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# Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Bird Report for 2016 & 2017



Edited and produced by  
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## Introduction

This report is the thirteenth we have produced for the site known locally as Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits; and the first in which we have combined two years into a single report since we started back in 2004. There were a number of logistical reasons for not being able to generate a report for 2016 in the usual time-frame, which led us to make the decision in mid-2018 to combine 2016 with 2017. We are not intending to continue with biennial reports and hope to return to the normal cycle for the 2018 report.

As many of you are aware, the first Tyttenhanger Report was in 1996 (Brew, 1997) and since taking up the reins in 2004 we have tried to follow the same format as that used in that original 1996 report. The hope is that maintaining a similar layout and content will 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 2013-10<sup>th</sup> 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 reported years. The latter includes ornithological highlights along with summaries of physical and structural changes and any 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.

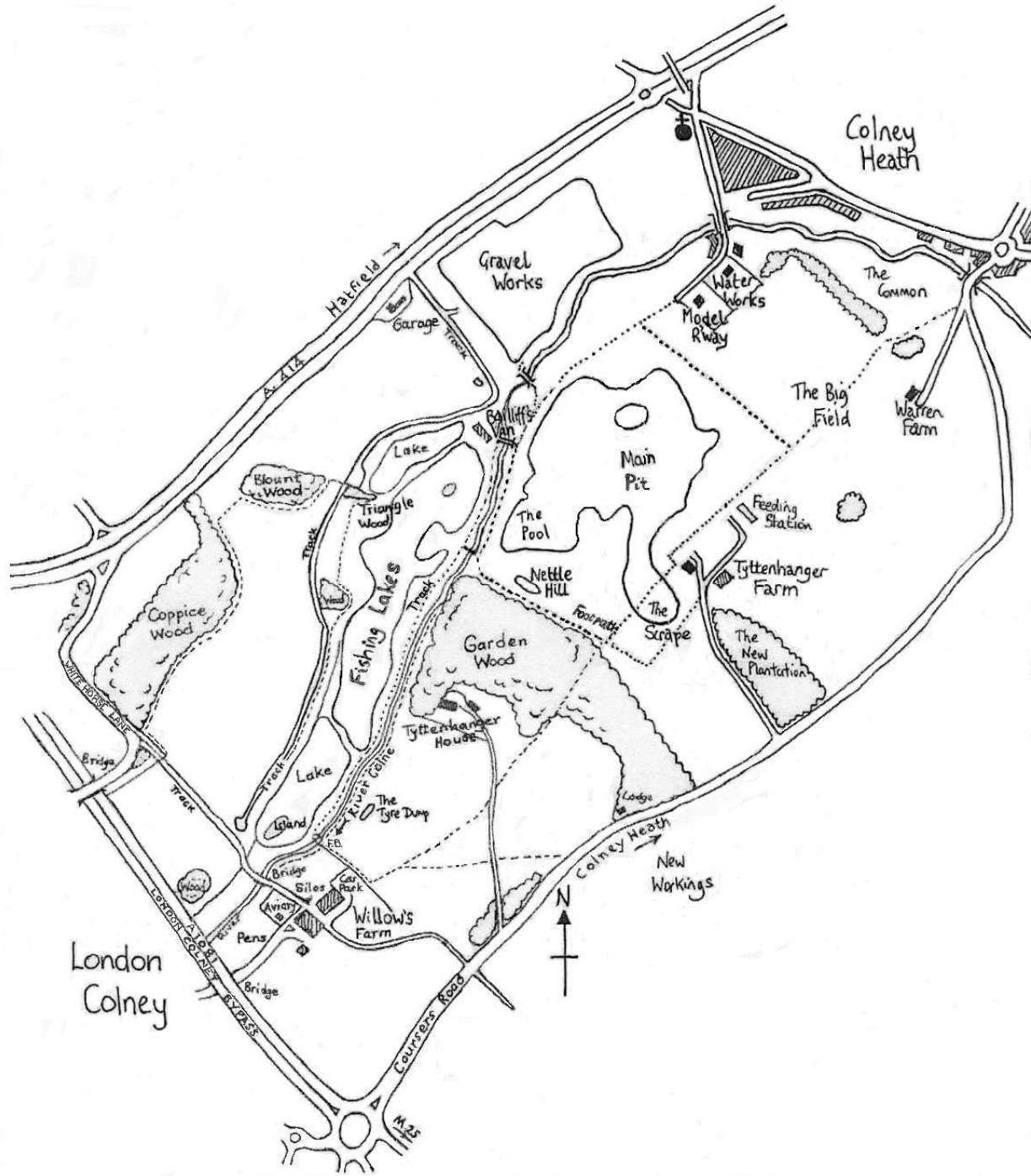
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### Recording Area and Access

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 Years 2016 and 2017

Most of the major physical features on-site remained much the same as they were in 2015 the last year for which a report was prepared. The sand-spit in the Main Pit continues to be a significant feature and apart from the growth of much of the vegetation around the site, things have been relatively stable, in a physical sense, for several years now. The weather in 2016 and 2017 was fairly typical of the period 2001-17 - both in terms of rainfall and air frost-days (see Table below).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median 2001-17 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Annual Rainfall (mm)</b>	851.1	821.7	689.9	629.8	1004.0	805.7	1014.7	740.1	727.7	726.5	<b>788.4</b>
<b>Air frost Durat'n (days)</b>	43.7	49.9	80.1	29.0	46.6	55.6	24.4	29.5	43.0	40.0	<b>43.5</b>

Coverage of the site in 2016 came to a total of 303 days (83.0%) – the first time in the period 2004-17 that it broke the 300 day-mark. The peak coverage was in the usual months of March/April and August/September - with April this year being the third year in a row that it has received complete coverage.

While coverage in 2016 broke all previous records, 2017 smashed them! This year saw a total coverage of 321 days – which is 88.0% of the days in the year. This was no doubt due to the string of great records but nevertheless, March April and May all received full coverage – the fourth year in a row this has occurred in April.

Coverage (days per month), median number of records for the month (2004-2017) and the proportion - as a % of total records from the period 2004-17 - that fall in each month are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2017</b>	26	21	31	30	31	23	26	28	29	27	26	23	<b>321</b>
<b>2016</b>	23	21	25	30	23	19	29	28	27	24	26	28	<b>303</b>
<b>Median<sup>(1)</sup></b>	22.5	19.5	25.0	28.0	24.0	21.5	24.5	27.0	24.0	24.0	20.5	19.5	<b>273.5</b>
<b>% Total<sup>(2)</sup></b>	7.75	7.24	9.18	10.05	8.77	7.24	8.95	9.61	8.36	8.08	7.57	7.19	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Median is calculated from the period 2004-2017. <sup>(2)</sup> Proportion of total days coverage in the period 2004-17 in the relevant month

The site also continues to have up-to-date information through 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 @TyttGP 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 2016

**January;** the year started well with a redhead **Goosander** on the 1<sup>st</sup> that was present, off and on, until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. The 1<sup>st</sup> also saw a total of 36 **Snipe** - which was a maximum count for the site beating the previous record of 34. There was a **Peregrine** on 4<sup>th</sup> (the first of 4 records for the month) and on the 8<sup>th</sup> there were 20 **Lesser Redpoll** noted. Also, on the 8<sup>th</sup> a **Bittern** was seen in the Scrub/Reeds at the North End of the main pit where it showed for just over an hour before it flew into the middle of the scrub/reeds on the main pit - never to be seen again. On the same day the first **Green Sandpiper** of the year was seen, which was the first of three records for the month. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> five **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen on the main pit and over 50 **Fieldfare** and **Redwing** were present. A **Water Rail** on 25<sup>th</sup> and two **Shelduck** on the 28<sup>th</sup> ended the month.

**February;** as usual one of the slowest months of the year, but some quality was provided with two records of **Mediterranean Gull** – a adult on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a 1<sup>st</sup>-winter on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were four records of **Shelduck** for the month - involving 20 bird days and a maximum count of 6 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The first of two **Peregrines** were recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> (the other was on the 22<sup>nd</sup>) and also on the 12<sup>th</sup> was the first of just 3 records of **Snipe** for the month. On the 21<sup>st</sup> there were 202 **Fieldfare** and 107 **Redwing** noted, and 13 **Lesser Redpoll** were present by the Fishing Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**March;** the first **Oystercatcher** of the year was seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> and was joined by a second on the 11<sup>th</sup>, there were 250 **Fieldfare** seen at Willow's Farm on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and two **Ring-necked Parakeet** on 9<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The first **Chiffchaff** of the year

<sup>1</sup> Data have been extracted for the period 2001-2015 from <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries>.

was noted on the 12<sup>th</sup> and there was a **Barn Owl** reported on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A **Water Rail** was present on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the first returning **Redshank** on the 19<sup>th</sup> – joined by a second bird on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. A **Green Sandpiper** was present on the 25<sup>th</sup> along with two **Sand Martins**. The month rounded off with two **Swallows** on the 26<sup>th</sup>, a **Little Grebe** on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a **Stonechat** on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**April**; **Wigeon** were noted on the first four days of the month, with the first two **Wheatear** of the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and another on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> were both **Little Ringed** (four) and **Ringed Plover** (one) along with two **Redwing**. A **Yellow Wagtail** and **Willow Warbler** were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>, **Whitethroat** on the 7<sup>th</sup>, **House Martin** on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then on the 11<sup>th</sup> the first **Common Terns** were seen along with an adult **Little Gull** - seen on the Fishing Lakes for 20 minutes. A male **Ring Ouzel** spent three days around the fishing lakes from the 11<sup>th</sup> till 13<sup>th</sup> and a **Fieldfare** was seen on the 12<sup>th</sup>. **Sedge Warbler** on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 25 **Lesser Redpoll** and **Garden Warbler** on the 15<sup>th</sup> and then **Cuckoo**, **Swift** and **Raven** noted on 18<sup>th</sup>. A female **Black Redstart** was seen on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, with two **Common Sandpipers** and seven **Yellow Wagtails** also present on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A **Reed Warbler** on the 21<sup>st</sup> a **Curlew** on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Lesser Whitethroat** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> were followed by an **Arctic Tern** on the Fishing Lakes at 3.30 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. An **Osprey** was seen flying over high ENE at 10.50 am on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a female **Redstart** was seen in the hedge in the field north of the Main Pit on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. A male **Redstart** was then seen in the Tree Sparrow hedge on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Wader numbers were reasonable with **Green Sandpiper** present on 3 days of the month, **Redshank** on 15 days and **Snipe** on two days. A **Ring-necked Parakeet** on the 8<sup>th</sup> was unusual for the month and other notable records for the month include 16 **Whitethroat** the 5<sup>th</sup>, 50 **Sand Martins** on the 24<sup>th</sup>. and **Little Grebe** present on 5 dates.

**May**; a **Wheatear** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Hobby** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> provided a good start to the month with other notable records for summer migrants being **Cuckoos** noted on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and **Common Sandpiper** were recorded on 7 dates. Also of note were 2 **Little Grebe** records for the month, 80 **Swift** were seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>, two adult **Oystercatcher** with 3 young were seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 **Grey Partridge** were seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> along with 2 **Black-necked Grebe**.

**June**; a typically slow month with the usual breeding noted across the site and the only records of note being a **Cuckoo** on the 4<sup>th</sup> a **Little Grebe** on the 6<sup>th</sup> and, probably the best saved for last, a **Spotted Flycatcher** in Garden Wood on the 25<sup>th</sup> – one of only three records for the year.

**July**; things started to pick-up again this month with records of 20+ **Reed Warbler** on 2<sup>nd</sup> a **Redshank** on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – which was joined by a second on the 12<sup>th</sup>. A **Greenshank** was present between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and another was noted on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, in between which there was a **Black-tailed Godwit** on 12<sup>th</sup>. A 4<sup>th</sup> year **Yellow-legged Gull** on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> fits with a recent pattern for this species appearing in July – but the **Great Black-backed Gull** on the 11<sup>th</sup> was a first ever record for this month. The two adult **Oystercatcher** were seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> – but without sign of any young – and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** was present on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Other notable records for the month included forty-five **Gadwall** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (a record site count), **Little Grebe** noted on 7 dates, **Peregrine** on 2 dates, **Common Sandpiper** on 16 dates and **Green Sandpiper** on 19 dates - the later indicating that return migration was well underway.

**August**; a **Redshank** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and a **Ringed Plover** on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> were notable while there was a maximum count for the year of 22 **Common Tern** on 9<sup>th</sup>. The last **Swift** of the year was seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> and two juvenile **Garganey** were present on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile **Marsh Harrier** was spotted soaring through with 2 **Red Kites** at 11am on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Whinchat** was noted on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and a **Spotted Flycatcher** on the 25<sup>th</sup> the last **Lesser Whitethroat** was seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** and 4 **Willow Warbler** on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the last **Sedge Warbler** was seen on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The month ended with a juvenile **Wood Sandpiper** on the 31<sup>st</sup> with a count of 1236 **Black-headed Gulls** made on the same day. Along with the above **Common Sandpiper** were noted on 24 days **Green Sandpiper** on 17, **Greenshank** on 8 and **Snipe** on 6 – all indicating the beginning of the autumn passage.

**September**; the last record of **Reed Warbler** was on the 1<sup>st</sup> and there was a **Spotted Flycatcher** on the 5<sup>th</sup> a **Whinchat** on this date with another on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. A good month for **Ring-necked Parakeet** with singles on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>. The last records of **Garden Warbler** and **Whitethroat** were on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 **Wigeon** on the 14<sup>th</sup> and an eclipse male **Pintail** on the 16<sup>th</sup> - also 2 **Black-tailed Godwit** on the latter date. The last record of **Willow Warbler** was on the 19<sup>th</sup>, **Sand Martin** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and **Common Tern** on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a **Wheatear** and **Stonechat** seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 200+ **Swallows** and a 1<sup>st</sup>-winter **Mediterranean Gull** on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The month closed with 3 **Yellow Wagtails** and a **Tawny Owl** at Willow's Farm on the 30<sup>th</sup>. On the wader-front besides the previously mention species the month produced **Common Sandpiper** on 16 dates, **Green Sandpiper** on 2 dates and **Snipe** on 14 dates.

**October**; the last record of **Blackcap** was on the 1<sup>st</sup> followed by 100+ **House Martins**, a **Hobby** and a **Water Rail** on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first **Redwing** of the autumn was seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 4 **Ringed-necked Parakeets** on the 14<sup>th</sup> and continuing the good run there were another 2 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> saw **Stonechat** followed by a **Chiffchaff** and a **Raven** on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a **Swallow** and 40 **Fieldfare** on the 19<sup>th</sup> and a female **Goldeneye** on the 21<sup>st</sup> – a real mix of summer and winter migrants in the same week! Quality for the month came in the form of a **Caspian Gull** seen on 7 dates between the 21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> - all probably relating to the same bird. Eventually the first records of **Dunlin** for the year came on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> with 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Besides the above, the month also produced **Peregrine** on 4 dates, **Common Sandpiper** on 6 dates, **Green Sandpiper** on 2 dates and **Snipe** on 13 dates.

**November**; generally, things slow down dramatically in this month, but there was a **Dunlin** on 14 dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> along with a female **Red-crested Pochard** on the 9<sup>th</sup> and a **Tawny Owl** in Garden Wood on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A very late **Common Sandpiper** on 13<sup>th</sup> was followed by six **Golden Plover** on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and a redhead **Goosander**, 20 **Pochard**, a **Redshank**, and a **Ring-necked Parakeet** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and then a male **Goosander** on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Along the river at Colney

Heath there were 35 **Siskin** counted on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Other supporting acts for the month included **Little Grebe** on 9 dates, **Peregrine** on an amazing 18 dates, **Green Sandpiper** on 13 dates, **Snipe** on 8 dates and **Chiffchaff** on 7 dates.

**December**; the beginning of the month saw a count of 48 **Teal** on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19 **Golden Plover** on the 7<sup>th</sup>. **Water Rail** put in appearances on 7 dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> with 2 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Likewise, **Great Black-backed Gull** did well this month with a single on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was another **Ring-necked Parakeet** on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a **Chiffchaff** on the 12<sup>th</sup> along with two **Whooper Swans** and a pair of **Goosander** – with the redhead staying until the month's end. Also notable were a **Mandarin** on the 14<sup>th</sup>, **Stonechat** on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 20 **Tree Sparrow** on the 20<sup>th</sup>, **Woodcock** in Garden Wood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and a male **Pintail** on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Good counts of 71 **Cormorant** and 15 **Little Egret** were made on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the year ended with a **Waxwing** flying over on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a **Jack Snipe** on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were 1-2 **Peregrine** (15 days recorded) and **Green Sandpipers** reported throughout the month.

The year produced a total of 139 species but despite this relatively good showing - failed to produce a new species for the site for the third year in a row! However, 139 was a significant improvement on the low of 2015 and produced the following species not seen in that year – **Whooper Swan**, **Garganey**, **Red-Crested Pochard**, **Goosander**, **Grey Partridge**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Bittern**, **Jack Snipe**, **Little Gull**, **Caspian Gull**, **Arctic Tern** (the first since 2005), **Waxwing**, **Black Redstart**, **Redstart**, **Ring Ouzel** and **Mealy Redpoll**. Conversely, the following species that had been recorded in 2015, were not seen in 2016 – **Smew**, **Avocet**, **Sanderling**, **Ruff**, **Black Tern** and **Sandwich Tern**.

### Birding Highlights of 2017

**January**: the year started in great style with two **Great White Egrets** present on the 1<sup>st</sup> that were then seen together until the 18<sup>th</sup> with a single bird seen after that on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Almost as impressive for recent years was a **Marsh Tit** seen in Garden Wood on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a redhead **Goosander** on the 1<sup>st</sup> (present until the 21<sup>st</sup>), a **Woodcock** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a **Firecrest** on 3<sup>rd</sup> - all added-up to a fantastic start to the year. A single **Barnacle Goose** was also seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, there were two further **Woodcock** on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two **Tree Sparrows** and seventeen **Little Egrets** on 14<sup>th</sup> were both good counts, while there were two **Egyptian Geese** on 16<sup>th</sup>, a **Lesser Redpoll** on 21<sup>st</sup> along with five **Golden Plover** on 20<sup>th</sup> and three on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A number of species also put in multiple appearances this month -



*One of many sightings of Great White Egret Ardea alba for 2017. Photo courtesy of David Hutchinson.*

**Peregrine** on eight dates, **Green Sandpiper** on fourteen dates (with a maximum of four birds on 13<sup>th</sup>) **Kingfisher** on twelve dates (maximum of three birds on 20<sup>th</sup>), **Great Black-backed Gull** on two dates, **Little Owl** on three dates, **Little Grebe** on two dates and **Water Rail** on five dates (maximum of two birds). Finally, there was also a single **Caspian Gull** on ten dates from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of the month – with a second bird present on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> - good going for a species that had only previously been recorded once – back in 2006!

**February**: things slowed down a bit this month, but a **Yellowhammer** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> was noted, followed by thirty **Siskin** on Colney Heath Common on 4<sup>th</sup> and a **Golden Plover** on the 8<sup>th</sup> along with the first returning **Ringed Plover** also on that day. A drake **Mandarin** on 13<sup>th</sup> was followed by a **Black-tailed Godwit** and an **Oystercatcher** on the 18<sup>th</sup>, twenty-six **Tree Sparrow** on 21<sup>st</sup> and four **Golden Plover** on 25<sup>th</sup>. Multiple appearances this month involved **Little Grebe** on four dates, **Water Rail** on six dates, **Green Sandpiper** on twelve dates, **Caspian Gull** on six dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** on three dates, **Little Owl** on two dates, **Kingfisher** on twelve dates.

**March**: A relatively slow start to the month, but two **Raven** and a **Chiffchaff** on 4<sup>th</sup> complemented a drake **Mandarin** that was also present on this day (and was seen on the 15<sup>th</sup>). A 1<sup>st</sup> winter **Mediterranean Gull** on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> was followed by an adult **Mediterranean Gull** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. A **Woodcock** on 10<sup>th</sup> along with fourteen **Tree Sparrow** was prelude to an adult and 1<sup>st</sup> winter **Little Gull** on 11<sup>th</sup> - with another adult also seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A **Tawny Owl** and five **Dunlin** were present on 12<sup>th</sup> an **Egyptian Goose** on 12<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Migrants started to appear on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a **Sand Martin**, then a **Redshank** on 12<sup>th</sup> and the last two **Redwing** of the year on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Little Ringed Plover** appeared on 20<sup>th</sup>, **Ringed Plover** on 25<sup>th</sup>, **Swallow** on 29<sup>th</sup> and **Blackcap** on 30<sup>th</sup>. One hundred **Meadow Pipits** on 20<sup>th</sup> was a very good count and was followed by another **Raven** on 21<sup>st</sup>, a **Shelduck** on 24<sup>th</sup>, and a **Lesser Redpoll** on 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, this month there were two **Oystercatcher** all month - with three on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> - single flyover **Siskin** on three dates - with two on 10<sup>th</sup> - **Peregrine** on two dates, **Kingfisher** on ten dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** on two dates, **Little Owl** on six dates, **Caspian Gull** on



nine dates, **Snipe** on six dates, **Green Sandpiper** on twenty-two dates, **Little Grebe** on seven dates, **Water Rail** on five dates and a single **Yellowhammer** on 5 dates.

**April:** Two **House Martins** and the last **Lesser Redpoll** of the winter on the 1<sup>st</sup> provided a nice counter-point which was followed by **Willow Warbler** and a **Tawny Owl** on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The first **Wheatear** appeared on the on 3<sup>rd</sup> and were seen on 5 subsequent days this month. The last **Fieldfare** of the winter was seen on 3<sup>rd</sup>, the last **Snipe** on 4<sup>th</sup> and two **Egyptian Geese** on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Other migrants also appeared with a **Whitethroat** on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Greenshank** on 12<sup>th</sup>, five **Yellow Wagtail** on 14<sup>th</sup> (with six on 17<sup>th</sup>) **Sedge Warbler** also on 14<sup>th</sup> followed closely by **Reed Warbler** and **Common Tern** on 15<sup>th</sup>. The later arrivals were **Common Sandpiper** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Garden Warbler** on 20<sup>th</sup>, **Cuckoo** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Lesser Whitethroat** on 30<sup>th</sup>. The regular water birds were not to be out-done in the middle part of the month with two **Oystercatcher** and a **Ringed Plover** present all month, four **Shoveler** on 17<sup>th</sup>, a **Whimbrel** on 19<sup>th</sup> - with three on 21<sup>st</sup> - four **Dunlin** on 24<sup>th</sup> (singles also present on 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>) and eleven **Little Ringed Plover** on 25<sup>th</sup>. However, it was the not-so-regular appearances in the latter part of this month that really set it apart as a "mega-month". First off was a **Tree Pipit** on 17<sup>th</sup> - the first since 1998 - which shared the billing that day with four **Bar-tailed Godwit** present from 08.15 am until 09.00 am. A **Ruff** on 23<sup>rd</sup> was welcome after 2016's blank, but then probable "bird of the year" was found on the 24<sup>th</sup> by Rupert Evershed - a 1<sup>st</sup> Summer **Iceland Gull**. It was on the sand spit at 7.30 pm and flew of NNW at 8.18pm; fortunately for many, it was seen the next morning for an hour before disappearing (full story can be found on p64). But this was not the end to the quality birds for the month; there was a drake **Garganey** on the main pit from the 28<sup>th</sup> until the month's end, and then the 29<sup>th</sup> produced with an immature/female **Marsh Harrier**, a male **Whinchat**, a female **Black Redstart** and three **Swift** - the first for the year. But it was still not over and the month ended with a **Temminck's Stint** on 30<sup>th</sup> that was watched from 7.30 am to 8.22am when it flew of south being chased of by **Little Ringed Plovers**! Besides all of the above, the month also produced **Yellowhammer** on eight dates, **Green Sandpiper** on eight dates, **Little Grebe** on five dates, **Redshank** on 6 dates, **Caspian Gull** on four dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** on two dates, **Kingfisher** on thirteen.

**May:** the drake **Garganey** from the end of April was seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and, there were also eight **Little Ringed Plover** on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Two **Redshank** were present on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, a **Whimbrel** on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and **Egyptian Goose** on 5<sup>th</sup> along with a **Cuckoo**. Five **Ringed Plover** flew onto the sand spit for a minute on 7<sup>th</sup> with a single **Dunlin**, while **Wheatear** was also present that day. The 8<sup>th</sup> produced a female **Wigeon** and a **Greenshank** and three **Black Tern** - the latter also represented by a single bird on the 12<sup>th</sup>. A **Grey Plover** was on the sand spit from 10.00 am till 6.25 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> which was followed by a **Sanderling** on 17<sup>th</sup> which joined a total of 8 **Oystercatcher** comprising five adults and three chicks! Two **Hobby** were present on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and a **Curlew** was heard at 9.50 am on 21<sup>st</sup> with a **Peregrine** also seen on this date. In addition to the above, the month produced **Kingfisher** on nine dates, **Common Sandpiper** on seven dates (with a maximum of five birds on 8<sup>th</sup>), **Caspian Gull** on six dates, and **Dunlin** on 6 dates.

**June:** can be a little bit quiet some years but with two **Hobby** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and one on six other dates this month helped to liven things up. A **Barnacle Goose** was seen all month, there was a **Cuckoo** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 100+ **Swift** noted on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A single **Yellowhammer** on 9<sup>th</sup> was noted along with a pair of **Kestrel** that had two young - which had increased to four young on 13<sup>th</sup>. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and there were eight **Little Ringed Plover** present on 20<sup>th</sup> - the same day that two **Tawny Owl** chicks were heard squeaking in Garden Wood. Another **Tawny Owl** chick appeared on the 21<sup>st</sup> to make three - with an adult in attendance - the chicks were noted on three further dates until the 26<sup>th</sup>. There were ten **Common Tern** present on 24<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> produced two **Common Sandpiper** and a **Barn Owl**. The month also yielded **Green Sandpiper** on two dates, **Oystercatcher** on fifteen dates with a maximum of four birds on 5<sup>th</sup>) **Kingfisher** on five dates (with a maximum of three birds on 3<sup>rd</sup>) and up to two **Ringed Plover** on thirteen days throughout the month.

**July:** A single **Barn Owl** appeared on 7 days between 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and there was a **Tawny Owl** on 8<sup>th</sup>. A single **Ringed Plover** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> was followed by female **Mandarin** on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and **Great Black-backed Gull** on 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (2 birds) and a **Caspian Gull** on 14<sup>th</sup>. An eclipse male and female **Garganey** were present on 16<sup>th</sup>, 100+ **House Martins** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, two **Raven** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and a single on 24<sup>th</sup>, three **Greenshank** on 27<sup>th</sup> and a **Peregrine** on 30<sup>th</sup>. Also this month a single **Barnacle Goose** was noted on sixteen dates, a **Hobby** on seven dates, **Green Sandpiper** on eight dates, **Redshank** on four dates, **Kingfisher** and **Little Owl** on seven dates, **Common Sandpiper** on twelve dates and **Oystercatcher** on sixteen dates - with a maximum of four birds on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**August:** the **Oystercatcher** from July was still present on the 1<sup>st</sup> followed by two on 12<sup>th</sup> and another on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the last two **Garden Warbler** were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> and fifteen **Mistle Thrush** were counted on 7<sup>th</sup>. Two **Raven** flew over on 9<sup>th</sup>, there was a single **Ringed Plover** on 11<sup>th</sup> and a **Whinchat** on the dung heap on the 12<sup>th</sup> when ten **Black-tailed Godwit** flew in at 8.41 am for a couple of hours. The second **Tree Pipit** of the year was seen on 13<sup>th</sup> making this a remarkable year for this long-absent species. There was juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** seen on 15<sup>th</sup>, a **Black-tailed Godwit** on 19<sup>th</sup>, the last **Sedge Warbler** of the year on 21<sup>st</sup>, and the last two **Common Terns** of the year was on 22<sup>nd</sup> along with 100+ **Swallow**. There was a **Dunlin** form the 24<sup>th</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup>, **Spotted Flycatcher** on 25<sup>th</sup> with three seen the next day along the river Colne between Willow's Farm and Tyttenhanger House, four **Yellow Wagtail** on 26<sup>th</sup>. Another **Whinchat** was found on the 27<sup>th</sup> with **Redstart** present in the hedge in the middle of the big field north of the main pit on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, and a **Little Grebe** seen on 29<sup>th</sup>. Multiple days-recorded were also logged for the following: **Barnacle Goose** on thirteen dates, a single **Shelduck** on 8 dates, **Hobby** on eight dates (with a maximum of three birds on 26<sup>th</sup>) **Green Sandpiper** and **Common**

**Sandpiper** on twenty-two dates, **Greenshank** on sixteen dates, **Snipe** on six dates, **Caspian Gull** on eight dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Kingfisher** on ten dates, **Little Owl** and **Peregrine** on three dates and **Wheatear** on 5 dates.

**September:** there was a **Whinchat** seen on 1<sup>st</sup>, **Greenshank** on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and **Hobby** on four days between 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Two **Wheatear** were recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by **Ringed Plover** on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, six **Yellow Wagtail** on 6<sup>th</sup> and the last **Swift** of the year was on 9<sup>th</sup> along with an adult **Peregrine**. There were two **Ruff** present on 11<sup>th</sup>, a **Spotted Flycatcher** was seen on 12<sup>th</sup> then the other contender for bird of the year, a **White-winged Black Tern**, appeared on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This star-attraction was present until 17<sup>th</sup> and delighted many regulars and visitors - the full story of its finding and stay can be found on page 66. This period produced a number of other good records – probably due to the increased birding traffic on site – including seven **White Wagtail** and a **Water Rail** on 14<sup>th</sup>. A full summer plumage male **Redstart** was found on 15<sup>th</sup> along with two **Raven** and the last **Whitethroat** and **Reed Warbler** for the year were noted 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a **Whinchat** on the 16<sup>th</sup> along with three **Yellow Wagtail** and a tail-less juvenile **Peregrine**. A count of 80 **Meadow Pipits** on 17<sup>th</sup> was notable. These were followed by up to three **Ruff** on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, the last **Lesser Whitethroat** of the year on 22<sup>nd</sup> along with seven **White Wagtails**, and the last **Willow Warbler** and **Sand Martins** (25) of the year were seen on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then on the 26<sup>th</sup> the first of the winter visitors appeared with a **Siskin**, which was followed by a **Tawny Owl** and two male **Stonechat** on 27<sup>th</sup> and a count of twenty **Ringed-necked Parakeet**. There was a pair of **Stonechat** present on 29<sup>th</sup> with the month being brought to a close with twenty-five **Ringed-necked Parakeet** in Garden Wood on 30<sup>th</sup> and a supporting cast of two **Siskin** and a 1<sup>st</sup> winter **Mediterranean Gull**. Frequent appearances this month came from **Barnacle Goose** on thirteen dates, **Green Sandpiper** on twenty-two dates, **Little Grebe** on four dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Common Sandpiper** on thirteen dates, **Redshank** on eleven dates, **Dunlin** on 6 dates, **Caspian Gull** and **Snipe** on four dates. **Little Owl** on three dates, **Kingfisher** on fourteen dates,

**October:** the last two **House Martins** of the year were seen on 5<sup>th</sup>, the last **Blackcap** on 7<sup>th</sup> and a **Little Stint** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The first returning **Redwings** (17) of the year were seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and there were two **Great White Egrets** present on 9<sup>th</sup> along with a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter **Mediterranean Gull** that was also seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> produced the first returning **Fieldfare**, a redhead **Goosander**, and a **Yellowhammer**. The last two **Swallow** were seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> followed by a female **Mandarin** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and a single **Brambling** on 25<sup>th</sup> along with a juvenile/1<sup>st</sup> winter **Mediterranean Gull**. The month came to a close with a flurry of good records including four **Yellowhammer** on 29<sup>th</sup>, two **Hawfinch**, two **Corn Buntings** and four **Brambling** on 30<sup>th</sup> and a single **Brambling** on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A number of species clocked-up notable days-recorded this month including **Green Sandpiper** on twenty dates, **Barnacle Goose** on ten dates, **Little Grebe** on eight dates, **Water Rail** and **Peregrine** on four dates, **Snipe** and **Caspian Gull** on five dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Little Owl** on six dates, **Kingfisher** on fifteen dates, **Stonechat** on 10 dates (for a total of 13 bird-days), **Lesser Redpoll** on ten dates (with a maximum of thirty-three on 29<sup>th</sup>) and **Siskin** on nine dates.

**November:** The month started well with a **Yellowhammer** on 1<sup>st</sup> a possible overwintering **Chiffchaff** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> – the latter date also producing a **Raven**. There was a **Great White Egret** present from the 3<sup>rd</sup> until 18<sup>th</sup> and a redhead **Goosander** from 14<sup>th</sup> until 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a **Raven** on 17<sup>th</sup>, fifty **Golden Plover** were present on 18<sup>th</sup> along with a **Yellowhammer**. There were four more **Yellowhammer** on the 18<sup>th</sup> and three **Hawfinch** were found in Coppice Wood on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Hawfinches** were also subsequently found with one on 24<sup>th</sup> and two on 25<sup>th</sup>. Two **Egyptian Geese** on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> were the last notable records for the month. Also, this month there were **Lesser Redpoll** on eleven dates, **Siskin** on four dates with a max of thirty on 18<sup>th</sup> on Colney Heath Common, **Stonechat** on seven dates with a max of two birds on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Brambling** on fourteen dates (with a maximum of three birds on three dates) **Peregrine**, **Caspian Gull** and **Little Grebe** on five dates, **Kingfisher** on seventeen dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Snipe** on four dates, **Little Owl** on nine dates, **Water Rail** on twelve dates, **Barnacle Goose** on ten dates and **Green Sandpiper** on twenty-one dates.



*White-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucoptera – Tyttenhanger's 201<sup>st</sup> species!. Photo courtesy Simon West.*

**December:** Usually a slow month, this year was an exception with a single **Siskin** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a **Hawfinch** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **Great White Egret** present from 4<sup>th</sup> until 9<sup>th</sup> and a **Stonechat** on 5<sup>th</sup>. A **Firecrest** behind the hide in Garden Wood on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, was a good find as were two **Woodcock** on 15<sup>th</sup> and one on 16<sup>th</sup> - also in Garden Wood. The 15<sup>th</sup> produced a count of sixteen **Tree Sparrow** and there were sixty **Skylark** present on 16<sup>th</sup> and a **Stonechat** on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Species with multiple days-recorded this month included **Green Sandpiper** on thirteen dates, **Barnacle Goose** on seven dates, **Little Grebe** on five dates with a max of four birds on 9<sup>th</sup>, **Water Rail** on nine dates, **Snipe** on eight dates (with a maximum of sixteen birds on 20<sup>th</sup>) **Caspian Gull** on five dates, **Great Black-backed Gull** on four dates. **Little Owl** on six dates, **Kingfisher** on fourteen dates, **Lesser Redpoll** on nine dates

The year produced a total of 144 species – a record for the period 2004-17 as shown in the Table below. The White-winged Black Tern in September was a new species for the site and brings the on-site list to 201 species.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>No. Species</b>	137	136	142	132	137	135	139	140	138	134	132	129	139	144

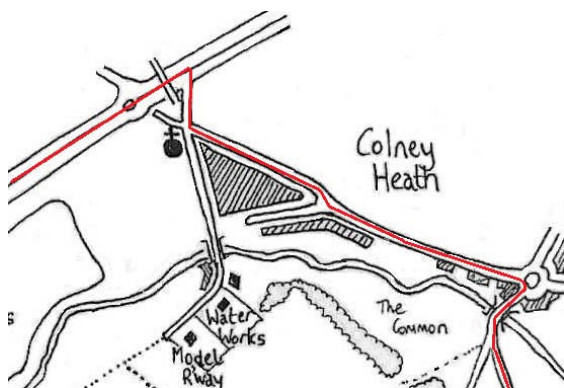
While 2017 set a new site record, the following species were seen in 2016 but not in 2017. **Pintail, Goldeneye, Grey Partridge, Black-necked Grebe, Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Jack Snipe, Wood Sandpiper, Arctic Tern, Ring Ouzel and Mealy Redpoll.** Conversely, the following species were recorded in 2017 – but not in 2016. **Great White Egret, Avocet, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Little Stint, Temminck's Stint, Ruff, Bar-Tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Iceland Gull, Black Tern, White-winged Black Tern, Tree Pipit, Firecrest, Marsh Tit, Brambling, Hawfinch and Corn Bunting.**

### 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>) 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.



Finally, a note about Colney Heath Common and Colney Heath. Part of Colney Heath i.e. the Common up to the High Street and bordered by the bypass to the NW and Coursers Road to the SE, has always been included in the recording area for Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits. The extent of the site is shown on the map in Figure 1 – with a detail from that map and the site boundary (9n ted) shown to the left.

It would be useful if recorders could note in the comments when submitting records for Colney Heath, if they are from Colney Heath Common i.e. includes all of the area shown above south of the marked (red boundary). Alternatively, if records are submitted under the name Colney Heath Common, then we should be able to find a way of capturing those data as well. The other option is to enter data as Tyttenhanger GPs – but to include the note Colney Heath Common in the comments. Hopefully we will be able to capture all of the records for the area that we have traditionally monitored if observers are able to add a little bit more information when submitting their records.

### Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation

#### Data Collection

The current report contains data for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> years 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 recorders and observers has varied quite considerably between years, with little obvious relationship between the two. What is notable however is the dramatic increase in the number of records in 2017.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>No. of Records</b>	11,415	9,498	6,968	7,105	5,548	7,087	8,783	9,734	10,814	15,284
<b>No. of Recorders</b>	57	49	76	72	58	60	55	55	67	72

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.

Last, but not least, we have an on-going project to digitize all of the existing records back to 2004 i.e. to cover the period 2004-2007 (inclusive) - where it is clear that the current data-capture mechanisms (particularly BirdTrack) were not being fully utilised by many observers. The data for 2007 is now complete and so we have been able to use these data in a number of the analyses carried out for this report. Work on 2004, 2005 and 2006 is on-going and we hope to include analyses involving those years in future reports. In the meantime, a number of the tables still only refer to data from 2007 or 2008 onwards – depending on where the analysis has reached with the relevant species.

#### 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March” are frequently encountered. In such a case, we have taken the approach that both birds were present on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and at least one day in between i.e. as 10 days might warrant enough of 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 so 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.

*Arrival and Departure Dates* – for the regular summer and winter visitors, arrival and departure dates are routinely presented in tabular form and in some instances, median dates are calculated from these data. The median is less sensitive to large differences in the data e.g. when there are no autumn records for a summer migrant then a late spring date is effectively shown as the “latest” departure date. However, to reduce the impact of such data these values are usually removed when calculating median arrival/departure dates. As a guide the following criteria are generally used to define the beginning and end of the migration periods for summer and winter migrants:

Summer Migrants - Spring Arrival - before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

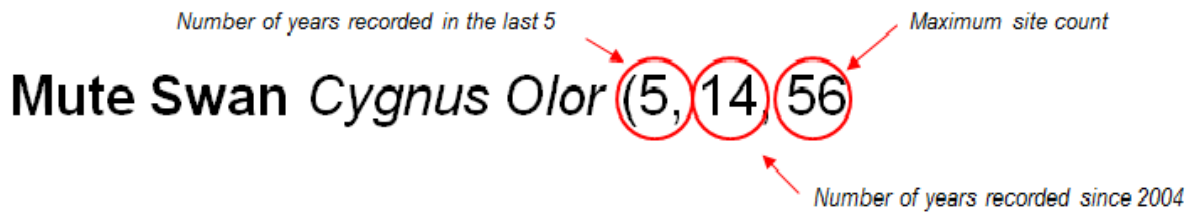
Summer Migrants – Autumn Departure– after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Winter Migrant – Spring Departure – before April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Winter Migrant – Autumn Arrival – after August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Presentation

Continuing on from previous years, the systematic section of the report shows the scientific name of each species followed by three numbers. As shown below these numbers represent the “Number of years the species has occurred in the last 5 years” , “Number of years the species has occurred in the last 14 years” (since 2004) and the “Maximum count on-site”.



As previously mentioned we are starting to get the maximum “carrying capacity” for many of our tables with the available data – but in many instance have managed to include all of the relevant summary data from the last 14 years. However, we are also beginning the process of updating these tables to include the last 10 years of data along with the minimum, maximum and median values for each parameter for the period from 2004 to the present. In addition, we have also added additional figures and tables for a number of species to accommodate the two-year cycle in the current report – but also because this two years has represented a watershed for many species.

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 more than three times but less than one record per year on average.

*Irregular visitor* – occurs on average once or twice in most years.

*Frequent visitor* – occurs more than twice a year on average – but may not occur in some 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 Previous Reports

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*; (2015) Bird days and days-recorded were transposed in one of the tables. This has been corrected in the current report.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*; the 2007 report indicated a record for this species on the 24<sup>th</sup> December. However, after checking all sources we believe that record was in error and should refer to the 19<sup>th</sup> December. The record for the 24<sup>th</sup> December 2007 has been removed from our records database.

### 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 Tim Hill and 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 lists were constructed from the records obtained through the Herts Bird Club – both from their own site and from Birdtrack. Apologies if you submitted records for 2016 -17 and your name doesn't appear on the above lists - 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, 14, 56)

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

**2016.** There were two occupied nests noted (one in April and August), but only one brood was seen with two cygnets first on the 15<sup>th</sup> June; they were only noted on one other date -26<sup>th</sup> June. There were three double-figure counts this year (3 in 2015) and the maximum count for the year was of 12 birds on 4<sup>th</sup> October, all-in-all it was a very average year for this species.

**2017.** There were three occupied nests noted across the site in April, but only two broods were seen this year - of one and six cygnets. The young were first seen in June, through until 13<sup>th</sup> July – but were not reported after this date. There was eighteen double-figure counts this year (3 in 2016) and the maximum count for the year was 15 birds on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Summary statistics from the period 2004-17 are shown in the Table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Max 2017</b>	4	4	6	7	9	10*	7	6	7	7	13	15
<b>Monthly Max 2016</b>	6	3	5	10	6	7	6	9	6	12	8	8
<b>Median 2004-17</b>	9	6	6	6	9	9	8	8	9	12	9	12
<b>Maximum 2004-17</b>	18	23	12	11	18	14	12	14	20	24	28	26
<b>Minimum 2004-17</b>	3	2	4	3	5	6	3	5	3	4	4	2

\* Includes young birds

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (1, 4, 4)

*Infrequent winter visitor.*

**2016.** Two were reported on the 12<sup>th</sup> December (V Kennard). This is the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the site with previous records being in 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

**2017.** Not recorded.

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (5, 14, 70)

*Birds of presumed feral origin have become frequent visitors in the recent past.*

The records for this species have become problematic in the last couple of years with records of the white domestic geese on site being confused with those for this species. This has happened as numbers of the current species have dramatically increased and so we would urge recorders to make sure that if recording the white geese they make it clear that these records relate to the domestic geese. At the present time we have therefore taken a relatively conservative approach and only included data for this species that we believe is reasonably attributable to this species.

**2016.** An increase in both days recorded (109) and counts of 10 or more birds (38) from the respective figures in 2015 (94 and 19). There were also 14 counts of 30 or more birds for the year with a maximum of 38 birds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**2017.** Another increase in numbers, with days recorded up to 126 counts of  $\geq 10$  birds up to 75 days and  $\leq 30$  birds to 24 days. There was a record count for the site of 70 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December (Andrew Steele). A pair also built a nest on the island on the farm lake in April that was occupied from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April but no young were noted.

Summary statistics from the period 2004 to 2017 are shown in the Table below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	71	118	87	56	60	64	59	84	109	126	6	126	63
<b>Max. Count</b>	23	26	20	17	30	28	27	19	38	70	2	70	22
<b>Counts of <math>\geq 10</math></b>	11	50	36	7	21	28	18	23	60	75	0	75	19

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

### Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (4, 10, 12)

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

**2016.** This is the best year by a long shot for this species in the period 2004 - 2016 with 35 days recorded, composed of 28 days with single birds, 5 days with two birds and 2 days with three birds – the latter being the 8<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> December. Birds were noted in nine months of the year (not seen in January, July and August). It is presumed that the majority of records relate to a single returning bird that first appeared in February of this year.

**2017.** Numbers were up again this year, and a total of 83 days were recorded with all but two records relating to just a single bird. Interestingly there were two days recorded in January and then a gap until the 2<sup>nd</sup> June after which a single bird was present off and on until the end of the year. Again, it is presumed that all of the records relate to a single bird that first appeared in February 2016 – but there have been no data provided to either confirm or refute this assumption.

A summary of days-recorded for the period 2008 – 17 is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	7	0	11	2	0	0	20	1	35	83	0	83	2

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (5, 14, 449)

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

**2016.** Numbers were generally up this year, with a maximum of 449 on the 28<sup>th</sup> August which is a maximum count for the site. There were five broods noted on the 21<sup>st</sup> May (6 in 2015 and 3 in 2014) which all in all adds up to a good year for this species.

**2017.** A relatively good year for numbers with record counts made in January, February, June July and November and a maximum count of 350 made on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. There were five to six broods and 30 young noted in June so all in all this was a good year for this species.

Monthly maxima data from the period from 2008-17 are summarised in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Max 2017</b>	180	111	69	33	42	82	100	190	350	100	250	60
<b>Monthly Max 2016</b>	60	54	57	44	50	56	50	449	360	32	72	150
<b>Median 2004-17</b>	65	47	50	18	42	47	62	206	240	92	59	50
<b>Maximum 2004-17</b>	180	111	76	44	62	82	100	449	400	315	250	150
<b>Minimum 2004-17</b>	19	16	15	9	18	15	28	125	118	32	38	37

\* Includes young birds

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (5, 12; 10)

*Infrequent visitor*

**2016.** The second-best year on record for this species, with 35 days-recorded, comprising 11 days with single birds and 24 days with two birds. Birds were noted in six months of the year (not seen in January, February, March, August, October and November)) and maybe the same two birds were involved in most of the records?

**2017.** Numbers were back down again this year with 10 days recorded - 3 days with single and 7 days with two birds. It is tempting to speculate that maybe the same two birds were involved as may have been the case in 2016.?

A summary of days-recorded for the last 10 years is shown below with summary data for the period 2008 – 16.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	12	18	41	0	1	4	1	1	35	10	0	41	2

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.



*Mandarin Aix galericulata* – 2017 was a bumper year for this species. Photo courtesy Steve Blake.

### Mandarin *Aix galericulata* (4, 9, 3)

*Irregular visitor.*

**2016.** There was only one record for the year of one bird (sex unknown) on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** A total of seven bird days – maybe involving just two birds - with a male noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> March and then a female on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> July and then a female again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October. This is the best year on record for this species - the previous best being 5 days recorded in 2008.

A summary of days-recorded for the last 10 years is shown below along with summary data for the period 2008-17.

### Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (5,14, 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.*

**2016.** A relatively poor year for this species with just 14 days recorded and 35 bird days. There were two birds around in January and then in February numbers increased until there were six birds present on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> - before numbers fell away again. A juvenile bird was around on 5 dates in August – maybe indicating breeding near-by?



**2017.** A poor year for this species with just a single bird in the early part of the year (24<sup>th</sup> March) and then a juvenile that was around between 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August. The pattern of juvenile birds appearing in August – as in 2016- indicates breeding near-by, but the days of this species breeding at Tyttenhanger seem to have gone.

A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with summary data for the period 2008 – 17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	74	86	93	50	52	9	9	26	14	9	9	93	39
<b>Bird days</b>	175	198	184	59	81	11	11	37	35	9	9	195	51

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	7	0	7	1

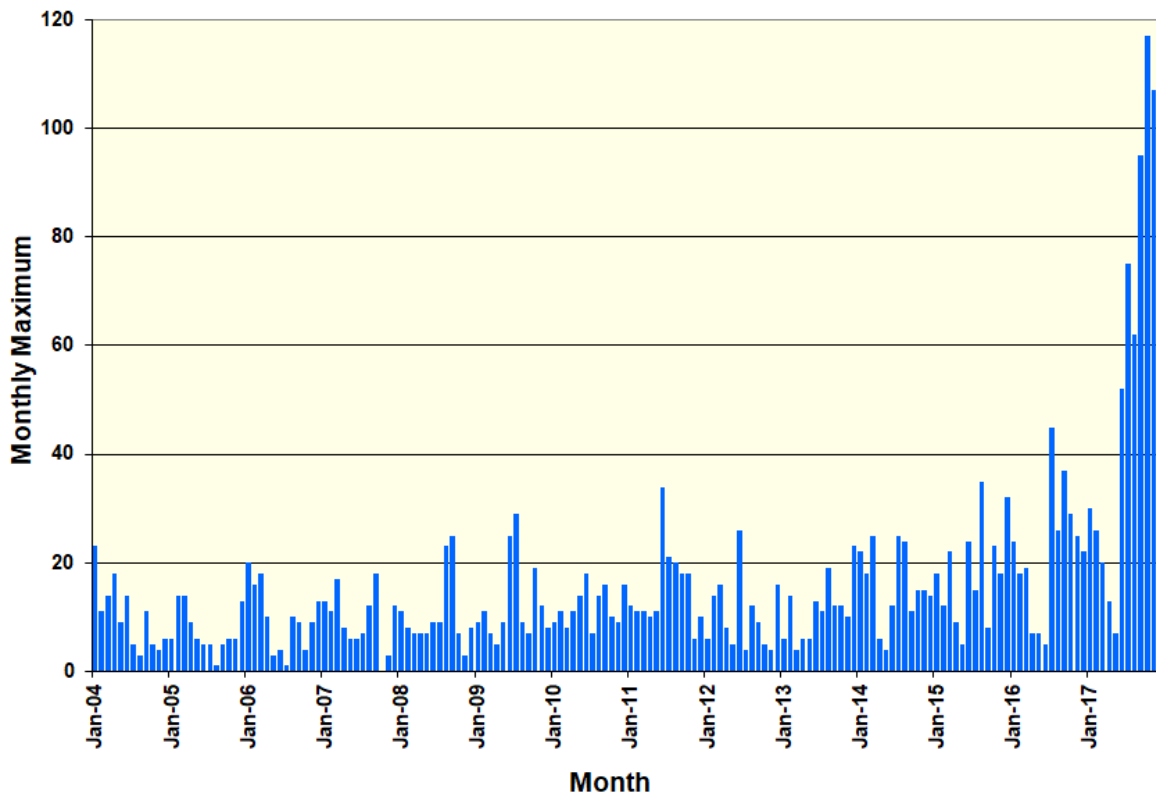
**Gadwall *Anas strepera* (5, 14, 117)**

*Recorded all year around but is breeding infrequent.*

**2016.** There was successful breeding this year with a single brood of two chicks noted on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The maximum for the year was of 45 birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The latter was a record count for the site, but apart from this numbers were much the same as 2015 i.e. days recorded 127 (128 in 2015) and bird days 1073 (1054 in 2015). Notwithstanding the overall numbers, it is probably notable only now that the last 4 months of the years saw monthly maxima close to, or over, previous records for those months.

**2017.** Sometimes, numbers alone cannot do justice to our birding experiences and the massive change in the status of this species on-site in 2017 is one of those situations. The year started where 2016 left off with records counts for both January and February. The period March through to May produced relatively “normal numbers and then June saw 1 brood of 7 young – noted on both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – the latter seeing the previous best site-count (45) bettered with 52 birds (including the 7 young). After this numbers went through the roof with another 33 counts better than the previous site-record, reaching a maximum of 117 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> October! All months from June through to December produced records counts for those months and by the end of the year nearly 4400 bird-days had been clocked-up – 4 times the previous record.

While the numbers are impressive the data shown in Figure 2 give a better feel for just how special this year was for this species.



**Figure 2.** Summary of daily maxima for Gadwall *Anas strepera* during the period 2004-2017.

A summary of monthly maxima data for Gadwall from the last 14 years are also shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	30	26	20	13	7	52	75	62	95	117	107	66
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	24	18	19	7	7	5	45	26	37	29	25	22
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	13	13	15	9	7	14	10	17	12	11	9	14
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	30	26	25	18	14	52	75	62	95	117	107	62

\*Median and Maximum of the monthly maximum for the period 2004-17

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* (5, 14, 250)

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

**2016.** A very poor breeding season for this species with only 'one' brood reported throughout the breeding season, this is the worse year in the period 2004-17. Numbers were slightly up on last year but still down on the median for the period 2004-2016. The maximum for the year was of 110 birds on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** A poor breeding season for this species with only four broods reported. Breeding aside, numbers were slightly above the long-term median in the first winter period and below in the second winter-period. The maximum for the year was of 145 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> January. A summary of data from the last 14 years are shown in the tables below.

Summary data from the last 14 years are shown in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>No. Broods</b>	2	2	15	6	7	10	10	9	2	6	7	4	1	4

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	145	70	45	40	50	48	105	70	52	70	60	75
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	103	13	18	26	48	38	33	47	61	63	120	110
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	63	52	31	35	57	60	40	69	85	80	79	97
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	168	101	83	81	92	128	105	193	250	152	146	165

\* Includes young birds; \*\*Median and Maximum of the monthly maximum for the period 2004-17.

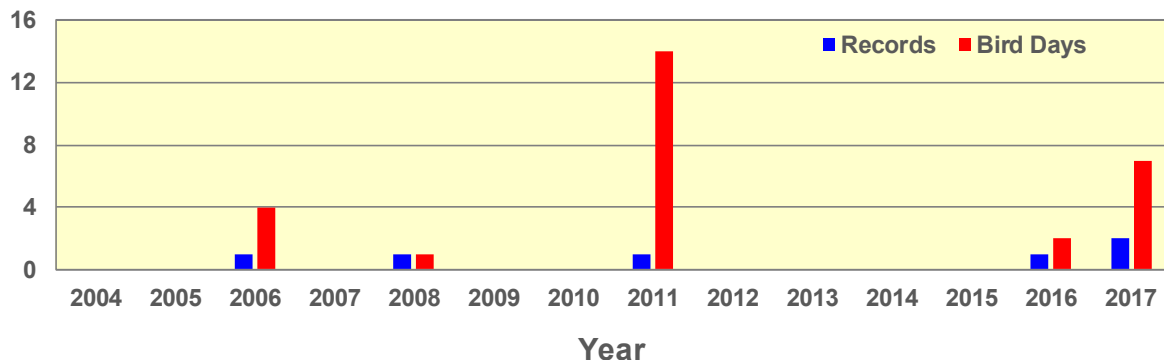
### **Garganey** *Anas querquedula* (2, 5, 2)

*Infrequent visitor.*

**2016.** Two birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> August are the first recorded since 2011.

**2017.** There was a drake on the main pit between the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May and then an eclipse male and a female on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

A summary of the annual distribution of records and bird-days for this species is shown below in Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** Annual distribution of records and bird days for Garganey *Anas querquedula*.

### **Teal** *Anas crecca* (5, 14, 85)

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

**2016.** Another species of dabbling-duck that had a very good year at Tyttenhanger with records set this year for both bird-days (1228 compared to the previous best of 1145 in 2010) and counts of 10 or more birds (53 days compared to 15 in 2014 and 40 in 2015). There was a typical lull in records between April and August but this year saw records in both June and July – with May being the only month to draw a blank. The maximum count for the year was of 48 birds on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** This was an exceptional year for this species with a record for bird-days in the period 2004 – 17, birds noted in all months of the year and with 79 days for which 10 or more birds were recorded (compared to 56 in 2016 and 40 in 2015). The maximum for the year was of 62 birds on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

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 2004-17. A summary of monthly maxima from the period 2004-17 are shown in Figure 3.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	144	135	101	79	74	77	99	96	108	125	74	144	100
<b>Bird days</b>	605	1041	1145	386	500	741	1056	535	1228	2233	386	2233	673

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

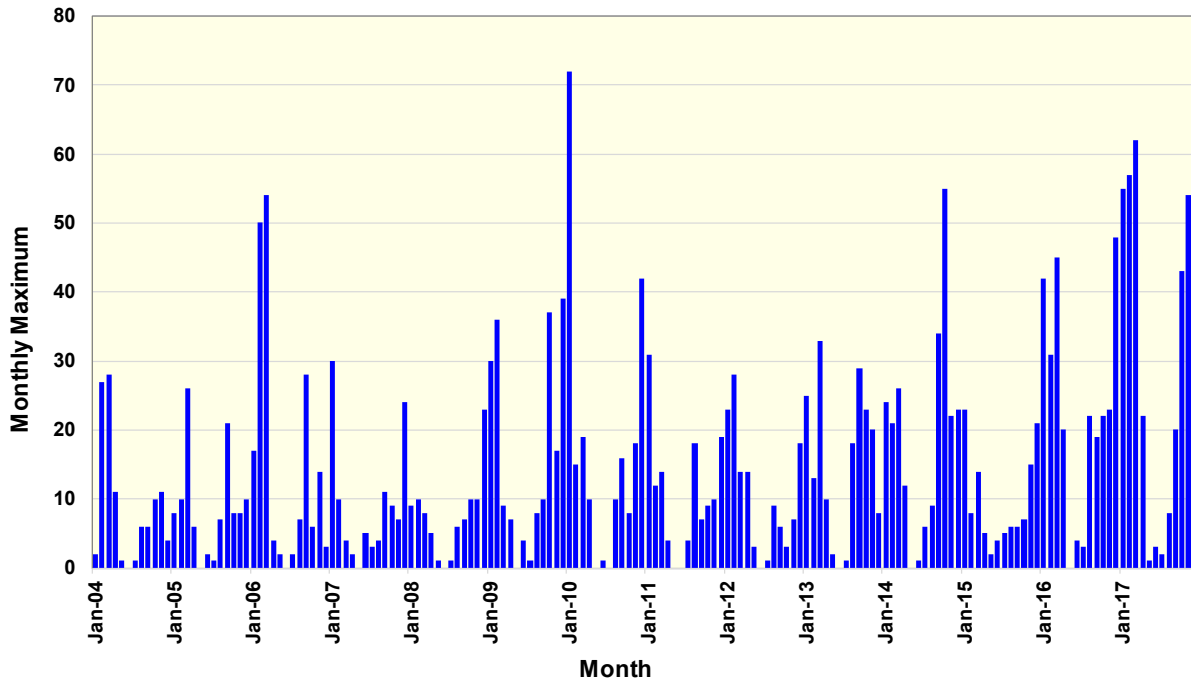


Figure 4. Summary of monthly maxima for Teal during the period 2004-2017.

**Wigeon *Anas Penelope* (5, 14, 77)**

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

**2016.** This was a very good year for this species with 47 days-recorded – which is a record for the period 2004-17 (27 in 2015 and 35 in 2014). There were 18 in the first winter period and 29 in the second winter period. The last record in the first winter period was on 4<sup>th</sup> April and the first record in the second winter period was on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The maximum count for the year was of 8 birds on 18<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**2017.** Another good year for this species with 43 days-recorded – the majority of which (33) were in the second winter period. The last record in the first winter period was on the relatively early date of the 19<sup>th</sup> March and the first record in the second winter period was on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The records of single birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May are the first for this month since 2008. The maximum for the year was of 12 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> December

A summary of data from the last 14 years is presented in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Max 2016</b>	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	8	5	12
<b>Monthly Max 2017</b>	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	4
<b>Median 2004-17</b>	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	4	6

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	41	36	42	21	12	42	35	27	47	43	12	47	32

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

**Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (5, 14, 62)**

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

**2016.** This is the best year for this species in the period 2004-2016, bird days, maximum count and counts of 10 or more birds all achieved new records for the site.

**2017.** Another exceptional year for this species breaking records again for bird-days, maximum count and counts of 10 or more birds. Interestingly, while the last two years were exceptional, the days-recorded record is still held by 2008 (115 days-recorded).

A summary of days-recorded, bird days, maximum count and counts of 10 or more birds for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17. A summary of monthly maxima for the period 2004-17 is shown in Figure 4.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	115	89	71	57	59	72	103	103	108	109	22	115	77
<b>Bird days</b>	315	214	245	134	343	763	624	452	1164	1652	60	1652	302
<b>Max. Count</b>	17	14	13	6	24	54	28	18	61	62	6	62	16
<b>Counts of ≥10</b>	3	3	3	0	12	25	24	9	40	62	0	62	5

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

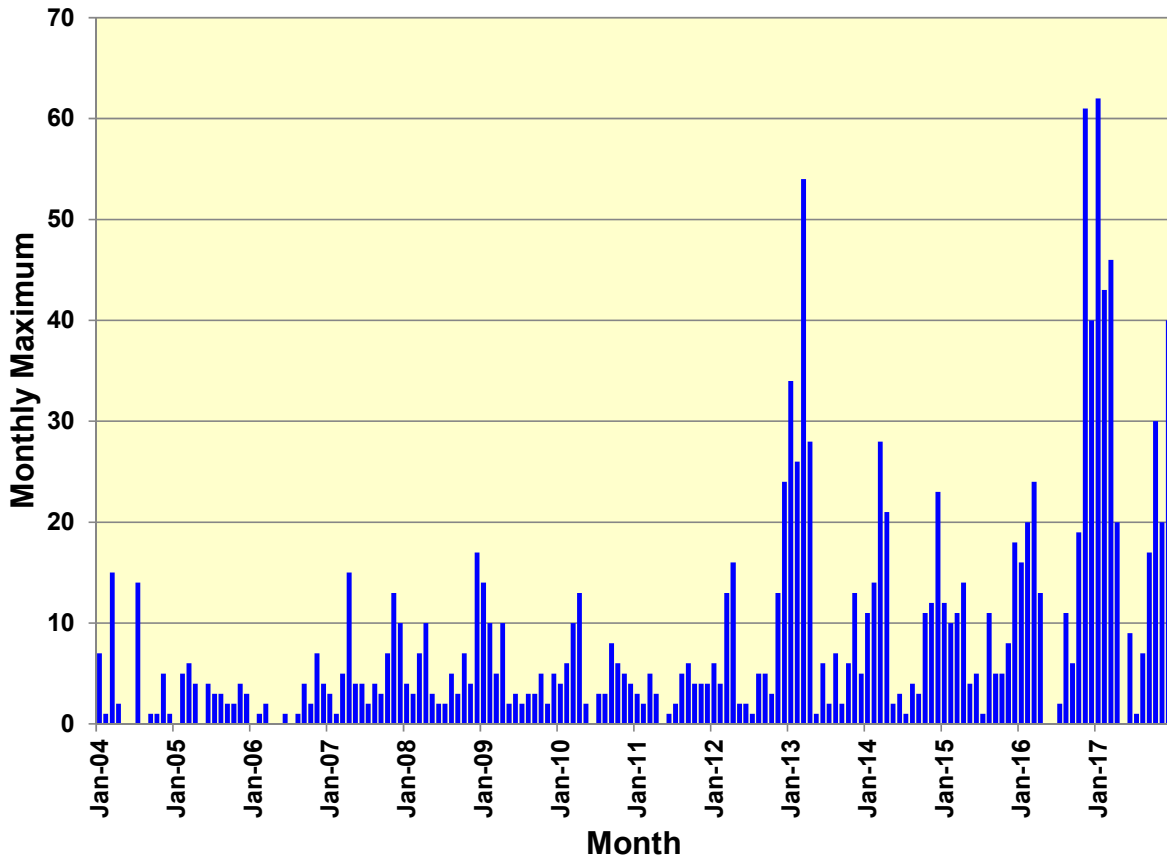


Figure 5. Summary of daily maxima for Shoveler *Anas clypeata* during the period 2004-2017.

**Pintail *Anas acuta* (3, 11, 10)**

Frequent visitor.

**2016.** There were two records this year an eclipse male on 16<sup>th</sup> September (Rupert Evershed) and another male on 24<sup>th</sup> December (Ricky Flesher/Graham Knight).

**2017.** Not recorded.

A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	8	1
<b>Bird days</b>	0	2	2	1	2	0	12	1	2	0	0	13	2

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

**Dabbling Ducks at Tyttenhanger 2016 and 2017.**

The two years covered in the current report have been phenomenally good years for a number of species of dabbling ducks – in particular Gadwall. However, closer inspection of the numbers indicate that the phenomenon may be slightly more broad-reaching than just Gadwall – as shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Mallard</b>												
<b>Gadwall</b>												
<b>Teal</b>												
<b>Shoveler</b>												
<b>Pochard</b>												
<b>Tufted Duck</b>												

The above table shows the months from either 2016 or 2017 in which record counts for the month were made for the species shown. As the records run across 14 years there is an expectation that if monthly maxima are randomly distributed across the years, then 2016 and 2017 would yield around 2 record counts for each species. While this seems to be the case for Mallard and the diving ducks (Pochard and Tufted Duck) numbers for Teal, Shoveler and Gadwall clearly do not fit this model. Naïve as the model may be, inspection of the relevant figures for these species does indicate that something is “going-on” with these species and that the numbers are more than would be expected from a random distribution.

### **Pochard** *Aythya farina* (5, 14, 132)

*Reasonably common winter visitor.*

**2016.** A reasonable year for this species being reported in all months of the year - with the exception of April - and with a maximum of 20 birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**2017.** It was a surprisingly good year for this species with 102 days recorded for a total of 413 bird days, birds being seen in all months of the year and maximum count of 20 birds on 6<sup>th</sup> December. This is the best year since 2008 and was somewhat out of trend with the last few years.

A summary of data for the period 2008-17 is provided in the table below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	162	112	94	84	53	47	70	62	83	102	10	162	77
<b>Bird days</b>	885	373	376	312	171	126	216	204	388	413	35	885	264
<b>Max. Count</b>	31	19	20	27	12	18	11	15	20	20	10	31	20

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* (5, 14, 95)

*Relatively common species that breeds in some years.*

**2016.** It was good to have this species breeding on-site again this year - with two broods of 5 and 2 noted in August. Numbers were very erratic this year with some months up and some down, see medians below. The maximum for the year was of 70 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** Six broods were noted across the site this year with young being seen between the 24<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> August; which makes this the best breeding season on site since traceable records began in 1983. Otherwise numbers were fairly typical of the last several years

A summary of data from the last 14 years are shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	30	20	35	32	16	16	25	20	15	22	31	22
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	30	27	39	32	33	18	16	13	14	32	30	70
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	35	42	37	31	17	14	16	16	14	17	25	26
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	59	74	54	47	33	41	37	38	34	50	42	70

\* Includes young birds; \*\*Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-17.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>No. Broods</b>	0	0	4	4	1	0	2	2	3	2	0	2	6



Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*. Photo courtesy of Steve Blake

**Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (2, 6, 5)**

*Irregular visitor*

**2016.** A female was seen on the Farm Lake on 9<sup>th</sup> November - the first record since 2011.

**2017.** A female on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June was only the 6<sup>th</sup> day-recorded in the period 2004-17. It is interesting to note that of the 9 records for this species that none have stayed for more than a day.

**Goosander *Mergus merganser* (4, 9, 9)**

*Regular visitor with one or two records in most winters.*

**2016.** It was good to have this species back after last year's blank - and what a way to come back with 25 days recorded and 26 bird days. There were 22 days recorded with a female and 3 days of a male. A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17.

**2017.** Another good year for this species with, 18 days recorded - all the records being of single females and spread across both winter periods. Days-recorded were between 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January, then one on 15<sup>th</sup> October, then a final bird between 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	2	1	3	12	13	0	1	0	25	18	0	25	3
<b>Bird days</b>	2	1	3	14	24	0	1	0	26	18	0	26	4

**Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (3, 11, 5)**

*Erratic visitor.*

**2016.** One record again this year with a female on the fishing lakes on 21<sup>st</sup> October (Steve Blake). A summary of days-recorded and bird days for the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17.

**2017.** Not Recorded. 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 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Days-recorded</b>	2	25	8	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	25	1
<b>Bird days</b>	2	31	10	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	31	1

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17

**Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* (2, 9; 17)**

*Uncommon visitor.*

**2016.** Two birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> May were the first recorded since 2013.

**2017.** Not Recorded.

A summary of records spanning the period 2004 to 2017 are provided in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	0	7	13	7	11	1	1	7	0	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Max. Count</b>	0	8	17	7	7	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	2	0

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Recorded</b>	1	5	8	10	6	2	2	3	2	2	6	2

**Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (5, 14, 50)**

*Resident, previously supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm; appears to be declining*

**2016.** There was 46 days-recorded this year (32 in 2015) and a maximum count of 8 birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. The species was not recorded in February, September or November and there were no breeding records for the year.

**2017.** Remarkably only 28 records (25 days recorded) for the year that spanned 11 months (not recorded in February) and produced a maximum count of just 4 birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.



A summary of maximum counts from the last 10 years is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Max. Count</b>	12	13	15	20	17	10	7	4	8	4	4	50	14

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

### Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (5, 14, 200)

*Resident, previously supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm; may be declining.*

**2016.** Another drop in the numbers this year with just twelve days recorded compared to 22 in 2015 and 32 in 2014. The maximum for the year was only three birds in September/October and December. Birds were only noted in 7 months of the year and there were no breeding records.

**2017.** An increase over last year in terms of days recorded i.e. 34 days, albeit the majority of these days-recorded were due to a single individual that spent a lot of time on the sand spit in the Main Pit! The maximum count for the year however, was of just 2 birds on several dates in the first half of the year. Nevertheless, 2 recently fledged birds were seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, which is the first evidence of local breeding since 2015.

A summary of the maximum counts on-site for the period 2008-2017 is shown below along with the minimum, maximum and median value for the period 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Max. Count</b>	50	50	70	71	44	6	10	9	3	2	3	200	60

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004 – 16.

The recording of this species over the last few years is of interest and a brief resume is provided below. As many of you will be aware, organised shooting of this species stopped on-site in 2013 at which time numbers ceased to be supplemented by birds bred and released for this activity. The following provides a summary of records and numbers through the period from 2011 to the present. During this time the population has gone through a major upheaval due to the cessation of artificial breeding, feeding and release. Interestingly however, birders seem to have noted the impacts almost immediately, and started to provide counts/estimate of numbers rather than just recording the presence of the species – as was commonly the case when numbers were high.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Max. Count</b>	71	44	6	10	9	3	2
<b>Days Recorded</b>	62	26	32	30	22	12	34
<b>No. Records</b>	65	34	37	32	22	13	35
<b>"Present"</b>	24	11	4	1	0	0	1
<b>% "Present"</b>	36.9	32.4	10.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	2.9

### Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (5; 14, 46)

*Present throughout the year with small numbers of pairs breeding.*

**2016.** A poor breeding season this year with only 2 or 3 broods noted during the breeding season. The maximum for the year was of 30 birds on several dates in November and December.

**2017.** The first year since 2006 that this species failed to breed on-site and which seems to be associated with a general lack of numbers through much of the year i.e. monthly maxima for most months were below the long-term median value. The maximum count for the year was of 28 birds on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	25	10	11	13	23	6	9	4	9	22	28	15
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	27	20	25	29	26	12	14	15	18	19	30	30
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	11	15	20	20	20	15	14	19	19	19	21	17
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	27	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 2004-17.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>No. Broods</b>	0	4	5	8	6	6	3	3	2	6	2	0

### Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (5; 14, 16)

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

**2016.** A better year for this species with 29 days-recorded this year (18 in 2015) and six counts of two birds throughout the year. There was no breeding again this year; this species last bred in 2013

**2017.** Numbers rose again this year with a total of 42 days recorded, 60 bird-days and a maximum count of 4 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Although the species failed to breed again this year, a juvenile bird seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> August is indicative of local breeding

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 2004-17.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Min*	Max*	Med*
<b>Bird days</b>	140	296	151	75	46	39	23	21	35	42	8	296	39
<b>No. Broods</b>	1	3	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

\*Minimum (Min), Maximum (Max) and Median (Med) values are given for the period 2004-17.

### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* (3, 4, 2)

Irregular visitor

**2016.** Two birds seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> May are the 9<sup>th</sup> record for the site and the fourth in the last five years. It is tempting to speculate this species is becoming a regular visitor. Note, all records to date are between April and July.

**2017.** Not recorded.

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* (5; 14, 94)

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

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 71 birds on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Numbers in most were generally a little higher than the long-term median, which is consistent with the last few years i.e. overall numbers are increasing.

**2017.** Reported in slightly higher numbers than last year with a maximum of 75 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> January. The count of 70 birds on the 21<sup>st</sup> November was a record for this month.

A summary of maxima data for the period 2004-17 is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	75	21	30	8	3	3	4	6	7	35	70	66
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	60	39	27	10	4	3	4	7	18	16	40	71
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	21	16	14	10	5	4	4	7	7	9	22	27
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	75	62	34	25	10	9	11	20	18	35	70	91

\*Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-17.

### **Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* (1, 3, 1)

Infrequent visitor

**2016.** A single bird seen in the scrub/reeds at the north end of the main pit on 8<sup>th</sup> January (Mike Upstone). It gave good views at close quarters for about an hour before it flew in to the middle of the scrub/reeds on the Main Pit. This is the third record in the period 2004 – 2016 - the other two records being in 2009 and 2010.

**2017.** Not recorded.

### **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* (5, 14; 24)

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.

**2016.** This species continues to go from strength to strength on-site, with another big increase in the number of days recorded (195) and bird days (616). The maximum for the year was of 15 birds on 24<sup>th</sup> December (a site record at the time) and there were 13 double figure counts for the year – all in the second half of the year with many in November/December. Again, there was no breeding on site, but birds were seen sitting next to the Grey Heron nest on the main pit and it does seem to be a question of “when rather than if” they breed on site!

**2017.** The good counts at the end of 2016 carried on into January of this year with several counts of 10 or more birds in this month. Overall numbers were slightly better than 2016 with 171 days-recorded for a total of 787 bird days and 30 counts of 10 or more birds – 23 of which were in the second half of the year. Dominant months this year were October and November and the maximum count for the year was of 24 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

A summary of data from the last 13 years is shown in the table below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	5	2	31	12	21	29	51	84	74	140	195	171
<b>Bird Days</b>	7	2	42	12	34	49	58	105	88	262	616	787

Interestingly, prior to 2015 the dominant months for this species were July and August i.e. see Table below where the best two months in each of the rows are shaded. However, since the end of 2015 there has been a shift in the pattern of occurrence for this species, with the last three months of the year beginning to predominate. We are continuing to monitor

the rapidly-changing status of this species and hope that by next report we will be able to provide you with a more graphic representation of these data.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Bird Days 2004-14</b>	17	28	40	18	10	22	76	91	42	29	16	29
<b>Bird Days 2015</b>	10	8	22	17	12	3	31	58	18	9	6	68
<b>Bird Days 2016</b>	42	15	22	21	3	4	49	62	51	31	123	193
<b>Bird Days 2017</b>	138	48	20	2	5	36	22	22	12	225	193	66

### Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (5, 14, 26)

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

**2016.** There were up to 10 nests occupied this year (8 in 2015), but only two broods of two noted, one in April and the other in July. The maximum for the year was of 12 birds on 6<sup>th</sup> February and 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** There were between 8-10 nests occupied this year (8 in 2015 and 10 in 2016), but only one brood of three was noted on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The maximum for the year was of 20 birds on 12<sup>th</sup> March and maximum counts for March, May and June for the period 2004-17 were also made this year.

A summary of monthly maxima data from the period 2004 – 2017 is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	8	17	20	10	16	16	5	6	10	12	7	8
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	9	12	10	8	6	4	5	9	4	4	8	12
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	8	6	6	7	7	9	6	8	9	5	6	8
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	12	19	20	14	16	16	20	26	23	18	8	12

\* Includes young birds; \*\*Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-17

### Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (2, 2, 2)

Rare visitor; first recorded in 2013.

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** A phenomenal year for this species when two birds appeared on the first of January and were then seen virtually every day through until 21<sup>st</sup> January. There was then a large gap before 2 birds appeared again on the 9<sup>th</sup> October for a single day. Then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November a single bird appeared and was present through to the 9<sup>th</sup> December. All-in-all the species was recorded 38 days for a total of 55 bird days.

### Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4, 11, 1)

Regular passage migrant

**2016.** There was just a single record again this year with a bird flying high in an east-north east direction at 10.50 am on 27<sup>th</sup> April (Yves Gisseleire).

**2017.** Not recorded.



Great White Egrets *Ardea alba* – Photo courtesy of Steve Blake

### Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (5, 14, 5)

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

**2016.** Contrary to last year there were no signs of breeding this year. Numbers this year were down on last year with 114 days- recorded giving a total of 147 bird-days ((194 in 2014 and 165 in 2015); reporting frequency was also slightly down to 42.5% (recorded on 31 dates from a total of 73 visits by one regular observer) from the peak in 2014 (see Figure 5). The maximum count for the year was of 3 birds on six dates throughout the year.

**2017.** There were no signs of breeding again this year and the reporting frequency was 47.7% (recorded on 41 dates from a total of 86 visits by one regular observer) – much the same as the last couple of years and down from the peak in 2014. Birds were recorded on 120 days this year for a total of 190 bird-days; the maximum for the year was of 6 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> January

A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003-2017 for this and the other common birds of prey on-site is shown in Figure 6; a summary of days-recorded since 2004 for this species is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'</b>	2	1	9	7	5	13	36	57	95	138	143	121	114	120

### Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (5, 14, 10)

Local resident becoming increasingly more common in Hertfordshire and more frequently observed at Tyttenhanger.

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 7 birds on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the reporting frequency this year was 51.9% (recorded on 39 dates from a total of 73 visits by one regular observer) with 97 days-recorded for a total of 226 bird Days

**2017.** Numbers were slightly up this year with a maximum of 10 birds on 29<sup>th</sup> April (equal to the previous record) and days recorded for the year being 114 – a new record for the period 2004-17. The reporting frequency this year was 42% (recorded on 38 dates from a total of 86 visits by one regular observer).

A summary of records for this species from the last 14 years is shown below - the recording frequency during the period 2003-2017 for this and the other common birds of prey on-site is shown in Figure 6.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Days-recorded 2017</b>	4	4	14	19	11	8	9	13	14	8	6	4	<b>114</b>
<b>Days recorded 2016</b>	8	8	15	19	10	5	5	6	9	2	6	4	<b>97</b>
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	5	5	11	11	9	5	5	8	8	7	4	4	<b>78</b>
<b>Max. 2004-2017**</b>	8	8	15	19	19	8	9	16	14	9	7	6	<b>114</b>

\*\*Median and Maximum values of the days-recorded for each month in the period 2004-17.

### Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (2, 7, 1)

Irregular visitor; first recorded in 1991.

**2016.** A juvenile was seen soaring through with a Red Kite at 11am on 23<sup>rd</sup> August (Alan Gardiner/Steve Blake). This is the 14<sup>th</sup> record for the site.

**2017.** An immature female seen flying below the hide on 29<sup>th</sup> April (Brendon Fagan) was the 15<sup>th</sup> record for the site.

A summary of all records is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days-Recorded</b>	0	0	0	2	5	0	1	5	2	0	0	0

### Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (5, 14, 4)

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

**2016.** Courtship and display was noted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March but there was no further evidence of breeding. The maximum count for the year was of three birds on 29<sup>th</sup> January with a total of 68 bird days from 56 days recorded. The reporting frequency this year was 30.1% (recorded on 22 dates from a total of 73 visits by one regular observer)

**2017.** Another year with no evidence of breeding and which produced similar number to the previous year – maximum count of 2 birds (on 7 dates), 51 days recorded and a total of 58 bird days. The recording frequency was 22.1% (recorded on 19 dates from a total of 86 visits by one regular observer)

A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003-2017 for this and the other common birds of prey on-site is shown in Figure 6.

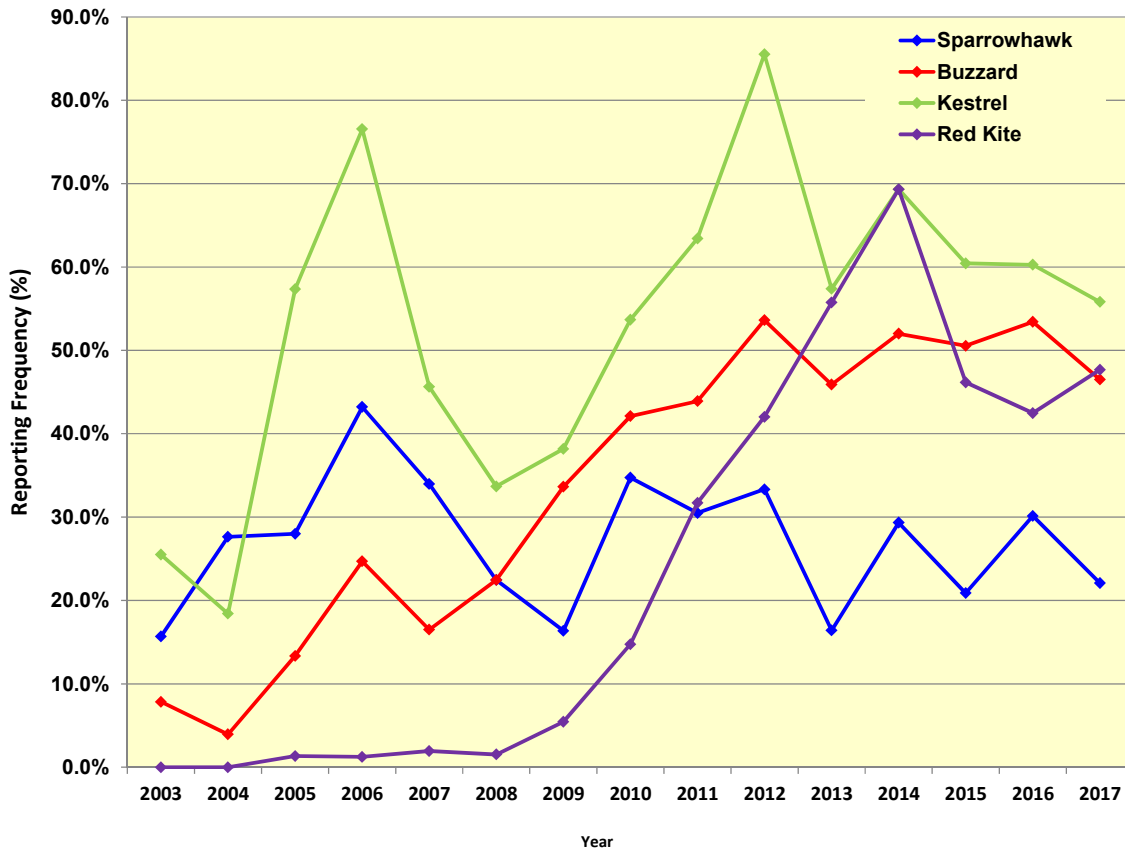
### Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (5, 14, 5)

Birds of both sexes present throughout the year. Undoubtedly breeds locally but usually not confirmed.

**2016.** Present throughout the year with an occupied nest noted on 16<sup>th</sup> April in the nest-box at the waterworks this nest was not reported again, and a second nest was seen by Tyttenhanger House on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, only the nest by Tyttenhanger house was proven to be successful with 3 fledged seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. The maximum for the year was of 4 birds including young on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July. The reporting frequency this year was 53.9% (recorded on 44 dates from a total of 73 visits by one regular observer). A summary of the on-site recording frequency for the period 2003 – 2016 for this and the three other common birds of prey is shown in Figure 6.

**2017.** Present throughout the year with an occupied nest near Tyttenhanger House seen with two young on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The maximum for the year was of 3 birds - including the 2 young noted above – seen on several dates in in June and July. The reporting frequency this year was 55.8% (recorded on 48 dates from a total of 86 visits by one regular observer).

A summary of the on-site recording frequency for the period 2003 – 2017 for this and the three other common birds of prey is shown in Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Summary of recording frequency for the more common birds of prey at Tyttenhanger during the period 2003-2017. 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.



**Hobby *Falco subbuteo*** (5, 14, 5)  
*Passage migrant and summer visitor.*

**2016.** It was a fairly ordinary year for this species which was recorded on 35 days for a total of just 37 bird days. There was a maximum of two birds on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> May. The first record for the year was on the 1<sup>st</sup> May – pot on the long-term median, and the last record for the year was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October (Median – 27<sup>th</sup> September).

**2017.** The season for this year was very short with the first record for the year of two birds on 18<sup>th</sup> May (latest date in the period 2004-17) and the last record for the year was on the 11<sup>th</sup>

September (earliest date in the period 2004-17). A summary of records for the period 2005-17 is shown below. Numbers for the year were consequently on the low side i.e. 30 days-recorded for a total of 37 bird days. There was a maximum of three birds on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

A summary of data for the period 2007-17 is shown below.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Days recorded</b>	25	46	45	30	24	26	28	38	26	35	30	<b>29</b>
<b>Bird days</b>	31	72	75	46	32	30	35	43	32	37	37	<b>36</b>
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> May	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> May	8 <sup>th</sup> May	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>
<b>Latest Date*</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>





*Peregrine Falco peregrinus with a freshly killed Moorhen Gallinula chloropus. Photo courtesy of Steve Blake*

**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* (5, 14, 2)**  
*Regular visitor.*

**2016.** Although birds were only recorded in six months of the year (January, February, July and October, November, December) there were 45 days-recorded this year which is the best in the period 2004-2016. Most records for the year were of single birds (2 birds noted on five dates) and most of the days-recorded were in November/December (18 and 15 days respectively) when there was a tail-less juvenile bird frequently recorded along with at least one adult bird. There are also several records of a juvenile bird that were not noted to be “tail-less” and so it is possible that the records refer to at least 2 juvenile birds. Notably there were only 2 records of 2 birds prior to this year

**2017.** Back down to 27 days-recorded this year – but this is still second best for the period 2004-2017 – contributed in

part by the juvenile birds present at the end of 2016 apparently lingering through the early part of the year i.e. 11 days recorded in the first quarter. All the records for the year were of single birds but at least two birds were present again in August when an adult and a juvenile were noted.

A summary of Days-recorded for the period 2006-17 is shown in the table below and a monthly distribution for the period 2004-17 is shown below that.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Days Recorded</b>	2	6	5	7	12	24	12	10	8	16	45	27

	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>Days Recorded 2004-17</b>	26	9	12	4	4	5	8	15	19	18	34	30

**Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (5, 14, 4)**  
*Regular winter visitor in the recent past.*

**2016.** Days-recorded were up from 8 in 2015 to 14 this year; there were four days in December with two birds recorded (maximum for the year) and records were split between the two winter periods 2-12 - with most of the records (11) in the latter period being in December.

**2017.** Days-recorded were up this year to 42 – which makes it the best year since 2009. Multiple counts were made of two birds on six days with a further two days in November producing three birds. Records were split between the two winter periods (16-26) with birds being recorded widely across the site from the river Colne, below the High View Point, the Back Scrape and Willow’s Farm. The bird recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> September was the first September record for the site. A summary of data from the last 14 years is shown in the table below.



*Water Rail Rallus aquaticus. Photo courtesy of Steve Blake*

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Days Rec.</b>	3	12	5	8	54	46	28	11	14	4	15	8	14	42
<b>Max</b>	2	1	1	1	4	4	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	3
<b>Latest Date*</b>	NF	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	NF	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	NS	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep

\* The latest date in spring (Latest date) and earliest date in autumn/winter (Earliest Date). The record from 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014 is not treated as an early return date, rather as an atypical wandering bird. NF = no records in First Winter period; NS = no records in Second Winter Period.



**Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (5; 14, 69)**

*Common resident with a few pairs breeding in most years.*

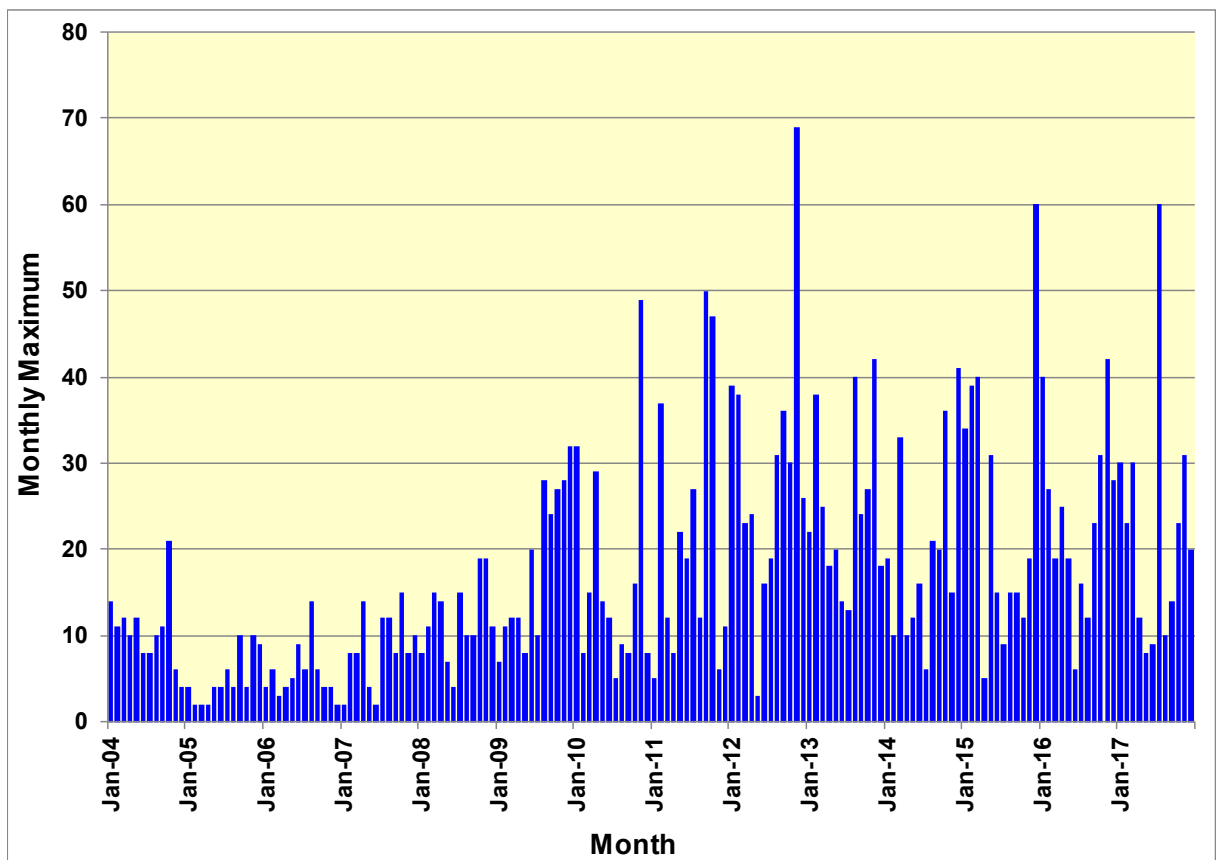
**2016.** Breeding numbers were much the same this year with four broods reported in May, June and August (5 in 2015 and 4 in 2014). Otherwise, numbers were generally above the long-term median (2004-17) in most months with the maximum count for the year being 42 birds on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**2017.** Breeding numbers were much the same this year with four/five broods reported in June/July and August (four in 2016). Again, numbers were generally higher than the long-term median in most months with a maximum count of 60 birds across the site on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

A summary of monthly maxima for the last 14 years is shown below along with data from 2016 and 2017 – all of these data are summarised in Figure 7.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Max 2017</b>	30	23	30	12	8	9	60	10	14	23	31	20
<b>Monthly Max 2016</b>	40	27	19	25	19	6	16	12	23	31	42	28
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	17	11	15	11	10	11	11	12	15	22	19	15
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	40	39	40	29	31	20	60*	40	50	47	69	60

\* Includes young birds. \*\*Median and maximum counts each month in the period 2004-17.



**Figure 7.** Summary of monthly maxima for Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* for the period 2004-17.

**Coot *Fulica atra* (5, 14, 214)**

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

**2016.** There were at least 12 broods noted in June which represents another good breeding year for this species. Breeding aside, numbers were generally higher compared to the 2004-17 median in the first six months of the year but down in the last 6 months – with the exception of December. The maximum count for the year was 155 birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**2017.** There were only 6 broods this year in April/May and June/July which is the worse year since 2006, the numbers were slightly down this year (but we think this is down to observers not counting as much as last year). The maximum for the year was of 120 birds in January and March.

A summary of monthly maxima data for the period 2004-2017 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
<b>Monthly Max 2017</b>	120	84	120	22	23	40	70	20	62	45	52	50
<b>Monthly Max 2016</b>	93	101	93	35	112*	43	55	43	37	60	74	90
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	91	89	62	53	66	60	67	84	63	49	63	88
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	148	148	120	81	155*	171*	207*	150	214	178	178	170

\* Includes young birds. \*\*Median and maximum counts each month in the period 2004-17.

No. of Broods													
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0	0	3	20	12	23	21	14	7	10	16	12	12	6

**Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (5, 14, 8)**

*Regular summer visitor, has bred in the recent past.*

**2016.** The first bird of the year was seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and was quickly joined by the second bird on the 11<sup>th</sup>. These two birds were present through to the 25<sup>th</sup> April when an occupied nest was recorded and then on 22<sup>nd</sup> May three young were seen. The adults and young were then observed until the 15<sup>th</sup> July, when the young disappeared – there is no clear record of these birds having fledged although they had been previously noted as “nearly full grown” The adults lingered until the 25<sup>th</sup> July – which was the last record for the year. The season produced a total of 202 bird-days which is the second highest in the period 2004-2016 behind the 228 of 2010. The maximum for the year was of 5 birds on numerous dates in June and July – all counts including the three young birds.

**2017.** An exceptional year for this species with the first three-figure count of days-recorded and a total of 230 bird days. The first bird of the year was seen on the very early date of 18<sup>th</sup> February and was subsequently joined by two more birds on 4<sup>th</sup> March. A pair then occupied the site from the 8<sup>th</sup> March and established a nest that was first reported on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. Additional; birds then joined the mix with up to five birds seen through until the first young were noted on the 17<sup>th</sup> May – which along with the 3 adults made a record site-count of 8 birds! At this time the birds appeared to comprise 1 pair – with the young birds- a second pair and a lone individual.

The young birds seemed to fare less well than in 2016 and by the 24<sup>th</sup> only a single young bird was noted. The five adults still remained and the second pair appear to have made a nest that was reported 16<sup>th</sup> June in a different location to that of the first nest. One or two bird lingered through until 21<sup>st</sup> August – with 4 adults seen again on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, but any attempt at breeding from the second nest-site appears to have been abandoned.

All-in-all a very busy year for this species, producing some very good numbers albeit a little disappointing in terms of breeding success. A summary of data from the last 14 years is presented in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	5	2	30	50	76	67	84	60	57	71	60	80	79	105
<b>Early Date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> May	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6 <sup>th</sup> May	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb
<b>Late Date</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	15 <sup>th</sup> Jul	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul	12 <sup>th</sup> Jul	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Th Aug	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug

**Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (3, 9, 8)**

*Infrequent visitor.*

**2016.** Not Recorded.

**2017.** Two birds over the Model railway Club on the 7<sup>th</sup> May (Tony Kavanagh) was the only record for the year. A summary of data since 2004 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	1
<b>Max No.</b>	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	8	2	0	4	2	0	2

**Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (5, 14, 15)**

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

**2016.** This is the worse year for this species in the period 2004 – 2016, with single birds recorded on just 4 days – 2 in April and 2 in August.

**2017.** A much better year for this species 49 days-recorded and sixty-eight bird days. The maximum for the year was of five birds on 7<sup>th</sup> May

A summary of data from 2004-17 is shown below.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Early Date</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10 <sup>th</sup> May	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
<b>Late Date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Days Rec.</b>	91	111	93	101	94	67	51	29	36	11	18	9	4	49
<b>Bird Days</b>	360	361	287	199	167	105	65	42	60	17	24	12	4	68
<b>Max.Count</b>	12	11	10	5	5	3	2	3	4	5	3	3	1	5

### Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (5, 14, 18)

*Passage migrant and former breeding species.*

**2016.** This is the worst year for this species in the period 2004 – 2016. While the year started promisingly, with four birds on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, numbers dropped after this to just ones and twos to produce just 22 days-recorded and a total of 32 bird-days. There were no records after early July and no breeding was noted. Interestingly, most birds were reported from the Fishing Lakes under the power lines. Two juveniles appeared at the beginning of July which we believe bred over the road at Courser Road Gravel Pits.

**2017.** After the worst year on-record for this species, 2017 was the best year in the period 2004-2017. The first record of the year was of a single bird on 20<sup>th</sup> March with between one and eleven birds then constantly reported until the end of July. There were no records after July and no breeding was noted – although a nest with eggs was reported on the relatively late date of 17<sup>th</sup> June. Again, there were a number of birds seen on the Fishing Lakes under the power lines – as last year – but also more frequently the Main Pit. The maximum count for the year was of 11 birds on 25<sup>th</sup> April; days-recorded were 99 and bird days were 402 – both records for the period 2004-17.

A summary of data from the last 14 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Early Date</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>Late Date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	8 <sup>th</sup> Jul	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	12 <sup>th</sup> Jul
<b>Days Rec.</b>	84	80	75	41	31	43	50	76	71	53	73	60	23	99
<b>Bird Days</b>	393	326	277	65	50	63	69	179	133	88	146	152	32	402
<b>Max.Count</b>	12	13	15	4	3	3	3	6	7	4	5	8	4	11

### Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (5, 14, 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.*

**2016.** The monthly maxima were 50% to 70% down this year on the median, with only November being up see table below. The maximum for the year was of 450 birds on 20<sup>th</sup> November what again is down by 50%. There was also no recorded breeding this year – which makes it the second year in a row the species failed to breed on-site.

**2017.** There were 2 broods noted this year with three chicks seen on 27<sup>th</sup> May and one chick on 5<sup>th</sup> June- but there were no further reports of the young. The monthly maximum was up at the start of the year but down at the end of the year. The maximum for the year was of 468 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

A summary of data for the period 2004-2017 is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Max 2017</b>	178	468	200	10	10	76	145	76	103	250	250	250
<b>Monthly Max 2016</b>	47	192	24	9	5	0	110	110	190	230	450	300
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	300	429	153	22	16	58	148	190	141	240	265	300
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	630	617	600	50	50	137	307	1000	313	700	450	554
<b>Minimum 2004-2017^^</b>	47	102	24	7	3	0	54	5	36	143	176	150

\* Includes young birds. \*\*Median, maximum and minimum counts each month in the period 2004-17.

### Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (5, 14, 2160)

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

**2016.** There were just two records again this year, both in the second winter period with six birds on 14<sup>th</sup> November and nineteen birds on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** A slight improvement on 2016 with six days-recorded this year - five in the first winter period and one in the second winter period.

A summary of the number of days-recorded for the period 2008-17 (the period for which all records are digitised) is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Recorded</b>	18	17	13	24	7	7	11	2	2	6

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* (1, 3, 7)*Infrequent Visitor***2016.** No records.

**2017.** A single bird present for much of the day on the 14<sup>th</sup> May (Tony Kavanagh/Alan Gardiner) represents the 20<sup>th</sup> record for the site – and the first since 2006. The monthly distribution of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days-Recorded</b>	1	1	0	0	10	0	0	3	5	1*	0	0

\*A long-staying bird from 26<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October 1993 is shown as both a September and October day-recorded

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* (4, 10, 4)*Occasional visitor.***2016.** No records.

**2017.** There was a transitional-plumaged bird present on 17<sup>th</sup> May – which is the 23<sup>rd</sup> record for the site and the 16<sup>th</sup> for May! The monthly distribution of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days-Recorded</b>	0	1	0	2	16	0	0	2	1	1	0	0

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* (1, 3, 27)*Infrequent visitor***2016.** No records.

**2017.** There was a juvenile present on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October – but not clear at present who found the bird! Surprisingly this is only the third year in the period 2004 – 2017 this species has been recorded, the others being 2004 and 2007.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* (2, 2, 3)*Infrequent visitor***2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** A single bird was found on 30<sup>th</sup> April (Ricky Flesher) at 07.15am and was seen by a couple of the other regulars before flying off at 08.22am. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> record for the site, all others were in May with the most recent being in 2014.



*Temminck's Stint* *Calidris temminckii* -photo courtesy of Steve Blake

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* (5, 14, 12)*Regular passage migrant and occasional visitor likely to turn up at any time of the year.*

**2016.** Amazingly the first record of the year was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October with another 21 days-recorded after this date until the 21<sup>st</sup> November. There were twenty-one records of single birds and one record of two birds on 29<sup>th</sup> October - which was also the maximum count for the year. As the lower table below shows, the days-recorded this year for both October (8) and November (14) represent over 50% of the records for the two months across the period 2004-2017. A very unusual year for this species.

**2017.** Very similar figures to 2016 with 23 days-recorded and 31 bird days but with the distribution of days-recorded being more normal i.e. the first record for the year was on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the last record on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The majority of records (20) were of single birds with a maximum count for the year of five birds on 12<sup>th</sup> March. This latter count and the 4 birds seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> April are both significant counts for the site and the bottom table shows there are only 17 days (4.07%) which have produced counts of 4 or more birds.

A summary of data from the last 14 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	34	26	17	23	17	33	9	19	15	13	9	10	22	23
<b>Bird Days</b>	72	39	30	35	21	46	9	40	19	15	17	16	23	31
<b>Maximum</b>	8	4	6	7	2	4	1	9	4	2	5	3	2	5

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Rec. 2004-17</b>	2	8	22	26	43	10	50	30	16	14	25	1

<b>Maximum Count</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. Days Recorded</b>	206	31	16	6	3	3	2	1	2	<b>270</b>

**Ruff *Calidris pugnax* (3, 10, 26)***Infrequent visitor.***2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** After last year's blank, this turned out to be the best year for the period 2004-17. There was a female on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April – which was the only spring record. In the autumn passage there were two birds reported from the 11<sup>th</sup> September until the 16<sup>th</sup> and then three birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Just one bird remained on the 19<sup>th</sup> September - producing a total of 10 days recorded and 20 bird days.

A summary of data for the period 2004-17 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	0	2	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	5	0	3	0	10
<b>Bird Days</b>	0	2	3	1	1	0	3	4	1	14	0	4	0	20

**Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* (5, 11, 5)***Frequent visitor.*

**2016.** There were two days-recorded this year - both of single birds in Garden Wood - on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December (Richard Coombes/Steve Blake).

**2017.** A very good year for this species with six days recorded for the year - all in Garden Wood – comprising, single birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> December and two birds on 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

A summary of data for the period 2004-2017 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	0	3	0	0	3	5	5	2	2	1	2	1	2	6
<b>Bird Days</b>	0	3	0	0	3	5	7	5	7	1	2	2	2	8
<b>Maximum</b>	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	2

**Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* (2, 9, 6)***Previously a regular winter visitor but becoming less frequent in the recent past.*

**2016.** There was one record this year of a single bird on the back scrape on 31<sup>st</sup> December (Steven Pearce). This is the first record since 2013.

**2017.** Not recorded.

A summary of data from 2004-2017 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	5	13	8	2	2	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0
<b>Bird Days</b>	8	23	15	3	2	5	0	1	0	9	0	0	1	0

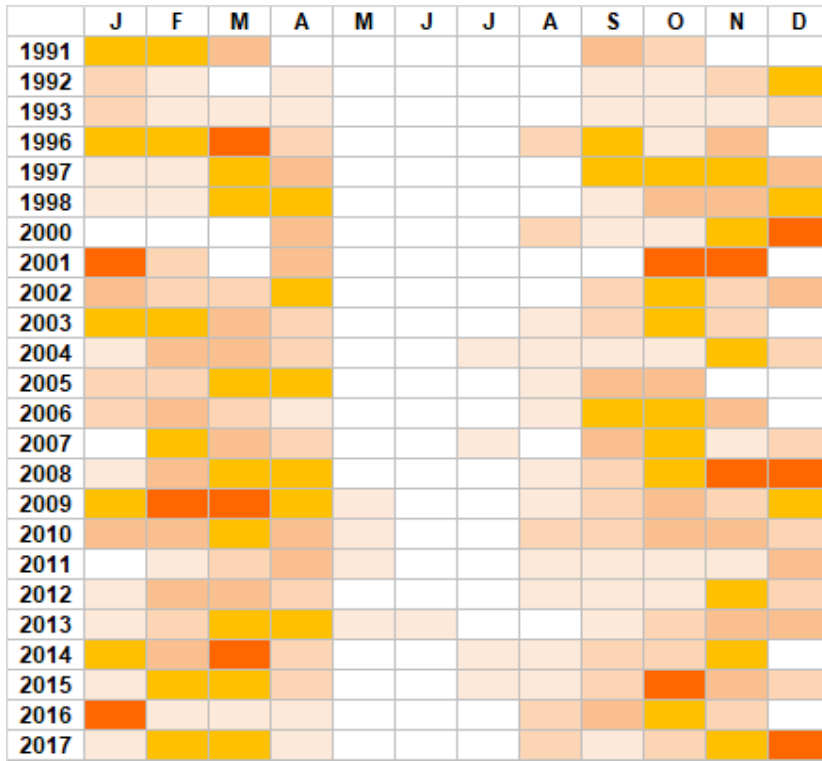
**Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (5, 14, 36)***Winter visitor and common passage migrant.*

**2016.** The year started well with a count of 36 birds on 1<sup>st</sup> January - not only a maximum for year but also a record site-count (Steven Peace). Things were subsequently a little quieter, with a total of 145 bird-days from 52 days-recorded. Overall numbers were biased towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period with 49 bird days in the first winter period and 96 in the second. The latest spring record was on the 10<sup>th</sup> April and the earliest autumn record was on the 6<sup>th</sup> August.

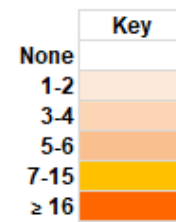
**2017.** Despite the record count of 2016, this was a slightly better year than last with 154 bird days for the year - 53 in the first winter period and 101 in the second. The latest spring record was on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and the earliest autumn record was on the 8<sup>th</sup> August and the maximum count for the year was of 16 birds on 20<sup>th</sup> December,

A summary of data for the period 2004-17 is shown in the table below while a larger sample of data are summarised in Figure 8. These data are interesting as they indicate an almost random pattern to the larger counts (16 being the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for the data shown), but may actually be more reflective of good viewing conditions rather than the numbers present i.e. the record count on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 occurred when all of the birds on the main pit were put-up by an unobserved (presumably) raptor. The record either side of this count were mostly ones and 2's - with a count of 4 on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2015. As we are all aware, the cryptic habits of this species make it difficult to assess true numbers – but maybe that's all part of the fascination with species such as this!

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bird Days</b>	88	141	132	105	529	597	155	85	111	118	308	171	146	152
<b>Maximum</b>	8	7	8	8	27	34	7	5	11	13	34	19	36	16



**Figure 8.** Monthly maxima for Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* from 1991 onwards. Note, data for the period 1991-2004 were drawn from the Hertfordshire Bird Report – which did not always use a consistent format for reporting – hence a number of missing years. Months for which there are no data and/or for which no records have been received are both shown as unshaded.



**Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (5, 13, 25)**

*Irregular passage migrant.*

**2016.** There were just two records this year with one bird on 12<sup>th</sup> July and two birds on 16<sup>th</sup> September – which makes this a relatively poor year for this species.

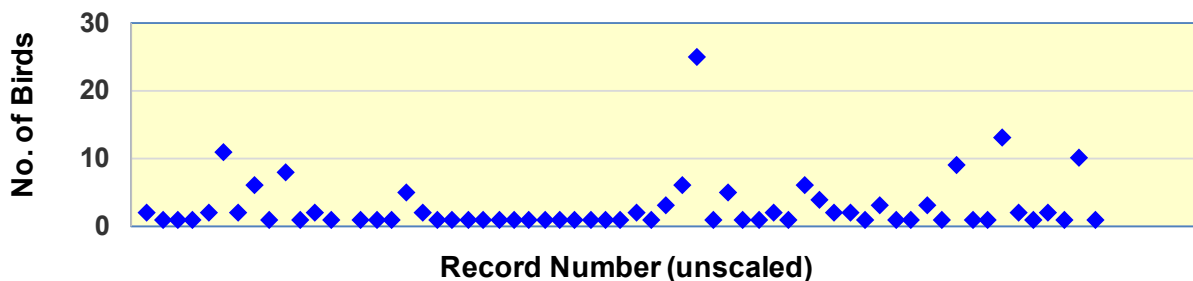
**2017.** A better year than last with three days-recorded - one bird on 18<sup>th</sup> February, ten birds on 12<sup>th</sup> August and one bird on 19<sup>th</sup> August. The record on the 12<sup>th</sup> August involved 10 birds that were seen to be flying south at 08:41 – and reflects many of the records on site that are invariably for short periods of time and often involve multiple birds – as demonstrated in Figure 9

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is provided in the upper table below, while data from 1987 onwards are summarised in the lower table and in Figure 9.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	0	2	15	2	1	3	3	5	2	1	2	6	2	4
<b>Bird Days</b>	0	3	18	31	1	7	9	10	4	2	4	27	3	13

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Recorded*</b>	8	4	4	5	3	3	12	12	5	1	0	2

\*Days recorded in the period 1987-17. Records from before 2004 are drawn from the Hertfordshire Bird Report.



**Figure 9.** Plot of all records for Black-tailed Godwit from 1987 onwards that show the number of birds associated with each record. Records are in chronological order with the earliest records to the left hand side of the plot.



**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (2, 6, 4)***Scarce migrant.***2016.** Not Recorded.**2017.** Four birds flew in at 08.15am on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and flew off at 9.00 am. This is only the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the site and equals the previous record site-count made on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011.**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (1, 9, 31)***Irregular passage migrant***2016.** Not recorded.**2017.** This year produced four days-recorded all in the spring. One was heard calling over Willow's Farm car park on 19<sup>th</sup> April and then three were seen briefly on the sand spit on the Main Pit at 2pm on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Another was seen on the sand spit at 08.15am on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the last record was again on the sand spit at 06.06am on 9<sup>th</sup> May. These are the first records since 2012 and follow the previous bias of birds occurring predominantly in Spring.

The following tables summarises all of the data for this species from 1986 to the present.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Rec.</b>	0	0	0	16	14	0	3	2	3	0	0	0

**Curlew *Numenius arquata* (5, 13, 19)***Infrequent passage migrant***2016.** One record again this year, with a single on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April (Steve Blake). This is the 14<sup>th</sup> record in April – the peak time for this species as shown in the table below.**2017.** As last year, just a single record – this time of a single heard but not seen on 21<sup>st</sup> May (Tony Kavanagh). This is the 48<sup>th</sup> record for this species on-site and the 3<sup>rd</sup> record in May.A summary of all records (since 13<sup>th</sup> August 1986) for the site is show below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>No. of records</b>	0	3	7	14	3	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)

**Redshank *Tringa totanus* (5, 14, 14)***Summer visitor with 2-3 pairs breeding in previous years.***2016.** A poor year for this species with just 44 days-recorded and a maximum of only 2 birds seen on several dates from March to July. Interestingly, there was also a record of a single bird on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November – which is the first record for this month that we can find.**2017.** Another poor year for this species with just 35 days-recorded and a maximum again of just 2 birds on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> September. Nevertheless, some interest was provided towards the end of the recording year (normally March-July) when an apparent long-staying bird notched up a total of 12 days on-site in September. As there had only previously been 4 days recorded for this month - the significance of the above is clear.

A summary of data from 2004-17 is shown in the table below. As the table below shows there was no breeding recorded on-site in either of the two above years – indeed the last time this species bred on-site was in 2010.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	91	91	81	93	83	70	91	69	58	30	27	34	28	35
<b>Bird Days</b>	318	300	288	250	295	291	331	229	177	49	52	62	44	38
<b>Early Date</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>Late Date</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	25 <sup>th</sup> Jun	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Jun	9 <sup>th</sup> Jul	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug*	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Broods</b>	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* Does not include the record from 23<sup>rd</sup> November when calculating the late date**Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (5, 14, 18)***Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.***2016.** Thirteen days-recorded this year with 14 bird-days, makes this the third best year in the period 2004 – 2016. All the records were in the autumn with a maximum of two birds on 25<sup>th</sup> August.**2017.** Twenty-one days recorded for the year and a total of 31 bird-days makes this the best year since 2006 - which was the last year that numbers were boosted by an overwintering bird that was around between January and March. The days-recorded were split between spring and autumn at a ratio of 2:19 - with a maximum of three birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup>

August. One further interesting record for the year was a bird that was seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> August – colour-ringed B//R+LO (Ricky Flesher). The following is a summary of previous sightings of this bird:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2015: Thorny Deeps, Chichester Harbour	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2016: Thorny Deeps, Chichester Harbour
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2016: Thorny Deeps, Chichester Harbour	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep 2016: Langstone, Chichester Harbour
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2016: Warblington, Chichester Harbour	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2016: Thorny Deeps, Chichester Harbour
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017: Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017: Warblington, Chichester Harbour

One can only surmise why this bird suddenly decided to have a day-out at Tyttenhanger - beyond of course the fine company and goods birds! A summary of data from 2004-17 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	36	6	51	9	9	6	7	9	2	3	5	3	13	21
<b>Bird Days</b>	58	10	104	9	14	8	11	20	2	8	6	3	14	31

Note, the figures for 2004, 2005 and 2006 do not include overwintering totals <sup>2</sup>

### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (3, 5, 13)

*Infrequent visitor.*

**2016.** There was one record this year of a juvenile on 31<sup>st</sup> August. There have been 22 records for this species since 1985 (17 prior to 2004) – 10 of these in August (see table below).

**2017.** Not recorded.

A summary of the monthly distribution of all records is shown in the table below. Long-staying birds are shown by the month they first appeared.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>No. of records</b>	0	0	0	2	6	2	0	10	2	0	0	0

### Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* (5, 14, 14)

*Frequent winter visitor and passage migrant.*

**2016.** A much better year than 2015 for this species with 78 days-recorded and 103 bird-days (just 33 in 2015 and 23 in 2016). Notably, only 7 bird days were from the first winter period even though the late spring date (13<sup>th</sup> Apr) was very close to the median for 2004-17 - 19<sup>th</sup> April. The maximum count for the year was of four birds on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**2017.** A much better year for this species with 164 days-recorded producing 320 bird-days – with May being the only month of the year with no records. Numbers were still better in the latter half of the year with bird days split 75:245 across the first and second halves. The maximum count for the year was of seven birds on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Late - Spring</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	4 <sup>th</sup> May	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Early Autumn</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	8 <sup>th</sup> Jun	18 <sup>th</sup> Jun	8 <sup>th</sup> Jun	14 <sup>th</sup> Jun	13 <sup>th</sup> Jun	29 <sup>th</sup> Jun	27 <sup>th</sup> Jun	4 <sup>th</sup> Jul	18 <sup>th</sup> Jun	13 <sup>th</sup> Jun	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	19 <sup>th</sup> Jun
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	158	190	159	106	120	69	19	40	120	67	27	15	78	164
<b>Bird Days</b>	420	538	501	184	191	105	22	47	175	95	33	23	103	320
<b>Average Birds/Day*</b>	2.66	2.83	3.15	1.74	1.59	1.52	1.16	1.18	1.46	1.42	1.22	1.53	1.32	1.95
<b>Maximum</b>	9	9	14	4	8	3	2	5	5	4	3	5	4	7

\* Average number of birds on each day recorded.

### Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos* (5, 14, 18)

*Regular passage migrant, more frequent in autumn.*

**2016.** This year produced the most days-recorded since 2007, but just 125 bird-days – indicating smaller numbers present for more days than in the past. The earliest bird of the year was a little later than the 2004-17 median (13<sup>th</sup> April) but the latest bird was the latest in the period 2004-17 and only the second in that period in November. All-in-all a good year for this species.

**2017.** Another good year for this species with sixty-one days-recorded - but again relatively low in bird days. The earliest date was the 17<sup>th</sup> April and the latest date was the 15<sup>th</sup> September both quite close to the long-term medians (13<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> September). A summary of data for the period 2004-17 is shown below.

<sup>2</sup> The totals between 2004 and 2006 do not include the bird days for the long-staying bird that appeared in January 2003 and spent the subsequent winter periods of 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 at Tyttenhanger before making what looks like its final appearance on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006. In the calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006 this bird contributed totals of 46, 64 and 63 bird days respectively

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	64	77	58	43	60	47	28	40	48	54	41	30	76	61
<b>Bird Days</b>	155	153	144	62	111	70	36	56	86	84	56	43	125	102
<b>Early Date</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Late Date</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Maximum</b>	7	8	10	3	5	3	3	5	5	6	4	3	5	5

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

*Common non-breeding species present virtually all year around.*

**2016.** A relatively poor year by recent standards - albeit several monthly maxima throughout the year were actually above the long-term median. Numbers aside, there was a leucistic bird reported at the end of August (28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>) - possibly the same bird as reported several years back?

**2017.** After the poor year in 2016, this was a relatively good year with three months recording monthly maxima for the period 2004-17 (September, October, and December).

A summary of monthly maxima data from the last 14 years is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	300	400	350	18	15	16	100	330	1500	800	500	800
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	500	300	230	22	8	2	320	424	400	400	500	500
<b>Median 2004-2017**</b>	300	275	244	19	8	19	284	506	513	400	335	345
<b>Maximum 2004-2017**</b>	500	1000	450	30	26	109	500	1000	1500	800	1200	800
<b>Minimum 2004-2017**</b>	50	80	42	1	2	2	100	189	300	240	141	166

\*\* Median, Maximum and Minimum values from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-17.

**Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (3, 5, 4)**

*Infrequent visitor.*

**2016.** A single adult bird was found on the 11<sup>th</sup> April and seen for around 20 minutes before disappearing.

**2017.** There were two records this year, the first an adult and a 1<sup>st</sup> winter that arrived from the north, over the Main Pit at 2pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March (Steve Younger) with a second adult being found on 27<sup>th</sup> March (Steve Murray). These were the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> records for the site but the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> since 2012. Hopefully the trend towards more frequent records will continue.

**Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (5, 13, 3)**

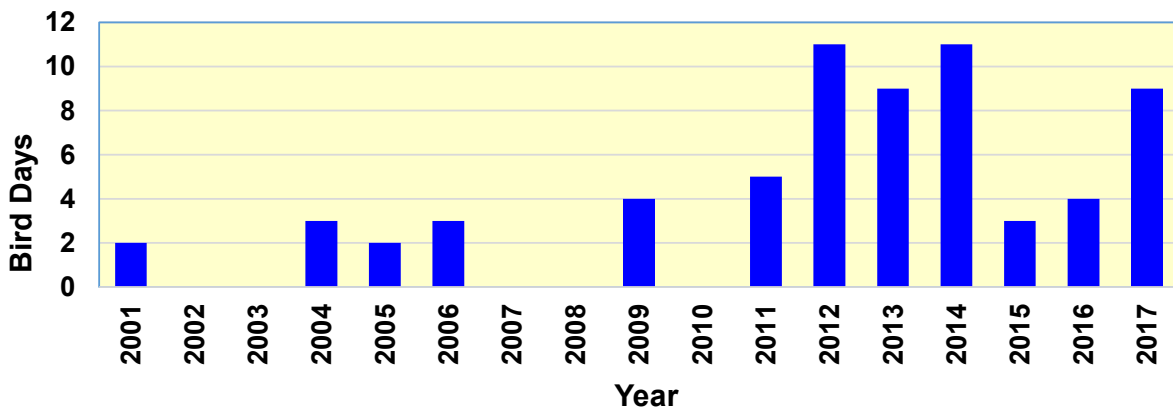
*Regular visitor.*

**2016.** Records from just four days this year with an adult on 5<sup>th</sup> February (the first record for February) followed by a 1<sup>st</sup> winter on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, an adult on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, and an unaged bird on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

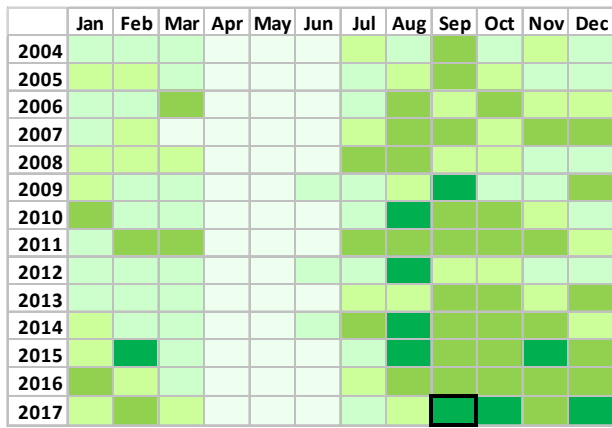
**2017.** Recorded on nine days this year with a 1<sup>st</sup> winter on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March and an adult on 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March. A juvenile was seen on 15<sup>th</sup> August followed by another 1<sup>st</sup> winter on 30<sup>th</sup> September, a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter on 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October and the last record for the year was of a juvenile/1<sup>st</sup> winter on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

A summary of data from 2001 onwards is summarised in the table below and in Figure 10.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Recorded</b>	1	2	5	0	0	0	13	21	11	7	1	2

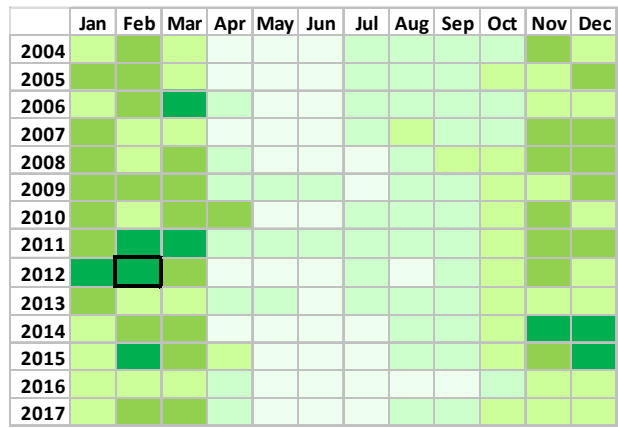


**Figure 10.** Bird days by year for Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* since the first record in 2001.



	Key
≥800	<span style="background-color: #008000; color: white;"> </span>
400-799	<span style="background-color: #008000; color: white;"> </span>
276-399	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;"> </span>
50-275	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;"> </span>
<50	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;"> </span>

**Figure 11A.** Monthly maxima for Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. The maximum count for the period shown above is indicated by the box with the bold border (Sep 2017).



	Key
≥64	<span style="background-color: #008000; color: white;"> </span>
26-63	<span style="background-color: #008000; color: white;"> </span>
12-25	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;"> </span>
6-11	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;"> </span>
<6	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;"> </span>

**Figure 11B.** Monthly maxima for Common Gull, *Larus canus*. The maximum count for the period shown above is indicated by the box with the bold border (Feb 2012).

**Common Gull *Larus canus* (5, 14, 256)**

*Regular winter visitor; absent during the summer months.*

**2016.** A fairly ordinary year for this species with maxima in most months being close to, or slightly down on the long-term (2004-17) medians – with the counts of 1 in September and 10 in October being the minima for these months. The largest count of the year was of 56 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** Present again in all months of the year - with the exception of May and June – monthly maxima were a bit more variable than 2016 – with many month's maxima below the long-term median, but October producing a record count for that month of 52 birds. The maximum count for the year was of 136 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> February.

A summary of data from the period 2004-2017 are shown in the table below and in Figure 11B.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	40	136	90	3	0	0	1	3	10	52	40	22
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	30	50	50	6	0	0	1	1	1	10	50	56
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	64	71	79	4	0	0	2	3	4	24	70	66
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	200	256	218	142	4	4	8	28	16	52	144	170
<b>Minimum 2004-2017*</b>	29	29	26	1	0	0	1	1	1	10	20	22

\* Median, Maximum and Minimum values from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-17.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (5, 14; 129)**

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

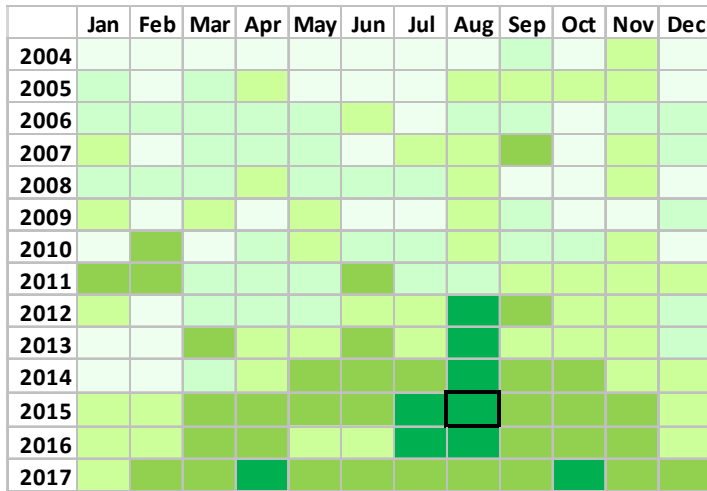
**2016.** Numbers continue to increase across the board for this species. The count of 108 birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> July was the maximum for the year, and there were monthly records set in March and July. Recently fledged birds were noted in August – indicating breeding birds are still close-by.

**2017.** A good year again with monthly records being set for April, June, October, November and December. The count of 97 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> October was the maximum for the year.

A summary of data for the period 2004-17 is shown in the table below and in Figure 12. The latter demonstrates the major change in status of this species in the recent past. Additional discussion is in the legend to that figure.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maximum 2017</b>	14	35	28	65	56	50	50	42	37	97	50	36
<b>Monthly Maximum 2016</b>	17	20	30	35	20	21	108	70	40	45	37	20
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	11	6	10	11	12	14	12	21	22	16	22	8
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	26	42	30	65	56	50	108	129	40	97	50	36
<b>Minimum 2004-2017*</b>	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 2004-17.



**Figure 12.** Monthly maxima for Lesser Black-backed Gull. *Larus fuscus*. The maximum count for the period shown above is indicated by the box with the bold border (August 2015.). The distribution of higher monthly maxima (25 and over) is clearly more prevalent in the last few years than they were before this time. Also apparent is the tendency for the larger counts to be in July/August – apart from most recently in 2017.

Key	
$\ge 64$	
26-63	
2-25	
6-11	
$< 6$	

**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (5, 14; 38)**

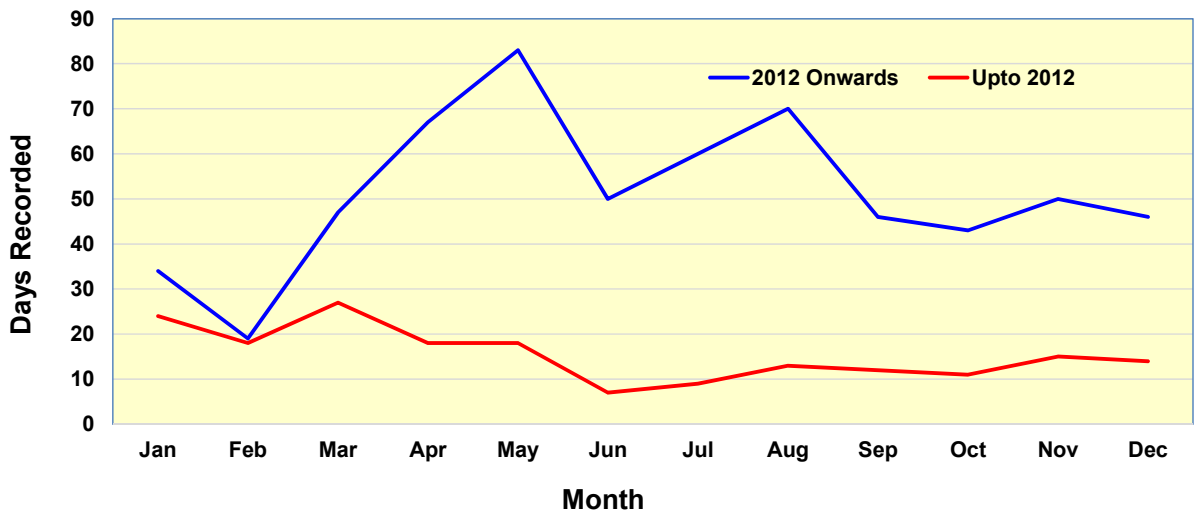
Present through much of the year in small numbers. Local breeding is increasing records in the summer months.

**2016.** Overall-numbers increased again this year with a total of 656 bird days from 123 days recorded – an increase of 79 bird days over the 2015 total - a feature also shown by the days on which 10 or more birds were noted i.e. 22 compared to 14 in 2015 and 3 in 2014. The maximum count for the year was of 29 birds on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**2017.** Another big year for this species with a modest increase in days-recorded (19.5% over 2016) but a massive increase (73.0%) in bird days i.e. indicating that counts just keep increasing both in frequency and, more notably, in size. The maximum count for the year was of 68 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> October – which is also a new site record, the previous record of 38 being beaten on the 30<sup>th</sup> April with a count of 55.

A summary of data from 2004 onwards is shown in the table below and in Figure 13. The figure is provided to demonstrate the shift in occurrence from a late winter species to one with major peaks in May and August. Much of this is due to the local breeding population – but the increase in early winter indicates that the species has increased more generally over this period (2012 to present) and is maybe becoming more locally resident.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	5	21	24	22	20	21	21	52	43	83	91	128	123	147
<b>Bird Days</b>	20	52	75	43	36	37	33	116	125	264	245	577	656	1135
<b><math>\ge 10</math> birds</b>	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	14	22	39



**Figure 13.** Total days recorded by month for Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* from 2004-2011 (Upto 2012) and from 2012-2017 (2012 Onwards).

**Caspian Gull *Larus cacchinans* (2,3, 2)**

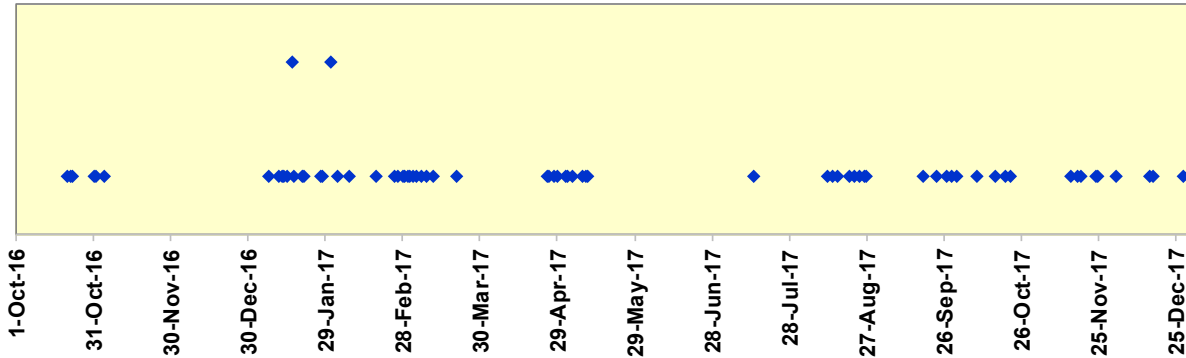
Previously rare visitor – status changed dramatically in 2016/17.

**2016.** First recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006 this was the first accepted record of this taxon for Tyttenhanger and Hertfordshire which was subsequently raised to full species status by the BOU in 2007. This year provided a massive

change in status when a 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird was recorded between 21<sup>st</sup> October<sup>3</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November – being observed on 7 dates in this period. This would have been a major event in itself; however, bigger things were to come in 2017.

**2017.** If 2016 was big for this species then 2017 was absolutely gargantuan! There were sixty-five days-recorded for the year - beginning on the 7<sup>th</sup> January and ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. Most of the records probably involve the bird that first appeared in late 2016 – but there were two birds reported on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> January – indicating that at least two birds were in the area during this time.

A visual summary of the records in the period from October 2016 through until the end of 2017 is provided in the figure below.



**Figure 14.** Time-line of records for Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* at Tyttenhanger from October 2016 through to end of December 2017.

The following points are made with reference to the above figure and the records summarised therein; 1) records up until 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 involve birds referred to as 1<sup>st</sup> W or 2<sup>nd</sup> CY (Calendar Year), 2) Moulting into 2<sup>nd</sup> S plumage was noted on the 21<sup>st</sup> March – with most records after this point referring to a 2<sup>nd</sup> CY bird 3) records involving two birds were of two 1<sup>st</sup> winter/2<sup>nd</sup> CY birds 4) the 2<sup>nd</sup> CY/1<sup>st</sup> S bird(s) were seen to be moulting into 2<sup>nd</sup> winter plumage on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - all records subsequently refer to a 2<sup>nd</sup> W/2<sup>nd</sup> CY bird.

At the time of writing (early 2019) it appears that the string of records have continued through 2018 (See <http://www.hnhs.org/herts-bird-club/recordviewarchive?year=2018&month=%2A&site=&species=Caspian%20Gull>) - but further analysis of those records will have to wait until the next report. Nevertheless, it is clear that Tyttenhanger has become one of the premier sites in the County for this species.

**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* (5, 11, 2)**

*Irregular visitor.*

**2016.** Two records this year comprising a 4<sup>th</sup> year bird that dropped onto the main pit on 8<sup>th</sup> July and another bird reported on 10<sup>th</sup> July - possibly the same bird.

**2017.** Five days-recorded this year with a single bird on the 12<sup>th</sup> January (not aged), an adult on 31<sup>st</sup> January, then in the second winter period there was a single on 28<sup>th</sup> September (again not aged) a 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year/2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird on 10<sup>th</sup> October and finally another adult on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

All of the records since 1996 are summarised in the upper table below while those from the last 14 years are summarised in the lower table. There have now been 32 records for the site and the distribution by month is shown in the upper table below; days-recorded for the period 2004-17 are shown in the lower of the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Recorded</b>	2	4	4	0	1	1	4	2	0	2	4	1

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	0	1	3	0	4	2	0	4	1	2	3	3	2	5

**Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* (1, 1, 1)**

*Rare visitor*

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** A first summer bird was found on the main pit in the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> April and stayed from 7pm till 8pm that evening (Rupert Evershed) The bird was also seen the next morning for an hour on the main pit again on 25<sup>th</sup> April. This is the second record for the site the last one being a second-year bird seen on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1998. A full report of the finding of this bird can be found on p64.

<sup>3</sup> The description from the bird seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October has been accepted by the [Herts Rare Bird Committee](#) (Steve Blake and Chris Barber).



**Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* (5, 14, 13)**

*An infrequent visitor most often encountered in the cooler months.*

**2016.** Recorded on six occasions this year, with three multiple signings - five birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, four birds on 18<sup>th</sup> December and two birds on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The three multiple records are only the 12<sup>th</sup> record of multiple birds in the period 2004-2016. There was also a record of one bird on 11<sup>th</sup> July - which is the first record for July in the period 2004-2016.

**2017.** The water on the fishing lakes was very low this year and there were a number of dead fish floating on the deep lake that seemed to keep a couple of Great Black-backed Gulls on-site throughout much of the year. The latter contributed significantly to the 53 days-recorded for the year - which is almost the same as that previously recorded from the whole period 2004-2016.

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is presented in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	4	5	3	6	2	5	5	5	3	3	6	2	6	53
<b>Bird Days</b>	4	6	3	10	2	7	6	7	3	3	7	5	14	65

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Rec' d 2004-16</b>	8	11	7	6	2	0	1	2	0	4	5	9
<b>Days Rec'd 2017</b>	2	3	2	2	0	2	4	10	14	6	4	4

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (5, 14, 30)**

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

**2016.** The first bird of the year arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, and the last bird departed on the 24<sup>th</sup> September; the latter is which is the latest date recorded in the period 2004-2016. A typical pattern of occurrence for the year with numbers building after the spring arrival until double figures counts were made in July. A juvenile was also reported in July and, as usual, it was thought to have come from a breeding site nearby. The maximum count for the year was of 22 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**2017.** The spring arrival date this year was 15<sup>th</sup> April, and the last record was on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and, as is becoming typical, there was a juvenile bird recorded in August – probably locally bred. The maximum count for the year was of only 10 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> June -which was indicative of generally lower numbers throughout much of the season i.e. only 244 bird-days this year compared to 405 in 2016. Numbers will be monitored in coming seasons to see if this year is reflective of any long-term trend.

The earliest and latest dates along with the maximum counts for the last 14 years are summarised in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	30	19	14	25	16	20	16	18	20	22	20	23	22	10
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 14 years are shaded.

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* (1, 2, 31)**

*Infrequent visitor*

**2016.** There was one record this year of a single bird on the Fishing Lakes at 3.30 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April (Rupert Pyrah). The last record was in 2005. This is only the 9<sup>th</sup> record for the site 4 of which have been in April and 5 in May. A summary of all records is presented below.

**2017.** Not recorded.

	1991	1996	1997	1998	2003	2005	2016
<b>Days-recorded</b>	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
<b>Bird Days</b>	2	4	1	32	2	1	1



**Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (2; 8, 20)**

*Regular passage migrant.*

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** There was just one record this year of three birds that dropped onto the main pit at 6.30 am for ten minutes - during rain - on 12<sup>th</sup> May (Tom Speller). This is the 14<sup>th</sup> day-recorded in the period 2004-17.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

(1, 1, 1)

*Rare visitor***2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** A moulting adult was found by Steve Blake at Willow's Farm Lake on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> September. It remained until 17<sup>th</sup> September, commuting between Willow's Farm Lake and the Main Pit, offering fantastic views for local birders and photographers alike. This was just the eleventh bird recorded in the county, a first for Tyttenhanger GP and only the second record away from the Tring Res complex. A full report of the finding of this bird can be found on p66.



*White-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucopterus – contender for Bird-of-the-Year . Photo courtesy of Simon West*

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* (5, 14, 1250)*Common resident, particularly common around Willows Farm.*

**2016.** Present throughout the year with a maximum of 120 birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> November and 42 double figure counts across the year. A species that is clearly overlooked on site which is reflected by 50% of the records indicating "Present" only i.e. no count made.

**2017.** Present throughout the year with a maximum of 250 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> September and 34 double figure counts across the year. A species that is overlooked on site which is reflected by 50% of the records indicating presence only i.e. no count made.

A summary of maximum counts for the period 2005-2017 for this and the other regular Pigeons/doves on site is shown in the table following the next species.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas* (5, 14, 200)*Common resident present throughout the year.*

**2016.** Present all year with a maximum of 148 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> October on the arable field next to Tyttenhanger Farm. Breeding was noted this year with an occupied nest reported on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**2017.** Present all year with a maximum of just 20 birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> October; there were no breeding records for the year.

A summary of maximum counts for the period 2005-2017 for this and the other regular pigeons/doves on-site is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Feral Pigeon</b>	197	1250	188	1000	100	500	100	150	50	103	185	120	250
<b>Stock Dove</b>	200	65	70	50	6	12	10	5	20	25	20	148	20
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	3000	400	2000	732	1000	500	800	300	140	500	1000	1500	800
<b>Collared Dove</b>	6	57	12	23	18	8	13	2	11	2	4	3	11

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus* (5, 14, 4000)*Common resident present throughout the year often in large flocks and with a notable late autumn passage in some years.*

**2016.** Present all year with a maximum count of 1500 birds noted on 12<sup>th</sup> March with an additional 7 counts of 500 birds or more in January- March period. 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 200 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. There was nest building noted in July and August, but no other reports of breeding.

**2017.** Present all year with a maximum of 800 birds noted on 28<sup>th</sup> October which comprised a number of smaller flocks moving through. There were no further counts of 500 birds or more, and no breeding records – which makes this a reactively poor year for this species.

A summary of maximum counts for the period 2005-2017 for this and the other regular pigeons/doves on-site is shown above.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (5, 14, 57)*Patchily distributed resident.*

**2016.** Another poor year for this species with only fifteen days-recorded and yet again without any confirmed breeding records. The maximum count was of just three birds on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**2017.** The best year since 2009 for this species with 36 days-recorded - but again without any confirmed breeding records. The maximum count was of eleven birds on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

A summary of maximum counts for the period 2005-2017 for this and the other regular pigeons/doves on-site is shown above and a summary of days-recorded in the period 2008-2017 is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Recorded</b>	45	41	34	31	33	31	13	17	15	36

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* (5, 14, 5)

Summer visitor in small numbers.

**2016.** With only eight days-recorded - and all records of single birds - this makes for a very mediocre year for this species. Unsurprisingly there were no records of breeding this year.

**2017.** Just 4 days-recorded – again, all just single birds with no signs of breeding - this is clearly the worst year for the period 2004-2017.

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Recorded</b>	22	14	22	7	12	12	9	15	17	10	21	17	8	4
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	8 <sup>th</sup> Jun	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	21 <sup>st</sup> Jul	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	15 <sup>th</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	5 <sup>th</sup> Jul	4 <sup>th</sup> Jun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun

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

Irregular visitor.

**2016.** Ten days-recorded for the year (19 bird days) is about the norm for this species in the recent past; the maximum count was of four birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. There was one record in April and December which interestingly were the first records for these months.

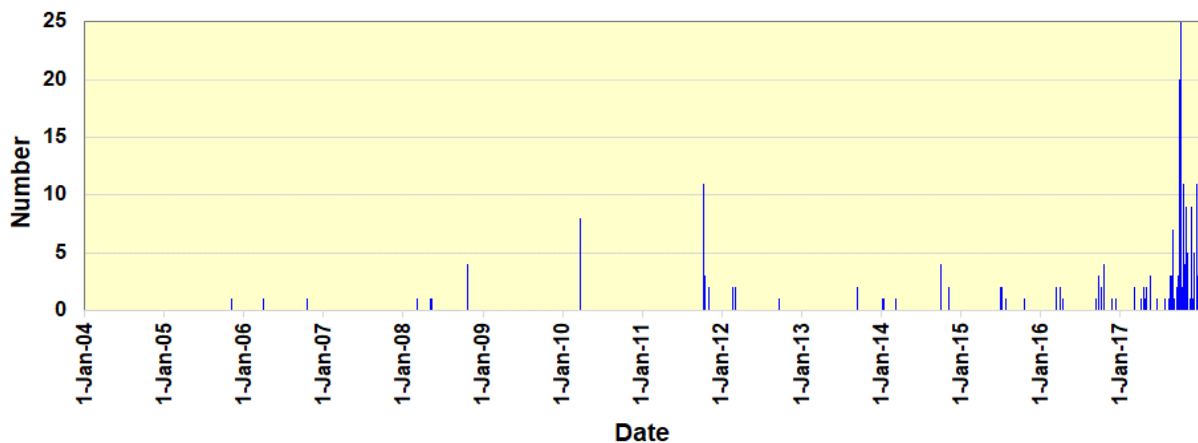
**2017.** There was a 500% increase of days-recorded this year, and a 1000% increase in bird days i.e. sixty-two days-recorded (ten in 2016) and two-hundred twenty bird days (nineteen in 2016). The maximum count was of twenty-five birds on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and there were two other double-figure counts (27<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October). Birds were reported from Willow’s Farm, Coppice Wood, Deep Lake, Main Pit, Garden Wood and Water Works.

A month by month breakdown of the days-recorded and bird-days for all records is summarised in the tables below and Figure 15 shows the temporal distribution of records from 2004-17.

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

The above includes the single record from before 2004 i.e. a single bird on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1993.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	0	1	2	0	5	0	1	3	3	1	5	4	10	62
<b>Bird Days</b>	0	1	2	0	8	0	8	16	5	2	9	6	19	220



**Figure 15.** Plot of number of birds recorded against date for Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* in the period 2004-20017.

**Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (5, 14, 4)**

*Resident. Undoubtedly under-recorded but present in most woodland areas on the site.*

**2016.** Just two days-recorded in latter part of the year with single heard on 30<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November - both from Garden Wood.

**2017.** The discovery of a bird with young in Garden Wood in early June contributed to the best year we have probably had on site for this species. With nine days-recorded - all from Garden Wood (6 of these days involving young birds/breeding groups), 15 bird days and a record count of four birds on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jun – add-up to a great year. The record count involved an adult with three young with two young also seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June and a juvenile on 8<sup>th</sup> July. This is the first confirmed breeding record since 2007.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	2	1	1	10	3	2	3	9	9	11	7	1	2	9
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
<b>Days-Recorded</b>	2	9	7	5	2	6	1	5	12	10	9	4		

**Little Owl *Athene noctua* (5, 14, 4)**

*Resident; birds usually seen around the Model Railway Club and Willows Farm, regularly breeds.*

**2016.** Thirty-four days-recorded, all of single birds and all from Willow's Farm - apart from two records from Tyttenhanger Farm on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> April. There was one record of a bird visiting a probable nest site on 6<sup>th</sup> May, but no other breeding information was reported.

**2017.** Forty-eight days-recorded –most of the records involving a single bird at Willow's Farm but with two days-recorded from Tyttenhanger Farm. There were two birds observed on site on the 27<sup>th</sup> September but no breeding information was recorded this year.

A summary of days-recorded and the number of days with more than one bird recorded (Multi Bird) are shown for the period 2004-17 in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	10	9	10	41	54	36	27	42	27	10	21	32	34	48
<b>Multi Bird</b>	3	2	2	10	4	2	1	12	4	1	5	7	0	1

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (4, 7, 2)**

*Irregular visitor.*

**2016.** Just a single record for the year of a bird on the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**2017.** A bird was found roosting in a tree by Willow's Farm and was subsequently reported on eight days between 30<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July - which makes this the best year on site for this species. There have now been 23 days-recorded since 2004 with six in February, eight in March, one in May, one in June and seven in July.

**Swift *Apus apus* (5, 14, 300)**

*Relatively common summer visitor with feeding birds present throughout the summer months.*

**2016.** Numbers were slightly up this year with birds seen on 41 days (26 days in 2015 and 29 days in 2014) between 18<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> August, with 17 counts of 10 or more birds (5 in 2015 and 13 in 2014). The 18<sup>th</sup> April is the earliest returning date for the period 2004-17.

**2017.** Like last year, a total of 41 days-recorded and 17 days with counts of 10 or more birds! While the first bird to arrive, this year was on the more normal date of the 29<sup>th</sup> April, the last bird of the year was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September – the first September record for the period 2004-17. Also of note were three counts of 100 birds on 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	6 <sup>th</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	29 <sup>th</sup> Jul	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	21 <sup>st</sup> Jul	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul	26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Maximum</b>	150	100	50	200	50	30	100	300	30	40	30	60	80	100

\*The earliest date in Spring and latest date in Autumn – the earliest and latest dates in the period 2004-17 are shaded.

**Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* (5, 14, 10)**

*Common resident.*

**2016.** Present throughout the year with a maximum of 6 birds on the 10<sup>th</sup> July; breeding on-site was indicated by recently fledged noted on 30<sup>th</sup> July and the rather late date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

2017. The maximum count for the year was of 7 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> July – with recently fledged birds recorded this year on three separate dates in July/August.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (5, 14, 6)**

*Common Resident*

2016. Present throughout the year with a maximum count of 3 birds on four dates throughout the year, there were no breeding records received this year.

2017. The maximum count for the year was of 3 birds again – but in this case this number was recorded on 11 dates from January through to December. As with most other years, there were no breeding records this year.

**Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (5, 14; 4)**

*Resident, present through most of the year, occasionally breeding on-site or close by.*

2016. A big increase for this species this year with a total of 141 bird-days (77 in 2015 and 56 in 2014) including 18 days with two birds (8 in 2015 and 7 in 2014) and 3 days with three birds. Two birds were seen visiting a probable nest site on 11<sup>th</sup> March and birds were observed carrying a faecal sac or food being on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June – providing a string indication that they bred on site this year.

2017. A total of 171 bird-days including an incredible 27 days with two birds (18 in 2016) and 3 days with three birds. A faecal sac or food being carried on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May provided evidence again that they probably bred on site this year.

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is presented below and in Figure 16 – the latter showing bird-days per month for the period 2004-17.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Bird Days 2017</b>	15	13	12	15	12	7	8	11	17	16	26	19
<b>Bird Days 2016</b>	17	4	10	3	6	2	4	23	10	12	26	24
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	5	2	4	2	2	2	5	8	9	5	8	5
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	17	10	14	16	12	6	9	22	26	20	15	12
<b>Minimum 2004-2017*</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	3

\* Median, Maximum and minimum bird days for each month in the period 2004-17

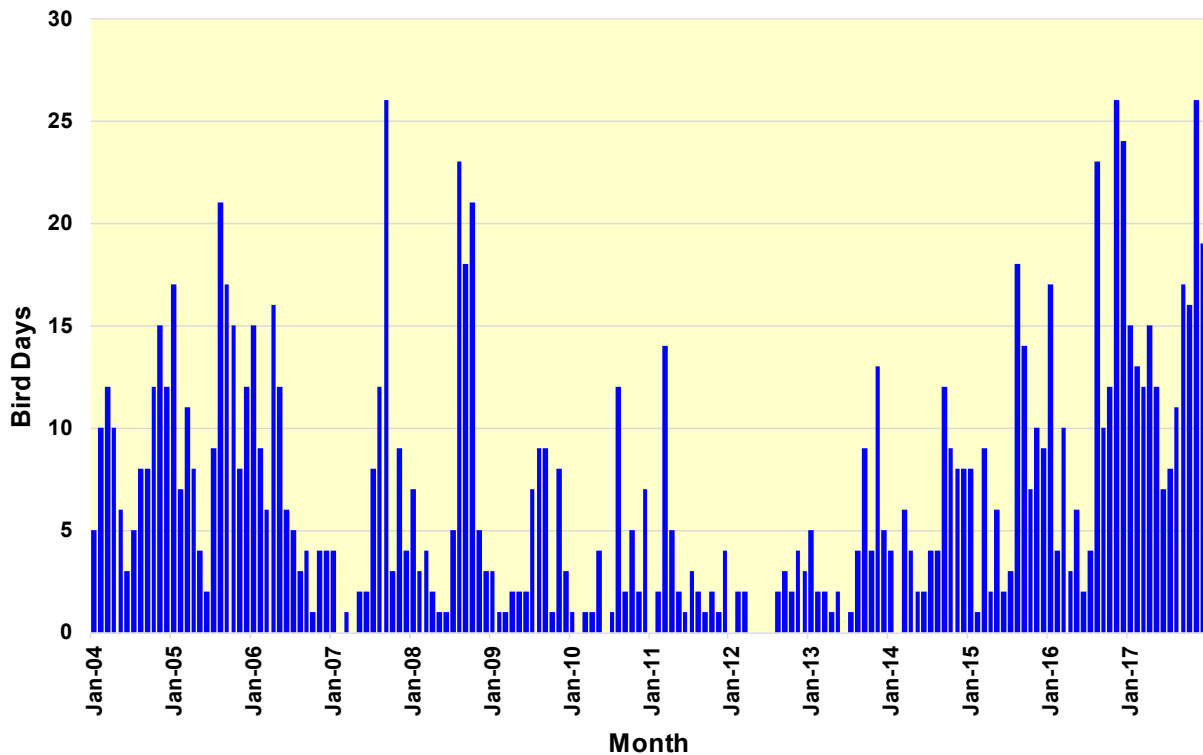


Figure 16. Bird-days per month for Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* for the period 2004-17.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* (5, 14, 100)

Breeding resident also recorded as passage migrant and in winter flocks.

**2016.** Very similar to last year with 96 days recorded (98 in 2014) and only a single count of 40 or more birds i.e 80 birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**2017.** Numbers slightly up on the last few years with 117 days-recorded two counts of 40 or more birds i.e 40 on 5<sup>th</sup> October and 60 on the 16<sup>th</sup> December – the latter on the amazing maize/pumpkin field.

A summary of data from the last 10 years (those years for which fully digitised data are available) is shown below.

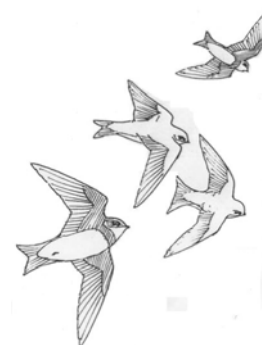
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Recorded</b>	116	105	66	66	48	67	98	95	96	117
<b>≥ 40 Birds</b>	0	5	4	1	1	0	1	1	1	2

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* (5, 14; 200)

Summer visitor that previously bred and has recently returned to breed on-site.

**2016.** A reasonable year for this species - recorded on 60 days between 25<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> September - with 8 counts of 30 or more birds compared to 6 in 2015 and 12 in 2014. There was no breeding this year and the maximum count was of 60 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**2017.** A reasonably good year for this species with 80 days-recorded and 15 counts of 30 or more birds. The earliest and latest dates were 11<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> September respectively – the former being the earliest date in the period 2004-2017. There was no breeding on-site this year but 80 nest holes were reported over at Coursers Road and may well have contributed to the maximum count of 100 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> May.



Early and late dates and maxima for the last 14 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	25	10	50	70	100	50	50	200	50	40	80	50	60	100
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>Latest Date*</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep

\*The earliest date in Spring and latest date in Autumn – the earliest and latest dates in the period 2004-17 are shaded.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (5, 14, 500)

Summer visitor with small breeding population centred on Willows Farm.

**2016.** The first birds of the year arrived on the relatively early date of 26<sup>th</sup> March. Spring numbers were relatively good through birds stayed to breed with recently fledged young noted on 4<sup>th</sup> June by Tyttenhanger Farm. Autumn saw a steady trickle of birds reaching a maximum count of 200 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. The last birds for the year were seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**2017.** Birds were present this year between 29<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> October and in reasonable numbers with a maximum of 100 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. There were no breeding records this year but of note was an “albino” bird observed with others on the 16<sup>th</sup> September (Steve Pearce). The last birds of the year (2) on the 20<sup>th</sup> October were on the equal latest for the period 2004-17.

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	120	30	105	50	50	50	100	300	100	100	100	150	200	100
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>Latest Date*</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the period 2004-17 are shaded.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* (5, 14, 290)

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

**2016.** Reported from 8<sup>th</sup> April through to 1<sup>st</sup> October, with a maximum of 100 birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Again, there were no breeding records for the year with the last breeding being noted in 2007.

**2017.** Reported in small numbers from 1<sup>st</sup> April through to 5<sup>th</sup> October, with a maximum of 100 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

A summary of early and late dates and maxima for the period 2004-17 is shown below.



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	220	150	80	80	20	50	130	150	170	50	80	50	100	100
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the period 2004-17 years are shaded.

### Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (5, 14, 30)

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

**2016.** A slight improvement for this species with 38 days-recorded and 69 bird-days compared to 33 and 58 respectively in 2015. One pair was seen visiting a probable nest site on 11<sup>th</sup> May and carrying a faecal sac or food on 6<sup>th</sup> June. However, no juveniles were subsequently seen so breeding is not confirmed. Early and late dates – 5<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September – were both outside of the range of the long-term (2004-17) medians i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> September. The maximum count for the year was of 7 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**2017.** Similar to 2016 with 28 days-recorded and 67 bird-days although early and late dates were both within the long-term medians (see table below). There were no records of breeding activity this year and so no confirmed breeding on site. Maximum count for the year was of 6 birds on 17<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> September.

A summary of date from the period 2004-17 is provided in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bird Days</b>	110	41	123	10	49	172	60	23	28	56	31	58	69	67
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	38	22	42	7	12	17	24	10	13	33	22	33	38	28
<b>Maximum</b>	25	5	18	3	12	30	10	8	5	5	2	5	7	6
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 14 years are shaded.

### Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (5, 14; 5)

*Local resident and winter visitor.*

**2016.** A good year for this species with 63 days-recorded, 91 bird days and a maximum count of 4 birds on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. There were no breeding activities reported this year and birds were absent in July and August. Despite the latter this was still the best year since 2007.

**2017.** A reasonable year for this species with 49 days-recorded, 67 bird days and a maximum of 3 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> September. The only breeding activity recorded was a faecal sac/food being carried on 9<sup>th</sup> May but the absence of birds in April and July and just a single record in June suggests that breeding on-site was very unlikely.

A summary of bird days and days-recorded for the period 2004-2017 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bird Days</b>	66	123	107	54	28	34	10	2	34	21	19	50	88	67
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	51	79	81	43	27	25	7	2	24	18	14	38	61	49

### White/Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (5, 14; 90)

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

**2016. Pied Wagtail:** Similar numbers to 2015 but still below the peak of 2009–10. The maximum count was of 14 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Breeding probably occurred on-site (or close-by) with fledged birds noted on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**White Wagtail:** Eleven days recorded for this sub-species represents the best year since 2004. Notable, besides records in Spring (to which virtually all records since 2004 have been restricted) there were records in both August and September – the first since ever for the former and the first since 1998 for the latter.

**2017. Pied Wagtail:** A significant increase in numbers this year – returning to something like those of the peak years in 2009-10 with 138 days-recorded and 473 bird days. There was also significant breeding activity noted with recently fledged birds noted on a number of dates between 13<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> August – indicating several brooded being raised on-site or close by. The maximum count for the year was of 15 birds on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> November and 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**White Wagtail:** a superlative year for this subspecies with 15 days-recorded, 36 bird days and a maximum of 7 birds on 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Bird days were split between April and September in the ratio 11:25 with records of single birds accounting for only 7 of the 15 days-recorded! Some attempt is made below to put this astonishing year in context.

The White-Pied Wagtail complex provides a number of challenges as far as analysis goes and the following tables and Figure 17 attempt to provide an overview the occurrence of the two subspecies. The following points are made on the analyses below.

Fully digitised data for Pied Wagtail is still only available from 2008 onwards – the first table therefore provides the quantitative data on this subspecies and the comparative data for White Wagtail over this period.

The second table shows the month-by month distribution of days-recorded from before the current reporting period (1986-2003), the current reporting period (2004-17) and the total since 1986. The table demonstrates the massive bias in days-recorded – in both periods - to April, as well as the significance of the recent autumn records.

Finally, Figure 17 provides an analysis of the days-recorded per year since the first record back in 1986.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Pied Wagtail Bird Days</b>	250	349	523	184	108	134	156	245	277	476
<b>Pied Wagtail Days Rec'd</b>	113	128	107	60	44	59	79	90	102	138
<b>Pied Wagtail Maximum</b>	8	18	37	37	7	20	11	19	14	15
<b>White Wagtail Days Rec'd</b>	1	1	5	2	0	2	3	1	11	15
<b>White Wagtail Bird Days</b>	1	1	5	2	0	2	3	3	13	36

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<b>Days Recorded – since 1986</b>	7	66	7	0	0	3	13	1
<b>Days Recorded 1986-2003</b>	1	27	2	0	0	0	4	0
<b>Days Recorded 2004-17</b>	6	39	5	0	0	3	9	1

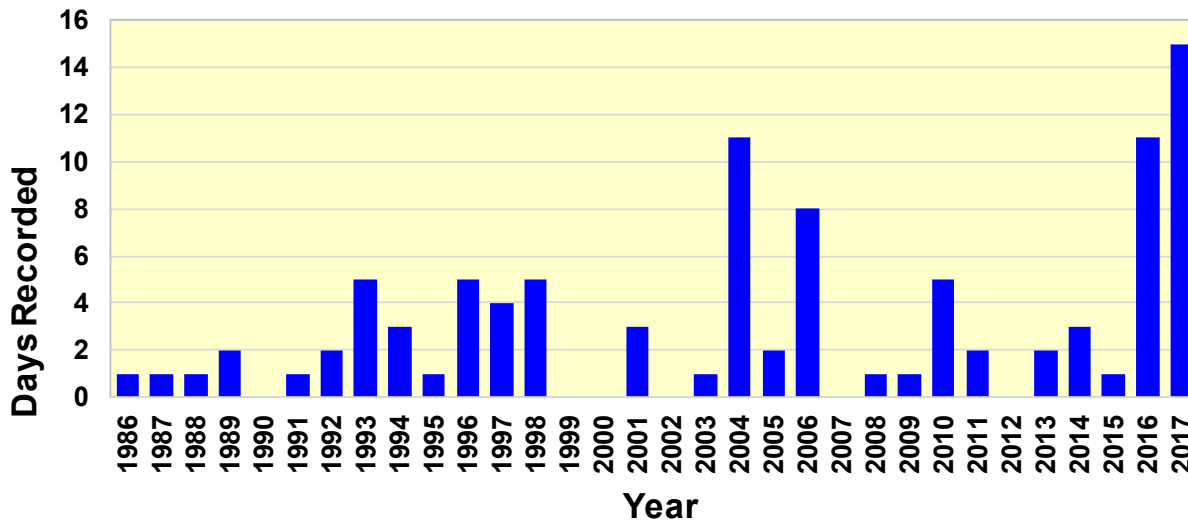


Figure 17. Days-recorded per year for White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* since the first record in 1986.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* (5, 14; 120)**

*Winter visitor and passage migrant.*

**2016.** A reasonable year for this species; recorded in 8 months of the year, (10 in 2015) - with a record of a singing male on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Maximum counts were of 30 in the first winter period (30 in 2015) and 55 in the second winter period (47 in 2015). However, just 3 counts of 20 birds or more were made this year compared to 10 in 2015.

**2017.** A very good year producing 9 counts of 20 or more birds and maximum counts of 100 in the first winter period and 80 in the second winter period. A singing bird on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June was only the second June record in the period 2008-17.

A summary of data from the period 2008-17 is provided in the table below and in Figure 18.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	52	30	64	25	8	37	30	47	55	100
<b>Days Recorded</b>	60	34	26	19	19	24	29	48	45	73
<b>Bird Days</b>	341	167	332	119	77	212	119	532	331	750

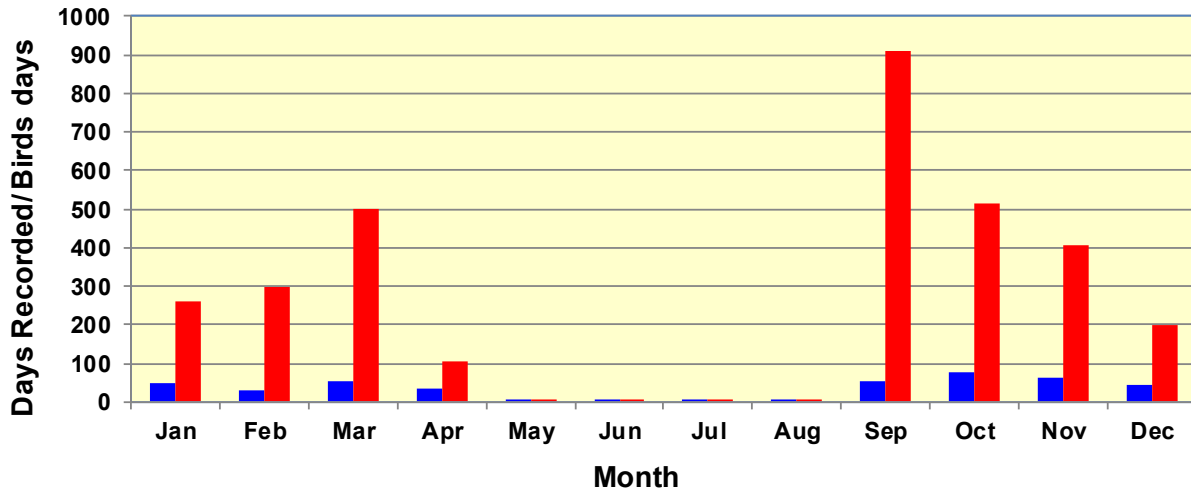


Figure 18. Plot showing total numbers of bird days (red bars) and days recorded (blue bars) for Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* for the period 2008-17.

### Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* (1, 1, 2)

Rare visitor

2016. Not recorded.

2017. Two days-recorded for the year – one on the 17<sup>th</sup> April (Ricky Flesher) and the other on the 13<sup>th</sup> August (Alan Gardiner); these are the first records for the site since 1998 and comprise the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> records respectively.

### Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* (2, 4, 57)

Sporadic winter visitor.

2016. There was one record for the year of a single bird flying over on 27<sup>th</sup> December (Andrew Steel). This is only the third year this species has been reported - the first being 2010 when a flock of 20 birds were seen flying over Tyttenhanger Farm on the 26<sup>th</sup> December. The latter was followed by the big irruption of 2011 - when there were 17 records received including the maximum for the site of 57 birds on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

2017. Not recorded

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

Common breeding resident.

2016. Present throughout the year with a maximum count of 11 birds on 28<sup>th</sup> May – which makes this the third year in a row that double-figure counts have been made. Breeding was also evidenced this year by a bird seen carrying a faecal sac/food on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

2017. Maximum count for the year was of 14 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> December; breeding was also noted this year with recently fledged young seen on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### Dunnoek *Prunella modularis* (5, 14, 23)

Common breeding resident.

2016. Present throughout the year with a maximum of 20 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> April - which is a new site record. There were 2 counts of 10 or more birds this year (3 in 2014 and 2015) and breeding was indicated by a bird seen carrying a faecal sac/food on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

2017. As last year the maximum count for the year was of 23 birds – another site record - this year on the slightly earlier date of the 25<sup>th</sup> March. However, this was the only count of 10 or more birds for the year and there were no breeding-related records.

### Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (5, 14, 30)

Common breeding resident.

2016. As usual, recorded year-around with a maximum of 30 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> April - which is also a maximum site count. Breeding activities noted this year were nest-building on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and a bird carrying a faecal sac/food on 24<sup>th</sup> April. There were 8 counts of 10 or more birds this year compared to just 4 in 2015.

2017. Present throughout the year with a maximum count of 25 birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> September and a further 10 counts of 10 or more birds scattered through the rest of the year. Recently fledged young were noted on 7<sup>th</sup> June, indicating successful breeding this year.

**Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (4, 10 3)**

*Irregular visitor usually on spring passage.*

**2016.** Good to have this species back after last year's blank with three Days-Recorded and 4 Bird Days. The first record was of a female on the 27<sup>th</sup> April found in the hedge in the big-field north of the Main Pit. Then on the 29<sup>th</sup> April a female was still in the same hedge (the same bird?) and there was a female in the horse paddocks by Tyttenhanger Farm. The last bird was a male in the Tree Sparrow hedge on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. All together there were three birds – one of which appeared to stay for more than a day – significantly there has only been two previous instances of a bird staying for more than one day. Also of interest are the two birds present on the 29<sup>th</sup> April – the first time multiple birds have been seen on the same day since 19<sup>th</sup> April 1998

**2017.** There were three records this year, single female/juvenile types on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August and a full summer plumage male on the 15<sup>th</sup> September in the hedge between the field north of the Main Pit.

A summary of days-recorded from 2004-2017 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	3	6	0	4	3

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* (2, 6, 2)**

*Infrequent passage migrant.*

**2016.** There were two days-recorded this year both relating to female-type birds seen on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April in the hedge in the field north of the Main Pit.

**2017.** A female was seen in the horse paddocks by Tyttenhanger Farm on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

There have only been five records prior to those above in the period 2004-2016 – all of which are shown below. There are also records of female birds from 10<sup>th</sup> April 1988 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2000.

<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
2 on 27 <sup>th</sup> October (Pair)	1 on the 16 <sup>th</sup> April	1 on 19 <sup>th</sup> April (Male)	1 on 24 <sup>th</sup> January
		1 on 10 <sup>th</sup> May (Male)	

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (5, 14, 30)**

*Regular passage migrant, more frequent in spring.*

**2016.** Another poor year for this species with only 14 days-recorded across the two-migration periods, a total of 14 bird days and a maximum of just 2 birds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Spring arrival (2<sup>nd</sup> April) and autumn departure (21<sup>st</sup> September) were slightly later and earlier than the long-term (2004-17) medians i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> September

**2017.** Another poor year for this species with only 14 days-recorded across the two-migration periods, a total of 17 bird days and a maximum of just 2 birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September. As in 2006, the arrival and departure dates were a little later and earlier than the respective long-term (2004-17) medians. Note, this is one of only two years in the period 2004-17, along with 2008, where autumn bird-days have outnumbered those in spring

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bird Days</b>	13	9	63	16	24	40	44	56	32	71	18	10	14	17
<b>Bird Days - Spring</b>	13	9	58	15	5	29	29	30	30	67	10	7	11	8
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	ND	NA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep

NS = no spring date; NA = no autumn date. \*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn

**Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (5, 14, 6)**

*Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**2016.** Only four records this year all of single birds, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**2017.** There were twenty-one days recorded this year – all in the second winter period. Multiple birds were seen on six dates - five days with two birds and three birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. This is the best year for this species since 2008 as shown in the summary below of data for period 2005-17.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>BDs – 1<sup>st</sup> WP*</b>	40	0	0	35	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
<b>BDs – 2<sup>nd</sup> WP*</b>	9	15	23	21	5	1	0	7	0	10	2	3	28
<b>Days * Rec'd</b>	26	13	16	46	5	1	1	7	1	9	3	3	21

\*BDs= bird days; WP = winter period

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (5, 14, 7)***Regular passage migrant.*

**2016.** Birds were seen only in the autumn this year with 6 days-recorded between 24<sup>th</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> September and two birds 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**2017.** Birds recorded in spring and autumn this year – but all counts were all of single birds with days-recorded as follows: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September.

A summary of data from the last 14 years is provided below including, bird days, earliest date, latest date and days-recorded.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bird Days</b>	1	9	5	4	6	16	11	9	8	5	3	7	8	5
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	NS	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	1 <sup>st</sup> May	NS	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> May	NS	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	NS	1 <sup>st</sup> May	NS	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	NA	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	1	6	4	4	6	8	6	9	7	5	3	6	6	5

NS = no spring date; NA = no autumn date. \*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn.

**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* (5, 14, 600)***Common winter visitor.*

**2016.** A reasonable year for this species with 13 counts of 50 or more birds (13 in 2015), with all but one of them in the first winter period. Eleven of the counts were of 100+ birds - all of which were in the first winter period. Overall this was a good year for the species with 4 of the six "core months" (January-March and October-December) producing counts above the long term (2004-17) median –despite the fact that the spring departure date was relatively early (23 days before the median and the second earliest in the period 2004-17).

**2017.** Another acceptable year for this species with 14 counts of 50 or more birds -10 of which were in the first winter period. There were seven counts of 100 or more birds with all but one in the first winter period. As with 2016 overall counts in the "core" months were good this year with 5 of those months producing counts above or equal to the long-term median.

Data from both of the above years show a general bias towards better counts being made in the first winter period. This is graphically presented in Figure 19A – where a comparison with the other winter thrush (Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*) is provided in Figure 19B. It is also notable that the better counts in the first winter period have tended to be in the last several years.

A summary of data from 2004 onwards is presented in the table below and a graphic summary of the data from the upper table is provided in Figure 19A.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maxima 2017</b>	120	220	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	150	50
<b>Monthly Maxima 2016</b>	123	202	170	1	0	0	0	0	0	40	25	50
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	80	110	76	1	0	0	0	0	0	25	68	50
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	200	320	300	118	1	0	0	0	5	100	190	100
<b>Minimum 2004-2017*</b>	6	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13

\* Median, Maximum and Minimum Monthly Maxima for each month in the period 2004-17.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Med*
<b>Latest Spring*</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> May	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Earliest Autumn*</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct

\*The latest spring date earliest autumn dates Med = Median from 2004-17.

**Redwing *Turdus iliacus* (5, 14, 617)***Common winter visitor.*

**2016.** An average year for this species with three counts of 50 or more birds (2 in 2015 and 4 in 2014) – two in the first winter period and one in the second winter period. Monthly maxima in four of the six core-months (January-March and October-December) were above the long-term (2004-17) median and the maximum count for the year was of 180 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Both spring departure and autumn arrival dates were slightly earlier than the long-term medians.

**2017.** A relatively good year for this species with nine counts of 50 or more birds with just one in the first winter period and eight in the second winter period. Monthly maxima in four of the six core-months (January-March and October-December)

were above the long-term (2004-17) median, while the maximum count for the year was of 200 birds on 18<sup>th</sup> November. The counts of 200 in November and 80 in December are also the best counts for those months in the period 2004-2017. Spring departure and autumn arrival dates were both slightly later than the long-term median dates.

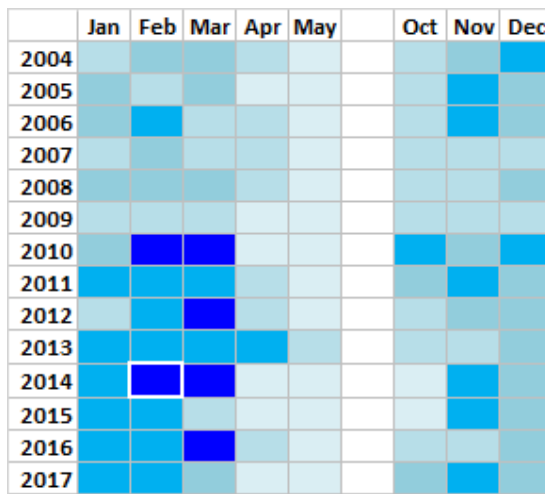
A summary of data from 2004 onwards is presented in the table below with a graphic summary of the data from the upper table provided in Figure 19B. The latter shows a comparison with the same data for the other winter thrush, Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, and shows that better counts for the current species are generally in the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period i.e. better numbers in the couple of months after arrival, compared to the first winter period for Fieldfare.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Monthly Maxima 2017</b>	75	22	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	183	200	80
<b>Monthly Maxima 2016</b>	60	107	35	2	0	0	0	0	0	180	12	20
<b>Median 2004-2017*</b>	50	36	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	40	23
<b>Maximum 2004-2017*</b>	125	200	125	50	0	0	0	0	0	617	200	80
<b>Minimum 2004-2017*</b>	6	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	2

\* Median, Maximum and Minimum Monthly Maxima for each month in the period 2004-17.

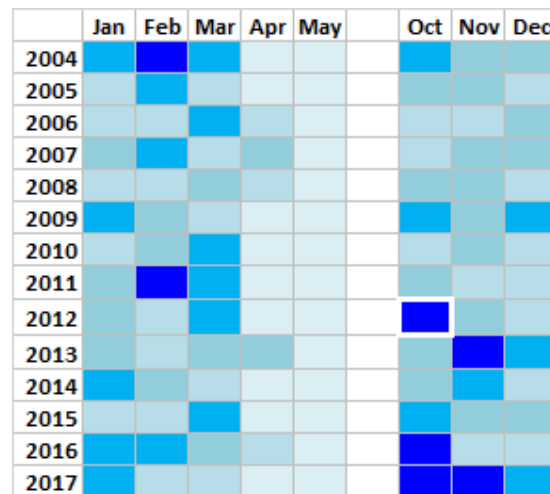
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Med*
<b>Latest Spring*</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>Earliest Autumn*</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct

\*The latest spring date and earliest autumn date. Med = median date from 22004-17.



Key
≥221
100-220
45-99
1-44
0

**Figure 19A.** Monthly maxima for Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* for the period 2004-17. The maximum count for the period is shown by the white bordered box.



Key
≥150
52-149
25-51
1-26
0

**Figure 19B.** Monthly maxima for Redwing *Turdus ilicis* for the period 2004-17. The maximum count for the period is shown by the white bordered box.

**Blackbird *Turdus merula* (5, 14, 25)**

Common resident and breeding species; also, probably occurs as passage migrant.

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 20 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> November – which surprisingly equals the previous on-site maximum count made on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009 There were no confirmed breeding records for the year.

**2017.** Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 25 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> February- which happens to be a site-record. There were no confirmed breeding records for the year.

**Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* (1, 5, 2)**

Infrequent passage migrant.

**2016.** After a few blank years it was good to have this species back on site, A male was present around the Fishing Lakes for three days on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**2017.** Not recorded.



**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (5, 14, 13)***Breeding resident.*

**2016.** Present throughout the year with the typical 2-3 singing males through spring. The maximum count was of 10 birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. Breeding was indicated by a bird seen carrying a faecal sac or food on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**2017.** Notable records this year were a maximum count of just 6 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and recently fledged young noted on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* (5, 14, 125)***Breeding resident and local migrant.*

**2016.** The maximum count for the year was of just 4 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> May - the lowest maximum count in the period 2004-2017 – and only recorded in 8 months of the year. Preliminary analysis indicates that the number of days recorded (38 days) wasn't much different than 2015 (42 days) and 2014 (34 days) just that larger numbers of birds didn't aggregate as they have in previous years. Interestingly, local breeding was confirmed this year with recently fledged young seen on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**2017.** In contrast to last year, this species was noted in all months of the year and days recorded (54 days) and the maximum count -15 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> August – also increased. Breeding was indicated this year with birds seen carrying a faecal sac or food on 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April.

A summary of data from the period 2004-17 is shown below summarising the maximum counts along with the dates for those counts.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum Count</b>	54	30	21	34	30	17	29	32	24	8	14	17	4	15
<b>Date Max Count</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	26 <sup>th</sup> Jul	10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> May	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (5, 14, 5)***Summer visitor and breeding species.*

**2016.** With just 19 Days-recorded (32 in 2015 and 24 in 2014) and a maximum count of 5 birds, this was a relatively poor year – the days recorded being the lowest since 2007. Again, there was no confirmed breeding this year – which partially explains the lack of records after the 4<sup>th</sup> June<sup>4</sup>, but there was also clearly no autumn movement recorded this year. The first bird of the year was seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> April – very close to the long-term median (2004-17) of 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**2017.** Overall numbers were much the same this year with 21 days-recorded and a maximum count of 6 birds; and again, there was no confirmed breeding. Early and late dates were pretty much in keeping with the long-term (2004-17) medians albeit days recorded were relatively low again.

A summary of earliest and latest dates for the period 2005-17 is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17. Days-recorded data are also summarised for the period 2007-17 i.e. those years for which all data are now digitized.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	NR	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	NC*	NC	15	21	44	30	33	21	35	24	32	19	20	24 <sup>^</sup>

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-2017. NR = no date recorded; NC= not calculated as records are in the process of being digitized. ^ Median from 2007-17.

**Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (5, 14, 20)***Summer visitor and breeding species.*

**2016.** As the previous species seems to be struggling on-site, this species is still performing strongly with 45 days-recorded (53 in 2014 and 54 in 2015) and a maximum count of 20+ birds (a new site record) on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. There was confirmed breeding this year – with recently fledged young seen on 14<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**2017.** Another strong year for this species with 55 days-recorded (45 in 2016) and a maximum count of 10 birds on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Breeding was confirmed again this year with recently fledged young seen on several dates from on 8<sup>th</sup> July to 26<sup>th</sup> August.

<sup>4</sup> This date is not considered to be an autumn passage bird i.e. therefore no date is recorded for the autumn passage

A summary of earliest and latest dates for period 2005-17 is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-2017.

### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* (5, 14, 10)

*Common summer visitor and breeding species.*

**2016.** A good year for this species, recorded on 62 days (53 in 2014 and 60 in 2015) with a maximum of 10 birds recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. While a good year it is interesting that breeding was not confirmed this year and the latest departure date was a little early

**2017.** A slightly better year than 2016 with days-recorded at 68 days, a maximum of 8 birds recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> April and breeding confirmed with recently fledged young seen on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

A summary of earliest and latest dates for the period 2005-17 is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17. A graphic summary of these data is presented in Figure 20.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-17.

### **Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* (5, 14, 20)

*Common summer visitor and breeding species.*

**2016.** Spring migrants began arriving on the 7<sup>th</sup> April with numbers building to counts of 10 or more birds over the next few weeks reaching a maximum of 16 birds on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Double figure counts were made on 6 dates again this year – as in 2015 – and breeding was confirmed by the observation of recently fledged young on the relatively late date of the 28<sup>th</sup> August. The number of days recorded was 55 (60 in 2015) and bird-days totalled 236 (252 in 2015).

**2017.** The first bird arrived on the 10<sup>th</sup> April with a subsequent 60 days-recorded up until the 16<sup>th</sup> September. There were just 3 double-figure counts this year and a maximum of 11 birds on the 10<sup>th</sup> May to give a slightly reduced number of bird-days (206) compared to the recent past. However, breeding was good this year with three family parties noted in June.

A summary of arrival and departure dates from the period 2005-17 are shown with the respective median values for the period 2004-17 in the table below. A graphic summary of these data is presented in Figure 20.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep

\*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-17.

### **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* (5, 14, 5)

*Frequent spring migrant/summer visitor. Breeding status uncertain.*

**2016.** Twenty-seven days-recorded and forty-three bird days for the year was the best year in the period since 2007 i.e. the period for which we have fully digitised records for this species. There were also maximum counts of 4 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April – which also equalled the previous record; the good numbers are also reflected in arrival and departure dates that are earlier and later, respectively than the long-term (2004-17) medians.

**2017.** A remarkable increase in the fortunes of this species with a total of 37 days-recorded and 74 bird days, making this the best year on record by a long-way (see below). In addition, counts of 5 birds were made on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May – which again is an on-site record. Finally, breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. As with last year, the good numbers are also reflected in the arrival and departure dates that are earlier and later, respectively, than the long-term (2004-17) medians.

A summary of arrival and departure dates, days-recorded and bird-days from the last 11 years is shown below along with the respective median values for the period 2004-17. A graphic summary of these data is presented in Figure 20.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	NR	7 <sup>th</sup> July	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	NR	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> July	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug
<b>Days Rec</b>	NC	NC	12	9	19	11	9	8	6	20	18	16	12	13 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Bird Days</b>	NC	NC	18	11	22	15	9	13	6	22	22	20	18	19 <sup>^</sup>

The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-2017. NR = no date recorded; NC= not calculated as records are in the process of being digitized. ^ Median values are from 2007-17.

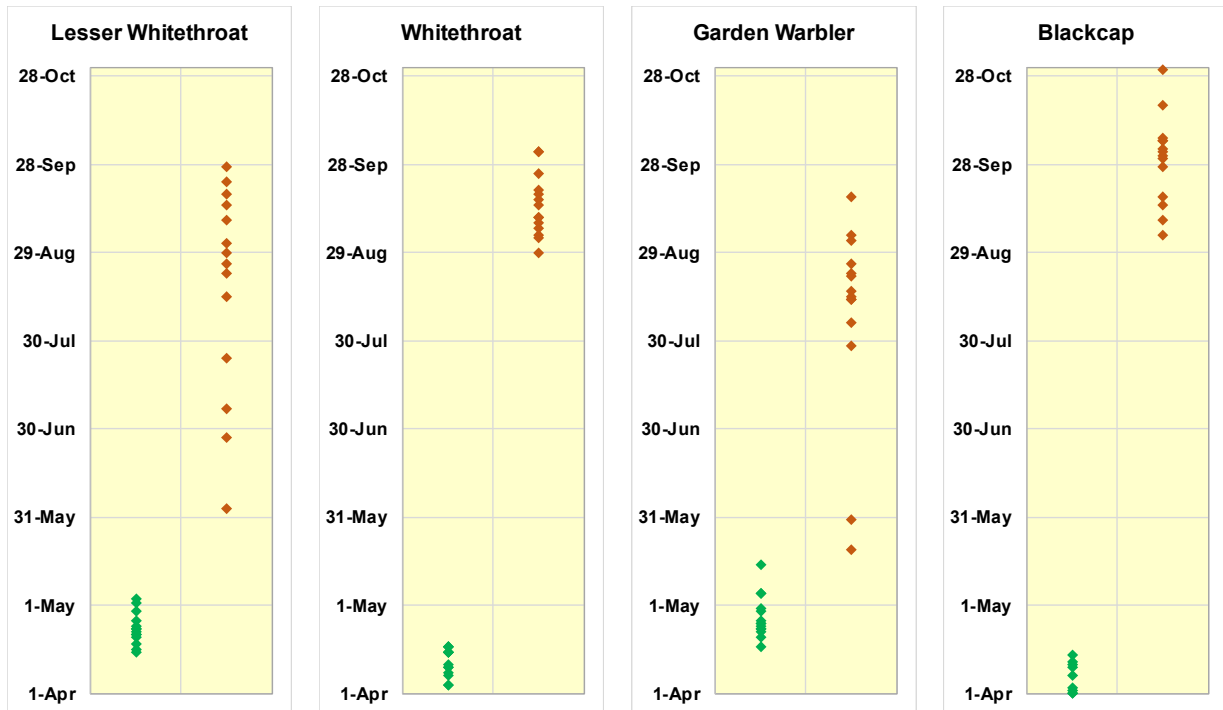


Figure 20. Scatterplot of arrival and departure dates for the regular *Sylvia* migrants at Tyttenhanger in the period 2004 - 17.

**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* (5, 14, 6)**  
*Regular summer visitor.*

**2016.** A good year for this species with 37 days-recorded (34 in 2014 and 38 in 2015) and a maximum of four birds seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. There were up to three singing males reported in May and breeding was confirmed later in the year when a bird was seen carrying food/faecal sac on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Spring arrival (23<sup>rd</sup> April) was close to the long-term (2004-17) median (25<sup>th</sup> April), the last bird of the year (4<sup>th</sup> September) was considerably later than normal (18<sup>th</sup> August).

**2017.** Another good year for this species with 41 days-recorded (37 in 2016) and a maximum of five birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. Breeding was confirmed this year with recently fledged young seen on 13<sup>th</sup> June. As with last year the spring arrival date was close to the long-term median; however, the last bird of the year was seen almost a month earlier than in 2016.

A summary of earliest and latest dates for the period 2005-17 is shown below along with the respective medians for the period 2004-17. A graphic summary of these data is presented in Figure 20.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> May	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> May	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	NR	NR	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul	14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug

The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn are shown along with the median for the period 2004-17. NR = no date recorded.

**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (5, 14, 20)**

*Common summer visitor and breeding species; occasionally overwintering birds are recorded.*

**2016.** Overwintering birds from 2015 appear to have remained through to the early part of this year confusing the line between overwintering and spring migration! With the same occurring at the other end of the year it added up to a very good for this species being recorded on a total of 110 days and birds being seen in all months of the year – a first for the period 2004-17. Despite the issues with overwintering birds, the first migrants of the year arrived on the 12<sup>th</sup> March and several singing males were noted through April and May – although there was ultimately no evidence of breeding this year. Numbers-wise there were six counts of 10 or more birds and a maximum of 14 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. Overwintering at the beginning of the year comprised birds from the 11<sup>th</sup> January, with six further records through until the 8<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period the last migrant appeared to leave on the 17<sup>th</sup> October with single birds noted on 7 dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> November through to the 12<sup>th</sup> December – with two birds present on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**2017.** Birds present at the end of the last year did not seem to appear again until the 4<sup>th</sup> March – but were then present for the rest of the month – once again blurring the line between overwintering and migration. From the first date recorded another 118 days-recorded were notched-up for the year. Other highlights for the year include confirmation of breeding with recently fledged young seen on 12<sup>th</sup> August and six counts of 10 or more birds - with a maximum of 18 birds on the 26<sup>th</sup> August. At least one over-wintering bird was noted on 3 dates in November and December – bring a remarkable two years to a close.

The figure below shows the distribution of daily maximum counts through the period 2015-17 (inclusive) and demonstrates - along with the table at the end of this section – the somewhat unpredictable nature of this species' occurrence in the winter months.

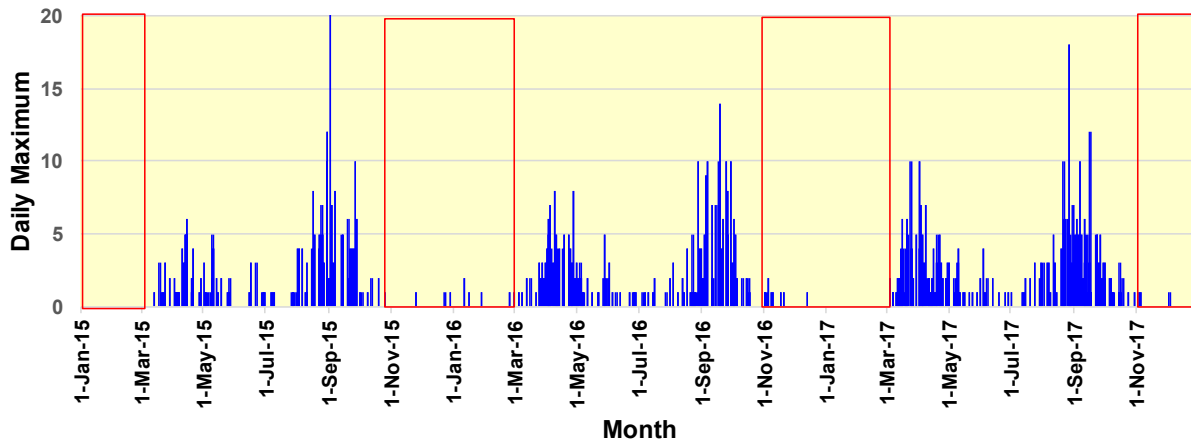


Figure 21. Distribution of daily maximum counts for Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* for the period 2015-17. The red boxes define where the over- wintering periods in this time (November-February inclusive).

Finally, as 2016 and 2017 demonstrate, the status of this species on-site is rapidly evolving and the following tables are an attempt to capture this. The first table is a summary of arrival and departure dates for the period 2005-17 with the respective medians for 2004-17. The next table shows the number of days recorded from 2007-17 (those years for which all digital data are available) and the last table show the distribution of winter records for the species.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>Latest Date*</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	50	77	75	59	54	41	42	89	86	110	119

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bird Days 1<sup>st</sup> WP*</b>	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
<b>Bird Days 2<sup>nd</sup> WP*</b>	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	7	3	9	3

\* Bird days in the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period (1<sup>st</sup> WP- November and December) and second winter period (2<sup>nd</sup> WP- January and February)

**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (5, 14, 8)**

*Regular summer visitor and breeding species.*

**2016.** Days-recorded this year were up to 41, (30 in 2015 29 in 2014) – which is the best year since 2010. The maximum count was of 4 birds on 17<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> August. Once again there were no confirmed breeding records for the year. Spring arrival (3<sup>rd</sup> April) and autumn departure (23<sup>rd</sup> September) dates were both very close to the long term (2004-17) medians – 4<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> September respectively.

**2017.** The slight drop in the days-recorded this year to 34 - but a maximum count was of 5 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> August was slightly higher than last year. There were no confirmed breeding records for the year but a juvenile bird was noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. As with 2016, spring arrival and autumn departure dates were very close to the long-term medians.

A summary of earliest and latest dates for the period 2005-17 is shown below along with data on the number of days-recorded for the period 2007-2017.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median
<b>Earliest Date*</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr
<b>Latest Date*</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	38	49	43	50	36	13	22	29	30	41	32

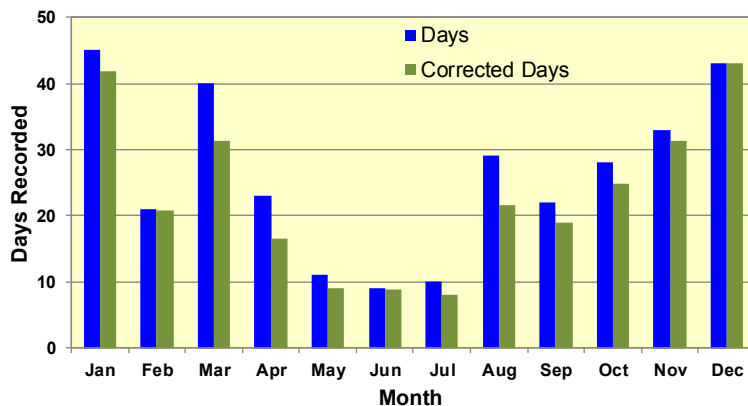
**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (5, 14, 10)**

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

**2016.** A reasonable year for this species with 33 Days-recorded throughout the year (38 in 2015) – with no records in June, September and October and a maximum of just four birds. There was no evidence of breeding this year despite a singing bird being noted on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**2017.** A very good year with 58 days-recorded and recorded in all months of the year with a maximum count of just five birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> October. Confirmed breeding was also noted this year with recently fledged young seen on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	27	36	19	19	20	21	22	20	38	33	58



**Figure 22.** Distribution of days-recorded by month for Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

The table above shows the number of days recorded for the period 2007-17 and Figure 21 the distribution of those days-recorded by month. One interesting feature of the chart to the left is the apparent lack of records in February. First consideration is that this is due to the shorter month and the reduced recording in this month. However, when the days-recorded are adjusted for the relative proportion of days covered in each month (adjusted to the month with the lowest coverage rate – December) Corrected Days, then the lack of records in February is still apparent. We have no obvious

explanation for the observation – and it is always possible that it is March that is over-represented in the data. Nevertheless, we'd welcome any thoughts that you may have on this observation.

**Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* (2, 2, 1)**

*Rare visitor*

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** One was noted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January, and then there was one seen behind the hide in Garden Wood on 8<sup>th</sup> December (Rupert Evershed) and also seen the next day in holly near pylon corner in Garden Wood. There have only been three other records they are all listed here. One on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1987, one on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1996 and one on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* (5, 14, 6)**

*Declining passage migrant; has bred in the past years.*

**2016.** With just three days-recorded this was typical of the recent past. All records for the year were of single birds on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**2017.** Another year with just three days-recorded - although this year produced a count of three birds on the 26<sup>th</sup> August - scattered along the river between Willow's Farm and Tyttenhanger House.

A summary of departure dates, days-recorded and bird days from for the period 2004-17 and days-recorded data from 2006-2016 are shown in the tables below. It is noted that the last record of a bird in Spring was on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009 – with May and June days-recorded comprising just 9 of the 60 days-recorded between 2004 and 2017.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Median*
<b>Latest* date</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Days Rec.</b>	5	4	10	3	3	2	2	2	6	3	3	3	4
<b>Bird Days</b>	8	8	14	3	4	3	2	2	6	3	3	5	4

\*The latest date in autumn.

**Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* (5, 14, 35)**

*Common resident and breeding species.*

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 30 birds again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January (which equals the site record); breeding was confirmed with recently fledged birds seen on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**2017.** Very similar to 2016 with birds seen all year round and a maximum count of 35 birds, this year on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and setting a new site record. Breeding was confirmed again this year with recently fledged birds seen on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> July – indicating several pairs bred on-site this year.

**Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* (5, 14, 50)**

*Common resident and breeding species.*

**2016.** Frequently reported throughout the year with a maximum of 20 birds on four dates between January and April; breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**2017.** A maximum counts of 25 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> January is slightly up on 2016. In addition, and as with the previous species, breeding activity was also up on 2016 with recently fledged young seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June and 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**Great Tit *Parus major* (5, 14, 50)**

*Common resident and breeding species.*

**2016** Present throughout the year with a maximum of 20 birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> April, breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**2017.** Present throughout the year with a maximum of 30 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> January; breeding was confirmed by recently fledged young seen on 6 dates between 28<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* (2, 7, 2)**

*Previous resident and probable breeding species. Not reported since 2010.*

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** A single bird on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January in with a mixed flock of tits (Dan Fletcher) is the first record since 2010.

**Coal Tit *Periparus ater* (5, 14, 5)**

*Resident and irregular breeding species.*

**2016.** Twenty-nine days-recorded represents a relatively good year for this species along with confirmed breeding evidenced by recently fledged young on the 12<sup>th</sup> June. The maximum count for the year was of 3 birds on 4<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> June; interestingly 22 of the days recorded for the year were in the first half of the year.

**2017.** An improvement on 2016, with thirty-seven days-recorded and a maximum count of 3 birds on four dates throughout the year/ However, there was no confirmed breeding this year.

A summary of days-recorded and maximum counts for the last 13 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	12	29	27	13	20	17	37	18	11	18	32	32	29	37
<b>Maximum</b>	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	5	5	3	3



**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* (5, 14, 5)

*Common resident and probable breeding species.*

**2016.** Reported in only 8 months of the year (11 in 2015 and 9 in 2014) with 36 days-recorded and a maximum of 2 birds on five dates though the year. Interestingly there was a large gap in records between 25<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> October. There were no breeding records this year.

**2017.** Reported in 11 months of the year (no records in May) with 51 days-recorded – which is a record for the period 2004-17. The maximum count for the year was of five birds on the 26<sup>th</sup> November- which also happened to be a site-record!



**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* (5, 14, 3)

*Common resident and probable breeding species.*

**2016.** Reported in six months of the year (7 in 2015 and 9 in 2014) with just 7 days-recorded and a maximum of 2 birds on 26<sup>th</sup> March makes this one of the poorer years for this species. There was no evidence of breeding this year.

**2017.** Reported in just six months again this year, with 16 days-recorded and a maximum of just 2 birds noted in January, November and December. Evidence of breeding this year was restricted to a bird observed next-building on the 28<sup>th</sup> March.

A summary of days-recorded for the last 14 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	18	17	20	12	19	5	12	12	7	10	15	12	7	16

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* (5, 12, 15)

*Common resident.*

**2016.** Reported in eleven months of the year (not recorded in July) with a maximum of just 6 birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. There was no evidence of breeding again this year.

**2017.** Reported in all months of the year, with a maximum of 8 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. There was no evidence of breeding again this year.

**Magpie** *Pica pica* (5, 14, 55)

*Common resident.*

**2016.** Present throughout the year with 12 counts of 10 or more birds and a maximum count of 36 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> February. There was no evidence of breeding this year.

**2017.** Recorded in all months of the year, with 17 counts of 10 or more birds and a maximum count of 17 birds on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Breeding was confirmed this year with recently fledged young seen on 12<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August.

A summary of maximum counts for this and the other common corvids is shown for the last 14 years in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Magpie</b>	19	26	24	22	16	21	28	29	36	22	23	31	36	15
<b>Carrion Crow</b>	50	150	250	150	107	50	40	74	44	70	100	150	130	100
<b>Rook</b>	41	108	68	67	30	74	21	40	117	80	50	56	50	40
<b>Jackdaw</b>	200	175	500	322	300	200	60	50	280	100	70	350	400	300

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* (5, 14, 117)

*Local breeder and relatively common visitor to the site.*

**2016.** With just 8 days-recorded for the year this is clearly the worst year for this species in the period 2008-2016 (see table below) – and probably for even longer than that. However, some glimmer of light was provided by a high count of 50 birds on the 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**2017.** The number of days-recorded increased this year, to twenty and four counts of 10 or more birds. The highest count of the year was of 40 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

A summary of Days-recorded since 2008 is shown below and a summary of maximum year-counts for the period 2004-17 in the table above along with those data for other common corvids on-site.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Recorded</b>	63	49	32	38	40	18	11	26	8	20

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* (5, 14, 250)*Common resident.*

**2016.** Recorded in all months of the year with seven counts of 50 or more birds (3 in 2015 and 9 in 2014) and a maximum of 130 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. There were no records of breeding this year.

**2017.** Present throughout the year with only five counts of 50 or more birds and a maximum of 100 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. Breeding was confirmed by a nest seen with young on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May and recently fledged young seen on 12<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August.

A summary of maximum counts from the last 14 years is shown in the table above that summarises data from all common corvids on-site.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* (5, 14, 500)*Local breeder and common visitor to the site.*

**2016.** Present throughout the year with 13 counts of 40 or more birds and a maximum of 400 on the 7<sup>th</sup> November – the highest count since 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006. As usual, there was no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of maximum counts from the last 13 years are shown in the table above.

**2017.** Recorded throughout the year with 12 counts of 40 or more birds and a maximum of 300 on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. As usual, there was no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of maximum counts from the last 13 years are shown in the table above.

**Raven** *Corvus corax* (5, 7, 2).*Infrequent visitor –seemingly becoming more frequent*

**2016.** Single birds on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December and 2 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April make for a total of 4 days recorded.

**2017.** Nine days-recorded this year with single birds on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> November and 2 birds on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September.

There have now been 21 days-recorded on site - for a total of 32 bird days - since the first record of this species in April 2009. The distribution of these days-recorded by month is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Days Recorded</b>	0	0	3	6	0	0	3	1	2	2	2	2

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (5, 14, 10000)*Common resident and winter visitor.*

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with 9 counts of 100 or more birds (7 in 2015) and the maximum count for the year being 450 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**2017.** Present for much of the year – but with just five counts of 100 or more birds and a maximum count for the year again being 450 birds in October (28<sup>th</sup> October).

A summary of maximum counts for the last 14 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Max</b>	300	200	400	300	220	200	300	400	500	250	380	500	450	450

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (1; 2, 3)*Rare visitor*

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** There was an extraordinary influx of Hawfinch's into the UK during the autumn of this year, with over 50,000 sightings in the latter part of the year. It is believed these birds migrated to our shores following a harvest failure in Europe's Eastern Bloc, where the species is much more prevalent.

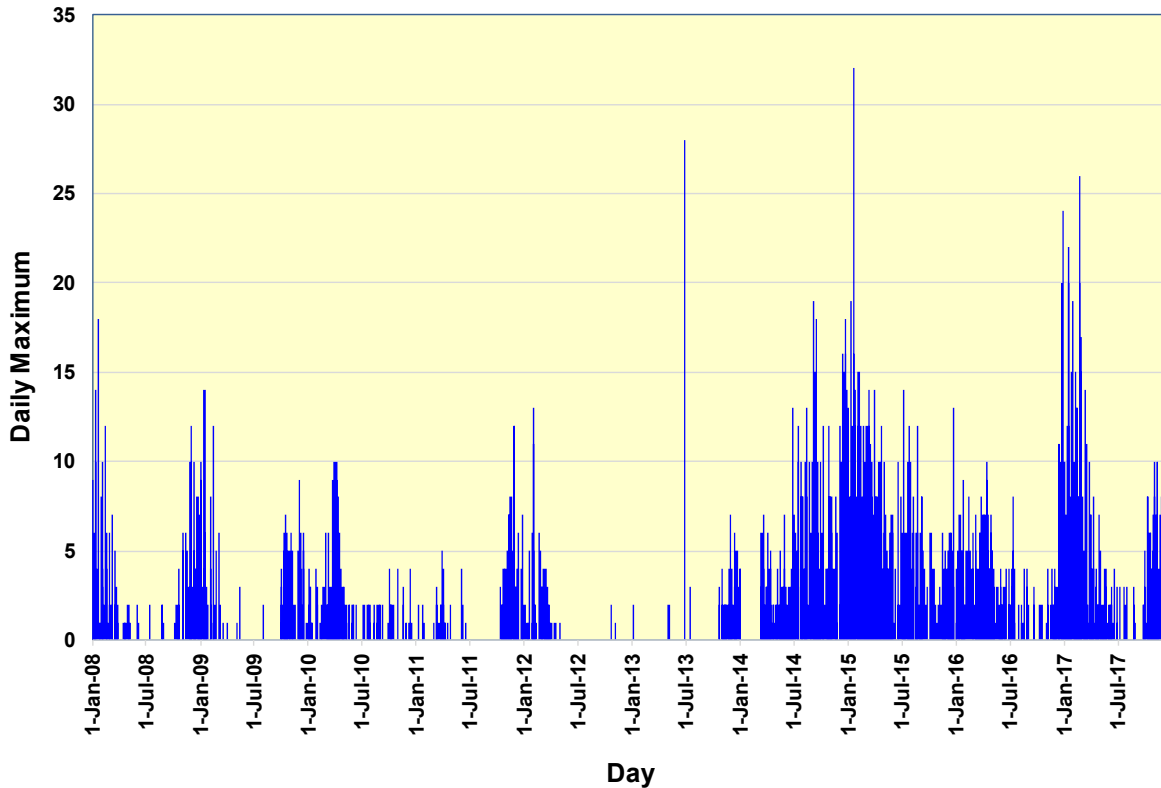
So it was probably no surprise when two birds were seen flying over the field north of the main pit on 30<sup>th</sup> October (Steve Blake). With all the above in mind the regular local birder's where on the lookout for them and had checked Garden Wood and Colney Heath Common on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November with no luck. However, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November Coppice Wood was checked by one percipient birder (Ricky Flesher) who located at least three birds high up in the tree canopy. Despite the difficulty in locating these birds there were three more records from Coppice Wood with, one bird



*One of the three Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes that was in Coppice Wood at the end of 210. Photo courtesy Steve Blake.*

on 24<sup>th</sup> November, two birds on 25<sup>th</sup> November and one bird on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

For those of you who regularly bird the site you'll know that the above was just the start of things to come – but you'll have to wait for the 2018 Report to read the continuing story!



**Figure 23.** Summary of daily maxima for Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* during the period 2008-2017.

**Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (5, 14, 100)**

*Breeding resident and frequent visitor from other local breeding populations.*

**2016.** This was another good year for this species with a total of 138 Days-recorded and 10 counts of 10 or more birds (36 in 2015 and 35 in 2014). There was a maximum count of 24 birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. There were reports of courtship and displaying, nest building and even occupied nest - but no reports of young this year.

**2017.** Another excellent year for this species with a total of 139 Days-Recorded, 23 counts of 10 or more birds and a maximum count of 26 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> February. There were reports of courtship and displaying, nest building and occupied nests and in contrast to last year a recently fledge bird were seen on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

A summary of daily maxima for the period 2008-2017 are shown in Figure 23 and longer-term summaries in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.</b>	90	84	89	93	76	62	98	63	37	41	179	169	135	138
<b>Counts ≥ 10</b>	24	18	13	9	9	4	3	2	2	1	35	36	9	24
<b>Maximum</b>	41	20	25	20	18	14	10	12	13	28	19	32	24	26

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (5, 14, 36)**

*Small resident populations around Willows Farm and in Colney Heath.*

**2016.** Reported throughout most of the year – but strangely absent in September and October; the maximum count for the year was of 20 birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Breeding was confirmed by an adult seen carrying faecal sac or food on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**2017.** Reported in small numbers by Willow's Farm through most of the year - with the exception of May and June. There was a maximum count of 15 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Breeding was confirmed by recently fledged young noted on the rather late date of 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Summary data for the last 14 years are shown in the following table.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	11	15	36	29	14	20	15	20	18	6	10	14	20	15
<b>Days Rec.</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	94	70	45	27	12	26	18	37	41	38

**Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* (5, 14, 100)***Common resident and probable breeding species.*

**2016.** A better year for this species with 25 Days-Recorded (12 in 2015) - but a maximum of just 5 birds, this year on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Despite reports of singing males there were no confirmed breeding records again this year.

**2017.** Further improvements for this species with 40 Days-Recorded – but yet again a maximum of just 5 birds – albeit on 2 dates this year i.e. 26<sup>th</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Singing males on-site in Spring again produced no further evidence of breeding.

A summary of days-recorded and the maximum counts for the period 2008-17 are shown in the table below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Recorded</b>	73	55	39	45	21	35	26	12	24	40
<b>Maximum Count</b>	25	21	50	70	4	7	8	5	5	5

**Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (5, 14, 104)***Common resident and probable breeding species.*

**2016.** Present throughout the year with just 6 counts of 20 or more birds (17 in 2014 and 14 in 2015) and a maximum count of 104 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> December – which is also an on-site record. There was no breeding noted this year.

**2017.** Present throughout the year with 22 counts of 20 or more birds and a maximum count of 70 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> August. Breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Maximum counts and dates for those counts are shown for the last 14 years in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maximum</b>	30	32	30	30	26	37	52	32	50	89	100	50	104	70
<b>Count</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	SDs	7 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Date</b>	Nov	Jul	*	Jan	Oct	Oct	Jan	Mar	Aug	Aug	Sep	Dec	Dec	Aug

\* Indicates the same count was made on several dates.

**Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* (5, 14, 80)***Regular winter visitor.*

**2016.** There were 41 days-recorded this year (5 in 2014 and 16 in 2015) – of which 39 were in the first winter period and just 2 in the second winter period. There were twelve double-figure counts (all in the first winter period) and a maximum of 25 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. This is the second-best year in the period 2006-2016 – just behind 2013. Records were spread across the site from the Tree Sparrow Hedge, Fishing Lakes, Colney Heath Common and Willow's Farm.

**2017.** Continuing the poor end of 2016 there were just 3 days-recorded in the first half of the year. However, from 9<sup>th</sup> October onwards there were 31 days-recorded – including nine double-figure counts and a maximum count of 33 birds on the 29<sup>th</sup> October – which is a record for the period 2004-17. The distribution of records this year was similar to last year and were spread across the site – but with no records from Colney Heath Common.

We'd also like to draw the reader's attention to some of the issues we have faced with the recording of this species due to the capture of data from Colney Heath Common – a stronghold for this species on-site. This is discussed further in the Section – *Submission of Records* (p 9) – and we'd like to re-iterate how grateful we are for any additional efforts that can be made in assisting with the capture of these records.

A summary of data from the last 14 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec.– 1<sup>st</sup> WP*</b>	1	17	20	3	3	1	3	8	18	38	1	0	39	3
<b>Days Rec.– 2<sup>nd</sup> WP*</b>	1	3	0	4	0	0	1	7	18	11	4	16	39	31
<b>Maximum Count</b>	0	14	7	4	2	1	6	10	20	28	14	15	1	33

WP\* = Winter Period. Med<sup>^</sup> = Median for 2004-17.

**Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammaea* (1, 4, 3)***Irregular visitor.*

**2016.** A single bird recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup> March (Rupert Pyrah).

**2017.** Not recorded.

**Siskin *Carduelis spinus* (5, 14, 120)**

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

**2016.** A poor year for this species with 6 records for the year (1 in 2014 and 11 in 2015) with the records coming from the Waterworks and Colney Heath Common. The maximum count for the year was of 35 birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> November from Colney Heath Common. A summary of data from the last 11 years is present below.

**2017.** A good year for this species with 22 records for the year (6 in 2016) with the records coming from the Waterworks and one and two's flying over the main pit and Colney Heath Common. The maximum count for the year was of 30 birds on the 4<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> November from Colney Heath Common.

We'd also like to draw the reader's attention to some of the issues we have faced with the recording of this species due to the capture of data from Colney Heath Common – a stronghold for this species on-site. This is discussed further in the Section – *Submission of Records* (p 9) – and we'd like to re-iterate how grateful we are for any additional efforts that can be made in assisting with the capture of these records.

A summary of records from 2006-17 are provided in the table below along with the respective medians for each parameter from the period 2004-2017.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Med <sup>^</sup>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> WP*Days</b>	11	1	9	7	5	9	3	2	1	1	7	9	<b>6</b>
<b>Late Spring Date</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	NA	17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> WP*Days</b>	2	4	11	5	5	8	5	2	0	10	5	19	<b>5</b>
<b>Early Autumn Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	NA	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>
<b>Max Count</b>	40	11	100	120	80	60	60	9	6	60	50	30	<b>60</b>
<b>Max. Count Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	MD	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>

WP = Winter Period. ^ = Median; MD = Multiple dates for the maximum count – 4<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (5, 14, 350)**

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

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with 21 counts of 50 or more birds (5 in 2014 and 5 in 2015), 2 in the first winter period and 19 in the second winter period. The maximum count for the year was of 144 birds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**2017.** Another good year with fourteen counts of 50 or more birds eight in the first winter period and six in the second winter period. The maximum count for the year was of 170 birds on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

A summary of data from the last 12 years is shown below along with median values for the period 2004-17.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Med <sup>^</sup>
<b>Max. Count 1<sup>st</sup> WP*</b>	70	6	5	25	200	70	24	34	30	80	60	80	<b>50</b>
<b>Max. Count 2<sup>nd</sup> WP*</b>	30	30	50	104	80	64	94	120	150	100	144	170	<b>87</b>
<b>Counts ≥50</b>	6	0	0	0	19	2	10	2	5	5	21	14	<b>4</b>

\*WP = Winter Period. ^ = Median for the period 2004-17

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (5, 14; 200)**

*Common resident and breeding species with winter flocks commonly noted.*

**2016.** Ten counts of 20 or more birds this year with five in the first winter period and four in the second winter period; the maximum count for the year was of 50 birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January. Again, there was no evidence of breeding – despite a number of singing males noted in April and May.

**2017.** The maximum count for the year was of 60 birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, with there being a total of 13 counts of ≥20 birds - 3 in the first winter period and 10 in the second. 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 counts from the last 13 years are shown below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Counts of ≥20</b>	8	14	8	12	16	8	8	5	4	5	9	13
<b>Maximum Count</b>	45	80	110	150	150	150	200	79	80	45	50	60

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* (2, 10, 9)

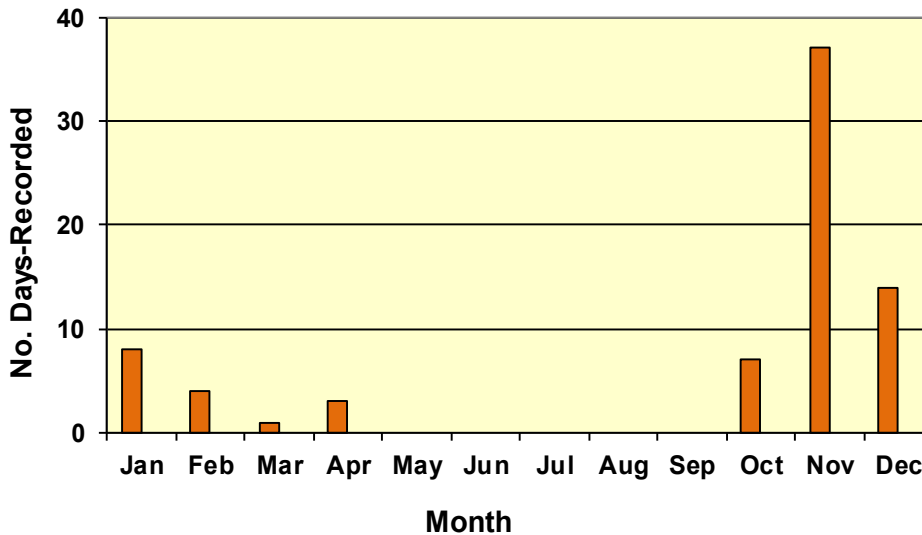
*Regular/irruptive winter visitor.*

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** With just one record in since 2011, it was good to have this species back - with a bang!. Birds were recorded on 17 days between 25<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of four bird on the 30<sup>th</sup> October and a total of 28 bird-days. All the records came from Willow's Farm area or the Maize Field.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Birds Days</b>	8	9	8	46	9	1	29	4	0	0	1	0	0	28
<b>Days Rec.</b>	4	8	7	13	5	1	16	2	0	0	1	0	0	17
<b>Late Date (Spring)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	NS	NS	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
<b>Early Date (Autumn)</b>	NA	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	NA	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	NA	NA	NA	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	NA	NA	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov

NS = No Spring date; NA = No Autumn date

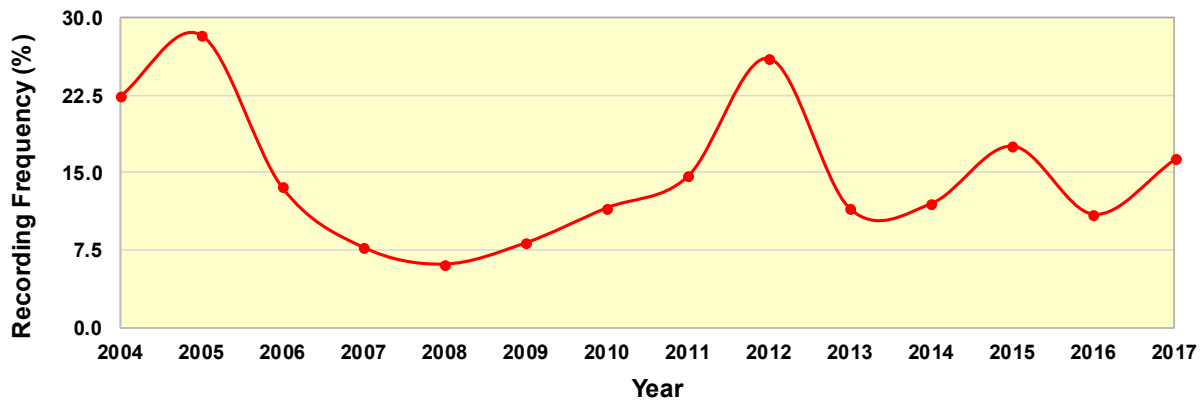


**Figure 24.** Distribution of days-recorded for Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* in the period 2004-17. There has been a total of 74 days recorded in this period for a total of 143 bird-days

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (5, 14, 12)

*Resident, probably breeds.*

**2016.** Reported in all months of the year, with a maximum of 5 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> August and a total of 41 days-recorded and 87 bird-days. The first six months of the year produced 22 days-recorded and there were 19 days-recorded in the last six months of the year. The recording frequency this year was 11.3% (8 records from 73 visits by one regular observer).



**Figure 25.** Recording frequency for Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* for the period 2004-17. 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.

**2017.** Again reported all months of the year, with a maximum of 6 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. The 65 days-recorded this year were spread out, 40 in the first six months of the year and 25 in the last six months of the year. The recording frequency for this species was 16.3% (14 records from 86 visits by one regular observer).

A summary of recording frequency for the last 14 years is shown in Figure 25.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* (5, 14, 50)

Regular winter visitor especially around Tyttenhanger Farm.

**2016.** A much better year for this species with 18 days-recorded and two birds recorded on 4 dates though the year; there were 8 days-recorded in 2015 - all involving single birds. Interestingly, all but 2 of the days recorded were in the first 6 months of the year i.e. there were no records between 6<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. There were singing males noted on several dates in spring.

**2017.** Another reasonable year for this species with 21 days-recorded and a maximum of 4 birds recorded on 29<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> December. A singing male was reported in April between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, but no further evidence of breeding was reported.

A summary of data from the period 2008-2017.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	17	42	63	42	46	64	63	48	34	10	2	8	18	21
<b>Bird days</b>	69	245	329	301	366	598	291	276	156	16	8	8	22	28
<b>Counts ≥ 10</b>	3	6	16	11	18	23	4	7	3	0	0	0	0	0

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* (5, 14, 15)

Resident with a small number of presumed breeding pairs.

**2016.** Reported throughout the year with a typical 2-3 singing males noted in April/May. There were no breeding records received this year - but it is however highly likely that they bred. The maximum count for the year was of 10 birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**2017.** Days recorded, 108, was an increase over the previous year (82) and the best for the period 2004-17. There were a number of singing males around the site in April/May but in contrast to previous years this continued through to June/July – although again there was no confirmed breeding on site. The maximum count for the year was of 15 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> March – which equals the site record.

The table below summarises data from 2008-17 for days-recorded and maximum count for the year.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Days Rec'd</b>	101	71	76	63	58	67	96	81	82	108
<b>Maximum</b>	8	7	12	11	14	12	6	15	10	15

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra* (1, 2, 33)

Infrequent visitor.

**2016.** Not recorded.

**2017.** Two birds were reported by Willow's Farm on 30<sup>th</sup> October (Roger & Lynn Payne). There have only been five other records for the site, 1987 - singing males/pairs present; 1988 Winter flock of 33 birds no other information was given. 1997 - two on 28<sup>th</sup> December; 1998 - one on 5<sup>th</sup> April; 2005 - three birds were seen by the Tree Sparrow hedge on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

## Escapes & Birds of Uncertain Origin

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

**2017.** One was reported on the fishing lakes on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Domestic Goose** *Anser sp.*

**2016.** The white domestic geese were noted throughout the year with a maximum of 26 birds in January and November. There were no breeding records received this year.

**2017.** A maximum of twenty-six birds on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, and six young noted on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

**2017.** An adult male was reported on site between the 14<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Hybrids** *Various*

*Aythya* var.

**2016.** A dark brown hybrid with deep russet head with central peak - possibly Ferruginous x Pochard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**2017.** A presumed Ferruginous Duck/Pochard hybrid seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December on the main pit.

*Anser* var.

**2016** There was a couple of hybrid geese noted throughout the year at Willow's Farm with the Canada Geese. They have been decried as Canada x Greylag hybrid, Greylag x White Domestic Goose hybrid, Canada x Barnacle hybrid and Cackling Goose-Barnacle hybrid?



**2017.** There were three Canada x Barnacle hybrid Geese seen in the Canada Geese flock by Willow's Farm throughout the year. These birds were often reported as Barnacle Geese – and we have separated the records involving these birds as best we can from the latter. There were also two Greylag x White Domestic Geese with the Greylag geese flock that was noted throughout the year.

### **Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*

**2017.** One on the 19<sup>th</sup> April (Alan Gardiner) – almost 2 years to the day since the last bird recorded in 2015,

## **Iceland Gull Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Rupert Evershed**

Having been away in Scotland over Easter I was keen to get back to my local patch – not least because, as soon as I had left for Scotland, a Hooded Crow had flown over the pits...the galling irony!

Usually I'd opt if possible, for early morning birdwatching and most of my visits to Tyttenhanger had been such to date. However, for one reason or another I had begun to pop over to Tyttenhanger in the evenings finding that, while there might be a lull midday, bird activity increased from mid-afternoon onwards.

This is particularly true of the gulls that constantly process through the gravel pits, alighting to drink and bathe before continuing on south. Their numbers peak about an hour before sundown and by sunset there won't be a gull in sight. This evening was no different.

To be honest, I didn't usually give the gulls much time but that, two years on, has all changed – partly because of what was to follow and partly because some of the rarer big gulls – Caspian and Yellow-legged – have become more regular at Tyttenhanger. As I have grown in confidence in identifying these scarcer gulls I am now more in danger of becoming a 'larophile' or gull addict!

But that was not the case at 6.38pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 when I triumphantly tweeted out "4 Dunlin on main pit" – I was far more interested in seeking out any migrant waders and counting the growing number of Little Ringed Plovers on site. I moved across to the fishing lake and settled on one of the Little Ringed Plovers in my scope. I then witnessed what I thought was the birding moment of the evening – a **Sparrowhawk** nipped over my shoulder, crossed the lake and grabbed the Little Ringed Plover before vanishing!

Wanting to share the experience I tweeted again at 7.05pm relaying the sad demise of LRP No.10 and finishing, "Oh well, at least another 9 on site!" Thus far technology was working well and I was enjoying sharing the drama of an evening's birdwatch. With the day closing in I headed back to the car parked in Church Lane, but paused for 'one last scan' at the gate by the metal container. And then it happened...

Immediately my eyes fell on a bright white gull sitting with the small flock of gulls at the edge of Main Pit. I knew instantly what it was – an Iceland Gull, shining like a jewel amongst its drab cousins! I got my scope on it, adrenaline pumping: it was picture perfect – a first summer bird, beautifully white with a dark tip to its bill. Not allowing myself to linger on the view I knew I needed to get the news out.

And then my dear old iPhone 4S died.

Realizing it needed its twice-daily charge I kicked myself for still having such an antiquated phone and ran back to the car to plug it into the car charger. But on arriving at the car: no charger! In a horrible flashback I saw it lying on my desk at home for some unknown reason. Another minute lost trying to jump-start the phone before I accepted that I had to drive home to break the news.

Thankfully I don't live far away but 4 minutes might be a record and at 7.39pm I finally tweeted out the news: "**ICELAND GULL** on main pit roost now!!" I then raced back to Tyttenhanger, praying it was still there.



*Iceland Gull Larus glaucooides 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Photo courtesy Steve Blake.*

Within minutes of setting back up to find the bird in the gull flock, Lee Evans appeared – how I do not know, but if there's an argument for teleportation that was it then – he just materialized from the bushes! Others appeared shortly after and thankfully the bird was relocated in the same place but facing away from us and making it a bit more difficult to see.

I bathed in the warm glow of birding success and the kind congratulations that came my way. I only had brief further glimpses of the bird and as dusk approached, the Iceland Gull left with its fellow gulls, flying south and disappearing into the gloom. I doubted if we'd see again but, believe or not, it was there the next day at 8am – enjoyed by a couple of other Tyttenhanger birders – before finally departing.

Although not a first for the site, it will remain one of my best birding moments – a rare and beautiful bird on my local patch that stayed just long enough for some others to enjoy it too. My only regret is that, due to technological failure, I was not able to spend more time actually looking at the bird!!

**Editor's Note:** The first record for Hertfordshire was on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1963 at Panshanger. Subsequent to this Smith *et al.*, 2015 list another 17 reports up until February 2012 – with the Herts Bird Club site showing a further 3 records (2 possibly involving the same bird at Amwell in early 2016) up to Rupert's find in April 2017. The Tyttenhanger bird described above therefore represents the second record for Tyttenhanger (the last one being on a similarly late date of 26<sup>th</sup> April 1998) and the twenty-second for Hertfordshire.

### References

Smith, K.W., Dee, C.W. Fearnside, and Ilett, M. (2015) Birds of Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire Natural History Society.

## White-winged Black Tern. Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

Steve Blake

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and I had spent all morning searching hedgerows and other likely places hoping to find a **Redstart** to add to my year list. As I was walking the footpath along the river Colne, I caught the slightest glimpse of what I thought was possibly a **Black Tern** - or was it just wishful thinking?

Being on the wrong side of the river, I hurried to the bridge that crosses to the fishing lake hoping to see the bird again. At first, I could not find it so moved further down the lake. I soon located it, standing on the shingle bank on the far side. My immediate thought was **Black Tern** and took a very rushed hand held phone/scoped picture as a record shot, just in case it did what most migrants do at Tyttenhanger ...fly off!

I knew Alan Gardiner and Terry Smith were on site so phoned them the news. By then, the Tern was in the air, bouncing around and dipping to the surface to feed. As I watched it, I gradually started to realise that it was different in plumage compared to the juvenile **Black Terns** I had seen at Wilstone a few days previously - could this be a **White-winged Black Tern**? Thoughts rushed through my head – “No, surely not” ... “It can't be, or can it?”



Photo courtesy Simon West



Photo courtesy Simon West

Alan and Terry arrived, and although none of us were familiar with the species, by searching images on my phone, we soon agreed, that this was a **White-winged Black Tern**!

I realised, because of the rarity of this species in Herts, some birders would immediately rush to see it, so it was most important to get the ID right, so a decent picture was needed before it flew off, as it was bound to do, they all do.... don't they?

Because the bird was so active, even with a very good camera and lens, Alan almost exhausted its memory card trying to obtain a few decent pictures, one of which I posted on Twitter and to my relief, confirmation was soon received. I posted an amended identification on Twitter and the Bird News Services. As expected, birders were soon on site (even leaving their places of work)!

This is a rare visitor to the county which has occurred on seven occasions involving a total of ten birds. All but one of the records has been from Tring, with one record of two birds seen at Hilfield Park Reservoir. The last record was of two birds that passed through Wilstone Reservoir on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008 (Smith *et al.*, 2015).

Rarer Terns and Gulls seen at Tyttenhanger usually fly through! So, I was thankful this one gave me the chance to reassess my initial identification, and that it stayed for six days - giving many people from both near and far a chance to see this ever-confiding tern.

## References

Smith, K.W., Dee, C.W. Fearnside, and Ilett, M. (2015) Birds of Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire Natural History Society.

## Appendix 1

### Arrival and Departure Dates for Common Migrants

Arrival dates for 2016 and 2017 are shown along with the earliest/latest dates for Tyttenhanger that we can find for this species – the latter is shown in brackets. The median date (Med) is also shown below that of the early/late dates for 2016/17 and before the earliest/latest date. ND = no date for this year.

This is still 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.

Summer Migrants		
Species	Arrival Date	Departure Date
Hobby	2016: 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017 18 <sup>th</sup> May Med: 1 <sup>st</sup> May (1 <sup>st</sup> Apr)	2016: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2017: 11 <sup>th</sup> Sep Med: 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep (7 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Little Ringed Plover	2016: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2017: 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar Med: 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar (9 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	2016: 30 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2017: 12 <sup>th</sup> Jul Med: 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug (1 <sup>st</sup> Oct)
Common Sandpiper	2016: 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr Med: 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr (28 <sup>th</sup> Mar) <sup>(1)</sup>	2016: 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017: 15 <sup>th</sup> Sep Med: 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep (13 <sup>th</sup> Nov)
Common Tern	2016: 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr Med: 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr (4 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	2016: 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017: 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep Med: 4 <sup>th</sup> Sep (27 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Swift	2016: 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr Med: 127 <sup>th</sup> Apr (18 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	2016: 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017: 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug Med: 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug (9 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Cuckoo	2016: 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr Med: 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr (25 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	2016: 4 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2017: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun Med: 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug (25 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Sand Martin	2016: 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2017: 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar Med: 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar (11 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	2016: 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep 2017: 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep Med: 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep (7 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Swallow	2016: 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2017: 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar Med: 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar (25 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	2016: 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017: 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct Med: 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct (22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct)
House Martin	2016: 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr Med: 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr (31 <sup>st</sup> Mar)	2016: 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2017: 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct Med: 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct (5 <sup>th</sup> Nov)
Yellow Wagtail	2016: 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr Med: 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr (30 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	2016: 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2017: 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep Med: 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep (5 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Whinchat	2016: ND 2017: 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr Med: 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr (14 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	2016: 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2017: 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep Med: 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep (19 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Wheatear	2016: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr 2017: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr Med: 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar (14 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	2016: 21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2017: 17 <sup>th</sup> Sep B: 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep (8 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Sedge Warbler	2016: 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017: 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr Med: 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr (7 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	2016: 4 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2017: 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug Med: 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug (17 <sup>th</sup> Sep)

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

<b>Summer Migrants (cont'd)</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>Arrival Date</b>	<b>Departure Date</b>
Willow Warbler	<b>2016:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr <b>Med:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr (18 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	<b>2016:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>2017:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep <b>Med:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep (12 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Chiffchaff	<b>2016:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>2017:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>Med:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar (9 <sup>th</sup> Mar) <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>2016:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>2017:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>Med:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct(30 <sup>th</sup> Oct) <sup>(2)</sup>
Blackcap	<b>2016:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>Med:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr (28 <sup>th</sup> Mar)	<b>2016:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>2017:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>Med:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct (30 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
Garden Warbler	<b>2016:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>Med:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr (17 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	<b>2016:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>2017:</b> <b>Med:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug(17 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Whitethroat	<b>2016:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>Med:</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr (4 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	<b>2016:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug <b>2017:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>Med:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep(2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct)
Lesser Whitethroat	<b>2016:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>Med:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr (15 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	<b>2016:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>2017:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep (14 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Spotted Flycatcher	NR <sup>(3)</sup> <b>Med:</b> NR (10 <sup>th</sup> May)	<b>2016:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>2017:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>Med:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep (25 <sup>th</sup> Sep)

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

<sup>(3)</sup> NR = no records in spring of either year. A median date is not provided as there are too few years data to make it useful.

<b>Winter Migrants</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>Departure Date</b>	<b>Arrival Date</b>
Golden Plover	<b>2016:</b> NA <b>2017:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar <b>Med:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar (12 <sup>th</sup> May)	<b>2016:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov <b>2017:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov <b>Med:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct <sup>(4)</sup> (29 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Fieldfare	<b>2016:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>Med:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr (12 <sup>th</sup> May)	<b>2016:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>2017:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>Med:</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct (18 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Redwing	<b>2016:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>Med:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar (14 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	<b>2016:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>2017:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>Med:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct (30 <sup>th</sup> Sep)
Siskin	<b>2016:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>Med:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar (10 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	<b>2016:</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov <b>2017:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep <b>Med:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct (21 <sup>st</sup> Sep)
Lesser Redpoll	<b>2016:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr <b>2017:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr <b>Med:</b> NC <sup>(5)</sup> (23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr)	<b>2016:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>2017:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct <b>Med:</b> NC (2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct)

<sup>(4)</sup> Does not include records from July and August of 2007 and 2008 as these were considered to be "wandering" non-breeding birds rather than migrants/winter visitors.

<sup>(5)</sup> NC = not currently calculated

## APPENDIX 2

## SPECIES YEARLISTS FOR TYTTENHANGER GRAVEL PITS 2004-2017

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	2016	2017
Mute Swan	1987	1	1	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	0	0
Whooper Swan	2004	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
White-fronted Goose	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bean Goose (Tundra)	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greylag Goose	1986	1	1	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	1	1
Barnacle Goose	2006	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Brent Goose	1996	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Egyptian Goose	1993	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shelduck	1986	1	1	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	1	1
Wigeon	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Teal	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Pintail	1985	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Garganey	1986	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Shoveler	1986	1	1	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	1	1
Pochard	1986	1	1	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	1	1
Scaup	2007	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	1996	0	0	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	0	0
Goldeneye	1983	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Smew	1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Goosander	1988	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Ruddy Duck	1989	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Red-legged Partridge	1983	1	1	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	1	0
Pheasant	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Great Crested Grebe	1983	1	1	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	1	0
Cormorant	1989	1	1	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	0	0
Bittern	1996	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Great White Egret	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Little Egret	1999	1	1	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	2016	2017
Grey Heron	1983	1	1	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	0	0
White Stork	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Glossy Ibis	2009	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Honey-Buzzard	1987	0	1	0	0	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	1	1
Montague's Harrier	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh-Harrier	1991	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Goshawk	1996	0	0	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	1	1
Buzzard	1991	1	1	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	1	0
Kestrel	1984	1	1	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	0	0
Hobby	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Water Rail	1994	1	1	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	1	1
Coot	1987	1	1	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	1	1
Black-winged Stilt	1998	0	0	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	0	1
Stone Curlew	2002	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Ringed Plover	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Golden Plover	1985	1	1	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	0	1
Lapwing	1983	1	1	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	0	0
Sanderling	1986	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Little Stint	1987	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Temminck's Stint	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	1983	1	1	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	0	1
Jack Snipe	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Snipe	1985	1	1	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	1	1
Black-tailed Godwit	1987	0	1	1	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	0	1
Whimbrel	1986	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Curlew	1986	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spotted Redshank	1985	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Redshank	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Green Sandpiper	1984	1	1	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	1	0
Common Sandpiper	1983	1	1	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	0	0
Mediterranean Gull	2001	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Little Gull	1987	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Black-headed Gull	1984	1	1	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	1	1
Lesser Black-b'd Gull	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Caspian Gull	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Herring Gull	1984	1	1	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	0	1
Great Black-b'd Gull	1996	1	1	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	0	0
Little Tern	1988	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Black Tern	1987	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
White-w'd Black Tern	2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sandwich Tern	1996	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Common Tern	1984	1	1	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	1	0
Feral Pigeon	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Woodpigeon	1987	1	1	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	1	1
Turtle-Dove	1986	1	0	0	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	1	1
Cuckoo	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Little Owl	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Long-eared Owl	1993	0	0	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	0	0
Swift	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Hoopoe	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Green Woodpecker	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Lesser Spotted Woodp'r	1984	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wryneck	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-toed Lark	1991	0	0	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	1	1
Sand Martin	1983	1	1	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	1	1
House Martin	1996	1	1	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	0	1
Meadow Pipit	1984	1	1	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	0	0
Water Pipit	1992	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Wagtail	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Pied Wagtail	1994	1	1	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	1	1
Wren	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Robin	1996	1	1	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	0	0



	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Black Redstart	1988	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Redstart	1989	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Whinchat	1989	1	1	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	1	1
Wheatear	1984	1	1	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	1	0
Blackbird	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Song Thrush	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Mistle Thrush	1984	1	1	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	0	0
Sedge Warbler	1984	1	1	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	1	1
Blackcap	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1987	1	1	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	1	1
Dartford Warbler	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Warbler	1994	0	0	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	1	1
Willow Warbler	1990	1	1	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	1	1
Firecrest	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	1996	1	1	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	0	0
Long-tailed Tit	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Great Tit	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Willow Tit	1991	0	0	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	0	1
Nuthatch	1986	1	1	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	1	1
Red-backed Shrike	1996	0	0	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	1	1
Magpie	1992	1	1	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	1	1
Rook	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Raven	2009	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Starling	1988	1	1	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	1	1
Tree Sparrow	1983	1	1	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	1	1
Brambling	1999	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Greenfinch	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Siskin	1996	1	1	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	1	1
Lesser Redpoll	1994	1	1	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	2016	2017
Mealy Redpoll	2005	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Crossbill	1991	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	1996	1	1	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	0	1
Snow Bunting	1988	0	0	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	1	1
Reed Bunting	1986	1	1	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	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>144</b>