
Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Bird Report for 2015



Edited and produced by
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Introduction

This report is the twelfth consecutive report we have produced for the site known locally as Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits. The first report for the site was produced in 1996 (Brew, 1997) as a response to the Herts Bird Club's Year-List Challenge of that year. Likewise, after the Hertfordshire Year-List Challenge of 2004 some of us rose to the challenge of producing a report for that year (Christian *et al.*, 2006) and the rest is, history. Since 2004 a small (but dedicated) group has managed to produce a report every year.

The format has generally followed that of the 1996 and 2004 reports with the hope that maintaining a similar layout and content would allow comparisons to be more readily made across years. The core of this, and previous, reports is the systematic list of bird observations for the year and the analysis that goes with these observations. As around 10 years is the upper limit for effectively presenting much of the available data we have also continued a transition - begun with the 2013-10th Anniversary report - to different ways of summarising the data - an outline and explanation of which can be found in more detail in the section "Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation". Along with the full Systematic List we have continued to provide details of the recording area, public access to the site and a short review of the year. The latter includes ornithological highlights along with summaries of physical and structural changes and outstanding meteorological events.

As in previous years we hope you enjoy reading this report and if you do, then we encourage you to let us know either *via* the email addresses below or through the Hertsbirding Yahoo! Group (see: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hertsbirding/>). Likewise, if you did not enjoy reading it, or can think of ways of improving your enjoyment, then please let us know.

Finally, as we continue to accumulate what is becoming an increasingly large body of data on the birds of Tyttenhanger, we leave you with the hope that you are encouraged to venture on-site and to submit your records through the available channels for inclusion in what will hopefully, be a long line of future reports.

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Recording Area and Access

The area covered by the current report is shown in Figure 1. As indicated previously, this is an attempt to update the excellent map produced in the 1996 report and to show the current status of the area. While there are undoubtedly inaccuracies in this map it shows the general boundaries of the area considered in the report, namely, that bounded by the A414 to the west, White Horse Lane and the London Colney by-pass to the south, Coursers Road to the east and Colney Heath High Street to the north. Access can be gained from a number of public footpaths that lead onto the site (see OS Explorer Map No. 182). For those arriving by car a number of access options are available. One option is to enter *via* Church Lane in Colney Heath – parking around the entrance to the Water Works. The model railway club usually meets on Sunday mornings and space can be restricted at this time. Alternatively, park at St Peter's Church in London Colney and walk along the Colne, under the London Colney by-pass and on past the Fishing Lakes and Willows Farm. The third option is to enter on the access road for the Gravel Quarry just before the Garage on the A414 (coming from the Hatfield direction) and park at the end of this road before the entrance to the fishing lakes. The car park next to the Bailiff's van and parking elsewhere around the fishing lakes is subject to a charge of £2.00 for those not holding fishing permits. The tickets can be obtained from the machine on the toilet block wall next to the "Lakeside Snackz". The access tracks that run each side of the fishing lakes are now gated, but not locked, and providing birders obtain a parking ticket, they can go through these gates and park sensibly anywhere along the tracks.

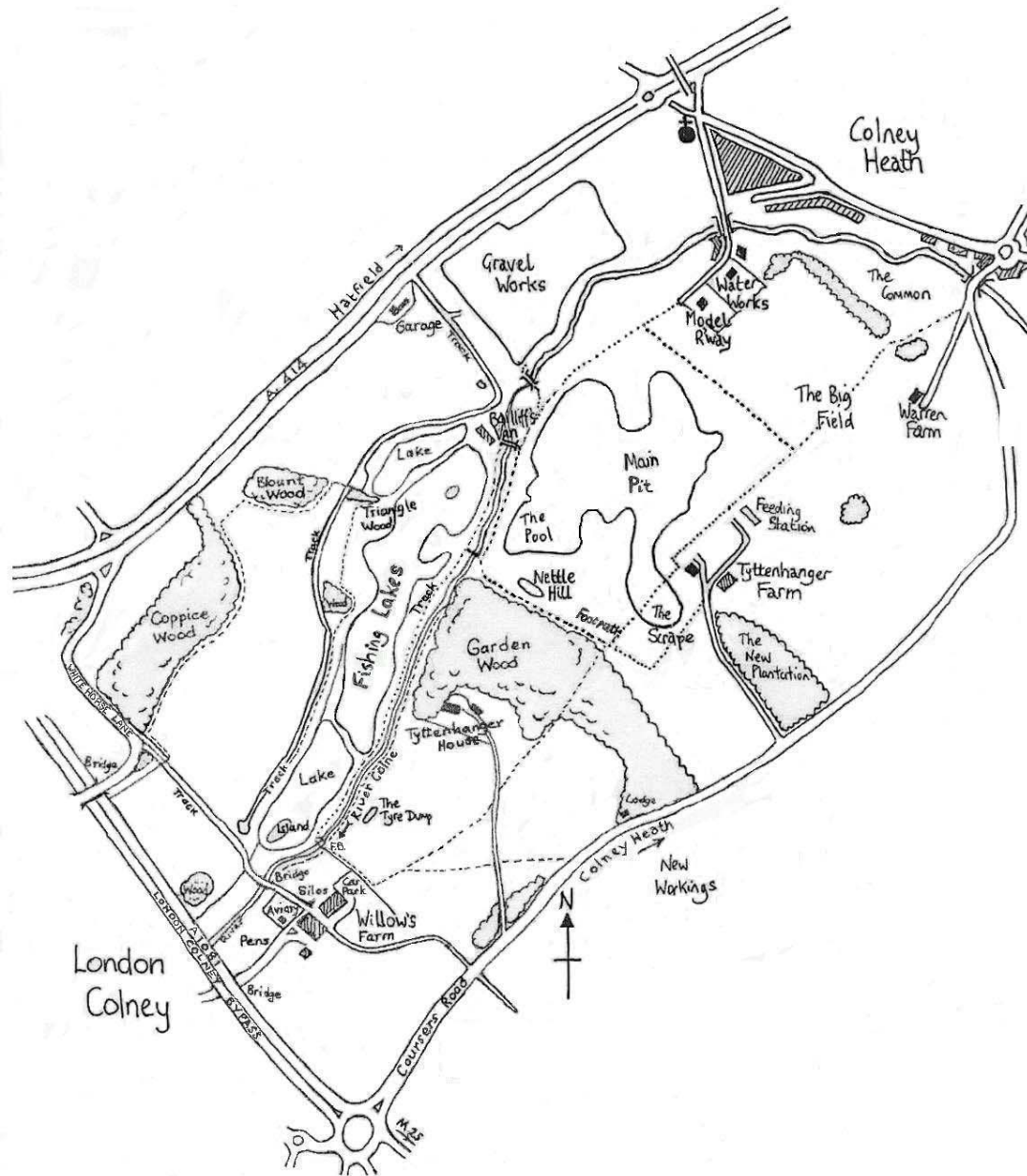


Figure 1. Map of the recording area covered in the current report. This map is a revised version of that shown in Brew (1997) and is the best representation of the situation in 2013, since when, little has changed. A previous version of the map with a superimposed grid is available in earlier reports. Scale approximately 1.5cm = 250 metres.

Once on-site there is an extensive network of footpaths and tracks which cover the majority of the recording area. Observers are requested to keep to the marked footpaths to minimise disturbance to the birds, the land-owners and the quarrying operations. This is particularly so around the Main Pit and it should be noted that the workings access track is not a public right of way and that there are a number of remotely controlled security cameras along the conveyor belt with speaker's that will tell you that you are in a restricted area! We have also been informed that if people are seen on the access track that security will notify the police. The current OS map (OS Explorer Map No. 182) should be consulted for some of the older paths that may not be shown on the map presented in Figure 1. However, please bear in mind that due to the active mineral extraction operations - on and around the site - there are frequent changes to the footpaths and rights of way.

Review of the Year 2015

Most of the major physical features on-site remained much the same as they were in 2014 - with the sand-spit in the Main Pit continuing to be a significant feature. Apart from the growth of much of the vegetation around the site, things have therefore been relatively stable, in a physical sense, for several years now. The weather in 2015 was not as notable

as 2014's floods and produced an annual rainfall of 740.1 mm - below the long-term median value of 804.5mm. Overall there were only 29.5 days of airfrost – again below the long-term median of 43.7 days.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median 2001-15
Annual Rainfall (mm)	788.4	845.2	851.1	821.7	689.9	629.8	1004.0	805.7	1014.7	740.1	805.7
Airfrost Durat'n (days)	43.5	34.3	43.7	49.9	80.1	29.0	46.6	55.6	24.4	29.5	43.7

Coverage of the site for the year came to a total of 296 days (74.25%) - with peak coverage being in the usual months of March/April and August/September. This is the second year in a row that April has received complete coverage -and is only the third time it has occurred for any month in the period 2004-2015. Coverage (days per month), median number of records for the month (2004-2015) and the proportion - as a % of total records from the period 2004-2015 - that fall in each month are all shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	24	21	24	30	28	21	22	29	24	24	24	25	296
Median⁽¹⁾	22.5	19.5	25.0	28.0	24.0	21.5	24.5	27.0	24.0	24.0	20.5	19.5	273.5
%⁽²⁾	7.73	7.34	9.22	10.13	8.79	7.34	8.98	9.73	8.25	8.07	7.43	7.00	

⁽¹⁾ Median is calculated from the period 2004-2015. ⁽²⁾ Percentage of total days covered for the year in that month.

This year also saw some changes to the availability of up-to-date information for the site and its web-presence. Apart from the Herts Birdclub website (<http://www.hnhs.org/birds/index.php>) there are now other sources of recent information on Tyttenhanger's birds most notably the Tyttenhanger Twitter account at @TytGP and the Friends of Tyttenhanger website at (<http://friendsofthgp.wixsite.com/ornithology>). We urge you to check all of these resources for up to date information and further site-information.

Birding Highlights of 2015

January; the 1st kicked-off with a very good day including 2 **Little Egret** (the first of 141 days-recorded), the only record of **Barnacle Goose** for the year was (a single flying over Willow's Farm) along with a **Great Black-backed Gull** and a **Yellow-legged Gull** on the main pit. There was a **Shelduck** on the 6th (the first of 25 days-recorded for the year), and two **Red Kite** on this date (the first of 120 days-recorded for the year) The 6th also saw the first of three January records of **Water Rail** and on the 9th there was the first of the 113 days-recorded for **Buzzard**; the 9th also saw a **Peregrine**. The only record of **Siskin** (1) in the first winter period was on Colney Heath Common on 17th and there was also a count of 32 **Tree Sparrow** on this date. The first of the 42 days-recorded for the year of **Sparrowhawk** was on the 18th and the only record of **Woodcock** was from the 23rd with two birds in Garden Wood. The month finished with a **Yellowhammer** (now a relatively unusual bird on-site) on the 27th.

February; the month was generally slow with 15 **Golden Plover** over on the 2nd to start the month. This was followed by the first of four records of **Barn Owl** for the month on the 9th - the other's being on the 25th, 26th, and 28th. The last record of **Water Rail** of the first winter period was on the 12th and then there were 2 **Avocet** on the main pit on the 16th 5 occupied **Grey Heron** nest on the 21st and the only record of **Pintail** for the year was a drake on the 24th - briefly on the main pit at 10.45am

March; the month started with another **Barn Owl** on the 1st followed by single **Yellowhammer** on the 2nd, 6th and 7th. The 2nd also saw the only record of **Raven** for the year and there was a **Stonechat** on the 6th. The first **Oystercatcher** for the year appeared on the 7th and was joined by a second on the 27th. An adult **Mediterranean Gull** on the 8th was a good find and the 13th saw the last **Wigeon** (4) of the first winter-period and the first **Chiffchaff** for the year. There were two **Redshanks** on the 13th, 2 **Little Owl** on the 17th, three **Sand Martin** on the 18th, and a **Peregrine** on the 21st. The latter also produced the last record of **Redwing** for the first winter-period and the month ended with 11 **Fieldfare** on the 30th - the last of the first winter-period.

April; the 1st saw the first of the 18 days on which **Little Grebe** was recorded and this was followed by 2 **Ringed Plover** on the 2nd then 5 **Shelduck** and a **Curlew** on the main pit on the 3rd as the first 2 **Swallows** for the year arrived. Seven occupied **Grey Heron** nests were noted on the 6th and there were 2 **Blackcaps** on the 7th, 3 **Little Ringed Plover** and a **Wheatear** on the 9th and 2 **Willow Warbler** on the 10th. The 11th saw the first **House Martins**, **Yellow Wagtails** and **Sedge Warblers** of the year and a **Common Sandpiper** appeared on the 12th. The 13th produced a **Yellowhammer** and the first day-recorded of 15 for the year of **Green Sandpiper** on the 14th. There were **Reed Warblers** and **Whitethroats** on the 15th, **Common Tern** and **Cuckoo** on the 16th, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Greenshank** on the 22nd. The 23rd saw a **White Wagtail** in the Amazing Maize Field and the 24th produced the first **Garden Warbler** and the first breeding record for the year of **Great Crested Grebe**. The month concluded with a **Dunlin** on the 30th.

May; the month started with a **Whinchat** on the 1st and 5th, the first of 26 days-recorded for the year of **Hobby** on the 2nd, two **Wheatear** on the 4th and 3 **Dunlin** on the 5th. The 6th saw a second **Dunlin**, the first **Swifts** of the year and a **Ringed Plover**. Breeding was also well underway in this month and the first broods of **Mallard**, **Mute Swan**, **Canada Goose**, **Coot**, **Moorhen** and **Grey Heron** were noted from the 4th onwards. There was 3 **Common Sandpiper**, a **Barn Owl** on the 7th, a **Sandwich Tern**, on the 8th another **Dunlin** on the 9th and a **Peregrine** on the 10th. A **Sanderling** had a short stay on the 12th, 13th and 3 **Little Grebe** were seen on the 17th. An **Osprey** gave good views for 3 minutes on the 16th before flying of South and the **Oystercatchers** were noted to be nesting on the Amazing Maze Field on the 17th. There was another **Ringed Plover** on the 20th and then the maximum count of the year of **Red Kite** was on the 22nd – which involved 5 birds. Things slowed towards the end of the month but young were noted of **Tree Sparrow** and **Song Thrush**.

June; normally a quiet month but this year proved to be an exception. There were two **Dunlin** on the 1st, 2nd and 3 on the 3rd. A **Ringed Plover** was seen on the 13th and a female **Mandarin** flew in briefly on the 15th. The end of the month gathered pace with a **Black-tailed Godwit** on the 24th, a **Spotted Flycatcher** on the 25th (Willow's Farm) followed on the 27th by 2 **Ring-necked Parakeets**. The **Oystercatchers** were seen with 3 chicks from the 25th and there was also **Sand Martin** nesting in the Gravel Workings with 10 active nest holes noted. Breeding also reached its conclusion for a number of other species with young of **Mute Swan**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Canada Goose**, **Coot**, **Moorhen**, **Blue Tit**, **Wren Magpie**, **Pied Wagtail** and **Tree Sparrow** noted during the month.

July; the parent **Oystercatchers** were about all month - but with just one of the original three chicks. There was a **Ringed Plover** on the 3rd and 7th, two **Ring-necked Parakeet** on the 4th and a single on the 25th. Up to 9 **Little Ringed Plover** were around early in the month with up to 5 adults and 4 juveniles – indicating breeding close-by. A **Cuckoo** and c60 **Swift** were present on the 5th and the last record of **Swift** for the year was on the 29th, two **Redshank** - the last of the year - were seen on the 9th also on the 9th a **Kestrel** chick was seen and heard in front of Tyttenhanger House. There was an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** on the 13th and 20th and the month finished with nine **Black-tailed Godwit** circling the main pit at 08.44am on the 25th, which then flew off east.

August; the 2nd saw a good start to the month with 10 **Reed Warbler**, 15 **Pochard** (the maximum count for the year) and 2 adult **Red-legged Partridge** with a single chick. A **Peregrine** was present on the 3rd and there were 3 records of **Black-tailed Godwit** for the month with 1 on the 5th, 13 on the main pit on the 28th that flew of South at 5.30pm and 2 on the 31st. There were 23 **Common Tern** on the 5th (the maximum count for the year) along with three **Sparrowhawk**. The 9th produced the last **Little Ringed Plover** of the year, a **Dunlin** and a **Greenshank**. On the 14th a **Ringed Plover** and a **Wood Sandpiper** appeared with the latter staying until the till the 29th. Three **Green Sandpiper** on the 15th one on the 18th, 20th, 24th, five on the 22nd and 3 on the 29th was the majority of the Autumn passage for this species. The last record of **Reed Warbler** was on the 17th a **Whinchat** and a moulting juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** were seen on the 20th and the last record of **Garden Warbler** was on the 21st. Then on the 22nd the 2 adult **Oystercatchers** and their chick along with a **Little Grebe** and a **Greenshank** were noted. There was another **Ringed Plover** on the 23rd and the last **Sedge Warbler** was seen on the 25th along with two **Wheatear**. A **Ruff** on the 26th and 29th was joined by another on the 30th and there was also a **Spotted Flycatcher** present on the 29th. An **Oystercatcher** on the 30th and a juvenile **Black Tern** on the morning of the 31st on the main pit for nine minutes in heavy rain brought the month to an excellent conclusion.

September; the 1st saw the last **Wheatear** of the year followed by a **Spotted Flycatcher** near Tyttenhanger House and a moulting juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** on the 2nd. The 4th produced only the second ever record of more than one **Peregrine** when two birds were seen. The next day three **Egyptian Geese** were seen and the last **Whitethroat** (2) for the year was seen on the 6th. There was a **Whinchat** on the 11th and 12th and then another **Peregrine** on 12th along with a **Green Sandpiper** and a **Dunlin**. Another **Green Sandpiper** and two **Whinchat** on the 13th preceded the last record of **Sand Martin** and **Common Sandpiper** on the 14th. Winter visitors started to appear early with a **Siskin** on Colney Heath Common on the 18th and then on the 19th there was another **Peregrine** and a count of eight **Buzzard**. The 19th also provided the last record of **Yellow Wagtail** (2) and then on the 23rd there was a female/immature **Marsh Harrier** seen – clearly the best bird of the month and only the 12th record for the site. The last four **House Martins** were seen on the 24th then another **Peregrine** on the 25th with the month coming to a close with the last **Willow Warbler** on the 26th and the last **Blackcap** and **Lesser Whitethroat** on the 27th.

October; the month started with the first **Wigeon** and **Redpoll** of the Autumn appearing on the 2nd followed by 6 **Golden Plover** on the sand spit on the main pit on the 3rd. There was a **Stonechat** on the 4th and a **Yellowhammer** and a late **Hobby** on the 11th - the last of 26 days-recorded for the year. A **Green Sandpiper** on the 14th preceded the first autumn **Redwing** (30) on the 16th and on the 18th there was a **Peregrine** and a **Ring-necked Parakeet**. The last 3 **Swallow** of the year were seen on the 19th then on the 20th there was yet another **Peregrine** and another **Stonechat**. The 25th produced maximum count of **Wigeon** (11) for the year and a late **Chiffchaff**.

November; the first **Fieldfare** (3) of the autumn returned at the relatively late date of the 7th and then another a **Peregrine** appeared on the 9th. A **Green Sandpiper** was reported on the 14th and there were 14 **Redpoll** on the 20th

flowed by a **Water Rail** on the 22nd and 28th. There were records of **Peregrine** on the 21st and 25th and a **Yellowhammer** was reported flying over on the 22nd and the first wintering **Chiffchaff** was seen on the on the 25th.

December; this month is often relatively slow, but this year it started well with a **Water Rail** on the 4th followed by single records of **Peregrine** on the 4th, 17th and 20th. Two **Water Rail** on the 14th provided the only record of more than a single bird for the year and a single **Green Sandpiper** was present on the 4th, 5th, 12th and 20th. A **Tawny Owl** was heard in Garden Wood on the 17th and Colney Heath Common produced 15 **Redpoll** on the 18th and c60 the following day. Nine **Little Egret** on the 23rd was the best count for the year and further wintering **Chiffchaffs** were seen on the 23rd and 28th. The year came to a close with a female **Goldeneye** on the 28th, 4 **Great Black-backed Gull** also on the 28th and a superb drake **Smew** seen on the Main Fishing lake on the 29th.

In summary, the year produced just 129 species – the first time that the year total has fallen below 132 species since regular reporting in 2004. Despite the low total there were still 7 species recorded this year that were not seen in 2014 – **Goldeneye, Smew, Marsh Harrier, Ruff, Black Tern, Sandwich Tern** and **Barn Owl**. Conversely there were 10 species seen in 2014 that did not put in an appearance this year – **Brent Goose, Goosander, Black-necked Grebe, Knot, Temminck's Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Tern, Redstart, Marsh Tit** and **Brambling**. There were no additions to the Tyttenhanger list this year – which still stands at 200 species.

Taxonomy and Nomenclature

As with previous reports the systematic order that we have followed is close to that of the British Ornithologists Union (BOU); this and the nomenclature for common names follows that used in the Hertfordshire Bird Report.

Submission of Records

Observers are encouraged to submit their records for the site (and for Hertfordshire generally) *via* the Herts Bird Club website (<http://www.hertsbirdclub.org.uk>) and to report sightings of interest through the Hertsbirding Yahoo! Email Group. Such reporting will ensure that records are passed to the County Recorder and disseminated quickly to the local birding community. Records submitted to the BTO's Birdtrack system also flow through to the County Recorder and so are also captured for this report. We encourage everybody to submit their records through one of the above routes. Updates and the latest bird news from Tyttenhanger can also be found on the Twitter page at @TytGP.

Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation

Data Collection

This is the 8th year for which we have had access to all of the records from both the Herts Bird Club database and Birdtrack. As shown in the table below the numbers of observers has been reasonably consistent in the last few years – but the number of records has been rising steadily and was just below 10,000 this year- the highest since 2008.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of Records	11,415	9,498	6,968	7,105	5,548	7,087	8,783	9,734
Number of Recorders	57	49	76	72	58	60	55	55

For much of the data cited prior to 2004 we have used the Hertfordshire Bird Reports from the period 1983-2003 as the primary source of data. These data have come from the main body of the text of those reports and also from the included WeBs counts. It is worth noting that the WeBs records between 1987 and 1997 were supplemented by additional counts from the same month if they were greater than those made during the WeBs survey. We have made use of these data where available.

Analysis

As the data made available to us comes from different sources there is a certain amount of duplication. Initial analysis for each species involves the removal of duplicated data, re-ordering and in some instances re-coding. The basic unit for most species is the daily maximum count. Depending on the species, calculation of parameters such as number of days-recorded, monthly maxima, maximum counts and bird days (see below for an explanation of some of these terms) are then made from the sorted data and the relevant tables and figures constructed. In some instances, we also calculate the number of records that have been generated for a particular species. When this is done records from the same day are not removed unless they are an obvious duplication (which can occur with data entered through two different routes i.e. the HBC website and Birdtrack) and records ascribed to discrete observers are retained. We refer to this statistic as the Total Record Number.

Statistics used

As indicated above, the basic unit from which we work for each species is the Daily Maximum Count. The parameters calculated from the Daily Maximum Count and used in our analyses are outlined below:

Daily maximum Count – the maximum count for a particular species on any given day.

Days-recorded – the number of days that a species is recorded in a given period (month, year etc.). This measure is independent of the number of individuals recorded and is used primarily for species that show little variation in the Daily Maximum Count e.g. resident species such as Grey Wagtail and Kingfisher.

Bird days – Bird Days are the sum of the Daily Maximum Count in a given period. This measure is therefore a function of not only Days-recorded but also the (maximum) number of individuals recorded in a given period and is used for species that can show a large variation in Daily Maximum Count e.g. migrant species that can come through in variable numbers such as Yellow Wagtail or Dunlin. In the current report, for the analysis of some data prior to 2004 we have tended to use a conservative approach to the calculation of bird days. This is because many of the records have been drawn directly from the Hertfordshire Bird Report where statements such as “two birds present between 19th and 29th March” are frequently encountered. In such a case, we have taken the approach that both birds were present on the 19th and 29th and at least one day in between i.e. as 10 days might warrant enough gap to indicate separate birds/different records. Conservatively this would therefore be a minimum of 6 bird days (2 birds, three dates) – but would only constitute a single record (if we believed all sightings had a high probability of being the same birds

In addition to the above statistics that are generated from the Daily Maximum Count, we also occasionally calculate the following parameters – Records and Total Record Number.

Records – this is a term that we have tried to avoid over the last few years as there has been some confusion as to what a “record” may entail. For the purposes of this report we have used the term “record” to refer to any series of sightings for which we believe there is a high probability that the same bird(s) was/were involved in each sighting and was probably continuously present on-site or frequently using the site during the period of observation. This definition sounds quite vague – and wordy - but rather than lose some records in any subsequent analysis, the above provides a convenient way of still using the data. For instance, a species may be referred to in the Hertfordshire Bird report as “2 birds present in April and May”, and so with the definition above we would still be able to show two birds present in both of these months even though other details are lacking. Note, as outlined above under “Bird Days”, long-staying birds are treated as a single record – irrespective of the total number of days that they were present.

Total Record Number – this is occasionally calculated for a given species/month etc and is generated from all individual records for that species after the removal of obvious duplicates. While it is an overestimate of the number of bird’s present, it may offer insights into the way that certain species may or may not be recorded.

Finally, for some data e.g. spring arrival dates, monthly maxima or daily maximum count it is sometimes useful to have an estimate of the “average” or “middle” for those data over the period of reporting/across all of the available data. The following are therefore used as indicators of the “middle” of the data:

Mean – the numerical average of the data available. We have generally tended to avoid this measure as it can be very susceptible to outliers e.g. a very late arrival date for one year or an exceptional count will skew the parameter significantly. However, in some instances it is a useful measure and we do occasionally use it.

Median - when the number of data points is small (and 10 years is still a small amount of data!), the median is an alternative measure to the mean (or average) to indicate a measure of the central tendency of the data. The median is useful when there may be outliers in the data that can skew the mean and therefore bias the mid-point of the data. We have generally tended to use this measure in the current report in preference to the mean.

Presentation

Continuing on from last year, in the systematic section of the report the scientific name of each species is followed by three numbers. As shown below these numbers are in the order of the “Number of years the species has occurred in the last 5 years” and the “Maximum count on-site” for that species.

Number of years recorded in the last 5
Number of years recorded in the last 12 (since 2004)

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (5, 12, 56)

Maximum on-site count

As previously mentioned we are starting to get the maximum “carrying capacity” for many of our tables with 12 years of data. For this reason, we are beginning the process of updating these tables to include the last 10 years of data in addition to the minimum, maximum and median values for each parameter for the period 2004 to the present. In the current report this summary format has been used for species up to Water Rail. It is expected that the remainder of species will be moved to this format in subsequent years.

In addition, below the header for each species are the current on-site status summaries. The following is a guideline to how several generalised terms have been applied in these descriptions:

Rare visitor – has occurred on less than three occasions

Infrequent visitor – has occurred on three to ten occasions

Irregular visitor – has occurred on 10-20 occasions

Frequent visitor - has occurred on more than 20 occasions – but is not expected to occur in the majority of years

Regular visitor - occurs in most years.

Finally, a comment about breeding species. A number of species undoubtedly breed, or attempt to breed on-site, each year - although in most cases there is no data that indicates their success. For the purposes of this report (and those of previous years) we have attempted to separate “possible breeding” from “confirmed breeding” – and have generally only tended to use the latter term. Towards this end the following criteria are used to designate “confirmed breeding.”

- Adult seen carrying food and/or faecal sac to/from a nest
- Young birds in the nest
- Adults and newly fledged birds seen together.

In the latter case, the possibility usually exists that these birds may have bred either on-site or just off-site and so this caveat is usually applied to these observations where appropriate.

Corrections and Addendum to the 2014 Report

Redshank: The table for this species table previously indicated there was no breeding in 2010. This was incorrect and the entry has now been amended along with the statement that the last breeding occurred in 2007 – which should read 2010.

Pochard, Tawny Owl – the available data for these species have been revised and the summary tables have been updated accordingly. This is part of the on-going process to digitize all records from 2004-2007 and to bring them in line with data available from 2008 onwards.

Contributors and Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the records that observers have made available to the broader birding community and so first thanks must go to them. A large debt of thanks is also due to Alan Gardiner who made the Tyttenhanger records from the Herts Bird Club database and Birdtrack available to us – without which there would have been many serious “gaps” in the current report. Thanks also to Marcus Brew for permission to use vignette of the Sand Martins (previously the cover illustration for the 1996 and 2004 reports). The cover picture and other graphic images in this report were produced by Peter Christian; photographs are individually acknowledged.

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The above is a list of all of those people who contributed records either directly or through the Herts Bird Club. Where records have been credited to specific observers these are shown in the text. Apologies if you submitted records for 2015 and your name doesn't appear on the above list - but please let us know so that we can make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (5, 12, 56)

Resident through much of the year and breeds on site in small numbers (1-2 pairs); first recorded breeding in 1996.

Three broods again this year with six young noted on the 15th May, four on 27th June and two on the 4th July. Numbers were similar to last with just three double figure counts and a maximum of 13 birds on the 30th December. A summary of monthly maxima data from the last 12 years are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2015	4	2	12	9	12*	9*	7*	5	3	7	7	13
Median 2004-15	11	6	6	5	9	9	9	8	11	12	9	12
Maximum 2004-15	18	23	12	11	18	14	12	14	20	24	28	26
Minimum 2004-15	3	2	4	3	5	6	3	5	3	4	4	2

* Includes young birds

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (5, 12, 30)

Birds of presumed feral origin appear most years.

This was another good year for this species with birds noted in all months of the year except November. Birds were recorded on a total of 83 days (64 in 2013 and 69 in 2014). There were 23 counts of 10 or more birds (28 in 2013 and 18 in 2014) and a maximum of 19 birds on the 3rd August. There were no confirmed breeding records this year. A summary of days-recorded, bird days and counts of 10 or more birds for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	31	21	71	118	87	56	60	64	59	84	6	118	60
Bird days	8	6	23	26	20	17	30	28	27	19	2	30	20
Counts of ≥10	0	0	11	50	36	7	21	28	18	23	0	50	15

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (5, 12, 400)

Common throughout the year with large moulting flocks present in the autumn. Usually breeds on site.

Numbers were similar to most years with the usual peaks in August and September. Breeding was slightly better this year with six broods reported in June compared to 5 in 2013 and 3 in 2014). The maximum for the year was of 220 birds on the 30th August. Monthly maxima data from the last 12 years are summarised in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2015	30	38	50	25	48*	63*	55	220	198	101	45	63
Median 2004-15	65	40	46	17	41	43	62	206	216	92	54	49
Maximum 2004-15	98	91	76	28	62	63	77	304	400	315	116	91
Minimum 2004-15	19	16	15	9	18	15	28	125	118	37	38	37

* Includes young birds

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (3, 8, 12)

Frequent visitor with birds probably coming from the Category C population in Bedfordshire.

There was only one record of a single bird on the 1st January - probably the same bird seen at the end of 2014 - this is still only the third record outside the June-December window. A summary of days-recorded for the last 10 years is shown

below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	3	1	7	0	11	2	0	0	20	1	0	20	2

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (4, 10; 10)

Infrequent visitor

There was just one record again this year with three birds noted on 5th September. A summary of days-recorded for the period 2004-15 are shown in the table below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	0	5	12	18	41	0	1	4	1	1	0	41	2

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (5,12, 12)

Regular visitor in small numbers. Has bred in the past and the presence of pairs during the breeding season indicates it may breed again either on-site or close by.

A significant increase in days-recorded (26) compared to the last 2 years (9) – although it would appear that there was no real intent to breed on-site again this year. A bird on the 6th January started off the year with the next bird being seen on the 27th March. Five birds on 3rd April was a significant count but they were only present for that day. Two birds were present through much of April/early May but there are no reports of attempts to breed. The end of the year was characterised by the presence of a juvenile bird from the 22nd September through to the 18th October. A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	9	54	74	86	93	50	52	9	9	26	9	93	51
Bird days	17	121	175	198	184	59	81	11	11	37	11	198	70

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Mandarin Aix galericulata (3, 7, 3)

Irregular visitor.

A single female flew in to the Main Pit on 15th June. A summary of days-recorded for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	1	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	1

Wigeon *Anas Penelope* (5, 12, 77)

Usually occurs through the winter months in small numbers with additional passage migrants in spring and autumn.

There were 27 days-recorded this year with 13 in the first winter period and 14 in the second with the last record in the first winter period on the 13th March and the first in the second winter period on the 2nd October. The maximum count for the year was of 11 birds on the 20th October. A summary of data from the last 12 years is presented in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2015	7	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	6	4
Median 2004-15	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	3	6

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	26	28	41	36	42	21	12	42	35	27	12	42	28

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Pintail *Anas acuta* (4, 10, 10)

Frequent visitor.

A single male on the 24th February (Steve Blake and Simon West) was the only record for the year. A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	8	1
Bird days	3	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	12	1	0	13	2

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* (5, 12, 35)

Frequently recorded; breeding infrequently proven.

There were no breeding records this year. Overall numbers were much the same this year in the first half of the year but then a site record of 35 birds were recorded on the 20th August, which was followed by records counts for the period 2004-2015 in October, November and December. A summary of monthly maxima data from the last 12 years are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	18	12	22	9	5	24	15	35	8	23	18	32
Median 2004-2015*	12	12	14	9	6	14	8	13	11	9	8	13
Maximum 2004-2015*	23	18	25	18	14	34	29	35	25	23	18	32

*Median and Maximum of the monthly maximum for the period 2004-14

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (5, 12, 250)

Common resident present throughout the year. Birds have also been released for wildfowling in the past.

A poor breeding season for this species with only 4 broods noted across the site compared with 7 in 2014 and 6 in 2013. Numbers were slightly up again on last year, but overall still below the median for the period 2004-2015. The maximum for the year was of 165 on the 6th December - which is also a December record. Summary data from the last 12 years are shown in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. Broods	2	2	15	6	7	10	10	9	2	6	7	4

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	38	22	34	23	58	62	24	70	100	81	80	165
Median 2004-2015**	58	52	31	35	58	61	40	69	99	81	79	97
Maximum 2004-2015**	168	101	83	81	92	128	101	193	250	152	146	165

* Includes young birds; **Median and Maximum of the monthly maximum for the period 2004-15

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (5, 12, 54)

Commonly encountered spring migrant and winter visitor that may occasionally breed.

Days-recorded were the same as last year (103 in both years) but with a drop-in bird-days with only 452 this year compared to 624 in 2014, reflecting the generally smaller flocks that were present this year. As in the previous 3 years, birds were noted in all months of the year and the maximum count for the year was of 18 on the 16th December. A summary of days-recorded, bird days, maximum counts and counts of 10 or more birds for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	29	81	115	89	71	57	59	72	103	103	22	115	72
Bird days	62	289	315	214	245	134	343	763	624	452	60	763	267
Max. Count	7	15	17	14	13	6	24	54	28	18	6	54	15
Counts of ≥10	0	7	3	3	3	0	12	25	24	9	0	25	3

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Teal *Anas crecca* (5, 12, 85)

Frequent visitor and passage migrant. Highest numbers usually observed in the first winter period/early spring.

First year on record in which birds were seen in every month, although overall numbers were down on 2014 as the flock sizes were generally smaller i.e. 15 days this year with counts of 10 or more compared to 40 in 2014. The maximum count for the year was of 23 birds. A summary of daily maxima for the period 2004-15 is shown in Figure 2. A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown in the table below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	75	106	144	135	101	79	74	77	99	96	74	144	98
Bird days	855	449	605	1041	1145	386	500	741	1056	535	386	1145	597

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

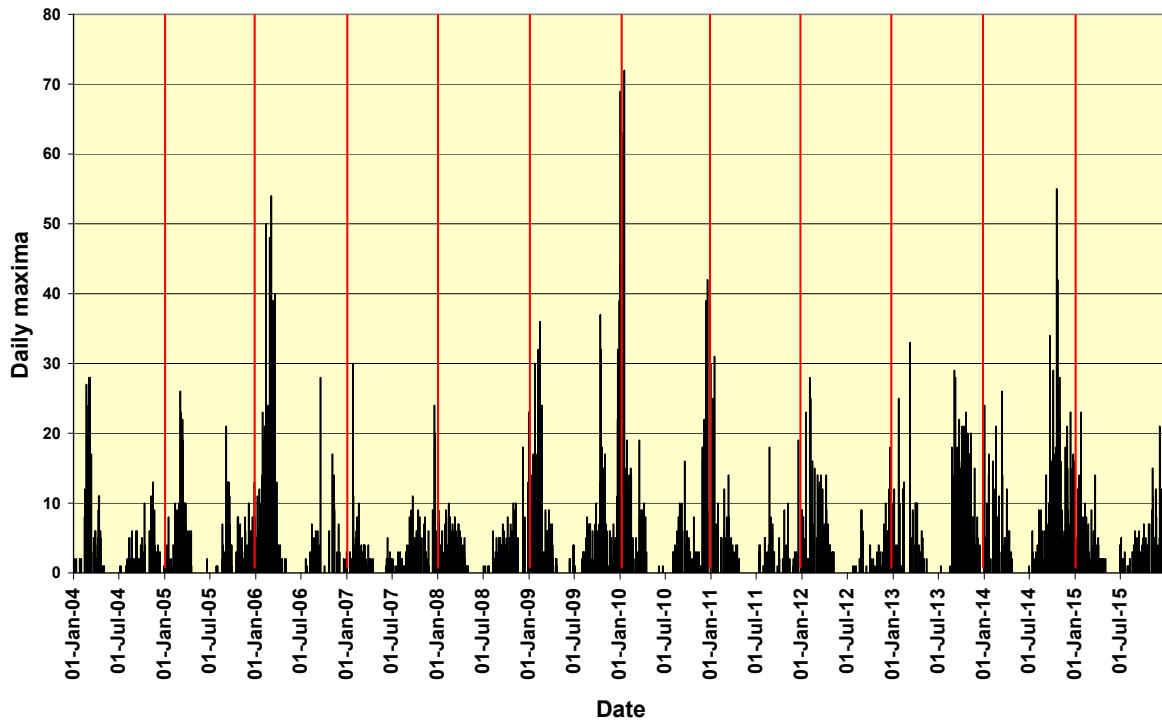


Figure 2. Summary of daily maxima for Teal *Anas crecca* during the period 2004-2015. The red lines show the divisions between years.

Pochard *Aythya farina* (5, 12, 132)

Reasonably common winter visitor.

Reported in ten months of the year in small numbers -not recorded in May and September - with a maximum of 15 on the 2nd August; the blank drawn in September was the first for this month in the period 2004-15. A summary of days-recorded, Bird days and maximum counts for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	10	83	162	112	94	84	53	47	70	62	10	162	66
Bird days	35	540	885	373	376	312	171	126	216	204	35	885	210
Max. Count	10	20	31	19	20	27	12	18	11	15	10	31	19

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (5, 12, 95)

Relatively common species that breeds in some years.

Overall, numbers were slightly higher this year than last, but in contrast there were no confirmed breeding records. The maximum count for the year was of 50 birds on the 1st January and all in all this was an average year for this species. A summary of data from last 12 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	50	44	41	28	14	8	15	15	5	8	25	26
Median 2004-2015**	43	47	37	29	16	10	16	16	13	16	23	26
Maximum 2004-2015**	59	74	54	47	30	41	37	38	34	50	42	45

* Includes young birds; **Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. Broods	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	2	2	3	2	0

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (4, 10, 5)*Regular visitor.*

Nice to have this species back after last year's blank, with a female on the 28th December (Steve Blake and Ricky Flesher). A summary of days-recorded and bird days from the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Days-recorded	1	0	2	25	8	2	1	0	1	1	0	25	1
Bird days	1	0	2	31	10	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Smew *Mergus albellus* (2; 2, 4)*Infrequent visitor.*

There was one record for the year with a drake seen at 4pm on the main pit on the 29th December (Terry Smith and Ricky Flesher). This is the 7th record for the site - all records are shown below.

Redhead in 16th Nov 1997
 Two pairs on 24th Dec 1999
 Single bird (no sex given) 3rd Feb 2000
 Male from 30th Nov to 14th Dec 1997
 Redhead on the 28th & 29th Dec 1999
 Male on 11th Jan 2012
 Female on 29th Dec 2015

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (5, 12, 200)*Resident, previously supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm; appears to be declining*

There was another drop in the number of days-recorded this year (22 compared to 32 in 2014 and 30 in 2013) with a maximum of just 9 birds on the 23rd August and 6th September. Birds were noted in ten months of the year but were not recorded in October or December, Breeding was reported again with 2 adults with 1 chick seen on the 2nd August. A summary of maximum counts from the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Max. Count	100	200	50	50	70	71	44	6	10	9	6	200	60

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (5, 12, 50)*Resident, previously supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm; appears to be declining*

Reported in 10 months of the year - in very small numbers - with a maximum of just 4 birds on the 28th December (not reported in February and August). There were only 32 days-recorded for the year and no breeding records again. A summary of maximum counts from the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Max. Count	50	20	12	13	15	20	17	10	7	4	4	50	16

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (5; 12, 46)*Present throughout the year with small numbers of pairs breeding.*

A very good breeding season for this species with 6 broods noted between May/June and July/August. For most months numbers were up on the 2004-15 median and a maximum of 38 birds were recorded on the 8th March - which is the second highest count in the period 2004 – 2015 (the highest was 39 on 26th May 2013). A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	14	20	38	24	28	14	13	20	18	17	20	32
Median 2004-2015**	9	15	20	20	18	17	15	20	19	19	19	14
Maximum 2004-2015**	17	22	38	30	39	27	32	29	23	29	36	32

* Includes young birds; **Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. Broods	2	0	0	4	5	8	6	6	3	3	2	6

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (5; 12, 16)

Regular breeding species present throughout much of the year – often absent in the winter months.

A poor year for this species, with no breeding records, only 18 days-recorded, just 2 counts of more than 1 bird and a maximum of only 3 birds on 17th May. A summary of bird days and number of broods noted from the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Min*	Max*	Med*
Bird days	8	120	140	296	151	75	46	39	23	21	8	296	43
No. Broods	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	1

*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-15.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (5; 12, 94)

A common winter visitor with birds present through much of the year.

Present throughout the year in good numbers with most months producing counts substantially greater than the median for the period 2004 – 2015. The maximum for the year was of 64 birds on the 12th December with May, August, September and October all setting new monthly maxima. A summary of the monthly maxima data for the period 2004 – 2015 is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	20	30	24	16	10	5	9	20	15	22	34	64
Median 2004-2015*	18	15	13	10	6	4	5	7	7	8	22	23
Maximum 2004-2015*	42	62	34	25	10	9	11	20	15	22	59	91

*Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-15.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (5, 12; 9)

Very irregular visitor in the past with the first record in 1999; becoming more frequent as this species continues to spread through the UK as a breeding species.

A big increase in both the number of days-recorded and bird days making this far and away the best year we have had for this species on site. It will be interesting to see if and when breeding on site occurs given that we have an active Heronry (albeit small) and that there have now been several reports of birds sitting next to the Grey Heron nests! Breeding aside, there was a maximum of 9 birds on the 23rd December – which is equal to the previous highest count. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days Rec'd	16	7	5	2	31	12	21	29	51	84	74	140
Bird Days	17	8	7	2	42	12	34	49	58	105	88	262

Interestingly, it was previously identified that the peak of days-recorded and counts tended to be in the July/August window. And although this year's numbers show a similar pattern (see below) is also notable that there were good numbers in December. It will be interesting to see if this pattern continues into the beginning of 2016.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird Days 2015	10	8	22	17	12	3	31	58	18	9	6	68

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (5, 11, 26)

Present throughout the year with numbers generally on the increase as a result of the small breeding colony that has recently established.

There were up to 8 nests occupied this year, with at least 4 broods reported – three in May and one in August. Unfortunately, no counts of the numbers of young were reported from any of the broods noted! Breeding aside, the maximum count for the year was of 14 birds on the 6th April. A summary of monthly maxima data from the period 2004-2015 is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	5	10	12	14	8	12	4	7	4	6	3	10
Median 2004-2015*	7	6	6	7	7	9	6	8	9	5	6	7
Maximum 2004-2015*	12	19	12	14	14	14	20	26	23	18	8	11

* Includes young birds; **Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-15

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4, 9, 1)

Regular passage migrant

There was one record this year of a bird seen from the hide from 10.30am till 10.33am heading South on the 16th May (Ricky Flesher and Steve Blake).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (5, 12, 5)

Frequent visitor – becoming much more common as the English population continues to burgeon; recent breeder on-site.

Breeding was suspected again this year with birds seen carrying nesting material into Garden Wood in March but was subsequently not confirmed. The reporting frequency this year was 46.2% (recorded on 42 dates from a total of 91 visits by one regular observer) – which is considerably down on last year's 69.3% despite the more modest decrease in days-recorded as shown in the table below. Nevertheless, a plot of recording frequency against days-recorded for the period 2003-2015 indicates that the very high recording frequency for 2014 is probably more out of trend than the figure for the current year. The maximum for the year was of 5 birds on the 22nd May, which is also the largest on-site count to date. A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003-2015 for this and the other common birds of prey on-site is shown in Figure 3 and a summary of Days-recorded since 2004 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days Rec'd	2	1	9	7	5	13	36	57	95	138	143	121

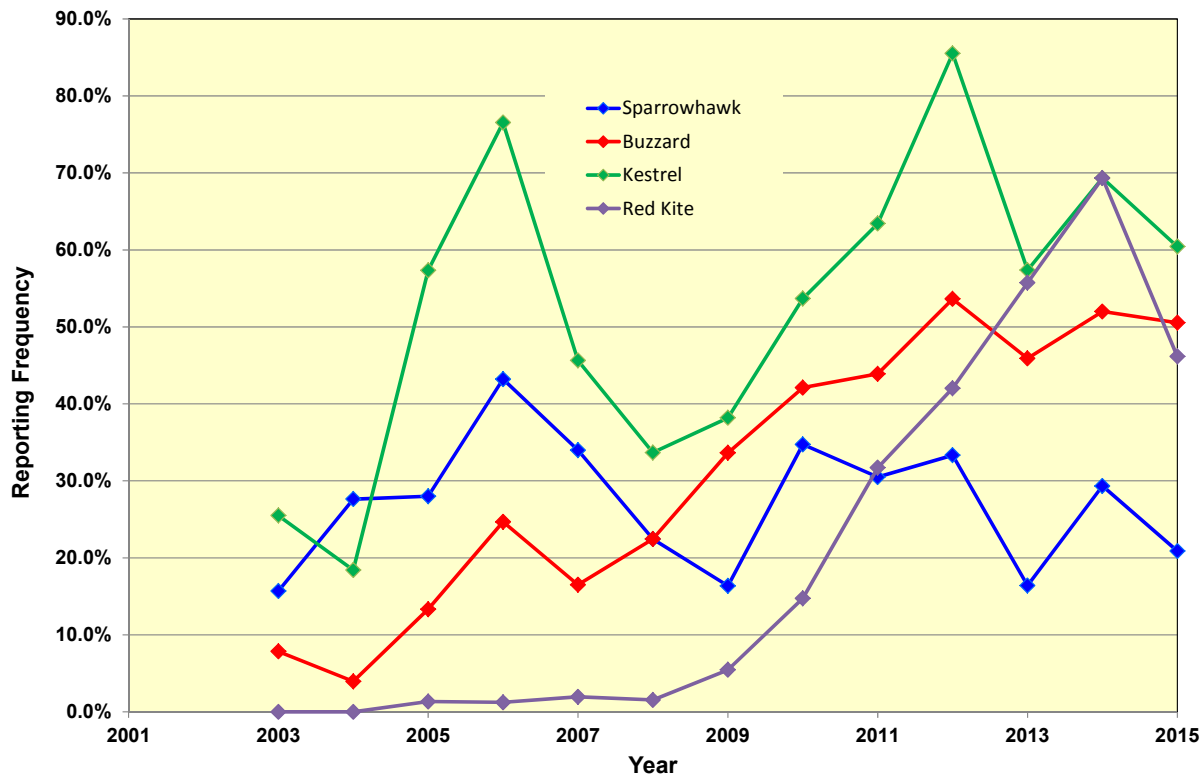


Figure 3. Summary of recording frequency for the more common birds of prey at Tythenhanger during the period 2003-2015. Recording frequency is calculated from data generated by a single observer for each species-year combination and is based on the number of days-recorded for the year as a percentage of the number of visits. Note only single observer records have been used where the observer is known to record all sightings of the species involved.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (5, 12, 4)

Present throughout the year. Undoubtedly breeds locally but usually not confirmed.

Courtship and display were noted on the 1st April but there was no further evidence of breeding. There was a maximum count of 3 birds on the 5th August and the reporting frequency for this species was 20.9% (recorded on 19 dates from a total of 91 visits for one regular recorder) – which is a little below to the long-term median (28.0%) median for the last 5 years (29.3%). A summary of the recording frequency on-site during the period 2003 – 2015 for this and the three other common birds of prey is shown in Figure 3.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (2, 6, 1)*Irregular visitor.*

There was a female/Immature seen on the 23rd September (Steve Blake) which is the thirteenth record for the site. A summary of all the records are shown below.

1991	1996	1996	2000	2004	2004	2007	2009	2009	2009	2010	2011	2015
28 th	13 th	11 th	12 th	17 th	28 th	11 th	18 th	6 th	23 rd	7 th	14 th	23 rd
May	Apr	May	Aug	May	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Aug	May	May	Sep

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	4	2	0	0	0

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (5, 12, 10)*Local resident becoming increasingly more common in Hertfordshire and more frequently observed at Tyttenhanger.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 8 birds on the 19th September, and the recording frequency for this species was down to 50% this year for one regular recorder (recorded on 46 dates from a total of 91 visits). A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003– 2015 for this and the three other common birds of prey on-site is in shown in Figure 3. A summary of records for this species from the last 12 years in shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded 2015	6	7	11	12	19	7	6	15	10	8	7	5
Median 2004-2015**	5	4	10	10	6	4	4	7	7	5	3	3
Maximum 2004-2015**	7	8	14	15	11	8	7	16	13	9	5	6

**Median and Maximum values of the days-recorded for each month in the period 2004-15.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* (5, 12, 2)*Regular visitor.*

There were sixteen days-recorded this year all of single birds apart from 2 on the 4th September; which all-in-all adds up to a good year for this species. Notably the record of 2 birds in September is only the second record of more than one bird in the period 2004-15 – the other being on the 20th June 2011. A summary of Days-recorded for the period 2004-15 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	6	4	2	6	5	7	12	24	12	10	8	16

Of the sixteen days-recorded this year 1 was in January, 1 in March, 1 in May, 1 in August, 4 in September, 2 in October, 3 in November and 3 in December. The distribution by month of the 112 days-recorded between 2004 and 2015 are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded 2004-15	14	6	10	4	3	5	5	12	17	10	11	15

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (5, 12, 5)*Passage migrant and summer visitor.*

It was a very average year for this species which was recorded on only 26 days for a total of just 32 bird days. There was a maximum of five birds on the 7th June which equals the site maxima. The first record for the year was on the 2nd May (Median – 1st May) and the last record for the year was on the 11th October (Median – 27th September). A summary of records for the period 2004-15 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	19	23	35	25	46	45	30	24	26	28	38	26
Bird days	25	34	37	31	72	75	46	32	30	35	43	32
Earliest Date*	1 st Apr	26 th Apr	28 th Apr	5 th May	30 th Apr	28 th Apr	6 th May	24 th Apr	5 th May	8 th May	21 st Apr	2 nd May
Latest Date*	11 th Sep	17 th Sep	24 th Sep	23 rd Sep	25 th Sep	29 th Sep	7 th Oct	2 nd Oct	21 st Sep	7 th Oct	15 th Oct	11 th Oct

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (5, 12, 5)*Birds of both sexes present throughout the year. Undoubtedly breeds locally but usually not confirmed.*

Present throughout the year with an occupied nest noted on the 10th July when at least one chick was noted to be calling

and was visible at the nest-hole. The reporting frequency for this year was 60.4 % (recorded on 55 dates from a total of 91 visits for one regular recorder). A summary of the on-site recording frequency for during the period 2003 – 2015 for this and the three other common birds of prey is shown in Figure 3.

Coot *Fulica atra* (5, 12, 214)

Has seen large fluctuations in status over the years; currently a common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were at least 12 broods noted in June which represents another good breeding year for this species. Numbers were generally up in the first six months of the year on the 2004-15 median but down in the last 6 months – with the exception of December. The maximum count for the year was 155 birds on the 17th May. A summary of monthly maxima data for the period 2004-2015 is shown below along with a summary of brood counts for the same period.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2015	114	148	114	63	155*	80	40	30	60	41	60	102
Median 2004-2015**	84	89	56	56	66	73	67	98	72	47	63	90
Maximum 2004-2015**	148	148	120	81	155	171	207	150	214	178	178	170

* Includes young birds. **Median and maximum counts each month in the period 2004-15.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of Broods	0	0	3	20	12	23	21	14	7	10	16	12

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (5; 12, 69)

Common resident with a few pairs breeding in most years.

Breeding number increased slightly this year with 5 broods noted in May/June and August compared to 4 in 2013 and 2014. Otherwise, numbers were like those of the species above i.e. generally up in the first six months of the year on the 2004-15 median but down in the last 6 months – with the exception of December. The largest count of the year was of 60 birds on the 6th December, which is only the third count of 50 or more birds on site. A summary of the monthly maxima for the last 12 years is shown below along with data from this year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2015	34	39	40	5	31	15	9	15	15	12	19	60
Median 2004-2015**	11	11	14	10	10	10	9.5	13	13	20	17	11
Maximum 2004-2015**	39	39	40	29	31	20	27	40	50	47	69	60

* Includes young birds. **Median and maximum counts each month in the period 2004-15.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (5, 12, 4)

Regular winter visitor in the recent past.

A decrease in the numbers of Days-recorded this year with only 8 records all of singles apart from 2 birds on the 14th December which was also the maxima for the year, the records were split equally between the two winter periods (4-4). A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	4	12	5	8	54	46	28	11	14	4	15	8
Bird days	2	1	1	1	4	4	2	1	2	1	2	2
Earliest Date*	N/A	1 st Apr	4 th Mar	3 rd Mar	21 st Apr	6 th Apr	6 th Mar	15 th Mar	8 th Apr	N/A	16 th Mar	12 th Feb
Latest Date*	19 th Nov	18 th Nov	23 rd Dec	N/A	31 st Oct	11 th Nov	1 st Nov	15 th Oct	27 th Oct	11 th Dec	26 th Nov	22 nd Nov

* The latest date in spring (Latest date) and earliest date in autumn/winter (Earliest Date). The record from 14th August 2014 is not treated as an early return date, rather as an atypical wandering bird.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (4, 8, 8)

Infrequent visitor.

There was one record for the year of two birds on the 16th February on the main pit (L.G.R. Evans). Interestingly this is the first record for February and only the 15th on-site. A summary of data for the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	2	1
Maximum Count	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	8	2	0	4	2

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (5, 12, 6)

Regular summer visitor, has bred in the recent past.

The first bird of the year was seen on the 7th March and was joined by a second on the 27th March; both birds were then

seen until the 8th May, when only one bird was seen for a week. Then on the 15th May both birds were reported again and an occupied nest was reported on the 22nd May from the pumpkin/maize field - with eggs seen on the 27th May. An adult with three chicks was seen on the 27th June but only a single chick was seen from the 6th July onwards. The adults and their offspring were then seen together up to the 22nd August, with the last bird of the year was seen on the 30th August. This extended series of records produced a total of 166 bird days – the second highest total in the period 2004-15 behind the 228 of 2010. August also produced a total of 10 days-recorded outside of the March-July period in which this species is normally recorded. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	5	2	30	50	76	67	84	60	57	71	60	80
Early Date	14 th May	26 th Feb	6 th May	28 th Mar	6 th Mar	6 th Mar	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	3 rd Mar	7 th Mar	22 nd Feb	7 th Mar
Late Date	16 th Jun	23 rd Jul	20 th Jul	20 th Jul	23 rd Jul	18 th Jul	22 nd Jul	15 th Jul	29 th Aug	28 th Jul	12 th Jul	30 th Aug

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (5, 12, 15)

Passage migrant with a number of birds staying to breed in previous years.

This species continues to decline on-site with just 9 Days-recorded and 12 bird days this year. The maximum for the year was three birds on the 18th April. A summary of data from 2004 onwards is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Earliest Date	24 th Jan	16 th Jan	7 th Feb	24 th Feb	23 rd Feb	23 rd Feb	5 th Mar	8 th Feb	19 th Feb	10 th May	30 th Mar	2 nd Apr
Latest Date	1 st Oct	18 th Sep	17 th Sep	6 th Oct	8 th Oct	29 th Aug	5 th Aug	30 th Jul	19 th Aug	29 th Aug	22 nd Nov	23 rd Aug
Days-recorded	91	111	93	101	94	67	51	29	36	11	18	9
Bird Days	360	361	287	199	167	105	65	42	60	17	24	12
Maximum Count	12	11	10	5	5	3	2	3	4	5	3	3

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (5, 12, 18)

Passage migrant and former breeding species.

The first record of the year was of three birds on the 9th April with between one and four birds subsequently reported until the end of June. Numbers increased through July with six birds noted on the 3rd and six to nine birds between the 5th and 8th and then two on the 11th July before the last record of the year on the 9th August. Two to four juvenile's birds were seen between the 3rd and 8th July - which we believe were probably hatched on Coursers Road Gravel Pits. Overall this was a relatively good year for this species as shown by the summary of data from the last 12 years shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Earliest Date	16 th Mar	19 th Mar	21 st Mar	30 th Mar	3 rd Apr	20 th Mar	30 th Mar	29 th Mar	2 nd Apr	15 th Apr	8 th Apr	9 th Apr
Latest Date	1 st Oct	1 st Aug	28 th Aug	1 st Aug	8 th Jul	4 th Sep	24 th Jul	10 th Aug	30 th Aug	17 th Aug	17 th Aug	9 th Aug
Days-recorded	84	80	75	41	31	43	50	76	71	53	73	60
Bird Days	393	326	277	65	50	63	69	179	133	88	146	152
Maximum Count	12	13	15	4	3	3	3	6	7	4	5	8

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (5, 12, 2160)

Regular winter visitor to the area becoming less common in the recent past.

Just 2 days-recorded this year – which is the lowest total in the period 2004-2015. Birds were seen in both winter periods with 15 birds on 2nd February and 6 on the 3rd October. A summary of the number of Days-recorded for the period 2008-15 (the period for which all records are digitised) is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of Days-recorded	18	17	13	24	7	7	11	2

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (5, 12, 2000)

Present through much of the year with large winter flocks using the Main Pit and surrounding fields. Several pairs nest on site most years but success is limited due to disturbance.

The only sign of breeding this year was of an occupied nest reported on the 28th April - but there were no further reports of the nest and/or young. With no young reported this is the only year in the period 2004-15 this has occurred – the previous low being just a single brood reported in 2008. Breeding aside, numbers were higher than the long-term median in many months of the year – and were near record numbers in February, June and July. The largest count of the year was of 600 birds on 15th February. A summary data for the period 2004-2015 are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2015	257	600	130	14	28	130	300	300	250	440	300	250
Median 2004-2015**	320	429	153	26	16	58	155	206	141	235	265	300
Maximum 2004-2015**	630	617	600	50	50	137	307	1000	313	700	400	554
Minimum 2004-2015^^	239	102	41	7	8	12	54	5	36	143	176	150

* Includes young birds. **Median, maximum and minimum counts each month in the period 2004-15.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (3, 9, 4)

Occasional visitor.

There was one record again this year of a single bird on the main pit on the 12th and 13th May. The bird was found on the 12th May (Steve Murray) and was still present the next day until 9am. This is the 22nd record for the site – and the 15th for the month of May.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (5, 12, 12)

Regular passage migrant and occasional visitor likely to turn up at any time of the year.

The first record for the year was of a single on the 30th April, there were then 4 days-recorded in May, 3 in June and 1 in both August and September. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	34	26	17	23	17	33	9	19	15	13	9	10
Bird Days	72	39	30	35	21	46	9	40	19	15	17	16
Max. Count	8	4	6	7	2	4	1	9	4	2	5	3

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* (4, 9, 26)

Infrequent visitor.

It was good to have this species back after a blank in 2014, with three days-recorded for the year with a single bird on the 26th and 29th August followed by 2 birds (a male and a juv/fem type) on 30th August. A summary of data from 2004 to 2015 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	0	2	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	5	0	3
Bird Days	0	2	3	1	1	0	3	4	1	14	0	4

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* (5, 9, 5)

Frequent visitor.

There was only one record this year of two birds in Garden Wood on the 23rd January (Steve Blake/Richard Coombes). A summary of records from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	0	3	0	0	3	5	5	2	2	1	2	1
Bird Days	0	3	0	0	3	5	7	5	7	1	2	2
Maximum Count	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	1	1	2

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (5, 12, 34)

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

This was a reasonable year for this species with 171 bird days for the year - 91 in the first winter period and 80 in the second. The latest spring record was on the 24th April and the earliest autumn record was on the 15th August – both of which are close to the median dates for 2004-15 of 24th April and 10th August respectively. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown in the table below and in Figure 4.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	88	141	132	105	529	597	155	85	111	118	308	177
Max. Count	8	7	8	8	27	34	7	5	11	13	34	19

Curlew *Numenius arquata* (5, 11, 19)

Irregular migrant.

One record again this year, with a single on the 3rd April (Mike Upstone and Richard Coombes). This is the 46th record for this species on-site and the 13th record in April – the peak time for this species as shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records *	0	3	7	13	2	6	2	8	0	2	1	1

* Number of records in the period 1986-2015 – does not include the 1995 records of birds in Winter/Spring (Herts Bird Report)

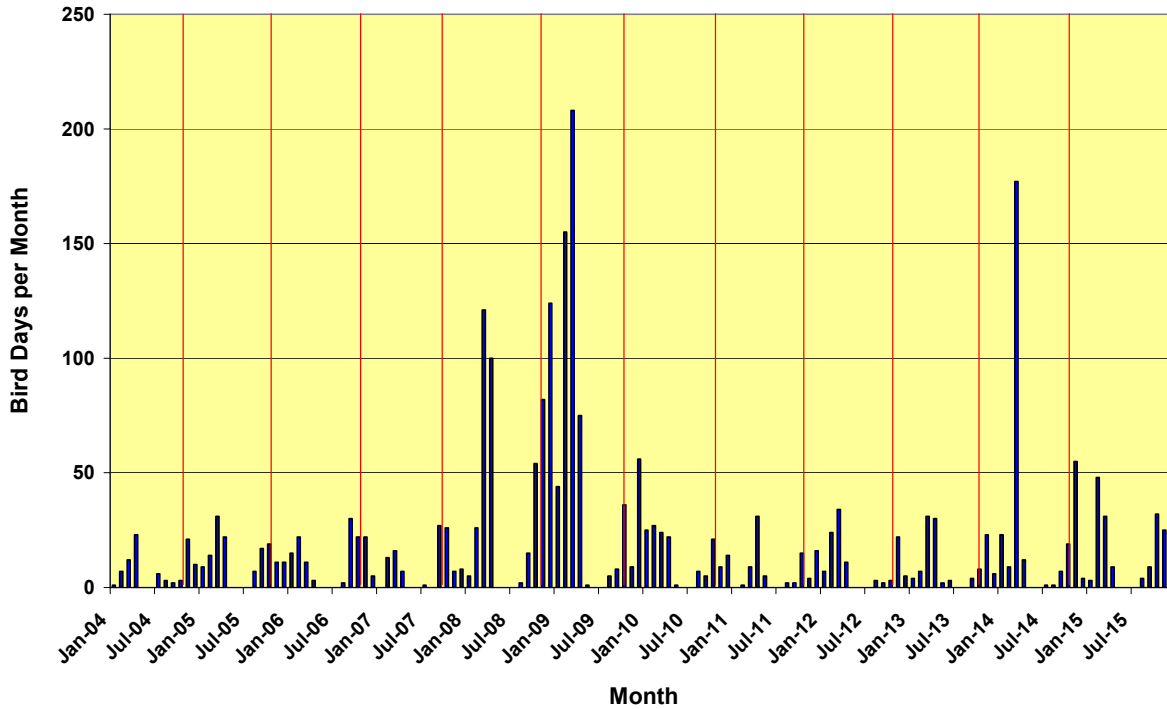


Figure 4. Bird days per month for Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*, for the period 2004-2015. The red lines show the divisions between years.

Redshank *Tringa totanus* (5, 12, 14)

Summer visitor with 2-3 pairs breeding in previous years.

Another poor year for this species with just 34 days-recorded and a maximum of only 4 birds (11th April). Again, there were no breeding records- with this species last breeding on site in 2010. A summary of data from 2004 to 2015 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	91	91	81	93	83	70	91	69	58	30	27	34
Bird Days	318	300	288	250	295	291	331	229	177	49	52	62
Early Date	3 rd Mar	15 th Mar	12 th Mar	16 th Feb	28 th Feb	23 rd Feb	22 nd Feb	22 nd Feb	29 th Feb	7 th Mar	8 th Mar	13 th Mar
Late Date	13 th Aug	29 th Oct	25 th Jun	15 th Sep	20 th Jul	28 th Aug	24 th Sep	24 th Sep	12 th Jul	10 th Sep	25 th Jun	9 th Jul
Broods	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (5, 12, 18)

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Three records for the year, all of single birds makes for another relatively poor year for this species. There was just one record in spring - on the 22nd April - and two in autumn on the 9th and 22nd August. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	36	6	51	9	9	6	7	9	2	3	5	3
Bird Days	58	10	104	9	14	8	11	20	2	8	6	3
Max. Count	5	2	5	1	3	2	3	9	1	3	2	1

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* (5, 11, 14)*Frequent winter visitor and passage migrant.*

A relatively poor year for this species with just 15 days-recorded (23 bird days) and a maximum count of 5 birds on 22nd August. Interestingly there was just a single record in the first half of the year (14th April) and the maximum count of 5 birds on the 22nd August was the highest count since August 2012. A summary of data from 2004 to 2015 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Late Spring Date	20 th Apr	27 th Apr	16 th Apr	7 th Apr	20 th Apr	18 th Apr	9 th Mar	4 th May	20 th Apr	20 th Apr	22 nd Apr	14 th Apr
Early Autumn Date	19 th Jun	8 th Jun	18 th Jun	8 th Jun	14 th Jun	13 th Jun	29 th Jun	27 th Jun	4 th Jul	18 th Jun	13 th Jun	15 th Aug
Days Record'd	158	190	159	106	120	69	19	40	120	67	27	15
Bird Days	420	538	501	184	191	105	22	47	175	95	33	23
Average Birds/Day*	2.66	2.83	3.15	1.74	1.59	1.52	1.16	1.18	1.46	1.42	1.22	1.53
Maximum Count	9	9	14	4	8	3	2	5	5	4	3	5

* Average number of birds on each day recorded.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (2, 4, 13)*Infrequent visitor.*

One record of a single bird first seen on the 14th August and subsequently seen on the 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 26th and 29th August. Presumably the same bird was also reported from Coursers Road Gravel Pits throughout the same period. There have been 21 records for this species since 1985 (17 prior to 2004) – 9 of these in August - with this year's individual also being the 3rd long-stayer in this month.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of Records per month	0	0	0	2	6	2	0	9	2	0	0	0

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos* (5, 12, 18)*Regular passage migrant, more frequent in autumn.*

With just 30 days-recorded and 43 bird days, numerically this was the second worst year behind 2010 in the period 2004-15. Despite the numbers, arrival (12th April) and departure dates (14th September) were close to the median dates for the period 2004-15 of 13th April and 26th September. A summary of data from 2004 to 2015 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	64	77	58	43	60	47	28	40	48	54	41	30
Bird Days	155	153	144	62	111	70	36	56	86	84	56	43
Earliest Date	17 th Apr	10 th Apr	15 th Apr	28 th Mar	13 th Apr	14 th Apr	23 rd Apr	23 rd Apr	11 th Apr	16 th Apr	30 th Mar	12 th Apr
Latest Date	10 th Oct	29 th Sep	5 th Sep	16 th Sep	25 th Sep	9 th Sep	24 th Sep	8 th Nov	28 th Sep	7 th Oct	27 th Oct	14 th Sep
Maximum	7	8	10	3	5	3	3	5	5	6	4	3

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (5, 11, 25)*Irregular passage migrant.*

A good year for this species with 6 records - one bird on the 24th June, nine birds circled the main pit and flew east on the 25th July, then singles on the 5th and 22nd August. Thirteen birds on the 28th August is the second largest on-site count (behind the 25 on the 2nd July 2007) and finally there were two birds on the 31st August. Summarised data from the last 12 years is shown in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	0	2	15	2	1	3	3	5	2	1	2	6
Bird Days	0	3	18	31	1	7	9	10	4	2	4	27

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded*	8	4	4	5	3	3	11	12	4	1	0	2

*Days-recorded in the period 2004-15.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (5, 12, 1900)

Common non-breeding species present virtually all year around.

An exceptional year for this species with two records of 1000+ birds and a maximum of c1200 on 9th November – which is also a record count for the period 2004-15. The counts of 1000+ birds on 9th Feb and 17th August were both records for those months, as was the 26 on the 7th May and the 700 on the 12th October. Add to these figures the observation of courtship/display on the 8th May and it adds up to a very good year for this species – and leaves us wondering if breeding on-site is far around the corner? A summary of monthly maxima data from the last 12 years is shown in the below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	314	1000	258	20	26	27	230	1000	500	700	1200	400
Median 2004-2015**	275	225	234	17	8	23	284	575	513	375	312	320
Maximum 2004-2015**	500	1000	450	30	26	109	500	1000	940	700	1200	700
Minimum 2004-2015**	50	80	42	1	2	6	115	189	300	240	141	166

** Median, Maximum and Minimum values from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (5, 9, 3)

Infrequent visitor.

Recorded on just three days this year with an adult on 8th March (first March record for the site), and a moulting juvenile (presumably the same individual) on the 20th August and 2nd September. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded	1	0	1	0	0	0	12	20	9	4	1	2

Common Gull *Larus canus* (5,12, 256)

Regular winter visitor; absent during the summer months.

Present in most months of the year - with the exception of May and June – monthly maxima were generally around the 2004-15 median despite being mostly down on the 2014 numbers. The largest count of the year was of 187 birds on the 15th February. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	60	187	73	54	0	0	1	3	11	30	72	160
Median 2004-2014*	73	71	79	4	0	0	2	3	4	24	71	76
Maximum 2004-2014*	200	256	218	142	4	4	8	28	16	50	144	170
Minimum 2004-2014*	29	29	26	1	0	0	1	1	2	11	20	36

* Median, Maximum and Minimum values from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-15.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (5, 12; 38)

Present through much of the year in small numbers. Local breeding is increasing records in the summer months.

After appearing to stabilise last year, numbers increased dramatically again this year. While days-recorded increased by around 40%, bird days more than doubled! This is demonstrated by the large increase in the number of days on which 10 or more birds were noted i.e. 14 compared to 3 in 2014 and 3 in 2013. The maximum count for the year was of 25 birds on 24th October. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	5	21	24	22	20	21	21	52	43	83	91	128
Bird Days	20	52	75	43	36	37	33	116	125	264	245	577
Counts ≥ 10	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	14

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* (5, 9, 2)

Irregular visitor.

Three records for the year is a good for this species. There was a single bird on the 1st January and then an adult on the 13th July and another adult on the 20th July (possibly the same bird). There have now been 25 records for the site. Distribution by month is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded	2	4	4	0	1	1	4	2	0	2	4	1

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* (5, 12, 13)

An infrequent visitor most often encountered in the winter months.

Recorded at either end of the year with a single bird on the 1st January and four birds on the 28th December. The December record is only the 9th record of multiple birds in the period 2004-2015. A summary of records from the last 12

years is shown below along with a summary of the months in which birds have been recorded.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	4	5	3	6	2	5	5	5	3	3	6	2
Days-recorded	4	6	3	10	2	7	6	7	3	3	7	5

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded	7	11	7	6	2	0	0	1	0	4	5	6

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (5, 12; 129)

Present throughout the year; with a recently established breeding population nearby in London Colney

This species continues to go from strength-to-strength on-site, with numbers showing yet another increase across the board. The count of 129 birds on 5th August was a new site record and monthly records were set in March, April, July, November and December. Monthly maxima are summarised in the following table and in Figure 5 – the latter showing the preponderance of larger counts in the recent past.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2015	12	20	26	63	32	41	70	129	27	34	44	24
Median 2004-2015*	9	5	8	9	10	11	9	15	19	13	20	7
Maximum 2004-2015*	26	42	26	63	33	44	70	129	40	48	44	24
Minimum 2004-2015*	1	3	5	1	0	3	2	5	5	2	4	4

* Median, Maximum and Minimum values obtained from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-15.

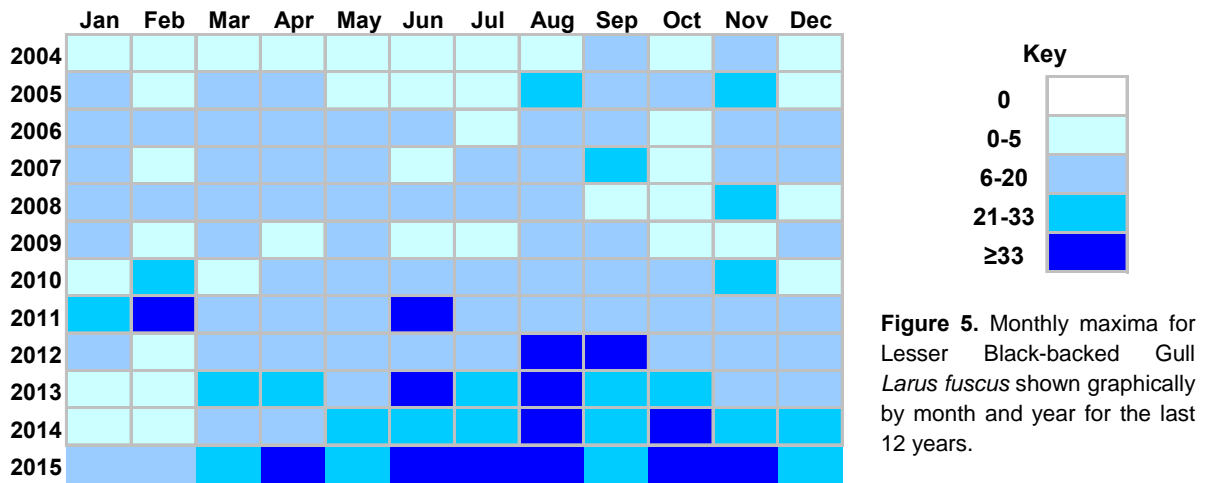


Figure 5. Monthly maxima for Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* shown graphically by month and year for the last 12 years.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (2; 4, 4)

Infrequent visitor.

A single bird on the 8th May (Ricky Flesher) is the 9th day-recorded for this species since the first record in 1996. All records are summarised below.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1996: 1 on 1 st July | 1997: 1 on 27 th June | 2000: 4 on 22 nd August | 2000: 4 on 23 rd August |
| 2004: 1 on 3 rd May | 2010: 1 on 25 th April | 2011: 1 on 4 th April | 2011: 1 on 10 th April |
| 2015: 1 on 8 th May | | | |

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (5, 12, 30)

Summer visitor. Regularly attempts to breed but not always successfully.

The first bird of the year arrived on the 16th April with numbers slowly increasing until double figures counts were reported in May. Courtship and display were again noted in May - but no further breeding was reported. Juveniles were reported in August and, as usual, they are thought to have come from a site nearby. The maximum count for the year was of 23 birds on the 5th August. The earliest and latest dates along with the maximum counts for the last 12 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Max. Count	30	19	14	25	16	20	16	18	20	22	20	23
Earliest Date*	4 th Apr	9 th Apr	3 rd Apr	16 th Apr	13 th Apr	8 th Apr	19 th Apr	8 th Apr	11 th Apr	7 th Apr	9 th Apr	16 th Apr
Latest Date*	30 th Aug	14 th Sep	21 st Aug	2 nd Sep	12 th Sep	14 th Sep	4 th Sep	4 th Sep	3 rd Sep	26 th Aug	22 nd Sep	15 th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are shaded.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (3; 7, 20)*Regular passage migrant.*

A single juvenile bird on the 31st August (Ricky Flesher) is the first record since 2012 and the 13th day-recorded in the period 2004-15.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* (5, 12, 1250)*Common resident, particularly common around Willows Farm.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 185 birds on the 18th November and 38 double figure counts across the year. A species that is overlooked on site which is reflected by 54% of records indicating presence only i.e. no count made. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004-2015 for this and the other regular Pigeons/doves on site is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Feral Pigeon	200	197	1250	188	1000	100	500	100	150	50	103	185
Stock Dove	50	200	65	70	50	6	12	10	5	20	25	20
Woodpigeon	500	3000	400	2000	732	1000	500	800	300	140	500	1000
Collared Dove	9	6	57	12	23	18	8	13	2	11	2	4

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* (5, 12, 200)*Common resident present throughout the year.*

Present all year with a maximum of 20 birds on the 23rd August. Another species which is probably overlooked but which seems to have increased after the poor years of 2009-2012. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004-2015 for this and the other regular pigeons/doves on-site is shown above.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* (5, 12, 4000)*Common resident present throughout the year often in large flocks and with a notable late autumn passage in some years.*

Present all year with a maximum of 1000 birds noted on 21st January and 9th February and an additional 8 counts of 500 birds or more in January and February. Numbers were lower in the second half of the year and there were no substantial cold-weather movements in October/November as there have been in previous years. The maximum count in the second winter period was of 250 birds on the 15th November. There was no confirmed breeding this year. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004-2015 for this and the other regular pigeons/doves on-site is shown above.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (5, 12, 57)*Patchily distributed resident.*

Another poor year for this species with only seventeen days-recorded (13 in 2014) and again without any confirmed breeding records. The maximum count was of just four birds on the 20th December. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004-2015 for this and the other regular pigeons/doves on-site is shown above and a summary of Days-recorded in the period 2008-2015 is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	45	41	34	31	33	31	13	17

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (5, 9, 11)*Irregular visitor.*

Four days-recorded for the year (6 bird days) is about the norm for this species; maximum counts were of two birds on the 27th June and 4th July - which interestingly were the first records for June and July. A month by month breakdown of the days-recorded and bird-days is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-Recorded	2	1	5	0	3	1	2	0	4	6	2	0
Bird Days	2	2	13	0	3	2	3	0	8	22	3	0

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (5, 12, 5)*Summer visitor in small numbers.*

Only seventeen days-recorded this year and all records of single birds makes this a mediocre year for this species. No records of breeding this year - a summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	22	14	22	7	12	12	9	15	17	10	21	17
Earliest Date*	11 th Apr	16 th Apr	16 th Apr	22 nd Apr	17 th Apr	12 th Apr	24 th Apr	12 th Apr	19 th Apr	24 th Apr	19 th Apr	16 th Apr
Latest Date*	15 th Aug	8 th Jun	28 th Aug	21 st Jul	4 th Aug	14 th Aug	15 th May	1 st Aug	5 th Jun	16 th Aug	19 th Sep	5 th Jul

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (5, 12, 2)*Resident. Undoubtedly under-recorded but present in most woodland areas on the site.*

Only one record for the year of a single bird on the 17th December (Steve Murray). This is the worst year for this species since 2005 and 2006 and given the recent past is, hopefully, not an indicative of a local population decline rather a reflection of a year when people were not around during the right parts of the day to record this species! A summary of data for the period 2004-2015 is shown below – which may encourage the more adventurous to spend some time in February and September-November hanging around in the crepuscular hours!

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	2	1	1	10	3	2	3	9	9	11	7	1

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-Recorded	2	9	6	4	2	1	0	5	10	10	8	4

Little Owl *Athene noctua* (5, 12, 4)*Resident; birds usually seen around the Model Railway Club and Willows Farm, regularly breeds.*

Thirty-two days-recorded– including 7 days with 2 birds - is a relatively good year for this species. Most of the specified records came from Willow's Farm area which is contrast to last year where most records were from the Model Railway/Water Works area – which produced no records this year! Likewise, there were also no breeding records this year. A summary of Days-recorded from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	10	9	10	41	54	36	27	42	27	10	21	32
Multiple Birds	3	2	2	10	4	2	1	12	4	1	5	7

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (5, 3, 2)*Irregular visitor.*

It was good to have this species back after a blank in 2014, with six records (see below) - all of single birds – which make this the best year in the period 2004-2015. Dates recorded are shown below. There have now been 14 days-recorded since the beginning of 2004, with all but the May date this year having been in February (6) and March (7).

9 th February	25 th February	26 th February
28 th February	1 st March	7 th May

Swift *Apus apus* (5, 12, 300)*Relatively common summer visitor with feeding birds present throughout the summer months.*

Numbers were slightly down again this year with birds seen on 26 days between 6th May and 29th July (29 days in 2013-2014) and only 5 counts of 10 or more birds (13 in 2013 and 7 in 2014). A summary of data from the last 12 years is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Earliest Date	27 th Apr	23 rd Apr	27 th Apr	23 rd Apr	28 th Apr	28 th Apr	30 th Apr	30 th Apr	26 th Apr	27 th Apr	3 rd May	6 th May
Latest Date	22 nd Aug	30 th Jul	13 th Aug	29 th Jul	13 th Aug	1 st Aug	20 th Aug	30 th Jul	21 st Jul	28 th Jul	26 th Aug	29 th Aug
Maximum Count	150	100	50	200	50	30	100	300	30	40	30	60

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* (5, 12, 10)*Common resident.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 5 birds on the 25th September, there were no breeding records received this year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (5, 12, 6)*Common Resident*

Present throughout the year with a maximum count of 6 birds on the 26th September – which included a family party of 3 birds; this is a maximum on-site count for this species.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (5, 12; 4)*Resident, present through most of the year, occasionally breeding on-site or close by.*

Another increase for this species with a total of 77 Days-recorded (44 in 2013 and 56 in 2014) including 8 days with two birds (5 in 2013 and 7 in 2014) and 2 days with three birds – the last record of three birds being in 2008! A summary of data from the last 12 years is presented below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird Days 2015	8	1	9	2	6	2	3	18	14	7	10	9
Median 2004-2015*	5	2	4	2	2	2	5	8	9	5	8	5
Maximum 2004-2015*	17	10	14	16	12	6	9	22	26	20	15	12
Minimum 2004-2015*	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	3

* Median, Maximum and minimum bird days for each month in the period 2004-15

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird days	106	131	85	71	89	48	36	37	18	49	63	89

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (5, 12, 100)*Breeding resident also recorded as passage migrant and in winter flocks.*

Very similar to last year with 95 Days-recorded (98 in 2014) and only a single count of 40 or more birds i.e 40 birds on the 21st November. A summary of data from the last 8 years (those years for which fully digitised data are available) is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	116	105	66	66	48	67	98	95
Counts of 40+ Birds	0	5	4	1	1	0	1	1

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (5, 12; 200)*Summer visitor that previously bred and has recently returned to breed on-site.*

A reasonable year for this species - recorded on 51 days with only 6 counts of 30 or more birds compared to 12 in 2014. The earliest and latest dates were 18th March and 14th September respectively - which were a little earlier than the median earliest date (22nd March) and a little later than the median latest date (10th September) for the period 2004-15.

A breeding colony of between 40 and 70 holes were observed to be active in the main workings of Lafarge in early August, with reports of juveniles in the holes on the 4th August. The maximum count was of 50 birds on the 12th April. Early and late dates and maxima for the last 12 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Max. Count	25	10	50	70	100	50	50	200	50	40	80	50
Earliest Date*	2 nd Apr	3 rd Apr	27 th Mar	30 th Mar	16 th Mar	15 th Mar	22 nd Mar	23 rd Mar	17 th Mar	13 th Apr	20 th Mar	18 th Mar
Latest Date*	22 nd Sep	7 th Oct	3 rd Sep	8 th Sep	7 th Sep	12 th Sep	17 th Sep	20 th Sep	1 st Sep	15 th Sep	4 th Sep	14 th Sep

*The earliest date in Spring and latest date in Autumn – the earliest and latest dates in the last 12 years are shaded.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (5, 12, 500)*Summer visitor with small breeding population centred on Willows Farm.*

The first birds of the year arrived on the median date of 3rd April (median earliest date for the period 2004-15). Numbers were reasonable through the spring and early summer and an occupied nest noted on the 4th July is the first confirmed breeding since 2009! Numbers were consistently in double figures through August and peak with a maximum count of

150 birds on the 1st September. The last birds for the year were seen on the 19th October just a little later than the median (2004-15) late date of 11th October. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Max. Count	120	30	105	50	50	50	100	300	100	100	100	150
Earliest Date*	5 th Apr	3 rd Apr	25 th Mar	6 th Apr	3 rd Apr	25 th Mar	29 th Mar	26 th Mar	31 st Mar	13 th Apr	29 th Mar	3 rd Apr
Latest Date*	10 th Oct	14 th Oct	8 th Oct	2 nd Oct	11 th Oct	9 th Oct	11 th Oct	15 th Oct	20 th Oct	6 th Oct	12 th Oct	19 th Oct

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 12 years are shaded.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum* (5, 12, 290)

Passage migrant with small breeding population previously present on the Colney Heath margins of the site.

Reported in small numbers from 11th April through to 24th September, with a maximum of 50 birds on the 20th August. Again, there were no breeding records for the year with the last breeding being noted in 2007. Early and late dates and maxima for the last 12 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Max. Count	220	150	80	80	20	50	130	150	170	50	80	50
Earliest Date*	5 th Apr	16 th Apr	13 th Apr	13 th Apr	11 th Apr	31 st Mar	3 rd Apr	5 th Apr	17 th Apr	13 th Apr	10 th Apr	11 th Apr
Latest Date*	3 rd Oct	5 th Nov	8 th Oct	22 nd Sep	6 th Oct	11 th Oct	6 th Oct	8 th Oct	2 nd Oct	22 nd Sep	24 th Sep	24 th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 12 years are shaded.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (5, 12, 30)

Passage migrant with 1-2 pairs breeding in some years.

A big improvement for this species with 33 days-recorded and 58 bird-days (22 and 31 in 2014). There were two pairs present in the breeding season with one pair in the Amazing Maze field and one pair in the horse paddocks by Tyttenhanger Farm. However, it would appear that only one pair successfully bred with the pair in the Amazing Maze field seen with a single juvenile on the 17th May. A summary of date from the last 12 years and confirmed breeding years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	110	41	123	10	49	172	60	23	28	56	31	58
Days-recorded	38	22	42	7	12	17	24	10	13	33	22	33
Max. Count	25	5	18	3	12	30	10	8	5	5	2	5
Earliest Date*	4 th Apr	11 th Apr	6 th Apr	11 th Apr	24 th Apr	7 th Apr	30 th Mar	5 th Apr	17 th Apr	15 th Apr	11 th Apr	11 th Apr
Latest Date*	2 nd Sep	19 th Aug	3 rd Sep	22 nd Sep	25 th Sep	24 th Sep	5 th Oct	27 th Sep	19 th Sep	14 th Sep	1 st Sep	19 th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 12 years are shaded.

Confirmed breeding years for Yellow Wagtail

1983 1984 1986 1987 1989 1992 1993 1994 1996 1997 1998 2003 2004 2013
2015

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (5, 12; 5)

Local resident and winter visitor.

The best year for this species since 2007 with 38 Days-recorded, 51 bird days and a maximum of 3 birds on the 15th May and 25th September. There were two records of recently fledged birds on the 15th May and 6th July – indicating that two broods were hatched either on-site or close-by. Birds were reported in 11 months of the year – there were no records in August. A summary of bird days and days-recorded for the last 12 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	66	123	107	54	28	34	10	2	34	21	19	50
Days-recorded	51	79	81	43	27	25	7	2	24	18	14	38

White/Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (5, 12; 90)

Present through much of the year with evidence of passage in most years.

Present throughout the year in small numbers and with another increase in bird days and days-recorded over the last couple of years, but still down on the peak of 2009 – 2010. There was courtship and display noted in April and recently fledged birds noted on 17th May and 21st June.

There was one record of **White Wagtail** this year, with a male seen in the Amazing Maze field on the 23rd April. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown in the table below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	250	349	523	184	108	134	156	245
Number Days-recorded	113	128	107	60	44	59	79	90
Maximum Count	8	18	37	37	7	20	11	19
White Wagtail Days-recorded	1	1	5	2	0	2	3	1

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* (5, 12; 120)

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

A good year for this species; recorded in 10 months of the year (the most in the period 2004-2015) also with a record of courtship/display flight on 21st June (first June record since 2005). Maximum counts were of 30 in the first winter period (30 in 2014) and 47 in the second winter period (8 in 2014). A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004 – 2015 are presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Max. Count	80	60	78	50	52	30	64	25	8	37	30	47

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (5, 12, 14)

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with a maximum count of 10 birds in May and June – the second year in a row that has recorded double-figure counts. Breeding was also noted this year with recently fledged young seen on the 15th June.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (5, 12; 15)

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 15 birds on the 23rd July - which again equals the maximum on site count. and was again from around the feeders at Tyttenhanger Farm (Peter Delaloye) as in 2014. Likewise, there were 3 counts of 10 or more birds this year (3 in 2014) There were no confirmed breeding records this year.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (5, 12, 15)

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 12 birds on the 19th April and 13th September. There were no confirmed breeding records this year –although a juvenile bird was reported on the 28th June indicating breeding occurred on-site or close-by.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (5, 12, 30)

Regular passage migrant, more frequent in spring.

Another poor year for this species with only 8 days-recorded across the two-migration periods, a total of 10 bird days and a maximum of just 2 birds on the 4th May and 25th August; all other records were of single birds. A summary of data from the last 12 years is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	13	9	63	16	24	40	44	56	32	71	18	10
Bird Days - Spring	13	9	58	15	5	29	29	30	30	67	10	7
Earliest Date*	20 th Mar	25 th Mar	25 th Mar	12 th Apr	15 th Mar	14 th Mar	20 th Mar	25 th Mar	17 th Mar	30 th Mar	19 th Mar	9 th Apr
Latest Date*	ND	NA	3 rd Oct	7 th Sep	8 th Oct	1 st Oct	12 th Sep	8 th Oct	4 th Oct	18 th Sep	25 th Sep	1 st Sep

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (5, 12, 7)*Uncommon passage migrant.*

Birds were seen in the spring and autumn this year with Days-recorded as follows: 1 on 1st and 5th May, 1 on 20th August, 1 on 11th, 12th September and then 2 on 13th September. A summary of data from the last 12 years is provided below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days	1	9	5	4	6	16	11	9	8	5	3	7
Earliest Date*	3 rd May	30 th Apr	NS	14 th Apr	1 st May	NS	24 th Apr	8 th May	NS	19 th Apr	NS	1 st May
Latest Date*	NA	7 th Sep	10 th Sep	23 rd Sep	20 th Sep	18 th Sep	1 st Sep	9 th Sep	26 th Sep	31 st Aug	19 th Oct	13 th Sep
Days-recorded	1	6	4	4	6	8	6	9	7	5	3	6

NS = no spring date; NA = no autumn date. *The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 12 years are shaded.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (5, 12, 6)*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Only three records this year all of single birds, 1 on 6th Mar, 1 on 4th October and 1 on 20th October. A summary of data for the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bird Days – 1st Winter	0	40	0	0	35	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Bird Days – 2nd Winter	58	9	15	23	21	5	1	0	7	0	10	2
Total Days-recorded	25	26	13	16	46	5	1	1	7	1	9	3

Blackbird *Turdus merula* (5, 12, 20)*Common resident and breeding species; also, probably occurs as passage migrant.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 15 birds on the 20th December. There were no confirmed breeding records for the year.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (5, 12, 13)*Breeding resident.*

Present throughout the year with a typical 2-3 singing males through spring and a maximum count of 5 birds on the 20th December. Breeding on-site or close-by was confirmed by a recently fledged bird seen on the 27th May.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* (5, 12, 125)*Breeding resident and local migrant.*

Noted throughout the year – with the exception of November - with a maximum count of 17 birds on the 3rd September. There was a small build up in the autumn this year, with 10 or more birds counted on 4 days in September and October. Maximum counts and their dates for the last 12 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Maximum Count	54	30	21	34	30	17	29	32	24	8	14	17
Maximum Count date	11 th Sep	21 st Aug	27 th Aug	30 th Jul	10 th Sep	15 th Aug	4 th Oct	26 th Jul	10 th Jun	28 th Jul	30 th Aug	3 rd Sep

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* (5, 12, 600)*Common winter visitor.*

A reasonable year for this species with 13 counts of 50 or more birds (15 in 2013 and 16 in 2014), seven in the first winter period and six in the second. There were four counts of 100+ birds - 20th January, 28th February, 9th November and 22nd November; for the second year in a row there were no records in October – the only years in the last 12 that birds have not been recorded in October. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maxima 2015	100	100	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	60
Median 2004-2015*	77	100	76	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	68	50
Maximum 2004-2015*	200	320	300	118	1	0	0	0	5	100	190	100
Minimum 2004-2015*	6	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13

* Median, Maximum and Minimum Monthly Maxima for each month in the period 2004-15.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Latest Spring Date	12 th Apr	20 th Mar	8 th Apr	8 th Apr	6 th Apr	7 th Mar	27 th Mar	8 th Apr	9 th Apr	12 th May	31 st Mar	30 th Mar	7 th Apr
Earliest Autumn Date	9 th Oct	27 th Oct	28 th Oct	14 th Oct	30 th Oct	29 th Oct	18 th Sep	9 th Oct	27 th Oct	15 th Oct	1 st Nov	7 th Nov	27 th Oct

The latest spring date and earliest autumn date in the last 12 years is highlighted.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* (5, 12, 617)

Common winter visitor.

An ordinary year for this species with just two counts of 50 or more birds (4 in 2014) – one in each winter period. Monthly maxima were below the 12-year median in the first winter period – but slightly above in the second. The maximum count for the year was of 80 birds on the 17th October. A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maxima 2015	20	10	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	30	40
Median 2004-2015*	45	36	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	40	21
Maximum 2004-2015*	125	200	125	50	0	0	0	0	0	617	150	60
Minimum 2004-2015*	6	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	2

* Median, Maximum and Minimum Monthly Maxima for each month in the period 2004-15.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Latest Spring Date	13 th Mar	12 th Mar	14 th Apr	5 th Apr	12 th Apr	17 th Mar	29 th Mar	26 th Mar	10 th Mar	13 th Apr	23 rd Mar	21 st Mar	24 th Mar
Earliest Autumn Date	9 th Oct	16 th Oct	21 st Oct	30 th Sep	19 th Oct	28 th Oct	9 th Oct	13 th Oct	14 th Oct	7 th Oct	16 th Oct	16 th Oct	15 th Oct

The latest spring date and earliest autumn date for the last 11 years is highlighted.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (5, 12, 5)

Summer visitor and breeding species.

Overall numbers were slightly up this year with 32 Days-recorded (24 in 2014 and 35 in 2013) and a maximum count of 5 birds. There was no confirmed breeding this year. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Earliest Date*	14 th Apr	16 th Apr	12 th Apr	11 th Apr	7 th Apr	8 th Apr	13 th Apr	15 th Apr	19 th Apr	11 th Apr	13 th Apr
Latest Date*	11 th Aug	11 th Aug	6 th Sep	12 th Sep	31 st Aug	29 th Aug	21 st Aug	17 th Sep	6 th Sep	25 th Aug	30 th Aug

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-2015.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (5, 12, 8)

Summer visitor and breeding species.

Another strong year for this species with 54 days-recorded (41 in 2013 and 53 in 2014) and maximum counts of 10 birds (a new site maximum) on 9th and 13th May and 2nd August. There was confirmed breeding this year – with an adult feeding young on the 26th July. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Earliest Date*	19 th Apr	23 rd Apr	26 th Apr	29 th Apr	24 th Apr	10 th Apr	20 th Apr	16 th Apr	18 th Apr	15 th Apr	21 st Apr
Latest Date*	12 th Sep	9 th Sep	15 th Aug	5 th Sep	7 th Aug	19 th Sep	28 th Sep	6 th Aug	19 th Sep	17 th Aug	1 st Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-2015.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (5, 12, 10)

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

A good year for this species, recorded on 60 days (46 in 2013 and 53 in 2014) with a maximum of 10 birds recorded on the 9th May – which equals the current site record. Breeding was confirmed by recently fledged young seen on the 30th August. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median*
Earliest Date*	28 th Mar	12 th Apr	10 th Apr	3 rd Apr	1 st Apr	30 th Mar	30 th Mar	14 th Apr	2 nd Apr	7 th Apr	2nd Apr
Latest Date*	17 th Sep	9 th Sep	6 th Oct	1 st Oct	30 th Sep	2 nd Oct	30 th Oct	6 th Oct	18 th Oct	27 th Sep	1st Oct

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-15.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* (5, 12, 4)

Frequent spring migrant/summer visitor. Breeding status uncertain.

Eighteen days-recorded for the year is much the same as last year but includes four days (2 in 2014) with 2 birds on the 24th April, 1st May, 18th July and 5th August. The spring arrival date (22nd April) was close to the long-term median – but the last date in autumn (27th September) was nearly 2 weeks later than the previous latest in the period 2004-2014! A summary of arrival and departure dates, days-recorded and bird-days from the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective median values for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median*
Earliest Date*	23 rd Apr	23 rd Apr	26 th Apr	15 th Apr	3 rd May	21 st Apr	2 nd May	21 st Apr	18 th Apr	22 nd Apr	23rd Apr
Latest Date*	7 th July	14 th Sep	29 th Aug	22 nd Aug	1 st Sep	24 th Jul	25 th Aug	27 th Jun	9 th Sep	27 th Sep	23rd Aug
Days-recorded	16	12	9	19	11	9	8	6	20	18	12
Bird Days	20	18	11	22	15	9	13	6	22	22	NA

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-15. NA – data not currently available.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* (5, 12, 6)

Regular summer visitor.

Another good year for this species with 38 days-recorded (34 in 2014, 32 in 2013) and a maximum of six birds on the 2nd May – which is a new site-record. Although there were up to three singing males reported in May there was no confirmed breeding this year. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-15.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median*
Earliest Date*	5 th May	29 th Apr	26 th Apr	25 th Apr	25 th Apr	17 th Apr	5 th May	23 rd Apr	22 nd Apr	24 th Apr	25th Apr
Latest Date*	22 nd Aug	20 th May	30 th May	2 nd Sep	17 th Sep	13 th Aug	25 th Aug	28 th Jul	14 th Aug	21 st Aug	18th Aug

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-15.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* (5, 12, 20)

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

The first bird of the year was on the 15th April closely followed in the next few days with counts of 5 or more birds. It remains the commonest warbler on site with 60 Days-recorded this year – including 6 double-figure counts – and a maximum of 16 birds on the 10th May. Strangely, there were no confirmed records of breeding this year, despite the relatively high numbers (252 bird days compared to 220 in 2014 and 195 in 2013). A summary of arrival and departure dates from the last 10 years along with the respective median values for the period 2004-15 are shown below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Earliest Date*	15 th Apr	15 th Apr	17 th Apr	4 th Apr	17 th Apr	8 th Apr	16 th Apr	15 th Apr	11 th Apr	15 th Apr	15th Apr
Latest Date*	8 th Sep	2 nd Oct	25 th Sep	18 th Sep	4 th Sep	4 th Sep	30 th Aug	24 th Sep	19 th Sep	6 th Sep	10th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-15.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (5, 12, 20)

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

The first birds of the year arrived on the 13th March and several singing males were noted through April and May. Evidence of breeding (food carrying) was noted in early July and recently fledged birds were seen at the end of August. The record on-site count (previously 11) was broken on the 29th August (12 birds) and then again on the 1st September when a total of 20 birds were noted along the River Colne and environs. The last (probably) migrants of the year were

seen on the 25th October and then single over-wintering birds were noted 25th December, 23rd and 28th December. All in all, a very good year for this species that carried-on the pattern of the previous 2 years. A summary of arrival and departure dates from the last 10 years along with the respective median values for the period 2004-15 are shown below along with Days-recorded data from 2008-2015.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median*
Earliest Date*	31 st Mar	17 th Mar	15 th Mar	15 th Mar	17 th Mar	13 th Mar	12 th Mar	28 th Mar	10 th Mar	13 th Mar	16th Mar
Latest Date*	12 th Oct	7 th Oct	15 th Oct	21 st Oct	6 th Oct	12 th Nov	30 th Oct	19 th Oct	20 th Oct	25 th Oct	19th Oct

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	77	75	59	54	41	42	89	86

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (5, 12, 8)

Regular summer visitor and breeding species.

There was a light increase this year with 30 days-recorded (29 in 2014 and 22 in 2013). The maximum count was of 3 birds on 4th September and again, there were no confirmed breeding records for the year. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 12 years is shown below along with data on the number of Days-recorded for the period 2008-2015.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median*
Earliest Date*	2 nd Apr	6 th Apr	10 th Apr	3 rd Apr	30 th Mar	26 th Mar	12 th Apr	15 th Apr	5 th Apr	10 th Apr	5th Apr
Latest Date*	25 th Sep	9 th Sep	21 st Sep	18 th Sep	7 th Oct	5 th Sep	3 rd Sep	28 th Aug	4 th Oct	26 th Sep	19th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	49	43	50	36	13	22	29	30

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (5, 12, 10)

Small resident population supplemented by regular passage migrants and winter visitors, irregular breeder.

A much better year for this species with 38 Days-recorded throughout the year - with July being the only month with no records. Interestingly, the May record this year was just the fourth in this month in the period 2004-15 and the maximum of 10 birds on 20th December equalled the site record. Again, there was no evidence of breeding this year. The number of days-recorded for each month in 2015 and in the period 2008-15 are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded 2015	7	4	4	1	1	1	0	2	3	3	3	9
Days-recorded 2008-15	25	14	25	13	4	8	4	21	15	20	18	29

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* (5,12, 6)

Declining passage migrant; has bred in the past years.

A fairly typical year with three Days-recorded, indicating last year (6 Days-recorded) is atypical of the years since 2008. All records for the year were of single birds on the 25th June, 29th August and 2nd September with two specific locations given, Willow's Farm and Tyttenhanger House Garden. A summary of departure dates, Days-recorded and bird days from the last 10 years along with the respective median values for the period 2004-15 and day-recorded data from 2008-2015 are shown in the tables below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median*
Latest Date*	3 rd Sep	15 th Sep	25 th Sep	4 th Sep	19 th Sep	9 th Sep	5 th Sep	17 th Sep	10 th Sep	2 nd Sep	9th Sep
Days-recorded	5	4	10	3	3	2	2	2	6	3	4
Bird Days	8	8	14	3	4	3	2	2	6	3	4

*The latest date in autumn.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* (5, 12, 30)

Common resident and breeding species.

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 30+ birds on the 26th September (which equals the site record); breeding was confirmed with recently fledged birds seen on 5th June.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* (5, 12, 50)*Common resident and breeding species.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 30 birds on the 20th December; breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 14th June.

Great Tit *Parus major* (5, 12, 50)*Common resident and breeding species.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 30 birds on three dates, 17th January, 23rd July and 20th December; breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen in the June and August.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* (5, 11, 5)*Resident and probable breeding species.*

Thirty-two days-recorded represents another good year for this species and the maximum count of 5 birds on 21st June equalling the site record. There were no breeding records confirmed this year – although the 5 birds in June does indicate the species bred on-site or close-by. A summary of days-recorded and maximum counts for the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	12	29	27	13	20	17	37	18	11	18	32	32
Maximum Count	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	5	5

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* (5, 12, 4)*Common resident and probable breeding species.*

Reported in 11 months of the year (9 in 2014 and 8 in 2013) with 25 days-recorded and a maximum of 3 birds on 21st June. The latter record included a recently fledged bird and indicated breeding on-site or close-by.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* (5, 12, 3)*Common resident and probable breeding species.*

Reported in seven months of the year (9 in 2014 and 7 in 2013) with 12 days-recorded and a maximum of 3 birds on 6th December. There was no evidence of breeding this year – although nest-building activities were observed on 8th April. A summary of days-recorded for the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	18	17	20	12	19	5	12	12	7	10	15	12

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* (5, 12, 15)*Common resident.*

Reported in all months of the year with a maximum of just 4 birds on 31st January. There was no evidence of breeding again this year.

Magpie *Pica pica* (5, 12, 55)*Common resident.*

Present throughout the year with 22 counts of 10 or more birds and a maximum count of 31 birds on 25th January. There was evidence of breeding this year with recently fledged seen on 21st June. A summary of maximum counts for this and the other common corvids for the last 12 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Magpie	19	26	24	22	16	21	28	29	36	22	23	31
Carrion Crow	50	150	250	150	107	50	40	74	44	70	100	150
Rook	41	108	68	67	30	74	21	40	117	80	50	56
Jackdaw	200	175	500	322	300	200	60	50	280	100	70	350

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* (5, 12, 117)*Local breeder and relatively common visitor to the site.*

The number of days-recorded increased this year, although this is still relatively low compared to the period 2008-12 (see table below). The highest count of the year was of 56 birds on the 25th January. A summary of Days-recorded since 2008 is shown below and a summary of maximum year-counts for the period 2004-15 in the table above.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	63	49	32	38	40	18	11	26

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* (5, 12, 250)

Common resident.

Present throughout the year with just 3 counts of 50 or more birds (9 in 2014) and a maximum of 150 birds on the 21st November. There were no records of breeding this year. A summary of maximum counts from the last 12 years are shown in the table above.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* (5, 12, 500)

Local breeder and common visitor to the site.

Present throughout the year with 11 counts of 40 or more birds and a maximum of 350 on 21st November – the highest count since 3rd December 2006. As usual, there was no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of maximum counts from the last 12 years are shown in the table above.

Raven *Corvus corax* (4, 5, 2).

Infrequent visitor.

One record again this year with a single bird over Garden Wood on 6th March being mobbed by Crows. This is the 8th record for the site.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (5, 12, 10000)

Common resident and winter visitor.

Reported throughout the year with 7 counts of 100 or more birds - but as usual there were no records of breeding. The maximum count for the year was of 500 birds on the 15th November. A summary of maximum counts for the last 12 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Maximum Count	300	200	400	300	220	200	300	400	500	250	380	500

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (5, 12, 100)

Breeding resident and frequent visitor from other local breeding populations.

This was another excellent year for this species with a total of 169 Days-recorded and 36 counts of 10 or more birds (35 in 2014) and is by far the best year for the period 2004-15. There was a maximum count of 32 birds on 17th January - which is the best on site count since 2004 - and breeding was again confirmed with 3-4 broods noted by the Tree Sparrow hedge and the mound on the path near the Model Railway compound. A summary of daily maxima for the period 2008-2015 are shown in Figure X and longer term summaries in the table below.

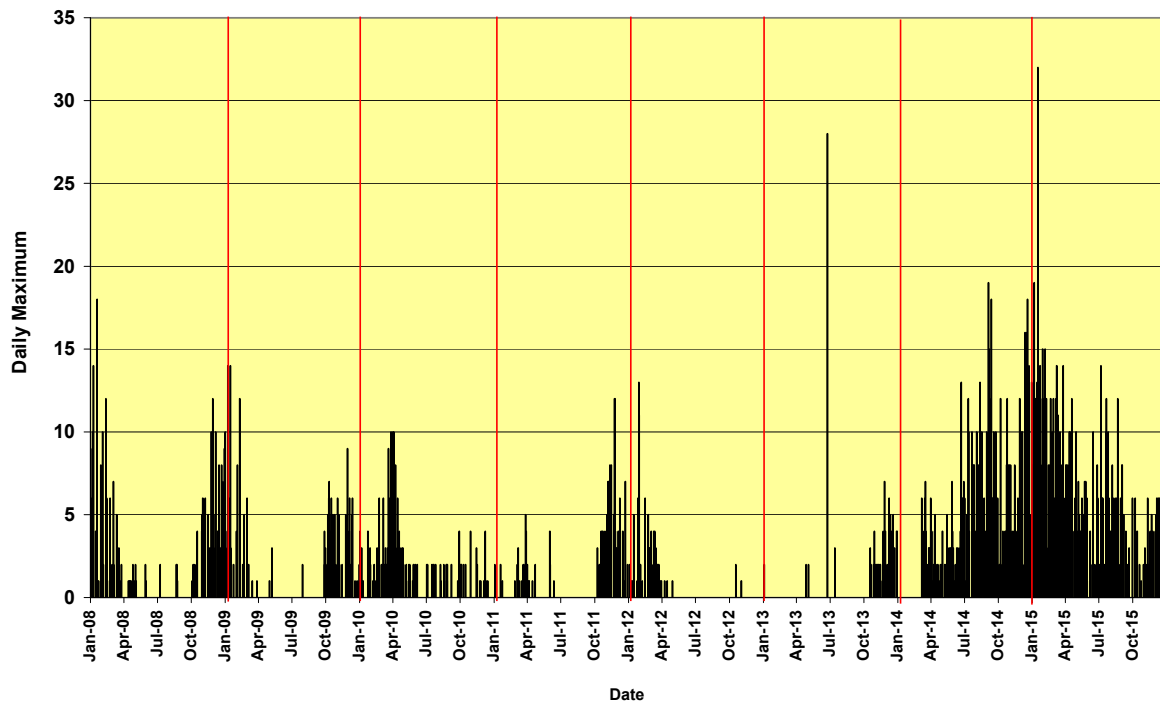


Figure 6. Summary of daily maxima for Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* during the period 2008-2015. The red lines show the divisions between years.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	90	84	89	93	76	62	98	63	37	41	179	169
Counts of 10 or more	24	18	13	9	9	4	3	2	2	1	35	36
Maximum count	41	20	25	20	18	14	10	12	13	28	19	32

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (5, 12, 36)

Small resident populations around Willows Farm and in Colney Heath.

Reported throughout most of the year - with the exception of October with a maximum count of 14 birds on the 18th January. Breeding was confirmed by the presence of 5 recently fledged birds seen next to the River Colne on 11th July. Summary data for the last 12 years are shown in the following table.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Maximum Count	11	15	36	29	14	20	15	20	18	6	10	14
Days-recorded	NA	NA	NA	NA	94	70	45	27	12	26	18	37

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* (5, 12, 100)

Common resident and probable breeding species.

The poorest year for this species in the period 2008-15 with only 12 Days-recorded and a maximum of just 5 birds on the 17th January and 9th April. Despite reports of singing males there were no confirmed breeding records again. Days-recorded and the maximum counts for the period 2008-15 are shown in the table below. We are currently updating the records from 2004-2007 to extend this analysis further and to better understand the apparent recent decline.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	73	55	39	45	21	35	26	12
Maximum Count	25	21	50	70	4	7	8	5

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (5, 12, 100)

Common resident and probable breeding species.

Present throughout the year with 14 counts of 20 or more birds (17 in 2014 and 7 in 2013) and a count of 50 birds on the 20th December. There was breeding noted this year with recently fledged seen on the 27th August. Maximum counts and count dates for the last 12 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Maximum Count	30	32	30	30	26	37	52	32	50	89	100	50
Count Date	28 th Nov	30 th Jul	SDs*	7 th Jan	3 rd Oct	21 st Oct	11 th Jan	11 th Mar	27 th Aug	18 th Aug	4 th Sep	20 th Dec

* Indicates the same count was made on several dates.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* (5, 12, 80)

Regular winter visitor.

There were 16 days-recorded this year (5 in 2014) - all in the second winter period - with six double-figure counts. Records were spread across the site from the Tree Sparrow Hedge, along the River Colne and at the back of Lawson's Yard. The maximum count for the years was of 15 birds on the 18th December. A summary of data from the last 10 years is shown below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Days-recorded – 1st WP*	20	3	3	1	3	8	18	38	1	0	3
Days-recorded – 2nd WP*	0	4	0	0	1	7	18	11	4	16	4
Maximum Count	7	4	2	1	6	10	20	28	14	15	9

*WP = Winter Period

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (5, 12, 350)

Common resident and breeding species; large winter flocks often present.

Reported throughout the year with five counts of 50 or more birds (5 in 2014 and 1 in 2013), one in the first winter period and four in the second winter period. The maximum count for the year was of 100 birds on the 1st September. A summary of data from the last 10 years is shown below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
Max. Count – 1st WP*	70	6	5	25	200	70	24	34	30	80	32
Max. Count – 2nd WP*	30	30	50	104	80	64	94	120	150	100	87

*WP = Winter Period

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* (5, 12, 120)

Frequent winter visitor - usually along the River Colne at Colney Heath.

A better year for this species with 11 records for the year (1 in 2014) with all of the records came from Colney Heath Common apart from one at the River Colne by Tyttenhanger House. The maximum count for the year was of 60 birds on the 19th December. A summary of data from the last 10 years is present below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Median
1st Winter Period Days	11	1	9	7	5	9	3	2	1	1	6
Latest Spring Date	10 th Apr	27 th Jan	7 th Mar	28 th Mar	6 th Mar	12 th Mar	3 rd Mar	27 th Mar	NA	17 th Jan	6th Mar
2nd Winter Period Days	2	4	11	5	5	8	5	2	0	10	5
Earliest Autumn Date	11 th Nov	4 th Oct	21 st Sep	18 th Oct	17 th Oct	1 st Oct	14 th Oct	2 nd Nov	NA	18 th Sep	15th Oct
Maximum Count	40	11	100	120	80	60	60	9	6	60	60
Maximum Count Date	7 th Jan	19 th Dec	30 th Sep	12 th Dec	11 th Dec	5 th Nov	20 th Oct	11 th Dec	2 nd Jan	19 th Dec	11th Dec

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (5, 12; 200)

Common resident and breeding species with winter flocks commonly noted.

Five counts of 20 or more birds this year with three in the first winter period and two in the second winter period; the maximum count for the year was of 45 birds on the 14th November. Again, there was no evidence of breeding – despite a number of singing males noted in April and May. A summary of counts of 20 or more birds and maximum from the last 12 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Counts of ≥20	NA	1	8	14	8	12	16	8	8	5	4	5
Maximum Count	40	50	45	80	110	150	150	150	200	79	80	45

NA = data currently not available.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (5, 12, 12)

Resident, probably breeds.

Reported all months of the year except May, with a maximum of 4 birds on 27th January, 22nd March and 13th April. The 49 days-recorded this year were spread out, 26 in the first six months of the year and 23 in the last six months of the year. The recording frequency for this species was 17.6% (16 records from 91 visits by one regular observer). A summary of recording frequency for the last 10 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Record'g Rate (%)	22.4	28.4	13.6	7.8	6.1	8.2	11.6	14.6	26.1	11.5	12.0	17.6

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (5, 12, 50)

Regular winter visitor especially around Tyttenhanger Farm.

Another bad year for this species with just 8 days-recorded and all counts of single birds with 1 in January, 3 in March, 1 in April, 2 in October and 1 in November. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Days-recorded	46	64	63	48	34	10	2	8
Bird days	366	598	291	276	156	16	8	8
Counts ≥ 10	18	23	4	7	3	0	0	0

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (5, 12, 15)

Resident with a small number of presumed breeding pairs.

Reported throughout the year with 2-3 singing males noted in April/May and proven breeding with an adult seen feeding young on the 26th July. There was a maximum of 15 birds on 4 dates scattered throughout the year – this is a maximum count for the site.

Escapes & Birds of Uncertain Origin

Domestic Goose *Anser sp.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 28 in October.

Hybrids *Various*

There were a couple of hybrids noted through the year including a possible Tufted / Pochard female reported on the 3rd April. There were also several reports of Greylag Geese with a lot of white on them.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

A single bird noted on the 18th April.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

One first identified as a Snow Goose (*Anser*) was reidentified from photo's as a Ross's Goose. The bird was first seen on the 18th September and then the 26th and 27th September - this is the first record for the site of this species.

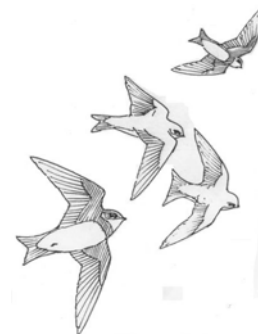
Appendix 1**Arrival and Departure Dates for Common Migrants**

Arrival dates for 2013 are shown along with the earliest/latest dates for Tyttenhanger that we can find for this species shown in brackets. This is very much a work-in-progress and if the reader has any earlier/later dates then we'd be grateful if they could contact the authors so that this table can be revised in future reports.

Species	Arrival Date	Departure Date
Summer Migrants		
Hobby	2 nd May (1 st Apr)	11 th Oct (7 th Oct)
Little Ringed Plover	9 th Apr (9 th Mar)	9 th Aug (1 st Oct)
Common Sandpiper	12 th Apr (28 th Mar) ⁽¹⁾	14 th Sep (8 th Nov)
Common Tern	16 th Apr (4 th Apr)	15 th Sep (27 th Sep)
Cuckoo	16 th Apr (25 th Mar)	NA (25 th Sep)
Sand Martin	18 th Mar (15 th Mar)	14 th Sep (7 th Oct)
Swallow	3 rd Apr (25 th Mar)	19 th Oct (22 nd Oct)
House Martin	11 th Apr (31 st Mar)	24 th Sep (5 th Nov)
Yellow Wagtail	11 th Apr (30 th Mar)	19 th Sep (5 th Oct)
Whinchat	1 st May (14 th Apr)	13 th Sep (8 th Oct)
Wheatear	9 th Apr (14 th Mar)	1 st Sep (8 th Oct)
Sedge Warbler	11 th Apr (7 th Apr)	25 th Aug (14 th Sep)
Reed Warbler	15 th Apr (7 th Apr)	17 th Aug (28 th Sep)
Willow Warbler	10 th Apr (18 th Mar)	26 th Sep (12 th Oct)
Chiffchaff	13 th Mar (9 th Mar) ⁽²⁾	25 th Oct (30 th Oct) ⁽²⁾
Blackcap	7 th Apr (28 th Mar)	27 th Sep (30 th Oct)
Garden Warbler	24 th Apr (17 th Apr)	21 st Aug (17 th Sep)
Whitethroat	15 th Apr (4 th Apr)	6 th Sep (2 nd Oct)
Lesser Whitethroat	22 nd Apr (15 th Apr)	27 th Sep (14 th Sep)
Spotted Flycatcher	NR (10 th May)	2 nd Sep (25 th Sep)
Winter Migrants		
Golden Plover	3 rd Oct (29 th Sep)	2 nd Feb (10 th May)
Fieldfare	7 th Nov (18 th Sep)	30 th Mar (12 th May)
Redwing	16 th Oct (30 th Sep)	21 st Mar (14 th Apr)
Siskin	18 th Sep (21 st Sep)	17 th Jan (10 th Apr)
Lesser Redpoll	2 nd Oct (2 nd Oct)	NA (23 rd Apr)

(1) A bird on the 31st January 2005 is considered an overwintering bird rather than a migrant.

(2) Records from November through to February are treated as overwintering rather than migrant birds.



APPENDIX 2

SPECIES YEARLISTS FOR TYTTENHANGER GRAVEL PITS 2004-2015

The following is a list of species that have occurred at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits and for which we have located records. The year lists and totals have been revised in accordance with the records accepted by the Hertfordshire Rare Bird Committee for the years up until 2015. Some records for 2014 onwards may still be pending but the list is indicative of the species reported for the year. Species shaded in **yellow** have not been seen in the period 2004-2015 and records shaded in **blue** are first records for the site. Note, in the case of some species (e.g. Whooper Swan, Barnacle Goose) the first record is taken as the first recorded year after the species was admitted to the relevant category of the British List. The list also shows the first year for which we are able to find records for each species. Most of these dates are drawn from the Hertfordshire Bird Report – but we would suggest that anybody with earlier records for any of the species listed contact the editors.

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mute Swan	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bewick's Swan	1985	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Whooper Swan	2004	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-fronted Goose	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bean Goose (Tundra)	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Greylag Goose	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Canada Goose	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barnacle Goose	2006	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Brent Goose	1996	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Egyptian Goose	1993	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Shelduck	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mandarin Duck	1988	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Wigeon	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gadwall	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Teal	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mallard	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pintail	1985	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Garganey	1986	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Shoveler	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-crested Pochard	1988	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pochard	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tufted Duck	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scaup	2007	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Scoter	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	1983	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Smew	1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Goosander	1988	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Ruddy Duck	1989	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Red-legged Partridge	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Partridge	1983	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Pheasant	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Little Grebe	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Crested Grebe	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-necked Grebe	2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Cormorant	1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shag	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bittern	1996	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Great White Egret	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Little Egret	1999	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Heron	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black Stork	1990	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Stork	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Glossy Ibis	2009	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Honey-Buzzard	1987	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Kite	2004	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Montague's Harrier	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Marsh-Harrier	1991	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Goshawk	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sparrowhawk	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Buzzard	1991	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Osprey	1988	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Kestrel	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Merlin	1996	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hobby	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Water Rail	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moorhen	1992	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coot	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oystercatcher	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-winged Stilt	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avocet	1988	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Stone Curlew	2002	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Ringed Plover	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ringed Plover	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Golden Plover	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Plover	1987	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lapwing	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Knot	1986	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sanderling	1986	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Little Stint	1987	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temminck's Stint	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Curlew Sandpiper	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dunlin	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruff	1984	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Jack Snipe	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Snipe	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodcock	1995	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-tailed Godwit	1987	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1987	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Whimbrel	1986	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Curlew	1986	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spotted Redshank	1985	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Redshank	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenshank	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Green Sandpiper	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wood Sandpiper	1985	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Common Sandpiper	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turnstone	1991	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mediterranean Gull	2001	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Little Gull	1987	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Black-headed Gull	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Common Gull	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Black-b'd Gull	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yellow-legged Gull	1996	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Caspian Gull	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Herring Gull	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iceland Gull	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kittiwake	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Little Tern	1988	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Black Tern	1987	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Sandwich Tern	1996	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
Common Tern	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Arctic Tern	1992	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feral Pigeon	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stock Dove	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodpigeon	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Collared-Dove	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turtle-Dove	1986	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Parakeet	1993	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cuckoo	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barn Owl	1997	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Little Owl	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tawny Owl	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Long-eared Owl	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-eared Owl	1998	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Swift	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kingfisher	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hoopoe	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Green Woodpecker	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Spotted Woodp'r	1990	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Spotted Woodp'r	1984	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Wryneck	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Short-toed Lark	1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skylark	1995	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sand Martin	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swallow	1988	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
House Martin	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tree Pipit	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meadow Pipit	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rock Pipit	1992	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Pipit	1992	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yellow Wagtail	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Wagtail	1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pied Wagtail	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Waxwing	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wren	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dunnock	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Robin	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nightingale	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Redstart	1988	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Redstart	1989	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Whinchat	1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stonechat	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wheatear	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ring Ouzel	1987	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Blackbird	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fieldfare	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Song Thrush	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Redwing	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mistle Thrush	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grasshopper Warbler	1985	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedge Warbler	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reed Warbler	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blackcap	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garden Warbler	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whitethroat	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dartford Warbler	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Warbler	1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chiffchaff	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Willow Warbler	1990	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goldcrest	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Firecrest	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Spotted Flycatcher	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pied Flycatcher	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Long-tailed Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blue Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coal Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Willow Tit	1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh Tit	1990	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Nuthatch	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Treecreeper	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-backed Shrike	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jay	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magpie	1992	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jackdaw	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rook	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carrion Crow	1988	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Raven	2009	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Starling	1988	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
House Sparrow	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tree Sparrow	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chaffinch	1991	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brambling	1999	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Greenfinch	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goldfinch	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Siskin	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Linnet	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Redpoll	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mealy Redpoll	2005	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Crossbill	1991	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hawfinch	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Snow Bunting	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowhammer	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reed Bunting	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Corn Bunting	1987	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		137	136	142	132	137	135	139	140	138	133	132	129