

Guidelines for observers – a checklist of the birds of Hertfordshire

Herts Bird Club welcomes all records of birds in Hertfordshire. The following list is a guide to the type of records we need for each species. It is also a checklist of all the species recorded in the county, the dates shown are the year in which the species was last seen in Hertfordshire if it was not recorded in 2013.

There are several ways to submit records and we have tried to make it as easy as possible.

On-line using the Bird Club website: enter your records at www.hnhs.org/birds/, they transfer automatically into the Bird Club database.

Use our interactive Excel spread sheet: this is most useful where you have a lot of records (e.g. covering a period of months, an annual submission or breeding summary). The spread sheet is pre-loaded with all the species and main sites, download it from our website and email it to the Bird Recorder.

On-line via BirdTrack: the BTO make Hertfordshire records submitted through BirdTrack available to Herts Bird Club and we can add them to our database, where possible please use the site names in our Herts Gazetteer.

On-line via BirdGuides: we have access to this information, but it does not include the name of the observer.

On paper or by email to the Recorder: but a volunteer has to type your records into the database.

Records should reach us by the end of February in order to be included in *The Hertfordshire Bird Report* for the previous year.

For records of rare birds, either nationally or just rare to Hertfordshire, we ask for further information, a description and/or photograph, to confirm the identification. Records of nationally rare birds (indicated by **) are passed to the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Descriptions of county

rarities (indicated by *) are adjudicated by the Herts Rare Birds Panel – forms outlining the information required are available online, see also page 224.

In the case of a county description species breeding or holding territory, if the observer so requests, all location details would be withheld from the Rare Birds Panel in assessment of a description from the identification point of view.

The HBC co-operates fully with other organisations recording birds in the county, in particular the London Natural History Society. The Bird Club also believes that information on rare birds should be released to give as many people as possible the opportunity to enjoy the bird. However, the wishes of the finder/landowner are paramount and the final decision will rest with them.

In general, records of rare breeding species will not be released although a summary will be published in the *Bird Report*.

Key:

- ** = Species considered by BBRC
- * = Species considered by the Herts Rare Birds Panel
- All = All records required
- MM = Dated monthly maxima from frequently visited sites, significant records from elsewhere
- F/L = First and last dates
- B = All breeding records
- TC = Territory counts
- >n = Minimum count required
- R = Roost counts
- C = Colonies
- U = Unusual records
- P = Passage counts

<input type="checkbox"/> Mute Swan	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bewick's Swan	All		
<input type="checkbox"/> Whooper Swan	All		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bean Goose	*	All	2011
<input type="checkbox"/> Pink-footed Goose	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-fronted Goose	All		2013
<input type="checkbox"/> Greylag Goose	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	MM	>50	B
<input type="checkbox"/> Barnacle Goose	All		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brent Goose	All		

<input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian Goose	All		
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelduck	All		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin	All		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wigeon	MM	F/L	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	*	All	1987
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teal	MM	B	F/L
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	*	All	1997
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	MM	>40	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pintail	All		

<input type="checkbox"/>	Garganey	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue-winged Teal	**	All	2000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shoveler	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-crested Pochard	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pochard	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ring-necked Duck	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ferruginous Duck	*	All	2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tufted Duck	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scaup	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Scaup	*	All	2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eider	*	All	1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-tailed Duck	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Scoter	All		2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Velvet Scoter	*	All	1991
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldeneye	MM	F/L	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smew	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-brst'd Merganser	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goosander	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruddy Duck	All		2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quail	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-legged Partridge	>5	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Partridge	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pheasant	>25		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lady Am Pheasant	*	All	1995
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-throated Diver	*	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-throated Diver	*	All	1996
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Northern Diver	*	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fulmar	*	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manx Shearwater	*	All	2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storm Petrel	*	All	1990
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leach's Petrel	*	All	2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gannet	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cormorant	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shag	*	All	2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bittern	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Bittern	**	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Night Heron	*	All	2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squacco Heron	**	All	1979
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cattle Egret	*	All	1995
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Egret	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great White Egret	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Heron	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Heron	*	All	1989
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Stork	**	All	2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	White Stork	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glossy Ibis	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spoonbill	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Grebe	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Crested Grebe	MM	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-necked Grebe	*	All	2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slavonian Grebe	*	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-necked Grebe	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Honey Buzzard	*	All	2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Kite	*	All	2012

<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Kite	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	White-tailed Eagle	*	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh Harrier	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hen Harrier	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Montagu's Harrier	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goshawk	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sparrowhawk	B		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buzzard	>2	B	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rough-legged Buzzard	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Osprey	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Rail	MM	B F/L	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Crake	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Crake	**	All	1953
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baillon's Crake	**	All	1891
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corncrake	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moorhen	MM	>20	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coot	MM	>20	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Crane	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Bustard	**	All	1808
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stone Curlew	*	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-winged Stilt	**	All	1998
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avocet	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oystercatcher	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Plover	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden Plover	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sociable Plover	**	All	1961
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lapwing	B P	MM >100	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Ringed Plover	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ringed Plover	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kentish Plover	*	All	1976
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dotterel	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whimbrel	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curlew	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-tailed Godwit	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bar-tailed Godwit	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turnstone	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knot	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruff	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	**	All	1958
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curlew Sandpiper	*	All	2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temminck's Stint	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sanderling	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dunlin	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Sandpiper	*	All	1968
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Stint	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Least Sandpiper	**	All	2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pectoral Sandpiper	*	All	2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-necked Phalarope	*	All	2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Phalarope	*	All	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Sandpiper	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Sandpiper	**	All	2012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Sandpiper	All		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Solitary Sandpiper	**	All	2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Redshank	All		

□ Greenshank	All				
□ Lesser Yellowlegs	**	All		2002	
□ Marsh Sandpiper	**	All		1984	
□ Wood Sandpiper	All				
□ Redshank	All				
□ Jack Snipe	All				
□ Long-billed Dowitcher	**	All		1997	
□ Woodcock	All				
□ Common Snipe	All				
□ Great Snipe	**	All		2001	
□ Pomarine Skua	*	All		1928	
□ Arctic Skua	*	All		2007	
□ Long-tailed Skua	*	All		1988	
□ Great Skua	*	All		2009	
□ Puffin	*	All		1996	
□ Razorbill	*	All		1934	
□ Little Auk	*	All		1995	
□ Guillemot	*	All		2002	
□ Little Tern	All				
□ Caspian Tern	**	All		1998	
□ Black Tern	All				
□ White-w Black Tern	*	All		2008	
□ Sandwich Tern	All				
□ Common Tern	MM	FL	B		
□ Roseate Tern	*	All		1969	
□ Arctic Tern	All				
□ Sabine's Gull	*	All		2012	
□ Kittiwake	All				
□ Black-headed Gull	MM	>50	R		
□ Little Gull	All				
□ Laughing Gull	**	All		2006	
□ Mediterranean Gull	All				
□ Common Gull	MM	R			
□ Lesser Blk-backed Gull	MM	R			
□ Herring Gull	MM	R			
□ Yellow-legged Gull	All				
□ Caspian Gull	* ¹	All			
□ Iceland Gull	*	All		2012	
□ Glaucous Gull	*	All		2013	
□ Great Blk-backed Gull	MM	R			
□ Pallas's Sandgrouse	**	All		1888	
□ Rock Dove (Feral)	>100				
□ Stock Dove	>5	B			
□ Woodpigeon	>100				
□ Collared Dove	>25	R			
□ Turtle Dove	All				
□ Cuckoo	All				
□ Barn Owl	All				
□ Little Owl	All				
□ Tawny Owl	All				
□ Long-eared Owl	All				
□ Short-eared Owl	All				
□ Nightjar	*	All		2006	
□ Common Swift	>50	F/L	B		
□ Alpine Swift	*	All		2009	
□ Hoopoe	*	All		2013	
□ Bee-eater	*	All		1973	
□ Roller	**	All		1932	
□ Kingfisher	MM	B			
□ Wryneck	*	All			
□ Green Woodpecker	MM	B			
□ Great Sp Woodpecker	MM	B			
□ Lesser Sp Woodpecker	All				
□ Kestrel	B				
□ Red-footed Falcon	*	All		2010	
□ Merlin	All				
□ Hobby	All				
□ Peregrine	All				
□ Ring-necked Parakeet	All				
□ Golden Oriole	*	All		2006	
□ Red-backed Shrike	*	All		2008	
□ Great Grey Shrike	*	All			
□ Woodchat Shrike	*	All		1873	
□ Magpie	>10	R			
□ Jay	>5				
□ Nutcracker	**	All		1968	
□ Jackdaw	>25	R	B		
□ Rook	>50	R	B		
□ Carrion Crow	>10	R			
□ Hooded Crow	*	All		1985	
□ Raven	All				
□ Goldcrest	>2	B			
□ Firecrest	All				
□ Blue Tit	>10	TC			
□ Great Tit	>10	TC			
□ Coal Tit	TC				
□ Willow Tit	*	All		2007	
□ Marsh Tit	B				
□ Bearded Tit	All			2005	
□ Short-toed Lark	*	All		1991	
□ Woodlark	*	All			
□ Skylark	>10	P	B		
□ Sand Martin	>30	P	F/L	C	
□ Swallow	>50	P	F/L		
□ House Martin	>50	P	F/L	C	
□ Red-rumped Swallow	*	All		2010	
□ Cetti's Warbler	All				
□ Long-tailed Tit	>10				
□ Eastern Cr Warbler	**	All		2011	
□ Yellow-brwd Warbler	*	All			
□ Wood Warbler	*	All		2013	
□ Chiffchaff	TC	F/L	W		
□ Willow Warbler	TC	F/L			
□ Blackcap	TC	F/L	W		

¹ It is now clear that Caspian Gull is a rare but regular visitor to Amwell NR and so the decision has been made that descriptions for this species are only required for records away from this site.

<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Warbler	TC	F/L			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Warbler	*	All		2012	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Whitethroat	TC	F/L			
<input type="checkbox"/> Whitethroat	TC	F/L			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dartford Warbler	*	All		2006	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Warbler		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Savi's Warbler	**	All		2012	
<input type="checkbox"/> Icterine Warbler	*	All		2008	
<input type="checkbox"/> Melodious Warbler	*	All		1971	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Warbler	**	All		1976	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Warbler	TC	F/L			
<input type="checkbox"/> Paddyfield Warbler	**	All		1981	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Warbler	*	All		2013	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reed Warbler	B	F/L			
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Reed Warbler	**	All		2008	
<input type="checkbox"/> Waxwing		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Nuthatch	TC				
<input type="checkbox"/> Treecreeper	TC				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wren	TC	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Starling	>100	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-coloured Starling	*	All		1978	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dipper	*	All		1996	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grey-cheeked Thrush	**	All		2005	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring Ouzel		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackbird	TC	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldfare	>20	F/L	P		
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Thrush	TC	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Redwing	>20	F/L	P		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mistle Thrush	>5	B			
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Flycatcher		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Robin	TC	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Nightingale		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bluethroat	*	All		1983	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-br Flycatcher	*	All		1996	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied Flycatcher		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Redstart		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Redstart		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Thrush	**	All		1843	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whinchat		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Stonechat		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wheatear		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunnock	TC	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	>10	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Sparrow		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Wagtail	B	F/L	P		
<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Wagtail	MM	B			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied Wagtail	MM	>10	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard's Pipit	*	All		2008	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Pipit		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Pipit	>5	P	B		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pipit		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Pipit		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Brambling		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaffinch	>25				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawfinch		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Rosefinch	*	All		1997	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bullfinch	>5	B			
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenfinch	>20	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Linnet	>20	B			
<input type="checkbox"/> Twite	*	All		2011	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Redpoll		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mealy Redpoll		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arctic Redpoll	*	All		1996	
<input type="checkbox"/> Two-barred Crossbill	**	All		1966	
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossbill		All			
<input type="checkbox"/> Goldfinch	>10				
<input type="checkbox"/> Serin	*	All		1991	
<input type="checkbox"/> Siskin	MM	B			
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	*	All		2012	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellowhammer	>20	R	TC		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cirl Bunting	*	All		1981	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ortolan Bunting	*	All		2004	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rustic Bunting	**	All		1882	
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Bunting	*	All		2007	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reed Bunting	>5	B	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Bunting		All			
Escapes		All			
Total				308 species	



Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits with a Lapwing at Wilstone Res (David Bilcock).