

HISTORIC BIRD RECORDS OF EAST HYDE.

Code key =

C = Common

S = Scarce

U = Uncommon

Ra = Rare

Re = Resident

P = Passage

Br = Breeds/has bred in last ten years.

Little Grebe: *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. C, Re, Br

At least two pair reside and breed annually. Largest winter flocks have included;

17 birds in February 1954.

20 birds in Jan/Feb 1955.

Great Crested Grebe: *Podiceps cristatus*. U, Br

The majority of records generally involve birds visiting from the Luton Hoo Estate.

1 bird 29/8/84.

1 immature 25/7/87.

2 immatures June 1989.

Adult and 2 immatures July 1991, with an adult 27/12/91.

1 adult throughout 1992.

1 adult 9/3 – 12/4/93.

3 adults June 1993.

1 adult 24/10/93.

A pair bred in 1994 but deserted their clutch.

2 adults 18/2/95.

1 adult 14/7/95.

1 adult 3/6 – 31/7/96.

1 adult 8/11-15/11/98.

1 adult 17 – 25/6/01.

Two partially fledged young on 28/8/07.

Black-necked Grebe: *Podiceps nigricollis*. Ra

2 birds, (possibly 4) were on the river near the mill 7/2 – 8/2/47, with 1 bird again seen 15/2/47.

Manx Shearwater: *Puffinus puffinus*. Ra

1 was found dead at the sewage farm October 1953.

Cormorant: *Phalacrocorax carbo*. C, Re

Although first recorded in 1990 when 1 bird flew over 7/8/90, individual adults and immatures of the *sinensis* form now visit the area daily to feed and use surrounding trees to wing dry.

Maximum counts have included;

5 birds October 1991.

5 birds July 1994.

5 birds December 1995.

Cormorant cont.

7 birds 5/11/00.

17 birds flew over on 5/9/04.

5 birds 4/3/06.

10 birds 23/8/08.

9 birds 7/2/09.

Little Egret: *Egretta garzetta*. Ra

The following records have all involved adult birds except the long-stayer in 2003 which proved to be a recently fledged juvenile.

1 bird 3/5/95.

1 bird 7/5/99.

1 bird 9/9/99.

1 bird 26/7/00.

2 birds 14/1/01.

1 bird 29/6-8/7/03.

1 bird 18/9/03.

1 bird 3/5-8/5/04.

1 bird 18/7/04.

1 bird 18/12/04.

1 bird 22/8-9/9/05.

1 bird 24/1 - 22/2/06.

Up to 3 birds present 5/11-31/12/06.

1 bird 1/1-4/3/07 with two birds on 13/1/07.

1 bird 16/12-31/12/07.

1 bird 1/1-15/2/08.

2 birds 16/2-19/4/08.

4 birds 20/4/08.

1 bird 29/5-7/6/08.

1 bird 28/8-31/12/08.

2 birds 23/12/08.

Birds are now being recorded monthly. Notable multiple counts now include;

4 birds 28/3/09.

5 birds 4/4/09.

3 birds 18/7/09.

Bittern: *Botaurus stellaris*. Ra

One was shot near Lawrence End January 1856.

Grey Heron: *Ardea cinerea*. C, Re

On 4/10/85 an adult was seen to catch, rinse and swallow a Water Vole, and on 28/4/92 another adult was seen taking a young Mallard. An average of 6 birds are regularly seen around the site with maximum counts including;

8 birds 29/7/91.

10 birds 30/5/95.

A 'purple' looking melanistic bird was present 4/10/93.

1 bird found dead 1/7/95 at the mill had been ringed as a pullus at Hornso, Jylland, Denmark.

Mute Swan: *Cygnus olor*. C, Re, Br

Noted as having bred in 1957 which at the time was commented by a local birder as being "the first time since 1935". More recently between 1 – 2 pairs reside and breed annually.

Bewick's Swan: *Cygnus columbianus* Ra

18 adults flew north on 17/1/04.

1 was reported on the river at the mill 17/1/04.

Whooper Swan: *Cygnus cygnus*. Ra

1 was shot at New Mill End 1890.

3 flew downriver over sewage farm 25/2/08.

Pink-Footed Goose: *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Ra

1 bird 23/10/92.

1 bird 25-30/9/94.

White-Fronted Goose: *Anser albifrons*. Ra

1 bird was present 26/9 – 27/9/85.

1 bird was present 21/2/93 when it was joined by a second bird 28/2/93.

38 birds (11 adults & 27 Imm) on 4/2/06.

Greylag Goose: *Anser anser*. C, P, Br

1 pair 12/5/93.

1 bird 26/12/93.

4 birds between 21/4-26/4/94.

1 bird between 25/9-1/10/94.

1 bird on 18/2/95.

1 bird during February, August & September 1996.

1 bird during November & December 1997.

1 bird 18/1/98.

1 pair between April - June 1998.

3 birds throughout the Spring of 1999.

1 bird 14/5/01 then 7/8 – 10/8/01.

1 pair with 7 fledglings throughout August & September 2001 were thought to have bred at Luton Hoo.

Greylag Goose cont;

6 birds 8/9/02.

1 bird 1/2/03.

2 birds between 9/2-12/2/04.

3 birds on 17/3/05, 2 between 20/3-23/4/05 and a singleton between 23/8-9/10/05.

Individuals noted on 29/3 & 10/12/06.

Canada Goose: *Branta canadensis*. C, P, Re, Br

First bred in 1986 when a pair had a brood of 8 young predated. Has bred subsequently with varying success. Peak winter counts have included;

250 birds 26/9/85.

220 during September 1992.

359 during September 1993.

215 during August 1994.

Ca 300 during August 1994.

220 during December 1995.

378 during February 1996.

468 during September 1996.

274 during September 1999.

Ca 200 on 3/9/00.

214 on 28/10/01.

291 birds on 21/9/03.

Ca 200 birds on 29/9/04.

1 pair raised one young during 1991.

1 pair raised five young during 1993.

During 2003, seven pairs bred and reared a record 41 fledglings.

During 2004, fourteen pairs summered of which three pairs attempted to breed.

During 2005, eleven pairs summered of which 3 pairs attempted to breed.

During 2006, nine pairs summered of which 2 pair attempted to breed.

During 2007, seven pair summered of which three pair bred fledging 11 young.

During 2008, seven pair summered with 4 pair breeding unsuccessfully.

During 2009, eleven pair summered with 4 pair breeding and fledging 21 young.

A bird ringed as a juvenile at Ollerton, Notts in 1980 was controlled at East Hyde in 1983 before being shot later at Luton Hoo.

Egyptian Goose: *Alopochen aegyptiacus*. Ra

2 birds 1/3/03.

A pair flew downriver over the meadow 8/11/08.

3 birds 6/9-8/11/09, then 2 birds 12/11-31/12/09.

Common Shelduck: *Tadorna tadorna*. Ra

3 birds present 25/2 - 30/3/86.

Mandarin: *Aix galericulata*. S

1 pair bred and raised three young in 1986.
1 female 29/5/88.
1 male with 2 female 9/12/90.
1 female 13/10/91.
1 male 1/1/96.
1 female 5/10-13/10/96.
1 female 28/4/98.

Wigeon: *Anas penelope*. C, P

1 pair 26/2/85.
1 female 109/1/86.
9 male & 5 female 31/1/87.
1 pair 8/1-18/3/88.
2 pair 17/12/89.
1 pair 23/1 -11/2/90.
1 pair 18/2/91.
3 pair 19/1/92.
1 pair 17-30/3/93.
2 pair 20/1/94.
1 male 22/2 – 15/3/95.
1 pair 31/1/96.
2 male & 1 female 11/2/96.
1 pair 12/1 – 9/2/97.
1 pair 16/1-23/1/00.
2 birds 17/12/00.
1 male 10/1-14/1/03
8 birds 26/10/03.
2 male, 1female 27/12/06.
2 male &1 female 3/1/09.
A pair 7/2/09.

Gadwall: *Anas strepera*. C, Re, Br

Breeding first noted in 1992 when 1 pair reared 8 young. This remains the only successful breeding record with all future attempts failing. These breeding attempts and peak winter counts have included;

1 pair hatched 10 young in 1993.
1 pair hatched 6 young in 1994.
1 pair hatched 10 young in 1995.
A female was with 7 young 2/8/04.
21 birds 25/1/91.
29 birds 25/1/92.
18 birds February 1993.
20 birds 6/2/94.
28 birds 22/2/96.
17 birds 28/2/98.

Gadwall cont;

16 birds 28/2-29/2/04.

A female was with 8 young 14/5/05.

A female incubated eggs on 6/5/07 but had deserted by 19/5/07.

A female incubated eggs on 10/5/08 but had deserted a week later.

A pair incubated eggs on 4/4/09 but had deserted by 9/5/09.

Common Teal: *Anas crecca*. C, P

Pairs summered in 1994 and 1995 and although displaying was noted, breeding could not be proven. Peak counts have included;

20 birds 13/1/68.

11 birds 27/10/68.

6 pairs 26/2/85.

5 birds 30/11/86.

7 pairs 15/12/91.

10 pairs 23/1/92.

6 pairs February 1993.

4 pairs January 1994.

7 on 9/3/96.

7 males & 9 females 28/12/96.

5 pairs 5/1/97.

4 pairs 19/3/98.

8 pairs 19/12/99.

4 pairs between 24/9-31/12/04.

13 birds present 4/2/05.

10 birds 23/3/06.

4 birds 11/2-24/3/07 and 3/12/07.

3 pair between 5/1-3/3/08 & 27/11-31/12/08.

16 birds throughout January 2009.

Mallard: *Anas platyrhynchos*. C, Re, Br

A common sight along the river. A female with 17 juveniles on 26/4/84 was noteworthy. Maximum counts of birds have included;

163 birds 25/1/91.

65 birds 30/5/92.

72 birds 15/12/96.

73 birds 5/1/97.

62 birds 12/9/99.

40 birds February 2004.

65 birds 27/1/07.

Pintail: *Anas acuta*. Ra

A male between 2-19/2/92.

1 female 27/12/99.

Garganey: *Anas querquedula*. Ra

A male on 29/4/84.

Shoveler: *Anas clypeata*. C, P, Br

4 males 16/1/87.

2 males 22/3/89.

2 pairs 31/1-11/2/90.

2 pairs January & February 1991.

1 pair May 1992.

2 females 20/12/92.

2 pairs 24/1/93.

3 males & 1 female January 1994.

4 males 31/1/96.

10 males & 8 females flew upriver 28/2/96.

1 male 15/4 & 22/6/97.

1 pair 5/2/98.

1 pair 5/2/01.

2 females 1/2/04.

A pair bred and hatched 3 young 26/5/05.

A pair displayed 15/4-21/4/06.

A pair undertook courtship between April-May 2007.

Pochard: *Aythya ferina*. U, P

1 pair 18/8/67.

1 male 14/5/69.

1 male 23/1-13/2/85.

1 female 22/1/87.

1 male 4/1/89.

1 female 9/2/91.

1 female 3/1/93.

1 male 4/1/96.

5 pairs 9/1/96.

2 pairs 30/1/96.

1 female 13/3/96.

1 bird 15/12/96.

1 male 1/1/97.

Ferruginous Duck: *Aythya nyroca*. Ra

1 at Newmill End overwintered 1890/1.

Tufted Duck: *Aythya fuligula*. C, P, Br

Once a common sight along the river, has now become irregular over recent years.

Previous breeding and peak counts have included;

10 birds 28/1/68.

7 birds 14/5/69.

15 birds 3/4/84.

Tufted Duck cont;

20 birds 5/1 – 6/3/85.
3 pairs bred 1986.
35 birds 30/1/87.
24 birds March 1987.
1 pair bred 1987.
7 pairs summered with one pair hatching 8 young 11/8/89.
4 pairs bred 1990.
5 pairs summered of which 2 pair bred 1991.
4 pairs summered of which 1 pair bred 1992.
4 pairs summered 1993.
2 pairs summered 1994.
5 males & 1 female 19/1/96.
1 female seen with 1 juvenile 14/8/04, and 2 pairs summered.
A pair nested briefly on 23-24/4/05.
5 males & 3 females were present during May 2005.
2 pair summered between 24/3-19/5/07.
2 pair summered during 2008 with one incubating eggs on 19/4/08, though later deserted.
11 birds 1/1-23/3/08.
6 pair wintered between Jan-Mar 2009.

Scaup: *Aythya marila*. **Ra**

1 male 18/1-19/1/71.
1 male 18-23/2/91.

Goldeneye: *Bucephala clangula*. **Ra**

1 female 22/1/87.
1 male reported during the second winter period of 1992.
1 male 5/1/97.

Smew: *Mergus albellus*. **Ra**

A pair on 14/2/91.

Goosander: *Mergus merganser*. **S**

7 birds 18/1/85.
1 female 15/1/87.
1 female 25/1/91.
4 redheads between 10-16/12/91.
2 redheads throughout January 1992.
1 male 1/1/97.
1 male 17/10/99.

Ruddy Duck: *Oxyura jamaicensis*. **U**

1 pair 27/4 – 16/5/99.
1 male 10/6/99.
1 male 8/4 – 27/4/00 when it was seen regularly displaying to female Mallard.

Ruddy Duck cont;

2 male 7/5 – 11/5/00.

1 pair between 9/7-13/7, when they were joined by a second male on 11/7/04.

1 male between 27/7-14/7/05.

Honey Buzzard: *Pernis apivorus*. Ra

1 bird flew over the meadow 11/5/02.

Red Kite: *Milvus milvus*. Ra

1 wing-tagged bird 21/3/99.

1 bird 28/5/99.

1 bird 14/6/04.

1 bird 26/3/05.

1 bird 23/6/05.

1 bird 8/8/05.

A pair bred nearby at Luton Hoo in 2006, that accounted for six records seen during the year.

The Luton Hoo pair accounted for multiple sightings throughout 2007.

Ditto for 2008.

Ditto for 2009.

Hen Harrier: *Circus cyaneus*. Ra

A female flew over New Mill End 4/10/54.

Sparrowhawk: *Accipiter nisus*. C, Re, Br

At least two pairs breed annually in surrounding woodland.

Common Buzzard: *Buteo buteo*. C, Re

Once a rare sight, (the first record being 14/8/95), this species can usually be seen somewhere around the area during the year. Successful breeding has occurred recently at several nearby locations. Maximum counts have included;

5 birds together 7/3/03.

4 birds together 26/10 & 24/12/03.

8 birds together 17/3/04.

Up to 6 birds throughout 2005.

10 birds soaring overhead 30/9/06. At least 2 pair bred nearby.

8 birds on 9/4/07.

6 birds on 14/2, 11/3, 16/3, 7/4/07.

5 birds on 1/5/07 with 6 territories held around the area throughout 2007.

7 territories held around the area during 2008.

6 birds 6/9/08 & 20/09/08.

7 territories held around the area during 2009.

5 birds 11/3/09.

Kestrel: *Falco tinnunculus*. C, Re, Br

A Common sight around the area with at least two pairs resident.

A bird ringed as a pullus in Barnsley in 15/6/93 was found waterlogged near East Hyde 29/10/93. It was dried out overnight and released the next day.

Merlin: *Falco columbarius*. Ra

A Fem/imm 23/12/97.

1 bird February 2002.

1 Fem/imm 30/9/04.

1 Fem/imm 26/12/06.

1 Fem/imm 15/1/09.

Hobby: *Falco subbuteo*. S. P. Br?

Recorded most summers with adults seen chasing House Martin, Swift and dragonflies around the area.

A pair present during summer 1999.

A pair present during summer 2001.

Adults with immatures noted during the summer of 2002 surely bred locally.

Infrequent sightings between 3/7-25/9/04.

Adult and 2nd calendar year immature seen between 27/5-13/9/05.

Adults seen between 4/7-2/9/06.

Adults seen on 12/5 & 15/7/07.

Adults seen regularly between 19/7-13/9/08.

Adults seen regularly between 20/6-3/10/09.

Peregrine Falcon: *Falco peregrinus*. Ra

1 on 4/1/99 was also seen 16/1/99.

1 on 10/10/99.

1 on 13/2/00.

1 on 9/4/00.

1 immature bird on 9/10/05.

An adult 22/11/08.

Red-legged Partridge: *Alectoris rufa*. C, Re, Br

A common sight around the area.

A covey of 17 birds wintered during 1993.

A covey of 26 birds 8/12/96.

21 birds 23/11/02.

16 birds 11/10/04.

Grey Partridge: *Perdix perdix*. C, Re, Br

Once a common species around the area (eg a covey of 18 birds 19/1/58), more recently numbers have reduced considerably. Recent maximum covey totals have included;

7 birds 3/3/95.

26 birds 30/11/99.

Grey Partridge cont;

16 birds 18/1/02.

1 pair were reported as having bred during 2002.

2 birds on 3/5/05.

A pair raised 2 young in 2006.

5 birds on 13/2/07 and one on 6/10/07.

A pair between 14/6-21/6/08.

8 birds on 12/9/09, 14 on 3/10 & 6 on 17/10/09.

**Common Pheasant: *Phasianus colchicus*. C, Re, Br
Common.**

An albino bird 28/8/02.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant: *Chrysolophus amherstiae*. Ra

Sadly the population of birds that once existed at the nearby Luton Hoo Estate has now declined and may even be extinct. The following records surely involved wandering birds from this site.

1 male 28/3/94.

1 female dead along B653 (Lower Luton Road), 21/2/95.

Common Crane: *Grus grus*. Ra

5 birds at West Hyde 12-14/3/03.

1 bird over the sewage farm 4/6/04.

Water Rail: *Rallus aquaticus*. S, Re?

1 bird 21/11/93.

1 bird 26/12/94.

1 bird during 1st winter period 1995.

1 bird 28/1/96 & 11/2/96.

1 bird 15/9/96.

1 bird during 1st winter period 1998.

1 bird 7/2/99.

1 bird 22/8/99.

1 bird 27/1/00.

1 bird 8/1/02.

1 bird 15/12-31/12/03.

1 bird seen regularly between 2/1-23/3/04 and 10/11-22/11/04, with two birds between 23/11-31/12/04.

1 bird along stream between 1/1-27/2/05.

2 birds on the scrape 14/1/05.

1 bird along stream 6/11/05.

Individuals on the scrape on 11/3 & 26/11/06.

Up to 2 birds between 8/2-24/2/07.

1 bird 17/11/07.

Singles seen 13/2, 17/2, 25/11 & 27/11/08.

1 bird between 8/11-31/12/09, with 2 birds together on 24/12/09.

Moorhen: *Gallinula chloropus*. C, Re, Br

Numbers have reduced noticeably over the past decade. An average of 7 pairs currently reside around the area. Maximum winter counts have included;

73 birds 10/1/91.

69 birds 13/12/92.

40 birds 30/1/93.

57 birds 11/12/94.

58 birds January 1995.

41 birds 9/3/96.

40 birds 1/2/97.

Coot: *Fulica atra* C, Re, Br

An average of 8 pairs reside around the area. Maximum winter counts have included;

56 birds January 1995.

Little Ringed Plover: *Charadrius dubius*. Ra

1 bird 16/4/85.

1 bird 28/4/86.

2 birds were present during one day in the Spring of 1995. (Exact date unknown).

1 bird on 30/4/06.

Golden Plover: *Pluvialis apricaria*. U, P

An irregular visitor to the area. Maximum winter counts have included;

200 birds 4/4/83.

340 birds 26/3/92.

300 birds 16/3/93.

200 birds 14/12/93.

40 birds 6/1/95.

21 birds 6/12-19/12/98.

30 birds 3/1/99.

150 birds 11/4 – 14/4/99.

60 birds 14/3/00.

33 birds 14/12/01.

16 birds 27/11/02.

75 birds 7/3/03.

60 birds 12/10/03.

26 birds 11/12/03.

22 birds 20/3/04.

160 birds 24/3/04.

129 birds 23/4/05.

28 birds 27/2/05.

19 birds 20/3/05.

12 birds 29/3/05.

9 birds 3/4/05.

Goleen Plover cont;

35 birds 25/1/06.
21 birds on 19/4/06.
30 birds on 20/4/06.
33 birds on 22/4/06.
32 birds on 1/11/06.
50 birds on 9/11/06.
55 birds on 17/11/07.
60 birds on 16/2/08.
28 birds on 14/3/09.
35 birds on 21/11/09.

Lapwing: *Vanellus vanellus*. C, Re, Br

An irregular breeder depending on crop types around surrounding fields. Species favours Field Bean usually grown west of the valley. Peak winter counts have included;

Ca 200 birds 27/10/84.
Ca 300 birds 19/1/92.
Ca 700 birds 28/1/93 rising to 1500 birds by 19/2/93.
Ca 2000 birds between 19/2-11/3/93.
Ca 320 birds 5/10/97.
134 birds December 2004.
195 birds on 9/11/06.
125 birds 21/11/09.
A bird ringed as a pullus on site 13/6/83 was found shot two and a half years later at Ste Gemme la Plaine, Vendee, France.

Dunlin: *Calidris alpina*. Ra

1 bird on 5/1/85.
1 bird on 3/2/09.

Ruff: *Philomachus pugnax*. Ra

1 at New Mill End between 30/1-14/2/54.

Common Snipe: *Gallinago gallinago*. S, P

One recorded breeding attempt in April 1940 when a nest was found containing 4 eggs, with 1 bird also noted in suitable breeding habitat 10/5/85. More recently the species is recorded only as a winter visitor and generally concerns single figure counts. This is clearly a declining species along this stretch of river. Maximum counts have included;

20 birds 10/1/54.
15 birds 8/1/77.
16 birds 28/12/84.
22 birds 23/1/85.
31 birds 17/1/86.
15 birds 12/2/90.

Common Snipe cont;

32 birds 1/12/92.
20 birds 25/1/93.
29 birds 23/1/94.
17 birds 15/3/95.
9 birds 27/1/96.
5 birds 15/12/04.
3 birds during Jan & Feb 2006.
2 birds 8/2/07.
3 birds between 18/12-30/12/07.
1 bird 1/1/08
6 birds during January 2009.
4 birds 17/9-31/12/09.

Jack Snipe: *Lymnocyrtes minimus*. S, P

2 birds 8/1/77.
1 bird was ringed 16/1/82.
1 bird 17/1/85.
1 bird 17/11/91 & 8/12/91.
1 bird 1/1/94.
1 bird 16/3/95.
1 bird 6/2 - 20/2/96.
1 bird 15/12-27/12/96.
1 bird 5/2/98.
1 bird 14/2/99.
1 bird 7/3/04.
1 bird 4/12/04.
2 birds 11/1-17/1/09.
1 bird 22/11-31/12/09.

Woodcock: *Scolopax rusticola*. S, P

1 bird 22/1/94.
1 bird 16/3/95.
1 bird 3/1/02.
1 bird 15/3/04.
1 bird 5/5/07.
1 bird 15/2/09.
1 bird 12/12/09.

Bar-Tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. Ra

1 bird 7/5/01.

Redshank: *Tringa totanus*. U, P

1 bird throughout January 1982.
1 bird 19/4/84.
1 bird 14/2/91.

Redshank cont;

1 bird 14/3/93.
1 bird 24/3/01.
1 bird 30/9/03.
1 bird 15/1/05.
1 bird 18/7/09.

Greenshank: *Tringa nebularia*. Ra

1 bird 24/8 - 29/8/84.
1 bird 13/8/93.
1 bird 18/8/05.

Green Sandpiper: *Tringa ochropus*. S, P

Generally noted as a passage migrant, this species is now being recognised as an over-wintering species along this stretch of river.

1 bird 18/8/91.
1 bird 9/5/93.
1 bird 13/8/93.
1 bird 29/9/93.
1 bird 20/9/95.
1 bird 20/2/96.
1 bird 17/5/98.
1 bird 24/12/01.
1 bird 27/1 – 4/4/02.
1 bird 29/9 – 17/3/03.
1 bird 8/7/03.
1 bird 12/10 – 26/10/03.
1 bird 28/2-6/3/04.
1 bird 28/7/04.
2 birds 1/8/04.
1 bird 11/9-14/9/04.
2 birds 26/11-24/12/04.
1 bird between 8/2-22/4/05.
2 birds 19/6/05-17/12/05.
3 birds 6/12-31/12/05.
4 birds 1/1-14/4/06.
2 birds 28/7-31/12/06.
5 birds 7/10-13/10/06.
3 birds 1/1-13/2/07.
1 bird 15/7/07.
2 birds 13/10-31/12/07.
4 birds 30/12/07.
5 birds 1/1-4/1/08.
3 birds 5/1-21/3/08.
2 birds 3/8/07
1 bird 4/8-31/12/08.

Green Sandpiper cont:

2 birds 1/1-11/4/09.
1 bird 16/5/09.
1 bird 15/6/09.
2 birds 17/9-31/12.
4 birds 12/12/09.

Common Sandpiper: *Tringa hypoleucos* S, P

1 bird between 19/11-18/12/49.
1 bird 6/7/86.
1 bird 14/6/90.
1 bird 8/5/94.
1 bird 31/8/95.
2 birds 18/5/97.
1 bird 15/8/99.
1 bird 4/10-10/10/99.
1 bird 15/5/00.
1 bird 26/7/00.
1 bird 17/8/01.
1 bird 16/12/01 – 5/1/02.
2 birds 25/4/02.
1 bird 24/8/03.
1 bird 6/3/04.
1 bird 3/5-8/5/04.
1 bird 11/8-14/8/04.
1 bird 20/4/05.
1 bird 3/5-14/5/05.
1 bird 5/9-16/9/05.
1 bird 25/7/06.

Grey Phalarope: *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Ra

1 was shot on a pond between East Hyde and Chiltern Green in November 1891.

Little Gull: *Larus minutus*. Ra

1 immature 18/10/87.

Black-Headed Gull: *Larus ridibundus*. C, P, (Re)

Almost a resident species, disappearing only between mid May-mid June. Two 'sooty' plumaged birds were present during December 1992 and later were seen roosting at Hilfield Reservoir in Hertfordshire. Peak counts have included;

320 birds 5/8/95
272 birds 19/8/96.
350 birds 31/7 – 4/8/97.
308 birds 11/10/98.
310 birds 21/2-27/2/99.
510 birds 8/8/99.

Black-Headed Gull cont;

222 birds 16/1/00.
350 birds August 2003.
Ca 1000 birds 5/11/06.
212 birds 3/1/07.
Ca 600-700 birds 10/12/08
Ca 500 birds 27/11/08.
Ca 300 birds 31/1/09.
230 birds 21/2/09.
Ca 350 birds 28/2/09.

Common Gull: *Larus canus*. C, P

**Singles generally noted around the site during winter and passage months.
Ploughing on nearby fields usually results with multiple counts. Peak counts have included;**

32 birds 14/8/95.
19 birds 23/3/03.
24 birds 28/1/06.

Herring Gull: *Larus argentatus*. C,P

Singles, and usually immature birds generally noted flying along the valley on passage mostly during the months of April and August.

Yellow-Legged Gull: *Larus michahellis*. Ra

1 bird 21/2/09.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull: *Larus fuscus*. C, P

**Singles generally noted flying along the valley on passage, but have been noted resting around the meadow during heavy rain. Peak counts have included;
25 birds following a plough 24/8/03.**

Great Black-Backed Gull: *Larus marinus*. S, P

Same as with the previous species though less likely to be seen at rest.

Kittiwake: *Rissa tridactyla*. Ra

An immature 24/10/98.

Common Tern: *Sterna hirundo*. Ra

1 bird along the river between 24/6 – 16/7/01. It was briefly joined by a second bird on 3/7/01.
Presumably the same long staying bird as above returned between 18/6 – 20/6/02.
(Sporting a BTO leg ring).
1 bird flew downriver 26/6/03, and was again seen dive-bombing a Little Egret on 1/7/03.
1 bird 26/6/04.
1 bird 31/5/05.
2 birds 28/6/05.

Common Tern cont;

1 bird 10/7/05.
1 bird 31/8/05.
1 bird 25/7/06.
3 birds 2/8/06.
2 birds 24/5/08.
1 bird 23/7/08.
2 birds 8/7/09.

Arctic Tern: *Sterna paradisaea*. **Ra**

1 bird 22/4/99.

Stock Dove: *Columba oenas*. **C, Re, Br**

An average of three pairs breed locally. Peak winter counts have included;

70 birds on 15/12/04.
15 birds on 29/12/04.
50 birds on 25/1/07.

Wood Pigeon: *Columba palumbus*. **C, Re, Br**

Common! Peak winter counts have included;

Ca2000 birds 12/2/84.
Ca1000 birds 25/12/86.
Ca1000 birds 20/1/87.
Ca700 birds 14/1/88.
Ca4000 birds 25/1/94.
Ca400 birds 24/12/01.
Ca1000 birds 21/1/02.
Ca1000 birds 9/2/07.
Ca500 birds 6/2/08.

Collared Dove: *Streptopelia decaocto*. **C, Re, Br**

A common species around the area. Peak winter roost counts have included;

45 birds between January and February 1992.
During 2004 an evening roost contained 18 birds on 27/9, 40 on 29/9, 44 birds on 1/10
and 41 birds on 3/10/04.

Turtle Dove: *Streptopelia turtur*. **S, Br**

**Sadly now an uncommon sight around the area with any sightings involving birds
on passage, including;**

A late departing bird was present 4/10/92.
A singing male was present during 1993.
Breeding was confirmed in 1995 with 4/5 young reared.
A singing male was present during 1996.
A singing male was present during 1997.
3 birds during August 1999.
A pair held territory during 2000.

Turtle Dove cont;

1 bird 23/5/02.
2 birds 9/6/05.
1 bird 9/8/05.
1 bird 14/9-21/9/05.
1 bird 3/7/06.
1 bird 25/4/08.
1 bird 6/6/09.

Cuckoo: *Cuculus canorus*. S, P

Sadly an ever increasing stranger to the Upper Lea Valley with only sporadic records since 1995.

Barn Owl: *Tyto alba*. U

Although several pairs breed nearby, this species continues to be a special sight at East Hyde. The earliest record was of a bird seen 7/2/47, with other birds seen during 1956 & 1958. More recent sightings however have included;

1 bird 31/1/85.
1 bird between 30/1 - 1/2/93.
1 bird was found dead in 1994.
1 bird 24/11/98.
1 bird 20/1/01.
1 bird reported during 2002 (date not logged).
1 bird 15/6/03.
1 bird 10/4/04.
1 dead bird late September 2005. (Exact date not known).
1 bird 20/12/05.
1 bird 4/1-11/1/07.
1 bird found dead on 6/2/07 had been ringed as a chick on 16/10/06 from a site near Harpenden.
1 bird 23/8 & 1/9/08.
1 bird 8/2/09.

Little Owl: *Athene noctua*. C, Re, Br

2 resident pair.

Tawny Owl: *Strix aluco*. C, Re, Br

Two resident pairs.

Short Eared Owl: *Asio flammeus*. Ra

1 bird 13/12/08.

Long-Eared Owl: *Asio otus*. Ra

1 bird 16/12/91.
1 found dead in February 1992.

Swift: *Apus apus*. C, P

Generally seen in small numbers around the area. Of interest a bird seen to drop dead out of the sky on 7/6/34 contained over 20 blood sucking flies of the order *Crataerina pallida!*

Peak counts have included;

Ca 300 birds 20/5/96.

55 birds 6/6/09.

85 birds 29/7/09.

Ring-Necked Parakeet: *Psittacula krameri*. Ra

1 bird on 9/8/03.

1 bird on 2/9/07.

Kingfisher: *Alcedo atthis*. C, Re, Br

1-2 pairs reside along the river.

An immature male controlled at East Hyde on 9/8/05, had been ringed at Lemsford Springs NR on 6/6/05.

Wryneck: *Jynx torquilla*. Ra

1 was found dead 23/8/70.

Green Woodpecker: *Picus viridis*. C, Re, Br

1-2 pairs reside around the area.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos major*. C, Re, Br

1-2 pairs reside around the area.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: *Dendrocopus minor*. Ra

1 male 17/4/02.

Skylark: *Alauda arvensis*. C, Re, Br.

Peak counts have included;

100+ January 1982.

100+ September 1989.

130+ November 2004.

140+ 28/11/09.

207 birds 2/2/09.

Sand Martin: *Riparia riparia*. U, P

18 birds 31/3/94.

5 birds 4/5/95.

1 bird 10/5/98.

1 bird 27/4/99.

1 bird recorded during the Spring 2002. (date not logged).

1 bird 14/4/04.

1 bird 9/7/04.

Sand Martin cont;

2 birds 9/4/07.

1 bird 13/4/07.

1 bird 29/3 & 25/4/08.

1 bird 14/3/09.

1 bird 13/7/09.

Sand Martin x House Martin Hybrid: Ra

A recently fledged juvenile of this mix was ringed within the House Martin colony at Hyde Mill Farm in 2001. Brief views of what was probably the same or a related bird were obtained in 2002, but, in the absence of capture, confirmation was not forthcoming.

Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*. C, P, Br

Several pairs regularly breed around surrounding farm and sewage work buildings.

House Martin: *Delichon urbica*. C, P, Br

A traditional nesting colony exists at Hyde Mill Farm, with recent counts numbering between 60-75 active nests.

A bird ringed as a juvenile on 19/9/85 at Stock, Ingatestone, Essex was controlled as a breeding female a year later at East Hyde.

A bird ringed as a juvenile on 2/10/94 at Sandwich Bay was controlled as a breeding female at East Hyde 5/8/95.

Two retraps at the mill during 2007 involved birds at least six years old. The British longevity record is currently seven years, that also involving an East Hyde bird!

Tree Pipit: *Anthus trivialis*. Ra

1 bird 29/5/03.

Meadow Pipit: *Anthus pratensis*. C, Re, Br?

Can generally be seen and heard during Autumn & Spring months. During the 1980's a bird was ringed at the sewage farm and recovered dead in Iceland, only the third ever British ringed bird to be recovered there. Peak winter counts have included;

72 birds 19/12/92.

61 birds 3/1/93.

75 birds 23/3/04.

65 birds 16/12/07.

30 birds 11/10/08.

30 birds 12/12/09.

Rock Pipit: *Anthus sp.* Ra.

3 Spring records of the Scandinavian sub-species between 1978 – 1987. (Exact details to be confirmed).

Water Pipit: *Anthus spinoletta*. Ra

Between 1971 – 1975 birds were noted at the sewage farm on 4 occasions. Only 1 record was noted subsequently, date unknown.

All records concern single birds noted during a one day stay except for one bird that stayed between 16/12/70 – 16/3/71.

Yellow Wagtail: *Motacilla flava*. S, P, Br

Peak passage counts have included;

24 birds 3/9/95.

Confirmed breeding during 1997, 1998, 2006, 2007 & 2008..

Blue-Headed Wagtail: *Motacilla flava sp.* Ra

An individual showing characteristics of the race *beema*, and presumed to be in fact a *flava x flavissima* hybrid was present 7/5/01.

Grey Wagtail: *Motacilla cinerea*. C, Re, Br

One-two pairs reside and breed around the area.

Pied Wagtail: *Motacilla alba yarrellii*. C, Re, Br

A common sight around the area. Peak winter counts have included;

Ca 200 birds 18/12/52.

40 birds 18/8/67.

White Wagtail: *Motacilla alba alba*. Ra

1 bird 10/4/96.

1 bird 26/4/96.

Wren: *Troglodytes troglodytes*. C, Re, Br

Common.

Dunnock: *Prunella modularis*. C, Re, Br

Common.

Robin: *Erithacus rubecula*. C, Re, Br

Common.

Black Redstart: *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Ra

End of August 2000 a male bird spent at least a week in the area when it was caught and ringed. What was presumably the same bird was seen briefly in May 2001. In 2002 a pair bred at the mill and raised two broods, fledging six birds.

Redstart: *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Ra

A male was found dead April 1975.

Whinchat: *Saxicola rubetra*. U, P

1 male 26/9/86.
1 female 2/6/89.
1 bird 30/8/90.
1 bird 31/5/91.
1 female 20/9/95.
1 bird 12/5/96.
1 bird 22/9/04.

Stonechat: *Saxicola torquata*. U, P

1 male 2/5/99.
1 male 23/12/01.
1 fem/imm 6/3/02.
1 bird 13/3/03.
1 bird 16/3/04.
1 male 19/3/04.
A male 10/11-31/12/06.
Last years' male remained until 1/1- 4/2/07.
1 imm male 16/12-31/12/07.
1 imm male 1/1-21/3/08.
3 birds, (male & 2 imm/fem) 4/10/08.
1 imm 30/10/08.
1 imm male 17/10/09.

Wheatear: *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Ra

2 females 25/9/97.
1 male 19/4/06.
Pair 21/4/06.
1 male 16/4/07.
1 female 13/4/09.

Greenland Wheatear: *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*. Ra

1 male 23/3/04.

**Blackbird: *Turdus merula*. C, Re, Br
Common.**

Fieldfare: *Turdus pilaris*. C, P

A bird carrying nesting material was noted during April 1997. Peak winter counts have included;

Ca100 birds during the winter 1986.
Ca100 birds during the winter 1990.
Ca150 birds 28/11/93.
Ca200 birds during the winter 1996.
Ca250 birds during the winter 2001.
Ca100 birds 6/3/02.

Fieldfare cont:

Ca200 birds 15/11/03.
Ca100 birds 1/12/04.
Ca400 birds 4/1-8/1/05.
Ca1000 birds 28/2/06.
Ca300 birds 27/1/08.
Ca100 birds 6/3/08.

Song Thrush: *Turdus philomelos*. **C, Re, Br**
At least two pair reside around the site.

Redwing: *Turdus iliacus*. **C, P**

An adult bird built half a nest on 28/3/09. Peak winter counts have included;
Ca100 birds 1986.
Ca100 birds 1988.
Ca500 birds 1995.
Ca250 birds 19/3/01.
Ca100 birds 15/11/03.
Ca150 birds 6/1/08.
Ca130 birds 27/1/08.
Ca 230 birds 21/11/09.

Mistle Thrush: *Turdus viscivorus*. **C, Re, Br**
Common. Peak counts have included;
42 birds on 5/8/03.
16 birds 6/8/08.

Grasshopper Warbler: *Locustella naevia*. **Ra**
1 bird singing 3/6/00.

Sedge Warbler: *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. **C, P, Br**
Several pair breed amongst suitable habitat.

Reed Warbler: *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. **C, P, Br**
Single pairs breed in the small reed beds lining the river and scrape.

Lesser Whitethroat: *Sylvia curruca*. **C, P, Br**
Individuals noted most years with breeding first confirmed in 1978.

Common Whitethroat: *Sylvia communis*. **C, P, Br**
Several pairs breed annually around the site.

Garden Warbler: *Sylvia borin*. **U, P, Br**
Several pairs breed annually around the site.

Blackcap: *Sylvia atricapilla*. C, P, Br

At least three pairs visit the area each summer, with individuals occasionally noted overwintering.

Chiffchaff: *Phylloscopus collybita*. C, P, Br

Common around the area with occasional individuals overwintering.

Willow Warbler: *Phylloscopus trochilus*. C, P, Br

Once a familiar sound around the area, over more recent years only 1-2 pairs can be heard.

Goldcrest: *Regulus regulus*. C, Re, Br

Common though normally heard rather than seen.

Spotted Flycatcher: *Muscicapa striata*. S, P, Br

Once a common sight around the area it is now a good record to see one. Recent records have included;

1 bird on the very late date of 21/10/98.

1 bird on 21/5/02.

2 adults & 1 juv on 6/9/06.

Bearded Tit: *Panurus biarmicus*. Ra

1 bird 28/12/65.

Long-Tailed Tit: *Aegithalos caudatus*. C, Re, Br

Several pair reside around the area.

Marsh Tit: *Parus palustris*. S, Br

One pair resides around the area.

Breeding confirmed in 1995.

Willow Tit: *Parus montanus*. U, Re, Br

First recorded 12/12/59. Subsequent records of this county rarity have included;

Breeding confirmed in 1991.

Breeding confirmed in 1993.

Coal Tit: *Parus ater*. C, Re, Br

At least 2 pairs reside around the area.

Blue Tit: *Parus caeruleus*. C, Re, Br

Common.

Great Tit: *Parus major*. C, Re, Br

Common.

Nuthatch: *Sitta europaea*. S, Re, Br
Usually heard rather than seen.

Treecreeper: *Certhia familiaris*. C, Re, Br
At least 2 pairs reside around the area.

Golden Oriole: *Oriolus oriolus*. Ra
1 bird 12/5/51.

Red-Backed Shrike: *Lanius collurio*. Ra
Bred annually around the site until 1959 with no further records.

Jay: *Garrulus glandarius*. S, Re, Br
Seen regularly throughout the year.

Magpie: *Pica pica*. C, Re, Br
Common.

Jackdaw: *Corvus monedula*. C, Re, Br
Common. Peak counts have included;
200 birds 3/10/84.
120+ birds 26/2/90.
100+ birds 23/11/04.
78 birds 8/10/05.
Ca 500 birds 6/11/06.
Ca 500 birds Nov & Dec 2007.
Ca 100 birds November 2008.
Ca 400 birds Nov & Dec 2009.
Ca 400 birds 18/7/09.

Rook: *Corvus frugilegus*. C, Re, Br
Common around the area with a small rookery to the north lining the B653, a spin
off from the much larger colony in the nearby Luton Hoo Estate.
Ca 200 birds 18/10/08.
Ca 150 birds 18/7/09.

Carrion Crow: *Corvus corone*. C, Re, Br
Common.
A white winged bird was present 10/10/98, 18/9/03 & 19/9/09.
Ca 75 birds 18/7/09.

Raven: *Corvus corax*.
2 birds 6/12/04 then again 29/12/04.
1 bird 22/4/07.
1 bird 3/11/07.
1 bird 2/3/08.

Starling: *Sturnus vulgaris*. **C, Re, Br**
Common.

House Sparrow: *Passer domesticus*. **C, Re, Br**
Once a very common sight around the area, numbers continue to decline with now only a handful remaining around the village.

Tree Sparrow: *Passer montanus*. **Ra**
A maximum of 35 birds were counted 8/2/87, with breeding last confirmed in 1990 which involved a pair feeding young during May. The last birds were recorded 31/7/94.

Chaffinch: *Fringilla coelebs*. **C, Re, Br**
Common.

55 birds along Thrales End Lane 27/10/96.
30 birds 1/11/98.
Ca 200 birds on 20/3/01.
48 birds late January 2008.
70 birds 11/10/08.
45 birds 14/3/09.

Brambling: *Fringilla montifringilla*. **S**
15 birds on 31/10/93.
10 birds on 22/2/95.
2 birds on 9/2/04.
3 male & 2 fem 28/11-31/12/07.
2 male, 1 fem. 1/1-17/2/08.
6 male, 4 fem 6/1/08.

Greenfinch: *Carduelis chloris*. **C, Re, Br**
Common.

Goldfinch: *Carduelis carduelis*. **C, Re, Br**
Common. Maximum winter counts have included;
30 birds 15/10/95.
15 birds 27/11/04.
Ca 100 birds 4/12/07.
40 birds 31/12/07.
55 birds 6/8/08.
35 birds 4/10/08.
32 birds 19/9/09.

Siskin: *Carduelis chloris*. C, P

Often seen in flight over area during winter months. Maximum winter counts have included;

55 birds 18/1/98.

Ca 100 birds 24/12/03.

Linnet: *Acanthis cannabina*. C, Re, Br

Common around area. Peak counts have included;

Ca 100 birds 2/9/90.

Ca 200 birds 27/9/98.

65 birds 31/10/04.

Ca 100 birds 25/1/07.

Lesser Redpoll: *Acanthis flammea*. S

Another decreasing species around the area. Up until the mid 80's flocks of up to 30 birds could be located most winters feeding in the Alders by the Thrales End Lane bridge. More recently though, individual birds or small flocks have been heard in flight passing down the valley.

Crossbill: *Loxia curvirostra*. Ra

Probably in August, and during the mid – late 80's three birds dropped in to drink at one of the ponds, an area now occupied by the scrape.

2 birds flew down the valley 14/6/08.

Bullfinch: *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* C, Re, Br

At least two pairs can be seen, though generally heard, around the area.

Hawfinch: *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Ra.

Apparently recorded around East Hyde prior to 1946 but no further details available. The first dated sighting was of a bird near the railway bridge on 22/1/50, with subsequent records including;

1 bird 23/5/85.

Yellowhammer: *Emberiza citrinella*. C, Re, Br

Another declining species though birds can still be found around the immediate surrounding farmland. Peak counts have included;

20 birds 31/1/85.

35 birds 14/3/09.

45 birds 14/11/09.

Reed Bunting: *Emberiza schoeniclus*. C, Re, Br

Between 1-2 pairs reside around the area. A possible winter roost may occur in reeds close to the scrape and this will be investigated fully in due course.

Corn Bunting: *Emberiza calandra*. S

Once recorded as a breeding species during the mid-80's, over recent years has become very scarce. The last bird recorded was in song along Cooters End Lane during the summer of 1996.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIES ARE KNOWN ESCAPES OR SPECIES OF 'UNKNOWN ORIGIN'

Sacred Ibis: *Threskiornis aethiopicus*.

1 bird was recorded sporadically between 1980 until May 1983.

White Stork: *Ciconia ciconia*.

A known escape roamed along the valley between Batford and Luton Hoo during 6/4 – 24/4/98.

Peacock: *Pavo cristatus*.

A male wandered up Thrales End Lane 10/6/99.

Calling males heard from the eastern valley slopes 15/3/98 & 10/6/99, 10/7/05.

A male was around the meadow on 28/5/06.

Calling males heard periodically during 2007, 2008 & 2009.

Whooper Swan: *Cygnus cygnus*.

Wandering feral birds from the Wardown Park clan visit the meadow sporadically during each year and have done so since June 2001, generally in parties of twos and threes.

Black Swan: *Cygnus atratus*.

One was seen sporadically during December 1990.

One bird 3/4/06, followed by 2 birds 28/8-24/12/06.

Canada x Greylag Goose:

Individuals of this hybrid have been seen sporadically on the meadow since December 2001 and during 2003, with 4 birds noted 10/2/03. An individual was also noted between 6/2-15/3/04 and then on 25/10 & 29/12/04, and again between 9/1-17/3/05 and 19/8/05.

The resident nanny present all year during 2006 & 2007 with a second bird present 10/3/07. The nanny present again throughout 2008 & 2009.

Canada x Barnacle Goose:

Offspring of this mix were noted during September 1996, January 1998 & January 1999.

Pink-footed Goose: *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A known escape spent four years between May 84' – Aug 87.

'small race' Canada Goose:

An individual showing characteristics of Richardson's was present during April 2002. An individual present during April 2003 showed intriguing patterns relating to a 'small race' Canada x Barnacle hybrid.

Barnacle Goose: *Branta leucopsis*.

First recorded in 1985 when a bird was present 26/11/85, followed by 2 birds 22/5/86. The next bird was observed between 22/2-26/2/91 with three birds present during September & October of 1996. Subsequently one bird was then present amongst the Canada Geese from November 1997 until September 1998 and then from August 1999 until January 2000.

Since then the only other records have been;

One adult present on 20/8/00.

One adult present between 1/5-29/5/07.

Snow Goose: *Anser caerulescens*.

1 bird 19/1/92.

Bar-Headed Goose: *Anser indicus*.

Individuals recorded during February 1991 & 1992, and mid April 1993. Also singles reported in January & March 1996, April 1999 & March 2003.

Swan Goose: *Anser cygnoides*.

A long-stayer resided around the area between 2/2/88 – June 1991.

Cape Shelduck: *Tadorna cana*.

1 bird 25/9/94.

Ruddy Shelduck: *Tadorna ferruginea*.

1 female present 25 – 30/9/94.

Wood Duck: *Aix sponsa*

A male was present 23/1-25/1/90.

Chiloe Wigeon: *Anas sibilatrix*.

1 male between 5/9 – 22/9/89.

1 male 8/1/90.

Muscovy: *Cairina moschata*.

A pair resided at Mill Farm until 1999. They bred during 1995 and reared 9 young, and again in 1997 rearing 1 young.

Harris Hawk: *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Several birds were regularly flown around the site during 2001-2009, with 3 together on 16/12/07.

Chukar: *Alectoris chukar*.

Individuals showing some characteristics of this species have been seen around the area in most years, with the most recent sightings recorded along Thrales End Lane on 8/5/01, and 8/5/02.

One bird showing some characteristics of this species was also seen 26/3/05.

Feral Pigeon: *Columba livia*.

Up to 20 birds can usually be seen around the village with 15 Fan-tailed Doves present between 2004-2007.

Ca100 birds counted on 25/1/07.

Ca80 birds 8/11-22/11/08.

Cockatiel: *Nymphicus hollandicus*.

1 bird flew over the site during a day in September 1992. (Specific date not logged)

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