MJM *et al.*)

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Status: rare visitor, normally storm-driven.

This is the 17th record of this species in the London area. Apart from in 2000, when it was thought there may have been two birds involved in sightings at the Lower Thames Marshes, all other records have been of single birds. This is the first June record; apart from one bird in July, all other sightings have been between September and December (see table below). The first was at Staines Res in 1950 and the most recent was on Q. Mother Res in 2003.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, two flew upriver on Jun 12th (KMJ).

European Storm-petrel dates 1950-2003 16 birds/records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	5	3	4

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Status: scarce visitor.

There were five records this year which makes it one of the best in recent years. Three of the birds landed within the London area, and another two flew over. Typically three records were in the autumn. The Walthamstow Res bird was reported to be poorly, but is believed to have flown off the day after it was found, as it was neither taken into care nor found dead. The June records are unusual dates in recent years (see table below).

Northern Gannet dates 2000-2011 34 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	18	5	-	5

Essex: Walthamstow Res, third calendar year on East Warwick from Jun 23rd-24th (GJ *et al*).

Herts: Chess Valley, imm over on Sep 27th (ADB).

Middx: Horsenden Hill, near-adult W along Grand Union Canal on Jun 29th (AJC). Staines Moor, juv S on Oct 7th (LD).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, juv on island on Sep 17th (DAC). Island Barn Res, adult on water for c1 hour before flying W on Oct 25th (DMH).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Status: increasing breeding resident and common on suitable water bodies elsewhere, especially in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at six sites, but none nested at Netherhall GP, where there was one nest in 2011. At QE II Res, two occupied nests on the SW Tower on 6th April had been deserted by the 24th. There was also the first breeding record at Wraysbury GP although young were only seen at one of the two nests. At the main site at Walthamstow Res, the number of occupied nests fell to 226 from 280 in 2011. Counts at the site have fluctuated widely in recent years, probably reflecting how difficult it can be to get an accurate count for this species. This is also a problem with the Q. Mary GP colony which is on private land.

Two colour-ringed birds seen in the London area originated from opposite sides of the UK. Orange CH4 was ringed as a chick at Abberton Res in 2009 and was seen at Walthamstow Res on September 3rd and 18th - the second year in a row that it has been seen at this site on just two dates in the autumn. A juvenile present on the Isle of Dogs from January 29th till at least February 12th had travelled much further: it had been ringed as a nestling on Puffin Island, North Wales.

The table below shows monthly maxima from regularly-counted sites with larger numbers. The count of 550 at Q. Mary Res on February 4th exceeds the nationally significant counts of 350 (*WeBS 2011/12*). The numbers roosting at QE II Res were very much reduced compared to about ten years ago. Breeding records (no. of nests in brackets) and notable counts from other localities are shown below that.

Cormorant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX Q. Mary Res	78	550	5	12	7	9	15	15	22	11	15	12
SY QE II Res	175	320	82	21	23	31	69	130	66	114	165	140
Walton Res	10	10	1	5	3	5	45	94	69	12	3	7
Wetland Centre	86	234	217	8	4	8	14	5	95	91	78	52

Essex: Holyfield Lake (27+). Walthamstow Res (226). KGV Res, 150 on Sep 15th; 65 on Dec 8th.

Herts: Amwell NR (30).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (16). Q. Mary GP (2).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (2); 73 on Dec 18th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 40 on Dec 15th.

Surrey: QE II Res (2 pairs nested on a tower, but deserted later).

In Lond: Battersea Park, 130 roosting on Jan 16th; 92 roosting on Dec 15th. Regent's Park, 50+ roosting on Dec 12th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Status: irregular visitor, usually in winter, occasionally in good numbers.

A below average year with only three new records. Two of these were at typical dates, but the April record is unusual - only two of the previous 67 records have been in April.

Essex: Walthamstow Res, juv from Dec 15th-23rd (PLt *et al*).

Middx: Staines Res, juv from 2011 present until May 14th (mo).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, adult on Apr 14th (CDRH).

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, one flew upriver on Mar 30th (KMJ).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.

Severe cold weather in the first half of February doubtless led to the numerous records away from this species' normal strongholds. Overall in the first winter period, records came from 20 sites (14 in 2011). In the milder second winter period, birds were recorded from only six sites (nine in 2011). As in recent years, typically at regular sites, birds had departed by the second half of March and returned by early November, although early birds were seen at Rye Meads on October 4th and the London Wetland Centre from October 20th. The London Wetland Centre and the Lee Valley remain this species' winter strongholds in the London Area. All sites at which birds were recorded are given below, together with peak counts for each site.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Feb 9th. Grays, one on Feb 7th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Feb 2nd. Netherhall GP, three on Feb 7th & 12th. Walthamstow Res, one from Feb 8th-12th.

Herts: Amwell NR, recorded Jan 6th to Mar 28th, with a max of three on Feb 7th; singles on Nov 8th and Dec 8th-29th. Bushey Heath, one on Feb 8th. Hilfield Park Res, up to two from Feb 8th-19th. Maple Cross, one flew over the A412 on Mar 5th. North Met Pit, one on Nov 13th, four on 17th and three on Dec 3rd. Rye Meads, one from Jan 15th to Feb 23rd; then singles on Oct 4th and Dec 13th. Seventy Acres Lake, up to two between Jan 7th and Feb 26th; then recorded from Nov 4th to Dec 30th, with a peak of three on Nov 13th. Stanstead Innings, one on Feb 7th & 16th; then one on Nov 13th.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Jan 5th and Feb 11th. Brent Res, one on Feb 18th and Mar 4th. Hampstead Heath, a well-watched bird from Feb 14th-26th. Stanwell Moor, one on Feb 3rd.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one from Jan 11th to Mar 11th. Thamesmere West Lake, singles from Jan 25th-27th and on Feb 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Mar 28th was the first record for the site since 1968. London Wetland Centre, one between Jan 11th and Feb 16th, then up to two until Mar 1st, with one remaining to 16th; one from Oct 20th-Nov 30th, then up to two from Dec 2nd-30th, with three on 15th.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Status: rare vagrant.

After a gap of 14 years, we had two birds in one year bringing the total to 11. The adult female at Stocker's Lake was initially found and photographed on June 10th but was only identified when the photograph was sent to the Herts Bird Club website on 12th. It was refound the next day and stayed for a few days. Although occasionally elusive, this bird often afforded excellent views along the narrow River Colne. May/June records like this are more typical than the second bird which was the first ever September record. These appear to be the 10th and 11th records for London.

Herts: Stocker's Lake, an adult female on the River Colne, from Jun 10th-17th (SBI, PLE *et al*).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, a female or juv on Sep 15th (MCh).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Status: rare breeder and visitor in ever increasing frequency and number.

The number of pairs recorded breeding grew to a new peak of 36 at six sites in 2012, with a new colony established at Netherhall GP. As in previous years, high numbers occurred at Rainham Marshes in late summer, peaking at 78 on September 9th. Interestingly, unlike Grey Heron, this species remains comparatively scarce at Beddington Farmlands, being absent entirely during the summer and reaching a peak count of only three during the year. Recorded in all counties, this species nonetheless remains rare in Inner London. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/nests if known in brackets), as are notable counts and the only record for Inner London.

Essex: Hall Marsh Scrape, 13 on Aug 24th. Mar Dyke Valley, 15 on Sep 16th. Netherhall GP (7); 15 juvs were colour-ringed. Rainham Marshes, 38 on Aug 11th and 78 on Sep 9th. Walthamstow Res (17), 11 broods with up to 26 young fledged (compared to 15 broods of 44 young in 2011); 32 coming to roost on Nov 19th. Warren Gorge (3).

London has more breeding Little Egret than ever before, with 34 pairs. (Basil Thornton)





This female Little Bittern, London's first since 1997, showed brilliantly for many birders, who were able to watch it fishing along the R Colne for a week in June. (Andrew Moon)

Herts: Amwell NR (4), at least three young fledged; 15 on Feb 27th. Chess Valley, ten on Feb 6th. Rye Meads, ten on May 5th. Stanborough Lakes, roost counts of 29 on Jan 23rd and 17 on Dec 8th. Stocker's Lake (3), at least five young fledged; roost counts of 49 on Jan 7th-8th, 45 on Mar 2nd and 25 on Dec 30th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (2), two young seen.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, ten on Aug 6th and Sep 7th. Sevenoaks WR, ten on Jan 15th and 13 on Dec 16th

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, nine on Sep 23rd.

In Lond: Camberwell, one flew NE over Edmund Street at 06:48 on May 2nd.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Status: rare vagrant.

This was the best year ever with eight records, as well as three other reports for which no descriptions were received (see App III for details). As more are now being reported in the UK, any descriptions of these birds would be very welcome. The February record was the first ever for that month. See table below for arrival dates before this year.

Great White Egret dates 1997-2011 22 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records by month	0	0	1	3	3	2	1	0	5	3	1	3

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Jun 20th (PM, VM).

Herts: Amwell NR, one landed briefly on Sep 25th at 16:55 before flying S (BR, GJW).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one E towards Staines Moor at 17:10 on Apr 28th (CDRH).

Kent: Abbey Hill Park, one flew over on Nov 10th (GN).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Feb 27th (AGV) and Sep 23rd (NRS, NJG). Holmethorpe SP, one flew S on Nov 17th (GH). London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 26th, flew off SW later (RK, MCA) and was seen flying SSW over Richmond Park later that day (THd).

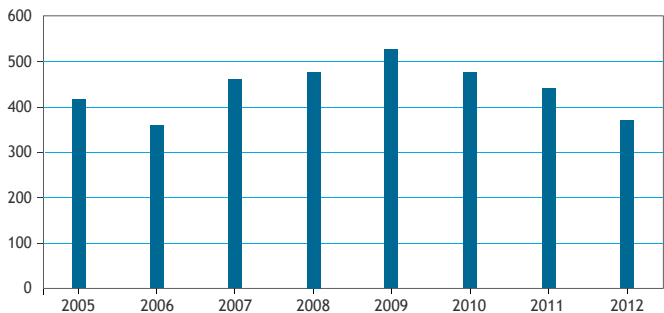
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of at least 367 nests were reported in 2012 (437 in 2011). The fall, due to a significantly lower count at Walthamstow Res, is not thought represent any real change there. However, as can be seen from the chart below, the number of nests recorded in

Grey Heron
2005-2012

Key
■ Number of nests
per year



the London Area has now fallen in each of the last three years. (The figure of 473 for 2008 is a revised figure, the count of 478 in *LBR* 2008 was an error.) Details of all heronries at which nest counts were made are given below, with the no. of nests in brackets, followed by a few of the highest counts away from known heronries or outside the breeding period. The LNHS continues to be grateful to the BTO for making available the London data from the long-running Grey Heron survey. As has been the case in recent years, away from these colonies, by far the highest numbers were recorded at Beddington Farmlands, where Little Egret remains comparatively scarce. A bird seen at Teddington Lock this year was ringed 19 years before at Osterley Park.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley (12). Mayesbrook Park (3). Netherhall GP (32). Rainham Marshes, a peak count of 12 on Aug 8th; a lot lower than the peak count of Little Egret at this site in the same period. Thorndon CP (3). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (17+).

Herts: Amwell NR (15). Frogmore Lakes (5). Rye Meads, 13 on Mar 31st. Stanborough Lakes (1). Stocker's Lake (33). Tyttenhanger GP (5). Verulamium Park (13).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (4). Frays Valley LNR (10). Home Park (1). Wildwoods, Enfield (1).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (21).

Kent: Crystal Palace Park (0). Kelsey Manor (22). Sevenoaks WR (1); 12 on Sep 25th. Swanscombe Marshes (7).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, several high counts, with a peak of 85 on Sep 17th. Beddington Park (7). Bookham Common (13). Corporation Island (15). Gatton Lake (24). Horton CP (8). London Wetland Centre (3); 18 on Jan 3rd. Morden Hall Park (22). Richmond Park (4). Thorpe Water Park (4). Watermeads (1).

In Lond: Battersea Park (32). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3). Regent's Park (24).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Status: scarce vagrant.

This year's May record at Tyttenhanger GP was on a typical date for this species in the London Area. There was no record last year which ended eight consecutive years with records (see table below for details).

White Stork records 2000-2010 17 records

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	3	1
No. of birds	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	3	1

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one N from 09:12-09:35 on May 12th (RFR, SBL).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

There were two records this year bringing the total to seven, although one bird was seen at two sites; this is the first time there has been more than one record in any year (see table below for details). Two of the previous records were also in October but this is the first March record; it is also the first record of more than one bird.

Glossy Ibis records 1974-2011		5 records				
Year	1974	1977	2008	2009	2011	
Month of arrival	Apr	May	Oct	Sep	Oct	

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one from Oct 14th-15th (PHT, HV, AT, DSM).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Oct 14th (JH, BEW).

Surrey: QE II Res, two on Mar 14th circled over between 18:00-18:03 before flying W (DMH).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Status: scarce migrant not recorded annually.

There were two records this year, the eighth consecutive year for this species in the London Area. These records may have involved the same wandering adult. July dates are not very common: just over a third of all the previous records have been in May, although they have been seen in all months except January and February (details in table below).



Spoonbill dates 2000-2011		35 records											
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
No. of records	0	0	1	3	13	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	

Essex: Rainham Marshes, an adult from Jul 5th-11th (AT, HV *et al*).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jul 5th (MCn) & 12th-13th (MLS, KH, PT).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Status: scarce visitor.

Two records this year, both autumn birds at the same site, although several others were reported (see App III for details). The table below gives details of all records since 2001. In 2000 there was the amazing influx which saw 162 records in London.

Honey Buzzard records 2001-2011		51 records										
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
No. of birds		4	0	5	3	3	5	4	9	3	14	1

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles on Aug 6th (RJW) and Sep 29th (JC).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Status: rare vagrant.

Two records this year: one bird at Rainham Marshes on August 23rd, was also seen at Crayford Marshes and another at Brookmans Park on May 14th. These are the 11th and 12th records for London. The only other years in which there have been two records were 2003 and 2009 (details in table below).

Black Kite records 1979-2011 10 records

Year	1979	1980	1986	1994	2003	2004	2009	2011
No. of records	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Aug 23rd (HV) (see Kent).

Herts: Brookmans Park, one on May 14th (RJP).

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, one flew W at 12:25 on Aug 23rd (KMJ) - also seen at Rainham Marshes.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

Another good year for this iconic raptor, however for the first time since the current surge began, a mere ten years ago (there were just 25 records in 2002!), the records fell slightly to about 1,086 (compared with about 1,100 in 2011). Interestingly, the distribution of sightings during the year was largely unchanged; there was an obvious peak in March, followed by slightly smaller peaks in April and May and then records tailed off gradually during the rest of the year.

Red Kite sightings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	56	107	186	131	135	111	66	32	62	65	61	74

Opposite: In keeping with the national pattern, Glossy Ibis is being seen more regularly in London. Nonetheless it remains a very rare bird here, and seeing two together is exceptional. (Dave Harris). Below: Grey Heron. (Jonathan Lethbridge).

Red Kite continue to make inroads into the capital. (Andrew Moon)



Interestingly, only 35% of Hertfordshire records fell within the March to May period, whereas in Essex nearly 80% of records did, in Surrey 62%, in Middlesex 59% and in Kent and Inner London it was nearly all the records. These figures provide pretty conclusive evidence of movement of birds across the London Area, probably either young birds dispersing from UK breeding sites or continental birds arriving. The largest count of birds this year was only eight birds at Broadwater Lake and Lynsters Farm both in October (which compares with a peak of 14 in 2011), with the vast majority of the higher counts coming from the Hertfordshire sector. There were no confirmed breeding records this year, but it seems unlikely that the situation has changed from 2011 when five pairs were proved to have bred within the Herts sector.

Red Kite by county	Essex	Herts	Mid dx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
2012 records	65	802	118	25	13	59	4
March to May records	51	279	59	8	12	37	4

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 11th. Fulham, singles on Mar 24th and May 22nd. Tower Bridge, one on May 15th.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Status: very rare vagrant.

A remarkable record and, for the lucky observers, a very fortuitous sighting; it was also enviably well photographed. This bird was seen later the same day in Kent where it remained until February 19th, before heading north towards Norfolk from 21st (presumably the same bird had been seen briefly at East Hyde (Beds) on 10th). This is the fifth London record: following three in the 20th century and then one at Orsett Fen on October 5th 2010.

Herts: Rye Meads, an immature flew SE at 12:10 on Feb 11th (GG, TS, JSn, MMk).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Status: scarce, but increasing passage migrant, has recently bred.

There were about 236 records this year, which is probably a record, however the figures are distorted somewhat by the huge number of records from Rainham Marshes (68% of all records) and this is even higher when records from the adjacent Crayford and Dartford Marshes are factored in (bringing it to 77% of all records). There were no breeding records this year, although several birds lingered throughout the summer at Rainham Marshes. Obvious passage took place from mid-March to mid-May, with no obvious peaks, and then again from late August to late October. The number of birds recorded, in the table below, is a better indicator of passage than the number of records.

Marsh Harrier records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	15	8	9	15	21	21	18	25	34	36	18	16
No. of birds	2	6	9	16	12	3	3	8	18	15	5	4

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Apr 7th. Dagenham Chase, singles on Apr 7th and May 1st. Dagenham Riverside, one on Feb 8th. Fishers Green, one on Apr 12th. Ingrebourne Valley, singles on Jan 1st & 17th and Oct 24th. Leyton Flats, one on Sep 14th. Rainham

Marshes, up to two in every month of the year with peak of five in September. Stubbers OPC, one on Feb 17th. Wanstead Flats, one on Aug 26th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Mar 25th & 27th, Apr 5th, Sep 4th, 5th, 21st & 27th, Oct 6th and Dec 12th. Cheshunt GP, one on Sep 23rd. Oxhey, one on Sep 3rd. Panshanger Park, one on Sep 9th. Rye Meads, singles on May 16th and Sep 2nd.

Middx: Kempton NR, one on Oct 21st. Staines Res, singles on Apr 6th & 16th. Wraysbury Res, one on May 15th.

Bucks: Horton GP, singles on Feb 9th & 26th. Q. Mother Res, singles on May 2nd and Aug 23rd.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, singles in every month except Feb, Apr and Dec, with peak of two in September. Crossness, singles on Apr 7th & 11th and on Aug 11th. Farningham, one on Oct 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Feb 1st, Mar 25th, Sep 1st, Oct 21st and Nov 7th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Aug 26th, Sep 1st, Oct 2nd, two on 6th, singles on 20th and Nov 7th. South Norwood Lake, one on Mar 31st. Walton Res, one on Mar 17th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 8th, May 1st and Oct 9th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames-side marshes.

There were six records this year, all on the Lower Thames Marshes. Last year there were four records and there were 18 in 2010. It is possible that one bird lingered on these marshes between November 4th and December 16th, but the dates are too far apart to be sure. All birds are ringtails, unless stated.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 19th (SB), Apr 25th (RSPB), May 2nd (AT, P St), Nov 4th and Dec 16th (RSPB).

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, a male on Oct 29th (KMJ).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Just one record this year in November but with several others reported (details in App III). This follows on from two in 2010 and three in 2007, all of which were in April.

Essex: Woodford Green, a female on Nov 8th (KMy).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Status: common breeding resident.

Although the 1,267 records this year are similar to the 1,245 received last year, this tends to be hugely distorted by the large number of reports from those sites that are watched on an almost daily basis, especially reserves like Rainham Marshes and Rye Meads. The Hertfordshire sector came out on top this year with about 400 records, followed by Surrey and Essex with about 250. Breeding totals were well down on last year with only 21 pairs proved to have bred and only about 41 territories. As is always the case these totals merely reflect observer coverage and the number of pairs actually

breeding is no doubt far higher. Prey items reported this year included: Woodpigeon, Feral Pigeon, Collared Dove, Meadow Pipit, Starling and a Field Mouse. The largest counts were nine over the London Wetland Centre and seven over Wanstead Flats (both, coincidentally, on September 3rd).

Sparrowhawk breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	4	10	9	0	6	10	1	40
Proved	0	4	6	0	2	8	1	21

In Lond: Records were received from: Battersea Park, Blackfriars Road SE1, Canada Water, Chelsea Harbour, Fulham Palace, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Leicester Square, Nunhead Cemetery, Paddington Green, Primrose Hill, Regent's Park, Southwark Pier, Surrey Water, The Borough, Tower 42 and Trafalgar Square.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Status: scarce but increasing breeder, regular migrant/visitor.

This impressive raptor maintained its position as the most frequently reported bird of prey in London - indeed this was reinforced this year, with about 1,440 records. As usual, the Hertfordshire sector is the most favoured with about 780 sightings, followed, a long way behind by Essex, with 280 records. Overall totals for breeding territories were similar to last year, except that Hertfordshire increased its share.

With regard to the best months: April with 203 records was usurped by March with an impressive 260 followed, surprisingly, by February with 150 and May with 147; the only other three-figure count was October with 103. Whilst there is little doubt that movement takes place through and across the Area, mainly in spring and autumn, there was no great evidence of it this year.

A glance at the recently published BTO *Bird Atlas 2007-11* reveals with astonishing clarity the spread of this species right across the country, indeed they now occur in 93% of tetrads in mainland UK during the winter and breed, or probably breed, in 90% - an increase of more than 100% since 1968-72.

Common Buzzard breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	6	32	3	0	1	2	0	44
Proved	1	16	2	0	0	1	0	20

Essex: At least one pair bred successfully. Holyfield Hall Farm, ten on Feb 23rd. Rainham Marshes, ten on Sep 22nd.

Herts: At least 16 pairs bred successfully. Prae Wood, 13 on Mar 8th. Rye Meads, 12 on Mar 24th.

Middx: Two pairs bred successfully and a third held territory. Staines Moor, ten on Oct 6th.

Kent: Just one territory was reported (there were none last year). Chalk Wood, five on Mar 10th. Sevenoaks WR, five on Oct 6th.

Surrey: One pair bred successfully. Beddington Farmlands reported monthly peaks of 11 birds in March and April. Richmond Park, 15 on Mar 21st.

In Lond: Camden Town, one on Jun 10th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 1st, Apr 6th &

11th, May 1st and Dec 18th. Tower 42, four on Aug 23rd and two on Sep 5th. Westminster, one on Mar 28th.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Status: very rare migrant.

This single record is the first since 2007 and the 16th for London. April dates are unusual, with October being the most likely month (details of all records below). The observer was in the area following up reports of a Goshawk when this bird appeared and was then seen for about eight minutes.

Rough-legged Buzzard dates 1946-2010		14 records*											
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
No. of records	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	3	1	

* The first record, of a dead bird, was in 1911 and we have no month for it.

Essex: North Weald Bassett, a juv on Apr 15th (SC).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There were 37 records this year, which is about average for this century and compares with 31 in 2011 and 51 in 2010.

The first bird of the year headed north over the Houses of Parliament on March 22nd, followed by another at Cassiobury Park the next day and then one at Forestdale on 31st. Further sightings followed on April 1st, then a short gap until two arrived on 10th, two on 12th, two on 13th, singles on 15th and 16th and then three more birds by the end of April. There were ten more records in May between 7th and 19th. The final birds of the spring passed over Amwell NR on June 4th and Tyttenhanger GP on 11th.

The first bird of the autumn was at South Mimms on August 5th, another on 11th at Stanwell Moor and then four between 26th and 31st. The last three birds of the year were seen at Walthamstow Res on September 3rd, Q. Mother Res on 6th and finally at Tyttenhanger GP on 15th. All records are listed below, singles unless stated.

Essex: Gallions Reach, Apr 1st. Rainham Marshes, Aug 28th. Walthamstow Res, Apr 11th & 21st and Sep 3rd.

Herts: Amwell NR, May 8th & 11th, Jun 4th. Cassiobury Park, Mar 23rd. Cheshunt, Apr 16th. Great Amwell, Apr 10th. Hertingfordbury, Apr 10th. Panshanger Park, two on Aug 27th and one on 31st. South Mimms, Aug 5th. Stocker's Lake, Apr 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, May 7th & 12th, Jun 11th and Sep 15th. West Hyde, Apr 15th.

Middx: Brent Res, Apr 13th. Brimsdown, Apr 24th. Bushy Park, May 9th & 15th. Horsenden Hill, Apr 13th. Hounslow, May 15th. Kentish Town, May 11th. Stanwell Moor, Aug 11th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, Apr 25th, May 19th and Sep 6th.

Kent: Hextable, Aug 26th. Sidcup, May 16th.

Surrey: Forestdale, Mar 31st. Walton-on-Thames, Apr 12th.

In Lond: Westminster, one flew N over Houses of Parliament on Mar 22nd.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: common breeding resident.

There was an encouraging jump in the number of sightings this year up to nearly 1,200 from 760 in 2011. But 600 of these were in the Hertfordshire sector, where a large number of reports come from some well-watched sites (for example, 142 from Rye Meads). Nevertheless, observers are requested to continue to send in all their sightings, so that a fuller picture of their status can be gained. Overall breeding totals were largely unchanged with 40 pairs proved to have bred. But these figures have been boosted by the impressive total of nine pairs in Richmond Park, of which six pairs raised 21 youngsters - testimony to how good the habitat must be there for foraging Kestrels. Wimbledon Common was not far behind with five pairs. The only prey items reported this year was one with a small mammal and another in Regent's Park feeding on 'invertebrates'. Interestingly, this species is frequently seen alongside motorways around London, but none of the reports this year would appear to come from these locations.

Intriguingly, the recently published BTO *Bird Atlas 2007-11* reveals a 6% decline in breeding distribution (since 1968-72), but a 7% increase in winter distribution (since 1981-84).

Kestrel breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Proved	1	15	4	0	4	16	0	40
Probable	3	21	1	0	0	1	0	26
Total	4	36	5	0	4	17	0	66

In Lond: (all singles unless stated): Brompton Cemetery, Jan 12th. Canada Water, Mar 10th. Hyde Park Corner, Apr 28th. New Covent Garden, Jun 1st. Paddington Green, Dec 17th. Pascal Street SW8, Jun 4th. Regent's Park, Feb 4th, then 17 sightings between Jun 23rd and Nov 28th, with two on Sep 15th; sadly there were no breeding reports this year, although one bird was seen at a nest box on Jul 25th. Primrose Hill, Sep 1st, 5th & 6th, Oct 16th and Nov 11th. Stockwell, SW8, Sep 14th. Tower 42, Sep 5th. Tower Bridge, Jan 3rd. Tower Hill EC3, Feb 13th. Tower of London, Jun 17th. Trafalgar Square, Mar 14th. Victoria Embankment, Jun 27th. Westminster, Dec 12th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

There were seven records this year, from just three sites, although a number of others were reported (see App III for details). This is well down on the 19 in 2011 and 41 in 2010. Interestingly, the recently published BTO *Bird Atlas 2007-11* reveals that the wintering status of Merlin in the London area has changed very little since the last winter Atlas from 1981-84. It, nevertheless, remains a real prize for any birder to see one in London and it would seem that Rainham Marshes remains the best bet. The last bird of the spring was at Rainham Marshes on March 10th and the first returning bird in the autumn was seen at Tyttenhanger GP on November 6th.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, single females on Jan 2nd (RC) & 18th (NK, HV), Feb 19th-21st (PHe, DMn), Mar 10th (RBs *et al*) and Dec 23rd (JR, HV). Wanstead Flats, one on Nov 19th (NC).

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Nov 6th (SBL.)

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

There were fewer sightings this year, but still about 820 of which Herts again claimed the largest proportion with about 290, followed by Middx with about 180, then Essex with 150.

The first bird of the year was at South Norwood Lake on March 31st, followed by one at Verulamium Park on April 1st and another at Ingrebourne Valley on 6th; the next was at Brookmill Park on 11th and then on 12th, one was at Walthamstow and a surprisingly early flock of five was at Seventy Acres Lake, with six there the next day. This was the start of a more general arrival and records were daily from 21st with a further 48 sightings by the end of April; the peak count was 11 at Rye Meads on 30th. During May there were a further 204 sightings, with eight at Amwell NR and Coopers Green Lane being the largest counts; the only other notable count during the spring was 11 at Horton GP on June 10th.

There were only a few noteworthy counts in the autumn and all of those were at Rainham Marshes: six on September 5th, ten on 6th and eight on 8th. There were daily sightings throughout the autumn right up until October 14th, after that there were singles at Rye Meads and Seventy Acres Lake on 16th, Rye Meads again on 20th and the last bird of the year there on 25th.

Breeding totals were slightly improved on 2011, but more encouragingly the number of pairs proved to have bred increased to 19, although this is still probably a huge under-representation of their true status in London. The recently published BTO *Bird Atlas 2007-11* reveals a staggering 300% increase in the UK since the first Atlas in 1968-72 with a suggested estimate of 2,200 pairs breeding; it would certainly be interesting to know exactly how many nest in our area.

Hobby breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Proved	1	9	3	0	1	5	0	19
Probable	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	5
Total	1	9	7	0	2	5	0	24

In Lond: (all singles unless stated): Battersea Park, May 18th. Fulham, May 27th. Hammersmith Cemetery, Aug 1st. Paddington Green, Jun 23rd & Oct 1st. Regent's Park, two on May 1st, then singles on May 8th, Aug 11th & 14th and Sep 16th, 21st & 30th. Wapping, Jul 30th.

2011 Alteration

The breeding totals for Surrey were incorrect. Five pairs bred, four producing young. The revised table for 2011 is given below.

Hobby breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Proved	0	1	0	0	5	1	7
Probable	2	6	5	1	0	0	14
Total	2	7	5	1	5	1	21

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Status: scarce but increasingly regular breeding resident and winter visitor.

Another good year for this impressive raptor with over 800 records, although records were more evenly distributed this year between all counties, with Essex, Surrey and Middlesex coming out on top. As has been the case in recent years the number of winter records (November through to March) outnumber the rest of the year by more than 2:1. This perhaps reflects dispersal of young birds as most adult birds tend to stay around their breeding sites. There were reports on almost every day of the year, as was the case last year.

It was another successful breeding season in London with at least 23 pairs present (28 in 2011), of which ten pairs were successful (nine in 2011) and raised to flying stage at least 28 juveniles (eight in 2011) - far and away the most successful year so far. Thanks again to DMn for this information.

Once again prey items proved to be pretty conservative, with Starling, Woodpigeon, Feral Pigeon and Ring-necked Parakeet being targeted most often, with one bird preying on a Jackdaw.

As has been the case with other raptors the new BTO *Bird Atlas 2007-11* reveals that there has been a massive increase of 200% across the UK since the first Atlas for 1968-72. This has been well reflected in London where there were only approximately 100 records in the first half of the 20th century; interestingly the spectre of organochlorine pesticide usage in agriculture (which proved so devastating to all birds of prey) did not appear until the 1940s - the Peregrine has never been as widespread in our area as it is now.

Essex: Seven pairs present, of which two pairs successfully reared six young.

Middx: Two pairs present raising three juvs.

Kent: Four pairs present, of which one pair raised three juvs.

Surrey: Three pairs were present, two of which successfully reared six juvs.

In Lond: Seven pairs present, of which four pairs were successful fledging ten juvs. A ringed bird at Hammersmith on May 18th was ringed as a pullus five years before in Sussex in 2007.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; scarce breeder.

Estimated numbers within the first and last four months of the year were 126 and 111 birds respectively. The table below shows these by county. Records came from 75 sites, which is two short of last year's 77. A total of three breeding pairs were reported from just two sites this year, down from eight pairs at four sites last year and 14 pairs from seven sites in 2010. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), records of birds present during the breeding season, peak counts of three or more birds and all records for Inner London.

Water Rail - winter totals of birds

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
First winter	32	31	13	1	24	25	0	126
Second winter	18	30	16	2	10	34	1	111

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, six on Mar 10th. Rainham Marshes (1); six on Feb 21st.

Herts: Cheshunt GPs, five on Dec 12th. Rye Meads (1); eight on Jan 14th. Scotsbridge Meadows, five on Feb 12th.

Middx: Brent Res, nine on Dec 16th.

Kent: Crossness, four on Mar 11th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, 12 on Jan 13th. Richmond Park, seven on Dec 18th. South Norwood CP, five on Dec 11th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, the only Inner London record was of a single bird from Dec 14th-19th.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

Status: very rare vagrant.

Perhaps as a result of low water levels in Iberia, at least six (and perhaps as many as 11) singing Baillon's Crakes were discovered holding territory in England and Wales during a Spotted Crake survey in 2012. It is therefore possible that this well-watched juvenile was the result of a British breeding attempt. This is the first record of this species in London for well over a century, and adds another star bird to the ever-increasing Rainham tally. (See page 192 for details of this find.)

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a juv from Sep 7th-23rd (MT *et al*).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: very common breeding resident.

There were reports from 153 sites, an increase from 138 in 2011. The highest count was

Could this juvenile Baillon's Crake have been British bred? (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)



179 at the London Wetland Centre which was comparable to last year's peak there of 172. The count of 137 on a walk along the River Wandle represented a further decrease from 188 in 2011 and 248 in 2010.

At least 268 pairs or broods were reported from 88 sites (up from 60 sites in 2011 and 43 in 2010). Breeding numbers were well down at some sites, stable at others. The only increase in breeding numbers came from Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath where there was one more pair than in 2011. All breeding records of over five pairs or broods are given below (number in brackets) along with peak counts.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 100 on Oct 14th. Rainham Marshes, 31 in Dec.

Herts: Aldenham CP, 40 in Feb. Amwell NR, 31 in Sep. Bury Lake, 33 in Jan. Hampermill Lake, 40 in Mar. Maple Lodge NR, 40 in Jan. Rye Meads (15); 144 on Sep 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, 69 on Nov 11th. Verulamium Park, 42 in Feb.

Middx: Alexandra Park (7). Brent Res, 72 on Feb 12th. Home Park (7). Horsenden Hill, 55 on Jan 2nd. Ruislip Lido, 45 in Dec.

Kent: Crossness, 36 in Dec. Darenth Lake, 43 in Feb. Sevenoaks WR, 39 in Mar and in Oct.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (23); 90 on Oct 14th. London Wetland Centre (18); 179 on Jan 18th. Richmond Park (9). R Wandle: Butter Hill - Morden Hall Park (42). R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds - Wandsworth, 137 on Dec 30th. Walton Res (8). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (9).

In Lond: Battersea Park (6). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 32 on Jan 26th. Regent's Park, 37 in Oct, 43 in Nov. St James's Park, 65 on Jan 23rd.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Reports came from 144 sites, up again on the last two years. The highest count was 815 which is the lowest annual maximum since 2004 when it was 813. The years 2009, 2010, and 2011 saw peaks of 1,019, 1,086 and 1,115 respectively.

At least 386 pairs or broods were reported from 94 sites. Although an improvement on the 80 sites in 2011, 67 in 2010 and 56 in 2009, this is probably an underestimate of the true situation for this under-recorded species. Poor breeding success was reported from Richmond Park where only one young was fledged from 20 nesting pairs. We might think that most London Coots don't move far, but one at Hyde Park in December 2010 was recorded in the Netherlands in February 2012. All breeding records of ten or more pairs, nests or broods, and all Inner London breeding records, are given below (no. of pairs, nests or broods in brackets), as well as peak counts of 200 or more (100 or more in Inner London).

Essex: Walthamstow Res (26).

Herts: Aldenham CP, 488 on Jan 4th. Amwell NR, 607 on Jan 18th. Bowyer's Water, 331 on Nov 19th. Bury Lake, 287 on Dec 16th. Hilfield Park Res, 284 on Jan 4th. Lynsters Lake, 221 on Jan 15th. Rye Meads, 548 on Sep 14th. Troy Mill Lake, 728 on Dec 18th. Verulamium Park (10).

Middx: Alexandra Park (16). Brent Res, 815 on Jan 15th. Horsenden Hill (14 pairs or broods recorded during an incomplete breeding survey). Staines Res, 427 on Sep 16th

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 510 on Nov 29th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 243 on Sep 25th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (21). London Wetland Centre (17); 151 on Jan 31st. Richmond Park (20). R Wandle: Butter Hill - Morden Hall Park (23). Waddon Ponds (13). Walton Res (23); 325 on Oct 12th.

In Lond: Barbican Lakes (2). Battersea Park (23). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 171 on Feb 27th. Limehouse Basin (1). Regent's Canal (2); 244 on Oct 24th. Southwark Park (3). St James's Park, 196 on Jan 23rd. Victoria Park (3).

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

There was one record of two birds which is the 17th record for the London Area, following the 2011 addition below. There has clearly been an upturn in records recently (see table below for all previous records). This would seem to be a reflection of their continued breeding success within the UK. It is difficult to determine the origin of all of the London birds, as they almost always relate to fly-overs. Birds reintroduced to the Somerset levels occasionally move elsewhere and it is worth noting that two birds were again missing from the Somerset flock between May 3rd and 11th when the Romford birds were seen.

Common Crane records 1924-2011 16 records

Year	1924	1957	1973	1982	1987	1990	1997	2002	2003	2006	2010	2011
No. of records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
No. of birds	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	3	4

Essex: Romford, two on May 6th (HS, PS).

2011 Addition

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 25th (PRA).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

It was very much business as usual for Oystercatchers in 2012 with small numbers seen most months of the year but predominately between late February and the end of August. This year there were two confirmed breeding pairs, two probable pairs, and possible breeding at two additional sites.

Essex: Seen along the Thames in all months except Jan and Dec. Peak counts were eight in Barking Bay on Apr 28th, six at Creekmouth, Barking on Aug 29th, seven at Gallions Reach on Apr 28th, nine at Rainham Marshes on Jul 31st and 11 at West Thurrock Marshes on Aug 1st. Inland records came from just five sites in the Lee Valley, all singles, each on one day only between Mar 16th and Aug 13th. One pair bred at Rainham Marshes.

Herts: Amwell NR, one pair fledged three young. Rye Meads, a peak of four on Jun 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, one pair summered and attempted to breed. Up to three short-staying individuals were recorded from nine additional sites.

Middx: Reported from nine sites, mainly West London reservoirs, on various dates

between Feb 25th and Nov 17th, with three at Staines Res on Mar 18th the only count above two. One pair probably bred at Broadwater Lake.

Bucks: Horton GP, two circled overhead on Sep 9th. Q. Mother Res, singles on Mar 25th, Apr 28th, Jul 25th and Nov 22nd, and three on Jul 31st.

Kent: Seen along the Thames in all months between Jan and Sep, with peaks of 20 at Crossness on Apr 14th and seven at Dartford Marshes on Jul 10th. Up to two were seen at four inland localities on single dates between Mar 14th and Jul 8th. Pairs were seen displaying at Belvedere and at Dartford Marshes.

Surrey: A peak count of four was made at the London Wetland Centre on Jul 28th. Records also came from four other sites but with no more than two seen.

In Lond: Blackfriars Bridge, one on Jan 12th. Clarkson Row NW1, one found dead in the road on Oct 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one flew over Round Pond, heading E, on May 3rd. Limehouse, three flew upriver in heavy rain on Jul 8th.

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta

Status: scarce visitor in all months of the year; occasional breeder.

For the fourth year running there was a new high count: 82 at West Thurrock Marshes on February 7th was just enough to beat the 80 seen there in 2011. Presumably these are birds from wintering flocks on the Lower Thames penetrating far enough upriver. The majority of those away from the River Thames were seen on spring passage between mid-March and the end of May.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, up to nine irregularly in all months except Sep and Nov. West Thurrock Marshes, 54 on Feb 3rd, 82 on Feb 5th and 22 on Dec 7th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Mar 12th, two on Mar 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 28th, one on May 9th.

Middx: Staines Res, a wounded individual on Feb 27th-28th, seven until 08:00 on Mar 21st and one on Apr 25th.

Bucks: Horton GP, seven on Mar 21st were presumed to be the same as those seen earlier at Staines Res. Q. Mother Res, one for 20 minutes early in the afternoon on Apr 25th.

Kent: Crayford & Dartford Marshes, up to six occasionally in all months except Apr, Sep, Oct and Dec.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two on Mar 31st, one on Oct 11th. London Wetland Centre, one from May 22nd-23rd, two on Jun 12th.

Stone Curlew Burhinus oedicnemus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There was just one record this year, down on the previous two years. The number of records in the three years from 2010 is now just one less than the total for the 1980s and 1990s combined. April is the mostly likely time to see these in London, with ten of the previous 24 records being then (details in table below).

Stone Curlew 1990-2011 24 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Arrival dates	0	1	4	10	2	0	0	4	0	1	2	0

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, one on Apr 27th (BMU, BEW).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first spring arrival was at Staines Res on March 12th, with no reports from other sites until 16th. A more widespread arrival wasn't seen until the last ten days of March when they finally began to arrive in larger numbers. Numbers were again relatively low, with the highest counts being 15 at Staines Res on April 15th, where there were also counts of eight on several dates, and eight at Sevenoaks WR on May 20th. No other sites produced spring counts of above five.

Breeding numbers were very low which is likely to be partially due to a lack of reporting, although it may be that suitable breeding habitat for the species is becoming scarcer in the area as working gravel pits and other similar sites become fewer and vegetation grows up around existing sites. Over half of the breeding attempts this year failed.

Little Ringed Plover	Pairs confirmed breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	0	0	1	1
Herts	2	0	2	4
Middx	2	2	2	6
Bucks	0	0	1	1
Kent	1	2	1	4
Surrey	2	0	2	4
Total	7	4	9	20

Late summer and autumn numbers were also low with no significant post-breeding build-up or passage. The highest counts submitted for the latter part of the summer were seven at Tyttenhanger GP on July 7th. A single adult lingered at Rainham Marshes well into October, last being seen on 24th - the latest date ever recorded in the London Area; the previous latest was October 14th 1983.

A few Ringed Plover were present during the breeding season, but unfortunately there was no confirmed success. (Michael McKee)



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Status: localised breeder and winter visitor; common passage migrant.

Winter counts at sites at the Lower Thames Marshes were regularly in double figures during January and February, with the highest being 24 at Crayford Marshes on January 27th. There were also two inland January records of singles at Hampermill Lake on 4th and Staines Res on 25th. Singles were also reported from West London reservoirs in mid-February, possibly associated with weather conditions early in the month but may have been the beginning of spring passage. 'Summering' birds started to return to inland sites where they have previously bred as early as February 19th. Spring passage continued until at least early June, with inland peak counts of eight at Beddington Farmlands on May 4th and 12 at Brent Res on June 2nd, and highs on the Thames of 26 at Crayford/Dartford Marshes on May 2nd and 30 at Crossness on June 2nd.

Only one breeding attempt was recorded, with a nest at Coursers Farm, although this was unfortunately destroyed by gravel machinery. There were also birds present during the breeding season at three additional inland sites and three sites on the River Thames so there may have been breeding attempts elsewhere.

Autumn passage began in June although most was between late July and the end of October. Like the spring passage it was relatively light, with no more than four recorded at any inland site, and a peak on the Thames of 40 at Rainham Marshes on August 20th. There continued to be double figure counts made at Thameside sites until the end of the year, although numbers gradually fell from the August peak. The only inland records after September 23rd involved singles at Staines Moor on October 18th and Wanstead Flats on December 2nd.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Status: rare passage migrant.

A 'trip' of 15 Dotterels in breeding plumage, which spent an afternoon in the Surrey sector, is only the eighth London record, and the first since May 7th 1994, when there were 16 at Bowmansgreen Farm, London Colney.

Surrey: Canons Farm, nine females and six males arrived at 13:30 on May 4th remaining until at least 21:15 when they are thought to have been flushed by a fox (DCa, RWe).

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

As usual wintering flocks were recorded from several sites in the Hertfordshire sector, and a few regular sites in Essex. Elsewhere the species has generally been nothing more than an irregular visitor in very small numbers, but this year there were regular reports of up to 200 at Crayford and Dartford Marshes at both ends of the year where they were often found resting on the foreshore.

There were noticeable cold weather movements during the first half of February as well as reports of birds passing through on spring passage from March-May and autumn migration from August-mid November. The latest spring record was of two at Barking Bay on May 25th and the first returning birds were ten at Rainham Marshes on August 7th.

- Essex:** Fairlop Waters, peaks of 50 on Apr 11th and 180 on Dec 13th. Gallions Reach, 49 on Feb 5th. Ingrebourne Valley, 100 on Apr 6th. Rainham Marshes, peaks of 122 in Jan-Feb and 200 in Dec. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 15 on Feb 5th. Walthamstow Marsh, 30 on Dec 5th. Also reported from six additional sites.
- Herts:** Cole Green, 100 on Jan 26th. Maple Cross, 132 on Mar 17th. Radlett Aero GP, 77 on Apr 8th. Symondshyde Farm, 250 on Nov 3rd. Theobalds Park, 140 on Oct 20th. Woodoaks Farm, 70 on Mar 29th. Lower numbers were reported from 13 additional sites.
- Middx:** Hampstead Heath, two landed briefly on Feb 6th. KGVI Res, two on Feb 16th. Staines Moor, two on Oct 26th. Staines Res, 43 through in two flocks on Feb 5th, one over on Sep 18th, two over on Dec 26th. Wormwood Scrubs, four N on Mar 13th.
- Bucks:** Horton Fields, 35 S on Feb 5th. Q. Mother Res, 40 NE on Feb 5th, six on Feb 6th. Six other records all of only one or two individuals.
- Kent:** Crayford/Dartford Marshes, 182 on Jan 24th and 200 in Dec. Crossness, 13 on Feb 5th. Eynsford, one on Feb 25th. Sidcup, three over on Feb 6th.
- Surrey:** Beddington Farmlands, 48 SW in three flocks on Feb 5th, one on Aug 1st, ten S on Oct 21st, two S on 24th and eight S on 25th. Canons Farm, one from Apr 15th-17th. Chertsey, 35 N on Nov 11th. London Wetland Centre, up to five on four dates from Feb 5th-12th. QE II Res, singles on Feb 7th and Aug 9th. Walton Res, one W on Jan 11th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

Wintering numbers along the Thames were swelled in early February because of a cold weather influx which also saw a few reach inland sites. Passage movements involved at least 60 individuals at 12 sites between late March and June 4th. In contrast autumn passage was practically non-existent, an absolute maximum of 28 individuals were recorded between August 23rd and the end of October, including a flock of 13 which flew down the Thames on October 26th, and all of these were at regular wintering sites on the River Thames.

- Essex:** Barking Bay, up to nine in Feb, singles in Mar, May and Jun. Gallions Reach, 62 on Feb 5th, up to six later in Feb. Grays, 12 on Feb 5th. Rainham Marshes, recorded in all months except Jun and Jul, with 24 on Feb 5th and 25 on May 3rd. Walthamstow Res, singles on Feb 8th and Mar 13th. West Thurrock Marshes, six on Feb 3rd, nine on 5th.
- Middx:** Brent Res, singles on Apr 27th and May 4th & 6th. KGVI Res, one on Feb 5th. Staines Res, one from Mar 30th-Apr 3rd, up to three between May 1st-5th.
- Bucks:** Q. Mother Res, one flew over with 40 European Golden Plover on Feb 5th; one on May 3rd.
- Kent:** Crayford/Dartford Marshes, seen during all months except Jun-Aug with peaks of 16 on Feb 9th, 20 on May 4th and 13 on Oct 26th. Crossness, one on Jan 8th, up to eight in Feb, up to three in early May, singles on Jun 2nd & 4th. Thamesmere West Lake, two on Feb 5th and one on 26th.
- Surrey:** Beddington Farmlands, two on Feb 4th, one or two on six dates from Apr 8th to May 4th. QE II Res, three on May 3rd, one on May 22nd. Walton Res, one on May 3rd.



This trip of Dotterel at Canon's Farm was the first for many years in London and, if you could get there in time, a welcome addition to many London lists. (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

A total of 116-131 pairs/territories reported during the breeding season was a large increase on last year's numbers due to records from Beddington Farmlands and Rainham Marshes. It is still likely to under-represent the true numbers. A decline in numbers is still noted in some areas as at Trevereux mentioned below. As usual the larger wintering flocks were at the Lower Thames Marshes.

Cold weather resulted in movements across London, particularly in early February, and larger numbers than normal visiting some sites. High counts and a summary of breeding reports are given below.

Essex: 31 pairs/territories. Fairlop Waters, 265 on Feb 19th and 270 on Dec 16th. Gallions Reach, 420 on Feb 5th. Grange Waters, 250 on Dec 6th. Grays, 200 on Jan 29th. Rainham Marshes, 2,500 in Jan and 2,000 in Dec. West Thurrock Marshes 241 on Feb 5th and 207 on Nov 18th.

Herts: 33-43 pairs/territories. Amwell NR, 100 during Jan and Dec. Beech Farm GP, 100 on Oct 14th. Panshanger Park, 150 on Aug 19th. Rye Meads, 260 on Dec 26th. Seventy Acres Lake, 173 on Dec 26th. Tyttenhanger GP, 284 on Feb 17th and 206 on Nov 17th.

Middx: 15-18 pairs/territories. Harlington, 100 overhead on Jan 14th. East India Dock Basin, 70 on Feb 5th. Hampton FB, 100 on Nov 18th. Osterley Park, 100 on Feb 11th. Staines Res, 120 on Jan 1st. Stanwell Moor, 163 on Dec 23rd.

Bucks: Ten at Wraysbury GP on Feb 7th was the highest count.

Kent: 5-7 pairs/territories. Crayford Marshes, 1,700 on Dec 25th. Dartford Marshes, 1,000 on Jan 9th and 600 on Nov 29th. Sevenoaks WR, 401 on Jan 15th and 460 on Dec 16th.

Surrey: 32 pairs/territories. Beddington Farmlands, 82 in Feb and 140 in Oct. London Wetland Centre, 112 on Feb 15th and 55 on Nov 30th. Selsdon, 200 on Feb 13th. Thorpe Water Park, 168 on Feb 7th. Trevereux, no records for the first year since 1985, and no breeding since 2004.

Walton Res, 106 on Feb 13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Feb 6th, Mar 14th, and Dec 12th, eight on Oct 23rd.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

In the early part of the year there were a few records associated with cold weather in late January and early February, and three March records on the Thames. Passage was very light during both the spring and autumn involving around 15 individuals between May 3rd and June 11th, and 27 between July 21st and October 2nd, the later including flocks of nine and ten. In addition, reports totalling up to 16 individuals on the Thames and west London reservoirs in late October and mid-November could have been late passage.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on May 26th. Gallions Reach, one on Oct 26th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 30th, Feb 3rd, Feb 8th, Mar 19th, and Jun 9th-10th, three on Jun 11th, one on Jul 21st, one on Sep 1st, nine on Sep 6th, one on Oct 25th, four on Oct 26th, and one on Nov 17th. Walthamstow Res, one on Sep 23rd. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Feb 5th.

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, four on Jun 2nd.

Middx: Staines Res, one on May 9th-10th. Wraysbury Res, one on Aug 31st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Feb 4th and May 9th, two on May 19th, one on Aug 30th, ten on Aug 31st, one on Sep 1st (the one first seen on Aug 30th).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Feb 1st, Mar 22nd and Mar 26th. Crayford/Dartford Marshes, two on May 3rd, three on Jun 11th, four on Oct 23rd, and singles on Oct 25th & 26th and Nov 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two on Oct 2nd. Walton Res, one on Oct 26th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

Spring passage was from April 27th to June 8th, involving around 85 individuals, and then about eight returning birds were seen between July 20th and November 5th. It is likely that there is movement between sites, particularly on the River Thames, and some records have been treated as involving the same individuals. The only record outside the above periods was one at Grays in early February.

Essex: Grays, one on Feb 5th. Rainham Marshes, up to three between Apr 27th and Jun 3rd but with 11 on May 31st, one on Jul 20th and up to two from Sep 25th-27th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Jun 2nd. KGVI Res, one on May 13th, four on Jun 3rd, eight on

Jun 4th. Staines Res, up to two on six dates between May 7th and Jun 4th, one on Oct 26th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, up to nine between May 17th and Jun 8th, singles on three dates between Jul 17th and Aug 5th, and one on Nov 5th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, two on four dates between Apr 28th and May 18th, ten on May 31st, one on Jul 20th, one or two from Sep 23rd-27th. Crossness, 14 on Jun 2nd.

Surrey: QE II Res, up to two between Apr 27th and May 9th, singles on Jul 20th and Sep 5th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Status: scarce passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

Two records in the first winter period, which is unusual (see table below); three in May, (which is a typical showing) and two in the autumn which is a low turnout. Perhaps only five different birds were involved in these records.

Little Stint 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of winter birds	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
No. of spring birds	1	3	2	1	3	1	0	2	7	1	4	4
No. of autumn birds	14*	36*	6	6	14*	0	4	9	7	5	4	4

*birds present for lengthy periods, so figures are minimum estimates

Essex: Grays, one on Feb 10th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 26th, May 18th, May 28th and Aug 15th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, one feeding on the foreshore on May 3rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a juv from Sep 23rd-25th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Status: rare passage migrant, predominantly occurring during May.

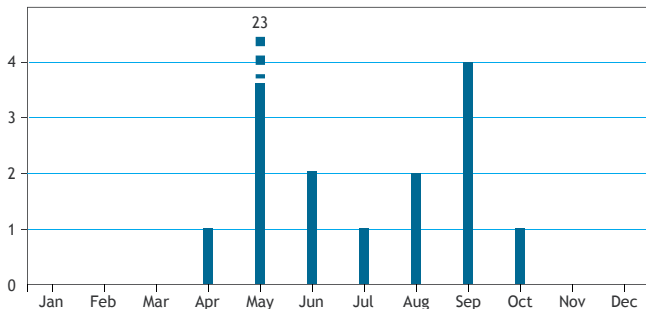
There was just one record this year involving a bird that didn't land. May dates are very typical; 23 of the last 34 records have been in May (details in chart below).

Middx: Brent Res, one flew round East Marsh twice at 08:20 on May 13th before heading off north without landing (ASMS, AGV).

Temminck's Stint Month of arrival 1990-2011 34 records

Key

■ Total number
in each month



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Status: rare passage migrant, mostly during September.

There was just one record this year, in September. This is the most likely month for these to appear in London; 23 of the previous 34 records have been in September (details in the table below).

Pectoral Sandpiper 1990-2011 34 records

Month	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Arrival dates	1	2	2	23	4	1	1

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one on Sep 5th (KJM *et al.*)

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, mainly in autumn.

After a good year for Curlew Sandpipers in London in 2011, this year there were only single birds seen on four dates. It is very likely that the two February dates at Rainham Marshes involve the same bird.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 24th (MB), Feb 26th (JR) and Jul 12th (SHs).

Middx: Staines Res, one early in the morning on Aug 27th (RWa).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Status: very scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

This is a very scarce visitor, but following a single record last year there was another this year. There have only been 16 records from 1990-2011 all but one single birds and with most in the autumn or winter (details in table below).

Purple Sandpiper 1990-2011 16 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Arrival dates	1*	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	3

*over-wintered from 1991

Middx: Staines Res, one on the old tern rafts on the evening of Sep 14th was watched from 19:15 until dark. It was not present the following morning (REI).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The maximum counts of wintering flocks on the Lower Thames were relatively low during the first winter period, reflecting the low numbers of 2011, but returned to more normal levels at the end of the year. However, there was a noticeable influx to inland sites associated with cold weather in February with the numbers, and the spread of sites, more reminiscent of peak migration periods.

Spring passage was from around mid-March until mid or late June, with autumn passage from late June or early July until late October, although it is difficult to be certain when the movements for each season start and end. A rough idea of the numbers and distribution in the area each month is given by the tables below, which show the



Sanderling is still a relatively uncommon passage migrant in London. (Dave Harris)

totalled up monthly maxima from each site and the number of sites which produced records.

Dunlin counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thameside	3522	4825	7	25	56	11	37	45	61	265	1701	4520
Elsewhere	6	55	12	8	54	7	13	11	15	9	2	2
Total	3528	4880	19	32	110	18	50	56	76	274	1703	4522
No. of sites	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thameside	6	6	3	5	4	3	2	3	4	4	6	4
Elsewhere	3	17	9	7	13	5	8	8	6	8	2	2

Essex: Barking Bay, peaks of 500 in Jan-Feb and 40 in November. Gallions Reach, 85 on Feb 27th. Grays, 50 on Feb 12th. Rainham Marshes, 750 in Feb, 2,500 on Dec 1st. West Thurrock Marshes, 3,400 on Feb 3rd, 151 on Nov 18th. Up to three were seen at six inland sites.

Herts: Reported from five sites with four at Tyttenhanger GP on Feb 3rd the only count of more than two together.

Middx: Hampton FB, five on Feb 5th. Q. Mary Res, a high of six on Feb 4th. Staines Res, peaks of eight on Feb 7th, 20 on May 11th and six on Jul 25th. Up to three were seen at five other sites.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, up to four on passage from Apr 10th-Jun 9th, and Jul 8th-Sep 21st.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, highs of 600 on Jan 11th and 1,200 on Dec 13th. Crossness, peaks of 1,800 on Jan 8th and 250 on Nov 23rd. Dartford Marshes, 700 on Nov 30th. Singles at two other sites.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, peaks of four from Jan 31st-Feb 3rd and five on May 1st. Holmethorpe SP, a maximum of four on Feb 5th. London Wetland Centre, peaks of five on Feb 5th and eight on May 1st. QE II Res, a high of four on Sep 24th. Walton Res, a maximum of six on May 19th. No other count was above three, with records from just one additional site.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Status: regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Most of the records came from the Lower Thames Marshes, although there were a few passage records away from there during February to April and from late August to October. Birds returned from August 11th continuing to October 30th, with peak count of 11 and there were only two later records at Rainham Marshes in December.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Aug 12th. Rainham Marshes, small numbers in Jan to Mar, with peaks of four on Feb 25th and five on Mar 31st, up to 13 during Apr, four on May 12th, up to five on various days from Aug 1st-Oct 13th but with 11 on Aug 17th, two on Oct 30th and singles on Dec 8th & 26th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Feb 11th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Oct 26th.

Middx: Staines Res, one on Mar 28th, five on Apr 10th, singles on Apr 13th and Aug 25th-26th, two on Sep 12th and 22nd-23rd. Stanwell Moor, one on Aug 26th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, up to three in Feb and Mar, an Apr peak of nine, singles on Sep 24th & 26th. Crossness, singles on three dates in Jan and Feb, an April maximum of eight. Sevenoaks WR, one on Feb 12th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from Feb 3rd-10th, eight on Mar 13th, 13 on Mar 29th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 24th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Feb 5th and Apr 9th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

A cold spell with freezing conditions meant that Jack Snipe were unusually widespread during the first half of February as they tried to find areas where they could feed. Otherwise it was a typical year, with records from a few regular sites and occasional reports of wandering birds elsewhere. The last of the spring was a late bird at the London Wetland Centre on May 8th, with the first returning individual seen at Regent's Park on September 23rd. All records are given or summarised below, singles unless stated otherwise, with the maximum at either end of the year given in brackets for sites where there were more than two records.

The cold snap in February caused this elusive Jack Snipe to be seen in Greenwich. (Joe Beale)



Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Combined monthly maxima	12	31	7	6	1	-	-	-	2	4	10	13

Essex: Barking Bay, Feb 11th. Belhus Woods CP, Apr 3rd. Chingford Plain, Dec 12th. Fairlop Waters, Nov 18th and Dec 16th. Gallions Reach, four on Feb 5th. Ingrebourne Valley, Feb 11th & 12th. Mayesbrook Park, Feb 9th. River Lee, Bromley-by-Bow, Feb 5th-6th. Rainham Marshes (1:2). Redbridge Lakes & Roding Valley Park, Oct 29th.

Herts: Amwell NR, Feb 11th. Panshanger Park, Apr 8th. Rye Meads (3:3).

Middx: Brent Res, Jan 15th. Kempton NR, Feb 19th-20th. Staines Res, Feb 12th. Stanwell Moor, Dec 2nd. Tottenham Marshes, Feb 6th.

Bucks: Horton GP (6:1). Q. Mother Res, one on Nov 26th was only the 3rd site record.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, Feb 12th. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, Feb 3rd & 11th. River Darent, Otford Road, two on Feb 8th. Sutcliffe Park, two on Feb 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (1:2). Holmethorpe SP (1:1). Horton CP, Jan 25th. London Wetland Centre (3:2). Richmond Park, Mar 27th. Walton Res (2:4).

In Lond: Regent's Park, Sep 23rd.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, former scarce breeder.

Wintering numbers have continued to decline; the highest count in January and February was just 38 at Rye Meads on January 7th, this compares to 55 last year and 102 ten years ago during the same two months. Only three other sites had counts of 30 or more (Crossness, London Wetland Centre and Sevenoaks WR); perhaps this may be partly due to the very mild weather during this period. Wintering birds began to depart in early March and in the second half of the month the peak count was down to 14 at Rainham Marshes. Most birds had gone by the end of April and the last sighting was seven at the London Wetland Centre on May 8th.

There were no further records until July 7th when one arrived at the London Wetland Centre, followed by a trickle of migrants later in the month. Rainham Marshes recorded the most migrants during August with a peak of 32 on 11th and 15th. There were fewer birds present in September and the over-wintering birds began to arrive during October with Rainham again recording the highest counts. In the last two months of the year numbers increased with a maximum of 40 at Rainham on November 18th and in the Ingrebourne Valley on December 30th. Elsewhere the highest counts were: 35 at Sevenoaks WR on December 23rd; 29 at Rye Meads on November 17th; 27 at Brent Res on December 16th and 24 at the London Wetland Centre on November 9th.

In Lond: single birds seen at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns on Dec 17th; Potters Field SE1 found dead on Dec 13th; and at Regent's Park on Feb 6th, Apr 7th, Sep 1st & Dec 11th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Only 16 sites reported Woodcock in January compared to 35 the previous year; this was most likely due to mild conditions. All records were of single birds except for two at Fairlop Waters on January 1st and at Lippitts Hill on January 21st and 31st. They were more widespread in February and the peak count was five at Garden Wood on February 18th. Some obvious migrants were seen during March and the year's highest count was

recorded in Richmond Park where seven flew out at dusk on March 14th. The first roding bird was seen at Copse Wood on March 30th. Two more migrants were seen in April with the last being at Beddington Farmlands on 16th. At Princes Coverts on June 4th, roding was seen on three occasions, which was thought to involve two or more birds. Two at Ruislip Woods on September 17th were probably local breeding birds.

Genuine autumn migrants began arriving in the last few days of October with the first at Greenwich Park on 27th. More passed through during November with a few unfortunate casualties recorded in central London. They were more widespread in December than at the beginning of the year with records from 22 locations with a peak of five at Canons Farm on 22nd.

In Lond: Charing Cross Hospital, feather found on Dec 13th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Dec 27th. Liverpool St Stn, picked up dead on Nov 1st. Regent's Park, singles on Feb 17th, Sep 8th, Oct 31st and Nov 14th, 16th, 19th, 28th & 29th. Shadwell, picked up dead on Nov 15th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Large numbers were again present along the Lower Thames Marshes in winter in internationally significant numbers with a peak of 620 at Rainham Marshes on January 24th, another record count following last December's 560 (WeBS level is 610, *WeBS 2011/12*). Elsewhere there were singles over Hilfield Park Res on February 11th and Walton Res on February 12th-13th.

Migrants began to arrive in March with singles at Hilfield Park Res on 13th, over Staines Res & Moor on 13th and 28th and at Ingrebourne Valley on 29th. The record count was smashed on April 11th with an enormous flock of 960 in Barking Bay. There were very few other migrants recorded away from the river in spring with just one at Beddington Farmlands on April 5th, one at Staines Res on April 13th with 15 over there on 17th. In May there were singles at Hatfield Aerodrome on 4th, Tyttenhanger GP on 5th and Crossness on 6th, followed by eight at Rainham Marshes on 13th.

Early returning autumn migrants were seen in late June with eight at Rainham Marshes on 24th with one there the following day, seven over Staines Res on 26th and one at Walton Res on 30th. July saw the start of the main passage with records from 12 sites; the largest flocks were on the Lower Thames with 30 at Rainham Marshes on July 6th being the highest count. Elsewhere, five flew over Rye Meads on 1st, five flew over Staines Res on 6th, 11 flew over Beddington in three groups on 8th and up to three were seen at five locations. Numbers increased on the Lower Thames during August with a peak of 31 at Rainham on 18th. Away from the river the highest counts were: five over Beddington on 3rd, nine at the London Wetland Centre on 5th, five over Staines Res on 7th, six at Rye Meads on 19th and six over Staines Res on 24th. In September and October the only records away from the Thames were at Dagenham Chase with one on September 25th and four on October 26th.

Apart from one at Kempton NR on November 1st, all the records came from the Lower Thames in the last two months of the year where the maximum count was 370 at Grays on December 5th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

Winter records are more frequent recently and there were several on the Lower Thames Marshes; there was one in the Crossness area from February 3rd-11th, with 16 at West Thurrock Marshes on 5th and seven at Rainham Marshes on 6th. Up to two were in the same area on April 1st-2nd.

Spring migrants began to arrive on April 23rd when a flock of 27 flew over Q. Mother Res. Two days later 19 flew over Beddington Farmlands. Migrants were then seen daily up until May 7th. The first big movement occurred on April 29th when 67 were recorded including a flock of 50 that flew over Amwell NR. Over the next three days a total of 37 were counted with the largest flocks being seven over Amwell NR on April 30th and 15 over Q. Mother Res on May 2nd. The largest passage of spring happened on May 3rd with 229 birds logged; this included a flock of 70 that flew north over Bankside SE1, 56 feeding on the foreshore at Crayford/Dartford Marshes, 40 at Rainham Marshes, 20 over Q. Mother Res in two flocks, 18 over Rye Meads, ten over QE II Res and a total of ten at Staines Res. The following day saw another 180 including 70+ over Amwell NR, 45 at Rainham Marshes, 36 at Crayford Marshes and 26 at Crossness. Over the next few days similar numbers remained on the Lower Thames Marshes and only a handful were seen away from the river. Singles were then at Rainham on May 9th and 21st with five at Crossness on 26th; the last ones of spring were one over Richmond Park on June 1st and two at Crossness the next day.

Another over Richmond Park on June 21st may have been the first autumn migrant and this was followed by one at London Wetland Centre on July 7th. The only records in August were on the Lower Thames with one at Rainham on 14th and two in the same area on 29th. Up to six were at Rainham in mid-September and singles flew over Canons Farm on September 2nd and Leyton on 23rd. No more than four were seen together for the rest of the year, all on the Lower Thames apart from one at Beddington on October 11th.

In Lond: Bankside SE1, 70 flew N on May 3rd (SFg).

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: regular passage migrant.

The first spring migrants were two at Dartford Marshes on April 3rd and they were followed by a handful on most days until April 17th. The main passage was from April 20th to May 12th when they were recorded daily; the passage was spread fairly evenly, the highest daily total was 44 on April 23rd which included the largest flock of spring: 33 over Wanstead Flats. The only other large flocks were: at Greenhithe with 14 on April 29th; and at Rainham with 10 on May 3rd, 14 on May 4th, 13 on May 7th and 11 on May 9th. Unusually one spent six days at Brent Res from May 4th-9th. The last one of spring was at Crayford Marshes on May 18th. In all a total of 400 were recorded, well up on last year's 222.

There were a few in the middle of June at Rainham Marshes: three on 14th and one on 18th. Autumn migrants were recorded between July 6th and September 30th. Only odd birds were seen until July 10th when seven flew over the London Wetland Centre.

The second half of July saw an increase in numbers, especially on the 31st when ten flew over Alexandra Park and on the Thames there were ten at Rainham Marshes, nine at Crayford/Dartford Marshes and seven at Barking. Up to eight were present at Rainham during the first half of August then the passage tailed off with no more than two together after August 19th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 21st (ARD).

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

All the records in January were wintering birds along the Lower Thames; the peak counts were 21 at West Thurrock Marshes on 8th and 20 at Rainham Marshes on 1st. Curlews became more widespread over the next two months with birds seen at eight sites away from the Lower Thames in February and 12 sites in March; meanwhile the numbers on the river peaked at 37 at Rainham Marshes on March 23rd, similar to last year's maximum of 35 on March 21st. High numbers remained on the Lower Thames during early April with up to 35 birds in the area. Most had departed by April 16th and apart from five at Rainham on May 1st, only singles were seen during the rest of May with the last on the 30th.

After a ten day gap, returning birds began to arrive from June 10th; numbers in June were generally low apart from a flock of nine that flew upriver past the Lower Thames Marshes on the 12th. There was a similar dearth of migrants during the next three months apart from nine that flew over Staines Res on August 19th. Numbers gradually increased along the Lower Thames in October and the first significant count was 14 at West Thurrock Marshes on October 31st followed by 28 at Rainham on November 4th and the peak count in December was 31 at Rainham on the 18th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one flew N on Feb 5th (ARD).

Common Sandpiper. (Andrew Moon)



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

There were records from 13 sites during the first three months of the year (12 in 2011) with the maximum again being at Bow Creek where seven were seen on February 9th and 26th. The highest count away from the Thames was two at Walthamstow Res on February 6th.

Spring migrants started to arrive during the second week of April but numbers were low with no more than three birds at any site apart from the over-wintering seven at Bow Creek. Numbers increased from early May with high counts of ten at Crossness on May 5th and nine at Beddington Farmlands on an unspecified date. The last birds of spring were on June 2nd.

The first returning bird of autumn was at the London Wetland Centre on June 18th followed by one or two others elsewhere to the end of the month. Numbers began to increase during the first week of July and 15 were at Q. Mother Res on July 8th; this total was equalled on July 31st at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. The peak passage occurred during the first week of August with 50 at KGV Res on 4th and 26 at Walthamstow Res on 5th. Numbers picked up again towards the end of the month with highs of 21 at Staines Res on 22nd and 20 at Dartford Marshes on 24th. The only notable counts in September were 20 at KGV Res on 3rd and 11 at Gallions Reach on 2nd.

After September 18th, the only counts over two were from Creekmouth, Barking and Bow Creek where the maximum was six at the former site.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on 13 dates with two on Aug 26th. Rotherhithe, one on Aug 15th and three on 16th.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Status: very rare vagrant.

This was the fourth record for London, following one in 1956 and two in the 1980s but remarkably it was the second site record. It was present for less than one hour, had only partial spotting and was deemed to be the same individual that was seen earlier at Scaling Dam, Cleveland on June 18th. Two of the previous records were in September, the other in May.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one on Jun 24th (TB).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant (mainly in autumn).

They were recorded at 49 sites between January and March compared to 45 in 2011; there has been a gradual increase in wintering numbers over recent years. The highest counts were at Beddington Farmlands with 13 in January and nine in February. Elsewhere up to six were at Rye Meads and five at William Girling Res.

In April there was a widespread movement of birds throughout the month; Beddington again had the peak numbers with up to nine as well as the last of spring on May 4th.

Autumn migrants seem to arrive in early June now and 2012 was no exception with the first being seen at Beddington on June 5th. The following week there were singles at the London Wetland Centre on 11th, Canons Farm on 12th and Brent Res on 14th.

They were then seen almost daily. The main passage got under way during July and peaked in mid-August when 30 were at Beddington along with 11 at Rainham Marshes and 10 at Rye Meads. High numbers continued to be recorded at Beddington with up to 25 in September but they had decreased significantly by October when the peak count was seven at Beddington and Rye Meads. Wintering birds boosted the numbers in November and many remained until the end of the year.

Monthly maxima for the main sites are listed below. There were no Inner London records.

Green Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	1	1	1	1	-	1	4	11	6	1	1	2
HR Rye Meads	6	5	4	3	-	2	8	10	8	7	3	4
SY Beddington Farmlands	13	9	9	9	1	6	21	30	25	7	13	12

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

This wader has been getting progressively scarcer in London and only two birds were seen all year - one of which was present for around seven months of the year on the Lower Thames Marshes and one spring migrant at the London Wetland Centre.

Essex/Kent: Crayford/Dartford/Rainham Marshes, one from 2011 to May 7th and again from Oct 5th to the end of the year (mo).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on May 4th (SJ).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Status: regular passage migrant, rare in winter.

One at Island Barn Res until January 2nd had been present there since December 24th, 2011. Spring migrants began to arrive from mid-April with singles on 10th at both London Wetland Centre and Rainham Marshes. At least 56 were seen throughout spring, considerably down on last year's total of about 155. The highest counts were at Rainham with seven on April 28th and nine on May 1st. Most birds had passed through by the first week of May with only a few singles being seen later apart from a late flock of up to five birds at the London Wetland Centre from June 1st-4th with one still there on June 5th.

Just over two weeks later, the first of autumn arrived at Rainham Marshes on June 20th. Only a handful were seen until the second week of July when numbers picked up, particularly on the Lower Thames where up to seven were present almost daily at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. Only three were seen away from the river in July: at Q. Mother Res on 6th, Cornmill Meadows on 7th and Cheshunt on 9th. They were more widespread in August with records from a dozen sites away from the Lower Thames, including a flock of five over Maple Cross on 13th and six at Stanwell Moor on 14th - which exceeded the peak count of four at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. In September and October up to five were regularly recorded on the Lower Thames Marshes while the only other birds seen elsewhere were singles at Beddington Farmlands in September, at Wanstead Flats on September 7th and KGV Res on October 25th. One late bird remained at Crayford/Dartford Marshes until November 5th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Aug 11th (ARD).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

Unlike the previous two years the spring passage was well below average with just seven birds seen (19 in 2011). An early migrant was at Dartford Marshes on April 4th then there were no further records until a whole month later. In May there were singles at Beddington Farmlands on 4th and 19th, at Staines Res on 7th and Rainham Marshes on 26th with two at Crossness on 21st.

There were 15 birds in autumn which is about average over recent years. The first was at Rainham Marshes on June 22nd, followed by an impressive count of seven at the same site on July 6th; up to two remained for a couple of days. Singles arrived at Rainham Marshes and Danson Park on July 17th, the latter remaining for an extra day. In August singles stayed at Cornmill Meadows from 4th-8th, at Rainham on 15th, Hilfield Park Res on 19th, at Fairlop Waters from 26th-31st and finally at Walthamstow Res from August 30th to September 2nd.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, localised breeder.

There were no exceptionally high counts along the Lower Thames during the early part of the year with a maximum of 240 at Beckton on January 22nd but numbers reached 300 in October and 312 in November. Redshank were present throughout both winter periods along the Thames from Grays and Swanscombe all the way westwards to Bow Creek. Peak monthly counts at the most watched sites on the Lower Thames are listed below.

Common Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	120	170	147	126	-	5	14	5	14	300	312	115
KT Crossness	-	-	-	26	3	3	1	2	60	205	300	185

The highest counts away from the Thames foreshore were 14 at KGV Res on April 19th, 12 at Beddington Farmlands on May 26th and ten at the London Wetland Centre on April 13th and 15th. Up to 28 pairs were present during the breeding season although only two pairs were confirmed breeding; all breeding records are listed below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, nine pairs probably bred.

Herts: Amwell NR, pair probably bred. Coopers Green Lane, pair probably bred. Tyttenhanger GP, two pairs probably bred.

Middx: Kempton NR, pair possibly bred. Staines Moor, two pairs held territory, three young seen.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, up to 11 birds displaying in April and May.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one pair bred.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

All the records during the first two months of the year were from the Lower Thames with up to two in the Crayford and Rainham area and up to six at Grays.

There were no further records until spring when three were at Grays on April

14th-15th. Migrants began to arrive from April 28th when there were two at Barking Bay and Crossness and one at Seventy Acres Lake. At Staines Res a flock of eight arrived during the afternoon of May 6th, spending a few hours before moving on. The last were at KGV Res on June 4th-5th and at Staines Res on 17th.

Autumn migrants arrived from mid-July onwards with singles at Crayford Marshes on 16th and Staines Res on 17th; the latter site hosted several more later in the month as did the Lower Thames marshes. Numbers picked up during August with five at KGV Res on 13th and seven at Staines Res on 21st, followed by a small influx on 27th with 22 present including 11 at Gallions Reach. However no more than two were seen together at any site in September although that did include two in Inner London. The last three months of the year produced only three records: in Barking Bay on November 10th and at Rainham Marshes on December 8th and 21st.

In Lond: London Bridge, two on buoys by St Magnus House on Sep 20th (Hatfield A).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Status: rare autumn migrant; exceptional in spring.

A single record of a spring bird, following no records last year. There have only been ten records from 2000-2011 and just one of those was in April. Details are in the tables below. The bird was initially thought to be an Arctic Skua before better views were obtained.

Pomarine Skua records 1990-2010				10 records			
Year	1994	1995	1996	1998	2003	2007	2010
No. of records	1	2	1	1	1	3	1
No. of birds	1	2	1	1	13	3	1

Pomarine Skua dates 1990-2010				10 records		
Month	Jan	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	
No. of records	1	1	1	2	4	

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 29th until 08:15 (ATo, MJM).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Status: regular but scarce autumn migrant; rare in other seasons.

Another good year with four records of six birds, following the nine records of 12 birds in 2011. Three together at Rainham were unusual as was the single spring record; this is the first April record since one on April 8th 1984, which was the earliest ever record then. About 70% of recent records have been between August and October.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles flew past on Apr 29th (Pht), Aug 26th (MJ), three juvs on Sep 24th (AT).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, pale morph flew upriver on Sep 25th (KMJ).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Status: rare autumn migrant.

A record for this high Arctic breeder, with three different individuals in September

which were the 18th-20th records for London. All of these have been between August 17th and October 8th and 11 of the previous 17 records have been in September. Two records from the same site within a week is unprecedented, while the Beddington bird represented a site first and was only the third record for Surrey.

Long-tailed Skua ten day totals 1937-2011 17 records

Ten days commencing	Aug 11	Aug 21	Aug 31	Sep 10	Sep 20	Sep 30
No. of records	1	3	5	1	4	2*

* one 'Sep' record could not be allocated to ten day period

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, light morph juv S on Sep 17th (MJM) and intermediate morph juv lingered briefly then flew W on Sep 23rd (CDRH).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, juv S on Sep 25th (PRA).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Status: regular but scarce migrant.

Four records of two birds, the sixth consecutive year the species has been recorded. The April record, which was associated with strong easterly winds and driving rain, was highly unusual; there was one on April 14th in 1915 but none since then. The October record was a bird on active migration that didn't linger. The table below shows the arrival dates for the previous 18 records.

Great Skua dates 1990-2011 18 records

Month	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	3	10	2	1	2

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 29th, same as Kent, below (PHt).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Apr 29th (KMJ) seen later at Crossness (RHB, IM).

Surrey: QE II Res, one flew high E on Oct 9th (DMH).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Status: rare autumn vagrant.

There was just a single juvenile this year, seen from two sites along the River Thames. This follows the two records from 2011, although this was only the 16th record since the unprecedented 1987 influx.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, juv lingered on Sep 24th (AT *et al*).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, juv lingered on Sep 24th (KMJ), same as above bird.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

It was an excellent year with 118 records (compared to 34 in 2011), augmented by a large influx of birds at the start of the year. Though difficult to rule out duplication of individuals, 67 birds were seen along the R Thames in January, 49 between 5th and 10th, including two as far upriver as London Bridge. Peak counts included six at Crossness on 8th, 11 at Rainham Marshes and seven at Crayford Marshes on 9th and 12 at Grays on 21st. Records tailed off thereafter with 15 records for February and March. The only

records away from the R Thames in the first winter period were adults over Beddington Farmlands on February 27th and at Walton Res on March 20th.

April passage included a flock of 13 adults at Crayford Marshes and Crossness on 9th while six adults flew upriver at Greenhithe on 28th. The two May records were both away from the R Thames, with adults at Tyttenhanger GP on 15th and Staines Res on 21st.

Autumn passage was extremely poor, largely due to the absence of suitable conditions, with just six birds noted from August until the year end, including a 1st-winter in the roost at Hilfield Park Res on October 27th, a 1st-winter at Alexandra Park on October 28th and an adult at Beddington Farmlands on November 14th.

Kittiwake monthly records 2012

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	67	12	3	28	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	0

In Lond: London Bridge, two on Jan 5th. Regent's Park, adult NE on Apr 16th.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Status: very rare vagrant.

These are the first and second records for London of this North American gull, following the removal of a previously accepted record at Barn Elms Res on January 29th 1983, currently under review by the BBRC. The first individual was seen by many observers, and often commuted to Barking Bay, following its initial discovery at Crossness across the river on May 19th. Even more remarkable is that a second, more advanced bird was found at Crossness on May 26th, and that both were both seen together on May 29th. (See page 187 for further details.)

Essex: Barking Bay, 1st-winter, intermittently from May 19th-29th (same as bird below) (DGDL).

Kent: Crossness, 1st-winter, from May 19th-29th (RHB *et al*) and 1st-summer on May 26th & 29th (RHB, JRJ *et al*).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, increasing breeder.

Breeding was recorded at nine sites including the first record at London Wetland Centre. There were 194 breeding pairs which is less than 2011's total of 230 pairs, but there was no count from Staines Res this year, where 121 pairs bred last year. It is therefore very likely that there were more pairs this year than last year.

The highest single count was 10,000 flying to roost at Molesey Heath on January 6th, the next was 8,000 at Hilfield Park Res on January 22nd, the same number as the 2011 peak count (at the same site). There were nine counts of over 2,000 birds (seven in 2011), and peak counts along with breeding records are given below. However, perhaps due to its general abundance, recording of peak counts is often neglected by observers. For example, only two records were received from Rainham Marshes (peak count of 800 on April 20th) where 10,000 were recorded as recently as February 28th 2010.

Leucistic birds were recorded at Brent Res, Hilfield Park Res, QE II Res and Q. Mother



*This Bonaparte's Gull was incredibly one of two to spend time on the Thames in late May.
(Richard Bonser)*

Res while Norwegian and Danish colour-ringed birds continue to be noted with increasing frequency.

Essex: Barking Bay, 1,000 on Aug 20th. Gallions Reach, 1,050 on Jul 8th. Walthamstow Res (2). Wanstead Park, 1,300 on Dec 23rd.

Herts: Amwell NR (30). Hilfield Park Res (19); five counts of over 2,000 peaking at 8,000 on Jan 22nd. Rye Meads (56); 1,460 on Aug 15th. Seventy Acres Lake (15). Stocker's Lake (18).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (50), 82 young. Brent Res, 1,056 on Feb 12th. Staines Res, 3,000 on Aug 15th with 'typical breeding success' in June and colony abandoned by late July (no specific counts).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 200 on Apr 3rd.

Kent: Crossness, 1,500 on Aug 12th. Dartford Marshes, 2,000 on Jan 29th and 1,500 on Jul 5th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 2,000 on Nov 1st. London Wetland Centre (4), but unsuccessful.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 470 on Feb 27th. Regent's Park, 580 on Dec 12th.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter.

Another excellent year with 408 birds noted, following on from the 349 records in 2011. Once again spring passage dominated, with over 60% of the annual total being in March and April although an influx of 45 birds in February was noteworthy.

Little Gull records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	4	45	25	228	7	2	1	46	14	31	4	1
2011	0	6	84	186	25	5	0	9	15	3	15	1

It was a good start to the year, with four birds in January that included three at Hilfield Park Res on 31st. There was an influx of birds in early February, including eight off Rainham Marshes and Crayford Marshes on 2nd, ten west past Crossness on 5th and

a peak of 16 past Rainham Marshes on 8th; the only records away from the R Thames were singles at Q. Mother Res and Staines Res. There were no March records until 17th when one was at Rainham, and thereafter numbers increased with eight at Staines Res on 29th being the maximum.

Typically, April was the peak month and Staines Res had records on most days. The first obvious passage was from 10th-11th, with 28 birds at ten sites including eight at Beddington Farmlands. There were further days of some passage, with an obvious peak on 25th with 93 birds seen at eight sites, including 46 at Staines Res, 19 at Walton Res and 16 at Rainham Marshes. The seven May records were restricted to ones and twos apart from four at Staines Res on 1st.

June and July records were typically scarce, comprising 1st-summerers at Staines Res on June 5th and Crossness on June 16th and 30th, and a single bird at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes from July 20th-22nd.

There was a good early autumn passage, including 30 at Rainham Marshes on August 22nd; further August records included up to six juvs at Staines Res from 24th-26th. September records were largely confined to lingering juvs at Staines Res, peaking at three from 2nd-3rd while four were at Wraysbury Res on 1st and three were at Gallions Reach on 23rd, the only record from the R Thames.

In October there were 31 birds including a flock of 14 east past Greenhithe on 25th, six at Beddington Farmlands also on 25th and five past Gallions Reach on 26th. Four were seen in November, then an adult east over London Wetland Centre on 17th was the sole December record. One at London Bridge on August 25th was the only Inner London record, and the first since the two in 2010.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

We now have an annual pattern of wintering individuals at regular sites, followed by spring passage, then lingering 1st-summerers in May and June, concluding with juveniles and early/failed breeders from mid-July onwards. At the start of the year most of the records were single wintering individuals, with a peak of four at Beddington Farmlands on January 4th. From March to May the numbers of adults tailed off and were replaced by non-breeding, 1st-summer birds. June was the best month of the year, with 29 birds, including five 1st-summerers at Crossness on 2nd. In July, there were at least six birds at Staines Res on 18th which was



This juvenile Mediterranean Gull was photographed at Rotherhithe. (Richard Bonser)

2012's maximum count and the first juvenile was seen at Crayford Marshes on 19th. Ten of the 13 August records were juveniles and these continued to dominate records in September, when only two adults were noted. Records from October to December were down on the first winter period, with a peak count of three at Hilfield Park Res on October 14th and 20th. Ringing recoveries included an adult of Hungarian origin at Walton Res on July 24th and a Polish-ringed adult at Greenwich on September 29th and October 7th. The table below shows the number of individuals recorded each month and the number of sites they were reported at.

Mediterranean Gull records

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	27	26	21	7	13	29	27	13	10	21	15	14
No. of sites	19	20	12	5	11	11	14	10	9	13	12	12

In Lond: Burgess Park, regular adult again on Dec 2nd (RHB). Rotherhithe, juv Aug 15th-16th (RHB).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Numbers were down on the last two years, although this is probably due to under recording. There were 27 counts of 100 or more (from 15 sites), compared to 46 counts in 2011 and 38 in 2010. There were no counts of over 1,000 birds (two last year), with the peak count for the year being 658 at Totteridge Valley on March 18th - this was the only count of 500 or more birds (six in 2010). Typically, midsummer records were scarce with only three birds seen in June, while the first returning adults were noted from July 5th. A bird at Waddon Ponds in November had been ringed in Norway two months before. Details of high counts over 100 are given below.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, 101 on Mar 11th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 200 on Dec 2nd. Bowyer's Water, 102 on Dec 13th. Hilfield Park Res, 350 on Feb 6th. Tyttenhanger GP, 256 on Feb 17th.

Middx: Brent Res, 170 on Dec 26th. Bushy Park, 110 on Jan 4th. Horsenden Hill, 240 on Dec 28th. Totteridge Valley, 658 on Mar 18th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 200 on Mar 18th. Sevenoaks WR, 150 on Mar 14th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common, 120 on Jan 26th. QE II Res, 330 on Feb 22nd. Richmond Park, 200 on Nov 25th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, 110 on Dec 24th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small but increasing numbers.

They continue to increase as a breeding species with 29 confirmed breeding pairs (21 in 2011), although the inaccessibility of their rooftop colonies means the species is under-recorded as a breeder. Heathrow Airport, Regent's Park and Tottenham Marshes recorded breeding for the first time. Fledged juveniles were seen widely across London from July 20th, and ringing recoveries included birds from Jersey and Norway.

Overall counts were not increased though, with only one count of 300+ birds (nine in

2011) though there were 24 counts of 100+ birds (26 in 2011 and 18 in 2010). The highest count was of 300 at Hilfield Park Res on October 6th and at Island Barn Res on January 6th (compared to 2011's high count of 724). All confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets) are shown below, as well as counts of over 100 birds.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (22), 30 young noted.

Herts: Amwell NR, 230 on Nov 21st. Garston (1). Hilfield Park Res, 300 on Oct 6th. Rye Meads, 190 on Sep 11th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Heathrow Airport, small numbers bred successfully near BA Cargo Building. Horsenden Hill, breeding not confirmed this year but a few pairs probably bred again on factory roof tops. Tottenham Marshes (3), first breeding record.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a pair with 2 juvs on Jul 23rd were presumably from the Heathrow Airport breeding site.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 250 on Feb 4th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 150 on Feb 1st and Oct 26th. Island Barn Res, c300 on Jan 6th.

In Lond: Regent's Park (1), first breeding record.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

This species is the most common 'large gull' in London, particularly during the winter months. Both high counts and breeding records probably under-estimate its status, but there were breeding records from two new sites, at Heathrow Airport and Tottenham Marshes. Recently fledged juveniles seen at sites such as Q. Mother Res and Staines Res were probably from Heathrow Airport. The map is adapted from one to be published in the forthcoming London Atlas 2007-13.

There were 16 counts from six sites of over 1,000 birds (18 counts from three sites in 2011), with the annual maxima being 8,000 at Beddington Farmlands on several dates in January to February, and 43 counts of over 200 birds (compared to 56 and 39 counts in 2011 and 2010 respectively). The leucistic orange-ringed bird 'SH1T' was seen at five sites in the Essex, Kent and Middlesex sectors between January 28th and June 20th. Listed below are all confirmed breeding records (bracketed), as well as high counts over 500 birds.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (11).

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, 512 on Jan 25th. Holywell (1). Watford (1).

Middx: Heathrow Airport, small numbers bred successfully near BA Cargo Building. Horsenden Hill, breeding not confirmed this year but a few pairs probably bred again on factory roof tops. Staines Res, 2,000 on Apr 2nd-3rd. Tottenham Marshes (3), bred for first time.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 1,200 on Feb 5th. Greatness Pit, 500 on Feb 21st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 8,000 in Jan-Feb. Holmethorpe SP, 2,500 on Nov 3rd. Island Barn Res, c3,000 to roost on Jan 6th and 530 on Feb 23rd. Surbiton, 1,320 E on Sep 13th.

In Lond: Wandsworth Road SW8 (1).

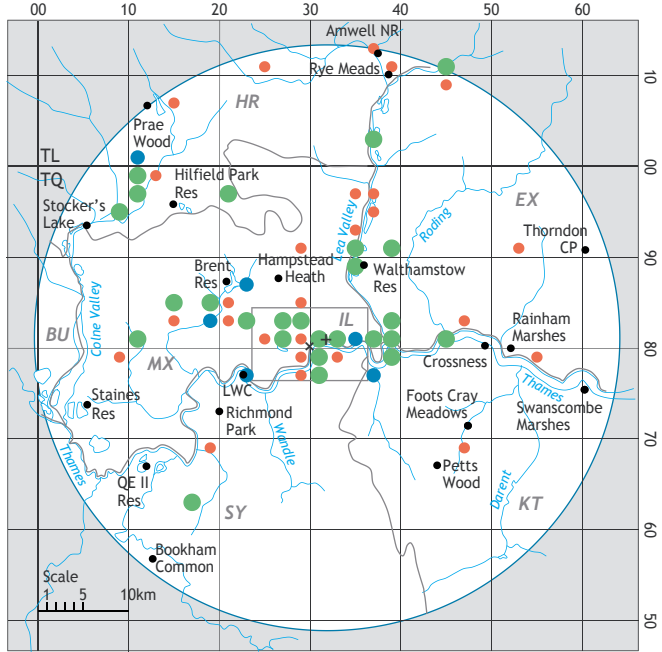
Herring Gull breeding distribution 2007-2013

- Confirmed breeding
- Probable breeding
- Possible breeding
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries

Dots that appear to be outside the LNHS Area are in a 2km square that is partially within the Area.

Based on a map produced by Neil Smith using BTO/LNHS London Atlas data.

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Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

Another good year, with six counts of over 50 birds from four sites. As usual, peak counts were from July to mid-September although increasing numbers are wintering in the London area. The peak count was 145 at Rainham Marshes on September 6th (2011 and 2010 peaks of 90 and 85). April and May continue to be the leanest months, presumably as adults are at their breeding colonies elsewhere. It is still rare in Herts, three at Amwell NR on November 25th being the highest count. The first juvenile was seen at Staines Res on July 22nd (two days later than 2011).

The following table shows monthly maxima for all sites with high counts.

Yellow-legged Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Grays	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	30	-	-	-
Rainham Marshes	24	3	8	4	1	-	40	71	145	9	22	43
MX KGVI Res	1	-	-	-	-	8	15	5	2	1	2	2
Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	22	-	-	-
BU Colnbrook	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	5	16	-	-
Horton	1	-	-	1	-	-	42	58	-	-	1	-
Q. Mother Res	4	2	3	-	1	2	40	80	1	1	4	2
KT Crayford/Dartford	12	15	2	-	1	4	26	36	16	6	32	6
Greenhithe	-	-	2	8	-	11	-	22	52	1	-	18
SY Beddington Farm	5	3	4	4	4	2	8	6	4	1	1	2

In Lond: Regent's Park, one Apr 21st, two May 27th, adult Jun 23rd and 3rd-winter on Dec 2nd. Rotherhithe, eight birds: 3rd-winter Jan 8th, two 2nd-winters Jan 22nd, two (3rd-winter and 2nd-winter) Jan 29th, 2nd-summer Jun 23rd-Jul 7th, near-adult Jul 7th and juv Aug 15th.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Status: scarce visitor, mainly in winter.

This species continues to be a good find, although sightings continue to increase with observers becoming more familiar with its identification. Although it is difficult to be certain of the exact numbers, a conservative estimate would put this year's total at 75 individuals (compared to 45 in 2011). The distinctiveness of some individuals of this species, as well as one bird possessing a Polish ring (seen at Crossness and Rainham Marshes), has allowed overlap between sites (particularly Crayford/Dartford Marshes, Crossness, Beddington Farmlands and Rainham Marshes) to be noted. There was the first record for Inner London at Rotherhithe.

Essex: Barking Bay, adult on Jan 1st. Rainham Marshes, total of 28 seen with 10 Jan-Apr (including a Polish-ringed 4th-winter), singles in May, Jul and Aug, six in Sep and nine Oct-Nov with peak count of six on Nov 19th; June was the only month with no sightings.

Herts: Amwell NR, 1st-winter roosted Jan 30th and from Feb 14th-29th.

Middx: KGV Res, adult Jun 20th-Jul 25th. Q. Mary Res, three adults on Jan 28th, Feb 25th-26th and Jun 24th (returning bird). Wraysbury Res, third-winter on Sep 17th.

Bucks: Colnbrook, 4th-winter on Oct 8th (returning bird). Horton Fields, two, 1st-summer on Aug 6th, adult on Aug 13th. Horton GP, three, 1st-winters on Mar 17th and Oct 21st, adult on Nov 17th. Q. Mother Res, 13 birds seen throughout the year, a maximum of four (1st-summer, two 3rd-summer and adult) on Aug 14th.

This Caspian Gull was one of 28 seen at Rainham, which is the premier spot in the capital to see them, and runs regular 'Gull Workshops'. (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)



Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, eight, six Feb-Apr and two Nov-Dec. Crossness, four, Jan-Feb including a Polish-ringed 4th-winter on Jan 29th (seen at Rainham Marshes, Essex on Jan 9th (and Dec 7th 2010)). Greenhithe, 1st-winter on Mar 18th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, nine seen throughout the year (six Jan-Mar, one Jul and two Nov-Dec). Island Barn Res, two, adult on Aug 7th and 1st-winter Nov 16th, 26th & 29th. Walton Res, adult on Nov 30th.

In Lond: Rotherhithe, 2nd-summer on Jul 8th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.

It was a record year for this species, with an unprecedented influx during the first winter period. Due to the mobile nature of London's gulls, it is difficult to be certain of the exact numbers, but a conservative estimate would put this year's total at 31 individuals, 28 in the first six months and three in the second winter period. In 2010 and 2011 there were eight and eleven records respectively. Peak numbers started to occur from late January through until late March, while one bird lingered in Surrey and was last seen at London Wetland Centre on the extreme date of June 20th.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a total of at least eight individuals (adult, sub-adult, three 2nd-winters and three juvs) from Jan 12th-May 2nd including a daily maxima of four on Mar 16th, and an adult Oct 26th and juv Dec 28th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 2nd-winter roosted Feb 19th.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, 2nd-winter Jan 28th and same Mar 10th (a distinctive bird also seen at Beddington/Walton), juv Feb 25th. Staines Res, total of four 2nd-winters, Jan 21st, Mar 3rd & 18th, Apr 10th and again on 11th & 14th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 2nd-winters Jan 29th and another erratically Feb 26th-May 20th, juv Mar 10th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, 2nd-winter intermittently Jan 9th-Feb 15th, juv Mar 2nd, sub-adult Mar 12th, adult Mar 18th and 2nd-winter May 4th-6th and adult Oct 26th. Crossness, adult, Mar 16th and juv Mar 26th. Sevenoaks WR, 2nd-winter on Mar 18th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a total of 13 individuals from Jan 1st-Jun 20th including peaks of four in Feb, a juv on Dec 31st; and a 2nd-winter on Mar 19th (JPA *et al*). Banstead Woods, one flew S Mar 17th. Island Barn Res, seven individuals roosted during the period Jan 6th-Apr 4th including three on Jan 10th and Apr 4th. London Wetland Centre, one, intermittently Apr 21st-Jun 20th. QE II Res, at least five birds Jan 12th-Mar 8th including three Feb 9th.

SUB-SPECIES: **Kumlien's Gull** *L. g. kumlieni*

Two birds showed characters consistent with this Greenland and Nearctic race: a lingering juvenile at Beddington Farmlands (from 2011) and a well-marked 2nd-winter seen at both Beddington Farmlands and Rainham Marshes in March. These are the fourth and fifth records for London.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a 2nd-winter from Mar 16th-21st (DML *et al*), also seen at Beddington Farmlands.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a 2nd-winter from Mar 19th-21st (also at Rainham Marshes) and a juv until early Apr (JPA *et al*). This juv roosted at QE II Res Jan 18th & 20th, and at Island Barn Res intermittently from Jan 10th-Apr 4th (DMH).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Status: scarce winter visitor in varying numbers, more regular in cold weather.

An average showing of three birds, compared to two in 2011 and 12 in 2010. This species does occur in peaks and troughs, and the distinct lack of records compared to the record year for Iceland Gull is most interesting. This is also the first year since 2006 that there has not been a record at Rainham Marshes.

Bucks: Horton GP, juv on Jan 22nd was first site record (CDRH). Q. Mother Res, juv on Jan 28th & 30th and Feb 12th (CDRH).

Surrey: QE II Res, juv on Jan 22nd (DMH) with the same individual at Beddington Farmlands, Feb 15th-17th & 27th (JPA).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons; has bred recently.

It was a poor year for this species, with only five counts of over 50 birds (17 last year), the highest being 85 (2011 and 2010 maximums of 140 and 145). There was also no confirmed evidence of breeding, with this species having bred successfully in 2008 (first record) and 2010. However, a pair and a juvenile at Barking Bay on August 5th may have bred nearby.

This species is still under-recorded in some areas; for example there were no counts over 12 from Rainham, despite this species being present there in significant numbers during winter months. An adult at Crossness on January 15th was ringed in Norway. Listed below are high counts and all Inner London records.

Herts: Amwell NR, 85 on Dec 16th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 70 on Jan 8th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 66 on May 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 50 on Jan 1st. London Wetland Centre, 53 on Apr 28th.

In Lond: Hyde Park, two on Dec 7th & 9th. Paddington Green, two on Oct 14th and Dec 3rd. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 13th, May 27th and Aug 22nd. St James's Park, one on Jan 18th. Tower 42, three on Aug 31st.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

There were 21 records, mostly on spring passage (16 records of 24 birds), two fewer than 2011 but nearly twice as many as 2010. The first record was one at Beddington Farmlands on April 18th, followed by a single at Hilfield Park Res on 23rd, then on the 28th there were two at Island Barn Res and three seen at both Q. Mother Res and Staines Res. May began with another one at Hilfield Park Res on 2nd before singles at Staines Res and Island Barn Res on 3rd. On the 4th there were three at QE II Res along with two



*2012 was a record year for Iceland Gull in London. This individual was at Beddington.
(Peter Alfrey)*

at Staines Res and these were swiftly followed by a single at Island Barn Res on the 5th before a short gap. The next birds were two on 10th at Staines Res. It was not until 19th that passage resumed with one at Walton Res; two were at Amwell NR on 23rd and one at Brent Res on 26th before the final spring record on June 2nd of two at Q. Mother Res.

Autumn passage was relatively weak (five records of ten birds) and entirely limited to the latter half of August; however it began with the year's highest count: five at Gallions Reach on 15th. A single was at Staines Res on 16th and Gallions Reach boasted a further two on the 26th before the final two records of the year, one at Woolwich Ferry on 28th and another single at Rainham Marshes on 29th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, with numbers varying annually with weather conditions and breeding success on the continent.

Spring passage was much longer than 2011 at 41 days, beginning suddenly on April 25th with singles at Beddington Farmlands, Hilfield Park Res and Island Barn Res while two were seen at Q. Mother Res and three were at Staines Res. But they were then recorded on every day to May 8th. Most were at reservoirs or the R Thames with peaks of six at KGV Res on April 27th, but two flew over Canons Farm on April 28th. Passage eased in May with singles at QE II Res on 10th and at Staines Res on 18th followed by three at Amwell NR on 20th and one at Walton Res on 21st. One was at Barking Bay on 26th followed on 27th by three at Staines Res, three at Walthamstow Res and one at Horton GP, and one at Rainham Marshes on 29th. Spring migrants continued to be seen into early June with single birds at Q. Mother Res on 3rd, Hilfield Park Res on 3rd and 4th; also on 4th, one was at Rainham Marshes and two at KGV Res.

Larger gatherings were seen during autumn passage which, lasting 44 days, was longer



Kumlien's Gull - left in photo. (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)

than the spring passage. There were daily records from August 12th-19th including 30 seen at Staines Res on 12th and 18 at KGV Res on 18th. There were then five at Staines Res on 22nd and two on 25th. Four were at Gallions Reach on 26th while Rainham Marshes had three, as did Staines Res, while two were at KGV Res the next day. There were daily records from August 29th-September 2nd, including 11 at the Lower Thames Marshes on August 29th. The only records after that were 17 at Staines Res on 9th, singles on 23rd at Gallions Reach and Q. Mary Res and singles on 24th at Q. Mary Res and Staines Res.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Status: rare vagrant.

Two records this year making five consecutive years for this less than annual vagrant. Both records were at Staines Res, although neither stayed for long. Surprisingly, the last records at Staines Res in 2009 were also two birds. Unlike the previous two years, where all records involved juveniles, both of this year's birds were adults. The June bird was presumed to be the same bird seen earlier that day at Grove Ferry, Kent, then two days later at Cotswold WP, Wiltshire, and at Shapwick Heath NR, Somerset, the day after; the July bird, after staying overnight, flew off NE the next morning. The June arrival date is less usual than the July one but records are usually later than either of these (see table below for arrival dates on a ten day basis).

White-winged Black Tern arrival dates 1990-2011 17 records

Ten days commencing	May 11	May 21	May 31	Jun 10	Jun 20	Jun 30	Jul 10	Jul 20	Jul 30	Aug 9	Aug 19	Aug 29	Sep 9	Sep 19
No. of birds	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	3

Surrey: Staines Res, adult in breeding plumage on Jun 25th from 21:03 till at least 21:30 (REI); moulting adult from 20:57 on Jul 28th till 05:58 on Jul 29th (REI, KLP).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in small flocks.

The first record of the year was one at Tyttenhanger GP on March 14th. This is the earliest since one on March 12th in 2003. It was followed by one at the London Wetland Centre on 17th and two at Q. Mother Res, QE II Res and Staines Res on 25th. There were a few singles in April; at Gallions Reach on 10th, Q. Mother Res on 17th and 18th, KGV Res on 21st and over Kentish Town on 30th. The first of a small number of May records were seven at Amwell NR on 2nd while Rainham Marshes had one on 12th and two on 27th and one was at Walthamstow Res on 29th. Most June records involved birds on the R Thames, with three at Barking Bay/Crossness on 3rd, four at Rainham Marshes on 4th and the same number seen from both there and Crayford/Dartford Marshes on 12th. On 15th, four were at Crayford/Dartford Marshes and one bird was there on 28th. Q. Mother Res had two also on 28th and one was at Broadwater Lake on 30th. Two were at Staines Res on July 1st and QE II had another two on 6th followed by one at Rainham Marshes on 21st and then by three at Q. Mother Res on 26th. On 27th, two flew east over Beddington Farmlands.

August was the best month, beginning with seven at Rainham Marshes on 2nd. Gallions Reach had two on 10th, Stanwell Moor had two over on 11th followed by a further three at Gallions Reach on 12th. On 15th, eight were seen at Gallions Reach and singles were at Rotherhithe (the only Inner London record this year) and Crayford/Dartford Marshes; on the same date there were two at Q. Mother Res, three at Rainham Marshes and four at William Girling Res. Five flew southwest over Greenwich Ecology Park on 26th and both Brent Res and Rainham Marshes had two on 27th. On 30th, an impressive 25 flew west through Staines Res, two were at Greenhithe and another was seen at Woolwich Ferry. Most of the passage had died down by September, but three circled Beddington Farmlands before flying south on 4th while two were at Walthamstow Res on the same day and on the 5th. The final two records of the year were singles at Rainham Marshes on September 23rd and at Beddington Farmlands on October 7th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrival was two days earlier than 2011, a single at Staines Res on March 26th. Passage remained relatively low-key throughout the first part of April, with all counts in single figures; the first double-figure count came from Walthamstow Res on April 11th. However, 25 at Amwell NR on 18th were closely followed by 77 between Crayford and Rainham Marshes on 19th. On 26th, counts of 100, 65 and 50 were reported from KGV Res, Crayford Marshes and Barking Bay respectively; 110 were at KGV Res on 28th. Notably, a 1st-summer individual was at Staines Res from April 12th and remained there on and off until late July. Most movement had ended by early May although there were 140 at KGV Res on 5th. A 1st-summer at Q. Mother Res on July 18th and high over Horton GP on July 24th, was presumably the Staines Res bird. Breeding records came from 17 sites, the same as last year, but several sites had very few young reared.

Autumn passage began in August, although numbers did not approach those of 2011. Passage was fairly steady with a slight peak at the end of the month. Gallions Reach

provided the highest count, with 246 on 27th. Passage tapered off in September. There were only three October records: five at Q. Mother Res on 8th, one at Staines Res on 9th and two west at Crossness on 13th. All breeding records (with no. of pairs/nests in brackets), and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (10), but only three broods of five young.

Herts: Amwell NR (bred). Bury Lake (bred). Cheshunt GPs (15). Hilfield Park Res (2), both failed. Maple Lodge NR (3), only two young seen. Rye Meads (14), but only ten young. Stocker's Lake (18), but only five young.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (19). Blackwall Basin (5), three young. Brent Res (24). East India Dock Basin (2), both failed. Staines Res, no breeding.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1). Thorney CP (bred), four young.

Kent: Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (1), one young.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (12), but only three young. QE II Res, no breeding. Richmond Park (1).

In Lond: Regent's Park, two on May 4th, 7th & 8th then singles on 27th and on Jun 9th; up to three on several dates from Jul 9th-Aug 14th. Battersea Park, one on Jul 22nd. Battersea Power Station, one on Aug 19th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Aug 9th. Limehouse Basin, one on Jun 20th and another on Jul 12th. Rotherhithe, six on May 26th and two on Jun 23rd.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Status: rare passage migrant.

What was probably the same bird was at the West London reservoirs over two days. Found at Island Barn Res, it spent most of the day at Walton Res before ending the day at Staines Res and being seen at Q. Mother Res early the next day. This follows three records last year although there were only eight records from 1974-2010, so it is still quite a rarity. May is a typical date with 13 of the previous 24 records in that month.

Middx: Staines Res, adult on May 8th (REI), seen earlier at Island Barn Res and Walton Res.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult on May 9th (MJM).

Surrey: Island Barn Res, adult on May 8th relocated to Walton Res (DMH), seen later at Staines Res.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, often in small flocks with numbers varying annually.

The first arrival was five days later than last year, being three birds at Gallions Reach on April 10th and these were followed by a strong spring passage throughout April and May. Staines Res dominated records in April, with a peak of 68 on 24th. Other records came from Barking Bay, Crossness with 13 at Walthamstow Res on 18th and 18 at Q. Mother Res on 23rd. April 24th was a particularly strong day with reports from Amwell NR, Banbury Res, Crayford/Dartford Marshes, Rainham Marshes, Hilfield Park Res, KGV Res, Island Barn Res, Q. Mother Res, William Girling Res, Old Slade Lake, Seventy Acres Lake and Walthamstow Res, involving perhaps 172 birds in total. Records over the last



Common Tern. (Mick Southcott)

few days of April came from Brent Res, Crayford/Dartford Marshes, Beddington Farmlands and KGV Res. Birds continued to trickle through well into May. One over Regent's Park on 9th was particularly noteworthy and nine through Q. Mother Res on 4th was the highest total for the month. Two at Rainham Marshes on May 26th ended the northward migration through London.

Return movement began slowly with four July records; one at Crayford/Dartford Marshes on 12th; two at Dartford Marshes on 20th; two at Q. Mother Res on 21st and two at London Wetland Centre on 26th. Most passage took place in August, when the first juveniles appeared. There were double figure counts from both Rainham Marshes and Gallions Reach on 15th. A light spread of late August records included three adults feeding at Brent Res on 25th, ten at Rainham Marshes on 26th, followed by 11 at KGV Res the next day. One at Hampstead Heath's Highgate Pond on 31st was unusual. In September there were juveniles at Crayford/Dartford Marshes on 4th and at Beddington Farmlands on 7th. On 23rd singles were at Grays, Rainham Marshes, Crossness and Staines Res. The next day, eight were at Rainham Marshes and one at Crayford/Dartford Marshes. Passage ended with two at Crossness on October 13th and one at Gallions Reach on 26th.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, subject to occasional winter influxes.

There were three records, which brings the total to 22 sightings since the last influx in 1986 when 90+ individuals were seen. Of the 22 records, 21 have been between August and January with one in May. The Inner London record was the first since 2003.

Essex/Kent: One assumed to be the same bird on R Thames on Aug 29th seen from Rainham Marshes, Gallions Reach and Belvedere (AT, HV, DML, GAJ).

Kent: One drifted downstream on R Thames on Nov 23rd seen from Crayford/Dartford Marshes (KMJ).

In Lond: One seen on rising and falling tide from Blackfriars Bridge on Sep 7th (RB).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Status: abundant feral resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 14% decline in London from 2011 to 2012 and a decrease of 21% from 1995 to 2011, so more breeding records would be welcomed. Records were received from 116 sites, a large increase from last year when there were records from only 40 sites. The increase was due to a large number of Birdtrack records from Hertfordshire (91 sites). There was also a large increase in breeding records with probable or confirmed breeding at 33 sites (28 in Hertfordshire).

Peak counts for sites with over 100 birds (50 for London boroughs) and all records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: West Ham Park, 90 on Aug 27th

Herts: Lynsters Farm, 116 on Nov 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, 150 on Feb 17th.

Middx: Horsenden Hill, 215 on Sep 12th.

Kent: Northfleet, 120 on Dec 5th.

Surrey: Brickfields Meadow, 130 on Jul 10th. King George's Park, 275 on Nov 29th.

London Wetland Centre, 80 on Sep 23rd. Waddon Ponds, 275 on Oct 16th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, peak of 507 on Aug 30th. Paddington Green, one being pursued by a Peregrine on Dec 7th. Pascal Street, 80 on Oct 23rd. St James's Park, 475 on Feb 1st. Vauxhall, c20 pairs breeding under the bridges in the station area.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

A total of at least 164 breeding pairs (160 in 2011) from 66 sites were reported this year. It is considered that until reporting is more consistent, it is impossible to determine a London trend. This species could well lose out in competition for nest holes with Ring-necked Parakeet so we appeal for more records. There were more sightings in Hertfordshire due to even more BirdTrack records than last year. The fall in the number of pairs in Surrey is explained by there being no count from Richmond Park (25 pairs in 2011). The national trend from the Breeding Bird Survey show an 11% increase between 1995 and 2011 (BTO website).

Stock Dove sightings	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Sites where reported							
2012	42	100	17	3	26	22	7
2011	39	50	44	3	31	24	6
Sites where pairs reported							
2012	4	42	7	-	5	7	5
2011	4	33	16	-	5	7	1
No. of pairs reported							
2012	10	63	30	-	28	28	10
2011	7	45	33	-	18	53	4

There were two high pre-breeding season counts from Maple Cross and Chelsham. Breeding records for sites with more than five breeding pairs (no. of pairs in brackets), higher counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 57 on Dec 29th.

Herts: Hatfield Park, 80 on Apr 1st. Lynsters Farm, 100 on Jul 5th. Maple Cross, 839 on Apr 5th. Rye Meads (8). Woodoaks Farm, 60 on Apr 13th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (8+). Brent Res, 91 on Oct 11th. Bushy Park, 56 on Feb 17th. Home Park (6 territories). Horsenden Hill (10-11).

Bucks: Horton GP, 140 on Sep 17th & 27th.

Kent: Crossness, 80 on Jan 8th and Feb 8th. Fooks Cray Meadows (12+). Greenwich Park (11+).

Surrey: Chelsham, 450 on Apr 1st. Riddlesdown, 60 on Oct 10th. Wimbledon Common (20+).

In Lond: Battersea Park, pair on Apr 12th. Battersea Power Station, 22 over on Jan 15th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, peak count of 14 on Dec 30th and considered to have bred. Paddington Green, one over on Dec 17th. Regent's Park, peak count of ten coming to roost on Dec 12th and juv seen in Sep. Southwark Park, pair on Mar 10th. Victoria Park, six pairs on May 19th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 61% in London between 1995 and 2011 (40% across the UK). The breeding season is prolonged in urban areas with early reports of juveniles on February 21st and March 18th and a late report on November 17th. The autumn passage of birds flying in a southerly direction receives better coverage with a minimum of 32,576 (62,688 in 2011). Passage commenced on September 16th and continued until December 10th peaking at 17,684 on October 28th. The number of birds counted was lower than last year yet the peak day total was the second highest ever (the highest being 36,065 in 2006). Many birds must go uncounted, especially if peak passage does not coincide with a weekend. Sites where more than 1,000 birds were counted are listed below.

Woodpigeon - highest autumn counts

Site	Total	No. of counts	Highest count (date)
Brent Res	5952	5+	1320 (Oct 27th)
Regent's Park	4740	8	3080 (Oct 28th)
London Wetland Centre	4571	10	3160 (Oct 28th)
Wormwood Scrubs	3500	1	3500 (Oct 28th)
Alexandra Park	1777	1	1777 (Oct 28th)
QE II Res	1360	1	1360 (Oct 28th)
Leyton	1360	3	770 (Oct 28th)
Greenwich Park	1229	7	320 (Oct 28th)

At Richmond Park, a large flock was reported feeding on acorns with a peak count of 2,500 on February 10th. Large roost counts were 1,270 at Perivale Wood on January 28th and 400+ at Hilfield Park Res on January 25th. There were some cold weather movements with 500 at London Wetland Centre on January 10th, 500 at Hampermill Lake on February 12th and 500 at Wormwood Scrubs on February 17th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in central London.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 14% decline in London from 2011 to 2012. The long- running survey, carried out by the Croydon Group of the RSPB, also shows a decline; this year it was reported from 78% of gardens participating, down from 85% in 2011 and 94% in 1995. It was also considered to be declining at Horsenden Hill. It remains scarce in the inner London boroughs with only six records received. Last year counts of 25 or more birds were made from 11 sites while this year there was counts from only five sites (listed below along with all records from inner London boroughs). More reports on the status of Collared Dove in your area would be welcome.

Essex: Reported from nine sites. Rainham Marshes, 55 on Nov 14th. Walthamstow, 26 on Nov 23rd.

Herts: Reported from 114 sites mainly via Birdtrack. Jersey Farm, 30 on Aug 27th. Woodoaks Farm, 50 on Nov 28th.

Middx: Reported from six sites. Bow Creek, one flew east on Apr 4th. Poplar, bred locally for first time. Tottenham Marshes, two juvs on Jun 17th.

Bucks: Only reported from Thorney CP.

Kent: Reported from nine sites. Darenth Lake, 40 on May 31st. Greenwich Park, 4 on Apr 11th was a high count, usually ones and twos. The Tarn, one in Jan and May where considered to be rare.

Surrey: Reported from nine sites, excluding Croydon gardens. King George's Park, one on May 18th. Rushett Farm, c50 on Sep 21st.

In Lond: Only reported from Regent's Park, where up to two were seen throughout the year.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Status: localised summer breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 85% across the UK between 1995 and 2011 (BTO website). There were a total of 21 records this year (26 in 2011) with ten records (12 last year) in April and May, eight records (12 last year) in June and July and just four in August and September (two last year).

The first of the year was on April 21st at the London Wetland Centre. There was then a gap until eight records between May 2nd to 13th: singles at Dartford/Crayford Marshes on 2nd, Crossness on 6th, 7th and 12th (two), Creekmouth, Barking on 7th, Beddington Farmlands on 10th, Barking Bay on 13th and South Norwood CP on 13th.

The next records may relate to breeding birds with a pair at Thorndon CP on May 26th, one feeding in a garden at Stanstead Abbots on June 4th, a single at Codham Hall on June 19th, a singing male at Lullingstone Park on June 20th, a pair at Thames Chase on June 25th and a single at Howletts Hall on June 25th.

Stock Dove. (Mick Southcott)



July records were probably passage birds with singles at Alexandra Park on 4th, South Norwood CP on 5th and Barking Bay on 28th. In August, there were singles at Rye Meads on 7th, Trevereux on 9th and Brent Res on 18th. The last for the year was at Rainham Marshes on September 25th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

They were reported from a total of 193 sites this year (226 in 2011). This species is seriously under-recorded: observer fatigue in Surrey has now spread to Middlesex. The RSPB garden survey in Croydon says their expansion across Croydon must be almost complete now as they were reported in 98% of participating gardens, up from 87% last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a ten-fold increase in London from 1995 to 2011 with a notable spread into the Herts and Essex sectors during this period. There were at least 31 records of probable or confirmed breeding relating to one or two pairs except for 38 territories at Home Park and 25+ pairs on Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath. Roost counts were received from only four sites, when eight roosts have been counted in recent years.

Ring-necked Parakeet - peak roost counts		2012	2011
MX	Wormwood Scrubs	4,835 (Jun)	3,000 (Jan)
SY	Mitcham Common	4,400 (Jul)	2,800 (Jan)
SY	Hersham GP	7,222 (Jul)	-
SY	West Ewell	445 (Oct)	-

A summary for each county is given below.

Essex: Reported from 43 sites with 20+ at five sites. Rainham Marshes, 185 on Aug 23rd. Wanstead Flats, 73 on Jan 29th. Waterworks NR, 50 on Sep 28th.

Herts: Reported from 93 sites with 20+ at five sites. Potters Bar, 70+ flying to roost on Aug 12th.

Middx: Reported from 17 sites (a decrease from 39 sites in 2011) with 20+ at 10 sites. Hackney Marsh, 130 flushed by Sparrowhawk on Sep 12th. Horsenden Hill, 220 on Jan 8th.

Bucks: Reported from 5 sites with 20+ at three sites. Q. Mother Res, 71 on Mar 17th. Wrybury, 257 on Jan 1st.

Kent: Reported from 16 sites with 20+ at 11 sites. The listed high counts relate to birds flying to a roost likely to be at Hither Green Cemetery. Foots Cray Meadows, 200 on Oct 18th. The Tarn, peak of 200+ on Jan 16th. Sidcup, 800-1,000 on Aug 7th.

Surrey: Reported from 12 sites with 20+ at 5 sites. Hersham GP, roost counts of 6,371 on Jan 15th, 4,442 on Apr 1st and 7,222 on Jul 1st. Mitcham Common, roost counts of 4,200 on Jan 15th, 2,200 on Mar 18th, 4,400 on Jul 1st, 2,800 on Sep 29th.

In Lond: Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, peak count of 30 on Dec 7th. Larkhall Park, Stockwell, highest ever count of 30 made on Oct 6th. Regent's Park, peak count of 16 on Sep 16th. Up to ten recorded from Battersea Park, Southwark Park and Victoria Tower Gardens.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Birds were reported from a total of 118 sites this year (139 in 2011): 105 sites in spring, 18 in summer and 11 in the autumn (see table). The corresponding figures for 2011 were 126, 28 and 13. Most of the spring records were of just one bird at one site. There is insufficient data from the Breeding Bird Survey to determine a London trend. Nationally, the survey shows a 50% decline in the UK from 1995 to 2011. The first of the year on April 6th was the start of a prolonged passage, including two Inner London records: Bankside on April 27th and Regent's Park on May 7th.

There were no confirmed breeding records. However, breeding is difficult to confirm for this species and breeding may be more widespread. Probable breeding was reported from six sites (Beech Farm GP, Coopers Green GP, Hatfield Aerodrome, Redwell Wood Farm, Hatfield and Stanwell Moor). Adults in June and juveniles in July may be indicative of breeding. Birds were reported on five or more dates in June from Rainham Marshes and Rye Meads. The first juvenile was seen on July 26th at Crayford Marshes from where there had been several sightings during June and July. Of the 18 sites with adults in June, four were from outer London boroughs (Beddington Farmlands, Crayford Marshes, Ingrebourne Valley and Richmond Park). A female with a tracking device found exhausted on July 12th at Tolworth had been in Wales three days before. She was flown to Turin and released.

After July there were just 11 records: six in August and five in September with the last being on September 10th.

Cuckoo - sites where reported	Spring (Apr-May)	Summer (Jun)	Autumn (Jul-Sep)
Essex	20	5	3
Herts	53	10	0
Middx	10	0	3
Bucks	2	0	1
Kent	8	1	2
Surrey	10	2	2
In Lond	2	0	0

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident.

Although birds were recorded at 42 sites, which was more than the 36 in 2011, only two pairs were confirmed to have bred, both in Herts, where both pairs fledged two young each. A pair may also have bred at a site in Essex and at another site in Surrey. A record of a fly-over bird at a site at Q. Mother Res on December 12th was the first at this site since 2008.

Barn Owl - sites where reported	Winter (Jan-Apr)	Summer (May-Aug)	Winter (Sep-Dec)
Essex	6	4	6
Herts	5	12	6
Middx	1	5	4
Bucks	-	-	1
Kent	1	-	-
Surrey	2	1	3

Little Owl *Athena noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident, introduced to UK in the 19th century.

Records were received from 94 sites, fewer than in the previous three years with 115 in 2011, 104 in 2010 and 126 in 2009. Also, 37 pairs were reported as breeding, slightly more than in 2011 (36). Breeding estimates are given below.

Essex: Recorded from 29 sites. Harold Wood (1). Netherhouse Farm (2). Seen on more than five dates at Holyfield Hall Farm and KGV Res.

Herts: Recorded from 41 sites with 14 pairs breeding. Chess Valley (1). Chiswell Green (1). Croxley Green (1). Letty Green (1). North Mymms Park (2). Northaw Great Wood (1). Panshanger Aerodrome (1). St Albans (1). Stocker's Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Water Hall Farm (1). Woodoaks Farm (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Recorded from nine sites. Horsenden Hill (1). Totteridge Valley (4).

Bucks: Recorded from one site. Colnbrook, one on Oct 7th.

Kent: Recorded from two sites. Crayford Marshes (1).

Surrey: Recorded from eight sites. Canons Farm (3). Richmond Park (8), at least nine young fledged. Recorded at 35 locations within the Park.

In Lond: Recorded from four sites. Regent's Park (1), successfully bred with at least two young. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer parts of the London Area, scarce towards the centre.

Reported from 96 sites, down from 113 in 2011. Young birds were seen or heard at 15 sites (only 11 in 2011). Two sites reported more than one confirmed breeding pair. This species is clearly under-recorded as there were two or more birds reported during the breeding season at 22 other sites. The number of sites at which Tawny Owls were recorded is shown below together with estimates of 21 breeding pairs.

Essex: Recorded from 12 sites. Lee Valley Campsite (1).

Herts: Recorded from 46 sites. Coopers Green GP (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Northaw Great Wood (1). Panshanger Aerodrome (1). Rye Meads (2). Wildhill (1).

Middx: Abney Park Cemetery (1). Alexandra Park (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Horsenden Hill (2+). Perivale Wood (1).

Kent: Recorded from nine sites.

Surrey: Recorded from ten sites. Richmond Park (1+). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c 5).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), four juvs fledged. Regent's Park one on Jul 21st.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: rare breeder.

A bird was recorded twice at Broxbourne Woods during the breeding season, but there were no records from the site in Essex where breeding occurred in 2011 and 2010.

Herts: One was heard calling, but not seen, in the Broxbourne Woods area on May 31st and Jun 10th (AHh).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, with occasional influxes; rare breeder.

Reported from 39 sites (36 in 2011) with reports from 13 sites in April and 14 sites in October. Birds were seen in every month except July. The highest counts were five at Beddlestead Valley until mid-March and four at Staines Moor in December. All records are given below, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, singles on three dates in Oct and Dec. Fairlop Waters, singles on Jan 15th, Mar 20th-21st and May 1st. Leyton, one on Oct 6th. Leyton Flats, one on Sep 28th. Rainham Marshes, recorded in ten months of the year with peak of three on Jan 8th and Mar 25th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Mar 25th. Walthamstow, one on Mar 20th. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 3rd. Wanstead Flats, singles on Apr 3rd and Oct 6th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP, two on Feb 18th & 26th. Frogmore Lakes, two on Feb 2nd, singles on Feb 17th, 18th & 20th and Nov 29th. Hatfield Aerodrome, three on Feb 12th, two on 19th and one on Apr 21st.

Middx: Abney Park Cemetery, one on Mar 22nd. Brent Res, one on Oct 15th. Bushy Park, one on Nov 1st. Rammey Marsh, singles on Jun 17th and Dec 26th. Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor, one on Jan 29th, two on Mar 13th and Apr 27th, one May 2nd-3rd. One to two on several dates in Oct, then up to four in Nov and Dec. Staines Res, singles on Feb 26th, Apr 29th and May 2nd. Ten Acre Wood, one on Dec 22nd. Totteridge Valley, one on Apr 30th. Wormwood Scrubs, singles on May 10th and Oct 26th.

Bucks: Iver Heath, one on Jan 8th. Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 29th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, singles on Apr 29th, Jun 12th and Nov 29th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Apr 24th and May 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Mar 15th, Apr 24th and Nov 11th. Beddlestead Valley, up to five at the start of the year from 2011, remained until mid-Mar, with one until early May. Farleigh Court GC, one on Nov 5th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 6th and Oct 13th. QE II Res, two on the bank in the rain on Oct 22nd. Richmond Park, singles on Mar 6th & 8th and Apr 6th, then two on 13th; then singles on Sep 3rd and Oct 21st. South Norwood CP, singles on Mar 10th (seen a few minutes earlier flying over a garden close to South Norwood Lake) and on Oct 23rd. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one SW on Oct 20th.

In Lond: Aldgate East Station, one on Oct 30th. Regent's Park, one on Oct 23rd. Victoria Tower Gardens, one SW on Oct 20th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Status: common, though probably declining, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrivals were on April 12th at Hilfield Park Res and there were daily records from then on with considerably larger numbers reported from 24th, with a peak of 1,000 at KGV Res on 29th. The only counts of over 1,000 were at Chafford Hundred, Rainham Marshes and Staines Res with the peak of 2,000 at Staines Res.

A leucistic bird at Brent Res may be the same bird as in the last two years. Birds with white patches were reported at Staines Res, Hilfield Park Res and Richmond Park. The

Staines bird may be the one seen occasionally since 2003. The last record of the year was at Beddington Farmlands on September 27th. There were relatively few breeding records, as is usual for this species. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012, but a 43% decline from 1995 to 2011, so more breeding records would be welcomed.

Essex: Chafford Hundred, 1,500 on May 11th. KGV Res, 1,000 on Apr 29th. Rainham Marshes, 1,500 on May 16th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 600 on May 31st. Bell Bar (1+). Cheshunt (1). Chiswell Green (1+). Enfield Lock (1+). Epping Green (c5). Essendon (1+). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Hatfield (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (20+). Hammond Street (1+). Hertford (1+). Holywell (1+). Theobalds Park (1+). Welham Green (c6). Wrotham Park (1+).

Middx: Brent Res, c500 on Jun 2nd. KGV Res, 500+ on May 5th. Staines Res, 1,500 on Jun 3rd and 2,000 on 23rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 100 on May 4th.

Kent: Barnehurst (1+). Blackheath (1+).

Surrey: Limpsfield Chart (2-3). Sutton (1). Beddington Farmlands, 200 in May. London Wetland Centre, 200 on May 17th and Jun 30th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, 200 on May 2nd.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, c150 on May 6th. Regent's Park, 100+ on Jul 27th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Status: locally common breeding resident with additional birds in winter.

They were recorded at 151 sites, similar to the 147 in 2011. Four or more were seen together at Brent Res, Hampstead Heath, Rainham Marshes, Redbridge Lakes & Roding Valley Park, Rye Meads and Sevenoaks WR. Most records were of single birds and there were only eight confirmed breeding pairs (12 in 2011) although another three probably bred and there are records of pairs present at many other sites. One at Greenwich Park in October was the first there since 2000. The number of sites where Kingfishers were recorded is shown below for each county with confirmed breeding records. All records for Inner London are listed.

Essex: Recorded at 37 sites. Waltham Abbey (1). Walthamstow Res (1).

Herts: Recorded at 55 sites. Bury Lake (1). Rye Meads (2); seven together on May 24th. Stocker's Lake (1).

Middx: Recorded at 18 sites. Brent Res (1). Hampstead Heath (1).

Bucks: Recorded at two sites.

Kent: Recorded at 22 sites.

Surrey: Recorded at 15 sites.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Dec 27th. Regent's Park, one on Aug 30th. Rotherhithe, one on Mar 28th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

2010 Addition

Surrey: Chertsey, one from Jun 8th-9th (SJs).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There was only one record this year, which makes it the worst year since 2007. But this one did linger for six days. It was a typical autumn bird; 37 of the previous 45 records were between August and October. Details of arrival dates from 2000-2011 are shown in the table below.

Wryneck dates 2000-2011 Month	45 records						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	7	1	0	0	10	26	1

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one from Aug 25th-30th (TBn *et al*).

2011 Alteration

Herts: The Hoddesdon record was on Apr 16th, not 6th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded from 238 sites, slightly down from 258 sites in 2011. There were 154 pairs breeding, which is more than in previous years (129 in 2011, 85 in 2010 and 115 in 2009). The true figure is probably higher, as there were many records of birds present throughout the breeding season at other sites. BBS data shows a 4% decline in England from 2006-2011 (BTO website). Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) as well as peak counts.

Essex: Recorded from 57 sites. Belhus Woods CP (4). Ingrebourne Valley (6). Pages Wood (3). Thorndon CP North (4). Thorndon CP South (3). Weald Park (4).

Herts: Recorded from 105 sites. Essendon (5); eight on Sep 2nd. St Albans (3).

Middx: Recorded from 14 sites. Alexandra Park (4). Bedfont Lakes CP (3). Home Park (15). Horsenden Hill (6); ten on Apr 1st. Lavender Hill Cemetery (1). Monken Hadley Common (1). Perivale Wood (2). Trent Park (1+). Whitewebbs Wood (1).

Bucks: Recorded from 4 sites.

Kent: Recorded from 35 sites. Greenwich Park (2-3).

Surrey: Recorded from 15 sites. Arbrook Common (2). Canons Farm (5). Esher Common (2). Molesey Heath (2). Richmond Park (1+). West End Common (1). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (20).

In Lond: Recorded from Battersea Park, Brompton Cemetery, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (where one young on Apr 27th suggests local breeding), Nunhead Cemetery, and Regent's Park where six on Oct 6th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded at 286 sites, which was more than the 279 in 2011. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012, but an increase of 93% from 1995-2011. Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs, all records for Inner London and peak counts.

Essex: Recorded at 48 sites. Thorndon CP North (5). Wanstead Park (2). Weald Country Park (3).

Herts: Recorded at 119 sites. Beech Farm GP (2). Chorleywood Common (3). Hoddesdonpark Wood (12). Millward's Park (3+). Northaw (2). Northaw Great Wood (3). Rye Meads (2). Symondshyde Great Wood (3+). Woodside, Hatfield (3). Wormley Wood (18).

Middx: Recorded at 42 sites. Alexandra Park (6). Home Park (8). Horsenden Hill (16). Monken Hadley Common (2). Wildwoods, Enfield (2). Wormwood Scrubs (2).

Bucks: Recorded from three sites

Kent: Recorded at 40 sites. Bexley Wood (2). Footh Cray Meadow (3+). Greenwich Park (2+). Lullingstone Park (4).

Surrey: Recorded at 24 sites. Arbrook Common (3). Banstead Woods (6). Canons Farm (3). Esher Common (2). Molesey Heath (2). The Ledges, Esher (2). West End Common (5). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (50+).

In Lond: Aldersgate Street E1, juv on Jun 4th. Tabard Gardens (1). Also recorded at Battersea Park, Brompton Cemetery, Fulham, Hammersmith Cemetery, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Regent's Park, Russia Dock Woodland, St Luke's Gardens and The Borough.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Status: scarce and declining breeding resident.

Recorded at 53 sites, less than the 71 in 2011 and a little below the recent average. Breeding was probable at only two sites, but no breeding was confirmed (four confirmed and seven probable in 2011), so there is a continued decline. It has become so rare nationally that BBS observers have been unable to continue the annual monitoring that was possible until 2000 through the Common Bird Census (CBC). All UK breeding records since 2010 are being considered by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. All records are given below, with no. of territories in brackets.

Essex: Bedfords Park, one on Feb 28th. Belhus Woods CP, singles on ten dates from Jan to Nov. Cely Woods, pair on Jan 11th, 27th & 29th. Larks Wood, one on Feb 5th. Redbridge Lakes & Roding Valley Park, one on Nov 13th. Strawberry Hill Ponds, one on Feb 13th. The Mores, two on Mar 17th & 26th. Thorndon CP North, one on Mar 4th. Thorndon CP South, two on May 18th and one on Jun 14th. Wanstead Flats, pair recorded on 13 dates between Mar and Sep. Warley Place, one on Apr 2nd. Weald CP, singles on Mar 26th and Apr 1st and two on Jul 22nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Nov 24th and Dec 27th. Beech Farm GP, one on Apr 6th. Croxley Common Moor, one on Jul 21st. Cuffley, singles on four dates in Jan, Sep and Dec. Fir & Pond Woods, singles on Mar 8th & 22nd. Goose Green, one on Jun 10th. Hammond Street, one on May 10th. Hertford, one on Jun 14th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Jun 4th. Hoddesdonpark Wood, singles on four dates in Jan, Feb and Mar. Maple Lodge NR, one on Mar 27th. Northaw Great Wood, singles on Jan 29th and Mar 11th. Stocker's Lake, singles on Mar 19th and Dec 29th. The Withey Beds LNR, two on Mar 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 7th and one on Oct 20th. Welwyn Garden City, singles on Feb 5th and Mar 17th, two on Apr 9th & 15th and a pair excavating a hole on Apr 15th. Woodoaks Farm, one on Oct 12th.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker becomes ever harder to catch up with in our area. Wanstead still holds a few pairs. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Middx: Bentley Priory, singles on Feb 21st and Dec 17th and two birds on several dates in Mar. Bushey Park, pair recorded regularly in Jan, Feb and Mar. Canons Park, one on Jan 29th and a pair on Apr 1st. Hampstead Heath, one on Feb 25th. Horsenden Hill, singles on Apr 1st, Sep 15th and Oct 9th. Osterley Park, one on Jan 6th. Ruislip Wood, one on Jan 29th. Trent Park, singles on Feb 1st and Dec 12th. Walpole Park, one on Feb 19th. Whitewebbs Wood, up to two Feb 25th-Mar 10th; one on Nov 9th.

Kent: Brookmill Park, one on Mar 20th. Chipstead Lake, one on Nov 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 14th.

Surrey: Banstead Woods (2). Beddington Farmlands, singles on four dates in Jan, Feb, Apr and May and two on May 19th. Beddington Park, one on Mar 3rd, probably from neighbouring Beddington Farmlands. Ham Lands, one on Nov 12th. Richmond Park (5). South Croydon, one on one date in Aug. West Ewell, one on Sep 23rd.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Status: scarce passage migrant and occasional rare breeder.

For the fifth year there was no confirmed breeding but at least this year there was a singing and displaying male at one of the previous breeding sites. There were 15 records of 21 birds which was the best since 2009. All but four of these records were in autumn or winter, with nine in October, invariably the best month for records. Both the February birds arrived on the same date during cold weather. All records are given below.

Essex: Redbridge Lakes & Roding Valley Park, one from Feb 9th-13th. Wanstead Flats, one on Oct 12th, three on Oct 23rd.

Herts: Amwell NR, one N on Oct 13th.

Middx: Edgware, one E, alighting briefly, on Apr 5th.

Kent: Crossness, one SE on Oct 13th.

Surrey: Site B, one singing and displaying on May 26th. Beddington Farmlands, one S on Oct 27th. Canons Farm, three on Oct 6th. Esher, one singing on Jun 1st. Esher Common, one on Jun 1st. London Wetland Centre, one W on Oct 27th. Riddlesdown, one on Oct 10th. South Norwood CP, one from Feb 9th-13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Oct 23rd.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

This year's winter counts had only two sites recording over 50, down on last year and well down on 2010, when 17 sites had counts of 100 or more. By contrast, territories increased this year (216 from 68 sites, compared with 191 from 44 sites in 2011), although for sites where we have records for both 2011 and 2012 there is little evidence of any change. There were only seven confirmed breeding records; more would be welcome. The Skylark population in England declined rapidly from the mid-70s to the mid-80s when the decline slowed but BBS data still shows a 23% decline from 1995-2011. There are signs of an increase in 2011 and 2012 (BTO website). Most passage records were in October with the majority of larger flocks in the last ten days of the month. Details below give the number of territories for each sector and some breeding details and high counts.

Essex: 31 territories from seven sites (down from 39 last year at six sites). Belhus Woods CP (2). Bulphan Fen (1). Grange Waters, 60 on Oct 21st. Ingrebourne Valley (7); 60 on Dec 5th. Netherhall GP (2). Sewardstone Marsh (9). Thorndon CP South (1). Wanstead Flats (9).

Herts: 100 territories from 42 sites (up from 84 last year from 22 sites). Beech Farm GP (7). Bushey (3). Cole Green Tip (14). Coopers Green Lane (5). Cromerhyde Farm (5). Hatfield Aerodrome (10). Tyttenhanger GP (3+); 56 on Oct 27th. Woodoaks Farm (10).

Middx: 11 territories from two sites (up from six last year from four sites). Hampstead Heath, c40 N on Oct 24th. Home Park (10). Staines Moor (1+).

Kent: 29 territories from eight sites (up from 24 last year from six sites). Chipstead Lake (1+). College Farm (3). Crossness (2). Darenth Lake (1). Dartford Marshes (c10). Greenwich Park, 21 over on Nov 6th. Layhams Farm (10+). Lullingstone Park (1). Sevenoaks WR (1).

Surrey: 45 territories from nine sites (up from 36 last year from five sites). Chasemore Farm (2). Chelsham, 60 on Jan 23rd. Farthing Downs (3). Hersham GP (1). Richmond Park (17). Riddlesdown (c15). Ridlands (2). Tenchleys (2). Trevereux (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (1 bred but failed).

In Lond: Battersea Park, four over on Oct 26th. Paddington Green, one on Oct 14th. Regent's Park, one on Oct 15th. Shadwell, two over on Mar 14th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Status: common summer visitor, localised breeder and passage migrant.

BBS counts show clearly that large year-to-year changes in Sand Martin numbers occur, but do not yet reveal a clear long-term trend (BTO website). This year saw one of those changes with lower numbers returning and lower numbers breeding.

The first sighting was on March 3rd at London Wetland Centre, the earliest date since 2008, but by 19th most large bodies of water had yielded records, with a high of 13 at Island Barn Res on 17th. Numbers increased at the end of March, but passage in April and May was poor compared to recent years; although the top count was 515 (only 350 last year) numbers were low at most sites, including the four best watched sites: Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads, Tyttenhanger GP and London Wetland Centre. There was no obvious peak in return passage and numbers overall were on the low side, with no sites recording 100 and only three recording 50 or over. There were 11 records in early October and then a gap before late records on October 30th, 31st and November 3rd, and the last at Sevenoaks NR on November 4th.

As returning numbers were so low, it was a poor year for breeding. While bearing in mind that colonies can come and go, there were no substantial new breeding sites this year. The London Wetland Centre colony was down to 29 pairs from 64 last year and elsewhere there were just 21 breeding pairs. Confirmed and probable breeding counts are given below along with all Inner London sightings.

Herts: Coursers Road, probably bred.

Middx: Brent Res (3).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (5). Hogsmill SW (1+). London Wetland Centre (29). Raven's Ait (6+). Walton Res (3).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Mar 16th. Limehouse Basin (2). Regent's Park, one on Sep 18th. Rotherhithe, two on May 26th. Victoria Park, one on Sep 8th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding confined to rural areas.

The first record was at Maple Lodge NR on March 17th, one day later than the earliest record of the past ten years. The first record of 100 or more was at Island Barn Res on April 20th. Spring passage was strong this year, with 21 sites recording 100 or more, in several cases on more than one date; by comparison, there were no reports of 100 or more last year. The largest numbers were in early May with 500 at Hilfield Park Res, 350 at Beddington Farmlands and 345 at Walton Res. These were part of a passage surge between May 3rd and 8th, which had been preceded by a smaller surge between April 27th and 29th.

Post-breeding congregation and return passage was seen from mid-August. There was a small surge in late August, then a large surge at the end of September which included 1,150 at Bushy Park, 1,068 at Regent's Park and 800 at Rainham Marshes. Numbers dropped off sharply at the end of September with only one record of 100 or more thereafter, on October 2nd. Eight sites reported a few stragglers in early November, with two at Rainham Marshes on 11th being the last.

There were no breeding records from Essex this year for the first time since 2005. On the other hand, there is a huge increase in Herts records. All these sector changes seem to be due to changes in observer coverage. There is no reliable data on BBS trends in London but there has been a 43% increase from 1995 to 2011 for the whole of England (BTO website), while the 2007-2011 Atlas shows numbers decreasing in the south and east while increasing in the north and west. Perhaps this accounts for our declines. Sites

where breeding was reported are given below, with no. of nests in brackets, where known.

Herts: Bayford (2). Bell Bar (17). Brickendonbury. Croxley Green. Cuffley. Epping Green. Essendon (20). Fir & Pond Woods (2). Gobions Wood. Hatfield Park. Howe Green. North Mymms Park. Northaw (16). Northaw Great Wood. Potters Bar. Redwell Wood Farm (8). Roe Hyde. South Mimms (2). Stocker's Lake. Symondshyde Great Wood. Water End (10). Water Hall Farm. Welham Green. West Hyde. Wildhill. Woodside, Hatfield. Wrotham Park.

Middx: Strayfield Road (4). Stanwell Moor (1).

Surrey: Barwell Court (11). Garsons Farm (5+). Richmond Park (1). Rushett Farm (2). West End Common (5).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 30+ on May 6th. Regent's Park, a few spring passage records but regular in mid Sep, with a peak of 1,068 on 28th. Rotherhithe, one on Sep 29th. Victoria Park, two on May 19th.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year was at Stanstead Innings on March 31st. This was the latest for at least ten years. The next record was on April 4th and there were daily records from then onwards but only one of ten or more in the first half of the month. A noticeable surge occurred from April 28th to 29th, and there was a return to eight reports of 100 or more, ending the decline since 2005 noted in last year's report. Three of these were during the April surge and three were from May 20th to 21st. The highest count was 300 at KGV Res on April 29th.

Post-breeding congregations and return passage were generally modest until mid-September, with only two counts of 100 or more before the 14th. Thereafter, until October 6th, there were counts of 100 or more on all but five days. Peak passage was during the last few days of September and the first few of October. September 30th was exceptional, with 11 sites recording between 100 and 600, and four recording over 1,000, including 2,800 at Wormwood Scrubs. The last counts of 100 or more were at two sites on October 11th. Thereafter passage dropped off rapidly, with the last being three at Amwell NR on November 6th.

There were 152 breeding records from 38 sites, less than last year overall but with a very big fall from Essex and a rise from Middlesex and Kent. BBS data shows a 20% decline in England from 2006-2011 and the 2007-2011 Atlas shows numbers decreasing in the south and east while increasing in the north and west, as with Swallows. Regular counts at sites would be very welcome. The map is adapted from one to be published in the forthcoming London Atlas 2007-13. All breeding records are given below with no. of nests in brackets.

Essex: Five plus breeding, two sites. Beckton (4). Walthamstow FB (1+).

Herts: 18 breeding, 15 sites. Bell Bar (1+). Brookmans Park (1). Epping Green (1). Essendon (1+). Fir & Pond Woods (1+). Frogmore Lakes (3+). Hatfield Aerodrome (1+). Holywell (1+). North Mymms Park (1+). Rickmansworth (1+). Ridge (1+). St Albans (2). Water End (1+). Wildhill (1+). Woodside, Hatfield (1+).

**House Martin
breeding distribution
2007-2013**

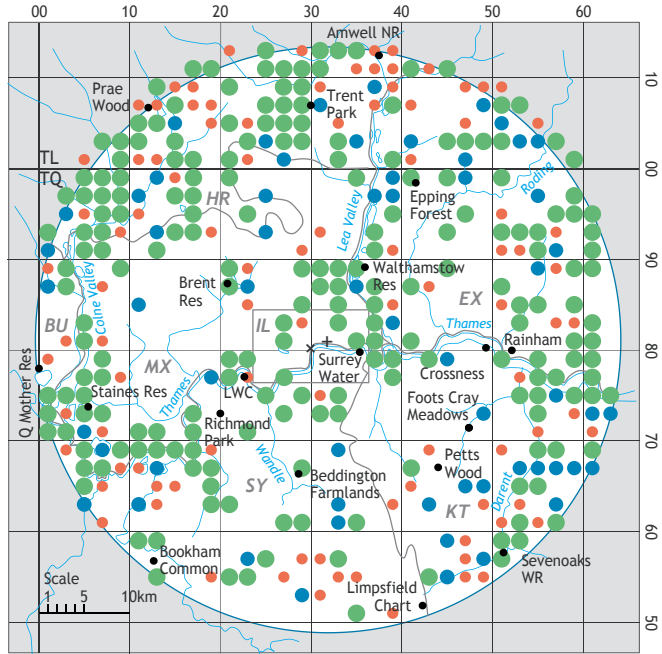
- Confirmed breeding
- Probable breeding
- Possible breeding

- LNHS Area
- County boundaries

Dots that appear to be outside the LNHS Area are in a 2km square that is partially within the Area.

Based on a map produced by Neil Smith using BTO/LNHS London Atlas data.

Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database rights 2012.



- Middx:** 66+ breeding, seven sites. Alexandra Park (2). Ashford (1+). Poplar (2). Staines (4+). Stanwell (1). Stanwell Moor (1+). The Broadway, West Hendon (55-60).
- Kent:** 29+ breeding, five sites. Crayford (6+). Crayford Marshes (8+). Erith (8). Greenwich (1). Lullingstone Park (6).
- Surrey:** 29 breeding, seven sites. Berrylands (6). Epsom (9). Hackbridge (3). Long Ditton (2). Oxted (2). Sanderstead (1). West End Common (6).
- In Lond:** Five breeding, two sites. Balcombe St NW1 (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, eight on May 28th so perhaps still breeding locally. Limehouse (4).

Richard’s Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Status: rare visitor.

There were two records this year which is unusual, and these are the first records since 2009. Both were in autumn/winter months, which are more likely to produce records than spring months as the table below shows. This is only the second November record and the latest ever.

Richard’s Pipit dates 1956-2010

24 records

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	6	2	0	0	0	6	8	1	1

- Essex:** Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 17th (SHy).
- Bucks:** Colnbrook, one on Oct 7th (CDRH).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Status: rare vagrant.

This is only the 8th record for London and the first for 22 years. Found late in the evening, it was seen by a few other people before the light went. There was no sign of it the next day. It is also the first August record as previously there has been one record in May, five in September and one in October. The table below shows all the previous records.

Tawny Pipit records 1954-1992			7 records			
Year	1954	1963	1969	1989	1990	1992
No. of records	1	2	1	1	1	1

Essex: Barking Bay, juv on Aug 19th (PH *et al*).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Status: passage migrant and scarce, seriously decreasing breeding summer visitor.

There were just eight spring records this year, whereas there were 17 last year. Passage began on April 15th with one at Thorndon CP South. The next, and only other, April record was of a single on 19th at Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. On May 1st and on 5th, one was at Thorndon CP South, on 3rd one was at Thorndon CP North and on the 4th a singing bird was on Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. The only other spring records were one at Fairlop Waters on 5th and two north over Regent's Park on 9th.

The number of autumn records was 39 or 40 slightly down on 42 last year. It started on August 9th with a single at Dagenham Chase, followed by one at Wanstead Flats on 13th and then a steady passage from August 19th to September 13th. The table below shows the pattern of this passage. Records on September 21st at Leyton and at Wanstead Flats on September 21st and 30th, October 7th and 10th rounded off the year. The highest count was three at Rainham Marshes on September 13th. There were no confirmed territorial records this year, for the first time ever, although one was seen at Brickendonbury on June 14th.

Tree Pipit weekly autumn totals

Week commencing	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26	Sep 2	Sep 9	Sep 16
No. of birds	1	11	8	12	8	2
No. of records	1	9	8	11	6	1

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, localised breeder.

There were three winter flocks of 50 or more this year (none last year), two in February when we had a period of wintry weather and one in December. Spring passage was more marked than last year. This was most noticeable from April 7th-13th, when 50 or more were recorded at seven sites. Five of these were on the 8th including 150 at Beddington Farmlands.

As usual, autumn passage was much heavier than spring and peaked at the end of September. It was more marked than last year, with eight records of 100 or more (two

last year), including c500 over Hampstead Heath in six hours on October 20th and 341 over Regent's Park on September 28th. Passage continued steadily throughout October, with a few higher counts towards the end of the month.

As shown below, breeding/territories were reported from eight sites (nine last year), with none this year in Surrey, making this probably the worst year on record. In 2006 breeding was suggested at 19 sites and has steadily declined since.

Essex: Wanstead Flats (5).

Herts: Cole Green Tip (2). Hatfield Aerodrome (1+).

Middx: Home Park (2). Wormwood Scrubs (4).

Kent: Crossness (1). Dartford Marshes (2-4). Greenwich Peninsula (1).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Most of the January-February records were as usual at the Lower Thames Marshes with a peak count of 19 at Rainham Marshes on January 30th. The last record was on March 26th at Crossness. The first returning bird was on September 24th at Island Barn Res. In October, numbers began to increase with records at several sites away from the Thames and peaking along the Thames by the end of the month. From November to December most records were at the Lower Thames Marshes, peaking at ten in November. There were about half as many records at the beginning of the year as at the end. Monthly maxima for Rainham Marshes are shown below, followed by other records.

Rock Pipit monthly maxima

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	19	16	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	10	8

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Jan 1st and six on Oct 20th. Beckton, one on Jan 22nd. Creekmouth Barking, recorded from Sep 30th-Nov 18th, peak of three. Gallions Reach, two on Oct 21st. Grays, one on Feb 5th. Purfleet, five on Jan 20th. Rainham Marshes, recorded up to Mar 19th and from Sep 26th (peak counts above). Sewardstone Marsh, one on Feb 5th. Walthamstow Res, singles on Nov 5th & 18th. West Thurrock Marshes, two on Feb 3rd & 5th, four on Nov 18th and one on Dec 9th. William Girling Res, one on Oct 14th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one on Oct 7th.

Middx: Brent Res, one over on Oct 7th. KGV Res, one to two on five dates from Sep 29th-Oct 28th. Staines Res, one on Mar 6th then singles on seven dates from Sep 29th-Oct 11th. Wraysbury Res, one on Mar 12th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, recorded from Oct 11th-Nov 16th; peak of three.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, recorded up to Mar 6th and from Oct 18th, peak of five. Crossness, one to two from Jan to Feb 11th, one on Mar 26th and one over on Nov 17th. Greenhithe, two on Oct 31st. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Jan 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one over on Oct 26th. Island Barn Res, one on Sep 24th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 10th and Feb 16th and Oct 20th-23rd, Nov 20th and Dec 19th. QE II Res, one to three on 11 dates from Oct 4th-Nov 3rd.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Unlike Rock Pipits, these appear at several places away from the Lower Thames Marshes with Beddington Farmlands and West London reservoirs being important sites. Birds were recorded up to April 10th and then, from October 21st. There were twice as many records in the first winter than there were in the second. It was an exceptionally poor year for London Wetland Centre. All records are given below, some summarised.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, present to Apr 3rd with peak of five on Jan 30th; then from Nov 3rd with peak just two on Nov 17th. West Thurrock Marshes, singles on Nov 18th and Dec 9th.

Herts: Rye Meads, singles on Oct 27th, Nov 3rd, 10th & 11th, two on Nov 17th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 29th.

Middx: KGVI Res, one on Jan 14th then singles on ten dates Feb 11th-Mar 18th. Staines Moor, present on 16 dates Jan 28th-Apr 10th, with peak of four; then on five dates Nov 16th-Dec 23rd, peak of three. Staines Res, present on 16 dates to Mar 19th, peak of three. Stanwell Moor, two on Nov 11th and one on Dec 2nd. Wraysbury Res, four on Nov 3rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from Nov 18th-27th with another three on Nov 19th, then two on Dec 13th.

Kent: Belvedere, R Thames, one on Dec 30th. Crayford/Dartford Marshes, two on Jan 30th then singles Feb 1st-Mar 8th; singles Oct 26th, Nov 17th and Dec 11th. Crossness, singles on Jan 8th and Feb 5th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, present to Apr 20th with peak of six; first returning bird on Oct 21st with one-two Nov-Dec, peak of three. London Wetland Centre, singles on Oct 25th & 30th.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

Status: rare vagrant

This was the first record of this species in the London area, resulting in a 'major twitch' thanks to the good offices of the Berkshire Ornithological Club who arranged temporary permits for visitors when manpower was available. One bird was found at Q. Mother Res on December 12th and seen daily until 25th. Very remarkably, it was joined by a second bird the next day. (See page 205 for further details.)

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from Dec 12th-25th, with two on 26th; both birds reappeared in 2013 (MJM *et al*).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce, breeder.

The first of the year was at Totteridge Valley on March 28th (since 2002, first records have been between March 19th and April 9th). From April 7th onwards there were records on all but a few days up until the end of May. Spring passage peaked in the first week of May during which a remarkable 551 birds were recorded, including 75 at Beddington Farmlands on May 4th (the highest count there for many years), 41 at the

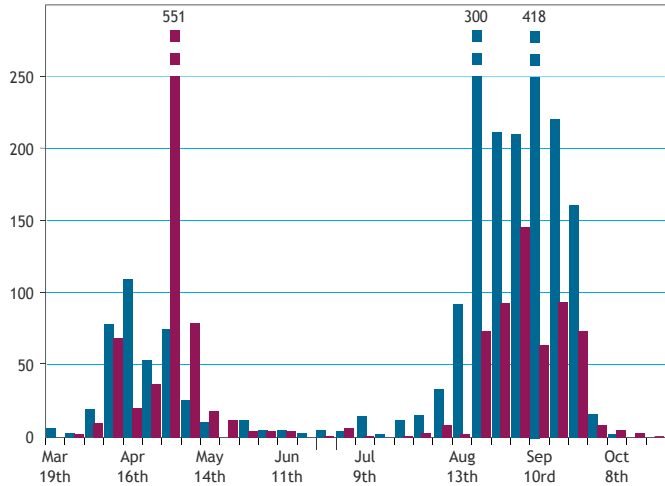
Yellow Wagtail

Weekly counts

Key

- Number recorded in 2011, week commencing
- Number recorded in 2012, week commencing

We apologise for some errors in the chart shown on page 118 in LBR 2011. These are corrected here.



London Wetland Centre on May 2nd, 30 at Rainham Marshes on May 2nd and 10-20 at six other sites in the same week. Compared with spring passage last year, when the highest site count was 14 and only one other site had ten or more, this year's spring passage was much greater and the peak was three weeks later. Autumn passage was evident from the last week of August until the end of September. More birds were recorded in the spring passage than the autumn passage, which was the opposite of last year (see chart for details). This could be the result of a poor breeding season this year. The last record of the year was a single at QE II Res on November 3rd (since 2002, last records have been between October 10th and November 23rd).

Breeding records were down from ten last year to two this year and suggests last year's increase was not a sign of any change in their fortunes. The table below shows all breeding records since 2000. There were no records from Essex, despite the usual sites being surveyed. Breeding records and all Inner London sightings are listed below.

Michael McKee found this first Buff-bellied Pipit for London on the Queen Mother Reservoir in mid-December, triggering a major London twitch. (Lee Dingain)



Yellow Wagtail territories 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of territories	9	20	10	7	1	3	5	2	3	5	2	10
No. of sites	4	10	6	6	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	8

Herts: North Mymms Park (1).

Middx: Plumridge Farm, one on a bean field on Jun 9th.

Bucks: Horton Fields (1).

In Lond: Battersea PS, singles over on May 12th and 19th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one on May 6th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 21st, one on Aug 26th & 31st, three on Sep 23rd, one on Sep 28th, two on Oct 17th, one on Oct 22nd.

SUB-SPECIES: Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

There were five records this year (as well as a 'Channel Wagtail' reported in Appendix II). All were single birds in the spring.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on May 6th.

Herts: Great Amwell, one on Apr 26th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on May 5th. London Wetland Centre, singles on May 6th & 12th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 49 records of confirmed or probable breeding, which is higher than the past three years, although there were fewer in Essex and Middlesex and more in Hertfordshire. A survey of the whole of the River Wandle yielded sightings at 19 sites with confirmed breeding at 11. The records listed below are all of single breeding unless shown. There were no definite breeding records in Inner London but some suggestive of breeding locally are given below. During autumn passage, counts of ten or more were reported from London Wetland Centre and Rye Meads.

Essex: Marks Gate, Walthamstow FB, Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Aberford Park, Bentley Priory, Bury Lake, Carpenders Park, Cassiobury Park, Chess Valley, Croxley Common Moor, Great Amwell, Hertford, Hilfield Park Res, Maple Lodge NR, Panshanger Aerodrome, Park Street, Rye Meads (2), Stanstead Abbots, Stocker's Farm, Troy Mill Lake, Tyttenhanger GP, Water Hall Farm.

Middx: Alexandra Park, Brent Res, Bushy Park, Enfield Lock, Hampstead Heath.

Kent: Bexley Woods, Crossness, Fooks Cray Meadows, Lamorbey Park, Sevenoaks WR.

Surrey: Croydon, Moorhouse, R Wandle (11), Richmond Park, Treveux.

In Lond: Battersea PS, a pair on May 12th. Fulham, family group of four on May 31st. High Holborn WC1, adult feeding a juv on Jul 20th. Limehouse Basin, one singing on Jun 20th. Regent's Park, pair on May 27th. West Smithfield EC1, male singing on May 19th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The 41 confirmed or probable breeding records are about twice as many as the past two years. However this is because of more breeding records from Hertfordshire. To judge by the number of records from Hertfordshire and the absence of records from Kent, there must be serious under-reporting of this species; more records would be very welcome. The roost of 3,000 reported at Heathrow Airport was far higher than any recent roost counts. From 2000-2011, the highest seems to have been 550 in Croydon in 2002 and last year the highest was 305 at Harold Hill. However there has been a higher count of 4,300 at Orpington in 1977. Orpington also had 2,820 in 1978 and there were counts of over 1,000 at Maple Cross SF in 1978 and at Rye PS in 1980. (A Self. The Birds of London. 2014 and LBR 1978, 1980.) All sites with breeding records are listed below, as well as peak counts and maximum winter roosting numbers.

Essex: Kelvendon Hatch (1). Leyton, 39 on Oct 6th. Wanstead, 25 roosting at The George Pub on Mar 11th. Watton's Green (1).

Herts: Abbots Langley (1). Aldenham CP (1). Batchworth Heath (1). Bell Bar (1). Bernards Heath (1). Blackfan Wood (1). Brickendonbury (1). Croxley Green (1). Cuffley (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Hertford (1); 150+ roosting in Jan. Hilfield Park Res (1). Lynsters Farm, 50 on site on Mar 5th. Maple Cross (1). Millward's Park (1). Nashe's Farm (1). North Mymms Park (1). Northaw (1). Potters Bar (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Ridge (1). Rye Meads (1). Smallford (1). Stocker's Farm (1). Symondshyde Great Wood (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Water End (1). Water Hall Farm (1). Welham Green (1). Welwyn Garden City, 300 roosting on Jan 3rd and 280 on Dec 15th. Woodoaks Farm (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Chase Farm Hospital, 95 pre-roosting in Feb. Heathrow Airport T5, 2,000-3,000 roosting in Jan. Home Park (3). Staines Res (1). Wraysbury Res, 93 on Aug 31st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 40 on Nov 5th.

Kent: Bromley, 135 roosting on Jan 8th. Crossness Southern Marsh, c50 on Dec 26th. Forest Hill, c40 roosting on Jan 15th. Sidcup, 100+ roosting in Jan.

Surrey: Berrylands (1). Beddington Farmlands, 120 on Oct 21st. Croydon, 50 roosting in North End on Nov 25th. London Wetland Centre (1). QE II Res (1). Richmond Park (1). Sutton, 90 roosting in High St in Jan.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two juv on Jun 11th.

SUB-SPECIES: White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

There were c100 records this year, which is the highest count since 2006. As usual, some of these records are of the same birds seen on consecutive or near consecutive days. Spring passage was from March 2nd to May 28th, although there were also two June and one July records. Autumn passage was from August 26th to October 11th. Only 11 of the records were in the autumn. Counts of three or more are listed below.

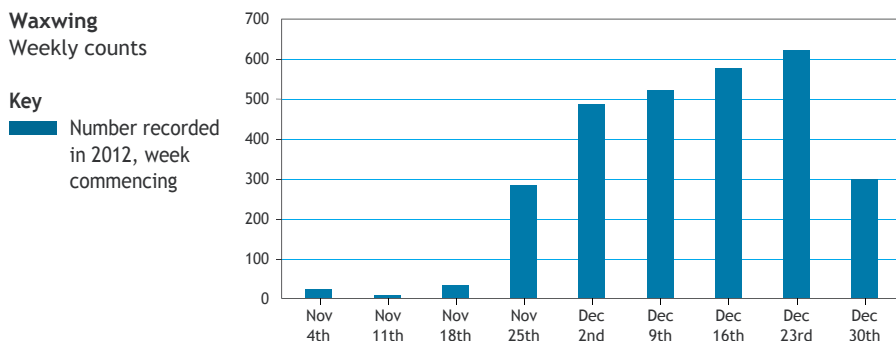
Essex: KGV Res, six on Apr 19th and three on 27th.

Middx: Staines Res, three to eight on all but two days between Apr 9th & 20th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, three on Apr 12th.

Surrey: Walton Res, three on Apr 10th & 11th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, four on Sep 23rd and three on Oct 11th.



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: uncommon but sometimes numerous irruptive visitor.

Winter 2011/12 was not an irruption winter for Waxwings, so at the start of the year there were records at only 12 sites. The highest count was 20 at KGV Res on January 14th and the last was at Letty Green on February 23rd. By contrast, winter 2012/13 saw the start of a small irruption in November, the second in three years. The chart shows the weekly total numbers including records taken from the London Bird Club Wiki site. This was on nothing like the scale of the 2010/2011 irruption when weekly totals reached the thousands rather than the peak of 618 this year. Sites that had counts of 25 or more are listed below along with their peak count. All Inner London records are also shown.

Essex: Chafford Hundred, from Dec 12th-30th, with peak of 100 on 12th. Grays, 50 on Dec 18th-19th. Lakeside Shopping Centre, 151 on Dec 31st. Thames Chase, 60 on Dec 31st.

Herts: Potters Bar, 30 over on Dec 4th. Welham Green, 27 on Dec 31st. Welwyn Garden City, peak of 55 from Dec 3rd-4th.

Middx: Heathrow Airport, 38 on Nov 30th. Mill Hill, from Dec 28th-31st, with peak of c100 on 28th & 30th.

Kent: Albany Park, c25 on Dec 6th.

Surrey: Croydon, from Nov 26th-Dec 1st, with peak of 34 on Dec 1st. Ewell, from Dec 14th-17th, with peak of 52 on 17th. Streatham Hill, 26 on Dec 8th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Nov 24th, two on Dec 16th. St Magnus the Martyr Church, two on Dec 12th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

We still receive few records of this very common and widespread species. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012, but a 35% increase from 1995-2011. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories (number in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (22). Bury Lake (22). Cole Green Tip (14). Coopers Green Lane (17). Hatfield Aerodrome (19). Hertford (11). Rye Meads (67). West Hyde (22).

Middx: Home Park (39). Queen's Wood (12).

Kent: Darenth Lake (16). Greenwich Park (20+). Sevenoaks WR (14).

Surrey: Addington Hills (18). Arbrook Common (15). Banstead Woods (47). Beddington Farmlands (74). Croydon, reported from 82% of gardens taking part in a local survey, up from 75% in 2011. Lloyd Park (13). Molesey Heath (29). Richmond Park (30). The Ledges, Esher (26). West End Common (25).

In Lond: Regent's Park, 14 on Oct 6th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

As with the previous species we continue to receive few records of this similarly common and widespread species. The Breeding Bird Survey suggests no change in status in London since last year but a 7% increase in the UK. Breeding records are given below for sites where five or more territories (number in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Thornwood Common (5).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (12). Blackgreen Wood, 18 on Feb 11th. Bury Lake (8). Cole Green Tip (9). Essendon (6). Hatfield Aerodrome (8). North Watford, 15 on Feb 14th. Rye Meads (31); 20 on Nov 11th. Tyttenhanger GP (6). Welwyn Garden City, 14 on Mar 29th. West Hyde (7).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (10). Home Park (6). Wormwood Scrubs (8+).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 12 on Dec 11th. Darenth Lake, 22 on Mar 9th. Greenwich Park (10+).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (46); 25 in November. Canons Farm (14). Croydon, reported from 90% of gardens taking part in a local survey, almost the same as in 2010 and 2011. Limpsfield Chart (20). London Wetland Centre (6). Molesey Heath (14). Richmond Park (25). West End Common (6).

In Lond: The only records were of ones and twos from Battersea Park, Hammersmith Cemetery, Regent's Park and Victoria Park.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

This is another very familiar and common species for which only limited numbers of records are submitted. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012, but a 76% increase from 1995-2011. Breeding



Dunnock. (Basil Thornton)

records are given below for sites where ten or more territories (number in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Epping (10). Rainham Marshes, 40 on Oct 24th.

Herts: Bury Lake (17). Cole Green Tip (12). Rye Meads (30).

Middx: Home Park (43). Queen's Wood (12). Wormwood Scrubs (10+).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 45 on Oct 11th. Darenth Lake (10). Greenwich Park (25+). Sevenoaks WR, 44 on Oct 6th.

Surrey: Addington Hills (25). Arbrook Common (20). Banstead Woods (40). Beddington Farmlands (41); 30 in January. Canons Farm (10). Croydon, reported from 100% of gardens taking part in a local survey. Esher Common (11). Lloyd Park (12). London Wetland Centre (15); 76 on Oct 9th. Molesey Heath (16). The Ledges, Esher (15). West End Common (25).

In Lond: Regent's Park, 44 on Oct 6th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

There was an increase in both territories and sites, from 26+ territories in 2011 to 31 this year. There was a significant increase at Bookham Common from seven to 17 and an increase from three to six territories at Cheshunt GPs. Worryingly, six of the nine sites that held one or more territories in 2011 had none at all this year: Dagenham Chase, Lippitts Hill, Rise Park and Thorndon CP in Essex; Stanborough Lakes in Herts; and Wormwood Scrubs in Middlesex. However Botany Marshes in Kent gained territories. The BBS data suggests a 14% decline in England since 2011 and a 42% decline from 1995-2011 (BTO website).

The first bird of the year was singing at Beddington Farmlands on April 14th followed by four at Fishers Green on the 16th. From 29th there were daily records at several sites. After June 10th there were only two records: one at London Wetland Centre on June 25th, and one glimpsed at Wormwood Scrubs on September 3rd. All records are summarised below, with no. of territories in brackets.

Essex: Fishers Green (6). Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 27th. Thorndon CP, one on Apr 27th. Walthamstow Marsh, one on Apr 28th.

Herts: Amwell NR, six records between May 3rd & 29th. Cheshunt GPs (6). Coopers Green Lane, one on May 16th.

Middx: Finsbury Park, one on May 3rd. Wormwood Scrubs, one on May 9th and Sep 3rd.

Kent: Botany Marshes (2). Brooklands Lakes, three singing on May 26th & 30th. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Apr 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 14th and May 8th. Bookham Common (17). Chessington, one singing from Apr 14th-May 3rd. London Wetland Centre, one on Jun 25th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one on May 4th.

In Lond: St James's Park, one was heard singing on May 17th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

Recorded from 37 sites outside Inner London through the course of the year, well up on

the 21 sites last year. The number of breeding season pairs and singing males in Inner London is markedly down compared to the last couple of years, although this reduction was exactly offset by the increases seen in Kent and Middlesex. As usual there were some short staying birds moving through at a number of sites in spring and autumn. Breeding records are summarised in the table and all other records are given below.

Black Redstart	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Kent	-	2	2
Middx	1	3	3
Surrey	-	1	1
In Lond	2	2	6

Essex: Beckton SW, one on Dec 30th. Creekmouth, Barking, one on Mar 29th. Fairlop Waters, one on Mar 17th & 18th. Gallions Reach, one on Apr 22nd and Jun 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, female on May 2nd. KGV Res, female on Apr 14th & 15th and one on Nov 12th. Lakeside Shopping Centre, male on Sep 7th. Leyton, one on Oct 14th. Leytonstone, one on Mar 18th. Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 8th and a male on Mar 25th.

Herts: Kings Langley, female on Mar 18th. Woodoaks Farm, males on Mar 20th and Apr 13th.

Middx: Bushy Park, female on Apr 18th. Rectory Farm, one fem/imm from Nov 9th-14th. Wraysbury Res, one on Nov 3rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Mar 15th, Apr 30th, Oct 9th & 19th and Nov 28th.

Kent: Belvedere, male on May 20th. Bexleyheath, male on May 19th. Crossness, one on Dec 16th & 21st. Greenwich Peninsula, two during the last week of September. Woolwich, one on May 30th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, male from Mar 17th-29th; imm on Apr 6th & 7th. QE II Res, male on Mar 24th. Richmond Park, fem/imm from Oct 26th-28th. Walton Res, one on Mar 21st.

In Lond: London Bridge, singles on three dates in January and February. Tower Bridge, three on Mar 15th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: passage migrant.

Spring passage consisted of 32 records (down on the 40 in 2011 but still well up on the three years before that). The first was at Hampstead Heath on April 1st. There was then a ten day gap before the next arrival period, which saw 18 birds arrive from April 11th to 15th. The first female was not seen until April 27th, at Crystal Palace Park. The last spring record was on May 8th at Bushy Park.

Returning birds were at Ridlands on June 28th, followed by one on July 19th, two on August 3rd and one on 11th. From August 20th, there were records on almost every day until September 13th. There were 70 records of at least 92 birds during the autumn period (compared with 55 birds in 2011 and 100 in 2010); most records were of singles, with the highest count being four at Wanstead Flats on August 26th. The last was at Tyttenhanger GP on October 10th. The table below shows the weekly counts.

Common Redstart weekly totals in autumn

Week commencing	Aug	Aug	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep	Oct
	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7
No. of birds	8	33	30	5	3	3	5	1

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 11th, 21st & 27th, Aug 21st, 22nd & 30th, and Sep 11th-13th. St Magnus the Martyr Church, one on Sep 4th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

The first arrivals didn't appear until April 27th (twenty days later than in 2011) when singles occurred at Canons Farm, Chorleywood and Croxley Common Moor. There were then records on most days until May 16th although 53 of the 88 birds involved were seen between May 2nd and 8th. There were several high counts then, including fives at Staines Moor, Fairlop Waters and Beddington Farmlands. Spring passage was over by May 16th.

Returning migrants were at Canons Farm on July 23rd, Bushy Park on 26th, Pinner Park Farm on August 3rd and London Wetland Centre on 11th. The main autumn migration began on 15th, with birds then seen almost every day until September 27th. There were 222 records of 390 birds in this year's autumn passage, compared to c348 birds in 2011 and 545 in 2010. The pattern of weekly records is given in the table below. Passage was much more concentrated than last year with most appearing in late August and early September. The highest count was eight at Wanstead Flats on August 31st but there were also counts of five at Crayford Marshes, Ingrebourne Valley, Osterley Park and Staines Moor. The last were singles at Stocker's Farm and London Wetland Centre on October 14th.

Whinchat weekly totals in autumn

Week commencing	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep	Oct	Oct
	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14
No. of birds	2	12	52	109	107	42	39	10	11	2	2

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on May 8th and Aug 21st.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and recently declining winter visitor.

In January there were records from eight sites, compared to five in 2011 and 26 in 2010. An additional four sites recorded birds in February but the majority of records during these first two months were at London Wetland Centre (up to four) and Rainham Marshes (up to six). Passage migrants appeared during March when there were records from a total of 17 sites. As with previous years most had left by the end of March and only Crossness and Rainham Marshes reported one in April. There was only one confirmed breeding record, from Richmond Park.

Return passage was mainly from September 15th and by the end of the month 15 sites had produced 29 records, whilst October saw 91 records from 31 sites. The highest count

Whinchat is a regular migrant, and this one stopped off on its return journey at Wanstead Flats. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

of the autumn (and indeed the year) was 11 at Richmond Park in October. By mid-November birds were wintering at Bushy Park, Crayford Marshes, London Wetland Centre, Rainham Marshes and Staines Moor. This is the same number of sites as last year but still down on the year before. There is no sign yet of their wintering numbers returning to that of earlier years. Breeding season records and the only Inner London record are given below.

Essex: Bulphan Fen, two on May 11th.

Rainham Marshes, one was seen on a number of dates in April and a family party was seen on Aug 14th, although there was no suggestion that breeding had occurred on site.

Middx: Bushy Park, a male on Jul 13th & 20th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, a male on May 2nd and a juv on Aug 13th & 20th.

Surrey: Richmond Park (1), a pair fledged two young.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 13th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

Spring passage began at Q. Mother Res on March 15th, with daily records from March 31st and the last on June 14th. There were 518 records which was much higher than last year's 395. Most counts of ten or more fell within the period April 11th to May 12th. The highest count was 31 at Rainham Marshes.



Autumn passage began gradually with two at London Wetland Centre on July 7th then one at Wormwood Scrubs on 15th and one at Q. Mother Res on 17th. Singles at Alexandra Park on 28th and Q. Mother Res on 29th began the main autumn passage and there were records almost every day from August 3rd to October 9th. After that there were only eight records, the last at Beddington Farmlands on October 23rd. In contrast with spring, autumn records

This Wheatear was one of several to linger on Wanstead Flats during the autumn passage. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



were down on last year, with 215 records rather than 369 in 2011. The peak passage period was from August 27th to September 19th. The highest count was 16 at Q. Mother Res, with all other counts being eight or fewer. For the third year running numbers were much heavier in the spring than the autumn, with 71% of the records in spring. Perhaps Wheatears now have a different route in the autumn so that fewer pass through London?

There were 17 records of about 27 birds which were considered by their observers to show characteristics of the race *leucorhoa*. These were at: Alexandra Park, Bushy Park, Croxley Common Moor, Parkside Farm, Q. Mother Res, Rainham Marshes, Regent's Park, South Lodge Farm, Staines Moor and Staines Res.

In Lond: Battersea PS, two on May 12th. Regent's Park, records from Mar 18th-May 8th and Aug 21st-Sep 8th, including individuals of the *leucorhoa* race on May 1st and Sep 3rd & 5th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

The first arrival was at Walthamstow Res on April 4th. After a day's gap there were singles at Staines Moor on 6th, then Tyttenhanger GP and Wanstead Flats on 7th. The main arrival period was from April 8th to 24th and most birds moved through within one to two days, although there were birds present for five days or more at Totteridge Valley, Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, Wimbledon Common, Staines Moor and Canons Farm. The last was on May 20th at Barking Bay and the highest spring count was five at Bushey Bank on April 21st. There were about 48 individuals at 22 sites, very similar to last year's high total.

Autumn passage was almost as high as spring passage with around 40 birds at 18 sites, the peak being five at Bushey Bank. As we showed in LBR 2011, the numbers in autumn are usually lower than those in spring. The first was at Brent Res on September 23rd, followed by one at Regent's Park on 28th. There was a two week gap until the main passage period, which ran from October 13th to 23rd (so about two weeks later than the peak period in autumn 2010 which involved a similar number of birds). There were four November records, with singles recorded at Leyton Flats on 2nd, Wanstead Flats on 8th, and finally at both Rainham Marshes and West Thurrock Marshes on 18th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Sep 28th and two on Oct 21st.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

As usual this species is very under-recorded, especially regarding breeding evidence. At the four sites below where we have breeding counts for both this year and last year, only one showed an increase and three showed a decrease. This contrasts with last year, when four out of five sites showed an increase in the number of territories. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012, but a 24% decline from 1995-2011, so more breeding records would be welcomed. Breeding records are given below at sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Barking Bay, 40 on Oct 20th. Rainham Marshes, 40 on Oct 23rd and 60 on Dec 5th. Wanstead Flats, 30 on Nov 10th. West Ham Park (14).

Herts: Bedmond (13). Bricket Wood (6). Broxbourne (7). Broxbourne Woods (6). Bushey Hall (6). Chorleywood (5). Cole Green Tip (11); 27+ on Jan 26th. Coopers Green Lane (13). Cuffley (8). Eastbury (9). Essendon (8). Essendonbury (1). Hertford (10). Northaw Great Wood (5). Radlett (5). Rye Meads (20); 40 on Nov 24th. West Hyde (13).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (8). Home Park (37). Horsenden Hill, 40 on Dec 8th. Staines Moor, 38 on Oct 23rd. Wormwood Scrubs, 40 on Nov 3rd.

Kent: Chipstead Lake (11); 60 on Nov 23rd and Dec 11th. Darenth Lake (20); 60 on Feb 7th. Sevenoaks WR (15); 68 on Dec 5th.

Surrey: Addington Hills (21). Arbrook Common (17). Beddington Farmlands (24); up to 30 in April, October and November. Canons Farm (17). Croydon, reported from all bar one of gardens taking part in a local survey. Lloyd Park (14); 43 on Jan 6th. London Wetland Centre (25); 41 on Nov 9th. Molesey Heath (16). Selsdon Wood (12). Shirley Park GC (17). The Ledges, Esher (8). West End Common (9).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, 30 on Dec 16th. Regent's Park, 50 on Oct 23rd and 52 on Nov 28th. Vauxhall Park (2).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers at the start of the year shot up in early February with the cold snap moving birds when 850 were at Beddington Farmlands with 600 at Hampstead Heath, Regent's Park and Rainham Marshes and they were reported in 43% of gardens in Croydon which participated in the regular garden survey. Numbers soon went back to normal and they were recorded regularly up to early April, with the last at Wanstead Flats on April 19th.

The first autumn record was on September 9th at Dartford, the next on 23rd at Regent's Park. These were followed by six at Amwell NR on October 2nd, then 12 at Rainham Marshes and two at Wanstead Flats on 9th, after which sightings became daily. Strong passage was first noted on October 26th, when over 1,000 were seen across ten sites. The 27th saw 2,800+ across 18 sites, whilst the 28th produced around 7,750 across 28 sites. There were further movements on November 6th, with 4,800+ over 21 sites. There was an impressive 61 counts of 200 or more birds this year, compared to 20 last year and 29 in 2010. The notes below list high counts for each winter period.

Essex: Chafford Hundred, 800 on Feb 10th. Fairlop Waters, 500 on Jan 8th. Gallions Reach, 880 on Oct 28th. Rainham Marshes, 600 on Feb 7th. Wanstead Flats, 650 on Nov 6th.

Herts: Rye Meads, 300 on Feb 11th. Stocker's Lake, 383 on Jan 7-8th.

Middx: Brent Res, 340 on Oct 28th. Hampstead Heath, 600 on Feb 6th and 300 on Nov 6th. Horsenden Hill, 420 on Feb 11th. Osterley Park, 400 on Feb 6th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 400 on Feb 6th and 380 on Oct 27th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, 800 on Nov 6th. Northfleet, 1,735 over on Oct 28th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, 350 on Jan 6th and 500 on Oct 26th. Chessington, c400 SW on Feb 11th. London Wetland Centre, 400 on Feb 10th; 1,065 on Oct 28th. Richmond Park, 300 on Feb 6th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 600 on Feb 6th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Status: common, but locally declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The breeding numbers for the nine sites where we have totals for both 2011 and 2012 showed a significant increase, with 113 territories, compared to 97 in 2010. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012, but a 33% decline from 1995-2011, so more breeding records would be welcomed. There was evidence of passage movements in the autumn, especially during the last week of October. Below are breeding records for sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Barking Bay, 18 on Oct 24th. Grange Waters, 17 on Oct 21st. Ingrebourne Valley (7). Leyton, 15 on Oct 20th. Rainham Marshes, 21 on Oct 22nd. Wanstead Flats, 35 on Oct 25th. Warley Place, 25 on Oct 22nd.

Herts: Beech Farm (6). Coopers Green Lane (5). Hatfield Aerodrome (6). Rye Meads (13).

Middx: Alexandra Park (10+). Bedfont Lakes CP (5). Brent Res, 80 counted on visual migration watches conducted between Oct 7th and Nov 26th. Hampstead Heath, 15 over during a six hour spell on Oct 20th. Home Park (6). Horsenden Hill (18). Staines Moor, 28 on Oct 23rd. Tottenham Marshes (12).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (8). Banstead Woods (7). Beddington Farmlands (5); up to 30 in December. Canons Farm (17). Croydon, reported from 72% of gardens taking part in a local survey. Limsfield Chart, (10). London Wetland Centre (6); 43 on Oct 11th and 108 over on Oct 27th. Molesey Heath (8). Richmond Park (23); 60 over on Oct 27th. South Norwood CP (10). Trevereux (7).

In Lond: Battersea Park (3). Hammersmith Cemetery (1). Regent's Park, ten on Oct 21st. St James's Park (1).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were some noticeable cold weather movements in early February with six counts of over a thousand and counts of well over 2,000 on February 7th at both Bushy Park and Greenwich Park. Almost all had left by April 11th, with lingering singles at Wimbledon Common on 14th, South Norwood Lake on 29th, and Romford GC on May 1st. The first returning migrant was at South Norwood Lake on September 14th, with the next at Leyton Flats on 27th, followed by 20 at Croydon the following day. Passage movements gained in strength in early October and 2,100 were counted over Paddington Green on 4th. There was a significant movement on the 20th when five sites recorded 500 or more overhead. During the year as a whole there were 52 counts of 200 or more, which is four times as many as in 2011 and more than double the number in 2010 and 2009. A leucistic bird was seen at Grange Park on February 8th. All counts of 500 or more are listed below, along with the most notable counts for Inner London.

Essex: Hornchurch, 500 on Feb 9th. Leyton, 1,200 on Oct 20th. Sewardstone Marsh, 520 on Feb 4th. Wanstead Flats, 500 on Oct 20th.

Herts: Rye Meads, 780 on Oct 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, 617 on Oct 20th.

Middx: Bushy Park, 2,450 on Feb 7th. Hampstead Heath, 1,000+ on Feb 6th and 500+ on Oct 20th. Wormwood Scrubs, 800 on Oct 28th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, 2,150 on Feb 7th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, 1,460 on Feb 4th, 1,100 on 6th and 650 on 10th. Richmond Park, 520 on Oct 27th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, 100+ on Feb 10th & 11th. Paddington Green, 2,100 on Oct 4th. Piccadilly, W1, 60+ flew north on Feb 12th. Regent's Park, 380 on Feb 4th, 1,060 on 6th, 110 on 7th, 190 on 9th and 650 on 11th; 285 on Oct 23rd and 156 on 27th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common breeding resident.

For sites where we have records for both 2011 and 2012 numbers remained fairly stable, although at Welham Green there was no breeding pair for the first time in over 15 years. The Breeding Bird Survey suggests a 49% decrease in London from 1995-2011. As usual most of the high counts were in summer or early autumn, with the highest being 31 at Richmond Park on August 28th. Below are breeding records for sites where three or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Leyton, 13 on Oct 7th. Thorndon CP (3). Wanstead Flats, 20 on Aug 24th. Weald Park (3); 16 on Sep 21st. West Ham Park, 12 on Oct 14th.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, 14 on Aug 21st. Hatfield Park (3). Millward's Park (5+). Ridge, 18 on Oct 15th. Sopwell Mill, 14 on Sep 2nd. St Albans (3+), 24 on Jul 17th. Tyttenhanger GP, 24 on Jun 10th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (3). Bushy Park, 18 on Sep 23rd. Hampstead Heath, 25 on Aug 26th. Home Park (8). Horsenden Hill (5). Oakwood Park, 26 on Aug 27th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 12 on Jul 4th.

Kent: Darenth Lake, 12 on Mar 9th. Foots Cray Meadows, 12 on Aug 6th. Greenwich Park (6+).

Redwing. (Les Harrison). Mistle Thrush. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Surrey: Croydon, reported from 33% of gardens taking part in a local survey, up from 24% in 2011. Richmond Park, 31 on Aug 28th. Wimbledon Common (20+).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Hammersmith Cemetery (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3). Larkhall Park (1). Regent's Park, 16 on Oct 21st. Southwark Park (1). Victoria Park (2).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor, but increasing breeder.

This is a skulking species, often only making its presence known by its distinctive song or call. Recording Cetti's Warblers is complicated; both sexes apparently sing, singing is not necessarily confined to the breeding season and males can breed simultaneously with up to three females. There was an increase in the number of sites where it was reported. It would be useful if observers, especially at the more populous sites, could give some estimate of territories.

Essex: Admirals Walk Lake, singles on Apr 10th and Nov 16th. Barking Bay, one on Feb 3rd. Belhus Woods CP, singles on three dates. Cornmill Meadows, one or two on three dates May-Aug. Creekmouth, Barking, singles on three dates during the spring and on Nov 18th. Dagenham Chase, recorded from Mar 24th in most months to the end of year with three on Jun 24th. Fishers Green Island, singles on seven dates from Jan 8th until Jun 10th, with two on Apr 30th. Grange Waters, two on Oct 21st. Hall Marsh Scrape, two on Mar 9th and singles on Apr 1st & 7th. Holyfield Lake, singles on Feb 23rd, Mar 31st & May 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, recorded all year with 34 singing on Mar 10th and 42 singing on Apr 15th. KGV Res, singles on Apr 13th, May 1st & 5th. Langridge Scrape, singles on Mar 14th & 21st and Apr 6th. Mar Dyke Valley, two on Mar 20th. Netherhall GP, one on Feb 11th then up to four Apr-Jul. Rainham, one on Feb 14th-15th and two on Mar 12th. Rainham Marshes (2+); 13 singing on Apr 4th, two broods noted on Jun 13th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Nov 18th.

Herts: Amwell NR (3). Bowyer's Water, one on Nov 13th. Brimsdown, one on Mar 25th. Broxbourne GP (1). Bury Lake (1). Cheshunt, one on May 5th. Cheshunt Marsh (1). Friday Lake, one on Dec 31st. Great Amwell (1). Helicon Lake, one on Apr 30th. Maple Lodge NR, one on many dates between Sep 18th & Nov 15th. Rye Meads (8); ten on Apr 22nd. Seventy Acres Lake (1). Stanstead Innings, one on Mar 31st, four on Apr 14th and one on Sep 30th. Stocker's Lake (1). West Hyde, one on Apr 30th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, one on Apr 1st. Staines Moor, one on Jun 3rd. Stanwell Moor (2). Wormwood Scrubs, one on Sep 23rd was only the second site record.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Dec 8th. Wryasbury GP, one on six dates between Mar 20th and Oct 25th.

Kent: Belvedere, one on Apr 2nd. Botany Marshes, two on May 7th & 13th. Brooklands Lakes, three on May 26th. Crayford Marshes, recorded throughout the year, a maximum of four singing in Oct/Nov. Crossness (7). Dartford Marshes (3). Swanscombe Marshes, seven on Apr 27th. Thamesmere West Lake, one on many dates Jan 16th to Apr 22nd and Nov 10th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (1), this was the first territorial record here. Leg O' Mutton NR, one on Apr 4th. London Wetland Centre (8); twelve on Nov 15th. Molesey Heath, one on Nov 6th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

It was a poor year and a late year for this species. The first birds of the year did not turn up until April 21st (2010 April 4th, 2011 April 10th) at Hatfield Aerodrome and Rye Meads; a further nine arrived during the course of the next month. As is usual with this species few are recorded after the end of July. There were just two records in August and then one on September 12th was the last. Territorial estimates and all other records are given below (no. of territories in brackets).

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, one on three dates between Apr 27th & May 2nd. Lippitts Hill, one Aug 16th. Rainham Marshes (1); one singing on many dates between May 7th & Jun 10th, it or another Aug 10th.

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Bowyer's Water, one on May 13th. Cheshunt, one on May 2nd. Elstree Aerodrome, one on Sep 12th. Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Rye Meads (3).

Middx: Rammey Marsh, one on May 23rd & Jun 20th.

Kent: Botany Marshes, one on May 13th. Dartford Marshes, one on Apr 30th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, one on Apr 27th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

An early arrival this year saw the first bird, at Rainham Marshes, on March 20th, the next was at Rye Meads on the 31st. From April 11th there were daily records, peaking around the third week of April. Breeding numbers were severely down on last year which were already down on 2010. BTO data suggests a 30% decline in population from 2011-2012 in England (BTO website). Return passage started in August, with Canons Farm having its first ever site record on 1st. Rye Meads recorded the highest number count of the autumn, 30 on August 11th. September records numbered more than 50 including 17 at Rye Meads on the 8th and seven at London Wetland Centre on the 9th. There were just two October records both at Rye Meads on the 4th & 6th. Below are breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Netherhall GP (7). Rainham Marshes (15). Sewardstone Marsh (2).

Herts: Amwell NR (5). Beech Farm GP (2). Rye Meads (37). Stocker's Lake (5). Tyttenhanger GP (2).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (2). Brent Res (4). Tottenham Marshes (3).

Kent: Crayford Marshes (2). Crossness (3).

In Lond: Bankside SE1, one singing from May 1st-12th and 22nd was an unusual record; one on Aug 9th-10th. Regent's Park, singles on May 4th & 9th.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

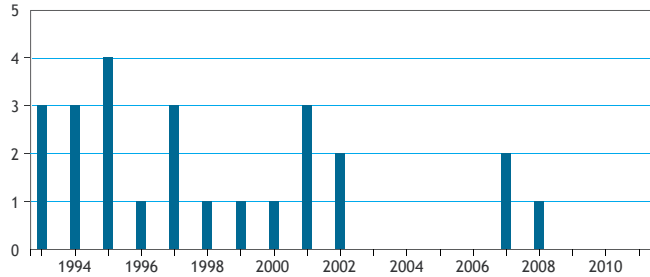
Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder.

After no records since 2008, a singing male at Rainham Marshes, further strengthened the dominance of Essex sites for this species; the majority of sightings over the last 30 years coming from this sector of London. Nearly all the records have been in May and June. They bred at two sites in 2001 and may have bred at one site in 2002. There were earlier breeding records in 1996 and perhaps in 1997. They were more numerous from

Marsh Warbler
1993-2011
22 records

Key

■ Number of records per year



1993-2002 when there were 22 records, since then there have only been two records in 2007 and one in 2008 (see chart).

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a singing male from Jun 1st-8th. (AT, DS_m, HV *et al.*)

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first arrival was at Rainham Marshes on April 8th and there were daily records from 13th. Passage peaked around the end of April and the beginning of May. Breeding season records came from 62 sites, up from 43 last year and 36 in 2010. Autumn migration peaked at the end of August and into the first week or so of September, the highest number recorded being 30 at Rye Meads on September 8th. Late birds were recorded at three sites in October, one at Amwell NR on 1st, three at Rye Meads on 6th and two at Leyton on 14th with one still present there on the 19th. It would be useful if observers at the main sites of this common breeding bird could estimate the number of pairs breeding as it is clearly being under recorded. Below are breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 91 on May 27th suggesting a large breeding population. Walthamstow Res (18).

Herts: Amwell NR (3). Beech Farm GP (4). Hatfield Aerodrome (4). Hilfield Park Res (4). Rye Meads (84). Tyttenhanger GP (2).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (50+). Brent Res (24). East India Dock Basin (4). Hampstead Heath (2). Horsenden Hill (8). Kempton NR (3). Tottenham Marshes (4). Stanwell Moor, one trapped in May, Jun & Jul had originally been ringed at Stoke Lake, Guildford.

Kent: Blackheath, one in a garden on Sep 20th. Crayford Marshes (22). Dartford Marshes (10). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (3). Thames Road Wetland (3-4)

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (25). Esher Common (4). Hersham GP (2). London Wetland Centre (34). Richmond Park (6). South Norwood CP (2). Walton Res (6).

In Lond: Bankside SE1, singles singing on May 2nd, 3rd, 12th, 18th & 22nd; then three on Aug 20th declining to one by 23rd. Canada Water, two singing on May 20th. Regent's Park (3); two on Sep 6th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Apr 20th.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

Status: rare vagrant.

A stunning find on the morning commute, London's ninth Melodious Warbler - in Leyton of all places! (Martin Blow)

This was a chance find on a busy road during the rush hour: the keen eared finder was alerted to the bird by its song. It lingered for three days and was well watched being only the 9th record for the London area and the first since 2000. Four of the records are from the Essex sector. Records are fairly evenly divided between spring (five between April 30th and June 11th) and early autumn (four between August 10th and September 20th). All records are shown in the table below.



Melodious Warbler records 1961-2000	8 records							
Year	1961	1964	1973	1981	1983	1987	1990	2000
No. of records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Essex: Leyton, one from May 16th-18th. In a small scrubby area backing onto the beach volleyball area on Oliver Road E10. (SF *et al*)

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

A fairly typical wintering situation despite, or perhaps because of, the inclement weather, most birds appearing in well stocked gardens. It is always difficult to determine true migrants from the winterers but birds began to appear at sites where none had wintered from March 6th, with the peak around the first ten days of April. They appear to still be doing well in London, with the Croydon Gardens survey finding them in 53% of participating gardens (up from 20% in 1995) and the Breeding Bird Survey showing a 155% increase in London from 1995-2011. Counts in autumn included 30 at Wormwood Scrubs on August 26th and 23 at South Norwood CP on September 3rd. Breeding records of five or more (no. of territories in brackets) and a summary of records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: Netherhall GP (10). Rainham Marshes (11). Sewardstone Marsh (10). Walthamstow Res (11).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (4). Bury Lake (7). Cole Green Tip (5). Coopers Green Lane (12). Hatfield Aerodrome (9). Rye Meads (45). Smallford GP (6+). Stocker's Lake (7+). West Hyde (9).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 23 on May 2nd.

Middx: Alexandra Park (15+). Bedfont Lakes CP (13). Brent Res (36). Bushy Park (20+). Home Park (21). Horsenden Hill (28-29). Tottenham Marshes (30). Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (8). Wormwood Scrubs (13).

Kent: Crayford Marshes (6). Footh Cray Meadows (30). Greenwich Park (6+). Lullingstone Park (10). Scadbury Park (10+). Sevenoaks WR (16).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (9). Banstead Woods (30). Beddington Farmlands (25). Canons Farm (10). Limpsfield Chart (9). Lloyd Park (12+). London Wetland Centre (8). Molesey Heath (32). Richmond Park (56). Riddlesdown (10+). Selsdon Woods (9). South

Norwood Lake (10+). The Ledges, Esher (12). West End Common (12). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c.90).

In Lond: Battersea Park (5). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 15 on May 6th. Regent's Park, peaks of 11 on Apr 6th and 18 on Sep 1st. St James's Park, one singing on May 31st. Victoria Park, one singing on May 19th. Records also from Bankside, Brockley NR, Burgess Park, Camberwell, Hammersmith Cemetery and Russia Dock Woodland.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

An extremely early bird on March 23rd at the London Wetland Centre heralded a generally early arrival of this migrant. Six more birds had arrived at an additional five sites by April 6th with passage peaking around the third week of April. Breeding was noted at 38 sites this year, Hertfordshire being particularly well surveyed. At the end of the year there were reports from only 14 sites in September with four at Wanstead Flats on the 2nd and four at Hampstead Heath on the 3rd; there was just one October record; at Danson Park on the 3rd. Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), and a summary of all records for Inner London.

Essex: Fishers Green Island (1). Netherhall GP (3).

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Cheshunt Marsh (1). Cole Green Tip (1). Coopers Green Lane (1). Croxley Green (1). Epping Green (2). Gobions Wood (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Lynsters Lake (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). North Mymms Park (1). Northaw (1). Panshanger Aerodrome (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Roe Hyde (1). Rye Meads (9). Stocker's Lake (8+). Symonshyde Great Wood (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). West Hyde (1). Woodoaks Farm (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (3). Brent Res (6). Hampstead Heath (1). Stanwell Moor (3). Tottenham Marshes (1). Trent Park (3).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 15 on May 5th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR (4).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (1). Island Barn Res (1). London Wetland Centre (1). Molesey Heath (4). Richmond Park (4). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (21).

In Lond: Bankside SE1, two on May 8th and one on 11th. Regent's Park, two on May 4th & 8th, and one on 10th; regular autumn records from Jul 25th-Sep 13th, with peaks of three on a remarkable 28 dates.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first arrival was on April 13th at the Waterworks NR; as usual birds piled in quickly after this, arrivals becoming daily from 20th and peaking in the first week of May. Breeding records were fewer than the last couple of years and autumn passage, which peaked in late August/early September, was subdued. The last record was at Rainham Marshes on October 1st. All breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some high autumn counts and all records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Ingrebourne Valley (2). Netherhall GP, three singing on Jun 24th. Rainham Marshes, five on Aug 31st. Sewardstone Marsh (1). Wanstead Flats,

three singing on May 9th, ten on Sep 2nd, 5th & 7th. Wanstead Park (1).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (2). Coopers Green Lane (2). Gobions Wood (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Millward's Park (1). Northaw (1). Ridge (1). Roe Hyde (1). Royal Veterinary College (1). Rye Meads (3). Water End (1).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Brent Res (2). Bushy Park (2). Horsenden Hill (2-3). Park Farm (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Vicarage Farm (1). Wormwood Scrubs (4).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, five on May 5th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (3). Dartford Marshes (1). Lullingstone Park (1).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (1). Island Barn Res (2). Molesey Heath, three juv together on Jun 13th.

In Lond: Bankside SE1, singles on May 8th and Aug 23rd. Holland Park, one on May 5th. Limehouse, one on May 11th. Regent's Park, three on May 1st, singles on Aug 5th, 20th, 23rd & 25th, Sep 1st and two on Sep 15th. Victoria Park, one on Sep 8th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

For what seems to be the first time ever, there were two winter records, both in early January; one at Walthamstow Res and another at Crayford Marshes. The first returning birds were at Lakeside Shopping Centre on the early date of March 9th, then at Bulphan Fen on the 19th and Thorndon CP on the 26th. Records were daily from April 9th, peaking in the last week of April and first week of May. Breeding reports were generally down after last year's good increase. There were five October records, the last at Wormwood Scrubs on the 18th. Below are breeding records of ten or more (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 23 males on May 2nd. Leyton, five records between Sep 27th and Oct 13th involving up to three birds. Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 4th was seen again on the 8th. Wanstead Flats, 30 on four dates between Aug 14th & 24th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (16). Croxley Common Moor, one on Oct 6th. Rye Meads (22); 20 on Sep 3rd.

Middx: Horsenden Hill (17-18). Lake Farm CP, 20 on Jul 14th. Staines Moor, one on Oct 14th. Tottenham Marshes (16). Wormwood Scrubs (11).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 27 on May 5th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (24); one on Jan 6th. Foots Cray Meadows (18).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (44). Molesey Heath (25). Richmond Park (34); ten on Sep 6th. South Norwood CP (12+). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (42); one on Oct 3rd.

In Lond: In spring, there were passage records from Bankside SE1, Battersea PS, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns and Regent's Park. Autumn passage records came from Bankside SE1, Nunhead Cemetery and Regent's Park.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Status: rare breeding species, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Still remains an amber list species due to a large decline in the 1960s after severe winters, since which it has made a steady recovery.

There were records from just two sites this year. This was the same as in 2010 and

similar to 2011, when there were three sites involved. 2009 was the last year when birds were recorded from several sites (13 sites) and 2007 was the last year when there were records in the breeding season.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Sep 9th (RH) and presumably the same on 21st (RSPB).

Kent: Dartford Marshes, one on Feb 5th (PR).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There was just one October record, after no records in 2011. The table below shows the changes in records over the decades. The October arrival date is typical for London and reflects the national pattern.

Yellow-browed Warbler records by decade		24 records								
Decade	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	
No. of birds	1	0	0	1	1	2	8	8	3	

Middx: Q. Mary Res, one trapped and photographed on Oct 13th (AB, Hershaw RG).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Just five records in spring (all in May) and two or three in the autumn (all in August) this year, which is fairly normal nowadays, the last confirmed breeding being in 1996. All records are given below.

Essex: Long Running, one on Aug 30th, the last record of the year (JM).

Herts: Frogmore Lakes, two singing males turned up on May 24th and were described as clashing over territory; one stayed until the 27th (SS *et al.*).

Kent: Scadbury Park, one singing on May 4th (CE).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on May 12th (DML), singles on Aug 8th (JP) & 12th (AG, RJW).
Hampstead Cemetery, one on May 5th (RG).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, and increasingly widespread in winter.

Chiffchaffs were recorded at 41 sites in the first two months of the year with a high of eight birds at Rye Meads on January 31st. In the second winter period birds were shared across 55 sites, with 13 at Broadwater Lake being the highest on November 30th. There were many Inner London winter reports: just one in the first winter period, at Camley St Natural Park on January 25th. The second winter period was better represented with up to five birds at Bankside SE1, two in Regent's Park and singles at Paddington Green and St James's Park.

Spring passage would appear to have started around the beginning of the second week in March; arrivals were daily from then on. In the autumn there were higher numbers reported than usual, especially at Wanstead Flats where the peak was 100 on August 23rd. Below are breeding records of five or more (no. of territories in brackets), some

Wood Warbler at Frogmore Lakes. (Andrew Moon)

high autumn counts and a summary of records for Inner London. There were very few breeding records from Essex - more would be welcome.

Essex: Gidea Park, 20 on Sep 24th. Ingrebourne Valley, 17 singing on May 2nd. Netherhall GP, 12 singing on Jun 24th. Walthamstow Marsh, 25 on Sep 9th. Wanstead Flats, 100 on Aug 23rd.

Herts: Cheshunt GPs, 35 on Sep 23rd. Coopers Green Lane (7). Hatfield Aerodrome (5). Redwell Wood Farm (8+). Rye Meads (21).

Middx: Alexandra Park (6+). Brent Res, 20 on Aug 9th. Broadwater Lake, 13 on Nov 30th, including a possible 'eastern' bird (*P. c. abietinus*). Hampstead Heath, 35 on Sep 3rd. Horsenden Hill (17). Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor, 22 on Oct 6th. Tottenham Marshes (16). Wormwood Scrubs (9).

Bucks: Wraybury GP, 15 on May 2nd and Oct 4th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 16 on Aug 24th. Foots Cray Meadows, 20+ singing on Apr 30th. Sevenoaks WR, 25 on Mar 28th and Apr 7th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (9). Banstead Woods (13). Beddington Farmlands (9). Croydon, reported from 18 gardens (22%) in 2012. Lloyd Park (10+). London Wetland Centre, 36 on Oct 10th. Molesey Heath (18). Richmond Park (27). Riddlesdown (10+). South Norwood Lake (7+). The Ledges, Esher (6). West End Common (9). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c60).

In Lond: Bankside SE1, spring and autumn passage records with surprisingly, a peak of five on Dec 18th. Battersea Park (1). Paddington Green, seven on Oct 1st & 11th and singles on four dates in Dec. Regent's Park (6); peak of 32 on Sep 19th. St James's Park, singles on Mar 30th, Nov 23rd & Dec 12th. Victoria Park, two on Oct 18th and three on Sep 8th. West Smithfield EC1, one on Mar 28th was stated as being the first recorded there by this observer.



Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant, declining as a breeding species in the London Area and UK-wide which has caused it to be amber listed.

The bird reported at Belhus Woods CP last December was also recorded on February 18th, suggesting it had wintered in the area. The first returning bird was on March 18th a similar date to last year. From March 29th arrivals were daily, peaking around the third week of April. Return passage began in early August peaking in about the third week. There were plenty of records in September but just five records of six birds in October; followed by one on November 14th at Q. Mother Res. We seem to be getting winter records in the last few years. In 2008 there was a late November record, in 2010 a February record and a November record, then the 2011 December record followed by this year's records in February and November. Since 2000, there

has otherwise just been one November record - November 8th in 2003. Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Cely Woods (4). Netherhall GP (1). Pages Wood (7). Thames Chase (4). Wanstead Flats, 10 on Aug 23rd.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (6). Bell Bar (1). Coopers Green GP (3). Cuffley (1). Essendon (1). Essendonbury (1). Gobions Wood (1). Hammond Street (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (2). Jersey Farm (1). Northaw Great Wood (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Rye Meads (1); 18 on Aug 11th. Smallford GP (1). Symondshyde Great Wood (1). Water End (1). Water Hall Farm (1). Wildhill (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (2), included a mixed singer for the second year. Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Brent Res, 11 on Aug 8th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Nov 14th was the last of the year; it had a damaged or deformed bill. Wraysbury GP, seven on Apr 15th and May 2nd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, five on April 13th. Darenth Lake, five on Apr 10th.

Surrey: Banstead Downs (2-3). Banstead Woods (3). Beddington Farmlands (1). Esher Common (1). London Wetland Centre, 15 on Sep 2nd. Molesey Heath (1). Richmond Park, 11 singing on Apr 1st. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (2).

In Lond: Bankside SE1, singles on Apr 13th, 16th & 24th; two on May 2nd, one on May 3rd & 4th, two on May 8th. Up to five individuals on 12 dates in August, two on Sep 3rd. Battersea Park, one on May 7th and two on Sep 13th. Holland Park, two on May 5th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Apr 27th. Regent's Park, up to six on five dates in April, and three dates in May; then recorded Jul 24th- Sep 16th, with a max of 30 on Aug 25th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Apr 20th. Victoria Park, one on Sep 8th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 226 territories recorded this year, up on the 164 last year. BBS data for England suggests a recent increase from 2010-2012 but changes up and down for this species are common (BTO website). Territory totals, breeding records with two or more pairs/singing males (numbers in brackets) and peak counts outside the breeding season are given below.

Essex: Eight territories. Belhus Woods CP, 20 on Nov 1st. Wanstead Flats, 20 on Nov 20th and Dec 1st.

Herts: 67 territories. Broxbourne Woods, 30+ on Feb 4th. Chorleywood (2). Chess Valley (2). Cole Green Tip (2). Hatfield Park (8). Northaw (2). Northaw Great Wood (7). Redwell Wood Farm (2). Rye Meads, 22 on Nov 3rd.

Middx: 45 territories. Alexandra Park (4+); 20 on Nov 11th. Grovelands Park (3). Home Park (2). Horsenden Hill (6-7); 18 on Oct 21st. Monken Hadley Common (3). Strayfield Road (2). Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (2). Trent Park (8). Wildwoods, Enfield (3).

Kent: 11 territories. Foots Cray Meadows, 20+ on Nov 8th. Greenwich Park (4-5). Lamorbey Park, c20 on Nov 16th.

Surrey: 94 territories. Addington Hills, 25 on Mar 8th. Banstead Woods (14). Croydon, reported in 38% of gardens participating in RSPB survey. Esher Common (4). London

Wetland Centre (2). Richmond Park (18). Sanderstead (11). Selsdon Park (2). Stambourne Wood (2). West End Common (4). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (33+).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Hammersmith Cemetery, juv on Jul 3rd. Regent's Park, 12 on Nov 11th. Victoria Park, seven on Nov 3rd.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Following the lower numbers at the end of 2011, there were fewer records at the start of 2012, but more at the end. There was also no evidence of breeding this year. Essex and Middlesex remain the most favoured counties as shown on the table below, but there were more Surrey records this year.

Firecrest	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Jan-Mar no. of sites	4	1	6	0	2	4	0	17
Oct-Dec no. of sites	16	0	9	0	4	8	1	38
Jan-Dec no. of sites	18	2	18	0	8	11	2	59

During January to March, there were only three sites with birds reported for any period of time: Greenwich Park, Grovelands Park and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. There were other records during this period from Barnes Common, Bedfords Park, Bookham Common, Hampstead Heath, Hayes Common, Osterley Park, Perivale Wood, Purfleet, Q. Mary Res, St Albans, Walton on the Hill, Wanstead Park, Warley Place and Waterlow Park.

There was no evidence of breeding this year, but more records of passage birds. In April, there was one at South Norwood CP on 1st, one singing at Mill Hill on 6th, singles at Rainham Marshes and at Woodside Park on 9th, one at Castle Wood as well as one singing at Kemnal Manor College on 11th, one at Amwell NR on 21st and one at Regent's Park on 27th. There was just one June record of one bird at Thorndon CP North on 3rd. In July a male found dead at Croham Hurst on 9th was believed to have been singing there for a few days before and one was at Bentley Priory on 31st.

In contrast to last year there were more records at the end of the year than at the start of the year. There was one on August 10th at Leyton Flats, two at Abney Park Cemetery NR on September 18th, followed by singles at Woodford Green on 20th and at Bankside SE1 on 28th. They were reported for lengthy periods from October onwards at Bedfords Park, Lamorbey Park, Leyton Flats, Middlesex FB, Regent's Park, Totteridge Valley, Trent Park, Wanstead Flats and Wanstead Park, Waterworks NR and Whitewebbs Wood. Other records came from Alexandra Park, Banstead Downs, Bookham Common, Crayford Marshes, Croham Hurst, Eagle Pond, Emerson Park, Great Warley, Gunnersbury Triangle NR, Ilford, Ingrebourne Valley, Knighton Wood, London Wetland Centre, Monken Hadley Common, Oxleas Wood, Perivale Wood, Petts Wood, Purfleet, Rainham Marshes, Spring Park Wood, Staines Moor, Streatham Common, The Mores, Upper Norwood, Walthamstow Marsh, Warley Place and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

There were six breeding records this year, the same as last year but less than previous years, although there appeared to be more spring and more autumn records. The first was on May 2nd at Staines Moor and the last was at Richmond Park on October 6th. Spring passage involved 44 birds rather than 25 last year, but most were singles with just 50 birds involved. Autumn passage involved about 319 birds, more than last year's 304, and the peak was from August 23rd to September 5th, as shown in the table below. All breeding season records are given below (no. of pairs in brackets), all Inner London records and peak counts.

Spotted Flycatcher weekly totals in autumn

Week commencing	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Sep	Sep	Sep	Sep
	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
No. of records	5	5	16	37	58	25	21	10	4
No. of birds	6	9	29	70	121	31	32	15	5

Essex: Long Running, five on Aug 30th. Stapleford Tawney (1). Wanstead Flats, five on Aug 23rd.

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Epping Green (1). Essendon (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Little Berkhamsted (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park, five on Aug 27th.

Surrey: Richmond Park, five on Aug 26th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, three on May 8th; in autumn, one on Aug 7th then regular from Aug 20th-Sep 28th, with peak of six on Sep 2nd & 3rd.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

There were more spring records this year, eight rather than the two last year and six of these were males. In fact this was the best spring since 2006 when there were 13 records. The first this year was at Fairlop Waters on April 6th. This is the earliest date since one on the same date in 1999; there was one on April 5th in 1995. Unsurprisingly, it was another week before one was at Osterley Park on 13th followed by one at Frogmore Lakes on 15th. Six days later, there were singles at Canons Farm and Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens. Three followed in May: on 1st a male was singing in Brockley NR and the last were females at Clothworkers Wood on 7th and at Birdbrook Road NR on 24th.

Autumn numbers were again higher than last year with about 16 birds involved (ten last year). Passage began on August 6th, with one at Regent's Park and perhaps the same bird there the next day. This was followed by one at Rainham Marshes on 10th with again perhaps the same bird on the next day. The next was on 16th at West Ham Park, followed by one on 18th at Regent's Park and singles at Harold Hill and Wanstead Flats on 19th. There were then singles on 22nd at Greenwich Park, on 24th at Wanstead Flats (with perhaps the same bird the next day). On 26th, there were singles at Warren Gorge and at Greenwich Park followed by singles at Barking Bay on 27th and at Walthamstow

Res on 31st. There were just four September records, all singles; at South Norwood CP and Thorney CP on 4th, at Regent's Park on 15th and the last at Barking Park on 19th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

There were records from 11 sites this year, with wintering birds at the Lower Thames Marshes and London Wetland Centre. A pair may have bred at Rainham Marshes again. All records are given below, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Nov 18th. Creekmouth, Barking, three on Mar 10th. Rainham Marshes, up to two at the start of the year, overwintering from 2011. Four on Mar 3rd with a pair staying to May 7th. A pair again from Oct 6th to year end, with ten on Oct 10th. Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 22nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Nov 13th, then two females from Nov 14th-15th. Rye Meads, a male and two females from Nov 10th-11th.

Middx: Brent Res, male on Nov 18th & 30th stayed into 2013. Kempton NR, singles from Oct 23rd-Nov 9th.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, two on Jan 11th and four on Mar 12th, then two on Oct 25th with one or two on four dates in November. Crossness, one intermittently from Apr 1st-20th; singles on Jul 15th, 26th & 29th and Aug 8th and Sep 9th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, singles on Feb 26th and Nov 7th, then up to three from Nov 29th-Dec 19th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

There were 354 territories recorded this year up from the 248 last year, although most sites where we had records from both years showed little change. In Croydon, they were reported in 88% of gardens participating in RSPB survey (up from 83% last year) and The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2011 to 2012. Regular reports of breeding would be welcomed. Territory totals, breeding records of more than two (numbers in brackets) are given below, all breeding records in Inner London, together with the peak counts for each sector.

Essex: 29 territories. Fairlop Waters (4). Leyton Flats, 35 on Sep 27th. Rainham Marshes (5). Redbridge Lakes & Roding Valley Park (3). Thorndon CP North (4). Watton's Green (3).

Herts: 112 territories. Amwell NR (5). Beech Farm GP (3). Cole Green Tip (4). Hertford (3). Hilfield Park Res, 30+ on Jan 25th. North Watford (3). Rye Meads (15). Smallford GP (4). Welwyn Garden City (13).

Middx: 58 territories. Alexandra Park (5). Bedfont Lakes CP (6). Home Park (5). Horsenden Hill, 31 on Aug 4th. Tottenham Marshes (4). Wormwood Scrubs (6).

Kent: 19 territories. Darenth Lake (5); 30 on Oct 9th. Fooths Cray Meadows (3).

Surrey: 126 territories. Banstead Woods (5). Beddington Farmlands (2). Canons Farm (5). London Wetland Centre (5); 33 on Aug 8th. Molesey Heath (7). Richmond Park (29). South Norwood Lake (4). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (60+). Worcester Park, 40 on Jun 17th.

In Lond: Ten territories. Battersea Park (3). Hammersmith Cemetery (2). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 50 on Oct 25th. Regent's Park (2); 56 on Oct 24th. Southwark Park (1). Victoria Park (2).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 10% decline in London from 2011 to 2012, perhaps due to the poor spring weather noted in the report from Horsenden Hill. There were 503 territories recorded compared with 555 last year and sites where we have counts for both years were down this year. Territory totals and breeding records of 15 or more are given below, except for Inner London where all breeding records are given. The peak count in each sector is also shown.

Essex: 19 territories. Rainham Marshes, a leucistic bird on Aug 31st. West Ham Park, 22 on Feb 23rd.

Herts: 240 territories. Rye Meads (21). Tyttenhanger GP, 36 on Jan 1st.

Middx: 63+ territories. Home Park (29); 26 on Dec 11th. Horsenden Hill, only 152 young ringed, compared with 248 last year, due to poor spring weather.

Bucks: 2 territories.

Kent: 28 territories. Sevenoaks, 105 on Sep 21st.

Surrey: 149 territories. Canons Farm (20). Croydon, reported in all but one of the gardens participating in an RSPB survey. London Wetland Centre (16).

In Lond: 2 territories. Regent's Park, 54 on Sep 16th. Tabard Gardens (1). Victoria Park (1).

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The number of territories recorded was 418 compared with 461 last year, but this is a mostly under-reported species (Essex reported only 13 territories for example). However for sites where we have reports from 2011 and 2012 territories were down, and The Breeding Bird Survey reported a 6% decline in London from 2011-2012. In Croydon, it was reported from 99% of gardens participating in an RSPB survey, up from 94 % last year. The long term change in London breeding is a 134% increase from 1995-2011, much higher than the UK increase of 45% in that period (BTO website). Territory totals and breeding records of 15 or more are given below, except for Inner London where all breeding records are given. The peak count in each sector is also shown.

Essex: 13 territories. West Ham Park, 16 on Feb 23rd.

Herts: 176 territories. Aldenham CP, 40+ on Jan 11th. Rye Meads (41). Welwyn Garden City, 35+ on Jan 12th.

Middx: 40+ territories. Home Park (17); 16 on Dec 11th. Horsenden Hill, 71 young ringed compared to 142 in 2011, reflecting the poor spring weather.

Kent: 37 territories. Darenth Lake, 24 on Mar 9th. Sevenoaks WR, 27 on Mar 28th.

Surrey: 155 territories. Addington Hills, 33 on Mar 20th. Banstead Woods (16). Beddington Farmlands (30). Canons Farm (15). West End Common, 27 on Jan 12th.

In Lond: 3 territories. Regent's park, 24 on Nov 5th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Status: common breeding species.

The number of territories recorded was 131, down from the 162 last year, although higher than the two previous years. In a survey in Croydon, it was reported from 79% of participating gardens, similar to the 78% last year. Sites where we have counts from last year and this year mostly show little change, but numbers seemed to have declined at Banstead Woods and Canons Farm. BBS data for England shows a 16% increase from 2001-2011 (BTO website). Territory totals and breeding records of two or more (numbers in brackets) are given below, together with high counts.

Essex: 10 territories. Gidea Park Sports Ground (2). Long Running, nine on Aug 30th. The Mores, five on Mar 17th. Thorndon CP North (4). Warley Place (2).

Herts: 33 territories. Cole Green Tip, six on Jan 13th. Epping Green (4). Northaw (2). Northaw Great Wood, ten on Jan 4th. Water End (2). Welwyn Garden City, 6+ on Jan 25th.

Middx: Six territories. Alexandra Park (2). Horsenden Hill (3).

Kent: Six territories. Greenwich Park (4). Manor Farm, eight on Apr 3rd. Sevenoaks WR (2).

Surrey: 76 territories. Addington Hills, 11 on Oct 13th. Banstead Woods (5). Canons Farm (3). Esher Common (1). Richmond Park (15). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (50+).

In Lond: Battersea Park, two singing on Apr 8th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four on Feb 4th.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised and declining breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

The increase in sightings in the breeding season, noted last year was not continued this year. There were reports from 12 sites between March 8th and July 11th, a little less than the 16 sites in 2011, although this is more than the number of sites reported in the two previous years. Breeding was probable or confirmed at four sites (compared to five sites in total last year): Bottom Wood, Broxbourne Woods and Northaw Great Wood in Hertfordshire and Selsdon Woods in Surrey. This suggests there has been little change in their breeding status this year, although the situation at Northaw Great Wood seems to be better than last year. There were no records at all from Essex, where three sites had records in 2011. BBS data shows a 26% decline in England from 2001-2011, although there may be signs that the rate of decline has slowed recently (BTO Website). All records are given below.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Jan 8th, 13th & 31st and Aug 25th & Nov 16th. Bottom Wood (1). Broxbourne Woods (1). Coopers Green GP, one on Jul 28th. Epping Green, one on May 1st. Essendon, one on Apr 21st. Hertford Heath, two on Mar 27th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Feb 11th. Northaw, one on Apr 21st. Northaw Great Wood (1); four on Jan 4th. Potters Bar, one in a garden for at least two weeks in Jan. Wildhill, two on Jan 8th and Feb 11th, one on Apr 15th. Woodside, Hatfield, two on Sep 15th. Wormley Wood, five on Feb 21st.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, singles on Jan 16th, Oct 15th, Nov 14th, Dec 15th, 23rd & 25th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, singles from Oct 7th-9th & 13th. Headley Heath, one on Mar 25th. Hutchinson's Bank, singles on Mar 20th and Aug 8th. Kings Wood, one on Jan 7th, singles in Feb, Apr and Nov and three on Dec 7th. Selsdon Woods (1); peak of three in Mar.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were 96 pairs/territories recorded this year, down from a high of 135 in 2011 but close to the 2010 figure of 94. BBS data suggests a 27% increase from 2006-2011 (BTO website) which may account for unusual records at Crossness, Kempton NR and Millwall Park. Despite this being a species that will return to the same nest site, and indeed the same nest hole year after year, our records suggest that observer coverage is likely to be as much of a fluctuating factor as actual numbers. All breeding records of two or more (numbers in brackets) are given below, together with the peak count for each sector.

Essex: Thorndon CP North (5); six on Mar 3rd. Thorndon CP South (2). Weald Park (5); six on Aug 12th.

Herts: Hatfield Park (3). Northaw Great Wood, eight on Mar 17th. Woodside Hatfield, eight on Sep 15th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (3). Grovelands Park (2), six on Jan 17th. Horsenden Hill (2); four on Jan 8th. Monken Hadley Common (2). Trent Park (3).

Kent: Crockham Hill, nine on Feb 20th. Fooks Cray Meadows (2). Greenwich Park (3). Lullingstone Park (4).

Surrey: Arbrook Common, five on Jan 26th. Banstead Woods (13). Canons Farm (4). Richmond Park (24). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (22).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 10th, 17th and Feb 4th. Regent's Park, one on Mar 20th and 1-2 intermittently from Sep 10th-29th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of 108 territories recorded this year was down from 119 last year. BBS data shows that the population has been roughly stable since the 1980s but recent data for England suggests an 11% increase from 2006-2011 (BTO website). Sites where we have records for 2011 and 2012 suggest little change, but breeding at Stanwell Moor was the first hint of breeding there in recent years. Any observations on changes at particular sites would be very welcome. Territory totals and breeding records of two or more (numbers in brackets) are given below, together with the peak count for each sector.

Essex: Seven territories. Bedfords Park, four on Oct 6th.

Herts: 31 territories. Northaw Great Wood, six on Jan 4th. Woodside, Hatfield, six on Sep 15th.

Middx: Ten territories. Trent Park (3); four on Dec 27th. Whitewebbs Wood (3).

Kent: Four territories. Sevenoaks WR (2); four in Jan and Feb.

Surrey: 55 territories. Banstead Woods (3). Canons Farm (3). Limpsfield Chart (3). Richmond Park (23). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (25).

In Lond: The only records came from Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, where four on Mar 25th and two on Apr 20th suggests they bred.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Status: rare passage migrant.

There were no records for this migrant in 2011 and this July record was a first for this site. From 1990-2011 there were 30 records and this is the sixth for July. Late summer to early autumn is the most likely period to see them in London. The table below shows the arrival dates of all the records since 1990.

Red-backed Shrike dates 1990-2011			30 records			
Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	5	4	5	4	10	2

Middx: Lake Farm CP, a male intermittently from Jul 11th-22nd (the late P Naylor *et al*).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was probably just one record this year. This is the sixth consecutive year that they have been seen in London. All recent records have been passage birds, the last over-wintering birds were in the winter 1991/2. With the addition of the 2010 record below, there have now been 23 records since 1990. The table below shows the arrival dates of previous records since 1990.

Great Grey Shrike dates 1990-2011			21 records							
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
No. of records	3	0	0	2	0	1	9	6	0	

Herts: Rye Meads, one on Jan 31st and on Feb 18th, 19th & 25th (RMP *et al*).

2010 Addition

Surrey: Beddlestead Valley, one from Mar 26th-29th (TW, BJT *et al*).

This is an unusual month for one to appear. The last arrival in March appears to have been at Beddington SF in 1979, although there have been others still present in March that arrived earlier in the year.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Status: common breeding bird, the resident population boosted by immigrants in the autumn and winter.

The notes below list all records with evidence of two or more breeding (no. of pairs in brackets) and some of the higher counts. There were several reports of groups flying over sites in September and October. There were reports from only six sites in Inner London and all are given below.

Essex: Bedfords Park, 23 on Oct 13th. Chafford Hundred, six W/SW on Sep 22nd and ten W on 29th, were probably all passage birds. Gallions Reach, 24 on Sep 30th. Redbridge Lakes & Roding Valley Park, 30 on Sep 28th.

Herts: Epping Green (2). Hertford (2). Hilfield Park Res, c30 on Oct 9th. Newgate Street, 18 on Sep 29th. North Mymms Park (3). Northaw (5). Northaw Great Wood (3). Ridge (2). Roe Hyde (3). Rye Meads (4). South Mimms (2). Tyttenhanger GP, 12 on Oct 20th.



Treecreeper. (Russ Sherriff). Jay. (Dave Harris)

Water End (2). Water Hall Farm (2). Woodside, Hatfield (3)

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (2). Brent Res, 30 over on passage from Oct 6th-30th. Hampstead Heath, 20 over on Sep 17th. Home Park (3). Perivale Wood (2). Tottenham Marshes (2). Wraybury Res, 18 high over on Oct 6th.

Kent: Crossness, 21 S on Sep 29th. Darent Lake, 21 on Oct 9th. Greenwich Park (2); 16 W on Oct 6th.

Surrey: Addington Hills, 17 on Oct 13th. Arbrook Common (3). London Wetland Centre, 15 on Oct 9th. Molesey Heath (2). Richmond Park, 12 over on Sep 27th. Riddlesdown, 20 on Sep 20th. Shirley Park GC, 15 on Oct 2nd. The Ledges, Esher (2). West End Common (4).

In Lond: Battersea Park, two on May 7th. Hammersmith Cemetery, one on Mar 4th. Paddington Green, 13 on Oct 8th. Pascal Street, SW8, one on Sep 19th, an area where they are rarely seen. Regent's Park, recorded from Aug-Oct with max of 11 on Sep 15th. Vauxhall Park, one on Jun 17th.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Large groups were seen in the winter; Roding Valley Meadows NR again had the highest count, slightly down on last year's count of 140. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 28% increase in London from 1995-2011 with no change from last year which seems consistent with reports in the area. High counts and breeding counts of two or more are given below, except for Inner London where all breeding counts are given.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, 40 on Jan 9th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 130 on Feb 4th. Romford GC, 65 on Feb 2nd. Wanstead Park, 40 on Dec 1st. West Ham Park, 23 on Aug 27th and Oct 14th.

Herts: Aldenham CP (2); 24 on Jan 11th. Broxbourne (2). Bushey Hall (5). Cole Green Tip (2). Croxley Common Moor (2). Frogmore Lakes, c20 roosting on Jan 14th. Hertford (5). Hilfield Park Res, c40 on Sep 24th. Lynsters Farm, 39 on Dec 19th. Rickmansworth, 23 in pre-roost group on Dec 9th. Rye Meads (12); peak of 30 on Feb 26th and Mar 10th. Stocker's Farm, 20 on Feb 25th. Tyttenhanger GP, 36 on Jan 1st. Welwyn Garden City, 21 on Jan 2nd. Woodside, Hatfield (3).

- Middx:** Home Park (14). Horsenden Hill, 53 in roost on Feb 11th and 42 on Sep 18th. Mudchute Farm, 33 on Dec 29th. Staines Moor, 25 on Oct 30th. Totteridge Valley, 67 at roost on Jan 22nd. Wormwood Scrubs, peak of 50 on Dec 21st.
- Kent:** Chipstead Lake, 24 on Mar 13th. Chislehurst, 21 on Jan 27th. Crossness, 22 on Sep 22nd. Darenth Lake, counts of 45 or more from Jan-Apr with peak of 82 on Mar 9th; 36 on Oct 9th. Greatness Pits, 24 on Dec 21st. Sevenoaks WR, 32 on Dec 23rd.
- Surrey:** Arbrook Common (3). Beddington Farmlands, 25 in Mar. Molesey Heath (6). Selhurst, 20 on Feb 27th. South Norwood CP, 50 on Sep 13th. West End Common (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c 20).
- In Lond:** Battersea Park, 50 on Jan 16th, 70 on Feb 14th and 30 in a roost on Mar 13th. Hammersmith Cemetery, 12 on Dec 16th. Regent's Park, peak of 30 on Nov 28th. Southwark Park (1).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in the inner suburbs and city centre.

The breeding population has increased by 51% in England since 1995 and the increase appears to be continuing (BTO website, BBS data). In a long-running survey of gardens in Croydon, it was reported in 11% of participating gardens in 1995 rising to 38% in 2012. It remains a common breeder in rural and suburban parts of the London Area, with large numbers of passage migrants seen in inner areas in spring/autumn, flying south east in spring and north west in autumn. This year's autumn passage was most obvious between September 29th and November 30th. Not all counts make clear whether they are feeding or roost counts. High roost or feeding counts are given below, with some breeding records and all Inner London records.

- Essex:** Bedfords Park. 300 on Oct 21st. Netherhouse Farm, 340 on Jan 21st flying to roost. South Weald, 250 on Sep 21st.
- Herts:** Amwell NR, 2,000 flying S to roost on Jan 31st. Beech Farm GP, 300 on Sep 9th. Brickendonbury, 250 on Nov 19th. Bushey, one showing characteristics of the eastern race *C. m. monedula* on Apr 20th. Cromerhyde Farm, 200 on Jan 14th. Cuffley (16). Gobions Wood, 250 on Jul 31st pre-roost. Hatfield Aerodrome, 500+ at roost on Nov 30th. Lynsters Farm, 200 on Dec 19th. North Mymms Park (20+). North Watford (9). Oaklands College, at least 1,500 on Jan 18th at roost. Redwell Wood Farm, 250 on Feb 8th. Rye Meads, 530 on Jan 14th. Stocker's Lake, 500 on Nov 28th and Dec 30th at roost. Welwyn Garden City, 250 on Jan 2nd.
- Middx:** Brent Res, regular movement in the autumn with max 67 on Oct 10th. Ferny Hill Farm, 300 on Nov 19th. Home Park (75); 227 on Dec 11th. Q. Mary GP, 1,000 roosting on Feb 26th. Q. Mary Res, 700 roosting on Feb 4th. Staines, c1,000 SE on Feb 28th at 17:39.
- Bucks:** Langley Park, 270 on Dec 11th, pre-roost.
- Kent:** Chipstead Lake, 80 on Nov 9th. Crockham Hill, 90 on Feb 20th. Greatness Pits, 90 in Feb and Dec. Greenwich Park (15-20). Sevenoaks WR, 1, 600 roosting on Nov 4th.
- Surrey:** Beddington Farmlands, 1,000 in Feb and 1,500 during Oct & Nov. Chelsham, c800 on Jan 23rd. Hersham GP, 1,000+ to roost on Jul 1st. Raynes Park, 890 NW at

dawn on Nov 30th. Richmond Park, 500 on May 23rd. Riddlesdown (20+). Wimbledon, 1,280 NW at dawn on Oct 30th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, 1100 on Sep 29th. **In Lond:** Paddington Green, two over on Oct 4th. Regent's Park, four on Mar 26th & May 7th, several records of two from Sep 29th-Nov 2nd. Tower 42, two on Aug 23rd. Victoria Tower Gardens, four on Oct 20th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer part of the London Area, much scarcer in urban localities.

There were very few rookeries reported and all were in Essex and Herts, with rookery numbers generally down on last year. From 1995 to 2011 there has been a 17% decrease in the UK breeding population although there was an 11% increase between 2011-12 (BTO website, BBS data). Regular counts from rookeries would be very welcome. For much of the London Area, Rooks are just occasional fly-overs, often being stated as scarce. Details of all rookeries are given below, with the no. of nests in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts in each sector and all records from Inner London.

Essex: Bedfords Park, 50 on Oct 21st. Epping (3). Harlow (12). Kelvendon Hatch (3). Watton's Green (8)

Herts: Brickendonbury (15); 150 on Nov 29th. Brookmans Park (8+). Cole Green Tip (rookery, no count); 50+ on May 10th. Five Acre Wood (rookery, no count). Harperbury (5). North Watford (6). Ridge (bred, no count). Tyttenhanger GP, 117 on Dec 28th. Water Hall Farm (18). Woodside, Hatfield (15). Wrotham Park (bred, no count).

Middx: Bay Farm, 20 on Aug 24th, including juvs. Totteridge Valley, 55 on Jan 22nd were the highest number recorded ever here. Only occasional flyovers elsewhere in this sector.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, small numbers recorded Jan to Jul and Sep flying over. Darenth Lake, 16 on Feb 7th. Layhams Farm, three on May 4th, one carrying food and 11 on Jun 15th. Northfleet, 17 S on Oct 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 31 in Feb, otherwise single birds. South Croydon, five over in Jul. All other records were of just one or two flying over.

In Lond: Regent's Park, two S on Oct 31st.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Abundant throughout the London Area, this species is becoming more common in London. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 58% increase in London from 1995, slightly down from last year, whereas in the UK as a whole, there has only been a small increase of 13%. However, we receive relatively few records and more nesting counts would be welcome, especially from inner areas. More roost counts from sites would also be welcome. All breeding records of five or more are given below, with no. of nests/territories in brackets, together with the highest counts elsewhere.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (9). Wanstead Park, 300 on Dec 1st.

Herts: North Watford (5). Park Wood, Herts, 50 on Jan 20th. Rye Meads (10). Stocker's Lake (4). Welwyn Garden City, 250+ on Jan 2nd. Woodoaks Farm, 100+ on Nov 28th.

- Middx:** Brent Res, 198 on Apr 26th. Hampstead Heath, 150+ on Feb 2nd. Home Park (18), 119 on Dec 15th. Horsenden Hill, 1,600+ roosting in Perivale Wood on Jan 28th. There was also a record of six eating plums in the autumn. Tottenham Marshes (5). Wormwood Scrubs, 260 on Jan 5th and 280 on Sep 22nd.
- Kent:** Danson Park, 90 on May 23rd. Greatness Pits, 125 on Dec 21st. Sevenoaks WR, 105 during Feb and Mar. Stone Marshes, 82 on Sep 30th.
- Surrey:** Addington, 140 on Dec 7th. Arbrook Common (7). Beddington Farmlands, 200 max count during the year. Chelsham, c1200 on Jan 23rd. London Wetland Centre, 130 on Feb 4th. Molesey Heath (10). Wimbledon, 1,000 on Feb 10th flying SW at dusk.
- In Lond:** Limehouse, 50 on Jul 25th on roof of Victoria Wharf. Regent's Park, 64 on Sep 16th. Westminster, one in tussle with Peregrine Falcon on Dec 17th.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: scarce, but increasing visitor.

They were reported from 33 sites this year, the same as in 2011. More pairs were reported, rather than singles, but most records are still just of birds flying over. There are still no confirmed breeding records in London, although records of two at Amwell NR and four at Wildhill, could suggest probable breeding. All records are given below.

Essex: Epping, two on Nov 9th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Jun 30th.

Herts: Amwell NR, two seen Jan-Mar, one on Nov 3rd and three on 14th. Bayfordbury, one over on Jan 6th. Broxbourne Woods, one on Jan 11th. Chess Valley, one over on Feb 6th. Chiswell Green, one on Oct 13th. Essendon, two on Feb 4th. Frogmore Lakes, one over on Jan 12th and two over on Oct 6th. Hertford, one over on May 12th and two circling over on May 13th. Hilfield Park Res, one over on Feb 26th. Letty Green, two on Jan 28th. London Colney, two circling over on Oct 16th. Radlett, one over on Feb 1st. Rye Park, one on Apr 18th. St Albans, one over on Jan 8th. Stanstead Innings one on Dec 5th. Welwyn Garden City, two soaring high overhead on Oct 6th. Wildhill, four on Feb 4th.

Middx: Bentley Priory, three on Sep 25th and Dec 26th.

Bucks: Iver Heath, singles on Jan 7th, Feb 4th & 10th. Q. Mother Res, two over on Oct 5th and one on Nov 18th.

Kent: Cudham, one over on Dec 13th. Downe Bank, two on Aug 19th.

Surrey: Betchworth, two on Dec 2nd and one on 8th. Chelsham, one on Sep 11th & 15th, two on Nov 28th. Godstone, one over on Dec 17th. Epsom Common, two over on Nov 29th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 14th had been present for a week, one over on Nov 19th. Limsfield Chart, singles over on May 14th and Aug 3rd. Long Ditton, two over on Dec 10th. Oxted Quarry, two N over M25 on Mar 31st. Riddlesdown, two over on Oct 15th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: common, but continued declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The London decline of the Starling continues, with the Breeding Bird Survey showing a 47% decrease in London from 1995 to 2011 (53% decline for UK) and a 27% decrease since

2011. The regular Croydon garden survey recorded them in 84% of participating gardens this year, down from 95% in 1995. However, they are still seen in numbers across London with substantial flocks reported in autumn and winter. Passage over London was noticeable this year from October 15th to November 7th, the largest movements being on October 20th when 3,080 flew over six sites. Some of the highest counts and migrating flocks are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay, 500 on Oct 20th. Leyton, 950 on Oct 20th and 4,000 on Nov 11th. Rainham Marshes, 4,000 on Dec 8th. Wanstead Flats, 1,000 on Oct 25th.

Herts: Rye Meads, 480 on Oct 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, 500 on Oct 27th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 780 over on Oct 20th. Brent Res, 5,711 seen on passage over from Aug 26th-Nov 11th, with 620 over on Oct 19th and 550 on 27th. Hampstead Heath, 500+ on Nov 11th. Home Park (10). Staines Res, 400 on Jun 23rd and 1,200 in evening roost on Jul 21st. Tottenham Marshes, 390 over on Oct 20th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 400 on Jan 29th. Greenwich Park, 475 over W on Nov 6th. Northfleet, 985 W on Oct 28th. Sidcup, 900+ over on Oct 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 4,000 on Oct 24th, 2,000 in Sep, 1,000 in Feb and Dec. London Wetland Centre, 1,550 over on Oct 28th and 1,600 over on 30th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 200 on Nov 3rd. Regent's Park, 175 on Oct 8th. Victoria Tower Gardens, 830 over on Oct 20th. Wyvil Estate, SW8 (5).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declined severely since 1990s, and still showing a decrease in breeding populations.

The House Sparrow's decline has continued to cause concern in urban areas around the country, although since 1995 UK numbers have remained stable with some increase in western areas of the UK. London however, still shows the greatest decline in breeding numbers (*State of the UK's birds 2013*). The Breeding Bird Survey showed a 69% decline in London from 1995 to 2011. In the Croydon garden survey, they were only reported in 49% of participating gardens, down from 91% in 1995. There is clearly variation across the London Area with some sectors showing growth while others are still showing a decline; included below are some urban records of first sightings for some time. More breeding records, especially from urban areas, would be welcome. Below we list sites where breeding was reported, some of the largest counts, other records of interest and a summary of records for Inner London, with breeding counts in brackets.

Essex: Breeding was reported at Marks Gate, Princes Gate and Walthamstow. Bulphan, 48 on Sep 15th. Chafford Hundred, 41 on Jan 2nd. Epping, 40 on Apr 4th. Havering CP, 80 on Aug 1st. Marks Gate, 120 on Jul 29th. Rainham Marshes, 110 on Jul 31st. Walthamstow Res, 40 on Aug 19th.

Herts: Breeding was reported at Abbots Langley, Aldenham CP, Battlers Wells Farm, Beech Farm GP, Bell Bar, Bentley Priory, Berrybushes Wood, Borehamwood, Broad Colney, Broxbourne, Bushey Hall, Carneles Green, Cuffley, Enfield Lock, Epping Green, Essendon, Fir & Pond Woods, Five Acre Wood, Galley Lane Farm, Gobions Wood, Hatfield, Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield Park, Hertford, Holywell, Jersey Farm, Millward's Park, Nazeing Mead, North Mymms Park, North Watford, Northaw, Northaw

Great Wood, Oaklands College, Potters Bar, Ridge, Roe Hyde, Smallford GP, South Mimms, Stanborough, Sterling Corner, Stocker's Farm, Swanley Bar, Theobalds Park, Water End, Welham Green, West Hyde, Wildhill, Woodside, Hatfield, Wormleybury and Wrotham Park. Bury Lake, 25 on Jan 29th. Bushey Hall, 28 on Feb 24th. Cromerhyde Farm, 30+ on Jan 14th. Cuffley, 23 on Jul 17th. Hatfield Aerodrome, 30 on Aug 12th. Hertford, 30+ on Jul 29th. Jersey Farm, 30 on Sep 9th. North Mymms Park 25 on Feb 5th. North Watford, 45 on Feb 14th. Stanstead Abbots, 25 on Apr 15th. Woodoaks Farm, 40 on Aug 22nd.

Middx: Breeding was reported at Alexandra Park, Home Park, Horsenden Hill and Poplar. East India Dock Basin, three flew west on May 4th, reported as rare there. Holloway, five at the Nags Head on Oct 1st were the first for years. Horsenden Hill, 40 on Oct 9th. Millwall Park, c20 on Jun 18th. Wormwood Scrubs, 60 on Oct 25th was peak count.

Kent: Breeding was reported at Blackheath, Dartford and Greenwich. Chipstead Lake, 40 on Nov 23rd. Crossness, 60+ on Jul 28th. Darent Lake, 40 on May 31st. Dartford, 60+ on Feb 26th. Dartford Marshes, 45 on Feb 16th. Erith School, 86 on Mar 3rd. Northumberland Heath, 96 on Mar 31st.

Surrey: Breeding was reported at Limsfield Chart, Molesey Heath, Putney and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. Beddington Farmlands, 70 during Jan was the peak count. Rushett Farm, c80 on Jun 20th and Aug 22nd. South Norwood, 23 on Jun 1st.

In Lond: Bankside, two males on Apr 26th. Covent Garden (2-3). Hammersmith Cemetery, two on Mar 20th were reported as really rare there. Larkhall Park (7). The Borough, one male on Dec 11th. John Buckle Centre, SW8 (5). Wharf Road, NW1, two on May 27th. Wyvil Estate, SW8 (5).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status: scarce breeding resident, confined to a few sites in the London Area. UK population is recovering, following severe decline since the late 1970s.

Breeding continues at the two regular sites. At Beddington Farmlands 61 pairs bred and 342 young fledged. Both these numbers are down from last year, when there were 71 pairs and 565 fledged (Beddington Farmlands 2012 Report). At Herts, in the Coursers Farm/Tyttenhanger area six pairs bred producing 16 broods and 61 young fledged, an increase on last year. All other records are given below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, two on Nov 18th.

Herts: Battlers Wells Farm, one on Feb 21st. Colney Heath, two on Jan 1st and three on 28th, four on Mar 3rd and one on 18th, singles on Mar 18th and May 6th. Coursers Farm, peak count of 14 on Aug 30th. Redwell Wood Farm, peak count of 18 on Jan 29th. Tyttenhanger Farm, peak count of 13 on Jan 30th.

Middx: Harefield, up to four in early March.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 50 during Aug. Hook, one on Mar 28th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

During January to March there were fewer large flocks than last year, with only five records of 100 or more together. There was a notable passage overhead from mid-October to early November, which was larger than last year, with 542 over Brent Res on October 20th and 575 over Northfleet on 28th. During November and December numbers were down on last year, with just one flock of 200, the highest otherwise being 85 and 80. Chaffinch numbers continue to increase in London, with The Breeding Bird Survey in London showing a 157% increase from 1995-2011. The regular survey of gardens in Croydon reported them in 88% of participating gardens, higher than last year, and the BTO Garden BirdWatch reported them in 41% of London gardens. Breeding records of five or more territories and high counts are given below.

Essex: Central Park, 70 on Mar 7th. Gallions Reach, 60 on 28th. Leyton, 106 on Oct 14th and 105 on 20th. Rainham Marshes, 60 on Oct 23rd. Wanstead Flats, 200 on Oct 24th.

Herts: Cuffley, 96 on Jan 8th. Cromerhyde Farm, 200 on Feb 18th. Redwell Wood Farm, 70 on Jan 1st. Rye Meads, 85 on Dec 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, 100 on Jan 4th, 200 on Dec 28th. Woodoaks Farm, 70 on Nov 28th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 380 on Oct 20th. Brent Res, 3,041 over from Aug 31st to Nov 30th, with peak of 542 over on Oct 20th. Hampstead Heath, 200 on Oct 30th. Home Park (10). Horsenden Hill (11-12); 244 over on Oct 20th. Muswell Hill, 100 on Mar 25th. Staines Moor, 109 over on Oct 23rd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 80 on Oct 23rd. Greenwich Park (8-10); passage over in late Oct with peak of 160 on 28th. Northfleet, 575 on Oct 28th. Sevenoaks WR, 80 on Nov 22nd. Sidcup, 300 over on Oct 20th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (7). Banstead Woods (13). Beddington Farmlands, 80 in Oct. Canons Farm (22). Esher Common (5). London Wetland Centre (10); 507 over on Oct 28th. Richmond Park, 50 WNW on Oct 27th. Ridlands, 150 on Jan 30th. The Ledges, Esher (6).

In Lond: Battersea Park, four singing on Apr 8th. Regent's Park, regular reports in autumn with peak of 90 on Oct 28th. Victoria Tower Gardens, 71 on Oct 20th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

Numbers were low at both ends of the year although passage in late October was higher than last year. The highest count in January was two, and the peak counts after were ten on February 23rd and 14 on March 3rd. The last birds were three on March 26th at Stanstead Abbots. The first of the autumn was one on September 30th at Alexandra Park, the next were on October 7th, after which there were regular records. The only counts over ten were at the end of October, mostly passing over. This included 37 west at Northfleet and 20 at Gallions Reach on October 28th, with 33 over London Wetland Centre on 30th. During November to December, the highest count was four. There were only a few records in gardens; the 2012 BTO Garden BirdWatch found Bramblings in just 0.3% of London gardens. Counts of more than one are given below, summarised in some cases, and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, two on Nov 1st. Gallions Reach, 20 on Oct 28th. Leyton, two on Oct 27th. Rainham Marshes, peak of seven on Oct 9th. Robin Hood Roundabout, ten



Brambling numbers were low in London in both 2012 winter periods, but this bird was one of several at Rainham in October. (Basil Thornton)

on Feb 23rd. Thorndon CP North, 14 on Mar 3rd and six on 4th. Wanstead Flats, four on Oct 9th & 25th, three on 26th and four on Dec 11th.

Herts: Broxbourne Woods, two SW on Mar 9th. Cromerhyde Farm, five on Feb 18th. Stanstead Abbots, three on Mar 26th. Woodside, Hatfield, two on Oct 28th.

Middx: Brent Res, total of 12 on passage from Oct 7th-Nov 14th. Bushy Park, four on Nov 6th. Staines Moor, two E on Oct 19th and two over on 23rd.

Bucks: Horton GP, three on Nov 4th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, recorded Oct 23rd-Nov 9th with peak of 16 W on Oct 31st. Dartford Marshes, four on Oct 31st. Greenwich Park, two over on Oct 25th & 29th and four over on 30th. Northfleet, 37 W on Oct 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, recorded Oct 21st-Nov 20th with peak of two on Oct 26th. Canons Farm, two on Jan 6th & 22nd. London Wetland Centre, recorded from Oct 11th-Nov 15th and on Dec 6th, with 17 over on Oct 13th, 15 on 28th and 33 over on 30th. Moorhouse, three on Mar 7th. North Downs GC, two on Oct 20th. Ridlands, at least three on Feb 27th and Mar 7th. Russell Hill, two on Dec 7th. Thorpe Water Park, five on Oct 31st. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, recorded Oct 23rd-Nov 11th, with two on Oct 23rd, six on 25th and two on Nov 11th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, one on Nov 18th. Regent's Park, one on Oct 29th and two on 31st.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Numbers appeared to be lower this year, with only two flocks of over seventy birds, compared with seven in 2011. Yet the trend is still increasing, with the Breeding Bird Survey showing a 58% increase from 1995-2012 in London and the regular Croydon garden survey finding them in 90% of participating gardens compared to 34% in 1995. The 2012 BTO Garden BirdWatch found Greenfinches in 39% of London gardens. Breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets) and counts of 25 or more are given below and all Inner London records.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 30 on Aug 22nd. Loughton, up to 9 in a garden in Jan, Feb & Sep. Rainham Marshes, counts of 33 or more from Oct 30th-Dec 17th, with peak of 60 on Nov 15th and Dec 5th. Romford GC, 31 on Feb 2nd.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (5). Gobions Wood, 50+ on Dec 14th, including a roost of 47. Hatfield Aerodrome (5+). Rye Meads (11); 30 on Jan 29th, 50 on 31st and 25 on Mar 10th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, max of 46 on Oct 28th. Bedfont Lakes CP (6). Brent Res, passage over from Sep 1 to Nov 30th, with max 27 on Oct 9th. Hampstead Heath, 100 N from 07:30 to 13:30 on Oct 20th. Home Park (10). Horsenden Hill (9-10). Wormwood Scrubs, peak count of 30 on Jul 26th.

Kent: Danson Park, 28 on Sep 14th. Foots Cray Meadows, c50 on Oct 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (15). London Wetland Centre (10); 35 over on Oct 6th, 41 on 13th, 26 on 28th, 40 on Nov 30th. Molesey Heath (24). Richmond Park (11); peak count of 25 on Jan 25th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (15).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, six on Oct 11th. Regent's Park, peak counts of 17 on Oct 3rd and 18 on 5th, with 24 on Nov 7th. Southwark Park, ten on Mar 10th. Tabard Gardens, one on May 19th. Tower Hill, six on Oct 11th. Victoria Park, two on May 19th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant, now common throughout the year.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 281% increase in London from 1995 to 2011 but no significant change from 2011 to 2012. They were reported in 90% of gardens participating in the Croydon garden survey, up from 34% in 1995, and the BTO Garden BirdWatch found them in 54% of London gardens. Counts were generally similar to last year, with ten flocks of one hundred or more compared with 14 in 2011 and nine in 2010; the peak count was 300 compared with 310 last year. There were two ringing reports this year showing how far some of our London birds can move: one in July 2012 in Cumbria was at Q. Mary Res in October 2010; another at Dundee in February 2012 was at Rye Meads in November 2009. Breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets) and higher counts are given below.

Essex: Bedfords Park, 70 on Oct 6th. Belhus Woods CP, 60 on Feb 9th. KGV Res, 60 on Oct 24th. Rainham Marshes, 70 on Jan 25th and 130 on Oct 9th & 30th. Wanstead Flats, 65 on Oct 8th.

Herts: Cole Green Tip (3); 130 on Oct 6th. Coursers Farm, 60 on Oct 7th. Hatfield Aerodrome, 60 on Aug 12th. Rickmansworth, 54 in a garden on Jan 13th. Rye Meads (4). Smallford GP, flock of 100 mixed finches, mostly Goldfinch on Jan 30th.



Goldfinch. (Basil Thornton)

Middx: Hampstead Heath, c150 over N from 07:30 to 13:30 on Oct 20th, c50 on 30th. Home Park (10). Horsenden Hill (12-13). Staines Moor, 120 on Aug 11th. Wormwood Scrubs, 120 on Jul 26th.

Bucks: Colnbrook, 70 on Oct 8th, 80 on Nov 10th.

Kent: Crossness, 60 on Sep 7th. Darenth Lake, 200 on Oct 9th and 100 on Nov 2nd. Dartford Marshes, 50 on Aug 24th. Sevenoaks WR, 50 on Nov 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 60 in Aug. Canons Farm (7). Farthing Downs, 60+ on Jan 28th. London Wetland Centre, 85 on Oct 14th. Richmond Park, 80+ on Aug 2nd. Thorpe Water Park, 70 on Dec 16th. Walton Res, 45 on Jul 24th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, 18 on Aug 23rd. Oxford St W1, one singing on May 31st. Paddington Green, 80 on Oct 2nd and 40 on 19th. Regent's Park, 48 on 21st. Victoria Park, ten on Jan 14th and 11 on Sep 8th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant; increasingly regular in summer and a potential breeding species.

Following the lower numbers returning in autumn 2011, there were similar numbers at the start of this year. Numbers were at the same low level at the end of the year apart from a flock of 400 at Sevenoaks WR. There were only 11 flocks of 100 or more this year compared with 14 last year. Most had gone by the end of March, but there were six May records including the female which when ringed had a brood patch. Returning birds appeared at the end of June. The notes below record high counts for each winter period, other notable sightings and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 50 on Sep 27th. Cornmill Meadows, 200 on Jan 2nd. Grange Waters, 57 on Oct 21st. Netherhall GP, 50 on Dec 15th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 82 on Nov 15th and 70 on Dec 26th. Bury Lake, c100 on Jan 15th. Maple Lodge NR, 50-100 in late Jan. Panshanger Park, 70 on Oct 28th. Stocker's Lake, 80 on Jan 2nd, and 70 on Oct 23rd & 31st. Tyttenhanger GP, 60 on Oct 20th.

Middx: Bushy Park, 110 on Feb 20th, then 120 on Oct 15th. Eastcote, a female ringed on May 4th had a brood patch. Hampstead Heath, 100 on Oct 20th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, peaks of 175 on Jan 25th and 400 on Dec 29th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 50+ on Oct 23rd. London Wetland Centre, 100 over on Nov 28th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Feb 16th. Paddington Green, one over on Oct 3rd. Regent's Park, up to seven on seven dates from Feb 4th-Mar 13th; up to 18 on 12 dates from Sep 15th-Dec 2nd. Victoria Tower Gdns, 12 W on Oct 20th from 07:00 to 09:30.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 711 records this year, up on the 684 in 2011. There were more counts of ten birds or fewer (70% of records, well up on 2011's 47%). But there were fewer large flocks with only 25 counts of 100 or more birds (40 last year); and a high of 300 birds (700 in 2010 and 1,000 in 2011). There were 91 breeding pairs, (53 in 2011) but this seems to

be a result of increased recording effort. For the few sites where we have breeding counts for both years there is some sign of a slight drop in numbers. All records of breeding (no. of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets), summarised for Hertfordshire, high counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Beckton, 150 on Jan 22nd. Belhus Woods CP (1). Lower Bobbingworth Green (1). Nags Head Lane Fishery (1). Rainham Marshes, 180 on Jan 25th, 300 on Dec 8th. Tylers Common (3). Walthamstow Res (1). Watton's Green (2).

Herts: Forty one records of single pairs breeding. Cole Green Tip (6). Cromerhyde Farm, 300 on Jan 14th and 140 on Feb 18th. Highfield Farm, 100 on Feb 28th.

Middx: East India Dock Basin (1). Horsenden Hill (2). Staines Moor (1+). Stanwell Moor, 300 on Feb 12th. Wormwood Scrubs (5).

Kent: College Farm (3). Crossness (1+); 100+ on Oct 13th. Greenwich Peninsula, 100+ on Oct 13th. Layhams Farm (2).

Surrey: Banstead Woods (2). Beddington Farmlands (1). Canons Farm (2); 300 on Jan 2nd & 22nd. Chelsham, 250 on Jan 23rd. Molesey Heath (10). Richmond Park (1). Riddlesdown (2). South Norwood CP (2).

In Lond: Battersea Park, five on Jan 16th. Paddington Green, one on Oct 14th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 30th and Apr 21st, two on April 8th, May 9th and Sep 28th and three on Apr 11th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Status: scarce, late autumn and winter visitor.

There was just one record this year, of two birds at Walthamstow Res on March 22nd. This is the first record since 2009 of a species which in the last decade has become less than annual, and is only the third March record since 1993.

Essex: Walthamstow Res, two on Mar 22nd (KJM).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor; former breeding resident.

There were a lot more records this year (924 rather than the 574 in 2011) but weekly totals were less than in 2011 and there were no counts of 100 or more (15 in 2011). There were some records in May and four in June and one in July, but no suggestion of breeding birds. Birds returned from September 15th with peak numbers in October and December. An additional 74 reports of unidentified redpolls this year presumably mostly relate to this species. High counts and Inner London records (summarised for Regent's Park) are shown below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 70 on Feb 22nd. Broadfields Farm, 40 on Dec 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, 40 on Dec 5th. Sewardstone Marsh, 50 on Dec 28th.

Herts: Berrybushes Wood, 85+ on Mar 10th. Leavesden Green, 78 on Feb 19th.

Middx: Brent Res, 36 on Oct 8th. Ruislip Woods, 40 on Jan 29th.

Kent: College Farm, 37 on Jan 15th. Crossness, c40 on Oct 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 70 on Oct 21st. Kings Wood, 40 on Jan 7th. London Wetland Centre, 56 on Jan 13th and 55 on Oct 28th.

In **London**: Paddington Green, 12 on Oct 15th. Regent's Park, one on Mar 11th and two on 30th; up to five from Oct 7th-Nov 29th.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

Just 48 records from 23 sites were received this year, similar to 2010 but well down on last year. However, the total of 98 birds is just over last year's total of 94. As in the past two years, London Wetland Centre produced the most records, with sightings on 22 dates, including the only double-figure count of 11 on October 26th. Two thirds of the records were in the first winter period, with the last records on April 14th. The first record from the second period came on September 27th. All records are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Jan 17th. Dagenham Chase, two on Feb 5th. Harlow, singles on Jan 26th and Dec 20th. Loughton, two on Jan 23rd. Wanstead, one reported throughout month from Jan 1st.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Mar 13th. Cassiobury Park, five on Dec 5th. Panshanger, one on Mar 10th. Welwyn Garden City, two on Feb 4th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles on Jan 22nd and Mar 11th. Bentley Priory, singles on Jan 29th and Apr 14th. Bushy Park, one on Feb 21st and two on Nov 7th. Muswell Hill, one on Jan 22nd. Oakwood Park, one on Feb 2nd. Trent Park, one on Apr 14th. Vicarage Farm, two on Mar 15th. Whitewebbs Wood, two on Mar 10th.

Kent: Joyden's Wood, two on Mar 26th.

Surrey: Claygate, three on Dec 16th. Kings Wood, two on Jan 7th. London Wetland Centre, singles on six dates from January - March and five dates from September - November, six on Jan 10th & four on 11th, two on Feb 3rd, five on 6th & 13th, two on Oct 10th & 11th, 11 on 26th, two on 28th and Dec 2nd. Richmond Park, four on Mar 16th. South Norwood CP, one on Nov 2nd.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

This year 146 reports were received from 73 sites, up on the 122 from 69 sites last year, and makes 2012 a record year for this species. Unlike the previous two years, birds were seen in every month; with the peak numbers after breeding dispersal in June and July. The table below shows the number of records and birds in each month. Unusually, there was a male singing in April at Box Wood, but no evidence of breeding; breeding was thought to have taken place at Esher Common. Notable counts and all Inner London records are given underneath.

Common Crossbill records 2012

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	7	8	11	7	9	18	18	32	7	8	16	5
No. of birds	22	25	49	39	74	103	93	73	31	10	62	39

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 11 on Jun 18th. Leyton, 15 on May 25th. South Weald Cricket Club, 22 on Jun 10th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 13 on Sep 29th. Bricket Wood, ten on Jan 11th. Broxbourne Woods,

20 on Mar 9th and 10 on Jul 5th. Rickmansworth, 16 from Jun 18th-19th. Symondshyde Great Wood, 14 on Dec 26th.

Middx: Brent Res, 15 on Apr 14th. Osterley Park, 15 on Jul 15th.

Kent: Dartford, 15 on Jul 1st.

Surrey: Addington Hills, 17 on May 13th. Berrylands, 14 on Jun 27th. Canons Farm, 15 on Mar 30th. Esher Common, breeding thought to have taken place. Limpsfield Chart, 14 on May 27th. London Wetland Centre, 16 on Nov 7th. North Downs GC, 14 on Apr 21st. Richmond Park, ten on May 10th. Thames Ditton, 15 on Nov 11th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Jun 23rd, Jul 12th and Nov 14th, two on Aug 30th and Sep 15th.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

At least 690 records came in this year, a very similar figure to last year. Of these nearly 10% came from Rye Meads alone. This species is rarely seen in large groups and not surprisingly just over 75% of records were of one or two birds only. Records came from 170 sites including one in Inner London: Regent's Park with its first records since 2006. As is often the case with this species, the breeding situation is not entirely clear. A minimum of 55 breeding pairs from 35 sites is a reasonable assumption, and is broadly similar to last year, but with records from over 80 sites during the breeding season the true number could be higher. All probable breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), summarised for Hertfordshire, high counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Recorded at 40 sites. Ingrebourne Valley, six on Feb 5th. Lower Bobbingworth Green (1). Roding Valley Meadows NR, (1). Thames Chase, seven on Mar 6th. Watton's Green (2).

Herts: Recorded at 76 sites; 23 breeding records from 21 sites. Cole Green Tip, eight on Mar 2nd. Essendon, ten on Nov 10th. Rickmansworth, seven on Aug 27th. Rye Meads (3); 13 on Nov 11th. Watford, seven on Dec 12th. Welwyn Garden City, six on Jan 5th.

Middx: Recorded at 15 sites. Horsenden Hill (8); six on May 4th. Trent Park (2). Vicarage Farm (1).

Bucks: Recorded at two sites.

Kent: Recorded at 15 sites.

Surrey: Recorded at 23 sites. Banstead Woods (2). Canons Farm (1). Horton CP (3). Richmond Park, six on Feb 6th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, two on Mar 30th and one on Nov 11th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

There were 36 records from 17 sites, which was a little down on 2011. Once again Bookham Common produced the most records. The two May records are unusual; the two below are the first since 2005. This is the fourth year running that they have been recorded in Inner London, mostly at Regent's Park. For the fourth successive year there were no breeding reports. All records are shown below.

Essex: Cely Woods, one on Oct 4th. Hatch Forest, one on May 22nd. Honey Lane Quarters, two on April 2nd. Rainham Marshes, one on May 30th. Wanstead Flats, singles on Oct 22nd & 24th, and two on 25th. Woodford Green, singles on Jan 15th and Oct 10th.

Herts: Broxbourne, two on Dec 26th and three on 28th. Broxbourne Woods, one on Feb 25th. Rye Meads, one on Oct 6th.

Middx: Bushy Park, one on Nov 6th. Osterley Park, one on Oct 23rd. Q. Mary Res, one on Oct 27th.

Kent: Blackheath, one on Oct 20th. Greenwich Park, two on Oct 23rd and one on Nov 6th.

Surrey: Bookham Common, singles on nine dates in January and February, and on Sep 26th, Dec 11th & 30th, two on Jan 17th and Mar 9th. Upper Norwood, singles on Dec 7th & 16th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Nov 5th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

This year was a return to its normal rare status after a bumper invasion year in 2010 consisting of at least 30 records and three records in 2011. This single record was a typical one as almost half the records since 1990 have been in October.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, single seen briefly in flight calling on Oct 23rd (HV, MH, TH).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

There were six records, the same number as last year. Records are typically from November to February so the March dates are unusual; two sightings of the same bird were the first March records since 2000.

Essex: Rainham Marshes NR, singles on Jan 6th (JS), Mar 10th & 20th (DB, HV, THn) and Dec 3rd (DSm, HV).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult male from Oct 21st-22nd (CDRH), single 1st-winters on Nov 16th (CDRH) and Dec 9th (KEM) the former was identified as a male.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was a minimum of 83 territories/singing males (110 in 2011), although there were several additional sites where birds were present during the breeding season. However, 58% of this total came from Hertfordshire. At Trevereux, there were no territorial males for the first time in 27 years and the further decline in the Surrey sector is of concern. They declined dramatically in England from the late 1980s and although this slowed at the end of the 90s, BBS data still shows a 4% decline from 2006 to 2011 (BTO website.) All breeding records are given with the no. of breeding pairs/territories in brackets. For the Essex and Herts peak counts are given; for other sectors all records are given, summarised in some cases.

- Essex:** Barking Bay, one on Oct 20th. Belhus Woods CP (2). Cely Woods (2-4). Chigwell, six on Mar 13th. Copped Hall, ten on Oct 20th. Dagenham Chase, one on Oct 26th. Epping, ten on Apr 4th. Hainault, 20 on Mar 10th. Havering CP, one on Aug 1st. Holyfield Hall Farm (1). Lambourne End Church, 50 on Apr 11th. Netherhouse Farm, none mid-May so probably none breeding. Orsett Fen (5+). Pages Wood (2). Stapleford Tawney (1+). Thames Chase (2). Wanstead Flats, singles on Mar 24th and Oct 18th.
- Herts:** Bedmond (1). Beech Farm GP (1). Bell Bar (1). Brookmans Park (2). Cattlegate Farm (1). Cole Green Tip (5); max 25+ on Feb 23rd. Cromerhyde Farm, 70 on Feb 18th. Cuffley (1). Epping Green (1). Essendon (5+), with 15 on Jun 24th. Essendonbury (1+). Goose Green (1). Hatfield Park (3); 15+ on Mar 18th. London Colney (1). Maple Cross, ten on Oct 13th. Monks Green (1). North Mymms Park (1). Northaw Great Wood (2+). Potters Crouch, 55 on Jan 13th. Redwell Wood Farm (1); 20 on Jan 15th. Roe Hyde (4), with 14 on Jan 29th. Rye Meads, 40 on Dec 8th. South Mimms (3). Tyttenhanger Farm, 20 on Mar 10th. Tyttenhanger GP, 14 on Jan 28th. Water End (2). Water Hall Farm (2). Welwyn Garden City, 16 on Jan 25th. Wildhill (2). Woodoaks Farm (1); 15 on Mar 21st. Woodside, Hatfield (2).
- Middx:** Enfield Chase Area: Ferny Hill Farm, 40 on Jan 31st; Rectory Farm, 11 on Nov 10th; Vicarage Farm (3); 15 on Feb 21st. Stanwell Moor, male on Oct 6th was first site record in modern times. Totteridge Valley, three in flight Oct 27th.
- Bucks:** Q. Mother Res, one flew W on Nov 17th.
- Kent:** Chipstead Lake, two on Mar 13th and one on May 10th. Crayford Marshes, singles on Jan 12th and Nov 23rd. Darenth Lake, five on Feb 7th and eight on Mar 9th. Dartford Marshes, male on Nov 23rd. Lullingstone Park (3), all pairs seen attending nests. Mount Mascall Stables, one on Dec 13th. Sundridge Park, one on Aug 6th.
- Surrey:** Canons Farm (6). Cheverells Farm, nine on Sep 28th. Farthing Downs (4). London Wetland Centre, two on Sep 22nd. Ridlands (3), same as in 2011. Rushett Farm (2+); 20+ on Nov 15th. Treveux, no territorial males for the first time in 27 years.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 114 singing males/territories (139-144 in 2011). Again Essex, Herts and Surrey provided over 85% of breeding season records; the pair in Inner London were the first since 2008. Breeding records are given below with nos. of pairs/territories in brackets and peak counts.

- Essex:** Barking Bay, 12 on Oct 20th. Belhus Woods CP (2). Dagenham Chase (1). Ingrebourne Valley, 12 on Dec 5th. Mar Dyke Valley (1+). Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes, 35 on Feb 7th. Sewardstone Marsh (3). Walthamstow Res (1). Wanstead Flats, six on Nov 16th. Warren Gorge (1).
- Herts:** Amwell NR (2-6); 12 in Jan and Feb. Beech Farm GP (7); 20 on Oct 14th. Bury Lake (2). Coopers Green GP (1). Cromerhyde Farm, 56 on Feb 18th. Essendon (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (8). Maple Cross, ten on Feb 8th. Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads (16); 20 on Oct 27th. Seventy Acres Lake (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger Farm, 14 on Jan 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP (2). Water Hall Farm (1). West Hyde (2).



Male and female Reed Buntings at Rainham Marshes. (Basil Thornton)

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (2). Brent Res (2). Bushy Park (1-2). East India Dock Basin, nine on Feb 5th. Home Park (1). Horsenden Hill (3). Kempton NR (2), with juv on Jul 13th; nine on Dec 30th. Osterley Park, max of 26 on Nov 24th. Staines Moor, 15+ on Oct 20th. Vicarage Farm (1).

Bucks: Horton Fields, 20+ on Oct 8th. Thorney CP (2).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, four on Nov 23rd. Dartford Marshes, seven on Nov 30th. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (1). Sevenoaks WR, four on Mar 6th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (3); 30 in Jan. Esher Common (1). London Wetlands Centre (2). Molesey Heath (3). Richmond Park (25). Riddlesdown, three on Nov 10th were the first for many years. South Norwood CP (1). Walton Res (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, 16 on Jan 13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park (1).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Recorded from ten sites this year (11 in 2011) with nine territorial males (nine last year). There were some changes from last year: in Kent, there were more territorial males at Crayford and Dartford Marshes; in Essex there was a territorial male at Rainham Marshes; in Surrey a record in late April was unusual. Maybe there is some change in their status in our area, although BBS data suggests they are still declining in England (BTO website). All records are given below, summarised in some cases, with no. of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Apr 26th & 28th. Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes NR (1); up to three birds between Jan 30th and Feb 9th; wintering birds from Dec 8th peaked at six on 17th. Thames Chase, two on Jun 27th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (4), at least two juvs fledged. Crockenhill one singing on May 18th in same area as 2011. Dartford Marshes (2); five on Sep 7th and two on Dec 3rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two records of singles on Apr 26th and from Nov 17th-18th were the first since 1998.

APPENDIX 1: ESCAPES

The following records are birds known, or presumed, to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are fully-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in collections such as at St James's Park and Bushy Park.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Essex: Bowyer's Water, one or two throughout the year. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Dec 11th.

Kent: Crockham Hill, one on Feb 20th.
Thamesmead, one on Jan 28th.



Snow Goose. (Andrew Moon)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Herts: Stocker's Farm, one from Dec 29th-31st.

Middx: Staines Res, one on Sep 21st.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Herts: Hatfield, one on Jun 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jun 3rd, Sep 3rd & 26th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, two on Jan 24th and Feb 4th-5th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 15th, six on Sep 16th, four on Oct 6th, six on the 24th, two on Nov 5th & 28th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Essex: Fishers Green Goose Field, one on Feb 7th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on May 13th and two on Dec 18th. Walthamstow Res, one present throughout the year. Wanstead Flats, one on Oct 10th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Feb 23rd, Aug 25th and Sep 1st, 2nd, 4th & 9th. Hertford, singles on Sep 20th and Oct 31st. Panshanger Park, one on May 20th.

Surrey: Apps Court Farm, two on Dec 24th. Walton Res, up to six all year Feb-Sep. A pair attempted to nest but no young were seen.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 15th and Dec 19th, 27th, 30th. Regent's Park, between six and seven from Sep 16th to Nov 28th.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Middx: Staines Res, one flew W on May 27th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 28th & 30th.

Ruddy Shelduck.
(Jonathan Lethbridge)

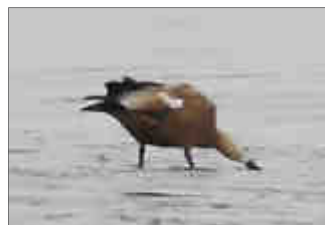
Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Dec 12th, 23rd, & 24th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Herts: Lynsters Farm, one on Feb 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two over on Sep 9th.



Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Sep 17th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, one on Sep 16th.

Middx: Bushy Park, a male on Mar 12th and Apr 7th. Hampstead Heath, a male on Mar 19th.

Kent: Sutcliffe Park, a male on Nov 30th, Dec 4th, 11th and 23rd. The Tarn, one on Nov 5th-22nd.

Surrey: Bookham Common, three Jan 26th, pair Jan 28th and Oct 14th, female Nov 28th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, a male returning for third successive winter on Dec 6th.

Bahama (or White-cheeked) Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 20th.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Essex: Connaught Water, a female on Jan 22nd, Oct 15th and Nov 6th.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from Oct 22nd-24th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Essex: Netherhall GP, one on Apr 5th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Feb 12th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Herts: Letchmore Heath, one on May 8th.

Kent: The Tarn, one on Dec 6th, 13th.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Middx: Brent Res, a male from Aug 14th-20th. East India Dock Basin, a male on Aug 11th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a female in Sept.

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

Middx: Kempton NR, one on Jul 6th.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Herts: Amwell NR, one calling west of here on May 8th. Hatfield Park, one on Apr 22nd, two on Jun 12th, one on Jul 29th. Oaklands College, one heard on Apr 13th, male heard calling loudly on Apr 16th, one on Jun 2nd. Symondshyde Great Wood, one heard on May 26th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 7th and Jun 8th. Woodside, Hatfield, one on May 27th and Jun 30th.

We have had reports of this species in the Herts area since 2005, but with no information suggesting they are breeding, so they may be escapes from reared birds. Any information on the origins of these birds would be very welcome.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Herts: Brookmans Park, one on Mar 27th and Apr 12th. Essendon, one on Jan 15th &

21st, Mar 18th, May 22nd, Jul 5th and Sep 2nd. Hatfield Park, two on May 6th and Jul 17th, one on Aug 4th.

We have had reports of this species in the Herts area since 2007, but with no information suggesting they are breeding, so they may be escapes from reared birds. Any information on the origins of these birds would be very welcome.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Middx: Hampstead Heath, one on Jan 30th.

Surrey: Trevereux, female paired with Common Buzzard, bred unsuccessfully.

Falcon sp

Essex: Banbury Res, one with jesses on Mar 30th could be the bird seen at Walthamstow Res on Mar 8th. River Lea near Bromley-by-Bow, large Gyr-type on Mar 19th, 28th. Walthamstow Res, Saker-type with jesses flew onto a pylon on Mar 8th.

Middx: Heathrow Airport, Saker-type with jesses on Sep 26th and 28th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, Saker-type on Aug 29th.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one on Aug 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from Mar 27th-30th.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one on Aug 24th.

Middx: Wormwood Scrubs, one on May 7th.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticaudata*

Kent: Kelsey Park, one on Jan 17th, four on Feb 7th, three on May 1st and six on Nov 13th.

2011 Addition

Kent: Kelsey Park, two on Jan 4th and Feb 1st, five on May 3rd, three on Aug 9th, five on Nov 1st and two on Dec 20th.

These parakeets have been present in this area since at least 2001, when a nest with eggs was reported, although there have been no reports of breeding since. Any more news on these birds would be welcomed.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

The two breeding colonies at Borehamwood and the Isle of Dogs remain.

Herts: Borehamwood, four on Feb 15th, 12 at communal nest on Mar 2nd, 11 on Apr 11th, 12 on Nov 8th, eight on Dec 15th. Elstree, eight entering communal nest on Apr 10th.

Middx: Isle of Dogs; ten plus birds around four active nests on Mar 8th. Millwall Park, four on May 3rd, five on Jun 18th. Mudchute Farm, numbers vary through the year with a maximum of 16 in October and November.

Solomons Corella *Cacatua ducorpsii*

Middx: Chiswick on lamppost, on Apr 16th.

APPENDIX II: HYBRIDS

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids. All but three hybrid geese reported this year were **Canada Goose x Domestic Goose** and **Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** or unidentified, and mainly as part of WeBS reports. As there are so many of these hybrids it has been decided not to give a detailed report.

Barnacle Goose x Greylag Goose

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Feb 1st.

Bar-headed Goose x White-fronted Goose

In Lond: Regents Park, one on Sep 16th, Oct 6th & 24th, Nov 5th & 28th.

Lesser White-fronted Goose Hybrid

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 4th & 5th.

Bar-headed Goose Hybrid

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 24th.

Ruddy Shelduck x Shelduck hybrids

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Aug 5th. Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 30th - Nov 5th.

Kent: Belvedere, R Thames, one on Jan 2nd. Crossness, one in Jun, Aug and on Dec 31st.

All the Essex and Kent sightings are probably the same individual.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 27th.

Shelduck hybrids

Middx: Ashford Common, on Mar 11th. Q. Mary Res, male and female on Jun 10th.

Baikal Teal x Cinnamon Teal

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 7th.

Baikal Teal x Wigeon

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Mar 9th.

Gadwall x Mallard

Kent: Crossness, a drake on Mar 12th.

***Aythya* hybrids**

Aythya hybrids are listed under the described type, where such a description is given.

Ferruginous x Pochard

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Jan 26th, Feb 5th. Wraysbury GP, one on Jan 6th, 12th & 20th, Feb 25th and Mar 3rd.

Greater Scaup x Tufted

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one from Mar 14th-22nd.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one intermittently from Jan 15th-Mar 25th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, a 1st-winter male on Jan 21st.

Tufted x Red-crested Pochard

Middx: Bushy Park, one on Jun 10th.

Pochard x Tufted (Lesser Scaup type)

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one on May 6th & 29th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Jul 27th & Aug 3rd-5th, Nov 7th.

Tufted x Pochard

Essex: Mayesbrook Park, one on April 27th, May 2nd.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, one on Feb 12th. Staines Res, a drake intermittently from Jul 14th-Sep 18th and Nov 24th.

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, from 2011 to Mar 8th and again from Oct 26th to 2013.

In Lond: St James's Park, one on Feb 27th.

Tufted x Ferruginous

Essex: South Park, Ilford, one on April 22nd.

Ferruginous x Ring-necked

Middx: Broadwater Lake, one on Mar 16th.

Aythya hybrid

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 16th resembled a Redhead.

Falcon hybrid

Middx: East India Dock Basin, a Gyr-type on Nov 10th and a Saker-type flew high W at 12:25 on Sep 27th.

Mediterranean x Black-headed Gull

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Feb 5th and Mar 14th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Hybrid

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 31st.

Herring Gull hybrid

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, Feb 1st and Nov 2nd, 16th & 20th.

Caspian Gull hybrid

Middx: Wraysbury Res, one on Sep 17th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Dec 22nd.

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Kent: Brookmill Park, one on Sep 27th, Oct 1st-16th. Crossness, one on Oct 20th.

Yellow-legged x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Aug 31st.

Caspian x Herring Gull

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Feb 6th.

Kent: South Mere Lake, one on Jan 15th.

Yellow Wagtail hybrid

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a female or 1st-summer male on May 3rd which was thought to be a 'Channel Wagtail'.

APPENDIX III: NON-PROVEN AND NON-SUBMITTED RECORDS

Non-proven records

The following records were submitted to the London Natural History Society but have not been accepted, either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2010

Red-rumped Swallow	Wraysbury GP	Apr 30th
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2011

Whiskered Tern	Rainham Marshes	Aug 26th
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2012

Pink-footed Goose	Amwell NR	Oct 30th
Honey Buzzard	South Weald	May 19th
Honey Buzzard	Home Park	May 16th
Goshawk	Gunpowder Park	Oct 15th
Rough-legged Buzzard	Holmethorpe SP	Mar 22nd
Merlin	Layhams Farm	Dec 7th
Richard's Pipit	Leyton Flats	Sep 7th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Whitewebbs Wood	Nov 8th

Non-submitted records

The following records have been reported but to date no details have been received by the London Natural History Society. Photos, descriptions (or notes where appropriate) for any of these records would be welcomed, so that in due course they may be published as accepted records.

2012

Bewick's Swan	Colney Heath	Jan 29th
Whooper Swan	William Girling Res	Oct 27th
Whooper Swan	Rainham Marshes	Dec 11th
Bean Goose	Rainham Marshes	Dec 20th
Pink-footed Goose	Fishers Green Goose Field	one on several dates from Apr 7th-19th
Pink-footed Goose	Rainham Marshes	Mar 9th and Oct 24th
Pink-footed Goose	Regent's Park	Oct 21st
Red-throated Diver	Rainham Marshes	Feb 2nd and Dec 8th
Northern Fulmar	Walthamstow Res	Apr 5th
Manx Shearwater	Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns	one released Sep 28th
Northern Gannet	Dagenham Chase	Sep 22nd
Northern Gannet	Rainham Marshes	May 4th
Northern Gannet	Dartford Marshes	Feb 1st
Northern Gannet	London Wetland Centre	Sep 22nd
Night Heron	Hampton	Jul 1st
Great Egret	Lee Valley Athletics Centre	Dec 17th
Great Egret	Rainham Marshes	Mar 21st and Sep 22nd
Great Egret	Thorney CP	Apr 16th
White Stork	Walthamstow Marsh	May 22nd
White Stork	London Colney	May 22nd
Glossy Ibis	Belhus Woods CP	Jun 1st
Spoonbill	Rainham Marshes	Aug 26th
Honey Buzzard	Rainham Marshes	Aug 23rd
Honey Buzzard	Sewardstone Marsh	Jun 17th and Sep 8th
Honey Buzzard	Upshire	May 8th
Honey Buzzard	Orpington	Jul 26th
Honey Buzzard	Scadbury Park	May 4th
Honey Buzzard	Richmond Park	Aug 27th
Honey Buzzard	Wimbledon Common	Jun 11th
Honey Buzzard	Liverpool Street Station	Jul 5th
Black Kite	Galleyhill Wood	May 26th
Black Kite	Northolt	Mar 31st
Hen Harrier	Grange Waters	Dec 6th
Hen Harrier	South Ockenden	May 11th
Hen Harrier	London Wetland Centre	Oct 6th
Montagu's Harrier	Rainham Marshes	Aug 26th
Goshawk	Belhus Woods CP	Jan 25th & 27th and Aug 29th
Goshawk	Galleyhill Wood	May 12th
Goshawk	KGV Res/William Girling Res	Oct 14th
Goshawk	Rainham Marshes	Dec 6th
Goshawk	Thames Chase	Mar 30th
Goshawk	Home Park	Jun 28th
Goshawk	Wormwood Scrubs	Oct 3rd
Rough-legged Buzzard	Tylers Common	Apr 17th

Rough-legged Buzzard	Sevenoaks WR	Mar 12th
Red-footed Falcon	Leyton Flats	Jun 5th
Merlin	Gallion's Reach	Nov 11th
Merlin	Hall Marsh Scrape	Apr 1st
Merlin	Harold Court Woods	Mar 20th
Merlin	Bromley-by-Bow	Feb 5th
Merlin	Roding Valley Meadows NR	Sep 3rd
Merlin	Walthamstow Res	Mar 8th and Dec 2nd
Merlin	Hampstead Heath	Apr 4th
Merlin	South Norwood CP	two dates in early December
Common Crane	Hainault Forest	March 30th
Stone Curlew	Rainham Marshes	Mar 28th
Pectoral Sandpiper	Rainham Marshes	Sep 25th & 27th-28th
Arctic Skua	Gallion's Reach	Oct 26th
Sabine's Gull	Gallion's Reach	Sep 23rd
Ring-billed Gull	Rainham Marshes	Feb 8th
Caspian Gull	Banbury Res	Jan 14th
Caspian Gull	Wimbledon Park	Nov 18th
Iceland Gull	Walthamstow Res	Apr 16th
Iceland Gull	Broadwater Lake	Apr 12th
Iceland Gull	Holmethorpe SP	Jan 7th-8th and Feb 18th.
Iceland Gull	Walton-on-Thames	Mar 10th
Pallid Swift	London Wetland Centre	May 12th
European Bee-eater	Chingford	May 7th
Hoopoe	Richmond Park	Jul 6th
Wryneck	Big Wood	Sep 8th
Red-rumped Swallow	Rainham Marshes	May 2nd
Red-throated Pipit	London Wetland Centre	Nov 6th
Subalpine Warbler	Greenwich Peninsula	Apr 1st
Yellow-browed Warbler	Rainham Marshes	Sep 22nd
Yellow-browed Warbler	Wanstead Flats	Nov 11th
Great Grey Shrike	Rye Meads	Nov 3rd
Snow Bunting	Rainham Marshes	Nov 11th
Snow Bunting	Holmethorpe SP	Jan 8th
Snow Bunting	London Wetland Centre	Oct 13th & 26th

Records still in circulation

The following record is still being considered either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2012

Honey Buzzard	Walthamstow Res	May 6th
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FIRST AND LAST DATES OF REGULAR MIGRANTS, 2012

Summer Migrants	Arrival	Departure
Garganey ^w	14 Mar Amwell NR	20 Oct Wraysbury GP
Osprey	22 Mar Westminster	15 Sep Tyttenhanger GP
Hobby	31 Mar South Norwood Lake	25 Oct Rye Meads
Little Ringed Plover	12 Mar Staines Res	24 Oct Rainham Marshes
Eurasian Whimbrel	03 Apr Dartford Marshes	30 Sep Rainham Marshes
Little Tern	18 Apr Beddington Farmlands	29 Aug Rainham Marshes
Black Tern	25 Apr Five sites	24 Sep Q Mary Res, Staines Res
Sandwich Tern	14 Mar Tyttenhanger GP	07 Oct Beddington Farmlands
Common Tern	26 Mar Staines Res	13 Oct Crossness
Arctic Tern	10 Apr Gallion's Reach	26 Oct Gallion's Reach
Turtle Dove	21 Apr London Wetland Centre	25 Sep Rainham Marshes
Common Cuckoo	06 Apr Stanwell Moor	10 Sep Tylers Common
Common Swift	12 Apr Hilfield Park Res	27 Sep Beddington Farmlands
Sand Martin	03 Mar London Wetland Centre	04 Nov Sevenoaks WR
Swallow	17 Mar Maple Lodge NR	11 Nov Rainham Marshes
House Martin	31 Mar Stanstead Innings	06 Nov Amwell NR
Tree Pipit	15 Apr Thorndon CP South	10 Oct Wanstead Flats
Yellow Wagtail	28 Mar Totteridge Valley	03 Nov QEII Res
Nightingale	14 Apr Beddington Farmlands	03 Sep Wormwood Scrubs
Common Redstart	01 Apr Hampstead Heath	10 Oct Tyttenhanger GP
Whinchat	27 Apr Canon's Farm, Chorleywood, Croxley Common Moor	14 Oct Stocker's Farm, London Wetland Centre
Northern Wheatear	15 Mar Q Mother Res	23 Oct Beddington Farmlands
Ring Ouzel	04 Apr Walthamstow Res	18 Nov Rainham Marshes, West Thurrock Marshes
Grasshopper Warbler	21 Apr Hatfield Aerodrome, Rye Meads	12 Sep Elstree Aerodrome
Sedge Warbler	20 Mar Rainham Marshes	06 Oct Rye Meads
Reed Warbler	08 Apr Rainham Marshes	19 Oct Leyton
Garden Warbler	23 Mar London Wetland Centre	03 Oct Danson Park
Lesser Whitethroat	13 Apr Waterworks NR	01 Oct Rainham Marshes
Common Whitethroat ^w	09 Mar Lakeside Shopping Centre	18 Oct Wormwood Scrubs
Wood Warbler	04 May Scadbury Park	30 Aug Long Running
Willow Warbler ^w	18 Mar South Norwood CP	14 Nov Q Mother Res
Spotted Flycatcher	02 May Staines Moor	06 Oct Richmond Park
Pied Flycatcher	06 Apr Fairlop Waters	19 Sep Barking Park

^w excludes winter records

Winter Migrants	Departure	Arrival
Smew	21 Mar Staines Res	01 Dec Horton GP, Wraysbury GP
Goosander ^s	23 May Thorney CP	30 Sep KGV Res
Bittern	28 Mar Amwell NR, Beddington Farmlands	04 Oct Rye Meads
Jack Snipe	08 May London Wetland Centre	23 Sep Regent's Park
Rock Pipit	26 Mar Crossness	24 Sep Island Barn Res
Water Pipit	10 Apr Staines Res	21 Oct Beddington Farmlands
Fieldfare	19 Apr Wanstead Flats	09 Sep Dartford
Redwing	01 May Romford GC	14 Sep South Norwood Lake
Brambling	26 Mar Stanstead Abbots	30 Sep Alexandra Park

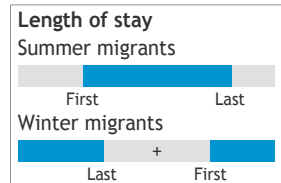
^s excludes summer records

Length of stay of regular migrants

The figures below show the number of days, in descending order, during which each regular migrant species was present in the London Area in 2012.

The presence of summer migrants is the length of time between and including the first arrival date and the last departure date. The figure for winter migrants is the sum of their presence from the beginning of the year up to and including their latest departure date and from their earliest arrival date to the end of the year (see bar chart below).

Summer Migrants	Days	Summer Migrants	Days	Winter Migrants	Days
Sand Martin	247	Redstart	193	Goosander ^s	237
Willow Warbler ^w	242	Whimbrel	181	Redwing	231
Swallow	240	Swift	169	Jack Snipe	229
Ring Ouzel	229	Tree Pipit	179	Fieldfare	224
Little Ringed Plover	227	Osprey	178	Rock Pipit	185
Whitethroat ^w	224	Lesser Whitethroat	172	Brambling	179
Wheatear	223	Whinchat	171	Bittern	177
Garganey ^w	221	Pied Flycatcher	167	Water Pipit	173
House Martin	221	Turtle Dove	158	Smew	112
Yellow Wagtail	221	Cuckoo	158		
Hobby	209	Black Tern	153		
Sandwich Tern	208	Spotted Flycatcher	158		
Common Tern	202	Grasshopper Warbler	145		
Sedge Warbler	201	Nightingale	143		
Arctic Tern	200	Little Tern	134		
Reed Warbler	195	Wood Warbler	119		
Garden Warbler	195	^w excludes winter records			



RINGING REPORT

PAUL ROPER

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2012>

Ringing in London is carried out by a range of groups, partnerships and individuals. Accurate figures rely on all ringers returning ringing data to a central point for analysis to enable a comprehensive report to be written. Due to the complexity, size and transient nature of ringing in the LNHS recording area (the 'London Area'), it is always unclear if all the ringing activity has been submitted in any one year; this report cannot be considered as an accurate or complete review of the ringing in 2012. Attempting to make any scientific comparisons on ringing data between years can therefore be rather meaningless and is not addressed in this report. Numbers of many species ringed vary year on year due to a range of factors, such as ringer effort and coverage, or weather conditions, which can have a marked effect on catching success and final totals for any year. For these reasons, many changes in species figures in this type of report are not a reflection on population levels but more often of ringer activity or submission of records. A good reflection of population levels is through Constant Effort Sites (CES) and there are a number running in the London Area; the data is pooled nationally and can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces

The BTO also provides online data for ringing in the UK set out on a county basis, which unfortunately is not a true reflection of ringing activities within the London Area. It only covers Greater London, which for 2012 shows a total of only 4,982 birds ringed against the total of 14,036 birds ringed which has been submitted for the London Area. Detailed information on birds ringed and recovered can be found for Greater London and surrounding counties at:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports

However, for counties outside Greater London, the data contains all birds ringed in the county, so many will also be a much higher proportion than of the birds ringed within the London Area.

A cross-check of this list always throws up some birds not reported directly, and the totals for a number of species, such as Peregrine Falcon and Egyptian Goose, have been taken directly from the list on the BTO web site.

With this in mind, the most interesting information is the totals of each species ringed and the finding situations of birds recovered away from London or caught in London but having been ringed elsewhere (controls). As with the report for 2011, this report will deal primarily with this raw data, and readers should use caution if making any comparisons with changes in year-on-year totals.

The total number of birds ringed in London in 2012 which have been submitted amounts to 14,357. In this year's report, the data received allows full-grown birds and nestlings (pulli) to be separated: 12,002 full-grown birds and 2,373 nestlings were ringed in 2012. Full details of individual species are given in Table 1 along with overall total comparisons for 2010 and 2011.

Generally, the numbers of birds ringed is down, but no reasons for this can be given in this report. Numbers of wildfowl ringed continue to be down on the previous two years but there is a welcome increase in Gadwall, Teal and Mallard. Wader totals are never high, and only three species of wader were ringed in 2012: Lapwing, Woodcock and Common Sandpiper. Raptors decreased in 2012 with the exception of owls, and Barn and Tawny Owl were both up on 2011. With continued activity by the North Thames Gull Group at Rainham, good numbers of gulls were ringed and resighted in London in 2012; however, more activity was concentrated at Pitsea, and the numbers at Rainham are down on previous years; this is due to very little food waste coming into this site now, and numbers of gulls in general in the Rainham area are in decline. Common Tern numbers continue to decline, with the main colony at Rye Meads now being subsumed by Black-headed Gulls. A single Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was of note and mirrors the national decline of this species. Hirundine numbers were down on 2011 and continue to remain low. Singles of Nightingale and Wheatear were of note but no Stonechat or Whinchat were ringed in 2012, continuing the low level of these two species on the London ringing list. Thrushes remain reasonably constant, with Mistle Thrush appearing back on the list which, for a relatively common species, is not caught very often. Cetti's

Lesser Black-backed Gull

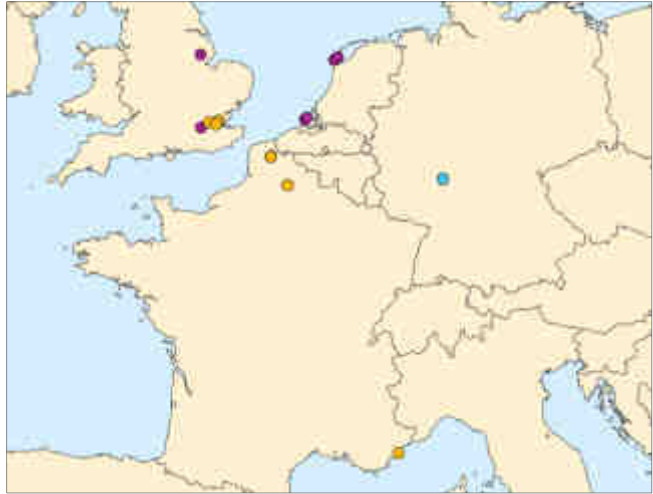
- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing locations of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip



These maps, and the Great Black-backed Gull map on page 184, show all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham.

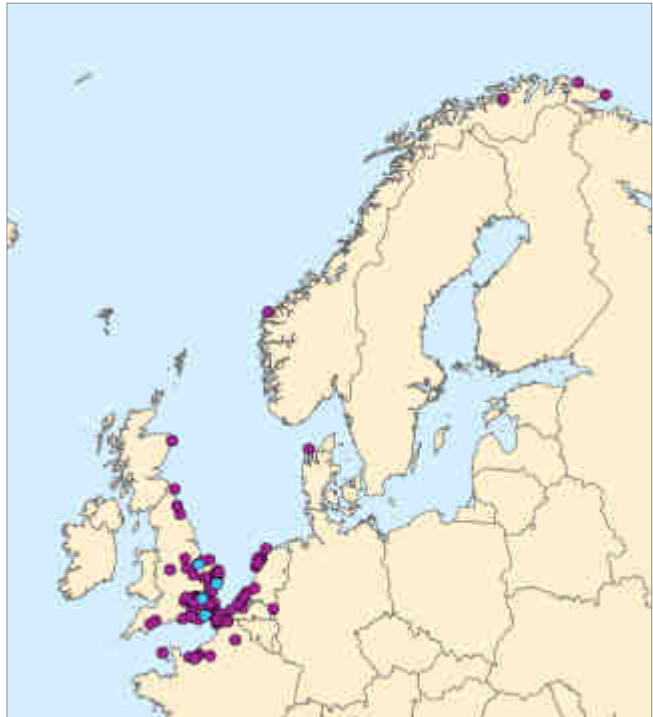
Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull

- Re-sighting locations of Yellow-legged Gulls ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing location of Caspian Gull re-sighted at Rainham Tip
- Re-sighting location of Caspian Gull ringed at Rainham Tip



Herring Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing locations of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip



(Garganey Consulting)

Warbler numbers declined sharply, and this is likely to be attributable to weather conditions over winter. All warblers have shown some large declines, and this is interesting to see. It will be worth observing if this trend continues in 2013 or if it is related mainly to a change in effort. A Yellow-browed Warbler was the only rarity to make the ringing list in the warbler family and must have been a welcome bonus for the ringer who trapped it. Goldcrest numbers are well up and five Firecrests are of note. No flycatchers were ringed in 2012 but three Bearded Tits were of note. Also of note was the Great Grey Shrike which must also have been a welcome find in a mist net. After the nil report for Tree Sparrows in 2011, the increase in 2012 perhaps suggests that the data for 2011 may not have been included. The ringing returns from Beddington - mostly of nestlings - brings the total back to near the 2010 levels. Finch and bunting numbers show some changes, but redpoll numbers did not make the high of 2011. Bullfinch and Reed Bunting numbers remain constant and Yellowhammers, although back on the list, remain pitifully low.

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2012

FG = full-grown; pul = nestling (pullus)

Species	FG 2012	pul 2012	2012 total	2011 total	2010 total	Species	FG 2012	pul 2012	2012 total	2011 total	2010 total
Mute Swan	136	0	136	108	160	Dunlin	0	0	0	84	0
Greylag Goose	3	2	5	2	88	Jack Snipe	0	0	0	0	4
Canada Goose	181	47	228	54	39	Snipe	0	0	0	1	22
Egyptian Goose	20	11	31	1	2	Redshank	0	0	0	7	0
Mandarin	5	0	5	2	6	Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	3	9
Gadwall	7	17	24	9	44	Common Sandpiper	5	0	5	1	0
Teal	50	0	50	3	68	Black-headed Gull	290	110	400	702	738
Mallard	65	15	80	15	63	Common Gull	53	0	53	6	15
Shoveler	0	0	0	0	13	Lsr Black-bkd Gull	39	0	39	201	87
Pochard	0	6	6	2	4	Yellow-legged Gull	2	0	2	27	1
Tufted Duck	11	18	29	8	74	Herring Gull	351	0	351	834	235
Cormorant	0	10	10	4	7	Caspian Gull	0	0	0	3	0
Little Egret	0	15	15	0	0	Gt Black-bkd Gull	5	0	5	46	7
Grey Heron	0	18	18	33	15	Common Tern	0	24	24	51	76
Little Grebe	7	1	8	2	9	Stock Dove	1	6	7	16	39
Gt Crested Grebe	3	0	3	0	0	Woodpigeon	32	0	32	23	27
Sparrowhawk	13	0	13	14	23	Collared Dove	12	3	15	7	16
Buzzard	0	0	0	2	0	Ring-nkd Parakeet	301	0	301	239	170
Kestrel	4	5	9	22	21	Cuckoo	0	0	0	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	0	8	8	0	0	Barn Owl	1	10	11	9	14
Water Rail	3	0	3	0	1	Little Owl	1	5	6	2	0
Moorhen	24	0	24	14	40	Tawny Owl	0	6	6	4	7
Coot	36	2	38	47	96	Swift	305	0	305	0	5
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	5	0	Kingfisher	21	0	21	47	42
Lapwing	0	1	1	7	0	Green Woodpecker	26	0	26	37	21
Woodcock	2	0	2	0	0	Gt Spd Woodpecker	67	0	67	57	56

Species	FG 2012	pul 2012	2012 total	2011 total	2010 total	Species	FG 2012	pul 2012	2012 total	2011 total	2010 total
Lsr Spd Woodpecker	1	0	1	0	0	Yel-browed Warbler	1	0	1	0	0
Sand Martin	1	0	1	95	73	Goldcrest	338	0	338	161	141
Swallow	27	24	51	114	141	Firecrest	5	0	5	2	3
House Martin	73	0	73	14	99	Spotted Flycatcher	0	0	0	2	0
Tree Pipit	0	0	0	1	0	Bearded Tit	3	0	3	0	0
Meadow Pipit	57	0	57	220	273	Long-tailed Tit	263	0	263	394	411
Water Pipit	0	0	0	0	1	Blue Tit	1162	940	2102	2228	3261
Grey Wagtail	8	0	8	20	29	Great Tit	654	561	1215	1362	1812
Pied Wagtail	1	0	1	2	7	Coal Tit	49	0	49	45	53
Waxwing	0	0	0	1	0	Marsh Tit	2	0	2	1	6
Wren	286	0	286	354	344	Nuthatch	20	8	28	22	21
Dunnock	326	0	326	512	371	Treecreeper	22	0	22	31	42
Robin	465	8	473	637	570	Great Grey Shrike	1	0	1	0	0
Nightingale	1	0	1	1	0	Jay	51	7	58	31	30
Black Redstart	0	0	0	1	0	Magpie	27	9	36	30	46
Redstart	3	0	3	4	6	Jackdaw	8	1	9	8	18
Whinchat	0	0	0	1	0	Carrion Crow*	2	4	6	3	2
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	1	Starling	269	4	273	86	126
Wheatear	1	0	1	0	1	House Sparrow	96	4	100	39	161
Blackbird	458	8	466	403	416	Tree Sparrow	12	330	342	0	498
Fieldfare	12	0	12	2	4	Chaffinch	338	4	342	295	445
Song Thrush	159	1	160	162	158	Brambling	2	0	2	3	2
Redwing	63	0	63	42	53	Greenfinch	447	18	465	834	851
Mistle Thrush	4	2	6	0	0	Goldfinch	643	0	643	662	884
Cetti's Warbler	16	0	16	57	34	Siskin	64	0	64	132	99
Grasshopper Warbler	1	0	1	7	5	Linnet	16	0	16	75	94
Sedge Warbler	273	25	298	579	561	Common Redpoll	1	0	1	1	0
Reed Warbler	583	41	624	1129	1118	Redpoll Sp	0	0	0	3	0
Blackcap	1056	10	1066	2478	1460	Lesser Redpoll	378	0	378	525	123
Garden Warbler	78	0	78	344	156	Bullfinch	33	0	33	50	37
Lesser Whitethroat	15	0	15	93	65	Yellowhammer	8	0	8	0	1
Whitethroat	203	10	213	1272	525	Reed Bunting	67	9	76	154	150
Wood Warbler	0	0	0	1	1	Total	12002	2373	14375	20109	19590
Chiffchaff	640	5	645	1385	1141	*or Hooded Crow					
Willow Warbler	127	0	127	237	295						

Recoveries and Controls

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year, some of which have also been taken from the BTO web site.

Four records of particular interest are listed below: Grey Heron - longevity record of more than 19 years; Fieldfare - movement to probably the breeding grounds; Firecrest - very few recoveries like this; Bearded Tit - quick movement.

The full list of recoveries is listed on the LNHS website.

Great Black-backed Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing location of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip



(Garganey Consulting)

Lesser Redpoll movements to and from the London Area

- Ringing location



The dots on the Redpoll map are at the ringing-location end of the line. So some are movements from London and others to London.

(Garganey Consulting)

The first line shows the ring number, age (and sex) when ringed, and the date and site of original ringing; the second and subsequent lines show the status, date, and site of subsequent recovery or recapture; and the final line shows the distance (1km = 0.625 miles), direction since first ringed, and time-span between original ringing and final recovery. Dates are in the format dd/mm/yy.

Key to symbols used:

ad	Adult	M	Male	VV	Ring or colour marks
F	Female	pul	Pullus/Nestling		read in the field
J	Juvenile	R	Caught and released by a ringer	X	Found dead
				+	Shot or killed by man

EURING Codes for the age of the bird when ringed.

0	Not aged	3	In First calendar year
1	Pullus/Nestling	4	Second calendar year or older
1J	In first calendar year and close to nest	5	In second calendar year
2	Current calendar year or any age older		

Grey Heron

1280187	1	21/05/1992	Osterley Park, Middx
	X	10/02/2012	Teddington Lock, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Middx 8km SSE; 7,204 days

Fieldfare

LC31736	3F	25/11/2010	Bromhey Farm, Medway, Kent
	XF	24/08/2012	Sortavala Karelia, Russian Federation 2,156km ENE; 638 days

Firecrest

CYD252	3M	14/09/2011	Straight Mile, near Romsey, Hampshire
	R	09/11/2011	Holland Park, In Lond
		& 24/02/2012	102 km ENE; 56 days & 163 days

Bearded Tit

L511927	4F	10/11/2012	Rye Meads, Herts
	VV	11/12/2012	The Serpentine, Hyde Park, In Lond 32km SSW; 31 days
L511928	4F	10/11/2012	Rye Meads, Herts
		11/12/2012	The Serpentine, Hyde Park, In Lond 32km SSW; 31 days

Large Gulls

The continuation of colour-ringing of large gulls at Rainham by the NTGG has amassed a large number of sightings of large gulls, far too many to include in this report. Ornithologists interested specifically in these movements can visit the NTGG web site at www.ntgg.org.uk

Lesser Black-backed Gull Colour-ring sightings for this species came from the following countries; all birds were originally ringed at Rainham Landfill Site. Note that these are

sightings of individual birds, many of which have multiple sightings at the same or multiple sites. A map showing all locations of recoveries from the Landfill at Rainham is on page 180.

Country	No. of individuals	Country	No. of individuals	Country	No. of individuals
UK	44	Germany	3	Sweden	1
Netherlands	34	Norway	2	Portugal	5
France	15	Spain	26	Denmark	1
Belgium	7	Morocco and Western Sahara	8		

Herring Gull Locations of individuals and countries in which they were sighted are given in the table below. A map showing all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham is on page 181.

Country	No. of individuals	Country	No. of individuals	Country	No. of individuals
UK	144	Belgium	5	Denmark	1
France	63	Netherlands	15		
Norway	4	Channel Islands	1		

Great Black-backed Gull A small selection of interesting sightings and life histories are given in the table on the LNHS website. A map showing all locations of recoveries from the Landfill at Rainham is on page 184.

Lesser Redpoll

2012 continued with large numbers of Lesser Redpoll moving around the UK, and many of these flocks of birds were easily catchable. This resulted in some interesting and quick movements of which the London Area again had its fair share. A map of all recoveries and controls of Lesser Redpoll is given on page 184.

Reporting a ringed bird

The BTO relies on people reporting ringed birds, so if you find a bird wearing a ring or have read metal- or colour-ring details in the field, please report these to:

BTO Ringing Unit, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU
or use the online reporting pages at www.ring.ac

List of contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the information received from the following: A. G. Beasley, S. Christmas, Dartford Ringing Group, C. W. Dee, D. Harris, Hershams Ringing Group, North Thames Gull Group, M. Reed, P. Roper, D. Ross, Runnymede Ringing Group, Rye Meads Ringing Group, Roy Sanderson, R. Taylor, B. Trevis and P. Oakenfell.

Paul Roper, ntgg_sightings@hotmail.co.uk

BONAPARTE'S GULL AT CROSSNESS, MAY 2012 - THE FIRST AND SECOND RECORDS FOR LONDON

RICHARD BONSER

After the usual hectic working week, I set off on my customary routine of a morning's birding at Crossness on Saturday May 19th. It was a blustery day, not so typical for the time of year, and with a westerly wind my hopes of a spring migration feast were not high. Nevertheless, I walked east to the sewage outfall near the incinerator as a scan of the foreshore off the golf centre had already proved fruitless. The outfall is usually good for large concentrations of Black-headed Gulls, as well as Teal, Gadwall and occasionally other dabbling ducks and so I started scanning through them.

Since moving to London a decade ago, gulls in particular have kept me sane (a role reversal to most!) - be it individual plumage variation or simply reading rings - and I always make a point of scanning gull flocks wherever I go, knowing that many birders purposely avoid them! With the tide at its mid-point, there were a couple of hundred Black-headed Gulls loafing on the river and others strewn over the mudflats. Playing the numbers game, I'd scanned the close gulls and went for the more distant birds on the foreshore. As I was searching, all of a sudden I had one of those moments where the telescope came to an abrupt halt. It was now just shy of 08:00 and despite the gloom and distance (a couple of hundred yards at least), there was a slightly smaller 1st-winter gull with a slightly darker mantle that looked suspiciously as if it had a slight greyish shawl to its nape even at this distance. It also appeared to have pink legs and a relatively fine black bill, as well as characteristically dark brown retained coverts and tertials. Having found a couple of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Azores the previous year, and seen ten or so in Britain over the years and several thousand in Canada as recently as December 2011, I was pretty convinced that this was the real deal - a first-winter Bonaparte's Gull. Realising the magnitude of the record in a London context, I got on the phone to my regular birding companion John Archer (who was looking for a lost cat!) and gave him the news that he should get himself down to Crossness as soon as feasibly possible, as well as relaying the news to others including Paul Hawkins, who was on the other side of the Thames at Barking.

Within a couple of minutes of putting the phone down, the bird in question decided to fly closer in and remarkably came to feed just off the river wall where the confirmation was complete - the bird had a nice white underwing with black primary tips. My DSLR was now on overdrive, and I proceeded to take a series of photos detailing all the salient identification features. Just before John arrived, however, the bird headed off from the outfall and west along the River Thames with a few Black-headed Gulls. It was obscured by the jetty so, unable to immediately scan for it myself, I relayed the news to Paul who was scanning from the north side of the river. Within minutes, he called me back to say he'd relocated it (on the south side) off the golf centre. By this time John had arrived, and he managed to see the bird before it once again headed off westwards. As it was London's first Bonaparte's Gull, inevitably a large number of

birders started to descend on the site, and it took a painstaking couple of hours before the bird was relocated.

As it turned out, this bird ended up making a protracted stay, keeping birders on their toes as it commuted between Crossness and Barking Bay on either side of the River Thames until May 29th; it was also noted just downriver at Rainham Marshes on May 20th.

The story didn't quite end there though, as on Saturday May 26th, I dragged Josh Jones out to Crossness for a morning's birding. Quickly locating a Bonaparte's Gull at the outfall, it was a bit of a shock to find this bird was partially hooded. Despite the original bird being present all week, the last photos we'd seen were dated May 22nd when the bird still sported a winter head pattern of an isolated dark oval on the ear-coverts. However, we just assumed extensive moult, and only jokingly suggested that it could be a different individual - we deemed this just too inconceivable and so we proceeded to take shots and get our fill of the bird. However, the next day (Sunday, May 27th) David Bradnum located the original bird again at Barking Bay, still sporting winter plumage in its entirety. This unequivocally confirmed that two birds were involved. In fact, both birds remained erratically until May 29th when, for the first and only time, Dominic Mitchell observed the two birds together.

Description

Bird 1 (May 19th-29th)

A. A small 'hooded' gull, about 90% the size of accompanying Black-headed Gulls with a thin, wholly black bill and an obvious oval spot on the ear-coverts. Obviously dainty with typically bubblegum-pink legs. The grey mantle feathering advanced on to the lower nape to give the bird a grey shawl, most obvious in dull light (it was very difficult to see in sunny conditions when the lighting bleached the whole bird).

B. Obvious white in the inner hand of the wing, bordered by black tips to all primaries with P8-P10 having variable amounts of black towards the bases. Secondaries black; extensively black-tipped. Dark markings on the tertials; greater, median and primary coverts darker than on Black-headed Gull. Also, this bird had a fully retained black terminal band to the tail.

Bird 1, photographed on May 19th 2012 - the day it was found. (Richard Bonser)





Bird 2, photographed on May 26th 2012 (Richard Bonser)

Bird 2 (May 26th-29th)

D & E. A more advanced bird overall to Bird 1. Like Bird 1, this individual displayed all the hallmark Bonaparte's Gull features including an obvious white underwing bordered by black primary tips, smaller size than Black-headed Gulls (c.90%) and a thin black bill. C. Plumage differences to Bird 1 included a couple of newly-moulted, white-tipped central tail feathers (compared to a fully-retained black terminal band on Bird 1), less extensive black bases to P8-P10, a lack of dark retained first-winter feathering on the greater and median primary coverts, a more developed hood and difference in patterning of the retained first-winter tertials.

Richard Bonser, Flat 7, 96 Rope Street, Surrey Quays, London SE16 7TQ

Editorial note: A previously-accepted record has now been rejected by the LNHS and is under review by BBRC.

Bird 2, photographed on May 26th 2012 (Richard Bonser)



FERAL PIGEON COLONIES ON BRIDGES - PART 2

DUNCAN HOOD

In a previous paper (Hood, 2010) I published the results of a survey of Feral Pigeon colonies on bridges in the London Area for 2009/2010. Further work has since been carried out with additional emphasis on bridges in the London Area but outside Greater London (this area is termed 'Outer Ring' in this paper). Consequently it is possible to compare records from Greater London with the Outer Ring. The survey method remains the same as described in the previous paper.

The records gathered each year are given, then as sorted into bridge classification:

Area	Records gathered each year				Total	Records sorted by bridge classification			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		Unsuitable	Netted	Unoccupied	Occupied
Greater London	374	958	522	106	1960	1201	161	268	330
Outer Ring	3	43	318	185	549	444	8	54	43
Total	377	1001	840	291	2509	645	169	322	373

It will be seen that the percentage of unsuitable bridges is higher in the Outer Ring than in Greater London (80.9% versus 61.2%). Presumably this is a by-product of local technical requirements rather than a greater propensity to 'design pigeons out'. There is a large difference in the proportions of netted bridges - 1.5% for the Outer Ring and 8.2% for Greater London. The difference is more pronounced if one considers the percentages of suitable bridges that have been netted - 7.6% and 21.2% respectively - perhaps suggesting that Outer Ring colonies have less nuisance value (however it should be noted that 'netted' refers only to bridges with complete, intact netting/spikes etc). A substantial fraction of suitable bridges in Greater London have been made unavailable by netting.

If one considers 'available' bridges (ie occupied; or suitable but unoccupied and not netted) then these results apply :

No. of pairs	0	1+	1-5	5	5+	5-10	10	10+	10-20	20	20+
Greater London	268	118	116	1	3	37	2	1	24	2	1
Outer Ring	54	10	16	0	1	8	0	0	6	0	0
Greater London %*	44.8	19.7	19.4	0.2	0.5	6.2	0.3	0.2	4.0	0.3	0.2
Outer Ring %*	55.7	10.3	16.5	0	1.0	8.2	0	0	6.2	0	0

No. of pairs	20-30	30+	30-50	50-60	60-70	70-100	Total
Greater London	12	1	7	1	2	2	598
Outer Ring	0	0	1	1	0	0	97
Greater London %*	2.0	0.2	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	100.0
Outer Ring %*	0	0	1.0	1.0	0	0	100.0

* Percentages may not add up to 100% owing to rounding

There may be a somewhat higher percentage of unoccupied bridges in the Outer Ring, although it is possible that Feral Pigeons may never have come across those in the more remote or rural parts of the area. As far as colonies of up to 20 pairs are concerned, the percentages seem similar in both areas, although occupied but unmeasurable ('1+') colonies are a notable exception (as stated in the previous paper, these colonies are probably small). If colonies of over 20 pairs are considered, there may be a higher proportion (4.3%) in Greater London than the Outer Ring (2.1%) but the number of instances in the latter area is very small. In both areas, it appears that the majority of bridge colonies are small and possibly the majority of pairs live in small colonies (no more than about 20 pairs).

Owing to small sample sizes in the Outer Ring it is not practicable to compare colonies with Greater London for individual years.

The density of colonies is shown below (note that density could not be assessed for all colonies):

Density	Low	Medium	High	Total
Greater London	146	35	37	218
Outer Ring	17	10	6	33
Greater London %*	67.0	16.1	17.0	100.0
Outer Ring %*	51.5	30.3	18.2	100.0

*Percentages may not add up to 100% owing to rounding.

It appears that there may be a higher proportion of low-density colonies in Greater London but a lower incidence of medium-density colonies compared to the Outer Ring. The percentages of high-density colonies seem similar. However, the sample size in the Outer Ring is again quite small.

Bibliography

Hood, D., 2010. Feral Pigeon colonies on bridges, *Lond. Bird Rep.* 75: 216-218

Duncan Hood, 1a Beards Hill Close, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2AH
gelsomina8001@yahoo.co.uk

Editorial note: The data from this research for the years 2009-2012 are compiled in a spreadsheet containing 2,500+ records. It lists the year of observation, postal district, locality, street/location, number of pairs, and density classification.

The author has kindly agreed to send a copy of the spreadsheet by email to *bona fide* researchers who request it.

BAILLON'S CRAKE AT RSPB RAINHAM MARSHES, SEPTEMBER 7TH 2012 - THE FIRST FOR LONDON SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY*

MARIANNE TAYLOR

On the evening of September 5th, I was reading Howard Vaughan's blog about the find of a Southern Migrant Hawker dragonfly at Rainham. As I was at the time on a UK dragonfly quest and had not seen this species before, I decided to go to Rainham at the earliest opportunity hopefully to find and photograph it. I arrived on the reserve in the late morning of Friday 7th. It was a very warm and sunny day and thousands of dragonflies were on the wing as I began the walk clockwise round the main trail.

At the far end of the reserve, having failed to locate the Southern Migrant Hawker, I was considering heading back the way I had come but was convinced to continue to the Tower Butts hide by a birder heading from the opposite direction, who said he had had great views of Hobby from there. Two other birders were in the hide when I arrived but left shortly afterwards. I took a seat facing the main reserve and watched three or four Hobbies hunting over the marsh for about 20 minutes. It was nearly 1pm at this point. I then began to photograph the Little Grebes on the nearest stretch of water and it was at this point that I noticed through my lens a smallish brown bird moving along the sedges at the far edge of this strip of water.

I focused on the bird and took a series of photographs as it picked its way along. It was clearly a rail or crake, showing barred flanks, brown upper parts and a greyish head and breast, but my lens is not especially powerful (420mm) and the bird was very small in the frame - I was also looking into the light so the bird was strongly backlit.



Baillon's Crake at Rainham Marshes, taken on a Nikon D300 using a 300mm f4 lens with 1.4x teleconverter - effectively 420mm f5.6. (Marianne Taylor)

I continued to take photos until it slipped between the sedge stems and out of view, and then I zoomed in on one of the clearer photos on the camera's viewfinder. I could now see that the bird had a short, fairly stout bill, immediately ruling out the possibility of juvenile Water Rail. I could also see white spangling on the upper parts. It appeared quite bulky in the body with a longish and slender neck.

I waited for another 20 minutes or so but the crake did not reappear. At this point I thought it was most likely to be a Spotted Crake. Because of my dragonfly 'tunnel vision' in 2012, I was not aware that there had been several records of singing Baillon's Crake in the UK that summer (also, having seen Little Crake before, my impression was that this was too large a bird to be that species or Baillon's). However, I knew I needed to look at my photos on a proper screen and to show them to other birders, so I headed back to the visitor centre where I found Howard. He immediately suspected Baillon's on looking at my photos. We headed up to the offices and viewed my photos on a large screen alongside a copy of Collins. We noted features such as the fully-barred undertail, and the white spangling on the wings but not reaching the neck and head, and quickly concluded that my bird was a juvenile Baillon's.

I had to leave after this, but the crake was re-found that evening and continued to show on and off over the next couple of weeks; it was seen, photographed and filmed by hundreds of birders, though many had to wait several hours for an appearance. It was last seen on September 22nd.

Given the earlier 2012 records of at least nine singing male Baillon's Crakes at various sites (detected during night-time surveys for Spotted Crake) there has been much speculation on the possibility that this was a UK-bred bird - perhaps even Rainham-bred. Also, some observers are convinced that there were actually two different individuals present, which would strongly support local breeding. Rainham was not among the sites surveyed for Spotted Crake but it certainly offers suitable breeding habitat. However, as young birds begin their southward migration in full juvenile plumage, it is impossible to be sure. Later surveys in 2013 proved fruitless - the 2012 influx was probably a result of drought on breeding grounds further south. This particular bird (or perhaps birds!) was the first twitchable Baillon's since 1999, and the best 'self-found' of my rather patchy birding career by some margin - though I still wish I had managed to see the Southern Migrant Hawker as well!

* There are three 19th-Century records for Baillon's Crake (Self, 2014).

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Marianne Taylor, marianne.c.taylor@gmail.com

LNHS HOUSE SPARROW MONITORING MARCH 1995 - SEPTEMBER 2003: FINAL COMMENTS

HELEN BAKER

Introduction

From March 1995 to October 2003, I organised a monitoring survey of House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* in the London Area (i.e. the region within a 20 mile, approximately 32-kilometre, radius of St Paul's Cathedral). An Interim Report gave a detailed analysis of the data from 27 gardens which had been monitored for at least four years up to the end of February 2001 (*Baker 2005*). A second paper (*Baker 2008*) covered the whole period 1995 to 2003. It reported on House Sparrow numbers in individual gardens in different parts of London, the trend in 38 gardens where records had been kept for at least two consecutive years with no more than two months missing in any one year and the overall trend based on 12 gardens for which there were eight years' data. The gardens for which a trend had been plotted were placed in four categories, increasing (four), shallow decline (11), intermediate decline (13) and steep decline (10).

This paper gives an analysis and the results of the data on habitat, predators and competitors which were collected during the survey to see if they suggest any reasons for the decline. I must apologise that other commitments have prevented me from producing this paper sooner.

Method

The method was described in Baker (*Baker 2005*).

Habitat

A habitat form, a copy of which is at Appendix 1, was sent to participants and 52 out of 61 were completed. These included 34 relating to the 38 gardens where it had been possible to determine a trend in House Sparrow numbers. These 34 forms were used to see if there appeared to be any relationship between habitat and the trend in sparrow numbers. One garden was omitted from the final analysis because, although the trend showed an intermediate decline, most of the sparrows had been lost before the survey started. This left 33 gardens with habitat forms and these were divided into three categories, those where House Sparrow numbers were increasing plus those where there was a shallow decline (13), those where there was an intermediate decline (12) and those where there had been a steep decline (8). The three gardens with a positive trend were grouped with those where there had been a shallow decline to produce a more balanced sample.

Histograms were drawn showing the percentage of gardens in each category:

- within or not within 100 metres of a particular type of habitat;
- in each age band;
- with given numbers of deciduous and coniferous trees;
- with or without a particular feature.

This summary follows the order of questions on the habitat form:

[1] Just four gardens were classified as Urban, one where House Sparrows were increasing, two where there was a shallow decline and one with an intermediate decline. None was classed as Rural.

[2] Not all of the habitats listed on the form occurred within 100 metres of any of the gardens. By far the most common nearby habitat was other gardens. Just over a third were close to a park or recreation area and about a quarter were close to woodland. Scrubland, marsh and a lake or gravel pit were the other habitats recorded. None of the histograms suggested that the trend in House Sparrow numbers might be associated with any of the nearby habitats.

[3] One garden where there was an intermediate decline in House Sparrow numbers was large. There were equal numbers of small and medium sized gardens, quite evenly distributed between the three House Sparrow categories.

[4] It seems reasonable to assume that the garden will be the same age as the house. Over half (55%) of the gardens were more than 50 years old and a third were from 20 to 49 years old. Of the remainder, one, where there was a shallow decline in House Sparrows, was in the five to ten year category and three (including one where sparrows were increasing) were between 11 and 19 years old. All the gardens in the steep decline category fell into the two highest age classes.

[5 & 6] Four gardens did not have any trees but most had at least a couple and three had in excess of ten. Deciduous trees predominated.

[7] Virtually all the gardens included flowerbeds, most generally well-tended. Most had a lawn (the majority weedy) and a patio or other paved area. Over half had a shrubbery and just under a third had a wild area. Vegetables and orchards were less common features.

[8] Nearly all the gardens had a boundary fence and approximately half had a boundary wall. Just over a third had a boundary hedge, with equal numbers being evergreen and deciduous, and just over a third of boundaries included a building.

[9] In just over half the gardens there was a creeper growing over the wall of the house or another building, or over the boundary fence or wall.

None of the histograms suggested that the trend in House Sparrow numbers might be associated with any of these features.

Nest sites

The survey form included the question: "Did House Sparrows nest on your house or in your garden during this survey period? If so, please give details of the nest site on the back of this form". Only 18 of the 61 participants in the survey responded to this question and in just 13 cases (including seven cases where a trend could be plotted) were House Sparrows actually nesting on the participant's house or in his or her garden. In all other cases the sparrows were simply visiting the gardens for feeding. The information which was provided is tabulated in Table 1 which includes the age of the garden. If the nest was on the next-door house it was assumed that this was the same age as the participant's house and garden. In other cases the age is not known. Where the same site was used in more than one year the largest number of nests reported in any one year has been used. Where no information on the number of nests was given, it



House Sparrows remain numerous in some locations, such as Rainham, where a large flock gathers round the feeders. (Above left, Andrew Moon; above right, Russ Sherriff)

is assumed that there was just one. Information on nest sites came from only one garden where numbers were increasing and here the nests were under the eaves in the house next door and a house across the road.

Table 1. Nest sites used by House Sparrows

Description of site	Number of nests	Presumed age of property
In loft space under eaves, under overhanging roof tiles or roof overhang	14	50+ (6)
		20-49 (2)
		11-19 (1)
		Not known (2)
Hole in wall	4	50+ (2)
Behind guttering or pipes	4	20-49 (2)
In box inserted to block off space between a fitting and the balcony above	2	50+ (1)
In nest box	1	50+ (1)
In bushes/hedge/ivy on house wall	3+	50+ (1)
		Not known (1)

Interesting behaviour was recorded by one participant. A pair of House Sparrows had nested in the loft space at the side of his house. However, during the course of the survey a Grey Squirrel had got in and the hole had to be closed. One three-hole sparrow box and one single-nest box were installed to compensate for the lost site. In the first year one pair nested under the roof near the three-hole box but that autumn the birds began to show interest in the box. The following year one pair nested in the three-hole box and a second pair nested under the eaves.

Predators

In the case of five of the 38 gardens for which trends were plotted, the data on species other than House Sparrows were sporadic so these gardens have been excluded from the predators and competitor comparisons. The garden where most of the sparrows had been lost before the start of the survey has also been omitted. This leaves 32 gardens to consider, three where sparrows were increasing, 10 with a shallow decline, 10 with an intermediate decline and nine with a steep decline.

Sparrowhawks were never, or virtually never, recorded in 14 gardens, including seven where there was a steep decline in House Sparrows. There were only seven gardens where they were recorded on average in 10 or more weeks a year, two where House Sparrows were increasing, two where there was a shallow decline and three where there was an intermediate decline. Where a trend in Sparrowhawk sightings could be detected, there was a decrease in sightings over the duration of the survey period except in the case of one garden where sightings increased and here the trend in House Sparrow numbers was also positive. Sparrowhawk visits are usually of very short duration and I have concluded that the Sparrowhawk data are weak and are more likely to reflect the time that individual participants were at home and able to watch what was happening in the garden. However, as it stands they do not suggest that Sparrowhawks were responsible for the decline in sparrow numbers.

What is interesting is the information that several participants, and one in particular, were able to collect on Sparrowhawk prey. The results, taken from all the gardens in the survey whether or not a trend could be determined, are given in Table 2 below. In a few instances the observer was not absolutely positive that he or she had identified the prey correctly but these are included, as are a few cases where a pile of feathers was found and identified in a garden where a Sparrowhawk had recently been seen.

Table 2. Sparrowhawk prey

Species	Number
House Sparrow	14
Collared Dove	6
Starling	3
Woodpigeon	2 (one a juvenile)
Great Tit	2
Blue Tit	1
Chaffinch	1
Greenfinch	1
Goldfinch	1
Budgerigar	1
Unidentified	4

Kestrels were never, or virtually never recorded in 21 gardens, including seven where there was a steep decline in House Sparrows and two where House Sparrow numbers increased. There was only one garden where Kestrels were recorded on average in ten or more weeks a year, and here House Sparrows underwent a shallow decline. Kestrels were recorded on average in eight weeks a year in one of the gardens where House

Sparrows increased. Where a trend in Kestrel sightings could be detected, there was a decrease in sightings over the duration of the survey period in three (one shallow decline, one intermediate decline and one steep decline) and an increase in two (a shallow decline and a steep decline). As with Sparrowhawks, I have concluded that the Kestrel data are weak but as it stands they do not suggest that Kestrels were responsible for the decline in sparrow numbers. No Kestrel was recorded taking a House Sparrow but one was recorded taking a field mouse.

Magpies were recorded by some participants as the maximum number seen together during a week, while others simply ticked the relevant box indicating that they were present. Therefore the number of weeks in which they were recorded has been used in the analysis. Magpies were recorded in all 32 gardens. However, in five they were recorded on average in no more than ten weeks a year. These included one garden where there was a steep decline in House Sparrow numbers, three with an intermediate decline and one with a shallow decline. On the other hand, there were 15 gardens where Magpies were recorded on average in at least 40 weeks a year and these included two of the gardens where House Sparrows increased. In one of these, Magpies were recorded almost every week. Magpies became less frequent in six gardens and more frequent in four during the course of the survey. Magpies do undoubtedly kill House Sparrows. Three instances were recorded during the survey, one each in April, May and June. The victim in April was recorded as an adult, the one in June was thought to be a juvenile and the age of the third bird was not determined. However, the data do not suggest that Magpies are the cause of the decline in House Sparrow numbers.

Cats, as with Magpies, were recorded by some participants as the maximum number seen together during a week or, in some cases, the number of individuals known to have visited the garden during the week, while others simply ticked the relevant box. Therefore the number of weeks in which cats were recorded has been used in the analysis. Cats were virtually never recorded in four gardens, one where House Sparrows were increasing, two with an intermediate decline and one with a steep decline. On the other hand they were recorded on average in 40 or more weeks a year in 17, one where House Sparrows were increasing, six where there was a shallow decline, three with an intermediate decline and seven with a steep decline. In some cases the cat belonged to the participant and was likely to have been in the garden on a daily basis. Cat sightings can change suddenly if, for example, a cat dies or a new cat-owning neighbour arrives. Perhaps surprisingly only one House Sparrow was recorded being taken by a cat. Other prey comprised a Feral Pigeon, a probable Starling and an unidentified bird. As with the other predators, the information collected during the survey does not suggest that cats are responsible for the decline in House Sparrows.

Competitors

Feral Pigeons were counted by some participants as the maximum number seen together during a week, but others simply ticked the relevant box. Therefore the number of weeks in which they were recorded has been used in the analysis. There were five gardens where Feral Pigeons were virtually never recorded and another six where they were seen on average in no more than ten weeks a year. These included one garden where House Sparrow numbers were increasing, three with a shallow decline, four with

an intermediate decline and three with a steep decline. On the other hand they were recorded on average in 40 or more weeks in eight gardens, three where House Sparrows underwent a shallow decline, three with an intermediate decline and two with a steep decline. In the other two gardens where House Sparrow numbers were increasing, Feral Pigeons were recorded on average in 38 and 37 weeks a year. In the first, where there were usually no more than five, their visits became more frequent during the duration of the survey while in the second, where there were usually no more than five, but up to eight for a brief period, they became less frequent. In the majority of gardens where numbers were recorded there were usually no more than five Feral Pigeons but two people recorded up to 15 or 20 for a short time and in one garden numbers increased to 30 before the end of the survey. There was one garden where there was a shallow decline in House Sparrow numbers and 20 to 50 Feral Pigeons were regularly recorded. As with the predators, the information collected during the survey does not suggest that Feral Pigeons are responsible for the decline in House Sparrows.

Breeding success

In Baker 2005 and Baker 2008, I drew attention to the small number of juvenile (wing-shivering) House Sparrows recorded in some years. Baillie et al 2013 suggested that breeding performance could be the most important driver of the decline of House Sparrows in towns. This prompted me to have a further look at the data in the two previous papers. They suggest that in 1998, the best year, there were on average 3.1 juveniles per pair over the whole breeding season while in 2000, the worst year, this dropped to just 1.1. Over the whole period productivity was some 2.1 juveniles per pair.

Discussion

In retrospect it is probably not surprising that the habitat data have not thrown any light on the reasons for the decline in House Sparrows in London. Although they are generally very sedentary birds, one small or medium-sized garden will not supply all their requirements and as, we have seen, very few actually nested on the property where the survey was conducted. The gardens were visited for food or possible for loafing. It is perhaps surprising that so few nests were reported and this may possibly be an indication of a shortage of nest sites. More than half the properties in the survey were over 50 years old and it is possible that repairs undertaken over the years have reduced the number of holes available for sparrows. However, where repairs had to be conducted during the survey and nest boxes were provided, one was eventually occupied but the sparrows also found alternative holes. House Sparrows are not entirely dependent on cavities in buildings. They can nest in creeper and bushes as several did.

The information relating to predators varied considerably in the amount of detail and, as I have suggested, in the case of Sparrowhawks and Kestrels, it is probably weak. However, no Sparrowhawks or Kestrels were recorded at any time in five of gardens where there was a steep decline in House Sparrows and in a sixth there was just one sighting of a Kestrel. On the other hand in two of the gardens where sparrows were increasing, Sparrowhawks were seen relatively frequently. Magpies and cats are more likely to be seen and recorded but there was one garden where there was a steep decline in sparrow numbers but Magpies were rarely seen and cats were absent. Magpies

were regularly recorded in two gardens where sparrows were increasing and a cat was regularly recorded in one of these also. Individual cats do, of course, vary greatly, some being much keener hunters than others. My own observations suggest that birds get to know which of their local cats are most dangerous and the presence of a hunter can discourage them from visiting a garden even if food is provided.

Feral Pigeons are unwelcome visitors to many gardens and are potential competitors. In my experience they can intimidate some of the larger birds such as Magpies and even Jackdaws but, provided there are only a few present, the small birds tend to work round them. However, unless there are feeders accessible to the House Sparrows and not to Feral Pigeons a problem may arise from the amount of food that the pigeons consume, especially as they can eat a lot at one sitting whereas House Sparrows eat little and often. Also an increase in pigeon numbers led one or two participants to stop feeding the birds for a short period. It is possible that a big flock of pigeons could have a detrimental effect on House Sparrows but the data collected during the survey was not sufficiently detailed to show this.

Several participants commented on the change in House Sparrow behaviour after the arrival of Sparrowhawks in their neighbourhood. Whereas previously sparrows had fed out in the open they now spent much more time hiding in cover dashing out to collect food and returning to cover to eat it. If this change in feeding behaviour is widespread it could have a detrimental effect on House Sparrows particularly in periods when food is in short supply, when they are under pressure to obtain food for chicks or if the food provided in gardens is quickly consumed by Feral Pigeons. It is possible that predators are having an indirect impact on House Sparrows but a much more detailed study would be needed to investigate this. Good cover may now be an important requirement.

Finally, the data on wing-shivering juveniles, if it gives a true reflection of the situation, gives cause for concern. It seems unlikely that an average of some 2.2 juveniles per pair per year will compensate for annual mortality. This is another area which needs further investigation.

Conclusion

This survey showed that in most participants' gardens House Sparrows were declining. It did not identify a factor which might be responsible for the decline but did suggest that poor breeding success might have a part to play.

Acknowledgements

I must thank all those who took part in the survey. Without their effort and enthusiasm it would not have been possible and I greatly enjoyed the additional letters and notes that I often received. I have benefited throughout the survey from Denis Summers-Smith's encouragement and many helpful discussions.

Finally I must thank Denis Summers-Smith, Geoff Webdale and the editor for helpful comments on an earlier draft.

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Appendix 1

LNHS HOUSE SPARROW SURVEY: GARDENS - HABITAT FORM

Name

Address

Telephone number

Date

PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED NOTES AND PUT A CIRCLE ROUND THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER

1. In what type of area is your garden? Urban; Suburban; Rural
2. Which of the following occur within 100 metres (110 yards) of your garden?
Woodland; Scrubland; Dry semi-natural grassland, Marsh, Moor/heath; Ploughed farmland; Farmed grassland; Orchard; Other farmland; Gardens; Park/recreation area; Lake/gravel pit.
3. What size is your garden? Small; Medium; Large (as defined in the notes)
4. How old is your garden? 0-4; 5-10; 11-19; 20-49; 50+years
5. How many deciduous trees are there? 0; 1; 2-4; 5-9; 10+
6. How many coniferous trees are there? 0; 1; 2-4; 5-9; 10+
7. Which of the following occur in your garden?
Lawn (well-tended); Lawn (weedy); Flowerbeds (generally well-tended); Flowerbeds (generally rather weedy); Shrubberies; Vegetables; Orchard; Wild area; Patio or other paved area
8. Which of the following does your boundary include?
Fence; Wall; Buildings; Evergreen hedge; Deciduous hedge
9. Do you have a creeper growing over a wall of the house or other buildings or over a boundary wall/fence? Yes; No

Any additional comments

Please return the completed form to Helen Baker (address given)

Helen Baker, 60 Townfield, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 7DD

THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY IN LONDON

IAN WOODWARD, BTO NORTH LONDON CONTACT

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One-kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer, who makes two early-morning transect walks between April and June, separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year, following the same route. All birds observed are counted; not just those known to be breeding. By comparing counts of birds made on the same squares in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

Where species are sufficiently widespread, changes in population can be measured at regional level as well as at national level. This report covers the London government office region, and therefore does not represent the entire LNHS area (the 'London Area').

In 2012 in the London region, 97 squares were surveyed in total - one less than in the previous year (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of squares covered over the most recent ten years. Note that some totals from previous years have been updated to include late submissions.

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
61	89	91	103	118	108	110	104	98	97

In 2012, one species was seen (or heard) for the first time on BBS walks in London - Stonechat. This brings the total seen on London squares to 134 species. Other species recorded this year included Barnacle Goose, Indian Peafowl, Whimbrel and Yellow Wagtail. The most abundant species counted was Woodpigeon (2,668 individuals), followed by Feral Pigeon (2,557), and then Starling (2,127).

Table 2 shows the population changes in London between 2011/2012 and 1995/2011, compared with the change found nationally over these periods. The criterion for inclusion in the table is that a species occurs in an average of 30 squares per year over the survey period 1994 to 2012, which is considered to be the minimum number to provide reliable trends. As a result of the low number of squares covered in the early years of the survey, we can report on only 25 species, with Long-tailed Tit included for the first time in a standard format BBS report (though it was included in the table in the 2011 LBR which incorporated additional data from a one-off GLA report).

Fourteen species show a statistically significant increase in London between 1995 and 2011. Seven species show a significant decrease in London over the same period: Feral Pigeon; Swift; Starling; Blackbird; Song Thrush; Mistle Thrush; and House Sparrow.

Only six species showed statistically significant population changes between 2011 and 2012, with two showing an increase (Ring-necked Parakeet and Mistle Thrush), and four decreasing (Feral Pigeon; Collared Dove; Blue Tit and Starling). It was the second year in succession that Blue Tit has shown a statistically significant decline in London. The graph for Blue Tit (see Figure 1) shows a decline since around 2005, following increases

during the early years of the survey. Both Collared Dove and Greenfinch show a similar pattern, with the Greenfinch decline even steeper than Blue Tit, probably as a result of the effect of trichomonosis (see Figure 2).

Table 2. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the UK. (lcl=lower confidence limit; ucl=upper confidence limit; figures in **bold type** are statistically significant). The long term trend has been smoothed. As smoothing involves truncation of the end points this trend is labelled as 1995/2011, even though the survey period covered is from 1994 to 2012.

	Sample size London	Change 2011/2012 London	Change 2011/2012 UK	Change 1995/2011 London	Change 1995/2011 London lcl	Change 1995/2011 London ucl	Change 1995/2011 UK
Mallard	40	7	-5	-15	-43	37	20
Feral Pigeon	68	-14	2	-21	-33	-7	-15
Woodpigeon	76	1	7	61	29	98	40
Collared Dove	50	-14	-5	26	-6	78	19
Ring-necked Parakeet	32	8	-11	>1000			1057
Common Swift	57	-6	20	-43	-62	-16	-39
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	35	10	-2	93	51	143	139
Magpie	75	0	0	28	11	56	-1
Jay	38	8	3	6	-25	56	15
Carrion Crow	76	-13	1	58	25	95	13
Blue Tit	75	-10	-10	29	3	58	7
Great Tit	70	-4	-6	134	98	201	45
Long-tailed Tit	30	-12	3	96	25	215	32
Blackcap	41	-6	2	155	99	272	133
Wren	71	-5	29	35	14	62	-5
Starling	75	-27	2	-47	-61	-32	-53
Blackbird	77	4	5	-24	-36	-12	22
Song Thrush	48	25	11	-33	-49	-10	7
Mistle Thrush	33	37	3	-49	-68	-28	-31
Robin	73	6	15	76	47	115	6
Dunnock	57	0	7	12	-11	46	22
House Sparrow	66	-11	-5	-69	-79	-59	-1
Chaffinch	52	6	0	157	89	368	12
Greenfinch	59	-6	-1	58	12	116	-17
Goldfinch	42	6	6	281	129	476	109

Editorial note

'Sample size London' is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded over the course of the BBS survey (1994-2012 for the 2012 paper).

The figures in the remaining columns are percentages. Writing explanatory text would be complicated, to convey something that is both accurate and concise, so interested readers should visit the BBS pages on the BTO website:

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/population-trends>

Blue TitBBS index for London
1994-2012**Key**

■ Smoothed trend

■ Unsmoothed trend

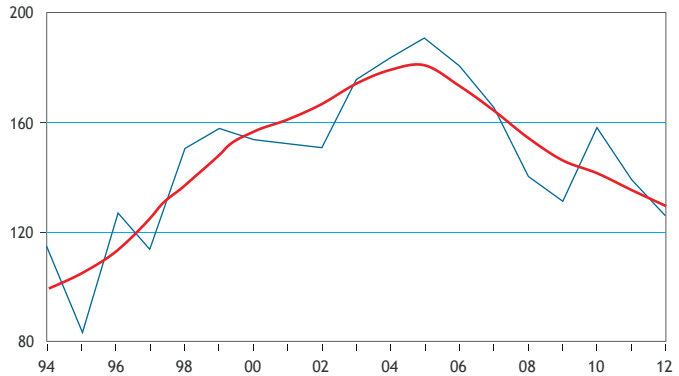


Figure 1: Graph showing the BBS trend for Blue Tit in the London government office region. The red line is the smoothed trend, the blue line is the unsmoothed trend.

GreenfinchBBS index for London
1994-2012**Key**

■ Smoothed trend

■ Unsmoothed trend

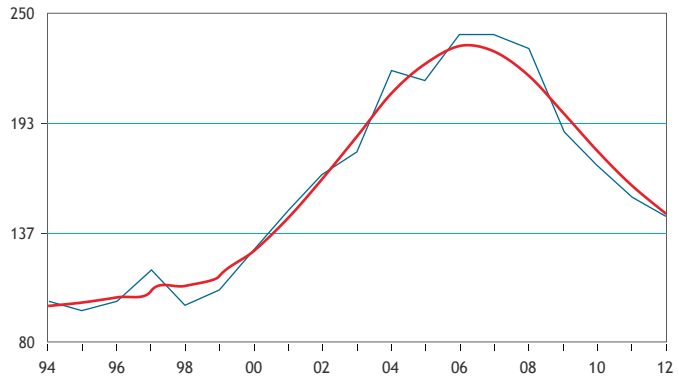


Figure 2: Graph showing the BBS trend for Greenfinch in the London government office region. The red line is the smoothed trend, the blue line is the unsmoothed trend.

Editorial note

The BBS index tables are based on the annual population changes, with 1994 set to the nominal figure of 100 and subsequent values calculated accordingly. A detailed account of the methodology is on the BBS pages of the BTO website:

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/research-conservation/methodology>

Ian Woodward, 245 Larkshall Road, Chingford, London, E4 9HY
ianw_bto_nlon@hotmail.co.uk

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT AT QUEEN MOTHER RESERVOIR, DECEMBER 12TH 2012 - A FIRST FOR LONDON

MICHAEL MCKEE

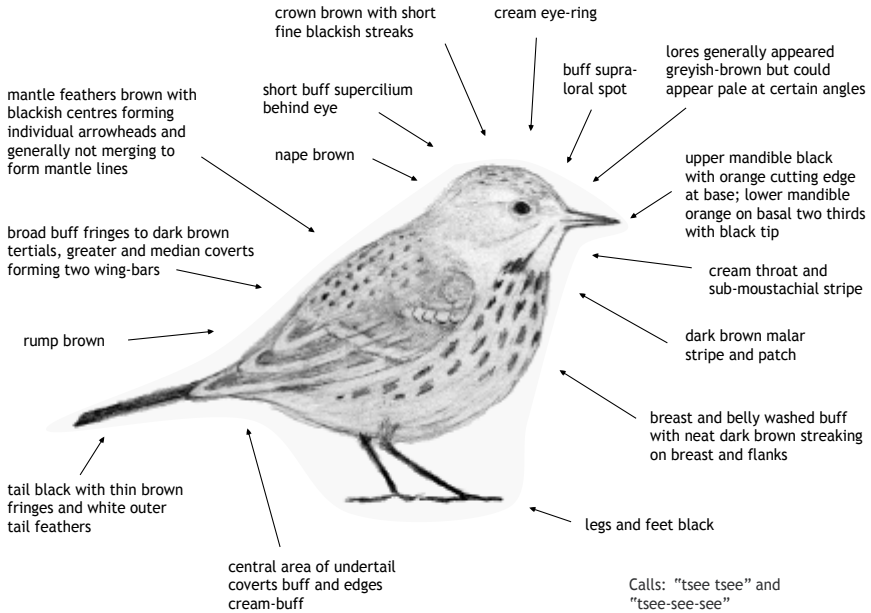
On December 12th 2012 with temperatures dropping significantly overnight I headed up to Queen Mother Reservoir in Berkshire early in the morning, hopeful that the freezing conditions would bring something interesting in. The temperature was about minus 5°C but thick fog made viewing difficult and I couldn't see very far beyond the bank. Nevertheless I did a quick circuit of the reservoir and managed to see both the Long-tailed Duck and Red-necked Grebe that had been present since November.

In the afternoon, with the fog clearing, I decided to do another circuit of the reservoir. I headed in a clockwise direction around the reservoir and by about 3:45pm, as I was heading along the north-western bank with the sun setting behind me, I noticed a pipit walking towards me along the concrete bank at the water's edge. I lifted my bins expecting to see a Meadow Pipit but this bird had black legs and a relatively plain mantle. In a few brief seconds a quick process of elimination went through my head. It had to be either a Rock or Water Pipit, but it didn't look dark enough to be a Rock Pipit. I looked for the whitish underparts that would surely confirm it was a Water Pipit but they were bright buff. It then flew up on to the track ahead giving a short high-pitched "tsee tsee" call not too dissimilar to a Meadow Pipit and unlike the more drawn-out call of either Rock or Water Pipit. With my heart now racing I quickly pulled my scope out of my rucksack, but before I could get on to the pipit it flew and I lost it. I searched along the bank until it was dark but there was no further sign of it.

I realised that everything I had seen and heard in those few seconds pointed towards Buff-bellied Pipit but I questioned whether the light had played tricks on my eyes. Were

Buff-bellied Pipit at Q Mother Res, Dec 26th. (Michael McKee)





Identifying features of Buff-bellied Pipit. (Michael McKee)

the legs really black? Could the buff colour of the underparts just have been a consequence of the warm light from the setting sun?

Needless to say I was back at the reservoir at dawn and made my way along the north-western bank that borders the M4 motorway, carefully checking every Meadow Pipit along the way. Towards the western end I found the pipit in the same area as the previous afternoon, walking towards me along the water's edge on its own. As I crouched by the wave wall it walked past me only a few metres away and I was able to confirm all the features I had seen the day before.

As unlikely as it seemed, here was Berkshire's first Buff-bellied Pipit and as most of the reservoir falls within the London Area it was also the first record for London.

It continued to show along the reservoir banks on a daily basis spending most of its time feeding on the concrete bank where it foraged for insects. On colder days it also waded into the water to retrieve insects from the surface.

Remarkably it was joined by a second bird on December 26th 2012. The new bird was paler overall than the first bird, its underparts were brighter buff with paler streaking, its lores were cleaner and its legs were dark red rather than black.

Neither bird was seen subsequently in December, but they both reappeared together at Queen Mother Reservoir on January 9th 2013. The two birds were last seen together on January 22nd and the final sighting of a single bird was on January 26th 2013.

WeBS COUNTS IN THE LONDON AREA, 2011-2012

DAVID DARRELL-LAMBERT

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2012>

As with previous years, we will look at the London Area and how important it is for wildfowl on an international and national scale. We can now look at the prior year's data and identify changes in populations or preferred locations. There are still gaps in our knowledge, with some sites not covered fully during the period, but more sites have been covered this year. We hope that in the future there will be nearly full coverage of all sites, which will enable a more extensive review of the area to be made.

The number of counts that reached International and National Important Levels (IIL and NIL respectively) increased, with new species being added: Smew, Avocet, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Common Sandpiper. Counts of international and national importance, and a full analysis of the data, are on the LNHS website (see above).

The table below shows the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) for the whole of the London Area from July 2011 to June 2012. Nine regions are included: Colne Valley, Inner Thames, Lea Valley, Middlesex, South-west London, Outer Essex, Outer Hertfordshire, Outer Surrey, and Outer Thames. Individual data for the nine regions are on the website.

All counts are completed on a monthly basis and are attempted to be completed on the same dates throughout the country to allow comparable totals to be compiled.

Several sites were not counted throughout the period. One was the River Thames - Barking Bay: this affects the numbers of Shelduck in the area, which show a 62% drop in the total number of birds counted. Another was Grovelands Park, a stronghold for Mandarin Duck: this species shows an increase of 32%, but this was due to more birds being present on Hampstead Heath. So the picture is not necessarily clear.

There are possible changes to the preferred site for some species. Wigeon numbers have not changed significantly but they increased at Rainham Marshes (+26%) and Staines Reservoirs (+50%). These sites may have become more favourable (and others less so) with habitat changes. It would be expected that the continual improvements of some sites will have made them more important for some species - Rainham Marshes RSPB is likely to feature more prominently due to this fact.

All data included here are only present in the BTO-managed WeBS database, which is used to identify important areas in the UK.

WeBS data for the whole of the London Area, 2011-12

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12
Mute Swan	594	750	828	845	815	1056	921	908	803	728	628	649
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
White-fronted Goose (European)	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	2	-	-	-	-
Brent Goose (Dark-bellied)	-	-	-	2	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	399	446	1129	898	749	566	789	266	400	457	377	483

Month	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12
Canada Goose	2266	2004	3637	2291	1992	2389	2388	2589	1901	1621	1558	2397
Barnacle Goose	4	5	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	2
Egyptian Goose	51	77	69	101	87	53	70	60	62	67	33	40
Shelduck	3	2	32	2	10	54	82	147	183	79	70	21
Mandarin Duck	30	40	48	71	47	34	38	12	25	27	23	8
Wigeon	-	1	151	1114	987	1711	2060	2723	1597	47	1	-
Gadwall	305	324	1158	1706	1521	2370	3033	2984	951	343	135	198
Teal	16	121	808	1491	2058	3090	2234	2270	1154	431	-	6
Mallard	2595	2882	3679	3691	3764	4362	3606	4218	2907	2099	1814	1573
Pintail	-	-	-	8	18	16	26	55	27	-	-	-
Garganey	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Shoveler	10	168	795	1153	812	1037	1067	1195	990	162	5	18
Red-crested Pochard	18	14	17	35	48	35	33	50	22	27	20	3
Pochard	224	416	417	478	651	1106	1280	1558	554	225	154	41
Ferruginous Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Duck	3633	9459	4724	5453	4967	7386	7444	8156	4535	3290	1136	899
Scaup	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	7	3	-	-	-
Common Scoter	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Goldeneye	3	7	11	28	75	177	213	175	182	41	-	2
Smew	-	-	-	-	6	3	11	44	4	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Goosander	-	-	-	3	17	33	66	57	29	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	8	5	18	7	7	12	11	15	8	4	4	3
Great Northern Diver	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	4	-	-	-
Little Grebe	126	154	228	275	172	175	180	176	205	131	78	50
Great Crested Grebe	526	1116	1053	945	640	810	656	359	592	562	474	351
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Black-necked Grebe	8	41	32	34	40	25	24	28	30	10	11	11
Cormorant	236	1041	1079	1207	938	1271	855	498	680	382	331	138
Shag	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	2	1	2	-	-
Bittern	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	7	1	-	-	-
Little Egret	13	28	19	45	24	10	20	12	20	12	3	23
Grey Heron	166	233	240	251	181	229	262	200	218	187	153	126
Water Rail	-	1	9	23	35	30	42	35	36	3	1	-
Moorhen	368	557	933	1186	1075	1467	1216	1281	1276	659	410	204
Coot	4980	7006	10321	10744	9232	11418	10254	9811	6108	3581	2611	2562
Oystercatcher	1	2	-	-	50	2	-	12	10	3	2	-
Avocet	-	-	-	2	4	-	3	91	2	-	-	-
Little Ringed Plover	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	23	7
Ringed Plover	-	-	-	29	14	18	18	18	4	2	-	4
Golden Plover	-	-	-	4	717	169	171	95	36	-	-	-
Grey Plover	-	-	-	3	-	4	4	19	1	-	-	-
Lapwing	379	442	473	645	2563	4394	3064	2843	832	123	84	169
Knot	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	2	-	3	113	511	164	506	4176	6	-	1	1

Month	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12
Ruff	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	-
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	3	2	3	4	4	2	2	-	-
Snipe	-	-	23	68	110	116	133	173	108	46	-	-
Woodcock	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Black-tailed Godwit	-	1	-	204	418	564	640	681	208	-	-	-
Whimbrel	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew	-	-	-	20	79	108	46	23	19	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	15	45	13	4	2	2	1	3	1	1	14	1
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green Sandpiper	35	58	12	14	27	9	17	18	17	14	-	5
Greenshank	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Redshank	4	-	-	198	120	258	204	280	183	37	6	-
Turnstone	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Kittiwake	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	1050	3263	3777	11620	6926	9984	10131	9700	7060	2019	563	647
Little Gull	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mediterranean Gull	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Common Gull	2	29	25	1075	461	835	686	1218	717	28	1	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	116	608	199	732	149	197	145	321	93	193	189	26
Herring Gull	14	488	155	334	128	278	266	324	124	419	176	28
Yellow-legged Gull	5	11	3	12	14	2	-	4	-	3	2	4
Caspian Gull	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Black-backed Gull	2	2	14	26	40	52	58	69	10	8	69	2
Black Tern	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sandwich Tern	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arctic Tern	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	233	181	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	257	197
Kingfisher	10	15	31	18	18	19	16	10	18	12	6	9
Canada x dom. Greylag Goose	2	-	6	9	4	5	2	1	1	1	4	1
Hybrid shelduck	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hybrid goose	2	2	4	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Hybrid duck	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	-	-	-	-
Aythya hybrid	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Black Swan	1	3	2	1	2	4	4	3	2	3	-	4
Red-breasted Goose	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ringed Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unidentified duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Monthly Totals	18467		36199		43357		55018		34972		11439	
		32067		49228		58137		60019		18131		10916

David Darrell-Lambert, david@birdbrainuk.com

Footnote: The first paper in this series was published in LBR 2010, No.75.

A REVIEW OF THE BIRDS OF RICHMOND PARK

JAN WILCZUR

Introduction

Richmond Park is a large, historic Deer Park covering 950 hectares in the suburbs of south-west London. It has a range of habitats, some of which are nationally important, such as ancient oak woodland and lowland acid grassland. They have earned it a designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) and European Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Other habitats include parkland, decaying wood, hawthorn scrub, ponds and streams. The largest ponds are the two Pen Ponds in the centre of the Park, where there is also a small reed bed and alder carr [bog or fen in which scrub has established]. Beverley Brook runs through the north-east corner of the Park. Due to its urban location and natural beauty the Park attracts 2.5 million visitors a year, more than any other NNR in the UK. The increasing numbers of visitors and their various activities are causing problems for the Park's wildlife.

The aim of this paper is to list all the bird species recorded in the Park since 2000 and give an indication of their abundance and how their populations have changed.

The diversity of habitats in the Park results in around 115 bird species being recorded annually, of which about 55 breed. Since 2000, 211 species have been recorded of which 64 have bred; five breeding species were new to the Park. The total number of species recorded in historic times is 254 of which 96 have bred. The Park's bird-life has been carefully recorded since 1921, first by the Royal Parks Bird Sanctuaries Committee, then from 1977 by volunteer recorders who are mentioned in the acknowledgements. There is an active Bird Recording Group which has undertaken Standard Walks - a systematic walk through a cross-section of the Park's habitats - every month for 12 years. Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts have also taken place for several years at the Pen Ponds. The result is a very large collection of data, perhaps unequalled by any other site in the London Area.

The author has been an occasional visitor to the Park for over 40 years but more frequently so since 2007. He surveyed many of the Park's breeding birds in 2008 and the owls in 2009. In 2011 the largest enclosed wood in the Park, Sidmouth Wood (North), was surveyed prior to the removal of rhododendron with which it had been largely filled. A comparative survey was also made of the nearby East Sheen Common. This is an oak wood of similar size, but with a native shrub layer. He has also surveyed the breeding water birds of the Pen Ponds as well as continuing to help monitor other species such as Skylark, Whitethroat and Reed Bunting. Detailed maps for these surveys are held by The Royal Parks Ecology Unit at Holly Lodge, as are many of the Park's bird records.

A map of Richmond Park is available at www.royalparcs.org.uk and in printed form either from the Park's office at Holly Lodge or the Friends of Richmond Park's Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge. Another map showing all the locations in the Park mentioned in the Systematic List is available at the Friends of Richmond Park's website www.frp.org.uk.

Systematic List

An indication of a species' status in the Park is given by the following codes:

Br	Breeds regularly	Sc	Scarce, recorded in five to eight of the years since 2000
Bs	Breeds sporadically	Su	Summer visitor
O	Occasional, recorded in nine or more years since 2000	W	Winter visitor
P	Passage migrant	V	Vagrant, recorded once since 2000
R	Rare, recorded in up to four of the years since 2000	Y	Recorded in every month of the year

The number of territories recorded in the survey of 2008 is given in brackets. 'Previously' recorded refers to the latest year prior to 2000.

Mute Swan YBr: Three pairs are usually present, one on each of the Pen Ponds and a pair on Adam's Pond. Breeding success is variable at best as all the Park's ponds suffer much disturbance from people, dogs and deer. Dogs have been seen to attack and kill swans and other wildfowl. Recently signs were erected requesting that dogs be kept on leads by the main ponds, but these have had little effect. Adult swans at the Pen Ponds have been known to attack the brood of the other pair. The Adam's Pond cygnets have a problem in leaving that Pond as it is too small to take off from. They may be attacked by the resident cob so occasionally have to be rescued and relocated. The table shows the number of cygnets fledged by each pair for the last six years:

Pond / Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Upper Pen	1	3	3	0	0	5
Lower Pen	2	1	2	didn't nest	0	0
Adam's	?	nest failed	3	nest failed	4	0

Other Mute Swans occasionally appear at the Pen Ponds but are usually driven off by the resident birds. Between 2003 and 2005 there was an autumnal gathering at the Ponds with the following maxima recorded: 45 on Nov 3rd 2003; 34 on Nov 21st 2004 and 42 on Oct 8th 2005. Similar gatherings had occurred in the 1990s. The last significant count, which did not just consist of resident birds, was of 22 on Jan 1st 2006. The reason for the appearance and demise of these gatherings is unknown.

Greylag Goose OBs: Birds in single figures usually appear in spring on the Pen Ponds and pairs may linger. A pair which bred in 2000 and fledged two young at the Pen Ponds is the only breeding record for the Park. Occasionally birds are recorded in winter. Notable counts in recent years are given: seven flew north-east Mar 4th and 13 were briefly on Upper Pen Pond on Dec 8th 2008; a pair on Martin's Pond on May 1st and seven on Upper Pen Pond on May 16th 2010; 11 flew east on Mar 16th 2012.

Brent Goose V: A flock of 17 flew east low over the Pen Ponds in dull, overcast weather on Mar 20th 2005. This was probably the first record of wild birds in the Park. Since 1966 there had been five records of single birds - some, if not all, of probable captive origin.

Canada Goose YBr: Several pairs usually nest at the Pen Ponds and a few of the other ponds. A flock gathers at the former for the summer moult and in winter to roost overnight. Feeding flocks may be found elsewhere in the Park. Peak annual counts for the last 11 years are given:

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
90	69	106	146	88	77	92	87	103	111	130

Egyptian Goose YBr: Several pairs of this feral species breed - for the first time in 2001. They may be found nesting well away from water in any of the many damaged oaks which possess a large enough cavity. Breeding success is variable: in 2008 there were five broods with a minimum of ten young fledging; in 2011 no young fledged from at least four broods. There were 11 pairs in 2012 and at least 22 young from four broods but few, if any, fledged. At other times of year counts rarely exceed ten, the highest recent count being 18 on Nov 18th 2011.

Shelduck R: Up to two pairs on three dates in May 2001; pairs on two dates in May and June 2008; up to two birds on six dates Mar 15th-May 3rd 2011; one on the frozen Upper Pen Pond on Feb 6th, one or two over on four dates February to May, a pair flew around Lawn Field before landing on Lower Pen Pond on May 13th and a pinioned bird from Oct 27th to year-end 2012. Records consisted of birds either in flight or on the Pen Ponds; previously recorded in 1996.

Mandarin Duck YBr: This well-established exotic is commonly found on the ponds of the Isabella Plantation. Other pairs may be encountered within woodlands in early spring with broods appearing later on the Park's ponds and Beverley Brook. There were at least 11 broods in 2009, although only four young fledged. Outside the breeding season 30-50 birds occur on the ponds in Isabella Plantation with a maximum in recent years of 52 on Jan 4th 2009 and Feb 15th 2012. At dusk birds may be seen flying from the Plantation to the Pen Ponds. The Standard Walk has shown the Park's population has increased to nearly five times that of 2000.

Wigeon W: A winter visitor to the Pen Ponds in widely fluctuating numbers, usually appearing in September and leaving in March. In some years the highest numbers have been in autumn with very few, if any, staying to the end of the year. The spectacular count of 309 on Oct 26th 2003 was the highest ever recorded in the Park. Wintering numbers in excess of a hundred started occurring in 1990. The reasons for such variable numbers are unclear but may relate to food supply in the Pen Ponds and that at other sites in south-west London. An interesting record was of 80 flying south at dawn on Oct 11th 2008. Maximum counts for the last eleven years and the month they occurred in, were as follows:

02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	2012
14	309	202	60	100	12	10	5	6	67	95
Nov	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct	Mar	Mar	Dec	Sep	Jan	Nov

Gadwall W: Similar in status to Wigeon, although tending to appear earlier in August and sometimes staying into April. The fluctuations in numbers of both species are strikingly similar, even the months of the year when the peak counts occur. Wintering numbers in excess of 50 were recorded from 1976. The appearance of birds in summer in recent years may be related to increasing summering, as well as breeding, at the nearby wetland reserve at Barnes. Maximum counts for the last 11 years and the month they occurred in, are given:

02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	2012
16	200	200	51	205	8	17	5	32	104	177
Nov	Oct	Nov	Sep	Dec	Nov	Oct	Dec	Dec	Jan	Dec

Teal W: A sporadic winter visitor in single figures to Upper Pen Pond between August and April, favouring the reed-bed pool. Double-figure counts are given: 20 on Dec 31st 2002; ten on Feb 24th 2004 and 20 on Feb 19th 2012.

Mallard YBr: Broods can be found on several of the Park's ponds. Those on the Pen Ponds seem to suffer heavy predation. In 2011 only one brood of three young fledged from four broods. Adam's Pond, although much smaller, held three broods from which 12 young fledged. Similarly Bishop's Pond, which is even smaller, held two broods of six fledged young. Otherwise counts rarely reach double figures and this species is undoubtedly under-recorded, possibly because of its perceived abundance. It seems to have previously been more common with 90 on Jul 8th 2001 and 107 on Jul 21st 2002. In 2011 counts at the Pen Ponds produced 49 on Jul 30th and 58 on Dec 10th. There were 51 on Adam's Pond on Jun 7th 2012.

Pintail R: Pairs on Nov 5th 2003 and on Apr 7th 2006; a drake on Nov 18th 2010. All records were from Upper Pen Pond; previously recorded in 1995.

Garganey V: A drake on Upper Pen Pond on Apr 23rd 2011. Previously recorded in 1984.

Shoveler W: A winter visitor to the Pen Ponds, normally in single figures, between September and March. In the winter of 2008/09 an influx occurred reaching a peak of 49 on Jan 9th 2009. In 2012 there were 18 on Feb 15th.

Red-crested Pochard YBs: A sporadic visitor to the Pen Ponds throughout the year. In recent years it has only been recorded from 2004. This feral wildfowl species attempted to breed in 2007 and 2008 when single broods were seen but no young were fledged. A pair was also present in April 2012. Its status has changed both as a breeding bird in London and how it is classified by the British Ornithologists' Union Recording Committee. The London breeding population has increased, and from 2005 it was recognised as a naturalised established species. The highest count for the Park of 26 occurred on 28th and 30th Dec 2011. Maximum recent counts are given:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
10	14	12	4	8	5	17	26	25

Pochard YBs: Present on the Pen Ponds throughout the year in small numbers, peaking

Mandarin Duck drake. (Jan Wilczur)



in winter. This nationally-rare breeding species usually summers on Upper Pen Pond. A brood of two well-grown young were seen in 2007. In 2008 there was a brood of ten but none survived. In 2012 there were three broods of ten young but none survived to fledge. Peak counts from 2000 were as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
26	24	10	15	18	16	20	20	16	20	7	24	26

Tufted Duck YBr: Present on the Pen Ponds and Adam's Pond throughout the year, peaking in winter and usually attempting to breed - sometimes on the smaller ponds. Breeding success is very poor with only one of the broods in 2008 fledging successfully. The numbers of broods recorded in the last six years are given:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	6	5	0	1	0

Peak counts from 2000 are given - the 2012 count may have been due to very cold weather at the end of that year:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
71	49	46	48	54	53	53	45	56	50	40	51	110

A drake hybrid Tufted/Ring-necked Duck was present at the Pen Ponds Feb 14th-Mar 17th 2009. This was presumably the same bird seen occasionally at the nearby wetlands at Barnes between 2002 and 2010.

Common Scoter V: Four drakes on Upper Pen Pond on Apr 13th 2009 were, perhaps surprisingly, the third record for the Park of this maritime duck; the first two records occurred in 1948.

Goldeneye R: A female on Dec 28th 2000; females on Jan 10th and Mar 27th and a male on Nov 5th 2011; a male on Jan 7th and a surprising record of an eclipse male on Jun 14th-19th 2012. All records were from the Pen Ponds. In the past this species was a rather more frequent visitor to the Park.

Smew V: A 'red-headed' bird on Upper Pen Pond on Dec 25th 2005 was the first since 1986.

Goosander R: 'Red-headed' birds on Jan 9th, Feb 2nd and Dec 17th 2003; a male on Jan 11th and a female Feb 24th-Apr 8th 2004. All records were from the Pen Ponds. Like Common Goldeneye it was once a more frequent visitor.

Ruddy Duck RBs: This feral species was a sporadic visitor to the Pen Ponds throughout the year in single figures and even bred in 1997. The last substantial count was of 19 on Upper Pen Pond on Dec 27th 2000. From May 2002 there was a nationwide cull to prevent hybridisation with the endangered White-headed Duck in Spain. The last record for the Park was of a female on Upper Pen Pond on Sep 11th 2012.

Red-legged Partridge R: Singles were seen near Ladderstile Gate on Jun 8th and Jul 4th 2005; one at Sawyer's Hill Apr 11th-13th 2012. It was previously recorded in 1977.

Pheasant Sc: A male on the Golf Course on Apr 13th 2005 was the first record since 1996; males on four dates February to March 2007; a territorial male by Pond Plantation Feb 24th-Aug 27th, single males on Mar 11th, Apr 28th, Jun 23rd and Nov 18th elsewhere in the Park 2008; possibly the same male near Pond Plantation Jan 13th-Mar 17th 2009; a male near Pond Plantation on Dec 2nd 2011. It previously bred until 1969 but any wild birds present were augmented by introductions.

Little Grebe WBs: A sporadic visitor in single figures to Upper Pen Pond, mainly in winter. A pair may linger into spring and display (two pairs in 2007), but usually do not

stay to breed. Adam's Pond held a single bird for several weeks in the spring of 2008 and a bird in January 2011. The latter was joined by another bird in March and breeding may have taken place with singles being seen until mid-April. There was then a record from Beverley Brook at the end of April which may have been this bird. In 2012 a pair built a nest at Adam's Pond but failed due to disturbance. The highest count in recent years was of five on Nov 12th 2008. It last bred in 1973.

Great Crested Grebe YBr: A pair usually attempts to breed on Upper Pen Pond with varying success. In 2009 they relocated to the Lower Pen Pond to breed successfully. Additional birds and pairs may appear throughout the year, the highest counts since 2000 being: ten on Dec 1st 2004 and seven on Apr 23rd 2009. The numbers of young fledged since 2000 were as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	4	0	1	0

Black-necked Grebe R: One on Upper Pen Pond Mar 14th-15th and a pair there on May 13th 2012. This species was previously recorded in 1999.

Cormorant W: In winter, up to ten visit Upper Pen Pond and singles sometimes appear on Adam's Pond; singles also appear in summer. Notable records occurred in 2009: one fished in the swollen Beverley Brook on Jan 20th and in autumn there was an influx to the Pen Ponds which peaked at 20 on Oct 7th.

Bittern R: The third record for the Park was of a bird from Jan 2nd-20th 2002 in the Upper Pen Pond reed bed during a spell of very cold weather. On the 19th, what was presumably the same bird was flushed from Peg's Pond in Isabella Plantation. It flew off towards the Pen Ponds. Coincidentally the nearby wetland reserve at Barnes recorded its first Bitterns on Jan 11th. The next record in the Park was of a bird in the reed bed on Dec 16th and 18th 2003. One was reported there on Jan 25th 2004. The first two records for the Park occurred in 1834 (shot) and 1976.

Little Egret O: The first record for the Park was of a probable juvenile on the small Ham Dip Pond on Jun 21st 2001. This nationally increasing species, which now breeds in London, was then recorded annually from 2004: a juvenile on the equally small Gallows Pond on Jul 7th 2004; a juvenile at a few of the smaller ponds and Lower Pen Pond Jul 29th-Aug 31st 2005; one on Beverley Brook Dec 29th 2006; 1-2 on the Brook on three dates in Dec 2007; singles on Lower Pen Pond island at dusk Aug 14th, in the reed bed on Oct 23rd, trying to roost in the reed bed but evicted by a Grey Heron on Dec 6th and probably the same bird on the Brook Dec 8th-9th 2008; perhaps the same bird on four dates Jan 22nd-Mar 2nd, one flew over Jan 28th and four flew into the alder carr on Apr 20th 2009; singles at Ham Dip Pond Nov 22nd and on the Brook Dec 15th 2010; two in breeding plumage by Upper Pen Pond on Jun 1st, one there Jun 17th, one roosting there Jul 27th, three flew south Aug 5th and one flew over on Aug 26th 2011; eight singles on 12 dates February to April and November to December 2012, included birds on Beverley Brook at both ends of the year, three singles at Upper Pen Pond and four singles flying over. This species is clearly being seen more frequently.

Great Egret V: One flying SSW over the Flying Field on Nov 26th 2012 was the first record for the Park. It was seen earlier at the nearby Barnes wetlands and was probably the same bird later found at Unstead Sewage Farm near Guildford.

Grey Heron YBr: A small, shrinking heronry persists in one of the Park's private woods.

The number of nests in the heronry since 2000 is given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
13	15	13	11	?	13	?	?	10	6	4	4	1?

Two or three juveniles have fledged each year since 2008. In 2011 there were at least ten young in the heronry although only four fledged; the reason for this poor fledging success is unknown. In 2012 the heronry appeared to have been deserted but a juvenile was found at the Pen Ponds on Jun 13th, so breeding may have taken place. Tragically, what was probably the same bird was attacked by a flock of Canada Geese on Sep 9th and died from a broken neck. Birds are normally present in single figures at the Pen Ponds but may also be encountered at any of the Park's smaller ponds and on Beverley Brook; a few become quite tame.

Honey Buzzard R: In late September 2000 there was an unusually large national influx resulting in nine birds being recorded in the Park Sep 25th-Oct 1st with two on the 27th and three on Sep 28th; singles flew over on May 14th, Sep 10th and Sep 20th 2008; May 20th 2010; Apr 18th 2011; and Aug 27th 2012. The recent increase in records is presumably due to the corresponding, concerted, sky-watching for raptors. Prior to 2000 the only other records for the Park were of two birds in autumn 1995.

Red Kite O: First recorded as recently as 1996, then again in 1998. In 2002 there were birds on May 29th and Nov 15th. Since 2005 it has been recorded annually with increasing frequency in every month of the year except August. This is undoubtedly due to the successful re-introduction of birds in the Chilterns. Most often seen in spring, especially April. Records are usually of single birds flying over although two birds have been recorded three times and on Apr 25th 2011 there were four. A dead bird was found Jul 21st 2005. The table below gives the numbers of birds and [days of sightings](#) per year:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5	7	7	8	2	10	18	21
5	7	7	7	2	9	13	20

Marsh Harrier R: Single over-flying birds on Oct 4th 2005; Oct 14th 2006; in a snowstorm on Jan 6th 2010; Apr 10th and Sep 30th 2011. The first two records for the Park were in 1996 and 1998. All records were of female/immature birds. Perhaps more frequent records may be expected given the burgeoning national population.

Montagu's Harrier V: A male over Pond Slade on Apr 18th 2011 was the third record for the Park. The two previous records were in 1942 and 1969. The first record involved the discovery of the remains of a female beside a badger sett.

Hen Harrier R: One flying over Isabella Plantation on Nov 29th 2000 was the first confirmed record for the Park, with another over the Golf Course on Dec 27th; one flew over Pond Slade on Oct 31st 2008; all records were of 'ring-tailed' birds. A bird seen in October 1973 was considered to be of this species.

Sparrowhawk YBr: Not surveyed, but a few pairs probably breed annually. One pair regularly breeds in Isabella Plantation, an ornamental woodland garden that hosts many visitors, especially in spring for the display of flowering azaleas. In 2008 they nested close to a main path and successfully reared five young. Two pairs were found with fledged young in 2011. There were four territories in 2012. Sightings throughout the year, apart from family parties, never normally exceed three, but six on Sep 17th 2011 may have included passage birds.

Common Buzzard P: Most often seen on passage in spring and autumn but has occurred in all months of the year except July. The rapidly expanding population in south-east England has no doubt contributed to the upsurge in records in the Park, as has the recent effort in sky-watching. Four on Sep 20th 2008 was the most seen on any day until the late afternoon of Sep 19th 2009 when there was a remarkable, concentrated passage of 19 birds in 40 minutes. After a fine day the sky clouded over and this perhaps forced over-flying birds lower down. At one point there was a 'kettle' of 12 birds over Sawyer's Hill. A passage of seven birds occurred on Sep 17th 2011 and 15 flew through on Mar 21st 2012. Two calling birds were seen on Jun 27th 2012. Normally seen flying over the Park, birds have also been seen dropping into woods, been suspected of roosting overnight and even of having lingered for a few days. In 2012 a bird took up residence in the Park from mid-February to early-April and was regularly seen roosting in and flying out of a particular wood. The prolonged stay of this bird gives hope that in the near future this species may breed in the Park, despite the considerable human presence. The sightings of this particular bird are not included in the table below. The number of birds and **days of sightings** for each year since 2000 are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	3	2	3	10	3	2	8	18	32	26	43	80
0	3	2	3	7	3	2	7	14	14	21	28	46

Rough-legged Buzzard V: One flying over the Pen Ponds on Oct 27th 2007 was the first record for the Park.

Osprey R: Single over-flying birds on Sep 29th 2001, Aug 30th 2007 and Sep 29th 2010. The only other 20th-Century record was in 1991; two records came from the previous century. This is another raptor species that may be seen more regularly due to the national increase in breeding birds.

Kestrel YBr (9): This commonly seen raptor finds the combination of ancient oaks and large grassland areas very suitable. The most intensively studied species in the Park; breeding surveys having been carried out over 40 years and were mentioned in Leslie Brown's *British Birds of Prey*. The Park is the most important site in the London Area for this nationally declining species but even here numbers have dropped. In 1967, the year of an intensive survey, 21 territories and 14 fledged broods were found. Several factors may be involved in the decline, among which are increasing human pressure on the Park's open areas, a decline in small mammals - the principal prey - and competition with Parakeets for nest-sites. The population, however, since 2000 seems stable. The minimum number of territories (TER), confirmed breeding pairs (PRS) and fledged young (YNG), since 2002 were as follows:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
TER	8	7	7	10	9	9	12	7	8	7	9
PRS	6	5	1	6	2	4	6	2	3	4	6
YNG	?	12	2	10	4	7	12	5	5	15	21

Hobby SBs: One or two are usually recorded between April and September. In 2000 and 2001 a pair was present at a traditional nesting site. Breeding probably took place in 2006, two juveniles being seen by the Pen Ponds in August. In 2011 breeding was confirmed when a pair raised three young. In 2012 presumably the same pair returned to nest in the same wood and raised one young, despite the poor weather. This dashing



Above left: Pair of Kestrels. Above right: Hobby. (Jan Wilczur)

falcon has infiltrated and increased in the surrounding suburbs. Previously a single pair had bred between 1989 and 1999. The Pen Ponds in late summer is a likely location to see birds hawking dragonflies. Four birds seen in the Park on May 7th 2011 probably included passage birds.

Peregrine Falcon O: A bird seen on Jun 3rd 2004 was the first since 1957. From 2008 it was recorded annually with increasing frequency, reflecting the establishment of this species as a breeding bird in London. All records were of single birds in flight usually in spring and autumn. Records in the summer of 2011 may have related to birds holding territory locally. Numbers of records per year:

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	3	4	7	7

Water Rail YBs (1): This secretive species is normally only found in the reed bed at the Upper Pen Pond. This is private and inaccessible, so breeding is difficult to prove even though a pair or two are normally present in the summer. Fortunately, in 2009, a fully grown juvenile was seen, so successful breeding was presumed to have taken place. Outside the breeding season up to three birds could be heard, until 2008 when special winter surveys using a tape-lure began. They found even more birds in the reed bed and adjacent alder carr: six were heard on Feb 19th and eight on Dec 22nd 2008; four on Mar 18th, Oct 8th 2009; four on Feb 16th and seven on Dec 18th 2012.

Moorhen YBr: Found on most of the ponds in the Park and on Beverley Brook with perhaps around 17 pairs present. Breeding results for the last two years are given:

	Pairs in the Park	Pairs at Pen Ponds	Broods at Pen Ponds	Fledglings at Pen Ponds
2011	9	6	5	7
2012	7	5	4	6

Most of the fledged young at the Pen Ponds were found at the undisturbed reed bed, highlighting the lack of safe breeding areas around most of the Park's ponds.

Coot YBr: Not quite as widespread in the Park as Moorhen but breeds in similar numbers, mainly at the Pen Ponds and Adam's Pond. In 2004 a breeding survey found 13 nesting pairs and nine broods of 24 fledged young. Breeding results for the last two years are given, showing a dramatic decline in breeding productivity:

	Pairs in the Park	Pairs at Pen Ponds	Broods at Pen Ponds	Fledglings at Pen Ponds
2011	17	14	6	3
2012	19	15	?	1

Breeding success was probably poor due to the lack of safe nesting areas. A few pairs nest close to the edges of ponds where they no doubt suffered disturbance from people and dogs. In addition to all the usual natural predators there are introduced red-eared terrapins present in both Pen Ponds. In winter, numbers increase on the Pen Ponds with the following notable counts in recent years: 240 on Jan 3rd 2007 and 191 on Dec 12th 2011. For both counts approximately 95 per cent of birds were on the Upper Pen Pond, illustrating its far greater attraction to wildfowl.

Stone-curlew R: One on Broad Field on Mar 10th 2004, chased off by Black-headed Gulls, and one on Lawn Field on Mar 28th 2010; previously recorded in 1957.

Golden Plover V: A flock of c150 flew south on Feb 25th 2002. Previously recorded in December 1991.

Grey Plover R: The first record for the Park was of a bird in flight on May 13th 2000. One flew ENE over the northern part of the Park on May 19th 2008. Both birds were in summer plumage.

Lapwing O: A sporadic visitor usually in single figures normally seen flying over, although 12 were on the Flying Field Mar 2nd 2005. Larger over-flying flocks recorded in recent years were: 50 on Oct 3rd and 28 on Oct 16th 2007; 15 on Nov 25th 2008; 80 on Jan 5th and 22 on Dec 18th 2009; 19 on Nov 5th 2011; 50 on Feb 7th, 15 on Feb 10th and 12 on Oct 24th 2012. It bred in the Park from 1943 to 1956.

Dunlin V: One was at Upper Pen Pond briefly in the early morning of Sep 12th 2009. The brevity of this bird's stay exemplifies the problem of human disturbance at the Pen Ponds which might otherwise be more attractive to passage waders. It was previously recorded in 1987.

Jack Snipe R: One on Lawn Field, near Lower Pen Pond, on Dec 10th 2004; three records in Mar 2008 from the reed bed and Pond Slade were probably of the same bird and one was at Upper Pen Pond on Dec 7th 2008; one by Upper Pen Pond on Mar 27th 2012. It was previously recorded in 1997.

Snipe W: Single birds normally seen between October and April by the Pen Ponds and at Pond Slade. Their fondness for damp grassland makes them difficult to find. In freezing conditions they may occur by Beverley Brook. Larger counts since 2000 are given: four on Nov 29th and Dec 4th 2004; three on Jan 10th 2009 and Jan 12th 2010; five flushed by a Short-eared Owl at Pond Slade on Feb 5th 2010.

Woodcock W: A winter visitor encountered in single figures between November and March. Its crepuscular habits make assessment of the wintering population in the Park difficult. Counts have been made of birds leaving and entering their known day-time roosts and have suggested that this population may be in double figures. A few known roosts are established in woods inaccessible to the public, such as Sidmouth Wood and Pond Plantation. Flights take place over specific locations at the woods' boundaries and so birds may be counted in open areas of the Park as they fly to and from their feeding areas. Larger numbers recorded flying in and out of Sidmouth Wood in recent years are given, along with other counts: seven on Dec 8th 2007; four flew out of Pond Plantation on Dec 10th 2008; four on Jan 13th and

Water Rail. (Jan Wilczur)

six were found at night in grassland on Dec 2nd 2009; eight on Jan 4th and seven on Dec 12th 2010; eight on Feb 18th 2011; seven on Mar 14th and two in Pond Plantation on Dec 10th 2012. In early 2010 there may have been as many as 13 birds in the Park. It last bred in 1969.

Bar-tailed Godwit V: A calling bird over Pen Ponds car park flew towards Upper Pen Pond on Jun 21st 2012. The second record for the Park, but the first one of a live bird after a dead one was found in 1936.

Whimbrel R: Two on Aug 10th 2001 were the second record for the Park, then singles on Apr 16th 2008 and May 3rd 2009. Records were of over-flying birds which is typical for the larger waders. The only other record for the Park was in 1950.

Curlew R: One on Apr 18th 2006; one Apr 26th, four on May 1st and one on May 3rd 2007. All records were of over-flying birds; previously recorded in 1994.

Common Sandpiper P: A few single birds are recorded each year on passage in spring and autumn at the Pen Ponds. Two birds have been recorded on two occasions in the last five years and three were on Upper Pen Pond Island on May 8th 2010. The lack of suitable undisturbed shoreline at the Pen Ponds probably prevents birds staying for more than a day.

Green Sandpiper O: Single birds recorded once or twice a year on passage in April and July to September; rarely occurs in winter. Upper Pen Pond and Beverley Brook are the most likely locations for occurrence but birds have been found at some of the smaller ponds. There were none in 2003 and 2008. In 2011 an exceptional passage of five birds occurred in the first half of August.

Greenshank R: One over the Pen Ponds on Aug 22nd 2001; one by Lower Pen Pond on Aug 31st 2005; one brief early morning bird at Lower Pen Pond flew off and was seen over Thatched Lodge on Sep 7th 2009. It was previously recorded in 1996.

Wood Sandpiper V: One at Upper Pen Pond on Jul 28th-29th 2004 was the second record for the Park, the first being in April 1976.

Redshank R: One on Jan 24th 2004; one briefly on Upper Pen Pond on Aug 1st and another flew over on Aug 8th 2005; one on the shore of Upper Pen Pond, recently cleared of rhododendron, on Jul 9th 2012. Previously recorded in 1986.

Black-headed Gull Y: Occurs throughout the year, but mainly in winter, at the Pen Ponds and Adam's Pond. Also on areas of short grass such as the rugby pitches near Roehampton Gate, the Flying Field and Broad Field. Under-recorded but the Standard Walk, which includes the Pen Ponds, shows a significant increase in numbers since 2000. Of the few counts made in recent years the following stand out: 242 at the Pen Ponds in February, 450 on the Rugby Pitches on Feb 2nd and 150 on the Golf Course on Jul 23rd 2008; 510 at the Pen Ponds in February 2009. Large numbers also fly over in winter on



their way between their reservoir roosts in south-west London and their feeding areas on the River Thames and local playing fields.

Little Gull R: The first record for the Park was of an immature on Nov 25th 2001. The second was of an adult briefly at Upper Pen Pond on May 21st 2004.

Mediterranean Gull R: A first-winter bird on Mar 5th 2003 was the first record for the Park; a first-winter on Dec 14th 2006; a first-winter on Jan 1st, an adult on Jan 2nd and a first-winter on Mar 1st 2007. All records were from Upper Pen Pond.

Common Gull W: A winter visitor from September to March to Upper Pen Pond (UPP) and areas of short grass such as Broad Field (BF) and the Rugby Pitches (RP). It is rarely recorded outside this period, with singles on Jul 23rd 2008, May 2nd and Jul 13th 2011 being the only recent examples. The peak of numbers in March presumably relates to the additional presence of passage birds. The 200 on Nov 25th 2012 occurred on a day of strong winds and rain and was the highest count since 1974. Peak counts and their month of occurrence at the main localities for the last six years were as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
UPP	no counts	60, Dec	34, Nov	80, Jan	54, Jan	200, Nov
BF/RP	51, Sep	110, Mar	88, Mar	no counts	99, Mar	no counts

Ring-billed Gull V: A second-winter bird at the Pen Ponds on Feb 9th 2002 is the only record for the Park of this North American species.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Y: Sporadically seen in ones and twos in winter either on Upper Pen Pond, Broad Field or the Rugby Pitches; more fly over but are rarely counted. Recent counts of birds on the ground are given: three adults on the Golf Course Jul 23rd 2008 and two first-summer birds on the Rugby Pitches May 25th 2009.

The larger gulls are seen infrequently at the Pen Ponds and on the ground in the Park, but fly over daily throughout the year with more doing so in winter. They may either be from the small numbers breeding and summering in London or on passage. In winter they fly over mainly at dawn and dusk, between their roosts at the large reservoirs in south-west London and where they feed on the River Thames. There is also a NW/SE flight-line over the Park which is perhaps both of passage birds and those flying to and from the refuse tip at Beddington Farmlands.

Herring Gull Y: Seen very occasionally in winter on either the Rugby Pitches or Upper Pen Pond - usually when frozen. Notable records at the latter location in recent years, unless stated otherwise, are given: three first-winters on Dec 23rd 2007; eight first-winters on the Rugby Pitches Mar 23rd 2008; four on Jan 5th 2009; four on Jan 1st, five first-winters on Dec 25th 2011 and 18 on Feb 15th 2012. It is also seen throughout the year flying over the Park, as discussed above. Larger recent counts were as follows: 83 flew E and SE on Oct 3rd 2007; 114 flew SE Mar 29th, 75 flew E May 19th, 165 flew SW Jun 21st and 210 flew W at dusk Oct 11th 2008; 60 flew S Apr 25th, 155 flew SW Oct 10th 2009 and 70 flew E on Apr 5th 2012.

Yellow-legged Gull R: A first-winter bird was found with Herring Gulls on the frozen Upper Pen Pond on Jan 5th 2009. This is the only confirmed record of this species which was once considered a sub-species of Herring Gull. Two adults were reported on Nov 3rd 2011 but with no further details. There were records of 'yellow-legged' Gulls in 1990, 1996 and 2005. One or more of these records, however, may have been of Caspian Gull which was only given full species status in 2007.

Great Black-backed Gull W: One to three birds seen sporadically flying over between September and April. More rarely, singles are recorded at the Pen Ponds. In the last six years these have been on: Dec 27th 2007; Jan 2nd and Mar 4th 2008; Jan 1st and on three dates Nov 25th-Dec 22nd 2011.

Common Tern SBr: Recorded on passage from April to September and in summer, normally in single figures. In 2009 a pair attempted to breed on a small dilapidated raft on Upper Pen Pond, the first breeding record for the Park. The following year a new purpose-built raft was provided and what was presumed to be the same pair returned to nest again, this time hatching a chick. Unfortunately the chick drowned, so in 2011 a couple of platforms were added to the sides of the raft enabling the pair to fledge a youngster. In 2012 two chicks were fledged but only after one became entangled in some wire netting on an old raft near by. A courageous local birder swam out to the raft to rescue the chick. Close views could be had of the parents fishing around the edges of the Pen Ponds. Several other birds visited the raft that summer so it is hoped the numbers of breeding pairs will increase, to which end a second raft will be installed in 2013. Presumably birds breeding at Barnes wetlands also visit the Pen Ponds to feed. The only count in double figures since 2000 was of 18 flying west into driving rain over Upper Pen Pond on Sep 6th 2011. These included a flock of 17 Common/Arctic Terns.

Rock Dove YBr: A feral flock, shrinking in size, resides at White Ash Lodge and presumably breeds. Birds in single figures are occasionally found elsewhere in the Park. Larger counts, with the month they occurred, are given:

2002	2004	2006	2008	2009	2011
130, Oct	140, Sep	70, Oct	62, Aug	81, Jan	35, Nov

Stock Dove YBr (144): A characteristic bird of the Park finding the ancient oaks and open woodland floors much to its liking. The 2008 survey revealed the Park as the most important breeding site for this species in Greater London. Usually encountered in single figures around the Park but the Paddocks at Holly Lodge may attract feeding flocks in double figures: 23 in May 2007; 16 in Apr 2009 and 22 in Apr 2011. A flock of 33 birds, probably migrants, flew off south from Conduit Wood on the morning of Oct 18th 2009.

Woodpigeon YBr: Not surveyed but probably common. However, the survey of Sidmouth Wood (North) in 2011 found only six territories compared to 52 in the nearby East Sheen Common. Large flocks fly over on passage in late autumn and may be found in winter in the Park's woodlands, although the winter birds are rarely counted. There was an influx in late 2011 of birds taking advantage of a bumper crop of acorns, with flocks of up to 600 in the larger woods. Large numbers stayed into early 2012, particularly in the enclosed Pond Plantation and Sidmouth Wood where flocks of a 1,000 occurred in each. There was a peak of 2,500 in four of the Park's plantations on Feb 10th 2012.

Collared Dove YBs (1): A pair bred in 2003 in the garden of one of the Park's lodges and then again from 2007 taking advantage of food put out for chickens. In 2011 a second pair bred at another lodge. In 2012 just the single pair bred. Otherwise, single birds are very occasionally seen flying over the Park.

Turtle Dove R: Singles on May 14th 2001; Aug 23rd 2002; May 5th and Aug 16th 2005; May 18th 2010. This species bred until 1939 and was previously recorded in 1989. The catastrophic national decline will make future records very unlikely.

Ring-necked Parakeet YBr: This noisy, exotic escapee seems to have reached plague

proportions, becoming one of the most numerous and obvious birds in the Park. Standard Walks have revealed a six-fold increase since 2000. Counts at other times are rare but flocks of around 100 birds may be found in many of the Park's woodlands. Breeding numbers have not been surveyed since it first bred in 1995. Birds regularly leave the Park at dusk to roost elsewhere, mainly in south-west London, returning at dawn. Flocks also fly right across the Park: c700 flew north in the early morning of Oct 9th 2007. Studies underway may show if it is adversely affecting native birds, especially those that also nest in tree holes, although they have already been seen to drive Nuthatches from theirs. They also harass any raptors that fly too low over the Park.

Cuckoo P: A few single passage birds occur between April and August. In four of the last six years singing males have lingered in Pond Plantation - for two weeks in May 2007. Two were seen there on May 10th 2008. A bird flew over The Bog on Jun 30th and a juvenile bird was present for a week in July 2011. There was an intriguing record of a singing male flying towards the reed bed on Jun 25th 2012. An adult was then seen in flight over Lawn Field on Jul 12th and one was mobbed by Parakeets on Sep 6th 2012. Once a regular breeding bird, it last bred in the Park in 1979.

Barn Owl Sc: Two sightings in December 2002 and probably the same bird on Jan 14th 2003. It was not until early March 2009, after the discovery of pellets in Petersham Park, that there were further records: a bird flew into the adjacent Richmond Golf Course after dusk on a few dates until Apr 7th, one was seen again on Sep 5th and 7th and pellets were found in early Nov 2009; singles at the same Golf Course on Feb 13th, hunting after dusk at Pond Slade and again at Petersham Park in June to July, pellets found in Petersham Park and a bird seen on Dec 14th 2010; pellets found but no sightings in late October 2011; one was chased by corvids out a wood on Feb 29th and pellets were found in the same wood until Mar 6th, many sightings of one and two birds Aug 13th-Nov 11th around the centre of the Park with three on Sep 15th 2012. Had breeding taken place either in the Park or somewhere nearby? A pair bred from 1965 to 1974 and it was previously recorded in 1989.

Little Owl YBr (21): One of the Park's characteristic birds - if rather more discreet than some of the others - occasionally surveyed since 2002. Those carried out in 2006, 2008 and the most complete, in 2009, found this diurnal owl to be surprisingly numerous and widespread. These results and those for 2012 are given:

Year	Locations	Nests	Additional adult birds	Fledged
2006	25	9	16 singles seen/heard	
2008	30	18	3 pairs, 7 singles, 2 calling	min 25
2009	37	16	4 pairs, 4 hooting, 3 singles, 10 calling	min 19
2012	35	8	6 hooting (further details not recorded)	min 9

In addition there were four locations, including three pairs, on the adjacent Richmond Park Golf Course. The Park must be one of the main strongholds for this species in the London Area. It can be surprisingly tolerant of disturbance, at least during daytime, as it resides in some of the busiest parts of the Park. It is possible to stand at one point in the Park and be within sight and sound of eight pairs.

Tawny Owl YBr (15): This nocturnal owl was found to be quite common:

2008	Noted at 15 locations with hooting birds and included 4 sites with young
2009	Noted at 19 locations with hooting birds and included 2 sites with young

Combining results from both years gives an estimate of 23 territories in the Park. In 2011, 21 territories were found. At one well-established site a pair has nested successfully for at least ten years.

Long-eared Owl RBs: One of the ornithological highlights in the Park for many years was the probable breeding of this elusive owl. In early 2009 two 'large Owls' were seen by one of the Park's residents, perched on his garden fence. A couple of evenings later their identity was secured. Only one bird was subsequently seen at any one time and was assumed to be wintering after a significant influx into the country. In early spring, when prey was observed being regularly taken into one of the Park's private woods, the possibility of a breeding pair was considered. The calls of a female were also heard from the wood, strengthening the suspicion of nesting. In early May, just when any young were expected to fledge, both adults were seen flying about mid-morning beside the nesting wood. They were never seen again and there was no sign of any owlets. It was thought that the pair had hatched young which were predated - possibly by Tawny Owls, which are known to attack the young of Long-eared Owls (a pair of the former also resided in the wood). One or two pairs of Long-eared Owls are normally found breeding each year on the fringes of Greater London so this may have been the closest breeding pair to central London in recent memory.

Short-eared Owl Sc: Two birds hunted over Pond Slade at dusk on Nov 28th-29th 2005; one at Lawn Field on Nov 27th-Dec 9th 2008; one at Pond Slade on Jan 31st-Feb 6th 2010; an 'eared' owl flew at tree-top height at mid-morning on Nov 9th 2011; singles at Sidmouth Slope on Mar 6th and 8th, flying over at mid-morning on Apr 6th, at Lawn Field at dusk on Sep 3rd and over Isabella Plantation on Oct 21st 2012. A distinct increase in records in recent years; the previous record was in 1998.

Nightjar R: A 'churring' bird in the centre of the Park on Jun 9th and one in Isabella Plantation on Sep 7th 2006; one feeding after dusk near Leg of Mutton Pond on Aug 23rd 2009; one flew out from gorse near Holly Lodge on the morning of Aug 8th 2011. It bred up to 1950 and was previously seen in 1973.

Little Owl and fallow bucks. (Jan Wilczur)



Long-eared Owl (Jan Wilczur)

Swift S: A summer visitor usually between the end of April and mid-August and a declining breeder in the surrounding suburbs. The largest numbers are usually seen over the vicinity of the Pen Ponds: 250 over the area of the Rugby Pitches on May 19th and 230 on Jun 14th 2008; 200 on Apr 30th 2010 and 200 on July 3rd 2011. A schizo-chromatic bird with white on its back and belly was seen on Jun 13th 2012. A very late bird on the morning of Nov 5th 2011 near Holly Lodge was either of this species or the far rarer Pallid Swift, a small influx of which had occurred in the UK around that time.



Alpine Swift V: One on May 27th 2000 was the first record for the Park. Seen with Common Swifts by the Pen Ponds, it disappeared after a thunderstorm.

Kingfisher YBs (1): One or two generally found by either Beverley Brook or the Pen Ponds, rarely at the other smaller ponds and streams. Single pairs bred in 2000, 2005 and 2008 beside the Brook, despite it being much disturbed by Park visitors. In 2008 the nest was close to a park bench. The highest counts in recent years outside the breeding season were: a family party of four at Lower Pen Pond on Aug 20th 2005; three by the Brook in April and December 2007 and five there on Oct 2nd 2008.

Hoopoe V: One at Holly Lodge and the Paddocks on the evening of Jul 6th 2012 was the sixth record for the Park, 110 years since the first in 1902. Previously seen in 1996.

Green Woodpecker YBr (108): This ground-feeding woodpecker is readily seen feeding at ant hills in the acid grassland. The Park has a stable population according to the Standard Walk and the highest number of territories of any site in the London Area.

Great Spotted Woodpecker YBr (95): The Park is also an important site in the London Area for this species. For a short period, nests with calling youngsters are easily located, with 19 nests found in 2008 in some of the unenclosed woods. The Standard Walk suggests the Park's population may be increasing, although surveys in Isabella Plantation since 2003 indicate a recent decline.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker YBr (5): With an apparently stable population the Park is the most important site in London for this nationally declining, diminutive and elusive species. Two nests were found in 2008, one high in the outer branch of a tall oak, the other at head height in a brook-side willow, making the daily life of the residing family readily viewable. In 2011 there were seven territories producing at least three broods of young. In 2012 there were five territories but no young seen.

Woodlark V: One was found in the Riding Ring on The Bog on Oct 12th 2008. It stayed for some time despite the close proximity of many visitors on that sunny Sunday afternoon. It bred up to 1962 and was previously seen in 1967; a dramatic change in

fortune for this once regular breeding bird in the Park. Curiously, the highest number of singing males was recorded in their last year as a breeding species.

Skylark YBr (23): The last exclusively ground-nesting bird left in the Park. Its fortunes were at a low ebb by the end of the 1990s when there were five territories in only four locations. The Park's bird recorder at the time wrote: 'It appears to be deserting the Park fast.' Increasing disturbance from visitors and dogs had probably led to the decline. Park management acted by erecting warning signs around Lawn Field in March 2002, one of the main breeding areas: this resulted in an increase in numbers, and occupied locations rising to nine. The reasons for a sharp decline in 2010 are unclear but may have been due perhaps to a couple of harsh winters and lack of compliance with signs by visitors and dog-walkers. Numbers have, however, recently recovered. The three main breeding areas are Crown, Lawn and Flying Fields with a few single pairs occupying smaller areas. Such a concentration of breeding birds is unusual in the inner suburbs of London. The numbers of breeding territories in the Park since 2000 are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
11	9	11	13	11	14	14	20	23	23	13	15	17

Outside the breeding season it is usually found in single figures. Higher counts for recent years were: ten on the Rugby Pitches end Mar-early Apr and 20 near Adam's Pond on Nov 26th 2007; 20 on the Rugby Pitches on Apr 18th, 11 on The Bog on Oct 6th 2008; 12 near Roehampton Gate on Jan 29th and 38 at Crown Field on Dec 19th 2010; 18 on the Rugby Pitches Mar 29th 2011; 23 at Crown Field on Feb 10th and 15 on the Rugby Pitches Apr 3rd 2012 - this gathering seeming to be an event of the early spring. Larger flocks occur overhead on passage and as a result of very cold winter weather: 29 over on Sep 25th, 34 flew N on Sep 29th, 27 over on Oct 3rd 2007 and 20 flew over on two dates in October 2008.

Sand Martin PSu: Usually occurs in single figures between March and October, but larger flocks may appear. Upper Pen Pond is where they are most often seen and a purpose-built nesting bank was erected there beside the reed bed pool in autumn 2011. It has so far failed to attract any tenants. Mid-summer flocks may be breeding birds from the nearby wetland reserve at Barnes. Larger counts in recent years are given: ten on May 10th and Jul 4th 2007; 50 on Jun 27th 2008; ten on Aug 8th 2010; 30 on Jun 16th and 60 on Sep 6th 2011; 25 on Jun 6th and 20 on Sep 24th 2012.

Swallow PSuBs (1): Usually occurs in single figures between early April and early October; larger numbers may occur on autumn passage. Since 2003 a pair has bred in the stables at the Park's headquarters at Holly Lodge. A second pair has bred at one of the Park's lodges since 2009. In 2011 both pairs fledged two broods, then a pair at Holly Lodge fledged four young in 2012. These may be the closest breeding birds to central London. Larger recent counts were: 100 at Upper Pen Pond on May 10th and 160 flew over on Sep 24th 2007; 80 flew over Sep 9th and 95 flew S in five minutes on Sep 22nd 2010; 110 flew SE on Sep 17th 2011; 100 at Pond Slade on Sep 9th and at the Pen Ponds on Sep 24th, 80 flew S on Sep 27th 2012.

House Martin PSu: Recorded between April and October and more often seen in larger flocks than the other two hirundine species, especially in autumn. This is a declining breeder in the surrounding suburbs. Larger recent counts, for the Pen Ponds unless stated otherwise, are as follows: 150 on May 10th and 200 on May 14th 2007; up to 100

over on three dates in September 2008; up to 120 on two dates in September 2011; 300 over Pond Slade on Sep 21st, 180 over on Sep 24th and c100 on three dates in late September to mid-October 2012. It bred sporadically between 1964 and 1976.

Tree Pipit R: One at Sawyer's Hill on Apr 21st and one at Hawthorn Valley on Aug 26th 2009; two on The Bog on Aug 17th 2011 and one near Holly Lodge on Aug 25th 2012. It bred until 1969 and was previously recorded in 1994. Another ground-nesting species that has disappeared as a breeding bird, it was once fairly common.

Meadow Pipit PWBs (2): Currently a passage migrant and winter visitor between September and April, with the largest numbers in autumn. It bred until 2009, with a peak of nine territories in 2005. The main breeding areas were Pond Slade, Crown and Lawn Fields. In 2010 there were three singing males in March at Pond Slade but then just a pair until mid-April that did not stay to breed. Its disappearance as a breeding species, like that of Tree Pipit, may have been due to both changing climate and increased disturbance by visitors. Unlike that species, however, it still breeds locally at Bushy Park and Wormwood Scrubs, although in declining numbers at both sites. Breeding territories since 2000 are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	3	3	6	5	9	6	3	3	2	1	0	0

Outside the breeding season The Bog, Pond Slade, Crown and Lawn Fields host the largest flocks - especially The Bog. The peak counts in the autumns of 2007 and 2008, which occurred in late September/early October, were the result of systematic counts at these locations. The single-figure counts are probably due to under-recording. Peak counts for the recent years were as follows:

Autumn	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	92	100	70	40	6	40
Winter	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012
	22	25	25	7	18	no counts

Overhead passage was noted when 230 flew north in 75 minutes on Apr 4th 2008 and 29 flew south on Sep 14th 2011.

Yellow Wagtail P: A few records a year of one to two passage birds in spring and autumn, usually flying over but a few have been seen in the Paddocks. There were a couple of records of two birds there in autumn 2012. A pair bred in 1983

Grey Wagtail YBs: One or two pairs usually breed. Beverley Brook is the main breeding locality but pairs, and a family party in 2007, have been seen in Conduit Wood. In winter up to four occur by the Brook and birds appear elsewhere in the Park. The Pen Ponds host family parties in summer and birds both in autumn and winter.

Pied Wagtail YBs: Recorded in single figures throughout the year except July and August. Peak numbers occur on passage in spring and especially in autumn. Two pairs bred at two of the Lodges in 2005 and a pair usually breeds just outside the Park near Sheen Gate. In 2012 a pair probably bred at White Lodge. The Paddocks at Holly Lodge are the likeliest location for birds. The highest counts in recent years were as follows: four on The Bog May 5th and five in the Paddocks on Oct 16th 2007; six in Kingston Gate car park on May 19th and five in the Paddocks on Oct 23rd 2008; seven there on Sep 30th 2009 and eight on Oct 10th 2010.

Waxwing R: Three on Oct 19th 2003 and six on Apr 9th 2005 were the third and fourth

records for the Park. The two previous records were in 1946 and 1966. The Park lacks the berried tree species attractive to this irruptive winter visitor.

Wren YBr: Common and widespread. In the 2011 survey of Sidmouth Wood (North), 22 territories were found in the enclosed, rhododendron-filled, wood. This compared to 58 territories in the similarly sized, but with a naturally vegetated shrub layer, East Sheen Common. The Standard Walk suggests a decline since 2000.

Dunnock YBr (27): This amber-listed species is mainly found by the boundary of the Park where it adjoins gardens and woodlands outside the Park. Within the Park, apart from a few isolated territories, it is only found in the more open woodlands with either a shrub layer or scrub, namely Isabella Plantation and Sidmouth Wood (South). In 2012 there were 25 territories, suggesting the population in the Park is stable.

Robin YBr: A common breeder, although largely absent from the woods devoid of a shrub layer. A breeding survey covering most of the Park in 2010 found 66 territories. This did not include Sidmouth Wood (North) which was surveyed in the 2011 comparative survey: 31 territories were found here compared to 64 in the wood just outside the Park. Combining the two surveys gives an estimate of 100 breeding territories for the Park. The Standard Walk indicates a recent decrease.

Black Redstart Sc: All records were of singles at Holly Lodge Paddocks except one which was near by: Oct 27th-28th 2004; Oct 7th and Oct 25th-29th 2005; Oct 22nd 2007; one at the Riding Ring on The Bog Oct 15th 2009; Mar 24th and May 8th 2010; a juvenile on Jul 3rd 2011; Oct 26th-28th 2012. It was previously recorded in 1996.

Redstart O: A passage migrant in spring and autumn, usually occurring once or twice a year in the area of Holly Lodge. Records for the last five years are given: a male on Apr 16th and one Sep 16th-19th 2008; two at Lawn Field Sep 26th 2009; two males Sep 1st-9th 2010; a male at Lawn Field Apr 8th, one or two on Aug 3rd and 10th and one on Sep 16th 2011; one or two males on Apr 11th-12th, a male on Apr 21st and singles on Aug 23rd and Sep 21st 2012. This once fairly common breeding bird bred until 1972 and has retreated altogether from London as a breeding species.

Whinchat P: A passage migrant in single figures in spring and autumn. Most often recorded in autumn between August and late September and in the following areas: The Bog/Holly Lodge Paddocks; the gorse enclosures west of Holly Lodge; Lawn Field; Pond Slade and south of White Ash Pond. Larger counts for the last five years were as follows: seven on Sep 9th 2008; five on Aug 20th-23rd 2010 and seven on Aug 25th 2011. Co-ordinated counts in autumn of all likely locations could produce totals in double figures; those that took place in autumn 2002 produced a peak of eight at three locations on Sep 11th.

Stonechat PWBs (2): A regular but declining breeder in small numbers until 2009. It then bred again in 2012. Harsh winter weather was probably the main factor in this species' failure to breed and in its decreased numbers at other times of year. Plenty of suitable habitat remains so it is hoped that breeding in the Park will continue, although increasing disturbance may also be an issue. Numbers of pairs and **fledged young** since 2000 are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3	4	3	7	7	6	3	5	2	1	0	0	1
?	6	10	16	10	13	?	9	8	3	0	0	2

Outside the breeding season, usually recorded in single figures and mainly in large open areas of bracken adjoining acid grassland. Systematic surveys, however, in autumn 2007 and 2008 produced some astounding totals and showed the Park to be an important staging post for this species on migration. The counts were on Oct 3rd and Oct 6th respectively. There were also 25 birds on Sep 9th 2008. Peak counts for the last six years were as follows:

Autumn	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	28	40	9	7	3	11
Winter	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012
	6	4	6	2	2	2

Wheatear P: A passage migrant usually in single figures between late March and early October. It is most often recorded in spring, generally at The Bog, Holly Lodge Paddocks, Lawn Field and Pond Slade. Larger counts are given: 25 on Apr 20th 2006; 11 Apr 24th 2007; 16 Apr 19th 2010; 30 Apr 11th and seven Sep 21st 2011; 16 on Apr 11th 2012. The count of 30 was a result of several areas of the Park being visited. A pair bred in 1955. The Greenland sub-species occurs occasionally, later in both spring and autumn: one on May 4th 2008; up to five on May 9th-10th 2009; singles on May 21st and Sep 9th 2011.

Ring Ouzel Sc: One or two occur on passage in spring and autumn. Most often seen in the Holly Lodge area; typically shy and elusive. Recent records are given: two on Apr 10th and singles on Apr 26th, Oct 6th and 13th 2007; up to two males Apr 19th-22nd and a male and female Apr 29th-May 2nd 2008; a male on Apr 7th and singles on Oct 2nd, 6th, 14th and 21st 2010; two on Apr 6th, singles on Apr 19th and May 4th 2011; males on Oct 10th and Oct 20th-24th 2012.

Blackbird YBr (147): A common breeder requiring at least a little undergrowth in the Park's woods in which to nest. Twice as many territories were found in the naturally vegetated wood, just outside the Park, rather than in one of the Park's rhododendron-filled woods (36 and 18 territories respectively). The Standard Walk indicates a stable population. Gatherings of autumn migrants have been observed in Hawthorn Valley: 16

Below left: Whinchat in autumn. Below right: Redstart. (Jan Wlczur)



on Oct 25th 2008; 20 on Oct 29th 2009; 16 on Nov 11th 2010 and 24 on Oct 22nd 2012 included birds in areas near by.

Fieldfare PW: Recorded between October and April with variable numbers in winter. Larger numbers pass overhead on late autumn passage and hard weather movements. Peak counts, for overhead passage in autumn and birds in the Park in winter, are given for recent years:

Autumn	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	83	500	70	200	42	85
Winter	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012
	4	15	20	4	80	3

Other recent counts of interest: 30 flew SW on Mar 30th 2008; 100 flew S on Feb 7th 2009; 70 flew SW on Jan 8th and 30 in Holly Lodge Paddocks on Oct 21st 2010.

Song Thrush YBr (41): This local BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) species is fairly common, resulting in the Park being an important breeding site in a London context. It seems to require rather more under-storey than Blackbird so is normally restricted to the Park's enclosed woodlands and scrub enclosures. Similar breeding numbers were found in the comparative woodland survey of 2008: six territories in Sidmouth Wood and four on East Sheen Common. The Standard Walk has shown an increase in the Park's population since 2000 but surveys of Isabella Plantation indicate a marked decline in breeding numbers. Migrant flocks pass overhead in late autumn: 29 on Sep 29th, 100 on Oct 13th, 40 Nov 4th and 12 on Dec 1st 2007; 15 on Oct 18th 2008; 66 on Oct 21st 2009; 36 on Nov 5th 2011 and 60 on 27th Oct 2012.

Redwing PW: Recorded between late September and late March in larger numbers than Fieldfare. It is also seen overhead on late autumn passage and hard weather movements. Peak counts, for overhead passage in autumn and birds in the Park in winter, are given for recent years:

Autumn	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	51	310	200	93	40	520
Winter	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012
	60	60	140	46	88	no counts

Other recent counts of interest: 100 flew SW on Mar 29th 2007; one by Holly Lodge Apr 16th-22nd 2008; 110 flew NW on Dec 18th 2009 and 300 flew S on Feb 6th 2012.

Mistle Thrush YBr (44): The parkland habitat seems ideal for this species, which is widespread within the Park, making it the most important site in London for this species. Post-breeding gatherings and migrant flocks in autumn may reach double figures: 39 on the Rugby Pitches Aug 17th 2000; 11 in the Paddocks Jun 27th, 25 there Aug 16th, 20 in Petersham Park Sep 5th, 13 flew W on Oct 3rd as did 12 on Oct 9th 2007; 12 by Thatched Lodge on Aug 20th and ten in Hawthorn Valley Aug 31st 2009; 14 in hawthorns on Lawn Field on Sep 27th 2010; 20 in Petersham Park and 11 flew S on Aug 28th 2012.

Grasshopper Warbler R: One in Isabella Plantation on Apr 16th 2003; two singing in Hawthorn Valley and Pond Plantation Apr 15th, one singing in Hawthorn Valley Jul 4th 2006; one singing at Lawn Field Jun 14th-Jul 19th 2008 and one in Hawthorn Valley on Aug 17th 2011. The previous record was in 1979 and it was first recorded in the Park in 1969.

Sedge Warbler P: A passage migrant in spring and autumn usually occurring singly a few times a year. It is normally seen either in Hawthorn Valley or in the area of the Pen Ponds. A pair probably bred in 1945. Numbers of records in recent years were:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	2	1	3	3	3

Reed Warbler SuBr (4): Only found breeding in the reed bed at Upper Pen Pond. This small area of special habitat requires occasional management to prevent the incursion of trees, shrubs and rhododendron. This has resulted in a recent increase in territories. Migrants occasionally are found elsewhere in the park. Breeding territories for the last six years were as follows:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	4	7	6	5	6

Blackcap SuBr (42): A fairly common breeding bird present between March and October although largely absent from unenclosed woods devoid of ground cover. It will, however, take advantage of any small enclosures containing bramble in which to breed. In 2009 ten additional territories were counted on the Golf Course. There were c50 territories in the Park in 2010 and 56 in 2012, indicating an increase in the population in recent years. In 2011 ten territories were recorded in the rhododendron-filled Sidmouth Wood compared to 24 on East Sheen Common.

Garden Warbler SuBr (6): A few small pockets of suitable habitat help maintain this fine songster as a breeding species within the Park. In 2012 there were four territories. Singing males are occasionally recorded on migration but autumn birds are rare; singles were in Hawthorn Valley on Sep 14th 2009 and Sep 7th 2012.

Lesser Whitethroat P: A passage migrant in spring and autumn occurring singly a few times a year, usually seen either in Hawthorn Valley or the Holly Lodge area. A pair attempted to breed in 1999. Numbers of records in recent years are given:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3	3	4	4	1	2

Whitethroat SuBr (21): Now a fairly common breeding species present between mid-April and mid-September having returned as a breeding bird in 1997. Found in areas of scattered hawthorns and along scrubby woodland edges, requiring the presence of at least some bramble. The scrub enclosures of the Hawthorn Valley, established in 2000 to protect hawthorns from browsing by deer, have become a stronghold for this warbler, as has the area of hawthorns north of Kingston Gate. The breeding population has increased dramatically so making this species one of the few native birds whose fortunes are improving in the Park. The numbers of territories since 2000 were as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	2	1	3	8	10	15	17	21	37	35	36	34

Dartford Warbler O: One or two birds in winter recorded between October and February, often associating with Stonechats in the larger open areas of bracken. In the autumn of 2008 there was an exceptional influx of at least six birds. There were still at least four present in February 2012. On two occasions three birds were seen together. Recent harsh winter weather put an end to records - suggesting birds had originated perhaps from southern England where the breeding population was decimated - until one was at Pond Slade on Aug 19th 2011.

Wood Warbler R: One with a tit flock in Jubilee Plantation on Jul 24th 2001; singles in Isabella Plantation on Apr 25th and near Bishop's Lodge on Apr 26th 2003. Records have decreased markedly, in line with the national decline, for what was once an annual visitor to the Park. It bred until 1937 and was previously seen in 1998.

Chiffchaff SuBr (29): Fairly common, present between mid-March and mid-October and found almost exclusively in the enclosed woods. Interestingly, 12 territories were found in Sidmouth Wood (North) in 2011 compared to eight in East Sheen Common. Thus it was one of the few passerine species surveyed to be found in greater numbers in the wood belonging to the Park. Numbers have been seen to fluctuate widely in the Isabella Plantation surveys; between 11 and two territories. In 2011, however, there were 31 territories in the Park and 27 in 2012 suggesting a fairly stable population. Small parties occur in autumn and counts of these in the last five years are given: seven on Sep 29th 2008; eight on Sep 13th 2009; ten on Sep 11th 2010; five on Sep 16th 2011; 20 in several locations on Sep 6th 2012. The only recent winter record was of one by Beverley Brook on Jan 23rd 2011.

Willow Warbler PSuBs: Usually found between early April and mid-September but rarely breeds. Single territories were recorded in 2003, 2005, 2007 and two in 2009. Parties in single figures were found in autumn, such as: five on Aug 28th 2007; five on Sep 9th 2008 and six on Jul 30th 2011. Numbers of singing males in spring in recent years, including those staying to hold territory, were as follows:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
9	12	11	6	10	11

An abundant breeder up to the mid-1930s, it declined until ceasing to breed annually in 1979. Since then it has only bred very occasionally.

Goldcrest YBr (8): Breeds where conifers are present in the predominately broad-leaved woodland, especially in Isabella Plantation. There were seven territories in 2011 but a dramatic increase to 18 in 2012. The reason for this is unclear. Small parties occur in autumn and winter: nine at Thatched Lodge on Sep 23rd and 11 on Dec 5th 2008; ten in Two Storm Wood on Feb 9th 2009; ten on Jan 2nd 2011 and 13 at Sidmouth Slope on Oct 20th 2012.

Firecrest Sc: Records of singles on Apr 28th 2001; Mar 24th, Apr 4th, Aug 26th and Oct 30th 2002; a singing male on Mar 8th-10th and either the same or another near by on May 4th-5th 2007; a male on Mar 13th 2008; a singing male on Feb 24th and one on Sep 26th 2011. After being first recorded in 1956 it was not seen again until 1994.

Spotted Flycatcher PSuBs: Recorded from mid-May to end of August. Despite its national decline this species has maintained a tenuous presence in the Park as a breeder and passage migrant. The last confirmed breeding was in 2007 until a family party was found in White Lodge Plantation at the end of August 2012. Were these migrants or had breeding taken place in the Park undetected? The Plantation, along with Barn and Conduit Woods, was a favoured breeding location. It occurs on passage in single figures with groups of up to five occasionally seen in August. The numbers of territories since 2000 were as follows:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	2	2	7	3	4	4	5	4	2	2	0	1?

Pied Flycatcher R: Singles in Hawthorn Valley on Aug 2nd 2002 and in Kidney Wood Sep 18th 2007. Surprisingly only first recorded in the Park in 1975.

Long-tailed Tit YBr (28): Mainly found in the enclosed woods and larger areas of scrub. In 2012 a survey found 29 territories. An interesting contrast was shown in the breeding numbers in the two halves of Sidmouth Wood. The northern half with a shrub layer predominantly of rhododendron held one territory, whereas the southern half, with native shrubs and less rhododendron held five. The Standard Walk showed a stable, if fluctuating, population. Not surprising, given this species' vulnerability to harsh winters. The surveys of Isabella Plantation demonstrate the wide differences in the numbers of territories between years:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8	11	8	20	16	9	16	?	5	?	14	4	6

The largest flocks seen in recent years were 30 on Oct 29th and 31 on Nov 27th 2009.

Blue Tit YBr: Not surveyed but undoubtedly still common. The Standard Walk has shown that numbers have declined by a third since 2000. The comparative woodland survey of 2011 found similar numbers in both Sidmouth Wood (North) and East Sheen Common (49 and 51 territories respectively).

Great Tit YBr: Not surveyed but presumably common despite the Standard Walk indicating a decline. In an interesting contrast with Blue Tit, the comparative woodland survey found only a third as many of the birds in East Sheen Common as there were in Sidmouth Wood (14 and 46 territories respectively).

Coal Tit YBr (33): Fairly common considering the lack of conifers. The population is stable according to the Standard Walk. Found almost exclusively in the western half of the Park.

Nuthatch YBr (34): The ancient oak woods, enclosed and open, would seem to provide ideal habitat for this arboreal species but it was found to be absent from some of the plantations. The Park is still one of the most important sites in London for this species. In May 2010 a nest was checked using a camera mounted on a pole and was found to contain ten young. In April 2011 two nest-holes were found to have been taken over by Parakeets after they had removed the mud around the entrance, so highlighting potential future conflict with the non-native species.

Treecreeper YBr (20): Not quite as common as the previous species but perhaps under-recorded because of its quiet song and unobtrusive nature. In 2011, however, 20 territories were also found and 23 territories in 2012

Golden Oriole R: One for a week from May 16th 2004; three records in May 2005 and a singing bird on May 27th 2006. It was first recorded in the Park in 1976.



Red-backed Shrike. (Jan Wilczur)

Red-backed Shrike R: Single males were seen in Hawthorn Valley on Aug 2nd 2008 and Jun 6th 2010. They even perched on the same bushes, perhaps hinting that the records involved the same bird. It bred up to 1932 and was previously seen in May 1962.

Great Grey Shrike V: One in Hawthorn Valley on Oct 29th 2002. It was previously recorded in the winter of 1974/75.

Woodchat Shrike R: One on Jun 12th 2005 was the second record for the Park. First found in the morning, hunting from treetops in Oak Lodge Yard, Sidmouth Wood. It was then relocated in the afternoon, hunting from enclosure fences at Sawyer's Hill where its presence was enjoyed by many visiting birders. The first record was in April 1953 and a photo of this bird was published in *British Birds*.

Jay YBr (56): Fairly common and widespread with a stable population. Otherwise rarely counted but noted flying about the Park in late autumn carrying acorns.

Magpie YBr (42): Fairly common but generally not found in the unenclosed woods. The Standard Walk suggests a recent decline. Flocks are seen in winter, sometimes at roosts: 15 on Feb 13th and 18 in flight on Oct 20th 2007; 12 on Feb 11th 2008; ten roosting in Two Storm Wood on Jan 26th 2010 and 30 there Dec 8th 2011.

Jackdaw YBr: Widespread, numerous and increasing - by five times since 2000 according to the Standard Walk. Its status as the Park's most characteristic and obvious bird is under threat from the Parakeet. Flocks of a hundred birds or more may be seen around the Park but otherwise it is rarely counted and breeding numbers have never been assessed, although c500 were seen fly-catching in the centre of the Park on May 23rd 2012. The size of the Park and abundance of possible nesting sites are an understandable deterrent to such a survey. Many birds, if not all, leave the Park to roost elsewhere, returning at dawn. Two points of departure and arrival are over Cambrian and Robin Hood Gates with birds flying off NW and S respectively. At dusk 300 flew off NW on Oct 6th 2007 and 270 flew off NW on Feb 22nd 2011. The red and fallow deer in the Park appreciate the attentions of Jackdaws which glean insects from their hair. In return they relinquish some of their hair to the birds for use as nest-lining.

Rook R: One flew south on Apr 4th 2008 and one flew over on Apr 9th 2010. Previously recorded in 1990 but perhaps overlooked amongst the many corvids in the Park. It bred in the Park until 1924.

Woodchat Shrike. (Jan Wilczur)



Carrion Crow YBr: Appears to be fairly common although only surveyed in 2005 when ten nesting pairs were located. The Standard Walks show a halving of the Park's population since 2000, far fewer being seen in the Park after its closure in spring 2001 as a precaution against Foot and Mouth disease. Some birds take advantage of the Park's litter bins and food thrown to wildfowl at some of the ponds. Larger counts in recent years were as follows: 250 at a pre-roost gathering at Ham Cross in January and November 2005; 200 mobbed an escaped Indian White-backed Vulture at dusk near Thatched House Lodge on Nov 10th 2006; 27 on The Bog on Mar 5th 2007 and 47 there on Jan 31st 2008; 40 in Isabella Plantation on Jan 9th 2009; 150 at Ham Bottom at dusk on Mar 23rd 2010.

Raven V: Two flying west over Thatched House Lodge on Oct 27th 2008 were the first to be recorded in the Park. Given this species' expansion into south-east England, perhaps more can be expected to be seen at the Park.

Starling YBr: Apparently common but, like the Park's other common birds, its breeding population has never been counted. This is understandable given the size of the Park. No territories were found in the survey of Sidmouth Wood (North) in 2011. Outside the breeding season, noisy flocks of a hundred birds or more frequent the Park's woods and grassland, often associating with the deer. There is a small roost in a tree on the Pen Ponds' causeway. In December 2000 hundreds roosted in rhododendrons in Pond Plantation. Larger counts in the last five years are given: 50 roosted at the Pen Ponds in Dec 2008; 1,000 on the Flying Field on Mar 28th 2009; 120 in a pre-roost gathering at Lawn Field on Nov 3rd 2011; 170 roosted at Pen Ponds on Nov 11th 2012. Large numbers also fly over on their way to roosts in central London and westwards on autumn passage: 200 flew W on Oct 19th 2008 and on Oct 29th 2009; 1,000 flew W on Oct 3rd 2010 and 240 flew W on Oct 24th 2012.

House Sparrow R: Twenty at Bishop's Lodge on Mar 26th 2001, two there Jun 7th 2002 and one by Roehampton Gate May 2nd 2002; up to three at Kingston Gate car park May 11th-Jun 7th 2005; a female just inside Cambrian Gate, with a singing male just outside, on Apr 23rd 2008. As elsewhere in London, this once abundant species has sadly disappeared from the Park. The exact year of its departure from the Park as a breeding bird was not recorded but seems to have been in the mid-1990s.

Chaffinch YBr (47): Fairly common, although the Standard Walk indicates a halving of numbers recorded since 2000. Comparison with an incomplete survey in 2011 also indicates a drop in breeding numbers. The Isabella Plantation surveys showed a reduction from five to just one territory. Found mainly in the enclosed woods, areas with shrubs, the mature gardens of some of the Park's lodges and where such gardens adjoin the Park's boundary - especially along Kingston Vale. In the comparative woodland survey of 2011 none were found in Sidmouth Wood (North) whereas five territories were counted in East Sheen Common. Flocks may be found in winter; a flock in February and March at Hornbeam Walk was a feature between 2001 and 2005, reaching a peak of 100 on Mar 4th 2003. Other counts for recent years were as follows: 30 roosted at Pond Plantation on Jan 4th 2007; ten roosted there on Feb 18th, 15 in Two Storm Wood on Aug 24th, and nine left the Pond Plantation roost Dec 2nd 2008; 13 in the Paddocks Oct 16th 2009; 18 in Hawthorn Valley Mar 17th 2011; 30 feeding under hornbeams at Cambrian Gate Mar 7th 2012. Flocks also pass overhead on autumn passage: 27 flew W Oct 9th and 50 flew W Nov 13th 2007; 240

flew W on Oct 19th 2008; 60 flew W on Oct 11th 2009; 26 flew NW on Oct 17th 2010; 28 flew W on Oct 21st 2011 and 50 flew WNW on Oct 30th 2012.

Brambling PW: A few records each year of birds in single figures between October and March, some flying over on passage, but no records in 2012. Larger recent counts are given: ten flew E on Mar 29th 2007; six flew W on Oct 14th 2009; two in Hawthorn Valley Dec 27th 2010; two there on Mar 13th and three flew W on Oct 21st 2011.

Greenfinch YBr (34): Fairly common, being closely associated with the Park's lodges, the Hawthorn Valley scrub enclosures and the Park boundary where it adjoins mature gardens. Outside the breeding season flocks of up to 30 birds may be found, mainly in autumn. Between 2001 and 2005, as with Chaffinch, there was a winter flock in Hornbeam Walk. This peaked at 90 in February to March 2003. There was also a roost in Pond Plantation, again like Chaffinch, which was perhaps associated with this winter flock. The roost peaked at 54 on Feb 1st 2005. Larger counts in recent years are given - in Hawthorn Valley unless stated otherwise: 15 on Jan 9th, 30 at Pembroke Lodge on Feb 6th, 15 on Nov 5th and Dec 30th 2007; 25 on Oct 6th and at Holly Lodge on Oct 19th 2008; 26 on Oct 11th 2009; 15 on Oct 29th 2010; 27 on Oct 7th and 18 in the Paddocks Oct 27th 2011.

Goldfinch YBr (7): Generally found breeding close to some of the Park's lodges. In late summer through to winter, flocks may be found, some flying overhead on autumn passage. Higher counts for the last five years were as follows: up to 60 in the Pond Slade area Jul 25th-Sep 10th, 20 at Holly Lodge and 18 flew S on Oct 19th, 20 at Adams Pond on Nov 13th 2008; 30 at Pond Slade on Aug 6th and 100 by Upper Pen Pond Oct 10th 2009; 30 at Holly Lodge Aug 6th and Oct 8th, up to 25 in Hawthorn Valley Oct 14th-Nov 26th 2010; 150 by Upper Pen Pond Oct 6th 2011 and 60 at Pond Slade in Aug 2012.

Siskin W: Recorded between September and March, usually in flocks of around 50, feeding in alders and birches. The trees around the Pen Ponds, in Pond Plantation and by Dann's Pond are popular locations. Larger counts for the last five years are given: 60 by Upper Pen Pond on Jan 16th, 80 in Pond Plantation on Sep 30th and up to 60 by Upper Pen Pond on Sep 23rd-Oct 17th 2008; 110 at the Pen Ponds on Nov 24th 2010; 200 at Ham Gate Pond on Jan 21st, up to 70 by Lower Pen Pond in Jan-Feb, up to 60 in Pond Plantation in Nov 2011 and interestingly 22 were seen pecking at horse chestnut leaf-mines on Oct 7th 2012.

Linnet P: Several records of usually single birds each year, on passage in spring and autumn. Most are of birds flying over: six flew SW on Oct 19th 2008; six flew S on Oct 25th and seven on Oct 29th 2009; six flew W on Oct 29th 2011 and five flew over on Aug 18th 2012. Other notable records were: a singing male in the gorse enclosures west of Holly Lodge on Jul 4th 2006; a male on The Bog on Apr 11th 2008; two at Pond Slade on Oct 19th 2009; a singing male at the Paddocks on Apr 6th and four at Pond Slade on Sep 29th 2012. It bred in the gorse enclosures up to 1979.

Lesser Redpoll W: Recorded between September and April, usually in flocks of around 50 feeding in alders and birches. The Pen Ponds, Pond Plantation, Hawthorn Valley and the area around Thatched House Lodge are likely locations for flocks. There was a notable influx in November 2011. Larger counts in recent years were as follows: 100 by Thatched House Lodge on Nov 17th 2009; 60 at Holly Lodge Dec 10th 2010; up to 50 in Oak Lodge Yard Jan 15th-Mar 2nd, 60 in Isabella Plantation Jan 19th, 150 by Upper Pen Pond Nov 6th, up to 150 by Thatched House Lodge mid-November and 55 in Sidmouth Wood on Nov 23rd 2011. It possibly bred up to 1980.

Mealy Redpoll R: One in Prince Charles Spinney with a flock of Lesser Redpolls on Dec 27th 2008 was the first record for the Park; up to four near Thatched Lodge on three dates in November and December 2010; up to six at three locations Feb 2nd-Apr 5th and up to two on three dates in November 2011; four in Hawthorn Valley on Mar 16th 2012. It may have been previously overlooked amongst the regular wintering flocks of Lesser Redpoll. An influx occurred in late 2010, but there were surprisingly few amongst the large number of Lesser Redpolls a year later.

Crossbill Sc: five flew over on Aug 28th 2002; seven in Isabella Plantation on May 2nd and one on Oct 26th 2005; four in conifers on Broomfield Hill flew off W on May 30th 2010; two flew S May 5th and five flew over on Oct 17th and 29th 2011; recorded on eight dates in 2012, including flocks over Thatched Lodge of ten on May 10th and 4-5 on three other dates up to early June and 4-6 at the Broomfield Hill conifers in mid-August. It was previously recorded in 1997.

Bullfinch O: An occasional but declining visitor in single figures, mainly in winter, to Isabella Plantation and Oak Lodge Yard. In early 2012, however, there was a small influx to old haunts. Recent records are given: one near Pembroke Lodge Jan 7th and two at Oak Lodge Dec 4th 2007; a male in Oak Lodge yard Jan 5th and 11th 2008; a female flew into Conduit Wood Oct 26th, one in Sidmouth Wood and three by Beverley Brook on Dec 2nd 2011; up to six in Oak Lodge yard Jan 1st-Feb 12th and a female until Mar 2nd, three in Isabella Plantation on Feb 15th 2012. It last bred in 1989.

Hawfinch V: One perched briefly in the largest hawthorn enclosure in Hawthorn Valley on Apr 11th 2010. It bred up to 1956 and was previously recorded in 1972.

Yellowhammer R: One in flight near Conduit Wood on Nov 2nd 2002 and one in an isolated dead hawthorn on The Bog on Oct 17th 2009. It bred in the Park until 1976 and was previously seen in 1996.

Ortolan Bunting V: A male on the morning of May 5th 2011 was seen perched briefly on top of a gorse bush in an enclosure just west of Holly Lodge. It flew off eastwards and could not be relocated. This was the second record for the Park, the first being on May 7th-9th 1993 when a singing male lingered in Saw Pit Plantation.

Reed Bunting YBr (21): Despite only containing a few wetland areas, the Park is an important breeding site in Greater London for this amber-listed species. It is found in open areas containing bracken close to ponds and streams, thus Lawn Field, Upper Pen Pond and Pond Slade are important breeding locations. What is problematic for this species and Park management is that bracken needs to be controlled to prevent it spreading into the nationally-important lowland acid grassland. The breeding population has gradually increased since 2004, bucking the trend for other species breeding in open areas. Its habit of nesting in dense stands of bracken is no doubt beneficial. Breeding territories since 2000 are given:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
12	?	?	12	10	19	19	14	21	22	20	20	25

Only a few are found in winter but larger numbers occur in autumn; some of these counts are given: 25 in four locations Oct 3rd, 19 at Pond Slade Nov 4th 2007; six near White Ash Lodge Jan 1st and by Middle Road Feb 13th, 23 at Lawn Field Sep 6th 2008.

Acknowledgements

I would like to give particular thanks to the following people who have contributed significantly to the writing of this paper. Tim Howard, my predecessor as bird recorder for the Park, kindly provided a great deal of information and commented on a draft of this Review. He tirelessly and carefully collated the bird records for the Park for some time, generating many of those records himself. Barry Marsh, the first volunteer bird recorder for the Park, also provided copious records and meticulous historical notes which were an important source of reference; his many vivid anecdotes and observations of changes in the Park's birdlife were an inspiration. Mike Lewis and Steve Read shared their intimate knowledge of the Park's birds, the former assiduously bird-watching in the Park for 50 years and finding many of the Park's rarer species, the latter helping to establish the whereabouts of many of the Park's owls. Stefan Czapski's records from the early 2000s filled in some gaps in records for some of the important species, including Kestrel, and he pioneered sky-watching for raptors in the Park. Damien Black kindly provided information from his recent breeding bird surveys in Isabella Plantation.

I am also grateful to other members of the Richmond Park Bird Recording Group, both past and present, for submitting their observations over the years; Dr Nigel Reeve, Head of Ecology for The Royal Parks, for his analysis of the data from the Standard Walks; and Adam Curtis, Assistant Park Superintendent, for arranging access to the Park's private woods. Various bird recorders of the London Natural History Society have helpfully forwarded records for the Park submitted directly to them. Special thanks are also due to David Wills for the example of his long-standing recording at, and production of annual bird reports from, Wimbledon Common. Finally, I am grateful to Rupert Kaye for reading and commenting effusively on the final draft.

A leaflet listing all the bird species recorded in Richmond Park from 2001 to 2010, compiled by Tim Howard, is available from the Park's office at Holly Lodge or the Friends of Richmond Park's Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge. A useful *Guide to Richmond Park* is published by and available from the Friends of Richmond Park. It includes a chapter on birds, covering where and when they may be seen in the Park. *A History of Richmond Park* by C. L. Collenette provides a fascinating insight into the history and wildlife of the Park up to 1936. It was published in 1937 on the tercentenary anniversary of the formation of the Park.

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Appendix

List of bird species recorded in the Park prior to 2000. The last recorded year, the numbers of years recorded (in brackets) for the rarer species and the last year of breeding are given:

Bewick's Swan 1991 (4)	Black-tailed Godwit 1952 (1)
Long-tailed Duck 1952 (1)	Spotted Redshank 1987 (1)
Velvet Scoter 1956 (1)	Arctic Skua 1978 (2)
Red-breasted Merganser 1967 (2)	Kittiwake 1995 (4)
Grey Partridge 1999; last bred 1998	Little Tern 1949 (1)
Quail 1913 (1)	Black Tern 1993 (6)
Red-throated Diver 1982 (3)	Sandwich Tern 1992 (4)
Black-throated Diver 1965 (4)	Arctic Tern 1979 (1)
Slavonian Grebe 1939 (1)	Bee-eater 1999 (1)
Gannet 1981 (1)	Wryneck 1957; bred up to 1924
Shag 1970 (1)	Nightingale 1981; bred up to 1926
Little Bittern 1954 (1)	Rock Pipit 1949 (1)
Spoonbill 1976 (1)	Marsh Tit 1972; bred up to 1937
Merlin 1950 (2)	Willow Tit 1987 (3)
Corncrake 1924 (4)	Icterine/Melodious Warbler 1991 (1)
Oystercatcher 1986 (1)	Barred Warbler 1985 (1)
Little Ringed Plover 1986 (3)	Bearded Tit 1975 (4)
Ringed Plover 1999 (4)	Hooded Crow 1976 (12)
Sanderling 1991 (2)	Tree Sparrow 1990; bred up to 1989
Temminck's Stint 1980 (1)	Cirl Bunting 1949 (5)
Little Stint 1993 (1)	Corn Bunting 1956 (1)
Curlew Sandpiper 1938 (1)	

Jan Wilczur, 74 Huntingfield Road, London, SW15 5EU

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS AT WELL-WATCHED SITES

Full-length versions of highlights will no longer be posted on the LNHS website. You may find more detailed records on the websites listed under the site details.

Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is a Local Nature Reserve with mixed parkland of 80ha (196ac)

Location LB Haringey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ302900; Postcode N22 7AY

Information <http://friendsofalexandrapark.org>

The above website includes links to an annotated map and to bird reports

A very good total of 108 species was recorded, which was the same as last year's and the fourth highest total on record. No new species were added to the Park's list, for the first time in some years. Therefore, the overall species total for the Study Area remains at 174. In the absence of a new species, bird of the year was a juvenile Kittiwake, seen by people on an organised birdwatching walk. Unfortunately, no local birders saw it as, by the time news got out, the bird had gone.

Other notable species included Honey Buzzard, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper and Crossbill, each of which has, until this year, been recorded less than a dozen times. Redstart, Firecrest, and Mealy Redpoll also put in appearances. And after last year's absence, Ring Ouzel, Brambling and Wood Warbler were also recorded, with the last being recorded three times. Little Egret, Peregrine Falcon and Buzzard continued to be seen regularly during the year. Red Kite was seen on four dates, up on 2011's two sightings, but considering the abundance of the species countrywide and the numbers being seen over the Study Area in past years, it was hoped that this species would be a more regular one.

Unfortunately, there were a number of negatives this year - more so than in previous times and perhaps in some ways brought on by the very wet weather experienced. Absent were Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Pied Flycatcher; the former once being a breeding species in the Study Area and the latter a near-annual migrant. This is the second year in a row that Pied Flycatcher has not been recorded. There were only single records for Kingfisher and Garden Warbler, and only two sightings for Gadwall and Sedge Warbler. Skylark, Sand Martin, Swallow, Whinchat, Lesser Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher all had poor years too.

On the breeding front, a pair of Black Redstarts were seen at the filter beds in spring and probably attempted to breed. The male was seen and heard regularly for some time, although the female was only noted on a few dates early on. Other breeding species included Little Grebe, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Nuthatch and Goldcrest. There were also long-staying singing Willow Warblers, including a mixed singer [that sang Willow Warbler song interspersed with 'Chiff Chaff' song] which was also present last year. Ring-necked Parakeet looked as if it might be added to the list of breeding species for the Study Area, as pairs were seen inspecting prospective nest holes, but there was no evidence of nesting activity.

ANDREW GARDENER, 50 Springfield Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N10 3SY

Brent Reservoir

Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp) is a Local Nature Reserve and SSSI

Location Neasden; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ215870

Information http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/Brent_Reservoir

Annotated map www.aardvarkmap.net/maps/MP1YP4X5

Site records (free downloadable annual report) www.brentres.com/report.htm

At the reservoir this year 132 species were seen. Autumn Vis-Mig covered 97 days between mid-August and Nov 30th, with a final total of 23,279 birds.

Best birds in the first-winter period were Pheasant, Woodcock seen twice, three Goosander, Yellow-legged Gull and a Bittern until Mar 4th.

Early spring saw a Black-necked Grebe, Oystercatcher, then on 13th April an Osprey, Crossbill on 14th, all the common migrants, plenty of waders, including Grey Plover and two Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Kite, Buzzards and three Black Terns on 28th (Spring Birdcount Day) with 71 species seen.

On May 13th a Temminck's Stint flew around East Marsh twice then sadly flew off north, but was seen very close and well. The same thing happened with a Turnstone on 19th, and a Little Tern was seen on 26th. A Sanderling flew in on Jun 2nd with 12 Ringed Plover feeding on the mud. Sand Martins bred on the dam and 22-24 pairs of Common Terns were on the rafts. A Turtle Dove flew south Aug 18th, then 25th three adult Arctic Terns were feeding and a Crossbill flew over. Two Sandwich Terns flew south on 27th.

Autumn Birdcount Day, Sep 1st, produced 67 species, with Whinchat, Redstart and Wheatear, and a Waxwing flying over. On 3rd were three Spotted Flycatchers. Curlew was heard flying over on 23rd, the same day that a male Ring Ouzel was in the area. The first Brambling of 12 seen came over on Oct 7th, with a Rock Pipit south-east. A Short-eared Owl flew south on 15th, an adult Little Gull flew in on 25th, and on 28th a Crossbill flew over. Some autumn totals were: 5,952 Woodpigeons, 1,802 Fieldfares, 2,099 Redwings, 1,359 House Martins, 130 Pied Wagtails, 36 Yellow Wagtails, 3,041 Chaffinches and 215 Siskins. On Sep 18th a bird not seen for years was heard: a Bearded Tit calling. It was not seen until 30th - an adult male, which stayed until year-end and into the following year.

A Waxwing flew over on Dec 5th, then the peak Ruddy Duck number for the year was 11 on 8th. On 16th an all-time record count of 234 Teal was made.

ANDREW VERRALL, Flat 16 Davina House, Fordwych Road, London, NW2 3TW



Hide at Brent Reservoir. (Dawn Painter)

Beddington Farmlands

Beddington Farmlands is a nature reserve with 160ha (400ac) of mixed habitat

Location LB Sutton (and Merton); Vice-County Surrey; Grid ref TQ290662; Postcode SM6 7BJ

Information <http://beddingtonfarmlands.org.uk>

The above site includes links to sightings and past records

The postcode is for Hackbridge railway station which is the meeting point for guided walks. The birding side of the farm is behind the station and can be accessed from Mile Road: turn right out of the station and head towards the shops; Mile Road is a small parking area/road between the tile shop and a large house. Then walk through the kissing gate and over the railway bridge to the gates at the end of this path.

A juvenile Long-tailed Skua on Sep 25th was a first for the site, taking the all-time species total to 256. Other highlights included the first Bittern in over 40 years and the second and third records of Great Egret. An unprecedented influx of Iceland Gulls at the beginning of the year of up to 13 individual birds included two 'kumlieni': a first-winter from the previous year and a new second-winter bird. A Turtle Dove at the 'obs' feeders was the first in three years, and a Cetti's Warbler from 2011 was present to mid-summer but unfortunately failed to attract a mate despite singing day and night.

First winter: In addition to the Iceland Gulls there were regular sightings of Caspian Gull and Mediterranean Gull. A cold spell in February produced some interesting movement including 48 Golden Plover, two Woodcocks, two Grey Plover, nine Pintail, Ruff, four Goosander, and three Curlew which stayed until early March. The first of the year's Great Egrets was recorded on Feb 29th.

Spring: March produced the Farmlands' fourth Bittern on 28th (the same date as the first record in 1928), the second-winter Kumlien's Gull, two Avocets, and up to five Red Kites, a Marsh Harrier and a Short-eared Owl. The first Wheatears and Sand Martins were recorded on 16th. Two Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers along Parkside were holding territory - the first time in many years. April highlights included Black-tailed Godwits, four Grey Plover records, a pair of Garganey, eight Little Gulls on 11th, a Nightingale on 14th, single Ring Ouzels, and Beddington's tenth Little Tern on 8th. A Corn Bunting on 26th was the first one since 1998. East winds and rain in late April produced an interesting flight which included 19 Bar-tailed Godwits, two flocks of Whimbrel, Grey Plovers, Black Tern, six Arctic Tern and Turnstone, and an Oystercatcher was heard calling from the 'obs' at 11pm on 27th. The Turtle Dove was the highlight of May. There were also 11 Red Kite records and two Spotted Flycatchers, and one to two Iceland Gulls were still present. Waders included two separate Wood Sandpipers, two Whimbrels, two Bar-tailed Godwits, three Turnstones and Oystercatcher. Up to 25 Wheatear and 75 Yellow Wagtail represented good counts for these common migrants.

Summer: One Iceland Gull remained until Jun 22nd. The Cetti's Warbler was last heard on Jun 17th. Also in June, a male Garganey, a couple of Oystercatchers, Red Kites and a Cuckoo (unfortunately an increasingly rare sight in recent times).

Autumn: A few wader sightings in July included a couple of Black-tailed Godwits. Two Sandwich Terns on 25th was an interesting record as most are from later autumn. August was very disappointing with just a few Black-tailed Godwits, a couple of Oystercatcher,

a Cuckoo and a Garganey of note. The Long-tailed Skua was the highlight of September, the second Great Egret for the year was present on 23rd, and the Farmlands' ninth Gannet was found on 17th (an apparently moribund bird resting on the lake islands). Little Gull and Sandwich Tern were other highlights. October provided some good late-autumn visible migration: highlight was a flock of 166 Brent Geese that flew south-west on 26th. Other highlights included two Knot, three records of Little Gull, a Marsh Harrier and an Avocet. Two Ring Ouzels were recorded, and a Woodlark on the 27th was only the fifth record for the Farmlands.

Second winter: Fairly quiet but with highlights including Kittiwake, Marsh Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Brent Goose and another Corn Bunting. A female Goldeneye on the lake from Dec 1st-2nd was the first one since 2006. A Waxwing and an Iceland Gull on Dec 31st concluded the year in style. 155 species were recorded overall.

PETER ALFREY, Flat 9, 4 Primrose Close, Hackbridge, Surrey, SM6 7HJ
www.peteralfreynature.co.uk

Blackheath and Greenwich Park

Blackheath is open grassland with some scrub/trees. Greenwich Park is mixed parkland of 80ha (196ac)

Location LB Lewisham (Blackheath) & Greenwich; Vice-County Kent

Blackheath Grid ref TQ390766; Postcode SE3 0TE or SE3 7JH

Greenwich Park Grid ref TQ390775; Postcode SE10 8QT

Information and interactive map www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park

Site records (Blog) www.greenwichwildlife.blogspot.co.uk/

Blackheath: In May a Whinchat turned up. Sparrowhawks held territory. The 'Dips' area as usual held breeding Whitethroat, Song Thrush, Blackcap and Chiffchaff. A Reed Warbler was in a Blackheath garden in September, while fly-overs included a Hawfinch (October) and a Reed Bunting (November). At least three House Sparrow colonies included a count of 25+ by Blackheath Village. After one Waxwing flying over and a flock of 14 overhead in December, three birds lingered from the year's end into 2013.

Greenwich Park: Small groups of Teal began visiting regularly for the first time in February. The Firecrest and two Pheasants lingered from 2011. The freezing February produced the first Shoveler since 1966 plus, on the 7th, an outstanding count of 2,150 Redwings over. Two male Ring Ouzels were one over in April and one for three days in May.

A Common Crossbill flew over in June. Breeding birds doing well included Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Nuthatch, Jackdaw, Chaffinch, Blackcap, Stock Dove and, inevitably, Ring-necked Parakeet. Three pairs of Song Thrush bred.

In autumn, a Pied Flycatcher appeared in late August but Spotted Flycatchers were scarce. Six Brent Geese overhead were the first Park record and were subsequently seen over Beddington. The highest day-counts for fly-over thrushes were 800 Fieldfares and 640 Redwings. A fleeting Kingfisher was the first since 2000. Three Hawfinches flew over as did Snipe and a Rook (both species are rare in the Park). A Woodcock stayed for two days and there was a conspicuous passage of Jays.

JOE BEALE, joetheillustrator@gmail.com
www.greenwichwildlife.blogspot.co.uk

Canons Farm and Banstead Woods

Canons Farm and Banstead Woods together form a large area of mixed, dynamic habitat

Location Banstead; Vice-County Surrey; Grid ref TQ248577; Postcode KT20 6DD or CR5 3NR

Information and access details <http://cfwbirds.blogspot.co.uk>

The above site includes links to a map and to year lists

An excellent year with 111 species recorded; an increase from 109 in 2011 and 104 in 2010. The highlight of the year was the arrival of 15 Dotterel in May. They fed in a field all afternoon and until after dark, representing the first Surrey record since 1884 and the first London record since 1994. A week earlier a smart male Pied Flycatcher was found at Canons Farm, the first site-record for over 20 years. 2012 was a good year for migrants with Ring Ouzel present on 26 dates with up to four present at the Farm, Whinchat on 14 dates with up to six present and Redstart on 16 dates. It was also a good year for waders, with eight species observed including first records of Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper and Oystercatcher - rather surprising considering the lack of water on site. Other firsts for the site included Black Tern, Iceland Gull and Shelduck. Other less common migrants seen during the year included Black Redstart on three dates, a Grasshopper Warbler present for one day and fly-over Osprey, Honey-buzzard and Marsh Harrier. A group of three Woodlarks in the autumn was notable.

PAUL GOODMAN, 3 Colcokes Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2EJ

DAVID CAMPBELL, canonsfarmbirds@hotmail.co.uk

Crossness

Crossness is a Local Nature Reserve of 25.5ha (63 ac) on the Thames Estuary

Location LB Bexley; Vice-County Kent; Grid ref TQ478815; Postcode DA17 6FB

Information www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk

Annotated map <http://natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk>

Observer coverage dropped still further, and this was reflected in the number of species recorded, which was just 123. Nevertheless, there were still some major rarities and plenty of good birds, including not one but two Bonaparte's Gulls.

The best bird of the first winter period was a female Ferruginous Duck, seen intermittently on Thamesmere for ten days in January. This was a first for the area, as was a Bittern found by people twitching the duck. Other highlights included a flock of 11 Tundra Bean Geese, two Brent Geese, up to three Pintail, six Goldeneye, three Goosander, 13 Golden Plovers, up to nine Grey Plovers, at least one Ruff, a Bar-tailed Godwit, 14 Kittiwakes, 19 Little Gulls and five Caspian Gulls.

Undoubted highlight of the spring, and of the year as a whole, were the two first-winter Bonaparte's Gulls. With the only previous record under review, these could be the first London records. Other spring highlights included a Great Skua, two Iceland Gulls, another Brent Goose, a Pintail, a Common Scoter, a Red-breasted Merganser, three Red Kites, two Marsh Harriers, a Knot, 14 Sanderling, up to eight Ruff, a maximum count of 26 Bar-tailed Godwits, five Turnstones, two Wood Sandpipers, a further 15 Kittiwakes, four Little Gulls, two Black Terns (surprisingly the only ones of the year), three Sandwich terns, three Arctic Terns, a Short-eared Owl, ten Yellow Wagtails, a



View across Crossness Local Nature Reserve towards the Sludge Powered Generator, which dominates the local skyline. (Dawn Painter)

Black Redstart, two Ring Ouzels (in Barking Bay but viewable across the river), a Spotted Flycatcher and a long-staying Bearded Tit.

Cetti's Warbler consolidated as a breeding species, with probably seven territories. Barn Owls were seen in the nest box a few times, but failed to nest. For the first time in recent years, Cuckoos did not breed, the only record being a one-day singing male at Thamesmere. There were a couple of mid-summer Little Gulls.

Autumn birding was seriously impaired by permanent modifications to the power station outfall, which had always been the main attraction for terns. In consequence, Common Terns exceeded 50 only twice, and five Arctics were the only scarce terns. Highlights of a quiet autumn included a Guillemot, a Marsh Harrier, a Ruff, seven Turnstones, a Woodlark, three Yellow Wagtails and a Nuthatch.

The year closed with a Black Redstart and four Waxwings, the latter the first site record other than flyovers.

JOHN ARCHER, 8 Smead Way, London, SE13 7GE
john_archer@gofast.co.uk

Rainham Marshes

Rainham Marshes RSPB Reserve is a Metropolitan SINC and SSSI on the Thames Estuary

Location LB Havering; Vice-County Essex; Grid ref TQ525800; Postcode RM13 9YQ

Information www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/r/rainhammarshes

Annotated map A link on the above site with suggested walks and other features

Site records (detailed monthly summaries) www.elbf.co.uk/sightings/essex/index.php

There is no summary this year for Rainham Marshes. Please refer to the website above for monthly summaries from the reserve.

Staines Reservoirs

Staines Reservoirs are 170ha (420ac) with N and S basins separated by a causeway

Location Spelthorne, Surrey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ051731; Postcode TW18 4HZ

Information http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/Staines_Reservoir

The above site includes a link to a location map

Reservoir rarities comprised Fulmar on May 26th (found dead next morning), Purple Sandpiper (Sep 14th), Iceland Gulls on Jan 21st, Mar 3rd, Mar 18th and another on three dates in April, White-winged Black Terns on Jun 25th and Jul 28th-29th, and Roseate Tern (May 8th-9th).

February's freeze produced high counts of 21 Smew (15th) and 21 Pintail (25th), and other wildfowl included totals of three Garganey, nine Scaup and 17 Common Scoter. A mere four Brent Geese and one Red-breasted Merganser were reported.

Single Great Northern Divers made long stays early and late in the year. One or two Slavonian Grebes were around from February to April, with another brief single on Oct 13th. Black-necked Grebes peaked at 12 in March, though no Red-necked appeared. The immature Shag remained from 2011 until May 14th.

Two Marsh Harriers passed through in spring but it was a blank year for Osprey. Scarcer waders included Curlew Sandpiper (Aug 27th), Knot (May 9th-10th), Jack Snipe (Feb 12th), Wood Sandpiper (May 7th) and totals of nine Avocets and 12 Ruff. There were plenty of Black-tailed Godwits, among them 15 on Apr 17th, and a total of 15 Bar-tailed passed through in spring. Nine Curlew on Aug 19th was unusual, whereas 60 'wader sp' that whizzed through at dusk on Aug 16th were downright frustrating! (They were probably Knot.)

Kittiwakes were noted on Apr 20th and May 21st, and Little Gulls peaked at 46 on Apr 24th. Six Mediterranean Gulls on Jul 18th were the most seen. The regular Caspian Gull could be studied on the KGVI Res pier on various dates in July. Tern passage brought nine Little Terns in all (including a rare juvenile on Aug 16th), up to 30 Black in August, and impressive flocks of 25 Sandwich (Aug 30th) and 68 Arctic (Apr 24th).

Short-eared Owls appeared on Feb 26th and Apr 29th and about five Rock Pipits were noted, with up to three Water Pipits in January and eight White Wagtails in April.

R. E. INNES, 14 Dorchester Court, Greenlands Road, Staines, TW18 4LS

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA AND GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF RECORDS

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is now 367, with the addition of Baillon's Crane, Bonaparte's Gull and Buff-breasted Pipit in 2012. Of these, the 11 species marked with an * in the checklist were recorded at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since.

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area, it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive, and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense, but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species, comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, eg, out-of-season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London, where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

Key:

- A = all records.
- B = all breeding records.
- BBRC = full description required; form available from Recorders.
British Birds Rarities Committee makes the decision.
- D = full description required; form available from Recorders.
- F&L = first and last dates for any site.
- MM = dated monthly maximum counts.
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance, etc); form available from Recorders.
- NR = all records from sites where bird not seen regularly.
- P = passage movements.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- ST = annual statement of status at a site.
- T = all territory counts.
- W = records outside breeding season.

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	A, N
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A, N
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	A, D
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	A, D
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	A
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	BBRC
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	A

Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A, N
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MM, B, ST
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	A
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	A
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	A, D
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	A, D
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MM, B, ST
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	A
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	BBRC
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	A, D
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A, D
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	BBRC
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	A, N
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	BBRC
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	A, N
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	A, D
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	A
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	A
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	A, B, ST
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	A
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	A, N
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	A, N
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	A
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	BBRC
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	A
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	A
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	A
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A, D
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	A, D

Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	A, D
Barolo Shearwater	<i>Puffinus baroli</i>	BBRC
European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	A, D
Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	A, D
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	A, N
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	A
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	BBRC
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	A, D
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	BBRC
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	A, D
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A, D
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A, D
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	BBRC
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	A, D
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	BBRC until 2013, then A,D
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A, D
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	A, D
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	A, D
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	A
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	A, D
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	A, D
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A, D
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	A, D
Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	A, D
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	A
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	BBRC
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A, D
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	A, N away from Lower Thames
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	BBRC
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	A
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	A, D
Little Crake*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	BBRC
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	A, D
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MM, B, ST
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	MM, B, ST

Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	A, D
Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	BBRC
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	A
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	BBRC
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	A, D
Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	BBRC
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	BBRC
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	A
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	BBRC
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	A, D
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	A, D
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	A, D
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	BBRC
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A
Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	BBRC
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	BBRC
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	MM, NR, P, B
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A
Sanderting	<i>Calidris alba</i>	A
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	BBRC
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	A
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	A, D
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	A, D
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	BBRC
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	A, D
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	BBRC
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	A
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	A, D
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	BBRC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	A, D
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	A
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	BBRC
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	A
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	A
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	A
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	A
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	A
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	A

Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	BBRC
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	A
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	BBRC
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	BBRC
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	A
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	BBRC
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	A, D
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	A, D
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	A, D
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	A, D
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	A, D
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	A, D
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	BBRC
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	MM, B, ST
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	A
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	BBRC
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	BBRC
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	A
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	MM, ST
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	A, D
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	MM, B, ST
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	MM, B, ST
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	A
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	BBRC
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	BBRC
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	BBRC
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	A
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	BBRC
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	BBRC
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	BBRC
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	A, D
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	A, D

Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	A, D
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	A, D
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	A, D
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	A, D
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrhaptus paradoxus</i>	BBRC
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	MM, B, ST
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	MM, B, ST, P
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	A
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	A, F&L
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	BBRC
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	A
Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	BBRC
Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	BBRC
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	A
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	A
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	A
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	A
Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	BBRC
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	A, N
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	BBRC
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	MM, B, P, F&L, ST
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	A, D
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	T
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A, D
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	A, D
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	A, D
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	T
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	T
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	T
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	A, D
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	BBRC
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	A
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	A, B, P, W
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	A, D
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	A, D
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	A, D
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	A, D
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	BBRC
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A

Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	MM, NR, B, W, P, ST
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	A, D
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	A
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	A
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	BBRC
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	BBRC
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, W, ST
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	A
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	A, D
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	MM, T, ST
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	MM, T, ST
Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	BBRC
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	MM, T, ST
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	A
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	A, D
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	A
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	A
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	A
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	A
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	BBRC
Grey-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	BBRC
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	A
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	MM, T, ST
Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	BBRC
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	MM, NR, F&L, P
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	MM, NR, P, T, ST
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	MM, NR, F&L, P
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	MM, NR, P, T, ST
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	BBRC
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	A
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	A
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	BBRC
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	A, D
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	BBRC
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	BBRC
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	A, D
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	A, D
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	A, D
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST, W
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	A, F&L, T
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	A, D
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST

Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	A
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	A, D
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	BBRC
Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>	BBRC
Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	A, D
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	A, D
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	BBRC
Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	A, D
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	A, D
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	A
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, ST, W
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	BBRC
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	A, F&L, T
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	MM, NR, T, ST, W
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	A
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	A, D
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	A
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	A
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	MM, NR, T, ST, W
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	MM, T, ST
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	MM, T, ST
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	A, D
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	MM, NR, T, ST
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	A, D
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	A
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	T
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	T
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	BBRC
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	BBRC
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A, D
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	BBRC
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	BBRC
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	A, D
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	BBRC
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	A, D
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	A, D
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	MM, B, ST
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	BBRC
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	MM, NR, B, P
Carriion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	MM, B, ST
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	A, N
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	MM, B, P, ST

Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	A, D
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	A
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	MM, B, P, ST
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	A
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	A, D
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	MM, NR, B, W
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	A, D
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	A
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	A, D
Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	A
Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	A, D
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	A, D
Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	BBRC
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	A, B, ST
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	A
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	A, D
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	A, N
Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	BBRC
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	A
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>	A, D
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	A, D
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	A, D
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	A, D
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	MM, NR, T, P, ST
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	A

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Chair of the Editorial Board or Recorders on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required.

Subspecies

All records of subspecies/races are wanted. Full descriptions are required for the following: White Wagtail in autumn; Yellow Wagtail races other than *M. f. flavissima* and spring records of Blue-headed Wagtail; Siberian Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Continental Coal Tit and Northern Bullfinch. For other subspecies please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular subspecies/race.

BREEDING CRITERIA

When sending in breeding records, please enter: 'possible breeding', 'probable breeding' or 'confirmed breeding' in the Comments section on the electronic records form according to the definitions below. Additional information can also be given, such as number of territories, broods, nests, young fledged, etc.

Possible breeding

- Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
- Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable habitat

Probable breeding

- Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- Permanent territory presumed on at least two different days, a week or more apart
- Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat)
- Visiting probable nest-site
- Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting nest or young near by
- Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
- Nest-building or excavating nest-hole

Confirmed breeding

- Distraction-display or injury-feigning
- Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
- Recently-fledged young (for warblers and other birds whose young are fed at the nest for some time after hatching, 'nidicolous species') or downy young (for ducks and other birds where the young leave the nest soon after hatching, 'nidifugous species')
- Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest with young seen or heard

The above breeding categories are as used in the BTO Atlas project.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Editorial Board welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired.

PAPERS should be submitted to the Papers Editor: Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, London N16 7BP, email: miketrier@waitrose.com, tel: 020 8806 7656.

Texts should be sent as RTF or MS Word file attachments to an email. The dates of all records included should be no later than the nominal year of publication. Printed text (hard copy) can be scanned; please contact the Papers Editor first before submitting it.

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital; their use in the text is optional. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well-known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Speech quotation marks should be double; all others should be single. Systematic lists within papers should be in the order of Checklist of Birds of the London Area, and in the following format for economy of space:

Common name: Description etc.

Scientific name (except optionally in the Ringing Report) is not required.

References to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics, and in the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

Illustrations Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Graphs should be embedded in the text document. Digital figures (maps etc) should be sent as separate files, with their position indicated in the text. Some figures can be originated by the Papers Editor from hard copy: contact him first for guidance.

Proofs and Reprints Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage. Up to two free reprints of papers are provided if ordered by authors in advance; larger quantities are charged at cost.

PHOTOGRAPHS should be submitted to the Photographic Editor, Jonathan Lethbridge: email: jonathan.lethbridge@btinternet.com

Digital photographs should be unedited and uncropped original files and can be submitted on a CD/DVD or as email attachments (10 MB maximum per email). Each image should be accompanied by full details including species name, location, date and photographer's name - and postal address for any material that needs returning. **Prints and transparencies** must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage.

LINE DRAWINGS should be submitted to the Chair, Pete Lambert, 109 Gloucester Road, London, E17 6AF, email: plamb@phonecoop.coop, tel: 020 8531 9814.

They may be submitted as digital files (by email or on CD) or as hard-copy, suitably protected if posting.



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