

Hampshire Bird Report 2017



Hampshire Ornithological Society
Published November 2018



Hampshire Ornithological Society

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AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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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The annual subscription is £12 for Ordinary, Joint or Family membership; £5 for Junior membership (under 18) but free for under 21 in full-time education. Full membership information is given on p. 251 and on the HOS web site: <http://www.hos.org.uk>.

Hampshire Bird Report 2017



Editor: Mike Chalmers

chalmersam@gmail.com

Production Editor: John Norton

Photographic Editor: Alan Lewis

County Recorder: Keith Betton



**Hampshire
Ornithological
Society**

Published November 2018

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Registered Charity No. 1042309 www.hos.org.uk

Honorary Officers, Committee Members and Life Members (at June 1st 2018)

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Management Committee	
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Hon. Secretary & Webmaster	John Shillitoe jshillitoe@googlemail.com
Hon. Treasurer	Andy Mitchelmore andy_mitchelmore@ntlworld.com
County Recorder	Keith Betton keithbetton@hotmail.com
Chair, Scientific Sub-Committee	Marcus Ward marcus.zoe@sky.com
Secretary, Scientific Sub-Committee	Olly Frampton olly.frampton@hotmail.com
Chair, Membership Sub-Committee	Andy Broadhurst andy@tali.me.uk
Membership Secretary	Kay Shillitoe kay.shillitoe@gmail.com
Editor of Bird Report	Mike Chalmers chalmersam@gmail.com
Conservation Liaison Officer (from Oct 2018)	Andy Lester eagles-wings@hotmail.co.uk
Kingfisher Newsletter Editor	Phil Budd philipbuddathos@gmail.com
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Sales Officers	Sandy & Bryan Coates sandyandbryan@tiscali.co.uk
Walks Programme Coordinator	Ted Barnes ted.barnes@talktalk.net

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Chairman's Report 2017

I am pleased to say that the Society is in good shape and that its trustees have lots of ideas for the future. Indeed, we have spent time discussing the things we'd like to do over the next five years. This process has been aided by the arrival of Andy Broadhurst and Marcus Ward into their respective roles as chairs of the sub-committees.

In our scientific work 2017 was a busy year for us in many ways. We organised surveys of both Corn Buntings and Turtle Doves, and at the same time plans were being drawn up for future surveys of Dartford Warblers and Nightingales. We will continue to focus our efforts on finding out what is happening to important species such as these and I am grateful to all the volunteers that have participated in the fieldwork.

Our work on membership activities has increased too. We have lots of new ideas and if we lack anything it is the time to convert all of our ideas into action – but that has to be better than having all action and no ideas! One great idea was that HOS do more to help people to learn about birds, whether as a relative newcomer or someone who has watched birds all of their life. The result has been a series of 'Birding Basics' workshops to offer training to members and non-members alike. The non-members are converted into members by way of a higher charge for the workshops which includes automatic enrolment in HOS. The first workshops have all have been sell-out events – and more are planned.

HOS has been active on many other levels too – making representations on planning applications that negatively impact on birds, liaising with Hampshire County Council's staff, and maintaining a strong dialogue with conservation professionals in the RSPB and HIWWT.

Three years ago we established a Grants Programme aimed at significant projects that make positive changes for Hampshire's birds or our understanding of their lives. In 2016 we gave £6,000 to three projects, and in 2017 we planned to do the same. In fact, the quality of the applications was so high that we decided to increase our funding to £9,000. We cannot do this for ever, but it is the belief of your trustees that we need to act now rather than simply watch the money losing value in the bank. We still have funds to use in future years, and we are already thinking of ways to find co-funders who will make our money go further.

HOS is growing and if you take family memberships into account we have not far short of 2,000 members. But there are still birders in the county who are not members and I am sure we all know at least two or three – so please twist a few arms for us in a nice way! We have only a few young members and we would like to attract more. So another great idea was to find a way to give sponsored membership to anyone under 21 undertaking full-time education. Thanks to generous support from the Cameron Bepolka Trust this will be offered in 2018. So if you know a young person who might benefit from HOS membership please let us know.

For most members, this Bird Report is the main thing that they associate with us, and my thanks go to Mike Chalmers and his team of writers and photographers as the quality gets better every year. The bird data that we collect from many sources now goes into a new online database called Cobra 2, and I am grateful to John Clark and Alan Cox for making sure that the introduction of this system was successful.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the HOS machine work so smoothly. Running a successful Society is not rocket science, you just need good people – and we are lucky to have plenty. Looking ahead I am keen that we involve more members in our activities – so if you think you can help HOS in any way then please get in touch with me, particularly if you have never helped us before. New blood tends to arrive with new ideas, and new ideas usually result in a better end product. So all ideas are welcome!

I hope you enjoy this report, and wish you good birding wherever you go.

Keith Betton, July 2018

Editorial and Acknowledgements

The contents and sequence of reports and papers maintain the pattern established over the last two years beginning with the Chairman's Report by Keith Betton in his first year as Chairman. This is followed, after this editorial, by the annual review by Richard Carpenter which is illustrated as usual by Dan Powell.

The major part of the report (around three-quarters) is then taken up by the Systematic List and associated tables and appendices. The main change this year is the adoption of BOURC's revised British List (9th edition) based on the IOC taxonomy and sequence. Whilst this has not resulted in any changes to the species recorded in 2017 (e.g. Lesser Redpoll remains a separate species), it has resulted in many changes to the sequence. Examples include the List now beginning with Brent Goose instead of Mute Swan with Firecrest and Goldcrest now following the warblers. The other change behind the scenes has been the consolidation and refinement of the CoBRA2 database used to compile the Systematic List. Alan Cox as Data Manager has done a sterling job overcoming many difficulties and producing the first draft in record time by March. This year for the first time BTO's Breeding Bird Survey data for Hampshire have also been added.

The Systematic List is followed by four main papers, two short papers and one note. Three of the four main papers continue the theme from previous years to update the status of breeding birds in Hampshire, especially those of conservation importance. The first of these by Rob Clements and John Clark is a landmark paper which reviews all the breeding birds in Hampshire since 1750, summarises gains and losses, and proposes updated county populations for 2017. It further identifies trends and proposes red, amber and green categories for Hampshire's birds. It uses the results from the Hampshire Bird Atlas, as well as other recent surveys and reports, and provides a benchmark against which future changes can be measured. The second paper by Nick Tomalin of RSPB summarises the status of the Stone-curlew in Hampshire and how working closely with local farmers has prevented further declines. The third paper by Keith Betton presents the results of the Corn Bunting breeding survey carried out during 2017. With increased access to private land, higher numbers were recorded than previously known. The last paper is also focused on breeding birds but at only one site where the consequences of habitat changes have been studied. It presents the results of annual surveys of breeding warblers and other passerines over a ten year period at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey. It also includes trapping data on autumn migrants over six years. With the cessation of draining and farming around 2000, the area has reverted to wetland and become an important nature reserve with future management recently taken over by HIWWT.

The two short papers refer to new additions to the Hampshire List. The first by Andy Johnson describes his finding of the Elegant Tern at Hayling Island in June. Fortunately the bird was colour-ringed which it enabled it to be identified as a DNA-tested breeder from France and amazingly the same individual as Britain's first record in Devon in 2002. The second by Alan Lewis summarises his discovery and identification of the Lesser Scaup at Blashford Lakes in October.

Following last year's report, which included notes on the HOS sponsored tagged Cuckoo and tern rafts at Blashford Lakes, this report continues to keep readers informed of the Society's ongoing funding initiatives by summarising the projects approved in 2017.

HOS is a large society with around 2,000 members and this year's report is based on a database of over 106,000 records with input from over 1,000 observers, members and non-members alike. Thanks again to all observers and contributors who are listed in Appendix 2 to the Systematic List; 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 NCC. Additional information was received from the reserve staff and volunteers at Blashford Lakes, Farlington Marshes, Keyhaven Marshes, Needs Ore and Titchfield Haven.

Keith Betton oversaw the vetting and input of records supported by the Records Panel whose members are named with other HOS Committee members after the title page. As mentioned above, Alan Cox managed the CoBRA2 database and input records, Janet Shelley transferred sightings from the Needs Ore log, Jane Calderin helped transcribe handwritten record sheets, 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 summarised the findings from 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, David Brookes, John Clark, Rob Clements, Alan Cox, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, Caroline French, 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. Vacancies arise from time to time so please contact me if you are interested in becoming a writer next year. In addition, Tables 1 and 8 were prepared by John Clark, Table 2 by Kate Risely of BTO, Table 3 by Alan Cox based on BTO data, Table 4 by Keith Betton, Table 5 by John Shillitoe and Tables 6 and 7 by myself.

My thanks also go to Keith Betton for his Chairman's Report, Richard Carpenter for the Review of the Year, Tony Davis for the Ringing and Nest Recording Report, 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 and are acknowledged both in the contents list and in the captions to each photograph. The quality of images remains high both 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: Keith Betton, 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 are responsible for sales.

Mike Chalmers, September 2018

Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2017

Richard Carpenter



Little Gull (Dan Powell)

A total of 250 species was recorded in the county in 2017. This was four less than last year. **Lesser Scaup** and **Elegant Tern** were added to the county list.

January was a mild month until 18th and then it was cold and frosty until 27th. Winds were westerly until 15th and then light east or south-east for the rest of the month.

Still present from 2016, the returning male Ferruginous Duck at Blashford Lakes remained until March 9th. Scaup were noted at several sites with at least six remaining until March. The Long-tailed Duck between Brownwich and Hill Head was joined by another on March 12th, both remaining until April 22nd; the separate pair in Langstone Harbour remained until April 5th. The Black-throated Diver in Chichester Harbour remained until February 25th. Bitterns were present at seven sites including Ivy Lake, Testwood Lakes and Titchfield Haven, with the last at Lepe on March 12th. Cattle Egrets remained in the Warblington area peaking at eight in early January. It proved to be a good year for the species with many more sightings totalling at least 11 at widespread sites. A total of up to 15 Marsh Harriers were reported from five sites and four or more Hen Harriers roosted at two sites in the early year. The returning Ibsley Water adult Ring-billed Gull was joined by a second, both staying until mid-February. The first-winter Caspian Gull at the same site in 2016 was still present and seen on five dates in January and February. Flocks of up to 20 Waxwings continued to be seen at a number of sites until early April. A Siberian Chiffchaff remained at Darby Green until early March and was joined by a second in mid-January; another was trapped at Eastleigh SF on 7th. The Hill Head Harbour Snow Bunting remained until February 3rd.

A Lesser Whitethroat, possibly of the eastern race *blythi*, wintered at Eastney from 3rd to 31st. A first-winter White-fronted Goose was at Ibsley Water and Harbridge on 13th, remaining until April 26th, and a Black Brant was at Hayling Island on 17th, February 1st and March 3rd. A Long-tailed Duck was at Fareham Creek on 17th. A flock of 59 Barnacle Geese was a very unexpected sight on the sea off Chilling on 21st. A second-winter Glaucous Gull was at Black Point on 25th, nearby on February 10th and at Hill Head and Titchfield Haven on 26th. An elusive Little Bunting was a good find in a stubble field at Portsdown Hill on 25th remaining until February 9th.

February was mostly dry with little rainfall. Although cold from 9th-12th it was otherwise mild, especially on 20th. Winds were mainly from the east or south until 14th and westerly thereafter with severe gales on 23rd.

The wintering Black-necked Grebe flock in Langstone Harbour peaked at 15 this month. Up to four White-fronted Geese were at Beaulieu Estuary from 1st until April 14th and a Red-necked Grebe drifted east off Brownwich on 5th. Single Black Brants were at Beaulieu Estuary on 19th and Eastney sports field on 24th.

March had high rainfall from 3rd-6th and again on 22nd. The 30th was particularly mild and muggy. There were strong easterly winds on 3rd and more easterlies from 23rd-27th.

Rarities included a Richard's Pipit at Needs Ore on 13th, an unidentified crane circling over Badminton Common on 24th and a Black-winged Stilt at Posbrook Flood from 30th for four days.

Spring migration got underway with an early Little Ringed Plover at Ibsley Water on 3rd, a Stone-curlew at Overton on 9th and Sand Martins at Avington and Titchfield Haven on 10th, closely followed by a Swallow at Acres Down, NF on 11th. The first Willow Warbler was at Hurst Castle on a new early date of 10th, Wheatears were at Sandy Point and Pennington Marshes the same day and a pair of Garganey were at Eling Great Marsh on 11th. The last Black Brant of the early year was at Beaulieu Estuary on 17th. The first Ring Ouzel was at Beaulieu Road, NF the same day followed by 19 further sightings at ten sites between then and May 7th. The first Osprey was over Pitts Wood Inclosure, NF on 21st followed by others in March, but the main passage took place in April. An early Yellow Wagtail was heard calling in flight at Trigpoint Hill with a movement of Meadow Pipits on 24th which grew to a peak of 1,478 NE at Hurst Castle in 2.7 hours on 26th. The first House Martins were five at Yateley on 27th. Spring passage of Little Gulls began the same day with nine at Heath Pond, Petersfield and one at Ibsley Water and totalled 54 up to June 4th. Great Skua passage also commenced with one at Sandy Point on 29th followed by others at coastal sites until June 8th. The first Sedge Warbler was at Fishlake Meadows on 30th and the first Tree Pipit at Broxhead Common the same day. An early Hobby was at Hill Head on 31st closely followed by singles at Burridge and Swanwick the next day.

April was very dry from 5th-29th and sunny and warm from 5th-9th. Winds were mainly westerly but moderate or strong from the south-east on 3rd, 29th and 30th.

Rarities included a Serin at Sandy Point on 5th and again on 7th-8th, a Hoopoe at Monxton on 10th, a Kentish Plover at Pennington and Oxey Marshes on 20th-21st, a Montagu's Harrier at Shipton Bellinger on 24th, two Puffins west off Milford on Sea on 24th and a Bonaparte's Gull at Ibsley Water on 17th which remained until May 11th (not yet accepted by BBRC).

Migration continued apace with first sightings of Reed Warbler at Titchfield Canal Path and Cuckoo at Broomy Plain, NF on 1st, Garden Warbler at Chandler's Ford on 2nd, Whitethroat at Blashford Lakes on 2nd and Lesser Whitethroat at Needs Ore on 11th. The only Pied Flycatcher of the spring was at Sandy Point on 11th. The first Wood Warbler was at Old Basing on 12th, a Nightingale was at Needs Ore on 13th and Grasshopper Warblers were at three sites on 14th. Black Tern passage commenced with one at Fleet Pond on 20th-21st; small numbers were then seen at several sites until the end of the month. An early Nightjar was at Longslade Bottom, NF on 22nd. A presumed migrant Long-eared Owl flew north with a Short-eared Owl at Hurst Beach on 24th. The first Turtle Dove of the year was at Martin Down on 27th. Nine Pomarine Skuas were observed off Hurst Beach on 30th. This was also the peak day for Arctic Skua passage with at least 21 moving east through The Solent.

May was largely dry until 11th. The 17th was a very wet day and there was a mini-heatwave from 24th-28th. Winds were from the east from 5th-11th and south-east on 25th-26th.

A Roseate Tern flew east at Lepe on 2nd; singles were also at Hurst Beach on 7th and 12th. A Dark-eyed Junco was in a Petersfield garden on 2nd and a Red-rumped Swallow was at Posbrook Flood on 3rd. The first Spotted Flycatcher was at Bratley, NF on 3rd. A female Red-footed Falcon flew north at Brownwich on 6th and another female was at Fishlake Meadows on 13th. A Long-tailed Skua was tracked east through The Solent on 11th, being seen from three separate coastal sites. An adult male Hen Harrier at Titchfield Haven on 4th and 14th was unusual for the time of year. A flock of 39 Manx Shearwaters passed through Hurst Narrows on 6th. Single Wood Sandpipers were at Fleet Pond and Testwood Lakes on 6th being the first of up to ten individuals during the month at six sites. A Black-winged Stilt was at Pennington Marshes on 9th-10th. The first Honey Buzzard was seen in the New Forest on 14th. The peak day for Pomarine Skua passage was 12th when 16 passed Hurst Beach. A Black Kite flew SW over East Boldre on 18th and another flew SW over Yateley Common on 26th. Three Bee-eaters were seen briefly at Needs Ore on 21st and a Hoopoe was at Itchen Abbas on 23rd and Church Crookham the next day. The first Quail was heard at Martin Down on 24th; others were heard subsequently at four other sites between May and July.

June was generally dry with a heatwave from 17th-21st. There were south-easterly gales and rain on 5th-6th and further south-easterlies on 20th-21st and 26th.

On 1st a Wryneck was an unexpected spring sighting at Noar Hill and the second Serin of the year was at Sandy Point. The south-easterly gales on 5th-6th led to a series of seabird sightings. The only Balearic Shearwater of the year was seen off Milford on Sea on 5th. The same day a small influx of Storm Petrels started with one there followed by others along the coast until 9th. The only Leach's Petrel of the year was also at Milford on Sea on 8th. Hampshire's first ever Elegant Tern was found at Fishery Creek near Black Point, Hayling Island on 7th. It was seen again on 9th before departing to the east. A single Manx Shearwater was off Hurst on 5th and 61 flew west there on 8th with smaller numbers off Sandy Point during the same period. A singing Marsh Warbler was at Titchfield Haven on 12th and an unseasonal drake Long-tailed Duck was off Sandy Point on 14th. A Black-necked Grebe in breeding plumage appeared at Ibsley Water from 30th until July 2nd.

Our breeding birds again had mixed fortunes. A pair of Teal bred at Itchen Valley Country Park producing two young, five pairs of Pochard bred in the Test Valley producing 11 young and three pairs of Goosander bred in the Avon Valley producing 22 young. Honey Buzzards were noted at nine sites with successful breeding at six producing ten or more young, Goshawks were noted at 43 sites with successful breeding at 31 producing 65 or more young, Marsh Harriers bred at Titchfield Haven raising two young and 200-250 pairs of Red Kite were estimated to have bred this year. Breeding falcons included at least 14 pairs of Hobbies and 17 pairs of Peregrines, ten of which are known to have fledged 23 young. RSPB recorded 23 pairs of Stone-curlews which produced 13 or more young. Only slightly less than last year, 844 pairs of Mediterranean Gulls raised at least 443 young, the vast majority of these being in Langstone Harbour. A pair of Yellow-legged Gulls bred for the fourth year in Southampton. Terns also had a good year with 63 pairs of Little Terns raising 29 young at two sites, 330 pairs of Common Terns raising 143 young at six sites, and 121 pairs of Sandwich Terns raising 52 young at two sites. Although a number of Turtle Dove territories were established, there was no evidence of successful breeding. Ravens bred at a minimum of nine sites with possible breeding at a further 18 locations. Bearded Tits bred at three sites.

July produced a heatwave from 4th-9th; there were thunderstorms and it was very wet on 18th-19th and thereafter the weather was unsettled. Winds were south-east on 21st-22nd.

Returning Ospreys were noted from 2nd at Fishlake Meadows with passage continuing until mid-November with records from many locations. A Red-rumped Swallow flew SW over Titchfield Haven on 5th. A first-summer Little Gull was present between Hill Head and Weston Shore from 9th-23rd and at Needs Ore on 21st.

August had thundery days on 5th and 18th. It was cold on 9th and dry and settled from 22nd-31st. Winds were predominately westerly throughout.

Pied Flycatcher passage commenced on 6th with one at Denny Lodge Inclosure and continued until September 17th. Single migrating Honey Buzzards were observed at Needs Ore on 10th and Odiham on 29th. A White-winged Black Tern was seen around Sandy Point and Black Point from 15th-17th and a Quail was reported at Needs Ore on 16th. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper was at Farlington Marshes from 21st-30th and a juvenile Red-backed Shrike at Newlands Farm, Stubbington on 25th. The first autumn Wryneck was at Mortimer West End on 28th followed by others at four sites between then and Oct 3rd. A Short-toed Lark at Lower Pennington on 29th was only the fourth county record.

September was a cool, wet month. There were south-westerly/westerly gales on 10th and 13th and winds were south-east on 23rd.

A peak roost count of 144 Little Egrets was recorded at Langstone Mill Pond on 1st. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper was at Titchfield Haven from 1st-12th, possibly the same individual seen at Farlington Marshes in August. An early returning Red-throated Diver was off Sandy Point on 6th. The first of several Grey Phalaropes appeared in the Lymington-Hurst area on 8th. Sightings continued in that area until mid-November and also at five other sites. A Manx Shearwater was off Calshot Spit on 9th and a Sabine's Gull off Milford on Sea on 12th. The first returning Black-necked Grebe was in Langstone Harbour on 23rd and 1,000 or more Wigeon were in the eastern harbours from 27th. The first Redwings of the autumn were nine at Wilverley Plain/Hincheslea Moor, NF on 27th. A Quail was found dead on the roadside at Petersfield on 28th and a Red-necked Phalarope was at Keyhaven the same day.

October was dry and warm until 15th. On the 16th there were strong southerly winds as the remains of Hurricane Ophelia hit the county and there were further strong westerly winds on 20th-21st as Storm Brian passed over. The 30th saw the start of a short calm and foggy period.

The first of a small influx of Yellow-browed Warblers was at Keyhaven on 4th followed by a further 11 at ten other sites until 29th. The first autumn Brambling flew SW over Tweseldown on 4th. Ring Ouzel passage commenced on 8th and lasted until November 1st. The first Fieldfares of the autumn were two over Hook-with-Warsash and 11 SW over Trigpoint Hill on 9th. The first Bittern of the autumn was at Avon Water on 12th and the first returning Hen Harrier was at Shipton Bellinger on 12th. Two Scaup were seen at Needs Ore on 13th and up to four were at four sites during the rest of the year. A significant influx of Hawfinches



Pectoral Sandpiper, Titchfield Haven (Dan Powell)



Hawfinch (Dan Powell)

occurred this winter with one over Sandy Point on 13th being the first. Subsequently good numbers including flocks of up to 20 were seen at a number of sites with birds remaining until well into 2018. Another Red-necked Phalarope was at Keyhaven on 20th. The only Pomarine Skua of the autumn was one in a field near Sturt Pond on 25th. A Lesser Scaup was found at Blashford Lakes on 28th remaining until November 5th. This was the first Hampshire record. Peak Woodpigeon movement was observed on 28th when 21,304 moved NW at Weston Shore. An influx of Great White Egrets occurred this month with a peak of 11 at Testwood Lakes on 29th.

November saw the first frosts on 5th-6th, 12th-13th and 24th-25th. There were south-easterly winds on 1st and 7th. It was warm on 22nd-23rd with southerly gales with the month ending very cold on 30th with north-easterly winds.

A first-winter Pink-footed Goose was at Ibsley Water on 1st where it was joined by an adult from 4th December. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Needs Ore on 2nd. A Great Grey Shrike was in the Cranes Moor and Vales Moor area of the New Forest on 3rd-4th, the first of very few sightings this winter. Ten Bewick's Swans flew SE over Testwood Lakes on 5th (the only record of the species this year). The only Whooper Swan of the year was at the same site on the same day. A first-winter Caspian Gull was at Ibsley Water on 5th remaining until the year end. A Stilt Sandpiper, only the third record for the county, was at Farlington Marshes on 7th. Single Long-tailed Ducks were in Langstone Harbour from 9th and in Southampton Water from 26th, both remaining for a short time. A Glossy Ibis was at Farlington Marshes on 16th and what was believed to be the same was seen intermittently at three sites further west until 26th. The only Little Auk of the year was one off Hordle Cliff and Milford on

Systematic List of Species

Introduction

General information and terminology

Species categories, sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List (9th edition at Jan 2018). Alternative IOC English names are also included in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v8.1 at Jan 2018). 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 2016 and (iii) in 2017. 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 BBRC or HOSRP as appropriate except this year for Bonaparte's Gull which is under consideration by BBRC. 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.

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)
S41	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.

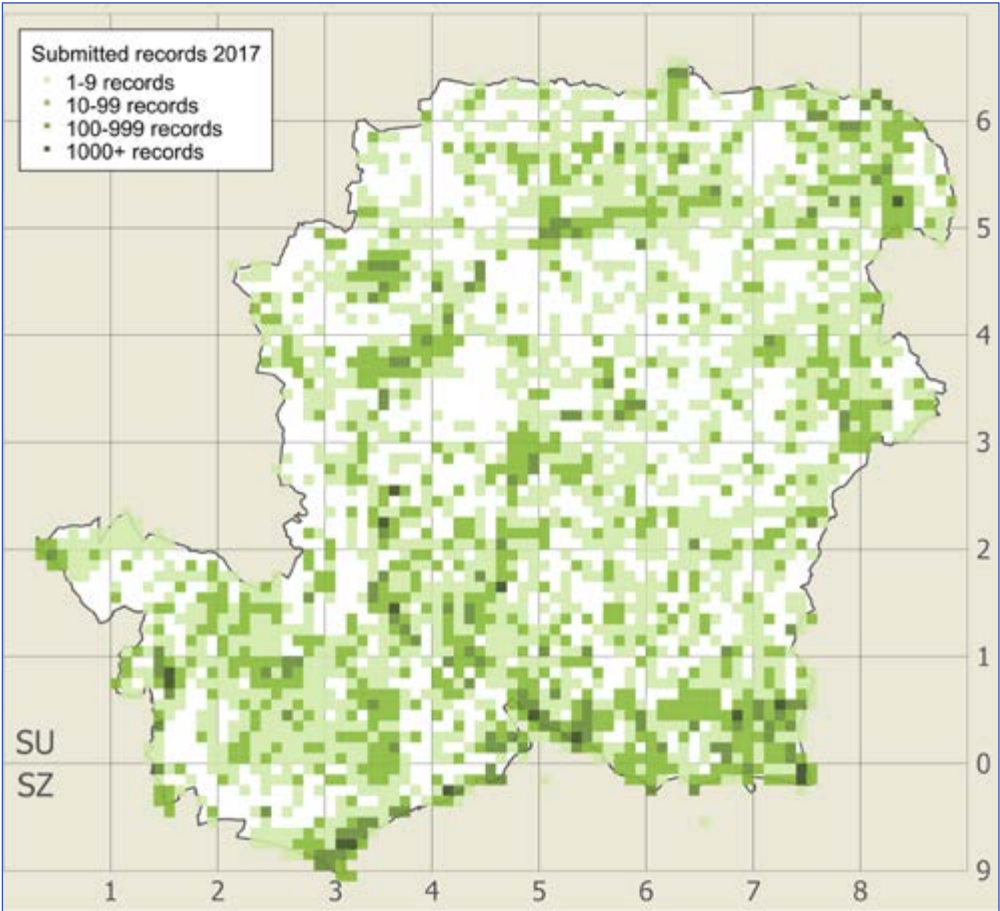
Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society’s CoBRA 2 database (County Bird Recording Application). This year’s database contained around 106,880 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: BTO BirdTrack (26%), HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets, correspondence and rarities submissions) (26%), Going Birding website (17%), WeBS counts (9%), BTO Breeding Birds Survey (7%), Trektellen (4%), Living Record (3%), Needs Ore Log (3%), Birdguides (2%), Solent Bird Studies (2%) and others (each <1%). Note on-line sources are filtered to meet the threshold criteria for HOS record submissions (Appendix 2). In particular, BTO BirdTrack records for Hampshire totalled 144,291 of which 27,495 met the submission criteria. The above breakdown includes 7,700 records for the first time from BTO’s Breeding Birds Survey (BBS). This records all adults along two one km transects within selected one km squares during the breeding season. In addition, BTO Garden BirdWatch contributed a further 162,000 records covering 302 Hampshire gardens, which were used in some of the species accounts.

Coverage

A total of 1,041 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. The distribution of 2017 records in the CoBRA2 database used to prepare this report is shown on the map below at the one km square level for the first time (the previous map on p20 in HBR 2015 was at tetrad level). As expected, the highest numbers of records were submitted for the coastal areas, the main reserves, the New Forest and the north-east. There were 16 squares with over 1,000 records, the highest being Titchfield Haven/Hill Head with 6,225. The others in descending order were Ibsley Water, Needs Ore, Sandy Point and Trigpoint Hill with over 3,000 each followed by Farlington Marshes, Pennington Marshes, Warblington Shore, Hook-with-Warsash, Tweseldown, Testwood Lakes, Keyhaven Marshes, Black Point, Itchen Valley CP, Fishlake Meadows and Blashford Lakes. Whilst the emphasis

on the coast and lakes 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 Dove and Corn Bunting.



Number of records in HOS 2017 database for each 1km square in Hampshire

Categories A, B & C

Brent Goose (Brant Goose)

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla bernicla

Numerous winter visitor; a few summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 16,628; 2002-07: 14,590; 2007-12: 13,793; 2012-17: 17,056. Amber, S41, HBAP

In the early year WeBS count totals dropped slightly from the peak of 15,224 in December 2016. As indicated in the 2016 report, the proportion of young was low. In Langstone Harbour 14 flocks totalling 1,654 contained 3.8% young and in Chichester Harbour 16 flocks totalling 1,380 contained 6.9% young. In England as a whole, counts of 24,804 geese gave 8.6% young (WWT data). Late year totals were lower still with a peak of 12,034 in November which can be attributed to a third successive poor breeding season. Flocks across the county totalling

5,799 held 40 first-winters which is only 0.7%. 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	13,058	10,521	7,599	17	14	8	10	14	71	2,242	9,491	6,985
Hampshire sectors	4,717	3,233	2,751	4				3	1,200	1,688	5,214	2,532
Langstone Harbour	4,007	5,301	3,799	60	11	7	10	11	300	1,173	2,920	4,400
Portsmouth Harbour	1,800	1,462	1,184						200	394	850	1,201
Titchfield Haven area	451	818	770		1				51	350	855	1,530
Hamble Estuary	932	900	770	15					8	207	299	265
Itchen Estuary	132	120	253	101	12					100	107	70
Hythe-Calshot	74	324	459	25	2				5	97	678	421
Beaulieu Estuary	1,794	1,859	500	189	2			1	25	430	810	714
Sowley-Lymington	200	270	130	170					7	200	204	150
Lymington-Hurst	1,213	845	1,030	80	2	3		1	6	200	837	830
WeBS count totals	14,502	13,969	10,289	542		7	1	5	336	3,956	12,034	10,944

Sites of international importance: 2,400+; national importance: 910+.

Spring passage amounted to 664 east between Feb 13th and May 13th. Coverage was best at Sandy Point where 647 were recorded with peaks of 110 on Mar 19th, 140 on Mar 28th and 108 on Apr 9th. In contrast to last year few were noted staging in early May but small numbers summered as usual. The first returns were probably 16 in Chichester Harbour on Sep 19th with 68 there and 14 in Portsmouth Harbour the next day. Further arrivals were noted from Sep 23rd with 290 in Langstone Harbour and by 25th there were 1,200 off East Hayling when there were also six at Ibsley Water. Other records well inland involved an adult with Canada Geese at Tundry Pond on Feb 6th and 7th (the first there), and presumably the same at Winchfield on Mar 20th, and another at Ibsley Water on Dec 5th. Brents regularly move short distances inland from the eastern harbours to feed although few records are received; thus 1,200 at Mill Lane, Purbrook on Dec 28th is worthy of mention. (JMC)

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

Numbers were again low, with perhaps nine in the early year and eight in the late year.

Two were at West Lane, Hayling Island on Jan 1st but not reported subsequently. Long-stayers were at Farlington Marshes from Jan 8th-Mar 11th and Beaulieu Estuary from Jan 15th-Apr 2nd. Two were off Dibden Bay on Feb 11th and one was on Chilling Shore on Feb 17th. Presumed single migrants flew west off Sandy Point on Apr 13th and were in Langstone Harbour on May 7th.

The first return was in Chichester Harbour on Sep 3rd where one was recorded regularly until Dec 28th with two on Sep 20th. One was at Lepe on Sep 13th. There were no further sightings in the Beaulieu Estuary area until one on Nov 17th which remained until at least Dec 15th. One was found at Keyhaven on Oct 28th and presumably the same was regular there from Nov 29th to the year's end. Two were at West Lane, Hayling Island on Nov 17th and one was at Farlington Marshes from Nov 17th-28th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JMC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	5	2	2	1				3	2	6	3

Black Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

Formerly rare but now a very scarce winter visitor recorded annually since 1999. (0,34,4)

The individual in Chichester Harbour in late 2016 was not recorded in the new year. Individuals at three sites in January-March and at a fourth site in December are thus identified as new arrivals, bringing the county total to 38.

Single adults were at Tournembury, Hayling Island on Jan 17th, Feb 1st, 2nd and Mar 3rd (ACJ), Beaulieu Estuary on Feb 19th (AL) and Mar 17th (RAC) and Eastney sports field on Feb 24th (TDC). In the late year one was on St. Vincent's School playing field, Gosport on Dec 22nd (JAN). (JMC)

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Common resident and partial migrant. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-07: 2,529; 2007-12: 3,346; 2012-17: 3,455.

The peak WeBS totals of just over 3,300 in September and November were in line with those recorded in recent years. However, the much reduced total in October illustrates the difficulty of obtaining an accurate count of this species which could only really be achieved with coordinated early morning counts of known overnight roosts. Thus, in addition to Fleet Pond and Blashford Lakes, it would be useful if observers would specify whether counts refer to night roosts.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	155	147	93	44	75	86	169	178	162	270	431	314
Titchfield Haven area	104	105	111	66	18	24	6	280	450	348	214	203
Beaulieu Estuary	223	150	216	257	125	145	70	100	230	65	150	119
Lymington-Hurst	306	153	197	83	118	364	409	350	561	62	210	323
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	135	320	161						164	72	449	182
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	182	214	145						87	80	140	47
Avon: Blashford Lakes	255	131	92	120		364	145	217	279	396	482	256
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	27	60	51	30	71	245	257	454	106	141	92	14
Testbourne Lake	220	110	100	66	78	45	38	3	40	22	166	100
Bramshill Park	6	14	26			88		135	228			
Tundry Pond	220	260	137	21	27	60	320	200	760	108	360	369
Fleet Pond		14			40		140		580	56	25	31
Heath Pond, Petersfield	80	32	29	18	24	56	22	2	200	11	140	21
WeBS count totals	2,185	2,069	1,835	933	634	1,456	1,548	944	3,355	2,334	3,328	2,425

Counts exceeding 200 at non-tabulated sites were mostly from the Test Valley, where 215 flew north over Mottisfont at dusk on Aug 25th, 385 flew SW at Trigpoint Hill early on Oct 3rd and 340 were at Marsh Court on Oct 10th. These suggest the night roost was somewhere in the upper valley. Elsewhere the only such count was 420 at Wellington CP on Sep 10th.

Occupied nests or fledged young were recorded at 31 sites. The highest numbers of goslings were 24 at Testbourne Lake (3 broods) and 16 in a creche at IBM Lake. Elsewhere 23 broods totalled 98 young. This excludes six broods totalling 24 young at Fleet Pond which all perished. (JMC)

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

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

Two large groups were recorded. A flock of 59 was on the sea off Chilling from 14:40-15:30 on Jan 21st (RHM, DJR). Later in the year, 42 were at Farlington Marshes from Dec 15th into January 2018 (TMJD *et al.*) There is no longer a feral flock of this size resident in Hampshire so their origin remains open to debate! The highest count elsewhere in January-March was 22 at Eversley GP throughout the period; these spent most of their time grazing in Berkshire but were occasionally seen in flight over Hampshire. Other early year records were two at Pennington Marshes from Jan 1st-Apr 19th, two or three at Titchfield Haven from Jan 1st-Feb 28th with two until May 4th, one at Farlington Marshes from Jan 1st-Feb 7th and presumably the same at Frater, Portsmouth Harbour on Feb 11th, one at Baffins Pond, Portsmouth on Mar 13th and 21st (presumably from Titchfield Haven) and an unexpected record of six at Testbourne Lake on Apr 6th which may conceivably have been Eversley birds dispersing.

Summer records involved two breeding pairs at Wellington CP, which after two years of failure were allowed to raise single chicks each, and singles at Farlington Marshes on May 21st and Pennington/Normandy Marshes on May 23rd and July 5th.

After the breeding season singles were at Farlington Marshes from Aug 16th-Dec 31st, IBM Lake from Aug 25th-Sep 5th, Frater on Aug 27th and from Oct 14th-Dec 17th (all assumed to relate to the same individual) and Titchfield Haven from Sep 3rd-Dec 16th with two on Sep 16th – possibly the Farlington bird. The flock re-assembled at Eversley GP and peaked at 23 on Dec 22nd.

There are several Canada Goose x Barnacle Goose hybrids at large which superficially resemble Barnacle Geese. Observers should ensure that individuals have pure Barnacle Goose face patterns before claiming them as such. (JMC)



Canada Goose with Barnacle x Canada Goose and two hybrid young, Jetty Lagoon, Keyhaven, Sep 16th (Alan Lewis)

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Moderately common and increasing feral resident. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-07: 646; 2007-12: 958; 2012-17: 1,328. Amber

Except for the November total of 1,190, WeBS counts were well below average in the usual autumn peak period; this is probably due to birds being missed rather than any decline.

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	60	70	79	70	50	40	36	40	60	50	80	60
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	339	10	45						10	27	369	297
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	250	96	121		8				37	45	155	131
Avon: Blashford Lakes	106	40	45	37	23	170	100	256	290	50	233	30
Test: Fishlake Meadows				4	10	6				265	142	
Longparish	2	1	33	16	22	52	70	90	30		1	2
Testbourne Lake	250	200	150	40	42	82	96	144	240	220	180	160
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	120	77	79	34	60	52	115	120	75	125	105	3
The Vyne	120						30	105	65			
Tundry Pond	111	62	9		19		110		70	85	131	67
Fleet Pond (roosts)		65		3	14		11	80	173	44		38
WeBS count totals	1,015	455	609	153	102	409	269	528	543	774	1,190	699

Other counts exceeding 40 were 62 at Ewhurst Lake on Feb 12th, 51 at Stratfield Saye on Mar 16th, 42 at Laverstoke Park on Mar 17th, 58 at Hawley Lake on June 11th, 108 at Bramshill Park on Sep 10th, 47 at Pennington Marshes on Sep 19th and 41 at Blackmoor on Oct 20th.

Breeding reports (single broods unless stated otherwise) came from Fishlake Meadows (2 young), Fleet Pond (none fledged), Hawley Lake (2 young), Ibsley Water (1 young), Lakeside CP (2 broods, 15 young), Longparish (4 broods, 20 young), Needs Ore (many young), Testbourne Lake (2 broods, 10 young), Timsbury (4 broods, 14 young) and The Vyne (2 broods, 7 young). (JMC)

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Rare winter visitor but presumed feral birds have occurred in most months (24,143,2) Amber

A first-winter was found among the Greylag flock at Ibsley Water on Nov 1st (m.o.) and was joined by an adult from Dec 4th (PDW). Both were still present at Ibsley Water on Dec 28th although the first-winter was evidently sick. Only the adult was seen subsequently. One was at Hamer Warren GP, Ringwood Forest on Dec 17th (TMJD). (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

A first-winter was in the Ibsley Water and Harbridge area from Jan 13th-Apr 26th (DHT et al.). A pair and one first-winter were at Beaulieu Estuary from Feb 1st-Mar 30th (RAC et al.) and another adult was there from Feb 10th-Apr 14th (BJP et al.). There were no late year records. (JMC)



First-winter White-fronted Goose, Harbridge, Jan 15th (Alan Lewis)

Mute Swan†

Cygnus olor

A moderately common resident. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,063; 2002-07: 1,015; 2007-12: 1,037; 2012-17: 868.

Amber

WeBS count totals continued at the lower level of recent years. This is mostly due to reduced numbers in the Avon Valley.

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	5	5	17	12	13	30	32	44	24	15	11	5
Southsea Canoe Lake	32		42									27
Portsmouth Harbour	40		37							67	82	75
Itchen: Woolston-Woodmill	85	81	81	62	52	91	104	95	70	75	84	83
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	13	14	10	20	36	42	43	30	28	8	5	8
Lymington-Hurst	40	37	41	39	35	42	42	29	26	24	20	31
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	17	17	19						62	38	59	27
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	133	149	138						79	87	61	87
Avon: Blashford Lakes	52	42	35	27		21	40	23	25	34	61	69
Avon above Fordingbridge	52	37	110	100						111	43	54
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	37	28	13	18	16	11	27	33	47	48	50	40
Avington Lake	14	5	5	22	20	28	31	27	42	42	20	18
Alresford Pond	33	29	25	27	44	43	38	37	33	15	26	13
Yateley GP	40	28	27	6	6		21		33	21	35	38
WeBS count totals	691	581	664	190	139	188	274	204	546	694	739	721

The only other count to exceed 30 was 33 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Dec 16th.

Breeding season reports involved 31 pairs which raised 138 young, 12 which raised unreported numbers of young, six which nested and definitely failed and eight which nested but the



Mute Swan, Mar 4th (Chris Rose)

outcome was unknown. One brood of five at Farlington Marshes included two white Polish type cygnets (see Brit. Birds III: 10-24 for the history of this form in the UK). As last year, one bred with a Canada Goose at West Green House near Hartley Wintney and two young fledged. (JMC)

Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

Very scarce winter visitor, most frequent in the Avon Valley. ET, EN, Schedule I, Amber, S4I, HBAP

The only record was ten which flew SE over Testwood Lakes at 14:00 on Nov 5th (SSK, IP). This is the first year since 1960 that none were recorded in the Avon Valley where the wintering flock peaked at 314 in February 1987. Numbers there exceeded 100 in every winter from 1979/80-1992/93 but have declined since with the last significant count of 27 in December 2010. (JMC)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Rare winter visitor (since 1992: 45,1)

ET, Schedule I, Amber

An adult was at Testwood Lakes from 11:00-15:00 on Nov 13th (LS, photo). There have been records in seven years this century, most recently in 2013 when two were at Tanners Lane on Dec 6th. (JMC)



*Whooper Swan, Testwood Lakes, Nov 13th
(Les Stride)*

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Scarce but increasing feral resident.

Counts suggest that numbers in the main areas in the Avon Valley and north-east were stable although a group based at Heath Pond, Petersfield continues to grow. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded ten are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ripley Farm Reservoir			7	8				21	43	67	5	
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	46	47	37		8				42	2	2	4
Ibsley Water	8	5	16	16	33	70	18	20	27	8	12	12
Rampton's Lane GP & Welshman's Road GP								14	75*	2		4
Wellington CP	2	4				31			50	2		
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley	61	54	27			20			162	140	83	74
Busta Triangle				4			26	12	3			
Eversley GP	4	6	3		18	68	32			125	4	6
Heath Pond, Petersfield	32	26	22	16	19	37*	37	34	7	10	4	7

* = record for locality

Other double-figure counts were ten* at Needs Ore on Feb 6th, ten* at Woolmer Pond on Mar 9th, 11* at Tundry Pond on Mar 29th and 24* at Bramshill Park on Dec 23rd.

At least four broods were seen at Heath Pond or nearby in January-September and December; two early broods fledged at least 12 young but others in September and December perished. Further breeding reports came from the Avon Valley at Hamer Warren (3 young), Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake (2 broods), Ivy Lake (failed) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (2 broods, 11

fledged); the north-east at East Worldham (6 fledged), Tundry Pond (2 young) and Wellington CP (4 broods, 5 fledged); and Needs Ore (3 fledged). (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; 2012-17: 1,068.

Amber



Shelduck, Keyhaven, Apr 7th (Joe Murphy)

The WeBS totals were again below average with the counts in January, February and December failing to reach four figures. 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	499	453	316	148	63	74	8	4	15	22	275	496
Hampshire sectors	71	77	119	40	17	30					34	157
Langstone Harbour	220	351	239	135	75	35	13	10	6	48	171	347
Portsmouth Harbour	130	277	26		4					4	76	130
Southampton Water	73	79	110	61	74	74	29	10	1	8	40	73
Beaulieu Estuary	72	95	122	66	55	18	3	3		12	40	30
Lymington-Hurst	122	112	148	88	58	38	21	5	1	1	67	104
Sowley-Lymington	4	18	18	28	23	7				14	10	
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir			37		31	2						
Avon: Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	5	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	
Alresford Pond	10	5	3	1	6	6	2	2		1	3	4
Other inland records (no. of sites)	8(3)	23(11)	19(9)	19(9)	17(7)	1				1	2(2)	4(3)
WeBS count totals	620	927	810	426	230	114	40	5	6	39	408	835

At coastal sites breeding was recorded at Farlington Marshes (3 broods of 2, 4 and 9), Needs Ore (2 broods, 15 fledged), Titchfield Haven (1 brood, 10 fledged) and Sowley Marsh (1 brood, 7 fledged). Inland single broods were recorded at Ibsley North Lake (7 in brood), Ripley Farm Reservoir (8 fledged) and Whitten Bottom (2 ducklings). Other inland records of five or more were five at Arlebury Lakes on Jan 16th and six at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 2nd. (DB)

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

Moderately common introduced resident.

Monthly maxima are tabulated below for sites where counts reached double figures in two or more months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Headley Mill Pond		14			1						13	19
Blackmoor			4							31	22	
Hookheath Farm, Southwick	15		10	6	5						10	12
Blashford Lakes	2	6	2	3	10	20			2	69	18	10
Eyeworth Pond, NF	11	20	20	3	4	5				8	4	7
Stratfield Saye	125	104	10							54		77

Other double-figure counts were 52 at Sowley Pond on Jan 28th, 13 at Sir George Staunton CP on Oct 2nd, 12 at Passfield Pond and 13 at Wishanger, both on Dec 30th.

The only broods reported (with number of young in parentheses) were at Itchen Valley CP (2, June 1st – first breeding record), Roydon Woods (2+, June 2nd), Longstock Water Garden (4, June 3rd), Oxney Pool, Bordon (4, June 11th), Sherfield-on-Loddon (1, June 10th), Welshman’s Road GP (6, May 11th; 2, July 1st) and Waggoners Wells (6, June 23rd). A female was also flushed from a tree hole at Bishopstoke in April. (DB)



Adult male Mandarin Duck, Eyeworth Pond, Jan 3rd (Gareth Rees)

Garganey

Spatula querquedula

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber

Around 20 were reported in spring and only six in autumn. The first was a pair at Eling Great Marsh on Mar 11th and the highest count was four comprising two pairs at Titchfield Haven on Mar 13th. Ones and twos were also recorded at Needs Ore (male, Mar 12th; 1, Apr 9th-11th), Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven (male, Mar 12th), Pennington/Oxey Marshes (single males between March 18th-May 30th – the last of the spring – with a pair from Apr 14th-22nd and May 7th and two males from May 9th-10th), Fleet Pond (pair, Mar 18th-Apr 9th), Winchester SF (male, Mar 18th), Ashlett Mill Pond (pair, Mar 18th assumed same as single at Fawley Power Station on same date), Park Shore (pair, Apr 2nd), Edenbrook CP (pair, Apr 3rd assumed different to Fleet Pond), Hook-with-Warsash (male, Apr 21st), Alresford Pond (male, May 2nd-3rd), Lower Test Marshes (1, May 9th), Avington Lake (pair, May 24th) and Heath Pond, Petersfield (male, May 27th).

The first autumn report was at Needs Ore (1, Aug 13th). This was followed by reports at Farlington Marshes (pair, Aug 22nd-27th) and singles at Ibsley Water (Aug 29th), Keyhaven Marshes (Aug 29th) and Alresford Pond (Sep 4th). The last was one at Farlington Marshes from Aug 28th-Sep 6th. (DB)



Male Garganey, Oxey Marsh, Mar 27th (Gareth Rees)

Shoveler† (Northern Shoveler)

Spatula clypeata

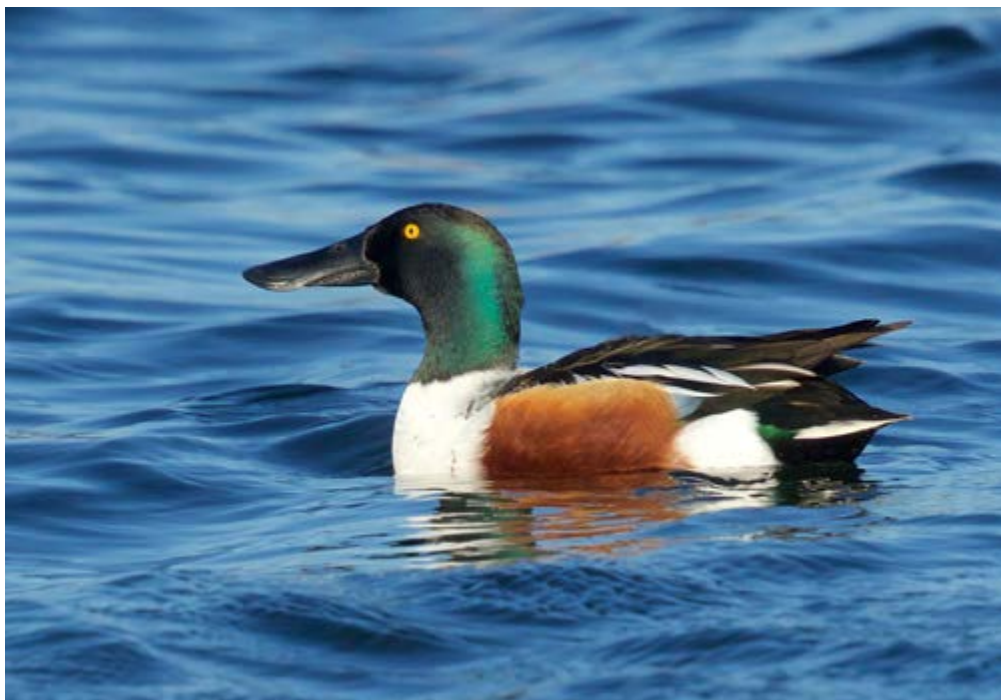
Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasionally breeds. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 662; 2002-07: 742; 2007-12: 741; 2012-17: 847.

Amber

WeBS counts in early 2017 were lower than average. In January the highest count was 366 at Blashford Lakes where over 150 were reported until Apr 2nd. In the late year numbers peaked in December with the only three-figure counts at Blashford Lakes peaking at 209 on 17th including 158 on Mockbeggar Lake. 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	83	65	132	18	7	2	1	9	27	40	54	82
Baffins Pond	12	21	13						9		10	12
Titchfield Haven	55	30	28	20	21	2	5	8	23	36	33	36
Hamble Estuary	18	11	22	9	1			2	18	13	16	25
Southampton Water	18	45	43						18	13	16	25
Allington GP			12									12
Southampton Common	16	4	6						2		2	17
Beaulieu Estuary	56	46	56	71				26	20	24	40	88
Lymington-Hurst	42	85	110	65	4		2	6	10	27	54	85
Blashford Lakes	366	239	185	170	3	2	1	8	16	67	154	209
Testwood Lakes	31	14	8	5					5	8	14	17
Test: Fishlake Meadows	15		20		2		2	6	2	12	10	45
Winchester SF	16	16	22	1				8	12	15	10	6
Alresford Pond	10	2	1		1			4	10	8	16	30
The Grange Lake	5	11	5							17	8	4
Rampton's Lane GP & Welshman's Road GP	10	1	44*	2	2					15	27	
The Vyne	15	19	34					4	12	16	7	9
Eversley GP	21	45	52	1							88	73
Yateley GP	18	14	7						1	4	7	24
Fleet Pond										23	46	73
Tundry Pond	4	2								1	27	53
WeBS count totals	686	715	547	180	7	1	1	43	84	298	462	707

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



Adult male Shoveler, Blashford Lakes, Nov 23rd (Martin Bennett)

The only other double-figure counts not included in the table above were 18 at Bramshill Park Lake on Oct 8th and 11 there on Dec 23rd, 11 at Cosham on Oct 17th, 18 at Overton Lagoons on Nov 19th and ten at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Dec 3rd. The only records of breeding were at Titchfield Haven where two broods of nine and ten ducklings were reported on June 19th, and at Farlington Marshes where a locally raised juvenile was present from July 22nd-Aug 4th. (DB)

Gadwall

Mareca strepera

Moderately common winter visitor and scarce breeder. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,552; 2002-07: 1,790; 2007-12: 1,844; 2012-17: 1,874.

Amber, HBAP

WeBS totals in January and February were significantly up on the previous year with January being up on the long-term average. Numbers in the late year peaked at 1,278 in December which was significantly down on 2016. However, numbers at the main site at Blashford Lakes were similar to 2016 with a peak count of 842 in January.

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	92	118	69	20	7	29	31	10	30	27	45	67
Titchfield Haven	88	121	125	45	34	98	122	106	74	63	58	52
Hook-with-Warsash	8	25	10	11	14	14	24	8	22	14	33	21
Beaulieu Estuary	33	59	18	20	26	41	41	61	55	20	43	57
Avon: Blashford Lakes	842	487	41	41	18	18	80	78	137	189	386	530
Fishlake Meadows	46			2	22	47	8		2	1	6	
Stockbridge-Fullerton	32										23	34
Longparish Trout Lakes	25	35	36	19	7	17	5	8	11	24	10	24
Rooksbury Mill, Andover	49	31	26	10	3			2	19		6	13
Testbourne Lake	160	94	94	70	19	26	4	34	50	46	77	125
Overton/Ashe	50	41	43	77	41				62	65	64	
Winchester SF	54	64	62	24	39	42	19	43	107	109	35	61
Avington Lake	96	62	16	18	19	21	29	32	7	33	45	33
Alresford Pond	73	56	37	21	32	70	11	98	92	60	34	58
The Grange Lake	15	10	14	24		1	4			133	60	21
Welshman's Road GP	53	58	59	18	8			16		13	48	
Stratfield Saye	32	24	9							30		14
Eversley GP	249	155	97	23						2	70	160
Yateley GP	140	94	6						12	28	42	84
Tundry Pond	2								7	17	49	50
Warnford Park	49	75	12		5						45	
WeBS count totals	1,963	1,565	665	362	150	196	208	255	547	848	1,144	1,278

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

In January-April maxima at other non-tabulated sites with counts above 20 were 25 at Ivy Farm, Leckford on Jan 14th, 24 at St. Mary Bourne on Feb 12th, 22 at Dogmersfield Lake on Mar 12th and 21 at Wattons Ford on Mar 16th. Counts of 34 and 30 were also reported at Lymington-Hurst in March and April.

A total of 44 broods of up to 13 ducklings each were recorded with nine at Avington Lake and Hook-with-Warsash, six at Titchfield Haven, four at Needs Ore and Farlington Marshes, three at Winchester SF, two at The Grange Lake and one at Alresford Pond, Bransbury Common, Fleet Pond, Leckford Village, Longstock Water Gardens, Romsey and The Vyne. Post-breeding gatherings in excess of 50 were recorded at seven locations. Maxima at non-tabulated sites with counts of 20 or more at this time were 20 at Marsh Court and 44 at

Wattons Ford on Sep 24th. In October-December maxima at other sites with counts above 20 were 26 at Ivy Farm, Leckford on Dec 9th, 42 at Laverstoke Park Lake on Dec 22nd and 39 at Badminton Common on Dec 24th. (DB)

Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon)

Mareca 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; 2012-17: 9,887.

Amber

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	2,951	2,574	1,657	8					518	1,215	1,607	1,736
Hampshire sectors	281	200	54						1,000	268	601	165
Langstone Harbour	772	902	891	100	7	2		1	390	299	685	1,228
Portsmouth Harbour	620	436	288						4	160	232	250
Titchfield Haven	146	100	163	5					4	7	88	110
Hamble Estuary	329	474	220						67	160	203	342
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	1,012	1,553	942	19					114	268	423	746
Hythe-Calshot	339	90	203						17	8	81	247
Beaulieu Estuary	885	1,095	459	46				4	200	800	462	1,152
Sowley-Lymington	500	300	45						12	170	400	350
Lymington-Hurst	1,290	1,245	673	60	5	1			140	215	780	776
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	125	100	70								7	6
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	60	265	3						3	21	67	21
Avon: Blashford Lakes	1,310	553	278	50	9	1	1	1	22	751	362	550
Testwood Lakes	18	35	24	6					2	70	113	127
Test: Fishlake Meadows	80		8						6	8	7	80
The Vyne	50	90								4	2	100
Bramshill Plantation	79	38	8						34	17	41	56
Eversley GP	673	261	115						1	35	149	322
Yateley GP	106	30	2							10	45	132
Tundry Pond	65	49	59	2						11	30	42
WeBS count totals	8,166	7,744	4,511	244	3	1	1	3	727	1,858	4,319	6,507

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

The WeBS counts for January to April were significantly lower than 2016 except for February when an influx of 426 to Bury Marsh took the overall count for the month above the previous year's total. The main reason for the reduced numbers was that in 2016 floods in the Avon Valley attracted over 2,000 for several weeks. There was again a large autumn arrival in the eastern harbours with 1,000 in Chichester Harbour on Sep 28th and 390 at Farlington Marshes on Sep 30th. Numbers for October were unusually low, in particular Chichester and Portsmouth Harbour counts of 268 and 160 respectively compared to record counts of 2,321 and 1,492 in 2016. Numbers increased in November and further in December with the WeBS total in December being 6,507 with four-figure counts at Langstone Harbour and Beaulieu Estuary. (DB)

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Common resident and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,008; 2002-07: 3,698; 2007-12: 4,063; 2012-17: 4,267.

Amber

The WeBS totals during the winter months fell short of 4,000 which had been exceeded in October and December 2016. The highest counts were again 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	321	253	197	80	105	65	105	165	177	224	375	244
Hampshire sectors	219	157	102	58	65	51	76	105	114	177	204	164
Lymington-Hurst	211	247	144	140	161	166	244	77	164	195	180	244
Avon: Blashford Lakes	231	114	77	58		114	104	52	115	93	144	160
Test: Testbourne Lake	200	130	140	85	47	136	115	115	130	170	144	175
Andover Town	220	225	115	112				130	155	178	145	170
Alresford Pond	44	23	21	22	25	47	260	96	128	29	192	36
Ewhurst Lake	163	252	108	122		27			388	460	457	
Tundry Pond	135	95	78		62		80		89	115	115	205
WeBS count totals	3,297	2,785	1,943	865	763	1,091	1,792	1,163	3,264	3,331	3,785	3,335

Maxima at other sites with counts of 150 or more were 170 at King's Pond, Alton on Feb 11th, 179 at Fishlake Meadows on June 18th, 150 at Titchfield Haven on July 30th, 199 at Northam-Mansbridge on Oct 7th, 150 at Upton Grey on Nov 25th, 161 roosting at Avington Lake on Dec 7th, 172 at Yateley GP on Dec 22nd and 154 in the Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on Dec 28th.

There were 33 territories on the two CBC plots at Lower Test Marshes (cf. 34 in 2016). Other breeding records included 15 broods totalling 70 young at Fleet Pond, 11 broods (56 fledged) at Itchen Valley CP, six broods at Avington Lake and Hook-with-Warsash (18 young), five broods at The Grange Lake and four broods at Titchfield Haven (34 young), Farlington Marshes (14 young) and Alresford Pond. (DB)

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; 2012-17: 848. Schedule 1, Amber

WeBS counts early in the year were below average with a peak total count of 542 in February including 214 at Lymington-Hurst and 146 at Langstone Harbour. However the January total may have been an underestimate as 267 were at Langstone on 2nd but the WeBS count there on 14th only produced 136. Counts late in the year peaked in December with a total of 735 including 407 at Lymington-Hurst and 185 at Langstone Harbour.

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	104	91	128	8					22	42	27	218
Hampshire sectors		10	1									23
Langstone Harbour incl. Farlington Marshes	267	191	165	10	3	2	1	1	31	42	133	185
Portsmouth Harbour		15										
Titchfield Haven	10	18	11	4						40		5
Hook-with-Warsash	81	52	40						3	57	94	80
Fawley-Calshot	4		9									12
Beaulieu Estuary	91	117	47	2	1				6	26	8	65
Sowley-Lymington (Pylewell Lake)	2	21	28							9	35	60
Lymington-Hurst	248	214	143	13	3				58	61	102	407
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood									1			6
Avon: Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water)	26	76							4		19	27

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Test: Fishlake Meadows	18		1			1			1		4	2
WeBS count totals	504	542	403	25	1	1			50	30	199	735

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

The only early year records away from the tabulated sites were a male at Ewhurst Lake on Jan 1st, a male and two females at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 30th and Feb 1st and four there on Mar 12th, and single males at Winchfield on Feb 16-17th, Hatchet Pond on Feb 27th, Mar 3rd and 31st and Overton Lagoons from Apr 10th-18th.

The last double-figure count was 11 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Apr 9th. Subsequently up to three summered there as well as two at Farlington Marshes. The first double-figure counts of new arrivals were 31 at Langstone Harbour on Sep 10th and 50 at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 23rd-24th. The only record away from the tabulated sites was a male at Ewhurst Lake on Dec 16th and 30th. (DB)

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; 2012-17: 6,872.

Amber

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	1,209	1,325	522	70				32	197	369	422	980
Hampshire sectors	280	391	168	5					2	194	145	123
Langstone Harbour	415	455	247	119	4	3	11	68	212	205	265	588
Portsmouth Harbour	205	110	39	1						6	19	230
Titchfield Haven	368	243	206	50	2		3	108	451	700	460	524
Hamble Estuary	163	177	165	10					54	84	83	156
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	176	142	47	21		1	3	11	24	11	44	28
Dibden Bay	715	338	68	2			2	19	72	84	4	44
Ashlett-Calshot	54	81	28	6					11	43	48	87
Beaulieu Estuary	658	500	339	45	2	6	28	37	200	200	553	934
Sowley Pond	700	80	30									
Lymington-Hurst	469	565	545	215	19	2	8	65	150	550	1,055	915
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	118	36	7			1	1		22	2	42	236
Avon: Blashford Lakes	844	234	61	2		1	1	7	13	28	167	157
Test: Fishlake Meadows	401	400			6		3			33	32	359
Test: Marsh Court	110	12	2	5					10	60	120	11
Testbourne Lake	150	70	40	5	2	1	2	4	22	80	40	60
Winchester SF	175	152	97	6	1	1	3	22	55	82	73	112
Alresford Pond	240	169	128	68	11	2	6	61	186	155	204	168
The Vyne	150	185	93					16	106	49	106	104
Stratfield Saye	79	87	13							40		70
Woolmer Pond		88	30	2	1							4
WeBS count totals	5,282	3,857	2,416	496	3	12	41	138	782	2,189	3,229	4,429

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

The peak WeBS totals of 5,282 in January and 4,429 in December were down significantly on the corresponding months in 2016 (cf. 6,470 and 6,041 respectively) and contrary to the trend in recent years. The only site where numbers exceeded 1,000 was Lymington-Hurst in November. Numbers in the Avon Valley were very low compared to early 2016 when

flooding attracted over 1,000 in February. The only other non-tabulated counts to exceed 50 were 176 at Holmsley GP on Jan 28th and 54 north past Sandy Point on Dec 2nd. Evidence of movement was also provided by four east at Sandy Point on Apr 30th.

The only confirmed breeding record was a pair with two young at Itchen Valley CP (MJWH) following last year's first ever breeding there. A family group of seven at flooded Denny Wood, NF on Aug 13th may have bred locally. (DB)

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; 2012-17: 287.
VU, Red, HBAP

WeBS counts for January-March were lower than in the corresponding months of the previous year, but numbers from October to December were much improved, principally because of good returns from Blashford Lakes where the late year peak was 134 on Dec 3rd. Sowley Pond no longer has regular double-figure counts, although there were 11 there on Feb 12th and Dec 20th, but Needs Ore joins Fishlake Meadows as an increasingly important site for a species whose winter numbers continue to decline.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore/Beaulieu	1	3	11	13	9	8	2	8	9	9	16	22
Blashford Lakes	131	68	22	4	3	1	6	1	3	56	99	134
Test: Fishlake Meadows	17	16	6	15	5	7				7	12	
Dogmersfield Lake	2	33	24						6	3	18	18
Tundry Pond	23	5	9						5	1	8	21
Eversley GP	25	14	19								12	13
WeBS count totals	179	158	80	9	14	9	7	7	17	77	154	150

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

Double-figure counts elsewhere included Heath Pond, Petersfield (10, Jan 30th; 12, Dec 16th), Budds Farm, Langstone Harbour (10, Feb 2nd), Sowley Pond (11, Feb 12th and Dec 20th), Ewhurst Park Lake (13, Feb 12th), Efford Lake, Pennington (10, Sept 24th) and Testwood Lakes (10, Dec 9th-11th which may have come from Fishlake Meadows). A female at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on Jan 26th was locally scarce, whilst the only saltwater records were single drakes in Hill Head Harbour on Feb 22nd and Dec 14th-16th.

Confirmed breeding was limited to five pairs at five sites in the Test Valley at Bransbury Common, Leckford Lake, Longstock Village, Longstock Water Garden and Mottisfont. Between them they produced a total of 11 fledglings. There were also possible breeding pairs at Edenbrook Park, Fishlake Meadows and Longstock Park. Other May-June records referred to single males at Ibsley Water, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Alresford Pond, Welshman's Road GP, Fleet Pond (from Edenbrook), Langstone Harbour, Hook Links and Chilbolton; two males and a female on Woolmer Pond (in early May only); and three drakes on Heath Pond, Petersfield on May 8th. In addition, seven males and a female were present at Needs Ore on June 2nd, a pair at Farlington Marshes on the same date, a male at Hook Links on June 19th and five on The Vyne Lake on July 18th. (PFF)

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 September 2016 remained in the area until Mar 9th (m.o.). A male, presumed to be the same individual, returned to Blashford Lakes on Sep 24th. Once again it favoured Kingfisher Lake until Nov 11th, although viewing restrictions there meant that it was mainly

reported from Ibsley Water (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; 2012-17: 1,658. Green

The peak WeBS count in January was 17% lower than both the last five-year average and last year's maximum of 1,654. 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	31	32	74						37	48	60	43
Blashford Lakes	567	462	421	289	125	128	198	149	167	262	425	350
Test: Longparish	59	36	19	32	22	17	10	11	4	4	26	22
Testbourne Lake	17	24	12	40	22	25	15	12	17	14	35	58
Andover Lakes: Anton, Charlton, Rooksbury Mill	70	42	30	53			3		8	35	40	50
Meon: Warnford Park	45	34	39		34	30	18	34	54		66	
Ewhurst Lake		58	55							11	1	
Bramshill Park Lake	26	29	32						79	91*	20	57
Tundry Pond	46	23	31	5	2		6		37	34	54	50
Eversley GP	319	104	191	97			113		55	95	94	360
Yateley GP	151	143	79				5		38	39	160	181
WeBS count totals	1,376	1,283	1,425	616	220	323	443	264	607	833	1,183	1,283

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

Blashford Lakes and the two gravel pits in the north-east at Eversley and Yateley continue to be the principal waters. The peak counts were 567 at Blashford on Jan 14th, 151 at Yateley on Jan 4th and 360 at Eversley on Dec 12th. The WeBS census indicated a possible small decline in the early year winter population whereas late year counts mirrored those of 2016. Numbers at Bramshill Park Lake increased markedly with counts over 50 on Sep 29th (79), Oct 8th (91*) and Dec 30th (57).

Counts in excess of 25 at non-tabulated sites in January-May (maxima in parentheses) were at Testwood Lakes (26, Jan 7th), Bickton (30, Jan 8th), Alresford Pond (33, Jan 17th), Dogmersfield Lake (42, Feb 6th), Lymington-Hurst (41, Feb 11th), Stockbridge-Fullerton (32, Feb 12th), Allington GP (50, Feb 18th), Milton Common (26, Feb 26th), Fishlake Meadows (44, Mar 11th), Broadmarsh/Budds Farm (35, Mar 12th), Southampton Common (29, Mar 16th), Avington Lake (29, Apr 3rd), Romsey (32, Apr 13th), Mortimer West End (30, Apr 18th), Ripley Farm Reservoir (40, May 6th) and Langstone Harbour (34, May 27th).

The Avon Valley recorded only four breeding pairs (cf.15 in 2016), but there was a significant increase from sites in the Test Valley where single broods were registered at Fishlake Meadows, Timsbury, Mottisfont and Abshot, and where there were five or six broods on the river at Romsey, six on Testbourne Lake and two at Longparish. In the Itchen Valley breeding was confirmed on Alresford Pond, Avington Lake, The Grange Lake and Itchen Valley CP, which represented an improvement on last year with a total of five broods and 20 young. Numbers remained stable in the north-east where there was confirmed breeding at Fleet Pond (8 broods, 15 young raised), Busta Triangle (2 broods, 9 young), Eversley Common (1 brood, 8 young) and Binsted (1 brood, 4 young). Elsewhere, fledglings were seen on Anton and Charlton Lakes, Andover; Farlington Marshes (3 broods); Welshman's Road GP (1 brood, 7 young); and The Vyne Lake (8 broods, 30 young). Overall, it was a successful breeding season with broods similar in number to last year.

Between September and December, counts exceeding 25 (maxima in parenthesis) were submitted from Lymington-Hurst (39, Oct 7th), Alresford Pond (26, Nov 14th), Heath Pond (30, Nov 17th), Dogmersfield Lake (28, Nov 19th), Ripley Farm Reservoir (36, Nov 22nd), Camp Farm GP (31, Dec 9th), Bickton (49, Dec 17th), Chilling (34, Dec 22nd), Chichester Harbour (38, Dec 22nd) and Allington GP (42, Dec 29th). (PFF)

Scaup (Greater Scaup)

Aythya marila

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red, S41

There was a selection of records from several sites, although the exact number of individuals involved was difficult to gauge. A male and two females at Ivy Lake on Jan 3rd were followed by an immature male on Ivy Lake on Jan 11th and an adult male at Ibsley Water on Feb 19th and from Mar 11th-25th. Two first-winter males and a female were at Testwood Lakes on Jan 7th-8th, with one present until 21st. A party of six (two males, four females) were recorded on the Blackwater at Needs Ore on Jan 2nd and 14th, which presumably was the same tight-knit group that frequented the lower reaches of Southampton Water and were seen almost daily between Netley and Hill Head from Jan 21st to Mar 16th. An adult male and immature off Mayflower Park on Jan 28th-29th and Feb 12th were probably different birds whereas a male in flight off Lepe on Jan 21st may have been from that same group of six.

Other early year records came from Sowley Pond (two males and a female, Jan 3rd and 15th, with six there on Jan 5th presumably being the Needs Ore/Southampton Water group), Langstone Harbour (male, Jan 6th-Feb 5th), Hayling Bay (3, Feb 8th), Farlington Marshes (2, Feb 17th) and Hurst Castle (male W, Feb 21st).

There were fewer records in the late year. Two at Needs Ore on Oct 13th were joined by a third on Oct 22nd but one was found dead on 26th. Elsewhere there was a drake on Ivy Lake on Oct 27th, a female and first-winter male on Efford Lake, Pennington on Oct 29th (considered to be the same as Needs Ore) and a female at Avington Lake on Nov 3rd. From



Juvenile female Scaup, Needs Ore, Nov 11th (Alan Lewis)

Oct 31st-Nov 12th between one and three were at Needs Ore and from Nov 14th-Dec 23rd two males and two females were present there although there was a suspicion that one of the females was a hybrid. The same group was also regularly seen between Hill Head and Brownwich from Dec 17th-28th. (PFF)

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Very rare vagrant (0,0,1)

An adult male was found at Blashford Lakes on Oct 28th and was present until Nov 5th (AL et al.). During this time it moved between most of the lakes in the complex providing excellent views for those prepared to search for it. It reappeared again in early 2018. This was accepted by HOSRP as the first record for Hampshire (see paper on p. 246)

The appearance of this North American vagrant was long overdue in the county. Breeding on inland lakes in Canada and the northern parts of the USA, birds move southwards in winter and appear along the coastline. There have been over 200 records in the UK since the first in 1987. This individual had previously been seen 12km to the south-west in Dorset from Oct 23rd-26th. Although identification ought to be a straightforward matter, many earlier British reports have turned out to be hybrids between Scaup and Tufted Duck. (KFB)

Aythya hybrid

Aythya sp.

Now into its twelfth year in the Blackwater Valley, the male Paget's Pochard (Pochard x Ferruginous Duck) was recorded at Yateley GP on Jan 13th and Eversley GP on Jan 14th, Feb 11th and Mar 11th, but there were no late year sightings. There was a similar drake on Ewhurst Park Lake on Feb 6th. (PFF)

Eider (Common Eider)

Somateria mollissima

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

The west Solent boasted double-figure counts for all months of the year, but it was the increase in the winter population along the coastline to the east of the Southampton Water (Stokes Bay to Hook-with-Warsash) that was more significant, with an early year maximum of 60 off Brownwich on Jan 14th and a late year peak there of 96 on Dec 22nd.

As well as movements between the west Solent and Southampton Water, some local movement between Lepe and Keyhaven was also evident making it difficult to gauge the total winter population which probably exceeded 100 based on the monthly maxima below. There appeared to be two distinct groups, one between Lepe and Lymington River and the other between Lymington and Keyhaven. There was the usual summering party of between 15 and 21 non-breeders throughout May and June between Lymington and Keyhaven, whilst two immature drakes were present between Hill Head and Brownwich throughout July, August and September with three on July 17th. Elsewhere seven were off Sandy Point, Hayling Island on May 1st and two flew east there on May 6th. In Southampton Water a group of five males and a female at Weston Shore on May 8th was unusual there.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	60	50	50	25	11	2	3	2	2	4	57	96
Lepe-Needs Ore	11	1	19	19	4				17	3	4	3
Sowley-Lymington		10	15	1				1	36	7	18	16
Lymington-Keyhaven	6	5	13	22	15	19	21	18	15	15	8	5
Hurst and Milford on Sea	2	2	2	26	5							

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Very rare vagrant. (0,6,0)

1996 addition. A first-winter was seen in flight with Common Scoters at Milford on Sea/Hurst Beach at about 10:50 on Nov 17th 1996 (MCC, PCo, PT). The record was not assessed by HOSRP at the time but following reference to it by Ed Wiseman in his book 'One man's marshes – the birds of Lymington and Keyhaven' published in 2017, details were requested and subsequently approved. (KFB)

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

Records from Sandy Point involved one on Jan 1st, three on Jan 10th and two flying east on Apr 29th. A pair was present off Chilling Cliffs, Brownwich and Hill Head between Feb 3rd-Mar 3rd and frequently associated with Scaup and Common Scoter. An immature male was recorded between Oxey Marsh and Keyhaven from Mar 25th-Apr 4th and regular sightings off Hurst Beach and Milford on Sea, often with Common Scoter, comprised two east on Mar 31st, three on Apr 9th, four east on Apr 20th, three NW on Apr 21st, three on Apr 29th, seven on Apr 30th (two E and five settled on the water) and three on May 7th.

Late winter records came from Chichester Harbour with singles on Nov 15th and Dec 22nd, Langstone Harbour where there were two between Nov 18th-24th and a single male on Dec 3rd, and off Hurst where there was one on Nov 26th. (PFF)

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

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

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

In the early year there were double-figure counts from the mouth of Southampton Water (where there were regular local movements between Chilling and Hill Head) on 17 days during January-February and where the maximum was 25 on Jan 24th. There was also a sprinkling of records from the upper reaches of Southampton Water with a drake off the Hamble from Feb 12th-Apr 8th and a maximum of eight off Hook-with-Warsash on Mar 14th when a group flew NW up the estuary. Rafts on the water off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea built up from late March to a peak of 60 on Apr 22nd.

Spring passage was more impressive than in the previous year with easterly movements of 193 off Hurst and 116 off Sandy Point on Apr 30th. Passage continued through May with day totals of 36 off Sandy Point (12th), 20 off Southsea (23rd) and 43 off Hurst (13th and 22nd). In June there was a significant and, for recent years, unprecedented increase in numbers on the water off Sandy Point with 69 there on 7th and 120 on 9th. There was a similar increase during this period off Hill Head with a maximum of 60 on June 7th. Passage was still evident in June-July with 37 east past Sandy Point on June 17th and on July 21st 32 passed Hurst, 30 were seen off Hill Head/Stokes Bay and 34 passed Sandy Point, doubtless the same birds involved. There was very little movement in autumn and the only count of significance was 20 on the water off Hurst on Oct 22nd. In the late year a small group seen regularly off Hill Head reached a peak of 14 on Dec 9th.

Elsewhere there were sightings in Chichester Harbour (singles, Mar 7th, Aug 15th and Sept 4th-9th; 2 Sep 10th), Woolmer Pond (5 males and 2 females, Aug 22nd), Pylewell Lake (2, Sept 7th), Fleet Pond (male, Sep 19th) and Langstone Harbour (3, Dec 18th). The Woolmer group is the largest number ever seen inland.

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		7	5	26	20	120	36	22	3	1	3	6
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	25	12	9	5	9	60	40	11	12	4	7	14
Southampton Water		5	8	1		6	2	5	5	3	7	1
Hurst and Milford on Sea	11	3	59	60	45		9	1	2	20		
Moving east			8	347	294	37	34		13			
Moving west			5		8				2			

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

The individual present between Brownwich and Hill Head since Nov 3rd 2016 remained until April. Previously thought to be male, it was subsequently considered to be female. It was joined by a second female on Mar 12th, the two being last recorded on Apr 22nd. The male and female in Langstone Harbour in late 2016 stayed until Apr 5th. One at Fareham Creek on Jan 17th was probably different whereas one at Emsworth Channel, Chichester Harbour on Feb 6th was likely one of the same two.

A male off Sandy Point on June 14th was unseasonal. There were two late year records. A first-winter male was seen in Langstone Harbour from Broadmarsh/Southmoor, Bedhampton and Farlington Marshes between Nov 9th into 2018 and a female/immature was recorded from Southampton Water, mostly off Weston Shore, from Nov 26th into 2018. (PFF)

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye)

Bucephala clangula

Scarce and declining winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 176; 2002-07: 124; 2007-12: 88; 2012-17: 59

Schedule 1, Amber

WeBS counts indicated the early winter population remaining stable, but the December return was low compared to last year (*cf.* 26 vs 47). The peak count was at Ibsley Water (26, Mar 17th), which was also the site of the last spring record (4, Apr 6th) and first autumn return (1 female, Oct 27th). The annual monthly maximum in the eastern harbours was 21 in Langstone Harbour on Jan 14th. Numbers along the west Solent reflected last year's figures. Elsewhere there were records from Fareham Creek (1 male, Jan 11th-Feb 8th), Eversley GP (1, Feb 11th) and off Weston Shore (3, Oct 31st: 1, Dec 2nd).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	26	13	3						3
Hampshire sectors	2		1						
Langstone Harbour	21	5	4					5	9
Portsmouth Harbour	6	12	2						4
Lymington-Hurst	10	7	1					2	3
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	24	23	26	8			5	8	18
WeBS count totals	46	30	15				3	18	26

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; 2012-17: 145.

Green, HBAP

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ibsley Water (roost)	102	49	36	22	1					1	43	104
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		1	2						14	1	2	3
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	8	11	8		3	1				4	8	8
Avon above Fordingbridge	7									11		1
Eyeworth Pond	20	7								1		3
Sowley Pond	12	5	2									1
Bramshill Plantation (roost)	16	6	9								13	20
Tundry Pond	2	1										4
Eversley GP (roost)	55	34	10								4	34
WeBS count totals	103	82	40	3	1	2	2	2	24	19	75	105

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

There was no evidence from WeBS totals of any further decline in the winter population following the recent downward trend, although December's count was well below last year (cf. 203 in 2016). Roost counts at Ibsley Water finished the year as they started with peak numbers of 102 on Jan 29th and 104 on Dec 16th, whilst the annual maximum in the north-east was 55 at Eversley GP on Jan 24th of which 28 were males.

As usual, there was a multitude of winter records from non-tabulated sites across the county. There were no double-figure counts from Testwood Lakes, but there were records of one or two from a dozen or more sites along the Test Valley including Longstock, Chilbolton, Longparish, Testbourne Lake, Leckford, Stockbridge and Romsey. Higher counts at Lower Test Marshes were four on Jan 14th, five on Dec 19th and six on 28th. Two north over Trigpoint Hill on Aug 21st, one NE there on Nov 9th and 12 NW at Tweseldown on Nov 6th were inland movements worthy of note. The tame female at Lower Test Marshes was again present throughout the year being joined by a second female between January and March. After being on its own from Apr 1st-June 8th, it was thereafter in the company of a male until year end; both came to take bread. Elsewhere inland there were singles (mostly redheads) on Cadman's Pool (Jan 17th-Feb 5th), Ewhurst Lake (Feb 5th, 14th), Sleaford Reservoir (Feb 11th-18th), The Vyne Lake (Mar 13th-17th), Anton Lakes (Dec 16th-30th), Alresford Pond (Nov 5th-19th), Highbridge (Nov 12th) and Stratfield Saye (Dec 27th) with a male at Curbridge (Apr 17th-May 8th). Other records of more than one included Avington Lake (3 redheads, Jan 1st-17th; 1-4 redheads, July 31st-Aug 25th), Cadnam Common (3, Jan 12th), Yateley GP (16, Jan 24th; 3, Mar 3rd-9th; 14, Dec 11th; 12, Dec 13th), Benyon's Inclosure/Mortimer West End (1-5, Feb 5th- 24th; 2, May 21st), Fawley Reservoir/West Fawley (4, Jan 14th and 28th; 3 Feb 11th; 5, Mar 3rd), Fleet Pond (1, Mar 25th; 4, Dec 4th; 2, Dec 11th), Bishopstoke (1 female, May 1st; 2 redheads, Nov 12th-15th), Heath Pond (Petersfield) (2-4 redheads, Oct 26th-Nov 25th), Lakeside CP (2 N, Nov 30th), Itchen Valley CP (2 N, Dec 18th) and Dogmersfield Lake (3 redheads, Dec 30th).

Coastal sightings included Brownwich (1 redhead, Jan 22nd), Hurst (1, May 1st; 3 E, Nov 2nd), Keyhaven/Pennington (2, Apr 9th) and between Beaulieu River and Keyhaven (6 redheads, Aug 26th-Sep 25th; 4 redheads, Nov 18th-25th; 2, Nov 30th; 1, Dec 16th). In eastern waters there were reports from Sandy Point (1-5 in flight, Nov 3rd-14th), Langstone Harbour (2 redheads, Nov 4th-Dec 21st), Emsworth Channel (Chichester Harbour) (1-2, Nov 15th-Dec 27th) and Titchfield Haven (2, Nov 25th; 1, Dec 17th).

Breeding was confined to two sites in the Avon Valley. A female with five young was seen at Somerley Park on Apr 26th and two pairs raised 17 young between them at Wattons Ford. Up to four redheads at Avington Lake from July 31st into August appeared to be a family party but with no evidence of where the young had been reared. (PFF)

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; 2012-17: 329.
NT, Green, HBAP

WeBS counts showed a further decline in the winter population with figures in all months down on last year. The stronghold remains the eastern harbours, where the annual maximum in Langstone Harbour was 124 on Dec 2nd, but where the drop in overall numbers was most marked (cf. max 205 in 2016), and in Portsmouth Harbour where the peak count was 98 on Feb 1st. With a summering female at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, Lymington-Hurst returned records for every month of the year, the maximum count being 21 on Jan 14th and Dec 21st. With the exception of 14 off Sowley Shore on Dec 2nd, numbers between Lymington River and Hill Head failed to reach double figures, whilst six on Jan 28th was the maximum count in the upper reaches of Southampton Water.

There were two May records in addition to the Pennington redhead comprising four SE past Hill Head on May 5th and three east past Hurst on May 6th, whilst the only inland report was of a female at Ibsley Water in the company of Goosanders between Jan 5th-29th.

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	97	95	78	25							19	86
Hampshire sectors	54	16	21	10							3	8
Langstone Harbour	69	65	109	6						1	72	124
Portsmouth Harbour	29	98	50	1						2	5	35
Hill Head/Brownwich		2		1	4		1					1
Upper Southampton Water	6	4	1									2
Lepe-Needs Ore	2	5	1								4	4
Sowley-Lymington	3	2	5							1	7	14
Lymington-Hurst	21	32	12	1	3	1	1	1	6	2	17	21
WeBS count totals	184	159	198	16					6		64	190

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

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Very scarce visitor, now almost exterminated by the Defra eradication programme.

The only report was of two males and three females or immatures at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Oct 14th (ACS). (MLC)

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

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

A numerous and widespread species which is released in very large numbers each year for shooting. As a result, the few records submitted do not reflect its true status which is in any case difficult to determine between feral breeders and released stock. There were records from only 19 localities (compared to 33 in 2016), the majority from the chalk downs but also from coastal sites along the west Solent. The largest gatherings, in some cases in tight-knit coveys, were at Old Burghclere (80, Sept 22nd), Overton (70, Dec 30th), Willesley Warren (40, Nov 28th), Ramsdell (36, Feb 6th), Newton Stacey (26, Dec 5th), Needs Ore (30, Dec 5th) and Toyd Down (24, Jan 14th).

There was confirmed breeding at Old Burghclere CP on July 4th (nest with 11 eggs) and Medstead on June 18th (occupied nest) with additional May-June records from Barton on Sea (1, May 4th), Porton-Holland Down (1, May 6th), Fawley Power Station (1, May 6th), Martin Down (4, May 23rd), Needs Ore (4, May 30th) and Woolmer Pond Cottage (3, June 28th). (PFF)

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

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

Red, S41, HBAP

As with other game birds, the true status is not represented by the submitted records as significant numbers continue to be released each year for shooting, albeit on a much smaller scale than Red-legged Partridges.

On the North Hampshire Downs the largest coveys at the 11 reported localities were at Cole Henley and nearby Willesley Warren (6 each, Nov 28th). Although there were records in May-June of single pairs at Longstock, Oakley and Over Wallop, breeding was not proven in this region. In the north-east there was confirmed breeding at Kingsley (10, July 23rd including 3 juveniles) and single pairs were present in May at Colemore, Well, Crondall, Binsted and Malthouse Farm, where subsequently there were nine on Nov 8th. Early year records came from Greywell (4, Jan 28th) and Odiham Airfield (1, Apr 8th). Along the South Downs most sightings were outside the breeding season at Cliddesden (1, Jan 1st), Stoke Charity (3, Mar 8th), Charity Down Farm (2, Apr 25th), Magdalen Hill Down (7, July 21st) and Danebury (7, Oct 10th). Whilst numbers at Cheesefoot Head were difficult to gauge, the highest single covey in the area being at Lane End Down (8, Oct 23rd), it was likely that breeding territories were held at Fawley Down, Gander Down and Longwood Warren. To the west, around Andover, records came from Bere Hill (1, Mar 26th and 2, June 3rd) and from Bury Hill (2, May 2nd), whilst the Test Valley reported one or two at Trigpoint Hill on several dates between Feb 22nd and May 16th, three pairs at Overton/Harrow Way on Mar 26th and single records from Bransbury Common (2, Feb 17th) and Atners Hill (1, June 1st). On the Dorset border the largest coveys were at Toyd Down (11, Aug 29th) and Rockbourne



Grey Partridge, North Hampshire Downs, May 14th (Martin Clay)

Down (6, Sep 1st). At Martin Down, where there were four on Apr 19th and one or two seen or heard in May and June, breeding was not confirmed.

The only records away from chalkland habitats were one at New Alresford on Apr 15th, two at Keyhaven on Apr 24th, two at Ripley Farm Reservoir on May 23rd, one at Dibden Bay on May 31st, and a pair with four fledglings at Berewood, Waterlooville on Aug 2nd, only the second confirmed breeding record this year. (PFF)

Quail (Common Quail)

Coturnix coturnix

Scarce summer visitor occasionally occurring in higher numbers; very rare in winter.
Schedule I, Amber, HBAP

The first was heard at Martin Down on May 24th. Potential breeding sites were in the Ladle Hill area where up to four were singing between June 19th and 24th and Over Wallop where up to two were heard intermittently from May 27th-July 22nd. Singles were also reported from Farley Mount on May 25th, Blackstake Hill near Danebury on May 31st and Needs Ore on Aug 16th. The last record was one picked up dead on the roadside outside Petersfield on Sep 28th. (PFF)

Pheasant (Common Pheasant)

Phasianus colchicus

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

As with Red-legged Partridge, the huge numbers released each year for shooting far outnumber the surviving feral breeders, and the small number of submitted records in no way reflects its true status. Regular counts were made at non-shooting sites at Warblington Shore, where the annual maximum was 12 on Jan 29th, and on Farlington Marshes, where the peak was ten on Nov 28th. Other localities recording at least 20 between April-June included several reports between 20 and 34 with a maximum of 68 at Grotto Copse, Crux Easton on June 30th, and in winter included Winchester SF (42, Jan 19th), Hazel Down (40, Oct 3rd), Bransbury Common (25, Oct 9th), Clatford Oakcuts (50, Oct 28th), Markwells Wood (20, Nov 3rd), Denmead (23, Nov 30th) and Kingsclere Estate (20, Dec 17th).

Breeding was confirmed at Itchen Valley CP (2 broods, 2 fledglings, June 1st) and Abbots Ann (2 young, June 17th) whilst seven territories were held in Longmore Inclosure (cf.14 in 2016) and three on the Lower Test Marshes (cf. 1 in 2016). (PFF)

Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon)

Gavia stellata

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.
ET, Schedule I, Green

There were 260 bird-days, all at coastal localities, the highest number recorded since 2013. Of note were three September returns – one on 6th was the earliest since 1992. Between 1952-2004 there were first returns in September in only eight years, but since 2005 it has become the norm (10 of 12 years). The approximate monthly totals are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	5	11	2	13	2				2	2	4	3
Moving east	40	56		18	1					1		
Moving west	11	26		4	1				1		2	5

Early year reports in January and February totalled 158 bird-days but only a few settled as follows: Hurst Castle (3, Jan 6th; 5, Feb 3rd), Needs Ore (1, Feb 18th), Hill Head/Brownwich (2, Feb 6th; 1, three dates including one trapped in netting which drifted south on Feb 12th) and Hayling Bay (4, Feb 8th; 1-2, six dates). January movements included three west at Stansore Point on 17th, six east then west at Hurst Beach on 17th and 26 east at Sandy Point on 18th. February movements involved 44 east (max. 15, 15th) and 26 west on 8th at

Sandy Point and 11 (all singles) east past Hurst on 11th. The first on spring passage were off Hurst Beach (2, Mar 28th) and Hill Head (1, Apr 10th). There were virtually daily reports from Apr 14th to May 3rd including a total of nine east past Sandy Point (1-3), three groups (7,4,1) briefly on the sea off Hurst Beach on 29th, singles off Hill Head/Stokes Bay on four dates and a probable first-summer fishing along Weston Shore on May 3rd. The last of the early year were singles past Hurst Beach on May 11th and 13th.

The first returns were singles in September off Sandy Point on 6th, west through The Solent off Tanners Lane on 14th and settled at Chichester Harbour from 24th to at least Oct 3rd. Thereafter there were singles off Hill Head (Oct 29th, Nov 15th and Dec 22nd), Needs Ore (Dec 13th-14th) and Hook-with-Warsash (Dec 26th). There were nine bird-days between Hurst Beach and Pennington Marshes (incl. 3 each, Nov 29th and Dec 22nd), 25 at Sandy Point (20 W, Dec 2nd-3rd) and the Chichester Harbour individual was relocated on three December dates up to 29th. (AFJC)

Black-throated Diver (Black-throated Loon)

Gavia arctica

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule I, Amber

There were at least five in the early year, eight on spring passage and five in the last quarter. One present from 2016 at Chichester Harbour, normally seen from Black Point along the Emsworth Channel, remained until Feb 25th. Elsewhere there were reports on single dates from Hurst Castle (1, Jan 6th; 2, Feb 3rd), Sandy Point (1 W, Jan 9th), Hayling Bay (1, Feb 17th-18th) and Hill Head (1 E, Feb 5th). Spring passage was visible at Hurst Castle/Hurst Narrows (1 W, Apr 10th; 2 on sea, 24th; 2 E in summer plumage, May 6th), Sandy Point (3 W, 1 E, Apr 29th-May 1st) and Stokes Bay (1 W, May 2nd). Two returned to Chichester Harbour on Nov 14th and were seen regularly to the end of the year; three there on Dec 24th was a harbour record count. Singles were reported off Hurst Castle (SW, Nov 20th), Pennington Marshes (Nov 24th-26th, Dec 21st-22nd) and Hill Head (Dec 9th).

Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	4		6	2						4	5

Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)

Gavia immer

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant. ET, VU, Schedule I, Amber

In the early year at least two over-wintered from 2016 in the eastern harbours, and in the late year up to five were present there from November with four more in the west Solent. Dispersals thereafter generated a wide scatter of records in December.

In Chichester Harbour one was present to Feb 10th (with two there Jan 2nd and 4th) and presumably the same was seen off Sandy Point to Mar 1st. One was off Langstone Harbour's north/north-east shore to Jan 9th. In the west Solent one presumably accounted for records off Tanners Lane on Jan 4th, Normandy on 10th and Lepe on 14th. Two were at Hurst on Jan 4th and 6th and one was there on 17th. In February one was between Hill Head and Chilling cliffs on three dates (5th, 9th and 16th, also Mar 1st) and the first in flight following the moult was east through Hurst Narrows on 17th. There were only three singles in spring at Sandy Point on Apr 3rd and Hurst Beach on Apr 23rd and May 13th, all resting on the sea.

The first autumn arrival was off Sandy Point on Oct 20th. The next were two at Langstone Harbour north shore from Nov 10th to Dec 3rd with one remaining into 2018. Two were at Chichester Harbour on Nov 14th after which up to three were between there and Sandy Point to the year-end. On Nov 24th there were four arrivals along the west Solent at Lepe, Needs Ore, Tanners Lane and Oxey Lake. Subsequent sightings of singles included Tanners Lane (Nov 28th, Dec 2nd), Lepe (Dec 1st, 9th), Needs Ore (Dec 2nd, 9th), Brownwich/Hill

Head (2nd, 4th, 9th), Eastney (13th), Cams Bay (17th), Itchen Estuary (22nd), Weston Shore (23rd, 31st) and Priddy's Hard (26th). One remained off Pennington Marshes into 2018 with two there in December (9th and 22nd).

Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AF/C)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	3	2	2	1					1	9	9

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel)

Hydrobates pelagicus

Very scarce visitor, usually after autumn gales but recorded in every month from May to January (1, 327,8)
ET, Amber

An influx of birds occurred along the coast in early June. The first was a single off Milford on Sea at 19:30 on 5th (CB). A single was off Chilling at 07:25 on June 7th (RHM). A further three singles flew east at Milford on Sea at 08:24, 09:45 and 10:15 on 8th (MPM). At Sandy Point there was a minimum of four sightings on the morning of 9th of at least three together which lingered all afternoon (ACJ et al.).

This influx was mirrored along the south coast from Cornwall to Essex with small numbers in each county, particularly on June 7th-8th. Although the species nests at the Isles of Scilly and off Brittany, there are also mid-summer congregations of first-years off southern Europe and West Africa. The first-ever June sighting was in 1994, but there were records for that month in four years from 2007-2013. It is thought that the continual rise in sea temperature rather than bad weather is causing the rise in offshore sightings (Bob Flood pers. comm.). However these are the first sightings in any month since 2014. (KFB)

Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel)

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor usually after gales; mostly from September to January but once each in February and April (11, 324+,1)
ET, Schedule 1, Amber

One record. A single was seen off Milford on Sea during the influx of Storm Petrels between 09:40 and 09:47 on June 8th (MPM).

This is an extraordinary record. Apart from this being the first June record for Hampshire, there have been only four 'recent' June records along the coast of southern England (in 1985, 1986 and 1988) – all from Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Those studying petrel movements have commented that possibly failed breeders occasionally join feeding flocks of Storm Petrels off the English coast and are then amongst them when big influxes occur. (KFB)

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

Recorded in all months between February and September, mostly from Sandy Point in the east and Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea in the west. The first report was a single at Sandy Point on Feb 21st. Between one and three were then seen there intermittently up to Aug 3rd except for seven on June 10th. At Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea, after a single on Feb 25th the only other records were in April and May with peaks of four on Apr 22nd and May 13th. Elsewhere there was one south over Badminton Common heading towards Lepe on Apr 17th followed by singles at Hill Head on Apr 19th and 23rd and July 27th, Southsea Castle on Apr 30th and in The Solent off Lymington-Hurst on Aug 21st and Sep 3rd.

With no strong passage indicated, the above pattern of occurrences is again consistent with occasional visits from prospecting individuals or local breeders from established 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
	2	1	4	4	7	1	1	1			

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

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

Amber

As usual in recent years, this was another poor showing with only six records. A flock of 39 east through Hurst Narrows on May 6th (SPP) was followed in June by one there off Hurst on 5th (CB) and 61 west there on 8th (MPM). Also reported in June in small numbers from Sandy Point, Hayling Island with two east and one west on 7th and three west on 8th (ACJ). The last record was one NE off Calshot Spit on Sep 9th (PDJ).

The monthly cumulative totals are shown below. The year total of 108 on five days compares with 40 on five days in 2016. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				39	68			1			

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

Very scarce but regular passage migrant, mostly in late summer and autumn. (0,239,1)

ET, CR, Red, S41

One record. A single flew east off Milford on Sea at 11:15 on June 5th and possibly west again at 12:05 (PFF). Although still seen almost annually, the last year in which numbers reached double figures was 2013. This mirrors the well-documented decline in breeding numbers of this Critically Endangered species in the Balearic Islands. (KFB)

Shearwater species

Puffinus sp.

Two west at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Aug 3rd (ACJ). (MLC)

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-2007: 349; 2007-2012: 378; 2012-2017: 381.

Green

The WeBS maximum of 340 in December was close to both 2015 and 2016 whereas the preceding three years (2012-14) averaged 435. However the total of 97 at Portsmouth Harbour on Dec 2nd was the second highest locality record this century after 104 there on Jan 10th 2009.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	12	24	29	11	4	4	13	11	21	17	15	38
Portsmouth Harbour	40	35	24						1	41	72	97
Lymington-Hurst	4	20	12	8	3	3	16	8	24	27	21	35
Blashford Lakes	30	15	29	25		26	39	35	21	23	21	17
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	23	28	15	8	9	10	24	26	39	49	39	39
Testbourne Lake	9	8	9	13	8	7	10	13	20	18	13	8
WeBS count totals	244	219	208	109	41	70	161	129	221	299	301	340

A decline in numbers at some inland sites may be due to otter colonisation and consequent predation. The Blashford Lakes monthly maximum of 39 was the lowest there since 1999. At the Grange Lake counts peaked at 18 (Feb 21st) where previously 20-30 had been regular.

A further 15 locations recorded ten or more including Welshman's Road GP (16, Aug 26th), Lakeside at Chichester Harbour (16, Oct 3rd) and Romsey WM (18, Dec 19th). Breeding was confirmed at just 23 localities of which 14 recorded fledged young. At Blashford Lakes there was breeding on up to four waters but success was reported as low. Elsewhere pairs were reported from Itchen Valley CP (6, 9 young), The Grange Lake (4), Mottisfont (3 including 1 brood of 3); Greywell to North Warnborough along Basingstoke Canal (3 including 2 on nest and 1 brood of 3); King's Pond, Alton (2, 7 young); three further localities with two pairs and six locations with one. A total of 17 young was reported including a first account of three adults and one young at Whitewool Pond near Old Winchester Hill and the last, recently fledged, at Milton Common, Portsmouth on Oct 14th. (AFJC)

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.
Red*

Two records. One drifted east off Brownwich on Feb 5th (AL et al.). One located at Oxy Lake on Dec 21st (MW) remained faithful to the locality until at least Apr 15th 2018 when it had moulted into full breeding plumage. (AFJC)



*Red-necked Grebe, Oxy Island, Feb 3rd 2018
(Chris Rose)*

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

*Moderately common resident and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-07: 314; 2007-12: 363; 2012-17: 402.
Green*

There were only two three-figure roost counts of 128 and 116, both off Hythe Pier, on Jan 13th-14th. Elsewhere there was a notable roost of 91 at Langstone Harbour off Farlington Marshes on Jan 15th. Autumn staging at Blashford Lakes was indicated by all water totals on Aug 31st, Sep 13th and 24th of 68-70, presumably some then departing for coastal waters. The only notable total in the late year was 90 at Langstone Harbour (WeBS) on Dec 2nd.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour: Black Point		14	9	4					3			45
Langstone Harbour	91	32	31	19	18	8	17	21	31	41	48	90
Portsmouth Harbour	2	22	20							8	10	14
Hill Head-Brownwich	75	87		4	2	1		4	4	7	12	45
Southampton Water	128	16	11	5	4			1	3	13	23	37
Blashford Lakes	30	37	45	39	25	35	45	68	70	42	33	24
Fleet Pond	6	9	16	15	9	9	14	18	13	18	24	6
Eversley/Yateley GP	21	20	20	17			24		36	22	27	19
WeBS count totals	292	218	152	100	21	54	100	102	188	188	215	236

Breeding evidence was limited. Displaying or nest-building pairs were reported at 19 waters but young were sighted at just nine. At Ivy Lake, Blashford four pairs attempted breeding but just two young were seen; other pairs were present on three other waters there. A brood of four young at IBM Lake on Apr 22nd was reduced to three by May 30th. Five pairs were at Fishlake Meadows on May 21st including one with fledged young; a second brood of three was seen there on June 4th. At Dogmersfield Lake at least one pair was present and raised three young. A brood of two small young at Fleet Pond on July 2nd were not seen thereafter.

A small juvenile being fed at Testbourne Lake on July 19th proved first breeding there. At Titchfield Haven a family group, including two recently fledged young, was present on the scrapes from Aug 18th-Sep 2nd and presumably had bred nearby. (AFJC)

Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe)

Podiceps auritus
Scarc winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

Most early year records came from the west Solent including peaks of four off Needs Ore on Jan 14th, Pennington Marshes on Jan 17th, Park Shore on Feb 19th and Keyhaven on Mar 6th, five at Oxey Marsh on Feb 14th and a total of eight during the Beaulieu Estuary WeBS count on Mar 12th. Elsewhere the only January records were three past Chichester Harbour entrance on 1st and one in Langstone Harbour off West Hayling LNR, associating with two Long-tailed Ducks, on 2nd and 4th and then two on 26th. The only February record away from the west Solent was one between Black Point and Sandy Point on 3rd-4th and 11th. The last of the early year were singles in breeding plumage off Needs Ore and Pennington Marshes on Mar 26th.

First returns were on Nov 19th when singles were off both Pennington/Normandy Marshes and Needs Ore, followed by one at Sandy Point on 23rd. One or two were then present at each site until the year end. One was off Weston Shore on Dec 16th-17th, early on 21st (when it or another was off Dibden Bay late morning) and lastly on 23rd (when seen drifting up the estuary towards Itchen Bridge). Reports of singles came from West Hayling LNR on Dec 8th and Hill Head on Dec 17th.

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-Sandy Point	3	1									2	2
Langstone Harbour	2											1
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	4	4	8								1	2
Lymington-Hurst	4	5	4								2	2

Black-necked Grebe

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

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

The Langstone Harbour wintering flock reduced to 12 in January, compared to 16 in the previous month, but increased to 15 in February. Ten were still present on Mar 11th but none after 19th. One winterer at Ibsley Water was in partial breeding plumage by Feb 19th but only noted on five dates thereafter to Mar 20th when a second was also present, both then in full breeding plumage. There were coastal records of singles from Portsmouth Harbour (initially at Hardway on Jan 1st and then at Fareham Creek to 21st), Hill Head and Lepe each on Jan 15th, two at the last locality on Feb 4th-5th and one in full breeding plumage east past Beachlands, Hayling Bay on Mar 18th.

The only summer record was one in breeding plumage at Ibsley Water between June 30th and July 2nd. In autumn there were scattered records of singles at Langstone Harbour on Sep 23rd, Calshot on Sep 26th and 30th and Hill Head on Oct 15th. First arrivals at Langstone Harbour were six on Nov 11th peaking at 14 on Dec 2nd. The only other winterers were singles at Chichester Harbour between Dec 4th and 19th and Ibsley Water from 18th to the year end.

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	12	15	13						1		13	14
Ibsley Water	1	1	2			1	1					1
Approx. monthly totals	16	18	15			1	1		2	1	13	16

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Rare vagrant (5,55,0)

ET

Please see records listed in the Escapes section. With the recent creation of a breeding programme at Knepp in Sussex there is now a small population of free-flying birds that range widely in southern England. These birds carry colour rings that are not always obvious in flight. In future we will have to assume that all birds are of captive origin unless there is strong evidence to the contrary. (KFB)

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Rare but increasing vagrant, recorded in every month (2,47,1)

ET

One record. A single at Farlington Marshes on Nov 16th took off and flew high west at 10:30 (GDu, TRe). This was presumably the same bird seen at RSPB Medmerry an hour earlier. At Avon Tyrrell a single flew south with Cormorants at 07:30 on Nov 19th (JMCK) and was seen to fly south at Avon Causeway in the evening on Nov 21st (JPic). The last sighting was of a single landing in reeds at Avon Floods, Keyhaven at 11:00 on Nov 26th (RJC). It is assumed that all of these sightings refer to the same individual. (KFB)

1965 addition. One at Balmer Lawn near Brockenhurst, NF between May 24th and Aug 4th (NWO, FP et al.). This record was included in Birds of Hampshire but has only been recently submitted to BBRC and accepted in 2018.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill)

Platalea leucorodia

Scarce visitor, recorded in every month, but now locally regular along the west Solent except in summer. ET, Schedule 1, Amber

There were double-figure totals in each winter month including 20 on Dec 16th, a county record. From 1951-2005 only six individuals were recorded grounded in winter (November to February). In HBR 2009 it was predicted that a wintering population would become established in the county as in nearby Poole Harbour, Dorset. Following this forecast there have been reports in every winter month since 2015.

Four were present at Needs Ore on Jan 2nd, six arrived from the west at Keyhaven Marshes at 15:30 on 6th and were seen later at Tanners Lane before increasing to ten at Needs Ore on 11th. Notable February sightings included three at Keyhaven Lagoon on 21st and 24th which presumably briefly moved east to contribute to a peak of 13 at Needs Ore on 22nd. Groups of three and five were mobile between the Keyhaven and Pennington lagoons on Feb 26th. On Feb 28th there was a total of 14 between Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven (4), Park Shore (7) and Titchfield Haven (3). In March there were at least 18 including 15 adults at Needs Ore on 5th, up to two first-winter individuals at Keyhaven Marshes on four dates, one second-winter at Farlington Marshes on 12th and a first-winter at Needs Ore on 29th. All April records were from the west Solent and included at least six adults and three first-winters. In May an adult and three first-winters were at Pennington Marshes on 2nd increasing to four first-winters at Keyhaven Lagoon until 14th. Visible migration was indicated by two north over Stokes Bay on May 16th. At Needs Ore a maximum of four, including three first-winters, were present until 16th; two there on 27th were the last of spring.

Perhaps just one wandering individual summered being seen at Titchfield Haven (June 15th) and at the Jetty Lagoon, Pennington Marshes or nearby (first-summer, July 7th; intermittently

July 20th-Aug 22nd). Movements in August included two west off Lepe on 6th, two high over Sinah Common on 22nd followed by six arrivals at Pennington Marshes on 23rd and five at Needs Ore on 24th. At Keyhaven and Pennington lagoons two were present on Sep 3rd but then departed west to be replaced by a group of five juveniles and an adult until 13th; thereafter three juveniles remained until 23rd with one to Oct 2nd. Two, including one juvenile, flew west across Chichester Harbour on Sep 8th and three were again at Titchfield Haven on 24th. Sightings in October included two west over the Meander Pools, Hook-with-Warsash and an immature, the only inland record, at Ibsley Water on 15th-16th. There were 16 west Solent bird-days in November of one to three individuals but on 28th an adult and two juveniles were at Needs Ore when three adults and a second-winter arrived from the east at Keyhaven Lagoon. Numbers further increased in December with ten at Beaulieu Estuary on 3rd, four feeding off Long Island, Langstone Harbour on 15th, followed by a total of 20 on 16th at Needs Ore (11), Lymington River (6), Titchfield Haven (2) and over Chichester Harbour (1).

Approximate monthly totals are shown in the table below. Note that annual totals have been dropped from the species header as these are given only for rare or very scarce species and are in any case difficult to assess for this mobile species. Furthermore new arrivals have no longer been assessed in the table below for the same reason. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven		3	4	1		1			3	1		2
Beaulieu Estuary	10	13	16	9	4			5		1	4	11
Lymington-Sowley	6	4	2	2							1	6
Lymington-Hurst	6	8	4	3	4		1	6	8	1	4	2
Elsewhere			1		3			2	8	3		5
Minimum total	10	14	18	9	8	1	1	10	10	4	8	20



First-summer Spoonbill, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Aug 31st (Gareth Rees)

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)

Botaurus stellaris

Very scarce but regular winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP

There were 14 records comprising six to seven in the first winter period and three to five in the second. The Ivy Lake regular again overwintered from Oct 15th 2016 until Mar 9th (reported on 23 dates but with a notable gap from Feb 14th to Mar 2nd). Two were present there on Jan 19th and 30th and perhaps one of these accounted for nearby records on the Avon at Bickton on Feb 7th and Ibsley WM on 12th. At Meadow Lake, Testwood Lakes one was present from Jan 1st-31st. At Titchfield Haven there were reports of singles in flight on seven dates between Jan 11th and Mar 7th. Other records of singles were over Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on Jan 18th, flushed at Winnall Moors, Winchester on Jan 19th and hunting in the open in floods off the Black Water at Lepe on Mar 12th.

The first return showed in flight over the reedbeds at Avon Water on four dates between Oct 12th and 27th and presumably remained there undetected until seen perched low in a tree on Dec 9th. Two were at Testwood Lakes on Nov 15th and one remained there at Meadow Lake until Dec 10th. At Titchfield Haven one was seen briefly on the scrapes before flying north on Dec 19th. Another was glimpsed in the reedbeds at Fishlake Meadows on 27th. None returned to Ivy Lake. (AF/C)

Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret)

Bubulcus ibis

Formerly rare vagrant now a scarce visitor. (0,62+,11+)

ET, Schedule 1

There were almost 300 reports with much duplication involved. Sightings were made in every month except July, with just two reports between May 25th and Sep 2nd including the first record for June on 10th at Titchfield Haven. The peak of eight at Warblington occurred when there were already three elsewhere in the county. Sightings are summarised by area (singles unless stated):

Avon Valley: Harbridge, Jan 1st-4th and 9th was joined by a second on 3rd. Bisterne, Jan 8th.

Warblington area: the small group first seen in 2016 was present on a daily basis from Jan 1st-24th, with two to four on many dates and a maximum of eight on Jan 2nd-3rd. A single was present on many dates from Nov 7th to Dec 29th.

Titchfield Haven: three SW, Jan 3rd; Mar 16th; June 10th.

Northney, Hayling Island: two NE, Jan 4th.

Alresford area: Pinglestone WCB, Jan 28th-Mar 12th and Alresford Pond on Mar 14th. It ventured to Swarraton WM on Mar 14th and 15th but was not seen again.

Lymington-Hurst: singles on Apr 9th, May 14th and May 23rd. A single was at Sturt Pond on Sep 21st. Two were present in the Efford Lake area from Nov 5th-17th.

Eling/Bury Marshes: single (first seen in 2016) remained in the area until Jan 24th.

Fishlake Meadows area: single from Mar 9th-26th joined by a second on 17th, 21st, 24th and 26th.

Lower Test Marshes: Mar 16th and 28th; three, Sep 3rd.

North Boarhunt: Apr 27th-May 4th.

Manor Farm, Overton: May 24th.

Weston Shore: juv, Aug 24th.



Adult summer-plumaged Cattle Egret, Lower Pennington Lane, May 14th (Alan Lewis)

Testbourne Lake: three, Sep 6th.

Horton Heath: Sep 25th and 27th.

Liss: one west, Nov 30th.

(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 2016 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Andwell 21 (20); Arlebury Park, 5 (7); Bramshill Plantation, 6 (5); Efford Mill, 3 (2); Elvetham Park, 19 (18); Eversley GP, 4 (0); Fleet Pond, 9 (10); Fort Elson, 14 (18); Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 12 (19); near Fordingbridge, 72 (75); Kings Pond, Alton, 2 (2); Kingston North Common, 4 (7); Lammas Wood, Fawley Refinery, 42 (38); Langstone Mill Pond, 10 (6); Sowley Pond, 16 (12); Somerley Estate, 17 (16); The Grange Lake, 0 (0); Tournurbury Wood, 2 (6); Yateley GP, 1 (2). These data suggest a county population of around 259 pairs compared to about 260 pairs in 2016.

Monthly maxima at four of the five sites summarised last year are tabulated below for comparison. (KFB)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	13	29	13						107	33	48	8
Blashford Lakes	25	14	13	2	8	7	26	67	105	28	37	14
Fobdown Farm Reservoir	4	4	7	7	3	16	30	30	24	7	0	2
Portsmouth Harbour	5	12	2						2	12	14	12

Great White Egret† (Great Egret)

Ardea alba

Very scarce but increasing visitor, recorded in every month. (0,69+,16)

ET

When you think back to the first and second Hampshire sightings in 1985 and 1992, it is hard to imagine that over 600 reports were submitted for the year – more than twice as many as in 2016. An influx took place in October peaking at 11 at Testwood Lakes. Birds clearly moved between sites (particularly in the Test Valley). With five in the Test Valley in the spring, it suggests that at least 16 arrived in the county. The species is so frequently reported that estimates of birds arriving are now almost meaningless. Sightings are summarised below by area.

Avon Valley: at Blashford Lakes and also nearby sites, up to two on many dates to Feb 19th (including the usual colour-ringed ‘Walter’, first seen in 2003); then singles on Feb 27th, Mar 3rd and Apr 26th. Three were seen on Apr 9th. An unringed bird was present on July 25th and again on Aug 6th, while ‘Walter’ was noted from Aug 8th. Both were seen on Sep 25th and Oct 3rd but only ‘Walter’ was seen after that to the year end.

Beaulieu Estuary: single at Needs Ore on Apr 14th, Sep 30th and Oct 3rd, and presumably the same at Inchmery on Sep 30th and Lepe on Oct 30th.

Lymington-Hurst: singles were seen on Jan 2nd, Mar 17th, Apr 10th, 14th and 24th, and on several dates from May 2nd-11th, July 16th, and again on several dates from Aug 13th-20th, Sep 18th-19th and 28th.

Chichester Harbour: two at Conigar Point, Hayling Island on July 14th.

Farlington Marshes: single on Sep 18th, but then five flew west on 19th and six SW on 24th, while on Oct 27th seven arrived low from the east, gained height and then headed north. A single was seen on Nov 17th.

North-east: singles were at Greywell on Jan 22nd and in flight east over Bramshill Plantation on Feb 19th. One flew SE over Edenbrook CP on Oct 1st. There were regular sightings at a variety of sites from Nov 14th to the year end with probably the same bird appearing at Tundry Pond on Nov 14th, 19th, 24th, 25th, Dec 11th and 30th. At Fleet Pond a single on Nov 19th was present in parallel with that at Tundry Pond and was seen again on Dec 12th. At Yateley GP a single present on Nov 22nd-23rd probably roosted with Little Egrets at Eversley GP to the west as witnessed on Dec 3rd. The Fleet and Yateley records were believed to refer to the same individual which remained in the Blackwater Valley into 2018.

New Forest: singles were at Brockenhurst on Apr 12th, Crab Tree Earth on Apr 22nd and Brogenslade Bottom on Dec 16th.

Titchfield Haven: singles on Sep 23rd, Oct 22nd and 27th. On Oct 28th three flew in from the east and up the Meon Valley. There were singles on Oct 29th and Nov 9th.

Fishlake Meadows: a single on Mar 17th. There were almost daily sightings from Apr 5th to July 4th, with one or two in April and peaks of three on 5th, 16th, 17th and 30th; one to three in May and peaks of five on 1st, four on 8th and 10th; one or two in June and peaks of three on 10th and 16th. Singles on July 4th and Aug 31st were followed by almost daily sightings of a single from Sep 24th-28th, then one or two from Sep 29th-Oct 15th and a single on many dates to the year end.

Testwood Lakes: there were almost daily sightings of a single from Mar 14th-May 7th, with two on a few dates, four on Apr 27th and three on Apr 29th. Three were present on Sep 24th, followed by three to four on many dates to the year end. An amazing influx of nine on Oct 27th, possibly including the seven seen over Farlington Marshes the same day, increased further to 11 on Oct 29th. There were five on Nov 27th.

Lower Test Marshes: singles on Apr 9th and Oct 25th.

Elsewhere in the Test Valley: the above birds wandered to other sites on a variety of dates with singles flying north over Skidmore on Oct 10th, at Timsbury on Oct 14th, Chilbolton on Nov 4th, two flying NE over Trigpoint Hill on Nov 20th and a single at Broadlands Estate on Dec 27th.

Hamble Estuary: singles at Sarisbury Green on Apr 17th, Bursledon on June 12th and at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 19th-20th.

Weston Shore: two flew north on Oct 27th.

Warnford: single on Nov 26th.

Winchester: single SW over Magdalen Hill Down on July 21st.

(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; 2012-17: 352. ET, Green, HBAP

A peak WeBS total of 398 for October was close to the 2006-2016 average of 388. A roost count of 144 at Langstone Mill Pond on Sep 1st matched the average annual peak of the seven preceding years 2010-2016.

Monthly maxima at localities which regularly exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour*	26	21	57	22	20	51	63	99	149	216	107	41
Hampshire sectors*	12	6	24	12	5	30	22	22	41	118	26	9
Langstone Mill Pond	2	3	33	62	52	53	82	43	144†	40	12	5
Langstone Harbour	12	14	33	20	22	46	87	119	111	86	91	29
Portsmouth Harbour	3	10	18					22	15	47	42	23
Hamble Estuary	7	3	12	9	4	4	19	27	15	14	24	11
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	2	4	8	18	6	22	25	28	15	18	15	5
Beaulieu Estuary	5	4	5	5	6	15	13	36	13	27	30	9
Lymington-Hurst*	10	12	16	14	8	21	22	19	21	23	25	20
Oxey Marsh†		25							98		72	
Allington GP†	10	24	25							17	16	20
WeBS counts total	123	122	168	89	55	147	195	283	273	398	304	177

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

There were further diurnal counts of ten or more including up to 17 at Pinglestone WCB, Alresford on many dates between Jan 16th-Mar 4th and 12 there on Dec 12th, 22 nearby at Cheriton on Mar 12th, 15 at Weston Shore on Sep 23rd-24th and 12 at Botley on Oct 26th. Other notable roost counts not tabulated above included 13 at Greywell on Jan 22nd and Dec 29th; at least 40 at Arlebury Lakes on Feb 7th; 11 at Fleet Pond on Nov 23rd; a pre-roost count of 34 at Linbrook Lake, Blashford Lakes on Dec 18th; and 29 at Bird World, Alice Holt Forest on Dec 29th. Breeding was reported from three colonies with nest totals of 44 at Langstone Mill Pond, four at Fawley Refinery and 12 at Alice Holt Forest. No breeding

attempts were noted at three former colonies although Grey Herons bred successfully at each. One recently detected site was not occupied by either species this year. At Langstone Mill Pond several pairs probably had two broods as young were still in their nests very late in the breeding season. On July 11th at least three nests still held small young and as late as Aug 15th another held two young which were still being fed by adults on Sep 15th (PRM-R). (AFJC)

Gannet (Northern Gannet)

Morus bassanus

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

Recorded in every month but lacking the high summer counts of previous years (cf. 252 on Aug 2nd 2016) due apparently to a lack of observations from Hurst Castle/ Milford on Sea in the relevant months.

January began with relatively high numbers feeding offshore from Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea towards the Needles of 63 (1st), 93 (2nd), 39 (4th) and 31 (29th), compared to a maximum of only three off Sandy Point during the same period. Numbers then remained low with not more than



Adult Gannet, Sandy Point, June 11th (Alan Lewis)

seven in February and March before rising to 35 off Sandy Point on Apr 30th. During April up to four were also reported from Stokes Bay with singles at Hill Head and Lepe. A similar pattern continued through the summer with monthly peaks at Sandy Point of 20 on May 11th and 22nd, 16 on June 6th, 20 on July 21st and 37 on Aug 30th. The only other location to record double-figure numbers was Hurst Beach/ Milford on Sea with 30 or more in May, peaking with 35 on 13th followed by 16 on July 21st. Regular sightings between Stokes Bay and Hill Head and in Southampton Water as far as Weston Shore did not exceed four at this time. For the last four months of the year numbers generally did not exceed ten except for 15 at Sandy Point on Sep 3rd, 71 feeding off Hurst Narrows towards the Needles on Oct 1st and 16 in Hayling Bay on Dec 10th.

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	3	4	7	35	20	16	20	37	15	4	2	16
Stokes Bay-Hill Head				4	4	4	2	3	2	1		1
Southampton Water				1	1	3	4	3	6	1		
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	92	4	6	5	35		16	1	3	71	4	6

Shag (European Shag)

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

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

Red

There were just 53 records of which ten were in December. From Hurst Beach westerly movements were noted of two on Jan 7th, Apr 29th-30th and May 22nd; three on Apr 2nd; one on May 12th and one east on Dec 31st. On the sea off Hurst/Milford on Sea there were 11 on Mar 28th, three on Apr 2nd and one or two on a further 15 dates, one on Sep 15th being the only report between May 23rd and Dec 23rd. At Sandy Point there were sightings on just five dates including a flock of 11 juveniles on Aug 4th (photo) and six then eight on

Sep3rd-4th. Elsewhere three were off Weston Shore on Nov 25th and two at Southsea Castle on Dec 26th. All other records were of singles including Hythe on Mar 12th and off Hill Head in the last week of June.

Monthly maxima are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point		2		1				11	8			
Gunner Point-Eastney		1	1						1	1		1
Southsea Castle	1	1									1	2
Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea	2	1	11	3	2				1			1
Other localities			1			1					3	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; 2012-17: 624. Green

The table below contrasts WeBS counts for inland and coastal waters (not all sites are counted from April-August). The larger inland population again peaked in September and the combined total of 735 in that month ranks fourth highest since 2005 (2005-16 average 667).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS coast counts total	141	107	109	40	33	37	39	89	149	188	232	202
WeBS inland counts total	288	404	257	27	1	21	101	180	586	505	466	246
WeBS total	429	511	366	67	34	58	140	269	735	693	698	448

Peak counts were between Ringwood and Fordingbridge, both at Blashford Lakes and on the Avon. The coordinated WeBS count there on Sep 24th totalled 497 of which 268 were on Ibsley Water. Some appeared to roost above Fordingbridge as 170 were counted flying high



Cormorant, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Nov 30th (Gareth Rees)

south over Bicton at 08:30 on Sep 22nd. In the early and late year roost counts at Ivy Lake, Blashford were 126 on Jan 30th and 117 on Nov 30th.

Monthly maxima from regularly watched sites, where counts exceeded 25 in at least two months, are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour: Hants sectors	38	36	8		1	2	1	1	10	5	50	36
Portsmouth Harbour/Baffins Pond*	40	17	19						27	53	53	58
Titchfield Haven	53†	27	20	7			20			9	21	19
Hythe	17		4		1			42	45	29	55	54
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes & Dibden Bay*	39	34	18	18	7	5	5	17	14	31	28	35
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	85	108	22		24	1			205	100	146	9
Blashford Lakes	182	202	134	5	24	18	73	195	324	203	371	326
Fishlake Meadows†	24	59	72							57	67	20
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton*	9	34	7	2		1	4	6	7	6	28	35
Petersfield-Heath Pond	15	10	4	1	1		1	11	11	41	53	34
Fleet Pond†		55			5		9		31		67	43

† = nocturnal roost counts; *=WeBS Count.

Local movements included Hook-with-Warsash (60 S, Jan 9th), Trigpoint Hill (35 SW, both Mar 4th and Oct 8th), Weston Shore (50 SSW, Oct 31st) and Tweseldown (40 SW, Nov 9th). Additional notable counts not tabulated were 34 roosting in a single tree at Leckford on Feb 12th; 60 at Searchfield Farm, Breamore on Mar 11th; a WeBS total of 31 between Lymington and Hurst on Nov 8th; and 43 at a nocturnal roost at Jet Ski Lake, Eversley GP on Dec 29th. (AFJC)

Osprey (Western Osprey)

Scarce passage migrant.

Pandion haliaetus

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

The first records were in March with singles north over Pitts Wood Inclosure, NF on 21st and Norley Wood, NF on 26th. A more leisurely approach was taken by an individual that caught and ate a mullet by Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes on Mar 30th. The next records came on Apr 1st from Emsworth, Farlington Marshes and Lower Test Marshes. After a flood of April records, only five were noted in May and the only June report was from Pipers Wait, NF on 3rd. In July and August there was a series of records from Fishlake Meadows, with up to two present from July 2nd-Aug 7th and presumably another two in late August. One during the first period had been ringed at Rutland Water (blue/white Darvic ring T3) and a later bird had been ringed at Dunkeld, Perthshire (blue Darvic ring PH7). Further reports in September and October came from the usual coastal locations, though there were surprisingly few records from the Keyhaven area. With a re-introduction scheme taking place in Dorset, we can expect a further increase in summering records and the possibility of breeding within the county in the near future. The final records on Nov 5th, 10th and 12th were from Needs Ore.

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

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chichester Harbour		1	1			1	2		
Langstone Harbour		2			1	4	10		
Titchfield Haven/Hook-with-Warsash		1						2	
Lower Test Marshes		1			2	2	3		

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary						3	2	3	3
Keyhaven area	1	1						1	
Blashford Lakes/Avon Valley		3	2				5	1	
Itchen Valley		3				1		2	
Test Valley		3	1		25	6	11		
Elsewhere	2	4	1	1	5	1	3	1	

Honey-buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)

Pernis apivorus

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

There were 61 records (including repeated sightings of the same birds) for this scarce summer visitor with 29 from the New Forest including the first record on May 14th. Across the county there followed a further 12 records for May, 18 for June, 13 for July and 14 for August showing a fairly even monthly spread of observations.

Pairs or singles were present at a minimum of nine sites and known to have bred successfully at six of them fledging a minimum of ten young. There were two records of singles that could reasonably be attributed to return migration at Needs Ore on Aug 10th and heading south at Odiham on Aug 29th. In September there were three records of juveniles at a breeding site, the last being on 9th. (AP)

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)

Accipiter nisus

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

There was little evidence of current breeding density, both within the New Forest and elsewhere. Breeding season records were as usual few in number. Two pairs raised four young at Itchen Valley CP while evidence of breeding came from Yateley Heath Wood, Pamber Forest, Overton, Fareham and two locations within Southampton. There were only a handful of breeding season records from the New Forest and no evidence of breeding reported. Though the increasing Goshawk population since colonisation began in 2002 has undoubtedly had an impact, this clearly understates the current position in the area. NFWBS produced totals of three, two and four for January-March and two, two and four for October-December (Table 4).

Monthly bird totals at a coastal location with regular coverage through the year are tabulated below, the higher numbers indicating passage in spring and autumn. (RC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	2	5	12	16	9	8	12	16	13	26	7	7

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

Accipiter gentilis

Scarce but increasing resident.

Schedule 1, Green

As in previous years the New Forest accounted for the bulk of records with 184 of the 261 received, with 56 of these coming from Acres Down alone. The southern coastal strip between Calshot and Needs Ore accounted for a further 27 records. Ten records covered the Blashford/Ibsley/Ringwood Forest area and fifteen more came from the Test Valley. A pair was recorded at Ellisfield and single records were received for Ashford Hill on Mar 11th, Woolmer on Mar 13th, Petersfield on Mar 19th, Hartley Wintney on Apr 11th, Rownhams on May 12th, Locks Heath on July 17th, Deanlane End on Nov 22nd, Farnborough on Dec 14th and Ashe near Overton on Dec 17th.



Immature Goshawk, Test Valley, Mar 21st (Richard Jacobs)

Within the New Forest Crown Lands at least 43 sites were occupied by pairs or singles. Of these, 31 were successful in rearing young, nine failed and at three others no evidence of breeding was found. A minimum of 65 young fledged of which 47 (25 males and 22 females) were ringed from 20 nests. In the Test Valley, including woods to the east and west, pairs were recorded at 17 sites but the outcomes are unknown. Successful breeding was however reported at Ringwood Forest. This species is now breeding at many sites in the county and the population could be approaching 100 pairs. (AP)

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 with birds present at five wetland sites in most months of the year. In January there were five at Titchfield Haven, four at Keyhaven, three at Needs Ore, two at Lower Test Marshes and a single at Farlington Marshes. Less regular sightings came from four other locations. Even allowing for interchange between sites, there were probably at least eighteen present in the first winter period. In the breeding season, there was display or evidence of possible breeding from at least six sites. One pair bred, raising two young, at Titchfield Haven but evidence of confirmed breeding was not forthcoming from the other sites, though food-carrying was noted at two locations. There were records on multiple dates from heathland in southern parts of the New Forest, presumably hunting birds from coastal sites. Around twelve to fifteen were present in the period October-December with up to four at the Keyhaven roost.

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	2	1		1		1	1	2
Titchfield Haven area	5	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3
Lower Test Marshes	2	1	1	1	1			1		2		1
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	3	4	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2
Keyhaven area	4	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	4

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

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

After a brief upsurge in wintering numbers in 2016, it was back to normal with only a handful frequenting two known roost sites in the first half-year and three in the second half. In January two ringtails used the northern roost site in the New Forest and in February an adult male joined the roost. At Alresford Pond one to two ringtails roosted from January until Mar 17th. Other diurnal records from the Alresford area probably related to these birds including one in mid-morning at Alresford Pond on Apr 4th. The paucity of regular records from other areas suggests that it was unlikely that other roost sites were going un-recorded in the first half-year.

Away from the New Forest and Alresford areas, scattered records of singles were as follows. In January one was at Cheriton on 11th and an adult male was at Upper Bullington on 20th. In February one was at Havant on 14th, a male was at Martin Down on 19th and a ringtail was at Winchester SF on 20th. In March there was a ringtail at Chilland on 1st, one at Old Winchester Hill from 12th-18th, a female at Cheesefoot Head on 13th, while an adult male was at Keyhaven on 24th and a ringtail was at Tidgrove Warren from 27th-28th. The NFWBS totals for January-March were three, one and two. Last reports for the first winter period were a single at Shipton Bellinger on Apr 24th and an adult male at Titchfield Haven on Apr 27th, May 4th and 14th.

The first return was at Shipton Bellinger on Oct 12th, with the first New Forest record on Oct 15th at the northern roost site. Two ringtails (probably a male and female) were at Bransbury Common later in the month. In November and December a male was present intermittently at the northern New Forest roost, with ringtails at the two other roost sites at Alresford Pond and Bransbury Common; perhaps the lowest wintering numbers for many years. Ringtails were also reported from Longwood Warren and Titchfield Haven on Nov 5th and Keyhaven on Dec 3rd and a male was at Nether Wallop on Dec 10th.



Female Hen Harrier, Bransbury Common, Oct 29th (Martin Clay)

The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	5	4	2	1					3	3	3

Montagu’s Harrier

Circus pygargus

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

One record. A male was at Shipton Bellinger at 10:00 on Apr 24th (MR, photo). This male was named ‘Mark’ and satellite tagged in 2014 when he was in his fourth calendar year and a helper at a nest in Wiltshire. He returned and bred successfully in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Unfortunately his last signal was transmitted on Apr 23rd and soon after his aerial fell off. He was still present throughout the 2017 season into August but did not return in 2018. (KFB)

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Moderately common and increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
ET, NT, Schedule I, Green, HBAP



Red Kite, Oxey Marsh, Mar 27th (Joe Murphy)

There were reports from around 520 sites during the year with the highest densities of records in the north-west, the Test and Avon Valleys, and around the South Downs. Twelve 10km squares had more than 50 records in the year. Seeing a Red Kite is now an everyday experience for many observers and over 2,200 records were submitted, which is almost double the number of records in 2016 compared to about 450 in 2007 and 27 in 1997. Estimating breeding numbers is now difficult but it is likely that the actual nesting population was probably in the region of 200-250 pairs, with perhaps 400 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.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	7	3	20	24	18	7	2	1	7	5	3	2
New Forest	0	3	10	8	10	7	0	0	0	2	1	0

In common with 2016, numbers at roosts remained quite low in most cases. No counts were received from Facombe, but very few roost there now. Monthly maxima at roost sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hare Warren		4	11	1	1	
Meon Valley	14	6	2	7	19	8
West End Green			10			34
Tunworth	10				40	49
Chilton Candover	25					
Bossington	20	10				

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. An unusual record was eight over Locks Heath on June 17th. This is away from known breeding pairs and was presumably a group of wandering first-year birds. (KFB)

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Rare vagrant recorded in every month from April to September. (0,38,2)

ET

Two records. At East Boldre a single moved SW at 10:00 on May 18th (EJW), and a single flew SW over Yateley Common at 09:05 on May 26th (GCS). This species has been seen annually since 2006. (KFB)

Buzzard (Common Buzzard)

Buteo buteo

Common resident.

Green

An early count of 11 over Trigpoint Hill on Jan 25th was followed by counts there of 12 on Feb 13th and 21 on Mar 4th. There were at least 20 over Needs Ore on the same day and 24 over Fishlake Meadows on Mar 7th.

Successful breeding records came from all parts of the county. In the New Forest the long-running survey found 15 successful nests with a minimum of 21 young fledged (JMT *et al.*). There are thought to be around 70 territories within the New Forest. The relatively low breeding productivity in the two study areas suggests a population nearing its upper limits. At Itchen Valley CP five pairs raised seven young. Elsewhere confirmed breeding was reported from eight localities: four in the north-east, Winchester SF, Deanlane End (South Downs), Hook-with-Warsash and Newlands Farm, Fareham.

NFWBS gave totals of 37, 34 and 58 in January-March and 28, 32 and 38 in October-December (Table 4). 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	2		6	16	7	3	4	3	9	5	3	3

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Scarce resident, moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records for January to April involved a minimum of 141 at 75 sites. Maxima at sites with more than five were nine at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 3rd and 15th and seven at Titchfield Haven on March 10th.

Breeding was confirmed or suspected at Bishop's Dyke, Fishlake Meadows, Lower Test Marshes, Needs Ore, Pennington Marshes, St Cross, The Vyne WM and Titchfield Haven.

Records for September to December involved a total of 166 at 68 sites. Maxima at sites with more than five were 13 at Titchfield Haven on Nov 3rd, seven at Fleet Pond from Nov 15th-19th, nine at Fishlake Meadows on Nov 19th, eight at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 2nd and 12 along the Avon between Ringwood and Ibsley on Dec 21st. (DJU)

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

Very scarce passage migrant, most frequent in autumn, and rare winter visitor; has bred, (? ,172,0)

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

1993 addition. A male was heard calling at Titchfield Haven on five dates between Apr 18th and May 14th and two juveniles were present in the same area between Aug 1st and 30th, one of which was trapped on the final date (BSD *et al.*)

2000 addition. A male was heard calling at Titchfield Haven at 00:20 on May 7th and heard again on each of the next three nights (BSD, DPo). There were no other records in Hampshire that year.

Moorhen (Common Moorhen)
Common resident and winter visitor.

Gallinula chloropus
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	70	96	37	16	6	7	13	11	16	26	66	67
Hampshire sectors	54	62	22	12	4	7	11	11	10	14	40	36
Langstone Harbour	54	45	3	25	21	9	25	16	34	54	51	48
Portsmouth Harbour	24	30	20							17	25	44
Blashford Lakes	8	25	26	5		9	16	12	21	18	48	19
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	7	21	20	13	10	7	28	19	23	17	31	18
The Grange Lake	43	6	4	4		7	2			18	7	5
King's Pond, Alton	23	29	16	12			7		19	19	22	18
Heath Pond, Petersfield	36	30	24	19	12	14	19	22	28	25	34	42

Maxima at other sites with counts of 25 or more were 25 at Riverside Park, Southampton on Feb 15th and nearby at Northam-Mansbridge on Nov 12th, 26 at Yateley GP on Nov 16th and 30 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Dec 20th. Highest counts of territories were reported from Fleet Pond (20) and Lower Test Marshes (11). (DJU)



Moorhen eating blackberries, Butts Lagoon, Keyhaven, Sep 26th (Stephen Bassett)

Coot (Eurasian Coot)
Common resident and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2002-07: 3,150; 2007-12: 3,585; 2012-17: 2,843.

Fulica atra
NT, Green

WeBS counts in the early year were higher than the same period during early 2016, largely due to increased numbers at Blashford Lakes. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	244	197	108	37	37	39	57	112	135	156	220	374
Hampshire sectors	62	86	33	17	25	27	43	52	54	61	78	80
Lymington-Hurst	84	75	93	56	54	110	109		27	125	20	73
Blashford Lakes	1,092	637	224	91	36	159	283	311	558	636	1,163	937
Fishlake Meadows	111					85	110	31		47	52	
Testbourne Lake	96	70	64	24	19	23	60	75	80	70	125	127
Eversley GP	336	150	112	72			168		173	234	287	319
Yateley GP	164	153	86				46		78	107	99	162
Tundry Pond	48	40	27				16		73	112	151	140
Heath Pond, Petersfield	125	114	76	49	54	67	96	101	95	92	106	107
WeBS count totals	2,628	1,883	1,314	531	325	603	1,076	749	1,630	2,040	2,734	2,432

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

Other sites to hold in excess of 50 were Lakeside Holiday Village, Chichester Harbour (63, Oct 3rd; 74, Nov 5th), Langstone Harbour (52, May 27th; 90, June 24th; 76, July 22nd), Portsmouth Harbour (62, Nov 4th; 69, Dec 2nd), Titchfield Haven (52, Feb 10th; 52, Sep 30th; 73, Oct 2nd), Needs Ore (79, Feb 12th; 60, Mar 12th; 60, July 23rd; 79, Aug 27th; 76, Sep 24th) and Alresford Pond (85, Sep 10th; 99, Oct 4th).

Counts of territories (not necessarily complete) included the following (2016 figures in parentheses): Avington Lake, 4-5; Eversley GP, 7; Farlington Marshes, 7; Fleet Pond, 6 (9); Hook-with-Warsash, 4 (7); IBM Lake, 5 (5); Itchen Valley CP, 6 (3); King's Pond, Alton, 5 (2); Wellington CP, 11 (1).

Nocturnal movement with singles calling in flight were reported from Stubbington at 22:15 on Feb 19th and Sway east at 22:45 on Mar 23rd. (DJU)



Coot, Jetty Lagoon, Keyhaven, Mar 27th (Joe Murphy)

Crane species

Grus sp.

At Badminton Common a single circled overhead at 16:50 on Mar 24th before heading south (JGR). Presumably the same was seen flying east over Farlington Marshes at 18:25 (GR).

Although easily identified when on the ground, it is often not possible to obtain detailed views in flight and, given the number of escaped cranes from collections, the HOS Records Panel takes a cautious approach to each record unless plumage details have been noted. (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 9th. The RSPB monitoring team of staff and volunteers found 23 pairs on territory, most of which were proved to breed, with 36 nesting attempts in total. This is a slight reduction on the 29 pairs found nesting in 2016. It is known that a minimum of 13 young fledged, although in eight cases birds were known to be breeding but the outcome was unknown. The above average temperatures during the summer were offset to some degree by heavy rainfall at times. Of the 36 nesting attempts, 18 resulted in failure. In addition it is understood that a further three to four pairs nested on land to which access is not granted.

Autumn roost counts included 35 at Porton Down on Sep 14th with 13 nearby at Over Wallop the same day. There were 30 near Overton on Sep 1st with 29 still present on 11th. In October there were flocks of 16 at Over Wallop on 20th and up to 15 near Overton up to 22nd. The last sighting of the year was one near Overton on Oct 29th.

Hampshire currently holds 19% of the Wessex population (a slight reduction on 25% in 2016) and is at the eastern-most fringe of that group (apart from two pairs in Sussex). The involvement of farmers and landowners is key to keeping this population at the current level. (See paper on p. 222.) (KFB)



Stone-curlew, North Hampshire Downs, Mar 25th (Barry Stalker)

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; 2012-17: 2,767. VU, Amber

WeBS count totals in January-March and October-December were generally lower in both winter periods than in the corresponding periods during 2016, with an early year peak of 2,315 in February and late year peak of 2,460 in December.

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	848	934	589	511	221	213	403	812	374	1,474	1,657	960
Hampshire sectors	113	73	28	7	14	10	2		40	111	7	124
Black Point	146	104	55		4	10	5	5	10	49	113	134
Langstone Harbour	865	947	372	308	282	351	569	1,216	1,083	808	1,061	996
Portsmouth Harbour	170	306	87	27			168	200	140	149	237	197
Titchfield Haven	164	156	130	73	50	18	93	54	160	146	160	150
Hamble Estuary	13	30	23	2	2	7	24	20	30	1	2	55
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	59	55	53	45	19		53	16	70	58	71	68
Hythe	54		13	9	80	70		112	96	129	64	85
Calshot	500	550								380	580	640
Beaulieu Estuary	43	109	122	112	93	83	83	70	89	6	6	35
Lymington-Hurst	100	125	100	100	46	100	224	46	40	109	68	80
Sowley-Lymington			31	13	19	10	2	33	25	14	16	17
WeBS count totals	2,109	2,315	923	657	527	581	939	1,436	1,444	1,779	2,298	2,460

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

Counts of breeding pairs from east to west along the coast were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Langstone Harbour RSPB islands, 12+ (6); The Kench, 1; IBM Lake, 1 (1); Titchfield Haven, 4 (5); Hook-with-Warsash, 2; Lower Test Marshes, 2 (2); Badminton Common, Fawley, 1; Needs Ore, 13 (10); Sowley-Lymington, 12 (6+); Lymington-Hurst, 7 (10+).

Elsewhere in the Avon Valley there were three pairs at Ibsley Water which raised three young, two at Ripley Farm Reservoir from May 23rd-June 20th, two at Hamer Warren Lake on June 10th and two at Sopley on June 11th. In the Test Valley a pair failed at Testwood Lakes and one was at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 16th. In the New Forest a pair was at Hatchet Pond/Moor from Feb 24th-12th May with no proof of breeding. In the south-east a pair was found nesting in a field west of Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on May 29th and remained to June 4th but were presumably unsuccessful. In the north-east there were up to two at Fox Lane GP, Eversley between Mar 11th-Apr 8th but these probably bred in Berkshire, one at Mortimer West End on Apr 17th, one at Fleet Pond on June 19th with two there on June 28th and one at Dogmersfield Lake on Aug 5th. Finally in the east one was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on July 21st and two were at Woolmer Pond on Aug 6th. (DJU)

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Rare vagrant; attempted breeding in 2012. (5,22,2)

ET

Two records. A single was at Titchfield Haven and later on Posbrook Floods from Mar 30th-Apr 2nd (MFin), and a single male was at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven on May 9th-10th (YH). These are the first records since 2014. (KFB)



Adult Black-winged Stilt, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, May 10th (Gareth Rees)

Avocet† (Pied Avocet)

Recurvirostra avosetta

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce but increasing breeder since 2002.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

In the early year in Langstone Harbour there was an isolated peak count of 83 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 2nd, with no other count exceeding 61. Numbers reduced further during February with a peak of 46 on 7th which reduced to 19 on 18th. Numbers at the Beaulieu Estuary showed a gradual increase during January to March although 22 on Feb 4th had only increased to 26 by Mar 10th but subsequently reached 54 on Mar 31st. At Titchfield Haven the first six were recorded on Feb 19th following the lowering of water levels, with numbers increasing further to 21 on Feb 21st and 40 by Mar 16th. Numbers at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes were relatively stable during January to March with peak counts of 15 on Jan 18th and 17 on Mar 6th.

Breeding was attempted at five sites. At Needs Ore the peak count for April was 66 on 2nd but numbers had reduced to two by Apr 14th with no evidence of breeding. At nearby Park Shore there were ten sitting on May 5th, increasing to 13 by May 19th with one chick seen on May 26th. Numbers subsequently reduced to six on June 2nd with total desertion by June 4th. In the west Solent area five pairs fledged 14 young of which at least two survived. At Farlington Marshes two pairs bred and fledged four young (first breeding record for the site). At Hook Links there were three sitting during April, but subsequently all failed due to gull predation. At nearby Titchfield Haven there were 14 sitting with a maximum of 14 chicks seen, but subsequently only three chicks fledged. A later nesting attempt was also made by a pair but the chick was rapidly predated. Assessing the total breeding numbers is

problematic owing to the mobile nature of the population with failed birds seemingly moving to other sites to re-attempt nesting.

In the late year the first double-figure count since July was 12 in Langstone Harbour on Nov 4th with numbers increasing to 41 on Nov 10th. Subsequently numbers increased slowly to a late year peak of 51 on Dec 23rd. Counts elsewhere were much lower with a late year peak of 26 at the Beaulieu Estuary on Dec 3rd and 9th.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	83	46	2	6	4	4	15	6	1	4	41	51
Titchfield Haven		21	40	65	40	84	65	4	2	1	1	2
Hook-with-Warsash	1	2	4	28		2	4				1	
Needs Ore/Park Shore	12	22	54	66	38	6		6		9	6	26
Lymington-Hurst	15	11	17	7	7	15	19	9	5	6	10	15

Other coastal records included Wade Court (1, Feb 17th and Sept 24th), Sandy Point (1 W, June 12th), Hurst Beach (5 E, Sept 15th), Black Point (8, Nov 27th). Inland, one was at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 28th and left west at 11:30. Subsequently what was presumed to be the same individual was seen at Ibsley Water in the early afternoon. A further three were at Ibsley Water on Aug 31st. (DJU)

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; 2012-17: 6,024.

VU, Red, S41, HBAP

WeBS counts during the early and late year continued the long-term decline in wintering numbers, with most coastal sites recording lower counts compared to 2016. The only four-figure count (not WeBS) was 1,000 at Needs Ore on Feb 14th.

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	1060	658	36	26	10	25	12	49	48	109	410	671
Hampshire sectors	307	277	29	6	6	5		3		9	101	118
Langstone Harbour	330	530	50	22	26	26	20	43	104	158	178	889
Titchfield Haven area	268	192	27	17	20	44	71	100	127	120	80	103
Hamble Estuary	216	316	2	3	1	1	2	28	8	13	103	155
Lower Test Marshes-Eling	500	500	300	3	1	23	45	17		16	222	175
Dibden Bay	300	388	15	12						26	18	413
Beaulieu Estuary	673	1,000	44	32	12	21	3	60	55	60	200	600
Lymington-Hurst	511	877	100	27	16	27	93	37	173	162	70	750
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	350	130	90			25				171	31	39
Ripley Farm Reservoir						43	133	186	213			82
Blashford Lakes		250	36	30	26	43	61	147	140	64	125	
Alresford Pond	415	540	3	1	4		7		1	3	3	
Winchester SF	750	400	15	7	8	38	55	60	121	238	421	441
WeBS count totals	3,804	4,536	374	176	75	118	444	448	652	942	1,546	2,199

Away from tabulated sites counts of 200 or more came from Old Winchester Hill (200, Jan 29th), Stapley Farm (243, Jan 30th), South Wonston (460, Feb 4th), Hamer Warren Lakes (325, Feb 12th), Beacon Hill, Warnford (254, Mar 2nd), Ashley Warren (200, Nov 2nd), Willesley Warren (212, Nov 5th) and Dilton Farm, Brockenhurst (320, Nov 23rd).



Lapwing, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Sep 18th (Joe Murphy)

Breeding season reports referred to approximately 199-201 territories or pairs (cf. 175 in 2016) from the following localities (numbers in parentheses refer to 2016): Andover, 2; Appleshaw, 1; Ashley Warren, 8; Beaulieu Heath West, 13 (16); Binstead, 2 (1); Bishop's Dyke area, 6 (2); Bishopstoke, 4 (4); Bourley-Long Valley Reclamation Area, 3 (1); Broughton, 3; Burley, 3 (1); Busta Triangle, 1 (2); Cholderton Park, 2; Clatford Oakcuts, 2 (1); Cutty Brow, 1; Danebury, 2; Dibden Bay, 6 (9); Eelmoor Flash, 1 (2); Farlington Marshes, 15; Fox Lane GP, Eversley, 2; Gander Down, 2 (2); Hannington Farm, 2; Hatchet Pond, 1 (2); Heath Warren, 1; Holmsley Inclosure, 1; Hook-with-Warsash, 2 (4-5); Ibsley/Harbridge WM, 8; Ibsley Water, 4 (2); Ipley Green, 1; Isington, 1; Longparish, 2 (2); Lyndhurst, 1; Lymington-Hurst, 24-25 (23-24); Mortimer West End, 1; Needs Ore, 27 (13-20); Newlands Farm, Fareham, 1 (4); Old Burghclere CP, 2; Overton, 1; Ripley Farm Reservoir, 1; Shepherd's Bush, 1; Stoney Cross, 1 (1); Testbourne Lake, 7; Testwood Lakes, 11 (9); Titchfield Haven, 7 (4); Totford, 1 (1); Willesley Warren, 3; Windmill Hill, 2; Woodmancott, 1 (2); and Woolmer Pond, 5-6 (1). Breeding season reports were also received from a number of other localities but the information was insufficient to establish whether territorial pairs were established.

In addition the Avon Valley GWCT project found 69 pairs on territory with 51 nests monitored, of which 40% hatched young with a chick survival rate of 0.23 chicks fledged per pair. Likewise the North Hampshire GWCT project found 32 pairs at five study sites. (DJU)

2016 correction. The February and March counts at Winchester SF in the table should be 563 and 206 respectively.

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 higher inland than during 2016 with notable numbers particularly in the Odiham area. On the coast, numbers were low in Chichester Harbour with only one four-figure count in December.

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	470	214	42						1	38	8	97
Hampshire sectors	70	541	20							15		1,000
Titchfield Haven area	220	71	40	7					1	40	70	40
Hamble Estuary	125	27	11						12	72	130	13
Lymington-Hurst	459	300	335	5	2			1	9	150	218	301
Trigpoint Hill/ Michelmersh area	140	140								70	250	200
Gander Down/ Twyford Down area	150	150	1							80	99	200
Wootton St Lawrence	200		260							71	85	
Middle Wallop Airfield		500	100							200		
Odiham area	610									650	773	1,050

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

Away from tabulated sites additional three-figure counts during the early year were 170 at West Hayling and 100 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 2nd, 200 at Cliddesden on Jan 30th, 200 at Whitsbury on Feb 4th, 170 at Needs Ore on Feb 21st, 100 at Chidden Down on Mar 18th and 150 at Binsted on Mar 19th. During April double-figure counts were 12 at Oakhanger on Apr 2nd, 33 at Chidden Down on Apr 5th and 26 at Teglease Down the same day. During May the only records came from Pennington Marshes with one on May 7th and two there on May 11th.

The first in the autumn was one at Keyhaven Lagoon from Aug 28th. Sightings during September included nine at Pennington Marshes on Sept 12th and 12 at Hamble Estuary on Sept 19th. Away from tabulated sites in the late year additional three-figure counts were 650 at Tweseldown on Oct 28th and 500 there on Nov 25th (these were Odiham birds seen on visible migration watches), 200 at Willesley Warren on Nov 28th, 773 at Bidden Grange on Nov 19th (also Odiham birds) and 600 at Kilmeston on Dec 31st. Over 700 were roosting on a ploughed field at Snatchangers Farm, Odiham for much of December and the count of 1,050 there on 17th was the highest ever in NE Hants. (DJU)

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; 2012-17: 1,584.

Amber, HBAP

The gradual reduction in the WeBS count totals continued in 2017 with an early year peak of 1,212 in March and in the late year 1,119 during October. Both counts were notably lower than the latest five-year average.

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	779	864	1,104	1	8	2	116	72	78	458	655	1,340
Hampshire sectors	161	114	660	1	5			3		15	23	127
Langstone Harbour	718	300	300	59	54	75	202	356	425	689	635	599
Hamble Estuary	51	55	46				1	1	11	5	34	57
Hythe	63				3			2		6	18	70
Beaulieu Estuary	73	157	95	50	9	2		19	46	110	117	101
Sowley-Lymington		50	80	60	62		60	50	26	60	40	40
Lymington-Hurst	82	30	115	48	31	11	35	64	140	244	162	105
WeBS count totals	1,149	1,068	1,212	194	128	8	267	415	641	1,119	990	1,078

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

Easterly movement along the coast in spring involved a total of 45 at three sites between Apr 30th and May 9th with peak counts of 20 east at Pennington Marshes on May 5th and 15 east at Lepe the next day. Inland, one was heard calling at Farnborough at 22:30 on Apr 4th and one was at Alresford Pond from Apr 30th-May 2nd. (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; 2012-17: 630. Red

Peak autumn counts returned to more normal levels during 2017 following the reduction in 2016. Highest counts were in September with 300 at Keyhaven on 23rd, 214 at Beaulieu Estuary on 24th and 257 at Black Point on 27th. Also notable in the late year were 250 roosting at Stokes Bay on Nov 8th which were not included in the WeBS counts.

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	82	87	27	20	91	17	37	271	41	25	68	106
Hampshire sectors	3	22					1			3		53
Black Point	116	40	17	2	8	3	13	120	257	210	201	82
Langstone Harbour	45	28	75	4	33	6	45	281	185	276	92	44
Portsmouth Harbour	86	25	2								20	27
Titchfield Haven-Brownwich	38	30	5		10		1	24	52	30	24	37
Stokes Bay	32	31	4							65	250	
Hamble Estuary	44	22	2		4	2	7	54	40	35	22	25
Weston Shore	28	1	5	1	1			15	45	24	23	
Hythe/Calshot		22	48	21				8	107	125	66	61
Beaulieu Estuary	83	20	21	13	16	26		17	214	23	81	35
Sowley-Lymington	30	6	2		3	2	3		4	30		16
Lymington-Hurst	85	11	4	58	25	4	3	109	300	140	64	103
WeBS count totals	241	156	91	13	53	6	51	440	712	427	328	254

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

Easterly movement was limited to seven at Hurst on Apr 29th and one on May 23rd, five NE at Pennington Marshes on Apr 29th and two north there on May 2nd, and five east at Lepe and Sandy Point on Apr 30th. Inland spring records came from Ibsley Water with one or two on six dates between Apr 14th and May 17th and a single at Testwood Lakes on May 7th and 15th. In the autumn there were further reports from Ibsley Water with singles reported on July 27th, Sept 11th, 13th and 25th, Oct 15th and Nov 25th. In addition one was at Rockford Lake on Aug 31st.

Counts of breeding pairs along the coast were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Sandy Point, 1 (chick was moved by its parents to Black Point where it fledged); Sinah Common & Hayling GC, 4 (2); Langstone Harbour RSPB, 3+ (5); Hamble Point, 1; Hook-with-Warsash, 1 (3); Needs Ore, 13; Tanners Lane, 1; Sowley Shore, 1; Pennington Marshes, 2. (DJU)

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

There was an early arrival with one at Ibsley Water on Mar 3rd (RAH), the third earliest ever. Further arrivals were recorded at Efford Lake and Farlington Marshes on Mar 11th, Ibsley Water on 12th, Busta Triangle on 14th and five sites on 16th and 17th. Subsequently only six spring migrants were noted at three coastal sites while inland sightings included one

at Winchester SF on Mar 27th, up to three there from May 9th-11th and two at Headbourne Worthy WCB on May 1st.

At least 28 pairs were present in suitable breeding habitat. Six pairs were at Ibsley Water with at least five attempting breeding and three successfully raising five young. Elsewhere in the Avon Valley four pairs bred at one site with three raising five young, and a pair was at another site but breeding was not confirmed. In the north-east six pairs bred at two adjacent sites with five successfully raising 13 young including one double brood, one pair raised three young on a housing development in Fleet and one pair raised two young at Fox Lane GP, Eversley. Two pairs were in the Mortimer area, up to four birds were in the Alresford Pond/Pinglestone WCB area and one pair was at Woolmer Pond, but no young were seen at any of these sites. Two pairs were at Testwood Lakes but, although at least one nested, no young fledged. One pair attempted breeding at Keyhaven but success was not confirmed and juveniles seen there subsequently were probably migrants. One pair raised three young at a site west of Southampton Water. There were also reports of up to two at Blackbushe Airfield and up to three at Long Valley in April and May but breeding did not occur at these sites. The latter may have been from the nearby Hartland Park which held two pairs in 2016 and is scheduled for development as a housing estate.

Post-breeding numbers were low. In July there were records from four coastal and one inland non-breeding sites with maxima of five at Keyhaven on 6th and 23rd and three at Needs Ore on 22nd. In August the only records away from breeding sites were an adult at The Vyne WM on 1st and one at Titchfield Haven from 21st-26th. The last was in the Avon Valley on Aug 30th apart from a late bird at Lepe on Sep 23rd. (JMC)

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

Rare passage migrant with one wintering record (2,57,1) ET, Schedule I

One record. A male was at Butts Bay, Pennington Marshes on Apr 20th and then at Oxey Island on the morning of Apr 21st (SAB et al.). Despite there being three records between 2007-2009, this was the first since then. There has now been a total of 21 in spring. (KFB)



Adult male Kentish Plover, Oxey Island, Keyhaven, Apr 21st (Lee Fuller)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Common passage migrant; very scarce but increasing in winter. Schedule I, Red

In the early year four wintered with regular records of two in the Bury Marsh/Eling area, one at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and at least one in the east being seen on three dates at Farlington Marshes and Fareham Creek. Two were at Needs Ore on Apr 2nd and from then small numbers were recorded along the coast throughout April and May with notable grounded counts at Farlington Marshes (36, Apr 23rd; 55, May 1st; 36, May 6th) and Needs Ore (50, April 29th).

First passage was recorded on Apr 9th with two east off Sandy Point and five east off Hurst. Subsequently at least 637 were seen flying east or north until May 20th. A total of 365 was recorded at Hurst including peak counts of 39 on Apr 21st, 57 on 29th and 51 on 30th. A total of 174 was recorded at Sandy Point with peak counts of 41 on Apr 18th and 53 on 30th. In the Solent at Hill Head and Stokes Bay 150 were recorded with peak counts of 34 on Apr 30th and 37 on May 9th. Inland reports came from Itchen Valley CP with one on May 3rd, Basingstoke with one north on May 8th and Deanlane End with six north on May 17th. On

June 8th one was at Fishery Creek, Chichester Harbour in the morning and the same or an additional bird flew west past Hill Head in the afternoon.

Autumn passage started in late June with records of one at Sandy Point on 21st and two in Chichester Harbour at North Shore on 30th. Numbers in July remained low until 22nd when 82 were recorded at Langstone Harbour. In August there were small groups along the coast with a peak of 23 south off Sandy Point on 10th. In September there were 15 reported, mainly singles, with five south off Sandy Point on 1st and two in Langstone Harbour on 9th. In October two were in Southampton Water at Bury Marshes on 7th and singles were at Farlington Marshes on 14th, Needs Ore on 15th, Keyhaven on 22nd and Portchester Shore on 29th. One remained at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes until the year end and was joined by a second on Dec 15th. The one at Farlington Marshes was seen on several dates into December and the two at Bury Marshes remained until year end and were joined by a third on Nov 4th. (ASR)



Whimbrel, Cut Bridge, Milford, Apr 30th (Lee Fuller)

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; 2012-17: 2,493. VU, Red, S4I

Numbers dropped even lower in January and February from the December 2016 WeBS total of 1,093. They rose in March to over 1,000 with an increase in the Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour probably due to spring passage migrants. Records of spring movements were few with 25 east off Sandy Point on Apr 6th, 72 NE on Apr 7th and two east past Lepe on May 6th. The peak late summer count of 1,529 in August, due to passage and arriving winter visitors, compares with 2,151 in July 2016, which was a decline on the August 2015 count of 2,466. Numbers decreased in September but then rose through October, peaking in November with the highest WeBS total of the year (1,752) before reducing in December.

The peaks and troughs in the autumn were due in part to large fluctuations in numbers in the Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour. There was also a notable low water count of 460 at Black Point on Oct 28th.

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	876	712	747	379	25	152	343	383	915	742	1,595	740
Hampshire sectors	120	164	323	149	23	96	36	93	1	196	779	131
Langstone Harbour	202	146	295	483	42	80	352	1,021	784	568	407	233
Portsmouth Harbour	145	155	1				280	7	3	110	12	97
Southampton Water	221	126	153	26	5	30	38	143	114	188	254	308
Beaulieu Estuary	121	154	127	58	5	20	78	184	101	114	177	136
Sowley-Lymington	9	14	2	4	1		9	69	45	100	27	11
Lymington-Hurst	74	150	120	25	3	25	181	166	50	130	104	117
WeBS count totals	855	783	1,027	745	53	229	658	1,592	1,061	1,314	1,752	956

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

Survey work in the New Forest during the breeding season located a total of 38 territories (cf. 40 in 2016), only two of which were proven to hatch successfully, but there was no evidence that any chicks reached fledging age. Of note the colour-ringed individual first noted in 2016 was recorded back on the same territory from May after spending the winter in south-west France.

Inland records came from Widley (100, Jan 21st), Hucklesbrook WM (1-5, Feb 24th-27th; 6, Mar 12th; 10, Mar 21st – presumably the same as 9 at Ibsley Water the same day), Lakeside CP (1 W, Mar 9th), Bishopstoke (1 S, Apr 5th) and Fleet Pond (1 E, July 2nd). (ASR, MW)

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; 2012-17: 331.

ET, Amber, HBAP

The low numbers of recent years are now the norm with WeBS counts exceeding three figures in only four months (January, February, March & December) with a high of 247 in February. This compares with 509 as recently as 2012 and continues the downward trend in the five-year averages (see header). In the early part of the year the highest numbers were recorded in Langstone Harbour with 285 on Feb 11th. Again, as in 2016, there was a near absence from the Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour.

Spring passage was light with a minimum total of 126 east between Apr 2nd and May 7th. Counts exceeding ten were noted on only seven dates as follows: Hill Head (24, Apr 9th; 15, 29th; 11, May 5th; 18, 7th), Sandy Point (18, Apr 18th; 26, 30th; 16, May 6th) and Hurst (19, Apr 29th; 63, May 5th). Inland, one was present at Ibsley Water between Apr 30th-May 5th. Numbers in the late year continued to be low with only two counts over 100, both in Chichester Harbour, with 132 at Wade Court on Nov 5th and 150 in Emsworth Channel on Dec 28th.

Away from the tabulated sites there were wintering birds in the Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe area (1-3 between Feb 4th and 25th with 6 on Feb 9th; 3-7 between Oct 8th and Dec 4th), Pitts Deep (5, Feb 10th-11th), Pylewell Lake/Tanners Lane (1, Oct 29th-Nov 6th; 5, Nov 10th; 8, Nov 28th-Dec 1st), Eling (1-4, Jan 1st, 5th), Bunny Meadows (Warsash) (1, Feb 7th), and Hook-with-Warsash (2, Feb, 27th; 2, Oct 31st; 1, Dec 28th).

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	71	590	283	35	38	25	44	28	5	18	125	322
Hampshire sectors	1	5	62	61			1	37	3	3	132	150
Black Point	7	2			1			3	9	4	3	5
Warblington (L)	1	5										
Langstone Harbour	239	285	112	25	64	28	7	4	26	33	57	93
Titchfield Haven-Chilling	1	4		2	5		10		2	4		
Lymington-Hurst	50	3	6	11	6	1	5	1	2	2	6	11
WeBS count totals	248	247	115	1		20	7		29	37	39	111

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

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

European Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa limosa
Status uncertain, probably scarce visitor.

VU, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

Two juveniles were at Titchfield on Aug 9th and 10th (AJS, ALR), one was still present on 12th (DPH), and the same or a different individual was nearby at Bunny Meadows, Warsash in a flock of 60 islandica on Aug 27th (ARC, DPH).



Black-tailed Godwit, Salterns Marsh, Lymington, Apr 7th (Joe Murphy)

Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa islandica
Common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 2,066; 2002-07: 2,753; 2007-12: 2,210; 2012-17: 2,749. VU, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP

After the previous year’s record numbers in the Avon Valley due to the extensive flooding, 2017 was a complete contrast with no records from the Sopley–Ringwood area. However there was the odd one to three at Ibsley Water in most months with a flock of 20 dropping

in on June 28th during heavy rain. The WeBS totals in the early winter period remained at the low levels recorded during late 2016 with a peak of 1,476 in February. Late year WeBS totals were similar to early year with a peak in December of 1,128 which included a notable count of 673 at Portsmouth Harbour on Dec 2nd, the highest there since 809 in November 1978.

Away from the Avon Valley, inland records came from Fleet (1, May 30th), Yateley Common (9 W, Aug 12th), Testwood Lakes (1, Aug 9th; 4, Sep 10th; 16, Sep 11th; 10, Sep 24th; 7, Oct 16th; 1 between Oct 26th-Nov 24th with 2, Oct 28th), Alresford Pond (1, Aug 31st; 1-2 between Sep 28th-Dec 10th), Fishlake Meadows (2, Sep 1st; 1, 6th), The Vyne WM (1, Sep 4th-26th) and Winchester SF (1, Sep 27th and Oct 11th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	218	218	51			6		261	234	437	225	457
Hampshire sectors	101	52	146	146		46	81	118	41	71	138	174
Langstone Harbour	435	431	450	348	80	138	315	419	470	385	303	127
Portsmouth Harbour	200	101						60	90	140	189	673
Titchfield Haven	53	150	140	63	37	62	120	90	73	81		46
Hamble Estuary	20	54	99	102	16	3	72	369	305	306	165	22
Itchen Estuary	10	18	42	37			1				4	
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	52	229	169	25		3	6	51	83	91	78	100
Hythe-Calshot	121		8	30			24	60	2	56	111	117
Beaulieu Estuary	40	48	80	25	35	11	25	31	80	9	50	50
Lymington-Hurst	317	478	116	127	105	132	306	100	327	291	183	350
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood												
Blashford Lakes	1		3		1	20	1	2	1		1	
WeBS count totals	1,263	1,476	989	542	159	211	574	945	1,124	1,073	943	1,281

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

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; 2012-17: 904. Amber, HBAP

WeBS counts in the early year dropped from the December 2016 count of 761 with a notable decrease in Langstone Harbour from 328 to 83. Numbers as usual rose in March with passage migrants to 771, the highest WeBS count of the year. A few remained in summer with peak counts of 22 at Titchfield Haven on June 10th and Needs Ore on June 20th. Numbers increased in the second half of July with the start of autumn passage. Notable counts in August included 254 in Langstone Harbour on 26th, 155 at Lepe on 28th and 168 from Lymington-Hurst on 31st. In the last three months of the year there were two counts in excess of 200 with 250 at Lepe on Oct 6th, a record count for the Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary area, and 203 at Langstone Harbour on Oct 7th.

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	272	324	130	19	2	16	7	32	33	90	137	287
Hampshire Sectors	24	21	77		6	4	24	25	26	17	45	50
Langstone Harbour	83	84	218	57		40	33	254	75	203	83	127
Portsmouth Harbour	149	40	137	41				9		33	124	111
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/Brownwich	36	54	70	72	27	22	42	70	100	65	41	20

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hamble Estuary	40	98	122				20	72	78	65	121	82
Weston Shore (L)	48	40	42	39	1			10	18	45	43	53
HytheCalshot	9	10	26					40	73	48	27	32
Lepe (L)	57	64	55	44			4	155	110	250		35
Beaulieu Estuary	41	18	23	15	22	22	8	131	83	19	48	44
SowleyLymington	5	6	2		1				41	50	30	10
LymingtonHurst	55	53	67	51	43	15	25	168	160	150	126	61
WeBS count totals	440	400	771	188	7	15	87	513	388	569	658	540

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

Inland there were probably five singles at Ibsley Water on seven dates between Apr 30th and May 26th and a returning bird from July 29th–31st.

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; 2012-17: 736.

Amber, HBAP

The January WeBS total was similar to December 2016 and was the highest of the year with significantly lower numbers in the late year. The largest counts in the early winter period were 300 at Keyhaven Lagoon on Jan 1st, 400 at Tanners Lane on Jan 13th and 300 at Black Point on Feb 25th. Spring passage was noted in May at Sandy Point (2 E, 5th), Pennington (4 E, 5th) and Lepe (1 E, 6th). The largest grounded party was 20 at Lymington-Hurst on May 6th.

The first return was one at Pennington on July 6th with further July sightings of one on 24th in Chichester Harbour in Emsworth Channel, one at Hill Head on 25th and three at Langstone Harbour on 26th. August counts were very low with a peak of five at Langstone Harbour but in September numbers there rose to a peak of 30 on 10th. In October numbers along the coast remained in single figures apart from 100 at Sinah Common and Hayling GC on 26th. Numbers rose in the final two months of the year with peaks of 400 at Black Point on Dec 14th, 320 at Pennington Marshes on Nov 4th and 410 there on three dates in December.

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	219	2,501	67							2	95	773
Hampshire sectors	9	4	24				1		7		8	2
Black Point	130	300	200							8	90	400
Langstone Harbour	50	66	17	2	4		3	5	30	100	15	76
SowleyLymington	400	250	250	110						1	100	100
LymingtonHurst	300	270	120	24	20		1	30	4	4	320	410
WeBS count totals	631	446	312	111				5	31	11	335	191

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

Ruff

Calidris pugnax

Scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Red

In the first four months of the year there were regular reports from the Keyhaven/Pennington area with monthly peaks of five, six, eight and four respectively. The only other records were one at Farlington Marshes on Jan 2nd and one or two at Ibsley Water between Mar 30th and Apr 25th. In May there were two at Farlington Marshes on 1st, singles at Pennington Marshes and Needs Ore between 5th-10th and a summer-plumaged male at Farlington Marshes from 21st that had moulted by July 8th and ended up staying for five months until November. There was also a male at Titchfield Haven on June 10th.

The first autumn record was from Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes with one on July 6th. Other records in July came from Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes, where a female joined the male on 8th. In August numbers were low compared to the last couple of years. The long-staying male at Farlington Marshes was joined by a further two on 23rd, a long-staying juvenile arrived at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on 22nd and a second was present on 24th. Autumn passage peaked in September with widespread records involving up to 25 with possible duplication as birds moved around. The maximum count was at Titchfield Haven with five recorded from 25th into the first week of October. Other coastal records throughout the month came from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with a peak of three on 24th and Farlington Marshes with a peak of three on 10th. Other September records included singles at Winchester SF on 3rd and 10th, one at Testwood Lakes on 17th, and four in flight at Weston Shore with three females flying up the Test and a male returning down Southampton Water. At Ibsley Water there were two from Sep 10th-13th and one on scattered dates until Oct 17th. In the north there were two at The Vyne WM between Sep 26th and Oct 5th and one at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Sep 30th.

In the last three months of the year numbers at Titchfield Haven reduced to one by Oct 6th which remained until the end of the year. There was another at Winchester SF on Oct 3rd. In the Pennington Marshes-Hurst Beach area there were regular records of up to three from Oct 19th to the end of the year. At Farlington Marshes the male first seen in May was last reported on Nov 10th and was with a juvenile on Oct 27th and Nov 10th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (ASR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	6	8	5	5	2	2	2	25	13	5	4



Juvenile Ruff, Titchfield Haven, Sep 30th (John Hilton)

Stilt Sandpiper

Calidris himantopus

Very rare vagrant. (0,2,1)

One record. A single juvenile was at Farlington Lake on Nov 7th (TMJD).

This is the third record for the county, the others being at Keyhaven on July 21st-Aug 3rd, 2002 and May 22nd-23rd, 2016. The record has been accepted by BBRC. This was the same bird that was at various sites in Dorset between Sep 21st and Oct 7th and again from Nov 24th into 2018. (KFB)

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; has wintered.

VU, Amber

The wintering bird from 2016 was seen at Warblington Shore on Jan 4th, Feb 8th and 17th. There were around 11 in spring, with singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes from Apr 21st-25th, on May 6th and from May 27th-29th, three at Farlington Marshes on Apr 9th and four there on May 2nd plus one at Curbridge on Apr 26th.

The early autumn passage of adults was very light with just two at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Aug 13th. For the rest of the autumn period many were identified as juveniles; however a significant number were unaged but probably juveniles too. The first reports were of two at Needs Ore on Sep 3rd and 7th and the last was at Normandy Marshes on Oct 25th. Passage numbers were significantly lower than in 2016 amounting to around 17 (cf. 80 for Aug-Oct 2016). The bulk of reports came from Farlington Marshes with one or two on seven dates between Sep 3rd-12th, one to four on eight dates between Sep 19th-27th, and singles on Oct 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 14th. At Normandy Marsh there were singles on Sep 7th, 9th, 12th and 14th. Elsewhere the only reports were of two at Titchfield Haven on Oct 9th and singles at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 9th and 10th and Black Point on Oct 17th. There were no inland records. A wintering bird was reported from Bunny Meadows, Warsash on Dec 12th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1		5	6			2	10	5		1

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, HBAP

As usual, wintering birds were largely confined to 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 refer to Chichester Harbour and east Hayling birds. A flock continued using the Hill Head area and was reported regularly until late spring and again in autumn and winter. Two larger counts in October and November were from the Lee-on-the-Solent area and may have been displaced from further east.

Away from the tabulated sites the only report in spring was of ten at Weston Shore on three dates from Apr 30th to May 13th. In the autumn there were flocks of 170 at Browndown on Oct 22nd and 120 at Lee-on-the-Solent on Nov 19th plus singles at Calshot on Oct 5th and 8th. The only inland records were singles at Ibsley Water on May 14th and 17th and two there on Sep 10th and Oct 21st.

Coastal passage was significantly lighter than in 2016. At Hurst there was a total of 48 east on seven dates between Apr 23rd and May 14th with a maximum of 22 on Apr 30th. At Sandy Point there were nine east on Apr 30th and 24 east on May 7th. There were also 14 east at Hill Head on Apr 29th and 27 east the following day at Stokes Bay.



Sanderling, Hill Head, Dec 12th (Martin Bennett)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	180	100	40			20	55	7	33	240	180	100
Sandy Point-Gunner Point	2		200	116	74	17	320	300	100	120		40
Langstone Harbour	26	5	28									126
Eastney-Southsea	6	55	29							20		
Hill Head-Brownwich	33	50	32	38	30		5	1	2	27	27	35
Hook-with-Warsash		7	6								2	10

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; 2012-17: 23,233.

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

WeBS numbers in January and February were broadly similar to the corresponding months in 2016. However the November and December counts were respectively more than 10,000 and 5,000 lower than 2016. This decline may be partly, but not wholly, explained by very poor counting conditions. The mean maxima for the four five-year periods in the header, which ended with the first half of 2017, continues its downward trend.

In the early year three-figure roosts away from the tabulated sites were at Alver Valley (135, Jan 12th; 250, Feb 1st), Browndown South (300, Jan 27th), Hill Head (320, Feb 6th) and Stokes Bay (400, Feb 12th). There was one inland of a single at Ibsley Water on Jan 6th and Mar 9th.

There were very few reports of eastward migration through The Solent in spring with only 79 recorded between Apr 18th and May 22nd. Of these, 38 were at Sandy Point with a maximum of 23 on Apr 30th, and 17 at Lepe with a maximum of 13 on Apr 30th. There were also 23 at Hurst on Apr 29th and one at Hill Head on Apr 29th. Inland records in spring came from Ibsley Water with one to three on 14 dates between Apr 16th and May 28th, four on Apr 24th and five on May 1st. Elsewhere there were singles at Woolmer Pond (Apr 26th, May 12th), Testwood Lakes (Apr 30th) and Edenbrook CP (May 7th).

The first inland return was at Ibsley Water with three on July 27th, with flocks of up to three on eight further dates up to Sep 25th when there were seven. The only other inland report in autumn was one at Fleet Pond on Aug 31st. Small flocks of mainly passage birds were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on many dates between Aug 12th and Sep 30th with a maximum of 23 on Sep 20th. In the late year the only three-figure roost count away from the tabulated sites was at Dibden Bay (150, Nov 5th). There were singles inland at Ibsley Water on Nov 9th, 24th and Dec 3rd.

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	12,830	5,320	4,574	20	20	4	749	568	205	199	2,187	8,823
Hampshire sectors	2,309	1,787	722						2	26	134	1,445
Warblington Shore/ Emsworth (L)	481	1,800	165	16	8	18	20	28	32	30	308	398
Black Point	5,000	4,000	2,500	5	15	2	7	300	188	600	5,000	4,000
Hayling Bay	300	300	100	10	4		2		100		116	40
Langstone Harbour	14,251	8,346	4,824	71	150		68	569	371	520	7,673	8,188
Portsmouth Harbour	1,700	900	47					1		100	700	1,090
Hamble Estuary	500L	550L	227				10	40	35	42	120	370L
Weston Shore/Chessel Bay (L)	220	700	111					1			110	175
Hythe	1,200		450							4	180	937
Calshot		71	135						50	6	10	230
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	760	50	350	13	32			2	226	40	400	800
Sowley-Lymington	700	632	100		15			2	60	500	800	700
Lymington-Hurst	1,520	2,480	1,020	219	316	6	138	400	200	400	2,000	2,200
WeBS count totals	21,278	14,285	7,875	83	88	3	208	860	744	1,015	10,628	15,499

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 reports of up to 15 on 56 dates in the early winter period and spring, the main site continues to be Southsea Castle. The last record was one on May 22nd. The first return at Southsea Castle was on Oct 29th followed by reports of up to 16 there on a further 19 dates up to the end of year.

Away from Southsea there were ten at Barton on Sea on Feb 4th and one in the Sandy Point/Black Point area on Nov 7th and 8th. In the Lymington-Hurst area there was one on Jan 24th, two on Mar 17th, and two on Sep 16th followed by one from Nov 11th to year end when a second bird was reported.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	10	13	15	7					4	12	16

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

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

Green

In spring there were singles at Titchfield Haven on May 8th-9th, Testwood Lakes on May 12th and Pennington Marshes on May 20th and 28th-30th.

The autumn passage was very light compared to 2016 with fewer than half the previous year's numbers. There were two in July with an adult at Farlington Marshes on 24th and a presumed adult at Normandy Marsh the next day. Reports of unaged birds in August were at Pennington Marshes (Aug 12th, 26th) and Farlington Marshes (Aug 19th). The first reported juvenile was at Titchfield Haven from Sep 2nd-6th. There were then two there from Sep 23rd-Oct 3rd. The first juvenile at Farlington Marshes was on Sep 6th-7th followed by one to five between Sep 19th-Oct 7th. Elsewhere there were singles reported from Black Point/Sandy Point (Sep 15th, 22nd, 26th and 27th), Pennington Marshes (most days from Sep 26th-Oct 2nd), Calshot (Sep 26th) and Hook Links (Oct 6th and 7th). The only inland record was two at Ibsley Water on Sep 3rd.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1				3		2	2	12	6		

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Rare passage migrant recorded in every month from May to October. (0,91,2)

Two records. A juvenile was on the lake at Farlington Marshes from Aug 21st-30th (ACJ et al.). Perhaps the same individual moved to Titchfield Haven, where a juvenile was present on the scrape from Sep 1st-12th (ALR, KW et al.). There have been records in every year this century apart from 2007 and 2015. (KFB)



Juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper, Titchfield Haven, Sep 2nd (David Ryves)

Woodcock† (Eurasian Woodcock)

Scolopax rusticola

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

Red

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 77 at 50 sites including high counts of five at Crockford Bridge on Jan 11th and 17 in Harewood Forest on Mar 11th. All other sightings were of ones or twos. Sites with records on more than one date were Crookham Village, Hazeley Heath, Itchen Valley CP, Preston Oak Hills, Sandy Point, Selborne, Woolmer Forest, Woolmer Pond and eight sites in the New Forest at Backley Bottom, Bratley Inclosure, Burley Mill Lawn and Roe Enclosure. NFWBS reported four, two and one respectively in the January, February and March surveys (Table 4).

Roding was first recorded at Burley New Inclosure on Mar 27th. In the spring/summer, reports came from 52 sites and totalled around 103 birds. These included 20 sites in the Thames Basin/Wealden Heaths and 12 in the New Forest. Most reports involved just one roding bird or an individual in suitable habitat, but multiple sightings were reported from 22 sites. The last report of this period was of one at Burton Common near Highcliffe on July 9th. There were five reports of singles in the period Aug 26th to Sep 9th but otherwise there were no further reports until Oct 5th when there was a single at Millbrook.

From October to December a total of 46 was reported from 42 sites. All were ones or twos. There were also reports on more than two dates from Sandy Point, Frater Shore and Fishlake Meadows. Two in December were the only reports by NFWBS in the second winter period. (JRDS)

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 39 from 20 sites, with sightings of more than one from Titchfield Haven (5, Jan 27th; 3, Feb 24th and Mar 17th), Itchen Valley CP (4, Jan 13th and Feb 4th; 2, Mar 6th), Long Valley (4, Feb 3rd), Farlington Marshes (3, Jan 18th; 2, Feb 17th), Southmoor (3, Jan 7th), Lakeside CP (2, Mar 12th), Winchester SF (2, Feb 9th), Alresford Pond (2, Mar 26th), Pennington Marshes (2, Mar 11th) and between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (2, Jan 15th). While the number of sites was down a little compared to 2016, the number of birds was noticeably lower, especially from Titchfield Haven and Itchen Valley CP. Subsequently there were singles in flight over Lower Pennington Lane on Apr 15th, on the Meander Pools, Hook-with-Warsash from 21st-25th and at Pennington Marshes on May 6th.

The first return of the autumn was one at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 7th. From then to year end at least 23 were reported from 16 sites. Reports were all of singles apart from Long Valley (4, Dec 16th), Winchester SF (2, Dec 12th), Itchen Valley CP (2, Nov 23rd), Lower Test Marshes (2, Dec 30th) and between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (2, Dec 17th). Similar to the early year, the number of sites and number of birds in the late year were both lower than the same period in 2016. (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 and 2016 continued in 2017 with three-figure counts again only being recorded between Ringwood and Fordingbridge, with 122 on Jan 17th, and Titchfield Haven, with 156 on the west side of the river on Feb 24th as a result of coordinated census work.

In the first winter period, away from tabulated sites, the only double-figure counts came from Crookham Village (13, Jan 28th; 16, Feb 24th) and Longstock (18, Feb 12th; 14, Mar 13th). Most had left wintering sites by early May with the last being singles at Fleet Pond and Long Valley on 10th.

Reports in suitable breeding habitat came from only eight sites in the New Forest at Beaulieu Heath west (6 pairs), Bishop's Dyke, Rowbarrow (3), Bratley Wood, Ferny Crofts, Hatchet Moor, Holmsley Inclosure and Mockbeggar. This compares with breeding season reports from 22 New Forest sites in 2016. Elsewhere there was a report of a drumming male from Eelmoor Flash on May 7th.

The first returning migrant was at Bourley Long Valley on June 28th. July records came from Pennington Marshes (3 on 4th; 1 on 8th, 10th and 25th) and Titchfield Haven (2, 28th). There were widespread reports of returning birds from mid-August. The only double-figure count in the second winter period, away from the tabulated sites, was 15 at Alver Valley on Dec 30th. NFWBS reported counts of 25, 9, 6 respectively for January to March and 9, 17, 22 for October to December (Table 4).

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						3	2	2	7
Langstone Harbour	8	56	12	5	2			13	10	17	11	16
Portsmouth Harbour	2	11		1							1	14
Titchfield Haven	80	156	91	7			2	7	48	31	9	107
Hook-with-Warsash	8	35	3		1					1	5	5

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Test Marshes	35	17	16	7							4	6
Badminton GP		2	5	2					1	9	2	10
Lepe	7	15								25		
Needs Ore	1	3	6	9	1				2	1	9	6
Lymington-Hurst	12	33	33	7			3	10	9	17	15	16
Blashford Lakes	12	15	16	1						1	2	
Ringwood / Fordingbridge	122	7	2						2	42	46	55
Testwood Lakes			17							24		1
Testbourne Lake		1	16	3					1	6	16	7
Lakeside CP	52	56	72	1						8	29	21
Itchen Valley CP	33	59	35	32	2				3	8	31	43
Winchester SF	29	38	14	9				1	16	31	57	26
Avington Lake	11	12	15	1					1	3	10	5
The Vyne	19	28	7						1	1	12	3
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	12	19	42									4
Eversley GP	11	8	3	1					20	12	28	8
Thames Basin Heaths	4	18	46	6	1	1				6	39	27
Woolmer Pond	5	27	6	6	1							

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Rare passage migrant (3,48,3)

ET, Schedule 1, Red

Three records. The first was at Keyhaven between 10:45-17:25 on Sep 28th. It was seen on both Keyhaven Pool and the Balancing Ponds (PFF, JI *et al.*, photo). Another was at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on Oct 20th at 13:00 for three minutes (RWP photo). Finally a single was feeding in a channel near the Shore Hide at Needs Ore from 09:00-10:03 on Nov 2nd (BJP, photo). This the first time since 2005 that three have been seen in one year. (KFB)



Juvenile Red-necked Phalarope (with Redshank), Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Oct 20th (Robin Pascal)

Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)

Phalaropus fulicarius

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (?,295,9)

There were records on 39 dates between Sep 8th and Nov 12th, with around nine individuals involved. These are listed below by site, all singles unless noted.

Lymington-Hurst: Sep 8th, 11th, 13th, 17th, 21st-24th, Oct 1st, 3rd-4th, 6th, 22nd-Nov 12th. It is hard to be sure how many were present, probably five in total.

Lepe: adult, Sep 9th-12th.

Ripley Farm Reservoir: juvenile, Sep 11th-13th.

Ibsley Water: juvenile, Sep 11th-15th.

Needs Ore: Sep 12th-19th, with two on Sep 14th-16th.

West Hayling LNR: Sep 15th-20th.

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 4, 3, 6), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (4, 4, 5) and Curbridge (3, 2, 2). There were reports of one or two on nine dates from Portsmouth Harbour and singles on seven dates from Langstone Harbour. Wintering individuals stayed on into April at the Itchen Estuary, Curbridge and Lower Test Marshes, whilst the first spring migrant appeared at Ibsley Water on Apr 8th. In the period up to May 22nd there were records at 19 inland and 15 coastal sites with a maximum of six at Ibsley Water on Apr 26th.

The first return was at Pennington Marshes on June 20th. Autumn passage continued until late October with reports from 18 coastal and 16 inland sites. The only counts above seven were at Lower Test/Eling Marshes (13, July 22nd; 10, Sep 28th; 9, July 26th; 8, Sep 23rd) and Langstone Harbour (9, July 22nd; 8, Aug 26th). In November and December there were regular records from the Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima 5, 2), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (3, 3) and Curbridge (1, 4). There were singles in Langstone Harbour on four dates (with two on Nov 9th) and Portsmouth Harbour on two dates. Elsewhere there were also singles at Pitts Deep (Nov 6th) and Chessel Bay (Dec 3rd).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	12	24	51	29	11	83	63	50	16	13	12

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Scarce passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber

Between January and March there were reports from 31 inland and seven coastal sites. Most had departed by April 28th apart from the last one at Foxbury Plantation, NF on May 7th.

The first return was one at Lower Test Marshes on June 15th. There were then singles in June at Titchfield Haven (17th and 30th), Winchester SF (20th and 29th), Needs Ore (25th) and Hook Links (30th). From the start of July reports were widespread. Autumn passage continued with reports from 48 sites to the end of October. In November and December late passage and wintering birds were reported from 19 inland and seven coastal sites.

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



Juvenile Grey Phalarope moulting into first-winter plumage, Keyhaven Lagoon, Sep 22nd (Gareth Rees)



First-winter Grey Phalarope, Oxy Marsh, Nov 5th (Gareth Rees)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Warblington Shore area	1		1						2	2	1	1
Farlington Marshes / South Moor	1	1	2	4			1	3	2	2	1	2
Titchfield Haven			1	1		1	2	5	1		1	
Hook-with-Warsash						2	2	2	2	1		
Lower Test Marshes	3	2	3	2		1	3	4	4	4	1	
Testwood Lakes												
Badminton GP								3	3	3		1
Lepe CP	2	1	5						1	2		
Needs Ore	1	1	2	2		1	2	6	6	1	1	1
Lymington-Hurst			1	3				2	1		1	2
Blashford Lakes	2	1	2	1			1	1	1	2	3	3
Winchester SF				1		1	2	4	3	1		
Alresford area	6	4	6	14			14	15	15	7	7	3
The Vyne Water Meadows	1				3		2	3	5	1		
Longparish	2	1	1	1			4	3	2	1	1	
Testbourne Lake	1	3	1	1			5	5	1		1	1

Counts exceeding four at non-tabulated sites were at Hamer Warren Lakes (6, July 29th) and Fobdown Farm Reservoir (5, July 19th). 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
38	37	41	60	4	6	71	96	73	37	31	23

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; 2012-17: 2,326. Amber, HBAP

The WeBS counts in the first winter period were broadly similar to those of 2016, but those in the second winter period were lower by around 400 in both October and December. The annual maximum was 2,068 in November, which is down by around 300 compared to the mean maxima of the previous four five-year periods. The highest day count at any one site was 921 at Langstone Harbour on Sep 23rd.

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	1,595	1,223	1,054	324	18	130	81	890	1,033	1,326	1,728	1,067
Hampshire sectors	445	291	354	35	2	1	98	187	200	267	235	233
Langstone Harbour	463	509	529	411	19	117	350	751	921	856	823	593
Portsmouth Harbour	428	473	101	54			84	130	140	237	356	393
Hamble Estuary	50	70	55	14		1	18	81	41	68	77	59
Hythe-Calshot	25	30	32					29	2	24	132	61
Beaulieu Estuary	50	68	49	41	12	44	9	56	45	107	141	92
Lymington-Hurst	129	100	57	45	22	25	176	89	186	250	208	350
WeBS count totals	1,700	1,637	1,279	575	47	154	499	1,060	1,461	1,878	2,068	1,600

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

Maximum counts from other regularly watched sites during the first winter period included Titchfield Haven (25, Jan 22nd), Lower Itchen (39, Feb 11th), Bury and Lower Test Marshes (58, Feb 11th), Dibden Bay (15, Feb 12th), Upper Hamble (16, Mar 11th) and Pitts Deep/

Tanners Lane (15, Apr 2nd). There was an inland record of one feeding along a stream at Broomy Plain, NF on Jan 4th.

Breeding territories were reported from coastal sites at Needs Ore (22 territories), Lymington-Hurst to Tanners Lane (17-20 pairs, two fledged) and Farlington Marshes (5 territories, two fledged). None were reported at the RSPB islands in Langstone Harbour or from Hook-with-Warsash, both of which normally hold breeding birds. In the New Forest just two territorial pairs were reported in the south-east and one was at Bishop's Dyke on June 26th. The GWCT survey in the Avon Valley found around 30 pairs. Other inland records in spring (singles unless otherwise stated) came from Ibsley Water and Harbridge WM (1-5 from Mar 18th-June 10th – breeding not suspected), Welshman's Road GP (Apr 6th), Fleet Pond (Apr 8th), Testwood Lakes (Apr 21st and 28th) and Woolmer Pond (Apr 22nd).

Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records (singles unless otherwise stated) at Ibsley Water (1-3 on four dates between July 2nd and 30th), Woolmer Pond (July 8th and Aug 25th), Testwood Lakes (July 21st), Fleet Pond (Aug 5th), Busta Triangle (Aug 26th) and Winchester SF (Sep 7th-9th).

Maximum counts from regularly watched coastal sites away from tabulated areas during the second winter period included Titchfield Haven (14, Sep 20th), Upper Hamble Estuary (7, Dec 2nd), Lower Itchen (37, Aug 22nd), Bury Marsh (52, Oct 10th), Dibden Bay (14, Dec 3rd) and Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (19, Oct 6th). There was an inland record of one at Beaulieu Mill Pond on Nov 27th. (JRDS)



Juvenile Redshank, Oxey Lagoon, Oxey Marsh, Aug 31st (Gareth Rees)

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

Spring passage was much better than 2016 with possibly as many as ten individuals, all in May (cf. 2 in 2016). The first were on 6th with one heard at Fleet Pond and found later at nearby Edenbrook CP and another at Testwood Lakes. The Testwood Lakes individual stayed until

8th and two more were at Edenbrook CP on 10th. There were three at Pennington Marshes on 7th with a single there on 9th. A single was at Posbrook Flood north of Titchfield Haven on 9th-10th and a final single was at Ibsley Water on 20th.

The first of the autumn passage was at Needs Ore on Aug 5th with two there the following day. There were then singles at Titchfield Haven on Aug 8th-9th, Woolmer Pond on 10th-12th and Pennington Marshes on 12th. Singles continued in late August at Ibsley Water on 22nd-24th, Pennington Marshes on 23rd, 24th and 28th, Eversley Common on 22nd and Needs Ore on 26th. There were reports of one or two at Titchfield Haven between Aug 22nd-30th and a single at Farlington Marshes on Sep 26th. The remaining records were all singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Sep 2nd, 13th, 15th and a very late bird on Oct 25th (MPM). The autumn passage totalled around 16 birds. (JRDS)

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 on 72 dates up to May 6th with a maximum of ten on Feb 10th and 11th. Reports of ones and twos came from Langstone Harbour on 39 dates up to Apr 26th. Also recorded at Needs Ore on 14 dates up to Apr 27th with a maximum of three on Mar 19th. Nearby at Lepe there were singles on Jan 7th and 17th. Away from these sites the regular wintering bird remained at Nore Barn, Emsworth until Mar 21st. It was joined by another on Jan 10th. There was one at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 22nd and the last of the early year were two at Pennington Marshes on May 6th.

In mid-summer there was an adult at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on June 22nd followed by another adult there and nearby at Jetty Lagoon on July 6th-8th. There were one or two at Needs Ore on several dates from July 20th-Aug 16th and a single at Farlington Marshes on Aug 16th. This preceded the main return which started on Aug 21st with two at Farlington Marshes. Counts increased thereafter with reports from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 70 dates to year end with a maximum of ten on Sep 30th. There were also counts from Needs Ore on six dates up to Oct 8th with a maximum of three on Aug 26th, Sep 3rd and Oct 8th. Up to three were at Langstone Harbour, mainly at Farlington Marshes, on 43 dates between Aug 21st and Dec 18th with four on Sep 23rd and five on Oct 7th. On the shore between Emsworth and Warblington there were regular reports from Sep 9th to year end. Many of these relate to the Nore Barn winterer which returned to its favoured site on Oct 22nd to start its 14th winter in the area. Other late year reports were singles at Titchfield Haven (Sep 9th, Sep 17th, Nov 3rd) and two in Portsmouth Harbour (Oct 17th). In addition, unusual inland records were singles at Testbourne Lake (Sep 6th) and The Vyne (Oct 31st) (photo).

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	1	1	3	2			2	3	3	3		
Lymington-Hurst	7	10	4	5	2	1	1	2	10	6	8	8
Totals elsewhere	5	3	3	2				3	7	8	5	2

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 54 wintered at 15 coastal sites. Sightings were more widespread through April and May with a minimum of around 62 recorded at 17 sites. These included inland reports of singles, unless otherwise stated, from Ibsley Water (Apr 22nd; 2, Apr 24th and 29th), Alresford Pond and Pinglestone WCB (Apr 30th-May 4th), Fleet Pond



Spotted Redshank (top) and Greenshank (bottom), Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Oct 12th (Joe Murphy)

(May 4th, 5th and 10th), The Vyne WM (May 6th), Testwood Lakes (May 7th and 12th) and Woolmer Pond (May 10th). Reports reduced markedly from mid-May with the last spring record at Titchfield Haven on May 28th.

Return passage started with one at Titchfield Haven on July 1st followed by singles at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes and Hamble Estuary on July 4th before becoming widespread. Autumn passage involved a minimum of 119 up to the end of October with records from

24 sites including ten inland. The inland reports were singles, unless otherwise stated, from Winchester SF (July 19th), Eversley Common (Aug 23rd), Woolmer Pond (Aug 25th), Longparish and Testwood Lakes (Aug 26th), Fishlake Meadows (2, Aug 29th), The Vyne WM (Sep 5th and 6th) and Testbourne Lake (Sep 6th). In November and December approximately 67 wintered at 16 sites.

Away from the tabulated sites below and inland locations sites mentioned above, there were also coastal reports from Sandy Point, Black Point and Gutner Point on Hayling Island, Ashlett Creek, Calshot and Weston Shore.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour Warblington shore	10	2	3	3	2		5	14	9	14	8	3
Farlington Marshes / Langstone Harbour	4	6	6	17	7		7	22	23	16	15	6
Portsmouth Harbour	3	5	1		1		2	14	12	10	7	6
Titchfield Haven	2	1	1		4		2	4	3	1	1	
Hamble Estuary	6	8	4	1			4	5	12	11	8	6
Curbridge	3	7	9	12	15		2	1	1	1	1	
Upper Test	1		1	1	1		2	3	2	2	1	1
Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe	1	2	1	3	4		8	5	4	1	1	1
Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep	1	1	1					2	2	3	3	1
Lymington-Hurst	2	3	5	5	2		10	13	20	17	12	5
WeBS count totals	10	25	24	15			31	23	53	41	39	27

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

Only 123 were counted this year. The first sighting was of three recorded during a Solent crossing off Portsmouth on Jan 9th with a single off Sandy Point on Jan 10th. The only record for February was a single off Sandy Point on 7th. Spring passage totalled 69 between Mar 19th and June 10th of which 41 were logged at Hurst (max. 12 E, Apr 29th; 11 E, May 6th). Elsewhere there was one at Weston Shore, six at Hill Head, five at Stokes Bay and 22 at Sandy Point (max. 8 E, June 10th). None were recorded in July and only four in August, all at Sandy Point between 2nd and 8th. The first juvenile was reported flying out of Chichester Harbour at Sandy Point on Sep 3rd and a second at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 5th. Gales on Nov 22nd brought the highest day count of the year when 21 (18 E, 3 W) were recorded at Hurst. On Nov 23rd there was one west at Hill Head, two west at Southsea Castle and one at Sandy Point. Of the seven recorded in December, four were at Sandy Point on 3rd. Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. Note where there are same-day counts at different sites only the highest site is included. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	1	1	19	37	12		4	4	1	29	7

Sabine's Gull

Xema sabini

Rare visitor, usually storm-driven, mostly August-December but once each in January and May (1, 162, 1)

One record. A juvenile was seen off Milford on Sea from 07:20-07:28 on Sep 12th (PMC, PT). This is the first record since 2014. (KFB)

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Very rare vagrant (0,4,1)

One record. A first-summer was at Ibsley Water from Apr 17th to May 11th (RAC *et al.*, photos). It was also seen nearby at Hamer Warren Lake on Apr 29th (TMJD). The record is still being considered by BBRC.

There have been only four previous records, all of which were first-summers. These were in July 1980, March 1986, June 2003 and May 2015. The species breeds in Alaska and Canada and winters in the USA, northern Mexico and the West Indies. (KFB)



*First-summer Bonaparte's Gull (left), with Black-headed Gull, Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes, Apr 21st
(Alan Lewis)*

Black-headed Gull†

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

In the first three months the largest concentrations were, as usual, reported from Ibsley Water roost where the highest count was 6,000 on Jan 20th. There was also a high inland count of 2,000 at Winchester SF on Feb 20th. Reports from non-tabulated sites show the usual frequent inland presence of feeding flocks. In January the highest of these included Ripley Farm Reservoir in the Avon Valley (635, 6th) and Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (750, 22nd). The highest subsequent inland early-year counts were at Fishlake Meadows (712, Mar 9th) and Fleet Pond (550, Mar 11th; 500, Mar 15th). High coastal counts during this period included 800 moving north over Waterlooville between 07:45 and 07:55 on Jan 14th and a pre-roost gathering of 1,800 off Bedhampton Shore on Feb 18th, both associated with the Langstone Harbour roost. There were also 750 at Lower Test Marshes on Feb 9th.

In the breeding season a total of 12,352 pairs (cf. 12,396 in 2016) was reported. Of these, 6,200 pairs nested along the coast around Lymington but there was no count of fledging success. On the Langstone Harbour islands 3,916 pairs raised 807 young and at nearby West Hayling LNR 981 pairs raised 252 young. At Titchfield Haven an estimated total of 450 pairs was much lower than in recent years. Around 400 of these nested on the scrapes and around

50 on the platforms and islands in the river. As in 2016 high levels of predation reduced productivity almost to nothing leaving only about 15 surviving young. At Hook-with-Warsash 70 pairs raised few young because of heavy predation by a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Inland at Blashford Lakes, where a detailed count was not done to avoid disturbance, there was an estimated total of 485 pairs with 370 on Ibsley Water, 100 on Spinnaker Lake and 15 on the rafts at Ivy and Ellingham Lakes. Productivity was estimated to be around one fledged young per pair giving an estimated total of around 480. At the other inland breeding site at Fleet Pond a total of 250 pairs nested raising at least 300 young.

The first large post-breeding report was of a flock of 2,500 at a newly-ploughed field at Chidden on July 24th in the Meon Valley. Elsewhere there were high counts from Ripley Farm Reservoir (870, Aug 30th; 780, Sep 14th). Most other high autumn counts were from the coast. These included Sandy Point, Hayling (1,000, Aug 14th) and Sinah Common, Hayling (2,000, Aug 20th). Two miles inland from Titchfield Haven at Newlands Farm there were high counts in August (500, 19th; 700, 20th) and September (600, 10th; 1,050, 23rd). In September there were also high coastal counts near Titchfield Haven including 2,500 at Hill Head on 1st of which around 60% were juveniles, 1,500 at Titchfield Haven on 3rd and 1,000 at Brownwich on 19th. There were also 1,000 off Hurst Beach on Sep 16th.

On Oct 26th between 16:55 and 18:00 2,060 were counted from Peartree Green moving down the lower Itchen Estuary. On Nov 21st at 07:45 1,850 were counted moving north over St Denys from the Southampton Water roost. The first significant winter count from the Ibsley Water roost was 1,102 on Oct 28th followed a month later by an early winter maximum of 4,500 leaving northwards at first light on Nov 30th. High non-tabulated counts in December included inland flocks at Ripley Farm Reservoir (480, 12th) and Fishlake Meadows (649, 18th; 2,659, 24th). High coastal counts were from Hythe (2,300, 30th) and Lymington-Hurst (450, 31st).

There were many reports of ringed individuals, mainly with foreign rings and all recorded outside the breeding season. Most were recorded at Riverside Park, Southampton and Southampton Common and included the following countries: Lithuania (2), Poland (1, returning for its 4th winter), Germany (2), the Czech Republic (1), Denmark (2), Holland (2), Belgium (1) and Norway (2). Ringed individuals were also recorded at Eastrop Park, Basingstoke from Lithuania (1), Latvia (1) and Finland (1). In addition two were from UK, one of which had been ringed at Fleet Pond in July 2015 and the other at Hosehill Lake NR, Theale, Berkshire in 2015. The latter had also been sighted at Eastrop Park in December 2016 as reported in HBR 2016.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour WeBS	890	449	1,493						1,150	964	762	582
Titchfield Haven	250	675	885	1,200	1,000	800	770		2,500	400	300	250
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	392	380	362	44	246	160	350	441	126	101	345	78
Ibsley Water#	6,000	5,000	3,000	614	350	419	195	196	235	1,102	4,500	4,500
Winchester SF	300	2,000	578	24	6	12	100	122	461	670	348	196
Avington Lake	500	1,500	700				1	1	50	115	226	455
Alresford Pond	54	688	81	36	2	1	44	77	221	510	300	202
Heath Pond, Petersfield	160	225	125	2			64	80	58	220	290	260
Northam/Mansbridge	1,060	680	475				874		1,000	770	1,050	750

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 first-winter recorded at Brownwich from Dec 22nd 2016 remained in the area throughout the winter and was last recorded at Titchfield Haven on May 20th. There were only two other records prior to spring passage, both at Chichester Harbour with an adult on Feb 2nd and a first-winter on Mar 7th. Spring passage extended from Mar 27th to June 4th when a total of 54 was recorded of which 26 were coastal and 28 inland. The first migrants were recorded inland on Mar 27th at Ibsley Water (1 first-winter) and Heath Pond, Petersfield (8 adults, 1 first-summer). The first coastal sighting was a first-summer at Pennington Marshes on Mar 28th which lingered until 30th. Total counts at coastal locations included Hurst (13; max. 7 E, Apr 30th), Beaulieu Estuary (1), Lepe (1), Hook-with-Warsash (3), Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (10; max. 4 E, Apr 30th), Stokes Bay (2) and Sandy Point (1). Further inland records came from Fleet Pond (adult, Mar 31st; first-summer, Apr 4th and 9th), Ibsley Water (daily from Apr 15th-30th involving at least two adults and two first-summer with a day maximum of three on 22nd and 24th), Kingfisher Lake (adult, Apr 15th, 20th and 21st with first-summer on last date – Ibsley Water birds) and Testwood Lakes (first-summer, May 7th-17th).

Single first-summer were at Ibsley Water on June 15th-16th, Sandy Point on June 21st, between Hill Head and Weston Shore from July 9th-23rd and at Needs Ore on July 21st.

Return passage was very light, the first being single juveniles at Sandy Point on Sep 3rd and 6th. The only others were at Titchfield Haven (1 not aged, Sep 3rd-4th; 1 juvenile W, Sep 30th), Hook-with-Warsash (1 juvenile, Sep 5th), Lepe (1 juvenile, Sep 22nd) and Hurst (1 juvenile, Oct 30th). The only inland record during this part of the year was a juvenile at Heath Pond, Petersfield from Oct 14th-16th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	14	27	11	5	4		5	2		

Mediterranean Gull†

Ichthyaetus melanocephalus

Moderately common and increasing breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; scarce in winter.

Though recorded on most days in January, numbers were as usual low at this time. The highest count was only six at Ibsley Water on 21st and 26th. The first double-figure count of the year came from Lepe (15, Feb 10th) followed by other west Solent counts from Lymington-Hurst (46, Feb 11th) and Beaulieu Estuary (54, Feb 12th). There were 16 counts above ten in February, the highest of which came from Langstone Harbour, where West Hayling LNR hosted over 100 between 17th and 19th with a maximum of 162 on 18th, and Bedhampton Shore with 196 on 26th.

During March there were 50 counts above ten, the overwhelming majority from the east of the county. The highest from the coast were at West Hayling LNR (130, Mar 19th), Titchfield Haven (102, Mar 31st) and Wade Court, Havant (107, Mar 31st). There were other three-figure counts from Dean Lane End near Rowlands Castle, a few miles inland from Langstone Harbour, with several reports of 100 between 11th and 21st and 200 heading north early in the morning of 27th. Though there were 58 counts above ten in April, only one, from Beaulieu Estuary (116, Apr 29th), reached three figures with the next highest being Ibsley Water (93, Apr 30th) and Sandy Point (80, Apr 13th). Besides Ibsley Water (see table for monthly maxima) other notable inland reports in the first four months came from Alresford Pond (15, Feb 24th; 13, Mar 21st), Winchester SF (57, Mar 2nd), Hambledon (50, Mar 4th; 18, Apr 15th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (51, Mar 6th), Chidden Green Lane, Meon Valley (30,

Mar 23rd), Meonstoke (42, Apr 1st), Beacon Hill, Warnford (13, Apr 6th) and Linwood, NF (15, Apr 18th).

Breeding was recorded at four locations with a total of 844 pairs. At Langstone Harbour 834 pairs raised 442 young on the islands and one pair nested unsuccessfully at nearby West Hayling LNR. At Lymington-Hurst six pairs nested unsuccessfully. At Blashford Lakes there were two pairs on Ibsley Water, one of which raised at least one young and the other failed, and one pair on Spinnaker Lake, the outcome of which was unknown.

Most summer counts were of inland movements from the Langstone Harbour colony to the South Downs. The highest of these during May were at Beacon Hill, Warnford (100, 21st; 50, 27th), Soberton (215, 25th), Meonstoke (100, 29th) and Petersfield (100, 29th). The highest June counts were at Havant (110, 1st), Clanfield Down (70, 1st), Old Winchester Hill (150, 4th), Bishops Waltham (54, 14th), Winchester SF (82, 15th), Portsdown Hill (150, 20th; 85, 25th) and Twyford (100, 26th). In early July reports came from Havant of 100 on 5th, 127 on 16th and 200 hawking flying ants on 17th. Other notable counts away from the Langstone Harbour colony during this period were at Lymington-Hurst (105 E, May 7th; 70, June 9th), Ibsley Water (99, May 2nd) and Titchfield Haven (63, July 7th).

Post-breeding movements and gatherings were reported from late July. During the morning of 23rd 96 were logged moving west at Sinah Common, Hayling and the following day at nearby Sandy Point there was a count of 100 but with 'hundreds at sea' that went uncounted. On 29th there were 142 at Conigar Point in Chichester Harbour. As last year, large numbers congregated along the coast between the Hamble Estuary and Titchfield Haven starting with 300 at Brownwich on Aug 6th followed by Titchfield Haven (200, Aug 18th) and Chilling Cliffs/Brownwich (350, Aug 27th; 249, Aug 30th; 200, Sep 10th). To the south of Fareham at Newlands Farm large numbers were present between Aug 19th and 21st with a maximum of 228 on 21st. In Portsmouth Harbour there was a count of 120 on Aug 19th. There were no further three-figure reports until the final one of the year with 221 counted from Lymington-Hurst on Oct 19th. In November there were only five double-figure counts, the highest at Sturt Pond, Milford (23, 18th), and in December there was only one at Beaulieu Estuary (10, 3rd).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1	2	107	50	28	17	142	32	73	2	1	1
South Hayling shore	2	3	5	80		2	100	100		1		
Langstone Harbour	1	196	130	7	1,668	1,668	96	2				1
Portsmouth Harbour	2	3	10	4	2	3	14	120	22	12	5	7
Titchfield Haven area	2	15	102	71	42	11	120	350	200	8	1	2
Hamble Estuary	1		9	8	3	15	11	4	2			
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	4	54	8	116	34	7	10	45	30	1	20	10
Sowley/Lymington				2						4	2	1
Lymington-Hurst	1	46	14	12	105	70	3	20	4	221	23	6
Avon Causeway/Sopley Pig Farm	2		1	2		8	25	1	1			2
Ibsley Water	6	18	4	93	99	8	6	4			1	2
Winchester SF	1	3	57			82	11			2		1

Common Gull (Mew Gull)

Larus canus

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

Amber

In January numbers at Ibsley Water were higher than usual throughout the month with a maximum of 1,000 on 20th and again high in the early part of February with a maximum of 800 on 13th. The January maxima of 400 on 20th at Winchester SF and 552 at Avington Lake

on 26th were also much higher than usual. Away from the tabulated locations there were four three-figure counts from other inland locations during the first three months including Ovington Down Farm where 120 were following a plough on Jan 27th. In the Meon Valley there were counts from Exton (400, Feb 22nd) and Soberton (400, Mar 4th) and at Waterlooville 100 were logged moving south-east between 16:30 and 16:35 on Mar 23rd towards Langstone Harbour. The only coastal three-figure counts, apart from Portsmouth Harbour (see table), were from Langstone Harbour where there was a pre-roost gathering of 300 at Bedhampton Shore on Feb 18th and 180 at Farlington Marshes on Mar 4th. Also on Mar 4th there was a coastal movement of 150 leaving Langstone Harbour between 07:00 and 10:00 and moving east over Sinah Common. Modest movements were recorded at Trigpoint Hill between Jan 1st and 25th with 27 NE and 4 SW. At Sandy Point there was a total of 16 east between Apr 17th and May 11th. The largest grounded flocks at this time were at Alresford Pond with 226 on Mar 21st and 78 on Apr 12th (see table).

The only June record was two at East Hayling on 23rd which was followed by two at Winchester SF on July 2nd. There were seven at Lepe on July 10th. The first double-figure count of the autumn was 12 at Beaulieu Estuary on July 23rd followed by 30 at Whitewool Farm near Old Winchester Hill on 24th. The first three-figure count was 260 at Chidden on Oct 18th followed by 206 at Alresford Pond on Oct 27th where there was an exceptionally high count of 1,072 on Nov 23rd. Three-figure non-tabulated inland counts in the latter part of the year included Old Winchester Hill (180, Nov 3rd), Chidden (170, Nov 18th), Soberton (350, Nov 23rd; 200, Nov 25th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (125, Nov 23rd and Dec 21st) and Hattingley (150, Dec 3rd). High non-tabulated coastal counts were all from Langstone Harbour (160, Nov 22nd; 1,660, Dec 9th; 133, Dec 23rd).

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	450	230						4	40	107	35
Beaulieu Estuary			6				12	6	8	15	2	3
Ibsley Water	1000	800	21		1						10	134
Winchester SF	400	147	35	8	1		2		1	13	93	183
Avington Lake	552	6	30				1			18	90	71
Alresford Pond	111	269	226	78			9	1	48	206	1,072	240

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Very scarce visitor recorded in every month except May. (0,43,1)

The regular adult in the Ibsley Water roost (present for its third consecutive winter) remained from 2016 to at least Feb 15th and returned in the late year from Dec 10th. A second adult, first seen in December 2016, also remained into the early year and was seen with the regular adult on Jan 2nd, 14th, 15th and 20th and on its own on various dates up to Feb 14th (m.o). (KFB)

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

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

Though recorded frequently and widely across the county, whether from the coast or inland along river valleys, numbers in the first three months were consistently low and typically of ones and twos. The highest counts for the period were eight at Beaulieu Estuary (Feb 12th) and Lymington-Hurst (Feb 24th, Mar 9th) and the highest inland count was four at Ibsley Water on Jan 1st and 25th. The only double-figure counts in April came from Beaulieu Estuary (26, 2nd; 10, 29th).

There was no nesting survey of Southampton this year. Breeding reports from elsewhere included four pairs which raised six young at Lymington-Hurst and one pair which raised

one young at a rooftop site at Burrfields, Portsmouth. During May there were eight double-figure counts, most of them in the final third of the month and mainly concentrated in the west Solent or Southampton Water. The highest were at Lymington-Hurst (39, 22nd; 46, 29th) and Beaulieu Estuary (28, 28th). In Southampton Water there were 16 (3 adults, 13 first-summers) at Weston Shore on 20th. The highest counts from the east Solent were at Titchfield Haven (12, 13th & 27th) and Stokes Bay, Gosport (8, 1st). These summering flocks appear to have dispersed earlier than usual as the only double-figure count for June and July was from Beaulieu Estuary (14, June 20th).

There were signs of a small autumn influx during August with double-figure counts at Gilkicker Point, Gosport (12, 18th) and Browndown (36, 27th). There was an unusual record of around 400 over The Solent off Hill Head on Oct 1st which was much higher than the usual autumn influx. A grounded flock of 125 was reported from Butts Bay at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 23rd and a week later on Oct 31st there were 76 at Titchfield Haven. In the final two months the highest counts were 20 at Ibsley Water on Nov 4th and 14 at Titchfield Haven on Nov 11th. (JRJ)

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. (3+, 119, 1)

Amber

One record. A second-winter was at Black Point on Jan 25th (ACJ, photo) and subsequently seen at the entrance to Chichester Harbour on Feb 10th (ACJ). On Jan 26th, what was assumed to be the same second-winter spent 15 minutes on the river at Titchfield Haven before flying to the shore (MDS, ANMB, photo). (KFB)

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 26 counts exceeding 50 which included five coastal and six inland locations. Coastal counts for the east Solent came from Portsmouth Harbour (65, Mar 11th), Southsea (225, Feb 11th), Bedhampton Shore, Langstone Harbour (50, Feb 18th) and Black Point, Hayling Island (80, Mar 3rd). The other coastal count came from Southampton Water with 180 at Weston/Northam on Feb 12th. Further up the Itchen Valley on the flyway to Southampton Water there were frequent counts from Itchen Valley CP (max. 100, Jan 28th) and 63 at Northam/Mansbridge on Feb 10th. The highest counts from the west Solent during this time were from Lymington-Hurst (29, Mar 11th) and Beaulieu Estuary (12, Mar 7th). Several inland counts came from Ibsley Water (max. 500, Feb 23rd) with others from Wattons Ford, Avon Valley (218, Feb 12th), Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (189, Jan 22nd) and Longparish (71, Jan 6th). In April there were 125 at Northam/Mansbridge on 10th and 100 at Chilbolton old airfield on 19th.

There was no breeding survey of Southampton this year. However 23 pairs were counted nesting on warehouse roofs in the eastern docks at Dock Head. There were also nesting reports from three other locations. Eight pairs nested at Burrfields, Portsmouth, five pairs at Southmoor Lane Industrial Park, Bedhampton and eight pairs at Horse Sand Fort in the east Solent. The last is a newly-discovered nesting location. Summer counts were reported from Ripley Farm Reservoir in the Avon Valley (110, May 6th; 122, May 14th; 300, June 20th) and Northam/Mansbridge (112, May 13th; 190 mainly immatures, June 14th).

The first post-breeding three-figure counts came from Hill Head (106, July 7th), Northam/Mansbridge (274, July 16th) and Marsh Court in the Test Valley (100, July 31st). Inland there were several high August counts from Alresford Pond with a maximum of 311 on 24th, of which about half were immatures, and 155 at Petersfield on 18th. Avington Lake reported its maximum count of the period with 189 on Sep 26th. At Itchen Valley CP 430 were logged

moving down-river towards Southampton Water on the evening of Sep 13th and 288 were counted at Northam/Mansbridge on Aug 10th. Coastal counts included Lymington-Hurst (110, Aug 26th) and Titchfield Haven (101, Aug 31st).

In the last three months most three-figure counts were from inland locations. At Ibsley Water the November maximum was 500 leaving at first light on 30th and the December maximum was 250 on 14th. Further down the Avon Valley at Ripley Farm Reservoir there were 129 on Dec 12th. Reports elsewhere included Winchester SF (monthly max. 260, Oct 2nd), Chidden (120, Oct 10th) and Gander Down (155, Oct 15th). At Itchen Valley CP there were monthly maxima of 470 heading towards Southampton Water on the evening of Oct 15th and 104 on Nov 12th, while further downstream at Peartree Green 765 were logged between 17:20 and 18:15 on Oct 18th. Diurnal counts between Northam and Mansbridge gave monthly maxima of 268 on Oct 7th, 196 on Nov 12th and 127 on Dec 22nd. Coastal counts included an estimated 700 feeding offshore at Milford on Sea on Nov 28th, 170 at Sandy Point on Dec 3rd and 135 at Weston Shore on Dec 9th.

Moderate SW movements were recorded during mid-morning counts at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown between July and December. At Trigpoint Hill totals of 159 SW and 58 NE were logged on 18 dates between July 7th and Aug 30th with peaks of 63 SW on Aug 18th and 14 NE on Aug 23rd. Between Sep 2nd and Dec 9th totals of 263 SW and 190 NE were logged on 33 dates with peaks of 34 SW on Nov 17th and 80 NE on Sep 25th. At Tweseldown totals of 170 SW and 58 NE were logged on 30 dates between Sep 29th and Dec 12th with peaks of 39 SW on Nov 5th and 24 NE on Nov 24th. (JRJ)

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,43,1)

Amber

Two records (only one new), both from the Ibsley Water gull roost. The first-winter present in December 2016 was seen again on Jan 21st (AL, LF, AH), Jan 28th (NJ, SI) and Feb 5th-7th (RAH, AL, DHT). In the late year a first-winter was seen on Nov 5th (AL) and then regularly on a further eighteen dates until the year end. There have been records in every year this century except 2006. (KFB)

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

This species continues to be thinly dispersed across the county with well-watched Ibsley Water continuing to report the highest numbers. There were no reports from Eversley GP this year but there were reports from ten coastal and ten inland sites. In addition to the tabulated locations, first half-year records of singles, unless otherwise stated, came from Alresford Pond (Jan 13th, May 4th), Portsmouth Harbour (2, Jan 13th), Walworth, Andover (2, Feb 4th), Longparish (Feb 7th; 2, Mar 11th), Chichester Harbour (Feb 11th), Lymington-Hurst (Feb 15th, Apr 1st), Hamble Point (Feb 21st, May 13th, June 16th), The Kench, Hayling (Mar 11th), Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (May 13th), Sandy Point (June 8th, 30th), Beaulieu Estuary (June 25th) and Fleet Pond (June 30th).

In the breeding season one pair nested for the fourth consecutive year on a roof at Northam along the Itchen Estuary raising three young. Studies of photos of the three young suggest hybridisation and, though the parents appear to be pure, it has been suggested that the previous history of mixed breeding with Herring Gulls in the area may have caused one of them to have hybrid ancestry.

In the second half of the year records came from Fleet Pond (1, July 1st-Oct 31st; 2, Nov 7th; 1, Nov 7th-Dec 17th), Hamble Point (July 4th-20th) Sandy Point (July 5th), Busta Triangle (1, July 13th-21st, 27th; 2, July 22nd; 1, Aug 3rd; 2, Oct 5th), Hook-with-Warsash (July 18th,

27th), Lymington-Hurst (July 30th; 3, Aug 5th; 1, Aug 11th & 28th), Eversley Common (2, Aug 10th), Alresford Pond (Aug 28th), Winchester SF (Oct 23rd) and Hamer Warren Lake, Avon Valley (3, Nov 26th).

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 roost)	6	3	2		4		3			7	11	14
Itchen Estuary area	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	1		1	4
Lower Test Marshes/Eling	1	1		1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1		2		1		2	1	2			1
Approx. monthly totals	12	11	9	4	11	7	18	11	5	12	18	20

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

In the first three months the highest counts came from Ibsley Water roost with monthly maxima of 5,900 on Jan 2nd, 1,000 on Feb 11th and declining to 30 on Mar 22nd. There were no significant counts from Eversley GP. In the Avon Valley near Avon Causeway 153 were feeding at a pig farm on Feb 12th and in the Test Valley at Testbourne there were 80 on Mar 9th. In the area around Oakley counts included Warren Bottom Copse (71, Feb 15th), Oakley (76, Feb 28th; 112, Mar 2nd) and Clarken Green (255, Mar 1st). Further north at Charter Alley there were 100 on Feb 4th. There were 47 roosting at dusk at Alresford Pond on Mar 26th. The only significant coastal count was 74 at Weston Shore on Feb 12th. The highest April count was 200 near the old airfield at Chilbolton on 19th, probably composed of returning migrants. Similarly groups at Alresford Pond (max. 52, Apr 15th) and Winchester SF (55, Apr 10th) were probably also on passage. Spring movements were recorded at Trigpoint Hill between Mar 3rd and May 29th when 114 were logged moving north-east with the highest day count of 16 on Apr 12th.

There was no breeding survey in Southampton this year. A total of nine breeding pairs was reported which included two sites in Southampton. Two pairs nested on warehouse roofs in the eastern docks at Dock Head and two pairs nested on roofs at Centurion Business Park near Northam Bridge. Away from Southampton, two pairs nested at Burrfields, Portsmouth and a new nesting site was discovered at Horse Sand Fort in the east Solent (cf. Herring Gull) where three pairs nested. The largest late spring and early summer counts were at Alresford Pond (44, May 15th), Winchester SF (61, May 19th), Pipers Wait, NF (45, May 23rd), Ibsley Water (50, June 9th) and Avington Lake (70, July 7th).

Autumn movements recorded at Trigpoint Hill between June 3rd and Aug 30th were light, amounting to 39 of which 23 headed SW, the highest day being four on July 12th. The first three-figure post-breeding count at Ibsley Water was 230 on July 23rd mainly comprising immatures. The build-up of the winter roost there showed monthly maxima of 1,400 up to 17:30 on Oct 7th, 6,000 on Nov 30th and 4,200 on Dec 14th. There were no counts for Eversley GP, the roost having relocated to the Berkshire side of the site. However movements at dusk towards Eversley were reported from Edenbrook CP with 300 NE on Sep 30th and 406 NE on Oct 9th. Away from main roost sites three-figure counts in the latter part of the year mainly came from the north. Reports were submitted from Alresford Pond (104, Aug 14th), Eversley Common (110, Aug 14th), The Vyne Lake (366 of which 104 were juveniles, Aug 16th; 150, Sep 21st; 600, Oct 21st), Horsedown Common (105, Aug 28th), Well (100, Sep 4th), Kingsclere (175, Oct 16th), Overton (296, Oct 30th; 210, Nov 5th), Oakley (205, Nov 1st; 122, Nov 11th) and Busta Triangle (300, Nov 23rd; 113, Dec 29th). The only three-

figure counts in the south were from Hamer Warren to the west of Ibsley Water (300, Nov 26th; 140, Dec 17th). (JRJ)

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis

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

Early year records were concentrated around Chichester Harbour with 13 on Feb 6th being the highest count there. Elsewhere there were records from Hill Head on seven dates with a maximum of 11 on Feb 11th. One inland at Whiteley on Feb 17th was noteworthy (IML).

Spring passage started with a single east past Pennington Marshes on Mar 8th and was evident from Mar 23rd involving approximately 671 east up to May 22nd. Totals at the main watchpoints were 188 past Hurst Beach (peak 85, Apr 9th), 192 past Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 95, Apr 30th) and 495 past Sandy Point (peak 104, Apr 9th and 140, 30th). Inland there were singles at Ibsley Water on Mar 30th and Sowley Pond on May 27th.

On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 48 pairs raised eight young (cf. 81 pairs raising 11 young in 2016). At Langstone Harbour RSPB 73 pairs raised 44 young (cf. 122 pairs raising 49 young in 2016).

The highest counts of the autumn were in Chichester Harbour with 130 at Black Point on July 30th, 121 there on Aug 18th and 141 on Sep 8th. Elsewhere the highest count was 27 at Keyhaven Marshes on Aug 26th. Unprecedented numbers were in Chichester Harbour in the late year. The peak count was 31 on Nov 29th-30th with four other counts of at least 20. There were also records from five other sites including seven at Hook-with-Warsash on Dec 4th. (MLE)

Elegant Tern

Thalasseus elegans

Very rare vagrant (0,0,1)

At around 10:00 on June 7th a colour-ringed bird was found with eight Sandwich Terns at the high tide roost at Fishery Creek near Black Point, Hayling Island. The bird was watched until 11:15 before it flew off. It was seen again nearby off Sandy Point on June 9th from 17:01-17:25 before it left heading east (ACJ). It was then seen regularly at Pagham Harbour in West Sussex from June 10th-20th and Brownsea Island, Dorset on June 21st-22nd.

Following sightings in Britain over the last two decades, this species was finally accepted onto the British List by BOURC in January 2018 once concerns over possible hybrids were satisfactorily resolved. This Hayling Island record has been accepted by BBRC as the first for Hampshire, and is considered to be the same individual as the first British record, which was in Dorset in 2002. There have been two other records in the interim. The species breeds on sandy coasts along the Pacific coast of the USA from southern California to the west Mexican coast. The full story of the discovery and the history of this colour-ringed individual is told elsewhere in this report (see p. 242). (KFB)

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

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

The first was one past Hurst Beach on Apr 9th. Spring passage was unremarkable with approximately 115 east through The Solent up to May 12th. Totals from the main sites were 17 at Hurst Beach (max. 10, Apr 30th), 22 at Lepe (max. 17, Apr 30th), 48 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 37, Apr 30th) and 83 past Sandy Point (max. 55, Apr 30th). Inland, two were at Ibsley Water on May 4th.

It was a better breeding season than 2016 with 63 nests at two sites. In the west Solent area 12 nests were counted but only two fledged. In Langstone Harbour 27 young fledged from 51 nests.

Post-breeding counts were highest at Black Point, Hayling Island with 78 on July 30th and 105 on Aug 3rd. Elsewhere 53 were off Farlington Marshes on July 15th. There were six records in September, the last being two off Sandy Point on 11th. (MLE)

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

Three were recorded in spring, one in mid-summer and approximately four in the late summer period. The first flew east past Lepe Beach and Hill Head on May 2nd with further singles east at Hurst Beach on May 7th and 12th. Sightings were well scattered along the coast in July and August. The first were two which flew NW past Hook-with-Warsash on July 20th. They were relocated at Weston Shore on 22nd when they were joined by a first-summer. Two west past Hurst Beach on 24th were probably part of the same group. Elsewhere single adults were recorded in August at Black Point, Hayling on 8th and 16th-18th, Hill Head on 16th-17th and Oxey Marshes on 20th-21st. Despite the overlap in dates, it seems possible that only one bird was involved. (MLE)

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The first flew east at Hurst Beach on Apr 1st. Eastbound passage through The Solent was relatively light with approximately 789 recorded between Apr 9th and May 12th. Counts from the main watchpoints included 208 at Hurst Beach (max. 75, May 12th), 404 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 201, Apr 30th) and 709 at Sandy Point (max. 433, Apr 30th).

During the breeding season 330 pairs raised a total of 143 young at six sites. On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 22 young fledged from 122 nests. In Langstone Harbour 48 pairs on the RSPB islands produced only two young, and at West Hayling LNR 106 pairs raised 50 young including 47 nests on the HOS-funded raft which produced all the fledged young. Inland at Blashford Lakes 35 pairs bred on HOS-funded rafts at Ivy Lake, three on rafts at Ellingham Pound and one at Ibsley Water fledging a total of 60 young. At Titchfield Haven 14 pairs produced seven young and one pair raised two young at Testwood Lakes.



*Adult Common Tern, Keyhaven, May 9th
(Gareth Rees)*

Post-breeding numbers were similar to 2016 with 30 three-figure counts from five sites. Counts at both of the two main sites both peaked at 600, at Black Point on Aug 2nd and Hill Head on 16th. A feeding flock of 1,000 off Sinah, Hayling on Aug 20th was the highest count of the year. In October there were singles at Titchfield Haven and Gosport on 1st, Sandy Point on 2nd, Northney on 7th and Farlington Marshes on 8th. Two at Keyhaven Marshes on 17th were the last of the year. (MLE)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.

ET, Amber

It was a very poor spring with only 21 recorded (cf. 51 in 2016 which was light). The first were singles off Hill Head and Sandy Point on Apr 17th. These were followed by a further 17 at six coastal sites up to May 11th (max. 4 E at

Hurst Beach on Apr 19th) and singles inland in May at Fleet Pond on 10th, Fishlake Meadows on 13th and Ibsley Water on 14th.

In the autumn there were approximately 36 recorded. After an adult at Hill Head on July 26th and Aug 1st and an early juvenile at Black Point, Hayling on July 31st, there were ones and twos reported from three coastal and two inland sites from Aug 8th to Oct 8th. Higher totals came from Sinah, Hayling Island (8 offshore, Aug 20th), Hook-with-Warsash (6, Sep 5th) and Calshot (6 SW, Oct 1st). Two were at Ibsley Water on Sep 10th and late singles were off Weston Shore on Oct 14th and Hawker's Lake, Lymington on 23rd. (MLE)

White-winged Black Tern

(White-winged Tern)

Chlidonias leucopterus

Rare passage migrant (0,35,1)

One record. An adult was present around Chichester Harbour from Aug 14th-17th, during which time it was frequently seen over the harbour and occasionally resting with other terns at Black Point (ACJ et al., photo). This is the first record since 2012. Most that pass through Hampshire are first-winters, and the last adult to be seen was in 1992. (KFB)



Adult White-winged Black Tern (with Common Tern), Black Point, Hayling Island, Aug 17th (Andy Johnson)

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

Spring passage was light with approximately 18 inland and 12 on the coast. The first was at Fleet Pond on Apr 20th-21st and was followed by one to four at Ibsley Water from 23rd to May 1st. Further inland records included one at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 30th, seven at Fleet Pond on May 1st and five at Ibsley Water on May 7th. On the coast one flew east past Hurst Castle on Apr 24th. In common with several other species of terns and skuas, there was a movement on Apr 30th when five passed Hurst Beach and ten were off Hill Head and Sandy Point. Timings suggest that at least 12 birds were involved.

After one at Ibsley Water on July 6th, autumn passage commenced on Aug 2nd with one at Black Point, Hayling. From then until Sep 28th there was a significant influx with approximately 154 logged. Double-figure counts were achieved at four sites with two distinct peaks. On Aug 14th a flock of 39 (mostly adults) was in Chichester Harbour off Black Point, a record count for the site. The next day at least 35, including several juveniles, were in Langstone Harbour off West Hayling LNR. In the Sandy Point/Black Point area up to 18 were present from Sep 3rd-8th. At Weston Shore 25 on Sep 8th was a record count for the site and 23 were still present on 12th. Thirteen were noted at Calshot on Sep 9th. Inland there was one at Fleet Pond on Sep 5th and five at Ibsley Water on seven dates from Aug 24th including the last on Sep 28th.

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

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
18	12		1	46	54

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

A total of approximately 29 was recorded, similar to the previous two years' low totals. The first of the spring passed Sandy Point on Mar 29th and a further 20 were recorded up to May 12th. At Hurst Beach 16 were noted with a peak of nine on Apr 29th. Singles were off Needs Ore on Apr 29th and Hill Head/Stokes Bay on Apr 29th and 30th. Eight were noted past Sandy Point including two each on Apr 29th and 30th and May 1st. Finally one was off there on June 6th and 8th.



*Great Skua, Cut Bridge, Milford, Apr 29th
(Alan Lewis)*

Autumn passage was recorded at three sites between Aug 3rd and Oct 28th with four off Hurst Beach and one each at Titchfield Haven and Sandy Point. The individual at Titchfield on Oct 11th was watched from 12:00 from the Suffern Hide eating a Coot. At 13:24 a Fox appeared out of the reeds, grabbed the skua by the head, and dragged it back into the reeds never to be seen again (ALR). The last of the year was off Park Shore on Dec 30th. (MLE)

Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)

Stercorarius pomarinus

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

There was an increase in numbers compared to 2016 (cf. max. 33) with a minimum of 40 recorded. Spring passage through The Solent started on Apr 30th when nine were off Hurst Beach (2 east at 07:20 and seven which entered the Solent at 11:50 and then flew back out and landed on the sea). The next were four on the sea off Brownwich on May 3rd which flew east at 07:00. Three flew east at Stokes Bay on 5th and the following day a group of four pale phase birds were tracked through the Solent during the late morning. There were no further records until May 10th when two flew east at Hill Head in the evening. The highest day count came on 12th when 16 passed Hurst Beach (3 at 07:25; 4 at 09:30; 9 at 09:45). A flock of eight past Hill Head at 10:03 were almost certainly the same as those recorded at Hurst. A further single past Hill Head and five past Sandy Point (4 east at 10:20 and one that landed on the sea from 10:40–10:44) were also probably the same as Hurst. The final record for the season was a single past Hurst Beach on May 13th.

The only autumn record came from the Hurst area where a pale morph adult was in a field at New Lane near Sturt Pond at 18:16 on Oct 25th before flying west. (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 flew east past Hurst Beach on Mar 28th. The main passage period extended from Apr 17th to May 26th with approximately 67 recorded. Totals at individual sites were 61 at Hurst Beach (peak 21, Apr 30th), four at Needs Ore/Lepe Beach, 28 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 18, Apr 30th), 11 at Southsea (peak 8, Apr 30th) and 38 at Sandy Point (peak 21, Apr 30th). Inland two flew east to the north of Yateley Common at 09:20 on May 26th (GCS). This is the first inland spring record since 2005 when one flew over Church Crookham on May 15th. In June there were sightings at Hurst Beach and Sandy Point totalling approximately eight with the last being three at Sandy Point on 11th.

After two off Sandy Point on July 2nd and one east at Hurst Beach on 6th, autumn passage was noted from July 21st to Sep 15th and involved 20 birds. The maximum counts were three off Hurst Beach and Hill Head on July 21st and three off Sandy Point on Sep 3rd. (MLE)



Pomarine Skuas, Cut Bridge, Milford, May 12th (Lee Fuller)



Adult pale morph Arctic Skua, Cut Bridge, Milford, Apr 30th (Lee Fuller)

Long-tailed Skua (Long-tailed Jaeger)

Stercorarius longicaudus

Very scarce passage migrant, also recorded twice in winter. (1,46,1)

Green

One record. On May 11th a pale morph bird flew eastwards along the entire length of the Hampshire coastline being seen first off Hurst at 08:52 (RW-S), then Hill Head at 09:17 (ALR et al.) and Sandy Point at 10:13 (ACJ).

There have been records every year this century apart from 2004, 2012 and 2015. Although most Long-tailed Skuas are recorded in the autumn, May is by far the best time to see one in spring with ten records compared to none in April and just one in June. (KFB)

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Rare winter visitor recorded in every month from October to February, usually after storms. (10+,141+,1) Green

One record. On Nov 17th one was swimming parallel to the beach at low tide just a couple of metres offshore at Hordle Cliff. It continued swimming east for a couple of hundred metres (JHo). What was presumably the same individual was seen nearby the same day at Milford on Sea flying towards Hurst Castle (Birdguides). There have been records in every year this century except 2008, 2010 and 2011, mostly in November or December. (KFB)



Little Auk, Hordle Cliffs, Nov 17th (Johnny Hope)

Common Guillemot (Common Murre)

Uria aalge

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

A much better year than 2016 (cf. 18) with approximately 112 recorded. This increased total was mostly due to high counts off Hurst Beach on two dates in mid-May. In the early year there were records from four sites including three off Hurst Beach on Jan 6th and one off east Hayling from Jan 1st-Mar 7th. Spring passage was noted from Mar 29th when one was off Sandy Point. A further seven were noted there up to Apr 30th. At Hurst Beach approximately 73 were recorded between Apr 26th and May 17th. On May 13th a remarkable eastward movement of 43, including a flock of 20, was noted in Hurst Narrows. The following day a further 13 plus 100 unidentified auks were also counted coming in from the west. It is likely that these were from the breeding colonies on the Purbeck cliffs in Dorset where the breeding population comprised over 900 individuals in 2015. Three were recorded at Hurst Beach on June 8th with a single on 13th.

The first early autumn records were singles in September at Sandy Point on 3rd and off Weston Shore on 17th and Lepe on 21st. A further ten were noted in ones and twos from various coastal sites from Oct 21st to Nov 29th. In the late year there were wintering records of one or two, mostly in the eastern harbours and Southampton Water up to Southampton Town Quay, except for higher counts of three in the Black Point area from Nov 29th to the year end and five there on Dec 23rd.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	5	2	2	9	11	4			1	2	3	10
Moving east					59					2	1	1

Razorbill

Alca torda

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

Another very poor year with only 20 recorded. In the early year there were records from six areas. At Hurst Beach there were two on Jan 2nd, three on 17th and one on Feb 1st and 3rd. A single was at Hill Head on Jan 2nd. Records of one at Lepe Beach, Chilling Cliffs and Hill Head between Feb 4th and 10th probably referred to the same bird. Singles were in Langstone Harbour on Feb 4th and off Southsea on Feb 11th, with a peak of three in

Chichester Harbour entrance on Feb 6th. Spring passage was noted at Sandy Point in April with singles on 5th-6th, 22nd and 30th.

There were no further records until November when singles were off Lepe CP (1st-9th) and Hurst Beach (18th to Dec 30th). In December up to three were off Hayling Island from 3rd to the year end and another was in the Brownwich/Calshot/Weston Shore area from 23rd-28th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	7		3							2	4

Auk species

Records came from Hurst Beach (33 N and 23 S, Jan 6th; 100 E, May 14th) and Sandy Point, Hayling Island (16, Jan; 7, Feb; 3, Apr and 6, May; max. 10, Jan 4th). (MLE)

Black Guillemot

Cepphus grylle

Very rare vagrant (0,3,1)

One record. At 13:15 on Nov 23rd a first-winter was swimming and diving in Chichester Harbour entrance just north of the Lifeboat Station at Sandy Point. It was watched for five minutes before it flew out to sea (BG, GG, TN). This was presumably the bird that was also seen at Seaview on the Isle of Wight on Dec 25th.

It is not surprising that this is a very rare bird in Hampshire as most Black Guillemots remain close to their nesting sites throughout the year, and the nearest colonies are in southern Ireland and Anglesey. The previous records were at Southsea in January 1986 and Hurst in May 1989 and May 2010. (KFB)

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin)

Fratercula arctica

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

EN, Red

One record. At 09:07 on Apr 24th two flew west at Milford on Sea (MPM, DJR, MC). There have been records in nine years this century, mostly in the winter. (KFB)

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Common resident.

Green

Three-figure counts were received from Andover, Fareham, Chilling and Southampton with maxima of 400 at the last two locations in November and December. (SKW)

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Numerous resident and winter visitor.

Amber

Seven records of grounded flocks over 100 were noted, with the largest by some margin being 500 at Upham on Dec 15th and 400 at Skidmore on Apr 22nd, although only 40 there next day perhaps indicated spring movement.

Counts of breeding territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 8 (9) and Longmoor Inclosure, 6 (7).

Low counts early in the year presumably related to local dispersal, but 228 were noted moving during April and May with a maximum of 58 north in 40 minutes at Ibsley Water on Apr 16th. Local movements were noted throughout the summer followed by autumn passage which was prolonged, marked and very well-recorded, perhaps the best ever in the county. No fewer than 4,351 were recorded on the move between September and December, the

majority south and south-west similar to Woodpigeon. Seven of these counts exceeded 100, with 195 SW at Tweseldown on Sep 9th and 204 (mostly south) at Trigpoint Hill on Sep 25th (a site record). These two sites accounted for over 90% of the passage records (Table 8). The peak occurred in late September and early October, well before the traditional early November Wood Pigeon 'window' but, as noted in HBR 2014, there was a slight lull in mid-October. Observers are requested to look out for the subtle but apparently regular, and perhaps increasing, phenomenon of autumn movement. The passage totals are summarized below. (SKW)

	Sep 1-10	Sep 11-20	Sep 21-30	Oct 1-10	Oct 11-20	Oct 21-31	Nov 1-10	Nov 11-20	Nov 21-30	Dec 1-10	Dec 11-20	Dec 21-31
Totals	383	437	1,377	669	468	588	132	181	66	30	16	4

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

Columba palumbus

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Just four grounded flocks exceeded 1,000 with the largest being at least 3,000 at Cheesefoot Head on Feb 17th. Spring movement was limited to 292 over Trigpoint Hill in May between 13th and 29th (peak 125 SW on 29th). At Longmoor Inclosure 47 territories was the only meaningful breeding record compared to 50 last year.

In the autumn 181,577 were noted moving between mid-September and mid-December. Totals for the migration watchpoints at Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill are given in Table 8. As ever, the major direction of movement was towards points west, with a distinct north-westerly bias later in the season. The single highest count by some margin was 21,304 NW at Weston Shore on Oct 28th, and about half of all the moving birds were recorded within three days either side of this date. This peak period is similar to last year. An additional total of 30,172 was aggregated for the entire season from Sep 9th to Dec 16th and is not included in the table below which summarises movement totals in each week of the autumn period between Oct 1st and Dec 16th. Thus the overall late autumn movement total will have been in excess of 180,000 (cf. the very wide fluctuations in totals for the previous two years of 32,768 in 2016 and 452,119 in 2015). (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	Totals
Moving SE/SW/NW	589	58,692	49,361	13,619	11,702	4,570	250	1,500	230	140,513
Moving N/E	0	0	250	213	8,783	825	700	12	25	10,808
Totals	589	58,692	49,611	13,832	20,485	5,395	950	1,512	255	151,321
Days with movements	5	4	5	7	7	7	3	3	2	43

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove)

Streptopelia turtur

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP

The first report in spring was one at Martin Down on Apr 27th. Other records away from the breeding sites included singles at Hale Purlieu, New Forest on May 7th, in an Andover garden on May 17th, at Preshaw, South Downs on June 11th and at Needs Ore on June 16th.

A targeted survey to understand the status of this species in Hampshire was carried out in summer 2017. The survey achieved coverage of 20 out of 25 known recent breeding sites selected for survey. Martin Down was again the stronghold with an estimated 15 to 23 territories. Outside Martin Down, sites with multiple records indicating at least one occupied territory each were found at only four other sites at Bramshill Plantation (1-2 pairs), Benyon's Inclosure, Leckford and Cholderton, with further single reports of purring males at Weston Common in May and Stockbridge Down in July. Purring males were also reported at five other locations outside the 2017 survey. Single reports came from Eversley Common (May 6th) and Chawton (May 21st), whilst evidence for occupied territories came from Wield Wood (2),

Chalton Down (2) and Old Alresford (1). The last record of the summer was one at Martin Down on Aug 22nd. There were no other August reports from inland or coastal sites.

Similar to 2016, there was again no evidence of successful breeding from any of the sites and no reports of any juvenile birds. The paucity of reports and likely absence from formerly traditional breeding sites highlight the continued decline in this species' fortunes within the county. Further studies focused on Hampshire's Turtle Doves are underway in 2018. (MJA)

2016 addition. Singles at Cholderton Park on June 2nd and purring at nearby Quarley on July 18th were followed by two juveniles at both Quarley on Aug 6th and Cholderton Park the next day

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove)

Streptopelia decaocto

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Five counts exceeded 50, all at different sites and all in autumn and winter. The maximum was 72 near North Poulner Lake, Blashford on Dec 22nd. Other counts over 50 were 62 at Warblington Shore on Jan 24th, 60 at Northington Farm, Overton on Oct 26th and 70 on overhead wires at Holt Lane, Hook on Dec 8th. Movements were few and small with only 37 recorded at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown between Aug 18th and Nov 18th (19 NE, 18 SW), mostly in September-November (peak 11 NE on Oct 11th). (SKW)

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo)

Cuculus canorus

Moderately common but declining summer visitor.

Red, S41



Male Cuckoo, Casbrook Common, May 5th (Alan Lewis)

A fairly early arrival was heralded by the first at Broomy Plain, NF on Apr 1st and another at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 3rd. There were then daily reports, initially largely in the New Forest but then widespread, from Apr 6th. These included a hepatic morph female at Farlington Marshes on May 28th. A fairly remarkable 759 reports were received by the end of May – this is a very popular species!

No meaningful breeding data were submitted and the only juveniles were reported at Pennington Marshes on July 22nd, in August at Lower Test Marshes on 3rd-4th, Woolmer Pond on 6th, Old Basing on 9th and Weston Common on 14th, and at Sandy Point on Sep 28th. Up to five were observed apparently migrating in late June and early July including a female at Lower Test Marshes seen to climb high south until lost from view on June 23rd. The last was one south over Farlington Marshes on Sep 29th. (SKW)

Selborne, the HOS sponsored Cuckoo in BTO's tracking programme, again performed strongly. As reported in HBR 2016, he was the earliest of the tagged cuckoos to return in spring arriving in the Isle of Wight on Apr 12th and reaching his breeding area in the New Forest on Easter Sunday, Apr 16th. After just two months he was off south again arriving in Brittany on June 17th. As expected he again travelled through Spain crossing into Algeria by July 24th and reaching Nigeria by Sep 20th. He continued south-east to his wintering ground in Gabon which he reached by Oct 18th, ahead of all the other tagged Cuckoos, and where he remained to year end. (MLC)

Barn Owl (Western Barn Owl)

Tyto alba

Moderately common resident.

Schedule 1, Green

Reports were received from around 100 widespread locations. There were 55 breeding attempts from 167 boxes checked by The Hawk Conservancy which produced 131 fledged young. In another study 46 young were ringed from 16 clutches laid in nest boxes including three broods of four and one of five. Six pairs nested in boxes checked in the south-west, one failed and the others produced two broods of three and three broods of two. In addition, further broods were ringed in nest boxes at Swanmore, North Hayling, Dundridge and Hedge End. Confirmed breeding was recorded at a further seven locations.

Most sightings were of one or two but three were observed at Itchen Valley CP between Jan 2nd-Feb 4th, Bransbury Common on Feb 16th and Titchfield Haven canal path on Aug 17th. (BS)

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Common resident.

Amber

As usual the number of submitted records do not reflect the true status of this common and widespread woodland resident. Reports were received from around 190 widespread locations compared to 175 last year. Breeding was confirmed at ten locations with probable breeding at a further seven. (BS)

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Moderately common but declining resident.

Reports were received from around 50 widespread locations. A nest box scheme in the north resulted in 12 fledged young from four breeding attempts (3 per box). In addition, successful breeding was recorded at a further three locations and probable breeding at a further one. (BS)

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

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

Green

One was flushed from a roost at a regular location in the north on Feb 12th. Another was observed east of Overton on Feb 25th. A presumed migrant headed north with a Short-eared Owl at Hurst Beach on April 24th. There were no records from the breeding season breaking a run of three consecutive years of confirmed breeding.

This secretive species is almost certainly under-recorded. Observers are encouraged to check suitable habitat during the breeding season 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

It was generally a poor year for the species. For the period up to May most records came from Farlington Marshes where there were regular sightings of one or two throughout the period. The peak count was four on Jan 2nd, with three seen on several dates between Jan 8th–Mar 15th. Elsewhere there were four at Tidgrove Warren on Feb 7th. Singles were recorded at West Hayling LNR (Jan 15th), Northney Common (Jan 24th), Needs Ore and Ocknell Plain (Feb 1st), Kingston Ponds (Mar 3rd), Emsworth (Mar 4th), Inchmery (Mar 12th), Weston Shore (Mar 16th) and Lymington-Hurst (Apr 8th and 24th).

The earliest returns were singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Aug 11th and flying over Chichester Harbour near Black Point on Aug 26th. There were no further reports until October when there were singles at Pennington Marshes on 17th, Hill Head/Titchfield Haven on 27th and Leaden Hall on 30th. Two were present at Farlington Marshes between 18th–29th. The late year saw up to three at Farlington Marshes between Nov 17th–Dec 9th with singles on several dates from Nov 8th. Elsewhere in November singles were at Old Winchester Hill (6th), Keyhaven (8th and 12th), Tweseldown (8th and 14th), Fleet (14th) and Bransbury Common (25th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	13	5	3	1	0	0	2	0	6	8	3

Nightjar (European Nightjar)

Caprimulgus europaeus

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.
ET, Amber, S4I, HBAP

The first spring arrival was at Longslade Bottom, NF on the very early date of April 22nd which equalled the previous early date of Apr 22nd 2009. There was no systematic coverage of the New Forest but casual records submitted amounted to around 91 churring males from 27 sites, including nine on the Foxbury Estate and seven at Beaulieu Heath West.

Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 97 and 66 churring males compared to 91 and 70 last year (Table 1). Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows: Alice Holt Forest, 6; Ampfield Wood, 4; Badminton Common, 2; Benyon's Inclosure, 6; Blackfield, 3; Botley Wood, 2; Browndown, 1; Burton Common, 7; Denmead, 1; Great Covert Wood, 1; Hut Wood (Chilworth), 2; Havant Thicket, 2; Mortimer West End, 2; Newtown Common, 4; Squabb Wood, Romsey, 1; Toms Down, 2; West Walk, 2; Wickham Common, 1. One flying steadily west over Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke on 9th June was away from known breeding sites. The final record was a single at Mortimer West End on Aug 26th. (BS)

Swift (Common Swift)

Apus apus

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.
Amber

The first spring arrival was one at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 12th and the first double-figure count was ten at Ibsley Water on Apr 22nd. There were seven further double-figure counts of up to 50 in April over Ibsley Water and Fishlake Meadows. Three-figure counts were recorded over eight water bodies in May with 400 over Ibsley Water on 20th, 325 over Weston Shore on 5th, 223 over Fleet Pond on 5th, 200 over Fishlake Meadows on 5th and 8th, 200 over Titchfield Haven on 5th, 200 over Heath Pond, Petersfield on 20th, 150 over

Lymington-Hurst on 7th and 100 over Farlington on 7th. Such large accumulations may reflect feeding groups of recent arrivals, migrating groups or, most likely, a combination of the two. Visible migration was reported from Trigpoint Hill with a report of 276 heading north in a 95 minute observation period on May 5th.

During the breeding season large feeding groups in excess of 200 were reported from Ibsley Water on several dates in early June with maxima of 1,000 on June 5th and 8th, Winchester SF on June 29th, Deanlane End on June 30th and Hayling on July 1st when 755 were noted during a four hour period.

Records of confirmed or probable breeding totalled 115 from 46 locations including 90 records from the Hampshire Swifts on-line portal. Approximately 155 nest sites were confirmed and low-level screaming parties were reported in an additional 12 locations. The Hampshire Swift survey was designed specifically to record the exact locations of Swift nest sites. This information is required to assist the conservation of nest sites when properties undergo renovation or repair. Reports of Swift nest site locations should be entered onto the recording form found on the Hampshire Swifts website.

The start of return passage in July was marked by reports of 200 over Itchen Valley on 12th, 300 over Ibsley Water on 12th, 311 heading SW in 75 minutes over Trigpoint Hill on 12th, 250 over Langstone on 14th and a total of 1,510 moving west over Sinah Common in a little less than six hours on 14th. With the exception of 400 over Fareham heading SW in a three hour period on Aug 11th, smaller numbers were subsequently recorded during the month with 110 over Rookery Farm, Kingsley on 6th, 78 over Romsey on 3rd, 60 over Trigpoint Hill on 4th and 60 over Ibsley Water on 6th. A final double-figure count of 16 was reported over Fleet Pond on Aug 21st. The last record in September was one over Itchen Valley CP on 18th. There was also a late record of one over Farlington Marshes on Oct 7th. (AMB/TN)

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)

Alcedo atthis

Moderately common resident whose numbers may be severely depleted during harsh winters.

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber



Female Kingfisher, Anton Lake, Andover, Nov 19th (Brian Cartwright)

Records were received from around 230 locations including 40 in the Test Valley catchment, 27 in the Itchen catchment, 11 in the Avon catchment, 22 in the north-east, 11 in the New Forest and 78 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at Fleet Pond, Romsey, Winchester and Timsbury, where three young were observed being fed by an adult and four from a separate brood were observed perched in a riverside bush on July 13th. 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	1	1	0	0	0	1	17	39	25	22	30
Lower Test Marshes	10	3	2	2	1	2	7	14	24	6	8	2
Titchfield Haven	26	4	2	4	1	2	6	21	15	12	36	9

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater)

Merops apiaster

Rare summer visitor recorded in April to August and October (0,34,3) Schedule 1

One record. At 06:15 on May 21st three were on telephone wires at Needs Ore. They sat preening for five minutes before flying off (ARR, photo).

May and August are the peak months for this vagrant, which is being recorded more frequently than at any time previously. Apart from an early record in 1903 and sightings in 1979 and 1981, all other records have been since 1995. They have been recorded in nine previous years this century, most recently in 2016. (KFB)

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe)

Upupa epops

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since. (?256,3) Schedule 1

Three records. Singles were at Monxton on Apr 10th (per BD, photo), Itchen Abbas on May 23rd (per JMCE) and Church Crookham the next day (LJT, photo). (KFB)

Wryneck (European Wryneck)

Jynx torquilla

Very scarce passage migrant; formerly a moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1975. Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

In the first half-year a single at Noar Hill on June 1st was the only record, and the latest spring sighting since 2002. There were five autumn records, all singles, at Mortimer West End on Aug 28th (BS); Mill Field, Old Basing on Aug 29th (JKA); Needs Ore on Sept 15th (BJP); Iley Point, Keyhaven on Sep 23rd-24th, 29th-30th and Oct 2nd-3rd (RS, KJS et al.); and Havant on Sep 24th (PNM-R). The Keyhaven records are all assumed to relate to the same bird. (BS)

2015 addition. A single was heard at Hooks Link, Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 29th (MGP).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dryobates minor

Scarce and declining resident, except in the New Forest where it remains moderately common. Red, S41, HBAP

In the period January to June, records were received from 22 sites outside the New Forest, rather more than is usual in recent years (cf. 16 sites in 2016.) Many of these were located along the main river valleys and in Pamber and Harewood Forests. In the New Forest, records of possible/probable breeding came from 35 sites, though surprisingly there were very few reports from the northern parts. It is unclear whether this reflects a lower breeding density or just fewer observers. Most casual observer effort is concentrated on two or three well-known sites. Since the species is still widespread in the New Forest, records are invited from

other less-visited locations. Breeding season survey work focused on the central and southern New Forest, with nest excavation recorded at six sites of which three were successful with one, three and three/four young fledged. There were only 15 records in the second half of the year from widely scattered locations. (RC)



Male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, New Forest, May 30th (Martin Bennett)

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident.

Green

Records were received from around 170 widespread locations. Most reports referred to ones and twos but the highest count was 21 at Great Pen Wood on Mar 19th. Occupied nests or juveniles were recorded at 33 locations. Counts of territories in selected regularly surveyed areas (2016 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Itchen Valley CP, 9 (6); Longmoor Inclosure, 10 (21). In addition there were 50 territories at 12 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1). (BS)

Green Woodpecker (European Green Woodpecker)

Picus viridis

Common resident.

Green

Records were received from around 110 widespread locations with the highest count being eight at Hoe Gate on Apr 22nd. There were eight territories at Itchen Valley CP and single territories recorded at a further six sites. In addition there were 40 territories at ten sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1). NFWBS reported totals of 15, 20 and 18 in January-March and 14, 35 and 19 in October-December (Table 4). (BS)

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 submitted records. There were reports suggestive of breeding from around 20 sites. Breeding was confirmed at Deanlane End (2 pairs); Fort Widley (1 pair, 2 young);

Lower Upham (1 pair); Hedge End (2 pairs with broods of 5 and 4); Itchen Valley CP (2 pairs, 5 young); Beaulieu, NF (5 pairs with broods of 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2); Needs Ore (1 pair, 2 young); and Sowley (1 pair with brood of 5). A pair also utilised a Barn Owl nest-box at Malshanger to raise four young. Several reports followed of family parties containing up to two juveniles. Apart from Beaulieu above, there were astonishingly few records from the New Forest during the breeding season. At other times of the year NFWBS recorded eight, five and ten in January-March with 13, 13 and 16 in October-December (Table 4). (RC)

Red-footed Falcon

Falco vespertinus

*Rare summer visitor and passage migrant
(2,54,2) NT*

Two records. A female flew in off the sea at Brownwich at 07:10 on May 6th and carried on flying north (ARC). Another female was at Fishlake Meadows at 15:00 on May 13th (GR *et al.*, photo).

May to mid-June remains the peak period for seeing this rare passage migrant, although there have been far fewer records in recent years compared to 20 years ago. (KFB)



Female Red-footed Falcon, Fishlake Meadows, May 13th (Gareth Rees)

Merlin

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Falco columbarius

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

There were 142 records this year as against 120 in 2016. Several observers suggested that this species was more numerous, especially in the New Forest, than has been the case in recent years. Between January and April there were regular reports of one or two from most coastal sites including Pennington/Keyhaven, Needs Ore, Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes, as well as a few inland records from Old Winchester Hill, Martin Down and the Itchen Valley. Most New Forest records came from the north with Black Gutter Bottom the most consistent site, but Ober Heath, Bagshot Moor, Bishops Dyke, Acres Down and Milkham Bottom also produced sightings. The final three spring reports after April 2nd came from Lymington-Hurst with the last on May 6th and 7th.

The first return was at Oxey Marsh on Sep 8th. There were 40 records for October indicating a return to all the usual coastal sites and with consistent records from the main New Forest wintering areas. However 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 three, none and two in January-March and two, none and two in October-December (Table 4).

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
7	8	9	2	1				4	8	9	11

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)

Falco subbuteo

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant. Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

There was an earlier arrival than 2016 with the first report of one on Mar 31st from Hill Head followed by singles at Burrridge and Swanwick the next day. Further April arrivals were

noted from Brambridge on 4th and Titchfield Haven on 7th. The first New Forest record was a single at Matley Bog on Apr 10th.

As usual in recent years, there were few reports of large pre-breeding season groups, with five at Fishlake Meadows on May 26th the largest recorded. A hunting bird was chasing bats at Burton Common on the evening of July 9th. Breeding was confirmed from four sites in the New Forest, though several other pairs failed, perhaps due to predation. The main survey effort elsewhere in the county came from the north-east, where five breeding attempts were noted with at least four fledged young from three successful pairs. A search of a hectad (10 km square) study area in the south-east found only five pairs, with evidence of successful breeding from four locations. Late season records were two at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 3rd, with singles at Sandy Point on 10th and the last at Keyhaven Marshes on 13th. (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 235 sites including 28 locations in the New Forest and around 127 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 117 locations during March-July of which 48 were on the coast compared to 67 in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 19 localities with ten pairs known to have fledged 23 young. Six nests failed and the outcome at another two nests is not known. There were two pylon nests which fledged four chicks. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (9), a tall chimney (1), quarries (5) plus a pair on a grain silo. In addition one pair again nested successfully on coastal shingle just a few metres from the high-water mark, although the nest site was ten km away from the similar location used in 2015 and 2016. This pair was the first to nest in such a location in the UK, although another pair has now done the same in Sussex.

The project to install nest boxes continued. Five of these were used with a total of seven chicks being fledged. In Winchester, where the traditional Police HQ nest site had been demolished, the pair moved to the Cathedral and nested in a gutter but failed after heavy rain. A nesting tray has now been installed to give them a safer option.

The programme of colour-ringing continued and 11 chicks at five nests were fitted with orange colour-rings. A male born at Southampton Container Terminal in 2013 nested in New Milton. A female ringed at a west Solent coastal nest in 2016 was again seen several times in the Keyhaven area. A female ringed at Southampton Container Terminal in 2015 was seen at St. Margarets, Kent on Mar 7th. Colour-ringed birds from other parts of the UK were noted including several from the well-known nest in Chichester. A female that was ringed as a nestling in 2012 in Greater London moved from Southampton Grain terminal, where it had previously nested successfully 2014 to 2016, to Southampton Container Terminal. (KFB)

Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet)

Psittacula krameri

Scarce introduced visitor, possibly resident.

The year was marked by a significant increase in the frequency and distribution of records, especially in Southampton where there were regular reports in all months except June. Records were concentrated in the city centre and along the River Itchen between Itchen Bridge and Millbank in the south and Mansbridge and Stoneham in the north, with isolated reports at Southampton Common, Sholing in the east, and Adanac Park, Lordshill, Nursling, Rownhams and Testwood Lakes in the west. Most reports were of singles but two were at East Park on Feb 17th, Houndwell Park on 19th, unspecified city centre areas on Mar 19th and Oct 4th, Testwood Lakes on Aug 1st, Queen's Park on Oct 7th, Southampton Common on Nov 9th, Rownhams on 13th and Hoglands Park on 24th, with a maximum of three at

Queen's Park on 28th. The reports on Feb 19th and Nov 24th referred to birds investigating potential nest holes in Houndwell and Hoglands Parks respectively. The park keeper thought they may also have had a nest hole in Queen's Park.

Elsewhere singles were recorded from widespread locations at Deanlane End on Feb 12th, Chandler's Ford on Mar 13th, Winchester on Apr 2nd and June 10th, Basingstoke on May 9th and Oct 29th, Gosport from May 15th-June 15th, Brambridge on July 15th, Bramshaw GC, NF on Aug 22nd, South Warnborough on Aug 22nd and Nov 8th and Tweseldown on Sep 24th.

Whilst breeding has not yet been confirmed in the county, the above records suggest that colonisation of the Southampton area is imminent. (MLC)

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Very scarce passage migrant; formerly moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1984 (since 1984: 62,1) ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

One record. A juvenile spent much of the day at Newlands Farm, Fareham on Aug 25th (MDR et al.). This was a welcome return after a blank year in 2016. (KFB)

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU

In the early year there were at least three wintering in the New Forest and one at Ringwood Forest, and in the late year there were just two in the New Forest and none elsewhere.

A single was in the area between Broomy Plain and Milkham until Mar 18th, and another was around Vales Moor, Cranes Moor and Holmsley until Mar 21st. In the Beaulieu Road area a single was present from Jan 19th to Apr 25th (although it was not reported between Jan 31st-Feb 16th and Mar 16th-Apr 17th). Other records came from Foxbury and Holm Hill on Jan 21st, Beaulieu Heath on Feb 8th and Fritham Plain on Mar 7th and 26th. The only record away from the New Forest was a single at Ringwood Forest on Jan 25th and Mar 19th.

There were few in the late year and all from the New Forest. One was in the Cranes Moor and Vales Moor areas on Nov 3rd-4th and Dec 12th and 16th and another remained in the area between Milkham and Slufers Inclosures from Nov 10th-24th, being seen also on Dec 2nd and 12th. (KFB)

Jay (Eurasian Jay)

Garrulus glandarius

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

No large numbers were reported with most records referring to only one or two or small groups of up to eight. The only records to exceed ten were 11 at Southampton Common on Mar 11th and Great Pen Wood near Burghclere on 13th; 12 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 29th; and 11 at Frater Shore, Gosport on Dec 17th. No significant movements were reported from the visible migration watchpoint at Trigpoint Hill between Sep 29th and Nov 7th, the highest being seven NE in one hour on Oct 8th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 6 (5); Longmoor Inclosure, 7 (6); Lower Test Marshes, 0 (1). No survey results were reported from Titchfield Haven this year. (MLC)

Magpie (Eurasian Magpie)

Pica pica

Numerous resident.

Green

As usual highest numbers were recorded at the winter roost sites at Fleet Pond and Southampton Common. In the first half-year the peak count at Fleet Pond roost was 200 on Jan 7th and in the second half-year the maximum was 217 at Southampton Common on

Dec 9th. Most reports at other sites were of single-digit numbers, the only counts of more than 20 being 40 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Jan 27th, 21 at Warblington on Jan 24th, 22 at Titchfield Haven on Mar 1st and Nov 4th, 30 at Alver Valley on Mar 14th, 24 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 29th and 22 there on Dec 3rd, 22 at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Nov 17th and 44 at North Poulner, Ringwood on Dec 27th. No significant movements were recorded in autumn from the visible migration watchpoints at Tweseldown or Trigpoint Hill.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (6); Lower Test Marshes, 4 (5). No breeding survey results were reported from previously regularly surveyed sites at Itchen Valley CP or Titchfield Haven. (MLC)



Magpie, Barton Stacey, Dec 10th (Martin Clay)

Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw)

Coloeus monedula

Numerous resident.

Green

As usual highest numbers were recorded at or near winter roost sites. In the first half-year counts of 500 or more were recorded in the first two months as follows: in January, 628 SW at Chawton on 7th, 800 at Itchen Valley CP on 15th and 750 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on 17th; in February, 650 leaving the roost at Itchen Valley CP on 4th and 500 there on 15th. The spring and early summer high was 500 at Casbrook Common on May 26th.

In the second half-year there were 1,500 roosting in the woods near Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Sep 30th and Oct 9th and 1,200 there on Nov 15th. A movement of 688 NW in four hours from 07:30 was reported at Weston Shore on Oct 28th. In addition, 750 were reported gathering near Keyhaven Marshes to roost on Nov 16th and 1,500 were observed at a morning dispersal site at Pooksgreen, Marchwood on Dec 31st.

Visible migration counts at Tweseldown between Sep 8th and Dec 12th produced only small numbers moving mostly SW, the highest count being 44 SW in three hours on Oct 9th and 42 SW in three and a half hours on Oct 28th. Evidence of other autumn movements was provided by highs of 44 west at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Oct 12th and 88 NW at Weston Shore on Oct 31st followed by 30 NE at Calshot in one hour on Nov 12th. (MLC)

Rook

Corvus frugilegus
Green

Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.

In the first half-year counts of 250 or more were reported as follows: 260 at Broughton on Jan 7th, 285 at Kingsclere Estate on Apr 30th, 300 at Shepherd’s Bush on May 18th, 250 at Martin Down between May 21st-27th and 300 at Cholderton Park on June 29th.

Numbers of rookeries and nest counts were higher than last year with 30 rookeries reported with a total of 828 apparently occupied nests compared to 21 rookeries with 613 nests in 2016. The only sites to equal or exceed 50 nests were 50 at Chilbolton on Mar 8th, 78 at South Warnborough on Mar 13th, 51 at Houghton and 76 at Longstock both on Apr 12th. Comparisons with last year were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Charlton Lakes, Andover, 34 (32); Hoglands Park, Southampton, 16 (16); Houghton, 51 (44); Leckford, 40 (35); Longstock, 76 (89); Widley, 40 (60). An active rookery of 15 nests at Hatchet Pond, NF was felled during the early part of the breeding season between Feb 13th and Mar 17th despite RSPB involvement and a report to police.

In the second half-year counts over 250 were as follows: 535 in mixed group of corvids near Keyhaven on Aug 22nd, 300 at Hinton Ampner on Oct 5th, 250 at Mottisfont on Oct 24th, 300 at Long Sutton on Nov 26th and a huge 4,000 at Longwood Warren at dusk on Dec 28th. (MLC)

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone
Green

Numerous resident.

Widespread with highest numbers recorded at coastal locations. The regularly watched site at Weston Shore again produced the highest totals with maximum monthly counts shown in the table below. The high of 410 in October coincided with low tide.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
340	180	224	180	330	220	240	265	220	410	230	260

Winter counts in the New Forest peaked in the first quarter at 433 across 33 sites in March and in the last quarter with 528 across 38 sites in December (Table 4). The average for the six months surveyed was 430 compared to 385 last year. Elsewhere counts of 100 or more were reported in June with 116 at Dibden Bay on 1st, between August-November from Newlands Farm and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on several dates with monthly highs of 130 on Aug 20th, 200 on Sep 23rd, 200 on Oct 29th and 100 on Nov 5th, and in December with 150 at Posbrook Flood, Titchfield on 9th, 164 at Upper Froyle on 28th and 110 at Long Valley on 30th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Lower Test Marshes, 4 (6); Longmoor Inclosure, 21 (19).

A partially pied individual was seen at Houndmills, Basingstoke on Mar 4th. (MLC)

Raven (Northern Raven)

Corvus corax

Scarce but increasing resident which bred successfully for the first time since 1887 in 2004. Green

A total of 1,293 records was received, including multiples from many sites. This is 20% higher than last year’s 1,077 and reflects this species increasing presence in the county. As usual most reports were of singles, pairs or small numbers less than ten, often in apparent family groups. Reports were from widespread areas, frequently from the New Forest and downland areas including Teglease Down and Old Winchester Hill in the south-east, Beacon Hill near Burghclere in the north-west and Martin and Tidpit Downs in the south-west. Ones or twos were also regularly seen in coastal areas with a maximum of four at Bunny Meadows, Warsash on Oct 27th and Farlington Marshes the same day and on Nov 19th.

All records of more than ten are listed below. At Teglease Down there were 11 on Mar 9th and 18 at Martin Down on 12th. The highest count of the year was recorded next at Highclere Estate, Crux Easton with 75 attracted to a dead sheep on Mar 28th, reducing to 40 there on 31st followed by 26 at another carcass at Long Down on 31st. In April 11 were reported from Hursthill Inclosure, NF on 5th, 16 at Long Down on 11th, 44 at Crux Easton with lambs on 14th, 11 at Beacon Hill, Burghclere on 16th and 50 at Tidpit pig farm the same day. The only high count in summer was 35 at Martin Down on July 30th. Lower numbers were recorded in autumn with 12 at Cheesefoot Head on Sep 9th, 12 at Tidpit Down on Nov 5th, 11 at Beaulieu Road, NF on Nov 25th and 13 at Broomy Plain, NF the same day. The monthly winter surveys in the New Forest recorded totals of 23, 13 and 16 respectively in the first three months of the year and 18, 19 and 25 in the last three (Table 4).

Breeding was confirmed at nine widespread sites between Jan 11th and May 23rd with between two and four young each pair. Only one nest was reported on a pylon. In addition there were eleven probable and seven possible breeding records which, if all had been confirmed, would have given a total of 27 pairs. (MLC)

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing)

Bombycilla garrulus

Rare winter visitor, in some years occurring in large numbers.

Green

Following isolated singles in November and five in December 2016, there were widespread reports of singles or groups of up to 20 in the first half-year up to Apr 5th.

The first was one at Overton on Jan 6th. This was followed in January by five at Whiteley on 13th, one over Testwood Lakes on 16th, one near Peter Symonds College, Winchester from 23rd-25th and up to eight at Eastrop Park, Basingstoke between 27th-29th. In February up to five were again recorded at Whiteley Shopping Centre from 10th-19th with eight at nearby Swanwick on 12th. Elsewhere there was one at Wesley Centre, Ringwood on Feb 19th-21st, about 20 at Shawford on 20th and two over the Starling roost at Winchester the same day. At Church Crookham one on Feb 26th was followed by 14 at nearby Elvetham Heath NR on 28th. Records continued in the same area into March with seven on 2nd, 18 on 3rd, 20 on



Waxwing, Whiteley, Feb 13th (Gareth Rees)

5th and nine on 7th and 8th. At Andover up to ten were present between Mar 2nd and 12th, and at Avington Park four were seen between Mar 18th-29th reducing to two by Apr 5th.

In the second half-year the only report was four at Deanlane End near Finchdean on Dec 12th. (MLC)

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Numerous resident.

Green

BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 255 surveyed gardens which is 16% fewer than Blue Tit and 14% less than Great Tit. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 67.3% in November to a low of 24.3% in June (Table 2). The highest number in any one garden was 21 near Romsey in w/c Apr 9th.

Apart from the above garden surveys, the only double-figure counts were ten at Shatterford Bottom, NF on Mar 1st, 13 at Woolmer Forest on Apr 14th and ten there on May 28th, 19 at Minley on June 21st, 16 at Millyford Bridge, NF on 26th and North Oakley Inclosure, NF on 29th, 30 in one flock at Longmoor Inclosure on July 27th, ten at Denmead on Oct 14th and 11 at Petersfield on Nov 25th. Annual breeding surveys at Longmoor Inclosure have averaged 112 territories in the last five years up to 2016 so the 153 territories recorded this year was above average and higher than last year's 103. One at Titchfield Haven on Oct 30th was considered to be of the nominate continental race. (MLC)

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

Common but declining resident.

Red, S41



Marsh Tit, Charter Alley, Nov 4th (Barry Stalker)

A total of 517 records was received which compares with 586 last year. Most were between one and six except for seven at Ellisfield on Feb 14th, 12 at Harewood Forest on Mar 11th, eight at Netley Marsh, Totton on Aug 14th, 12 at Bishop's Dyke, NF on Aug 20th, seven at Great Pen Wood, Burghclere on Oct 26th and ten at Denny Wood, NF on Nov 20th. Winter numbers in the New Forest were again low with monthly survey totals varying between a

low of two on Jan 21st at 38 sites and a high of 11 on Feb 25th at 35 sites for the six months covered by NFWBS (Table 4).

Also reported mostly in ones and twos (max. 4) from 18 Hampshire gardens in BTO Garden BirdWatch with monthly reporting rates varying between a high of 2.7% in December and a low of no reports in May. Undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits (most, if not all, probably being Marsh Tits) were reported from 37 gardens. The combined total for the two categories was 55 gardens representing 18% of the total which is similar to last year's total of 53.

A pair was nest building at Ashford Stream on Mar 27th and the first report of fledged young was at Costicles Inclosure, Ashurst, NF on May 20th. (MLC)

Willow Tit

Poecile montanus

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S41

The three year period for the joint survey by HIWWT and HOS ended last year and as a result the number of reports was fewer this year. Apart from one heard at Chawton Park Wood, Alton on Mar 17th, all other reports came from or near the two known clusters in the north-west of the county.

In the Hurstbourne Tarrant area between one and three were recorded between Feb 24th and Apr 5th including a singing male at Netherton Bottom on the last date. Maximum counts were three near Hurstbourne Tarrant on Feb 24th and Mar 25th and three pairs at Hurstbourne Common on Apr 1st. In addition singles were reported from new sites along the ridge east of the A34 at Ashley Warren on Feb 1st as well as near Hannington on Apr 14th and June 3rd.

In the Dummer area one or two were reported between Jan 28th and Mar 11th. Maximum counts were two near Ellisfield on Feb 17th and 25th and at Embley and Rownest Woods on 21st. Singing males were recorded near Ellisfield on Feb 17th, 25th and Mar 10th, Walker's Copse on Feb 18th and Mar 11th and near Farleigh Wallop on Feb 24th. The individual at Walker's Copse on Feb 18th was followed for about one kilometre as it moved rapidly through



Adult Willow Tit exhibiting partial leucism, Preston Oak Hills, Feb 26th (Barry Stalker)

adjacent woods and hedgerows. One of the two singing males near Ellisfield on Feb 25th and 26th was an aberrantly plumaged partially leucistic individual with a broad white eyebrow and other white patches on its forehead and nape (see photo). (MLC)

Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit)

Cyanistes caeruleus

Abundant resident and passage migrant.

Green

This was the most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being recorded in all 302 gardens compared to 301 for Blackbird and 300 for Robin. Monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 93.8% in January and February to a low of 81.2% in August (Table 2). The only gardens to report more than 20 were 43 at Tadley in w/c July 16th and 26 nearby in w/c July 23rd.

Contrary to previous years the number of double-figure records increased greatly to 52 (excluding BBS). Most were not higher than 20 but several equalled or exceeded 25. In the first half-year 25 were reported at Itchen Stoke on Jan 10th and Blashford Lakes on Feb 5th followed at Great Pen Wood by 31 on Feb 11th, 27 on Mar 19th and 35 on Mar 25th, 25 at Binswood on Apr 12th, 31 at Ipley on Apr 29th and 35 at Minley on June 21st. In the second half-year there were 29 at Great Pen Wood on Oct 26th, 30 at Ancell's Farm, Fleet on Dec 11th and 25 at Upton Grey on Dec 26th and 27th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2016 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Farlington Marshes, 5; Lower Test Marshes, 25 (21); Longmoor Inclosure, 81 (53). (MLC)

Great Tit

Parus major

Abundant resident.

Green

This was the fifth most widespread garden species according to BTO Garden BirdWatch occurring in 295 surveyed gardens, only seven fewer than Blue Tit. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 78.4% in December to a low of 64.2% in August. The only gardens to report more than 20 were at Bordon with 22 in w/c May 14th and Shedfield with 28 in w/c Aug 13th.

As with Blue Tit many more double-figure counts were reported totalling 44 (excluding BBS) compared to only five last year. The only sites to record 25 or more during the year were Itchen Valley CP with 26 on Feb 26th, 28 on Mar 4th and 26 on Mar 12th, and Minley with 34 on June 21st.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2016 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Farlington Marshes, 4; Lower Test Marshes, 20 (18); Longmoor Inclosure, 23 (17). (MLC)

Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling)

Panurus biarmicus

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in every month with most records from the four regular sites in the table below. As usual Farlington Marshes held the largest numbers in most months. In the first half-year numbers peaked there with 12 on Jan 22nd, 16 (7 new, 9 retraps) on Apr 2nd and 18 (6 new, 12 retraps) on Apr 16th. Not more than eight were reported during the summer months except for 40 (33 new, 7 retraps) caught on June 18th. Similar to previous years, numbers rose again in the autumn with a late year high of 30 on Nov 19th.

Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes provided records in every month with monthly maxima between four and ten except for 21 on Oct 8th and 15 the next day. Many of the reports were from Butts Lagoon and the reedbeds around the Avon outfall. Titchfield Haven also provided records in all months with monthly maxima between one and seven except for autumn highs peaking at 20 on Oct 6th and 13th. Reports at Hook-with-Warsash, mostly from Hooks Links, were only in the autumn and winter months with the highest count being



*Male and female Bearded Tit, Jetty Lagoon, Keyhaven, Dec 1st (male) and Oct 3rd (female)
(Joe Murphy)*

ten on Nov 21st. Elsewhere the only other records were one at Hill Head on Jan 8th, two at Cosham on Oct 17th, one at Lower Test Marshes between Nov 8th-30th and up to four at Blackwater, Needs Ore between Oct 15th and Dec 12th.

In May between three and five pairs were reported breeding at Farlington Marshes with family parties of four and six and a nest with young found in the east reedbed. Two juveniles were also seen on June 25th. Breeding was also confirmed at Titchfield Haven with two fledged young on July 10th and at Lymington-Hurst where two pairs bred successfully with one raising two broods.

Monthly maxima at the regular sites are summarised below. (MLC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	5	6	5	6	4	6	7	6	8	21	8	10
Hook-with-Warsash	6	3								10	10	5
Titchfield Haven	7	5	5	4	1	3	1	1	15	20	19	5
Farlington Marshes	12	6	8	18*	9*	40*	4*	2	19	20	30	25

*trapped for ringing

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Moderately common resident and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green, S41, HBAP

The first for the year were singles at Bramshaw GC and Blackmoor on Jan 5th. Five were at Hinton Ampner on 7th and the first song was heard at Woolmer Forest on 9th with two singing there on 24th. The NFWBS produced only two on Jan 21st (Table 4).

In February a flock of 15 was found in a field adjacent to Blackmoor GC on 12th. Elsewhere in the north-east there were reports from seven heathland sites and singles were at Noar Hill on 9th and Crookham Village on 25th. The NFWBS produced a total of 22 across 35 sites on 25th (Table 4). Other records involved ones and twos at Brockwood Park, Broughton Down, Deanlane End, Mortimer West End and Sheet.

Breeding season surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs showed a stable population with totals of 46 and 39 pairs/singing males respectively compared with 46 and 40 in 2016 (Table 1). Within the Thames Basin SPA the ongoing study on Bourley & Long Valley SSSI (which includes Tweseldown and Velmead Common) produced 19 territories (up from 15 in 2016). This comparison presents an optimistic picture because several males remained unmated. Overall the season was no more productive than the previous year. In 2017 just 19 nests were located, one less than in 2016. The numbers of successful nests and fledged young were the same in both years with ten nests and 31 young. For comparison, in 2012 when the number of territories was 24, 46 nests were monitored of which 25 were successful producing 73 fledged young. It is not known why such a major decline has occurred but it is possible that in 2017 some birds were attracted to nearby Ash Ranges in Surrey where following an extensive wild fire the habitat was in excellent condition and record numbers were recorded.

There were records from at least 45 New Forest locations which indicate the continued health of the population there. A thorough survey of the Hampshire part of Ringwood Forest revealed only one territory. Elsewhere successful breeding was confirmed at Broughton Down and Welshman's Road GP. Pairs were in suitable habitat at Badminton Plantation, Benyon's Inclosure, Braishfield, East End (Sowley), Hinton Ampner and Woodmancott and singing males were noted at Brookheath House (Fordingbridge), Butts Green (Dunbridge), Sheet (Petersfield), Tangley (Andover) and Weston (Petersfield).

Post-breeding gatherings were small, with maxima of ten at Blackfield on July 29th and Longdown Inclosure, NF on Aug 3rd and nine at Busta Triangle on Aug 25th and Bricksbury Hill on Sep 24th. Visible migration watches at Tweseldown produced a record 45 SW in 56

hours between Sep 22nd and Oct 17th with a peak day total of 13 in three hours on Oct 9th. Numbers were lower at Trigpoint Hill with ten in various directions in 38 hours between Sep 25th and Oct 28th. Other possible migrants included singles west at Hill Head on Oct 6th and at Ibsley Water on Oct 20th. Other singles, mostly in song, were recorded on one date only between Sep 30th and Nov 4th at Axmansford, Dummer, Farley Mount, Medstead, Sheet, Wivelrod and Woodmancott. Subsequently the species largely disappeared with the last in the New Forest being two at Ibsley Common on Nov 17th. The only other records from the traditional wintering area in stubble fields on the north slope of Portsdown Hill were five on Nov 11th increasing to nine on Dec 25th and 12 on the last day of the year. (JMC)

Skylark (Eurasian Skylark)

Alauda arvensis

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Red, S4I, HBAP

Seven three-figure grounded winter flocks were reported. Four were in January at Longparish (190, 2nd), Toyd Down (200, 20th), Great Litchfield Down (160, 21st) and Stockbridge Down (100, 21st), and one was in February at Micheldever (110, 4th). The other two were the highest of the year with 350 at both Houghton on Dec 9th and East Meon on Dec 28th. Breeding season records were fragmentary and highly incomplete with no suggestions of a change in status.

Autumn passage started in mid-September and around 800 were recorded moving mostly SW at the inland watchpoints with the majority during October. Peak count was 39 west during two hours at Trigpoint Hill on November 9th. Many other autumn records, especially from the coast, did not include an indication confirming movement and have not therefore been included in the table below.

Minimum half-monthly totals of 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	4	96	116	6	0	0
Inland moving	117	348	159	138	7	30

Shore Lark

Eremophila alpestris

Rare late autumn migrant and winter visitor (0,47,0)
Schedule 1, Amber

1967 addition. This record, which had never been submitted before, was offered by the observer as he reviewed his old sightings. A single at Southsea Castle on Dec 11th (DGE). (KFB)

Short-toed Lark
(Greater Short-toed Lark)
Calandrella brachydactyla

Very rare vagrant (0,3,1)

One record. Four observers were extremely lucky when they found a single standing on the path at Lower Pennington on Aug 29th. Unsure of its identity one of them took a photograph before it flew away to the east. Thankfully this enabled identification to be subsequently confirmed (MAO, PO, CSh & JSh).

There have been 20 records in Dorset and 12 in Sussex so by comparison this remains a very hard bird to find in Hampshire. With



Short-toed Lark, Old Tip, Lower Pennington, Aug 29th (Peter Oram)

the acceptance of the 2013 record below, there have now been just four sightings of this species, the others being between Calshot and Ower in Oct 1983 and Normandy in May 2010.

2013 addition. A single was watched for ten minutes by five observers at the edge of the old tip at Lower Pennington on May 19th (MEW *et al.*). This record was considered as not proven by the HOS Records Panel at the time, but the finder felt that his original comments about the bird's size could have been construed in a misleading way and asked for a revised description to be considered. The record was accepted based on this revision. (KFB)

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green

Following the first arrivals at Avington Lake and Titchfield Haven on Mar 10th, there were near-daily sightings with the first large gatherings being 100 at Ibsley Water on 28th and 268 passing through Fishlake Meadows in one hour the next day. There were nine other triple-figure counts in spring up to the end of June with a maximum of 300 at Fishlake Meadows on April 24th. Late movements in spring overlapped with dispersal of presumably failed breeders in late May and into June.

The only counts of breeding colonies were ten occupied nests at Ibsley Water on May 4th, 106 at Testwood Lakes (*cf.* 77 in 2016), 59 at Barton on Sea on July 21st and two at Milford on Sea the same day.

The first autumn movement was noted at Farlington Marshes with 20 west on June 17th. Subsequently numbers increased to three figures during July with highs of 400 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on 24th and 800 at Ibsley Water on 29th. Numbers then increased to four figures during early August at Ibsley Water with 1,400 on 2nd, 2,000 on 3rd, 1,000 on 7th and 1,500 on 10th. Elsewhere there were 1,100 at the Avon Overflow, Keyhaven on Aug 6th. Numbers then reduced in the remainder of August with a peak of 350 at Pennington Marshes on 27th before rising again in early September with highs at Ibsley Water of 700 on 5th and between 500-1,000 on 10th. In late September the last three-figure count was 100 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 24th. Numbers then tailed off rapidly with just 13 reported in October, the final being one at Hurst on the early last date of Oct 4th.

Half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below.

	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	122	5	6	63	36	21	2	2	1		
Coast				20	35	59	25	100	3		

The above table is of limited value as it only includes records where observers have reported directional movements. A better indication of the scale and timing of major movements is indicated by the large feeding flocks, usually over water, which are reported during migration periods and summarised by the maximum half-monthly counts in the table below. (SKW)

Mar 10-15	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
14	268	50	300	50	250	800	2,000	350	700	100	8

Swallow (Barn Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green

The first was at Acres Down, NF on Mar 11th, with ten more by mid-month. Passage was slow to get started with just another 83 by the end of March. The first count to exceed 100 was not until Apr 26th at Ibsley Water, while a typical sharp but not very substantial pulse was recorded in early May. A total of 3,097 were noted on the move in spring.

Return passage started in early July and 19,327 were recorded moving between then and late October. Migration data for both seasons were fragmentary and incomplete, but appeared light compared to recent years (cf. 33,758 in 2016). However, assuming even coverage across the seasons, the table below gives some indication of the timing of passage. The biggest counts were in the latter two-thirds of September with 1,500 at Ibsley Water on 10th, 1,050 NE at Trigpoint Hill on 19th, 1,250 SW at Tweseldown the next day and 1,491 SW at Calshot on 24th. Numbers reduced during October and continued in ones and twos into November with the last being one at Lymington reedbeds on Nov 25th.

The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. An additional aggregate total of 3,436 moving at Tweseldown in autumn is not included in the table below as it was not broken down by dates but is included in the total above. (SKW)

	Mar 20-31	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	Oct 16-23
Inland	16	104	79	939	83	2	90	78	62	575	2,344	9,830	397	1
Coast	2	76	205	1,593						430	585	1,151	321	25

House Martin (Common House Martin)
Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Delichon urbicum
Amber

The earliest arrival was five north at Yateley on Mar 27th. Records did not become daily until Apr 10th with the highest visible migration count of 400 north at Chilland on May 3rd and only a total of 724 noted on the move in the entire spring.

Reports of up to 15 breeding pairs were submitted from scattered sites except for 32 nests occupied out of 102 on July 24th at the South Downs site which held the largest number in the 2015 BTO survey (cf. 130).

Taking July 1st as an arbitrary marker for the start of autumn passage, 50,107 House Martins were logged moving but, as with other hirundines, many records did not explicitly mention migration and have not been included in this total. Twelve records of four-figure flocks, mostly between 1,000 and 2,000, were submitted between Aug 10th and Sep 17th, all bar one at Ibsley Water, with maxima of 4,000 on Sep 10th and at least 7,000 on Sep 11th. The other four-figure count was 1,300 at Hill Head on Sep 17th. Other half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. At the inland watchpoints peak passage rates of over 1,500 per hour were recorded in September at Tweseldown (4,700 SW in 3 hours, 21st; 5,430 SW in 3.2 hours, 29th) and Trigpoint Hill (2,550 NE in 1 hour on 19th; 1,510 SW in 1 hour on 21st). Just 19 were recorded after mid-October with the last being two at Sandy Point on 26th. (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
Inland	14	438	166	63	82	56	393	880	19,197	25,345	1,241
Coast	2			2	1			238		2,674	

Red-rumped Swallow
Rare vagrant recorded April-July and October (0,13,2)

Cecropis daurica

Two records. Amazingly two sightings came from the same area in different months. On May 3rd one was seen well (but intermittently) with other hirundines initially over the Frying Pan then later in the Posbrook Flood area of Titchfield Haven from 09:05 until 13:10 when it flew north and did not return (BSD et al.). On July 5th one flew SW over Titchfield Haven at 09:25 (ALR). (KFB)

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Coverage was far less complete than in 2016 when the county population was estimated at 460 singing males. However the records received indicate that overall numbers were at a similar level this year. The species has always been rare on Hayling Island but one pair bred successfully at Sandy Point NR for the first time, a singing male was at West Hayling LNR on Feb 13th and at least from May 13th-26th, and one was at Northney Common on Nov 2nd.

Counts of singing males/territories from coastal sites from east to west amounted to at least 134 as follows: Sandy Point, 1; Conigar Point, 1; Langstone Mill Pond, 1; West Hayling LNR, 1; Langstone Harbour north shore, 4; Farlington Marshes, 17; Milton Common, 7; IBM Lake, 1; Peel Common STW, 1; Wildgrounds, Gosport, 1+; Titchfield Haven, 29+; Hook-with-Warsash, 5; Riverside Park, 1; Lower Test Marshes, 41; Dibden Bay, 4; Lepe, 2+; Inchmery, 1; Needs Ore, 5; Sowley, 1; Lymington-Hurst, 10+. The counts from Milton Common and Dibden Bay did not specify if they referred to singing males or included other individuals.

In the Itchen Valley there were 15 territories in Itchen Valley CP between the M27 and the Eastleigh-Fareham railway line and nine in the Bishopstoke area to the north. Further upstream there was no survey but at least 16 singing males were reported. In the Test Valley there were two to three territories in the Testwood Lakes-Moorcourt area including Broadlands Lake and 16 at Fishlake Meadows. Upstream (including the Anton Valley) there were at least 44 singing males in 24 different one km squares (cf. 29 in 13 one km squares in 2016). These included five in SU 4141 – Bransbury Common – where only wintering birds were reported in 2016. In the Avon Valley there were six territories at Bickton and seven at Sopley Island. Also of note was presence throughout the year at Blashford Lakes with three territories around Ivy Lake (two pairs confirmed breeding) and at least one at Ibsley Water, where breeding was confirmed when juveniles were trapped. The only record suggestive of breeding away from the usual areas involved a singing male at Sherfield-on-Loddon from June 8th-10th.

Records from presumed non-breeding locations included a singing male at Lakeside CP from Jan 28th-Mar 9th, one at Newlands Farm from July 15th-Sep 24th with two on Sep 23rd, two at Baffins Pond on Oct 24th, one at Mopley Pond on Oct 27th, one at The Vyne Lake from Nov 3rd-28th, a female trapped at Fleet Pond on Nov 5th and 11th, and a singing male at Edenbrook CP on Nov 24th and Dec 9th. (JMC)

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Numerous resident.

Green

In the first three months of the year there were six reports of over 20 at Blashford Lakes, Warblington Castle Farm, Leckford Great Common, Lower Test Marshes and Heath Pond, Petersfield. In the breeding season counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 12 (22); Longmoor Inclosure, 8 (9); Lower Test Marshes, 10 (11).

Post-breeding season and autumn counts of over 20 were received from four sites with 24 at Petersfield on July 24th, 40 in Leigh Park, Havant on Aug 10th, 25 at Hamble Common on Aug 29th and 27 at Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore on Sep 26th. Notable numbers were also recorded in the last two months of the year with 40 at Deanlane End on Nov 14th and in December with 44 at Frater Shore on 2nd, 40 at Stratfield Saye Park on 27th and 48 at Darby Green on 28th. (AMB)

Willow Warbler†

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first for the year was one at Hurst Castle on Mar 10th (MPM). This is the earliest ever by five days. It was followed by singles at Rooksbury Mill and Abbots Wood on 13th and Fleet Pond on 15th and then further ones, twos and a three at 15 other sites by the end of the month. The main arrival was from Apr 9th with the first double-figure counts being 12 at Sandy Point, Hayling Island and 13 at Heath Warren on 11th, 11 at Shortheath Common on 12th, 20 at Fishlake Meadows on 13th, 21 at Sandy Point on 14th, and 12 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and 11 at Rowbarrow on 15th. The highest count in the second half of April was 22 at Kingston Great Common, NF on 23rd. Sandy Point recorded 175 bird-days (cf. 114 in 2016; 84 in 2015) between Apr 6th and May 9th.

With the exception of 13 at Botley Wood and Kingston Great Common, NF, the only significant counts received during the breeding season (May-June) came from the north-east. Double-figure territory counts (with 2016 figures in parentheses) were 11 at Yateley Common South (10), 11 at Castle Bottom (11), 13 at Eversley Common (9), 18 at Ludshott Common (31), 19 at Longmoor Inclosure (14) and 21 at Yateley Common (28). Breeding season totals for the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs were 75 and 52 pairs/singing males respectively compared to 68 and 53 in 2016 (Table 1). It is unknown whether the sole New Forest double-figure count at Denny Wood in 2016 was replicated as no data were received.

In autumn a total of 161 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 15th and Sep 23rd, notably higher than 2016 (74) and higher than 2015 (142). At Sandy Point there were 76 bird-days between July 26th and Sep 12th (93) with a peak of 13 on Aug 20th. At Lymington-Hurst 34 were trapped from July 9th to Sep 17th. Counts of 20 or more were received from Rowbarrow, NF (20, Aug 12th), Newlands Farm, Fareham (30, Aug 13th) and Cadnam Common, NF (30, Aug 16th). Small numbers continued to be reported throughout September into October with the last for the year being at Milton Common on 14th. (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 approximately 300 at 80 sites, a notable increase on 200 at 65 sites in 2016. By far the highest numbers were at Eastleigh STW where January numbers peaked at 64 on 7th declining to 15 on 28th, and remaining fairly constant with 18 on Feb 5th before a small decline to 15 on 26th. Elsewhere the highest counts were eight at Hawley Meadows on Jan 23rd, 27 at Blackwater Valley (between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green) on 29th, and 13 at Chilbolton STW & West Down on Feb 12th. In a few locations migrants appeared to arrive in numbers in early to mid-March although it was difficult to identify a significant influx given the widespread wintering population. The first double-figure count was on Mar 4th when 29 were at Eastleigh SW. Subsequent counts in March were 15 at Fields Farm, Blackfield on 12th, 14 at Lower Test Marshes on 13th, 18 and 24 at Itchen Valley CP on 19th and 26th respectively, 26 at Great Pen Wood on 25th, 20 at Testwood on 28th and 20 at Casbrook Common on 30th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 15 (13); Lower Test Marshes, 15 (13); Yateley Common, 19 (38); Blackbushe Airfield, 21 (20); Farlington Marshes, 21 (9); Longmoor Inclosure, 60 (35); Itchen Valley CP, 78 (76).

Large numbers were recorded between early September and the first week of October. Daily counts of 40 or more included 49 at Pennington Marshes on Sep 19th, 40 at Stansore Point, Lepe on Oct 6th and 64 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 30th. In November-December there were approximately 135 at 57 sites. The only double-figure counts were 40 at Markwells

Wood on Nov 3rd (probably late migrants) and 12-15 at Eastleigh STW between Nov 15th and Dec 29th. (AMB)

2016 addition. Counts of territories at surveyed areas included (2015 figure in parenthesis): Itchen Valley CP, 76 (76).

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 2009: 24,2)

At Darby Green there was a single from Jan 1st to Mar 5th (presumably that seen in December 2016) and two on Jan 11th and 22nd (GCS et al.). A single was trapped at Eastleigh STW on Jan 7th and DNA samples taken from the bird confirmed that it was of the race *tristis* (photo, DJU, TDC).

Apart from these, a silent bird with plumage features suggestive of *tristis* was in a garden at North End, Portsmouth on Dec 28th (photo, MJW). Two records of unseen calling birds were submitted, but the HOS Records Panel follows the generally agreed position that birds should at least be seen and preferably heard to be considered. (KFB)

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Scarce and declining summer visitor now largely confined to the New Forest. Red

The first for the year was at Mill Field, Old Basing on Apr 12th. In spring, after the first there were singing males at Manor Farm CP on Apr 14th, Mill Field on 19th, Burkhams on 23rd, Swanwick NR on 25th and Crab Wood, Farley Mount on 28th. At Bolderwood, NF two were reported on Apr 27th, three on 28th and a maximum of four on 30th. Singles were recorded in nine other New Forest sites by the end of the month. The majority of territorial males arrived in May with widespread reports, all at New Forest locations.

Singing males over the period of May and June were reported at 14 New Forest sites (cf. 25 in 2016, 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. It should be remembered that within this total there will be males that moved between woods and will have been counted twice. Two females shared a male in the Holmhill/Highland Water area. Outside of this block two singing males were reported at Milkham Inclosure on May 10th, Holmsley Inclosure on May 25th and Holly Hatch Inclosure on June 17th. Singles were also reported from Denny Wood on May 1st and Norley Wood on June 23rd. There were no reports outside of the New Forest in June nor within the forest after June.

Singles were trapped at Titchfield Haven on July 25th and reported at Sinah Warren, Hayling Island on Aug 20th. The last was at Eversley GP on Sep 3rd. (AMB)

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. (0,132,12)

An influx occurred from early to late October with records as follows:

Iley Lane, Keyhaven: Oct 4th – trapped and ringed
Little Basing: Oct 5th
Titchfield Haven: Oct 5th-10th, two, possibly three in this period, one of which was trapped and ringed
Stubbington: Oct 7th
Heath Pond, Petersfield: Oct 13th-17th
Lower Test Marshes: Oct 22nd

Bishopstoke: Oct 22nd
IBM Lake: Oct 22nd
Chandler's Ford: Oct 25th
Saltgrass Lane, Keyhaven: Oct 28th
Milford on Sea: Oct 29th.

(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 30th. Thereafter the species was widely recorded at 31 sites in April with the first double-figure counts being ten at each of Fishlake Meadows on 17th, Bishopstoke on 22nd, Lower Test Marshes on 24th and Itchen Valley CP on 29th, and at least 20 at Winnall Moors on 22nd.

During the breeding season approximately 230 singing males were reported from 33 localities (cf. 220 at 40 in 2016; 196 at 26 in 2015). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Fishlake Meadows, 40 (35); Itchen Valley CP, 26 (36); Lower Test Marshes, 32 (30).

In autumn there was a further decrease in the number trapped at Titchfield Haven with a total of 597 between July 8th and Sep 30th (cf. 688 in 2016; 799 in 2015; 1,224 in 2014) with a peak of 166 on Aug 5th. Whether this was due to a poor breeding season is unknown but it is notable that summer and autumn numbers were particularly low, possibly due to under-reporting, for the third year running with only one other location with a double-figure count at Bransbury Common on July 23rd. The highest counts elsewhere in July were six at Itchen Valley CP on 9th, Lower Test Marshes on 13th and along the Itchen from Shawford to Winchester on 31st, followed by nine at Pennington Marshes on Aug 28th. The last were two singles in October at Farlington Marshes and Calshot on 3rd. (AMB)

Reed Warbler† (Eurasian Reed Warbler)

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green, HBAP

The first for the year was one singing at Titchfield Canal Path on Apr 1st. There were five double-figure counts in April with 19 between Keyhaven and Normandy Marshes on 19th and ten there on 22nd, ten at Needs Ore on 19th and Fishlake Meadows on 20th, and 11 at Ibsley Water on 29th.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 338 singing males/territories at 73 sites (cf. 2016: 339 at 53; 2015: 434 at 39). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses where available): Farlington Marshes, 26; Itchen Valley CP, 23 (29); Lower Test Marshes, 76 (63); Ibsley Water, 11 (17); Sopley, 21; Fishlake Meadows, 28. Other notable records in May were 11 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on 14th and 12 at Testwood on 15th followed by 12 at Needs Ore on June 20th.

In autumn 360 were trapped at Titchfield Haven (cf. 2016: 424; 2015: 722) between July 8th and Sep 30th with a peak of 61 (cf. 2016:33) on Aug 5th. Elsewhere there were only two double-figure counts, both from Pennington Marshes, with 30 on July 30th and 18 on Aug 13th. There were single records at mainly coastal sites in September with a final record of one at Farlington Marshes on Sep 29th. (AMB)

Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant (7,23,1)

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

One record. A singing male was present on the track along the east side of Titchfield Haven on June 12th, being seen twice and heard on and off from 11:48-19:00 (ALR et al.). There have been records in only five years this century, most recently in June 2012. (KFB)

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

The first records were singles at Pennington Marshes, Manor Farm and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Apr 14th. During April a minimum of 17 was reported at 15 locations (cf. 11 at 10 in 2016)



Reed Warbler, Bickton, May 8th (Martin Bennett)



Grasshopper Warbler, Old Tip, Lower Pennington, Apr 21st (Lee Fuller)

with two at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 21st, Iley Point on Apr 23rd and Fishlake Meadows on Apr 24th. In May there were reports from at least eight locations including two singing at Itchen Valley CP and Fishlake Meadows on 2nd, singles at Lower Test Marshes between 2nd-29th and Winnall Moors on 4th and, for the second year running, singing at Shawford on May 11th and 12th and St Catherine's Hill on May 19th, as well as at Ibsley Water on 29th.

Evidence for individuals remaining on territory during the breeding season was suggested at four locations with two at Lower Test Marshes on June 1st and singles at Ibsley Water from June 2nd-11th, St Cross WM on June 3rd and Itchen Valley CP up to July 12th. In contrast only one such record was reported in 2016.

In autumn singles were reported at 12 locations and a total of 156 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 15th and Sep 30th (cf. 166 in 2016) with peaks of 17 on July 15th and 26 on Aug 26th. Four were also trapped at Keyhaven between July 9th and Aug 20th. The last for the year was one trapped at Titchfield Haven on Oct 26th (BSD). This is a new late date by six days, the previous latest date being Oct 20th 2001. (AMB)

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 145 at 107 sites (cf. 85 at 74 in 2016), many of which were in gardens. All were between one and four except in March with five at Ibsley Water on 27th, eight at Lower Test Marshes on 28th, six at Sinah Common & Hayling GC on 31st and five at Fishlake Meadows the same day. Records from regularly monitored sites showed a clear increase in numbers in the last week of March and the first week of April as migrants supplemented those over-wintering. At Farlington Marshes numbers increased from one on Apr 2nd to 11 on 17th. A similar pattern was noted at Lower Test Marshes with five on Apr 1st and 25 on 4th. The first double-figure count was at Ibsley Water with ten on Apr 8th. Other April counts of fifteen or more were 16 at Itchen Valley CP on 2nd and 15 at Peel Common on 16th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 20 (19); Longmoor Inclosure, 17 (17); Hazeley Heath, 22 (30); Farlington Marshes, 23; Lower Test Marshes, 27 (27); Itchen Valley CP, 87 (72).

Autumn passage was most evident from the end of August to the end of September with 18 at Stansore Point on Aug 28th, 15 at Calshot on Sep 2nd, 55 at Farlington Marshes on Sep 9th, 19 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 17th and 85 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 30th. At IBM Lake there were 175 (70) bird-days between Aug 6th and Nov 3rd. Numbers in October were much reduced with only one count of more than five after 2nd. Approximately 55 were recorded at 48 sites during November-December compared with 50 at 37 localities in the same period in 2016. All reports were of one to four. (AMB)

2016 addition. Counts of territories at surveyed areas included (2015 figures in parenthesis): Itchen Valley CP, 72 (68).

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

Green

The first for the year was one at Chandler's Ford on Apr 2nd followed by singles at Preshaw Down on 4th, Paulsgrove Chalk Pit on 7th and Ibsley Water and Longparish on 8th. The main arrival was similar to 2016 with five at Binswood on 28th and ten at Ibsley Water on 29th with widespread reports from the beginning of May, mostly from inland sites.

During the period of May-June there were approximately 220 records at 98 locations (excluding BBS) (cf. 160 at 70 in 2016), with most records being of one or two singing males. Double-figure records of ten and 15 were noted respectively at Ludshott Common on May 18th and Ibsley Water on June 4th. Notable counts of singing males included six at Fishlake Meadows and seven at Botley Wood on May 14th, eight at Shortheath Common on May 4th and eight at Blackbushe on May 14th.

In autumn a total of 15 (cf. 25 in 2016) was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 8th and Sep 30th and six were trapped at Keyhaven between July 9th and Sep 27th. As usual numbers

on autumn passage were unremarkable with no daily count at any individual site exceeding two. The final record was one at The Kench, Hayling Island on Oct 1st. (AMB)

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Rare vagrant. (0,12,1)

One record. A first-winter was discovered at Titchfield Haven on Nov 19th (ABH *et al.*). After being watched at close range by many people that day, it vanished. However on Dec 3rd it was rediscovered feeding on berries right by the visitor centre and remained there until Dec 20th allowing views down to just a few feet (m.o.).

There have been six previous records this century in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2015 and 2016, but this is the latest to have been discovered since one on Nov 30th 1993. (KFB)



First-winter Barred Warbler, Titchfield Haven, Dec 15th (Gareth Rees)

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded four times in winter. Green

One, possibly of the eastern race *blythi*, was reported as wintering at Eastney from Jan 3rd-31st (DSm) (photo). The first spring record was one at Needs Ore on Apr 11th. The main arrival was from Apr 19th when daily totals increased with seven at five locations, seven at six locations on 20th and eight at six locations on 23rd. These daily figures are much lower than in 2016 when daily totals in double figures were noted on two occasions (12 at seven locations on 14th and 14 at seven locations on 17th). Individuals were noted at a total of 32 sites by the end of the month. Most records were of one to two individuals but five were recorded singing at Needs Ore on 29th.

The unobtrusive nature of the species makes calculating potential breeding numbers difficult. Despite this, numbers were remarkably consistent with previous years with reports of singing males totalling 84 at 67 localities (excluding BBS) (cf. 84 at 59 in 2016, 79 at 58 2015; 88 at 58 in 2014). Highest counts were three at Titchfield Haven on May 3rd, six at Deanlane End on May 22nd and three at Martin Down and Itchen Valley CP. No other site held more than one or two singing males. For the first time, no territory was held at Sandy Point, Hayling.

Post-breeding numbers were low with most records being singles. Three were noted at Broughton Down, Lepe, Mansbridge, Titchfield Haven, Lymington-Hurst and Calshot on various dates between July 2nd and Sep 9th with five at Farlington Marshes on Aug 13th. One at Sandy Point on Sep 27th-28th was also considered by the observer to be of an eastern race (ACJ). There were daily reports throughout September and early October with the final record being at Keyhaven on Oct 3rd. (AMB)

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

Sylvia communis

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded three times in winter.

Green

The first for the year was a single at Blashford Lakes on Apr 2nd. Several followed in the next few days but the main arrival was from Apr 12th with the species becoming widely reported thereafter. Significant counts were 12 at Milton Common on Apr 22nd and 16 and 13 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 22nd and 23rd respectively.

Counts of territories in previously surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses where available): Botley Wood, 15; Butser Hill, 14 (12); Farlington Marshes, 14 (12); Itchen Valley CP, 33 (36); Lower Test Marshes, 10 (10); Martin Down CBC, 15 (22). Other double-figure counts were at Newlands Farm, 15; Lymington-Hurst, 16; Hazeley Heath, 16; Hook-with-Warsash, 10; Milton Common, 23; Easton, 13; and Casbrook Common, 17. Bearing in mind the reported decline in the New Forest as shown by the HBA, it is relevant to note that not a single breeding record in 2017 was submitted for the four main New Forest 10 km squares (SU20, 21, 30 and 31), the only relevant report being one logged in BBS at Beaulieu Heath West on Apr 21st which may have been a migrant.

Return passage began in earnest after the first week of August and remained steady throughout the month with counts of over 20 at Hook-with-Warsash, Needs Ore, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes. Three sites recorded consistently high numbers with 42 bird-days at IBM Lake between Aug 6th and Sep 24th, 23 trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 8th and Sep 27th and 45 trapped at Keyhaven between July 9th and Sep 10th. Numbers declined in September although there were still four double-figure counts of 32 at Farlington Marshes on 1st, 12 at Sinah Common & Hayling GC on 2nd, and 12 at Farlington Marshes and Calshot on 9th. There were a few reports of singles in October and the last for the year were singles at Redbridge Wharf and Titchfield Haven on 3rd. (AMB)

2016 addition. A male at Bitterne Park, Southampton was on the very early date of Mar 17th (MGP).

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

Survey work in three areas of the New Forest revealed 51 territories in 14 one km squares centred on Yew Tree Heath, 46 in 11 squares at Hinchelsea Moor and 24 in five squares at Setley Plain (RC). The HOS Dartford Warbler survey in 2018 should provide further information about the New Forest population.

In the north-east the population on the Thames Basin Heaths SPAs was 106 pairs/singing males at 13 sites compared with 112 at 14 sites in 2016. The small decline was largely accounted for

by a reduction from 46 to 36 at Bourley & Long Valley SSSI. On the Wealden Heaths SPAs there were 54 at five sites compared with 36 at five sites in 2016. This is still well short of the estimated total of 161 in 2008 before the run of severe winters in 2009-12. Notably a singing male was located at Bramshott Common for the first time since then but there was no evidence that it was mated. After the return of one pair to The Warren, Oakhanger in 2016 the site unfortunately was not covered this year (Table 1).

Elsewhere coverage of known sites was somewhat patchy. Counts of territories at coastal locations from east to west were as follows: Browndown South, 3; Browndown North, 1; Hook-with-Warsash, 1; Needs Ore, 3; Lymington-Hurst, 4. Inland there were six territories at Burton Common and one in Ringwood Forest.

Early year records at presumed non-breeding sites involved one at Lepe on Jan 3rd, a male at Sandy Point from Jan 3rd-May 3rd, one or two at Gilkicker Point from Jan 8th to Mar 27th and singles at Butser Hill on Jan 6th, Welshman's Road GP on Jan 14th and Baddesley Common on Feb 22nd.

Reports immediately after the breeding season included a juvenile at Sandy Point on July 7th (not reared there) and a singing male at Tweseldown on Aug 14th (where none bred). Further records came from Sandy Point with at least one from Sep 1st-Dec 31st and two from Oct 26th-Nov 3rd, one at Fort Cumberland on Sep 1st, one at Hamble Common from Oct 6th-Nov 24th with two on Oct 10th, one at Deadwater Valley, Bordon on Oct 10th, one at Farlington Marshes from Oct 12th-27th with two on Dec 19th, two at Ancell's Copse, Fleet on Oct 30th, one at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 31st and Dec 30th, one at Itchen Valley CP from Nov 3rd-8th, one at Welshman's Road GP on Nov 26th and one at Netley Abbey on Dec 17th. (JMC)

Firecrest (Common Firecrest)

Regulus ignicapilla

Moderately common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

In January and February wintering individuals were again reported from widespread locations generally in small numbers between one and three. Counts of four or more came from five locations in the New Forest including six at Holly Hatch on Jan 1st, four at Bolderwood on Jan 13th, four at Acres Down on Feb 17th, seven at Mark Ash on Feb 21st and four at Salisbury Trench on Feb 25th. The first singing individual was recorded at South Stoneham Church, Swaythling on Feb 13th.

During the breeding season a total of 478 territorial birds were reported from across the county, a lower total than in 2016 (cf. 882 territorial birds). However there was much less focused survey work this year with concerted effort coming only from the Bourley and Minley areas (JMCK), Southampton area (MGP) and the New Forest (MCA & MW). Most of the records comprise small numbers of singing males from widespread locations with a notable concentration in the New Forest. Significant totals of territorial males included ten at Burley New Inclosure, 38 at Bolderwood and 23 from Ashurst, all in the New Forest, 59 from the Southampton area and 29 from the Bourley Catchment area.

In line with recent years, relatively low numbers were reported between July and September with the first coastal migrant recorded at Titchfield Haven on Aug 26th. Coastal numbers subsequently peaked in October. From October onwards wintering individuals were reported from widespread locations. However fieldworkers in the New Forest reported lower counts than recent years. Counts of five or more included a total of 12 trapped at Titchfield Haven between Sep 30th and Nov 29th, six at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Oct 13th and Dec 19th, five at Dane Stream, Milford on Sea on Oct 22nd, nine on Southampton Common on Oct 24th, and five trapped at Eastleigh STW on Nov 15th.

A summary of all records is tabulated below. (MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	26	30	73	4	3	2	8	4	
No. of New Forest sites	10	12	20	4	2	2	6	3	
Southampton Common	1		5		4	3	14	2	1
Southampton area	4	3	7	15	6	4	29	10	18
Southampton area sites	3	2	2	5	3	2	9	7	10
Other inland locations	42	31	82	12	12	19	38	43	44
No. of inland sites	17	16	35	5	8	11	15	22	19
Coastal locations	68	21	34	6	8	46	127	65	48
No. of coastal sites	17	9	11	3	7	16	25	21	15
Total recorded	141	85	201	37	33	74	216	124	111

Goldcrest†

Regulus regulus

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In the early winter period double-figure counts were received from eight sites including 25 at Cadnam Common, NF on Mar 9th, and 36 and 27 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill (NE of Basingstoke) on Mar 19th and Apr 8th respectively.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Bolderwood, NF, 21; Burley New Inclosure, NF, 22; Itchen Valley CP, 19 (30); Longmoor Inclosure, 58 (41); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (3); Stockbridge Common Marsh, 4.

In the second half of the year double-figure counts were recorded from 11 sites including 21 at Brownwich on Oct 8th, 33 at Titchfield Haven on Oct 12th and 25 at Fritham Plain, NF on Oct 18th. Diurnal movement was recorded from Trigpoint Hill with two SW on Oct 9th and one SW on Oct 27th. Notable autumn ringing totals included 203 trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 8th and Nov 18th (cf. 72 trapped there between July 31st and Nov 11th 2016), 47 trapped at Keyhaven between July 31st and Oct 31st and 30 trapped at Eastleigh STW on Nov 15th. (WGDL)

Wren (Eurasian Wren)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Abundant resident.

Green

Early year counts included 34 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 4th and 63 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Mar 19th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Blashford Lakes, 24 (29); Farlington Marshes, 35; Fleet Pond, 18; Hollybank Woods, Emsworth, 25; Itchen Valley CP, 25; Longmoor Inclosure, 159 (122); Lower Test Marshes, 115 (123); Ower Farm, Upham, 25; Stockbridge Common Marsh, 7; Mill Field, Old Basing, 8. The highest total in BBS one km squares was 41 at Minley on June 21st and the highest count submitted in the latter part of the year was 23 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Oct 26th. (WGDL)

Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch)

Sitta europaea

Numerous resident.

Green

Notable early year counts included 12 at Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest on Mar 6th and 15 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Mar 13th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were limited as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 2 (2); Longmoor Inclosure 5 (4); Itchen Valley CP, 4 (6). The highest totals in BBS one km squares were in June with 15 at Conford Moor on 14th, 11 at Ridge and Lythe Hangers, Steep on 19th and 20 at Minley on June 21st. Other notable counts included 13 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on July 11th and ten at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Dec 12th. (WGDL)

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper)

Certhia familiaris

Numerous resident.

Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 5 (6); Longmoor Inclosure, 10 (13); Lower Test Marshes, 3 (3). In addition, successful breeding was reported from Axmansford, Bolderwood, NF, Denny Wood, NF, Fleet Pond, Itchen Valley CP and Petersfield. The highest BBS one km square total was six at Winsor, Totton on June 16th. Double-figure counts were submitted from just two sites with ten at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Mar 13th and Sep 12th and ten at Denny Wood, NF on May 28th. (WGDL)

Starling (Common Starling)

Sturnus vulgaris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S41

It was a near-record year with monthly maximum totals averaging 285% increase over 2016 (which itself was coincidentally a 285% increase over 2015's low levels). Several sizeable roosts, particularly in the autumn and late winter period, swelled numbers to record levels this century. Notably flocks reached four figures at 13 sites (ten in 2016), with five reaching five-figures (two in 2016). While it may be too soon to read too much into this data for a long term trend, it is clear there was a significant winter influx between October and March over the last two years. In contrast, the breeding population seems to be low by historic standards but stable.

The early winter period was dominated by the much publicised roost and associated murmuration spectacle that developed at Winnall Moors, Winchester in early February, where numbers peaked at an estimated 40,000 (from photos) on Feb 16th and again on Mar 3rd. Other notable counts, albeit overshadowed, included 1,000 at Gander Down on Jan 1st and 2,200 roosting at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Jan 17th. Feeding flocks emanating from the Winnall Moors roost in February included counts of 1,000 at Twyford Down (2nd), South Wonston (4th), Fawley Down and Morestead (16th), and 700 at Longwood Warren on Mar 12th being the last count to exceed 100 in the early spring period. Light spring passage was detected with 274 over Trigpoint Hill on seven dates between Mar 3rd and Mar 24th including 112 NE on Mar 4th and 120 E over Fleet Pond on Mar 10th.

Few breeding reports were received. However BBS breeding season reports of over 50 adults in one km squares were submitted for Southsea (71, Apr 19th), Basingstoke (52, Apr 25th), Shortheath, Havant (60, May 3rd and 24th), Dibden Bay (51, June 1st) and Bitterne, Southampton (June 4th). Fledged juveniles started to be recorded from May 20th onwards and early post-breeding flocks included 105 at Truncheaunts, Alton on May 20th and 400 roosting at Ibsley Water and 100 at Newlands Farm, Fareham, both on May 29th. Thereafter numbers slowly grew over the summer months with three-figure flocks logged at just four sites in June (none exceeding 250), seven sites in July and ten in August. Peak counts came from Farlington Marshes with 1,000 on July 19th, 1,250 on Aug 27th and 2,000 on Sep 2nd, and roost counts from Edenbrook CP, Fleet of 500 on July 3rd, 650 on Aug 29th and 1,200 on Sep 29th. No other sites recorded numbers in excess of 200 in September with the exception of 450 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Sep 8th.

Autumn diurnal passage was recorded from the third week of September onwards, with the strongest movement for some years taking place between mid-October and the third week of November. Counts from inland watch points peaked in several waves between Oct 9th and Nov 18th. In contrast, movements at coastal sites were more concentrated within the last two weeks of October. At the two main inland watchpoints 8,495 were recorded flying mostly SW over Tweseldown between Sep 24th and Dec 16th with a peak of 1,189 SW on Nov 7th, and 5,045 over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 17th and Dec 29th with a peak of 1,035 NW on Oct 25th. Movements were reported from many coastal sites in the last weeks of October with peaks of 1,000 west at Pennington Marshes on Oct 15th and 2,800 west over

Brownwich, 1,340 NW over Weston Shore and 1,100 west over Hook-with-Warsash, all on Oct 28th.

The minimum half-monthly totals of spring and autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	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				29	1,002	8,594	2,261	25		
Inland movements	380	14	6	144	889	3,009	6,104	2,577	177	640

* = Excludes movement believed to be to and from roost sites.

Sizeable roosts and grounded flocks started to be reported from mid-October onwards coinciding with diurnal passage. However unlike 2016's exodus in late November, numbers continued to rise to near-record levels in December. Five distinct roost sites dominated (peak counts in parentheses) at Fishlake Meadows (60,000 on Dec 31st), North Somerley Lake (51,000, Dec 17th), Edenbrook CP, Fleet (23,000, Nov 24th), Lymington River reedbeds (10,000, Nov 25th) and Winnall Moors (7,000, Dec 3rd). Five other sites reported four-figure counts as follows: 2,000 at Farlington Marshes on Nov 22nd, 2,000 at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on Nov 26th, 2,000 at Quarley Down Farm, Cholderton on Nov 28th, 2,000 roosting at Alresford Pond on Dec 31st and 1,000 at Broughton on Dec 9th.

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)	4,670	49,090	43,090	100	647	690	2,541	3,770	4,930	13,138	46,094	146,267

Rose-coloured Starling (Rosy Starling) *Pastor roseus*

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except December. (0,25,1)

The only record was a juvenile present found initially over Efford Lake then at Lower Pennington Lane on Oct 8th (SGK et al. photo). It stayed for a few hours and was seen by at least ten observers.



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling, Lower Pennington Lane, Oct 8th (Alan Lewis)

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered.

Red, S4I

A minimum of 20 was recorded in spring from 11 sites between Mar 17th and May 7th, slightly above the ten-year average. The first, a male, was at Beaulieu Road, NF on the early date of Mar 17th and was followed by a single at Lower Test Marshes on Mar 30th. The main spring arrival occurred within a two-week window between Apr 11th and 25th as follows: Pennington Marshes (male, Apr 11th), Butser Hill, Buriton (2, Apr 13th; 5, Apr 22nd), White Hill, Kingsclere (1, Apr 14th; female, Apr 20th), Beacon Hill, Burghclere (2, Apr 16th), Fox Lane GP, Eversley (male, Apr 17th), Martin Down (2, Apr 19th), Brownwich Pond (1 heard going over in thick fog, Apr 23rd) and Bishop's Dyke, NF (male, Apr 25th). The last of the spring were singles at Lower Test Marshes on May 2nd and Old Winchester Hill on May 7th.

After 2016's unprecedented autumn influx, normal service resumed with a minimum of 32 individuals and 61 bird-days recorded from 17 sites, slightly below the ten-year average (excluding 2016's outliers). All were recorded within a 25-day period from Oct 8th, when the first of the autumn, a male, was reported from Bricksbury Hill. By far the most reports

were from the New Forest and particularly the Ashley Walk, Leaden Hall and Black Gutter Bottom area, which recorded 31 bird-days between Oct 9th and Nov 1st with a peak count of five on Oct 10th. Elsewhere within the New Forest records were received from Clay Hill, Burley (male, Oct 21st), Backley Plain (female, Oct 22nd), Blackhamsley Hill (male, Oct 22nd) and Fritham Plain (2, Oct 26th). Outside the New Forest reports came from Lower Pennington (1, Oct 9th), Sandy Point (1, Oct 10th), Titchfield Haven (1, Oct 13th; 2, 18th; 1, 25th), Broadmarsh, Bedhampton Shore (4, females/juveniles, Oct 14th), Old Winchester Hill (1, Oct 14th, 30th), Browndown South (1, Oct 14th), Testwood Lakes (1, Oct 15th), Needs Ore (1, Oct 17th, 19th), Pennington Marshes (2, Oct 17th), Fort Widley, Portsdown Hill (2, Oct 27th) and Hut Wood, Chilworth (female/juvenile, Oct 29th). Inland diurnal passage was recorded with singles NW over Tweseldown on Oct 9th and north over Bricksbury Hill on Oct 29th. The last of the autumn was a single at Ashley Walk, NF on Nov 1st.

Minimum totals over the last ten years are given in the table below. (WGDL)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Spring	13	13	9	28	15	26	11	20	21	20
Autumn	13	30	67	19	53	31	52	34	120	32

Blackbird (Common Blackbird)

Turdus merula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January-March two-figure counts were recorded from 35 sites (cf. 9 sites in 2016 and 47 in 2015), with high counts of 69 at Warblington Castle Farm and 45 at Hilliers Arboretum, Ampfield on Jan 24th and 61 males at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 24th. NFWBS produced totals of 321, 263 and 219 in the quarter, slightly down on 2016's levels (Table 4).

In the breeding season, counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 8; Itchen Valley CP, 43; Longmoor Inclosure, 75 (67); Lower Test Marshes, 36 (44). Other notable reports of territories included 30 at Chilbolton on May 26th. The highest BBS one km square total was 43 adults at Twiggs Lane, Ipley, NF on Apr 29th.

Autumn passage was light with diurnal movement logged at Tweseldown totalling 66 between Sep 29th and Dec 16th, with peaks of 11 SW on Nov 8th and 15 SW on Nov 18th, and 23 mostly SW over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 23rd and Dec 12th. Between September and the end of the year 15 sites recorded double-figures (cf. 11 sites in 2016), with the highest coming from Frater Shore, Portsmouth with 59 on Dec 2nd and 46 on Dec 17th. In October-December NFWBS produced monthly totals as follows (comparable 2016 counts in parentheses): 142 (291), 343 (454) and 477 (446) respectively.

This was the second most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being present in 301 out of 302 gardens during the year. Monthly reporting rates exceeded 90% in most months except between August and October when they dropped to a low of 67.3% in September (Table 2). (WGDL)

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red

Numbers in the January-March period were slightly below average and, as with the last few years, there were no notable influxes or cold weather movements. Reports were widespread, but other than counts of 1,000 at Swanmore on Jan 17th and 600 at Crondall on Feb 7th, no flocks exceeded 310. However numbers reached 200 at a further nine sites as follows: 242 at Gander Down on Jan 1st, 310 at Longstock on Jan 2nd, 300 at Harbridge Water Meadow and 210 at Over Wallop on Jan 4th, 210 at Trigpoint Hill on Jan 9th, 200 at Newton Stacey on Feb 1st, 250 at Green Lane, Chidden on Feb 26th, 280 at South Boarhunt on Mar 4th and

250 at Snoddington Down on Mar 5th. Numbers dropped noticeably in the second week of March and the last three-figure count of the spring was 120 at Stratfield Saye Park as early as Mar 16th. There were only 12 records submitted for April including 55 at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 12th with the last, a single, at Greenfields, Alton on the late date of Apr 26th. NFWBS produced January-March counts of 171, 415 and 58 respectively at 60% below 2016 levels (Table 4).

Autumn was remarkably similar to 2016, although widespread arrivals were later in mid-November. As with recent years, the first of the autumn were recorded on the comparatively late date of Oct 9th with two over Hook-with-Warsash and 11 SW over Trigpoint Hill. These were followed by flocks of 20 at Wellington CP on Oct 12th and 14th. Thereafter no reports exceeded seven until Oct 28th when the first notable diurnal movement and several double-figure grounded flocks were seen. Diurnal movements from the well-watched inland site of Tweseldown produced 4,155 mostly SW between Oct 20th and Dec 16th on 31 dates, with three distinct waves of passage on Oct 28th-30th (peak 423 SW on Oct 30th), Nov 5th-8th (peak 1,202 SW on Nov 7th) and Nov 14th-25th (peaks of 603 SW on Nov 14th and 492 SW on Nov 18th). At Trigpoint Hill 749 were logged between Oct 9th and Dec 29th with a peak of 105 NE on Oct 28th. Elsewhere 450 flew NW at Swanmore (150 on Nov 14th and 300 on Nov 28th), 200 west at Beacon Hill, Warnford and 140 NW over the Lower Test Marshes, both on Nov 14th, and 104 NW at Weston Shore on Oct 28th.

Apart from the above record from Wellington CP, double-figure grounded flocks only started to appear from Oct 28th with 25 at Yateley Common and 40 at Black Gutter Bottom, NF coinciding with the first wave of diurnal passage. Several three-figure counts quickly followed with 225 at Ashley Walk, NF on Oct 30th, 100 at Littledown and 180 at Itchen Valley CP, both on Oct 31st. Despite impressive diurnal passage in the north-east in early November, no further three-figure grounded flocks were seen until Nov 11th when 150 were noted at Grateley, and then 168 at Norley Wood, NF and 120 at Old Winchester Hill, both on Nov 13th. Three-figure counts were subsequently recorded from ten widespread sites in the latter half of November and 21 sites in December, with the highest counts coming from Nether Wallop with 500 on Nov 16th and 400 on Dec 6th. Only two other sites recorded counts in excess of 250 in the last two months of the year with 300 at Posbrook Flood on Dec 2nd and 290 at Swanmore on Dec 19th. NFWBS produced October-December counts of eight, 745 and 266, well down on 2015's and 2016's comparable totals.

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	4,922*	3,477*	1,541*	87			570	3,573*	5,438*
Movements	35	275	110	17			936	4,718	333

*Includes the NFWBS count and monthly maxima from sites outside the New Forest

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

NT, Schedule 1, Red

In the early year numbers were stable at around the recent average for January and early February but there was a notable exodus in the last two weeks of February, significantly earlier than usual and a full month earlier than 2016. This was demonstrated by the number of sites recording three-figure flocks in the January-March period versus the corresponding months in 2016 (2016 figures in parentheses) with ten (19) sites in January, 16 (18) sites in February and zero (12) sites in March. The largest flocks were distributed widely and included 440 at Upper Froyle on Feb 5th, 400 at Harbridge on Jan 15th, 350 at Axmansford on Jan 20th, 323 at Crookham Village on Feb 6th, and 250 from Cadnam Common, NF on Jan 19th, Steep Marsh on Feb 8th and Old Basing and Sleaford Reservoir on Feb 11th. NFWBS produced counts of 438, 544 and 68 in January-March which averaged 70% below the comparable counts in

2016 (Table 4). Spring passage was detected from Trigpoint Hill but was light with a total of 163, mostly NE, between Feb 20th and Mar 28th. There were only three records in April, the last being eight at Itchen Valley CP and two at Bere Hill Farm, Andover on Apr 2nd.

The first of the autumn were nine at Wilverley Plain/Hinchelsea Moor, NF on Sep 27th and four SW at Tweseldown on Sep 28th. Diurnal passage was lighter than in recent years and more drawn out, with movements recorded most days within a seven week period between Oct 7th and Nov 24th. Inland watchpoints accounted for over 90% of visible migration with Tweseldown logging 13,272 mostly SW on 50 dates between Sep 28th and Dec 16th (peaks of 2,630 SW on Oct 9th, 800 SW on Oct 28th, 1,679 SW on Nov 14th and 1,900 SW on Nov 18th), and 5,310 mostly NE over Trigpoint Hill on 42 dates between Oct 8th and Dec 29th (peaks of 1,476 NE on Oct 31st and 570 NE on Nov 14th). Elsewhere the only three sites to record movements exceeding 100 were 1,000 west at Ibsley Water and 248 NW at Weston Shore, both on Oct 28th, and 383 (341 SW and 42 NE) at Farley Mount CP on Nov 11th.

Grounded and roost flocks reached three figures at six sites in October and 16 sites each in November and December. The first grounded three-figure flock came from Fritham Plain, NF with 110 on Oct 18th. Thereafter sites in and around the New Forest dominated until the end of November and included 500 at Stoney Cross, NF on Nov 9th, 805 at Bolderwood, NF on Nov 12th and 450 at Rakes Brakes Bottom, NF on Nov 28th. Outside the New Forest numbers exceeded 200 at six sites with 250 at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Oct 29th and Nov 24th rising to 650 on Dec 1st, 235 at Itchen Valley CP on Oct 31st, 400 at Longstock Park on Nov 13th, 250 leaving a roost at Millbrook on Nov 14th, 225 at Stockbridge Down on Nov 19th and 650 at Kingsley on Dec 26th. NFWBS produced counts of 168, 1,861 and 787 in October to December respectively with the November count being double the recent average.

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	4,426	4,997	409	11			9	2,214	5,897	5,714
Movements	31	250	88				6	10,738	10,148	339

Song Thrush†

Turdus philomelus

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at ten sites (seven in 2016) including 22 at Butser Hill on Jan 23rd, 21 at Ibsley Water on Feb 5th and 20 at Bolderwood, NF on Feb 27th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 11; Itchen Valley CP, 57 (51); Longmoor Inclosure, 9 (16); Lower Test Marshes, 8 (11); Stockbridge Marsh, 2. Other notable counts of territories in May and June included Blashford Lakes, 11 (15); Itchen Navigation (Shawford to Winchester University), 10; Hollybank Woods, 10; Casbrook Common, 8; Fleet Pond, 5. The highest total in BBS one km squares was 19 at Minley on May 12th.

Autumn diurnal passage from the regular inland watchpoints was above average and more prolonged than usual. At Tweseldown 374 were logged on 39 dates between Sep 23rd and Dec 12th with peaks of 63 SW on Oct 9th, 45 SW on Oct 15th, 30 SW on Nov 18th and 38 SW on Dec 12th. At Trigpoint Hill 76 (61 SW and 15 NE) were recorded on 30 dates between Sep 23rd and Dec 29th. Grounded double-figure counts were received from nine sites (nine in 2016) between September and December with the largest being 16 at Farley Mount CP on Sep 30th and 16 at Upham on Dec 15th.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements		2	2	2		2	14	251	150	47

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Red

In the early year double-figure counts were received from just two sites (four in 2016) with 12 at Headley on Jan 2nd and 61 at Avington Park (where there is much mistletoe) on Jan 26th, the latter being the highest count of the year. NFWBS produced totals of 59, 77 and 67 in January-March averaging 25% below the corresponding months in 2016 (Table 4).

In the breeding season counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 3 (5); Longmoor Inclosure, 5 (5); Stockbridge Marsh, 1. Elsewhere breeding was reported from Beaulieu Heath West, NF, Crookham Village, Houghton, Longwood Warren, Old Basing, Ower Farm (Upham) and Tangle. The highest total in BBS one km squares was eight at Winchfield on June 10th.

Post-breeding flocks started to appear from mid-June onwards and double-figures were recorded from 13 sites (18 in 2016) between June and the end of September including 31 at Warnford on Aug 8th, 42 at Cadnam Common, NF on Sep 20th, 25 at Old Winchester Hill on Sep 20th, 25 at Avington Park on Sep 26th and 25 at Shatterford Bottom, NF on Sep 30th.

Autumn movement was fairly light from the two main inland watchpoints with 88 mostly SW over Tweseldown on 28 dates between Sep 12th and Dec 12th with a high count of 25 SW on Sep 29th, and 112 (59 NE and 53 SW) over Trigpoint Hill on 39 dates between Sep 6th and Dec 24th. Double-figure flocks were reported from six sites (same as 2016) between October and December with the largest counts being 20 at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Oct 13th and 27 at Avington Park on Dec 12th. NFWBS produced totals of 80, 62 and 91 in the October-December period averaging an increase of around. 25% over the corresponding months in 2016.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements	1	4		1	4	5	1	47	94	46	13

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S41, HBAP

The first of the spring were at Bratley, NF on May 3rd and Sandy Point on May 6th followed by widespread reports from May 10th. Spring high counts included four at Northney Paddocks on May 8th and Millyford Bridge, NF on May 14th.

Breeding season records from the New Forest stronghold produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable habitat from only 32 locations (including one from BBS) (cf. 49 locations in 2016 and 46 in 2015), with successful breeding suspected from at least seven sites. It is difficult to determine whether 2017 represented a significant decline in the New Forest population or just a lack of observer coverage. Consequently observers are encouraged to report all sightings of this species from the New Forest in the future so that a more complete picture can be established. Elsewhere pairs, singing males or individuals seen in suitable breeding habitat were reported from 52 sites (including five from BBS) (cf. 38 sites in 2016) from late May to early August with successful breeding reported at ten as follows: Yavington, Danebury, Gavelacre, Goodworth Clatford, Hannington, Hinton Ampner, Old Alresford, Overton, St. Catherine's Hill (Winchester) and Woolmer Pond. Post-breeding gatherings included ten at Rowbarrow, NF on Aug 12th and 15 at Denny Wood, NF on Aug 13th.

Autumn migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from Aug 6th with the heaviest passage evident from Aug 18th to Sep 20th. Five sites (four in 2016) logged over 20 bird-days as follows: IBM Lake with 43 bird-days on 19 dates between Aug 6th and Sep 27th (peak 5, Aug 24th and Sep 9th); Old Winchester Hill with 42 bird-days on eight dates between Aug 14th and Sep 9th (peak 8, Aug 28th, Sep 1st and 5th); Beacon Hill (Warnford) with 29 bird-days on eight dates between Aug 13th and Sep 16th (peak 4, Aug 13th and 24th-29th); Northney Paddocks with 28 bird-days on seven dates between Aug 20th and Sep 19th (peak, 6 Aug 25th); and Itchen Valley CP with 24 bird-days on 12 dates between Aug 13th and Sep 22nd (peak 3, Aug 13th, 17th and 20th). Elsewhere notable counts included eight at Ashford Stream, Petersfield on Aug 28th and St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester on Sep 1st. There were three records in October, all singles, from Hook-with-Warsash on 2nd, Farlington Marshes on 3rd and the last at Keyhaven on the late date of 17th. (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 (2016 figures are in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 29 (20); Hollybank Woods, 44 (59); Ibsley Water, 19 (18); Longmoor Inclosure, 134 (122); Lower Test Marshes, 65 (63); Farlington Marshes, 21; Stockbridge Common Marsh, 11. The highest BBS one km square total was 44 at Hollybank Woods on May 2nd.

At Blashford Lakes 18 counts from Jan 29th-June 4th ranged from 18 to 30 (average 25). Eleven counts at Itchen Valley CP ranged from nine on Aug 27th to 30 on three February dates; 26 counts throughout the year at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary ranged from one on Oct 24th to eight on Jan 10th; four counts at Great Penn Wood in March and April ranged from 25 to 54, and counts in September, October and November were 26, 44 and 30 respectively; and at Ibsley Common counts in January, February, March and October were 31, 51, 46 and 25 respectively. Other notable numbers included 30 at Castle Farm, North Shore Warblington on Jan 24th, at least 35 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 28th and 30 at Titchfield Haven on Feb 13th.

BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 99% of the surveyed Hampshire gardens making this the third most widespread garden species after Blue Tit and Blackbird. Monthly reporting rates varied from a peak of 97.4% in January to a low of 85.0% in August (Table 2). (APW)

Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.

Red, HBAP

The first was at Needs Ore on Apr 13th followed by other singles at Fields Farm, Blackfield on 14th and 16th and Casbrook Common on 15th increasing to three on 16th-17th, and a single at Botley Wood on the last date. Subsequent reports referred to 21 sites on 31 dates between Apr 19th and June 4th followed by the final three reports of singles from Beckford on June 17th and Needs Ore on June 30th and July 7th.

Reports of territorial birds showed yet another decline, albeit small this year, as tabulated below. The total of 17 pairs/singing males compared to 18 in 2016, 26 in 2015, 33 in 2014 and 66 during the 2012 national survey. Botley Wood remained the stronghold with 11 pairs/singing males. In addition singles were reported in BBS from Dibden Bay on Apr 21st and Ashmansworth on May 26th. (APW)

	2015	2016	2017
Blackfield/Badminster Common/Toms Down	2	1	1
Blackbushe Airfield/Yateley Common	2		
Bossington	2		
Botley Wood area	8	11	11
Bramshill Plantation	1		

	2015	2016	2017
Calshot/Ashlett Creek	1	1	2
Cowplain/Dunsbury Hill Farm	1		
Funtley Landfill Site	1		
Needs Ore	1	2	
Nursling GP	1		
Romsey/Timsbury area	4	3	2
Stockbridge Down			1
West Walk	1		
West Wood, Netley	1		

Pied Flycatcher (European Pied Flycatcher)

Ficedula hypoleuca

Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995.

Red

There was only one spring record – a single at Sandy Point on Apr 11th (cf. nine spring records in 2016) – and 15 autumn records spanning the period Aug 6th to Sep 17th. Seven of the autumn records came from the New Forest at Denny Lodge Inclosure (Aug 6th), Pig Bush (Aug 11th), Rushpole Wood (Aug 12th), Denny Wood (Aug 13th), Set Thorns Inclosure (Aug 13th), Holmsley Ridge (Aug 14th) and Blackwater Arboretum (Sep 9th). Other autumn records came from Hartley Mauditt (Aug 13th), Titchfield Canal Path (Sep 1st), Hedge End (Sep 2nd), Titchfield Haven (Sep 2nd), IBM Lake and Swanmore (Sep 9th), Old Basing (Sep 11th) and the last at West Hayling LNR (Sep 17th). (APW)

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochrurus

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Red

As usual there were scattered reports of mostly singles from mainly coastal sites with the highest totals during the winter months.

In the first half-year there were 16 reports of singles on Hayling Island (Beachlands, Eastoke, Hayling Bay and Sandy Point) on 13 dates between Jan 25th-Mar 18th, whilst at Southsea Castle there were ten reports of singles between Jan 3rd-17th and again on Mar 14th, and at Fawley Power Station two singles (Feb 12th and 16th) with two present on Mar 14th. Other reports, all of singles, included Fareham (Jan 13th and Mar 25th), Haslar Creek (Jan 17th and 24th), Eastleigh STW (Jan 21st), Southampton City Centre (Feb 13th and Apr 30th) and Blashford Lakes Centre (Mar 22nd and 23rd), whilst two singing males and a female were at Fort Cumberland on Apr 4th and a presumed pair were at the same location on May 5th. However there were no confirmed breeding records.

In the second half-year there was one record in July (single on 16th at Fort Cumberland) and two in August, both singles (Sandy Point, 6th; Titchfield Haven, 27th). Four September records followed with singles at Titchfield Haven (14th), Woolston (23rd and 24th) and Hook-with-Warsash (28th). There were five in October with singles at Dogmersfield Park (12th), Lymington-Hurst (17th), Aldershot (19th), Farnborough (22nd-27th) and Sandy Point (26th). November records, all singles apart from two at HMS Collingwood, Gosport (13th), came from Beachlands, Hayling Island (9th, 10th and 11th), Sandy Point (19th and 24th) and Fort Cumberland (24th), whilst December records, all singles apart from two at Hill Head (24th and 25th), came from Chandler's Ford (2nd), Sandy Point (4th), Netley Abbey (9th, 10th, 14th and 16th), Hill Head (22nd-27th) and Hamble-le-Rice Oil Terminal (28th).

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	15	14	8	2		1	2	4	10	8	15

Redstart (Common Redstart)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant.

Amber

The first arrivals were in the New Forest on Apr 1st with two at Bishop's Dyke and a single at Red Rise. Others followed with records on all days throughout the remainder of April with reports away from the traditional breeding areas of singles at Lower Test Marshes (4th and 22nd), Nursling (4th), Sandy Point (4th, 10th, 12th and 18th), Needs Ore (7th), Stockbridge Down (9th), Itchen Valley CP (10th, 14th, 25th), Chawton (11th and 12th), Farley Chamberlayne (11th) and Leigh Park and Trigpoint Hill (12th). In addition two were at Farlington Marshes (12th; 1 on 14th) and Old Basing (21st) and further singles were at Crondall (15th), Fleet and IBM Lake (15th), Fareham (16th), Avon Water, Keyhaven (21st) and Titchfield Haven (21st and 25th).

In May incoming migrants, all singles away from the traditional breeding areas, were reported at Lower Test Marshes (5th), Great Covert Wood (7th) and Sandy Point (9th).

There was no systematic breeding survey work undertaken in the New Forest where the species remains common. However notable counts came from Mallard Wood (10, Apr 9th), Brinken Wood (12, Apr 17th), Bolderwood (13, Apr 23rd; 9, May 26th), Beaulieu Road (7, Apr 30th), Mark Ash Wood (8, May 8th) and Acres Down (7, June 20th). Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of four and 18 territories respectively compared to four and 16 in 2016 (Table 1). In addition a single was recorded by BBS at Woolmer Forest on Apr 14th and May 28th whilst two territories were also discovered in Ringwood Forest.

Return passage was evident from July 7th when an adult male and female/juvenile were at Martin Down. The next was at Braishfield on July 23rd followed by early August singles at Fordingbridge (2nd), Northam-Mansbridge (3rd and 6th), Longparish (5th), Keyhaven Marshes (6th), Blackfield (6th) and Havant Thicket (7th). Thereafter records were almost daily until Sep 30th when a single was at Titchfield Haven. The only October record, the last of the year, was a single at Broughton Down on 17th. Sites with relatively high cumulative bird-days during this period (with 2016 figures in parentheses) included Hook-with-Warsash, 26 (21); Sandy Point, 14 (3); Titchfield Haven and Canal Path, 14 (20); Martin Down, 11 (11); IBM Lake, 7 (13); Old Winchester Hill, 6 (23); and Itchen Valley CP, 5 (5).

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-30
Inland	10	4	1			2	1	5	23	27	3			1
Coast	11	6	2					7	36	16	24			

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.

Red, HBAP

The first was at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 15th followed by other singles at Fox Lane GP, Eversley (17th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (18th), Itchen Valley CP (22nd) and Southampton Airport (22nd). Two were at Farlington Marshes on 22nd followed by 24 more spring records involving 26 bird-days at 15 sites. The last of spring, both singles, were at Foxbury Plantation and Pitts Wood Inclosure on May 23rd. In summer BBS recorded one at Somerley Park on June 10th and a long-staying first-summer male was at Itchen Valley CP from June 12th-Aug 4th. These were the first cases of summering since 2004 when a pair bred.

Return passage was noted from July 5th at Martin Down NNR followed by other singles at Cutty Brow (July 16th), Havant Thicket (July 19th), Lower Test Marshes (July 27th), Dogmersfield Park (Aug 5th) and Old Basing (Aug 6th). Three were at Needs Ore/ Beaulieu

Estuary on Aug 10th and reports then followed on virtually all dates until Oct 11th. There were 15 subsequent records until Nov 10th, all relating to singles apart from two at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (Oct 15th), followed by the last, a male, at Longslade Bottom on Nov 26th. Notable counts came from Farlington Marshes (5, Aug 26th and Sep 13th; 9, Aug 28th; 6, Aug 29th), Bunny Meadows, Warsash (6, Aug 28th), Wattons Ford, Avon Causeway (5, Sep 12th) and Hook-with-Warsash (7, Sep 12th; 5, Sep 19th).

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-23	June 1-15	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31
Inland		8	3	2	1	1	2	2
Coast	1	13	5	1				2

	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	6	12	48	12	4	1	1	1
Coast	19	110	85	77	24	6	3	

Stonechat (European Stonechat)

Saxicola rubicola

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

NFWBS early year totals increased from 37 in January to 72 in February and 167 in March, reflecting influxes of newly arrived breeding season migrants (cf. 39, 24 and 229 in 2016) (Table 4).

Notable breeding season counts in the New Forest included Beaulieu Road (8, Apr 2nd; 11, Apr 19th; 10, Apr 30th; 8, May 5th), Pig Bush (8, Apr 6th), Fritham Plain (8, Apr 13th), Beaulieu Heath West (9, May 1st; 14, June 14th), Telegraph Hill/Pitts Wood (8, May 12th), Ashley Walk (12, May 22nd), Foxbury Plantation (8, May 23rd) and Burley (10, May 24th). The highest post-breeding season aggregations in the New Forest were at Beaulieu Heath West (10, Sep 17th), Bratley Plain (15, Sep 18th), Longslade Bottom (10, Oct 3rd) and Wilverley Plain (10, Oct 20th). Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs revealed 67 and 55 territories respectively compared to 74 and 32 in 2016 (Table 1).

Elsewhere pairs/singing males (*=breeding confirmed) were reported in April-July at Abbotswood (Romsey), Bramshill Park Lake, Bransbury Common, Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore, Broughton Down, Cutty Brow*, Deacon Hill (Winchester)*, Deanlane End*, Edenbrook CP*, Emer Bog (North Baddesley)*, Farlington Marshes*, Fleet Pond, Gavelacre* (near Bransbury Common), Hamble Old Airfield, Highbridge Farm*, Hook-with-Warsash*, Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea*, Itchen Valley CP*, Longstock Water Gardens, Lower Test Marshes*, Lymington-Hurst*, Marsh Court*, Martin Down, Milton Common, Pittleworth, Posbrook Flood, Ringwood Forest*, Sopley, Testbourne*, Titchfield Haven, Twyford (Itchen Navigation)*, Welshman's Road GP* and Winchester SF*.

Throughout the year, away from the established New Forest and NE Hants breeding areas, 31 sites (19 coastal) had counts that exceeded five compared to 19 sites (13 coastal) in 2016 and 25 (17 coastal) in 2015, including during the second period Portsdown Hill (29, Oct 25th), Lepe CP (20, Oct 6th), Hook-with-Warsash (16, Sep 28th; 15, Oct 3rd; 13, Oct 2nd), Gilkicker Point (16, Oct 3rd), Lower Test Marshes (15, Dec 23rd), Farlington Marshes (14, Sep 9th and Oct 3rd), Pennington Marshes (14, Sep 19th), Needs Ore (13, Oct 17th), Lymington-Hurst minimum on and around the old tip (13, Oct 17th) and Titchfield Canal Path (13, Nov 5th). NFWBS produced totals of 161, 70 and 18 for October, November and December respectively compared to 173, 46 and 52 in 2016.

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	37	72	167	49*	75*	161	70	18
Coastal sites	187	144	84	158	436	641	297	167
River valley sites	59	42	23	26	52	119	86	55
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	18	29	97	18	63	20	5	5
Other sites	28	36	34	29	92	100	49	42
Total	329	323	405	280	718	1,041	507	287

* = casual records only

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)

Oenanthe oenanthe

Common passage migrant; formerly scarce summer visitor which last bred in 2005.

Green

The first, both singles, were at Sandy Point and Pennington Marshes on Mar 10th, followed by further singles on 11th at Sturt Pond, Langstone Harbour, West Hayling LNR, Eling and Lower Test Marshes. On 12th four males were at Taddiford Gap, two were at Hurst Castle and singles were at Southsea Common and Lower Test Marshes. The first inland were a single at Oliver's Battery on Mar 15th and others at Poors Common on 17th and Beaulieu Heath East on the same date. Virtually daily records then followed until the last during the first period – a single on May 24th at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes. In March the highest day totals were 13 at six sites (17th), 12 at three sites (30th), nine at five sites (15th) and eight at four sites (12th), whilst the highest individual counts were nine at Gunner Point (30th) and five at Beaulieu Heath East (17th). In April the highest day totals (excluding BBS) were 70 at nine sites (24th), 42 at 20 sites (22nd), 35 at 13 sites (17th) and 29 at 14 sites (21st), whilst the three highest individual counts were all on 24th with 29 at Fort Cumberland, 16 at Farlington Marshes and 14 at Milton Common, followed by 12 at Crondall (17th) and eight at Sandy Point (10th), Palestine (10th) and Sandy Point (21st). Decreasing numbers were recorded in May although there were 12 at six sites (4th) and ten at six sites (6th). Between one and four were reported up to 10th after which only singles occurred with the last at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 24th. Records during spring migration came from 126 locations.

There were no reports of confirmed breeding and the only June record was a single at Titchfield Haven on June 17th. The first returning migrants were at Pennington Marshes (one, July 25th) and Beachlands, Hayling Island (two, July 31st and Aug 1st), with others at Needs Ore (one, Aug 1st), Hook-with-Warsash (one, Aug 5th) and Brownwich (three, Aug 5th). Almost daily records then followed from Aug 6th until Oct 27th. The only day total of 50 or more was 75 at 17 sites on Sep 2nd compared to a maximum of 97 at 19 sites on ten dates between Aug 24th-Sep 17th in 2016. Other relatively high day totals (day total/number of sites) included Aug 20th (47/18), Aug 27th (38/13), Sep 10th (29/10) and Sep 30th (23/7).

There were nine double-figure counts at Sinah Common & Hayling GC (10, Aug 13th; 22, Sep 2nd), Lymington-Hurst (15, Aug 23rd and Sep 30th; 10, Aug 27th; 12, Sep 16th and Oct 1st), Portsdown Hill (13, Aug 31st) and Gunner Point, Hayling Island (14, Oct 6th). This compares to 25 double-figure counts in 2016. The last, both singles in November, were at Farlington Marshes (12th) and Needs Ore (14th).

There were no reports of birds identified as the Greenland race *leucorhoa*, although the late May and June dates are typical for this race.

The approximate half-monthly totals in spring and autumn 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	1	23	52	130	25	3			234
Coast	29	36	113	189	45	5		1	418

	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			12	50	47	17	25	1			152
Coast	3	57	256	260	135	93	19	2			825

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Numerous but declining resident.

Red, S41

Sightings were reported from 144 locations. This suggests a substantial increase compared with 73 in 2016 and 83 in 2015 but is due to the fact that low counts submitted to BirdTrack were not imported into HOS database in those years. Counts exceeded 20 from 37 sites (remarkably consistent compared to 37 in 2016 and 38 in 2015). Flocks of 50 and above were noted from 14 sites (12 in 2016, 15 in 2015) at Newlands Farm, Fareham (180, July 30th; 130, July 15th; 120, Aug 28th; 90, Sep 2nd; 125, Sep 10th; 85, Sep 17th), North Shore, Westbourne (143, Nov 9th), Hermitage Stream, Leigh Park (100, July 28th; 120, Aug 13th; 100, Oct 1st; 80, Nov 14th; 60, Dec 27th), Stock Heath, Havant (78, May 3rd; 104, May 24th), South Warnborough (100, Aug 15th), Alton (88, Aug 18th), Blendworth (86, May 2nd; 59, May 24th), Needs Ore (85, Nov 21st), Castle Farm, North Shore Warblington (53, Jan 24th), and 50 at Old Down, Basingstoke (Jan 9th, May 8th), Romsey (Jan 24th), North Baddesley (May 12th), Lyndhurst (June 25th) and Danebury Road, Longstock (July 6th).

Breeding comparisons with last year included 14 nest boxes occupied at Titchfield Haven (12 in 2016, 14 in 2015), 20 territories on one of the Lower Test Marshes CBC plots (22 in 2016, 35 in 2015) whilst none were recorded on the other CBC plot (none in 2016, 1 in 2015) and 23 territories at Charlton Lakes, Andover (26 in 2016, 24 in 2015).

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 82% of gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged from a peak of 70.9% in June to a low of 55.2% in September (Table 2). The highest GBW count was 141 at Tadley in w/c Aug 6th. A single male in a Winchester garden on Jan 21st was the first ever sighting in 12 years of recording, whilst the 100 listed above in the South Warnborough garden on Aug 15th was exceptional for a bird noted as 'usually a rarity'. (APW)

Dunnoek

Prunella modularis

Numerous resident.

Amber, S41

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures, where available, in parentheses): Butser Hill, 16 (21); Longmoor Inclosure, 19 (15); Lower Test Marshes, 29 (44); Farlington Marshes, 14; and Stockbridge Common Marsh, 6. At Ibsley Water counts of singing males ranged from five to ten on nine dates between Mar 17th and June 4th (cf. six to ten on 11 dates between Mar 6th and May 1st 2016).

Other notable counts included 65 at Hale Purlieu (June 2nd), 22 and 23 at Itchen Valley CP (Mar 4th and 12th), 23 and 20 at Ibsley Common (Feb 26th, Mar 18th) and 20 at Winchester SF (Jan 22nd). A further nine sites had lower double-figure counts. The highest BBS total was at Steep Marsh with 18 on Apr 28th.

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 94% of gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged from a peak of 83.7% in January to a low of 68.0% in September (Table 2). (APW)



Dunnock, Furze Hill, Mar 16th (Martin Bennett)

Yellow Wagtail (Western Yellow Wagtail)

Motacilla flava

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly locally common summer visitor which last bred in 2003.

Red, S4I, HBAP

The first of the year was heard calling in flight at Trigpoint Hill with a passage of Meadow Pipits on Mar 24th. The next was not until Apr 2nd when one came in off the sea at Chilling. Spring passage was typically light involving approximately 87 birds with a peak in the first week of May. The highest counts were just four at Fleet Pond on May 5th and Hurst Beach on May 7th.

The first returning migrants were in July at Farlington Marshes on 16th and Titchfield Haven on 17th. The highest autumn counts were again from the roost at Titchfield Haven where 219 were recorded on Sep 4th and 152 the following day. The highest counts at other sites were in August with 48 at Pennington Marshes on 24th, 50 at Brownwich on 26th and 80 at Hook-with-Warsash on 29th. Inland double-figure counts were 12 at Itchen Valley CP on Aug 20th, 23 at Newlands Farm on Aug 24th, 20 at Testwood Lakes on Sep 9th and 32 at South Boarhunt on Sep 17th. In October the only double-figure count was 13 at Southsea Common on Oct 2nd. The last records were four at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 6th, two at Farlington Marshes on the same date and finally one flying to roost with Pied Wagtails at Winchester SF on Oct 11th.

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 24-30	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland grounded		1	6	4		1		80	32	61	
Inland moving		2	12	1		1		6	41	7	1
Coast grounded			33	5		3	6	200	490	151	26
Coast moving		2	15	5	1	4	5	63	41	8	

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red

In January and February there were winterers at 74 sites, all ones or twos apart from three at Hawley Meadows on Jan 3rd and 19th, four at Langstone Harbour on Jan 21st and St Mary Bourne WCB on Feb 8th, and 13 in the Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on Jan 29th. Light spring passage included two north at Southampton Common on Mar 23rd and a pair of presumed migrants at IBM Lake between Mar 8th-16th.

During the breeding season pairs or singing males were reported from 33 locations. Breeding success was reported from Alton, Atners Hill, Bickton, Busta Triangle, Hawley Meadows, Headbourne Worthy WCB, Itchen Valley CP (2 pairs), Longparish, Lower Test Marshes (2 pairs), Old Basing, Petersfield, Pinglestone WCB, Romsey, Rownhams, Skidmore, Southampton, Weston, Winchfield and Woolmer Forest.

Autumn passage on the coast began with one SW at Trigpoint Hill on Aug 21st. At Sandy Point there were ten bird-days in August, 34 in September and 21 in October with a maximum count of four on Sep 18th. At inland watchpoints 25 flew mostly SW at Tweseldown between Sep 9th and Nov 16th and 29 flew mostly SW at Trigpoint Hill between Aug 21st and Dec 24th. The highest grounded count was ten at Drayton Farm WCB on Aug 28th.

In November and December winterers were reported from 39 locations, all one or twos apart from four at Tipner Lake on Nov 3rd, three at Hawley Meadows on Nov 10th, four at Longparish on Nov 19th, three at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 5th and 18th, and eight in the Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on Dec 28th. (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 190 in a field at Hartley Wintney on Jan 4th. Other large counts were 100 at Darby Green on Jan 1st, 130 at Old Basingstoke on Feb 19th, 140 pre-roost at Winchester on Feb 20th and 160 pre-roost at Godshill on Feb 25th.

On the coast post-breeding movements at Sandy Point totalled 179 in various directions between Sep 24th and Nov 1st, with a maximum of 53 east on Sep 26th, and 300 west in three hours at Pennington Marshes on Oct 15th. Counts at inland watchpoints totalled 83 at Badminton (51 NE and 32 SW) between Sep 16th and Nov 12th and 243 SW at Tweseldown between Sep 20th and Nov 8th (maximum 26 on Oct 7th). In October the largest pre-roost gatherings were 272 at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 12th, 125 at Godshill on Oct 21st and 164 at Lymington reedbeds on Oct 29th. The largest late year count was 200 flushed from a roost by a Sparrowhawk at Southampton Airport on Nov 28th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. Note these also include birds submitted as Pied/White Wagtails but exclude a further 243 counted at Tweseldown between Sep 20th-Nov 3rd which was not broken down to half-months. (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	293	635	104	13	
Inland moving	12	7	3		6	88	635	91	20	7

2016 addition. A reedbed roost of 400 was recorded at Winnall Moors on Dec 16th.



Male Grey Wagtail, Bolderwood, May 23rd (Gareth Rees)



Male Pied Wagtail, Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes, Mar 22nd (Gareth Rees)

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba alba

Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.

In the early year approximately 16 were recorded between Mar 9th and May 8th. Two were at Needs Ore on Apr 13th and three were at Lymington-Hurst between Apr 14th-15th with a single between Mar 23rd-29th. Singles were at Sandy Point on Mar 9th and 24th, Newlands

Farm on Mar 14th and Apr 6th, Ibsley Water between Mar 24th-Apr 16th, Busta Triangle on Mar 26th, Tidgrove Warren on Mar 28th, Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 9th and the last, unusually late, a male with four Pied Wagtails at Tundry Pond on May 8th.

In the autumn approximately 12 were recorded between Sep 7th and Nov 3rd. Four were at Northney Paddocks on Sep 15th, three at Southsea Castle on Sep 25th and singles at Needs Ore on Sep 7th and Nov 3rd, Black Point on Sep 17th, Marwell Zoo on Sep 26th and Ripley Farm Reservoir on Sep 30th. (GO)

Richard’s Pipit

Anthus richardi

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn. (0,40,1)

One record. A single was at Needs Ore on Mar 13th (JACP).

There have been records in every year this century apart from 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2015. This is only the second March record for the county, the first being in 2014. Although this species is rarely recorded at this time, its discovery supports the suggestion that a small number winter in the UK. (KFB)

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. NT, Amber

In January and February there were double-figure flocks reported from 16 sites. The largest of these comprised 60 at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 20th and the same number at Somerley Park on Feb 1st. The largest spring movement was 1,478 NE at Hurst Castle in 2.7 hours on Mar 26th. There was a large movement inland on the same day with 762 NE over Trigpoint Hill. Other large coastal movements were at Hurst Castle with 356 east on Mar 10th and 887 NE on Mar 16th, and 200 east at Needs Ore on Mar 26th. Inland a total of 2,459 flew NE at Trigpoint Hill between Mar 4th and Apr 17th.

Counts of breeding territories included 28 at Needs Ore, ten at Butser Hill, four or five at Lymington-Hurst and one at Bourley North/Long Valley. During May and June BBS one km square totals varied between two and 13 at nine New Forest sites plus six at Keyhaven and two at Kilmeston Down.

Autumn passage was recorded from Aug 27th. The largest coastal movement was at Cut Bridge, Hurst Beach on Sep 15th when an estimated 4,000 flew west in 2.5 hours (DHT). At other coastal sites 1,433 passed mostly west at Sandy Point between Sep 14th and Oct 26th with a peak of 258 on Sep 27th. At inland watchpoints the largest numbers were recorded at Tweseldown where 2,391 passed mostly SW between Sep 9th and Nov 19th with a peak of 627 on Sep 30th, and at Trigpoint Hill where 2,088 were counted mostly SW between Sep 6th and Dec 26th with a peak of 198 on Sep 30th. In the autumn the largest grounded flocks were ‘hundreds’ along the seawall at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 1st, 260 at Gander Down on Sep 10th and 165 at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 6th. The largest grounded flock in December was 80 at Hambledon on Dec 24th.

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	541	3,922	67		5,329	892	1,754	177	38	26
Inland moving	22	2,241	117	44	1,160	2,484	1,001	340	323	243

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S41

The first of the year was one at Broxhead Common on Mar 30th followed by singles at two different sites in the New Forest on Apr 3rd. Passage in April away from breeding areas included singles at Iley Point, Keyhaven Marshes on 5th, Farlington Marshes on 7th, Lower Test Marshes on 13th, Itchen Valley CP on 15th and 22nd, Beacon Hill, Burghclere on 16th and 23rd, Havant Thicket on 17th and Avon Causeway on 19th. There was also one at Sandy Point on May 1st.

Surveys of breeding pairs on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 47 and 64 pairs respectively compared to 39 and 22 last year (Table 1), and included a new count area in Woolmer Forest. In the New Forest coverage was incomplete but there were at least 37 singing males or pairs recorded. Sites away from the core breeding area with singing males were Farley Mount, Golden Pot (3 singing males), Kingsclere (2 singing males), Martin Down, Porton Down, Ringwood Forest (9 singing males), Thedden (2 singing males), Watership Down, Well, Weston Common (4 or 5 singing males) and Wield Wood.

Autumn passage began with two over Trigpoint Hill on Aug 11th. Sites with a movement of ten or more were Lymington-Hurst (55, Aug 13th-Sep 7th including 40 trapped on Aug 20th), Sandy Point (15, Aug 13th-Oct 9th), Newlands Farm (11, Aug 20th-28th) and Trigpoint Hill (10, Aug 11th-Sep 19th). The last record was one west at New Milton on Oct 10th.

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 1-10
Inland grounded	2	3			14	3		
Inland moving		2		3	14	1	1	1
Coast grounded	1				51	8		
Coast moving	1		2	3	21	11	2	3

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

In the first four months of the year there were up to 32 wintering birds. At the main site at Lower Test Marshes monthly maxima were six, 11, six and four with the last record on Apr 10th. There were also regular sightings at Alresford, most frequently at Drayton Farm and Pinglestone WCBs, with monthly maxima of six, five, 11 and seven with the last three on Apr 9th. Other sightings were at Ibsley Water (1, Jan 1st-Apr 2nd; 2, Mar 28th-29th), Keyhaven/Oxey Marshes (1-2, Jan 2nd-Apr 11th; 3, Apr 1st-2nd), Titchfield Haven (1+, Jan 2nd-Apr 1st; max. 4, Jan 2nd), Portchester (1, Jan 22nd), Hurstbourne Priors (1, Feb 17th) and Warblington Shore (1, Mar 5th).

In the second half year there were up to 23 winterers. The first return was at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 16th. Records continued at this site over the last three months up to Dec 28th with monthly maxima of four, four and six respectively. Regular records also came from Drayton Farm/Pinglestone WCBs with one from Nov 3rd and then monthly maxima of four and six. Other records were from Ibsley Water (1-2, Oct 22nd-Dec 24th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (1, Nov 2nd-Dec 30th), Tipner Lake (1, Nov 3rd), Farlington Marshes (1, Nov 7th-Dec 3rd), Haslar (1, Nov 25th), Conigar Point (1, Dec 3rd), Lepe (1, Dec 4th), Broadmarsh (1, Dec 9th-10th) and Titchfield Haven (1, Dec 2nd; 2, 17th; 1, 20th). (GO)



Water Pipit, Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes, Nov 12th (Gareth Rees)



Rock Pipit, Sturt Pond, Feb 27th (Gareth Rees)

Rock Pipit (Eurasian Rock Pipit)

Anthus petrosus

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Between January and February there were approximately 70 winterers at 23 coastal sites. The largest count was seven at Farlington Marshes on Jan 22nd. The only inland record was of a Scandinavian race bird (*A.p.littoralis*) at Ibsley Water on Mar 20th and possibly again on 31st.

Breeding continued at a low level with eight pairs at Hurst Castle, two between Cut Bridge and Milford on Sea, and a pair nesting in the ramparts of Southsea Castle. There were two singing males at Fawley Power Station although only one was paired. There were also breeding season records from West Hayling LNR and Titchfield Haven.

Between October and December there were approximately 56 winterers at 21 coastal sites. The highest count was seven at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 2nd. (GO)

Chaffinch (Common Chaffinch)

Fringilla coelebs

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January-March flocks exceeding 50 were reported at ten sites including 330 at Lane End Down on Feb 12th, 105 at Warnford on Feb 19th, 110 at Greatham on Feb 22nd and 180 at Longwood Warren on Mar 12th, possibly part of the same flock recorded nearby at Lane End Down. Passage during the period was generally light. However some inland movements were recorded with a total of 170 over Blashford Lakes on seven dates and a total of 122 over Trigpoint Hill on 23 dates.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 48 (48); Longmoor Inclosure, 138 (125); Lower Test Marshes CBC, 26 (18). The highest BBS total was 24 at Slackstead on June 11th.

Coastal passage was again quite light though it is possible that this species is under-recorded at the coast. At Sandy Point passage was only noted on five dates although a high of 485 was recorded moving east on Oct 18th. Other double-figure counts included 183 south over New Lane, Keyhaven on Oct 19th, 10 NW at Weston Shore on Nov 5th and 54 west at Brownich on Oct 27th. Inland totals included 1,631 in various directions over Trigpoint Hill on 68 dates between Sep 2nd and Dec 29th peaking at 78 on Oct 31st, and 2,875 SW over Tweseldown on 59 dates between Sep 15th and Dec 12th peaking at 352 on Oct 15th.

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		9	58	852	36			
Inland moving	32	210	1,281	1,093	1,372	481	134	290

Between October and December flocks of 50 or more were reported from ten locations including 50 at Mark Ash Wood, NF on Nov 15th, up to 300 at Hurst Farm, Winchfield on five dates between Nov 26th and Dec 26th, 75 at Posbrook Flood on Dec 2nd rising to 80 there on Dec 9th, 60 coming to seed in Ampfield on Dec 10th, 60 visiting a Petersfield garden on Dec 10th, 75 at Woodlocks Down Farm, Upham on Dec 15th, 80 flying to roost over Handy Cross Plain, NF on Dec 16th, 200 at Avon Causeway on Dec 26th and 31st, 50 at Shaldon on Dec 27th and 80 at Deanlane End on Dec 28th. (MW)

Brambling†

Fringilla montifringilla

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

In the first winter period only three locations had flocks of 25 or more with 80 at Aldridgehill Inclosure, NF on Feb 20th and 30 there on Mar 1st, 25 at Bratley Inclosure, NF on Mar 6th and 30 at Crux Easton on Mar 25th. The highest dawn roost count in the New Forest was nine at Blackwater Arboretum on Mar 22nd. No significant movements were noted in the early year. The last record was a singing male at Bolderwood on Apr 25th.

The first return was one SW over Tweseldown on Oct 4th but only low numbers were subsequently reported moving there with a total of nine up to Dec 16th. However significantly higher numbers were observed moving SW at Trigpoint Hill between Oct 26th and Dec

29th with peaks in November of 65 on 18th (1.5 hours), 215 on 20th (1.5 hours), 46 on 21st (1.5 hours) and 74 on 22nd (0.75 hours). Dawn roost counts at Holmhill Inclosure, NF in November recorded 27 on 1st, 36 on 10th and 38 on 24th, but the highest counts were at Mark Ash Wood, NF where mixed flocks with Chaffinches fed on Beech mast between Nov 7th and Dec 15th. Numbers there regularly reached 100 and peaked at 120 on Nov 8th and 200 on Dec 8th and 15th.

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported only between one and three in January-May and October-December with reports from 2.3% of gardens in the peak month of December (Table 2).

Monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	2	1	2				2	5	2
Monthly maxima NF roosts	2	1	10				7	66	36
County total grounded	28	101	88	37			62	237	339
County total moving	18	5	2	1			11	559	67

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Scarce resident, most numerous in the New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Ongoing survey work by MW located five new communal roost sites in the New Forest bringing the known total to 30. In addition a roost was located in the Test Valley in late December. Two roosts in the New Forest 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	25	30	21	18	1		4		2	16	36	31
Roost 2	44	66	52	25	7	20	10	7	26	155	79	45



Adult Hawfinch, Romsey, Dec 28th (Lee Fuller)

In March 20 of the known roosts in the New Forest were counted producing a total of 307 giving an average of 15.4 per roost site (cf. 351 from 22 roosts giving an average of 16.0 in 2016).

Away from the New Forest early year records included one at Eling, Southampton on Jan 1st; one or two at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on seven dates between Jan 2nd and Feb 5th; up to three at Weston Common, Lasham on six dates between Jan 2nd and Feb 17th; up to nine at Mercer Way, Romsey on 18 dates between Jan 3rd and March 3rd peaking at nine on Jan 5th; three at Parnholt Wood on Jan 11th; two at West Walk, Wickham on Jan 20th; four at Weston Shore on Feb 9th; one at Ewhurst Park on Feb 11th and 12th; one at Mill Field, Old Basing on Feb 12th; 23 at Farley Mount CP on Feb 25th followed by ten there on Mar 5th; and one NE over Trigpoint Hill on Mar 26th.

During the breeding season a total of 13 territories were located at widespread locations across the New Forest. A small number of young were recorded from early June suggesting that it was a fairly average year for productivity. In total 48 were caught and colour-ringed in the Bolderwood area between Apr 14th and July 7th including six fledged juveniles. Away from the New Forest just one record of confirmed breeding was received of a juvenile found freshly dead after flying into a window at East Dean on June 5th. A pair was seen at Farley Mount CP on April 1st and 29th and seven flew over Eastleigh CP on Aug 28th.

From mid-October the UK experienced a significant arrival. The source of these birds is still hotly debated although it seems likely that they originated from eastern Europe. Outside the New Forest records were received from 99 widespread locations. In the New Forest an increase was detected in mid-late October, e.g. 155 out of a central New Forest roost on Oct 16th. However numbers quickly stabilised, no doubt in part due to the poor seed crop.

Passage was recorded at a number of locations during October including one over Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 13th and 26th; one south over Titchfield Haven on 15th and one west on 27th; 15 SW over South Stoneham on 16th; ten NW over Pennington Marshes on 23rd, two west on 28th and four west on 30th; 20 NW over New Milton on 25th; six west over Weston Shore, Southampton; and eight north over Hook-with-Warsash on 28th. Inland there were 263 over Trigpoint Hill on 35 dates between Sep 29th and Dec 27th with peak count of 44 on Nov 24th, 18 SW over Fishlake Meadows and 11 west over Tundry Pond on Oct 15th and 154 over Tweseldown on 27 dates between Oct 7th and Nov 26th peaking at 21 on Nov 5th.

Outside of the New Forest records of five or more settled birds included up to 17 at Harewood Forest on nine dates between Oct 14th and Dec 26th; up to 39 at Testwood Lakes on 11 dates between Oct 15th and Nov 28th; up to six at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on 22 dates between Oct 16th and Dec 27th; up to eight at Hut Wood, Chilworth on three dates between Oct 18th and Dec 18th; up to three at Overton on three dates between Oct 30th and Nov 5th; up to three at Mill Field, Old Basing on six dates between Oct 30th and Nov 28th; five at Cranbury Park, Otterbourne on Nov 1st, up to ten at Mercer Way, Romsey on 21 dates between Nov 3rd and Dec 31st; eight at Woodmancote on Nov 5th; up to 12 at West Green, Hartley Witney on 15 dates between Nov 7th and Dec 31st; up to three at Cutty Brow on three dates between Nov 18th and 26th; up to three at Greywell on three dates between Nov 19th and Dec 17th; up to five at Hursley on seven dates between Nov 27th and Dec 19th; 13 at Ashford Hangers on Nov 29th; five at Breamore on Dec 4th; nine at Itchen Stoke on Dec 14th; up to five at Ecchinswell on three dates between Dec 16th and 29th; 11 into roost at Ampfield Woods on Dec 21st and 15 into roost there on Dec 26th; up to seven at South Wanborough between Dec 22nd and 31st; 18 at Farley Mount CP on Dec 28th; and ten at Old Down, Basingstoke on Dec 30th. (MW)

Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

Records of two or more were widespread as usual. The highest counts in the early year were ten at Bushfield, Winchester on Jan 2nd, 17 at Cadnam Common, NF on Jan 6th and 11 at Botley Wood on Feb 5th. NFWBS recorded totals of 35, 11 and 11 in January-March respectively (Table 4).

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites included (2016 figures in parentheses) Butser Hill, 7 (6); Itchen Valley CP, 9 (12); Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (4). Except for the highest BBS total of 12 at Minstead on June 5th, no other counts of ten or more were reported between April and July although a total of 25 were trapped at Keyhaven Marshes from July 9th-Oct 31st. Recently fledged young were first reported on May 31st at Funtley.

Between September and December counts of ten or more were reported from Trigpoint Hill with ten on Aug 14th, 11 at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester on Oct 14th, an exceptional 30 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Oct 15th (previous highest count for the area being ten), ten at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 26th, 12 at Badminton Common on Oct 29th, ten at Farlington Marshes on Nov 28th, ten at Farley Mount CP in Nov 28th, 19 at Dibden Bay on Dec 3rd, ten at Needs Ore on Dec 10th and 12 at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Dec 28th. NFWBS reported totals of 13, 29 and 61 in October-December respectively (Table 4). The highest autumn movement was 11 NE at Trigpoint Hill on Nov 13th (1.25 hours).

BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 54% of gardens during the year with a maximum count of 21 at both Hordle in w/c June 11th and Otterbourne in w/c Nov 26th. As in previous years, the peak month for GBW records was June with 24% of gardens reporting presence compared to a low of only 8.0% in October. (MLC)

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

Chloris chloris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Between January-March there were five counts of 20 or more with a high of 60 at a pre-roost gathering at Mayflower Park, Southampton on Jan 18th. During the summer months three flocks of 20 or more were reported with a high of 100 on the shingle at Gunner Point, Sinah Common on June 23rd.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 21; Itchen Valley CP, 13; Lower Test Marshes, 14 (11). The highest BBS totals were 13 at both Pitts Down on Apr 22nd and Leckford the next day.

Numbers increased in autumn with 21 counts of 20 or more from September-December, many at pre-roost gatherings. High counts of 100 or more were recorded at Gunner Point (100, Oct 1st; 200, Oct 21st), Hut Wood, Chilworth (150, Oct 26th and 29th), Cholderton Park (120, Nov 23rd; 210, Nov 28th; 260, Dec 5th; 140, Dec 23rd) and at the roost at the National Oceanographic Centre, Southampton (160, Dec 20th). No significant movements were noted at the inland watchpoints and the highest count at coastal sites was in autumn with 27 NE at Calshot on Nov 12th (1 hour).

Throughout the year presence in BTO surveyed gardens remained fairly high between 31.0% and 43.9% with the peak month being June and a maximum of 33 in a garden near Shedfield in w/c Sep 17th (Table 2). (MLC)

Linnet (Common Linnet)

Linaria cannabina

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Between January and March there were 14 counts of 150 or more from widespread areas. The highest counts were recorded on winter stubble fields with a minimum of 350 at Easton

on Jan 22nd followed by 300 at Blackmoor on Mar 4th and 330 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Mar 14th. Other large counts included 200 at Cheesefoot Head on Jan 19th and Feb 19th, 180 at Blackmoor on Jan 22nd, 220 at Quarley Down Farm on Jan 25th and 250 there on Mar 9th, 200 at Shipton Bellinger on Jan 31st, 200 at Twyford Down on Feb 2nd and 200 at Crux Easton on Mar 28th.

Breeding season surveys (with 2016 figures in parentheses) at the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths recorded territories of 87 (69) and 32 (19) respectively (Table 1). Ten territories were counted during surveys at Butser Hill, three at Farlington Marshes and two at Stockbridge Down. The largest counts during this period were 70 feeding in an oilseed rape crop on Portsdown Hill on June 3rd and 60 at Old Winchester Hill on July 24th.

During August-September the largest counts were in September with 100 at Twyford Down on 9th, 125 at Crondall on 10th, 120 at Longstock and 100 at Needs Ore on 19th, and 100 at Avon Causeway on 24th. Between October and December the highest count of 1,000 was recorded at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 15th, with 264 there on Oct 10th, 700 on Oct 22nd and 500 on Nov 15th. Other high counts in October were 250 at Avon Causeway on 1st and 600 at Pennington Marshes on 15th. High numbers continued in December with 200 on Posbrook Flood on 2nd and Whitsbury Down on 3rd, 360 at Upham on 15th, 200 at Hursley on 19th and 620 on the Kingsclere Estate on 27th. Many of the large flocks were reported as feeding on stubbles and wild bird cover.

Half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. The highest totals at regular watchpoints were 156 NE at Sandy Point on Oct 16th and 210 SW at Tweseldown on Nov 19th. (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	82	84	820	293	0	0	0	0
Inland moving	59	471	1,354	693	741	656	416	153

Lesser Redpoll

Acanthis cabaret

Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006.

Red, S41

In January-April there were 44 records of flocks of 20 or more with highest counts of 150 at Cadnam Common, NF on Jan 19th, 120 there on Jan 26th, 100 at Rushpole Wood, NF on Feb 18th and 155 at Woolmer Forest on Apr 14th. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in six (2.0%) surveyed gardens in the first four months and December with a maximum of 17 near Alice Holt Forest in w/c Jan 15th (Table 2), and NFWBS reported 28, 11 and 0 in January-March respectively (Table 4).

Whilst sightings of one or two continued through May to July in the New Forest at Holmsley, Burley and Acres Down, there was no confirmation of breeding although trilling males were noted on several occasions.

There were no records in August and the first in September was one at Sandy Point on 10th, where there were 360 bird-days up to Nov 24th with peaks of 61 on Oct 25th and 50 on 27th. From September-December there were 30 records of flocks of 20 or more with highest counts of 174 at Foxbury Plantation, NF on Oct 20th and 105 at Cadnam Common, NF on Nov 2nd. At Tweseldown visible migration counts of at least ten SW/hour were regularly recorded between Oct 7th and Nov 16th with peak rates in October of 78 on 15th (3.3 hours), 33 on 16th (1.75 hours) and 44 on 20th (2.5 hours). NFWBS reported 174, 72 and 76 in October-December respectively.

Half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (MLC)

	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				8	19			
Inland moving		1	173	165	166	103	27	9

Crossbill (Red Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Scarce resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn.

Schedule 1, Green

Numbers remained high throughout the county in the first half of the year though the second half produced slightly lower counts than recent years and autumn passage was again very light. A summary of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	154	156	55	89	61	95	31	10	41	89	80	100
North-east sites	43	31	21	17	26	12	1			3	2	
Other sites	4	26	3	1	24	7	16	1	3	2	23	9
Moving	4	2			7		4	9	5	16	3	

From January-April numbers in the New Forest remained at a similar level to the end of 2016 whilst elsewhere records were received from 16 widespread locations. Double-figure counts were reported from seven locations in the New Forest including 13 at Bratley Plain on Jan 9th, ten at Wilverley Inclosure on Jan 17th, 11 at Clumber Inclosure on Jan 22nd, ten at Holm Hill Inclosure on Jan 27th, 11 at Woodfidley on Feb 14th, ten at Acres Down on Apr 24th and 14 at Slufers Inclosure on Apr 29th. Away from the New Forest records included two at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 2nd, one in the Bordon area on Jan 2nd and Feb 10th, up to nine in Woolmer Forest on 22 dates between Jan 2nd and Apr 22nd, two at Mortimer West End on Jan 4th and one there on Jan 11th, one or two at Longmoor Inclosure on four dates between Jan 30th and Mar 30th, up to nine in Benyon's Inclosure on three dates between Feb 4th and Mar 5th, one at Botley Wood on Feb 5th, one at Broughton Down on Feb 6th, up to six at Heath Warren on 11 dates between Feb 8th and Apr 19th, two at Ampfield Wood on Feb 13th, one at Newton Valance on Feb 14th, one at Plumley Farm, Plumley on Mar 6th, four in the Bourley Catchment area on Mar 16th and one on Apr 19th, and one at Hilliers Arboretum on Apr 28th.

Between May and August records were from 18 locations in the New Forest. Elsewhere reports were from 17 locations including one at Minley Woods on May 5th; up to nine at Woolmer Forest on five dates between May 12th and July 9th; 11 at Benyon's Inclosure on May 13th; four at Stockbridge Down on May 21st; six over Fishlake Meadows, four at Heath Warren and 13 at Yateley Common, all on May 23rd; three over Blashford Lakes on May 27th; two at Netley Marsh, Totton on June 18th; one at Versey Close, Farnborough on June 21st; five at Itchen Valley CP on June 30th; one over Lymington on July 3rd; six at the Lime Quarry, Old Burghclere on July 3rd and 4th; three at Bishopstoke on July 15th and one there on Aug 15th; one at Stoke Park Wood near Bishopstoke on July 20th, two at Magdalen Hill Down on July 23rd; a juvenile at Sandy Point, Hayling on July 27th; and five at Ampfield Woods on Aug 23rd. Breeding was confirmed at two locations outside the New Forest with fledged young recorded at Heath Warren and Yateley Common with breeding suspected at a further two locations.

Visible migration in the second half was very light with just 28 recorded from six locations between July 23rd and Nov 19th. Between October and December records were received from 28 locations in the New Forest including 15 out of roost at Blackwater Arboretum on Oct 3rd and 15 at Bramshaw Wood on Oct 29th. Outside the New Forest, records of grounded birds were received from 12 locations comprising one at Woolmer Forest on four

dates between Oct 3rd and Nov 15th, four at Testwood Lakes on Oct 15th and one there on Nov 19th, one at Connaught Road, Fleet on Oct 17th, two at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Oct 22nd, 15 at Parnholt Wood on Nov 10th, two at North Baddesley on Nov 11th, two at Bishopstoke on Nov 20th, singles at Chilworth and Beacon Hill, Fleet on Nov 25th, three at Four Marks on Nov 28th, seven at Home Wood, Somerley Park on Dec 4th and two out of roost at Ampfield Wood on Dec 26th. Monthly maxima are tabulated below for two communal finch roosts in the New Forest which were monitored fortnightly throughout the year. (MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	9	2					13		11	15	5	6
Roost 2	9	7	4	1	1	2	5	5	3	4	4	4

Goldfinch[†] (European Goldfinch)
Carduelis carduelis

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Green

Between January-March there were 29 counts of 20 or more with a high of 89 at Botley Wood on Jan 26th. During the summer months 56 flocks of 20 or more were reported with a high of 200 including many juveniles at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 22nd. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 2 (6); Farlington Marshes, 19; Itchen Valley CP, 8; Lower Test Marshes, 8 (4). The first fledged young were noted on May 31st.

Numbers increased in autumn with 188 counts of 20 or more from September-December. High counts of 200 or more were recorded at Hut Wood, Chilworth (250, Oct 13th), Sandy Point from Oct 14th-Nov 3rd (peak 590, Nov 3rd), Fleet Pond (200, Oct 31st) and Tipner Lake (200, Nov 2nd). Autumn movements at the inland watchpoints totalled 1,670 at Tweseldown between Sep 9th and Dec 12th with a peak of 109 SW on Nov 14th (3 hours). Most counts at Trigpoint Hill at this time were only single figures. As in previous years higher numbers were recorded at coastal sites including Sandy Point, where a total of 7,037 was noted moving NE on many dates between Sep 27th and Nov 1st with a peak day count of 2,600 NE on Oct 16th, and Pennington Marshes with 800 west on Oct 15th (3 hours).

Similar to last year, it remained the most frequently recorded finch in the BTO Garden BirdWatch. Throughout the year monthly presence in surveyed gardens remained high between 55.3% and 68.9% with the peak month being May (Table 2). The highest BBS total was 33 at East Cosham in w/c Apr 22nd.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (MLC)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving		866	1,025	4,345	600		
Inland moving	138	370	314	365	729	301	47

Serin (European Serin)

Serinus serinus

Rare visitor recorded in every month except August. (1,44,2)

Two records. A female was discovered at Sandy Point on Apr 5th and seen again on 7th-8th enabling a number of birders to connect with it (ACJ et al., photo). On June 1st another female was found at Sandy Point at 06:24 and lingered until 08:05 when it flew off east with three Linnets (ACJ et al., photo). (KFB)



Female Serin, Sandy Point, Hayling Island, Apr 8th (Alan Lewis)

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin)

Spinus spinus

Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In the early year, double-figure flocks were reported from 43 locations (cf. 59 in 2016) with counts of 25 upwards from 22 locations (cf. 24 in 2016). Numbers in general were quite high with counts of 50 or more coming from eight locations including 50 at Benyon's Inclosure, Silchester on Jan 1st; Blashford Lakes on sixteen dates between Jan 2nd and Feb 19th peaking at 120 on Feb 5th and the last of ten on Mar 30th; 60 at Rotherlands, Petersfield on Jan 11th; 50 plus at Fleet Pond on four dates between Jan 21st and Mar 20th peaking at 150 on Feb 18th; 100 at Yateley GP on Feb 8th and 50 there on Mar 9th; 50 at Chilworth Manor on Mar 5th; and 60 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 19th.

Evidence of breeding was received from six locations with fledged young recorded at Church Crookham (two juveniles on Apr 30th); Bolderwood, NF (30 juveniles caught and ringed between May 2nd and June 21st); Chandler's Ford (two juveniles on May 6th and four on 8th); Funtley (two juveniles on May 31st); Eversley Common (juveniles observed feeding in pines on June 4th); and Denny Wood, NF (four juveniles on July 8th). Breeding was also suspected at Bassett, Southampton, where one pair was regularly observed on feeders; Longmoor Inclosure where four territories were found; and Bourley Woods, Fleet where regular sightings were made throughout the season. No other evidence of breeding was reported. However records from a further eight widespread locations in May suggested potential breeding. The highest BBS total was ten at Ladycross Inclosure, NF on June 17th.

Autumn migration was slightly heavier than 2016. Inland movements included 124 over Trigpoint Hill on 29 dates between Sep 29th and Dec 13th with a peak count of 17 on Nov 13th, and 288 over Tweseldown on 27 dates between Sep 8th and Nov 29th with a peak count of 88 on Oct 21st. On the coast 453 were recorded over Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 39 dates between Sep 25th and Nov 24th with a peak count of 172 on Oct 16th.

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		14	68	511	22	1
Inland moving	45	6	67	161	102	45

In the New Forest, dawn roost surveys produced just one significant count of 51 at Holm Hill on Nov 24th. Between October and December double-figure counts were received from 29 locations including 70 at Burley Old Inclosure, NF on Oct 4th; 80 at Woolmer Forest on Oct 18th and 70 there on Dec 24th; 140 at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 24th; 50 at Fleet Pond on Oct 31st, 130 there on Dec 11th and 120 on 17th; 110 at Rotherlands on Nov 10th; 60 at Blashford Lakes Centre on Nov 27th; 120 at Passfield Pond, Petersfield on Dec 3rd; and 130 at Nursling on Dec 27th.

Records for the whole year from BTO Garden BirdWatch were reported from 96 (32%) of the monitored gardens. The peak monthly rate of 14.7% in March reduced to a minimum of 2.3% in October. Results during the breeding season between May and August are summarised below. Reports were from 48 gardens of which 15 recorded Siskins in three or all four months. (MW)

	May	June	July	Aug
Gardens with counts	24	17	11	8
Total counted (monthly max/garden)	47	49	42	26
Other gardens with birds present	10	10	9	4

Corn Bunting

Scarce and declining resident.

Emberiza calandra

Red, S41, HBAP

The HOS Corn Bunting Survey resulted in very full coverage of the known breeding areas. Fieldwork from May to August revealed a minimum of 172 singing males. The survey effort was particularly strong in the south-west of the county with staff from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust being given special access to farms away from public footpaths. The increase in access made a huge difference to our understanding of the species' distribution in that area. There is now some indication that the population is no longer declining and that sympathetic management on a number of farms is paying dividends.

Breeding season counts of singing males were recorded as follows (2016 figures in parentheses where comparable):

On the chalk west of the Avon Valley: Martin Down, 12 (4-5), Martin Village to Whitsbury, 73. West of the Test Valley: The Wallops to Cholderton, 44; Houghton Down, 10 (3); Monxton, 1. In the Test Valley: Chilbolton 15, (5); Kings Somborne, 1. East of Winchester: Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head/Gander Down, 13 (6). North Hampshire: Kingsclere, 2.

A detailed account of the HOS Corn Bunting Survey with maps is given on p. 236.

Winter flocks in the early year included 16 at Longwood Warren on Jan 27th and 12 there on Mar 12th and 15th. There were 22 at Chilbolton on Apr 19th. At Toyd Down there were 20-30 in January and February increasing to 86 on Apr 16th (including some singing birds). In

the late year there were 45 at Tidpit Down on Nov 5th, 21 at Broughton on Dec 9th and 24 at Cheesefoot Head on the same day. (KFB)

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Common but declining resident.

Red, S41

Counts of ten or more were recorded in a total of 54 one km squares. The only flock of over 100 was 120 at Quarley Down on Jan 25th and Mar 9th. Other sizeable flocks in decreasing magnitude included 60 at Chilbolton Water Tower on Jan 20th; 50 each at Cholderton Park on Jan 7th, Longwood Warren on Jan 27th and Deacon Hill, Winchester on Feb 16th; 45 each at Cutty Brow on Jan 21st and Chilbolton SE old airfield on Sep 22nd; 44 at Danebury on Oct 10th; 42 at Portsdown Hill on Jan 21st and 41 there on Apr 16th; 40 at Nether Wallop on Jan 7th with 35 there on Mar 27th; 40 at Ashley Warren on Mar 23rd; and 35 at Beacon Hill, Warnford on Mar 2nd.

There were 404 records during the breeding season (Apr-Aug) from approximately 200 one km squares. Territories were recorded as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Wealden Heath surveys, 29 (29) including 18 (20) at Longmore Inclosure; for the third year running none were recorded on the Thames Basin Heaths (Table 1); Butser Hill, 10 (13); Ramsdean Road, Weston, 6 (7); Stockbridge Down, (4). There were no confirmed territories reported from the New Forest but records of single singing males came from Beaulieu Heath West and Norley Wood. Elsewhere records of singing males were widespread but mainly on the chalk. The highest BBS totals were 13 at Lasham on June 18th and Preshaw Down two days later. Notable records of singing males in July were four at Ringwood Forest on 1st, four at Ovington Down Farm on 8th and at least five at Sutton Scotney on 16th.

Counts of 20 or more during the period (Apr-July) included 22 at Portsdown Hill on Apr 2nd, 25 at Cheesefoot Head on Apr 3rd, 20 at Itchen Farm, St Cross on Apr 11th, 41 at Portsdown Hill on Apr 16th, 25 at Winnall Moors and 20 at Shepherds Bush on Apr 27th, 25 at Martin Down on May 8th and 30 there on May 23rd. (CDF)



Male Yellowhammer, Martin Down, July 12th (Martin Bennett)

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Very rare vagrant. (0,5,1)

One record. A single was discovered in a stubble field at Portsdown Hill on Jan 25th and was seen almost daily until Feb 9th (PAG et al., photo). Although the last in 2016 was a one-day record, there have been three other long-stayers in 1986, 1992 and 2000 – all in February to April suggesting wintering. Small numbers winter in the UK and elsewhere in western Europe, and that probably includes a few in Hampshire – perhaps annually but undetected. (KFB)



Little Bunting, Portsdown Hill, Jan 28th (Lee Fuller)

Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting)

Emberiza schoeniclus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

In January-March there were 38 double-figure counts with the highest being a series at Portsdown Hill, peaking at 111 on Jan 7th and reducing to 35 by Feb 26th, and 80 to roost at Winnall Moors on Feb 20th. NFWBS reported 31, 17 and 12 in January-March respectively (Table 4).

Between April and June there were only seven double-figure counts with the highest being 16 at Titchfield Haven on Apr 7th; there were none in July to September. Breeding season counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2016 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 7; Itchen Valley CP, 13 (17); Lower Test Marshes, 21 (25); Needs Ore, 14 (8); Avon Valley near Sopley, 14; Fishlake Meadows, 6 (5). Five territories were located on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths breeding surveys (Table 1). The highest BBS total was six in the Avon Valley near Ibsley Water on May 1st. The first fledged young were recorded at Itchen Valley CP on July 9th.

From October to December there were 29 double-figure counts with highs of 40 at Oxy Marsh on Oct 30th and roosting at Edenbrook CP on Nov 25th. Autumn movements included highs of 53 west in 2 hours at Pennington Marshes on Oct 15th and 25 SW at Trigpoint Hill in 1.2 hours on Dec 28th. NFWBS reported 6, 23 and 39 in October-December respectively.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (MLC)

	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	1	53				
Inland moving	9	21	65	71	35	34

Dark-eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

Very rare, presumed ship-assisted, vagrant. (0,3,1)

One record. A single adult male was in a garden at Petersfield on May 2nd. It made several trips to eat mixed seed from a cage on the ground. It was also heard to sing, but was not seen again (DB, photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC.

The only previous records are of a long-staying individual at Church Crookham intermittently between May 1987 and March 1989, one in a garden near Andover in May 1996, and one at Hawkhill Inclosure, NF from December 2011 to March 2012. Although genuine vagrancy cannot be ruled out, it is perhaps more likely that this species benefits from ship assistance. Vessels from the USA and Caribbean arrive in Southampton on a weekly basis throughout the year. (KFB)



*Male Dark-eyed Junco, Petersfield, May 2nd
(Duncan Burchell)*

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Amber

The long-staying female which frequented the gravel spit at Hill Head Harbour, first recorded in December 2016, continued to be recorded up to Feb 3rd including once at nearby Meon Shore on Jan 14th (m.o.). On Nov 29th one flew east over Inchmery and Needs Ore (NRJ). (MLC)



Female Snow Bunting, Hill Head, Jan 2nd (Martin Clay)

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 follow the IOC List. 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.

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.

One at Lower Test Marshes on Feb 3rd and Sep 30th. (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 flying east through Hurst Narrows on May 7th was an unusual seawatching tick! Also one at Tundry Pond on May 8th and two at Farlington Marshes on Nov 22nd. (MLC)

Swan Goose

Anser cygnoides

Escape (Central & East Asia).

One with Canada Goose flock at Fishtail Lagoon on Aug 26th and Sep 1st and then again in Keyhaven Harbour on Sep 17th. (MLC)



Swan Goose, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven, Sep 1st (Joe Murphy)

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape (Australasia).

Two pairs successfully bred at Riverside Park, Southampton and regular reports were received from there or along the River Itchen between Itchen Bridge, Northam, St Denys and Manbridge in every month. At Riverside Park the year began with a peak count of nine including one with damaged wings. Numbers reduced to two adults and two immatures in early February with mating observed on Feb 6th. Six new birds arrived by Mar 13th to give a total of three adults and seven immatures with a pair occupying a nest from Feb 17th. On Mar 30th seven newly hatched cygnets were observed bringing the total up to 17 of all ages, the highest count of the year. However, one cygnet was missing from Apr 19th and by May 2nd an adult had left and a further cygnet had been lost resulting in 14 up to June 14th, after which numbers dropped to one or two adults and five cygnets. A new pair then arrived with four others and began nesting from July 24th until the end of August. One newly hatched cygnet was first seen on Sep 13th bringing the total to a peak for the second half-year of 14 the next day. On Sep 24th the adult with damaged wings was taken into care by the RSPCA. Numbers then reduced from eight to only one by the end of the year.

Elsewhere singles were present in seven months of the year in Fareham Creek up to Cams Bay and at Haslar Creek, Alverstoke and Walpole Park in Gosport. Two adults and three young were also in upper Fareham Creek on Jan 21st and 22nd. In Chichester Harbour there were five in Emsworth Harbour and Warblington Shore on several dates in February, six there on Mar 9th and 11th and two at Emsworth Mill Pond on Nov 20th. There were also singles at Ibsley/Harbridge WM on Feb 12th and between Mar 17th-22nd, Laverstoke Park Lake on Apr 28th, Weston Shore on June 15th flying along the shore and then up the Itchen, and Langstone Harbour on Aug 26th and Sep 19th. There were also four at Keyhaven Lagoon on Sep 16th, Fishtail Lagoon the next day and again at Keyhaven on Nov 3rd. (MLC)

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia).

An adult female at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 17th, when it associated with three Egyptian Geese, and Dec 28th. (MLC)

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escape (Central & South America).

Singles at village pond at Sherfield on Loddon between Mar 27th and May 22nd and Heath Pond, Petersfield on various dates between Mar 14th and Dec 31st. (MLC)

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape (North America).

A pair at Eyeworth Pond, NF from Jan 1st to Feb 19th and Mill Lawn, Burley on the last date. Also a female on the farm pond at Sherborne St. John on Feb 17th. (MLC)

Chiloe Wigeon

Mareca sibilatrix

Escape (South America).

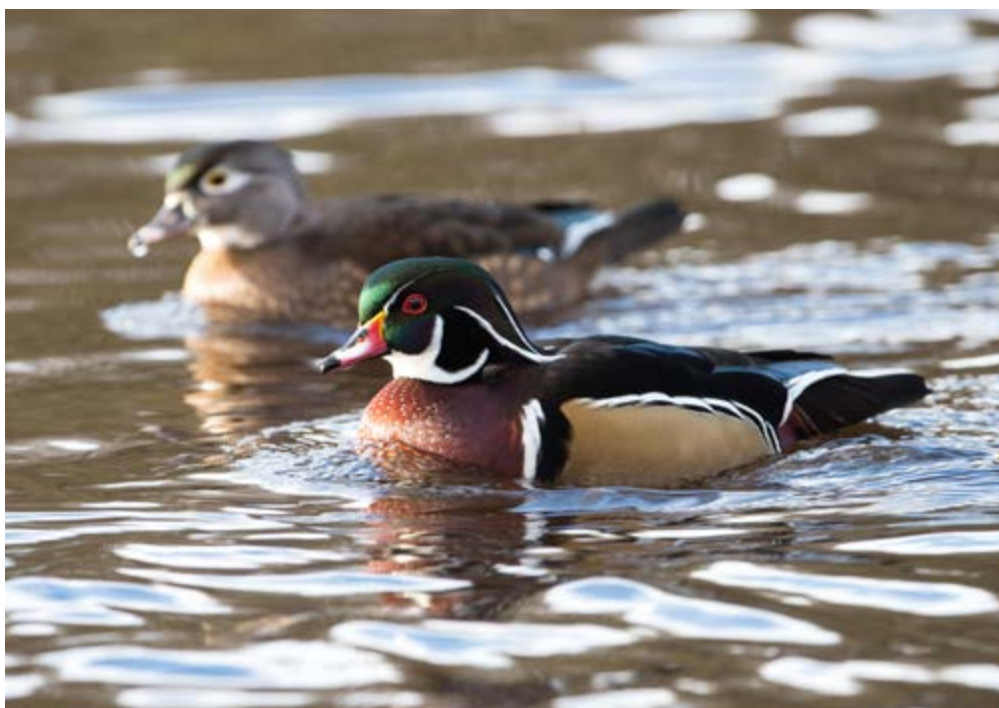
One on the Lower Balancing Pond at Keyhaven Marshes on Jan 21st. (MLC)

White-cheeked Pintail

Anas bahamensis

Escape (North & South America).

One at Woolmer Pond on June 13th and July 24th. (MLC)



Wood Duck pair, Eyeworth Pond, New Forest, Feb 7th (Steve Bassett)

Reeves's Pheasant

Syrnaticus reevesii

Escape (China).

Singles at Biddenfield Farm, Botley Wood on Jan 25th and Gander Down on Oct 25th. (MLC)

Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Chrysolophus amherstiae

Escape (South-east Asia).

A female at Knowle Lane, Fair Oak on Apr 27th and a first year male there on Aug 5th. (MLC)

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Middle East).

There was one spring record of two birds and several sightings in the autumn which are thought to have involved escaped birds from the breeding programme at Knepp in Sussex.

Two flew west over Locks Heath and Fareham on May 26th (BG, DRM). A single flew south and then east over Langstone Harbour at 14:25 on Aug 26th (SH, CS). A bird with a red avicultural ring was on grassy fields near Chawton on Aug 27th-29th and had many flight feathers missing. One was over Portsdown Hill and Purbrook on Oct 28th followed by it or another at Fort Widley on Oct 28th-29th. Also on Oct 29th a bird from the Knepp reintroduction (colour ringed 'CN') appeared at Titchfield Haven and was seen on most days up to Nov 5th. On the last day it was at Titchfield at 10:00 but flew east over Stubbington at 10:10 and was not seen again. Colour rings are hard to see on flying birds and it is most likely that the October and November records all relate to the same escapee.

Now that there are reintroduction programmes underway in Sussex and Surrey we can expect to see many more White Storks. Whilst some birders are vehemently against such reintroductions, there is evidence from archaeological bone remains that the species was

once present in the county. The last natural breeding record in the UK was at Edinburgh in 1416. (KFB)

Crane (Common Crane)

Grus grus

Escape (Europe and North Asia).

A captive-reared female released at West Sedgemoor, Somerset in 2013 appeared at Titchfield Haven on Mar 2nd. This colour-ringed individual later returned to Somerset. (KFB)

Cockatiel

Nymphicus hollandicus

Escape (Australia).

One at Winchfield House, Phoenix Green on July 17th. (MLC)

Budgerigar

Melopsittacus undulatus

Escape (Australia).

One at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Oct 24th. (MLC)



Pintail (Dan Powell)

Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2017

Site	Woodcock†	Cuckoo	Nightjar	Green Woodpecker	Gt Sp Woodpecker	Woodlark	Skylark	Willow Warbler	Whitethroat	Dartford Warbler	Redstart	Stonechat	Tree Pipit	Meadow Pipit	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
<i>Thames Basin Heaths</i>																	
Blackbushe Airfield*			2	2	1		3	5	9	5		3			10		
Bourley North/Long Valley	nc		11	nc	nc	9		nc	nc	11	3	13	2	1	nc		
Bourley South	nc		9	nc	nc	9		nc	nc	25		17	9		nc		
Bramshill Plantation			12	nc		2		nc	nc			1	2		12		
Bramshot Heath*			1			1											
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill	2		1	nc	nc				3	3		3	1		3		1
Eversley Common including Busta Triangle	1		4	3	1	3	4	13		5		2	2		18		1
Castle Bottom	1	1	4	2	2	1		11	3	1	1	1	1		1		
Hawley Common	3		4	3	5	2		4	2	2		5	1		1		
Hazeley Heath	3		6	8	8	4		6	21	8		7	7		18		
Silchester Common*	2		3			1		2		3					5		
Tadley Common*	1		1					2		3					5		
Tweseldown	nc		2	nc	nc							1	2				
Velmead Common	nc			nc	nc	1						2					
Warren Heath/Heath Warren			16	nc	nc	4			nc	3	nc						
Yateley Common (HCC)			9			2		21	14	10		4	(1)		4		
Yateley Common South (MOD)	3	1	8	3	4	3		11	12	27		6	(1)		10		
Yateley Heath Wood	1	1	8			4	1	nc				2	4				
TBH total 2017	17	3	101	21	21	46	8	75	64	106	4	67	31	1	87	0	2
TBH total 2016	21	6	91	25	20	46	13	68	46	112	4	74	36	1	69	0	4
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott Common	1		2	3	6	4		6	5	1		6	6		4	6	
Broxhead Common			5	nc	nc	4		1		5		4	2		6		
Conford Moor			6	nc	nc												
Hammer Common	1		1	3	1			3	1						2		
Kingsley Common		1	2			1		1	2			1	1		1		
Longmoor Inclosure	2	2	19	10	19	16		19	10	23	16	18	24		19	18	2
Ludshott Common	nc	1	12	nc	nc	3		18	10	13	2	3	3		4		
Passfield Common				nc	nc												
Shortheath Common**		1	1		1			4					1			1	1
The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC**	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Weavers Down/Holly Hills		1			1	1											
Woolmer Forest	nc		18	nc	nc	10		nc	nc	12		23	27		nc	nc	nc
WH total 2017	4	6	66	16	28	39	0	52	28	54	18	55	64		32	29	3
WH total 2016	6	8	70	18	27	40	1	53	24	36	16	32	22		19	29	1

* = 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; (1) = singing male for a few days; not included in totals.

Thanks are due to the following who contributed to this survey: J Baldwin, N Bolter, JM Clark, JR Collman, PJ Crowley, A Drake, JA Eyre, HCC Staff (Yateley Common), AR James, C Jones, EA Lintott, SJ Mansfield, D Murray, M Shaft, B Stalker, DJ Sussex and KB Wills. Unfortunately data were not received for The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC area.

Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2017

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 2017.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sites
Blackbird	98.1	97.7	95.8	94.7	95.7	95.2	90.0	70.0	67.3	79.1	91.0	96.6	301
Blackcap	16.8	16.7	9.3	8.0	6.1	6.8	4.5	4.1	4.2	2.8	5.1	10.7	159
Black-headed Gull	4.7	3.2	3.1	4.8	2.8	3.7	2.8	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.7	3.7	51
Blue Tit	93.8	93.8	92.2	89.1	88.5	82.1	82.0	81.2	84.5	87.2	92.4	93.4	302
Brambling	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.5	0.4					1.2	1.2	2.3	26
Bullfinch	13.9	15.3	12.9	17.5	21.5	24.0	18.9	16.5	9.5	8.0	12.1	16.2	162
Carrion Crow	27.9	28.4	29.6	33.8	34.6	29.2	26.6	22.6	23.1	25.3	29.5	28.3	203
Chaffinch	56.1	57.3	56.0	44.6	43.2	43.8	35.9	31.8	32.5	39.6	47.7	53.7	254
Coal Tit	43.7	36.2	33.7	29.3	29.5	24.3	28.6	37.1	45.9	57.9	67.3	64.2	255
Collared Dove	63.7	64.1	65.5	65.7	67.4	64.2	63.9	60.4	58.4	53.2	55.8	60.0	275
Dunnock	83.7	83.5	80.8	78.7	76.7	76.8	75.0	68.8	68.0	71.0	76.3	78.6	285
Feral Pigeon	10.7	10.4	10.8	10.6	11.2	9.2	10.6	10.3	10.6	11.0	11.6	11.8	62
Fieldfare	4.5	1.9	0.4						0.4	1.0	2.6	4.1	42
Goldcrest	10.2	11.0	10.0	6.4	5.0	4.5	3.1	3.0	4.4	10.2	12.6	12.2	146
Goldfinch	60.1	64.9	67.9	68.4	68.9	67.8	59.9	56.0	55.3	62.1	61.7	60.2	285
Gt Sp Woodpecker	33.4	32.1	29.1	31.9	37.5	37.2	33.2	18.8	17.7	28.1	32.8	33.9	216
Great Tit	73.3	70.6	71.2	71.5	70.5	66.7	65.7	64.2	73.8	75.6	78.1	78.4	295
Greenfinch	36.9	38.5	41.8	42.1	43.0	43.9	42.7	36.3	32.4	33.5	31.0	32.3	235
House Sparrow	57.2	56.9	58.0	64.2	69.1	70.9	66.9	57.2	55.2	57.1	58.7	57.9	247
Jackdaw	32.8	31.1	30.0	35.0	39.6	37.8	26.4	23.3	24.0	22.9	25.7	25.9	194
Jay	11.6	8.5	9.9	9.7	11.4	12.8	10.4	5.9	6.7	12.1	9.5	9.3	125
Long-tailed Tit	47.3	49.2	38.4	22.6	12.4	15.3	22.1	29.2	32.9	36.8	41.8	49.5	279
Magpie	60.0	59.8	56.3	63.5	61.7	58.7	56.4	54.8	56.6	58.5	59.6	59.7	287
Marsh Tit	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.4		0.4	0.9	0.4	1.0	1.2	2.6	2.7	18
Marsh/Willow Tit	4.0	2.4	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.7	3.0	3.0	3.1	5.3	5.9	37
Mistle Thrush	4.9	5.1	3.2	3.3	2.6	3.4	1.9	1.0	1.5	3.4	4.5	4.4	65
Nuthatch	29.3	28.0	25.6	20.1	24.0	25.7	25.7	28.8	32.6	32.1	34.6	30.8	174
Pied/White Wagtail	17.4	14.3	8.1	6.6	4.9	5.5	3.7	0.8	1.1	6.4	9.9	13.0	126
Redwing	5.3	3.4	1.6							2.1	8.2	11.3	94
Reed Bunting	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4		0.4		0.6	0.8	13
Robin	97.4	96.1	94.6	92.5	89.1	89.1	85.7	85.0	88.3	90.1	93.5	93.0	300
Rook	14.3	15.2	17.4	18.5	16.5	15.3	10.7	7.9	7.5	10.8	12.5	12.2	106
Siskin	6.6	12.2	14.7	9.1	8.6	7.3	6.0	4.8	4.0	2.3	3.8	7.5	96
Song Thrush	35.2	32.6	19.6	24.6	21.4	26.4	17.7	4.8	3.8	7.1	18.0	29.9	236
Sparrowhawk	5.1	6.1	7.3	4.8	4.6	5.6	6.2	8.6	8.3	9.5	8.9	6.6	152
Starling	61.5	59.1	57.4	60.9	66.8	61.2	46.7	37.2	36.2	39.8	48.1	54.0	269
Tawny Owl	4.9	4.1	4.7	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.3	5.7	6.1	8.6	7.3	6.0	63

Tree Sparrow	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.9	11
Treecreeper	1.1	0.9	1.8	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	2.2	2.8	45
Willow Tit	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4			0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5	7
Woodpigeon	93.7	94.7	94.4	93.3	93.7	94.1	92.1	90.5	89.3	88.6	88.0	89.7	298
Wren	34.4	32.9	35.0	32.1	22.6	24.7	24.5	22.1	18.2	34.6	37.1	34.1	270
Yellowhammer		0.9	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.4		0.4		0.4	12

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; e-mail 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 producing the table and associated spreadsheet which together have been used for several species accounts in the Systematic List. Thanks also to all observers who contributed records for 2017 from the 302 Hampshire gardens in the scheme. Note GBW records are reported on a week-commencing basis.



Adult Starling with juveniles, Furze Hill, May 20th (Martin Bennett)

Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2017

The BTO BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in April-June 2017 a total of 147 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 2017 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		
	2012-2016		2017	2012-2016		2017
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
No of squares surveyed	130	116-145	147			
Mute Swan	9%	7-11%	8%	6.3	4.8-8.7	5.3
Greylag Goose	8%	7-10%	8%	6.3	4.5-7.9	6.1
Canada Goose	24%	23-26%	22%	6.0	4.2-7.1	5.8
Mallard	41%	33-47%	39%	7.0	4.8-9.4	7.1
Red-legged Partridge	33%	24-39%	34%	3.1	2.3-3.6	3.6
Pheasant	77%	73-80%	80%	5.8	4.9-6.2	7.0
Grey Heron	22%	19-27%	22%	1.7	1.5-2.1	1.5
Red Kite	14%	9-17%	12%	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.9
Buzzard	56%	49-64%	55%	1.7	1.5-1.9	1.8
Moorhen	15%	11-17%	13%	2.0	1.9-2.1	2.1
Coot	11%	9-13%	8%	5.4	3.4-7.2	4.3
Lapwing	16%	14-19%	13%	4.1	3.4-5.6	4.6
Black-headed Gull	33%	28-38%	35%	13.7	10-18	12.5
Mediterranean Gull	5%	2-10%	12%	3.5	1.3-7.9	4.0
Lesser Black-backed Gull	14%	11-17%	19%	2.6	1.9-3.9	3.0
Herring Gull	27%	25-28%	31%	7.5	4.4-12	5.9
Feral Pigeon	14%	12-15%	14%	9.9	7.4-14	9.0
Stock Dove	46%	40-51%	52%	3.2	2.8-3.6	3.2
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	100%	34.6	31-37	32.1
Collared Dove	55%	48-59%	50%	5.5	4.7-6.4	5.4
Cuckoo	27%	24-29%	21%	1.7	1.5-1.8	1.4
Swift	29%	27-34%	29%	7.7	6.8-8.4	5.4
Green Woodpecker	56%	52-62%	47%	2.0	1.7-2.3	1.7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	74%	71-78%	71%	2.5	2.2-2.7	2.2
Kestrel	19%	15-22%	18%	1.2	1.1-1.2	1.0
Magpie	74%	72-78%	76%	3.9	3.6-4.2	3.8
Jay	52%	48-58%	46%	1.9	1.8-2.1	1.7
Jackdaw	80%	78-84%	79%	11.3	11-12	10.5
Rook	60%	57-62%	62%	26.5	22-32	21.0
Carrion Crow	95%	94-97%	97%	9.6	8.5-10	9.3
Raven	5%	3-7%	13%	1.3	1.1-1.6	2.2
Goldcrest	53%	46-59%	62%	2.8	2.5-3	2.9
Firecrest	8%	5-14%	14%	2.1	1.8-2.7	2.2

Blue Tit	97%	95-98%	97%	9.9	8.2-12	7.8
Great Tit	95%	92-97%	93%	6.3	5.6-7.3	5.1
Coal Tit	37%	30-45%	41%	2.9	2.6-3.4	3.3
Marsh Tit	12%	10-15%	13%	1.6	1.2-2.2	1.6
Skylark	57%	50-59%	55%	5.3	4.8-5.9	5.2
Swallow	61%	57-65%	61%	4.8	4.2-6	4.0
House Martin	27%	24-30%	30%	5.9	4.4-6.9	6.7
Long-tailed Tit	57%	50-63%	63%	2.8	2.6-3.2	3.1
Chiffchaff	86%	76-91%	90%	4.0	3.6-4.4	4.5
Willow Warbler	27%	23-31%	31%	2.3	2.2-2.4	2.4
Blackcap	88%	85-91%	86%	4.5	3.8-5	4.4
Garden Warbler	14%	10-20%	17%	1.4	1.2-1.9	1.4
Whitethroat	49%	42-53%	53%	2.7	2.5-3	2.5
Nuthatch	56%	51-60%	57%	2.7	2.6-2.9	2.4
Treecreeper	25%	21-30%	25%	1.6	1.4-2	1.5
Wren	98%	97-100%	100%	10.8	9-12	11.5
Starling	53%	51-57%	49%	12.3	9.3-14	15.5
Blackbird	100%	99-100%	99%	15.3	15-16	15.9
Song Thrush	91%	89-93%	93%	4.0	3.6-4.5	4.6
Mistle Thrush	47%	41-52%	40%	2.0	1.7-2.4	2.2
Robin	98%	96-99%	98%	9.6	9.2-10	9.9
Stonechat	9%	5-12%	12%	4.2	3.3-5.1	3.9
Wheatear	4%	1-7%	8%	1.7	1-2.3	1.5
Dunnock	88%	85-91%	91%	4.1	3.7-4.3	4.0
House Sparrow	57%	55-58%	58%	12.0	11-13	12.5
Pied Wagtail	37%	34-42%	33%	1.6	1.5-1.8	1.6
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-14%	10%	4.6	3.7-5.4	5.3
Chaffinch	96%	93-98%	94%	9.2	8.3-11	7.3
Bullfinch	31%	21-37%	35%	1.8	1.7-2	2.3
Greenfinch	72%	68-78%	58%	4.6	4.1-5.4	3.4
Linnet	38%	34-41%	35%	6.2	4.3-7.3	9.0
Goldfinch	77%	73-81%	82%	5.6	5.4-6	6.8
Yellowhammer	42%	40-45%	45%	3.8	3.3-4.5	3.8

Species recorded in 8-11 squares: Tufted Duck, Cormorant, Little Egret, Sparrowhawk, Curlew, Tawny Owl, Cetti's Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart, Siskin and Reed Bunting.

Species recorded in 3-7 squares: Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Snipe, Great Black-backed Gull, Barn Owl, Woodlark, Lesser Whitethroat, Dartford Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Nightingale, Grey Wagtail, Tree Pipit and Crossbill.

Species recorded in one or two squares: Goosander, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Avocet, Grey Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Common Sandpiper, Little Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Nightjar, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Hobby, Peregrine, Willow Tit, Wood Warbler, Whinchat, Hawfinch, Lesser Redpoll and Corn Bunting. **Species not recorded** in 2017 but in **all** of the five previous years: Common Gull and Sand Martin and in **3-4:** Shoveler, Grey Partridge, Little Owl, Turtle Dove and Rock Pipit.

Thanks are due to the BTO for managing the project, Glynne Evans for organising the survey in the county, all participants, who are listed in Appendix 2, Sarah Harris BTO for providing the data and Alan Cox for compiling the table.

Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2017

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Teal		21	16			7
Little Egret	3	5				1
Sparrowhawk	3	2	4	2	2	4
Goshawk	4	1	1	1	2	1
Hen Harrier	3	1	2		1	
Red Kite						
Buzzard	37	34	58	28	32	38
Water Rail						
Oystercatcher						
Lapwing	29	23	73	11		1
Woodcock	4	2	1			2
Jack Snipe						1
Snipe	25	9	6	9	17	22
Kingfisher						
Green Woodpecker	15	20	18	14	35	19
Kestrel	8	5	10	13	13	16
Merlin	3		2	2		2
Peregrine	6	2			4	5
Great Grey Shrike	6	2	3		1	
Carrion Crow	361	368	433	391	496	528
Raven	23	13	16	18	19	25
Marsh Tit	2	11	4	6	8	8
Woodlark	2	22	15	14	1	
Skylark	1	21	39	23	9	1
Dartford Warbler	34	37	47	40	53	32
Firecrest						
Ring Ouzel				2		
Blackbird	321	263	219	142	343	477
Fieldfare	171	415	58	8	745	266
Redwing	438	544	68	168	1,861	787
Mistle Thrush	59	77	67	80	62	91
Stonechat	37	72	167	161	70	18
Meadow Pipit	132	147	354	407	194	97
Chaffinch	120	265	218	202	170	219
Brambling			2	2		3
Hawfinch			1	1	2	5
Bullfinch	35	11	11	13	29	61
Linnet	13	29	49	137	106	57
Lesser Redpoll	28	11		174	72	76
Crossbill	2	8	3	2		1
Siskin	53	54	72	22	10	19
Yellowhammer	2	1	2		1	
Reed Bunting	31	17	12	6	23	39
People	577	705	865	582	637	637
Dogs	233	352	297	255	332	336
No. of sites covered	38	35	33	36	35	38

Blank lines indicate not recorded in 2017.

Thanks to Martin Orchard-Webb for organising the NFWBS. New volunteers are always welcome – please e-mail Martin Orchard-Webb at shrikesurvey@hotmail.com. Thanks are also due to the following

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Hen Harrier (David Thelwell)

Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2017

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>)	14	11	11	1	26	23	21	25	23	7	4	2
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn <i>et al.</i>)	14	11	11	1	27	24	22	26	10	7	4	2
Milton Common (K Crisp)	16	13	13						11	9		11
Baffins Pond (K Crisp)	16	13	13						11	9	13	11
Portsmouth Harbour (DI Bill <i>et al.</i>)	14	11	11						23	7	4	2
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)	13	10	10	7						13	3	1
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)	21	11								8	4	2
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett)	14	11	11				23	26	9	8	5	2
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)	14	11	11	1	28	24	22	26			5	2
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)	14	11	11								5	2
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	13	10	13						24	6	3	4
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	14	11	11	1	27	24	22	26	23	7	4	2

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)	17	12	13	3	31					8	5	3
Hythe (BJ Roberts)	14		12		27			26	24	7	6	2
Fawley Refinery (JG Ross)	14	11										
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)	15	11	11							15	5	2
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth et al.)	15	12	12	2	28	25	23	27	24	8	5	3
Sowley Pond (ID Williamson)		12										
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)	14	11	12	2	27	24		26	25	9	6	2
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)	13	10	10	1	26	23	21	26	23	6	3	1
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman et al.)	14	11	11	1	27	24	22	26	23	7	4	2
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke)	15	12	12						24	20	19	17
R. Avon Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark, K Sayer)	17	12	12						24	22	19	17
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer, JM Clark)	18	13	16						24	22	19	17
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	15	12	12						24	22	19	17
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)	19	14	11							31	20	18
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)	15	12	12						24	20	19	17
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran)	14	12	15	29		10	29	31	24	28	19	17
<i>Test and Anton Valleys</i>												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth/S King)	15	17	12	1	27	24	23	26	24	7	4	2
Broadlands Lake (P White)									16	8	12	19
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	15									15	19	
Awbridge Lake (P White)									16	8	19	15
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	18	14	11	4	14	5	31	17	9	4	27	15
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	13	14	11	4	14	5	22	17	9	4	27	15
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)	14	12	13	11	13	3	21	11	7	6	23	9
Bransbury Common (GC Evans)				7	16	7	23	13	10	9	22	8
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	11	7	10	3	12	5	17	12	9	7	20	7
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)	17	8	9	6	11	6	19	10	6	12	17	5
Rooksbury Mill (D Piper)	14	12	12						10	8	12	10
Anton Lakes (D Piper)	14	12	12						10	8	12	10
Charlton Lakes (D Piper)	14	12	12						10	8	12	10
St Mary Bourne (D Piper)	14	12	12									
Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)			17	28	12				29		30	22
Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	22	12	5	9	14				24	8	19	
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	22	12	5	9	14				24	8	19	
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)	22	12	5	10	14				24	8	19	
<i>Itchen Valley</i>												
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	15	19	12						10	8	19	12
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)	19	17	13				24			8	21	13
Marwell Manor Trout Fishery (JM Cloyne)	19	17	13							8	21	13
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)	19	17	13				24			8	21	13
Winnall Moors (P White)									17	8	19	15

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	13	14	9	10	15	12	24	14		9	17	12
Avington Lake (DJ Pearson)	16	12	12						11	6	19	10
Arlebury Lakes (DJ Pearson/M Armitage)	16	12	12						10	8	21	5
Alresford Pond (DJ Pearson/M Armitage)	16	12	12						10	8	21	12
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)	26	27	30	14			24			9	1	
<i>North and north-east</i>												
Ramptons Lane GP (B Stalker)										8	19	16
Welshman's Road GP (B Stalker)										7	19	16
Wolverton Pond (B Sharkey)	15		13						10	8	19	10
Ewhurst Lake (B Sharkey)	15		13						10	8	19	10
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	15	12	12						10	8	19	17
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark, B Stalker)	18	18	16							10		27
Wellington CP (JM Clark, B Stalker)	18	12	16			16			10	8		
Bramshill Plantation (N Bolter)	21	12	12						9	8	19	
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	18	8	11			16			10	8	18	10
Busta Triangle (N Bolter)									9	8	19	
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	18	8	11			16			10	8	18	10
Eversley GP (RC Murfitt)	14	11	11	8			26		10	14	19	9
Yateley GP (JM Clark/A Stoney)	13	8	9				21		14	11	16	13
Hawley Lake (D Johnson)					14	11	23	13	10	8	19	12
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	14	12	12						10	15	19	9
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)	15	12							10	8	19	9
Edenbrook CP (J Blithe)											18	11
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	14	12	12						10	15	19	9
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	14	12	12						10	15	19	9
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	14	12	12						10	15	19	9
<i>East</i>												
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	14	11	12	10	14	11	22	10	25	2	19	10
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	19	13	9						12	9	21	6
Wyck Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	19	13	9						12	9	21	6
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)	19	13	9						12	9	21	6
Headley Mill Pond (R Stephens)	15	12	12	10	14	11	23	13	11	7	18	10
Passfield Pond (R Stephens)	15	12	12	10	14	11	23	13	11	7	18	10
Waggoners Wells, Grayshott (M Orchard-Webb)												
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	15	12	12	9	14	11	23	13	10	8	19	12
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	15	12	12		14	11	23	13	9		19	

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, R Lynch, L MacCallum, P May, P Potts, JRD Shillitoe, J Smallwood. **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- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2016	Latest 2017	Earliest 1954- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2016	Earliest 2017	Summering records
White-fr. Goose	29.5.15	28 Mar	6 Apr	26 Apr	4.10.52 4.10.14	12 Nov	26 Oct	NA	6 (June- Sep)
Bewick's Swan	25.3.16	12 Mar	4 Mar	NA	15.10.04	3 Nov	21 Nov	5 Nov	9 (Apr/ May)
Scaup	26.5.10	8 Apr	6 Apr	25 Mar	9.9.00	27 Oct	4 Nov	13 Oct	4 (June- Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	10 May	7 May	29.9.91	30 Oct	1 Nov	15 Nov	
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	18 Apr	22 Apr	23.9.61	4 Nov	10 Nov	9 Nov	4 (June- Aug)
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	9 May	6 May	8.9.09	4 Nov	16 Nov	14 Nov	2 (May- Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	22.6.13	12 May	28 May	13 May	16.9.03	5 Nov	19 Oct	20 Oct	1 (Aug)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	9 Mar	5 Feb	24.8.94	18 Oct	23 Nov	21 Dec	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	12 Apr	26 Mar	18.9.09	25 Oct	23 Oct	19 Nov	2 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	23 Apr	14 May	23.8.07	25 Sep	25 Sep	12 Oct	
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	11 May	22 May	7.7.69	4 Oct	15 Oct	16 Sep	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	11 Apr	6 May	21.8.08	28 Sep	27 Sep	7 Oct	
Merlin	24.5.03	23 Apr	29 Apr	7 May	30.7.05	24 Aug	23 Aug	8 Sep	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	4.10.72	17 Oct	17 Oct	3 Nov	
Fieldfare	23.5.80	28 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	3.9.04	30 Sep	5 Oct	9 Oct	5 (June)
Redwing	12.5.81	23 Apr	18 Apr	2 Apr	11.9.99 11.9.15	27 Sep	28 Sep	27 Sep	3 (June- July)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	14 Oct	16 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	22.9.96	5 Oct	10 Oct	4 Oct	1 (July)
Twite	13.4.75	NA	NA	NA	30.9.83	NA	NA	NA	
Lapland Bunting	23.4.10	NA	NA	NA	9.9.70	NA	18 Oct*	NA	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	11 Feb*	3 Feb	3.10.75	NA	31 Oct	29 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- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2016	Earliest 2017	Latest 1954- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2016	Latest 2017	Wintering records
Garganey	2.3.03	19 Mar	15 Mar	11 Mar	29.11.53	28 Sep	1 Oct	6 Sep	
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	15 May	24 May	19.11.58	24 Aug	20 Aug*	16 Aug**	6 (Dec- Mar)
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	18 Mar	21 Mar	11.12.99	14 Oct	6 Nov	12 Nov	
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	29 Apr	14 May	30.10.76	5 Oct	27 Sep	9 Sep	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	5 May*	24 Apr	2.11.60	31 Aug	27 Aug*	NA	
Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	26 Mar	9 Mar	6.11.66	2 Oct	4 Oct	29 Oct	2 (Dec)

Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	16 Mar	3 Mar	29.10.08	18 Sep	19 Sep	23 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	6 May	26.10.75	22 Sep	10 Sep	25 Oct	1 (Feb)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	12 Apr	9 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	19 Sep	11 Sep	1 (Jan)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	28 Apr	2 May	10.10.99	10 Sep	2 Sep	21 Aug	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	31 Mar	1 Apr	30.11.73	25 Oct	24 Oct	17 Oct	3 (Dec)
Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	23 Oct	23 Oct	
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	21 Sep	28 Sep	
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	2 Apr	28 Mar	29.11.14	27 Oct	25 Oct	15 Sep	15 (Dec/Jan)
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	18 Apr	27 Apr	7.11.70	3 Oct	20 Sep	22 Aug	5 (Dec-Feb)
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	2 Apr	1 Apr	30.10.10	13 Sep	9 Sep	29 Sep	
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	30 Apr	22 Apr	13.10.74	7 Sep	18 Sep	26 Aug	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	22 Sep	7 Oct	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	28 Apr*	1 June	9.11.13	27 Sep	16 Oct*	3 Oct	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	3 Apr	31 Mar	6.11.01 6.11.10	11 Oct	22 Oct	13 Oct	
Sand Martin	27.2.90	16 Mar	10 Mar	10 Mar	28.11.13	15 Oct	21 Oct	4 Oct	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09	20 Mar	18 Mar	11 Mar	22.12.77	27 Nov	1 Dec	25 Nov	7 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	24 Mar	27 Mar	22.12.82	17 Nov	8 Nov	26 Oct	2 (Jan/Feb)
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	20 Mar	10 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	10 Oct	14 Oct	
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	18 Apr	12 Apr	29.9.64	24 Aug	17 Aug	3 Sep	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	31 Mar	30 Mar	9.11.63	9 Oct	18 Oct	3 Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	1.4.94 1.4.15	13 Apr	5 Apr	1 Apr	2.12.84	19 Oct	26 Oct	29 Sep	
Grasshopper Wbr	1.4.97	16 Apr	11 Apr	14 Apr	20.10.01	18 Sep	2 Oct	26 Oct	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	11 Apr	2 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	5 Oct	1 Oct	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	31.10.82	2 Oct	9 Oct	3 Oct	11 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	3 Apr	Apr 2	17.11.95	6 Oct	18 Oct	3 Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	23 Mar	17 Mar	4.12.03	29 Oct	11 Nov	1 Nov	6 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	29.10.61	2 Oct	6 Oct	17 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75 3.4.12	14 Apr	8 Apr	13 Apr	9.10.85	21 Aug	16 Aug	7 July	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	9 Apr	11 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	24 Sep	17 Sep	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	2 Apr	1 Apr	24.11.89	14 Oct	20 Oct	17 Oct	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	25 Oct	26 Nov	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	31.12.94	10 Nov	14 Nov	14 Nov	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	31 Mar	24 Mar	20.11.76	19 Oct	21 Oct	11 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar	25.10.79	4 Oct	11 Oct	10 Oct	

* = based on limited data set; ** = excludes dead bird found 28 Sep; NA = not available.

Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over inland watchpoints during 2017

Data are extracted from the visible migration website www.trektellen.nl. Other Hampshire observers are encouraged to set up their own watchpoint sites on Trektellen, which has excellent tools available for analysing the data, by contacting the UK Trektellen organiser Clive McKay at clive.mckay@btinternet.com.

Trigpoint Hill, mid-Test Valley (David Thelwell)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cormorant	13	33	143	17	13	7	15	46	77	153	109	67
Golden Plover	6	134							140	58	96	45
Lapwing	52	168	12	4		5				39	42	131
Black-headed Gull	60			7	49			27	240	12	1	
Common Gull	31	1	1	2						5	5	2
LBB Gull	2	2	35	53	45	23	10	6		37	4	10
Herring Gull	3		9	14			13	204	269	65	115	4
GBB Gull		5	4	6	1			1		1	2	3
Stock Dove	25	29	44	14	63	8	38	27	752	538	33	14
Woodpigeon					292			40		6,035	6,680	
Collared Dove								2	3	20		
Swift					308	200	465	189				
GS Woodpecker				2			1	2	9	17	3	
Merlin			1						1	1		
Hobby				1	1	1		4	3			
Peregrine				1					1	3		
Jay		1							2	3	2	
Jackdaw										26		
Raven	7				2	2	2	1	4	8	2	4
Woodlark									4	6		
Skylark	2								87	276	60	
Sand Martin				2	7	2		2	4			
Swallow			1	116	218	7	154	485	5,011	227		
House Martin				20	107	24	137	712	10,890	339		
Starling	32	65	274			17	103	151	80	2,225	1,950	
Blackbird				3					3	5	13	2
Fieldfare	34	275	110	15						135	369	245
Song Thrush		2	2	2			1	2	12	51	8	8
Redwing	31	247	76							3,058	2,351	235
Mistle Thrush	1	4		1	4	6	5		19	50	32	11
<i>flava</i> Wagtail			1					1	16			
Grey Wagtail	1							1	14	4	3	1
<i>alba</i> Wagtail	3	1	19	3	13	3	2	2	49	116	23	3
Tree Pipit								8	1			
Meadow Pipit	6	3	1,305	103					626	518	207	12
Brambling				1						6	328	51
Chaffinch	47	32	43	1	5	4	2	7	147	757	552	175
Hawfinch				1					3	169	61	7
Bullfinch	1		2					2	2	52	23	10
Greenfinch	3		2	5	4	8	6	1	10	70	13	9
Linnet	127	37	289	131	82	154	150	267	129	1,101	416	239
Lesser Redpoll									1	43	136	25
Crossbill								4				

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goldfinch	18	9	22	12	6	3	11	72	127	125	113	27
Siskin	1	13	24	1					3	37	74	9
Yellowhammer	4	3	6	1		1		1	7	31	37	21
Reed Bunting	1								9	57	75	59
Days observation	7	7	12	9	10	6	8	14	15	20	20	13
Totals hours	6	5	14	10	11	6	9	19	26	30	27	14

Tweseldown Racecourse and Caesar’s Camp, near Fleet (John Clark & Graham Stephenson)

Species	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cormorant	27	24	67	
Golden Plover	2	12		
Lapwing		2	5	
Black-headed Gull	30	152	112	32
Common Gull		3	9	19
LBB Gull	8	66	14	1
Herring Gull	1	71	151	5
Stock Dove	988	808	316	34
Woodpigeon	433	7,808	21,764	167
Collared Dove	6	4	2	
Short-eared Owl			2	
GS Woodpecker	20	4	11	3
Merlin		2		
Hobby	2			
Peregrine				1
Ring-n Parakeet	1			
Magpie	4			
Jackdaw	143	160	105	9
Rook	1			
Raven	1	3	1	
Woodlark	13	32		
Skylark	13	75	28	
Sand Martin	56			
Swallow	3,385	51		
House Martin	14,885	781		

Species	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Starling	70	1,673	6,731	21
Ring Ouzel		2		
Blackbird	2	7	55	2
Fieldfare		607	3475	73
Song Thrush	2	191	142	39
Redwing	6	5,932	7,230	104
Mistle Thrush	28	44	14	2
Grey Wagtail	19	2	3	
alba Wagtail	39	200	4	
Tree Pipit	1			
Meadow Pipit	1,790	564	37	
Brambling		2	4	3
Chaffinch	78	1,555	1,173	69
Hawfinch		74	80	
Bullfinch		7	2	
Greenfinch	2	47	83	12
Linnet	271	889	539	
Lesser Redpoll		132	132	2
Goldfinch	218	554	886	12
Siskin	49	160	70	
Yellowhammer		1		
Reed Bunting		23	8	1
Days observation	19	22	25	4
Totals hours	44	52	57	4



Woodpigeon movement at Trigpoint Hill, Nov 16th 2013 (David Thelwell)

Appendix I

Outstanding, pending 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.

2017 – HOSRP

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*: Brownwich, June 7th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Whale Island, Portsmouth, Oct 18th.

Records still under consideration

2017 – BBRC

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*: Blashford Lakes, Apr 17th-May 11th.

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.

2017 – BBRC

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*: Farlington Marshes, Aug 21st.

Two-barred Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*: Titchfield Haven, Oct 26th.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*: Bordon, Apr 3rd.

2017 – HOSRP

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Owslebury, May 30th.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*: Southampton, Jan 2nd.

Common Crane *Grus grus*: Romsey, Apr 22nd.

Common Crane *Grus grus*: Petersfield, June 26th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Lepe, Mar 26th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Fawley, Aug 10th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: East Boldre, Aug 14th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Keyhaven, Sep 18th.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*: Hook-with-Warsash, Nov 13th.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*: Romsey, Dec 28th.

Serin *Serinus serinus*: Acres Down, June 1st.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*: Needs Ore, Dec 2nd.

Appendix 2

Observers and Contributors 2017

Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2017 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.

Abrahams, R	Bass, D	Boswell, SA	Calbrade, NA	Cockburn, C
Adams, MC	Bassett, A	Boswell, SR	Calcutt, D	Codlin, TD
Adams, N	Bassett, S	Boult, P	Calderwood, G	Cole, D
Ade, A	Batchelor, SD	Bowes, IR	Calderwood, I	Colledge, D
Agombar, D	Bates, CM	Bowman, C	Callaghan, SA	Collen, L
Alexander, G	Bath, M	Bown, C	Campbell, DK	Collins, AR
Alexander, H	Batho, GS	Bradfield, S	Campbell, P	Collins, CB
Allen, AE	Beal, S	Brandsma, J	Candelin, GW	Collins, M
Allen, CA	Bealey, CG	Bray, B	Carey, S	Collins, P
Allen, J	Beaney, VR	Bray, J	CARMEN	Collins, REC
Allen, N	Beardmore, MD	Breakspear, MA	Carpenter, RJ	Collman, JR
Allnutt, DP	Beards, G	Brett, EC	Carpenter, TF	Colverson, I
Amery, A	Beare, R	Bright-Thomas, P	Cashman, P	Combridge, P
Amey, LJ	Bell, DA	Broadhurst, A	Casson, J	Compton, DK
Andrews, JK	Bell, M	Broadway, R	Cattell, M	Cook, CR
Andrews, S	Bennett, J	Brook, R	Catty, N	Cook, R
Armitage, M	Bennett, KA	Brookes, CM	Cavey, I	Cooke, RE
Armson, J	Bennett, M	Brookes, D	Chalmers, ML	Coomber, R
Arrowsmith, W	Bennett, MJ	Brooks, C	Chalmers, S	Cooper, A
Ashworth, IA	Bennett, P	Brown, C	Chamberlain, LJ	Cooper, C
Atkin, J	Beresford, PJ	Brown, D	Chapleo, C	Cooper, J
Atkinson, S	Berryman, A	Brown, J	Chapman, J	Cooper, M
Austin, D	Betton, KF	Brown, M	Chapman, RA	Cooper, MD
Austin, P	Bevis, S	Brown, NH	Chapman, SE	Cooper, P
Austin, T	Bhatia, Z	Brown, RI	Chase, P	Cooper, R
Aylward, PJ	Bickerton, T	Brunton, S	Chastell, SM	Cooper, SL
Badnell, JM	Bignell, S	Bryant, P	Cheese, TE	Copleston, P
Bailey, A	Bill, DI	Bryant, R	Cheke, D	Copsey, S
Baker, CG	Bingley, JH	Bryant, RCS	Cheke, RA	Cordery, RJ
Baker, LJ	Bird, G	BTO Datasets	Chilton, KS	Cornford, HR
Baker, M	Bird, ME	Buchanan, M	Christie, DA	Cossey, S
Baker, MJ	Birdguides,	Buck, T	Christopher, R	Court, JMC
Baker, R	Birkett, J	Buckel, FC	Churcher, K	Cowley, P
Bakewell, D	Bishop, G	Buckle, NA	Clark, FC	Cox, AFJ&PR
Ball, DJG	Bissell, L	Buckler, DJ	Clark, JM	Cox, D
Ball, TG	Bissell, LJ	Budd, PA	Clarke, D	Cox, S
Ballam, ID	Blakeley, AF	Bunday, TW	Clay, M	Cozens, BR
Balmer, AJ	Blandford, D	Burch, C	Clay, RP	Craft, SJ
Bamford, P	Blithe, J	Burchall, G	Cleal, DL	Cranfield, M
Barber, LJ	Blowfield, MG	Burchell, D	Clements, J	Cray, K
Barker, P	Blunden, AC	Burns, ANM	Clements, R	Creese, M
Barrass, C	Bollen, CF	Burrell, R	Clemons, S	Creighton, M
Barrett, GC	Bolter, N	Burton, H	Cliffe, J	Crisp, K
Barrett, MA	Bolton, A	Butler, ED	Cloyne, JM	Crook, K
Bartlett, MD	Borras, W	Butler, TJ	Coates, BF	Crook, N
Barton, D	Boswell, M	Butson, P	Coble, A	Cross, AR

Crow, TH	Drewett, A	Fuller, LM	Hampson, IR	Holloway, Y
Crowley, PJ	Dudley, B	Fulton, A	Hampton, D	Holt, MJ
Cumming, DA	Duffin, BS	Fussell, M	HAMPY	Holter, CA
Cummins, OT	Duffus, G	Gale, C	Hanby, AM	Hooper, L
Cummins, T	Duncan, KP	Gale, L	Hannam, JC	Hooper, MJ
Currie, S	Durell, D	Galpin, SA	Hardy, R	Hooper, S
Curson, S	Durham, B	Gammage, PA	Hare, M	Horne, D
Curtin, J	Durkin, R	Gardiner, A	Hargreaves, BT	Houghton, DP
Cutting, J	Durnell, PR	Garner-Langham, L	Harmer, F	Howard, AM
Dale, M	Easom, L	Garrad, J	Harrington, C	Howe, AR
Dale, PJT	Edge, B	Gaskin, LA	Harrington, E	Howell, R
Dando, G	Edgeller, ML	Gent, CR	Harrington, ST	Hudson, A
Daniel, M	Edmunds, H	Gent, J	Harris, CJ	Hughes, J
Daniels, B	Ellis, D	George, CM	Harris, GO	Hull, NJ
d'Apice, MHR	Embersson, M	Gibbons, M	Harris, JR	Hulme, J
Darley, J	Emmott, K	Giddens, GSA	Harris, NG	Hume, RA
Darling, M	Englefield, K	Gilby, D	Harrison, C	Humfrey, G
Darnley-Smith, C	Espin, PMJ	Gilham, R	Hart, R	Humphrey, P
Darrell-Lambert, DG	Etheridge, L	Gillingham, D	Hartill, S	Humphrey, VF
Davidson, AS	Evans, C	Gillingham, JKC	Harvey, MJ	Humphries, DJ
Davies, G	Evans, DG	Gillingham, MA	Harvey, SC	Hunt, PR
Davies, K	Evans, GC	Glasspool, Y	Hastings, D	Hurst, F
Davies, MH	Evans, J	Glavin, M	Hatch, SG	Hutchins, AJ
Davies, SJ	Evans, L	Goater, B	Hatcher, JJ	Hutchins, PE
Davis, G	Evans, LGR	Goble, C	Hatcher, SP	Hyam, M
Dawson, A	Evans, S	Goddard, B	Hatfield, L	Igglesden, B
Dawson, A&C	Eyre, JA	Godden, RJ	Hawk Conservancy	Ilsley, KJ
Dawson, R	Fagan, T	Godfrey, KM	Hawtree, JN	Ingram, C
Dawson, SJ	Faithfull, J	Godfrey, MF	Hay, MJW	Ingram, S
De Potier, AF	Farrell, C	Goldsmith, N	Hayden, A	Iredale, R
de Retuerto, MA	Farwell, G	Goodridge, JJ	Haydon, RM	Irvine, RJ
Dean, P	Fawkes, PF	Goodspeed, JR	Hayward, RJ	Irving, R
Deane, L	Fellows, BJ	Gorman, D	HCC Staff Yateley Common	Isaacs, J
Dedman, JW	Fennemore, GD	Graham, T	Heap, D	Ison, M
Dellow, JB	Fenton-Scott, D	Green, AE	Heath, AB	Ives, BGR
Dennett, S	Ferguson, N	Green, C	Heath, PA	Jackson, AG
Dennis, G	Fern, A	Green, T	Heaver, M	Jackson, R
Denton, J	Field, AR	Greenfield, C	Hedley, B	Jackson, SJ
Derrick, DM	Field, E	Gregory, AP	Hellier, RD	Jacobs, RJK
Dewey, S	Findlay, R	Griffin, M	Henderson, M	Jacobs, RS
Diamond, JR	Finlayson, M	Grimshaw, R	Heward, Y	James, AR
Dicker, GM	Fisher, AC	Grist, DM	Hewitt, JH	James, P
Dickinson, J	Fitzgerald, M	Guest, IR	Hewitt, S	Jennings, FME
Dicks, DEJ	Fleming, K	Guinane, M	Highfield, M	Jennings, S
Dixon, C	Flesher, R	Gunningham, BM	Hiley, S	Jewsbury, D
Dixon, P	FLIFFTA	Gutteridge, AC	Hill, MJ	Johnson, AC
Dodsworth, P	Floyd, P	GWCT,	Hilton, JI	Johnson, D
Doherty, TA	Foad, P	Gwynn, BS	Hoare, DJ	Johnson, K
Donaldson, PC	Ford, PMS	Hack, PJ	Hobbs, K	Jones, B
Doran, TMJ	Ford, R	Hainsworth, IR	Hobby, P	Jones, C
Douglas, A	Ford, S	Haisell, O	Hockey, A	Jones, CM
Dove, A	Forder, A	Hale, APS	Hocking, C	Jones, D
Down, G	Fordham, G	Hale, JA	Hogan, P	Jones, I
Downey, B	Frampton, J	Hall, G	Hogston, P	Jones, J
Downing, J	Frampton, OJ	Hall, T	Holderness, M	Jones, MF
Downing-emms, HL	Francis, M	Hallett, RJ	Holding, AP	Jones, NR
Drake, A	Free, D	Halligan, MJ	Holland, D	Jones, P
	French, CD	Halstead, H	Hollidge, K	Jones, PD
	Friend, A	Hammatt, N		Jones, PE

Jones, RA	Lloyd, SJH	Meikle, J	Norton, T	Pointer, RG
Jones, SEI	Lock, D	Melrose, M	Norton, WJE	Porter, A
Jones, T	Locke, A	Mercer, J	NTNF marker	Potts, PM
Jordan, T	Lockhart, SJ	Merritt, E	Nurse, MW	Pounds, MD
Julian, D	Lodge, C	Metcalf, KD	O'Hea, W	Powell, J
Kearns, K	Lord, P	Middleton, L	Oram, MA	Pratt, E
Keen, SG	Louch, A	Miles, S	Oram, P	Priest, S
Keightley, DW	Lowe, WJ	Milinet-Raby, PN	Orson, N	Prince, K
Kellett, G	Lowings, VA	Millar, JGB	Osborn, P	Pringle, M
Kelson, D	Luff, C	Miller, J	Osborne, BA	Pritchard, DM
Kendall, P	Luke, DJ	Miller, L	Osborne, G	Pullen, AP
Kennelly, AD	Lunn, AP	Milligan, RF	Osmond, R	Pullin, G
Kettell, MM	Lush, M	Mills, DGH	Overy, L	Pusey, J
King, GJ	Lycett, C	Mills, M	Overy, MK	Puttock, B
King, M	Lymbery, PJ	Minns, D	Ovington, R	Pyke, L
King, SJ	Lyons, M	Mintram, G	Owen, AE	Pyrah, RJ
King, SS	Mabbett, T	Mitchell, D	Owen, GM	PYRALIDI
Kirby, AJ	Macbean, H	Mitchell, R	Owen, NT	Pyrezewski, MS
Kitching, I	Macklin, RN	Mogg, D	Page, AG	Quinn, V
Knass, G	Macmillan, M	Montegriffo, NJ	Page, SD	Radden, DJC
Knight, AR	MacNish, A	Moody, MP	Pain, J	RAF Ornithological
Knight, CM	Mallard, D	Moon, J&J	Painter, MG	Society
Knight, D	Mann, L	Moore, AP	Painton, JL	Rafter, M
Knight, DC	Manning, CP	Morris, G	Palmer, MJ	Ralphs, IL
Knight, N	Manning, S	Morris, ME	Palmer, RA	Randall, M
Knott, G	Mansfield, SJ	Morrison, L	Papps, N	Rankin, G
Labram, E	Marchant, JH	Morrison, R	Parker, AJ	Rawlings, ND
Lambden, M	Marchant, RH	Mortimore, K	Parker, J	Raymond, CJ
Lambe, GP	Marriner, N	Moseley, J	Parker, NAJ	Raynor, EM
Lambert, SR	Marshall, R	Moseley, JC	Parkin, LT	Redhead, JW
Lang, IM	Marston, PC	Moss, S	Parsonage, A	Reed, C
Langfelder, P	Martin, A	Mountford, A	Parsons, I	Rees, GD
Latham, MJ	Martin, AP	Mullender, CAS	Pascal, RW	Reeves, DJ
Lawn, MR	Martin, JP	Munday, DR	Paton, N	Reeves, E
Lawrence, SP	Martin, JT	Munts, D	Paxton, T	Reeves, G
Lawson, MJ	Maskell, JM	Murdoch, DA	Payne, D	Reeves, J
Layton, S	Maskell, K	Murdock, A	Peace, RK	Reid, GS
Leath, KE	Massey, A	Murfitt, RC	Peacock, D	Reid, IA
Lee, R	Matthews, N	Murray, D	Pearce, R	Rhodes, AR
Lee, RD	Matthews, PJ	Nash, C	Pearce, RK	Rhodes, AS
Lee, RL	Maundrell, AJ	Naturetrek Team,	Pearson, DJ	Rich, G
Lee, T	May, K	Neal, SM	Pearson, P	Rickard, M
Legge, WGD	May, P	Needs Ore Log,	Peck, R	Righelato, R
Leishman, S	Mayhead, C	Nelson, R	Peckham, I	Riley, JD
Lerpinriere, RJ	Mayne, W	New Forest	Pentek, P	Rippon, G
Lester, AJB	Mcardle, K	Winter Bird	Pepper, G	Ritchie, S
Lester, M	McCanch, NV	Survey	Peters, JN	Roberts, BJ
Levell, JE	McCarthy, JS	New, K	Phillips, D	Roberts, ET
Leversha, PS	McCarthy, MG	Newton, C	Pidgeon, M	Roberts, GCM
Levett, RK	McCullagh, SFH	Newton, SJ	Piggott, SP	Roberts, J
Levy, DA	McCulloch, JI	Nicol-Harper, A	Pigot, M	Roberts, M
Lewis, Alan	McEwan, C	Nieuwerkerk, A	Pinchen, BJ	Robertson, D
Lewis, JH	McIntyre, R	Nightingale, J	Pink, MA	Robertson, MJ
Limburn, B	Mcmullan, H	Noble, A	Piper, DJ	Robinson, CC
Lintott, BJ	McMullen, C	Noble, D	Pitman, JAC	Robison, DM
Lintott, EA	McVeigh, A	Norman, MJ	Pitt, MJ	Robjohns, AL
Liscoe, R	Mead, G	Norris, PR	Place, RM	Rodger, B
Litjens, MA	Mears, A	Norriss, TJ	Platts, RC	Rolfe, MD
Little, DI	Mears, I	Norton, JA	Pleasance, J	Rooney, G

Rose, C	Smallbone, AC	Stouse, K	Tucker, S	White, C
Rose, V	Smallwood, J	Strangeman, PJ	Tuesday Group	White, K
Ross, CM	Smart, NR	Stride, E	Tuffin, B	White, KG
Ross, JG	Smart, S	Stride, L	Tulloch, R	White, PJ
Rouse, H	Smith, A	Such, TJ	Turner, JP	White, S
Rowe, HEJ	Smith, AD	Sussex, DJ	Turner, KA	Whitehead, RD
Rowse, P	Smith, BE	Sutton, B	Turton, MH	Whitehead, SG
Rowsell, E	Smith, CJ	Sutton, P	Tutton, M	Whitfield, DJ
RSPB	Smith, D	Swallow, JL	Twyman, AP	Wildish, MF
Russell, L	Smith, IA	Swann, M	Tyler, D	Wildlife Enquiries
Ryves, DJ	Smith, JC	Swensson, DE	Unsworth, DJ	Team
Sampson, S	Smith, JF	Swinbank, R	Upton, G	Wilkerson, G
Saunders, TJ	Smith, KW	Symonds, ERC	Upton, P	Wilkes, KR
Sawyer, R	Smith, MA	Taylor, A	Vening, J	Wilkinson, D
Sayer, KR	Smith, MJ	Taylor, C	Vokes, MG	Williams, BR
Scantlebury, RL	Smith, NC	Taylor, D	Wagstaff, MA	Williams, C
Scorey, PS	Smith, P	Taylor, DH	Walker, BJ	Williams-Jones, D
Scott, A	Smith, SF	Taylor, MJ	Walker, H	Williamson, C
Scudamore, P	Smith, SJ	Taylor, RJ	Walker, J	Williamson, ID
SDFBI	Smith, TC	Taylor, RW	Walker, K	Williamson, J
Seaton, C	Smith, W	Terry, MGW	Walker, TH	Williamson, MJ
Seaward, J	Snook, AM	Terry, MH	Wall, RA	Wills, KB
Seligman, PM	Speller, T	Tew, AB	Wallace, D	Wilson, C
Severs, R	Spence, IM	TH visitor,	Wallington, A	Wilson, MA
Seymour, K	Spencer, G	Thelwell, DA	Walls, SS	Winter, PD
Shaft, M	Spicer, M	Theobald, RC	Waltham-Hier, D	Wiseman, EJ
Sharkey, B	Spooner, CD	Thompson, BG	Ward, M	Wood, M
Sharp, A	Stacey, G	Thompson, PGL	Warner, D	Wood, T
Sharp, G	Stalker, B	Thornton, GA	Warren, C	Woodley, SR
Sharpe, R	Standish, T	Thorpe, CJ	Waterman, JR	Woods, R
Shave, MJ	Steagles, GJ	Thurnell-Read, J	Watson, IR	Woodward, G
Shaw, MD	Steele, AJ	Thurston, MH	Watson, RF	Woolfries, SA
Shelley, J&C	Stephens, R	Tindale, AD	Watts, IR	Woollard, A
Shillitoe, JRD	Stephenson, GC	Todd, A	Watts, R	Woolley, SK
Ship, R	Stevens, M	Toft, RT	Weager, CW	Woolley, M
Short, PP	Stevens, P	Tofts, R	Wearing, MF	Worgan, C
Shrive, D	Stevens, T	Toomer, J	Wearn, GM	Wright, A
Sibsey, I	Stevenson, DE	Toynnton, PE	Webb, AR	Wright, D
Siddle, G	Stewart, AH	Treadaway, D	Webb, RM	Wright, M
Simcox, WF	Stewart, D	Trektellen.org,	Webley, JJ	Wynde, AR
Simons, J	Stewart, GJ	Trenerry, S	Wells, A	Yates, PJ
Simpson, KJ	Stimpson, T	Trollope, CE	Wells, ID	Yates, SR
Sinclair, J	Stocker, A	Trout, NS	Wescombe, JW	Yelland, DM
Skeels, D	Stone, S	TSTEGGALL	West, J	Young, A
Sketch, PA	Stoneman, M	Tubbs, KI	Weston, ILG	Young, K
Slade, C	Stoney, A	Tubbs, JM	Whitaker, MSF	

Contributors

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 HWT Reserves Officers and Wardens

Needs Ore Log
 Rare Bird Alert
 Richard Carpenter's weekly Titchfield Haven
 area summaries
 RSPB Stone-curlew Team
 Trektellen
 WeBS Partnership

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. (Note sequence below has not been updated to latest BOURC/IOC sequence.)
- 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 2018 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 (5), M
Greenfinch	CB, F (20), M

Linnet	CB, F (20), M
Twite	A, Notes
Lesser Redpoll	A
Common Crossbill	A
Goldfinch	CB, F (50), 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, **Black-tailed Godwit of race *limosa***, 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.

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. Photographs of birds in flight, in flocks or with extensive areas of habitat visible are particularly encouraged.

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.



Little Ringed Plover, Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes, May 6th (Martin Clay)

Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2017

Tony Davis

Introduction

This report summarises the fieldwork carried out by ringers and nest recorders in Hampshire during 2017. 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.*, 2018).

The total number of birds ringed in Hampshire was 27,504, including 2,497 nestlings. This is the highest ever total in the county by more than 1,850 birds. The number of species ringed was 104, one more than in 2016. 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 30 ringers or groups known to be operating within the county. The number of each species ringed in 2017, and the all-time totals since 1972, are shown in Table 1.

The winter periods at both ends of the year were generally mild and the survival rates of resident birds will consequently have been good. The absence of severe weather, and a pattern of strong westerly winds during the key autumn migration period, did however result in low numbers of many winter visitors.

April was mild and very dry and many early nesting species had unusually successful first broods. The dry conditions meant that thrushes struggled to find invertebrate food for their chicks and it was noted that remaining Ivy *Hedera helix* berries were an important food source at this time. The conditions did provide opportunities for other species however and Grey Wagtails were recorded on several occasions catching small fish from New Forest streams which had slowed to a trickle.

In May the weather deteriorated and was often cool and unsettled, conditions that remained in place for much of the rest of the breeding season. As a result, productivity of many species was average at best and in many cases rather poor.

Record ringing totals were achieved for 17 species. Little Tern, Mediterranean Gull, Fieldfare and Tree Pipit are generally only ringed in low numbers in the county and the record totals are just the result of particularly successful efforts by individuals. Kestrel, Bullfinch and Hawfinch are the subject of specialist studies. Record totals for Great Spotted Woodpecker and Great Tit are probably just the result of increased overall effort in the county, although the former has an increasing population. The increasing use of garden feeders by Goldfinches makes them easier to catch in large numbers and a new lure has enabled larger numbers of Redwings to be caught in recent years. The number of Chiffchaffs ringed in the county is now four times that generally achieved prior to 15 years ago. This will be due to a combination of increased ringing effort and a strongly increasing population.

The remaining species for which record totals were achieved (Goldcrest, Firecrest, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper and Wren) are all particularly small species which are vulnerable to cold winter weather. The relative scarcity of such conditions in recent years is no doubt a

major contributing factor to the rapidly increasing trend in the number of these species ringed during this decade. Figure 1 compares the numbers ringed of some of these smaller species with the totals for Blackbird which is less affected by cold weather. It will be interesting to see what effect the severe weather of early 2018 has on the respective totals.

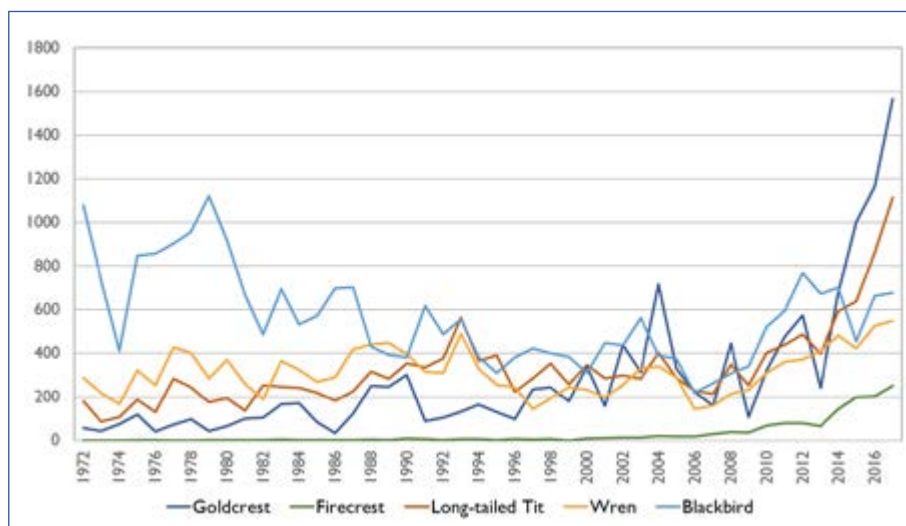


Figure 1. The annual totals ringed between 1972 and 2017 for a range of small sized species compared with Blackbird.

Ringling 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 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 Firecrests and one each on Sand Martins, Great Tits, Wood Warblers, House Sparrows and Bullfinches.

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 24 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

Table 1. 2017 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2017	Total 1972-2017
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	4	0	4	1,557
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>	1	0	1	74
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	1	0	1	55
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	0	0	0	401
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	0	0	0	45
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	0	0	0	595
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4	0	4	469
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	4	4	31
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	47	47	341
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	16	0	16	1,491
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	0	0	177
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	6	0	6	117
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	0	0	0	2
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	0	0	0	1
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	4	0	4	394
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	0	87
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	0	10	10	271
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	0	0	0	31
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	3	3	1,050
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	0	0	9
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	0	271
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2	76	78	2,575
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	0	0	139
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	31	0	31	1,808
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	606
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 2017	Total 1972-2017
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>	35	0	35	499
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	85	0	85	13,388
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>	2	0	2	191
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>	1	0	1	2,878
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyrtes minimus</i>	0	0	0	79
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	182	1	183	2,338
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	3	0	3	533
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	10	0	18
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	1	13	14	216
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	32	32	645
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	26	133	159	8,142
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	83	83	115
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>	0	2	2	129
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	0	0	0	25
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	9	24	33	886
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	40	3	43	1,146
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	5	2	7	2,882
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	0	0	62
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	0	0	0	78
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	15	174	189	1,556
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	2	16	18	199
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	2	30	32	463
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>	14	9	23	395
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	0	26	26	3,109
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	0	0	0	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	60	0	60	1,133
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	0	0	0	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	11	0	11	335
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	111	0	111	1,173
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	0	0	0	43

Table 1 (cont). 2017 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2017	Total 1972-2017
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	197	200	1,525
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1	3	4	21
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	11	11	51
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	0	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	7	0	7	581
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	25	0	25	820
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	9	2	11	578
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	6	0	6	638
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	0	0	0	109
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	1,566	0	1,566	12,799
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	250	0	250	1,344
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	1
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2,848	336	3,184	101,166
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	1,289	217	1,506	40,994
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	313	1	314	6,200
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	0	0	277
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	22	0	22	963
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	51	3	54	1,390
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	2	31	33	609
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	0	1	414
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	169	0	169	23,960
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	157	447	604	43,538
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	84	0	84	5,478
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	125	0	125	2,199
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1,114	0	1,114	15,054
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	2	0	2	16
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	14	45	59	1,702
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2,197	8	2,205	26,291
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	651	53	704	18,980
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2,056	7	2,063	29,225
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	129	0	129	3,653
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	0	0	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	30	0	30	1,432
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	358	0	358	6,566
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	13	0	13	425
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>	170	0	170	5,520
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>	0	0	0	56
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	845	0	845	41,849
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>	822	60	882	35,558
Waxwing <i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>	0	0	0	38

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2017	Total 1972-2017
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	84	14	98	2,065
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	79	0	79	1,699
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	541	6	547	14,467
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	397	29	426	13,201
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	619	57	676	26,015
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	219	0	219	1,318
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	215	24	239	7,618
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	332	0	332	4,221
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	4	0	4	689
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	6	4	10	1,599
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	818	38	856	20,412
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	9	0	9	251
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>	0	0	0	32
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	5	3	8	682
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	0	1	191
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	30	76	106	2,063
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	4	0	4	72
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	551	11	562	15,318
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	430	2	432	7,145
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	0	0	0	757
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	0	0	0	2,410
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	32	59	91	2,110
Pied / White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	31	13	44	12,093
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	59	7	66	647
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	202	4	206	4,314
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	0	0	0	108
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	0	0	0	42
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	508	0	508	17,419
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	17	0	17	5,780
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	48	0	48	97
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	276	0	276	6,069
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	739	3	742	39,512
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	191	21	212	4,178
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	1	0	1	39
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	311	0	311	4,038
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	0	0	8
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1,676	3	1,679	13,329
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	263	0	263	16,103
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	0	0	0	89
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	88	4	92	2,483
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	0	0	0	4
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	218	0	218	10,112
TOTALS	25,007	2,497	27,504	752,230

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 & 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.

Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlews, Redshanks and Turnstones are colour-ringed in Southampton Water, while **Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks** (www.greenshank.info/), and **Ringed Plovers** have been marked primarily in Langstone and Chichester Harbours and Sanderling have been marked on Hayling Island. Colour-ring sightings of any of these species should be sent to Peter Potts at petermpotts@gmail.com. **Sanderling** sightings can also be entered direct on <https://animaltrack.org/>.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. Sightings to grahamgiddens@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 *n* is a number. Sightings to kevs866@gmail.com.

Mediterranean Gulls are ringed in Langstone Harbour with a yellow ring with four digits. Sightings to medgullring@gmail.com.

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@wildnewforest.co.uk. Those on Southampton Common have a colour below the metal ring on the left leg (sightings to andy_welch@sky.com).

Woodlarks 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 and in Chilbolton, sightings to hantsbto@hotmail.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@wildnewforest.co.uk.

Use of new technologies

A range of tags for tracking the movement of birds has become available in recent years and the size of these tags has reduced considerably, enabling them to be fitted to a wider range of species. Tags tend to be fitted to a small number of individuals due to the costs involved but they provide detailed histories of the movements of these individuals. Details of some of the projects taking place in Hampshire are given below.

Farlington Ringing Group have fitted 17 geolocators to **Greenshanks** at their roost on Thorney Island. These birds spend the low tide feeding in the intertidal creeks in the Hampshire part of Chichester Harbour from Emsworth to Hayling and Langstone. Eleven tags have been subsequently recovered so that the data can be retrieved. Analysis showed that two birds summered in Scotland, eight in Scandinavia and one probably in western Russia. All previous Scandinavian recoveries and sightings of ringed birds have been in Norway apart from one shot in the White Sea, Russia. *Information provided by Pete Potts.*



Greenshank with colour rings and geolocator, Langstone Mill, Sep 4th (Peter Milinets-Raby)

Prior to the end of 2017, six **Cuckoos** have been fitted with satellite tags in the New Forest. Davis & Hewson (2017) described the movements of one of these birds, Selborne, which was sponsored by Hampshire Ornithological Society. Since then Selborne has completed another round trip to Africa. His latest position, and that of other New Forest tagged Cuckoos, can be viewed at <https://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking>.

Sixteen wintering **Blackcaps** were colour-ringed at Chilbolton in January to March 2017, and five of these were fitted with geolocators. Five colour-ringed birds, including two of the geo-locator birds, returned to the same garden in November / December. The geolocators were retrieved, and analysis showed that one had spent the breeding season about 1,000 km to the east of Chilbolton – somewhere south of Munich in Germany, or possibly in vicinity of Innsbruck in Austria. This was pretty much in line with expectation for our wintering Blackcaps. The other bird had surprisingly gone about 500 km to the south-east – to eastern France, probably somewhere near Dijon. This bird stayed in Chilbolton throughout the 2017-18 winter, and has been fitted with a new geo-locator. So we may hopefully discover next winter whether eastern France is again his summer preferred location. *Information provided by Glynne Evans.*

Ten **Wood Warblers** were fitted with geolocators in 2016. One tag was retrieved in 2017 and the data recovered. This individual spent August in Italy before crossing the Sahara to western Chad or east Niger in early September. After about ten days it moved west to the Mali / Burkina Faso border area, where it remained until late November when it moved further west to Sierra Leone or Guinea. The remainder of the winter was spent in this area before

it migrated north in April. This bird, together with one tagged on Dartmoor at the same time, provided the first information about the wintering areas of British Wood Warblers.

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.

Mute Swan. Most reports of ringed Mute Swans are close to the original ringing site but an adult male ringed on Southampton Common in January 2014 was resighted in July 2017 at Abergele, Conwy, just over 300km to the north-west.

Teal. An adult male ringed at Farlington Marshes in September 2010 was shot in Karelia, Russia in May 2017. Moving in a somewhat different direction, another male ringed in Aveiro, Portugal on 10 February 2017 was resighted at Blashford Lakes 35 days later.

Shoveler. An adult male ringed at Farlington Marshes in October 2013 was shot at Sangatte, Pas-de-Calais, France in September 2017.

Little Egret. The nestling colour-ringed at Sowley Pond in June 2006 continues to set new national age records for this species with each resighting. It was still being seen on Oxey Marsh on the last day of 2017. Any further reports will of course set further national age records 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 August 2017.

Avocet. Colour ringing of small numbers of chicks at Great Marsh is producing some interesting life histories. One example ringed in June 2014 was resighted at Titchfield Haven in early May 2017 but by July had moved to near Barnstaple in Devon. Another 2014 chick was seen at Rye Harbour, East Sussex in late June 2017, Titchfield Haven in late July and Poole Harbour in late October. A 2015 chick was seen at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire in early April 2017, Titchfield Haven 16 days later, Needs Ore in late May, back at Titchfield Haven in early June, Newport Wetland Centre, Gwent in mid-July and Poole Harbour in late October. The longest movement of the year however involved a chick ringed in Hartlepool in June 2016 which was resighted at Titchfield Haven in late July 2017.

Oystercatcher. A first-year bird ringed at Farlington Marshes in August 2012 was resighted in the Netherlands during June and July 2017. Further evidence of Dutch breeding birds wintering in Hampshire came from a chick ringed in the Netherlands in 2004 being found freshly dead at Black Point, Hayling Island in February 2017. An adult ringed on Hayling Island in October 2011 was shot at Dunkerque, France in November 2017. The longest movement of the year however involved a first-winter bird ringed at Hamble Point, Southampton Water in March 2011 which was resighted in Vest-Agder, Norway in April 2017.

Lapwing. A nesting ringed at Tidgrove Warren Farm in May 2015 was shot in Manche, France in late November 2017.

Turnstone. Limited details are available but a bird ringed in Iwik, Mauritania in November 2014 was resighted at Park Shore, Lepe on 22 May 2017. It is most unfortunate that details of this bird do not seem to have been submitted to the BTO.

Dunlin. A first-year bird ringed in Sweden in late August 2017 was retrapped on Hayling Island 56 days later, some 1,250km south-west of its ringing site.

Common Sandpiper. An adult which was colour-ringed at Farlington Marshes in August 2013 was once again seen on its breeding grounds in Opland, Norway in early July 2017 before being resighted at Farlington in late July and early August.

Greenshank. An adult ringed in Belgium in April 2009 was retrapped at Farlington Marshes in early August 2017.

Redshank. An adult ringed at Hamble Point, Southampton Water in March 2011 was resighted in Arnessysla, Iceland, presumably on its breeding grounds, in early June 2017.

Woodcock. A first-winter bird ringed in the New Forest in November 2014 was shot some 3,000km to the east in Russia in April 2017. Two further first-year birds ringed in late 2015 at Rotherfield Park and in the New Forest were shot in France in 2017.

Snipe. An adult ringed in the Czech Republic in September 2016 was shot at Ellingham in early December 2017.

Black-headed Gull. As usual there were many sightings of colour-ringed birds. Nestlings ringed in Finland and Estonia and adults from Poland and the Czech Republic were seen in Hampshire during 2017. Nestlings from Blashford Lakes were seen in Eire (two), France (two) and Spain.

Mediterranean Gull. An adult female ringed during May 2014 in Poland was resighted in early October 2017 at Lepe.

Goldcrest. A first-year male made an unusual easterly movement from Farnborough Airport to Belgium between mid-October and mid-November 2017.

Long-tailed Tit. This species is not known for long distance movements, so a juvenile ringed at Embley Wood in June 2016 and killed by a cat at Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire in February 2017 is noteworthy.

Willow Warbler. Some rapid southerly movements were recorded in the autumn. A first-year bird ringed at Winchester in late July moved the 206km to Pas-de-Calais in just four days. A Blashford bird travelled 977km to Lugo, Spain in 11 days in September while a Chilling individual, ringed at the end of August, took 23 days to move 1,100km to Pontevedra in Spain where it spent at least five days refuelling.

Sedge Warbler. Two Titchfield Haven ringed birds were retrapped in France during autumn migration. A first year bird ringed in late August 2016 in Belgium was retrapped at Titchfield in early August 2017, whilst another which was ringed in late August 2014 in Palencia, Spain was retrapped at Farlington Marshes in early April 2017.

Reed Warbler. Two first-year birds ringed at Titchfield Haven in 2014 and 2016 were retrapped in Liege, Belgium during August 2017. Two more Titchfield birds ringed in mid-July and early August 2017 travelled to Portugal, taking 22 days to travel 1,300km and 24 days to move over 1,600km. Pride of place though is taken by a 2017 nestling from Blashford which was retrapped at Kartong in The Gambia on 22 November, some 4,418km SSW of its birthplace.

Song Thrush. A first-year bird ringed on Southampton Common in late September 2016 was shot in Evora, Portugal in mid-February 2017.

Brambling. An adult male ringed in January 2016 was retrapped in Akershus, Norway in late April 2017.

Goldfinch. A first-year female ringed in September 2016 in Dumfries and Galloway was retrapped at Funtley early January 2017, before returning to its ringing site at the beginning of May.

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 lists the number of nest records submitted for each species during 2017, together with totals for the previous ten years to provide some context. A total of 656 nests were monitored during the year, a welcome increase of over 100 on 2016. The proportion of nests

Table 2: Nest records submitted in Hampshire in 2017 and during 2007 to 2017

Species	2017	Total 2007-17	Species	2017	Total 2007-17
Mute Swan	3	20	Carrion Crow		2
Greylag Goose		1	Raven		8
Canada Goose		4	Goldcrest	1	2
Mandarin Duck		1	Blue Tit	51	608
Teal		1	Great Tit	53	838
Mallard	1	10	Coal Tit	1	16
Tufted Duck		1	Marsh Tit		3
Red-legged Partridge	1	1	Woodlark	24	356
Pheasant	2	7	Skylark		18
Grey Heron	5	23	Swallow	88	1178
Little Grebe		10	House Martin		1
Great Crested Grebe		2	Long-tailed Tit	16	90
Honey-buzzard	6	36	Wood Warbler	21	199
Red Kite		21	Chiffchaff	3	17
Goshawk		17	Willow Warbler	11	41
Sparrowhawk	1	3	Blackcap	4	40
Buzzard	1	4	Garden Warbler	2	5
Kestrel	6	52	Whitethroat		16
Hobby		8	Dartford Warbler	1	16
Peregrine	1	19	Sedge Warbler		5
Water Rail		3	Reed Warbler	32	34
Moorhen	8	43	Nuthatch	2	46
Coot		10	Treecreeper	3	9
Oystercatcher	1	3	Wren	16	62
Lapwing	7	57	Starling		13
Ringed Plover		3	Blackbird	50	322
Curlew	1	2	Song Thrush	14	142
Redshank		1	Mistle Thrush		2
Snipe		1	Spotted Flycatcher	1	11
Sandwich Tern	7	7	Robin	17	88
Common Tern	20	20	Redstart	2	32
Black-headed Gull	1	1	Stonechat	21	80
Mediterranean Gull	1	2	Dunnock	1	49
Herring Gull		1	House Sparrow	2	54
Stock Dove	5	142	Grey Wagtail	15	27
Woodpigeon	15	90	Pied/White Wagtail	4	21
Collared Dove	6	21	Tree Pipit	2	9
Cuckoo		1	Meadow Pipit	3	29
Barn Owl	65	310	Chaffinch	1	49
Little Owl	2	17	Greenfinch	2	23
Tawny Owl	5	31	Goldfinch	1	21
Nightjar	6	80	Siskin		1
Swift	12	54	Linnet	1	38
Kingfisher		3	Bullfinch	1	6
Green Woodpecker		5	Hawfinch		34
Great Spotted Woodpecker		6	Yellowhammer		11
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker		8	Reed Bunting		11
Magpie		1	Corn Bunting		10
Jay		1	Totals	656	5,885
Jackdaw		27			

which are not in artificial sites that are monitored is extremely valuable but many species are still very poorly monitored. For example just single nests of Chaffinch and Dunnock were submitted during the year. 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. Any birdwatcher who is interested in participating in the Nest Record Scheme is invited to contact the author for assistance.

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Tony Davis, 17 Orchards Way, West End, Southampton, SO30 3FB sibilatrix@btinternet.com

The changing fortunes of Hampshire's breeding birds 1750-2017

Rob Clements and John Clark



Mediterranean Gulls are one of the greatly increased species with Hampshire holding a significant proportion of the UK breeding population (David Thelwell)

Abstract

This paper traces the fortunes of 162 species which have been confirmed to breed (i.e. at least laid eggs in a nest) in Hampshire since 1750. Population estimates are provided for all current breeding species and these are compared with those published in *Birds of Hampshire* (hereafter *BoH*) (Clark & Eyre 1993). In a few cases where estimates were not explicitly stated in *BoH* these have been provided. All species currently breeding in Hampshire have been allocated a category within a provisional Hampshire Red Data Book.

Hampshire's breeding avifauna

Ornithological records since 1750 indicate that 162 species have been confirmed breeding in Hampshire during that period. This is defined as a breeding attempt which has progressed at least to the stage where eggs have been laid. The available information has been divided into five eras – prior to the start of modern ornithological recording in 1951, 1951-1985, 1986-91 to coincide with the results from the first tetrad atlas breeding survey which were presented in *BoH*, 1992-2007 and 2008-17 to coincide with the results of the second breeding survey presented in the *Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-12* (hereafter *HBA*) (Eyre 2015). The data for each species are summarised in Table 1 and presented in detail in Table 2. All but four species (Great Bustard, Black Grouse, Bittern and Hen Harrier) have bred during the modern recording era since 1951. A further six species may have attempted breeding.

1750-1950

In the 200 years between the mid-18th century and 1950 a total of 129 species is known to have bred in Hampshire. The Great Bustard was probably extinct early in this period as it is not among 117 species listed by Eyre (2009) that Gilbert White recorded in the environs of Selborne in the late 18th century. At least 91 of these probably bred in the county at the time and several species pairs had not been distinguished by White including Hen and Montagu's

Table 1. Summary of numbers of breeding species in different eras.

	1750-1950	1951-1985	1986-1991	1992-2007	2008-2017
Established breeders	103	112	127	124	134
Gains	14	15	4	11	2
Losses	5	5	0	7	1
Non-established breeders	7	9	5	6	2
TOTAL	129	141	136	148	139

Harriers, Meadow and Tree Pipits, Grey and Yellow Wagtails and Marsh and Willow Tits. He surprisingly recorded only two species of woodpecker, Green and Wryneck, and did not know Great Crested Grebe, Water Rail, Ringed Plover, Redshank, Long-eared Owl, Kingfisher, Hobby, Garden Warbler, Dartford Warbler or Cirl Bunting. However despite the lack of modern optics his observational skills cannot be doubted as he was the first to separate Chiffchaff, Willow and Wood Warblers. It is likely that some of the species that White did not record were breeding in Hampshire at that time although others clearly arrived subsequently. Interestingly Kelsall & Munn (hereafter K & M) (1905) speculated that a pair of Sparrowhawks which White described as breeding in an old crow's nest and feeding on new-flown swallows and martins were Hobbies. White's record of a pair of Moor Buzzards (Marsh Harriers) with five young in a nest in April 1769 was accepted by K & M. However, Cohen (1963) stated that there was little satisfactory evidence of breeding in either the 18th or 19th centuries presumably because April was regarded as too early in the year for young to be recorded. We agree that the available evidence is insufficient to be sure that the species was breeding in Hampshire during White's time.

The Dartford Warbler was first described in England from Kent in 1787; the frequent severe winters in the mid to late 18th century no doubt prevented it from becoming established in Hampshire at that time. It wasn't until 1847 that the first county specimens were procured at Woolmer Forest (K & M), an area which White frequented regularly. White exchanged correspondence with Montagu from Devon but it wasn't until 1800, after White's death, that Montagu described the Cirl Bunting from that county. By 1837 it was described 'as nowhere more plentiful than in the vicinity of Alton', just three miles from Selborne, and in 1848 a pair bred in White's garden (K & M). Redshank and Great Crested Grebe evidently colonised the county during the 19th century. Wise (1895) noted Redshanks breeding in the New Forest in the 1860s and Great Crested Grebes nested at Fleet Pond in the 1890s (K & M).

The second half of the 19th century saw Red Kite, Raven and Hen Harrier become extinct as a result of persecution, with the last known nests in 1864, 1887 and 1893 respectively (K & M). The Black Grouse was also shot out of existence and, despite some attempted reintroductions, it was almost certainly extinct by the early 20th century. Among feral species, Pheasant and Feral Pigeon were included in White's list and subsequently Canada Goose, Red-legged Partridge and Little Owl were breeding before the end of the 19th century. Seven species bred for the first time in the first half of the 20th century: Golden Pheasant in 1925, Little Tern in 1932, Oystercatcher in 1934, Pochard in 1935, Herring Gull in 1938, Black Redstart in 1943 and Common Tern in 1948. Seven species bred erratically in this period: Hoopoe in 1897-1902, Garganey in 1897 and 1937-40, Short-eared Owl in 1904 and 1928-30, Peregrine in 1928 (on the ground on a western heath, probably in present-day Dorset), Dipper in 1934-42, Bittern in 1942 and Great Black-backed Gull in 1950.

1951-1985

The early 1950s marked the beginning of modern ornithological recording in Hampshire. The revolution was led by the emerging Portsmouth Group, whose members included David Billett and Colin Tubbs among others, but they were also influenced by established observers such as Edwin Cohen (in the New Forest) and Doc Suffern (at Titchfield Haven). In the period between 1951 and 1985, i.e. prior to that covered by the first Hampshire Tetrad Breeding

Atlas, 141 species were confirmed breeding of which 112 were established throughout. Fifteen species were gained: Little Ringed Plover in 1952, Siskin in 1953, Sandwich Tern in 1954, Lesser Redpoll in 1956, Roseate Tern in 1957, Tree Sparrow sometime in the 1950s, Collared Dove in 1961, Firecrest in 1962 (the first breeding in the UK), Mandarin Duck and Greylag Goose in 1964, Bearded Tit in 1966, Ruddy Duck in 1978, Barnacle Goose and Cetti's Warbler in 1979 and Gadwall in 1983. Unfortunately five were lost: Corncrake in 1957, Wryneck in 1975, Montagu's Harrier in 1978, Cirl Bunting in 1982 and Red-backed Shrike in 1984. Nine species bred erratically in this period: Great Black-backed Gull in 1951, 1972 and 1976, Hoopoe on eight occasions from 1953-59, Dipper in 1954, Pied Flycatcher in 1954, 1968 and 1984, Marsh Harrier in 1957 (unsuccessfully), Mediterranean Gull in 1968 (the first breeding in the UK) and on four further occasions between 1976 and 1984, Golden Oriole in 1969 and 1984, Savi's Warbler in 1978, 1982 and 1983 and Short-eared Owl in 1980.

The first Hampshire Tetrad Atlas 1986-1991

Fieldwork for the first Hampshire Tetrad (2 km square) Breeding Atlas was undertaken in 1986-91. This was in parallel with the *New Atlas of Breeding Birds of Britain and Ireland* which was based on a 10 km square grid. The results of the atlas were incorporated into *BoH* which also included a review of the status of all species in the county up to the end of 1992. During the atlas period 136 species were confirmed breeding, compared with 141 in 1951-85, but only 127 were established throughout. A further four were gained: Snow Goose in 1986, Great Black-backed Gull in 1988, and Common Gull and Garganey in 1991. There were no losses. Five species bred erratically: Golden Oriole in 1986 and 1987, Black-necked Grebe in 1987, Short-eared Owl in 1989 and Savi's Warbler and Dipper in 1991.

1992-2007

The period between 1992 and 2007, which preceded the next breeding atlas, saw remarkable changes in Hampshire's breeding birds with no fewer than 11 gains and seven losses. In total, 148 species were confirmed breeding of which 124 were established throughout. The gains were: Peregrine in 1993, Egyptian Goose and Mediterranean Gull in 1994, Red Kite in 1995 and 1996 and regularly from 2003, Goosander and Little Egret in 1998, Lesser Black-backed Gull in 2001, Goshawk and Avocet in 2002, and Eider and Raven in 2003. The losses were: Golden Pheasant in 1993, Tree Sparrow in 1996, Yellow Wagtail in 2003, Whinchat in 2004, Snow Goose and Wheatear in 2005 and Roseate Tern in 2006. Six species bred erratically: Savi's Warbler and Dipper in 1992, Pied Flycatcher in 1992, 1993 and 1995, Montagu's Harrier from 1994-98, Black-necked Grebe in 1995 and 2004 and Cormorant in 2006-07.

The second Hampshire tetrad Atlas and beyond 2008-2017

Hampshire's second Tetrad Breeding Atlas Survey was carried out in 2008-12 in tandem with the first Tetrad Wintering Atlas Survey during the five winters from 2007/08-2011/12. As with the previous county survey, this was undertaken in parallel with a national survey *Bird Atlas 2007-11*. This enabled HOS to make use of the on-line recording and data analysis facilities provided by the BTO. The results were presented in *HBA*. The total number of species confirmed breeding during the atlas period and the years up to 2017 was 139. This is similar to the previous atlas survey period in 1986-91 when 136 were recorded, but less than the intervening years when 148 bred at some time. However, the most recent period is remarkable for the total of 134 established breeding species, the most ever recorded. Two species were gained: Yellow-legged Gull, of which a single pair bred in 2014-17, and Marsh Harrier in 2015. The latter was long awaited and further expansion is anticipated. The only loss was the feral Ruddy Duck which last bred in 2009 following the Defra eradication project. Cormorant bred again in 2008 but has failed to become established and Pintail was surprisingly confirmed breeding in 2014.

Other possible breeding species

Lady Amherst's Pheasant. Birds were released from 1958 or earlier. Breeding may have occurred on initial release but subsequently hybridisation with Golden Pheasant occurred.

Spotted Crake. K & M considered the species to be a very local resident but the only evidence of confirmed nesting involved reports from Mr Hart who collected in the Christchurch district, now in present day Dorset. Duffin (1991) stated that 'birds have occurred (at Titchfield Haven) during the breeding season on two occasions, young were seen once only'. Recently, Barry Duffin (*in litt.*) stated that he believed the report of young being seen was unreliable. He also gave further details of records at Titchfield Haven in 1993. A singing male was heard on five dates between Apr 18th and May 14th and two juveniles, one of which was trapped, were in the same area where the male was calling between Aug 1st and 30th. Although this suggests that breeding almost certainly occurred there it cannot be considered 100% proven.

Black-winged Stilt. A pair attempted breeding at Pennington Marsh in 2012 but eggs were not laid.

Black-tailed Godwit. A pair held territory at Farlington Marshes in 1981. The male sang and displayed and the female was missing for a period suggesting incubation.

Common Sandpiper. A pair attempted breeding at Timsbury GP in 1978. The nest was not located but distraction display was subsequently noted. No young were seen.

Marsh Warbler. K & M and Cohen (1963) cite several records of nests being found but none can be considered fully authenticated. In the modern era, singing males were found in 1963 and in several years from 1979 onwards but no evidence has ever been obtained to suggest that any of them were paired.

Population changes since BoH

Increases

As outlined above, there has been an astonishing number of additions to the list of breeding species since the publication of BoH in 1993 (Box 1).

Egyptian Goose, Eider, Goosander, Little Egret, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Avocet, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Peregrine, Raven.

Box 1. New breeding species since BoH.

Four raptor species and Raven have extended their breeding ranges into the county in response to reduced persecution and pesticide use, with Red Kite greatly assisted by the reintroduction project in the Chiltern Hills. Little Egret has moved north from the continent and Avocet has spread from breeding sites in eastern England. Eider and Goosander are northern species that have surprisingly extended their ranges southwards. Colonisation by Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls is part of a wider increase in large gulls breeding in the county, mostly on roofs of buildings in industrial estates or shopping malls. Egyptian Goose is a feral species which has spread from East Anglia and is increasing rapidly.

Other previously established species which have shown at least a doubling of their estimated populations are shown in Box 2.

1,000%+: Buzzard, Mediterranean Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Firecrest.

100%+: Greylag Goose, Gadwall, Water Rail, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Jackdaw, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat, Crossbill, Goldfinch, Siskin.

Box 2. Species showing increases of at least 100% since BoH.

The massively increased population of Buzzard is clearly a response to reduced persecution, while for Firecrest global warming may well be playing a part since the habitat has always been available. Resident species may have benefited from the amelioration of southern England's winter climate and increased habitat availability, e.g. Crossbill and Siskin. Whitethroat is the only trans-Saharan migrant which is increasing but in reality it is still well below the levels recorded by Common Bird Census data prior to the Sahel crash in 1968.

Decreases

Unfortunately, eight species have been lost since *BoH* (Box 4).

Snow Goose, Ruddy Duck, Golden Pheasant, Roseate Tern, Whinchat, Wheatear, Tree Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail.

Box 4. Species which have ceased breeding in the county since *BoH*.

Yellow Wagtail and Tree Sparrow bred in various farmland habitats, although interestingly the available information suggests that Tree Sparrow did not become established until the 1950s. Whinchat and Wheatear were largely confined to the New Forest although at the beginning of the 20th century they were far more widespread. Roseate Tern last bred in 2006 although there have never been more than three pairs in any year since it first bred in 1957. Snow Goose, Ruddy Duck and Golden Pheasant are three feral species which have died out during this period.

Boxes 5 and 6 show species with declines in their population or range of at least 50% and between 25% and 50% since 1991 respectively.

Barnacle Goose, Teal Pochard, Grey Partridge, Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Woodcock, Snipe, Redshank, Sandwich Tern, Little Tern, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Little Owl, Swift, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Nightingale, Hawfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer.

Box 5. Species showing declines of at least 50% in their breeding population or range since 1991.

Five of these – Turtle Dove, Willow Tit, Wood Warbler, Nightingale and Lesser Redpoll – have declined by 90% or more and are sadly probably close to extinction in the county.

Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Common Tern, Marsh Tit, Skylark, House Martin, Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Starling, Mistle Thrush, Meadow Pipit, Tree Pipit, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting.

Box 6. Species showing declines of between 25% and 50% in their breeding population or range since 1991.

The reasons for the declines are many and varied. Agricultural change since the 1930s has had a continuing influence. Increased mechanisation, greater use of agrochemicals leading to massive decreases in seed and insect availability, the decline of mixed farming, hedgerow removal and the autumn sowing of crops and resultant reduction in winter stubbles are all relevant factors. Changes in woodland management, increasing populations of both native and introduced deer species and increased grazing pressure in the New Forest may also have played a part. Many of the affected species are migrants; habitat and climate change and increased hunting pressure in both the wintering grounds and along the migratory flyways will have contributed. Indeed some species which have decreased such as Cuckoo, Willow Warbler and Tree Pipit have increased further north. Waders in particular suffer from loss of wetland habitat and increased recreational disturbance, particularly by dog walkers who do not maintain control of their pets, which leads to reduced productivity. The declines of Swifts and House Martins are almost certainly exacerbated by a lack of suitable nesting

sites as dwellings are improved. The increasing public awareness of Swift conservation is a welcome development and hopefully the erection of nest boxes will help to reverse the decline. Sand Martins have also decreased as the number of suitable quarries in the county has declined; the provision of artificial nest sites has helped although even these have not always been occupied.

There is not an official Hampshire Red Data Book but all those species listed in Box 4 (except feral species) and Box 5 would be Red-listed while those in Box 6 would be Amber-listed using the national criteria at county level.

Population Estimates

Population estimates for 1991 and 2017 are given in Table 2. Any species which has bred for at least four consecutive years up to 2017 is included. Occasional breeders are excluded. The species categories and reliability are explained below.

Categories

The breeding species have been categorised as either Rare Breeding Bird Panel (RBBP) species, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) species or Other species. The first category is self-explanatory: rare species where most of the population is counted each year and data provided to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel e.g. Little Egret. The upper limit for RBBP species is an estimated

Table 2. Population estimates (overleaf)

Key to Table 2 Date period 1951-85 is prior to <i>Birds of Hampshire</i>; 1986-91 is the <i>Birds of Hampshire</i> and tetrad atlas period; 2008-16 covers the period after the <i>Hampshire Bird Atlas</i>. Columns 1991 and 2017 are the population estimates for those years, with the current trend shown diagrammatically in the next column. Rel. = Reliability; RL = Red List. Species in bold are believed to have bred throughout the period covered. Notes (last column): 1. 1991 estimate in <i>BoH</i> of 3,600 birds revised to 500-750 pairs. 2. Free-flying birds were present in the Test Valley around Leckford in the 1950s but no confirmed breeding records were obtained (Taverner 1962). 3. Breeding not confirmed annually but assumed to do so. 4. 1989 estimate in <i>BoH</i> 21,000 territorial males, 17,000 other males, 40,000 hens. 5. Based on complete survey work in 2012/13 (<i>HBA</i>). Population not thought to have changed since. 6. Hampshire BBS calculation increased based on limited survey work and national estimate thought too low. 7. Clements <i>et al.</i> 2017<i>b</i>. 8. Chalmers 2017. Population is thought to have declined further since 2016. 9. Based on almost complete survey in 2016 (<i>HBR 2016</i>). 10. Based on location of 34 territories (<i>HBR 2017</i>). 11. Based on partial survey in 2017. Full county survey planned for 2018. 12. Clements <i>et al.</i> 2017<i>a</i>. 13. Based on location of 17 territories (<i>HBR 2017</i>). Survey planned for 2018. 14. Estimate based on roost counts (M. Ward pers. comm.). Red-listed due to large range decrease since <i>BoH</i>. 15. Betton 2018. 16. Hampshire BBS calculation reduced further.
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Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	FIRST late 19th cent.	B	B	B	B	500-750	500-750	↗	BBS	2		I
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>		FIRST 1979	B	B	B	8-10	2	↘	Other	1		
Snow Goose <i>Anser caerulescens</i>			FIRST 1986	LAST 2005		I						
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>		FIRST 1964	B	B	B	30	100-200	↗	BBS	2		
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	B	B	B	B	B	190	150-200	↗	Other	2		
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				FIRST 1994	B	0	30-40	↗	Other	2		
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	B	B	B	B	B	80-100	30-50	↗	Other	2		
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>		FIRST 1964	B	B	B	200	300-400	↗	Other	2		2
Garganey <i>Spatula querquedula</i>	1897, 1937-40		FIRST 1991	B 1993, 2006, 2007	B 2008, 2012, 2014	0-1	0-2	↗	RBBP	1		3
Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	B	B 1952-79 (8)	B 1986-88 (5)	B	B	0-3	5-10	↗	RBBP	1		3
Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>		FIRST 1983	B	B	B	15	100-200	↗	Other	2		
Mallard Anas <i>platyrhynchos</i>	B	B	B	B	B	3,000-6,000	3,000-6,000	↗	BBS	2		
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>					2014							
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	B	B	B	B	B	30-35	0-10	↘	Other	3		3
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	FIRST 1935	B	B	B	B	40-50	10-20	↘	RBBP	2		
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	B	B	B	B	B	300-350	300-500	↗	Other	2		
Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>				FIRST 2003	B	0	0-3	↗	Other	2		
Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>				FIRST 1998	B	0	3-10	↗	Other	1		
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		FIRST 1978	B	B	LAST 2009	5-10						
Black Grouse <i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	LAST late 19th/early 20th cent.											

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	FIRST late 19th cent.	B	B	B	B	2,000-2,500	1,500-2,000	↗	BBS	2		
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,400-3,000	250-1,000	↘	Other	2		
Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	B	B	B	B	B	10-100	0-25	↗	RBBP	3		
Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	21,000	50,000-70,000	↗	BBS	2		4
Golden Pheasant <i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>	FIRST 1925	B	B	LAST 1993								
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	B	B	B	B	B	400	200-300	↗	Other	2		
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	FIRST 1890s	B	B	B	B	90-95	75-100	↗	Other	2		
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			1987	1995, 2004		0-1						
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	1942											
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>				FIRST 1998	B	0	60	↗	RBBP	1		
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	B	B	B	B	B	155	259	↗	Other	1		
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				2006-07	2008							
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	1-3	6-15	↗	RBBP	2		
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	1,100	800-1,000	↗	BBS	2		
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				FIRST 2002	B	0	80-100	↗	RBBP	2		
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1957			FIRST 2015	0	1-6	↗	RBBP	1		
Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	LAST 1893											
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	B	LAST 1978		1994-98								
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	LAST 1864			FIRST 1995-96, 2003-07	B	0	200-250	↗	Other	2		
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	B	B	B	B	B	100-130	1,500-2,000	↗	BBS	2		
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	25-100	200-300	↗	RBBP	3		
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	B	LAST 1957										

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	5,000-7,500	4,000-6,000	➡	BBS	2		
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	B	B	B	B	B	800-1,600	700-1,400	➡	BBS	2		
Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	LAST late 18th cent.											
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	25	30	↗	RBBP	1		
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	FIRST 1934	B	B	B	B	250	75-100	↘	Other	2		
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				FIRST 2002	B	0	36	↗	RBBP	1		
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,300-2,900	1,000-1,500	↘	BBS	2		
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	B	B	B	B	B	140-160	25-60	↘	Other	2		
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>		FIRST 1952	B	B	B	25	20-30	➡	RBBP	2		
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	B	B	B	B	B	100-140	40-50	↘	Other	1		
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	B	B	B	B	B	950-1,500	400-800	↘	Other	3		
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	B	B	B	B	B	200	50-100	↘	Other	3		
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	FIRST mid 19th cent.	B	B	B	B	500-550	100-150	↘	Other	2		
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	14,750	12,350	➡	Other	1		
Mediterranean Gull <i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>		1968-84 (5)		FIRST 1994	B	0-1	844	↗	RBBP	1		
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>			FIRST 1991	B	B	0-3	0-3	➡	Other	2		3
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	1950	1951, 1972, 1976	FIRST 1988	B	B	1-2	10-20	↗	Other	2		3
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	FIRST 1938	B	B	B	B	15	200-250	↗	Other	2		
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>					FIRST 2014	0	1	↗	RBBP	1		
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>				FIRST 2001	B	0	30-40	↗	Other	2		

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Sandwich Tern <i>Thalasseus sandwicensis</i>		FIRST 1954	B	B	B	200-370	121	↗	Other	1		
Little Tern <i>Sterna albigfrons</i>	FIRST 1932	B	B	B	B	160-256	63	↘	RBBP	1		
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>		FIRST 1957	B	LAST 2006								
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	FIRST 1948	B	B	B	B	275-460	330	↗	Other	1		
Feral Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,000-3,000	10,000-15,000	↗	BBS	3		
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	B	B	B	B	B	10,000-12,000	10,000-12,000	↗	BBS	2		
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	60,000	90,000-180,000	↗	BBS	2		
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	B	B	B	B	B	1,200-2,400	20-30	↘	Other	2		
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		FIRST 1961	B	B	B	9,000-15,000	10,000-20,000	↗	BBS	2		16
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	700-1,400	200-600	↘	BBS	3		
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	B	B	B	B	B	150-200	300-400	↗	Other	2		
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,000	2,000-2,500	↗	Other	3		
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	FIRST late 19th cent.	B	B	B	B	1,000-1,200	100-400	↘	Other	3		
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	10-20	5-20	↗	RBBP	3		3
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	1904, 1928-30	1980	1989			0-1						
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	530	790	↗	Other	1		5
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,500-5,000	1,000-2,000	↘	BBS	2		
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	B	B	B	B	B	200-350	200-400	↗	Other	2		
Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	1897-1902	1953-59										
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	B	LAST 1975										
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>	B	B	B	B	B	600-700	200-250	↘	RBBP	2		
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	B	B	B	B	B	3,000	10,000-15,000	↗	BBS	2		6

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	B	B	B	B	B	1,500	6,000-10,000	↗	BBS	2		6
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	1,500	1,000-1,500	↗	BBS	2		
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	B	B	B	B	B	75-100	150-200	↗	RBBP	2		7
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1928 (prob in Dorset)			FIRST 1993	B	0	20-25	↗	RBBP	1		
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	B	LAST 1984										
Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1969, 1984	1986-87									
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	B	B	B	B	B	8,000	6,000-8,000	↗	BBS	2		
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	B	B	B	B	B	20,000	15,000-20,000	↗	BBS	2		
Jackdaw <i>Coloeus monedula</i>	B	B	B	B	B	12,000-15,000	20,000-30,000	↗	BBS	2		
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	17,000-22,000	15,000-20,000	↗	BBS	2		
Carriion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	B	B	B	B	B	15,000	15,000-20,000	↗	BBS	2		
Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	LAST 1887			FIRST 2003	B	0	50-100	↗	Other	2		
Coal Tit <i>Pariparus ater</i>	B	B	B	B	B	23,000	20,000-30,000	↗	BBS	2		
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	B	B	B	B	B	4,000	2,000-3,000	↗	BBS	2		
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montanus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	700-1,000	30-52	↘	RBBP	1		8
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	105,000-125,000	100,000-140,000	↗	BBS	2		
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	B	B	B	B	B	60,000-75,000	70,000-90,000	↗	BBS	2		
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		FIRST 1966	B	B	B	4-14	20-30	↗	RBBP	2		
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	B	B	B	B	B	145-160	300-400	↗	Other	2		
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	B	B	B	B	B	30,000	10,000-20,000	↗	BBS	2		16
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	B	B	B	B	B	3,000	300-400	↘	Other	3		

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	B	B	B	B	B	12,000-15,000	10,000-15,000	➡	BBS	2		
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	B	B	B	B	B	11,000-15,000	7,000-12,000	➡	BBS	2		
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>		FIRST 1979	B	B	B	61-125	460	⬆	RBBP	1		9
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	9,000-12,000	10,000-15,000	➡	BBS	2		
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	40,000-60,000	5,000-10,000	➡	BBS	2		
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	B	B	B	B	B	10,000-15,000	30,000-40,000	⬆	BBS	2		
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	B	B	B	B	B	500	40-50	➡	Other	2		10
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,000-3,000	1,000-1,500	➡	Other	2		
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	1,500	1,500-2,500	➡	Other	2		
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	B	B	B	B	B	40	5-20	➡	Other	3		
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		1978, 1982, 1983	1991	1992								
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	B	B	B	B	B	20,000-30,000	30,000-40,000	➡	BBS	2		
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	B	B	B	B	B	4,000-6,000	3,000-4,000	➡	BBS	2		
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	B	B	B	B	B	2,500-3,000	1,000-1,500	➡	Other	2		
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	B	B	B	B	B	10,000-15,000	20,000-30,000	⬆	BBS	2		
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	FIRST 1847	B	B	B	B	500-600	600-800	➡	RBBP	2		11
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		FIRST 1962	B	B	B	50-100	3,000-4,500	⬆	RBBP	2		12
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	B	B	B	B	B	20,000	30,000-50,000	➡	BBS	3		6

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Wren Troglodytes troglodytes	B	B	B	B	B	190,000	180,000-220,000	➡	BBS	2		
Nuthatch Sitta europaea	B	B	B	B	B	7,000-9,000	12,000-20,000	➡	BBS	2		
Treecreeper Certhia familiaris	B	B	B	B	B	9,000-11,000	8,000-12,000	➡	BBS	2		
Starling Sturnus vulgaris	B	B	B	B	B	50,000	20,000-30,000	➡	BBS	2		
Blackbird Turdus merula	B	B	B	B	B	150,000	140,000-180,000	➡	BBS	2		
Song Thrush Turdus philomelos	B	B	B	B	B	30,000	25,000-35,000	➡	BBS	2		
Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus	B	B	B	B	B	7,500	3,000-5,000	➡	BBS	2		
Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata	B	B	B	B	B	4,000-6,000	500-800	➡	Other	3		
Robin Erithacus rubecula	B	B	B	B	B	130,000	130,000-180,000	➡	BBS	2		
Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos	B	B	B	B	B	240-360	20-30	➡	Other	2		13
Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca		1954, 1968, 1984		1992, 1993, 1995		0-1						
Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros	FIRST 1943	B	B 1987	B 1993-2005 (7)	B 2012-15 (3)	0-5	1-10	➡	RBBP	3		2
Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus	B	B	B	B	B	1,050-1,200	1,200-1,800	➡	Other	2		
Whinchat Saxicola rubetra	B	B	B	LAST 2004		15-25			Other	1		
Stonechat Saxicola rubicola	B	B	B	B	B	300-500	800-1,200	➡	Other	2		
Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe	B	B	B	LAST 2005		10-20						
Dipper Cinclus cinclus	1934-42	1954	1991	1992		0-1						
House Sparrow Passer domesticus	B	B	B	B	B	40,000-60,000	40,000-80,000	➡	BBS	2		
Tree Sparrow Passer montanus		FIRST 1950s	B	LAST 1996		50						
Duncock Prunella modularis	B	B	B	B	B	50,000	50,000-60,000	➡	BBS	2		

Species	1750-1950	1951-85	1986-91	1992-2007	2008-16	1991	2017	Trend	Cat	Rel.	RL	Note
Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea	B	B	B	B	B	300-400	300-500	➡	Other	3		
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	B	B	B	LAST 2003		30						
Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba	B	B	B	B	B	6,000-10,000	5,000-7,000	➡	BBS	2		
Meadow Pipit Anthus pratensis	B	B	B	B	B	2,500-4,000	1,000-2,000	➡	BBS	2		
Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis	B	B	B	B	B	600-700	300-500	➡	Other	2		
Rock Pipit Anthus petrosus	B	B	B	B	B	3-10	10-30	➡	Other	2		
Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs	B	B	B	B	B	150,000	110,000-150,000	➡	BBS	2		
Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes	B	B	B	B	B	275-500	450-550	➡	RBBP	1		14
Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula	B	B	B	B	B	9,000	4,000-8,000	➡	BBS	3		
Greenfinch Chloris chloris	B	B	B	B	B	20,000-30,000	15,000-30,000	➡	BBS	3		
Linnet Linaria cannabina	B	B	B	B	B	6,000-10,000	5,000-8,000	➡	BBS	2		
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>		FIRST 1956	B	B	B	150-350	5-10	➡	Other	3		2
Crossbill Loxia curvirostra	B	B	B	B	B	0-100	200-300	➡	Other	3		
Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis	B	B	B	B	B	7,000-10,000	20,000-25,000	➡	BBS	2		
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>		FIRST 1953	B	B	B	170-270	1,000-1,500	➡	Other	3		
Corn Bunting Emberiza calandra	B	B	B	B	B	450-750	150-200	➡	Other	1		15
Yellowhammer Emberiza citrinella	B	B	B	B	B	25,000	6,000-12,000	➡	BBS	2		16
Girl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirrus</i>	FIRST early 19th cent.	LAST 1982										
Reed Bunting Emberiza schoeniclus	B	B	B	B	B	1,850-3,750	1,000-2,000	➡	Other	2		

UK breeding population of 2,000 pairs. For some less scarce RBBP species a full count is not feasible. For these, for which we have data from study areas, we have extrapolated to the wider county population. For some species, such as Firecrest, we have good recent data but for others, such as Water Rail, a degree of guesswork is involved.

Breeding Bird Survey species are widespread in the county and are defined in this paper as those occupying at least 25 of the one km squares surveyed by volunteers in the county each year. Note the total number of one km squares surveyed in Hampshire for BBS in 2017 was 164. For most of these species, we have divided the national population estimate (Musgrove *et al.* for APEP 2013) by the percentage of the national population located in Hampshire during 2008-12 Atlas survey work (BTO data). Although the percentage figure used should be robust, based on a high sample size, the national population estimate may vary in accuracy so the estimated figure derived should not be treated as definitive. Consequently, most estimates are given as a range (e.g. Chaffinch 110,000-150,000) because of this uncertainty. In some cases, where the estimate is considered too high, a further reduction has been made, and this is indicated.

For Other species, too numerous to be monitored by RBBP but not widespread enough to be defined as BBS, survey data are available for some but for others we have had to rely largely on guesswork. For some species, such as Little Owl, the trend is clear and reflected in the reduced 2017 estimate. For others, such as Kingfisher, there is no clear evidence of increase or decline so the 1993 and 2017 estimates remain broadly similar.

Reliability

All species estimates are ranked 1, 2 or 3 for decreasing levels of reliability. Category 1 indicates that we have confidence that the given estimate is accurate. This usually only applies to species where a count of breeding/roosting birds is possible. Category 3 indicates that the population is highly variable (e.g. Quail) or our data are strictly limited (Long-eared Owl) and the estimate given is largely guesswork.

Some of the estimates from 1993, based on CBC data, are given as a single figure (e.g. Blackbird 150,000 pairs). For the 2017 estimates we have given a range such as 140,000-180,000 pairs to avoid giving the impression that the actual figure is known.

Populations of resident species, especially small passerines, are adversely affected by severe winter weather. A run of mostly mild winters prior to 2017 indicates that numbers of many species are currently at a high level and this is reflected in the estimates given.

Total Numbers

Table 2 gives population estimates for 136 breeding species which are thought to have bred in 2017. Of these, 41 have shown an increasing trend since *BoH*, 47 a decreasing trend and 48 are considered stable or with an unknown trend. By adding the population estimates for all these species, the total number of breeding pairs in Hampshire ranges from 1.43 million to 2.05 million with a median of 1.74 million. Six species are assessed as each having over 100,000 pairs (estimates vary between 120,000 and 200,000 using mean values) and together they account for just over half the total. In descending order from the most numerous they are Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Woodpigeon, Chaffinch and Blue Tit.

Hampshire Red Data listing

Unlike some counties such as Kent, there is no explicit Hampshire Red Data list. It was felt useful to categorise Hampshire's current breeding species within the recognised red, amber and green categories and these are shown in Table 2. The criteria for each category are as follows.

Red

- A severe decline (over 50%) in the Hampshire breeding population or range in the last 25 years, i.e. since the publication of *BoH* in 1993.

Amber

- A moderate decline (25-50%) in the Hampshire breeding population or range in the last 25 years, i.e. since the publication of *BoH* in 1993.
- Rare breeders with fewer than ten pairs in Hampshire or 300 pairs in the UK.
- Localised breeders with 50% or more of population confined to ten or fewer sites.

Green

- Other breeding species not included in the above categories.

Concluding Remarks

The population estimates for Hampshire's breeding birds presented here clearly vary in their accuracy. As further survey work is carried out it will hopefully be possible to revise the totals for some species and present a more informed figure. The authors would welcome comments and discussion, either by private e-mail or through the informal channel of *hoslist*.

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- R. J. Clements, 7 Pyrford Mews, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 3ND richard.clements3@virgin.net

The Stone-curlew in Hampshire

Nick Tomalin



Juvenile Stone-curlew: it used to be thought you could cure jaundice by looking a Stone-curlew in the eye! (Nick Tomalin)

Abstract

In 1989 Dr Rhys Green wrote a paper for the Hampshire Bird Report titled 'The Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* in Hampshire', which outlined Stone-curlew population declines in the UK up to that point and the conservation efforts that had begun in order to prevent further declines, with particular emphasis on the Hampshire population. This article serves to update that project, detailing the work carried out since then and the impact it has had on the population, particularly those Stone-curlews found in Hampshire.

Background/Introduction

The UK Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* population declined over the last century. The species range in this country was always restricted to well-drained sandy or chalky soils as far north as the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, east into East Anglia and the Brecklands, south to Sussex, and west into Wessex and the Cotswolds. But by the mid-1980s the population had fallen to less than 170 pairs, split between the areas of Wessex and the Brecks. The decline was largely attributable to changes in farming practices. The Stone-curlew was originally a bird of open downland or grass heath, but the loss of these areas for arable farming meant more and more birds came into conflict with agricultural operations. They nest in open areas and will choose cultivated ground prepared for spring crops, game cover or wild bird seed mixes, all of which require some form of mechanical operation that destroys eggs and chicks.

A 1989 survey in Hampshire put the county population at 21-23 pairs, with the bulk being found on the Hampshire part of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Porton Down range. In the mid-1980s, the RSPB established the Wessex Stone-curlew Project to understand more

about the declines and monitor the population. This project continues today, after more than 30 years work across Wessex, including Hampshire, to monitor and protect the species.

There are four main areas of Stone-curlew population in Hampshire. The bulk are found in and around Porton Down, spreading as far east as the River Test. Another population is located in a broad area north of Overton towards Hannington village. Historically, there were also populations in the area close to Micheldever and also around Martin Down. The last recorded breeding at Martin Down was in 2002, and in Micheldever there were breeding records up to 2008, but nothing in either site subsequently. These four areas (referred to as Porton, Hannington, Martin and Micheldever in this paper) are reasonably distinct as survey sites, though there would have been and still will be interchange of birds within and between them. In addition, occasional records have come from other areas of the county, but these are infrequent or unverified and there is nothing to suggest a population of birds that remains unaccounted for.

Methodology

From the mid-1980s, field officers have been appointed by the RSPB to survey and monitor areas for Stone-curlew. Historical locations and areas of suitable habitat were identified, and contact was made with landowners, including the MoD, to gain access to land for surveys. This has continued each year, returning to known survey sites and maintaining contact with landowners. The surveys themselves consist of scanning likely areas for birds, walking areas to flush birds where necessary, and following up any sightings with an assessment of breeding behaviour. Tape-luring has also been used to establish presence of Stone-curlews. All of this work is carried out under licence from Natural England, as the Stone-curlew is a Schedule I protected species.

Once breeding is established, nest visits are carried out to weigh and measure the eggs to give an indication of hatch date using a formula devised from research by Dr Rhys Green. The hatch date is important for determining when to carry out any management actions. For birds nesting in vulnerable cropped habitat, nests can be marked for machinery to avoid, or chicks can be lifted during farming operations, a process known as intervention. This involves close liaison with landowners and farm workers and as a result the RSPB has employed a Conservation Advisor to deliver a programme of advisory work. This includes the provision of safe nesting sites – sacrificial areas where there are no mechanical operations to threaten the eggs or chicks. In the early days these were created as part of set-aside, but this has now evolved into an option available through agri-environment schemes, whereby landowners receive compensation for leaving fallow plots for ground-nesting birds.

Nesting attempts are followed to completion where possible to determine an outcome for each attempt. Any failures are recorded and re-nesting monitored. Fledged young are recorded, which allows us to calculate the productivity defined as fledged young per breeding pair. Dr Green's research showed that a productivity figure of 0.61 fledged chicks per pair is required each year to keep the population stable, with anything higher than this causing a population increase, and anything lower likely to cause a decline.



Stone-curlew chick having bill measurements taken during the ringing process (Nick Tomalin)

Where possible, juvenile Stone-curlews have been ringed under licence with a combination of BTO ring and plastic coloured rings that allow identification of individuals in the field.

For most of the Project, the field team has attempted to cover the whole Wessex range, including historical areas that no longer support any breeding pairs. However, since 2013 the team has not attempted to cover areas without a recent history of breeding records, and these include Martin and Micheldever. Inevitably the lack of surveyors on the ground will reduce the chances of recording birds here, but we continue to maintain contact with landowners in these areas in the hopes that any birds choosing to settle there will be reported to us.

Results

Since the 1989 survey in Hampshire, annual population estimates have been produced through the work done by the RSPB Wessex Stone-curlew Project. These are shown below in Table I and the graph in Figure I.

Table I. Breeding data for Stone-curlews in Hampshire 1990-2017.

Year	Total pairs	Breeding pairs	Breeding attempts	Young fledged	Productivity
1990	19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1991	19	16	24	17	1.06
1992	21	19	27	19	1.00
1993	15	13	17	16	1.23
1994	16	16	22	6	0.38
1995	17	17	27	23	1.35
1996	21	19	33	15	0.79
1997	24	22	39	21	0.95
1998	22	20	33	11	0.55
1999	19	17	25	7	0.41
2000	22	20	29	20	1.00
2001	12	8	9	3	0.38
2002	32	24	27	7	0.29
2003	28	24	32	9	0.38
2004	25	20	25	5	0.25
2005	25	23	29	12	0.52
2006	28	24	34	13	0.54
2007	22	19	25	10	0.53
2008	20	15	19	2	0.13
2009	22	19	23	11	0.58
2010	30	23	28	16	0.70
2011	38	32	40	22	0.69
2012	24	17	20	8	0.47
2013	17	9	10	2	0.22
2014	31	24	31	23	0.96
2015	35	31	48	18	0.58
2016	29	29	30	13	0.45
2017	23	23	36	13	0.57

The graph shows fluctuations in given years, especially the cold spring of 2013, the wet year of 2008 and the foot-and-mouth outbreak in 2001 which prevented a full survey. Overall the number of pairs recorded has increased very slightly. The number of breeding attempts has inevitably followed a similar path to the number of pairs, and therefore has also increased slightly over the years. The number of chicks fledged is also linked to pair numbers, but can be more dependent on the success of the season. The graph shows high numbers of young

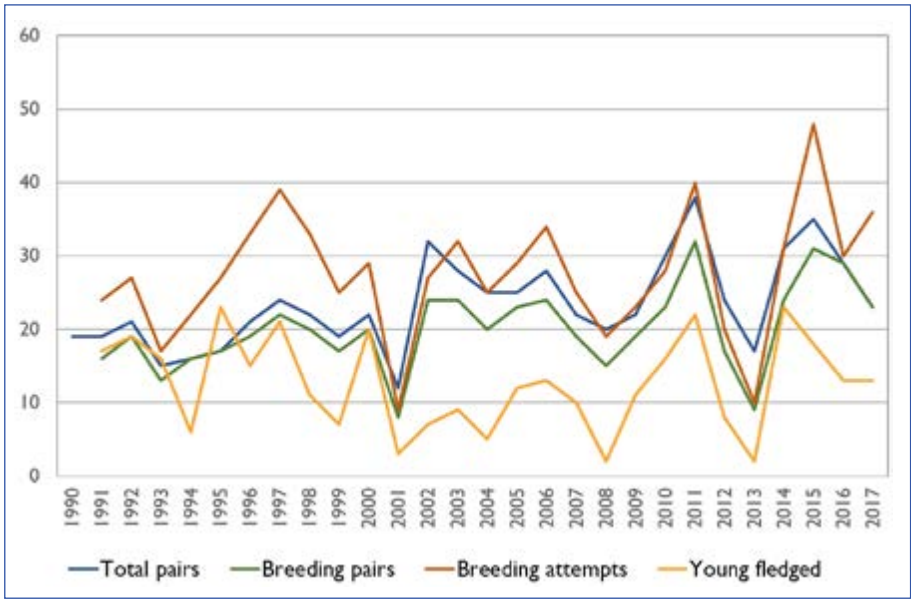


Figure 1. Breeding data for Stone-curlews in Hampshire 1990-2017.

relative to pair numbers in the years from 1991-2000, and then a lower relative number from 2001-2009. This is also reflected in the productivity figures for those years, as shown in Table I.

In the two main areas around Hannington and Porton, we have seen slight differences in population trends. In Hannington, the average number of pairs recorded between 2002 and 2009 was 3.5 annually, but between 2010 and 2017 this had increased to 7.5. Around Porton, the average number of pairs recorded between 2002 and 2009 was 10.8 annually,



Adult stone-curlew with ringed juvenile (Ian Grier)

but between 2010 and 2015 this had increased to 17.5. Although populations in both areas appear to have increased, in 2016 and 2017 in the Porton area only 10 and 12 pairs were recorded respectively.

Ringling recoveries show birds ringed as chicks in Hampshire subsequently recorded breeding in other areas, especially on Salisbury Plain and the Wiltshire part of Porton Down.

Discussion

Hampshire is the eastern edge of the Wessex Stone-curlew population, and the habitat is characteristically different to that seen in most of Wiltshire, the core of the range. Hedgerows and copses become more abundant, and consequently the open nature of the landscape feels reduced. Although it feels like slightly less suitable habitat than some, more open, areas of the Wessex range, in the past there would have been birds right across Hampshire. As Gilbert White noted *'I wonder that the stone-curlew should be mentioned by the writers as a rare bird: it abounds in all the campaign parts of Hampshire and Sussex and breeds, I think, all the summer...'* (White, 1789).

The graph above shows a number of years with higher populations recorded, suggesting that there might be more birds in Hampshire than are found each season. Observer effort has varied to some extent, but should not have caused wide fluctuations, except in 2001 as mentioned above and after 2015. In 2016 the RSPB team was unable to cover an area of Hampshire as the size of the field team was reduced in line with our transition strategy. With more birds to monitor across the Wessex area, and less resource available to carry out surveys, the RSPB developed a lower intensity monitoring strategy, which moved from proactive to reactive monitoring in some areas of the range, including parts of Hampshire. The impact of this can be seen in the graph, where peaks in population counts in 2015 are followed by apparent declines in 2016 and 2017.

The loss of birds in Micheldever and Martin is probably a result of declining populations in fringe locations. Although the project began in the 1980s, and there were still breeding pairs located in these areas at that point, the numbers would have been sufficiently low to be highly vulnerable, and the loss of a few birds may have been significant. Male Stone-curlews tend to return to the areas where they were raised, so it may be that low productivity on



Stone-curlew chick ringed in Hampshire in 2017, July 14th (Nigel Jones)

these sites, coupled with out-migration or low survival of the young, could have made these populations no longer viable. There is still suitable habitat in place, in the form of fallow nesting plots, in both areas.

The increase in population in Hannington may be linked, in part, to monitoring by local volunteers, who survey their own patch and have built up a good understanding of the local pairs and nest sites, as well as continuity of relationship with landowners. Understanding the species, their behaviour and their habitat requirements, is not an easy task, and so any continuity from year to year is a huge advantage to the project. It is also likely to reflect a genuine population increase in this area as well, as there have been many years with a productivity greater than 0.61. Conversely, in the area around Porton, the suggested decline in 2016 and 2017 is more likely to be linked to observer effort, as discussed above. This neatly demonstrates the difference between continuing to monitor intensively, using the same technique that we have used previously, and generating reliable and comparable results. It is not possible to compare the data between years where the monitoring protocol has changed. As such, we will continue to train skilled volunteers to take the lead on monitoring for areas where the survey intensity has declined.

Conclusions

The Stone-curlew population in Hampshire is at the eastern edge of the Wessex range, and saw population declines up to the mid-1980s in line with the Wessex population. As the population declined, it contracted back to the core, and so any decline in Hampshire may have been even more pronounced, especially in the fringe areas of Martin and Micheldever. Since the RSPB Wessex Stone-curlew Project began in the mid-1980s, conservationists and landowners have worked very well in partnership to halt the decline and encourage population growth, largely through the provision of safe nesting habitat, nest protection and interventions. This is resource intensive, and other methods have been sought to reduce the dependence of the birds on intensive field effort. Although some progress has been made in this area, the most reliable and effective management for Stone-curlews still requires people on the ground, and this has been achieved through the recruitment and training of skilled volunteer teams to lead monitoring and protection work for their own patches. In these areas, the Stone-curlew population has shown a small increase, and will likely continue to do so. With further involvement of volunteer teams in the area around Porton Down, we expect to see a similar increase, which would further improve the Hampshire population figures.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all the landowners and farm workers who have worked alongside the RSPB over many years to protect Stone-curlews and provide suitable nesting sites for them. In addition, the various surveyors, both staff and volunteers, who have put countless hours into monitoring and protecting the birds in their patch. In recent years Keith Betton has lead this work with Barry Stalker, Shane King and Adam Hudson, and their efforts have been greatly appreciated.

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Fishlake Meadows: A New Wetland Site for Breeding Warblers

David Thelwell



Reed Warbler (David Thelwell)

Abstract

The background to the formation of wetland habitat at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey is summarised following the abandonment of agricultural uses and pumped drainage in 2000. The results of annual surveys of breeding warblers and selected other passerines from 2007 to 2017 are presented to demonstrate numbers and densities following the habitat changes and to illustrate ongoing trends during the survey period as the wetland habitat has continued to develop. Results from regular trapping and ringing of warblers in autumn from 2010 to 2017 have also demonstrated the importance of the new habitat for migrants.

The history of Fishlake Meadows

Fishlake Meadows lies just north of Romsey, between the Barge Canal and the Fishlake stream. It includes Ashley Meadows, stretching up towards Timsbury Bridge, and covers over 80 ha (200 acres). The area originally stretched from just north of the railway station, an area called Gaston which is now covered by a housing estate. Before development it was an area of allotments and small agricultural strips. The meadows themselves are a part of the wider River Test floodplain and are intersected by small streams and ditches.

The ancient history of Fishlake Meadows remains a bit of a mystery as there are few records to which to refer. No doubt Romsey Abbey nunnery must have had a certain influence over the area, but the Abbey has no available records. However, there were fields on Fishlake which paid tithes to the Abbey. The town of Romsey stands on a gravel shelf to the east of what would have been a very wide marshy area that flooded in winter. The present A3057 to Timsbury was called 'the causeway', no doubt because it was built up as a dry route across the wet meadows. Even that road became impassable at times for pedestrians and they used the drier banks of the Fishlake to get to Greatbridge. The Fishlake (lake means stream in this context) is a man-made watercourse that is higher than the surrounding meadows. This may have been used to flood the adjacent meadows in early spring, but was constructed primarily to retain the flow so that there was a greater fall when it reached Town Mill in Romsey. This

was also the main water supply used by the town. Recent research has shown it is probably more than eight hundred years old.

Up to the Second World War the meadows were used for growing hay and maybe some crops, but around 1941 the owner, Arthur Wills, decided that the area should be used to grow food. The Hampshire War Agriculture Committee sent a Dutch expert to install a pump to drain the meadows. Food crops were grown on the rich peaty soil and a crop of poplars planted along the edges of the ditches. The poplars were originally intended to be used for matchsticks. The market collapsed in the 1960s and the trees were never harvested. Farming carried on into the 1970s (Figure 1) when the land was sold to Hilliers Nurseries.

The land was unsuitable as a tree nursery and so was eventually sold (to the footballer Kevin Keegan). Planning permission for a golf course was applied for and granted, but never constructed. During this time the water pump was working, but eventually age caught up and it started to break down. Finally it became uneconomic to repair and ceased operation in the late 1990s. During the time it kept malfunctioning and being repaired, the area would flood lightly every winter. Eventually the flooding lasted all year and in 2000 the whole area between Fishlake and the canal flooded after heavy rain during the winter. The vegetation turned to wetland flora with the changing conditions. Figures 2 (a) and (c) compare conditions in the 1980s with (b) and (d) today.

The meadows have not been farmed since the early 1990s so it was interesting to see how rapidly an area of Hampshire water meadows could develop into an excellent wildlife habitat. This is a unique area that has now become one of the most significant wetland areas in inland Hampshire (Figure 3).

As former farmland the area was not particularly good for birds, though a few pairs of Reed and Sedge Warblers nested by a small fishing pond in the south-west corner. The north-west fields were occasionally used for shooting Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and in wet springs, Redshanks *Tringa totanus* would gather and display on any floods.

Fishlake surveys

As Fishlake Meadows became a good site for birds and wildlife, I decided to carry out an annual breeding warbler survey over the whole site, starting in 2007 to 2017 (with 2008 being missed). At first the flooded areas were restricted to the lower reaches and reedbeds were limited, but throughout this period the areas of permanent water, bulrushes and reeds gradually increased. The lines of poplars were slowly drowned and died and many have now fallen or been blown over. The remaining dead trees are still a feature and provide good perches for raptors, notably Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus*, and roosting Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

The area has been neglected and free from human interference for almost thirty years and the transformation has been dramatic and surprisingly rapid. The purpose of the survey was



Figure 1. Aerial view of Fishlake Meadows in the 1960s when under cultivation. (Photo: Romsey and District Society)



Figure 2. Top left (a): central ditch and bridge looking south in 1980s. Top right (b): view today; the fields were very flat and hence the water is quite shallow. Bottom left (c): south-west corner in 1985, looking north along the central drain with grass meadow and dark soil showing beyond on ploughed meadows. Bottom right (d): looking south over the south-west pool today. (Left photos: Romsey & District Society; right photos: David Thelwell)

to show changes in warbler numbers, as the vegetation continued to progress to flooded fen and swamp. However, this area has always been soft river valley peat. This was illustrated when about 50 years ago a tractor working in the Ashley Meadows area got stuck in soft soil. The driver abandoned the vehicle to get help, but left the engine running. When he returned with help, the tractor had sunk into the peat and eventually disappeared and is apparently still there!



Figure 3. (a) 2012 aerial of Fishlake Meadows looking from the south, and (b) main pool looking north. (Photo (a) courtesy HIWWT; (b) David Thelwell)

Methodology

Over the period surveyed, the area has held large numbers of singing male warblers, Reed Buntings and Wrens. (Note scientific names are given in Tables 1 and 2 if not in text). Seven regular breeding species of warbler were recorded, one species has almost disappeared (Willow Warbler), another is an intermittent breeder (Grasshopper Warbler) and another held territory once during the survey period in May and June 2009 (Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*). Other species were also recorded, notably Reed Bunting, Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* (single pair), Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* and Nightingale. Cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* were attracted by the Reed Warblers, so numbers of calling males were noted.

Each spring several visits were made during May, when males were singing and before they had young and singing reduced. Each year in early May, singing birds were recorded on a base map. This required several visits in early mornings in weather suitable for birds to sing. The whole area was surveyed and some spots double-checked. Some totals may differ from previously published HOS records because either they were not submitted at the time or, where higher by others, may have been based on different methods or areas and possibly included migrants.

The surveys were carried out by walking Fishlake Meadows Road, the whole of Fishlake stream, the Barge Canal right up to the main road, the east west footpath below Ashley Meadows, the path from Cupernham Lane down to the Canal, the central path down the middle of the site and a few of the drier fields of Ashley and Fishlake Meadows.

Yearly numbers and distribution of warblers and some other passerines

Although there were minor floods prior to 2000/2001, that winter the whole area flooded for the first time and even Fishlake Meadows Road was closed and under water. After that, winter flooding was annual and swamp and wetland vegetation started to take hold very quickly.

The first survey was done in 2007 and already there was a significant amount of reeds to attract breeding Reed Warblers, with a total of 31 singing males. They were along the main ditches and drains, where reeds had started to spread. Sedge Warbler numbers were 22 and with Reed Warblers were already the dominant species. Cetti's Warblers had increased in the Test Valley and eight singing males were heard. A total of 71 warblers was counted which also included Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and Garden Warbler. Four singing male Reed Buntings were also recorded.

Apart from 2008, when no survey was carried out, surveys continued every year up to 2017. Results are summarised in Table 1 and presented graphically in Figure 4 for wetland warblers and Figure 5 for other warblers and passerines.

Wide variations are evident between years, possibly due to fluctuations in breeding success the previous year or mortality in the wintering areas or along migration routes, especially for the Trans-Saharan migrant species. However, despite this, some trends are apparent over the study period. For the four wetland warblers in Figure 4, both Sedge Warblers and Cetti's Warblers have been slowly increasing whereas Reed Warblers appear to be relatively stable within wide limits and the small numbers of Grasshopper Warblers are quite variable. For the other five warblers in Figure 5, Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps are the dominant species and both are continuing to increase, especially the former, as the scrub and other land-based vegetation becomes more mature. Numbers of the other three species remain low.

Table 1: Singing males recorded (2007-2017)

Year	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	8	11	15	12	22	11	15	22	23	16
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							1	1		
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	6	8	15	17	19	13	16	20	27	25
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	22	19	28	17	29	20	25	23	35	25
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	31	19	39	21	22	38	20	27	28	28
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>			2	4	2	1	1			1
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		1								
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	3	11	21	27	20	22	19	21	29	19
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	1		7	4	5	5	3	7	6	6
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>		1				3		1	2	2
Warbler totals	71	70	127	102	119	113	100	122	150	122
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	22	31	33	40	49
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		2	3	4-5		1-2		1		
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	4	5	9	6	6	6	5	6	5-6	6

nc = not counted; blank indicates zero count.

Other notable breeding species included an average of five to six Reed Buntings (peak nine in 2010) and between one and five Nightingales between 2009 and 2015. The Nightingales finally disappeared after the main breeding site near Cupernham Lane was bulldozed for housing after a 'professional' ecological survey claimed it contained no breeding Nightingales! In addition, several more Nightingale sites have been lost nearby, one to an industrial park and the other to clearance of old gravel pits, also with possible house building in mind. In addition, three male Cuckoos were present in 2011 and 2012 and two in 2014, a singing Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* was heard in 2017, and Wren numbers increased from 22 in 2013 to 49 by 2017.

Maps of singing male warblers in 2017 are shown in Figure 6 to illustrate the distribution of each species.

Recent Developments

In 2017 Fishlake Meadows was given by developers to Test Valley Borough Council as a nature reserve and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) took over management. It will be interesting to see how the warblers fare and what changes are made to the habitat. Will there be big changes to the habitat, partly due to grazing and volunteer work? Will there be notable changes in the warbler and other species populations that have been considered here? Will the habitat management for other wetland fauna allow more warblers to breed or will it have an adverse effect? Surveys over the next few years should provide the answers.

Trapping & ringing

In addition to being a breeding area for warblers, the importance of the reedbeds and nearby willow and sallow bushes as a stop-over for migrants has been demonstrated by trapping and ringing carried out each autumn in and on the edge of the reedbeds between 2010-16 (except 2012) (Jones 2017). Over the six year period, the totals of warblers and selected other species caught and ringed are given in Table 2 together with numbers re-trapped or controlled.

Over the six autumns 4,219 birds of 51 species were trapped and ringed. The totals in Table 2 also give an indication of the relative abundances. The top three species of warblers were Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler and Chiffchaff, with the highest number of captures for Sedge Warblers being approximately twice that of Reed Warblers. Amongst the other birds ringed, but not listed above, were two young Cuckoos and 22 Water Rails *Rallus aquaticus*. In addition,

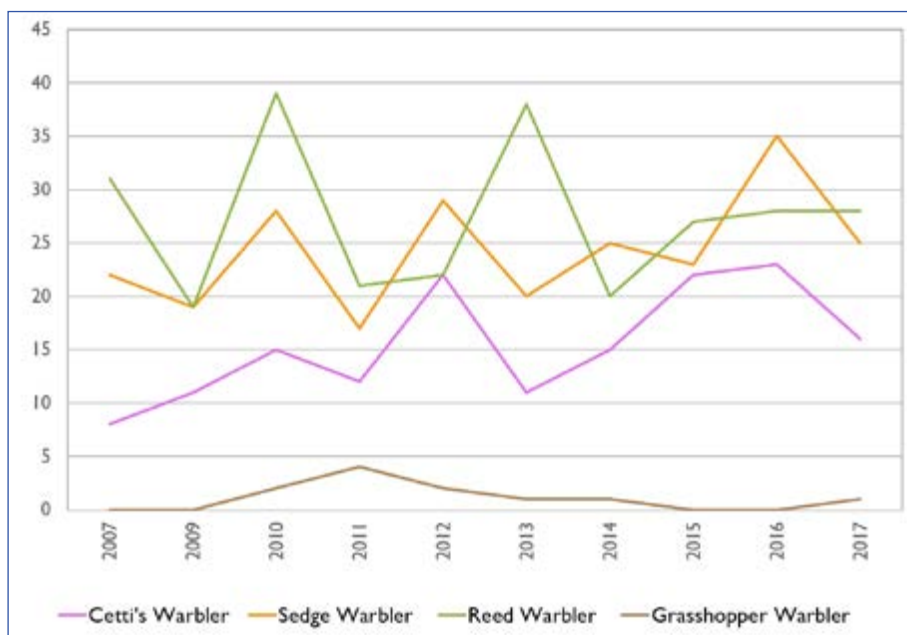


Figure 4. Numbers of singing male warblers 2009-2017 (four wetland species)

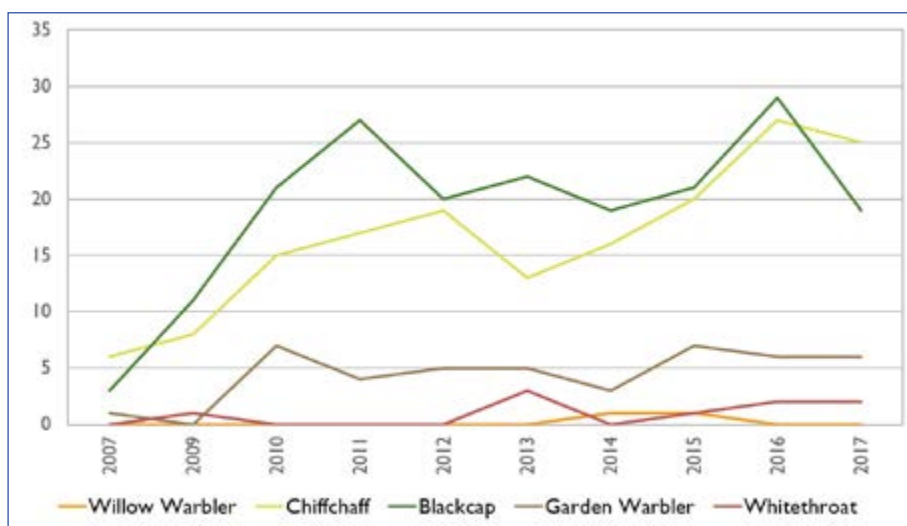


Figure 5. Numbers of singing male warblers (2009-2017) (other species)

rarities included Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*, Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus*, Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* and Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*.

Hampshire holds a significant number of breeding Cetti's Warblers and Fishlake Meadows is one of the centres for this species in the county. Several overseas recoveries of Reed and Sedge Warblers have also confirmed Fishlake Meadows as a staging point in autumn for continental birds. Of note, a Reed Warbler ringed as a first year in early September 2014 and controlled in southern Sweden in late August 2015 was only the third UK ringed Reed Warbler to have been trapped in that country (Walker *et al.* 2016).

Table 2. Totals of warblers and selected other species ringed at Fishlake Meadows between 2010 and 2016 with totals retrapped/controlled.

Species	Caught & ringed	Rank	Retrapped or controlled	% Retrapped or controlled
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	139	6	31	22.3
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	107	7	0	0
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	538	3	9	1.7
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1,153	1	10	0.9
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	631	2	19	3.0
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	8	11	0	0
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	153	5	1	0.7
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	11	10	0	0
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	24	9	0	0
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	107	7	0	0
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	447	4	17	3.8

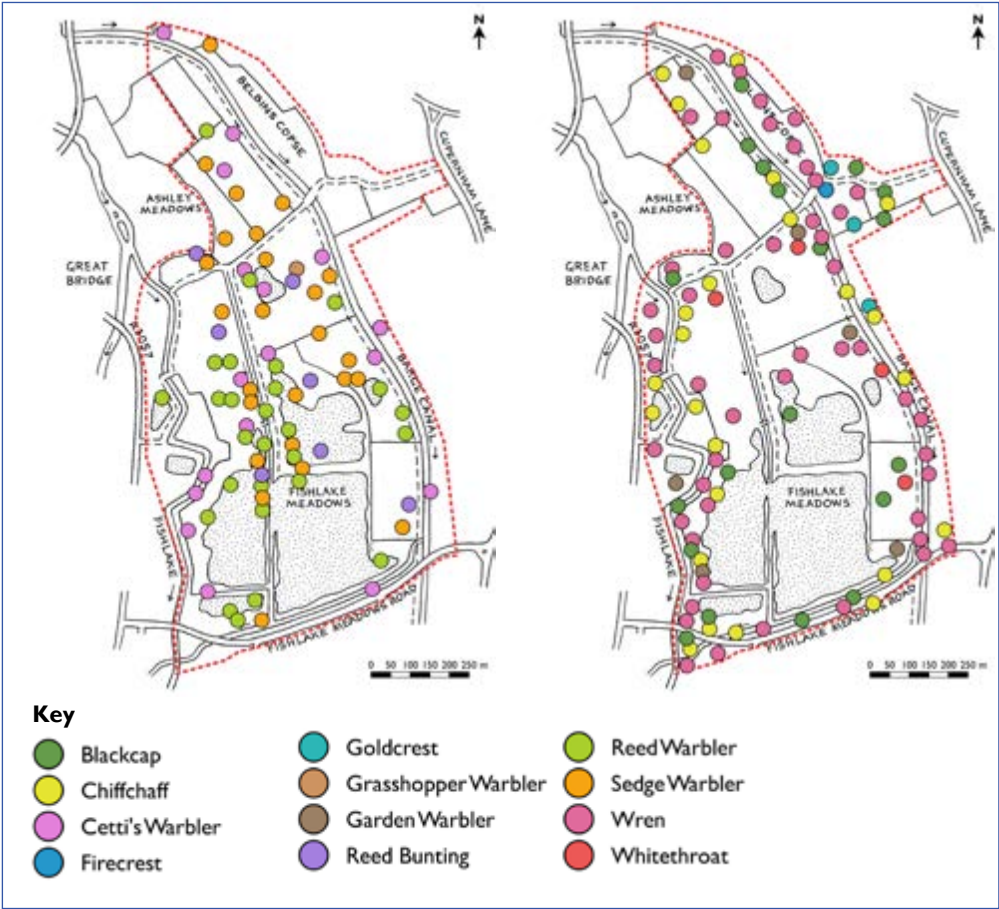


Figure 6. Maps of singing wetland warblers (left) and other warblers and passerines (right) in 2017.

Conclusions

The long neglect of an area of water meadow, and its inundation from 1999, allowed a study of the progression of plants and wildlife returning to former cultivated land. It must be almost unique in Hampshire for a large area of farmland to be abandoned for thirty years and allowed to revert to natural conditions. Even nature reserves are man-managed, so here was an example to show how quickly nature will take over again when completely left alone. This was a great opportunity to record the numbers of newly established breeding warblers and other bird species.

I was surprised how quickly the land turned to a top quality natural environment containing high numbers of specialised wetland and fenland breeding passerines. It seems that most species moved in to occupy suitable habitat immediately and probably now most species have already reached their optimum populations. Some may have decreased or been lost but others, like Cetti's Warbler and Sedge Warblers, are still increasing, as are Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and Wrens. It will be interesting to see how these species progress now that it has become a managed nature reserve.

As well as providing suitable breeding habitat for warblers and others, the reedbeds and associated willow and sallow scrub have been demonstrated to provide a stop-over for significant numbers of autumn migrants.

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David Thelwell, 69 Latham Road, Romsey, SO51 7DB harrier.dt@gmail.com



An early view of the main pool before the flooded vegetation disappeared.

A Breeding Season Survey of Corn Buntings in Hampshire 2017

Keith Betton



Corn Bunting, Martin Down (Keith Betton)

Abstract

The results of a survey of singing Corn Buntings in 2017 are presented and compared to previous findings. A total of 172 singing males was located in 30 tetrads out of 56 which were visited. Reasons for the species decline are discussed and a range of management measures to reverse the trend are summarised.

Background

The Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* is a farmland specialist of national priority for conservation bodies. It appears on the UK's Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern and is on the Section 41 list of priority species within the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006. The story of its decline across the whole of the UK has been particularly alarming due to its speed and severity. Early signs of this were detected in many parts of the UK in the 1970s and have been well documented (Donald *et al.* 1994). In fact the UK breeding population declined by 89% between 1970 and 2004, and has suffered a further reduction of 5% up to 2016 (Harris *et al.* 2018).

On a local scale the species was included in Hampshire's Biodiversity Action Plan for seed-eating farmland birds in the early 2000s and as a result a county-wide survey was organised in 2005 (Betton 2006). That survey was intended to simply confirm presence or absence from individual tetrads and birds were found in 36 tetrads compared to 194 in the 1986-91 HOS Breeding Atlas. This compares with a range of 46 tetrads during the 2008-2012 HOS Breeding Atlas (only 39 of which were thought to contain breeding pairs) (Eyre 2015). The

2017 survey was therefore designed not only to reconfirm the range but also estimate the population size, and reveal which areas hold the largest concentrations.

Methods

Volunteers were recruited to re-survey all of the tetrads where Corn Buntings were found in the 2005 survey regardless of their history since then, with additional surveys of any extra tetrads that held breeding Corn Buntings in the 2008-12 Atlas. Using these criteria 56 tetrads needed to be surveyed. No attempt was made to survey areas where Corn Buntings had only been seen prior to 2005 or that had never held breeding pairs.

Observers were asked to find any Corn Buntings in the tetrad, and particularly singing birds, obtaining a six-figure grid reference for each sighting. They were asked to record the main habitat type within 250m of where each singing bird was located. Because many Corn Buntings are still roaming around in flocks in mid-April, surveyors were asked to make three visits in May, June and July, spaced roughly four weeks apart. Surveys were recommended between dawn and 11:00 if possible to maximise the chance of locating singing males. The species is a late breeder and birds are often still feeding young in the nest in August, although they rarely sing at this stage. Observers were encouraged to collect data in August, but this was not mandatory.

Surveyors were asked to view as much farmland and downland habitat as possible from public footpaths, seeking permission for special access if needed. Everyone taking part was provided with a survey sheet to complete for each visit, which contained a map on which observations were marked, and there was a table for details of sightings and habitat. Records of Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Quail *Coturnix coturnix* and Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* were also collected for the HOS database.

It was decided that if a singing male was more than 100m from one noted on a previous visit then it was probably in a different territory. This is not an exact science, and unless birds are colour ringed there is never a perfect way to assess the limits of each territory. Some Corn Bunting males support several females in different nests so it can get very confusing – but these ought to be treated as different territories due to the male defending each of them.

Results

All of the 56 target tetrads were visited at least twice, and most three times, and two additional tetrads were surveyed as a result of extra information received. A total of 172 Corn Bunting territories with singing males was located across 30 tetrads as shown below.

Tetrad	SU01 J	SU01 P	SU01 T	SU01 U	SU01 Z	SU02 K	SU02 Q	SU02 V	SU12 A	SU12 B
Total	1	9	1	5	14	3	11	16	8	6

Tetrad	SU12 F	SU12 G	SU12 K	SU23 P	SU23 T	SU23 U	SU23 X	SU24 K	SU24 L	SU24 Q
Total	6	1	5	1	13	12	1	9	3	2

Tetrad	SU24 V	SU33 I	SU33 K	SU33 M	SU34 C	SU43 E	SU52 I	SU52 N	SU52 P	SU55 I
Total	2	9	1	1	2	14	9	2	2	2

A graphical representation of range by tetrad is shown below (Figure 1) alongside the totals of territories per 10km square.

One major change since the 2008-2012 Breeding Atlas is the complete disappearance of Corn Buntings from the downs around Old Winchester Hill and Hambledon. John Shillitoe monitored the Hambledon population for many years, and previously noted a decline from

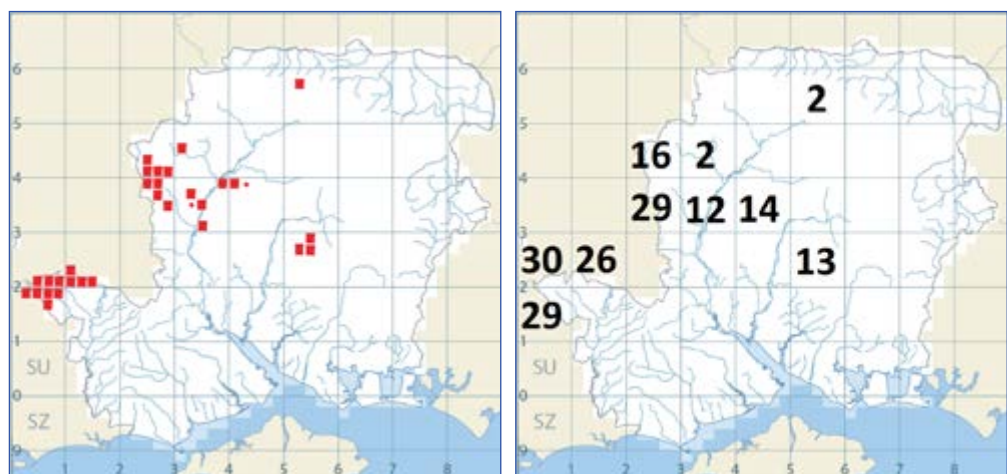


Figure 1. Tetrads with singing male Corn Bunting (left) and numbers of males in each 10km square (right).

16 territories in 2001 to just four territories in 2005 (Betton 2006). Breeding ceased there after 2006, and at nearby Old Winchester Hill the last territory was found in 2011. However no such decline has been noted around Cheesefoot Head and Gander Down just 18km to the north-west, and the population there has remained strong with 13 territories being found in the 2017 survey.

In recent years there have always been relatively large numbers of Corn Buntings breeding around Martin Down and the nearby farms between there and Whitsbury. A generous offer was made by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to carry out the survey in nine tetrads in this area. This was of great value as their staff had been granted unlimited access to private land to carry out a wider survey of bird numbers as in some areas these farms have few public rights of way. Their team found 73 Corn Bunting territories in areas that are rarely reported on in the Hampshire Bird Report.

It was pleasing to find that Corn Buntings were found in new areas from which they have not been reported recently. This was the case in SU34C and SU55I, neither of which were found to have Corn Buntings in the 2008-2012 Breeding Atlas.

Taking each of the areas surveyed, the number of birds can be summarised as follows:

Martin Down – 12	Martin Village to Whitsbury – 73
The Wallops to Cholderton – 44	Houghton Down – 10
Monxton – 2	Kings Somborne – 1
Chilbolton – 15	Cheesefoot Head / Gander Down -13
Kingsclere – 2	Hambledon area / Old Winchester Hill – 0

Although birds were found in 30 tetrads, they only occupied 59 individual one-km squares, giving an average of 2.9 territories per square km in which they were breeding. However one square to the east of Martin held an impressive nine singing males. The range from one to nine pairs per square km is shown in the chart below (Figure 2).

To put the Hampshire population into context, the map below (Figure 3) is from the recent BTO Atlas (Balmer *et al.* 2013) and shows the strong population in Wiltshire and the Sussex South Downs. It is clear that the populations around Martin, Chilbolton and Cholderton are the eastern extremity of that much larger cluster, and the birds around Hambledon were the western tip of the reducing South Downs cluster, which had already contracted in West Sussex.



Typical Corn Bunting habitats at Martin Down (top) and Ovington Down (bottom) (Keith Betton)

It is well known that Corn Buntings are attracted to areas of cereal crops and surveyors were asked to note the nearest crop to any singing birds. The result was that 41% of song posts were in barley, 28% were in wheat and 19% were in pasture.

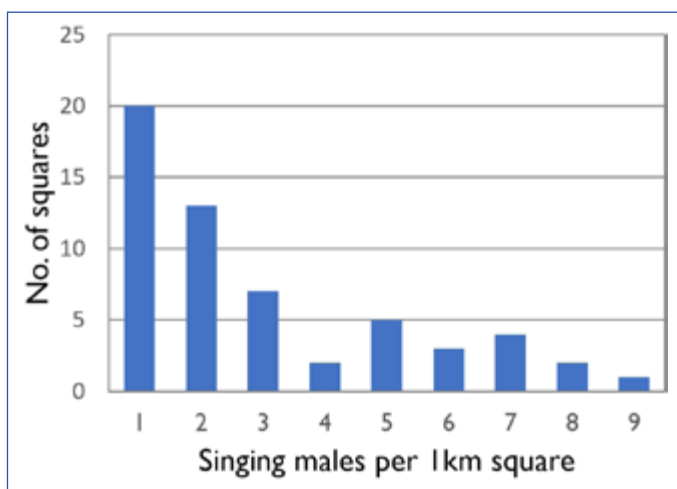


Figure 2. Singing males per 1km square

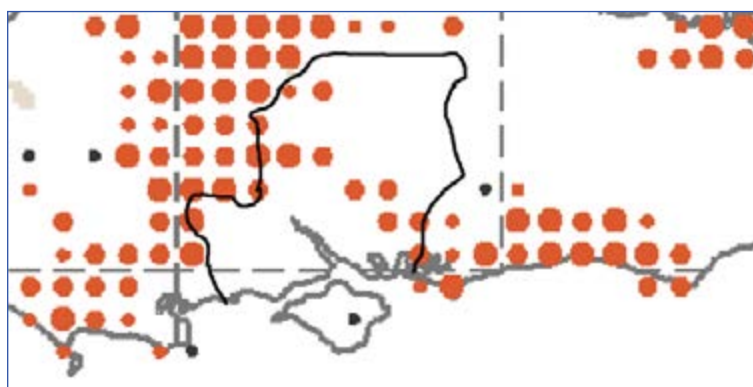


Figure 3. Corn Bunting distribution in south-central England, 2008-2011 with Hampshire border outlined (from BTO Atlas)

Next steps

The detailed survey results have been sent to conservation organisations that talk to Hampshire farmers in the hope that in some cases measures might be carried out to increase the chances of regaining their numbers.

The main agricultural causes of population decline in the Corn Bunting have been shown to include the reduction in weeds as a result of increased herbicide use, the loss of weedy over-winter stubbles due to autumn sowing/spring-cropping, the reduction of invertebrates through grassland intensification, and the effects of earlier cereal harvesting and repeated silage-cutting on nest success (Brickle *et al.* 2000, Wilson *et al.* 2009). In summary, if their nest survives, there are fewer invertebrates to feed Corn Bunting chicks and in winter there are fewer seeds to keep the adults alive.

In an attempt to reverse such trends the Government has made funds available to those farmers who are willing to carry out wildlife-friendly activities. These are generally known as Agri-Environment Schemes and there have been several versions over the last two decades. The latest of these is known as Countryside Stewardship. Typical actions that Hampshire farmers have been undertaking as a result of these schemes have included creating grass

margins, beetle banks, flower-rich margins, unharvested cereal headlands, growing of wild bird seed mixes and leaving overwinter stubbles. Farmers can also provide supplementary feed for birds between December and April to make up for the seed short-fall, particularly during this so-called 'hungry gap' when other food sources are at low levels. For example, most of the farmers in the area to the east of Martin are putting out such food. It is no surprise that flocks of up to 100 Corn Buntings have been recorded nearby in recent years.

However there is another new technique that has been shown to increase Corn Bunting productivity. The birds often select thick-sward areas on farms that routinely occur close to crop edges where the tractor has drilled seed into the same piece of ground twice as it has turned corners or reversed. The birds often choose to nest in these areas, but due to their proximity to hedge boundaries this means that these nests are more vulnerable to predators that forage from hedges. A new option for farmers is to intentionally carry out such 'double drilling' in areas further away from the boundaries, thus attracting the birds to nest away from field edges. This new technique has been trialled by the RSPB with great success (Setchfield & Peach 2016). This option is currently being added to the package of measures that farmers can use with winter cereals under Countryside Stewardship. It is brand new so has not been taken up by many so far – but conservation organisations are working alongside Natural England to promote it in conjunction with the Threatened Species Supplements that are specifically designed to help Corn Buntings.

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to the HOS members and others who carried out the survey work and are responsible for delivering these results. In particular I am grateful to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust for their help around the Allenford and Martin Down Farm Cluster. On behalf of the survey team I would like to thank all of the farmers who were willing to grant access so that we could survey this very special bird. I am grateful to Caroline French (RSPB) and Alison Cross (HIWWT) for commenting on a draft of this paper, and I applaud them for the great efforts they make to work with farmers for the benefit of our birds.

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Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR keithbetton@hotmail.com

First for Hampshire: Elegant Tern on Hayling Island

Andy Johnson

Abstract

An adult Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* was found on June 7th at Fishery Creek, Hayling Island and two days later nearby at Sandy Point. Its colour rings identified it as one of the known breeders from Banc d'Arguin, France. Following BOURC's decision to admit Elegant Tern to the British List in 2018, the record was accepted by BBRC and deemed to be the first bird to be recorded in Britain, returning 15 years after its initial appearance.

Circumstances

Wednesday 7th June was all about the wind. Westerly gales the previous day had brought an influx of European Storm Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* to southern and western coasts, giving me a rare opportunity to try to see one from my Sandy Point patch. As with most seawatches from Sandy Point, it was hard going: around ten gannets *Morus bassanus*, a Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, and flocks of up to 34 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* toing and froing were all I saw in the first couple of hours. At 07:42 two Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* flew east – a really good bird here – and another flew west 20 minutes later. However, by 09:30 I'd failed to get even a hint of a 'stormie' and, with high tide at 11:15, I decided to stretch my legs and make my way to Sparkes Marina to check the high tide roosts.

Unsurprisingly Black Point had very little – just two Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* and two Dunlin *Calidris alpina* trying to shelter from the wind. I moved across to Fishery Creek and could see that there were quite a few gulls and terns on the small promontory on the north side of the creek. I decided I'd better have a scan, just in case there were any roosting waders that I couldn't see with bins. Sheltering in one of the slipways, I trained my scope on the spit. The next thing I knew was that I was looking at an Elegant Tern.



Elegant Tern, Fishery Creek, June 7th – what my first scan looked like! (Andy Johnson)

How did that happen?! I'd obviously been hoping that Guernsey's American Royal Tern *T. maximus* would make its way to the south coast and end up on my patch – but that didn't even enter my thoughts at this point as I was so obviously looking at an unmistakable adult Elegant Tern! I soon noticed that it was colour-ringed too – green over yellow on the left, with a white ring on the right leg and a metal ring above the 'knee'. I had a vague recollection of the French birds having been colour-ringed and thought it would at least preclude any question marks over the bird's identity.

Although views were great, trying to take photos of the bird was proving difficult on account of the distance (300m from my position on the south side of Fishery Creek), the relentless wind (from which it seemed impossible to shelter completely) and the fact that if the tern wasn't asleep, then it was actively preening, resulting in plenty of useless images! I directed visiting birders to a vantage point much closer to the spit so that they would get much closer views, less than 100m away. Unfortunately for me to get there would involve a half-hour hike to the end of Fishery Creek and back up the other side – not a realistic option at this point!

Twice already the Elegant Tern, along with the eight Sandwich Terns *T. sandvicensis* with which it was associating, had got up, flown round, and landed again, when at 11:15 the group took to



Elegant Tern, Fishery Creek, June 7th – the colour rings are just visible (Andy Johnson)

the air again. This time they gained height and headed eastwards away from the spit. I kept the scope on the Elegant Tern and watched it suddenly plunge earthwards losing it behind Sparkes Marina. I prayed that it had come back down on Black Point, but alas it had not, and it didn't return. Five people managed to get there in the hour or so that the bird had been present. There was no sign of it the next day and, now knowing from its colour rings that this was bird 'C', I honestly thought the next we would hear was that it had returned to its regular haunt at Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, France, where it had been present up to mid-May.

Two days later on Friday June 9th, having had four sightings in the morning of at least one European Storm Petrel off Sandy Point, I returned to the seafront at around 16:30 to see if there would be more petrels – and there were at least three lingering all evening. A feeding flock of terns was present just offshore comprising a few dozen Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* and Sandwich Terns, but nothing more notable when I arrived. However, I scanned the flock again half an hour later and suddenly there it was again – the Elegant Tern was back!! I put news straight out, trying not to take my eyes off the bird (which is easier said than done!).



Elegant Tern, Fishery Creek, June 7th – the view from the north shore of Fishery Creek (Martin Gillingham)

The next ten minutes seemed rather surreal, watching this mega-rarity just doing its thing in amongst the regular tern flock. However, it then moved to a feeding flock much further away, requiring full concentration to stay on it. After a further ten minutes it left the second flock, departing eastwards across the entrance to Chichester Harbour and off along the Sussex coast (thereby becoming the first record for Sussex). I watched it become an ever-decreasing speck in the distance until it literally could not be seen any more, by which time it must have been several miles away. Sure enough, it was found the next day in the tern colony at Pagham Harbour

(13 kilometres east of Sandy Point), where it took up residence until 20th, before relocating to Brownsea Island in Dorset on 21st-22nd. It then went missing for around ten days before appearing back on the French coast.



Elegant Tern, Pagham Harbour, June 12th (Baz Scampion)

Description

The obvious main feature was the bill: long and slender, somewhat drooping, bright orange, paling slightly towards a yellower tip. The bill shape, together with its very shaggy black cap, its size – marginally larger than the accompanying Sandwich Terns – and being the same shade of light grey as Sandwich Tern immediately indicated this was an Elegant Tern rather than Lesser Crested *T. bengalensis* or any other orange-billed tern. In flight it looked even larger compared to the Sandwich Terns, and this is when it seemed particularly aptly named! The white rump and tail further ruled out Lesser Crested Tern. The primaries had a prominent dark trailing edge below, whilst above, the fourth primary was much darker than the others, standing out noticeably both in flight and on the ground. Interestingly, this dark primary seems to be a permanent feature, also shown in photographs of the bird taken in previous years (see below).

Colour Rings

The brevity of the description is aided by the fact that this bird sported colour rings showing it to be bird 'C', a male first seen at Banc d'Arguin, Gironde in 2002, then caught and ringed on July 3rd 2003 when it was also DNA sampled – proving it to be a genuine Elegant Tern rather than a hybrid. It had returned there to breed in six subsequent years – 2005-7, 2009, 2010 and 2013, but also on one or two occasions in the colony at Noirmoutier. In 2017, it again returned to Banc d'Arguin where it was present up to at least mid-May. Until its appearance in Hampshire, it had only been seen once away from its breeding colonies, and that was near Cape Town, South Africa on January 1st 2007.



*Adult male Elegant Tern (bird 'C') with hybrid chick, Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, France, July 11th 2006
(Julien Gernigon)*

Context

Elegant Tern breeds along the west coast of Mexico and the USA, wintering primarily in South America.

The record has been accepted by BBRC and is the first occurrence of Elegant Tern in both Hampshire and Sussex (Holt *et al.* 2018). The occurrence of a colour-ringed, DNA-tested individual prompted a review of the three previous records of Elegant Tern in the UK, in Devon in May and July 2002, Caernarfonshire in July 2002 and Dorset in May 2005, resulting in their formal acceptance. It was also proven that the Hampshire bird was in fact the same as the first, found at Dawlish Warren in Devon on May 18th 2002, prior to its arrival in France.

Five records have been accepted in Ireland, in Co. Down in June-July 1982, Co. Wexford in July 1999, Co. Mayo in October 2001, Co. Kerry in October 2002 and Co. Meath in July 2005, with another in Co. Kerry in September 2013 awaiting acceptance.

As well as birds 'A', 'B' and 'C' (all colour-ringed and DNA-tested), a number of other unringed Elegant Terns have also been recorded in France and Spain, including one apparently paired with bird 'A' at one of the Sandwich Tern colonies on the French coast from 2009-16. For further details of these birds, including the DNA analyses, see <https://www.birdguides.com/articles/occurrence-of-multiple-elegant-terns-confirmed-in-western-europe/>.

Reference

Holt, C. and the Rarities Committee. 2018. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2017. *British Birds* 111: 557-627.

Andy Johnson, 5/22 Bracklesham Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 9SJ andyhaylingisland@hotmail.co.uk

First for Hampshire: Lesser Scaup at Blashford Lakes

Alan Lewis

Abstract

A drake Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* was found at Blashford Lakes on October 28th and remained until November 5th, reappearing briefly in February 2018. This has been accepted by HOSRP and is the first for Hampshire.

Circumstances

Of all the gaps in the Hampshire List, one of the most glaring omissions at the start of 2017 was Lesser Scaup. Records have come from most other parts of the UK and even inland counties such as Hertfordshire have attracted this species.

Since moving to the county in the late 1990s, I've always checked any flocks of *Aythya* ducks for rare species, but with little to show for the effort. When a drake Lesser Scaup turned up at Longham Lakes, Dorset on Oct 23rd, like many Hampshire birders, I speculated whether it might move further east. The Longham bird was seen up to the evening of Thursday October 26th, but there was no sign of it there on Friday 27th and so I made plans to search for it at Blashford Lakes on Saturday 28th.

Arriving at dawn at Ibsley Water, a low mist was settled across the lake and was slow to clear, but eventually I was able to satisfy myself that the Lesser Scaup was not present. I set off south along the footpath through the valley, checking both Rockford and Ivy Lakes without success and then set up my scope on the footpath along the western edge of Spinnaker (Blashford) Lake. Again there was a low mist across most of the lake and the low sun from the east made viewing difficult, but a flock of about 30-40 Tufted Ducks *Aythya fuligula* was stretched in a line along the distant eastern shore. As I was scanning the lake with binoculars, a lone *Aythya* flew through my view and I followed it as it pitched down at the southern end of the lake. In



Adult male Lesser Scaup, Spinnaker Lake, Blashford Lakes, Oct 28th (Lee Fuller)



Drake Lesser Scaup (Left) with Tufted Duck for comparison. Note especially the different head shapes. Blashford Lakes, Oct 28th (Lee Fuller)

flight it seemed to show a grey back and a short white wingbar, but the light was so poor I was unsure if these features were real. As I fixed my scope on the lone duck, I was delighted to confirm that this was a drake Lesser Scaup and noted the key features including the grey mantle, the all-grey bill with a small black nail and the peak-headed profile so different to the rounded head of the (Greater) Scaup *Aythya marila*. Having secured a few acceptable record shots, I put a message out via a small text group of friends and via Rare Bird Alert and set about taking more images, waiting for the first birders to arrive.

Despite the start of dinghy racing on the lake, the bird showed very well at the southern end until late morning with a small group of Tufted Ducks, with all the birders present getting excellent views, when it unexpectedly flew off towards Snails Lake. For the rest of the day it moved between Spinnaker Lake (twice), Snails Lake (twice) and Ivy Lake (once) before flying south from Ivy Lake with a small group of Tufted Ducks at 15:50, much to one observer's disappointment when he arrived five minutes later having driven back down to Hampshire from Birmingham!

Description

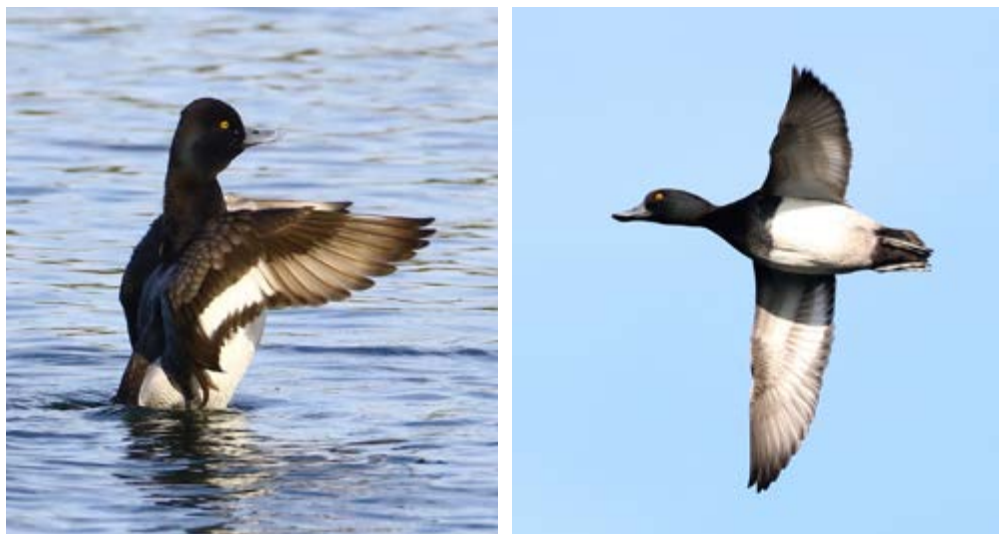
General impression: A typical *Aythya* drake with a black, white and grey pattern without any brown tones. In direct comparison, very slightly larger than a male Tufted Duck, with fuller cheeks, slightly broader beam, slightly longer-necked when alert and with higher peaked crown.

Plumage: Head and neck black, glossed green in direct sunlight, but glossed purple in low oblique light; breast black, belly and flanks white but with extensive pale grey scaling on the flanks; ventral area smudgy grey with black undertail coverts (from photos). Mantle and scapulars whitish or pale grey with narrow mid-grey scaling appearing pale grey at distance; greater coverts blackish; secondaries with broad white bases and black tips forming short but very bright inner wing bar; primaries mid or dark grey, darker, almost blackish, distally creating distinct greyish outer wing bar. Underwing pattern complex (from photos only) but essentially mid-grey with two white bands, one mirroring the upper wing bar across the secondaries and primaries and another across the median coverts area.

Bare Parts: Bill was typical of a 'Scaup type'; grey and rather broad-tipped with a rather small black nail, with a smaller band of pale grey just behind the nail. The iris was golden yellow and the legs and feet were mid-grey. The bird was not ringed.

Ageing: The bird was in full adult male plumage. A juvenile male in October would predominantly be brown with only scattered adult feathers appearing, if any.

There was no sign of the Lesser Scaup for the rest of 28th, but it reappeared on Spinnaker Lake the next morning and remained either on this lake, Snails Lake or Ivy Lake until November 5th. It then disappeared, although what was probably the same bird was relocated at Chew Valley Lake on November 12th.



Drake Lesser Scaup illustrating upperwing and underwing patterns, Blashford Lakes, Oct 28th (Left: Lee Fuller; Right Alan Lewis)

Somewhat remarkably the bird was relocated back on the Blashford Lakes complex at Ibsley Water on Saturday February 3rd 2018 by Ashley Howe, when I was sat next to him and as we were watching Hampshire's first Thayer's Gull *Larus (glaucoideus) thayeri*! On this occasion the Lesser Scaup remained until February 5th before disappearing once more.

Previous Records in Britain and Ireland

Since the first British record of this species at Chasewater, Staffordshire between 8th March and 26th April 1987 there has been an exponential increase in occurrence in Britain with just this bird in the 1980s followed by 38 in the 1990s and 111 in the 2000s (including ten or more in six years and 27 in 2007), with a further 32 between 2010 and 2014. As a consequence of the increase in Britain, with a ten-year mean of 10.4 new arrivals/year (White & Kehoe 2017), this species was dropped from the list of rarities considered by BBRC with effect from 1st January 2015. Another six new arrivals were recorded in 2015. Mirroring the British pattern, a total of 37 had occurred in Ireland to the end of 2015 since the first there in 1988.

The increase in vagrants here – and elsewhere in Europe – contrasts with a marked decline in the native range of North America, where the combined Lesser Scaup and Scaup population has declined at an average rate of 97,138 per year between 1974 and 2009. This decline was the result of falling numbers of Lesser Scaup, which were most notable in the west of the range of this species (Baldassarre 2014, Koons *et al.* 2006). In 2014 the scaup population in North America was estimated at 4.61 million, of which around four million were thought to be Lesser Scaup (Baldassarre 2014, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2014).

Conclusion

Whilst all American ducks are very rare in Hampshire and we have waited a long time for the first Lesser Scaup, we are perhaps unlikely to have to wait so long for the second. As with the first record described above, the next is almost certain to be found amongst flocks of the commoner *Aythya* species.

Acknowledgements

Chris Batty provided some text on the patterns of occurrence and the population trends in North America as well as the age of the bird.

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- White, S. and Kehoe, C. 2017. Report on scarce migrant birds in Britain 2015. *British Birds* 110: 518-539.
- Alan Lewis, 9 Southend Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 7TE alanlewis1@virginmedia.com

Grants for projects undertaken in 2017

Keith Betton

It was agreed by HOS Management Committee that for 2016, the second year grant applications to HOS have been invited, the Scientific Sub-Committee could have a budget of up to £6,000 to spend on research and conservation projects. A process of judging was agreed with requests of up to £250 being considered at any meeting, and others exceeding £250 being invited for discussion at the September 2016 meeting for implementation in 2017.

In January a small grant was made to HOS member Marcus Ward for £157 towards the cost of an electronic seed dispenser used in his Hawfinch ringing studies. In advance of the September 2016 meeting I wrote to RSPB, BTO, HIWWT and the Fleet Pond Society to see if they had any suitable projects for consideration. Three applications were received for consideration by the Committee:

RSPB: Common Tern raft at West Hayling LNR (Oysterbeds), £800

BTO: Cuckoo satellite tracking in the New Forest, £3,580

HIWWT: Contribution towards new Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy, £4,500

The Scientific Sub-Committee discussed each project in turn. In addition, written comments were submitted by most of those unable to attend. The Committee agreed the following:

- To award £600 to the RSPB tern raft project. The raft was installed at West Hayling LNR and proved very successful in the 2017 breeding season being occupied by 47 pairs which

produced 50 fledged young (see Systematic List). This followed the successful funding to HIWWT of Common Tern rafts at Blashford Lakes in 2016 (Chapman 2017).

- To award the full amount of £3,580 to the BTO Cuckoo project. The bird had been tagged in the New Forest in June 2016 and subsequently named Selborne to commemorate the famous Hampshire naturalist, Gilbert White, who lived there. Selborne's first tracked year to West Africa and back was summarised in a note in HBR 2016 (Davis & Hewson 2017) and his following movements up to his return in 2018 are briefly summarised in the 2017 Systematic List. Selborne can be tracked daily at the following website: <https://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking/161321>.
- To award an initial £2,000 to the Solent Waders and Brent Goose project, and invite HIWWT to bid again for further funding in 2017 once the further details of this three-year project had been finalised. In 2002, the Brent Goose Strategy Group (including HOS) produced the Brent Goose Strategy which aimed to provide a proactive and multi-disciplinary approach to resolving conflicts between Brent Geese and people along the south-east Hampshire coast. In 2010 the strategy was expanded to cover the whole of the Hampshire coast, the north coast of the Isle of Wight and over-wintering waders. Through its two iterations, the strategy has proven to be an essential tool for planners, statutory consultees and the NGO sector by highlighting issues for proposed development sites that fall within the important network used by over-wintering waterfowl. It is important that the Strategy is regularly updated and changes in bird behaviour and the suitability of sites to support them needs to be monitored. The new strategy will be the result of further survey work and will seek to protect the existing network of sites and maintain favourable management.

The total annual spend was £6,337 and the slight over-spend of £337 was met by unused funds from the previous year.

References

Chapman, R.A. 2017. Raft nesting Common Terns at Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve. *Hampshire Bird Report 2016*: 247-249.

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Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR keithbetton@hotmail.com



Common Terns with chicks using tern raft at West Hayling LNR (Wes Smith)

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 2000, 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. but free for under 21 in full-time education

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.

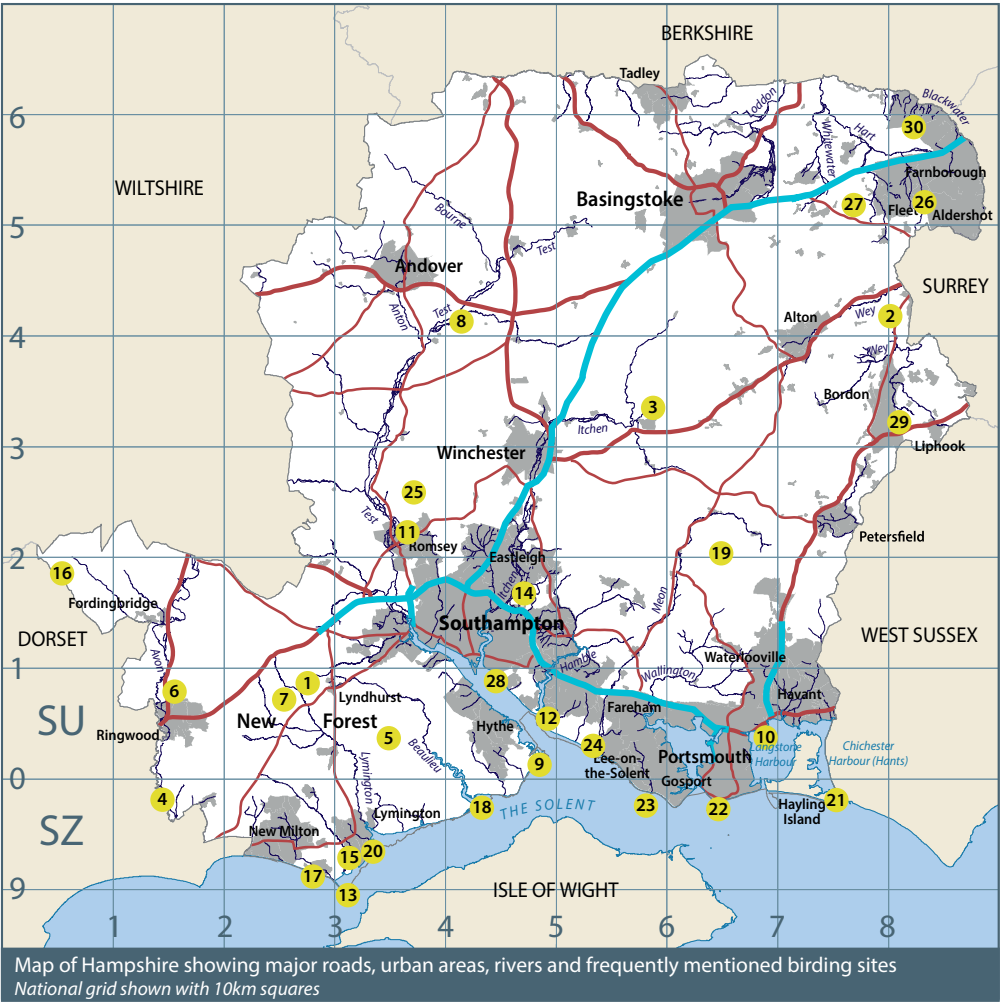
Map and Gazetteer

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 as follows:

<http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/hampshire-birding/gazetteer>

<http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/sites.asp>

Abbotts Ann	SU 3243	Beachlands (Hayling Island)	SU 7198		
Abbotts Wood	SU 8139	Beacon Hill (Burghclere)	SU 4557	Bramshott	SU 8633
Acres Down	SU 2709	Beacon Hill (Warnford)	SU 6022	Bransbury Common	SU 4141
Adanac Park (Southampton)	SU 3714	Beaulieu Estuary	SZ 4298	Bratley Plain	SU 2208
Adhurst Wood (Sheet)	SU 7625	Beaulieu River	SZ 4199	Bratley Water	SU 2308
Alderhill Inclosure	SU 1913	Beaulieu Road	SU 3406	Breamore	SU 1518
Aldershot	SU 8751	Beauworth	SU 5725	Bricksbury Hill	SU 8349
Alice Holt Forest	SU 8042	Beckford	SU 6310	Brinken Wood	SU 2705
Allington Gpt	SU 4717	Becton Bunny	SZ 2592	Broadhalfpenny Down	SU 6515
Alresford Pond	SU 5933	Bedhampton	SU 7006	Broadlands Estate	SU 3520
Alton	SU 7238	Beech Bed Inclosure	SU 2206	Broadmarsh	SU 7005
Alver Valley	SU 5700	Bentley	SU 7844	Brockenhurst	SU 3002
Ampfield	SU 4023	Bentley Wood	SU 2528	Brockley Warren	SU 4236
Amport	SU 3045	Benyon's Inclosure	SU 6263	Brockwood Park (West Meon)	
Ancell's Farm (Fleet)	SU 8155	Bere Hill Farm	SU 3745		SU 6025
Ancient Highway (Pennington)		Berewood (Waterlooville)	SU 6709	Broomy Lodge	SU 2111
	SZ 3192	Bickerley Common	SU 1404	Broomy Plain	SU 2010
Anderwood Inclosure	SU 2406	Bickton	SU 1412	Broughton	SU 3132
Andover Down	SU 3945	Bidden Grange	SU 7049	Browdown	SZ 5899
Andwell	SU 6852	Bilcombe's Pond	SU 4502	Brownwich	SU 5103
Anglesey Lake (Gosport)	SZ 6098	Binsted	SU 7741	Brownwich Cliffs	SU 5103
Anthony's Bee Bottom	SU 2201	Binswood	SU 7637	Broxhead Common	SU 8037
Anton Lakes	SU 3740	Bishops Dyke	SU 3405	Buckherd Bottom	SU 2008
Appleshaw	SU 3048	Bishopstoke	SU 4619	Bucklers Hard	SU 4000
Appleslade Inclosure	SU 1808	Bishops Sutton	SU 6031	Budds Farm Sewage Farm	SU 7005
Arlebury Park & Lake	SU 5732	Bishops Waltham	SU 5617	Bunny Meadows	SU 4806
Ashe Park Lake	SU 5449	Bisterne	SU 1400	Burgate	SU 1515
Ashford Hangers LNR	SU 7427	Bitterne (Southampton)	SU 4513	Buriton	SU 7420
Ashford Stream	SU 7326	Blackbushe	SU 8059	Burkham	SU 6541
Ashlett Creek	SU 4603	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Burley	SU 2103
Ashlett	SU 4603	Blackfield	SU 4502	Burley New Inclosure	SU 2304
Ashley Walk	SU 2014	Black Gutter Bottom	SU 2016	Burley Street	SU 2004
Ashley Warren	SU 4956	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Burley Whitten Pond	SU 2001
Ashmansworth	SU 4157	Blackheath Down	SU 0717	Burrfields (Portsmouth)	SZ 6497
Ashurst	SU 3310	Blacklands Farm (Newnham)		Bursledon	SU 4809
Ash Vale	SU 8953		SU 6954	Burton Common	SZ 1995
Atner's Hill	SU 3636	Blackmoor	SU 7733	Bury Marsh	SU 3811
Avington Park & Lake	SU 5332	Blacknest	SU 7941	Bury Hill (Andover)	SU 3443
Avon Castle	SU 1403	Black Point (Hayling)	SZ 7599	Bushfield (Winchester)	SU 4627
Avon Causeway	SZ 1497	Blackwater (Needs Ore)	SZ 4197	Busketts Lawn	SU 3110
Avon Floods (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Blackwater Arboretum	SU 2604	Busta Triangle	SU 7859
Avon Tyrrell	SZ 1499	Blashford Lakes	SU 1507	Butlocks Heath	SU 4609
Awbridge	SU 3324	Blendworth	SU 7113	Butser Hill	SU 7120
Axmansford	SU 0717	Bolderwood	SU 2408	Butts Bay	SZ 3292
Backley Plain	SU 2106	Bordon	SU 8035	Cadman's Pool	SU 2212
Backley Inclosure	SU 2207	Bossington	SU 3331	Cadnam Common	SU 2815
Baddesley Common	SU 3921	Botley Wood	SU 5410	Calmore	SU 3414
Badminton Common	SU 4501	Bourley Catchment	SU 8250	Calshot	SU 4802
Badminton GP	SU 4602	Bradley Hill	SU 6442	Calshot Spit	SU 4802
Baffins Pond	SU 6601	Braemar-Searchfield Farm	SU 1718	Camp Farm SF (Aldershot)	SU 8752
Bagshot Moor	SU 3600	Braishfield	SU 3725	Cams Bay	SU 5904
Balancing Pools (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Brambridge	SU 4622	Casbrook Common	SU 3625
Balmer Lawn (Brockenhurst)		Bramdean	SU 6228	Castle Bottom LNR	SU 7959
	SU 3003	Bramley	SU 6559	Centurion Business Park	SU 4313
Barton on Sea	SZ 2392	Bramshaw	SU 2516	Chalton	SU 7316
Barton Stacey	SU 4340	Bramshill (Warren Heath)	SU 7759	Chandler's Ford	SU 4321
Barton Common	SZ 2593	Bramshill Plantation	SU 7562	Chandlers Green	SU 7058
Bassett (Southampton)	SU 4116	Bramshill Police College Lake		Charlton Lakes	SU 3646



Key to birding sites					
1 Acres Down	SU2709	11 Fishlake Meadows	SU3522	20 Pennington Marshes	SZ3292
2 Alice Holt Forest	SU8042	12 Hook-with-Warsash	SU4905	21 Sandy Point	SZ7498
3 Alresford Pond	SU5933	13 Hurst Castle	SZ3189	22 Southsea Castle	SZ6498
4 Avon Causeway	SZ1497	14 Itchen Valley		23 Stokes Bay	SZ5898
5 Beaulieu Rd Stn/ Bishop's Dyke	SU3406	Country Park	SU4616	24 Titchfield Haven	SU5302
6 Blashford Lakes	SU1507	15 Keyhaven Marshes	SZ3192	25 Trigpoint Hill	SU3625
7 Bolderwood	SU2408	16 Martin Down	SU0419	26 Tweseldown	SU8352
8 Bransbury Common	SU4141	17 Milford on Sea	SZ2891	27 Tundry Pond	SU7752
9 Calshot	SU4802	18 Needs Ore/ Beaulieu Estuary	SZ4297	28 Weston Shore	SU4409
10 Farlington Marshes	SU6804	19 Old Winchester Hill	SU6420	29 Woolmer Forest	SU8032
				30 Yateley Common	SU8259

Map reproduced with permission from Figure i of Hampshire Bird Atlas modified by WILDGuides Ltd.

Charter Alley	SU 5957	Cheriton	SU 5828	Chichester Harbour	SU 7400
Chawton	SU 7037	Cherque	SU 5701	Chidden Down	SU 6619
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Chilland	SU 5232	Eastleigh Sewage Farm	SU 4618	Fyfield	SU 6532
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Chilworth	SU 4018	Eastoke	SZ 7598	Gavelcacre	SU 4142
Chineham	SU 6555	Eastrop Park (Basingstoke)	SU 6452	Gilkicker Point	SZ 6097
Cholderton Estate	SU 2342	East Tytherley	SU 2828	Godshill Ridge	SU 1815
Church Crookham	SU 8154	Edenbrook CP	SU 7854	Golden Pot	SU 7043
Clanfield Down	SU 7116	Eelmoor Marsh	SU 8452	Goodworth Clatford	SU 3642
Clarcken Green	SU 5651	Efford Mill	SZ 3094	Gorley	SU 1511
Clatford Oakcuts	SU 3338	Eldon	SU 3627	Gosport	SU 6000
Clay Hill	SU 2302	Eling	SU 3612	Grange Lake, The	SU 5636
Cleave Hill	SU 3538	Eling Great Marsh	SU 3712	Greatbridge (Romsey)	SU 3423
Cliddesden	SU 6349	Ellinham Bridge	SU 1408	Great Covert Wood	SU 4120
Clumber Inclosure	SU 2603	Ellingham Lake (Blashford)	SU 1408	Great Litchfield Down	SU 4755
Cole Henley	SU 4752	Ellisfield	SU 6345	Greatham	SU 7730
Colemore	SU 7030	Elvetham Park	SU 7856	Great Pen Wood	SU 4462
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Conigar Point	SU 7305	Emer Bog	SU 3921	Greywell	SU 7151
Conford Moor	SU 8233	Emsworth Channel	SU 7402	Griggs Green	SU 8231
Coombe	SU 6620	Emsworth Mill Pond	SU 7405	Gunner Point (Sinah Common)	
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Copythorne Common	SU 3015	Exhurst Park	SU 5757	Gurnetfields Furzebreak	SU 3705
Corhampton	SU 6020	Exbury	SU 4200	Gutner Point (Hayling)	SU 7302
Cosham	SU 6505	Exton	SU 6120	Hale Purlieu	SU 1918
Costicles Inclosure	SU 3210	Eyeworth Pond	SU 2215	Half Moon Common	SU 2916
Cove	SU 8556	Facombe	SU 3958	Hamble	SU 4807
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Cowplain	SU 6911	Fareham	SU 5706	Hamble Estuary	SU 4805
Crab Tree Earth	SU 2602	Fareham Creek	SU 5805	Hamer Warren Sand Pit	SU 1210
Cranes Moor	SU 1902	Farleigh Wallop	SU 6245	Hampshire Hatches Lane	SU 1403
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Crawley	SU 4235	Farley Mount	SU 4229	Handy Cross Plain	SU 1906
Crech Walk	SU 6311	Farlington Marshes	SU 6804	Hannington	SU 5355
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Crondall	SU 7848	Farnborough Airport	SU 8552	Hardway (Portsmouth Hbr)	SU 6101
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Denny Wood	SU 3305	Fobdown	SU 5733	Hawkhill Inclosure	SU 3502
Dibden Bay	SU 4008	Fordingbridge	SU 1414	Hawley Lake	SU 8357
Dibden Purlieu	SU 4006	Forest of Bere Farm	SU 4029	Hayling Bay	SZ 7298
Dibden Bottom	SU 3806	Fort Brockhurst	SU 5902	Hayling Island	SU 7101
Ditcham Park	SU 7517	Fort Cumberland	SZ 6899	Hayling Oysterbeds	SU 7102
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	SU 8144	Latchmore Bottom	SU 1812	Millbrook	SU 3813
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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	The 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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