

Hampshire Bird Report 2016



Hampshire Ornithological Society
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The Hampshire Ornithological Society has three broad aims:

- To promote the recording and study of bird life in Hampshire and to publish the results in its annual Bird Report.
- To use these results to encourage and support the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in the County.
- To foster a wider interest in the recording and preservation of Hampshire bird life by organising a programme of indoor and outdoor meetings, by publishing a quarterly magazine and other forms of publicity.

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Hampshire Bird Report 2016



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Hampshire Ornithological Society



Published November 2017

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Chairman's Report 2016

This is my fifth and final annual report to the Hampshire Ornithological Society as Chairman, and takes us up to the 2017 AGM and Member's Day, where I handed over the mantle to Keith Betton whom I am sure will continue to steer the Society in the right direction. Whilst reflecting on how the past five years have flown by, perhaps you will not mind if I indulge in a couple of thoughts on what has been achieved in that time. Foremost has to have been the publication of the Atlas, a monumental achievement that has been rightly praised by the birding fraternity. If you haven't already got one, a few copies are still available to purchase through the Sales Officer. The resurrection of Birdtrail has been good to see and offers hope for the future with the younger generation of birdwatchers, another of many reasons for having appointed an Education Officer. Conservation is now at the forefront of what we do, which is why the collecting of records is so important at both local and county level and indeed nationally too. Without your gathering and our collating of such data, we would not have the ammunition so vital in opposing such things as unnecessary developments. Perhaps the greatest achievement, however, is the move towards providing grants from our accumulated reserves for worthwhile conservation projects in Hampshire, something that any individual or organisation can apply for through the Scientific Sub-Committee.

Every year we produce several publications that in my view are second to none. The first is the highly regarded annual *Bird Report*, which last year had a new editor at the helm, Mike Chalmers, and he is to be congratulated on producing a fine report that continues the high standards set by his predecessors. We then come to our quarterly newsletter *Kingfisher* whose editor, Phil Budd, does an excellent job. It is full of superb colour photographs and interesting and informative articles on a variety of topics. To both we owe a huge debt of thanks on jobs well done. Speaking of which, your Treasurer, Brian Leach, stood down at this year's AGM after five years of excellent service to the Society for which I would like to thank him most sincerely on your behalf. He is being succeeded by Andy Mitchelmore whom I am sure will also serve the Society well in the future.

Whilst I am still in this mode I should like to express my gratitude to all the members of the Management Committee and Scientific and Membership Sub-Committees. During my time as Chairman, your help and support have been of great help to me and I know you will continue to provide the same to my successor. I should also like to thank our President, Chris Packham, for his support during my tenure. Whenever his filming schedules for the BBC permit, he will always turn out for the Society and it has been my pleasure to have got to know him better over the past five years. We are indeed fortunate to have such a champion of nature in all its aspects as our President.

Next, I want to move on to Swifts, those enigmatic birds of our summer skies but, like many other species, one whose numbers are falling significantly year on year. Fear not, however, because we now have Andy Broadhurst championing the species. There is now a Hampshire Swift Group doing some amazing work in helping to preserve our birds, so why not join in and help in the conservation of these screamers-of-the-skies by going to the hampshireswifts.co.uk web site.

As mentioned above, Birdtrail 2016, held this year once again at Blashford Lakes on Sunday September 25th, was a great success. Our President was there, which the kids loved, and thanks go to him, to Patricia Brown and her team for organising it all and also to our friends at Blashford Lakes for allowing us to use this premier site. We will be repeating it again at the same venue in 2017. Talking of events, we once again had a presence at the New Forest Show in July, a huge event in the summer calendar locally, and thanks are due to all those involved and in particular Ray Morley and Ted Barnes who do so much in steering it all.

So in conclusion, may I say it has been a privilege to be your Chairman for the last five years. How lucky am I to have been at the helm of one of the greatest Ornithological Societies in the Country. Thank you.

Alan Snook, May 2017

Editorial and Acknowledgements

Most of the changes introduced last year in HBR 2015 have been continued, with the result that this report closely follows the order of contents and layout established then. It begins with Alan Snook's last report as Chairman at the end of his successful five-year term which has seen the Society grow in influence and activities. The annual Review of Birds, which follows this editorial, has been jointly written for the first time by Richard Carpenter and Amy Robjohns.

As usual, the major part of the report (around three-quarters) is taken up by the Systematic List and associated tables and appendices. It may appear similar to previous years, but behind the scenes there have been big changes as the database has been migrated from CoBRA1 to CoBRA2 with the generous help of Sussex Ornithological Society. This will entail revising the record form for submitting future observations. Details are due to be issued shortly.

In this report, the English and scientific names and sequence have continued to follow the latest version of the British List published on-line by BOURC (8th edition updated to Aug 24th 2017). There has been considerable debate over BOU's decision to adopt the IOC taxonomy from the start of 2018. This will probably result in significant changes in HBR 2017, which is due to be published in late 2018. However, for this report (HBR 2016) it has been decided to retain the approach used for the first time last year whereby the English name used by BOURC is followed in brackets by the alternative IOC name, where available. Sharp-eyed readers will notice only a few minor changes this year, such as corrections to some of the conservation categories for a small number of species and BOURC's decision to drop Greater and Lesser Canada Geese in favour of the more widely used Canada and Cackling Geese.

The Systematic List is followed by three main papers, four short papers and three notes. The three main papers examine the status of breeding birds of special significance to Hampshire. The first of these by Rob Clements, Marcus Ward and Russell Wynn reassesses the county's breeding population of Firecrests based on surveys carried out during 2016 which demonstrated the species' continuing expansion in range and numbers. The second by Rob Clements, Simon Currie, Richard Jacobs and Andy Page looks at Hobbies, both in the New Forest, where the drop in numbers is probably due to predation by Goshawks, and in other habitats, where they appear to be stable, and ends by updating the estimate of breeding pairs across the county. The third by myself summarises the findings from the Willow Tit surveys carried out over the last three years by HIWWT and HOS in north-west Hampshire. Possible reasons for their marked decline are discussed and recommended conservation measures are summarised.

The first three of the short papers refer to new additions to the Hampshire List and the fourth refers to a new sub-species. The first by George Else describes his finding of the Alpine Accentor at Brownwich in April, which subsequently was shown to be part of a wider movement across north-western Europe. The second by Nigel Jones summarises the discovery and behaviour of the juvenile Pallid Harrier at Needs Ore in November, and places the record in the context of the species' ongoing westward expansion in Europe. The third (not so short) paper refers to the Chinese Pond Heron at East Dean in November 2004, which was originally considered to be an escape. However, following the acceptance of a 2014 record in Kent to Category A, BOURC reviewed and upgraded the 2004 Hampshire and Norfolk record to Category A. Because it predated the Kent bird, it also became the first for Great Britain. The last by Amy Robjohns recounts her finding of the Caspian Stonechat at Titchfield Haven in May. This was the first record in the county of this distinctive race of Siberian Stonechat and only the sixth for Great Britain. Finally there are the notes, two of which, by Tony Davis and Bob Chapman respectively, describe HOS-funded projects to sponsor a satellite-tagged Cuckoo caught in the New Forest and install new nesting rafts for Common Terns at Blashford Lakes. The last by Andy Broadhurst summarises the first year's results of the newly formed Hampshire Swift Group.

HOS is a large society with over 1,500 members. Each year a database of approximately 60,000-90,000 records is compiled with input from over 900 observers, members and non-members alike.

Thanks again to all observers and contributors who are listed in Appendix 2 to the Systematic List (p. 187); without them there would be no report.

The processing of records and production of the bird report is only possible as a team effort relying each year on the generosity and expertise of a large number of volunteers. As usual records have been submitted through many different channels. BTO provided Hampshire records from their national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), BirdTrack and Garden BirdWatch (GBW) surveys. Visible migration data were obtained from the *Trektellen* website and waterbird survey data (WeBS) were provided with the agreement of the WeBS Partnership of WWT, RSPB, BTO and JNCC. Additional information was received from the reserve staff or volunteers at Blashford Lakes, Keyhaven Marshes, Needs Ore and Farlington Marshes.

Keith Betton oversaw the vetting and input of records and thanks all the following, in addition to the Records Panel members named after the title page, for their contributions. John Clark prepared the new CoBRA2 database and input records. Janet Shelley transferred sightings from the Needs Ore log. Mark Painter edited data from BirdTrack and Living Record and Barry Stalker extracted records from the Going Birding website. WeBS data were prepared by John Shillitoe (coastal sites), Keith Wills (inland sites other than Avon Valley), John Clark (Avon Valley) and James Parkin (Chichester Harbour). Additional waterfowl records from Blashford Lakes were provided by Bob Chapman (HIWWT). Brian Sharkey provided results from the Heronries Survey, 2Js Ecology made available results from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (TB&WH) Breeding Bird Survey and Keith Betton and Martin Orchard-Webb organised and summarised the New Forest Winter Bird Survey (NFWBS). Sandy Point records were input from the report written by Andy Johnson.

My sincere thanks go to the writers of the individual species accounts for the Systematic List, the majority of whom have been carrying out this task for many years. The quality of the accounts depends upon their skill, accuracy and knowledge, and the time they give up each summer to write their accounts is much appreciated. In alphabetical order they are, in addition to myself, Keith Betton, Andy Broadhurst, John Clark, Rob Clements, Alan Cox, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, Caroline French, Dan Hoare, John Jones, William Legge, Graham Osborne, Andy Page, Andy Rhodes, John Shillitoe, Barry Stalker, Dave Unsworth, Andrew Walmsley, Marcus Ward and Simon Woolley. Writers' contributions are individually identified by their initials in italics at the end of each of their species accounts. If anyone is interested in becoming a writer next year, please contact me. In addition, Tables 1 and 8 were prepared by John Clark, Table 2 by Kate Risely of BTO, Table 3 by Alan Cox, Table 4 by Keith Betton, Table 5 by John Shillitoe and Tables 6 and 7 by myself. My thanks also go to Alan Snook for his Chairman's Report, Richard Carpenter and Amy Robjohns for the Review of the Year, Simon Boswell for checking conservation categories, Tony Davis for the Ringing and Nest Recording Report and the note on our sponsored Cuckoo, and all our other authors of papers and notes. Our regular illustrators, David Thelwell and Dan Powell, have again generously donated their artwork for the frontispiece and elsewhere in the report.

Special thanks go to Alan Lewis who, as Photographic Editor, has been responsible for sourcing and selecting the excellent photographs which add interest and make the report so much more attractive. Thanks also to the individual photographers who generously submitted images, both those whose photographs were selected and are credited in the contents list and captions, and all others who contributed images for consideration. The quality of images remains very high allowing the incorporation of photo-montages in the Systematic List as well as providing another stunning front cover. The following team of proof-readers and reviewers all identified errors and made valuable comments: John Clark, John Cloyne, Andy Collins, Alan Cox, Tim Doran and Andy Johnson. Any outstanding errors or omissions are my responsibility alone. Finally, John Norton as Production Editor has carried out the vital task of designing and formatting the entire report, including placing all the photographs and finalising everything for the printer. Keith Betton arranged the advertisers and financial support and Bryan and Sandy Coates organise sales.

Mike Chalmers, September 2017

Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2016

Richard Carpenter & Amy Robjohns



Semipalmated Sandpiper with Snipe (Dan Powell)

A total of 254 species was recorded in the county in 2016. This was nine more than last year's low figure but below the average of 258 for the last five years. **Alpine Accentor** and **Pallid Harrier** were added to the county list and Siberian Stonechat occurred for the third year in a row. In addition, **Chinese Pond Heron** was added to both the county and British List based on a review of a 2004 record.

January was a wet month with the heaviest rainfall on 3rd, 8th, 15th, 21st and 26th-27th. Winds were east or north-east from 20th-22nd, otherwise westerly and particularly strong on 1st (SW), 8th (W), 12th and 13th (SW/W gales), 15th (W storm force) and 28th (NW). Nights were cold from 17th-25th and again from 29th but there were few frosts.

Still present from 2015 were the two first-winter female Ring-necked Ducks at Rooksbury Mill until 23rd, the male Ferruginous Duck at Blashford Lakes until March 6th, the drake Long-tailed Duck off Keyhaven until May 2nd, both Yellow-browed Warbler and Siberian Chiffchaff at Eastleigh STW until February 10th and March 6th respectively, between one and four Penduline Tits at Titchfield Haven until March 12th and a Siberian Chiffchaff along Titchfield Canal Path until 17th. The Long-billed Dowitcher, also present since 2015, was regularly seen at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes between 12th and April 28th. Up to two Black-necked and one Slavonian Grebe remained on Ibsley Water until Mar 30th and April 12th respectively; similarly in Langstone Harbour up to five Black-necked and three Slavonian Grebes remained until March 4th and 12th respectively. The Great White Egret at Blashford Lakes stayed until February 7th, a Bittern at Ivy Lake was seen intermittently until March 23rd and an adult Ring-billed Gull at Ibsley Water gull roost stayed until March 25th.

Two first-winter Caspian Gulls were also at Ibsley Water until late February/early March roosting with up to six Yellow-legged Gulls. Short-eared Owls were also regularly seen at Farlington Marshes until April 4th. Great Grey Shrikes continued to be seen in the New Forest and also at three other sites. Up to six Hen Harriers were seen regularly in the

New Forest and two at Alresford Pond. Up to three Spoonbills were in the Keyhaven and Pennington area throughout the month and most of the following year; others were in the Beaulieu Estuary and at Farlington Marshes.

Along the coast, Little, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were regularly recorded, particularly at Southsea seafront, where up to 18 Little Gulls were seen on 4th as well as a juvenile Iceland Gull from 2nd-10th and 18th and a juvenile Glaucous Gull on 10th and 18th. In Langstone Harbour a Red-necked Grebe was seen regularly from 4th until February 7th and a drake Velvet Scoter from 9th to 19th. An adult Bewick's Swan was at Harbridge on 12th. At least four Great Northern Divers were in Southampton Water and others were along the coast and in the eastern harbours along with smaller numbers of Red-throated Divers. Two Light-bellied Brent Geese and two Black Brants were in the Farlington area remaining until March, the latter occasionally being seen around Gosport.

February was a mild month with no heavy rainfall and just a few cold nights with frosts. Winds were mainly from the north or east until 10th, then south-east or south until 13th and west or north-west thereafter. Winds were strong on 6th (NE), 13th (S), 19th-22nd (SW) and 24th and 26th (SW or W).

In addition to Blashford Lakes, there were sightings of Bitterns at Titchfield Haven on 6th and Keyhaven from 13th until March 3rd. A juvenile Iceland Gull flew past Lee-on-the-Solent on 6th. Other interesting sightings included a Great White Egret at Longparish on 10th, a Light-bellied Brent Goose at Meon Shore on 11th and at least 14 Spoonbills in the Beaulieu Estuary and Lymington-Hurst area.

March was fairly cold with several frosts until 20th. There was a period of cold northerly/north-easterly winds from 9th-20th; otherwise winds were from the west or south-west. There were strong winds on 1st (SW) and 9th (NE) and very strong on 28th (W), and heavy rain on 9th and from 27th-29th.

The Ring-billed Gull on Ibsley Water was joined by a second adult between 4th-12th. The Bewick's Swan remained at Harbridge from 4th-25th while the first signs of spring were a drake Garganey at Petersfield on 7th and an Osprey over Fareham on 17th. Meanwhile, a first-winter male Velvet Scoter was off Stokes Bay and Hill Head from 19th-31st, a second-winter Glaucous Gull was in the eastern Solent on 21st and then off Hill Head and Lee-on-the-Solent from 31st until May 2nd, and a juvenile Iceland Gull was at HMS Sultan on 30th. There were at least 18 Spoonbills in the Beaulieu Estuary, at Lymington-Hurst and Titchfield Haven. Short-eared Owls were reported at several sites including Farlington Marshes and Great Grey Shrikes were seen in the New Forest plus at five sites elsewhere in the county.

April was a generally mild month. There was significant rainfall on 11th and 15th. Winds were mainly from the south-west or west but between east and south on 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th-15th and 19th-21st. There were strong westerlies on 29th.

An excellent find was Hampshire's first Alpine Accentor seen for a short time and photographed at Brownwich on 13th (see separate short paper in this report). Also noted was a migrating Stone-curlew at Cosham on 2nd; single Hoopoes at Sandy Point, Weston Shore and Pennington, all on 3rd; single Stone-curlews at Millbrook and Titchfield Haven on 5th; a White Stork over Woolmer Pond on 8th; Great White Egrets at Hook-with-Warsash and Titchfield Haven on 11th; a ringtail harrier at Hill Head on 12th and a Wryneck at Titchfield Haven on 13th. Noteworthy records continued in the second half of the month with a flock of ten Pomarine Skuas through the Solent on 21st, a Golden Oriole at Eldon and Great White Egret in Southampton (both on 26th), two crane sp. over West Wellow on 29th, a Wood Sandpiper at Farlington Marshes on 29th and a Black Kite at Blashford Lakes on 30th. Other migrants included Pied Flycatchers at five sites and Garganeys, Spoonbills, Ospreys, Little Gulls and Black Terns at widespread locations.

May was a generally warm month with significant rainfall only on 18th. Winds were north-east to south-east from 4th-14th and from 24th-30th; otherwise they were westerly except on 31st when they were strong from the north.

Rarities included two Whiskered Terns at Keyhaven on 7th, a male Siberian Stonechat at Titchfield Haven on 10th and 11th of the distinctive race *variegatus* known as Caspian Stonechat (see separate short paper in this report), a Montagu's Harrier at Martin Down on 12th, a Stilt Sandpiper (only the second record for Hampshire) at Keyhaven on 22nd and 23rd and a male Red-breasted Flycatcher at Romsey on 29th.

A second-winter Glaucous Gull was at Stokes Bay on 2nd. Arctic Skuas reached a daily peak of eight on 2nd and smaller numbers of Great and Pomarine Skuas moved east offshore. A passage of Black Terns, mainly at Hill Head and Hurst/Milford on Sea, peaked with a total of 103 at three sites on 5th whilst inland birds were also noted at Blashford Lakes and Fleet Pond. Single Roseate Terns were seen at Pennington on 5th and 13th. A different drake Long-tailed Duck to the long-stayer at Keyhaven flew east past Hurst on 6th and then between Hill Head and Southampton Water on 7th and 8th. Also noted were single Cattle Egrets at Lymington-Hurst on 7th and Langstone Mill Pond from 9th-13th, a Wood Sandpiper at Pennington Marshes from 15th-17th, separate single Roseate Terns at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head on 21st and 28th and a Great White Egret at Farlington Marshes on 27th.

June was rather cool and showery, apart from a short period of warm weather from 5th-10th, with high rainfall on 17th, 21st and 23rd. Winds were from the north until 8th, south-east on 9th and then mainly south-west or west.

Returning Green Sandpipers were recorded from 3rd, a Curlew Sandpiper was at Pennington on 4th and 5th, a ringtail Montagu's/Pallid Harrier was at Longwood Warren on 5th, a Hoopoe was at Micheldever on 6th and a Roseate Tern was at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 8th. In the second half, a Black Tern was at Fleet Pond on 20th while three were noted at Hill Head and Hook-with-Warsash between 18th-25th, a female Common Scoter was an unexpected visitor to Blashford Lakes from 23rd until July 5th, and sea-watching at Hill Head produced



Red Kite (Dan Powell)

a Great Skua on 24th and 29th and an Arctic Skua on 25th. A very late or very early Short-eared Owl was photographed at Redbridge on 27th.

There were mixed fortunes for our important breeding species. Pochard bred at two sites producing six young. Three pairs of Honey Buzzard definitely bred with at least five other pairs possible or probable. Red Kite numbers continued to increase with more than 125 pairs estimated. Goshawks were at 58 sites and Hobbies bred at about 30 sites. Peregrines bred at 16 sites with 12 pairs producing 23 young. Avocets bred at three sites with 36 pairs producing just four fledged young. Stone-curlews were slightly down on 2015 with at least 32 pairs producing 13 or more young. Mediterranean Gulls were a success story with a new county record of 897 pairs at five sites. For the third consecutive year a pair of Yellow-legged Gulls bred at Northam raising three young. Little Terns were unsuccessful this year but 203 pairs of Sandwich Terns attempted to breed at two sites with good success. A total of 209 pairs of Common Terns bred, the most successful being the 29 pairs on the rafts at Ivy Lake, Blashford which produced about 40 young. Turtle Doves were present at several sites, especially at Martin Down with up to 21 singing males, but there was no evidence of successful breeding from any site. Firecrests were widespread with 882 territories identified but the true figure was probably a lot higher. Bearded Tits bred at three sites but their outcomes were not known.

July was a warm month with temperatures of 25°C or more from 16th-23rd and very little rainfall. Winds were light to moderate from the west or south-west for most of the month but south or south-east from 17th-19th.

Unexpected visitors were a Light-bellied Brent Goose flying east past Hill Head on 2nd and a Great White Egret at Hook-with-Warsash the same day, a White Stork at Boldre on 6th, a Black Stork flying west near Yateley Common on 16th and further single White Storks (perhaps the same individual) at Winchester on 18th and Locks Heath on 21st. In addition, a Black Tern was at Petersfield on 21st, a Cattle Egret was at Fishlake Meadows on 23rd, an Arctic Tern was at Sandy Point on 27th and 13 Greenshank were at Titchfield Haven on 20th. Other early migrants noted towards the end of the month included Wheatears, Spotted Flycatchers and Yellow Wagtails.

August was very warm with heavy rainfall on 2nd and 19th. Winds were mainly from the west but from the east from 14th-17th, 23rd-27th and on 30th. A storm on 20th produced rain and unseasonably strong south-westerly winds reaching maximum gust speeds of 69mph at the Needles.

Rarities were a juvenile Aquatic Warbler trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven on 13th, three Bee-eaters flying south-east over Gosport on 14th, a White Stork at North Baddesley on 16th, a Hoopoe on Whale Island from 25th-31st and a Barred Warbler at Sinah Common, Hayling Island on 27th.

A Short-eared Owl flew over The Solent from Hill Head on 1st while a Spoonbill was at Titchfield Haven on 5th and 6th and another, unusually, was at Ibsley Water on 17th. A Fulmar was in Langstone Harbour on 7th and a Long-tailed Skua was at Weston Shore on 11th. Migrating terns included a maximum of two Roseate Terns at Hill Head and one at Keyhaven and Arctic Terns were seen at a number of sites. Ten Black Terns were at Keyhaven on 16th and a juvenile Quail was at Ranvilles Lane on 18th. The first Spotted Redshank for Testwood Lakes was present from 18th-26th and a Garganey was at Titchfield Haven on 19th. The storm on 20th resulted in sightings of Pomarine, Great and Arctic Skuas, Fulmars and a Manx Shearwater from Sandy Point and Hurst Beach.

The first Wryneck of the autumn was at Farlington from 23rd. Spotted Redshanks were also at other coastal sites alongside Wood Sandpipers at Keyhaven/Pennington and Titchfield Haven and Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints at several sites. Pied Flycatchers were recorded at five locations while Grasshopper Warblers, Spotted Flycatchers, Turtle Doves and Ospreys were noted from widespread sites and Great White Egrets were at two locations.

September was very warm at the start but cooler from 16th. There was significant rainfall only on 10th. Winds were mainly from the west but from the south or south-east from 5th-7th, 11th-15th and on 21st.

Best sightings were four American waders – a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper on 10th and 11th and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 15th, both at Titchfield Haven; a White-rumped Sandpiper at Keyhaven/Normandy from 19th-24th; and finally a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper at Blackhill Common, NF on 29th. Added to this, a Black Stork circled over Fareham on 6th, a Grey Phalarope was at Ibsley Water from 5th-7th, a Yellow-browed Warbler was at Swanmore on 25th and Wrynecks were recorded at a number of locations.

A Black Redstart and Pied Flycatcher were present at Southampton Common on 1st, with other Pied Flycatchers at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester on 2nd and Sandy Point and other sites at Hayling Island between 1st and 11th. Honey-buzzards migrated over Hill Head on 4th, Lepe on 7th and Testwood Lakes on 12th. A high count of 42 Greenshank was recorded at Farlington Marshes on 7th. Other migrating waders included Spotted Redshanks, Ruffs, Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints. A Red-throated Diver was at Hill Head from 16th-23rd, a Hawfinch flew over Old Basing on 20th, the first of many Black-necked Grebes was in Langstone Harbour on 20th, 785 Wigeon were also there on 22nd together with 11 Light-bellied Brent Geese. The male Ferruginous Duck returned to Kingfisher Lake, Blashford from 26th and over 100 Pintail flew south-west through the Solent on 28th.

October was a warm dry month with significant rainfall only on 1st and 16th. Winds were mainly from the west but from the east or south from 4th-16th, 22nd-24th and 30th-31st.

Rarities were a Richard's Pipit on Portsdown Hill on 9th and 10th; a juvenile Rose-coloured Starling at North Gorley, NF on 25th; a Little Bunting caught and ringed at Fishlake Meadows on 26th; a Shore Lark at Eaststoke, Hayling Island on 28th-30th; and a Spotted Crake at Winchester SF from 27th until November 1st. Yellow-browed Warblers were recorded at 20 sites producing the highest monthly total on record.

The Great White Egret returned to Blashford Lakes on 2nd with others present at Fishlake Meadows and Pennington Marshes until November 29th. An exceptional flock of 25 White-fronted Geese flew east over Tweseldown and Fleet Pond on 6th. Ospreys, Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and Whinchats lingered at various sites and three Garganeys, the last of the year, were at Ibsley Water from 2nd-5th. Unusually high numbers of Ring Ouzels were recorded early in the month with 35 or more at Butser Hill on 8th. Wintering birds returned including Hen Harriers and Great Grey Shrikes to the New Forest. Black Redstarts also returned, as did a Bittern and Goldeneye to Blashford Lakes, and up to three Short-eared Owls were regularly seen at Farlington Marshes. Jack Snipes were recorded at a few sites.

A Great Skua was off Hurst Beach on 16th together with a Razorbill and Guillemot. Another Guillemot was at Northney, Hayling Island on 22nd. Finch migration was evident at the inland watchpoints with Siskins and Lesser Redpolls passing over in addition to the commoner species, as well as a small number of Bramblings. Also noted was a Goosander offshore from Hill Head on 26th. In Langstone Harbour, three Slavonian and six Black-necked Grebes returned and a Long-tailed Duck was also present from 27th until late December. A Dartford Warbler was at Newlands Farm, Stubbington on 29th (the first site record since 2005) and 13 Egyptian Geese flew up Southampton Water on 31st – a species not regularly recorded outside of the Avon Valley and north Hampshire.

November was a fairly dry month but with significant rainfall on 9th, 12th and from 20th-22nd. Winds were mainly from the north or west but there were strong south-easterlies on 20th and 21st and a period of light winds from the east or north-east from 23rd-29th.

The highlight of the month was a juvenile Pallid Harrier at Needs Ore from 6th-13th – a first for Hampshire (see separate short paper in this report). Other rarities were Cattle Egrets at Pennington Marshes on 2nd, Park Shore/Needs Ore on 9th and Titchfield Canal Path on

23rd; a Black Brant at Fishery Creek, Hayling Island on 3rd; a Yellow-browed Warbler at Avington Lake on 13th; the returning adult Ring-billed Gull at Blashford Lakes from 18th to the year's end; and a Siberian Chiffchaff ringed at Fishlake Meadows on 19th with singles also present at Titchfield Canal Path on 16th and from 26th to December 6th.

A late Wheatear was at Farlington Marshes on 2nd, a Ring-necked Parakeet was at Fishlake Meadows on 2nd, a Little Auk was unexpectedly at Ibsley Water on 3rd and a Long-tailed Duck was at Hill Head from 3rd until the end of the year. Other records included up to two Snow Buntings at Southsea intermittently from 7th-18th, a Shore Lark at Southsea on 8th and a Great White Egret at Barton Stacey the same day, a Scaup at Ripley Farm Reservoir from 8th-16th, adult Bewick's Swans at Bisterne on 13th and Alresford Pond on 29th and 30th, an adult Little Gull at Lepe on 19th, four Light-bellied Brent Geese at Ibsley Water on 22nd and two Scaup there on 25th. A female Hen Harrier flew up Southampton Water on 26th and seven Velvet Scoters were at Hill Head on 27th, with two regularly seen from 15th until the end of the year.

Species seen more frequently included up to six Water Pipits at Titchfield Haven, Black Redstarts at eight sites and Short-eared Owls at many locations including Lower Test Marshes and Farlington Marshes. Offshore highlights included a Black-throated Diver in Chichester and Langstone Harbours, up to ten Black-necked Grebes in Langstone Harbour and 48 Common Scoters at Hill Head, and totals of three Guillemots, seven Great Northern Divers and at least seven Slavonian Grebes at various coastal locations.

December was a mild dry month. Winds were mostly from the west but east to south from 1st to 7th, 15th-16th and 28th-29th.

Rarities included a second adult Ring-billed Gull at Blashford Lakes from 1st-9th; Cattle Egrets at Chilling on 4th, Eling on 14th-31st and Warblington from 15th-31st; and two Great White Egrets at Blashford Lakes.

Up to three Velvet Scoters were seen from Brownwich Cliffs between 1st and 3rd, up to six Sandwich Terns were still present in Portsmouth Harbour on 3rd, two Long-tailed Ducks were at Langstone Harbour from 3rd until 28th, a Siberian Chiffchaff was at Darby Green on 4th, a Long-eared Owl was at Southampton Western Docks on 5th and a wintering Little Stint was at Titchfield Haven on 6th. A first-winter White-fronted Goose was in the Avon Valley and Ibsley Water up to 11th, Great Grey Shrikes were at four locations in the New Forest, Short-eared Owls remained at Farlington Marshes whilst two Spotted Redshank were seen at Emsworth. Roosting Hen Harriers included one at Alresford Pond and up to three in the New Forest. A first-winter Caspian Gull was at Blashford Lakes on 12th and 17th and a Snow Bunting was at Hill Head Harbour from 14th into 2017.

Seven Slavonian Grebes were at Needs Ore on 15th, up to 13 Goldeneyes were present in Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours on 16th and 28th respectively and up to six Scaups were at Blackwater, Needs Ore between 16th and 31st. Four Ruffs were at Langstone Harbour on 16th and 24th and 16 Black-necked Grebes were there on 17th. Great Northern Divers, Common Scoters and Eiders were regularly recorded along the coast. A Bewick's Swan was seen near Avon Causeway and then at Blashford Lakes on 28th. A Long-tailed Duck was at Hill Head on 28th-31st. On the last day of the year a Black-throated Diver and six Sandwich Terns were near Black Point, Hayling Island.

The final cumulative monthly totals of species recorded in Hampshire in 2016 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In month	171	165	177	206	191	165	166	183	185	187	175	162
Additions to year list		4	13	35	8	0	1	4	3	11	4	0
Year to date		175	188	223	231	231	232	236	239	250	254	254

Systematic List of Species

Introduction

General information and terminology

Species categories, sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List (as at Aug 2017). Alternative IOC English names are also included in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v7.3 at Sep 2017). Each species account begins with a brief statement of its status in Hampshire. These use certain terms that have an approximate numerical range attached to them, as shown below, based on average numbers in recent years.

Status	Breeding pairs	Winter/passage	Status	Breeding pairs	Winter/passage
Very rare	Fewer than 5 records	Fewer than 10 records	Moderately common	101-1,000	201-2,000
Rare	Less than annual	Less than annual	Common	1,001-5,000	2,001-10,000
Very scarce	1-10 per year	1-20 per year	Numerous	5,001-30,000	10,001-60,000
Scarce	11-100	21-200	Abundant	30,000+	60,000+

For most species monitored by the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), the means of maxima for up to three periods of five successive winters are given. For rare species, three numbers are given in parentheses after the status statement. These refer to the total numbers of individuals recorded (i) prior to 1950, (ii) between 1950 and 2015 and (iii) in 2016. Where statistical analysis has been more recently introduced (i) refers to the initial year. All records of rare species that appear in the Systematic List have been accepted by the BBRC or HOSRP as appropriate. Observers of species with fewer than ten records per year are credited in the Systematic List although on some occasions the finder was not identified (e.g. Birdguides records). A dagger (†) after the species name indicates that further information is provided in the recoveries section of the Ringing Report. Some claimed sightings of rare or scarce species which have either not been formally submitted or adequately documented are excluded from the Systematic List and can be found in Appendix I.

In addition, for resident and regular visiting species, the conservation status is given in brackets based on the following European, national and county classifications. These have been revised and updated since last year's report.

ET	European threatened – included in Annex I of the EC 'Birds Directive' (2009/147/EC).
CR	Critically Endangered in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
EN	Endangered in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
VU	Vulnerable in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
NT	Near-threatened in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
Schedule I	Included in Schedule I of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
Red	Red-listed in UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC4), see <i>British Birds</i> 108: 708-746.
Amber	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC4)
Green	Not categorised under any of the criteria for Amber and Red (BoCC4)
S4I	England most threatened – included in Section 41 of NERC Act, 2006 (updated 2014)
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, 1998

The accounts for some species, particularly those monitored by WeBS, include tabulated monthly maxima for various localities. These are the official WeBS counts or a higher count on a different day. For species well monitored by WeBS, the final row in each table shows the cumulative monthly totals of the official WeBS counts at all locations, not just those which are listed. They represent the best available estimate of the county population for each month. In the tables, any locality that is indented is a sub-site of the site above. Complete

counts for Chichester Harbour (Hampshire and Sussex) are tabulated for information but are not included in the county total nor do they form part of the species account; only the sub-totals for the Hampshire sectors are included in the county total. Sites in tables are usually arranged coastally from east to west and then inland from west to east. Footnotes to the tables indicate thresholds for concentrations of international and national importance for each species. These are defined as 1% of the north-western European winter or passage population and 1% of the British winter or passage population of that species respectively. An asterisk in a table or text indicates a record count for the site. Blanks indicate either that no visit was made to the site or that a visit was made but no birds were recorded.

Information from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Surveys is summarised in the species accounts and presented in more detail in Table 1. Data from the BTO Garden BirdWatch survey are included in selected species accounts. This comprises information from some gardens where weekly counts were made of all species and others where only presence was recorded. A summary of the data for all species is presented in Table 2. Findings from the BTO Breeding Bird Survey are generally not included in the species accounts but are summarised in Table 3. Results of the New Forest Winter Bird Survey are given in Table 4 and the coverage achieved in the WeBS counts is summarised in Table 5. The first and last dates of winter and summer visitors are included in the Systematic List but are also summarised in Tables 6 and 7. These tables also show average arrival and departure dates for migrants. Finally, Table 8 summarises monthly movements at inland migration watchpoints.

Occasionally, reference is made to the term 'bird-days' in the Systematic List. It is used to give the sum of the numbers of birds recorded at a well-watched site over a given period, e.g. totals of 3, 2, 1, 2, 4, 0, 2 recorded over a week would indicate 14 bird-days, although the number of different individuals involved could actually be anywhere between 4 and 14.

Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society's CoBRA 2 database (County Bird Recording Application). This year's database contained around 77,000 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets and rarities submissions plus a number of other reports) (31%); Going Birding website (25%); BTO BirdTrack (24%); WeBS counts (15%); Trektellen (4%); and Thames Basin & Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Survey and NFWBS (each <1%). In addition, BTO Garden BirdWatch contributed a further 174,000 records covering 327 Hampshire gardens which were also used in writing some of the species accounts.

Coverage

A total of 954 individual observers contributed records to the database. Analysis of previous records has highlighted the very large differences in coverage between the separate parts of the county. As expected, the highest numbers of records are submitted for the coastal areas, the main reserves, the New Forest and the north-east. Whilst the emphasis on the coast and rivers results in good coverage of wetland species, the same cannot be said of woodland or farmland species inhabiting much of the central, northern and western parts of the county, and such differences should be borne in mind when interpreting the records summarised in the Systematic List. This imbalance is being addressed, at least in part, by the targeting of selected data-deficient breeding species such as Turtle Doves and Corn Buntings.

Categories A, B & C

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

A moderately common resident. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,063; 2002-07: 1,015; 2007-12: 1,037.

Amber

WeBS totals remained at the fairly low level of recent years, particularly in the late year. Numbers in the main resort in the Avon Valley peaked at 321 in February, compared with 295 a year earlier, but reached a maximum of only 245 in November.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 30 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	11	4	17	3	22	11	32	17	43	23	20	1
Southsea Canoe Lake	47	42		40						19		34
Portsmouth Harbour	24	35	57				36			4	13	65
Itchen: Woolston-Woodmill	94	97	77			82	92	92	81	63	94	99
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	12	13	8	6	14	40	48	48	13	10	10	16
Lymington-Hurst	45	41	41	48	36	24	32	45	38	29	38	44
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	56	75	36	27					7	54	56	49
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	118	140	135	120	50				49	47	70	68
Avon: Blashford Lakes	51	39	28	21	28	51	44	36	28	32	50	62
Avon above Fordingbridge	59	67	90	43					7	34	69	44
Test: Fishlake Meadows	35	40	39	46							2	
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	24	18	11	12	18	11	17	21	23	67	62	24
Alresford Pond	40	39	25	26	26	57	57	52	58	21	19	21
Yateley GP	55	36	24				12	25		33	59	63
WeBS count totals	765	760	723	353	180	197	274	312	513	572	656	699

The only other noteworthy counts came from Avington Lake with 27 or more between Sep 15th-Oct 4th including a record count of 52* on Sep 20th; these were presumably mostly from nearby Alresford Pond where numbers declined during this period.

Breeding season reports involved 37 pairs which raised 124 young and a further 24 pairs which nested; four of these definitely failed but for others the outcome was not reported. Additionally, a cob bred with two pens at Heath Pond, Petersfield but two broods totalling nine eventually all perished, evidently due to attacks by dogs. At West Green House near Hartley Wintney, one bred with a Canada Goose and produced one hybrid youngster which fledged. (JMC)

Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

Very scarce winter visitor, most frequent in the Avon Valley. ET, EN, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP

There were six records involving one or two in the early year and three in the late year. An adult was with Mute Swans at Harbridge on Jan 12th (JEL) and presumably the same individual was there



*Bewick's Swan, Harbridge, Mar 8th
(Gareth Rees)*

from Mar 4th-25th, the last being a new late date (MGP *et al.*). An adult was on the River Avon at Bisterne on Nov 13th (JMCK), another flew into Alresford Pond at dusk on Nov 29th (GSh) and was still present at first light the next morning (AMcV), and one was below Avon Causeway on Dec 28th (per OJF) which flew into roost at Ibsley Water later that day (RAH).

The sad decline of this species continues; between the mid-1970s and mid-1990s up to 314 wintered in the Avon Valley but numbers have dropped dramatically since. (JMC)

White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons*

European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*

Scarce winter visitor that has declined in recent years. *ET, Red, S4I, HBAP*

The only early year records were one at Farlington Marshes on Jan 30th (LO), which was probably the individual seen there in October and November 2015, and a first-winter found with Greylags on floods at Timsbury on Apr 10th which remained until 16th (DAT *et al.*). An exceptionally early influx into south-east England during strong easterly winds between Oct 5th-7th produced several records in Hampshire. A first-winter was with Canada Geese at Fleet Pond at dusk on 5th (GCS); a flock of 25 flew NE of Tweseldown between 07:30 and 07:40 on 6th (JMCK) and was also seen from Fleet Pond when the observer was alerted by a mobile call (GCS); three adults and four first-winters were at Needs Ore from Oct 9th-Nov 19th (GSAG *et al.*); a first-winter was at Lower Test Marshes from Oct 15th-21st (SSK *et al.*) and was also seen at Testwood Lakes on four dates between 16th and 30th, Fishlake Meadows on 22nd and Skidmore on 30th; an adult was at Avington Lake on Oct 20th (JMCe) and Winchester SF on Oct 30th (PEH); and a first-winter was with Greylags at Bisterne between Nov 13th-Dec 3rd (JMCK *et al.*) and at Ibsley Water on Dec 10th and 11th (RAH *et al.*). The flock of 25 on Oct 6th is unprecedented for such an early date although the earliest ever was on Oct 4th 1952. A flock of 25 moving east over Dungeness, Kent later that morning were presumably the same birds relocating to the continent. (JMC)

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Moderately common and increasing feral resident. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-07: 646; 2007-12: 958. *Amber*

The peak WeBS total of 1,388 in October was reduced by 100 to allow for double-counting in the Avon Valley. This puts it at a similar level to the previous two autumns although it is not known if two Test Valley flocks of 260 at Testbourne Lake on 12th and 240 at Fishlake Meadows on 16th referred to the same birds.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 40 in more than two months are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu Estuary	80	50	39	50	60	47	115	50	54	78	76	85
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	324	274	94	36					33	512	279	131
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	40	46	96						21	135	158	35
Avon: Blashford Lakes	39	60	100		59	197	286	470	495	530	290	230
Test: Fishlake Meadows	135	6	42	41	5				240	240	76	
Longparish Trout Lake	21	12	78	27	5	50	52	4	1	1	120	2
Testbourne Lake	155	170	60	86	30	40		200	2	260	157	190
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	220	125	29	34	70	6	56	122	80	200	37	68
The Vyne		4			6		50	21	115		147*	120

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bramshill Park				4			23	153	194*	25		3
Tundry Pond	79	84	28	7		2	3	59	110	23	101	49
Fleet Pond			10		9		3	100	110	150		50
WeBS count totals	911	630	419	255	133	222	281	386	920	1,388	943	625

* = record for locality

The only other counts to exceed 40 were 69 at Laverstoke Park Lake on Jan 20th, 60 at Pennington Marshes on May 23rd and 55 there on Sep 22nd, 45 at Wellington CP on July 7th, 63 at Andover on July 10th, 67 at Woodmill, Southampton on July 14th and 15th (Lower Itchen birds), 52* at Welshman's Road GP on Sep 16th, 70* at Woolmer Pond on Oct 3rd and 200+ feeding in fields at Hurstbourne Priors on Dec 27th (Testbourne birds).

Breeding reports (single broods unless stated otherwise) came from Bramshill Park (2 young), Fleet Pond (none fledged), Hamer Warren (3 young), Hawley Lake (2 broods, 6 young), Itchen Valley CP (3 broods, 9 young), Longparish (2 broods, 8 young), Mockbeggar Lake (2 young), Needs Ore (many young – exact count not provided), River Test at Timsbury (7 broods, 25 young), Rockford Lake (2 broods, 9 young), Spinnaker Lake (8 nests, number of young unknown), Stratfield Saye (5 broods, 26 young), Testbourne Lake (several broods, c. 20 young), The Vyne (3 broods, 12 young), The Wylds Farm, Liss (2 young), Woolmer Pond (5 young) and Yateley GP (1 young). (JMC)

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Rare feral visitor.

An adult at Busta Triangle on Sep 6th and 7th and at nearby Bramshill Police College the following day (JMC, AL) was considered to be the last survivor of the small feral population in the north-east.

2015 addition. One flying south past Hill Head on Dec 23rd (ALR). (MLC)



Snow Goose, Busta Triangle, Sep 7th (Alan Lewis)

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Common resident and partial migrant. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-07: 2,529; 2007-12: 3,346.

The peak WeBS total of 3,888 in October was 600 higher than the previous two years but undoubtedly included some duplication – counts of 511 at Lower Test Marshes and Testwood Lakes on successive days clearly involved the same flock while there was likely double-counting in the Avon Valley where 527 were counted along the flood plain and 306 at Blashford Lakes two weeks later. Thus the true WeBS total is estimated at 3,200.

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	165	38	25	31	34	51	87	170	88	160	210	255
Titchfield Haven area	301	194	137	84	42	20		160	194	360	160	138
Beaulieu Estuary	153	200	185	161	160	144	299	222	65	140	200	165
Lymington-Hurst	473	285	477	84	94	134	120	490	387	600	686	393
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	497	704	73	153					20	423	570	248
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	80	166	86	12					84	104	215	115
Avon: Blashford Lakes	234	143	99	95	114	483	295	93	109	306	144	143
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	224	163	26	33	34	163	335	135	376	511	114	180
Upper Itchen Valley	86	7	86		2	30		223	209	370*	300	1
Ewhurst Lake	4	8	2						321*	32		
Bramshill Park		4	30	19			75	415	287	29		
Busta Triangle						4		227	560*			
Tundry Pond	189	77	52	2		74	87	375	720		249	315
Fleet Pond					40		100	317	17	300		37
WeBS count totals	3,230	2,667	1,867	908	604	1,148	1,719	1,978	2,563	3,888	3,142	2,136

A record post-breeding flock was present in the upper Itchen Valley, with 223* at The Grange Lake on Aug 31st, then increasing through the autumn with most at Avington Lake with 370* on Oct 17th and 300 still present on Nov 1st. In the north-east the largest diurnal gatherings were at Bramshill Park and Tundry Pond with these flying to roost at Busta Triangle, where 560* were present on Sep 6th, Eversley GP and Fleet Pond. Maxima at other localities with three-figure counts were 117 at Laverstoke Park Lake on Jan 20th; 148 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 5th; 169 at Longparish on Sep 12th; 321* at Ewhurst Lake on Sep 16th (previous highest 112); 163 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Oct 10th; 145 at Charlton Lakes, Andover on Nov 1st; 150 at Gutner Point, Hayling Island on Nov 12th; 131 at Emsworth Shore on Dec 17th.

The highest numbers of well-grown or fledged young reported were at Yateley GP (11 broods, 42 young), The Grange Lake (30+ young), King's Pond, Alton (4 broods, 22 young), Ibsley Water (19 young), Fleet Pond (12 nests, 9 broods, 18 young), Hamer Warren, Ringwood Forest (5 broods, 15 young), Farlington Marshes (3 broods, 15 young) and Needs Ore ('many' young but no count provided). Additional breeding records comprised at least 25 broods totalling 111 young at 17 localities and 24 nests at six localities, most of which failed due to control measures. (JMC)

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Scarce and declining resident (feral population) and very scarce winter visitor (wild birds). ET, Amber

In the early year the flock in the north-east peaked at 22 at Eversley GP on Feb 1st but it mostly stayed in Berkshire. Elsewhere there were records from Titchfield Haven (2-3 regularly), Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes (1, Jan 16th-23rd and Mar 6th-24th), Baffins Pond, Portsmouth (2, Jan 18th; 3, Feb 24th; 2, Mar 27th), Portsmouth Harbour/Gosport (1, Jan

24th-Mar 22nd), Lymington-Hurst (1 on 5 dates, Feb 13th-Apr 9th), Testwood Lakes (1, Feb 21st), Chichester Harbour (1, Feb 26th and Mar 3rd) and Harbridge (1, Mar 11th).

In April two were on nests at Wellington CP on 27th but the eggs failed to hatch. Other summer records were from Woolmer Pond (1, May 12th), Titchfield Haven (2-3, June 6th-Aug 29th), IBM Lake (1, June 6th-Aug 4th), Farlington Marshes (1, June 24th-Aug 30th), Lower Test Marshes (1, July 25th-Aug 27th) and Ibsley Water (1, Aug 14th, paired with an Emperor Goose and accompanied by a hybrid juvenile).

Twenty were back at Eversley GP on Aug 16th and numbers peaked at 22 on Dec 5th and 19th. Further records of particular interest involved three flying east off Lepe at 12:10 and Sandy Point at 13:14 on Nov 3rd and a flock of 20, which had been seen the previous day in Poole Harbour in Dorset, on the saltmarsh near Hurst Castle on Nov 28th. Other records came from Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes (1 throughout the year; 2, Dec 3rd and 17th), Titchfield Haven (2 regularly Sep 3rd-Nov 27th with 3, Oct 9th; 2, Dec 28th), Lower Test Marshes/Redbridge (2, Sep 15th; 1 on 5 dates Sep 17th-Oct 19th), Chilling (2 E, Sep 19th), Hook-with-Warsash (2, Sep 30th), Needs Ore (1, Oct 14th), Avon Causeway and Ripley Farm Reservoir (1, Oct 16th and Nov 13th), Lymington-Hurst (1, Oct 22nd-Nov 27th; 2, Dec 16th), Brownwich (1, Nov 6th and 16th; 2, Dec 22nd) and Baffins Pond (2, Dec 18th). (JMC)



Barnacle Geese, Titchfield Haven, Feb 27th (Alan Lewis)

Brent Goose (Brant Goose)

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

Numerous winter visitor; a few summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 16,628; 2002-07: 14,590; 2007-12: 13,793.

Amber, S41, HBAP

The WeBS totals were fairly stable at just above 15,000 during the 2015/16 winter and reached this level again in December. This compares with the record count of 23,039 in January 2015 when a high proportion of the Chichester Harbour flock was in Hampshire. Although these peaks are above the mean maxima for the last ten years, the proportion of young was poor in both seasons. Flocks aged in Chichester Harbour and the west Solent between Oct 18th 2015 and Jan 28th 2016 totalling 4,152 and 1,174 held 0.8% and 1.1% young respectively (<http://>

monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/species-accounts/dark-bellied-brent-geese/). At the time of writing only a small sample of counts of young was available for the 2016/17 winter but these again showed a low percentage.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	14,260	12,627	12,289	23	8	11	26	11		3,899	6,593	11,976
Hampshire sectors	3,279	5,359	4,966	32	2				333	2,261	3,022	4,045
Langstone Harbour	5,302	4,596	3,216	86	3	7	8	2	400	2,032	3,897	5,552
Portsmouth Harbour	1,867	1,041	1,206	3	4	3	3	3	130	990	1,000	1,451
Titchfield Haven area	668	509	717	53	3				22	340	950	600
Chilling	780	610	1,480							605		
Hamble Estuary	1,100	800	216	250			1			162	200	270
Itchen Estuary		22	185	61	74		1			20	96	103
Eling/Bury Marshes	100	86	63	149	27					3	76	15
Hythe-Calshot	306	60	328	27	3	2		1		464	666	320
Beaulieu Estuary	1,305	1,058	783	130	62	3			13	212	579	2,179
Sowley-Lymington	333	160	80	22					4	210	95	25
Lymington-Hurst	1,355	1,450	963	90	5	3	2		4	312	1,000	1,085
WeBS count totals	15,087	15,016	11,843	438	88	11	1		14	6,396	10,493	15,224

Sites of international importance: 2,400+; national importance: 910+; * = record for locality.

In the early year, the only unusual record was of one grazing near Bilcombes Pond, Fawley on Jan 3rd, only the third ever there. Spring passage, mostly to the east, was recorded between Feb 28th and May 15th, with six in February, 728 in March (peaks, 114 north off the sea at Stokes Bay on 20th and 500 at Sandy Point the next day), 216 in April (peaks, 60 at Hurst on 10th and 49 at Sandy Point on 15th) and 110 in May (peak, 38 on 11th). The May movement coincided with staging of birds in Southampton Water (peaks, 27 at Bury Marsh on 7th and 74 at Weston Shore on 2nd with 60 still there on May 14th) and the Beaulieu Estuary (peak, 55 on May 8th). Flocks of 230-745 were annual in May at Needs Ore from 1993-2002 but no more than 19 had been recorded there in that month since.

There was the usual scattering of summering birds but of note was a flock of 26 flying west from North Hayling into Langstone Harbour on July 24th (IM). Returns were evident in the eastern harbours from Sep 18th when 220 were in Chichester Harbour with 333 there next day. A light passage was noted offshore at this time with 43 west between Sep 18th and 25th. Subsequently the only unusual records were singles at Ibsley Water on Oct 15th, which left SVV, and flying south over Itchen Valley CP on Dec 20th. (JMC)

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The low numbers of late 2015 continued in January with a single adult and first-winter in Langstone Harbour, most frequently reported at Farlington Marshes, up to Feb 21st and Mar 23rd respectively. In February there were additional records of singles at Meon Shore on 11th and Lymington-Hurst on 19th and 23rd. Spring passage was indicated by a pair at Lepe on Apr 15th and 22nd, two (or possibly four) at Lymington-Hurst on Apr 30th and 12 east off Hill Head on May 15th (ALR). There was an unseasonal record of one flying east off Hill Head on July 2nd (ALR).

In Langstone Harbour, a flock of ten including one first-winter was off the north shore on Sep 10th and 11th (GMW); 13 were counted during WeBS on 17th and 11, including a colour-ringed pair with one first-winter, were south of Farlington Marshes from 20th-22nd. A first-winter was in Fishery Creek, Chichester Harbour from Sep 18th-Oct 27th, one was

at West Hayling LNR on Oct 18th and finally four adults were at Ibsley Water from 13:00-16:30 on Nov 22nd (RAC), the first ever in the Avon Valley.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JMC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	4	1	4	12		1		14	2	4	

Black Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

Formerly rare but now a very scarce winter visitor recorded annually since 1999. (0,31,3)

The two individuals present in Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours in late 2015 were last seen on Mar 12th and 30th respectively. The Portsmouth individual was regularly reported at St Vincent College and HMS Sultan playing fields and Gilkicker Point GC. The presence of more than one was confirmed when two were seen at HMS Sultan on Feb 5th (KJl). Another new individual was in Chichester Harbour on Jan 4th, 13th and 26th (ACJ).

In the late year the only record was one, presumably the early year bird returning, in Chichester Harbour on Oct 26th, 28th and Nov 3rd (ACJ). In addition, an apparent Black Brant hybrid was in Chichester Harbour on Feb 4th. (JMC)

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Scarce but increasing feral resident.

Numbers continue to increase. Post-breeding counts suggest a county population in the range 350-400.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded five are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	14	6	6	14				95*	2	52	16	15
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	26	10	18	2					17	6	23	5
Ibsley Water	47	6	8	7	20	36	56	88*	27	13	17	17
Rampton's Lane GP & Welshman's Road GP						1				60+*		
Stratfield Saye		2	4	2	2		2			22*		6
Wellington CP	2	2	1	3			29		52*	2	6	4
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley	85	54	52				29	135	161	147	148	119
Busta Triangle			4	4				94	136*	51	9	4
Eversley GP	5	8	4		25		95	49	41	30	6	3
Tundry Pond	5	5	5	9		2	7	7		2	3	3
Heath Pond, Petersfield	8	10	9	10	14	17	12	16	16	26	21	27*

* = record for locality

In the Avon Valley (first three tabulated localities) the counts of 88 at Ibsley Water on Aug 6th and 95 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Aug 17th probably refer mostly to the same birds but suggest the total in the area may now exceed 100. In the north-east (fourth to tenth tabulated localities) Lyndridge Farm is a diurnal feeding area whereas most of the high counts at Busta Triangle and Eversley GP are roost counts (of the same birds). However the count of 95 at Eversley GP (including 92 on the Fox Lane pit) on July 2nd was a daytime count and these were mostly flightless. An indication of the total in the area is given by a combined count of 213 on Sep 8th comprising 161 at Lyndridge Farm and 52 at Wellington CP.

Breeding was reported in the Avon Valley at Ripley Farm Reservoir (7 young), Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake (3 broods, possibly only 2 or 3 young fledged), Ivy Lake (failed) and Rockford Lake (4 young), in the north-east at Fleet Pond (failed), Hawley Lake (1 young), Stratfield Saye

(2 broods, 11 young) and Wellington CP (3 broods, 12 young), and at Heath Pond, Petersfield (7 young) and Needs Ore (2 broods, 4 young).

Other records included 12 at Oxney Meadows, Bordon on Sep 8th, 16 east at Oxey Marsh, Pennington on Oct 31st and later that day 13 off Hook-with-Warsash, and six at Moorcourt Farm near Broadlands on Nov 8th. (JMC)

Shelduck (Common Shelduck)

Tadorna tadorna

Scarce breeder and moderately common but declining winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,794; 2002-07: 1,353; 2007-12: 1,296.
Amber

The WeBS count totals were again below average with the peak count in January failing to reach four figures for the third year running. Monthly maxima at coastal sites where counts exceeded 50 and regularly used inland sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	340	339	263	120	95	2	16	15	20	25	323	304
Hampshire sectors	103	124	57	16	3	5	7		9	37	156	84
Langstone Harbour	254	331	180	209	64	45	10	38	13	57	128	278
Portsmouth Harbour	182	146	2							19	62	26
Southampton Water	85	91	89	93	83	66	53	40		1	30	49
Beaulieu Estuary	96	72	88	50	81	40	8	9	3	1	33	20
Lymington-Hurst	200	150	114	87	74	38	6	15	17	9	58	76
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		14	8	21	6	2	5					1
Avon: Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	1	1	4	5	2					1		1
Alresford Pond	10	10	7	5	5					3	3	4
Other inland records (no. of sites)	24(7)	17(8)	21(9)	21(9)	25(12)	8(5)	2(1)	1(1)		6(1)		4(2)
WeBS count totals	973	949	554	496	309	212	53	87	40	96	471	515

At coastal sites successful breeding was reported at Farlington Marshes (4 broods, 33 fledged), Hook-with-Warsash (1 brood, 6 fledged), Lymington-Hurst (2 broods), Needs Ore (3 broods, at least 5 fledged), Sowley Shore (1 brood, 10 fledged), Tanners Lane (1 brood, 3 fledged) and Titchfield Haven (4 broods, 16+ fledged). Inland, single broods were seen at Alresford Pond, Marsh Court, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Testbourne Lake and The Grange Lake, but the only young known to have fledged were three at Ripley and one at The Grange. All inland records are summarised in the table above but those of five or above away from the three main sites were ten at Testwood Lakes on Jan 12th, five at Welshman's Road GP on Apr 29th, five SW over Trigpoint Hill on May 2nd and six at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 16th. (JMC)

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

Moderately common introduced resident.

Counts reached double figures at 11 sites but only in two or more months at the following five for which monthly maxima are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hookheath Farm, Southwick	12				14	2	3	2		12	20	15
Mockbeggar Lake	26	2		4	2	7	11	1		2		7
Eyeworth Pond, NF	15	16		3						4		9
Stratfield Saye		16	5	6	5				40	37		97
Wishanger	20				16							6

Other double-figure counts were ten at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 26th, 12 at Sherborne St. John on Oct 18th, 18 at Selborne on Nov 4th, 11 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 9th and

12th, 11 at Lower Pennington on Nov 19th and 15 flying over Headley near Bordon on Dec 3rd. The only broods of this secretive species reported were at Bishops Dyke, Mockbeggar Lake, Roydon Woods and Welshman's Road GP.

Most records were from traditional areas in the New Forest, the main river valleys and the east and north-east, but a selection of sightings from areas where the species is infrequently reported included five at Popham on Feb 18th, a pair at Redenham Park from Apr 7th-15th, a male at Fawley Reservoir on June 7th (the first there), one on Blackwater, Needs Ore on Oct 25th and three at Wolverton Park on Dec 18th. (JMC)

Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon)

Anas penelope

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; a few summer each year. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 11,656; 2002-07: 10,697; 2007-12: 8,655.

Amber

The WeBS count totals increased from 6,756 in December 2015 to 9,357 in January. This was due to an influx to the floods in the Avon Valley, where over 2,000 were present for several weeks, and an increase in the Lower Test area, where 1,804 were counted on 23rd. There was again a large autumn arrival in the eastern harbours with 600 in Chichester Harbour on Sep 19th and 785 in Langstone Harbour on 22nd. This was followed by a steady increase to the WeBS count on Oct 15th when there were record counts of 2,321 in Chichester Harbour (including 1,700 in the Tournerbury/Mill Rythe sector) and 1,492 in Portsmouth Harbour. Numbers at these two sites declined in the final two months of the year but overall numbers peaked at 9,329 in December when there were again four-figure counts at Lower Test, Lymington-Hurst and Avon Valley.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 (inland 50) are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,641	1,597	955	34	2			2	650	3,387	1,762	3,133
Hampshire sectors	233	67	84						600	2,321*	263	200
Langstone Harbour	748	560	684	45	6		1	9	785	700	710	701
Portsmouth Harbour	241	148	48						1	1,492*	283	371
Titchfield Haven	344	387	221	6	2	2	1	3	7	17	120	200
Hamble Estuary	287	172	363	12	1	3			126	250	648*	339
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	1,804	1,187	1,116	23	4				230	907	1,145	1,260
Hythe-Calshot	115	231	203						25	215	180	162
Beaulieu Estuary	859	351	338	10				7	227	300	500	645
Sowley-Lymington	130	75	40						300	500	500	790
Lymington-Hurst	1,063	1,262	848	30			1	5	246	431	640	1,760
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	804	1,160	348							177	800	439
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	300		22								2	11
Avon: Blashford Lakes	1,130	1,164	859	65	2			5	55	210	459	953
Avon: Fordingbridge-Burgate										90	130	6
Testwood Lakes	67	49	47					1	3	3	17	31
Test: Fishlake Meadows	85	2	14			2	1			35	24	54
The Vyne	55	100	29						2	2	22	4
Bramshill Plantation	51	57	38						1	58	59	105*
Eversley GP	165	20	32						25	298	226	315
Yateley GP	44	48	14	4						17	44	156
Tundry Pond	5	37	51						3	2	1	24
WeBS count totals	9,357	7,526	6,176	174	4		1	9	1,174	8,323	7,044	9,329

Sites of international importance: 15,000+; national importance: 4,400+; * = record for locality.

The only other double-figure counts at inland sites were 14 in a flooded meadow at Lower Froyle on Dec 22nd and 37 at Stratfield Saye on Dec 29th. (JMC)

Gadwall

Anas strepera

Moderately common winter visitor and scarce breeder. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,552; 2002-07: 1,790; 2007-12: 1,844.

Amber, HBAP

WeBS totals increased from the unusually low total of 1,165 in December 2015 to 1,444 in January, but this was still below the long-term average. This was largely accounted for by the low numbers at Blashford Lakes, where the peak of 535 in January was the lowest since the 1996/97 winter. Numbers in the late year reached 1,547 in December although the peak count of 625 at Blashford Lakes was only slightly improved.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	134	88	54	25	20	31	17	55	19	17	49	115
Titchfield Haven	106	62	110	73	42	50	32	58	35	135	76	56
Fields Farm, Blackfield	20	23	28	9	8	2		7		35*	23	22
Beaulieu Estuary	26	24	13	14	12	17	12	32	57	12	19	23
Avon: Blashford Lakes	535	434	125	79	14	12	28	59	92	164	295	625
Fishlake Meadows	35	16	8	12	12			60	19	21	16	4
Rooksbury Mill, Andover	27	26	39	16	3				1	6	35	35
Testbourne Lake	160	110	110	74	40	62		50	10	30	63	110
Overton/Ashe	32	37	47	37	40			34	66	34	61	63
Winchester SF	109	93	59	82	38	58	37	59	64	63	68	38
Avington Lake	37	37	36	44	38	36	16	26	12	36	29	18
Alresford Pond	94	30	5	10	11	45	3	126	150	40	11	67
The Grange Lake	35	4	20			26	18	35	26	23	36	
Welshman's Road GP	10	16	7	1	1		3	6	10	10	46	64*
Stratfield Saye	3	34	13	13	5		10		30	25		9
Bramshill Plantation	30	30	12						1	6	15	22
Eversley GP	69	8	7	4			2			38	68	163
Yateley GP	55	84	12	7				1		5	52	140
Warnford Park	23	2	2	8				4	4	23	34	29
WeBS count totals	1,444	1,226	719	442	190	191	85	343	693	684	989	1,547

Sites of international importance: 600+; national importance: 250+; * = record for locality.

In January-April, maxima at other sites with counts above 20 were 127 on floods at Hucklesbrook, River Avon on Feb 2nd (Blashford Lakes birds), 29 on floods at Exton on Feb 21st (Warnford Park birds), 23 at Testwood Lakes on Feb 27th, 30 at Kingston North Common, River Avon on Mar 8th and 30 at Lymington-Hurst on Mar 12th.

A total of 42 broods was reported with eight at Avington Lake, seven at Titchfield Haven, four at Winchester SF, three at Farlington Marshes, three at Alresford Pond, two at Ibsley North Lake, Longparish, Longstock, Stratfield Saye and The Vyne, and one at Chilbolton, Fleet Pond (the first ever there), Hook Links, Needs Ore, Stubbs Farm Pond (Binsted), Testbourne Lake and The Grange Lake. Post-breeding gatherings in excess of 50 were recorded at eight locations with by far the highest numbers at Alresford Pond with a peak of 150 on Sep 18th. Maxima at non-tabulated sites with counts above 20 at this time were 40 at The Vyne on Aug 25th, 30 at East Hayling on Sep 17th, 25 at Anton Lakes on Sep 18th and 33 at Stubbs Farm Pond on Sep 20th.

In October-December, maxima at other sites with counts above 20 were 33 at St Mary Bourne on Oct 15th and Dec 18th and 25 on the Avon between Fordingbridge and Burgate on Nov 14th. (JMC)

Teal (Eurasian Teal)

Anas crecca

Very scarce and declining resident and common winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 6,164; 2002-07: 6,202; 2007-12: 5,567.

Amber



Adult male Teal, Keyhaven, Nov 29th, (Joe Murphy)

The peak county WeBS totals in January and December were slightly up on the corresponding months in 2015 and in line with recent trends. The only site where numbers exceeded 1,000 at both ends of the year was Lymington-Hurst. This level was reached in the Avon Valley in January and February but a lack of flooding in the late year explains the reduced numbers. Also of note was an influx of 700 with Wigeon in Portsmouth Harbour on Oct 8th which was the highest count there since 1986.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 50 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	867	779	502	24				20	216	816	853	1,082
Hampshire sectors	257	259	130	13				4	78	354	365	276
Langstone Mill Pond	131*	119	23	10				4	33	62	108	35
Langstone Harbour	280	282	214	70	2	5	4	83	330	600	481	508
Portsmouth Harbour	184	87	91							700	65	88
Titchfield Haven	527	297	228	161	20	13	7	241	432	629	381	399
Hamble Estuary	136	142	107	8			2	44	162	250	232	168
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	176	168	293	24			1	26	56	57	67	95
Dibden Bay	305	293	468	9						2	14	5
Ashlett-Calshot	6	84	37	4				10	10	177	290	25
Beaulieu Estuary	667	536	187	27		8	17	65	247	242	662	248
Sowley Pond	170	3	4						3		40	145
Sowley-Lymington	50	20	20	17					20	350	110	603
Lymington-Hurst	1,250	816	501	181	9	12		70	400	625	1,180	1,530
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	781	1,245	243	18					8	27	218	201
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	210		65	10						5	55	8
Avon: Blashford Lakes	752	318	177	58		2	5	41	78	150	173	474

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Test: Fishlake Meadows	80	80	28	4			6	12	20	250	160	170
Test: Marsh Court	8	30	18	19	3	2					54	140
Testbourne Lake	150	70	40	12	2			13	60	40	80	150
Winchester SF	209	138	92	23		5	3	27	91	129	219	149
Alresford Pond	62	50	50	11	2	4	3	63	143	139	192	235
The Vyne	120	101	40					1	67	16	21	146
Stratfield Saye	58	35	3						30	220		217
Woolmer Pond	4							55	70	40		
WeBS count totals	6,470	5,176	3,261	476	10	5	31	361	1,595	4,380	5,028	6,041

Sites of international importance: 5,000+; national importance: 2,100+; * = record for locality.

The only other counts to exceed 50 were 52* at Sandy Point NR on Dec 1st, 95 on an ice-free pond at Trigpoint Hill on Dec 4th, 145 on a frozen Holmsley GP on Dec 29th and 80 at Ewhurst Park the next day,

Indications of passage were provided by five east at Sinah on Mar 19th, four east at Hurst Beach on Apr 10th, two east at Sandy Point on Apr 30th and 70 west at Sinah on Sep 18th.

The only confirmed breeding record was a pair with four young at Itchen Valley CP (MJWH), the first ever there. There were records in May and June from five tabulated sites and also at Fleet Pond, but there were none from the New Forest where two broods were seen in 2015. (JMC)

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Rare vagrant in every month from October to May. (0,23,1)

A male was found at Bury Marshes during a WeBS count on Jan 23rd (PCOM). There have been records in seven previous years this century, most recently in 2012-14. (KFB)

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Common resident and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,008; 2002-07: 3,698; 2007-12: 4,063.

Amber

The county WeBS totals exceeded 4,000 in October and December, which was a similar pattern to that recorded in 2015. As in recent years, the highest numbers were at Ewhurst Lake where a significant proportion are released birds.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	373	256	192	46	38	14	20	26	283	365	298	404
Hampshire sectors	206	159	120						221	214	165	237
Lymington-Hurst	187	153	122	88	104	74	55	294	186	195	167	326
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	115	75	21						34	202	127	169
Avon: Blashford Lakes	198	126	93	34	70	111	121	87	174	200	129	223
Test: Testbourne Lake	144	135	140	86	63	105		126	90	200	260	200
Andover Town	155	180	175	110	115	112	72	100	150	85	225	
Ewhurst Lake	614	130	117						478	603	283	315
Stratfield Saye	20	60	14		7		27		120	210		146
Tundry Pond	205	95	156	130		130		135	95	100	80	152
WeBS count totals	3,940	2,419	2,028	761	704	829	1,157	1,753	3,403	4,084	3,368	4,131

Maxima at other sites with counts above 150 were 170 at Longparish Trout Lakes on Feb 18th, 200 at Fleet Pond on July 6th, 191 on the Itchen Estuary on Aug 18th, 233 on the River Test below Mill Lane, Romsey on Sep 4th, 173 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 15th and 173 at King's Pond, Alton on Dec 18th.

There were 34 territories on the two CBC plots at Lower Test Marshes (cf. 33 in 2015). Other breeding records included 18 broods totalling 92 young at Fleet Pond (possibly the most successful season ever there), 16 broods totalling 115 young at Itchen Valley CP, seven broods at Titchfield Haven and six at Hook-with-Warsash. The records for Fleet Pond and Itchen Valley CP did not confirm that all the young fledged. (JMC)

Pintail (Northern Pintail)

Anas acuta

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional in summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 918; 2002-07: 1,360; 2007-12: 774. Schedule 1, Amber



Adult male Pintail, Keyhaven, Nov 29th (Joe Murphy)

WeBS counts peaked in January with an above average total of 896 including at least 350 in the Avon Valley, where there was extensive flooding, and 349 at Lymington-Hurst. Late year numbers were much lower due to an absence in the Avon Valley apart from an influx of 43 to Ibsley Water on Nov 23rd and 24th. However, a count of 288 on Farlington Marshes on Dec 31st was the highest there since January 1989 and almost 100 higher than the Langstone Harbour WeBS total of 192 on 17th.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded five are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	50	89	117	3					6	50	17	113
Hampshire sectors	10	13	15	3				1	3	6	12	30
Langstone Harbour	105	160	67	3	2		1	1	22	105	175	288
Portsmouth Harbour		6	2							20		
Titchfield Haven	32	42	36						17	46	35	7
Hook-with-Warsash	45	9	10	2					41	70	94	94
Fawley-Calshot	4	18		2						10	6	
Beaulieu Estuary	44	12	19						19	10	34	68
Sowley-Lymington	12	16	12						25	12	10	
Lymington-Hurst	349	188	243	34	3	1	2	6	18	84	40	178

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	150	250	6	2								
Avon: Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water)	222	214	24					1		4	43	3
Test: Fishlake Meadows	7	2	5						2	8	10	2
WeBS count totals	896	537	341	35	1				89	111	217	456

Sites of international importance: 600+; national importance: 290+.

The only early year records away from tabulated sites were a pair at Dark Water, Lepe from Jan 3rd-5th and on 30th and two pairs there on Feb 26th, a female at Woolmer Pond on Jan 16th and a pair there on Jan 29th and a female at Dogmersfield Lake on Mar 20th. The last double-figure count was 34 at Lymington-Hurst on Apr 9th; subsequently up to three summered there as well as two at Farlington Marshes. Six at Pennington Marshes (Lymington-Hurst) on Aug 17th presumably included new arrivals while a male at Ibsley Water on 24th and one at Langstone Mill Pond on 27th were recorded only on one day. Further arrivals were evident from Sep 7th with the first double-figure counts of 19 at the Beaulieu Estuary on 15th, 24 at Hook-with-Warsash and 18 at Lymington-Hurst on 17th and 25 at Sowley Marsh the next day. Some coastal movement was detected from this time with 29 west and 17 east off Hill Head and Hayling Island between 18th and 21st, a flock of 80 which flew SE from Southampton Water across The Solent on 18th, at least 110 (including a flock of 100) SW over Titchfield Haven on 28th and 35 east off Hurst Beach on Oct 6th. Subsequently the only records away from tabulated sites were a male at Ewhurst Lake from Oct 16th-Dec 17th, three at Sandy Point and seven at Upper Hamble River on Nov 3rd, a male at Testwood Lakes on Nov 25th, two at Sowley Pond on Dec 19th and a male at Woolmer Pond on Dec 28th. (JMC)

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber

Around 17 were reported in spring and perhaps only nine in autumn. The first was an early male at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Mar 7th (ACS), only the third ever at that location. Few occurred in the next six weeks with only a male at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on Mar 23rd, a female at Ibsley Water on Apr 5th and 6th and a pair east off Hurst Beach into the Narrows on 14th. A pair was at Posbrook Flood/Upper Titchfield Haven from Apr 19th increasing to four (3 males) on May 1st and remaining until 7th with an extra female on 3rd. At Pennington Marshes at least one male was present from Apr 23rd-25th and May 13th-23rd with three males on 15th and two on the final date. Other spring records were males flying west at Stokes Bay on May 1st and at Hook-with-Warsash on 5th, Hill Head on 6th, Needs Ore on 13th and Ibsley Water on 14th.

A male continued to be reported at Titchfield Haven through May, a female was flushed on 25th and a pair was seen on 27th. This suggests that breeding may have been attempted.

The first in autumn was at Winchester SF from Aug 2nd-5th. Singles were at Titchfield Haven on Aug 19th, Sep 3rd and 9th, Testwood Lakes from Aug 27th-Sep 15th and Ibsley Water on Sep 8th increasing to three on 9th. Further records from Ibsley Water involved one on Sep 28th and three from Oct 2nd-5th, which were the last of the year. (JMC)

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler)

Anas clypeata

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasionally breeds. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 662; 2002-07: 742; 2007-12: 741.

Amber

WeBS counts in early 2016 were about average. In January the highest count was 250 at Lymington-Hurst but in subsequent months numbers declined there. However, a strong spring passage occurred at Blashford Lakes with 358 on Feb 7th, 552 on Feb 18th (missed by WeBS), 469 on Mar 19th and 283 still present on Apr 2nd. In the late year numbers peaked

in December with the only three-figure counts at Blashford Lakes peaking at 368 on 18th including 321 on Mockbeggar Lake which were attracted by a profuse algal growth.

Monthly maxima at sites with double-figure counts in more than one month are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	132	107	51	41	1	3	2	24	26	34	55	62
Baffins Pond	8	21	16						2	8	5	12
Titchfield Haven	67	58	73	44	13	9	6	19	31	34	34	24
Hamble Estuary	8	4	9	2				20	29	34	26	15
Southampton Common		5	8	9					10	4	10	12
Beaulieu Estuary	31	22	20	14	6	3	3	18	59	24	33	22
Lymington-Hurst	250	128	140	35	8	3		11	85	26	71	98
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	31	50	2						8	5	5	11
Blashford Lakes	206	552	469	283			5	15	36	98	124	368
Testwood Lakes	12	14							6	3	10	9
Test: Fishlake Meadows	21	8	9	6				3	6	18	11	6
Overton area	8	7						5	17	12	24	1
Winchester SF	8	19	22	9	4		1	2	18	17	11	22
Rampton's Lane GP & Welshman's Road GP	21	10	4						3	6	13	2
The Vyne	2	3	8					5	3	4	20	4
Bramshill Park	1	9								5	20	17
Eversley GP	28	4	19						13	25	31	17
Yateley GP	8	14	2							1	4	17
Tundry Pond	7								4	19	19	10
WeBS count totals	783	705	785	330	12		9	59	244	320	515	683

Sites of international importance: 400+; national importance: 180+; * = record for locality.

The only other double-figure counts were ten at Allington GP on Mar 11th, ten at Dibden Bay on Mar 13th, 15 (all males) at Greatbridge, Romsey on Apr 1st, ten at Woolmer Pond on Apr 11th, 20 at The Vyne on Nov 8th, 25 at The Grange Lake on Nov 11th and 11 at Alresford Pond on Dec 14th and 19th.

Spring coastal passage was evidently light, the only records being three east at Hurst on Apr 22nd, five there between May 5th and 8th and three grounded at Sandy Point on May 5th. In addition to tabulated sites, there were summer records of a male at Fleet Pond on May 31st and a pair there on June 19th, but the only proof of breeding involved a female flushed off a nest and eggs at Titchfield Haven on Apr 30th and a female with four well-grown young at The Deeps, Farlington Marshes on July 30th. (JMC)

Pochard (Common Pochard)

Aythya ferina

Scarce breeder and moderately common but declining winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 831; 2002-07: 673; 2007-12: 445.

VU, Red, HBAP

The January WeBS count was appreciably lower than in the corresponding month in 2015, essentially because of fewer numbers from the principal site at Blashford Lakes, where the peak early year count was 142 on Feb 7th and the highest late year population was 113 on Dec 18th. The largest gatherings on any one lake were 65 on Ivy Lake on Jan 4th and 86 on Ibsley Water on Dec 18th.

Besides the monthly maxima tabulated below, the only localities where there were double-figure counts were Baffins Pond (10, Jan 18th), Needs Ore (12, Apr 10th; 11, Apr 19th; 24, May 1st) and Heath Pond, Petersfield (12, Dec 19th-20th). Several observers expressed their concern over falling numbers at what were traditional sites. There was no sign of recovery from the relatively high winter population in the years immediately before 2014 at Titchfield Haven.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular double-figure counts are tabulated below.

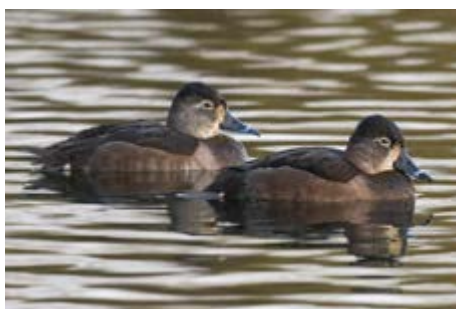
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven	10	8	4								4	1
Sowley Pond	8	17	20	2							6	18
Blashford Lakes	114	142	74	3	4	2	5	7	6	13	62	113
Test: Fishlake Meadows	6	14	19	17	10				3	6	9	
Dogmersfield Lake	21		31					1		1		
Tundry Pond	7	43	4						3	8	15	
Eversley GP	23	23	10							4	9	18
WeBS count totals	214	269	182	28	15	9	5	6	11	19	77	154

Sites of international importance: 3,000+; national importance: 380+.

Confirmation of breeding came from Blackwater (Needs Ore), where two pairs each fledged one young, and on Woolmer Pond, where there was a female with three small young on July 7th and 27th. A second pair had been present on Woolmer Pond on May 12th and a single juvenile was seen there on Aug 27th. A pair was also recorded on Heath Pond, Petersfield on May 28th and two pairs were on Southampton Common Cemetery Lakes in mid-May, but there was no confirmation of breeding at these last two sites. Single drakes were recorded in May-June from Alresford Pond on May 4th-5th, Welshman's Road GP on May 13th, Longstock South on June 3rd, Winchester SF on June 6th-7th, and Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake with two males on June 18th. Records of ten on Fishlake Meadows on May 13th and singles in May from Oxy/Pennington, Langstone Harbour and Hook-with-Warsash probably referred to visitors, whilst a maximum of five drakes at Longparish on several dates in May-June were doubtless non-breeding adults. An individual present on Yateley GP on Dec 31st was unusual nowadays compared to the higher numbers previously recorded there. (PFF)



Adult male Pochard, Titchfield Haven, Dec 14th (Steve Neal)



Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Very rare vagrant. (0,10,0)

The two first-winter females which appeared at Rooksbury Mill in November 2015 remained there until Jan 23rd (m.o.). There have only been two previous records this century, in 2006 and 2008-09. (KFB)

First-winter female Ring-necked Ducks, Rooksbury Mill, Jan 3rd (Martin Clay)

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

Rare vagrant recorded in every month from September to April. (0,12,0)

ET

The male that had frequented several locations around Blashford Lakes (but primarily Kingfisher Lake) from October 2015 remained in the area until Mar 6th (m.o.). A male, presumed to be the same individual, returned to Blashford Lakes on Sep 26th. Once again it favoured Kingfisher Lake until the year-end (m.o.). This male has probably been responsible for all sightings since the 2011/2012 winter. Prior to this the only record this century was in 2000. (KFB)

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Moderately common breeding species whose numbers increase considerably in winter. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,294; 2002-07: 1,568; 2007-12: 1,557.

Green

Numbers held up well across the county, as evidenced by the WeBS counts. The annual maximum at Blashford Lakes was 579 on Jan 16th, and the two highest combined counts at the two gravel pits at Eversley and Yateley on the Blackwater were 377 on Jan 16th and 384 on Dec 18th. A hitherto traditional site on the River Test between Stockbridge-Fullerton failed to exceed a count of 50, but another to the north at Testbourne Lake is tabulated below. Other notable counts were at the north pools at Bramshill Plantation (53, Jan 29th), Budds Farm STW (70, Feb 23rd) and Camp Farm (56, Oct 24th and 55, Nov 22nd).

Monthly maxima at regularly watched sites where counts exceeded 50 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baffins Pond	54	19	67						13	37	41	65
Blashford Lakes	579	501	518	462	197	221	279	203	101	313	341	428
Test: Longparish	51	23	22	24	11	25	28	28	22	14	22	41
Testbourne Lake	56	26	13	24	18	19		14	19	12	2	14
Andover Lakes: Anton, Charlton, Rooksbury Mill	35	36	31			12			21	37	51	63
Meon: Warnford Park	62	36	33	54		36	27	22	31	18	52	46
Ewhurst Lake	21	69	53						9	9	1	8
Tundry Pond	32	63	9	9		3		1	22	20	22	22
Eversley GP	231	159	136	160			120		71	125	117	149
Yateley GP	146	186	111					11		68	51	235
WeBS count totals	1,654	1,460	1,463	784	381	349	484	359	442	854	997	1,309

Sites of international importance: 12,000+; national importance: 1,100+; * = record for locality.

Other inland sites with counts in excess of 25 in January-May (maxima in parentheses) were Ripley Farm Reservoir (27, Jan 3rd), Welshman's Road GP (44, Jan 10th), Wellington GP (34, Jan 15th), Alresford Pond (30, Jan 23rd), Avington Trout Fishery (50, Feb 7th), Hamer Warren Lakes (37, Feb 7th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (27, Feb 23rd), Stubb's Farm Pond, Binsted (26, Feb 24th), Fishlake Meadows (44, Mar 13th) and Stockbridge-Fullerton (29, Mar 14th). Coastal

sites where counts were in excess of 25 were Lymington-Hurst (40, Jan 23rd), Needs Ore (31, Mar 13th) and Langstone Harbour (28, Apr 9th).

There was a small increase in the number of broods (49 to 55), but not all submissions had the numbers of young, and of those that did, which added up to approximately 180, there was doubt over the survival rate. There were 15 broods in the Avon Valley, including six on Ibsley North Lake, 11 in the Test Valley at seven sites, and ten in the north-east at five sites including five broods at Fleet Pond following on from last year's three broods there, the first since 1992. Again there was only one brood in the Itchen Valley at The Grange Lake, Northington. Other breeding sites included single broods at Farlington Marshes, Anton and Charlton Lakes in Andover, Lower Bullington, Oakley Copse, and two broods at Stoke Charity. There was no evidence of breeding at what has been a regular site at Avington Lake.

During September-December, numbers in excess of 25 (maxima in parentheses) were again reported from Welshman's Road GP (43, Oct 29th), Ripley Farm (38, Nov 13th), Avington Trout Fishery (35, Dec 14th), Hamer Warren Lakes (35, Dec 17th), Lymington-Hurst (32, Dec 18th) and Alresford Pond (33, Dec 19th); there were also 40 on Allington GP on Dec 12th. (PFF)

Scaup (Greater Scaup)

Aythya marila

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red, S41

A single first-winter female was on Ripley Farm Reservoir from Nov 8th-16th (OJF *et al.*), one flew south past Weston Sailing Club on 24th (ARC) and two first-winter individuals were off Brownich Cliffs on 25th (DWA, GCB). A first-winter was recorded several times from different locations in Langstone Harbour between Nov 29th and Dec 17th (ACJ *et al.*). A single bird on the Blackwater, Needs Ore on Dec 16th increased to four males and two females there on Dec 23rd, which were seen to fly east on Dec 31st (BJP). (PFF)

Aythya hybrid

Aythya sp.

The drake Paget's Pochard (Pochard x Ferruginous Duck) on Eversley GP on Mar 19th returned for its eleventh winter on Nov 19th. A hybrid male Tufted Duck x Scaup was on Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake from June 9th-12th and a bird of inconclusive parentage was at Titchfield Haven NR on July 14th. (PFF)

Eider (Common Eider)

Somateria mollissima

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers usually summer; a very scarce breeder since 2003.

VU, Amber

Again, records were biased towards the west Solent, where the stretch of coast between Lymington and Keyhaven returned double-figure counts for the first ten months of the year, with 20 off Pennington Marshes on Sep 11th being the maximum. The relatively low November-December counts there may be explained by higher numbers to the east. A party of 21 off Needs Ore on Nov 8th and counts off Brownich of 20 on Nov 30th (15 males) and 40 on Dec 31st suggest that a good proportion drifted east into the lower reaches of Southampton Water, where they were regularly seen from Hill Head and flying about the mouth of the estuary.

Breeding was confirmed when a female was found on a nest on June 7th between Lymington and Hurst and two very young ducklings were subsequently seen being tended by two adult females on 22nd off Normandy. In May-July several pairs were again present in the Lymington-Hurst area with the mixed age summering flock.

On Oct 7th 17 flying east off Gilkicker Point may have been the vanguard of the late year flock to the west. There were few records from eastern harbours, although there were several sightings of an immature drake off Sandy Point between Jan 24th and Apr 22nd and a male

flew east past Southsea on May 9th. The only record away from the coast was an immature seen most unexpectedly and photographed at Ibsley Water on Nov 22nd.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below. (PFF)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour entrance-Eastoke	1	1	1	1							4	4
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	10	18	15	7						17	20	40
Lepe-Needs Ore	5	10	5	1	5						21	
Sowley-Lymington			13		7					1	2	
Lymington-Keyhaven	10	16	12	17	10	14	17	18	20	15	3	4
Off Hurst and Milford on Sea	2		2	7								5

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

Three individuals were recorded in the early year and seven between October and December. The adult drake, first seen at Iley Point, Keyhaven on Dec 29th 2015, remained until May 2nd by which time it had acquired full breeding plumage. A drake, also in full breeding dress, flying east off Hurst beach on May 6th was a different individual. An adult off Weston Shore on May 7th flew mid-channel down Southampton Water and was seen off Hill Head. What was presumably the same individual was off Chilling Cliffs and Brownwich the following day.

A female moulting into winter plumage was present in Langstone Harbour from Oct 27th and joined by a male on Dec 3rd, both frequenting the waters between West Hayling LNR and South Moor until Dec 28th. An immature or female flew NW past Hurst Castle on Nov 3rd, a drake was present in lower Southampton Water between Brownwich and Hill Head from Nov 3rd to the year's end, and two flew out of Chichester Harbour on Dec 12th and 14th and were present off Sandy Point on 31st. The only inland record was a first-winter male on Testwood Lakes from Nov 22nd-24th, the first ever there. (PFF)



Long-tailed Ducks, Sandy Point, Hayling Island, Dec 31st (Andy Johnson)

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

Moderately common but declining passage migrant; scarce in summer and winter.

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

The early year maximum was 22 off Hook-with-Warsash on Feb 28th, with the only other double-figure counts off Hill Head (20, Jan 6th; 15, Mar 19th) and Hurst Castle (10, Feb 6th). Spring passage east through the Solent, which was singularly unimpressive in the numbers involved, was most evident on April 10th, when approximately 75 flew east past Hurst Castle and another 100 lingered off there for two days, and on May 6th, when 60-70 passed east off Stokes Bay and Sandy Point. There was further movement mostly east through the Solent over the following week, but involving little more than 100 individuals in total and mostly passing Sandy Point. A party of eight off Stokes Bay, one off Chilling and five off Weston Shore were the only June coastal records.

On July 8th 30 off Sandy Point were thought to herald the start of autumn passage, but it failed to materialize. Highest numbers in the second half year were a party of 44 off Sandy Point on Nov 5th and a raft of between 30 on Nov 11th and 28th and 60 on Dec 11th at the mouth of Southampton Water off Hill Head, Brownwich and Hook-with-Warsash. Within the west Solent off Lymington-Keyhaven Marshes there was one on Jan 5th-14th, two on Mar 18th, one from Apr 23rd-30th, two from Oct 10th-14th, one on Oct 16th and nine on Dec 14th. Away from the open coast there were single-figure records from Langstone Harbour with one from Jan 13th-Feb 6th and a maximum of eight between Nov 4th and Dec 17th, and inland at Ibsley Water there was a drake on Mar 21st, a female from June 23rd-July 5th and a male on Sep 5th.

Monthly maxima offshore and monthly totals of movements taking the maximum count at any location on each date are tabulated below. (PFF)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point and Hayling Bay				3			30	10	16	3	44	3
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	20		15	8	1	8	4	4	4	7	48	60
Southampton Water		22		2		5		1	1	4	30	45
Hurst and Milford on Sea		10	3	100	46			16		15		
Moving east			20	127	187		12	29	2	1		
Moving west			3	4	30			8				

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

The first was an adult male in Langstone Harbour from Jan 9th-19th. There was a first-winter drake in Stokes Bay from Mar 19th-23rd and thereafter off Hill Head until Mar 31st. Two off Hurst Beach on Apr 28th was the only other record in the first half year.

An immature female was seen off Hurst Castle on Oct 31st and a male and female off Needs Ore on Nov 25th. From Nov 15th to the year's end a first-winter male was present in the lower reaches of Southampton Water with a raft of Common Scoter off Hill Head, Chilling Cliffs and Brownwich. A second individual was present on several dates during the same period, seven were seen off Hill Head on Nov 27th, two of which flew east, and three were off Hill Head/Brownwich from Dec 1st-3rd. (PFF)

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye)

Bucephala clangula

Scarce and declining winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 176; 2002-07: 124; 2007-12: 88.

Schedule 1, Amber

The WeBS counts more or less mirrored the previous year, indicating that the recent decline in the winter population may have been temporarily arrested. The principal inland water site

was again at Blashford Lakes (Ibsley Water and Rockford Lake) where the annual maximum was 32 (20 drakes) on Feb 28th. Other inland reports were two on the River Avon above Ibsley on Feb 7th and a party of six there 23rd and, at the end of the year, a female on Kingfisher Lake on Dec 23rd-24th.

The largest early year gatherings in the eastern harbours were 13 in Langstone Harbour on Jan 23rd and eight in Portsmouth Harbour on 14th, whilst along the west Solent coastline the highest winter counts were eight between Lymington-Hurst on Jan 23rd and Feb 13th.

The last spring record was a female at Ibsley Water on Apr 8th, and the first return sighting was two in Langstone Harbour on Oct 29th. The highest late year coastal counts were 12 on Nov 12th and 13 on Dec 28th in Langstone Harbour and 13 on Dec 16th in Portsmouth Harbour. Records from coastal sites not tabulated below were limited to Chilling Cliffs (adult male, Jan 1st), Hamble Point (male, Nov 3rd) and Sandy Point (1, Dec 31st).

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below. (PFF)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	3	11						1	7
Hampshire sectors	7	3						1	8
Langstone Harbour	13	6	4				2	12	13
Portsmouth Harbour	8	7	3					1	13
Lymington-Hurst	8	8	4					2	4
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	18	32	23	19			1	9	21
WeBS count totals	47	43	15	13				9	47

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare inland. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 415; 2002-07: 393; 2007-12: 337.

NT, Green, HBAP



Adult male Red-breasted Merganser, Sturt Pond, Mar 21st (Gareth Rees)

WeBS counts in January and February were markedly lower than in 2015, but the December population was an improvement, principally because of higher numbers in Langstone Harbour

where the annual maximum was 205 on Dec 17th. Although well distributed along the coast and up Southampton Water, numbers for west Solent were again relatively low compared to the eastern harbours. The peak number was 49 on Jan 23rd off Lymington-Hurst and no count elsewhere along this stretch exceeded ten. Coastal movement in spring was almost non-existent with a total of 11 west and four east off Sandy Point between Apr 11th and May 9th.

There were only two May records, a drake off Normandy Marsh on 6th and one off Warblington Shore on 20th, whilst the first return sighting was five at West Hayling LNR in Langstone Harbour on Oct 15th. (PFF)

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	70	64	57	5							45	87
Hampshire sectors	46	26	15	4	1					3	41	29
Langstone Harbour	103	79	185	7						5	128	205
Portsmouth Harbour	36	43	7	5							25	38
Hill Head/Brownwich	1	2	1	4							6	1
Upper Southampton Water	5	4	2								2	
Lepe-Needs Ore	5	3	5								1	11
Sowley-Lymington	10	9	8								10	6
Lymington-Hurst	49	36	19	2	1					2	7	22
WeBS count totals	249	194	238	8						5	179	304

Sites of international importance: 1,700+; national importance: 84+.

Goosander (Common Merganser)

Mergus merganser

Moderately common winter visitor; very scarce breeder in the Avon Valley since 1998. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 95; 2002-07: 94; 2007-12: 195.

Green, HBAP

WeBS totals in the early year were appreciably lower than in the corresponding period for 2015. Although monthly maxima for January-March at two of the three principal roost sites mirrored the previous year, with annual peak counts of 54 at Eversley GP on Jan 21st and 42 at Bramshill Plantation on Jan 29th, counts at Ibsley Water were lower in all three months. In the second half year, WeBS totals were again lower than 2015, especially in November, but the Ibsley Water late year roost peaked higher at 124 on Dec 11th (with 36 drakes maintaining the historical 3:1 ratio of females to males) compared to 101 last year.

Ibsley Water recorded May sightings, with a drake and five females on 21st and six females on 28th, but there was only one confirmed breeding pair on the River Avon at Somerley Park. The long-staying female by the Salmon Leap Bridge on the Lower Test Marshes was again recorded in every month of the year. In addition to being joined occasionally by a second redhead on several dates in all months except August, September and October, she was regularly seen in the company of a male during May and June.

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ibsley Water (roost)	66	68	28	27	6		4		4	22	89	124
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	3	3	6	1	4					3	8	12
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	12	4	8						7	4	8	11
Avon above Fordingbridge	2										3	
Sowley Pond	4	4	4								1	6
Testwood Lakes/Broadlands	5		2	1								
Bramshill Plantation (roost)	42	23	10	4							9	14
Tundry Pond		3										

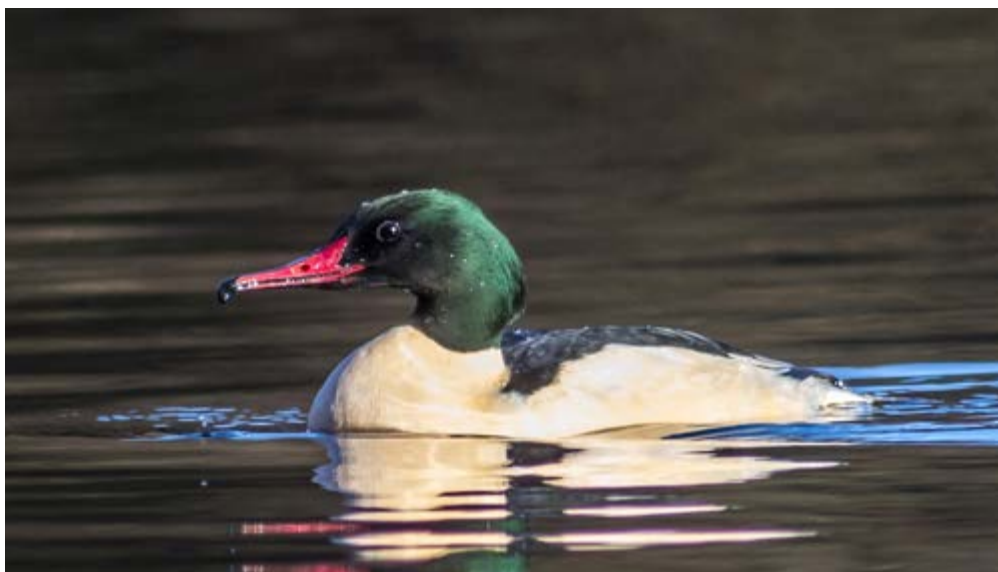
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eyeworth Pond	2	6	5									32
Eversley GP (roost)	54	27	2	1							7	25
WeBS count totals	76	89	49	12	3	2	1	1	8	8	88	203

Sites of international importance: 2,700+; national importance: 120+.

There was a plethora of winter records from non-tabulated sites, most of which referred to less than three individuals on less than three dates. Along the east Solent coast, records came from Warblington Shore (Jan 3rd), Langstone Harbour (female, Jan 4th-Mar 10th and 1, Nov 12th), Langstone Mill Pond (female, Jan 10th-13th), Chichester Harbour (female, Jan 10th-Feb 9th), Northney Common (1, Jan 30th and Feb 9th), Hayling Island (male, Mar 19th), Sandy Point (1, Nov 2nd and Dec 31st), Sinah Common (1, Dec 3rd) and Farlington Marshes (1, Dec 3rd).

Along the west Solent reports were from Lymington-Hurst (3, Jan 2nd; 2, Feb 15th and a female, Nov 22nd) and Park Shore (male, Nov 11th). In the north and north-east of the county records were from Hawkley Meadows (pair, Jan 1st), Anton Lakes (male, Jan 1st-31st), Sleaford Reservoir (male, Jan 1st; 3, Jan 17th; 4, Feb 20th), Heath Warren (singles, Jan 4th, Feb 9th and Dec 12th), Wellington CP (1, Jan 15th; 5, Dec 20th), Hartley Wintney (female, Feb 3rd), Stratfield Saye (pair, Apr 27th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (3, Nov 13th-15th), Old Down, Basingstoke (3 females east, Nov 27th), Fleet Pond (4 N, Dec 19th) and Bramshill Police College (male, Dec 20th).

Along the Test and Itchen Valleys sightings were from Leckford (2, Jan 15th), Avington Lakes/Park (female, Oct 28th-Dec 28th), Itchen Valley CP (female, Nov 6th), Longstock Water (2, Nov 11th) and Alresford Pond (4, Nov 29th and 2, Dec 2nd). In the New Forest records were from Cadnam Common (3, Jan 11th and 2, Dec 15th), Janesmoor Plain (4, Jan 12th), Ibsley Common (1, Jan 16th) and Turf Hill Inclosure (7 NE, Nov 28th) whilst numbers on Eyeworth Pond in December (see table above) built up to 32 on Dec 22nd. At Lower Test Marshes, there were two drakes and three females on Mar 8th, but sightings of a redhead at several points along Southampton Water between Nov 11th and Dec 17th were considered unlikely to have been the Salmon Leap bird. Four on Fawley Reservoir on Dec 9th were considered to be a separate group. (PFF)



Adult male Goosander, Eyeworth Pond, Dec 22nd (Robin Pascal)

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor, now almost exterminated by the Defra eradication programme.

A female at the Silt Pond, Blashford Lakes on Apr 5th (LMF) and a male at Ibsley Water on Sep 9th (IS) were the only sightings. (PFF)

Female Ruddy Duck, Silt Pond, Blashford Lakes, Apr 5th (Lee Fuller)



Quail (Common Quail)

Coturnix coturnix

Scarce summer visitor occasionally occurring in higher numbers; very rare in winter.

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Individuals calling in May at Frogmore (East Meon) on 10th (DMit) and on Eldon Farm (Stockbridge) on 19th (TNie), together with one heard at Cheesefoot Head on July 15th (TJor), were the only potential breeding records submitted. A juvenile was seen in Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 18th (MDR). (PFF)

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Common resident with numbers supplemented annually by releases of captive bred stock.

A widespread and numerous species which is released in very large numbers for shooting and for which submitted records do not reflect its true status. Records were submitted from only 33 localities. Other than regular data from Gander Down, where the annual maximum was 50 on Jan 17th, and Beaulieu Estate, where the maximum was 55 on Oct 4th, the only other sites with double-figure counts were Lower Froyle (10, Jan 23rd), Tile Barn Farm (26, Jan 24th), South Boarhunt (26, Oct 22nd) and Winters Down (100, Nov 5th).

The only confirmed breeding was on Petersfield Heath, although it was suspected at Winchester SF, Martin Down, Needs Ore, Blackland's Farm (Newnham) and Hannington Farm. (PFF)

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Scarce and declining resident with numbers supplemented by releases of captive bred stock.

Red, S4I, HBAP

The number of localities from which records were submitted doubled this year to 50, which included 13 sites along the Hampshire Downs, seven along the South Downs and five each in the north-east of the county, Test Valley and at Martin and Toyd Downs. Double-figure coveys were reported from Toyd Down (15, Jan 2nd), Gander Down (11, Jan 17th), Barton Stacy (12, Feb 15th), Broughton (25, Dec 3rd) and Hurstbourne Priory (12, Dec 27th).

There was confirmed breeding at Gander Down and Tidpit and at least two pairs were present or heard calling on several occasions on Martin Down throughout May/June. In addition, singles or one or two pairs were present at 11 suitable locations during the breeding season.

Records away from typical chalk downland habitat came from Lymington and Fleet Pond on Mar 18th, Walworth on Mar 30th and Havant Thicket on Apr 2nd. (PFF)

Pheasant (Common Pheasant)

Phasianus colchicus

Abundant resident, the naturalised population being supplemented annually by releases of captive bred stock.

The huge numbers released each year for shooting dwarf the surviving feral population. The only record of note was a gathering of 30 at Winchester SF on Jan 11th. There was confirmed

breeding of single broods at Havant Thicket, Sandy Point, Farlington Marshes, Itchen Valley CP and Lower Test NR. Fourteen territories were held in Longmore Inclosure (cf. 10 in 2015) and a pair was present at Wade Court, Havant in May/June, but otherwise there was little breeding data from previously surveyed areas. (PFF)



Adult male Pheasant, Harewood Forest, Feb 16th (Martin Clay)

Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon)

Gavia stellata

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

A typical showing of 27 and 55 bird-days in the early and late year respectively, with 57% of these reports from just two observers (ACJ, MPM). Most records were of ones and twos but easterly movements of 17 and three off Hurst Castle on Dec 19th were associated with strong south-westerlies.

The approximate monthly totals are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	5			1					1	1	7	3
Moving east	3			2						2	5	25
Moving west	3	8	1	4							4	

Movements in early January were reported off Sandy Point (2 E, 1st; 2 W, 6th) and Milford on Sea (1 W, 1 E in 5.5 hours, 3rd). On the sea one was off Stansore Point on 5th, another at Brownwich and two at Keyhaven on 16th and one was at Chichester harbour entrance on 19th. A total of ten moved west between Feb 7th and Apr 10th from Milford on Sea (3, Feb 7th; 2, 16th); Hayling Bay (2, Feb 25th; singles 27th and Mar 17th) and Hill Head (1, Apr 10th). Easterly spring passage was sparsely recorded at Milford on Sea (3, Apr 11th; 1, 22nd and 23rd) and Hill Head (1, Apr 16th and 21st).

The first return was in partial breeding plumage and settled off Hill Head from Sep 16th-23rd and the same at Hook-with-Warsash on 17th-18th. There were no further reports until Oct 23rd but then regular to the end of the year. A total of 27 singles was reported on 25 dates from nine coastal localities; two were at Chichester Harbour (Nov 10th; Dec 15th) and Hurst Castle (NW, Nov 16th; E, 28th) and 20 flew past there on Dec 19th. (AFJC)

Black-throated Diver (Black-throated Loon)

Gavia arctica

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

There were up to six in the early year and three in the late year; all reports were of lone individuals. There were just seven bird-days from January-April at four localities: Hurst Castle (E into Solent, Jan 1st); Hill Head (close in, Jan 15th; W then settling at the head of Southampton Water for 2.5 hours, Feb 14th); Milford on Sea (W, Feb 7th; E, 13th; E, Apr 10th) and Sandy Point (W, Apr 30th).

The first of the second winter period settled mainly in Chichester Harbour between Nov 11th and Dec 1st (11 dates) but was also seen at the north end of Langstone Harbour (five dates). The only other records were at Hurst Castle (E, 11:22 Dec 19th) and again in Chichester Harbour (Dec 28th and 31st).

Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2		2							1	2

Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)

Gavia immer

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber

There were up to 13 in the early year with winterers regular to mid-April. Individuals are flightless for several weeks between late January and early March, so flight records then are of note and included one east off Hurst Castle on Feb 10th – an unusual date. Regular reports from the eastern harbours until Mar 13th included five in Chichester Harbour on Jan 7th, four on four further dates to Feb 16th and two at Langstone Harbour between Jan 5th and 23rd. One ranged the west Solent from Hurst to Beaulieu River between Jan 1st and Apr 14th (17 dates). Southampton Water and the mid-Solent, from Lepe to Hill Head, hosted at least five from Jan 1st-Apr 16th. Most reports were singles but there were maxima of four off Dibden Bay on Jan 30th and Weston Shore on Feb 14th and 20th, with up to three remaining there throughout March until 30th. There were easterly passage movements of singles at Hayling Bay on Apr 5th, Sandy Point on Apr 12th and May 5th, and off Milford on Sea on Apr 10th, May 5th and 9th – the last in full breeding plumage.

The first return was one off Hill Head on Nov 5th. The next in Southampton Water was one at Weston Shore from Nov 18th-30th followed by an adult off Hill Head on 20th and one off Brownich on Dec 31st. One was in the west Solent off Normandy on Nov 11th-12th; possibly the same off Needs Ore between Nov 25th and Dec 7th and west past Hurst Castle on 19th. Singles flew east through Hayling Bay on Nov 18th and 20th. In Chichester Harbour the first was off Black Point on Nov 20th, then two regularly from Nov 22nd-Dec 31st. One was in Langstone Harbour between Nov 24th-Dec 14th, possibly the same previously in Portsmouth Harbour on 17th and increasing the Chichester Harbour total to three on 28th.

Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	9	6	7	3						7	5

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)

Fulmarus glacialis

Scarce visitor, most frequent in spring and early autumn; breeds nearby in west and east of Isle of Wight.

EN, Amber

As usual, between one and five were reported from eastern and western waters between January and May and July to September, with sightings most frequent in April and May.

The first was a single off Hill Head on Jan 11th. Next, two were at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Feb 6th and singles were observed at Sandy Point on Mar 26th and Hurst Beach/Milford

on Sea the next day. There were eight reports in April with one at Hurst Castle on 2nd, two east off Hurst Beach on 6th, five there on 10th, one west at Sandy Point and one east at the same time at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 14th, one at Southsea on 16th which flew inland, five at Sandy Point on 20th and two there on 22nd. Seven reports in May comprised one east and five west at Sandy Point on 2nd and one east there on 6th, two east at Hurst Beach on 7th, two off Hurst Castle on 21st, one off Sinah Common on 28th and one NW off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 31st. The next sightings were in July with singles at Sandy Point on 11th and 29th, followed in August by one in Langstone Harbour from Farlington Marshes on 7th, one at Keyhaven on 13th and three at Sandy Point and Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 20th. The last report of the year was two south at Hurst Castle on Sep 5th.

With no strong passage indicated, the above pattern of occurrences is again consistent with occasional visits from local breeders at sites on the east and west of the Isle of Wight.

The monthly maxima are shown below. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	1	5	5		1	3	2			

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

Rare autumn passage migrant, also recorded once in April, June and July (long dead). (0,32,1)

One record. A single flew west distantly past Sandy Point at 08:52 on Sep 24th (ACJ). It had been seen passing Selsey Bill in West Sussex at 08:40. Apart from a corpse in 1974, all records have been since 1994 with sightings in all but five years this century. (KFB)

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

Scarce spring and summer visitor and passage migrant, most frequent in spring. Amber

Another poor year for this species with only five records, all but one from Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea. As usual, all were flight records with two west there at distance on Apr 10th, a flock of 32 west on June 28th, one west the next day and four east on July 26th. The only other report was one west at Sandy Point on Aug 20th.

The monthly cumulative totals are shown below. The year total of 40 on five days compares to 34 on six days in 2014 and 116 on 12 days in 2015. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			2		33	4	1				

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

Very scarce but regular passage migrant, mostly in late summer and autumn. (0,227,12)

ET, CR, Red, S4I

One record. Twelve flew east around 2km off Sandy Point at 16:48 on Apr 21st (ACJ). This is the first spring record for this site. There have been annual records since 2001, but only four previously in April. The species is primarily recorded between July and September. (KFB)

Gannet (Northern Gannet)

Morus bassanus

Moderately common non-breeding summer visitor from its nearest colonies in Alderney; scarce but increasing in winter.

Recorded in all months. Sightings fitted the established pattern of numbers increasing from spring and peaking in summer, assumed to be due to feeding visits and then post-breeding dispersal from the nearest colonies in Alderney, Channel Islands. Very few sightings and low numbers in the winter months did not repeat the storm-driven high counts of December 2015. In addition to records from both eastern and western waters, small numbers were



*Adult Gannet, Sandy Point, July 27th
(Andy Johnson)*

again reported from Southampton Water as far north as Weston Shore and Southampton Dock Head between May and August.

At the start of the year, between one and five were reported on eight days in January, the maximum occurring at Sandy Point on 1st. In February the only sighting was two off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 7th, followed in March by three records with a maximum of ten at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 28th. Frequency of sightings rose sharply in April and remained high until the end of August with almost daily reports. Numbers were however still low in April, with a maximum of seven on several dates at Sandy Point, rising in May to a maximum of 33 at Hurst Castle on

23rd before falling back in June with a high of only eight on several dates, and surprisingly none from western waters.

In July, apart from 34 at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 7th, numbers did not exceed five until the end of the month when 250 were reported in a feeding frenzy from Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 26th and 100 were off Sandy Point the next day with 50 there on 29th. The highest count of the year at Hill Head was 15 on 28th. High numbers continued at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea into early August with 252 on 2nd, many of which were juveniles or immatures indicating post-breeding dispersal. At Sandy Point there was a high of 30 on 11th. Sightings reduced to only eight and seven respectively in September and October and counts dropped to only one or two except for 20 at Sandy Point on Sep 24th. The year ended with singles at Needs Ore on Nov 6th, Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Nov 17th and Sandy Point on Dec 13th and 31st.

Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below. (MLC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point/Hayling Bay	5		1	7	9	6	100	30	20	1		1
Stokes Bay-Hill Head			1		11	5	15	10				
Southampton Water				1	3	8	5	6				
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	4	2	10	7	33		250	252		48	1	

Cormorant (Great Cormorant)

Phalacrocorax carbo

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor with scattered non-breeding summer records. One to three pairs bred annually from 2006-10. Mean maximum WeBS total 2004-7: 579; 2007-12: 720. Green

The table below contrasts WeBS counts for inland and coastal waters. Numbers were broadly similar in most months but with the inland sites reporting slightly higher totals in most winter months. The overall September-December population was relatively constant (542-581) but significant movement occurred between inland and coastal sites. The year maximum of 581 in September is the third lowest of the last twelve years 2005-2016 (mean 667). Evening roost counts in January at six inland sites (Allington and Eversley GP, Sabines Farm, Ivy Lake, Fishlake Meadows and Fleet Pond) totalled 365 and when compared to the WeBS data below suggests some diurnal movements.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS coast counts total	186	145	133	44	39	32	73	118	141	247	292	187
WeBS inland counts total	271	337	251	44	28	18	47	91	440	318	250	370
WeBS total	472	484	393	90	68	50	130	220	587	569	550	613

Monthly maxima from regularly watched sites, where counts reached 25 in at least two separate months, are tabulated below. Blashford Lakes remains the Hampshire stronghold, including diurnal roost high counts of 161 (Ivy Lake, Jan 1st) and 308 (Ibsley Water, Sep 28th), and accounted for 55% of the population in September-October. Peak counts at localities not tabulated were Langstone Harbour (28, Oct 15th), Bramshill Police College lake (22, Oct 18th), Ewhurst Park (23, Nov 6th) and Yateley GP (39, Dec 31st).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour/Baffins Pond	26	38	19						21	67	66	46
Titchfield Haven	80	48	30	13	11	11	22	20	45	59	22	22
Calshot/Fawley	5			5	6	13	29	25	27	22	23	
Hythe	18	3	2				5	46	54	17	2	44†
Lower Test, Eling, Bury Marshes and Dibden Bay	45	31	21	13	4	6	17	48	37	27	83	33
Sowley-Hurst	35	30	25	15	30	4	2	22	31	45	49	36
R. Avon-Ringwood/Fordingbridge	55	69	57						24	13	11	19
Blashford Lakes	184	116	96	26	30	35	35	66	331	304	95†	146
Fishlake Meadows	78†	11	6	9	5			42	54†	25	14	16
R. Test-Marsh Court	31		1					2	1	28	22	
R. Test above Stockbridge	24	19	18	5	1	0	3	6	6	28	31	19
Petersfield-Heath Pond	16	5	3	1		1	1	2	10	38	49	22
Fleet Pond	58†	60†		12	10		12†	22†	7	69†	56†	60†
Eversley GP	83†	83†	19	45†			12		6	15	9	82†

† = roost counts.

There were eight reports of movements of ten or more as follows: Ibsley Water (23 north, early am Apr 1st), Sandy Point (11 east, Apr 9th; 12 west, Sep 12th; 14 south, Oct 3rd), and south-westerly movements over visible migration watch points at Trigpoint Hill (31, Sep 30th; 32, Oct 9th; 37, Nov 11th) and Tweseldown (36, Oct 6th). Whilst most of these were probably local movements, dates are consistent with the increase in wintering numbers. (AFJC)

Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Scarce visitor; breeds nearby in west of Isle of Wight. Red

There were 128 reports across all months but 91 were for January-February alone. A juvenile, first seen at Hill Head on Nov 30th 2015 remained until Feb 29th (17 dates) and two different were there on Jan 4th and at Stokes Bay on 5th. Further sightings at Hill Head were one on 11th and another west on Apr 4th. Almost daily sightings off Southsea in January included a maximum of six on 9th (3-5, 7 dates) and at least two juveniles on the



Adult Shag, Southsea, Jan 26th (Richard Ford)

canoe lake on 12 dates to Feb 29th – one of which sought the company of plastic swans. Off Southsea Castle one was regular into February followed by a juvenile on six dates between Apr 12th and June 8th (2, May 6th). There were singles at the three eastern harbour entrances as follows: Portsmouth (Jan 3rd); Langstone (5 dates, Jan 1st-23rd; Mar 19th; Sep 3rd, 20th; Nov 20th, 23rd) and Chichester (Jan 6th, Mar 2nd). There were just 15 records at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea, including one west on Jan 1st, four reports of twos (Jan 3rd, Apr 17th, Aug 24th and west Nov 22nd), four on July 30th and three on Oct 21st. Nearby along the west Solent, there were five January reports including two on 23rd, then singles on July 17th, Oct 19th and two from Nov 11th-13th. There were just five reports from Sandy Point/Hayling Bay (juv. offshore Jan 11th; 1 E, Aug 29th; singles, Sep 2nd-3rd, Oct 22nd and Nov 1st). Other records, all singles, were as follows: Calshot (Jan 3rd; Oct 15th), Stansore Point (Jan 5th; Sep 12th), Needs Ore (Jan 8th), Hook-with-Warsash (Feb 6th), Dibden Bay (6th), Lepe (9th), Weston Shore (14th; 28th and Dec 18th).

Estimates of monthly maxima are tabulated below. (AF/C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point/Chichester Harbour	1		1					1	1	1	1	
Langstone Harbour entrance	2		1						2		1	
Southsea/Portsmouth Harbour	6	1		1	1	1						
Hill Head/Meon Shore	3	1		1								
Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea	1		1	2			4	2		3	3	
Other localities	5	4					1	2		1	2	1

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)

Very scarce but regular winter visitor.

Botaurus stellaris

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP



Bittern, Ivy Lake, Blashford, Feb 27th (Alan Lewis)

Two mild winter periods presaged limited sightings of this cryptic species. There were reports of singles from just four locations. The Ivy Lake, Blashford individual, present from Oct 30th 2015, was seen on 34 dates until Mar 23rd (Jan-Mar; 15, 10, 9) (m.o.). The North Hide permitted close views including one report of a Perch being taken. Presumably the same individual returned on Oct 16th (*per* RAC) and was seen infrequently to Dec 29th (October-December: 3, 7, 4) (m.o.). At the Avon Flood, Keyhaven there were reports of one in flight over the reed bed on eight dates from Feb 13th-Mar 3rd (EJW *et al.*) and Nov 13th-Dec 24th (YH *et al.*) – on two occasions seemingly put up by a male Marsh Harrier. At Titchfield Haven one flew over the reed beds on Jan 12th, Feb 6th and Mar 3rd (MCA *et al.*) and Dec 24th (*per* ALR). The reed beds at the two last sites are extensive and the records suggest occasional glimpses of overwintering individuals. One was at Fishlake Meadows at dusk on Oct 31st. (SLay). (AFJC)

Chinese Pond Heron

Ardeola bacchus

Very rare vagrant. (0,1,0)

2004 addition. A breeding plumaged adult seen at close quarters and photographed well by a garden pond at East Dean on Nov 13th 2004 has now been accepted by BOURC as the first Category A record for Great Britain. The record was published in the 2004 *Hampshire Bird Report*, in the section on escaped birds. A paper reviewing the record and the circumstances around its acceptance as a wild bird appears elsewhere in this report (p.237). (KFB)

Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret)

Bubulcus ibis

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except June. (0,49+,13)

ET, Schedule 1



Cattle Egret, Warblington, Jan 3rd 2017, present since Dec 2016 (Dave Ryves)

Nine records. It was yet another impressive year for the species with a total of 13 seen during May, June, November and December. A summer-plumaged adult at Langstone Mill Pond in May actually settled in with the breeding Little Egrets during its five-day stay. Apart

from 2015, when a flock of 22 was seen, this is the largest number in the county in any year. All records are listed below.

Lymington-Hurst: May 7th (SCo, SGK)

Langstone Mill Pond: May 9th-13th (MGP, PNM-R).

Fishlake Meadows: July 23rd (DAT *et al.*)

Lymington-Hurst: Nov 2nd (MJH)

Park Shore: Nov 9th – also flew to Needs Ore (NRJ)

Titchfield Canal Path: Nov 23rd (DHou)

Chilling: Dec 4th-5th (MFr, DW)

Warblington: Dec 7th-31st (into 2017). One initially, rising to a maximum of five on Dec 30th (m.o.)

Eling: Dec 14th-31st (into 2017) – seen at Trotts Wood, Dec 20th (m.o.).

(KFB)

Little Egret†

Egretta garzetta

Moderately common winter visitor, passage migrant and scarce but increasing breeder since 1998. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2002-2007: 353; 2007-2012: 430. ET, Green, HBAP

Coastal counts were typically low in the early and late year (January, 157 and December, 135) but were at their peak and apparently increasing inland. A pre-roost count of 35 at Arlebury Lakes on Jan 23rd reflected numbers feeding nearby at Cheriton (23, Feb 23rd) and at three Alresford watercress beds (February peak counts at Drayton Farm, 15; Manor Farm, 11; and Pinglestone, 16). In addition to the tabulated evening roosts at Allington and Eversley GP, several smaller roosts in the north-east were monitored (Kings Pond, Alton, 9, Feb 11th and 10, Nov 17th; Spring Head, Greywell, 19, Nov 18th and Fleet Pond, 7, Dec 9th). Notable counts not tabulated were reported as follows: Five Acres Field, Bedhampton (20, Jan 7th and Feb 21st); Furzley Common, NF (11, Feb 23rd); Avon below Ringwood (28, Apr 1st) and Bentley (10, Apr 11th). Apart from local flights around feeding sites, the only significant movement in spring was four NE at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 7th.

Breeding was again confirmed at five mixed heronry sites totalling 21 occupied nests at Fawley Refinery (6), Fort Elson (5), Tournery Wood (4), Alice Holt (5) and an irregular site in the west (1). At Langstone Mill Pond there were 41 occupied nests (40, 2015) and 74 adults were present on May 10th. The first chick was visible on June 6th and 19 young of various ages were counted on 20th. A week-old chick, seen on Aug 5th, was perhaps a second brood. The total of 62 active nests is similar to the last two years (63, 2014; 61, 2015). A recently fledged juvenile seen at Bishopstoke on June 20th suggested local breeding at a yet-to-be documented site.

Night roosts at Langstone Mill Pond totalled 114 on Aug 27th and 176 on 29th; the first evidence of the autumnal surge at coastal sites. The October total of 380, of which 330 were at coastal sites, was close to the 2006-15 average of 388. Dawn departures from the Oxy Marsh roost (see table below) suggest that outside the summer months the west Solent population is relatively constant, unlike coastal localities to the east. Six flew west at Sandy Point on Nov 26th including three in the company of three Great White Egrets. Notable counts from sites not tabulated included Titchfield Haven (10, Oct 6th), Ibsley Water (11, Nov 6th), Laverstoke Park Lake (13, 11th), Dogmersfield Lake (16, 13th) and Testwood Lakes (10, 16th).

Monthly maxima at localities which regularly exceeded ten are tabulated below. (AF/C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour*	41	22	34	34			68	50	146	146	38	47
Hampshire sectors*	13	5	9	18			23		80	55	10	21
Langstone Mill Pond	30	16	8	38	74	65	61	176†	41	63	3	4
Langstone Harbour	16	10	23	32	20	19	60	76	87	86	27	17
Portsmouth Harbour	15	13	14	5		3	19	60	25	70	35	16

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hamble Estuary	3	5	3	7	5	7	25	38	30	18	12	9
Southampton Water	4	8	14	40	10	28	40	58	53	36	17	21
Beaulieu Estuary	18	11	4	7	5	9	17	21	35	21	23†	3
Lymington-Hurst*	45	19	23	18	10	5	34	50	29	28	24	13
Oxey Marsh†	48†	57†	46†	46†	p				37†		48†	41†
Allington GP†	31†	32†	27†							9†	20†	27†
Eversley GP†	11†	10†	17†	8†								14†
WeBS counts total	190	163	156	171	58	68	185	271	361	384	243	173

Sites of national importance: 45+; *=WeBS monthly totals only; † = night roost.

Great White Egret† (Great Egret)

Ardea alba

Very scarce but increasing visitor, recorded in every month. (0,63+,6)

ET

An astonishing 260 records were submitted. With so many records it is becoming hard to understand how many birds are present at any one time, but there were at least three at different locations on several dates.

The long-staying colour-ringed individual in the Blashford area was regularly reported up to Feb 7th. It reappeared on the rather late date of Oct 2nd and was seen frequently until the year end. This colour-ringed adult first appeared in the Avon Valley in August 2003 having hatched just four months previously in the Loire-Atlantique region of France. A second bird was seen on Nov 6th and 9th, and Dec 3rd, 4th, 7th and 16th.



Great White Egret with Little Egret, Oxey Marsh, Nov 11th (Joe Murphy)

Other sightings, all singles unless otherwise noted, are grouped by region:

South Coast

Lymington-Hurst (Mar 11th; Sep 8th; Oct 6th; one on many dates from Oct 19th-Nov 29th with two on Nov 7th and 20th), Hook-with-Warsash (Apr 11th; July 2nd), Titchfield Haven (Apr 11th; Oct 9th), Riverside Park (Apr 26th), Farlington Marshes (May 27th), Langstone Harbour (Aug 27th), Needs Ore/

Park Shore (Sep 16th-18th; Oct 2nd, 5th, 7th, 18th; Nov 13th; Dec 1st), Lepe (Sep 17th), Southampton Water (Sep 22nd), Hythe (Nov 16th), Lower Test Marshes (Nov 20th) and Sandy Point (3, Nov 26th).
Test Valley

Longparish (Feb 10th), Fishlake Meadows (Aug 15th; many dates from Sep 3rd-Oct 16th), Nursling Mill (Aug 25th), Testwood Lakes (many dates from Aug 25th-Sep 18th with two on Sep 15th; Nov 15th-16th), Barton Stacey (Nov 8th), Bransbury Common (Nov 13th; Dec 14th).

Central Hants

Alresford Pond (many dates from Jan 10th-Feb 11th; Aug 23rd)

North-East Hants

Kingsley (Sep 8th), Dogmersfield Lake (Oct 24th), Basingstoke (Nov 27th).

(KFB)

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Coverage of known heronries was complete. Counts of apparently occupied nests (with 2015 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Andwell c.20; Arlebury Park, 7 (12); Bramshill Plantation, 5 (4); Efford Mill, 2 (5); Elvetham Park, 18 (20); Eversley GP, 1 (0); Fleet Pond, 12 (10); Fort Elson, 18 (17); Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 19 (16); near Fordingbridge, 75 (35-38); Kings Pond, Alton, 2 (1); Kingston North Common, 7 (4); Lammas Wood, Fawley Refinery, 38 (42); Langstone Mill Pond, 7 (6); Sowley Pond, 9 (12); Somerley Estate, 16 (8); The Grange Lake, 0 (1); Tournerbury Wood, 6 (7); Yateley GP 2 (0). These data suggest a county population of around 260 pairs compared to about 200 pairs in 2015. This increase is in part down to the discovery of a heronry near Old Basing, but also to a huge increase in the colony near Fordingbridge. Amazingly the Andwell heronry (near Old Basing) has been in use for at least 50 years but remained unknown to birders because it is on private land.

Counts outside the breeding season increased slightly. In 2016 five sites (other than heronries) attracted gatherings in excess of 20.

Monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	32	28	34						14	25	46	11
Avon: Bickton			25		1							
Blashford Lakes	25	2	3		2	2	11	30	112	75	37	36
Fobdown Farm Reservoir		3	6	4		18	32	38	19	7	12	15
Portsmouth Harbour	2	9	3				7	4	8	10	7	8

The highest counts above were 112 at Blashford Lakes on Sep 25th and 75 on Oct 11th. The only other sites to attract double-figure gatherings (annual maxima in parentheses) were Titchfield Haven (12, Jan 21st), Langstone Harbour (12, Jan 23rd), Bury Marshes (12, Dec 17th), Lower Test Marshes (12, June 17th), Chichester Harbour (11, Mar 12th and Sep 17th), Needs Ore (10, Aug 15th and Sep 18th), Bishopstoke (10, Aug 20th), The Vyne WM (10, Nov 14th) and Hamble Estuary (10, Oct 15th). (KFB)

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

Rare vagrant (0,13,2)

ET

Two records. A single was seen to fly west along the line of the A30 near Yateley Common at 10:35 on July 16th (GCS, JMck). The views were quite brief but enough to confirm the identification. Another was seen circling over Fareham at 12:45 on Sep 6th (BG). Both of these records have been accepted by BBRC. There have been records in five years this century in 2002, 2007, 2011, 2013 and 2015. (KFB)

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare vagrant (5,52,3) ET

Five records. One flew east over Woolmer Pond on Apr 8th (MAO-W). On July 6th one spent two hours feeding in a paddock at Boldre near Lymington (DR, photo). Another circled over Winchester on July 19th (RMW), and perhaps the same bird was over Locks Heath on July 21st (RHM, photo). Three escaped from the Hawk Conservancy in Weyhill on Aug 16th, two of which were recovered in Wiltshire the next day. The other has never been found. One of these birds may have been responsible for the sighting at North Baddesley on Aug 16th (CJT). There have been records in every year this century except 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2015. (KFB)



*Adult White Stork, Locks Heath, July 21st
(Bob Marchant)*

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill)

Platalea leucorodia

*Scarce visitor, but now locally regular in spring and autumn, recorded in every month. (20+,367,61)
ET, Schedule 1, Amber*

There were reports in every month, including record totals in both early and late winter periods¹, but very few summered. The largest group previously recorded was ten at Needs Ore on Mar 26th-27th 2012 but four reports of 11-15 set new highs. Early and late years' totals of 26 and 35 are conservative and assume frequent local movements along The Solent. A year total of 61 is probably no longer meaningful because of the species changing status within the county. The life history of one three-year old adult illustrates this. Colour-ringed at its natal colony in the Netherlands in 2013, it emigrated to Devon/Dorset for a two-year stay returning there in the summers of 2015 and 2016, each year staging at Needs Ore (Apr 22nd, Mar 13th), and then on Oct 1st was perhaps one of two colour-ringed individuals among 12 that flew west over Oxy Marsh to winter in Dorset².

First arrivals were three over Calshot at 14:00 on Jan 10th which then flew up Beaulieu River. A juvenile at Sturt Pond on Oct 15th 2015 remained at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes until June 8th; it often fed separately from new arrivals which mostly frequented Keyhaven lagoon, including: Jan 16th-30th (adult, first-winter); Feb 7th (5); Mar 3rd (6); 17th-22nd (4-10 including 2+ first-winter and a colour-ringed adult); 29th (6 W); Apr 2nd (4 E) and Apr 4th-May 8th (intermittently first-winter, 2 adults). At Needs Ore, after four flew west on Jan 15th, there were virtually daily records from Jan 29th-Apr 1st, with four or more on 19 dates including new highs of 11 on Feb 24th and 15 on Mar 13th, then ones and twos on ten dates to June 9th. Three over Titchfield Haven on Feb 3rd were followed by 12 records to May 14th including highs on Mar 21st (4) and Apr 3rd (4 SE). At Farlington Marshes one flew east on Jan 17th and two rested from Apr 13th-23rd before departing south. Other records were two at Tanners Lane/Sowley Marsh on Feb 13th-14th, one north over Catherington Down, Horndean on Feb 29th and two east over Freemantle, Southampton on Mar 25th.

Early returns were singles at Lower Test Marshes on July 1st, Titchfield Haven on Aug 5th-6th and Ibsley Water on Aug 17th – the first record of a stop-over there. Needs Ore staged passage on 17 dates between July 24th and Sep 17th (involving 2 juveniles, 4 adults) with peaks of seven on Aug 26th and Sep 1st. From Nov 7th there were regular reports to the year-end (involving 3 juveniles, 2 first-winter, 4 adults) and a peak of nine on Dec 13th (with

¹ Seemingly coinciding with dispersals from Poole Harbour, Dorset.

² Timed over at Oxy Marsh at 14:30 and arrived in Christchurch Harbour, Dorset at 14:45.



Juvenile Spoonbill, Keyhaven, Aug 6th (Joe Murphy)

8s and 4s on six further dates). Lone juveniles were at Keyhaven on Aug 6th, 18th and Sep 7th and an adult was at Sturt Pond on Sep 8th. Then, between Sep 13th and Nov 7th, singles were reported along the west Solent from Pitts Deep to Hurst on 15 dates. There were multiple sightings at Normandy (13 W, Oct 1st), Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep (4, Nov 14th; 6-8, Dec 16th-17th) and Keyhaven Marsh (2 W, Nov 13th; 3, Nov 27th; 6, Dec 8th; the last, 1 over at dusk, 26th).

Approximate monthly totals are shown in the table below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes	1			2			1					
Titchfield Haven		3	4	6	2			1				
Beaulieu Estuary	4	11	15	2	3	1	3	7	7		6	9
Lymington-Hurst	3	6	12	7	3	1		2	2	14	6	6

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Minimum total	7	14	18	11	6	2	4	10	10	14	13	9
New arrivals	6	7	6	2	4		4	7	1	13	8	
Total 2012-2016	12	31	63	44	31	20	14	25	20	40	18	13
Total 2007-2011		3	10	22	26	18	19	13	35	6	7	2

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 314 2004-2007: 349; 2007-2012: 378.

Green

The WeBS maximum of 324 in November was the lowest since 2007 and compares with an average of 384 over the previous ten years. This may be explained by the mild winter when many remained on smaller inland waters not covered by WeBS.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated below. In addition, there were peaks of ten or more from seven localities including Black Point to Mill Rithe (12, Sep 17th); St Mary Bourne, Andover (13, Dec 18th); Ringwood to Fordingbridge (12, Dec 18th) and Lower Test Marshes (12, Dec 22nd).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	21	19	19	12	5	5	8	7	5	15	32	32
Portsmouth Harbour	51	42	24							33	42	48
Hamble/Itchen Estuaries	23	22	16				2	1	6	9	7	18
Pitts Deep/Sowley		24				1		2			8	
Lymington-Hurst	21	31	13	8	6	2	4	13	20	28	38	30
Blashford Lakes	27	16	19	39	26	28	43	44	49	33	32	43
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	36	28	21	9	14	12	19	46	38	39	53	31
Testbourne Lake	8	12	11	6	12	6		22	18	14	11	10
WeBS count totals	263	256	192	104	84	76	97	173	208	286	323	308

There were reports from 30 localities of 104 breeding pairs including at least 25 in the Test Valley above Mottisfont, seven at Itchen Valley CP and 24+ at Blashford Lakes where breeding data was incomplete – only five broods were reported at Ibsley North Lake where 15 pairs were present. At Kings Pond, Alton, where five pairs were present, it was another protracted breeding season as broods of two and four were present on May 29th and two stripy juveniles still evident on Nov 27th. A brood of three was recorded at IBM Lake and fledged young or broods of 1-2 at another 24 sites. (AFJC)



Young Little Grebes, River Test, Timsbury, July 26th (Richard Jacobs)

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Moderately common resident and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-07: 314; 2007-12: 363.

Green

In Southampton Water there were three counts of 200+ off Hythe between Jan 2nd and 10th. On the last date the count was made from Netley shore, part of a record count of 308 (MGP) for mid-Southampton Water. In the late year there were concentrations of 109 off Brownich Cliffs on Dec 11th and 107 roosting off Hythe on 17th. At Langstone Harbour 113 on the last date was exceptional, the highest there since November 2003.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated below. In addition, there were counts of ten at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 10th and 18 at Beaulieu Estuary on Dec 18th.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	17	16	3	6	4	2	3		1		18	24
Portsmouth Harbour	23	26	32	18	28	26	11	4	11	19	36	113
Hill Head-Brownich	19	17	2	10		1	2		1	1	13	21
Southampton Water	50	1	3	1	2	1					48	140
Blashford Lakes	308*	29	50	17	27	13	7	12	4	30	38	123
Fleet Pond	27	36	44	39	39	40	44	51	60	58	36	43
Eversley/Yateley GP	6	7	7	6	7	9	14	14	22	22	19	10
WeBS count totals	23	19	24	4			38	6	20	24	23	20
	372	162	193	94	90	72	109	75	142	168	214	495

*Mid-Southampton Water record

Successful breeding was recorded at seven of the Blashford lakes where 11 pairs fledged a total of 19 young, including two broods of three and first breeding at Ibsley North (TMJD). Elsewhere 27 pairs were reported of which at least 11 bred successfully as follows: IBM Lake (1 pair, 2 young); Test Valley, Mottisfont (1 ad, 2 young); Yateley GP (3 pairs, 5 young); Wellington CP (1 pair at least, 1-2 small young); Dogmersfield Lake (2 pairs, 4 young); Lodge Pond, Alice Holt Forest (1 pair, 3 juveniles); Bramshill Police College Lake (1 pair, 1 juvenile) and Fleet Pond (1 pair, 1 young) – the first breeding there since 2006 (GCS). One small young noted at Woolmer Pond did not survive. (AFJC)

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Red

Two records. A single seen off Warblington Shore on Dec 4th, 2015 was presumably the same there on Jan 4th (PNM-R). It remained in the Langstone Bridge area until Feb 7th being seen between West Hayling LNR (Oysterbeds) and Conigar Point, most frequently around Northney Marina. Another was off Hill Head on Jan 6th (JG, AB). (AFJC)

Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe)

Podiceps auritus

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

In the early year there were conservatively at least eight in the eastern harbours and five in central and western waters. Unusually, one overwintered inland at Ibsley Water until Apr 12th, having then completed its moult into full breeding plumage. On the coast a maximum of eight was at Chichester Harbour on Feb 9th and four were regular there until 22nd. Peaks of five were recorded at Needs Ore on Jan 24th and Normandy on Feb 13th and Mar 11th. Singles were off Hook Spit on Jan 8th, Southsea Castle on 11th and at Itchen Estuary on 30th, and two were at Portsmouth Harbour on Feb 13th where one remained on Mar 15th. At Langstone Harbour between one and three wintered until Mar 12th. The last along the coast was a breeding plumage individual between Hill Head and Solent Breezes from Apr 2nd-11th.

The first returns were three off West Hayling LNR (Oysterbeds) from Oct 18th-30th. At Needs Ore the first was on Nov 14th and regular sightings thereafter included peaks of seven on Nov 29th and Dec 15th. Singles were at Hill Head on Nov 15th and 27th. There were just three reports from Normandy of two on Nov 19th and four at Pennington/Oxey on Dec 21st and 24th.

Monthly maxima from the main sites are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour Black Point-Hayling Bay	4	8	1								3	3
Langstone Harbour	3	3	1							3	1	
Lepe-Needs Ore	5	2	2								7	7
Lymington-Hurst	4	5	5								2	4

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 2004.

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

There were at least 13 in the early year and 17 in the late year. A total of eight seen from the north shore of Langstone Harbour on Jan 5th compared to just two in the previous month; the maximum was nine on 23rd and the last were five on Mar 4th. At Ibsley Water one was reported in partial breeding plumage on Jan 1st but not thereafter; another in non-breeding plumage was present throughout January and joined by a second on Feb 10th. Their transition to full breeding plumage occurred from Mar 4th-18th and display was noted from 22nd, although neither was seen after 30th. Other records were singles at Chichester Harbour (Jan 18th, 20th), Oxey Point (Feb 16th, 23rd and Mar 11th), Hill Head (Mar 17th) and Weston Shore (Mar 12th) with three at Weston Sailing Club the next day.

The first return at Langstone Harbour was on Sep 20th with none further until Oct 29th rising to six on 31st, ten on Nov 29th, 15 on Dec 6th and a peak of 16 on 17th – the largest flock since 20 on Mar 3rd 2014. At Ibsley Water one was reported from Oct 19th-Nov 3rd and on three further dates to Dec 11th. Records elsewhere, all in November, were singles at Hook-with-Warsash on 15th and Chichester Harbour on 18th and two between Hill Head and Brownwich on 24th-25th.

Monthly maxima from the two main sites and the approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	9	7	5						1	6	10	16
Ibsley Water	2	2	2							1	1	1
Approx. monthly totals	12	10	10						1	7	14	17

Honey-buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)

Pernis apivorus

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant; breeds in small numbers each year.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

The year started with one seen coming in low off the sea at Needs Ore being mobbed by a Marsh Harrier at 17:00 on Apr 30th. The next was at Minstead in the New Forest on May 12th and Castle Bottom in north-east Hampshire on the same day. There then followed a further 11 records from the Forest and five from elsewhere during May from a total of 72 records received for the year.

Pairs or singles were present at a minimum of eight sites in the county but only proven to have bred successfully at three of these, although breeding was highly probable at a further two

and possible at another two. One site failed to hatch eggs and the female was seen to be still incubating on Aug 12th. A further five chicks were colour-ringed in 2016 and photographic evidence was received of a colour-ringed adult male frequenting the north of the New Forest, which was almost certainly proof that birds from the south England population are returning to breed in the area.

Return passage birds were noted heading south off the coast in September at Hill Head on 4th, Lepe on 7th and Testwood Lakes on 12th, followed by the last of the year at West Hayling LNR on Oct 5th. (AP)



*Adult Black Kite, Ibsley Water, Blashford, Apr 30th
(Alan Lewis)*

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Rare vagrant recorded in every month from April to September. (0,38,1) ET

One record. The only accepted sighting was of one photographed over Ibsley Water on Apr 30th (AL, photo). This century there have been records in 2003 and annually since 2006. (KFB)

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Moderately common and increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

There were reports from around 440 sites during the year with the highest densities of records in the north-west of the county, the Test and Avon Valleys, and around the South Downs. Six 10km squares had more than 50 records in the year. The increase in sightings in the Avon Valley was particularly notable with 69 reports in SU10 compared to just 24 in 2015. The total of 127 records for SU32 (the

Test Valley north of Romsey) was the largest for any 10km square and was almost equal to the number in 2015. However, many areas reported fewer sightings than in 2015 – the most noticeable being in SU44 (from 139 to 96) and SU34 (from 123 to 68). It would seem likely that such declines are due to less observer effort or reporting rather than a reduction in birds. There was a time when you would stop the car to watch a Red Kite – but not anymore. Estimating breeding numbers is now difficult but it is likely that the actual nesting population was probably in excess of 125 pairs, with perhaps 250 first-years in addition.

Monthly bird-day totals of sightings on the coast and the New Forest are tabulated below. With the spread towards the south and east, it is difficult to assess the numbers present in areas where they are not breeding, but these numbers were lower in 2016. In the New Forest (where breeding is still not known) there was a group of four seen over Long Beech and Stoney Cross on May 23rd, and three over Titchfield Haven on May 14th. As has been acknowledged in previous reports, many (probably most) of these spring birds in non-breeding areas are first-years. It has been suggested by some observers in Sussex and Kent that some of the coastal birds may be migrants arriving from or going to France. Although we do know that at least one foreign-ringed Red Kite arrived in Hampshire long before the release programme, there is no hard evidence of migration in recent years.

As a comparison, the numbers in north-east Hants (excluding counts at roosts) show an increase in summer, whereas in previous years the spread of records was fairly flat. There has been a strengthening of numbers in this area as the population moves eastwards. The

relatively high level of reports in April suggests that there is a significant proportion of first-year birds in the area, as adults would be relatively hard to find at that time, being tied to nest duties. The low number of birds in August is also interesting. An increase in August would suggest adults with young, but low numbers at this time suggest that the population is still mainly made up of non-breeders.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	0	8	19	12	14	6	3	4	3	9	1	3
New Forest	1	0	7	5	13	1	0	0	0	6	0	0
North East	8	6	28	36	19	25	36	12	6	16	18	9

In common with 2015, numbers at roosts remained quite low in most cases. This change in roost size is often experienced as populations grow, indicating that the birds are less inclined to roost in large groups because they can easily find smaller gatherings. No counts were received from Faccombe, although it is understood that small numbers did roost there. Monthly maxima at roost sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hare Warren	12	35				
Meon Valley	20	47		12	8	21
West End Green	41	26			6	22
Tunworth				19	16	
Chilton Candover	40	38				

Away from the winter roosts, there were concentrations over farmland during harvesting and other operations where birds had the chance to pick up small mammals or insects that might have been killed by the tractors. Such concentrations included 20 at Stratfield Saye Park on July 7th and 11 at Gilbert Street on July 16th. Other large counts close to known roosts (but not in them) included 14 at Froxfield on Oct 13th, 12 at Bramshill Plantation on Jan 16th and ten at Weston Patrick on Dec 27th. (KFB)

Marsh Harrier (Western Marsh Harrier)

Circus aeruginosus
Scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally summers and has bred.
ET, Schedule 1, Amber

Numbers continued to increase; Marsh Harriers are now present at many wetland sites in the county in all months of the year. In January there were four at Titchfield Haven, three at Keyhaven, two at Needs Ore and singles at Alresford, Farlington Marshes, Lower Test Marshes and the Avon Valley. Even allowing for interchange between sites, there were probably at least fifteen present in early winter. Numbers reduced in May-June but there was display or evidence of possible breeding at five locations. One pair definitely bred, another pair bred just outside the county, and food-carrying was noted at another location where breeding was suspected. Observers should note that Marsh Harriers will nest in agricultural crops, typically wheat or oilseed rape, and may be found hunting many miles from the nest site. There were records on multiple dates from heathland in southern parts of the New Forest, presumably hunting birds from coastal sites. By October, numbers had increased again, with around fifteen present during the winter period. The minimum monthly totals at the regular sites are tabulated below. (RC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Titchfield Haven area	4	3	3	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	4
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	3
Keyhaven area	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2		3	3	3

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

By recent standards, there were more than usual in the early part of the year. Up to four, including two males, were present at the northern roost site in the New Forest, while two other males used a roost in a central location. In addition, two ringtails used the roost at Alresford Pond, and there were a few records from coastal sites of individuals that may have been roosting elsewhere. The NFWBS totals for January-March were two, one and one. April records came from Bickerley Common and Sholing on 2nd and several New Forest locations up to 9th. The last was a ringtail at Preston Candover on May 4th.

The first return was at Alresford Pond on Sep 24th, with the first New Forest record from Black Gutter Bottom on Oct 10th. On Oct 12th a juvenile male ringed in Scotland and tracked by satellite roosted for one night at Rock Hills near Burley before departing for Yorkshire. In November a female flew north up Southampton Water past Brownwich on 26th. By December, there were up to three (two males) using the New Forest roost and one ringtail at Alresford. In addition, there were occasional reports of a male at Old Winchester Hill and single ringtails at Gander Down and around Titchfield Haven during this period. The NFWBS produced totals of none, four and three for October-December. The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	8	6						1	3	4	4

Pallid Harrier

Circus macrocerus

Very rare vagrant. (0, 0, 1)

ET, NT



Juvenile Pallid Harrier, Needs Ore, Nov 7th (Lee Fuller)

A first-year was found at Needs Ore on Nov 6th (BJP et al. photo). It roosted at the site each evening until Nov 13th, during which period it was also seen between Beaulieu Estuary and Park Shore. The record has been accepted by BBRC. This is the first record for Hampshire and long overdue! See separate short paper in this report (p.235).

Back in 2001 there were just ten British records of Pallid Harrier and now there have been almost 100, with no fewer than 29 records in 2011. With the species' breeding range moving

westwards, there is now a small population nesting in Finland, and therefore it is perhaps no surprise that autumn records on the east coast have become more frequent. Indeed, there have now been over 30 sightings in Shetland alone. Records in southern England are still rare, with just one record for Dorset and two for Sussex. As the range expands and birders become more familiar with this enigmatic species, the chance of another appearing in the county is surely growing. (KFB)

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

Very scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; last bred 1998. ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Ringtails were seen at Martin Down on May 12th (BB) and Farlington Marshes on Aug 30th (CBC). A satellite-tagged juvenile travelled through the county on Aug 24th, heading south over Barton on Sea before crossing the English Channel. (KFB)

Harrier species

Circus sp.

Ringtails were seen at Hill Head on Apr 12th (DJR), Sinah Common on May 15th (GCS) and Longwood Warren on June 5th (GF). (KFB)

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

Accipiter gentilis

Scarce but increasing resident.

Schedule 1, Green



Adult male Goshawk, Test Valley, Feb 18th (Richard Jacobs)

The recent success of this species appears to continue unchecked. The New Forest unsurprisingly accounted for 180 of the 236 records received with a further 27 coming from nearby locations. Surprisingly there were only 13 records for the Test Valley.

Within the New Forest Crown Lands, 37 sites were known to be occupied with breeding attempted at 35. Unfortunately no fledging and ringing data were compiled this year. Outside of the Crown Lands, but in adjacent localities, a further six breeding sites were recorded. In the Test Valley, including woods to the east and west, 15 sites were recorded as occupied with at least four pairs successfully rearing eight young. The outcome of the others was not ascertained.

Records of singles beyond the core areas were received from Locks Heath on Jan 16th, Bramdean on Mar 30th, Blacknest on Apr 2nd, Odiham on Apr 13th, Titchfield on May 3rd, Hazeley Heath on May 5th, Alice Holt on May 6th, Botley on May 22nd, Morgaston Wood on Sep 2nd, Havant on Sep 12th and Queen Elizabeth CP on Sep 30th. (AP)

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)

Accipiter nisus

Common resident, passage migrant and probable winter visitor; declining in the New Forest. Green

Breeding continues to be under-recorded with just a handful of records from around the county. As usual, there were few records from the New Forest, with only one report of confirmed breeding, from Appleslade Inclosure. Though this undoubtedly understates the current situation, breeding records are now rare in the main woodlands where Goshawks breed at high density. NFWBS produced totals of one, three and one for January-March and four, four and six for October-December. Elsewhere, three pairs reared five young at Itchen Valley CP. Other confirmed breeding records in June-August were from Sandy Point, Titchfield Haven, Bitterne, Southampton Ordnance Survey, Locks Heath, Nursling, Wonston, Longmoor Inclosure, Liss and Fleet Pond. One flying in off the sea at Southsea on Apr 30th was probably a migrant.

Monthly bird-day totals in three locations with fairly constant coverage through the year are tabulated below. (RC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Petersfield, private garden	7	1	8	1	2	1	9	6	5	4	3	1
Regents Park, private garden	2	2	4	3		1	2	7	3	5	3	3
Sandy Point	9	6	11	12	5	2	13	22	18	20	14	8



Adult male Sparrowhawk, Furze Hill, Apr 16th (Martin Bennett)

Buzzard (Common Buzzard)

Buteo buteo

Common resident. Green

An early count of 14 Buzzards over Cheesefoot Head on Jan 12th was followed by numerous double-figure counts in March/April and a highest count of 20 at Bickton on May 5th. A handful of breeding records came from all parts of the county, with three pairs raising four

young at Itchen Valley CP. In the New Forest, the long-running survey found 21 nests, with 17 successful, rearing 24 young (JMT *et al.*) (cf. 2015 with 32 nests and 48 young.) NFWBS data gave totals of 45, 41 and 75 in January-March and 61, 21 and 17 in October-December. It is unclear whether the decline in records in November-December reflected a movement out of the forest or just lower detectability in the winter period. Evidence of dispersive or migratory movements was provided from Sandy Point, where none breed, by the monthly bird-day totals which are tabulated below. (RC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point		1	1	6	6		3	13	12	12	4	1



Buzzard, Ampfield, Mar 7th (Richard Jacobs)

Osprey† (Western Osprey)

Scarce passage migrant.

Numbers recorded were similar to last year, with around 20 passing through in March-April. The earliest records were one over Fareham on March 17th, two at Easton on 18th and further singles at Hook-with-Warsash on 21st, Hayling Island on 24th and Hill Head on 25th. As usual there were fewer reports in May and June, though a summering individual in the Test Valley provided several records. By August-September there were numerous individuals present, with two reported from Lepe CP and Lower Test Marshes in August and three together at Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour and the Itchen Valley on various dates in September. It is increasingly difficult to calculate the numbers present in early autumn, but there were probably around 30 at the peak. Unusually, there were no November records, with the last reported from Needs Ore and Calshot on October 26th and 27th respectively.

Pandion haliaetus

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

Monthly bird-day totals for various areas are tabulated below. (RC)

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chichester Harbour						2	9	1	
Langstone Harbour	1	2				5	10	3	
Titchfield Haven/Hook-with-Warsash	2		1			1	6	2	
Lower Test Marshes		1		1		5	1		
Fawley/Calshot		1				1		3	
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary						3	15	8	
Keyhaven area		1	2			3	7	7	
Blashford Lakes/Avon Valley		1				2	3	8	
Itchen Valley	2	1	1	1		3	6	1	
Test Valley		4		7	1	6	4		
Elsewhere		4			1	1	7	4	

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Scarce resident, moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records for January-April involved a minimum of 121 at 60 sites. This total is calculated by summing the maxima at each site during the period. Maxima at sites with more than five were 12 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 10th, 11 at Titchfield Haven on Jan 22nd, seven at Milton Common on Jan 18th and six at Ibsley Water/Ivy Lake on Mar 6th.



Adult Water Rail, Anton Lakes, Nov 16th (Brian Cartwright)

A survey of Needs Ore on May 28th produced 11 calling birds around Blackwater and one at the Pullen Hide. Breeding was confirmed* or suspected at Duckhole Bog NF, Eelmoor Flash, Fields Heath, Fishlake Meadows, Fleet Pond (3 sites), Farlington Marshes, Hook Lake, Ibsley Water, Ivy Lake, Longslade Bottom NF, Lower Test Marshes, Lymington-Hurst* (at least 4 sites), The Vyne WM*, Titchfield Haven and Welshman's Road GP.

Records for September-December involved a total of 171 at 80 sites. Maxima at sites with more than five were 11 at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 6th, ten at Fleet Pond on Oct 16th, ten at Farlington Marshes on Oct 29th, nine at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 15th and nine at Titchfield Haven on Dec 16th. (JMC)

Spotted Crane

Porzana porzana
Very scarce passage migrant, most frequent in autumn, and rare winter visitor; has bred. (? , 167, 1)
ET, Schedule 1, Amber

One record. A well-watched individual was present at Winchester SF from Oct 27th to Nov 1st (TJor et al., photo). There have been records in every year this century except 2000, 2006, 2011 and 2015. (KFB)

Moorhen (Common Moorhen)

Gallinula chloropus
Common resident and winter visitor.
Green

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records where counts exceeded 25 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	35	41	38	4			2		34	35	31	57
Hampshire sectors	12	31	30						33	20	23	41
Langstone Mill Pond	34	62*	19	10	13	6	5			4	13	5
Langstone Harbour	31	23	20	25	11	13	21	16	19	20	25	68
Portsmouth Harbour	29	24	16							23	19	22
Titchfield Haven	28	38	21	29	8	12				16	15	12
Blashford Lakes	23	31	23	2	4	9	17	15	31	22	38	23
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	11	13	17	10	14	7	20	26	36	28	45	15
Charlton Lakes				6	7				10	32	31	23
King's Pond, Alton	17	16	11	7		3		14	15	23	27	25
Heath Pond, Petersfield	22	17	12	11	13	12	10	13	25	31	32	36

* = record for locality

Maxima at other sites where counts exceeded 25 were 28 at Fleet Pond on Oct 16th with 29 there on Dec 18th, and 27 at St Mary Bourne on Oct 27th. Counts of territories were only reported from Lower Test Marshes (14) and IBM Lake (5). Unusual saltwater sightings were one at Sparkes Marina, Black Point on June 10th and one at Port Solent Marina on Nov 14th. (DJU)

Coot (Eurasian Coot)

Fulica atra
Common resident and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2002-07: 3,150; 2007-12: 3585.
NT, Green

WeBS counts were lower than last year in the first nine months, due mostly to declines at Blashford Lakes, but recovered towards the year end. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below. Note Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour are also included for reference.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	273	163	58	28	5	4	16	20	134	142	143	186
Hampshire sectors	93	41	34						59	48	93	55
Langstone Harbour	44	39	26	47	30	54	55	129	207	128	29	20
Needs Ore	38	24	14	25	13	26	95	103	50	5	12	35
Lymington-Hurst	75		61	43	39	30	20		67	160	122	94
Blashford Lakes	694	482	212	140	101	208	337	389	575	766	786	1,069

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fishlake Meadows	90	36	22	14		125			60	140	120	90
Testbourne Lake	128	85	70	33	35	43		37	46	70	100	65
Eversley GP	136	105	79				60		138	201	247	337
Yateley GP	120	144	104				69	72		89	142	172
Heath Pond, Petersfield	118	108	90	59	60	76	89	100	107	108	104	96
WeBS count totals	2,214	1,701	1,313	566	349	464	857	1,029	1,810	2,259	2,259	2,496

Sites of international importance 17,500+; national importance 1,800+; * = record for locality.

Other sites to hold in excess of 50 were Titchfield Haven (59, Jan 16th; 65, Feb 12th; 64, Mar 11th; 67, Apr 8th), Upper Titchfield Haven (56, May 21st), Warnford Park (50, Dec 18th), Alresford Pond (71, Aug 23rd; 70, Sep 20th and 29th), Stockbridge-Fullerton (68, Jan 15th; 64, Feb 25th; 59, Aug 20th; 56, Sep 17th) and Tundry Pond (73, Jan 3rd; 54 Feb 21st).

Counts of territories (not necessarily complete) included the following (2015 figures in parentheses): Alresford Pond, 1 (2); Badminton GP, 3; Blashford Lakes, 19 (30); Budds Farm STW, 1; Camp Farm GP, 1; Fleet Pond, 9 (8); Heath Pond, Petersfield, 11; Hook-with-Warsash, 7 (4); IBM Lake, 5 (2); Itchell Mill Springs, Crondall, 1; Itchen Valley CP, 3 (4); Kings Pond, Alton, 2 (4); Selborne, 1; Stratfield Saye Park, 1; Wellington CP, 1 (10); Winchester SF, 1 (2) and Yateley GP, 3 (11).

Two records indicative of possible movement involved one which flew in from the south at Keyhaven at 06:30 on May 1st and headed up the Avon Water Valley, and another heard calling flying east at Stubbington at 22:15 on May 20th. (DJU)

Crane species

Grus sp.

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except March, July and August. (0,141+,2)

ET, Amber

One record. Two were photographed as they flew over West Wellow on Apr 29th (HW, photo). (KFB)

Stone-curlew (Eurasian Stone-curlew)

Burhinus oedicnemus

Scarce summer visitor and localized breeder.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP

The first report was one near Overton on Mar 22nd. The RSPB monitoring team of staff and volunteers found 29 pairs on territory, all of which were proved to breed, with 40 nesting attempts in total. In addition, it is understood that a further three to four pairs nested on land to which access is not granted. This is a reduction on the 35 pairs found nesting in 2015, but fewer resources were allocated to monitoring birds in the areas west of the Test Valley.

It is known that a minimum of 13 young fledged giving a productivity rate of 0.45 chicks per pair. Once again the weather was mostly favourable but rainfall in June was twice the average for Hampshire and this may have caused fatalities among small chicks. This is a difficult species to monitor closely when weedy fields grow up in late summer and crops provide ideal places for chicks to hide. So it is quite possible that the fledging success was higher than these figures suggest. Hampshire currently holds 25% of the Wessex population and is at the eastern-most fringe of that group (apart from one pair in Sussex). The involvement of farmers and landowners is key to keeping this population at the current level.

Away from possible breeding areas, there were singles passing over Cosham on Apr 2nd and Millbrook on Apr 5th. One also spent part of the day resting at Titchfield Haven on Apr 5th. Autumn roost counts included 23 and 21 between Overton and Kingsclere on Sep 6th and 12th respectively and 24 near Porton Down on Sep 23rd, which was also the last record of the year. (KFB)

Avocet† (Pied Avocet)***Recurvirostra avosetta***

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce but increasing breeder since 2002. ET, Schedule I, Amber

In the early year in Langstone Harbour, there was a slight reduction in the size of the wintering flock of 68 in December 2015 to 49 by Jan 17th. This reduced further during February with a peak count of 26 on Feb 10th with an apparent departure of most shortly after Feb 16th. Numbers in the early year at the Beaulieu Estuary were relatively stable during January to March followed by increases to 34 on Apr 12th and 44 on Apr 24th.

Breeding was attempted at three sites. At Needs Ore there was a maximum of 23 incubating birds on May 6th but only two young fledged; at Hook-with-Warsash there were five pairs, with one young fledged; and at Titchfield Haven eight pairs raised one young.

In the late year, the first double-figure count in Langstone Harbour was 14 on Nov 13th followed by further increases including 30 on Nov 26th, 53 on Dec 1st and 68 on Dec 18th. The Beaulieu Estuary held higher numbers than Langstone Harbour during September and October including a peak count of 23 on Sep 20th. Subsequently the peak counts at Beaulieu were 36 on Nov 13th and 20 Dec 11th.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	49	26	3	5	3	2		7	2	1	30	68
Titchfield Haven	2	12	47	46	41	57	56	7	32	2	2	
Hook-with-Warsash			2		10	14	6	2	1		2	
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	16	18	22	44	54	25			23	13	36	20
Lymington-Hurst	8	5	4	3	1				1		4	4

Other coastal records included the following: Warblington (1, Jan 4th and Nov 25th); Sandy Point (2 east, May 8th and 10th; 1, July 19th); Stokes Bay (4 east, May 8th); Bury Marsh (4, Sep 19th); Redbridge (3, Oct 26th); Lepe (3, Apr 9th; singles, Apr 30th, May 3rd and Oct 11th-14th); Needs Ore (30 east at 13:08 on Sep 18th which subsequently arrived as 32 at Titchfield Haven); Pitts Deep (1, Jan 24th and Feb 14th; 4, Apr 10th). Inland, two were at Ibsley Water on May 11th. (DJU)

Oystercatcher† (Eurasian Oystercatcher)***Haematopus ostralegus***

Moderately common resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,711; 2002-07: 3,784; 2007-12: 3,110. VU, Amber

WeBS count totals in January-March and October-December were both higher than the corresponding periods during 2015, with an early-year peak count of 2,584 in January and 3,017 in October.

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	775	592	576	431	250		457	507	1,567	791	1,182	1,144
Hampshire sectors	79	40	63	12			22	12	10	26	245	146
Black Point	130	100	36	15	11	3	2	23	98	114	138	149
Langstone Harbour	961	575	341	277	301	268	451	872	1,326	1,108	1,263	1,063
Portsmouth Harbour	255	369	94	40			33	60	400	497	271	243
Titchfield Haven	152	100	174	74	36	38	30	149	171	265	173	165
Hamble Estuary	74	40	22	12	6	24	54	167	77	167	100	104
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	86	78	47	47	63	10	12	49	18	56	65	63
Hythe	86	63	55		75		74		71	72	140	66
Calshot	400	450	340	310	66					680	520	440

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu Estuary	211	256	118	232	132	128	130	90	45	176	29	40
Lymington-Hurst	230	129	94	184	63	55	55	107	70	130	49	303
Sowley-Lymington	31	13	38	10	13	15		28	17	52	41	43
WeBS count totals	2,584	2,189	1,392	1,201	684	499	804	1,158	1,586	3,017	2,887	2,680

Sites of international importance: 3,200+; national importance: 610+.

Counts of coastal breeding pairs from east to west along the coast were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): West Hayling LNR, 3 (2); Langstone Harbour RSPB islands, 6 (12); Titchfield Haven, 5 (4); Hook-with-Warsash, 3 (3); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (2); Needs Ore, 10 (8-10); Tanners Lane (Lymington River), 6; Lymington-Hurst saltmarsh, 10+. As usual, breeding success across these sites was poor.

Elsewhere, in the Portsmouth area one pair raised three young at IBM Lake; in Southampton there were single pairs at Centurion Business Park, Quayside Road (2 young raised) and Northam; in the Test Valley one pair raised four young at Testwood Lakes; and in the Avon Valley one pair raised two young at Ibsley Water. In the New Forest, one pair bred at Badminton GP/Farm (but failed) and additionally single birds were heard after dark at Fletchers Thorns Inclosure and Poundhill Heath on Apr 19th, and Poundhill Inclosure on Mar 22nd. At Hatchet Pond there were sightings on five dates between Apr 19th and May 24th with a peak count of four on Apr 1st, and two were at Shipton Holmes on June 24th. In the north-east, there were sightings from Fox Lane GP on four dates between Mar 20th and July 17th (including two on Mar 22nd), and singles at Fleet Pond on four dates between Apr 16th and July 31st. Finally, two were at Welshman's Road GP on Apr 26th, with one still there on Apr 30th. (DJU)



Oystercatcher, Titchfield Haven, July 24th (John Wichall)

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Moderately common but declining winter visitor and passage migrant; often present in small numbers in summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,087; 2002-07: 2,346; 2007-12: 1,824. Amber, HBAP

Despite a slight halt to the long-term decline during 2015, the drop in numbers appeared to continue during 2016 with a peak count of 1,787 during February being less than last year's peak of 2,045 in January 2015, but only slightly lower than the five-year average for 2007-12.

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,667	884	410	5	13			79	89	433	1,443	686
Hampshire sectors	498	607	70					40	10	5	338	60
Black Point	55	54	51					14	35	38	49	54
Langstone Harbour	615	778	356	4	11		1	199	317	476	562	790
Hamble Estuary	50	57	54	1			1		6	16	41	53
Hythe	47	42	25					12	14	18	49	40
Beaulieu Estuary	92	122	75	10	31	3	3	18	50	73	66	89
Sowley-Lymington	10	62	110		24			100	32	32		64
Lymington-Hurst	195	191	34	12	38	3	10	71	160	160	75	62
WeBS count totals	1,545	1,787	725	24	106	3	2	428	510	780	1,131	1,162

Sites of international importance: 2,500+; national importance: 430+.

Easterly movement along the coast was more obvious than in 2015, with a total of 109 being recorded off Hurst Beach between Apr 20th and May 10th with peak counts of 78 on May 9th and 18 the next day. Additionally, 67 flew east off Normandy Marsh on May 5th, and ten flew east at Sandy Point on five dates between Apr 20th and May 9th. (DJU)

Golden Plover (European Golden Plover)

Pluvialis apricaria

Common but declining winter visitor and passage migrant; very scarce in summer.

ET, Green, HBAP

Early and late year numbers were generally lower than the corresponding periods during 2015, with peak counts being 340 at New Warren Farm, Gander Down on Jan 1st, 500 in Chichester Harbour on Feb 4th and 500 at Lymington-Hurst on Feb 13th. In the late year, the peak counts were 560 at Hillside, Odiham on Oct 24th, 425 at Lymington-Hurst on Nov 27th, 500 in Chichester Harbour on Dec 8th and 455 at Snatchhangers Farm, Odiham on 19th.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 100 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	400	500	200							128	300	500
Hampshire sectors												
Farlington Marshes	40	275								76		2
Titchfield Haven area	133	176	170	15					1	60	107	129
Hamble Estuary	194		80	9					38	90	143	223
Lymington-Hurst	220	500	356	3			1	5	4	101	425	80
Gander Down area	340		220							23	25	65
Odiham area		100	50	19					38	560		455

Sites of international importance: 9,300+; national importance: 4,000+.

Away from tabulated sites, additional three-figure counts during the early year were 100 at Wootton St Lawrence on Jan 1st; 100 at Toyd Down on Feb 14th; 110 at Beauworth on Feb 21st; and 180 at Clatford Oakcuts on Mar 5th. During March, peak counts were 356 at Lymington-Hurst on 1st with 350 still there on 20th; 220 at Gander Down on 27th; 200 in

Chichester Harbour on 12th and 170 at Titchfield Haven on 10th. There were fewer reports during April and May but these included 40 at Martin Down on Apr 1st, 16 at Nether Wallop on Apr 14th and 15 at Brownwich on Apr 15th. The last was a single at Bisterne on May 2nd followed by three which flew east at Sandy Point on May 8th.

The first autumn arrival was one at Keyhaven on July 18th followed by one at Needs Ore on Aug 27th (which left west) with presumably the same bird at Lymington-Hurst the same day. Subsequently, there were five at Keyhaven on Aug 31st. Sightings during September included four at Lymington-Hurst on 17th, 24 at Hillside, Odiham on 24th and 38 there on 30th. Numbers were low during October apart from 560 at Hillside on 29th (the highest count of the year anywhere). In the final two months, the peak counts away from tabulated sites were 110 at Beacon Hill (Warnford) on Nov 1st, 168 at Wootton St Lawrence on Nov 19th, 150 at Middle Wallop Airfield on Nov 21st, 170 at West Tisted on Nov 27th, 112 at Broughton on Dec 3rd, and 300 at Ropley on Dec 28th. (DJU)

Ringed Plover (Common Ringed Plover)

Charadrius hiaticula

Moderately common but declining breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 872; 2002-07: 809; 2007-12: 691. Red

The peak WeBS count of 505 during August was noticeably lower than the corresponding figure during 2015 (706).

Monthly maxima from sites where counts exceeded 20 in more than one month are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	254	74	83	29	127		16	132	115	126	209	184
Hampshire sectors	34	10									66	81
Black Point	140	107	22	30	8		9	100	164	76	42	96
Langstone Harbour	33	86	23		6	3	3	157	245	183	150	32
Portsmouth Harbour	14	21	15				6	65	59	22		
Titchfield Haven-Brownwich	53	24	26	4	21	2	4	22	40	42		
Stokes Bay		100						3			80	120
Hamble Estuary	55	49	2	18	14	1	5	27	30	43	55	3
Weston Shore	23	18	6	3	7	1	2		55	33	31	
Hythe/Calshot	56	30	33	8	2			166	74	20	92	149
Beaulieu Estuary		15	1	5	38	2	5	120	120	94	23	2
Sowley-Lymington	20	35	1	12	30	1		10	25			10
Lymington-Hurst	119	160	17	40	10	5	10	278	167	32	17	64
WeBS count totals	226	206	122	19	86	9	17	505	488	435	298	338

Sites of international importance: 730+; national importance: 340+.

Easterly movement was reported from Hurst Beach on three dates between May 6th and 10th totalling 52 including a peak of 32 on May 9th. Likewise at Sandy Point, seven were noted on three dates between Apr 22nd and May 10th. Inland spring reports came from Ibsley Water (singles, Mar 19th-20th and Apr 10th), Fox Lane GP, Eversley (1, Mar 30th); Avon Causeway (1, Apr 28th); and Testwood Lakes, (1, May 17th). In the autumn, there were further reports from Ibsley Water on eight dates between Aug 28th and Oct 2nd with a peak count of five on the last date. Additional inland records came from Testbourne Lake with two on Aug 16th and Fox Lane GP with one on Sep 3rd.

The only counts of breeding pairs along the coast were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Sinah Common, Hayling, 2; Langstone Harbour RSPB, 5 (4); Hook Spit, 3 (3). There was not a complete census at either Needs Ore or Lymington-Hurst. However, an adult with three recently fledged chicks was seen at Needs Ore and there were two to three pairs in the Hurst-Keyhaven area. (DJU)

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

The first arrivals were singles at Lower Pennington on Mar 21st, Titchfield Haven on 22nd and Farlington Marshes and Ibsley Water on 23rd. Four were at a site in the north-east on 24th and the next day four were on the Bridge Street floods at Titchfield and later one flew in off the sea at nearby Hill Head. In the period up to May 12th a minimum of 57 was recorded at 20 sites. These included singles well away from any known breeding sites at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 9th (flying NE), Timsbury on 11th, Drayton Farm WCB on 13th, Needs Ore on May 5th, Hook-with-Warsash and Sinah Common GC on 6th and Winchester SF on 12th.

Around 26 pairs were located during the breeding season of which 15 raised 21 young, eight probably failed and for three the outcome was unknown. In the Avon Valley breeding was confirmed at Ibsley Water, where five pairs attempted breeding and two raised four young, and at two further sites where respectively four pairs hatched at least nine young and five fledged and one pair raised one young. In the Test Valley two pairs bred at Testwood Lakes and one raised one young. A pair was at Testbourne Lake on June 7th which was probably from a nearby breeding site which was not visited. In the north-east, seven pairs bred at two adjacent sites and five raised eight young, two pairs had chicks at another site but the outcome was unknown and one pair raised one young at Fox Lane GP, Eversley (which is now being filled in). Two pairs were present at adjacent sites in the north of the county; one at least attempted breeding but no young were seen. In the Lymington-Hurst area one pair raised one young.

Returning migrants were evident at coastal sites in July from 5th with records from Farlington Marshes (adult, 5th; 2 juveniles, 10th and 26th), Hook-with-Warsash (juvenile, 8th-31st; 2 adults, 13th-15th, 4, 23rd), Titchfield Haven (3 juveniles, 14th; 1, 23rd), Pennington Marshes (adult and 5 juveniles, 26th-30th) and Needs Ore (adult, 30th). A recently fledged juvenile was still at a north-east site on Aug 5th but one at an Avon Valley site on 1st was considered a migrant. Other records in August included a juvenile at Winchester SF on 1st and 2nd, one or two juveniles at Hook-with-Warsash from 1st-3rd and one there on 16th, an adult at Needs Ore on 13th, up to four at Pennington Marshes through the month and a juvenile at Farlington Marshes from Aug 11th-Sep 15th. Other September records involved singles at Normandy Lagoon on 2nd and Ibsley Water on 9th, 20th and 26th. (JMC)

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing)

Vanellus vanellus

Moderately common but declining breeder, passage migrant and common winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 13,580; 2002-07: 11,565; 2007-12: 5,516.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP

WeBS totals in the early year were generally higher than during the same period in 2015 with peak counts of 1,037 at Lymington-Hurst on Jan 23rd and 1,642 in the Avon Valley between Sopley and Ringwood on Feb 7th. In the late year, numbers were again higher than the corresponding period during 2015 with peak counts of 1,205 at Lymington-Hurst on Dec 18th and 1,147 in Langstone Harbour on Dec 17th.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	2,186	1,386	79	16	14		101	45	115	272	413	1,292
Hampshire sectors	231	201	10				6		19		71	251
Langstone Harbour	827	865	32	34	16	57	17	12	100	253	353	1,147
Titchfield Haven area	343	315	205	18	4	52	42	29	100	215	220	270
Lower Test Marshes-Eling	246	200					15	21		34	161	390
Dibden Bay	366	696	34	9	9					26	240	50
Beaulieu Estuary	789	782	99	39	39	39	8	46	76	134	876	178

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	1,037	971	117	19	20	17	20	42	224	442	525	1,205
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	975	1,642	429	106			76		1	275	316	194
Blashford Lakes	200	22	127		9	27	102	131	220	100	26	397
Testbourne Lakes		110	64	6	10	25		210	74		8	17
Alresford Pond		140							34	132	189	385
Winchester SF	615	239	2	2	4	12	69	104	185	414	441	600
WeBS count totals	5,504	5,900	1,047	235	109	170	351	532	1,023	1,858	3,266	5,623

Away from tabulated sites, the only counts to exceed 200 came from Testwood Lakes with 221 on Feb 21st and at Lepe with 214 on Nov 26th.

Breeding season reports referred to approximately 175 territories or pairs (cf. 189 in 2015 including 21 at Farlington Marshes for which no report was received this year) from the following localities (numbers in parentheses refer to 2015): Badminton GP/Farm, 1; Beaulieu Heath West, 16 (8-12); Binsted, 1; Bishop's Dyke area, 2 (3); Bishopstoke, 4; Bisterne, 5 (2); Bossington, 2; Bourley-Long Valley Reclamation Area, 1; Burley, 1; Busta Triangle, 2 (5); Chidden Down, 1 (2); Chilbolton, 1; Clatford Oakcuts, 1; Clay Hill, 4; Crab Tree Earth, 1; Dibden Bay, 9; Eelmoor Flash, 2 (1); Fox Lane GP, 2; Gander Down, 2; Harroway Farm, 1; Hatchet Pond, 2; Hill Top, 1 (1); HMS Mercury, 1; Holmhill Bog, 1; Holmsley Bog, 3 (2); Hook-with-Warsash, 4-5 (3); Ibsley Water, 2 (10); Kingston, 3; Longparish, 2; Longwood Warren, 1 (2); Lymington-Hurst, 23-24 (24); Monxton, 4; Needs Ore, 13-20 (20); Puttles Bridge, 1; Ramsdean Down, 1; Ranvilles Lane, Fareham, 4; Red Hill Bog, 2; Redrise Furze Brake, 2; Sabines Farm/Avon Tyrrell Watermeadows, 11; Setley Plain, 9 (3); Sherfield English, 1; Stockbridge, 1; Stoney Cross Plain, 1 (1); Stratfield Turgis, 1; Teglease Down, 1 (3); Testwood Lakes, 9 (9); Thorney Hill Holms, 4; Titchfield Haven, 4 (6); Totford, 1; Warnford, 4 (2); Water Copse Inclosure, 1; Wattons Ford, 2; Woodmancott, 2; Woolmer Forest, 1 (2); Yew Tree Bottom, 1. Where a range is given, the lower number has been used in the total.

Separately, the Avon Valley GWCT project recorded 81 territories, compared to 62 in 2015. Out of 64 nests that were monitored, 45% survived and out of the chicks which hatched, 46% were estimated to have fledged. The increase in numbers is thought to have been due to improvements made to the habitat. Likewise, the GWCT North Hampshire Downs study area recorded 12 pairs, which hatched 11 chicks, compared with 11 pairs in 2015 which fledged at least 15 young from 19 nesting attempts. (DJU)

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Common passage migrant; very scarce but increasing in winter.

Schedule 1, Red

In the early year there were five wintering in the county, with regular reports of two at Bury Marshes and one in the Lymington-Hurst area, and on Feb 29th there were two at Farlington Marshes. Other records in March of one on Hamble Estuary on 12th and Warblington Shore on 27th were either winterers or early migrants. Two were at Farlington on Apr 5th and a further two at Lymington and three at Bury Marshes on Apr 9th. From then recorded along the coast in small numbers throughout April and May with notable grounded counts of over 30 including 45 in Langstone Harbour on May 6th, 86 there the next day and 62 at Needs Ore on May 8th.

Passage was recorded first at Stokes Bay with three on Apr 11th. Subsequently at least 693 were seen flying east or north until May 28th. A total of 341 was recorded at Hurst including peak counts of 80 on Apr 21st, 50 on Apr 22nd, 53 on Apr 23rd, 46 on May 6th and 45 on May 7th. A total of 210 was recorded at Sandy Point with peak counts of 65 on Apr 20th and 88 on Apr 21st. At Hill Head 173 were recorded with a peak count of 40 on Apr 21st. Inland reports came from Itchen Valley CP, 16 SW on May 2nd and 15 on May 5th, one on Beaulieu Heath on May 2nd, one north over Holmhill Inclosure on May 7th, two over Basingstoke on May 10th and regular records on Upper Hamble River peaking at 28 on May 1st. Six were

seen during the first half of June with two in Lymington-Hurst area, three at Fawley Refinery and one in Portsmouth Harbour.

Autumn passage started in late June with two at Titchfield on 20th, one at Farlington Marshes on 21st and a further five SW off Hill Head. Numbers in July remained low until 24th when 16 were recorded at Langstone Harbour. In August there were small groups along the coast with peaks of 18 south off Sandy Point on 9th and 30 in Chichester Harbour on 19th. In September 16 were reported, mainly singles with three at Bury Marshes on 17th and four in Portsmouth Harbour on 24th. One was in Langstone Harbour on Oct 2nd with three on Nov 11th and one remaining until the year end. There were two still at Bury Marshes on Oct 15th with one remaining into December. There were also singles in Chichester Harbour on Nov 26th and at Oxy Lake on Dec 18th. (ASR)

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew)

Numenius arquata

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce and declining breeder, mainly in the New Forest. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 2,850; 2002-07: 3,078; 2007-12: 2,933. VU, Red, S4I



Curlew, Beaulieu Heath, Apr 8th (Marcus Ward)

Numbers rose in January from the December 2015 WeBS total of 1,503 to 2,031 but dropped back down in February. Spring passage records were few, or poorly reported, from Hayling Island only with a total of ten moving east on five dates. The peak count of 2,151 in July compares to 2,466 in August 2015.

Survey work in the New Forest during the breeding season located a total of 40 territories (cf. 100 territories in the last full survey in 2004), six of which were proven to hatch successfully and seven were known to fail. The outcome of the remaining 27 was unknown; no fledged young were recorded. Of note, a colour-ringed individual recorded holding territory in the north of the New Forest had been ringed in September 2014 at its wintering site in south-west France, to which it had returned the following winter. In 2016 it was recorded at its breeding site in the New Forest on Apr 1st and 28th but was already back at its wintering site in France by July 19th.

Unlike previous years the peak autumn count was in July, which may reflect a late WeBS count date. Numbers reduced in August and remained consistent through the autumn before dropping in November and again in December, which had a relatively low count compared to recent years (cf. 1,503 in 2015).

Inland records came from Ibsley WVM (up to 6, Feb 23rd-Mar 6th and 2, Apr 7th), Ibsley Water (7, Mar 3rd and 1, Nov 4th-6th and 26th), Avon Causeway (1, Mar 6th and Apr 1st), Lakeside CP (Eastleigh) (1, Mar 11th), Fleet Pond (2 S, July 10th), Middle Wallop Airfield (2, Sep 29th) and North Boarhunt (12, Dec 5th).

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below. (ASR, MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,125	913	909	382	11		1,372	852	867	955	561	676
Hampshire sectors	222	264	297	125			750	132	129	127	133	169
Langstone Harbour	693	419	373	605	22	44	1,018	713	708	617	207	209
Portsmouth Harbour	301	51	3							141	265	115
Southampton Water	423	469	254	119	8	38	159	103	260	274	288	303
Beaulieu Estuary	170	187	194	60	3	12	66	195	183	110	233	198
Sowley-Lymington	4	33	5	2	15			8	8	20		16
Lymington-Hurst	213	108	156	100	4	8	158	230	102	185	121	80
WeBS count totals	2,031	1,532	1,293	987	51	102	2,151	1,381	1,390	1,474	1,247	1,093

Sites of international importance: 1,400+; national importance: 550+.

Black-tailed Godwit†

Limosa limosa

Icelandic race L.l. islandica is a common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer. Status of European nominate race unknown. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 2,066; 2002-07: 2,753; 2007-12: 2,210.
VU, Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP



Black-tailed Godwits fighting, Normandy Marsh, Mar 13th (Marcus Ward)

The peak WeBS count total of 3,732 in February was well above the mean maxima for all three previous five year periods. This included 3,017 attracted to extensive floods in the

Avon Valley between Bisterne and Avon Causeway. However, the true total was higher as other counts there included 4,000 on Feb 1st (OF) which equalled the highest count for Hampshire, which was also at the same site in December 2012. The flock gradually dispersed towards the end of February and by Mar 10th there were only 257 on the WeBS count and by 19th only one or two remained. The Avon flock includes large numbers which normally winter in Poole Harbour, Dorset, thus accounting for the abnormally high Hampshire total. Late year numbers were low due to limited flooding with a flock of 400 at New Queen on Nov 24th being the only count above six.

Away from the Avon Valley other inland records came from Whitten Pond, NF (4, Mar 20th), Fishlake Meadows (1, Apr 12th), Fleet Pond (2 circled without landing, May 8th and 1 circled again without landing, Aug 1st), Alresford Pond (2-3, Sep 4th-8th) and Testwood Lakes (4, Aug 29th and 6 arriving on Sep 2nd rising to 9 on 4th and then gradually decreasing before last on 18th).

Maxima at coastal sites where counts exceeded 200 included 406 at Titchfield Haven on Apr 17th, 346 at the Hamble Estuary on Aug 18th, 230 in Portsmouth Harbour and 623 at Langstone Harbour on Oct 15th, 270 at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 16th and 652 in Langstone Harbour on Dec 16th.

Monthly maxima at various sites are tabulated below. (ASR)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	169	52	203	175	33		45	301	59	632	698	698
Hampshire sectors	23	2	60	172		6	27	120	59	160	100	96
Langstone Harbour	200	110	162	229	40	72	155	480	540	623	400	652
Portsmouth Harbour	2					4	4		35	230	126	85
Titchfield Haven	154	212	253	406	134	180	177	210	190	72	29	54
Hamble Estuary	22	89	177	165		64	241	346	212	115	26	19
Itchen Estuary		13	16	12							3	11
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	262	136	70	2			8	55	64	89	132	111
Hythe-Calshot		11	11	5	10		20	15	25	101	34	131
Beaulieu Estuary	5	41	100	100	12	3		10	30	30	49	6
Lymington-Hurst	37	130	156	223	8	40	100	140	230	270	240	49
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	2,200	4,000	256	2							400	
Blashford Lakes	26	54	83	1		2	1				1	
WeBS count totals	2,478	3,732	1,062	748	20	22	370	759	605	1,646	898	1,205

Sites of international importance: 610+; national importance: 430+.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Moderately common but declining passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,188; 2002-07: 795; 2007-12: 342. ET, Amber, HBAP

Numbers continued at the relatively low levels seen in recent years with WeBS counts exceeding three figures in only four months (Jan, Mar, Nov & Dec) with a high of 250 in January. In the early part of the year the highest numbers were recorded in Langstone Harbour with a WeBS count of 235 on Jan 23rd and a high tide count also of 235 on Feb 16th. Unlike recent years there was a near absence from the Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour, although significantly higher numbers were recorded in the Sussex sectors (see table below).

Spring passage was light with a minimum total of 189 east between Apr 7th and May 22nd. Counts exceeding ten were noted on only six dates as follows: Sandy Point (11, Apr 21st; 11, May 5th); Hurst (15, Apr 22nd; 15, May 7th; 73, May 9th); Hill Head (15, May 10th). Inland, one at Winchester SF on May 2nd was unusual. Numbers in the late year continued low, with peak counts of 170 at Warblington on Nov 13th and 151 at Langstone Harbour on Dec 17th.

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below. (ASR)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	760	360	12	30	6				1	1	333	721
Hampshire sectors											100	1
Black Point	6	7						1			1	3
Warblington (L)								6	13	62	170	30
Langstone Harbour	235	235	89	16	12	27		18	34	46	100	151
Titchfield Haven-Chilling	4	2	1	4				6	15		5	1
Lymington-Hurst	11	5	12	2	4			3	30	5		6
WeBS count totals	250	49	103	2	8	27		3	48	21	114	161

Sites of international importance: 1,200+; national importance: 380+; L = Low tide count(s).

Turnstone† (Ruddy Turnstone)

Arenaria interpres

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 764; 2002-07: 915; 2007-12: 874. Amber, HBAP

WeBS counts in the early year remained at December 2014 levels and again, as in previous years, rose in March with passage migrants to 676, the highest WeBS count of the year. Numbers then dropped in April although there was an increase in the Lymington area with 155 on Apr 9th. High numbers were also roosting at Hook-with-Warsash with a peak of 115 on Apr 11th. Inland there were singles in summer plumage at Ibsley Water on May 9th and 21st. There was a good summering flock at Hill Head with a maximum of 42 on June 10th. Elsewhere in June five were at Black Point on 28th and four at Keyhaven Marshes on 5th and 9th. As expected numbers started to increase in July and August with widespread records along the coast. Notable counts in August included 103 in the Lymington area on 20th, 140 at Lepe on 24th and 114 at Hook-with-Warsash on 29th. In the last four months of the year the highest count was 328 at Langstone Harbour on Dec 17th.

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below. (ASR)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	172	150	91	12			1	20	76	78	246	279
Hampshire Sectors	40	34	31	5	3	5	13	21	41	21	43	75
Langstone Harbour	100	78	214	62				83	84	131	126	328
Portsmouth Harbour	65	23	161	77			17	67	55	54	47	94
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/ Brownwich	58	64	70	58	30	42	43	62	81	104	82	50
Hamble Estuary	118	95	152	115	2		15	44	116	128	116	130
Weston Shore (L)	54	67	36	11	16		2		56	56	49	58
Hythe-Calshot	21	33	12	10	1			33	73	11	33	25
Lepe (L)			52	9			26	140	62	30		63
Beaulieu Estuary	74	50	32	45	6		13	10	24	40	76	20
Sowley-Lymington	32	16	16	3				20	28	22		9
Lymington-Hurst	117	80	58	155	15	4	7	103	141	105	53	52
WeBS count totals	597	454	676	276	12		19	264	395	476	487	761

Sites of international importance: 1,400+; national importance: 480+; L = Low tide count(s).

Knot (Red Knot)

Calidris canutus

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,414; 2002-07: 1,108; 2007-12: 1,045. Amber, HBAP

WeBS totals continued to fall and only rose above 400 in December with a total of 602. However, there were higher counts made on other dates with early year peaks of 1,000 at

Black Point on Feb 22nd and 24th and 439 at Lymington-Hurst on Feb 29th, the highest ever there (MPM). Easterly spring passage was noted in the second week of May at Hill Head (32, 7th; 3, 8th), Sandy Point (20, 9th) and Hurst (11, 9th; 3, 10th). Elsewhere there was a notable count of 28 at Langstone Harbour on May 12th.

The first return was one at Pennington Marshes on July 17th with further sightings that month of two on 23rd at Langstone Harbour and one at Titchfield Haven on 25th. August counts were low with a peak of eight at Farlington Marshes and seven at Pennington Marshes, and eight flew west past Lepe on 24th. In September numbers slowly rose with a peak of 58 at Langstone Harbour on 18th. Numbers increased further in the final two months of the year with peaks of 400 at Black Point on Nov 21st, 360 at Lymington-Hurst on 29th and 450 there on Dec 18th, another record count (EJW). The only other notable count away from the main areas was 120 at Park Shore on Nov 11th. Inland, one was reported at Ibsley Water on Sep 18th (per RAC).

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below. (ASR)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	740	195	40					4	31		209	4,006
Hampshire sectors	100								2		81	6
Black Point	270	1,000	60						1	1	400	120
Langstone Harbour	88	100	15		28		2	8	58	60	22	140
Sowley-Lymington	250	100									40	20
Lymington-Hurst	40	439*	150	100	1		2	7	20	6	360	450*
WeBS count totals	278	360	79	2			2	12	14	65	273	602

Sites of international importance: 4,500+; national importance: 3,200+.



Juvenile Knot, Keyhaven, Dec 14th (John Wichall)

Ruff

Calidris pugnax

Scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Red

In the first part of the year there were regular reports from the Keyhaven-Pennington area with monthly peaks of five, nine, ten and three in Jan-Apr respectively, followed by records between May 9th-24th with a peak of five on 17th. Elsewhere there were two at Avon Causeway on Jan 15th and 30th rising to five on Feb 20th and one or two at Needs Ore on Jan 10th and 15th, one there on Mar 30th and two on May 8th. Up to three were at Titchfield Haven from Mar 20th-25th and singles were at Testwood Lakes on Mar 20th, Titchfield Haven on May 4th, Hythe on 8th, Farlington Marshes on 15th and Langstone Harbour and Upper Titchfield Haven on June 4th.

The first autumn record was from Titchfield Haven with one on July 13th and then there was a gap of a month until Aug 13th when there were two in the Lymington area increasing to three the next day, with one or two seen throughout the rest of August. Further regular records in August came from Farlington Marshes, Alresford Pond and Titchfield Haven with highs of three on 21st at Alresford Pond, four at Titchfield Haven on 27th and four at Farlington Marshes on 29th. In September one was at Hook-with-Warsash on 1st, there were four at Farlington Marshes on 6th and one there the next day, when there was also one at Park Shore. One or two were also recorded throughout the month at Titchfield Haven with the last on 28th. Numbers at Alresford Pond increased in September with six on 6th, seven on 9th and eight on 10th, gradually reducing to the final record of two on 25th. The Lymington area had a maximum of three in September on 7th. After that, one was recorded to the end of the year, with two there on Oct 2nd and four on Dec 16th and 24th. There were three other October records of singles at Ibsley Water on 2nd, east past Hurst on 7th and at Farlington Marshes on 16th. One flew south over Ibsley Water on Nov 7th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (ASR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	14	15	3	11	2	1	12	19	3	2	4

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; has wintered.

VU, Amber

The wintering adult from 2015 was seen at Farlington Marshes on Jan 1st and nearby at Warblington Shore on 3rd and Mar 20th. Spring records were limited to two (one in summer plumage) at Keyhaven/Pennington on Apr 30th and one there on June 4th-5th.

The early autumn passage, presumed to be of adults, was very light with singles at Pennington Marshes on July 30th and Needs Ore on Aug 8th. The only other adults reported were two at Pennington Marshes on Aug 23rd and one at Black Point on Sep 10th. For the rest of the autumn period many were identified as juveniles. However, a significant number were unaged and probably juveniles too. The first was at Lymington-Hurst on Aug 20th and the last was there on Oct 29th with reports there on most dates up to Oct 16th. Most were single figures apart from ten on Aug 28th and Sep 23rd, 12 on Sep 23rd and a remarkable 22 on Sep 2nd. There were also reports on many days between Aug 22nd and Oct 15th from Farlington Marshes. Counts ranged between one and five, but with six on Sep 4th and eight on Sep 6th. Singles were at Titchfield Haven on Sep 8th-9th and then one or two between Sep 17th and 28th with five on 21st and three on 22nd-23rd. Nearby at Hook-with-Warsash there were two on Aug 26th and five on Sep 24th. One to three were reported on eight dates between Aug 23rd and Sep 27th from the Lepe/Needs Ore area. Elsewhere there were two at Warblington Shore on Sep 20th and singles at Hythe on Aug 27th, Warblington Shore on Sep 23rd and Black Point on Sep 29th. There were no inland records.

A wintering bird was reported from Warblington Shore on Nov 20th, Dec 4th and 31st.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1		1	2		1	1	22	48	10	1	1

Stilt Sandpiper

Calidris himantopus

Very rare vagrant. (0, 1, 1)

One record. A single was at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes from May 22nd-23rd (RCo, photo). It was the second record for Hampshire and has been accepted by BBRC. It was a very attractive adult, and brought back fond memories for many of the bird that spent two weeks there in July-August 2002. (KFB)



Adult summer Stilt Sandpiper, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, May 23rd (Jason Ward)

Sanderling

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Calidris alba

Amber, HBAP

As usual, wintering birds were largely confined to sites east of Southampton Water. Records from the main sites, Black Point and Sandy Point, are likely to refer to the same birds which also roost at Pilsea in the West Sussex portion of Chichester Harbour. There continued to be reports from Langstone Harbour, although these also probably referred to Chichester Harbour and east Hayling birds. A small flock continued using the Hill Head area regularly until late spring and again in autumn and winter. Reports of up to 20 at Stokes Bay and Gilkicker in April and May may have been local movements of this flock.



Sanderling, Hook-with-Warsash, May 6th (Bob Marchant)

Away from the tabulated sites, the only reports were seven inland at Ibsley Water on May 21st and two juveniles at Weston Shore on Sep 7th.

Coastal spring passage involved a minimum total of 425 east with 326 at Hurst on 11 dates between Apr 10th and May 11th (peak 183, May 9th) and 133 at Sandy Point on five dates between Apr 30th and May 11th (peak 76, May 10th).

Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below. (JRDS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	100	141	120	47	27			60	1	30	90	120
Sandy Point-Gunner Point	87	5	45	111	80	4	300	200	159	270	175	
Langstone Harbour	15	27		100	28			1		6		
Eastney-Southsea	20											1
Hill Head-Brownwich	18	26	26	16	100			1		11	20	24
Hook-with-Warsash		1			21			1				1
Lepe-Needs Ore					8			5	2	2		
Lymington-Hurst	1			4	183	1	7	4	2	5		

Sites of international importance: 1,200+; national importance: 160+.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Numerous but declining winter visitor and moderately common passage migrant; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 35,171; 2002-07: 29,906; 2007-12: 24,140.

ET, NT (C.a. schinzii), Amber, HBAP

WeBS numbers in January, November and December exceeded 20,000, which was an improvement over the 2015 maximum of 18,647, although the February count was more than 5,000 lower than last year. In addition, the maximum WeBS count total in November was well below the mean maximum for the preceding three five-year periods (see header).

In the early year, three-figure roosts away from the tabulated sites were at Dibden Bay (100, Jan 1st), Lee-on-the-Solent (100, Feb 10th), Lepe (420, Mar 13th) and Sandy Point (140, May 3rd). There was eastward migration through the Solent in spring, with a total of 531 recorded between Apr 10th and May 11th. Of these, 360 were at Hurst, with peaks of 110 on May 6th and 86 on May 10th. Other reports were 55 at Sandy Point-Sinah on nine dates, 105 at Hill Head-Stokes Bay on six dates and 11 at Southsea on May 9th. Inland records in spring came from Ibsley Water (1 on Jan 8th and then 1-3 on 11 dates between Mar 10th and May 21st), Brockenhurst (1, May 11th) and Winchester SF (1, May 2nd).

The first inland return was at Fleet Pond with one on July 11th followed by one at The Vyne on July 30th-Aug 1st. There were records of two to five at Alresford Pond on most dates between Sep 15th and 29th and two were at Testbourne Lake on Sep 20th. Reports of one to three from Ibsley Water were on 14 dates between July 10th and Nov 12th except for nine on July 10th. The only recorded autumn coastal movement was seven east at Hill Head on July 28th. However small flocks of passage and wintering birds were reported on many dates from this area from July 12th to the end of the year. In the late year, the only three-figure roost counts away from the tabulated sites were at Stokes Bay (350, Nov 28th; 600, Dec 1st and 13th) and Hill Head (350, Dec 18th).

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below. (JRDS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	8,490	4,689	6,242	61	518		68	94	251	1,530	9,956	11,342
Hampshire sectors	2,725	1,300	238								5,418	2,069
Warblington Shore/ Emsworth (L)	239	411	97	11	16		8	44	22	49	349	565
Black Point	8,000	4,000	2,000	22			24	20	90	800	5,000	15,000

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	11,931	6,553	4,722	6	12	3	40	141	574	3,338	12,237	15,220
Portsmouth Harbour	1,300	1,000	604					65	58	58	620	175
Hamble Estuary	800	880	625	4	30	3	26	26	45	11	200	500
Weston Shore/Chessel Bay (L)	88	220	118				1		1		167	350
Hythe	1,000	800	435					30	4	13	1,500	1,000
Calshot	48	60	15							12	83	66
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	709	477	247	6	23		1	4	46	287	473	300
Sowley-Lymington	720	800	600	15	14			70	55	300	600	706
Lymington-Hurst	1,815	1,570	780	332	500	12	100	648	320	725	1,000	2,170
WeBS count totals	20,585	12,911	8,285	350	373	3	34	887	993	4,567	21,908	21,798

Sites of international importance: 13,300+; national importance: 3,500+; L = Low tide count(s).

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Amber.

With records of up to 12 on 68 dates in the early winter period and spring, the main site continues to be Southsea Castle. The last report was one on the late date of May 24th. The first return at Southsea Castle was not until Nov 6th and there were reports on a further 21 dates of up to 13 to the end of the year.

Away from Southsea, there were small gatherings at Barton-on-Sea (1, Jan 1st; 8, Jan 2nd; 6, Jan 6th; 4, Feb 14th; 2, Mar 3rd) and, more unusually, singles at Calshot (Feb 13th), Sandy Point (May 17th, Oct 26th), Pennington Marshes (Apr 27th) and Hurst Castle (Nov 10th).

Monthly maxima at Southsea Castle are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	11	12	9	7						13	3



Adult summer Purple Sandpiper, Sandy Point, May 17th (Andy Johnson)

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; rare in winter.

Green

There was only one spring record of a single on the intertidal lagoon at Hurst Beach on May 14th. There were no June or July records and no birds identified as adults in the second half-year.

The first autumn juvenile was at Pennington Marshes on Aug 17th-20th. The next records there were six on Aug 27th followed by daily reports until Sep 12th, with peaks of ten on Aug 30th, 13 on Sep 1st-2nd and 20 on Sep 3rd. From Sep 17th-27th there were between one and three on most dates followed by ones and twos on seven dates in October. The first return at Farlington Marshes was on Aug 24th and between one and four were then reported on most dates until Sep 17th, followed by singles in October on six dates. There were reports from Titchfield Haven of up to six between Aug 26th-Sep 4th and then one or two between Sep 9th-13th. Nearby at Hook-with-Warsash there were singles between Aug 28th-Sep 3rd and in the high tide roost at Black Point on Aug 29th-30th and Sep 11th.

Inland records (singles unless stated) were at Badminton GP on Aug 29th (the first ever there), Alresford Pond on Sep 14th with two there on Sep 15th (the first there since 1996), Ibsley Water on Oct 2nd, 4th and 7th, and Testwood Lakes on Oct 22nd (the third ever there and first since 2007). A wintering bird was present at Titchfield Haven on Dec 6th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1			24	31	5		1

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Rare vagrant (0,19,1)

One record. A winter-plumaged bird was found on Fishtail Lagoon at Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 19th (JRW *et al.*, photo). It was present daily until Sep 24th and occasionally moved to Normandy Lagoon. This is only the fifth this century following records in 2002, 2005, 2011 and 2015. (KFB)



White-rumped Sandpiper, Normandy Marsh, Sep 19th (David Ryves)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Calidris subruficollis

Rare vagrant (0,12,1)

One record. A single was seen briefly at Titchfield Haven on Sep 15th (DHou). It was spooked with other waders but flew around allowing the observer long enough to note the key features before it departed to the west. This is only the fourth this century following records in 2001, 2008 and 2013. (KFB)

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Rare passage migrant recorded in every month from May to October. (0,90,1)

One record. A juvenile was photographed on boggy land at Blackhill Common, NF on Sep 29th (KBr, photo). This is only the fourth inland record for the county, and the first in the New Forest. There have been records in every year this century apart from 2007 and 2015. (KFB)

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Very rare vagrant (0,5,1)

One record. A juvenile was at Titchfield Haven from Sep 10th-11th (CR, AL et al., photo). This is the sixth for the county following records in 1994, 1995, 2006, 2011 and 2013 and has been accepted by BBRC. (KFB)



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, Titchfield Haven, Sep 11th (left: Alan Lewis; right: Lee Fuller)

Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)

Phalaropus fulicarius

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (?294,1)

One record. A winter-plumaged bird was at Ibsley Water from Sep 5th-7th (m.o., photo). Although there have been over 80 September records, October remains the most frequent month for this species. There have been records in every year this century apart from 2006 and 2007. (KFB)

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Moderately common passage migrant; a few regularly winter; has attempted breeding at least once. Amber

In January-March there were records from the regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima 3, 4, 6), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (4, 3, 5) and Curbridge (3, 2, 1). There were also four at Tipner Lake, Portsmouth Harbour on Jan 8th and occasional reports of singles from Langstone Harbour (Jan 1st, 8th, Mar 16th), Lymington-Hurst (Jan 2nd, 4th), Portsmouth Harbour (Jan 20th, 23rd), Titchfield Haven (Jan 16th) and Testwood Lakes (Mar 16th).

Whilst wintering birds stayed on into spring at Itchen Estuary, Curbridge and Lower Test Marshes, the first spring migrant appeared at Busta Triangle on Apr 4th. From the beginning of April there were records until May 27th involving 61 at 28 inland sites and 46 at 12 coastal sites. The only counts above five were at Winchester SF (10, May 10th), Riverside Park, Southampton (6, Apr 3rd; 8, 27th), Hook-with-Warsash (7, May 11th), Needs Ore (6, Apr 28th), The Vyne Water Meadows (6, Apr 28th) and Lower Test Marshes (6, Apr 7th).

The first return was at Titchfield Haven on June 25th. Autumn passage continued until late October and involved an estimated minimum of 107 at 23 coastal sites and 59 at 27 inland sites. The only counts above seven were all in August at Curbridge (9, 3rd), Redbridge (9, 3rd), West Hayling LNR (12, 9th), Lower Test Marshes (10, 16th) and Hook-with-Warsash (10, 17th),

In November and December there were regular reports from Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima 2, 6), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (5, 4) and Upper Hamble Estuary (3, 2). There

were also singles at Ibsley Water on Nov 15th and 30th, Farlington Marshes on Nov 20th, Budds Farm STW (Langstone Harbour) on Dec 2nd and Hythe on Dec 17th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	11	15	79	66	11	97	107	59	21	12	14

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Scarce passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber

Between January and March there were at least 49 at 28 inland sites and 12 at eight coastal sites. Most had departed by April 24th but singles were at Needs Ore on Apr 28th and The Vyne Water Meadows on May 6th.

The first return was one at Winchester SF on June 3rd-11th with two on 6th. There were then singles at Testbourne Lake on June 7th and Drayton WCB, Alresford and Titchfield Haven on 16th. Thereafter reports were widespread. Autumn passage continued with a minimum of approximately 162 at 50 sites to the end of October. The highest count was 21 at Alresford Pond on Sep 5th. In November and December late passage and wintering birds totalled around 27 at 20 inland sites and 18 at ten coastal sites.

Counts exceeding three at non-tabulated sites were at Ibsley WM (5, Feb 29th-Mar 10th and July 6th) and Avington Lake (4, Apr 5th).

The approximate monthly totals from well-recorded sites based on maxima at each site are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hermitage Stream, Havant		2	2	1				5		5	4	4
Farlington Marshes / South Moor	4	1					2	3	4	1	1	1
Titchfield Haven		1				1	4	8	3			1
Hook-with-Warsash							1	10	4	1	2	
Lower Test Marshes	2	2	2	2		2	4	5	5	5	3	1
Testwood Lakes		3	1					3	10			
Badminton GP	1		1				1	1		1		
Lepe CP			1					3		1		2
Needs Ore	1	2	1	1		3	1	4	2	2	2	1
Lymington/Hurst							1	7	2	1		1
Blashford Lakes	2	1	1	1				1	2	2	1	2
Winchester SF				2		2	1	4	4		1	
Alresford area	4	3	1	2		1	3	18	21	4	2	1
The Vyne Water Meadows				1	1		2	4	1			
Longparish				2				5	2	1	1	1
Testbourne Lake				1		1		4	3	1	1	1

The approximate monthly totals based on maxima at each site are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
34	33	28	25	1	10	35	103	87	47	36	26

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Scarce and declining passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

In the early year, the highest numbers were in the Lymington-Hurst area with records on 72 dates up to May 2nd with a maximum of 11 on Jan 23rd. Reports were also from Needs Ore

on 16 dates up to Apr 14th with a maximum of three on Jan 24th and 26th. Nearby at Lepe there was one on Jan 30th and two on Feb 26th. Away from these sites, the regular winterer remained at Nore Barn, Emsworth until Mar 21st and was joined by another on Jan 9th. Other records came from Langstone Harbour with one on 16 dates and a second on Feb 16th. Apart from one on May 23rd at Lymington-Hurst, most had left by the first week of May with the last on 2nd at Keyhaven.

In mid-summer there were singles at Needs Ore on June 14th and Titchfield Haven on 15th followed by four at Needs Ore on July 12th and one at Farlington Marshes on 18th. In August singles at Hook-with-Warsash on 6th and Farlington Marshes on 7th preceded the main return which started on 17th with two at Farlington Marshes and one at Fishtail Lagoon. Counts increased thereafter with reports from Lymington-Hurst on 55 dates to year end with a maximum of ten on Dec 21st. There were also counts from Needs Ore on 15 dates up to Nov 25th with a maximum of six on Sep 20th, and a wintering individual nearby at Lepe on Dec 17th and 18th. There were regular ones and twos at Farlington Marshes between Aug 20th and Dec 17th with three on Sep 9th, Oct 2nd, 10th and 30th. On the shore between Emsworth and Warblington there were regular sightings of the Nore Barn winterer between Oct 11th and year end. It was joined by another on Oct 29th, 31st, Nov 12th and Dec 16th. Other late year reports were singles at Testwood Lakes on Aug 18th-26th, Titchfield Haven on Aug 28th and Sep 19th, Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 2nd and Pitts Deep on Oct 15th.



Adult summer Spotted Redshank, Keyhaven, Apr 27th (Dave Ryves)

Monthly maxima at the two main localities and totals elsewhere are tabulated below. (JRDS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore	3	2	1	1		1	4	1	6	1	4	
Lymington-Hurst	11	10	10	6	2			2	8	7	6	10
Totals elsewhere	5	4	2	1		1	1	5	4	8	4	5

Greenshank (Common Greenshank)

Tringa nebularia

Moderately common passage migrant, especially in autumn; formerly scarce but increasing winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Amber

In January to March a minimum of 45 wintered at 13 coastal sites. Sightings were more widespread through April and May with a minimum of around 55 recorded at 17 sites. These included inland reports, all singles, at Ibsley Water (Apr 20th, May 1st), Moorcourt Farm (Apr 24th), Beaulieu Heath West (May 2nd, 7th), Testbourne Lake (May 5th), Fleet Pond (May 5th, 10th) and Basingstoke (heard at night, May 10th). On the coast, there was an unusual flock of 13 east at Milford on Sea on May 5th. Reports reduced markedly from mid-May with the last of the spring at Titchfield Haven on May 29th. However one was reported on seven dates throughout June at Farlington Marshes.

Return started with one at Fishlake Meadows on June 28th and there were two at Warblington and one at Curbridge in the first week of July before reports became widespread. Autumn

passage involved a minimum of 197 up to the end of October with records from 26 sites including seven inland. Peak passage was in September with the highest count of the year being 42 at Farlington Marshes on 7th. The inland reports were singles (unless stated) from Fishlake Meadows (June 28th), Pinglestone WCB, Alresford (Aug 13th, 14th), Woolmer Pond (1-3 on nine dates between Aug 19th and Sep 5th), Ibsley Water (3, Aug 21st; 1, 27th and Sep 3rd), Overton (Aug 26th), Oxney Meadows, Bordon (Sep 8th) and Busta Triangle (Oct 6th). There were five at Calshot on Oct 16th; otherwise all records away from tabulated coastal sites were of one to three.

In November and December approximately 65 wintered at 19 sites. Away from the tabulated sites below there were coastal sightings from Sandy Point, Ashlett Mill Pond, Calshot, Hythe, Lepe, Weston Shore, Chessel Bay, Eling Great Marsh, Bury Marshes, Lower Test Marshes and Milford.

Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	5	2	3	6	1		11	12	34	16	7	4
Warblington shore												
Farlington Marshes /	3	3	2	6	2	1	31	27	42	20	10	9
Langstone Harbour												
Portsmouth Harbour	8	9	1	1			1	1	1	5	4	7
Titchfield Haven	1			1	1		13	5	4	3	2	6
Hamble Estuary	6	4	3	2	5		9	10	19	19	6	12
Curbridge	2	8	10	12	8		4	1	6	1	4	
Weston Shore		1	2						1	2	1	3
Beaulieu Estuary		1		1	1		2	8	8	7	1	1
Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep	1	1						2	2	4	1	1
Lymington-Hurst	5	2	3	4	1		9	15	14	18	5	3

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	33	25	37	40	3	84	92	143	113	48	50

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; one winter record in February and March.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

There were only two in spring, one at Farlington Marshes on Apr 29th and another at Pennington Marshes on May 15th-17th. There was also an unusual mid-summer record from Testwood Lakes on June 22nd.

The first of the autumn passage was at Pennington Marshes on Aug 1st. There were then records of singles from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 33 dates from Aug 3rd-Sep 17th, with three on Aug 17th and two on Aug 28th-29th and Sep 1st-6th. In August there were singles at Titchfield Haven on 4th and 29th-30th, Needs Ore on 18th-19th and Farlington Marshes on 27th and 31st. The autumn passage totalled around 12 birds. (JRDS)

Redshank (Common Redshank)

Tringa totanus

Scarce and declining breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 2,322; 2002-07: 2,454; 2007-12: 2,455.

Amber, HBAP

The monthly WeBS counts in both winter periods were broadly similar to 2015. The annual maximum, as usual, was in the autumn with 2,212 in October, which is around 200 down compared to the mean maxima of the previous three five-year periods. The highest day count at any one site was 861 in Langstone Harbour on Sep 17th.

The highest count in the tabulated sites during the first winter period was 515 at Langstone Harbour on Jan 23rd. Maximum counts from regularly watched sites outside the tabulated areas during the first winter period included Titchfield Haven (33, May 12th), Upper Hamble (15, Mar 12th), Lower Itchen (50, Feb 13th), Upper Southampton Water (30, Jan 23rd) and Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (8, May 8th).

In spring inland records came from Testwood Lakes (singles, May 2nd, 5th), Cutty Brow (Apr 24th), Winchester SF (Feb 26th), and Ibsley Water (1-3 on ten dates between Mar 18th and May 9th). Elsewhere in the Avon Valley there were two between Sopley and Avon Causeway (Mar 6th) and four there (Mar 6th), nine between Avon Causeway and Wattons Ford (Mar 6th) and ten there (Apr 1st) and two at Bickerley Common (Apr 2nd),

Breeding territories were reported from the following four coastal sites: Needs Ore (21 territories, three young assumed to have fledged), Lymington-Hurst to Tanners Lane (19-20 pairs, one juvenile reported from Normandy), RSPB Islands and Farlington Marshes (juveniles present but no further details available) and Hook-with-Warsash (three pairs present with one young which near fully fledged). A pair, thought to be from Moor Green Lakes (Berks), was seen at Fox Lane GP, Eversley on Mar 22nd, Apr 24th and 30th. In the New Forest reports of single birds in possible breeding habitat came from Beaulieu Heath West (one pair, plus possible second), Hatchet Pond and Puttles Bridge. At Ibsley Water, there were possibly two pairs but no evidence of breeding. The GWCT 'Waders for Real' Project in the Avon Valley reported an increase in pairs from 19 in 2015 to 28 in 2016.

Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records in Avon Valley at Ibsley Water (7, June 4th and 1-4 on 13 dates between June 18th and Sep 24th). Other inland reports, all singles, came from Winchester SF (June 7th, 22nd), Fishlake Meadows (June 19th, July 14th), Fleet Pond (July 2nd, 22nd), Rooksbury Mill (July 3rd), Avington Lake (July 11th), Tidgrove Warren (July 18th), Alresford Pond (Aug 23rd) and New Queen (Avon Valley, Nov 15th).

Maximum counts from regularly watched coastal sites away from the tabulated areas during the second winter period included Titchfield Haven (14, Aug 17th), Upper Hamble Estuary (8, Dec 17th), Lower Itchen (38, Aug 18th), Upper Southampton Water (66, Sep 17th) and Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (21, Sep 18th).

Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below. (JRDS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,077	1,324	968	238	33		714	1,184	1,148	1,317	1,465	1,485
Hampshire sectors	392	324	166	21	1		63	154	304	268	283	436
Langstone Harbour	515	260	413	172	15	93	390	575	861	834	622	828
Portsmouth Harbour	344	517	152	30			93	117	170	344	486	313
Hamble Estuary	57	37	66	25		3	52	46	113	108	63	65
Hythe-Calshot	130	44	21	45	8	8	5	80	60	191	204	97
Beaulieu Estuary	66	152	34	41	18	19	14	17	90	54	95	32
Lymington-Hurst	164	217	88	95	20	16	45	324	410	310	216	109
WeBS count totals	1,768	1,680	1,046	417	59	68	480	1,096	1,978	2,212	2,108	2,060

Sites of international importance: 2,400+; national importance: 1,200+.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

Scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant.

Green

Between January and early April there were reports of a minimum of 56 from 23 sites, with multiple reports from Titchfield Haven (17, Mar 15th), Itchen Valley CP (9, Jan 12th; 6, Feb 4th; 6, Mar 3rd), Long Valley (3, Jan 3rd; 6, 24th), Hook-with-Warsash (2, Jan 29th; 3, Feb 25th-26th; 2, Mar 1st), Alver Valley (2, Feb 24th) and between Ringwood and Fordingbridge

(2, Mar 6th). All other sites reported singles. These numbers and sites are very similar to 2015. The last was one at Long Valley on Apr 3rd.

The first return of autumn was one at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 15th. From then to year end at least 34 were reported from 19 sites. All were singles apart from Itchen Valley CP (5, Nov 26th; 4, Dec 7th; 5, 17th), Farlington Marshes (4, Nov 4th), Long Valley (3, Oct 17th-Nov 23rd), Eelmoor Flash (3, Nov 28th), Sturt Pond (2, Nov 10th) and Winchester SF (2, Nov 24th). Numbers of sites were up from 2015 for the second half of the year but bird numbers were down a little. (JRDS)

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except June, July and August. (0,12,0)

The juvenile that had been at Keyhaven Marshes in September-October 2015 was seen just twice in December. It was then present again on many dates from Jan 12th to Apr 28th (m.o., photo). There have been previous records this century in 2009 and 2012-14. (KFB)



First-winter Long-billed Dowitcher (right) with Lapwing, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Feb 24th (Gareth Rees)

Woodcock† (Eurasian Woodcock)

Scolopax rusticola

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

Red

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 94 at 67 sites including high counts of ten at Gurnetfields Furzebrake on Jan 29th and seven at Stockley Inclosure on the same date, both as a result of lamping surveys. Other sightings were mostly singles with a maximum count of three. Sites with records on more than one date were Blashford Lakes, Sandy Point, Ampfield Wood, Hawley Common, Hazeley Heath, Pamber Forest, Manor Farm CP and the following eight sites in the New Forest: Beech Bed Inclosure, Blackwater Arboretum, Shatterford Bottom, Broomy Plain, Holmsley Inclosure, Rhinefield Sandys Inclosure, Set Thorns Inclosure and Wilverley Inclosure. The NFWBS reported one, one and four respectively in the January, February and March surveys.

Roding was first recorded from Ampfield on Mar 23rd. In spring-summer, reports came from 59 sites, a substantial increase over 2015, and included 17 in the Thames Basin/Wealden Heaths and 19 from the New Forest. Most involved just one roding individual or a bird in suitable habitat but multiple sightings were reported from 24 sites. The last report of this period was two at Ampfield on July 24th. There was a presumed migrant at Pennington Marshes on Sep 8th; otherwise there were no further reports until Oct 14th when there was a single at Selborne Common followed by another at Blashford Lakes on Oct 21st.

From October to December a total of 43 was reported from 34 sites. All were ones or twos apart from three at Setley Plain on Nov 13th. Reports on more than two dates were from Blashford Lakes, Sandy Point, Itchen Valley CP, Dogmersfield Lake, Woolmer Forest, Fritham Plain, East Meon and Trigpoint Hill. Singles in November and December were the only reports by NFWBS in the second winter period. In addition to the sight records above, a total of 261 adults were trapped and ringed during the year, mostly by the New Forest Woodcock Group (see Ringing Report). (JRDS)

Snipe† (Common Snipe)

Gallinago gallinago

Scarce and declining breeder now largely confined to the New Forest; moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber, HBAP

The low numbers recorded in 2015 continued in 2016 with three-figure counts again only being recorded at Titchfield Haven as a result of census work in January, February and March giving totals of 243, 380 and 350 respectively, and 220 at Ibsley/Hucklesbrook WM on Dec 26th.

In the first winter period away from tabulated sites the only count in excess of 20 was at Newtown, Meon Valley with 28 on Feb 23rd. Most had left by early May with the last at Fleet Pond on 5th. There were no reports away from the New Forest breeding areas in the summer.

The first returning migrants were at Fishlake Meadows on July 10th. Other July records came from Titchfield Haven with one on 11th and 14th and two on 26th, Farlington Marshes on 22nd and Bishopstoke on 31st. There were widespread reports of returning birds from mid-August. The only report in the second winter period in excess of 20 away from the tabulated sites was 21 at Crookham Village on Dec 31st. The NFWBS reported counts of 15, 24 and 12 for January to March and 12, 18 and 22 for October to December respectively (Table 4).

Reports in suitable breeding habitat, including drumming individuals, came only from the New Forest at Backley Inclosure, Beaulieu Heath, Pig Bush, Broomy Lodge, Burley Whitten Pond, Crab Tree Earth, Dorridge Hill, Duckhole Bog, Harvest Slade, Hinchelsea Bog, Holm Hill, Holmsley, Markway Inclosure, Milkham Inclosure, Milking Pond Bottom, Puttles Bridge, Redrise Furze Brake, Roydon Woods, Setley Plain, Whitten Bottom, Widden Bottom and Woodford Bottom.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular counts are tabulated below. (JRDS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	4	1	1							1		1
Langstone Harbour	31	3	7				1		8	31	13	11
Portsmouth Harbour	24	5	1							3		
Alver Valley	6	11	17	4						8		2
Titchfield Haven	243	380	350	5			2	10	16	30	29	11
Hook-with-Warsash	25	15	16	6				7	9	2	2	9
Lower Test Marshes	16	10	27	1				1	7	29	25	20
Badminton GP	6		8	2					3	8	4	
Lepe		12	25							11		10
Needs Ore	13	14	4	1				8	7	6	8	6
Lymington-Hurst	55	50	26	3			1	5	25	10	10	17
Blashford Lakes	15	15						1	2	1	8	13

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ringwood / Fordingbridge	85	55	45	54					6	4	5	220
Testwood Lakes	9	10	5						12	12	8	
Fishlake Meadows	2	2	6				1	1	6	4		1
Testbourne Lake	13	45	6	5					9	24	14	1
Lakeside CP	21	60	18						3	16	28	29
Itchen Valley CP	42	34	31	8				2	9	14	38	37
Winchester SF	52	49	37	4	1			2	14	30	26	47
Avington Lake	16	9	2						6	5	13	5
The Vyne	15	14	9					1	2		1	17
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	22	21	35								1	5
Fleet Pond				2	1				4		18	9
Welshman's Road GP	16		2						2	2	3	
Thames Basin Heaths	23	5							2	11	40	20
Woolmer Pond									1	10	12	46

Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)

Stercorarius pomarinus

Scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; very scarce in summer and rare in winter. Green

After the previous year's poor showing, it was something of a return to form in 2016 with up to 32 seen in spring and one in late summer. Spring passage through The Solent started on Apr 21st with an impressive flock of ten past Stokes Bay, of which nine were also seen off Sandy Point. There were no further records until May 5th-6th when eight passed Hurst Beach (6 E, 5th; 2, 6th), four were noted at Hill Head (4 E, 5th) and eight were off Sandy Point (7 E, 5th; 1 E, 6th). It is likely that some of these reports referred to the same birds as they passed east through The Solent. The spring passage ended with a single east off Hurst Beach on May 10th. The only record in the second half-year was one off Hurst Beach on Aug 20th. (MLE)

Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)

Stercorarius parasiticus

Scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; very scarce in summer and rare in winter. Red

The first was one heading north-west over Titchfield Haven on Mar 29th. The main spring passage extended from Apr 2nd-May 10th with approximately 61 logged. This was a slight improvement on the poor total of 53 in 2015. Totals at individual sites were 28 at Hurst Beach (peak 8, Apr 22nd), 22 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 8, May 2nd), 3 off Southsea and 11 at Sandy Point (peak 2, Apr 21st, May 5th, 9th). One was also off Hill Head on the late date of June 25th.

Autumn passage was very poor with only eight between Aug 20th and Oct 6th. All records were of singles except for two at Hurst Beach on Sep 5th. (MLE)

Long-tailed Skua (Long-tailed Jaeger)

Stercorarius longicaudus

Very scarce passage migrant, also recorded twice in winter. (1, 45, 1) Green

One record. A pale-phase first-summer was at Weston Shore for seven minutes on Aug 11th after which it flew off south (ARC). There have been records every year this century apart from 2004, 2012 and 2015. (KFB)

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

Scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; very scarce in summer and rare in winter. Amber

A total of approximately 28 was recorded, the same as last year's low figure. There were no early year records and the first of the spring was a single south-east past Hurst Beach on Mar 27th. Passage continued to May 21st and comprised approximately 22 individuals. At Hurst Beach 11 were noted with a maximum of two on Apr 10th. Four singles passed

Hill Head/Stokes Bay between Apr 15th and 21st and 11 were off Sandy Point between Apr 19th and May 5th with a maximum of three on Apr 20th. Sightings of singles off Hill Head on June 24th and 29th presumably referred to the same individual. Late summer and autumn records were confined to Hurst Beach with two on Aug 20th and singles on Sep 5th, Oct 16th and Nov 3rd. (MLE)

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin)

Fratercula arctica

Rare visitor recorded in every month; very small numbers breed nearby on the Dorset coast.

EN, Red

The only record was of a corpse found at Hill Head on Jan 30th (EJB). There have been records in seven years this century, most recently in 2014. (KFB)

Razorbill

Alca torda

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; breeds nearby on Purbeck coast of Dorset.

NT, Amber

It was an even worse year than 2015 with only about 23 recorded. Early year records came from four areas. At Hurst Beach singles were noted on five dates in January with two on 2nd, a further single on Feb 21st and two east on Mar 11th. At least one was present in Southampton Water between Mayflower Park, Southampton and Hill Head from Jan 1st-14th and at Weston Shore on Feb 6th and one flew east past Stokes Bay on Jan 2nd. In the Portsmouth Harbour/Southsea area one was present on Jan 7th-8th and on Workhouse Lake, Gosport on Feb 6th. Singles were recorded in April and May with the last being off Hurst Spit on May 9th.

Late year records comprised singles at Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point on Oct 14th and 24th and from Nov 26th-Dec 20th; Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Oct 16th and from Nov 17th-20th, with two at Hurst Narrows on Nov 3rd; Normandy/Keyhaven on Nov 11th and 26th and from Dec 22nd-29th; and Hill Head on Nov 15th and Dec 27th.

Approximate monthly totals of live birds are tabulated below. (MLE)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	3	2	1	1					2	6	3



Adult summer Razorbill, Hurst Beach, May 9th (Dave Ryves)



Little Auk

Alle alle

Rare winter visitor recorded in every month from October to February, usually after storms. (10+,140+,1) Green

One record. A bird spent just over two hours at Ibsley Water on Nov 3rd (GH et al., photo). There have been records in every year this century except 2008, 2010 and 2011. (KFB)

Little Auk, Ibsley Water, Blashford, Nov 3rd (Ashley Howe)

Guillemot (Common Murre)

Uria aalge

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; breeds nearby in west of Isle of Wight. NT, Amber

It was a very poor year with only 18 recorded – the lowest total since 12 in 1992. January mustered only six records with one in Southampton Water between Lepe and Hill Head on 3rd-6th with two at Weston Shore on Jan 5th, two off Hurst Beach on Jan 3rd including an oiled bird (possibly the individual which was found dead at Hill Head on 27th) and singles off Sandy Point, Stokes Bay and Lepe on one date only. There were no further records until late April. Spring passage was recorded only at Hurst Beach with nine from Apr 23rd-May 31st (peak 3, May 6th). In October there were singles off Hurst Beach on 16th and Northney on 22nd. Three singles were recorded in the late winter period off Sandy Point (1, Nov 11th-Dec 3rd), between Hill Head and Hamble Estuary (1, Nov 11th-Dec 25th) and Mayflower Park, Southampton on Dec 23rd.



Guillemot, Hill Head, Dec 16th (Dave Ryves)

Approximate monthly totals of live birds are tabulated below. (MLE)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	5			1	6					2	2	3
Moving east	1			1	1							

Auk species

Singles flew east off Sandy Point on Jan 1st, May 5th, Nov 3rd and 11th. One was off Hurst Beach on Mar 3rd. (MLE)

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

Scarce and declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

ET, Schedule I, Amber, HBAP

The first were on Apr 14th when one flew east off Hurst Beach and two passed Sandy Point. Spring passage was very good with approximately 218 east through The Solent up to May 12th. Totals at the three main sea-watching sites were 81 at Hurst Beach (max. 15, May 7th), 78 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 25, May 10th) and 111 at Sandy Point (max. 28, May 10th). Inland, one at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on May 11th was the first site record.

It was another poor breeding season in the county with probably no more than 20 pairs present. In the Lymington-Hurst area two pairs attempted to nest at Normandy Lagoon but these had deserted by May 14th; subsequently nine nests were in another area in mid-June but none were successful. Up to 20 adults were present in a third area in early July but again there was no evidence that any young fledged. Predation and egg collection were thought to be possible causes for the lack of success. At Langstone Harbour RSPB 11 pairs failed to raise any young (*cf.* 41 pairs raising 4 young in 2015).

Post-breeding flocks were again highest at Black Point, Hayling Island with 50 on July 25th. The only other noteworthy count was 22 at Hill Head on Aug 18th. There were two September records, the last for the year, with one off Farlington Marshes on 26th and two east at Keyhaven on 30th. (MLE)

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

Rare passage migrant. (0,11, 2) ET

One record. Two flew east across Keyhaven Lagoon on May 7th (SLav, photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC. The observer managed to obtain photographs as the birds continued eastwards without stopping. This is a typical spring overshoot date for this species for which the closest breeding is at La Brenne in the Loire valley in France. Several others were seen in Britain that week. Of the 12 Hampshire records, only two have not been in May including the last record in April 2011. This is a hard bird to see in the county, and on only one occasion have birds remained long enough for many people to enjoy them. (KFB)



Adult summer Whiskered Terns, Keyhaven Lagoon, May 7th (Steve Lavington)

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule I, Green

It was a good year with approximately 205 recorded compared to 83 last year. Spring passage through The Solent was strong with 140 reported between Apr 21st and May 11th along with 33 off-passage birds. The first was at Ibsley Water from Apr 20th-21st followed by one moving east at Hurst Beach on 21st and four there the next day. There were no further records until May 5th and coastal passage was over by 11th. Totals at the three main sites were 47 at Hurst Beach (peak 33 E, May 5th), 66 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 49 E, May 5th) and 27 at Sandy Point (peak, 21 E, May 5th). Inland, 12 were recorded at Ibsley Water/



Adult Little Tern, Keyhaven, May 5th (Joe Murphy)

Ivy Lake (peak 8, May 11th) and 13 at Fleet Pond (peak 6, May 10th). In June one was at Fleet Pond on 20th and up to three were at Warsash on 18th-25th with one at Hill Head on 25th. The first of the autumn was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on July 21st. A further 21 were seen during August with ten at Keyhaven, three at Hill Head and Sandy Point and four at Ibsley Water. The last was a single at Tundry Pond from Aug 29th-31st.

Approximate monthly totals are shown below. Note there may be some double-counting during peak passage periods. (MLE)

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
6	173	4	1	21	

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant; small numbers now winter. ET, Amber

Early year records were more widespread than usual. The majority of sightings were from Chichester Harbour where up to six were present up to early March. Elsewhere singles were off Hurst Beach on five dates from Jan 23rd-Mar 5th, Needs Ore to Mar 4th and Langstone Harbour to Feb 24th.

Spring passage started with one east at Hurst Beach on Mar 15th and involved approximately 700 east up to May 11th. Totals at individual watchpoints were 94 past Hurst Beach (peak 21, Apr 10th), 67 past Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 15, Apr 2nd) and 625 past Sandy Point (peak 100, May 5th). Inland, one was at Ibsley Water on Mar 26th and five were there on Apr 15th.

In the Hurst-Lymington area 81 pairs raised a minimum of 11 young although a full count of fledged young was not made (cf. 87 pairs raising 2 young in 2015). At Langstone Harbour RSPB 122 pairs raised a minimum of 49 young (cf. 93 pairs raising 70 young in 2015).

The highest counts of the autumn were at Keyhaven with 60 on July 30th and 87 on Aug 2nd. The Black Point roost peaked at 28 on July 28th and 23 on Sep 10th. Elsewhere the only other count greater than 20 was 21 at Hythe on Aug 20th. In the late winter period there were records from four sites. A count of 19 in Chichester Harbour on Oct 20th presumably included some late migrants as the peak count from there in the final two months of the year was only nine on Nov 11th. Elsewhere singles were in Langstone Harbour on Nov 22nd and 24th, up to three were in Portsmouth Harbour from late November to Dec 3rd, one was off Galkicker on 3rd and up to six were at Black Point/Chichester Harbour between 6th and 31st. (MLE)

2015 correction: Three at Fleet Pond were on May 6th, not April 17th.

Common Tern†

Sterna hirundo

Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The first were singles off Hill Head on Apr 3rd and Hook-with-Warsash and at Ibsley Water on Apr 4th-5th followed by sightings at three coastal and two inland sites on 10th. Spring passage through The Solent was much improved on 2015 with approximately 2,370 recorded between Apr 10th and May 14th. Counts from coastal watchpoints included 1,611 at Hurst Beach (max. 515, May 10th), 1,285 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 407, May 10th) and 2,045 at Sandy Point (max. 946, May 10th).

During the breeding season 55 occupied nests were recorded in the Hurst-Lymington area but there was no coordinated count. In Langstone Harbour 54 pairs on the RSPB islands all failed to raise young while at West Hayling LNR 57 pairs fledged a total of four young. The low productivity was attributed to poor food supply and predation particularly by Mediterranean Gulls. At Titchfield Haven 13 pairs nested of which nine hatched seven young but fledging success was unknown. One pair nested at Testwood Lakes and raised two young. Approximately 40 young fledged from 29 pairs on the new HOS sponsored tern rafts at Ivy Lake. See separate note in this report (p. 247). Post-breeding numbers were similar to 2015 with 26 three-figure counts from four sites. The regular build-up at Hill Head peaked at 820 on Aug 17th. Elsewhere, only Black Point had counts higher than 220 with a maximum of 480 on Aug 1st. October records came from Sandy Point with one on 3rd and South Moor, Langstone Harbour where two were present on 12th, the last date of the year. (MLE)

2015 addition. Other high counts in August were 850 offshore from Sinah Common on 15th and 750 there on 22nd.



Adult summer Common Tern, Keyhaven, Apr 28th (Gareth Rees)

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

It was a very similar year to 2015 with approximately seven in spring, one in summer and four in late summer on return passage. All the spring records were of singles with the first moving east off Sandy Point on Apr 23rd. This was followed by reports from Keyhaven Lagoon on 26th and Langstone Harbour on 28th. The next were off Hurst Beach on May 5th and 13th and two different individuals were off Hill Head on 21st (unringed) and 28th (ringed). One was at Sandy Point on June 8th.

The first of the autumn passage was at Hill Head on Aug 10th. There were records from there through to 18th with two on 12th. One was ringed and it is tempting to speculate that they were the same individuals that were present in May. Elsewhere, one at Keyhaven on Aug 14th was thought to be one of the Hill Head individuals, a single was in Portsmouth Harbour on 26th and the last of the year was another at Keyhaven on Sep 6th. (MLE)

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.

ET, Amber

Passage was again light with only approximately 77 recorded. Spring passage along the coast totalled 51 between Apr 10th and May 11th with 32 at Hurst Beach, 13 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay, nine at Southsea and five at Sandy Point. The only double-figure count was ten east at Hurst Beach between 06:15 and 07:52 on May 5th. Inland 14 were recorded at Fleet Pond (max. 10 NE between 07:55 and 08:14 on Apr 23rd) and singles at Sowley Pond on Apr 13th and Ibsley Water on May 14th. Return passage extended from July 27th (1, Sandy Point) to Oct 9th (1, Weston Shore) and included 11 along the coast and one inland at Fleet Pond. Four at Weston Shore on Oct 8th was the peak count. (MLE)

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake)

Rissa tridactyla

Scarce to moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor, usually scarce but sometimes occurring in large numbers after gales; breeds nearby on Purbeck coast of Dorset and in East Sussex.
VU, Red

The species was relatively scarce this year with only 98 counted compared to over 700 in 2015. The highest January counts came during strong gales early in the month with eight adults east past Sandy Point on 1st, eight adults east past Hurst on 2nd followed by three adults west on 3rd and five (1 adult, 4 first-winters) at Stokes Bay also on 2nd. Most of the records for February came from Hurst with nine adults (6 W, 3 E) on 6th and three (not aged) (1 W, 2 E) on 7th. The only inland record of the year was an adult briefly present at Ibsley Water on Feb 8th. The totals for all coastal locations during January and February were Hurst (25; peak 9, Feb 6th), Weston Shore (2), Dibden Bay (3), Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (8), Stokes Bay (5), Southsea (5) and Sandy Point (12).

Spring passage barely registered with a total of only five individuals between Mar 26th and May 10th. The first flew west at Hill Head on Mar 26th followed by three at Hurst (1 first-winter E, Apr 6th; 1 not aged, Apr 10th; 1 first-winter E, May 2nd). The last, an adult, east at Hill Head on May 10th was also reported at Sandy Point the same day. After the early end to spring passage there were only three more individuals recorded before November including reports from Sandy Point of a juvenile on Aug 11th, Hythe (juvenile/first-winter) on Aug 19th and both Hurst and Sandy Point (juvenile/first-winter) east on Aug 20th. The highest day count of the year, a feeding flock of at least 40, was reported from Hurst on Nov 15th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. Note where there are same-day counts at different sites only the highest site is included. (JR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
34	13	1	2	2			3			43	

Black-headed Gull†

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

In the first three months the highest count was a pre-roost gathering of 23,000 at Weston Shore at 15:15 on Feb 28th (IRWV). This is the highest count for Southampton Water since December 1972 when a survey of the estuary produced a total of 27,300. Such large aggregations are rare and help to give an insight into the total county wintering population, normally only available from complete roost counts. When combined with the Ibsley Water roost count of 10,000 on Mar 5th (see table) the county's wintering population amounted to around 33,000 individuals, even without counts from the other major roosts at Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours. Apart from the tabulated counts, the highest numbers in the Avon Valley were at Avon Causeway (1,050, Jan 17th) and in the west Solent at Stansore Point, Lepe (650, Mar 12th). Significant east Solent counts came from Farlington Marshes (800, Jan 15th) and Budds Farm STW (500, Mar 22nd). Inland high counts came from Cheriton (500, Feb 3rd), Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (850, Feb 21st), Trigpoint Hill (500, Mar 7th) and Fleet Pond (600, Mar 31st). At The Grange Lake, Northington on Feb 28th 1,500 were logged moving upstream away from Alresford Pond between 11:00 and 12:30.

In the breeding season a total of 12,396 pairs (cf. 9,598 in 2015) was reported which is a significant increase over last year, mainly because of a return to nesting west of Lymington River. A total of 6,619 nested along the coast around Lymington with 3,930 at Pylewell and Boiler to the east and 2,689 at Normandy/Cockleshell to the west. A further 55 nested at Keyhaven. On the Langstone Harbour islands 2,786 pairs raised 401 young and at nearby West Hayling LNR 686 pairs raised 455 young. At Titchfield Haven 1,157 pairs only raised 30 young because of very high predation by foxes. At Hook-with-Warsash 30 pairs had reasonable nesting success despite some predation by a Lesser Black-backed Gull. At Beaulieu

Estuary a small colony of at least 100 pairs nested on Gull Island but, as in previous recent attempts, failed to raise young. Away from the coast the nesting colonies at Blashford Lakes and Fleet Pond continued to increase. At Blashford there was a total of 663 pairs with 501 on Spinnaker Lake, 150 on Ibsley Water, ten on Ivy Lake and two on Ellingham Lake, and at Fleet Pond there were at least 300 pairs which raised in excess of 300 young.

The largest post-breeding counts were reported from Itchen Estuary above Northam Bridge (850, Aug 18th) and Hamble Estuary (610, Aug 18th). Over the course of the evening of Aug 23rd 2,000 were logged heading south over Havant to roost at Langstone Harbour. By autumn the roosts started to build and Ibsley Water reached 5,000 again by Oct 16th. High non-tabulated counts included Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (800, Sep 18th; 500, Oct 2nd), Hythe (500, Sep 27th), Eversley GP (500, Sep 29th; 750, Oct 6th; 700, 11th), Itchen Estuary above Northam Bridge (800, Sep 20th; 630, Oct 17th; 750, Nov 17th; 605, Dec 17th), Avington Lake (700, Nov 28th) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (720, Dec 14th; 731, 18th). On Nov 18th between 15:40 and 16:15 1,800 were logged moving south over Waterlooville to roost. At Peartree Green, Southampton counts were made of movements down the Itchen of 3,478 between 16:00 and 17:00 on Nov 7th and 5,260 between 15:45 and 16:00 on Dec 3rd.

Two ringed individuals were recorded at Eastrop Park, Basingstoke on Dec 11th. One was ringed as a nestling at Trehaven, Islingland, Sweden on June 29th 2016 and the other was ringed at Hosehill Lake NR, Theale, Berkshire as a nestling in 2015 by the Reading and Basingstoke Ringing group. In addition, one ringed as a chick at Kymi, Finland on June 30th 1995 was seen at Lee-on-the-Solent on Nov 29th 2015 and again the next winter on Nov 12th 2016 when it was over 21 years old (see Ringing Report).

The monthly maxima at regularly counted sites are tabulated below. (JRJ)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour WeBS	973	1,023	787				1,500	1,500		355	536	913
Titchfield Haven	607	365	1,500	2,410	2,000	2,000	800			650	192	500
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	176	146	165	509	248	81	209	234	268	407	117	207
Ibsley Water#	2,000	8,000	10,000	875	298	320	138	143	733	5,000	7,000	6,500
Winchester SF	235	865	610	36	8	10	214	168	390	800	700	1800
Alresford Pond	100	2,000	905	1			63	475	1,050	400	500	126
Heath Pond, Petersfield	126	120	250	8	8	8	62	57	30	260	265	260

night roost

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

Scarce visitor, although sometimes moderately common, recorded in all months but most numerous in spring and autumn.
ET, NT, Schedule I, Green

The highest monthly count was 47 in January between 2nd and 13th. The highest days were 3rd and 4th with a combined total of 29. The highest total was at Southsea (31; max. 18 not aged, 4th). Other locations included Sandy Point (13; max. 5 adults, 4th), Hurst (6 adults, 1 first-winter, 3rd), Titchfield Haven/Hill Head (4; max. 2 adults, 2nd), Stansore Point, Lepe (1 adult, 5th; 1 first-winter W, 30th), Hordle Cliffs (1 adult W, 3rd), Stokes Bay (1 not aged W, 4th), Hayling Island (1 adult, 9th) and Northney (1 adult, 12th). In February there were two adults at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head on the 1st and two not aged W at Hurst Beach on 7th.

Spring passage extended from Mar 14th-May 17th and coastal movement amounted to 26 mainly eastwards with a further seven off passage and 20 inland. The first migrants in March were inland with reports from Ibsley Water on 14th (1 second-winter), 18th (3 not aged) and 19th (2 adults) followed by one first-winter at Fleet Pond on the 25th. The first coastal sighting was an adult heading NVW at Milford on Sea on Mar 27th. Most coastal records came from Hurst where 13 (4 adults, 4 first-winters, 2 second-winters and 3 not aged) were recorded up to May 5th, all singles apart from two on Apr 12th. Other locations were Beaulieu Estuary

(1 adult, Apr 14th), Weston Shore (1 first-winter, Apr 16th), Hook-with-Warsash (2 first-summers, April 14th-15th and May 9th-11th), Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (3 adults, 2 first-summers, 2 immatures and 2 not aged, Apr 3rd-May 17th), Farlington Marshes (1 first-winter, Apr 3rd-20th), Stokes Bay (1 first-winter, May 5th) and Sandy Point (4 adults, 3 first-summers, Apr 14th-May 6th). Inland there were 13 at Ibsley Water (2 adults, 4 immatures and 7 not aged, Mar 14th-May 14th) and seven at Fleet Pond (4 adults, 1 first-winter, 2 first-summers, Mar 25th-May 11th).

Return passage was very light, the first being a juvenile at Chilling Cliffs on Aug 16th. The only others were at Weston Shore (1 juvenile, Aug 24th-25th), Lymington-Hurst (2 juveniles, Aug 30th; 1 first-winter, Oct 2nd) and Sandy Point (1 first-winter, Oct 12th). In the last two months of the year ten not aged at Southsea on Nov 5th formed the majority with only two other reports that month at Hurst Beach (1 adult, Nov 7th) and Lepe (1 adult E, Nov 19th). The final report of the year was a first-winter that lingered off Brownwich from Dec 22nd and was still there on the 31st.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
47	4	8	28	17			5		2	12	1



Juvenile Little Gull, Keyhaven, Aug 30th (Joe Murphy)

Mediterranean Gull†

Larus melanocephalus

Moderately common and increasing breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; scarce in winter.
ET, Schedule I, Amber, HBAP

Most of the almost daily records throughout January and February were in single figures. The only double-figure count in January was 12 at West Lane, Hayling Island on 29th. In February the highest counts came from the eastern harbours with Chichester Harbour (80, 9th), Northney (380, 20th) and West Hayling LNR (120, 23rd; 100, 27th). The only other locations reaching double-figure counts were both inland, at Ibsley Water (max. 52, 29th) and Alresford Pond (20, 28th). Most inland records were from Ibsley Water.

After the high late-February counts, recorded numbers were much lower for most of March, only reaching three figures again at the end of the month. The only three-figure counts in March were from the Warblington shore of Chichester Harbour (191, 29th) and West Lane, Hayling Island (700, 31st). Three-figure counts in April were limited to the area around Titchfield Haven between 6th-12th (max. 264 at Little Posbrook on 6th) and Northney Common (165 on 2nd; 300 on 10th).

Breeding was recorded at five locations with a total of 897 pairs, which is a new county record exceeding the previous high of 520 pairs in 2011. The largest colony was once again on the Langstone Harbour islands with a total of 883 pairs raising 700 young. Two pairs nested unsuccessfully at West Hayling LNR and a pair at Titchfield Haven also failed. In the west Solent eight pairs nested in the Black-headed Gull colony at the mouth of Lymington River, though more probably attempted to nest but failed. At Blashford three pairs nested successfully on Spinnaker Lake.

Most inland summer movements were as usual to the South Downs from the Langstone Harbour colony. The highest June counts were at Butser Hill (50, 10th), Soberton Down (150, 14th), Winchester SF (70, 15th), Beacon Hill, Warnford (83, 24th) and East Meon (122, 29th). Those in July were at Hoe Cross Farm, Hambledon (210, 2nd), Beacon Hill, Warnford (218, 5th), Avington Lake (127, 12th) and Hinton Ampner (90 S, 15th). Inland movements were also reported by some coastal observers, the largest being 330 heading north during June 21st over Leigh Park, Havant. On July 18th around 500 were reported from the same location catching ants in a much larger mixed gull flock.

All large post-breeding gatherings were reported from the coast. On July 17th 100 were at Sandy Point but thereafter most reports were from the area between Titchfield Haven and Hamble Estuary, eventually reaching a maximum of 630 at Brownwich on Sep 13th. The three-figure counts building up to this peak came from Titchfield Haven (127, Aug 19th), Posbrook Floods (130, Aug 23rd), Hook-with-Warsash (250 flying over on the evening of Aug 30th), Solent Breezes (100, Sep 1st), Hill Head (100, Sep 6th) and Brownwich (300, Sep 7th). At Solent Breezes between 06:50 and 07:50 on Sep 9th the majority of a flock of 200 headed across Southampton Water towards Calshot. After reaching the peak count, the final report from Brownwich was 350 on Oct 2nd. The final three-figure counts of the year came from Hurst Beach with 124 on Oct 31st and 376 roosting on nearby Sturt Pond on Nov 15th. The only double-figure counts in December were 14 at Oxe Marsh on 13th and 19 at Beaulieu Estuary on 18th.

Colour-ringed Mediterranean Gulls recorded at Northney on Apr 2nd and 3rd were all ringed as chicks outside the UK. The ringing locations were Verrebroek, Belgium in June 2003, Stade, north Germany in July 2006 and Zuid-Holland, Netherlands in June 2010 (see Ringing Report for others).

Monthly maxima at regularly counted localities are tabulated below. (JR)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour		380	191	300	23	7	33	3	23	1		1
South Hayling shore	1	2		4	1		100	40	14	1		
Langstone Harbour	12	120	700	46	1,766	1,766	20			1		
Portsmouth Harbour	3	4	5	7	1		10	5	1	2	2	3
Titchfield Haven area	2	7	84	264	10	8	47	130	630	350	1	3
Hamble Estuary		1	11	15	10	9	16	250	200			
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	4	5	45	84	4	6	20	13	21		2	19
Sowley/Lymington	2	1	6	5	1	1		3	4		1	
Lymington-Hurst	2	3	90	7	10	5	3	5	3	124	376	14
Avon Causeway/Sopley Pig Farm		1					8					2
Ibsley Water	5	52	32	4	6	1	1			1	2	3

A presumed Mediterranean Gull x Black-headed Gull hybrid was reported from Titchfield Haven on Mar 17th (DH, photo).

Common Gull (Mew Gull)

Larus canus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer and occasionally breed.

Amber

In the first three months there were nine three-figure counts away from the tabulated sites. All except one of these were from the South Downs and included Warnford (250, Jan 6th), Hoe Cross Farm, Hambledon (550, Jan 11th), Chidden Green Lane (270, Jan 16th; 750 Feb 20th), Coombe (170, Jan 31st), Exton (125, Feb 19th), Soberton (190, Feb 20th) and East Meon (152 N, Feb 28th). Though these feeding flocks mainly roost in the eastern harbours, there were few coastal counts of commensurate size, the highest being 300 at Portsmouth Harbour on Feb 5th (see table). The highest count from Chichester Harbour was 41 on the Warblington shore on Feb 2nd. There were no reports from Langstone Harbour. The tabulated counts for Beaulieu Estuary are an indicator of the low numbers in the west Solent where the highest count was at Calshot (58, Jan 28th).

The heaviest spring passage was in mid-March as shown by peaks of 550 at Alresford Pond on 17th and 620 two days later at Ibsley Water. Otherwise there were few reports at this time. At The Grange Lake, Northington 200 flew north with Black-headed Gulls on Feb 28th. At Sinah Common 22 headed east on Mar 19th, 11 west on Apr 11th and 11 east on Apr 17th. At Sandy Point there was a total of 14 east between Apr 14th and May 10th. Summer records comprised two at Kilmeston on June 4th and three at Magdalen Hill Down near Winchester on June 17th followed by singles at Hoe Cross Farm, Hambledon on July 2nd and Heath Pond, Petersfield on July 7th. The first double-figure count of the autumn was 17 at Lepe on Aug 7th and the first three-figure count of the autumn was 120 at Alresford Pond on Sep 24th. There were much lower numbers at Portsmouth Harbour (see table) but in neighbouring Langstone Harbour significant counts came from Farlington Marshes (210, Sep 24th; 135, Nov 5th; 290, Dec 16th). On Nov 18th between 15:40 and 16:15 a movement of 200 was reported south over Waterlooville to roost. In the final two months three-figure inland feeding flocks were reported from Avington Lake (120, Nov 28th), Cheriton (500, Dec 24th) and Corhampton (150, Dec 27th). The highest non-tabulated counts in the west of the county came from Redbridge (58, Dec 7th) and Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (57, Dec 31st).

The monthly maxima at regularly counted sites are tabulated below. (JRJ)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	250	300	25							10	14	43
Beaulieu Estuary		14	15				8	2	28	10	6	1
Ibsley Water	8	250	620				1			9	60	50
Winchester SF	27	41	10						3	8	211	116
Alresford Pond	70	283	550				4	6	120	341	700	100

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Very scarce visitor recorded in every month except May. (0,41,2)

Two new records. The adult, which had been at Ibsley Water since December 2015 was present until Mar 25th (m.o., photo). A second adult was also present from Mar 4th-12th (m.o., photo). The usual adult returned again for its third winter from Nov 18th until the year end, and a second adult was present from Dec 1st-9th (m.o., photo). There have been records in every year since 1992 including the returning winterer at Gosport between 2003-2015. (KFB)



Adult winter Ring-billed Gull, Ibsley Water, Blashford, Dec 18th (Lee Fuller)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Common visitor, mostly to inland sites, recorded in all months; most numerous in autumn and increasing in winter. Small numbers have bred since 2001.

Amber

The highest counts in the first three months came from Ibsley Water roost with monthly maxima of 6,600 on Jan 20th, 1,700 on Feb 28th and 200 on Mar 20th. There were no counts from Eversley GP. Other significant counts were mainly in the north of the county and came from Rampton's Lane GP/Welshman's Road GP (30, Jan 2nd; 110, Feb 7th), Charlton Lakes, Andover (50, Jan 10th), Axmansford (40, Jan 31st), Upton Grey (130, Feb 14th), Tinkers Hill, Andover (65, Feb 29th), Anton Lakes, Andover (30, Mar 16th) and Down Farm, Andover (43, Mar 19th). In the south of the county a pre-roost gathering at Weston Shore totalled 210 on Mar 13th. The only other coastal count reaching double figures during this period was at Titchfield Haven (12, Mar 26th). Both of these may have included returning migrants. Spring passage was recorded at Trigpoint Hill between Mar 6th and May 30th when 107 were logged moving north-east with highest day counts of 20 on Mar 19th and 28 on 28th. At Fleet Pond between Mar 27th and May 14th 83 were logged on passage with 60 heading between north-west and north-east.

A total of 16 breeding pairs was reported, all of them on roofs. This included eight pairs in Southampton recorded during a full survey of the city. There were five pairs at New Lane, Havant, two pairs at Burrfields, Portsmouth and one pair at Anton Lakes, Andover. The largest summer flocks were at Ibsley Water (25, May 28th) and Winchester SF (24, June 10th). Post-breeding flocks were at Avington Lake (32, July 19th) and Alresford Pond (monthly max. 125, Aug 7th). Autumn movements recorded at Trigpoint Hill between June 10th and Aug 19th were light, amounting to 35 of which 24 headed SW, the highest days being five on June 14th and Aug 1st.

The post-breeding build-up at Ibsley Water began early with 900 on Aug 14th. Subsequent monthly maxima were 125 on Sep 28th, 6,500 on Oct 16th, 4,100 on Nov 24th and 3,800 on Dec 16th. The first high count for Eversley GP was 550 on Sep 6th. Subsequent counts were 1,900 on Sep 29th, 1,700 on Oct 6th and 2,150 on Oct 11th after which there were no further counts. As usual most counts of large flocks in autumn and early winter were mainly from the north of the county. There were reports from Neatham Down, Alton (150, Sep 2nd), Tile Barn Farm near Upton Grey (150, Oct 2nd), Beacon Hill, Burghclere (250, Oct 9th), Busta Triangle (550, Nov 7th; 360, Nov 23rd; 100, Dec 15th) and Testbourne Lakes (170, Dec 14th). Counts from the southern half of the county came from the vicinity of Ibsley Water with reports from Blackheath Down (500, Nov 10th), Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge (65, Nov 14th) and Hamer Warren, Ringwood Forest (50, Dec 17th). In the final three months the highest coastal count was four at Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 13th. (JRJ)

Herring Gull (European Herring Gull)

Larus argentatus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; moderately common and increasing breeder.

NT, Red, S4I

In the first three months there were 32 counts of over 50 which included seven coastal and five inland locations. The maximum counts for each coastal location were Keyhaven (200, Mar 13th), Dibden Bay (70, Jan 1st), Northam/Mansbridge (53, Mar 11th), Gilkicker Point (90, Feb 29th), Portsmouth Harbour (103, Feb 13th), Southsea (100, Jan 7th) and Black Point, Hayling Island (106, Feb 15th). Most of the inland counts came from Ibsley Water (max. 300 mainly first-winters, Feb 28th) and Itchen Valley CP (max. 100, Jan 30th). Other inland counts came from Chidden Green Lane in the Meon Valley (110, Jan 28th), Winchester SF (50, Feb 1st) and Fleet Pond (90, Feb 20th). In April there were 115 at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 12th and 70 at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on 21st.

A total of 148 breeding pairs was reported. Most of these were on roofs in Southampton where a full survey counted 104 pairs with a further 40 pairs in the east docks at Dock

Head. Other breeding sites were on roofs at Barton on Sea (2 pairs), Havant (1 pair) and Kites Croft, Locks Heath (1 pair). There have also been reports of a significant colony within Fawley Refinery but no counts have been submitted. The largest summering flocks were 150 at West Winner on May 15th and 200 at Sandy Point on May 23rd.

The first three-figure post-breeding flocks were at Keyhaven (145, July 23rd) and Ibsley Water (300, July 30th). The latter was composed mainly of first to third years with few juveniles or adults. There were also significant post-breeding counts in the east Solent at Sandy Point (130, Aug 9th), Portsmouth Harbour (170, Aug 12th), Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore (374, Aug 26th) and Titchfield Haven (max. 135, Aug 27th). Inland there were counts from Winchester SF (225 mainly immatures, Aug 23rd), Bishopstoke (where 250 moved south at dusk on Sep 14th), Itchen Stoke (126, Sep 17th) and Eversley GP (125, Sep 29th).

In the final three months most three-figure counts were from inland locations. The autumn roost at Ibsley Water rose to 500 on Oct 16th and Nov 13th. At the Eversley GP roost there were counts of 185 on Oct 11th and 350 on Dec 28th. Other reports came from Chilbolton (120, Oct 2nd), Itchen Valley CP (max. 210, Oct 9th), Avington Lake (max. 121, Oct 10th), Winchester SF (max. 255, Oct 26th) and Heath Pond, Petersfield (167, Nov 28th). At the coast there were 200 at Langstone Harbour on Nov 11th. There were two reports of movements along the Itchen. On Nov 7th between 16:00 and 17:00 419 were counted moving down at Peartree Green, Southampton and on Dec 20th between dawn and 09:00 a northward movement of 930 was logged over Itchen Valley CP. Late year movements to both south-west and north-east were recorded in mid-morning counts at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown. At Trigpoint Hill totals of 329 SW and 113 NE were logged during 17 counts between Oct 2nd and Dec 14th, the peaks being 103 SW on Dec 7th and 32 NE on Dec 1st. At Tweseldown there were totals of 54 SW and 108 NE over 19 dates between Oct 3rd and Nov 28th, the peaks being 13 SW on Nov 17th and 51 NE on Nov 25th. (JRJ)

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

Scarce visitor recorded in all months but more frequent in autumn; bred for the first time in 2014; previously hybridised with other large gull species.

Amber

Over two-thirds of the year's sightings were concentrated into the second half and while they were widely, if thinly, dispersed across the county, four locations stood out as having the most frequent sightings and/or the highest concentrations. These were Ibsley Water, the Itchen Estuary area of Southampton, Titchfield Haven/Hill Head (present for eleven months but in low numbers) and Eversley GP (only present in the latter half of the year but with high autumn numbers). In total there were records from 11 coastal and 12 inland locations. In addition to the tabulated locations, first half-year records of singles (unless otherwise stated) also came from Longparish (Jan 1st, 16th, June 1st), Portsmouth Harbour (Jan 4th), Winchester SF (Jan 17th), Chichester Harbour (Feb 13th), Sholing (Apr 23rd), Weston Shore (May 14th) Langstone Harbour (May 21st-22nd), Lymington-Hurst (May 22nd), Heath Pond, Petersfield (June 17th) and Charlton Lakes, Andover (2, June 30th).

In the breeding season one pair nested for the third consecutive year on a roof at Northam along the Itchen Estuary raising three young.

In the second half-year the higher numbers included reports from a wider spread of locations, particularly in the north of the county. In addition to the tabulated locations there were coastal reports of singles (unless otherwise stated) from Hook-with-Warsash (July 8th, 18th), Chichester Harbour (July 12th-27th, Nov 29th), Southsea (July 30th, Nov 19th), Lymington-Hurst (2, Aug 28th; 1, 29th; Sep 5th), Gilkicker Point (Oct 4th), Portsmouth Harbour (Oct 7th-22nd) and Langstone Harbour (Oct 12th). Inland reports came from Fleet Pond (July 7th-Nov 28th), Andover (July 24th), Busta triangle (Aug 5th, 16th, Sep 2nd-24th, Oct 30th, Nov 23rd, Dec 28th; 2, Aug 31st, Sep 13th-15th; 4, Nov 7th, 23rd), Itchen Valley CP (Aug 7th), Well (Aug 15th) and Alresford Pond (Sep 11th, Dec 17th).

Monthly maxima at the most frequently counted sites and the approximate monthly totals are shown below. (JRJ)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water roosts)	6	6	6	2	2	1				10	10	15
Eversley GP							1	1	10	15		1
Itchen Estuary area	3	4	2	3	1	1	5	5	1	1		1
Lower Test Marshes/Eling						1	4	6	2	2		1
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	1		1
Approx. monthly totals	13	12	9	7	7	8	17	23	22	34	17	21

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,40,3)
Amber

Three records. Two first-winters were present at Ibsley Water in the early part of the year and were often seen at the same time. One was a classic long-billed bird present from at least Jan 8th (LMF) to at least Feb 28th (m.o., photo), while the second was a somewhat shorter-billed bird, more advanced than the other, with more grey in the scapulars. This was present from at least Jan 30th to Mar 6th (m.o., photo). Although there were claims of a third-winter and adult on other dates, no images were submitted to prove identity beyond doubt. A first-winter was also seen on Dec 12th (RAH) and 17th (DHT) and again in 2017. There have been records in every year this century except 2006. (KFB)



First-winter Caspian Gull, Ibsley Water, Blashford, Jan 16th and Jan 30th (Lee Fuller)

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. (3,98,2)
Amber

Two records. Around Southsea a juvenile was present near the beach from Jan 2nd-10th (m.o., photo) and again on Jan 18th (PHog) and Feb 17th (MSt). This was perhaps the same as that seen off Hill Head on Jan 9th (ALR) and Lee-on-the-Solent on Feb 6th (LMF). A juvenile was also on HMS Sultan playing fields on Mar 30th (DES, photo). There have been records in every year this century except 2003. (KFB)

(Note: Iceland and Glaucous Gulls in their first winter are aged here as juveniles because they do not undergo a significant post-juvenile moult and instead retain their faded juvenile plumage into their second year – Ed.)



Juvenile Iceland Gull, Southsea, Jan 6th (Martin Bennett)

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. (3+, 114, 5)

Amber

Five records. At Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea there was a juvenile on Jan 1st (MPM, NRJ, CB, SRI), 3rd (RBW, MW, AD) and again on 8th (MPM). Another juvenile was at Southsea on Jan 10th (KAT) and 18th (PHog). It or another was at Riverside Park on Feb 14th (per IRW) and Stokes Bay for an hour on Apr 11th (TDC). A second-winter was seen from the Portsmouth-Fishbourne ferry on Mar 21st as it followed a fishing boat (DES). This was presumably the same bird that was also seen following a fishing boat off Hill Head on Mar 31st, Apr 4th and 11th (ALR). A second-winter also flew past the Southampton Docks towards the Royal Pier on Apr 15th (RKP). This was presumably the bird that was at Stokes Bay on Apr 20th (JRDS) and May 2nd (ADT, MLE, JRDS) and later seen on the beach at Stubbington (WB). There have been records in 11 years this century with the most recent blank year in 2010. (KFB)

Great Black-backed Gull†

Larus marinus

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce but increasing breeder. Amber

During the first four months of the year there were only seven double-figure counts. Most of these were west Solent reports from Milford on Sea (25, Jan 3rd), Beaulieu Estuary (10, Jan 24th; 10, Apr 10th) and Keyhaven (10, Apr 20th and 16, 26th). There was one east Solent report from Southsea (12, Jan 3rd) and one inland at Ibsley Water (10, Feb 2nd). Apart from Ibsley, there were reports from 21 other inland locations, the highest being at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (5, Apr 10th).

A total of eleven confirmed breeding pairs was reported with a further three possible pairs. Four pairs were confirmed during a complete survey of roof-top nesting gulls in Southampton. These included a pair at Town Quay, a pair at Northam and two pairs in the West Quay Road

area of the city. A pair was found on a factory roof along New Lane, Havant. At Lymington one pair nested on a supermarket roof and another on a groyne alongside the river. At Fawley Refinery a pair with a chick was observed on a disused jetty and presumed to have been raised within the refinery. Three pairs nested unsuccessfully at Needs Ore. Other possible breeders included a pair seen nest building on a roof in Southampton Eastern Docks early in the season and two pairs at Keyhaven Marshes, neither report being subsequently confirmed. Summering flocks were once again present at their usual coastal locations. In the west Solent there were counts from Beaulieu Estuary (max. 71, June 5th) and also from Lymington-Hurst (max. 30, May 23rd). In the east Solent there were counts from West Winner (37, May 22nd), Hill Head (max. 25, June 20th) and Stokes Bay (max. 80, June 25th).

Once the summering flocks had dispersed at the end of July, all further records were of single figures until the usual small autumn influx was recorded at Stokes Bay (47, Sep 18th) and Hill Head (31, Sep 26th). Subsequently the only double-figure count before the end of the year was at Portsmouth Harbour (20, Nov 12th). In the final two months the highest inland counts were four at Ibsley Water on Nov 3rd and 6th. (JRJ)

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Common resident.

Green

Numerous records of three-figure flocks were submitted, mainly from Fareham, Andover and Southampton, the largest of which was 350 in Southampton on Nov 18th. (SKW)

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Numerous resident and winter visitor.

Amber

Five three-figure counts of grounded flocks were reported as follows: 281 at Sopley on Apr 19th; 220 at Binsted on July 11th; 100 or more during October and Nov 1st at Winchester SF with peak of 150+ on Oct 14th; 150 at Ovington Down Farm on Oct 23rd feeding on winter stubble; and 150 at Winter's Down on Nov 5th feeding on maize strip/winter stubble.

Breeding data were fragmentary but indicated no change in status. A pullus was found in a nest box at Shear Down Farm, Malshanger on Aug 24th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 9 (11); Longmoor Inclosure, 7 (8); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (1).

Spring movements were few and small apart from 80 north in an hour at King's Garden, NF on Mar 7th. Over 1,300 were recorded moving in the last quarter of the year, mostly in October and largely heading south-west, at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown, with the higher numbers at the latter watchpoint (328 during Sep 29th-Oct 3rd and 437 during Oct 18th-27th, with peaks of 115 in 4 hours on Sep 29th and 118 in 2.2 hours on Oct 18th). (SKW)

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

Columba palumbus

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Five grounded flocks reached four figures, with maxima of 3,000 at West Tisted on Mar 6th feeding on winter rape and Swarraton on Dec 10th on maize strip and winter stubble. The others were 1,400 at Broughton on Feb 20th, 1,000 at Ampert on Mar 25th and 1,000 at Longstock on Nov 12th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parenthesis): Longmoor Inclosure, 50 (54). There were no comparative surveys at Martin Down or Titchfield Haven.

A few interesting non-autumnal movements were noted including 600 NE at Dibden Bay on Jan 1st and 150 NE at Trigpoint Hill on July 12th. Regular watching at the latter site revealed movements of up to 200 SW on several dates throughout July, August and September.

The autumn total of movements was the lowest for many a year – just 37,330 during September to December compared to 452,119 between Oct 15th and Dec 23rd 2015 and 196,048

between the same dates in 2014. Very unusually, only a few hundred were reported moving at coastal sites, with the vast majority of records (over 29,000) from just the two regular inland watchpoints at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown. The only date approaching ‘big day’ status was Nov 3rd when 16,705 were counted heading mostly south-west, with 75% of them at Tweseldown alone. Indeed, that one observation accounted for 32% of the entire autumn ‘migration’. The timing of movement was typical, peaking in the first half of November and rapidly tailing off, but the volume was very low indeed by recent standards. (SKW)

	Oct 15-21	Oct 22-28	Oct 29 -Nov 4	Nov 5-11	Nov 12-18	Nov 19-25	Nov 26 -Dec 2	Dec 3-9	Dec 10-16	Dec 17-23	Totals
Coast moving SE/SW/NW	75	10	100								185
Coast moving N/E											
Inland moving SE/SW/NW	75	3,346	17,974	3,805	3,070	210			40		28,520
Inland moving N/E		210	993	500	1,140	840	380				4,063
Totals	150	3,566	19,067	4,305	4,210	1,050	380		40		32,768
Days with movements	7	4	6	5	6	4	2		1		35

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove)

Streptopelia decaocto

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

The largest gathering recorded was just 69 at Lower Test Marshes on Aug 29th. No other count exceeded 50. A Petersfield garden recorded a high of 38 on Jan 5th. Just four putative migrants were noted, all in October with two west at Sinah Common on 2nd and two NE at Trigpoint Hill on 22nd. (SKW)

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove)

Streptopelia turtur

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP

The first report was three at Martin Down on Apr 17th. Only two spring migrants were subsequently recorded away from inland breeding sites – one at Lymington on Apr 30th and the other at Keyhaven on May 21st.

By far the most reports were from Martin Down with a pleasing count of 19, including 11 singing males, on May 6th rising to 21, with 17 singing males, on 29th. This is a welcome increase over recent years when the number of territories recorded there was ten, five, four and nine in 2012-2015 respectively. The last report from this site was on July 31st. Ones and twos were recorded singing in suitable habitat at 12 other scattered sites (*cf.* 11 in 2015), mostly on the chalk including Leckford and Stockbridge Down, but also at locations such as Bramshill Plantation in the north-east. However, no firm evidence of successful breeding was reported from any site. Again, the species was absent from former traditional sites such as Noar Hill and the Meon Valley. A comprehensive breeding survey is planned for 2017 to determine the up-to-date status of the species across the county.

Possible dispersing birds or early migrants were recorded at six inland sites between July 1st and Aug 9th, and the only coastal autumn migrant was at Titchfield Haven on Aug 13th. Two remained at a likely breeding site until Aug 29th. (SKW)

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo)

Cuculus canorus

Moderately common but declining summer visitor.

Red, S4I

The first was at Nomansland, NF on Apr 3rd, followed by 12 more in the New Forest over the following week and the first elsewhere from Apr 11th, after which reports rapidly became widespread including one seen to fly in off the sea at Hill Head on Apr 28th. Five at Fishlake Meadows on May 14th was the highest spring count out of 501 reports by the end of May. Overall, breeding season reports were scattered and similar to those from recent years.

Of particular interest this year was the sponsoring by HOS of one of the BTO satellite-tagged cuckoos. A male caught, ringed and tagged in the New Forest on June 10th was chosen. Shortly afterwards on June 16th he left Hampshire and headed south across the English Channel. He successfully navigated to his wintering quarters via Spain and Nigeria and was in the forests of equatorial west Africa in Gabon at year end. He was named Selborne in honour of Gilbert White and his story, including his successful return in 2017, is told in a separate note elsewhere in this report (p.245).

About 20 were noted after mid-June, with migrating individuals at Winchester SF on July 2nd, Oxy on July 23rd, Sandy Point on July 31st and Titchfield Canal Path (juvenile) on Aug 21st, the last of the year. This was a thin autumn showing indeed. (SKW)



Cuckoo, Keyhaven Lagoon, July 25th (Joe Murphy)

Barn Owl (Western Barn Owl)

Moderately common resident.

Tyto alba

Schedule 1, Green

Reports were received from around 100 widespread locations compared to 90 last year. Breeding was confirmed at eight sites, including a pair which raised three young in a disused grain silo. Five young were ringed in one nest box and two in another, both in the north.

The Hawk Conservancy checked 89 nest boxes and whilst 88 were used by owls, only 42 involved nesting attempts. At least 75 young fledged, 48 of which were ringed, from 34 nesting attempts. Several full clutches were found abandoned, possibly as a result of cold weather in April and May. The majority of successful nests were later in the year and may be second attempts. In addition, a further 43 young were ringed by others during the year.

Most sightings were of one or two, but three were observed at Bransbury Common on Feb 7th, 15th, 24th and at Itchen Valley CP on Dec 17th-31st. (BS)

Little Owl

Moderately common but declining resident.

Athene noctua

Reports were received from around 50 widespread locations compared to 70 in 2015. Successful breeding was recorded at three locations with a total of four young being raised, including one which was ringed near Stoke Charity. A further 12 young were ringed by others. Probable breeding was recorded at a further three locations. (BS)

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Common resident.

Amber

Reports were received from around 175 widespread sites compared to 167 last year. Breeding was confirmed at fifteen locations. Probable breeding was recorded at a further four locations. A total of 17 young were ringed during the year. (BS)

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; under-recorded.

Green

One was observed at a previously known location in the north on Apr 26th but there were no further records from the area. Successful breeding was confirmed at three sites; the highest count of breeding pairs since 1988, when four pairs were recorded. Two juveniles were observed at a regular location in the north on May 19th; a single juvenile was heard calling by several observers at a Test Valley location on June 7th; and again in the north, three juveniles were observed and photographed on a golf course on July 3rd. In addition, one was disturbed and photographed at Southampton Western Docks on Dec 5th.

Although very few records are received each year, this secretive species almost certainly goes under-recorded. Observers are encouraged to check suitable habitat and be alert to the far-reaching begging calls of recently fledged young which can continue for up to three months after leaving the nest. (BS)

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Scarce but regular winter visitor and passage migrant; occasionally breeds, most recently in 1997.

ET, Amber



In the period up to April there were records of two or more from Havant Thicket (2, Jan 2nd-4th); Farlington Marshes (up to 4, Jan 5th-April 4th), Bransbury Common (6, Jan 8th), Langstone Harbour (2, Jan 23rd and Feb 11th), Tidgrove Warren (2, Feb 14th), Pennington Marshes (2, Mar 12th), Overton (2, Mar 18th), Sinah Common (4, April 17th) and Needs Ore (2, April 24th). Singles were recorded at Farlington Marshes (several dates between Jan 1st and Apr 17th), Lower Test Marshes (Jan 2nd), Oxy Marsh and Skidmore (Jan 5th), Langstone Harbour (several dates between Jan 10th and Feb 11th), Overton (several dates between Jan 10th and Feb 18th), Lymington-Hurst (several dates between Jan 11th and Apr 15th), Bishop's Dyke (Jan 18th), Yateley Common (Jan 20th-21st), Avon Castle (Jan 24th), King's Somborne (Jan 25th), Needs Ore (several dates between Jan 15th and Apr 30th), Bransbury Common (several dates between Jan 16th and

Short-eared Owl, Overton, Feb 10th (Barry Stalker)

Apr 19th), West Hayling LNR (Feb 9th), Tidgrove Warren (Feb 10th), Martin Down (several dates between Feb 5th and Mar 22nd), Barton Stacey (Feb 15th), South Moor and Stockbridge Common (Feb 16th), Dibden Bay, Alver Valley and Marsh Court (Feb 18th), Cranes Moor (Feb 21st), Portsmouth (Feb 22nd), Sinah Common (several dates between Mar 3rd and Apr 24th), Titchfield Haven (Apr 8th), Willesley Warren (Apr 23rd) and Gunner Point, Hayling Island (Apr 24th).

Singles continued to be recorded in May at Bishopstoke on 1st; Farlington Marshes on 1st, 11th and 27th; off Hurst Beach flying north over the sea on 6th; at Needs Ore on 12th and 22nd-23rd; Bransbury Common on 14th; with the last at Sinah GC on 22nd. An exceptionally late or very early return was observed and photographed at Redbridge on June 27th. The next was one seen to fly out high over The Solent from Hill Head on Aug 1st.

During October there were singles at Sandy Point, Hayling Island and Butser Hill on 9th, Hordle Cliff on 20th and Bransbury Common on 28th. Two were present at Farlington Marshes on 21st-30th increasing to three on 31st. Two were present at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 11th, and throughout November and December there were regular sightings of two or more at Farlington Marshes peaking at five on Dec 18th. Elsewhere in November singles were reported from The Kench, Hayling Island and Kites Croft, Fareham on 1st, Needs Ore on 6th, Sandy Point on 9th, Lower Test Marshes between 10th-15th and Portsmouth Harbour on 16th. The year ended with further singles in December at Titchfield Haven on 1st, Shepherd's Bush on 11th, Bransbury Common on 14th and 16th, Hill Top, NF on 15th and Portsdown Hill on 31st

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	26	11	15	6	1	0	1	0	7	13	8

Nightjar† (European Nightjar)

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Caprimulgus europaeus

ET, Amber, S4I, HBAP



Nightjar, New Forest, Aug 10th (Martin Bennett)

The earliest spring arrival was one at Cranes Moor, NF on the early date of April 24th. There was no systematic coverage of the New Forest, but casual records submitted amounted to around 87 churring males from 27 sites including six at Shatterford. A full survey of Ringwood Forest produced 35 churring males, matching the last count in 2004, although due to forestry operations the territories were in different areas.

The Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths surveys produced totals of 89 and 49 churring males respectively (see Table 1). Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows: Alice Holt Forest, 1; Ampfield Wood, 2; Badminton Common, 1; Benyon's Inclosure, 3; Botley Wood, 3; Browndown, 1; Fields Heath, 1; Great Covert Wood, 2; Hut Wood, 1; Havant Thicket, 4; Newtown Common, 1; Old Netley, 1; Toms Down, 1; West Walk, 2 and Wickham Common, 1. The final record was a single at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Sep 12th. (BS)

Swift (Common Swift)

Apus apus

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first spring arrival was two seen over Hill Head on Apr 7th. There were 15 double-figure counts of ten to 50 in April over Ibsley Water, Fishlake Meadows, Lymington-Hurst, Itchen Valley CP, Romsey (Budds Lane), Lower Brook and Posbrook Flood. Seven three-figure counts were recorded in May including 100 over Lymington-Hurst on 1st and 18th, 100 over Fishlake Meadows and Itchen Valley on 19th and 100 over Heath Pond, Petersfield on 30th. Ten three-figure counts were recorded in June including 150 at Langstone Mill Pond on 2nd, 120 at Winchester SF on 13th and 100 there on 17th, and 100 at Ibsley Water from 13th-15th.

Using data from the Hampshire Swift Survey (2015 figures in parentheses) breeding was confirmed at 80 sites (6) with at least 380 (22) nests identified. Probable breeding was reported in 130 (5) locations. The survey was initiated primarily to determine Swift breeding areas as part of a wider conservation project. However, the data presented also illustrate the wider utility of using bespoke survey techniques for determining the breeding location/distribution of more problematic species such as Swift. It is intended to continue running the Hampshire Swift survey on an annual basis.

The highest number recorded during return migration was 839 over Fleet Pond on July 11th. Other three-figure counts in July were 300 at Farlington Marshes on 3rd, 200 over Ibsley Water on 11th, 220 at Funtley on 17th, and 200 over Fordingbridge and 100 over Andover on 22nd. Smaller numbers were subsequently recorded into August with 60 over Lower Test Marshes on 2nd and a final double-figure count of 15 over Lower Test Marshes on 16th. The last record was in September with one over Titchfield Haven on 10th. (AMB, TN)

2015 addition. Other high numbers were 692 west at Sinah Common, Hayling Island in four hours on July 11th and 744 west there in 5.5 hours on 18th.

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe)

Upupa epops

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since. (?250,6)

Schedule 1

Six records. A typical year with six individuals reported as summarised below. Three on the same date in April appears to be unprecedented.

Pennington: Apr 3rd (SGK)

Sandy Point: Apr 3rd (ACJ, photo)

Weston Shore: Apr 3rd (IW, photo)

Fritham, NF: Apr 30th (SN, photo)

Micheldever: June 6th (AH-W, photo)

Whale Island, Portsmouth: Aug 25th-31st (SC, photo).

(KFB)



Top: Hoopoe, Micheldever, June 6th (Anthony Harrison-Wallace)
 Bottom left: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Barton Stacey, Feb 28th (Martin Clay)
 Bottom right: male Kingfisher, River Test, Timsbury, Sep 15th (Richard Jacobs)

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater)

Merops apiaster

Rare summer visitor recorded in April to August and October (0, 31, 3)

Schedule 1

One record. A flock of three flew south-east over a Gosport garden on Aug 14th (SWa). There have been records in eight years this century, most recently in 2014. (KFB)

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)

Alcedo atthis

Moderately common resident whose numbers may be severely depleted during harsh winters.
ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber

Records were received from around 260 locations, including 31 in the Test Valley catchment, 24 in the Itchen catchment, 24 in the Avon catchment, 38 in the north-east, 16 in the New Forest and 82 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at Timsbury, where three young were observed being fed by an adult, Chilbolton and Eastleigh. No other definite breeding records were received.

Post-breeding dispersal and over-wintering on the coast are demonstrated by the monthly bird-day totals from three sites with regular records tabulated below. (BS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	24	8	4	1	0	0	0	7	13	21	13	18
Lower Test Marshes	13	2	4	1	1	1	15	27	20	22	22	8
Titchfield Haven	6	3	1	2	2	1	14	25	29	26	29	18

Wryneck (European Wryneck)

Jynx torquilla

Very scarce passage migrant; formerly a moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1975.
Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

There were two spring records, both in April, with singles at Titchfield Haven on the early date of 13th and Acres Down, NF on 28th. There were up to twelve autumn records, although some could relate to the same bird, with singles at Farlington Marshes on Aug 23rd, 24th, 30th and Sep 1st, 9th; and elsewhere in September at Itchen Valley CP and Calshot on 2nd, Gilkicker Point on 5th, Old Winchester Hill on 13th, Lepe on 17th, Oxy Marsh on 19th, 24th-25th and Priddy's Hard, Gosport on 28th. (BS)

Green Woodpecker (European Green Woodpecker)

Picus viridis

Common resident.
Green

Records were received for 60 locations. There were six territories at Itchen Valley CP compare to eight last year, and single territories recorded at a further thirteen sites. In addition, there were 34 territories at ten sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths compared to 36 last year, including only nine at Longmoor Inclosure where 21 were recorded in 2015 (see Table 1). (BS)

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident.
Green

Records were received for 72 widespread locations which represents only a small fraction of the county population. Counts of territories in selected surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 6 (7); Lower Test Marshes, 4 (4); Longmoor Inclosure, 21 (17). In addition, there were 48 territories at ten sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths including Longmoor Inclosure above (Table 1). Occupied nests or juveniles were recorded at 19 locations. (BS)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dryobates minor

Scarce and declining resident, except in the New Forest where it remains moderately common.
Red, S41, HBAP

The majority of records continue to come from the New Forest with very patchy coverage of woodland in other parts of the county. In the New Forest, records came from a minimum of 54 sites though no successful breeding was documented. At one site, a pair excavated a nest-hole approximately 23m up in a dead Beech tree but no eggs were laid. At Roydon Woods six territories were identified but no breeding success was noted.

Outside the New Forest, reports came from 16 widely scattered locations. Twenty records came from Harewood Forest, and five from Pamber Forest, both locations where it has been recorded in past years but not in 2015. It seems likely that the species is seriously under-recorded outside the New Forest and that visits to 'traditional' sites such as these will provide evidence of continued occupation. Two or more together were recorded at Botley Wood, Harewood Forest, Somerley Park and Blashford Lakes. (RC)

Kestrel† (Common Kestrel)

Falco tinnunculus

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

Kestrels were widely reported but little information on current breeding density can be gleaned from the records submitted. Most reported pairs used nest-boxes, with one pair at Needs Ore utilising a dovecote on the wall of a house. The Hawk Conservancy provided data from 110 nest-boxes of which 62 showed signs of occupation; 56 nesting attempts were recorded with 130 young fledging from 47 nests where the outcome was known. At 42 nests, 116 young were colour-ringed. The total number of young ringed during the year, including those by the Hawk Conservancy, was 163. As usual there were few records from the New Forest, with breeding evidence from only two locations at Beaulieu Road and Stoney Cross. The NFWBS data showed 11, 11 and 9 in January-March with 11, 9 and 15 recorded in October-December. (RC)



Female or Juvenile Kestrel, Farlington Marsh, Oct 31st (Trevor Carpenter)

Merlin

Falco columbarius

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

There were only 120 records, which may suggest a further decline in numbers. Between January and April there were regular reports of one or two from Needs Ore and Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes. Singles were also reported on several dates from traditional wintering sites such as Old Winchester Hill, Farlington Marshes and Titchfield Haven. There was a scatter of records from the New Forest with most from the north around Black Gutter Bottom. Last spring records came from Sandy Point, Hayling Island on May 6th and Hurst Beach on 9th.

The first autumn reports came in August from Heath Warren on 16th and Chilling on 29th. By November there were records from most of the usual wintering areas, with an adult male and female seen on several dates at Pennington/Keyhaven. The first New Forest record of the autumn was from Leaden Hall on October 13th. Sightings of two together came from Leaden Hall, Piper's Wait and Ferny Knap. Numbers in the New Forest are hard to calculate, especially since there have been no coordinated roost counts in recent years. NFWBS data produced totals of one, one and none in January-March and one, two and two in October-December.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below, though it must be stressed that this only includes sites regularly visited by birders and that the true wintering population is probably rather higher. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	8	8	4	2				2	10	10	8

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)

Falco subbuteo

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

The first reports came from Old Winchester Hill and Andover on Apr 5th, rather later than usual in recent years. No large pre-breeding season gatherings were noted with six at Woolmer Pond on May 13th being the maximum count. Five together catching insect prey were noted at Beaulieu Road and Fishlake Meadows in May-June. Surveys in the New Forest saw no evidence of a resurgence in numbers. Four pairs bred successfully but pairs failed for unknown reasons at two other sites. Outside the New Forest, reports of successful breeding came from 19 locations, with probable breeding from a further four. Three pairs monitored in woodland in the north-east produced six fledged young.

A summary of recent survey work in the county is published elsewhere in this report (p. 215) and concludes that the county population is probably between 180 and 240 pairs. The last records were in October with singles at Brownwich and Pitts Wood NF on 10th and Leigh Park, Havant on 20th. (RC)

Peregrine† (Peregrine Falcon)

Falco peregrinus

Scarce but increasing resident; numbers are augmented throughout the year by visitors from neighbouring counties. Probably also a passage migrant and winter visitor from further afield.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

There were reports from 227 sites across the county including 41 locations in the New Forest and around 111 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 117 locations during March-July of which 44 were on the coast compared to 67 in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 16 localities with 12 pairs known to have fledged 23 young. Three nests failed and the outcome at another nest is not known. As in previous years, a number of traditional pylon sites remained unavailable due to access being blocked to nesting cavities. However, there were five pylon nests which fledged eight chicks. In one of those the only chick perished having lost a foot – probably caught up in twine in the old crow's nest. At another pylon site a well-grown chick took an early flight and an early bath in a nearby river. After being rescued it spent several days at the Hawk Conservancy being trained to fly. Within a week it was taken back to the nest site where, without much hesitation, it flew straight up to re-join its siblings on the pylon. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (4), a tall chimney (1), quarries (4), plus a pair on a grain silo. One pair again nested successfully on a coastal shingle strip about two metres from the high water mark.

The project to install nest boxes continued. Three of these were used with a total of five chicks being fledged – a much lower success rate than in recent years. At Winchester Police HQ, the nest box was removed and the roof netted-over ahead of planned demolition. Undeterred, the Peregrines nested on a window ledge causing the demolition to be delayed, but sadly the nest failed.

The programme of colour-ringing continued and six chicks at three nests were fitted with orange colour-rings. A chick ringed in Southampton in June was later seen at Portland Bill, Dorset on Oct 27th. A chick from the shingle nest was also ringed in June and then seen at Pennington on Nov 2nd. A male ringed as a chick in Southampton in 2013 paired with an un-ringed female in the New Milton area but did not nest. Colour-ringed birds from other parts of the UK were noted including several from the well-known nest in Chichester. A female ringed as a chick in London in 2012 again nested in Southampton. A female with a damaged wing and throat infection found at Medstead on Jan 27th had been ringed as a chick in Sweden in 2010 (see Ringing Report). After treatment at the Hawk Conservancy, it was released near Weyhill on Apr 14th. (KFB)

Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet)

Psittacula krameri

Very scarce introduced visitor, possibly resident.

There were fewer reports than last year with ones and two from eight locations, several of which were urban, with two in the north/north-east, five in the south and one in the south-west. The first was one at Pennington village on Feb 16th followed by two at Basingstoke on Feb 25th and one at Crondall on June 30th. The other five locations in the south all reported singles at Mansbridge on Oct 3rd; Fishlake Meadows on Nov 2nd and Deanlane End on 15th and 18th; Mansbridge again on Dec 2nd and 21st, Woodmill on 23rd and 29th and North Stoneham on 28th, possibly the same bird at the last three Southampton locations. The few individuals involved again show no signs of an invasion from the north-east where the species is now common in parts of Surrey and much of London. (MLC)

Golden Oriole (Eurasian Golden Oriole)

Oriolus oriolus

Rare passage migrant; has bred, most recently in 1987. (?64,1)

Red, Schedule 1

One record. A female was heard several times and seen briefly as it flew at Eldon in the Test Valley on Apr 26th (RKJ). There have been records in eight years this century, most recently in 2013 when three were recorded. (KFB)

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU

In the early year there were at least four wintering in the New Forest and at least five elsewhere, and in the late year there were possibly three in the New Forest and four in other locations on single dates only.

In the New Forest in the Beaulieu Road area one moved widely between Pig Bush and Shatterford until Mar 31st. On the north side of the A31 another moved between King's Garden, Broomy Plain and Bratley Plain until Mar 19th and then again on Apr 14th. In the Black Gutter Bottom/Ashley Hole area another was seen on just five dates until Apr 4th. Sightings on Rockford and Ibsley Commons on Jan 15th-16th may also have been this individual. The only other regular sightings were from Holm Hill with observations on four dates from Jan 24th-Mar 20th. This bird may have been that at Ober Heath on Apr 3rd. Other isolated New Forest records were from Beaulieu Heath East on Jan 21st, Cranes Moor on Jan 23rd, Acres Down on Jan 28th and Feb 24th, Piper's Wait on Feb 14th and Mar 4th, Lyndhurst on Feb 16th and Holmsley Walk on Mar 6th.

Birds seen in late 2015 in the Woolmer area and at Watership Down were seen at Longmoor Inclosure on Jan 10th and Ashley Warren on 13th. The former was then at Woolmer on Jan 30th and from Mar 7th-20th. Another was at Avington in the Itchen Valley on Jan 13th and it was presumably this individual which was downstream at Winnall Moors on Feb 3rd. At Bransbury Common one was noted on Jan 28th and relocated nearby in the Forton/Cutty Brow area on Mar 12th, where it remained until Apr 18th before revisiting Bransbury on 19th. This was almost certainly the same bird present about 9km away at Grange Farm, Laverstoke from Mar 4th-13th; it was seen at both Forton and Laverstoke on 13th but with five hours between sightings. Another was seen sitting on top of a Birch by the slip road to the M27 at Fareham on Mar 17th. The last of the early year was at Woolmer Forest on Apr 22nd; whether this had gone undetected since Mar 20th or was a late migrant is open to conjecture!

In the autumn the first to return to the New Forest was at Coopers Hill on Oct 7th. It was present on many dates until Nov 13th and was then only seen again on Dec 10th. This may also have been the bird that appeared at Latchmore Bottom on Oct 21st, Nov 9th and 18th. Once again a single returned to the Beaulieu Road area from Oct 21st-31st. Singles were seen along both sides of the A31 corridor on nine dates between Oct 24th and Dec 27th with no obvious pattern of occurrence. Other sightings came from Ober Heath on Oct 9th and

then nearby on Holmsley Walk on Oct 23rd plus Dec 24th and 30th; Cranes Moor and Vales Moor on Nov 19th, 27th and 29th and Dec 11th; Fletchers Thorns Inclosure on Oct 19th, and not far away at Anderwood Inclosure on Oct 27th and near Eyeworth Pond on Dec 5th.

Elsewhere there were no regular wintering birds but isolated records from Sandy Point on Oct 14th, Needs Ore on Nov 24th, Somerley Park on Dec 26th and Warren Heath on Dec 30th. The sighting at Sandy Point was the first ever on Hayling Island, the Needs Ore record was the fifth there but the first since 1968, and that at Somerley Park was the first ever there. (KFB)

Magpie (Eurasian Magpie)

Pica pica

Numerous resident.

Green

Roost counts exceeding 50 in the first half-year were from Fleet Pond only with 75, 180, 110 and 100 on Jan 8th and 24th, Feb 17th and Mar 4th respectively. Elsewhere there were 25 at Sandy Point on Jan 21st and 42 at a pre-roost gathering at Highbridge on Feb 18th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 6 (6); Lower Test Marshes, 5 (6). There were no surveys reported from Farlington Marshes, Martin Down or Titchfield Haven this year.

In the second half-year, high counts were again recorded at Fleet Pond with 125, 140 and 200 on Nov 25th, Dec 21st and 29th respectively. Other high counts were 51 at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 24th, 190 at Southampton Common on Dec 17th and 60 at Darby Green on Dec 24th. At Oxy Marsh the highest roost count was 27 on Dec 21st. (MLC)

Jay (Eurasian Jay)

Garrulus glandarius

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Low numbers were reported throughout the year with no large flocks. There were no counts more than ten, the highest being eight at Havant Thicket on July 18th, nine at Fields Heath on Aug 14th, ten at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 23rd and eight at Deanlane End on Nov 29th. At Tweseldown, the largest movement was 28 NE in 2.5 hours on Oct 24th, all others here and at Trigpoint Hill being not more than six.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 5 (8); Longmoor Inclosure, 6 (5); Lower Test Marshes, 1 (3). There were no surveys reported from Titchfield Haven this year. (MLC)

Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw)

Corvus monedula

Numerous resident.

Green

As usual, high winter counts were reported at roosts or along associated flight paths. In the first half-year the highest counts to roost were 1,400 west at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 4th and 1,100 SE at Setley Plain, NF on Jan 11th. Other counts of 100 or more were 200 leaving a roost at Cams Hill School, Fareham on Jan 6th, 600 and 770 SW leaving a roost at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 10th and 25th respectively, 190 nearby at Eastleigh on Jan 29th and 500 at Lodge Inclosure, Alice Holt on Feb 21st. The most significant movement away from known roosts was a flock of 100 west at Sandy Point on Oct 22nd.

In the second half-year, the highest counts were at a roost in a wood just west of Edenbrook CP, Fleet with 920 on Nov 11th increasing to 1,600 on Dec 13th and then dropping to 1,200 on 26th. Elsewhere there were 530 at Waitrose, Yateley on Aug 23rd; 150 at East Meon on Oct 3rd; 650 west to roost at Appleshaw, Andover on Nov 9th and 250 at Hawley on 22nd; 430 at Southampton Common and 650 SW leaving a roost at Itchen Valley CP on Dec 17th, 510 SW to pre-roost at Darby Green on 27th and 500 at Neatham Down, Alton to roost on 28th. (MLC)

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.

Green

In the first half-year, high counts of 100 or more were recorded as follows: in January 700 foraging in pasture at Longwood Warren on 1st, 100 at Charter Alley on 2nd and 400 at Itchen Valley CP on 31st; in February 400 at Cheriton on 3rd and 270 at Kingsclere Estate on 27th; in May 140 at Upham on 7th; in June 250 at Martin Down on 11th, 650 at Old Winchester Hill on 12th and 612 at Upham the same day.

Numbers of rookeries submitted and nest counts were both much lower than last year with only 21 rookeries totalling 613 apparently occupied nests (AON) compared to 35 rookeries with 1,243 AON last year. Without more direct comparisons, this apparent drop may be due to reduced observer coverage and reporting instead of reduced numbers. Observers are asked to maintain annual counts at regular rookery sites for comparison between years, especially at those with 50 or more nests. The only count to exceed 50 nests was 60 at Widley compared to 82 last year. Due to lack of repeat surveys, the only other direct comparisons, all with reduced numbers, were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Houghton, 44 (75); Leckford, 35 (50); Longstock, 89 (96). In addition, at Ower Farm near Upham 612 fledglings were reported on June 12th where last year the rookery contained 150 nests.

In the second half-year high counts were as follows: in July, 330 at Idsworth on 3rd and 250 at a pig farm near Upton Grey on 25th; in November, 120 next to Avington Trout Fishery on 10th; in December, 2,000 at a pre-roost gathering at Morestead Farm, Hazeley Down on 15th; 550 SW to roost at Greywell on 22nd, 100 at roost in Edenbrook CP, Fleet on 26th, 160 SW to roost at Neathan Down, Alton on 28th and 350 in a maize strip at Upper Wield on 31st. (MLC)

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Numerous resident.

Green

Large numbers were again reported from coastal areas throughout the year. Maximum counts from regular monthly surveys at Weston Shore from January to December were 200, 230, 170, 75, 255, 225, 270, 375, 310, 190, and 312 respectively, the peak of 375 in August being swollen by young of the year. Other counts of 100 or more were 100 at Eastleigh STW on Apr 12th, 120 at Stokes Bay on May 7th and 100 there the next day, 146 at Titchfield Haven on Oct 6th, a series from Ranvilles Lane and Newlands Farm, Fareham between October and December peaking at 260 on Oct 2nd and 250 on Oct 15th and Dec 4th, 100 at Tweseldown/Long Valley on Oct 22nd and 100 at Darby Green on Dec 7th. The NFWBS recorded totals of 489, 418 and 348 for the first three months of the year and 416, 391 and 249 for the last three (Table 4) to give a mean of 385, comparable to last year's mean of 376. Other inland counts were much lower, the highest being 45 at Winchester SF on Jan 1st, 20 at Drayton Farm WCB, Alresford on Feb 16th and 80 at Corhampton on Dec 27th.

In April, two groups of eight and one of four were observed flying north from the Isle of Wight to Hayling Island on three dates. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 19 (18); Lower Test Marshes, 6 (7); Itchen Valley CP, 7 (5). (MLC)

Raven (Northern Raven)

Corvus corax

Scarce but increasing resident which bred successfully for the first time since 1887 in 2004. Green

Further extension and infilling of range was evident. Reports were submitted from 418 separate locations, especially in the south, west and centre of the county, compared to 335 last year. Most referred to between one and five individuals, probably family parties in many cases. Between six and ten were reported at a further nine locations. All records of more than ten are listed below. The highest numbers were, like last year, located at or near high points mostly at Martin and Tidpit Downs, Damerham, the New Forest and Old Winchester

Hill. The highest count was 80 at Martin Down on Feb 27th with 23 there on July 30th and 46 on 31st. Nearby at Damerham there were 60 on July 1st and 30 on 18th, and at Tidpit Down there were 27 on Jan 1st, 14 on Feb 1st and 15 on Mar 4th. In the New Forest, NFWBS recorded totals of 25, 14, six, 23, 19 and seven respectively in the first and last three months of the year (Table 4), and nearby there were 40 over Harbridge Green on Sep 3rd. At Old Winchester Hill between 30 and 86 bird-days were recorded each month of the year (max. Aug) with peak counts of 11 on Apr 14th and 15 on Aug 5th, with 16 nearby at Beacon Hill, Warnford on Jan 6th and 12 at East Meon on Apr 23rd. Elsewhere, 15 were at Vernham Dean on Oct 16th and a party of 14 flew south over Winchester SF on 28th.

Breeding was confirmed at 12 sites, compared to eight last year, including two on pylons. In addition, there were eight probable and three possible breeding records. At Highbridge Farm, three young in the nest from Apr 14th had left by May 2nd, whilst two recently fledged young were seen at East Tytherley on May 1st. At Botley Wood, two young in a nest from Apr 28th did not fledge until June 11th. At Ibsley Water one was seen feeding on a dead Roe Deer on Mar 6th and at Longwater Lawn, NF one was scavenging on a dead Fallow Deer on Nov 30th. (MLC)

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Apart from breeding records, reports of 20 or more in the first half-year were all in January with 22 in the Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on 1st and 20 at Hawley Meadows on 25th, and 33 and 35 at Eastleigh STW on 10th and 30th respectively. Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 30 (30); Longmoor Inclosure, 41 (44); Lower Test Marshes, 3. High counts of singing males/pairs in the New Forest during Firecrest surveys were 40 at Bolderwood on May 23rd, 28 at South Oakley Inclosure on May 27th and 25 at Burley New Inclosure on June 5th.

In the second half-year, the only reports of 20 or more were 20 at Chilling on Oct 19th and 25 there on 29th, probably migrants. Two at Gilkicker Point, Gosport on Oct 23rd were also possibly migrants. Between July 31st and Nov 11th 72 were ringed at Titchfield Haven. One at Sturt Pond on Dec 17th was an unusual location. (MLC)

Firecrest (Common Firecrest)

Regulus ignicapilla

Moderately common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

For the second year running, over 1,000 records were submitted. Survey work continued in Southampton and the New Forest alongside surveys coordinated by HOS in selected woodlands across Hampshire highlighting the continued expansion of the species across the county.

In January and February wintering individuals were reported from widespread locations, mainly in small groups of one to three individuals. Counts of five or more included five at Ibsley Water on Jan 29th; six at Ditcham Park, Petersfield on Feb 10th; and eight at Bolderwood, New Forest on Feb 21st. The first singing Firecrest was recorded on the very early date of Jan 17th at Fyfield.

During the breeding season a total of 882 territorial birds were reported from across the county. Survey work in the New Forest found a total of 498 territories in the central 46km² woodland block (cf. 331 in 2015). Elsewhere in the New Forest an additional 104 territories were reported from widespread locations. Territories recorded by survey work in other parts of the county included 44 in Ampfield Wood, ten in Western Common, five in Havant Thicket, 12 at Queen Elizabeth CP (incomplete count) and 34 in Alice Holt Forest. Elsewhere significant counts of five or more territories included five at Sprats Down near Calshot, five at Hilliers Arboretum, 31 in Southampton City area, five at Parnholt Wood and 11 at Finchdean. Overall, by combining the New Forest data with extrapolations elsewhere based on surveys in three selected hectads, a revised county population of 3,000 to 4,500 pairs/

territories has been proposed. Details of the relevant surveys and assessments are given in a separate paper in this report (p. 209).

As with previous years, much lower numbers were detected between July and September with the first coastal migrants recorded from Titchfield Haven on Sep 5th. The only significant counts in this period came from Bolderwood, NF with eight on Aug 15th, 15 on Sep 4th and 14 on 24th. From October onwards wintering individuals were reported from widespread locations. Counts of five or more included five at Bolderwood, New Forest on Oct 15th and Nov 13th; five at Fields Heath, Blackfield on Oct 1st; 18 at Southampton Common on 4th and 13 there on Nov 2nd; and six at Holly Hill Park, Warsash on 25th.

A summary of all records is tabulated below. (MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	13	27	55	9	14	29	21	11	16
No. of New Forest sites	7	13	37	5	5	10	10	7	7
Southampton Common	2	2	1	1	9	7	18	15	
Southampton area	14	13	9	21	4	3	23	21	16
Southampton area sites	11	8	8	7	1	3	14	11	9
Other inland locations	32	37	62	7	13	16	41	35	20
No. of inland sites	18	22	41	7	8	9	26	26	14
Coastal locations	4	5	11			7	9	9	8
No. of coastal sites	4	5	6			2	6	5	6
Total recorded	65	81	138	38	40	62	112	91	60

2014 & 2015 correction. In the first paragraphs of the Firecrest accounts (pp. 113 & 112 respectively) the credits to MJP should read MGP.

Penduline Tit (Eurasian Penduline Tit)

Remiz pendulinus

Rare vagrant (0,19,1)

The group of up to three that was first discovered at Titchfield Haven in December 2015 remained until at least Feb 3rd, with at least two remaining until Mar 6th, and then one until Mar 12th (m.o., photo). Four were reported by two separate observers on Jan 20th. Previous records were in 1989-91, 1994 and 2010.

1990 addition. Five were recorded at Titchfield Haven on Oct 23rd (BSD). This record has only just been submitted and has been accepted by BBRC. This becomes the third record of the species in the county. The first and second were also at Titchfield Haven in 1989. (KFB)

Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit)

Cyanistes caeruleus

Abundant resident and passage migrant.

Green

This was the third most widespread garden species in the BTO Garden Birdwatch being recorded in 326 gardens, only one place behind Blackbird and Robin with 347 gardens each. Monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 98.4% in April to 75.5% in September (Table 2). A few gardens reported double-figure counts not exceeding 20 except for 20 in Upper Farrington on Jan 10th and 47 in Hordle on Aug 14th.

As usual, few other records were submitted for this common and widespread resident. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2015 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Longmoor Inclosure, 53 (66); Lower Test Marshes, 21 (17). Other than breeding and garden totals, the only other reports of ten or more were ten at garden feeders in Havant on Feb 5th and at Needs Ore on Feb 23rd and Aug 20th. (MLC)

Great Tit

Parus major

Abundant resident.

Green

According to BTO Garden Birdwatch, this species was only slightly less widespread than Blue Tit occurring in 318 gardens compared to 326. This made it the fifth most widespread garden bird after Blackbird, Robin, Blue Tit and Woodpigeon. However, monthly reporting rates varied between a peak of 79.5% in April and a low of 64.0% in October, which were significantly lower than Blue Tit (Table 2). There were only five gardens reporting double-figure counts, the highest being 12 on three dates in March near Basingstoke.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2015 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Longmoor Inclosure, 17 (30); Lower Test Marshes, 18 (12). Apart from breeding and garden totals, the only other double-figure reports were 30 in a flock at Bishop's Dyke, NF on Jan 18th and 25 at Mottisfont on March 29th. (MLC)

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported from 261 gardens in BTO Garden Birdwatch equivalent to 80% of those with Blue Tits. Monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 52.3% in January to a low of 29.6% in July (Table 2) and highest garden counts were 12 near Liss on Jan 24th and at Cove, Farnborough on Apr 17th.

At Longmoor Inclosure, where regular surveys have been carried out for many years, 103 territories were counted compared to 129 last year and an average of 108 over the last four years. Apart from breeding and garden totals, the only other double-figure reports were ten at Chalton on Feb 15th and 12 at Queen Elizabeth CP on Feb 19th and Harewood Forest on Mar 15th. Unusual records included a very showy and vocal individual of the continental nominate race at Iley Point, Keyhaven on Apr 9th (SGK), one at Titchfield Haven on June 20th and two at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 3rd, the last also being considered possible migrants. (MLC)

Willow Tit

Poecile montana

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S4I

This species continues to survive in precariously low numbers, mostly in clusters of linked woodland on the high chalk in the north and north-west of the county. Sightings were mostly ones and twos at 24 separate locations (one km squares) including the three previously established sites with public access at Netherton Bottom, Hurstbourne Common and Walker's Copse, Dummer. Most of the other locations were private woodlands with no public access. There were only three reports of more than two together with the maximum being four west of Basingstoke on Feb 25th. The only other reports accepted outside the above area were one at Old Winchester Hill on May 19th and two there between Oct 13th-18th.

The last of three consecutive years of joint surveys by HOS around Dummer near Basingstoke, including Woodmancott and Ellisfield, and HIWWT in the north-west of the county, generally north of the A303, took place between February and April. The main focus in this last year was to recheck previously occupied territories and survey potential infill or extension areas. A separate paper in this report (p.224) summarises the survey objectives, methods and findings. The paper concludes that over the three year period up to 52 singing males or pairs were found in 31 tetrads, with 32 territories in the north-west and 20 near Dummer. (MLC)

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

Common but declining resident.

Red, S4I

Records were submitted for 295 widespread locations compared to 221 last year, but this might simply be due to increased reporting, arising in part from Willow Tit and Firecrest

surveys. Most reports were between one and five, with the only two-figure count being 11 at Denny Wood Inclosure, NF on Mar 15th. The next highest were eight at both Netherton Bottom with four pairs on Feb 14th and Farley Mount CP on Mar 11th. NFWBS totals were low as usual with only six, ten and six for January-March and three, six and seven for October-December (Table 4).

For a species which seldom uses nest boxes, a dormouse box in Pamber Forest containing six well-grown young on May 28th was unusual.

BTO Garden Birdwatch reported sightings of ones and twos in 13 Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying from a peak of 1.4% in January to none in November. Comparable figures for undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits (most, if not all, probably being Marsh Tits) were 40 gardens and 3.9% in January to 0.9% in June. The combined total of 53 gardens is similar to last year's figure of 58. (MLC)

Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling)

Panurus biarmicus

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

As usual, recorded in every month with most records from the four regular sites in the table below. Highest numbers were recorded at Farlington Marshes with 40 on Jan 16th, 30 on 19th and 20th and 25 on Feb 16th, following similar high numbers towards the end of last year including a maximum of 34 in November 2015. Apart from 14 on Apr 17th, numbers did not exceed ten after February until the usual autumn peak which this year reached 20 on Sep 28th and Oct 12th. At Titchfield Haven, records spanned nine months with highs of 11 on Jan 4th, 6th and 14th and Oct 15th. A similar pattern was observed at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes with between one and ten in all months except January and July, and highs of ten on Feb 25th and seven on Dec 2nd. Hook-with-Warsash reported the lowest numbers with a maximum of eight on Oct 26th and none between April and September.

At Titchfield Haven seven pairs were estimated breeding. The summer dates also suggest breeding at Keyhaven/Pennington and Farlington Marshes.

Elsewhere, singles were reported from Eyeworth Pond, NF on Jan 20th (photo), Avon Castle on Jan 24th and Mar 13th, Calshot on May 27th and Needs Ore on Oct 6th, and three were at Fawley Refinery on May 4th and Somerley Park on Dec 20th.

Monthly maxima at the regularly used sites are summarised below. (MLC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst		10	1	6	1	1		1	1	3	1	7
Hook-with-Warsash	2		1							8	4	3
Titchfield Haven	11	1			6	4	5		4	11	11	6
Farlington Marshes	40	25	2	14	1	2	4	3	20	20	1	5

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Moderately common resident and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green, S41, HBAP

The traditional wintering flock in stubble on the north slope of Portsdown Hill numbered eight on New Year's Day and 11 on Jan 30th. Reports from the New Forest in January were eight (including two singing) at Half Moon Common on 4th, singles at Acres Down on 6th and Hampton Ridge on 11th (singing) and then up to four at four sites from 23rd. The first returns to breeding sites in the north-east were two singing at Longmoor Inclosure on 25th and one at Long Valley on 28th.

In February, there were heathland records from 18 New Forest and seven north and north-east locations, 12 were still at Portsdown Hill on 10th, two were at Ibsley Water on 17th, two flew NW over Facombe on 21st and singles were at Bradley Hill, Charter Alley, Harestock, Mottisfont, Netherton Bottom and Popham Down Copse.

Breeding season surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 46 and 40 pairs/singing males respectively compared with 54 and 45 in 2015 (Table 1). The ongoing study on Bourley & Long Valley SSSI involved the monitoring of 20 nesting attempts. This total was well below the 2007-16 mean of 30.6. A decline has been apparent since 2014, when 31 nests were monitored, falling to 29 in 2015. Of the 20 nests in 2016, only 11 (55%) were successful in fledging young, again lower than the ten-year mean of 60.5%. Only 32 young fledged, a mean of just 1.6 per nest compared with the ten-year average of 2.0. (JAE). The reason for the poor productivity is not known but could be caused by a deterioration in habitat quality, particularly the scrubbing-up of bare ground which has occurred despite year-round grazing of the area.



Woodlark, New Forest, Feb 27th (Martin Bennett)

Additional ground clearance was carried out over the 2016/17 winter so it will be interesting to see if this coincides with a recovery in 2017.

In the New Forest a partial survey of sites north of the A31 located 24 breeding pairs. There were numerous casual records accounting for around 75 territories which indicate a substantial population in the forest – probably approaching 200 territories. Elsewhere, as in recent years, there were many records of mostly pairs or singles in a variety of habitats, but mostly stubble fields and woodland clearfells. Breeding was confirmed at Welshman's Road GP where one pair fledged three young and at least one other territory was in the area. Breeding was probable at Burnt Common, Eldon, Portsdown Hill, Sheet, Soberton Heath and Weston Common. Singles, mostly in song, were recorded at 12 further sites on one date only.

Post-breeding flocks were small and did not exceed eight at any location. Autumn diurnal movements involved one NE over Trigpoint Hill on Sep 23rd and 11 mostly SW there on six dates between Oct 9th and 31st including six on 15th, one east over Keyhaven on 2nd, two over Middle Wallop Airfield on 3rd, one SE over Hurst Beach on 6th, eight SW over Tweseldown on five dates between 8th and 28th and one south over Sway on 31st. Records of grounded birds during this period included seven at Blackbushe Airfield on Oct 4th, four at Needs Ore on 9th, possibly the first ever there (MR), and seven on the north slope of Portsdown Hill on 23rd.

The species became predictably elusive in the final two months of the year. In November ones and twos were at three New Forest locations up to 20th, one was at Tweseldown on 13th and one was singing over a stubble field at Longparish on 19th. The only December record was one singing at Woolmer Forest on 26th. (JMC)

Skylark (Eurasian Skylark)

Alauda arvensis

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S41, HBAP

Six three-figure counts were submitted from arable areas during the winter periods, mostly on the chalk, with a maximum of 160 at Itchen Stoke Down on Dec 21st. The other counts, all of 100, were at Malthouse Farm, Sleaford on Jan 1st, Gander Down on Feb 3rd, Longwood

Warren on Feb 15th and Dec 16th, and Upper Froyle on Dec 28th. There were no hard weather movements to report.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 16 over 2sq.km (15); Farlington Marshes, estimated 20+ (31); Martin Down, 30 (16); Needs Ore, 15. As shown in Table 1, the breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 13 and 1 respectively (8 and 1).

Spring movement was barely detected (30 individuals), but over 1,300 were noted moving in the autumn, mostly in October at Trigpoint Hill, Tweseldown and Sandy Point. The highest one day total was 53 SW in 1.5 hours at Trigpoint Hill on Oct 15th. Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Sep 17-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving		120	326	47		
Inland moving	90	276	375	88	6	4

Shore Lark (Horned Lark)

Eremophila alpestris

Rare late autumn migrant and winter visitor. (0,45,1)

Schedule 1, Amber

One record. A single was present on the shingle at Eastoke from Oct 28th-30th (ACJ et al., photo). It was presumably this same bird that then appeared at Southsea Castle on Nov 8th (TMJD, KAT). There have been four previous records this century in 2000, 2003, 2009 and 2012. (KFB)

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green

The first was a single at Pennington Marshes on Mar 14th with widespread records from 18th. Triple figures were first reached with 400 in rain on Mar 26th at Ibsley Water, the site with consistently the highest counts throughout the season, including 700 in heavy drizzle on July 10th, 1,000 on Aug 21st and Sep 9th and 800 on Sep 12th. The highest counts elsewhere were 175 at Fleet Pond in rain on Mar 29th, 250 at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 6th and 180 at Pennington Marshes on Aug 17th.

The only reports of confirmed breeding were 77 occupied holes at Testwood Lakes compared to 62 last year, and 12 at Woolmer Pond compared to at least 20 last year.

Specific reports of migrants were rather fragmentary – many large counts of loitering birds at non-breeding sites did not involve specific records of movement so the data below are indicative only. What is clear is that a mid-summer passage of failed breeders, presumably from further afield, was followed by a very weak visible autumn passage for the most part. As many as 100 were still at Ibsley Water on Oct 2nd where the last departing bird was seen on Oct 6th.

Half-monthly totals of all recorded as moving are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	June 13-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland	4	199	2		64		8	18	13	77	3
Coast	1	28	32		266	6		80	31	10	1

Swallow (Barn Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green

An apparently overwintering individual was at West Meon on Jan 21st. The first spring migrant was at Titchfield Haven on Mar 18th with over 50 more by the end of that month. Ten spring



Shore Lark, Eastoke, Hayling Island, Oct 30th (top: Lee Fuller; bottom: John Hilton)

counts exceeded 100, the largest being 500 at Titchfield Canal Path on Apr 16th. The main arrival was in the subsequent week, but records of movement *per se* were fragmentary in spring and the low numbers in the table below represent only a small fraction of the totals. No significant breeding data were submitted.

The autumn passage was unspectacular by recent standards and almost a third of the tabulated total of 31,164 was accounted for by just one count of 10,000 heading south-east offshore at Keyhaven in one hour leading up to 10:24 on Aug 24th and continuing at a rate of 200+ per minute as the observer left. Only three other counts exceeded 1,000, the largest being

over 3,000 east between 08:30 and 09:15 at Lepe on Sep 12th. The others were 1,460 in 2.25 hours at Pennington Marshes on Sep 16th and 1,060 SW in 2.5 hours at Trigpoint Hill on Sep 22nd. No reedbed roosts of any significance were reported, the largest being 186 at Langstone Mill Pond on Aug 29th. The last of seven November records was from Hook-with-Warsash on 26th.

The autumn half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. It can be seen that the peak coastal movement was in the second half of August whereas last year it coincided with the peak inland movement in the second half of September. (SKW)

	Mar 20-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Inland	6	53	77	48	22	30	158	271	2,866	740	5,720	1,278	7
Coast	6	112	72	124	12		600	17	12,040	3,615	3,414	392	16

House Martin (Common House Martin)

Delichon urbicum

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

One at Ibsley Water on Mar 24th was followed by 18 more by the end of the month. Triple-figure counts emerged by mid-April, but no gathering exceeded 250. As with Swallows, the number of reports of spring movements was very low and clearly does not represent the scale of actual passage. Observers are encouraged to submit directional data for movements of both species to enable meaningful analyses in future reports.

Breeding records were fragmentary with widespread reports of up to 12 occupied nests, but several observers noted further local declines and losses. Happier news related to 56 occupied nests at Compton, Test Valley and 141 at the farm and cottages near Coombe which was the site of the largest one km square total of 130 reported in the 2015 BTO survey.

Autumn dispersal/migration was underway by early-mid July, but was generally light, with no 'big days' as such, but instead a series of minor peaks throughout September and early October. Eleven four-figure counts were reported. The first of these occurred on Sep 17th with 1,000 at Hook-with-Warsash and Avington Lake and 1,420 north at Fleet Pond. The second occurred between Sep 27th and Oct 2nd with 1,200, 1,800 and 1,500 at Ibsley Water on Sep 27th, 29th and Oct 2nd respectively; 1,350 WNW at Fleet Pond on Sep 28th; 2,690 and 3,000 SW over Tweseldown on Sep 30th and Oct 1st respectively; and 1,800 NW at Weston Shore on Oct 2nd. The last four-figure count was 1,240 NE at Trigpoint Hill on Oct 7th. Just nine were seen in the latter half of October, with the last at Trigpoint Hill on 31st.

Autumn half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Inland	14		61		56	11	433	715	810	13,496	5,177	
Coast	1	34	37	52					98	849	3,275	

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Coverage during the breeding season was the best for many years. Full surveys were attempted in the Avon and Itchen Valleys and most coastal sites were well recorded as usual. The county population is estimated at 460 singing males comprising coastal sites, 200; Avon Valley, 105; Test Valley, 100; Itchen Valley, 50; elsewhere, 5.

Counts from coastal sites from east to west (not necessarily complete) amounted to at least 158 as follows: Bedhampton Mill Pond, 1; Langstone Harbour north shore, 3; Farlington Marshes, 6+; Great Salterns, 1; Milton Common, 5; Hilsea Lines, 1; IBM Lake, 1; East Gosport,

1; Wildgrounds, Gosport, 6; Newlands Farm, Fareham, 1; Titchfield Haven, 40 (not a complete survey); Brownwich, 1; Hook-with-Warsash, 7; Hamble Common, 1; Lower Test Marshes, 45; Dibden Bay, 1; Fawley Refinery, 8; Calshot, 4; Lepe, 6; Inchmery Quay, 1; Bucklers Hard, 1; Needs Ore, 6; Park Shore, 1; Lymington-Hurst, 10+.

The survey of the Avon Valley produced 105 territories with 47 between the Dorset border and Ringwood, 35 between Ringwood and Fordingbridge and 23 between Fordingbridge and the Wiltshire border. In the Itchen Valley there were at least 50 territories including 12 at Itchen Valley CP and seven at Bishopstoke. In the Test Valley a full survey at Fishlake Meadows revealed 21 territories, by far the highest count ever there. There were three or four territories at Testwood Lakes and two at Nursling. The section upstream to Horsebridge was poorly covered with only two singing males found. Between Bossington and Longparish 29 territories were found in 13 different one km squares (cf. 44 in 18 one km squares in 2015). Other singing males were recorded at Funtley on Apr 16th, Port Solent from Apr 16th-30th, Emer Bog on Apr 18th and Wickham on May 28th.

Records from other locations included up to four at Blashford Lakes until Apr 24th, one there on June 11th and 18th and one or two there from Oct 20th-Nov 27th, singing males at Riverside Park from Jan 7th-Apr 13th, Aug 16th-18th and Oct 6th-29th, one calling at Fleet Pond on Jan 10th and Dec 21st, singing males at Lakeside CP from Jan 21st-Feb 18th (last detected on Dec 2nd 2015) and from Oct 16th into 2017 (only the fourth there), one at Avington Lake from Nov 16th-Dec 8th, one or two at Bransbury Common on Feb 7th and Mar 21st and up to four from Oct 19th, singing males at Baffins Pond on Mar 6th and Nov 15th, singing males at Stratfield Saye on Mar 14th and Oct 25th (the first ever there), at least two at Conigar Point/Warblington Shore from Mar 20th-Apr 28th (cf. 2015 when five held territory during the breeding season) and one there from Oct 12th-30th, one at Anton Lakes on Sep 4th, one trapped at Deacon Hill, Winchester on Oct 10th which flew to the nearby sewage farm on release, one at Langstone Mill Pond on Oct 14th and one at Sandy Point NR from Dec 19th-31st (only the fifth record there and the first in December). (JMC)



Cetti's Warbler, Lower Pennington, Apr 20th (Gareth Rees)

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Numerous resident.

Green

In the first three months of the year there were counts of between 20 and 30 at Blashford Lakes in Jan (3rd, 30th), Feb (24th, 28th) and Mar (6th, 23rd) and 25 recorded on two occasions in Jan (9th, 17th) at Itchen Valley CP. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 22 (16); Longmoor Inclosure, 9 (9); Lower Test Marshes, 11 (11).

Post-breeding season and autumn counts of 20 or more were received from three sites with 20 at Anna Valley, Andover on July 1st, 25 at Itchen Valley CP on Aug 14th and 30 at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on Aug 2nd. Notable numbers were also recorded in the last three months of the year with 46 at Blashford Lakes on Oct 30th, 35 at Itchen Valley CP on Dec 4th and 32 at Corhampton on Dec 27th. (AMB)



Long-tailed Tit, Woodland Hide, Blashford, Mar 5th (Ian Williamson)

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Very scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor, most frequent in autumn, but recorded in every month from September to April. (0,104,28)

The individual at Eastleigh STW from December 2015 remained there until Feb 10th (DJU *et al.*). A record total of 28 was reported in autumn between Sep 25th and Nov 13th. There was an initial peak of 14 between Oct 6th and 12th although birds continued to be discovered over the next two weeks. All records are shown.

Swanmore: Sep 25th

Freemantle, Southampton: Oct 2nd

Southampton Common: Oct 6th, 11th and 12th (all trapped and ringed) and 23rd

Lakeside CP, Eastleigh: Oct 7th

Danes Stream, Milford on Sea: Oct 8th

Wilverley Plain, NF: Oct 8th

Sandy Point: Oct 9th, 11th and 15th

Peel Common STW: Oct 9th

Brownwich: Oct 9th
 Hazeley Heath: Oct 10th (trapped and ringed)
 Blashford Lakes: Oct 10th (photo)
 Mill Field, Old Basing: 2, Oct 11th and 12th; Oct 19th
 Weston Sailing Club: Oct 13th
 Park Shore: heard, Oct 14th
 Christchurch Gardens, Winchester: heard, Oct 17th
 Eling Cemetery: Oct 18th-22nd
 Adanac Park, Nursling: Oct 20th
 Canal Path, Titchfield: Oct 21st
 Testwood Lakes: Oct 24th
 Turnpike Way, Hedge End: Oct 25th
 Avington Lake: Nov 13th

The huge influx in Britain in September was initially reported from the east coast, particularly between Sep 21st-25th. The numbers were unprecedented with no fewer than 139 being seen at Flamborough Head in East Yorkshire on Sep 21st, dwarfing even impressive numbers at hotspots such as Fair Isle and North Ronaldsay, which had 72 and 50 respectively. Few reached south-east England until early October, but many counties experienced record numbers. The total of 28 in Hampshire exceeds the previous maximum of 16 seen in 2014. Taking the 5-year totals since 2002, the huge increase is as follows: 2002-2006 (7), 2007-2011 (24) and 2012-2016 (71). (KFB)

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Scarce and declining summer visitor now largely confined to the New Forest.

Red

The first for the year was a singing male in The Knowles, NF on Apr 23rd. Two were reported in Bolderwood, NF on 24th and Denny Wood on 30th and singles were recorded in four other New Forest sites by the end of the month. The majority of territorial males arrived in May with the species being widely reported across the New Forest. Elsewhere single males were reported at only three locations: Greathunts Coppice, Portsdown Hill on Apr 28th; Ampfield Wood on 1st May and Titchfield Haven on 2nd.

Singing males over the period from May to June were reported at 25 New Forest locations (cf. 31 in 2015, 35 in 2014). The majority of these were in the traditional area north-west of the A35 with the main concentration being between Bolderwood and Acres Down. South of this block, five reports were received from Holmsley and Wilverley Inclosures and ten reports were received to the east from Denny Wood and Beaulieu Road. Outside of these three areas a single report was received from Busketts Inclosure on June 4th and two singing males were reported on June 11th and 23rd at Holly Hatch Inclosure. There were no reports outside of the New Forest in June. The



Wood Warbler, New Forest, Apr 27th (Martin Bennett)

final reports from the New Forest were singles at Sway and Holmsley Walk on Aug 1st. A late record of one at Needs Ore on Sep 1st was the last of the year. (AMB)

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff)

Phylloscopus collybita

Common Chiffchaff†

Phylloscopus collybita collybita

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.

Green

In January-February there were 176 reports from 63 sites. Taking the maximum at each site during the period gives a total of approximately 153 (cf. 156 at 65 sites in 2015). The best-watched site was undoubtedly Eastleigh STW where January numbers increased from eight on 1st to 25 on 10th and 30th and remained high with 24 on Feb 16th and 15 on 28th. Elsewhere the highest counts were 15 at St. Giles Hill Cemetery, Winchester on Jan 27th and ten at Breach Farm, Bishopstoke on Feb 27th.

In a few locations migrants appeared to arrive in early March, although in many sites it was difficult to identify a significant influx given the widespread wintering population. Double figure counts continued at Eastleigh STW with 17 on 4th, 20 on 6th and 12th. Subsequent counts were ten at Rooksbury Mill on 18th, 11 at Shawford on 24th, 12 at Testwood Lakes on 29th and 13 at Lower Test Marshes on 31st.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 13 (14), Longmoor Inclosure, 35 (31); Lower Test Marshes, 13 (17); Yateley Common, 38 (34).

Large numbers were recorded between mid-September and the second week of October. Daily counts of 40 or more included 40 at St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester on Sep 14th, 61 at Titchfield Canal Path on Sep 18th, 48 at Lymington-Hurst and 60 at Needs Ore on Oct 2nd, 49 at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 8th and 42 at Brownwich on Oct 9th. In November-December there were 230 reports of approximately 209 at 85 sites (cf. 142 at 66 sites in 2015). Eastleigh STW again proved attractive with monthly maxima of 20 on Nov 27th and 38 on Dec 10th. Only two double-figure counts were recorded elsewhere with ten at Stansore Point, Lepe on Nov 3rd and 15 in the Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on Dec 30th. (AMB)

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 2009: 17,7)

The individual at Eastleigh STW from December 2015 remained there until Mar 6th (DJU et al.). A second appeared there on Feb 28th (DJU). The bird which had frequented the Canal Path at Titchfield from December 2015 was again seen on Jan 4th (DH) and 17th (DH). This was possibly also the individual that appeared on the main reserve on Jan 16th but remained silent (ALR). In the late year two were trapped and ringed at Chilling on Nov 14th (photos) (PMP, RCro), one was at the Canal Path at Titchfield on Nov 16th (DH), and probably a different individual from Nov 26th-Dec 6th (DH). An individual was trapped and ringed at Fishlake Meadows on Nov 19th (NRJ, photo) and a single was at Darby Green on Dec 4th (GCS). (KFB)

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first for the year were five at Needs Ore on Mar 24th followed by ones and twos at seven other sites by the end of the month. The main arrival was from Apr 5th with the first double-figure counts being 12 at Farlington Marshes and 15 at Lymington-Hurst and Sinah, Hayling on 5th. Data from Sandy Point noted 125 bird-days (84 in 2015) between Mar 30th and May 12th.

Breeding season surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 68 and 53 pairs/singing males respectively compared to 69 and 47 in 2015 (Table 1). The species remained common in the New Forest but the only double-figure count received was 15 at Denny Wood on May 4th.

In autumn a total of 74 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 19th and Sep 24th, notably lower than 142 ringed in 2015. At Sandy Point there were 96 bird-days between July 23rd and Sep 21st (109 in 2015) with a peak of 12 on Aug 6th. Counts of 20 or more were received from IBM Lake, Cadnam Common, Lymington-Hurst, Chilling and Ranville's Lane, Fareham. Between one and six continued to be reported throughout September into October with the last for the year being at Nursling on 10th. (AMB)



Willow Warbler, Four Marks, Apr 22nd (Chris Rose)

Blackcap† (Eurasian Blackcap)

Sylvia atricapilla

A numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter. Green

During January-March there were reports of approximately 85 at 74 sites (56 in 2015), many of which were in gardens. All reports were between one and three except for four at Chilbolton on Mar 29th and Chandlers Ford on 30th. Examining records from regularly monitored sites showed a clear increase in numbers in or after the first week of April with the arrival of migrants. At Ibsley Water numbers increased from two on 6th to 11 on 9th and 17 on 17th. A similar pattern was noted at Lower Test Marshes with early reports of two on 2nd, 13 on 14th and 22 on 25th. The first double-figure count at Farlington Marshes was due to an influx of 32 on 5th. Other April counts of ten or more were 12 at Fishlake Meadows on 12th, 12 at Bere Hill Farm, Andover on 16th, 12 at Cadnam Common on 18th, 14 at Itchen Valley CP on 24th and ten at Rooksbury Mill on 30th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 19 (10); Hazeley Heath, 30 (27); Longmoor Inclosure, 17 (14); Lower Test Marshes, 27 (26).

Autumn passage was most evident from the beginning of September with 50 and 20 at St. Catherine's Hill on Sep 2nd and 14th, 20 at Sinah, Hayling on 21st and 32 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 1st. At Titchfield Haven a total of 286 (973 in 2015) ringed between July 13th and Nov 1st, with a peak of 61 (140) on Sep 11th, was the lowest number since 2003. These low figures were also reflected at IBM Lake where there were 70 (173) bird-days between July 29th and Nov 15th. Numbers in October were much reduced with only one count of more than ten after 3rd. Approximately 50 were recorded at 37 sites during November-December compared with 45 at 32 localities in the same period in 2015, many of these in gardens. All reports were of only one or two.

The separate results from BTO's Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 197 (60%) out of 327 gardens at least once during the year. During the winter months only 1.4% and 2.3% of gardens were visited in October and November, but this rose sharply to 10.2% in December and continued to rise to 17.8% in March, again demonstrating the reliance on garden feeders as the winter progressed (Table 2). The highest winter count was six in each month from Jan-Mar in a garden at Chilbolton. (AMB)

Garden Warbler

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

Sylvia borin

Green



Garden Warbler, Silchester, May 3rd (Barry Stalker)

The first for the year was one singing at Hamble Common on Apr 9th followed by two at Dean Hill on 14th and singles at Hoe Lane, North Baddesley on 15th and Titchfield Canal Path on 17th. The main arrival was later than in 2015 with four and eight at Ibsley Water on Apr 30th and May 1st, after which reports were widespread. There was very little evidence of spring passage at coastal localities with singles at Needs Ore, Titchfield Haven, Lymington Hurst and two at Hayling Island.

During the period of May to June there were records at 70 locations, with most being of one or two singing males. Ibsley Water was the only site with double figures with 12 on June 4th and 11 on 11th. Notable counts of singing males included six at Roydon Woods and nine at Blackbushe (ten in 2015), but figures seemed notably down on 2015.

In autumn a total of 25 (44 in 2015) was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 31st and Sep 8th, the lowest figure since 2012. As usual numbers on autumn passage were low with no daily count of migrants at an individual site exceeding two. The last for the year was one at Farlington Marshes on Sep 22nd. (AMB)

Barred Warbler

Rare vagrant. (0,11,1)

Sylvia nisoria

One record. A single was discovered in tamarisks at Sinah Common on the morning of Aug 27th (GCS). Although it was seen well by the observer, it disappeared and was not found again. There have been five previous records this century in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2015. (KFB)

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded four times in winter. *Green*

The first record for the year was two at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 11th. The main arrival was from Apr 14th, as daily totals increased into double figures with 12 at seven locations on 14th and 14 at seven locations on 17th. Individuals were noted at a total of 39 sites by the end of the month. Most records were of one to two individuals but five were recorded singing at Lymington-Hurst on 28th.

The unobtrusive nature of this species makes calculating potential breeding numbers difficult. Despite this, numbers were remarkably consistent with previous years with reports of singing males totalling 84 at 59 localities (79 at 58 in 2015; 88 at 58 in 2014). The species was most often encountered at Farlington Marshes with three singing males on May 1st and 7th, North Common, Northney with three males on 1st, Martin Down, where there were seven singing males on May 6th, and Itchen Valley CP with four singing males. No other site held more than two singing males.

Post-breeding numbers were low with most records being singles. Three were noted at Fishlake Meadows, Farlington Marshes and Lymington-Hurst on Aug 5th, 30th and Sep 3rd respectively and four were recorded at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Sep 20th. Regular reports continued throughout September and early October with the final record being one at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 9th. (AMB)

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

Sylvia communis

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded three times in winter. *Green*

The first for the year was an early bird at Binswood on Mar 29th followed by singles at Sandy Point, Hayling Island and Titchfield Haven on Apr 5th. The main arrival was from Apr 12th with the species becoming widely reported. Significant counts in April were from IBM Lake (10, 23rd), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (33, 28th) and Lower Test Marshes (16, 30th). High numbers continued into early May at Sandy Point (20, 2nd), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (35, 3rd and 30, 5th), Milton Common (23, 4th) and Martin Down (40, 6th).

Counts of territories in previously surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 12 (12); Itchen Valley CP, 36 (49) and Lower Test Marshes, 10 (10). Sinah Common/Hayling GC also recorded a double-count of 15 territories. The breeding surveys of the Thames Basin & Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 46 (69) and 24 (66) territories respectively due mainly to lower counts at Yateley Common, Longmoor Inclosure and Ludshott Common compared to last year (Table 1). Bearing in mind the reported decline in the New Forest, as shown by the recent *Hampshire Bird Atlas*, it is relevant to note that not a single record in 2016 was submitted from the three main New Forest 10 km squares (SU 20, 30 and 31) with only one record from SU21 at Half Moon Common.

Return passage began in earnest after the first week of August and remained steady throughout the month with double-figure counts at Needs Ore, Lymington-Hurst, Sinah Common, Old Winchester Hill, Hook-with-Warsash, Lower Test Marshes, Calshot and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham from Aug 11th-29th. Two additional sites recorded consistently high numbers with 29 bird-days at IBM Lake between Aug 1st and Sep 8th, with peak of four on Aug 6th and 25th, and 87 bird-days at Farlington Marshes from Aug 5th-Oct 6th, with peak of 15 on Sep 7th. Numbers declined in September although there were still two double-figure counts at Sinah Common with 22 on 3rd and 14 on 11th, and ten at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on 3rd. At Titchfield Haven, 54 were trapped and ringed between July 13th and Oct 1st, the lowest total since 2012. There were a few reports of singles up to Oct 9th and the last for the year was one at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 23rd. (AMB)

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Moderately common resident, largely confined to heaths of New Forest and north-east but with small numbers in coastal scrub. Highly susceptible to harsh winters. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Records suggest that the county population consolidated its position but the lack of systematic data from the New Forest, which holds several hundred pairs, means we have no real idea of the total.

In the north-east the population on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA was 112 pairs/singing males at 14 sites compared with 107 at 12 sites in 2015. This suggests the available habitat is close to saturation point although birds returned to Hazeley Heath for the first time since the 2008/09 winter. On the Wealden Heaths SPA numbers are still well below pre-2009 levels. There were 36 pairs/singing males at five sites compared with 12 at three sites in 2015. Broxhead Common was reoccupied for the first time since 2008 and at The Warren, Oakhanger one pair returned after not being present last year. Full details are given in Table 1.

In the New Forest there were reports from over 50 different one km squares. However, the majority of records referred to the winter months and many sites only had records at this season. This probably indicates a lack of breeding season coverage at these locations rather than an absence of birds. Totals from the NFWBS in January-March were 49, 32 and 60 and in October-December 112, 79 and 55.

Elsewhere, counts of territories at coastal locations from east to west were as follows: Gillkicker Point, 1; Browndown South, 5; Hook-with-Warsash, 2 (with both pairs raising two broods); Calshot, 1; Needs Ore, 2 (with both pairs breeding successfully); Lymington-Hurst, 4+. On Hayling Island none bred at Sandy Point and there were no reports from the Sinah area. Also no records were received for Burton Common which held a record seven territories in 2015.

Early year records at other sites involved up to four at Browndown North/Cherque until Apr 18th, one or two at Roydon Woods until Feb 28th and one at Sandy Point from Jan 28th-Mar 3rd with two on Feb 16th. Singles were at Hamble Common until Mar 30th, Weston Shore on Jan 16th, Ringwood Forest on Jan 21st, Port Solent on Jan 30th, Bilcombes Pond, Fawley on Jan 31st, Fawley Power Station on Feb 14th, Titchfield Haven from Feb 19th-Apr 9th and on May 4th, Park Shore on Mar 13th, Southampton Western Docks on Mar 25th, Fort Cumberland on Apr 3rd and Burnt Common, Mortimer West End on Apr 22nd. It is possible that breeding took place undetected at some of these sites.

Records indicative of post-breeding dispersal included one at Lepe on July 28th, Sep 18th and two there on Nov 3rd; up to five at Browndown North/Cherque from Aug 9th; one at Sandy Point from Oct 3rd-Nov 26th with two on Nov 3rd; one or two at Roydon Woods from Oct 25th-Dec 31st and two at Fort Cumberland on Nov. 9th. Singles were at Martin Down on Aug 31st, Priddy's Hard, Gosport on Sep 30th, Welshman's Road GP from Oct 2nd-Nov 25th, Titchfield Haven from Oct 11th-17th, Hamble Common from Oct 20th-Dec 29th, Newlands Farm on Oct 29th, Farlington Marshes from Nov 5th-Dec 17th, Emer Bog on Nov 10th, Badminton Plantation on Nov 27th and Bunny Meadows on Dec 28th. (JMC)

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

Scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor; moderately common autumn passage migrant mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven. Red, S4I, HBAP

Spring numbers were slightly up on 2015 and the number ringed in autumn also showed a slight upturn, although the total remained much lower than in 2014.

The first records were singles at Titchfield Haven and Lower Test Marshes on Apr 9th. During April a minimum of eleven migrants were reeling at a total of ten locations (cf. nine at nine in 2015) with two reported at Lymington-Hurst and Lower Test Marshes on 19th. There were seven reports in May (cf. one in 2015) with singles reported singing at Shawford and



Grasshopper Warbler, Titchfield Haven, Apr 9th (Lee Fuller)

St Catherine's Hill, Winchester on 19th as well as at the more traditional wetland sites at Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven and Canal Path, Lower Test Marshes and Keyhaven. The only evidence for any remaining on territory after May 19th was a reeling male at Titchfield Haven on June 13th. Apart from one at St. Cross WM on Apr 15th, there were no records from previous traditional sites in the Itchen Valley or Fishlake Meadows.

In the autumn a total of 166 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 13th and Oct 1st (cf. 135 in 2015), with a peak of 21 on Sep 2nd. Ten were trapped at Iley Point, Keyhaven on Aug 28th. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Ibsley Water on Aug 6th and 9th, Titchfield Canal Path on Aug 14th and 29th, Havant Thicket on Aug 15th, Needs Ore on Aug 26th, Priddy's Hard, Gosport on Aug 29th, Sinah Common on Sep 3rd, The Mill Field, Old Basing on Sep 6th, Titchfield Haven on Sep 15th, Hill Head on Sep 21st and Baddesley Common on Sep 26th. The last for the year was trapped at Titchfield Haven on Oct 1st as noted above. (AMB)

Savi's Warbler

Locustella lusciniodes

Rare summer visitor, has bred most recently in 1992. (0,35,1)

Red, Schedule 1, S41

One record. A singing male was present at one locality from Apr 18th-24th. The record has been accepted by BBRC. There have been four previous records this century in 2004, 2009, 2011 and 2013. (KFB)

Aquatic Warbler

Acrocephalus paludicola

Rare and declining autumn passage migrant, mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes. (1, 84, 1)

VU, Red, S41, HBAP

One record. A juvenile was trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven on Aug 13th (BSD, photo). See photo in Ringing Report. This record has been accepted by BBRC. Records of this species used to be annual in late summer but, with major declines on its breeding grounds in countries like Poland, this is now a much rarer visitor. This is the first record since 2009. (KFB)

Sedge Warbler†

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green

The first for the year was a singing male at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 31st. Thereafter the species was widely recorded at 26 sites with the first double-figure counts being 16 at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 15th and 15 at Avon Tyrrell WM on 28th.

During the breeding season approximately 220 singing males were reported from 40 localities (196 at 26 in 2015). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Avon Valley between Avon Causeway and Ringwood, 69; Fishlake Meadows, 35 (20); Itchen Valley CP, 36 (32); Lower Test Marshes, 30 (40).

In the autumn there was a further decrease in the number trapped at Titchfield Haven with a total of 688 between July 7th and Sep 30th (799 in 2015; 1,224 in 2014), with a peak of 72 on Sep 2nd. Whether this was due to a poor breeding season is unknown but it is notable that numbers were particularly low for the second year running during autumn migration with no double-figure counts being reported from any other site. Away from the main breeding sites, the highest counts elsewhere after June were six each at Stockbridge Common Marsh on 26th and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 29th. At Farlington Marshes there were 14 bird-days recorded between Aug 5th and Sep 9th with a peak count of five on Aug 24th. The last records were singles at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 13th and Titchfield Haven on 19th. (AMB)

Reed Warbler† (Eurasian Reed Warbler)

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green, HBAP

The first for the year was one at Farlington Marshes on Apr 5th. The main arrival was from the second week of April with records from six locations. There were two double-figure counts in April with 16 at IBM Lake on 29th and ten at Ibsley Water on 30th.



*Sedge Warbler, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 21st
(Richard Jacobs)*



*Reed Warbler, Keyhaven, Aug 30th
(Joe Murphy)*

Breeding season records totalled approximately 339 singing males/territories at 53 sites (cf. 434 at 39 in 2015). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Avon Valley between Avon Causeway and Ringwood, 51; IBM Lake, 21 (20); Itchen Valley CP, 29 (29); Lower Test Marshes, 63 (74); Fishlake Meadows, 28. A number of sites surveyed in 2015 were not covered in 2016. Other notable records were average daily counts of 18 on nine dates in May and June at Ibsley Water and 15 on six dates at Fishlake Meadows.

In the autumn 424 were trapped at Titchfield Haven (cf. 722 in 2015) between July 7th and Oct 15th, with a peak of 33 on Aug 27th. This was the lowest count since 2012. Elsewhere there were double-figure counts of 20 at Needs Ore on July 12th, up to 17 at Ibsley Water on various dates up to Aug 7th, and finally 11 at Fleet Pond on Aug 23rd. There were reports of singles at mainly coastal sites in September including at Sandy Point, Hayling Island up to 30th. The last for the year was trapped at Titchfield Haven on Oct 15th as noted above. (AMB)

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing)

Bombycilla garrulus

Rare winter visitor, in some years occurring in large numbers.

Green

Three confirmed records were submitted comprising seven individuals, all in the last two months of the year and coinciding with a moderate influx into the country further north. A single which flew west over Overton on Nov 12th was relocated nearby later that same day (PEH), one over Hill Head was heard on Nov 26th (MJP) and five were at Townhill Park, Southampton on the afternoon of Dec 17th (per SI). These were the first sightings in Hampshire since the winter-spring influx of 2013. (WGDL)

Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch)

Sitta europaea

Numerous resident.

Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 2 (4), Itchen Valley CP, 6 (6); and Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (5). The only double-figure counts submitted came from Harewood Forest near Andover with ten on Mar 6th and 13 on Apr 10th. (WGDL)



Nuthatch, Chandlers Ford, May 13th (Richard Jacobs)

Treecreeper **(Eurasian Treecreeper)**

Certhia familiaris

Numerous resident. Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 6 (3); Longmoor Inclosure, 13 (13); and Lower Test NR, 3. Records were received from a further 21 sites during the breeding season including five in the New Forest. The highest count outside of the breeding season was five at Blackwater Arboretum, NF on Jan 3rd. (WGDL)



Treecreeper, Woolmer, Apr 19th (Richard Ford)

Wren (Eurasian Wren)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Abundant resident. Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas suggest the modest increase noted last year continues as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Blashford Lakes, 29 (26); Fishlake Meadows, 40; Longmoor Inclosure, 122 (114); Lower Test NR, 123 (115). However, data were incomplete as several traditional survey sites did not submit records for 2016. The only notable record outside of the breeding season involved a striking leucistic individual observed at Budds Farm STW on Dec 2nd. (WGDL)

Starling (Common Starling)

Sturnus vulgaris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S41

There was a significant recovery over the low numbers recorded in 2015. Monthly maximum counts exceeded the corresponding totals for the previous year in all months by between 38% and 524% with the exception of August. This resulted in the total of all monthly maxima being nearly three times higher than 2015, due mainly to higher numbers in each winter period. Notably flocks reached four-figure totals at ten sites (five in 2015) suggesting the increased presence was widespread.

In the early winter period the highest counts came from the Avon Valley with roosts of 3,000 at Blashford Lakes on Jan 1st and Feb 9th, reducing to 2,000 by Mar 13th; a murmuration of 3,000 over The New Queen Pub in Avon on Jan 17th; and up to 1,200 roosting nightly at Damerham until the end of February. The only other four-figure count came from Dibden Bay with 2,000 on Jan 3rd. Spring passage was light and most evident at Farlington Marshes where numbers peaked at 2,000 on Mar 5th reducing to 200 by Apr 5th, the last three-figure count of the spring. Diurnal passage was limited to 129 over Trigpoint Hill on four dates in early March and 45 E over Sinah Common on Mar 12th and 55 NE there on 13th.

Post-breeding flocks with juveniles started to appear in the last weeks of May and included 120 at Budds Farm STW on May 24th and Sinah Common on 28th. The only three-figure count for June was 400 at Titchfield Canal Path on 18th. Flocks and roosts grew as summer progressed and counts exceeded three-figures at six sites in July, nine in August and 11 in September, including 1,112 at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 17th, 500 at Needs Ore on Aug 24th, 1,000 at Sinah Common on Aug 29th, 3,500 at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 11th and 2,000 at Farlington Marshes on Sep 28th.

Autumn diurnal passage was detected from early October onwards, peaking in a five-week period between Oct 21st and Nov 25th. At the two main inland watchpoints, 5,119 were recorded flying mostly SW over Tweseldown between Oct 5th and Nov 25th, with peaks of 1,292 SW on Oct 21st and 848 SW on Nov 13th, and 3,768 flew over Trigpoint Hill between Oct 2nd and Dec 7th (2,472 SW and 1,296 NE), with peaks of 1,014 SW on Oct 31st and 764 SW on Nov 6th. Few reports of passage were received from elsewhere, and the only records submitted from the coast involved 199 NW over Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 21st and 194 over Sandy Point on three dates between Oct 14th and Nov 13th, with a peak of 110 west on Nov 13th.

The minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-29
Coast movements			24	259	110			
Inland movements	52		110	4,187	3,435	1,338	73	14

Roosts and grounded flocks peaked between late October and the last week of November, coinciding with diurnal passage, before dropping off in December. Throughout this period, the roost at Fishlake Meadows consistently delivered the highest monthly counts with a peak of 15,900 on Oct 26th declining to 11,500 on Nov 23rd and 4,000 on Dec 26th. Numbers reached four-figures at six other sites in the last three months of the year with peak counts of 2,000 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 26th, 1,000 at Southsea on Nov 8th, 3,600 at Edenbrook CP (Fleet) on Nov 11th, 4,500 at Lymington-Hurst on Nov 15th, 3,000 at Blashford Lakes on Nov 17th and 10,000 at Alresford Pond on Nov 27th. The monthly maxima in October and November exceeded the corresponding totals for 2015 by 220% and 568% respectively. While numbers were much reduced from November's impressive totals, December totals continued to exceed 2015's lowly maxima by nearly five-fold at 476%.

Totals of site monthly maxima are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Roosts and grounded flocks (>25)	12,210	5,875	5,209	290	445	440	2,220	3,842	8,427	19,830	37,240	14,265

Rose-coloured Starling (Rosy Starling)

Pastor roseus

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except December. (0,24,1)

One record. A juvenile was photographed at close range in a garden in North Gorley on Oct 25th (RBus, photo). Despite searching it was not seen again.

There have been records in nine years this century, most recently in 2014. (KFB)



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling, North Gorley, Oct 25th (Roger Bushnell)

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered. Red, S4I



Male Ring Ouzel, Latchmore Bottom, Oct 7th (Lee Fuller)

It was a reasonably good spring, similar to last year, with at least 21 being recorded on 29 bird-days from 12 sites between Apr 1st and May 4th. The first of the spring, a male, was found at Milkham Inclosure, NF on Apr 1st and was followed by a small influx on Apr 3rd when six were located at four sites as follows: Itchen Valley CP (2, male and female); Turf Hill Inclosure, NF (2, male and female); Bourley/Miles Hill (female); and Burley, NF. Records followed from Ashurst Walk, NF (male, Apr 5th), Old Winchester Hill (male, Apr 8th; 2, Apr 9th; male, Apr 12th; 1, Apr 18th-19th; 1, Apr 29th-May 1st); Beacon Hill, Burghclere (5, 1 male and 4 females, Apr 9th; male, Apr 11th); Quarley Down/Portway Farm, Cholderton (2, males, Apr 14th); Beacon Hill, Warnford (1, Apr 26th-27th); Edenbrook CP, Fleet (female, Apr 30th-May 1st); and Beaulieu Road (1, May 4th).

Autumn was excellent, producing a county record of 284 bird-days involving at least 120+ individuals from 28 sites between Oct 3rd and Nov 2nd. A notable influx occurred between Oct 6th-9th, when numbers reached double-figures at three sites including a minimum of 35 at Butser Hill on Oct 8th (PS), a county record. The first signs of this influx were at Portsdown Hill/Paulsgrove Chalk Pit with nine on Oct 6th rising to 12 on 8th before declining to four on 9th. A very conservative 38+ were recorded in the New Forest with high counts in October of five at the Round Hill campsite on 7th, six at Wilverley Plain on 8th, 20 at Leaden Hall and seven at Mogshade Hill on 9th, seven at Burley Rock Hills on 9th-10th, seven at Clay Hill on 10th, four at Black Gutter Bottom and two at Millersford Bottom, both on 22nd. Given the proximity of some of these sites, some duplication of individuals is probable. At Butser Hill 22+ were present on Oct 7th increasing to a minimum of 35 on 8th, declining to seven on 10th, two on 11th, six on 13th and eight on 14th, the last autumn record from this site.

Aside from these three locations, other records came from Martin Down NNR (2, Oct 3rd); Sandy Point (1, Oct 5th; 3 NE, Oct 14th); Old Winchester Hill (1-3, Oct 5th-11th), Chilling (1, Oct 5th); Lower Test Marshes (1, Oct 5th-6th); Brownwich (2, Oct 7th); Beacon Hill, Burghclere (1, Oct 9th); Bishopstoke (1, Oct 9th); Basingstoke (1, Oct 9th); Beacon Hill, Warnford (2, Oct 9th); Southampton Common (1, Oct 9th); Bricksbury Hill (1-3, Oct 10th-

17th); Hook-with-Warsash (3, Oct 11th); Leigh Park, Havant (1, Oct 13th); Lymington-Hurst (1, Oct 13th-14th); Trigpoint Hill (1, Oct 14th); Milton Common (1, Oct 15th); Fawley Power Station (1, Oct 16th); Tweseldown (2 SW, Oct 19th) and Fort Cumberland (1, Oct 19th). The last of the autumn was a single north of Sopley, Avon Valley on Nov 2nd.

Minimum totals by year given below demonstrate this year's record high autumn total. (WGDL)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Spring	26	13	13	9	28	15	26	11	20	21
Autumn	14	13	30	67	19	53	31	52	34	120

Blackbird† (Common Blackbird)

Turdus merula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green



Male Blackbird, New Forest, Oct 25th (David Cuddon)

In the January-March period two-figure counts were recorded at only nine sites (cf. 47 sites in 2015). Whether this reflected a genuine winter decline or under-recording is unclear, but high counts of 34 at Rockford Common, NF on Jan 23rd, 31 at Charlton Lakes on Mar 11th and 30 at Itchen Valley CP on various dates up to the end of February were also on the low side. However, the NFWBS totals of 271, 277 and 298 in the quarter were comparable to 2015's levels.

In the breeding season, counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 67 (75); Lower Test Marshes, 44 (52); Martin Down CBC, 12 (12). The only other reports of note during the breeding season included 13 territories at Blashford Lakes (22 in 2015) and a count of 40 at Hollybank Woods, Westbourne on May 23rd.

In autumn no meaningful passage was reported from either Trigpoint Hill or Tweseldown, although several observers commented on an influx of grounded migrants across the county from mid-October into early November including 25 at Trigpoint Hill on Oct 14th and 27 at Budds Farm STW on Nov 1st. Double-figure counts were recorded from 11 sites from late-September to the end of the year (compared to nine sites in 2015), the highest being 33 at Itchen Valley CP on Nov 27th, 35 at Bolderwood, NF on Dec 14th and 36 at Charlton Lakes

on Dec 23rd. Encouragingly, the NFWBS produced 291, 454 and 446 in October-December, a 50% average increase over the corresponding counts in 2015. (WGDL)

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red

As in 2015, numbers in the January-March period were remarkably steady and slightly below average with no notable influx or cold weather movement. Grounded flocks reached three-figures at 13 sites in January, ten in February and 12 in March, with the largest count being 500 at Four Marks on Jan 17th. Other notable flocks included 400 at Brockley Warren on Jan 25th, 400 at Cheriton on Feb 3rd, 400 at West Tisted on Mar 6th and 300 at St Mary Bourne on Mar 22nd. Numbers dropped significantly in the last week of March and there were only eight records for April including 12 at Cutty Brow on Apr 2nd. The last of the spring were five at Middle Wallop on the early date of April 16th. The NFWBS produced January-March counts of 844, 471 and 327, approximately twice the comparable numbers in 2015.

The first of the autumn was a single at Round Hill Campsite, NF on Oct 7th followed by two nearby at Leaden Hall, NF on 9th. Diurnal movement was recorded from Oct 13th with almost daily passage recorded thereafter into the first week of November from the regular inland watchpoints peaking between Oct 20th-22nd. Further spikes in diurnal passage were noted between Nov 10th-15th and 24th-25th. Passage was particularly impressive from Tweseldown with a site record of 7,563, mostly SW on 36 dates between Oct 13th and Nov 28th, double the number recorded in the same period in 2015, with peak counts in October of 830 SW on 20th, 1,165 SW on 21st, 856 SW and 65 NE on 22nd and 650 SW on 24th, followed by 521 SW on Nov 24th. By contrast, movements over Trigpoint Hill were lower at 1,246 (711 NE and 535 SW) on 23 dates between Oct 13th and Dec 26th, and reports of movement from coastal sites were limited to just 91 from four locations. The exceptionally high November movements recorded in 2015 were not repeated.

In October grounded flocks only reached three-figures at five sites with a New Forest bias including 200 at both Leaden Hall, NF on Oct 22nd and Cadnam Common, NF on 26th. Numbers started to increase elsewhere in the second week of November, and three-figures were subsequently recorded from 15 sites in November and 18 in December, with a notable increase from Dec 24th onwards. High counts from the last two months of the year included 300 at Rowbury Copse, Clatford Oakcuts on Nov 27th, 400 at Woodmancott on Dec 8th, 310 at Chidden on 18th, 450 at Itchel Home Farm, Crondall on 19th and 750 at Ropley on 28th. The NFWBS produced counts of 1,702, 625, and 133 in October to December, in total about 65% of the figures for 2015.

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	3,763	2,949	3,221	30			2,551*	3,144	5,372
Movements	320	415	145				5,448	3,425	263

* Comprises the October NFWBS count and high counts from other sites outside the New Forest

Song Thrush†

Turdus philomelos

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at seven sites (nine in 2015), including 19 at Budds Farm STW on Jan 5th and 26 at Winchester Sewage Farm on Jan 17th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 51 (60); Longmoor Inclosure, 16 (18); Lower Test Marshes, 11 (10); and Martin Down, 7 (3). Other notable counts of territories in the breeding season included 15 (12) at Blashford Lakes on May 28th.

Recorded autumn diurnal migration was heavier than usual with a marked peak in October. A total of 358 (300 SW and 58 NE) was logged moving over Tweseldown on 18 dates between Sep 30th and Nov 4th with peaks in October of 51 (41 SW and 10 NE) on 15th, 82 SW on 21st and 67 (40 SW and 27 NE) on 22nd. At Trigpoint Hill 179 (165 NE and 14 SW) were recorded on 18 dates between Sep 20th and Nov 27th with a peak count of 54 NE on Oct 5th. The only other movement of note was ten NE at Sandy Point on Oct 14th. Grounded double-figure counts were received from nine sites (one in 2015) in the September to December period, most coinciding with the peak in autumn passage, including 30 at Winchester SF on Oct 26th and Nov 16th, 20 at Sandy Point on Oct 4th and 20 at Woolmer Pond on Oct 22nd.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements							17	517	14	

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

NT, Schedule 1, Red

In the early year numbers were about average and remarkably stable until the last week of March when there appeared to be a mass exodus. Three-figure flocks were recorded from 19 sites in January, 18 in February and 12 in March, with the largest being in the north-east and the New Forest including 400 at Stoney Cross Plain, NF on Jan 5th, 500 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Feb 21st, 400 at Slufers Inclosure, NF on Mar 2nd and 900 at Winchfield (combined count from Swans Farm and Pale Lane) on Mar 20th. Spring passage was detected at Trigpoint Hill with a total of 485 NE on six dates between Feb 29th and Mar 22nd with peaks of 180 NE on Mar 12th and 140 NE on Mar 22nd. The NFWBS produced counts of 1,275, 1,008 and 1,205 in January-March, in total more than twice the 2015 figures. There were only two reported in April, the lowest showing this century, with the last moving north over Fleet Pond on Apr 10th.

The first of the autumn were six flying SW over Tweseldown on Sep 30th. Diurnal passage was recorded consistently thereafter peaking in the third week of October. Save for record numbers from Tweseldown, movements elsewhere were lighter than average. At Tweseldown a total of 28,647 (25,770 SW and 2,877 NE) was logged on 47 dates between Sep 30th and Nov 28th including 1,390 (1,270 SW and 120 NE) on Oct 15th and 19,232 (18,800 SW and 432 NE) between Oct 20th and 23rd with a peak count of 10,066 SW in six hours on Oct 21st. At Trigpoint Hill 4,374 (2,949 NE and 1,425 SW) were logged on 42 dates between Oct 4th and Dec 31st with a peak count of 860 NE on Oct 7th. Autumn movement from other sites totalled just 580 in stark contrast to the record movement over coastal sites in the autumn of 2015.

Grounded and roosting flocks exceeded three-figures at just six sites in October and 11 in November, increasing to 25 sites in December. By far the largest involved a roost at Fleet Pond that grew sharply from 500 on Oct 16th to 2,600 on the evening of Oct 21st, coinciding with peak movement over Tweseldown, before receding to 1,700 on Oct 24th and 550 by Nov 25th. No other flocks exceeded 250 until mid-November when 730 roosted at Springhead, Greywell on Nov 18th. High counts thereafter included 500 at Fritham Plain, NF on Nov 23rd, 900 at Longstock Park on Dec 3rd, 500 at Middle Wallop Airfield on 9th, and flocks of 400 at Skidmore on 17th, Broadlands Estate on 19th and Four Marks on 28th. The NFWBS produced totals of 323, 887 and 575 in October-December, in total about 75% of the 2015 figures.

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	4,721	4,613	4,592	1				4,360	4,229	7,168
Movements	142	171	425	1			6	30,878	1,890	828

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Red

In the early year double-figure counts were received from four sites (one in 2015) as follows: ten at Badminston Common on Jan 10th, 14 at Ocknell Inclosure, NF on Jan 14th, 17 at Clayhill Hill, NF on Jan 25th and 35 at Redenham Park north-west of Andover on Feb 10th. The NFWBS survey produced totals of 123, 71 and 81 in January-March, comparable to corresponding months in 2015.

In the breeding season, counts of territories at regularly monitored sites were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 5 (7); Longmoor Inclosure, 5 (3). Elsewhere successful breeding was only reported from three sites: Beacon Hill (Warnford), Golden Pot near Alton and Pamber Forest, with the first fledged juveniles of the season being recorded on May 17th. Post-breeding flocks started to appear from early June onwards, and double-figure flocks were recorded from 18 sites between June and the end of September including 21 at Furze Hill (South Gorley) on July 18th, 41 at Avington Park on July 26th increasing to 52 on Aug 1st and 21 at Sprats Down, Calshot on Aug 29th.

Autumn movement was recorded from the two main inland watchpoints with 98 NE and 27 SW over Trigpoint Hill on 33 dates between Sep 1st and Dec 4th (with a peak count of 14 NE on Oct 14th), and 84 SW and 14 NE over Tweseldown on 17 dates between Sep 30th and Nov 10th (with peak counts of 19 SW on Oct 3rd and 15 SW on Oct 22nd). Double-figure flocks were reported from six sites between October and December (seven in 2015) with the highest continuing to be at Avington Park where 22 were present on Oct 4th. The NFWBS produced totals of 80, 48 and 56 in October-December, almost 20% down on the corresponding months in 2015.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements							1	21	179	26	2

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S41, HBAP

The first of the spring was at Cadnam Common, NF on Apr 25th followed by one at IBM Lake on Apr 29th-30th. Sightings started to become widespread from May 3rd and included four at Ripley Farm Reservoir on May 6th.

Breeding season records from the New Forest stronghold produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable breeding habitat from 49 locations (46 in 2015), with successful breeding reported from seven sites. Elsewhere pairs, singing males or individuals in suitable breeding habitat were reported from 38 sites between late May and early August with successful breeding confirmed at 13 as follows: Ampfield Wood, Ashford Hangers LNR, Brambridge, Danebury, Emer Bog (North Baddesley), Four Marks, Hinton Ampner, Pamber Forest, St. Catherine's Hill (Winchester), Stoke Park Wood (Bishopstoke), Tinkers Copse (Ripley), West Walk and Woolmer Pond. Post-breeding gatherings included ten at Ampfield Wood on July 30th, 11 at Cadnam Common, NF on Aug 10th and ten at Pig Bush, NF on Aug 14th.

Autumn migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from July 31st with the heaviest passage evident between Aug 24th and Sep 15th. Counts were below normal at well-watched sites with only four sites logging over 20 bird-days as follows: IBM Lake with 26 bird-days on 23 dates between Aug 8th and Sep 25th (peak 2, on three dates); Itchen Valley CP with 25 bird-days on eight dates between Aug 14th and Sep 25th (peak 7, Aug 26th); Trigpoint Hill with 23 bird-days on seven dates between Aug 1st and Sep 6th (peak 5, Aug 20th and 22nd); and Northney Paddocks with 22 birds-days on six dates between Aug 18th and Sep 11th (peak 7, Aug 25th). Another seven sites reported between ten and 20 bird-days as follows:

Beacon Hill, Warnford (peak 8, Aug 31st); Blashford Lakes (peak 3, Aug 25th and Sep 5th); Lower Test Marshes (peak 5, Sep 8th); Old Winchester Hill (peak 4, Aug 30th); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (peak 6, Aug 18th); Sandy Point (peak 2, on three dates). The only double-figure count at this time was 11 at The Grange Lake, Northington on Aug 31st. There were only two records for October, both singles, at Sandy Point on Oct 3th and the last of the year at Round Hill Campsite, NF on Oct 7th. (WGDL)

Robin† (European Robin)

Erithacus rubecula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2015 figures, where available, are in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 20; Hollybank Woods, 59; Ibsley Water, 18; Longmoor Inclosure, 122 (122); Lower Test Marshes, 63 (61); and Warblington Shore, 27.

At Ibsley Water, counts throughout the year ranged from a low of 20 on Aug 14th to 42 on Sep 18th, with a first half-year peak of 33 on Apr 2nd. Similarly counts at Itchen Valley CP ranged from seven on Aug 7th to 58 on Oct 9th, and at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary from one in January, May and July to 22 on Nov 29th, the highs reflecting arrival of migrants.

At Titchfield Haven 53 were ringed between July 9th and Nov 11th. Other notable counts included 38 at Rockford Common on Jan 23rd, 41 on Mar 21st, 31 on Oct 22nd and 29 on Nov 13th; 35 at Farlington Marshes on Mar 6th; 40 at Warblington Shore on Mar 15th; 35 at North Baddesley on Mar 27th; and 70 at Pennington/Oxey on Sep 16th.

BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 327 Hampshire gardens making this species equal first with Blackbird. Monthly reporting rates varied from a peak of 95.7% in February to a low of 84.8% in July (Table 2). The only double-figure count was 11 to 13 in a Chandlers Ford garden on several dates in January. (APW)

Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.

Red, HBAP

The first, all singles, were noted on Apr 14th at Needs Ore, Dean Hill, Calshot and Fields Heath. Subsequently reports were received from a number of sites on many dates until June 9th, including presumed migrants on single days in May from Bossington on 20th, Fort Widley on 29th and Griggs Green on 31st, followed by Lower Brook on June 9th. Three records of singles also came from Trampers Lane clearing, West Walk on May 10th-12th. There were no records submitted for dates after June 9th.

Reports of territorial birds showed yet another decline as tabulated below. The total of 18 pairs/singing males compared to 26 in 2015, 33 in 2014 and 66 during the 2012 national survey. Botley Wood remained the stronghold with 11 pairs/singing males. (APW)

	2016	2015
Blackfield/Badminster Common/Toms Down	1	2
Blackbushe Airfield/Yateley Common		2
Bossington		2
Botley Wood area	11	8
Bramshill Plantation		1
Calshot/Ashlett Creek	1	1
Cowplain/Dunsbury Hill Farm		1
Funtley Landfill Site		1
Needs Ore	2	1
Nursling GP		1
Romsey/Timsbury area	3	4
West Walk		1
West Wood, Netley		1

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

Very rare passage migrant. (1,5,1)

ET

One record. A first-year male was singing in woodland at Crampmoor, Romsey on May 29th. (NRJ et al., photo.).

This is the fifth record for Hampshire, the previous sightings having involved six birds. The most recent was at Sinah Warren on Oct 3rd 1989. Records published in HBRs for 1968, 1974 and 1975 were reviewed in 1993 and felt not to be supported by sufficient evidence to convince the authors of *Birds of Hampshire* that identity was beyond doubt.

There are relatively few UK records in spring – the species is mainly recorded from September to November. However, in the last week of May birds were also reported from Norfolk, the Outer Hebrides, Gwynedd, East Yorkshire and Orkney. (KFB)



First-summer male Red-breasted Flycatcher, Crampmoor, Romsey, May 29th (Alan Lewis)

Pied Flycatcher (European Pied Flycatcher)

Ficedula hypoleuca

Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995.

Red

Nine were recorded in spring between Apr 7th and May 4th and 13 on return passage between Aug 16th and Sep 11th. As usual, most reports concentrated in the last weeks of April and August. The first spring migrant was a male at Itchen Valley CP on Apr 7th. This was followed by further singles in April at Dibden Bottom on 21st, Itchen Valley CP (another male) on 24th, Ibsley Water on 25th, Mingledown Barn, Chawton (male) and Keyhaven (male) on 29th. There were two further records in May with a female along the Ancient Highway, Keyhaven on 4th and two females at Coopers Hill, NF the same day.

The first return was one at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 16th followed by other singles in August at Northney Paddocks on 24th, 25th and 27th, Sandy Point on 24th, 25th and 31st, Lepe CP on 27th, Titchfield Canal Path on 29th and two at Trigpoint Hill on 30th. September records were singles at Sandy Point on 1st, 3rd and 11th; Southampton Common on 1st; St Catherine's Hill, Winchester on 2nd; Sinah Warren on 11th and West Lane, Hayling the same day. (APW)

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Red

As usual there were scattered reports of mostly single individuals from various coastal sites, especially in the Portsmouth/Gosport areas, with highest totals during the winter months.

In the first half-year, singles were reported at Fawley Power Station on ten dates between Jan 8th and Mar 21st; seven reports referred to an immature/female – the other three did not specify age/sex. At Sandy Point, singles were recorded on twelve dates between Jan 19th and Apr 7th. At Hurst Castle, an immature male was present between Jan 10th-Feb 10th, an immature/female on Jan 16th, a single on Apr 11th (age/sex not specified) and a singing adult male from May 5th-July 7th. An immature/female was reported from Fort Cumberland on six dates between Jan 24th and June 4th, a foraging male on Mar 11th and a singing male on Apr 3rd. A male was reported from Gosport on Jan 1st, 3rd, 8th and 24th. There were four records from Portchester on Jan 2nd, 6th, 8th and 24th and two from Portchester Castle on Feb 10th and 22nd. In Portsmouth a male was seen near the IoV ferry terminal on Jan 15th and another at North End throughout the second half of January, two immatures were at Fratton on Feb 19th, a male was at Portsmouth Naval Base on Mar 10th and a female was at RNAY Fleetlands on Mar 30th. An immature/female was reported at Chilling on Feb 3rd and 10th. At Fareham a single was noted on Feb 7th and a male on Feb 25th, whilst a female was present in a Totton garden on Mar 26th and 27th. Additional first period reports on single dates came from a further four sites including two inland at Eastleigh STW on Feb 14th and Drayton Farm WCB, Alresford on Apr 3rd. There were no reports of confirmed breeding.

In the second half-year the only August record came from Fort Cumberland with two on 29th. There was also only one September record, from Southampton Common on 1st. October records, all singles apart from two at Calshot on 31st, came from Brownwich (male) on 9th, Totton (immature male) on 13th, Mingledown Barn, Chawton (immature/female) on 13th and 14th, Sandy Point on 22nd and 30th, Fawley Refinery on 28th, Lymington-Hurst (adult male) on 30th, Hurst Castle (immature/female) on 31st and Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour (immature/female) on 31st. November records, 18 in total and all singles apart from two at Hill Head on 2nd and 3rd, came from seven other sites at Sandy Point and Black Point, Hayling Island; Southsea Castle; Priddy's Hard, Gosport; Fort Cumberland; Broomy Plan, NF; and Itchen Stoke. December records, 11 in total and all singles, came from five sites. Seven sightings spread throughout the month were from Priddy's Hard, Gosport and single reports were from Totford, Eastleigh, Winchester Cathedral and Titchfield Haven.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	23	12	4	2	1		2	1	12	19	11

Redstart† (Common Redstart)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant.

Amber

The first arrival, a male, was at Farlington Marshes on Apr 2nd, whilst singles on the 3rd were at Cutty Brow, Acres Down, Dur Hill Down, Harvest Slade Bottom, IBM Lake, Port Solent and Hook-with-Warsash. One was at Woolmer Pond on 4th and others on 5th were at Quarley Down Farm and in the New Forest at Shatterford Bottom, Fletchers Thorns Inclosure, Fritham Plain and Parkhill Inclosure. Regular reports followed during the next few days in April including singles away from traditional breeding areas at Portway Farm and Three Halves Copse, Testbourne on 6th, and at Theddon Copse, Bishopstoke, Lakeside CP (Eastleigh), Itchen Valley CP, Lymington-Hurst, Farlington Marshes, Sinah Common and Hayling GC, Priddy's Hard, East Meon, IBM Lake, Hamble Common and Hook-with-Warsash, all on 9th.

Away from the traditional breeding areas, incoming migrants were recorded up to May 3rd when there were five females at Itchen Valley CP, a female at the Ancient Highway,



Male Redstart, New Forest, May 30th (Gareth Rees)

Pennington, and a male at Truncheants, Alton followed by a later female on May 29th at Lye Heath, Denmead.

There was no systematic breeding survey work undertaken in the New Forest, where the species remains common. However, notable New Forest counts came from Rhinefield Inclosure (18, May 3rd; 16, Apr 30th; 15, Apr 27th; 10, May 6th), Acres Down (15, May 24th), Beaulieu Road (15, May 14th; 14, Apr 20th; 12, May 16th), Denny Wood (15, May 4th), Mark Ash Wood (14, May 16th; 9, Apr 24th), New Copse Inclosure (10, May 5th), Puttles Bridge (10, May 8th), Bratley Inclosure (10 singing males, Apr 13th), Shatterford Bottom (9, Apr 30th) and Parkhill Inclosure (9, Apr 21st). Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of four and 16 territories, respectively, compared to six and 16 in 2015 (Table I).

Return passage was evident from June 27th with one at Martin Down and then two there on 30th. Six singles were noted in July at Fields Heath (2nd), Quarley Down Farm (2nd), Welshman's Road GP (9th), Lower Test Marshes (22nd) and Martin Down (27th and 31st). Two were at Quarley Down Farm on Aug 4th and singles were at Ibsley Water, Stockbridge Down and Martin Down on 6th, before almost daily records from Aug 12th until the end of September with a maximum of five at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester (Sep 3rd) and four at Farley Mount CP (Aug 27th), IBM Lake (Aug 30th), Titchfield Canal Path (Sep 3rd) and Titchfield Haven (Sep 14th). The last, both singles, were at Farlington Marshes (Oct 1st) and Portsdown Hill (Oct 7th). Sites with relatively high cumulative bird-days during this period included Old Winchester Hill, 23 (61 in 2015); Hook-with-Warsash, 21 (15); Titchfield Haven and Canal Path, 20 (23); IBM Lake, 13; Martin Down, 11 (19); Lower Test Marshes 8; Gosport–Priddy's Hard, 7; Lymington–Hurst, 6 and Itchen Valley CP, 5 (15). Where comparisons are available, the 2016 totals are mostly lower than 2015, in some cases considerably so.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland	15	14	7	1	3	3	2	13	29	29	5	1
Coast	20	27	7				1	2	48	41	6	1

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra
Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.
Red, HBAP

The first was at Ashley Walk on Apr 10th followed by reports of singles at Titchfield Canal Path on 12th, Ashley Walk again on 14th, Lower Test Marshes on 18th, Lymington-Hurst on 19th, Malthouse Farm, Sleaford on 21st and Titchfield Haven on 22nd. There were then 37 more spring records involving 54 individuals including in May five at Abbots Ann on 3rd, four at Sandy Point on the same date and four at White Moor, Brockenhurst on 6th. The last was at Farlington Marshes on May 12th.

Return migration was noted from July 14th when one was at Sandy Point, followed by two at North Oakley on July 26th, two at Brockenhurst on July 30th, one at Lower Test Marshes on Aug 4th and one at Alver Valley on the same date. Reports then followed on virtually all dates from Aug 10th- Oct 2nd and on a further 12 dates up to Oct 23rd. The last, a bird with an apparently injured wing, was in the Avon valley at Bisterne on the late date of Nov 26th (DHT). Notable counts came from Lymington-Hurst (12, Oct 2nd), Farlington Marshes (11, Aug 25th; 8, Sep 13th; 7, Aug 29th; 7, Sep 7th) and Itchen Valley CP (9, Sep 13th).

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. Note April and May totals were 61 compared to 31 in 2015, an increase of 97%, whereas July-December totals were 545 compared to 728 in 2016, a decrease of 25%. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-22	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Inland	2	7	22			4	1	53	48	22	6			1
Coast	1	13	16		1		8	148	141	71	36	5		

Siberian Stonechat (Siberian & Stejneger’s Stonechat)

Saxicola maurus
Very rare vagrant. (0, 3, 1)



Male Siberian Stonechat, Titchfield Haven, May 11th (Lee Fuller)

One record. An adult male was at Titchfield Haven on May 10th-11th (ALR et al., photo). See separate short paper in this report (p.243). Photographs taken in the field show that this

bird was of the race *variegatus* known as Caspian Stonechat. The record has been accepted by BBRC as that race – males being racially distinctive. This is the first spring record of the species in the county, the others having all been immatures seen in October (in 2008, 2014 and 2015). The first two were also at Titchfield Haven and the last was at Hook-with-Warsash. (KFB)



Male Siberian Stonechat, Titchfield Haven, May 11th (Simon Colenutt)

Stonechat (European Stonechat)

Saxicola rubicola

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

The NFWBS early year totals were 39 in January, 24 in February and, reflecting substantial numbers of incoming migrants, 229 in March (57, 47 and 209 in 2015).

Notable breeding season counts in the New Forest included 16 singing males at Beaulieu Heath West on Mar 25th and 17 on May 3rd; seven pairs and four singles at Broomy Plain on Mar 31st; six pairs and a lone female at Backley Inclosure on Apr 13th; six pairs and a lone male around Shatterford on Mar 14th; and at Setley Plain ten pairs/singing males and two additional birds on Mar 25th, nine pairs/singing males and four additional males on Mar 29th and ten pairs/singing males on Apr 10th. Post-breeding season aggregations in the New Forest in August included 50, mainly juveniles, at Beaulieu Heath East on 7th, 12 at Fritham Plain on 13th, 14 at Beaulieu Road and surrounding area on 16th, 18 at Acres Down on 18th, 16 at Shatterford Bottom on 22nd and 20 and 25 at Ashley Walk on 24th and 28th respectively. Subsequently there were 29 at Bratley Plain on Sep 28th. Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs revealed 74 and 32 territories respectively (Table 1), an increase compared to 56 and 17 in 2015.

Elsewhere, pairs/singing males (*=breeding confirmed) were reported in April-July at Avon Causeway, Baddesley Common*, Bossington South, Burgate Manor Farm, Chalton*, Deacon Hill (Winchester)*, Edenbrook CP, Highbridge, Hook-with-Warsash*, Hordle Cliff, Ibsley/Harbridge WM, Itchen Valley CP, Longstock Water Gardens*, Lower Test Marshes*, Lymington-Hurst, Marsh Court*, Martin Down*, North Baddesley, Porton Down, Titchfield Haven* and Winchester SF*.

Away from the established New Forest and north-east Hants breeding areas, 19 sites (13 coastal) had counts that exceeded five compared to 25 (17 coastal) in 2015 and 19 (12 coastal) in 2014. Numbers during the second period included 12 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 18th, Oct 1st and 3rd and 13 there on Sep 21st; 14 at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 28th; 16 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 30th and Needs Ore on Oct 2nd; and 12 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 1st and Lymington-Hurst on Oct 19th. The NFWBS produced totals of 173, 46 and 52 in October, November and December (117, 82 and 51 in 2015).

Monthly totals of birds recorded in various grouped sites in January-March and August-December are tabulated below. (APW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest	39	24	229	175*	49*	173	46	52
Coastal sites	176	169	69	144	390	544	190	127
River valley sites	51	65	30	13	47	86	45	40
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	6	17	36	9	13	23	21	17
Other sites	28	53	24	13	32	145	43	44
Total	300	328	388	354	531	971	345	280

* = casual records only

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)
Common passage migrant; formerly scarce summer visitor which last bred in 2005.

Oenanthe oenanthe
Green



Female Wheatear, Beaulieu Heath, Apr 24th (Marcus Ward)

The first was at Barton on Sea GC on Mar 18th followed by singles at Hurst Castle on 19th, Southsea Castle on 20th, Middle Wallop Airfield on 21st and Twyford Down, Winchester on 22nd. On Mar 23rd two males and a female were at Cheesefoot Head, two were at Sandy Point, and singles were at Magdalen Hill Down, Bourley North/Long Valley, Fritham Plain and Dibden Bay. By the end of the month reports had come from a further 24 locations. In March, the highest day totals were 18 from four sites on 24th, 24 from ten sites on 25th, 20 from 11 sites on 30th and 19 from six sites on 31st, whilst the highest individual counts were nine at

Sandy Point on 24th and eight at Needs Ore on 31st. In April the highest day counts were 53 at 15 sites on 3rd, 36 at 18 sites on 2nd and 35 at 10 sites on 5th and 38 at 13 sites on 19th. The highest individual counts were seven at Farlington Marshes, Southampton Airport and Bere Hill Farm, Andover, all on 3rd, Sandy Point on 15th and 19th and Lymington-Hurst on 19th, followed by 13 at Sinah Common and Hayling GC on 5th. Decreasing numbers were recorded in May with the last spring migrant at Farlington Marshes on 20th.

The only confirmed breeding was reported from one location in the north of the county where a single recently fledged youngster was seen on June 10th.

The first returning migrants, both juveniles, were at Farnborough Airport on July 6th and Yateley Heath Wood on 17th. Other July singles followed at Sandy Point on 21st and Long Road, Soberton on 24th. Two were at Needs Ore on 30th and on 31st one was at Lymington-Hurst, two at Beaulieu Heath East and one at Whitten Pond, Burley. Two were at Sandy Point on Aug 1st and one was at Lymington-Hurst on the same date. Almost daily records followed from Aug 4th-Oct 30th. Day totals of 50 and above were as follows (day total, number of sites): Aug 24th (61, 11), 27th (55, 15), 29th (64, 16) and 30th (50, 5); Sep 1st (61, 6), 5th (50, 7), 7th (53, 8), 11th (113, 17), 15th (58, 13) and 17th (97, 19).

Double-figure counts in August came from Sinah Common and Hayling GC (25, 24th; 14, 29th; 10, 27th), Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (16, 29th; 12, 28th), Hook-with-Warsash (15, 30th; 11, 27th; 10, 30th) and Sandy Point (11, 24th). Similar counts in September came from Sinah Common and Hayling GC (23, 11th; 10, 27th), Needs Ore (20, 1st and 15th), Sandy Point (17, 1st; 10, 11th and 17th), Lymington-Hurst (13, 13th; 12, 6th; 11, 7th; 11, 17th), Hook-with-Warsash (12, 5th), Port Solent (11, 17th) and Park Shore (10, 17th). October saw double-figure counts only at Lymington-Hurst (25, 9th; 10, 2nd). The last, both singles in November, were at Farlington Marshes on 2nd and Abbotts Wood, Romsey on the late date of 23rd.

One was reported as Greenland race (*leucorhoa*) and five others were noted as 'possibly/probably' or simply 'Greenland-type' in spring and autumn but none were substantiated by descriptions or measurements.

The approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	Total
Inland		25	84	65	42		1		217
Coast		82	133	148	44	2			409

	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Total
Inland	1	5	7	61	57	26	16	3		1	177
Coast		4	40	330	512	262	138	20	1		1,307

In 2016 the total number of arrivals was broadly similar to 2015 (169 inland, 456 coast), whilst return migrants showed an increase of 48% on 2015 (160 inland, 841 coast) suggesting an improved 2016 breeding season.

Alpine Accentor

Prunella collaris

Very rare vagrant. (0, 0, 1)

One record. An adult was seen briefly at Brownwich Cliffs on Apr 13th (GRE, photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC. The observer, who was not familiar with the species, had the sense to take plenty of photographs which he showed to friends later in the day. The observation lasted for around five minutes from 10:50 with the bird being just 4m away on some occasions. News of the sighting only surfaced the next day, but the bird could not be found. The full story of the discovery is given elsewhere in this report (p.233).

This was the first record for Hampshire and the 38th for Britain, but only the second since 2004. The sighting came during an exceptional northward push of Alpine Accentors, with many birds being seen well out of range, including a flock of 20 on a mountain near to Frankfurt in Germany. From just 700km away in the Massif Central of France, the species has a patchy but wide breeding range across mountainous areas of the Palearctic as far east as Siberia and China. To avoid cold winter weather, birds move to lower ground, but movements are generally rather local. (KFB)



Alpine Accentor, Brownwich Cliffs, Apr 13th (George Else)

Dunnock

Numerous resident.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures, where available, in parentheses): Butser Hill, 21 (20); Leckford village, 12; Longmoor Inclosure, 15 (19); and Lower Test Marshes, 44 (32). At Ibsley Water counts of singing males ranged from six to ten on 11 dates between Mar 6th and May 1st.

Other notable counts included 37 at Corhampton on Dec 27th; 17, 16, 15, 15 at Ibsley Water on Mar 20th, 6th, 13th and Apr 3rd respectively; 17 at Warblington Shore on Mar 15th; 16 at Rockford Common on Jan 23rd; and 15 at Budds Farm STW on Mar 22nd; whilst a further five sites had lower double-figure counts.

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported sightings from 313 gardens (96% of the maximum for Blackbird and Robin) making this their sixth most widespread species. Reporting rates varied between a peak of 85.1% in April to a low of 64.9% in August. A high count of ten was reported at Sherborne St John on July 10th. (APW)

House Sparrow

Numerous but declining resident.

Sightings were reported from 73 locations compared to 83 in 2015, with counts exceeding 20 from 37 sites compared to 38 in 2015. Flocks of 50 and above were noted from 12 sites (15 in 2015) as follows in decreasing magnitude: Leigh Park, Havant (100, Aug 24th and Sep 10th; 50, Feb 5th), Fort Cumberland (100, Aug 29th), Stockheath, Havant (97, May 20th; 53, Apr 20th), Blendworth (78, Apr 20th; 51, May 20th), Redbridge (70, Aug 14th), Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (55, Aug 24th), Upper Wield (52, Dec 31st), Old Down, Basingstoke (50, Feb 1st and Dec 5th), Petersfield (50, Jan 1st and Dec 14th), Hook-with-Warsash (50, Sep 3rd), Solent Breezes (50, Aug 20th) and Longstock (50, Dec 29th).

Breeding comparisons with last year included 12 nest boxes occupied at Titchfield Haven (14 in 2015, 5 in 2014); 22 territories counted at one of the Lower Test Marshes CBC plots (35 in 2015) whilst the other plot held none (1 in 2015), and 26 territories (24 in 2015) at Charlton Lakes, Andover. At Whitewool Farm near Old Winchester Hill, five House Martin nests were found occupied by House Sparrows on July 22nd.

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 271 gardens (83% of the maximum for Blackbird and Robin). Reporting rates ranged from a peak of 68.7% in June to 50.9% in September. The only two gardens to record more than 50 were at Lyndhurst (65, Jan 31st; 52, Feb 14th; 50, Aug 28th and 69, Sep 18th) and Hordle (73, May 1st). (APW)

Prunella modularis

Amber, S41

Passer domesticus

Red, S41

Yellow Wagtail (Western & Eastern Yellow Wagtail)

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava flavissima

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly locally common summer visitor which last bred in 2003.

Red, S4I, HBAP



Juvenile Yellow Wagtail, Oxeby Marsh, Sep 9th (Marcus Ward)

The first of the year was one flying north at South Moor on Apr 3rd. Spring passage involved approximately 89 up to May 28th, with a peak in the second half of April. The highest counts were ten on the stream at Farlington Marshes on Apr 22nd and seven at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 17th.

Return passage began with one at Farlington Marshes on July 3rd followed by two at Eyeworth Pond on July 13th. The highest numbers were at the reedbed roost at Keyhaven in mid-September, where 161 were counted leaving on Sep 13th and 127 on Sep 11th. Elsewhere the highest numbers were 100 at the Titchfield Haven roost on Aug 30th, 50 at Farlington Marshes on Sep 4th, 76 at Hook-with-Warsash on 7th and 108 at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on 16th. Inland the highest counts were 80 at Cholderton Park and 25 at Harbridge Water Meadows, both on Sep 3rd, 40 over Wonston on 10th and 15 at Itchen Valley CP the next day. The only double-digit count in October was 14 at Oxeby and Lower Pennington Marshes on 2nd. The last records of the year were singles at Southampton on Oct 14th and Lymington-Hurst on 19th and 23rd.

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-28	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-17
Inland grounded	1	6	4			1	88	157	18		
Inland moving	2	12	1		1		43	93	11	1	
Coast grounded		33	5		4	5	320	545	200	28	2
Coast moving	2	15	5	1	7	19	96	58	43	6	

Blue-headed Wagtail

Motacilla flava flava

Very scarce passage migrant which has bred. (since 2003, 11, 1)

One was present on the stream at Farlington Marshes together with ten Yellow Wagtails on Apr 22nd (PAG). A second blue-headed bird, probably this taxon, was sighted briefly at Posbrook Flood on Apr 23rd (RHM). (GO)

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red

In January and February, there were winterers at 40 sites, all records referring to only one or two birds. Light spring passage included one NE at Trigpoint Hill on Feb 15th, two NE on Mar 19th, one SW on March 28th and one NW on Mar 31st. Elsewhere there were two north over Setley on Mar 25th and one east over Petersfield on Apr 5th.

During the breeding season pairs or singing males were reported from 29 locations. Breeding success was reported from Alton, Alice Holt, Baddesley Common, Busta Triangle, Denmead, Havant, Hawley Lake, Hunton, Lower Test Marshes (3 pairs), Welshman's Road GP, Petersfield, Southampton, Strathfield Saye Park, Warnford Park and Waterlooville.

Autumn passage on the coast began with three east on Aug 27th at Needs Ore, which also had the highest count of eight east on Sep 7th. At Sandy Point there were nine bird-days in August, 53 bird-days in September and 40 bird-days in October, with a maximum count of nine on Sep 14th. At inland watchpoints 15 flew in various directions at Trigpoint Hill between Aug 10th and Oct 22nd and ten flew south-west at Tweseldown between Sep 30th and Nov 4th. The highest grounded count was five at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 17th.



Grey Wagtail, Itchen Navigation, Otterbourne, Nov 16th (Gareth Rees)

In November and December winterers were reported from 33 locations, again all records being of ones or twos apart from 15 counted along the Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on Dec 30th and three at Pinglestone WCB on Nov 3rd. (GO)

Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail)

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba yarrelli

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January and February the largest count was 320 at a pre-roost gathering at Godshill on Feb 14th. Other large counts were 100 at a reedbed roost at Winnall Moors on Jan 13th and 122 at Dibden Bay on Feb 14th. At Trigpoint Hill 26 (25 NE and 1 SW) were recorded moving between Mar 12th and Apr 27th.

On the coast post-breeding movements were 629 in various directions at Sandy Point between Sep 17th and Nov 1st with a maximum of 88 east on Oct 7th, 92 east at Beaulieu Needs Ore between Oct 5th and 14th and 79 east at Hurst Beach on Oct 13th. At inland watchpoints 557 (305 SW and 252 NE) flew over at Trigpoint Hill between Aug 10th-Dec 1st and 79 flew SW at Tweseldown between Sep 29th and Oct 19th. In October the largest pre-roost gatherings were 100 at Fox Lane GP on 6th, 215 at Fishlake Meadows on 15th, 200 at Lower Test Marshes on 19th and 100 at Basingstoke on 20th. The largest December counts were 400 roosting at Winnall Moors on Dec 16th and 200 at Darby Green on Dec 4th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	9	3	5	2	1	20	925	67	6	
Inland moving	2	20	3	1	1	57	529	196	20	

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba alba

Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.

In a poor spring approximately 12 were recorded between Feb 19th and May 5th. At Lymington-Hurst there was one on April 5th and two between Apr 8th-9th. Similarly at Fishlake Meadows one was present on Apr 12th and two on 22nd. Other records were singles at Eastleigh STW on Feb 19th, Ibsley Water on 20th and various dates between Apr 1st and 28th, Titchfield Haven between Mar 19th-26th, Needs Ore on Apr 17th, 28th and May 4th, Testwood Lakes on Apr 23rd, Farlington Marshes between Apr 25th-27th and Winchester SF on May 2nd and 5th.

In the autumn, passage involved approximately 12 birds. There were two at Ibsley Water on Aug 27th and one there on Sep 15th, Oct 21st and 23rd; two at Middle Wallop Airfield on Sep 9th and 15th; and three at Hayling GC on 21st. Other records were singles at Gilkicker Point on Aug 15th, Budds Farm STW on 27th, Lymington-Hurst on 29th and Sep 25th, Titchfield Haven on Sep 13th and Oct 6th, and Southsea Common on Sep 19th. (GO)

Richard's Pipit

Anthus richardi

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn. (0,40,1)

One record. One was present on Portsdown Hill from Oct 9th-10th (TMJD *et al.*, photo). There have been records in every year this century apart from 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2015. (KFB)

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S41

The first of the year was a single at Acres Down on Apr 1st followed on 3rd by one there, one at Ober Heath, two near Golden Pot (Alton) and seven singing in a new plantation at Weston Common. Passage away from breeding sites involved three at Sandy Point on May 2nd and singles there on Apr 5th and May 11th, two at Beacon Hill, Burghclere on Apr 11th and singles at Winchester SF on 18th, Needs Ore on May 5th and Botley Wood on 10th.

Surveys on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 39 and 22 pairs respectively (compared to 24 and 29 last year), with again no count in Woolmer Forest. In the New Forest coverage was incomplete but there were at least 40 singing males or pairs recorded. Sites outside these core breeding areas with singing males were Dummer, Eldon, Farley Mount/ Pitt Down, Golden Pot (3 singing males at each of two separate locations), Martin Down, Parnholt Wood, Pilot Hill, Porton Down, Preston Candover, Somerley Park, Thedden and Weston Common (7 singing males as above)

Autumn passage began with a single SW over Chilling on Aug 5th. Sites where movements of ten or more were recorded were Sandy Point with 21 between Aug 9th and Sep 20th, Chilling with 16 between Aug 5th and Sep 11th, Titchfield Haven with 11 between Aug 6th and Sep 24th and Lymington-Hurst with ten between Aug 27th and Sep 11th. The last of the year was one SE over Hurst Beach on Oct 7th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-7
Inland grounded		5			5	3	1	1
Inland moving	2	3	1		3	12	2	
Coast grounded	2	2	5		13	9	1	1
Coast moving	1		4	15	33	16	8	2

Meadow Pipit†

Anthus pratensis

Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. NT, Amber

In January and February there were double-digit flocks reported from only 11 sites. The largest of these were 50 at Sleaford on Jan 10th and 45 at Bransbury Common on Feb 7th. The largest spring movement was at Trigpoint Hill where 655 moved NE between Mar 12th and Apr 29th. Other large movements were 288 NE at Hurst Beach on Mar 15th and 200 in off the sea at the same site in one hour on Mar 29th, 92 north at Itchen Valley CP on 22nd and 78 north at Sandy Point between Mar 11th and Apr 19th.

Counts of breeding territories included at least 25 at Needs Ore, six at Butser Hill, three/ four at Keyhaven and one at Blackbushe Airfield.

Autumn passage and winter movements were recorded between Sep 7th and Dec 26th. The largest coastal movement was at Sandy Point where 1,535 moved mostly north and NE between Sep 7th and Nov 15th with a peak of 211 north on Sep 17th. At other coastal sites 983 flew between SE and north at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea between Oct 6th and 21st with a peak of 477 ESE on Oct 7th, and 779 passed both east and west at Sinah Common between Sep 11th and Oct 2nd with a peak of 363 west in 2.75 hours on Sep 18th. At inland watchpoints the largest movement was at Tweseldown where 2,167 moved mostly SW between Sep 29th and Nov 15th with a peak of 1,720 on Sep 30th (over five times the previous day maximum there), and at Trigpoint Hill where 1,408 were counted (1,176 SW and 232 NE) between Sep 17th and Dec 26th with a peak of 244 on Sep 28th. The only other large inland movement was 207 south over Fleet Pond on Sep 28th. In autumn the largest grounded flocks were 170 at Brownwich on Sep 17th, 150 at Crondall on 18th, 300 at Old Alresford on 19th, 120 at Butser Hill on 30th, 120 at Chalton on Oct 2nd and 230 at Southwick on 8th. The largest grounded flock in December was 80 at Houghton on Dec 3rd.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-29	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	303	641	11	3	125	1451	1976	407	9	
Inland moving	7	267	62	41	11	2571	711	253	70	18

Rock Pipit (Eurasian Rock Pipit)

Anthus petrosus

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

During January and February there were approximately 70 winterers at 23 coastal sites. The highest counts were between Calshot and Fawley Power Station where there were ten on Jan 23rd, 14 on Feb 13th and 13 on Mar 12th. Other counts to exceed four were five at Farlington Marshes on Jan 13th, eight between Cut Bridge and Hurst Castle on 16th, five at the Hamble Estuary on 23rd and six at Pennington Marshes on Jan 25th.

Breeding continued at a low level with four to five pairs at Hurst Castle. Other evidence of breeding was a bird carrying food at Southsea Castle in early June and one in song flight at Farlington Marshes in June. There were also breeding season records from Barton on Sea and Calshot.

Between October and December there were approximately 91 winterers at 27 coastal sites. Maxima at sites where counts exceeded four were five at Eastoke, Hayling Island on Oct 25th, 12 at South Moor, Langstone Harbour on Nov 10th, five at Needs Ore on Nov 15th and seven between Cut Bridge and Keyhaven on Nov 26th. The only inland record was one or two at Ibsley Water between Oct 16th-28th. (GO)

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

It was a good year for the species with approximately 30 wintering in the first half-year. At the main site at Lower Test Marshes there were monthly maxima of six in January, two in February, four in March and three in April with the last on 2nd. Other sightings were at Titchfield Haven (1-4, Jan 2nd-Apr 4th; max. Mar 12th-13th), Lymington-Hurst (1-2, Jan 4th-Apr 11th), Alresford WCBs at Manor Farm, Pinglestone and Drayton Farm (1-6, Jan 5th-Apr 5th with monthly maxima of at least 3, 4 and 6; max. 6 at Manor Farm, Mar 28th), Hook-with-Warsash (1, Feb 2nd-Feb 5th), Lepe (1, Feb 9th, Mar 11th), Needs Ore (1, Feb 19th), Farlington Marshes (1, Feb 28th-Apr 4th), Langstone Mill Pond (4, Feb 29th), Dibden Bay (1, Mar 16th; 3, Apr 10th) and Ibsley Water (1, Mar 22nd). The last was one at Keyhaven Lagoon on Apr 11th.

The first returns were three at Hamble Estuary on Oct 15th. In the second half-year there were approximately 35 winterers at the following ten sites: Lower Test Marshes (Oct 18th-Dec 31st with monthly maxima of 4, 5 and 8 respectively), Alresford WCBs as above (1-4, Oct 23rd-Dec 22nd with monthly maxima of at least 2, 3 and 4; max. 4 at Pinglestone, Dec 4th), Farlington Marshes (1, Oct 29th-Oct 30th), Lymington-Hurst (1-3, Oct 31st-Dec 12th), Ibsley Water (1, Nov 3rd-Dec 27th), Avon Causeway (1, Nov 7th), Titchfield Haven (1-6, Nov 11th-Dec 17th; max. Nov 23rd) and Needs Ore (1, Nov 20th). (GO)

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

Total numbers were the lowest for at least a decade, with few large flocks in either winter period, although the overall number of records remained similar. In the early part of the year, only seven counts in excess of 25 were reported, with a flock of 250 at Trigpoint Hill from Dec 14th 2015 having moved off before the turn of the year. Numbers peaked with a count of up to 50 coming to black sunflower seed at Straight Mile, Romsey on Feb 12th. In the first four months, BTO Garden BirdWatch reported one or two, with a maximum count of five, in up to 4.9% of gardens in the peak month of March (Table 2). At Blashford Lakes, numbers peaked at 16 on Mar 12th, although most reports were of five or fewer, and this site produced the last record of the spring, a single on May 6th.

The first return of the autumn was a single flying NE at Sandy Point on Oct 8th followed by two at Longwood Warren and eight at North Baddesley the next day. Oct 10th saw the first



Male Brambling, Woodland Hide, Blashford Lakes, Apr 8th (Paul Winter)

records of the autumn at a New Forest roost, and by the end of the month small numbers had been seen at 18 sites. There was almost no visible migration of note at well-watched sites, with a maximum of five at Tweseldown on Nov 15th and just two singles at Trigpoint Hill in the whole autumn.

In the late winter the highest count was 40 at Waggoners Wells on Dec 20th, with 30 at Weston Common, Lasham on 27th. The first of the late winter at Blashford was a single on Dec 5th, with a maximum count of two there by the end of the year. BTO Garden BirdWatch records in the late year came from only three gardens hosting singles, an indication of the low numbers across the county.

Monthly totals are tabulated below. (DJH)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	2	1	1				2	4	6
Monthly maxima NF roosts	2	1	2				3	7	2
County total grounded	73	76	119	80	1		22	63	95
County total moving	21	3	1				24	19	

Chaffinch† (Common Chaffinch)

Fringilla coelebs

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January-March flocks exceeding 50 were recorded at 15 sites including maxima of 160 at Teglease Down on Jan 31st, 150 at West Meon on Feb 28th and 160 at Longwood Warren on Mar 13th. Passage during the period at the coast was light; however some inland movements were recorded with a total of 170 NE and SW over Trigpoint Hill on 25 dates between Jan 3rd and Mar 31st.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 48 (53); Longmoor Inclosure, 125 (148); Lower Test Marshes CBC, 18 (23).

In line with recent years, coastal passage in autumn was light with 157 bird-days at Sandy Point, Hayling Island including a peak of 28 NE on Nov 26th. Other double-figure counts included 17 west at Brownwich on Oct 2nd, 47 east at Needs Ore Point on 14th, 56 NW at Hook-with-Warsash on 21st, and 59 west at Hill Head on 26th. Inland totals included 818 mainly SW and NE over Trigpoint Hill on 77 dates between Oct 2nd and Dec 31st peaking at 51 SW on Oct 28th, and 1,475 mainly SW over Tweseldown on 49 dates between Oct 2nd and Nov 28th peaking at 153 SW on Oct 21st.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-29
Coast moving	2	7	116	164	23	33		
Inland moving			269	1,155	593	230	45	22

In October to December, numbers at monitored roosts in the New Forest were again low, most likely due to the poor Beech mast crop, with a peak count of 39 at Holm Hill Inclosure on Oct 23rd. Elsewhere flocks of 50 or more included 50 at Blashford Lakes Centre on Oct 4th, 100 at Bratley Plain, NF on 18th and 21st, 90 in a maize strip at Upham on Dec 11th, 50 feeding in a maize cover plot at Swarraton on 10th, and 90 feeding on brassica at Broadlands Estate, Romsey on 19th. (MW)

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Scarce resident, most numerous in the New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Ongoing survey work in the New Forest by MW located five new roost sites bringing the total of known locations up to 25 by the end of 2016. Two roosts were monitored fortnightly throughout the year and monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	18	24	34	30	26	10	8	4	1	2	10	21
Roost 2	29	58	55	22	7	9	9	16	14	25	31	41

In addition to ongoing monitoring of all known roost sites, roosts were counted consecutively in the spring to get a snap-shot count of the New Forest population. In March 351 were counted from 22 roosts giving an average of 15.95 per roost site (cf. 373 from 20 roosts giving an average of 18.65 in 2015).

Away from the New Forest early-year records included up to four at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on 34 dates between Jan 1st and Apr 15th; up to two at Mercer Way, Romsey on four dates between Jan 2nd and 24th; one at West Cliff Hall, Hythe on Jan 6th; one at Vidle Van Farm, Keyhaven on Feb 4th; one at Blashford Lakes Centre on 9th; one at Netherton Bottom on 18th; up to six at Farley Mount CP on four dates between Feb 21st and Apr 30th; three at Weston Common on Feb 27th followed by two there on Mar 1st; two at Itchen Valley CP on 16th; one at North Stoneham GC on 28th; one in a garden at Straight Mile, Romsey on Apr 3rd; two at Hoe Lane, Baddesley on 15th; two at Micheldever Wood on 19th; one at Willows Green Inclosure, Alice Holt on 30th; and two at Old Winchester Hill on May 28th.



*Juvenile Hawfinch, New Forest, July 17th
(Marcus Ward)*

During the breeding season a total of 30 territories was located at widespread locations across the New Forest. However, it was considered to be an unproductive year with very few juveniles recorded at traditional locations in June and July. Away from the New Forest, just one record suggesting breeding was received from Farley Mount CP. In total, 21 Hawfinches were caught and colour-ringed in the Bolderwood area between Apr 15th and July 15th, all bearing a coded yellow Darvic ring.

In the late year, records from outside the New Forest included one at Ampfield Wood on July 16th; one at Millfield, Old Basing on Sep 20th; 25 over Trigpoint Hill on nine dates between Oct 14th and Dec 14th with a peak of 12 SW on Oct 17th; two in an observer's garden by Snails Lake, Blashford on Oct 29th; two at Breamore Wood on Nov 5th; one at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on seven dates between Nov 8th and Dec 28th; one at Mottisfont on Nov 13th; and one at Mercer Way, Romsey on four dates between Dec 5th and 28th. (MW)

Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Common but declining resident and passage migrant. Amber, S4I, HBAP

Records of two or more were received from 127 one km squares in January-March. The highest count from the early year was 16 at Dibden Bay on Jan 24th, with 12 at Itchen Valley CP on the same date and 12 between Morestead and Cheesefoot Head on Feb 15th. BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from 106 gardens between January and March, with the highest count of ten in January.

Records came from 146 one km squares between April and August, exactly the same as in 2015. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed 137 gardens were visited during this period; it is one of only a handful of species for which garden records peak during the breeding season, with 24% of gardens noting the species in June (Table 2). This gives an indication both of how important gardens have become as breeding habitat for the species, and the extent to which artificial feeding can support species through the breeding season.



Male Bullfinch, Furze Hill, June 27th (Martin Bennett)

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites included (2015 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 6 (7); Itchen Valley CP, 12 (11); Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (5); Lower Test Marshes,

2 (1); Martin Down NNR, 2 (1). Sightings of fledged young at Bolderwood on May 23rd and West End on 28th suggest an early start to the breeding season. Other high counts during the breeding season included nine in Bishop's Waltham on Apr 11th, 12 at Botley Wood on July 18th and eight in a Winchester garden on 30th, seven moving SW at Trigpoint Hill on Aug 13th, eight at Itchen Valley CP on 14th and 12 (11 juveniles) at Lymington on 23rd.

There were records of two or more from 76 one km squares between September and December, with the highest of 11 at Stockbridge Down on Dec 19th. The species was recorded in 59 gardens over the same period by BTO Garden BirdWatch, with five being the largest count. Garden records dropped off markedly in September and October, when adults keep a low profile during the post-breeding moult and some movement occurs, before garden records built up again through December into the early year. (DJH)

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

Chloris chloris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

During the early winter there were seven counts of flocks of 20 or more, including 60 at Gunner Point, Hayling on Jan 2nd and 150 leaving a roost by Ibsley Water car park on Apr 1st. BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from 284 gardens in January-March. A garden at Waltham Chase produced a count of 43 in w/c Jan 31st (compared to a peak of 84 for the same site in February 2015), with no other garden counts exceeding 20 in the early year.

BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed that 257 gardens (79%) were visited by the species during April-August, but otherwise very few records were received for the breeding season, with just a single report for each of July and August. Better records will be required to make any assessment of the breeding status in the county for this species which continues to decline across England. The only territory count (2015 figure in parentheses) came from Lower Test NR, 11 (7).

Autumn records began with a flock of 50 at Sinah Common, Hayling on Aug 29th, followed by 50 at Deanlane End on Sep 2nd, with a total of seven reports of flocks of 20 or more before the year's end (compared to 31 in the same period of 2015). Autumn movements were relatively low, with a total of 27 over Trigpoint Hill in October and only nine in November, with similarly small numbers at other sites. The Sinah Common flock built to 100 by Oct 15th, with a pre-roost flock of 150 at the National Oceanographic Centre, Southampton on Nov 29th being the other notable winter sighting. BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from 175 gardens between September and December, with 13 being the largest count. (DJH)

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Linaria cannabina*

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Between January and March there were 18 counts of 150 or more from widespread areas, the highest being 290 at Toyd Down on Feb 1st. Other large counts included 180 at Wheely Down on Jan 23rd, 200 on Toyd Down on Feb 26th, 160 at Upton Grey on 27th, 150 at Blackmoor on 29th and 200 at Hurstbourne Priors on Mar 19th.

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs revealed 69 and 19 territories respectively (Table 1), compared with 48 and 19 in 2015. The largest counts during this period were 80 feeding in weedy stubble at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 11th and 70 at Martin Down on May 6th.

The largest counts in the period August-September were at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham with 120 there on Aug 15th, 350 on Aug 28th and 250 on Sep 18th. Other large counts were 100 attracted to a small pond and wet area at Gurnetfields Furzebrake, NF and 100+ at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on Sep 27th. There were more high counts between October and December with 300+ at Needs Ore on Oct 7th, 300 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on 9th, 200 at Longwood Warren and 300 at Fawley Power Station on 14th, 300 at Farley Mount CP on 29th, 230 at Crondall on Nov 29th and 200 at Ditcham Park on Dec 26th.

Half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. The highest totals at regular watchpoints occurred in October with 732 east at Needs Ore (peak 300, 7th), 796 NE at Sandy Point (peak 139, 8th), 758 mostly SW at Tweseldown (peak 166, 15th) and 633 SW at Trigpoint Hill (peak 124, 22nd) (Table 8). (CDF)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31
Coast moving	0	0	1,494	389	5	0	0	0
Inland moving	9	160	621	941	87	51	8	21

Twite

Linaria flavirostris

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (? Since 2000: 29,1).

Red

One at lley Point, Keyhaven on Oct 31st was the only record (MPM, MDC). There were annual sightings until 2011 but this was the first since then. (DJH)

Lesser Redpoll (Common Redpoll)

Acanthis cabaret

Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006.

Red, S41

January-March saw records from 84 one km squares (more than double the comparable figure for 2015), with flocks of 20 or more reported from 11 sites. The highest counts of the early year were flocks of 75 at Kingsley on Jan 12th and 70 feeding on sunflower fields at Trigpoint Hill through February and early March. BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from 18 sites between January and March, with the highest count being 25 in late February/early March in a garden near Alice Holt Forest at Rowledge, Farnham. There were reports from 11 gardens in April and four gardens on May 1st, which were the last of the year from this survey (Table 2).

Elsewhere, flocks persisted into April and early May, with 50 still present at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 16th, and 45 trapped and ringed coming to Niger seed at Straight Mile, Romsey on May 1st. Records came from 46 one km squares in April-May, and other large groups included 20 at Cutty Brow on May 1st and 16 at Woolmer Forest on 2nd. Records of one and twos at five New Forest sites in May up to 28th suggest that a few pairs may be breeding undetected.

The first record of the autumn was a group of eight at Cadnam Common on Sep 26th. During September-December reports came from 63 one km squares, with the highest counts of 100 at Ashley Walk on Oct 28th, Tweseldown on Nov 13th and Woolmer Forest on Dec 23rd, and 80 at Cadnam Common on Dec 31st. In the New Forest, dawn roost counts picked up a combined count of 132 across five sites, including 56 at Holmhill on Nov 26th and 36 at Parkhill on Dec 20th.



Male Lesser Redpoll, Woodland Hide, Blashford Lakes, Mar 5th (Ian Williamson)

Autumn movements were most notable at Tweseldown, totalling 240 (mostly SW) between Oct 10th and Nov 19th with 54 moving SW on Nov 17th – the largest single day count. By contrast the other well-watched inland migration site, Trigpoint Hill, reported only 14 in October-November.

Half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (DJH)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31
Coast moving			5	62	12			
Inland moving			18	168	17	73		

Crossbill (Red Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Scarce resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn.

Schedule 1, Green

Numbers remained high in the New Forest and well distributed across Hampshire as a whole through 2016 despite relatively small counts recorded on passage. A summary of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	144	91	149	104	124	66	26	40	65	58	181	190
North-east sites	11	2	6	1			5	1	2	21	22	47
Other sites	34	91	1	5	62	13	1			7	2	
Moving		8					3	3		9	16	

From January-April numbers in the New Forest remained at a similar level to the end of 2015 whilst elsewhere records were received from 11 widespread locations. Double-figure counts were reported from ten locations in the New Forest including 15 at Blackwater Arboretum on Jan 3rd; 21 out of roost in Norley Inclosure on 15th; 20 at Standing Hat on Apr 9th; 18 at Markway and 19 at Bolderwood, both on 30th. Away from the New Forest, records included counts of up to 15 at Woolmer Forest on seven dates between Jan 1st and Apr 29th; eight at nearby Blackmoor on Jan 20th; ten and 24 at Ringwood Forest on Jan 21st and 31st; up to 13 at Hundred Acres Road, West Walk on ten dates between Feb 2nd and 28th; two over a Dibden Purlieu garden on Feb 7th and 28th; one at Ditcham Park, Petersfield on Feb 10th; four NW over Shedfield on Feb 28th; one at Stoke Park Wood, Bishopstoke on Mar 13th followed by three there on Apr 27th; two at Heath Warren on Mar 22nd followed by two nearby at Busta Triangle on 30th, and two at Ibsley Water on Apr 24th.

Between May and August records were received from 31 locations in the New Forest. Elsewhere records were received from nine locations including one in Stoke Park Wood, Bishopstoke on May 9th and June 27th, with one heard over an observer's garden nearby on June 19th; 11 at Hundred Acres, Wickham on May 13th; a flock of 50+ in Ringwood Forest on May 25th containing many juveniles that were believed to have been locally bred; ten over Holly Hill, Warsash on June 14th; one heard over Hut Wood on June 25th; three at East Meon on July 7th; one at Woolmer Forest on July 8th and Aug 1st; five at Somerley Lakes on July 17th; and three over Titchfield Canal Path on Aug 6th. Records suggesting breeding came from 12 locations including four outside the New Forest with fledged young recorded at Bolderwood, NF on Mar 23rd; Shatterford, NF on May 3rd; Hundred Acres, Wickham on 13th; and Ringwood Forest and Acres Down, NF on 25th.

Visible migration in the second half of the year was very light with just 31 recorded from seven locations between June 25th and Nov 27th.

Between October and December records were received from 40 locations in the New Forest including 20 in Knightwood Inclosure on Nov 6th; 22 in Wilverley Inclosure on 30th

and 30 in Sloden Inclosure on Dec 17th. Outside the New Forest records of grounded birds were received from 11 locations including two at Stoke Park Wood, Bishopstoke on Oct 10th; one at Botley Wood on 13th; up to 15 at Woolmer Forest on 16 dates between Oct 14th and Dec 28th; singles at Rooksbury Mill and Upper Clatford on Oct 22nd; two at Hut Wood on 25th; one at Weston Sailing Club on Nov 8th and two there on 23rd; two at Yateley Heath Wood on Nov 16th followed by four there on Dec 24th; six at Woolmer Pond and one at Whitehill on Nov 29th; and ten at Heath Warren on Dec 5th and one on 20th. Two communal finch roosts in the New Forest were monitored fortnightly throughout the year; monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below. (MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	9	8	1	1	18	3	4	11	26	18	7	17
Roost 2	11	3	3			3		10	4	7	13	8

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch)
Carduelis carduelis

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Green

There were flocks of 20 or more at 24 sites in January-March, with the largest count in this period being about 100 to roost in St Cross WM, Winchester on Jan 18th. Other large counts in the early year included 60 at Cosham on Jan 5th and 52 in a garden at Deanlane End on Feb 3rd.

It is the most frequently recorded of the finches in BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire, with numbers remaining high throughout the year, and was reported from 271 gardens (83%) between January-March, the largest count being 80 in the w/c Jan 18th at Hurstbourne Tarrant.

Despite its ubiquity, very few breeding records were received. Counts of territories were reported for two sites (2015 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 6; Lower Test Marshes, 4 (3); with breeding confirmed at only three other sites. The first juvenile of the year was at Sandy Point, Hayling on June 28th. Data from BTO Garden BirdWatch include reports from 197 gardens in the period April-July, indicating a widespread breeding presence across the county. Occurrence in gardens peaked in March and April ahead of the breeding season, with the species recorded in 70% of gardens in the scheme in April (Table 2).

Post-breeding flocks built up from early August, with 50 at Farlington Marshes on Aug 1st rising to 150 by 9th, 200 at Hook-with-Warsash on 15th and 250 at Paulsgrove Reclamation on 26th. BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from 227 gardens (69%) between August-December, with a peak count of 42 in late August, by which time most garden counts were significantly lower than those in the wider countryside.

The first autumn movements were reported from mid-September ahead of larger numbers in October. As in previous years, coastal movements far outnumbered inland migration records, with 3,850 NE over Sandy Point between Oct 6th and Nov 1st (peak 817 NE, Oct 14th), and the largest single day count of the year of 1,529 east at Needs Ore on Oct 14th. By November larger flocks had broken up or moved on, with no three-figure counts of moving or grounded birds after Nov 1st. The highest count of the late year was 70 at Lakeside CP on Dec 20th.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (DJH)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving		14	4,402	1,568	142	20	
Inland moving		53	241	579	206	142	24

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin)

Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Spinus spinus

Green



Male Siskin, Woodland Hide, Blashford Lakes, Mar 5th (Ian Williamson)

In the early year, double-figure flocks were reported from 59 locations with counts of 25 upwards from 24 locations. Numbers were generally quite high with significant counts including up to 100 at Blashford Lakes on multiple dates between Jan 7th and Apr 7th; 80 at Bishopstoke on Jan 10th; 65 at Romsey on 18th; 150 feeding in Alders at Fleet Pond on 21st; 100 at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on 22nd; 70 at Itchen Valley CP on 25th; up to 200 at Straight Mile, Romsey on multiple dates between Feb 12th and Apr 14th; and 142 at Chalton on Feb 24th.

The first evidence of breeding was a female collecting nest material at Shatterford, NF on Apr 1st with the first fledged young observed at Elvetham Heath on May 13th. Subsequent records of fledged juveniles came from Headley near Bordon (three juveniles on May 16th), Hocombe Mead LNR (three juveniles on May 17th) and Hilltop, Beaulieu (four juveniles on July 11th). Breeding was also confirmed at Hursley Road (Chandlers Ford) and suspected at Millyford Bridge and Acres Down, NF; Old Idsworth, where mating was observed; Buriton; Longmoor Inclosure, where six territories were found; Headley; and Straights Inclosure, Alice Holt. No other evidence of breeding was reported but records from a further 18 widespread locations in May suggest Siskin is now breeding in suitable habitat across the county. This is supported by the summer records from gardens tabulated below.

Autumn migration was light when compared with 2016. Inland movements included a total of 146 over Trigpoint Hill on 19 dates from Sep 21st-Nov 11th with a peak count of 33 NE on Oct 7th, and 43 over Tweseldown on six dates from Sep 29th-Oct 20th with a peak count of 18 SW on Oct 17th. On the coast 191 were recorded over Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 29 dates from Sep 23rd-Nov 30th with a peak count of 36 NE on Oct 14th. Other significant counts included 66 east over Needs Ore Point on Oct 14th and 50 north over Bonemill, Lower Test Marshes on Oct 20th.

In the New Forest, dawn roost surveys produced peak counts of 47 at Blackwater Arboretum on Oct 10th, 47 at Denny Inclosure on 19th and 48 at Busketts Lawn on Nov 19th. Between October and December double-figure counts were reported from 33 locations including 60

at Acres Down on Dec 13th, 150 in Fleet on 13th and 18th, 150 at Yateley GP on 21st, 90 in the grounds of the Lime Wood Hotel in Lyndhurst on 26th, and 330 at Darby Green on 30th. Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 7-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving		3	245	144	16	2
Inland moving		16	98	151	17	

Records for the whole year from BTO Garden BirdWatch were reported from 154 (47%) of the monitored gardens. This reduced to 69 in the breeding season between May and August of which 23 recorded Siskins in three or all four months, as summarised below. (MW)

	May	June	July	Aug
Gardens with counts	40	27	15	9
Total counted (monthly max./garden)	86	61	37	24
Other gardens with birds present	17	12	13	8

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Amber

It was a good year for seeing this species, with records from five sites involving a minimum of four birds. These included long-staying, confiding individuals at two sites offering many the chance to connect with this species. The only sighting in the early year was one at Hurst Spit on Feb 2nd (MPM). Two, including at least one male, showed well at Southsea Castle around the bandstand field from Nov 7th-9th and 12th-16th with one on 10th and one remaining until 18th (m.o.). A male, possibly from Southsea, spent an hour at Oxey Point, Oxey Marsh, on Nov 11th (MPM), and a female was photographed on the beach at Needs Ore on Dec 11th (AL). A female was subsequently found on Dec 14th at Hill Head and spent the rest of the year in the area, usually on the shingle spit behind the Sailing Club, remaining until early February 2017 (m.o.). (DJH)



Snow Bunting, Southsea, Nov 13th (Gower Lloyd)



Snow Bunting, Hill Head, Dec 16th (David Ryves)

Lapland Bunting (Lapland Longspur)

Calcarius lapponicus

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor (1,173+,3)

Schedule 1, Amber

Two records. A single was seen and heard in flight on two occasions (about three hours apart) by Fawley Power Station on Nov 9th (PC). Two were seen poorly in long grass on the Old Tip at Keyhaven for a couple of minutes on Nov 29th before they were flushed and flew off south calling repeatedly (SGK). There have been records in every year this century apart from 2001, 2009 and 2014. (KFB)

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S4I, HBAP

In the period January-May there were double-figure counts from six locations, the highest being 25 at Quarley Down Farm on Apr 12th. Other high counts were 11 at Thruxton Farm on Jan 16th, 16 at Toyd Down and ten at Longwood Warren on Feb 14th, ten at Longstock on Mar 12th and ten on Martin Down on May 29th and 30th.

Breeding season counts of singing males suggested a total of 33-35 territories distributed between the regular sites in regions as follows (2015 figures in parentheses):

On the chalk west of the Avon Valley: Martin Down, 4-5 (6); Tidpit Down, 2 (1); Toyd Down, 2 (2).

West of the Test Valley: Danebury, 3 (2); Houghton Down, 3 (1); Cholderton Estate, 6 (8); Over Wallop, 2-3 (3).

In the Test Valley: Chilbolton/Newton Stacey, 5 (9).

East of Winchester: Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head, 4 (5); Gander Down 2 (2).

The largest count of the year was 30 at Martin Down on Aug 17th comprising several mixed groups of up to eight. Additionally there were counts of at least six at Whitsbury Down on June 13th and one near Silchester on July 14th. In the period October-December there were double-figure counts from just two locations with 12 at Butser Hill on Oct 11th and 21 at Longstock on Nov 27th.

As in previous years, observers are requested to report all sightings of this declining species. Six-figure grid references and notes on breeding status are necessary for estimating numbers of breeding territories. As this species is a late breeder, special efforts to visit known breeding areas, even into early September, to record any breeding evidence would be useful. Because of continuing concerns over low numbers, a survey is planned in 2017 of all 46 tetrads where this species was found breeding in 2007-12 as well as some additional tetrads from the previous 2005 survey. (CDF)

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Common but declining resident.

Red, S41

Counts of ten or more were recorded in a total of 56 one km squares. Large flocks of 100 or more were reported from four sites including the annual maximum of 350 on Quarley Down Farm on Mar 9th following 200 there earlier on Jan 23rd, 100 at Cholderton Park on Mar 9th, 200 at Chalton Down on 10th and 120 at the adjacent Idsworth Down on 25th. Other large early year flocks included 40 at Winnall Moors on Jan 1st, 75 at Toyd Down on 2nd, 57 at West Worldham and 45 at Newton Stacey on 10th, 55 at Gander Down on 17th, 50 at Ashley Warren on 20th, 40 at Fort Widley on 30th, 50 at Longwood Warren on Feb 14th, 50 at Longstock on Mar 12th, 70 at Gander Down on 27th and 35 at Martin Down on May 6th. Seventeen gardens participating in the BTO Garden BirdWatch had visits, the largest count of 12 being reported from a garden in the Plastow Green area on Feb 21st. During January to April the only records of movements came from Trigpoint Hill with totals of 13 SW and three NE.

There were 176 records during the breeding season (Apr-Aug) from 92 one km squares. Territories were recorded as follows (2015 figures in parentheses). The annual Wealden Heaths surveys recorded 29 (28) territories including 20 (18) at Longmoor Inclosure. For the second year running there were none recorded on the Thames Basin Heaths (Table 1). Territory counts on the chalk included Butser Hill 13 (12); Ramsdean Road, Weston, 7 (2); and Stockbridge Down, 2+ (5). Around the New Forest there were at least five territories on Beaulieu Heath West, four at Ringwood Forest and a pair with at least one juvenile at Black Gutter Bottom. Singing males, mainly ones and twos, were recorded at Beaulieu Heath East, Godshill, Norley Wood, Shipton Holms, Thorney Hill Holms, Badminton Common and Fields Heath. The highest count there was eight males at Waterditch on June 13th.

Other notable counts during the period April-July included 25 at Finchdean on Apr 1st, 20 at Kingsley Common on 4th, 15 at Highclere Park on 5th, 25 at Winnall Moors on 7th, 15 at Fort Widley between 14th-16th, 13 at Longstock on 20th, 35 at Martin Down on May 6th, six at Chilbolton on June 15th, 12 including eight juveniles at Longstock on 16th and eight at Cutty Brow on July 29th.

Post-breeding (Sep-Dec) flocks of more than ten were recorded at 21 sites. The highest three counts were 40 at Toyd Down on Nov 10th, 43 at Fort Widley on Dec 26th and 50 at Horsedown Common, Crondall on 28th. Between



*Male Yellowhammer, Barton Stacey, Mar 31st
(Martin Clay)*

Aug 27th and Dec 26th a total of 73 was recorded on the move at Trigpoint Hill comprising 46 NE and 27 SW in groups of up to five. The only other recorded movements were singles SW at Tweseldown on Nov 2nd and north at Sandy Point the next day. (CDF)

Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting)
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Emberiza schoeniclus
Amber, S4I, HBAP

In the early year (January-March) there were double-figure counts from seven sites, with the highest being 30 at Titchfield Haven on Feb 18th. Other records included 24 to roost at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 4th, and 20 feeding on millet at the woodland hide at Blashford Lakes Centre on Mar 6th. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported the species from 15 sites from January-March, with the highest count being nine in a Romsey garden on Mar 6th.

From April-August, records were received from 136 one km squares. Territory counts were provided for the following sites (2015 figures in parentheses): Needs Ore, 8; Avon Valley between Avon Causeway and Ringwood, 36; Fishlake Meadows, 5; Fleet Pond, 4; Itchen Valley CP, 17 (16); Lower Test Marshes, 25 (18); Needs Ore, 8. Only five territories were located on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths breeding surveys (Table 1). BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from nine sites during the breeding season, with most in April.

There were double-figure counts from 17 locations for September-December, with the highest count of the winter being a flock of 50 at Bourley–Long Valley on Dec 27th. Other large counts included 33 to roost at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 26th, 25 around Ranvilles Lane and Newlands Farm, Titchfield on Dec 22nd, 20 roosting at Edenbrook CP on Nov 11th and 20 at Winnall Moors on Dec 21st. There were BTO Garden BirdWatch records from four sites in the period September-December, with a maximum count of three.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (DJH)

	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	1	15	5			
Inland moving	5	24	74	15	6	4



Female Reed Bunting, Keyhaven, Nov 18th (Gareth Rees)

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Very rare vagrant. (0,4,1)

One record. A first-year was caught and ringed at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 26th (NRJ, SRI, TS, photo). See photo in Ringing Report. The ringing team had been playing calls of both Reed and Little Bunting and the bird was caught in a section of the net right next to the speaker. After being released it was not seen again.

This is the second autumn record – the other being on Oct 24th-25th 2008. The other three records, two of which were long-stayers, were in the period February-April in 1986, 1992 and 2000. Our five records compare poorly with 27 in Dorset and 16 in Sussex. The species has a huge breeding range across the Palearctic from Sweden to eastern Siberia. There have now been over 1,000 records in Britain and it is clear that small numbers winter here and elsewhere in western Europe. (KFB)

Categories D & E: escapes & others

The above categories do not form part of the British List and refer to birds whose origin cannot be accepted as from a wild state. It is not the intention here to follow BTO practice and record birds which are free-ranging but domestically held, such as Helmeted Guineafowl and Indian Peafowl. Most species reported here are escapes from captive origin but some will always be open to dispute. The taxonomic order and English and scientific names which follow mostly follow the IOC List; exceptions relate to different names adopted by the BOURC followed by IOC name in parenthesis. Several reports of hybrid waterfowl were also submitted but are not included, except for *Aythya* hybrids in the main list, unless details of likely species involved were supplied.

Greater Rhea

Rhea americana

Escape (South America).

The male first seen in autumn 2013 and again in 2014 and 2015 was still present on May 21st and 23rd in a field near Roke Farm to the east of RAF Odiham. As well as surviving for over two and a half years in the Hampshire countryside, it is remarkable that such a conspicuous large bird could have remained largely unreported for most of this period. (MLC)

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Escape (Central Asia). The small feral population previously established in the north-east of the county is extinct.

One at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Jan 9th and 25th; two at Titchfield Haven on May 13th; one at Fleet Pond roost on Oct 7th departed with three Greylag x Bar-headed Goose hybrids; two on Farlington Marshes lake on Nov 24th flew off eastwards. (MLC)

Cackling Goose

Branta hutchinsii

Escape (North America). Whilst birds of wild origin have now been admitted to Category A of the British List, the records below are all considered to be from captive stock.

The long-stayer recorded over the last two years continued to be seen at Lower Test Marshes and Redbridge from Jan 1st-28th, on July 25th and from Oct 15th-26th. Presumably the same bird accounted for the sighting at Testwood Lakes on Jan 4th. (MLC)

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape (Australia).

Increasingly numerous and widespread with breeding successful again at Riverside Park, Southampton. Present there in all months with two adults and five young from Jan 1st. Nest

occupied from Feb 21st and six new cygnets first noted on Apr 5th, when maximum of 13 counted (2 adults, 5 juveniles from last year and 6 new cygnets). Reports of up to eight continued throughout the year from adjacent parts of the River Itchen from Northam to Mansbridge and south to Chessel Bay and Weston Shore.

One was present at Hill Head/Titchfield Haven/Posbrook between Jan 20th-Feb 14th. Singles were also reported from various sites in and around Portsmouth Harbour and Gosport on Jan 18th and between Oct 1st and Dec 24th, with four at Tipner Lake on Nov 14th and one at Southsea Canoe Lake on Dec 19th. At Langstone Harbour, including Farlington Marshes, singles were reported from Aug 26th-Sep 17th. Nearby, singles were also present at Langstone Shore and Warblington Shore from Nov 15th-21st, with two at Broadmarsh Shore on Sep 18th and four (1 adult, 3 juveniles) at Warblington Shore on Nov 15th.

In the west Solent, five were at Pennington Marshes on May 2nd and one was intermittently at Lower Pennington/Sturt Pond/Hurst Beach from Sep 19th-Dec 5th. One was also seen intermittently on the River Avon between Ibsley/Harbridge WM and Avon Causeway between Feb 7th and Mar 17th, with two on 16th and one on Dec 18th. Elsewhere, other reports were singles at Laverstoke Park Lake on Feb 23rd, Oct 14th and Nov 11th; Keydell Nurseries pond, Horndean on Mar 24th, 29th and May 25th; Longparish Trout Lakes on Apr 8th flying north; Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on Dec 8th. (MLC)

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia).

One with an Australian Shelduck (see below) at Hook-with-Warsash on June 14th and Langstone Harbour on Oct 8th. Probably the same two birds, considered by the observer to be 'hybrid types', flew up Southampton Water past Chilling the same day. (MLC)



Female Australian Shelduck with male Ruddy Shelduck, Hook-with-Warsash, June 14th (Bob Marchant)

Australian Shelduck

Tadorna tadornoides

Escape (Australia).

One with a Ruddy Shelduck (see above) at Hook-with-Warsash on June 14th and Langstone Harbour on Oct 8th. (MLC)

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escape (Central & South America).

One at Eyeworth Pond NF on Feb 4th. (MLC)

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape (North America).

One at Eyeworth Pond NF on Feb 4th and a pair there from Dec 2nd-26th. One at Farm Pond, Sherborne St. John on Jan 2nd and an eclipse male or female there on June 24th and 27th. (MLC)

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape (South America).

A pair at Farm Pond, Sherborne St. John on Jan 2nd. (MLC)

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

Very scarce feral visitor or escape (Europe & Asia).

A pair at Ivy Lake, Blashford on Jan 4th and Ibsley Water the next day where one remained on 17th. Also three at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Feb 25th. These records are all considered to be escapes. (MLC)

Harris's Hawk

Parabuteo unicinctus

Escape (North America).

One at Brambridge on Feb 21st. (MLC)

Cockatiel

Nymphicus hollandicus

Escape (Australia).

One at Sandy Point on Mar 13th was taken by a Sparrowhawk. (MLC)

Budgerigar

Melopsittacus undulatus

Escape (Australia).

One free-flying at Waterlooville on Apr 19th. (MLC)

Alexandrine Parakeet

Psittacula eupatria

Escape (India to South-east Asia).

One at Lower Pennington Lane on Aug 6th. (MLC)

Eurasian Eagle-owl†

Bubo bubo

Escape (Eurasia).

An adult male was found dead at Creech Woods, Denmead on Mar 12th. It had been ringed in Ashford, Kent on Aug 14th 2012 (see Ringing Report). It had been roosting on an office block in Ashford for over a month and had become something of a celebrity, being named 'Eddie' by the local press. Creech Woods are 140km west of Ashford. This species is not yet on the British List but there are wild Eurasian Eagle-owls breeding in France only 75km from Ashford. (KFB)

Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2016

Site	Woodcock†	Cuckoo	Nightjar	Green Woodpecker	Gt Sp Woodpecker	Woodlark	Skylark	Willow Warbler	Whitethroat	Dartford Warbler	Redstart	Stonechat	Tree Pipit	Meadow Pipit	Linnets	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
<i>Thames Basin Heaths</i>																	
Blackbushe Airfield*			2	2		1	7	9	6	4		2		1	10		
Bourley North/Long Valley	nc	1	9	nc	nc	9		nc	nc	14	3	19	6		nc		
Bourley South	nc		9	nc	nc	4		nc	nc	31		17	12		nc		
Bramshill Plantation	3	1	7	nc	nc	2		nc	nc			1			9		1
Bramshot Heath*	1		1			1											
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill	1		1	nc	nc	1	2	3	3	4		5	1		3		1
Eversley Common including Busta Triangle	1	1	5	3	1+	4	4	9+	2+	8		3	3		9+		1
Castle Bottom	nc		2	3	2	1		11	1	1	1				1		1
Hawley Common	2		3	3	4	1			1	4		3			2		
Hazeley Heath	4	1	8	7	8	6		6	18	4		7	7		18		
Pyestock (Hartland Park)*	1		2			1						1					
Silchester Common*	2		3			2		2		3					3		
Tadley Common*	1		1			1		1		3					3		
Tweseldown	nc	1	2	nc	nc	1				1		1	1				
Velmead Common	nc			nc	nc	1						3	1				
Warren Heath/Heath Warren	2		17	nc	nc	3			nc	2	nc	1	2				
Yateley Common (HCC)			6	2+	1+	2		17	7	8		4	1		2		
Yateley Common South (MOD)	2	1	7	5	4	1		10	8	25		6			9		
Yateley Heath Wood/Lichett Plain*	1		6			4						1	2				
TBH total 2016	21	6	91	25	20	46	13	68	46	112	4	74	36	1	69	0	4
TBH total 2015	20	6	82	10	13	54	8	69	69	107	6	56	25	2	48	0	2
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott Common	1	1	2	1	1	1					1	2	1		1		
Broxhead Common			4	nc	nc	3		1	1	3		2	3		3		
Conford Moor			2	nc	nc							1					
Cranmer Heath	nc		1	nc	nc												
Hammer Common	1		1	2				2	1			1					
Kingsley Common		1	1	nc	nc			2									
Longmoor Inclosure	3	2	17	9	21	15		14	11	15	13	17	15		15	20	
Ludshott Common	nc	1	17	nc	nc	5		29	9	8	2	7	2			4	
Passfield Common			2	nc	nc												
Shortheath Common**			1	nc	nc			1								1	
The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC**	1	1	4	6	5	4	1	4	2	1		1				4	1
Weavers Down/Holly Hills		1	1									1	1				
Woolmer Forest	nc	1	17	nc	nc	12		nc	nc	9	nc	nc	nc		nc	nc	nc
WH total 2016	6	8	70	18	27	40	1	53	24	36	16	32	22		19	29	1
WH total 2015	4	7	58	26	24	45	1	47	66	12	16	17	28	0	19	28	0

* = not included in Thames Basin Heaths SPA; ** = not included in Wealden Heaths SPA; nc = no count; blank square = 0; † = number of 1km squares with roding birds

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Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2016

Table showing mean monthly reporting rate (% of gardens reporting the species) for 43 species recorded by BTO Garden BirdWatch. The final column shows the number of gardens from which the species was reported during 2016.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sites
Blackbird	95.7	97.8	96.9	98.4	96.1	96.3	93.5	84.3	75.5	82.2	92.3	96.6	327
Blackcap	11.9	17.0	17.8	19.0	11.5	7.7	5.9	2.7	2.6	1.4	2.3	10.2	197
Black-headed Gull	3.2	3.9	3.3	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.5	2.7	2.6	3.5	4.1	5.1	59
Blue Tit	93.3	94.5	93.9	95.3	90.7	86.3	79.2	82.7	81.9	82.5	88.3	92.5	326
Brambling	2.7	4.0	4.9	2.1					0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	48
Bullfinch	14.6	14.8	14.9	19.0	22.1	24.5	16.6	10.6	5.2	3.9	8.2	10.6	167
Carrion Crow	25.2	28.8	30.1	30.8	34.4	28.6	24.2	20.5	20.4	22.9	27.6	26.5	233
Chaffinch	56.8	62.1	63.4	55.5	48.8	49.1	41.0	38.4	36.8	37.7	48.7	52.8	280
Coal Tit	52.3	47.7	43.7	39.9	35.3	33.0	29.6	35.6	33.0	37.6	45.7	46.5	261
Collared Dove	59.5	62.1	65.3	69.1	67.9	63.2	60.8	60.6	58.6	55.6	60.0	63.0	307
Dunnock	78.2	80.9	82.1	85.1	79.5	76.8	74.7	64.9	66.3	69.9	74.9	77.1	313
Feral Pigeon	9.1	9.0	8.8	9.8	11.2	10.8	9.5	9.6	9.0	7.3	9.4	10.1	69
Fieldfare	3.0	2.4	1.3	0.4				0.4	0.6	0.7	3.0	5.1	44
Goldcrest	11.8	14.5	13.9	10.8	6.1	4.5	3.7	3.9	4.1	5.5	6.5	7.8	167
Goldfinch	58.6	62.9	68.6	70.5	63.0	64.5	60.0	55.0	52.2	55.3	59.5	58.4	308
Gt Sp Woodpecker	34.2	32.8	32.9	34.6	41.0	44.7	34.4	26.8	17.9	25.9	35.5	38.6	238
Great Tit	78.5	79.0	78.4	79.5	78.6	73.2	66.3	67.5	66.0	64.0	72.5	74.7	318
Greenfinch	42.0	47.0	50.6	52.9	51.6	51.6	49.0	44.6	37.0	31.4	35.2	33.7	284
House Sparrow	55.2	58.5	59.5	63.0	67.3	68.7	63.7	57.5	50.9	52.4	56.0	55.5	271
Jackdaw	32.7	33.5	35.8	37.4	41.4	37.8	31.7	25.8	25.0	28.6	30.2	31.3	217
Jay	9.4	10.4	10.8	11.4	11.6	14.2	10.6	8.6	9.6	11.2	12.7	10.9	152
Long-tailed Tit	45.3	52.8	52.9	40.8	17.5	12.9	20.6	22.6	24.7	22.7	23.5	37.3	296
Magpie	58.3	59.8	57.1	64.0	66.1	64.7	58.6	55.6	55.8	58.5	66.9	61.3	311
Marsh Tit	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.4		1.1	13
Marsh/Willow Tit	3.9	3.6	2.8	2.6	1.6	0.9	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.1	2.4	2.0	40
Mistle Thrush	3.2	2.7	3.6	4.1	4.0	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.0	3.5	4.4	4.5	66
Nuthatch	28.3	26.6	26.4	24.4	24.6	30.6	28.5	30.6	27.4	28.6	31.0	29.9	192
Pied/White Wagtail	4.4	5.6	6.7	5.9	5.1	4.2	2.9	1.8	1.7	8.1	11.1	15.3	128
Redwing	4.4	2.6	2.7	0.4		0.4				2.0	4.7	9.2	70
Reed Bunting	1.8	2.5	2.6	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.4				0.8	0.8	14
Robin	95.6	95.7	94.4	94.5	90.6	88.2	84.8	89.1	92.0	92.0	94.4	94.8	327
Rook	14.3	16.1	21.4	23.2	21.4	16.5	13.3	9.8	9.1	12.0	14.1	16.0	128
Siskin	12.9	24.3	28.0	23.1	11.7	10.2	6.7	4.8	2.8	1.3	2.0	4.0	154
Song Thrush	21.2	23.9	22.1	22.2	17.3	18.0	18.2	11.1	5.6	8.8	18.4	30.0	243
Sparrowhawk	10.4	9.4	8.8	8.7	6.8	7.5	8.7	5.8	8.0	6.9	7.9	5.3	189

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sites
Starling	47.9	49.5	51.7	60.2	67.0	61.9	45.9	41.7	39.5	44.8	51.5	61.1	293
Tawny Owl	7.2	5.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.7	4.7	6.1	9.6	7.5	5.7	5.9	76
Tree Sparrow	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	19
Treecreeper	1.2	0.6	1.5	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.6	40
Willow Tit								0.4				0.4	2
Woodpigeon	93.9	94.7	95.5	94.0	92.8	92.4	92.0	91.2	89.0	88.3	91.8	92.2	324
Wren	40.0	49.7	49.6	40.8	28.4	27.7	24.2	25.1	19.9	30.3	35.9	37.5	308
Yellowhammer	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.5	2.7	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	17

BTO Garden BirdWatch monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of 'citizen scientists'. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers are analysed by BTO researchers and the results inform our understanding of the use of gardens and other human sites by birds. BTO Garden BirdWatchers have charted the decline of the House Sparrow, the rise of the Woodpigeon, have discovered that urban birds get up later than their rural counterparts and have alerted conservationists to the impact of an emerging disease in Greenfinches. The project, which involves weekly observations, is funded through the generosity of its participants. For a free enquiry pack, please write to BTO Garden BirdWatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU; email gbw@bto.org or call the Garden Ecology Team on 01842-750050. More information on the project, including the latest results, can be found at www.bto.org/gbw

Thanks to Kate Risely at BTO for supplying the table and associated spreadsheet which together have provided data for several species accounts in the Systematic List. Thanks also to all the observers who contributed records from the 327 gardens in Hampshire in 2016. Note GBW records are reported on a week-commencing (w/c) basis.



Bullfinch (Dan Powell)

Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2016

The BTO BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in April-June 2016 a total of 145 randomly located 1-km squares in the county were surveyed using the line-transect counting technique. A line-transect count is the number of birds of a given species detected (heard or seen, including fly-bys) on a two km walk completed in 2-3 hours within the 1-km square. These figures provide a useful indication of the relative abundance of different species although they do not take account of differences in detectability between species. They do not provide a measure of absolute abundance because the surveys do not detect all birds present in a particular square. Data are provided here for 2016 and earlier years in terms of: (a) Square Occupancy = % of squares where a species is detected and (b) Mean number of birds detected per occupied square = the totals of the maximum counts recorded from each square divided by the total number of occupied squares. Species present in 12 or more squares are tabulated below followed by lists of scarcer registrations:

Species	Square occupancy			Mean no. of birds detected per occupied square		
	2011-2015		2016	2011-2015		2016
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
No of Squares Surveyed	124	123-138	145			
Mute Swan	10%	7-12%	10%	6.3	4.7-8.7	4.8
Greylag Goose	8%	7-10%	9%	7.8	5.5-12	4.5
Canada Goose	24%	23-26%	23%	6.2	4.2-7.1	6.2
Mallard	39%	33-47%	47%	7.2	4.8-9.4	7.3
Tufted Duck	7%	6-10%	8%	6.8	4.9-8.9	6.3
Red-legged Partridge	35%	24-42%	32%	3.0	2.3-3.6	3.2
Pheasant	79%	73-84%	75%	6.0	4.9-6.7	5.5
Grey Heron	22%	19-27%	23%	1.7	1.5-2.1	1.8
Red Kite	14%	9-17%	15%	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.5
Sparrowhawk	13%	11-14%	8%	1.0	1-1.1	1.0
Buzzard	55%	49-64%	57%	1.8	1.5-2	1.8
Moorhen	16%	11-22%	17%	2.1	1.9-2.5	1.9
Coot	11%	9-13%	12%	5.6	3.7-7.2	3.4
Lapwing	17%	15-20%	14%	4.0	2.6-5.6	3.4
Black-headed Gull	33%	28-38%	34%	14.8	11-18	10.3
Mediterranean Gull	4%	2-7%	10%	2.3	1.3-4.4	7.9
Lesser Black-backed Gull	14%	11-17%	14%	2.7	1.9-4.1	3.9
Herring Gull	25%	20-28%	27%	11.9	4.4-27	5.2
Feral Pigeon	14%	12-15%	13%	9.7	7.4-14	12.4
Stock Dove	46%	40-51%	48%	3.0	2.5-3.6	3.0
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	99%	33.8	31-37	35.6
Collared Dove	55%	48-59%	56%	5.7	4.7-6.4	4.8
Cuckoo	30%	26-36%	24%	1.7	1.6-1.8	1.5
Swift	29%	27-34%	27%	7.9	7.3-8.4	6.8
Green Woodpecker	56%	52-62%	55%	2.0	1.7-2.3	1.8
Great Spotted Woodpecker	76%	72-79%	71%	2.5	2.2-2.7	2.4
Kestrel	21%	15-26%	17%	1.2	1.1-1.3	1.2
Magpie	76%	72-80%	72%	3.9	3.6-4.2	3.9
Jay	53%	48-58%	50%	1.9	1.8-2.1	1.8
Jackdaw	80%	78-84%	79%	12.0	11-15	11.4
Rook	62%	60-66%	57%	26.4	22-31	32.0
Carrion Crow	95%	94-97%	96%	9.2	8-10	9.6
Goldcrest	51%	46-59%	57%	2.9	2.5-3.3	2.8

Species	Square occupancy			Mean no. of birds detected per occupied square		
	2011-2015		2016	2011-2015		2016
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
Firecrest	6%	5-8%	14%	2.0	1.7-2.7	2.0
Blue Tit	97%	95-98%	97%	11.1	9-14	8.2
Great Tit	96%	92-98%	94%	6.8	5.6-7.8	5.7
Coal Tit	36%	30-41%	45%	2.9	2.6-3.4	2.7
Marsh Tit	13%	10-15%	10%	1.5	1.2-2.2	1.4
Skylark	59%	57-61%	50%	5.5	4.8-6.1	5.3
Swallow	63%	58-69%	57%	4.8	4.2-6	4.5
House Martin	27%	24-30%	26%	6.4	4.4-9.4	6.9
Long-tailed Tit	55%	50-63%	63%	2.9	2.6-3.8	3.2
Chiffchaff	86%	76-91%	88%	4.0	3.6-4.4	4.3
Willow Warbler	30%	27-35%	23%	2.3	2.2-2.5	2.3
Blackcap	90%	87-92%	85%	4.8	4.4-5.5	3.8
Garden Warbler	14%	10-20%	12%	1.5	1.2-1.9	1.2
Whitethroat	53%	44-61%	42%	2.9	2.5-3.4	2.7
Nuthatch	58%	51-65%	54%	2.8	2.6-2.9	2.7
Treecreeper	27%	21-31%	24%	1.6	1.4-2	1.4
Wren	98%	97-100%	97%	10.2	9-11	12.2
Starling	53%	51-55%	57%	11.5	9.3-14	13.9
Blackbird	100%	100-100%	99%	15.1	14-16	15.1
Song Thrush	90%	88-93%	90%	3.8	3.3-4.2	4.5
Mistle Thrush	49%	45-52%	41%	2.0	1.7-2.4	2.1
Robin	98%	96-99%	99%	9.1	8.2-9.6	10.4
Stonechat	8%	5-11%	12%	4.0	3.3-5.1	4.8
Duncock	88%	85-91%	91%	4.0	3.7-4.3	4.2
House Sparrow	57%	55-58%	57%	12.8	11-15	11.5
Grey Wagtail	6%	2-9%	9%	1.5	1.3-2.2	1.4
Pied Wagtail	36%	33-42%	35%	1.7	1.5-1.8	1.5
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-13%	14%	4.5	3.7-5.4	4.5
Chaffinch	97%	96-98%	93%	9.7	8.3-12	8.9
Bullfinch	31%	21-37%	37%	1.8	1.7-1.9	2.0
Greenfinch	75%	68-81%	68%	4.9	4.1-5.5	4.3
Linnet	37%	34-41%	41%	6.0	4.3-7.3	6.9
Goldfinch	77%	73-79%	81%	5.7	5.4-6.3	6.0
Yellowhammer	44%	41-48%	40%	4.0	3.3-4.7	3.6

Species recorded in 10-11 squares: Cormorant, Little Egret, Tawny Owl, Raven, Redstart, Siskin and Reed Bunting. **Species recorded in 3-9 squares:** Egyptian Goose, Shelduck, Mandarin, Gadwall, Teal, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank, Snipe, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Owl, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Peregrine, Woodlark, Sand Martin, Cetti's Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Dartford Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Wheatear, Tree Pipit and Crossbill. **Species recorded in one or two squares:** Brent Goose, Wigeon, Shoveler, Goosander, Grey Partridge, Honey-buzzard, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Common Sandpiper, Woodcock, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Common Gull, Barn Owl, Hobby, Willow Tit, Wood Warbler, Rock Pipit, Brambling, Hawfinch and Corn Bunting.

Thanks are due to the BTO for managing the project, Glynne Evans for organising the survey in the county, all participants, who are included in Appendix 2, Sarah Harris of the BTO for providing the data and Alan Cox for compiling the table.

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Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2016

<i>Species</i>	Jan 23rd	Feb 13th	Mar 19th	Oct 22nd	Nov 19th	Dec 10th
<i>No. of sites covered</i>	36	33	38	38	37	30
Teal	12	3		1		1
Little Egret	4	5	4	2	4	3
Red Kite				1		
Hen Harrier	2	1	1		4	3
Goshawk	1	5	4	4	6	
Sparrowhawk	1	3	1	4	4	6
Buzzard	45	41	75	61	21	17
Water Rail			1			
Oystercatcher			1			
Lapwing	24	42	117	3		
Jack Snipe	1	2		2		
Woodcock	1	1	4		1	1
Snipe	15	24	12	12	18	22
Kingfisher						
Green Woodpecker	35	14	32	21	23	17
Kestrel	11	11	9	11	9	15
Merlin	1	1		1	2	2
Peregrine	3	2	2	4	3	2
Great Grey Shrike	2	2	3	4	2	3
Carrion Crow	489	418	348	416	391	249
Raven	25	14	6	23	19	7
Firecrest		3	6	2		
Marsh Tit	6	10	6	3	6	7
Woodlark	23	14	25	4	2	
Skylark	7	14	56	38	4	4
Dartford Warbler	49	32	60	112	79	55
Ring Ouzel				6		
Blackbird	271	277	298	291	454	446
Fieldfare	844	471	327	1,702	625	133
Redwing	1,275	1,008	1,205	323	887	575
Mistle Thrush	123	71	81	80	48	56
Stonechat	39	24	229	173	46	52
Meadow Pipit	275	62	379	448	174	161
Brambling			3	1		
Chaffinch	218	135	322	422	219	148
Hawfinch		1	4			
Bullfinch	10	25	12	28	19	29
Linnet	37	19	38	2	4	3
Lesser Redpoll	16	18		6	37	50
Crossbill	2	2	12	2	5	5
Siskin	19	20	84	81	29	49
Yellowhammer			1	2		

Species	Jan 23rd	Feb 13th	Mar 19th	Oct 22nd	Nov 19th	Dec 10th
<i>No. of sites covered</i>	36	33	38	38	37	30
Reed Bunting	18	9	21	62	18	30
People	766	784	692	951	470	451
Dogs	495	350	251	385	217	258

Thanks to Keith Betton and Martin Orchard-Webb for organising the NFWBS. New volunteers are always welcome – please email Martin Orchard-Webb at shrikesurvey@hotmail.com. Thanks are due to the following observers who took part: Josie Allen, Roger Bacon, Tony Bates, Martin Bennett, Pam Bennett, Keith Betton, Tony & Jill Blakeley, Margaret Boswell, Simon Boswell, Andy Broadhurst, Phil Budd, Chris Chapleo, Rosemary Cook, John & Janet Dedman, John Faithfull, Ashley Field, Caroline French, Owen Haisell, Ian Hampson, Steve & Marilyn Harrington, Alan Hayden, Andy Holding, Judy Hunt, Kevin Kearns, Graham Kesby, Martin King, Bob Lee, Mark Litjens, Chris Manning, Bob Marchant, Adrian Martin, Keith Maskell, Nigel Matthews, Dave Munday, Martin Orchard-Webb, Mark Painter, Ade Parker, Kelvin Pearce, Tony Polley, Leo Pyke, Andy Pullen, Derek Radden, Mike Rafter, Sue & Malc Reynard, Barrie Roberts, Dawn Russell, Joseph Saxton, Kevin Sayer, Dave Smith, Alan Snook, Jodie Southgate, David Taylor, Martin Terry, Tony Tindale, Keith Vokes, Roger Webb, Ian Williamson, Nick Windibank, Alan Young, Keith Young.



Hen Harrier (Dan Powell)

Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2016

The figures in each cell show the date of the months in which counts were carried out.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coast: east to west</i>												
Chichester Harbour Hampshire sectors (J Parkin <i>et al.</i>)	23	13	12	8	6	3	21	17	17	15	12	17
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn <i>et al.</i>)	23	13	12	9	7	4	23	20	17	15	12	17
Milton Common (K Crisp)	18	24	21							17	21	18
Baffins Pond (K Crisp)	18	24	21						19	17	21	18
Portsmouth Harbour (DI Bill <i>et al.</i>)	23	13	11							15	13	17
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)	22	12	11	8						12	11	16
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)	23		13								11	11

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett)	23	14	12				23	18	17	15	10	17
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)	23	13	12	9	8	4	23	21	18	15	10	17
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)	23	13	13								19	19
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	25	12	11						16	15	12	16
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	23	13	12	9	7	4	23	20	17	15	14	17
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)	24	14	13	10	14		24	21	18	16	13	19
Hythe (BJ Roberts)	24	28	12		8		23		17	15	13	17
Fawley Refinery (JG Ross)				9	7	4	23	20	17	15	12	
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)	24	13	12	9						16	13	17
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth <i>et al.</i>)	24	14	13	10	8	5	24	21	18	14	13	18
Sowley Pond (ID Williamson)	16	19	13						18		13	19
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)	24	14	12	10	8	4		21	18	15	14	17
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)	23	13	12	10	7	3		20	17	14	11	16
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman <i>et al.</i>)	23	13	12	9	7	5	23	20	17	16	12	18
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke)	17	7	6	1					18	16	13	18
R. Avon Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark, K Sayer)	17	6	3	1						16	13	18
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer, JM Clark)	17	6	3						23	16	13	18
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	17	6	3	1					18	16	13	18
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)	18	9	8						18	23	14	19
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)	17	7	6						18	18	13	18
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran)	16	7	19	1	29	26	31	31	28	30	13	18
<i>Test and Anton Valleys</i>												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth)	17	21	13						18	16	13	18
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	17	21	13	10					20	16	13	22
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	16	18	8	9	2	2	26	17	16	17	10	18
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	16	18	8	9	2	2	26	17	16	17	10	18
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)	15	25	14	16	9	3	23	20	17	14	11	17
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	14	18	11	7	6	1	26	15	19	11	13	15
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)	13	19	10	6	5	7		16	20	12	18	14
Rooksbury Mill (D Piper)									18	15	13	18
Anton Lakes (D Piper)									18	15	13	18
Charlton Lakes (D Piper)									18	15	13	18
St Mary Bourne (D Piper)									18	15	13	18
Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)	20	23							30	14	11	
Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	17	21	13	10	16			28	25	16	27	18
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	17	23	13	10	16			28	25	16	27	18
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)	17	23	13	10	16				25	16	27	18
<i>Itchen Valley</i>												
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	17	21	13						18	16	13	18

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)	17	18	10					25	19		11	
Marwell Manor Trout Fishery (JM Cloyne)	17	18	10						19		11	
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)	17	18	10						19		11	
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	17	19	14	13	8	5	25	22	19	17	11	15
Avington Lake (DJ Pearson)	17	21	13						18	17	13	19
Arlebury Lakes (DJ Pearson)	17	21	13						18	17	13	19
Alresford Pond (DJ Pearson)	17	21	13						18	17	13	19
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)	29		3					31	19	29	11	
<i>North and north-east</i>												
Wolverton Pond (B Sharkey)	17	17							11	16	13	18
Ewhurst Lake (B Sharkey)	17	17	13						11	16	13	18
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	17	21	13							16	13	18
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark, B Stalker)	20	16	14	27	12		7		8	25		29
Wellington CP (JM Clark, B Stalker)	15	21	13	27			7		8	18	15	20
Bramshill Plantation (N Bolter)	17	21	13						18	16	13	18
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	15	16	24	27			7	31	8	18	15	20
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	15	16	24				7	31	8	18	15	16
Eversley GP (RC Murfitt)	16	21	19				15		18	16	19	18
Yateley GP (JM Clark)	16	16	22				9	31		13	17	21
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	17	21	20						18	24	22	20
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)									18	16	13	18
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	17	21	20						18	24	13	23
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	17	21	20						18	24	13	23
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	17	21	20						18	24	13	23
<i>East</i>												
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	16	20	13	10	8	5	27	21	18	21	17	18
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	15	24	19						20	20	14	15
Wyck Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	15	24	19						20	20	14	15
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)	15	24	19						20	20	14	15
Headley Mill Pond (M Orchard-Webb, R Stephens)	17	23	15	14	9	6						17



Oystercatchers (David Thelwell)

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Passfield Pond (M Orchard-Webb, R Stephens)	17	23	15	14	9	6						17
Waggoners Wells, Grayshott (M Orchard-Webb)	17	23	13	14	9	6						
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	17	21	13	10	8	5	24	21	18	16	13	18
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	17	21	13	10		5	24	21	18	16	13	18

Chichester Harbour team: T Bickerton, C Billingham, J Chapman, J Darley, S Gilbert, J High, P Hughes, S McCullagh, JGB Millar, JM Parkin, A de Potier, E. Rowsell. **Langstone Harbour team:** D Ball, GC Barrett, T Bickerton, G Butler, C Cockburn, A Cox, M Eagles, G Farwell, A Field, CD French, R Lynch, L MacCallum, P May, D Minns, D Perks, P Potts, JRD Shillitoe, J Smallwood, W Smith, J Southgate. **Portsmouth Harbour team:** DI Bill, I Calderwood, TMJ Doran, JA Norton, J Nundy, J Smallwood, PJ Strangeman. **Beaulieu Estuary team:** G Johnstone, BJ Pinchen, DJ Unsworth. **Lymington-Hurst team:** A Clark, PR Durnell, O Haisell, P Hobby, M Ward, EJ Wiseman. **Coastal organiser:** John Shillitoe; **Inland Organiser:** Keith Wills; **Avon Valley Organiser:** John Clark.

Table 6: Departure and arrival dates of winter visitors

Species	Latest 1954-2015	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2015	Latest 2016	Earliest 1954-2009	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2015	Earliest 2016	Summering records
Bewick's Swan	24.3.76	12 Mar	1 Mar	25 Mar	15.10.04	3 Nov	22 Nov	13 Nov	9 (Apr/May)
White-fr. Goose	29.5.15	28 Mar	26 Mar	16 Apr	4.10.52	12 Nov	30 Oct	5 Oct	6 (Jun-Sep)
Scaup	23.5.13	8 Apr	16 Apr	3 Feb	9.9.00	27 Oct	3 Nov	8 Nov	4 (Jun-Aug)
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	15 Apr	8 May	23.9.61	4 Nov	12 Nov	27 Oct	3 (Jun-Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	13 May	28 Apr	29.9.91	30 Oct	1 Nov	31 Oct	
Smew	10.4.63	NA	4 Mar	NA	8.11.82	NA	11 Dec*	NA	1 (June)
Bl.-throated Diver	6.6.07	5 May	10 May	30 Apr	8.9.09	4 Nov	17 Nov	11 Nov	2 (May-Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	22.6.13	12 May	30 May	9 May	16.9.03	5 Nov	16 Oct	5 Nov	1 (Aug)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	14 Mar	7 Feb	24.8.94	18 Oct	22 Nov	NA	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	18.9.09	25 Oct	24 Oct	18 Oct	2 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	21 Apr	4 May	23.8.07	25 Sep	26 Sep	24 Sep	
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	9 May	24 May	7.7.69	4 Oct	12 Oct	6 Nov	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	13 Apr	3 Apr	21.8.08	28 Sep	29 Sep	15 Sep	
Merlin	24.5.03	23 Apr	27 Apr	9 May	30.7.05	24 Aug	24 Aug	16 Aug	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	4.10.72	17 Oct	19 Oct	7 Oct	
Fieldfare	23.5.80	28 Apr	27 Apr	16 Apr	3.9.04	30 Sep	5 Oct	7 Oct	4 (June)
Redwing	12.5.81	23 Apr	19 Apr	10 Apr	11.9.99	27 Sep	29 Sep	30 Sep	2 (June)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	22 Apr	11 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	14 Oct	15 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	22 Apr	6 May	22.9.96	5 Oct	10 Oct	8 Oct	1 (July)
Twite	13.4.75	NA	NA	NA	30.9.83	NA	NA	31 Oct	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	13 Feb*	2 Feb	3.10.75	NA	30 Oct	6 Nov	
Lapland Bunting	23.4.10	NA	NA	NA	9.9.70	NA	12 Oct*	9 Nov	

bold = new earliest or latest date; * = based on limited data set; NA = not available

Table 7: Arrival and departure dates of summer visitors

Species	Earliest 1954- 2014	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2015	Earliest 2016	Latest 1954- 2014	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2015	Latest 2016	Wintering records
Garganey	2.3.03	19 Mar	17 Mar	7 Mar	29.11.53	28 Sep	30 Sep	5 Oct	
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	16 May	10 May	19.11.58	24 Aug	23 Aug*	18 Aug	6 (Dec- Mar)
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	29 Apr	30 Apr	30.10.76	5 Oct	26 Sep	5 Oct	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	6 May*	12 May	2.11.60	31 Aug	25 Aug*	30 Aug	
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	18 Mar	17 Mar	11.12.99	14 Oct	8 Nov	27 Oct	
Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	27 Mar	22 Mar	6.11.66	2 Oct	5 Oct	23 Sep	2 (Dec)
Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	15 Mar	21 Mar	29.10.08	18 Sep	18 Sep	26 Sep	
Dotterel	15.4.96	3 May*	NA	NA	25.9.82	4 Sep*	NA	NA	1 (Dec/Jan)
Wood Sandpiper	23.3.03	3 May	24 Apr	29 Apr	26.10.75	22 Sep	10 Sep	9 Sep	1 (Feb)
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	3 Apr	29 Mar	29.11.14	27 Oct	28 Oct	6 Oct	15 (Dec/ Jan)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	11 Apr	14 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	17 Sep	30 Sep	1 (Jan)
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	25 Sep	31 Aug	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	30 Mar	3 Apr	30.11.73	25 Oct	26 Oct	12 Oct	3 (Dec)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	29 Apr	23 Apr	10.10.99	10 Sep	30 Aug	6 Sep	
Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	25 Oct	9 Oct	
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	7.11.70	3 Oct	24 Sep	29 Aug	5 (Dec-Feb)
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	1 Apr	3 Apr	30.10.10	13 Sep	12 Sep	21 Aug	
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	1 May	24 Apr	13.10.74	7 Sep	19 Sep	12 Sep	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	14 Apr	7 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	24 Sep	10 Sep	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	16 May*	13 Apr	9.11.13	27 Sep	21 Oct*	28 Sep	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	3 Apr	5 Apr	6.11.01	11 Oct	23 Oct	20 Oct	
Sand Martin	27.2.90	16 Mar	10 Mar	14 Mar	28.11.13	15 Oct	23 Oct	6 Oct	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09	20 Mar	18 Mar	18 Mar	22.12.77	27 Nov	7 Dec	26 Nov	7 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	24 Mar	24 Mar	22.12.82	17 Nov	9 Nov	31 Oct	2 (Jan/Feb)
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr	29.9.64	24 Aug	15 Aug	1 Sep	
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	24 Mar	24 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	10 Oct	10 Oct	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	12 Apr	9 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	6 Oct	22 Sep	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	31.10.82	2 Oct	9 Oct	9 Oct	10 (Nov- Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	6 Apr	29 Mar	17.11.95	6 Oct	17 Oct	23 Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Grasshopper Wbr	1.4.97	16 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	20.10.01	18 Sep	2 Oct	1 Oct	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	1 Apr	31 Mar	9.11.63	9 Oct	18 Oct	19 Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	1.4.94	13 Apr	5 Apr	5 Apr	2.12.84	19 Oct	28 Oct	15 Oct	
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	21 Mar	1 Apr	4.12.03	29 Oct	13 Nov	2 Nov	6 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	29.10.61	2 Oct	6 Oct	7 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75	14 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	9.10.85	21 Aug	27 Aug	9 June	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	10 Apr	7 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	26 Sep	11 Sep	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	1 Apr	2 Apr	24.11.89	14 Oct	22 Oct	7 Oct	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	25 Oct	26 Nov	5 (Jan/Feb)

Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	7 Mar	18 Mar	31.12.94	10 Nov	12 Nov	23 Nov	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	31 Mar	3 Apr	20.11.76	19 Oct	21 Oct	23 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	29 Mar	1 Apr	25.10.79	4 Oct	11 Oct	7 Oct	

* = based on limited data set; NA = not available

Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over inland watchpoints during 2016

Data are extracted from the visible migration website www.trektellen.nl. Other Hampshire observers are encouraged to set up their own watchpoint sites on Trekten, which has excellent tools available for analysing the data, by contacting the UK Trekten organiser Clive McKay at clive.mckay@btinternet.com.

Species	Trig Jan	Trig Feb	Trig Mar	Trig Apr	Sinah Apr	Trig May	Sinah May	Trig June	Trig July	Trig Aug	Tdown Aug
Days observation	7	8	10	12	4	6	5	5	8	13	1
Totals hours	5	7	10	12	17	6	20	4	8	17	1
Cormorant	19	12	22	14		1			9	55	
Golden Plover											
Lapwing		59	3			7			6	1	
Black-headed Gull	2					3		5			1
Common Gull	4		6								
LBB Gull	5	6	66	48		42		10	9	18	1
Herring Gull	32	12		7		5		5	23	198	
GBB Gull			6	3		3		2	3	1	
Stock Dove	8	7	14	36	2	6		7	7	84	
Woodpigeon									460	710	
Collared Dove				3	1						
Swift				1		30	26	263	607	1	
Gt Sp Woodpecker				1						2	
Merlin											
Hobby						1		1		3	
Peregrine					2						
Jay	2										
Jackdaw	55										
Raven	2	4	8	4					2	6	
Woodlark			1								
Skylark	1	8	8								
Sand Martin				18	14					19	
Swallow				61	21	39	73		158	1,795	222
House Martin				31		55	22	55	67	913	
Starling	79	43	129			2		8	69	78	
Blackbird											
Fieldfare	244	325	143								
Song Thrush											
Redwing	142	171	425								
Mistle Thrush						2		5		1	
flava Wagtail				4	1		1			3	
Grey Wagtail		1	4					1	1	3	
alba Wagtail	3		21	4	7				11	6	
Tree Pipit				2						3	

Species	Trig Jan	Trig Feb	Trig Mar	Trig Apr	Sinah Apr	Trig May	Sinah May	Trig June	Trig July	Trig Aug	Tdown Aug
Days observation	7	8	10	12	4	6	5	5	8	13	1
Totals hours	5	7	10	12	17	6	20	4	8	17	1
Meadow Pipit	4	13	518	113	9	1					
Brambling	3	4									
Chaffinch	31	20	58	10				2	6	13	
Hawfinch								1			
Bullfinch	6		2							6	
Greenfinch	3	6	3	4				2	1	8	
Linnet	53	2	21	54	164	2		17	112	83	
Lesser Redpoll	10	78	62	37							
Crossbill											
Goldfinch	1	3	21	16	10	10	2	6	31	31	
Siskin	7	7	12	3							
Yellowhammer	2	8	1							2	
Reed Bunting	1	4									

Species	Sinah Aug	Trig Sep	Tdown Sep	Sinah Sep	Trig Oct	Tdown Oct	Sinah Oct	Trig Nov	Tdown Nov	Trig Dec
Days observation	2	11	2	5	21	31	1	15	21	9
Totals hours	5	18	6	18	30	68	6	16	35	8
Cormorant		77	7		125	36	9	112		17
Golden Plover					41			23		
Lapwing					62	20		79		93
Black-headed Gull			1			95		52	48	
Common Gull					18	11		62	6	26
LBB Gull		1	4		2	7		11	30	9
Herring Gull		94	11		156	34		103	133	183
Yellow-legged Gull						1				
GBB Gull					2					1
Stock Dove		98	211		181	671	1	54	86	54
Woodpigeon		200	13		800	3,660		290	28,603	40
Collared Dove		4			2		2		1	
Swift										
Gt Sp Woodpecker		1	1	1	4	19	1		23	
Merlin				1	1			1		
Hobby		4		1		1				
Peregrine				1	1			2		1
Jay		11			45	12		4		
Jackdaw			6			219			67	
Raven		4			9			5	2	9
Woodlark		1			11	7				
Skylark		84	6		457	106	5	86	25	4
Sand Martin	20	8		37		3	1			
Swallow	540	3,451	140	538	472	158	115			
House Martin		4,247	3,430	135	1,679	3,154	70			
Starling		66			887	1,978		1,105	2,976	96
Ring Ouzel									2	
Blackbird					2	10		3	28	
Fieldfare					640	4,636		390	2,928	217
Song Thrush		15	1	1	150	363		21	12	4

Species	Sinah Aug	Trig Sep	Tdown Sep	Sinah Sep	Trig Oct	Tdown Oct	Sinah Oct	Trig Nov	Tdown Nov	Trig Dec
Redwing			6		2,773	25,302		844	901	678
Mistle Thrush		14	7		86	90		26	7	3
<i>flava</i> Wagtail	2	12		38	1					
Grey Wagtail		3	8	3	13	5	1	3	3	
<i>alba</i> Wagtail		27	31		342	112	18	72	6	12
Tree Pipit		2		1						
Meadow Pipit		741	1,748	526	473	307	14	68	6	12
Brambling					1	7		1	15	
Chaffinch		57	4	2	428	966	1	293	511	68
Hawfinch					15			5		2
Bullfinch					13	1		19	7	2
Greenfinch		2	2		31	40		10	16	1
Linnet		137	32		633	758		69	63	31
Lesser Redpoll					6	138		8	32	
Crossbill						1		6	3	
Goldfinch		48	15		213	517	12	46	293	24
Siskin		6	8		100	35		24	1	20
Yellowhammer		3			31			20	1	10
Reed Bunting		4	1		64	13		12	6	2

Trig = Trigpoint Hill, mid-Test Valley (David Thelwell); Tdown = Tweseldown Racecourse and Caesar's Camp, near Fleet (John Clark and Graham Stephenson); Sinah = Sinah Common, Hayling Island (Graham Stephenson) – land birds only included.



Fieldfares (David Thelwell)

Appendix I

Outstanding and not proven records

Outstanding records

Records for which descriptions are required for consideration by BBRC or HOSRP. The following are records which either (a) have not been officially submitted or (b) have been submitted but without the necessary supporting documentation as detailed in Appendix 3. If the necessary documentation is not submitted to the Recorder for consideration the record will be lost from the Hampshire avifauna.

2016 – HOSRP

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*: Titchfield Haven, Mar 30th.

Not proven records

Records considered not proven by HOSRP or BBRC. In the majority of cases, the records below were categorised as not proven because the panel/committee was not convinced that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were records not accepted as, in the panel's/committee's view, a mistake had been made.

2016 – BBRC

Azorean Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis* Blashord Lakes, Nov 21st 2015-Mar 24th 2016

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris semipalmatus* Winchester SF, Sep 12th.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*: Needs Ore, June 3rd.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*: Needs Ore, Sep 20th.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: South Moor, Oct 14th.

2016 – HOSRP

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Durley, Apr 7th, 2

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Martin Down, May 23rd.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: Broadmarsh, Sep 26th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: New Lane, Hurst, Aug 17th

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*: Odiham, Jan 4th.



Yellow-browed Warbler (David Thelwell)

Appendix 2

Observers and Contributors 2016

Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2016 database of records used to prepare the Systematic List. In addition to those submitting directly to HOS Recorder, it includes contributions from the following sources: BTO BirdTrack, BTO Breeding Bird Survey*, Going Birding website, Thames Basin & Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Survey, Trektellen, WeBS and Winning Ways. It does not include those submitting to Birdguides or BTO's Garden BirdWatch.

R Abrahams	DL Bell	R Broadway	C Chapleo	R Coomber
M Adams	EJ Bennett	K Brook	C Chapman	DC Coombs
MC Adams	J Bennett	R Brook	J Chapman	A Cooper
D Agombar	K Bennett	D Brookes	P Chapman	JH Cooper*
G Alexander	KA Bennett	C Brooks	RA Chapman	MC Cooper
H Alexander	M Bennett	A Broome	N Chappell	MD Cooper*
T Alexander	MJ Bennett	C Brown	P Chase	P Cooper
J Allen	S Bennett	GB Brown	SM Chastell	P Copleston
N Allen	A Berryman	J Brown	TE Cheese	SJ Copsy*
D Allnutt	KF Betton	R Brown	RA Cheke*	RJ Cordery
LJ Amey	S Bevis	RI Brown	RN Childs	H Cornford
K Anderson	T Bickerton	SA Brown	DA Christie	S Cossey
R Aplin	DI Bill	S Brunton	R Christopher	C Cowell
K Armitage	JH Bingley	P Bryant	K Churcher	AP Cox
M Armitage	G Bird	R Bryant	C Clapperton	AFJ* & PR Cox
G Armstrong	ME Bird	M Buchanan	RJ Claridge	D Cox
J Arnott	J Birkett	T Buck	A Clark	S Cox
JM Badnell	G Bishop*	SJ Buckell	FC Clark	BR Cozens
A Bailey	LJ Bissell	D Buckingham	JM Clark	O Crabbe
L Bailey	S Blain	NA Buckle	SF Clark	SJ Craft
CG Baker	AF Blakeley	DJ Buckler	D Clarke	M Cranfield
K Baker	B Blanchard	PA Budd*	M Clay	K Cray
M Baker	D Blandford	T Bunce	RP Clay	JB Creese*
M J Baker*	J Bleach	TW Bunday	B Clements	K Crisp
R Baker	J Blithe	C Burch	J Clements	N Crook
D Balcombe	MG Blowfield*	G Burchall	R Clements	AR Cross*
J Baldwin	C Bollen	ANM Burns	S Clemons	M Crossley
M Baldwin	N Bolter	RA Burrell*	J Cliffe	L Crouch
DJG Ball*	A Bolton	R Burrows	JM Cloyne	PJ Crowley
TG Ball	A Booth	R Bushnell	BF Coates	DA Cumming*
ID Ballam	W Borrass	ED Butler*	A Cobby	MJ Cumming
A Balmer	SA Boswell	TJ Butler	C Cockburn	OT Cummins
L Barber	SR Boswell*	AMB Butterworth*	TD Codlin	S Currie
C Barrass	P Boulton	G Calderwood	D Cole	L Curson
GC Barrett	IR Bowes*	P Campbell	D Colledge	MAJ Cutts
M Barrett	C Bowman	S Cann	AR Collins	R Daley
MA Barrett	C Bown	S Carey	CB Collins	G Dando
D Barton	S Boyle	RJ Carpenter	M Collins	T Dando
S Bassett	M Bradley	TF Carpenter	JR Collman*	B Daniels
S Batchelor	SD Bradley	M Carter	I Colverson	MHR d'Apice
C Bates	J Brandsma	J Casson	P Combridge	C Darnley-Smith
T Bates	M Bray	M Cattell	DK Compton	AS Davidson
GS Batho*	MA Breakspear	N Catty	M Constable	G Davies
C G Bealey*	RG Breakwell	I Cavey	J Cook	K Davies
S Beall	EC Brett	ML Chalmers*	K Cook	S Davies
C Belcher	AM Broadhurst*	S Chalmers	RE Cooke	AM Davis*

AS Davis	JD Fearnside	DM Grist*	S Hiley	G Johnstone
S Davis	BJ Fellows	RD Gross	MJ Hill	C Jones*
A & C Dawson	GD Fennemore	IR Guest	JL Hilton	CM Jones
MA de Retuerto	A Fern	M Guinane	MR Hipkin	D Jones
JW Dedman*	AR Field	AC Gutteridge	DJ Hoare	J Jones*
N Dell	E Field	PJ Hack	P Hobby	JR Jones
S Dennett	R Findlay*	IR Hainsworth	A Hockey	LA Jones
G Dennis	M Finlason	O Haisell	P Hogan	M Jones
J Denton	M Fitzgerald	APS Hale	M Holderness	NR Jones
DM Derrick	P Floyd	JA Hale*	AP Holding	PD Jones*
S Dewey	P Foad	G Hall*	DA Holland*	PE Jones
M Dewhirst	PMS Ford	J Hall	K Hollidge	SEI Jones
JR Diamond	RE Ford	T Hall	Y Holloway	T Jones*
GM Dicker	S Ford	RJ Hallett	G Honey	T Jordan
DEJ Dicks	J Fordham	MJ Halligan	MJ Hooper	K Kearns
C Dixon	T Forster	IR Hampson*	S Hooper	SG Keen
P Dodsworth*	CW Foster	D Hampton	D Horne	DW Keightley
PC Donaldson	G Foyle	TM Hampton	D Houghton	D Kelson
TMJ Doran*	OJ Frampton	G Hand	AM Howard*	AD Kennelly
P Douch	M Francis	J Hannam	AR Howe	G Kesby
CJ Down*	CD French	RE Harbird	P Howe	MM Kettell
B Downey	A Friend	S Harcombe	R Howell	D Kilbey
HL Downing	LM Fuller	AJ Hardie	A Hudson	GJ King
J Downing	TP Fuller	A Harding	J Hughes	JE King
M Dowty	A Fulton	BT Hargreaves	JD Hull	M King
A Drewett*	M Fussell	A Harmer	NJ Hull	SJ King
EJA Drewitt	SA Galpin	C Harrington	J Hulme	SS King
PW Driver	PA Gammage	J Harrington	RA Hume	AJ Kirby
JE Druett	S Gard	ST Harrington	P Humphrey	I Kitching
B Dudley	L Garner-Langham	JR Harris	VF Humphrey	G Knass
BS Duffin	J Garrad	NG Harris	A Humphreys-	DC Knight
MD Duffy	LA Gaskin	C Harrison	Jones	E Labram
KP Duncan	E Geall	A Harrison-	DJ Humphries	M Lambden
D Durell	L Geary	Wallace	M Hunt	SR Lambert
B Durham*	CR Gent	R Hart*	PR Hunt*	IM Lang
R Durkin	J Gent	S Hartill	MJ Hunter	SR Lankester*
PR Durnell	CM George	SC Harvey	PE Hutchins	J Last
M Eagles	M Gibbons	D Hastings	M Hyam	MJ Latham
LW Easom*	S Gibson	SG Hatch	A Hyatt	JC Lavin
ML Edgeller	GSA Giddens	HL Hatfield	B Igglesden	S Lavington
H Edmunds	R Gilham	N Hawkridge	KJ Ilsley	MR Lawn*
L Edwards	D Gillingham	JN Hawtree	S Ingram	S Lawrence
N & M Elliott	JKC Gillingham	MJW	DJ Ings	J Lawson
D Ellis	M Gillingham	Hay	P Insole	MJ Lawson
G Else	Y Glasspool	A Hayden	R Iredale	R Layfield
K Emmott	B Goater	B Hayward	RJ Irvine	S Layton
L Etheridge	C Goble	RJ Hayward*	J Isaacs	RD Lee*
C Evans	B Goddard	HCC Staff Yateley	M Ison	RL Lee
DG Evans*	RJ Godden	Common	R Jackson	T Lee
GC Evans*	JJ Goodridge	D Heap	SJ Jackson	J Legg
LGR Evans	JR Goodspeed*	AB Heath	RJK Jacobs	WGD Legge
M Evans	D Gorman	PA Heath	AR James	S Leishman
JA Eyre*	AN Gorsuch	M Heaver	W James	MS Leonard
T Fagan	T Graham	B Hedley	D Jenkins	AJB Lester*
E Fairs	A Gray	RD Hellier	FM Jennings*	G Lester
J Faithfull	RT Greasby	JH Hewitt	S Jennings	JE Levell*
E Farmer	AE Green	RK Hicks	D Jode	RK Levett
G Farwell*	C Green*	J High	AC Johnson	DA Levy
PF Fawkes	AP Gregory	M Highfield	K Johnson*	A Lewis

BJ Lintott	I Mears	J Osborne	BJ Rackett	A Sharp
EA Lintott	J Meikle	L Overy	DJC Radden	G Sharp*
MA Litjens*	M Melrose*	AE Owen*	M Rafer	M Sharp
KS Littler	R Menari	GM Owen	IL Ralphs	MD Shaw
S Lloyd*	J Mercer	NT Owen	M Randall	PC Shaw
D Locke*	KD Metcalf	AG Page	G Rankin	B Sheils
C Lodge	L Middleton	SD Page*	T Rankin	J & C Shelley
P Lomax	SJ Miles	MG Painter	N Rawlings	JRD Shillitoe*
P Lord	SR Miles	JL Painton	CJ Raymond	R Ship
M Lovell	PN Milinets-Raby	MJ Palmer	EM & P Raynor	PP Short*
WJ Lowe*	A Millar	RA Palmer	R Reedman	D Shrive
VA Lowings	JGB Millar	N Papas	DJ Reeves*	I Sibsey
C Luff	RF Milligan	N Papps	EJ Reeves*	WF Simcox*
M Lush	S Minion	A Parfitt	S & M Reynard	J Simons
C Lycett	D Minns*	AJ Parker*	N Reynolds	KJ Simpson
PJ Lymbery*	G Mintram	OP Parker	AS Rhodes*	PA Sketch
M Lyons	D Mitchell*	JM Parkin	AR Rhodes	R Skinner
H Macbean	N Mitchell	L Parkin	G Rich	C Slade
L MacCallum	R Mitchell	TI Parminster	MJ Ridley	AC Smallbone*
M Macmillan	NJ Montegriffo*	A Parsonage	D Ridout	J Smallwood*
A MacNish	MP Moody	IJ Parsons*	S Ritchie	NR Smart
M Mallinson	J & J Moon	RW Pascal	BJ Roberts*	S Smart
G Manchip	A Moore	D Peacock	J Roberts	A Smith
L Mann	G Moore	R Pearce	M Roberts	BE Smith
T Mannell	H Morgan	RK Pearce*	D Robertson	D Smith
CP Manning	G Morris	DJ Pearson	MJ Robertson*	IA Smith
S Manning	R Morrison	P Pearson	D Robison	JF Smith
SJ Mansfield	J Moseley	R Peck	AL Robjohns	LC Smith
JH Marchant	A Mountford	I Peckham	I Robson	N & I Smith
RH Marchant	CAS Mullender	G Pepper	MD Rolfe*	P Smith
D Marcuse	DR Munday*	D Perks	C Rose	PJ Smith
E Marks	D Munts	BF Peters	HP Rosenvinge	R Smith
N Marriner	DA Murdoch	JN Peters*	JG Ross	RH Smith
B Marriott	A Murdock	I Pibworth	BN Rossiter	SF Smith
PC Marston	RC Murfitt	M Piggott*	HEJ Rowe	W Smith
AP Martin*	G Murphy	SP Piggott	GJS Rowland	G Snelgar
JP Martin	D Murray*	BJ Pinchen	PAS Rowse	AM Snook
JM Maskell	Naturetrek Team	BJ Pink	JM Roy	R Souter
K Maskell	SM Neal	MA Pink	K Roy	D Stone
N Matthews	M Neate-Clegg	D Pinkham	L Russell	J Southgate*
P Matthews	R Nelson	CJ Piper*	SA Russell	T Speller
AJ Maundrell*	S Newberry	DJ Piper	K Rylands	IM Spence
G May	S Newsome	JAC Pitman	DJ Ryves	B Spencer
K May	C Newton	MJ Pitt	LJ Saunders	G Spencer
NG May	SJ Newton	R Pitt	TJ Saunders	PA Spencer
KW Maycock	T Niedrum	J Pleasance	R Sawyer	CD Spooner
C Mayhead	A Nieuwkerk	RG Pointer*	K Sayer	G Stacey
W Mayne*	D Noble	A Porter	J Scamell	B Stalker*
K Mcardle	PR Norriss*	PM Potts	RL Scantlebury	P Stanbury
JS McCarthy	TJ Norriss	MD Pounds	S Scoffham	T Standish
MG McCarthy	JA Norton	J Powell	PS Scorey	MP Stanyer
SFH McCullagh	T Norton	E Pratt	S Scott	GJ Steaggles
R Mckenna	MW Nurse	DM Pritchard	AM Seabrook	AJ Steele
DN Mcleod	G O'Connell	GK Prout	BJ Sealy	R Stephens
C Mcqueen	MA Oram	MS Pryzewski*	J Seaward	GC Stephenson
A McVeigh	D Orchard	AP Pullen	R Severs	A Stevens
G Mead	MA Orchard-Webb	B Puttock	K Seymour	T Stevens
M Meads*	N Orson	L Pyke	M Shaft*	DE Stevenson
H Mears	BA Osborne	RJ Pyrah	B Sharkey*	D Stewart

G Stewart	MGW Terry	DJ Unsworth	GM Wearn	ID Williamson
S Stileman*	MH Terry	P Upton	R Webb	KB Wills
T Stimpson	AB Tew	N Urry	RM Webb	C Wilson
A Stocker	DA Thelwell	M Valla	JJ Webley	N Windibanks
P Stockil	BG Thompson	JN Vallender	I Wells	PD Winter
J Stokes	PGL Thompson*	D Vallis	TJ Wells	CF Winyard
S Stone	GA Thornton*	RHW Vine	K West	EJ Wiseman*
M Stoneman	A Thorpe	TJ Viney	AV Wheatcroft	M Wood
A Stoney	CJ Thorpe	M Vokes	H Wheeldon	S Wood*
K Stouse	J Thurnell-Read	M Wagstaff	C White	A Woodcock
PJ Strangeman*	C Thurston	J Wakeford	KG White	NJ Woods
EA Susans	AD Tindale*	BJ Walker	SN White*	R Woods
DJ Sussex	A Todd	H Walker	G Whitehead	G Woodward
A Sutton	M Todd	K Walker	SG Whitehead*	SA Woolfries
B Sutton	RT Toft	S Walker	A Whitehouse	SK Woolley
P Sutton	R Tofts	TH Walker	A Whitelee	D Wright
JL & M Swallow	PE Toynnton*	D Wallace	J Whitfield	M Wright
M Swann	S Trenerry	AP Walmsley	C Whitworth	K Wykes
AS Sweetland	NS Trout	J Walsh	M Why	AR Wynde*
DE Swensson	R Trundle	M Ward*	JA Wichall*	RB Wynn
ERC Symonds	JM Tubbs	PM Warne	MF Wildish	PJ Yates
A Taylor	VE Tucker	C Warren	G Wilkerson	SR Yates*
C Taylor	R Tulloch	JR Waterman	D Wilkinson	D Yelland*
DH Taylor	JP Turner	IR Watson	BR Williams	JM Yelloly
L Taylor	KA Turner	RF Watson	J Williams	A Young*
RJ Taylor	MH Turton	IR Watts*	PA Williams	K Young
S Taylor	AP Twyman	R Watts	D Williams-Jones	
T Taylor	D Tyler	MF Wearing	C Williamson	

Contributors

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Andy Johnson's Sandy Point Report
 Birdguides
 BTO BirdTrack
 BTO Garden BirdWatch
 Forestry Commission (NF raptor data)
 Hoslist Yahoo Group
 HWT Reserves Officers and Wardens

Needs Ore Log
 Rare Bird Alert
 Richard Carpenter's weekly Titchfield Haven
 area summaries
 RSPB Stone-curlew Team
 Trekellen
 WeBS Partnership



Long-tailed Tit (David Thelwell)

Appendix 3

Guidelines for the Submission of Records

All observers birding in Hampshire are urged to submit their sightings to the Recorder on Hampshire Ornithological Society record forms. The form is available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording/record-form>. Completed forms should be e-mailed to the Recorder at keithbetton@hotmail.com. Records can also be submitted in an excel spreadsheet (preferred) or Microsoft Word file. Handwritten submissions by post are also welcome and should be sent to Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR. It would be of great assistance if observers would comply with the following points when submitting records.

- Records should be listed either by species (in the order used in the *Hampshire Bird Report*) or by date.
- Please submit your sightings to the Recorder quarterly and at the latest by Jan 31st of the following year.

Information required for species occurring annually; updates for 2017 in red.

Key to codes used in table:

- A All records; details of age, plumage, time, direction of movement, etc. should be included as appropriate, especially for birds seen in places where not usually recorded or out of season.
- B All breeding records, with type of evidence obtained: confirmed, probable or possible.
- CB Counts of breeding pairs/singing males/territories in clearly defined areas.
- F Flocks, roosts and falls: minimum number required is given in parentheses.
- F&L First and last dates of summer and winter visitors.
- M Observations of birds moving on migration: give each day's count separately, with time of observation and direction the birds were moving.
- MM Dated monthly maxima from localities you regularly watch, counts may be below the threshold in F when submitting a complete year's data.
- R All records from localities where not normally recorded.
- S All summer records.
- W All winter records.
- Notes Brief notes of diagnostic identification features observed should be written on the record form.

Mute Swan	B, F (20), MM
Bewick's Swan	A, Notes excluding Avon valley
White-fronted Goose	A
Greylag Goose	B, F (50), MM, R
Bar-headed Goose	A
Snow Goose	A
Canada Goose	B, F(100), MM
Barnacle Goose	A
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	F (100), MM, F&L, M, R, inland A
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	A
Egyptian Goose	A
Ruddy Shelduck	A
Shelduck	coast: B, F (50), MM, inland: A
Mandarin Duck	B, F (10), MM, R
Wigeon	F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R
Gadwall	B,F (25), MM, F&L, R

Teal	B, F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R
Mallard	CB, F (100), MM
Pintail	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Garganey	A
Shoveler	B, F (10), MM, F&L, R
Red-crested Pochard	A
Pochard	A
Tufted Duck	B, F (25), MM, F&L, R
Scaup	A, inland & summer Notes
Eider	A, inland Notes
Long-tailed Duck	A, inland & summer Notes
Common Scoter	A
Velvet Scoter	A, inland Notes
Goldeneye	A
Smew	A
Red-breasted Merganser	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Goosander	A
Ruddy Duck	A
Red-legged Partridge	B, F (50), R
Grey Partridge	A
Quail	A
Pheasant	CB, R
Golden Pheasant	A
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	A, Notes
Red-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Great Northern Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Fulmar	A, inland Notes
Manx Shearwater	A, inland Notes
Gannet	A, inland Notes
Cormorant	F (20), MM, R
Shag	A, inland Notes
Bittern	A
Little Egret	B, F (10), MM, M, R
Great White Egret	A, Notes excluding Avon Valley
Grey Heron	B, F (10), MM, M
Spoonbill	A, inland Notes
Little Grebe	B, F (5), MM, R
Great Crested Grebe	B, F (10), MM, R
Red-necked Grebe	A, Notes
Slavonian Grebe	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-necked Grebe	A
Honey-buzzard	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Red Kite	A
Marsh Harrier	A
Hen Harrier	A
Goshawk	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Sparrowhawk	B, M
Buzzard	B, F (10), M, R
Osprey	A
Water Rail	A
Spotted Crake	A, Notes

Moorhen	CB, F (20), MM
Coot	CB, F (20), MM
Stone-curlew	A
Avocet	A
Oystercatcher	B, F (100), MM, M, inland A
Golden Plover	A
Grey Plover	F (20), F&L, S, R, inland A
Lapwing	B, F (25), MM, M, R
Little Ringed Plover	A
Ringed Plover	B, F (20), MM, M, inland A
Dotterel	A, Notes
Whimbrel	F (10), F&L, M, W, R, inland A
Curlew	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Black-tailed Godwit	F (50), F&L, S, R, inland A
Bar-tailed Godwit	A
Turnstone	F (20), F&L, M, S, R, inland A
Knot	A
Ruff	A
Curlew Sandpiper	A
Dunlin	F (100), MM, M, S, inland A
Sanderling	A
Purple Sandpiper	A
Little Stint	A
Grey Phalarope	A, Notes
Common Sandpiper	A
Green Sandpiper	A
Spotted Redshank	A
Greenshank	A
Wood Sandpiper	A
Redshank	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Jack Snipe	A
Woodcock	CB, R, W
Snipe	B, F (5), MM, F&L, R
Pomarine Skua	A, Notes excluding coast in spring
Arctic Skua	A, inland Notes
Great Skua	A, inland Notes
Puffin	A, Notes
Razorbill	A
Little Auk	A, Notes
Guillemot	A
Little Tern	B, F (25), F&L, M, R
Black Tern	A
Sandwich Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R
Common Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R, inland A
Roseate Tern	A, Notes – include age/plumage
Arctic Tern	A – include age/plumage
Kittiwake	A – include age/plumage
Black-headed Gull	B, F (500), MM, S
Little Gull	A – include age/plumage
Mediterranean Gull	A – include age/plumage
Common Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Lesser Black-backed Gull	B, F (50), MM, S

Herring Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Yellow-legged Gull	A – include age/plumage
Iceland Gull	A, Notes
Glaucous Gull	A, Notes
Great Black-backed Gull	B, F (10), MM, S, inland A
Feral Pigeon	CB, F (100)
Stock Dove	CB, F (25), M
Woodpigeon	CB, F (500), M
Collared Dove	CB, F (25), M
Turtle Dove	A
Cuckoo	A
Barn Owl	A
Little Owl	A
Tawny Owl	B, R
Long-eared Owl	A, Notes
Short-eared Owl	A
Nightjar	A
Swift	A, especially B
Kingfisher	A especially B
Hoopoe	A, Notes
Wryneck	A, Notes
Green Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Great Spotted Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A
Kestrel	B, M
Merlin	A
Hobby	A
Peregrine	A
Ring-necked Parakeet	A
Golden Oriole	A, Notes
Red-backed Shrike	A, Notes
Great Grey Shrike	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Magpie	CB, F (50), M
Jay	CB, F (10), M
Jackdaw	CB, F (500), M
Rook	CB, F (250), M
Carrion Crow	CB, F (50), M
Hooded Crow	A, Notes
Raven	A
Goldcrest	CB, F (10)
Firecrest	A
Blue Tit	CB, F (50), M
Great Tit	CB, F (20), M
Coal Tit	CB, F (20), M
Willow Tit	A, Notes
Marsh Tit	A
Bearded Tit	A
Woodlark	A
Skylark	CB, F (20), M
Shore Lark	A, Notes
Sand Martin	B, F (25), F&L, M
Swallow	CB, F (100), F&L, M

House Martin	CB, F (100), F&L, M
Cetti's Warbler	A
Long-tailed Tit	CB, F (20), M
Yellow-browed Warbler	A, Notes
Wood Warbler	A
Chiffchaff <i>collybita</i>	CB, F (10), W
Willow Warbler	CB, F (10), F&L
Blackcap	CB, F (10), W
Garden Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Lesser Whitethroat	A
Whitethroat	CB, F (10), F&L
Dartford Warbler	A
Grasshopper Warbler	A
Sedge Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Reed Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Waxwing	A, Notes excluding invasion years
Nuthatch	CB, F (10), R
Treecreeper	CB, F (10), R
Wren	CB, F (25)
Starling	CB, F (100), M
Ring Ouzel	A
Blackbird	CB, F (25), M
Fieldfare	F (25), M, F&L
Song Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Redwing	F (25), M, F&L
Mistle Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Spotted Flycatcher	A
Robin	CB, F (25)
Nightingale	A
Pied Flycatcher	A
Black Redstart	A
Redstart	A
Whinchat	A
Stonechat	A
Wheatear	A
Dunnock	CB, F (10)
House Sparrow	CB, F (20), M
Tree Sparrow	A
Yellow Wagtail <i>flavissima</i>	A
Yellow Wagtail other races	A, Notes
Grey Wagtail	B, F (5), M
Pied Wagtail	CB, F (50), M
White Wagtail	A, autumn Notes
Tree Pipit	A
Meadow Pipit	B, F (25), M
Rock Pipit	A
Water Pipit	A
Brambling	A
Chaffinch	CB, F (50), M
Hawfinch	A
Bullfinch	CB, F (2), M
Greenfinch	CB, F (20), M

Linnet	CB, F (20), M
Twite	A, Notes
Lesser Redpoll	A
Common Crossbill	A
Goldfinch	CB, F (20), M
Serin	A, Notes
Siskin	B, F (10), M, S
Snow Bunting	A, inland Notes
Yellowhammer	CB, F (10), M
Reed Bunting	A
Corn Bunting	A

Scarcer species

A list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) is given on their website at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa>. Records of scarcer species not considered by BBRC but required to be submitted for consideration by HOS Rarities Panel are listed below and must be supported by the completion of *Unusual Record Forms* which are available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording>. Additional evidence in the form of digital photographs or sound recordings in electronic format is also welcomed. Records of these species will not be published in the *Hampshire Bird Report* unless they have been accepted by the *HOS Records Panel*.

Whooper Swan, Tundra Bean, Taiga Bean, Pink-footed and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Black Brant, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-billed Diver, Cory's, Sooty and Balearic Shearwaters, Wilson's, Storm and Leach's Petrels, Night-heron, Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, White Stork, Glossy Ibis, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, **Black-winged Stilt**, Corncrake, Crane, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Long-tailed Skua, Black Guillemot, White-winged Black Tern, Sabine's, Ring-billed and Caspian Gulls, Iceland Gull of race *kumleini*, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon, Woodchat Shrike, Chough, Hooded Crow, Penduline Tit, Short-toed Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Greenish, Pallas's, Radde's, Dusky, Barred, Subalpine, Icterine, Melodious, Blyth's Reed and Marsh Warblers, Chiffchaff (other than nominate race), Rose-coloured Starling, Dipper, Bluethroat, **Red-flanked Bluetail**, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Citrine Wagtail, Richard's and Olive-backed Pipits, Common Rosefinch, Common (Mealy) Redpoll, Arctic Redpoll, Parrot Crossbill and Lapland, Cirl, Ortolan and Little Buntings. All exceptionally early or late migrants.

Heard only records of the above species

Criteria for the acceptance of these by the panel are as follows:

- The observer must have good experience of the species concerned and demonstrate that the call of the bird claimed was heard clearly.
- The call must be described in detail including transcription on paper (length, quality, tone, etc. of call), comparison with other calls heard either at the same or around the same time (or failing that, qualification as to why it was different to commoner species) and frequency/timing of call(s).
- The observer should provide an exact account of the record including, for example, how many times the bird called and over what period of time it was heard.

UK rarities

Records of rarer species are dealt with by BBRC. Record forms are available from the Recorder and should be returned to him for onward transmission to BBRC. Alternatively, submissions can be made online at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting>, in which case it is appreciated if copies are e-mailed to the Recorder. **Ferruginous Duck has been reinstated to the list of species considered by BBRC with effect from Jan 1st 2017, whereas Black-winged**

Stilt and Red-flanked Bluetail have been removed. Other BBRC changes from HBR 2015 are the reinstatement of Red-throated Pipit and the addition of Cackling Goose (formerly Lesser Canada Goose) following acceptance of the first record in 1976.

Urgent Bird News

In addition to the formal submission of rarities to the HOS Recorder, or where relevant to BBRC, observers of rarities in Hampshire are requested to pass on the news as soon as possible, assuming there are no confidentiality issues, so that others may benefit. The preferred method for those with smartphones or other internet access is to post on the Going Birding in Hampshire website at <http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/birdnews.asp>.

To submit records, it is first necessary to register with a personal log-in name and password for a free account. After acceptance, records can be submitted at any time using your log-in and password. A separate part of the website also allows photographs to be submitted. Alternatives to Going Birding include one of the national bird news services such as Rare Bird Alert or Birdguides. For those without internet access, please ask others to post for you.

Appendix 4

Photographs for inclusion in the *Hampshire Bird Report*

The Photographic Editor welcomes the submission of good quality digital photographs of birds taken in Hampshire for consideration for future reports. Images of any species, including common ones, are welcome.

The filename should include the photographer's name, species name, locality and date taken.

Please also submit poorer quality record shots of rarities, especially if it is likely that the bird has not been otherwise photographed.

Please send images for consideration to: Alan Lewis alanlewis1@virginmedia.com. Photographers are asked to send medium resolution images but to retain the unedited originals as these may be requested later for publication.



Pair of Barn Owls, Ower, Aug 2nd (Martin Bennett)

Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2016

Tony Davis

Introduction

This report summarises the fieldwork carried out by ringers and nest recorders in Hampshire during 2016. Further details can be viewed on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) web site at <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports> (Robinson *et al.*, 2017).

The total number of birds ringed in Hampshire was 22,292, including 1,706 nestlings. This was just over 600 more than in 2015 although there was a considerable drop in the number of nestlings. The number of species ringed was 103, one more than in 2015. No new species were ringed in the county during the year.

Nest recording provides valuable information about the productivity of birds and this can be used in combination with data from ringing to understand the causes of population changes revealed by the Breeding Bird Survey and other surveys. In line with the national report, this paper includes a report on nest recording in the county.

Ringing summary of the year

Results were received from all 26 ringers or groups known to be operating within the county. The number of each species ringed in 2016, and the all-time totals since 1972, are shown in Table 1.

Notable increases were recorded for most finches, particularly Siskins and Bramblings for which greater than ten-fold increases occurred. This reflects improved numbers that visited us during the winter periods. It is pleasing to note an increase of over 200 in the number of Greenfinches ringed, although this was due to targeted effort by one group, rather than representing a turnaround in their fortunes. The one finch which did not follow the trend was Chaffinch which had numbers over 20% down on 2015.

In contrast to the finches, tits had a poor year which probably reflects low breeding success caused by bad weather at a critical time. The same cause is likely to be responsible for significantly lower numbers of Reed and Sedge Warblers and Blackcaps, the latter being a species which has shown a strongly increasing trend in recent years. Poor breeding success also affected some scarcer species such as Woodlark.

Record ringing totals were achieved for ten species: Kestrel and Hawfinch, which are subject to specialist studies; Goldcrest; Firecrest; Long-tailed Tit and Treecreeper, which are all small species benefitting from a series of mild winters; Chiffchaff and Goldfinch, which have strongly increasing population trends; Green Woodpecker, which is never caught in large numbers and Yellow-browed Warbler, which occurred in unprecedented numbers in the autumn.

Rarely ringed birds in Hampshire which were caught during 2016 included Golden Plover, four Yellow-browed Warblers, Siberian Chiffchaff, Aquatic Warbler, Ring Ouzel (only the third to be ringed in the county), Little Bunting and Corn Bunting (see photos opposite).

Ringing projects

Late in 2011, the BTO published a strategy to increase the contribution of ringing to conservation science (Robinson *et al.*, 2011). The aim of the strategy was to encourage ringers to target their activities in areas where they can make the greatest contribution to conservation. Key recommendations were to increase the participation in the Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) and Constant Effort Sites (CES) schemes. The RAS scheme produces high quality



Top: Juvenile Aquatic Warbler, Titchfield Haven, Aug 13th (Trevor Codlin)
 Bottom left: Siberian Chiffchaff, Chilling, Nov 14th (Ruth Croger)
 Bottom right: Little Bunting, Fishlake Meadows, Oct 26th (Simon Ingram)

information on adult survival rates. In particular, projects which target species of conservation concern or those which are poorly covered by other schemes are encouraged. In Hampshire there are two projects on House Sparrows, two on Firecrests and one each on Sand Martins, Great Tits, Wood Warblers and Bullfinches.

Table 1. 2016 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2016	Total 1972 – 2016
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	1	3	4	1,553
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	0	0	15
Greater Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	0	0	1,322
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	0	0	0	1
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	0	0	0	227
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	0	0	73
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	0	0	0	54
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	0	0	0	401
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	0	0	0	45
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	1	0	1	595
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0	2	2	465
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	0	0	0	1
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	0	0	0	35
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	0	0	0	10
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	0	0	0	22
Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	0	0	0	1
Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	0	0	0	2
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	0	0	0	118
Leach's Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	0	0	0	2
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	0	0	110
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	0	0	0	65
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	0	18
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	0	5	5	27
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	0	0	0	38
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	0	0	0	6
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	0	0	0	294
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	12	0	12	1,474
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	0	2	177
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	5	0	5	111
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	0	0	0	2
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	0	0	0	1
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	3	0	3	390
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	0	87
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	0	7	7	261
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	0	3	3	31
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	0	0	1,047
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	1	0	1	9
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	0	1	271
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1	177	178	2,497
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	0	0	139
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	0	0	1,777
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	0	0	0	2
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	0	6
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	0	0	0	180
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	0	1	605
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	0	0	0	32
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	0	0	0	258

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2016	Total 1972 – 2016
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	0	0	0	574
Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i>	0	0	0	22
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	0	0	0	132
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	0	0	0	464
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	9	0	9	13,303
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	0	0	0	99
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	0	0	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	0	0	0	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	0	0	0	189
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	0	0	0	1
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	0	0	0	20
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	0	0	0	23
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	0	0	0	626
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	0	0	0	4
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	0	0	2,877
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	2	0	2	79
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	261	3	264	2,155
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	4	0	4	530
Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	0	0	0	2
Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	0	0	0	8
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	0	0	0	202
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	0	0	613
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	2	39	41	7,983
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	0	0	32
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	0	0	0	44
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	0	0	0	1
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	1	2	3	127
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	0	1	1	25
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	20	17	37	853
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	34	3	37	1,101
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	4	4	8	2,875
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	0	0	62
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	0	2	78
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	27	91	118	1,367
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	3	13	16	181
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	2	17	19	431
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	0	0	0	1
Short-eared Owl <i>Asia flammeus</i>	0	0	0	1
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	11	3	14	372
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	1	21	22	3,083
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	0	0	0	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	52	0	52	1,071
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	0	0	0	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	19	0	19	323
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	88	0	88	1,057
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	0	0	0	43

Table 1 (cont.) 2016 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2016	Total 1972 – 2016
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	163	164	1,324
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0	0	0	17
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	6	6	40
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	0	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	7	0	7	573
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	20	0	20	789
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	8	6	14	567
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	3	0	3	632
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	1	0	1	109
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	1,070	0	1,070	11,139
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	201	0	201	1,093
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	1
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,493	121	1,614	97,849
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	929	104	1,033	39,421
Coal Tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	149	0	149	5,876
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	0	0	277
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	20	0	20	941
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	51	0	51	1,336
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	1	36	37	576
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	0	4	4	413
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	7	0	7	23,791
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	180	435	615	42,934
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	16	0	16	5,394
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	103	0	103	2,074
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	825	0	825	13,903
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	4	0	4	14
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	26	43	69	1,643
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2,018	0	2,018	24,051
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	435	30	465	18,276
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1,332	0	1,332	27,114
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	78	0	78	3,519
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	0	0	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	41	0	41	1,402
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	393	5	398	6,206
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	13	0	13	412
Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	0	0	0	1
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	187	0	187	5,350
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	0	0	0	4
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	0	2
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	1	0	1	56
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	818	0	818	41,004
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	0	0	0	1
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	0	0	0	4
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	701	3	704	34,676

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2016	Total 1972 – 2016
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	0	0	38
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	57	7	64	1,967
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	61	6	67	1,616
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	487	1	488	13,884
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	67	19	86	12,775
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	1	0	1	3
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	600	38	638	25,315
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	11	0	11	1,099
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	186	28	214	7,366
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	92	0	92	3,870
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	5	0	5	685
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	5	0	5	1,589
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	772	72	844	19,517
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	2	0	2	242
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	0	0	0	5
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	0	0	0	85
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	0	1	32
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	8	16	24	674
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	0	0	0	190
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	20	52	72	1,957
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	0	0	0	68
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	579	6	585	14,728
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	437	23	460	6,713
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	0	0	0	757
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	8	0	8	2,410
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	11	4	15	2,019
Pied / White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	14	16	30	12,048
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	21	4	25	581
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	249	12	261	4,090
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	0	0	0	108
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	0	0	0	42
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	262	0	262	5,763
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	448	8	456	16,903
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	21	0	21	49
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	235	1	236	5,791
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	883	0	883	38,736
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	147	15	162	3,966
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	275	0	275	3,727
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	0	0	0	38
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	0	0	8
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1,385	8	1,393	11,602
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	1,189	0	1,189	15,840
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	1	0	1	89
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	141	0	141	2,391
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	202	3	205	9,894
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1	0	1	4
TOTALS	20,586	1,706	22,292	724,001

The CES scheme involves standardised ringing at a specific site at regular intervals during the breeding season. The scheme provides information on changes in population size, breeding success and survival rates for 28 species. Increasing the number of CES sites will enable data to be analysed for further species. In Hampshire there are four CES sites: Blashford Lakes, Martin Down, Pamber Forest and Winchester WM.

The BTO strategy also encourages species-specific projects and many Hampshire ringers participate in a number of important studies. Many of these projects involve colour-ringing so that individuals can be identified in the field and other birders can make important contributions by reporting any colour-ringed birds that they see. Care should be taken to record the colour and position of the rings accurately and photographs can be extremely helpful to scheme organisers in verifying the colours. Please report sightings to the organisers listed below. For other species, sightings can be reported at www.cr-birding.org.

The following schemes are currently known to be operating in Hampshire:-

Honey-buzzards are marked with a single colour ring at various sites in England and Wales, including Hampshire. In recent years the rings used are white with black letters but older birds could have other colours. The colour ring can be on either leg but will be on the opposite leg from the metal ring. Sightings to sjroberts100@hotmail.com.

Waders and wildfowl: Farlington Ringing Group is undertaking a series of long-term shorebird colour-ringing studies in The Solent and welcomes sightings of marked Brent Geese, Wigeon and waders. Birds are marked with unique colour-ring combinations enabling them to be tracked throughout their lives. The projects are designed to provide detailed information on the birds' use of The Solent, helping us to understand their breeding, wintering locations and migration routes. The expanding datasets involving large numbers of re-sightings allow survival analysis to be undertaken. This helps us to monitor and assess the importance of The Solent's estuaries in a national and international context, comparing our mudflats with other intertidal areas. Several of the projects are being undertaken in collaboration with shorebird ecologists and researchers across Europe.

Brent Geese are colour-marked in Southampton Water, Langstone and Chichester Harbours using darvic colour rings. Sightings can be entered directly on the Dutch goose website www.geese.org where life histories and maps of sightings can be seen on-line for each bird entered. Alternatively, sightings can be sent to Peter Potts at petermpotts@gmail.com.

Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlews, Redshanks and Turnstones are colour-ringed in Southampton Water, while **Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks** (www.greenshank.info/), **Ringed Plovers** have been marked primarily in Langstone and Chichester Harbours and **Sanderlings** have been marked on Hayling Island. Colour ring sightings of any of these species should be sent to Peter Potts at petermpotts@gmail.com.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. Sightings to grahamjiddens@googlemail.com.

Lapwings are marked at various sites in north-west Hampshire. Birds have four colour rings plus a black flag. Sightings should be sent to ahoodless@gwct.org.uk.

Common Sandpipers are being colour-ringed at Farlington Marshes under a ten-year project. Sightings to duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com.

Woodcock are marked in the New Forest with a single colour ring plus metal ring. Sightings to nfwg@newforestgateway.org.

Black-headed Gulls are marked at Blashford Lakes with an orange ring on the right leg. The rings have black characters in the format 2nnA or 2nnC, where nn are numbers. Sightings to stonechat99@yahoo.co.uk.

Kestrels are colour-ringed across Hampshire (except the New Forest and extreme south-west of the county) as well as neighbouring areas of Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex. The colour rings are dark blue and engraved with three white digits (letters/numbers). Sightings to matt@hawkconservancy.org.

Peregrines are marked at various sites in the county with an orange ring on the left leg. The rings have a two-letter code in black. Sightings to nigelrjns@aol.com.

Firecrests are marked in the New Forest and on Southampton Common. Those in the New Forest have a colour above the metal ring on the left leg. Sightings should be sent to marcus.zoe@sky.com. Those on Southampton Common have a colour below the metal ring on the left leg (sightings to andy_welch@sky.com).

Woodlark nestlings are marked in the north-east of the county. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wood Warblers are marked in the New Forest. Note that many birds have a striped ring as well as plain colours. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wintering **Blackcaps** are marked in Drayton, Portsmouth gardens. Sightings to graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com.

Nightingales are marked in Botley Wood. Sightings to Trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

There are two **House Sparrow** projects. At East Tisted birds are marked with a white or orange ring carrying two black letters or numbers. Sightings to fbuner@gwct.org.uk. The project at Manor Farm CP uses a yellow ring carrying one letter and two numbers. Sightings to Trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

Bullfinches are marked in Winchester with a white ring on the left leg with three black numbers commencing 001. Sightings to tim.walker14@btinternet.com.

Hawfinches are marked in the New Forest with a yellow ring bearing two digits which are a mixture of letters and numbers. Sightings to marcus.zoe@sky.com.

Recoveries

Details of the more significant recoveries can now be found on the BTO web site at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports> so only summary information is provided in this report. Readers wishing to find detailed information on a particular recovery can do so at the link above.

A number of reports of colour-ringed birds from abroad do not appear to have been submitted to the BTO and are sadly therefore lost to the national dataset. They are not included in this report. Observers receiving information about colour-ringed birds from foreign ringers are urged to submit this data to the BTO.

Little Egret. A nestling colour-ringed at Sowley Pond in June 2006 set a new national age record for this species when it was resighted on Oxey Marsh at the end of November 2016. Any further reports will of course set a further national age record so do please report any sightings to Graham Giddens grahamgiddens@googlemail.com.

Great White Egret. The nestling colour-ringed at Lac de Grand-Lieu in France in early May 2003 once again returned to Blashford Lakes in October 2016.

Osprey. A nestling colour-ringed near Essich in Highland Region on 25 June was resighted at Needs Ore just 79 days after being ringed.

Avocet. Colour ringing of small numbers of chicks at Great Marsh, Needs Ore is producing some interesting life histories. One example was ringed in June 2015, in January 2016 it was in Poole Harbour, by the end of February it had moved to Glamorgan, but in mid-May it was at Titchfield Haven before moving to Brownsea Island in late August.

Oystercatcher. An adult ringed at Cracknore Hard in Southampton Water at the end of December 2000 was shot in France in August 2016.

Black-tailed Godwit. An adult female which was colour-ringed on her breeding grounds in Iceland in June 2013 was resighted on the Avon Causeway in January 2016.

Turnstone. A first-year ringed in Vest-Agder, Norway in August 2016 was resighted at Park Shore in November.

Woodcock. An adult ringed at Colemore in December 2015 was shot in Belarus in April 2016. Another Colemore bird, ringed in December 2015, was shot in France in November 2016, whilst a male ringed at Batchley Farm near Sway in November 2016 was shot in France just 8 days later.

Snipe. A first-year, ringed at Fleet Pond in February 2014, was another victim of French shooters in January 2016.

Common Tern. A nestling ringed at Fleet Pond in July 2013 was resighted in Pas-de-Calais, France in August 2016.

Black-headed Gull. An adult ringed in 1994 at Hook Tip near Warsash was retrapped in Poland in 2011 and then resighted at the same Polish site in May 2016. Nestlings from Blashford, ringed in June 2015, were resighted in July 2016 in Calvados, France and Galway, Eire in March 2016, the latter moving to Worcestershire in May. A nestling ringed in Finland in 1995 was resighted at Lee-on-the-Solent in late November 2015 and again in mid-November 2016.

Mediterranean Gull. A nestling ringed in the Netherlands in 2011 was resighted at West Hayling LNR (Oysterbeds) in March 2016 and was still in Langstone Harbour in mid-June. Another nestling, ringed in Hungary in 2009, was seen at the Oysterbeds on the same day as the Dutch bird.

Great Black-backed Gull. A nestling ringed at Lymington in June 2014 was found sick in Setubal, Portugal in late July 2016.

Eurasian Eagle-owl. Perhaps the most surprising ringing recovery of the year. An adult male, ringed in Kent in August 2012, was found long dead under power lines in Creech Wood in March 2016.

Nightjar. A first-year male ringed at Bolderwood in August 2015 was found sick in a building in Maine-et-Loire, France, just over a year later.

Kestrel. Nestlings ringed in Belgium and Sweden in 2015 were found dead during 2016 at Headley Wood Farm and in Milkham Inclosure respectively.

Peregrine. A female nestling, ringed in Gavleborg, Sweden in 2010, was found sick at Medstead in January 2016 and taken into care. After treatment by the Hawk Conservancy it was released near Weyhill in April.

Chiffchaff. The only foreign recovery reported during the year was of a first-year ringed at Keyhaven in October 2016 and retrapped in Charente-Maritime, France 32 days later.

Blackcap. The only foreign recoveries reported during the year were of birds ringed during September in the Czech Republic and Slovenia and found during the winter on Southampton Common and at Poulner respectively.

Sedge Warbler. Two Titchfield Haven ringed birds were retrapped in France and another in Spain during autumn migration.

Reed Warbler. A first-year ringed at Fishlake Meadows in August was retrapped in Yonne, France, 27 days later. An adult ringed in May 2015 in Belgium was retrapped at Titchfield Haven in late August 2016.

Blackbird. An adult male ringed in the Netherlands in late October 2014 was retrapped at Embley Wood in November 2016.

Song Thrush. An adult ringed in Munster, Germany in June 2014 was found dead at Turgis Green in February 2016.

Robin. A first-year ringed in Pas-de-Calais, France in September 2014 was found dead at Holbury in September 2016.

Redstart. A first-year female ringed in the Netherlands in early October 2016 was retrapped on Southampton Common 17 days later.

Meadow Pipit. A juvenile ringed in the Scottish Borders in mid-August 2016 was retrapped 36 days later at Fawley.

Chaffinch. A first winter female ringed at Chilling in February 2016 was found long dead in Dusseldorf, Germany 48 days later. An adult male ringed at Embley Wood in October 2015 was retrapped on Falsterbo, Sweden almost a year later.

Nest recording

The BTO administers a Nest Record Scheme through which observers can contribute to our understanding of breeding success and productivity. Anyone can take part and further details can be found at <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs> where a range of resources including The Nest Record Scheme Handbook can be downloaded.

Table 2: Nest records submitted in Hampshire in 2016 and during the last ten years

Species	2016	Ten year total	Species	2016	Ten year total
Mute Swan	1	17	Goldcrest	1	1
Greylag Goose		1	Blue Tit	43	557
Canada Goose		4	Great Tit	31	785
Mandarin Duck		1	Coal Tit	3	15
Teal		1	Marsh Tit		3
Mallard	2	9	Woodlark	24	332
Tufted Duck		1	Skylark	1	18
Pheasant		5	Swallow	84	1090
Grey Heron	11	18	House Martin		1
Little Grebe	2	10	Long-tailed Tit	14	74
Great Crested Grebe		2	Wood Warbler	18	178
Honey-buzzard	2	30	Chiffchaff	3	14
Red Kite	5	21	Willow Warbler	5	30
Goshawk		17	Blackcap	3	36
Sparrowhawk	1	2	Garden Warbler		3
Buzzard		3	Whitethroat		16
Kestrel	7	46	Dartford Warbler	2	15
Hobby	1	8	Sedge Warbler		5
Peregrine	3	18	Reed Warbler		2
Water Rail		3	Nuthatch	1	44
Moorhen	8	35	Treecreeper		6
Coot	6	10	Wren	3	46
Oystercatcher		2	Starling	1	13
Lapwing	1	50	Blackbird	37	272
Ringed Plover		3	Song Thrush	26	128
Curlew	1	1	Mistle Thrush		2
Redshank		1	Spotted Flycatcher		10
Snipe		1	Robin	11	71
Mediterranean Gull		1	Redstart	5	30
Herring Gull		1	Stonechat	13	59
Stock Dove	31	137	Dunnock	8	48
Woodpigeon	8	75	House Sparrow		52
Collared Dove		15	Grey Wagtail	2	12
Cuckoo		1	Pied/White Wagtail	2	17
Barn Owl	53	245	Tree Pipit	1	7
Little Owl	1	15	Meadow Pipit	3	26
Tawny Owl	6	26	Chaffinch	6	48
Nightjar	2	74	Greenfinch		21
Swift	9	42	Goldfinch	1	20
Kingfisher		3	Siskin		1
Green Woodpecker		5	Linnet	3	37
Great Spotted Woodpecker		6	Bullfinch		5
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker		8	Hawfinch		34
Magpie		1	Yellowhammer		11
Jay		1	Reed Bunting	2	11
Jackdaw	5	27	Corn Bunting		10
Carriion Crow		2			
Raven	1	8	Totals	524	5,229

Table 2 lists the number of nest records submitted for each species during 2016, together with totals for the last ten years to provide some context. A total of 524 nests was monitored during the year, a considerable decline from 2015 but similar to the ten-year average. Three of the most commonly monitored species are responsible for much of this decline, with Blue Tit and Swallow numbers halving and Great Tit numbers falling from 165 to 31. Many common species in the county are very poorly recorded. Examples include Mute Swan, Moorhen, Collared Dove, Chiffchaff, Starling, House Sparrow, Pied Wagtail and Greenfinch. The paucity of records of such species shows how easy it would be for any birdwatcher to make a significant contribution to monitoring breeding success in the county.

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The Firecrest in Hampshire

Rob Clements, Marcus Ward & Russell Wynn



Firecrest, Bolderwood, New Forest, Jan 28th 2017 (Marcus Ward)

Abstract

An extended version of this paper, exploring the current status of the Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* in Britain, was published in the July 2017 edition of *British Birds* magazine (Clements *et al.* 2017). This paper summarises the growth in breeding Firecrest numbers in Hampshire based on surveys in a core study area of the New Forest and sample surveys in other parts of Hampshire. A revised population estimate for the county of 3,000 to 4,500 pairs in 2016 is proposed based on extrapolating the survey results on a hectad basis.

Background

Until the 1960s, the Firecrest was known as a scarce passage migrant in Hampshire, occurring predominantly at coastal sites in the spring, with a few records of wintering birds. In 1961 Mike Adams found singing males at Bolderwood in the central New Forest, and the following year breeding was proven for the first time (Adams 1966). Survey work over the next thirty years recorded a fluctuating population, with up to 35 territories located in the New Forest in 1987 and smaller numbers at other sites within the county. *Birds of Hampshire* (Clark & Eyre 1993) suggested that the population at that time was around 50 pairs 'in a good year' and noted an increase in reported numbers of spring and autumn migrants and wintering birds. Recorded numbers began rising steeply after 2000 with more than a hundred territories located in 2003. By 2009 a review of Firecrests in Hampshire (Eyre 2009) found the population increasing, both in the New Forest and other parts of the county, with a total population approaching 200 pairs. It was thought that even this figure represented a significant under-estimate and that prospects were good for consolidation and continued expansion of the breeding population.

A three-year survey of 46 sq.km of the central New Forest, including the Bolderwood area, was started in 2009 (Ward & Wynn 2013). In the last year of the survey, 266 territories were

recorded in the New Forest and 139 in areas outside the Forest, an unprecedented level that clearly showed that the population rise was continuing. MW pointed out in *Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-2012* (Eyre 2015) that the 2011 Hampshire total of 415 was more than 50% of the national figure of 758 (Holling *et al.* 2013). He referred to colour-ringing studies that showed that many Firecrests were resident in the New Forest from February to November, and that at least part of the population moved only short distances in winter, presumably taking advantage of coastal and urban/suburban heat-pockets. This paper summarises a follow-up three-year survey of the central New Forest study area in 2014-2016, together with the results of survey work in other parts of the county, that have allowed the production of a population estimate for Hampshire in 2016.

Firecrests in Hampshire 1998-2016

Table I summarises the dramatic rise in Firecrest numbers recorded in Hampshire since 1998. Numbers in the New Forest were already rising before the 2009-11 survey which gave a clearer picture of the population in that area (Ward & Wynn 2013). The absence of a survey in 2012 and 2013 explains the apparent drop in recorded numbers in those years. When the New Forest survey resumed in 2014, the numbers recorded in Hampshire as a whole reached more than 600 pairs/singing males for the first time. It should be stressed that these figures are simply the numbers actually recorded each year; their relation to the actual population present is explored later on when an attempt to estimate the county population is made.

Table I. Firecrests recorded in Hampshire 1998-2016

Year	New Forest	Other sites	Total
1998	15	3	18
1999	24	17	41
2000	37	13	50
2001	35	12	47
2002	39	14	53
2003	69	40	109
2004	67	42	109
2005	63	35	98
2006	78	30	108
2007	145	42	187
2008	112	74	186
2009*	165	56	221
2010*	260	71	331
2011*	266	139	405
2012	135	138	273
2013	95	92	187
2014*	531	162	693
2015*	444	307	751
2016	602	280	882

* New Forest survey years

The New Forest

The New Forest perambulation (legal boundary) encloses around 380 sq.km of woodland, heathland and farmland, of which our central woodland study area comprises 46 sq.km. Firecrests can be found in all the woodland within the Forest, though the highest concentrations are present in mature Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii* blocks within the central forest area. They are also present in deciduous woodland, typically with Holly *Ilex*, Ivy *Hedera* and Yew *Taxus*, and in gardens and hedgerows throughout the area.

We counted singing male Firecrests within the 46 sq.km study area in six years (2009-11 and 2014-16) during the period May 1st-June 30th, the optimal period for detecting the species. To ensure consistent coverage the survey area was split into one km squares, each being surveyed by a single observer following the same mapped route each year. A route was devised that allowed the surveyor to cover the whole area with no gaps of more than 200m in around two hours. The chosen route typically passed through all the conifer blocks in the square, with less coverage of habitat such as young Oak *Quercus* plantations where few Firecrests are present. The surveys were carried out early to mid-morning in suitable weather conditions (no precipitation and winds less than force 4). All Firecrest territories (defined as a singing male or a pair showing evidence of nesting) were mapped. We did not use tape lures or other methods to induce responses from silent birds in order to ensure consistency. We were confident that most singing birds recorded were on territory, though it is possible that a small minority would have been non-breeding un-mated birds. Breeding Firecrests in one Bolderwood square have been regularly monitored since 2009, with several birds colour-ringed. The evidence was that numbers stayed stable throughout the breeding season, with colour-ringed birds rarely moving from small defined territories. Unpaired birds typically move through rapidly, singing continuously, as resident males move them on from territory to territory.

The 2009-11 survey produced evidence of a 50% increase between 2009 and 2010, with a small reduction in 2011 after a severe winter (though numbers recorded in the New Forest as a whole rose slightly). A repeat survey in 2014-16 recorded a further increase, with the number of pairs/singing males in the study area increasing from 255 in 2014 to 498 in 2016 (Table 2). By extrapolation (based on our knowledge of habitat and breeding density outside the core study area), the population within the New Forest probably rose from around 300 pairs in 2009 to around 1,400 pairs in 2016.

Table 2. Firecrest territories recorded in central New Forest study-area in 2009 and 2016

2009	2010	2011	2014	2015	2016
104	161	145	255	331	498

Note: no survey in 2012 & 2013.

Figure 1 shows the numbers of Firecrest territories recorded in each one km square in the study area in both 2009 and 2016. There is clear evidence of infilling with 19 squares where Firecrests were not recorded in 2009 all occupied by 2016. The maximum density in both years was in the square where Firecrests were first recorded breeding in 1962, rising from 11 territories in 2009 to 39 in 2016.

A population estimate for the New Forest

In 2014, as well as counting 255 singing males in the central study area, we also counted a further 276 singing males in other parts of the New Forest outside that area. Coverage was not as uniform as in the central study area, and undoubtedly numerous territories were missed. Based on the amount of suitable habitat covered and our knowledge of detectability in well-studied areas, we estimated that around 80% of Firecrest territories in this habitat were located. For the remaining woodland within the New Forest perambulation, which is largely on private land where access was not possible, we made an estimate based on our knowledge of the woodland type and the assumption that Firecrests were present at the same density to similar habitats elsewhere within the open Forest. Firecrests were also present in large gardens, mature hedgerows and roadside Holly, both within the open Forest and on private land, so this figure takes account of these territories as well. Our estimated figure for the New Forest in 2014 assumed a further 200 territories on top of the 531 counted during the main survey.

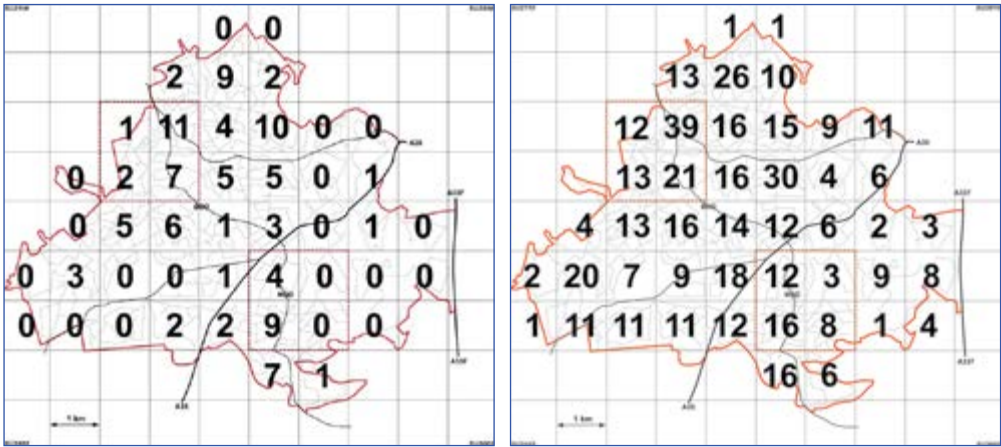


Figure 1. Firecrest territories recorded in the New Forest core study area 2009 (left) and 2016 (right)

In 2015, we counted only the central New Forest study area, locating 331 territories. This represented a 30% increase on the 2014 count. Clearly, this increase was not restricted only to one part of the Forest. For example, in a small area of woodland/ornamental gardens just outside the perambulation, where 15 territories were found in 2014, 21 territories were located in 2015 by MW. Assuming that the 30% level of increase applied within the wider survey area and other woodland within the perambulation, we estimated that the New Forest total in 2015 was around 900-1,000 pairs/singing males.

In 2016, after a further 50% increase in Firecrest numbers in the study area, using similar assumptions we calculated that the New Forest total was then around 1,400 pairs/singing males. The results for all three years are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Estimated New Forest Firecrest Population 2014-16

	2014	2015	2016
Central study area	255 (count)	331 (count)	498 (count)
Wider survey area	276 (count)	325 (estimate)	500 (estimate)
Other woodland/private land	200 (estimate)	260 (estimate)	400 (estimate)
Total	731	916	1,398

Hampshire outside the New Forest

Firecrests were first found breeding outside the New Forest in 1971 when Mike Adams located three singing males at Bradley Wood near Whitchurch. Recorded numbers remained low for around thirty years. The 1993 *Hampshire Bird Report* recorded only one territory outside the New Forest in that year, but noted that around 32 Firecrests were reported across the county outside the breeding season, with seven caught by ringers suggesting that many Firecrests were being overlooked. Table 1 shows that numbers recorded rose steeply after 2000, mirroring the increase within the New Forest.

In recent years, coverage has been patchy outside the New Forest, with records varying from full counts in some woods where public access is unrestricted, to scattered records of singles from areas where birders are absent or access is limited. As Table 1 illustrates, records from these areas have shown a ten-fold increase from 2006 to 2015, but what proportion of the true population they represent remains uncertain. *Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-2012* provided breeding records from most hectads (10km squares) within the county, while recent records submitted to HOS have similarly come from the majority of hectads with only a few having

not so far provided any Firecrest records. In theory, we could count the Firecrests within a sample number of hectads, and extrapolate to achieve a county figure, but there are several practical problems. A large proportion of the woodland in Hampshire outside the New Forest is private with limited or no access. Obtaining permission from numerous landowners to count all woodland Firecrests in a hectad would be impractical. In addition, many Firecrests are now breeding in private gardens and hedgerows, so visiting all suitable habitat in a hectad would be both impractical and immensely time-consuming. The best that can be achieved is to visit a proportion of the suitable woodland and other potential breeding habitat where access is possible, and extrapolate to achieve an estimate for the whole hectad. In order to try to establish the likely breeding density in the county outside the New Forest, we looked at three hectads where good coverage has been achieved in recent years.

Hectad A (SU64) is an area of mixed woodland and largely arable farmland on the chalk plateau south of Basingstoke. Firecrests were recorded in two tetrads in this hectad during the 1986-91 Hampshire Atlas survey period. Subsequently, records of increasing numbers have come from conifer woodland within this square. In 2015 most conifer/mixed woodland in the hectad, where public access was possible, was searched by RC and 30 singing males were recorded. In addition, a further five territories were located in gardens and roadside woodland fragments. Since much suitable woodland was private, it was estimated that less than 50% of the conifer woodland habitat within the hectad was visited, and probably less than 5% of the private gardens/deciduous woodland away from public roads and footpaths. Consequently, it was conservatively estimated that the Firecrest population of the hectad was more than 100 pairs/singing males.

Hectad B (SU32) comprises largely mixed woodland and intensive arable farmland in a river valley in west Hampshire. Firecrests were recorded as probably breeding in one tetrad during the 1986-91 Hampshire Atlas survey period. In recent years, increasing numbers have been recorded in conifer woodland where public access is possible. In an area where nine singing males were recorded in 2014, 23 were recorded in 2016 by RC, a similar rate of increase to that recorded in the New Forest. An area of around three sq.km of mixed woodland held 49 singing males in 2016. In addition, casual records have come from many other areas of woodland in the hectad, and also from private gardens adjoining woodland. We calculated that the Firecrest population in 2016 was likely to be at least 100 pairs/singing males.

Hectad C (SU85) lies in the north-east of the county, comprising mostly conifer woodland, largely Scots Pine, on sandy soils, and around 50% human habitation. Again, there were records of one/two Firecrests in this hectad during 1986-91, followed by a major increase in records since around 2000. In approximately three sq.km of woodland, up to 30 territories have been recorded in recent years (J.M.Clark pers. comm.), with further casual records from suburban locations and other areas of suitable woodland. The 2016 population was thought to lie in the range 50-100 pairs/singing males.

Assuming that these three hectads, with their good geographical spread and range of habitats, are typical of Hampshire outside the New Forest, we can extrapolate a figure for the county as a whole. There are around 30 hectads of similar farmland/woodland habitat outside the New Forest. We suggest using a conservative 50-100 territories per hectad for this area;

Table 4. Summary of Hampshire Firecrest population in 2016

Habitat	Area (number of hectads)	Firecrest population (territories)
Urban/suburban	3.2	100
New Forest	3.8	1,400
Farmland/woodland	30.0	1,500-3,000
Total		3,000-4,500

a compromise allowing for the possibility that some hectads on the high chalk in northern Hampshire hold few Firecrests. We suggest a notional 100 territories for urban/suburban areas such as Southampton and Winchester which are known to hold breeding Firecrests in parks and gardens. Adding the New Forest estimate of 1,400 territories, we reach a total figure for Hampshire of 3,000-4,500 territories in 2016 as shown in Table 4 below.

Discussion

Why has the Hampshire Firecrest population risen so sharply after 2000? Several inter-linking factors may explain the increase. Climate change has led to a succession of mild winters, with prolonged cold periods such as 1962/63 just a distant memory. A change in wintering behaviour, with a large proportion of the Hampshire population now remaining close to the breeding sites rather than migrating south, allied to mild winters, has resulted in an increasing population without the peaks and troughs exhibited in the period before 2000.

How accurate was the 2016 estimate of 3,000-4,500 occupied territories? We can be fairly confident about the New Forest estimate, since we were able to cover a large part of the woodland where public access is possible. For the parts of Hampshire outside the New Forest, we need more data from hectads that have not yet received good coverage to refine our estimate. We encourage any observers who wish to survey areas that have not been well covered in the past, and will offer advice and assistance to anyone who is prepared to undertake this work.

Will the Firecrest population continue to increase? Anecdotal evidence (and minimal actual survey work) in the New Forest suggests that the 2017 population is similar to 2016, perhaps a result of a poor breeding season in 2016 followed by a colder than average winter. It seems likely, however, that further spread and infilling will continue throughout the county, assuming that winters remain mild. Firecrests have been recorded reaching much higher densities in woodland on the Continent than have been recorded here, so higher numbers in our study areas may be accompanied by a spread into more marginal habitat such as pine plantations and pure deciduous woodland. *Birds of Hampshire* estimated the county Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* population at around 20,000 pairs; at the current rate of increase the Firecrest population could reach a similar total in the future.

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The Hobby in Hampshire

Rob Clements, Simon Currie, Richard Jacobs & Andy Page



Hobby, New Forest, Aug 5th (Terry Jenvey)

Abstract

Numbers of breeding pairs of Hobbies in the New Forest were monitored from 2013 to 2016. Declining trends are identified and possible causes discussed. Results are compared to other parts of Hampshire and Europe and an updated breeding population is estimated for the county.

Background

The Hobby *Falco subbuteo* is a migratory falcon that has expanded its range and numbers within the UK over the past fifty years (Balmer *et al.* 2013). Its late breeding cycle allows it to take advantage of newly fledged hirundines (mainly Swallows *Hirundo rustica* and House Martins *Delichon urbicum*) though other bird species and large insects are also taken. Hampshire has always been noted for its Hobbies, with the New Forest in the past thought to hold a significant proportion of the UK population. More recently, concern has been expressed at a perceived drop in Hobby numbers within the Forest. A possible reduction in food resources, increased casual disturbance by the growing numbers of visitors and predation by the increasing population of Goshawks *Accipiter gentilis* have been suggested as possible reasons for the decline. The last published survey of Hobbies in the New Forest was carried out in 1982 (Parr 1985) so a full survey was urgently needed. This paper summarises survey work within the New Forest in the period 2013-16, and makes comparison with areas of farmland and other habitats outside the Forest.

Methodology

Few records of successful breeding Hobbies within the New Forest have been provided to HOS in recent years, with only one pair in 2008 and three pairs in 2010 (*Hampshire Bird*

Reports). In 2013, AP located ten pairs, of which eight bred successfully, one pair deserted and for one pair the outcome was unknown. We (AP/SC/RC) planned to prioritise those sites to see if there was continuity of occupation, but also aimed to visit around 30 other locations where Hobbies had bred in the past, including the 16 locations where Steve Parr had found pairs in his 1982 survey.

First visits to all sites were made in the period May 10th-June 10th to establish whether sites were occupied and ascertain likely nest locations. Subsequently, occupied sites were visited regularly, preferably weekly, to establish whether the breeding attempt continued. We were able to monitor breeding pairs successfully without making nest visits to inspect contents. Even if all nests had been visited on a regular basis, we thought it unlikely that evidence of reason for failure could be discovered. However, one site was monitored by a web-cam which provided evidence of Goshawk predation during July. For other sites, though reasons for failure were uncertain, we at least had some idea of when they occurred. Subsequent visits in August recorded numbers of fledged juveniles, and later visits into September checked successful sites to see if predation occurred after fledging.

In addition, as part of an on-going survey, AP/SC located all Goshawk breeding pairs within the Forest to allow us to measure the effect of varying distance between Hobby and Goshawk nests on breeding success.

Results

The New Forest encompasses 379 sq.km of farmland, heath, enclosed and unenclosed woodland and human habitation within the perambulation (the official boundary defined in the New Forest Act 1964). Our main study area, the open forest, amounted to approximately 290 sq.km. The remaining area within the perambulation, largely private farmland and woodland, was searched in August to allow us to provide data for the whole New Forest area.

In 2014, we located 19 territorial pairs in the study area. Only eight of these bred successfully, one pair probably did not attempt to breed, and the remaining ten failed at some point between June and early August. Seven pairs failed when we expected well-developed young to be present on the nest. In one case the near-fledged young could be seen on the nest in early August shortly before the breeding attempt failed. In the remainder of the Forest within the perambulation we located three successful pairs, so in total eleven pairs fledged young. Table 1 summarises the results for each site and also shows the distances to the nearest occupied Goshawk nest.

The seven Hobby nests that fledged young were on average 2.3km from the nearest active Goshawk nest. At one site, where Hobbies bred successfully, we were not certain of the exact nest site. The ten Hobby pairs that failed were on average 1.6km from the nearest active Goshawk nest. That figure is inflated by one failure 4.7km from the nearest Goshawk nest. Excluding that pair leaves an average of 1.3km distance for the remaining nine failed nests. Hobby nests are probably vulnerable to non-breeding Goshawks as well as breeding birds; non-breeding Goshawks were also regularly present close to Hobby nest sites. Table 2 shows a comparison of outcomes between 2013 and 2016 for 14 sites within the study area.

Sites K, L, M & N were not visited in 2013, but assuming that they were occupied and successful, as they were in 2014, it is likely that a minimum of 13 pairs of Hobby fledged young in 2013 compared with eight in 2014 and only four in 2015 and 2016. In 2016 we concentrated on the few successful 2015 sites, so we were not certain whether other sites were actually unoccupied but can be certain that no successful breeding occurred.

Likelihood of Hobby breeding success was linked to:

- Distance from nearest active Goshawk nest. Nests close (within 1km) to an active Goshawk nest were almost certain to fail.

Table 1. Hobby pairs in New Forest study area in 2014: outcome and distance to nearest active Goshawk nest

Location	Outcome	Distance to nearest Goshawk nest (km)
Site 1	Fledged young	1.8
Site 2	Fledged young	4.6
Site 3	Fledged young	1.2
Site 4	Fledged young	3.6
Site 5	Fledged young	0.9
Site 6	Fledged young	2.9
Site 7	Fledged young	1.1
Site 8	Fledged young	Not known
Site 9	Failed July	1.8
Site 10	Failed June	1.8
Site 11	Failed August	1.1
Site 12	Failed June	0.8
Site 13	Failed August	1.1
Site 14	Failed August	1.4
Site 15	Failed August	0.3
Site 16	Non-breeding pair	
Site 17	Failed June	1.5
Site 18	Failed July	1.9
Site 19	Failed August	4.7

Table 2. Hobby pairs in New Forest study area: outcome comparison (2013-16)

Location	2013	2014	2015	2016
Site A	Fledged young	Failed August	Failed July	Unoccupied
Site B	Fledged young	Fledged young	Failed June	
Site C	Pair with nest	Non-breeding	Non-breeding	
Site D	Fledged young	Failed July	Deserted	
Site E	Deserted	Unoccupied	Unoccupied	
Site F	Fledged young	Fledged young	Fledged young	Non-breeding
Site G	Fledged young	Fledged young	Unoccupied	
Site H	Fledged young	Fledged young	Fledged young	Failed
Site I	Fledged young	Failed August	Unoccupied	
Site J	Fledged young	Failed June	Unoccupied	
Site K	Not visited	Fledged young	Fledged young	Fledged young
Site L	Not visited	Fledged young	Fledged young	Fledged young
Site M	Not visited	Fledged young	Unoccupied	Fledged young
Site N	Not visited	Fledged young		Fledged young
Total pairs with fledged young	13*	8	4	4**

* Assumes Site C pair bred and fledged young and that Sites K to N fledged young as in the following year.

** Assumes Sites B to E, G, I & J were not re-occupied.

- Size of nesting wood. Hobbies were successful in small woods/groups of trees which were less likely to be visited by hunting Goshawks.
- Density of trees in nesting wood. Closely-spaced trees appeared to give some protection. Hobbies that nested in widely-spaced trees were easy for Goshawks to access.
- Continuity of woodland. The three Hobby nests that succeeded close to an active Goshawk nest were separated from the Goshawk wood by a band of heathland (100m, 600m and 1,000m wide). Hobby nests, even those further away from Goshawk nests, that were linked by continuous woodland were almost certain to fail.

River valley study area (RC/RJ)

A hectad (10km square) comprising mixed farmland and woodland along a river valley was surveyed in July/August 2014. Local birders were able to provide valuable information on previous successful nest sites so we were able to build up a picture of past and current occupation. Goshawks were first recorded in this area in 2009, and there were at least eight pairs present in 2014. Their distribution was less uniform than in the New Forest, with groups of breeding/territorial pairs in three main woodland blocks, leaving a large part of the study area relatively unaffected by possible predation.

We found six occupied Hobby territories, one of which failed in early August. As Table 3 shows, most successful Hobby pairs were located 3-8km distant from the nearest Goshawk nest. One pair that failed in August was 1.5km from an active Goshawk nest. Two long-occupied Hobby nest sites within this study area were unoccupied in 2014, perhaps due to their close proximity to active Goshawk nests. It was likely that at least nine pairs of Hobbies bred within this study area in 2010 so it appeared possible that the increasing Goshawk population was by 2014 already having a limiting effect on the numbers of territorial Hobbies.

Table 3. Hobby pairs in farmland study area 1: outcomes and distances to nearest active Goshawk nest (2014)

Location	Outcome	Distance to nearest Goshawk nest (km)
Site 1	Fledged young	1.2
Site 2	Failed August	1.5
Site 3	Fledged young	3.0
Site 4	Fledged young	4.1
Site 5	Fledged young	7.7
Site 6	Fledged young	5.7

High chalk study area (RC)

In 2015 a hectad of open farmland/woodland on the chalk south of Basingstoke was surveyed. Hobbies were hard to locate, with only five territories recorded, along with a scatter of single birds. Lack of time in late August/September meant that breeding success/failure was not recorded. Hobby pairs were located largely on well-wooded estates with parkland and large arable fields. There were numerous hirundines using the area and an apparent absence of Goshawks, but the lack of river valleys and standing water probably contributed to the low Hobby density.

North-east study area (RC)

In 2016 a hectad of different habitat in north-east Hampshire was surveyed. A wide belt of Forestry Commission plantations, largely Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, held four breeding pairs with an average spacing of 1.5km. Survey work in previous years in this habitat, just outside this hectad, had located breeding pairs only 800m apart (N.Bolter/P.Crowley pers. comm.) Away from this habitat, the remaining area of the hectad comprised mixed farmland with numerous small woods and copses. A further ten territories were located with breeding



Beaulieu Road, New Forest – typical Hobby feeding habitat (Mike Chalmers)

evidence from six of them. Lack of time, and an absence of footpaths in some parts of the study area, prevented a more thorough survey but it was possible that there were several more pairs that remained undiscovered. In contrast to the 2015 study area, there were numerous streams, canals and lakes in the landscape, as well as an absence of Goshawks, so a high density of Hobbies was not unexpected.

Discussion

Evidence for an increase in Hobby numbers after 1982

In parts of England where the species nests at particularly high density, the occurrence of large pre-breeding groups of insect-catching Hobbies has been noted, with flocks of 60 or more recorded at sites such as Stodmarsh in Kent (pers.obs.) and Lakenheath in Suffolk (RSPB/BTO pers. comm). While clearly not all individuals concerned are local breeders, there appears to be a link between such gatherings and high-density local breeding. Numbers at similar gatherings in the New Forest have always been lower, but their occurrence became more regular in the 1990s, perhaps reflecting a growing population at this location. The *Hampshire Bird Report 1989* mentions a 'remarkable gathering of up to 12 individuals at one site in the last week of May'. In 1994, there was a similar record of 19 or more on May 12th at Beaulieu Road, New Forest. Numbers recorded in following years were lower, though 16 were present at the same site on April 25th 2001. The *Hampshire Bird Report 2007* noted that 'pre-breeding gatherings of birds hawking insects over water were small compared with recent years, with a maximum of five', though there was a late-season report of seven first-summer birds at Furze Hill on July 12th. In 2008, there were ten, including eight first-summer birds at Beaulieu Road on June 4th. However, the *Hampshire Bird Report 2012* noted that 'the spring gatherings which have occurred in previous years did not materialise.' During 2014, we saw no such gatherings, and in fact it was rare to see more than a single Hobby catching insects. It is possible that this reflects a change in behaviour, perhaps as a way of avoiding predation, rather than an indication of a reducing population, but either way the increasing Goshawk population seems likely to be responsible.

In the absence of any full surveys between 1982 and 2014, we can only speculate when the Hobby population reached a peak, and at what level. Assuming that the growing Goshawk

population is responsible for the decline, it seems likely that the Hobby population peaked around 2000-2005 before numbers of Goshawks had built up. The *Hampshire Bird Report 2006* noted that although there were no confirmed breeding records from the New Forest, summer sightings were consistent with up to 30 potential territories.

If the sixteen Hobby territories found by Steve Parr in 1982 are plotted on a map, there remain numerous locations within the 290 sq.km of New Forest study area where Hobby breeding attempts have been recorded, both before 1982 and in the years since. While many of these sites were only occupied for a few years before falling vacant, it is possible to plot at least 30 potential breeding sites with a minimum nearest neighbour distance of around 3-4km. Such spacing was probably typical of the Hobby population prior to 2002. That leaves around 90 sq.km of farmland/woodland outside the open forest but within the perambulation that possibly held four to five pairs. (There were three pairs in this area in 2014 despite the presence of several Goshawk pairs.) So it seems possible that the study area held around 25 pairs in 2000, while there may have been 30 pairs within the perambulation. Although failure rates were high, it should be noted that there were still around 20 territorial pairs within the perambulation in 2014, despite the likely decline over the past ten years.

Are Goshawks responsible for the decline in Hobby numbers?

Much of the evidence for the impact of the growing Goshawk population on Hobbies in the New Forest is circumstantial. We only have photographic evidence of Goshawk predation of Hobbies from one nest in 2014. The high failure rate of ten out of 18 (56%), especially in July/August, is most unusual, especially in a breeding season with little rain or strong winds. Experience in other English counties suggests that a failure rate of 10% or less is typical of areas where Goshawks are absent. In South Derbyshire, over the period 2010-2014, 99 out of 109 (91%) breeding attempts were successful (A. Messenger pers. comm.). Also, in 2013, eight out of ten (80%) Hobby nests in the New Forest found by AP successfully raised fledged young. It is possible that the failure rate in 2014-16 was exceptional, and that Hobbies will be more successful over a longer period. Table 4 summarises the increase in Goshawk numbers within the New Forest since successful breeding was first noted in 2002. By 2014, there were also several pairs breeding just outside the perambulation, so in total there were around 38 territorial pairs that potentially affected Hobbies nest site choice and breeding success.

Table 4. Goshawk pairs in the New Forest (2002-14)

Year	Breeding pairs	Other pairs	Total
2002	2		2
2003	3		3
2004	4		4
2005	6		6
2006	5	1	6
2007	8	1	9
2008	9	1	10
2009	12		12
2010	16	2	18
2011	18	2	20
2012	23	6	29
2013	20	9	29
2014	27	2	29

Figure 1 compares this growth in Goshawk pairs in the New Forest from Table 4 with the decline in Hobbies raising fledged young within the study area. There is no doubt that the decline in Hobby numbers is mirrored by an increase in breeding Goshawks. However, at one site Hobbies nested successfully for at least three consecutive years despite being only 0.8km

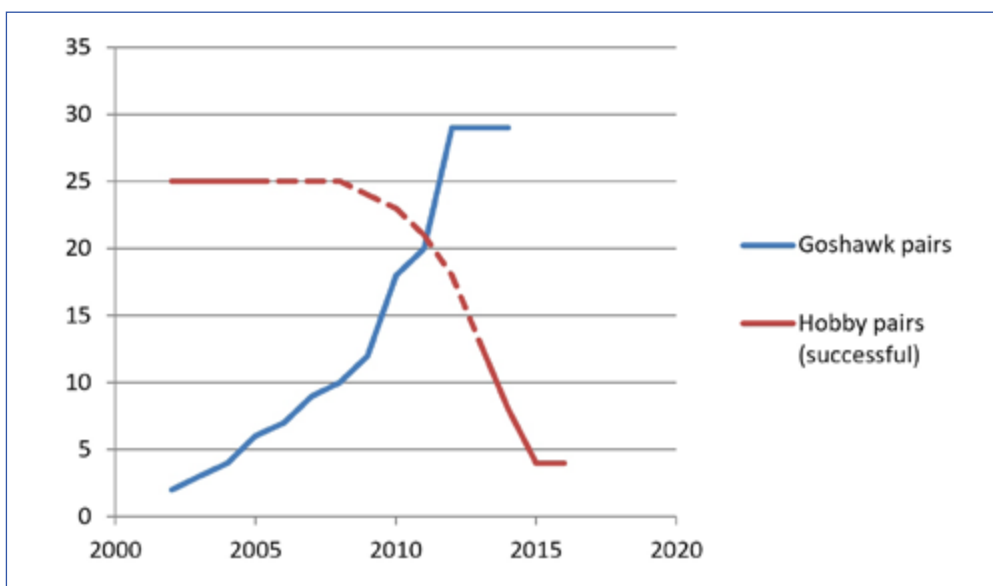


Figure 1. Goshawk pairs compared to Hobby pairs in New Forest study area (2002–16)

Note: 25 pairs of Hobbies are assumed in 2002–2005 in the study area based on an estimated 30 pairs in the whole New Forest in 2005. The broken line between 2005 and 2013 is interpolated between two datasets.

from an occupied Goshawk site. Clearly, some pairs of Hobbies can nest successfully despite close proximity of Goshawk pairs but cumulatively, over time, in most cases an increase in Goshawk numbers is associated with a reduction in Hobby numbers.

The other suggested causes of the decline in Hobby numbers are increased human disturbance and reduced prey resources. Increased visitor numbers and casual disturbance may have caused some historic sites to be deserted, but some of the successful Hobby nests in 2014 were close to well-used paths, while many now deserted Hobby sites are in relatively undisturbed parts of the Forest. Although there is anecdotal evidence for some reduction in insect prey in the Forest, Hobbies are highly mobile and will travel long distances to food resources. The pairs that did breed successfully all raised either two or three young, suggesting that there was no shortage of prey.

Goshawks effect on other New Forest raptor species

AP has monitored Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* breeding attempts within the New Forest since 1998. In that year, 33 breeding pairs were located in around 80% of suitable habitat and 36 pairs were located in both 1999 and 2001. By 2008, Sparrowhawks were missing from large tracts of woodland that once held them, with Goshawks now nesting in many formerly occupied sites. Only 12 Sparrowhawk nests were located in 2009. By 2014, the central New Forest woodland area, where Goshawks are present at highest density, held only a handful of breeding Sparrowhawk pairs. While unequivocal evidence, in terms of Sparrowhawk remains definitely predated by Goshawks, is scarce, the clear upward trend in Goshawk numbers and corresponding decline in Sparrowhawks suggests a linkage.

Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus* have always been relatively scarce in the New Forest, where voles and similar prey are limited in numbers, so as yet there has been little quantifiable effect from the increase in Goshawk numbers. By contrast, a study in Kielder Forest, Northumberland showed that Kestrel numbers were dramatically reduced after Goshawk colonisation (Petty 2003), the main forested area becoming a sink, with Kestrels from outside the study area replacing predated individuals and then themselves falling prey to Goshawks.

Goshawks – the European experience

The Netherlands provides a dramatic example of the effect a growing Goshawk population can have on the numbers of Hobbies and other small raptor species. A national Hobby population of 1,700-2,100 pairs in 1985-92 had declined to an estimated 750-1,000 pairs in the late 1990s. There was a virtual disappearance of the species from woodlands and heaths, with some increase on open farmland, typically utilising crow nests on electricity pylons (Bijlsma *et al.* 2001.) In a study area monitored over the period 1974-2002, the proportion of raptors in Goshawk diet rose from 0.4% in 1974-77 to 5.3% in 1998-2002. This rise was associated with a crash in the populations of the main Goshawk prey species (Woodpigeons *Columba palumbus*, racing pigeons *Columba livia* and rabbits) and a greater reliance on smaller bird species and raptors (Rutz & Bijlsma 2006.)

The experience of a growing Goshawk population in the Netherlands suggests that similar effects on UK avian populations should be expected here as Goshawks spread and increase in numbers. While there is no evidence that the main prey species in the New Forest have diminished in number since Goshawk colonisation, the decline in small raptors over the past ten years, including Hobbies, is probably linked to the increase in Goshawk numbers.

An updated Hampshire population estimate

Kelsall and Munn (1905) offered no estimate of numbers, but suggested that the Hobby was a 'regular summer visitor to all wooded districts in the county.' Cohen (1963) stated that there were probably more pairs of Hobby breeding in Hampshire than in any other county of Britain. He thought there were 10-20 pairs in the New Forest, 5-10 pairs on the chalk and greensand, but that the species was scarce in the east of the county. In 1978, the Hampshire Hobby population was estimated at 40-50 pairs (Sharrock *et al.* 1980). Fifteen years later, with the results of the 1986-91 atlas survey to hand, John Clark suggested in *Birds of Hampshire* (Clark & Eyre 1993) a Hampshire population of 75-100 pairs, based on assumed 20 pairs within the New Forest, 20 in other non-agricultural sites and around 40 on the 2,160 sq.km of agricultural land in the county. The evidence since then is of an increasing population outside the New Forest, with records from most 10km squares within the county. Clark's estimate assumed 1.9 pairs per 100 sq. km on farmland, but more recent survey work in other southern counties has found a much higher density of between 10-15 pairs per 100 sq.km in similar habitat (Clements & Everett 2012). The evidence from our limited survey work outside the New Forest is that Hobbies are present at high density in parts of the county where Goshawks are still absent and food resources are high (the north-east and perhaps the south-east), but that lower densities prevail where Goshawks are established or food resources are low (western and central areas). Based on our current knowledge, we estimate that around six to eight territorial pairs per 100 sq.km is the average.

For our calculations, we have divided Hampshire into three broad zones as follows:

- (i) 380 sq. km New Forest
- (ii) 400 sq. km (approx) wholly urban/suburban areas holding no Hobbies
- (iii) 3,000 sq. km (approx) farmland/woodland/ heathland/ towns and villages.

Because of the reduction in numbers in Goshawk-colonised areas post 2002, we suggest that the Hampshire Hobby population was at a peak around 2005 and has fallen, perhaps by as much as 10%, since then. Assuming 30 pairs in the New Forest, and around six to eight pairs per 100 sq.km over the non-urban parts of the county, we arrive at a possible population in 2005 of 210-270 pairs. For 2016, assuming the loss of around 20 pairs in the New Forest and ten pairs outside, we suggest the population was around 180-240 pairs. Figure 2 summarises the above population estimates and changes from 1963 to 2016. It remains to be seen whether Goshawks are able to colonise much of the currently unoccupied woodland in the county, and the impact that may have on Hobby numbers in the future.

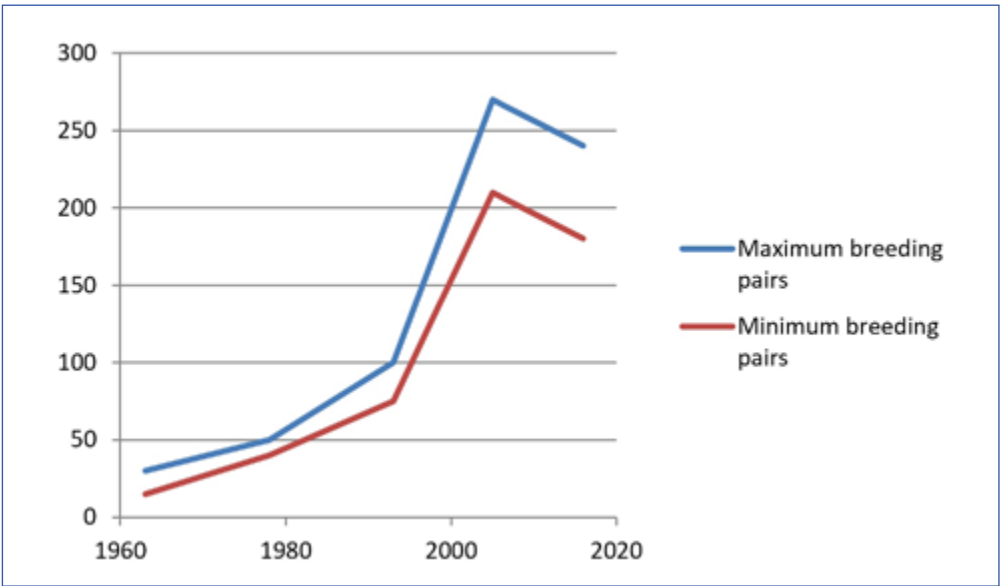


Figure 2. Hobby population estimates in Hampshire (1963-2016)

Acknowledgements

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The Last Stronghold of the Willow Tit in Hampshire

Mike Chalmers



Willow Tit, Netherton Valley, Feb 16th 2014 (Alan Lewis)

Abstract

Since the 1970s, Willow Tits *Poecile montana* have declined sharply in range and numbers across southern England including Hampshire. In recent years, the only areas of the county with regular widespread reports have been in the north and north-west, broadly defined by the high chalk south-west of Basingstoke and west to the vicinity of Facombe and Hurstbourne Tarrant. This paper presents the results of three years of joint surveys carried out between 2014 and 2016 by the Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) around Dummer and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) between Facombe and Hurstbourne Tarrant in the west and Overton in the east. The objectives were to determine the numbers and distribution of Willow Tits in targeted woodlands and to try to identify reasons for their continued survival in these areas. Conclusions from the studies were then used by HIWWT to recommend woodland management strategies for Willow Tit conservation.

Introduction

The range reduction in Willow Tits was one of the most striking findings in the BTO *Bird Atlas 2007–2011* (Balmer *et al.* 2013). Results showed that Willow Tits had been lost from 50% of their former range in the 20 year period since the previous survey in 1988-91, with birds now absent from former occupied areas in most of south-east England from the Wash to Dorset. In Hampshire this was clearly demonstrated by an 80% reduction in range between the 1986-91 HOS Tetrad Atlas Breeding Bird Survey, when Willow Tits were recorded in 286 tetrads, and the 2007-12 HBA, when only 52 tetrads were found to be occupied (Eyre 2015). These were mainly concentrated in derelict coppiced woodland on the chalk around Facombe, Netherton, Crux Easton and Hurstbourne Tarrant in north-west Hampshire and around Dummer south-west of Basingstoke.

Survey Objectives

In 2013 HIWWT decided to undertake a survey of Willow Tits in north-west Hampshire in an area approximately rectangular 15km east to west by 17km north to south as part of their Winning Ways for Wildlife Project. This was a partnership project with Butterfly Conservation and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust funded through Natural England's Large Scale Partnership Project. Its aim was to work with landowners and local volunteers to find out more about threatened species in north-west Hampshire and offer advice and assistance with habitat management. The area included the known Willow Tit sites at Faccombe, Netherton and Hurstbourne Tarrant and extended north from the A303 on both sides of the A34 between Andover in the west and Overton in the east. The objectives of the survey were to determine the distribution of Willow Tits, to understand what habitats they were using, to raise awareness amongst landowners and the local community, to recommend woodland management to prevent further decline and to identify areas of further research. HOS agreed to carry out parallel surveys around the other known regular site near Dummer centred around 6km east of the south-east corner of HIWWT's survey area and south of the dividing A303/M3 corridors. Figure 1 shows the location and extent of the two study areas.

Methodology

Surveys were carried out between the beginning of February and early April when Willow Tits are holding territory and tend to be more visible and vocal, sometimes engaging in lengthy song duels when challenged. The methodology involved playback of calls and song for two minutes at regular intervals, not more than 200m apart, together with visual sightings and confirmation, where possible, of singing or calling birds, and plotting on large-scale maps of each site. Three visits were undertaken at least two weeks apart in the HIWWT area. Similarly, if no Willow Tits were found on the first visit in the HOS area, second and third visits were made. Most of the woods were privately owned and permission to access was sought from landowners, often on the condition that site locations would be kept confidential. Routes were then planned to pass within 100m of all parts of the habitat. In some cases, where the woods were intersected or bordered by roads or other public rights-of-way, surveys were carried out only from the public footpaths/bridleways etc. This was adequate for small woods but resulted in only partial coverage of some of the larger woods in the HOS area.



Figure 1. Location map of study areas

Note: OS grid is shown by 10km squares.

Three Year Strategy

In the first year, surveys concentrated on known hotspots and other woods nearby. In the second year, the focus was on covering new woods, especially in the areas between previously confirmed Willow Tit sites, and other nearby areas of apparently suitable woodland habitat, mostly greater than 5ha in area. In the last year, all previously confirmed sites were rechecked in addition to seeking new areas to fill in apparent gaps in distribution, especially to check for linkages between the two separate study areas, and to survey all potential woods up to 5km radius south and east from the centre of the Dummer area. In the

last two years, HIWWT also erected nest boxes with the help of John Last in two locations but by the end of the survey these had not been occupied.

Habitat Survey

In addition to logging all Willow Tits and other selected woodland bird species such as Marsh Tits *Poecile palustris*, Great Spotted Woodpeckers *Dendrocopos major* and Pheasants *Phasianus colchicus*, a habitat survey was carried out for all sites in the HIWWT area to seek to determine which characteristics were favoured by Willow Tits. Photographs were taken and woodland type, size, topography, aspect, age, percentage scrub and canopy cover, scrub species, ground flora, dead wood availability and soil moisture were recorded. Disturbance levels, evidence of deer, and type, if any, of woodland management were also logged.

Results of Surveys

2014. The HIWWT survey was carried out between February 3rd and April 13th in widespread woodlands with historic Willow Tit records. A team of 20 volunteers, many of them HOS members, surveyed 34 woodlands and found 22 Willow Tit territories in 17 woodlands (Lynes 2014). Contrary to findings elsewhere in Britain, where Willow *Salix*, Alder *Alnus* or Birch *Betula* are preferred, often in damp lowland sites (Cramp & Perrins 1993), most occupied sites were located either in woodlands with mature unmanaged derelict coppiced Hazel *Corylus avellana* with Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* or Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* standards or other similar woodland with dense undergrowth. Common factors in most cases were the presence of plentiful rotting dead wood and dense undergrowth.

A smaller and more limited survey was carried out by HOS in the Dummer area surveying seven woods between March 19th and April 16th by a single observer and adding records at an eighth wood by others. The woods were selected from those generally located within 2km of the known site at Walker's Copse. Five Willow Tit territories were found in five separate woods representing a site encounter rate of 63%. Similar habitat preferences to the HIWWT areas were found with sightings usually close to woodland edges or rides or areas with more open canopy (Figure 2).

2015. The HIWWT survey was undertaken from February 1st to April 13th using 18 surveyors to check 34 woods comprising 19 new locations and 15 repeat surveys. New sites were selected to see if a link could be established between the Faccombe and Dummer areas. Five Willow Tit territories were found, two of which were at new sites, thus bringing the combined total for 2014 and 2015 to 24 territories in 19 woodlands (Lynes 2015). The new sites provided no evidence of linkage between the two known hotspots, but the combined results did suggest that canopy cover of not more than 80% with dense scrub was preferred.

The HOS survey checked a further 15 woods around Dummer and nearby areas and extended the search radius to around 5km from the original core area but not north of the M3. The survey was carried out between February 17th and March 24th when Willow Tits typically reacted strongly to playback and responded with vigorous song. Marsh Tits often also responded with their own song. Permission was obtained from private land owners or managers to carry out surveys in ten out of 21 woods. The remainder were surveyed from public rights-of-way. All but two of the 2014 woods were revisited in 2015 but with different results in some cases. For the 15 new woods surveyed, five new territories were found in five woods giving a site encounter rate of 33%. In three of the five repeat surveys where Willow Tits had been found in 2014, none were found in 2015. One of these had been disturbed by re-routing a footpath through the centre of the 2014 territory. After including the apparent losses of the three 2014 sites, seven territories in six woods were confirmed in 2015. These included the most southerly site approximately 5km south of Walker's Copse and the most easterly approximately 6km to the east.

2016. Between February 7th and April 8th 15 volunteers surveyed 33 woodlands comprising 14 new sites and 19 repeat surveys in the HIWWT area. Only one of the new sites was found



Figure 2. Willow Tit habitats in Dummer area showing preference for unmanaged derelict coppiced woodland and other areas of dense woodland scrub.

to have Willow Tits, with three pairs present, and one territory appeared to have been lost from the 19 repeat sites. When combined with the two previous years, the total number of territories found rose to 27. These were located in 25 out of the 74 woodland sub-sites giving an overall sub-site encounter rate of 34%. All occupied sites and sub-sites were situated at relatively high altitudes for Hampshire, being on chalk downs between 120m and 259m (note all heights are quoted above Ordnance Datum) with 76% above 160m. No correlations were found between occupied sites and aspect or topography (other than altitude) but once canopy cover reached 80%, presence reduced sharply as noted previously. There were however positive correlations with the abundance of deadwood and dense undergrowth (Boswell 2016).

In the final year HOS concentrated on seeking links between the known Dummer and Overton sites by checking woodlands in the intervening areas across the M3 to the A303, as well as rechecking previously confirmed sites to see if birds were still present. A total of 18 woods were checked by five surveyors resulting in nine territories being found including six new. These brought the cumulative total over the three years to a maximum of 16 territories in 12 out of the 30 woods surveyed in the HOS study area. Similar to HIWWT's findings, all occupied woods were located at altitude on the chalk downs, the HOS sites being at heights between 95m and 175m. These were on average at lower altitudes than those in the HIWWT area as hardly any of the land in the HOS area exceeded 200m. Several other new sites more than 5km to the east around Ellisfield and towards Herriard were also explored on a less formal basis with no success. However, one additional singing male was found in this area by a separate observer in 2014 and three were found here in 2017 during more comprehensive repeat surveys.

Summary of Results

The results for the HIWWT and HOS surveys for 2014, 2015 and 2016 and the combined results over all three years are summarised in Table 1 to give maxima in the HIWWT and HOS surveys of 27 and 16 singing males/pairs respectively. The repeat results from 2017 have

also been included in Table 1, together with records by others during 2014 to 2016 from the HOS databases, to give an additional nine singing males/territories; five in the HIWWT area and four in the HOS area. When added, they result in a grand total of up to 52 singing males/pairs. Note that this combined total adds the individual survey totals from all years, even where birds were not found on repeat surveys in subsequent years, and thus may over-estimate numbers. For example, in the HOS area in 2016 only four out of nine repeat surveys confirmed Willow Tits in the same or adjacent woods from previous years. This suggests either a high annual mortality with a low recruitment rate, continuing shrinkage in range or simply birds being unresponsive and elusive. The apparent losses included the two most isolated sites to the east and south.

Being small passerines, Willow Tits have an average life expectancy according to BTO of only two to three years, and the separation and fragmentation of suitable woodlands works against the ability of new birds to fill vacant territories. However, Willow Tits are not easy to survey as they roam across relatively large territories in dense woodland and are often not vocal unless challenged. Furthermore, responses are usually limited to a narrow time window early in the breeding season up to egg-laying, after which they are usually silent. As they appear to have a high site fidelity, failure to detect them does not necessarily mean they are not present as there are examples where birds have been rediscovered at the same sites in subsequent years after apparent absences. Potential confusion with the more widespread Marsh Tits also adds to the problem of accurate and repeatable survey results, and all these factors need to be taken into account when interpreting the results.

In addition to the habitat and altitude preferences summarised above, none of the Willow Tit woods in the HOS area and only two in the HIWWT area were less than 5ha in extent, and then only if connected to larger blocks. Both Willow and Marsh Tits are known to require relatively large territories compared to the commoner tit species. BWP quotes breeding densities in mixed deciduous woodland in southern England of 4.5 to 9.0 pairs per sq.km, giving 11ha to 22ha for each pair, whereas in coppiced woodland with Oak standards in France, values were 16 to 26 pairs per sq.km equivalent to areas of 4ha to 6ha for each pair (Cramp & Perrins 1993). Thus, in order to determine the number of pairs from individual sightings

Table 1. Summary of results

	2014	2015	2016	Total
<i>HIWWT survey area</i>				
Total sub-sites	34	34*	33*	74
Sub-sites with Willow Tits	17	2*	19*	25
Sub-site encounter rate	50%	6%	58%	34%
Willow Tit territories (new)	22	2	3	27
Willow Tit territories (repeat)	n/a	3	18	n/a
<i>HOS survey area</i>				
Total sites	8	21*	18*	30
Sites with Willow Tits	5	6*	6*	12
Site encounter rate	63%	29%	33/%	40%
Willow Tit territories (new)	5	5	6	16
Willow Tit territories (repeat)	n/a	2	3	n/a
Additional records by others**				
Willow Tit territories (new) in HIWWT area				5
Willow Tit territories (new) in HOS area				4
Combined total of Willow Tit territories	27	12*	30*	52

* Includes sites and territories for repeat surveys

** From HOS databases in and around HIWWT/HOS survey areas (2014-16) plus 2017 updates.

or singing males, separations of at least 200m and conservatively up to 300m or more have been assumed between adjacent territories.

The spatial distribution of territories is also shown in Figure 3 on a tetrad basis for ease of comparison with *HBA* and to preserve confidentiality of the individual sites. The density and spread of records are indicated by the number of individual 100m squares where Willow Tits were recorded in each tetrad. Note that these are more than twice the number of singing males or pairs as territories extended over more than one 100m square.

Figure 3 clearly shows the two main groups of records corresponding to the HIWWT and HOS survey areas with birds present in a total of five hectads, three to the north and two to the south of the dividing upper Test Valley. The group in the HIWWT area had the higher numbers and was located mostly in SU53 and SU54 (including Facombe and Hurstbourne Tarrant) with records in 84 100m squares in 19 tetrads. This compared to 24 tetrads in the same area in *HBA*. The other group was mostly in SU45 (Dummer) with records in 40 100m squares in 12 tetrads compared to seven tetrads in this area in *HBA*. Note from Table 1 that the larger group contained up to 32 territories whereas the smaller group comprised up to 20 territories. Areas above the 150m contour are also shown in Figure 3. The correlation between Willow Tits and high ground is striking. This is further illustrated in Figure 4 which shows the number of 100m squares with Willow Tits in each 10m band up to the quoted altitudes. Note despite the highest ground in the HOS area being only 206m, whereas parts of the HIWWT area rose to 266m, 90% of all locations were at or above 140m.

The presence of potentially competing Marsh Tits *Poecile palustris* and predatory Great Spotted Woodpeckers *Dendrocopos major* was also examined. In the three year HOS survey, Marsh Tits were found in all of the 12 woods occupied by Willow Tits, with 19 Marsh Tit territories compared to 16 Willow Tit territories, thus demonstrating that the two species generally co-exist in the same woods, although it is not understood how they have adapted ecologically to occupy these similar habitats. Marsh Tits were also found in 13 of the other 18 woods which had no Willow Tits to give an overall presence in 25 out of 30 woods (83%) compared to only 12 out of 30 (40%) for Willow Tits. Summing all woods in the HOS area over all years, the number of Marsh Tit territories was at least 42, between two and three times as many as Willow Tit territories.

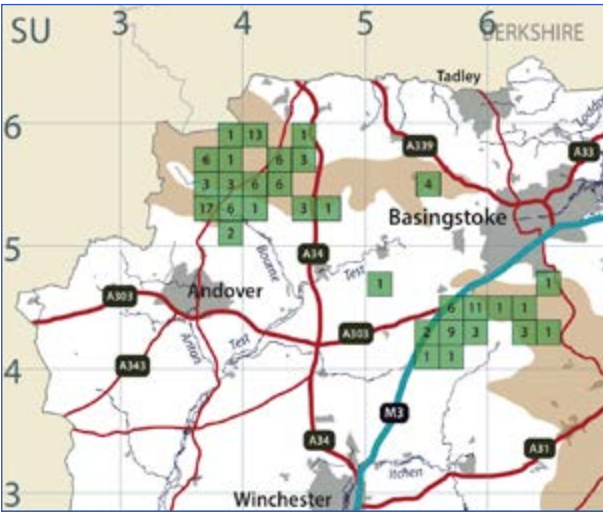


Figure 3. Breeding distribution map

Numbers in green squares indicate number of 100m squares within each tetrad (2km square) where Willow Tits were recorded. Land above 150m OS datum is shaded brown.

Great Spotted Woodpeckers were noted in five of the 12 Willow Tit woods (42%) compared with eight in the remaining 18 woods with no Willow Tits (44%). These small numbers do not justify drawing wider conclusions but the similar frequencies do not appear to indicate a major difference.

Discussion

In seeking a possible explanation for the marked contraction in the distribution of Willow Tits over the last 20 years, it is noted that the southern boundary of their retreating range given in the BTO *Bird Atlas* approximates closely to the average July isotherm for a mean maximum temperature of 22°C as shown in Figure 5. It can also be seen that the northern boundary

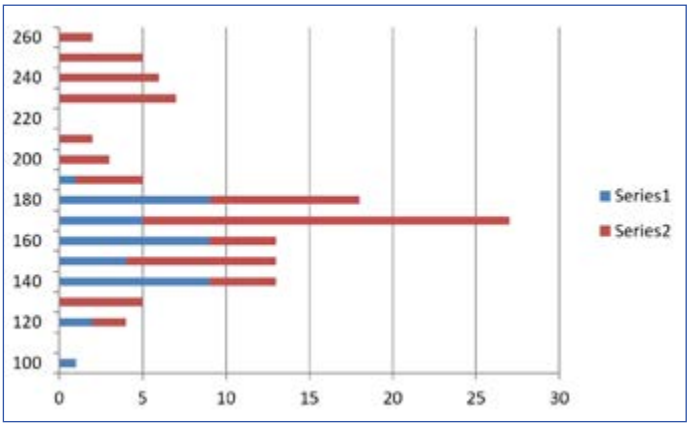


Figure 4. Altitudes (metres above Ordnance Datum) and numbers of 100m squares where Willow Tits were recorded.

Series 1 is HOS survey area and Series 2 is HIWWT survey area.

approximates closely to the 20°C isotherm suggesting that the distribution of Willow Tits in Britain may now be sensitive to a fairly narrow range of maximum summer temperatures.

Climate change is causing warmer summers and as a result the July average isotherms are moving northwards. Across Europe, the separate races of Willow Tits have a more northerly, but partly overlapping, distribution with Marsh Tits. They endure lower winter temperatures but appear on range to be limited by maximum summer temperatures. A possible explanation for the small outlying remnant populations in north-west Hampshire, compared to the rest of south-east England, is therefore their altitude high on the chalk downs. The heights of between 95m and 175m for the Dummer sites and 120m to 239m for the HIWWT sites are significantly higher than sites in lowland Britain. Depending on the lapse rate, this height difference could account for a lower temperature of about one degree Celsius, which is

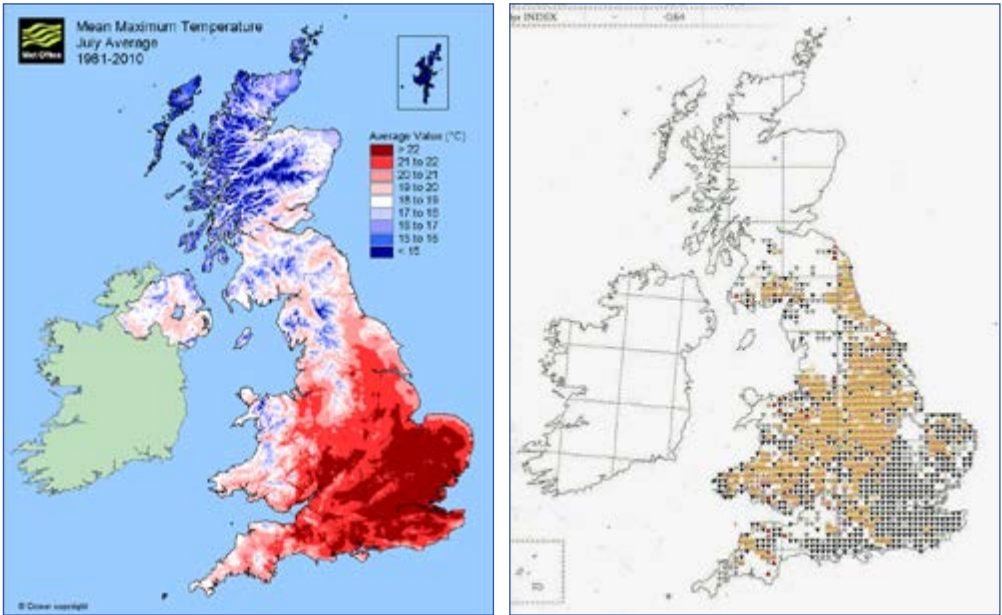


Figure 5. Comparison between (left) mean maximum temperature July average 1981-2010 (20-22°C = pale red + pink) and (right) Willow Tit breeding distribution and changes since 1968-72 (gains = red triangles; stable = brown areas; losses = black triangles)

Sources: MetOffice website and BTO *Bird Atlas 2007-11*.

equivalent to lowland temperatures across much of the Willow Tit's remaining range in the midlands and north. Other reasons why the small population in north-west Hampshire could be hanging on are:

- Most woods are privately owned and managed for Pheasant shoots in winter. This usually involves maintaining feeders and often controlling predatory species such as Jay *Garrulus glandarius*, Magpie *Pica pica* and Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* as well as rodents, mustelids etc. Whilst Great Spotted Woodpeckers are known from elsewhere to be probably the greatest threat (Rustell 2015), any reduction in predation pressure from corvids or stoats and weasels may be of benefit to this marginal population. As most woods were unfenced, another relevant factor may be deer control which results in retention of understorey. On the other hand, keepered woods may simply be preferred by Willow Tits as they tend to be more remote, larger in area and less managed with respect to forestry activities.
- The remaining occupied areas comprise individual woods linked in a mosaic of wooded field boundaries or connecting woodland. Thus, if individuals are lost to predation or natural causes, they can be more readily replaced by others.

Should climate change be ultimately confirmed as the primary cause, there is little in the long term which can be done to reverse the trend. However, in the meantime the currently proposed management measures, to provide adequate rotting stumps for nest sites and scalloped woodland edges and other managed areas of scrub to create more feeding opportunities, should be pursued in conjunction with deer control to protect scrub. Provision of artificial nest boxes (Last & Burgess 2015), which should also be made woodpecker-proof, may also be considered at low densities commensurate with the size of Willow Tit territories but only if there is considered to be a lack of natural nest sites. Caution needs to be exercised as excessive provision of boxes may promote expansion of competitor tit species. In addition, linkages between woodlands must be preserved or enhanced by tree planting to provide the necessary connectivity to maintain viable clusters of Willow Tits. Active coppicing is not recommended as it would lead to short and medium-term loss of habitat including loss of the rotting stumps needed for nest sites. At best, these measures could make a significant improvement, and at worst they may still be of benefit by extending the time before populations become no longer viable.

Conclusions

The surveys described in this paper indicate that a small population of over 30 and possibly up to 52 singing males or pairs remained in north-west Hampshire in the 104 woodland sites/sub-sites surveyed, together with five other locations where singing birds were found by others between 2014 and 2017. Whilst a few territories were located well to the east and south of the others, most were found in discrete clusters in connected woodland. Overall, they formed two separate groups which are probably distinct populations due to their mutual isolation, the larger comprising up to 32 territories in the north-west including Facombe and Hurstbourne Tarrant, and the other with up to 20 territories near Dummer. In terms of distribution, despite differences in the two survey areas, the overall total of 32 occupied tetrads found in 2014-17 was similar to the total of 31 tetrads recorded in the same areas between 2007-12 in HBA.

It is clear that we still have much to learn about habitat preference and ecological drivers for the continued presence of Willow Tits. Their preferred habitat in Hampshire of derelict coppiced woodland, mostly at or above 140m with a dense scrub layer, is not typical of other parts of Britain, where damp Willow or Alder is preferred, often at low level. However, previous records indicate that Willow Tits have been present in this habitat in north and north-west Hampshire for many years. Their survival only on higher land probably also explains why the HIWWT and HOS survey areas do not appear to be interlinked as much of the intervening apparently suitable habitat in the upper Test Valley between Whitchurch and Overton is below 100m. Former breeding sites at similar or lower altitudes around Basingstoke, such

as Carpenters Down (80m to 90m) and Morgaston Wood (80m), have not been used by Willow Tits during the last 15 years (M. Pitt pers. comm.).

Whilst isolated records have also been submitted in recent years to HOS from other widespread locations such as the New Forest, Old Winchester Hill and Queen Elizabeth Park, the mystery remains as to why Willow Tits are now absent from most of their former range in the county. Climate change, which is resulting in warmer summer temperatures advancing northwards, is suggested as a possible cause because the Willow Tit's retreating range boundary in south-east England closely matches the advancing 22°C average maximum July isotherm. Furthermore, it offers an explanation for their continued presence in the north and north-west of Hampshire as these areas remain slightly cooler than most of south-east England due to their altitude. It remains unknown as to what aspect of warmer summer temperatures might limit their range (e.g. summer food supply or availability of suitable nest sites) and other potential factors, not related to climate change, may be at work.

A further positive factor in their survival in Hampshire may be due to their location mostly in private woodland managed for pheasant shoots, often with deer and predator control. Willow Tits are only single-brooded and, with apparently only two very small and fragile populations, any lessening of predation pressures is likely to benefit survival. As Marsh Tits were found in all woods surveyed by HOS, competitive pressure from this species does not appear to be a major factor, but predation from Great Spotted Woodpeckers may be relevant.

Recommended management measures have been identified and HIWWT have produced an advisory leaflet which they have distributed to landowners and managers. Whether these measures prove adequate against the march of climate change only time will tell.

Acknowledgements

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First for Hampshire: Alpine Accentor at Brownwich

George Else



Alpine Accentor, Brownwich Cliffs, Apr 13th (George Else)

Abstract

An Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* was found and photographed at Brownwich on April 13th 2016. The record has been accepted by BBRC (Holt *et al.* 2017) and is the first for Hampshire. The following account, which is based on an article previously posted on BirdGuides (Else 2016), describes the finding and identification of this unexpected montane species. It goes on to show that this record formed part of an exceptional spring movement of this species northwards across western Europe, and ends by summarising Alpine Accentor's global range and status within Great Britain.

Circumstances and Description

I visited Brownwich Cliffs on the Solent coast on April 13th 2016. The site lies between the end of the Hill Head promenade adjacent to Titchfield Haven and the stream at Sea House, which separates it from Chilling Cliff to the north-west. It is an area that I have regularly visited for many years for its populations of bees, in particular for one of the mining bee genus, *Colletes cunicularius*, for which this is the sole known Hampshire site, and for another, *Andrena vaga*, which only occurs here and at Dungeness.

I was walking alone along the pebble beach towards Hill Head. Visibility was excellent and the day was warm and sunny with only scattered clouds and a gentle easterly breeze. At about 10:50 I was near the north-western end of the cliff when I noticed a bird at the top of the beach only three to four metres away. Whilst struggling to extract my camera from my haversack, it took flight but fortunately landed at the base of the cliff about ten metres away. For five minutes I studied it through the lens of my camera and took a series of 48 images. It gradually ascended the cliff, moving about at times quite actively from ledge to ledge and apparently feeding as it did so. On reaching the summit, it disappeared from view and I did not see it again. During my observations, no other birds were nearby.

It was the size of a Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. The head and breast were unmarked blue/grey. The closed wings were blackish-brown with some conspicuous white spotting. The flanks were a distinct reddish colour. The bill was in part bright yellow. I had no idea what it was though both Alpine Accentor and Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* were at the back of my mind. I immediately dismissed both possibilities as too fanciful but could think of no pipit that remotely resembled it. Later that day, at home, I sent some images to a few friends for their opinions. In the meantime I studied my field guides when it became obvious, by comparing illustrations with my photographs, that the bird was indeed an Alpine Accentor. This

identification was later confirmed by those to whom I had sent the images. The photographs are, alas, of poor quality but sufficient to support the identification.

The news was broadcast by BirdGuides on April 14th but despite further searching that day the bird was not found again.

Editorial Comments

Other records during the same period

Surprisingly, the Hampshire sighting proved not to be an isolated occurrence but instead part of a wider unprecedented northerly movement across western Europe. This began with one on the Dutch coast on April 5th followed the next day by a flock of 13 in mountains near Frankfurt in Germany and a single near Stuttgart. Further reports from Germany on 7th included two in northern Hessen, two on the North Sea coast at Cuxhaven and an increase in flock size to 20 near Frankfurt. On 12th in Britain, the day before the Hampshire bird, another was reported from Scolt Head, Norfolk. A second was also found in northern Holland on 14th. On 17th, 15 were reported from Lorraine, France – again well north of their usual wintering areas. New reports continued into May with singles at Gibraltar Point in Lincolnshire and Skagen, Denmark, both on 7th.

Alpine Accentors often share the same breeding habitats as Snowfinches *Montifringilla nivalis* and it was therefore less of a surprise to find the movement also involved this latter species with over 20 being recorded north of their normal range in Germany with smaller numbers in France and even one as far as Poland. The reasons for this irruption of normally altitudinal montane species are as yet unknown but a clue to their origin was provided by a colour-ringed Alpine Accentor seen in Germany on April 14th 2016 which had been ringed near Alicante, south-eastern Spain on March 7th 2013 and retrapped in the same place on February 6th 2015.

Previous records and status

Thus, the species is reinstated to the Hampshire List, a previously accepted record of three on January 19th-21st 1926 at Beaulieu having been rejected as part of the review of Category B species (prior to 1950) because of the unusual date and number and not wholly convincing description (Combridge & Clark 2009). The species nearly also made it to Hampshire in 1990 when one was present between May 27th and June 6th on the cliffs near the Needles, Isle of Wight, only a tantalizing 5km south of Hurst Castle,

Alpine Accentor has a wide range from northern Africa across southern Europe to East Asia including Morocco, Algeria, Spain and France in the west through south-east Europe and the mid-latitudes of Asia to China, Japan and Taiwan in the east. It typically breeds above 1,800m above sea level in rocky mountainous areas with the nearest strongholds being in the Pyrenees and Alps with some also in France's Massif Central. It is known mostly as a resident or altitudinal migrant, with birds descending to lower altitudes in winter, but it occasionally wanders further including to Britain. Before the occurrences in 2016, the last records in Great Britain had been single occurrences at Holme, Norfolk on April 26th 2014 and ten years earlier at Overstrand, Norfolk on April 20th 2004. The spring dates were reported as typical for British records of this species with 17 (81%) of the sightings in the previous 100 years occurring between March and June with only four in autumn. The total number of records previous to 2016 was 36 with a long-term average of about one every three years (Hudson *et al.* 2015).

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First for Hampshire: Pallid Harrier at Needs Ore

Nigel Jones

Abstract

A first-year Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* was found at Needs Ore on November 6th and returned to roost each evening until November 13th. The record has been accepted by BBRC (Holt *et al.* 2017) and is the first for Hampshire.

Circumstances

On the Sunday November 6th, my wife Sandy and I arrived into the packed car park at Needs Ore. We were informed that Bryan Pinchen was leading a group around the reserve and that they had found a Pallid Harrier. We walked a short distance to view the foreshore and there was the harrier, on the ground, feeding on the corpse of a Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* which had died a few days previously. We watched as it tore off strips of meat from the breast of the goose. After a few minutes, it took flight and quartered the marsh before pitching down into the vegetation. It later reappeared and continued to feed on the goose.

The goose became the focus of the bird's attention for the next few days but it began to range over a larger area, hunting over the reed beds, the salt marsh of the Beaulieu Estuary and straying as far as Park Shore. Each evening it roosted in one of the reed beds. The last confirmed sighting was on Sunday November 13th.

At least 60 birders managed to view the harrier during its stay – the reserve is private and is only accessible by permit which can be bought from the Beaulieu Estates offices.

Description and Identification

Its light build and slim narrow-winged appearance reduced the options to either Montagu's *C. pygargus* or Pallid Harrier and its rufous underparts identified it as a juvenile. The head pattern provided the diagnostic difference between the two species with its complete broad pale buff-white collar highlighting the extensive dark cheek patch and its unstreaked brown neck, referred to by some as a dark 'boa'. Montagu's of the same age would have had a much weaker less prominent darker buff collar, together with some streaking on the neck and often on the flanks. In addition, the primaries of a Montagu's would have shown dark tips to the underwing and a darker trailing edge whereas the Pallid showed a pale trailing edge and light primary tips to the underwing.

Previous Records and Changing Status

The breeding range of Pallid Harrier according to Birdlife International is mostly across the steppes of Asiatic Russia and Kazakhstan to north-west China with small populations in Romania, Turkey and Ukraine (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/pallid-harrier-circus-macrourus/text>). It is prone to irruptions and has bred in several western European countries including Sweden and Germany. Mixed pair breeding also occurred in Finland in 1993 (male Pallid x female Montagu's) and Scotland in 1996 (male Pallid x female Hen) (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). Since then, it has continued to expand its range westwards and is now a regular breeder in Finland with possibly up to 20 pairs (<http://www.luontoportti.com/suomi/en/linnut/pallid-harrier>). It is a long-distance migrant which winters south to sub-Saharan Africa, Arabia, India, and Burma. Some also winter in North Africa and around the east Mediterranean.

Formerly, Pallid Harrier was a very rare vagrant to Britain with only ten records by 2001. Numbers started increasing after this with 29 records by 2010. The rate of increase then rose sharply with an influx into Britain of 29 in the next year, and by 2015, when 11 were recorded, the total had risen to 87 according to BBRC. Satellite tracking of a Finnish breeder has shown its migration route to be through western Europe, passing closest to Britain in Belgium, before

crossing the Straits of Gibraltar to Africa (<https://www.luomus.fi/en/pallid-harriers>). In addition, individuals have recently over-wintered in Britain (Norfolk), Holland and Spain, and successful breeding was reported for the first time in Holland in 2017 (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/b/biodiversity/archive/2017/07/14/pallid-harriers-breed-in-netherlands-for-the-first-time.aspx>). Given its westward expansion and the increase in British records this century, it was only a matter of time before this overdue species was recorded in Hampshire.

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Juvenile Pallid Harrier, Needs Ore, Nov 6th
(Top: Lee Fuller; bottom left: Alan Lewis, bottom right: Nigel Jones)

First for Hampshire and Great Britain: Chinese Pond Heron at East Dean in 2004

Alan Cox

Abstract

A breeding plumage Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* was seen and photographed at East Dean, Hampshire on November 13th 2004. Details were published in the *Hampshire Bird Report 2004* (Cox 2005a) with the status given as 'Origin Unknown (East Asia)'. BBRC did not dispute the identification but at the time considered that there was a high probability that it was not of wild origin. However, twelve years later in October 2016, BOURC accepted Chinese Pond Heron to Category A of the British List based on a record from Hythe, Kent in early 2014. This led to a review of the status of the 2004 record and shortly afterwards they accepted to Category A the 2004 Hampshire bird, which had also been previously seen in Norfolk, as the first British record as it predated Kent by nearly ten years. The following is an account of the events and processes that have led to this decision.

Prologue

The *Hampshire Bird Report 2004* also reported the passing of HOS's former President, James Hancock (Evans 2005). James had an international reputation for his worldwide studies of the heron family and allies and published several well-received monographs. In *The Herons Handbook* (Hancock & Kushlan 1984), he included a description of the *Ardeola* genus as follows: 'The pond herons, *Ardeola*, are small Old World species. The four Asian pond herons (Indian, Chinese, Javan and Malagasy) share a characteristic wing shape and constitute a superspecies of closely related forms.' James would have been astonished that the *HBR 2004* Review of the Year (Cox 2005b) described the occurrence in Hampshire of one of this genus – an unmistakable Chinese Pond Heron in breeding plumage. What was far more problematical to determine was the provenance of the bird.

Autumn Migration 2004

Northern hemisphere meteorological conditions during October 2004 deserve scrutiny as during that month there was a stream of East Palearctic vagrants into eastern Britain, including two Pechora Pipits *Anthus gustavi*, six White's Thrushes *Zoothera aurea*, three Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers *Locustella certhiola* plus three firsts for Britain referred to below.

A series of eight autumnal typhoons affected Japan, the Korean peninsula and eastern China causing structural damage and loss of life. The last of three in October, Typhoon Tokage, active between 15th and 23rd (NASA 2017), reached wind speeds of 145mph at peak and caused 69



Breeding plumage Chinese Pond Heron, East Dean, Nov 13th 2004 (Robert Churchill)

deaths in Japan alone. Satellite data for October show barometric pressure at both sea level and altitude providing easterly airflow extending from east China into Europe. Strong east to south-easterlies stretched from Kazakhstan across the southern flank of Europe and cyclonic weather systems then wheeled air flows into north-west Europe. It is thus not difficult to imagine displaced and scattered migrants picking up east-west airflows and then being carried north-west onto the British east coast.

Powerful cyclonic storms affected Britain between October 8th-9th and again around 27th. In the intervening period the Shetland islands provided landfall for the majority of the East Palearctic visitors described above including, on Fair Isle, two new species for Europe – Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* from 15th-20th (Shaw 2008) and Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* on 23rd (Shaw 2006). Deryck Shaw described it then as ‘perhaps the most exhilarating late autumn on record for Britain’s northernmost county’. The third new species in October/November 2004 was a Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus* from south-east Europe/west Asia, first seen in Fife on October 29th.

Two days later, on October 31st, a home owner living just behind the coastal sand dunes at Eccles-on-Sea in north-east Norfolk noted a strange bird on his newly-dug garden pond and invited his birding neighbour, Neil Bowman, to view it. On arrival Neil instantly recognised the bird as a Chinese Pond Heron in breeding plumage. The bird was wary and took flight whilst he was trying to photograph it. Fortunately, it later reappeared and he was able to obtain an image (Bowman 2017). Neil noted the pond heron’s pristine condition, with no obvious feather wear associated with birds kept in captivity, the bare parts also showing no evidence of captive origin. It flew off at 15:00 and did not return. On November 13th Sarah and Robert Churchill at East Dean near Lockerley, just inside the Hampshire border with Wiltshire, noted a small heron on their garden pond which backs onto the River Dun water meadows. Robert succeeded in digiscoping the heron but was unable to identify it (see photo on previous page). Ninety minutes later the bird took off heading east and did not return.

He sent his photo to his local RSPB representative who identified it as a breeding plumage Chinese Pond Heron. Furthermore, it appeared to be the same bird as seen 13 days earlier in Norfolk as both sets of photos revealed a pale spot located above and behind the eye, peculiar to this individual. The Hampshire Recorder, John Clark, working with Robert submitted the record to BBRC for assessment alongside that from Norfolk.

Breeding Status, Passage and Vagrancy of Chinese Pond Heron

HBW Alive (2017) states that Chinese Pond Herons breed from Assam, India to littoral China in the south and east and through Inner Mongolia to the Korean peninsula in the north. Recent expansion has also resulted in breeding on all Japan’s islands apart from Hokkaido. The southerly breeding population of China is thought to be sedentary whilst the population of north-eastern China (Kushlan & Hancock 2005) is migratory. Autumn passage occurs from late August to mid or late October, with wintering in south-east Asia as far south as Singapore and Sumatra. In addition, there are a number of vagrancy records beyond Asia. These include records from Norway in autumn 1973 (shot, probably October); Pribilof Islands, Alaska (August 1996) and Hungary (August 2000). More recently there have been records at Broome, West Australia (March 2008), 2,500km south-east of its most southerly wintering grounds in Sumatra; St Lawrence, Alaska (July 2011), a distance of 4,300km north-east from its most easterly breeding site in Japan; Finland (July 2007 and August 2012); Denmark (June 21st 2016) and the same individual two days later in Norway (June 23rd 2016). All vagrancy records were of adults in breeding plumage including unexpectedly the autumn 1973 individual in Norway. The Australian and North American records committees admitted the species to the relevant wild categories of their national lists, as initially did those of Norway and Hungary. However, more recently Norway conducted a review of older records (Mjøs 2002) and the 1973 record was rejected, solely because vagrancy was deemed unlikely in an adult. Hungary followed this lead and subsequent European records described above have been

categorised as possible escapes by their national committees (excluding 2016 records which have not yet been assessed at the time of writing).

The Kent Immature Pond Heron 2014

A pond heron in immature plumage, initially thought to be a Squacco Heron *A.ralloides*, was found at Hythe, Kent on January 17th 2014. It was then seen intermittently by many observers, either at Hythe or nearby at Saltwood, until March 13th and was found dead on 25th. Roberts & Dawson (2017) describe the painstaking efforts to resolve its identification. The late Martin Garner, through his *Birding Frontiers* website, provided a forum to discuss and advance knowledge on the identification of immature pond herons (Garner 2014a). Correspondence included photos taken at Bangkok, Thailand by Dave Gandy that enabled first-winters of the closely allied Javan *A. speciosa* and Chinese Pond Herons to be separated in many cases. Both DNA and stable isotope analyses were carried out from recovered feather remains of the Kent bird. The former confirmed the photo identification as Chinese Pond Heron, whilst the latter was consistent with the diet of a native distribution in East Asia, although other regions in the world shared the same isotopic attributes (McInerny & Stoddart 2017).

Suspended Moults in Adults

The most puzzling and controversial aspect of the 2004 Norfolk and Hampshire record was its retained breeding plumage into late autumn. BBRC sought views on this aspect from leading East Asian ornithologists, in particular Paul Leader based in Hong Kong (Rogers 2005). Paul sees Chinese Pond Heron throughout the year in Hong Kong, where it is resident though with an undetermined migratory element, and had never recorded a breeding plumage individual into October and rarely September. However, in October 2014 in Bangkok, Dave Gandy photographed for the first time a Chinese Pond Heron with retained breeding plumage (see below). Furthermore, this individual's plumage remained unchanged at least into November (Garner 2014b).



Chinese Pond Heron, Bangkok, Thailand, Nov 26th 2014
(Dave Gandy)

For this article, the author contacted ornithologists in Singapore because it is near the southern wintering limit of Chinese Pond Herons and all birds seen there are from the migrant population. Wang Luan Keng of The Nature Workshop, Singapore and co-author of the *Singapore Checklist* (Wang & Hails 2007) replied that she had not personally observed any Chinese Pond Heron in retained breeding plumage during autumn in Singapore but noted 'A birdwatcher in Singapore had reported seeing an individual in breeding plumage in October 1987.' The Singapore Natural History Society confirmed this record had been accepted (Alan Owyong, pers. comm.). Chinese Pond Herons arrive in Singapore from September/October, numbers peaking in the 20s in January, and depart in April/May. Of relevance to this paper, some individuals have

been reported to arrive in partial breeding plumage and others acquire it as early as March (Khng & Subaraj 2017). A photo study (Leong 2013) of transitional plumage monitored a group from March to May. The plumage transition of this group began in April and full breeding was not acquired until May as discussed below.

Captive Pond Herons in Europe

BOURC made an assessment of pond heron holdings in British and European zoos and public collections, first in 2004 and then again in 2014. BOURC found that only London Zoo (ZSL) held Chinese Pond Herons in their collection – a group of six in 2000 – but by October 2004 only one remained still safely captive in the zoo and in any case in non-breeding plumage! There were none listed in any other British collection. Elsewhere in Europe, eight zoos formerly held the species but a table published by Roberts & Dawson (2017) showed that none were present in 2004. The situation was the same in 2014; no European public collection was found to be holding the species. Furthermore, the EU ban on imports of wild birds from 2005 reduced the possibility of private collections holding Chinese Pond Herons. It is significant, however, that European collections are listed by McNerny & Stoddart (2017) as holding Squacco, Indian Pond and Javan Pond Herons in descending order of numbers (tabulated by Roberts & Dawson) contrasting with zero holdings of Chinese Pond Herons.

Whilst escapes are not known from these collections, an Indian Pond Heron in Belgium in July 1988 was assessed to be of unproven origin, whereas another in Finland in August/September 2016 is being treated as a potential vagrant.

BBRC and BOURC decisions

The review process and decisions 2005-2017 are thoroughly described by McNerny & Stoddart (2017) and are summarised here. BBRC 2004 Report (Rogers 2005) acknowledged that there was no doubting the identification of the 2004 Norfolk and Hampshire records but the difficulty was establishing whether the individual was an escape or not: ‘...this species is rare in captivity, so BBRC had to establish whether adults retain breeding plumage into October, and how likely westward vagrancy would be.’ On the basis of Paul Leader’s evidence and the then presumed unlikely western vagrancy, it was concluded that it was highly probable that the bird was not of wild origin (Rogers 2005), but the files were submitted to BOU as a species new to Britain. The first circulation responses from BOURC members noted that some herons are capable of very long-distance flight and that Chinese Pond Heron had vagrancy potential although, as described above, at that time there had been just three extralimital reports beyond Asia. BOURC noted that these records fell in August and October and, unusually, all were adults in breeding plumage. The issue of adult vagrancy did not influence the BOURC decision-making process as it was noted that vagrancy in adults is more frequent than juveniles/first-winters in some other species. The main stumbling block for BOURC members was the individual’s breeding plumage in late autumn. No evidence had been found for this occurring in wild birds, so it was concluded that perhaps the plumage indicated that the bird had been held in a captive environment which had caused the normal moult cycle to be delayed. There was also still a problem as none were known to be in captivity in 2004, in registered European collections at least (apart from one at ZSL described above). As a result, BOURC voted by a majority of six to four to treat the record as an escape (Category E), the minority of four having all voted for Category D (unknown origin).

However, 13 years later the situation had changed. Following the unanimous decision by BOURC (2016a) to accept the Kent record as of naturally occurring origin (Category A), an immediate review was undertaken of the 2004 record. Vagrancy had by then been judged as proven on three continents and additional extralimital records were steadily accumulating. By contrast the possibility of captive origin in the 2004 period was now assessed as even more improbable. Finally, there was documentary evidence of a retained breeding plumage individual on its wintering grounds in Thailand into late November, albeit still just one

individual. In the recirculation eight members of BOURC voted for Category A and one for D. In consequence, the individual recorded in Norfolk and Hampshire became the first for Britain (BOURC 2016b).

Discussion

Far East Asian vagrancy is a rare event and three new species to Britain in the single month of October 2004 is without precedent. The favourable meteorological events triggering possible vagrancy are described above. Proof of Chinese Pond Heron's long-distance vagrancy potential has been demonstrated through records in continental Europe, as described above, and at remote, extralimital island locations including two each at Christmas Island (March 2008, June 2011) and Cocos Islands (May 2006) in the Indian Ocean, and three within the Alaskan Pacific archipelago at Attu (May 2010), St Paul (August 1996) and St Lawrence (July 2011). On migration, it has also been observed at 4,000m in SW China (HBW Alive 2017).

Photo studies of plumage transition in the long-distance migrant Chinese Pond Heron population at Singapore in spring prior to northward migration have shown the process takes several weeks (Leong 2013). The photo set also show differences between full breeding plumage and that of the Norfolk/Hampshire and Bangkok individuals. Seemingly each had started their moult because the filial plume is absent and the bill lacks the contrast between black tip and yellow base shown in full breeding plumage photos (Leong 2013). Perhaps August 2004 typhoons impacting east Asia caused sufficient displacement and disruption for some birds to suspend their moult. If so, similar conditions might have been experienced by the autumn 1987 and 2014 individuals in Singapore and Bangkok. Alternatively, maybe a small proportion of the migratory population regularly suspend moult until after their arrival in wintering areas. The photo above (p.237) also shows more subdued, paler, dark plumage features compared to its appearance in Norfolk (Bowman 2017) suggesting a transition is ongoing.

Summary

Andrew Harrop, Chairman of BOURC, commented 'It should be understood that the categorisations of these two records are not based on absolute proof but rather on the balance of evidence. Most decisions about provenance are of this nature...' (Riddington 2017). What seemed an unlikely record initially in 2004 has, by a process of elimination and assembly of documentation, been voted by a majority of seven out of eight to be acceptable as of wild origin. Chinese Pond Heron is firmly established as a species capable of prodigious vagrancy potential. The weather patterns of autumn 2004 induced a passage of extralimital species into Britain on an unprecedented scale. Adverse weather through premature dispersal perhaps also played a part in disrupting the normal moult cycle of at least the individual concerned, causing breeding plumage moult to be suspended until after autumn migration. Whatever the reason, it has been shown that retained breeding plumage into October/November, whilst exceptional, does occur within the migrant population of Chinese Pond Heron. By contrast there is no documented evidence of escaped Chinese Pond Herons in Europe 2004; none were registered in zoos and searches by BOURC have found none in private collections. Whilst this paper has discussed Chinese Pond Herons in breeding plumage, the fact that the species is now accepted onto the British List suggests that autumn records of *Ardeola* species in non-breeding plumage deserve very careful scrutiny.

Acknowledgements

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Caspian Stonechat at Titchfield Haven: First record of distinctive race in Hampshire

Amy Robjohns



Male Siberian Stonechat, Titchfield Haven, May 11th (Simon Colenutt)

Abstract

An adult male Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus variegatus* at Titchfield Haven on May 10th-11th has been accepted by BBRC (Holt *et al.* 2017). This is the first record of this distinctive race of Siberian Stonechat to be recorded in Hampshire and only the sixth to be accepted for Great Britain.

Circumstances

Thick fog at dawn on May 10th hammered any seawatching attempts at Hill Head or scans of the beach. Not wanting to admit defeat, I began to wander up the canal path but was soon distracted by the large number of snails on the fence line, so instead began to count and photograph them, making the most of the fact that the road was closed. After about 350 snails, a stonechat hopped up onto the fence a few feet in front of me. I was immediately struck by two things: firstly, it was a very striking individual, and secondly, what was a stonechat doing here in May? The overwintering chats had moved off weeks ago and it certainly looked rather different, so something didn't quite add up. I remember thinking along the lines of 'surely that has to be a Siberian Stonechat', but couldn't yet prove it.

I managed to get a few photos before the bird flew off back into the scrub. As it did so, I noticed the large white rump and cursed myself for not videoing it instead. It didn't reappear for an hour or so and, with coursework to finish, it was time to abandon patch. The photos were uploaded onto Twitter and Facebook later that morning, causing some debate. I decided to put it out as a possible Siberian Stonechat as I was feeling rather convinced despite the lack of evidence! I also contacted a couple of locals including Dave Stevenson who was able to get useful footage later in the day which confirmed my suspicions.

In hindsight, I regret not returning that evening for another look. However, the final piece of the jigsaw was nailed by Dan Houghton, Simon Ingram, Mark Palmer and Dave Ryves who noticed the extensive white at the base of the tail feathers and managed to get shots confirming it to be a Caspian Stonechat. I couldn't quite believe it when I saw the photos on Facebook! The bird was still present the following day, showing the diagnostic rump and tail features much better than on 10th.

Description and Identification

Male Siberian Stonechats *Saxicola maurus* have a much blacker head and upperparts, whiter underparts, including flanks, and more restricted orange on the breast than European Stonechats *S. rubicola*, making their appearance, like the Titchfield bird, much more striking. Other key identification features noted on the photographs include the large, unstreaked white rump, a wider and more prominent white neck patch, large white area on the inner greater coverts and black axillaries. They are also longer winged, with greater primary projection similar to Whinchats *Saxicola rubetra*. In contrast, male European Stonechats have grey auxiliaries, and tend to have streaking on the rump. Male Caspian Stonechats are almost identical to other Siberian Stonechat races, but can be separated by the more extensive white in the tail, extending down from the rump to form an inverted 'T', similar to a Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (Svensson *et al.* 2009; Hellström & Wærn 2011; Clement & Rose 2015). This feature was clearly visible in several of the photographs and clinched the identification of this distinctive race.

Range and Previous Records

Currently BOURC recognises three races of Siberian Stonechat to have occurred in Great Britain: *maurus*, *variegatus* (Caspian Stonechat), and *stejnegeri* (Stejneger's Stonechat), the eastern race, which is treated as a separate species by IOC. Nominate *maurus* breeds from north-west Russia to central Siberia, *stejnegeri* breeds from east Siberia to the Russian Far East, Japan and north China, whilst *variegatus* has a much more limited range found only around the northern and western regions adjoining the Caspian Sea (Clement & Rose 2015).

Svensson *et al.* (2012) have proposed a further taxonomic rearrangement, which IOC have adopted, with birds from the north Caspian being named *hemprichii* instead of *variegatus* whilst reserving *variegatus* for *armenicus* from the south Caspian region, Caucasus, Turkey and Iran.

In Hampshire there have only been three previous records of Siberian Stonechat, all immatures in October. The 2016 record was thus unusual for the county both for being an adult male and for being in spring. The other five previous British records of *variegatus* have all been males with three being in spring similar to the Titchfield bird.

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The adventures of Selborne the Cuckoo

Tony Davis & Chris Hewson

In 2011 the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) commenced a programme of satellite tagging Cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* in an attempt to find out why they have declined by more than half over the last 25 years. Whilst they have been relatively well studied during the breeding season, virtually nothing was known about their migration routes or wintering grounds. Such information is clearly vital if we are to discover the reasons for their decline. The satellite tag weighs 5g and is fitted by a harness on to the bird's back. A solar panel charges the battery which enables the tag to transmit its location for ten hours before it goes in to a sleep mode for 48 hours to allow the battery to recharge. If the bird is in poor light conditions, such as in deep forest, it can take considerably longer for the recharging to occur.

On the morning of June 10th 2016, satellite tags were fitted to two male Cuckoos at Pig Bush in the New Forest. This is a delicate process, requiring one person to hold the bird whilst the other fits the tag, frees every single feather trapped under the harness, and ensures that the harness has just the right amount of movement on the bird.

Hampshire Ornithological Society agreed to sponsor the costs of the satellite tag for one of the Cuckoos which was named Selborne in commemoration of the great 18th century Hampshire naturalist, Gilbert White, who lived in Selborne. From the start Selborne seemed determined to be unconventional. He was the first tagged Cuckoo to leave the UK that year, on June 16th and, after a quick stop on the Isle of Wight, by dawn on 17th he was well into France, some 160 miles south of the Isle of Wight. He didn't stop there either; by 18th he was a further 150 miles south near La Rochelle; by 21st he had crossed into Spain, some 100 miles south of Bilbao and 624 miles from his New Forest 'home'.

The satellite tagging of British Cuckoos since 2011 has shown that they take two different routes south on their autumn migration, one through Spain and a more easterly route through Italy. Birds taking the Spanish route exhibit higher mortality on their migration, suggesting that feeding conditions in Spain are perhaps insufficient to fuel their onward journey (Hewson *et al.* 2016). Selborne raised the blood pressure of those following his progress on June 23rd by almost back-tracking on himself by over 100 miles, suggesting that he had not found good feeding conditions. His new location was clearly more suitable as he remained there until July 6th when he moved 262 miles south to Andalusia. At 2am on July 9th he was in Morocco and was still on the move, crossing into Algeria by 3:30am and by late afternoon he was in Mauritania, approximately half way across the Sahara. By 10:30am on 10th he had almost completed his crossing and was in Mali. Between 2am on July 9th and 10:30am on 10th he had flown just over 1,100 miles at an average speed of over 30mph into a light headwind and he was the earliest tagged Cuckoo ever to complete his desert crossing.



Selborne the Cuckoo with satellite tag and aerial, Pig Bush, New Forest, June 10th 2016 (Tara Dempsey)

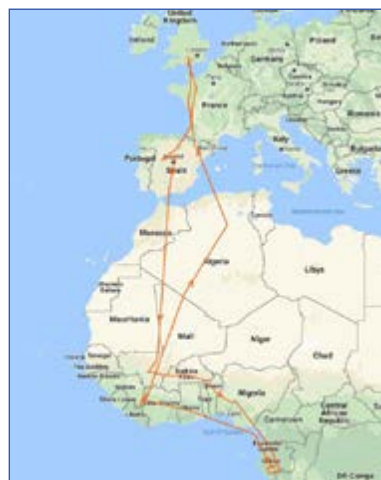


Figure 1. Selborne's track between June 10th 2016 and April 16th 2017

The other New Forest Cuckoo, named Jack, could not have done things more differently. He wandered around the Forest for much of June before spending a little time south of Romsey. On July 10th he finally crossed the Channel to a location just north of Paris. By early August he had only moved some 200 miles and was north-west of Lyon. In late August he was still in France, in the Loire Valley and mid-September only saw him reach northern Italy. At the beginning of October he still hadn't crossed into Africa but finally on October 4th he made his move. On October 6th he had reached Chad but by then the area was drying out after the rains and he failed to find enough food to recover from his journey.

Selborne on the other hand was finding conditions much more suitable and after spending the remainder of July in Mali, he headed east to Burkina Faso where he remained for much of August before moving 270 miles south-east to northern Benin on 27th. By September 22nd he had left Benin and was then in southern Nigeria, where he remained for a few days, before pushing on south-east to Equatorial Guinea by October 5th and then onwards to southern Gabon by 8th. He remained in Gabon until the latter part of January when he again decided to be unconventional.

On January 23rd he was on his way north but instead of taking the normal route around the Gulf of Guinea, he took a short cut straight across it, raising the blood pressure of his followers once again. His presence on a volcanic island in the Gulf of Guinea on 28th did little to ease concerns but by the morning of 30th he had moved over 700 miles north to Ghana. He didn't stop there however and late on February 1st he was another 500 miles north-west in southern Guinea. This was the earliest ever that a tagged Cuckoo had been recorded so far west, with late March or early April being a more typical arrival time in this area. There was concern that he had overshot the rains and he soon relocated 70 miles south to the Guinean forests where he remained until early March.

By March 7th Selborne had crossed the border into Ivory Coast. There was then no news until March 24th when his tag showed that he was about half way across the Sahara in central Algeria. By the early hours of 25th he had completed his desert crossing but he pressed on and by the morning of 27th he was in the Pyrenees in northern Spain. After resting in this area for a few days, Selborne was moving north again on April 9th when his tag showed him to be in Brittany where he had another short refuelling before crossing the Channel on the night of 11th, arriving in the Isle of Wight in the early hours of the 12th, becoming the earliest ever tagged Cuckoo to reach the UK. There he remained until 16th when he made the final hop back to the New Forest. At the time of his arrival 'home', only one other tagged Cuckoo had left West Africa. Figure 1 shows the tracks of Selborne's southward migration in 2016 and return in 2017.

Anyone wishing to follow the exploits of Selborne and the other tagged Cuckoos, or to donate to the ongoing costs of the project, can visit <https://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking>.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Forestry Commission for permission to tag Cuckoos on Crown Estate land in the New Forest and Hampshire Ornithological Society for their generous funding of the cost of Selborne's tag.

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Raft Nesting Common Terns at Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve

Bob Chapman

Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* have nested in Hampshire since 1948, with colonies on the coast growing throughout the following forty years so that by the mid-1980s the population stood at around 450 pairs. During this period, the first inland nesting took place in 1967 at Blashford Lakes on artificial rafts placed out for ducks (Clark & Eyre 1985).

However, since the 1980s coastal nesting populations have seen declines which have been put down to multiple causes which include:

- Increased competition with nesting Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*.
- Increased predation.
- Flooding by high tides during the nesting season.
- Poor provisioning of chicks due to non-availability of suitable fish.

Common Terns in Hampshire typically nest close to Black-headed Gull colonies; this probably reflects the coincidence of suitable habitat rather than choice. As coastal nesting gull colonies grew during the mid-20th century, the gulls tended to use the more vegetated shingle and saltmarsh with the terns using the bare shingle ridges. Latterly rising sea levels have pushed the gulls off the lower lying saltmarsh and onto the higher shingle areas. This has pushed all species closer together resulting in direct competition for nest sites. This is compounded by the fact that the gulls occupy the nesting areas before the terns arrive each spring.

Nesting gulls attract predators which will also predate the tern nests. The gulls are also significant predators in their own right, with Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* being a greater threat than Black-headed Gull. Finally, in some seasons terns have successfully hatched chicks only for them to die due to a shortage of food. This can be because small



Completed tern raft at Ivy Lake (Bob Chapman)

fish are not present within foraging range in sufficient numbers or the adults cannot catch them due to bad weather.

Nesting had continued at Blashford Lakes with numbers slowly increasing to around ten pairs by 2006. Further inland colonisation took place at Eversley Gravel Pits in the north-east of the county by 1991. Inland nesting at both of these sites was mainly on small islands left within the former gravel pits after they were flooded.

It has long been known that Common Terns will readily use rafts for nesting, so when HIWWT established a reserve across a large area of the Blashford Lakes complex in 2006, providing rafts to supplement the small number of suitable islands seemed an obvious course. As a result four rafts were placed on Ivy Lake in 2007. In 2006, prior to the rafts being deployed, all nesting occurred on shingle islands, either on Ibsley Water or Blashford Lake. In 2007 one pair nested on the new rafts on Ivy Lake and reared three chicks from three eggs laid. Three other pairs on Blashford Lake failed and about seven on Ibsley Water reared five chicks. From 2008 onwards, the rafts have held most, if not all, nesting terns at Blashford Lakes and overall nesting success has been very high. Indeed in 2010 most pairs reared chicks to the flying stage from every egg laid. In 2015 a subsidiary colony was started on a new raft in Ellingham Pound where three pairs nested each raising two chicks. A single pair also nested on Ibsley Water and probably raised at least one chick.

In late 2015 HOS decided to make available an annual budget for grant applications for conservation or research work to advance our knowledge of birds in Hampshire or help secure the position of those species that are challenged within the county. Grant applications were invited including a request from HIWWT for £2,254 to fund five additional tern rafts at Blashford Lakes to provide for colony growth at Ellingham Pound and consolidation at Ivy Lake. The request was approved by HOS Scientific Sub-Committee on Oct 29th 2015, materials were ordered and the rafts constructed by HIWWT between January and April 2016 and installed by May in time for the breeding season. In addition to the HOS grant some assistance with materials was given by Elliott Brothers' Builders Merchants, which allowed the project to be extended to replace all the old rafts, increasing the total number deployed to eight. Six rafts were put on Ivy Lake and two on the new site at Ellingham Pound. The new rafts were an immediate success and the numbers of pairs of terns in 2016 increased to 29, the highest ever at Blashford Lakes (Table 1).

Table 1. Common Tern raft nesting results at Blashford Lakes (2006-2016)

Year	No. of rafts	No. of pairs	Estimated no. chicks fledged	Approximate productivity per pair
2006	None	9	9	1
2007	4 Ivy Lake	11	8	0.73
2008	4 Ivy Lake	15	15+	1+
2009	4 Ivy Lake	17	30	1.76
2010	4 Ivy Lake	17	46	2.71
2011	4 Ivy Lake	18	42	2.33
2012	4 Ivy Lake	22	50	2.27
2013	4 Ivy Lake	20	36	1.80
2014	4 Ivy Lake	22	34	1.55
2015	4 Ivy Lake 1 Ellingham Pound	24	62	2.58
2016	6 Ivy Lake 2 Ellingham Pound	29	40	1.38

The rafts followed the successful design developed by HIWWT at Ellingham Pound with each raft being formed from four double-float modules supplied by Aqua-Dock Ltd of Worcestershire. These are long-lasting plastic floats with a good track-record in engineering

and pontoon use. They are moored to the lake bed and support a framed deck which is covered by a nesting substrate comprising lightweight pumice gravel 15-25mm. The overall deck area of each raft is approximately 2.4m x 2.4m which has proved suitable for up to ten pairs of terns.

Common Terns are potentially long-lived birds, with an adult survival rate of about 90% and an average lifespan of around 12 years. Survival to two years is around 47% (BTO Birdfacts), so it is likely that just over a third of all chicks that fledge will survive to breed at three years. Overall fledging success nationally runs at about 0.5-0.7 chicks per pair, but many colonies have been showing declines in recent years as they have failed to achieve productivity levels sufficient for maintenance. Table 1 above shows that since most pairs started to nest on the rafts at Blashford Lakes, breeding success has surpassed 0.7 chicks fledged per pair in every year, and has typically been more than twice that level. Although the colony has grown over the years it seems likely that many more chicks will have survived to breeding age than have returned, indicating that productivity at Blashford is supporting populations elsewhere.

Nesting on rafts addresses several of the drivers of nesting failure at the coast listed at the start of this note as follows:

- Competition with gulls may be avoided entirely where these are absent, or reduced by making the rafts available only when the terns arrive and so after most gulls have started nesting.
- Predation by ground-based predators is largely eliminated and raft design reduces the likelihood of other predation by making water-based access difficult and providing large shelters for chicks which allows them to hide from aerial predators. Shelters also provide protection from wind, rain and sun, all hazards for young chicks.
- Rafts float and so eliminate flood risk entirely.

Whilst rafts themselves do not aid provisioning for chicks, it has been shown that inland nesting terns travel shorter distances to find food and so can more easily provision their chicks (Becker *et al.* 1997) This also reduces predator impact as there will more often be adults attending the chicks and available to drive off predators.

The supplying of nesting rafts for Common Terns on suitable inland waters is of conservation benefit, the resulting colonies making a nett input to the overall population out of proportion to their size. Rafts are also a relatively cost-effective way of providing nesting areas for terns when compared to many coastal initiatives such as shingle recharge. At a time of coastal habitat loss, the relative importance of artificial nesting sites inland is likely to increase and the long-term survival of Common Tern as a breeding species in Hampshire may depend upon inland sites.

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The Hampshire Swift Survey: An Update

Andy Broadhurst & Tim Norriss

Swifts *Apus apus* have declined across the UK by over 50% in the past 22 years (Robinson *et al.* 2016). They breed almost exclusively on buildings and rely on being able to access a space within the structure to lay their eggs. As a consequence Swifts use buildings which have gaps and holes through which they can access their nest sites. Such holes are largely characteristic of older properties and Swift nest sites are potentially being lost each time a building is renovated or demolished. New-build properties are designed with energy efficiency in mind and use plastics and other materials which don't allow Swifts to access potential breeding sites. As a consequence, as older properties are renovated and replaced, the overall stock of potential Swift nest sites is decreasing on an annual basis.

If we are to protect existing Swift nest sites we need to know where they are located. To do this we initiated the Hampshire Swift Survey in 2016; an annual survey designed to collect precise data on where Swifts are breeding. The Swift survey can be done individually or by organising Swift walks, which add a social element to the survey and invariably attract interest from the public as well as the occupants of houses with breeding Swifts. The survey operates on two levels, with approximate breeding areas being identified by the presence of low-level screaming parties of Swifts followed by patient work identifying the precise location of individual nests. An online form was created on the Hampshire Swifts website at <https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/> to collect data on the presence, location and composition of low-level screaming parties and the precise location of nest sites. Data were also submitted to the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).

In 2016 we received 209 individual records submitted by over 50 observers, including 64 records provided by the RSPB as part of their Swift Inventory programme. A record corresponds to a specific location and can include confirmed (i.e. single or multiple breeding sites) or probable breeding (low-level screaming parties). Breeding was confirmed at 101 locations with a minimum of 380 individual nests found. Probable breeding was reported in an additional 108 sites. 125 (60%) of the submitted records were from Southampton (40), Portsmouth (31), Lymington (23), Winchester (21) and Basingstoke (10). The most notable additional records were from Romsey (8), Stockbridge (7), Ringwood (5), Brockenhurst (4), Overton (4), Alton (3), Andover (3), Petersfield (3), New Milton (3) and Wherwell (3), a total of 43 locations or 20% of the total. These results will be skewed towards areas with greater coverage and it is likely many Swift breeding sites remain unreported through lack of survey effort. The data will be analysed to identify areas which should be targeted in future years.

Finding Swift nests requires patience and luck. Once identified, they can be protected and monitored on an annual basis. The success of the survey is completely dependent upon volunteers confirming the continued use of known nest sites or spending time identifying previously unknown nest sites. Surveying Swifts in such detail provides hitherto unknown information on the precise location and numbers of nest sites, contributing to their conservation. Surveying also provides the opportunity to raise awareness of the plight of Swifts with members of the public and householders who are often unaware they have nesting Swifts.

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The Hampshire Ornithological Society

Organisation and Membership

Background

The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society was founded in 1885 and the Ornithological Section in 1954. The section grew steadily over the next 25 years, and in March 1979 the separate Hampshire Ornithological Society was established. The society now has a membership of around 1600, many of whom actively take part in the Society's programme of bird surveys. The aims of the society are summarised on the inside front cover of this Report.

Membership

All members receive the annual *Hampshire Bird Report* and the quarterly magazine *Kingfisher*. Membership is available as follows (correct at September 1st, 2017):

Ordinary Membership: £12 p.a.

Family Membership (two or more members at the same address): £12 p.a.

Corporate Membership (sponsors, schools, Bird Clubs, etc): £12 p.a.

Junior Membership (under 18): £5 p.a.

To join, send your name and address with the appropriate subscription to:

Membership Secretary: Kay Shillitoe

Westerly, Hundred Acres Road, Wickham PO17 6HY

e-mail: kay@shillitoe.freemove.co.uk telephone: 01329 833086

Applications to join after September 30th (to the year end) shall also cover the succeeding calendar year. Members so joining will not receive the *Hampshire Bird Report* published in the year they join but will be able to obtain it at a reduced price. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st each year. The preferred method of payment is by standing order, but payments may also be made by internet banking (forms and full details are on the HOS website).

Meetings & Committees

Regular field meetings are arranged in all parts of the county throughout the year. Meetings are designed to introduce members to various habitats and to provide opportunities for novices of all ages to learn more about birds under field conditions. The Annual General Meeting & Open Day and occasional indoor meetings are arranged in the winter months. These will be of interest to all members, but some may cater particularly for specialist groups, e.g. survey workers' meetings. There are two sub-committees (see p.2 for Committee Officers):

- The Scientific Sub-Committee is responsible for organising surveys, for the collection of records and for the production of the *Hampshire Bird Report*. It also handles liaison with the BTO, ringing groups, conservation bodies and similar organisations.
- The Membership Sub-Committee is responsible for the quarterly magazine *Kingfisher*, the Annual General Meeting & Open Day, other indoor meetings and field meetings.

Publications

The *Hampshire Bird Report* is published annually and is the record of birds in Hampshire in the previous calendar year. The quarterly *Kingfisher* magazines contains news of society events, field meetings and recent bird sightings, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Scientific sub-committee. New surveys are started every year, and the newsletter serves as a medium to contact potential volunteers. All members are invited to take part in surveys and contribute articles to the newsletter.

Map and Gazetteer

National Grid coordinates are given to four figure accuracy (i.e. to relevant 1 km square). The map shows 30 selected birding sites frequently mentioned in the Systematic List. Coordinates for other sites in this gazetteer can be used to identify approximate locations on the map by interpolating between the National Grid 10 km squares gridlines. Other gazetteers with links to Ordnance Survey maps are also available on the HOS and Going Birding in Hampshire websites:

<http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/hampshire-birding/gazetteer>

<http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/sites.asp>

Abbotts Ann	SU 3243	Beauworth	SU 5725	Bricksbury Hill	SU 8349
Abbotts Wood	SU 8139	Becton Bunny	SZ 2592	Broadhalfpenny Down	SU 6515
Acres Down	SU 2709	Bedhampton	SU 7006	Broadlands Estate	SU 3520
Adhurst Wood (Sheet)	SU 7625	Beech Bed Inclosure	SU 2206	Broadmarsh	SU 7005
Alderhill Inclosure	SU 1913	Bentley	SU 7844	Brockenhurst	SU 3002
Aldershot	SU 8751	Bentley Wood	SU 2528	Brockley Warren	SU 4236
Alice Holt Forest	SU 8042	Benyon's Inclosure	SU 6263	Brockwood Park (West Meon)	SU 6025
Allington GP	SU 4717	Bere Hill Farm	SU 3745	Broomy Lodge	SU 2111
Alresford Pond	SU 5933	Bickerley Common	SU 1404	Broomy Plain	SU 2010
Alton	SU 7238	Bickton	SU 1412	Broughton	SU 3132
Alver Valley	SU 5700	Bilcombe's Pond	SU 4502	Browndown	SZ 5899
Ampfield	SU 4023	Binsted	SU 7741	Brownwich	SU 5103
Amport	SU 3045	Binswood	SU 7637	Brownwich Cliffs	SU 5103
Ancient Highway (Pennington)	SZ 3192	Bishops Dyke	SU 3405	Broxhead Common	SU 8037
Anderwood Inclosure	SU 2406	Bishopstoke	SU 4619	Buckherd Bottom	SU 2008
Andover Down	SU 3945	Bishops Sutton	SU 6031	Bucklers Hard	SU 4000
Anglesey Lake (Gosport)	SZ 6098	Bisterne	SU 1400	Budds Farm Sewage Farm	SU 7005
Anthony's Bee Bottom	SU 2201	Blackbushe	SU 8059	Bunny Meadows	SU 4806
Anton Lakes	SU 3740	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Burgate	SU 1515
Appleshaw	SU 3048	Blackfield	SU 4502	Buriton	SU 7420
Appleslade Inclosure	SU 1808	Black Gutter Bottom	SU 2016	Burkham	SU 6541
Arlebury Park & Lake	SU 5732	Blackheath Down	SU 0717	Burley	SU 2103
Ashe Park Lake	SU 5449	Blacklands Farm (Newnham)	SU 6954	Burley New Inclosure	SU 2304
Ashford Hangers LNR	SU 7427	Blackmoor	SU 7733	Burley Street	SU 2004
Ashlett Creek	SU 4603	Blacknest	SU 7941	Burley Whitten Pond	SU 2001
Ashlett	SU 4603	Black Point (Hayling)	SZ 7599	Burrfields (Portsmouth)	SZ 6497
Ashley Walk	SU 2014	Blackwater (Needs Ore)	SZ 4197	Bursledon	SU 4809
Ashley Warren	SU 4956	Blackwater Arboretum	SU 2604	Bury Marsh	SU 3811
Ashurst	SU 3310	Blashford Lakes	SU 1507	Busketts Lawn	SU 3110
Ash Vale	SU 8953	Blendworth	SU 7113	Butlocks Heath	SU 4609
Avington Park & Lake	SU 5332	Bolderwood	SU 2408	Busta Triangle	SU 7859
Avon Castle	SU 1403	Bordon	SU 8035	Butser Hill	SU 7120
Avon Causeway	SZ 1497	Bossington	SU 3331	Cadman's Pool	SU 2212
Avon Floods (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Botley Wood	SU 5410	Cadnam Common	SU 2815
Avon Tyrrell	SZ 1499	Bourley Catchment	SU 8250	Calmore	SU 3414
Awbridge	SU 3324	Bradley Hill	SU 6442	Calshot	SU 4802
Axmansford	SU 0717	Braemar-Searchfield Farm	SU 1718	Calshot Spit	SU 4802
Backley Plain	SU 2106	Braishfield	SU 3725	Camp Farm SF (Aldershot)	SU 8752
Backley Inclosure	SU 2207	Brambridge	SU 4622	Casbrook Common	SU 3625
Baddesley Common	SU 3921	Bramdean	SU 6228	Castle Bottom LNR	SU 7959
Badminton Common	SU 4501	Bramley	SU 6559	Centurion Business Park	SU 4313
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Baffins Pond	SU 6601	Bramshill (Warren Heath)	SU 7759	Chandlers Ford	SU 4321
Balancing Pools (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Bramshill Plantation	SU 7562	Chandlers Green	SU 7058
Barton on Sea	SZ 2392	Bramshill Police College Lake	SU 7560	Charlton Lakes	SU 3646
Barton Stacey	SU 4340	Bramshott	SU 8633	Charter Alley	SU 5957
Barton Common	SZ 2593	Bransbury Common	SU 4141	Chawton	SU 7037
Beacon Hill (Burghclere)	SU 4557	Bratley Plain	SU 2208	Chawton Park Woods	SU 7037
Beacon Hill (Warnford)	SU 6022	Bratley Water	SU 2308	Cheesefoot Head	SU 5327
Beaulieu Estuary	SZ 4298	Breamore	SU 1518	Cheriton	SU 5828
Beaulieu River	SZ 4199			Cherque	SU 5701
Beaulieu Road	SU 3406				

Clay Hill	SU 2302	Eling Great Marsh	SU 3712	Great Covert Wood	SU 4120
Cleave Hill	SU 3538	Ellingham Bridge	SU 1408	Great Litchfield Down	SU 4755
Cliddesden	SU 6349	Ellingham Lake (Blashford)		Greatham	SU 7730
Cole Henley	SU 4752		SU 1408	Greenhill (Romsey)	SU 3420
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Conigar Point	SU 7305	Embley Wood	SU 5441	Gunner Point (Sinah Common)	
Conford Moor	SU 8233	Emer Bog	SU 3921		SZ 6899
Coombe	SU 6620	Emsworth Channel	SU 7402	Gurnetfields Furzebreak	SU 3705
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Copythorne Common	SU 3015	Eversley Gravel Pit	SU 7662	Hale Purlieu	SU 1918
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Cosham	SU 6505	Exbury	SU 4200	Hamble	SU 4807
Cove	SU 8556	Exton	SU 6120	Hamble Country Park	SU 4911
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Crab Tree Earth	SU 2602	Facombe	SU 3958	Hamer Warren Sand Pit	SU 1210
Cranes Moor	SU 1902	Fair Oak	SU 4919	Hampshire Hatches Lane	SU 1403
Cranmer Pond (Woolmer)		Fareham	SU 5706	Hampton Ridge	SU 1913
	SU 7932	Farley Mount	SU 4229	Handy Cross Plain	SU 1906
Crawley	SU 4235	Farlington Marshes	SU 6804	Hannington Farm	SU 5355
Crech Walk	SU 6311	Farnborough	SU 8754	Harbridge	SU 1410
Crockford Bridge	SZ 3499	Farnborough Airport	SU 8552	Hardway (Portsmouth Hbr)	
Crondall	SU 7848	Fawley	SU 4503		SU 6101
Crookham	SU 7952	Fawley Power Station	SU 4603	Harestock	SU 4631
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Curbridge	SU 5211	Fawley Refinery	SU 4504	Harewood Forest	SU 3943
Curdrige	SU 5214	Fawley Reservoir	SU 4405	Harroway Farm	SU 7121
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	SZ 2990	Ferry Nap	SU 2503	Hartley Wintney	SU 7656
Cutty Brow	SU 4044	Fields Heath	SU 4502	Harvest Slade	SU 2106
Damerham	SU 1016	Finchdean	SU 7213	Hasley Inclosure	SU 1912
Danebury	SU 3237	Fishlake Meadows	SU 3522	Hatchet Pond	SU 3601
Darby Green	SU 8360	Fleet	SU 8154	Hatchet Moor	SU 3500
Dark Lane Pond	SU 4402	Fleet Pond	SU 8255	Havant	SU 7106
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Dean Hill	SU 2626		SU 2704	Hawley Meadows	SU 8559
Deep Dene Woods	SU 4413	Fobdown	SU 5733	Hawkhill Inclosure	SU 3502
Denmead	SU 6509	Fordingbridge	SU 1414	Hawley Lake	SU 8357
Denny Wood	SU 3305	Forest of Bere Farm	SU 4029	Hayling Bay	SZ 7298
Dibden Bay	SU 4008	Fort Brockhurst	SU 5902	Hayling Island	SU 7101
Dibden Purieu	SU 4006	Fort Cumberland	SZ 6899	Hayling Oysterbeds	SU 7102
Dibden Bottom	SU 3806	Fort Elson	SU 6001	Hazeley Heath	SU 7558
Ditcham Park	SU 7517	Fort Nelson	SU 6007	Headbourne Worthy	SU 4832
Dogmersfield Lake	SU 7551	Fort Widley	SU 6506	Headley Mill Pond	SU 8134
Dorridge Hill	SU 1711	Forton Lake	SU 6100	Headley Park	SU 8237
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Drayton Farm	SU 5933	Fox Lane GP (Eversley)	SU 8061	Heath Warren	SU 7660
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Dummer	SU 5846	Frensham Great Pond	SU 8440		SU 2409
Dur Hill Down	SU 1901	Frith End Sand Pit	SU 8039	Highbridge	SU 3430
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East Tisted	SU 7032	Furze Hill	SU 1711	Hill Top (Beaulieu)	SU 4003
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Eastoke	SZ 7598	Gilkicker Point	SZ 6097	Hiltingbury	SU 4322
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	SU 6452	Golden Pot	SU 7043	Hinton Admiral	SZ 2095
East Tytherley	SU 2828	Goodworth Clatford	SU 3642	Hinton Ampner	SU 6027
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Eelmoor Marsh	SU 8452	Gosport	SU 6000	HMS Mercury	SU 6719
Eldon	SU 3627	Grange Lake, The	SU 5636	HMS Sultan	SZ 5899
Eling	SU 3612	Greatbridge (Romsey)	SU 3423	Hoccombe Mead	SU 4322

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		Widden Bottom	SZ 2899	Yateley Gravel Pit	SU 8261
		Widley	SU 6606	Yateley Heath Wood	SU 8057
				Yew Tree Bottom	SU 3606

List of Abbreviations

AON	Apparently Occupied Nest	HIWWT	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
asl	above sea level	IOC	International Ornithological Congress
BB	<i>British Birds</i> magazine	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey (BTO)	m.o.	many observers
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern	MOD	Ministry of Defence
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union	n/a	not applicable
BOURC	BOU Records Committee	nc	no count (in tables)
BWP	Birds of the Western Palearctic	NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
CB	Cress Bed	NF	New Forest
CBC	Common Bird Census plot	NFWBS	New Forest Winter Bird Survey
CP	Country Park	NNR	National Nature Reserve
CR	Critically Endangered	NR	Nature Reserve
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	NT	Near-threatened
EN	Endangered	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ET	European Threatened	S41	Section 41 of NERC Act, 2006
GBW	Garden BirdWatch (BTO)	SF	Sewage Farm
GC	Golf Course	SP	Sand Pit
GP	Gravel Pit	SPA	Special Protection Area
GWCT	Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
HBA	Hampshire Bird Atlas	STW	Sewage Treatment Works
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	VU	Vulnerable
HBR	<i>Hampshire Bird Report</i>	w/c	week commencing
HCC	Hampshire County Council	WCB	Watercress Bed
HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society	WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
HOSRP	HOS Records Panel	WM	Water Meadows
		WWT	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Symbols

- † (after species name in systematic list) species account in Ringing Report recoveries section
 * record count for locality

Index to English Names

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