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HAMPSHIRE BIRD REPORT

2011



Hampshire Ornithological Society

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Table of Abbreviations (used throughout the report)

<i>BBRC</i>	British Birds Rarities Committee	<i>HBR</i>	Hampshire Bird Report
<i>BBS</i>	Breeding Bird Survey	<i>HOSRP</i>	HOS Records Panel
<i>BoH</i>	<i>Birds of Hampshire</i> (Clark, J.M. & Eyre, J.A., 1993)	<i>HWT</i>	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
<i>BOU</i>	British Ornithologists' Union	<i>LNR</i>	Local Nature Reserve
<i>BOURC</i>	British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee	<i>max.</i>	maximum
<i>BTO</i>	British Trust for Ornithology	<i>m.o.</i>	many observers
<i>BWPI</i>	Birds of the Western Palearctic interactive	<i>NF</i>	The New Forest
<i>CB</i>	Cress Bed(s)	<i>NFWBS</i>	New Forest Winter Birds Survey
<i>CBC</i>	Former Common Bird Census plot	<i>NNR</i>	National Nature Reserve
<i>CP</i>	Country Park	<i>NOTG</i>	Needs Ore Tuesday Group
<i>FRG</i>	Farlington Ringing Group	<i>RBBP</i>	Rare Breeding Birds Panel
<i>GWCT</i>	Game & Wildlife Conservancy Trust	<i>RT</i>	Rubbish Tip
<i>GC</i>	Golf Course	<i>SF</i>	Sewage Farm/Works
<i>GP</i>	Gravel Pit(s)	<i>SP</i>	Sand Pit(s)
<i>HBIC</i>	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	<i>SPA</i>	Special Protection Area
<i>HCC</i>	Hampshire County Council	<i>WM</i>	Water Meadow(s)
		<i>WeBS</i>	The Wetland Bird Survey

THE HAMPSHIRE BIRD REPORT TEAM 2011

General Editor: *Alan Cox*

Production Editor: *John Norton*

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Systematic List Final Review: *SL editors and writers, John Cloyne, Andy Johnson*

HOS Records Database: *Keith Betton, Matthew Shaft, John Clark, Alan Cox*

HOS Records Panel: *Keith Betton (Recorder), Nigel Jones (Assistant Recorder), Robert Chapman, Simon Ingram, Marcus Ward, Simon Woolley*

Writers of Species Accounts:

<i>Keith Betton</i>	Red Kite, rails, Stone-curlew, Great Grey Shrike.
<i>Richard Carpenter</i>	Golden Oriole, shrikes (except Great Grey Shrike), corvids (except Raven), tits (except Long-tailed Tit).
<i>John Clark</i>	Bewick's Swan, White-fronted Goose, Goosander, Little Ringed Plover, Raven, Cetti's and Dartford Warblers.
<i>Alan Cox</i>	Divers, grebes, terns.
<i>Malcolm Dixon</i>	Hérons and egrets.
<i>Mark Edgeller</i>	Shearwaters and petrels, Gannet, auks.
<i>John Eyre</i>	Owls to woodpeckers, Goldcrest, Firecrest, larks.
<i>Malcolm Forster</i>	Finches (except Hawfinch)
<i>John Jones</i>	Gulls (except Mediterranean Gull).
<i>Nigel Jones</i>	Buntings
<i>David Minns</i>	Pheasants, cormorants, Bittern, Spoonbill.
<i>Nick Montegriffo</i>	Diving ducks (except Goosander).
<i>Mike Moody</i>	Skuas
<i>Paul Norris</i>	Swans to dabbling ducks (except Bewick's Swan, White-fronted Goose).
<i>Graham Osborne</i>	Waxwing to Tree Sparrow (including thrushes, chats, sparrows).
<i>Andy Page</i>	Raptors
<i>John Shillitoe</i>	Waders - sandpipers and phalaropes.
<i>Dave Unsworth</i>	Wagtails and pipits.
<i>Marcus Ward</i>	Avocet, plovers (except Little Ringed), Mediterranean Gull, Hawfinch.
<i>Keith Wills</i>	Warblers, Long-tailed Tit.
<i>Simon Woolley</i>	Pigeons to Cuckoo, swallows.

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Website Coordinator **John Shillitoe**

webmaster@hos.org.uk

CURRENT LIFE MEMBERS (date awarded)

Ralph Cook (1989)	John Wood (2001)
Michael Bryant (1990)	Norman Pratt (2005)
Peter Puckering (1992)	John Clark (2011)
Dave Billett (1998)	Margaret Boswell (2012)
Rosemary Billett (1998)	John Eyre (2012)
Eddie Wiseman (2000)	Nigel Peace (2012)

CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS 2011

It is normal practice for the Chairman's report to cover the reporting year. John Eyre was Chairman throughout 2011, so John's report¹ is given in full below. Of course, it will be my turn next year and I look forward to that with great pleasure.

Alan Snook
Chairman

One of my main messages in last year's report was that for HOS to continue to flourish, we need new blood - members who are ready to lend a hand running the Society. Well, I the good news is that the Society has indeed continued to flourish and, coupled with that, it's particularly pleasing that some new people have stepped forward to lend a hand.

One of the most significant changes in 2011 has been in the way the annual Hampshire Bird Report is produced. The quality of the Report has increased dramatically in recent years thanks, in no small part, to its Editor, Alan Cox. But quality comes at a price and the Bird Report is no exception. The work required to put it together has grown in line with its content. A rough estimate puts the total voluntary effort to produce it at around 1600 hours per year, the equivalent of one person putting in a five-day working week for 40 weeks! Although the work-load for most of the team is only a small fraction of the total, for the Editor it was rapidly becoming too much to handle. So in 2011, we have trialled a new scheme with four sub-editors, Keith Betton, Richard Carpenter, Nigel Jones and David Minns, each handling a section of the systematic list. John Norton took on the role of production manager with Alan Cox remaining as overall Editor. Given that this is the first year of the trial, it seems to have gone well although there are still improvements to be made.

Other changes during the year have included Steve Lankester standing down as organiser of the walks programme. Many thanks to Steve and also to Chris Maclean who, having resigned as Membership Secretary in 2010, stepped back in to maintain the programme.

Of the changes still to come, Margaret Boswell, Nigel Peace and I will be standing down from the Management Committee at the AGM. As you will see from the list of officers recommended for election, we have candidates to fill all these vacancies. Both Margaret and Nigel have made major contributions to HOS and I would like to thank them on behalf of all members.

For me, the AGM will bring to an end my 20 year stint as Chair of the Society. I can hear some of you saying 'and about time too!' I have to agree. Although it would have been easy to continue, I think it's definitely time for someone with new ideas and closer links with Hampshire birders to pick up the reins. In fact, at the AGM, you will have an opportunity to change the rules to ensure that future Chairs don't over-run their sell-by dates!

With this being my last report as Chair, it gives me an opportunity for a 20 year retrospective! Has HOS changed over that period and, if so, for better or worse?

The Society is certainly bigger today than it was back then. With over 1600 members, it is now one of the largest bird clubs in the country. Membership is at an all time high and still growing. Maybe associated with its size, I feel that it has also improved its credibility and standing in the county. There are now stronger links with partner organisations such as BTO, RSPB, HWT and GWCT. I think these are important and look forward to them staying that way in the future. In fact links with the BTO have always been excellent because, throughout my time as Chairman, Glynne Evans has been in place as the stalwart Hampshire rep. In recognition of his dedicated service, Glynne was presented with a 25 year Long Service Medal by the Trust in 2011. I'm sure all members of HOS will join me in congratulating Glynne for a job very well done.

¹ The report is published in its original form (as written for the HOS AGM in March 2012) to provide an overview of HOS activities in 2011 and not beyond.

Like the BTO, HOS does not aim to be a front-line conservation body but by working with other organisations, we can provide input to important conservation issues. The Society is also a key player in supplying bird data to the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and through that helping to protect key habitats in the county.

There have been other improvements, too. I remember the first few HOS AGMs I attended. There were so few members present that there was sometimes doubt about whether the meeting was quorate. Now, thanks to incorporating the AGM first into Members' Day and subsequently into Open Day, we typically attract around 250 attendees.

I've already mentioned the Hampshire Bird Report. Both it and the Kingfisher, our quarterly Newsletter, have developed into much more professional publications, packed with information and attractive to look at. With Ian Julian now living out of the county, we are looking for a new editor for the Newsletter so I will take this opportunity to thank Ian for his considerable input over the past few years.

Thanks to BirdTrail, we have introduced many young people to birding and, hopefully, helped to ensure that there will be a continuing supply of HOS members in future.

But what of disappointments? Although we have improved systems for publicising bird information and the way in which records come into HOS, I feel that we have been slow to update our records database. We began to use the COBRA system around the time I became Chairman. It has served us well and continues to do so but it, too, is now past its sell-by-date. Anyone who has participated in the latest Atlas, or submits records via Bird Track, will be aware of the tremendous advances made by the BTO in on-line data handling and centralised database management. Although I would prefer to see HOS maintaining its own, independent recording system and database, unless we can achieve this quickly embracing the Bird Track option may turn out to be the most practical way forward for the Society.

I would like to finish on a personal note. Over my time as Chairman I have met many people involved in all aspects of running the Society. While the emphasis tends to be on collecting and publishing information about Hampshire birds, other jobs are also very important in keeping the show on the road. These include tasks such as managing the accounts, the membership database, the website, the walks programme and many more. It is the combined contributions made by lots of people that make the Society work. I want to say a big thank you to all those who have helped during my time as Chairman. I look forward to seeing HOS continue to grow and develop in the years to come. It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman; I have enjoyed it and wish all the very best to my successor.

John Eyre

Chairman 1992-2012

EDITORIAL & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, apologies for the lateness of this report, in contrast to HBR 2010 described by John Eyre above. It reflects increasing complexities in record data management and competing demands for the time of the editorial team. This will be my last report after ten years of a very demanding, but always enjoyable, period as Editor. Fortunately, my successor is already known: John Clark has agreed to return to the Editorship role once more. I am sure he will make a superb editor; I can vouchsafe for the incredible contribution he has made to the quality of the report during my tenure. His eye for detail, as a reviewer, is second to none. I hope to return the favour to the best of my more limited ability.

Keith Betton and I have made an honest effort to include records from all the various sources now available. National databases such as the BTO Atlas 2007-2012, Birdtrack, WeBS and BBS have to be integrated with our own surveys such as NFWBS and members records via Going

Birding, records submitted to the Recorder on the appropriate forms and even by telephone. We seem to be at a point where technology has significantly advanced data gathering but data fusion, for a volunteer organisation such as HOS at least, is still in its infancy. I endorse John Eyre's comments, in his report above, with respect to the limitation of Cobra. Nevertheless, over 112,000 records are on the database and have been analysed for the systematic list. Tabulated below are some 1056 contributors to the database (780 observers submitting records, 348 Atlas, 93 BBS and 51 NFWBS Surveyors, 78 WeBS counters and 26 Ringers). The records analysis has been performed by a dedicated team of writers and section editors listed on p4: I praise and thank them for their efforts. Similarly, there is again an exceptional collection of articles that span the Hampshire birding scene: I thank those authors and their patience with me on various editorial demands.

Finally, after ten years, it is appropriate to single out a few people for special mention in the development and delivery of the Hampshire Bird Report. There is John Eyre, who recruited me, always providing tactful diplomacy and support on the many issues that have arisen. Mike Wall and Jason Crook taught me much and provided support in the early years. More recently, Keith Betton, Richard Ford and John Norton have proved a very talented trio with a wide range of skills, each making major contributions. As I remarked above, John Clark has been a constant mentor with encyclopaedic knowledge of the county avifauna. Finally, my wife, Pauline, has been vital to the team. Her encouragement and tolerance of my silly hours of working, her meticulous work on proof reading correcting a legion of grammatical errors in many challenging drafts, mark just some of her attributes. I thank her, and all the above, for making this one of the most acclaimed county bird reports of the last decade.

Alan Cox
General Editor

OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS 2011

Key:

<i>Rec</i>	Records – observers submitting their records via the County Recorder
<i>WeBS</i>	Wetland Bird Survey
<i>Atlas</i>	BTO/HOS Winter & Summer Atlas Surveys
<i>BBS</i>	BTO Breeding Bird Survey
<i>NF</i>	HOS New Forest Winter Bird Survey (NFWBS)
<i>A, C or Tr</i>	Ringers: <i>A, C</i> or <i>Training</i> license category held by record contributors
<i>-F or -I</i>	member of Farlington or Itchen Valley Ringing Groups
<i>RR</i>	other Ringing Report contributors

SD Abbott [SDA]- <i>Rec</i>	GR Annell [GRA]- <i>Rec</i>	M Baldwin [MBI]- <i>Rec</i>	<i>WeBS Atlas</i>
DJ Aburrow [DJA]- <i>Rec</i>	BM Archer [BMA]- <i>Rec Atlas</i>	DJ Ball [DJB]- <i>BBS Atlas</i>	M Barrett [MB]- <i>Rec</i>
MC Adams [MCA]- <i>Rec BBS</i>	M Armitage [MAR]- <i>Rec Atlas</i>	K Ball [KBI]- <i>Rec</i>	C Bartlett [CBT]- <i>Rec</i>
T Adams [TAd]- <i>Atlas</i>	G Armstrong [GA]- <i>Rec</i>	TG Ball [TGB]- <i>Atlas</i>	M Bartolini [MBI]- <i>Rec</i>
NJ Aebischer [NJA]- <i>Atlas</i>	J Arnott [JAt]- <i>WeBS</i>	ID Ballam [IDB]- <i>Rec</i>	D Bass [DBs]- <i>Rec</i>
D Agombar [DAg]- <i>Rec</i>	P Ashton [PAS]- <i>Rec</i>	A Balmer [AJB]- <i>Rec</i>	S Bassett [SB]- <i>Rec</i>
B Ahmed [BAh]- <i>Rec</i>	J Attiwell [JAI]- <i>Atlas</i>	DE Balmer [DEBa]- <i>Atlas</i>	OH Bates [OHB]- <i>Rec</i>
G Alder [GAI]- <i>Rec</i>	JM Badnell [JMB]- <i>Rec</i>	T Balmer [TBr]- <i>Rec</i>	M Bath [MBh]- <i>Rec</i>
CA Allen [CAA]- <i>Rec WeBS</i>	A Bailey [ABI]- <i>Rec</i>	M Bamber [MBa]- <i>Atlas</i>	GS Batho [GSB]- <i>Rec BBS</i>
J Allen [JAI]- <i>Rec</i>	B Baker [BBk]- <i>Rec</i>	P Barbagallo [PBo]- <i>Rec</i>	<i>Atlas</i>
DP Allnutt [DPA]- <i>Atlas</i>	J Baker [JBa]- <i>Atlas</i>	C Barfield [CBf]- <i>Atlas</i>	C Bayliss [CBa]- <i>Atlas</i>
M Ambler [MAm]- <i>Rec</i>	MJ Baker [MJBa]- <i>Rec</i>	A Barker [ABk]- <i>Rec</i>	CE Bealey [CEB]- <i>Atlas</i>
K Anderson [KAN]- <i>Rec</i>	<i>WeBS Atlas</i>	DJ Barker [DJBr]- <i>Atlas</i>	B Bean [BBn]- <i>Rec</i>
E Anderton [EAn]- <i>Rec</i>	PJ Baker [PJB]- <i>Atlas</i>	SRJ Barker [SRJB]- <i>Atlas</i>	M Bean [MBen]- <i>Rec</i>
JK Andrews [JKA]- <i>Rec</i>	SE Baker [SEB]- <i>Rec</i>	DL Barrett [DLB]- <i>Rec Atlas</i>	A Beattie [ABe]- <i>Atlas</i>
RM Angus [RMA]- <i>Rec</i>	JA Baldwin [JABn]- <i>Rec</i>	GC Barrett [GCB]- <i>Rec</i>	DA Bell [DAB]- <i>A-F</i>

MO Bell [MOB]-*Rec*
 DJ Bellis [DJB]-*Atlas*
 EJ Bennett [EJB]-*Rec C*
 J Bennett [JBt]-*Rec*
 M Bennett [MBe]-*Rec NF*
 K Bennie [KBe]-*Rec*
 S Benstead [SBe]-*Rec*
 A Berryman [AByn]-*Rec*
 C Bespolka [CBe]-*Rec*
 NW Beswick [NWB]-*Atlas*
 KF Betton [KFB]-*Rec NF Atlas*
 T Bickerton [TBi]-*WeBS Atlas*
 DT Biggs [DTB]-*Atlas*
 S Bignold [SBi]-*Rec*
 DI Bill [DIB]-*WeBS*
 JR Bills [JRB]-*WeBS BBS Atlas*
 G Bird [GBd]-*Rec*
 J Birkett [JBt]-*Rec*
 DR Bishop [DRB]-*Rec Atlas*
 M Bishop [MBp]-*Rec*
 S Bishop [SBp]-*Rec*
 L Bissell [LBi]-*Rec*
 M Bissett [MBi]-*Rec*
 K Blackburn [KKB]-*Rec*
 AF Blakeley [AFB]-*NF Atlas*
 D Blandford [DBl]-*Rec*
 M Blowfield [MBw]-*BBS Atlas*
 WG Blumsom [WGB]-*Rec*
 C Bollen [CBn]-*Rec*
 A Bolton [AB]-*Atlas*
 R Bond [RBn]-*Rec*
 RM Borwick [RMB]-*Rec*
 M Boswell [MBos]-*NF*
 SA Boswell [SABo]-*Rec Atlas*
 SR Boswell [SRB]-*Rec*
 P Boulton [PBt]-*Rec*
 J Bowdery [JBw]-*Rec*
 A Bowes [ABw]-*Rec*
 IR Bowes [IRB]-*BBS Atlas*
 C Bown [CBw]-*Rec*
 T Boyce [TBo]-*Rec*
 L Boyer [LBo]-*Rec*
 D Bradford [DBd]-*Rec*
 SD Bradley [SDB]-*Rec*
 I Bradshaw [IBw]-*Atlas*
 A Bray [ABy]-*Rec*
 MA Breakspear [MBs]-*Rec*
 RG Breakwell [RGB]-*Rec*
 D Bright [DBr]-*Atlas*
 P Bright-Thomas [PB-T]-*Rec*
 P Bristow [PBi]-*Rec*
 A Broadhurst [AyB]-*Rec NF BBS Atlas*
 R Broadway [RB]-*Rec*
 C Brooks [CBk]-*Rec*
 C Brown [CBr]-*Rec*
 E Brown [EBr]-*Rec*
 RI Brown [RIB]-*Atlas*
 SA Brown [SABr]-*Atlas*
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 J Butler [JBU]-*Atlas*
 TJ Butler [TJB]-*Rec*
 AMB Butterworth [AMBB]-*BBS Atlas*
 S Buttress [Sbu]-*BBS*
 GD Caine [GDC]-*Atlas*
 G Calderwood [GCa]-*Rec*
 I Calderwood [IC]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 AI Camp [AIC]-*Atlas*
 S Carey [SCa]-*Rec*
 BR Carpenter [BCa]-*Rec*
 J Carpenter [JCp]-*Atlas*
 RJ Carpenter [RJC]-*Rec Atlas*
 TF Carpenter [TFC]-*Rec*
 N Carpmael [NCa]-*Rec*
 A Carrington-Cotton [AC-C]-*Rec*
 A Carter [AC]-*Rec RR-F*
 D Carter [DCa2]-*Rec*
 PM Carter [DCt]-*Rec*
 J Casson [JCn]-*Rec*
 PE Castle [PEC]-*Atlas*
 D Chadwick [DCh]-*Rec*
 S Chadwick [Sch]-*Rec*
 ML Chalmers [MLCh]-*Rec Atlas*
 C Chapple [CCo]-*NF*
 CB Chapman [CBCh]-*Rec*
 JW Chapman [JWC]-*WeBS*
 P Chapman [PCn]-*Rec*
 RA Chapman [RAC]-*Rec NF RR Atlas*
 L Chappell [LCh]-*Rec*
 N Charles [NCs]-*Rec*
 EC Charman [ECC]-*Atlas*
 J Chawner [JCw]-*Rec*
 TE Cheese [TEC]-*Rec*
 RA Cheke [RACk]-*A BBS Atlas*
 TJ Chinn [TJC]-*Atlas*
 D Chown [DCh]-*Rec*
 DA Christie [DAC]-*Rec*
 R Christopher [RCh]-*Rec*
 K Churcher [KC]-*Rec*
 K Churchus [KCs]-*Rec*
 C Clacey [CCy]-*Rec*
 A Clark [AC]-*WeBS*
 FC Clark [FCC]-*Rec*
 JM Clark [JMCK]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 RT Clark [RTC]-*Rec BBS*
 SF Clark [SCk]-*Rec*
 WJ Clark [WJC]-*Rec*
 P Clayton [PCy]-*Rec*
 D Cleal [DC]-*Rec*
 B Clements [BCl]-*Rec Atlas*
 J Clements [JCl]-*Rec*
 A Clements-Partridge [AC-P]-*Rec*
 S Clemons [SCl]-*Rec*
 BD Clews [BDC]-*Atlas*
 CS Clough [CSC]-*Rec Atlas*
 JM Cloyne [JMCE]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 B Coates [BCo]-*Rec NF*
 M Coath [MCA]-*Rec*
 C Cockburn [CCn]-*WeBS Atlas*
 TD Codlin [TDC]-*Rec A Atlas*
 D Cole [DCe]-*Rec*
 L Coles [LCo]-*Atlas*
 AR Collins [ARCo]-*Rec*
 CB Collins [CBCo]-*Rec*
 M Collins [MCs]-*Rec*
 ML Collins [MLC]-*Rec*
 P Collins [PCs]-*Rec*
 JR Collman [JRC]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 P Combridge [PCo]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 DK Compton [DKC]-*Rec*
 SP Coney [SPC]-*Atlas*
 GM Cook [GMC]-*Atlas*
 Ra Cook [RCk]-*Atlas*
 Ro Cook [RyC]-*NF*
 D Cooke [DCke]-*NF*
 RE Cooke [RECo]-*Rec WeBS*
 R Coomber [RCo]-*Rec*
 A Cooper [ACo]-*Rec*
 JH Cooper [JHC]-*BBS Atlas*
 L Cooper [LCp]-*Rec*
 MC Cooper [MCC]-*Atlas*
 MD Cooper [MDC]-*BBS*
 PF Cooper [PFC]-*Rec*
 R Cooper [RCp]-*Rec*
 S Copsey [SCo]-*Rec*
 R&H Cornford [R&HC]-*Rec*
 D Cozens [DCz]-*Rec*
 NF Cowling [NFC]-*Rec*
 AJ Cowx [AJCo]-*BBS Atlas*
 AFJ&PR Cox [AFJ&PRC]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 AP Cox [APC]-*Rec Atlas*
 IN Cox [INC]-*BBS Atlas*
 P Cox [PCx]-*Rec*
 BR Cozens [BRC]-*Rec WeBS*
 R Crawford [RCw]-*Atlas*
 JB&M Creese [JB&MC]-*BBS*
 M Creese [MCre]-*Rec*
 RH Creighton [RHC]-*Rec*
 DB Crespin [DBC]-*Rec*
 K Crisp [KCr]-*Rec*
 RE Croger [RECr]-*C-F*
 C Crook [CCk]-*Rec*
 J Crook [JCr]-*C-F Atlas*
 K Crook [KCK]-*Rec*
 AR Cross [ARCr]-*BBS Atlas*
 RA Cross [RACr]-*Rec*
 PJ Crowley [PJC]-*Rec Atlas*
 M Crouch [MCh]-*Rec NF Atlas*
 JP Cullen [JPC]-*Atlas*
 D Cumming [DCg]-*Rec*
 J Cumming [JCu]-*Atlas*
 S Curson [SCU]-*Atlas*
 CR Curtis [CRCs]-*Atlas*
 CR Cuthbert [CRCt]-*Rec*
 C Dale [CDa]-*Rec*
 NP Daly [NPD]-*Atlas*
 B Daniels [BDs]-*Atlas*
 B Darvill [BDv]-*Rec*
 G Darvill [GDI]-*Atlas*
 AS Davidson [ASD]-*Atlas*
 G Davies [GDa]-*Rec*
 MH Davies [MDs]-*Atlas*
 SJ Davies [SDa]-*Atlas*
 St Davies [SDa]-*Atlas*
 AM Davis [AMD]-*Rec A*
 B Davis [BDi]-*Rec*
 A&C Dawson [A&CD]-*Rec WeBS*
 H Dawson [had]-*Rec*
 B Deakin [BD]-*Atlas*
 J Dedman [JDN]-*Rec Atlas*
 JW Dedman [JWD]-*NF BBS*
 JB Dellow [JBD]-*Atlas*
 T Dempsey [TDe]-*Rec*
 G Dennis [GD]-*Atlas*
 R Densham [RDe]-*Rec*
 AF De Potier [AFdP]-*WeBS Atlas*
 MA de Retuerto [MAdR]-*Rec C*
 DM Derrick [DMD]-*Rec*
 GM Dicker [GMD]-*Rec*
 RC Dickey [RCD]-*Rec*
 DEJ Dicks [DEJD]-*Rec*
 T Dingwall [TDi]-*Rec*
 M Dixon [MD]-*Atlas*
 R Dobbs [RDo]-*Atlas*
 P Dodsworth [PDo]-*BBS Atlas*
 P Donovan [PD]-*Rec*
 P Donovan [PDN]-*Rec*
 TMJ Doran [TMJD]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 JA Downes [JAD]-*Atlas*
 B Downey [BDa]-*Rec*
 A Drewett [ADt]-*BBS*
 P Driver [PDr]-*Rec*

N Duckworth [ND]-*Rec*
 BS Duffin [BSD]-*Rec*
 WeBS A
 MD Duffy [MDD]-*Rec*
 FJ Dummigan [FJD]-*Rec*
 KP Duncan [KPD]-*Atlas*
 B Durham [BDm]-*BBS*
 E Durkin [EDu]-*Rec*
 R Durkin [RDu]-*Rec*
 PR Durnell [PRD]-*WeBS*
 Atlas
 L Easom [LEa]-*Rec*
 TG Easterbrook [TGE]-*Atlas*
 ML Edgeller [MLE]-*Rec*
 WeBS Atlas
 H Edmunds [HE]-*Rec*
 D Edwards [DEd]-*Rec*
 M Edwards [MEd]-*Atlas*
 SB Edwards [SBE]-*Atlas*
 N Elkins [NEk]-*Rec*
 N&M Elliott [N&ME]-*Rec*
 D Ellis [DEl]-*Rec Atlas*
 R Ellis [REl]-*Rec*
 L Etheridge [LE]-*Rec*
 AD Evans [ADE]-*Atlas*
 DG Evans [DGE]-*Rec BBS*
 GC Evans [GC&SLE]-*Rec*
 WeBS BBS Atlas
 M Evans [ME]-*Rec*
 JA Eyre [JAE]-*Rec BBS*
 Atlas
 J Faithfull [JFa]-*Rec WeBS*
 NF
 G Farnell [GFa]-*Rec*
 C Farrell [CFa]-*Rec*
 G Farwell [GF]-*Rec WeBS*
 BBS Atlas
 J&J Fawcett [J&JF]-*Rec*
 PF Fawkes [PFF]-*Rec*
 BJ Fellows [BJFe]-*Rec*
 WeBS Atlas
 GD Fennemore [GDF]-*Rec*
 AR Field [ARF]-*Rec WeBS*
 NF
 R Findlay [RFi]-*Atlas*
 MR Fletcher [MRF]-*A*
 G Flinn [GFi]-*Rec*
 P Floyd [PFd]-*Rec*
 P Flynn [PFi]-*Rec*
 P Foad [PFo]-*Rec*
 S Foote [SFe]-*Rec*
 RE Ford [REF]-*Rec*
 S Ford [SFO]-*Rec*
 A Forder [AFO]-*Rec*
 W Fordham [WF]-*Rec*
 MJC Forster [MJCF]-*Atlas*
 R Foster [RFO]-*Rec*
 CW Foster [CWF]-*Rec*
 N&J Foster [N&JF]-*Atlas*
 P Foster [PFs]-*Rec*
 R Foster [RF]-*Rec*
 M Foulkes [MF]-*Rec Atlas*
 DC Fowler [DCF]-*Atlas*
 O Frampton [OFr]-*Rec*
 R Frankum [RFk]-*Atlas*
 S Freeman [SF]-*Rec*
 AJ French [AJF]-*BBS Atlas*
 C French [CFr]-*Atlas*
 BJ Friend [BJFr]-*Rec*
 D Fry [DFr]-*Rec*
 L Fuller [LF]-*Rec*
 T Fuller [TFu]-*Rec*
 SA Galpin [SAG]-*Rec*
 PA Gammage [PAG]-*Rec*
 P Gardner [PGA]-*Rec*
 J Gates [JGs]-*Atlas*
 A Gee [AG]-*Rec*
 CR Gent [CRG]-*Rec Atlas*
 S Gent [SGe]-*Rec*
 MJ Gibbons [MJG]-*Rec*
 M Gibbs [MGi]-*Rec*
 TE Gibson-Poole [TEG-
 P]-*Rec*
 LA Gicquel [LAG]-*Rec*
 GSA Giddens [GSAG]-
 Rec A
 I Giles [IaG]-*Rec*
 R Gilham [RG]-*Rec*
 D Gillingham [DGM]-*Rec*
 D Gilman [DGi]-*Rec*
 JC Gloyn [JCG]-*Atlas*
 B Goater [BGo]-*Rec*
 C Goble [CGe]-*Rec*
 G Goble [GGe]-*Rec*
 PR Goble [PRG]-*Atlas*
 B Goddard [BG]-*Rec*
 DJ Goddard [DJG]-*Rec*
 RJ Godden [RJG]-*Atlas*
 CA Good [CAG]-*Atlas*
 P Goodman [PGo]-*Atlas*
 J Goodridge [JGo]-*Rec*
 JR Goodspeed [JRG]-*Rec*
 BBS Atlas
 S Gordon [SGn]-*Rec*
 JG Grafton [JGG]-*Rec*
 SA Graham [SAGm]-*Atlas*
 T Graham [TG]-*Rec Atlas*
 B Grantham [BGr]-*Rec*
 L Gravely [LGr]-*Rec*
 AE Green [AEG]-*Atlas*
 C Greenfield [CGr]-*Rec*
 L Greenwood [LGd]-*Rec*
 RD Griffiths [RDGr]-*Atlas*
 S Griffiths [SGs]-*Rec*
 E Grist [EGr]-*Rec*
 M Grist [MGt]-*Rec*
 D Guar [DGr]-*Rec*
 M Guinane [MGU]-*Rec*
 AC Gutteridge [ACG]-*Rec*
 Atlas
 B Gwynn [BGw]-*Rec*
 L Gwynn [LG]-*Rec*
 PJ Hack [PJHa]-*Rec*
 SJ Hackett [SJH]-*Rec*
 O Haisell [OH]-*Rec*
 JSW Hakeman [JSWH]-
 Atlas
 APS Hale [APSH]-*Rec Atlas*
 JA Hale [JAHa]-*Rec Atlas*
 A Hall [AHl]-*Rec*
 G Hall [GHa]-*Rec*
 RM Hall [RMHl]-*BBS Atlas*
 T Hall [THl]-*Rec*
 R Hallett [RHl]-*Rec Atlas*
 I Hampson [IHn]-*Rec NF*
 Atlas
 M Hampton [MHn]-*Rec*
 Atlas
 D Hanham [DHm]-*Rec*
 D Hankinson [DHa]-*Atlas*
 D Hardinge [DHe]-*Rec*
 RP Harley [RHR]-*Atlas*
 A Harmer [AHm]-*Rec Atlas*
 R Harper [RoH]-*Atlas*
 S Harrington [SHn]-*NF*
 A Harris [AHA]-*Rec*
 DG Harris [DGH]-*Atlas*
 JC Harris [JCH]-*Rec*
 NG Harris [NGH]-*Rec*
 RG Harris [RGHs]-*Atlas*
 A Harrison [AHR]-*Rec*
 R Hart [RHT]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 S Hartill [SHa]-*Rec*
 R Hartland [RHad]-*Atlas*
 MJ Harvey [MJHy]-*Rec*
 SC Harvey [SCH]-*Rec Atlas*
 E Harwood [EHa]-*Atlas*
 SG Hatch [SGH]-*Rec*
 R Hatcher [RHc]-*Rec*
 HL Hatfield [HLH]-*Rec*
 CAF Hawkins [CAFH]-*Rec*
 J Hawtree [JHW]-*Rec*
 MJW Hay [MJWH]-*Rec*
 A Hayden [AHn]-*WeBS NF*
 R Haydon [RHy]-*Atlas*
 M Hayward [MHy]-*Rec*
 R Hayward [RHyw]-*Rec*
 P Hearn [PHa]-*Rec*
 AB Heath [ABH]-*Rec*
 BA Heath [BAHe]-*Rec*
 P Heath [PHh]-*Rec*
 C Hellewell [CHw]-*Rec*
 J Hellewell [JHl]-*Rec*
 R Hellier [RHe]-*Rec*
 M Henderson [MHs]-*Rec*
 Atlas
 A Herrod [AHe]-*Rec*
 JH Hewitt [JHH]-*Rec*
 AL Hewlett [ALH]-*Rec*
 PT Heyes [PTH]-*Rec*
 PJ Hickman [PJHi]-*Atlas*
 RK Hicks [RKH]-*Rec Atlas*
 J High [JHh]-*WeBS*
 C Hill [CHi]-*Rec*
 MJ Hill [MJHi]-*Rec*
 JI Hilton [JIH]-*Rec*
 DJ Hoare [DJHo]-*Rec Atlas*
 P Hobby [PHy]-*Rec WeBS*
 D Hobley [DHo]-*Rec*
 M Hodgson [MHod]-*Rec*
 T Hodkin [THo]-*Rec*
 P Hogan [PHn]-*Rec*
 D Holland [DHd]-*Rec BBS*
 Atlas
 JP Holland [JPH]-*Atlas*
 BJ Hollands [BJH]-*Rec*
 JR Hollins [JRH]-*Rec*
 R Hollis [RHol]-*Rec*
 D Holloway [DHy]-*Rec*
 AN Hoodless [ANH]-*Atlas*
 P Hook [PHk]-*Rec*
 J Hookings [JHos]-*Rec*
 S Hooper [SHo]-*Rec*
 J Hope [JHp]-*BBS*
 G Horacek-Davis [GH-D]-
 Rec
 D] Horne [DJHe]-*Rec*
 H Horne [HHe]-*Atlas*
 R Horton [RiHn]-*Rec Atlas*
 DP Houghton [DHn]-*Rec*
 A Howard [AHD]-*Rec*
 R Howard [RHw]-*Rec*
 A Howe [AHo]-*Rec*
 R Howell [RHo]-*Rec*
 DS Hubble [DHu]-*Rec Atlas*
 A Hudson [AHun]-*Rec*
 D&J Hudson [D&JH]-*Rec*
 J Hughes [JHg]-*Rec*
 R Hughes [RHs]-*Atlas*
 RM Hughes [RMH]-*Atlas*
 NJ Hull [NjH]-*Rec*
 RA Hume [RAH]-*Rec*
 P Humphrey [PHu]-*Rec*
 R Humphreys [RHm]-*Rec*
 DJ Humphries [DJH]-*Atlas*
 PR Hunt [PRH]-*BBS*
 M Hustix [MH]-*Rec*
 PE Hutchins [PEH]-*Rec*
 A Hutchison [AH]-*Rec Atlas*
 GH Huxley [GHH]-*Rec*
 WeBS Atlas
 C Hyde [CHy]-*Rec Atlas*
 K Ilsley [KI]-*Rec*
 S Ingram [SI]-*Rec WeBS*
 Atlas
 RN Irwin [RNI]-*Rec*
 M Jackson [MJa]-*WeBS*
 P Jackson [PJ]-*Rec*
 S Jackson [SJk]-*Rec*
 RJK Jacobs [RJKJ]-*Rec*
 Atlas
 RS Jacobs [RSJ]-*Atlas*
 AR James [ARJa]-*Rec*
 DBL James [DBLJ]-*Rec*
 Atlas
 P James [PJa]-*Rec Atlas*
 MA Jardine [MAJ]-*Rec*
 KM Jarvis [KJa]-*Rec*
 J Jenkins [JJe]-*Rec*
 F Jennings [FJ]-*Rec*
 P Jepson [PJe]-*Rec*
 P&F Jeskin [P&FJ]-*Rec*
 D Jewsbury [DJ]-*BBS Atlas*
 G John [GJ]-*Atlas*
 J John [JJo]-*Atlas*
 AC Johnson [ACJ]-*Rec*
 WeBS
 K Johnson [KJ]-*Rec BBS*
 Atlas
 N Johnson [NJo]-*Rec*

AR Jones [ARJo]-*Atlas*
 B Jones [BJ]-*Rec Atlas*
 CD Jones [CDJ]-*BBS Atlas*
 G Jones [GJs]-*Rec*
 GW Jones [GWJ]-*Rec*
 JM Jones [JMJ]-*Rec Atlas*
 JR Jones [JRJ]-*Rec*
 KA Jones [KAJ]-*Rec*
 NR Jones [NRJ]-*Rec A BBS*
 PD Jones [PDJ]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 PE Jones [PEJ]-*Atlas*
 RI Jones [RIJ]-*Rec*
 T Jordan [TJd]-*Rec Atlas*
 V Jordan [VJo]-*Rec*
 S Josey [SjJ]-*Rec Atlas*
 I Julian [IJ]-*Atlas*
 A Kane [AKa]-*Atlas*
 J Kaplonek [JKa]-*Rec*
 PS Keane [PSK]-*BBS Atlas*
 K Kearns [KK]-*NF*
 SG Keen [SGK]-*Rec*
 IJ Keil [IJK]-*Rec*
 L Kelly [LKe]-*Rec*
 N Kelsey [NKe]-*Rec*
 H Kemm [HKe]-*Rec*
 JI Kendall [JIK]-*Rec*
 JO Kenney [JOK]-*Rec*
 HN Kent [HNK]-*BBS Atlas*
 B King [BKl]-*Rec*
 D King [DKl]-*Rec*
 GJ King [GJK]-*Rec*
 RA King [RAK]-*Rec*
 SS King [SSK]-*Rec WeBS*
 GR Kirk [GRK]-*Atlas*
 I Kitching [IKi]-*Rec*
 D Knapp [DKn]-*Rec*
 G Knass [GKn]-*Atlas*
 AR Knight [ARK]-*Rec*
 CM Knight [CKn]-*Atlas*
 DC Knight [DCK]-*Rec*
 J Knight [JKi]-*Rec*
 D Kronenberg [DKr]-*Rec*
 M Lambden [MLn]-*Rec*
 M Lane [MLa]-*Rec*
 S Lane [SLa]-*A*
 SR&S Lankester [SR&SL]-*BBS Atlas*
 J Lansbury [JLy]-*Rec*
 MJ Larter [MJL]-*Rec*
 JC Lavin [JCL]-*Rec*
 TA Lawman [TAL]-*Rec*
 MR Lawn [MRL]-*Rec Atlas*
 ES Lawrence [ESL]-*Rec*
 AR Layfield [ARL]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 S Layton [SLy]-*Rec*
 BJ Leach [BJLe]-*Rec NF*
 C Lee [CLee]-*Rec*
 RD Lee [RDL]-*Rec NF*
 L Leeke-Bennett [LL-B]-*Rec*
 J Legg [JLg]-*Rec Atlas*
 WGD Legge [WGD]-*Rec*
 S Leishman [SLi]-*Rec*
 RJ Lerpiniere [RJL]-*Atlas*
 AJB Lester [AJBL]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 JE Levell [JEL]-*WeBS BBS*
 J Levene [JLv]-*Rec*
 A Lever [AL]-*Rec*
 RK Levett [RKL]-*Rec WeBS*
 S Levett [SLe]-*Rec*
 P Levey [PLe]-*NF*
 AI Lewis [AIL]-*Rec Atlas*
 AP Lewis [APL]-*Rec*
 D Ley [DLy]-*Atlas*
 RG Liford [RGL]-*Atlas*
 T Lifton [TLi]-*Rec*
 M Lindsay [MLi]-*Rec*
 B Lintott [BL]-*Rec*
 EA Lintott [EAL]-*Rec*
 D Lister [DL]-*Rec*
 MA Litjens [MLj]-*Rec NF BBS Atlas*
 R Lloyd [RLI]-*Rec*
 S Lloyd [SiL]-*Atlas*
 M Lock [MLc]-*Rec Atlas*
 SJ Lockhart [SJL]-*Rec*
 P Lomax [PLx]-*Rec*
 R Lord [RLo]-*Rec*
 C Lovatt [CL]-*Rec*
 J Loveder [JLe]-*Rec*
 K Lover [KLr]-*Atlas*
 M Lowe [MLw]-*Atlas*
 SW Lowe [SWL]-*Atlas*
 VA Lowings [VAL]-*Rec WeBS*
 A Lucas [ALu]-*NF*
 K Lugg [KLu]-*Atlas*
 J Lunt [JLu]-*Rec*
 M Lush [MLu]-*Rec*
 R Lyle [JLy]-*Rec*
 PJ Lymbery [PJL]-*C-F*
 DM Lynch [DML]-*Rec*
 G Lyons [GLy]-*Rec*
 L MacCallum [LMcC]-*WeBS*
 B Macdonald [BMc]-*Atlas*
 J Main [JMa]-*Rec*
 D Major [DM]-*Rec*
 E Mallion [EMa]-*Rec*
 A Mansell [AMi]-*Rec*
 SJ Mansfield [SJMa]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 CJ Marchant [CJM]-*Rec*
 RH Marchant [RHM]-*NF BBS Atlas*
 N Marriner [NMr]-*Rec*
 J Marsh [JMH]-*Rec*
 R Marsh [RMh]-*Atlas*
 B Marshall [BMa]-*Rec*
 SK Marshall [SKM]-*Rec*
 PC Marston [PCM]-*Rec Atlas*
 AP Martin [APM]-*NF BBS Atlas*
 JM Maskell [JMi]-*Rec*
 K Maskell [KM]-*Rec*
 A Massey [AMy]-*Atlas*
 M Matthews [IMma]-*Rec NF*
 N Matthews [NMa]-*Rec NF*
 AJ Maundrell [AJM]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 G May [GM]-*Rec*
 S May [SMa]-*Atlas*
 KW Maycock [KWM]-*Atlas*
 C Mayhead [CMa]-*Rec*
 MG McCarthy [MGm]-*Rec*
 B McDowell [BMcD]-*Rec*
 AJ McGowan [AJMc]-*Atlas*
 DN McLeod [DNM]-*Atlas*
 DF McNair [DFMcN]-*Atlas*
 A McVeigh [AMcV]-*Rec*
 S Melville [SMv]-*Rec*
 S Menzie [SMz]-*Rec*
 J Middleton [JMdd]-*Rec*
 L Middleton [LMdd]-*Rec*
 S Middleton [SMdd]-*Rec*
 A Mielczarek [AMz]-*Rec*
 S Miles [SMi]-*Rec*
 SR Miles [SRM]-*Rec*
 PN Milinets-Raby [PNM-R]-*Rec WeBS*
 L Miller [LMi]-*Rec*
 R Milligan [RMI]-*Rec*
 D Minns [DMn]-*WeBS BBS*
 D Mitchell [DMI]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 R Mitchell [RMI]-*Rec*
 A Monk [AMn]-*Rec*
 E Monk [EMk]-*Rec*
 NJ Montegriffo [NJM]-*BBS*
 MP Moody [MPM]-*Rec*
 J&J Moon [J&JM]-*Rec Atlas*
 AP Moore [APMo]-*Rec*
 M Moore [MMn]-*Rec*
 N Morant [NMo]-*Rec*
 J Morgan [JMo]-*Rec*
 A Morris [AMs]-*Rec*
 P&S Morrison [P&S]-*Atlas*
 K Mortimore [KMo]-*Rec*
 JC Moseley [JCMo]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 A Mountford [AMf]-*Rec*
 DR Munday [DRMy]-*NF BBS Atlas*
 E Munday [EM]-*Rec*
 L Munday [LMu]-*Atlas*
 A Mundell [AMu]-*Rec*
 D Munts [DMt]-*Rec*
 A Murdock [AMk]-*Rec*
 RC Murfitt [RCM]-*Atlas*
 G Murphy [GMu]-*Rec A*
 D Murray [DMu]-*Rec Atlas*
 T Murrills [TMu]-*Rec*
 RJ Mycock [RJM]-*Rec*
 CA Mynott [CAM]-*Rec*
 C Neal [CNI]-*Rec*
 S Neal [SNe]-*Rec*
 K Neeson [KNe]-*Rec*
 R Nelson [RNe]-*Rec*
 D Nesbitt [DNe]-*Rec*
 MJ Netherwood [MJNd]-*Rec*
 SJ Neville [SJN]-*Rec*
 K New [KN]-*Rec*
 P Newbound [PNn]-*Rec*
 C Newman [CNe]-*Rec*
 MAH Newman [MAHN]-*BBS*
 D Newson [DNn]-*Rec*
 D Nicholson [DNi]-*Rec*
 JB Nicholson [JBN]-*Rec*
 L Nickell [LNI]-*Atlas*
 A Nieuwkerk [ANw]-*Rec*
 J Nightingale [JNi]-*NF*
 A Noble [ANo]-*Rec*
 MJ Norman [MJN]-*Atlas*
 AY Norris [AYN]-*Rec Atlas*
 PR Norris [PRN]-*Rec BBS*
 PH Northcote [PHN]-*Atlas*
 JA Norton [JANo]-*Rec WeBS*
 T Norton [TN]-*Rec Atlas*
 JA Nundy [JANu]-*WeBS*
 S&EJ Oakes [S&EJO]-*Atlas*
 D Oakley-Martin [DO-M]-*Rec*
 JG Oates [JGO]-*Atlas*
 DC Ooffer [DCO]-*Atlas*
 A Olden [AO]-*Rec*
 P Oldfield [POl]-*Rec*
 C Oliver [CO]-*Rec*
 J Olliff-Cooper [JO-C]-*Rec*
 MA Oram [MAO]-*Rec*
 M Orchard-Webb [MO-W]-*NF*
 N O'Rielly [MOR]-*Rec*
 B Osborne [BO]-*Rec*
 G Osborne [GO]-*Rec Atlas*
 L Osgerby [LOs]-*Rec*
 A Owen [AO]-*Rec*
 NT Owen [NTO]-*Rec*
 AG Page [AGP]-*Rec NF C Atlas*
 SD Page [SDP]-*BBS*
 MG Painter [MGP]-*Rec NF Atlas*
 MJ Palmer [MJPa]-*Rec Atlas*
 N Papas [NP]-*Rec*
 A Parker [APkr]-*NF Atlas*
 OP Parker [OPP]-*Atlas*
 C&J Parkhouse [CPa]-*Atlas*
 TJ Parminter [TJP]-*Rec WeBS*
 K Parr [KP]-*Rec*
 D Parsons [DP]-*C*
 J Parsons [JPo]-*Rec*
 RW Pascal [RWP]-*Rec*
 TA Paul [TAP]-*Rec*
 ID Payne [IDP]-*Rec*
 A Pearce [APe]-*Rec*
 RK Pearce [RKP]-*Rec NF BBS*
 DJ Pearson [DJP]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 P Pearson [PPe]-*Rec*
 L Peat [LPe]-*Atlas*
 R Peck [RPk]-*Rec*

W Percy [WPY]-*Rec*
 JN Peters [JNP]-*Rec BBS*
 SP Peters [SPPE]-*Atlas*
 M Phelps [MPs]-*Rec*
 I Pibworth [IP]-*Rec WeBS*
 GD Pictor [GDP]-*Atlas*
 B Pierce [BPi]-*Rec*
 SP Piggott [SPP]-*Rec*
 BJ Pinchen [BJP]-*Rec WeBS*
 BJ Pink [BJPi]-*Rec*
 MA Pink [MAP]-*Rec*
 D Piper [DPI]-*Rec*
 MJ Pitt [MJPi]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 J Pleasance [JPI]-*Rec*
 D Pledge [DPI]-*Rec*
 D Pointer [DPr]-*Rec*
 RG Pointer [RGP]-*BBS Atlas*
 T Pointer [TPo]-*Rec*
 AJ Polley [AJPo]-*WeBS NF Atlas*
 H Pontier [HPo]-*Rec*
 CR Poole [CRP]-*Rec*
 PM Potts [PMP]-*WeBS A-F Atlas*
 A Powell [APo]-*Rec*
 E Powis [EPo]-*Rec*
 EM Pratt [EMP]-*Rec*
 C Pringle [CPr]-*Atlas*
 C Pritchard [CPd]-*Atlas*
 LB Probert [LBP]-*Rec*
 J Proctor [JPC]-*Atlas*
 A Pullen [APu]-*Rec NF*
 A Pycroft [APc]-*Rec*
 L Pyke [LP]-*WeBS*
 RJ Pyrah [RJPY]-*Atlas*
 W Quantrell [WQu]-*Atlas*
 B Rackett [BRa]-*Rec*
 D Radden [DRa]-*Rec NF*
 M Rafter [MRa]-*Rec NF Atlas*
 IL Ralphs [ILR]-*Rec Atlas*
 G Randall [GRa]-*Rec*
 G Rapley [GR]-*Atlas*
 CJ Raymond [CJR]-*Rec Atlas*
 P Raynor [PRa]-*Rec Atlas*
 D Read [DRd]-*Rec*
 JE Read [JER]-*Rec*
 MJ Read [MJR]-*Rec*
 JA Redway [JAR]-*BBS*
 R Reedman [RRn]-*Atlas*
 B Reese [BRE]-*Rec*
 J Reeve [JRV]-*Rec*
 DJ Reeves [DJRV]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 R Reeves [RRv]-*Rec*
 IA Reid [IAR]-*Atlas*
 A Reynolds [ARE]-*Rec*
 N Reynolds [NRe]-*Rec*
 AS Rhodes [ASR]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 G Rich [GRi]-*Rec*
 T Richards [TRi]-*Atlas*
 L Rickman [LRi]-*Rec*
 BA Rickwood [BAR]-*WeBS NF*
 R Righelato [RRi]-*Atlas*
 BJ Roberts [BJR]-*Rec NF BBS Atlas*
 D Roberts [DRo]-*Atlas*
 ET Roberts [ETR]-*A-F Atlas*
 GCM Roberts [GCMR]-*A-F Atlas*
 J Roberts [JRs]-*Rec*
 MJ Robertson [MJRo]-*BBS Atlas*
 JC Rogerson [JCR]-*Rec*
 MD Rolfe [MDR]-*Rec WeBS BBS*
 R Rooke [RRo]-*Rec*
 G Rooney [GRY]-*Rec*
 C Rose [CRo]-*Rec*
 JG Ross [JGR]-*WeBS*
 R Ross [RRo]-*Rec*
 RG Rothwell [RGR]-*Atlas*
 H Rowe [HRO]-*Rec*
 J Rowe [JRW]-*Atlas*
 GJS Rowland [GJSR]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 PAS Rowse [PASR]-*Rec Atlas*
 E Rowsell [ERI]-*WeBS*
 RS Royle [RSR]-*Atlas*
 L Rumis [LRu]-*Rec*
 DM Russell [DMR]-*NF Atlas*
 K Rylands [KR]-*Rec*
 D Ryves [DRY]-*Rec*
 A Sainsbury [ASa]-*Rec*
 R Sawyer [RSr]-*Rec*
 K Sayer [KSa]-*Rec WeBS NF A Atlas*
 GD Scholey [GDS]-*Atlas*
 PS Scorey [PSc]-*Rec*
 E Scott [ESi]-*Atlas*
 S Seagrave [SSe]-*Rec*
 R Seargent [RSi]-*Rec Atlas*
 J Searle [JSe]-*BBS*
 M Shaft [MSh]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 B Sharkey [BSH]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 A Sharp [ASp]-*Rec*
 G Sharp [GSh]-*Atlas*
 A Shaw [ASw]-*Rec*
 MD Shaw [MDS]-*Rec*
 E Shawyer [ES]-*Rec*
 J&C Shelley [J&CS]-*Rec*
 PR Shepley [PRS]-*Rec Atlas*
 JRD Shillitoe [JRDS]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 R Ship [RSh]-*Rec WeBS*
 PP Short [PPS]-*Rec WeBS BBS*
 D Shrive [DS]-*Rec*
 R Shrubsole [RSbs]-*Atlas*
 D Shute [DSe]-*BBS*
 I Sibsey [IS]-*Rec*
 WF Simcox [WFS]-*A-I*
 S Simmons [SSi]-*BBS*
 G Simpson [GSi]-*Rec*
 J Simpson [JSi]-*Rec*
 M Simpson [MSi]-*Rec*
 C Slade [CSi]-*Rec*
 G Small [GSm]-*Rec*
 AC Smallbone [ACS]-*Rec WeBS BBS*
 J Smallwood [JSd]-*Rec WeBS*
 S Smart [SS]-*Rec*
 A Smith [ASm]-*Rec*
 CJ Smith [CJS]-*Atlas*
 IA Smith [IAS]-*Rec*
 JC Smith [JCS]-*Rec*
 JJ Smith [JJS]-*Rec*
 LC Smith [LCS]-*Rec*
 ME Smith [MES]-*Rec*
 PT Smith [PTS]-*Rec*
 RG Smith [RGS]-*Atlas*
 SJ Smith [SJS]-*Rec*
 TC Smith [TCS]-*Rec*
 A Smithen [ASn]-*Atlas*
 D Snelling [DSn]-*Rec*
 AM Snook [AMS]-*Rec*
 D Snow [DSw]-*Rec*
 R Somerscocks [RSk]-*Rec*
 R Souter [RSO]-*Rec BBS Atlas*
 H Sporko [HSp]-*Rec*
 J Spring-Smyth [JS-S]-*Rec*
 E Spruce [ESp]-*Rec*
 B Stalker [BSi]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 P Stanbury [PSi]-*Rec*
 L Staves [LSs]-*Atlas*
 R Stedman [RSn]-*Rec*
 C Steel [CSs]-*Rec*
 GC Stephenson [GCS]-*Rec Atlas*
 N Stephenson [NST]-*Rec*
 A Stevens [ASv]-*Rec*
 T Stevens [TSs]-*Rec*
 D Stevenson [DSi]-*Rec*
 AH Stewart [AHS]-*Rec*
 T Stimpson [TSn]-*Rec*
 A Stocker [ASr]-*Rec*
 J Stockwell [JS]-*Rec NF*
 J Stokes [JSk]-*Rec*
 DA Stone [DAS]-*Atlas*
 G Stone [GSe]-*Rec*
 S Stone [SSo]-*Rec*
 M Stoneman [MSn]-*Rec*
 K Stouse [KS]-*Rec Atlas*
 A Stow [ASi]-*Atlas*
 PJ Strangeman [PJS]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 DJ Sussex [DJS]-*Rec Atlas*
 P Sutton [PSu]-*Rec*
 JL Swallow [JSw]-*Rec*
 M Swallow [MSw]-*Rec*
 M Swann [MSa]-*Rec*
 A Swatridge [ASr]-*Rec*
 P Sweeney [PSe]-*Rec*
 DE Swensson [DES]-*Rec*
 SU Sykes [SUS]-*Atlas*
 MD Tanner [MDT]-*Rec*
 C Taylor [CT]-*Rec*
 DH Taylor [DHT]-*NF*
 G Taylor [GTa]-*Rec*
 MJ Taylor [MJT]-*Atlas*
 R Teesdale [RTi]-*Rec*
 MGW Terry [MGWT]-*Rec NF*
 MH Terry [MHTe]-*Rec*
 L Tester [LTE]-*Rec*
 DA Thelwell [DAT]-*Rec WeBS BBS Atlas*
 R Theobald [RTh]-*Rec*
 C Thomas [CTs]-*Rec*
 R Thomas [RTs]-*Rec*
 G Thompson [GTn]-*Rec*
 PGL Thompson [PGLT]-*BBS Atlas*
 L Thorn [LTH]-*Rec*
 GA Thornton [GAT]-*BBS Atlas*
 CJ Thorpe [CJT]-*Rec*
 D Thwaites [DTh]-*Rec*
 T Timlick [TTi]-*WeBS*
 AD Tindale [ADT]-*Rec NF BBS Atlas*
 DJA Tinling [DJAT]-*Rec*
 R Todd [RT]-*Atlas*
 R Toft [RTo]-*Rec*
 AB Tomczynski [ABT]-*Atlas*
 PE Toynton [PETo]-*BBS Atlas*
 D Treadaway [DTY]-*Rec*
 A Tremain [AT]-*Rec*
 R Trundle [RTr]-*Atlas*
 KI Tubb [KIT]-*Rec*
 MJR Tubb [MJRT]-*Rec*
 JM Tubbs [JMT]-*Rec*
 KA Turner [KAT]-*Rec*
 R Turner [RTu]-*Atlas*
 M Turton [MTu]-*Rec*
 M Tutton [MTn]-*Rec*
 RS Twigg [RSTw]-*Rec*
 P Twine [PTw]-*Rec WeBS*
 AP Twyman [APT]-*Atlas*
 M Tye [MTY]-*Rec*
 D Tyler [DT]-*Rec*
 R Tyrrell [RTY]-*Rec Atlas*
 DJ Unsworth [DJU]-*Rec WeBS Atlas*
 P Upton [PUp]-*Rec*
 N Urry [NUr]-*Rec*
 R Valentine [RV]-*Rec*
 JN Vallender [JNV]-*Rec*
 A van de Velde [AvdV]-*Rec*
 C Vanner [CVa]-*Rec*
 VA Vernon [VAV]-*Rec*
 J Vickers [JVs]-*Atlas*
 M Viney [MVy]-*Rec*
 TJ Viney [TVJ]-*Rec*
 K&B Vokes [K&BV]-*NF*
 MG Vokes [MV]-*Atlas*

D Vose [DVo]- Atlas	MF Wearing [MFWe]- Rec	SG Whitehead [SGW]- BBS	WeBS
Jl Waddington [JIW]- Rec	GM Wearn [GMW]- Rec	Atlas	CF Winyard [CFW]- Rec
E Wade-Brown [EW-B]- Rec	B Webb [BWe]- Rec	K Whittleton [KWh]- Rec	S Wise [SWi]- Rec
B&B Wadhams [B&BW]- Rec	RM Webb [RMW]- Rec NF	C Whitworth [CWh]- Rec NF	EJ Wiseman [EJW]- Rec
J Wakeford [JWk]- Rec	WJ Webb [WJW]- Atlas	JA Wichall [JAW]- Atlas	WeBS BBS Atlas
R Wakelam [RWk]- Rec	JJ Webley [JJW]- Rec	MF Wildish [MFWi]- Atlas	SD Wood [SDW]- BBS
S Walker [SWa]- Rec Atlas	AJ Welch [AJWe]- C	D Wilkinson [DWn]- Rec	C Woodham [CWm]- Rec
TH Walker [THW]- Rec A	A Wells [AWe]- Rec	Atlas	AEL Woods [AELW]- Rec
Atlas	TJ Wells [TJW]- Rec	R Wilkinson [RWi]- Rec	G Woodward [GW]- Rec
D Wallace [DWa]- Rec	P Westbrook [PWe]- Atlas	BR Williams [BRW]- Rec	SA Woolfries [SAW]- WeBS
RJ Wallace [RJWa]- Rec	DV Westerhoff [DVW]- NF	P Williams [PW]- Atlas	Atlas
M Ward [MW]- Rec WeBS	BBS Atlas	TM Williams [TMW]- Atlas	SK Woolley [SKW]- Rec
NF BBS Atlas	I Weston [ILGW]- Atlas	W Williams [WWi]- Rec	AM Wright [AMW]- Rec
Z Ward [ZW]- Rec	AV Wheatcroft [AVW]- Rec	I Williamson [IWl]- Rec	SJ Wright [SJW]- Rec Atlas
C Warren [CWa]- Rec	J Wheatley [JWh]- Atlas	MJ Williamson [MJWi]- Rec	D Wyatt [DWy]- Rec
R Warren [RWn]- Rec	MJ Wheeler [MJWi]- Atlas	BBS Atlas	AR Wynde [ARW]- Rec BBS
JR Waterman [JRW]- Rec	MSF Whitaker [MSFW]- Atlas	J Willmott [JWt]- Rec	RB Wynn [RBW]- Rec Atlas
D Watson [DWt]- Rec	KG White [KGW]- Atlas	KB Wills [KBW]- Rec WeBS	SR Yates [SRY]- BBS
MIG Watson [MIGW]- Atlas	MJ White [MJWe]- Rec	Atlas	DM Yelland [DMY]- BBS
RF Watson [RFW]- Rec BBS	PJ White [PJW]- Rec	C Wilson [CWn]- Rec Atlas	Atlas
Atlas	PR White [PRW]- Rec	G Wilson [GWn]- Rec	CL Young [CLY]- Atlas
IR Watts [IRW]- Rec WeBS	SN White [SNW]- BBS Atlas	GE Wilson [GEW]- Atlas	K Young [KY]- Rec NF
R Watts [RWa]- Rec	RD Whitehead [RWh]- Rec	S Wilson [SWn]- Rec	
		PD Winter [PDW]- Rec	

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 Needs Ore Log
 Needs Ore Tuesday Group
ralph-hollins.net
 Rare Bird Alert
 RSPB South Downs Lapwing Survey
 RSPB Stone-curlew team
 WeBS Partnership



Grey Phalarope with Swallows – Dan Powell

Review of Birds in Hampshire 2011

Alan Cox



Juvenile White-tailed Eagle harassed by corvids (Ravens and Jackdaws) – Dan Powell

In this review *HOSRP* and *BBRC* accepted rarities are highlighted in **black** and **red** fonts, respectively. Maximum year counts are indicated in **green** and county record counts in **purple** fonts. A total of 266 species was recorded in the county in year, including two new species - **Spectacled Warbler** and **Spanish Sparrow**; both are extreme rarities in Britain but news of the latter, present for most of December at least, was not publicised until January 2012. In addition, taxonomic changes, adopted by the BOU, split Siberian Stonechat and Stonechat as separate species. In consequence, Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* is added to the Hampshire List (one accepted record 1987) which totalled 372 species at the end of the year.

January began with a bright, but chilly day; snow still lingered on high ground following heavy falls in December. Most inland water bodies remained frozen but year listers profited in these conditions. Two teams broke the previous first day count record with astonishing totals of 117 (SI, IW, GH-D and TP) and 115 (NRJ *et al.*). At Hurst, there were **21** Lapland Buntings in New Lane fields, a Snow Bunting on the spit and a Red-necked Grebe offshore. Geese were to the fore, an impressive **107** Barnacles arrived at Pennington Marsh, joining 35 White-fronts there; the only Pink-foot of the year was amongst White-fronts at Farlington Marshes. Rarities seen included an **Iceland Gull** at Ibsley Water; nearby at Ashford, Fordingbridge two **Cattle Egrets** flirted with the county boundary – they mainly fed in Dorset but certainly roosted in trees on the Hampshire side. The juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** was rediscovered near Hordle, but was not widely reported for a further week, when it became national news. Another Red-necked Grebe and **24** Black-necked Grebes were off The Oysterbeds (West Hayling LNR). Also within Langstone Harbour, the Goldeneye wintering population peaked at **54**, the highest since 2004. A Great Crested Grebe count between Hill Head and Brownwich totalled **167**, well short of the 2010 total. A reward for regular gull-watching at Redbridge was an adult **Caspian Gull** on a four day visit. A total of 171 species was reported during the first week of the year.

The second week got off to a frosty start (-3°C at night), but with high pressure nearby there were some bright, sunny days as temperatures rose. My birding life was rekindled when I moved to Stopples Lane, Hordle 33 years ago. News that the **White-tailed Eagle** had now taken up residence off that lane triggered my return pilgrimage. The change in the birding scene there

in the intervening years was dramatic: Ravens, Buzzards and Peregrine shared the eagle's wintering territory. Even a Goshawk was seen later in the month. A flush count at Itchen valley CP located **six** Jack Snipes: a species poorly recorded this winter. There were, however, four-figure counts of Dark-bellied Brent Geese at five localities - contributing to a WeBS peak county total of 12,301. Strong south-westerly winds dominated from 10th bringing a period of heavy rain and generally unsettled conditions. The only notable day movements were of **95** Kittiwakes off Sandy Point and 13 White-fronted Geese departed Farlington Marshes. A second Smew arrived at Blashford Lakes, one of five in the month. A spectacular Waxwing invasion was now reaching its peak; such confiding birds are a photographer's dream subject, but a camera was also essential to log a total of **773** at North Camp Station, Farnborough.

In the third week, major concentrations of Goosander (**205** to roost) and Gadwall (**1149**) were recorded at Blashford Lakes. The beech mast crop at Butser Hill attracted Brambling numbers into four figures. At Oxey Point, Lymington there were **nine** Spotted Redshanks on the marsh and seven Slavonian Grebes on the water. Another legacy of the early winter arctic conditions was a record total of **27** Bitterns: one at Goodworth Clatford on the Anton was a first there; two disputed territory at Ivy Lake and totals of three were confirmed there and at Testwood Lakes. Air pressure rose on 18th and conditions became drier and brighter. At Chichester Harbour entrance, there were exceptional counts of **16** Slavonian Grebes and **18** Scaup. An evening roost of **450** Cormorants in the lower Avon valley had been attracted to the area by large fish shoals at Poole Bay, Dorset where they fed by day. Nearby, there were **seven** Ruffs at Sabine's Farm; a colour-ringed bird at Keyhaven Marsh had been in Staffordshire two days previously - testament to the information generated by the scheme. Another, shorter distance movement was a likely explanation of a **Great White Egret**, seen earlier at Mottisfont, then well up the Test valley in the Micheldever area. At Lower Test Marshes, a count of **26** Water Pipits once more indicated the reserve as the county hotspot for this species. High pressure stayed close to Britain, again producing fine weather at the beginning of the fourth week. It helped WeBS counters who recorded 10,364 Wigeon, including **1696** in the lower Test valley and **470** Pintails at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes. A first-winter **Ring-billed Gull** was at Ibsley Water, identified by the finder of the first in Britain three decades earlier (RAH). Temperatures



Part of the Pennington Marsh Barnacle Geese flock, Jan 9th – Richard Coomber

then dropped, as northerly winds brought overcast conditions and frosts once more, triggering a movement of 17 White-fronted Geese ENE over Sandy Point. The small (but by modern standards significant) county wintering population of 63 was not involved. On the Somerley estate, Avon valley a Snipe count during a shooter's beat totalled 220. Goshawks began to display, including six seen in the air together in the New Forest.

February averaged temperatures two degrees above normal, mostly mild throughout, but quite unsettled with many wet days. On 4th, a westerly gale struck and a grim day unfolded at Milford on Sea; a large skua off shore remained unidentified in murky conditions. Wind strengths of 50/60 mph winds persisted over the next four days which saw a total of 393 Red-throated Divers fly west. Intriguingly, this movement was in sharp contrast to far lower numbers just to the west off Hengistbury Head, Dorset. Sea bird movements in Christchurch Bay are enigmatic: birds seemingly arrive, and return to sea, with little displacement along the coast. Following 215 auks in late January off Milford on Sea, 25 Razorbills were closer to shore - far lower numbers than a day count of 5000, seemingly arriving from the east, off Hengistbury Head. Inland, despite the miserable weather, Woodlark song commenced at Bourley and Long Valley. Chichester/Langstone Harbours combined peak winter total for Grey Plovers shrank for the third successive year to an all-time low of 1687. There is some evidence of a shift to more northerly wintering e.g. the Wadden Sea has seen small increases in recent years. The now regular wintering adult **Caspian Gull** at Ibsley Water was reported for the last time.

After an overnight frost, the second week commenced with a fine sunny day but was soon followed by two days of incessant rain. Presumably, Fulmars were returning to their Isle of Wight breeding territories as seven were seen off Hurst. Black Redstarts find man-made habitats to their liking. Urban reports of site faithful birds came from Southampton (Sholing and Freemantle) and Portsmouth. On farmland, tyre-heaps apparently hold an attraction, as at Stockbridge, and of course Power Stations, such as Fawley. A Ruddy Shelduck was seen with Brents in the eastern harbours for the second winter. The third week began with a day of heavy rain before high pressures brought in further cold air. An adult **Glaucous Gull** found at The Kench took flight, but was relocated nearby at Gunner Point, where a leucistic adult Herring Gull provided an identification trap for the unwary.



Adult Glaucous and leucistic Herring (inset) Gulls, Gunner Point, Feb 17th – Andy Johnson

Along the Beaulieu estuary at Exbury, the third **Black Brant** of the year was found; others being at Farlington Marshes and Mill Rithe, East Hayling. On a fine, but chilly, morning two **Mealy Redpolls** were found amongst 150 Lesser Redpolls at Broxhead Common near Bordon. A wet start to the fourth week saw numbers of Bewick's Swans wintering in the Avon valley begin to fall from their peak of 16. Despite the rain, the **White-tailed Eagle**, absent for several days from the coast, was relocated well inland at Old Basing. On 24th, there was a transition to anticyclonic weather which vastly improved conditions for fieldwork. Off Sandy Point, a total of 150 Eiders contrasted with a max. of 50 along The Solent, their former wintering stronghold.

March was the driest recorded in England for 50 years. The opening week was dominated by a ridge of high pressure, generally light winds and some early morning fog; temperatures remained low, not exceeding 5°C. On the chalk at Toyd Down, the wintering flock of Corn Buntings totalled 20. Along the coast, Mediterranean Gulls started to gather, including 342 at Oxy Marsh. The last group of six White-fronted Geese left Farlington Marshes. In fine weather, at the start of the second week, the first spring migrant - a Wheatear - was at Twyford Down, Winchester. Westerly airflows dominated the week. New arrivals were reported almost daily: a Ring Ouzel at Beacon Hill, Warrford; a Little Ringed Plover at Pennington Marsh and House Martins lingering over Fleet Pond - a full week before reports elsewhere. White Wagtail passage commenced with sightings at Paultons Park GC, Sandy Point and another 15 localities followed in spring. Reports at the start of the third week included: the last double-figure count of Purple Sandpipers at Southsea Castle (16); the departure of the **Ring-billed Gull** at Walpole Park, Gosport (its eighth winter) and the first Swallow purposefully flying north over Hook-with-Warsash. Developing high pressure over the near continent raised day temperatures to the early teens. The weekend NFWBS located 285 Stonechats; evidence of seasonal movements of this species following low numbers in mid winter. Early Willow Warblers were singing on territory at three widespread localities. High pressure then dominated the fourth week, producing settled, fine spring weather. The first Spoonbill arrived and stayed at Farlington Marshes for ten days. An unprecedented north-easterly movement of 11,235 Meadow Pits in spring over Hurst included a day count of **2706**. Eight adult Little Gulls were at Fleet Pond; an Osprey toured the eastern harbours; a Sedge Warbler was singing along the Itchen at Highbidge and early Redstarts included a migrant at Portsmouth and one on territory in the New Forest. It became more unsettled over the last three days of the month as fronts arrived from the west, bringing wet and windy conditions, but nights remained mild. At Needs Ore, a **Cattle Egret** was seen briefly and then once more a week later. The 200th species of the year was, aptly, a Cuckoo singing at Brockenhurst followed by a Hobby north over Nursling. A regular annual late month influx of Bramblings included 300 at Blashford Lakes.

April was the warmest in England since recording began in 1910. High pressure continued to influence the weather for most of the month. It was also sunnier and drier with temperatures 4°C above the 30-year mean. The quality of birding matched the weather. In mild southerly winds on 1st, a first-summer and three adult Little Gulls graced Ibsley Water. Later that week westerly airflows prevailed: **100** Common Scoter flew east past Hill Head and a flock of **eight** Velvet Scoters lingered off Hurst. First dates for returning passerines included: Tree Pipit in the New Forest; a Whitethroat at Browndown and a Reed Warbler at Hook-with-Warsash. A well-watched Hoopoe at Crondall was the first of an influx of six in month. Heavy overnight rain on 5th was exceptional as fine weather persisted by day. Three male and two female Garganeys arrived at Titchfield Haven; a Nightingale sang at Casbrook Common and a Wood Warbler in the New Forest. As temperatures reached 20°C, the first Little Tern flew past Hurst Castle; a Grasshopper Warbler reeled at Fishlake Meadows; a Wryneck was at Pipers Wait, NF; a Garden Warbler at Timsbury and a Lesser Whitethroat at Titchfield Haven. Belatedly, 12 Sand Martins arrived to occupy their man-made nesting bank at Blashford Lakes. A **Black Stork** took up residence in the New Forest for 13 days but was very mobile and required many pairs of eyes to keep track of its movements. The earliest ever Black Tern was recorded at Lower Test

Marshes and the first Whinchat was also there. The last of four wintering Great Grey Shrikes was reported at Beaulieu Road and the last Hen Harrier of the early year at Needs Ore.

A group of 38 Light-bellied Brents temporarily gathered off Hill Head and then moved to Langstone Harbour before flying west. Where to? They were probably destined to summer in the high arctic of eastern Canada; this population winters in Ireland before moving south along The Channel coast in late winter. An adult **Whiskered Tern** rested on a buoy in Stokes Bay - another find by the Production Editor of this Report. More typically, spring Pied Flycatchers were at Farlington Marshes and Chandlers Ford. At the start of the third week, a light spring passage of Ring Ouzels included **five** at Beacon Hill, Burghclere. A warm south-easterly airflow on 17th saw two Roseate Terns recorded past Hurst and then Stokes Bay – the earliest ever. Three Puffins flew offshore at Milford on Sea: the scarcest of the four southern British auks in the county. The following day **four** summer-plumaged Black-throated Divers entered Hurst Narrows. A male **Montagu's Harrier** flew up the Test valley at Kimbridge - the first of three in month. Whimbrel passage peaked with **205** past Hurst and an early Spotted Flycatcher showed near Micheldever.

The benign weather saw more exceptionally early arrivals: two Nightjars at Yew Tree Bottom, NF and at another five localities before the end of the month. A **Serin** over Testwood Lakes rewarded regular watching there. The Solent weather station logged 25.3°C on 25th - the warmest place in Britain. Reports included: 21 Swifts feeding over Blashford Lakes; a **Rough-legged Buzzard** at Milkham Inclosure, NF (followed by one at Overton eight days later); then an adult male Long-tailed Duck lingering off Hurst beach for four days. The Farlington Ringing Group controlled a Cetti's Warbler which had been ringed in Lancashire two years previously. Such movements are rarely documented, particularly of an adult bird. It remained dry in the last days of the month but winds turned to the east, raising the prospect of a successful bird race event to come. The first Honey-buzzard was seen arriving in off the sea at Fawley and the next day a **Black Kite** was at East Tisted following one at Ibsley. A first-winter Light-bellied Brent arrived to summer off Hook Spit; probably the first county record of such an occurrence. Up to four Little Stints were at Pennington Marsh and the last Water Pipit, in summer plumage, was at Town Quay Southampton. Long-eared Owls bred near Basingstoke and two fledged young were seen. Following overnight thunderstorms in the south-west of Britain, favourable sea watching conditions at Hurst produced a day max. of **23** Pomarine Skuas.

May started with easterly, then south-easterly, air flows providing excellent sea watching conditions. Before dawn on 1st, a Quail was singing at Overton, followed by a spectacular day total of 1325 Bar-tailed Godwits east past Hurst.

There were at least 4174 *taymyrensis* in spring - the heaviest passage since 1984. Two bird racing teams broke the long-standing county 24 hrs listing record of 151 - by **two**. The legendary species of an outstanding *May Day* being Pomarine Skua; ten at Sandy Point and frequently during the day at Hurst, including 16 still present in the evening. The last Merlin of the early year was also seen at Hurst. Inland, a delightful off-passage trip of four Dotterels graced Cheesefoot Head for three days. Continued onshore winds still favoured coastal visible migration watches, including a week total of 188 Black Terns and a day count of 869 Common Terns into The Solent at Hurst. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Pennington Marsh was followed into the second week by a Curlew Sandpiper there. Mid Atlantic westerly airflows introduced showery weather but most of the time it remained sunny and dry. A completed spring passage total of 271 Little Terns was the heaviest recorded since 2000. In the third week a **Golden Oriole** was singing in the New Forest. At Winchester SF, the last of three Wood Sandpipers was present and a White Wagtail departed after a protracted stay. During the fourth week a series of deep low pressure systems passed north-east over Britain, bringing unseasonable strong winds to the county on three dates. A **Balearic Shearwater**, the only **Storm Petrel** recorded in year, and **seven** Guillemots were all logged off Milford on Sea.



Mixed flock of taymyrensis Bar-tailed Godwits and Grey Plovers, Hill Head, May 2nd – Trevor Carpenter

June remained settled for the first few days with a national high on The Solent of 28.1°C. Notable arrivals in the first half of the month were a first-summer **Caspian Gull** at Lower Test Marshes and a **Sooty Shearwater** - sadly found moribund on the tideline at Hill Head. The breeding population of larger raptors increased: 17 Honey-buzzards summered, 45-50 Red Kite and at least 18 Goshawk pairs bred successfully. Peregrines attempted breeding at 11 man-made structures. It was a 'Quail Year' with records from 36 localities, including up to nine males singing at Martin Down. Avocets held territory at three localities, including 23 brooding birds at one. There were 43 breeding pairs of Stone-curlews in the county; the best year for the RSPB Wessex project, which started in 1985. Ravens were recorded on 43 territories - a rapid re-colonisation since 2004. Historically, Ravens were persecuted: they were relatively rare in the county by the 1860s and previous last breeding was recorded in 1887. Perhaps the most extraordinary expansion was that of Firecrest with over 400 territories in the south and east of the county. In a New Forest woodland survey area, Wood Warblers occupied 115 territories, the best year of the 3-year study; notable, too, there were 22 Spotted Flycatcher and 48 Siskin territories.

A Garganey summered at Titchfield Haven but there was no evidence of breeding. Several breeding species fared badly or continued to decline in numbers. There was only one confirmed breeding Shoveler pair and just two of Pochard. The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme, taken up by a few enlightened landowners, may yet save some species, particularly Grey Partridge. Just five Atlas tetrad surveys reported breeding, but on Richard Ellis's estate east of Andover there were encouraging reports of post-breeding coveys. Dedicated conservation measures by Henry Edmunds on the Cholderton estate bucked the downward trend for Lapwings where 20 juveniles were seen with 41 adults.

Just 16 Hobby and 29 Curlew breeding territories were reported. Breeding success of gulls and terns is subject to many factors but by any standards it must be judged a disastrous year. On the RSPB islands in Langstone Harbour, a total of 498 Mediterranean Gulls nested but failed to raise any young because of systematic Fox predation. Just 51 Little Tern breeding pairs and only one fledged young were recorded across the county. The only positive news for Sandwich Terns was first breeding at West Hayling LNR where 16 pairs raised 11 young; more indeed than the total for the remaining 266 pairs attempting to breed along the coast. From a county total of 383 Common Tern breeding pairs, the one bright spot was Ivy Lake where 18 pairs raised 42 young entirely as a consequence of HWT conservation measures. Another oasis was provided by Martin Down which held 14 Turtle Dove territories in an otherwise depressing county decline to around 40 pairs. HWT artificial banks at Ibsley Water and Testwood Lakes

hosted two of just four reported Sand Martin colonies. The reduced status of Dartford Warbler in 2011 was documented in HBR 2010 (pp. 206-212).

The second half of the month saw days of heavy rain and gusty south-westerly winds. A movement of **385** Gannets south off Milford on Sea occurred ahead of rain in just 75 minutes on 17th. On the two following days, **189** Manx Shearwaters were logged moving south-easterly off Hurst.

July began dry as high pressure dominated with plenty of fine, settled weather until the end of the first week. There were **300** Swifts at Magdalen Hill Down – so early to presume departures - perhaps just good feeding there. The high air pressures fell away at the beginning of the second week with strong south-westerlies and scattered rain. A blank day for hirundines at Sandy Point had one exception - a **Red-rumped Swallow** moved slowly west. The second half of the month saw unusually deep low pressure systems moving eastwards across Britain, bringing strong winds and rain, but settled weather returned for the last week. Perhaps frustrating for some, was the post-event revelation that the Old Winchester Hill **White-throated Sparrow** of 2009 turned out to be present in 2010 and 2011 too! The wardens had fed it daily in both 2009/10 and 2010/11 winters; subsequently, it could be heard intermittently calling in both summers but apparently not seen after this month. Late summer, Roseate Terns are an annual feature at Titchfield Haven and up to three were seen together but **six** different were identified over the following weeks. Another annual event in month is the lower Test accumulation of Yellow-legged Gulls - the peak of **29** at Testwood Lakes included one juvenile.

August was a disappointingly unsettled month with persistent and heavy rain at times. During a humid first three days the evening movement of Common Terns to roost in Langstone Harbour increased to **1650**. Weather fronts continued to move in from the west bringing more rain at times with unseasonable chilly nights. Return migration was well under way notably: **ten** Green Sandpipers at Winchester SF; **43** Greenshanks at Farlington Marshes and a catch total of 353 Sedge Warblers at the Titchfield Haven ringing station over two days. Rain induced landfalls included a **Melodious Warbler** at IBM Lake. A group of five Spoonbills lingered at Needs Ore. On a day when very heavy rain moved east across the county, an adult **Sabine's Gull** was found well inland at Sopley. A long-staying Osprey at Keyhaven seemed to commute to and from the Isle of Wight. Nearby, a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Keyhaven lagoon was the only record of the species in year. In the disturbed weather, **3000** Sand Martins fed over Ibsley Water, four Little Stints were at Hook-with-Warsash and there was an incredible day catch of **105** Grasshopper Warblers at the Titchfield Haven (an unprecedented total of 950 in autumn). High pressure began to build from the south-west bringing drier weather at the end of an otherwise wet month. A **Temminck's Stint** was at Farlington Marshes: the only record in year at the county hot spot for this species.

September started on a settled note, but all changed on 6th when heavy rain and gales (87mph recorded on Isle of Wight) forced a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** to seek haven at the Chichester Harbour entrance. An early returning Purple Sandpiper was at Southsea Castle, two months ahead of its kinfolk. Harvesting on the Cholderton estate revealed an unprecedented count of four, possibly six, coveys of Quail totalling **40** birds. This equalled the highest ever locality count at Damerham in 1951. It became very warm and humid once more but generally remained unsettled with strong winds at times. Five Arctic Terns were feeding over Ibsley Water - part of a major influx of 67 in month. WeBS counters logged a total of **2201** Oystercatchers leaving their high water roost at Langstone Harbour. Very strong onshore winds held at least one dark phase juvenile **Long-tailed Skua** in turbulent seas off Hurst for over a week - the 250th species recorded in year. There were also up to four more juvenile **Sabine's Gulls**, including two well-photographed at Sturt Pond. There was a post-breeding gathering of **478** Mediterranean Gulls at Brownwich prior to dispersal out of Hampshire waters. **Three** **Sooty Shearwaters** were recorded off Hurst. Departures included the last two juvenile Little Ringed Plovers at Ibsley Water. Two localities held pre-departure gatherings of Stone-curlews totalling 108 birds: the first three-figure total recorded in the county since the 1960s.

A ridge of high pressure built to end the turbulent weather of the first two weeks. A juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** made a four day stopover at Pennington Marsh where conservation work had created a new, but temporary, saline habitat at Shoveler pools. In addition, nine juvenile Curlew Sandpipers were in the immediate area and a (returning?) **Pectoral Sandpiper**. Wheatear autumn passage peaked with 166 along the coast. A Wryneck at West Wood, Netley was one of seven in month. Southern passage of hirundine was hitting peaks not hinted at in spring, including at least **10,000** Swallows departing over Hurst. A surprise inland record was a mass of 1100 Meadow Pipits grounded at Dean Hill, Lockerley. As strong winds and showers returned even more bizarre records were to follow. A Jack Snipe photographed on an Emsworth garden path was an unusual location for a first autumn record. The next evening Jackson Hellewell, aged nine, *identified* a Manx Shearwater on his garden drive at Ellisfield, Basingstoke. Mrs Hellewell took the shearwater into care and through a network of rehabilitation centres it was safely released at sea five days later. There were six **Grey Phalaropes** along The Solent and an adult **Sabine's Gull** off Need Ore brought the year total to seven - only exceeded by the hurricane-induced influx of 1987.

Air pressure began building with continental highs inducing southerly winds and the weather became much drier; temperatures rose steadily into the high 20s by the month's end. At Sandy Point, the last passage Willow Warbler departed, one of 159 autumn bird-days there. A juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** arrived at Keyhaven Marsh but soon relocated to the salubrious Shoveler pools. It was the second record this century - both at the same locality. The seeming magnetic attraction of that area for Nearctic calidrids next produced a fly-by **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Milford on Sea. Ten Black Terns through Hurst Narrows in this period was perhaps not unusual but **49** at Ibsley Water most certainly was - an exceptional event spoilt when a Peregrine's stoop resulted in their hasty departure. A total of **73** Great Black-backed Gulls at HMS Sultan, Gosport emphasised the severe decline in the non-breeding population over the last decade. It was notable as the lowest year max. on record. A **Richard's Pipit** was located at Keyhaven Marsh and **217** Yellow Wagtails were off-passage between Chilling and Hook-with-Warsash. An **Isabelline Shrike** at Moonhills, NF for two days followed on from last



A vocal juvenile Sabine's Gull, one of two at Sturt Pond, Hurst, Sep 19th – Ian Williamson



A surprise evening visitor to Ellisfield; Jackson with Manx Shearwater, Sep 19th – Charlotte Hellewell

year's first accepted record. The Farlington Ringing Group's studies accumulated a total catch of 131 Bearded Tits in year: a far higher population than suggested by casual observations of the reedbeds.

October continued with an unseasonable heat wave for three days; temperatures were in the high 20s and then remained well above average until mid month. A juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** was located amongst Starlings at Pennington Marsh – lacking of course the spectacular plumage of an adult - but startlingly paler than its commoner cousin. The first returning Hen Harrier was at Ibsley Common. Egyptian Geese are slowly expanding in the county but the daytime feeding pattern of the large autumnal roost at Eversley GP had remained a mystery until a concentration of **191** was discovered feeding on a nearby farm. **Four** Great Skuas were off Sandy Point and inland the first returning Fieldfare flew over Rooksbury Mill. Other arrivals included a four-figure concentration of Linnetts feeding in a recently drilled wheat field near Warnford. Unusually, late Crossbill arrivals or dispersals were detected with double figure counts at two inland vismign watch points (Caswell Common and Miles Hill) and 70 at Beaulieu Road, NF suggested reinforcement of the local population. There were four-figure easterly passage day counts of Goldfinches at three localities, including **2715** at Barton on Sea. A late year phenomenon is the build up of gull roosts on large inland waters: at Ibsley Water **9437** Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted leaving the roost during the first hour of daylight. Avocet numbers at Needs Ore built up during the month to a max of 26, the first double figure counts since July. WeBS counts of the three eastern harbours found 397 Little Egrets (84% of the county total) and 3525 Redshanks (1.5% of the estimated European population). The first returning Black Redstart was at Brownwich, a week ahead of the regular South Hayling bird.

A cold front moved south-eastwards on 17th, abruptly ending the summer-like weather. Easterly winds brought a few rarities: a **Glossy Ibis** at Titchfield Haven and a **Twite** at Sandy Point. An easterly gale on 23rd saw **434** Gannets move south off Hurst and migrant Tree Sparrows, identified on flight calls, were over three coastal localities. Another easterly arrival was a **Pallas's Warbler** at Sandy Point - just the eighth county record. Nearby at Mengham, a **Black Brant** returned in a family group with a Dark-bellied Brent and four hybrid young. No doubt a source of future confusion for observers and *HOSRP*! A Hobby had lingered at Old Winchester Hill but the last of the year was at Fleet Pond. First of three overwintering Great Grey Shrikes returned to the New Forest and a second **Richard's Pipit** circled Sandy Point early morning.



Part of a flock of 26 Avocets, Needs Ore, Oct 25th – Ian Williamson

The star passerine of the year thus far was, without doubt, the county's first **Spectacled Warbler** present for two days at Needs Ore. It was just the 7th record for Britain and reporting restrictions maintained at the reserve again frustrated the British birding community. There was a day count of **30** Shags off Sandy Point. Two Great White Egrets were seen to leave after roosting at the reedbed at Avon Water, Keyhaven: there had been at least six in year. As the month closed 18 Merlins were reported returning to widespread wintering territories.

November began with unsettled weather with bands of heavy rain including 56 mm at Alice Holt Forest on 5th when the last of 858 Chiffchaffs in autumn was ringed at Titchfield Haven. The next day the last Common Tern was at Keyhaven Marsh and a Yellow-browed Warbler at Gosport was the last of five in autumn. Common Gull numbers in the county possibly go under-reported with many winterers scattered on farmland by day, but a count of **481** at Alresford Pond gave an indication of the size of the wintering population. Vismig watchpoints had reported at least 4210 Siskins on passage so a count of **601** on the Somerley estate suggests many were wintering in the county. A temporary high was offset by fronts arriving from the south-west bringing mixed weather. A national influx of grey geese, including an unprecedented number of Tundra Bean, but one at Calshot on a single date was the only county record. The eastern harbours WeBS count total of 36,095 Dunlins, estimated at 2.7% of the west European and north-west African population, was the highest since 2006. Only the Ribble and Mersey estuaries record greater numbers in Britain. Whether higher numbers in Britain reflect a reverse shift from the Wadden Sea following two harsh winters remains to be seen. The Black-tailed Godwit WeBS count of 1772 for all three eastern harbours (including the Sussex side of Chichester Harbour) was 2.9% of the world population of the Icelandic subspecies: it included **653** at Portsmouth Harbour (highest total there since 1978) where there was a more typical count of **76** Little Grebes. An unprecedented arrival of 19 Avocets at Winchester SF occurred on an unusually warm day: in fact a national high of 18.1°C was recorded at Otterbourne just 6km south.

High pressure over Scandinavia brought a period of strong south-easterly winds which coincided with the peak passage of Cranes through Western Europe. A spectacular flight of **24** was displaced into the county and flew over Wickham on 17th, finally settling in Cornwall. More typically, south-westerly Woodpigeon movements totalled 110,000 in autumn, including a morning count of **22,479** at Miles Hill, Fleet. The first returning group of four Bewick's Swans arrived in the Avon valley but did not stay. A **Surf Scoter** was on the sea off Hurst with Eiders before departing west. The last swift of an astonishing three in month was seen briefly at Titchfield Haven. On such a late date, the probability of Pallid Swift for all three records is high but without a photo, or prolonged views, it is difficult to be 100% certain. A total of **15** Spotted Redshanks was logged wintering across five waters at Pennington Marsh. Nearby, an impressive **17,000** Starlings swirled above Keyhaven before roosting. A late month influx of Short-eared owls at 24 localities included **five** at Tidgrove Warren. Major winter thrush arrivals were evidenced by the NFWBS which recorded **6882** Fieldfares. A White-fronted Goose arrived over East Stoke, Hayling earlier in the month and now two were at Avon Tyrell. Intriguingly, a first-summer that had arrived at Testwood Lakes in July was belatedly assigned to the **Greenland** race. Gale-force westerly winds and heavy rain in The Channel saw a disorientated Puffin make landfall in hospital grounds at Winchester; sadly, although taken into care, it subsequently died. The adult **Caspian Gull** returned to Ibsley Water for its fourth winter, although it proved elusive and was not seen again until the year's end.

December remained mild, with few frosts, as an Atlantic air stream brought changeable, sometimes stormy, weather. Five Bewick's Swans finally settled in the Avon valley and **three** Great Northern Divers present along the west Solent were part of a late year influx. An incredible total of 17 Sandwich Terns frequented Chichester Harbour - a record count in month. In a Calshot garden, a strikingly marked sparrow was frequently observed and was thought to be a **Spanish Sparrow**, but widespread knowledge, and confirmation of this, was not available until 2012. A first-winter male **Ferruginous Duck** made a stopover at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey and at the end of the month it was photographed at Spinnaker Lake, Blashford. Wintering farmland flocks

included three-figure counts of Yellowhammers at Ashley Warren and Hurstbourne Tarrant. For the third successive year the New Forest hosted five-figure roosts of Redwings: this year **11,785** at Long Beech Inclosure rewarded a dedicated survey team. WeBS counters logged **2000** Teals at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes and **161** Red-breasted Mergansers at Langstone Harbour. South-westerly gales set in at the end of the second week and persisted for several days. Early morning fog prevented views of three departing **Cranes** which had roosted overnight in the Test valley but they were last seen over the New Forest and Bursledon. As in November, the NFWBS located **17** Ravens, evidence of a successful breeding season there. A **Siberian Chiffchaff** was found at Newlands farm, Fareham and although elusive enabled many to get to grips with this distinctive sub-species. Low pressure systems moving eastwards through The Channel generated further gales carrying heavy rain. Long-staying Chichester Harbour birds on the Sussex side finally crossed the county border: a **Cattle Egret** moved to fields next to Warblington Church for a prolonged stay and three Snow Buntings made a brief excursion from East Head to the Black Point causeway. A weather transformation brought milder and settled conditions to the year end. Roosts included up to **83** Red Kites at Hare Warren and **91** Hawfinches at five New Forest sites as a new study there got underway. A keen-eyed walker made a completely unexpected discovery of a **Dark-eyed Junco** at Hawkhill Inclosure, NF.

Copious amounts of bird seed laid down there ensured site fidelity as the bird could be well seen into 2012. Finally as the year drew to a close the adult **Caspian Gull** was re-found at Ibsley Water and a third-winter was on Normandy Lagoon.

The final cumulative monthly totals of bird species recorded in Hampshire in 2011 are shown in the table below:

Species Totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In Month	181	173	188	211	202	172	185	185	208	198	180	177
Additions to year list		2	18	34	7	1	1	4	9	4	3	2
Year to date	181	183	201	235	242	243	244	248	257	261	264	266



*Inset: Dark-eyed Junco, Hawkhill Inclosure, Dec 24th – Karen Bennie
Main photo: taken by Martin Bennett, Jan 21st 2012*

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES

Species sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List published at <http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list>.

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:

	Breeding pairs	Winter/Passage
Very rare	Fewer than 5 records	Fewer than 10 records
Rare	Less than annual	Less than annual
Very scarce	1-10 per year	1-20 per year
Scarce	11-100	21-200
Moderately common	101-1000	201-2000
Common	1001-5000	2001-10,000
Numerous	5001-30,000	10,001-60,000
Abundant	30,000+	60,000+

In addition, based on European, national and county classifications, the conservation status is given for resident and regular visiting species in brackets as follows:

ET	European threatened – included in Annex 1 of the EC 'Birds Directive' (79/409/EEC).
SPEC	Species with unfavourable conservation status (Birds in Europe 2004, Birdlife International).
SPEC1	Global concern, i.e. classified as globally threatened, near threatened or data deficient.
SPEC2	Population concentrated in Europe and critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable.
SPEC3	Population not concentrated in Europe but declining, rare, depleted, or localised, in Europe.
Schedule 1	Included in Schedule 1 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act
Red	Red-listed as Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC 3) see <i>British Birds</i> 102, 2009 pp. 296-341.
Amber	Amber-listed as Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC 3)
Green	Species not categorised under any of the criteria for Amber and Red (BoCC 3)
UKBAP	National Biodiversity Action Plan priority subspecies (race)
UKBAP1	Races designated as being of danger of extinction in Europe
UKBAP2	Races of which the UK has at least 25% of the European population and which have declined in the UK by at least 25% in the last 25 years (moderate decline and internationally important).
UKBAP3	Races that have severely declined (at least 50%) over the last 25 years.
UKBAP4	Races qualifying through other reasons, e.g. poor recovery from decline addressed by 1995 UKBAP.
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species

For rare species, three numbers are given in brackets after the status statement referring to the total of individuals recorded: (i) prior to 1950, (ii) between 1950 and 2010 and (iii) in 2011. Where statistical analysis has been more recently introduced (i) refers to the operative year. **All records of rare species that appear in the Systematic List have been accepted by the BBRC, or HOSRP as appropriate, after formal submission and review of the documented evidence provided.** Observers are reminded of the importance of producing notes of supporting evidence for all sightings of scarce species, as detailed in Guidelines for Submission of Records in this report (see 239).

A number of claimed sightings of rare or scarce species, appearing on internet and pager services, have either not been submitted or adequately documented and are not included in the systematic list.

The species accounts for many waterfowl and waders include tabulated monthly maxima for various localities – sometimes not the count from the official WeBS count but a larger count on a different day. A locality is listed if it is counted regularly – at least monthly – and if the particular species number exceeds the threshold stated above the table in at least one month. The final row

in each table is the county total accumulated from all the official WeBS counts for each month and will include counts from many more sites than those listed. It represents the best estimate of the county population during the counting period (not necessarily but desirably the same day and from April-August some inland sites are not counted). 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 but are not included in the county total nor do they form part of the species account; only the sub-totals for East Hayling, Emsworth and Warblington (Hampshire sites) 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 threshold numbers for concentrations of international and/or national significance. An internationally important concentration is defined as a number exceeding 1% of the north-western European winter or passage population of that species. Likewise, a nationally important concentration is defined as greater than 1% of the British winter or passage population of that species. Numbers in red signify a record count of that species at the locality concerned and in purple a record count for the county. Since publication of HBR 2010, upgrades to monthly waterbird figures at Blashford Lakes (bold dark red) have been provided by HWT staff, these are included here as amendments in a monthly max. list of 12 numbers January-December (unchanged data in normal font).

Reference is made to the terms 'bird-days' and 'bird-months' in the systematic list. 'Bird-days' is normally 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. 'Bird-months' is normally used to indicate the sum of numbers of birds recorded in each month over a period of several months or years, e.g. totals of 6, 3, 2 recorded in June, July and August would indicate 11 bird-months. In the records presented within site lists N, E, S and W relate to the points of the compass; these are combined with numbers to show the direction in which birds were moving, e.g. 17W.

The BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in 2011 there were 109 1-km squares surveyed in the county using the transect counting technique. A transect count is the number of birds of a given species detected on a two km walk completed in 2-3 hours within the 1-km square. It does not purport to detect all the birds within the 1-km square, particularly the more secretive species. It provides an estimate for statistical analysis and year-on-year comparisons. Data are provided here for 2011 and earlier years in terms of:

- (a) square occupancy = % of squares where a species is detected.
- (b) mean [number of birds detected] per square = the combined total of transect counts of a species for all occupied squares divided by the number of occupied squares surveyed.

The 2007-2011 national and county Atlas projects have provided a significant amount of 2011 data for this report for both Summer Atlas and early Winter Atlas surveys.

Acknowledgements

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Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

A moderately common resident [Green].

There were no evident changes in the county population. A count of 244 at Blashford Lakes on July 31st exceeded the previous highest count there of 177 on July 11th, 2009. Monthly maxima at regularly reported sites where counts exceeded 40 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour			10	13	12	43	6	26	26	38	47		7	4
Portsmouth Harbour	62	55	79	82	58		1		2	2	17	36	45	43
Itchen Estuary	49	68	53	75	62						70	68	45	88
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	31	25	8	6	7	12	24	46	37	47	49	25	29	4
Lymington-Hurst	53	56	70	64	58	51	26	27	13	25	87	92	57	69
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	62	36	77	39	35						127	59	57	69
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	88	44	115	195	207						122	58	71	135
Blashford Lakes	170	128	124	30	26	27	5	100	244	200	136	132	217	199
Avon above Fordingbridge	87		62	82	91	13					19	81	58	65
Test: Broadlands Estate	67	50	57	22	16	7					38	8	19	11
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	41	38	23	15	14	41	40	29	35	49	27	38	45	57
Test: Laverstoke Park Lake			51	6				2	2	3	7	21	16	
Arlebury Lakes			7	5	7					17	38	18	23	43
Alresford Pond	45	54	52	55	45	52	56	53	58	50	21	22	19	16
Tundry Pond			61	33	8	5	3	36	52	44	29	34	56	54
Fleet Pond	8	20	14	70	71	64	30	3	15	21	28	28	21	10
WeBS count totals	1048	816	1037	958	872	265	151	312	460	281	1021	964	955	1006

Larger counts from other sites were limited to the following: Emsworth Mill Pond (92, Feb 10th) and Yateley GP (23, Nov 29th). Also of note, however, was a count of 30 first-winters at Fleet Pond on Mar 5th.

Reports during the breeding season indicated that breeding was attempted at 27 sites. A total of 43 pairs was reported to have produced 94 cygnets. White 'Polish' cygnets were recorded at Stratfield Saye Park (1, June 14th) and Lymington/Hurst (6, June 24th). Two adults found dead under overhead cables at Harbridge Green on Mar 11th was the only record of mortality. BBS data showed that 11% of surveyed squares were occupied (about average for the past 18 years) with a mean detection rate of 4.9 per square (below average).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes – 54 34 42 23 44 40 112 72 134 134 170 128.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

A scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant, most frequent in the Avon valley [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber, UKBAP1].

Although up to 27 (11 first-winters) were recorded in the Avon valley in Dec 2010, including 12 (three first-winters) at Long Lane, Kingston on 31st, none was found in this area in early January and the maximum recorded in the Ibsley area was 13 (one first-winter) on 8th. Numbers increased slightly later in the month, with 16 (two first-winters) present from Jan 27th-Feb 21st. Thereafter, numbers declined to ten (two first-winters) which were last recorded on Mar 6th. Birds were regularly recorded leaving their roost on Ibsley Water at first light and flying towards Blashford WM or the Ibsley/Harbridge WM, although for much of the time they fed on a winter wheat field to the west of the road from Harbridge Church to Harbridge Green.

The first returns were four at Ibsley Water on Nov. 19th. These appeared to move on, as the next were a group of five (two first-winters) at Ibsley Water on Dec 3rd/4th. Presumably, the second group remained undetected in the area as subsequent records involved five (two

first-winters) regularly at Ibsley Water and Ibsley/Harbridge WM from 14th-21st: these being joined by an additional adult from 22nd-31st. There were no records away from the Avon valley.

The table below shows the maximum size of the Avon wintering flock since 1999/2000:

Winter peak	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Bewick's Swan	45	37	30	24	23	12	14	11	10	12	18	27

Correction 2010: Four were over South Warnborough on Nov 30th, not 29th as stated in HBR 2010.

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

Tundra Bean Goose (*A.f. rossicus*)

A rare winter visitor [Amber]. (? ,210,1)

A lone adult was found resting on a shingle bank at Calshot Marshes near Fawley on Nov 11th (BCa, photo) but was not seen subsequently; the only record of the year.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

A rare winter visitor, although presumed feral birds have occurred in most months [Amber].

The individual that arrived at Farlington Marshes on Dec 25th 2010 remained, with White-fronted Geese, until Jan 6th. This was the only record for this species during the year.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

European White-fronted Goose (*A.a. albifrons*)

A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant that has declined in recent years [Red, UKBAP3].



White-fronted Geese, Pennington Marsh, Jan 3rd – Alan Hayden

Wintering groups which arrived during the cold weather in December 2010 at Farlington Marshes, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and in the Avon valley remained well into the new year. In the Avon valley, sightings indicate that at least 14 were present in the period up to Feb 14th. These mostly fed at Blashford WM and regularly flew into Ibsley Water to loaf. Records included ten (one first-winter) at Ibsley Water on Jan 6th, 11 (5 first-winters) there on 18th, and 11 (three first-winters) at Bisterne on Feb 14th. At Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, 35 (4 first-winters) remained in the area until Jan 24th; while at Farlington Marshes 15 were recorded on Jan 2nd and 14 until Mar 6th, with six the last noted the following day. The only other early year records were both for Jan 23rd, involving two at Titchfield Haven and 17 flying ENE over Sandy Point.

An adult of unknown origin was with Canada Geese at IBM Lake, Cosham on June 3rd and Titchfield Haven on June 11th.

The milder weather in late 2011 resulted in a dearth of records, with a Birdtrack record of one at Eastoke, Hayling Island on Nov 18th (presumably flying over) and two with Greylags and Canada Geese at Avon Tyrrell on Nov 27th.

Greenland White-fronted Goose (*A.a. flavirostris*)

A rare passage migrant. (0,8,1)

A first-summer which first appeared at Testwood Lakes in late June remained until Sep 14th, and then appeared intermittently there and in the nearby Lower Test Marshes/Redbridge area into 2012. The origin of this bird is clearly open to debate as the Greenland race is kept in wildfowl collections but the absence of any rings may suggest a wild origin.

The only previous records involved five which flew over Weston Shore on Feb 17th 2008 and three singles, all since 2001.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

A moderately common and increasing feral resident.

Although in general numbers appeared to be a little down compared to 2010, record counts were made at Fleet Pond (213, Sep 25th), Tundry Pond (206, Sep 18th) and Testbourne Lake (158, Oct 14th). Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 40 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu estuary	74	42	70	60	43	25	12	31	35	50	50	65	50	44
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	32	409	462	250	135						267	88	194	292
Blashford Lakes/Ibsley area	520	308	200	96	64	9	0	132	42	0	58	217	215	250
Laverstoke Park Lake			13	2	10	12		14	8	86	10	8	27	
Testbourne Lake	143	134	110	46	73	5	13	15	105	2	154	158	18	144
Lower Itchen valley			52	43	34	22	6	20	32	26	56	56	56	60
Tundry Pond	136	116	154	160	57	9	16	26	147	193	206	185	175	143
Fleet Pond	2	2	27	2	5	2	4	60	45	208	213			25
Eversley GP			2		1	8			9	138	212	123	42	44
WeBS count totals	1377	620	898	571	451	103	49	243	186	126	863	504	648	934

The Fleet and Tundry Ponds records refer to the same group that normally feeds in the Tundry area and on occasion roosts at Fleet Pond (June-September) and also Eversley GP as shown above. Maximum counts from selected other sites included: Ewhurst Lake (53, Jan 30th); The Vyne Lake (85, Sep 11th) and Farlington Marshes (78, Nov 14th).

Confirmed breeding was recorded as follows: Testbourne Lake (4 prs, 28 yg); Needs Ore (3 prs, 12 yg); Mansbridge (3 prs, 20 yg,); Laverstoke Park (14 yg); Stratfield Saye (2 prs, 12 yg); Ibsley Water (2 prs, 8 yg); Fleet Pond (2 prs, 5 yg); Fishlake Meadows (2 broods); Lakeside CP (9 yg, 5 survived); Eversley GP (1 pr, 4 yg); Ewhurst Park (1 pr, 3 yg). BBS data showed that 7% of surveyed squares were occupied (above average) with a mean detection rate of 12.1 per occupied square (above average).

Amendments 2010: The Sopley-Ringwood count in September of **532** should be noted as a county record. Revised monthly maxima data at Blashford Lakes include a new site record of 520 in November – **297** 8 17 8 19 167 62 108 **433** 83 **520** **308**.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

A common resident and partial migrant.

Numbers recorded were on a par with the previous year. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour			180	45	15	41	44	54	46	160	6	217	299	108
Titchfield Haven area	300	200	200	123	100	20	70	30	30	200	1137	500	300	215
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	137	80	234	43	81	22	38	185	320	199	98	299	197	214
Beaulieu Estuary	255	154	150	150	150	99	127	64	100	150	200	300	260	250
Pitts Deep/Pylewell			10	10	8	6	3	3	159	370	20	20		
Lymington-Hurst	230	249	308	245	125	76	128	126	134	100	40	280	230	345
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	503	167	334	324	131						498	316	365	318
Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	252	380	219	325	155	58	15	183	168	100	64	203	534	279
Tundry Pond	150	147	350	378	62	20	22	31	167	252	586	315	157	315
Eversley GP	186	44	178	185	152		1		197	537	374	143	112	148
WeBS count totals	2850	1542	2575	2049	1304	413	401	867	1246	1312	3195	2850	2817	2624

Maximum counts elsewhere included: Heath Pond, Petersfield (161, Aug 28th); Alresford Pond (140, Aug 29th); Fleet Pond (595, Sep 21st); Grange Lakes, Northington (167, Nov 1st) and Farlington Marshes (320, Dec 3rd).

Breeding season records indicated that at least 72 pairs attempted to breed at 53 sites and produced 215 young. BBS data showed that 22% of surveyed squares were occupied (about the 18-year average) with a mean detection rate of 7.1 per square (an average year).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes – **194** 75 **161** 43 92 214 132 220 **295** **66** **252** **380**.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

A scarce resident (feral population) and rare winter visitor (wild populations) [ET, Amber].

Early on Jan 1st a flock of 107 birds arrived from the south and landed on Pennington Marsh. These were presumably the same as recorded at Freshwater Causeway, IOW at the end of 2010, and apparently did not originate from the free-flying feral flock that resides at Seaview, IOW. The flock remained in the Pennington Marsh/Oxey Marsh/Normandy area, often mobile, until Jan 15th. A further group of 21 was present in and around Chichester Harbour, Jan 21st-31st. Whilst the origin of these birds is not known for certain, a period of particularly cold weather early in the 2010/11 winter may have been responsible for displacing them from their traditional wintering areas.

Small numbers of feral birds continue to survive in the county. Monthly maxima from the main roost site and the annual maxima from 2000-2011 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	14	14	15*	14	14	2	3			13	8	0	0	14

* 2010/11 winter max.; 14 plus one visiting from Tundry Pond.

Late year maxima	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Eversley GP	183	245	200	96	90	62	49	41	36	17	14	14
Baffins Pond/Titchfield Haven	11	10	11	9	9	8	9	6	7	7	3	4



Barnacle Geese, Pennington Marsh, Jan 3rd – Alan Hayden

Breeding was recorded at Stratfield Saye where a single pair raised one young and at Wellington CP where no young were raised. The 2011/12 winter max. at Eversley GP was 14, which included the first-winter from Stratfield Saye, indicating one adult had died. Counters should be aware that the flock also holds two hybrids (one with Snow Goose genes).

Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*B.b. bernicla*)

A numerous winter visitor; a few summer [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

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

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	6744	7270	11434	9960	3321	20	6	15	11	2	10	5322	8291	8188
Hampshire Sectors	2667	2545	2653	3146	1018	1	1			1	1	4199	3700	2527
Langstone Harbour	3947	2810	3817	3398	3330	22			2		28	2064	3836	4943
Portsmouth Harbour	627	858	1760	2054	900						110	844	1697	830
Titchfield Haven area	500	359	1228	720	760	34	1	2			36	163	7	866
Hamble Estuary	185	300	239	930	206	79	1	1	1		16	316	300	427
Dibden Bay to Calshot	262		160	285	426							300	19	410
Beaulieu Estuary	414	625	622	746	1000	400			1		12	372	842	500
Sowley-Lymington	300	315	400	280	279			1				212	350	
Lymington-Hurst	950	750	1400	1010	643	75	4				10	315	1100	1400
WeBS count totals	9915	8412	12301	11064	7434	33	1	1	1	1	37	8412	11905	11415

Sites of international importance: 2400+; national importance: 910+.

After the lower than normal counts for the 2009/10 winter, numbers recovered somewhat in the 2010/11 winter. However, the general trend still appears to be one of gradual decline. Recent wintering county totals are tabulated below:

Winter peak	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
December	12800	12500	12200	13400	11400	10800	14800	11000+	11600	9000	8400
January	15000	14500	12800	11000	13700	14500	12300	20200	12200	11300	12300

As usual some substantial mid-winter movements were noted (e.g. Sandy Point 1150E and Hurst Castle 340E, Jan 28th). With the onset of spring, birds began to depart. A flock of 110 south-east over Sandy Point at dusk on Mar 17th was evidence of birds leaving their wintering grounds. There was a significant exodus during the last week of March as shown, for example,

by counts at Farlington Marshes: 3000, Mar 3rd; 1500, Mar 24th; 300, Mar 27th; 1, Apr 1st. During spring migration, numbers recorded at coastal watch points were much higher than usual. Between Mar 10th and May 8th a total of 1289 was recorded, mostly moving east, although this figure will undoubtedly include some duplication between sites.

A handful of stragglers over-summered, mostly within Chichester Harbour. Numbers were slow to build up during September with 105 at Dip Rithe, Chichester Harbour on Sep 19th representing the first three-figure count of the autumn. There was clearly a major arrival in mid October as numbers suddenly increased on 15th to at least 4000 and 2000 in Chichester and Langstone Harbours, respectively. Counts of 11 first winters in a group of 24 (45.8%) at Oxey Marsh on Oct 14th and 118 first winters in flock of 328 (36.0%) at Keyhaven on Nov 16th suggested that 2011 could have been a good breeding season. The sample size, however, was small.

Away from the coast there were four reports. One flew south-east over Lakeside CP on Oct 14th, 16 flew south-west over Miles Hill, Fleet on 27th, one circled over Warnford the next day but did not land and finally four flew west over Casbrook Common on Dec 29th.

Light-bellied Brent Goose (*B.b. hrota*)

A scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

Unusual records came in the form of a sizeable flock in The Solent during April and an immature that over-summered at Hook-with-Warsash. On Apr 14th groups of 4, 13 and 17 passed east and then west at Sandy Point. These groups then concentrated as a flock of 34 which was observed distantly on The Solent off Hill Head, drifting east at 0910 hrs. Late afternoon the same group, now numbering 38, was present in Langstone Harbour but later departed and was seen passing Stokes Bay heading west at 1910 hrs. The only comparable numbers previously recorded were at least 40 in Langstone Harbour on Sep 8th, 1999. A first-winter arrived at Hook Spit, Hook-with-Warsash, on Apr 28th remaining until July 27th, by which time it had moulted to first-summer plumage. This instance of an individual over-summering in the county is probably unprecedented.

Other records were in line with those more typically expected: around five during the first winter period and a minimum of four in the later year. Approximate monthly totals and a summary of all other records follow:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	6	1	2	5	3	39	1	2	1	0	1	4	1	0

- Chichester Harbour:* 2, Jan 20th-Feb 1st; 1, Oct 9th.
Langstone Harbour: 1, South Moors, Mar 29th; 1, Farlington Marshes, Sep 18th-21st.
Gilkicker: 2E, Oct 29th.
Hill Head: 1, Jan 13th-Mar 28th; 1 feeding and then SE, June 9th.
Southampton Water: 1, Calshot, Feb 6th.
Beaulieu-Sowley: 1, Needs Ore, Mar 20th; 1, Park Farm, Nov 13th.
Sowley-Lymington: 1, Tanners Lane, Jan 4th-Feb 1st.
Lymington-Hurst: 1, Sturt Pond, Jan 24th; 1, Pennington Marsh, Jan 28th; 1E, Hurst Beach, Oct 29th.

Black Brant (*B.b. nigricans*)

Formerly rare but now very scarce winter visitor. (0,26,0)

There were two, possibly three, individuals in the early year and three in the second winter period and the conservative annual total was three. One returning to the Gosport peninsular since 2004 was not seen in 2011 (HMS Sultan bird). Now that the sub-species is a regular, but still very scarce, winter visitor to the county, distinguishing new-to-the-county records from annual or near-annual returns is fraught with difficulties. Hence a cautious approach, using the criteria summarised in HBR 2010, is again adopted here and consequently there are no firm grounds for any additions to the county total.

At the start of the year one lingered in Chichester Harbour, mostly in the Mill Rithe area, from Jan 1st to Feb 19th (ACJ) and was probably that seen in the area in December 2010. What may have been a different adult was recorded at Farlington Marshes from Feb 3rd to 6th (NJM). One was seen at Exbury on the Beaulieu estuary on Feb 18th (TDC) and may have been the same as one seen nearby at Park Shore in Feb 2010.

The first of the autumn was at Mengham Rithe, East Hayling on Oct 27th and was presumed to be the return from the early year. This individual was paired with a Dark-bellied Brent Goose and in a family group that contained four hybrid first-winters (ACJ, photo). The same group was also recorded at Mill Rithe on Nov 5th (AIL, photo) and on Tournurbury GC, Dec 24th (MAG). An adult first seen at Needs Ore on Oct 31st (APu) remained in the area until Dec 23rd at least and may have been the same as that reported above on one date in the early winter period. Finally, another adult was identified on the saltmarsh inside Hurst Spit on Nov 13th (ASD), remaining in and around the Cut Bridge area until Dec 11th: the same pattern of behaviour as one in 2010.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

A very rare vagrant. (0,8,1)



Red-breasted Goose with Brent Geese – Dan Powell

All records referred to an adult that was originally found at Chilling on Jan 20th (MDS, photo) amongst several hundred Dark-bellied Brent Geese. The bird continued to feed on fields in the Chilling and Brownwich areas, occasionally also visiting Hook-with-Warsash and roosting offshore at Titchfield Haven until Feb 6th. The individual was assessed as the bird previously present at Pett Level, East Sussex from Dec 26th 2010 to Jan 1st, the 69th accepted record for Britain. A different individual present at Keyhaven lagoon from Feb 14th to 24th had a small red ring on its right leg, indicating captive origin.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

A scarce but increasing feral resident.

The main sites continue to be Eversley GP (a regular roosting site), Fleet Pond and the Avon valley as the colonisation of the county by this species continues. Monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon valley	11	11	6	3	2	2		4	8	20	21	12	9	12
Fleet Pond	2	2		2	2	1	1	13	13	6		2		
Eversley GP*	18	3	25	36	8	13	13	31	31	41	180	189	112	84

* The monthly maxima are typically roost counts; birds mostly roost on the Berkshire side (but not always) and virtually all feed in the county and fly in at dusk.

The feeding ground for the Eversley birds was discovered nearby at Lyndridge Farm on Oct 5th. Monthly maxima there in the last quarter were 191, 112 and 96 respectively, including a new county record total (JMCK). Annual maxima since 2000 are shown below:

Roost count	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Eversley GP/Lyndridge Farm	2	7	9	20	34	66	69	108	156	143	162	191

A summary of confirmed breeding follows:

- Rockford Lake, Blashford: Pair and 3 young, July 17th.
- Wellington CP: 2 pairs and 3 young, June 18th.
- Heath Pond, Petersfield: Pair and 3 young (none survived), May 21st.
- Fleet Pond: Pair and 2 small young, June 1st.

Coastal records were received as follows: Chichester Harbour (1W, Jan 8th); Brownwich (1, Jan 21st/22nd); Farlington Marshes (4, Feb 1st); Keyhaven (1, Apr 14th-16th); Hill Head (1E, Apr 15th); Lower Test Marshes (3N, Nov 11th). Other selected inland records included: Black Gutter Bottom, NF (1W, Jan 5th); Tundry Pond (max. 14, Aug 14th); Testwood Lakes (8, Nov 11th) and Bramshill Police College Lake (4, Dec 12th).



Egyptian Goose, Petersfield Pond, Feb 20th – Roger Pendell

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

A very scarce (possibly feral) visitor or escape, national status remains controversial, no county records have been accepted as occurring in a wild state since 1892.

All records may have referred to one wandering individual first recorded accompanying Brent Geese in 2010. Seen on the West Sussex side of Chichester Harbour on Feb 12th, it then visited Keyhaven on Feb 16th before returning to Chichester Harbour (often on the Hampshire side) from Mar 19th to Apr 3rd. In the late year, presumably the returning individual, visited Farlington Marshes on Oct 15th/16th and was present at Chichester Harbour on Nov 12th.

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

A scarce breeder and moderately common but declining winter visitor [Amber].

Monthly maxima at coastal sites where counts exceeded 50 and regularly-used inland sites are tabulated below. Selected maxima from other sites were as follows: Tanners Lane (35, Jan 29th); Hamble estuary (32, Feb 17th) and Sowley Marsh (34, Mar 20th). As is usual, small numbers were noted from coastal watch points during spring migration. A total of 73 was recorded, mostly moving east, between Mar 8th and May 10th.

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	109	638	612	505	358	167	124	85	17	14	17	4	107	330
Hampshire Sectors	54	225	235	98	44	2	10	18					28	139
Langstone Harbour	126	458	557	493	305	223	117	95	22	7	3	29	65	159
Portsmouth Harbour	2	25	246	203	155	32	1	7	6				42	131
Southampton Water	14	35	113	108	89	107	41	17	12	4	6	2	15	48
Beaulieu estuary	31	79	87	60	91	81	65	35	30	12	10	9	58	62
Lymington-Hurst	122	246	190	200	250	115	89	67	19	2	7	7	43	110
Blashford Lakes/lbsley area			8	5	7	9	1	4					1	3
Test: Marsh Court			7	11	1	11		2						
Alresford Pond	8	12	14	9	4		4	2			1	1	4	9
WeBS count totals	319	979	1520	1240	797	590	354	246	70	18	19	55	245	657

Successful breeding was recorded as follows (number of broods): Lymington-Hurst (1); Needs Ore (2); Frater Shore (1); Testwood Lakes (1). This total of just five broods was a rather poor return compared to recent years. BBS data showed that 6% of surveyed squares were occupied with a mean detection rate of 5.2 per square (both slightly below average).

Inland records not tabulated above included: Welshmans Road GP (3, Feb 13th; 5, Apr 10th; 3, Dec 11th); Heath Pond, Petersfield (3, Feb 22nd); Whitten Pond, Burley, NF (7, Mar 19th); Itchen Valley CP (3, Nov 9th); Fleet Pond (3, Nov 13th); Arlebury Lakes (3, Dec 18th-21st) and 1-2 at seven other localities.

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes – nc 3 nc 8 10 nc 1 nc nc nc nc nc.

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

A moderately common resident.

Totals from traditional sites seemed be fairly low during the year. The highest single count of the year was at Passfield Pond (c. 50, Jan 4th). Other notable counts outside the breeding season were as follows: Curbridge (10, Jan 15th); Romsey (10N, Jan 18th); Leckford (10, July 21st); Liss Forest (17 to roost, Sep 16th and Dec 31st); Kingsley SP (30, Nov 19th); Hookheath Wood, Southwick (17, Dec 10th) and Wishanger (17, Dec 29th). Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded ten are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eyeworth Pond, NF			9	11	23	11						16	10	8
Headley Mill Pond		12	36	18								2		15
Stratfield Saye	60	17	2	6	1			8	13		21	14	6	
WeBS count totals	75	61	17	31	12	7	11	9	27	2	31	35	25	49

Confirmed breeding occurred at the following sites (details given where provided): Leigh Park, Havant; Hill Top, Beaulieu, NF; Ashurst Wood, NF; Emery Down, NF; Eyeworth Pond, NF (1 brood of 3); Welshmans Road GP; Leckford (1 brood of 4); Stratfield Saye; Northbrook Farm, near Bentley; Passfield Pond; Waggoners Wells (2 broods) and Wishanger Lake.

Wigeon

Anas penelope

A common winter visitor and passage migrant; a few summer each year [Amber].

WeBS data indicated a peak of over 10,000 was present in January, with the highest count coming from the lower Test valley (1696, Jan 22nd). However, numbers at the end of the year were considerably lower than the corresponding but much colder period in 2010. The highest late year count came from Lymington/Hurst (1100, Dec 10th). Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	3187	3502	2603	758	320	7					82	2729	1486	1195
Hampshire Sectors	818	402	94	74	43						200	298	537	274
Langstone Harbour	664	945	1261	641	323	50			1			586	514	560
Portsmouth Harbour	473	120	493	385	82					38	267	450	132	557
Hamble Estuary	160	474	412	201	230	22				12	76	183	181	279
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	543	1042	1696	1060	268	6				1	14	352	701	1012
Beaulieu Estuary	538	663	1154	936	200	2			1	9	150	120	576	427
Pitts Deep/Pylewell	465	450	280	320	48						1	316	390	
Lymington-Hurst	1500	1000	1500	855	255	6	2	2		3	88	350	840	1100
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	600	2003	1119	844	608						5	115	143	293
Blashford Lakes	1204	872	1237	345	284	9		1	1		54	319	774	1009
Dogmersfield Lake			245	56	2						5	16	112	101
Eversley GP	125	13	524	46	124	1					15	84	221	318
WeBS count totals	6265	9580	10364	6151	2280	27	1	1	3	1	149	2873	5338	5985

Maxima exceeding 100 for coastal sites elsewhere were: Hythe (105, Jan 19th); Sowley Pond (500, Oct 28th); Titchfield Haven (100, Nov 9th). Notable maxima at inland sites not tabulated included: Romsey (100N, Jan 9th); Fishlake Meadows (170, Jan 10th); Yateley GP (75, Jan 17th); Broadlands Estate (82, Nov 20th); and The Vyne Lake (69, Nov 20th).

Spring passage was light and noted only at Hurst Beach (6E, Mar 10th-Apr 16th). As is usual, a few remained during the summer months but none gave rise to evidence of breeding activity. The first double-figure arrivals during August were at Frater Shore (28, 30th) and Hook Links (12, 31st).

As numbers began to build during the autumn, passage was noted in much greater numbers than during the spring, as follows: Hurst Beach (42W, Sep 16th; 9W, Sep 17th; 40E Nov 17th); Sandy Point (140W and 69E, Sep 17th; 23W, Oct 9th; 16N, Oct 14th; 25NE, Oct 15th and 16W, Oct 27th).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes 1028 **1174** 418 5 4 nc 1 8 46 **320** **1204** 872.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

A moderately common winter visitor and scarce breeder [SPEC3, Amber, HBAP].

WeBS data indicated that numbers remained broadly similar to the previous year. However, the January total of 2501 was the highest since January 2004 when 2150 were counted. The peak counts again came from Blashford Lakes, with an impressive 1149 on Jan 16th and, in the late year, 777 in December (note new county record in December 2010 from updated data below). Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 50 are tabulated opposite:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	22	90	107	75	55	32	17	11	4	5	13		32	39
Titchfield Haven		33	50		18	10		54	18	50	72	34	8	7
Beaulieu Estuary			47	65	35	21	79	36	24	14	7	2	8	24
Lymington to Hurst			100	53	7	11	7						8	
Blashford Lakes	688	1164	1149	672	210	92		52	51		199	304	560	777
Testbourne Lake	94	60	114	60	40	17	4	26	3	46	53	108	120	65
Winchester SF	76	169	283	260	113	59	32	26	37	151	159	116	88	93
Alresford Pond	49	46	31	18	23	56	22		15	49	68	44	12	1
Grange Lakes, Northington	2	3	16	11	6		2	37	1	34	11	35	65	52
Loddon: Stratfield Saye			60	40	23			15	1		10	7	6	2
Wellington CP			31	56	19									4
Bramshill Plantation Lakes			26	56	19						4		4	20
Dogmersfield Lake	255	91	159	87	6		1			8	14	60	120	151
Eversley GP	60	156	94	46	10	5			4	2	23	53	93	160
Yateley GP	80	39	76	43	31					19	6	17	52	86
WeBS count totals	1397	1895	2501	1670	758	372	156	290	127	219	651	836	1414	1626

Sites of international importance: 600+; national importance: 250+.

Notable counts elsewhere included: Milton Reclamation (55, Jan 14th); Stratfield Saye Park (60, Jan 19th); Tundry Pond (99, Feb 1st); Alresford Pond (68, Sep 23rd); Hook-with-Warsash (67, Oct 9th) and Pitts Deep (50, Nov 11th).

Spring passage was recorded from Sandy Point (7E/1W, between Mar 24th and Apr 29th) and Hurst Beach (4E, Apr 27th/28th).

Breeding season records totalled at least 30 broods as follows: Titchfield Haven (6); Winchester SF (5); Testbourne Lake (3); Mottisfont (2); Avington Lake (2); Alresford Pond (2); Somerley Estate (1+); Itchen Valley CP (1+); Marsh Court (1+); Overton Lagoons (1+); Needs Ore (1); Drayton Farm CB (1); Bossington Farm (1); Leckford (2); Longstock (1); Three Halves Copse (1); Stratfield Saye (1); Grange Lakes, Northington (2).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes **985 808 340 131 41 42 6 134 140 290 688 1164**.

Teal

Anas crecca

A very scarce and declining resident and common winter visitor [Amber].

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 150 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	870	1611	1410	859	348	14			2	24	194	432	636	1409
Hampshire Sectors	308	814	529	301	121					9		4	314	632
Langstone Harbour	358	342	376	275	204	50		2	1	20	103	307	380	342
Portsmouth Harbour	83	57	183	112	60							3	17	53
Titchfield Haven	361	700	570	200	107	38	1	7	8	51	500	685	527	586
Hamble Estuary	140	168	219	111	38	5			1	40	70	210	275	162
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	98	226	367	136	53	6				3	38	31	71	265
Beaulieu Estuary	318	620	300	364	50	15	1	3	7	30	114	300	681	600
Sowley-Lymington	1090	1000	90	20	6	2			2	20	300	353	350	32
Lymington-Hurst	1140	3000	1200	900	500	20	2		3	6	230	400	1500	2000
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	689	488	395	328	46						1	5	92	277
Blashford Lakes	447	46	281	28	38	4	2				70	106	209	230
Test: Marsh Court Lake			200	26	9	7			6		25	65	22	
Winchester SF	197	235	127	180	26	9	5	2	5	29	90	111	71	162
Alresford Pond	101	225	114	41	40	12			6	54	120	173	105	100
The Vyne WM	142		204	62	38	13	2		1	22	69	88	96	117
Loddon: Stratfield Saye	50	54	225	117	55				1		38	75	205	142
WeBS count totals	4611	7477	5183	3235	1523	122	3	12	13	127	1490	2691	5106	5649

Following the high numbers induced by cold weather in December 2010, counts returned to more usual levels in 2011. Peak counts were recorded at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes at both ends of the year (1200, Jan 22nd and 2000, Dec 10th).

Notable maxima elsewhere included: Fishlake Meadows (150, Jan 30th and Dec 19th); Somerley Estate (150, Feb 6th); Alresford Pond (173, Oct 23rd); Stratfield Saye Park (205, Nov 28th) and Avington Lake (230, Dec 5th).

Spring passage was noted at Hurst Beach (42E, Mar 6th-Apr 22nd peak 11E, Mar 8th) and Sandy Point (12E, Apr 2nd-May 1st). During the breeding season small numbers were recorded at some 18 sites. However, none referred to evidence of breeding activity. Breeding last occurred in the county in 2005.

After the breeding season, birds began to return from mid-August, e.g. Langstone Harbour (20, Aug 13th) and Pitts Deep (20, Aug 15th). The first late year three-figure count came from Titchfield Haven (120, Sep 1st), after which numbers steadily built up into November.

Amendments 2010: Annual max. at Fleet Pond was 26 on Dec 30th. Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 186 **65** 36 11 1 nc 1 21 57 **152** 447 **46**.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

A common resident and winter visitor [Amber].

WeBS data indicated that numbers were slightly increased compared to 2010, particularly in December. The highest count of the year was 634 at Ewhurst Lake on Jan 16th and the highest count for the second winter period of 461 on Oct 16th was also there. A count of 440 at Broadlands Estate on Nov 20th was also notable. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 150 are tabulated below.

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	332	560	338	331	173	52	67	41	47	154	191	236	313	285
Hampshire Sectors	155	239	100	119	71	3	6	1			53	108	175	184
Titchfield Haven	154	241	159	143	81	26	53	110	141	110		130	160	169
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes			90	54	46	43	56	91	79	116	106	66	128	220
Beaulieu Estuary			60	35	49	30	50	42	87	88	87	80	80	184
Lymington-Hurst	225	310	230	180	137	100	165	185	156	170	220	26	174	280
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	129	197	63	88	33						337	70	93	109
Blashford Lakes	253	127	225	73	78	69	6	126	192		224	273	191	227
Test: Broadlands Estate	170	250	35	65	60	70					289	275	440	210
Test: Testbourne Lake	200	153	130	75	52	29	53	45	67	150	154	98	190	157
Andover area	205	225	277	101	118								174	215
Ewhurst Lake	251		634	175		43	65	301			148	461		
Loddon: Stratfield Saye	140	115	160	124	40	2		60	78		192	175	118	131
Bramshill Plantation Lakes			38	15	23			9			35	114	112	182
Tundry Pond			158	166	63	50	32	20	198	200	165	202	205	150
Yateley Gravel Pits			96	103	72			90		64	106	159	205	232
Heath Pond, Petersfield			146	110	69	45	119	133	163	187	161	163	137	112
WeBS count totals	3715	3228	3794	2344	1730	720	733	1604	1500	1372	3499	3698	3929	4347

Notable maxima elsewhere were as follows: Dogmersfield Lake (132, Jan 16th); Fleet Pond (185, July 25th); Riverside Park, Southampton (192, Aug 17th); Foley Manor, Liphook (255, Aug 24th, captive bred birds released for shooting); Alresford Pond (207, Aug 29th); Kings Pond, Grange Lakes, Northington (149, Nov 1st) and Southampton Common (250, Nov 11th).

Breeding records (number of broods) from regularly watched sites included: Titchfield Haven (minimum 19); Avington Lake (4+); Alresford Pond (3); Itchen Estuary (3); Old Burghclere CP (2); Heath Pond, Petersfield (1+); Farlington Marshes (1); Winchester SF (1). BBS data showed that 35% of surveyed squares were occupied with a mean detection rate of 8.2 per square (about average for the 18 year study).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: **325** 120 71 72 113 83 135 82 129 243 **253 127**.

Pintail

Anas acuta

A moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional in summer [SPEC3, Amber].

Numbers were similar to those recorded in 2010. A count of 470 from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Jan 22nd was the highest of the year. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded ten are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	27	45	146	219	50	1	1		1		1	15	30	75
Hamble Estuary	12	61	38	50	44	5	1				2	22	51	50
Dibden Bay-Calshot	2	33	5	1	2							22	6	
Beaulieu Estuary	22	20	50	40	35						3	11	50	35
Sowley-Lymington	16	25	40	33	2						1	6	11	
Lymington-Hurst	175	225	470	370	161	4	1				5	44	140	250
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		1	58	29										2
Blashford Lakes	11	14	20	6	1			1	1		1	3	3	18
Test: Fishlake Meadows	4	22	17	1	1								7	11
WeBS count totals	232	367	773	726	126	0	0	0	1	0	4	53	187	314

Sites of national importance: 290+.

Numbers peaked in January; the main departure for breeding grounds occurred in the first half of March. Counts of 16 in Langstone Harbour and 13 on the Hamble estuary on Mar 19th were the last double-figure counts in the early year. A light spring passage was noted along the coast from Hurst Beach (8E, between Mar 10th and May 5th) and Sandy Point (4N, Mar 1st; 2E, May 5th).

Singles were recorded during the summer months, most notably a female which over-summered at Titchfield Haven. The first returns were probably two at Keyhaven on Sep 3rd and the first double-figure count was 16 at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 9th. The main arrival occurred during November, with 140 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes being the first three-figure count; whilst 250 there on Dec 10th was the highest count in the second winter period.

Away from the Avon valley and Fishlake Meadows, the only other inland records were at Testwood Lakes (1, Jan 30th); Warnford Park Lake (male, Mar 13th) and Broadlands Estate (1, Oct 16th).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 55 **4** 4 1 1 1 nc nc nc nc 11 14.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

A scarce passage migrant and summer visitor. Occasionally breeds [SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

In spring a total of 20 was recorded, two additional males were seen in summer, while in autumn there were six arrivals. A male over-summered at Titchfield Haven and was seen in August in the company of a female/juvenile type. It is possible that breeding was at least attempted.

The first of the year were a male and two females at Titchfield Haven on Apr 6th, a late date. All spring records are summarised below:

- Titchfield Haven:* male, 2 females, Apr 6th; male, Apr 16th; male flew in off the sea onto scrapes, May 7th and remained until Aug 28th.
- Needs Ore:* male, from Apr 10th-12th; male, Apr 29th; male, May 3rd-7th
- Gilkicker Point:* female, Apr 16th.
- Farlington Marshes:* 2 males, Apr 18th; male, Apr 30th-May 1st; male, May 11th.
- Pennington Marsh:* pair, Apr 21st-23rd; male, Apr 27th-May 4th; male, May 14th;
- Baffins Pond, Portsmouth:* female, Apr 30th.

A migrating pair was tracked eastwards through The Solent on May 8th passing Hurst Beach at 0927 hrs, Stokes Bay at 1101 hrs and Sandy Point at 1118 hrs. In summer two males were at Hook-with-Warsash on June 24th. The first return in autumn was a female at Farlington Marshes on Aug 15th/16th, followed by another which joined the male at Titchfield Haven from Aug 17th to 19th and was seen again there on Aug 25th/26th. Elsewhere, the first returning bird was a female at Alresford Pond from Aug 30th to Sep 16th. In September, a female was at Farlington Marshes on 2nd, an eclipse male at Pennington Marsh on 10th and the last of the year at Ibsley Water on 29th.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

A moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant. Occasionally breeds [SPEC3, Amber, HBAP].

WeBS counts indicated that numbers remained similar to 2010. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 30 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	34	45	133	86	57	20	1			15	20	30	82	40
Baffins Pond	91	75	73									12	31	39
Dibden Bay-Calshot	14	20	20	36	35							2	5	4
Beaulieu Estuary			35	59	30	20	6	3	9	8	12	25	50	52
Lymington-Hurst	116	255	162	225	100	6	10			5	9	17	53	91
Blashford Lakes	131	29	161	102	38	5			6	32	89	89	128	167
Winchester SF	21	21	20	17	20	7	1	2	10	19	35	36	17	13
Eversley GP	7	27	22	23	21	6					5	18	29	55
WeBS count totals	359	543	622	640	364	48	3	15	12	54	195	262	372	511

Sites of national importance: 180+.

Notable maxima from elsewhere included: Yateley GP (33, Jan 17th); Fawley Refinery (36, Feb 19th); Winchester SF (36, Oct 5th); Milton Reclamation (33, Oct 14th); Grange Lakes, Northington (25, Nov 1st and Dec 16th); Titchfield Haven (37, Nov 5th); and Fishlake Meadows (30, Dec 4th).

Small numbers were noted on spring passage at Sandy Point (12E and 1W, Mar 24th-May 3rd) and Hurst Beach (11E, Mar 27th-May 2nd).

The only confirmed breeding record was of one brood at Titchfield Haven, but activity potentially relating to a breeding attempt was also noted at Pennington Marsh.

In autumn, returning birds began to bolster site totals from early September, e.g. Blashford Lakes (89 on Sep 9th). A count of 167 there in December was the peak count of the late year.

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 90 **205 251** 8 nc 1 nc 24 78 **198 131 29**.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

A very scarce feral visitor, or escapee.

Records were scattered throughout the year, with no particular pattern. In the first winter period, two males and a female were on Ibsley Water on Jan 1st; a male was on Woolmer Pond on Feb 12th, a female was at Needs Ore on Feb 16th, and three females and a male were on Avington Lake on Mar 19th. All the above were present on just one date. In the summer a male was on Whitten Pond, Burley on July 5th and a male in eclipse plumage on Ibsley Water from Aug 7th to 17th. In the second winter period, four males and a female were on Ibsley Water on Nov 6th but again there was no sign of them the following day.

It is difficult to be certain where the Hampshire Red-crested Pochards originate, but they are most likely to be either escapes from captivity or wanderers from the feral populations in southern England. There is a small possibility that the male in the New Forest on July 5th had moved north to escape challenging conditions in southern Europe: at the end of June the

Spanish State Meteorological Agency issued 35 alerts for high temperatures, 30 of them for provinces in the south of the country.

Pochard

Aythya ferina

A scarce breeder and moderately common but declining winter visitor [SPEC2, Amber].

Counts of Pochard remained high as a consequence of the cold weather in December 2010 which had concentrated birds into ice-free areas where they remained after the thaw. During the second winter period, when the weather was much warmer and waters remained ice-free, numbers were greatly reduced.

The peak count in the first winter period was 259 at Blashford Lakes in January, with 204 there on Feb 12th, while in the second winter period the peak count there was 112 on Dec 27th.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 25 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Budds Farm SF			28	2	2								1	10
Titchfield Haven	35	140	134	147	38	2	1					10	20	26
Hook with Warsash														35
Blashford Lakes	165	151	259	204	115	1		7	13	6	13	20	68	112
Grange Lakes, Northington			32	8	1									12
Tundry Pond			30	40	7								2	17
Eversley GP	38	52	63	37	36					1	1	14	21	22
Yateley GP	60	6	17	32	27						3	8	5	5
WeBS count totals	315	578	622	475	236	20	8	9	20	2	18	51	117	245

Notable counts elsewhere were as follows: Heath Pond, Petersfield (25, Jan 1st); IBM Lake, Portsmouth (23, Jan 5th); Vyne Lake (17, Jan 16th); Dogmersfield Lake (21, Jan 16th); Winchester SF (19, Feb 1st); Needs Ore (14, Feb 8th); Welshmans Road GP (18, Feb 13th); Testwood Lakes (22, Feb 13th); Southampton Common (13, Feb 20th); Longstock (13, Mar 11th); Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (20, Sep 18th) and Sowley Pond (18, Dec 18th).

Compared to previous years, there were rather few records of confirmed breeding: at Romsey WM two pairs raised a total of six young in broods of four and two, and at Longstock one pair raised a brood of six young.

The following table shows the maxima for the last twelve winters at Blashford Lakes:

Winter maxima	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Blashford Lakes	483	588	294	722	171	203	188	120	142	246	142	259

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 125 109 64 nc nc nc 2 3 12 63 165 151.

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

A rare vagrant. (0,11,1)

A male was found on Dec 4th at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (DAT): the first in the county since 2000. Probably the same individual was present at Spinnaker Lake, Blashford (RAC et al., photo) on Dec 30th/31st. Although asleep for much of the time, it was eventually seen sufficiently well for its identification to be confirmed, hybrid origin having been eliminated. The 2000 record was a long-staying male in the Itchen valley until Apr 1st.

First-winter male Ferruginous Duck, Blashford Lakes, Dec 31st – Andy Johnson



Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

A moderately common breeding species whose numbers increase considerably in winter [SPEC3, Amber].

Counts of Tufted Duck in the first winter period remained high, with particularly notable counts of 560 from Blashford Lakes and the River Avon above Ibsley and 233 from Eversley GP. During the second winter period, numbers were greatly reduced.

Monthly maxima at regularly watched sites where counts exceed 50 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven	41	124	76	44	17	2		1				10	20	38
Lymington-Hurst	47	47	58	43	29	9	4	4	2	3	4	2	5	17
Avon Ringwood-Ford/bridge	65	375	54	37	51					24	10	32	53	13
Blashford Lakes	339	124	473	493	509	421		176	183		256	328	375	426
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	23	16	63	29	33	68	40	40	28	44	13	2	7	5
Test: Longparish Lakes	20	64	57	54	34	8	3	14	2	5	11	15	6	55
Romsey/Fishlake WM	48	49	72	20	6	33	19	12	19			5	9	8
Andover area	40	70	57	62	31								35	35
Alresford Pond	14	49	60	34	23	32	35		5	3	6	12	10	40
Vyne Lake & WM			6			6			8	2	14	5	24	74
Tundry Pond	58	27	102	106	39	12					2	11	29	36
Eversley GP	167	176	220	233	222	217			59	102	113	107	176	273
Yateley GP	224	40	173	145	142			21		2	69	71	203	192
WeBS count totals	1087	1251	1760	1750	1547	992	121	388	336	229	646	828	1171	1534

Other notable counts along the coast were: Allington GP (60, Jan 29th); Sinah GP (48, Feb 13th) and IBM Lake, Portsmouth (44, Mar 22nd). Inland, other notable counts were: Longstock (38, Jan 18th); Grange Lakes, Northington (40, Jan 21st); Ewhurst Lake (54, Feb 20th); Broadlands Estate (50, Mar 13th); Avington Park (33, Apr 13th); Warnford Park (39, June 14th); Wellington CP (41, Dec 16th) and Frith End SP (56, Dec 18th).

Away from the Test valley, it was a poor breeding year. Records of confirmed breeding were reported as follows with the number of broods shown in brackets:

- Coastal sites: IBM Lake, Portsmouth (1); Needs Ore (1); Keyhaven Marshes (2).
- Avon valley: Ibsley North Lake (5); Somerley (3).
- Test valley: Romsey (5); Fishlake Meadows (6); Timsbury Lake (1); Mottisfont (2); Lockerley (1+); Leckford (1); Longstock (13); Testbourne Lake (9); Laverstoke Park Lake (3+).
- Itchen valley: Alresford Pond (1); Arlebury Lakes (1).
- Meon valley: Warnford Park (5).
- North-east: Stratfield Saye (2); Vyne Lake (2); Overton Lagoons (3).

The following table shows the maxima for the last twelve winters at Blashford Lakes:

Winter maxima	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Blashford Lakes	419	449	340	600	391	411	401	329	420	409	451	509

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 280 442 451 397 149 108 88 146 204 289 339 124.

Scaup

Aythya marila

A very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [SPEC3, Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP1].

It was the best year for the species since 1997. The majority of records were during the first winter period, when up to 41 individuals were recorded including 37 in January. The highlight of the year was a raft of 18 seen in the mouth of Chichester Harbour from Sandy Point on Jan 18th, the flock comprising seven males, three of which were adults, and 11 females. Also in January, seven were in the northern half of Portsmouth Harbour on Jan 1st/2nd, with one remaining at Fareham Creek until Jan 10th. There were sightings of up to four in the Lymington/Hurst area from Jan 1st-Apr 8th. Four (two females and two immature males) were seen on Jan 8th in the



Male and two female Scaups, Normandy, Mar 4th – Marcus Ward

Hurst/Keyhaven area and 1-2 immature males were reported on 16 dates until Mar 1st. From Mar 4th to 19th, an adult male and three females settled on Eight Acre Pond, Pennington; thereafter one female was reported on eight dates until the last on Apr 8th. At Titchfield Haven, up to three (male, two females) were on the reserve between Jan 15th and Feb 27th. Other records during the first winter period, of ones and twos, are summarised below:

Chichester Harbour: 2 (inc. adult male), Jan 22nd/23rd & male, Jan 29th & Feb 1st.

Langstone Harbour: 2, seen from South Moor, Jan 5th.

Hook-with-Warsash: female, Feb 19th.

Calshot/Fawley: first-winter male, Jan 2nd-23rd.

Ibsley Water: female, Mar 20th and 25th/26th.

Testwood Lakes: 1, Mar 29th.

By contrast, in the much milder second winter period compared to 2010, there was a total of just five individuals as follows: Ibsley Water (1, Oct 8th; 2, Oct 9th); Chichester Harbour (1, Oct 26th) and Budds Farm SF (2, Dec 18th). The annual totals of bird-months from 1997-2011 are tabulated below:

Annual totals	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	78	23	1	19	3	18	20	11	26	9	10	12	17	29	61

***Aythya* hybrids**

The following reports were received:

Langstone Harbour: male Ferruginous Duck x Pochard hybrid (characters around 50% of each species), Feb 19th-June 18th & Nov 30th, one of at least three seen since 1999 at this location but the individual (characters close to Ferruginous) first recorded in 1999 and returning every year until 2010 was not seen.

Ewhurst Park: male Tufted Duck x Pochard hybrid, Mar 20th.

Yateley GP: male Paget's Pochard (Pochard x Ferruginous Duck hybrid), between Oct 17th and Dec 17th at least, the same bird as seen in previous years since 2005.

Eider

Somateria mollissima

A scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers usually summer; a very scarce breeder since 2003 [Amber, HBAP].

Numbers wintering in The Solent have decreased from their peak in 2005/6 to the current populations of approximately 50 off Hill Head/Brownwich and 30 in the Lymington/Hurst area. The first winter period, however, saw large numbers off Sandy Point, Hayling, including three-figure counts in February and March and a max. of 150 on Feb 24th.

A pair summered in the west Solent, but no reports of breeding were received. Monthly maxima at all sites with regular records are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point-Eastoke	10	54	85	150	120	26	12	9		1	4	20	10	2
Stokes Bay-Brownwich	52	13	16	30	24	15	19	20				9		25
Hamble Estuary			7	4		3								
Lepe-Needs Ore	40		26	24	71	2	9	12	13	32	17	59	1	2
Sowley-Lymington	23	40	45	19	56	4	3			20	22	65		
Lymington-Hurst	7	17	25	8	39	55	22	33	43	22	57	43	58	66
WeBS count totals	63	47	95	51	93	17	9	16	18	41	37	126	34	3

The following table shows maxima in recent winters in the Hill Head/Brownwich and Lymington/Hurst areas:

Winter maxima	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Hill Head/Brownwich	4	14	21	158	102	97	220	135	164	82	70	52
Lymington-Hurst	15	43	117	191	64	33	121	62	46	26	19	25

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

A very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [Schedule 1, Green].

A total of nine was recorded, of which five were seen off Hurst spit. Only three lingered: an adult male was off Hurst beach from Apr 26th to 29th (MPM *et al.*); a presumed female was at Budds Farm SF from Oct 29th to Nov 5th (GMW *et al.*), and one again off Hurst from Nov 12th to 19th (MPM *et al.*). All records are summarised below:

Hurst Beach/Castle: female, Mar 13th (MPM); male, Apr 16th-29th; male E, May 5th (AHO, MPM); male, Nov 12th-19th; male W, Dec 14th (SPP).
Hill Head: female E, Mar 26th (MDR); male E, May 5th (MJPa, same as Hurst).
Gillicker Point: female, Apr 16th (JANo).
Sandy Point: female, Oct 26th (ACJ).
Langstone Harbour: female, Oct 29th-Nov 4th, on Budds Farm SF and adjacent parts of the harbour.

The annual totals of bird-months from 1997-2011 are tabulated below:

Annual totals	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	8	15	6	23	12	6	14	15	14	9	11	23	17	8	11

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

A moderately common passage migrant; scarce in summer and winter [Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP3].

In January, there were double-figure counts from Hill Head (20, 1st), Sandy Point (12W, 3rd), and Hurst (12E, 27th), while counts of five were made on 8th both off Hook-with-Warsash (all males) and Pennington Marsh. There were just four reports in February: five off Hill Head on 9th and Hook-with-Warsash on 19th were presumably the same as seen earlier there and three remained off Pennington Marsh. Notable March numbers off Hurst were 15 on 8th and 28 on 30th. Easterly spring passage commenced with two past Sandy Point on Mar 29th and 100 past Hill Head on Apr 2nd. A total of 547 was logged in flight up to June 9th but off passage birds were present at Hurst throughout, with a peak count of 54 still present on June 12th. Records were as follows:

Sandy Point: 207E inc. 36, Apr 2nd; 24, 19th; 33, May 5th; 46, May 27th.
Stokes Bay: 9E between Apr 18th and May 8th. 7 off passage, May 30th/31st.
Lee-on-the-Solent: 11 off passage (6 ad. males), May 7th/8th.
Hill Head: 127E: 100, Apr 2nd; 15, Apr 20th; 12, May 2nd. Off-passage on 4 dates, Apr 28th-May 7th max. 15, May 3rd.
Hurst Beach: 296E, including 62 on Apr 18th and 56 on May 5th.

Birds continued to be noted throughout the summer with double figure-counts as follows:

Sandy Point: 17W, June 22nd and 11, June 24th.
Hurst Beach: 16, June 16th & 20, June 19th & 30, June 20th & 10, June 27th.

Autumn arrivals and passage were light with the following double-figure counts:

Lymington-Hurst: 12 off Oxey, July 27th; 15 off Milford on Sea, Sep 10th; 16 at Hurst Castle, Sep 16th; & 12, Sep 25th; 11W, Oct 26th; 22E, Nov 13th.
Portsmouth Harbour Entrance: 30E, Sep 21st; off Haslar wall: 11, Nov 17th.

In the second winter period settled birds included: three at Tipner Lake on Nov 12th (unusual well inside Portsmouth Harbour); peaks of three off Sandy Point from Dec 2nd to 6th seven off Hurst Beach on Dec 4th and singles in Chichester Harbour and off Hill Head/Brownwich. There were no inland records.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

A very rare vagrant. (0,3,1)

A female/immature was seen off Hurst with Eiders on Nov 19th before flying west (MPM). This is only the fourth county record, the previous one being a first-winter female in Langstone Harbour on Dec 18th 2006.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor [Schedule 1, Amber].

A total of 53 records was received which included 28 bird-days off Hurst/Milford on Sea between Apr 17th and May 1st (max. 8) – these would have involved some individuals circulating within Christchurch Bay.

During the first winter period 16 were logged, including seven off Hurst Castle on Jan 31st. Records for the first winter period are summarised below:

Southampton Water: Hythe Marina: 1, Jan 1st; Weston Shore: female/immature, Jan 19th.
Hill Head: 2, female/immatures, Jan 2nd.
Sandy Point: first-winter female flew out S from harbour, Jan 8th.
Hurst-Lymington: 1 off Iley Pt., Jan 1st; 1 off Hurst Castle, Jan 1st-3rd; 2ad., 1 f-w W, Jan 9th; 1W, Jan 18th; 7W, Jan 31st; male E, Mar 6th.

Up to 33 were recorded on spring passage between Apr 1st and May 4th as follows:

Sandy Point: 4, May 4th.
Hurst-Lymington: 1E, Apr 2nd; 8 (inc. 4 males) drifting E but flying back W, Apr 17th; 5, Apr 19th; 8NW, Apr 30th; 7NW, May 1st.

In the late year, there were just two records; at Sandy Point one flew north on Oct 10th and one was at Hurst Beach on Nov 27th.

Annual totals of bird-months from 1997-2011 are tabulated below:

Annual totals	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	10	22	11	33	11	44	47	47	39	37	37	66	77	60	52

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

A scarce and declining winter visitor [Amber].

The cold weather in December 2010 was responsible for the highest wintering total in the eastern harbours for five years. In the first winter period the last bird to depart left Blashford Lakes on Apr 15th, with the first returning bird in the second winter period arriving at the same site on Oct 18th.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1	2	14	25				1	1
Hampshire sectors			1	7					
Langstone Harbour	4	29	54	39	12			5	12
Portsmouth Harbour		6	6	30	5	2			7
Lymington-Hurst	10	12	20	11	7			1	7
Blashford Lakes	12	19	35	36	35	7	1	14	24
WeBS count totals	8	72	98	92	18	3	1	14	32

Scattered reports elsewhere along the coast, all of singles, were as follows:

- Hook with Warsash: Jan 19th, Dec 10th.
- Pylewell Lake: Feb 20th.
- Weston Shore: female, Nov 12th; male, Nov 14th.
- Titchfield Haven: Dec 10th.
- Marchwood: Dec 22nd.

Inland records, all but one of singles, were as follows:

- Somerley Estate: Jan 27th; 3, Mar 13th.
- Alresford Pond: Jan 20th; Feb 21st-26th; Nov 18th into 2012.
- Heath Pond, Petersfield: Feb 11th-22nd; Apr 7th; Nov 11th-14th.
- Arlebury Lakes: Mar 22nd.

The following table shows the peak wintering month for the eastern harbours combined from 1997/98 to 2010/11 (a revised criterion from that used in previous HBRs which, by using the sum of the peak winter counts from each harbour, failed to allow for inter-harbour movements):

Eastern harbours winter peak	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Combined count	161	177	109	112	118	155	99	77	116	90	68	80	60	94

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 24 34 33 16 - - - - 4 12 19.

Smew

Mergellus albellus

A very scarce winter visitor. [ET, SPEC3, Amber].

There were ten records involving at least eight individuals, seven in the early year and one in December. The first-winter male present at Blashford Lakes from December 2010 remained in the area until March and was joined by a female between Jan 13th and Mar 10th (RAC *et al.*); the male was last seen on 17th. The pair spent the first half of their stay on Rockford Lake before moving to Ivy Lake on Feb 9th: in addition, they frequently roosted on Ibsley Water when it was possible to view all three species of European saw-bills together.

Elsewhere, in the first winter period, a female, previously unreported, arrived on the Test at Romsey WM on Dec 27th 2010 (MHn) and remained in the area until Mar 6th. A redhead on the Avon above Ibsley on Jan 16th may have been one of the Blashford birds. Two more singles were first reported on Jan 22nd, one off Fawley Refinery (JGR, single date) and a female off West Hayling LNR. Possibly this individual remained in Langstone Harbour as one was seen at Farlington Marshes both on the Deeps and off the harbour wall (JMh) between Feb 24th and Mar 6th.



Three redheads: Smew and two Goosanders, Mill Stream, Romsey, Jan 9th – Ian Williamson

During the second winter period, when the weather was mild, only one was reported, a redhead at Ibsley Water on Dec 18th and 27th.

2010 Amendment: The annual total increases to 15 with the addition of the Romsey bird described above.

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator
A moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare inland [Green].

Both Langstone and Chichester Harbours continue to host nationally important numbers of the species. During the first winter period, numbers peaked at 137 in Langstone Harbour on Mar 19th, but few remained thereafter, although, up to three were seen there throughout the summer. Easterly movements, totalling 51, were logged off Sandy Point between Jan 31st and May 8th with 11 north there on Jan 23rd. The last double-figure count in the eastern harbours was 19 at Frater Shore on Apr 4th. In the second winter period the first returns to Chichester Harbour were on Oct 15th with a maximum of 156 on Nov 12th. The first returns were seven off Titchfield Haven on Sep 1st; the first double-figure count was 22 at Langstone Harbour on Oct 15th and the year max. there was 161 on Dec 10th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded ten are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	69	213	160	138	153	5						17	156	124
Hampshire Sectors	5	25	53	24	24	5			1	1		6	64	40
Langstone Harbour	88	74	116	127	137	4	2	2	3	1	2	24	124	161
Portsmouth Harbour	50	14	55	62	56	19							35	64
Beaulieu estuary			9	16	14	3	1					1	1	2
Sowley-Lymington	23	28	20	16	24	5							10	
Lymington-Hurst	50	44	55	40	53	8	2					10	35	40
WeBS count totals	201	178	306	284	307	19	3	2	3	1	1	23	234	303

Sites of national importance: 84+

Elsewhere along the coast there were regular records from Southampton Water, mostly of small numbers (1-3), but five were off Weston Shore on three dates and eight on Mar 6th. Inland,

the only record was of a female which roosted with Goosanders on Ibsley Water between Jan 2nd and Mar 23rd.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

A scarce but increasing winter visitor and very scarce breeder since 1998 [Green, HBAP].

The record total of 440 recorded during the severe weather in late December 2010 declined slowly as mild weather returned in the early year, with still around 350 present in mid January. Late year numbers returned to normal levels with around 220 recorded in December. Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fawley Reservoir		15	9	8	3									
Sowley Pond			11	6	2									4
Ibsley Water (roost)	160	231	205	200	54+	24	1			7	8	33	78	117
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	4		4	1	1						1		6	5
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	78	26	8	6	62	2						7	2	24
Avon above Fordingbridge					5							2	2	5
New Forest ponds	3		4	3										10
Bramshill Plantation (roost)	4	0	21	15	22								3	11
Tundry Pond	1		11	15	8									3
Eversley GP (roost)	63	118	95	92	59								11	40
Yateley GP	18	13	24	14	18									12
WeBS count totals	166	182	350	209	118	4						42	95	170
Max county totals	247	440	350	325	145	27				7	8	34	99	220

In the early year, maxima at the two main roosts were 205 at Ibsley Water on Jan 15th and 95 (16 males) at Eversley GP on Jan 31st. Small numbers were regular along The Solent between Sowley Pond and Fawley Reservoir and these may account for six at Hook-with-Warsash on Jan 22nd and five north-west over Hill Head on Feb 23rd. The only other counts to exceed four were of 13 at Testwood Lakes on Jan 23rd, 12 at Kentford Lake on Jan 29th and nine north over Fleet Pond on Mar 17th. Away from the Avon valley, the last was a female at Leckford on Apr 15th.

At least two pairs bred successfully, with broods of four and two raised at Somerley Estate. These were presumably the birds recorded at Ibsley Water in August and September. The BBS registered the species in two surveyed squares for the first time.

Numbers at Ibsley Water increased during October, with 23 redheads on 9th rising to 33 on 23rd, but the first return elsewhere was a redhead at Woolmer Pond on Oct 29th. Peak roost counts in the late year were of 40 (21 males) at Eversley GP on Dec 24th and 117 (47 males) at Ibsley Water the next day. Away from tabulated sites, the only counts to exceed four were: 11 over Woolmer Pond on Nov 13th; six at Bramshill Police College Lake on Nov 28th and 11 there on Dec 16th; five at Testwood Lakes on Dec 4th; eight at Broadlands Estate on Dec 18th and eight at Longstock on Dec 20th.

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

A very scarce resident and winter visitor.

According to the latest bulletin from Defra, the Ruddy Duck population in the UK has fallen to a total of around 60. Defra plan that work on eradicating the remaining birds will continue to be financed during 2012/13, 'in line with the commitment to eradicate Ruddy Ducks by 2015'. In Hampshire, the only significant count was of five on Ibsley Water on Feb 3rd, but Defra carried out a cull there later in the month.

Annual totals	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	139	87	77	108	172	102	115	139	207	154	136	146	172	65	22

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

A common resident; numbers are supplemented by releases [SPEC2].

Some 363 records were received, of which 256 were from Atlas data and confirmed breeding was noted in 11 tetrads. BBS results showed an occupancy rate of 42% of squares surveyed, the highest figure recorded in the last 18 years. It presumably indicates some feral expansion in addition to pen-reared releases, which is supported by the Atlas data. Flocks of over 50 were seen in January and February west of Broughton (100), the Candovers (55), near Steep (56) and Cheesefoot Head (60). In the late year there were large flocks near Cheesefoot Head (88), Avon Tyrrell WM (110), Drayton Farm CB, Bighton (73), St Mary Bourne (65), Egbury (85), and Greywell (100).

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

A moderately common, but declining, resident with numbers supplemented by releases [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

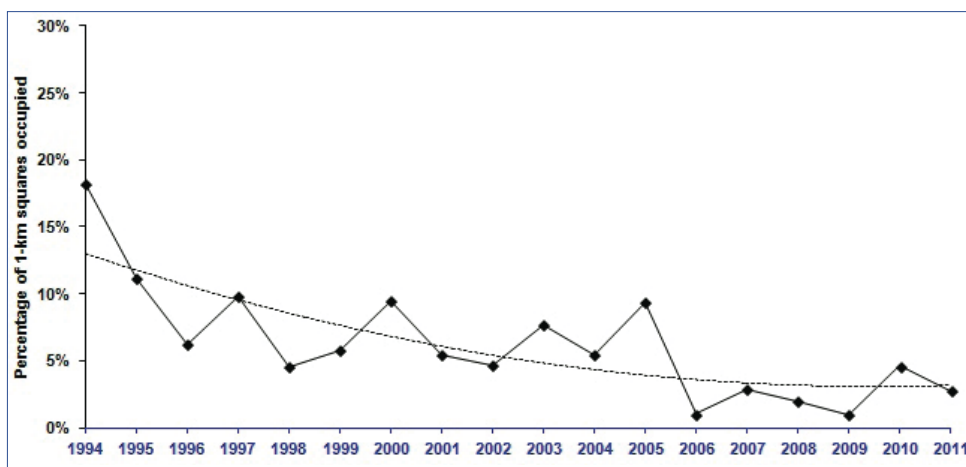


Grey Partridge, Wootton St Lawrence, Jan 30th – Barry Stalker

A total of 136 records was received, of which 31 were sourced from Atlas surveys. Birds were present in 72 tetrads. The distribution of records was broadly similar to 2010 but an analysis reveals several tetrad clusters: ten in the west around Martin Down, nine on the chalk around The Wallops, five east of Andover, eleven scattered along the South Downs and six around Binsted in the north-east. Surprise registrations were at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester in March and at Eastleigh railway works, where one was seen walking along the track in September.

In the first three months of the year coveys of ten were reported from east of Andover and Martin Down, and one of 20 from Breamore Down.

BBS data (overleaf) showed that 3% of surveyed squares were occupied and the trend line perhaps indicates a flattening of the long-term decline, although reports of confirmed breeding came from just five tetrads. There were at least three territories on the reserve at Martin Down and three juveniles were seen there in August.



To the east of Andover there was evidence of a recovery of the species' fortunes. On the Middleton and Portway estate numbers have increased, from just three remaining pairs in 2007 (on 568 hectares) to 16. The landowner Richard Ellis has provided excellent habitat such as Beetle Banks, insect-rich field margins and tussocky grass for nesting. He also grows wild bird seed mixes, provides supplementary feeding wheat during winter and controls fox & Carrion Crow numbers during the breeding season. Nearby, in July/August the largest family groups were of 14 at Finkley and 11 at Down Farm. In the late year there were coveys of up to 18. Elsewhere, there were notable counts at Park Farm, East Meon (max. 13) and Kingsley (13).

Quail

Coturnix coturnix

A normally very scarce and erratic summer visitor; very rarely recorded in winter [SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

It was an exceptional year for Quail with 62 reports from 36 localities (cf. ten reports from eight areas in 2010). An estimated total of 101 individuals was recorded between the first male heard singing at Overton at 0300 hrs on May 1st and the last – an exceptional count of 40 during harvesting on the Cholderton estate on Sep 8th. Up to nine males were singing at Martin Down on June 23rd and there were counts of four from both Toyd Down (July 4th) and Old Winchester Hill (July 25th). Three singing males were reported from each of Hill Top, Beaulieu (June 19th), Palestine (June 26th) and Monxton, Andover (June 27th) and ones and twos from another 29 localities.



Young Quail rescued during harvesting, Cholderton Estate, Sep 16th – Henry Edmunds

Annual totals of singing males 1999-2011 are shown below:

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Singing males	12	6/7	4	5	11	15	23	7	12	19	7	10	61

Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

An abundant resident, the naturalised population being supplemented by releases.

Sites where regular monitoring takes place included: Longmoor (seven territories), Lower Test Marshes (1, cf. 6 in 2010), Martin Down (7, cf. 2 in 2010) and Needs Ore (12, cf. 10 in 2010). At Winchester SF the winter maximum was 12, down from 19 in 2010. Autumn counts of at least 150 near Andover and in the Meon valley will have been released birds, as will others of c. 100 at Longparish and Greywell. The BBS showed an occupancy rate of 83% of squares surveyed and 6.2 birds per occupied square. Unusual sightings included one crossing the road outside Endeavour Quay, Gosport in March.

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

A scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

It was the best year ever recorded for this species: easterly movements of 122 in January and an unprecedented westerly movement of 394 from Feb 4th to 7th completely overshadowed a light spring passage and perhaps just 1-3 birds overwintering at either end of the year.

January began with contrary coastal movements at each end of the county, 20 west past Sandy Point (including five out of Chichester Harbour) and 41 east at Hordle Cliff (also 3W there). There was just one east past Hurst Castle and no other records from The Solent which suggests that most of the above concentrated to the south of the Isle of Wight. A count of 30 east past Sandy Point on Jan 3rd included a flock of 13 which got up from the sea. Movements were consistently to the east, thereafter including double figure counts at Hurst on three dates (13, 4th; 12, 25th and 10, 26th). Some presumably settled in The Solent as 17 emerged from the Lymington River area past Hurst on 16th. Further settled counts were recorded on ten dates, mostly ones and twos, but a max. of nine off Hurst Castle from Jan 23rd to 26th. A gale on Feb 4th led to four days of strong south-westerly winds and an unprecedented sequence of increasing westerly daily movements off Hurst/Milford on Sea of three, 27, 146 (AIL, NJM) and 218 (included a flock of 42: CAA, DAT). Comparisons with the day logs at Hengistbury Head and Portland Bill reveals more modest visible movements in Dorset. It suggests that birds were driven off the open sea to the east end of Christchurch Bay and most returned directly to sea. There were two records of birds emerging from The Solent and then flying south-west: a flock of 41 on 6th and a total of 180 on 7th (both included in the total above). Thereafter in winter, there were records of 1-3 on five dates in February and four in early March.

Easterly spring passage totalled 52 on 27 dates between Mar 27th and May 5th. These were mostly singles but there were twos and threes on two and six dates, respectively, and four past Hurst Castle on Apr 10th, five off Sandy Point on 19th and six through Hurst Beach on May 4th.

Westerly autumn passage was light, with the first of just four singles past Milford on Sea on Sep 13th, then Sandy Point on Oct 13th, Needs Ore the next day and Tanners Lane, Lymington on Nov 1st. In the second winter period one was at Hurst Castle/Beach between Nov 12th and Dec 27th (15 dates) but three were present on Dec 10th and 27th, including a juvenile. Reports of singles at Hill Head on Nov 6th (also Dec 9th), Lepe on 20th and Needs Ore on 11th may have referred to one individual. One was reported from Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point on 14 dates between Nov 20th and Dec 21st (two on Nov 23rd). The approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Red-throated Diver	122	397	11	33	14				1	2	4	5

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

A very scarce winter visitor / passage migrant [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber, UKBAP1].

A minimum total of 39 included 27 on spring passage but just one long-stayer in the early year and another in upper Southampton Water at the year end.

One present in Chichester Harbour since Nov 24th 2010 was seen regularly until Feb 12th, and two flew west there on the last date. Elsewhere in January, movements were noted off Hurst on three dates (3W, 17th; 1E, 25th; 4W, 27th) and one was in The Solent off Hill Head on 17th. The only other records of the early year were of one in Hurst Narrows on Mar 6th and again on 30th. Easterly spring passage totalled 27 on 17 dates between Apr 2nd and May 6th; all records were of ones and twos except for four through Hurst Narrows on Apr 20th. Records came from Hurst (19, 14 dates), Sandy Point (9, 5 dates) and one through Stokes Bay on Apr 23rd. There was none in autumn. One at Cracknore Hard, Marchwood on Dec 19th was relocated off Eling/Bury Marshes from Dec 29th until the year end. The only other records were of one off Pennington Marsh on Dec 24th and then, presumably, the same individual flying east off Hurst Castle on 26th. The approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black-throated Diver	5	2	1	19	8							2

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

A scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant [ET, Schedule 1, Amber].

The year total was around 29, the lowest since 2004, and even so was boosted by a small influx in the late year.

One was on the west Solent off Oxy Marsh on Jan 1st, slightly to the east off Tanners Lane on 2nd and, presumably, the same noted between there and Hurst Castle on five further dates until 24th. The only other individual of the early year was in Hayling Bay on Jan 2nd and off Sandy Point on 19th. Spring passage was recorded on 12 dates between Apr 5th and May 24th: all records bar one were of singles (Stokes Bay: 2, Apr 9th): Hurst (7 dates), Stokes Bay (2 dates) and Sandy Point (3 dates). An adult in summer plumage was the first return in Chichester Harbour on Oct 6th and, possibly, the same flew west past Sandy Point on 19th and Stokes Bay on 12th. One was off Sandy Point on Nov 2nd and a summer plumage bird was off Needs Ore on 5th.

There was a small influx of around 11 individuals in the late year. One was regularly present offshore between Lymington and Milford on Sea from Nov 19th until the end of the year, but three were reported on the west Solent on Dec 2nd and two on 4th. Another was regular off Weston Shore and further up Southampton Water from Nov 29th to Dec 28th, while one different was off Netley on Dec 17th and three were there on 24th – at least one of these lingered until 27th. One was in Chichester Harbour entrance on Dec 1st and singles were reported there on six further dates until 23rd. Another was between Stokes Bay and Hill Head on four dates between Dec 6th and 22nd, but three off Chilling on 27th were probably the Netley birds. One was between Lepe and Needs Ore on five dates between Dec 11th and 29th. Singles off Southsea Castle on Dec 13th and Eastney on 16th probably related to the adult and juvenile seen regularly at the Langstone Harbour entrance from Dec 17th to the end of the year. The approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Northern Diver	2			6	7					1	4	11

The annual totals for 1999-2011 of bird-months for diver species are shown below:

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Red-throated Diver	67	79	116	98	128	76	116	217	131	169	340	310	589
Black-throated Diver	16	14	9	15	23	13	24	21	38	26	36	30	37
Great Northern Diver	53	52	52	41	35	19	32	54	54	72	78	56	31

Unidentified diver species not tabulated above included 53 south behind The Needles on Jan 3rd and monthly totals from Sandy Point as follows: January (14E, 21W); February (2E); April-May (13E) and December (1E).

Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis

A scarce passage migrant, most frequent in spring and early autumn [Amber].

A total of 171 was recorded, which was an improvement on the 120 noted in 2010. All but ten of these were recorded at Hurst or Sandy Point.

The first record of the year was one south at Hurst on Jan 3rd, with a further 36 up to mid April including seven west at Hurst on Feb 13th, a total of 13 mainly west off Sandy Point and one off Eastney on Mar 30th. There were then almost daily reports until May 8th including 36 bird-days at Hurst (max. 7W, Apr 29th), 22 at Sandy Point and nine at Stokes Bay/Hill Head. There were just two further reports until the last ten days of May when 33 were recorded including five west at Sandy Point on both May 26th and 28th. There were records on 11 June dates, including six moving west at Sandy Point on 22nd. Numbers then decreased and only twelve were seen between July and December. The peak count in autumn was three at Hurst on Sep 11th. The only record in the last quarter was one off Hurst on Dec 8th. Approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fulmar	2	14	4	49	67	24	5	2	3	0	0	1

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

A rare vagrant [SPEC1, Amber]. (0,23,4)

There were three records of a total of 4-5 birds, including a day count of three – the highest ever in county waters. The first was found exhausted on the tide line at Hill Head on June 13th following a day of stormy weather. It was taken into care but unfortunately died (RHM). **Three** flew south-east at Hurst on Sept 11th (MPM, TJP) with another, or one of the same, seen moving west off there on 12th (GCB, JS).

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

A scarce, but increasing passage migrant, most frequent in spring [SPEC2, Amber].

The annual total of 434 was the highest since 2003 (when 669 were recorded) and included 187 south-east off Hurst on June 18th/19th.

After a single moving east past Sandy Point on Apr 5th, small numbers were noted in mid and late April. There were records on ten dates in May including 12 at Hurst on 5th and 26 there on 26th. A further 26 were seen on June 11th. A peak in numbers occurred around the third week of June when 133 moved south-east at Hurst during the evening of 18th, also 54 south-east there the next day and 39 flew west at Sandy Point on 22nd. Numbers quickly dropped away, with 13 in July, including ten flying west at Sandy Point on 18th, and five singles at Keyhaven/Hurst in September between 7th and 12th – the first records after June 24th. The last record of the year was one found in an Ellisfield, Basingstoke garden on Sep 19th; it was taken into care and safely returned to sea five days later. The approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manx Shearwater	0	0	0	21	94	300	13	0	6	0	0	0

Annual totals of bird-months for 1999-2011 are tabulated below:

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	68	125	686	308	669	192	65	203	209	161	317	304	434

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

A very scarce but regular passage migrant, mostly late summer/autumn [ET, SPEC1, Red, UKBAP1]. (0,135,16)

A total of 15 records was submitted. A minimum of 16 was seen with all recorded at Hurst/ Milford on Sea, except for one at Sandy Point on Aug 7th.

The first were singles on May 28th and 30th. One flew south-west on June 17th. Records of three on July 17th and two on 18th have been assessed as from the same group. August produced a total of six: two west on 2nd, singles off Sandy Point and Hurst on the morning of 7th, one moving south-east on 11th and another north-west on 22nd. Singles were recorded from Sep 10th to 12th (assumed same individual), on 20th and the last on 24th. Monthly bird-day totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Balearic Shearwater	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	6	3	0	0	0

Storm Petrel

Hydrobates pelagicus

A very scarce visitor, usually appearing after autumn gales (1,314,1)

The only record of the year was a single off Hurst Narrows from 1841 to 1858hrs on May 30th (MPM).

Gannet

Morus bassanus

A moderately common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor; scarce but increasing in winter [Amber].

A better than average year that conformed to the usual pattern. High numbers were again recorded in the west Solent and Christchurch Bay in spring and summer, with increasing mid winter records at both ends of the county in the early year, and a high count at Hurst in October.

More than usual were recorded in the first four months of the year – a count of 260 flying west past Sandy Point on Jan 15th being particularly noteworthy. There were also twelve double-figure counts there including 60 on Feb 1st. The best count at Hurst was 63 flying west on Feb 6th.

At Hurst 385 moved east ahead of rain on June 17th. Numbers then built to a peak around mid July with 334 off Hurst on 15th and 60 off Sandy Point on 21st. Additional high counts at Hurst in August included 199 on 1st, 178 on 7th and 221 on 14th. Numbers dropped away as the autumn progressed although there was an isolated count of 434 flying south at Hurst on Oct 23rd. At the end of the year the only double-figure counts were 15 off Hurst on Nov 1st and 14 there on Dec 26th.

Between Gilkicker Point and Hill Head there were four double-figure counts (max. 30, Aug 11th). Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below, followed by the 1999-2011 annual county totals, again based on monthly maxima at the main sites:

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point/Hayling Bay	260	60	9	16	14	26	60	20	50	23	2	10
Gilkicker-Hill Head	0	0	0	10	9	10	5	30	8	5	0	0
Hurst/Milford/Barton on Sea	20	63	4	46	119	385	334	221	71	43	15	14

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Gannet	835	997	3336	875	1227	1608	1918	1065	2800	1876	1680	1206	2345

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

A moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. A very scarce breeder since 2006 [Green].

High numbers persisted in the early winter in the Avon valley, with a new county record of 450 at a night roost at Avon on Jan 18th when a further 50 roosted at Kingfisher Lake, Ringwood. These exceptional numbers in the Avon valley were feeding by day on large fish shoals in Poole Bay off Southbourne, Dorset. Numbers were around 20% lower in the late winter period. Monthly maxima from regularly watched sites where counts exceeded 30 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	44	15	13	15	12	8	7	7	15	25	26	53	38	34
Portsmouth Harbour	43	38	31	22	24						17	59	60	39
Titchfield Haven*			26	29	24	4	3	7	26	25	20	30	6	35
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes			13	16	6	5	4	7	9	19	13	11	15	31
Dibden-Calshot	88	64	34	19	11	2	1	10	33	53	42	118	43	80
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood			450	16	7						30	9	10	29
Avon: Ringwood-Bickton	139	263	31	126	168						77	51	118	55
Blashford Lakes	266	272	60	193	269	50		28	107	100	97	108	227	115
Testwood Lakes			2	7	1						4	1	31	17
Test: Fishlake Meadows*	78	2	84	21	20	16			10		63	49	6	74
Alresford Pond	28	41	45	26	7	4	0		13	19	26	22	22	15
Eversley GP			45	16	50	14			7	10	3	20	33	52
Fleet Pond*	85		50	54	40			11	14	30	32	60	70	72
Heath Pond, Petersfield											1	5	32	63
WeBS count totals	920	892	867	669	747	82	26	73	196	166	411	687	731	724

* Denotes mostly nocturnal roost counts.

Other peak counts of 20 or more were recorded at: Alresford Pond (45, Jan 9th); Lymington/Hurst (30, Sep 22nd) and Bramshill Police College Lake (30, Oct 24th).

Addition 2010: Annual max. at Fleet Pond was 45 in February.

Shag

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

Following the normal pattern, numbers built up from late summer into autumn, with relatively high numbers between Hurst Point and Barton on Sea and a gathering of up to 30 off Sandy Point.

In May, a flock of 12 flew east through Stokes Bay, while around six remained in the Hurst-Barton on Sea area. Easterly movements off Sandy Point in autumn included 12 on Sep 4th, 20 on Oct 12th and 30 on 23rd. Off Hurst there were peaks of 12 on Sep 23rd, nine from Oct 24th to 26th and a year max. of 18 on Dec 16th. Monthly maxima from sites with regular reports are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	2	1				1	1	1	1		12	30	1	
Langstone Harbour							1		1		1		1	2
Southsea Castle	3	2		1							1		1	3
Southampton Water			1	1	1									1
Hurst Castle-Barton on Sea			2	3	4	5	6	9	7	17	12	11	4	18

The approximate monthly county totals are shown below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shag	4	4	5	6	19	10	9	17	26	41	7	24

Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

A very scarce but regular winter visitor [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP4, HBAP].

After 304 reports in 2010, 2011 produced 338. At least 27 individuals were present in January and six in a far milder December. As usual, reports were concentrated at the three main reedbed sites, generating 163 reports from Blashford Lakes, 58 from Testwood Lakes HWT and 36 from Titchfield Haven HCC. Blashford had a typical spread of sightings from Jan 1st to Mar 16th, then none until Nov 17th to Dec 31st. There were reports from an additional 17 localities scattered across the county. One apparently took up residence in a Bedhampton garden from late February until Mar 7th; it was probably the individual seen arriving at Bedhampton stream on Jan 31st. The last of the early year was seen to fly north away from Titchfield Haven on Mar 31st. The first return was at Fawley Refinery on Oct 15th – the only record of the month. All records are summarised below (singles unless stated otherwise):

- Blashford Lakes: 1-2, Jan 1st-Mar 16th (3, Jan 17th and 25th; 4, Jan 26th); Nov 17th-Dec 31st; 2, Dec 4th, 12th and 28th.
- Titchfield Haven: 1-2, Jan 1st-Mar 31st; Nov 7th-30th, 1-2, Dec 7th-31st.
- Fishlake Meadows, Romsey: Jan 2nd-18th; Feb 6th; Dec 19th.
- Hook-with-Warsash: Jan 3rd-Mar 11th (2, Jan 29th); Feb 18th.
- Bisterne/Wattons Ford, Avon valley: at least one present throughout January-February with 2, Feb 14th.
- Boldre, NF: Jan 5th.
- Eversley GP: Jan 31st.
- Testwood Lakes: 1-2, Jan 9th-Mar 13th (3, Jan 18th, Feb 9th, Mar 6th; 4, Feb 14th; 5, Jan 30th, Feb 13th, 20th); Dec 14th.
- Winnall Moors, Winchester: Jan 13th, Feb 16th and Mar 8th.
- Avon Water, Keyhaven: Jan 18th; Feb 26th; Mar 12th.
- Leckford, Test valley: Jan 18th.
- Somerley Estate, Avon valley: Jan 19th, Feb 4th; Mar 6th.
- Bransbury, Test valley: Jan 20th.
- Brownwich Pond: Jan 21st-Feb 24th.
- Fawley Refinery: Jan 22nd; Oct 15th; Nov 12th; Dec 10th.
- Bedhampton stream and garden, Langstone Harbour: between Jan 31st and Mar 7th.
- The Millfield, Old Basing: January.
- Alresford Pond: Nov 6th; Dec 11th.

The following totals for each month have been estimated:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bittern	28	16	11							1	4	6

Cattle Egret

Bubuculus ibis

A rare vagrant. (0,21,4)

There were records from five localities, two overwintering, then singles in early spring and three August arrivals including one long-stayer into 2012. It is conceivable that just two individuals were involved in these sightings, but it is assumed here that six different birds were involved, of which four were new in year. Two first seen at Ashford, near Fordingbridge on Dec 31st 2010 (q.v. HBR 2010) were reported on Jan 1st then regularly from Feb 17th to Mar 2nd. One flew into Needs Ore on Mar 29th but was seen to fly north-east ten minutes later (NRJ), then again seen in flight on Apr 5th (NOTG). Another, first reported briefly on the saltmarsh at The Kench on Aug 2nd (REF), was possibly the long-staying individual at Chichester Harbour. It was at Thorney Island, West Sussex from Aug 14th and not recorded in the county again until located in a field with cattle close to Warblington Church from Dec 18th into 2012 (RJC *et al.*). There were two other August records: one at Tichborne Down, New Alresford on 8th/9th (CRCt, R&HC) and another at Avon Causeway on Aug 23rd (ACJ) which was seen to fly into the county from the Dorset side of the Avon valley.



Cattle Egret, Warblington, Dec 19th – Richard Ford

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

A moderately common winter visitor, passage migrant and scarce but increasing breeder since 1998 [ET, Amber, HBAP].

The peak count of the year was 198 at Langstone Pond night roost on Sep 14th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded ten are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	162	20	15	18	41	15	17	27	40	56	127	205	121	41
East Hayling	56	5	2	3	17	1	2	16	16	20	42	98	47	9
Langstone Pond roost					42	53			42	157	198	100	132	
Langstone Harbour	63	8	8	10	21	18	9	19	25	65	98	109	58	37
Portsmouth Harbour	37	14	15	11	32	10	13	8	20	40	38	83	51	28
Hamble Estuary	16	2	2	3	5	3	3	7	15	26	19	13	8	7
Weston Shore					7		6	7	12	19	13	10		14
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	14	6	13	5	4	7	9	4	18	15	14	14	10	5
Dibden Bay-Calshot	9	7	12	4	5	1	2	2	3	5	8	10	3	2
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	8	3	1	1	5	7	7	10	21	19	25	23	7	7
Lymington-Hurst	31	19	21	16	18	13	12	18	16	56	69	56	36	17
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	15	2	7	3	7						3	26	14	5
Blashford Lakes	14		10		5				1			27	33	30
Itchen: Allington GP	22	6	18	21	18								23	37
WeBS count totals	321	86	135	117	159	53	48	91	127	207	323	473	331	212

Records of note not included above were at: Burgate Manor Farm, Fordingbridge (12, Jan 17th); Testwood Lakes (12, July 30th; 10, Sep 10th); Pylewell Lake, Lymington (11, Oct 17th); Broadlands Estate (29, Nov 20th); Testbourne Lake (10, Dec 15th) and 46 to roost at Arlebury Lakes on Dec 21st. The following table of probable breeding pairs withholds the name of most localities at the landowners' request:

Breeding pairs	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Fort Elson, Gosport	2	5	11	11	15	23	25	30	35	55	50	15	12	26
Site A		1	4	2	4	8	5	3	2	10	10	5	nr	nr
Site B							3	21	23	16	15	10	8	7
Site C								1	2	2	2	1	nr	nr
Site D										4	10	13	10	12
Alice Holt Forest												3	3	5
Total	2	6	15	13	19	31	33	55	62	87	87	47	33	50

Breeding data have not been received from two sites in 2010/11. At one site both young and adults were subject to predation from Buzzards. The only reported coastal movement was 13 west at Sandy Point on Oct 2nd.

Great White Egret

Ardea alba

A very scarce visitor, recorded in every month [ET]. (0,34,4)

In addition to the regular wintering bird at least one other was seen in the first winter period. In the late year, there were a further seven records on six dates including one of two birds. On two dates singles were seen in two different localities but times suggest that only one bird was present on each date. How many different birds were involved? Possibly just three but until other individuals establish a regular returning pattern, it is perhaps best to assume six different of which four were new to the county list.

One located on the Test at Mottisfont on Dec 31st 2010 remained there on Jan 1st but was not reported subsequently. Possibly the same individual was 20 km NNE on a Test tributary, the Dever, at Weston Colley, Micheldever on 18th (GTn). The colour-ringed bird of French origin, overwintering for its eighth year, was recorded regularly in the Harbridge-Somerley-Blashford Lakes area until last seen on Feb 11th. This typical departure date was matched by an equally predictable return date on Aug 6th at Ibsley Water and it was reported on 35 further dates until Dec 15th but not thereafter.

Along the West Solent singles were reported in flight at Needs Ore on July 27th (AWe) and Aug 18th (MRa). One was at Avon Water, Keyhaven on Sep 12th (SPP) and two were reported leaving the reedbed there, heading east at 1030 hrs on 30th (RAC) before flying over Pennington Lane (MLj) and proceeding east. On Sep 16th one was found perched in a tree near the Bourne tributary of the Test above Longparish (GCE, photo). Finally, on Dec 3rd one flew down the Meon valley at 1025 hours and rested at the Titchfield Haven reserve (GCB) until midday at least; at 1548 hrs, presumably the same bird, was seen in flight over the Broadlands estate on the lower Test (JANo).

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

A moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 were as follows:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	18	6	5	1	1	6	2	5	5	13	18	21	12	10
Portsmouth Harbour			31	2	8	1	7	4			8	14	13	7
Dibden Bay-Calshot	12	8	29	41	10	13	3	1	14	5	5	13	9	3
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	106	45	79	43	46	22		45		42	48	33	19	63
Blashford Lakes	14	4	7	4	5	7		14	38	26	14	40	8	8
Test: Fishlake Meadows	14	20	24	22	20	3	17		44		12	27	1	14
WeBS count totals	262	132	252	157	149	54	16	47	97	63	169	202	137	198

Other notable counts were: Testbourne Lake (11, Feb 16th); Sowley Pond (14, Mar 24th); Fobdown, Alresford (30, July 19th); Avington Lake (16, July 21st); The Vyne WM (11, Aug 10th) and Romsey WM (22, Aug 30th).

Counts from the Heronry Census for 2003-2011 are tabulated below (nests):

Heronry Census (nests)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Tournerbury, Hayling Island	11-13	18	9-12	6-12	8-16	4-10	10	nc	nc
Fort Elson, Gosport	83-87	85	40-60	40-60	40-60	44-50	51-52	46	44
Fawley Refinery	15	0	nc	7-14	nc	2-5	nc	nc	nc
Sowley Pond	8	12	15	8	11	10	10	11	14
Efford	7	5	5	6	5	6	8	nc	nc
Somerley Park	11	3-5	15-18	12-18	10-18	8-10	3-10	9	11
Midgham Wood, Avon valley	42	23-42	28-47	35-50	30-50	30-55	61-80	nc	45*
Arlebury Park	8-12	14	6-8	6-8	6	6	6	5	nc
Elvetham	23	25	15-25	15-25	12-20	15	15	nc	15-21
Fleet Pond	2	3	6	5	7-8	6	5	10	11
Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt	12	14	9	5-15	3	6	7-8	nc	6
Kettlesbrook, Steep	2	2	3	0	2	0	0	nc	nc
Total	224-234	204-225	151-208	145-213	147-199	145-179	176-204	81	101-122

* Fledged young

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 11 1 5 nc 16 17 14 71 120 **56** 14 4.

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

A very rare vagrant. (0,10,1)

One was first reported near Fritham, NF on Apr 10th and just north of Brockenhurst on 11th (D&JH *et al.*). Presumably, the same was seen thermalling at Acres Down, NF at 1012 hrs on Apr 15th (NJH) before heading west where it was relocated in Sluflters Inclosure, NF (KFB, photo). It was then seen from a number of localities in the New Forest up to Apr 22nd (m.o.) as far west as Ibsley Common and, finally, in the east at Denny Wood. This was the first since one near Petersfield in July 2007 and is only the third county record since 1995.



Black Stork, Sluflters Inclosure NF, Apr 15th – Richard Ford

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

A very rare vagrant [ET, SPEC3]. (2,32,1)

There was one accepted record; a second remains under review. One was found at 1120 hrs on Oct 21st feeding on the floods at Titchfield Haven (JRD&KVS, photo). It was reported on the two following days. By recent standards this was a poor year (cf. 22, 2010).

Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

A scarce visitor, most frequent in spring and autumn but recorded in every month [ET, SPEC2, Schedule 1, Amber]. (20+,244,14)

There were at least six in spring and twelve in autumn: allowing for returns the annual total was around 14. The first of the year, a 3rd/4th year, was at Farlington Marshes from Mar 24th until Apr 2nd. Two adults and a second calendar year bird were at Oxey Creek, Normandy on Apr 3rd, then another flew east over Hill Head on 9th. A second calendar year bird was at Needs Ore on Apr 10th. Perhaps the Hill Head bird was nearby at Posbrook Floods on Apr 14th where it was noted as colour-ringed at Coto Doñana, Spain in 2007; it was seen again at Lower Test Marshes from 15th to 17th. On Apr 17th four were at Pitts Deep, Lymington. On May 1st one crossed The Solent to Hill Head heading east and was seen successively at Stokes Bay (0635 hrs), Southsea Castle (0650 hrs) and later at Sandy Point. Two were reported at Needs Ore on May 3rd; then both an adult and sub-adult reported singly there on eight dates until July 7th when two adults and two immatures arrived and were regularly reported until 27th. Elsewhere, one was at Tanners Lane, Lymington on May 8th, three at Testwood Lakes on June 19th and an immature flew up off the Lymington river, then east on July 4th – the latter perhaps one of those seen regularly at Needs Ore from 7th.

August reports were of five at Needs Ore on 14th, two resting on the Langstone Harbour islands on 17th and two (adult, 3rd/4th year) east over Keyhaven Marsh early on 27th. In September, five were again reported at Need Ore on 10th, three (the last there) on 14th, five at Keyhaven lagoon and one at Normandy on 15th, six south-west past Hurst spit on 16th; the dates suggest the same group was involved in all sightings. All other reports were of singles: one crossed Chichester Harbour on Sep 22nd and flew north-west across Hayling Island; one roosted at Keyhaven; an adult was on the saltmarsh off Pennington Marsh on Oct 13th and the last soared over Ringwood, drifting down the Avon valley on 28th.

Monthly totals are tabulated below followed by estimated annual totals 1999-2011:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Spoonbill			1	6	4	4	4	9	8	2			
Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Estimate	4	9	29	18	11-14	4-6	8-11	13	16	22	27	24	14

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

A moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber].

Counts of five or more were recorded at 55 localities. The highest counts of the year were 77 at Blashford Lakes in September and 76 at Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 12th. Elsewhere, notable site maxima were 32 at the Broadlands Estate on Sep 18th; then 39 between Lymington and Hurst on Nov 12th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated opposite.

Notable site maxima elsewhere were: IBM Lake, Portsmouth (12, Feb 21st); Testbourne Lake (17, Aug 17th); Beaulieu estuary (12, Sep 20th); Marsh Court, Test (15, Oct 17th); Stratfield Saye (15, Oct 19th); Lakeside Holiday Village, Hayling (14, Oct 30th) and Avon valley (Ringwood to Fordingbridge: 20, Oct 23rd and Nov 27th).

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	24	18	30	24	19	7	7	3	7	10	7	17	25	24
Portsmouth Harbour	52	41	58	64	52						16	28	76	47
Riverside Park, So'ton			15	21	15							4	6	8
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes			26	10	7							4	12	20
Lymington-Hurst	33	31	17	12	14		2	2	4	4	22	1	39	30
Blashford Lakes	28	12	11	35	40	25		26	45		77	55	56	28
Test: Broadlands Estate/Romsey	26	11	21	12	11	11					32	31		15
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	31	35	49	26	26	11	12	11	17	21	47	57	36	33
Grange Lakes	7+	6+	23	6+	6+		4+	4	2+	4+	5+	22	16	26
WeBS count totals	333	252	343	291	270	100	42	71	108	83	264	365	392	379

At Blashford Lakes breeding was successful at Ibsley North, Ibsley Water, Mockbeggar North, Ellingham and Ivy lakes with young reared on at least four waters. Breeding data are tabulated below. Breeding data often lacked details of pairs present (hence marked as '+') and undoubtedly were far from complete. Possible breeding occurred at a further two sites.

Breeding pairs	Total	Breeding pairs	Total	Breeding pairs	Total
Coast		Test valley and North-west		Avington Lake	2
Milton Reclam./Hilsea Lines	2*	Timsbury Lake, Romsey	1*	Itchen Abbas	1
Southsea	1*	Bossington, near Mottisfont,	1*	Ovington	1+
IBM Lake, Portsmouth	3*	Horsebridge	1*	Alresford Pond	1*
Frater, Portsmouth Harbour	1	Laverstoke-Leckford	3*	Grange Lakes, Northington	3
Titchfield Haven	3	Testbourne Lake	2+*	East/North-east	
Hook-with-Warsash	1*	Tufton	1	Bramley Corner, Basingstoke	1
Southampton Common	2*	Westover Farm, Anton valley	2	Cufaude, Basingstoke	1*
Badminton GP, NF	1	Harewood Forest	1	Welshman's Road GP	1*
Beaulieu estuary	2+*	Barton Stacey, Dever valley	1	Bidden Water, Greywell	1
Keyhaven/Pennington	3+	Ashe-Overton	2	Dogmersfield Lake	1+
Avon valley		Itchen valley		Bramshill	1
Blashford Lakes	5+*	Bishops Waltham	1*	Nursted, Petersfield	1
Ringwood-Ibsley	4	Itchen Valley CP	2*	Foley Manor, Liphook	1*
Lockerley	3*	Marwell Activity Centre Lake	1	Frith End SP	1*
		College Meadows, Winchester	1*	Bourley	2*

* Successful breeding recorded.

Amendment 2010. Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: **26 39 55** 15 23 30 37 48 **42 66 28 12**.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

A moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Counts of ten or more were recorded at 19 localities. The highest count was 167 on Jan 3rd between Hill Head and Brownwich. At Fleet Pond numbers built up from 26 on Oct 8th to a new site maximum of **47** on 30th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour			11	19	21	13	6	6	9	1	2	23	50	30
Hampshire Sectors			4	9	9	7	6	3	9	1		7	33	30
Langstone Harbour	73	29	44	42	17	28	18	5	20	59	80	75	55	53
Portsmouth Harbour	5	39	25	24	14		1	2	1		15	10	25	48
Hill Head-Brownwich	15	189	167	56	17	4	1	5	5		2	9	2	45
Southampton Water	47	52	41	25	28	6		1	14	7	8	26	30	55
Beaulieu Estuary	6	6	23	28	1	4						5	11	14
Blashford Lakes	45	13	22	39	47	60	21	42	42	25	56	55	47	25
Eversley GP	13	6	13	22	17	14	3		15	17	30	15	8	10
Yateley GP	17	8	7	15	18			26		16	10	9	8	8
Fleet Pond	27		14	13	13	12	9	9	10	23	31	47	37	25
WeBS count totals	297	312	306	301	235	140	34	88	94	101	245	284	236	318

Notable counts at sites not shown in this table included: Testwood Lakes (10, Mar 13th and Dec 18th); Wellington CP (17, Mar 16th); Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (20, Oct 15th) and Broadlands Lake, Romsey (11, Oct 15th).

Preliminary courtship display was observed at Lakeside, Eastleigh from Feb 11th and young were seen at Ewhurst Park as early as Mar 6th. All breeding data reported are tabulated below:

Locality	PP	PAB	PS	YR	Locality	PP	PAB	PS	YR
IBM Lake, Portsmouth	2	2	0		Lakeside, Eastleigh	2	1	1	1
Southwick	1				Itchen valley CP	1	1	1	1
Titchfield Haven	1	1	1	2	Winchester SF	1	1	0	
Testwood Lakes	1	1	1	3	The Vyne WM	1	1	1	
Marchwood GP	1				Heath Pond, Petersfield	1	1	0	
Avon valley above Ringwood	4	4	2	3	Dogmersfield Lake	1	1	1	4
Blashford Lakes	9+	9+	6+		Tundry Pond	1	1	1	
Rooksbury Mill, Andover	2	2	2	4	Lodge Pond, Alice Holt Incl.	1	1	1	
Fishlake Meadows, Romsey	1				Eversley GP	3	3	3	6
Mottisfont	1	1	1	6	Yateley GP	12	12	5	11
Ewhurst Park	3	3	1+	2	Camp Farm GP, Aldershot	1	1	1	2
Highwood Reservoir	1	1	1	1					

PP = pairs present; PAB = pairs attempting breeding; PS = pairs successful; YR = young raised.

Breeding data were far from complete and observers are again asked to supply notes indicating the various status categories above. Birds displayed at Fleet and Sowley Ponds but breeding conditions were not suitable at the former (GCS) and no evidence was supplied for the latter site.

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 20 **25** 41 50 53 27 54 78 104 **89 45 13**.



Displaying Great Crested Grebes – David Thelwell

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

A very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

There were eight records, of which six were in the early and two in the late year. Probably three individuals were involved in early year sightings; there was one long-stayer both in the early and late years at Chichester Harbour/Hayling Bay.

Two were located on Jan 1st: one distantly off Hurst Beach in Christchurch Bay (SI, GH-D *et al.*) and one off West Hayling LNR (MFW*e*). On Jan 3rd, one flew in from the west along Hurst Beach (RAC) and landed in Hurst Narrows (MPM) where possibly the same was recorded on 16th (MPM). One was recorded between Chichester Harbour entrance and variously along Hayling Bay to Eastoke on thirteen dates between Jan 17th and Mar 8th (ACJ *et al.*).

In the late year, one was again at Chichester Harbour entrance on Nov 11th and later seen there from Dec 4th to 24th (ACJ *et al.*). The only other record was one off Weston Shore on Nov 14th/15th (ARCo, IRW).

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

A typical first winter period but numbers were below average in the late year. Monthly maxima from the main sites and approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point/Hayling Bay	6	5	16	3	3		1					1	1	4
Stokes Bay/Hill Head		1	1											5
Weston Shore			1	1									1	1
Lepe/Needs Ore		2	4	8	2								1	2
Sowley/Lymington			1	1	1									
Lymington/Hurst	5	8	7	6	4	2							2	6
Approx. monthly totals	12	20	32	19	10	2	1					1	7	19

In January, at Chichester Harbour, up to four were regularly present but there was an isolated peak of 16 on 17th. In the west Solent, there was a max. of seven off Oxey Creek on Jan 16th and eight off Needs Ore on Feb 14th. Away from the main sites, two were at Hamble estuary on Jan 22nd and one between Tanners Lane and Sowley Shore (four dates, Jan 2nd-Mar 20th). The last records of the early year were two approaching summer plumage off Pennington Marsh on Apr 4th; one briefly on the sea at Hurst Narrows on 8th before returning west and a late summer-plumaged bird at Hayling Bay on May 4th.

The first returns were off Sandy Point on Oct 30th, Weston Shore on Nov 5th and Hurst Spit on Nov 16th. In December there were counts of four at Chichester Harbour on 1st, Stokes Bay on 13th and on six dates off Pennington Marsh (six on 2nd). Away from the main sites, two were off Broadmarsh, Langstone Harbour on Nov 30th and one on Dec 10th and 12th.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred most recently in 2004 [Schedule 1, Amber].

There were reports from nine localities but none summered. Monthly maxima from the main sites and approximate monthly totals are shown below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Hbr/Hayling Bay			1	4	4								1	1
Langstone Harbour	13	6	24	11	5							1	4	12
Fawley/Needs Ore	1	2	2	3									2	3
Ibsley Water/Blashford			1	2	3				1	1	1	1	1	2
Approx. monthly totals	20	12	29	21	12	3			1	1	1	2	8	18

The Langstone Harbour overwintering flock increased to 23/24 on Jan 1st/2nd, an isolated peak as the only other early year double-figure count was 11 on Feb 20th; the last there was a report of five on Mar 19th. There were reports on seven dates in the early year from Hayling Bay/Chichester Harbour entrance, mainly of singles but two on Feb 27th and four off Eastoke on Feb 20th and Mar 8th. One was off Pennington Marsh on Jan 4th and Feb 8th, the only records of the year there. One was off Calshot between Jan 19th and 27th and, presumably, the same off Fawley on 21st and 23rd. Three were nearby at the Beaulieu estuary on Feb 20th. Three off Hill Head on Apr 14th were the last of the early year.

Inland the only reports were from Ibsley Water: just one in January, but two from Feb 13th, three confirmed on Mar 4th and the last of the early year, one on 23rd. The first return there was one on July 24th, then seen regularly until the year end. Two were present on Dec 18th.

Along the coast, the first return was one at Langstone Harbour off West Hayling LNR on Oct 29th. There was just one double-figure count there of 12 on Dec 10th. Elsewhere, the only arrivals were one off Weston Shore on Nov 14th, two at Needs Ore on 27th (3, Dec 27th) and one at Hayling Bay on 28th.

The annual totals 1999-2011 of bird-months for the scarcer grebes are shown below:

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Red-necked Grebe	12	8	11	9	13	7	8	11	7	6	8	10	9
Slavonian Grebe	87	89	120	116	84	79	81	61	80	87	104	98	90
Black-necked Grebe	112	106	137	136	119	124	122	136	149	113	87	158	96

Honey-buzzard
Pernis apivorus

A very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant (ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP).

The first record of the year was of one coming in over Fawley on Apr 27th; following this there were only another five records relating to spring passage including one seen in the north of the county on May 4th and singles on 15th over Itchen Valley CP and Hurst Beach.

The species monitoring group within the county recorded a minimum of 17 individuals summering – a drop on the previous high of 28 for 2010. Breeding was proven at six sites with a minimum of seven young being raised from five successful nests. One nest failed with two small young in it.

Autumn passage records were received from Northney on Sep 11th and the last from Lepe on Sep 19th.

Black Kite
Milvus migrans

A rare vagrant [ET, SPEC3] (0,25,3)

Singles were seen flying north-east over Ibsley North GP on Apr 25th (SPP, MJHI), associating with a Red Kite over East Tisted on Apr 28th (GLy), and near Broadlands, Romsey on May 29th (MRa).

Red Kite
Milvus milvus

An increasing visitor and scarce breeder that is becoming more frequent due to the presence of a self-sustaining breeding population in southern England [ET, SPEC 2, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

A total of 21 pairs was known to have nested: eleven of these were monitored closely and reared at least 23 young. One pair hatched a brood of four chicks, but two died before fledging.

The main concentration in the north-west probably continued to grow. It was noticeable that birds made a further spread eastwards within 2km of the Surrey border. Meanwhile, numbers continued to spread in the Test and Meon valleys. The actual number of breeding pairs was

perhaps around 45-50, with a substantial population of at least 100 additional first-year birds that were often noticed well away from any known breeding areas. Such sightings came from the New Forest, Southampton and Portsmouth, particularly during the spring.

Four of the five birds fitted with radio transmitters in 2010 were detected into the spring, three of them having already moved to the Chilterns just weeks after their birth. They survived the coldest winter in 100 years but, sadly, one was then found shot in Buckinghamshire in June and died in care. There were few local sightings of our other wing-tagged birds although a 2009 bird was found long dead in North Yorkshire on Jan 14th. Of the 2010 juveniles, one was at Doddington, Kent on Mar 21st and another was at Beachy Head, East Sussex on Apr 8th. This demonstrates how young birds travel widely in their first two years although research has shown that many return to their natal area when mature enough to breed.

Four roosts were monitored over the 2010/2011 winter. A first-year carrying wing tags from the East Midlands ringing study was at Hare Warren on Jan 8th. Monthly maxima were as follows:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Facombe	57	90+	25	35										25
Hare Warren	29	6	45	37								41	51	83
Meon valley	4	6	12	3									14	
West End Green	25	24	10	3									18	19

The annual numbers of records submitted from 2000-2011 were as follows:

Records	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*	2009	2010*	2011*
No. of records	103	80	85	159	135	153	335	384	612	756	1240	1128

* 2008, 2010 and 2011 totals include Atlas records.

White-tailed Eagle

Haliaeetus albicilla

A very rare vagrant. (11,2,0)

The juvenile seen over Sandy Point and Titchfield Haven on Dec 12th 2010 was re-discovered on farmland in the Hordle area on Jan 1st (RBW *et al.*); it remained in the area until Feb 12th arousing local and national interest. The same individual then reappeared between Old Basing and Newnham on Feb 23rd (NMGB *et al.*), and continued to frequent the general area until Mar 24th. Again it spent most of its time on farmland, frequently perching up for long periods.

Interestingly, there were no records for the 19 days in Dec 2010 between its original finding and subsequent rediscovery, when it was presumably somewhere in the county, and also for its 11-day wander between Hordle and Basingstoke. The same individual was then seen in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk from Apr 3rd but finally settled at Ruckland, Lincs from Apr 23rd until Aug 7th.



Juvenile White-tailed Eagle, Newnham, Old Basing, Feb 24th – Richard Ford

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

A scarce visitor, most frequent in spring and autumn but increasingly in mid winter; has bred once, in 1957 [ET, Schedule 1, Amber].

Fewer records were received than in 2010 with February being a particularly poor month. As usual, most records were from coastal localities. Spring passage was noted from Mar 24th to May 17th and involved 11 individuals including one well inland at Toyd Down. Gauging county

totals in winter is difficult as birds seem to have extensive territories and west Solent birds may cross to the Isle of Wight. All records are summarised below:

- Chichester Harbour (Hants)/Sandy Point*: male, Jan 3rd; 1, Jan 9th; ad. male NE, Mar 24th; female E, May 1st; female SW over sea, May 17th.
- Farlington Marshes*: male, Jan 1st; 1, Jan 2nd, 3rd & 22nd; juv., Mar 3rd; 1, Apr 29th; 2nd cal.-yr N, May 4th; juv., July 26th, perhaps the same Aug 15th & 30th; ad. male, Sep 1st; female/imm., Sep 2nd & 16th; 2, Sep 28th; 2, Oct 28th; 1, Nov 1st; ad. female, Nov 4th; female/imm., Nov 7th & 10th & 14th & 20th; 2, Nov 13th; 1, Dec 11th & 28th.
- Titchfield Haven/Hill Head*: imm. male, N Jan 2nd, 6th & 8th; female/imm., Jan 5th/6th; female, Jan 20th, 23rd, ad. male Jan 21st, 23rd, 29th; female/imm., Mar 18th & 25th; male, Apr 8th; female E, May 1st; imm. male, May 8th; female/imm., Sep 5th, 17th, 28th; 1, Oct 8th; 2, Oct 20th; female/imm., on 13 dates between Oct 23rd and Dec 12th.
- Hook-with-Warsash*: juv. E, Jan 5th; juv. E, Mar 5th/6th; female/imm. NE, May 3rd.
- Calshot*: female, Jan 29th; female, Oct 8th.
- Needs Ore*: ad. female, 2 imm. females, Jan 4th; singles on 14 dates until Apr 29th including ad. male, Mar 22nd; singles on 18 dates from Sep 16th; ad. male, female, Nov 15th; ad. female, imm. female Nov 19th & Dec 4th & 29th; 3, immature females, Dec 27th.
- Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes*: 1 female, eight dates Jan 3rd-22nd, possibly same Feb 8th, Mar 4th and Mar 16th; 1, Apr 8th; juv., Aug 19th.
- Keyhaven Harbour/Avon floods*: 1 ad. female/imm. 25 dates between Aug 29th and Dec 31st; ad. female + imm., Dec 2nd; 2 ad. females, Dec 11th & 2, Dec 18th.
- Hurst Beach/Castle*: imm. over, Apr 25th; female N, male E, May 4th.
- Test valley: Fishlake Meadows*: male, Mar 22nd; female, Mar 24th; female/immature S, Nov 11th; *Romsey* 1S over, Apr 3rd; *Mottisfont*: 1, Apr 14th; *Bransbury Common*, male, May 12th.
- Itchen Valley CP*: juv., Sep 28th; female/immature, Nov 9th.

Localities with birds recorded on single dates were: Pig Bush, NF (1, Feb 3rd); Portsmouth Harbour RN base (ad. male NE, Apr 19th); Toyd Down (male W, Apr 22nd); Newlands Farm, Fareham (1 E, Apr 29th); Redbridge then Lower Test Marshes (female, May 2nd); Godshill, NF (female/immature, Aug 12th); Portsdown Hill (female E, Aug 18th); Roydon Woods, NF (female/imm. W, Oct 2nd); Miles Hill, Fleet (female/imm. W, Oct 2nd); Alresford Pond (female/imm., Nov 3rd) and Cadman's Pool, NF (1 NE, Dec 6th). Unusually, included above are four records from the New Forest. Monthly minimum totals based on sexing/aging are tabulated below; the cumulative county total is an upper limit on county numbers as many individuals were presumably moving between sites:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes			1		1	1	1		1	1	3	2	2	1
Titchfield Haven			3		1	1	2				1	2	1	1
Beaulieu estuary			3	1	1	1					1	1	3	4
Lymington/Hurst			1	1	1	2	2			1	1	1	1	3
Other localities			3	1	4	5	3			2	2	3	3	1
Cumulative county total	6	8	11	3	8	10	8		1	4	8	9	10	10

Addition 2010: First-summer male south at Woolmer Pond on Mar 27th; female at Fleet Pond on May 2nd; female/immature north-west at Miles Hill, Fleet on Sep 18th; female/immature south at Fleet Pond on Sep 25th.

Corrections 2010: Fishlake Meadows, Sep 10th not 19th; Avon valley (Somerley), Dec 7th not 9th.

Hen Harrier

A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP].

Circus cyaneus

This species accounted for 310 reports on the database including 171 from the New Forest. Inevitably, there was some duplication from the well watched areas. Monthly totals for the New Forest and other principal localities are shown in the table opposite.

The results from the NFWBS were as follows: 10, Jan 22nd/23rd; 7, Feb 19th/20th; 9, Mar 19th/20th; 0, Oct 22nd/23rd; 8, Nov 26th/27th and 5, Dec 17th/18th. In the Winchester area, a

male was at Longwood Warren on Apr 2nd and a ringtail regularly there from Oct 20th to Dec 23rd, with others at Farley Mount and Owslebury. Sightings in the New Alresford area relate to the regular roost at Alresford Pond. There were just twelve April records – the last being seen at Needs Ore on 11th. October records totalled 14, with the first arrival at Ibsley Common, NF on 4th.

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest/Black Gutter	3	2	5	1	2		2	3	2
New Forest/elsewhere	4	4	4	5	4	2	1	5	3
Avon valley	1	1	2						1
Bransbury Common		1	2	1	1		1	1	1
Ashley Warren area	1		2						1
Woolmer Forest	2	1	1	2	2		1	1	2
Old Winchester Hill/Beacon Hill area	1	1	2	1	1			1	1
Alresford Pond roost	1	3	3	2	2			1	5
Minimum numbers elsewhere	2	6	2	8	3	3	4	5	7
Minimum county totals	15	19	22	21	15	6	10	17	23

Coastal records were particularly light. In the early year, a ringtail hunted the Langstone Harbour islands (Jan 5th, 9th, 20th and Feb 8th/9th) and a male was there on Jan 23rd; a ringtail was at Tanners Lane, Lymington on Feb 1st and nearby at Pennington Marsh on Feb 18th and the last at Needs Ore on Apr 11th. There were just three records of ringtails in the late year at Sandy Point (Nov 7th), Pennington Marsh (Nov 9th) and Lepe (Dec 24th).

Montagu’s Harrier

Circus pygargus
A very scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; last bred in 1998. [ET, Schedule 1, Amber].

There were just three records for this species in the year; all on spring passage. The first was an adult male seen at Kimbridge, Test valley on Apr 21st (DAT). An adult female was watched for ten minutes in the north of the New Forest on Apr 29th (AGP), followed by another female observed for fourteen minutes at Testwood Lakes the next day (SSK).

Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis
A scarce but increasing resident [Schedule 1, Green, HBAP].

This species expansion continues in the county, with 25 occupied territories recorded in the New Forest. 18 pairs bred successfully raising a maximum of 54 young, 48 of these were ringed, of which 32 were males and 16 females. Two pairs failed with predated eggshells found in the nests. The remaining five territories are presumed occupied by singles or non-breeders. The New Forest accounted for 146 of the 175 county records. The results from the NFWBS were as follows: 1, Jan 22nd/23rd; 3, Feb 19th/20th; 4, Mar 19th/20th; 1, Oct 22nd/23rd; 3, Nov 26th/27th and 2, Dec 17th/18th. Monthly totals of sightings for the New Forest were as follows:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF sightings	2	2	5	12	25	11	9	21	10	5	2	7	5	12

Outside of the New Forest attempted breeding was noted, or probable, at a minimum of five sites. Success was confirmed at two, failure at one and the outcome at the other two sites was unknown. There were seven sightings at other localities: Old Winchester Hill (Feb 8th), East Meon (Mar 4th), Locks Heath (Apr 6th), Basingstoke (Apr 7th), Micheldever (Apr 8th), Titchfield Haven (July 31st) and Bishopstoke (Sep 16th).

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus
A common resident, passage migrant and probable winter visitor [Green].

A total of 735 records was received relating to nearly 300 different localities, but regular monthly bird-day totals from a Regent’s Park, Southampton garden were noted as the poorest since records began in 1979 (RECo). There were 26 confirmed breeding records for the county and



Goshawks in flight by Martin Bennett

Above: adult male, New Forest, Oct 14th

Centre: juvenile female, Blashford Lakes, Aug 17th

Below: juvenile male, Feb 26th; adult male June 25th; adult female, Jul 10th (all New Forest)



Sparrowhawks in flight by Martin Bennett

Above: immature male, Furze Hill, Oct 23rd

Below: juvenile female, Blashford Lakes, Aug 9th

11% registrations in BBS 1-km squares (cf. 18-year average of 15%). The NFWBS results were as follows: 4, Jan 22nd/23rd; 9, Feb 19th/20th; 11, Mar 19th/20th; 4, Oct 22nd/23rd; 6, Nov 26th/27th and 10, Dec 17th/18th. A total of 63 further records came from the New Forest area, including three successful nests and one failed.

Monthly bird-day totals in seven locations with fairly constant observer coverage throughout the year are tabulated below:

Bird-days	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
IBM Lake, Portsmouth	5	1	8	5	10	8	7	3	14	6	10	7	1	7
Normandy, Lymington	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	9	3	1	3
Petersfield, private garden	4	4	4	1	0	0	1	1	4	5	8	22	9	11
Regent's Park, private garden	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	4	4	4	3	2	3
Sandy Point, Hayling Island	14	10	12	3	14	19	5	4	23	38	20	35	21	7
Titchfield Haven	13	18	5	8	13	18	12	9	16	31	25	28	17	18
Waterlooville, private gdn	2	5	7	3	7	4	0	1	1	2	7	4	3	4
Totals	41	43	39	21	45	50	26	20	63	88	83	102	54	53

Buzzard

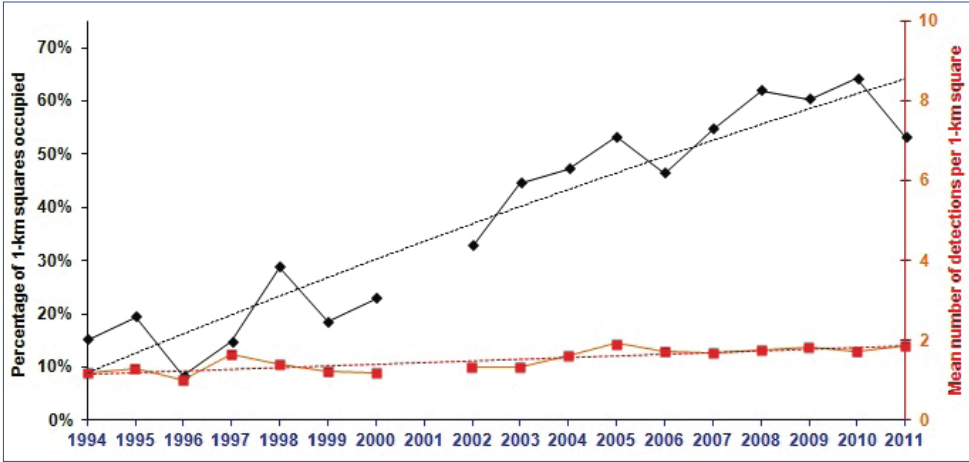
Buteo buteo

A common resident, passage migrant and probable winter visitor [Green].

This remains the most numerous and widely recorded of our raptors with 1300 records received. Although there were only 53 confirmed breeding records outside of the New Forest area, this is undoubtedly far from a true reflection of its breeding status. The BBS indicates the population increases over the last 18 years as shown below.

There were 33 double-figure counts across the county, with the highest being 22 seen both at Slackstead on Feb 14th and Needs Ore on Mar 22nd. Other notable accounts included: Blackhamsley Hill, NF (20, Feb 12th), Cholderton (21, Feb 27th), West End (20, June 6th) and Kingsley (20, Aug 19th).

In the New Forest, although the long term breeding survey has been largely discontinued, 36 nests were checked early season and found to have signs of occupation. Of those that were followed through, 11 were successful, raising a minimum of 13 young. Later on, young birds were heard at another five sites, and an additional four pairs were successful in Roydon Woods. The NFWBS results were as follows: 35, Jan 22nd/23rd, 45 Feb 19th/20th, 126 Mar 19th/20th, 63 Oct 22nd/23rd, 34 Nov 26th/27th and 44 Dec 17th/18th.



Monthly bird-day totals in six locations with fairly constant coverage through the year are tabulated opposite:

Bird-days	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
IBM Lake, Portsmouth	5	7	2	2	14	12	5	5	9	9	7	5	2	5
Needs Ore	21	14	32	18	54	24	21	21	12	19	30	29	20	14
Normandy, Lymington	1	5	3	0	10	1	1	2	3	10	6	2	2	0
Sandy Point	2	3	0	1	4	2	1	2	6	2	6	6	0	1
Titchfield Haven			17	15	25	22	21	21	15	21	36	32	15	17
Waterlooville, private gdn	1	1	0	0	23	18	5	4	4	2	9	12	0	2
Totals	30	30	54	36	130	79	54	55	49	63	94	86	39	39

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

A rare winter visitor and passage migrant. (11,49,2)

There were two accepted 2011 records, the first since 2009. One was seen and well-described at Milkham, NF on Apr 25th (AJBL) followed by an adult seen and photographed near Overton on May 3rd (JS).

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

A scarce passage migrant [ET, SPEC1, Schedule 1, Amber].

The first arrival was noted on Mar 26th in the Chichester/Langstone harbour areas followed by records there on Mar 27th and 28th, Apr 6th, 28th and 29th, and May 1st. In the Beaulieu estuary area, there were just three spring records on April 2nd, 27th and 28th. The Lymington/Hurst area noted just three records, as well for Apr 7th and 8th, and May 1st. In the Avon valley there were sightings on Apr 3rd, 15th and 17th and there were two records for Old Winchester Hill on Apr 10th and 16th. In the Test valley records were received for Apr 2nd 3rd and 7th. There were reports for nine days in May and five in June which probably related to an individual summering in one locality.

Sightings of spring passage on single dates at other localities were as follows (all singles unless otherwise stated):

Avington: Mar 31st.

Dibden Purlieu: Apr 2nd.

Nomansland: Apr 3rd.

Portchester: Apr 3rd.

Bransbury: Apr 4th.

Crondall: Apr 4th.

Bury Hill: Apr 10th.

Hatchet Pond: Apr 11th.

Southampton: Apr 16th.

Old Alresford: Apr 17th.

Vernham Dean: Apr 25th.

Chilbolton: May 6th.

Return passage was evident from July 1st, with a bird seen in the Avon valley, but then only three more passage records came from this area on Aug 1st and 27th and Sep 8th. In the Test valley, a colour-ringed male was seen on many dates between June 21st and July 24th. This bird was bred at Rutland Water in 2009; having presumably spent its first summer in Africa, it had been present at Rutland Water on June 10th/11th, after which it disappeared before appearing in the county. Interestingly, it returned to Rutland Water on July 26th – some 118 miles away. There followed a record of two at Lower Test Marshes on Aug 28th.

There was a single July record for the west Solent of one drifting south at Needs Ore on 23rd, then no records until mid August. An adult was east over Keyhaven but later west over Hurst on Aug 19th, one was at Needs Ore on 21st, a juvenile high over Keyhaven on 27th crossed The Solent but, presumably, the same was there again on 29th and Sep 2nd/3rd. At Needs Ore, there was an isolated record on Sep 7th but then 1-2 adults (one colour-ringed) were present from Sep 15th to Oct 1st. In the Keyhaven/Lymington area, singles were seen on eight further dates, including the last a juvenile on Oct 14th/15th at Tanners Lane.

In the Chichester and Langstone Harbour areas, the first return was noted on July 31st, followed by records for 15 days in August, with two present on two dates. Of the 15 days in September when birds were recorded, two were again present on two dates, including the last

in Langstone Harbour on 27th. There were two October records from Chichester Harbour of two on 1st and one on 3rd.

There was a very late record of a bird seen at close range at Bolderwood in the New Forest on Nov 1st. Sightings of autumn passage on single dates away from these sites were as follows:

<i>Fleet Pond:</i> Aug 20th	<i>Ewshot:</i> Sep 16th.
<i>Portsmouth:</i> Aug 22nd	<i>Beaulieu Heath:</i> Sep 19th.
<i>Freemantle:</i> Aug 28th	<i>Lepe:</i> Sep 20th (2 birds)
<i>Itchen Valley C.P.:</i> Sep 11th	<i>East Meon:</i> Oct 19th.
<i>Overton:</i> Sep 11th	

Approximate monthly new arrival totals (conservatively estimated) were as follows:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New arrivals estimate	0	0	4	12	4	1	1	6	10	5	1	0

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

A common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [SPEC3, Amber].

The combination of HOS and Atlas records totalled 667 across the county, relating to just over 300 different sites. Multiple records were received for a number of areas with 36 related to confirmed breeding. The BBS registered 24% of 1-km squares occupied (cf. 18-year average 28%). The maximum number recorded together was four at Magdalen Hill Down on July 15th. Totals from the NFWBS were as follows: 0, Jan 22nd/23rd; 1, Feb 19th/20th; 11, Mar 19th/20th; 13, Oct 22nd/23rd; 6, Nov 26th/27th and 4, Dec17th/18th. Only 16 other records were received for the New Forest area and none indicating breeding. Monthly bird-day totals at four well-watched locations are tabulated below:

Bird-days	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point, Hayling Island	4	5			3	8	3	6	9	3	13	9	3	1
Titchfield Haven	11	18	11	10	9	15	17	9	13	17	22	14	16	10
Beaulieu estuary	7	1							7	16	9	15	7	1
IBM Lakes	2	0	4	1		2	2		7	1	4	14	2	8

Merlin

Falco columbarius

A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [ET, Schedule 1, Amber].

A total of 251 records was submitted (cf. 263 in 2010). The last departure in spring and first return in autumn were both at Hurst on May 1st and Aug 28th respectively. The Lymington/Hurst area was by far the best recorded area for the species, with a minimum of three individuals being seen on 63 bird-days throughout the early and late winter periods. Elsewhere, along the coast there were reports of a minimum of two individuals on 20 bird-days at Needs Ore; a minimum of three individuals on 11 dates at Langstone Harbour; a minimum of two individuals on eight dates in the Titchfield Haven area; singles at Sandy Point (7 October dates, the only records there), Hook-with-Warsash (3 late year dates), Lower Test Marshes (Jan 18th, Mar 22nd) and on single dates at seven other localities.

Inland, the results from the NFWBS were as follows: 1, Jan 22nd/23rd; 2, Feb 19th/20th; 0, Mar 19th/20th; 4, Oct 22nd/23rd; 1, Nov 26th/27th and 1, Dec 17th/18th. There were 29 other records from the New Forest area, all singles apart from two at Black Gutter Bottom on Jan 4th. Away from the New Forest areas there were sightings of singles (unless otherwise indicated) at: Old Winchester Hill (16 dates including 2, Dec 11th), Testwood Lakes/Romsey (8 dates in the early and 5 in the late year), Avon valley (Feb 14th; Oct 16th; Nov 12th; Dec 3rd/4th), Preston Candover (Jan 20th, 30th and Feb 19th), Itchen Valley CP (Oct 17th; Dec 28th) and 22 other localities on single dates. The estimated county monthly totals are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total birds	18	12	22	20	14	2	1	0	0	2	13	18	18	15

Correction 2010: The last sighting from the Lymington/Hurst area in the early year was Apr 8th not 3rd as stated.

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

A moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant [Schedule 1, Green].

There were 495 records submitted for this species, including 160 different locations outside of the New Forest. The first spring arrival was recorded at Nursling on Mar 31st, followed by one at Ibsley on the Apr 6th. There was a total of only 53 records for April but these doubled to 102 for May. Peak breeding season records totalled 72 for June, 56 for July and 88 for August.

Many sightings came from wetland areas which the birds used for feeding. For example, 22 records came from Needs Ore, 20 from Blashford Lakes and 28 from the Lymington/Hurst area. There were also 19 records from Titchfield Haven, while in the New Forest, there were 54 records, and 18 of these came from Ibsley Common.

There were just 16 county breeding records. Attempted breeding was confirmed at six sites in the New Forest, and probably at least two others, with a further ten breeding records for the rest of the county.

Post-breeding and passage records totalled 72 for September with a further 19 in October. Five of these October records were for a late-staying individual at Old Winchester Hill. The last record came on Oct 28th at Fleet.



Hobby taking Sand Martin, Blashford Lakes, July 20th – Martin Bennett

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

A 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, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Green].

A total of 884 records was received for 2011: 139 from Needs Ore where there were 4-14 records for every month of the year; 113 from Langstone/Chichester harbours; 110 from the Lymington/Hurst area where there were 5-12 records for every month except June. A further 68 records came from Titchfield Haven/Hook-with-Warsash, 34 from Lower Test Marshes/Testwood Lakes area, 22 from Calshot/Fawley and 13 from Old Winchester Hill and eight elsewhere along the South

Downs. In the Avon valley, there were 32 records across every month except June, including reports at Ibsley Water of a female seen to take a Coot on July 17th, but was denied her kill by a Buzzard, which in turn lost it to a Fox; then a juvenile female narrowly missed taking a Black Tern on Sep 24th. A total of 77 records came from the New Forest where the NFWBS results were as follows: 1, Jan 22nd/23rd; 2, Feb 19th/20th; none, Mar 19th/20th; 2, Oct 22nd/23rd; 9, Nov 26th/27th; and 11, Dec 17th/18th. There were also a further 21 sites with three or more records reflecting the increased presence of the species in the county.

Breeding was attempted at 11 known localities, with seven nests fledging a reported 14 young. Although four pairs nested on electricity pylons, these suffered from low productivity with only one chick reared. Two of these were at new locations. The National Grid plc was very helpful in delaying maintenance at a number of locations.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

A scarce resident, moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Between January and March, a minimum of 81 was recorded at 50 sites (cf. 128 at 65 sites in 2010). Counts of three or more were as follows: Greywell (3, Jan 3rd); Fleet Pond on (4, Jan 16th); Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (4, Jan 17th); Lower Test Marshes (at least 5, Jan 22nd); Hook Lake (3, Feb 22nd) and Winnall Moors (3, Mar 15th).

Breeding was proved at Fleet Pond; Ivy Lake, Blashford; Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes; Needs Ore; Lower Test Marshes; Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes. There was little data on the number of territories, although there were three pairs at Hook-with-Warsash, four at Lower Test Marshes and at least four at Titchfield Haven. Records from other sites during April to July were: Fishlake Meadows (1, Apr 3rd; 1, May 1st); Axmansford (2, Apr 8th); Woolmer Pond (2, Apr 8th); Pig Bush, NF (1, May 12th; 1, June 14th) and Beaulieu Lake (1, July 2nd);

Between September and December, a minimum of 125 was recorded at 49 sites (cf. 140 at 64 sites in 2010). Notable counts included: at least seven at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes; Needs Ore (3, Sep 2nd); Blashford Lakes (3, Sep 24th); Fleet Pond (6, Sep 30th); Milton Reclamation (7, Oct 18th); Bunny Meadows (5, Nov 3rd); Hook-with-Warsash (6, Nov 12th); Lower Test Marshes (9, Nov 12th); Broadlands Estate (3, Nov 20th); Alresford Pond (3 Nov 26th); Somerley Estate (5, Dec 7th); Fishlake Meadows (11, Dec 9th); Browndown (3, Dec 10th); Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (4, Dec 10th) and Avon valley: Ringwood-Fordingbridge (3, Dec 18th).

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

A numerous resident and winter visitor [Green].

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 30 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	49	52	64	43	27	15	11	8	19	13	23	12	42	42
IBM Lake, Portsmouth	36	22	26	31	19							11	11	20
Titchfield Haven			75	-	40	12	10	12	20	35	35			33
Itchen: Weston-Mansbridge				34	17	17				9	2	11	23	20
Lower Test Marshes				53	16	17	14	1	9	8	11	18	19	26
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	32	59	28	23	35						46	56	28	32
Blashford Lakes				17	10	17	8	15	13	20	20	19	29	35
Test: Broadlands Estate	29	6	10	18	22	12					18	42	20	12
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton			21	24	17	7	6	10	20	20	23	28	29	31
Yateley GP	53	5	7	7	9			16		8	17	21	40	41
WeBS count totals	599	460	508	480	407	121	58	100	145	125	433	556	644	574

Year maxima at other well-reported sites included Winchester SF (27), Alresford Pond (25), Eversley GP (22), Rooksbury Mill, and Andover (20). There were reports of 20 or more from a further 11 sites – all of these being in the winter periods. Breeding reports were received from

95 sites including 28 breeding territories at Titchfield Haven. BBS data showed that 22% of 1-km squares were occupied (*cf.* 25% 18-year average).

Coot

Fulica atra

A common resident and winter visitor [Green].

Regular counting at Blashford Lakes indicated the site was of national importance for this species in December, with 1985 on Dec 27th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	108	372	275	222	133	56	57	16	32	53	147	138	182	182
East Hayling	49	114	85	114	37						53	51	58	76
Beaulieu estuary	6		7	15	21	22	50	90	145	100	22	7	3	
Lymington-Hurst	167	75	113	105	100	56	31			20	29	5	25	8
Blashford Lakes	1704	2205	1678	916	549	215	100	294	842	630	1728	1830	1906	1985
Testbourne Lake	71	67	90	86	80	30	32	56	107	106	141	117	122	102
Wellington CP	11	2	24	88	120			72			144	160	55	80
Eversley GP	275	418	342	169	112				129	160	219	234	258	308
Yateley GP	317	168	186	197	182			148		119	139	157	183	146
Dogmersfield Lake	330	232	250	168	47		42	112		215	238	241	260	265
Tundry Pond	83	90	111	104	39	35	25	14	23	44	73	110	160	158
WeBS count totals	3684	4007	3968	2752	1998	651	268	949	1491	777	3437	3557	3635	3850

Sites of national importance 1800+. County record 2205.

Year maxima at well-watched sites not tabulated above included: Arlebury Lakes (61, Jan 12th); Heath Pond, Petersfield (68, Jan 16th and Feb 13th); IBM Lake, Portsmouth (45, Jan 22nd); Hucklesbrook WM (125, Jan 23rd); Titchfield Haven (50, Feb 16th); Alresford Pond (81, July 21st); Winchester SF (67, Oct 9th); Milton Reclamation (43, Nov 27th) and Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (90, Dec 4th).

Breeding reports on the HOS database came from 77 localities, including 22 breeding territories at Titchfield Haven. BBS data showed that 12% of 1-km squares were occupied (*cf.* 16% 18-year average).

Amendment 2010: Monthly maxima Blashford Lakes: January **1770**; March **425**; December **2205**.

Crane

Grus grus

A rare vagrant [ET, SPEC3, Amber] (0,96+,29).

There were four records in year involving 29 individuals. With Cranes now breeding in several English counties, we can expect more sightings of birds in Hampshire, although there is no evidence that any of the birds listed below were actually from these small populations. The first was an immature seen at a number of sites on Sep 16th, passing west over Eastney (JNV) at 0830 hrs, being seen over Hill Head (MJP), Hook-with-Warsash (RHM, JRW) and, finally, the Keyhaven/Hurst area (MPM, TJP, MW) when at 1005 hrs it was lost to view heading west. It was relocated in flight over Efford at 1500 hrs (PDeV) and later it was seen roosting on saltmarsh off Pylewell (MCC *per* MPM). The next was one seen flying low over Skidmore towards Ower at 1337 hrs on Nov 10th (PDW, DHd). It was not seen again.

An impressive sight for some was a flock of 24 seen circling over Wickham and Southampton between 1420-1435 hrs on Nov 17th by three independent observers (GDP, MVy, RECo). One observer reported that they seemed to be preparing to land, although they were not seen again. These were probably the same group seen the previous day in Devon and Cornwall. Such large numbers are extremely rare in Britain, and only occur when migrating flocks deviate from their normal routing through France (as happened in 1963).

Two observers travelling on a train from Southampton to Salisbury reported seeing one, just 50m away, in a secluded field at Awbridge in the Test valley on Dec 2nd (AO). Although their sighting was too brief to be certain of the identity as this species, it was significant that a fortnight later two adults and an immature were seen to fly low down the same section of the Test valley at 1600 hrs on Dec 14th (AOn). They were seen to depart again at 0940 hrs on Dec 16th (DAT) and then return from the west at 1555 hrs and were observed from three different viewpoints (PLo, DAT, NRJ, GC&DLB, AJBL) coming in to roost. They presumably left unseen the next morning as the valley was shrouded in mist, but later that day they were seen circling over Beaulieu Heath from 1210 to 1220 hrs before moving south in the direction of Beaulieu, NF (ARF). On Dec 18th they were circling over Botley Wood at 1130 hrs (GM, AMe, DSn) and last seen over Bursledon (AJB) at 1145 hrs. Although the birds were generally elusive throughout their stay, it was confirmed that they were unringed.

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

A moderately common breeding resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber].

Numbers of wintering birds remained stable when compared with recent years. The number of breeding pairs increased slightly from 2010; however, there were some gaps in reported data from areas that are known to hold breeding birds. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	544	1747	1560	1597	387	319	393	362	502	225	202	794	1371	731
East Hayling	163	183	243	164	71	16	13	10	11	33	63	160	165	162
Langstone Harbour	1408	810	1008	718	507	356	292	223	508	1186	2201	1342	1179	1008
Portsmouth Harbour	11	213	413	380	120	2	2	32			325	262	267	293
Hythe-Calshot	708	326	742	526	260	79	53		66	700	500	411	92	684
Beaulieu estuary	19	61	40	207	150	169	69	57	114	178	71	23	195	190
Lymington-Hurst	106	115	130	200	104	130	91	130	10	53	130	67	112	83
WeBS count totals	2459	1702	2915	2377	1420	829	559	463	794	1752	2987	2349	2286	2637

Sites of national importance: 3200+.

Spring coastal passage was reported from Sandy Point (23E between Apr 10th and May 5th). During the breeding season a total of at least 100 territorial pairs was reported from 16 sites as summarised below:

- Gutner Point: North Hayling: (1).

Langstone Harbour: (33).

Portsmouth Harbour: (1).

IBM Building, Portsmouth: (1).

Fareham town centre: (1).

Titchfield Haven: (5).

Hook-with-Warsash: (4).

Lower Itchen (1).
- Millbrook: (1).

Lower Test: (1).

Testwood Lakes: (1).

Badminton, NF: (1).

Beaulieu estuary: (4).

Sowley-Lymington: (23).

Lymington-Hurst: (20).

Ibsley Water: (2).

Outside the breeding season, or at non-breeding sites, inland records came from Blashford Lakes (1-2 between Feb 12th and Mar 19th, one on seven dates between July 17th and Nov 14th), Curbridge (2, Apr 17th), Hatchet Pond (2, May 24th; 1, June 17th) and Romsey (2, July 5th; 2 heard overhead at 0200 hrs, Aug 22nd).

Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; a very scarce breeder which nested for the first time in 2002 [ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

Wintering numbers remained remarkably similar to 2010. Breeding was attempted at three sites, with one site reporting 23 sitting birds and a minimum of 17 hatched chicks. Another site held two pairs of which one fledged two young, whilst the third site held one pair which failed. A notable movement occurred on Nov 14th with 19 recorded at Winchester SF, six south at

Weston Shore and ten south at Hook-with-Warsash. Other notable inland records involved one at Ibsley Water from Jan 8th-16th, one at Avington Park Lake from Apr 15th-21st and four at Ibsley Water on Apr 20th.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	34	36	35	3	1	1	1		2			5	34	36
Titchfield Haven	5	1	1	21	30	29	14	17	22	2		1		1
Beaulieu River	18	7	12	13	19	48	53	48	30	5	2	25	25	23
Lymington/Hurst	1	2	2	5	1	4		1	1	2	1	1	2	3

Additional information from the main sites and other records:

Chichester Harbour: 15, Jan 22nd; 8, Feb 19th; 1, Sep 3rd; 1, Nov 12th; 33, Dec 10th.
Sandy Point: 1, Mar 29th.
Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes: Max. 35, Jan 6th, last early winter record 3, Feb 8th; 1, Mar 23rd; 1, Apr 8th; 1, May 7th/8th; 2, July 16th. Late year from Oct 16th (max. 36, Dec 24th).
Titchfield Haven: 1, Jan 2nd-28th; up to 5, Feb 12th-Mar 9th then present up to July 23rd, peaking at 31 Apr 9th; 2, Aug 12th; 1, Oct 8th; 1, Dec 23rd & 27th.
Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash: 1, Jan 1st; 3, Mar 5th; 2-4, Apr 17th-June 4th; 10 S, Nov 14th; 1, Dec 24th.
Western Shore, Southampton: 6S Nov 14th.
Beaulieu estuary: Present throughout the year with a peak of 53, May 3rd.
Tanners Lane: 7 W, Sep 29th; 1, Oct 4th.
Lymington/Hurst: 2, Jan 6th-8th; 5E, Feb 13th; 1, Feb 25th; 1, Mar 10th; 1-4, Apr 20th-Apr 29th; 1, June 24th-26th; 1, July 23rd; 1, Aug 3rd; 1-3, Sep 2nd-Dec 20th.
Ibsley Water: 1, Jan 8th-16th; 4, Apr 20th.
Winchester SF: 19, Nov 14th.
Avington Park Lake: 1, Apr 15th-21st.

Stone-curlew

Burhinus oedicnemus

A scarce summer visitor [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber, UKBAP1, HBAP].

A total of 43 breeding pairs represents the highest total since the recovery programme commenced in 1985. The first arrivals were two in the north of the county on Mar 31st. The RSPB Stone-curlew team recorded 38 pairs, an increase of ten pairs from 2010. Of these, 32 pairs were confirmed breeding, making 40 nesting attempts between them. These produced at least 22 fledged young (*cf.* 16 in 2010). HOS fieldworkers observed a further five pairs nesting on other farms, with four of these being successful, although the exact number of chicks reared is not known. Breeding records since 1999 are tabulated below:

Breeding records	1999	2000	2001†	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Pairs located	19	21	12	34	28	25	25	28	22	21	24	34	43
Pairs breeding	17	19	8	26	24	20	23	24	19	16	21	27	36
Breeding attempts	25	30	9	28	32	25	29	34	25	19	25	32	44
Young raised	5	20	4	10	11	9	12	18	11	2	11	18	22*
Maximum (autumn)		43		50	54	24	54	50	67	43	95	88	72

† Incomplete coverage due to foot and mouth disease restrictions.
* Does not include any young reared by HOS-monitored birds.

The largest autumn roost counts were close to Porton Down, where numbers peaked at 72 on Sep 12th. A roost in the north peaked at 36 on Sep 25th.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant [Schedule 1, Green].

The first were recorded at Pennington Marsh on Mar 12th, Testwood Lakes on 13th and Hook-with-Warsash on 14th. There were arrivals at three further sites from 19th to 21st. However, the first at Ibsley Water was not until 23rd which coincided with an influx of six at Pennington Marsh.

Further spring records away from known breeding sites included: singles at Long Valley on Mar 23rd and Apr 8th: Fishlake Meadows on Mar 28th: Fleet Pond on Mar 29th and Frith End on Apr 8th. Elsewhere, there were records of one or two at Farlington Marshes between Mar 28th and May 14th, two at Kimbridge from Apr 11th to 21st, one or two at Titchfield Haven between Apr 15th and May 17th, and two at Winchester SF on May 2nd (1, May 3rd). One feeding in a bare field at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Apr 30th gave the observer an unexpected patch tick and was, presumably, one of the Titchfield Haven individuals.

During the breeding season, around 22 pairs attempted breeding, with the usual variable success, (*cf.* 31 pairs in 2010).

Avon valley: 5 pairs at Ibsley Water all failed; 5 pairs at three other sites of which 2 raised 3 young.

Test valley: 2 pairs at one site of which one raised 1 young.

North: 2 pairs at one site of which one raised at least 1 young.

North-east: 2 pairs at Fox Lane, Eversley of which one raised 2 young; 1 pr on housing development raised 4 young in 2 broods.

East: 1 pr raised 2 young.

Southampton Water: 1 pr attempted breeding.

Coast: 2 pairs in Pennington area possibly raised up to 7 young (see below); 1 pr at a new site raised 2 young.

Passage was evident from early July. At The Vyne, where none bred, there were three on 3rd, rising to five (two juveniles) on 5th and ten (two juveniles) on 9th, but these had left the next day. At Farlington Marshes, there were five (three juveniles) on 16th and at Pennington Marsh there were 11 (seven juveniles) on 17th but some, if not all, of these were presumably local breeders and their offspring. Subsequent records included three at Titchfield Haven on 23rd, a juvenile at The Vyne on 27th, one at Winchester SF and another heard at night over Sandy Point on Aug 2nd and five juveniles at Farlington Marshes on Aug 6th. Few were reported after mid August, the only records being of a juvenile at Ibsley Water on 28th, singles at Pennington Marsh on Sep 2nd and Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 4th and the last two juveniles at Ibsley Water on 11th.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

A moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber].

Wintering numbers were similar to 2010; the peak counts coming again from the eastern harbours with the Black Point roost holding a max. of 380 in September. Breeding numbers were the same as 2010 which is encouraging following the decline of recent years. Monthly maxima from the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	332	118	94	56	34	9	221	51	9	31	424	1	165	84
Black Pt/Hayling Bay	332	105	96	92	30	15	3	3	26	216	380	276	217	169
Langstone Harbour		29	85	31	32	25	27	17		177	189	150	200	247
Titchfield Haven	50	54				2	3			55	106			
Hook-with-Warsash		29	104	39		2	6	3	8	101	71	70	20	52
Beaulieu estuary	61	4	59	13	4	12	23	6	8	45	15	20	67	31
Sowley-Hurst	150	81	101	73	51	38	29	40	51	131	216	218	193	87
WeBS count totals	332	270	389	199	87	39	69	36	27	426	673	195	429	423

Other notable roosts not tabulated above were at: Sandy Point (200, Sep 1st) and probably the same birds at Beachlands, Hayling Island (200, Sep 2nd).

Coastal passage in spring was recorded from Sandy Point (18NW, May 31st) and Hurst Beach (46E between Apr 16th and May 24th). Spring inland records were received from Fox Lane GP, Eversley (2, May 18th) and Long Valley, Bourley (1, May 30th).

Thirty-two territorial pairs were located at nine sites as follows (*cf.* 32 at seven, 2010): Sandy Point (1, fledged one); Eastoke, Hayling Island (1); RSPB Islands, Langstone Harbour (8, none fledged); Hook-with-Warsash (1); Weston SF, Southampton (1); Beaulieu estuary (1, fledged 2); Park Shore (1); Sowley-Lymington (3); Lymington-Hurst Castle (15).

The only autumn inland reports were from Ibsley Water (1, Aug 4th; 3, Aug 28th; 1 or 2 on 15 dates, Aug 31st-Sep 26th).

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

A rare spring and autumn passage migrant, with one record of wintering [ET, WCA1, Amber]. (8,102,4)

A flock of four (2 males, 2 females) was found at Cheesefoot Head on May 1st (PSe, photo). They remained in the general area, being recorded last on May 3rd.



Female Dotterel, Cheesefoot Head, May 1st – Keith Betton

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

A common winter visitor and passage migrant; very scarce in summer [ET, Amber].

The low numbers at the end of 2010 continued into 2011. However, the late year saw an increase reflecting the milder conditions.

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

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour			509	752	250					4		322	462	855
Hayling Island	230			200	49					4		200	400	400
Titchfield Haven area	110	55	130	80	165	56					2	14	52	120
Hamble Estuary	300	114	250	255							21	200	318	194
Lymington-Hurst	160	25	200	98	200	1	1			4	10	70	109	134
Lower Itchen valley	120			65								9	150	130
Cheesefoot Head/Gander Down													200	160
Odiham/Long Sutton/Crondall	126		50		140	52							10	300
WeBS count totals	386	168	244	403	149					5	2	382	718	700

Sites of national importance: 4000+. Note: this species is poorly monitored by WeBS.

The only peak count exceeding 60 elsewhere in the early year was at Chilbolton (440, Mar 7th).

Early year coastal passage was recorded from Barton on Sea (92E, Jan 1st), Sandy Point (20NW, Feb 24th and 5N, Mar 16th). The last records of the early year were of 50 at Cholderton on Apr 14th followed by one at Cholderton on Apr 24th and singles north at Hurst Beach on May 1st and at Needs Ore on 7th.

The first autumn returns were four at Gutner Point, Hayling on Aug 2nd followed by one at Langstone Harbour on Aug 13th and a more widespread arrival from Aug 15th. Local movements included 193 south at Casbrook Common on Nov 18th.

Notable counts in the late year not tabulated above included: Manor Farm, Old Alresford (150, Nov 26th) and Binsted (300, Dec 31st).



Golden Plovers, Bunny Meadows, Hook, Oct 29th – Mike Crutch

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

A common winter visitor and passage migrant; often present in small numbers in summer [Amber].

WeBS count totals remain at the low level of the past two years although the number of summering birds was significantly higher in the eastern harbours. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	610	658	862	608	743	13	119	105	425	193	394	1029	420	954
East Hayling	66	231	63	105	185	10	85	100	3	120	300	408	125	230
Langstone Harbour	425	556	825	823	67	69	10		60	74	258	360	418	618
Southampton Water	42	73	111	66	55	2	1		1	10	22	60	67	86
Beaulieu estuary	31	350	12	5	10	3	5	1		8	33	1	2	40
Pitts Deep/Pylewell			231	200	114	50	26		20	46	40	100	142	
Lymington/Hurst			123	225	100	10	10	22	8	107	150	170	270	120
WeBS count totals	1078	1333	1491	1450	534	131	104	122	85	265	791	1082	1048	1156

Sites of national importance: 430+. International Importance 2500.

Away from the sites listed above, there was one significant count of 42 from Portsmouth Harbour on Jan 22nd and inland records from Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (3E, Apr 30th) and Woolmer Pond (1, Apr 8th; 1, May 9th).

Spring coastal passage was recorded from Sandy Point (35E between Mar 15th and May 7th); Hill Head (51E, May 2nd) and Hurst Beach (47E between Apr 9th and Apr 30th)

The annual eastern harbour peak count of 1687 fell to the lowest ever recorded for the third successive year, totals from 1991-2010/11 are summarised below:

Winter peaks	91-96*	96-01*	01-06*	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11
Chichester Harbour	2944	1945	1941	3180	1700	1515	1286	2026	1592	1604	1381	1123	862
Langstone Harbour	1713	1550	900	819	982	1119	701	879	850	948	989	671	825
Combined harbours			2646	3541	2637	2240	1987	2824	2042	2301	1882	1794	1687

* Mean of annual peak counts over a five year period.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

A common but decreasing breeder and numerous winter visitor [SPEC2, Red, UKBAP1, HBAP].

After a dip in 2010, the WeBS count numbers returned to a similar level to previous years. Breeding numbers have reduced for the third consecutive year from the recent high of 364 breeding pairs in 2008. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 200 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1192	467	1421	485	59	32	41	70	19	132	190	516	1304	1791
Hampshire Sectors	303	212	208	268	43	8	13	2		30	8	47	340	504
Langstone Harbour	256	69	400	180	44	55	35	25	45	48	47	106	205	374
Titchfield Haven area	350	201	600	250	24	39	20	50	100	90	103	112	500	363
Hamble Estuary	163	320	352	120	2	6	1	2	9	18	23	30	261	344
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	250	107	274	48	15			9	20	26	36	26	132	57
Dibden Bay-Calshot	162	25	493	470	95			1	34	34	1	15	133	800
Beaulieu estuary	484	106	382	395	60	25	25	24	48	99	40	143	460	551
Lymington-Hurst	560	200	500	640	150	14	34	48	113	50	120	117	1200	1100
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	87	358	1100	104	57					81	45	100	390	350
Blashford Lakes	184		358	749	50	20	3	35	176	6	98	71	350	393
Winchester SF	154	112	193	335	62	3	5	56	144	214	231	226	326	298
Eversley GP	19	189	110	70	2	14			60	94	144	13	18	52
WeBS count totals	2832	1901	4606	3653	651	158	104	176	538	613	876	1208	4317	5071

Away from tabulated localities, peak counts of 100 or more were reported from: Blackhamsley Hill, NF (140, Jan 2nd); Chilbolton (200, Mar 3rd); The Vyne (272, Aug 22nd); Harrow Way,

Overton (160, Sep 30th); Sowley Shore (100, Oct 1st); Stratfield Saye (111, Oct 19th); Alresford Pond (160, Nov 2nd); South Wonston (170, Nov 19th); Micheldever (300, Nov 28th); Greywell (175, Dec 4th); Beacon Hill, Warnford (150, Dec 22nd); Holybourne (120, Dec 29th).

Breeding was distributed across the county with reports from 50 localities of approximately 165 pairs/territories: from these at least 48 young fledged (*cf.* 203 at 62 sites in 2010). This was considerably fewer than 2010 but, taking into account some significant gaps in data supplied, the true number of breeding birds is likely to be similar to 2010. Double-figure counts of breeding birds were reported from Titchfield Haven (12); Lymington-Keyhaven (16); New Forest, south of A35 (13); New Forest, north of A35 (14) and Blashford Lakes (11).

Amendment 2010. Monthly maxima at Blashford Lakes: 100 **154** 43 14 40 24 169 345 240 255 **184** nc.

Knot

A moderately common winter visitor (to the eastern harbours) and passage migrant [SPEC3, Amber].

Calidris canutus

The high counts in Chichester Harbour, reported in 2010, continued with over 5000 on the February WeBS count but most were in West Sussex. Flocks reported from the east side of the harbour, within the county, were substantially lower. The Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep area continued to hold good numbers. The late year WeBS counts reported surprisingly few birds, possibly due to poor conditions on the count days. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	534	410	2803	5249	881		2		10		90	47	933	776
Black Point	10	50	40	200	23	13				1	54	21	60	180
East Hayling	473			1	121	55	2		2	50	85			4
Langstone Harbour	3	93	116	108	4	18	6			19	53	9	11	23
Hamble Estuary/Hook	12	30	37		60	16				2	9	3	9	13
Sowley-Lymington	100	300	400	380	1	20				2	10		100	
Lymington-Hurst	92	163	130	40	150	113	3		7	36	73	27	13	5
WeBS count totals	526	390	553	526	166	38	2		1	6	176	18	16	31

Notable low tide counts from the above sites included: Dip Rithe, Hayling (250, Feb 28th; 115, Sep 10th; 100, Sep 18th; 300, Dec 2nd); Hurst Castle (110, Mar 17th); Pennington Marsh (150, Mar 25th) and Hook Spit (**98**, Mar 8th). There were also reports from Titchfield Haven area (max. 38, Jan 29th), Weston Shore (max. 9, Feb 19th), Hythe area (max. 22, Feb 16th), Needs Ore (max. 17, Aug 23rd) and Lepe (40, Dec 24th). The only inland reports came from Ibsley Water (1, Sep 4th-11th with 2 on 6th/7th; 1, Sep 19th-22nd) and Ibsley North GP (1, Sep 18th which presumably moved to Ibsley Water).

There were few reports of coastal movement in the spring, Sandy Point (2E, Mar 15th; 2E, Apr 29th); Langstone Harbour (50E, Apr 3rd); Portsmouth Harbour (15E, May 2nd); Hill Head (7E/12N, May 2nd) and Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea (20E, between Apr 9th and May 4th).

The last spring report was of two on East Hayling on May 20th. The first return was one at Normandy on July 8th. The only autumn coastal movements were at Sandy Point (2W, Aug 11th; 8SW, Sep 4th) and Hurst/Milford on Sea (30E, Sep 4th; 4E, Sep 20th).

Sanderling

A moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Calidris alba

The counts at the main sites, both on Hayling Island, were generally higher than 2010. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated opposite:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	250	33	300	310	65	44	200	54	15	36	306	200	290	185
Sandy Point–Hayling Bay	248		100	300	170	188	30	33	100	200	300	200		150

Sites of national importance: 160+.

Away from tabulated sites, reports of double figure counts came from Gilkicker Point (10, Jan 28th); Langstone Harbour (20, Feb 12th; 45, Dec 24th) and Fareham (10, Nov 5th).

Spring passage was noted at Langstone Harbour (9, May 7th); Hill Head/Stokes Bay (80, between April 30th and June 13th), Southampton Water (6, between May 8th and 23rd), Needs Ore (16, between May 10th and 22nd) and Hurst/Milford on Sea (212, between April 8th and June 9th). The only records away from the coast were singles at Ibsley Water on May 7th, 15th and 30th.

The last spring report was of 17 from Chichester Harbour entrance on June 22nd. The first return was one at Pennington Marsh on July 13th. Autumn coastal movements were recorded at Hill Head (26, between July 16th and Sep 11th); Lepe (2, Sep 5th); Needs Ore (4, July 24th; 13, Sep 9th; 1, Sep 11th); Hurst/Milford on Sea (42, between July 13th and Oct 24th)

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla

A very rare vagrant. (0,3,1)

A juvenile was found at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marsh on Sep 24th (MPM *et al.*, photo). It remained in the area until Oct 2nd. The three previous records were in 1994, 1995, and the last record of a juvenile at Pennington Marsh from Sep 4th to 19th, 2006.



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marsh, Sep 24th – Andy Johnson

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

A scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn and a very scarce winter visitor [Green].

In the spring, up to four individuals were in the Pennington Marsh area between April 29th and May 3rd. Autumn passage totalling 78 bird-days was recorded between July 28th and November

1st. There were inland records at Ibsley Water on Oct 7th and presumed the same, on Oct 12th. Coastal autumn records were as follows, singles unless stated otherwise:

Black Point, Hayling: July 28th; Sep 10th/11th; Sep 13th.
Farlington Marshes: 2, Aug 13th; 1/3, Aug 29th-Sep 2nd; Sep 5th; Sep 16th; Nov 1st.
Titchfield Haven area: 4, Hook-with-Warsash, Aug 27th; also 3, Titchfield Haven, presumed same.
Pitts Deep: Oct 16th.
Lymington/Hurst: 3, Aug 14th; Aug 21st-Aug 23rd; 3, Aug 24th; 2, Aug 25th; Aug 27th/28th; Sep 2nd; Sep 4th; Sep 9th; Sep 11th/12th; Sep 15th; max. 4, Sep 16th-23rd; 2, Sep 24th-26th; 1/2, Sep 28th-Oct 3rd; Oct 5th/6th; Oct 8th.

Annual bird-days in autumn 2000-2011 are shown below:

Annual totals (autumn)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Estimated no. of individuals	29	113	48	34	36	35	22	68	29	13	30	36
Bird-days	94	475	78	68	124	119	126	330	86	49	100	78

Temminck’s Stint

Calidris temminckii

A very scarce passage migrant [Schedule 1, Red]. (6,137,1)

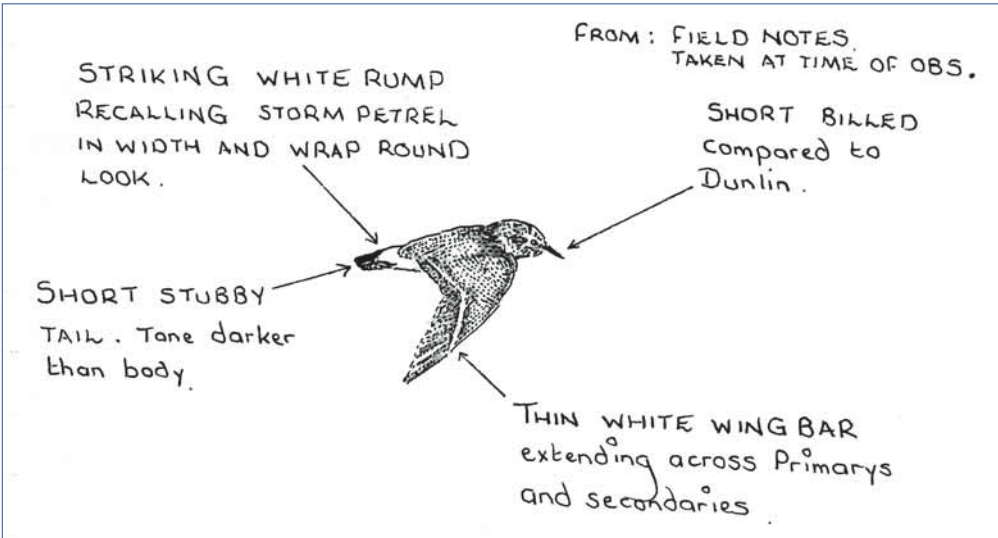
There was one record of one at Farlington Marshes on Aug 31st (MAG et al.). This species has been recorded annually since 1967 apart from 1986 and 2010.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

A rare vagrant. (0,17,1)

One was identified during a seawatch at Milford on Sea on Sep 24th when it flew east close-in with a group of Dunlin (TJP, MPM, AIL). The bird was thought likely to be a juvenile. A subsequent search of the marshes failed to relocate it. There has been a long gap since the last record at Farlington Marshes on July 27th 2005.



White-rumped Sandpiper, Milford on Sea, Sep 24th – Marc Moody

Observer’s field notes: A calidrid leading 6-8 Dunlin low east over a flat sea. Clearly smaller than the Dunlin but not as small as a stint sp. Much paler than Dunlin being more grey-brown above and with very white underparts, with a hint of streaking to the breast. Stunning, unmarked, wrap-around, white rump – broad in width. Short dark tail.



Above: Juvenile Little Stint (left) and Baird's Sandpiper, Shoveler Pools, Pennington Marsh, Sep 16th;
below: a close-up shot of the Baird's – both photos by Martin Bennett

Baird's Sandpiper

Calidris bairdii

A rare vagrant. (0,6,1)

A juvenile was present at Pennington Marsh favouring the Shoveler pools from Sep 14th to 17th (JRW *et al.*, photo). It also commuted to the Jetty lagoon nearby. The last and 6th record for Hampshire was present at Fishtail lagoon nearby from Sep 29th to Oct 16th 2005. Exceptionally, as in 2005, both long-winged Nearctic calidrids had been recorded in the same year.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

A rare passage migrant. (0,82,2)

There were two records, both from Pennington Marsh, on May 7th (DWa *et al.*) and Sep 19th/20th (SPP, TJP *et al.*). Spring records are rarer than those in autumn and the above follows the last on May 3rd 2004 and from May 9th to 11th 2009 – all three were reported from the same locality.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

A scarce passage migrant, particularly so in spring, has wintered [Green].

There were four spring records, all singles: Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (May 2nd; May 13th and May 21st) and Northney, Hayling (May 15th).

The first autumn report was one at Pennington Marsh on July 18th and the last were two in Langstone Harbour on Oct 28th. The peak day count was a total of nine juveniles at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on Sep 16th. The table below summarises the autumn records from the main sites; the overwhelming majority were juveniles:

Half-monthly totals (autumn)	July 15-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-31	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Farlington Marshes							
Bird-days			4	15	4	8	1
Estimated total			2	8	3	6	1
Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes							
Bird-days	3	1	11	32	29		
Estimated total	1	1	3	13	13		

Away from the tabulated sites, other autumn records were as follows, single birds unless stated otherwise:

Black Point: Sep 5th; 2, Sep 10th; Sep 13th.
Hayling Island/Northney: Aug 2nd; Aug 25th; 2, Aug 27th; 3, Sep 11th, Sep 15th.
Langstone Harbour: Oct 28th.
Hook-with-Warsash: 3, Sep 9th; Sep 16th; 3, Sep 17th; Sep 19th.
Lower Test Marshes: Oct 22nd.
Needs Ore: Sep 18th; Sep 24th/25th.

There were no inland records. Annual estimates of numbers in autumn 1999-2011 are tabulated below:

Annual totals (autumn)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Estimated total	95	89	138	40	99	62	44	87	35	91	89	71
Bird-days	288	313	264	61	232	278	156	361	68	157	185	134

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

A very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to the coast [Schedule 1, Amber].

At Southsea Castle and Barton on Sea, numbers were broadly similar to 2010. The last of spring was one at Southsea Castle on May 19th. There was a single autumn bird at Southsea on Sep 7th/8th and the first winter returns were two at Hurst on Nov 12th. Monthly maxima at the regular sites are shown below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Southsea Castle	15	8	16	16	16	4	2				1		4	10
Barton on Sea		10	9	17									4	14

Away from the two regular sites, reports of singles, unless stated otherwise, came from Black Point, Hayling (Mar 17th); Fort Cumberland, Eastney (Dec 3rd); Titchfield Haven (Dec 31st) and Hurst (Jan 2nd; Jan 12th; 2, Nov 12th; Nov 14th).

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

An abundant winter visitor and common passage migrant; small numbers summer [SPEC3, Red].

The combined count for the three eastern harbours (including the West Sussex part of Chichester Harbour) showed a welcome upturn, with the highest combined count for six years. Unusually, this count was in November, whereas the other counts in the table (opposite) are from either January (marked *) or February:

Eastern harbours winter peak	2004	2005	2006*	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011
Combined count	33217	40903	30573	31272	32123	27923	22704	36095

The monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	2295	7269	15958	5755	3576	13	1202	37	104	64	430	5995	15474	10282
Black Point/Mengham Rythe	8000	5000	1500	10000	3000	10	1	4	1	30	160	1300	4000	5000
East/North Hayling	114	3754	19	50	156	2	2				2	73	100	640
Langstone Harbour	8643	5407	9888	12319	1953	103	69		26	123	220	2179	20391	21710
Portsmouth Harbour	300	449	1205	4182	500						3		230	657
Southampton Water	700	1090	1371	2238	1120	28	5	1	6	30	20	180	1257	1562
Weston Shore (low tide)	600	500	400	300	400	6	1					45	800	800
Beaulieu estuary	109	537	200	285	7	25	15		5	25	9	10	142	219
Sowley-Lymington	700	700	1060	700	92		12		4	182	80	250	500	
Lymington-Hurst	2000	1500	1400	1400	100	150	487	30	303	175	210	355	2300	1700
WeBS count totals	10165	13897	15504	21774	2939	118	160	13	214	399	575	2846	23090	27479

Sites of international importance: 13,300+; national importance: 3500+.

Away from these sites there were three-figure coastal counts at Southsea (100, Feb 19th; 200, Mar 19th) and Chilling (200, Jan 29th).

Easterly spring coastal passage was reported from Sandy Point, Hayling (23, between Apr 21st and May 5th), Stokes Bay/Hill Head (51, between Apr 20th and May 7th) and Hurst (478, between Apr 10th and May 30th, max. 85 on May 13th and a flock of 71 on Apr 26th). There were regular reports until June 6th. Inland records in the first half of the year were as follows: Ibsley Water (1, Jan 11th; 2, May 3rd; 1, May 15th; 17, May 24th; 1, June 5th), Woolmer Pond (2, May 9th) and Testwood Lakes (1, Mar 5th).

Although there were two reports involving 15 birds in late June, the first return was at Titchfield Haven on July 9th. A three-figure count was made at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven as early as July 17th (225) where a colour-ringed adult female was recorded on 15th. This bird was ringed on the Tagus estuary, Portugal as an adult in 2009. A Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes count of 303 on July 31st contained just two juveniles (MPM). All these early season records are presumed to be of the *schinzii* race which precede nominate *alpina* race passage by several weeks hence the tabulated data below which shows the peak totals from county sites from the first July arrival until Aug 15th for 2005-2011:

Annual totals (passage)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Peak totals <i>schinzii</i>	434	425	891	473	661	618	745

After mid August, the next 300+ count in the Lymington/Hurst area was not until 355 on Oct 15th, marking the arrival of wintering *alpinas*.

Inland records in the late year were as follows: Ibsley Water (38, between July 20th and Nov 18th: 4, Sep 9th and Oct 9th and max. 7, Nov 6th), Testwood Lakes (2, July 20th), Alresford Pond (1, Aug 19th-25th), Winchester SF (1, July 18th/19th; 1, Aug 11th).

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

A scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor [ET, SPEC2, Schedule 1, Red]. The monthly totals were broadly similar to 2010, with a return passage peak in September. During the early winter period, there was a report of seven in the Avon valley, but otherwise most records came from the Lymington/Hurst area, where up to five were present. This area produced the only records in the second winter period.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below followed by a summary of all records:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total birds	1	6	10	9	5	12	3		3	16	27	1	5	4

Hayling: Sandy Point (2E, Apr 30th).
Farlington Marshes: 1/2 between Apr 2nd and Apr 8th; 1, July 31st; 1, Aug 5th/6th; 1, Aug 29th/30th; 2, Aug 31st; 4, Sep 1st; 2/3, Sep 2nd-4th; 3, Sep 10th; 3, Sep 16th and 2, Sep 18th.
Titchfield Haven area: 1, Jan 6th; 1, Aug 26th/27th, plus 1W at Brownwich Sep 18th.
Hook-with-Warsash: 1, Aug 30th.
Needs Ore: 1, Aug 30th; 1, Sep 26th.
Sabines Farm, Avon: 7, Jan 18th.
Ibsley Water: 1, Feb 12th; 1 juv, Aug 26th-28th; 1 juv, Sep 15th-26th.
Testwood Lakes: 1 juv, Sep 15th.
Winchester SF: 1, July 29th-Aug 6th; 1, Sep 28th.
Alresford Pond: 1, Aug 12th-17th; 1, Sep 2nd; 1/3, between Sep 9th and 16th.
The Vyne Water Meadows: 2, Aug 31st/Sep 1st; 2, Sep 3rd; 1, Sep 4th.

There were 168 reports from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes for every month except June. A colour-ringed bird was present from Jan 21st to at least Mar 8th. It was ringed in The Netherlands during April 2004 and, interestingly, was recorded at Tamworth, Staffordshire on Jan 19th, two days before being first recorded on Pennington Marsh.

The table shows half-monthly maxima:

Half-monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington/Hurst	1/2	3/2	5/4	5/1	3/0		1/1	1/2	2/2	0/1	1/2	2/1

The annual county bird-months totals for 1999-2011 are tabulated below:

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	119	76	61	197	79	75	81	54	55	30	47	95	95



Adult male Ruff, Pennington Marsh, July 13th – Gordon Small

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyrtes minimus

A scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant [SPEC3, Amber].

In the first winter period, reports were received from ten locations, totalling approximately 42 birds based on monthly maxima. The last report was of one at Long Valley on Mar 31st. The corresponding figures for the second winter period were 22 birds again at ten locations (cf. 19 in 2010). The first return was photographed in a garden in Emsworth on the early date of Sep 19th. A summary of all records follows (all singles unless otherwise indicated):

- Emsworth: Sep 19th.
- Sandy Point, Hayling Bay: Jan 1st; Jan 18th; 2, Jan 21st; Jan 23rd; 2, Jan 28th; Mar 6th/7th; Mar 16th; Nov 15th; Nov 22nd.
- Langstone Harbour: Farlington Marshes (Mar 25th); Southmoor (Jan 29th).
- Hook-with-Warsash: Fords Field (4, Jan 19th; Feb 18th; Mar 11th); beach Dec 31st.
- Lymington/Hurst: Jan 8th; 2, Jan 21st; Jan 31st; 2, Feb 1st.
- Moortown, Ringwood: 1, Dec 18th.
- Buckherd Bottom NF: Mar 12th.
- Lower Test Marshes: Feb 19th; 2, Dec 12th.
- Testwood Lakes: Oct 18th.
- Itchen Valley CP: 6, Jan 8th; 4, Feb 17th; 4, Mar 3rd; 2, Nov 13th; 2, Dec 2nd.
- Moorgreen Farm: Dec 17th.
- The Vyne Water meadows: Jan 22nd; Oct 30th; 2, Dec 18th.
- Long Valley: Jan 9th; 3, Jan 13th; 4, Feb 27th; Mar 31st; 3, Nov 28th; 2, Dec 14th; 5, Dec 28th.

Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

A formerly moderately common but currently declining breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor [SPEC3, Amber, HBAP].

In the New Forest only eleven possible breeding territories were reported. Along the coast, the early winter period produced three figure counts at Hook-with-Warsash and Lymington, with significant inland counts coming as usual from the Somerley Estate in the Avon valley and Hillside Marsh, Odiham. Monthly maxima at sites where counts of at least 30 were made are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	22	4	23	6	51							6		68
Hook-with-Warsash	106	45	184	202	115	1				2	2	3	71	69
Lower Test Marshes	34	52	22	30	7	3					1	15	13	24
Lymington-Hurst	10	42	46	150	86	1	1		2	1	12	12	14	55
Avon: Somerley Estate			220		3	2				1	30		25	73
Avon: Ibsley-Harbridge Green	13	170	1		6							5		37
Itchen Valley CP	16	12	40	46	47	10					1	7	50	72
Winchester SF	22	52	25	4	40	5	1				1	4	12	13
The Vyne WM	55	14	4	30						1	3	37	55	43
Hillside Marsh, Odiham		8	48	100	85							1	3	23
Long Valley			20	4	12	2					9		14	68
WeBS count totals	335	326	164	441	188	7	0	0	0	2	2	55	108	222

Double figure counts from sites not listed above were mainly associated with the river valleys as follows:

- Test valley: Longstock (11, Feb 3rd; 14, Dec 20th); Romsey WM (11, Dec 19th); Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (12, Nov 19th).
- Itchen valley: Colden Common (20, Jan 12th; 10, Jan 13th); Bishopstoke (14, Nov 12th); Lakeside, Eastleigh (18, Dec 10th).
- Meon valley: Upper Titchfield Haven (14, Mar 25th; 11, Mar 26th); Titchfield Haven (12, Sep 30th; 20, Oct 26th).
- New Forest: The NFWBS produced counts of 11 at 33 sites on Jan 22nd/23rd and 13 at 35 sites on Nov 26th/27th.

Other coastal sites: Langstone Harbour (15, Jan 29th; 14, Oct 15th); Needs Ore (10, Oct 18th); East Hayling (27, Feb 19th).

Visible migration watching from Miles Hill, Fleet on 65 dates between Sep 4th and Dec 18th produced a total of nine moving south-west of which seven were on Oct 22nd.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

A common resident and winter visitor [SPEC3, Amber].

In January and February, approximately 103 were reported from 45 localities (*cf.* 2010, 133 at 92 sites). Reports were mainly of up to three birds, but exceptions were at: Monkwood (16), Embley Wood (10), Colemore (9) and Everton (4). The NFWBS recorded a peak count of two on March 19th/20th. In March a total of 26 was recorded.

The first report of a roding bird came from south of Brockenhurst, NF on March 16th. During the breeding season, there were reports of 169 roding males at 108 localities. Of these, 21 were from New Forest localities (49 territories). In addition to these reports, a national Woodcock breeding study sponsored by GWCT resulted in a survey on the Beaulieu Estate in the early summer, which located at least 32 roding males.

As usual, there was a dearth of records for August-October, with only five reported for this period. In November and December, approximately 46 birds were reported from 32 locations (*cf.* 2010, 85 at 56 locations). This total was boosted by a count of ten at Tangley on December 17th. The NFWBS recorded a peak count of four on November 26th/27th. All other counts were of ones or twos.

A study undertaken around Beaulieu and Lymington resulted in 95 birds being ringed, supporting evidence of under-reporting above in both winter periods. Two ringed in January were recovered in Russia in April (see Ringing Report).

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

A common regular passage migrant and winter visitor. Small numbers summer [SPEC2, Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP1, HBAP].

Unlike in recent years, there were no large gatherings in the Avon valley, reflecting a lack of flooding there. The Portsmouth Harbour WeBS count on Nov 12th totalled 653, the highest there since 809 in November 1978. Monthly maxima at sites where high-water roost counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	817	545	832	336	213	72	15		58	142	206	754	821	531
East Hayling/Emsworth	80	112	153	68	22	10			50	55	105	187	186	164
Langstone Harbour	182	44	93	250	269	200	81	30	159	279	403	317	298	196
Portsmouth Harbour			102	2					3			336	653	190
Titchfield Haven	160	65	200	350	266	124	149	180	179	100	100	150	106	60
Hamble Estuary	129	46	72	74	88	190	143	156	154	410	361	209	111	92
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	73	79	75	66	41	3				9	44	124	101	82
Upper So'ton Water *			3	55	45	117			26	21	13	12	11	
Beaulieu estuary	3	51	50	329	170	60	58	3	27	33	40	20	36	15
Sowley-Lymington				2		131			44	40		40	1	
Lymington-Hurst	330	320	400	450	354	525	68	15	180	190	180	320	320	283
WeBS count totals	946	634	765	1276	898	924	96	186	565	980	892	1385	1492	601

* Low tide count; sites of international importance: 610+; national importance: 430+.

Away from the tabulated sites, there were regular double figure counts from: Hythe (13, Apr 16th; 92, July 15th; 12, Aug 13th); Calshot (74, July 18th; 14, Oct 16th; 53, Nov 20th; 46, Dec 10th) and Fawley (30, Feb 19th; 17, Mar 19th). A token spring coastal passage was one report of four west at Hurst on May 2nd. Inland passage and winter records were as follows:

Avon valley: Blashford Lakes/lbsley Water (1, Jan 2nd; 13, Jan 9th; 1, Jan 15th; 1, Jan 20th; 5, Feb 3rd; 61, Feb 12th; 10, Feb 14th; 1, Mar 4th; 1, Mar 20th; 5, May 12th; 1, May 15th; 1, July 25th; 2, Aug 5th; 7, Aug 6th; 1, Sep 1st; 1, Oct 15th; 4, Dec 4th; 3, Dec 13th); Somerley Estate (5, Jan 4th; 9, Jan 5th); Sabines Farm (6, Jan 18th).
Testwood Lakes: 1, Sep 18th; 1, Oct 16th; 3, Nov 20th; 2, Dec 4th; 2, Dec 18th.
Fishlake Meadows, Romsey: 1, Feb 25th.
Alresford Pond: 1, Jan 2nd; 5, July 12th; 1, July 19th; 2, Aug 19th.
Itchen Valley CP: 2, Sep 25th.
Midanbury: 1S, Sep 8th.
Winchester SF: 3, Aug 8th.



Black-tailed Godwit in strong wind near Cut Bridge, Hurst, Sep 11th – Richard Coomber

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

A moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor. Small numbers summer [ET, Amber].

The spring passage was substantially higher than in recent years and has only been exceeded by the massive passages of the 1970s and early 1980s, when totals exceeded 10,000. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	501	611	890	864	230	46	1	20	116	80	74	67	590	463
East Hayling	16	300	15	11	10	86	7	2	20	6	65	85	25	13
Langstone Harbour	55	160	202	350	200	150	175	27	1	25	14	30	40	126
Hook-with-Warsash	15	17	19	20	19	18	13			15	6	3	5	
Sowley-Lymington	4	15	15	6	6		3				1		3	
Lymington-Hurst	7	31	30	9	35	160	93	1		8	2	8	7	8
WeBS count totals	65	177	274	385	248	131	4		1	31	80	37	51	141

Away from the tabulated sites, there were wintering birds at Titchfield Haven (1, Jan 12th; up to 8 between Jan 22nd and Feb 18th; 2-3 between Mar 13th and 23rd; 1-2 between Nov 4th and Dec 31st); Lower Test (1, Jan 11th) and upper Southampton Water (7, on four dates between Nov 9th and Dec 17th).

The easterly spring coastal passage, presumed to be mainly of the Siberian race *L.l. taymyrensis*, was between April 18th and May 13th. There was a total of 6540 bird-days (*cf.* 327 in 2010). There will be some duplication in this figure, as birds were recorded at different sites as they passed through The Solent, but based on the highest day counts, there were at least 4174. This exceeds the count of 3680 in 2007 and is the largest figure recorded since 10,862 in 1984. All records are summarised below:

Sandy Point/Hayling Bay: 464, between Apr 27th and May 6th, peaks 174 on Apr 29th and 110 on Apr 30th.
Stokes Bay/Hill Head: 1795, between Apr 29th and May 7th, peaks 364 on Apr 30th, 607 on May 1st and 456 on May 2nd.

Needs Ore: 70, Apr 29th; 175, May 3rd

Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea: 4036, between Apr 18th and May 8th, with peaks 1290, Apr 29th; 1325, May 1st; 595, May 2nd.

Not included in the above figures were grounded coastal migrants during the same period: at Titchfield Haven (159), around Southampton Water (17), Needs Ore (23). Away from the coast, there were reports from Blashford Lakes (singles on Apr 29th, May 1st and 3rd); Fleet Pond (3, May 2nd) and Rooksbury Mill (9, May 6th). In addition to birds at the tabulated sites, in the autumn, coastal movement was reported from Titchfield Haven (1, July 28th/29th; 1, Sep 1st; 1, Oct 13th; 2, Oct 20th; 5, Oct 29th; 2, Oct 30th); Hamble Point (1, Aug 19th); Hythe (2, Oct 14th); Fawley (18, Aug 13th); Calshot (6, July 5th) and Needs Ore (1, Aug 14th; 1, Sep 27th).

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

A common passage migrant. Rare in winter [Schedule 1, Red].

As usual, a small number of birds overwintered. In the first winter period, reports of singles came from the Lymington/Keyhaven area, Langstone and Chichester Harbours, with one/two at Bury Marshes. The first of the mainly easterly spring passage was four east at Hurst on April 8th. Based on daily maximum counts, there was an estimated county total of 1396 (*cf.* 1680 in 2010), with the last being three east at Sandy Point on May 25th.

Hayling Bay/Sandy Point: 318 mainly E, between Apr 19th and May 25th, max. of 34, May 3rd.

Gilkicker Point/Stokes Bay: 259E, between Apr 10th (65E) and May 8th, max. of 59, Apr 30th. There will be some duplication with counts made at Hill Head.

Titchfield Haven/Hill Head: 255E, between Apr 19th and May 5th, max. of 70, Apr 30th and May 6th. Also just inland, 14E at Stubbington, Apr 30th and 27E at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham, May 1st.

Needs Ore: 150E, May 3rd.

Hurst Beach: 1245E, between Apr 8th and May 24th, max. 205, Apr 22nd.

Ten-day period maxima of coastal grounded birds during spring are tabulated below, along with 15-day maxima for grounded and moving autumn birds:

10-day maxima (spring)	Apr 1-10	Apr 11-20	Apr 21-30	May 1-10	May 11-20	May 21-31	June 1-10
East Hayling/Sandy Point		23	6	1	10	1	4
Langstone Harbour		30	29	73	13		
Portsmouth Harbour		3		8	1	2	
Titchfield Haven area		8	16	16			
Hamble Estuary		5	2	24	2	4	
Southampton Water		5	9	10	3		
Beaulieu estuary		7	25	45	5	2	
Lymington-Hurst	10	16	50	15	6	7	1

15-day maxima (autumn)	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
East Hayling/Sandy Pt.	2	20	40	1	12		
Langstone Harbour		27	45	8	4	1	1
Portsmouth Harbour		21	21	2			
Titchfield Haven area	3	1	1	1		1	
Hamble Estuary	1	7	3	1	1		
Southampton Water	2	2	4	1	2		2
Beaulieu estuary		1				2	
Lymington-Hurst		2	5	3	9		

Otherwise along the coast, passage was noted as follows: Chichester Harbour (4, June 18th; 11, June 27th); Langstone Harbour (1, June 18th); Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (1, Mar 20th; 1, July 17th; 1, Sep 7th); Lymington/Hurst (1, June 11th; 5, June 18th; 1, June 19th; 1, June 26th). Inland records during spring passage were as follows:

Ibsley Water, Blashford: 1, May 12th; 1, May 15th.
Testwood Lakes: 1, May 8th; 1, May 24th.
Itchen Valley CP/Highwood Reservoir: 1, Apr 24th/25th; 1, Apr 30th/May 1st; 3, May 5th; 5, May 13th.
Elsewhere: Martin Down (2, Apr 25th); Horndean Down (1, Apr 28th); Fleet Pond (2, May 17th); Eversley GP (1, May 5th).

Autumn records for half month periods, from the main sites are in the table above. In addition to the above, there were inland reports from Ibsley Water (1, July 24th) and Fleet Pond (4W, Aug 15th). Late year winterers were as the first winter period, plus a single at Needs Ore on one date (Nov 13th).

Curlew

Numenius arquata

A common passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeds in small numbers, mainly in the New Forest [SPEC2, Amber, UKBAP2, HBAP].

The county WeBS totals were similar to 2010 in the first winter period, but were lower in the second period, despite a larger build up during the late summer/early autumn. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1702	893	1449	901	1149	141	72	364	1062	1283	1857	1488	1070	1084
East Hayling	761	199	561	334	381	100	70	170	530	650	700	636	279	318
Langstone Harbour	587	199	368	341	546	308	110	175	1144	1936	1830	686	386	392
Portsmouth Harbour	552	2	229	378	367	100	42	2	1	15	75	390	450	445
Southampton Water*	492	126	410	454	356	58	11	8	144	219	225	258	256	309
Beaulieu estuary	147	150	190	202	200	100	9	36	192	184	143	117	169	118
Sowley-Lymington	53	22	15	40	6	2	2	2	47	56	11	29	40	
Lymington-Hurst	150	130	200	190	213	7	4	47	128	82	220	161	125	150
WeBS count totals	2752	836	1944	1938	2003	506	204	411	2185	3075	3204	2192	1708	1737

* Includes Hamble Estuary. Sites of national importance: 1400+.

Away from the tabulated sites, the only regular reports were from the Titchfield Haven area, with counts up to ten from all months except August and September. There were 60 in fields at Taddiford Gap on Jan 19th and one at Sandy Point between Jan 1st and Feb 15th.

Spring passage was observed at Sandy Point (28 mainly E/NE, between Feb 23rd and May 8th, max. 6E on Mar 15th), Southsea (5, Apr 19th; 2, May 15th); Stokes Bay/Hill Head (1E, Apr 3rd; 3E, May 3rd; 5E, May 7th) and Hurst (2E, Apr 9th). Autumn coastal passage was also only reported from Sandy Point (65W, between June 6th and Oct 13th, max. 12W on June 22nd). The normal build up in Langstone Harbour took place in July, with the peak count of 1936 in August. The annual autumn peaks are shown below:

Langstone Harbour autumn peaks	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Count	1728	1703	1817	1500	1525	1811	1343	1300	1228	1469	1506	1936

Inland records away from breeding sites were as follows.

Avon Valley: Ibsley/Harbridge (8, Feb 28th; 13, Mar 3rd; 10, Mar 6th; 1, Apr 19th; 1, Nov 10th; 1, Nov 14th); Somerley (3, Mar 13th).

Elsewhere: Crookhorn (1, Jan 4th); Itchen Valley CP (1, Mar 22nd; 2, Dec 5th); Longmoor (1, Apr 10th); Old Winchester Hill (12, Nov 19th); Purbrook (50, Dec 2nd).

The NFWBS found 27 at 34 sites on Mar 19th/20th and, subsequently, breeding season reports from the New Forest included 29 territories at 27. Nesting was confirmed at one locality where the outcome was unknown but one fledged young was seen at a second site. There were no other breeding reports from elsewhere in the county.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

A moderately common passage migrant; a few regularly winter; has attempted breeding at least once [SPEC3, Amber].

Wintering numbers were comparable to 2010. Spring passage was similar to 2010, but peaked in May, rather than April, while the autumn passage was noticeably lighter.

Records were received from four traditional wintering sites near the coast (monthly max. from January to March): Langstone Harbour (2, 1, 1); Curbridge (1, -, 3); Northam/Riverside Park, Southampton (2, 1, 1) and Lower Test Marshes (3, 3, 2). There were regular reports from Testwood Lakes (3, 2, 2), which probably refer to the Lower Test birds. There was a single at Bucklers Hard on Jan 5th. Half-monthly maxima of grounded birds during spring and autumn passage are shown below:

Half-monthly maxima	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	Jun 1-15	Jun 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Black/Sandy Point		5	1				1	2	2	5	2	1		
Langstone Harbour			1					5	10	1	2	1	1	
IBM & Paulsgrove L.		1	1		1	1	1	3			6	1		
Portsmouth Harbour		2					2	5	1					
Titchfield Haven		2	1				2	3	4	4	3	4		1
Hamble estuary	1	1	2	1		1	4	7	6	2				
Curbridge							2	1	4	2			1	
Riverside Park	3	4	3				2	3	5		3	2	2	2
LTM/Testwood Lakes		3	3		1	4	16	9	5	6	2	3	3	
Hythe/Fawley							1	3	3					
Beaulieu estuary		1	2			1	5	3	1		1	1	1	
Lymington-Hurst	1	1	10	1		1	6	11	5	2	1	1	1	
Blashford Lakes	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	3	2	2	1		
Lakeside, Eastleigh	1		1			1	2			1				
Winchester SF		1	3	1		5	2	2	3	4	1	1	1	
Woolmer Pond	1						13			1				
Fleet Pond	1	1	3	3			2		2	1				

In addition to the above, there were spring reports of singles (unless stated) from Emsworth (5, May 1st); Southsea (3, May 1st; 2, May 2nd); Lee-on-the-Solent (2, June 5th); Itchen Valley

CP (Apr 14th); Heath Pond, Petersfield (3, May 5th); Rooksbury Mill (May 19th); Eversley GP (May 8th); Frith End (May 5th); The Vyne WM (May 1st; May 8th). The last spring record was of three at Fleet Pond on May 20th.

There were four birds in early and mid June, but regular return passage started with a single at the IBM Lake on June 24th. Autumn reports away from the tabulated sites (of singles unless stated): Eversley GP (July 10th, Sep 4th;); Pitts Deep (3, July 17th; Aug 15th); Wickham (Aug 6th); Northney (Aug 6th/7th); Eling/Bury Marshes (7, Aug 12th; Sep 10th); Mortimer West End (Aug 13th); Rooksbury Mill (Aug 25th); Alresford Pond (1-2, between Sep 1st and 22nd); Petersfield Pond (Sep 5th; Sep 11th); Sowley (Oct 1st); Calshot (Oct 16th) and Swaythling (Oct 28th).

November and December monthly maxima at the traditional sites were as follows: Langstone Harbour (2, -); Curbridge (1, -); Northam/Riverside Park, Southampton (1, 3) and Lower Test Marshes (2, 1). There were also reports from Testwood Lakes (2, -), which probably refer to the Lower Test birds. There were 1/2 at Blashford Lakes between December 3rd and 10th, plus singles at Titchfield Haven on November 11th, Eling on November 13th and Needs Ore on December 11th. Monthly totals based on maxima at sites are shown below:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of site maxima	9	10	9	5	8	28	48	14	87	81	34	14	8	7

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

A passage migrant, scarce in spring and moderately common in autumn. Small numbers winter [Schedule 1, Amber].

Wintering numbers and numbers recorded during the passage periods were similar to 2010. The highest count was ten at Winchester SF on Aug 5th.

Records for the first winter period came from 38 sites. These were mainly of ones and twos, but included Mapledurwell CB (4, Jan 2nd); Woolmer Pond (3, Jan 1st); Sabines Farm, Avon Valley (3, Jan 18th); New Alresford (3, Feb 26th) and Lower Test Marshes (3, Mar 1st).

Half-monthly maxima during the spring and autumn passage periods are shown below, followed by approximate monthly totals based on maxima at each site.

Half-monthly maxima	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 16-31
Hermitage Stream, Havant						1		3	4	3	2	3	1	
Farlington Marshes								1	1	2	1		3	
Hook-with-Warsash							1	1		2	1	1		
Titchfield Haven	2	1				4	4	6	4	3	1	2	1	2
Lower Test Marshes	3	2			1	10	11	17	16	12	10	4	4	7
Testwood Lakes					1	3		1	4		1	1		1
Beaulieu estuary			1			1	4	2	6	6	4	6	8	3
Lymington/Hurst			1	1				1	2	4		1	1	
Blashford Lakes	1						1	7	8	3	5	3	1	3
Winchester SF						1	1	6	10	5	4	2	1	
Alresford Pond									8	11	8	6	3	1
Fleet Pond				1			2	1	2					

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of site maxima	26	30	36	23	18	14	4	24	61	111	57	51	31	30

The last of the main spring passage was one at Fleet Pond on May 5th. There were no further reports until one at Needs Ore on June 6th. There were five further records totalling seven birds, before reports became widespread from June 27th. During the passage period tabulated above, there were reports from a further 36 sites. These were mainly of ones or twos, but included: Fishlake Meadows (3, July 30th; 3, Aug 2nd); Somerley Estate (4, Aug 27th); Welshman’s Road GP (5, Sep 3rd); Holmsley GP (3, Oct 14th); Pitts Deep (3, Oct 16th) and Drayton Farm CB (3, Oct 24th).

Records for the late year were received from 30 sites. Again, these were mainly ones and twos, but included: Needs Ore (max. 4, Nov 1st); Lower Test Marshes (4-5, between Nov 2nd and Dec 31st); Somerley Estate (5, Dec 7th) and Blashford Lakes (3-4, between Dec 27th and 29th).

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

A scarce and declining passage migrant and winter visitor [SPEC3, Amber].

The wintering population was up a little compared to 2010, but passage totals were broadly similar. In the first three months of the year the main site was Lymington/Hurst (with monthly maxima of 13, 10, 10). Elsewhere, there was one at Needs Ore on Feb 20th and 1-2 there between Mar 22nd and 29th. The regular winterer at Nore Barn, Emsworth stayed until Mar 19th. It was occasionally joined by a second bird.

Half-monthly maxima of grounded birds during the spring and autumn passage periods are shown below for the main sites:

Half-monthly maxima	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	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
Farlington Marshes									1	1	1	1		
Needs Ore/Beaulieu estuary	5	3			1	1	6	6	12	11	9	13	13	12
Lymington-Hurst	6	3	2		1	1	1		2	7	8	8	9	11

Elsewhere, there were two at Alresford Pond on Apr 15th/16th, with one remaining on Apr 17th. A winter plumage bird was at upper Titchfield Haven between Apr 14th and 23rd. A summer plumage bird was at Titchfield Haven on Apr 30th and, presumably, the same was at Warsash on that date. In June, there were summer plumage birds at Needs Ore on June 7th and 26th, and at Pennington Marsh on June 15th/16th and 23rd.

The regular winterer at Nore Barn returned for its eighth winter on Oct 21st and remained to the year end, occasionally being joined by a second bird. Monthly maxima for November and December elsewhere in the second winter period were Beaulieu estuary (11, 7) and Lymington/Hurst (15, 12).

Approximate totals based on monthly maxima at each site are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of site maxima	16	13	15	12	13	15	2	2	7	15	20	23	29	21

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

A moderately common passage migrant; scarce winter visitor [Schedule 1, Green].

Numbers were down in the first winter period, but were then similar to 2010 for the remainder of the year.

The monthly maxima from regular sites for January to March included: Langstone Harbour (1, 1, 1); Portsmouth Harbour (1, 2, 1); Hook-with-Warsash (5, 3, 2); Curbridge (-, 2, 7); Beaulieu estuary (2, 2, 1) and Lymington/Hurst (6, 6, 5). Elsewhere there were singles (unless stated) at East Hayling (Jan 1st; Feb 14th; Feb 19th; Mar 19th); Nore Barn, Emsworth (Jan 1st; Jan 14th; Mar 3rd); Titchfield Haven (Jan 23rd); Weston Shore (between Jan 21st and Mar 3rd).

Half-monthly maxima during the spring and autumn passage periods are shown opposite. Elsewhere, in spring there were reports (singles unless stated) from: Woolmer Pond (5, Apr 30th; May 1st; May 24th); Winchester SF (May 1st); Fleet Pond (May 2nd); Eversley GP (May 2nd); Meadow Lake (2, May 3rd) and Bisterne (May 26th). Coastal passage was only reported from Hurst, with 13 on three dates between Apr 21st and 30th.

The first return was one at Normandy on June 27th and 30th followed by one heard at Sandy Point on July 2nd at 0545 hrs. Away from the tabulated sites autumn birds (singles unless stated)

were reported from: Fleet Pond (July 31st and Aug 20th); Winchester SF (Aug 13th); The Vyne WM (Aug 17th); Nore Barn, Emsworth (Oct 24th/25th) and Calshot (Oct 26th).

Half-monthly maxima	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-7	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
East Hayling		1	1			1	4	4	4	2	3	5	1	1
Langstone Harbour	1	5	1			22	24	43	29	40	13	33	1	12
Portsmouth Harbour		1					1	1	4	3	3	3	17	3
Titchfield Haven	2	2	3	3			1	4	2	2	3		2	1
Hamble Estuary		3				1	4	7	4	8	6	6	11	8
Lower Itchen							1				1	2		1
Lower Test/Bury Marshes						4	2	1	2	2	1			
Beaulieu estuary	2	4	5		1	2	8	26	30	20	17	15	15	7
Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep							1	2		1		1		
Lymington-Hurst	3	8	2	1	1	9	23	30	9	29	11	10	6	8
Ibsley Water/Harbridge		1	1	1			2	2			1			
Alresford Pond		1						1	4	2				

Wintering records for November/December came from the traditional sites, with monthly maxima as follows: Northney/Emsworth (1, 1); Langstone Harbour (2, 2); Portsmouth Harbour (-, 3); Titchfield Haven (3, 1); Hamble estuary (6, 6); Beaulieu estuary (2, 2) and Lymington/Hurst (5, 9). One was also at Town Quay, Southampton on Dec 6th. Approximate monthly totals based on maxima at each site are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sum of site maxima	48	24	20	18	20	33	20	2	79	137	117	100	44	26

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

A scarce passage migrant; more numerous in autumn [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

Spring passage was heavier than in recent years, boosted by three different individuals seen at Winchester SF (May 3rd, May 6th, May 18th) and two moving east at Hurst with a flock of Bar-tailed Godwits on May 1st. The other spring records were from Ibsley North GP (2, Apr 28th); Farlington Marshes (May 1st-3rd) and Fox Lane GP, Eversley (May 18th).

There was a total of 13 on autumn passage (*cf.* 13 in 2010 and 2009). Reports came from Fleet Pond (July 15th-18th and Aug 14th); Ibsley North GP (July 31st); Titchfield Haven (Aug 5th, Aug 14th; Aug 23rd); Needs Ore (Aug 14th, 30th and Sep 15th); Alresford Pond (Aug 15th/16th); Winchester SF (Aug 12th-16th); Pennington Marsh (Aug 23rd) and Normandy (Sep 1st). The four at Winchester SF were the first there since 2001 and the 28th-31st at the site since recording began in 1962.

Monthly totals for spring and autumn and the annual totals for autumn passage from 1999-2011 are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
Total birds	2	7	0	2	9	2

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bird-months	13	12	16	20	19	22	15	16	17	11	13	13	14

Redshank

Tringa totanus

A moderately common but declining breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor [SPEC2, Amber, HBAP].

The county WeBS totals in the first winter period continued the low counts from the end of 2010. The November count, however, was the highest county total since a total of 2949 in October 2009. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated overleaf:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1535	1304	1395	1514	780	79	26	53	450	1581	988	2137	1714	1392
East Hayling	427	333	529	523	140	22	10	2	80	150	255	493	529	369
Langstone Harbour	507	84	370	505	353	91	12	7	101	665	448	895	826	457
Portsmouth Harbour	145	159	280	247	308				6		199	486	781	365
Southampton Water	301	155	274	224	204	8	1	11	68	153	278	240	92	313
Beaulieu estuary	98	98	25	156	39	15	9	40	19	39	39	41	73	56
Lymington-Hurst	230	140	70	180	70	39	27	47	200	140	250	57	162	120
WeBS count totals	1709	978	1532	1839	1144	189	60	65	500	1062	1300	2219	2467	1683

Sites of national importance: 1200+.

Elsewhere, along the coast flocks were regularly reported during the year from Titchfield Haven (max. 15, Feb 14th) and Pitts Deep, Lymington (max. 50, July 17th). Spring passage was only reported from Hurst, with singles east on May 5th and 7th. Inland spring passage (or possible breeders) was reported at Ibsley Water (max. 6, on 25 dates between Feb 27th and June 5th); Winchester SF (singles on Apr 4th, May 7th); Woolmer Pond (1-3, on six dates, between Apr 25th and June 2nd); Fox Lane GP, (2, May 8th; 2, May 31st – breeders from adjacent Berkshire).

In the breeding season, very little information was reported. Approximately 44 pairs or territories were located at 19 sites, as follows (singles unless stated otherwise): Gutner Point, Hayling (2); RSPB islands, Langstone Harbour (at least 11 pairs/territories); Titchfield Haven (2); Hook-with-Warsash (2); Bucklers Hard (2); Beaulieu; Lepe; Needs Ore; Pylewell Lake (2); Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep (2); Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (3, at least 1 young); Hurst Castle; Somerley Estate (5); Ibsley Water (2); Hatchet Pond; Beaulieu Heath; The Vyne (3); Welshmans Road GP (fledged young) and Woolmer Pond (at least 1 pair). Return passage inland records were scarce with singles at Winchester SF (June 23rd/24th), Fishlake Meadows (July 2nd), Hatchet Pond (July 30th) and Ibsley Water (Aug 29th; Sep 25th).

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

A moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers summer [Amber].



Turnstone – Rosemary Powell

The county WeBS counts were similar to 2010 in the first winter period, but somewhat lower in the second. This is mainly attributable to lower counts in Langstone Harbour, where birds seem

to be changing their roosting pattern from moored boats to fixed structures. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	115	178	227	160	70	11	17	60	32	25	12	172	121	230
Black Point/E. Hayling	75	11	49	36	33	4	4	9	23	33	18	67	60	23
Langstone Harbour	305	50	229	158	292	43		1	6	161	264	203	234	78
Portsmouth Harbour	28	20	74								1	93	71	82
Titchfield Haven/Brownwich	36	21	60	54	92	63	6		40	107	188	77	37	40
Hamble Estuary	130	113	84	157	149	120	12	2	10	145	145	109	140	155
Weston/Northam	82	90	65	55	120	49	17	10	55	43	100	130	10	160
Hythe-Calshot	28	23	14	9	28				7	21	19	21	31	20
Lepe-Beaulieu estuary	103	49	40	60	30	11	2	0	4	30	9	165	27	45
Sowley-Lymington	7	15	6	42	72	18		11	3		50	65	24	
Lymington-Hurst	100	85	85	75	111	42	15	11	25	70	140	68	100	110
WeBS count totals	708	454	629	558	848	145	7	24	36	378	805	493	591	541

Sites of national importance: 480+.

The only other significant coastal reports outside of the passage period were from Hayling Bay (39, Jan 11th; 72, Feb 19th). These were probably displaced from roosts in Langstone Harbour.

Probable spring coastal migration was reported from Sandy Point (12 on five dates between May 3rd and 26th). Inland, the only passage records were from Blashford Lakes: one at Ibsley Water on May 22nd; two at Rockford Lake on Aug 18th; five at Ibsley Water on Aug 26th with two remaining on 27th/28th and five there on Sep 25th.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

A rare passage migrant [ET, Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP4]. (3,45,1)

There was just one record of an adult at Keyhaven lagoon on a typical date of Aug 23rd (DFP, DHd, photo).

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

A very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December-February. (? ,275,6)

A total of at least six was recorded, all in September. There was a minimum of four juveniles in various stages of moult at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes between 8th and 22nd. A mobile individual moved between Butts and Keyhaven lagoons from 8th-15th (BL, ASD *et al.*); one fed off the sea wall and then moved west at Normandy on 11th (MW); one presumed different was off Hurst Castle at 0818 hrs on 12th (MPM) and one, almost moulted to first-winter, was at Normandy Lagoon from 15th-22nd (MW, BDI). A first winter was at Meander pool, Hook Links from 17th-22nd (SBr *et al.*) and another first-winter was at Blackwater, Beaulieu estuary from 23rd-26th (RLo, BJP *et al.*).



Juvenile Grey Phalarope, Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marsh, Sep 9th – Ian Williamson

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

A scarce passage migrant [Green].

It was an exceptional year for this species involving at least 82 bird-days of which 79 were in spring. Potentially, this was the third highest annual total (discussed below), only being bettered by 1980 (95) and 1997 (113). Spring passage began on Apr 23rd and continued to May 30th, a summary is tabulated below:

April-May date	23rd	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	7th	8th	11th	22nd	29th	30th	Bird-days
Hurst/Milford on Sea	1	7	23	18	10		3	4	1	1	1		1	1	70
Lingering evening				16	8										
East into Solent		7			1		2								
Hill Head			1		1	7									9
Sandy Point/Hayling			1	11						1		1			
Day max	1	7	23	18	10	7	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	79
Easterly movement	1	7	8	11	2	7	3	4	1	1		1	1	1	48

On Apr 23rd, a pale phase adult headed east past Hurst Spit, a day earlier than last year's first spring sighting. Then there was a lull until Apr 29th when seven flew east through Hurst narrows (1,2,4); the last group of four contained an intermediate phase bird with 'spoons' (an unusual plumage combination). A total of 23 (3,1,6,13) was recorded at Hurst Spit from 0838 to 1940 hrs on 30th, of these seven flew east and 16 north-west; in addition; one was briefly off Hill Head and one arrived from the south at Hayling Bay and flew west into The Solent. May 1st was dominated by an easterly wind, 11 flew east at Sandy Point at 0900 hrs, including a flock of ten which rested briefly on the sea; at least 18 were seen at Hurst with the general movement to the north-west, but by evening a loose flock of 16 could be seen far to the west of Hurst Spit.

On May 2nd, two pale phase were off Hurst Spit at 0717 hrs and 0858 hrs; the first headed off east into The Solent, presumably this individual was that seen at Hill Head at 0812 hrs and through Stokes Bay at 0827 hrs; at Hurst another eight were seen between 1744 and 1944 hrs (2, 6) and these lingered to the west – all pale phase, except what was presumed to be the same 'intermediate phase with spoons' individual for its fourth day. It has been suspected for many years that Pomarine Skuas linger off Hurst Spit for days. Evidence of this has been hard to obtain, but the repeated presence of one with such an unusual plumage combination may be considered as evidence that this behaviour does take place. A flock of seven (six pale phase) flew high east past Hill Head on 3rd at 0610 hrs. Three pale phase were noted from Hurst beach on May 4th from 1320 to 1408 hrs, eventually heading east, followed the next day by a dark phase at 0545 hrs and three pale phase mid morning then two pale phase singles on 7th and 8th: the latter presumably the same noted moving east past Sandy Point. A dark phase adult, flew north-west off Hurst on 11th. The final May reports, all singles moving east, were at Sandy Point on 22nd and dark phase birds at Hurst on 29th and 30th.

In the late year, the same pale phase individual was off Milford on Sea and Hurst Castle on Sep 10th and 12th and another on 18th. The final record of the year was of an immature flying east off Hurst on Nov 13th.

Estimating the year total is difficult because of lingering birds in Christchurch Bay from Apr 29th to May 2nd, which may have totalled four on Apr 29th/30th, 16 on May 1st/2nd and eight on May 3rd. Conversely, birds at Sandy Point on May 2nd and Hill Head on 4th perhaps were not registered at Hurst/Milford on Sea. For these reasons, the estimated year total was between 56 and 74 but the cumulative annual daily max. of 84 is included in the table below (p. 102) as the only reliable measure.

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

A scarce passage migrant [Red, UK BAP 3].

There were 164 reports of around 135 individuals during the year – an increase on the previous two years overall figures. A minimum of 94 was noted over the spring, ten in the summer months, around 29 during the autumn and only two in winter.

The first of the year was a dark phase flying east past Hurst Spit on Apr 9th. Double figure day counts during the spring migration period occurred on May 3rd and 5th. Both counts came from Hurst Spit with 11 and 14 east respectively. Only a handful of movements could be tracked through The Solent. On May 1st, a pale and a dark phase headed east past Hurst at 0648 hrs, later passing Hill Head at 0740 hrs, Stokes Bay at 0747 hrs, continuing on past Southsea Castle at 0800 hrs and Sandy Point prior to 1100 hrs (no time given). It was not the speediest of passages along The Solent, possibly stopping off between Hurst and Hill Head. More of an indication of swifter passage was seen on Apr 30th when another mixed colour phase pairing passed by Hurst at 1810 hrs. They split up *en route* with the dark phase passing Hill Head 28 minutes later and the pale bird 50 minutes later. Spring passage totals were 73 (34 pale, 30 dark, 1 intermediate phase, 8 not classified) at Hurst and 22 (8 pale, 11 dark phase, 3 not classified) at Stokes Bay.

It is not possible to state where spring passage finished as summering birds continued to be seen through June, July and August. Over the autumn period, 35 records were considered to relate to around 29 individuals as some lingered for days at several locations. Records thinned in October, with none in November but two in December. Records from localities with multiple records are summarised below:



*Juvenile Arctic Skua, Sandy Point, Oct 11th –
Richard Ford*

Sandy Point/Hayling Bay: 2E, Apr 21st; 3E, Apr 22nd; 1E, Apr 25th; 1E, Apr 26th; 1E, Apr 28th; 1E, Apr 30th; 4E, May 1st; 6E, May 3rd; 3E, May 4th; 7E, May 5th; 3E, May 6th; 1E, May 8th; 1, May 14th; 1E, May 19th; 1E, May 31st; 1, June 22nd; 1, June 23rd; 1, July 7th; 2, July 18th; 1, July 29th; 1E, Aug 7th; 1, Aug 11th; 1, Sep 6th; 1, Sep 7th; 1, Sep 8th; 1W, Sep 26th; 1E, Oct 9th; 1, Oct 11th; 1, Oct 22nd.

Stokes Bay/Gosport: 1E, Apr 18th; 1E, Apr 19th; 1E, Apr 22nd; 2E, Apr 25th; 1E, Apr 26th; 2, Apr 30th; 2, May 1st; 6, May 5th; 4E, May 7th; 1E, May 8th; 1E, May 30th; 1, Sep 6th; 1E Sep 12th.

Hill Head/Titchfield Haven: 2E, Apr 18th; 3E, Apr 19th; 1E, Apr 22nd; 3E, Apr 30th; 2E, May 1st; 2E, May 4th; 2E, May 5th; 1E, May 6th; 3E, May 7th.

Needs Ore: 1E, May 3rd; 1, Oct 9th.

Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea: 1E, Apr 9th; 2E, Apr 14th; 1E, Apr 15th; 2E, Apr 18th; 1E, Apr 21st; 1E, Apr 23rd; 1E, Apr 25th; 2E, Apr 28th; 5E, Apr 29th; 8E, May 1st; 2E, May 2nd; 11E, May 3rd; 7E, May 4th; 11E, May 5th; 6E, May 6th; 1E1W, May 7th; 1E, May 22nd; 2E, May 28th/29th; 3E, May 30th; 1-2 June on 4 dates; 1, Sep 7th; 5, Sep 10th/11th; 1E6W, from Sep 12th-17th; 5 lingering, Sep 18th; 1S1W, Oct 5th, 1, Oct 23rd (Keyhaven); 1, Dec 4th.

In addition to the above, there were single reports from: Southsea Castle (2, May 1st); Portsmouth Harbour (1, Sep 21st); Tanners Lane, Lymington (1W, Oct 5th); Farlington Marshes (1, Oct 15th) and the last of the year, one west at Hordle Cliff on Dec 18th.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

A very scarce passage migrant also recorded twice in winter [Green]. (1,41,1)

One was present in September – the seventh consecutive year that the species has been recorded in the county. A dark phase juvenile was reported on 6th but no description has been received. On 10th, a dark phase juvenile was present off Hurst/Milford on Sea and spent most of the day out over the shingle bank harrying terns and picking food items from the turbulent sea. It kept to the outer edges of the large gathering of terns, gulls and Gannets, feeding from the tidal race. When picking items from the sea surface, it would often hover for brief periods (MPM, GH-D, IWi, ACJ and AHo). A dark phase juvenile was again reported on 17th/18th (SI, PAG, KAT, CAA). Most observers believed just one individual had been present during this thirteen day period usually feeding well offshore.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

A scarce passage migrant [Amber].

A minimum of 55 was seen during the year, of these 32 being in spring, 19 in autumn and at least four over the winter months. The majority of records came from the Hurst/Milford on Sea area, followed by Sandy Point/Hayling Bay and two records from Stokes Bay in the autumn. Only on two dates (Apr 5th, Oct 10th) were birds seen from two locations. The highest day count was at Sandy Point on Oct 8th when four landed together on the sea. During the winter at least two different individuals lingered in the Hurst/Milford on Sea area. All records are summarised below:

Sandy Point/Hayling Bay: 1, Mar 8th; 1E, Mar 30th; 1W, Apr 5th; 1, Apr 12th; 1, Apr 29th; 2E, May 1st; 1, May 2nd; 1E, May 3rd; 1, May 24th; 1, Sep 6th; 4, Oct 8th; 1W, Oct 9th; 1, Oct 10th.

Stokes Bay: 1E, Oct 10th; 1E, Oct 11th.

Hurst/Milford on Sea: 1W, Jan 27th; 1E, Apr 3rd; 3, Apr 5th; 2E, Apr 13th; 1E, Apr 17th; 3E, Apr 18th; 1E, Apr 20th; 2E, Apr 26th; 1, May 2nd; 1E, May 15th; 1, May 22nd; 1E, June 8th; 1E, June 12th; 2W, June 16th; 1E, June 17th; 2E, June 18th; 1E, June 27th; 1W, July 24th; 1, July 26th; 1SE, Aug 7th; 1E, Aug 11th; 1W, Sep 2nd; 1SW, Sep 10th; 1S, Sep 16th; 1W, Sep 17th; 1S, Oct 23rd; 1, Oct 30th, 1, Dec 2nd, 1, Dec 3rd; 1, Dec 8th; 1, Dec 26th; 1, Dec 30th.

Skua sp.

In the early year, a large skua species was recorded distantly off Milford on Sea on Feb 5th. Three large dark phase skuas were noted off Milford on Sea on Oct 9th and one off Keyhaven Marsh on Oct 31st. All of the above were thought to be Pomarine Skuas but none of the observers was 100% sure.

The annual totals of bird-months 1999-2011 for all skua species were as follows:

Annual totals	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Pomarine Skua	25	61	45	22	30	63	46	28	21	75	18	24	84
Arctic Skua	120	115	139	151	221	189	192	199	169	153	120	122	135
Long-tailed Skua	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	7	1	6	1
Great Skua	15	32	38	24	31	35	40	43	64	52	45	37	55

Sabine's Gull

Xema sabini

A rare autumn and winter visitor, usually storm driven. (1,153,7)

There were five records, mostly in the west of the county, of a total of seven individuals. These are the first records since October 2008. The highest annual total since, or before, the hurricane-induced influx of 120 on Oct 16th 1987.

The first, an adult, was at Sopley on Aug 18th (SPP *et al.*). Presumably, the same was nearby at Hinton Admiral on Aug 19th (SPP) but returned to Sopley where it was last seen on Aug 22nd. Strong gales on Sep 6th brought a juvenile to the Chichester Harbour entrance from 1815-1825 hrs before heading back out to sea (ACJ). Later in September, a month of

changeable weather with strong winds at times, there were several records from the west Solent. The first, a juvenile at Milford on Sea on Sep 10th (ACJ), was seen heading north-east at 1705 hrs. A second juvenile was at Milford on Sea on Sep 13th (DSt), and then from Sep 19th to 28th two juveniles frequented the area around the nearby Sturt Pond (CAA *et al.*). The final record of the year was of an adult flying east 50 yards offshore at Needs Ore at 1045 hrs on Sep 20th (NOTG).



Sabine’s Gulls with Black-headed Gulls – Dan Powell

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

A passage migrant and winter visitor, usually scarce but sometimes occurring in large numbers after gales [Amber].

The highest monthly count of the year was in January when strong south-westerly winds mid month led to a total of 194 being logged. Most were at Sandy Point with a westerly movement of 113 between Jan 12th and 16th (max. 95 on Jan 15th) and 19 were logged on five dates between Jan 24th and 31st (max. 10 on Jan 24th). There were 58 logged at Hurst on three dates (9, Jan 3rd; 38 moving east, Jan 15th and 11, Jan 16th).

Spring passage was light with a total of 52 between Mar 22nd and June 8th. These included 27 at Hurst and 14 at Sandy Point. Others were recorded at Gunner Point, Hayling Island (1), Hill Head (5) and Stokes Bay (5).

Late in the year there were two influxes. Following gales, a total of 45 was logged between Oct 22nd and 26th including 42 off Hurst on 23rd. In December, a total of 38 was logged between 4th and 11th at Hurst (26,4th; 4, 8th) and Sandy Point (7, 11th).

There was one inland record of an adult heading WSW over Fleet Pond at 1630hrs on Feb 10th. The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	370		194	22	8	11	30	3		3	2	47	5	44

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber].

Monthly maxima at regularly surveyed sites are tabulated overleaf:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	799	965	2069	827	1043	440	114	381	960	370	1332	230	953	498
Portsmouth Harbour	2013	494	1477	1791	1087	30		20			893	716	1141	772
Titchfield Haven				170	1400	2000	2200	2000	800		130		567	
Ibsley Water	3000	1010	1441	2300	2085	200		200	126		131	1225	3000	2000
Winchester SF	247	362	507	1067	1060	94	17	40	169	363	754	492	477	1009
Alresford Pond	120	43	29	189	465		1		12	1782	750	585	1200	46

Away from these sites there were four-figure counts as follows: Bury Marshes (6000 over at first light on Jan 16th many of which were moving inland); Oxey Lake (1000, Feb 18th); Farlington Marshes (3000, Apr 16th); Sopley Pig Farm (2500, Sep 26th) and Waterlooville (between 1700 and 1800 hrs on Oct 14th at least 1000 were counted heading southwards to roost along the coast; 1000, Nov 30th). A leucistic individual was seen at Weston Shore on Feb 19th and Mar 20th.

A total of 13,509 breeding pairs was recorded, (*cf.* 14,558, 2010; 13,855, 2009). Details from each site are tabulated below (where estimated young counts are in brackets). The almost complete failure of the Langstone Harbour colony to produce young was attributed to a combination of tidal flooding and fox disturbance/predation.

Breeding pairs	2008	2009	2010	2011
West Hayling LNR	156	450 (557)	461(564)	538(409)
Langstone Harbour RSPB	4846	5298 (2018)	5023 (5617)	4581 (2)
Titchfield Haven	800	580	1055	740
Hook-with-Warsash	21	40	1	
Pylewell-Keyhaven	8108	7367	7738	7450
Ibsley Water	60-80	120 (150)	180+ (500)	200 (300)

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

A scarce visitor, although sometimes moderately common, recorded in all months but most numerous in spring and autumn [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

Prior to March there were only two sightings. A first-winter moved east through Hurst Narrows at 0957hrs on Jan 3rd and returned west at 1201hrs. On Feb 26th there was an unaged individual off Weston Shore.

Spring passage began in late March – the first sighting being of an adult in non-breeding plumage at Sopley pig farm on 20th. Another adult was at Ibsley Water on Mar 24th increasing to two on 25th. On 26th there were first-winter individuals at Lower Test Marshes and Hook-with-Warsash and also eight adults at Fleet Pond. Easterly passage along The Solent commenced on 27th with three past Hill Head and a further three past Sandy Point on 29th. A total coastal movement of 193 (sum of max. from any one site on each date), mainly east, was logged between Mar 27th and May 8th with most being counted at Hurst (124) and Sandy Point (55). Others were seen at Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (26), Stokes Bay (32) and Southsea Castle (5). The highest day-counts were at Hurst (35, Apr 22nd; 31, May 3rd) and Sandy Point (16, Apr 19th; 13, Apr 25th). In addition to those counted on passage a further 32 were recorded in March, April and May, mostly as singles along the coast, though there were also some inland records. At Ibsley Water there were almost daily records from Mar 24th to Apr 6th where some lingered for more than a day. After the two adults on Mar 25th mentioned above, there were three adults and a first-summer on Apr 1st, two first-summers on Apr 3rd and two adults on May 3rd. Further arrivals at Fleet Pond included three on Mar 27th, which departed that evening, and an adult on Mar 28th. At Hook-with-Warsash, a first-summer individual that was first recorded on May 18th stayed through the summer until early September.

Autumn passage was light, with only three records in August, the first being at Stokes Bay on Aug 26th, and a further 24 records during September and October. Most were of singles along the coast but there were inland sightings at Ibsley Water of a first-winter on Sep 6th and

an unaged individual on Sep 25th. In the last two months of the year, there was one record of an unaged individual seen at both Marchwood and Redbridge on Nov 13th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	29	2	1	1	21	131	67	4	1	3	15	9	1	

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

A moderately common and increasing visitor and breeder [ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

As with previous years recorded numbers were low through January, however, a count of 95 from the Beaulieu estuary on Jan 23rd was notable. Numbers built rapidly through February, peaking in March, with counts of 342 feeding on crustaceans off Oxy Marsh on 6th and 240 at West Hayling near (Hayling Oysterbeds) on 21st.

Breeding occurred in four areas. At Langstone Harbour, a record total of 498 pairs nested but failed to fledge any young due to fox predation and high spring tides; it is thought that the exceptionally dry spring may have prevented their ability to forage for terrestrial insects. At Titchfield Haven one pair nested but also failed. In the west Solent 19 pairs nested fledging a minimum of nine young. Elsewhere, Hampshire’s first inland breeding birds were recorded at Ibsley Water with two pairs; one pair failed whilst the second fledged two young of which one was ringed, although it is not known if it fledged.

Notable post-breeding gatherings were reported from two areas. On farmland near Titchfield Haven counts in excess of 100 were regularly made between Aug 9th and Sep 10th, with peaks of **116** at Ranvilles Lane on Aug 27th and **478** at Brownwich on Sep 10th. Between Keyhaven and Normandy counts in excess of 100 were made between July 4th and Oct 2nd peaking at 372 on Oct 1st.

In the last quarter, numbers reduced through October in line with previous years with slightly below average numbers remaining to winter, double-figure counts coming from the Beaulieu estuary and the Keyhaven-Normandy area.

Monthly maxima at regularly used coastal localities are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	3	1	1	6	20	61	40	25	71	5	117		1	4
South Hayling shore	1		1	5	12	5	1	3	1		1	3	1	1
Langstone Harbour	1		1	95	240	14	2	1			2			
Eastney/Southsea		1												
Portsmouth Harbour	13	4	5	10	32	2		9	5	1		5	5	5
Titchfield Haven area	4	2	2	6	70	123	6	17	47	350	478	4	2	1
Hamble Estuary	1	1	1	2	2	4	2	1	4	29	3	1	1	1
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	1	3	95	29	2	12	5	20	21	15	32	2	4	10
Sowley/Lymington	11		2	27	13	25	2	2		40		8		
Lymington/Hurst	64	68	27	106	342	200	35	88	210	30	72	372	4	17

Inland, numbers on the South Downs were much reduced when compared to recent years, probably as a result of the failure of the Langstone Harbour breeding colony. Other notable records (mostly inland) are listed below:

- Waterlooville: 43 on 23 dates between Feb 28th and July 25th peaking at 8 on Apr 17th.
- New Milton: 78 over observers garden on 29 dates between Mar 14th and July 3rd.
- Havant Thicket: 43, Mar 27th; 22, Mar 29th.
- Heath Pond, Petersfield: 11, Mar 28th.
- Butser Hill: 15, feeding on insects May 20th; 14, adults following a tractor, July 25th.
- Cheesefoot Head: 40, May 30th.
- Droxford: 10, June 13th; 10, June 30th.
- Ibsley Water: 18 (12 adults), July 10th.
- Sopley pig farm/Avon Causeway: 85, July 16th.

Cheriton: 8 W, July 17th.
 Chidden: 99, July 18th.
 Alresford Pond: 40 (mostly adults), Aug 16th.
 Lakeside, Eastleigh: 19, Aug 22nd, including 9 anting with Black-headed Gulls.

Common Gull

Larus canus

A common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer [Spec2, Amber].

The monthly maxima at locations where regularly counted are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	163	50	88	120	25						24	38	110	46
Beaulieu Estuary	2	4	285	87	13	1	1		4	12	6	6	6	2
Lymington/Hurst	6	4	20	18	13	7		1	1	1	1	1	3	6
Winchester SF	10	13	26	40	43	3	3		4	2		21	45	29
Alresford Pond	190	2	201	51	32				13	13	29	376	481	171

The highest count of 481 above was at Alresford Pond on Nov 9th. High autumn/winter counts have been recorded consistently there for a number of years – the record count was 850 in December 2004. The Pond is mainly used during the daytime by gulls feeding in the surrounding area rather than as a night roost. Another traditional inland site at Ibsley Water holds fluctuating numbers according to weather conditions but this year the maximum number counted was just 12 on Jan 16th.

Away from the sites tabulated above there were 14 three-figure counts of which 13 were in the east of the county as follows: Stroud, near Petersfield (150, Jan 11th; 140, Mar 15th); Denmead (171, Jan 17th); Chichester Harbour (802, Jan 22nd; 336, Mar 19th; 276, Nov 12th); Fawley (108, Jan 23rd); Westbury Manor Farm, West Meon (125, Feb 14th; 300, Mar 15th); Langstone Harbour (409, Feb 25th); Soberton (210, Mar 14th; 300, Dec 12th); Chawton Park Farm (177, Mar 27th) and Northney (150, Sep 10th). The highest count reported along The Solent was 285 at Beaulieu estuary on Jan 23rd.

Eastward coastal movement was recorded at Hurst between Feb 6th and May 11th when a total of 503 was logged during early morning counts (max. 109, Mar 31st). At Sandy Point 113 were counted heading east between Mar 30th and Apr 30th (max. 30, Mar 31st). There were sightings at four locations in June and the first record in July was at Sandy Point on 4th.

On Mar 6th, a colour-ringed male that had been ringed in May 2004 on the Vistula River near Holendry Kozienickie, Poland was recorded at Sinah Common (*q.v.* HBR 2004, first county record, Farlington Marshes). Since then it has made regular spring-time appearances at Hayling seafront. When ringed it was judged to be at least two years old, hence it was at least nine years of age at the time of this latest sighting.

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

A very scarce visitor seen annually since 1991. (0,37,2)

The adult at Walpole Park, Gosport was last recorded on Mar 16th and had returned for its ninth winter by Oct 23rd (m.o.). It was occasionally seen in Haslar Creek and Portsmouth Harbour. There were two other records in the year: a first-winter was at Ibsley Water on Jan 22nd (RAH) and an adult was seen roosting in a car park with other gulls at Eastoke on Sep 4th (DJBI).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

A common visitor, which occurs in all months; the first successful breeding attempt was in 2001. It is most numerous in autumn and increasing in winter [Amber].

The table of monthly maxima data at the main roost sites (opposite) demonstrates the usual occurrence pattern:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ibsley Water	10000	2000	173	127	128	11		13	100		100	9437	3059	2500
Blackbushe Airfield/ Eversley GP	1100	7	100						10	500	2488	3100	520	370

In autumn at Ibsley Water, a dawn count of the dispersing roost totalled 9437 between 0630 and 0730 hrs on Oct 11th (cf. 10,000 November 2010). At Fox Lane GP, Eversley there was a record count of **3100** on Oct 17th.

Elsewhere, there were 39 (cf. 21 in 2010) grounded flocks of over 50 reported from 23 locations, the majority of which were in the north of the county in the latter four months of the year. Most of these are likely to have been feeding flocks from the two main roost sites in county and one at Theale, Berkshire. Counts of 250 or over were as follows: Blackheath Down (500, June 28th); Upton Grey (287, Aug 22nd; 260, Aug 29th); Sydmonton Court, Ecchinswell (300, Aug 29th); Ramsdell (500, Sep 3rd); Welshmans Road GP near Mortimer (250, Sep 28th; 850, Oct 12th; 500, Nov 13th; 332, Dec 27th); Long Sutton (500, Oct 5th); Charter Alley, Ramsdell (250, Oct 5th) and Stapely Down Farm, Odiham (285, Nov 3rd).

On Sep 24th, between 1815 and 1905 hrs, a total of 1440 was logged moving northwards over Fleet Pond to roost at Eversley.

In the breeding season, there were 14 confirmed breeding pairs that raised a total of at least 15 young: 11 of these were roof-top nesters and included nine in Southampton at Itchen estuary (5 pairs, 6 young); West Quay Rd (3 pairs, 3 young); Regents Park (1 pair, 2 young) and one pair each at the IBM site, Cosham (3 young) and an inland record of a pair on a warehouse roof at Aldershot (1 young). At least two pairs bred successfully in the Lymington/Hurst area and one pair nested in Langstone Harbour, but failed probably due to fox predation.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

A common winter visitor and passage migrant with a scarce but increasing breeding population; small numbers (mostly immatures) summer [Red, UKBAP2, HBAP].

There were eight (cf. 14 in 2010) three-figure coastal counts from four locations. Only one of these, a count of 300 at Portsmouth Harbour on Mar 28th, was recorded as a night roost count. Other counts included: Redbridge (1200, Jan 5th; 400, Feb 2nd); Sandy Point (200, Apr 24th) and Southsea (100, Aug 28th).

There were 27 (cf. 25 in 2010) three-figure inland counts from twelve locations of which only those at Blashford Lakes are likely to be roosts. The highest Avon valley counts were at Blashford Lakes (300, Jan 3rd; 170, Feb 14th); Sopley Pig Farm (500, Sep 26th) and Avon Causeway (500, Oct 20th). The highest counts along the Test valley were at Marsh Court where 340 flew in at 0850 hrs on Sep 17th and departed south-east just ten minutes later; Casbrook Common (1000, Oct 29th) and Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (350, Dec 19th). Along the Itchen valley there were frequent autumn and winter counts of flocks passing through Itchen Valley CP (max. 300, Oct 28th). At Winchester SF there was a count of 189 on Oct 29th. Other significant counts were at Rushy Flat on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border (300, June 4th) and Longwood Warren (200, Nov 1st).

Early morning counts of birds passing over Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury totalled 6170 heading in a south-westerly direction between July 10th and Dec 31st (max. 750, Nov 11th). Typically, each day's count lasted for about an hour between 0800 and 1000 hrs (cf. HBR 2009).

Single leucistic adults were in the Hayling Island/Chichester Harbour area (between Jan 27th-June 17th and then Oct 27th-Dec 19th) and at Weston Shore on Feb 18th/19th.

In the breeding season, a total of 96 confirmed breeding pairs raised a minimum of 145 young. In Southampton, 91 roof-top pairs were counted in the following areas of the city: Itchen estuary (43 pairs, 74 young); city centre (25 pairs, 40 young) and West Quay Road (23 pairs,

29 young). At Burrfields, Portsmouth three pairs raised at least two young. Away from urban areas one pair nested successfully in the Lymington/Hurst area but a pair at Titchfield Haven (first breeding record there) failed.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Recently increased to moderately common but localised, mostly occurring in autumn [Amber].

Monthly maxima for the main localities are tabulated below:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eling/Redbridge	3	1	1	1	1			1	5	24	25	4	1	
Testwood Lakes			1					1	29	7	11	3		
Ibsley Water	20	21	4	1		6	1		2		1	6	13	15
Blackbushe/Fox Lane GP, Eversley	3		1						3	10	14	25	7	10

While counts at the main localities have declined in recent years, this species is now being recorded more widely across the county. Most sightings were of singles and mainly occurred in the autumn and winter but the species was recorded in all months.

Away from the main locations, there were records from 33 sites with Southampton: the north-east and the eastern Solent being the three areas with the greatest frequency of sightings. The highest counts were of seven at Fleet Pond (5 adults, 2 first-winters) on Oct 2nd and four on the Itchen estuary at Southampton on Aug 16th.

There was one confirmed breeding record on a roof-top site along the Itchen estuary at Southampton where a mixed pairing with a Herring Gull raised three young for the fourth year in a row.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

A very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,31,3)

The adult present at Ibsley Water at the end of 2010 was reported there on Jan 3rd (NRJ, CAA) and Feb 7th (RAH). On Nov 25th, an adult was again at Ibsley Water (RAH) and was presumed to be the same individual returning for its fourth winter, but was not recorded again until Dec 28th (SKW, JcN). There were three others recorded in the year. An adult was present at Redbridge from Jan 5th until its final sighting at 0845hrs on Jan 8th (PDW) when it departed south-east. A first-summer was at Lower Test Marshes from June 1st to 15th (m.o.). The final record of the year was of a third-winter on Normandy lagoon, Lymington on Dec 29th (MW).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

A very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month except June [Amber]. (3,80,2)

There were records of two individuals on the first and last days of the year. A first-winter was recorded at Ibsley Water on Jan 1st/2nd (SKW *et al.*) and an adult at Gosport on Dec 31st (IC).

Correction 2010: The photo of the second-winter at Ibsley Water on Nov 21st was taken by Alan Lewis and not as stated in the legend.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

A very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. [Amber]. (3+,103,1)

There was one record. An adult was found at The Kench but flew east and was relocated at Gunner Point, Hayling Island where it remained from Feb 17th (see photo p. 16) to 19th (REF *et al.*): the first record since the early winter of 2009.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

A moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers (mostly immatures) summer; but increasing breeder [Amber].

Records reflect the impression of recent years that this species has become a far less numerous winter visitor than a decade ago, whereas the small breeding population continues to increase. It was the first year that no three-figure total was reported and there were just five counts of 20 or more (cf. 11 in 2010). Double-figure counts came mainly from the Beaulieu estuary where regularly monthly maxima were reported as follows:

Monthly maxima	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	5	5	8	1	5	10	20	22	24	10	11	3	6	6

Elsewhere, there were just three double-figure counts in the early and late winter periods and six between April and September. These included: 11 east past Hurst Castle on Feb 19th (48E there between Feb 13th and Mar 31st); 22 at Portsmouth Harbour on Mar 19th (11, Oct 15th); 11 at Langstone Harbour entrance on May 10th; 13 at East Hayling, Chichester Harbour on May 20th and the highest count of the year of 73 at HMS Sultan, Gosport on Sep 25th.

Records in recent years have been characterised by a clear decline in autumn and winter numbers. The following table shows the county maxima 2002-2011:

Great Black-backed Gull	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
October to March maxima	500	164	495	328	250	120	200	142	120	22
Location where recorded	LH	PH	L	H	CHE	CHE	EH	S,G	S,G	PH
April to September maxima	125	82	124	366	90	80	119	74	80	73

CHE – Chichester Harbour Entrance; EH – East Hayling, Chichester Harbour; H-Southleigh Farm, Havant; L – Langstone, Chichester Harbour; LH – Langstone Harbour; PH – Portsmouth Harbour; S,G – HMS Sultan Playing Fields, Gosport.

All annual maxima were reported from the eastern harbours or nearby roosts. Although the above records are based on casual, or WeBS core, counts rather than systematic surveys, they do represent a mass of observations from well-watched sites. It is worth noting that the highest ever count for the county was 1329 at Portsmouth Harbour in January 1999.

There were records of 11 breeding pairs (cf. 9 in 2010) that raised a minimum of 18 young. Eight of these were at roof-top sites – two pairs at each of three Southampton sites (city centre, Itchen estuary and West Quay Road) that collectively raised 13 young; and single pairs at Burrfields, Portsmouth and Fareham that raised five young. A further three pairs bred successfully in the Lymington/Hurst area.

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

A moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

The first arrival was one off Hurst Castle on Apr 7th, three days earlier than the long-term average date (see Appendix 3). The next were eight resting at Normandy/Pennington Marsh and four off Hill Head on 10th. Summing the maximum daily easterly passage counts from any coastal location indicates a minimum of 271 up to May 8th; the heaviest passage recorded since 2000 (296). Notable day counts of easterly movements were 22 at Hurst Castle on Apr 22nd, 57 at Hill Head on May 2nd (75 on 5th); 18 at Needs Ore on 3rd and 62 at Sandy Point on 5th. Passage totals at well watched points were as follows: Hurst spit (73, Apr 7th-May 3rd); Sandy Point (161, Apr 19th-May 8th) and Hill Head/ Stokes Bay (101, Apr 22nd-May 8th). Off-passage counts during this period were unexceptional, the highest being 28 off Titchfield Haven on Apr 30th and 26 feeding along the Hamble estuary on May 2nd. Late in May a total of 30, presumed prospecting breeders, were at Tanners Lane, Lymington.

It was a disastrous year for breeding. Numbers in the west Solent totalled just four settled pairs (breeding success was not recorded). In Langstone Harbour, as a result of a number predatory and weather interventions, a total of 47 pairs fledged just one young despite several pairs making re-breeding attempts. The breeding status of this species in the county remains critically endangered.

The Black Point roost count is a good indicator of autumn trends. The largest post-breeding gathering was 130 in on July 7th which included only one juvenile. The juvenile max. total increased to just 15 on Aug 26th (*cf.* 53 in 2010 and 22 in 2009) suggesting that the poor breeding success was not confined to local colonies. In August the highest count at Black Point was 35 on 9th, the last double-figure count of ten was on Sep 7th and the last individual, a juvenile, lingered there until 26th. Elsewhere, the only double-figure count was 11 at Normandy on July 6th. The last report in Langstone Harbour was of three off Farlington Marshes on Aug 29th and at Titchfield Haven one on Sep 10th. However, at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes there were 12 bird-days from mid September involving 1-2 juveniles until the last on Oct 2nd.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

A rare passage migrant. (0,10,1)

An adult was found at Stokes Bay at 1838 hrs on April 14th (JANo). It rested on a fluorescent marker about 600m offshore for 45 minutes but was not seen again. A typical spring overshoot date for this species for which closest breeding is La Brenne, Val de Loire, France. This is the ninth county record following the last of two at Testwood Lakes on May 4th 2009.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

A scarce passage migrant [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

The first was at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 10th (SSK); this becomes the earliest record for the county, one day earlier than three 1979 records and twelve days earlier than the average first date since 1971. Subsequent spring passage was particularly strong with a minimum of 198 individuals, including two inland records of three at Ibsley Water on Apr 28th, and one at Warnford on May 4th. Along the coast, the first easterly movement was one at Sandy Point on Apr 22nd and two more at Hurst Beach later that day. One at Titchfield Haven on 30th moved north up the Meon valley and another flew east down The Solent. A significant passage occurred during the first eight days of May involving a minimum of 188 birds. An accurate analysis is possible because most observers carefully logged times; passage records were mostly before 0900 hrs or after 1800 hrs. Spring passage totals for individual localities were as follows: Hurst beach (49, Apr 22nd-May 30th, max. 21, May 2nd); Hill Head/Browndown/Stokes Bay (149, Apr 30th-May 8th; max. of 21, 2nd, 65, 3rd and 48, 4th); Needs Ore (6, May 3rd) and Sandy Point (21, Apr 22nd – May 8th). After May 8th none was seen until the last, in full summer plumage, on 30th was observed moving along the coast (Milford on Sea, Hurst Beach, Hurst Castle and late morning at Hook-with-Warsash).

Return passage was recorded from July 21st to Oct 1st and involved a minimum of 98 individuals. The first report was of two adults fishing off Pennington Marsh on July 21st. A series of records followed from Hill Head (4W, July 24th; 2 adults lingered, 25th; juvenile from 26th to 29th). There were 2-3 further juvenile singles in July (Langstone Harbour nocturnal roost, 26th; Black Point roost, 27th; briefly at Blashford Lakes, 31st).

In August, there were two further inland records and at least 20 birds along the coast. A juvenile was reported at Blashford Lakes on nine dates between 5th and 21st and another was at Alresford Pond on 29th/30th. At Langstone Harbour 1-2 juveniles flew into the roost on four evenings, five at The Kench (moulting adult, 9th; 4 juveniles, 31st) and two off Farlington Marshes on 29th. An adult was present at Sandy Point from 4th to 16th and was joined by a juvenile on 9th. The only record in the month from Hill Head was a single on 6th. None was

reported from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes until mid month but thereafter there were up to ten individuals including four juveniles with the last two on 29th.

In September two were at Rockford Lake, Blashford and a juvenile at Milford on Sea on 4th; a juvenile flew east off Sandy Point on 7th; juvenile singles were off Southsea and at Langstone Harbour entrance on 8th. The only other records in the first half of the month were singles west of Lymington on 12th and 15th. At Ibsley Water, there were two juveniles and a moulting adult on 17th and possibly the same adult reported there on 19th/20th. A juvenile was present at Fleet Pond from 17th to 23rd when it left high west at 1845 hrs with an Arctic Tern. The only other records mid month were one north through Lower Test Marshes on 17th and one feeding amongst Gannets off Milford on Sea the next day. Ten flew west through the Hurst Narrows at midday on 24th and at least 49 were at Ibsley Water late afternoon (around 50% juveniles). The Ibsley flock departed when attacked by a Peregrine. The only other influx reported in Britain on 24th was 21 at Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey, but the following day there were six counts at five inland counties totalling from 44-100 (*Birdguides* archive).

There were just six further records in year: one south between Lymington and Hurst on Sep 25th; two adults at Fleet Pond on 25th/26th; a juvenile at Calshot on 26th; a juvenile at Ibsley Water on 26th/27th; one over the Hamble estuary on Oct 1st and another at Ibsley Water on the same date.

Monthly totals	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total birds	8	190	0	13	20	76	2

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

A moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant; small numbers now regular in winter [ET, SPEC2, Amber, HBAP].



Sandwich Tern carrying sandeel, Hayling Oysterbeds, Aug 9th – Richard Ford

Up to four over-wintered in Chichester Harbour and were seen regularly from Black Point and around Chichester Harbour, but there was just one single reported from Langstone Harbour, on Feb 5th, and none observed elsewhere.

The first presumed returning migrant (distinguished by its summer-plumage) was noted with three winterers at Sandy Point on Mar 16th. One was at West Hayling LNR on 24th. Visible easterly passage was noted from 26th/27th (2, Stokes Bay/Gilkicker Point; 1, Needs Ore; 5 Hurst Castle). Off passage two were at Hook-with-Warsash and ten at Sandy Point on 28th/29th. Passage was logged almost daily from Mar 26th until May 8th and the sum of daily count maxima from any of the watch points produced a minimum total of 711 (*cf.* 486, the lowest total of the decade, 2010). Individual site counts were as follows: Hurst Castle and beach 422 (max. 55, Apr 9th; 63, 22nd); Stokes Bay/Hill Head 214 (max. 59, May 6th); Sandy Point 149 (max. 71, Apr 2nd). Inland, the only record was of one briefly at Fleet Pond on Apr 2nd. Of note, an over-winterer remained in full winter plumage at Sandy Point until at least May 10th.

A total of 277 pairs attempted breeding (*cf.* 265 in 2010). The population at Langstone Harbour totalled 181 pairs (*cf.* 205 in 2010) but breeding success was very low. Fox foraging of both eggs and young on South Binness Island led to all 165 pairs (May 19th count) deserting by June 20th; a few tried re-nesting but were again predated by fox. The only positive was at West Hayling LNR which was colonised for the first time and 16 pairs fledged 11 young. Between Sowley and Keyhaven a minimum of 96 pairs attempted breeding but breeding success was not recorded. There were double-figure counts (10, 11) at Needs Ore on two June dates but no report of breeding was received.

Significant July gatherings were off: Pennington Marsh (29, including two juveniles, 11th); Sandy Point (33, 15th); Hythe (c.60, 15th) and at the Black Point high tide roost (24, 23rd). The only notable August count was 53 off Hill Head, including two juveniles, on 26th. Double-figure counts in September included: ten off Lepe and 21 in the Black Point roost both on 5th; 69 off Keyhaven Marsh (including a count of 67 past Iley Point) on 9th; 36 off Hurst Castle on 12th and the last double-figure count along the west Solent of 25 on 17th. The highest October counts were 14 at the Black Point roost on 4th and eight west through Hurst narrows on 7th. Away from Chichester Harbour, ones and twos were present at eight localities into December but six were at Milton Reclamation on Oct 17th, 12 on Nov 3rd and eight still there on Nov 28th; three were off Southsea Castle on Nov 6th and five rested on the mud below the Millennium Bridge, Gosport as late as Dec 28th. Notable numbers occurred in the Chichester Harbour entrance area in the final two months, including a December record of 17 on 3rd, ten on 13th and six on 29th.

Addition 2010: One briefly at Winchester SF on Aug 26th before departing south.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

A moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant [ET, Amber].

First reports were of singles at Fleet Pond and east past Sandy Point on Mar 30th then at Blashford Lakes on Apr 4th. Onshore winds favoured observation of easterly movements from May 2nd to 4th. Sea watch totals on 2nd were: 515, Hurst spit (0654 hrs to 2012 hrs); 271, Hill Head (1705 to 1855 hrs) and 266, Stokes Bay (0625 to 0900 hrs). On 3rd 350 were logged through Sandy Point and a peak of 869 flew into The Solent past Hurst Castle (0653 to 2009 hrs) on 4th. The last three-figure day count was of 193 through Stokes Bay on 7th. Spring passage totals at watch points were as follows: Sandy Point (1649, Mar 30th-May 8th); Hurst spit (3021, Apr 9th-May 11th) and Hill Head/Stokes Bay (1808, Apr 18th-May 8th). Taking the daily maximum from any of the watch points produced a passage total of at least 3882 (Mar 30th-May 11th). Notable off passage feeding flocks included 150 at Weston Shore on Apr 21st and 200 there on May 5th.

Inland, away from Blashford Lakes and Fleet Pond, two were at Tundry Pond on Apr 29th, four at Lodge Pond, Alice Holt Forest on May 5th and singles at Testbourne Lake on 12th, Longparish on 20th, Testwood Lakes on 21st and Yateley GP on 25th. In June, there were threes at Yateley GP on 13th and Kingsley Common on 21st; twos at Winchester SF on 5th, Lakeside, Eastleigh on 6th and 28th; Testwood Lakes on 10th and Tundry Pond on 16th and

singles at Heath Pond, Petersfield on 6th; Alton and then Hartley Mauditt on 12th, Highwood Reservoir on 19th, Upper Clatford on 23rd and possibly the same at Rooksbury Mill on 27th.

A total of 383 breeding pairs was recorded (*cf.* 416 in 2010). Details from each site are tabulated below (where known number of young fledged is in brackets):

No. of pairs (young raised)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011 Comments
West Hayling LNR	41	59 (47)	86(84)	135(27)	
Langstone Harbour RSPB	108	89 (8)	81 (7)	57(0)	
Titchfield Haven	9	14	21	24(0)	
Lymington area	223	253	209	145	No estimate of fledged young
Ivy Lake, Blashford	15	17 (30)	17(46)	18(42)	Minimum count of fledged young
Fleet Pond	1	2 (3)	2(4)	3(2)	1 pr failed when raft broke free
Total	397	434	416	383	

The total failure of breeding on the Langstone Harbour islands was for the same reasons as described for Little Terns despite two re-nesting attempts. Although there was a significant increase in breeding pairs at West Hayling LNR productivity at 0.2/pair was very much reduced (*cf.* 1.0 in 2010). In order of significance, breeding success was impaired by: unfavourable weather conditions and consequent effects on food supply; competition for nesting space from Black-headed Gulls and finally chick predation by Mediterranean and Black-headed Gulls. At Titchfield Haven, there was a count of 14 downy young on June 19th but three days later Mediterranean Gulls started to arrive (max. 79, 27th) which contributed to the total loss of this colony. By contrast, inland at Blashford productivity was astonishingly high for the third year (2.3/pair). Floating rafts there with wire mesh side barriers and chick shelters provided excellent protection from predators. The food supply was also ample as sated chicks were observed refusing parental offerings.

The first three-figure post-breeding gatherings were 126 at Titchfield Haven on July 14th, then at least 500 on scrapes there on 25th, 750 nearby off Hill Head on Aug 10th, 250 west the next day and 600 on 26th. At Black Point 120 roosted on July 23rd (max. 280, Aug 9th). The nocturnal roost at Langstone Harbour was observed between July 26th (450) and Aug 23rd (1132) and included a max. of 1650 on Aug 1st. Elsewhere, 300 moved west off Milford on Sea on Aug 4th; across Southampton Water 160 were off Weston Shore on 8th and 200 off Hythe on 13th; in the west Solent 330 were off Pennington Marsh on 14th; 250 were at Portsmouth Harbour on 15th and 100 off Southsea on 28th. The last three-figure count of the year was 116 west through Stokes Bay on Sep 11th. Along the coast October records included: 23 off Sandy Point on 6th, five at Portsmouth Harbour on 15th, two off Calshot on 16th and, thereafter, eight scattered reports of singles until 26th. The last was one feeding along the sea wall at Keyhaven Marsh on Nov 1st and again on 6th.

There were 19 inland records away from breeding sites as follows:

Kingsley Common: 2, July 2nd.

Testwood Lakes: 1, July 3rd; 9, July 30th; 6, Sep 18th.

Lakeside, Eastleigh: 2, July 6th/7th; 1, Sep 16th.

Eversley/Yateley GP: 3, July 10th; 1, Aug 16th.

Tundry Pond/Dogmersfield Lake: 1, five dates between July 10th and Aug 28th; 3, July 24th.

Fishlake Meadows, Romsey: 1S, July 29th.

Highwood Reservoir, Itchen valley: 2S, Aug 1st.

Locks Heath: 1 catching flying ants amongst Black-headed Gulls, Aug 2nd.

Welshmans Road GP, near Mortimer: juv. S, Aug 20th.

The Vyne WM: 3S, Aug 24th.

Notable late sightings at the two inland breeding sites were:

Blashford Lakes: 1 juv., up to 6 ad, Aug 16th; 3, Sep 4th; 1 juv., Sep 26th-28th.

Fleet Pond: 27 to roost, Aug 3rd; 4 ad, 1 juv., Sep 11th; 1 ad, Sep 20th.

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

A very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

In spring, there were eight records of 11 individuals including the earliest ever. In autumn, a minimum of ten individuals were present between July 9th and Sep 3rd, contributing to a total of 38 bird-days.



*Adult Roseate Tern, Titchfield Haven, Aug 7th —
Richard Ford*

Two which flew east close in at Hurst Beach at 0715 hrs on Apr 17th were thought to be this species (CAA) and were then confirmed when seen at 0830 hrs flying through Stokes Bay on an otherwise quiet sea watch (MLE). This is the earliest ever record for Hampshire by four days. Singles flew east through Hurst narrows at 1803 and 1813 hrs on May 4th. Two rested on a buoy off Stokes Bay early morning on May 6th and then flew west, one off Hill Head from 0850 hrs until 1100 hrs was, presumably, from the same pair. One flew east through Stokes Bay at 0717 hrs on May 7th in company with 15 Common Terns and, presumably, the same individual flew past Sandy Point at 0805 hrs, whilst another moved east past Hurst Beach at 0815 hrs with 25 Common/Arctic Terns. Finally,

an off-passage bird rested on the Titchfield Haven reserve scrapes from 1530 to 1620 hrs on May 8th, another was at Sandy Point on 14th and the last of spring was fishing and resting in Southampton Water off Hook-with-Warsash on 30th.

The regular annual post-breeding sightings at Titchfield Haven began on July 9th and birds were then reported daily from July 24th to Aug 13th; initially two were present in near breeding plumage, one ringed on both legs, but three were seen on 26th/27th and ones and twos thereafter. One observer (MJPa) made a careful study of individual plumages and concluded a total of six individuals was involved. Elsewhere, one was at the Chichester Harbour entrance on July 23rd (2, Aug 18th) and one in winter plumage, metal rings on both legs, frequented Sandy Point between Aug 7th and 16th. One to two adults were seen entering the Langstone Harbour nocturnal tern roost on four dates between July 26th and Aug 23rd. An adult summer-plumaged bird at Woolston SF, Weston Shore on Aug 12th was, presumably, the same as seen at Hythe on 13th. A juvenile was fishing with a tern flock off the Naval Base at Portsmouth Harbour on Aug 15th and the last was one, with two Common Terns, slowly moving west off Milford on Sea on Sep 3rd.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

A scarce passage migrant [ET, Amber].

A total of 81 was identified on spring passage between Apr 10th and May 11th, although many more were presumably present 'unspiciated' in Common/Arctic Tern flocks. The return passage was remarkable – a record total of 91, of which 67 were in September and 13 were at inland sites – equalling the cumulative count from 2001-2010! Lingered individuals contributed to an autumn total of 170 bird-days.

The first was a report of two over the Yacht Club on the Beaulieu estuary on Apr 10th. Subsequent spring records were as follows (all east):

Hurst Castle/Beach: 1, 1805 hrs Apr 16th, 2, 21st; 1, 22nd; 3, May 1st; 2, 2nd; 3, 4th.

Stokes Bay: 1, 0816 hrs, Apr 19th; 30 (3 flocks) in light ESE winds, 22nd; 2, 27th; 5, 28th; 5, May 2nd.

Sandy Point: 1, Apr 27th; 3, 29th; 6, 30th; 1, May 1st; 1, 3rd; 2, 4th; 1, 7th; 1 (harbour), 11th.
Hill Head: 5, Apr 29th; 1, 30th; 12, 1705-1855 hrs May 2nd; 4, 3rd; 1, 4th; 1, 8th.

There were no inland records in spring but, intriguingly, an adult was at Fleet Pond among the Common Terns on June 22nd.

A first-summer joined the Black Point roost on July 10th and was seen on six dates until 26th and nearby at Sandy Point on 28th where there was an adult on 18th. At Titchfield Haven, an adult was present on July 27th/28th and a first-summer on 29th; one of these was seen on 31st and on four August dates to 7th when both birds were present. All other records were as follows:

Lyminster/Milford on Sea: 1ad E, Aug 1st; 1, 11th; 1, Sep 7th; 5, 1 E, 9th; imm. on 6 dates between 9th and 24th; 4, 16th; 2 ad, 24th; juv. W, 25th; 1, 26th; 2, Oct 1st; 1E, 3rd; juv. W, 4th; juv. E, 30th.
Sandy Point: 3 juv., Aug 8th; 2 juv., 1 ad, 9th; 1-3 totalling 39 bird-days until Oct 27th.
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head: 3 ads W, Aug 29th; 2 juv. NW, Sep 7th; 3, 10th; 1 ad, 12th.
Southampton Water: (*Town Quay*) 1, Sep 6th; (*Hook-with-Warsash*) 1ad, Sep 9th; (*Bury Marshes*) 1, Sep 10th; (*Weston Shore*) 1 ad, Sep 11th; 1 ad, 19th.
Blashford Lakes: juv., Sep 6th; 5 ad, 9th; juv., 12th/13th.
Fleet Pond: 2 ad, Sep 6th; 3 ad, 7th; 1 ad, between 9th and 11th; juv., between 14th and 22nd;
IBM Lake, Portsmouth: 1 juv., from Sep 7th-9th (first at site since 1994).
Stokes Bay/Browndown: 6W, 0705-0855 hrs, Sep 11th; 1 juv., 28th.
Testwood Lakes: 2, juv., Sep 11th; 1 ad, 12th; 1 juv., between 12th and 18th.
Alresford Pond: juv., from Sep12th-14th.
Welshman's Rd GP, near Mortimer: 1 ad, between Sep 17th and 28th.
Lepe/Needs Ore: juv., Sep 19th; 1, 28th; 1, Oct 3rd.
Milton Reclamation: 1, Sep 19th.
Portsmouth Harbour: (*Forton*) 1, Oct 12th; (*Frater Shore*) 1, Oct 18th.



Adult Arctic Tern, Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea, Sep 24th – Linda Fuller

Approximate monthly totals in autumn are given below:

Monthly totals	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Totals	56	25	1	4	11	67	12
Bird-days				12	26	106	26

Included above are records from five inland sites; notably, five adults were at Ibsley Water on Sep 9th. The September influx across the county detailed above includes a minimum of 67 individuals (24 juveniles). The last of autumn was a juvenile east through Hurst narrows on Oct 30th.

The tables below summarise annual numbers of breeding pairs and passage totals for all regularly occurring tern species from 2000-2011:

Breeding pairs	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Little Tern	154	192	165	174	112	143	122	105	90	75	89	51
Sandwich Tern	356	271	402	244+	283	347	428	283	197	230	265	277
Common Tern	311	418	430	399	574	430	556	398	397	434	416	383

Annual totals	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Little Tern (spring)	296	247	220	97	105	215	233	190	222	105	132	271
Black Tern (spring)	86	89	36	12	40	29	100	19	90	37	13	198
Sandwich Tern(spring)	819	1005	1059	1788	1208	1199	984	711	796	1046	486	711
Common Tern (spring)	3916	4600	5600	2146	3463	3543	7055	2402	6870	1862	3006	3882
Roseate Tern(spring)	5	8	13	9	2	7	15	0	29	1	4-6	11
Arctic Tern (spring)	95	95	48	68	100	250	277	34	91	49	69	81
Arctic Tern (autumn)			28	51	14	33	49	39	60	26	18	91

Guillemot

Uria aalge

A scarce but increasing visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

The total of 66 bird-months was significantly lower than the 102 recorded in 2010.

Numbers were poor in the early year; the highest counts were four west at Sandy Point on Jan 15th and three off Hurst Beach on Feb 4th and 20th. Spring passage was light and extended from Apr 18th (1, Hurst Beach) to May 30th (1, Hurst Beach). One off Hurst Beach on July 30th was the only record between the end of May and mid September. Thereafter, five sites recorded birds during autumn passage with several making extended stays into the late winter period.

All records are summarised below:

Sandy Point/Black Point/Hayling Bay: 4W, Jan 15th; 1, Jan 18th; 1, Feb 6th; 1, Nov 1st; 1, Dec 5th–31st.
Langstone Harbour: 1, Oct 23rd-Dec24th.
Southsea: 1, Dec 12th.
Gosport: 1, Dec 29th.
Stokes Bay: 1E, Apr 26th; 1, Dec 10th.
Brownwich/Hill Head: 1, Feb 1st; 1, Oct 21st.
Southampton Water: 1, Dec 15th-27th with 2 on Dec 3rd.
Lepe: 1, Nov 7th.
Needs Ore/Beaulieu estuary: 1 (dead), Nov 7th.
Hurst/Milford on Sea: 1-3, Feb 4th-20th; 12, Apr 18th-30th; max 5E, Apr 26th; 22, May 4th–30th; max 5, May 22nd & 7, May 29th; 1, July 7th; 1, Sep 13th; 1, Sep 20th; 1, Oct 23rd/24th; 1, Dec 4th; 1, Dec 9th; 2E, Dec 26th.

The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	2	2	7	5	0	13	24	0	1	0	5	6	2	3

Razorbill

Alca torda

A scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber].

Numbers were the highest on record with approximately 167 bird-months totalled (cf. 85, 2010).

Good numbers in the early winter period accounted for much of the improvement, with sites at either end of the county providing most of the 91 records at this time. Peak day totals included 18 west at Sandy Point on Jan 15th and 25 off Milford on Sea on Feb 7th.

Spring passage was steady and, with the exception of two east at Hurst Beach on Apr 2nd, extended from Apr 21st (3E, Hurst Beach) to May 30th (1, Hurst Beach).

The summer was punctuated by two flying east at Hurst on June 27th. A juvenile off Hurst Castle on Aug 22nd marked the beginning of autumn passage. Numbers peaked towards the end of October and several of these stayed through November and beyond. There was another, smaller peak during the last week of December. All records are summarised below:

Black Point/Chichester Harbour entrance/Sandy Point/Hayling Bay: 43 bird-days, Jan 15th–20th (max 18W, Jan 15th); 10, Feb 6th; 2, May 3rd; 1, May 5th/6th; 1-2, Sep 20th–Nov 2nd; up to 5, Dec 10th–31st.
Southsea: 1, Nov 11th.
Portsmouth Harbour: 1, Sep 29th.
Haslar Creek: 1, Dec 28th.
Hill Head/Stokes Bay: 1, Jan 17th; 1, Oct 10th; 1, Dec 13th.
Southampton Water: 1-2, Nov 29th–Dec 27th.
Tanners Lane: 1, Oct 7th/8th.
Oxy Creek: 1, Oct 7th; 1, Dec 29th.
Hurst/Milford on Sea: Jan, 24 bird-days (max. 10, 26th); Feb: 67 bird-days (inc. 41W, Feb 3rd–12th; 25 offshore, Feb 7th); Apr: 1E, 2nd then 8, inc. 4 E, 20th–30th; May: 26, 6th–30th inc. 16E, 20th; 1, Sep 20th–30th; Oct: 18, 4th–26th including 6E on 5th; Nov/Dec: up to 6, Nov 21st–Dec 27th.
Hordle Cliff: 1, Jan 1st.
Barton on Sea: 1, Oct 1st.

The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Monthly totals	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	3		44	17	0	8	34	2	0	1	8	31	6	16

Puffin

A rare visitor. [Spec 2, Amber]. (1, 40+,4)

Fratercula arctica

Three flew south out of the mist past Hurst Beach towards the Shingles on Apr 19th (NRJ).

One was found exhausted at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester on Nov 30th (per BBC website). It was picked up by RSPCA staff and taken to the Hart Rescue Centre but failed to survive.

The first records since two individuals were off Hurst Beach on Apr 30th, 2009. Hurst Beach in late April and early May, preferably with some rain, seem to be the best chance for anyone wishing to add this species to their Hampshire list.

Auk sp.

A very high total of 655 unidentified auk species was recorded at three sites as follows:

Sandy Point: 163 on 27 dates between Jan 12th and Dec 27th with high numbers in mid-January including 21 on 18th.
Hill Head/Stokes Bay: 1, May 4th; 2W, May 6th.
Hurst Beach: 489 on 11 dates Jan 3rd–Dec 24th inc. 213 N/NW from 1000–1130hrs, Jan 23rd.

The 213 recorded at Hurst on Jan 23rd is the highest ever total of auk spp. (MPM). By comparison, a large fish shoal and rough weather in early 2009 attracted good numbers but peaked at only 42 on Jan 18th.

Approximate annual totals of bird-months of identified auks are tabulated below:

Annual bird-months	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Guillemot	56	54	33	201	102	110	53	107	51	66	113	102	66
Razorbill	29	30	30	117	117	127	57	95	75	56	39	85	167
Little Auk	1	1	3	5	4	3	2	11	5	0	3	0	0
Puffin	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	3	5	0	2	0	4

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

A common resident [Green].

No change in status. A total of 25 three-figure counts was received principally from the major conurbations – the largest count was of 235 at Andover on Nov 6th.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

A numerous resident and winter visitor [Amber].

BBS data showed that 50% of squares were occupied at an average of 2.6 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 41% and 3.1 respectively.

Only six reports of grounded three-figure flocks were received, with 200 at Cholderton Park on Oct 5th the highest. Over 1600 were recorded moving from Oct 14th to Nov 15th, making this a poor autumn by recent standards. A total of 463 were noted moving south-west during 65 'vismig' watch-days at Miles Hill, 890 moved south-west during the autumn at Casbrook Common, but at equally well-watched Sandy Point, only about 30 were seen on the move in October/November (cf. 425 in 2010).



*Stock Dove, Titchfield Haven, July 30th –
John Wichall*

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Sixteen four-figure gatherings were fairly evenly spread across the county at both ends of the year. The largest count was of 9000 in the Lymington/Hurst area on Nov 26th, presumably connected with autumn movements described below:

BBS data showed that 99% of squares were occupied at an average of 31.6 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 99% and 28.5 respectively.

An interesting midsummer observation was made north of Fritham, NF on July 28th. At least 500 (and probably several hundred more) flew west and north-west in the early afternoon, apparently with purpose and on a broad front. This does not fit with the traditional theory of feeding movements in the morning out of the New Forest, and is echoed by some other recent suspected high summer movements by this species.

Unfavourable weather conditions meant that few large autumn counts were made, although it remains unclear whether the birds were still moving, unseen, via other routes or even at higher altitude. A gathering of 250 at Gilkicker Point on Oct 13th was the first evidence of movements but thereafter only about 110,000 were recorded, moving south and west. A total of 58 hrs of 'vismig' observation was amassed at Miles Hill, Fleet, between Oct 13th and Nov 30th with a day max. of 22,479 on Nov 18th contributing to a total of 63,704 all moving S/SW. However, from Nov 25th to Dec 10th a contrary movement there of 22,925 was noted N/NE over 9.5 hours of observation, including 4870 on Nov 26th. Many observers remarked on the lighter passage. Notable counts were made on Nov 2nd (North Baddesley, 2100W; Shirley, 6780W) and the peak movement, albeit relatively small, was a total of 15,000 or so on 6th. Hot spots were at Weston Shore (2000W), Barton on Sea GC (3255W) and Ludshott Common (2400SE).

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

A numerous resident and passage migrant [Green].

HBR 2010 noted 'fewer flocks exceeding 50'. In 2011, there was just one of 60, at the Beaulieu Estate on Sep 27th. A hint of local movements was a series of counts totalling 32 south and east at Casbrook Common in the autumn.

BBS data showed that 59% of squares were occupied at an average of 6.1 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 61% and 6.2 respectively.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

A scarce and declining summer visitor and scarce passage migrant [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

A fairly early return saw one at Pig Bush, NF on Apr 10th, then at Hut Wood, Chilworth on 16th, and birds at breeding sites regularly from Apr 19th.

Breeding season data again made depressing reading. The formerly regular and important site of Botley Wood held none for the first time – yet another local extirpation. Also none was registered on the BBS for the first time. An exception to the trend was at Martin Down, where 12 territories were recorded (cf. 7 in 2009, 9 in 2010). Other 'concentrations' were of four males at Bramshill Plantation and Broughton Down and two at both Old Winchester Hill and Noar Hill, but the total reported county breeding population appears to be in the region of just 40 pairs.

Just four migrants were seen: at Badminton GP on Aug 6th, Ibsley WM on Aug 22nd (two) and at Sandy Point on Sep 22nd.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

A very scarce visitor, possibly resident.

Two were at Lower Pennington Lane, Lymington on Jan 29th and Feb 3rd, and one was in the area on four subsequent dates until Dec 30th. Three others were seen: at Chandlers Ford on June 27th, at Sandy Point on July 10th and at Gosport on Nov 10th. An additional parakeet, possibly of this species, was at Furze Hill, NF on Nov 17th.

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

A moderately common summer visitor [Amber, UKBAP3, HBAP].

An early arrival was at Brockenhurst, NF on Mar 29th, and two more were in the New Forest on Apr 2nd. There were widespread arrivals from Apr 7th, with 41 recorded by Apr 10th. The highest site counts were of four at Ocknell Plain, NF on Apr 16th, Fishlake Meadows on Apr 21st and 23rd, and Slufers Inclosure, NF on Apr 22nd; counts of five in the New Forest at Acres Down on Apr 25th and May 2nd, Denny Wood on May 14th and Pig Bush on May 18th and six at Fishlake Meadows on May 11th.

The survey of 46km² of woodland in the New Forest produced 23 singing males. At least six juveniles were recorded, but the data are too fragmentary for an accurate assessment of population trends. Just two territories were noted on the old CBC plot at Martin Down. BBS data showed that 37% of squares were occupied at an average of 1.8 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 41% and 1.7 respectively.

Return passage was suspected from as early as June 23rd (Winchester SF – a non-breeding site), although a singing male was found as late as July 7th at Kingsley. Fourteen were recorded in July, and four in August, the last, a juvenile, was at Sandy Point on Sep 2nd.



Juvenile Cuckoo, Ogden Purlieu, New Forest, Oct 27th 2010. This individual present from 25th stayed until 30th, almost three weeks later than the previous latest for the county – Martin Bennett

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus americanus

A very rare vagrant. (1,3,0)

1973 Addition: One was discovered at Naish Holiday Village, Chewton Bunny on Oct 20th 1973 (R Jones) and found dead there on 22nd (M Banks). Thereafter the skin was sent to Cumberland House Museum, Portsmouth (MJ Stewart). Although reported in HBR 1973, the locality was cited as Highcliffe which passed into Dorset as part of county boundary changes in 1974; therefore it was not included in Clark (1981)¹ or the subsequent BoH. Recent correspondence (EJW) has highlighted the omission. This becomes the second record for Hampshire – the first was shot at Avon Castle, also on the modern county border – on Oct 30th 1901. There have been two subsequent records.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

A moderately common resident [SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

Reports came from 128 sites, mainly on the coast, the northeast and the river valleys, but with records scattered across the county. The total is up on the 105 sites given in HBR 2010 but the 2011 count includes Atlas records, whereas these were omitted from the 2010 total. Breeding was confirmed at 33 sites. Where the information was given, all nests were in boxes.

Excluding juveniles, there were no records of more than two birds at any location although at some sites two or more pairs nested close together. For example, at Stratfield Saye, pairs bred in two nest boxes about 400m apart.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

A moderately common but declining resident [SPEC3].

Reports came from 124 sites, considerably up on the 88 sites reported in HBR 2010. However, as with the previous species, these numbers are not directly comparable because the 2010 count excluded Atlas records. Breeding was confirmed at nine sites scattered across the county.

¹ Clark, J.M., 1981. *The seasonal occurrences of birds in Hampshire, 1950 to 1980. HBR 1980, pp. 53-60.*

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

A common resident [Green].

Reports came from 337 sites, almost three times the number recorded in HBR 2010 (115 sites). As with the previous species, the reason for the increase is the inclusion of Atlas records. The scale of the increase indicates how much more information has been made available, as a result of the Atlas fieldwork, than is generally available through casual recording. The high number of records also shows how common and widespread the species is, particularly given that some sites contain more than one pair of birds. For example, at Selborne, six males and at Blashford Lakes, five males were recorded. Breeding was confirmed at 42 sites.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

A very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

There was just one record, in either winter period, of a single at Stockbridge Down from Jan 17th to Feb 22nd.

Following the first successful breeding for a decade in 2010, birds were reported from three localities during the breeding season, including successful breeding proved at one of these. One was found in the New Forest on Mar 19th. The next record was of one in the Test valley on May 3rd followed by reports of a juvenile there from June 14th to 20th, an adult on 16th and two juveniles on 29th. The last record for the year was from Damerham where a bird discovered on July 18th was unfortunately found dead two days later.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

A scarce but regular winter visitor and passage migrant that occasionally breeds [ET, SPEC3, Amber].

During the first winter period, most records were of singles from coastal locations including Lymington/Hurst, Farlington Marshes and Sandy Point. There were two at both Sandy Point on Jan 6th and Hurst Castle on Jan 9th, but the highest count was inland at Bransbury Common where a maximum of five was seen on Mar 17th. At the latter site, one was watched circling and gaining height, possibly departing to the north-east on Apr 2nd. One remained at Farlington Marshes until May 19th.



Short-eared Owl, north Hants, Nov 6th – Barry Stalker

In autumn, the first returning bird was at Fishlake Meadows on Sep 18th. One flew north-east at Sandy Point on Sep 23rd and the first at Lymington/Hurst was on Sep 28th. The main influx occurred from mid October with reports from 15 sites, 12 coastal and three inland where the species is rarely encountered: Woolmer Pond (Oct 15th), Rooksbury Mill and Old Winchester Hill (both Oct 16th)

Numbers continued to build during November and December with peak counts as follows: Tidgrove Warren (5, Nov 27th), Martin Down (4, Nov 27th and Dec 6th), Farlington Marshes (3, Dec 12th), Broadlands Estate (4, Dec 19th-21st), Bransbury Common (5, Dec 20th), Lee, Test valley (4, Dec 21st) and ones and twos at another 18 localities.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total birds	11	3	7	5	1				3	15	30	35

Nightjar

Caprimulgus europaeus

A moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant [ET, SPEC2, Red, UKBAP4, HBAP].

There was an exceptional early influx in 2011, with records from six sites before the end of April. Two males at Yew Tree Bottom, NF on Apr 23rd were only one day later than the earliest ever recorded in 2009. Two the following day were at Brownhill Inclosure, NF. In the north of the county, the first was at Benyon's Inclosure, near Bramley on Apr 28th.

During the breeding season, approximately 65 territories were reported from the New Forest. A summary of reported territories outside the Forest is given in the table below:

Locality	Territories			Locality	Territories		
	2009	2010	2011		2009	2010	2011
Thames Basin Heaths				Other north-eastern sites			
Bourley North/Long Valley	8	10	9	Alice Holt Forest	4	14	nc
Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill	9	6	9	Benyons Inclosure	1	1	1
Bramshill Plantation	10	14	13	Chawton Park Wood	1	1	3
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Heath	2	2	2	Silchester/Tadley Commons	3	7	7
Eversley Common/Castle Bot./Blackbushe	6	6	4				
Hazeley Heath	4	5	5	South-central sites			
Tweseldown	4	3	2	Ampfield Wood	5	1	6
Velmead Common	2	2	1	Great Covert Wood	2	4	4
Warren Heath/Heath Warren	11	13	18	Hillier's Arboretum	1	1	nc
Yateley & Hawley Commons	8	19	15	South-eastern sites			
Yateley Heath Wood/Lichett Plain/Minley	9	9	7	Botley Wood	3	1	2
Wealden Heaths				Browndown	1	1	1
Broxhead Common	4	4	3	Creech Walk	4	5	4
Cranmer Heath	1	1	1	Havant Thicket/Leigh Park	3	4	6
Oakhanger Slab and the Warren	5	7	6	West Walk	4	6	4
Longmoor Inclosure and Holly Hills	13	17	22				
Ludshott Common	13	17	17	Elsewhere			
Shortheath Common		1	1	Burton Common	4	6	6
Woolmer Forest	14	21	18	Andover Down Farm	-	1	3

Primarily as a result of the Atlas survey, records came from several sites in addition to those given in the table. In the northeast, single churring males were recorded at: Bartley Common, Hook; Bentley Station Meadow; Bramshill; West Green and Elvetham Heath near in Fleet. Elsewhere, breeding season records were received from Bransgore, Chilworth, Embley Wood, Newtown Common and Ashlett Creek.

Despite the large number of records, breeding was confirmed at only two sites: Ludshott Common and Bourley and Long Valley. At the latter site five nests were found, four of which succeeded in fledging young.

There was little evidence of post-breeding dispersal or autumn passage. There were only two records in September, both from the New Forest – one at Holmsley on 7th and the last at Furze Hill on 9th.

Swift

Apus apus

A numerous summer visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

The first was one over Needs Ore on Apr 17th and the first double-figure count of 21 north-west over Blashford Lakes on 25th. Numbers remained relatively low throughout early May; the first three-figure count was not recorded until 16th when 100 were over Heath Pond, Petersfield. There were 120 at the same site on 23rd, 110 over Fleet Pond on 24th, 100 over Ibsley WM on 28th and 110 over Michelmersh on 31st. The highest counts of the spring occurred in June with 220 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on 6th, 175 at Titchfield Haven on 16th and 250 at Newlands Farm, Fareham on 17th.

Breeding was confirmed from 20 sites including colonies of seven pairs in nest boxes at Regents Park, Southampton and eight pairs in the village of Appleshaw, Andover. BBS data showed registrations in just 27% of squares – the lowest in the 18-year study (average 35%).

The highest count of the year was of around 300 at Magdalen Hill Down, Winchester on July 5th. Thereafter, return migration began with southerly movements of 103 over Fleet Pond on July 17th, 92 over Casbrook Common on July 19th and 150 in a single flock over Rooksbury Mill on Aug 1st. Movement continued in declining numbers throughout August and September with the last at Portsdown Hill on Sep 24th.

Swift sp.

There were late records of Swift species as follows: Timsbury on Oct 29th; Hillstreet near Totton on Nov 4th; Sinah Warren on Nov 18th and Titchfield Haven on Nov 19th. These are all very late records for Common Swift. Those on Nov 18th/19th would be the latest ever for the county. One over Titchfield Haven on Nov 19th was identified as a probable Pallid Swift (GC&DLB) but confirmation was not obtained.

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

A moderately common resident whose numbers may be severely depleted during harsh winters [ET, SPEC3, Schedule 1, Amber].

More than 900 records were received mainly from the coast, the river valleys and the north-east. Some 26% were March-July records with breeding confirmed at 16 sites. Most counts were of ones or twos but the maximum was 12 between Ringwood and Fordingbridge on Sep 25th. Regular counts at well-watched sites demonstrated the familiar post-breeding dispersal and overwintering on the coast. This is illustrated by the monthly bird-day totals in the following table:

Bird-days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington/Hurst	12	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	30	8	6	6
Lower Test Marshes	7	2	2	1	3	1	9	9	6	11	8	6
Titchfield Haven	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	5	11	8	11
Farlington Marshes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	4	0	1

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

A very scarce passage migrant; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since [SPEC3, Schedule 1]. (? ,230,7)

There were records of eight individuals: seven in April and one in autumn. One was well-watched at Clare Park Hospital, Crondall for four days. This is the highest county total since nine in 1955. All records are given below:

- Alton: Apr 1st (KN).
Crondall: April 4th-7th (m.o., photo).
Headbourne Worthy: Apr 6th (MHo).
Paulsgrove Reclamation: Apr 7th (TFC).
- Crookham: Apr 13th (DO-M).
Fordingbridge: Apr 7th (laG).
Acres Down: Apr 29th (RHo).
Martin Down NNR: Sep 17th/18th (LCS).

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

A very scarce passage migrant; formerly a moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1975 [SPEC3, Schedule 1, Red, UKBAP3].

There were records of 11 individuals: two in spring and nine in autumn with a peak in mid September. One at Fishery Creek, Hayling on Nov 6th was the latest ever for the county; the previous being one at Fawley Power Station from Oct 31st to Nov 2nd 2004. All records are given below:

- Pipers Wait, NF: Apr 8th (JMs).
- Fareham: May 1st (DPe).

Lymington/Hurst: Normandy, Aug 27th (MW); Pennington Marsh, Sep 14th-17th (JIH *et al.*); Sturt Pond, Sep 23rd (SPP).
Hook-with-Warsash: Aug 29th-Sep 1st (GC&DLB); Sep 16th (RHM *et al.*).
Basing, The Millfield: Sep 10th-13th (BSt).
Northney: Sep 10th/11th (SJMa, GDF).
West Wood, Netley: Sep 16th (DKn, ARCo, IRW).
Fishery Creek, Hayling Island: Nov 5th/6th (ACJ).



Wryneck, Hook-with-Warsash, Aug 29th – Ian Williamson

There were two additional records, not included in the above list. The distinctive droppings of Wryneck were found on Gutner Point, Hayling Island on Sep 9th and at Stoke Common Hayling on Sep 13th. Congratulations to ACJ for an excellent piece of forensic field craft!

Correction 2010: The record for Backley Plain, NF refers to Aug 31st not Apr 3rd.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

A common resident [SPEC2, Amber].

BBS data showed virtually no change: 58% of squares were occupied at an average of 1.8 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 58% and 1.9 respectively.

The species is particularly common in the north-east. Territory counts on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs included 21 in Longmoor Inclosure, nine on Warren Heath and seven on Hazeley Heath. It is also common in the New Forest although the count of 11 in 46km² of the central Forest was 15 down on 2010. Other high counts included nine pairs in the Itchen Valley CP. It is more thinly spread on the chalk but Atlas records are filling some of the gaps identified in BOH.

There were few records indicative of anything other than local dispersion. At Miles Hill, Fleet, during 65 visible migration watches between Sep 4th and Dec 18th, only one bird was seen moving south-west. Records from coastal, non-breeding sites included one at Farlington

Marshes on several dates between Sep 7th and Dec 17th; Paulsgrove Reclamation on Jan 22nd, Feb 19th (2) and Nov 19th and Lower Test Marshes on Oct 28th and Nov 15th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker
A common resident [Green].

Dendrocopos major

BBS data showed that 77% of 1-km squares were occupied at an average of 2.5 detections per square: the distribution of this species has steadily increased throughout the 18-year study.

Examples of high territory counts on the north-east heaths included 27 on Longmoor Inclosure, nine on Warren Heath and eight on Hazeley Heath. Nine territories were also counted in the Itchen Valley CP. In the survey of 46 km² of New Forest woodland, 127 individuals were recorded. Example counts in the Forest included 20 at Bashley on Feb 26th and seven at Bank on Apr 11th.

Records from well-watched coastal sites peaked in October. Monthly bird-day totals (from both breeding and non-breeding locations) were as follows:

Bird-days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore	7	3	4	1	2	8	4	0	2	6	5	1
IBM Lake	5	2	0	1	3	5	1	1	14	19	0	1
Sandy Point	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	4	5	12	3	3

Visible migration was also recorded in autumn from both inland and coastal sites:

- Casbrook Common: 43N/S between Aug 14th and Nov 21st.
- Southampton University: 1SW, Aug 22nd.
- Miles Hill, Fleet: 29SW between Sep 4th and Dec 18th.
- Sinah Common: 2W, Sep 19th.
- Lymington/Hurst: 1S, Sep 24th.
- Needs Ore: 1E, Oct 1st.
- Sandy Point: 1NE, Oct 2nd.

Although the predominant direction of many of these movements was between south and west, some were northerly and all may have involved local post-breeding dispersion. A likely long distance migrant was seen heading south-east high over Sturt Pond towards Hurst Castle on Sep 24th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Once moderately common, now a scarce resident [Red, UKBAP1, HBAP].

Dendrocopos minor

Records were received from 40 sites in the New Forest and from approximately 50 elsewhere in the county. The survey of a 46 km² block of central New Forest woodland, carried out from May to July, located just seven birds but this clearly underestimates the actual population. For example, six were counted in Bolderwood in March when the birds are more conspicuous.

Breeding was confirmed at only two sites although calling and drumming were heard at many more.

Golden Oriole
A rare passage migrant; has bred, most recently in 1987 [Schedule 1, Red]. (?,60,1)

Oriolus oriolus

A male was seen and heard in the south of the New Forest on May 15th (MPM). The previous records were of two in 2009, the last of which was at Plastow Green on a typical date of June 5th.

Isabelline Shrike
A very rare vagrant. (0,1,1)

Lanius isabellinus

A first-winter bird was found at Moonhills, NF on Oct 30th (RRv, TDe). Identification was confirmed on Oct 31st (DJRv) and the bird was photographed and remained until Nov 2nd.

This is the second accepted record for Hampshire, the first being one at Forton Lake, Gosport on Sep 10th/11th 2010.



First-winter Isabelline Shrike, Moonhills, New Forest – Berni Dempsey

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

A very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [SPEC3].

As the year opened, there were at least four birds in or near to the New Forest. The most seen individual frequented both sides of the Beaulieu Road between Matley Bog and Pig Bush until Apr 10th. Another remained in the Black Gutter Bottom/Ashley Walk area until Mar 31st, while around Holmsley and Burley a single was present until Jan 31st. It is possible that it also wandered to Holm Hill, being seen on Feb 6th and 25th, and Apr 6th. On the edge of the New Forest, a bird ranged between Blashford Lakes, Ibsley and Frogham until Mar 17th, although not being noted between Feb 18th and Mar 16th. Other sightings were in the Handy Cross/Buckherd/Backley/Ocknell area from Feb 19th to Mar 19th, and between Longcross Plain and Holly Hatch between Jan 20th and Mar 20th. Not far away a single was at Buck Hill near West Wellow on Mar 23rd.

Away from the New Forest, a bird was at Woolmer on Feb 19th, Mar 20th and Apr 3rd (and presumably dates in between when access was not permitted to this military training area). Others were at Linkenholt on Jan 7th, Preston Candover on Feb 17th, Ludshott Common on Mar 7th/8th and Butser Hill on Mar 29th.

In the late year, there were three in the New Forest. One was in the Burley area, particularly Vales Moor, Cranes Moor and Castle Hill from Oct 28th to Nov 19th. Another was in the Buckherd Bottom/Bratley Plain area; one was seen on Oct 31st, Dec 6th and 20th, possibly being that seen at Picket Post on Dec 10th and Digden Bottom on 20th. Two later birds were at Half Moon and Furzey Commons on four dates from Nov 18th to Dec 16th, and in the Beaulieu Road area on Nov 26th, and then from Dec 21st into 2012. At Woolmer one was seen on seven dates from Oct 22nd to Dec 25th. Other singles were at Martin Down on Nov 3rd and 18th, Bransbury Common on Nov 19th and Blashford Lakes on Dec 20th.

Magpie

Pica pica

A numerous resident [Green].

Maximum winter roost counts were as follows: Eversley GP (20, Dec 31st); Fleet Pond (130, Jan 30th; 50, Dec 20th) and IBM lake, Portsmouth (38, Mar 4th).

Breeding territories were reported as follows: Brownwich (9), Longmoor Inclosure (4), Lower Test Marshes (7), Martin Down (2) and Titchfield Haven (8). BBS data showed no change in status – 80% of squares were occupied at an average of 3.9 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 80% and 3.7 respectively.

Possible evidence of movement was noted as follows:

Casbrook Common: 36SW, Sep 29th-Dec 11th; max. 9, Oct 1st.

Miles Hill, Fleet: 46SW Sep 4th-Dec 18th.

Sandy Point: up to 5 Mar 26th-Apr 8th; 38 Sep 24th-Oct 16th including 7NE Oct 2nd.

Addition 2010. There was a roost of 69 at Fleet Pond on Dec 26th.

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

A numerous resident and passage migrant [Green].

The only count of over ten birds was at Titchfield Haven (11, Oct 13th).

Breeding territories were reported as follows: Brownwich (2), Itchen Valley CP (7), Longmoor Inclosure (7), Lower Test Marshes (2) and Titchfield Haven (8). BBS data showed that 52% of squares were occupied at an average of 1.8 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 45% and 1.8 respectively.

Possible evidence of movement was noted as follows:

Casbrook Common: 18SW, Sep 14th-Nov 5th.

Miles Hill, Fleet: 3SW, Sep 4th-Dec 18th.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

A numerous resident [Green].

Notable winter pre-roost movements counts of were made at: Titchfield Haven (500, Jan 13th; 461, Oct 20th; 435, Nov 17th; 458, Dec 1st); Lakeside, Eastleigh (1800E, Jan 9th); Greywell (2000, Oct 16th); Appleshaw, Andover (950 west to roost, Dec 8th) and Kingsley (500W, Dec 27th). Other winter counts, at least some of which were feeding flocks, were as follows: Leckford GC (500, Jan 3rd); Beacon Hill, Warnford (300, Jan 4th); Teglease Down (700, Jan 21st); South Warnborough (1000, Jan 29th); Kingsley (300, Mar 27th); Somerley Estate (716, Oct 23rd; 1677 Nov 16th).

BBS data showed that 80% of squares were occupied at an average of 15.1 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 77% and 11.8 respectively. Post breeding dispersal counts included counts at Cholderton Park (1100, July 18th) and Lockerley (485, Aug 16th).

Autumn diurnal movement included the following:

Miles Hill, Fleet: 112SW/40NE, Sep 4th-Dec 18th.

Sandy Point: 120W, Oct 14th; 90W, Oct 15th; 32W, Oct 20th.

Weston Shore: 50W, Oct 20th; 30W Oct 30th.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

A numerous resident and probable winter visitor [Green].

Counts of 500 or more outside the breeding season were received as follows: Sturt Pond (500, Jan 16th); Teglease Down (500, Jan 21st); South Warnborough (2500, Jan 29th; 3000, July 2nd); Cholderton Park (1100, July 18th); Greywell (500, Oct 16th) and Old Winchester Hill (700, Nov 24th; 700, Dec 27th; 1300, Dec 31st).

Rookeries with more than 50 nests were reported as follows: Chattis Hill, near Stockbridge (c.300); Houghton (115+); Kimbridge (55); Longstock (122); Newtown, Southampton (60); Queen Elizabeth CP (54); South Warnborough (110); Timsbury (160); Wherwell (77) and Widley, Portsmouth (61). A rookery of 22 nests was established at Hoglands Park in Southampton city centre.

BBS data showed that 66% of squares were occupied at an average of 32.5 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 59% and 21.1 respectively.

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

A numerous resident [Green].

Counts of 100 or more were received as follows: Bishop's Waltham (100, Feb 20th); Brownwich (250, Sep 10th); Calshot (100, Nov 23rd); Darby Green (200+, Dec 27th); Deadman Hill NF (134, July 27th); Frater (Gosport) (100, Dec 22nd); Kingsley (100, Mar 27th); Oakhanger (100, Aug 11th); Southsea (100, Feb 19th) and Titchfield Haven (129, Sep 29th). Large numbers were at Weston Shore for much of the year, as illustrated below:

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Weston Shore	nc	300	350	130	170	170	310	280	nc	nc	nc	370

BBS data showed that 94% of squares were occupied at an average of 7.8 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 92% and 8.3 respectively.

Raven

Corvus corax

A scarce but increasing resident which bred successfully for the first time since 1887 in 2004 [Green].

At least 18 nests were located, most of which fledged young. Nine of these had not been reported in previous years. Further evidence of breeding was provided by sightings of five family parties and 20 pairs in suitable habitat, while information was not received for around ten known nest sites. Thus it is clear that the population is continuing to increase. It probably now exceeds 60 breeding pairs and, given that Ravens do not usually breed until at least three years of age², an unknown but substantial number of non-breeders.

Outside the breeding season, the NFWBS produced totals of eight on Jan 22nd, 16 on Feb 19th, 18 on Oct 22nd, ten on Nov 26th and 18 on Dec 17th. Other counts in excess of four included: five at Hursley Park on Feb 12th; seven high south over Blashford Lakes on Mar 2nd; seven north-west over Newtown Common on July 30th; six at Barton on Sea on Sep 25th; six at Martin Down on Oct 6th; five in the Lymington/Keyhaven area on Nov 12th and seven west to roost over Appleshaw on Dec 22nd.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

BBS data showed that 51% of squares were occupied at an average of 3.1 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 53% and 2.8 respectively.

Systematic survey work in 46km² of New Forest woodland, carried out between May 1st and July 1st, located 545 including 484 singing males. Away from the New Forest, the highest territory count was 18 in the Itchen Valley CP.

Autumn passage was noted at non-breeding sites from mid September with the first at IBM Lake on 15th and at Browndown on 28th. The main movement occurred in October, although numbers were generally low. For example, two migrants were at Iley Point on 8th and a small fall of 12 occurred at Hook-with-Warsash on 18th. At IBM Lake there were 26 bird days during the autumn – the last three recorded on Oct 25th.

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapilla

A moderately common and increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

The continuing rapid growth in the population of this species is illustrated by the number of records submitted to HOS. This has increased dramatically over the past 20 years from a mere handful in 1991 to almost 700 in 2011.

² Ratcliffe, D. 2011. *The Raven: A Natural History in Britain and Ireland*, T & AD Poyser.



Firecrest, New Forest, June 4th – Martin Bennett

The first song was heard at Eyeworth Pond on Mar 9th. During the breeding season, survey work in 46km² of central New Forest woodland located 145 singing males. Elsewhere in the Forest, an additional 108 territories were recorded as part of systematic survey work and another 13 from casual observations. This brings the total for the Forest to 266 territories (*cf.* 260 in 2010). In the rest of the county, at least 139 more singing males/pairs were reported during the breeding season as follows:

Locality	Territ.	Locality	Territ.	Locality	Territ.
South-west		Hamble		Steep Marsh	2
Blashford Lakes	1	Hook Park	4	Adhurst Wood, Petersfield	1
Hale	1	Holly Hill Park, Warsash	3	Blendworth Wood, Horndean	1
Inchmery/Exbury Gardens	5	Brooklands	1	Rowlands Castle	1
Sprats Down, Calshot	4	Manor Farm CP	1	Staunton CP	1
Embley Wood, Romsey	1	Meon valley		Drayton, Portsmouth	1
Hillier's Arboretum, Romsey	4	Stubbington Cemetery	1	North-east	
Ampfield Wood/Knapp	7	Hundred Acres, Wickham	2	East Stratton	1
Test valley		Brockwood Park	1	Ellisfield, Basingstoke	3
Clapgate Copse, Mottisfont	1	Newtown, Wickham	1	Abbotstone Down	2
Brook	1	West Meon	1	Chawton Park Wood	6
Whitchurch	2	South Downs		Monkwood	1
Southampton area		Dean, Bishops Waltham	2	Selborne	2
Chilworth/Hut Wood	2	Lane End Down	1	Lasham Wood	1
Southampton Common	5	Droxford Down	2	Great Park, Lasham	2
Deep Dene, Midanbury	3	Preshaw	1	Liss	1
Mansbridge/West End	4	Kilmeston Down	1	Woolmer Forest	3
Winchester area		Bramdean	3	Deadwater Valley, Bordon	1
Farley Mount	1	Broadhalfpenny Down	1	Redcap Copse, Blacknest	1
Crab Wood	4	Old Winchester Hill	1	Lodge Inclosure, Alice Holt	1
Enmill Farm	1	Old Down	1	Bourley	4
Hensting, Colden Common	1	Queen Elizabeth CP	18	Hawley Lake, Cove	1
Gabriel's Copse, Twyford	2	Ditcham Woods/Ladyholt	2	Eversley Common	1
Headbourne Worthy	1	Warren Corner, Steep	2		

Thus the county total now exceeds 400 territories; the expansion covering much of the south and north-east of the county. Breeding was confirmed at 23 sites, including the 46km² study area of New Forest woodland incorporated as a single site.

Outside the breeding season, records came from both coastal and inland locations. Minimum monthly bird-day counts at selected coastal non-breeding locations are given below:

Bird-days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	22	5	8						0	10	5	1
Hook-with-Warsash	10	4	5						0	8	1	2
Lymington/Hurst	4	0	16						2	0	0	0

The records suggest high numbers in January, possibly as a result of weather-induced movement to the coast caused by cold weather in December 2010. However, bird-day counts can be misleading. For example, the maximum seen on any one day at Sandy Point in January was three and the actual number of individuals involved is unknown. In autumn, a total of 79 was ringed (not included above) including 29 at Southampton Common and 27 at The Straight Mile, Romsey.

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

An abundant resident and passage migrant [Green].

Counts of 50 or more outside the breeding season were received as follows: Bank, NF (78, Jan 18th); Clanfield (60, Jan 26th); Mottisfont (58, Jan 27th); Lane End Down (73, Feb 6th); Oxenbourne Down (60, Feb 7th); Tatchbury Mount, Southampton (53, Feb 12th); Latchmore Bottom, NF (100, Feb 19th); Colden Common (86, Feb 24th) and Fair Oak (67, Feb 24th).

During the breeding season, the largest counts of pairs or territories were reported as follows: Brownwich farmland (16), Longmoor Inclosure (76), Lower Test Marshes (26), and Titchfield Haven (38). BBS data showed that 98% of squares were occupied at an average of 13.4 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 97% and 11.6 respectively.

Possible evidence of movement was noted as follows: Casbrook Common (22W/E, Sep 2nd-Nov 12th) and Sandy Point (2, Mar 7th; 2N Mar 15th).

Great Tit

Parus major

An abundant resident [Green].

Counts of 30 or more outside the breeding season were received as follows: Alderholt Common (32, Feb 28th); Fair Oak (39, Feb 24th); Itchen Valley CP (34, Mar 6th; 36, Mar 20th); Lane End Down (44, Feb 6th); Liss (33, Feb 12th); Oxenbourne Down (48, Feb 7th); Queen Elizabeth CP (31, Feb 8th) and Tatchbury Mount, Southampton (32, Feb 12th).

During the breeding season, the largest counts of pairs or territories were reported as follows: Brownwich farmland (8), Longmoor Inclosure (57), Lower Test Marshes (21) and Titchfield Haven (28). BBS data showed that 98% of squares were occupied at an average of 7.6 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 93% and 6.4 respectively.

Possible evidence of movement was noted as follows: Miles Hill, Fleet (3SW, Sep 4th-Dec 18th) and Sandy Point (2N, Mar 15th).

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

A numerous resident [Green].

Counts of 15 or more outside the breeding season were received as follows: Ashurst Walk NF (50, Jan 28th); Basingstoke (15, Feb 17th); Bransgore (19, Jan 23rd); Bucklers Hard (21, Jan 9th); Harewood Forest (15, Oct 1st); Queen Elizabeth CP (19, Feb 8th) and Slufers Inclosure, NF (19, Feb 28th).

During the breeding season, 97 territories were recorded in 8 km² at Longmoor Inclosure (*cf.* 107 in 2010, 119 in 2009). BBS data showed that 41% of squares were occupied at an average of 2.7 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 36% and 3.1 respectively.

Willow Tit

Poecile montana

A local, severely declining and now scarce resident [Red, UKBAP1, HBAP].

A total of 63 records from 42 sites was received (*cf.* 60 from 30 in 2010, 35 from 14 in 2009 and 66 from 40 in 2008). During the breeding season there were records from nine localities, with breeding confirmed at sites north of Andover and at three sites to the north-west of Whitchurch.

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

A common but declining resident [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP4, HBAP].

A total of 903 records was submitted (*cf.* 620 in 2010 and 454 in 2009): the increase *may* be as a result of more coverage because of Atlas work and increasing interest in conservation concerns with respect to the species. Records included 140 from 58 New Forest localities.

The only double-figure counts submitted were from: Denny Wood, NF (16, Jan 26th); Ellisfield (10, Nov 5th); Exbury (10, Jan 9th) and Netherton Bottom, Facombe (10, Feb 12th).

In the central New Forest, 69 territories were located in 46 km² during survey work. Outside the New Forest, successful breeding was reported from 27 localities. BBS data showed that 13% of squares were occupied at an average of 1.2 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 11% and 1.6 respectively.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

A scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

In the first quarter there were records from Farlington Marshes (max. 20, Jan 4th); Keyhaven/Sturt Pond (max. 6, Mar 8th); Needs Ore (max. 2) and Titchfield Haven (max. 2). Two were at Hook-with-Warsash on Mar 18th and Apr 16th and one at Lower Test Marshes/Testwood Lakes on Apr 16th/17th.

Breeding numbers were down at Keyhaven, with just one pair seen with juveniles (*cf.* 3 pairs in 2010), but up at Titchfield Haven with seven pairs (*cf.* 5 pairs in 2010). One was at Testwood Lakes on June 2nd.

In the latter part of the year records from the main areas were: Keyhaven (max. 10, several dates), Needs Ore (1, Oct 14th) and Titchfield Haven (max. 14, Sep 30th). Other records were from Bunny Meadows, Warsash (3, Oct 20th), Calshot (Dec 18th-20th) and Lower Test Marshes (Nov 10th). Post-breeding dispersal was noted at Hill Head (2SE, Aug 20th) and Brownich (7W/1E, Oct 13th).

At Farlington Marshes, ringing returns of 75 new captures and 56 retraps suggest that numbers present were much higher than revealed by visual sightings. Good numbers were ringed between June and September suggesting that several pairs probably nested.

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

A moderately common but local resident and passage migrant [ET, SPEC2, Schedule 1, Amber, UKBAP4, HBAP].

The regular overwintering flock at Wickham Hundred Acres fell from 18 in December 2010 to only five on Jan 1st. This may have been due to birds moving away from the area during cold weather in late December 2010. There were ten at Brownich on Jan 23rd. None was recorded during the NFWBS carried out over 33 sites on Jan 22nd/23rd.

The first song was heard at Longmoor Inclosure in the Wealden Heaths SPA on Jan 24th. During the breeding season at least 90 pairs/singing males were reported from the New Forest. This is higher than in recent years (*cf.* 55 in 2010) but these variations are more likely to be caused by changes in coverage rather than increases in population. Systematic counts on

Ocknell Plain and Rockford Common suggest that numbers on these areas are stable but on Fritham Plain, where the habitat has deteriorated, numbers have declined (AGP).

For the north-east heaths, where the coverage was good, the numbers of territories are compared with 2009 and 2010 below:

Locality	Territories			Locality	Territories		
	2009	2010	2011		2009	2010	2011
Bourley North/Long Valley	6	8	8	Yateley Heath Wood/Litchett Plain	1	1	2
Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill	11	10	10	Wealden Heaths			
Bramshill Plantation	3	4	2	Bramshott/Hammer Commons	1	1	1
Eversley Common/Castle Bottom/Blackbushe	7	7	4	Broxhead Common	6	5	4
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Area	3	3	2	Cranmer Heath, Blackmoor	1	nc	0
Hawley Common	0	2	1	Holly Hills	nc	1	0
Hazeley Heath	2	2	4	Kingsley Common	nc	1	1
Tadley & Silchester Commons	2	3	3	Longmoor Inclosure	16	15	16
Tweseldown	2	2	2	Ludshott Common	2	5	3
Velmead Common	2	2	2	Shortheath Common	2	2	2
Warren Heath/Heath Warren	9	15	16	The Warren, Oakhanger/Blackmoor GC	6	4	2
Yateley Common	5	7	6	Woolmer Forest	15	15	15

Breeding was confirmed on many of the sites. In the ongoing study on Bourley & Long Valley SSSI, 36 nests were monitored of which 28 were successful in producing fledged young, a success rate of 78%. This was higher than in 2010 (62%), primarily because the number of predated nests was lower. A minimum of 99 young was raised to the fledging stage – an average of at least 4.5 fledglings per pair.

Approximately 50 territorial birds were reported outside the main and peripheral heathland sites during the March-July period. This number cannot be compared directly with counts in the 2009 and 2010 HBRs, which excluded Atlas records, but indications are that there is now a healthy population on agricultural land outside the heathland strongholds. Most records referred to singing males but breeding was confirmed at Hale, Baddesley Common, Shaldon and Upton.

Autumn movements were reported from both inland and coastal sites. At Bourley & Long Valley, Miles Hill, migration watches between Sep 4th and Dec 12th recorded a total of 19, with 13SW and 6NE. At Casbrook Common, Trigpoint Hill, 11 were counted between Sep 25th and Nov 1st. While some of these may have been birds dispersing locally, probable longer distance migrants were seen at coastal non-breeding sites including: Lymington/Hurst (1, Sep 16th and 30th); Hook-with-Warsash (2NW, Oct 8th); Sandy Point (1, Oct 14th) and Milton Reclamation (1NE, Oct 14th).

The regular wintering flock at Wickham Hundred Acres increased from two on Oct 2nd to a maximum of 14 on Dec 6th. The only other notable flock during this period was 11 at Portsdown Hill on Dec 10th. Only three were recorded on the NFWBSs carried out on 36 sites on Dec 17th and 18th but four were seen at Woolmer Forest on Dec 26th.

Addition 2010: A flock of 25 was at Malthouse Farm, Kingsley on Dec 30th 2010,

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

With no major cold-weather movements, numbers reported during the year were relatively low. In the first winter period, three-figure counts were made at: Hillside, Odiham (125, Jan 1st); Ashley Warren (120, Jan 2nd); Lymington/Hurst (150, Jan 4th and 7th); Crondall (125, Jan 29th) and Bashley, NF (100, Feb 26th).

Atlas counts during the breeding season included: 34 at Polhampton on Apr 10th; 46 at Gander Down on Apr 17th; 30 at Micheldever on Apr 25th and 32 at Hurstbourne Tarrant on Apr 28th.

Diurnal movement in autumn was noted at both coastal and inland sites between early September and mid December, peaking in late October/early November. Counts during inland targeted migration watches included:

Miles Hill, Fleet: 306SW and 112NE between Sep 4th and Dec 18th (max. 53, Oct 29th).

Casbrook Common: 1137SW between Sep 15th and Nov 30th (max. 150SW, Nov 1st).

Maximum counts at coastal sites included: 120 west at Sandy Point on Oct 13th and 40 south-west at Needs Ore on Nov 1st. The largest flock reported during the second winter period was from Kingsley where a pre-roost gathering totalled 170 on Dec 27th.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

A common breeding summer visitor and numerous passage migrant [SPEC3, Amber].

The first arrivals were 12 at Blashford Lakes on Mar 9th, followed by birds at Fleet Pond from 11th and numerous sites from 12th. A count of 50+ was not achieved until Mar 25th (Ibsley Water), with three-figure flocks not seen until Apr 2nd (100 at Fleet Pond). Subsequently, three-figure counts were made at a further six localities in spring (max. 360, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 2nd and 500, Ibsley Water, Apr 5th).

About 100 pairs used the artificial breeding bank at Testwood Lakes and over 150 pairs used the bank at Ibsley Water, with good success well into August, although a Mallard was seen to eat at least two fledglings below the colony on Aug 10th! Confirmed breeding was reported from just two sand pit sites, Frith End and Kingsley, with three-figure counts at both.

Concerted return passage began in mid August, with numerous small groups away from breeding sites, and 3000 at least at Ibsley Water on Aug 26th, and further four-figure gatherings there on Aug 28th, and from Sep 6th to 12th. This peak of passage was mirrored elsewhere by, for example, 920 in the Hurst area on Sep 9th and 100 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Sep 5th and 12th. A count of 1060 was made at Ibsley as late as Sep 23rd, but records then tailed away rapidly; only 12 were recorded in the county subsequently, the last at Hurst on the very early date of Sep 30th.



Skylark, Martin Down, Apr 20th – Martin Bennett



*Sand Martin, Blashford Lakes, July 25th –
John Wichall*

Swallow

Hirundo rustica

A numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant [SPEC3, Amber].

After early arrivals from Mar 16th to 18th, 97 were noted in small groups by the end of the month, but the only three-figure count was at Needs Ore (100) on Apr 5th. Surprisingly, the next highest total was just 63 north at Sandy Point on Apr 30th. In the breeding season, BBS data showed that 69% of squares were occupied at an average of 4.9 detections per square: the 18-year averages are 63% and 4.8 respectively.

Autumn passage began for the species in mid July. Many double-figure counts came from scattered localities and by July 26th three 100+ flocks had been noted. In late August, at least 1800 were roosting at Farlington Marshes and 600 at Hook-with-Warsash. Over 35,000 were noted migrating through the autumn – but this excludes movements for which recorders indicated no direction or purposeful flight. The large majority (30,000+) were moving in directions south and west. High counts in September included 2700 south-west at Miles Hill on 16th, 10,000+ through Hurst the same day, 1240 south-west at Casbrook Common on 19th and several thousand at Hurst on 25th. Over 1600 were noted in October, rapidly dwindling towards the month's end and included the last double-figure count of 15 at Fleet Pond on 30th. A total of 11 was noted in November (4, Sandy Point; 4, Lymington Hurst; 3, Titchfield Haven/Hill Head) until 12th and then a gap to the last, one south at Hurst on 19th.

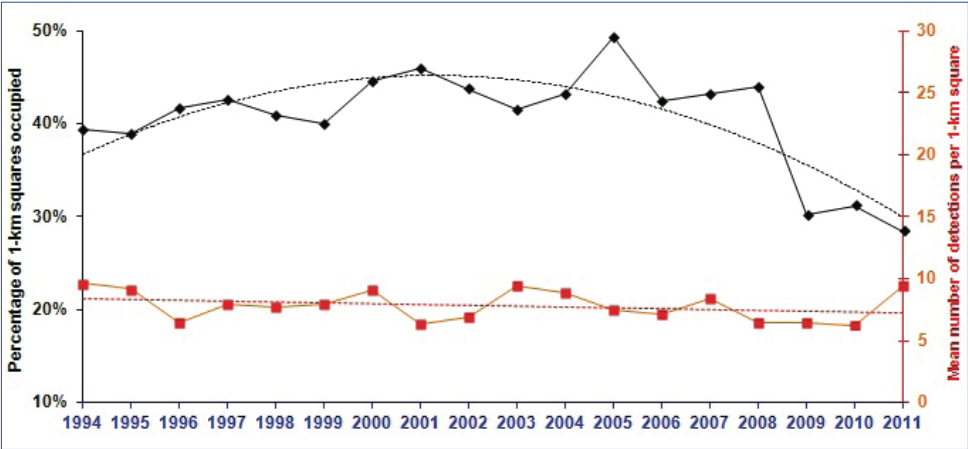
House Martin

Delichon urbicum

A numerous but declining summer visitor and abundant passage migrant [SPEC3, Amber].

First arrivals were noted from Mar 13th at Fleet Pond, including nine flying north on six dates until 27th, when the first arrival was noted elsewhere at Lower Test Marshes followed by six other localities by 31st. Passage remained slow throughout April, just 285 were logged (only six flocks of ten or more). May passage was not much better, 749 were recorded, only 10% of which were noted as actually on the move.

BBS data showed that 28% of squares were occupied the worst year of the year 18 year study and evidence of decline from 2002 onwards. A bird reported as an albino was at Fleet Pond on Aug 27th.



Autumn passage was under way by mid August and heavy movements were occurring while young were still being reared (as late as Sep 26th at Holly Hatch). At least 45,000 were recorded on the move (with many more observed milling about or with no indication of direction), the very large majority south and west. The main pulse was from Sep 16th to 19th, which accounted for almost 50% of the autumn total, headlined by 10,000+ per hour south at Hurst on 16th. In

the north-east of the county the peak was a little later, including two counts over 3000 at Miles Hill on Sep 20th and 25th. The last week of the month also produced over 1600 east at Barton on Sea. Numbers dwindled very rapidly in October, with only 120 after 10th and just ten in the last week. Of three in November, the last was east at Sandy Point on 9th.

Red-rumped Swallow

Cecropis daurica

A very rare vagrant. (0,11,1)

One was feeding and flew slowly west at Sandy Point on July 10th (ACJ). The only hirundine present, this was the first record for this well-watched site. The county total has now doubled since 2007, with records in three successive years.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

A moderately common resident; first bred in 1979 [Schedule 1, Green].

Some 775 records were received but unfortunately the majority, particularly those submitted via Birdtrack and Going Birding, did not include six figure grid references or state whether the total recorded was purely of singing males or included other birds as well. Survey data from two of the major sites – Lower Test Marshes and Titchfield Haven – shows little change from 2010; however, evidence from some sites has suggested a reduction following the third successive cold winter. Thus, it is difficult to update the county status of this species which was estimated at 250-275 territorial males in 2010. Maximum counts from localities where more than four were reported were as follows:

Farlington Marshes: a male trapped on Apr 25th had been ringed in Lancashire in March 2010 – see Ringing Report for further details. A total of 70 was trapped in July-December with monthly totals of 14, 13, 15, 16, 11 and 1. These included 39 ringed for the first time.

Titchfield Haven: 31 territories (32 in 2010); 34 were ringed in autumn.

Lower Test Marshes: 33 territories (35 in 2010).

Fishlake Meadows: 8, Apr 3rd; 5 singing, Apr 4th; 8, Dec 20th.

Hook with Warsash: 7, Apr 17th; but only two territories reported subsequently.

Needs Ore: 6 territories.

Calshot: 6, Oct 28th.

Upper Titchfield Haven: 6, Apr 15th.

Itchen Valley CP: 4 territories.

Single birds at Budds Farm, Langstone Harbour on Feb 26th and Castle Farm, Warblington on Mar 15th were the only reports from those locations. At IBM Lake, one was present until Mar 12th but there were no further records until the late year, when a singing male was present from Nov 28th to Dec 5th. At Ivy Lake, Blashford, there were numerous records up to Mar 5th and from July 10th but the species did not breed there.

Well away from regular breeding areas, a male was at Springhead, Greywell from late 2010 until Mar 12th. It remains a mystery why the species has never established itself in the north-east of the county, where there is plenty of apparently suitable habitat.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

A numerous resident [Green].

In the early year, counts of 20 or more were received from eight sites, with the highest being 33 at Denmead on Jan 17th. An indication of movement was noted on Mar 13th, when six were seen to leave north from Sandy Point.

The only notable record during the breeding season was of 23 pairs at Itchen Valley CP. Post-breeding flocks of 20 or more came from seven localities, with a maximum of 40 at Andover Down Farm on June 10th. The BBS indicated that 50% of squares were occupied, close to the 18-year average of 53%, which makes last year's survey look like an anomaly (70%).

The highest count received during the year was of 51 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 14th. Otherwise, counts in the late year of 20 or more came from ten localities: the maxima being 30 at Harewood Forest on Nov 20th and at Blashford Lakes on Nov 27th.

Pallas's Warbler

Phylloscopus proregulus

A very rare vagrant. (0,7,1)

The eighth for the county was present for two days at Sandy Point on Oct 24th/25th (TAL *et al.*). It was typically elusive but showed well on occasion as it moved around the site with a tit flock.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

A rare autumn passage migrant. (0,51,5)

There were five accepted records. The first was on Sep 27th at South Warnborough (EMR); one trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven on Oct 15th (TDC, BSD); another (unringed bird) was at Hill Head next day (RJCa); one heard calling and seen feeding with a tit flock in Botley Wood on Oct 28th (BSD) and the last in Gosport on Nov 6th (JANo).

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Formerly moderately common but now scarce and local summer visitor and scarce passage migrant [SPEC2, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

The first for the year was an early singing male in Redshoot Wood, NF on Apr 6th. Unusually, the next three arrivals on Apr 11th/12th were all seen away from the New Forest, with singles at Embley Wood, Romsey, IBM Lake, Portsmouth and at Bourley/Long Valley. The main arrival was from Apr 19th, with eight being counted at Anderwood Inclosure, NF on 23rd. The only other sightings outside of the New Forest were two at Denmead on Apr 19th, one at Titchfield Haven on Apr 24th and one at Testwood Lakes on May 14th.

A New Forest survey of a 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst located 115 singing males (a welcome increase after last year's total of 87 and 104 in 2009). Counts from other localities in the New Forest, not covered by the above survey, totalled approximately 40 singing males at 29 sites, giving a combined total of around 155 singing males present (*cf.* 128 in 2010 and 142 in 2009). There were no reports of suspected breeding from elsewhere in Hampshire.

There were only seven reports received in July, with the last being one at Set Thorns Inclosure, NF on 26th. As usual, the species departed the county virtually unnoticed.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

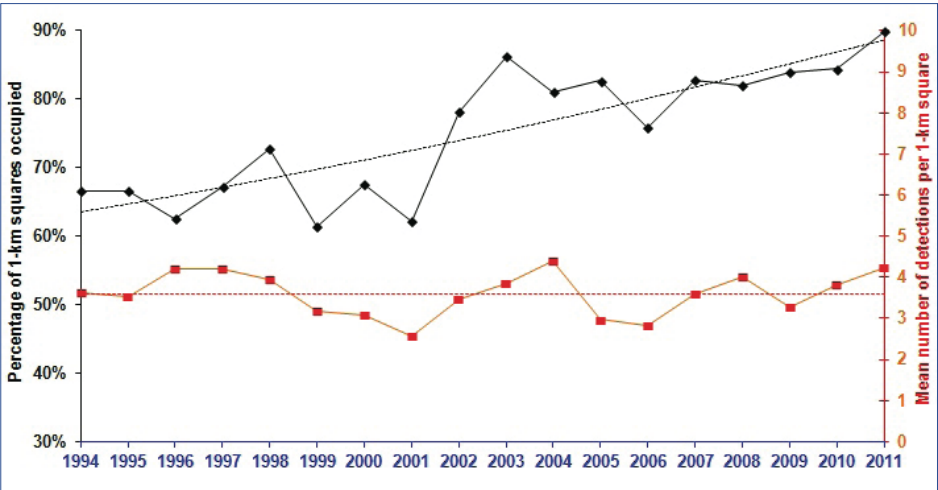
A numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter [Green].

During the first two months of the year, there were reports from 25 sites involving a minimum of 45 birds: notably lower than the 67 at 35 localities in 2010 and 80 at 42 in 2009. Interestingly, it is also only half the number present in late 2010 and indicates lower concentrations in waterside localities when the weather was less severe. The highest counts received were five at Hawley Meadows on Jan 5th and ten at Eastleigh SF on Jan 30th.

The first migrants arrived in early March when there was a fall of 12 along the canal path at Titchfield Haven on 9th, followed by 12 at Rooksbury Mill on 12th. Other notable counts in early spring included 33 at Lower Test Marshes on Mar 26th and 15 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 27th.

During the breeding season, a survey in the New Forest of a 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst located 125 singing males between May 1st and July 1st (*cf.* 112 in 2010, 119 in 2010). Elsewhere, counts included: 68 singing males/pairs at Itchen Valley CP (*cf.* 45, 2010); 30 at Titchfield Haven (*cf.* 30, 2010); 24 singing males/pairs at Lower Test Marshes (*cf.* 18, 2010); 20 at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (*cf.* 15, 2010); 17 at Longmoor Inclosure (*cf.* 13, 2010); 15 at Martin Down CBC (*cf.* 9, 2010) and 12 at Butser Hill (*cf.* 9, 2010). Other counts included 22

at Embley Wood, Romsey on Apr 11th; 21 at Kimbridge on Apr 21st; 20 at Whitchurch on Apr 22nd; 26 at Medstead on May 6th and 18 at Gaston Wood, Bentworth on June 21st. BBS data showed that occupancy of 1-km squares increased to 90% – the highest mark in the 18-year survey as shown below:



During autumn passage, an impressive total of 858 was ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 10th and Nov 5th, more than double the number ringed in 2010. A total of 461 bird-days was recorded at IBM Lake between July 26th and Oct 24th, with peak counts of 30 on Sep 19th and 24th. Notable counts from elsewhere in September included: 50 at Needs Ore on 13th; 50 at Emer Bog, Baddesley on 18th; 30 at Cadnam Common on 19th; 50 at Keyhaven Marsh on 23rd and 30 at Milton Reclamation on 23rd. There were several double figure counts in early October, but numbers declined thereafter.

In the last two months of the year, a minimum total of 87 was reported at 51 sites, identical to the total at 58 localities during the same period in 2010. The species was present at Eastleigh SF throughout this period, with a record wintering count of 16 on Dec 18th. Other counts included five at Newlands Farm, Fareham on Dec 17th and four at Darby Green on 27th.

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

A rare autumn passage migrant. (since 2009,4,1)

One was at Newlands Farm, Fareham from Dec 17th into 2012 (DHn, photo). See next page.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

An abundant summer visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

The first arrivals were early, with singing males at Blashford Lakes, Dogmersfield Park and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Mar 20th and widespread sightings from Mar 25th. At Sandy Point there were 37 bird-days between Mar 26th and May 19th (max. 8, Apr 7th); while at IBM Lake there were 19 bird-days between Apr 4th and May 1st (max. 8, Apr 6th). Other double-figure counts during spring passage included 12 at Sinah Common on Apr 2nd and 15 at Lakeside, Eastleigh on Apr 6th (the species does not breed at this site).

During the breeding season, the survey in the New Forest of a 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst found 114 singing males (*cf.* 117, 2010). Other counts included 32 singing males at Ludshott Common, 17 territories at Longmoor Inclosure (*cf.* 14, 2010) and 15 at Blackbushe Airfield. BBS data showed that 32% of 1-km squares were occupied: a constant figure since 2006 (see HBR 2010 for a plot showing decline since 1994).



Siberian Chiffchaff, Newlands Farm, Fareham

Above: Jan 8th 2012 – Steve Copsey; below: Jan 10th 2012 – Mark Palmer.

Note the base colour of Siberian Chiffchaff is typically grey in overcast conditions and a cold brown under clear skies; only the crown shows warmer brown tones. Wing and tail feathers may show fine yellow or olive-green edges. One feature that is emerging as virtually diagnostic is the brown, pink-wash tinged ear coverts (visible in both photos). At present though there are no hard and fast rules fully understood so it is still essential to hear the call to clinch identification.

Autumn passage began in mid July with an early migrant at Sandy Point on 11th. At this site there were 159 bird-days (*cf.* 178, 2010) up to Sep 23rd (max. 20 on July 28th), while at IBM Lake there was a total of 83 bird-days (*cf.* 173, 2010) between July 21st and Sep 19th. A total of 128 was ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 15th and Sep 23rd, with a peak of 17 on Aug 17th. Other counts in August included 15 at Oxleys Coppice/Newlands Farm on 6th; 15 at Longparish on 14th; 15 at Fleet Pond on 29th; 20 at Milton Reclamation on 30th and 18 at Ashlett Creek on 30th. The only double-figure count in September was ten at Brownwich on 1st; from 10th onwards numbers rapidly declined. There were three reports in October – the last for the year being one at Hook-with-Warsash on 15th.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

A numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter [Green].

During the first two months of the year a minimum total of 133 was reported from 82 widely distributed localities, (*cf.* 140 at 82 localities in 2010; 83 at 57 in 2009). As usual, the majority of these was in observers' gardens: the highest daily count being five at Lock's Heath on Jan 23rd to 29th and five at Hill Head on Jan 31st.

As ever, the arrival of the first true migrants was difficult to ascertain due to the continuing presence of wintering birds in observers' gardens well into March. However, numbers began to build towards the end of the month with counts of six at Lower Test Marshes and 14 at Nursling, both on 28th. At least 20 were back at Itchen Valley CP by Apr 3rd and 25 were at Southampton Common on Apr 7th.

During the breeding season, a survey in the New Forest of a 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst found 233 singing males between May 1st and July 1st (*cf.* 209 in 2010, 163 in 2009). Elsewhere, counts of singing males/territories seem to indicate that numbers, of what is probably our commonest warbler, were at around the same level as in 2010. They included: 63 at Itchen Valley CP (56 in 2010); 20 at Titchfield Haven (24 in 2010); 40 at Lower Test Marshes (24 in 2010); 13 at Martin Down CBC (15 in 2009); 13 at Longmoor Inclosure (13 in 2009) and 13 at Butser Hill (11 in 2010). Other counts included: 23 at Bouldsbury Wood, Martin on Apr 15th; 20 at Kimbridge on Apr 21st; 18 at Fair Oak on Apr 21st; 22 at Burghclere on Apr 24th; 18 at Nutley on May 2nd; 18 at Old Basing on May 21st and 18 at Lepe on June 20th. It was the best year ever for the BBS which showed that 92% of 1-km squares were occupied, (*cf.* 86%, 2010).

In autumn, at Titchfield Haven a total of 593 was ringed between July 10th and Nov 5th (*cf.* 640, 2010), with peaks of 45 on Sep 23rd and 52 on Sep 29th. At IBM Lake, Portsmouth there were 378 bird-days (*cf.* 219, 2010) on 67 dates between July 25th and Oct 21st (max. 17 on Sep 24th); at Sandy Point there were 104 bird-days (*cf.* 99, 2010) on 19 dates between July 25th and Oct 30th (max. 15 on Sep 19th). Counts elsewhere included: 22 at Milton Reclamation on Aug 30th; 18 at Northney on Sep 4th; 20 at Gilkicker Point on Sep 15th: and 20 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 18th.

Numbers decreased after mid October, followed by a brief lull before wintering birds started to reappear in observers' gardens. In the last two months of the year, a minimum of 71 was reported from 50 localities, notably lower than the 105 at 69 sites during the same period in 2010. The highest late winter count was only three, reported from several localities.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

A common summer visitor and passage migrant [Green].

The first for the year was one at Timsbury on Apr 8th, followed by one at Fishlake Meadows the next day. There was an early widespread arrival from Apr 12th onwards – no doubt aided by the excellent weather at the time. However, as usual, very few were reported arriving along the coast.



Garden Warbler, Benyons Inclosure, New Forest, Apr 23rd – Barry Stalker

During the breeding season, there was a significant increase in records estimated at 270 singing males/pairs at 130 widespread localities (cf. 180, 2010; 167, 2009). In the New Forest, a total of 23 singing males was located in a survey of a 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst (cf. 28, 2010; 36, 2009) and nine were at Newlands Coppice, Fareham on June 1st. Elsewhere, counts of eight singing males were made at Botley Wood, Binswood and Fishlake Meadows, Romsey and seven at Blackbushe Airfield. BBS data showed that 16% of 1-km squares were occupied (cf. 17%, 2010), which aligns with the 18-year average.

In the autumn, a total of 83 was ringed at Titchfield Haven (cf. 57, 2010) between July 23rd and Sep 14th. At Oxleys Coppice/Ranvilles Lane, Fareham there were 21 bird-days between July 23rd and Aug 28th and at IBM Lake, where the species does not breed, there were 14 bird-days between July 25th and Sep 23rd. Elsewhere, reports came from many scattered locations but no count exceeded four. Individuals were noted feeding on elderberries in a Petersfield garden on Aug 5th and Sep 3rd. Only five records were received after mid September and the last for the year was one at Brownwich on Oct 15th and one at Titchfield Haven on Oct 29th: the latter being trapped and ringed.

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

A moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded four times in winter [Green].

The first for the year was one at Titchfield Haven on Apr 8th, with a more general arrival from 15th onwards. As has been the case in recent years, an encouraging number of records was received of birds on spring passage, although the highest count at any one site was only five, at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 23rd.

Owing to the unobtrusive nature of the species and many individuals being reported on one date only, calculating potential breeding numbers is difficult. However, reports of singing males possibly holding territory totalled approximately 105 at 89 localities (cf. 124 at 90 in 2010). The highest count received was of four territories at Itchen Valley CP (cf. 9, 2010).

Although the species was widely reported on autumn passage, the highest count received was only of eight at Sandy Point on July 21st, with no other count exceeding five. At Sandy Point, there were 41 bird-days between July 4th and Sep 19th and at IBM Lake there were 23 bird-days between Aug 5th and Sep 17th (max. three, Aug 13th). There were very few reports after mid September and the last, the only October record, was of one at Titchfield Haven on 9th.

Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

A numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded three times in winter [Amber].

The first was one at Browndown on Apr 3rd: fine weather induced a widespread early arrival over the next few days. The largest counts received were: a fall of 30 at Pennington Marshes on Apr 9th; 32 at Oxleys Coppice/Newlands Farm, Fareham on Apr 25th; 25 at Chilling on Apr 27th and 20 at Gilkicker Point on Apr 29th.

Notable counts of singing males/breeding pairs included: 45 at Itchen Valley CP (cf. 34, 2010); 37 at Ludshott Common (cf. 22, 2010); 27 at Longmoor Inclosure (cf. 23, 2010); 20 in the Normandy/Oxey Marshes area (cf. 22, 2010); 22 at Hazeley Heath (cf. 20, 2010); 20 at Titchfield Haven (cf. 36, 2010); 14 at Butser Hill; 14 at West Wood, Netley and 11 at Winchester SF (cf. 13, 2010). BBS data showed that 61% of 1-km squares were occupied (cf. 57%, 2010).

Autumn passage began in late July when a count of 35 was made at Oxleys Coppice/Newlands Farm, Fareham on 24th and 45 at Milton Reclamation on 25th. At these two sites there were respective bird-day totals of 318 (between July 23rd and Oct 2nd) and 296 (between July 25th and Sep 23rd, max. 50 on Aug 5th). At Titchfield Haven, a total of 166 was ringed between July 10th and Sep 30th, while at IBM Lake, Portsmouth there was a total of 219 bird-days between July 25th and Oct 9th, with a peak of 12 on Aug 19th. Double figure counts were received from another twelve sites. The highest single count received was of 60 at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on Aug 22nd. In September, following 31 at Northney on 4th, numbers started to decline, although the species was still widely reported. There were nine records in October, with the last being singles at Sandy Point on 20th and 28th.

Spectacled Warbler

Sylvia conspicillata

A very rare vagrant. (0,0,1)

The first for the county and seventh for Britain was present for two days at Needs Ore on Oct 29th/30th (PJHa, NRJ *et al.*, photo). An account of its finding is at p. 179. This was the 371st species to be recorded in the county (BOURC: British List 2012).

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

A moderately common resident, largely confined to the heaths of the New Forest and north-east but with small numbers in coastal scrub [ET SPEC2, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP].

Most parts of the county suffered from a period of heavy snowfall and sub-zero temperatures in December 2010 but the remainder of the winter was mostly mild. On the well-monitored heaths in the north-east of the county, the total on the Thames Basin Heaths and adjacent areas increased from 21 to 26 territories, while on the Wealden Heaths there was a decline from nine to three territories. These areas held 100 and 171 territories respectively in 2008 prior to the run of three severe winters. As usual, there was little breeding data from the New Forest apart from the 4 km² study area in the south-east, where the total of territories was down from 17 to 16. However, data from the NFWBS may indicate a decline; the maximum total recorded in early 2011 was 28 in March; this compares with counts in the range 83-105 at this time in each of the preceding four winters. A systematic survey of the New Forest is urgently required. Coverage of coastal sites was incomplete but breeding birds were lost from four sites which held them in 2010 – Sandy Point, Sinah Common, Fort Cumberland and Needs Ore. See HBR 2010 pp206-212 for further information on the status of the species in Hampshire from 1994-2011.

Counts of pairs/singing males at locations away from the New Forest are tabulated below:

Territories	2008	2009	2010	2011	Territories	2008	2009	2010	2011
Thames Basin Heaths					Coastal sites				
Blackbushe Airfield	9	0	0	1	Sandy Point, Hayling Island	2	3	2	0
Bourley Heath/Long Valley	15	2	4	8	Sinah Common	1	1	2	0
Bricksbury Hill	15	4	1	2	Fort Cumberland	nc	0	2	0
Eversley Common/Castle Bot.	9	1	1	1	Gilkicker Point	1	0	0	0
Hawley Common	5	1	0	0	Browdown	3	5	2+	2+
Hazeley Heath	4	1	2	0	Calshot/Fawley Power Station	2+	1+	2	2
Pyestock Heath	3	0	1	1	Needs Ore	1	5	1+	0
Silchester Common	2	1	2	3	Lymington/Hurst	6	4	6	5
Tadley Common	2	2	2	2	Other Sites				
Yateley Common (HCC)	9	3	2	4	Badminton GP/Common	nc	2	3	nc
Yateley Common South (MOD)	9	4	5	4	Burton Common	1	4	nc	3
Wealden Heaths					Martin Down	0	0	1	0
Longmoor Inclosure	56	11	2	1					
Ludshott Common	c.50	7	7	2					
Woolmer Forest	54	13	0	0					

Eight former Thames Basin and Wealden Heath localities which held a total of 31 territories in 2008 have not held birds since. Prior to the breeding season, there were records of one at Needs Ore up to Feb 17th, one at Gilkicker Point from Feb 17th to Apr 1st, a singing male at Hook with Warsash from Mar 21st to Apr 23rd and one at Cherque on Apr 3rd, but there was no evidence of breeding at these sites.

Post-breeding dispersal was evident from early July. At Needs Ore, one was found on July 3rd and there were further records of singles through till December. At Hook-with-Warsash, a juvenile was present from July 11th with two on Aug 2nd and numbers rising to six on Oct 16th. Three were still present on Nov 12th and at least one remained into 2012. At Sandy Point, a juvenile was present from July 24th to Sep 30th and a male from Oct 30th into 2012. Two were at Gilkicker Point on Sep 3rd and at least one was recorded until Oct 20th. There were also records of singles at Milton Reclamation on July 25th, Fort Cumberland on Sep 16th, Barton on Sea on Nov 6th (a juvenile) and Cherque on Nov 11th.

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

A scarce summer visitor in severe decline since 1970 [Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

Following the high numbers recorded in spring 2010, it is encouraging that similar numbers were recorded this year. However, away from the main site at Titchfield Haven, very few were recorded on autumn passage.

The first for the year was a reeling male at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey on Apr 7th. During the spring/early summer, there was a minimum of 27 singing males at 18 sites, slightly lower than the 35 at 21 localities in 2010. However, calculating the true numbers passing through sites such as Fishlake Meadows is impossible to determine accurately. Breeding was confirmed at Fishlake Meadows and Lower Test Marshes and was also likely at Itchen Valley CP. Reports during the spring passage period at the main sites are summarised below:

Fishlake Meadows, Romsey: 1, Apr 7th; then regularly to May 15th with up to 7 singing males reported.
St. Cross WM, Winchester: singles, Apr 10th, 14th, 15th and 23rd.
Lower Test Marshes: 1, Apr 11th, then 1 or 2 regularly throughout April/May.
Itchen Valley CP: 1 regularly from Apr 14th to June 26th, with 2 reeling males from Apr 18th to 28th.
Titchfield Haven: 1, Apr 14th to 17th at least and 1, Apr 24th.

Elsewhere, reports on one date were as follows (singles unless otherwise stated): Totton (Apr 10th); Brownwich (Apr 14th); Sinah GC, Hayling (Apr 16th); Winnall Moors (Apr 17th-26th); Broadlands Estate (Apr 17th); Testwood Lakes (Apr 17th); Southampton GC (Apr 18th); Four Marks (Apr 20th); Mansbridge (2, Apr 22nd); Shawford WM (2, Apr 23rd); The Millfield, Basing (Apr 29th); Bransbury Common (May 12th) and Allington GP (June 26th).



Grasshopper Warbler, Basingstoke, Apr 28th – Barry Stalker

In autumn, an exceptional total of 950 was ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 10th and Sep 30th, by far the highest ever. This included an early catch of 20 on July 10th and a day peak of 105 on Aug 27th. The numbers ringed at Titchfield Haven 2001-2011 are shown in the following table:

Catch data	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
First date	July 28	July 27	Aug 1	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 15	July 19	July 16	July 17	July 10
Last date	Oct 3	Sep 25	Sep 28	Oct 10	Oct 8	Oct 4	Sep 16	Sep 29	Sep 22	Oct 7	Sep 30
Total	84	232	88	237	324	272	139	195	569	463	950

Elsewhere, records were received from eight sites during the autumn passage period, as listed below. The record from Miles Hill was the last for the year.

- Ranvilles Lane, Fareham:* 2, July 24th.
Longparish: 3, July 24th.
Badminton GP: 1, Aug 6th.
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes: 1, Aug 8th and 1, Sep 9th.
- Fort Widley:* 1, Aug 23rd.
Fritham Plain, NF: 1, Sep 10th.
The Millfield, Basing: 1, Sep 12th.
Miles Hill, Fleet: 1, Oct 2nd.

Melodious Warbler
A rare autumn passage migrant. (0,16,1)

Hippolais polyglotta

One was seen in hawthorn scrub at IBM Lake, Portsmouth on Aug 13th (TMJD). The most recent previous record was of one at Barton on Sea on Oct 8th 2008.

Sedge Warbler
A common summer visitor and passage migrant [Green].

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

The first for the year was one at Highbridge on Mar 26th, with the only other March record being a single at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey on 28th. The main arrival was from Apr 6th when five singing males were at Farlington Marshes. A few migrants were recorded away from breeding localities, but spring passage was generally light.

During the breeding season an approximate total of 284 singing males was reported from 37 localities (cf. 2010, 423; 2009, 271): 42 at Lower Test Marshes (cf. 37, 2010); 39 at Titchfield Haven (cf. 34, 2010); 37 at Itchen Valley CP (cf. 35, 2010) and 45 at Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (a significant increase from 28 in 2010 and only 10 in 2009). Other notable counts included 15 at Calshot on May 7th, ten at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 26th and ten at Longstock on June 1st. There were several records from the north-east where the species is normally scarce: singles at Fleet Pond and Chapel Farm, Oakhanger both on Apr 10th; one at Frith End SP on Apr 19th; singles at Hawley Meadows on Apr 19th and May 3rd; one at Wellington CP on June 5th and two singing males at Springhead, Greywell on July 2nd.

In autumn, an impressive total of 1436 was ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 10th and Oct 16th (cf. 878, 2010), including peaks of 155 and 198 on Aug 5th and 6th. Elsewhere, the highest counts were 15 at Milton Reclamation on Aug 5th and six at Longparish on 14th. The only October records were two at Lower Test Marshes on 1st and the last, one at Titchfield Haven on 16th.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

A common but local summer visitor and passage migrant [Green].

The first for the year was one at Hook-with-Warsash on the early date of Apr 3rd, with the main arrival being from Apr 8th. The first double-figure count was 14 at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 19th, but spring passage was generally unremarkable.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 502 singing males/territories at 55 sites (cf. 2010, 543; 2009, 437). Counts included 121 singing males/territories at Titchfield Haven (cf. 130, 2010); 84 at Lower Test Marshes (cf. 77, 2010); 24 at Fishlake Meadows (cf. 39, 2010); 23 at IBM Lake (cf. 18, 2010); 22 at Fleet Pond; 20 at Itchen Valley CP (cf. 26, 2010) and 18 at Calshot. No counts were received for several major localities including Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes, Farlington Marshes and the Avon valley. However, the species is widespread in the county and appears to be capable of taking advantage of any suitable habitat.

In autumn, a total of 440 was ringed at Titchfield Haven (cf. 2010, 429; 2009, 434) between July 10th and Oct 16th (max. 52, Aug 6th). Elsewhere, double-figure counts included 15 at Milton Reclamation on Aug 3rd and ten at Ibsley North Lake on Aug 21st. Very few were reported in September and there were four records in October, with the last being one at Hook-with-Warsash on 18th.

Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

A rare winter visitor, sometimes occurring in large numbers [Green].

The invasion which started in late 2010 peaked in mid January; birds remained in the county in dwindling numbers until late April. The largest flocks reported were: 130 in Southampton city centre on Jan 1st; 110 at North Baddesley on 3rd; 259 at Romsey on 7th; **773** at North Camp station on the county border with Surrey on 14th; 122 at Chineham on 17th; 300 at Hounsdown on 26th and 190 at Yateley on Feb 1st. The last was a group of 40 at Meon Valley GC on Apr. 28th. Full details are given in a paper on p.211 of this report. None was recorded in the late year.

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

A numerous resident [Green].

Counts of territorial pairs included six at Itchen Valley CP and five at Longmoor Inclosure. A New Forest survey of a 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst located 154 territories (cf. 2010, 110; 2009, 76). The BBS registered 64% of occupancy in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 56%, 2010).

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

A numerous resident [Green].

During the breeding season 11 territories were recorded at Itchen Valley CP and seven territories at Longmoor Inclosure. In the New Forest 46km² woodland block survey, a total of 148 was recorded between May 1st and July 1st (cf. 2010, 154; 2009, 156). The BBS registered 30% of occupancy in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 24%, 2010). This species continues to increase in the survey areas.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

The following table lists breeding territories at annually surveyed localities 2002-2011:

Territories	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Titchfield Haven	103	115	97	113	96	97	104	93	105	72
Lower Test Marshes		162	157	169	115	159	139	86	95	78
Longmoor Inclosure				109	79	101	140	99	47	76

The BBS registered 100% of occupancy in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 98%, 2010).

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

An abundant but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

In the early year three-figure counts were made at 37 localities; the last being 300 at Farlington Marshes on Apr 1st. The largest early year movement was 300 north-east over Sandy Point on Mar 14th. There were no more three-figure counts until May 11th when 100 went to roost at Fishlake Meadows. A pre-roost total of at least 17,000 at Keyhaven on Nov 27th was the highest count of the year. Peak monthly grounded flocks at regularly reported sites are summarised below:

Peak flock counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes	1000	200	425	300	135	50	100	300	100	100		500
Needs Ore/Park Shore	1000	300	500	60	50	100	220	200	100	300	300	80
Lymington/Hurst		100			50	100	50	200	350	700	17000*	7000

* Avon Water roost.

Elsewhere, maximum counts of 400 or more feeding (f) or to roost (r) were recorded as follows: Romsey (r, 1500 Jan 7th); Bisterne (f, 500 Jan 9th); Sopley (f, 500 Feb 14th); Lower Test Marshes (r, 400 July 24th); Milton Reclamation (f, 1500, July 25th); Stokes Bay (f, 1400 Aug 25th); Hook with Warsash (r, 800 Sep 6th); Ivy Lake, Blashford (r, 5000 Oct 10th); Fishlake Meadows (r, 3000 Oct 25th); Hythe (r, 1800 Oct 30th) and Haslar Creek (r, 500 Nov 21st).

The BBS registered 55% of occupancy in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 82%, 1994); the rate of decline perhaps reducing since 2005.

Autumn visible migration included: 7829 south-west over Miles Hill, Fleet between Sep 4th and Dec 18th (peaks of 2065 Oct 29th, 1431 Oct 25th and 1025 Oct 24th), 3194 north-west over Casbrook Common between July 19th and Dec 26th and 450 west over Bransbury Common on Oct 23rd.

Rose-coloured Starling

Pastor roseus

A rare vagrant previously recorded between April and November. (0,20,1)

A juvenile was found with the Starling flock perched on brambles on the old tip at the end of Lower Pennington Lane on Oct 2nd (ASD). It was relocated in the same area on the 3rd (MPM, DRy, NJH et al.) but flew towards Keyhaven Lagoon at around midday and was not seen again. This record follows one seen in 2010 and is the eleventh record this century.



Unmoulted juvenile Rose-coloured Starling in flock of recently moulted juvenile Starlings, Pennington Lane, Oct 2nd – Richard Ford

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

A scarce passage migrant; has wintered [Red, UKBAP3].

The best spring passage of the century involved a minimum of 28 birds on 43 bird-days. All records, singles unless stated otherwise, were as follows: Beacon Hill, Warnford (Mar 10th; Apr 17th); Old Winchester Hill (Mar 12th); Lower Test Marshes (Mar 26th); Applemore, NF (Apr 6th); Beacon Hill, Burghclere (Apr 6th/7th; 1-5, from 10th-16th, 3 male, 2 female on 15th); Barton on Sea (Apr 8th); Stockbridge (Apr 10th; Apr 24th); Andover Down Farm (Apr 11/12th); Butser Hill (7, Apr 16th; 2, Apr 17th); Testwood Lakes (Apr 17th); Milkham Inclosure, NF (Apr 25th); Sway, NF (Apr 30th) and Pig Bush, NF (2, May 3rd).

In autumn, there were 51 bird-days involving a minimum of 19 individuals between Sep 22nd and Nov 9th as follows:

Leaden Hill,, NF: 1, Sep 22nd.

Budds Farm, Langstone Harbour: 1, Oct 3rd.

IBM Lake: 1, Oct 8th-10th; 1 on 6 dates Oct 14th-20th.

Latchmore Bottom, NF: 1, Oct 9th; 2, Oct 12th/13th; 3, Oct 14th; 2, Oct 15th; 2, Oct 17th-19th; 3, Oct 20th; 1, Oct 22nd; 1, Oct 24th/25th.

Portsdown Hill: 1, Oct 9th; 2, Oct 13th.

Pitts Wood, NF: 2, Oct 12th.

Alderhill Inclosure: 2, Oct 13th; 1, Oct 17th.

Bolderwood: 3, Oct 14th.

Queen Elizabeth CP: 1 Oct 14th; 1, Oct 17th.

Beacon Hill, Warnford: 1, Oct 14th.

Lucas Castle, NF: 1, Oct 22nd.

Chilling/Brownwich: 1, Nov 9th.

Bird-days	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
bird-days (spring)	6	2	7	7	4	10	24	47	16	27	17	43
minimum total (spring)	6	2	7	6	4	5	8	26	13	13	9	28
bird-days (autumn)	19	22	32	11	56	182	68	23	14	46	104	51
minimum total (autumn)	19	15	20	10	21	90+	32	15	13	31	67	19

Blackbird

Turdus merula

An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Not surprisingly, the BBS again registered full occupancy of all 109 1-km squares surveyed. The following table lists breeding territories at annually surveyed localities 2002-2011:

Territories	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Titchfield Haven	22	27	21	29	27			25	24	25
Lower Test Marshes	83	76	64	75	66	71	71	39	43	52
Martin Down CBC							12	8	13	12
Longmoor Inclosure				53	44	59	52	61	44	52

One observer, in Petersfield, as in previous years, recorded large numbers in his garden following dispersal from a local roost, with an early year maxima of 62 on Jan 30th. Mild weather in the late year led to a lower than normal maximum of 24 on Dec 17th.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

A numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant [Schedule 1, Red].

Numbers were above average in the first part of the year, although numbers in the first two months were bolstered by Atlas data. In the second half of the year, numbers quickly built to well above average in November, with a two-day count of 6882 on Nov 27th/28th where observers noted several three-figure flocks feeding on holly berries. Monthly totals are summarised below:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fieldfare	9480	6546	3320	150					1	1417	11580	7025

In January 31 sites had grounded flocks in excess of 100; the largest of these was 1000 at Leckford GC on 3rd and 520 at Casbrook Common on 11th. The NFWBS found 278 birds over Jan 22nd/23rd and 815 over Feb 19th/20th. The largest flocks in February were 300 at Micheldever on 19th, 300 at West End Green on 24th and 300 at Basingstoke on 25th. In March there were 11 flocks greater than 100 – the largest of which were 560 at South Boarhunt on 20th and 340 at Stratfield Saye on 16th. There were five April records, the last of which was two at Wonston on 17th.

The first autumn return was one at Rooksbury Mill on Oct 9th. The first autumn flocks, each of 120, were at Latchmore Bottom, NF and Old Winchester Hill on Oct 13th. Autumn migration was recorded from two ‘vismig’ watch points including 2467 SW and 102 NE from Miles Hill between Oct 14th and Dec 6th and a total of 2609 (881 SW; 1728NE) from Casbrook Common between Oct 15th and Dec 29th. In November, 25 sites had flocks in excess of 100 and the NFWBS recorded a high count of 6882 over Nov 27th/28th (the largest groups being 1000 at Latchmore Bottom, 580 at Millersford Bottom, 500 at Ashley Walk, 480 at Burley and 400 at Bolderwood). Elsewhere, the highest counts during the month were 400 at Froxfield on Nov 5th, 400 at Moorcourt Farm, Broadlands on Nov 10th and 350 at Itchen Valley CP on Nov 19th. In December, 15 sites held three-figure flocks – the largest being 700 at Bransbury Common on Dec 5th and 450 at St Mary Bourne on Dec 25th. The NFWBS recorded 2342 over Dec 17th/18th.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Red, UKBAP2].

There were no significant grounded flocks in the early part of the year. The BBS registered 88% occupancy of the 109 1-km squares surveyed, no change from 2010. Other breeding surveys found four territories at Titchfield Haven and three at Martin Down. The following table lists breeding territories at annually surveyed localities 2006-2011:

Territories	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Itchen Valley CP				32	41	41
Longmoor Inclosure	8	6	11	7	8	6

Evidence of south-west autumn movements was noted at: Casbrook Common (88SW and 50NE between Sep 2nd and Dec 11th, max. 43 on Oct 25th) and Miles Hill (just 72 during 65 days of Sep-Dec observation including a max. of 13 on Oct 13th). On the coast at Sandy Point, 18 were recorded moving north-east over the period from Oct 14th to 18th.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

A numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant [Schedule 1, Red].

Counts of grounded birds were about average in both the early and late year. A sizeable roost was again present in the New Forest in the second winter period.

In January, the largest grounded flocks were 600 at Kingsley on 22nd and 350 at Somerley Estate on 29th, whilst 21 other sites held three-figure flocks. The only sizeable movement in the early year was 110 east over Appleshaw, Andover on Jan 25th. The NFWBS found 103 over Jan 22nd/23rd and 366 over Feb 19th/20th. In February, there were 14 sites with flocks of at least 100 birds. The largest of these was 315 at Hook on Feb 25th and 300 at Isington on Feb 25th. In March there were five three-figure flocks, the largest of which was 200 at Cholderton on Mar 1st. The last sizeable flock recorded was 55 at Red Rice on Apr 4th and the last, of just nine records in month, was one over Hill Head on 7th.

The first returns in autumn were three at Alton, two at Chandlers Ford and one over Swaythling all on Oct 8th. Visible migration counts from Miles Hill, Fleet recorded 4587 birds S/SW between Oct 9th and Dec 2nd (max. 643, Oct 15th) and a further 439 E/NE. At Casbrook Common 5770 flew south-west between Oct 9th and Dec 29th, including a surge count of 1465 from 0910 to 1020 hrs on Oct 29th.

In December, as in the previous two years, a major roost was detected at Long Beech Inclosure, NF; several coordinated flight-in counts were made between 1st and 17th, the largest of these was 11,785 on 7th and still at least 9055 on 16th. Another roost was counted at Fleet Pond which peaked at 1320 on Dec 20th and was down to 850 by 31st. Estimates of grounded flocks included: 750 at Stoney Cross Airfield, NF on 1st and 1000 at Cadnam Common on 9th, both were feeding on the Holly berry crop. The NFWBS found 1717 on 17th/18th. Monthly totals were as follows:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded	5850	4950	1500	64						1970	5850	3250
Roosts max. total										570	1429	13425
Movements	150		50	31						6500	5000	180

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

A numerous resident and passage migrant [Amber].

Based on the recently published BBS report by the BTO (see Acknowledgments) this species seems to be subject to a slight downward trend in the county, contrasting with far sharper declines in other English counties, particularly in the east of the country. The 109 county BBS 1-km squares surveyed registered a 49% occupancy (cf. 47%, 2010 about an 18% decline over the 18-year study compared to 52% for the south-eastern counties combined). At Longmoor Inclosure there were again four breeding pairs as in 2009-2010.

There were no double figure flocks in the early part of the year. The largest post-breeding flocks were 60 at Cadnam Common on July 14th, 52 at Kings Hat, NF on Aug 12th, 31 at Furze Hill, NF on Aug 13th, 37 at Brogenslade Bottom, NF on Aug 20th and 48 at Shappen, NF on Sep 3rd. Double figure counts were reported at six localities in October including 30 both at Stubbs Farm, Binsted on 16th and at Latchmore Bottom, NF on 17th. Very light south-west movements were noted inland at Miles Hill, Fleet (35 between Sep 4th and Dec 18th) and Casbrook Common (76 between Aug 5th and Dec 1st).

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

A moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

There was a slight improvement over recent years, with a total of 440 records received (cf. 400, 2010; 310, 2009). First arrivals were singles at Candover Copse, near Micheldever on Apr 22nd and Hook-with-Warsash on 23rd, followed by a more general arrival in the first week of May but no total exceeded two.

In the 46km² block of woodland surveyed in the New Forest, 24 territories were found, (cf. 2010, 21; 2009, 22). Away from the New Forest breeding was confirmed at 31 localities and territories held at a further six. Family groups of 4-5 were seen from June 16th at 13 localities including two families of four at Longparish. August post-breeding/pre-migratory groups included 20 at Fritham, NF on 14th and 14 at both Broughton Down on 15th and Roydon Woods on 19th.

Autumn passage was slightly higher than in recent years. The heaviest passage was at IBM Lake where 51 bird-days were recorded between Aug 21st and Sep 27th (max. 4, Sep 2nd, Sep 15th, Sep 18th/19th). Significant passage was also recorded at Old Winchester Hill, 21 bird-days between Aug 21st and Sep 27th and Itchen Valley CP 21 bird-days between Aug 8th and Sep 27th. There were just two October records, one at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 2nd and the last of the year at IBM Lake on Oct 8th/9th.

Minimum half-monthly totals of all autumn records for 2000-2011 are tabulated below:

Half-monthly totals	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Aug 1-15	8	35	23	40	15	59	42	24	27	33	23	33
Aug 16-31	81	330	148	173	97	151	100	83	83	81	77	135
Sep 1-15	25	101	107	166	89	57	59	52	75	100	95	83
Sep 16-31	8	25	16	40	38	25	40	4	49	38	32	45
Oct 1-15	2	2	3	0	1	1	5	2	0	1	9	2

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

BBS data showed occupancy of 97% of the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 96%, 2010). In the league table of most abundant county species, as measured by the BBS, it surprisingly slipped to ninth place (cf. 4th, 2008). The following table lists breeding territories at annually surveyed localities 2002-2011:

Territories	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Titchfield Haven	40	34	34	22	23			30	28	25
Lower Test Marshes	87	76	75	95	85	93	108	56		26
Martin Down CBC					85		19	15	11	4
Longmoor Inclosure				105	103	97	150	121	76	90

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

A scarce and declining summer visitor [Amber, HBAP].

First arrivals were singles at Farlington Marshes and Casbrook Common on a typical date of Apr 6th. There was an estimated total of 51 singing males (cf. 45, 2010; 50, 2009; 43, 2008). Counts of singing males at the three regular sites were as follows: Botley Wood/Whiteley pastures 15 (cf. 15, 2010; 17, 2009); Calshot and Ashlett Creek 9 (cf. 11, 2010) and in the Romsey area 11 (cf. c.10, 2010). Males were not heard singing in Botley Wood after May 22nd, and the last muted song was heard along the Christmas House footpath at Hook-with-Warsash on 29th. An adult with two juveniles was seen at Needs Ore on May 28th. There were just seven further reports in year: one at Itchen Stoke on May 29th, four reports from Botley Wood (May 31st-July 3rd) and two August records of singles at Casbrook Common on 3rd and one, typically in deep cover but seen well briefly at Regent's Park, Southampton on 20th.

All records are tabulated below:

Casbrook Common: 1-3, Apr 6th-Aug 3rd.

Farlington Marshes: 1, Apr 6th.

Itchen Valley CP/Southampton Airport: 1, Apr 7th-June 1st.

Hook with Warsash: 1-2, Apr 8th-May 28th.

Lymington/Hurst: 1, Apr 8th; 1, Apr 21st.

Calshot/Ashlett Creek: 1-5, Apr 9th-May 25th.

Beaulieu/Needs Ore: 1-4, Apr 10th-May 28th.

Lower Test Marshes: 1, Apr 10th; 1, Apr 15th.

Fishlake Meadows: 1-5, Apr 12th-May 13th.

Sandy Point: 1, Apr 15th; 1, Apr 17th.

Netley Abbey: 1, Apr 16th-May 2nd.

Botley Wood/Whiteley Pastures: 1-15, Apr 17th-May 22nd; 4, May 31st (Lee Ground Coppice); 1, June 18th; 2, June 25th; 1, July 3rd.

Dunbridge: 4, Apr 19th.

Frith End: 1, Apr 21st-May 1st.

South Moor, Langstone: 1, Apr 25th.

Blackbushe Airport/Yateley Common: 1, Apr 29th; 2 pairs subsequently bred.

Waterlooville: 1, Apr 29th.

Allington GP: 1, Apr 30th.

Eelmoor Flash, Pyestock: 1, May 8th.

Bossington South: 1, May 25th.

Itchen Stoke: 1, May 29th.

Regent's Park, Southampton: 1, Aug 20th.



Singing Nightingale, Needs Ore, Apr 26th – Hilary Cornford

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

A scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995 [Amber].

There was a total of four in spring and 12 in autumn. Singles were at Chandlers Ford and Farlington Marshes on Apr 14th. In autumn, records were received from ten sites between July 26th and Sep 17th. All records are listed below (singles unless indicated):

Lower Farringdon: Apr 16th.

High Cross, Froxfield: May 24th.

Hythe: July 26th.

Denny Wood, NF: 2, July 26th.

Old Winchester Hill: July 31st, Aug 1st, Aug 3rd presumed same.

Liss: Aug 3rd.

Ampfield: Aug 12th.

Northney Paddocks: Aug 24th.

Southampton Common: 2, Aug 27th.

IBM Lake, Portsmouth: Sep 9th.

Millfield, Basing: Sep 13th.

Goosander hide, Ibsley Water: Sep 17th.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds [Schedule 1, Amber].

There were nine in the early year, nine on spring passage, 27 on return passage and seven in December. Over-winterers were at: Sholing, Southampton (1, Jan 1st-Feb 19th); Freemantle, Southampton (female, Jan 1st-Mar 19th); Fawley Power Station (male and/or female, on five dates between Jan 2nd and Mar 16th); Sandy Point (male, Jan 3rd-Mar 9th; female, Jan 8th-Mar 14th) and Gosport (male, Jan 21st-Mar 7th). In addition, one perched on a Stockbridge farm tyre heap on Jan 27th and a female was in a Portsmouth garden on Feb 19th, possibly wintering nearby. At Sandy Point spring passage was noted between Mar 28th and Apr 4th (male 29th; male, Apr 1st and two females, Apr 4th). Elsewhere, one was at Sinah Common on Mar 28th; one in a Winchester garden on 29th; single females both at Ranvilles Farm, Fareham and Southsea on Apr 2nd and one at Barton on Sea on 3rd.

First autumn arrivals were single female/immatures at Brownwich on Oct 14th, and at Newlands Farm, Fareham on 16th, followed by almost daily reports from Oct 24th-to Nov 5th

and the last of autumn on Nov 19th. Return passage was heavier than usual with records from 18 localities and peak counts of four at Everton on Nov 3rd, five at Sandy Point on 5th and four there on 12th. All passage records are listed below (singles unless stated otherwise).

- Southampton: Oct 21st; Oct 30th; Nov 11th.

Sandy Point: Oct 28th-Nov 17th (peaks of 5, Nov 5th: 4, Nov 12th).

Sinah: Oct 25th, Nov 11th.

Nursling: Oct 28th.

Crawley: Oct 30th.

Bitterne Park: Oct 30th.

Petersfield: Nov 1st.
- Gosport: Nov 1st.

Beaulieu/Needs Ore: 2, Nov 1st, 1, Nov 19th.

Everton near Lymington: 4, Nov 3rd, 2, Nov 4th.

Lymington/Hurst: Nov 4th-5th.

Shawford: Nov 4th.

Chichester Harbour: Nov 10th, Nov 17th.

Barton on Sea: Nov 16th, Nov 19th.

Haslar Creek, Gosport: Nov 18th.

Return winterers included: the male at Sandy Point from Oct 22nd; the Freemantle female from late October; one or two at Fawley Power Station from Nov 4th, into 2012, and the Gosport Priddy's Hard female from Dec 12th. All were seen into 2012. Other December records of presumed winterers were of one avoiding a Sparrowhawk at Midanbury, Southampton (2nd), a female at Fort Cumberland, Langstone Harbour (18th) and Newlands Farm, Fareham (31st). Approximate monthly county totals were:

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	8	8	8	5						9	23	8

Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

A locally common summer visitor (mostly to the New Forest) and passage migrant [SPEC2, Amber].



Redstarts – David Thelwell

The first arrivals were on Mar 28th: a coastal migrant at Portsmouth and a return at Ocknell Plain, NF. Spring passage was slightly higher than normal with 11 bird-days at six coastal sites and 25 bird-days at 20 sites inland. The highest count was five at Southampton Common on Apr 7th.

In the New Forest during the breeding season 397 singing males were reported (cf. 2010, 368; 2009, 276; 2008, 175). Of these 193 were in the 46km² block of woodland west of Lyndhurst (cf. 2010, 169; 2009, 159). Notable counts of territories included: Fritham/Amberwood/Sloden

33, North Bentley Inclosure 26, Sluifers Inclosure 25, Matley Heath 22, Denny Wood 20 and Anses Wood/Broomy 20.

On the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths 44 pairs/singing males were found as follows (2010 counts in brackets): Woolmer Forest 20 (5+); Longmoor Inclosure 15 (13); Bourley/Long Valley 6 (1); Ludshott Common 2 (3) and Warren Heath 1. The increase at Bourley/Long Valley was real but at Woolmer was due to better coverage.

There was a comparatively early passage at non-breeding sites with six bird-days in the second half of June and 18 bird-days in July: half-monthly numbers are shown below (excludes early passage reported in June/July). There were four October records, all from Leaden Hall, NF of presumably the same late-staying female, the latest of which was on 18th.

Half-monthly totals (autumn)	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Total
2009	3	9	100	32	1	1	146
2010	23	111	134	18	12	3	301
2011	41	113	62	13	1	1	229

Autumn bird-day totals from 2000-2011 were as follows:

Bird-days	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total	121	136	114	209	177	79	73	174	182	146	301	229

The highest autumn count was five at Broughton Down on Aug 15th. Included in the above are records from Old Winchester Hill which had the heaviest passage (26 bird-days, max. 4 on Aug 2nd). Other notable sites were (bird-days in brackets): Hook-with-Warsash (23); IBM Lake (20); Lymington/Hurst (18, max. 4, Aug 29th); Sandy Point (17) and Needs Ore (13).

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

A very scarce summer visitor and common passage migrant [Amber].

The first of the year was at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 10th. The highest spring count was four at Southampton Airport on May 8th. There were no records during the breeding season.

The first returning birds were three at Martin Down on July 24th. Coastal passage was reported as follows (bird-days in brackets): Hook-with-Warsash (102, max. 21 on Sep 16th), Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (63, max. 8 on Aug 24th) and Farlington Marshes (48). Inland the heaviest passage was 24 bird-days at Itchen Valley CP. The last records were singles at Itchen Valley CP and Sinah Warren on Oct 16th and one at Hook with Warsash on Oct 17th. The table shows half-monthly autumn maxima for the two principal localities and the minimum half-monthly total for all other sites:

Half-monthly maxima (autumn)	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 15-31	Total
Hook-with- Warsash		2	10	9	21	1	1	44
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes		1	8	5	4	2		20
Other sites	4	19	55	41	42	12	2	175

Spring and autumn totals of bird-days for 2000-2011 follow:

Bird-days	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Spring	27	21	55	24	58	39	13	31	18	15	32	21
Autumn	330	304	794	919	642	799	244	283	347	415	657	467

Siberian Stonechat

Saxicola maurus

A very rare vagrant. (0,1,0)

Records previously accepted as of the sub-species *Saxicola torquatus maurus* are now recognised by BOURC as a full species and added to the British List. There is just one BBRC accepted record for the county – of one at Titchfield Haven on Oct 31st 1988 (BSD *et al.*).

Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

A moderately common but local resident and partial migrant [Green].

In the early year there were 36 winterers at 16 sites. The NFWBS found only four birds on Jan 22nd/23rd, increasing to 17 by Feb 19th/20th.

Breeding season coverage of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 105 pairs/singing males (cf. 2010, 66; 2009, 107) at 17 sites. This suggests little change in the population, since Woolmer Forest with 35 territories was not covered in 2010. In the New Forest, there were also signs of a recovery with 285 birds found by the NFWBS on Mar19th/20th, compared to 104 in 2010. Eight pairs at Setley Plain, NF on Apr 8th were as expected there. Elsewhere, there were five pairs at four inland sites, but the only coastal records were from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes were at least two pairs bred: one was seen with young at Normandy.

Territories	2008	2009	2010	2011	Territories	2008	2009	2010	2011
Thames Basin Heaths					Velmead Common	2	2	1	1
Blackbushe Airfield	4	3	3	3	Warren Heath	5	2	4	3
Bourley North/Long Valley	19	24	15	15	Yateley Common (HCC)	8	nc	nc	nc
Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill	10	9	12	10	Yateley Common (MOD)	12	7	6	5
Castle Bottom	nc	nc	1	nc	Wealden Heaths				
Eelmoor Marsh	7	2	2	4	Bramshott Common	3	2	0	1
Eversley Common	6	3	2	2	Broxhead Common (HCC)	2	1	0	1
Hazeley Heath	4	1	1	1	Broxhead Common (MOD)	1	1	1	1
Hawley Common	7	7	4	5	Longmoor Inclosure	18	10	5	9
Silchester Common	1	1	1	0	Ludshott Common	1+	1	4	7
Tadley Common	2	1	2	0	Passfield Common		1		
Tweseldown	4	1	2	2	Woolmer Forest	7+	28	nc	35

Post-breeding a total of 199 at 51 sites was reported, including a high count of 30 at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on July 31st. In October there were 194 at 41 sites. In November-December there were 149 at 46 sites. The NFWBS found 58 on Dec 17th/18th.

Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

A scarce summer visitor and common passage migrant [SPEC3, Amber, HBAP].

The first arrival was at Twyford Down on Mar 8th, followed by two singles the next day at Hook Spit and Cut Bridge, Hurst. The first fall was 15 at Barton on Sea on Mar 23rd. The highest spring counts were of 22 both at Sandy Point on Mar 23rd and Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 16th. Along the coast, there were 498 bird-days at 44 localities including peaks of 44 on Mar 24th, 33 on Apr 3rd and 16th and the last double figure day count of ten on May 1st. Inland, exceptionally, there were 357 spring passage bird-days (cf. 216 in 2010 and 181 in 2009) at eight localities. There were 12 from March 8th to 17th and then regular records from Mar 25th, including a day max. of 58 on Apr 6th, the highest locality count of nine at Woolmer Pond on 9th and just seven singles after May 14th to the last on June 6th. The minimum spring passage half-monthly totals for 2009-2011 are tabulated below:

Half-monthly totals (spring)	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	Total
2009	58	86	169	186	161	3		663
2010	4	109	54	380	99	20	1	667
2011	19	198	333	207	78	12	1	848

There was no evidence of breeding although one was at Butser Hill on June 26th. The first returning migrant was at Woolmer Pond on July 21st. Minimum half-monthly bird-day totals in autumn 2009-2011 are tabulated overleaf:



Juvenile Wheatear (not thought to have bred locally), Barton on Sea, July 10th – Trevor Hewson

Half-monthly totals (autumn)	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
2009	2	4	157	322	427	386	117	15	6		1436
2010	2	2	126	507	709	254	195	43			1838
2011	0	19	120	665	673	374	216	67	16		2083

There were reports from 45 coastal sites (1834 bird-days), including peak days of 111 on Aug 27th and 166 on Sep 15th. The last was at Needs Ore on Nov 15th. Inland, there were reports from 76 sites (346 bird-days) including peaks of 14 on Sep 18th and 29th. A summary of coastal sites with day maxima of 20 or more followed by inland sites with day maxima of 15 or more is given below:

Sandy Point: 126 bird-days, July 26th-Oct 31st (max. 17 on Aug 27th).

Farlington Marshes: 110 bird-days, July 31st-Nov 1st (max. 14 on Aug 22nd).

Portsdown Hill/Fort Widley: 110 bird-days, Aug 6th-Oct 17th, 54 on Sep 15th.

Fort Nelson, Fareham: 52 bird-days, Sep 15th-Oct 15th (max. 47 on Sep 15th).

Newlands Farm, Fareham: 97 bird-days, Aug 9th-Sep 13th (max. 35 on Aug 27th).

Gilkicker Point/Stokes Bay: 115 bird-days, Aug 13th-Oct 29th (max. 19 on Aug 23rd).

Titchfield Haven: 50 bird-days, Aug 17th-Sep 29th (max. 13 on Sep 15th).

Hook-with-Warsash: 284 bird-days, July 28th-Nov 2nd (max. 33 on Aug 29th).

Weston Shore: 22 bird-days, Aug 24th-Oct 7th (max. 12 on Aug 29th).

Needs Ore: 196 bird-days, July 31st-Nov 15th (max. 25 on Sep 9th).

Keyhaven & Pennington Marshes: 364 bird-days, July 28th-Oct 28th (max. 24 on Aug 27th, 24 Sep 28th).

Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea: 28 bird-days, 18 Sep 18th-Oct 25th.

Barton on Sea: 68 bird-days, Aug 29th-Oct 29th (max. 31 on Sep 15th).

Old Winchester Hill: 41 bird-days, July 27th-Oct 18th (max. 7 on Sep 13th).

Mount Down, Winchester: 39 bird-days, Aug 19th-Oct 8th (max. 9 on Aug 19th).

Martin Down: 15 bird-days, Aug 9th-Sep 19th (max. 4 on Aug 9th).

The spring and autumn bird-day totals for 2000-2011 were as follows:

Bird-days	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Spring	308	385	554	555	198	971	406	996	944	576	663	667	850
Autumn	555	399	551	551	936	1324	658	872	1014	1187	1435	1838	2083

The only individual showing the characters of Greenland Wheatear *O.o. leucorhoa* was a female at Southampton on Sep 22nd. Based on present identification criteria, the field separation of Greenland Wheatear from the nominate Northern Wheatear *O.o. oenanthe* subspecies cannot be made safely (see HBR 2007) but we will continue to publish dates of probables.

Dunno**ck**

Prunella modularis

An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber, UKBAP2].

The BBS found 92% of 1-km squares occupied, hence no change of status. Surveys at Butser Hill and Martin Down found nine and seven territories respectively. The following table lists breeding territories at annually surveyed localities 2003-2011:

Territories	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Lower Test Marshes CBC	44	56	61	51	59	52	41		35
Titchfield Haven							15	14	12
Longmoor Inclosure			29	18	26	18	13	9	15

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

A numerous resident [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

The species appears to have made a very significant comeback as no less than 13 three-figure counts were made at eight well-scattered localities and 30 or more reported from another 51 localities (cf. 29, 2010; 21, 2009; 15, 2008). A flock of 250 feeding on stubble in field at New Lane, Sturt Pond (DAT) was the largest flock seen in the county since August 1998 when 300+ were at Pencroft Farm, Crondall on 8th. All records of flocks of 50 or more are summarised below:

- Romsey: 190 Jan 14th; 185 Jan 26th.
Chandlers Ford: 62 Feb 4th.
Southsea: 50, Feb 19th, 50, Aug 28th, 100, Sep 18th.
Alverstoke: 55, Apr 29th.
Liss: 50, May 13th.
Eversley: 67, May 22nd.
Cowplain: 52 June 13th.
Leigh Park, Havant: 50, June 14th; 60 July 25th;
100 Aug 20th.
Redbridge: 52, June 19th.
Furze Hill, NF: 56, July 13th; 60, July 19th.
Sturt Pond/New Lane, Keyhaven: 60, July 25th; 107,
Aug 8th; 250, Aug 24th.
Timsbury: 200 July 27th.
Nursted: 100, July 30th.
Newlands Farm Fareham: 9 dates July 31st-Aug
28th, max. 110, July 31st.
Lockerley: 100, Aug 2nd; 100, Aug 29th.
Needs Ore: 55, Aug 9th; 60 Aug 30th.
Somerley Estate: 145, Aug 27th.
Priddy's Hard, Gosport: 75, Oct 6th.
Lower Lanham: 58, Dec 4th.
Titchfield Common: 51, Dec 20th.

The BBS registered 57% of occupancy in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 54% 2010) and moved three places up the league table to eighth most abundant county species as measured by BBS.

Spanish Sparrow

Passer hispaniolensis

A very rare vagrant. (0,0,1)

A male was discovered in the observers' garden at Calshot on Dec 3rd (SWn, MJL, photo). On Jan 7th 2012 the finders, stating that the bird was still present, showed the photo to ARCo and DRB who confirmed the identity. The following day a number of HOS members viewed the bird and made arrangements for the news release, taking proper consideration of the wishes of local residents. The bird was present well into 2012 and will be reported fully in HBR 2012. It was the eighth British record and the 372nd accession to the county list (BOURC: British List 2012).

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Very scarce passage migrant, formerly resident and winter visitor [SPEC3, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

Three experienced observers picked up migrants on their flight calls on the coast on Sep 23rd/24th. One flew south-east over Sturt Pond (MPM), two headed south towards Fawley later on 23rd (APu) and one flew east over Needs Ore at 0856 hrs on 24th (DJU).

This remains a rare species in the county; nevertheless, several observers continue to report its occurrence via Birdtrack and the BTO Atlas website. If you believe you have this species visiting your bird feeder then, unless you are very experienced, get a second opinion or better still a photograph and submit notes/photos to the Recorder.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla f. flavissima*)

Formerly a summer visitor and common passage migrant now rare in summer but still moderately common on passage [Red, UKBAP2, HBAP].

The first was at Lower Test Marshes on Mar 27th and further records followed from Hurst Beach on Apr 3rd and Sandy Point on Apr 7th. Half-monthly totals of bird-days in spring at coastal sites are tabulated below:

Half-monthly totals	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-30
Coastal spring	18	70	22	3

Separate from the figures listed above, one observer recorded a total of 61 over Hurst Beach between Apr 3rd and May 9th. Numbers during the second half of April were encouragingly high, with a peak count of 12 north over Sandy Point on Apr 30th. During June, one was recorded at Lower Test Marshes on 15th.

Autumn movements included the following: Sandy Point (45W, Sep 1st); Brownwich (41W, Sep 1st); Gilkicker Point (36E, Sep 9th); Weston Shore (45NW, Aug 28th); Lymington (25W Aug 21st, 31W Sep 3rd, 26W Sep 11th, 31W Sep 13th); Barton on Sea (174W Sep 15th – although thought to be a local roost movement, 26E Sep 16th). Counts in excess of 30 on the ground are listed below:

Coastal sites

Farlington Marshes: 53, Aug 22nd; 60, Aug 29th; 50, Sep 8th; 40, Sep 9th.

Titchfield Haven: 62, Sep 14th.

Chilling/Hook-with-Warsash: 70, Aug 20th; 200, Aug 22nd/ 23rd; 217, Aug 27th; 90, Aug 29th; 150, Aug 30th; 132, Aug 31st; 100, Sep 1st; 94, Sep 2nd; 70, Sep 10th; 65, Sep 17th; 85, Sep 19th; 60, Sep 22nd; 60, Sep 24th.

Needs Ore: 150, Aug 30th; 48, Sep 7th; 50, Sep 18th; 35, Sep 27th.

Keyhaven/Pennington: 50, Aug 22nd; 40, Aug 27th; 40, Sep 7th; 53, Sep 9th.

Inland sites

Soberton: 40, Sep 9th.

Cholderton Park: 40, Sep 18th.

A minimum of 453 was seen at 40 inland sites. Only small numbers remained into early October: four were at Hook-with Warsash on 2nd and the last were singles at Pennington Marsh on 5th and Forton, Gosport on 7th. Half-monthly totals of bird-days at coastal sites were:

Half-monthly totals	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Coastal autumn	14	2265	1828	814	23

Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla f. flava*)

A very scarce passage migrant, which has bred. (2003,8,1)

A male showing the characteristics of this subspecies was at Farlington Marshes on Apr 6th (SHo).

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

A moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber].

A minimum of 84 was reported from 58 sites during the first quarter, mainly from river valley and coastal sites. The highest count was eight at Rushpole Wood, NF on Jan 29th.

Evidence of breeding was submitted for 96 county tetrads (cf. 115, 2010) as follows: confirmed in 22, probable in 29 and possible in 45. BBS results indicate the species was present in just 5% of the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 4%, 2010).

Post-breeding movements were recorded at six coastal sites, including 15 over Barton on Sea between Sep 16th and Oct 14th.

A minimum of 52 was recorded from 33 sites during the last two months of the year. The highest count was seven at Darby Green on Dec 27th.

Pied/White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail (Motacilla a. yarrelli)

A numerous resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

A minimum of 1390 was recorded at 96 sites during the first three months of the year. Three-figure congregations were noted at Bassett (125, Jan 17th); Eastleigh SF (150, Jan 30th) and roosting in Petersfield town centre (492, Jan 27th).

The BBS registered 34% of occupancy in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 39%, 2010).

The largest post-breeding gatherings were recorded at: Wide Lane playing fields, Eastleigh (max. 240, July 30th) and Fox Lane GP, Eversley (max. 100, Sep 24th). Passage movement was evident between Aug 14th and Dec 29th. The half-monthly totals of visible migration bird-days are listed below:

Half-monthly totals (autumn vis. mig.)	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Sandy Point		397	454	156	10		
Barton on Sea GC		428	473	604	30		
Other watch points	2	198	306	122	12	4	1

The highest numbers were recorded as easterly movements at: Barton on Sea (peaks of 269, Oct 1st; 400, Oct 14th) and Sandy Point (peaks of 114, Sep 29th; 152, Oct 1st).

During the last quarter, a minimum of 1049 was recorded at 35 sites. Three-figure counts were made at: Ringwood town centre (roost of 300, Dec 5th); Eversley GP (100, Oct 1st/2nd) and Newlands Farm (120, Oct 9th).

White Wagtail (Motacilla a. alba)

A scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.

Approximately 45 were reported from 17 locations between Mar 14th and May 3rd, apart from one at Winchester SF from May 1st to 22nd. All spring records are listed below:

- Sandy Point: 1, Mar 14th; 1, Apr 7th.
- Paultons Park GC: 1, Mar 14th.
- Sinah GP, Hayling: 1, Mar 15th.
- Hook with Warsash: 2, Mar 17th; 2, Apr 19th.
- Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes: 1E, Mar 17th; 3, Mar 25th; 1, Apr 8th; 2, Apr 9th; 1, Apr 15th; 1, Apr 25th; 2, Apr 27th/28th; 1, May 3rd.
- Hurst Beach/Castle: 14N, between Mar 17th and Apr 20th; 1 on beach, Apr 8th.
- Mill Rythe, Chichester Harbour: 1, Mar 20th.
- Farlington Marshes: 1, Mar 21st.
- Holmsley GP, NF: 1, Apr 5th.

Blashford Lakes: 1, Apr 5th.
 Weston Shore: 1, Apr 14th.
 Needs Ore: 1, Apr 14th; 2, Apr 27th; 1, Apr 28th.
 Winchester SF: May 1st-22nd.

In autumn, the following records were received:

Brownwich: 2-3, Sep 17th/18th.
 Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes: 3, Sep 17th; 2, Sep 18th; 2, Sep 22nd/23rd; 2, Sep 26th; 1, Oct 4th.
 Farlington Marshes: 1, Sep 18th.
 Black Point, East Hayling: 1, Sep 19th.
 Sandy Point: 3, Oct 7th.
 Hook-with-Warsash: 1, Oct 21st.

Richard's Pipit

Anthus richardi

A rare passage migrant. (0,32,2)

One was identified on call and seen in flight next to a Meadow Pipit for comparative size at Iley Point, Keyhaven at 1055 hrs on Sep 25th, but was lost to view after it dropped into the saltmarsh (MLE, TJP). Another detected on call and then seen well flew north over Sandy Point on Oct 28th at 0825 hrs; what was assumed to be the same individual did likewise at 0838 hrs (ACJ).

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

A moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant [Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

The first for the year was at Emery Down, NF on Apr 2nd; then records at Denny Wood, NF and Sandy Point the next day, followed by widespread reports in the New Forest and north-east of the county. Away from known breeding sites, other passage birds were recorded as follows: Pennington Marsh (Apr 8th); North Poulner (Apr 10th); Sandy Point (Apr 11th and 30th); Rooksbury Mill (Apr 14th) and West Hayling (May 7th). In addition, four were recorded over Hurst Beach between Apr 18th and May 4th.

In the New Forest, a total of 64 singing males was recorded at 37 sites (cf. 82 at 46 sites in 2010). The New Forest registrations are tabulated below for 2010-2011.

Territories	2010	2011	Territories	2010	2011	Territories	2010	2011
New Forest			Canadian Memorial	1	1	Milkhams Bottom		3
Acres Down	3	3	Cadman's Pool		1	Milkhams Inclosure		2
Anderwood Inclosure	1	2	Church Place Inclosure		1	Nomansland	1	
Ashley Walk		1	Clumber Inclosure	1		North Oakley Inclosure		2
Backley Plain		1	Crockford Bridge	2		Ober Heath	1	
Barrow Moor	3	1	Dame Slough Inclosure	2		Ocknell Plain	1	
Beaulieu Road/Pig Bush	3	2	Denny Wood	1	1	Parkhill Drift		1
Beech Bed Inclosure	2		Ditchend Bottom	2		Pignal Inclosure		1
Black Gutter Bottom	1		Dur Hill Down	1		Pitt Wood Inclosure		2
Blackwater Arboretum	1		Emery Down		1	Poundhill Inclosure		1
Bolderwood	5	3	Foxbury Plantation	1		Rhinefield Sandys Incl.	3	1
Bolderwood Farm	1		Fox Hills	1		Rushpole Wood		1
Bratley Inclosure		2	Frame Heath Inclosure		1	Sloden Inclosure		1
Bratley Plain		1	Fritham Cross		1	Sluffers Inclosure	1	7
Bratley Water	1		Gorley Bushes	1		South Oakley Inclosure		1
Bratley Wood		2	Hampton Ridge	1		Stinking Edge		2
Brinkenwood	1		Hart Hill	1		Studley Wood		1
Broomy Inclosure		3	Hawkhill Inclosure		3	The Knowles		4
Broomy Plain	2		Highland Water Inclosure	1		Vinney Ridge		2
Buckherd Bottom		1	Holmhill Inclosure	2	2	Warwick Slade		2
Burley (Lucy Hill)		2	Holmsley Walk	1	1	White Moor		1
Burley Moor		3	Hurst Hill Inclosure	1		Wick Wood		3
Burley New Inclosure	4		Knightwood Inclosure	7	1	Woolfield Hill		1
Burley Old Inclosure	2		Matley Heath		1	Woonson's Hill Inclosure		1

On the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths, 123 territories were recorded at 30 sites. This compares with 80 territories at 19 sites in 2010 (2010 figures revised following receipt of amended data for Bourley North/Long Valley and Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill, as reflected in the table below). The apparent rise in numbers is likely to be due to increased observer coverage for the Breeding Atlas rather than a real increase in the population. Counts of pairs/singing males at all sites away from the New Forest in 2010 and 2011 are tabulated below.

Territories	2010	2011	Territories	2010	2011
Thames Basin Heaths			Beech		1
Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill	20	13	Benyons Inclosure		1
Bourley North/Long Valley	9	8	Canon Heath Down		1
Bramshill Plantation	2	2	Chawton Park Wood		1
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Wood	3		Dummer		2
Eversley Common/Castle Bottom	1	7	East Tisted	1	1
Hawley Common	1	1	Ellisfield		2
Hazeley Heath	1	6	Facombe		2
Heath Warren		1	Farley Mount	1	
Tweseldown	1	3	Harewood Forest		2
Velmead Common	3	2	Herriard Common		1
Warren Heath	3	4	Holybourne Down		2
Yateley Common	2	4	Lasham		1
Yateley Heath Wood		1	Lower Woodcott Down		1
Wealden Heaths			Netherton Bottom		1
Bramshott Common	1	1	Noar Hill	1	2
Broxhead Common	1	2	Nutley		1
Golden Pot	1	3	Pilot Hill	2	1
Longmoor Inclosure	21	23	Preston Candover	6	
Ludshott Common	3	5	Rotherfield Park	1	7
Noar Hill	1	2	Shalden Park Wood	2	
Shortheath Common	1		Thedden Copse	1	
The Warren, Oakhanger	1	1	Upton		2
Woolmer Forest	5+	23	Vernham Dean		1
Other sites			Wattons Ford		1
Alice Holt Forest	1	3	West Walk	1	1
Ampfield Wood	2		Weston Common, Lasham	1	2
Ashmansworth		1	Wivelrod		1
Axford		2	Yarnhams/Sutton Common	1	1

Autumn passage was noted at the following inland localities (singles unless otherwise stated): Fleet Pond (July 16th, Aug 21st); Casbrook Common (19S, between July 31st and Sep 2nd, max. 7S, Aug 14th); Newlands Farm, Fareham (1-2, Aug 14th/20th); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (Aug 14th); IBM Lake (Aug 16th); Old Winchester Hill (15, Aug 20th; 1-2 from Aug 21st-26th; 3, Sep 9th; 3, Sep 28th); Itchen Valley CP (3S, Aug 20th); Blackhamsley Hill (2, Aug 22nd); Hedge End (Aug 21st); Bitterne Park (3S, Aug 22nd); Beacon Hill, Warnford (Aug 27th); North Baddesley (Aug 31st) and Fort Widley, Portsdown Hill (Sep 3rd).

On the coast, a total of 133 was recorded from 11 localities between Aug 5th and Oct 7th. Peak numbers were recorded in the Hurst/Lymington area where a total of 83 moved S/SE between Aug 14th and Oct 7th (max. 12SE on Aug 19th).

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

A locally common resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor
[Amber].

Numbers in the early year were low, reports of 20 or more coming from just three localities: Headley (25, Jan 6th rising to 60 on 20th), Alresford (20, Feb 5th) and Lakeside, Eastleigh (20, Feb 27th). An unprecedented spring passage was recorded at Hurst Castle where a total of **11,235** was counted moving north between Mar 22nd and Apr 27th (peak of 2706NE, Mar 24th). Passage at Sandy Point occurred between Mar 9th and Apr 11th (total 419N, peak of 120, Mar 24th). Inland, the highest counts received came from Michelmersh (102N, Mar 24th) and Blackhamsley Hill, NF (160N, Apr 10th).



Meadow Pipit, Farlington Marshes, May 19th – Richard Ford

During the breeding season double figure counts of territories were made at Backley Plain, NF (21), Hatchet Pond, NF (11), Butser Hill (10) and lower counts at another 13 localities. Fledged young were reported from Deadman Hill, NF, Rhinefield Walk, NF and Blackbushe Airfield.

Significant autumn passage was apparent from mid September and the following provide an indication of the extent of movements: Sandy Point (1985, between Sep 9th and Nov 11th, peak 328W, Sep 19th); Sinah Common (520W, Sep 19th); Hurst Beach (918, between Sep 16th and Oct 26th, peak 226SW, Sep 23rd); Barton on Sea (1846, between Sep 15th and Oct 15th, peak 578E, Sep 27th). Inland, 2265 flew S/SW over Miles Hill, Fleet between Sep 10th and Oct 12th (peak 332, Sep 19th) and at Casbrook Common 1757 were recorded between Sep 1st and Dec 12th, with a peak of 273 south on Sep 27th. Finally, 1100 were grounded at Dean Hill, Lockerley on Sep 15th.

During the late year, the NFWBS found 286 across 35 sites during Nov 26th/27th and a lower total of 159 across 36 sites during Dec 17th/18th. The only other notable count was 40 at Longwood Warren on Dec 4th.

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus
A scarce but increasing resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor [Green, HBAP].

In the early year, approximately 59 were recorded from 30 coastal sites (cf. 43 at 23 sites, 2010). Notable counts were five at Hurst Beach on Jan 8th, five at Hook-with-Warsash on Jan 22nd (six, Feb 3rd) and six at Budds Wall, South Moors, Langstone Harbour on Mar 1st.

Breeding was again recorded from regular sites including: Langstone Harbour, Southsea Castle, Portsmouth Dockyard, Southampton Old Docks, Calshot Castle and Hurst Beach/Castle (where 11 were seen on June 29th). In addition, singles were at Sandy Point on Apr 19th and Keyhaven on June 8th.

Away from known breeding sites, the first of autumn were recorded at Sandy Point on Oct 8th (1NE) and at Needs Ore on Oct 14th. Inland, one was recorded at Ibsley Water on Oct 30th and Nov 8th. The highest count in October came from Hurst Castle/Spit where 24 were counted on Oct 24th. In November and December, 63 birds were recorded at 17 sites (cf. 53 at 21 sites in 2010): the peak count again coming from Hurst Castle/Spit with a minimum of 19 on Nov 22nd.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta
A scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [Amber].

In the early year, there was a minimum of 33 at five sites (cf. 24 at seven sites in 2010). The last of spring were two at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 14th and singles at Farlington Marshes on Apr 20th and Town Quay on Apr 29th: the latter noted as in summer plumage. The first return of the autumn was at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 13th and at Pennington Marsh the next day. The table below shows the monthly maxima at the main sites and approximate monthly totals for the whole county:

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes/South Moors			2	1								1
Lower Test Marshes	26	20	10	6						5	6	3
Keyhaven/Normandy area	3	2	5	1						2	1	2
Titchfield Haven	2	1										1
Other sites	2	1	3	1						1	1	1
Approx. county total	33	24	20	9						8	8	8

Other records included singles at Compton on Jan 9th; Newlands Farm, Fareham on Mar 5th; Lee, Test valley on Mar 20th; Ibsley Water (8 dates Jan 1st-Mar 20th; Oct 30th; Dec 19th) and Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 8th.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

The recent trend for early year flocks to be modest in size continued. On only 11 occasions were flocks exceeding 100 recorded, the largest being one of 202 at Chilton Candover on Feb 6th; 200 were seen at Bishops Sutton on the same date; flocks of 150 were at Hampshire Hatches Lane in the Avon valley on Jan 4th, at Chandlers Green on Jan 29th, at Mattingley on Jan 29th and at Yateley Heath Wood on Feb 26th. NFWBS counts found 123 across 33 sites on Jan 23rd, 370 across 34 sites on Feb 20th and 476 across 34 sites on Mar 20th.

The first singing males of the year were heard at Kingsley on Jan 31st and Northington Down on Feb 3rd. Breeding was widely recorded throughout the county, sometimes at impressive densities. In Longmoor Enclosure, no fewer than 223 territories were recorded by the beginning of June. BBS data showed occupancy of 95 % in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 98%, 2010).

A total of 7177 was recorded in autumnal and early winter movements. At Miles Hill, a total count of 3697 moved south-west on 53 dates between Sep 14th and Dec 18th, with peaks of 547 on Oct 20th and 780 on 21st. By contrast, autumn passage at Lymington and Keyhaven was assessed as being 'fairly light'. The largest coastal count was of 325 at Barton on Sea GC on Nov 13th. NFWBS counts found 399 across 33 sites on Oct 22nd/23rd, 291 across 35 sites on Nov 26th/27th and 509 across 36 sites on Dec 17th/18th.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

A moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant [Schedule 1].

The winter of 2010/2011 saw a significant wintering population in the county (2000+, December/January), but in the second winter period there were far fewer present. Numbers surged at the very end of March at three feeding stations and at Butser Hill. In the early year, the largest estimate was of at least 1000 at Butser Hill on Jan 15th (600 including many adult males on 17th; 200, Feb 18th) were recorded. Other three-figure flocks were at: Woolmer Pond (100, Jan 9th); Cadman's Pool, NF (300, Jan 28th and 150, Mar 20th); The Straight Mile, Romsey (120, Feb 8th) and in a Petersfield garden (120, Mar 13th). On Mar 30th, a very large influx was noted at Blashford Lakes (at least 300, Mar 31st) which was also reported on the same date at the ringing station at The Straight Mile, Romsey (150 there on Apr 3rd of which many were under nourished) and on the same date again at Butser Hill (250) and Petersfield (140).

Many birds stayed in the county later into April; 250 were at the Somerley Estate at dawn on 12th and, presumably, related to the feeding stations at Blashford Lakes. The last of spring was one at Blashford Lakes HWT on Apr 22nd. At the Straight Mile, Romsey a record total of 856 was ringed in the first four months of the year (192, January; 162, February; 386, March and 116, April).

The first return was at Paultons Park on Oct 12th, followed by one at Blashford Lakes the next day, and 1-3 at nine other localities by the end of the month. There were reports from six New Forest localities in November (the total of day maxima being 41) and ten elsewhere; the highest count was 40 at Butser Hill on 8th. Visible migration at Sandy Point totalled nine- E/NE on six dates between Oct 28th and Nov 10th; at Miles Hill, Fleet a total of 11 flew south-west (5, Oct 15th-28th; 6, Dec 5th). Winterers remained scarce in December with the same distribution of sites (six New Forest, ten elsewhere): the highest count was of 15 at Blackwater Arboretum, NF on Dec 22nd. The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below:

Monthly totals	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brambling	151	968	2157	2104	839	790	904					11	17	96	68



Brambling, Blashford Lakes, Apr 6th – Martin Bennett

Greenfinch

Chloris chloris

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Green].

Although the species was widely and frequently reported throughout the county, happily only one record referred to a possible sufferer from trichomonosis. Early year flocks were again, for the most part, modest in size, only eight of over 50 being recorded in the first quarter. These included 200 at Overton on Jan 9th and 92 at Oxenbourne Down on Jan 24th. On Feb 10th, at least 75 were counted at a roost at West End. On Feb 2nd, 38 were counted roosting with Goldfinches at Rooksbury Mill, Andover.

The first singing male was heard on Feb 3rd at Northington Down, many others being recorded in song during that month from locations throughout the county. Confirmed breeding was recorded from 78 sites, with a further 153 sites being identified as probable breeding sites. Between Lymington and Hurst, breeding was described as 'common and widespread'. Up to 40 birds were present on and around Sandy Point throughout the year. BBS data showed occupancy of 83 % of the 1-km squares surveyed (no change since 2010). Evidence of post-breeding dispersal included 52 at Lockerley on Aug 15th and 100 in a Petersfield garden on Aug 18th.

Autumn movements were once again for the most part modest. Along the coast at Sandy Point, a total movement of 446 E/NE was recorded between Sep 24th and Nov 15th (peaks of 67E, Sep 27th; 69E, Sep 30th); the only other significant watch reports were from Barton on Sea, with a total of 80 east on eight dates between Sep 27th and Nov 13th. Inland at Miles Hill, Fleet a total of 641 moved S/SW between Sep 11th and Oct 31st (day max. 124 on 12th). At Casbrook Common, 280 were counted moving W/E between Aug 3rd and December 23rd, with a day maximum of 17 on Sep 17th.

There were flocks of 50 or more at seven localities in the late year, including 90 at Latchmore Bottom, NF on Oct 14th and 65 nearby at Leaden Hall on Oct 25th; the highest count was of 100 at Gunner Point, Hayling on Nov 28th and in December a pre-roost gathering of 60 at Eling on 31st.

Serin

Serinus serinus

A very scarce passage migrant. (1,39,1)

A male flew low north-west at 1655 hrs over Testwood Lakes on Apr 24th (SSK, IP).

Addition 2009: SSK had a closer encounter at Castle Hill, Burley Street, NF on May 11th when a calling male flew east within 10m of him at 1152 hrs.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Present throughout the year. A numerous breeder and passage migrant with much reduced numbers in winter [Green].

In the first quarter, 35 flocks exceeding 20 were recorded at 28 sites, including 120 roosting in two large groups in the grounds of Bitterne Manor, Southampton on Jan 14th and a flock of 105 perching in a single tree at Froxfield on Feb 5th.

The first singing male was recorded on the first day of the year at Woolmer Pond, followed by another on Feb 23rd at Alresford Pond, but regular reports of singing males did not begin until the first week of April. Confirmed breeding was recorded at 67 sites and probable breeding at a further 132. BBS data showed occupancy of 81% of the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 78%, 2010). This species continues to increase in the county. Post-breeding flocks of 20 or more were present at 27 localities, well scattered across the county. Three-figure flocks gathered in August at Bishopstoke (200, 6th), Oxleys Coppice, Fareham (100, 7th), Itchen Valley CP (130, 8th), Pennington Marsh (100, 9th), and Butser Hill (120, 30th). Roving flocks of 20 frequented 23 localities in September including: Somerley Estate (135, Sep 22nd) and at least 80 at Bitterne Park, Southampton.

Autumn movements were noted from Sep 20th, with three-figure counts from Sep 29th until Nov 21st, and a total coastal passage of 18,395 recorded (sum of peak day counts from any watch point). Heaviest passage dates were: Oct 14th/15th (Sandy Point: 1900NE; Needs Ore: 1701E; Browndown 234E; Barton on Sea 2715E) followed by Nov 9th/10th (Sandy Point 2778NE, the only watch point counts made on these dates) and Nov 13th (Sandy Point: 1154NE; Gilkicker Point: 252E; Brownwich: 373E; Needs Ore: 232E; Barton on Sea: 915E). The ten-day coastal passage summaries are tabulated below, together with the total of daily maxima from any watch point.

10-day totals (coastal passage)	Direction	Oct 1-10	Oct 11-20	Oct 21-31	Nov 1-10	Nov 11-20	Nov 21-30	Count days	Total
Sandy Point	NE	935	3386	3208	4726	2268	205	53	15245
Needs Ore	E	641	1944		354	232		8	3256
Barton on Sea GC	E	89	2715			1154		8	4097
Other coastal watch points*	S/SE/SW/NE	96	534	46	166	379	7	*	*
Total of daily maxima		18395	1244	5684	3208	4966	2507	212	

* Gilkicker Point/Browndown (2,476), Brownwich (3,387), Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (2,466) and Hurst /Milford on Sea (8,156).

Inland passage was in comparison lighter: at Miles Hill, Fleet totals flying S/SW were 190 in September from 20th, 689 in October and 81 in November up to 18th; at Casbrook Common 1084 flew south-west between July 10th and Dec 12th (max. 142, Nov 14th).

Grounded flocks of over 20 were recorded at 21 localities in the late year; by far the largest was 650 at the Somerley Estate on Oct 16th following heavy coastal passage. Elsewhere, 130 were at Lakeside, Eastleigh on and 75 both at Froxfield on Nov 7th and Stratfield Saye Park on Dec 29th.

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Present throughout the year. A moderately common breeder (largely confined to the New Forest), common migrant and winter visitor [Green].

In the first quarter of the year, counts exceeding 25 were recorded on 86 occasions (more than twice the number of similar records from last year) from an exceptional total of 50 sites (cf. 22, 2010). There were three-figure flocks at 21 locations including: 300 at Wattons Ford on Jan 4th; at least 500 in three flocks around Fleet Pond on Jan 23rd (450 in one flock there the next day); 250 at Lakeside, Eastleigh on Feb 16th; 220 feeding in alders at Blashford Lakes on Feb 12th; finally, a total of 740 in alders along a two-mile stretch of the Blackwater valley between Eversley and Yateley GP on Feb 18th.

In the New Forest, confirmed breeding was recorded from a minimum of ten sites and probable breeding at a further 22. In the 46 km² study area, a total of 367 was recorded in May and June, including 48 pairs/singing males. Away from the New Forest, fledged young were seen at Blashford Lakes, Tatchbury Mount, Chilworth, Hundred Acres (Wickham) and Headley Down. Probable breeding was reported at North Baddesley and Liphook and breeding was suspected at: Park Wood, Chawton; Windmill Hill, Crawley; and Long Valley Reclamation Area, Bourley. Evidence of post-breeding dispersal was pairs of juveniles at Sandy Point on July 5th and 25th, as in previous years there. Other post-breeding reports in August, mostly of ones and twos, came from Yateley, Fleet, Longmoor Inclosure (5), Froxfield and Frater Land, Portsmouth Harbour (12).

Autumn movements were reported from Sep 9th/10th with the first three-figure day count of 200 south at North Baddesley on 19th, followed by 345 E/N at Sandy Point on 24th. The major movement of the autumn was from Sep 27th-30th with day counts of 459, 202, 369 and 307 respectively at Sandy Point and notable day counts of 335 at Barton on Sea (28th); 217 at Browndown (30th) and 119 at Keyhaven Marsh (30th). In October, there were seven three-figure day counts from four watch points as follows: Hurst (103N, 7th); Miles Hill (144SW, 8th; 115SW, 9th); Barton on Sea (233E, 15th); three north-easterly movements at Sandy Point of 117 on 13th, 319 on 14th and the last of the year of 121 on 28th. Passage was noted up to Nov 22nd and a summary of autumn movements is tabulated below:

Movement counts (autumn/winter)	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of days visible migration reported	18	28	13
Number of localities reporting passage	28	20	5
Sandy Point (E/N)	1862	1545	164
Miles Hill, Fleet (S/SW)	231	797	
Total of daily maxima	2263	1947	193

The above table does not include data from Casbrook Common where south-westerly movements totalled 310 from Sep 16th into December and a max. of 33 on Sep 21st.

Winter flocks usually numbered far less than 100, but there were notable exceptions. The largest contained 601, counted from a digital photograph, seen on the Somerley Estate on Nov 10th (there had been 240 there the previous day). More than 500 were recorded feeding in alders and birches at Darby Green on Nov 20th. South Benyons Inclosure held at least 100 on Nov 26th and 150 were feeding in alders at Stoney Cross Airfield, NF on Dec 1st. Regular counting at Fleet Pond found totals of 100 from November into early December, but numbers increased after Dec 3rd with 400 present from 11th to the year end. Sizeable flocks were also recorded at roosting sites, including 106 at Burley New Inclosure, NF on the morning of Dec 29th.

Additions 2010: 150, Home Wood, Somerley Estate, Feb 17th; in November-December flocks of 100-150 at six further sites and 320, Ellingham, Somerley Estate, Dec 4th and 500, Fleet Pond, Dec 24th.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

Present throughout the year. A numerous breeder and passage migrant, but numbers are usually much reduced in winter [Red, UKBAP2].

Early year counts exceeding 50 were recorded at 14 localities. The largest were groups of 300, at Pitts Wood Inclosure on Feb 12th and at Middle Wallop on 19th. Other notable flocks were of 225 at Wootton St Lawrence on Jan 22nd and flocks of 150 were recorded on three occasions, at Willesley Warren on Feb 5th, at Lower Woodcott Down on Feb 12th and at Overton on Mar 5th.

Spring passage at Hurst Castle totalled 476 N/NE between Mar 8th and May 3rd (max. 155 N, Mar 27th). Confirmed breeding records were reported from 65 localities well-distributed throughout the county, ranging from the north-eastern heaths to several coastal locations, from Barton on Sea east to Sandy Point. Confirmed breeding records for the New Forest were scarce; a family group seen at Hatchet Pond on Aug 9th was the only record of fledged young in the Forest, although several singing males and pairs in suitable habitat were seen by observers. A maximum of 16 territories was held in Longmoor Inclosure, while at Martin Down five pairs held territories. BBS data showed occupancy of 41% in the 1-km squares surveyed (cf. 38% 2010).

Autumn coastal passage, mainly in easterly/northerly directions, was recorded from Sep 23rd to Nov 21st. The heaviest passage was in October: 225 at Sandy Point on 1st, 344 at Needs Ore on 14th, 380 at Barton on Sea (same date) and 426 south at Hurst Beach on 24th. The sum of day maxima at ten watch points totalled 4425 – a comparatively light passage. Individual locality totals were as follows: Barton on Sea, (1563), Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea (982), Keyhaven Marshes (141); Needs Ore (986), Brownwich (368), Browndown/Gilkicker Point (510), and Sandy Point (1656). Autumn inland south-westerly passage was monitored at two watch points. At Miles Hill, Fleet a total of 1363 was counted on 37 dates between Sep 10th and Dec 5th with (peaks of 177, Oct 7th; 526, Oct 11th/12th) and at Casbrook Common 1553 between July 1st and Dec 31st (max. 135 on Oct 24th).

Off passage, at least 500 were in a huge mixed finch flock in a field containing a cut seed crop at Tanners Lane, Lymington on Sep 19th. In the late year, more than 200 were recorded on ten occasions; the largest being 1000 in a recently drilled wheat field near Warnford on Oct. 9th; 350 on conservation seed-rich strips at Longwood Warren on 16th; 300 at Bopeep, Weston on 28th and a noticeable increase in the flock size to 320 at East Tisted on Dec 10th. NFWBS counts found 106 across 33 sites on Oct 22nd/23rd, 73 across 35 sites on Nov 26th/27th and 116 across 36 sites on Dec 17th/18th.

Twite

Carduelis flavirostris

A very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant [Red, UKBAP2].

The only record was of one found along the seafront at Hayling Island on Oct 20th (ACJ, photo); the same individual was present within the nature reserve at Sandy Point the following day – the first record ever there. Overwintering numbers recorded from 1999-2011 are summarised below:

Totals (wintering)	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Total birds	2	3	1	6	6	0	1	1	1	2	5	3

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

Present throughout the year. A common passage and winter visitor, recently a declining and now rare breeder [Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

The large late wintering population in 2010 was still present in the early year when a total of 720 was recorded in January. The largest flocks were of 80 in birches at Aldershot Crematorium on 3rd, 60 at Bramshill RT on 19th, 120 at Woolmer Forest on 24th and 70 at Headley Down on 25th. During February/March flocks of 30 or more were recorded on 11 occasions (max. 150 at Broxhead Common, Feb 20th). The NFWBS recorded 287 across 34 sites on Feb 19th/20th

(reduced to 79 on Mar 19th/20th). A total of 70 was recorded moving through the Straight Mile, Romsey on Feb 24th and 50 were at Cygnet Court, Fleet on Feb 28th, suggesting local movements at that time. Otherwise movements were not recorded until late March, including NW/NE flight counts over Fleet Pond of 85 on 27th and 136 on 29th. The last major flock of the early year was 50 at Harewood Forest on Apr 3rd.

A singing male was at Backley Plain, NF on Apr 22nd. There were no records of confirmed breeding anywhere in the county, although a possible pair was seen in suitable habitat near Holmsley, NF on May 1st.

The first suggestion of autumnal movement was provided by two flying north-west at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 22nd, but passage only built up significantly at the end of the month and then into October. The sum of day maxima along the coast was 1347 from Sep 22nd to Nov 19th. It was an exceptional autumn at Sandy Point where a total, generally north-easterly, movement of 1106 included 490 on Oct 28th/29th alone – more than twice the annual average there for previous complete autumn migrations. Elsewhere, along the coast 237 flew east at Needs Ore on five dates between Sep 24th and Nov 5th. Inland, a heavy, generally south-west, passage at Miles Hill totalled 826 and included 759 from Oct 2nd to 30th (peaks of 61, 4th; 82, 7th). At Casbrook Common, 131 were counted passing over between Sep 1st and Dec 12th (max. 28, Oct 26th).

There were several large October flocks in the New Forest including: Beaulieu Road (100, 9th), Frame Heath Inclosure (50, 11th) and Pitts Wood Inclosure (50, 12th). This was reflected in the NFWBS which found 101 across 33 sites on 22nd/23rd. In November, there was a count of 100 at Ludshott Common on 6th and 72 at Cadnam Common, NF on 14th, whereas the NFWBS registered just 51 across 35 sites on Nov 26th/27th and only five across 36 sites on Dec 17th/18th. The only large December count was 66 at Burley New Inclosure, NF on 29th (see Siskin above).

Mealy Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

A very scarce winter visitor [Green].

There was a total of six records. Following on from late 2010 individuals of this species, most were again found amongst much larger flocks of Lesser Redpolls, where size and colour could be accurately compared – several observers commented that other less distinctive Mealties were possibly present too.

One was well-watched on the feeders at Blashford Lakes on several dates between Jan 9th and Mar 19th; one was at Denny Lodge NF on Jan 18th (AMD); two were at Broxhead Common on Feb 20th (KBW) and one at Rockford Common on Mar 1st (PCo). Following on from several ringed in 2010, another was ringed at the Straight Mile, Romsey on Mar 8th (NRJ). The last was found and photographed well at Woolmer Pond on Mar 12th (DMu, REF, photo).

Common Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

A scarce resident, whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in late summer or autumn [Schedule 1, Green].

A summary of all records is shown below:

Records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In woodland	91	29	43	51	40	61	137	36	45	795	365	422
Flying over	3	0	2	5	4	19	40	2	2	104	119	15
Total	94	29	45	56	44	80	177	38	47	899	484	437
New Forest sites*	12(33)	10(34)	14(34)	12	9	13	15	6	2	29(33)	12(35)	17(36)
North-east sites	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	4	2	10
Elsewhere	2	0	3	2	3	5	7	1	2	22	12	17

* Figures in brackets represent number of NFWBS localities covered for the month.

A total of 95 records was received for the period to the end of May, of which 80 related to the New Forest resident population. In this period double figure counts in the New Forest were recorded on only two occasions: at Rhinefield Ornamental Drive (17, Jan 1st) and at Acres Down (15, April 15th). NFWBS counts produced nine across 33 sites on Jan 22nd/23rd, three across 34 sites on Feb 19th/20th and none in March. In the north-east of the county during the same period, there were reports from three sites, including a group of 20 at Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt on Jan 20th and 11 at Longmoor Inclosure on 24th. Elsewhere, there were reports from ten sites, mostly on single dates, including Ampfield Wood, Itchen Valley CP and Leigh Park, Havant – all in the second half of May suggesting some movements.

The first singing male was recorded on Mar 6th in Amberwood Inclosure, NF. There were two records of confirmed breeding, e.g. feeding young or of family groups (*cf.* 7, 2010). A survey of 46 km² squares west of Lyndhurst between May 1st and July 1st located 112 birds, of which four were paired or singing males. A group of 30 at Puckpits Inclosure, NF on July 2nd was reported to contain ‘many juveniles’.

Numbers were particularly low in August/September suggesting no mid year immigration. As the table above indicates, there was clear evidence of a late influx in October. Visible migration recording at Miles Hill, Fleet produced a total of 119 S/SW between 8th and 30th, including peaks of 23 on 11th and 18 on 22nd; over Casbrook Common there was also a peak count of 18 north-west on 10th, contributing to a total of 51 in autumn. Along the coast at Sandy Point, there were exceptional counts of 31 and 30 flying north-east on 14th and 28th respectively. The influx boosted the New Forest population including: 70 at Beaulieu Road on 9th; 60 at Holmsley on 17th; 50 at Hawkhill Inclosure on 24th and an NFWBS count of 120 across 33 sites on 22nd/23rd – in stark contrast to the early year surveys.

The last two months of the year suggested some of the October immigrants stayed to winter including: counts of 60 at Holly Hatch Inclosure, NF on Nov 17th; 100 on the NFWBS across 36 sites on Dec 17th/18th; 53 at Denny Lodge Inclosure, NF on 24th and in the north-east 50 at Woolmer Forest on 26th.

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

A numerous resident [Amber, UKBAP2, HBAP].

Reports came from 490 widely distributed localities throughout the county. From a total of 1042 records received which indicated numbers present, almost 90% were of four or fewer birds. The distribution is shown below:

Flock size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14	Total
No. of records	249	441	125	123	41	35	11	11	1	4	1	1042

Notable groups were 14 (including a flock of 12) at Burley New Inclosure, NF on Dec 29th and counts of ten at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 2nd, Brown Candover on 3rd, Lane End Down on Feb 6th and Butser Hill on Aug 30th. Garden record maxima were of two pairs at Chandlers Ford and four regularly in the late year at Liss.

Reports of confirmed breeding came from 25 localities and probable, but not proven, from a further 186. A total of 39 was counted in a survey of 46 km² of the central New Forest in May/June, including three singing males. A survey at Itchen Valley CP located 18 pairs. BBS data showed occupancy of 35% of the 1-km squares surveyed (*cf.* 33%, 2010).

Records of autumn movement were virtually absent. At Miles Hill, Fleet the only birds seen in 65 visible migration watches between Sep 4th and Dec 18th were five S/SW on Oct 29th/30th. At Casbrook Common on Nov 1st, ten birds flew west and another five east in a watch of 1hr 45 minutes; on the same date a total of five was unusually at three coastal localities and, interestingly, 118 flew west at Durlston, Dorset.

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

A resident, moderately common in the New Forest but thinly distributed and elusive elsewhere [Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

Another good year with over 300 records received including 70 coming from outside the core area in the New Forest. During the course of the year sightings were reported from 42 New Forest localities and 20 areas away from the Forest.

Away from the New Forest, there were sightings from Breamore Down (12, Feb 27th), Testwood Lakes HWT (1-6, Jan 3rd-Feb 14th with 10, Jan 9th and Feb 1st), West Tytherley (4, Feb 12th) and Mercer Way, Romsey (1/2, Jan 3rd-Feb 14th). Additionally, one or two were recorded on one date only at Ampfield Wood, Botley Wood, Hordle village, Michelmersh, Monxton, Rooksbury Mill, Southampton Common, the Straight Mile (Romsey) and Whitenap.

The species continues to be under recorded during the breeding season. In the New Forest, territorial birds were recorded in 18 areas with 13 confirmed breeding attempts, of which only five were thought to be successful. Elsewhere, there were reports in April/May from Ampfield Wood (max. 2), Breamore Down (3), Broadlands Estate (2) and Hurstbourne Tarrant (max. 8, May 7th). Two were at Tytherley Common on July 28th.

In the late year, daytime counts in excess of five came only from the New Forest at Broomy Plain (6, Oct 17th) and Roydon Woods (25, Nov 5th-12th). Elsewhere, the only regular site was Mercer Way, Romsey (2, Dec 15th-31st) with other records from: Ampfield Wood (1, Sep 28th); Northington Down, Micheldever (1, Dec 11th and 19th); Testwood Lakes (2, Dec 14th) and Butser Hill (1, Dec 19th).

Regular monitoring of the Blackwater Arboretum roost produced peak early and late year counts of 13 on Jan 13th and 44 on Dec 20th:

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	13	11	6							18	17	44

On-going survey work in the New Forest in the late year identified four further roost sites which held maxima of 17, 11, ten and nine in the last ten days of December.

Autumn movements were recorded from Normandy Marsh (1E, Aug 27th); Bitterne Park, Southampton (1W, Oct 22nd); Brownwich (1, Nov 19th) and Casbrook Common (25W/SW + 7NE, Oct 6th-Dec 31st, max. 5SW + 1NE, Oct 9th).

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

A very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor [Schedule 1, Amber].

Wintering birds from 2010 continued to be seen at Hurst beach, with at least one present from Jan 1st until Jan 28th. Elsewhere, singles were found in March at Black Point, Chichester Harbour at dusk on 5th, still present the next day, and at Hook-with-Warsash on 24th.

The first of autumn flew south at Hurst on Oct 22nd, followed by an adult male there from Nov 21st to 30th. Also in November, one flew west at Barton on Sea on 6th and another was at Brownwich on 13th. Away from the coast, one was at Cadman’s Pool, NF from Dec 4th to 6th. Finally, three wintering in West Sussex at East Head visited Black Point on Dec 21st.

Addition 2010: There were two at Ibsley Water, Blashford on Dec 5th.

Lapland Bunting

Calcarius lapponicus

A rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (1,160+, 6)

The influx in the last quarter of 2010 was estimated to be at least 80 birds and many remained into the early year, including a maximum count in January of 21 at New Lane, Hurst on 1st. Birds remained at New Lane into February with the last one seen on 20th but one flew north



Snow Bunting, Sandy Point, Mar 6th – Richard Ford



Lapland Bunting, New Lane, Hurst, Jan 9th – Trevor Codlin

nearby off Iley Point, Keyhaven on 24th. The last of the early year was one in a field at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Mar 20th.

In autumn, one was briefly at Gilkicker Point on Oct 25th; one flew south-west over Miles Hill, Fleet on Oct 29th; Sandy Point on Nov 7th (another was over the reserve on Nov 21st); one was over the stubble field at New Lane, Hurst on Nov 16th and two were feeding there on 17th; one was seen on Nov 22nd/23rd and the last of the year, an adult, was at Hurst Castle for an hour at least on Dec 2nd.

Correction 2010: The Whiteparish, Wiltshire bird on Dec 16th was wrongly reported as this county reducing the 2010 total to 78+.

White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

A very rare, presumed ship-assisted, vagrant. (0,3,0)

An adult male was present at Old Winchester Hill until July 17th (DKC). It was seen daily until Apr 4th and then on eight subsequent dates.

Corrections 2009 and 2010: In HBR 2009, the last report of the Old Winchester Hill individual was stated as July 17th, 2009. Subsequent information has shown that it remained beyond that date and was present into 2011 as described above.

Dark-eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

A very rare, presumed ship-assisted, vagrant. (0,2,1)

One was discovered at Hawkhill Inclosure, NF on December 22nd by a walker (KBe, photo). A photo sent to the County Recorder confirmed the sighting as a first-winter male Dark-eyed Junco. The news was released but the bird was not seen again until Dec 30th. It remained elusive, but it stayed faithful to a small area, where seed was laid down and it was seen by many birders in early 2012.

The only previous records were of one seen intermittently at Church Crookham from May 30th 1987 until Mar 9th 1990 and of an individual at Picket Post, Andover on May 5th 1996. An earlier individual was on board *RMS Mauretania* whilst docked at Southampton on Oct 14th/15th 1962 but was not reported ashore (BoH).

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

A numerous resident [Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

A total of 879 records was submitted in 2011, with flocks of ten or more reported from 65 sites (*cf.* 2010, 59; 2009, 33). The highest counts were as follows: 100 at Chandlers Green on Jan 29th, 100 at Cholderton Park on Feb 11th, 50 at Compton on Mar 1st, 75 at Dean Hill on Oct 29th, 100 at Ashley Warren on Dec 4th and 100 at Hurstbourne Tarrant on Dec 11th.

The Atlas produced more breeding records than normal and selected counts of pairs/singing males (over 10) included the following: Breamore Down (25), Oakley (17), Bullington Cross (17), Medstead (17), Kilmeston (14), Stoke (14), Whitsbury (14), Old Alresford (14), Bramley (13), Drayton Down (12), Hurstbourne Tarrant (12), Lockerley (12), Nutley (12), Dummer (11), Egbury (11) and Tufton Warren Farm (11).

BBS data showed that 48% of squares were occupied at an average of 4.7 territories per occupied square:

BBS data	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1-km squares occupied	47%	43%	45%	45%	45%	45%	40%	50%	46%	42%	43%	48%
Mean per occupied 1-km square	3.8	3.6	4.6	3.4	3.9	4.2†	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.3*	4.7

* Excludes late wintering flock of 107 in one square.

Records indicative of dispersal or passage were as follows:

Sandy Point: 2NE, Oct 14th; 1NE Oct 15th.

Miles Hill, Fleet: 5 S/SW, between Oct 16th and 29th.

Casbrook Common: 60E, between Aug 8th and Dec 31st, max. 6, Sep 25th.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

A common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor [Amber, UKBAP4, HBAP].

Outside the breeding season, there were counts of five or more at 25 sites (*cf.* 2010, 39; 2009, 20). The highest counts came from: Mattingley/Chandlers Green (100, Jan 29th); Long Valley (30, Feb 12th); Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (22, Oct 28th); Newlands Farm, Fareham (21, Feb 20th) and Barrow Hill (20, Jan 26th).



Male Yellowhammer, Martin Down, Apr 20th – Martin Bennett

Breeding season counts of singing males or pairs on territory included the following: 29 territories at Titchfield Haven, 26 territories at Lower Test Marshes, 15 pairs at Itchen Valley CP, 10 pairs at Greywell and six pairs at Fishlake Meadow, Romsey. Totals recorded during BBS for 2000-2011 were as follows:

BBS data	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1-km squares occupied	3%	0%	3%	8%	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%	9%	5%
Total all squares	3	0	3	9	10	15	13	14	18	18	20	15

Records indicative of autumn passage are summarised below:

Miles Hill, Fleet: 49 SW, between Sep 24th and Oct 30th, max. 9, Oct 11th.

Barton on Sea: 15 E, Oct 14th.

Needs Ore: 14 E, Oct 14th.

Sandy Point: 14 NE, Oct 28th.

Casbrook Common: 92 W, between Aug 8th and Dec 31st, max. 13, Oct 17th.

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

A scarce and declining resident [SPEC2, Red, UKBAP3, HBAP].

A total of 94 records was received from 28 sites (*cf.* 2010, 105 from 34). The highest number recorded was 26 at Toyd Down on Jan 1st (20, Mar 5th). This is a species that breeds relatively late, as it needs cereals and grasses to mature, hence small flocks can still be recorded in late April/early May (Toyd Down 6, Apr 29th; Teglease Down, 6, May 4th).

In the breeding season at least 24 pairs, or singing males, were reported (*cf.* 22, 2010). Records were received as follows: Whitsbury Down (9), Cholderton Park (4), Cheesefoot Head (3), Over Wallop (2), Danebury (2), Old Winchester Hill (1), Toyd Down (1), Tidpit (1), Martin Down (1), Ovington Down (1) and Palestine (1).

At the latter end of the year, only single figure numbers were reported from just four localities (Cheesefoot Head area, Toyd Down, Tidpit Common, Hare Warren Farm) but there was a max. of 11 at Longstock on Dec 26th.

APPENDIX 1 – ESCAPES & OTHERS

The intention of this section is to report species in Categories D and E of the British List, birds whose origin cannot be accepted as from a wild state. It is not our 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. In the case of Ruddy Shelduck we diverge from *BOURC* practice, as in the editor's view most records suggest a C5 category and are thus reported under the Systematic List. The taxonomic order and appellations which follow were mostly adopted by the International Ornithological Congress in 2007; exceptions relate to different names adopted by the *BOURC*.

Reeves's Pheasant

Syrmaticus reevesii

Escape (endemic central and eastern China).

One was reported at Netherton Bottom on Dec 2nd.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis

Escape (widespread tropical Americas).

One was at Vyne WM on May 8th, in company with a Fulvous Whistling Duck, but neither was reported subsequently. There are two collections nearby at Little London and Sherborne St John which were probably the source for both records (MJPI).

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Escape (widespread in Africa, Americas and Asia).

The Titchfield Haven bird was again reported in every month of the year, mainly at the reserve, but there were excursions to Chilling and Newlands Farm on single dates. One was also at the Vyne WM on May 8th in company with a Black-bellied Whistling Duck (see above).

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

The small feral population previously established in the north-east of the county is extinct but the species may breed in small numbers elsewhere in Britain (central Eurasia).

There were reports from six localities involving at least three individuals. One was reported in the Avon valley on three dates (Blashford Lakes: Jan 2nd, Oct 16th and Avon Causeway, Jan 16th). One was seen regularly at Needs Ore until Oct 1st but not thereafter, although a report from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on Oct 15th possibly involved the same individual. Another was at Testwood Lakes on Mar 29th and possibly the same at Titchfield Haven on three dates (Apr 10th, 17th and Aug 11th).

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

The small feral population previously established in the north-east was last recorded in 2008 (North America).

There was just one record of one at Grange Lakes, Northington with Canada Geese on Nov 1st but not present thereafter.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Escape from wildfowl collection (Eastern Europe).

An individual was found amongst 100 Dark-bellied Brent Geese at Lower Pennington Lane on Feb 14th. It remained in the area until Feb 24th. Initially, it was presumed to be the Hook-with-Warsash individual, which was not seen there after Feb 6th. It was proved to be different when



An escaped Red-breasted Goose with Lapwing, Pennington Marsh, Feb 17th – Gordon Small

a small plastic red-coloured ring, commonly used in collections, was detected on its lower right leg and hence assumed not to be of wild origin. It was, presumably, the same mobile individual reported from the county, and Devon, in October 2010.

Lesser Canada Goose

Branta hutchinsii

Escape (North America). Birds of wild origin have yet to be accepted onto the British List although they presumably occur.

The individual of the race *B.h. minima* recorded in the Titchfield Haven area from August 2009 to July 2010 was presumed to be present at Test Marshes/Testwood Lakes/Broadlands Lake from Sep 19th 2010 until Jan 9th. It was not reported subsequently until June 26th, again at Testwood Lakes where it remained until Aug 14th, but was once more at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 10th.

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape (Australia) – first county breeding in the wild 2007.

There were 53 reports (*cf.* 29, 2010; 33, 2009) from five localities. In the Avon valley, two were reported on WeBS counts, both in the early and late year, at Bickton and again in summer on June 3rd. At least one of the Bickton birds was nearby at Blashford Lakes between July 25th and Aug 12th. There were regular reports throughout the year (nine dates) of one at Laverstoke Park Lake, Test valley. On the lower Itchen, between Cobden Bridge and Woodmill (Riverside Park, Southampton), the regular female was reported in the early and late years, but presumably made an excursion to Lower Test Marshes from Mar 6th to 9th. Thereafter, it occupied a nest at Riverside Park between May 16th and June 18th; there were no eggs seen, in contrast to 2009 when it was paired with a Mute Swan. It has been suggested by WWT that the female was unlikely to have brooded an empty nest and hence the eggs were presumably predated.

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape (North America).

As in 2010 a male was at Eyeworth Pond, NF but not reported after Jan 17th.

Maned Duck

Chenonetta jubata

Escape (Australia).

One was again reported at Testwood Lakes on May 1st.

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape (South America).

One was at Sherborne St John on July 9th having presumably escaped from a nearby collection (see Black-bellied Whistling Duck).

Cinnamom Teal

Anas cyanoptera

Escape (Americas).

A male was reported regularly at Titchfield Haven between May 8th and July 1st and again on Aug 17th.

Speckled Teal

Anas flavirostris

Escape (South America).

One was seen at Lower Pennington Lane and then on Butts lagoon, Keyhaven Marsh on May 27th when a female and three young were present. There were no later reports. This follows a record of one at Normandy with five ducklings on May 25th 2008. The male parent of these presumed hybrid young has not been detected.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

A scarce winter visitor and very scarce breeder but also held in collections.

A wing-clipped male was present in the Leckford area (Longstock Water Gardens) as in previous years.

Saker Falcon

Falco cherrug

(Europe to East Asia wintering Africa, Middle East, south Asia).

One at Mengham Infants School, Hayling on Oct 19th – a falconer's bird complete with jesses. The next day it sat in a conifer south of the lifeboat station, Chichester Harbour entrance until it was captured and returned to its owner.

Budgerigar

Melopsittacus undulatus

Escape (Australia).

A blue phase bird flew around the reserve at Sandy Point on July 19th.

Alexandrine Parakeet

Psittacula eupatria

Escape (Indian sub-continent, south Asia) and naturalised Netherlands, Belgium, England.

One was present throughout the year and into 2012 at Lower Pennington Lane and, as typical with this species, was associating with two Ring-necked Parakeets.

APPENDIX 2 - RECORDS PENDING AND NOT PROVEN

Pending Records

Records still under consideration by the British Birds Rarities Committee or HOS
Records Panel:

2011 – BBRC

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: Lymington, Oct 17th.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*: Titchfield Haven Apr 24th.

2010 – BBRC

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: Eling Great Marsh, Aug 30th.

2010 – HOSRP

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: Barton on Sea, Nov 22nd.

2008 – HOSRP

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: Barton on Sea, Oct 28th.

List of Records for which descriptions are required for consideration by BBRC or HOSRP:

2011 – BBRC

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: Farlington Marsh, Sep 9th.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*: Farlington Marsh, Apr 15th.

2011 – HOSRP

American Wigeon *Anas americana*: Needs Ore, Oct 7th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*: Southampton, Aug 30th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*: Milford on Sea, Sep 6th.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*: Titchfield Haven, Oct 15th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Romsey, Nov 28th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: Farley Mount, June 7th.

Serin *Serinus serinus*: Keyhaven, Apr 9th.

Records Not Proven (Records not proven by HOSRP or BBRC)

In the vast 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 because the panel/committee considered a mistake had been made.

2010 – BBRC

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: Titchfield Haven, Sep 26th.

2011 – HOSRP

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*: Titchfield Haven, Mar 26th; Needs Ore, Sep 30th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: Bramley, Nov 10th.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: Blashford Lakes, Oct 24th; Nov 27th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*: Lepe, Sep 6th.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: Romsey, Mar 16th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*: Benyon's Inclosure, NF, Nov 25th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: Hook Links, Oct 16th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: Hambledon, Sep 7th.

APPENDIX 3 – FIRST AND LAST RECORDS

Departure and Arrival Dates of Winter Visitors

	Latest 1954-2010	Average 1971-2010	Latest 2011	Earliest 1954-2010	Average 1971-2010	Earliest 2011	Summering Records
Bewick's Swan	24-Mar-76	13-Mar	06-Mar	15-Oct-04	03-Nov	19-Nov	9 (Apr/May)
White-fronted Goose	20-May-84	29-Mar	07-Mar	05-Oct-52	13-Nov	18-Nov	6 (June-Sep)
Scaup	19-May-77	09-Apr	08-Apr	09-Sep-00	27-Oct	08-Oct	4 (June-Aug)
Long-tailed Duck	27-May-00	04-May	05-May	23-Sep-61	04-Nov	26-Oct	3 (June-Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26-Jun-97	03-May	04-May	29-Sep-91	30-Oct	10-Oct	
Black-throated Diver	06-Jun-07	05-May	06-May	08-Sep-09	04-Nov	19-Dec	2 (May-Aug)
Great Northern Diver	05-Jun-04	12-May	24-May	16-Sep-03	04-Nov	06-Oct	1 (Aug)
Red-necked Grebe	09-May-68	29-Mar	08-Mar	24-Aug-94	18-Oct	11-Nov	
Slavonian Grebe	22-May-59	08-Apr	04-May	18-Sep-09	25-Oct	30-Oct	2 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10-Jun-86	08-May	11-Apr	23-Aug-07	25-Sep	04-Oct	
Merlin	24-May-03	23-Apr	01-May	30-Jul-05	24-Aug	28-Aug	1 (July)
Purple Sandpiper	31-May-61	26-Apr	19-May	07-Jul-69	04-Oct	07-Sep	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	09-May-77	16-Apr	31-Mar	21-Aug-08	28-Sep	19-Sep	
Great Grey Shrike	08-May-83	05-Apr	10-Apr	04-Oct-72	17-Oct	28-Oct	
Fieldfare	23-May-80	29-Apr	17-Apr	03-Sep-04	30-Sep	07-Sep	4 (June)
Redwing	12-May-81	23-Apr	07-Apr	11-Sep-99	27-Sep	08-Oct	2 (June)
Water Pipit	06-May-98	16-Apr	29-Apr	26-Sep-93	14-Oct	13-Oct	
Brambling	13-May-83	19-Apr	22-Apr	22-Sep-96	05-Oct	12-Oct	1 (July)



Purple Sandpiper – Ian Williamson

Arrival and Departure Dates of Summer Visitors

	Earliest 1954-2010	Average 1971-2010	Earliest 2011	Latest 1954-2010	Average 1971-2010	Latest 2011	Wintering Records
Garganey	02-Mar-03	19-Mar	06-Apr	29-Nov-53	28-Sep	29-Sep	
Quail	09-Apr-91	17-May	01-May	19-Nov-58	23-Aug	08-Sep	6 (Dec-Mar)
Honey-buzzard ¹	18-Apr-10	30-Apr	27-Apr	30-Oct-76	02-Oct	09-Oct	
Montagu's Harrier	08-Apr-79	02-May	21-Apr	02-Nov-60	28-Aug	30-Apr	
Osprey	07-Feb-07	04-Apr	26-Mar	11-Dec-99	15-Oct	01-Nov	
Hobby	16-Mar-02	11-Apr	31-Mar	06-Nov-01 ²	11-Oct	28-Oct	
Stone-curlew	05-Feb-06	26-Mar	31-Mar	06-Nov-66	02-Oct	26-Sep	2 (Dec)
Little Ringed Plover	29-Feb-08	17-Mar	12-Mar	29-Oct-08	18-Sep	11-Sep	
Wood Sandpiper	23-Mar-03	03-May	28-Apr	26-Oct-75	21-Sep	15-Sep	1 (Feb)
Pomarine Skua	09-Mar-95	24-Apr	23-Apr	17-Nov-63	14-Oct	13-Nov	9 (Dec/Jan)
Arctic Skua	16-Mar-09	07-Apr	09-Apr	25-Nov-00	27-Oct	23-Oct	12 (Dec/Jan)
Little Tern	24-Mar-57	10-Apr	07-Apr	22-Oct-72	29-Sep	02-Oct	1 (Jan)
Black Tern	11-Apr-79	22-Apr	10-Apr	15-Nov-67	06-Oct	01-Oct	
Common Tern	17-Mar-03	05-Apr	30-Mar	30-Nov-73	25-Oct	6-Nov	3 (Dec)
Roseate Tern	21-Apr-96 ³	03-May	17-Apr	10-Oct-99	10-Sep	03-Sep	
Arctic Tern	29-Mar-58	20-Apr	10-Apr	19-Nov-08	09-Oct	30-Oct	
Turtle Dove	25-Mar-70	17-Apr	10-Apr	07-Nov-70	03-Oct	22-Sep	5 (Dec-Feb)
Cuckoo	15-Mar-89	03-Apr	29-Mar	11-Oct-86	14-Sep	02-Sep	
Nightjar	22-Apr-09	05-May	23-Apr	13-Oct-74	08-Sep	06-Sep	1 (Nov) ⁴
Swift	02-Apr-09	16-Apr	17-Apr	17-Nov-74	05-Oct	24-Sep	
Sand Martin	27-Feb-90	15-Mar	09-Mar	19-Nov-04	15-Oct	30-Sep	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23-Feb-09	20-Mar	16-Mar	22-Dec-77	27-Nov	19-Nov	6 (Jan)
House Martin	10-Feb-04	27-Mar	13-Mar	22-Dec-82	17-Nov	09-Nov	2 (Jan/Feb)
Wood Warbler	01-Apr-06	19-Apr	06-Apr	29-Sep-64	24-Aug	26-July	
Willow Warbler	15-Mar-09	25-Mar	20-Mar	01-Dec-90	09-Oct	15-Oct	
Garden Warbler	17-Mar-74	10-Apr	08-Apr	29-Nov-87	02-Oct	29-Oct	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	01-Apr-89	15-Apr	08-Apr	31-Oct-82	02-Oct	09-Oct	8 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	07-Mar-97	08-Apr	03-Apr	17-Nov-95	06-Oct	28-Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Grasshopper Warbler	01-Apr-97	16-Apr	07-Apr	20-Oct-01	19-Sep	02-Oct	
Sedge Warbler	17-Mar-63	07-Apr	26-Mar	09-Nov-63	10-Oct	16-Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	01-Apr-94	13-Apr	03-Apr	02-Dec-84	20-Oct	18-Oct	
Ring Ouzel	03-Mar-96	30-Mar	10-Mar	04-Dec-03	30-Oct	09-Nov	5 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	08-Apr-00	28-Apr	16-Apr	29-Oct-61	02-Oct	09-Oct	
Nightingale	03-Apr-75	14-Apr	06-Apr	09-Oct-85	21-Aug	20-Aug	
Redstart	17-Mar-68	03-Apr	28-Mar	24-Nov-89	14-Oct	18-Oct	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21-Mar-68	17-Apr	10-Apr	21-Dec-03	28-Oct	17-Oct	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	06-Feb-89	11-Mar	08-Mar	31-Dec-94	10-Nov	15-Nov	3 (Jan)
Pied Flycatcher	26-Mar-96 ⁵	13-Apr	14-Apr	22-Oct-77	27-Sep	17-Sep	
Yellow Wagtail	10-Mar-68	31-Mar	27-Mar	20-Nov-76	19-Oct	07-Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16-Mar-92 ⁶	29-Mar	02-Apr	25-Oct-79	04-Oct	07-Oct	

Notes

¹ the average date data run starts in 2003, not 1971. ⁴ 1958 record under review (DFB, JMC)

² also 06-Nov-10

⁵ also 26-Mar-05

³ also 21-Apr-03

⁶ also 16-Mar-03

First for Hampshire – Spectacled Warbler

Philip Hack & Nigel Jones



Spectacled Warbler – Dan Powell

Abstract

Hampshire's first Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* was present at Needs Ore Point Nature Reserve, near Beaulieu from Oct 29th/30th 2011. This sighting constitutes the seventh British record.

The following is an account of the finding and subsequent observations of the bird.

Day 1 (Philip Hack)

In the early afternoon of Saturday Oct 29th 2011, I visited Needs Ore Point NR for a few hours of birdwatching. I have had an annual permit for this private nature reserve for more than 20 years. After bird watching around the Point and seeing a number of migrant Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis* amongst the wintering Rock Pipits *A. petrosus*, I re-parked my car near the Shore Hide and proceeded to walk along the hedge-lined path to the other hides which overlook the Blackwater River. Apart from some Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus* at the start of the path, few other passerines were seen.

However, upon reaching the end, I noticed a small-sized *Sylvia* type warbler species land very briefly on the barbed wire fence just to the left of the footpath gate. The bird was only present for a few seconds (before flying off behind the field hedge to the left), but I had a very clear near head-on view at a distance of 4-5 metres. As it was so close, even without binoculars, I knew immediately what it was – a male Spectacled Warbler!

Description

The main diagnostic features in my initial brief view were as follows:

- slate grey head;
- white throat;

- pale off-white/pink underparts;
- bright yellow/orange legs;
- bright uniform/'solid' rufous left wing.

The bird was looking at me partly head-on and slightly to my left. It was noticeably smaller than a Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, being more like a Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* in size and structure, i.e. with rounded head and a fine bill. With each of my later views, I concentrated on a different aspect of the bird. My observations during this time (on about eight separate occasions, totalling around four minutes) were as follows:

Head

Overall slate grey (rather reminiscent of a male Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* in colour); darker around the lores and face. This accentuated the distinct white eye-ring, which was most noticeable above and below the eye.

Throat

White (to off-white) in colour and neat in shape/size.

Underparts

Overall pale/off-white, with an indistinct pale pink area, mainly on the front breast.

Wings

Most obvious was the uniform/'solid' bright rufous secondaries, tertials and greater coverts. The primaries were paler brown. A short primary projection was noted, i.e. the tip of the primaries only reaching the upper-tail coverts, not as far as the tail itself. Dark centres to the tertials were present but difficult to see.

Mantle

Pale uniform brown, extending up on to nape.

Tail

It appeared to be fairly long. However, this was an illusion caused by the tips of the primaries not extending past the upper-tail coverts – so it was actually quite short in comparison to the length of the body. Thin in shape and squared at the end. Pale grey-brown in colour, but on at least one occasion pure white outer feathers could be seen. When the bird was moving the tail was often held slightly upwards and occasionally flicked.

Bare Parts

The bill was small and fine; pale but darker towards the tip. The legs were bright yellow/orange in colour.

Behaviour

It often sat on the barbed-wire fence along the hedge. Only twice was it seen briefly sat in clear view on top of the hedge, e.g. like a Whitethroat. During my observations it was not heard to call.

Discussion

After my initial sighting, I spent around 45 minutes looking for it along the thick 50 metre hedge from the public side. There was no sign of it. However, I then felt viewing from the private side of the hedge might be better, where the sun/warmth would be. Shortly afterwards the bird reappeared 'flitting' low in the hedge just above the tall, pale, dead underbrush!

The bird was observed well with binoculars, at a distance of around 8-10 metres, on brief occasions over the next hour. I then decided that someone else should support my sightings, but rather unusually for a Saturday afternoon nobody else was around! So, I telephoned the Reserve Warden (Adam Wells), as is the procedure when finding rare birds on the Reserve.

After a short wait, Adam arrived with a colleague. We quickly relocated the bird low down in the hedge and he agreed with my identification.

On returning home I telephoned Mike Rafter, but with no success. He returned my call at lunch-time the following day and then departed to the Reserve. There he met Nigel Jones, who relocated the bird.

Following the criteria described by Shirihihi *et al.* (1991) and Small (1996) I believe the bird was an adult (rather than a first-winter) male, for the following reasons:

- the dark lores/face;
- extent/colour of the uniform grey head;
- some pale pink wash on the breast.

This was my first sighting of a Spectacled Warbler in Britain, following previous observations of birds mainly from Fuerteventura (Canary Islands) in October 2001. It followed a report of another male from north Norfolk in early May 2011 (website: *BBRC*). Previously the last record in Britain was of a male briefly at Westleton Heath (Suffolk) on one date in early May 2008 (Small 2008). The Hampshire sighting represents only the second autumn record for the UK and the first of an evident male. The other autumn bird being of a first winter/female present on Tresco, Isles of Scilly for about a week from mid October 2000 (Broyd 2000).

Interestingly, unofficially, this may not have been the first for Hampshire. A male was reported to have been seen well one day in mid April 1988, but the record was eventually rejected by the *BBRC* (Thomas *et al.* 1998). By a rather strange coincidence, the location of the 1988 bird was close by at Lepe Country Park, i.e. on the opposite side of the mouth of the Beaulieu River.

Day 2 (Nigel Jones)

My wife Sandy and I visited Needs Ore on Sunday Oct 30th at around midday. I looked in the log book and chuckled when I saw that someone had claimed a 'male Spectacled Warbler' the day before! There are often bird species written in the log book which have to be taken with a pinch of salt. However, I spent the next 20 minutes looking in the area with no success; so we drove to the eastern point of the reserve and had a coffee and hoped the cold, drizzly conditions might improve. I phoned a couple of friends to see if they could shed any light on the sighting, but they also laughed – but asked to be kept informed, just in case!

Another half hour search produced nothing so we went to the hides. On returning we bumped into Mike Rafter (MR) who said he had spoken with the finder and felt sure that it was a good record. However, Mike had also drawn a blank in relocating it and he went off to the hides. Sandy and I spent another 20 minutes looking and then fine drizzle set in, so she went back to the car. After ten more minutes I was walking back and decided to get my trusty i-pod out and play Spectacled Warbler song. After a minute of playing a small bird perched in the top of a Blackthorn, next to the path, about 5m away – a male Spectacled Warbler! I watched it for a minute noting the key features, then followed it down the path and watched it feed. I ran to the hide and found MR and we came back and relocated the bird in one of the hedges. Sandy also returned and we watched it for five minutes as it fed and preened. The weather was cold and overcast still and it was now getting into late afternoon. I phoned a few people who I knew



Record photographs of male Spectacled Warbler, Needs Ore, Oct 30th – Nigel Jones

were around that day and made sure we had someone with some photographic gear as I knew photos of the bird would be a good idea to make sure the record was accepted. (I was one of the original finders of a bird on Fair Isle in 1979, which was briefly a 'First for Britain' before it was removed because it lacked enough supporting evidence for a first record [Lansdown 1991]!) Within 40 minutes a small group had assembled and we all got brief views and took descriptions, along with some poor photo record shots (see photo montage), before dusk settled and we left the bird to go to its roost.

We all noted the large rufous wing panel, the small dark centres to the tertials, the short primary extension, yellowy legs, slate grey head, dark lores, obvious pale eye ring, white throat and pinkish suffused underparts. It was a striking bird and was definitely a male (looking at the literature all birds have undergone a moult by the end of October, so whether it was an adult I cannot be sure).

Unfortunately, next morning the bird could not be re-found and we presumed it had succumbed to the cold of the night, been predated, or departed.

Conclusions

Spectacled Warbler is a species present in the breeding season across the Mediterranean, from Morocco in the west to Italy and Libya in the east. Birds in the east of the region are also seen in the Middle East, i.e. Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and parts of Syria. A distinctive endemic subspecies *Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis* occurs on the Canary Islands and Madeira. There are only a handful of records from Northern Europe.

The origin of this bird can never be known for certain. However, the presence of strong southerly winds on to the south coast of Britain in the preceding days suggests movement from the larger more migratory Western Mediterranean (Iberian) population (Thomas *et al.* 1998). This theory is somewhat supported by the sighting of an African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti* at Alicante (Spain) on the previous day, i.e. Oct 28th 2011 (website: Rare Birds in Spain). This species is resident in north-west Africa and therefore its appearance in Western Europe is even more unusual.

Acknowledgements

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House Sparrows in Romsey

David Thelwell



Pair of House Sparrows and White Admiral on Honeysuckle – David Thelwell

Introduction

Are sparrows declining? Should we be worried? Do they have a patchy distribution in Romsey? These were the questions I posed myself when I decided to survey the whole of the built area of Romsey. Not surprisingly to me, despite all the literature, the species seemed to be widespread and numerous. The House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* is a common, noisy, ubiquitous species that is largely ignored by birdwatchers and ornithologists. It has been widely reported that numbers of the species have declined, but in my home town of Romsey, it still seems to be quite numerous. I wanted to find out exactly how numerous and widespread House Sparrows are.

The House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

The House Sparrow is a familiar and abundant species, which originated in the Middle East, and spread with farming to most of Europe and north Africa. It has extended its range in northern Europe since the 1850s to Iceland. Although living close to man, in Asia the species can live in all habitats except dense forest. It breeds in holes and dense vegetation and also in buildings and even mine-shafts. Sparrows are social nesters and probably need a minimum number of pairs to maintain a viable population.

The Latin word *passer*, like the English word *sparrow*, is a term for small active birds, coming from a root word referring to speed. Sparrow is derived from the word *spar*, which means 'to quiver' and is also related to the Old English seventh century *sucga* and sixth century German *spoerl*, both meaning 'a sparrow'; other roots include: German *sperling*; Old English *spearwa* and Greek *spergoulis*, 'a small field bird'. British dialectal names include: *sparr*, *sparrer*, *spadger*

and *spadgick*, mainly in southern England; *spug* and *spuggy*, mainly in northern England and *spur* and *sprig*, mainly in Scotland.

Recent National Surveys and Historical Accounts

The BTO's Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) has been monitoring common birds in Britain for 16 years and has recorded a 20% decline of House Sparrows over that time. They also estimate that the species has declined by 71% since 1977. The RSPB say that the population has dropped by 62% in the last 25 years in Britain. The decline has been particularly noted in southern counties. Marchant *et al.* (1990) say '*the index values given suggest that the decline may have been about 15-20% over the last ten years*' (referring to the period 1980-90) and '*most reports of local declines come from southern England*'.

The reasons for the decline have been blamed on many sources: from traffic pollution, pet cats and 'leylandii' hedges, to mobile phone masts, plastic guttering and loss of suitable food supplies. It may be a combination of all of these. In 2000 the Independent Newspaper offered a £5000 prize to anyone who could discover the root cause. Kate Vincent worked on such a study as a PhD project at De Montfort University, Leicester, and concluded it was due to the loss of green spaces within British cities through development on green space, tree removal and the conversion of front gardens for parking. The study published in the Journal of Animal Conservation (2008) also concluded that the lack of adequate insect food for young was one of the main causes of their decline. At www.housesparrow.org she states; 'The combined effects of relatively high rates of chick starvation and low body masses at fledging (and consequently low post-fledging survival) observed in suburban localities are large enough to result in rapid population declines.'

Although sparrows eat a lot of seed and grain they are very dependent on an insect diet to feed small chicks during the breeding season. A pair of House Sparrows needs to raise five young a year to keep the population stable. Chamberlain *et al.* (2007) found that House Sparrows are more likely to occur where Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* are present, suggesting predation by the hawks may not be important.

By contrast, Avon (2007) states in a resumé of a survey in Devon in 2005, 'A sample 108 breeding pairs on 60 properties across Devon were monitored and provided a baseline of information for future reference. The good news for House Sparrows was that 58% of members thought their local population was stable and a further 39% reported increasing numbers. Only 3% reported a decrease in House Sparrow populations'. Another five year study in Kingsteignton, South Devon also reported a stable population. Avon adds 'In 2003, the presence of hedgerows was identified as being a key factor in the breeding distribution of House Sparrows in the Kingsteignton Study'.

Much as Sparrows are accepted, when they come into conflict with man, they are given no mercy. In grain-growing farming areas, especially in the 19th century, cash bonuses were paid to cull House Sparrows. Lovegrove (2007) estimates that between 1700 and 1930, around 100 million were deliberately killed. Crick and Toms (2004) illustrate the extent of the persecution, 'in the 18th and 19th centuries most parishes had "Sparrow Clubs" that sought to destroy as many sparrows as possible. Sparrow Money, a bounty paid for dead birds and eggs, could be substantial. For example, in one parish in 1827 alone, £72 5s 8d was paid in Sparrow Money for about 20,000 birds.' Sparrow pie was also a common food, especially for poorer country people.

There are records of small boys being paid a bounty for killing sparrows in Romsey. No doubt other species suffered with them. They were mainly killed in summer and autumn during harvest time, with probably the bulk being young birds. Even today they are regarded as a pest, so pest control companies will help to keep them from nesting in houses, and feeding in gardens. John Latham's 'History of Romsey' (LTVAS) lists bounty paid by the Romsey church wardens for sparrow heads at 2d a dozen between 1786 and 1798. The total adds up to 17,000 sparrows in 12 years. How many more were killed during this time, before and after? In Biblical references,

the sparrow represents the tiny scrap of life that God watches over (Matthew 10:24-31), so it is a little ironic that the church paid money for their destruction.

House Sparrows in Hampshire

All four Birds of Hampshire avifauna (1905-1992) on the whole give very limited information about the status of House Sparrows, apart from stating they are abundant. Kelsall and Munn (1905) echo attitudes of the time, when they write: 'It is a happy privilege for those who live in the New Forest, to be able to walk the whole day without seeing this bird.' They also mention that: 'Miss Yonge... tells us in 'John Keble's Parishes', the farmer who lived in her house at Otterbourne... made it his business to exterminate the village sparrows.' Cohen (1963) gives little information about the status of the species in Hampshire, with just a few odd anecdotal observations, apart from one observation by Meinertzhagen, that in the village of Mottisfont, 'a big reductionfrom an estimated 220 to 290 breeding pairs in the [eighteen] nineties to only 130 to 160 pairs between 1935 and 1945.' Today, even that would be a high number. Taverner (1972) says even less, stating 'no significant change in status seems to have occurred since K & M'. I find this hard to believe, although this preceded the current sharp decline, but I think that there had been no attempt to assess population sizes over that period. Clark and Eyre (1993) confirmed with evidence from the BTO Breeding Atlas that House Sparrows occurred in 94% of tetrads and were only really absent in parts of the New Forest, sparsely populated areas of chalk downland and some coastal saltmarsh. They state that 'National CBC data for 1989, the New Atlas method indicates a population of around 15,000 pairs... though the true figure may be 40-60,000 pairs.' 'The Hampshire population is essentially sedentary and there is little evidence of movement except on the coast'.



Photo 1: House Sparrows in central Romsey – David Thelwell

A survey by Hampshire County Council (2010) with more limited coverage than the BTO/HOS Breeding Atlas, noted that 'half the breeding sites were in roofs, followed by hedges and nest boxes as the next most popular places'. The report adds 'we received multiple records of sparrow nests up telegraph poles, in air vents, within conifers and abandoned House Martin nests'. The survey was unable to give any evidence of numbers or whether a decline was occurring. It seems that there has never been a thorough survey of any one population of House Sparrows in Hampshire.

Romsey and the Survey Area

Romsey is a small market town on the river Test, north of the port city of Southampton. It is a crossing point of the Test valley between Winchester and the New Forest, the town having grown up on the eastern banks of the river, surrounded by farmland and woodland. The Norman Abbey, which is the largest parish church in Hampshire, dates from 907ad and is surrounded by medieval streets and a number of mills. In the last seventy years, Romsey has grown rapidly from the tiny market town that brought its wealth. The river Test is also one of the best and most famous chalk stream trout fisheries in the world.

The growth of the town has been to the east and north, due to the fact that the river and meadows lie to the west, and Broadlands Estate occupies a large area to the south. According to Lambert (<http://www.localhistories.org/romsey.html>), during the Middle Ages the population was around 1000. The first census of 1801 gave a population of 4,274. Today it is around 15,000 and rising fast. There has been much infilling and presently another 800 houses are being built at Abbotswood. The maps in Figure 1 below show the change in shape and size of the town over the last hundred years. The continuing growth in and around Romsey must have had significant influence on the size and density of the House Sparrow population (Photo 1).

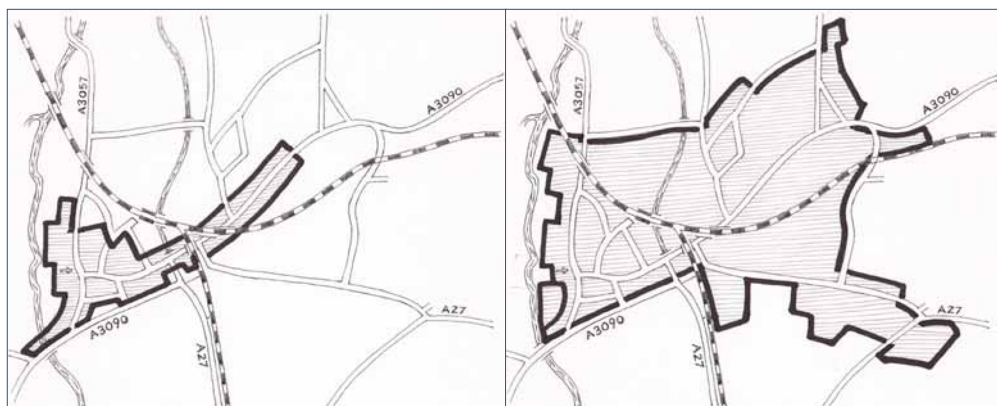


Figure 1: Extent of Romsey in 1897 (left) and 2011 (right).

Methodology of the Survey

The lack of solid data and the concern about the decline of House Sparrows gave me the incentive to explore the situation in my local area. Many comments have been made about a decline in the sparrow population, but as I have observed large noisy flocks, even in the middle of Romsey, I decided to see if it was possible to actually count all the House Sparrows in the town. For my method of counting, I made a map of the housing areas and divided the town into manageable chunks, as shown in Figure 2. I then set out to walk and, in some cases cycle, around all the roads looking for sparrows. As sparrows are largely sedentary, I chose to do the counts during the winter when the whole population would be present generally gathered in small tight noisy flocks which would help counting.

It was essential to pick up most of the birds by sound as they are very adept at disappearing into the background and being well camouflaged by dense vegetation. Walking and cycling around Romsey, I was quickly able to pick up any sign of sparrows' presence. Their preference for relatively low, dense bushes meant that often it was not possible to see all the birds present and sometimes necessary to estimate the numbers. The advantage of observing birds in the town is that almost every corner is accessible by road or footpath. The disadvantage is the problem of spending time peering into people's small gardens, without raising suspicions.

The counts were done on nine dates between January 14th and February 5th 2011 and lasted between 1-3 hours, but were not carried out too near dusk when birds had gone to roost

and so had become silent. Counting and estimating methods were more likely to have resulted in under-counting rather than over-counting.

The counts were divided into blocks of housing which varied between:

- (a) narrow streets, with small areas of garden
- (b) dense housing estates, with scattered bushy gardens and
- (c) large houses on wide roads with large well tended gardens containing large trees and bushes.

The survey involved covering all the urban spaces of Romsey and counting all the sparrows as well as possible, given the obvious constraints. Ideally, roosting sparrows utilise dense bushes, varying from 2-5 m in height, especially in old established hedgerows. They prefer evergreen bushes that provide more protection from weather and are fond of ivy on buildings or bushes, especially hawthorn.

Results

The results are summarised in Table 1. Figure 2 shows the distribution of count areas with dates and the numbers of birds counted. The area of medieval streets around Romsey Abbey had a relatively low density of sparrows, or maybe they had vacated that area during the winter. Properties with large gardens were less easily accessible, but seemed to have a much lower density of sparrows. Large gardens also had many mature trees that are not favoured by sparrows, which prefer lower scattered bushes. Other areas had a much higher density, notably the relatively new housing areas at Fishlake Meadows, Harefield, Halterworth and Woodley. Perhaps the highest densities noted were on the periphery of these housing areas, where sparrows had easy access to open fields and hedgerows. Notable were the very low numbers at Whitenap and Abbotswood/Cupernham where the houses are bounded by woodland. Likewise an area called The Crescent, with large gardens and tall trees, was almost devoid of sparrows. Surprisingly, the newer densely populated housing estates contained the highest numbers of sparrows. Some typical habitats used by House Sparrows are shown in photos 2 & 3.

Table 1: Survey results by type of housing area. The count areas were bounded by roads and not strictly by house and garden size. Also, one industrial area was included as housing estate as birds were in adjoining hedge next to housing.

Type of Area	Number of Areas	Sparrow Count
Pre-1900 area with narrower streets	7	177
Industrial areas	2	0
Large house areas with gardens and mature trees	6	45
Post 1900 housing estate areas	20	985
Total	35	1207

Although I was aware that there were a few areas of Romsey that held high numbers of sparrows, I was surprised how widely they were distributed, being found in virtually all areas. The final counts were also higher than expected, with a total of 1207 birds, which seemed to indicate a healthy population. It would be safe to assume that in autumn, numbers were two to three times higher than this, if not more, and may rise to 3-5000 birds.

A Romsey resident, Elizabeth Pratt (*in litt.*), has kept weekly records of House Sparrow numbers in her Harefield garden since 1996. They give a useful insight into the population in one garden over 15 years. Elizabeth's records show a constant presence, with not surprisingly, higher numbers from June onwards, when young birds are starting to emerge. Counts are normally between one and five, with numbers generally increasing to eleven to twenty in summer and autumn. During the late 1990s she had consistently higher numbers, with up to 20 in early winter of 1998. During 2006-8 there were consistently low numbers all year, but the highest ever counts were of 23 (week 34) and 30 (week 50) in 2009. Inevitably, the population rises and falls, even if there is an actual decline.

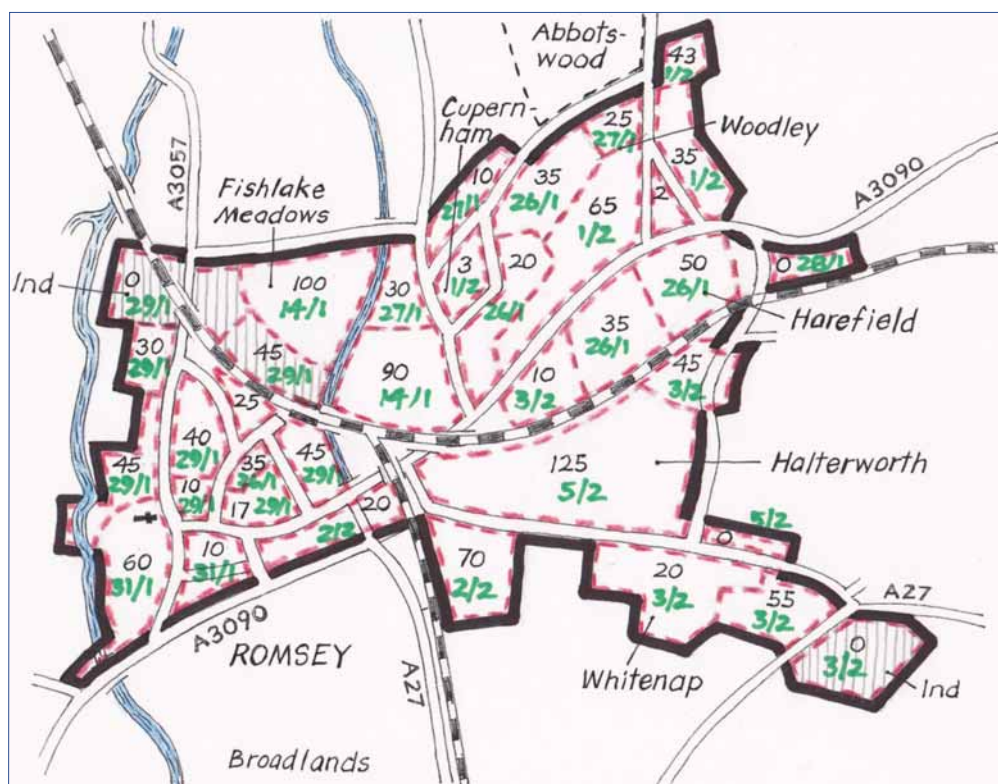


Figure 2: Survey areas and House Sparrow numbers counted (black numbers) on 2011 dates (green).



Photos 2 & 3: Typical habitats – left: trees and bushes by houses, Harefield; right: ivy-covered wall, central Romsey – David Thelwell

Discussion

House Sparrows have a close association with humans and have suffered the consequences, but ultimately they are welcomed in urban areas and there has been some concern that they have declined sharply. Sparrows surely, are good indicators of the natural environment, especially the human environment.

This complete (as far as it can be) survey of a town, seems to indicate that on the whole, House Sparrows are present in good numbers and given a good supply of summer and winter

food, suitable nesting and roosting sites, will continue to be so. House Sparrows, by their very nature are difficult to survey accurately (preferring as they do to hide in dense shrubbery and private gardens), but my method seemed to be the easiest way of counting a species, that otherwise is surprisingly difficult to survey.

As shown above, the House Sparrow is still a widespread and abundant species in Romsey. Also, with the growth of new housing, Romsey has given them more habitat to occupy. It is, therefore, quite probable that House Sparrows have increased in the town rather than declined, and will continue to do so, as more buildings occupy former open countryside.

No survey has been done of Hampshire farms, but with modernisation, lack of spilt grain, and increased monoculture, sparrows must surely have been hit very hard. A new survey of Mottisfont might show a greatly reduced population since the one in the early 20th century. Although House Sparrows have withstood prolonged persecution, it is the huge changes in farming and insect populations that have had the real effect on any decline in the rural parts of Hampshire.

The website 'Guernsey Birds' (see References) sums it up quite well quoting Smith's comments, which also describe what has happened in Hampshire, 'During the 1800s House Sparrows were thought of as a pest and there was a bounty on the birds and their eggs... The change from a farming system dominated by mixed cropping to one dominated by intensive grass production will have severely reduced the amount of food available to birds in the wider countryside. At the end of the 1900s very little cereal was grown on the island... This loss of cereal production and consequent loss of seed-rich environments such as hay ricks and grain stores coupled with the loss of suitable nesting areas through barn conversions and improvement in roof design is probably the major reason that House Sparrows are now restricted to areas inhabited by man.'



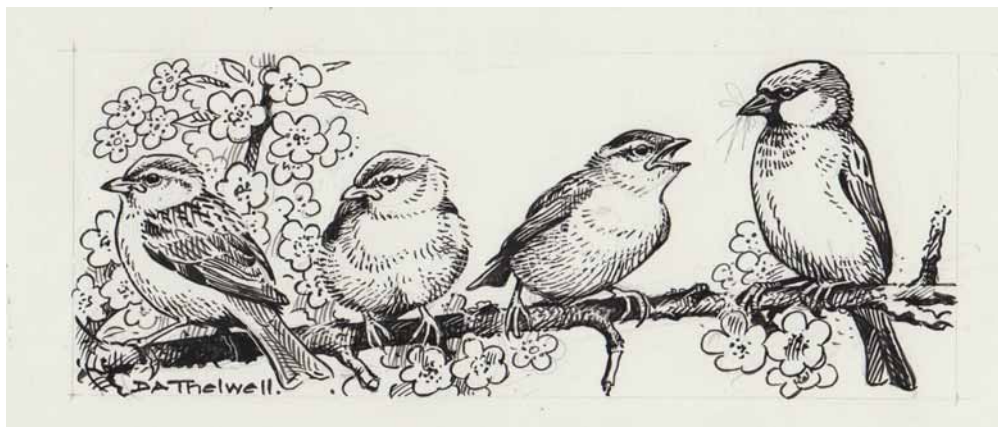
Photos 4 & 5: Sparrow nest boxes on modern houses (left: Whitenap – *Kelvin Pearce*; right: Cupernham – *David Thelwell*).

Conclusion

House Sparrows are very adaptable but do benefit from undisturbed, established hedgerows, untrimmed bushes and scrub and the provision of nestboxes (see Photos 4 & 5), to counteract the use of plastic fascias and soffits, which prevents them finding suitable nest holes in roofs. The answers to my initial question are that, probably House Sparrows are not in decline in Romsey; we should not be worried at this time as they seem well distributed over the whole of this urban area, at least. The survey total House Sparrow count was 1,207. This is thought to be a minimum estimate of the Romsey population so probably the total is somewhere between 1500 and 2000.

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House Sparrow family – David Thelwell

Birds of Winchester Sewage Works

John Cloyne



Wood Sandpiper – David Thelwell

Abstract

This report is a summary of the status of the 170 species of bird recorded at Winchester Sewage Works, Hampshire up to the end of 2011 and highlights the site's wildlife importance.

Introduction

One of Hampshire's most important yet least known inland sites for birds lies alongside the M3 motorway in the Chilcomb valley on the edge of Winchester. Established in about 1880 by Winchester Council and now owned by Southern Water, Winchester Sewage Works has proved to be one of Hampshire's premier inland localities for birds, especially for waders. The site lies within the boundary of the South Downs National Park.

Since at least the beginning of the 20th century, sewage farms, as then known due to their often dual use for growing crops, have been recognised as havens for wildlife and in particular for attracting wading birds on migration. However most have now been modernised making them less attractive to birds. Winchester is unusual in retaining the old method of distributing treated effluent onto the land. Being situated on the chalk, this has proved an effective means of disposal as the permeable soil not only enables the effluent to soak away effectively but filters, cleanses and returns the water to the aquifer. In recent years additional processes have been introduced to purify the effluent before distribution to the ground.

Rather surprisingly, in view of the attention given by ornithologists to other sewage works, Winchester was not 'discovered' as an important ornithological site until 1962 when regular observations commenced. However there are just a few earlier sightings from boy naturalists at Winchester College dating back to 1890. Some ringing took place between 1999 and 2004, when over 1,500 birds of 50 species were ringed. **The area is strictly private but can be viewed from the adjacent downland known as Deacon Hill which has 'right to roam' access.**



Two views of Winchester Sewage Works (August 2012) – John Cloyne

The site was affected by the building of the M3 motorway and associated road works in the 1990s. At about the same time a new treatment plant was built, the previous plant having been on the nearby St Catherine's Hill. These developments resulted in some loss of ground and habitat, of which the demise of an old chalk pit and damage to trees and various hedgerows had a deleterious effect on bird-life for a time. However, replacement planting has matured and most of the damage has now been mitigated. The current area is about 75 hectares.

The secluded and largely undisturbed areas away from the treatment plant incorporate a variety of habitats, including:

- lagoons with marginal vegetation including some developing reed-beds;
- fields interspersed with numerous ditches that vary between wet and dry depending upon where effluent is being channelled;
- areas of former farmland that have reverted to grassland or rank vegetation (until the late 1970s much of the area was farmed with cereal crops but by the early 1980s the farmed area was much reduced and farming ceased in the mid 1980s);
- extensive areas of mature hedges and small patches of, largely planted, woodland.

Each habitat tends to attract its own bird specialities. Of greatest interest are the main and overflow lagoons which are eutrophic lakes prone to algal blooms in high summer and devoid of fish. These lagoons were, in the past, reservoirs for ground-water from the chalk supplemented by water spilling over from the ditches along which purified effluent is channelled, but nowadays water levels are dependent almost entirely on the management regime for the distribution of the effluent. The lagoons attract a wide variety of birds, especially wildfowl, waders, gulls, hirundines and occasional terns. The wet ditch areas, grassland, hedges and trees are also important and provide a varied ecosystem.

Significant Breeding Wetland Birds

Of the 170 bird species recorded up to the end of 2011, 64 have definitely or probably nested. Wetland breeders have included:

- Black-necked Grebe in 1987 (the first ever breeding in Hampshire);
- Little Ringed Plover in several of the years 1980+.

Both of the above are ‘specially protected’ Schedule 1 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

- Gadwall since 1983. This was the first breeding site in Hampshire.
- Shoveler in 1979 and 1986. A scarce breeder in Hampshire.
- Shelduck in 1970 and 1971. Very few breed inland in Hampshire.
- Redshank, Lapwing and Snipe. These species have declined as breeders in Hampshire and at the Sewage Works, with Redshank and Snipe now extinct and Lapwing just hanging on in the breeding season.

Wildfowl, Grebes and Rails

The lagoons are an important attraction. A summary follows for the 27 species which have occurred. Unless otherwise stated, the tables show, for each month, the number of years 1962+ in which birds were seen and the maximum count on any one date:

Shelduck

Bred in 1970 and 1971.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen	9	12	13	23	21	12	4	2	3	4	6	7
Max. excluding young	4	10	6	5	15	4	2	1	1	3	2	6

Wigeon

Only two records pre-1985. Regular winter visitor 1985-2000 but only a spasmodic visitor since.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen 1985+	17	20	11					3	8	7	13	17
Max.	70	23	14					5	4	5	8	28

Gadwall

First recorded in 1981 and has bred in most years 1983 onwards, usually 1-6 broods but 11 pairs which raised 91 young in 2001. Present throughout the year. Monthly maxima (excluding ducklings in June/July):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
283	260	118	95	83	52	45	151	249	214	243	169

Peak annual numbers have increased gradually since the mid-1980s, with the first three-figure count in 2001 and 150+ in each year 2007-11, max. 283 on Jan 25th 2011. The site is one of the most important for Gadwall in Hampshire and recent numbers are approaching the numerical threshold for sites of national importance for this species.

Teal

Common outside the breeding season although breeding season records have been by no means unusual. Occasional nesting has been suspected in the past but never proven. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
216	228	150	84	5	5	8	73	134	121	197	235

Mallard

Common throughout the year, although numbers have declined. A few broods are seen in most years although predation is believed to restrict breeding success. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
240	160	152	53	53	83	103	150	300	180	161	178

Shoveler

Only three records of 1-2 birds prior to 1979 but increasingly common thereafter. Frequent in spring, presumably prospecting for a nest site, but the only definite breeding was in 1979 and 1986 when females with 9 and 10 ducklings respectively were seen.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen 1979+	20	19	25	27	10	6	12	16	17	14	12	16
Max.	40	39	39	25	6	2	10	20	45	46	58	33

Pochard

An irregular visitor throughout the year, commonest when water levels are high. There has been no attempt to nest in spite of the frequent breeding season occurrences.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen	18	21	20	20	18	14	16	11	11	8	12	15
Max.	74	142	118	24	9	8	9	9	11	6	12	50

The higher monthly maxima can be misleading as these were mainly isolated influxes, often during hard weather. The maximum since 2001 was only 19.

Tufted Duck

Common throughout the year when water levels are suitable and bred in 1979. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
64	73	82	63	46	35	47	23	37	28	32	24

Little Grebe

A regular spring and summer visitor to the lagoons since 1979 although less common in earlier years. Usually scarce in late autumn and winter. A few pairs regularly take up breeding territories but most are thwarted by declining water levels. However at least 1-2 pairs bred successfully in a number of years, with 4 pairs in 2000. In some recent years parties built up from July to September with annual maxima between 15 and 50.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen 1962-78		1	1	1			3	1	2			
Years seen 1979+	7	15	27	30	27	24	26	25	21	15	11	9
Max.	2	4	9	12	9	11	22	50	31	17	4	3

Other Waterbirds

Mute Swan: Usually present in small numbers with occasional breeding. Double-figure flocks at times, maximum 37.

Bewick's Swan: Seven circled overhead before flying off, Feb 8th 1987.

Whooper Swan: Four (2 adults, 2 1st winters) Oct 22nd 2008.

Greylag Goose: Occasional visitor in numbers of 1-3.

Canada Goose: Small numbers regular in spring but has not bred. Larger flocks often present outside the breeding season, maximum 205.

Mandarin Duck: One male on Aug 16th 1981 and 8 (5 males) on Nov 14th 2011.

Pintail: Nine records of 1-4 birds, mainly in winter but once in August and in September.

Garganey: Three spring records of singletons plus 1-3 on many dates from July 21st to Aug 26th 2004.

Ring-necked Duck: One male from Mar 5th to 7th 1990 and from Apr 16th to 20th 1997.

Scaup: One female on Dec 30th 1974.

Goldeneye: 1-3 in five autumns/winters (November to February) plus 1 on May 2nd 1993.

Goosander: One redhead on Nov 28th 2010 and Feb 8th 2011.

Ruddy Duck: 1-2 in six years 1993-2003, all April/May (isolated dates) or August-October.

Black-necked Grebe: A pair reared 2 young in 1987, the first breeding in Hampshire. Otherwise seven records, in May (twice including 3 from May 1st to 7th 1983), August/September (4) and November (1).

Great Crested Grebe: Occasional sightings of 1-2 birds January-July (the majority in April/May) from 1986 onwards, with 3 on May 15th 2010. A pair was nest building in May 2011 but the attempt was quickly abandoned.

Water Rail: Irregular but increasing autumn and winter visitor (August to March) in numbers of 1-2.

Moorhen: Common throughout the year, 1-7 pairs breeding. Counts of 50+ were not uncommon up to the mid-1990s (maximum 120 on Oct 5th 1963) but 27 is the highest count since 2000.

Coot: Common throughout the year. 1-14 pairs breed depending on water levels. In 1993, 21 pairs raised 67 young. Numbers have increased since the late 1970s, the mean annual peak 1979-2011 being 57 and the maximum (excluding young) 122.

Cormorant, Egrets and Herons

A summary for the five species is as follows:

Cormorant: Irregular but not uncommon visitor, seen in all months. Mainly 1-2, very occasionally parties of up to 12 flying over.

Cattle Egret: One on July 15th 1998.

Little Egret: 1-2 on twenty-five dates 1996 onwards, over half in July-September.

Grey Heron: Regular visitor seen in all months, mainly 1-4 but occasionally up to 8 from June to September and with up to 14 in July/August 1981.

Purple Heron: One on June 2nd 1996.

Waders

Occurrences are usually dependent on the level of water at the lagoons at passage times as muddy margins are generally needed to attract these birds. Numbers have declined from the heydays of the 1960s and 1970s, probably due to the now vastly-improved quality of the treated effluent. In those days it was possible to see double-figure numbers of passage waders of perhaps six species on any one day at the peak migration period of mid-August whereas only a few might be seen today. A summary follows for the 28 species which have occurred. Unless otherwise stated, the tables show, for each month, the number of years 1962+ in which they occurred, the minimum number of new arrivals (except for the most common species) and the maximum count on any one date.

Little Ringed Plover

Regular on passage and bred in some years 1980+.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen			8	12	19	17	23	11	2	1		
Max.			3	4	6	5	9	2	1	1		

Golden Plover

Formerly a not uncommon autumn and winter visitor (flocks present or birds flying over) although scarce in the last few years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen	16	13	5	2				1	1	12	16	16
Max.	500+	300+	215	178				1	25	450	600	3,500

Lapwing

Usually present throughout the year. Totals of 10-25 pairs bred regularly up to 1986, mainly on land ploughed for spring-sown cereals. The cessation of farming resulted in less breeding habitat, numbers declining to 1-5 pairs up to 2004, with nests mainly on wet grassland by the main lagoon. Although birds can still be seen in the breeding season, there has been no evidence of successful breeding since 2004. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
750	4,000	350	50	50	139	400	423	450	850	1,500	6,000

Snipe

Common from July or August to April. One or two during the breeding season in at least ten years 1985-97 but not subsequently. 'Drumming' was heard briefly in 1988, 1989 and 1993 and breeding in at least some years seemed likely. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
105	75	66	80+	2	1	17	47	74	115	115	120

Redshank

Formerly a common summer visitor and passage migrant, now only seen on passage; 1-5 pairs bred each year until recently but absent as a breeder 2007 onwards. Since then all records relate to passage birds (1-2 on various dates in all months April to July). Monthly maxima (including locally-bred juveniles in June/July):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	10	14	11	15	11	2	1		1	1

The following table provides monthly data for further regularly occurring species:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Ringed Plover													
Years seen			1	1	8	1	1	9	4	2			
New arrivals			1	1	19	4	2	31	8	3			69
Max.			1	1	6	4	2	5	3	2			
Dunlin													
Years seen		1	3	9	14	1	10	14	9	2	2	1	
New arrivals		6	3	14	27	1	26	21	13	8	4	1	124
Max.		6	1	3	4	1	7	2	3	5	3	1	
Ruff													
Years seen	1	1	3	6	2		5	10	11	2		1	
New arrivals	7	1	7	5	2		6	19	38	3		1	89
Max.	7	1	4	2	1		2	4	11	2		1	
Jack Snipe													
Years seen	7	4	6							6	4	8	
Max.	2	2	3							1	3	5	
Black-tailed Godwit													
Years seen	1		1	1		1	6	8					
New arrivals	1		1	1		1	12	30					46
Max.	1		1	1		1	6	7					
Common Sandpiper													
Years seen				26	33	6	38	40	23	9			
Max.				4	6	5	9	13	7	3			
Green Sandpiper													
Years seen	13	11	16	18	1	19	37	42	36	21	18	15	
Max.	2	2	3	2	1	5	12	14	10	5	4	3	
Spotted Redshank													
Years seen							1	4	4				
New arrivals							1	11	4				16
Max.							1	3	1				
Greenshank													
Years seen				5	9	1	15	31	9	1			
New arrivals				5	12	1	30	104	12	1			165
Max.				1	3		4	10	6	1			
Wood Sandpiper													
Years seen					5	2	9	9	1				
New arrivals					7	2	11	10	1				31
Max.					1	1	2	2	1				

Other Waders

Oystercatcher: 1-2 on three dates (February, July and August).

Black-winged Stilt: One on May 17th 1987.

Avocet: A spectacular 19 on Nov 14th 2011.

Sanderling: 1-2 on three dates (April and May).

Little Stint: 6-7 individuals in four autumns (July to October) plus up to 8 from Sep 15th to 29th 1996 during a national influx.

Temminck’s Stint: One from Aug 16th to 19th 2004.

Pectoral Sandpiper: One from Sep 10th to 27th 2001.

Curlew Sandpiper: One on May 28th 2005. 1-3 in three autumns (September).

Woodcock: One on four dates November to February, the last in 1991.

Whimbrel: 1-3 on three dates (April and August).

Curlew: 1-2 on four dates (January, February, September and December).

Turnstone: One on May 12th 1982.

Grey Phalarope: One from Oct 4th to 9th 2001.

Gulls and Terns

A summary for the 15 species which have occurred is as follows:

Black-headed Gull

Common throughout the year although usually only small numbers in the breeding season. Although nesting did not occur, a pair appeared to be holding territory at some time mid-Apr to early May in 1979, 1994 and 1996. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1800+	1100	1682	431	100	54	613	825	1188	1200	900	1200

Mediterranean Gull

A scarce but increasing visitor from 1998 onwards, all singletons apart from 4 on July 17th 2011. The following table shows, for each month, the number of years in which they occurred:

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

Common Gull

A common winter visitor and passage migrant. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
96	94	80	302	24		9	6	3	31	162	70

Lesser Black-backed Gull

A regular visitor, usually in small numbers, which has become increasingly common in recent years. They now occur in all months (including June since 1996). The highest numbers are usually at times of spring and autumn passage although quite large winter counts are not unknown. The following table shows, for each month, the number of years 1962+ in which they were seen and the maximum count on any one date:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Years seen	19	16	19	21	19	13	19	21	17	12	19	20
Max.	27	9	16	34	26	6	26	30	19	5	15	13

Herring Gull

A regular visitor, formerly on passage and in winter but now in all months. Usually commonest on spring and autumn passage although high winter counts are not unknown. Totals of 500 on Sep 28th 1963, 200+ on Feb 20th 1972 and 320 on Dec 28th 1976 were exceptional. Otherwise the highest count was 189 on Oct 29th 2011. Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
60	200+	30	71	65	36+	14	85	500	189	163	320

Common Tern

The following table shows, for each month, the number of years 1962+ in which they were seen, the minimum number of new arrivals and the maximum count on any one date:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Years seen				2		4	3	2	3				
New arrivals				4		7	4	2	7				24
Max.				2		2	2	1	4				

Other Gulls and Terns

Kittiwake: One shot 1894. One on five further dates (January, March, April, August and November).

Little Gull: One on Aug 25th 2001, Jan 25th 2003 (flying south-west with other gulls towards roost) and Sep 16th 2008.

Yellow-legged Gull: Adults on Jan 14th 2001 (2), Apr 7th and 14th 2008 and May 16th 2009.

Iceland Gull: One 3rd winter on seven dates Jan 3rd to Feb 9th 2006 and an adult on Jan 22nd 2007.

Great Black-backed Gull: Occasional in numbers of 1-2 in recent years, having occurred in all months. Higher counts (5-20) on a small number of dates November-February between 1957 and 1976.

Black Tern: Five occurrences in May and seven in August, all singletons apart from 2 on May 12th 1982 and an unconfirmed report of 6 on May 4th 2000.

White-winged Black Tern: One on Aug 10th 1988.

Sandwich Tern: One on Aug 26th 2010.

Arctic Tern: One on Apr 30th and 4 on May 13th 2002.

Other Bird Species

A further 94 species have been recorded, their status being:

Breeding species

Breed in most or all years: Red-legged Partridge, Pheasant, Kestrel, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Green Woodpecker, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Goldcrest, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Wren, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Robin, Stonechat, Dunnock, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting.

Former breeders

Grey Partridge, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Red-backed Shrike (until at least 1937), Jackdaw (once), Coal Tit (once), Skylark, Grasshopper Warbler (once), Mistle Thrush, Spotted Flycatcher, Meadow Pipit, Starling (once) and Bullfinch.

Non-breeding species

Regular or fairly regular visitors: Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Hobby, Peregrine, Swift, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Rook, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Fieldfare, Redwing, Whinchat and Wheatear.

Occurred either regularly or fairly often in the past but no longer: Hen Harrier, Collared Dove, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail, Water Pipit and Brambling.

Occurred between four and ten times: Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Marsh Tit, White Wagtail, Tree Pipit, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll.

Occurred less than four times (only once unless shown otherwise in brackets): Red Kite (3), Marsh Harrier (2), Osprey (2), Tawny Owl, Nightjar, Kingfisher (2), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (2), Hooded Crow, Raven (3), Bearded Tit, Treecreeper (3), Ring Ouzel, Nightingale, Redstart (3), Pied Flycatcher and Cirl Bunting (in 1959).

Other Wildlife

Vascular Flora

There is an interesting mix of commoner weeds, chalk downland and wetland plants, aliens and occasional species presumed to have arrived in imported materials – with 344 species recorded. The rarest from a Hampshire perspective were a plant of Large-flowered Hemp-nettle *Galeopsis speciosa* in 1986 and 10 plants of Great Lettuce *Lactuca virosa* in 2011.

Invertebrates

Some moth trapping has taken place and careful records kept of butterflies, damselflies/dragonflies and hoverflies, with casual sightings noted of other species. Totals of 26 species of butterfly, 12 damselflies/dragonflies and 33 hoverflies have been recorded. Sightings have included the occasional Chalkhill Blue *Lysandra coridon* and one record each of the Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina* (which has a colony on the adjacent hillside), the Golden-ringed Dragonfly *Cordulegaster boltonii* and the migrant Yellow-winged Darter *Sympetrum flaveolum*. There have been two records of the moth Striped Lychnis *Shargacucullia lychnitis* (a national rarity with a stronghold in the Winchester area and a priority species in the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan) and the Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle *Agapanthia villosoviridescens* has been reported several times recently.

Amphibians, Reptiles and Mammals

Large numbers of Common Toad *Bufo bufo* and Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* were discovered during an ecological assessment in advance of recent enhancements to the treatment works. 19 species of mammal have been recorded. Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* are resident and breed, large parties occurring in winter up to 2005 until affected by horse grazing. Bats are frequent and would warrant study.

Conclusion

This paper is a summary taken from unpublished booklets on the birds, flora and other wildlife compiled from the records of myself and various observers 1962–2011 and from other sources dating back to 1890. A bibliography is in the unpublished work on birds. Even without conservation management the site is of great ecological importance but various improvements could be made for the benefit of wildlife.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Southern Water and their predecessors for permission to visit over the years, without which the undoubted conservation importance of the site would never have been realised. Also to the various observers (including the small, restricted and dedicated group of current key holders) who have contributed records over the years, of whom Ron King and myself have been ever-present since 1962.

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Low tide counts in Langstone Harbour, 2009-2010

John Shillitoe



Grey Plovers in flight over Langstone Harbour – David Thelwell

Abstract

In the winter of 2009/2010, a series of counts of the waterbirds using Langstone Harbour was undertaken at low tide. The results of the survey are summarised, along with maps showing the distribution of various key species.

Introduction

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is a monthly survey (referred to as Core Counts) of major inland and coastal water bodies around Britain, coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) (see References for details of website). The coastal counts are usually carried out at high tide. At this time, wading birds are often concentrated at a limited number of roost sites which remain above high water, and waterfowl usually loaf on the water or feed on fields adjacent to the water body. At high tide, birds can thus be counted relatively easily. However, this does not reflect the importance of the harbour or estuary as a feeding resource, when the mud or saltmarsh are exposed. In 1993, the BTO instigated a series of counts at major coastal sites, to be undertaken at low tide. Each site is surveyed approximately every five years. Counts have been carried out in Langstone Harbour in the winters of 1993/94, 1998/99 and 2003/04. Partial counts of the north east of the harbour were done in 2001/02, 2002/03 and then annually since 2004/05.

Langstone Harbour

Langstone Harbour and its neighbouring harbours, Portsmouth Harbour to the west and Chichester Harbour to the east, form a large interconnected area of sheltered, tidal wetland. At low tide, there are large areas of exposed mud and smaller areas of saltmarsh. The shore line of Langstone Harbour is a mixture of concrete walls to the west and shingle banks and low, earthen sea walls to the east. The land behind the shore line is heavily developed on the west and south-west sides (Portsea Island), with housing, industry and areas of grassland. The northern shore is defined

by the A27(M) motorway, with Farlington Marshes LNR to the west and agriculture, amenity grassland and reclaimed grassland to the east. The eastern and south-eastern shore (Hayling Island) is primarily agricultural, with the West Hayling LNR (known locally as The Oysterbeds) to the north, shoreline housing to the south-east and the Kench LNR to the south. Fresh water feeds into the harbour from the Hermitage and Lymbourne streams in the north-east corner and from a spring flowing through Farlington Marshes.

Methodology

For low tide counts (LTC), the BTO has subdivided the harbour into 37 sectors, which are labelled BL0xx (Figure 1). The sector scheme is inevitably complex, reflecting the size and structure of the harbour. To simplify the presentation of the results, sectors have been grouped together using names appearing on local OS maps. This grouping is shown in Table 1 below. Many sectors can be easily surveyed from the shore line, but others required the use of a boat in order to count mudflats which are distant or hidden from the shore.

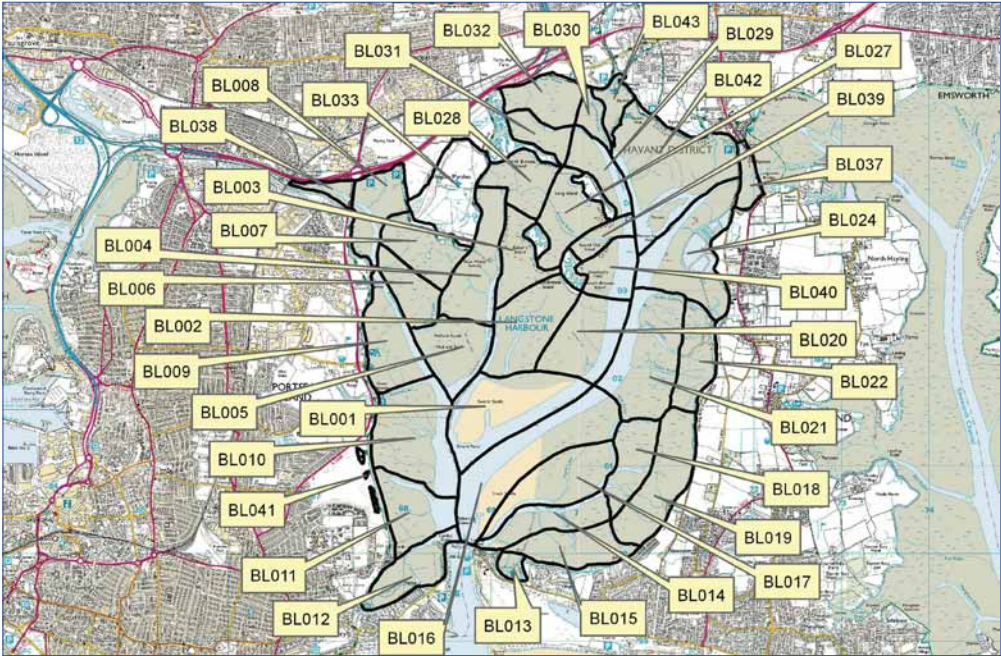


Figure 1: Langstone Harbour low tide count sectors

Table 1: Local names for sector groups (columns descend south)

Western sectors	Map BL no.	Central sectors	Map BL no.	Eastern sectors	Map BL no.
Chalkdock	31, 32	RSPB islands	3, 27, 28, 29	Stonehouse Lake	30, 43
Farlington Marshes	33	Mallard Sands	4, 5, 6, 7	Southmoor Lake	42
Broom Channel	8, 38	Russell's Lake	2	The Oysterbeds	24,37
Milton & Salterns	9, 10, 11, 41	Langstone Channel	20, 21, 39, 40	Cockle Rithe	22
Eastney Lake	12	Sword Sands	1	Sinah Lake	14, 15, 18, 19
		Sinah Sands	16, 17	The Kench	13

The survey was planned to be carried out in the mid winter months of 2009/10 on Nov 28th, Dec 11th, Jan 9th and Feb 6th. The optimal conditions for a LTC include a spring tide (where the largest area of mud is exposed) and at least two hours of usable daylight before and after the low water mark. Launching and docking the boat requires a longer time period (see Acknowledgements, below). Counts were planned for weekends to maximise the number of

counters available. Times, tides and people can be planned in advance of a count, but weather on the day can always have a significant impact. This series of counts was no exception as very poor weather conditions meant that some sectors were counted on different dates. The November and December counts were both carried out over two days, the January counts actually needed four days and the February count was done over three days.

Counters were given a map of the sector(s) to be counted and were asked to record the numbers of each species using the sector across the low tide period, but excluding those simply flying over. In addition, diving ducks, divers, cormorants, grebes and gulls that were using the water channels were recorded. Counters were also asked to give an estimate of the accuracy of the count and list any factors affecting the accuracy (e.g. glare from sun off the mudflats, disturbance by bait diggers, raptors, etc.). Details of significant movements to and from other mudflats and their times were also requested.

The table in Appendix 1 shows the mean count for each species for each sector, averaged over the number of months for which the sector was counted (usually four). These mean counts are then summed to give an area count. The areas are correlated to sector in Table 1 above. The table also includes a 'maximum' total for each species. This is obtained by summing the counts for a species across all sectors in each month and taking the highest monthly total. There is also a 'mean' figure for each species. This is the average count of a species, over the four months, in each sector, summed over all sectors. Aggregated figures over several sectors or the whole harbour are subject to a caveat, in that they do not make allowance for movements between sectors, while the counts were taking place. The base data allows analysis of usage of particular sectors.

Appendix 2 is a table comparing counts for selected species from the current count and that done in 2003/4. The table also include comparative figures from the Core Counts taken during the two winters.

Results and Discussion

The maps included in this paper are for selected species and show the counts from the current series of counts and the previous counts in 2003/4. The data plotted is the maximum of the monthly counts of each species, for each sector. A dot represents a single bird, unless the species account states otherwise. Red dots show the results of the current survey and blue dots from 2003/4. The base maps are coloured according to habitat areas - green areas of the maps are above mean high water, the yellow areas are intertidal and the blue areas are below mean low water. Usage of these habitats varies by species. For example, diving ducks will usually be confined to the areas below mean low water, while waders will normally be found on the intertidal, or above mean high water. The dots are placed in the different habitat areas in proportion to the amount of habitat within the sector and the way the species use the habitat. Dots are randomly placed within the habitat area.

In the results below, reference is made to various areas of the harbour, which are identified on the Ordnance Survey map. Figure 1 and Table 1 above show how these named areas correlate to the count sectors.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Occurs in small numbers, mainly on the west side of the harbour and in the north-east corner.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Flocks in excess of one hundred spend low tide at Farlington Marshes.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* (Map 1)

Widespread throughout the harbour, the larger concentrations were found in the north, using Farlington Marshes, Chalkdock and Stonehouse Lake and, to a lesser extent, the areas around the RSPB islands. There is also a smaller concentration in the south-east, using Sinah Lake.



Wigeons and Teal – Dan Powell

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (Map 2)

Widely distributed around the harbour with larger numbers using the northern sectors and Farlington Marshes. The numbers using the harbour appear to have dropped since 2003/4. This is also reflected in decreases in the Core Count numbers counted at high tide (see Appendix 2).

Wigeon *Anas Penelope* (Map 3)

At low tide, birds are mainly found in the north part of the harbour, with the largest numbers using Farlington Marshes and the Chalkdock and Stonehouse Lake sectors. See Figure 3(a) for details. The numbers using the harbour appear to have dropped since 2003/4. This is also reflected in decreases in the Core Count numbers counted at high tide (see Appendix 2).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

A handful of birds use the harbour at low tide and are confined to Farlington Marshes.

Teal *Anas crecca* (Map 4)

Most are found in the north-east part of the harbour at low tide, favouring the areas round the RSPB islands, the Oysterbeds and Stonehouse Lake. See Figure 3(b) for details.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Mainly stay in the freshwater habitat around the harbour at low tide, predominantly using Milton Lakes and Farlington Marshes. Small numbers also use Stonehouse Lake, which is fed from the Lymbourne stream.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Apart from small numbers using the northern parts of the harbour, Pintail are mainly confined to Farlington Marshes at low tide.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

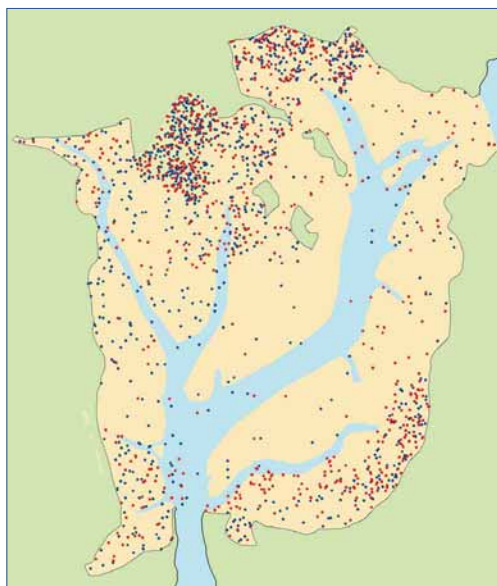
Like Pintail, they are almost exclusively found on Farlington Marshes at low tide.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

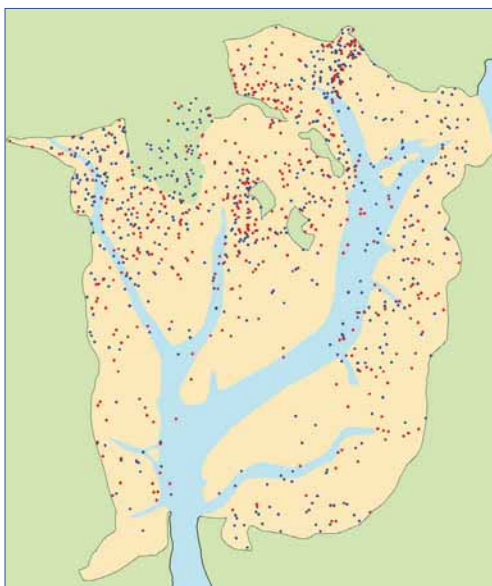
Very thinly distributed around the harbour, using the deeper channels.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

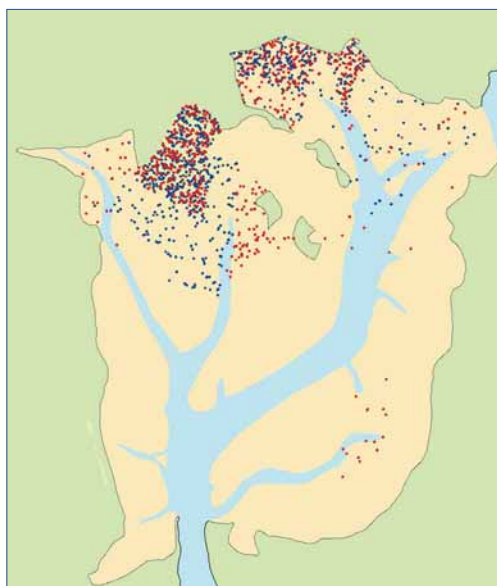
Rather more numerous and widely spread than Goldeneye, they also use the deeper channels at low tide.



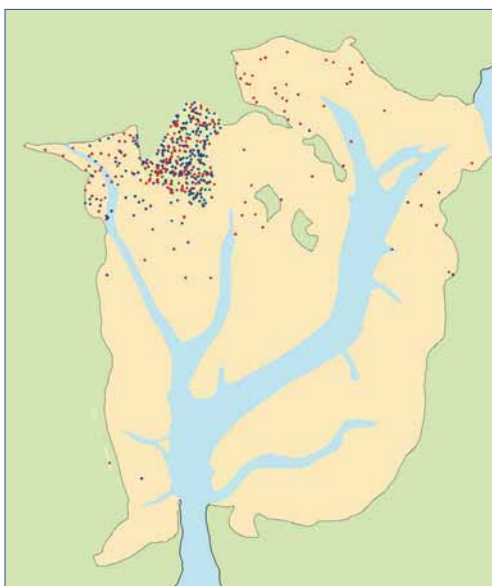
Map 1: Dark-bellied Brent Goose (1 dot = 5 birds)



Map 2: Shelduck



Map 3: Wigeon



Map 4: Teal

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

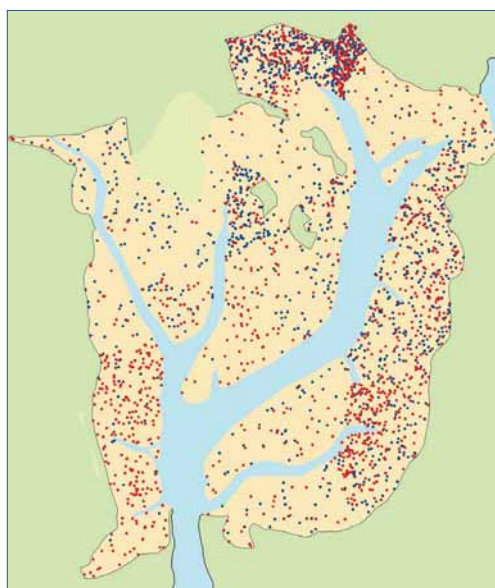
Thinly and widely distributed around the harbour, with a small number favouring the Sinah Sands sectors in the south-east.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

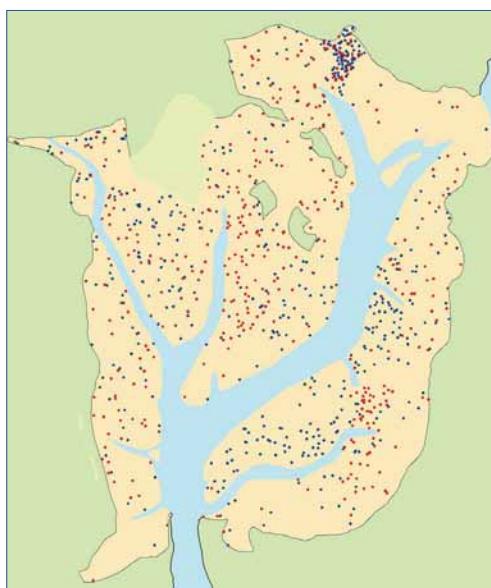
Mainly use the north-east areas of the harbour, in particular the mudflats surrounding the Oysterbeds and the RSPB islands.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

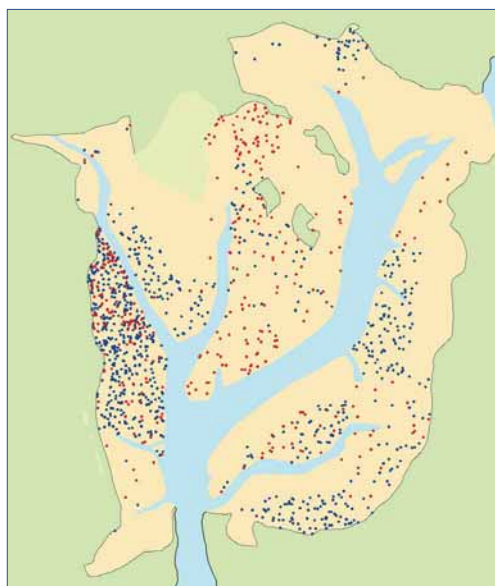
Small numbers use the harbour at low tide and are usually found relatively near the shore.



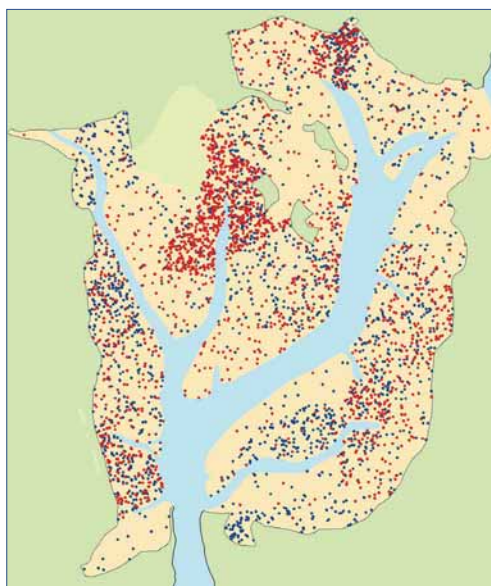
Map 5: Oystercatcher



Map 6: Grey Plover



Map 7: Knot



Map 8: Dunlin (1 dot = 5 birds)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Mainly found in Broom Channel in the north-west and Stonehouse Lake in the north-east.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

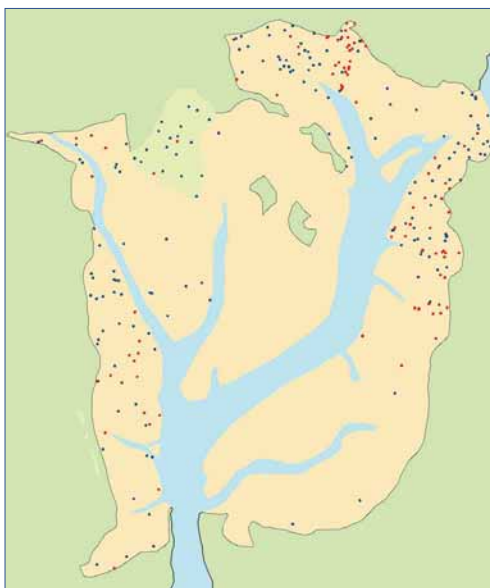
Thinly distributed around the harbour, using the deeper channels.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (**Map 5**)

At low tide Oystercatchers are widely spread around the mudflats in the harbour, with the highest density in the north between Chalkdock and the Oysterbeds, and on the western shore of Hayling Island.



Map 9: Black-tailed Godwit



Map 10: Bar-tailed Godwit

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Thinly distributed across most mudflats in small, loose flocks, but with largest numbers on the extensive mudflat south of Southmoor Lake. Numbers appear to have dropped since 2003/4 and this is also reflected in the Core Count numbers (see Appendix 2).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (Map 6)

Widely distributed across the harbour's mudflats. The largest numbers use the north of the harbour, but small gatherings of birds are found on all the mudflats in the north and central parts of the harbour.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

The majority use Farlington Marshes at low tide. However, they also use areas of the harbour with seaweed and thin vegetation, with a concentration in Broom Channel in the north-west. The numbers using the harbour appear to have dropped since 2003/4. This is also reflected in decreases in the Core Count numbers counted at high tide (see Appendix 2).

Knot *Calidris canutus* (Map 7)

Often form fairly close feeding flocks, which favour the western mudflats, with smaller concentrations in the south of the harbour. They show a preference for the sandier mudflats. The numbers using the harbour appear to have dropped since 2003/4. This is also reflected in decreases in the Core Count numbers counted at high tide (see Appendix 2). The map suggests that there may have been a change in distribution around the harbour, with birds using the central mudflats on and around Sword Sands in preference to those in the south.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (Map 8)

Widely spread around the harbour, with up to ten thousand birds present. They feed in large loose flocks on the harbour mudflats. When disturbed, the flocks can move around the harbour, making it difficult to get a whole harbour count. The counts made at low tide seem to show stable numbers, or an increase, in 2009/10 compared to 2003/4. However, the Core Counts made at high tide suggest a significant decline in the harbour population over the same period (see Appendix 2). The picture is complex, as small waders are easily disturbed and move across the three harbours at varying states of the tide.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (Map 9)

This species tends to favour the northerly parts of the harbour, including Farlington Marshes and rarely uses the central and southern mudflats.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (Map 10)

In contrast to Black-tailed Godwit, more southerly distributed at low tide. Tends to outnumber Black-tailed Godwit in the harbour, including on the western mudflats where both species occur. The numbers using the harbour appear to have dropped since 2003/4. This is also reflected in decreases in the high tide Core Count numbers (see Appendix 2).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Normally found in ones and twos throughout the harbour at low tide, with slightly higher concentrations in the north-east.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Found in similar numbers and distribution to Curlew, but with a more marked concentration in Broom Channel in the north-west.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Usually found on stony, weedy mudflats, with the largest numbers using Southmoor Lake in the north.

Other Species

The following species and subspecies were also recorded (maximum count in brackets): Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* (1), Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* (1), Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* (1), Pochard *Aythya ferina* (1), Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (11), Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (2), Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (2), Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (1), Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* (2), Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (2), Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (1), Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* (1), Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* (42), Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (1), Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (32), Coot *Fulica atra* (53), Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (47), Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (21), Sanderling *Calidris alba* (35), Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus* (1), Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (3), Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (3) and Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* (1).

Although not reported here, other WeBS species registered were Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Common Gull *Larus canus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Acknowledgements

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Especially thanks are due to Chris Cockburn who in addition to counting, also organised and collated the results. Neil Calbrade of the BTO kindly supplied summary data and produced the maps shown in this paper. A vital element of the count was the use of a boat. Chris Cockburn kindly made the RSPB boat available and skippered it on some very long and cold days. I would also like to thank Chris Cockburn, Alan Cox and Jason Crook for their comments on an earlier version of this paper.

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Appendix 1

Summary of data for all harbour areas and harbour means and maxima. The table shows the mean count for each species for each sector averaged over the number of months for which the sector was counted (usually four). These mean counts are then summed to give an area count. The areas are described by sector as in Table 1 above.

	Chalkdock	Farlington Marshes	Broom Channel	Milton & Salterns	Eastney Lake	RSPB islands	Mallard Sands	Russell's Lake	Langstone Channel	Sword Sands
Mute Swan			1	2		1	1		1	
Canada Goose								142		
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	70	15	43	241		406	859	988	261	204
Shelduck	14		26	11	284	82	96	10	75	21
Wigeon	14				2	126	179	297	1	
Gadwall						14	1	6	1	1
Teal		1		1		21	15	134	8	4
Mallard			1	20		2	2	33		
Pintail						3	23	22	11	9
Shoveler						24	10	38	3	3
Goldeneye	1		1			13	3		1	
Red-breasted Merganser	2		10	5		14	11		13	3
Cormorant	2	1	1	1	9	1	3		1	
Little Egret	3	1	2	2	1	6	6		4	2
Grey Heron	1				1			1	2	1
Little Grebe				1	1	5	2	2	2	
Great Crested Grebe			1			12	3		4	2
Oystercatcher	156	9	142	92		230	162		47	4
Ringed Plover			6	8	7	14	9		7	1
Grey Plover	48	1	33	12	1	52	55		50	22
Lapwing		7			4	39	76	124	54	45
Knot	11		114	5		3	85		9	4
Dunlin	581	5	796	532		964	1869		2420	2096
Black-tailed Godwit		1	12	3	9	31	3	2		
Bar-tailed Godwit			23	2		13			10	
Curlew	27	2	16	15		171	58	47	35	6
Redshank	17	19	15	39	13	86	73		35	8
Turnstone			5		5	28	54		15	13

(continued on next page)

	Sinah Sands	Stonehouse Lake	Southmoor Lake	Oysterbeds	Cockle Rithe	Sinah Lake	The Kench	Max	Mean
Mute Swan	1	1				1		8	5
Canada Goose								204	144
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	56	599	67	240	67	859		4969	4042
Shelduck	18	60	21	69	21	96	173	563	453
Wigeon	1	179		65		179	48	887	642
Gadwall		1				1	65	61	26
Teal	1	12	2	8	2	15		268	220
Mallard		2		2		2	6	96	85
Pintail		6	11	14	11	23	2	106	66
Shoveler		7	1	8	1	10	3	113	84
Goldeneye	1	3		3		3	7	67	33
Red-breasted Merganser	10	10	1	7	1	11	3	180	130
Cormorant	1	3		2		3	6	25	15
Little Egret		5	1	5	1	6	2	53	36
Grey Heron							4	14	7
Little Grebe	2	2				2		47	40
Great Crested Grebe	2	3		2		3		48	32
Oystercatcher	39	151	6	43	6	162	2	1376	1299
Ringed Plover	6	9				9	37	81	53
Grey Plover	20	40	5	35	5	55		497	410
Lapwing	9	76				76	30	461	349
Knot	4	21	3	24	3	85		496	353
Dunlin	257	1568	80	1348	80	1869	21	13615	9767
Black-tailed Godwit		3				3	1268	220	90
Bar-tailed Godwit	10							178	58
Curlew	16	31	10	22	10	58		624	551
Redshank	17	61	6	21	6	73	12	546	493
Turnstone	1	38	14	49	14	54	15	256	185

Appendix 2

Comparison of Low Tide Counts and Core Counts for 2009/10 and 2003/4. The table compares the maximum and mean counts for selected species for Low Tide Counts (LT) and Core Counts (CC) for winter 2009/10 and the previous LTC in winter 2003/4.

	Years	LT max. Change		CC max. Change		LT mean Change		CC mean Change	
Shelduck	2009/10	563	-42%	387	-29%	453	-23%	309	-19%
	2003/04	971		543		590		381	
Wigeon	2009/10	887	-25%	647	-44%	642	-20%	451	-50%
	2003/04	1189		1160		806		908	
Ringed Plover	2009/10	81	-60%	148	-23%	53	-65%	83	-51%
	2003/04	201		193		152		171	
Lapwing	2009/10	461	-59%	694	-59%	349	-41%	310	-74%
	2003/04	1129		1700		593		1200	
Knot	2009/10	496	-59%	278	-63%	353	-57%	98	-82%
	2003/04	1213		761		819		538	
Dunlin	2009/10	13615	45%	9994	-59%	9767	7%	7432	-59%
	2003/04	9393		24286		9149		18060	
Bar-tailed Godwit	2009/10	178	-57%	110	-79%	58	-79%	43	-89%
	2003/04	416		525		281		396	

Invasion of Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus* into Hampshire, November 2010–April 2011

John Clark



Waxwing – Rosemary Powell

Abstract

An invasion of Waxwings into Hampshire in the winter of 2010/11 was the largest yet recorded, with 1600-2000 present during the peak period in mid January and possibly 3000 involved in total. The pattern of the invasion is given and put in context with UK records. The distribution of birds in the county and their food preferences are described. The methodology for calculating the county total is explained, and the event is compared with previous invasions back to 1950.

Arrival, October–November 2010

Single birds were reported in Cumbria on Sep 25th and Norfolk on Oct 9th, but the invasion started in earnest on Oct 15th, when singles were at four places between Shetland and Yorkshire. The next day, 30 were seen, including around 20 on Shetland, and on 19th the first had reached Kent. By 23rd there were inland records from Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire and Worcestershire and a flock of 50 in Aberdeen. The first three-figure flock, of 250-300, was in Stromness, Orkney on 25th, and within three days there were widespread flocks of up to 500 in Scotland. In England, 110 were at Keswick, Cumbria on 28th and 100 were at Halifax, West Yorkshire the next day, when there were also 1000+ in Kirkfield, Highland. The last two days of the month produced the first in counties adjacent to Hampshire, with ten in Guildford, Surrey on 30th and six flying east over Angmering, West Sussex on 31st.

Early in November, the largest numbers were still in northern Scotland, with estimates of 1000 at Inverness and 800 at Aberdeen on 2nd. Later in the month, as many birds evidently moved south, gatherings of several hundred were widespread in central and northern England.

Small numbers continued to be reported in southern counties immediately to the north and east of Hampshire through November but in our county there were only brief encounters at Basing on 10th and 11th and near North Warnborough on 20th. However, on 25th, three were found at Portway Industrial Estate, Andover, one of which remained until 27th. On the same day, another was found at the Twinings site, 5 km to the east which remained until Dec 1st. Singles were also seen at Chandlers Ford on 27th and Warblington on 28th.

Main invasion, December 2010–January 2011

During the first half of December, small flocks became widespread in south-east England but three-figure gatherings were confined to Bedfordshire and particularly Kent, where 310 were in Folkestone on 12th and 1400+ were estimated in the Pegwell Bay area on 14th and 15th. In Hampshire, the first sizeable flock was at Eastrop Park, Basingstoke, where 14 were present for a couple of hours on 4th and 15 briefly the next day. In Petersfield, 24 were found at Moggs Mead on 9th and birds remained in this area until 22nd with a maximum of 66 on the final date. In the mean time, there were reports from a further 42 locations in the county with double-figured counts of settled flocks from Aldershot, Calshot, Chandlers Ford, Cosham, Cove, Gosport, Havant, Hayling Island, Hedge End, Lordshill, New Milton, Pamber Heath, Ringwood, Romsey, Vernham Dean and Whiteley. These alone totalled 571 including a maximum of 114 in Rimington Gardens, Romsey which were counted from a digital photo of the flock. Several flocks were seen flying over, the largest by far being of 55 which flew north-west over Hythe early on Dec 18th – possibly newly-arrived or dispersing from a roost.

Later in the month Waxwings spread further west and, as well as becoming widespread in Hampshire, birds reached Dorset (max. 116 on 24th) and Bristol (max. 120 on 28th). Smaller numbers reached Devon (max. 30), Cornwall (max. 7) and the Isles of Scilly (max. 3). Numbers continued to increase in Hampshire. In the last nine days of the year there were reports from 35 locations, with double-figured flocks at 19 sites including eight where they exceeded 50: Elvetham Heath, Gosport, Havant, Hedge End, Romsey and Waterlooville with three-figure flocks in Aldershot (100 in Eggars Hill on 25th and 178 in Highland Road on 29th) and Southampton (100 in Woodmill Lane on 30th).

Numbers in southern England, including Hampshire, peaked in early to mid January, by which time many had deserted Scotland and northern England. In the first half of the month, there were reports from at least 42 Hampshire locations, with flocks exceeding 50 at twelve. Three-figure gatherings included 100 at Connaught School, Aldershot and 130 in Southampton City Centre on 1st, 110 at North Baddesley on 3rd and 100 at Rushington Business Park, Southampton on 12th. But these were completely eclipsed by a gathering around Beverley and Rimington Gardens in Romsey, which reached 259 on 7th, and then a massive flock on the Hampshire/Surrey border at North Camp station which peaked at 773 on 14th. I estimated at least 275 there two days previously, and on the date in question I arrived at first light, with my camera at the ready. Small groups began arriving from various directions and after about half an hour there was a massive flock pitching down on the numerous rowan bushes but frequently being flushed by passing traffic. I managed to get several sharp flight shots of the whole flock and was able to count 773 different birds (see photo opposite). This is by far the largest flock ever recorded in Hampshire (or Surrey), the previous high being of 352 at Maybush on Feb 13th 2005, these having been counted from a video grab.

Numbers declined in the second half of the month; most sites occupied previously were abandoned as food supplies were exhausted. Reports came from around 43 locations, with flocks in excess of 50 at 13 sites. The largest were of 100 at Cove and 122 at Chineham on 17th, 100 at North Camp on 22nd and Greywell on 23rd, 300 in the Totton/Ashurst area on 26th and 116 at Waitrose car park, Yateley on 31st.



The record flock of 773 Waxwings at North Camp Station, Farnborough on Jan 14th – John Clark

Departure, February–April 2011

In February, smaller groups remained widespread but overall numbers diminished. Given the absence of large numbers further south-west and in France it seems likely that they returned towards the breeding grounds. In the first half of the month, reports came from 39 locations, with flocks reaching 50 at ten sites but only two into three-figures: the group at Yateley which held 190 on 1st and 100 at Elvetham Heath on 10th. The second half of the month produced records from 28 locations with only six flocks exceeding 50, with maxima of 97 at Yateley GP on 18th and at least 100 at Redbridge Lane, Southampton on 20th.

In March, there were daily records but Waxwings were becoming sparse by the end of the month. In total, there were reports from around 31 locations, but only in three areas did numbers exceed 50. Around Manor Farm Industrial Estate, Chandlers Ford, up to 80 were present until 5th, while 50 at Boyatt Wood, 5 km to the east, on 2nd, possibly involved the same birds. The only other such record was of 75 flying low east over Fleet Pond on 4th. After 5th, flocks in excess of 20 were recorded at ten different sites until 17th with a maximum of 38 at Dew Lane, Eastleigh on 11th. Subsequently, the only flocks of similar magnitude were of 20 at Swaythling on 23rd which paused for ten minutes before leaving east, 25 briefly in a birch in Southend Road, Basingstoke on 27th and 24 at Fleet Pond on 30th which had increased to 35 the next day.

Records continued on a virtually daily basis until Apr 12th including 20 at Hedge End on 2nd, 27 at Denmead on 4th, 40 at Stanmore, Winchester on 6th and 30 at Bursledon Green on 9th. At least 1000 were estimated still present in the UK in early April (Gantlett 2011) but recorded flocks in southern England did not exceed 100. Thereafter, the only Hampshire records were of 25 at Old Basing on 20th, two at Woodgreen on 23rd, two at Fleet on 28th and a flock of 40 coming down to drink at Meon Valley GC on the last day of the month. Further north and east a scattering remained in early May with the latest straggler in Buckinghamshire on 20th.

Distribution

Figure 1 shows the distribution of Waxwings by tetrads, with three different dot sizes used to give an indication of the maximum flock size recorded in each. As would be expected, there is a strong correlation with built-up areas (shaded grey on the map) since the largest sources of Rowan and other red berries are found around trading estates, retail parks, supermarket car parks and housing estates. The two areas with the high density of sightings and largest numbers were from Romsey and Totton south-eastwards to Fareham and Gosport, and in the north-east of the county around Aldershot, Farnborough, Fleet and Yateley. The only other areas with three-figure flocks were Basingstoke/Chineham and Greywell/Odiham, with smaller numbers in Alton, Andover, the Havant/Hayling Island/Waterlooville area, Lymington, New Milton, Petersfield, Ringwood and Winchester. The most surprising aspect was perhaps their almost total absence from Portsea Island (as in 2004/05); with a group of up to seven at Southsea from Jan 14th-17th the only settled birds. Most records from rural areas were of small flocks pausing briefly or flying over, but regular birds included up to 51 feeding on rosehips near Thatcher's Copse, Brownwich from Jan 20th to Feb 7th and up to 25 on Sturmer Pippin apples at Lower Froyle from Jan 25th to Feb 7th. Some of the records of birds flying over may have been movements to or from roosts. There were several records from Beaulieu Road, NF involved birds flying over

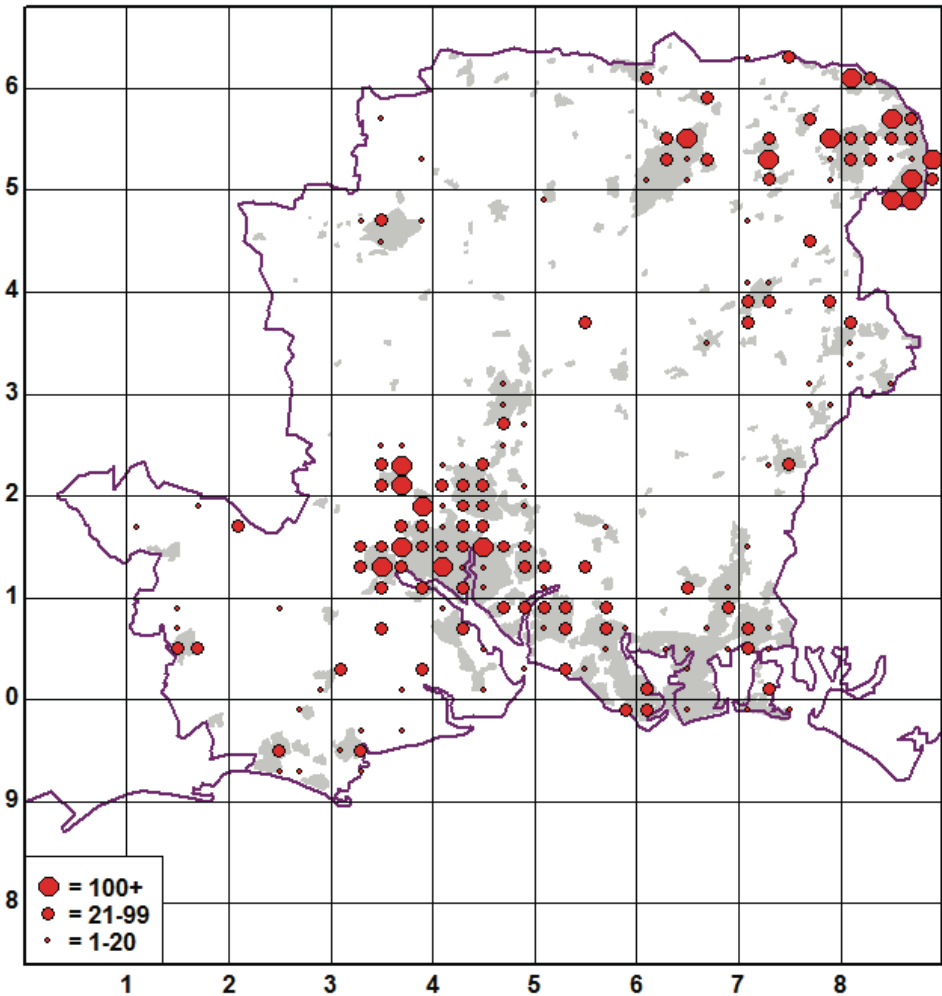


Figure1: Tetrad distribution of Waxwings in Hampshire in 2010/11.

at dusk or dawn, e.g. 20 on Jan 17th, 70 in three groups on Jan 23rd and 16 on Feb 20th, with one observer suggesting that they were heading for a roost in nearby Denny Wood, NF. A roost was also found in a tree on heathland at Woolmer Forest in December 2004 (Clark 2007). The limited information in Cramp *et al.* (1988) indicates that birds may fly several kilometres from feeding areas to roosts in woodland.

Food

The food being consumed was reported for a total of 74 location months. These are tabulated below.

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Red berries	1	4	6	8		
Rowan		9	5	3		
White Rowan		1	1			
Cotoneaster			1	2	2	
Mistletoe				1		
Berberis					1	
Holly					1	
Apples		3	3	3	4	
Hawthorn		1			1	
Ivy					1	
Rose hips			3	2		
Sycamore flowers						1
Flycatching		1	1	2	2	

Red berries, and more specifically, rowan berries, were the preferred food on arrival. Birds turned to other fruits as rowan supplies were exhausted, with apples a popular alternative. Fly-catching was recorded on six occasions during December–March and birds were noted eating sycamore flowers in April.



Waxwing feeding on white Rowan berries, Romsey, Jan 9th – Ian Williamson

Table 1: Summary of Waxwing records in 2011 (maximum for grouped areas for 7-day periods).

	05 Nov	12 Nov	19 Nov	26 Nov	03 Dec	10 Dec	17 Dec	24 Dec	01 Jan	08 Jan	15 Jan	22 Jan	29 Jan
Aldershot							27	178	100	200	8		
Alton							40	8	40	49		1	
Andover			3	1		18		1	6		50		10
Basingstoke area	1				15	4		3	32	61	122	60	30
Brownwich											28	24	51
Chandlers Ford				1		14	71	1					
Eastleigh							7	3	14	20	27		16
Farnborough/Cove						33			55	773	400	100	30
Fleet/Crookham									20	50	23	6	
Gosport						30	77	70					
Greywell/Odiham											50	100	46
Havant							10	65		3			30
Hayling Island						30	13	14	40				
Fareham/Hedge End							48	75	7	30	60	20	85
Lower Froyle												17	13
Lymington									1		28	19	
New Milton							35			20			25
Petersfield					24	54	66				15		
Ringwood							14	11		20	10		
Romsey						101	114	50	259	230	50		
Southampton						43	2	100	130	1	50	40	1
Tadley							20			20			
Totton/Ashurst								40		100	95	300	30
Waterlooville									87	18			
Winchester									6	2			
Other sites				14	4	61	31	25	40	67	12	22	152
Total grounded	1		4	16	43	388	575	644	837	1664	1028	709	519
Flying over			5	27	3	25	158	53	27	53	35	7	8
Two week totals		1		19		403		976		1982		1323	

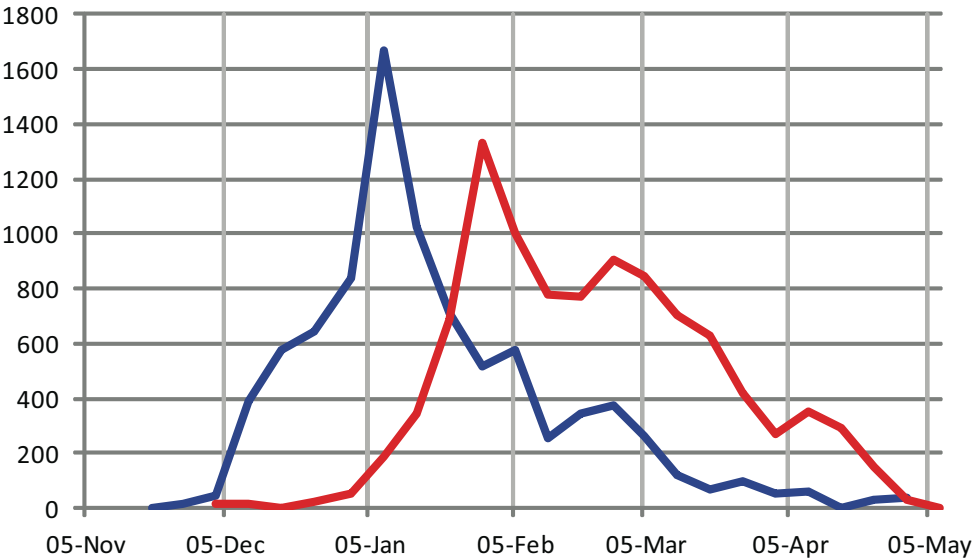


Figure 2: Comparison of weekly totals in the invasions of 2004/05 (red) and 2010/11 (blue).

Table 1: (cont.)

	05Feb	12Feb	19Feb	26Feb	05Mar	12Mar	19Mar	26Mar	02Apr	09Apr	16Apr	23Apr	30Apr
Aldershot													
Alton			26										
Andover													
Basingstoke area	19			60	19		5	25		1		25	
Brownwich	50												
Chandlers Ford	80	25	45	80	42		3			12			
Eastleigh		25		50	38	20							
Farnborough/Cove	45	40	25	20	30	8							
Fleet/Crookham	100	5	9	75	9	22	4	35		16		2	
Gosport													
Greywell/Odiham													
Havant			20					4					
Hayling Island													
Fareham/Hedge End	80	12	28	30	31	9			20	30			
Lower Froyle	24												
Lymington	1												
New Milton	21	25		19									
Petersfield													
Ringwood	18	28		22	27	1							
Romsey													
Southampton	50	40	100	15		20	20						
Tadley	32				30								
Totton/Ashurst	50	17											
Waterlooville				7									
Winchester			6		11	17	17	18					
Other sites	9	37	85	0	24	26	17	16	33	0	0	2	40
Total grounded	579	254	344	378	261	123	66	98	53	59	0	29	40
Flying over	23	25	0	30	0	12	14	0	0	10	0	0	0
Two week totals	954		491		453		148		141		59		69

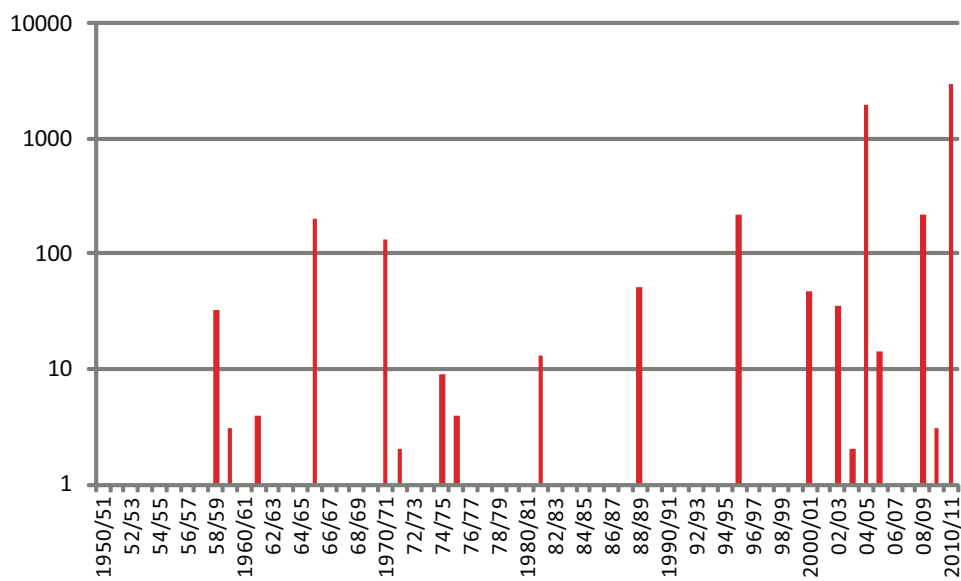


Figure 3: Winter totals of Waxwings in Hampshire, 1950/51-2010/11. Note that the vertical scale is logarithmic.

How many Waxwings were there in Hampshire?

This is an extremely difficult question to answer! Waxwings are conspicuous but highly mobile. Although they may remain in an area for several days, they often disappear abruptly from a particular food source and may keep observers waiting for several hours before their return. Flocks can fly several kilometres and thus could be recorded at different locations on the same or subsequent days, which could lead to assumptions that they are different birds. On the other hand, most flocks are probably underestimated. The availability of digital images has enabled flocks to be counted accurately and inevitably the resulting numbers have been considerably higher than estimated from visual evidence. Thus it is probable that some flock totals were too low. The HOS database contains a total of 1288 records of Waxwing for the period from November 2010 to April 2011. These included records from the BTO Atlas, Birdtrack, Birdguides and Hampshire Going Birding as well as those submitted directly to the county recorder. As a result, there were many duplicates, some of which had conflicting grid references. A careful analysis of these has reduced the total to around 607, with only the maximum daily count for each location retained. These were spread over 251 1-km squares.

These records have been organised into broad areas to attempt to minimise the risk of double counting. In Table 1 the maximum in each area is tabulated for each of the standard seven day periods used for analysing bird occurrences (except that Dec 24th-31st is eight days). Areas/sites with less regular records or small numbers (<20) are included in a total for 'other sites':

Summing the totals for each week shows that numbers peaked at 1664 in the week of Jan 8th-14th. A similar analysis but using two week periods gives a peak of 1982 in the fortnight from Jan 1st-14th. Birds flying over have been excluded from the totals. Although small flocks of Waxwings will have been overlooked in some parts of the county, it seems unlikely that any substantial gatherings will have been missed. This suggests a total approaching 2000 during the peak period. How many different birds occurred in the county during the whole invasion is impossible to calculate.

Colour-ring sightings confirmed the movement of birds from north-east Scotland to southern England. Two at Romsey on Dec 17th and 18th had been ringed in Aberdeen on Nov 6th and Oct 31st. The latter was also sighted in Oswestry, Shropshire on Dec 1st, in Brentford, Middlesex on Jan 12th and 16th and nearby at Sunbury Cross, Surrey on Feb 20th, thus demonstrating the mobility of individual birds. Another bird in Romsey on Jan 11th had been ringed in Aberdeen on Nov 19th and sighted in Bingham, Nottinghamshire on Dec 11th. Further sightings of colour-ringed individuals at Lymington on Jan 17th and Yateley on Jan 30th involved birds ringed at Bridge of Don, Aberdeen and Ballater, Deeside on Nov 7th and Oct 30th respectively. Six other birds ringed in Aberdeen between Nov 2nd and 28th were reported between Devon and Kent, including one which was on the Isle of Wight on Dec 17th, had moved to Horsham, West Sussex six days later and then appeared in Sandwich, Kent on Dec 30th and another which was at Dawlish, Devon on Jan 1st and had moved to Portland, Dorset two days later. Another movement reported on the BTO web site involved one ringed in Orkney on Oct 31st and seen in Swindon, Wiltshire on Feb 6th.

These data indicate that an unknown proportion of those in Hampshire during December moved elsewhere, while some of those recorded in February to April were no doubt on passage and had not wintered in Hampshire. If 50% of those recorded in the peak weeks in December and February-April are assumed to be additional birds, this gives a total of 2444, while basing it on fortnightly periods gives 3243. A total of 3000 probably represents a reasonable estimate of the numbers involved.

Comparison with previous invasions

The largest previous invasion was in the winter 2004/05, when a peak total of 1332 was calculated for the week of Jan 29th-Feb 4th 2005 and it was estimated that there were 2000 birds involved in total (Clark 2007). In this analysis, the author has been more rigorous in discounting potential

duplicated birds, so, given a weekly peak of 1664, there is no doubt that this was a larger invasion. Comparison of the weekly totals during each invasion (Figure 2) shows that birds arrived earlier and in higher numbers in 2010/11. They departed more rapidly in 2010/11 but interestingly both invasions show small subsequent increases which could represent passage birds passing through the county.

Details of earlier invasions to Hampshire were given in Clark (2007) and Clark & Eyre (1993). There were records in all but one of the intervening winters between 2004/05 and 2010/11, with 14 in 2005/06, one in 2007/08, 220 in 2008/09, making it the third largest invasion ever, and three in 2009/10. Totals for each winter since 1950/51 are shown in Figure 3.

This clearly shows that Waxwing invasions have become more frequent and larger in the new century. There have been records in nine winters since 2000 including two four-figure invasions and one in three-figures. This compares with records in 23 of the previous 50 winters with only three invasions reaching three figures. Recording levels were much lower in earlier decades and it is likely that the numbers reaching Hampshire in some winters, particularly 1965/66 and 1970/71, were underestimated. However, this is a conspicuous species and there is no doubt the increase is genuine and mirrors the trend observed throughout the UK.

Acknowledgements

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John M. Clark, 4 Cygnet Court, Old Cove Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 2RL



Waxwings, Waterlooville, Jan 2nd – Richard Ford

Hampshire Bird Ringing Report 2011

Duncan Bell



Whitethroat, Point Field at Farlington Marshes, Aug 29th – Jason Crook

Introduction

This report summarises fieldwork and data gathered by Hampshire ringers during 2011. The number of birds and species ringed during the year is presented in table format and details of movements and migration are recorded in the form of a selected list of recoveries and controls. Hopefully, the report will be of interest to birdwatchers and others involved in wildlife studies and will serve as a record of ringing activities and project work currently undertaken in Hampshire. These records are a reflection of the time and effort invested in the field by individuals and groups involved with ringing studies in the county. Totals and recoveries are as published by the British Trust for Ornithology and include records from research workers and holiday ringers operating in Hampshire. In preparing this report reference has been made to the BTO's *Migration Atlas* (Wernham *et al.* 2002) and the Farlington Ringing Group's Annual Report (Crook 2012).

The number of birds ringed in Hampshire during 2011 totalled 25,391, including 2401 nestlings; this represents a 34% increase over 2010. Favourable weather conditions throughout the summer months resulted in better than average breeding success for summer visitors. Sand Martins, Swallows, Chiffchaffs, Whitethroats, Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers were caught in significantly higher numbers. Ringing totals for several resident birds also increased, including those for Blue Tits, Bearded Tits, Wrens, Dunnocks and House Sparrows. In winter numbers of Chaffinches, Bramblings, Greenfinches, Siskins and Bullfinches were all ringed in above average numbers.

Project Work

The Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS scheme) set up in 1998 encourages trained ringers to get involved in collecting high-quality information on survival rates. Long term monitoring of bird populations is needed to conserve them efficiently. RAS aims to provide information on

Table 1: Summary of 2011 ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total	Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total
Mute Swan	5	0	5	Skylark	2	7	9
Canada Goose	2	0	2	Sand Martin	312	0	312
Shelduck	1	0	1	Swallow	505	439	944
Teal	9	0	9	House Martin	68	0	68
Mallard	3	0	3	Cetti's Warbler	96	0	96
Shoveler	9	0	9	Long-tailed Tit	439	0	439
Red Kite	0	8	8	Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1
Goshawk	0	45	45	Wood Warbler	56	106	152
Sparrowhawk	18	0	18	Chiffchaff	1415	14	1429
Kestrel	1	36	37	Willow Warbler	346	8	354
Water Rail	1	1	2	Blackcap	1454	2	1456
Moorhen	4	0	4	Garden Warbler	178	6	184
Oystercatcher	74	1	75	Lesser Whitethroat	15	1	16
Little Ringed Plover	0	1	1	Whitethroat	498	33	531
Ringed Plover	96	0	96	Dartford Warbler	3	0	3
Grey Plover	2	0	2	Grasshopper Warbler	973	1	974
Lapwing	5	18	23	Sedge Warbler	2231	24	2255
Sanderling	104	0	104	Reed Warbler	894	6	900
Dunlin	156	0	156	Nuthatch	60	26	86
Snipe	6	0	6	Tree Creeper	60	0	60
Woodcock	156	0	156	Wren	359	0	359
Black-tailed Godwit	1	0	1	Starling	425	12	437
Curlew	7	0	7	Blackbird	560	31	591
Common Sandpiper	4	0	4	Fieldfare	2	0	2
Green Sandpiper	1	0	1	Song Thrush	143	16	159
Redshank	27	0	27	Redwing	140	0	140
Turnstone	19	0	19	Mistle Thrush	2	0	2
Black-headed Gull	2	170	172	Spotted Flycatcher	5	4	9
Mediterranean Gull	1	0	1	Robin	589	24	613
Sandwich Tern	0	3	3	Nightingale	4	0	4
Common Tern	0	11	11	Pied Flycatcher	1	0	1
Stock Dove	15	24	39	Redstart	20	24	64
Wood Pigeon	3	48	51	Whinchat	2	0	2
Collared Dove	7	2	9	Stonechat	8	52	60
Cuckoo	1	0	1	Wheatear	3	0	3
Barn Owl	5	63	68	Dunnock	402	37	439
Little Owl	8	4	12	House Sparrow	525	19	544
Tawny Owl	1	0	1	Yellow Wagtail	117	0	117
Nightjar	4	9	13	Grey Wagtail	9	8	17
Swift	3	11	14	Pied/White Wagtail	40	22	62
Kingfisher	32	0	32	Tree Pipit	5	0	5
Green Woodpecker	11	0	11	Meadow Pipit	120	37	157
Great Sp. Woodpecker	60	0	60	Chaffinch	884	0	884
Lesser Sp. Woodpecker	2	0	2	Brambling	984	0	984
Magpie	16	0	16	Greenfinch	820	4	824
Jay	13	4	17	Goldfinch	629	0	629
Jackdaw	11	7	18	Siskin	456	0	456
Rook	1	0	1	Linnet	75	98	173
Carrion Crow	2	0	2	Lesser Redpoll	648	0	648
Goldcrest	474	0	474	Mealy Redpoll	3	0	3
Firecrest	78	0	78	Bullfinch	157	8	165
Blue Tit	2326	488	2814	Hawfinch	0	4	4
Great Tit	963	307	1270	Yellowhammer	10	20	30
Coal Tit	123	16	139	Reed Bunting	228	12	240
Bearded Tit	75	0	75				
Woodlark	0	61	61	GRAND TOTALS	22991	2401	25391

adult survival for a range of species in a variety of habitats, particularly birds of conservation concern. There are two registered RAS projects in Hampshire; one run by Kevin Sayer for breeding Firecrests in the New Forest and the other by Tim Walker who is studying Bullfinches in the Winchester area.

The Constant Effort Sites (CES) Scheme is a standardised ringing programme which has been operated within the BTO Ringing Scheme since 1983. Ringers set their nets in the same pattern, for the same period, at regular intervals throughout the breeding season. The scheme provides valuable key information on changes in population size, changes in breeding success and adult survival rates for 28 species of common songbird. A CES study is operated by Martin de Retuerto at Lower Test Marshes.

Ringing Totals

The number of birds ringed in the Hampshire during 2011 was 25,391 involving 111 species. Totals for all species are summarised in Table 1 above.

The Ringing Year

Good numbers of finch species were present in Hampshire during the 2010/11 winter, from November until mid January. They usually feed on natural food, then move into gardens or feeding stations from January to March, where they can be caught by ringers. Nigel Jones ringed 294 Chaffinches, 856 Bramblings (the highest ever total) and 220 Lesser Redpolls in his garden in Ampfield near Romsey. Other productive feeding sites at Blashford lakes, Romsey, Fareham and Fleet contributed to the year's impressive ringing totals which included 884 Chaffinches, 629 Goldfinches, 456 Siskins, 648 Lesser Redpolls and three Mealy Redpolls.

The BTO have recently been promoting the recording of nestlings as a way of providing valuable data for the Nest Record Scheme. In Hampshire the number of nestlings ringed in 2011 increased by 16% to 2401 of 54 species. Ringing as part of long term population and movement studies included eight Red Kites near Basingstoke and 45 Goshawks in the New Forest. Other Bird of Prey totals included 36 Kestrels, 63 Barn Owls and 4 Little Owls. Surprisingly, no Tawny Owl nestlings were ringed in 2011. All Red Kites were fitted with coloured wing-tags and a radio tracking transmitter.

Tony Davis targets nestlings in three counties: his Hampshire total increased this year to 284, which included seven Nightjars, 61 Woodlarks, 106 Wood Warblers, two Dartford Warblers, 18 Redstarts and 49 Stonechats. At Lymington, seabird and gull monitoring by Graham Giddens at Pylewell Lake produced 37 Black-headed Gulls, three Sandwich Terns and 11 Common Terns. Kevin Sayer ringed a further 100 Black-headed Gulls, one Mediterranean Gull and one Oystercatcher during two visits to a small island on Ibsley Water. Other nestling totals of note included: a Little Ringed Plover ringed also at Blashford Lakes; 257 Swallows ringed by Ruth Croger as part of her on-going study centred at Bishops Waltham; and 33 Whitethroats, 37 Meadow Pipits and 50 Linnets ringed by Jason Crook at Farlington Marshes.

At Farlington Marshes, a very productive breeding season swelled ringing totals to 2919 new individuals trapped of 54 species. Net sites in the main reedbed and Point Field sometimes held large concentrations of breeding and migrant passerines. Good numbers of full-grown birds were caught, including 341 Swallows, 75 Bearded Tits, 39 Cetti's Warblers, 92 Whitethroats, 445 Sedge Warblers, 203 Reed Warblers, 88 Meadow Pipits and 115 Yellow Wagtails. Mist netting of waders at night started in August and continued into December, with a total of eight sessions attempted. Only comparatively small numbers of waders can be caught during an average overnight high tide session but, with respect to mist netting, it is still an effective and productive method for trapping waders. One cannon netting session was run at Farlington Marshes; this was to target ducks in October when a successful catch included nine each of Shoveler and Teal. Cannon net sessions were also conducted at three different Hayling Island

sites and all proved very successful: 63 Oystercatchers, 92 Ringed Plovers and 104 Sanderlings were caught as part of work reported to the International Wader Study Group.

Record numbers of birds were ringed at Titchfield Haven where the same number of nets is erected in the same position each year. Ringing sessions between mid July and early November produced 5136 birds. Species totals included 34 Cetti's Warblers, one Yellow-browed Warbler, 852 Chiffchaffs, 128 Willow Warblers, 589 Blackcaps, 84 Garden Warblers, 168 Whitethroats, 950 Grasshopper, 1436 Sedge and 439 Reed Warblers, and 55 Robins. Ringing demonstrations were held at the site: one for Wildlife Explorer members and two others for members of the birding public.

Fish Lake Meadows, Lower Test Marshes and coastal sites in Lymington were also worked for reedbed species.

On farmland near Alton, Gerald Murphy ringed 1988 full-grown and 576 nestlings of 50 species including: 15 Barn Owls, 672 Blue, 357 Great and five Marsh Tits, 84 Whitethroats, 53 Robins, 100 Dunnocks, 351 House Sparrows, 131 Chaffinches, 194 Greenfinches and 111 Goldfinches.

Autumn passage migrants and winter visitors were caught in good numbers, boosting annual totals, including 474 Goldcrests, 78 Firecrests, 560 Blackbirds, 143 Song Thrushes, 140 Redwings and 589 Robins. Many finch species were uncommon in the autumn and early winter.

In Lymington and the New Forest, Graham Giddens dedicated his time to the Woodcock Network's project studying wintering Woodcock. As well as ringing 95 birds in the year, a further five were re-trapped from previous winters, two ringed in early 2011 were subsequently recovered in Russia. Whilst out catching Woodcock, other birds trapped using the dazzle technique included five Lapwings, six Snipes, one Little Owl, two Skylarks and two Meadow Pipits.

Colour Ringing

Waders and water birds have been ringed in the Solent for many years; using one conventional metal ring together with a unique combination of colour rings. This allows easy identification of long legged waders in the field. This is a way of finding out more about the lives, needs and movements of species and individual birds. Many records have been amassed from the records notified by observers and birdwatchers operating from places as far apart as Iceland and North Africa. As a result, valuable life histories of some birds are now known.

What to do with your records of ringed and colour marked birds

Birds found with metal rings should be reported to the Ringing Unit of the BTO or, for foreign marked birds, reported direct to the address of the scheme shown on the ring. All finders will receive a report of the original ringing details and confirmation of the finding details direct from the appropriate Ringing Unit. Reported information should include ring number, date, time and place of sighting, species involved and condition of the bird when found.

When reporting colour-marked birds, great care is required in reading colour rings or other colour marks in the field. The information gained can be essential to the success of a project and organisers of these schemes rely on your accurate records. Waders, for example, are fitted with four colour rings, which can be on the upper leg (tibia) as well as the lower leg (tarsus); therefore care is required when checking both legs. Records of colour marked birds should be reported to the organiser or group listed below. Sightings will be fully acknowledged.

Brent Goose, Wigeon, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Curlew, Redshank and Turnstone: individuals were originally marked in Southampton Water as part of the environmental impact assessment into the use of the estuary. Study of these species continues in an attempt to record feeding concentrations and roosting areas in winter, as well as subsequent migration movements.

Little Egret: sightings should be referred to: Graham Giddens, 104 Samber Close, Lymington, SO41 9LF or by e-mail at grahamgiddens@googlemail.com.

Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit and Greenshank: these have been marked in Langstone and Chichester Harbours as part of a long-term population study of how each species use The Solent and also to understand migration routes in more detail. Sightings of the above species should be sent to The Farlington Ringing Group c/o Pete Potts, Solent Court Cottage, Hook Lane, Warsash, Southampton, SO31 9HF.

Common Sandpiper: from 2012, Farlington Ringing Group will be marking birds caught in Langstone Harbour. Sightings to duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com.

Firecrest: RAS project - Kevin Sayer monitors individuals at Bolderwood, Kings Garn Gutter and Salisbury Trench in the New Forest.

Redwing: birds are caught and marked at three sites: Manor Farm Country Park; The Hawthorns, Southampton and Ampfield, near Romsey. All sightings to: Trevor Codlin, 37 Roebuck Avenue, Funtley, Fareham, PO15 6TN.

Stonechat: small numbers have been colour-marked in the New Forest; all sightings should be sent to: Andy Welch, 90 Woodmill Lane, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 2PD andy_welch@sky.com.

Bullfinch: RAS project - Individuals are marked on left tarsus with a white Darvic ring with numbers commencing 001, the rings read down the leg from the knee joint. Any sightings contact tim.walker14@btinternet.com.



Male Darvic ringed Bullfinch, St Cross, Winchester, Dec 4th – Tim Walker

Recoveries

Below is a selected list of ringing recoveries reported during 2011. Recoveries are arranged in species order with the ringing information on the first line and recovery data below. Whilst most records are from the reporting year, some relate to previous years and are included for

completeness. (NB some recoveries are multiple records with two or more lines of recovery information.) The symbols and conventions used are listed as follows.

Age when ringed

This is given according to the EURING code – figures/characters relate to the following key:

- 1 nestling or chick not yet able to fly
- 2 fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown
- 3 definitely hatched during current calendar year
- 4 hatched before current calendar year, exact year unknown
- 5 definitely hatched during last calendar year
- 6 hatched before last calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown
- 7 definitely hatched two calendar years before ringing
- 8 hatched more than two calendar years before ringing
- M/F Male / Female

Condition on recovery

- X found dead
- XF found freshly dead or dying
- XL found dead (not recent)
- + shot or intentionally killed by man
- S sick or injured – not known to have been released
- VV alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in field
- R caught and released by ringer
- N caught and released but not by a ringer
- () unknown

Date of recovery

Where this is unknown, the date of the reporting letter is given.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

5196725	Adult	07.07.98	Regent's Park, London (Greater London)
	VV	24.02.11	Andover,98km WSW
5239040	Adult M	29.06.04	Chew Valley Lake (Avon)
	()	23.07.11	Twyford, near Winchester, 98km ESE

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

FA72696	6M	31.01.00	Dibden Bay
	+ Shot	(01.10.05)	Nerl, Kalyazinskiy District, 57 02N38 00E (Kalinin), Russia 2662km ENE
FA72730	5M	31.01.00	Dibden Bay
	+ Shot	16.12.11	Dornoch Firth (Highland Region), 799km NNW

FA72696 is the thirteenth Hampshire-ringed Wigeon to be recovered abroad: ten in Russia, one in Ukraine and two in France.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

FP57788	5M	12.02.03.	Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire)
	+ Shot	08.12.11	Itchen Abbas, 188km SSW
FH19161	4F	07.08.11	Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester (Essex)
	+ Shot	01.11.11	Somerley, 210km WSW

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

5264273	1	09.06.11	Stack Moor (Isle of Man)
	VV	25.09.11	Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes Reserve, 419km SSE

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

ESI	1	09.04.07	Casa Neves, Parque Nat.de Donana, Aznalcazar, 37 06N 06 16W, Spain
9050263	VV	13.09.07	Dawlish Warren (Devon), 1515km N
	VV	14.09.07	River Taw, near Barnstable (Devon), 1563km N
	VV	12.11.08	Isley Marshes, Chivenor (Devon), 1561km N
	VV	09.03.09	Fremington (Devon) 1561km N
	VV	07.05.09	Hackney Marsh, Newton Abbot (Devon), 1508km N
	VV	23.09.09	Isley Marshes, Chivenor (Devon), 1561km N
	VV	15.07.10	Pottington, Taw Estuary, (Devon), 1564km N
	VV	25.02.11	Exe Estuary, (Devon), 1521km N
	VV	11.03.11	Lodmoor, Weymouth (Dorset), 1534km N
	VV	14.04.11	Posbrook Flood, Titchfield Haven, 1578km N
	VV	27.04.11	Near Holkham, Wells-next-the-Sea (Norfolk), 1847km
	VV	03.09.11	Isley Marshes, Chivenor (Devon), 1561km N

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

GC81510	1	12.06.09	Site Confidential, near Stratfield Saye
	XL	14.01.11	West Summer Side Farm (North Yorkshire), 322km
GR19598	1	22.06.10	Site Confidential (Powys)
	XF Car	14.04.11	Alton, 216km SE
GC96675	1	03.07.10	Sart Wood, near Little Oakley (Northamptonshire)
	VV	08.01.11	Hare Warren, 139km SSW
	VV	04.05.11	Hitchwood, near Hitchin (Hertfordshire), 70km SSE
GR17958	1	18.06.10	Site Confidential (Hampshire)
	V	21.03.11	Doddington (Kent), 130km E
GC74440	1	29.06.08	Site Confidential (Hampshire)
	XL Car	02.02.11	Castlethorpe (Buckinghamshire), 121km N

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

GC10459	1M	31.05.11	Cadnam
	S Shot	11.10.11	Redlynch (Somerset), 63km WNW

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

GN12146	3	24.06.04	Bentley
	XF Train	05.01.11	Site Confidential (Bedfordshire), 83km N

It was a surprise to get news of this bird. It had been taken from a nest site by youths, then rescued and taken into care overnight. It was ringed and released the following day at the original site but picked-up again soon after when found unable to fly. It was later taken into a longer period of care and rehabilitated back into the wild.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

SVS	1	17.06.11	Rodtjarnsvagen, Vannas, 63 51N19 52E (Vasterbotten) Sweden
7211388	XL Glass	15.12.11	Hurstbourne Tarrant, Andover 1878km SW

Kestrels are migratory in their first year of life. There have been two previous Hampshire recoveries of Kestrels ringed in Sweden. Other records include one each from Norway, Belgium and Spain.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

GR16209	1M	27.05.11	Site Confidential, Guildford (Surrey)
	XF Wires	15.10.11	Prospect Farm, Andover 71km W

Coot *Fulica atra*

GN79167	6M	07.01.06	Radipole Lake (Dorset)
	XF	08.04.11	Testwood Lake 77km ENE
GJ04413	3	14.07.08	Haseley Manor, Arreton, Isle of Wight
	X	11.04.11	Damerham Trout Lakes, Fordingbridge, 53km NW

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

DEW	1	09.07.10	Fahrehofter, Westerkoog (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany
5303898	VV	14.11.11	Langstone Harbour, 789km WSW

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

NV60470	1	20.06.06	Rye Harbour (Sussex)
	R	22.09.11	Black Point, Hayling Island, 121km W
NOS	3	01.09.11	Makkevika, Giske, 62 30N06 02E (More og Romsdal) Norway
8A55441	VV	28.09.11	Jetty Lagoon, Pennington Marshes, 1387km SSW

A catch of 92 Ringed Plover and one Sanderling was taken at Black Point, Hayling Island on Sep 22nd; all birds were colour-ringed, which should provide several interesting sightings in years to come. In addition, there were two controls in the catch, the Rye Harbour bird above and another wearing a German ring (DEH Hiddensee); details are still outstanding.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

NT46227	3	22.09.11	Black Point, Hayling Island
	VV	24.09.11	Blonville-Sur-Mer, Calvados, 49 20N00 01E, France 176km SSE
NT46232	3	03.10.11	Eastoke, Hayling Bay
	VV	06.11.11	Aguino, Ribeira, 42 31N09 01W, La Coruna, Spain, 1387km SSW
NT46270	4	03.10.11	Eastoke, Hayling Bay
	VV	18.12.11	Great Yarmouth (Norfolk), 275km NE

Following closely behind the success at Black Point, 103 Sanderling were cannon netted at Eastoke, Hayling Island on Oct 3rd. Compare the quick southerly movement of two first-year birds with the adult that subsequently wintered on the east coast. Again, all birds were colour ringed as part of a co-ordinated international wader study.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

NT01999	3	04.08.96	Kamarad Farm, Terrington (Lincolnshire)
	XF BOP	24.04.11	Titchfield Haven 243km SSW

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

EX37318	3	04.01.11	Batchley Farm, Lymington
	+Shot	20.04.11	Plyuskiy Rayon, 58 20N29 43E (Pskov), Russia 2180km ENE
EX37326	3	07.01.11	Haywards Farm
	+Shot	27.04.11	Charozero, Kirillovskij Rayon, 60 26N38 41E (Vologda), Russia 2729km ENE
EX37328	3	10.01.11	Bramptons Farm, Lymington
	+Shot	19.01.11	Bramptons Farm, Lymington
EX71402	4	03.02.11	Hurstbourne Priors
	XF	04.02.11	Hurstbourne Priors

The New Forest Woodcock Group (NFWG), is a voluntary group set up to study all aspects of Woodcock ecology in and around the New Forest. Scientific research is on-going, but the group is keen to involve any volunteers who would like to help with various observational study projects. For more information contact NFWG@newforestgateway.org. In 2012, it is planned to attach radio transmitters to up to 12 birds, to plot progress of migration and identify breeding sites; all of which can be watched on the group's website.



Woodcock, caught Mar 3rd – Graham Giddens

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

EL69062	4	05.09.10	Farlington Marshes,
	VV	10.05.11	Pvera, 66 08N16 26W (Oxarfjordur), Iceland 1913km NNW
EL69062	4	05.09.10	Farlington Marshes,
	VV	21.06.11	Kopasker, Nupasvelt, 66 18N16 27W (Nordur-Thingeyjar), Iceland 1929km NNW

These two recoveries are part of the work of Operation Godwit which is an international association of people studying the Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit. Fieldwork is carried out in different countries by following the movements of individually colour-ringed birds. Pete Potts and other Hampshire ringers have followed ringed birds to their breeding grounds in Iceland and to wintering sites in southern Ireland, England, western France, southern Spain and coastal Portugal where birds are counted, caught and colour-ring sightings recorded.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

DB96439	4	29.01.06	Sinah, Hayling Island
	XF Cat	10.05.11	Knockintorran (Western Isles), 862km NNW

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

EN99200	6	02.02.94	Hook Tip, Warsash
	R	16.05.11	J.Rynskie, Rybical, Ryn, 53 55N21 30E (Suwalki)Poland1583km ENE
EG86134	1	28.06.02	Pylewell Lake, Lisle Court, Lymington
	R	15.10.11	Rainham Tip (Greater London), 144km ENE
EL54688	1	06.06.04	Cerney Wick (Gloucestershire)
	VV	24.02.11	West Hayling, Langstone Harbour114km SSE
PLG	4	25.08.09	Gdynia-Skwer Kosciuszki, Pomorskie, 54 31N18 33E (Gdansk) Poland
FN51130	VV	24.03.10	Redbridge Wharf, 1405km WSW
	VV	16.03.11	Redbridge Wharf, 1405km WSW
PLG	1	21.06.10	Bojano, Szemud, 54 29N18 23E (Gdansk) Poland
FN51483	VV	22.04.11	Keyhaven1409km WSW
EW86048	1	24.06.10	Slimbridge (Gloucestershire)
	VV	08.11.11	Stoke Lake, Gosport135km SE

These recoveries include the fifth record of a Hampshire-ringed bird to be found in Poland and the 12th &13th records of Polish-ringed birds moving the other way. Most Hampshire records of foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls come from the Baltic States (30), but other countries with double figure records include Finland (15), Denmark (12), Sweden (10) and The Netherlands (10).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

BLB	1	04.06.02	Zandvlietsluis, 51 02N04 17E (Antwerpen), Belgium
E267530	VV	31.07.02	Copt Point, Folkestone (Kent), 216km W. Also there: 22.02.03, 02.08.03, 09.03.04, 09.07.04, 14.01.05, 25.07.05, 20.01.06, 14.07.06, 04.01.07 and 10.10.09
	VV	15.03.10	West Hayling, Portsmouth, 370km W
	VV	09.03.11.	Titchfield Haven, 386km W
PLG	6	15.06.10	Przykona Reservoir, Radyczyny, Turek (52 00N18 39E (Konin), Poland
FN90859	VV	29.07.10	Calshot Marshes, 1388km W
	VV	06.11.10	Weston Shore, 1393km W
	VV	12.11.11	Weston Shore, 1393km W

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GR19067	1	06.07.10	Hinkley Point (Somerset)
	VV	02.03.11	Southampton, 121km ESE
CIJD5795	Adult M	20.05.11	Chouet Landfill, 49 30N02 32W (Guernsey), Channel Islands
	VV	30.11.11	Blashford Lakes, 161km NNE

The last bird was ringed as part of a gull research project based in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Good numbers of adult and nestling gulls are ringed with high levels of colour-ring sightings subsequently reported both within the Bailiwick and outside the islands. In 2010, the group followed the Lesser Black-backed Gulls south locating a dozen in November in the Algarve, Portugal and then seven a month later in Agadir, Morocco. Not all birds move south and many Adults wander in search of food in winter.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

GC99582	1	03.07.11	Inner Westmark Knock, off Terrington Marsh (Norfolk)
	S	21.10.11	Fordingbridge, 255km SW
GN87535	7	27.03.10	Pitsea Landfill Site (Essex)
	VV	14.04.10	Dungeness Bird Observatory (Kent), 74km SSE
	VV	29.04.10	Lossiemouth (Grampian Region), 729km NNW
	VV	23.03.11	Redbridge, 154km WSW
GC85657	3	29.11.08	Pitsea Landfill Site (Essex)
	VV	23.02.09	Beddington (Greater London)49km WSW
	XL	24.04.11	Eastleigh,145km WSW
GN88424	5	05.02.11	Pitsea Landfill Site (Essex)
	VV	28.03.11	Black Point, Hayling Island, 133km SW

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

MA27001	1	17.06.10	Lymington
	VV	21.06.11	Chouet Landfill, 49 30N02 32W (Guernsey), Channel Islands.156km SSW
FRP	1F	05.07.10	Fecamp, Seine-Maritime. 49 45N 00 22E (Normandie), France
DB109288	VV	22.02.11	Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue, 49 36N 01 15W (Manche) France
	VV	13.08.11	Kench, Langstone Harbour, Hayling Island
	VV	18.12.11	Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue, 49 36N 01 15W (Manche) France

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

DB12566	1	24.06.96	Coquet Island,(Northumberland)
red EHP	R	29.07.11	Ythan Estuary (Grampian),
	VV	19.09.11	Milton Locks, Portsmouth, 728 km. Also there on 03.11.11 and 27.11.11.

DB12566 was subsequently sighted on Jan 26th 2012, wintering at Houlgate, Calvados, France 901km S. Other records reported include three birds ringed as nestlings between 2004 and 2006 at Pylewell Lake, Lisle Court, Lymington and all re-sighted at Brownsea Island, Dorset in April and May.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

ST06002	1	26.06.11	Lea Farm Gravel Pit,(Berkshire)
	VV	27.08.11	Titchfield Haven, Hill Head, 75km SSW

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

BLB	4	05.09.09	Relegem, 50 54N04 16E (Brabant), Belgium
E359857	X	06.02.11	Ash Warren Farm, near Overton, 386km W

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

GN96704	Adult F	15.07.04	Lower Lodge, Fernhurst (Sussex),
	XF(hit wires)	19.06.11	Hawbridge Farm, Neatham17km NW
GC98074	1	20.06.11	Bilting, Ashford (Kent)
	X	08.12.11	Basingstoke, 144km W

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

SA27393	3	18.09.10	Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour (Dorset)
	XF(hit glass)	28.07.11	Shelley Common, near Totton, 44km NE

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

ES39864	1	05.06.94	Milston Down, near Bulford Camp (Wiltshire)
	XF	22.05.11	Grateley House School, Grateley, 9km SE

The longevity record for this species is 17 years 22 days set in 1980.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

NLA	3M	15.10.10	Castricum, 52 32N04 36E (Noord-Holland), The Netherlands
Y76817	R	10.11.10	Southampton Common, 452km WSW
BCV414	3M	17.10.10	Southampton Common
	XF	17.09.11	Near Swallowcliffe (Wiltshire), 47km WNW
DHY146	4F	16.10.11	Pamber Forest
	R	04.11.11	Crookham Common East, near Thatcham (Berkshire), 10km WNW

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

BRJ559	5M	06.04.10	near Thetford Lodge Farm (Suffolk)
	XF (cat)	25.01.11	Sandleheath, Fordingbridge, 241km SW
AVE955	5F	31.03.08	Landguard Point, Felixstowe (Suffolk)
	R	20.11.08	Southampton Common, 221km WSW
	R	25.01.11	Southampton Common, 221km WSW
CYD252	3M	14.09.11	Straight Mile, Romsey
	R	09.11.11	Holland Park (Greater London), 103km ENE

Are the birds ringed in Suffolk migrants from the near continent or breeding birds from East Anglia? We have several examples of like occurrences recorded in previous bird reports. It is likely that the bird ringed at Straight mile, Romsey was a locally bred bird, with its movement and direction an example of random post juvenile dispersal.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

L706994	6	25.02.11	Hawbridge Farm, Neatham
	XF (car)	15.03.11	Site Confidential (Leicestershire), 166km N

This appears to be an unusually long movement. However, the *Migration Atlas* (Wernham *et al.* 2002) shows that Blue tits are not as sedentary as first thought. Studies by Kenrick (1940) suggested 38% of birds are resident, 12% summer and 25% are winter visitors, and a final 25% are passage migrants caught only in February and March and not controlled subsequently. L706994 fits nicely into this last category. In Britain 95% of all recoveries come from within a 26km distance of the ringing site but there is always the chance of a bird moving greater distances.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

TE41687	1	10.05.09	Long Valley, Fleet
	VV	06.03.11	Chobham (Surrey), 17km ENE
TE41912	1	22.05.11	Tweseldown Hill
	VV	20.10.11	Wishmoor Bottom (Berkshire), 11km NNE

Recoveries of Woodlark away from their north Hampshire Heathland nest sites suggest that only local movements are undertaken in winter.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

V798684	3M	20.06.07	Kimbridge, near Romsey
	R	09.06.11	Blashford Lakes, 24km SW
ESA	2F	10.12.10	Saint Louis, Djoudj Park Biological Station, 16 25N16 18W, Senegal
Z60597	R	09.06.11	Blashford Lakes, 4044km NNE
Y280613	3	01.08.11	Blashford Lakes
	R	20.08.11	Pett Level, Winchelsea (Sussex), 175km E

Z60597 is the tenth Hampshire movement to or from Senegal.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Y141430	1	23.07.11	Buxlow Farm, Winslow (Buckinghamshire),
	R	26.08.11	Farlington Marshes 122km S
L255834	1	27.07.11	Pattishall, Towcester (Northamptonshire)
	R	02.09.11	Farlington Marshes 150km S
Y260158	3	15.08.11	Marston Sewage Farm, Grantham (Lincolnshire)
	R	02.09.11	Farlington Marshes,, 239km S

These controls are perhaps typical of the species at a south coast autumn reedbed roost. The value of pulli ringing is that we know their age, their exact birthplace and, potentially, the movements of any siblings.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

L109529	4	22.09.10	Beachy Head (Sussex)
	XF	19.06.11	near Middle Wallop, 136km WNW

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

X945739	2M	13.03.10	Leighton Moss, near Silverdale (Lancashire)
	R	25.04.11	Farlington Marshes, 390km SSE
	R	03.10.11	Farlington Marshes, 390km SSE
L537341	3F	03.07.11	Farlington Marshes
	R	25.09.11	Titchfield Haven, 16km W

The Lancashire bird took up a vacant breeding territory in the north field section of Farlington Marshes in April after the long-standing male disappeared in February (presumed dead, after 3.5 years occupancy). Not only is it unusual for the species to travel long distances; most of the known movements of ringed birds involve females to the west and north (clearly some males must move in the same direction as they continue their northward colonization of the UK). We can only speculate why X945739 moved in the opposite direction. It was possibly in response to cold weather or failure to find a mate.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

BCV503	2	03.11.10	Southampton Common
	R	20.10.11	Hurstpierpoint (Sussex), 87km E

This is another example of out-of-breeding season Long-tailed Tit movements along the south coast between Kent and Hampshire.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

DPX524	3	14.10.10	Titchfield Haven
	R	05.11.10	El Coronil, 37 01N05 37W (Sevilla), Spain, 1572km SSW
CVE400	3F	03.10.09	Titchfield Haven
	R	20.06.10	Williamthorpe, near Holmewood (Derbyshire)264km N
	R	12.08.11	Williamthorpe, near Holmewood (Derbyshire)264km N
CHP490	4F	14.08.09	Meols, Wirral (Merseyside)
	R	29.09.11	Titchfield Haven, 314km SSE
DLD142	3	08.07.11	Thornton, York (East Yorkshire)
	R	24.09.11	Titchfield Haven, 344km S
EDX209	3	24.09.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	13.10.11	Villefranquel, 43 27N01 28W (Pyrenees-Atlantiques), France, 819km S

Two first-years ringed at Titchfield Haven on Sep 29th were re-trapped together at Pett Level, Icklesham, Sussex on Oct 1st.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

BTK355	3	17.08.10	Strathclyde CP, Motherwell (Strathclyde)
	XF (glass)	24.08.11	Lymington, 581km SSE

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

V681646	3M	28.08.10	Titchfield Haven
	R	17.04.11	Great Meadow Pond, Windsor (Berkshire), 80km NE
V681658	3F	28.08.10	Titchfield Haven
	R	20.06.11	Whitlingham Marsh SF (Norfolk), 270km NE
L070206	3F	28.08.10	Sandwich Bay Estate (Kent)
	XF	07.04.11	Farnborough, 149km W
BLB11793109	3F	22.09.10	Wingene, 51 04N03 16E (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
	XF (cat)	04.01.11	Stockbridge, 333km W
X675989	3F	12.10.10	Titchfield Haven
	R	18.08.11	Wheldrake Ings NR, Wheldrake, York (N. Yorkshire), 342km N
Y280674	3M	20.08.11	Blashford Lakes
	R	18.09.11	Pett Level (Sussex), 172km E
BLB12284399	3M	15.08.11	Ingooigem, 50 49N03 26E (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
	R	29.08.11	Chilling, Warsash, Southampton, 332km W

Y314936	3M	01.09.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	10.09.11	Cauldwell Hall Farm, Hollesley (Suffolk), 232km NE

The migration strategy bringing central European breeders to winter in Britain and Ireland, first discovered in the 1960s, is maintained. Some move north in central Europe then west, many passing through Belgium; 11793109 is a good example of this type of movement. On the other hand, 12284399 was likely to have been a British-born bird captured in Belgium during post juvenile dispersal which later re-orientated back onto the south coast before its first migration. Late August is the beginning of Blackcap migration in Hampshire, which normally peaks in mid to late September.

Whitethroat *Silvia communis*

FRP5418717	3	05.09.09	Plaisance, Saint-Froult, 45 54N01 04W (Charente-Maritime), France
	XF (glass)	23.04.11	Warsash, 551km N
L372560	3	28.08.10	Finningley Airfield, near Doncaster (South Yorkshire)
	XF (glass)	02.04.11	Winnall, Winchester, 270km S

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Y096313	3	24.07.11	Wheldrake Ings NR, Wheldrake, York (North Yorkshire)
	R	14.08.11	Titchfield Haven, 342km S

A total of 950 was caught at Titchfield Haven which makes it an important site for the study of this species during autumn migration. Only Icklesham, Sussex achieves greater catch totals. From a total of 3164 ringed in Great Britain and Ireland during 2011 there was only seven recoveries. Birds recovered in winter have been found in Mauritania and Senegal.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

T053813	3	06.08.05	Rye Meads, Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire)
	R	06.08.11	Titchfield Haven, 137km NNW
V365564	4	16.08.07	Farlington Marshes
	R	11.09.08	Hondarribia, 43 23N01 47W (Guipuzcoa), Spain 830km S
V365779	3	27.07.08	Farlington Marshes,
	R	01.07.11	Nigg Ferry, Cromarty Firth (Highland Region)788km NNW
X674324	3	14.08.10	Titchfield Haven
	R	21.12.10	Site Confidential, Mauritania, 4060km SSW
FRP 6281395	4	15.08.09	Le Massereau, Frossay. 47 14N 01 55 W (Loire-Atlantique), France
	R	21.07.11	Titchfield Haven
R100389	3F	29.07.10	Shannon Airport Lagoon (Clare), Ireland
	R	30.07.11	Titchfield Haven, 568km ESE
L451487	4F	08.07.11	Nigg Ferry, Cromarty Firth (Highland Region),
	R	21.08.11	Farlington Marshes, 788km SSE
L900622	3	15.07.11	Farlington Marshes
	R	14.08.11	Nanjizal, Land's End (Cornwall), 342km WSW
L589416	3	19.07.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	23.07.11	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges, 47 19N02 04W (Loire-Atlantique), France 394km S
L589447	3	23.07.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	06.08.11	Mars-Quest, Saint-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu, 47 02N 01 38W (Loire-Atlantique), France, 421km S
L589966	3	30.07.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	08.08.11	Mars-Quest, Saint-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu, 47 02N 01 38W (Loire-Atlantique), France, 421km S

L590741	4	06.08.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	16.08.11	Massereau, Frossay, 47 14N 01 55 W (Loire-Atlantique), France, 401km S
B951608	3	28.08.11	Fish Lake Meadows, Romsey, 274km ESE
	R	02.09.11	Marais de Tardingen, Wissant, 50 53N01 39E, (Pas-de-Calais), France, 221kmE
Y332351	3	01.09.11	Leighton Moss, near Silverdale (Lancashire)
	R	16.09.11	Titchfield Haven, 387km SSE

There was an incredible total of 18 British and Irish ringed individuals recovered in Mauritania during 2011. In over 100 years of ringing in Britain and Ireland there has been only five previous records. X674324 is the first record involving a Hampshire-ringed bird.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

P431338	3	15.09.08	Titchfield Haven
	R	17.08.11	Pett Level. (Sussex), 135km E
X799268	4	17.06.10	near Red Row, East Chevington (Northumberland)
	R	19.08.11	Titchfield Haven, 495km S
X674405	3	29.08.10	Titchfield Haven
	R	28.07.11	Rutland Water (Leicestershire), 207km N
BLB	4M	03.05.11	Herne, 50 44N04 02E (Brabant), Belgium
11781608	R	26.06.11	Lower Test Marshes NR, 388km W
L140637	3	15.07.11	Chillington Hall (Staffordshire)
	R	03.08.11	Pylewell Lake, Lisle Court, Lymington, 217km S
L589258	3	26.07.11	Titchfield Haven
	R	10.08.11	Noyant, Soulaire-Et-Bourg, 47 33N00 32W (Maine-et-Loire), France, 367km S
L701486	3	02.08.11	Trimley Marshes, Trimley St Mary (Suffolk),
	R	01.09.11	Titchfield Haven, 218km W

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

NW49433	3F	06.11.10	Rosemount, Aberdeen (Grampian Region)
	VV	17.12.10	Romsey, 685km S
NW49296	3F	30.10.10	Ballater (Grampian Region)
	VV	30.01.11	Yateley, 652km SSE

Grampian Ringing Group has been colour-ringing the species in and around Aberdeen since 1988. Re-sightings and recoveries of dead birds have produced an interesting picture of the southward movements through Britain after landfall in northeast Scotland (see *The Migration Atlas*, Wernham *et al.* 2002). Waxwing is an irruptive species and numbers and arrival dates vary considerably from winter to winter. The expanse of these irruptions can be illustrated by an adult male ringed in Aberdeen on Mar 31st 2005. It was killed by a cat on Feb 15th the following year, 3714km north-east of Aberdeen at a central Asian village located east of the Ural Mountains to the north of Kazakhstan (Alyabevskiy, Sovetskiy, Khanty-Mansi, Russian Federation 61°17'N, 62°47'E). See this report (Clark, 211) for an account of the 2010/11 invasion and subsequent movements through Britain.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

NLA	4M	03.11.08	Castricum, 52 32N04 36E (Noord-Holland), The Netherlands
L282157	X	16.03.09	Bridge Farm, Brockenhurst, 466km WSW

The number of Starlings wintering in the UK has reduced significantly since the 1970s. This is only the second Hampshire recovery from The Netherlands and the 14th from the continent; however, 70 Hampshire-ringed birds have been recovered on the continent.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

CL09555	3M	14.12.02.	Sparsholt College, Sparsholt
	XF	07.02.11	Sparsholt College, Sparsholt
CW70247	6M	11.03.06	Kilnsea Clays, near Spurn Point (Humberside)
	XL	24.02.11	Portchester, Fareham, 320km SSW
CT18382	3M	22.12.10	Barton on Sea
	XF (car)	27.03.11	Kalvsvik, Vaxjo, 56 52N14 48E (Kronoberg), Sweden 1277km ENE

Note the ringing date for CT18382 is the same as that below for a Robin recovered in Finland. A productive day for the ringer concerned.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

X675840	3	08.10.10	Titchfield Haven
	X	15.10.11	Wittmund, Burhafe, 53 36N 07 42E (Weser-Ems), Germany , 684km ENE
X816768	3F	25.10.10	Sandy Point, Hayling Island.
	R	11.05.11	Old Weston (Cambridgeshire), 182km NNE
X631601	3	22.12.10	Barton on Sea
	XF	22.07.11	Lehtoi, Kontiolahti, 62 38N30 08E (Kuopio), Finland , 2333km ENE

These are the first two records of Hampshire-ringed Robins recovered on the continent. There are nine records of individuals ringed abroad recovered in Hampshire as follows: Sweden (1), Baltic States (1), Denmark (2), Netherlands (1) and Belgium (4).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

L400457	3	25.08.10	Pett Level (Sussex)
	XF	11.04.11	Hayling Island, 117km W

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

R810690	3M	18.08.04	Redbridge, Southampton
	R	09.04.11	Lower Test Marshes NR, 2km

The longevity record for this species is 11 years 3 months 7 days.

Pied/White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

L041699	3	31.10.09	Abbotsbury Swannery (Dorset)
	XF	14.01.11	Oakley, Basingstoke, 120km ENE

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Y025673	3	15.08.11	Big Bumper Piece Moor (Derbyshire)
	R	28.09.11	Farlington Marshes, 264km S

A notable record, one of 88 full-grown birds ringed in 2011. It is clear from visible migration studies that many of the autumn birds which pass through south coast sites must be from much farther north; the exact proportions of British to north European breeding birds involved in this passage is still unclear. There is further uncertainty about the breeding origins of wintering birds at coastal sites in southern Britain. Thus was this individual a passage migrant bound for France/Spain, a post-fledging dispersal, or a winter arrival? The species is to be targeted in the next few years in an attempt to find out more.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

L148898	4M	12.12.10	Straight Mile, near Romsey
	XF	24.06.11	Kolding, 55 30N09 28E (Jylland), Denmark, 881km ENE

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

T955380	3M	31.12.05	Straight Mile, near Romsey
	R	01.04.11	Itzehoe/Edendorf-Garten, 53 57N09 29E (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany, 809km ENE
BLB10299555	3M	27.10.07	Anzegem, 50 50N03 28E (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium
	X (Car)	01.04.11	Ringwood, 369km W
NOS9E05210	3F	08.09.10	Ronvikjordene, Bodo67 17N14 27E (Nordland), Norway
	R	14.01.11	Straight Mile, near Romsey, 2015km SSE
L149640	5M	26.02.11	Straight Mile, near Romsey
	R	15.10.11	Bomyra, Randaberg, 59 00N05 34E (Rogaland), Norway, 995km NNE

A total of 984 was caught and ringed in Hampshire during 2011, which is 16% of the total for Britain and Ireland. This nice group of recoveries is typical, reflecting movements to and from the breeding and wintering sites. The longevity record for this species is 8 years, 7 months and 16 days.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

TL16873	3M	21.11.10	Embley Wood
	X	31.08.11	West Keal, near Spilsby (Lincolnshire), 266km NNE
TL94418	2F	25.10.10	Portland Bill (Dorset)
	R	20.12.11	Stratton Manor, 126km NE

Two other recoveries were notified in the year – both were local movements and both had succumbed to disease.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

L077927	3M	05.11.10	Pamber Green
	R	26.11.11	Hope Under Dinmore, Leominster (Hereford & Worcester)145km NW
L802722	3JF	21.08.11	Hartley Park Farm, Selborne.
	R	11.11.11	Andoain, 43 11N02 02W (Guipuzcoa), Spain, 886km S

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

R372449	6M	23.01.10	Stares Farm, Shedfield
	XF (Glass)	19.03.11	Nine Mile Burn, Penicuik (Borders Region), 559km NNW
L447301	5M	05.02.11	Fleet
	R	16.04.11	Hope Under Dinmore, Leominster (Hereford & Worcester), 165km NW
L447397	5M	20.02.11	Fleet
	R	04.07.11	Berriedale (Highland Region)784km NNW
L447431	5F	05.03.11	Fleet
	R	11.03.11	Bidston, Wirral (Merseyside), 281km NNW
L928051	5M	13.03.11	Blashford Lakes
	R	21.07.11	Stora Fjaderagg, Holmon, 63 49N21 00E (Vasterbotten), Sweden, 1973km NE

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

X672722	3F	27.03.10	Fleet
	R	06.01.11	Mickley Square, Prudhoe (Northumberland), 414km N
L625218	4M	12.10.10	Greystoke Forest (Cumbria)
	R	19.01.11	Blashford Lakes, 432km S
L148744	3M	27.11.10	Straight Mile, near Romsey
	R	31.05.11	Calf of Man (Isle of Man), 409km NNW

L587179	3M	26.11.10	Eversley Common
	R	27.10.11	Calf of Man (Isle of Man), 404km NW
L587452	4M	11.12.10	Eversley Common
	R	04.04.11	Higher Thrushgill (Lancashire), 324km NNW
L292131	2F	13.10.11	Copeland Bird Observatory (Down)
	R	12.11.11	Embley Wood, 492km SSE

Lesser Redpolls are known to be partial migrants so all the recoveries shown here are likely to be from populations in northern Britain & Ireland. Only three Mealy Redpolls were caught in Hampshire during 2011.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

L645241	3M	02.10.10	Brimpton GP (Berkshire)
	R	26.06.11	Blashford Lakes, 72km SW
L151279	4F	08.04.11	Rye Meads (Hertfordshire)
	R	29.10.11	Fish Lake Meadows, Romsey, 136km SW

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

NW10063	4F	25.03.11	New Barn Farm, Ogbourne St Andrew (Wiltshire)
	VV	06.08.11	Toyd Down, Martin, 55km S

This was just one of five recoveries involving this species from the whole of the Great Britain and Ireland Ringing Scheme in 2011. None was ringed in Hampshire in the year.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all ringing groups and licensed ringers who submitted records for use in this Report; their contributions are much appreciated. On behalf of all Hampshire ringers, I would like to thank all public bodies and individuals that gave access to reserves, farms, woodlands, gardens, etc. Without their continued support and understanding ringing in Hampshire would not be possible. Thanks also to all those individuals who submitted species finder records or sightings of colour-ringed birds for possible inclusion. Particular thanks go to the British Trust for Ornithology, who has recently made available national Ringing and Recovery summaries that can be viewed on the ringing pages of their website (<http://www.bto.org/ringing>) by clicking 'online reports'.

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The Hampshire Ornithological Society

Organisation, Membership and Recording

Background

The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society was founded in 1885 and the Ornithological Section formed in 1954. The Ornithological 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 exceeding 1200, many of whom actively take part in the Society's programme of bird surveys. The aims of The Society are summarised on the back of this Report.

Membership

All members receive the annual Bird Report and the quarterly magazine *Kingfisher*. Membership is available as follows (correct at January 1st, 2013):

Ordinary Membership £12 p.a.

Family Membership (two or more members at the same address) £12 p.a.

Corporate Membership (sponsors, schools, Bird Clubs, etc.) £12 p.a.

Junior Membership (under 18) £5 p.a.

To join, send your name and address with the appropriate subscription to:

Membership Secretary: Kay Shillitoe

Westerly, Hundred Acres Road, WICKHAM PO17 6HY

E-mail: kay@shillitoe.freemove.co.uk, Tel: 01329 833086

Applications to join after September 30th shall cover the succeeding calendar year, save that members so joining shall not be entitled to receive the Hampshire Bird Report published in the year they are joining. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st each year. The preferred method of payment is by standing order (a form will be sent to new members and details for setting up through internet banking are given on the HOS website). Membership renewals can also be made by post to:

Membership Records Officer: John Norton

215, Forton Road, GOSPORT PO12 3HB

E-mail: hos@jnecology.com, Tel. 02392 520828

Publications

The Hampshire Bird Report is published annually and is the HOS record of Birds in Hampshire in the previous calendar year. The quarterly *Kingfisher* magazines contain Society news on indoor and outdoor programmes and events, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, recent reports and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Scientific sub-committee. These include wildfowl and wader counts, breeding censuses and migration watches. 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.

Meetings & Committees

Regular field meetings are arranged for all parts of the county throughout the year. Meetings are designed to introduce members to various habitats and to provide opportunity for novices of all ages to learn more about birds under field conditions. Indoor meetings (usually illustrated lectures) are occasionally arranged in the winter months. Most of 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. 4 for Committee Officers):

(a) The Scientific Sub-committee is responsible for organising surveys, for the collection of records and for the production of the Bird Report. It also handles liaison with the BTO, ringing groups, conservation bodies and similar organisations.

(b) The Membership Sub-committee is responsible for the Newsletter, the Members' Day, conferences, indoor and outdoor meetings and the HOS library.

Submission of Bird Records and Photographs

Records of birds in Hampshire should be submitted to:

County Bird Recorder: Keith Betton

8 Dukes Close, FARNHAM GU9 0DR

E-mail: keithbetton@hotmail.com

Observers are urged to submit their sightings on Hampshire Ornithological Society record forms, available on the Society's website at <http://www.hos.org.uk>. Records can also be entered on-line and e-mailed to the Recorder or submitted in an Excel spreadsheet or Word file. See Guidelines for the Submission of Records at <http://www.hos.org.uk/recording.html> (or contact the Recorder).

It would be of great assistance if observers would comply with the following points when submitting records:

- Records should be listed either by species (in the order used in the Hampshire Bird Report) or by date.
- Please submit your sightings to the Recorder quarterly and at the latest by Jan 31st of the following year.
- Records of the following scarcer species must be supported by the completion of *Unusual Record Forms*, also available from the link above:

Whooper Swan, Tundra Bean, Taiga Bean and Pink-footed Geese, Black Brant, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked and Ferruginous Ducks, Surf Scoter, Sooty, Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters, Storm-petrel, Wilson's and Leach's Storm-petrels, Night Heron, Great White Egret, Purple Heron, Black Kite, Rough-legged Buzzard, Red-footed Falcon, Corncrake, Common Crane, Kentish Plover, American Golden Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Long-tailed Skua, Sabine's, Ring-billed and Caspian Gulls, Iceland Gull of race kumleini, White-winged Black Tern, Black Guillemot, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Short-toed Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Richard's, Tawny and Red-throated Pipits, Bluethroat, Aquatic, Marsh, Icterine, Melodious, Barred, Subalpine, Greenish, Dusky, Radde's and Pallas's Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Woodchat Shrike, Rosy Starling, Common (Mealy) Redpoll, Arctic Redpoll, Common Rosefinch, Cirl, Ortolan, Rustic and Little Buntings. All exceptionally early or late migrants.

The submission of digital photographs, or sound recordings, in electronic format are also welcomed to supplement records. Please contact the Recorder prior to sending large files.

Good quality digital photographs of Hampshire birds are also requested for inclusion in future annual Reports. **The filename should include photographer's name, species name, locality and date taken.** Please also submit poorer quality 'record' shots of rarities, especially where it is likely the bird has not otherwise been photographed. Please send images for consideration to:

Photographic Editor: Richard Ford

E-mail: richf@digitalwildlife.co.uk

Please submit medium resolution images but retain unedited originals as these may be requested later for publication. Please contact the Photographic Editor for further details.

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