

Hampshire Bird Report 2015



Hampshire Ornithological Society

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The Hampshire Ornithological Society has three broad aims:

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

MEMBERSHIP

The annual subscription is £12 for Ordinary, Joint or Family membership; £5 for Junior membership (under 18s). Full membership information is given on p.237 and on the HOS web site: <http://www.hos.org.uk>.

Hampshire Bird Report 2015



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Hampshire Ornithological Society



Published November 2016

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Chairman's Report 2015

My fourth annual report to the Society as Chairman takes us up to the 2016 Members' Day, held as usual in Winchester in April. This event, which also incorporates the formal AGM proceedings, gives the membership a chance to get together, renew old acquaintances and hear some first-rate lectures by top quality speakers. It is arranged by the Membership Sub-committee chaired by Jonathan Mycock, who steps down as chair this year. All organisers and contributors are to be congratulated on continuing to inform and inspire us on all things avian.

I said last year that the Atlas was imminent. Well it finally made it out in time for Christmas 2015 and, as I have said before, is an excellent publication and something of which the Society can be rightly proud. John Eyre deserves huge thanks for all that he did in bringing it to fruition. However, it is not just the work of one man. Countless volunteers took part in the survey work giving us the vital data with which to work. Martin Bennett did a great job in collating all the photographs, which illustrate the publication so well, and to him and all those others who contributed photos, a huge thank you. So many people helped in so many differing ways, whether as species account writers, proof-readers or deliverers; you are all deserving of our thanks. We must also thank Rob Still at Wildguides for all his help and guidance too. If you have not yet purchased a copy, I implore you to do so.

This brings me neatly onto the subject of conservation once more, something of a passion shared by our President Chris Packham and myself. We all know that it is about conserving not just individual species but habitats too, and it is fitting that the Society is going to use some of its funds to help in this way by giving grants for worthwhile projects in Hampshire. The first is to provide additional rafts for nesting Common Terns at Blashford Lakes. Should anyone know of any organization or individual that requires funding for similar projects, then an application form can be obtained from the Secretary of the Scientific Sub-committee.

John Clark, another stalwart of the Society, steps down as editor of the Bird Report to take a well-deserved rest from the rigours of the Society and enjoy some leisure birding around the world. I am sure he will be back one day, refreshed and raring to go, so thank you John; yours is a hard act to follow. I am, however, delighted to say that the new editor, Mike Chalmers, comes highly recommended and I am sure he will continue to produce a fine publication in the traditions of Hampshire Ornithological Society.

Several Ordinary Members of the Management Committee – Mike Armitage, Andy Broadhurst, Alison Cross and Andy Rhodes – stood down at the AGM. We call them ordinary members but there is nothing ordinary about them. They have all done sterling work for the Society and have my heartfelt thanks for jobs well done. We welcome their replacements in the knowledge that they have been well chosen and will also serve us well.

Whilst at the Romsey Show last year I engaged in conversation with a lady who seemed keen to help the Society in some way. To this end I have created a new position, that of Education Officer, and Dr. Patricia Brown takes on that mantle. She has already resurrected Birdtrail, which will take place at Blashford Lakes in September. Here youngsters will not only have a fun time but will also be able to observe our tern rafts, which I mentioned earlier, and see conservation in action for themselves. I know that you will welcome her to the role and assist her in every way because, as the song goes, 'children are our future'. I am sure that next time I will be writing about the success of Birdtrail 2016.

Last, but not least, a few others to thank: Phil Budd for once more producing the excellent newsletter of the Society, Kingfisher, which remains the essential guide to all that is happening in the Society; the County Recorder, Keith Betton, who does so much more for the Society than most; and all the other members of the various committees that keep HOS running like a well-oiled machine. I thank you all and finally I thank you, the membership, for your continued support of, in my humble opinion, the best ornithological society in the country.

Alan Snook, May 2016

Editorial and Acknowledgements

Last year's report was John Clark's last as editor and by working alongside him I began to appreciate the scale and complexity of the editor's task. Over the years successive editors and production teams have raised the bar and the *Hampshire Bird Report* justly ranks amongst the best in UK. In taking over the editorship, I have been very conscious of the need to maintain the high standards of the content and production quality whilst at the same time seeking new ways to make improvements. The existing format has developed over the years and served well and I have made no major changes. It is familiar to readers and continuity with previous reports is important to enable comparisons to be made. However, I have introduced some changes which I hope will add interest and make the report an even more useful reference document, as well as encouraging members and others to contribute and maintain the excellence of its textual and photographic content.

I have also made a change to the sequence by moving the list of HOS Honorary Officers, Committee and Life Members to the front immediately after the title page, and listing committee members in full. HOS relies on the goodwill and capabilities of these volunteers and many others who give up their time to ensure the smooth running of the 'well-oiled machine' referred to by the Chairman in his Report.

The next change has been to give greater prominence and ease of reference to the photographs and photographers by including a full list with titles and credits in the Contents. One of the most striking features of the *Hampshire Bird Reports*, and the recently published *Hampshire Bird Atlas*, is the quality and relevance of the photographs and I am keen to encourage our photographers to continue to use the Bird Report to showcase their best work.

For the first time information on observer coverage has also been included in the introduction to the Systematic List. Whilst Hampshire has a wide range of habitats, a very large proportion of the submitted records refer to the popular coastal sites, major reserves and the New Forest, and coverage elsewhere is very patchy except in the north-east. By summarising the distribution of records, readers are better able to interpret the results in the context of the whole county. It also enables gaps in coverage to be readily identified and hopefully filled. The assistance of John Newnham of Sussex Ornithological Society is gratefully acknowledged in preparing this new feature.

With regard to the Systematic List itself, the headline status summary of each species has been updated with respect to the ever-expanding and at times bewildering conservation categories using the most relevant recent criteria at county, national and European level. Whilst the bird report continues to use the English and scientific names and sequence for each species in accordance with the latest edition of the BOU British List, the alternative IOC names, where applicable, have also been added in brackets to assist in cross-referencing to the birding literature and to avoid potential confusion between similar species. Whilst the scientific names provide unique identities for each species, the IOC English names are now becoming more widely used, both within UK and internationally, and are also quoted by BOU alongside the traditional English names in the British List. Fortunately, BOU have made no recent changes to the order of species which remains the same as last year, except for some minor rearrangements within shorebirds and buntings.

Other changes have been revisions to Tables 6 and 7 involving the splitting of average arrival and departure dates of migrants into two columns, the first covering 1971 to 2009 and the second from 2010 to date. This is to identify any recent changes in average dates, including those due to climate change, rather than dilute the differences in long-term averages over the last 44 years. A new Table 8 has also been added summarising the monthly movements observed at the inland watch-points.

The Systematic List is followed by three main papers, two short papers and three notes. This is an increase over recent years and I am keen to continue this trend by using the Bird Report

to publish a wider range of articles relevant to birds and conservation issues in Hampshire. The first two main papers both focus on key Hampshire habitats and species. The first by John Eyre is a case study on the restoration of heathland at Farnborough Airport. This includes the results of on-going monitoring over 16 years as the habitat has developed and flagship heathland species have colonised. The second is a summary by John Shillitoe of the findings and trends from the low tide counts carried out in winter 2014/15 in Portsmouth Harbour. The third paper by John Clark gives details of the exceptional movement of Redwings and Fieldfares around Southampton in November last year.

Looking back over the year, 2015 will be remembered as the first year since 2008 when there were no new species added to the Hampshire List. However, there were two memorable seconds, both of which are the subject of short papers. The first was the Greater Yellowlegs found at Posbrook Meadows, Titchfield in January, which returned in April for three months and was enjoyed by many. The other was the Black-eared Wheatear at Acres Down in June, which has been accepted as the first Hampshire record of the distinctive east Mediterranean race.

In addition to the papers, members are encouraged to contribute short articles of interest and I am delighted to include notes on high numbers of Mediterranean Gulls at Winchester Sewage Farm by John Cloyne and Paul Pearson, a summary of breeding Goosanders in the Avon Valley by Philip Fawkes, and finally the findings of last year's BTO House Martin Survey in Hampshire by Glynne Evans and myself.

After the papers and notes, I have re-introduced a Hampshire map, following its discontinuation after the 2010 Report, and included a gazetteer of regularly referenced sites including most of those referred to in the Systematic List. Many site names are quoted and the addition of a map and gazetteer enables most locations to be identified, especially to assist newcomers and visitors or to locate less well-known sites. Approximate locations can be identified on the map using the National Grid 10km square co-ordinate grid from which more detailed searches can be targeted. The map also shows a selection of 30 frequently mentioned sites using reference numbers together with the names of other major birding areas such as Hayling Island, Chichester and Langstone Harbours and New Forest. Main roads, rivers and urban areas are also included for reference. Special thanks are due to Rob and Rachel Still at WILDGuides for preparing the map.

HOS is a large society with over 1,500 members and each year a database of approximately 60,000-90,000 records is compiled with input from over 900 observers, members and non-members alike. Thanks again to all observers and contributors who are listed in Appendix 2 to the Systematic List.

The processing of records and production of the bird report is only possible as a team effort relying each year on the generosity and expertise of a large number of volunteers. As usual records have been submitted through many different channels. The BTO provided Hampshire records from their national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), BirdTrack and Garden BirdWatch (GBW) surveys, Birdguides provided county records, visible migration data were obtained from the *Trektellen* website, and waterbird survey data (WeBS) were provided with the agreement of the WeBS Partnership of WWT, RSPB, BTO and NCC.

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

(NFWBS). Sandy Point records were input from the report written by Andy Johnson. As Database Manager, Andy Rhodes was responsible for the key role of collating all the above records into the COBRA database.

My sincere thanks go to the writers of the individual species accounts for the Systematic List, the majority of whom have been carrying out this task for many years. The quality of the accounts depends upon their skill, accuracy and knowledge, and the time they give up each summer to write their accounts is much appreciated. In alphabetical order they are, in addition to myself, Keith Betton, Andy Broadhurst, John Clark, Rob Clements, Alan Cox, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, Caroline French, John Jones, William Legge, Graham Osborne, Andy Page, John Shillitoe, Barry Stalker, Dave Unsworth, Andrew Walmsley, Marcus Ward, Keith Wills and Simon Woolley. My special thanks to Keith Wills who is stepping down after being a member of the writers' team for many years. Anyone interested in becoming a writer please contact me. Apologies to Alan Cox and Andy Page for their names being inadvertently not included in the acknowledgements in last year's report. Writers' contributions are individually identified by their initials in italics at the end of each of their species accounts. In addition, Tables 1 and 8 were prepared by John Clark, Table 3 by Alan Cox, Table 4 by Keith Betton and Table 5 by John Shillitoe.

My thanks also go to Alan Snook for his Chairman's Report, Richard Carpenter who has written the annual Review of the Year for the last time and is handing over to Amy Robjohns, Simon Boswell and Alison Cross for advice on conservation categories, and Tony Davis who once more collated contributions from individual ringers to compile the Ringing Report, which this year has been expanded to include nesting records. Our regular illustrators, David Thelwell and Dan Powell, have again generously donated their artwork.

Special thanks go to Alan Lewis who, as Photographic Editor, has been responsible for sourcing and selecting the excellent photographs which add interest and make the report so much more attractive. Thanks also to the individual photographers who generously submitted images and are acknowledged both in the contents list and in the captions to each photograph.

The following team of proof-readers and reviewers all identified errors and made valuable comments: John Clark, John Cloyne, Andy Collins, Alan Cox, Tim Doran, Andy Johnson and Jodie Southgate. Any outstanding errors or omissions are my responsibility alone. Finally, John Norton as Production Editor has again carried out the vital task of designing and formatting the entire report, including placing all the photographs and finalising everything for the printer. Our printer for the second year in succession is Henry Ling Limited of Dorchester and thanks go to Andrew Hunter for maintaining the excellent printing quality and ensuring the timely production and despatch to members and others last year and hopefully again this year. Keith Betton was again responsible for securing the advertising revenue and Bryan and Sandy Coates again organised sales and distribution.

I conclude with thanks again to all involved for their patience with me in my learning role, to Keith Betton for his support and ready help whenever needed, and especially to my mentor, John Clark, for teaching and guiding me through the whole process and continuing to take a close interest in the accuracy and quality of the final report.

Mike Chalmers, September 2016

Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2015

Richard Carpenter



Bittern (David Thelwell)

A total of 245 species was recorded in the county in 2015. This was 11 less than last year and 16 less than the average of 261 for the last five years. There were no additions to the county list but Greater Yellowlegs and Black-eared Wheatear both occurred for only the second time.

January was a generally mild month but temperatures started to drop from 17th. It was dry for most of the month with significant rainfall only on 3rd, 8th and 15th. There were strong south-west winds on 1st, west on 8th and 10th, south-west gales on 12th-13th, west storm on 15th and north-west on 28th.

Still present from 2014 were a White-fronted Goose at Tournurbury on 1st, a drake Ferruginous Duck at Blashford Lakes until February 8th and a first-winter drake Long-tailed Duck there until March 27th, two to four Black-necked Grebes at Ibsley Water until April 5th and up to nine in Langstone Harbour until March 6th, a Great White Egret at Blashford Lakes until 31st, a Bittern at Ivy Lake intermittently until March 22nd, an adult Ring-billed Gull which remained until early March at Ibsley Water gull roost and the regular Gosport adult which remained until March 12th.

Keyhaven Marshes produced a drake Smew on 1st, an Arctic Skua was off Hurst Beach on 2nd and Slavonian Grebes were regular in the west Solent until mid-March with a maximum of seven at an evening roost at Oxey Lake on 13th and nearby off Pennington Marshes on 24th. Interesting visitors to Ibsley Water included a juvenile Glaucous Gull on 1st, a second-winter Ring-billed Gull on 4th, a Bewick's Swan on 10th, 18th and 24th and a juvenile Iceland Gull on 23rd. Up to 11 Yellow-legged Gulls were also at Ibsley Water during the month. A drake Scaup was at Kingfisher Lake on 1st and another drake was at Yateley GP on 1st and 2nd and Wellington Country Park from 24th until March 10th. A Ring Ouzel near Noar Hill, Selborne from 2nd to 15th was unexpected for the time of year. Single Siberian Chiffchaffs

were at Eastleigh SW from 4th until February 9th and near Blashford Lakes Visitor Centre on 21st. Fourteen Red-throated Divers were off Brownwich on 4th and 11 flew east off Hurst Castle on 6th. Great White Egrets were at Old Basing and Winchester on 4th, Bransbury Common from 15th to 31st, Testbourne Lake on 16th and Broadlands Lake on 31st. Up to four Hen Harriers were regularly seen in the northern New Forest and singles were present at Bransbury Common from 2nd to 7th and Alresford Pond on 4th.

The highlight of the month was the discovery of a Greater Yellowlegs at Posbrook Flood north of Titchfield Haven on 11th – only the second for the county (see separate paper in this report). Both Light-bellied Brent Geese and Black Brants were seen at Farlington Marshes and Portsmouth Harbour remaining until February and March respectively. Another Black Brant was in the Keyhaven area until March 3rd and other Light-bellied Brent Geese were in the west Solent and Southampton Water areas. Spoonbills were seen at Farlington Marshes and between Needs Ore and Keyhaven Marshes regularly from January for much of the year. Two Velvet Scoters were between Lymington and Hurst on 18th. Unusually for the winter a Little Stint was at Needs Ore on 20th and 25th. A flock of 75 Barnacle Geese flew over the north of Chichester Harbour on 26th. Short-eared Owls were at five or more sites during the month. Great Grey Shrikes were reported regularly in the northern New Forest until April 4th and at Bransbury Common until March 17th.

February was a dry month, fairly cold with several overnight frosts. Winds were mostly from north or east for the first half of the month and mainly from the west thereafter. They were mostly light or moderate but strong from the north-east on 6th, south on 13th, south-west on 19th and 22nd and west on 24th and 26th.

Other than the Blashford Lakes bird, there were sightings of Bitterns at Keyhaven on 1st, Fawley Reservoir on 6th and Itchen Valley CP on 10th. A redhead Smew was also at Fawley Reservoir on 6th. A flock of 30 Barnacle Geese was unexpected at Farlington Marshes on 14th and 15th. A Red-necked Grebe was at Black Point on 17th. Of particular interest was a drake Surf Scoter off Stokes Bay from 25th until March 4th. Seven Velvet Scoters flew west at Hurst Castle on 27th and a White-fronted Goose was with Dark-bellied Brent Geese at Hook-with-Warsash on 28th.

March was a dry month with little rainfall until 26th. Winds were from a westerly point until 7th, from the east or north until 25th and then back to the west, strong to gale-force from 28th and very strong on 31st.



Surf Scoter (Dan Powell)

A Bittern flew up the Hamble River on 1st and another was at Fishlake Meadows on 3rd and 6th. A Great White Egret was at Broadlands Lake on 6th and another at Bransbury Common on 20th. There was a brief reappearance of the Ferruginous Duck at Kingfisher Lake on 7th and the adult Ring-billed Gull at Ibsley Water on 5th and 7th. A Short-eared Owl was at The Kench on 9th and Farlington Marshes on 24th remaining until April 10th. A Velvet Scoter was off Hurst on 19th and a Red-necked Grebe off Needs Ore from 18th to 22nd.

The first Sand Martins and Wheatears appeared on 8th. Other firsts for the year were an Osprey at Winchester on 17th, a drake Garganey at Titchfield Haven from 20th to 22nd and a Stone-curlew at Over Wallop on 23rd.

April was a cool but mainly dry month. Very strong north-west winds occurred only on 29th. Winds were mainly from the south or east from 4th to 10th and again from 15th-23rd, otherwise mainly from the west.

The Greater Yellowlegs returned to Titchfield Haven on 11th and was subsequently seen in the area until July 24th. Hampshire's share of the Hoopoe influx comprised singles at Browdown North on 12th, Weston Shore on 15th, Southwick on 23rd and Crawley from 24th to 26th. A late Bittern was at Keyhaven on 21st and a ringtail Montagu's Harrier was at Crawley on 24th.

Regular spring migrants of interest included Garganey at eight or more sites, Ospreys at 13 sites, Little Gulls at several coastal and inland sites including a peak of six at Ibsley Water on 11th and singles at Testwood Lake and Fleet Pond, Short-eared Owls at three coastal sites, Ring Ouzels at 11 sites, Pied Flycatchers at seven sites and a Wood Sandpiper at Pennington Marshes on 16th. The only spring Wryneck was at Bricksbury Hill on 19th and a Little Stint was at Ibsley Water on 28th.

Passage movement along the coast, mostly easterly, was observed throughout the month. Interesting sightings included Light-bellied Brent Geese on five dates, three Velvet Scoter off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on three dates, several Manx Shearwaters off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on four dates, a Balearic Shearwater on 12th, Great and Arctic Skuas on several dates, Black Terns from 23rd, single Black-throated Divers off Southsea and Stokes Bay on 25th, up to two Roseate Terns off Lepe on 26th and Hurst/Milford on 29th.



Spotted Flycatcher (Dan Powell)



Black-necked Grebe with Little Grebe (Dan Powell)

May was another cool and fairly dry month with significant rainfall only on 14th. Winds were moderate from the east on 1st and 14th, otherwise from the south-west/west and strong or gale-force from 3rd-6th, 10th, 18th and 28th-31st.

A Bonaparte's Gull was found at Weston Shore on 3rd and subsequently reported at various sites in the Itchen Estuary until 22nd. The first Honey Buzzard of the year was seen at Petersfield on 7th, a female Serin flew over Sandy Point the same day, a drake Scaup was off Netley and a Hoopoe flew in off the sea at Stokes Bay, both on 8th. Three Cranes flew west over Copythorne Common on 10th, also being seen later in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. Other notable records were a Temminck's Stint at Titchfield Haven and two Wood Sandpipers at Needs Ore, both on 13th, a Great White Egret at Needs Ore and a Black Kite east over Hambledon, both on 15th, and a Quail at Keyhaven Marshes on 25th. Spoonbills continued to be seen on several dates, most frequently at Farlington Marshes and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes.

Easterly migration through The Solent was not very intensive but did produce Roseate Terns off Black Point on 2nd and 11th, Hurst Beach on 4th and Stokes Bay on 8th, a Pomarine Skua off Stokes Bay on 4th and two over West Hayling on 11th, Black Terns at three coastal sites and one inland at Ibsley Water on 5th, a Black-throated Diver at Stokes Bay on 7th, Manx Shearwaters off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on four days and Great and Arctic Skuas on several days.

Spring wader passage included single Curlew Sandpipers at Farlington Marshes, Pennington Marshes and Titchfield Haven on various dates and a Little Stint at Titchfield Haven from 24th to 28th. A White-fronted Goose at Lower Test Marshes on 29th was unexpected for the time of year and a new late date.

June produced strong south-west winds and rain on 1st and 2nd but otherwise the weather was unexceptional until the end of the month when the first hot weather and thunderstorms arrived from the south.

Excellent finds in what is normally a quiet month were two Red-necked Phalaropes at Ibsley Water on 2nd, two Red-footed Falcons, a first summer male at Pig Bush on 6th and a first summer female near Fordingbridge-River Avon from 20th to 27th, and a Black-eared Wheatear (of the eastern race – *melanoleuca*) at Acres Down on 13th. The last was only the second record for the county (see separate paper in this report). Single Quails were located at Magdalen Hill Down on 11th, Chilbolton on 17th and Martin Down on 27th. A summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebe was between Hill Head and Hook-with-Warsash from 16th to 20th and a Roseate Tern was in the Lymington area on 16th.

Breeding Honey Buzzards were confirmed at six sites and eight young were raised from five monitored nests. Red Kites were considered to have had a successful season with over 100 breeding pairs. Goshawks were at 38 or more sites: in the New Forest Crown Lands study area

at least 59 young fledged. Breeding Peregrines were located at 18 sites with 13 pairs known to have fledged at least 23 young. At least 38 Stone-curlew territories were established in the north and west of the county and at least 18 young were fledged. At Needs Ore, Pennington Marshes and Titchfield Haven 44 pairs of Avocets raised 33 young, mostly at the last site. Mediterranean Gulls bred at a few sites but the only large colony was in Langstone Harbour where 386 pairs raised about 400 young. A pair of Yellow-legged Gulls nested in the Itchen Estuary raising two young. Little Terns had a very poor season with only four young raised but Sandwich Terns fared better with 70 young fledging from the Langstone Harbour colony. Common Terns had a poor season at coastal sites but at least 76 young were raised at four inland sites. Turtle Doves established territories at a few sites but there was no evidence of successful breeding. Firecrests continued to be a major success story with over 700 singing males both within and outside the New Forest. Bearded Tits were confirmed breeding with at least eight pairs at Farlington Marshes and at least six at Titchfield Haven.

July was a dry month with little rain. Winds were east or south-east from 1st to 3rd and mainly from a westerly direction thereafter, blowing strongly on 17th and from 25th-27th.

Single Quails were at Titchfield Haven on 1st, Nether Wallop on 3rd and Portsmouth Naval Dockyard on 17th. A Roseate Tern was at Black Point on 3rd. A Great White Egret returned to Blashford Lakes on 10th and was seen on many dates until the end of the year. Balearic Shearwaters were off Hurst with one on 12th and two on 26th. Another Great White Egret was at Fishlake Meadows on 15th and was seen subsequently on nine dates until October 9th. Rarities were a Red-backed Shrike at Beaulieu Heath West/Crockford Bridge NF from 25th-29th and a Black Stork over Southsea seafront on 30th.

Autumn migration got under way with an Osprey at Farlington Marshes and Sinah Common on 11th. Single Wood Sandpipers were at Farlington Marshes on 11th and 18th and Ibsley Water on 12th, two were at Keyhaven on 20th and one at Alresford Pond from 29th until August 12th. Single Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints were at Pennington Marshes from 17th and 18th respectively. Many Green Sandpipers were seen, the peak count being 18 at



Wryneck (Dan Powell)

Alresford Pond on 21st-22nd. There were high counts of Mediterranean Gulls from several sites including 812 at Winchester SF on 7th (see separate note in this report).

August will be remembered for being particularly wet, especially from 20th, with very wet days on 24th and from 26th to 31st. Winds were mainly west or south-west but east or south-east on 2nd, 11th-13th and 22nd.

A flock of 22 Wood Sandpipers at Pennington Marshes on 23rd was exceptional and part of a wider influx with five at Titchfield Haven on the same day and singles at four other sites up to the end of the month. An exceptional flock of 22 Cattle Egrets, which had been seen earlier at Coward's Marsh in Dorset, flew over Harbridge on 30th and two flew west at Normandy the following day.

Pied Flycatchers were at 15 sites throughout the month with the first at Redenham Park on 1st. Single Garganey were at Pennington Marshes on 8th, Fleet Pond on 20th and 21st and Titchfield Haven on 31st. Single Short-eared Owls were reported at Farlington Marshes on 9th, Keyhaven Marshes on 15th and Hurst Castle on 20th. A Wryneck was at Sinah Common on 22nd and subsequently others were seen at Hythe on 28th, Farlington Marshes from 30th until September 10th and Hook-with-Warsash from 31st until September 5th. A Roseate Tern was seen between Gosport and Lepe from 22nd until September 10th. A Balearic Shearwater was off Hurst Castle on 23rd. Between one and four Ospreys were seen at several sites, most frequently at Fishlake Meadows, Langstone Harbour, Lower Test Marshes and Titchfield Haven. Black Terns were widely reported along the coast with a peak count of 15 at Sandy Point on 24th and up to seven inland at Ibsley Water and Lakeside CP, Eastleigh.

September was a largely dry month but with heavy rainfall on 14th, 16th and 22nd. Winds were north or north-west from 1st to 7th, then east or south-east from 8th-13th and again from 26th-30th, otherwise from the west or south-west.

Wrynecks remained at Farlington Marshes and Hook-with-Warsash and others were at IBM Lake/Paulsgrove Reclamation and Titchfield Haven on 1st and East Boldre on 9th and 10th. Pied Flycatchers were at five sites up to 12th. Eleven Ruddy Shelduck (presumed ex-captive or feral) flew north-east over Locks Heath on 2nd. Single Cattle Egrets were at Snails Lake, Blashford on 2nd, Titchfield Haven from 2nd-5th and Farlington Marshes on 3rd and two were at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes from 27th-29th. A Tawny Pipit was at Gunner Point, Hayling Island on 5th. Great White Egrets were seen at Keyhaven/Pennington on 7th and 29th and one was at Langstone Harbour and two were at Titchfield Haven, both also on 29th. A juvenile Barred Warbler was ringed at Titchfield Haven on 8th and retrapped on 10th. Three Balearic Shearwaters were off Hurst Castle on 12th. Particularly large movements of Siskins were reported throughout the month into October including 760 east at Needs Ore on 13th plus smaller numbers at many other sites. A Grey Phalarope was at Lepe on 15th.

Two Roseate Terns were at Hurst Beach on 16th and one was at Hill Head on 26th. Hen Harriers returned with the first at Hurst Beach on 16th. A juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher was at Keyhaven from 23rd remaining until October 31st. The drake Ferruginous Duck returned to Blashford Lakes on 27th and was seen intermittently until the end of the year. A first-winter Red-backed Shrike was in the Stoke Common/West Hayling LNR area on 30th remaining until October 4th. Ospreys continued to be seen at several sites.

October was a fairly dry month with the only significant rainfall on 5th, 6th and 30th. Winds were from an easterly point on 1st-4th, 9th-20th, 26th-27th and 31st, otherwise westerly.

Rarities were a Night Heron briefly seen flying at Dibden Purlieu on 19th, a Siberian Stonechat at Hook-with-Warsash on 23rd, a White-rumped Sandpiper at Farlington Marshes on 25th and a Bluethroat at Keyhaven Marshes on 26th.

Yellow-browed Warblers were at five sites between 8th and November 12th. Two Garganey were at Alresford Pond on 9th and one was at Needs Ore the same day. There was a small influx of Short-eared Owls from 9th with birds at eight or more sites, most regularly at

Farlington Marshes where up to three were present increasing to five in November. Wrynecks were at Pennington Marshes on 10th-11th, Keyhaven on 18th-19th and Calshot on 25th. A Slavonian Grebe was an unusual inland record at Ibsley Water on 12th. The first waves of exceptional numbers of wintering thrushes arrived between 12th-19th and continued with increasing numbers into late November (see separate note in this report). Peak daily counts of Redwings were 5,967 over Southampton on 14th and 3,145 at Tweseldown and 1,510 at nearby Fleet Pond on 15th.

A small influx of Great Grey Shrikes from 13th resulted in widespread sightings in the New Forest and at Woolmer Pond on 21st, Hook-with-Warsash and Titchfield Haven on 25th and Skidmore on 28th. A Lapland Bunting was heard flying west over Barton on Sea on 18th. Great White Egrets were at Sandy Point on 16th, Goodworth Clatford on 19th, Whitchurch on 23rd-24th and Fleet Pond on 27th. The first Bittern of the winter was at Lower Test Marshes on 19th and one at Blashford Lakes on 30th was seen intermittently until the year's end, mostly at Ivy Lake. Three Velvet Scoters flew north-west past Hurst Castle on 25th. Other interesting waterfowl included a White-fronted Goose at Farlington Marshes on 26th-27th (also on two November dates) and a Garganey there from 28th-31st.

November was a wetter month than October but with significant rainfall only on 5th and 6th. Winds were mainly from a westerly or south-westerly point throughout and strong on 6th-7th, 9th, 14th-15th and 17th, north on 21st and west again on 29th.

Great White Egrets were at Bransbury Common on 1st-2nd and Alresford Pond on 30th. Late Ospreys were at Ibsley Water and Bickerley Common on 8th and Avington/Chilland from 9th-12th.

Large-scale movements of Redwings and Fieldfares continued from 8th-22nd with an unprecedented passage through the Southampton area with peaks of 4,885 Redwings on 16th and 3,500 Fieldfares on 19th. An Olive-backed Pipit was at Sandy Point on 12th. As well as the Short-eared Owls remaining at Farlington Marshes, two were seen regularly at the Lower Test Marshes from 15th to December 1st.

Single Velvet Scoters were off Hurst Beach on 15th, Hurst Castle on 20th and at Langstone Harbour from 26th-28th. Two female Ring-necked Ducks were at Rooksbury Mill from 20th remaining until the year's end. The presumed returning adult Ring-billed Gull was at Ibsley Water from 14th to 25th and a juvenile Iceland Gull was at West Hayling LNR on 29th. A Siberian Chiffchaff frequented Titchfield Canal Path from 22nd until December 23rd. Yellow-browed Warblers were at three or more sites during the month. A late Lesser Whitethroat was at Eastleigh SW on 22nd. The only Snow Bunting of the year flew E/NE over Hurst Beach on 22nd. Also of interest on 22nd were eight Bewick's Swans in Langstone Harbour followed by a single at Ibsley Water on 28th.

A Black Brant was in the Farlington area between 23rd and December 18th. Four Scaup were off Hill Head on 23rd and a Red-necked Grebe was off Black Point from 23rd-27th and then nearby at Warblington on December 6th. An Avocet was at Ibsley Water on 24th. Single Pomarine Skuas were off Hurst Beach on 25th and 29th. The largest winter gathering of Great Crested Grebes was 245 off Brownwich on 26th. A Grey Phalarope was off West Hayling LNR on 28th and 29th and a juvenile Iceland Gull was there on the latter date.) A Black-throated Diver was at North Poulner Lake (Blashford) from 29th until December 14th.

December was a very mild and mostly wet month. Winds were mainly west or south-west but from the south or south-east on 7th, 14th and 18th. There were strong to gale-force from west/south-west on 5th, 12th, 21st/22nd and 30th/31st and from south/south-east on 24th. The heaviest rainfall was on 10th, 15th, 20th to 23rd and 30th.

Single Great Grey Shrikes were at Watership Down on 2nd and Havant on 31st. A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Keyhaven Marshes on 4th and 8th. A second Siberian Chiffchaff was at Titchfield Haven on 4th and from 21st to 30th, another was at Lower Test Marshes on 4th

and 11th and yet another at Eastleigh SW from 20th. Juvenile Iceland Gulls were at Milford on Sea on 5th and at Eastoke, Hayling Island on 6th and 7th and a third-winter Caspian Gull was at Ibsley Water on 6th.

The highlight of the month was the arrival of three Penduline Tits at Titchfield Haven from 7th to 13th, then at IBM Lake, Cosham on 15th and 16th, returning to Titchfield Haven on 29th and remaining until March 2016. There were sightings of Black Brant at Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour on 7th and in the Farlington area up to 18th. A Slavonian Grebe was at Blashford Lakes from 12th into 2016. There were five December Swallow sightings, the last of which was at Titchfield Haven on 13th. There were also a number of Brambling sightings, the largest number reported being 250 at Trigpoint Hill on 14th.

A Yellow-browed Warbler wintered at Eastleigh SW from 20th into 2016. There were further sightings of the adult Ring-billed Gull at Ibsley Water from 20th. The year ended with stormy weather which drove a Little Auk well inland to Whitchurch on 21st, a Great Skua into The Solent and Southampton Water from 25th to 31st, a Leach's Petrel to Weston Shore on 30th, a Grey Phalarope to Hill Head on 31st and a Pomarine Skua into Stokes Bay on the same day. The strong winds at the end of the month also resulted in a female Long-tailed Duck off Gilkicker Point and Lee-on-the-Solent on 26th, a drake at Keyhaven on 29th and a Velvet Scoter off Sandy Point on 30th. As well as the regular Blashford Lakes bird, a Great White Egret was also at Alresford Pond on 28th and 30th.

The final cumulative monthly totals of species recorded in Hampshire in 2015 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In month	169	163	173	199	193	175	171	177	191	186	180	175
Additions to year list		3	12	29	9	3	2	1	4	6	3	4
Year to date		172	184	213	222	225	227	228	232	238	241	245



Little Owl (Dan Powell)

Systematic List of Species

Introduction

General information and terminology

Species categories, sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List (as at May 2016). As explained in the Editorial, IOC English names are also included for the first time in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v6.3 at July 2016). Each species account begins with a brief statement of its status in Hampshire. These use certain terms that have an approximate numerical range attached to them, as shown below, based on average numbers in recent years.

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

For most species monitored by the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), the means of maxima for up to three periods of five successive winters are given. For rare species, three numbers are given in parentheses after the status statement. These refer to the total numbers of individuals recorded (i) prior to 1950, (ii) between 1950 and 2014 and (iii) in 2015. Where statistical analysis has been more recently introduced (i) refers to the initial year. All records of rare species that appear in the Systematic List have been accepted by the BBRC or HOSRP as appropriate. Observers of species with fewer than ten records per year are credited in the Systematic List although on some occasions the finder was not identified (e.g. Birdguides records). A dagger (†) after the species name indicates that further information is provided in the recoveries section of the Ringing Report. Some claimed sightings of rare or scarce species which have either not been formally submitted or adequately documented are excluded from the Systematic List and can be found in Appendix I.

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

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

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

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

Information from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Surveys is summarised in the species accounts and presented in more detail in Table 1. Data from the BTO Garden BirdWatch survey are included in selected species accounts. This comprises information from some gardens where weekly counts were made of all species and others where only presence was recorded. A summary of the data for all species is presented in Table 2. Findings from the BTO Breeding Bird Survey are generally not included in the species accounts but are summarised in Table 3. Results of the New Forest Winter Bird Survey are given in Table 4 and the coverage achieved in the WeBS counts is summarised in Table 5. The first and last dates of winter and summer visitors are included in the Systematic List but are also summarised in Tables 6 and 7. These tables also show average arrival and departure dates for migrants. To check sensitivity to long-term trends, including possible climate change effects, the averages for the first time are divided separately into 1971-2009 and the last five years 2010-2014. Although many recent average arrival dates for summer visitors appear earlier, a longer data set is needed before meaningful analysis can be offered on recent trends. Finally, a new Table 8 has been added this year to summarise monthly movements at three inland migration watchpoints.

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

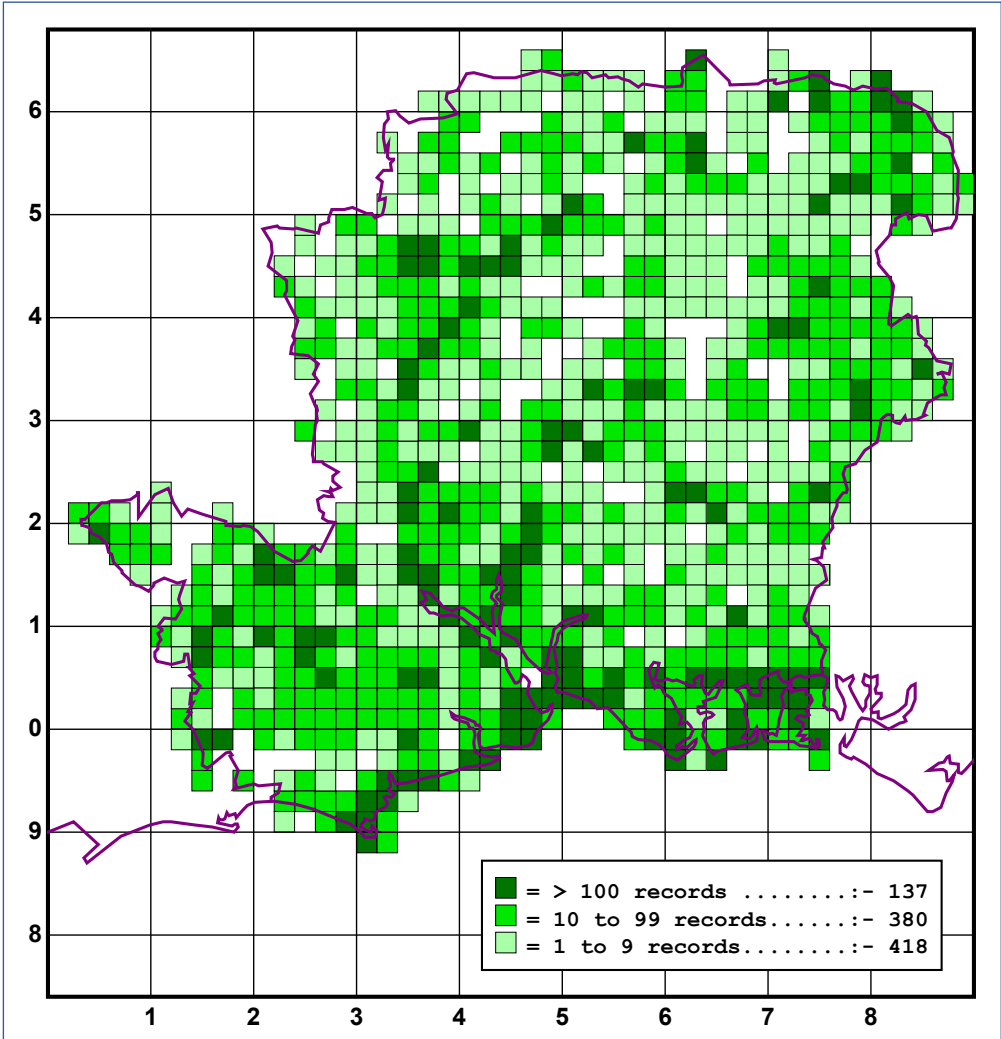
Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society's COBRA I database (County Bird Recording Application). This year's database contained around 83,900 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets and rarities submissions plus a number of other reports) (32%); BTO BirdTrack (28%); Going Birding website (20%); WeBS counts (12%); Solent Bird Studies Project (5%); Trektellen (3%); and Birdguides, Thames Basin & Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Survey and HWT's Winning Ways (each <1%). In addition, BTO Garden BirdWatch contributed a further 180,000 records covering 347 Hampshire gardens which were also used in writing some of the species accounts.

Coverage

A total of 986 individual observers contributed records to the database. Analysis of previous records has highlighted the very large differences in coverage between the separate parts of the county. As expected, the highest numbers of records are submitted for the coastal areas, the main reserves, the New Forest and the north-east. For the first time a map is included below showing the distribution of records at the tetrad level in the 2015 database used to prepare this report. It clearly shows the concentration of records in the above mentioned areas, including hotspots at Blashford Lakes, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour, as well as inland along the major river valleys of the Avon, Test and Itchen, around some of the major towns and at other separate locations such as Winchester Hill. Whilst the emphasis on the coast and rivers results in good coverage of wetland species, the same cannot be said of woodland or farmland species inhabiting much

of the central, northern and western parts of the county, and such differences should be borne in mind when interpreting the records summarised in the Systematic List. This imbalance is being addressed, at least in part, by the appointment in 2016 of hectad ‘champions’ for under-covered 10km squares and the targeting of data-deficient breeding species.



Distribution of Hampshire records 2015 by tetrads

Categories A, B & C

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

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

Amber

The winter WeBS totals show a downward trend to a maximum of only 776 in February compared with the most recent four-figure total of 1,013 in January 2013. Declines seem most evident in the Avon Valley, where there were 423 in February 2012 but a peak of only 295 in February 2015, and in the eastern harbours, where Walpole Park, Gosport appears to have been largely deserted and numbers in Langstone and Chichester Harbours have dropped,

possibly due to a relocation of birds into the Sussex sectors of the latter site. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 30 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	46	40	33	35	45	34			45	50	56	55
Itchen: Chessel Bay-Woodmill	86	78	77	73	52		20	38	78	85	79	71
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	8	4	18	43	41	46	54	44	23	11	9	4
Lymington-Hurst	41	55	27	37	31	27	17	31	53	22	39	46
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	23	47	12		50				72	44	16	16
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	156	140	121	55+					64	79	120	130
Blashford Lakes	48	48	30	21	30	49	39	36	44	54	66	58
Avon above Fordingbridge	46	60	50						19	32	67	56
Test: Fishlake Meadows	12	31	26	52							5	5
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	22	16	18	27	46	33	59	47	48	67	57	31
Alresford Pond	47	38	47	32	60	89	64	65	22	5	13	16
Yateley GP	30	26	22					19	21	35	50	68*
WeBS count totals	767	776	637	202	244	230	233	235	577	659	726	708

* = record for locality

The only other counts to exceed 30 were 42 at Broadlands Estate on Jan 18th, 33 at Warblington Shore, Chichester Harbour on Jan 24th, 49 at Canoe Lake, Southsea on Feb 2nd, 32 at Langstone Harbour on Aug 29th and 40* at Avington Lake on Sep 4th.

A low total of 37 breeding pairs was reported of which 28 had 100 young, most of which are known to have fledged. This included three pairs which raised 11 young at Blashford Lakes and three pairs which raised six young at Yateley GP. Two other pairs had broods of unknown size, while the other seven mostly failed. In addition, there were four territories at Lower Test Marshes and one at Farlington Marshes, but no young were reported at these sites. (JMC)

Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

Scarce and declining winter visitor, most frequent in the Avon Valley.

ET, EN, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP

Three records. The only early year record was a single adult at Ibsley Water on Jan 10th, 18th and 24th (m.o.) which presumably was in the Avon Valley throughout that period. In the late year a herd of eight adults was found roosting on mud off West Hayling shore, Langstone Harbour on Nov 22nd (PMP, DJGB) but the only subsequent record was an adult at Ibsley Water on Nov 28th (KJS). (JMC)

White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose)

Anser albifrons

European White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons albifrons

Scarce winter visitor that has declined in recent years.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Four records. The adult with Brents at Tournurbury in late December 2014 was still present on Jan 1st (per ACJ) but not seen subsequently. The only other records were one with eight Brent Geese in a field at Hook-with-Warsash on Feb 28th which was frightened by a loud siren and flew towards Fawley (ML), a first-summer at Lower Test Marshes on the new latest date of May 29th (SSK) (the previous latest date was May 20th 1984 excluding summering birds), and an adult with a mixed flock of Canada and Brent Geese at Farlington Marshes on Oct 26th, 27th, Nov 11th and 25th (TMJD et al). (JMC)

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

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

Amber

The peak autumn WeBS total of 1,256 in October possibly includes some duplication in the Avon Valley but is similar to the total of 1,251 recorded in September 2014 and maintains the large increase recorded over the last decade. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 40 in more than two months are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu Estuary	60	50	35	38	50	50	80	10	58	30	60	59
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	175	311	3		31				125	453	65	84
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	84	245	43						70	150		323
Blashford Lakes	125	147	130	34	22	321	210	390	230	520	320	500
Test: Fishlake Meadows			8	25	52			115	245*	40	190	150
Longparish Trout Lake	2	2	68	12	21	38	70*	8	1	3	2	4
Testbourne Lake	40	230	120	80	59	108	160	70	126	230	215	230
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	120	58	33	18	37	34	118	130	130	100	132	220*
The Vyne		8	4					94			122	
Tundry Pond	80	1	35				77	90	48	82	108	12
Fleet Pond	41		35	3	10		1	144	69			
WeBS count totals	591	935	363	235	163	453	254	210	860	1,256	640	860

* = record for locality

The only other counts to exceed 40 were 68* at Hawley Lake on June 21st, 66 at Sowley Shore on Aug 29th (Beaulieu birds) and 126 at Bramshill Park Lake on Sep 15th (Tundry/Fleet birds).

Breeding reports (single broods unless stated otherwise) came from Bisterne (5 young), Fleet Pond (3 young, none fledged), Hampshire Hatches Lane (3 young), Hawley Lake (2 broods, 2 young), Itchen Valley CP (3 broods, 10 young), Longparish Trout Lake (8 young), Longstock Water Gardens (4 young), Mockbeggar Lake (7 young), Needs Ore (many young), River Test at Timsbury (2 broods, 13 young), Spinnaker Lake (9 nests, some young raised), Stratfield Saye (3 broods, 22 young), Testbourne Lake (3 broods, 14 young), The Vyne (8 young), Wellington CP (2 nests, no young), Welshman's Road GP (3 young) and Woolmer Pond (1 young). (JMC)

Greater Canada Goose (Canada Goose)

Branta canadensis

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

The peak autumn total of 3,250 in October is similar to those recorded in the previous two years and indicates a stable population. Monthly maxima at regularly used sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	240	225	23	29	81	77	68	95	137	247	238	204
Titchfield Haven area	233	162	101	52	54	30	141	176	720	400	142	135
Beaulieu Estuary	154	274	166	137	123	114	140	40	150	232	160	140
Lymington-Hurst	262	37	53	74	47	155	193	467	327	294	260	315
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	76	348	98		72				153	402	162	276
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	139	184	74						100	40	127	275
Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	217	241	156	106	87	512	92	57	163	264	155	141

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Test/Eling Marshes	201	9	11	36	30	100	253	269	247	346	174	101
Tundry Pond	290	129	22	17	2		183	350	293	30	256	212
Fleet Pond	95		54		63	160	144	516	110	460		143
WeBS count totals	2,615	2,166	1,438	624	536	1,250	985	1,423	1,580	3,250	2,167	2,558

Other notable counts included 124 at Avington Lake on Aug 10th and Oct 7th, 250 at Sowley Shore on Aug 29th, 186 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Aug 26th, 141 at Lode Farm SP, Kingsley on Sep 6th, 151 at Emsworth Harbour on Sep 27th, 235 at Bramshill Park Lake on Oct 18th, 126 at The Grange Lake on Oct 22nd, 125 at Charlton GP, Andover on Oct 28th, 177 at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 4th and 162 at Laverstoke Park Lake on Nov 18th.

The highest numbers of well-grown or fledged young reported were from Titchfield Haven (9 pairs, 5 broods, 29 young), Fleet Pond (7 broods, 27 young), The Grange Lake (27 young), Bisterne (4 broods, 23 young) and near Willswood Farm (17 young). There were 'many' young at Needs Ore and 17 nests at Spinnaker Lake, Blashford which produced 'some' young. Additional breeding records comprised 37 broods totalling 158 young, five broods with unspecified numbers of young and two nests. (JMC)

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

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

In January-March there were two records of large groups of unknown origin which were seen briefly in the county. The first was a flock of 75 which flew in from the west and circled over Pook Lane on the north shore of Chichester Harbour at 14:00 on Jan 26th before leaving NW over Hayling Bridge (PNM-R). The second was a flock of 30 which flew in from the west to Farlington Marshes at 08:40 on Feb 14th and were still present early the next day (TMJD et al.). Other coastal sightings involved a probable eight individuals with records from Lymington-Hurst (max. 2), Needs Ore (max. 3), Titchfield Haven (max. 3) and singles at Farlington Marshes (once only), Lower Test Marshes and Portsmouth Harbour. Two which arrived at Baffins Pond on Mar 31st were probably from Titchfield Haven. In the north-east the regular flock at Eversley GP peaked at 26 on Jan 13th and one was at Woolmer Pond on Feb 15th.

In April, 12, including two on nests, were at Wellington CP on 16th and 13 were still at Eversley GP the next day. No young were raised at Wellington CP probably due to control measures. A pair bred at Baffins Pond but the one chick did not fledge. Other summer records were one at Needs Ore on Apr 7th, one or two at Titchfield Haven between Apr 8th and June 13th, one at Cherque in Gosport on Apr 11th, two east at Pennington Marshes on May 24th and one in the Farlington Marshes/IBM Lake area between May 24th and Aug 4th.

After the breeding season four were back at Titchfield Haven on Aug 14th and 23 at Eversley GP on Aug 30th. Subsequent sightings possibly not of local origin involved a flock of 26 east over Hurst Beach on Nov 20th (MPM) and four with Brents at Farlington Marshes on Dec 18th and 19th. Other coastal sightings involved a probable six individuals with records from Titchfield Haven (max. 4 but mostly 2-3) and singles at Farlington Marshes/Portsmouth Harbour and Lower Test Marshes/ Testwood Lakes. Inland 22 wintered at Eversley GP and two were at Ibsley WM on Dec 20th and 27th. (JMC)

Brent Goose (Brant Goose)

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla bernicla

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

Amber, S41, HBAP

The January WeBS total of 23,039 was the highest ever recorded in the county. This can be attributed to the presence of a large proportion of the Chichester Harbour flock in the

Hampshire sectors and the high percentage of first-winters. Counts of 19 flocks in The Solent between October 2014 and February 2015 totalling 3,190 contained 694 first-winters (21.7%) compared with a national figure of 23.0%. The much-reduced late year maximum WeBS total of 15,674 in November reflected a poor breeding season as very few first-winters were seen in late year flocks. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	16,446	11,540	7,366	34	13	1	9	10	319	7,343	10,366	8,056
Hampshire sectors	8,111*	3,903	2,605	29	4				286	4,134	3,772	2,512
Langstone Harbour	5,201	4,300	2,987	367	11	9	7	7	540	3,256	5,563	4,749
Portsmouth Harbour	1,689	1,513	1,350			4	4	3	220	999	2,343	1,854
Titchfield Haven area	1,850	1,850	750	197	2				84	626	546	748
Chilling	1,900	1,850	1,500		7	1				300	355	228
Hamble Estuary	1,450	688	465	780					7	300	1,055	1,270
Itchen Estuary		90	159	130	14	1	1		1	119	114	87
Eling Great Marsh	12		131*	117						11	16	68
Hythe-Calshot	747	381	396	29						595	265	197
Beaulieu Estuary	1,958	1,860	1,230	400	5				10	641	606	735
Sowley-Lymington	351	950	235	2	5	2			6	140	286	150
Lymington-Hurst	2,340	2,170	1,440	30	1				6	468	1,746	1,435
WeBS count totals	23,039	16,531	11,269	560	16	2	7	7	1,010	11,391	15,674	12,293

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

Spring passage was best recorded at Sandy Point where 862 flew east on 20 dates between Mar 8th and May 6th with a peak day count of 122 on Apr 23rd. Counts from other sites contributed a further 167 during this period with a day maximum of 144 off Stokes Bay on Apr 11th (when only 45 were logged at Sandy Point). Additionally, 96 flew through Weston Shore on Apr 25th and a flock of 14 flew high north up the Itchen Estuary there on May 3rd. The final double-figure count was 11 in Langstone Harbour on May 16th although these were evidently mostly summering birds which subsequently totalled around 16 at five sites. Returns were early with sightings at four locations on Sep 8th and 9th including 23 at Langstone Harbour on the latter date and 75 in Chichester Harbour on 11th increasing to 180 by 15th. The only inland record was three feeding on winter cereals at Widley Farm north of Portsdown Hill on Jan 31st. (JMC)

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

It was another poor year with around 12 recorded. In the early year singles were at Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes between Jan 18th and Feb 21st, Needs Ore/Lepe between Jan 25th and Mar 14th, Portsmouth Harbour on Feb 2nd and 12th, Lymington-Hurst area between Feb 5th and Mar 7th (two involved), Calshot on Feb 8th and presumably the same at Hill Head on Feb 20th and 21st with two there on Mar 1st. Later records possibly involved migrants. Singles flew east off Hurst Beach on Apr 4th and Stokes Bay and Sandy Point on 12th, one was at Lepe on 12th, 18th and 23rd and presumably the same was at Hill Head on 20th.

The only late year records were one at Lepe on Nov 28th, an adult and first-winter there on Dec 3rd, and presumably one of these at Needs Ore on Dec 13th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JMC)

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

Black Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

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

Singles present in Langstone Harbour and Portsmouth Harbour in late 2014 remained until Mar 21st and 16th respectively. They were often recorded feeding with Brents on fields at Farlington, St John's (Southsea) and HMS Sultan (Gosport) as well as on Farlington Marshes. An adult was found at Keyhaven on Jan 3rd and remained in the area until Mar 3rd (ASD et al.). This was presumably the returning bird from the previous winter.

In the late year there were two presumed returning birds at Farlington Marshes and Farlington playing fields between Nov 23rd and Dec 18th (MG et al.) and at Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour on Dec 7th (KI). (JMC)



Adult Black Brant, Sturt Pond, Feb 22nd (Alan Lewis)

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Scarce but increasing feral resident.

Numbers were similar to 2014 in the favoured areas of the Avon Valley and north-east. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded five are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blashford Lakes	15	6	16	19	26	44	44	46	24	17	13	13
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	4	6					8	11	50	40	4	2
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	7	14	22	2					34*	16	4	6
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley	64	72	56	25				127	141	94	47	87
Eversley GP	6	7	5	3		16	37	10	10	8	8	4
Tundry Pond	5	10	7	18*	4		4		4	7	4	8
Heath Pond, Petersfield	8	7	6	11	8	4	2	9	10	15	11	14

* = record for locality

No counts were made of the nocturnal roost at Eversley GP which largely comprises the Lyndridge Farm birds but also some from elsewhere. Maxima at other sites where counts exceeded five were 14* at Bramshill Park Lake on Jan 3rd, six at Yateley GP on Feb 7th, seven at Fleet Pond on May 8th, 18* at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Aug 1st (Avon Valley birds), 12* at Ewhurst Lake on Sep 13th, 42* at Busta Triangle (Eversley Common) on Oct 20th (Lyndridge Farm birds), 16* at Holmsley GP on Dec 7th (Avon Valley birds) and seven at Malthouse Farm, Sleaford on Dec 31st. Also 12 flew west at St. Leonard's, Beaulieu on Nov 26th.

Successful breeding was recorded at Busta Triangle (3 young), Fox Lane GP, Eversley (6), Heath Pond, Petersfield (c.6 from 3 broods), Mockbeggar Lake (5), Ripley Farm Reservoir (6), Sleaford Reservoir (5) and Wellington CP (6). Broods were also reported at Edenbrook CP, Fleet Pond, Hamer Warren, Ibsley Water and Tundry Pond but no birds fledged from these. (JMC)

Shelduck (Common Shelduck)

Tadorna tadorna

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

For the second year running WeBS count totals in the main months of January-March were below average. Monthly maxima at coastal sites where counts exceeded 50 and regularly used inland sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	572	381	272	137	85	59	12	27		36	209	265
Hampshire sectors	292	107	74	21	11	16	1	2	8	15	93	75
Langstone Harbour	232	268	240	144	30	36	29	10	43	35	80	158
Portsmouth Harbour	107	181	42		2	2			8	16	79	165
Southampton Water	47	63	87	71	49	27	9	11	6	4	30	105
Beaulieu Estuary	62	63	59	93	51	43	25	11	4	9	18	44
Lymington-Hurst	164	126	103	118	68	24	58	3		20	75	48
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	6	9	1								3	
Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	2	2	7	3	2						1	1
Marsh Court	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	4		2		
Alresford Pond	10	12	12	8	7	2	5		3	3	3	1
WeBS count totals	938	802	599	383	185	123	134	21	68	102	374	538

At coastal sites successful breeding was reported at Titchfield Haven (4 broods), Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour (3), Lymington-Hurst (3), Needs Ore (2) and Hythe (crèche of 11 ducklings). Inland broods fledged at Ripley Farm Reservoir (6 young) and Alresford Pond (5 young). Two small young were seen at Stratfield Saye but it is not known if they survived. Breeding was also suspected at Marsh Court and The Grange Lake.

Elsewhere inland there were reports from 14 localities between Jan 17th and June 19th, all of one to three apart from seven at Welshman's Road GP on Apr 3rd, four at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 5th and four SW over Woolmer Pond on May 9th. This was followed by a juvenile at Woolmer Pond on July 27th and reports from eight localities between Nov 20th and the year's end, all of one to three apart from four at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 20th and Dec 13th, five at Alsbury Lakes on Dec 13th and five at Welshman's Road GP on Dec 31st.

Recorded spring passage involved a total of 49 east and nine north on 14 dates between Mar 18th and May 14th, with 36 east off Stokes Bay during this period including 15 east on May 10th and 24 east and nine north at Sandy Point the same day. (JMC)

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

Moderately common resident.

Counts reached double figures at 15 sites but only on a regular basis at six for which monthly maxima are tabulated below. This included a record count of 103 at Stratfield Saye on Feb 10th.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hookheath Farm, Southwick	20		6		6						10	12
Mockbeggar Lake	11	7	2	4		7	2				10	12
Eyeworth Pond, NF	19	15	23	9		3						4
Stratfield Saye	8	103*	25		11				20	19	40	
Waggoners Wells, Grayshott	16	11	8	2			8	2		1		
Mellow Farm, Headley	50	16	10		10							6

* = record for locality

Other double-figure counts were 22 at Broadlands Estate on Jan 18th, 11 at The Grange Lake on Mar 24th, ten at Lymington River on May 27th, 13 at Passfield Pond on July 15th, 25 at Fishlake Meadows and 12 at Bramshill Park Lake on Nov 17th, 25 in flight over Straits Inclosure at Alice Holt on Dec 6th, 15 near Selborne and ten in flight over Passfield Pond on Dec 13th and 13* at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Dec 27th.

Broods were reported from Mockbeggar Lake (4), Roydon Woods (2), Ellingham, Longstock Water Gardens, Stratfield Saye, Welshman's Road GP and Yateley GP. (JMC)

Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon)

Anas penelope

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

Amber

In the early year the WeBS totals were below average largely due to reduced numbers in the Avon Valley. The high numbers in the Lower Test area and at Lymington-Hurst in December 2014 were maintained in January and February. As in some previous years there was a significant influx to the eastern harbours in autumn including a record 1,739 in Chichester Harbour on Oct 31st. Subsequently four-figure counts were confined to Lower Test and Lymington-Hurst; numbers were low in the Avon Valley where there was a lack of flooding. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,666	1,521	1,098	5	5			48	491	2,938	2,166	2,193
Hampshire sectors	319	93	167	2	1				400	1,739*	786	302
Langstone Harbour	678	974	669	1	4		2	10	800	341	693	900
Portsmouth Harbour	494	300	24					25	322	466	310	227
Titchfield Haven	206	315	187	2				2	20	20	80	160
Hamble Estuary	446	459	327	10				4	80	204	270	224
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	1,924	1,722	641	3				11	127	674	1,284	1,595
Hythe-Calshot	344	327							79	88	93	366
Beaulieu Estuary	681	615	110		1			2	150	570	350	591
Sowley-Lymington	234	240	52						47	360	500	70
Lymington-Hurst	1,086	1,157	237	14	3	1		7	300	412	1,528	1,168
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	870	1,440	112						7	100	120	199
Avon: Somerley Estate	45										24	175
Blashford Lakes	1,100	1,854	937	5	3	1	2	2	38	243	561	619
Test: Fishlake Meadows	110	5							1	30	30	4
Eversley GP	122	98	24						21	30	163	369
WeBS count totals	8,774	9,833	3,646	22	6	1		20	967	5,170	6,347	6,756

Sites of international importance: 15,000+; national importance: 4,400+.

In January-March maxima at other inland sites with double-figure counts were 51 at Bramshill Plantation on Jan 3rd, 86 at Testwood Lakes and 43 at Dogmersfield Lake on Jan 18th, 32 at Yateley GP on Jan 28th, 30 at Hillside Marsh on Feb 8th, 28 at Stratfield Saye on Feb 10th and 55 at Tundry Pond on Mar 8th. In October-December maxima were 58 at Testwood Lakes on Oct 15th, 40 at The Vyne on Nov 15th, 39 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Dec 8th and 69 at Yateley GP on Dec 25th. (JMC)

Gadwall

Anas strepera

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

Amber, HBAP

The peak WeBS total for 2014/15 of 1,983 in February was 27% higher than the corresponding figure in 2013/14, although in line with the long-term means. This was largely due to a recovery at Blashford Lakes where numbers peaked at 798 on Feb 8th, rather later than usual. Record counts were 290 at Testbourne Lake on Jan 16th and 85 at Avington Lake on Apr 21st. Late year numbers were well below average with a peak WeBS total of 1,165 in December and a maximum of only 417 at Blashford Lakes. Records counts were 61 at Welshman's Road GP on Oct 17th and 84 at Warnford Park Lake on Nov 15th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 50 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	121	127*	36	22	20	38	40	106	60	35	68	70
Titchfield Haven	51	89	83	37	27	18	47	33	47	35	64	58
Beaulieu Estuary	32	54	16	18	16	20	4	11	12	6	21	16
Blashford Lakes	708	798	169	91	51	40	73	105	128	146	417	408
Testbourne Lake	290*	160	70	50	18	70	10	20	20	90	110	120
Overton/Ashe	42	16	10	41	31	91	16		18	26	24	38
Winchester SF	81	105	87	86	69	51	20	36	72	103	63	48
Avington Lake	36	29	24	85*	53	36	4	24	26	18	12	26
Alresford Pond	88	87	26	14	55	115	18	32	66	30	38	46
The Grange Lake	20	24	30	5		11		51		55		4
Welshman's Road GP, Mortimer W End	24	22	15		2	4	7	3		61*	14	15
Stratfield Saye	11	62	11		2				18	46	1	
Eversley GP	102	117	7	4					9	21	69	146
Yateley GP	63	107	11						2	22	24	66
Dogmersfield Lake	36	61	31	8					1			
Warnford Park	28	38	17					2	15	8	84*	51
WeBS count totals	1,916	1,983	816	390	226	323	153	312	433	804	1,116	1,165

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

In January-April maxima at other sites with counts above 20 were 26 at Badminton GP on Jan 2nd, 42 at Bramshill Park Lake on Jan 3rd, 25 at East Worldham on Jan 11th, 24 at Arlebury Lakes, 41 at Bramshill Plantation and 28 at Hucklesbrook on Jan 18th, 37 at Stubbs Farm Pond, Binsted on Jan 22nd, 40* at Anton Lakes on Mar 8th and 24 at Longparish Trout Lake on Apr 18th.

A total of 31 broods was reported with six at Titchfield Haven; three at Avington Lake, Hook Links and Testbourne Lake; two at Fishlake Meadows, Overton Lagoons and Winchester SF; one at Alresford Pond, Farlington Marshes (where there were eight territories), Great Salterns Lake, Hitches Lane CP, Itchen Valley CP, Longparish Trout Lake, Longstock, Marsh Court, Needs Ore and Spinnaker Lake. Fledging success was low although ten young flew at Itchen Valley CP. Summer moult gatherings in excess of 50 were noted at seven tabulated sites including peaks of 115 at Alresford Pond on June 21st, 91 in the Overton area including 79* at Ashe Farm, also on June 21st, and 106 in Langstone Harbour on Aug 26th which were all at Farlington Marshes, the most ever recorded there. In May-September maxima at other sites with counts above 20 were 23 at Lymington-Hurst on May 16th, 22 at Marsh Court on June 11th, 34 at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 10th, 38* at The Vyne on Sep 5th and 22 at Testwood Lakes on Sep 13th.

In October-December maxima at other sites with counts above 20 were 30 at Badminton GP on Oct 17th, 27 at Stubbs Farm Pond on Oct 20th, 34 at Laverstoke Park Lake on Oct

22nd, 23 at Tundry Pond on Nov 3rd, 26 at Fishlake Meadows on Nov 17th, 24* at Dark Water, Lepe on Dec 12th, 29 on the Test between Stockbridge and Fullerton on Dec 17th and 28 at Lymington-Hurst on Dec 28th. (JMC)

Teal (Eurasian Teal)

Anas crecca

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

Amber

The peak WeBS count total of 5,906 in January was 17% lower than the corresponding month in 2014. This was largely due to much reduced numbers in the Avon Valley. The late year peak of 5,753 in December was similar to recent years. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 50 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,651	1,544	586		1		1	82	370	220	981	987
Hampshire sectors	737	472	187	36				2	250	209	544	308
Langstone Mill Pond	119*	93	81	15				1	4	15	51	117
Langstone Harbour	329	310	215	104	2	6	6	91	190	220	220	274
Portsmouth Harbour	114	107	26						38	247	197	307
Titchfield Haven	527	297	187	156	20	3	23	146	494	452	366	361
Hamble Estuary	276	247	125	10			2	32	150	334	247	202
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	460	39	94	2				28	42	88	122	98
Dibden Bay	100	209	43	20						53	123	234
Ashlett-Calshot	88	63	24							9	193	164
Beaulieu Estuary	429	549	154	30	1	3	2	171	200	1,166	494	977
Sowley Pond			2							5	300	260
Sowley-Lymington	100	2	6	7				100	100	30	30	50
Lymington-Hurst	1,234	1,073	605	116	46	1		90	176	1,762	1,500	1,587
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	484	902	42						44	24	9	39
Avon: Somerley Estate	65	14	28						13	1	6	130
Blashford Lakes	307	228	32	2			1	32	67	93	209	240
Test: Fishlake Meadows	120	96	18	18		8			35	47	270	150
Testbourne Lake	80	110	44	4	3	4		10	44	95	40	120
Winchester SF	223	346*	80	18	11		1	21	78	115	135	136
Avington Lake	78	50	5	2	1		2	2	11	14	3	1
Alresford Pond	90	53	22	10		1	23	117	193	223	195	135
The Vyne	90	45	67	1				60	56	47	108	68
Stratfield Saye	27	102	4						80	160	165	30
WeBS count totals	5,906	5,342	2,081	236	50	8	10	452	1,441	4,912	5,390	5,753

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

The only other counts to exceed 50 were 70 at Ewhurst Lake on Feb 7th and 145* there on Feb 21st, 56* at Overton Lagoons on Nov 15th, 69* at Testwood Lakes on Nov 15th and 63 there on Dec 13th.

There was welcome confirmation of breeding at two sites in the New Forest, with a female and four ducklings in an alder swamp at Bishop's Dyke on May 25th (1B) and a female with at least two ducklings in flooded woodland at Holmsley on July 10th (DW). Additionally, a female was seen with small ducklings at Pennington Marshes (MPM); this follows the similar record at the site in 2013 which was the first such record there since 1953. (JMC)

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

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

Amber

The peak late year WeBS count total of 4,101 in December was considerably below the peak of 4,745 in October 2014. Possibly this reflects the presence of fewer released birds and/or continental immigrants. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	355	276	234	37	73	44	28	32	206	405	305	359
Hampshire sectors	259	123	123				77		128	301	139	197
Lymington-Hurst	274	227	159	182	108	61	63	102	62	182	265	241
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	79	107	25						176	208	60	52
Test: Testbourne Lake	220	200	195	93	60	90	280	130	90	140	150	220
Ewhurst Lake	358		347							413		363
Stratfield Saye	35	91	20		47				165	210	135	29
Yateley GP	71	56	45					51	33	104	78	204
Fleet Pond	65	70	46	60	67		180	250	180	130	100	75
Warnford Park	104		70	35	47	24	18	61	191	206	239*	73
WeBS count totals	4,130	2,833	2,512	997	924	899	1,294	1,669	2,765	3,956	3,326	4,101

* = record for locality

Maxima at other sites with counts above 150 were 190 at Andover on Feb 3rd, 170 at Alresford Pond on July 27th, 175 at Longparish Trout Lake on Aug 9th, 151 at Titchfield Haven on July 28th, 185 at Tundry Pond on Sep 6th, 197 at Blashford Lakes on Nov 29th, 190 at Avington Lake on Dec 31st and 179* at King's Pond, Alton on Dec 30th. Counts at Ewhurst, Longparish and Tundry included a significant proportion of released birds.

There were 34 territories on the two CBC plots at Lower Test Marshes (cf. 23 in 2014) and 24 at Farlington Marshes. Other breeding records included 13 broods totalling 59 young at Itchen Valley CP and seven totalling 38 young at Fleet Pond. (JMC)

Pintail (Northern Pintail)

Anas acuta

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

Schedule 1, Amber

WeBS count totals were below average at both ends of the year due to the lack of extensive flooding in the Avon Valley. The highest numbers were at Lymington-Hurst where there were peak counts of 430 on Feb 17th (but only 250 during WeBS on 21st) and 257 on Nov 29th. Record counts were made at upper Titchfield Haven (87 on Jan 1st), Calshot (21 on Feb 8th), Portsmouth Harbour (23 on Feb 14th during low tide count), Chichester Harbour (56 between Nore Barn and Emsworth on Dec 13th) and Hook-with-Warsash (112 on Dec 24th). Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded five are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	67	296	82							27	101	91
Hampshire sectors	32	29	12						1	10	6	56*
Langstone Harbour	120	176	162	2				3	13	69	98	137
Portsmouth Harbour		23*	18							1	1	
Titchfield Haven	87*	66	61	11					7	2	10	21
Hook-with-Warsash	2	5	7					2	27	74	111	112*
Fawley-Calshot	3	21*	13							7		4
Beaulieu Estuary	52	47	6						1	50	2	30
Sowley-Lymington	17	50							10			

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	294	430	66	1				1	23	55	257	189
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	50	8										
Blashford Lakes	141	30	4							8	13	92
Test: Fishlake Meadows	10	7		2						1	15	2
WeBS count totals	605	550	164					2	60	112	343	366

Sites of international importance: 600+; national importance: 290+; * = record for locality.

The only early year records away from tabulated sites were 14 at Hucklesbrook on Jan 18th, up to four at Dibden Bay from Feb 11th-24th, three at Fleet Pond on Mar 4th, single males at Ewhurst Lake until Mar 21st, Broadlands Estate on Feb 8th, Alresford Pond on Mar 8th and Great Salterns Lake, Portsmouth on Mar 22nd, and a female at Lower Test Marshes/ Eling Great Marsh on Jan 23rd and 24th. The final double-figure count was 11 at Titchfield Haven on Apr 4th. Two flew east at Sandy Point on 7th and the last were a pair at Farlington Marshes until 9th and a male at Keyhaven Lagoon on Apr 20th, apart from an oddly-plumaged individual that summered at Farlington Marshes. The first returns were two at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 20th with further records of singles at Farlington Marshes, Budds Farm SW and Pennington Marshes before the end of the month and the first double-figure count of 18 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 11th. Thereafter the only records away from tabulated sites were three at Fleet Pond on Sep 27th, a pair on a small pond at Purbrook from Oct 2nd-21st, two at Hucklesbrook and one at Hamer Warren Lake, Ringwood Forest on Nov 29th and two to four at Dark Water, Lepe on Dec 12th and 13th. (JMC)

Garganey

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Anas querquedula

Schedule 1, Amber

Up to 19 were seen in spring although records some days apart at the same location could have involved the same individuals lingering undiscovered. The first was a male at Titchfield Haven from Mar 20th-22nd followed by males at Keyhaven and Testwood Lake on Apr 2nd, the latter remaining until 8th, and a pair at Woolmer Pond on Apr 2nd and 3rd. A pair was on the sea off Hurst Beach on 8th and presumably the same two were also at Pennington Marshes. Further males were at Farlington Marshes on Apr 14th-27th and flying north over Trigpoint Hill on 18th. A small arrival occurred on Apr 22nd when a pair was at Pennington Marshes and single males were at Hook-with-Warsash and Titchfield Haven, the latter being joined by a female the next day and remaining until at least 30th. Males were at Keyhaven on 27th, Ibsley Water on May 2nd and Woolmer Pond on 9th, and a pair flew up river at Itchen Abbas on 10th.

A male summered at Titchfield Haven and two were there on June 4th accompanied by a probable female. The only other record at this time involved an eclipse male at Farlington Marshes from June 29th-July 2nd.

Ten were seen in autumn, with singles at Pennington Marshes on Aug 8th, Fleet Pond on 20th and 21st, Titchfield Haven on 31st, flying east off Hurst Beach on Sep 11th, at Farlington Marshes and Titchfield Haven on 28th and Needs Ore on Oct 9th. On the last date two were at Alresford Pond and a late bird was at Farlington Marshes from Oct 28th-31st. (JMC)



*Adult male Garganey, Testwood Lakes, Apr 2nd
(Paul Winter)*

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler)

Anas clypeata

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

Amber

Numbers were below average at both ends of the year, with the only three-figure counts at Blashford Lakes in January and February and Lymington-Hurst in November and December. Monthly maxima at sites with double-figure counts in more than one month are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	93	90	70	29	3	3	2	17	49	33	41	80
Baffins Pond	34	23								4	2	19
Titchfield Haven	51	47	53	15	11	9	6	23	31	34	43	35
Hamble Estuary	4	4	10	11				12	28	25	14	2
Dibden Bay		35	8							2	20	8
Beaulieu Estuary	16	12	19	12	6	4	1	20	50	35	20	18
Lymington-Hurst	101	78	91	23		1			28	79	134	141
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	29	35	2						14		3	2
Blashford Lakes	212	133	94	32	2			36	27	63	90	94
Testwood Lakes	14	13	10	1						6	11	14
Test: Fishlake Meadows	12		6	38	2				14	22	24	2
Overton Lagoons	23	12	1	2	1				2	8	6	12
Winchester SF	8	24	8	12		2		5	18	29	17	7
Alresford Pond	7	6	1	1				6	7	11	12	9
The Grange Lake	10	5	20							13		
The Vyne	3		9	2			1	2	7	14	27*	7
Eversley GP	25	56	7	2						18	41	50
Yateley GP	20	32	11								2	46
Fleet Pond				2		4	2	1	7	12	8	3
Woolmer Pond	10		12	2				1				
WeBS count totals	458	638	396	65	11	4	3	60	153	311	433	514

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

In January and February other double-figure counts were 12 at Hucklesbrook on Jan 18th, 12 at Pitts Deep on Jan 24th, 52 at Fawley Reservoir on Feb 6th and ten at Broadlands Estate on Feb 8th. In contrast to recent years the departure was evidently early with no count in April exceeding 38. Passage was noted at Hurst Castle where 23 flew east on Apr 3rd. Breeding was confirmed at Titchfield Haven where broods of three and two ducklings fledged; additionally, there were three territories at Farlington Marshes but no young were seen. Good numbers returned in August with double-figure counts at five sites and a maximum of 36 at Blashford Lakes on 30th. Subsequently double-figure counts away from tabulated sites were 11 at Welshman's Road GP on Oct 17th, 18* at Laverstoke Park Lake on Oct 22nd, 14-15* at Ramptons Lane GP, Mortimer West End from Dec 12th-19th and ten at Dark Water, Lepe on Dec 30th. (JMC)

Pochard (Common Pochard)

Aythya ferina

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

VU, Red, HBAP

Blashford Lakes were again the only significant site and even here peak monthly counts for the winter months were lower than in the previous year, last year's maximum in January being 217. The only other localities to exceed 20, besides Blashford Lakes and Tundry Pond tabulated below, were Needs Ore/Beaulieu River (32, Jan 27th) and Budds Farm SW (25, Feb 4th). The overall peak monthly WeBS total of 295 in January was however similar to last year's peak of 298 in February.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven	10	5	2							1	2	4
Sowley Pond	28		11							3	13	19
Blashford Lakes	162	147	76	1	1	3	1	10	6	10	62	91
Test: Fishlake Meadows	15	15	21	21	1				1	2	6	
Winchester SF	19	18	1							2	2	6
Dogmersfield Lake	5										13	2
Tundry Pond	18	39	9						1	2	3	
Eversley GP	17	19	10			1			1	1	11	22
WeBS count totals	295	268	136	27	9	10		3	6	16	111	144

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

Other double-figure counts for January-March were 11 in Langstone Harbour on Jan 24th, 17 on The Grange Lake on Feb 27th, 14 at Needs Ore on Feb 9th and 12 at Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane on Feb 21st, whilst the only double-figure count in the late year was 15 on Welshman’s Road GP on Dec 31st.

Breeding in the county was not proven but there were regular sightings during May-June of a pair on Woolmer Pond and at Pitts Deep/Sowley Marsh and a male at Longparish. There was a scattering of other records during the summer months at Ibsley Water (3, June 28th), Alresford Pond (pair, Apr 28th-May 1st and male, May 25th), Fleet Pond (male, May 8th), Eversley GP (1, June 16th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (male, May 17th) and Leckford (May 16th and June 8th). (PFF)

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Very rare vagrant. (0,8,2)

One record. Two first-winter females appeared at Rooksbury Mill on Nov 20th, remaining there into 2016 and spending much of their time accompanying the wintering Tufted Ducks (KH *et al.*, photo). These are the first since a first-winter male was at Passfield Pond and Frith End SP during the winter of 2008/09. (KFB)



First-winter female Ring-necked Ducks, Rooksbury Mill, Andover, Nov 27th (John Hilton)

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

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

ET

The male that had frequented Kingfisher Lake, Blashford from October 2014 remained there until Feb 6th when it moved to Ivy Lake until Feb 8th (m.o.). It was reported back at Kingfisher Lake again on Mar 7th. A male, presumed to be the same individual as in previous years, returned to Blashford Lakes on Sep 27th appearing first at Ibsley North, then at Kingfisher Lake from Oct 3rd, being also at Ivy Lake on several dates. It was reported only twice in November but regularly during December and remained into 2016. This same individual has probably been responsible for all sightings since the 2011/2012 winter. (KFB)

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

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

Green

WeBS counts reinforced the importance of the Avon and Blackwater Valleys. Although numbers across the county, month on month for January-March, were lower than last year, counts for December were higher, principally because of increased numbers at Eversley and Blashford. Early year counts at Blashford Lakes peaked at 465 on Feb 8th but 471 on Apr 11th was the annual maximum there. Elsewhere the highest counts were 223 at Yateley on Dec 25th and 248 at Eversley on Dec 30th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baffins Pond	103	100	70									
Blashford Lakes	412	465	413	471	165	223	125	159	175	212	335	409
Test: Longparish	39	30	26	21	8	6	5	4	12	2	48	50
Stockbridge-Fullerton	40	43	42	59	46	38	6	4	2	40	21	12
Andover Lakes: Anton, Charlton, Rooksbury Mill	100	96	53	35			10	8		31	66	51
Meon: Warnford Park	87	77	61	70	41	41	6	10	23	56	72	34
Ewhurst Lake	93*	49	66							2		13
Tundry Pond	25	52	21	8				1	14	30	28	6
Eversley GP	106	137	212	124		107			60	73	145	248
Yateley GP	158	183	44	10				12	51	76	106	223
WeBS count totals	1,555	1,505	1,420	985	404	518	216	226	502	697	1,126	1,317

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

Other sites with numbers in excess of 25 in January-May (maxima in parentheses) were Welshman's Road GP (28, Jan 11th), Dogmersfield Lake (29, Jan 18th), Titchfield Haven (28, Jan 23rd), Vyne Park (30, Jan 26th), Ringwood-Fordingbridge (28, Feb 8th), Arlebury Lakes (37, Feb 8th), Testwood Lakes (33, Feb 8th), Wellington CP (42, Feb 10th), Overton Lagoons (26, Mar 8th), Stratfield Saye (28, Mar 10th), Pitts Deep/Sowley Shore (31, Mar 21st), Fishlake Meadows (45, Apr 3rd), Longstock Water Gardens (30, May 16th) and Avington Lake (29, May 29th).

The number of broods recorded (44) mirrored last year (46). There were 19 broods in the Avon Valley (including six on Ibsley Water and five on Ibsley North), ten in the Test Valley (at six sites), but only one reported in the Itchen Valley at Avington Lake. Five pairs were present in June on Alresford Pond where the water level was very low and where breeding was not proven. Elsewhere inland, three broods were reported from Fleet Pond (the first breeding there since 1992), four broods from The Vyne Lake, and single broods from Charlton Lakes, Yateley GP, Woolmer Pond and Welshman's Road GP, whilst on the coast there was confirmed breeding of two pairs on Farlington Marshes and a single pair in the Lymington-Hurst area.

Between September-December counts in excess of 25 (maxima in parentheses) were reported at Bramshill Park Lake (28, Oct 18th), Dogmersfield Lake (44, Nov 15th), Pitts Deep/Sowley Shore (32, Nov 28th), Avington Trout Fishery (29, Dec 2nd), Ripley Farm Reservoir (34, Dec 8th), Keyhaven Marshes (31, Dec 12th), Fishlake Meadows (32, Dec 13th), Camp Farm GP (33, Dec 14th) and Allington GP (40, Dec 23rd). (PFF)

Scaup (Greater Scaup)

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Aythya marila

VU, Schedule 1, Red, S4I



Four records only. A drake was on Kingfisher Lake, Blashford on Jan 1st (SPP). Another male was at Yateley GP on Jan 1st-2nd (AS et al.) and at Wellington CP from Jan 24th-Mar 10th (BS et al.). A male at Netley on May 8th (ARC) was an unseasonal sighting and the only late year record was four off Hill Head on Nov 23rd. (PFF)

Adult male Scaup, Wellington CP, Mar 7th (Barry Stalker)

Aythya hybrid

Aythya sp.

Five reports were received. The male Paget's Pochard (Pochard x Ferruginous Duck) seen in previous years was again reported from Yateley GP on Jan 2nd and Dec 25th and also on the Berkshire side of Eversley GP on Feb 1st and 7th. A male Tufted Duck x Pochard was at Woolmer Pond on Mar 21st and 24th and what was probably the same individual was there on June 13th. An unspecified hybrid was reported at Langstone Harbour on Apr 18th and July 4th and a Tufted Duck x Pochard was identified at Titchfield Haven on Sep 7th.

2012 additions: A male of undetermined parentage was at Passfield Pond on Mar 3rd and 18th. A male Pochard x Ferruginous Duck hybrid was at Budds Farm SF on Nov 11th, presumably one of the individuals seen in previous years.

2013 additions: Two females, presumed Tufted Duck x Scaup, were at Rooksbury Mill on Jan 10th. A male Tufted Duck x Pochard hybrid of the Lesser Scaup type was at Ibsley Water from Mar 23rd-Apr 11th.

2014 additions: The male Paget's Pochard (Ferruginous Duck x Pochard) first recorded at Yateley GP in December 2006 was seen again on Dec 25th.

(JMC/MLC)

Eider (Common Eider)

Somateria mollissima

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

VU, Amber

Records from Chichester Harbour referred exclusively to Sandy Point, where a peak count of 25 on Feb 9th dropped to 15 the following day. Records in the east Solent were confined mostly to Hill Head where numbers were slightly higher than in recent years with 15 on Feb 14th, 22 on Apr 5th, 19 on Nov 15th and ten on Dec 14th. A single female lingered at the mouth of Southampton Water throughout May and June.

Along the west Solent coast, flocks were recorded in all months on The Solent off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with the maximum count of 20 on Apr 18th. Although present in May-July there was no confirmed evidence of breeding. The peak count was off Hurst Castle (30, Jan 27th) in the first half-year. There were no late year sightings from there or Milford on Sea and there were no records away from the coast.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour entrance-Eastoke	10	25	10	3		4					2	1
Eastney-Southsea												
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	1	15		22	1	1				2	19	10
Lepe-Needs Ore	3	4	10	13				1	1	2	10	1
Sowley-Lymington	3		14	10		2			12		1	1
Lymington-Keyhaven	10	19	18	20	10	8	14	18	12	3	1	2
Off Hurst and Milford on Sea	30	19	12	3	3							

Long-tailed Duck

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

One long-stayer plus at least two new records. The first-winter male frequenting Blashford Lakes from November 2015 remained until Mar 27th (m.o.), mostly at Ibsley Water but also intermittently on Rockford and Ivy Lakes. A female flew east past Gilkicker Point on Dec 26th (KJI) and possibly the same was seen half an hour later off Lee-on-the-Solent (TDC) assuming it doubled back. The only other record was a drake at Keyhaven on Dec 29th. (PFF)

Clangula hyemalis

VU, Schedule 1, Red



Male Long-tailed Duck, Ivy Lake, Blashford, Mar 25th (Paul Winter)

Common Scoter

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

There were no significant winter rafts, the early and late year maxima being eight off Hurst Castle on Feb 22nd and 12 west off Sandy Point on Dec 29th. Spring passage maximum counts in excess of 20 off Hurst Beach included 85 on Apr 3rd, 50 there on 17th, 42 on 24th, 42 on May 24th and 35 on 26th.

Melanitta nigra

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

Spring passage east through The Solent was apparent from Apr 3rd when 146 passed Hurst Castle. There was further movement off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on six days in April (31 on 7th, 16 on 8th, six on 11th, 47 on 13th and 50 on 23rd), but groups on the water and flying west on these occasions confused the picture. Elsewhere the only other records of movement east in April were 12 off Lepe on 3rd, six off Gilkicker Point on 9th and ten off Sandy Point on 24th. Passage in May was weak, the highest counts being six off Hurst and three off Hill Head on 1st, 18 off Hill Head on 2nd, 13 off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea and ten off Sandy Point on 8th, and seven off Sandy Point and four off Hill Head on 11th. In June six flew east at Hill Head on 13th, 14 were off Hurst Castle on 14th, three were between Weston Shore and Stokes Bay from 18th-21st, 13 flew west past Hurst on 19th and a single was off Sandy Point on 26th.

Long-staying birds were recorded from Stokes Bay (two males, Feb 25th-Mar 6th and a female, Mar 31st-Sep 2nd) and from mid-Southampton Water, where there were up to four between Jan 2nd (Netley Abbey) and Mar 25th (Weston Shore) and a female from Oct 16th (Hook-with-Warsash) to Dec 26th (Hythe Marina). Inland there was a female on Fleet Pond on Apr 2nd, a male on Ibsley Water on Oct 20th and female there on Nov 21st. (PFF)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point and Hayling Bay	1	3			15	1	6	1	2	2	2	
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	2	7	5	11	14	3	9	32	5	7	2	3
Southampton Water	1	2	1		1	3		4	1	1		1
Lepe/Needs Ore											6	3
Hurst and Milford on Sea	4	8	5	85	42	14		5				2
Moving east				384	48	6						
Moving west		10		42	2	13	6				5	12

Surf Scoter

Very rare vagrant. (0,4,1)

A male was discovered in Stokes Bay on Feb 25th and was seen daily until Mar 4th (DESt *et al.*, photo). Previous records were in May 1976, April 1999, December 2006 and November 2011 and were all one-day records. The species breeds in Canada and Alaska and is seen annually in small numbers off the coasts of Great Britain, mostly in Scotland. (KFB)

Male Surf Scoter, Lee-on-the-Solent, Feb 25th (Andy Johnson)

Melanitta perspicillata



Velvet Scoter

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Nine records. The only records in the first three months were two between Lymington-Hurst on Jan 18th (NP), seven west past Hurst Castle on Feb 27th and one there on Mar 19th (MPM). Three (one male, two females) on April 5th, 7th and 26th (MPM *et al.*) off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea probably all referred to the same individuals, whilst three NW past Hurst Castle on Oct 25th (MPM) was the sum of autumn passage. Late year records were singles off Hurst Beach on Nov 15th (ARH), NW past Hurst Castle on Nov 20th (MPM), at Langstone Harbour from Nov 26th-28th (DH *et al.*) and off Sandy Point on Dec 30th (ACJ). (PFF)

Melanitta fusca

VU, Schedule 1, Red

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye)

Bucephala clangula

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

Schedule 1, Amber

Compared to last year, numbers at Blashford Lakes (Ibsley Water and Rockford Lake) were marginally higher for February-March and December, with an annual maximum of 34 on Feb 22nd, whilst the winter population in the eastern harbours was marginally lower, with a combined maximum of 23 on Jan 24th. The lack of records there for March contributed to the low WeBS count for that month. The largest gathering along the west Solent was nine between Lymington-Hurst, also on Jan 24th, and the only sighting on the River Avon was one at the Causeway on Feb 8th.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1	5						2	9
Hampshire sectors	4	2						1	
Langstone Harbour	14	6						17	8
Portsmouth Harbour	17	6						4	2
Lymington-Hurst	9	8						7	5
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	20	34	33	16			2	10	22
WeBS count totals	48	47	14	3				33	28

The last spring record was on Ibsley Water on Apr 23rd, although there was a drake there on June 23th-24th. Ibsley Water was also the site for the first returnee, a female on Oct 30th. There were no records from Southampton Water for the first time ever and records from coastal localities away from tabulated sites were restricted to Sandy Point (1, Nov 22nd) and Needs Ore/Beaulieu River (female, Dec 8th-20th). The only inland site was Eversley GP where there was a male which ventured across from the Berkshire side of the Blackwater River on Feb 7th. (PFF)

Smew

Mergellus albellus

Very scarce winter visitor.

ET, Amber

Two records. A drake on the Lower Balancing Pond, Keyhaven on Jan 1st (OH) and a redhead on Fawley Reservoir on Feb 6th (JGR) were the only reports. (PFF)

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

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

NT, Green, HBAP

Returns from the WeBS counts showed similar population levels to last year although there was no spike in March and the December count was significantly lower, principally because of a drop in numbers in Langstone Harbour.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	222	134	105	1						67	67	76
Hampshire sectors	109	48	26	14	2	1	1			19	33	25
Langstone Harbour	141	111	135	7	1	1				57	184	99
Portsmouth Harbour	76	71	54	2							12	19
Hill Head/Brownwich		2	1	13								1
Upper Southampton Water	4	9	3	1								3
Lepe-Needs Ore	10	4	5	1					5			2

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sowley-Lymington	8	16	6	1							10	9
Lymington-Hurst	47	40	21	4						6	10	11
WeBS count totals	385	294	250	3	1					82	242	153

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

Four east past Sandy Point on Apr 5th and two east past Stokes Bay on Apr 11th were the sum of spring passage. Whilst the last spring record for the west Solent was four off Lymington-Hurst on Apr 7th, there were two at Warblington Shore from May 9th-June 24th and one thereafter until July 21st and one on the lake at Farlington Marshes on four dates between May 31st and June 7th. The first autumn record was five flying east past Lepe on Sept 8th but numbers did not build up along The Solent coast until late October with the first significant arrivals on 31st. (PFF)

Goosander (Common Merganser)

Mergus merganser

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

Green, HBAP

The principal roosting site continues to be Ibsley Water where monthly maxima for January-April and December were higher than the previous year. Generally, redheads outnumbered males approximately 3:1. However, a count of 75 on Feb 22nd (the monthly maximum was 81 on Feb 9th) included 35 drakes whilst a count of 55 on Mar 1st (the monthly maximum was 64 on Mar 21st) included 30 drakes. Early year maxima at the two roost sites in the north-east of the county were 31 (20 males) at Bramshill Plantation on Jan 3rd and 32 (14 males) at Eversley GP on Feb 10th.

There were sightings on Ibsley Water in May (6, 10th; 9, 17th and 4, 31st), but otherwise June/July records referred to the small breeding population in the Avon Valley. Winterers on Ibsley Water started arriving in mid-October but numbers were low until December when they reached an annual maximum of 101 (45 males). In the north-east the first returnees were from mid-November with late year maxima of 40 at Eversley and 37 at Bramshill during a co-ordinated count on Dec 27th.

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ibsley Water (roost)	89	81	64	50	9		1	1	9	37	35	101
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	4	4							6	3	4	9
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	5	9	8						4	4	4	9
Avon above Fordingbridge										5	4	4
Sowley Pond	4	3	2									3
Testwood Lakes/Broadlands	4	2	6									
Bramshill Plantation (roost)	31	2	11								16	37
Tundry Pond	1	8										
Bramshill Park Lake	5	4										
Eversley GP (roost)	30	32	3								5	40
WeBS count totals	112	102	83	7	1		1	2	17	15	85	85

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

In January-April records came from a further 20 sites, the majority of which were singles and included females on Langstone Mill Pond from Jan 4th-Feb 13th, Bilcombes Pond, Fawley on Jan 11th and 19th and Ewhurst Lake from Jan 4th-6th (with a male there on 18th). Twenty

(12 males) at Yateley GP on Feb 20th (Eversley GP birds) was a significant count there and a single female was present in all months on the Lower Test Marshes.

Breeding was again confined to the Avon Valley where an occupied nest and three broods were located on the Somerley Estate and further single broods were at Woodgreen and Wattons Ford (see separate note in this report).

In October-December there were records from an additional 16 localities, four of which were coastal as follows: one at Pennington Marshes on Oct 17th, one west off Sandy Point on Nov 21st, a female off Brownwich on Nov 22nd and three west past Stansore Point on Dec 3rd. Inland six flew NW over Tweseldown on Nov 22nd and there were five on Cadman's Pool, NF on Nov 23rd. (PFF)

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

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

Numbers have dwindled further as a result of the continuing Defra cull (or sightings are not being submitted) with only two records, both from Ibsley Water, with three on Mar 20th and a female on Dec 9th. (PFF)

Quail (Common Quail)

Coturnix coturnix

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

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Only seven records were submitted this year. Away from any potential breeding sites there were singles at Keyhaven Lagoon on May 25th (MPM), Titchfield Haven on July 1st (RJ) and the Royal Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth on July 17th, where one was found floating on the water, photographed, and nursed back to full recovery (JL).

Inland there were records from Magdalen Hill Down (1, June 11th) (CS), Middlebarn Farm, Chilbolton (1 calling, June 17th) (GCE), Martin Down (1, June 27th and July 2nd) (DAT) and Nether Wallop (2 calling, July 3rd) (DAT). (PFF)

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

Common resident with numbers supplemented by releases.

There were records from 32 localities with significant counts at Tidgrove Warren (500, Oct 8th), Gander Down (160, Oct 17th), Drummond Estate, Lepe (50, Oct 20th), Warnford (50, Nov 22nd) and Upham (132, Dec 6th). Needs Ore returned counts for every month but only four were in double figures (max. 12 in January, February and December) and there was no evidence of breeding there. Records worthy of note elsewhere included two at Fareham on Mar 11th, one at Northney on Apr 1st and two at Ibsley Water on Apr 14th. Single broods were found at Gander Down, Ovington, Hillside Marsh (Odiham) and Ripley and there was a pair present at Winchester SF from Mar 16th-May 21st. (PFF)

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Scarce and declining resident with numbers supplemented by releases.

Red, S41, HBAP

Twenty-nine localities reported sightings between January-March and September-December with the largest coveys in the early year at Longparish (7, Jan 9th), Andover Down Farm (10, Jan. 10th), Tidpit Down (22, Jan 18th), Bransbury Common (10, Jan 25th), Southwick (7, Feb 12th) and Newton Stacey (12, Mar 20th), and in the late year at Bere Hill Farm (10 and 13, Sept 21st), South Warnborough (12, Dec 28th) and Neatham (14, Dec 30th). Outside of these dates there were three at Over Wallop on Apr 9th and 17 at Four Marks on Aug 8th, the maximum count for this location.

There were records from Martin Down in every month except December with the highest gathering of seven on June 17th. Breeding was not proven here nor at the additional fifteen sites which recorded mostly singles or pairs during May-June. Noteworthy records from the south of the county were two at New Lane, Milford on Sea on Feb 1st, 27th and Mar 10th (and one there on May 8th) and one at Dibden Bay on July 31st. (PFF)

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

Abundant resident, the naturalised population being supplemented by releases.

Records were sparse. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 10 (15); Lower Test Marshes, 6 (4); Martin Down CBC, 5 (4); Titchfield Haven, 17 (12); Itchen Valley CP, 10 (7 young).

Two males and a female at Farlington Marshes in October were considered of note. Regular reports from Warblington Shore (Chichester Harbour) included all months except July and December with the annual peak count being 18 on Oct 13th. (PFF)

Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon) *Gavia stellata*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. *ET, Schedule 1, Green*

January started with 14 off Brownwich Cliffs on 4th followed by 11 east at Hurst Castle on 6th. At Hurst Castle a total of 65 bird-days was logged on 11 dates to Mar 7th including total movements of 22 east, eight west and a peak of at least 12 offshore on Feb 5th, when six unidentified divers were more distant. Elsewhere in the early year one was reported off Port Solent on Jan 31st and two off Sandy Point on Feb 9th. One still in winter plumage was seen in Southampton Water (off Weston Shore/Bury Marshes) on three dates between Mar 7th and 22nd, and probably the same was off Hill Head on 18th.

A very light spring passage was logged at Hurst/Milford on Sea on 11 dates between Apr 8th and May 5th including totals of 11 east and five resting on the sea. The only other records were singles on Apr 25th, May 2nd and 8th between Hill Head and the Hamble Estuary.

The first autumn returns were on Sep 19th, both singles off Hill Head (perhaps the same in summer plumage again on 26th) and Keyhaven Marshes (again perhaps the same in moult on Oct 4th). There were no more records until Nov 23rd when two were off Hill Head followed by daily records from 25th to 30th of singles across six widespread localities at Chichester Harbour entrance, Hill Head, Hook-with-Warsash, Calshot, Lepe and Hurst/Milford. Notes suggest at least four individuals were involved. In December three were off Sandy Point on 4th, two flew west at Needs Ore at 11:30 on 13th and singles were reported as follows: Hill Head (11th; west at 12:30 on 13th); Hurst Beach (west on 11th and 31st); Langstone Harbour (arrived from east and fished off Little Binniss island at 12:30 on 12th) and Stokes Bay (east at 14:00 on 30th). The approximate monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	17	14	4	3	3				2	1	6	5
Moving east	14		8	11	1							1
Moving west	5	1	2	1	2						1	5

Black-throated Diver (Black-throated Loon) *Gavia arctica*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. *ET, Schedule 1, Amber*

A total of eight to nine individuals was reported. In the first winter period there was a total of ten bird-days of one or two off Hurst (MPM) until the last two on Feb 12th (NJM). Another seen from Black Point was regular in Chichester Harbour from Feb 2nd-11th (ACJ).

The first of two on spring passage was in summer plumage off Southsea at 06:00 on Apr 25th (JJG). It was seen to leave to the west and presumably was the individual off Stokes Bay at 07:50 the same day (DES), where another flew east at 07:35 on May 7th (GCB).

In November one was present on 15th for ten minutes off Calshot beach before flying south towards the Isle of Wight (ASR), singles were west at Hurst Castle on 22nd and east on 25th (MPM) and the last of the year was found on 29th during the Blashford monthly WeBS count (TMJD) at North Poulner Lake. The Blashford bird was well-watched into December and was last reported on 14th. Most inland records relate to sickly individuals and this bird showed such signs as it was seen to beach on the last date. It was the third record for the Blashford area (1, Kingfisher Lake, Feb 26th 1978; 1 shot, claimed to have been mistaken for a Cormorant, Hucklesbrook North Lake, Dec 9th 1984). The most recent previous inland records were one at Testwood Lakes on Dec 29th 2007 and over Casbrook Common on Nov 4th 2005. Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

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



Juvenile Black-throated Diver, North Poulner (Northfield) Lake, Blashford, Dec 7th (Martin Bennett)

Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)

Gavia immer

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber

One flew east off Barton on Sea on Jan 1st and there were movements on seven dates at Hurst Castle between Jan 2nd and Mar 7th including two on Jan 7th – the only multiple record. At Sandy Point/Chichester Harbour there were singles on ten dates between Jan 12th and Mar 20th. Elsewhere in the early year there were singles off Needs Ore on Jan 15th, Southsea and Tanners Lane, Lymington, both on 31st, another at Portsmouth Harbour off Portchester Castle on Feb 8th and one lingering off Pennington Marshes from Mar 17th-20th. In spring one in summer plumage was off Iley Point, Keyhaven on Apr 5th and three singles moved off Hurst (east 17th, west 29th, west May 6th). The last reports were a first-summer at Calshot on May 31st and a second-summer tracked west past Lepe then Hurst on June 2nd.

The first late year return was off Sandy Point on Nov 15th followed by regular reports of singles until the year end with four on Dec 1st and two on 2nd and 10th. Possibly the Sandy Point group dispersed into Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Singles were located along the northern shores of Chichester Harbour (Northney, Dec 2nd; Warblington, 6th and Conigar Point, 29th) and nearby off West Hayling LNR (Dec 14th and 29th with both an adult and juvenile on 28th). There were also scattered records of singles elsewhere in Langstone Harbour (Eastern Road Pier, 19th; Great Salterns, 27th; Hermitage Stream, 28th; harbour entrance, 31st). From Nov 21st into December there were regular sightings of singles across Southampton Water entrance, mostly distantly from Hill Head (Nov 21st, Dec 13th-18th), off Solent Breezes-Hook shore (Nov 23rd-24th; ten dates, Nov 30th-Dec 30th), Calshot (five dates, Nov 22nd-Dec 23rd) and west to Lepe (Nov 26th-28th, Dec 13th). Within Southampton Water one drifted past Weston Shore/Mayflower Park on Dec 1st and then flew further north where it was presumably the individual seen off Eling/Bury Marshes, Cracknore Hard and Dibden Bay from 7th-12th. The Hill Head/Lepe sightings involved several individuals (at least one juvenile) as three were off Fawley on Dec 27th and two were there and at Hook-with-Warsash on 28th. In the west Solent the only record was one east off Hurst Castle on Nov 20th. Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	3	3	3	2	1					3	7



Juvenile Great Northern Diver, Calshot Spit, Dec 14th (Gareth Rees)

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)

Fulmarus glacialis

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

EN, Amber

Recorded in small numbers from both eastern and western waters, as well as The Solent and outer part of Southampton Water, in all months from February to September and in November. As usual most records came from the western coast. The first was one at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Feb 13th. Numbers then varied there between one and six up to

May 9th followed by three on Aug 23rd and singles on Sep 12th and Nov 15th and 19th. At Hurst Castle and Hurst Narrows between one and four were seen between Feb 22nd and May 31st except for seven on May 18th. In eastern waters between one and four were recorded from Sandy Point and Sinah Common between Mar 28th and Aug 25th. Further west at Southsea one or two were seen between Apr 18th and May 2nd except for six on Apr 25th, and at Stokes Bay there were up to four between Apr 18th and May 5th. From Apr 10th to May 14th up to three were seen from Hill Head with singles from Titchfield Haven on May 5th and Hook on Aug 26th. On the west side of Southampton Water singles were seen from Calshot on Apr 19th and Lepe on May 3rd.

As in previous years, most records probably refer to local breeders from the Isle of Wight where the breeding population in recent years has been estimated at up to nine pairs in west Wight, between Watcombe Bay and Freshwater Bay (only 5km SE of Hurst Castle), and up to three pairs in east Wight at Redcliff (J.R. Baldwin pers. comm.).

The monthly maxima are shown below. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	4	6	7	4	1	1			1	

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

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

There was a slight increase in sightings with reports on 12 dates compared to only six last year. The first report was three on Apr 10th from Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea followed by one east there the next day, two on 26th and 15 west on 29th. The first sightings in April are noteworthy for being around a month before the earliest spring records in the last two years (May 13th 2013 and May 5th 2014). Numbers increased in May at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea with 13 south on 1st, 24 south on 2nd, one west on 9th and 11 on 29th. June started with 21 NW there on 1st and one east at Hordle Cliff the next day. This was followed by an eight week gap before seven flew east at Sandy Point on July 27th and the last was seen at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Aug 4th. Whilst the records in April and May may suggest spring passage with return autumn passage in July and August, the small numbers and contrary directions are insufficient to draw firm conclusions and instead could be foraging individuals from the nearest colonies which all lie well to the west.

The monthly cumulative totals are shown below assuming no double-counting. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			21	65	22	7	1				

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

Very scarce but regular passage migrant, mostly in late summer and autumn. (0,218,9)

ET, CR, Red, S41

Once again it was a relatively poor year with just five records – all from Hurst Beach and seen by the same diligent observer (MPM) as follows: one NW on Apr 12th, one drifting for 23 minutes off Hurst Castle on July 12th, two NW on July 26th, one SE on Aug 23rd and one plus three SE on Sep 12th. (KFB)

Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel)

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor, usually after gales; mostly recorded in September-January but once each in February and April. (11,323+,1)

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

A single was photographed as it flew up and down Southampton Water past Weston Shore between 09:15 and 10:30 on Dec 30th (ARC, photo). There have been records in every year

this century except 2003 and 2011. These records have mainly been singles but over 100 were reported across many coastal sites after storms in November 2009. (KFB)

Gannet (Northern Gannet)

Morus bassanus

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

Recorded in all months, mostly from western waters but with smaller numbers and less frequently from the east, The Solent and Southampton Water. In addition to the usual greater numbers during summer, there were high counts in January and December continuing the recent trend for increases in winter. All references are to the Hurst/Milford on Sea area unless otherwise stated.

The year began with an unusually high count of 173 NW at Hurst Castle on Jan 2nd with up to 12 on other dates in January from 1st to 17th except for 41 on 4th and 6th and 31 on 18th. The month ended with three at Southsea on 31st. Sightings reduced to only three dates in February, with a maximum of 28 south on 19th, and four in March, with a maximum of only four at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea and three at Sandy Point. Numbers then started to increase in April with highs of 41 E/SE on 3rd and 87 SE on 12th. This was followed by regular reports of up to 20 during May with highs of 109 E/SE on 14th and 62 on 29th. Regular and frequent sightings continued through June to September with monthly highs of 53 east on June 26th, 202 E/SE on July 26th, 132 E/SE on Aug 23rd and 234 E/SE on Sep 11th. Numbers then dropped in October and November with maximum counts of only seven and five respectively and sightings on only five days each month.

The year ended with a marked increase in numbers and frequency. The high counts in summer were trumped by an even higher count of 273 feeding in the Narrows off Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Dec 12th. This was not immediately associated with bad weather but had been preceded on Dec 4th and 5th by Storm Desmond, which brought very high winds and heavy rainfall, and on 12th by another depression which spread north-east across UK. The high counts in January and December may indicate increasing numbers wintering in British or adjacent waters.

In addition to the Hurst/Milford on Sea area, as can be seen from the table below, there were also reports in most months other than January and February from eastern waters and Southampton Water of up to 20 except for a notable high of 45 at Lepe on Aug 11th. Within Southampton Water there were highs of nine at Hook-with-Warsash on July 11th and eight at Weston Shore on May 31st. Of note was one swimming off HMS Warrior in Portsmouth Harbour on June 25th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point/Hayling Bay			3	1	7	4	10	18	16	7	5	15
Stokes Bay-Hill Head			3		13	1	15	18	8	1		1
Southampton Water					20	10	9	45	1	1	7	1
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	173	28	4	87	109	53	202	132	234		5	273

Cormorant (Great Cormorant)

Phalacrocorax carbo

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

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	48	13	13				23	7	62	45	35	27
Titchfield Haven	63 [#]	45 [#]	14	5		8	14	20	46	20	69 ^{**}	53 [#]
Hamble Estuary	13	10	4	2	1		25	8	18	26	28	25
Lower Test, Eling and Bury Marshes & Dibden Bay	36	41	12	4	1	4	8	19	18	26	29	32
Hythe MOD Base	30 [#]	50 [#]		1		4	6	21	46 [#]	3	58 [#]	70 [#]
Sowley-Lymington	14	6	20	8	4	8	18	41	43	50	24	14
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	30	224	35						40	53	27	57
Blashford Lakes	110	109	66	27	20	11	21	80	104	114	96	133
Test: Fishlake Meadows, Romsey	60 [#]	61 [#]	12	2					15	53 [#]	48 [#]	8
Test: above Stockbridge	19	33	8	2	2		9	2	4	17	36	14
Heath Pond, Petersfield	20	10	3	2			5	1	2	34	51	31
Fleet Pond	54 [#]		14 [#]		8	2	9 [#]	37 [#]	44 [#]	52 [#]	68 [#]	73 [#]
Eversley GP	105 [#]	95 [#]	53 [#]	5		9			6	8	115 [#]	96 [#]
WeBS count totals	467	600	260	68	28	49	66	194	425	526	439	468

* = site record; # = roost counts.

In addition, notable single date counts included a concentration of 80 feeding off Weston Shore on Jan 1st, 52 off Royal Pier, Southampton on Jan 13th, 32 at Testwood Lakes on Feb 8th, 24 into the night roost at Allington GP on Feb 28th and a WeBS total of 28 at Langstone Harbour on Aug 29th. The peak WeBS total of 600 in February was close to the mean maximum of 629 over the previous ten winters excluding the exceptional totals in 2010/11 (max. 920). There were three-figure nocturnal roost arrival counts at Eversley GP and Ivy Lake, Blashford. At the latter site there is speculation that variable numbers result from disturbances at other Avon Valley roosts, although there were no reports from these sites this year. Late morning arrivals of 50 and c.35 were observed at Ibsley Water on Feb 6th, which may have resulted from disturbances further up the valley¹. Notable roost counts were made at four further waters including a local record count of 69 at Titchfield Haven on Nov 25th. There were no reports of breeding or significant coastal movements. **(AFJC)**

Shag (European Shag)

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

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

Red

There was an abnormally low number of reports across the year totalling just 76 bird-days including just five multiple counts of two to five and none in July or October. Reports were irregular at Hurst/Milford on Sea (21 dates only for whole year with maximum of 5 days in January) where numbers have declined markedly since severe storms in the winter of 2013/14. There appears to be no correlation with the small but stable colony at Main Bench, west Wight, where seven nests were occupied in 2014 and nine in 2015 (J.R. Baldwin pers. comm.), the highest counts this century.

Elsewhere all records were of singles except for two at Stansore Point, Lepe on Dec 3rd (one there, 12th). The first report from Sandy Point was not until Mar 29th with none further until Aug 23rd followed by five dates in November. There were just two records from the Langstone Harbour entrance on Jan 17th and Nov 18th. Southsea Castle records were restricted to five dates in January, Apr 7th, Nov 2nd/3rd and an adult from Dec 25th-31st. At Portsmouth Harbour an adult was at the harbour entrance on Feb 23rd, one was off HMS Warrior on June 28th, and in December a juvenile was present at Haslar Creek (2nd

¹ To date there is no legislation to agree general licences for Cormorant culling to protect fish stocks although Avon Valley fish interests are pursuing such action.

and 5th) and presumably the same individual was briefly at IBM Lake on 29th (the first ever there) before returning towards the harbour. A first-year flew west at Titchfield Haven on May 5th and a juvenile first seen on Nov 30th was present there into 2016. There were at least two in Southampton Water in December with an adult off Mayflower Park on 8th and 18th, a first-winter at Weston Shore on 13th and one at Calshot on 31st.

Monthly maxima from regularly-watched sites are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point/Chichester Harbour			1					1			1	
Langstone Harbour entrance	1										1	
Southsea/Portsmouth Harbour	1	1		1		1					1	1
Hurst Castle-Milford on Sea	4	1	1	1	2			5	1		1	1

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)

Botaurus stellaris
Very scarce but regular winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP

There were reports of singles at seven locations, some of which may refer to the same individual. The Ivy Lake, Blashford individual, first seen on Dec 6th 2014, was reported on seven dates until Mar 22nd. Appearances were sporadic between two gaps of 19 days in January and from Feb 1st to Mar 7th. The second period of absence commenced with sub-zero nights for five days and may be correlated with records elsewhere, mostly single dates at Keyhaven Marshes on Feb 1st (AIL), Fawley Reservoir on 6th (JGR), Itchen Valley CP on 10th (MJWH), north-west over the Hamble River and up Southampton Water on Mar 1st (MGP) and finally at Fishlake Meadows on 3rd and 6th (DAT). One was again at Keyhaven Marshes on Apr 21st (MPM).

The first in the late year was observed for ten minutes late morning at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 19th (SCI) followed by one by the River Avon at Ibsley on 30th (JEL). This was presumably the returning Ivy Lake bird which was present from Nov 8th into 2016 and was reported on seven evenly scattered dates in that month and, after a nine day gap, on 14 days in December. (AFJC)

Night-heron (Black-crowned Night Heron)

Nycticorax nycticorax
Rare vagrant recorded in every month except August. (3,14,1)

An adult flew west low over a garden in Dibden Purlieu at 14:05 on Oct 19th, calling as it passed over (SRS). The most recent previous record was of an adult which frequented a fishing pond at Pennington from June to August 2012. (KFB)

Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides
Very rare vagrant. (0,3,0)

1982 addition: One at Needs Ore on June 11th-12th (WL, JV). Accepted by BBRC in 2016. This record was listed in *Birds of Hampshire* (1993) with a note to indicate that it had not yet been submitted. We are grateful to Eddie Wiseman who kindly obtained the details of the sighting which allowed it to be considered by BBRC.

On the evening of June 11th 1982, JV (then Site Manager at Needs Ore) was driving slowly past Warren Farm when he observed the bird flying close to his vehicle at a range of no more than 15 metres. Though late in the day the light was good and he noted the colours. He was unfamiliar with the species but was able, without hesitation, to identify it as a Squacco Heron from his field guide. The bird was searched for the next day. However, WL, who lived at

Gins Farmhouse (within 1km of Warren Farm), phoned JV to inform him that on June 12th he had observed a Squacco Heron at close range feeding in his large garden goldfish pond. WL had not been aware of the earlier sighting.

This was the first record for Hampshire with only two since, both at Titchfield Haven, in July 1994 and August 1996. The species breeds in the Mediterranean basin from Spain to the Black Sea and east to Kazakhstan with a large population in the Danube Delta. The species is migratory wintering in tropical Africa. (KFB)

Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret)

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except June. (0,27,22+)

Once a very rare vagrant in the county, Cattle Egrets have become almost annual visitors since an influx to southern England in early 2006. Despite this increase in sightings, the discovery of a flock of 22 at Coward's Marsh in Dorset on Aug 30th was a big surprise. The birds were on the east side of the River Avon about 2km from the county boundary. They all departed north at 17:55 and were seen 15km further north flying over Harbridge towards Fordingbridge at 18:20 (SF & RD). Mysteriously the flock was not reported again in Hampshire or any other county in the UK. Two flew west over Normandy Marsh at 08:55 on Aug 31st (MW). The next sighting was of a single flying south over Snails Lake, Blashford at 12:00 on Sep 2nd (SKW & JC). On the same day one appeared at Titchfield Haven being seen regularly around the cattle until Sep 5th (GCB et al.). On Sep 3rd one was at the lake at Farlington Marshes for at least ten minutes before flying off at 13:00 (KAT). There were no more sightings until Sep 27th when two frequented Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes until 29th, particularly favouring the Balancing Pools area in the late afternoon (DB, SF, SL, RAC, LMF). (KFB)

Bubulcus ibis
ET, Schedule I, HBAP



Cattle Egret, Titchfield Haven, Sep 2nd (Mark Palmer)

Little Egret

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

Egretta garzetta
ET, Green, HBAP

A WeBS count at Langstone Harbour of 117 on Aug 29th was a record for that month. Conversely the peak WeBS monthly total of 323 was the second lowest in the ten year period since 2006. It is possible that dispersal from the coast is occurring earlier. Inland winter roosts appear to be increasing in size compared to relatively low coastal populations, as can be seen for some of the sites described below. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded ten are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	39	29	72	30	18	24	15	101	132	95	33	31
Hampshire sectors	33	10	30	22	5			45	50	52	39	11
Langstone Mill Pond	14		16	72†	40*	54	38	36	101†	21	2	
Langstone Harbour	18	9	29	24	14	22	55	117	77	61	24	12
Portsmouth Harbour	20	7	11	5	6	11	25	27	91	71	12	6
Hamble Estuary	3	5	8	5	6		6	23	15	23	8	9
Southampton Water	7	5	21	17	13	18	28	36	17	28	16	7
Lepe-Needs Ore	9	7	9	8	6	7	19	19	16	16	6	10
Lymington-Hurst	17	16	16	20	18	8	27	37	17	24	23	15
Blashford Lakes	4	15	14				1	1	2	13	16	5
Test above Stockbridge	12	5	5	1	1		2	11	15	5	4	7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Allington GP†	32	26								11	22	31
Eversley GP†	12	11	12							1	10	8
WeBS count totals	187	122	163	81	64	57	115	288	315	323	133	132

Sites of international importance: 1,300+; national importance: 45+; *=occupied nests;
† = night roost.

Counts of arrivals into nocturnal roosts not shown above included 18 at Old Basing on Jan 4th and 30 at Arlebury Lakes on Dec 10th. Several known inland nocturnal roosts were not counted. There was no systematic coverage of the Langstone Mill Pond roost but the year maximum there of 101 on Sep 3rd continues a downward trend illustrated by the average peak count of 254 for 2005-2009 and 137 for 2011-15. Additional daylight roosts in Southampton Water were 11 at Calshot on Oct 31st and 14 at Redbridge on Nov 2nd.

There was full coverage of all known county breeding colonies at three inland and five coastal localities with breeding confirmed at six of these. At Langstone Mill Pond 40 nests were occupied. At least one nest was predated by a Carrion Crow which was seen to break and feed from two eggs before fleeing with a third. Elsewhere there were at least two active nests at Tournurbury, four at Fort Elson (the decline there continues), ten at Fawley Refinery, five at Alice Holt Forest and one at a new site in the Itchen Valley area. The total of 61 active nests is the highest county total since 2008.

The year ended with reports of large flocks foraging on pastures both at Bishop's Sutton (35, Dec 27th) and Swanmore (17, 31st). (AFJC)

Great White Egret (Great Egret)

Ardea alba

Very scarce but increasing visitor, recorded in every month. (0,60,3+)

ET

The long-staying colour-ringed individual in the Blashford area was regularly reported up to Jan 31st. It reappeared on July 10th and was seen on many dates until the year end. It was also reported near Ringwood and Sopley. This colour-ringed adult first appeared in the Avon Valley in August 2003 having hatched just four months previously in the Loire-Atlantique region of France.

Other sightings are shown in date order. None of these birds were actually reported as colour-ringed, and in one case the bird was specifically reported as not carrying rings. These records show that a single present in the Test Valley at the end of last year remained throughout January to March and July to November and was presumably different to that in the Avon Valley. Given the widespread dates and locations, it is difficult to determine how many others were involved, but it seems likely there was at least one other in the Itchen Valley/north-east in January and from October and at least two on the coast in September.



Full summer plumage Great White Egret, Needs Ore, May 15th (Lee Fuller). A rare plumage in the county.

River Itchen, Winchester: Jan 4th 10:00 (EC)

The Mill Field, Old Basing: Jan 4th – roosting with Little Egrets (JKA).

Bransbury Common: Jan 15th (RKP), 18th (DK, DP), 19th (CB), 20th (DJR), 31st (CR)

Testbourne Lake: Jan 16th (GCE)

Broadlands Lake: Jan 31st over (EJB)

Testwood Lakes: Feb 14th over (DJR)

Lower Test Marshes: Feb 14th over (AJBL), Feb 19th (JB)

Longparish: Feb 27th (MC)

Broadlands Estate: Mar 6th, flew up near M27 (PDW)

Bransbury Common: Mar 20th (MC)

Needs Ore: May 15th (LMF)

Fishlake Meadows: July 15th (AJBL), Aug 1st (SR), 3rd (DJR), 25th (PJ), 25th (PJ), 29th (NRJ), Sep 10th (DAT), 13th (DAT), 19th (SI), Oct 9th (EDB)

Lymington-Hurst: Sep 7th (GAT), 29th 18:57 (LMF)

Langstone Harbour: Sep 29th flew west 14:00 (RS)

Titchfield Haven: 2, Sep 29th 17:00 (MH)

Sandy Point: Oct 16th a single flew east (ACJ).

Goodworth Clatford: Oct 19th (ST)

Whitchurch: Oct 23th (LG), 24th (BS)

Fleet Pond: Oct 27th (DJB)

Bransbury Common: Nov 1st (DAT), Nov 2nd (RS)

Alresford Pond: Nov 30th (JF), Dec 28th and 30th (MA)
(KFB)

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Coverage of known heronries was complete. Counts of apparently occupied nests (with 2014 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Arlebury Park, 12 (8); Bramshill Plantation, 4 (5); Efford Mill, 5 (3); Elvetham Park, 20 (nc); Eversley GP, 0 (3); Fleet Pond, 10 (9); Fort Elson, 17 (5); Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 16 (11); near Fordingbridge, 35-38 (26-28); Kings Pond, Alton, 1 (1); Kingston North Common, 4 (6); Lammas Wood, Fawley Refinery, 42 (20); Langstone Mill Pond, 6 (3); Sowley Pond, 12 (11); Somerley Estate, 8 (7); The Grange Lake, 1 (0); Tournerbury Wood, 7 (11+). These data suggest a county population of around 200-203 pairs compared to 141-143 pairs in 2014. This increase is in part down to a more accurate count at Lammas Wood, Fawley, and also a partial recovery of the Fort Elson colony.



Grey Heron, Blashford Lakes, Sep 10th (John Wichall)

Counts outside the breeding season increased slightly. In 2015 five sites (other than heronries) attracted gatherings in excess of 20. Monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	8	11	9						44	20	62	53
Avon: Bickton			50	60								
Blashford Lakes	1					9	14	37	125	99	9	11
Fobdown Farm Reservoir			1	8	21		32	16	20	4		3
Portsmouth Harbour	36	4	1		1			6	21	17	7	17

The largest counts above were 112 at Blashford Lakes on Sep 1st and 125 there on 27th. The only other sites to attract double-figure gatherings (annual maxima in parentheses) were Titchfield Haven (10, Sep 8th), Langstone Harbour (11, Oct 31st), Bury Marshes (10, Dec 12th), Pitts Deep (11, Apr 18th), Mill Rithe (10, Mar 21st) and Hamble Estuary below the M27 (10, Oct 31st). (KFB)

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

Rare vagrant (0,12,1)

At least one was seen to fly over Southsea on July 30th at 14:36. The main observers had no idea of what it was but had the good sense to take a photograph as it passed over. They said that there were two others with it but failed to photograph these. While it seems likely that all three could have been Black Storks, in the absence of a detailed description or photographic proof BBRC decided to accept the record as just one individual (CH, DH photo). (KFB)

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill)[†]

Platalea leucorodia

Scarce visitor, most frequent in spring and autumn but recorded in every month. (20+,329,38)
ET, Schedule 1, Amber

The best year on record, present in all months including several long-staying individuals. Reports on 104 dates to June suggest a conservative minimum of 25, and possibly up to 34. In the late year four juveniles were added to the year total; another 13 arrivals may all have been returns.

In the early year the most regularly visited localities (totals of dates, individuals in parentheses) were Farlington Marshes (45, 9), Titchfield Haven (18, 4), Needs Ore (40, 11) and Normandy to Keyhaven Marshes (71, 11). There were lower numbers on fewer dates in the late year as shown in the table of approximate monthly totals below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes	2	4	1		6	1		2	1		1	
Titchfield Haven		4	2	2	2		2		2	1		
Needs Ore	1	4	8	7	3	5		7	1	1		
Lymington-Hurst	2	3	8	3	8	9	1	3		3	1	1
Minimum total	4	11	16	12	11	10	4	7	3	4	2	1
New arrivals	2	7	10						1	3		

Long-staying individuals in the early year were as follows: Farlington Marshes (adult, Jan 1st-29th; immature, Jan 8th-28th and May 10th-June 14th; adult, May 11th-26th), Titchfield Haven (1-4 adults, 14 dates, Feb 10th-May 13th), Needs Ore (2-7 adults, Feb 9th-Apr 16th; 2-3 immatures, Apr 22nd-May 20th) and Normandy-Hurst (adult, juvenile, from Nov 30th 2015-Mar 8th; adult, Feb 11th-Mar 8th; 5 adults/sub-adults, Mar 3rd-7th, same on eight dates, May 31st-June 27th; 3 immatures, 21 dates, Mar 22nd-June 18th). Notably one pair was displaying at Needs Ore on Feb 12th and dates suggest that Titchfield Haven and Needs

Ore records refer to the same individuals. Elsewhere one was in the Warblington area on Jan 18th and Feb 8th and nearby at Nore Barn on Feb 4th – all presumably from Langstone Harbour. In April two immatures arrived from the south at Hook-with-Warsash on 2nd and left SE after disturbance, but one returned late afternoon and was present the following day. On Apr 11th four were at Emsworth.

In July there were reports from Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes (1, 5th), Hythe (1, 23rd) and Titchfield Haven (2, 31st), and in August from Keyhaven (3, 8th), Needs Ore (4, 11th; 7, 13th; 2, 14th-16th) and in the Little Egret roost at South Binness island, Langstone Harbour (2, 30th). In September two mobile individuals presumably accounted for records of singles at Hook-with-Warsash (6th-7th), Titchfield Haven (7th, 9th-11th; 2, 13th-15th), Farlington Marshes (8-9th), Calshot (E, 13th), Lepe (W, 19th), Tanners Lane (22nd) and Needs Ore (27th). Also on Sep 27th the first juvenile flew east over Gilkicker Point at 09:14. There was an isolated record at Titchfield Haven on Oct 13th and then after heavy rainfall a juvenile/first-winter arrived at Sturt Pond, Hurst Beach on 24th, and two were nearby at Pennington Lane. One of the Pennington juveniles could account for records of singles in October at Needs Ore (29th) and Pitts Deep and West Hayling LNR (both 31st), and in November at Farlington Marshes (1st-20th). The Sturt Pond individual was reported as resident there until at least Feb 27th 2016. It was also reported from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on Dec 11th, 13th and 29th. (AFJC/MLC)



Spoonbills, Keyhaven, June 1st (Gareth Rees)

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

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

Green

The peak WeBS count of 346 in February was below the ten-year mean (385) but not significantly and reflected milder weather. WeBS typically covers the larger waters; hence peaks align with colder weather as smaller waters become unavailable. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	19	13	13	7	5	2	4	11	7	23	19	10
Portsmouth Harbour	42	57	15						39	47	39	25

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	33	22	10	2	5		4	14	15	35	28	27
Blashford Lakes	31	28	34	28	34	29	49	57	53	39	49	28
Test: Broadlands Estate	21	15	5	9								
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	42	35	35	9	8	14	29	41	53	56	56	44
Testbourne Lake	5	6	10	8	13	13	19	23	20	14	11	7
The Grange Lake	14	29	4			6		8		8		
WeBS count totals	332	346	208	94	94	85	148	205	248	303	287	230

Away from these areas there were counts of five or more at 26 localities including Lower Test Marshes (14, Jan 9th), River Itchen (Northam-Mansbridge) (16, Jan 19th) and Hamble estuaries (14, Jan 24th), St Mary Bourne (11, Feb 8th and Oct 18th), Sowley Shore (15, July 5th) and Warnford Park (14, Aug 16th).

In the breeding season 82 pairs were present at 37 localities. At least 61 pairs attempted breeding and most raised young. There were at least 23 pairs at Blashford Lakes including eight or more broods on Ibsley North Lake. Elsewhere brood reports ranged from one to three including a pair at Bramshill Plantation which produced two broods (2,1). At King's Pond, Alton there was an extraordinary sequence of events. A pair and three young were present on July 23rd. A stripy, large, juvenile was being fed by an adult returning to summer plumage on Oct 31st in the company of two first-winters. The origin of the juvenile is intriguing; a second brood or, less likely, an arrested development from the original three siblings? By Dec 5th a summer plumage pair was displaying and nest building while three first-winters remained on the territory (SJM). (AFJC)

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

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

Green

In both winter periods three-figure gatherings were present in Southampton Water and between Hill Head and Chilling (centred off Brownich Cliffs). At least 184 were off Hythe on Jan 31st and 131 at dusk on Feb 8th, with 12 departing to roost off Weston Shore in prevailing NE winds. A peak off Brownich of 167 at 14:20 on Feb 2nd was marginally higher than 172 on the high water off Weston Shore at 10:30 on 4th. Comparison with the Hythe roost numbers suggests a significant overlap between the Brownich and Weston gatherings. In late November there was a rapid build-up off Brownich with 72 on 22nd, 168 on 23rd and 245 on 26th. Regular December evening roost gatherings just off the saltmarsh at Hythe peaked at 232 on 23rd, a record for Southampton Water (RAC). The WeBS peak count of 416 in December was above the ten-year mean for 2006-15 of 364 but not a statistically significant increase. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	26	6	7	16	27	6	16	31	21	61	16	22
Portsmouth Harbour	19	11	22				2		3	13	20	8
Hill Head-Brownich	135	167	6	2		1	2	5	3	7	245	130
Mid Southampton Water	184	172	10	7		4	1	4	1	16	44	232*
Calshot-Beaulieu Estuary	46	19	3	4	8	1				22	34	39
Lymington-Hurst	12	5	9	10	5	2	3	2	6	11	20	5
Blashford Lakes	47	44	58	61	48	54	56	69	46	38	32	28
Eversley GP	8	5	14	21					16	23	7	10
WeBS count totals	377	147	213	136	99	75	64	117	128	226	333	416

* = record for locality

Elsewhere there were counts of ten or more (peak count in parentheses) as follows: Testwood Lakes (13, Mar 5th), Fleet Pond (18, Mar 6th) and Yateley GP (12, Mar 12th). Breeding reports came from just 13 localities. At Blashford Lakes 22 pairs were present on eight waters of which 17 pairs raised 27 young including one pair triple-brooding a total of five juveniles. Elsewhere successful breeding was reported at Dogmersfield Lake (1 pair, 1 young), Lodge Pond, Alice Holt Forest (1 pair, 2 juveniles), Test Valley at Longstock (2 fledged young) and Timsbury (pair with 3 young). Small young noted at Heath Pond, Petersfield (1 pair, 1 young) and IBM Lake (1 pair, 2 young) did not survive. (AFJC)

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Red

Just four records of two singles in the early year and one at two localities in the late year. One was off Black Point, Chichester Harbour on Feb 17th (ACJ) and another moulting into summer plumage was off Needs Ore Point on the Beaulieu River from Mar 18th–22nd (LF, AHo *et al.*). One was again off Black Point from Nov 23rd-27th (ACJ) and presumably the same was seen from the northern shore of the harbour at Warblington on Dec 6th (KSt). (AFJC)

Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe)

Podiceps auritus

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

In the early year there were up to five around the eastern harbours compared to at least ten at the end of 2014. Off Sandy Point there were sightings on eight dates to Feb 24th including a maximum of five on Jan 13th and four on the last date. At Langstone Harbour two were reported on Jan 5th, three on 16th and singles on six dates to Feb 8th. Between Lepe and Needs Ore there were reports on 19 dates including four on both Jan 17th and Feb 15th, two on Mar 18th and the last on 22nd. In the west Solent there were almost daily reports from Normandy to Hurst Castle including highs of seven at the Oxey Lake nocturnal roost on Jan 13th, seven off Pennington Marshes on 24th, five there on Feb 7th and Mar 8th and the last report of three on Mar 13th. The only other reports were one off Hill Head on Feb 10th and five there on 12th.

The first of the late year was a surprising find at Ibsley Water on Oct 12th (RAH) as inland records are unusual, the last being in February 2007. Presumably another was at nearby Rockford Lake from Dec 13th-20th before moving to Ibsley Water from 21st where it remained until Apr 12th 2016. On the coast numbers were very low, perhaps due to the prolonged mild weather. The first return was at Pennington Marshes on Oct 30th, then singles on eight more dates there until three on Dec 29th. At Needs Ore the first returns were three on Oct 31st followed by four further reports including three on Nov 26th and two on Dec 26th. At Sandy Point the first return was on Nov 25th, then 1-2 logged daily from Nov 29th-Dec 11th and also on 23rd and 31st. Elsewhere three were off Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane from Oct 31st-Nov 2nd followed by singles at Hill Head (Nov 15th), Broadmarsh, Langstone Harbour (Dec 2nd), Calshot (28th) and Stokes Bay (30th). Monthly maxima from the main sites are tabulated below. (AFJC)

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

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

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

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

The Langstone Harbour wintering population peaked at nine on Feb 15th and the last was one on Mar 6th. The 2014/15 numbers were the lowest since 1977/78. As described in HBA (pp. 130-31), there is concern for the viability of this small and declining population. At Chichester Harbour one was seen off Black Point on five dates between Jan 4th and Feb 25th; also five were off Emsworth on Jan 23rd presumably roaming there from Langstone Harbour. Four were in Hayling Bay off Beachlands on Jan 16th and two on Feb 8th, again possibly from Langstone Harbour. Inland records were confined to Ibsley Water where two were present throughout the first quarter to Apr 5th. A pair bond was established from Mar 5th as summer plumage moult commenced, and by 15th the moult was well advanced and the pair began trilling and displaying. A third in moult was present from Mar 8th-30th and a fourth in summer plumage from 20th-27th.

An adult in summer plumage was located at Chilling at 10:25 on June 16th and ranged between Southampton Water and Hill Head to 20th. Singles were next reported off Hill Head on Aug 7th and in the west Solent at Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 5th. The first return to Langstone Harbour was at West Hayling LNR on Oct 2nd-3rd and the next were two on 31st. Thereafter, of concern, there were just one or two until the end of the year apart from a report of five off Budds Farm SF on Nov 5th. Singles were reported at Ibsley Water from Sep 18th-26th, Oct 31st-Nov 5th and Dec 5th-31st. The last in extensive breeding plumage was joined by one in winter plumage from Dec 17th-22nd. Monthly maxima from the main sites and the approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	7	9	1							2	5	2
Ibsley Water	2	2	4	2					1	1	1	2
Approx. monthly totals	10	12	9	2		1		1	2	3	6	4

Honey-buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)

Pernis apivorus

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Fifty-nine records made it to the HOS database. As might be expected 42 of these came from the New Forest area with half of these from Acres Down reflecting the regular coverage this site receives.

The first sighting of the year was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on May 7th and there followed a further 15 records for the same month relating to eight different areas. In June 22 records were received from five areas. Following this there were only 18 records relating to ten locations for the peak activity months of July and August. Those individuals devoting considerable time to monitoring this species reported singles or pairs at 11 sites within the county with breeding confirmed at six of these, probable at another three and possible at one. Eight young were raised from five monitored nests.

In September there were three records of singles with the two latest sightings being from Needs Ore on 11th and Budd's Farm SW on 17th. (AP)

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Rare vagrant recorded in every month from April to September. (0,37,1)

ET

The only record was a single that flew low ENE over Hambledon at 07:00 on May 15th being mobbed by crows (DR). The species has been recorded annually since 2006. (KFB)

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

There were reports from around 490 sites during the year with the highest densities in the north-west of the county (10km squares SU34 and SU44 both having over 120 records each). The number of sightings across the county grew considerably with 1,540 records received compared to 1,060 in 2014. Amazingly this compares to just 153 records in 2005. The significant increase in reports from the Test Valley north of Romsey continued with 124 records in SU32 (compared to 74 in 2014 and 25 in 2013). There was also a continued strengthening of numbers in the north-east of the county, especially around Fleet.

It was a successful breeding season with warm weather in spring. Estimating breeding numbers is very difficult but it is likely that the actual nesting population was probably in excess of 100 pairs, with perhaps 200 first-years in addition. The largest count anywhere was 53 at the Tunworth roost on Nov 20th. Extraordinary to report, both in terms of occupancy and density, that Red Kite is now more evident within the Hampshire county BBS squares than either Kestrel or Sparrowhawk (see Table 3).

Monthly bird-day totals of sightings in three areas are tabulated below. With the spread towards the south and east, it is difficult to assess the numbers present in areas where they are not breeding, but these numbers are the highest ever recorded in the coastal zone. In the New Forest (where breeding is still not known) there were also many more spring sightings than in recent years with 44 reports in the year, mostly in April/May. As has been acknowledged in previous reports, many (probably most) of these spring birds in non-breeding areas are first-years. As a comparison the numbers of birds in NE Hants (excluding counts at roosts) show an even spread throughout the year as expected in a breeding area. The slight drop in April is when incubation is underway and the boost in August is when newly-fledged young are on the wing.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	0	5	21	44	18	2	0	1	2	3	0	1
New Forest	0	2	5	12	16	8	1	1	1	1	1	0
North-east	31	51	35	25	33	29	24	45	17	12	27	28

Numbers at roosts remained low in most cases. This is in sharp contrast to the large roosts observed in the period 2006-2012 as the population was growing. This change in roost size has been experienced in other counties as numbers have grown. Winter roosts mainly comprise young born in the previous two years and act as a social gathering. When populations are relatively low, they act as a magnet for these birds. But when populations increase, the need to have a special meeting place is much less, and small groups of five to ten then roost together and are overlooked.

Monthly maxima at roost sites are tabulated below. (KFB)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Facombe	40				1	
Hare Warren		10	8	13	7	9
Meon Valley	29	34	1	23	47	36
West End Green						41
Tunworth					53	40
Hannington	26					

Marsh Harrier (Western Marsh Harrier)†

Circus aeruginosus

*Scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally summers and has bred.
ET, Schedule I, Amber*



Female Marsh Harrier, Titchfield Haven, Jan 23rd (David Ryves)

Numbers continue to increase with around ten present in January. Three were in the Keyhaven area, two each at Titchfield Haven, Needs Ore and Farlington Marshes, with singles at Hayling Island, Lepe, Ringwood Forest and Alver Valley. Numbers fell over the next two months with April records only from Lymington-Hurst, Fishlake Meadows and Titchfield Haven, with none from the other usual locations. May records, which might include migrants, came from Fishlake Meadows on 4th and 6th, Ibsley Water on 7th, Lower Test Marshes on 25th and Hook-with-Warsash on 27th. By July at least eight were present. Sightings in August of the same wing-tagged individual at both Needs Ore (19th) and Titchfield Haven (28th) showed interchange between sites. Even so, with three at Lepe in October, there were in all probability at least 12 individuals wintering by the end of the year.

A pair bred on private land in the Lymington-Hurst area rearing two young, the first confirmed breeding in the county since 1957 when a pair nested unsuccessfully at Needs Ore. With increasing numbers present all year round, an increase in breeding attempts can be expected.

The minimum monthly totals in the regularly used areas are tabulated below. The numbers of males are given in parentheses. (RC)

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

Hen Harrier†

Circus cyaneus

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

The 2014 report stated that year was probably the worst on record for this species, and this trend has continued in 2015 with a maximum of probably only six (three males and three ringtails) present in January-February and similar numbers in December.

Widespread reports were received in the first four months of the year from the usual locations in the New Forest. Up to four (including two males) roosted at the regular site in the north-west in January and February. The NFWBS produced totals of nine, seven and one in January-March. There were few other records from the rest of the county except for a male at Bransbury Common from Jan 2nd-7th and single ringtails at Alresford Pond on Jan 4th, New Alresford on Feb 27th, Martin Down on Mar 7th and Easton on Mar 10th, but none from several coastal locations where the species has often been reported in the past. The last record was a female at Ibsley Common, NF and Hampton Ridge, NF on Apr 26th.

The first return was an early male at Hurst Beach on Sep 16th. A male was next seen at Keyhaven Marshes on Oct 2nd followed by a juvenile on Oct 15th and another single on Oct 18th. There was also a series of records of a ringtail at Farlington Marshes from Oct 15th to 24th and again on Dec 19th. The first of regular sightings in the New Forest was also on Oct 15th with a male at Ibsley Common. The NFWBS produced totals of three, three and five for October-December. There were up to three (including one male) at the roost site in December. Elsewhere single ringtails were at Longwood Warren on Oct 18th and Titchfield Haven on Oct 20th and a further single was at Farley Mount on Nov 28th.

The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. Estimates are conservative and allow for possible double-counting in NFWBS numbers in January and February. (RC)

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

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

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

One record. A ringtail at Crawley was chased off by a Red Kite in the early afternoon on Apr 24th (LG, OF, LMF, photo). (KFB)

Harrier species

Circus sp.

A pair flew NE at 18:45 at Casbrook Common (viewed from Trigpoint Hill) on Apr 10th (DAT). Reports of unidentified ringtails (Hen or Montagu's) were received from Broomy Plain NF on May 9th and Ogdens Purlieu NF on May 12th (MJB per JH). Single unidentified harriers were also seen flying high over Leigh Park, Havant on Aug 11th (CBC) and west at Sinah Common on Oct 3rd (GCS). (KFB/MLC)

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

Accipiter gentilis

Scarce but increasing resident.

Schedule 1, Green

With 214 records on the database this species continues to spread into the wider Hampshire countryside from its core areas in the New Forest and Test Valley. The vast majority of these records came from the New Forest and although this species is large and obvious at times, it is almost certainly being under-recorded away from the Forest.

In the New Forest Crown Lands study area at least 26 pairs were known to have attempted breeding with 23 thought to be successful fledging a minimum of 59 young. 47 pulli were ringed, 33 males and 14 females. Three pairs are known to have failed. Even here it is possible that odd pairs may have gone undetected. Outside of the Crown Lands but within the core

areas, Goshawks are known to have been present at a further 12 sites, thought to have bred at eight and been successful at a minimum of five of these sites.

Outside of the core areas and their adjacent localities there were records at Odiham on Jan 12th, Dummer on Feb 17th and 25th, Blacknest on March 2nd, Woolmer Pond on March 6th and June 16th, Bramley on March 11th, Abbots Wood Inclosure on April 12th and Porton on June 6th. The only reported breeding outside the core area was at Harewood Forest where two young are said to have fledged. (AP)

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)

Accipiter nisus

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

Breeding Sparrowhawks continue to be under-recorded with just a handful of records from around the county. Two pairs raised three young at Itchen Valley CP and breeding was also proven or probable at Deep Dene Woods, Fleet, Longmoor Inclosure, Petersfield, Sowley and Titchfield Haven. As usual there were few New Forest records with breeding evidence only from Furze Hill and Ober Heath. It would be interesting to know whether the decline in numbers continues in the Forest or if the population has stabilised. NFWBS produced totals of three, two and two for January-March and seven, seven and one for October-December.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Petersfield, private garden	1	2	3	4	1	1	6	10	8	6	2	7
Regents Park, private garden	1	2	2	3	-	-	2	5	2	3	2	3
Sandy Point	4	2	12	14	3	2	9	15	11	20	15	3

Buzzard (Common Buzzard)

Buteo buteo

Common resident.

Green

As usual there were numerous counts of ten or more in the early part of the breeding season with 26 at Acres Down on Mar 5th, 24 over Casbrook Common on Mar 10th and 21 over Fleet Pond on Apr 5th. The NFWBS produced totals of 51, 51, 89 in January-March and 21, 27, and 24 in October-December. In the New Forest the study group located 32 successful nests with a minimum of 48 young fledged (compared to 22 nests with 31 young in 2014). The number of occupied territories remained around 70 (JMT *et al.*). Counts of breeding pairs in other areas reported in previous years (2014 counts in parentheses) were as follows: Butser Hill, 4 (4); Itchen Valley CP, 4 (3). Breeding reports came from a further ten localities in the county though such records must now represent only a tiny fraction of the total population.

Evidence of dispersive or migratory movements is provided from Sandy Point, where none breed, by the monthly bird-day totals which are tabulated below. (RC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	1	-	2	6	4	1	2	4	11	3	-	-

Osprey (Western Osprey)

Pandion haliaetus

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

Analysis of the records suggests totals of around 26 in spring between Mar 17th and May 17th, and a minimum of 30 in autumn between July 11th and Nov 12th. The presence of long-stayers in autumn makes accurate assessment of the number of individuals uncertain and possibly more were involved. These totals were similar to last year (29 in spring and at least 29 in autumn).

First arrival was 13 days later than last year with one over Winchester and nearby Brambridge on Mar 17th followed by singles at Hilsea on Mar 21st and Old Basing on Mar 25th. Sightings were more numerous in April but tailed off in May when the only records were from Fishlake Meadows on 4th and Langstone Harbour on 27th. Records of singles in early June from the Avon and Test valleys suggest the presence of several individuals with further reports in July from scattered locations including one at Farlington Marshes and Sinah Common on 11th. By August numerous birds were present with sightings of up to four at Fishlake Meadows on 15th, one of which had been colour-ringed at Rutland Water in 2013, and three at Farlington Marshes on 29th. Sightings tailed off in September but some stayed into November with last records from Ibsley Water and Bickerley Common on 8th, Chilland on 10th and the same at nearby Avington Lake from 9th-12th.

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

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chichester Harbour						1	10		
Langstone Harbour			1		1	9	5	5	
Titchfield Haven/Hook-with-Warsash		3				15	1		
Lower Test Marshes	1	3				11			
Fawley/Calshot									
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary		2				1	4	4	
Keyhaven area							2		
Blashford Lakes/Avon Valley		3		1		2	4	14	7
Itchen Valley	1	2					4		4
Test Valley		3	1	1	1	33	2		
Elsewhere		7			1	6	1		

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Scarce resident, moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records for January-April involved a minimum of 125 at 62 sites. This total is calculated by summing the maxima at each site during the period. The highest numbers were at Titchfield Haven where there were 13 on Jan 23rd and 16 on Feb 20th. Other counts exceeding three were seven at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 16th, five on the Test between Stockbridge and Fullerton on Jan 20th, five at Itchen Valley CP on Feb 5th and six at Ibsley Water and Ivy Lake, Blashford on Feb 22nd.

Breeding was confirmed* or suspected at Titchfield Haven* (10 territories), Normandy/Oxey Marshes (at least 7), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (at least 6), Alresford Pond* and Lower Test Marshes (2), and Blackwater (Needs Ore)*, Hook-with-Warsash, Lisle Court Lagoon and The Vyne WM* (1 each). There were also records in May from Blackfield, Fleet Pond, Mopley Pond and Old Basing.

Indications of return migrants were provided by presence at Winchester SF from July 31st, Fleet Pond from Aug 16th (the first since May 19th), Mansbridge on Aug 18th and Itchen Valley CP from Aug 23rd. Records for September-December involved a minimum of 101 at 53 sites. The highest numbers were again at Titchfield Haven where there were 21 on Oct 30th, eight on Nov 27th and 16 on Dec 11th. Other counts exceeding three were five at Fishlake Meadows on Sep 13th and 14 there on Oct 18th, five at Ibsley Water and Ivy Lake on Oct 31st, four at Itchen Valley CP on Nov 8th, four at Fleet Pond on Dec 13th and four at Woodfildley, NF the next day.

Due to its unobtrusive habits this species remains significantly under-recorded. Of the above records, only the counts at Titchfield Haven and Fishlake Meadows are likely to be complete. Surveys of calling birds at major reed-bed sites, both at the coast and inland, are necessary

to reveal the true wintering and breeding populations and could possibly reveal wintering numbers approaching 1,000 and a breeding population in excess of 100 pairs. (JMC)

Moorhen (Common Moorhen)

Gallinula chloropus

Common resident and winter visitor.

Green

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	88	38	56	9	11	6		6	10	24	36	29
Hampshire sectors	62	16	34						7	17	24	17
Langstone Mill Pond	29	28	22	17	5	2		4	4	5	18	27
Langstone Harbour	43	50	32	12	15	13	19	28	31	37	42	22
Titchfield Haven	31	47	40	18	20	12	14	32	18	23	29	35
Blashford Lakes	30	23	16	12	7	15	14	18	14	23	12	14
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	25	17	18	10	10	8	22	29	17	19	22	17
Eversley GP	7	15	8	6		10			11	20	16	27
Yateley GP	11	8	11					9	10	18	13	31
Heath Pond, Petersfield	29	30	19	13	8	8	6	7	17	24	23	23

* = record for locality

Maxima at other sites where counts exceeded 25 were 31 at Badminton Common on Jan 4th, 27 at Bishop's Sutton CB on Feb 10th and 38* at Fleet Pond on Dec 13th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 counts in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 16 (13); Fleet Pond, 12 (10); Lower Test Marshes, 17 (12); Titchfield Haven, 38 (24). (DJU)

Coot (Eurasian Coot)

Fulica atra

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

NT, Green

WeBS counts were lower overall than 2014 including the peak of 2,784 in January which was lower than last year's peaks which occurred during January (3,108) and November (3,018). Five waters held in excess of 100 in the early year and six in the late year. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	277	205	94	48	62	38	38	66	142	110	167	164
Hampshire sectors	150	55	26						44	57	80	85
Blashford Lakes	927	739	443	170	135	285	477	577	783	786	845	741
Fishlake Meadows	90	87	72	35		110			172*		40	45
Testbourne Lake	120	120	77	47	41	50	80	60	63	90	160	150
Bramshill Park Lake	100	42	40	18		16		8	5	12	23	4
Eversley GP	187	207	106	53		52			129	199		213
Yateley GP	128	54	69		22			49	75	102	126	165
Heath Pond, Petersfield	94	88	84	87	58	74	84	104	107	110	116	121*
WeBS count totals	2,784	2,295	1,686	693	543	784	988	1,073	1,842	1,983	1,952	2,157

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

Maxima at other sites holding in excess of 50 were Alresford Pond (88, July 27th), Avington Lake (64, Sep 4th), Budds Farm SF (57, July 21st), Dogmersfield Lake (58, July 25th), Langstone Harbour (60, July 4th), Lymington-Hurst (76, Sep 27th), Stockbridge-Fullerton (94, Jan 20th), Stratfield Saye Park (65, Feb 10th), Testwood Trout Lake (52, Jan 4th), The Vyne Lake (60, Jan 26th), Titchfield Haven (98, Mar 20th), Tundry Pond (76, Jan 18th) and Warnford Park Lake (57, Jan 18th).

Counts of more than one territory included the following (2014 figures in parentheses): Alresford Pond, 2 (3); Avington Lake, 5 (6); Blashford Lakes, 30 (20+); Bramshill Park Lake, 9 (8); Brown Candover, 2; Farlington Marshes, 18 (8); Fleet Pond, 8 (2); Hook-with-Warsash, 4; IBM Lake, 2; Itchen Valley CP, 4; Kings Pond, Alton, 4; Sparsholt College Fishery, 2 (2); The Grange Lake 3 (2); Titchfield Haven, 17 (21); Wellington CP, 10 (7); Winchester SF, 2 (5) and Yateley GP, 11.

There were two unusual coastal sightings with one on the sea off Hurst on Feb 18th and one in the middle of Southampton Water off Hythe on Nov 1st. The latter subsequently roosted with Great Crested Grebes at Shore Road. (DJU)

Crane (Common Crane)

Grus grus

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except March, July and August. (0,138+,3)

ET, Amber

A group of three flew west over Copythorne Common at 08:40 on May 10th (IJ). The birds were observed from a moving car on the M27 but were later seen that morning both in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. There have been records in nine years this century and annually since 2008. (KFB)

Stone-curlew (Eurasian Stone-curlew)†

Burhinus oedicnemus

Scarce summer visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP



*Stone-curlew, north Hampshire,
May 24th (Barry Stalker)*

The first report was one near Over Wallop on Mar 23rd. The RSPB monitoring team found 35 pairs on territory of which 31 were proved to breed, with 17 of these laying a second clutch as well. In addition, it is understood that a further 3-4 pairs nested on land to which access is not granted. The Hampshire population had been on a downward trajectory, with sizeable fluctuations in overall number in recent years, but has now recovered to levels close to the highest ever recorded.

It is known that a minimum of 18 young fledged giving a productivity rate of 0.58 chicks per pair. This is very close to the target of 0.61 in order to keep the population at a stable level. Due to the secretive nature of the species it is possible that additional chicks fledged but went undetected.

After very poor breeding conditions in 2013 it was good to have favourable conditions again in 2015, similar to those in 2014, with a warm, dry summer and no prolonged rain or cold during critical periods. It appeared that there was plenty of invertebrate food available and chicks were recorded growing rapidly and fledging before the predicted date, especially where only single chicks survived. As hoped, the larger number of fledged young recorded in 2014 appears to have boosted numbers in 2015 as they have been recruited to the adult population.

Hampshire currently holds 24% of the Wessex population and is at the eastern-most fringe of that group (apart from one pair in Sussex). The involvement of farmers, conservation staff and volunteers is key to keeping this population at the current level. Around 90% of nesting attempts in Hampshire were on specially-created areas within arable farms or open grassland. In many cases nests were marked to ensure that farming operations could continue in nearby fields.

Autumn roost counts included 32 near Porton Down on Sep 2nd and 22 between Overton and Kingsclere on Sep 22nd. The last record of the year was in that area with seven on Oct 8th.

A juvenile that was colour-ringed on the north Hampshire downs in Aug 2014 was seen on Salisbury Plain (Wilts) in June 2015. (KFB)

Avocet (Pied Avocet)†

Recurvirostra avosetta

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce but increasing breeder which nested for the first time in 2002.

ET, Schedule I, Amber



Avocet, Titchfield Haven, June 29th, chasing Mallard (John Wichall)

In Langstone Harbour the wintering flock of 58 present in late December 2014 increased to a peak of 65 on Jan 7th followed by a gradual reduction to 58 on Feb 7th, 52 on 13th and the final count of 20 on 17th. Also in the early year there were 13 at the Beaulieu Estuary on Jan 13th and 19 there on Feb 21st.

Breeding was recorded at three sites with 44 pairs raising 33 young. At Needs Ore 25 nests were found although only one young was known to have fledged. The colony at Titchfield Haven (which probably included failed breeders from Needs Ore) had more success with a total of 32 young raised from 18 pairs. Finally, one pair nested at Pennington Marshes but failed to raise any young.

The wintering flock in Langstone Harbour became established again during October with a peak count of 45 on Dec 2nd. At Beaulieu Estuary numbers showed a similar pattern to late 2014 with a peak of 20 on Nov 26th followed by a slight reduction during December.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	65	58	2	15	2	2	1	5	1	17	37	45
Titchfield Haven		5	22	25	55	76	76	25	4	1		
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	13	19	44	73	47	33	47	17	2	10	20	17
Lymington-Hurst	7	8	3	4	4	4	2	3		1	5	8

Other coastal records included two at Weston Shore on Mar 24th and one there on Apr 22nd, two at Hook-with-Warsash on six dates between Apr 3rd and May 12th (no evidence of nesting), four east at Hurst on Apr 7th, two west at Calshot on Apr 14th and one there on Nov 22nd. Inland one flew NW over Testwood Lakes on Mar 22nd, one was at Ibsley Water on May 2nd-3rd and Nov 24th, one was at Fleet Pond on May 11th (the first ever there) and five were at The Vyne WM on Oct 19th. (DJU)

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher)[†]

Haematopus ostralegus

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

WeBS count totals in January-March and October-December were lower than the corresponding periods during 2014 with a peak of 2,442 in November. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,283	1,300	682	551	304	363	427	108	903	707	571	1,463
Hampshire sectors	127	64	33	11	9			5	205		43	52
Black Point	182	172	87	9	23	4	8	24	114	144	154	162
Langstone Harbour	628	704	391	160	100	129	252	130	1,159	1161	914	253
Portsmouth Harbour	428	394	107						378	434	480	286
Titchfield Haven	163	99	84							103	127	113
Hamble Estuary	41	24	27	2	2		2	9	8	20	59	25
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	38	30	21	14	36	22	29	13	57	13	83	84
Hythe	51	94		44		19	68	147	62	45		42
Calshot	400	500	246	130							350	414
Beaulieu Estuary	162	200	108	143	103	55	93	21	33	150	197	154
Lymington-Hurst	117	124	69	39	59	40	81	57	28	24	130	137
WeBS count totals	2,222	2,277	1,144	553	315	268	538	1,566	1,930	2,181	2,442	2,032

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

Counts of coastal breeding pairs from east to west were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): West Hayling LNR, 2 (5); Langstone Harbour RSPB islands, 12 (17); Farlington Marshes, 2 (1); Titchfield Haven, 4 (6); Hook-with-Warsash, 3 (4); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (2); Needs Ore, 8-10 (19-21); Tanners Lane to Lymington, 47 (41-42). Breeding success when reported was again very poor.

Elsewhere single pairs raised one young both at IBM Lake, Portsmouth, and at Quayside Road, Southampton, and in the Test Valley one pair failed at Testwood Lakes. In the Avon Valley two pairs raised one young at Ibsley Water, one pair failed at Spinnaker Lake and two well-grown young were seen in a field at Hamer Warren (Ringwood Forest) on June 20th. In the north-east at Fleet Pond up to three were present from Apr 3rd to May 23rd but although copulation was observed, nesting was not thought to have taken place. Two at Fleet Pond on July 4th were considered to be migrants. Elsewhere in the north-east, two or three were at Fox Lane GP, Eversley on four dates between Mar 7th and June 21st with alarm behaviour suggestive of local breeding (first for the site). One was also at Hitches Lane CP (Fleet) on June 23rd. At Badminton GP, Fawley two or three were present on six dates between Apr 13th and June 27th, but with no evidence of breeding, and two were at Fields Farm, Blackfield on Mar 21st and Apr 15th. Finally, one flew NW at Eastleigh at 02:40 on June 26th.

Coastal spring passage was only reported from Sandy Point with nine east on Mar 17th and three east on Apr 8th. (DJU)

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

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

The long-term decline in numbers did not continue during 2015. In the early year this was largely because of the high count of 1,039 in the Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour in January resulting in a WeBS total that month of 2,045 (cf. 972 in January 2014). Numbers in the late year were also higher than the corresponding period last year with a WeBS total

of 1,484 in December (cf. 1,196 in December 2014). Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,536	569	366	7				233	234	626	480	1,541
Hampshire sectors	1,039	111	104					83	114	210	45	512
Langstone Harbour	556	871	285	31	45			493	604	764	865	670
Hamble Estuary	63	47	35					6	10	25	33	11
Hythe	61	65						10	34			70
Beaulieu Estuary	69	35	83	29	10	1	1	30	80	120	102	131
Sowley-Lymington	234	110	50					36	70			100
Lymington-Hurst	103	144	111	14	9	9	15	34	100	43	10	72
WeBS count totals	2,045	1,370	649	32	45	1	16	689	869	1,150	1,059	1,484

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

No other counts away from the sites listed above exceeded 20. Easterly movement was virtually non-existent with the only record submitted being four east off Lepe on May 2nd. (DJU)

Golden Plover (Eurasian Golden Plover)
Pluvialis apricaria

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

ET, Green, HBAP

In the early year the highest counts came from Chichester Harbour with 1,500 at Tournurbury/Mill Rithe on Jan 24th and 651 at Warblington Shore on Feb 13th, and from Lymington-Hurst where 750 were counted on Jan 12th and 500 on Feb 15th. In the late year numbers were lower with peak counts being 651 at Warblington Shore on Nov 9th and 500 at Longwood Warren on Dec 26th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 100 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East Hayling HT roost	1,500	240							25	124	250	400
Warblington Shore	198	651	1							111	651	
Titchfield Haven area	120	180	160	1						60	128	118
Hamble Estuary	250	60						1	59	183	40	169
Lymington-Hurst	750	500	120	50					7	90	320	300
Middle Wallop Airfield		100	200							150	200	300
Gander Down area	300	21	40	50						9	200	500

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

Away from the tabulated sites additional three-figure counts were 250 at Over Wallop on Jan 1st, 199 at Wootton St Lawrence on Jan 2nd and 167 there on Mar 14th, 200 at Needs Ore on Jan 8th, 320 at East Tisted on Jan 11th, 170 at Lower Froyle on Feb 2nd, 405 at Hillside on Feb 8th, 130 at Upton Grey on Feb 13th and 200 at Chilbolton on Mar 18th. Numbers were much reduced by late March with inland counts of 39 at Andover Down Farm on Mar 14th, 45 at Kilmeston Down on Mar 28th and 50 at Cholderton Park on Mar 29th. During April there were still 50 both at Lymington-Hurst on 2nd and east over Longwood Warren on 5th and 14 north at Sandy Point on 4th. There were no further definite sightings after one at Lymington-Hurst on Apr 22nd apart from a late record of one at Farlington Marshes on May 30th-31st.

Autumn arrivals were late with the first, a single at Hook-with-Warsash, not recorded until Aug 29th. Subsequently numbers increased there to a September peak of 59 on 26th. Elsewhere seven were at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 5th and 25 at Black Point-Mill Rithe on Sep 26th. Numbers remained low during October with the only counts above 50 away from tabulated sites being 60 at Newton Stacey on 10th, 80 at Farlington Marshes on 28th and

86 at Needs Ore on 30th. In the final two months, in addition to the tabulated sites, there were 150 west at Tweseldown on Nov 8th, 300 at Bere Hill Farm on 15th, 186 at Lyeway near Ropley on 21st and 500 at Cliddesden on Dec 26th. (DJU)

Ringed Plover (Common Ringed Plover)

Charadrius hiaticula

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

The peak WeBS count of 706 occurred during August. The September WeBS count of 331 was far lower as it included a count of only 18 on Sep 27th from Lymington-Hurst compared to 341 in August. There were, however, roosts of 300 and 349 in the area on Sep 29th/30th (at least 499 estimated on Oct 10th). In the eastern harbours there were peak counts of 435 at West Hayling LNR on Sep 13th and 230 at Black Point on 25th. Monthly maxima from sites where counts exceeded 20 in more than one month are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	154	139	56	37	192	63	18	218	230	157	132	162
Hampshire sectors									125	18	5	13
Black Point	128	51	56	4	30	1	18	122	230	157	130	162
Langstone Harbour	50	17		32	22	11		198	435	152	100	71
Portsmouth Harbour	20	9							5	3	14	29
Titchfield Haven-Brownwich	70	40	17	20			3	32	27	20	55	43
Stokes Bay	70							58		32	60	59
Hamble Estuary		12	20	3	12	6		46	47	85	55	30
Weston Shore		28		4			1	8	8	31	21	
Hythe/Calshot	55	40	18	11			1	137	57	169	82	115
Lepe (L)								120	37	180		20
Beaulieu Estuary	12	19	6	7	8	12	4	35	10	87	68	79
Sowley-Lymington	35	1	12	5		2	2	11	2			
Lymington-Hurst	18	30	22	9	5	16	2	341	349	499	132	108
WeBS count totals	157	123	52	8	33	9	7	706	331	615	411	415

Sites of international importance: 730+; national importance: 340+; L = low tide count(s).

The only report of easterly movement in spring was of two east at Stokes Bay on May 14th. Inland spring reports were received from Ibsley Water with two on Apr 6th and 30th and one on May 18th. In the autumn there were further reports from Ibsley Water of one on Aug 3rd, two on Aug 22nd, one on Sep 15th and finally two on Sep 18th and 21st. The only other inland record was two at Alresford Pond on Sep 12th.

Counts of coastal breeding pairs from east to west were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Langstone Harbour RSPB, 4 (6); Hook Spit, 3 (1); Tanners Lane-Lymington, 8 (7-8). (DJU)

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

The first was at Ibsley Water on Mar 14th but the only others recorded during that month were three at Ibsley Flash and two at Pennington Marshes on 25th. There were daily sightings from Apr 1st and in the period up to May 20th there were reports from 11 sites where breeding was not thought to have occurred including two at Posbrook Flood on Apr 3rd and two at Farlington Marshes on May 4th.

Around 24 pairs were located during the breeding season of which 11 raised 25 young and four failed. In the Avon Valley breeding was confirmed at Ibsley Water, where two pairs raised five young, and at another site, where four pairs bred and three raised a minimum of three young. In the Test Valley two pairs bred at Testwood Lakes but both failed. In the north-east

breeding was confirmed at three sites where four pairs raised 12 young, two pairs bred and one raised three young, and one raised two young. In the Lymington-Hurst area two pairs attempted breeding but both were thought to have failed. Single pairs held territory at a further seven sites but breeding was not confirmed.

Autumn passage was evident from early July with records from Farlington Marshes (up to 5, July 2nd-24th; 1 or 2, Aug 7th-23rd), Needs Ore (1, July 3rd, Aug 12th and 17th), Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (up to 5, July 5th-23rd), Winchester SF (3, July 6th and 15th but none in between), Hitches Lane CP (9, July 7th), Titchfield Haven (1, July 10th-14th; 4, 20th and 24th; 1, 25th-29th, Aug 7th- 8th), Hook-with-Warsash (2, July 17th), Alresford Pond (1, July 20th-21st), Lower Test Marshes (1, July 31st), Sandy Point (1, Aug 12th) and The Vyne WM (1, Aug 22nd-26th). The final records were one at Pennington Marshes on Sep 1st and 5th and a juvenile at Hook-with-Warsash on 10th. (JMC)

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing)

Vanellus vanellus

Moderately common but declining breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 13,580; 2002-07: 11,565; 2007-12: 5,516. VU, Red, S4I

WeBS count totals in the early year showed an increase on those present in late 2014 although they did not reach the numbers recorded earlier that year. The peak four-figure counts came from Sopley-Ringwood with 1,062 on Jan 18th and 1,060 on Feb 8th, and Needs Ore where 1,000 were counted on Feb 17th and 22nd. Late year numbers were higher than during the corresponding period in 2014 although the only four-figure count came from Lymington-Hurst with 1,027 on Dec 12th. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,968	961	23	18	23	14	28	118	148	642	1,546	1,436
Hampshire sectors	902	398	2		1			17	10	39	576	463
Langstone Harbour	350	233	33	27	22	46	44	25	115	376	250	503
Titchfield Haven area	412	500	35	10	20	36	65	118	100	148	323	300
Hamble Estuary	264	116	12				4	6	22	96	111	123
Lower Test Marshes-Eling	162	56		30		25	30	8	2	245	248	127
Dibden Bay	678	303	50							189	99	220
Beaulieu Estuary	700	1,000	65	45	32	12	59	57	66	411	800	823
Lymington-Hurst	725	575	38	13	13	12	20	146	27	588	930	1,027
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	1,062	1,060	87						196	176		235
Fishlake Meadows	600	230	16			104	125	70	48			20
Overton/Whitchurch area	3	20	36	40	37	17	36	230	140	2		220
Winchester SF	410	373	112	7	6	31	16	63	98	263	305	630
WeBS count totals	5,398	4,001	649	194	128	205	250	623	841	2,831	3,066	4,779

Away from tabulated sites counts in excess of 200 came from the following localities: Casbrook Common (400, Jan 10th and 240, Feb 7th); Chilcomb (400, Dec 14th – possibly the Winchester SF birds); Greenhill, Romsey (305 north, Oct 31st); Overton (220, Dec 26th); Testbourne Lake (230, Aug 28th).

Breeding season reports referred to approximately 189 territories or pairs (*cf.* 181 in 2014) from the following localities (2014 numbers in parentheses): Beacon Hill, Warnford, 3; Beaulieu Heath West, 8-12 (22); Bishops Dyke area, 3; Bisterne, 2; Busta Triangle, 5; Chidden Down, 2 (3); Cholderton Park, 2 (2); Coombe, 1; Eelmoor Marsh, 1 (1); Farlington Marshes, 21 (16); Fleet Pond, 1-2 (2-3); Frith End SP, 1; Hamer Warren, 4; Hampshire Hatches, 1; Hilltop, 1; Hoddington, 1; Holmsley, 2 (1); Hook-with-Warsash, 3 (5); Tanners Lane-Hurst, 24 (19); Hurstbourne Park, 2; Ibsley Water, 10 (3); Longwood Warren, 2; Martin Down NNR, 3;

Needs Ore, 20 (8); Ocknell Plain, 2; Old Winchester Hill, 2 (3); Overton GWCT project, 15 young fledged from 19 nests; Penny Moor, 1 (6); Pittleworth, 2; Rowlands Castle, 1; Setley Plain, 3; Sparsholt College, 2; Stoney Cross airfield, 1; Stratfield Saye, 1; Teglease Down, 3; Testwood Lakes, 9 (3); The Warren, Oakhanger, 1; Titchfield Haven, 6 (5); Toyd Down, 3; Warnford, 2 (1); Welshman's Road GP, 3 (1); Wheely Down, 1 (1); Woolmer Pond, 2. Where a range is given, the lower number has been used in the total. (DJU)

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Common passage migrant; very scarce but increasing in winter.

Schedule 1, Red

In the early year possibly six were wintering in the county, with regular records of two at Bury Marsh and singles in Langstone Harbour and in the Lymington-Hurst area. Other records were one at Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour on Jan 1st and one at Tanners Lane on Feb 12th.

One at Farlington Marshes on Apr 3rd and two at Bury Marshes on Apr 18th may still have been wintering birds. In addition, singles were at Needs Ore on Apr 3rd and Sandy Point on 6th-7th. The first obvious coastal migrants were recorded on Apr 10th with 18 east at Hill Head, 12 east at Sandy Point and two east at Stokes Bay. Subsequently at least 618 were recorded moving east or north until May 23rd. A total of 241 was recorded at Hurst between Apr 12th and May 13th including peak counts of 38 on Apr 20th, 135 on 23rd, 17 on May 2nd and 13 on 13th. At Lepe 44 were recorded on seven dates between Apr 18th and May 17th with a peak of 17 on May 17th. At Stokes Bay 104 were recorded between Apr 10th and May 13th with peak counts of 20 on Apr 21st, 27 on 27th and 16 on May 4th. At Sandy Point at least 124 were recorded between Apr 10th and May 15th with peak counts of 15 on Apr 20th, 30 on Apr 24th and 14 on May 15th. High counts of coastal grounded flocks around this time included 35 at Needs Ore on Apr 21st with 32 there on Apr 24th, and in Langstone Harbour 43 on Apr 18th, 32 on Apr 26th, 56 on May 4th and 41 on May 9th. Inland records came from Ibsley Water with one or two on five dates between May 4th and 14th followed by another on 23rd, ten flew north at Fordingbridge on Apr 26th, one was at Blackfield on May 4th, two flew north at Curdridge on Apr 20th, at Itchen Valley CP there were two on Apr 26th, seven on May 1st and ten on May 4th, at Fleet Pond one flew north on Apr 26th and one left north on May 7th, and finally one was at Waterditch on May 16th.

During June singles were at Sowley Shore on 7th, Titchfield Haven on 11th and Weston Shore on 27th and two flew west at Hill Head on 13th.

In early July the first was at Titchfield Haven on 3rd followed by sightings from seven sites in the next two days including nine SW over Farlington Marshes and seven in Portsmouth Harbour on 4th. Subsequently numbers remained low during July followed by an increase during August with 50 at Farlington Marshes on 11th, 14 in Portsmouth Harbour on 15th, 14 south at Sandy Point on 17th and 21 at Lymington-Hurst on 30th. During September there were sightings of singles from nine coastal sites apart from two at Lymington-Hurst on 5th, three there on 27th and two at Bunny Meadows on Sep 3rd. In October there were records of one at Sandy Point on 9th, two at Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour on 12th and two at Bury Marshes from 31st to the end of the year. The year ended with singles in November at Normandy Marsh on 4th, Warblington Shore on 9th and Stansore Point on 10th, and in December at Langstone Harbour on 6th and 19th. (DJU)

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew)

Numenius arquata

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce and declining breeder, mainly in the New Forest. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 2,850; 2002-07: 3,078; 2007-12: 2,933. VU, Red, S41

In the early year numbers remained broadly similar to those recorded in late 2014 with a peak WeBS count total of 1,729 in February comparing closely with 1,774 in November 2014. Spring passage was very poor with records only from three sites with the peak count being 21 north from Farlington Marshes on Mar 5th.

In the New Forest there were summer records from 21 sites with approximately 13 territories. Breeding was confirmed at Crockford Bridge and Ogdens Purlieu.

The peak autumn count was again during August with numbers then remaining consistently lower than the corresponding period in 2014 until November followed by an increase in December. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,391	1,108	1,167	201	24	26	452	876	1,114	792	777	870
Hampshire sectors	408	455	351	24	10			491	251	168	262	247
Langstone Harbour	334	243	268	210	66	22	471	1418	831	782	410	291
Portsmouth Harbour	332	251	226				2		5	295	247	241
Southampton Water	273	367	219	14	5	22	84	201	163	236	242	376
Beaulieu Estuary	100	166	120	80	4	8	69	259	150	103	120	213
Sowley-Lymington	25	12	19	4			30	13	25	22	16	9
Lymington-Hurst	106	235	168	5			83	84	106	75	100	126
WeBS count totals	1,584	1,729	1,388	267	85	45	737	2,466	1,492	1,286	1,312	1,503

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

Inland records came from Ibsley Water (1, Mar 1st and 30th; 4, June 3rd and 1, 16th; 1 SW, Nov 24th), Breamore (12, Mar 7th), Hucklesbrook WM (5, Mar 22nd), Sopley (1 W, June 30th), Butlocks Heath (22, Dec 28th) and Itchen Valley CP (1, Oct 10th and 12th). (DJU)

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

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

Early year numbers in the Avon Valley remained at the low levels recorded during late 2014 due to limited flooding. This resulted in much lower than normal WeBS count totals for the first three months of the year. Late year WeBS count totals in the Avon Valley remained low although in December a flock became established, which roosted at Ibsley Water and fed at Hucklesbrook WM, with a peak count of 517 on 19th. Monthly maxima at various sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	469	215	218	12			14	34	163	410	736	807
Hampshire sectors	158	40	101	137	26		146	41	42	82	118	240
Langstone Harbour	150	58	316	300	43	50	165	375	570	630	450	500
Portsmouth Harbour	158	109	13						150	195	60	351
Titchfield Haven	125	335	130	115	202	120	85	79	74	55	131	185
Hamble Estuary	21	27	121	254			201	366	367	206	24	6
Itchen Estuary	28	53	40	21				1	2	2	15	
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	350	187	137			2		9	56	48	131	174
Hythe-Calshot	1	18		50			73	138	7	63	125	71
Beaulieu Estuary	80	284	132	20	14	9	98	82	22	3	1	12
Lymington-Hurst	240	163	435	195	34	103	119	295	200	170	97	485
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	210	79										
Blashford Lakes	60	15	1					2	1		1	517
WeBS count totals	1,072	1,266	1,027	454	24	44	197	970	1,175	1,177	816	1,552

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

Away from the Avon Valley inland records came from Alresford Pond (7, July 17th and 4, 19th; 8, Aug 8th and 1, 10th), Winchester SF (juvenile, Aug 12th-30th and 1 additional,

27th), Avington Lake (1, Aug 12th – possibly same later at Winchester SF), Testwood Lakes (5, Aug 31st), The Vyne WM (1-2 on four dates July 12th-Aug 5th) and Fleet Pond (1, July 17th). (DJU)

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

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

WeBS count totals continued at the low levels of recent years with counts only reaching three figures in February and November. Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	310	328	257	115	15	16	3	68	12	1	68	125
Hampshire sectors	70	325	50	13				15	10			
Black Point	20	12	4				1	7	6	20	1	1
Warblington (L)	117	131	93	21	6		4	12	40	127	255	
Langstone Harbour	9	7	50			2	1		62		140	
Titchfield Haven-Chilling	10	1	1	1	2	1						
Lymington-Hurst	20	15	23	40	15		1	6	9	5		13
WeBS count totals	94	347	79	23	1	2		15	72		140	

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

In the early year the largest numbers were recorded in Chichester Harbour with indicative low tide counts from Warblington Shore including 117 on Jan 25th, 131 on Feb 9th and 93 on Mar 5th. Elsewhere there were 70 at East/Mid Hayling on Jan 24th and 300 there on Feb 21st. Numbers were conspicuously low in Langstone Harbour with the peak count being only 50 on Mar 8th.

Eastward passage through The Solent was again light with the only counts of ten or more as follows: Hurst Beach (18, Apr 23rd; 24, May 1st; 36, May 2nd); Pennington Marshes (32, Apr 22nd); Lepe (22, May 3rd); Hill Head (10, Apr 23rd; 27, 2nd May). Inland one was at Ibsley Water from May 1st-3rd with another there on 17th. During June two were in Langstone Harbour on 6th followed by one at Titchfield Haven on 9th.

Numbers in the late year were again low with the peak counts from Langstone Harbour 62 on Sep 26th and 140 on Nov 28th and from Warblington Shore with 40 on Sep 4th and 127 on Oct 31st. (DJU)

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone)

Arenaria interpres

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

WeBS counts in the early year showed a slight reduction on the numbers recorded during late 2014, although in contrast the numbers in Langstone Harbour increased with 353 on Jan 24th, 389 on Mar 21st and 230 still present on Apr 18th. The count of 164 on the Hamble Estuary on Mar 21st was also similar during December 2014. Up to 12 summered between Keyhaven Marshes and Hill Head, mainly at Needs Ore, but 35 at Sinah GP on July 4th suggested first returns. Notable increases in numbers during August and September included 120 at Lepe on Aug 21st, 120 in Portsmouth Harbour on Sep 4th, 137 in Langstone Harbour on Sep 26th and 113 at the Hamble Estuary on the same date. In the last three months of the year the highest count was 486 at Langstone Harbour on Oct 31st.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	115	78	162	4	3	1	10	3	11	195	128	206
Black Point	18	13	34	2	10	1	19	6	8	5	16	16
Langstone Harbour	353	222	389	230	7		41	94	137	486	72	124
Portsmouth Harbour	8	30	70					40	120	5	42	120
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/Brownwich	40	63	60	75	2	1	39	61	50	63	55	62
Hamble Estuary	176	177	164	15			12	95	113	152	142	130
Weston Shore (L)	55	14	22	45	9			1	15	76	60	53
Hythe-Calshot	18	24					2			24	8	34
Lepe				82			42	120	127	120		30
Beaulieu Estuary	29	29	40	6	12	6		46	50	59	32	67
Sowley-Lymington	6	10	20					7	5	4	59	19
Lymington-Hurst	94	86	57	43	5	8	11	80	52	121	32	58
WeBS count totals	625	575	747	279	19	2	49	32	421	972	378	599

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

The only inland sightings came from Ibsley Water with singles on June 1st-2nd and July 25th. (DJU)

Knot (Red Knot)

Calidris canutus

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

Amber, HBAP

WeBS totals again remained low compared to the recent five-year means. Peak counts in the early year were 250 at Black Point on Jan 2nd, 450 at Pitts Deep on Jan 24th, with 400 still there on Feb 20th, and 252 at Hurst Castle on Mar 13th. Spring passage was negligible with nine east at Hill Head on May 4th and one east at Hurst Beach on May 13th. Otherwise two were at Pennington Marshes on May 4th, two in Langstone Harbour on 16th and seven at Beaulieu Estuary the following day. One at Ibsley Water on Apr 12th was the only inland record.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	980	5,053	139					7	2	20	85	1,254
Hampshire sectors	300	50	40	6				2	75	25	30	4
Black Point	250	180	53					1	12	3	30	230
Langstone Harbour	80	204	10		2		1	63	103	117	300	12
Beaulieu Estuary	5	24	42		7			5	2	1		
Sowley-Lymington	450	400	15								100	600
Lymington-Hurst	36	50	252	90	2		2	17	100	4	18	60
WeBS count totals	472	679	166	43	9			56	22	23	76	616

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

The first return was one at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes from July 11th onwards with sightings in Langstone Harbour from 25th. Subsequently the August peak counts were 17 at Pennington on 29th and 63 in Langstone Harbour on Aug 31st. During September 100 were at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on 28th and 103 were at Farlington Marshes on 29th. There was an apparent reduction in numbers during October with the peak count of 117 at North Binness, Langstone Harbour on Oct 2nd. During the final two months of the year there were 300 in Langstone Harbour and 100 at Sowley Shore on Nov 22nd, 600 at Tanners Lane on Dec 12th and 230 at Black Point on 30th. (DJU)

Ruff

Calidris pugnax

Scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Red

In the first four months there were regular reports from Lower Pennington Lane area between Jan 1st and Apr 23rd with monthly maxima of three, six, seven and six, with seven also at nearby Normandy Marsh on Jan 4th. Subsequently there were one or two between May 14th and 19th. Elsewhere there were singles at Ibsley Water on Jan 24th and May 4th, Needs Ore between Mar 7th and 26th with an additional three north there on Mar 7th and one from Apr 22nd-24th, Farlington Marshes on Mar 20th, Lepe on Mar 21st, Warsash on Mar 22nd, Posbrook Flood from Mar 23rd-30th and Titchfield Haven on Apr 23rd.

The first of the autumn was on Aug 12th at Pennington Marshes with up to four subsequently remaining in the area until Sep 13th, followed by one on Oct 11th and up to four from Dec 7th-29th. Other records were one to three at Titchfield Haven from Aug 18th-Sep 28th, one at Alresford Pond from Aug 21st-25th, five at Ibsley WM on Aug 26th, seven at Ibsley Water on 30th and up to two there from Sep 7th-15th, two at Testbourne Lake on Aug 28th, one at Lepe on Sep 5th, one at Farlington Marshes from Sep 7th-9th with two there on Oct 1st and one again on Nov 1st, one at Warsash on Sep 11th, one at Needs Ore from Sep 16th-18th, one west at Sandy Point on Sep 19th and two at Brownwich from Sep 19th-20th (presumably Titchfield Haven birds).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (DJU)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	6	15	8	3			14	14	3	1	4

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; has wintered.

VU, Amber

The wintering adult from 2014 remained at Warblington Shore until Mar 20th. Four in winter plumage were at Pennington Marshes on Apr 22nd and up to three were present until Apr 28th. Singles were seen there on four dates up to May 11th. One in summer plumage was at Farlington Marshes on May 17th and another moulting into summer plumage was at Titchfield Haven between May 22nd and June 2nd.

The regular early autumn passage of adults was reported mainly from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes with records between July 17th and Aug 17th. Reports were of singles apart from two on Aug 11th and 14th and four on Aug 12th. Other records up to the end of August were singles at Hook-with-Warsash on 15th and Farlington Marshes on 22nd. The only other report of an adult was at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 30th.

The first juveniles were on Sep 8th with two at Titchfield Haven and singles at Lymington-Hurst and Farlington Marshes. Autumn passage up to Oct 24th was very light with singles at Lymington-Hurst on nine dates, one at Needs Ore on Oct 2nd, singles at Warblington Shore on Oct 15th and 24th and Farlington Marshes on five dates plus three on Sep 20th. There were no inland records. A wintering bird was at Farlington Marshes on Dec 22nd.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

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

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Very scarce passage migrant (6, 138, 1)

Schedule 1

One record. A single was on the frying pan part of the river at Titchfield Haven at 20:30 on May 13th (EJB, NS). Although this species was recorded almost annually from 1967-2011, this is the first Hampshire record since then. It is thought that the decline in records is directly

connected to a significant reduction in its breeding population in northern Europe which may be a result of global climate changes. (KFB)

Sanderling†

Calidris alba

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, HBAP

As usual wintering birds were largely confined to sites east of Southampton Water with records further west and inland mainly relating to migrants. Records from the main sites, Black Point and Sandy Point, are likely to refer to the same individuals which also roost at Pilsea in the West Sussex portion of Chichester Harbour. Unusually there were reports in seven months from Langstone Harbour although these also probably refer to Chichester Harbour and east Hayling birds. Numbers from the small flock using the Hill Head area were reported regularly in each month except June. Three-figure counts came from nearby Gilkicker Point (157, Sep 1st) and Stokes Bay (220, Oct 1st).

Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	100	42	200	72	39	1	19	12	85	150	250	170
Sandy Point-Gunner Point	3		2	200	17	8	24	350	215	140	50	
Langstone Harbour		4	23	26	17			150			13	20
Eastney-Southsea	10	4	1		5							
Hill Head-Brownwich	14	18	20	16	20		1	2	5	16	27	51
Hook-with-Warsash	6	80			9				1			
Lepe-Needs Ore					14	21		4	2	3		
Lymington-Hurst				7	16		1	2	1	70		1

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

Away from the tabulated sites there were singles inland at Ibsley Water (Apr 28th, May 3rd, 18th and 31st) and Winchester SF (May 22nd). Coastal records came from Northney (10, Feb 5th), Langstone Harbour (6, Mar 17th), Calshot (May 11th, Aug 5th), Hardway, Portsmouth (Aug 16th) and Weston Shore (2, Sep 6th).

Active coastal spring passage was very lightly recorded from Hurst with a total of only 14 east on three dates between April 27th and May 4th. There were also 12 east at Stokes Bay on May 5th. In autumn there were two reports of easterly coastal movement at Hurst with 100 on July 24th and 16 on July 30th. (JRDS)

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

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

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

WeBS numbers in January, February and December were more than 5,000 lower than the corresponding months in 2014. The maximum WeBS count total of 18,647 in February was also well below the mean maximum for the preceding three five-year periods (see header).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	7,269	8,821	2,847	68	2,560	24	2	245	254	2,566	7,115	9,853
Hampshire sectors	1,532	787	104						10	93	457	151
Warblington Shore/ Emsworth (L)	870	520	479	7	1			57	67	379	293	263
Black Point	6,000	6,500	3,000	3	14		6	55	100	1,500	5,000	20,000
Langstone Harbour	10,662	11,254	1,872	6	72		15	403	849	9,487	12,563	11,237

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	2,601	2,529	203							7		800
Hamble Estuary	575	500	280				6	21	30	360	600	400
Weston Shore / Chessel Bay (L)	350	348	119	13			1		2	8	200	19
Hythe	600	700	100				1	6	2			1,500
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	443	458	84	25	16		5	21	25	483	311	878
Sowley-Lymington	800	1,000	150					10	40	100	800	600
Lymington-Hurst	1,620	2,050	1,450	500	250	5	250	479	607	688	550	1,000
WeBS count totals	18,487	18,647	3,898	531	47		1	765	1,207	11,190	14,862	15,589

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

In the early year three-figure roosts away from the tabulated sites were at Dibden Bay (300, Jan 27th) and Sandy Point (100 on Apr 27th and May 6th). There was very little eastward migration through The Solent in spring with 290 recorded between May 2nd and 14th. Of these, 18 were at Hurst on May 2nd and 250 on 13th. Other reports in May were from Lepe (2, 2nd), Sandy Point (1, 5th), Stokes Bay (10, 8th) and Calshot (9, 14th). Up to three were reported from Titchfield Haven between May 29th and June 14th. Inland records came from Ibsley Water (16 dates between Mar 14th and June 2nd, mainly 1-4 but 6 on Apr 25th and 10 on May 5th), Fleet Pond (a remarkable 19 N/NW, Apr 26th, then 1-2 on six dates between May 5th and 19th), Eastrop Park, Basingstoke (1, Apr 15th) and Winchester SF (1, May 10th).

The first inland return was an adult at Alresford Pond on July 13th until 19th. Juveniles were reported there on Aug 4th, Sep 10th and 12th. Reports from Ibsley Water were on 13 dates between July 25th and Oct 28th with a maximum of ten on Aug 29th. Also in the Avon Valley there were reports of singles at Ripley Farm Reservoir on July 23rd and Aug 15th and two on Sep 3rd plus one at Hamer Warren on Sep 27th. A flock of ten was seen flying from Bransbury Common on Sep 30th. The only active coastal movement was 24 east at Hill Head on Sep 9th. However, small flocks of passage and wintering birds were reported on many dates from this area from July 11th to the end of the year.

In the late year the only three-figure roost counts away from the tabulated sites were at Stokes Bay (400, Nov 23rd; 400, Dec 13th; 200, Nov 10th; 145, Oct 6th; 130, Nov 9th; 117, Oct 29th), Gunner Point, Hayling (182, Nov 28th; 100, Oct 28th) and Calshot (102, Nov 28th). (JRDS)

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Amber

With records on 70 dates in the early winter period and spring, the main site in the county continues to be Southsea Castle. The highest counts there were 15 on four dates between Mar 13th and Apr 9th and the last spring report was five on May 7th. The first return at Southsea Castle was on Oct 29th and there were reports on a further eight dates up to the end of the year.

Other reports, all of singles, came from Barton on Sea on Jan 17th-18th, Nov 4th and Dec 4th and Sandy Point on Oct 27th. An unusual report came from Needs Ore with one sheltering on Great Marsh in high winds on Nov 15th, the first ever there, and presumably the same individual at Lepe on 16th and 17th, only the fourth ever there.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	12	15	15	8					1	7	11

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

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

Green

An unusual winter record involved one at Needs Ore on Jan 20th and nearby at Park Shore on 25th. There were two spring records, one at Ibsley Water on Apr 28th and one at Titchfield Haven from May 24th-28th.

There were one or two adults in the Keyhaven/Pennington area between July 18th and 21st and then on Aug 2nd, 9th, 14th, 15th and 28th. Inland reports came from The Vyne WM (Aug 15th), the first ever there, and Ibsley Water (Aug 31st). The first at Farlington Marshes was on Aug 15th with subsequent reports on 31st, Sep 4th, 17th and 28th. Other reports were one at Broadmarsh on Sep 2nd and Conigar Point on Sep 9th. A juvenile was reported from Titchfield Haven area on Aug 21st and most dates until Aug 28th. The only other report from the area was one on Sep 23rd. The remaining autumn reports all came from Keyhaven/ Pennington Marshes with one or two on 14 dates between Sep 5th and Oct 3rd. A wintering bird was in the high tide roost at Black Point on Nov 25th, 26th and Dec 29th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1			1	1		2	5	7	2	1	1

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Rare vagrant (0,18,1)



One record. A single was at Farlington Marshes on Oct 25th (PAG et al., photo). This is the first record since 2011 and only the fourth this century. This compares with nine in the 1980s and four in the 1990s. The species breeds in arctic Canada and winters in southern South America. This decline in records mirrors a general reduction in the breeding population. (KFB)

White-rumped Sandpiper, Farlington Marshes, Oct 25th (Andy Johnson)

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Rare passage migrant (3, 46, 2)

ET, Schedule 1, Red

One record. Two males were first seen at Ibsley Water at 10:30 on June 2nd. They were highly mobile due to the windy conditions and were difficult to see well due to the rough water. They were not reported again until 14:15 and remained until at least 18:45 (RAC et al.). This is the first sighting since 2011 and only the eighth spring sighting since records began (all others have been in late May and June) with most records being between August and November. (KFB)

Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)

Phalaropus fulicarius

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (?,291,3)

Three records. The first was at Lepe on Sep 15th. It commuted twice between Stansore Pools and Dark Water for most of the afternoon but then flew towards the Isle of Wight at 17:00 (KC et al.). A single was off West Hayling LNR on Nov 28th (GCB, DJR et al.) being seen

by one observer the next morning (JG). Another flew east past Hill Head at 14:54 on Dec 31st (DH). There have been records in every year this century except 2006 and 2007. (KFB)



First-winter Grey Phalarope, West Hayling LNR, Nov 28th (Alan Lewis)

Common Sandpiper†

Actitis hypoleucos

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



Adult summer Common Sandpiper, Ibsley Water, Blashford, Apr 10th (Paul Winter)

In January-March there were records from the regular wintering sites at the Itchen estuary (monthly maxima 4, 3, 5), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (4, 5, 7) and Curbridge (3, 2, 1). Occasional reports of one or two wintering came from Langstone Harbour up to mid-March. There was one in the Keyhaven area on Feb 17th-18th. From Apr 1st there were records

until May 18th involving a further 37 at 17 inland sites and 23 at 11 coastal sites. The only counts above four were in April at Riverside Park, Southampton (5, 14th; 6, 15th; 7, 19th) and Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (5, 30th).

The first returns were two at Sturt Pond on June 6th. Autumn passage continued until late October and involved an estimated minimum of 57 at 13 coastal sites and 72 at 27 inland sites with peak numbers in August. The only counts above seven were in August at Lower Test Marshes (11, 28th-29th; 8, 1st), West Hayling LNR (9, 19th) and Blashford Lakes (7, 29th).

In November and December there were regular records from the Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima 4, 3), Lower Test/Elting Great Marsh (4, 3) and the Upper Hamble Estuary (3, 3). There were also singles in Langstone Harbour (Nov 8th and 28th, Dec 4th and 12th), Stoke, Hayling Island (Nov 11th), and Fareham Creek (Dec 28th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	14	14	44	23	8	75	120	61	20	14	11

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Passage migrant, scarce in spring and moderately common in autumn: small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber

Between January and March there were at least 36 at 26 inland sites and nine at six coastal sites. Most had departed by April 24th.

There was one at Winchester SF on June 9th, two at Titchfield Haven on 12th and Lower Test Marshes the next day with two there until June 14th. Thereafter reports were widespread. Autumn passage continued with a minimum of approximately 100 at 35 inland sites and 43 at nine coastal sites to the end of October with numbers peaking in August. In November and December there were around 18 at 13 inland sites and ten at seven coastal sites.

Counts exceeding three at non-tabulated sites were at Woolmer Pond (4 and 6, Aug 26th and 27th), Testbourne Lake (5, July 23rd and Aug 28th), The Vyne WM (5 and 4, Aug 15th and 22nd/23rd), Hook-with-Warsash (4, Aug 19th), Leigh Park (4, Aug 13th) and Hucklesbrook WM (9, Oct 16th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hermitage Stream, Havant				2					4	3		
Farlington Marshes / South Moors	1	1	1				3	6	2	1	2	1
Titchfield Haven			1	1		2	5	7	3	2	1	1
Lower Test Marshes	2	2	3	2		3	4	12	4	3	2	2
Testwood Lakes			1					1	1		1	
Badminton GP	1	2	1					1	2	1		3
Lepe CP		1	1					6	4	2	1	
Needs Ore	1		2	2		1	3	3	3	2	1	2
Blashford Lakes	4	2	4	1			1	3	2	1	2	1
Winchester SF						2	1	3	1			
Alresford area	3	3	3	1		1	18	16	19	7	2	3

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	22	31	20	2	13	70	95	61	4	23	18

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Scarce and declining passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

In the early year the highest numbers were in the Lymington-Hurst area with records on 60 dates up to May 4th with a maximum of nine on Jan 31st. There were also reports from Needs Ore on 24 dates up to May 7th with a maximum of three on Mar 15th. Away from these sites the regular winterer remained at Nore Barn, Emsworth until Mar 15th. It was joined by another on Jan 1st and 22nd. Other records came from Lepe (1, Mar 3rd, 6th, 7th and Apr 5th; 2, Apr 3rd), Langstone Harbour (one on ten dates), Lymington River (3, Apr 18th) and Hill Head (1, Feb 14th). All had left by the first week of May with the last at Needs Ore on 7th.

The first returns in July were all at Needs Ore with four on 5th and up to four on four further dates. Return passage became more evident from the second week of August with reports from Farlington Marshes (Aug 1st and 8th), Warblington Shore (Aug 10th-11th) and up to five at Needs Ore. Counts increased thereafter with reports from Lymington-Hurst on 47 dates to year end with a maximum of eight on Dec 5th. There were also counts from Needs Ore on 28 dates up to Dec 13th with a maximum of five (Aug 17th and 20th). There were regular ones and twos at Farlington Marshes between Aug 31st and Dec 14th with three on Oct 31st. On the shore between Emsworth and Warblington there were regular sightings of the winterer at Nore Barn. This was occasionally joined by another individual. Other coastal sightings of singles were at Titchfield Haven (Aug 23rd and 30th) and Milford on Sea (Nov 15th). The only inland migrant was at Alresford Pond on Sep 12th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore		2	3	2	2		4	5	4	4	2	2
Lymington-Hurst	9	7	4	6	1			1	6	7	6	8
Totals elsewhere	3	2	3	3				3	5	4	4	4

Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

Very rare vagrant (0, 1, 1)

One record. An adult was discovered at Posbrook Flood, Titchfield Haven on Jan 11th (MDR, DH et al.). It was not seen again the next day. However, what can only have been the same bird reappeared on Apr 11th and was regularly present until July 24th (m.o., photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC. Somehow it managed to avoid detection somewhere for over three months! This is only the second record for Hampshire, the first being at Farlington Marshes on Sep 26-27th 2007 (see finder's account, p. 227). (KFB)

*Adult summer Greater Yellowlegs,
Titchfield Haven, June 14th
(David Aitken)*



Greenshank (Common Greenshank)

Tringa nebularia

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

Schedule 1, Amber



Adult summer Greenshank, Ibsley Water, Blashford, Apr 28th (Russell Tofts)

In January to March a minimum of 47 wintered at 13 coastal sites. Sightings were less frequent through April and May although a minimum of around 47 was still recorded at 15 sites. These included inland reports of one or two at Ibsley Water between Apr 24th and May 14th, one at Fleet Pond on Apr 25th, three there on May 5th and one at Winchester SF from May 24th-27th. A scattering of records through June suggested summering with one at Titchfield Haven on 6th, two at Needs Ore the next day and one still there on 16th and 30th, and one at Sturt Pond on 14th and nearby Keyhaven on 23rd.

The start of the autumn passage was signalled by one at Bunny Meadows on June 29th and an early inland record at Fleet Pond on July 1st. Subsequently a minimum of 136 was reported up to the end of October with records from 22 sites including seven inland. The inland reports were singles (unless stated) from Fleet Pond (July 1st), The Vyne WM (3, July 11th and 18th), Woolmer Pond (July 18th), Denny Wood (July 18th), Ibsley Water (Aug 9th-29th), Ripley Farm Reservoir (Aug 15th-17th) and Harbridge WM (Aug 25th). In November and December approximately 73 wintered at 11 sites.

Away from the tabulated sites below and inland locations mentioned above, there were coastal sightings from Sandy Point, Ashlett Mill Pond, Calshot, Fawley, Lepe, Weston Shore, Bury Marshes and Lower Test Marshes. All records were of one to three.

Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour Warblington shore	12	4	4	5	2		8	11	10	7	6	12
Farlington Marshes / Langstone Harbour	2	2	2	3	7		27	35	28	25	10	2
Portsmouth Harbour	3	4	2	1					9	13	11	7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven	1			1	2	1	1	3	3	2	5	9
Hamble Estuary	6	3	2	6	1	1	2	4	11	11	7	8
Curbridge	6	7	8	12	1		2			4		
Weston Shore	3	1						2	1	2	2	
Beaulieu Estuary				1	3	2	2	12	10	2	1	2
Tanners Lane/Pitts Deep	1		1	2				1	1	1	1	
Lymington-Hurst	5	5	2	3	1	1	11	24	15	15	8	7

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
44	27	23	39	24	5	63	104	91	90	59	47

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

There were only three in spring; one at Pennington Marshes on Apr 16th and two at Needs Ore on May 13th.

The first returns were six in July consisting of singles at Farlington Marshes on 11th and 18th, Ibsley Water on 12th, two in Keyhaven Harbour on 20th and a single at Alresford Pond on 29th which remained until Aug 12th. The first three weeks of August brought two to Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes on 1st, one of which stayed until the next day. Further singles in the same area were reported on Aug 12th and 15th plus one heard after dark at Sway on 15th. There was a small influx on Aug 16th with singles at Ripley Farm Reservoir, Testwood Lakes (also 18th) and Titchfield Haven followed by one (possibly the same) at Hook-with-Warsash on 17th-19th and 22nd-26th.

A remarkable influx of multiple birds occurred on Aug 23rd with a very high total of 22 at Pennington Marshes and five at Titchfield Haven. The only higher previous count was 26 at Dibden Bay on Aug 18th 1977 (*Birds of Hampshire*). High numbers were also reported in other counties along the south coast, the only higher count being 34 in Devon on Aug 22nd. The gatherings quickly dispersed with only one at Titchfield Haven the next day and between one and four remaining at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes until Sep 1st. There were further sightings of singles up to the end of August at Ibsley Flash on 25th, Testbourne Lake on 29th, West Hayling LNR and Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour on 29th. The last report was one at Testwood Lakes on Sep 11th. The autumn passage totalled approximately 46 birds. (JRDS)

Redshank (Common Redshank)

Tringa totanus

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

Amber, HBAP

The WeBS counts in both winter periods were lower than in 2014. The annual maximum was as usual in the autumn with 2,401 in October which is comparable to the mean maxima of the previous two five-year periods but down compared with the corresponding count in 2014 of 2,711.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,777	1,517	1,007	123	11	12	482	1,312	1,465	1,649	1,245	1,635
Hampshire sectors	473	329	247	35		3	80	101	240	420	194	511
Langstone Harbour	420	423	509	130	14	135	290	430	869	775	717	752
Portsmouth Harbour	531	305	170				50	120	508	454	306	182

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hamble Estuary	65	65	62		2		28	67	157	134	74	62
Hythe-Calshot	53	36	20			7	9	11	150	213	50	197
Beaulieu Estuary	53	89	74	19	14	42	10	108	44	97	69	109
Lymington-Hurst	143	151	137	17	19	46	70	206	137	195	168	200
WeBS count totals	1,821	1,524	1,272	176	40	33	169	751	1,924	2,401	1,682	2,089

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

Maximum counts from other regularly watched sites during the first winter period included Titchfield Haven (12, Mar 20th), Upper Hamble (25, Mar 7th), Lower Itchen (39, Jan 22nd), upper Southampton Water (25, Jan 24th) and Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (31, Feb 21st).

In spring inland records came from The Vyne WM (1, Mar 4th and 3, 25th), Mortimer West End (2, Apr 25th-26th), Fleet Pond (singles on five dates between Apr 8th and May 16th), Eversley GP (4, Apr 19th; 2, May 5th) and Ibsley Water (1 to 3 between Mar 2nd and May 11th, with 6 on Apr 25th). Elsewhere in the Avon Valley there were six near Avon Causeway and one between Ringwood and Fordingbridge, both on Mar 8th, and two at Harbridge on 25th.

Breeding territories were reported from the following four coastal sites: Needs Ore (21 territories, no young seen); Tanners Lane-Hurst (23 pairs, broods of one and two fledged at Normandy); Farlington Marshes (12 territories/pairs – full survey) and Hook-with-Warsash (pair displaying). In the New Forest reports of singles in possible breeding habitat came from Beaulieu Heath west, Shatterford Bottom, Hilltop, Norley Wood and Shipton Holms. In the Avon Valley there were four pairs at Bisterne, three pairs north and one pair south of the Avon Causeway.

Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records in the Avon Valley at Ibsley Water (9, May 26th and 1-2 on six dates between May 31st and July 25th) and Sopley Island (1, June 28th). Other inland reports (singles unless stated) came from Alresford Pond (June 21st; July 6th; 3, July 13th; 2, July 28th; Aug 2nd), Winchester SF (May 31st; June 12th; 4, June 18th; July 8th and 22nd), Fleet Pond (June 14th and 23rd), Fox Lane GP, Eversley (June 16th) and Woolmer Pond (July 15th).

Maximum counts from regularly watched sites away from the tabulated areas during the second winter period included Titchfield Haven (12, Oct 10th), Upper Hamble Estuary (11, Oct 20th), Lower Itchen (42, Dec 3rd and 8th), Upper Southampton Water (45, Oct 31st) and Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (41, Sep 13th). (JRDS)

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

Scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant.

Green

Between January and late April there were reports of a minimum of 55 from 22 sites, with multiple reports from Titchfield Haven (13, Feb 27th), Itchen Valley CP (12, Jan 27th; 10, Mar 3rd; 7, Feb 21st and 1-4 on a further nine dates), Farlington Marshes (7, Feb 21st) and twos at Somerley Estate (Mar 22nd), Southmoor (Jan 4th) and The Vyne WM (Feb 8th). Reports from all other sites were of singles with the last spring record at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 27th. Following the low numbers and sites reported in 2014, these figures are similar to 2013.

The first returns of autumn were two at Farlington Marshes on Sep 29th. From then to year end at least 37 were reported from 14 sites. Reports were all of singles apart from Titchfield Haven (10, Dec 4th), Itchen Valley CP (7, Nov 8th; 5, Dec 23rd and 1-4 on a further five dates), Bourley Long Valley (6, Dec 26th; 4, Oct 26th and Nov 20th; 3, Nov 17th), Winchester SF (2 on Nov 23rd and Dec 14th) and Black Gutter Bottom (2, Nov 21st). Reporting sites were similar to 2014 for the second half of the year but numbers recorded were up by half. (JRDS)

Long-billed Dowitcher

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except June, July and August. (0,11,1)



Limnodromus scolopaceus

One record. A juvenile was found at Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 23rd and was present daily until Oct 31st (MPM *et al.*, photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC. It was seen again on Dec 4th and 8th and then reappeared in 2016. This is the second time in two years that the species has stayed at one site for a prolonged period. (KFB)

Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher, Keyhaven, Sep 26th (Alan Lewis)

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock)†

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 71 at 47 sites including a maximum of ten at Gurnetfields Furzebrake, NF on Jan 13th. Sites with records on more than one date were Blashford Lakes, Blackfield, Dummer, Sandy Point, Itchen Valley CP, Martin Down, Crookham Village, Liphook, Fritham Plain and Toms Down. The NFWBS



Woodcock, Setley Plain, Nov 15th (Marcus Ward)

Scolopax rusticola

Red

reported two on each of the January, February and March surveys.

Roding was first recorded at Knightswood Inclosure on Mar 29th. In the spring/summer reports came from 32 sites, only six of which were in the New Forest. Most involved just one roding but multiple sightings were reported from six sites. The last report of this period was at Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill on July 2nd. There were no further reports until Oct 15th when there was one at Woolmer Pond followed by one at Blackfield on Oct 23rd.

From October to December a total of 48 was reported from 27 sites. All were ones or twos apart from 15 at Setley Plain on Nov 15th (also reports of 12, 9 and 8 there in the preceding

nine days), four at Cholderton Park on Nov 26th and three at Beacon Hill, Warnford on Nov 22nd. There were also reports on more than two dates from Blackfield, Sandy Point and Setley Plain. None were reported by the NFWBS in the second winter period. (JRDS)

Snipe (Common Snipe)

Gallinago gallinago

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

The low numbers recorded in 2014 continued in 2015 with three-figure counts only being recorded at the following two sites: Titchfield Haven (281, Feb 27th) and Hamble Estuary (130, Jan 24th and 173, Feb 21st). Counts in excess of 20 were reported from a further 20 sites. Most had left wintering sites by early May with the last being two at Badminton GP on 3rd. There were three reports away from the New Forest breeding areas in the summer as follows: Stockbridge to Fullerton (2, May 16th), Lymington-Hurst (June 7th) and Hunton (June 17th).

The first returning migrants were two at Farlington Marshes (July 15th). The only other July records were of one or two at Pennington Marshes. There were widespread reports of returning birds during August. Titchfield Haven was the only site with three-figure counts in November and December with a maximum of 237 on Nov 11th and counts in excess of 20 at a further ten sites.

The only counts to exceed 20 away from the tabulated locations were 62 between Avon Causeway and Wattons Ford (Feb 8th), 26 at Crookham Village (Mar 1st), 22 at Longstock Water Gardens (Mar 7th), 21 at Bourley Long Valley Reclamation (Oct 26th) and 21 at Bransbury Common (Nov 16th). The NFWBS reported counts of 13, 15, 19, 17, 17, 16 for January-March and October-December respectively.

Reports in suitable breeding habitat, including drumming individuals, came only from the New Forest at Black Down, Bratley Plain, Ferny Crofts, Setley Plain, Acres Down, Hilltop, Beaulieu Road, Parkhill Inclosure, Crockford Bridge and Puttles Bridge. There were also reports from Bourley Long Valley Reclamation (Apr 16th and May 24th) in an area thought to be suitable breeding habitat by the observer.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	3	7	3					1	1	3		
Langstone Harbour	1	57	22	2			2		3	44	35	22
Portsmouth Harbour (inc. Frater)	18									17	17	41
Titchfield Haven	66	281	30	24				8	28	61	100	237
Hook-with-Warsash	130	173	40	6					1	2	22	15
Lower Test Marshes	39	19	16	4				2	5	25	23	20
Badminton GP	11	5	6		2				2	6	9	
Lepe	14	21							9	7	21	
Needs Ore	10	55	24	5					1	6	50	33
Lymington-Hurst	38	20	19	15	3	1	2	6	1	15	43	15
Blashford Lakes	12	6	8					1	3	3	2	10
Ringwood / Fordingbridge	9	35	25							8		11
Testwood Lakes	17	13	21						1	15	19	17
Fishlake Meadows	17	6	12	3					1		7	5
Test: Stockbridge- Fullerton	1	12	25		2							
Testbourne Lake	7	8	10	11				5	3	28	4	3
Lakeside CP		29	6	3						4	42	55
Itchen Valley CP	43	35	46	10				1	4	8	16	41
Winchester SF	20	11	59	5	1				7	13	22	35
Avington Lake	33	8	10	2					3	6	9	10

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
The Vyne	1	34	19						10	2	19	3
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	57	35	13						1	1	2	15
Fleet Pond			14	1				2	1	5		
Woolmer Pond	22		1	2						16		

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

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

It was a poor year for spring skua passage through The Solent with only two records. A single light phase flew high east past Stokes Bay at 08:02 on May 4th (IC *et al.*) and two were over West Hayling LNR at 10:00 on May 11th (RS). This equalled the worst spring showing since 1983 when also only two were recorded.

In the autumn singles were off Hurst Beach on Nov 25th and 29th (ARH, MPM) and Stokes Bay on Dec 31st (KJI). This is the lowest annual total since 1987 when five were also seen. (MLE)

Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)

Stercorarius parasiticus

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

In the early year one was off Hurst Beach on Jan 2nd. Spring passage extended from Apr 3rd to June 7th with approximately 53 noted. This is the lowest total since 1992 when 20 were recorded. Totals at individual sites were 37 at Hurst Beach (peak 3, May 1st, 2nd and 18th), one at Lepe, two at Calshot, one at Weston Shore, 21 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 3, May 2nd and 4th), two at Southsea and three at Sandy Point.

Autumn passage consisted of 22 birds between Aug 3rd and Nov 25th. Three at Sandy Point on the first date and three at Hurst Beach on Aug 26th were the only records of more than one. (MLE)

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

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

A total of only about 28 was recorded. In the early year three were noted at Hurst Beach on Jan 1st and a single the following day. Spring passage started with three past Hurst Beach on Mar 29th. There were no further records until Apr 25th and passage was all but over by May 6th. The majority were seen at Hurst Beach with approximately 16 between Mar 29th and May 6th (peak 3, Apr 25th and May 3rd). The last was noted there on May 18th. Elsewhere a total of four was recorded off Hill Head/Stokes Bay between Apr 25th and May 4th with singles at Southsea on Apr 25th and Calshot on May 14th. Autumn passage was only noted at Hurst Beach with singles on Sep 5th and Nov 25th and at least three on 29th. The only record in December was a single at Hill Head on 25th and 29th and Stokes Bay and Weston Shore on 31st. This is the lowest annual total since 2002 when 24 were recorded. (MLE)

Razorbill

Alca torda

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

It was a poor year with a total of just 32. Early year records came from Hurst Beach with one on Jan 6th and two on Feb 5th. Spring passage reports were confined to Hurst Beach with 15 birds recorded on seven dates between Apr 23rd and June 2nd including four on May 29th.

There were no further records until Oct 18th when two were off Hurst Beach. There were approximately eight further records there from late November to mid-December. Elsewhere singles were recorded at eight localities between Lepe and Chichester Harbour from Nov

15th to Dec 31st. One at Sandy Point from Nov 26th to the year end was with another on Nov 29th-30th when two were also off Hill Head.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	1	2		1	11	2				2	11	2

Little Auk

Alle alle

Rare winter visitor recorded in every month from October to February, usually appearing following storms. (10+,139+,1)

Green

One record. One was discovered and taken into care in Whitchurch on Dec 21st after strong gales the previous day (IW, photo). There were annual records from 1992-2007 but since then there have been records in only five years, most in November or December. (KFB)



Little Auk, Whitchurch, Dec 21st (Ian Wells)

Guillemot (Common Murre)

Uria aalge

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

NT, Amber

An average year with a total of 57 recorded including two found dead. The only early year records came from Hurst Beach where up to three were present in early January, a further three on single dates in February and one on Mar 1st. Spring passage was almost all confined to this site with 39 birds recorded between Apr 4th and June 2nd. The maximum daily count was five on May 18th although 31 unidentified auks on May 31st were thought mainly to be this species. Elsewhere the only record was one east at Stokes Bay on May 9th.

One was off Hurst Beach on Oct 1st. There were no further records until late November when four were noted there between 24th and 27th. In December there was one in Southampton Water on 9th, three (two dead) in the Lepe/Southampton Water/Hill Head area from 19th onwards and a further one off Hurst Beach on 31st. (MLE)

The approximate monthly totals of live birds are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	1		1	7	27	1					3	3
Moving east	2	1									1	
Moving west		2			4					1		1

Auk species

Two records comprising 31 off Hurst Beach on May 31st (see Guillemot) and two east there on July 16th. (MLE)

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

The first was off Oxey Creek on Apr 17th. Spring passage through The Solent was very light with only 55 east between Apr 20th and May 8th with 28 past Hurst Beach and 27 past Hill Head/Stokes Bay. Other reports at this time included 17 at Sandy Point on Apr 29th, 14 at Hill Head on May 2nd, 13 at Hurst Beach on May 4th and 18 at Keyhaven/Pennington on May 16th. Inland birds were recorded at Ibsley Water on Apr 23rd (2), May 2nd (1) and July 12th (2).

Breeding season productivity was poor. Ten pairs in the Lymington-Hurst area failed to raise any young and 41 pairs in Langstone Harbour raised only four young. The majority of these were washed out during a gale at spring tide on June 1st-2nd but a number moved to Chichester Harbour where they raised 17 young. No pairs bred at West Hayling LNR.

Post-breeding flocks were highest at Black Point with 75 roosting on July 31st and Aug 2nd. Elsewhere 20 at Lymington-Hurst on Aug 30th was the only noteworthy count. The last record was one at Hill Head on Sep 9th. (MLE)

Black Tern

Scarce passage migrant.

Chlidonias niger

ET, Schedule 1, Green

It was an average year for this species with approximately 83 recorded. Spring passage through The Solent was light with 18 reported between Apr 23rd and May 10th. The first were five off Hurst Beach on Apr 23rd followed by six at Hill Head/Stokes Bay on May 3rd, two there on 5th and five at Weston Shore on 10th. A single at Ibsley Water on May 5th was the only inland record.

Autumn passage along the coast consisted of approximately 64 between Aug 2nd (I, Keyhaven) and Sep 25th (I, Keyhaven) with peaks around Aug 10th-16th and Aug 24th-Sep 2nd. Most counts were of one to four but higher numbers included eight off Lymington River and Pennington Marshes and six at Weston Shore on Aug 12th and nine at Hill Head and 15 at Sandy Point on Aug 24th. Inland there were approximately seven at Ibsley Water during August and four at Lakeside, Eastleigh on Sep 13th.

The approximate monthly totals are shown below. (MLE)

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
5	14			52	12



Juvenile Black Tern, Testwood Lakes, Sep 4th (Steve Bassett)

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

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

ET, Amber, HBAP

Early year records were almost all confined to the Chichester Harbour area where there was a maximum of nine on Feb 21st. Elsewhere one was off Brownwich on Jan 4th.

Spring passage started with five over Milford on Sea on Mar 14th and involved approximately 341 east up to May 15th. Totals at individual watchpoints were 80 past Hurst Beach (peak 65, Apr 10th), 261 past Stokes Bay (peak 40, May 8th), 36 at Southsea (peak 11, Apr 24th) and ten past Sandy Point on Apr 17th. Inland three were at Fleet Pond on Apr 17th.

Breeding season results were mixed with 70 young fledging from 93 nests in Langstone Harbour but only two young raised from 87 nests in the Lymington-Hurst area. Two pairs also nested at Needs Ore but success was not known.

The roost at Black Point peaked at 25 on July 25th and 30 on Sep 10th. There were no other counts greater than 20. Inland eight were at Ibsley Water on Sep 14th. Up to eight in Portsmouth Harbour between Oct 8th and 12th were likely late migrants; wintering birds were noted at four sites from early November. Twelve in Chichester Harbour on Dec 4th was the highest winter count for the south-east of the county. Elsewhere regular records in Portsmouth Harbour peaked at five on Nov 28th with singles in the Calshot/Hook-with-Warsash area from Dec 13th-29th and off Lymington-Hurst on Dec 27th and 31st. (MLE)

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The first was off Hurst Beach on Apr 3rd followed by sightings at four coastal sites on 11th. Spring passage through The Solent was very light with approximately 1,012 recorded between Apr 3rd and May 15th. This low total was in part due to reduced coverage at Hurst Beach during the main migration period. Counts from coastal watch points included 71 past Hurst Beach, 102 past Lepe (peak 85, May 2nd), 658 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 360, May 3rd), 229 at Southsea (peak 217, May 2nd) and 197 past Sandy Point (peak 90, Apr 27th).

Breeding season success on the coast was again poor. In the Lymington area only two young were fledged from 80 nests. On the Langstone Harbour islands 30 pairs all failed and nearby at West Hayling LNR 88 pairs raised only one chick, the reason at both sites being predation by Black-headed and Mediterranean Gulls. At Titchfield Haven 18 pairs raised four young. Inland successful breeding took place at Ivy Lake (24 pairs raised 62 young), Ellingham Lake (3 pairs raised 6 young), Testwood Lakes (1 pair raised 3 young) and Fleet Pond (4 pairs raised 5 young).

Post-breeding numbers were an improvement on 2014 with 23 three-figure counts from eight sites. At the Black Point roost numbers peaked at 500 on Aug 10th and the same total was recorded at the other end of the county in the Lymington area both on 11th and 15th. Also on Aug 15th a total of 910 was counted moving west at Sinah, Hayling. The regular build-up at Hill Head peaked at 280 on Aug 27th. Numbers declined swiftly in September and the only double-figure counts after mid-month were 40 at Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour on 16th and 30 at Gilkicker Point on 27th. The only October record came from Weston Shore/Hook-with-Warsash where one was seen on five dates between 3rd and 15th. (MLE)

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP

It was a reasonable year with eight in spring, one in summer and five in the autumn. The first were two off Lepe on Apr 26th followed by a single past Hurst Beach on Apr 29th. Four records in May included two at Black Point high tide roost on 2nd and a single there on 11th. Additional singles passed Hurst Beach on 4th and Stokes Bay on 8th. There was a single summer sighting in the Lymington area on June 16th.



After one at Black Point on July 3rd there were four further autumn birds. One present at various sites between Lepe and Gosport from Aug 22nd to Sep 10th appeared to be moving between feeding sites with the Common Tern flock. Two flew east at Hurst Beach on Sep 16th and an adult was seen briefly at Hill Head on Sep 26th. (MLE)

Adult summer Roseate Tern, Black Point, May 11th (Andy Johnson) with Sandwich and Common Terns

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.

ET, Amber

It was another poor year with only 72 recorded. Spring passage along the coast consisted of 39 between Apr 19th and May 23rd. Of these, 22 were recorded in the Hill Head/Browndown/Stokes Bay area with maximum day counts of seven past Browndown on Apr 19th and eight past Stokes Bay on May 1st. Inland a total of ten was recorded at the following four localities: Fleet Pond (2, Apr 12th and 1, 20th), Ibsley Water (1, Apr 29th; 1, May 5th and 2, 18th), Hazeley Heath (2 NW, May 11th) and Avon Causeway (1, May 12th). Single 'portlandica' first-summers were recorded at Ibsley Water on May 18th and Weston Shore on 23rd.

Autumn passage extended from Aug 3rd (2, Hurst Beach) to Oct 14th (1, Hurst Beach) and included approximately 19 along the coast and four inland at Ibsley Water including three there on Aug 7th – the only count greater than two. (MLE)

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake)

Rissa tridactyla

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

VU, Red

Two large influxes in January accounted for the majority of the month's sightings. The first was a report of 53 N/NW at Hurst Castle on 2nd followed by 50 west at Southsea on 10th. Spring passage was very light amounting to a total of 48 (mostly east) between Mar 29th and June 13th of which 35 were logged at Hurst Castle with a maximum of 14 east on May 3rd. Elsewhere there were totals of seven at Titchfield/Hill Head, four at Sandy Point, three at Lepe, two each at Stokes Bay and Weston Shore and singles at Hayling Bay and Hook-with-Warsash. After spring passage there were only six more recorded prior to November. November influxes included 350 at Hurst on 25th, 20 at Sandy Point on 28th and 15 still there on Nov 29th. The highest day counts in December (all west) came from Sandy Point (30, 5th), Hill Head (10, 6th), Hurst (70, 11th; 31, 12th), Gilkicker Point (29, 26th) and Stokes Bay (20, 30th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. Note where there are same-day counts at different sites only the maximum site is included in the table. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
108		4	13	29	3	1	2	2		397	206

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Very rare vagrant. (0,3,1)

One record. A first-summer was picked out among Black-headed Gulls near Weston Shore on May 3rd (ARC *et al.*, photo). It remained in the Itchen Estuary until May 22nd, being seen mostly at Riverside Park where it came in to take bread and allowed excellent views. The record has been accepted by BBRC. This is the fourth record for Hampshire, the last one also being a first-summer at Farlington Marshes in June 2003. The species breeds in Alaska and Canada and winters in the USA, northern Mexico and the West Indies. (KFB)



First-winter Bonaparte's Gull, Riverside Park, Southampton; top: May 7th (Barry Stalker), bottom: May 5th (Alan Lewis)

Black-headed Gull†

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Amber

In the first three months of the year the highest counts were as usual at Ibsley Water roost, where numbers reached 7,000 in February, with lower but nevertheless significant counts at Portsmouth Harbour and Titchfield Haven (see table below). Apart from the tabulated counts

the highest numbers from the Itchen Estuary during this period were 850 between Northam Bridge and Mansbridge on Jan 9th and 1,200 at Chessel Bay early evening Mar 4th. Also on the lower Itchen an early morning movement of 4,200 inland over Cobden Bridge was logged from 06:50-07:10 on Feb 23rd and on Mar 14th there was a similar movement of 2,950 for an unspecified period around 06:00. In the west Solent there were 750 at Lymington-Hurst on Jan 24th. In the east Solent there was a count of 500 from Farlington Marshes on Jan 6th and 1,398 from South Moor, Langstone Harbour on Feb 27th. Significant inland counts included Broadlands (940, Jan 18th), Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (1,500, Feb 6th), Avington Lake (458, Feb 18th) and East Meon (1,000, Mar 8th).

In the breeding season a total of 9,598 pairs was reported with mixed breeding success. In the Lymington area there were 4,050 pairs (*cf.* 5,350 in 2014 and 6,952 in 2013) most of which were in the Pylewell/Boiler colony to the east of Lymington River. The Normandy colony to the west of the river was abandoned, perhaps as a consequence of disturbance and fox predation in recent seasons. Disturbance by boat salvage activities on the eastern side of the river also affected numbers and productivity on Boiler Marsh though breeding productivity at Pylewell Marsh was considered to be good. There were 300 pairs nesting at Keyhaven. On the Langstone Harbour islands 3,217 pairs raised 623 young and at nearby West Hayling LNR 627 pairs raised 162 young. Productivity was poor at both sites due to the coincidence of high spring tides and gales which destroyed nests. At Titchfield Haven 870 pairs nested with better success. Other coastal sites included Hook-with-Warsash with nine pairs and Beaulieu Estuary with up to 450 pairs but, as in other seasons since their return to Beaulieu Estuary in 2012, the problem of washed-out nests prevented any young being raised. Inland at Blashford Lakes there was a total of 145 pairs with 73 on Ibsley Water, 60 on Spinnaker Lake and 12 on Ivy Lake. At Fleet Pond the number nesting continued to increase with 260 pairs raising 250 young. However, overall the total nesting population of Black-headed Gulls in the county has fallen significantly since 2010 when there were 14,458 pairs (See *Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-2012*, pp. 216-217), with loss of habitat caused by sea-level rise and disturbance by humans and predators all placing the coastal colonies in jeopardy.

The largest post-breeding counts were reported from Ripley Farm Reservoir in the Avon Valley (1,380, Aug 4th and 1,110, 18th), Weston Shore (560, Sep 6th), Chilling (1,093, Sep 12th), Chidden (1,400, Sep 25th) and Portsdown Hill (2,000+, Sep 26th). By autumn the roosts started to build and by November Ibsley Water was hosting as many as 7,000 again. Other high autumn/early winter non-tabulated counts included Eversley GP (1,200 to roost, Oct 27th), Hook-with-Warsash (693, Oct 28th), Weston Shore (1,000, Dec 24th) and Fishlake Meadows (1,670, Dec 29th). At Chessel Bay on Dec 3rd an up-river movement of 3,000 was logged at around 07:40.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour WeBS	1,217	1,680	553						1,021	1,136	826	659
Titchfield Haven	245	1,600	1,000	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	400	180	392	597	650
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	278	508	918	391	902	894	307	427	80	133	120	293
Ibsley Water#	6,000	7,000	5,299	836	180	200	69	600	1,000	1,000	7,000	7,000
Winchester SF	590	432	284	47	9	18	89	350	460	760	235	609
Alresford Pond	15	400	800	1			157	238	700	600	133	418
Heath Pond, Petersfield	130	175	520	6	9	8	33	12	34	600	230	120

= night roost

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

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

There were no records prior to spring passage which commenced with a first-year at Hurst Castle on Mar 12th followed by an adult at Ibsley Water on Mar 31st. The final spring record was on Apr 25th. The coastal movement, mainly eastwards, totalled 44 (after allowing for same day counts at different sites) as follows: Hurst Beach (total of 20, max. 5 east, Apr 3rd), Stokes Bay/Gilkicker Point (total of 26, max. 11 east, Apr 9th) and Titchfield Haven (1, Apr 25th). Inland 23 were recorded with the majority at Ibsley Water where there was a total of 20 and a peak day count of six (3 adults and 3 second-years) on Apr 11th. Others included a first-summer at Lower Test/Testwood Lakes from Apr 4th-8th, one heading northwards at Beaulieu on Apr 11th and a first-summer at Fleet Pond on Apr 24th.

Return passage was light with only 13 between July 10th and Oct 31st. The first report of a juvenile was on Aug 21st from Portsmouth Harbour. Juveniles/first winters were subsequently reported from Ibsley Water (1, Sep 17th; 1, Oct 4th and 20th-21st) and Titchfield Haven (1, Oct 10th-11th). There were no influxes in the last two months of the year and only singles were recorded from the coast apart from one at Lakeside, Eastleigh on Dec 30th. Coastal reports came from Lymington-Hurst (1, Nov 2nd-8th; 1, Dec 30th), Stokes Bay (1 east, Dec 27th), Hill Head (1 SE, Dec 30th), Sandy Point (1 west, Nov 28th; 1, Dec 7th-8th) and Farlington Marshes (1 west, Dec 19th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		2	65		2	3	2	3	5	2	5

Mediterranean Gull†

Larus melanocephalus

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

There were records on most days throughout January and February though only nine of these were double-figure counts. Most reports were coastal with some inland, Ibsley Water (peak 9, Feb 8th) being the most recorded location. The highest January count was 89 at Lymington-Hurst on the 4th and in February the highest numbers were 85 at Lepe on 9th and 103 at Beaulieu Estuary on 22nd. In the build-up to breeding the largest gatherings were at West Hayling LNR in March with 380 on 8th, 182 on 9th and 100 on 25th. The highest April count was at Titchfield Haven with 50 on 5th and the largest movement noted was 60 east past Hill Head during 23rd.

Breeding was recorded at five locations. The largest colony was 386 pairs which exceptionally raised around 400 young at Langstone Harbour where all nesting was reportedly confined to the islands with unusually none at West Hayling LNR. Only two pairs nested at Titchfield Haven raising three young. In the west Solent three nesting pairs were recorded at Lymington-Hurst and at least five pairs on Gull Island in the Beaulieu Estuary but no young were confirmed in either case. At Blashford one pair nested on Spinnaker Lake raising one young. The loss of the Normandy Black-headed Gull colony (see Black-headed Gull account) is expected to have an impact on Mediterranean Gulls in the west Solent which used to nest in small groups distributed through that colony.

Summer movements inland to the South Downs resulted in some high counts. The highest of these in May and early June were 75 at Broadhalfpenny Down on May 20th, 50 at Old Winchester Hill on 25th, 60 at Butser Hill on June 8th and 120 at Soberton Down on 10th. In the latter part of June Winchester SF became a focal point for even larger gatherings. Following a report of 90 on June 21st there was a succession of almost daily high records until the end of the month. The highest of these was 266 on June 24th, though the observer

considered that the constant movement of flocks into and out of the site probably reflected a much larger number. On July 7th two observers carried out a dedicated count of movements through the site from 14:00 to 20:29 during which they logged a total of 812 (see separate note in this report). In the late evening of the same date another observer logged 180 moving SE over Bishops Waltham towards the eastern harbours. There was also a report of 60 at Alresford Pond on July 22nd.

As breeding came to an end large July gatherings were reported from Ripley Farm Reservoir in the Avon Valley with 60 there on 2nd, 115 on 10th, 178 on 20th and 186 on 23rd after which numbers rapidly diminished. Numbers also built up along the Itchen Estuary at this time with 316 moving upriver at Weston Shore at 08:00 on July 23rd. Further upriver there were 131 between Chessel Bay and St Denys on July 24th. Brownwich at the mouth of Southampton Water held the largest gatherings with 413 on Aug 5th and 1,041 on Sep 5th (MLE), the highest ever count for the county outside the breeding colonies. On Sep 10th there were 650 there which was the last three-figure count of the year. A report of 38 at Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea on Dec 11th was the only double-figure count after September.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour		10	26	5	1	4	23	14				
South Hayling shore						2	25	1		1		
Langstone Harbour	1	2	380	18	772	772	148	3	4	80	3	
Portsmouth Harbour	1	2	3	4		3				1	1	3
Titchfield Haven area		7	16	60	158	8	73	413	1,041	5	1	2
Hamble Estuary	1		4	28	2	6	188	45	1	1	1	1
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	60	103	26	23	10	13	33	14	20	1	3	2
Sowley/Lymington	3	3	7	2		1	9		6		2	1
Lymington-Hurst	89	9	12	10	10	3	4	21	20	2	4	38
Avon Causeway/Sopley Pig Farm				2		24	186	20				
Ibsley Water	2	9	27	10	1	2					1	1

Common Gull (Mew Gull)

Larus canus

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

Amber

During the first three months of the year the highest recorded count was 1,100 at Ibsley Water on Feb 7th (see table). The very cold weather at this time may have been the cause of the build-up in numbers, an association that has been noted in the past. Away from tabulated sites there were only five three-figure counts. These were at Lyeway near Ropley (100, Jan 23rd), Cheesefoot Head (120 north, Feb 1st), Avington Lake (133, Feb 4th), Stroud near Petersfield (160, Mar 1st) and East Meon (350, Mar 8th).

During the breeding season one pair was observed on territory in the Lymington area but the outcome was not established. There were numerous sightings of ones and twos throughout May and June in various parts of the county but the seven at Woolmer Pond on June 13th were considered the first definite returns. The next multiple count was ten at Alresford Pond on July 15th.

Away from tabulated sites there were 12 three-figure counts in the latter part of the year. These included records from Langstone Harbour (190, Oct 22nd; 178, Nov 15th at Farlington Marshes only; 570, Nov 16th), Waterloo (110, Dec 3rd) and a frequent gathering point at Soberton (200, Oct 24th; 950, Dec 13th; 1,100, Dec 20th and 350, 23rd). The high numbers at Soberton in December coincided with a high count of 1,000 at Portsmouth Harbour (see table) from where they might have moved inland to feed. There were 120 near Cheriton

on Dec 27th. In the west Solent, where the species is generally less common, there were significant counts at Keyhaven Marshes (100, Dec 4th) and Calshot (160, Dec 23rd). The final three-figure count of the year was at Weston Shore (330, Dec 28th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	60	55	43						45	32	34	1,000
Beaulieu Estuary	6	29	58	1				18	3	2	3	5
Ibsley Water	245	1,100	30	5	1					3	20	4
Winchester SF	9	18	9	5	1	1	1	3	1	13	33	80
Alresford Pond	55	141	369	35			25	30	15	220	1,200	281

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Very scarce visitor recorded in every month except May. (0,40,1)

The adult discovered in the gull roost at Ibsley Water in late December 2014 was reported almost daily until Feb 2nd and was then seen only on 11th, Mar 5th and 7th (m.o.). A second-winter was also present on Jan 4th (RAH). What is presumed to be the returning adult was reported from Nov 14th-25th and again from Dec 20th into 2016 (m.o.). The usual wintering adult at Walpole Park, Gosport was last seen on Mar 12th but did not return in the autumn (m.o.). Amazingly this individual spent at least twelve winters at Walpole Park and remained a firm favourite with Hampshire’s birders. (KFB)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Common visitor, mostly to inland sites, which occurs in all months; small numbers have bred since 2001. Most numerous in autumn and increasing in winter. Amber

The highest counts in the early part of the year were at Ibsley Water roost where monthly maxima were 6,000 on Jan 6th and 2,500 on Feb 7th. Numbers then declined to only 50 on



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, Titchfield Haven, June 4th, predating Black-headed Gull chick, with mobbing adult Black-headed Gulls (John Wichall)

Feb 28th and there was only a small presence in March. There were no significant counts from Eversley GP during this period. The only three-figure counts away from Ibsley Water were at Overton (380, Jan 1st) and Hamer Warren (Ringwood Forest) (115, Jan 18th). The only spring passage recorded was from Trigpoint Hill over the period Mar 19th to May 15th where 111 were logged moving NE with counts of 11 on Mar 20th, 32 on Apr 5th and 11 on 13th.

There was no breeding survey of Southampton this year and the only nesting records submitted were of single pairs at IBM Lake, Portsmouth; Anton Lakes, Andover and North Lane, Aldershot. Records of sizeable summer flocks were reported from Chilbolton (95, May 20th), Gander Down (20, June 14th), Winchester SF (38, May 28th; 81, June 19th), Pipers Wait (30, June 23rd) and Fair Oak (34, June 30th). Autumn movements recorded at Trigpoint Hill between June 6th and Aug 27th involved a total of 59 SW and four NE, the highest day count being 26 SW on Aug 12th.

The post-breeding build-up at Ibsley Water led to monthly maxima of 700 on Sep 12th, 5,000 on Nov 9th and 11th and 5,000 on Dec 17th. Occasionally *intermedius* types were noted amongst flocks reported from this site including 30 in a total flock of 200 on Oct 30th. There was one significant record from Eversley GP of 1,450 heading in from S/SW to roost on Oct 27th. Most counts of large flocks elsewhere in autumn and early winter were mainly from the north of the county. There were three-figure records from Sydmonton (400, Sep 5th), Overton (130, Sep 6th; 363, Dec 26th), Lower Froyle (100, Sep 27th), The Vyne WM (150, Sep 30th-Oct 1st), Mill Court, Binsted (200, Oct 2nd), Fleet Pond (520 north, Oct 21st; 183 north, Nov 4th), Busta Triangle (110, Oct 21st; 150, Nov 4th), Ramptons Lane GP/ Mortimer West End (270, Oct 31st) and Testbourne Lake (220, Nov 18th). In the south 300 were logged heading south through Itchen Valley CP between 13:30 and dusk on Nov 20th and in the west 384 were reported from Toyd Down on Nov 22nd. (JR)

Herring Gull (European Herring Gull)

Larus argentatus

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

NT, Red, S4I, HBAP

In the first three months of the year there were 34 counts of over 50 which included six coastal and seven inland sites. The highest counts came from Ibsley Water with maxima of 503 on Jan 22nd and an estimated 500, mainly first and second-winters, on Feb 7th. Counts from coastal sites were all from the east Solent with the following maxima: Black Point (200, Jan 4th), Farlington Marshes (60, Jan 12th), Brownwich (87, Jan 24th), Chichester Harbour (100, Feb 17th), South Moor, Langstone Harbour (167, Feb 27th) and Portsmouth Harbour (67, Mar 21st). In addition to Ibsley Water, there were records from several other inland sites including frequent counts throughout the period at Itchen Valley CP, which is on the flightpath to Southampton Water from inland feeding grounds. Here monthly maxima were 150 on Jan 4th, 70 on Feb 15th and 70 on both Mar 7th and 28th. Further down the River Itchen between Northam and Mansbridge there were 55 on Mar 23rd. Maxima at other inland locations during the same period were Winchester SF (96, Jan 13th), Avington Lake (72, Jan 15th), Broadlands Estate (97, Jan 18th) and Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (90, Feb 10th). The only spring counts were at Lymington-Hurst with 66 on Apr 22nd and 67 on May 16th.

Although there was no breeding survey of Southampton this year, 18 pairs were counted nesting on warehouse roofs in the eastern docks at Dock Head. Four other reports were of single pairs nesting on roofs at Burrfields, Portsmouth (raising two young), Petersfield town centre (at least one young), Southsea and Dibden Purlieu (raising at least one young). During the breeding season there were 60 at Pipers Wait on June 23rd and 63 at Conigar Point, Chichester Harbour on 24th.

There were post-breeding counts at Portsmouth Harbour (153, July 15th), Winchester SF (79, Aug 9th), Itchen Valley CP (130, Aug 20th) and Waterlooville (110, Aug 23rd). The first major count of the autumn at the Ibsley Water roost was 500 on Nov 9th followed by 250 there

on Dec 5th, both monthly maxima. In both counts the observer reported a few *argentatus* types. Three-figure counts in the final three months were at Weston Shore (166, Oct 11th), Mayflower Park, Southampton (102, Oct 13th), Winchester SF (159, Oct 29th), Portsmouth Harbour (127, Oct 31st; 100, Dec 25th) and Southampton city centre (100, Nov 27th). There were also frequent three-figure counts from Itchen Valley CP with a maximum of 130 on Nov 29th. Smaller counts from other locations during this period included Alresford Pond (65, Oct 3rd), Stokes Bay (51, Oct 25th), Cams Hall, Fareham (96, Oct 31st) and Avington Lake (77, Nov 4th). Moderate SW movements were recorded during mid-morning counts at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown. At Trigpoint Hill a total of 179 was counted between June 5th and Sep 1st with a peak day count of 78 on Aug 27th. Between Oct 15th and Dec 15th 407 were recorded with a peak of 58 on Nov 13th. At Tweseldown there was a total of 201 SW between Nov 8th and 30th with a peak of 125 on Nov 15th. (JRJ)

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

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

There were records from 13 coastal and seven inland locations. In the first half of the year most sightings were from the coast or Ibsley Water. In addition to the tabulated sites, records of singles (unless otherwise stated) also came from Dibden Bay (Jan 4th), Fox Lane GP, Eversley (Jan 11th), Portsmouth Harbour (Jan 25th-31st), Longparish (Feb 8th, June 16th), Langstone Harbour (Mar 4th-17th), HMS Sultan (Mar 24th), Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (May 3rd-25th; 2, June 14th-28th), Fleet Pond (Mar 7th) and Stockbridge (May 30th).

In the breeding season one pair was confirmed to have nested along the Itchen Estuary, probably on a roof in Centurion Business Park close to where two young were seen begging for food with a pair of adults. The roofs in the business park have parapets which block views and limit the scope for confirming nesting activity.

As usual numbers were higher in the second half of the year and included reports from a wider spread of locations, particularly in the north of the county. In addition to the tabulated sites, there were coastal reports of singles (unless otherwise stated) from Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (2, July 12th-Aug 15th; Aug 16th-Nov 12th), Sandy Point (July 16th-Aug 26th; 2, July 17th), Portsmouth Harbour (July 27th) Conigar Point, Chichester Harbour (Aug 2nd, Sep 4th), Lymington-Hurst (Aug 18th), Weston Shore (2, Aug 24th; Nov 1st) and Funtington Airfield (Dec 25th). Inland reports came from Fleet Pond (July 2nd-Dec 20th), Longparish (July 15th; 3, Aug 16th; Dec 28th), Fox Lane GP, Eversley (2, July 21st; Sep 10th; 5, Oct 27th), Busta Triangle (Aug 2nd), Fishlake Meadows (Aug 6th) and Yateley GP (Nov 4th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water roosts)	11	6	2			2	2	1		7	12	11
Itchen Estuary area	3	2	2	1	1		1	4		2	2	3
Lower Test Marshes/ Eling						1	6	4	2	1	1	
Approx monthly totals	17	10	7	1	3	6	18	22	6	16	19	17

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,39,?)

Amber

A third-winter roosted in the gull flock at Ibsley Water in the late afternoon of Dec 6th (AIL, photo). There have been records in every year this century except 2006. (KFB)

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoideus

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. (3,95,3)

Amber

A juvenile came into the gull roost at Ibsley Water at 16:30 on Jan 23rd (REF *et al.*). A juvenile flew up from the shingle bar opposite the car park at West Hayling LNR on Nov 29th (JJG). Perhaps this was the bird seen flying west along Hayling Bay about 1km west of Eastoke Point at 11:08 on Dec 6th and later flying towards the lifeboat station at 13:00 (CBC *et al.*). It was seen again in the same area the next day at 10:30 (DJR, KAT). A juvenile also flew west off Milford on Sea at 08:50 on Dec 5th (SPP, MH, AIL). (KFB)

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. (3+,113,1)

Amber

A juvenile flew in from the north at Ibsley Water at 12:00 on Jan 1st. It rested for five minutes and then flew off high to the south. About ten minutes later it flew in again from the north and rested for a while before departing SW (SKW & JC). (KFB)

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

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

Up to the end of April there were only five double-figure counts all of which were reported either from Ibsley Water or the west Solent. Records from Ibsley Water were ten on Jan 2nd and 16 on Feb 1st. The west Solent records were from Pitts Deep (19, Apr 18th), Beaulieu Estuary (14, April 19th) and Lymington-Hurst (20, Apr 22nd). There were few records from the eastern harbours, the highest being seven at Portsmouth Harbour on Mar 21st. Other inland records came from 23 locations with the highest from Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (4, Jan 11th) and Itchen Valley CP (4, Feb 11th-21st; Apr 15th-16th). At Trigpoint Hill 15 were logged heading NE on Apr 5th between 09:10 and 09:50.

There was no breeding survey of Southampton this year. Elsewhere one pair nested at Beaulieu Estuary but despite having two young the nest was later abandoned. A pair possibly nested at Lymington-Hurst but there was no confirmation of success. A pair also nested on a factory roof at Burrfields, Portsmouth raising two young. As in 2014 summering flocks were smaller than they used to be and were recorded from the usual locations at Beaulieu Estuary, Stokes Bay and The Kench. The highest count was 31 at Beaulieu Estuary on June 7th. There were 14 at Stokes Bay on May 10th and 20 at The Kench on July 4th.

There was the usual small influx in the autumn, the first evidence of which was 25 at Lymington-Hurst on Aug 12th rising to a maximum of 50 on Sep 28th. A flock of 54 at Stokes Bay on Sep 30th increased to 130, the highest count of the year, on Oct 7th but then declined to 68 at nearby Gosport on Oct 26th and then to 30 at HMS Sultan playing field on Nov 10th. In the final month of the year there were two double-figure counts, one at Portsmouth Harbour (21, Dec 13th) and the other at Lymington-Hurst (10, Dec 28th). In the final two months the highest inland counts were four at Ibsley Water on Nov 25th and Dec 17th. (JRJ)

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Common resident.

Green

The 24 submitted records do not indicate any change in status. The highest counts were 550 around grain silos at Southampton Dock Head on Nov 2nd and 245 at Andover on Jan 14th. (SKW)

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Numerous resident and winter visitor.

Amber

The only reports of grounded flocks over 100 were 130 foraging in a pea field at Tichborne on May 10th, 100 at Frith End SP on July 20th and 140 on winter cereal at Warnford on

Nov 22nd. Breeding was reported in only three nest boxes set up for Kestrels and owls compared to 29 in 2014. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 11 (10); Longmoor Inclosure, 8; Lower Test Marshes, 1 (3); Titchfield Haven, 3 (1).

Total movements reported were 1,261 throughout the year of which 80% were in autumn. Trigpoint Hill accounted for 661 of these with a peak of 65 SW in two hours on Sep 30th. The year total was split between a combined count of only 59 NE on Jan 31st and Feb 18th with the remaining 602 all SW over 61 dates between June 27th and Dec 22nd. At Tweseldown no early year movements were reported whereas a total of 490 west was recorded on 59 dates between Sep 15th and Nov 30th. (SKW)



Stock Dove, Furze Hill, Mar 5th (Martin Bennett)

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

Columba palumbus

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Large grounded flocks were poorly reported. The maximum was 5,000 at Hythe on Dec 3rd with at least 2,000 at Needs Ore on Feb 17th. Other four-figure counts were 1,000 at Cheesefoot Head on Jan 2nd and Ibsley Water on Nov 9th, 1,500 at Lymington-Hurst on Nov 15th and at least that number at Needs Ore on 24th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 54 (56); Martin Down CBC, 17 (15); Titchfield Haven, 27 (27).

Recorded early year movements comprised 74 north at Fleet Pond on Feb 21st, 800 NE there in 90 minutes on Mar 21st and 104 NE on Mar 27th. In July 125 were noted moving on two dates followed by 3,599 W/SW during August (all inland), but just 196 were recorded on the move in September and only 143 in the first half of October. One observer commented that perhaps the 'migration' starts earlier than we think but the late summer records probably refer more to local movements than those in October-November.

The table below summarises movement totals in each week of the peak late autumn period between Oct 15th and Dec 23rd.

	Oct 15-21	Oct 22-28	Oct 29 -Nov 4	Nov 5-11	Nov 12-18	Nov 19-25	Nov 26 -Dec 2	Dec 3-9	Dec 10-16	Dec 17-23	Totals
Coast moving SE/ SW/NW	75	8,960	0	20,285	53,668	68,628	2,940	11,325	0	0	165,881
Coast moving N/E	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
Inland moving SE/ SW/NW	250	4,507	9,067	97,933	47,324	101,967	11,920	3,050	0	0	276,018
Inland moving N/E	0	0	0	473	5,550	1,437	2,040	0	220	0	9,720
Totals	325	13,467	9,567	118,691	106,542	172,032	16,900	14,375	220	0	452,119
Days with movements	2	4	5	4	7	7	4	3	1	0	37

The data again show a 'double peak' with the coastal numbers peaking slightly later in mid to late November compared to those inland which double-peaked in early and late November. The numbers are not exceptional in the long-term context although nearly half a million were logged moving between mid-October and mid-December. However, they do include several 'big days', notably Nov 22nd when 121,833 were noted on the move including over 65,000 south over Romsey in two hours and 37,620 W/NW at Barton on Sea GC in 3.25 hours, 6,130 at Scholing and 3,700 west at Sandy Point. High numbers continued the next day including 11,100 mostly W/NW over Southampton. Very high numbers were also recorded at the visible migration watchpoints (see Table 8). Despite the usual caveats regarding duplication and weather/weekend dependency applying to the data, it is clear that large-scale movements occurred over the middle three weeks in November. (SKW)

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove)

Streptopelia decaocto

Numerous but possibly declining resident and passage migrant.

Green

None of the reports received indicated any change in status. There were just four counts of 50 or over including an annual maximum of 116 at Brockhampton on Sep 6th. Some gardens, including those in BTO Garden BirdWatch, reported more than 20 with the highest being 55 at Lee-on-the-Solent on Oct 18th and 44 in Petersfield on Jan 13th. Nineteen were recorded apparently on the move mostly in autumn at Trigpoint Hill. However, with mixed directions (9SW and 5NE) there was no evidence of consistent movement. (SKW)

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove)

Streptopelia turtur

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP

Seven apparent spring migrants (all singles except where noted) were seen in April at Lyndhurst on 9th, Calshot on 16th and two west at Blashford Lakes on 18th, and in May at New Lane, Milford on Sea on 5th, Sandy Point on 15th and IBM Lake on 19th.

Nine territories were recorded at Martin Down CBC compared to four in 2014, five in 2013 and ten in 2012. Data from other sites were either fragmentary or more likely lacking through absence of Turtle Doves. Singing males were reported at a further 11 locations but only at two on more than one date. Noar Hill, Selborne was again unoccupied and Stockbridge Down had just one pair with no report of breeding success. At only one site away from Martin Down was there evidence of breeding.

Autumn passage was restricted to just three birds as follows: a juvenile at Fort Nelson on Aug 15th, one at Warblington Shore on Sep 4th and one at Cadnam on Sep 30th. Despite the apparent increase this year at Martin Down, the inexorable and apparently quickening slide towards extirpation continues across most of the county. (SKW)



Turtle Dove, north Hampshire, July 20th (Barry Stalker)

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo)

Cuculus canorus

Moderately common but declining summer visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Three were found at heathland sites at Half Moon and Ibsley Commons, NF and Yateley Common on Apr 9th and a prompt and widespread arrival was noted thereafter. Over 200 were reported by the end of the month. Fresh arrivals continued until at least mid-May evidenced by at least two reports of incoming arrivals off the sea. At least two rufous morph (hepatic) females were recorded with singles at Denny Wood, NF on May 17th and Titchfield Haven on May 31st and June 24th.

No significant consolidated counts of territories/singing males were received and no site held more than three singing males. One experienced and regular observer saw only one at Farlington Marshes all year. Similarly, anecdotal reports of 'unusual' and 'pleased to see them still' from elsewhere were received.

Sixteen fledglings/juveniles were seen from July 7th onwards. One at Coopers Hill, NF on Aug 11th was being fed by a Meadow Pipit. Eleven of the 15 recorded and aged in August were birds of the year. Just two (both juveniles) were found in September with the last at Longparish on 19th. (SKW)

Barn Owl (Western Barn Owl)

Tyto alba

Moderately common resident.

Schedule 1, Green

Reports were received for around 90 locations. Given the mild winter of 2014/15 it was a much poorer year than expected. In one study across Hampshire, but excluding the NF and areas to the far south, 104 nest boxes were occupied and nesting was attempted in 40 of which 25 were successful fledging 49 young. There was just one other record of confirmed breeding with probable breeding recorded at a further six locations. A pair occupied a nesting site at Cadland Estate, Lepe but laid no eggs, probably due to low vole numbers resulting in poor breeding condition. Most sightings were of one or two but four were observed together at Bransbury Common on Mar 5th. (BS)

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Moderately common but declining resident.

Reports were received from around 70 widespread locations. Successful breeding was recorded in two nest boxes with a total of four young raised. In addition, there was confirmed breeding in a natural site at Durley. Probable breeding was recorded at a further nine sites. (BS)

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Common resident.

Amber

Reports were received from around 167 widespread sites. Breeding was confirmed at 20 locations. In one study there were 16 nesting attempts recorded in nest boxes with 14 of these successful rearing 28 chicks. Probable breeding was recorded at a further 19 locations. (BS)

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

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

Green

In the early year one roosted at a location in the north. Successful breeding was again confirmed at two sites. An adult was observed feeding two juveniles at a regular breeding site in the north on May 26th and at least one juvenile was heard calling at a Test Valley location in early June. One was observed roosting at a central location on Nov 1st.

Whilst very few records are received each year, this secretive species is almost certainly under-recorded and observers are requested to check suitable habitats and be alert to the far-carrying begging calls of recently fledged young which continue for up to three months after leaving the nest. (BS)

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

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

ET, Amber

In the period up to early April there were records of two or more from White Hill, Kingsclere (3, Jan 2nd) and Bransbury Common (2, Jan 11th). Singles were also recorded in January at Cheesefoot Head on 4th, Ashley Warren on 11th, White Hill (Kingsclere) on 17th, Bransbury Common (several dates between Jan 17th and March 17th) and Redbridge on 23rd; in February at Willesley Warren on 8th and Black Gutter Bottom on 27th; in March at The Kench on 9th, Farlington Marshes (several dates between Mar 24th and April 10th) and in April at Hurst Beach on 10th and Sinah Common on 12th. Late spring sightings (both singles) were at Needs Ore on Apr 24th and Calshot on May 4th.

Early returns (all singles) in August were at Farlington Marshes on 9th, Keyhaven Marshes on 15th, and Hurst Castle on 20th. Singles were observed at Sandy Point on Sept 2nd and Keyhaven Marshes on 3rd. A significant influx occurred during October. Two were present at Tidgrove Warren on 8th and Sandy Point on 10th and singles (except where noted) were recorded along the coast at Gutner Point, Sandy Point (several dates), Hayling Bay, Sinah Common, Farlington Marshes (several dates with three on 30th-31st), Gosport, Titchfield Haven, Hook-with-Warsash, Needs Ore and Barton on Sea (two on 21st). Inland reports of singles were from Turf Hill Inclosure, NF, Hampton Ridge, Broadlands Estate, Michelmersh, Great Litchfield Down, Itchen Valley CP and Old Winchester Hill. The highest counts came during November and December with up to five at Farlington Marshes on several dates between Nov 1st and Dec 4th. Up to two were observed at Lower Test Marshes between Nov 15th and Dec 1st and singles were recorded at Sandy Point, Langstone Harbour, Titchfield Haven, Hook-with-Warsash, Weston Shore, Redbridge, Sowley Shore, Keyhaven, Somerley Estate, Ellingham Lake, Alver Valley, Fox Lane GP (Eversley) and Fleet Pond.

Opposite: Short-eared Owl, Redbridge, Dec 7th (Richard Jacobs)



The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	3	3	4	1			2	2	23	14	14

Nightjar (European Nightjar)

Caprimulgus europaeus

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Amber, S4I, HBAP

The earliest spring arrival was at Ibsley Common on May 4th. There was no systematic coverage of the New Forest but casual records amounted to around 76 churring males from 37 sites. Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 82 and 58 churring males respectively (see Table 1). Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows: Alice Holt Forest, 6; Ampfield Wood, 2; Benyon's Inclosure, 3; Botley Wood, 1; Browndown South, 1; Burton Common, 9; Great Covert Wood, 1; Havant Thicket, 3; Mortimer West End, 1; Newtown Common, 1; West Walk, 2; Wickham Common, 1. During September singles were at Needs Ore on 18th and Farlington Marshes on 27th. (BS)

Swift (Common Swift)

Apus apus

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first spring arrival was one over Denmead on Apr 8th. There were 11 double-figure counts of ten to 30 in April over Ibsley Water and Fishlake Meadows. Seven three-figure counts were recorded in May including 300 over Heath Pond, Petersfield on 3rd, 200 over Fishlake Meadows on 6th and 200 over Ibsley Water on 19th.

Breeding was confirmed at four sites, three with nest boxes, raising 21 young from 13 nests. Probable breeding was reported with 33 nests in 16 locations and possible breeding in 31 locations.

The highest number recorded during return migration was 267 over Trigpoint Hill on July 28th and the final three-figure count was 140 over Longwood Warren on Aug 2nd. Smaller numbers were subsequently recorded throughout August with 50 over Farlington Marshes on 15th and a final double-figure count of 12 over Ibsley Water on 28th. The last record in September was of two over Sinah Common on 20th. There was also an exceptionally late record of a Swift sp. over Beacon Hill, Warnford on Nov 18th. This would have been one day later than the previous latest date for Swift of Nov 17th 1974 but it is not included because of uncertainty over its specific identity.

Because of concerns over declining breeding numbers, as reported in the *BTO Atlas* and *HBA*, and the very low reporting rate of possible or probable breeding, a specialist group was established in Hampshire in April 2016 to protect existing breeding sites, promote the installation of nest boxes, raise awareness and better understand the existing population by initiating an on-going breeding survey. Further information is available at the Hampshire Swifts Facebook Group and website and initial results are expected to be included in next year's bird report. Observers are also requested to submit records of all Swifts from 2016 with emphasis on identifying the location of nest sites. (AMB)

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe)

Upupa epops

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since. (?245,5)

Schedule 1

With five sightings, all in spring, it was an above-average year. The first was at Browndown North on Apr 12th (JW) followed by others at Weston Shore on Apr 15th (IP, BS), Southwick on Apr 22nd-23rd (per IM), Crawley near Winchester from Apr 24th-26th (OF et al.) and Stokes Bay on May 8th (JAN, MDR, JRDS) – the latter flying in off the sea. (KFB)

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)

Alcedo atthis

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

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber

Records were received from around 250 locations including 30 in the Test Valley, 21 in the Itchen Valley, 23 in the Avon Valley, 27 in the north-east, 21 in the New Forest and 83 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at Blashford Lakes (2 pairs), Avon Causeway and Watton's Ford. Post-breeding dispersal and over-wintering on the coast are demonstrated by the monthly bird-day totals from three sites with regular records tabulated below. (BS)



Top left: Hoopoe, Crawley, Winchester, Apr 24th (John Hilton); top right: Kingfisher, Blashford Lakes, Aug 22nd (John Wichall); bottom: Wryneck, Hook-with-Warsash, Sep 2nd (Gareth Rees)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	34	9	1		1			13	45	26	4	24
Lower Test Marshes	21	6	4			5	8	26	39	13	9	8
Titchfield Haven	15	15		2		5	11	21	32	35	18	25

Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck)

Jynx torquilla

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

In spring one was photographed at Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill on Apr 19th. There were ten autumn records, all singles, commencing in August with Sinah Common on 22nd, Hythe on 28th, Farlington Marshes from Aug 30th-Sep 10th and Hook-with-Warsash from Aug 31st-Sep 5th. Records continued in September at Titchfield Haven, IBM Lake and Paulsgrove Reclamation on 1st (assumed same individual at the last two adjacent sites) and East Boldre on 9th-10th. The last records were in October at Lower Pennington Lane on 10th-11th, nearby at Keyhaven Marshes on 18th-19th and Calshot on 25th. (BS)

Green Woodpecker (European Green Woodpecker)

Picus viridis

Common resident.

Green

Records were received for 61 widespread locations. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 8 (6); Titchfield Haven, 3 (2). In addition, there were 36 territories at seven sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths including 22 at Longmoor Inclosure (see Table 1). (BS)

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Common resident.

Green

Records were received for 74 widespread locations. Occupied nests or juveniles were recorded at 22 locations. Counts of territories in selected surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 7 (8); Lower Test Marshes, 4 (3); Titchfield Haven, 4 (4). In addition, there were 37 territories at seven sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths including 17 at Longmoor Inclosure (see Table 1). A total of 205 bird-days was recorded at Titchfield Haven throughout the year. This frequent visitor to bird feeders was recorded in 261 (75.2%) of the Hampshire gardens in BTO Garden BirdWatch, with monthly reporting rates varying between 40.9% in May and June to 15.9% in September (see Table 2). (BS)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Scarce and declining resident, except in New Forest where it remains moderately common.

Red, S4I, HBAP

The vast majority of records continue to come from the New Forest and adjoining woodland with reports from a minimum of 73 locations. As usual most records came from three main areas where birders most frequently visit, including Bolderwood/Mark Ash Wood, with an absence of records from large parts of the Forest with seemingly suitable habitat. Confirmed breeding records were scarce with only two pairs reported one of which successfully fledged four young from a dead Birch. Outside the Forest there were only 22 records of singles from 17 widely scattered locations with only one report of two at Redenham Park on Jan 27th. There were three records from Woolmer Forest but no reports from areas such as Harewood Forest where this species has been reported in the past.

It remains unclear whether the population outside the Forest is stable or continuing to decline; more records from these areas are urgently needed. Surveys both within the New Forest and in other woodlands are planned in 2016 to gain a better understanding of distribution, numbers and breeding densities. (RC)



Left: adult male with juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker, Headley Down, July 21st (John Wichall);
right: female Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, New Forest, May 17th (Marcus Ward)

Kestrel (Common Kestrel)

Falco tinnunculus

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

Kestrels were widely reported but with little information on current breeding density or the extent of any decline. The long-running county survey located 48 breeding attempts in nest boxes plus one natural site with 39 successful and 118 fledged young. Whilst the number of successful breeding attempts was higher than last year (26 in 2014), the number of fledged young was almost the same (117 in 2014) resulting in a lower average productivity of 3.0/pair (4.3 in 2014). A smaller survey area near Four Marks had three confirmed breeding pairs in two square kilometres. There were more records from the New Forest this year with at least five pairs compared to only two last year. The NFWBS produced totals of 13, 5 and 14 in January-March and 31, 19 and 11 in October-December, more than 50% higher than in 2014 although such counts are highly dependent on the weather experienced on survey days. (RC)

Red-footed Falcon

Falco vespertinus

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. (2,55,2)

Two records. A first-summer male was watched for five minutes near Pig Bush, NF on June 6th (TJP). A first-summer female was discovered on private land near Fordingbridge on June 20th and remained in the area until 27th (VB, photo). These are the first accepted records since 2010. (KFB)

Female Red-footed Falcon, Fordingbridge, June 20th (Vicky Boulton)



Merlin

Falco columbarius

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

Between January and April there were regular reports of singles from Needs Ore and Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes with the last at the latter site on Apr 27th. Singles were also reported on several dates from Old Winchester Hill, Titchfield Haven, Farlington Marshes and from around 15 other locations. After a quiet year in 2014 there were more records in the first winter period from the New Forest with up to five including two males using a roost in burnt gorse in the north-west up to Feb 28th.

The first autumn record was a juvenile at New Lane, Milford on Sea on the early date of Aug 17th. Subsequently there were regular records from Needs Ore (three dates), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (ten dates) including two (a male and female) on Oct 4th, Farlington Marshes (11 dates), Titchfield Haven (three dates), Old Winchester Hill (11 dates) and Black Point/Sandy Point (three dates). The first New Forest record came from Leaden Hall on Sep 28th but there were no reports of numbers roosting in the later winter period. The NFWBS produced totals of two in each month in January-March and singles in October and December.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below with numbers of adult males, where noted, in parentheses. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10(5)	14(4)	7(2)	2(0)				1(0)	3(1)	6(1)	9(1)	9(4)



Adult male Merlin, Furze Hill, Dec 10th (Martin Bennett)

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)†

Falco subbuteo

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

The first reports came from Fishlake Meadows and Timsbury with singles on Apr 7th. The next records of singles came from The Straight Mile, Romsey on Apr 8th and Furze Hill, NF on 16th with the first report of two at Fishlake Meadows from 16th. The largest pre-breeding gatherings noted were five at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 29th, May 4th and 13th and six at Woolmer Pond on May 9th.

Surveys in the New Forest found evidence of a further decline in breeding numbers with only four confirmed breeding pairs as follows: a pair returned to a site where successful breeding took place in 2014 but deserted in May; at another previous site a pair was present but did not breed; a further two pairs bred successfully within the Perambulation (the area defined in the 1964 New Forest Act within the National Park boundary). There was no direct evidence of predation this year but displacement or predation by the growing Goshawk population is the most likely cause of the decline. In addition, coverage was patchy outside the New Forest with records of single birds only from widespread parts of the county where much suitable breeding habitat exists. Breeding was confirmed or deemed probable at six sites in the north-east while five pairs were located in a sample survey of a 10km square south of Basingstoke. Autumn passage was indicated by singles flying SW in September at the migration watch points of Trigpoint Hill on 7th, 25th, 28th and 30th and Tweseldown on 25th. The few October records included singles at Hook-with-Warsash and Brownwich on 3rd followed by the last of the year at Old Winchester Hill and Sandy Point on 10th, the latter being found dead there on 13th. (RC)

Peregrine (Peregrine Falcon)[†]

Falco peregrinus

Scarce but increasing resident; numbers are augmented throughout the year by visitors from neighbouring counties. Probably also a passage migrant and winter visitor from further afield.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

There were reports from 237 sites across the county including 33 locations in the New Forest and around 118 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 133 locations during March-July of which 49 were on the coast compared to 70 coastal locations in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 18 localities with 13 pairs known to have fledged at least 23 young. Five nests failed. As in previous years a number of traditional pylon sites remained unavailable due to access being blocked to nesting cavities. However, there were five pylon nests which fledged five chicks in total despite two pairs failing. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (5), tall chimneys (2), quarries (3), plus single pairs on a grain silo and a crane. One pair nested successfully on a coastal shingle strip about two metres from the high water mark. This is the first successful ground-nesting attempt in the county following two failures in recent years. Nesting on the ground is known to occur in areas of tundra within the Arctic Circle but this nest may be unique in the UK.

The project to install nesting boxes continued. Five of these were used with a total of nine chicks being fledged although one set of eggs failed to hatch. A further three nest boxes were not occupied.

The programme of colour-ringing continued and 13 chicks at five nests were fitted with orange colour rings which carry a two-letter or number code. Anyone seeing a bird carrying such a ring is asked to send in details to the County Recorder. (KFB)

Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet)

Psittacula krameri

Very scarce visitor, possibly resident.

There were reports from 11 locations, six of which were in the north-east of the county, between March and November. The first was one at Fareham on Mar 29th and Apr 5th. This was followed by a series of garden records of one from nearby Funtley between Apr 22nd and May 14th. One was at Highfield, Southampton on May 11th and two at Lakeside, Eastleigh on May 21st. Singles were next reported at Black Wood, Micheldever on Aug 6th and Aldershot on Sep 7th. Two flew east at Tweseldown on Sep 30th, two flew north over the M3 near Hartley Wintney on Oct 10th, one was at



Ring-necked Parakeet, Fareham, Apr 5th (Trevor Carpenter)

Farnborough on Oct 22nd and 26th and on Oct 31st a flock of nine flew SSW over a garden there. This is the highest Hampshire count to date. Finally, one was at Fareham Creek on Oct 25th and two were in a garden at Mattingley on Nov 3rd. (MLC)

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Very scarce passage migrant; formerly a moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1984. (since 1984: 60,2)

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

Two records. A male was in the Beaulieu Heath West/Crockford Bridge area of the New Forest from July 25th-29th (BR *et al.*, photo) and a first-winter was in the Stoke Common/West Hayling LNR area from Sep 30th-Oct 4th (PMP *et al.*, photo). (KFB)



First-winter Red-backed Shrike, Hayling Oysterbeds, Oct 2nd (Steve Bassett)

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU

A good year with at least three wintering in the New Forest in the early year and three elsewhere, and possibly four present in the New Forest in the late year and as many as five at other locations.

The single present in the Ibsley Common area of the New Forest in October and November 2014 remained into 2015 being seen on only four dates until Mar 15th. The other individual that was on the north side of the A31 from late October 2014 remained until Apr 4th, being seen between Buckherd Bottom and Ocknell Plain on many dates. Outside these areas one was at Fritham Plain on Mar 16th. Away from the New Forest the single that arrived at Bransbury Common in December 2014 remained until Mar 17th while others were at Wishanger from Jan 25th-Feb 1st (just within the county boundary near Frensham Great

Pond and present at nearby Frensham Common, Surrey from Oct 31st-Dec 27th 2014 and Feb 1st-Mar 5th 2015) and near Overton on Apr 2nd.

The first autumn arrival in the New Forest was at Black Gutter Bottom and Leaden Hall from Oct 13th-31st. One returned to the Ibsley Common area on Oct 19th being seen between there and Latchmore Bottom on five dates until Dec 16th. Also on Oct 19th another appeared in the Buckherd Bottom to Ocknell Plain area and remained until at least Dec 21st. The Beaulieu Road area had failed to host any in 2013/14 winter but one was present from Oct 25th-Dec 19th although it was seen less frequently as the winter progressed. Other isolated New Forest records were from Millyford Bridge on Oct 25th, Markway Inclosure on Oct 31st, Rhinefield Inclosure on Nov 22nd and Holm Hill on Nov 1st. Away from the New Forest there were singles at Woolmer Forest on Oct 21st, Hook-with-Warsash and Titchfield Haven on Oct 25th, Skidmore on Oct 28th, Hawkley on Nov 19th and nearby Longmoor Inclosure on Nov 26th (likely to be the Woolmer bird), Watership Down on Dec 2nd and Havant Crematorium on Dec 31st. (KFB)



Great Grey Shrike, Overton, Apr 2nd (Barry Stalker)

Magpie (Eurasian Magpie)

Pica pica

Numerous resident.

Green

In the first half-year, the only reports to exceed 50 were roost counts of 70 at Mansbridge on Jan 16th and between 60 and 100 at Fleet Pond from Jan 31st to Mar 22nd. Other roost counts of note were 46 at Over Wallop on Jan 1st and 44 at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 4th.

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 2 (2); Longmoor Inclosure, 6 (3); Lower Test Marshes, 6 (2); Martin Down CBC, 1 (3); Titchfield Haven, 8 (8).

In the second half-year the only roost counts to exceed 50 were at Fleet Pond with between 75 and 160 from Sep 21st to Dec 28th. Elsewhere 45 left a roost at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 17th. (MLC)

Jay (Eurasian Jay)

Garrulus glandarius

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Numbers remained low throughout the year following high flock numbers in spring 2013 and autumn 2014 peaking at 76 and 64 respectively. Apart from the movements below the only counts of ten or more were 11 at Sherborne St. John on Jan 6th, 12 at Titchfield Haven on Oct 24th and ten at Titchfield on Nov 8th. At Needs Ore in spring ten flew east on Apr 23rd. Occasional small movements of up to four were noted at Trigpoint Hill in all months except June, July and December with no clear pattern and annual totals of 28 NE and nine SW.

During the breeding season counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 8 (8); Longmoor Inclosure, 5 (4); Lower Test Marshes, 3 (2); Titchfield Haven, 4 (4). (MLC)

Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw)

Corvus monedula

Numerous resident.

Green

High counts of 100 or more were recorded in widespread areas especially at winter roosts and along associated flight paths. In the first half-year maxima were at Itchen Valley CP with 850 flying to the regular roost at nearby Allington GP on Jan 7th and 2,000 on Jan 27th. Elsewhere the highest numbers reported were 200 at Chilbolton South on Jan 24th, 300 at Watership Down on Jan 27th and 200 at Cadnam Common on Mar 19th.

Breeding in a nest box was again reported with three young in a Barn Owl box at Malshanger Park on May 17th.

Autumn movements were indicated at Sandy Point in September with peaks of 29 west on 18th and 20 west on 20th and in October by ten to 30 west between 13th and 20th. At Trigpoint Hill 55 flew SW on Oct 24th, at Tweseldown 50 flew SW on Oct 26th and at Greenhill, Romsey a cumulative total of 350 flew south between Sep 17th and Nov 22nd with a maximum of 79 on Oct 29th. In the second half-year high numbers up to 2,500 were recorded at Marchwood dispersing over Pook's Green from the regular roost during November and December. High numbers were also reported at Itchen Valley CP going to Allington roost in December with 600 on 9th and 20th, 1,100 on 22nd and 700 on 28th. On Dec 11th 1,668 were at Hucklesbrook WM (Ibsley) and at Titchfield Haven over 500 were recorded on three dates in December with a high of 850 at dusk on Dec 22nd. In the north-east 600 were at Kingsley on Oct 11th, 500 were there on Oct 26th and 588 were counted at West Worldham flying SW to roost on Dec 30th. (MLC)

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.

Green

The highest numbers in the first half-year were 1,000 at Old Winchester Hill on Jan 1st, 700 at Itchen Valley CP flying towards Allington roost on Jan 27th, 300 the same day and regularly throughout the year at Damerham and 500 on winter stubble at Longwood Warren on Feb 1st.

Counts were submitted for 35 rookeries with a total of 1,243 apparently occupied nests. This compares with 27 rookeries and 1,161 nests last year. Counts exceeding 50 nests were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses where available): Awbridge, 60; Farley Mount CP, 119; Houghton, 75 (80); Longstock, 96 (100); Mottisfont, 53; Ower Farm near Upham, 150; Widley, 82 (65). Leckford, which had 100 nests last year, had only 50 this year. Only two nests were apparently used at Hoglands Park, Southampton compared to 17 last year. Similar to last year a large post-breeding flock of 1,100 foraged in a pig field at Bigpath Farm near Upham on June 21st.

In the second half-year over 400 were present at Old Winchester Hill from Oct 29th to year end with highs of 850 there on Nov 12th and Dec 29th, 300 at Hucklesbrook WM on Dec 11th and 300 at Hunton Lane near Micheldever Station on Dec 31st. (MLC)

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Numerous resident.

Green

As usual many large gatherings were reported throughout the year mostly from coastal sites. Monthly maxima at Weston Shore, where regular counts were made in every month except September, were 50, 135, 110, 140, 95, 224, 210, 140, 345, 190 and 240 respectively with the high of 345 coinciding with low tide on Oct 11th. Three-figure counts elsewhere were 110 at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 7th, 250 at Rowlands Castle on Jan 21st, 120 at Southampton Airport on Feb 5th, 120 at Netherly Down on Mar 13th, 250 at Castle Farm, Warblington on Mar 24th, 176 at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 27th, 230 at Warblington Shore on July 15th, 150 at Titchfield Haven on Aug 20th and 101 at Stokes Bay on May 10th. Monthly totals from the NFWBS were 275, 368, and 340 in January-March and 519, 425 and 328 in October-December (see Table 4). Away from the coastal strip the highest counts were 69 at Wilverley Plain NF on Oct 25th and 60 at a pre-roost gathering at Long Valley in the north-east on Nov 20th.

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses where available): Longmoor Inclosure, 18 (18), Lower Test Marshes, 7 (5), Itchen Valley CP, 5 (5), Farlington Marshes, 2. (MLC)

Raven (Northern Raven)

Corvus corax

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



Raven, Keyhaven, Oct 10th (Chris Rose)

This species continued its growth in numbers and was reported from 335 widespread locations across the county. Whilst most records referred to between one and five, an increasing number were greater with many double-figure counts establishing new highs. The highest numbers were concentrated in the following four areas: New Forest, Tidpit Down and nearby Toyd and Martin Downs, Old Winchester Hill and nearby Beacon Hill at Warnford, and Pilot Hill near Facombe.

In the New Forest double-figure counts were 16 at Eyeworth on Mar 12th, 11 at Pipers Wait on Aug 7th and 12 at Bolderwood on Sep 11th. The NFWBS totals were 12, 21 and 14 for January-March respectively and 30, 25 and 18 for October-December. At Old Winchester Hill monthly maxima for the second half-year were 11 on July 21st, 23 on Aug 27th, 26 on Sep 15th, 30 on Oct 24th, 31 on Nov 8th and 17 on Dec 24th. At nearby Beacon Hill, Warnford there were ten on Aug 22nd and 15 on Sep 8th. Higher numbers were at Tidpit Down with monthly maxima of 31 on Jan 18th, 50 on Apr 25th, 26 on May 12th, 28 on Nov 22nd and 47 on Dec 11th. Like most corvids this species is attracted to pig farms and large numbers at Tidpit in January, April and May were either on or over pig fields. Also on Dec 20th 26 were counted leaving a roost there. At nearby Toyd Down there were 13 on Feb 21st and at Martin Down there were ten on Mar 7th and 15 on Aug 9th. The highest counts were at Pilot Hill, Facombe where unwanted corpses from pheasant and partridge shoots were dumped approximately twice each week during the shooting season. Raven numbers peaked at 80 on Nov 19th and on a previous unspecified date and as many as 100 could have been present on the estate where uncollected corpses were probably scavenged across a wide area. Whilst breeding was suspected in many areas it was only confirmed at eight sites with at least two nests on pylons. (MLC)

Goldcrest†

Regulus regulus

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In the first half of the year the only reports of 20 or more were 25 at Old Basing on Jan 1st and 21 at Exbury on Apr 19th. Counts of territories in regular surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Bourley, 30 (13); Itchen Valley CP, 30 (14); Longmoor Inclosure, 44 (20).

Early autumn highs were 20 at Ibsley Water on Sep 26th and 30 at Bratley Plain on Oct 9th. Arrival of migrants at coastal sites in late October was indicated by 20 at Needs Ore on 16th and Sandy Point on 26th, 30 at Sinah Common on 27th and 25 there on 31st. At Titchfield Haven the scale of autumn movements was demonstrated by 158 ringed between Aug 28th and Nov 11th with a peak of 33 on Oct 26th. Maximum wintering numbers reported in November were 30 at Cadnam Common on 2nd, 20 at Ludshott Common on 22nd and 22 at Eastleigh SW on 23rd followed by 20 at Hawley WM on Dec 16th. (MLC)

Firecrest (Common Firecrest)

Regulus ignicapilla

Moderately common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

For the first time over 1,000 records were submitted highlighting the continued expansion of this species and making Hampshire and the New Forest one of the most important areas in the UK for the species. Continued survey work in the New Forest by MW and RC and in Southampton by MJP continues to track the growth of the species in the county.

In January and February wintering individuals were again reported from widespread locations. Survey work in the New Forest produced peak counts of seven on Jan 18th and nine on Feb 14th within the Bolderwood study area whilst a total of 31 were counted on Southampton Common from Feb 23rd-24th. Other counts of five or more in the Southampton area in February included six at Thornhill Park Woods on 11th, seven at Bitterne on 12th and five at Basset on 15th and 22nd. The first singing Firecrest was recorded at Bolderwood, NF on Feb 14th, a day later than in 2014.

During the breeding season survey work in the New Forest found a total of 331 territories in the central 46km² woodland block (cf. 255 in 2014). Elsewhere in the New Forest an additional 113 territories were reported from 40 locations. Outside the New Forest a total of 307 territories was reported from 93 locations including 36 at Bourley Reservoir, 25 at Farley Mount/West Wood, 21 at Exbury Gardens, 11 at Ampfield Wood, ten at Parnholt

Wood and Havant Thicket and nine at Weston Common. In addition, all suitable accessible habitat within the SU64 10km square (south of Basingstoke including Ellisfield and Lasham) was surveyed by RC locating a total of 35 pairs/singing males.

As with previous years, lower numbers were reported between July and September with the first coastal migrants recorded from Sandy Point on Aug 14th. Significant counts in this period included seven at Blackwater Arboretum, NF on Aug 11th, 15 at Bolderwood, NF on Aug 22nd and six at Mountains Plantation, Four Marks on Sep 17th. From October onwards the species establishes winter feeding territories where it is generally found in low densities of one to three individuals at widespread locations across the county as summarised in the table below. Significant counts during this period included 13 on Southampton Common on Oct 11th, five at Lepe CP on Nov 1st, five at Holly Hill Park, Warsash on Dec 20th, eight at Hum Hole, Southampton on Dec 21st and six at Bolderwood, NF on Dec 23rd.

A summary of all records is tabulated below. (MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	35	39	103	5	44	25	24	18	28
New Forest sites	17	15	27	4	4	9	13	9	14
Southampton Common	3	34		6	1	17	2		
Southampton area	20	71	2	13	6	5	2	4	31
Southampton area sites	7	16	2	4	1	3	1	3	9
Other inland locations	47	28	76	19	16	32	24	22	42
No. of sites	29	16	30	9	13	15	18	14	23
Coastal locations	8	8	14	1	10	10	49	26	32
No. of sites	7	4	5	1	5	8	14	9	11
Total recorded	113	180	195	38	82	73	116	72	133

Penduline Tit (Eurasian Penduline Tit)

Remiz pendulinus

Very rare vagrant (0,7,3)



Male Penduline Tit, Titchfield Haven, Dec 11th (Alan Lewis)

One male and two females were at Titchfield Haven from Dec 7th-13th (IC *et al.*, photo). They were then relocated 10km to the north-east at IBM Lake, Cosham from Dec 15th-16th (TMJD *et al.*). However, on Dec 29th they were back at Titchfield Haven where all three birds remained into 2016, with three to at least Feb 3rd and two to Mar 6th, with just one seen on Mar 30th. These represent the eighth to tenth individuals for Hampshire, the last being two in 2010. It is hoped that details of five at Titchfield Haven on Oct 23rd 1990 (included in *Birds of Hampshire*) will soon be submitted for consideration by the BBRC. (KFB)

Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit)

Cyanistes caeruleus

Abundant resident and passage migrant.

Green

This was the equal second most widespread species (with Blackbird) in BTO Garden BirdWatch being recorded in 346 (99.7%) Hampshire gardens during the year just behind Robin with 347. From Table 2 monthly reporting rates in gardens varied between a high of 93.5% in February and low of 79.8% in July. Highest garden counts, where recorded, were 31 at Cove in w/c June 14th, 20 at Sherfield English in w/c July 26th, 24 at Yateley in w/c Aug 9th and 20 at Lower Farringdon in w/c Dec 20th. Distribution and density are compared with three other tit species using BBS results which give a square occupancy of 97% (98% in 2014) with mean number per occupied square of 9.2 (9.1 in 2014) (see Table 3).

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 4 (4); Longmoor Inclosure, 66 (48); Lower Test Marshes, 17 (22); Titchfield Haven, 26 (28). Apart from the breeding territories and garden counts, the only other reports to exceed 20 were 24 at Kings Somborne on Jan 11th, 21 at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 18th, 35 at Bolderwood on Jan 21st, 28 at Blashford Lakes Centre on Jan 29th, 35 at Hook-with-Warsash on Feb 15th, 21 at Weston Common on Mar 6th, 27 at Waterlooville on Mar 30th and a flock of 60 near Fleet Pond on Aug 26th. (MLC)

Great Tit

Parus major

Abundant resident.

Green

In BTO Garden BirdWatch this was the fourth most widespread species being recorded in 343 (98.8%) Hampshire gardens during the year just behind Blue Tit, Blackbird and Robin. From Table 2 monthly reporting rates in gardens varied from a high of 77.3% in November to a low of 65.4% in July. The highest garden count was 17 at Chandler's Ford in w/c May 10th. In the BBS square occupancy was 94% (91% in 2014) with mean number per occupied square of 6.3 (5.6 in 2014) (see Table 3).

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 5 (4); Longmoor Inclosure, 30 (30); Lower Test Marshes, 12 (20); Titchfield Haven, 21 (19). Apart from the breeding territories, the only other reports to equal or exceed 20 were between 22 and 27 at Itchen Valley CP between Feb 8th and Apr 6th, 22 at Weston Common on Mar 6th, 24 at Southleigh Forest on Apr 26th, 20 in a mixed tit flock near Fleet Pond on Aug 26th and 20 in Denny Wood on Nov 28th. (MLC)

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Numerous resident.

Green

Less widespread in BTO Garden BirdWatch than Blue or Great Tit but still reported from 282 Hampshire gardens representing 81% of the Blue Tit coverage. Table 2 shows a much wider variation in monthly reporting rates than Blue or Great Tit with a low of 17.5% in June compared to a high in November of 59.3%, presumably because garden feeders are more frequently visited in winter. Where garden counts were made the highest number reported was 12 at Liss in w/c Nov 8th. Higher numbers were recorded in the BBS compared to last year with square occupancy at 39% (33% in 2014) and mean number per occupied square of 3.4 (2.8 in 2014) (see Table 3). At Longmoor Inclosure, where breeding season surveys have



Coal Tit, New Forest, Feb 14th (Martin Clay)

been carried out on a regular annual basis, a total of 129 territories was recorded compared to 104 in 2014, 87 in 2013 and 114 in 2012.

Singles at Pennington Marshes on Aug 29th and Farlington Marshes on Oct 1st were unusual at these locations. (MLC)

Willow Tit

Poecile montana

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S41

This species continues to survive in small numbers in pockets in the north-west of the county and at a few other scattered locations. It was reported only in ones and twos between Jan 29th and June 10th apart from three at Netherton Bottom on Mar 23rd. Sightings continued at the three well-known locations of Netherton Bottom near Facombe, Hurstbourne Common near Hurstbourne Tarrant and Walker's Copse near Dummer, all of which can be viewed from public rights of way.

The surveys commenced last year by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in the north-west and by HOS around Dummer continued from February until early April with permission where necessary from private woodland owners. Five territories were identified in the north-west, two of which were in woods not previously surveyed. This brought the combined total over the last two years to 24 including Facombe and Hurstbourne. Separately seven territories were found around Dummer and nearby areas to give a combined total there over two years of ten. Note that combining results from two years probably overestimates the numbers as the surveys have shown that not all territories are re-occupied in following years. Surveys are due to extend one more year to 2016 after which it is planned to summarise results and conclusions in the next *Hampshire Bird Report*.

The only other reports outside the survey areas in the north-west and around Dummer were one at Old Winchester Hill disabled car park on Mar 24th, two there on 26th and one again on Apr 4th, two at East Tytherley on Mar 31st and Chandler's Ford on Apr 18th, and singles at Micheldever Wood on May 7th and Brockwood Park near West Meon on June 10th. (MLC)

Marsh Tit

Common but declining resident.

Poecile palustris

Red, S4I



Marsh Tit, Cadman's Pool, Mar 4th (Gareth Rees)

Significantly increased sightings were reported from 221 widespread sites compared to 119 last year due to importing more BirdTrack records and should not be taken as evidence of population growth for this red-listed species. Most records were of one to five. The only reports of more than five were 11 at Bolderwood in a mixed tit flock on Jan 21st, nine at Crux Easton on Feb 15th and eight there on Apr 11th, ten at Netherton Bottom on Feb 15th and six there on Mar 15th, eight at Popham Down, Dummer on Feb 19th, eight at Laverstoke on Feb 21st and Mar 7th, six at Cadnam Common on Apr 13th, six at Martin Down on Apr 28th, seven at Longparish on May 24th, family parties of eight at Bolderwood on June 9th and six at Pamber Forest on June 25th and six at Denny Wood on Nov 28th. Monthly totals from NFWBS were ten, seven and ten in January-March, and six, four and seven in October-December (see Table 4).

In BTO Garden BirdWatch it was recorded in ones and twos from 17 (4.9%) Hampshire gardens, with monthly reporting rates between 0.4% in spring and summer and 1.3% in November. Separate figures for undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits were 41 (11.8%) gardens with monthly reporting rates between 0.9% in summer and 4.0% in October (see Table 2). BBS results showed 12% of squares occupied (11% in 2014) with mean number per occupied square of 1.4 (2.1 in 2014) (see Table 3). (MLC)

Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling)

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Panurus biarmicus

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Reported throughout the year from four sites with occasional records from three others. Monthly maxima at the regularly used sites are summarised below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	6	11			1		1		10	28	2	
Hook-with-Warsash	6	2		1						1	2	2
Titchfield Haven	3	1		3	2	37	17	10	20	17	12	12
Farlington Marshes	5	6		5	5	8	2	4	22	20+	34	

Most of these sites show a similar pattern of numbers peaking in the autumn and being apparently absent or at low levels during the spring. This same pattern has been observed in previous years. Apart from 37 on June 29th at Titchfield, the highest numbers were between late September and early November with 22 at Farlington Marshes on Sep 23rd, 20 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 26th, at least 20 and possibly more than 40 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 9th, 28 at Keyhaven on Oct 26th and 34 at Farlington Marshes on Nov 4th.

Breeding was confirmed with at least eight territories at Farlington Marshes, a minimum of six at Titchfield Haven and one at Keyhaven.

Records elsewhere were three at Lower Test Marshes on Mar 21st with four there the next day, five on Nov 21st and one on Dec 2nd; one at IBM Lake on Oct 2nd; two at Ibsley North Lake (the first ever there and only the second record for the Avon Valley) on Oct 3rd. (MLC)



Male Bearded Tit, Keyhaven, Feb 6th (Lee Fuller)

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Moderately common resident and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green, S41, HBA

The wintering flock at Portsdown Hill in December 2014 was still present on Jan 1st when ten were located. Subsequently the only similar record was 12 in a stubble field near Theddon Copse west of Alton on Feb 1st. The first song was heard at Woolmer Forest on Jan 9th while in the New Forest there were records from three areas during January and 34 were found

during the NFWBS on Feb 14th. In February and March away from traditional localities in the north-east and New Forest there were records from Beacon Hill (Warnford), Bisterne, Crux Easton, Froxfield, Ladle Hill, Mortimer West End, Netherton Bottom, Portsdown Hill, Redenham Park, Well and Woodmancott.

Breeding season surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 54 and 45 pairs/singing males respectively compared with 52 and 36 in 2014 (see Table 1). There were again numerous records from the New Forest which indicates a healthy population although a comprehensive survey is urgently required. Elsewhere of the 11 sites with records in February and March, the only subsequent records were of two singing at Netherton Bottom and one at Crux Easton on Apr 11th and two territories at Mortimer West End. Further records in April-July (of single singing males on one date only unless otherwise stated) came from Abbotstone Down, Abbots Wood Inclosure (2), Adhurst Hill, Baddesley Common, Braishfield, Golden Pot, Humbers Wood, Lower Lanham (2 singing), Shirrell Heath and Weston Common (1 or 2, May-June). It would be helpful if observers discovering Woodlarks in such locations could revisit to try to establish if breeding has occurred. At least three singing males were found in young bean crops which could well be an important habitat.

Post-breeding gatherings in the New Forest included ten at Longwater Lawn on Aug 5th, 12 at Cadnam Common on 12th, 11 at Half Moon Common on 17th and ten at Mallard Wood on Sep 27th. Elsewhere the only double-figure gathering was at Tweseldown where there were 11 from Sep 5th-30th declining to seven on Oct 12th. Autumn passage was light compared with recent years; visible migration watches produced just two SW at Tweseldown on Oct 7th, a total of five mostly SW at Trigpoint Hill between Oct 8th and 27th and two singles south at Greenhill, Romsey on Oct 18th and 27th. Other records of presumed migrants included singles at Hurst Castle on Sep 22nd, flying west at Sinah on Oct 3rd, at Keyhaven on Oct 8th and 12th, over Alexandra Park, Portsmouth on 10th, Noar Hill on 11th, Sandy Point on 12th and a late record of one west over Chilling on Nov 23rd. Between Sep 26th and Oct 17th ones or twos were also noted at Brockwood Park, Forest of Bere Farm (Farley Mount), Ower and Wheely Down and five were at Weston Common on Sep 28th. The NFWBS produced a total of ten on Oct 24th but subsequently only eight more were recorded in the forest including three singing between Dec 28th and 31st. Records elsewhere included six at Blackbushe Airfield on Oct 27th, five at Woolmer Forest on Nov 19th, seven at Lode Farm, Kingsley on Dec 1st, six in the usual area of stubble fields on Portsdown Hill on Dec 25th and four at Malthouse Farm, Sleaford on Dec 31st. (JMC)

Skylark (Eurasian Skylark)

Alauda arvensis

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S41, HBAP

Just three flocks of 100 or more were reported in the first half-year, all in January, the highest being 200 at Gander Down on 2nd. No cold weather movements were noted. Very few spring migrants were seen heading north in late March. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 15 over 2km² (13 over 3km²); Farlington Marshes, 31 (11); Martin Down CBC, 16 (16). Breeding season surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 8 and 1 respectively (7 and 2) (see Table 1).

The autumn passage was not strong and better recorded inland with peak numbers occurring as usual through October. The highest daily movement reported was 59 west at Sandy Point on Oct 20th. The minimum half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 17-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	1	63	178	17		
Inland moving	71	263	218	61	18	35

In the second half-year the only three-figure flocks were 100 at Longwood Warren on Oct 3rd and 115 at Malthouse Farm on Dec 31st. The NFWBS produced totals of 2, 29 and 42 in January-March and 38, 4 and none in October-December respectively. (SKW)

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green

A total of six, comprising two each at Fishlake Meadows, Ibsley Water and Lower Test Marshes, was recorded on Mar 8th followed by reports at six sites between 14th and 17th including 20 at Ibsley Water on 14th. Peak spring counts at most sites were in late April or early May with a maximum of 300 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on May 2nd.

Breeding reports were fragmentary but suggest the possibility of a decline. Only about 223 active nests were recorded. The largest numbers of occupied holes/nests were 100 at Lower Test Marshes, 62 at Testwood Lakes, 38 at Becton Bunny and at least 20 at Woolmer SP which has been recolonised. Except for two nests, the large colony at Ibsley Water was abandoned in favour of fresh diggings west of the A338 (number not reported).

Peak counts were in mid-September with 600 at Ibsley Water on 14th, 1,000 there on 15th and 600 at Needs Ore on 18th. The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. Late summer dispersal and migration proper were recorded in two separate pulses, the first in late July on the coast and the second inland in early September (see table). The last record was one at Tweseldown on Oct 18th. (SKW)

	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	June 13-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland	5	21	127	23		9	36	8	218	82	
Coast		8	9		22	267	6	58	49	16	1

Swallow (Barn Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green

Three reached Basingstoke on Mar 17th but the main arrival did not occur until Apr 1st when 28 were reported. No significant breeding counts were received. No autumn roosts were reported either.

The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. Peak autumn passage was recorded both inland and on the coast in the last half of September. High daily movements at this time included 2,506 over Greenhill, Romsey in two hours on 18th, 3,100 east at Sinah Common in just over three hours the same day, 1,595 south at Tweseldown in two hours on 19th and 2,440 west at Sinah Common on 20th. Other large gatherings included 3,000 at Barton on Sea on Aug 30th, 1,000 on wires at Longparish on Sep 18th and 1,500 swirling over Ibsley WM the same day.

Overall numbers compared to previous years were not large at either season but this could be as easily attributed to weather conditions as to any actual change in status. As with other hirundine (and other day-migrant) data, detailed analysis is hampered by inconsistent recording. Observers are encouraged always to indicate when they judge birds to be actively migrating with an indication of direction. Several large counts could not definitively be attributed to actively migrating birds. Final reports comprised 16 in November followed by five singles in December, the last of which was at Titchfield Haven on 13th. (SKW)

	Mar 20-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 16-30	July 1-11	July 12-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-23
Inland	3	152	138	101		26		106	200	620	4,229	10,855	461	188
Coast		121	360	250	23				93	3,440	1,805	10,540	979	216

House Martin (Common House Martin)

Delichon urbicum

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first was not until Mar 28th at Hurst. Only 64 were seen in the first half of April and only seven gatherings over 100 were noted all spring. One observer saw just four at IBM Lake and none at Farlington Marshes all spring. About 70 occupied nests were reported and while this is obviously an underestimate there seems to be widespread consensus among observers that this is yet another species in worrying decline. The Hampshire results of the BTO House Martin Survey in 2015 are given in a separate note in this report and appear to indicate nest densities close to national averages for the selected survey squares.

The autumn passage was also light. Tweseldown has been watched regularly for five years and this year's autumn total of 7,936 was the lowest in that period. Peak passage occurred between the end of August and early October with the largest numbers being recorded between Sep 18th-20th coinciding with large movements of Swallows. Four-figure counts were reported around this time with 1,000 at Barton on Sea on Aug 30th, 1,300 west in two hours at Brownwich on Sep 19th, 2,969 south at Tweseldown the same day and 3,900 south there the next day, 1,750 SW at Trigpoint Hill in 2.7 hours on Sep 25th, 1,000 at Hook-with-Warsash the next day and 1,180 east at Sinah Common on Oct 3rd. After the third week of October the last record was one at Calshot on 31st.

The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-26
Inland	5	115	40	8	7	67	508	1,300	1,723	12,612	1,230	18
Coast	1	5	0	2				1,350	331	8,369	1,347	810

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

In the early year records at non-breeding locations included singles at Ivy Lake, Blashford from October 2014 until Apr 9th, Fleet Pond from Jan 16th-Apr 9th and Baffins Pond, Portsmouth on Jan 30th. Records of territorial males amounted to around 278 but coverage of some stretches of the river valleys was incomplete and full counts were not made at some coastal locations. A total approaching 350 singing males seems likely.

The two principal monitored sites in the county both held record numbers with 65 territories at Titchfield Haven and 40 at Lower Test Marshes compared with 42 and 22 respectively in 2014. The previous highest levels at these sites were in the early 2000s when there were 55 at Titchfield Haven in 2000, 53 there in 2003 and 38 at Lower Test Marshes in 2002. Counts from other coastal sites from east to west (not necessarily complete) amounted to at least 65 as follows: Northney, 1; Conigar Point/Warblington, 1; Langstone Mill Pond, 1; Langstone Harbour north shore, 2; Farlington Marshes, 8 (but 11 singing on Apr 9th); Great Salterns, 1; Milton Common, 7; Hilsea Lines, 1; IBM Lake, 2; Horsea Island, 1; East Gosport, 1 (the first there); Brownwich Stream, 1; Chilling Lane, 1 (Apr 23rd only); Hook-with-Warsash, 5; Eling Great Marsh, 1; Fawley Refinery, 4; Ashlett/Calshot, 5; Lepe, 4; Needs Ore, 5; Lymington River, 3; Lymington-Hurst, 10.

There was partial coverage of the Avon Valley with three territories at Sopley Island, 15 between Avon Causeway and Ringwood, five at Bickton and one at Fordingbridge island. In the Test Valley there were single males at Testwood Lakes, Nursling Mill and Broadlands Estate, at least eight at Fishlake Meadows/Ashley Meadows and a minimum of 44 territories in 18 one km squares between Bossington and Longparish including an estimated 20 in seven one km squares in the Leckford Estate. Additionally, single males were at Overton Lagoons from Mar 8th-June 14th and at Timsbury Lake on May 28th. Coverage of the Itchen Valley

was limited as usual with ten territories at Itchen Valley CP, five between Bishopstoke and Highbridge and no more than nine above this point including two at Alresford Pond. Other singing males were recorded at Baffins Pond on Apr 10th and 29th, Funtley, Meon Valley on Apr 17th (considered a regular territory) and Sherborne St. John SW on Apr 29th and 30th.

Post-breeding reports from non-breeding locations included singles at Bilcombes Pond, Fawley from Aug 25th-Sep 2nd and nearby at Mopley Pond on Aug 31st, Dark Lane Pond from Sep 27th-Oct 4th, Riverside Park, Southampton from Sep 30th-Nov 13th, Lakeside, Eastleigh from Oct 19th-Dec 2nd (the second ever there), Fleet Pond from Oct 24th-Dec 30th, West Hayling LNR on Dec 3rd, Sowley Marsh on Dec 13th and Ivy Lake on Dec 17th. (JMC)



Cetti's Warbler, Baffins Pond, Apr 6th (Russell Tofts)

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Numerous resident.

Green

In the early year the only count in excess of 20 was 27 at Testwood Lakes on Feb 17th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 16 (20); Longmoor Inclosure, 9 (1); Lower Test Marshes, 11 (6). Post-breeding season and autumn counts of 20 or more were received from ten sites with maxima of 29 at Fleet Pond on June 15th, 30 at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 11th and 30 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 16th. Notable numbers were also recorded in the late year with 66 at Ober Heath, NF on Oct 20th, 60 at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 2nd and 40 at Weston Shore on Dec 27th. (KBW)

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Very scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor, most frequent in autumn, but recorded in every month from September to April. (0,95,9)

An average showing this year although many fewer than the 16 reported in 2014. Apart from the winterer in December all others occurred in the period from Oct 8th-Nov 12th, including one trapped and ringed at Southampton Common. All records are given below.

Shipton Bellinger: Oct 8th (JH)

Harestock: heard, Oct 11th (DJP)
 Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham: heard, Oct 15th (PNMR)
 Lepe CP: heard, Oct 15th (PFF)
 Southampton Common: trapped and ringed, Oct 30th (AW)
 Danes Stream, Milford on Sea: Oct 31st-Nov 1st (TJP et al.)
 Riverside Park: Nov 3rd (DM)
 Itchen Stoke: Nov 12th (DJH)
 Eastleigh SW: Dec 20th into 2016 (DJU et al.)

It is understood that several additional sightings have not been submitted: observers are urged to report all occurrences. (KFB)



Yellow-browed Warbler, Eastleigh Sewage Works, Dec 28th (Steve Bassett)

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Scarce and declining summer visitor now largely confined to the New Forest.

Red

The first for the year were two singing males in Knightswood Inclosure, NF on Apr 16th. Reports were received from four other New Forest sites by the end of the month with four being recorded in Bolderwood on 25th. The majority of territorial males had arrived by early May with the species being widely reported across the National Park. Elsewhere single migrants were at Old Alresford on Apr 18th, Braishfield on Apr 24th, a ringed male at Sandy Point on Apr 27th, Chineham on Apr 30th, South Warnborough on May 4th, Roke Park, Crondall on May 9th and South Ham, Basingstoke on May 10th. Most of these were singing males which typically moved on after the initial sighting.

As usual obtaining accurate numbers of pairs present in the New Forest was difficult due to the varied level of reporting by observers. However, the overall perception is that fewer were present with an estimated 66 pairs/singing males at 31 localities (cf. 85 at 35 in 2014). All but three of these were in the traditional area north-west of the A35 with the main concentration being between Bolderwood and Acres Down. The only report in the eastern part of the

Forest was of at least one singing in Denny Wood between May 11th and June 5th. Whether this scarcity reflects a genuine decrease or just under-reporting is uncertain. It would be useful if observers could give six-figure grid references when reporting Wood Warblers.

The final report from the New Forest was two at Acres Down on July 10th. This was the last sighting of the year with none being noted on autumn passage anywhere in the county. (KBW)

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff)

Phylloscopus collybita

Common Chiffchaff†

Phylloscopus collybita collybita

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.

Green

In January-February there were reports totalling approximately 156 at 65 sites, a notable increase on the 66 at 32 sites recorded in 2014. Unprecedented numbers were present at Eastleigh SW where there was a total of 249 bird-days on twelve dates between Jan 4th and Feb 21st. In January there was a build-up from 18 on 4th to 26 on 11th peaking at an amazing 49 on 17th. This is the largest gathering of wintering Chiffchaffs ever recorded in the county (DJU). Numbers decreased thereafter but 25 were still present on Feb 1st and 16 on 8th. Elsewhere the highest counts were six at Ivy Lake, Blashford on Jan 8th and Hawley Meadows on Feb 20th.

The first migrants appeared to arrive in early March although this is hard to ascertain due to wintering birds being so widespread. Reports increased from 6th onwards with the arrival of singing males and the species was widespread by the middle of the month. The first double-figure counts were on Mar 17th when 13 were at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, 12 at Lower Test Marshes and ten at Hook-with-Warsash. The following day 12 were at Sandy Point with the same number along the River Itchen at Mansbridge. The highest March counts were 19 at Testwood Lakes on 19th and 15 at Winchester SF on 20th. Passage continued in April but by this time the majority were already holding territory.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Blackbushe Airfield, 19; Blashford Lakes, 9 (9); Butser Hill, 14; Farlington Marshes, 1 (2); Itchen Valley CP, 76 (55); Longmoor Inclosure, 31 (22); Lower Test Marshes, 17 (16); Ludshott Common, 23 (30); Martin Down CBC, 23 (20); Titchfield Haven, 35 (30); Yateley Common, 34. The species is common in the New Forest but very little information regarding density was received.

Large numbers were recorded during the autumn migration period, especially between mid-September and the first week of October. At Titchfield Haven 522 were trapped between July 7th and Nov 25th with a peak of 64 on Oct 3rd. At Blashford Lakes there were 283 bird-days between July 25th and Oct 3rd, with a peak of 25 on Sep 4th and 7th, while at IBM Lake there were 237 bird-days between July 31st and Nov 23rd with a peak of 25 on Oct 2nd and 17th. Daily counts in excess of 20 included 55 at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 7th with 23 there on Oct 2nd, 50 along the Titchfield Canal Path on Sep 17th, 60 at Needs Ore on Sep 18th with 30 there on Sep 26th and 40 at Sinah Common and 30 at Brownwich on Oct 3rd. Most of the above are coastal sites but good numbers were also reported inland with at least 20 at both Dogmersfield Lake on Sep 6th and West Meon on Oct 7th.

Reports in November-December totalled 142 at 66 sites, a small decrease compared to last year's total of 152 at 75 sites. Although not at the same level as the early-year, high numbers were once again present at Eastleigh SW with monthly maxima of 21 on Nov 23rd and 19 on Dec 23rd. Also 13 were ringed there on Nov 28th. At least 13 were at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 12th with up to seven there during December. Five were at Blashford Lakes on Nov 29th and seven at Shepherd's Meadow, Blackwater on Dec 29th. (KBW)

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 2009: 11,6)

Six records. In the first half-year one was present at Eastleigh SW from Jan 4th-Feb 9th (DJU, MGP, JR) and one was at Blashford Lakes near the Visitor Centre on Jan 21st (EJB). In the second half-year one was present along the Titchfield Canal Path near Bridge Street car park from Nov 22nd-Dec 23rd (m.o.). A second individual was seen nearby at Titchfield Haven LNR on Dec 4th and then between 21st and 30th (m.o.). One observer saw both birds 2.5km apart on Dec 4th (BSD). There was also one at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 4th (SC) and 11th (PDW) and one at Eastleigh SW again from Dec 20th into 2016 (DJU, MLE). (MLC)

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first for the year was one at Heath Warren on Mar 17th followed by one at Eastoke the next day. However, it was a generally late arrival with reports of singing males from only another five sites by the end of the month. The main arrival was from Apr 5th with the first double-figure counts being 15 at Sandy Point and 12 at Cadnam Common on Apr 13th and 20 at Sinah GP on 14th. Moderate spring passage was noted at Sandy Point where there were 84 bird-days between Apr 6th and May 7th, but this was noticeably lower than the 122 recorded in the same period in 2014.

As usual the only significant counts received during the breeding season came from the north-east. Counts of territories included 32 at Yateley Common (35 in 2014), 24 at Ludshott Common (26 in 2014), 17 at Longmoor Inclosure (19 in 2014), 11 at Hazeley Heath (11 in 2014) and 13 at Blackbushe Airfield (eight in 2014). The species is common in the New Forest but the only double-figure count received was 20 at Cadnam Common on Apr 21st. All of the above are heathland sites but an example of how the species has declined in woodland habitat is illustrated by the fact that only one singing male was recorded at Fleet Pond during the breeding season whereas 20-25 were regularly counted there in the late 1970's. An individual giving perfect renditions of both Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff songs plus a mixed song combining both species, was observed at Hawley Meadows on June 26th.

In autumn a total of 142 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 18th and Sep 17th with a peak of 22 on Aug 16th, notably lower than the 268 ringed in 2014. At Sandy Point there were 109 bird-days between July 27th and Sep 14th with a peak of 20 on Aug 15th, while at Chilling there was a total of 103 bird-days between Aug 1st and Sep 6th with a maximum of 25 on Aug 16th. Double-figure counts were also received from Blashford Lakes, Martin Down, Old Winchester Hill and Ranville's Lane, Fareham. Numbers continued to be reported throughout September with the last for the year being at Hook-with-Warsash on 27th. (KBW)

Blackcap (Eurasian Blackcap)†

Sylvia atricapilla

A numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.

Green

During January-March there were reports of approximately 75 at 56 different sites, most of which were in gardens. This is far fewer than the 137 at 73 localities in the same period last year but is in line with numbers recorded in November-December 2014. All reports were between one and three except for four at Drayton, Portsmouth on Jan 17th and four at Chandler's Ford on Jan 26th, both sites being gardens.

The first true spring migrants were hard to pick out from over-wintering birds but the likely first returns appeared in late March with singing males at Titchfield Haven on 26th and Lakeside, Eastleigh and Hill Head on 27th. The first double-figure count was 21 singing males at Itchen Valley CP on Apr 12th. Other April counts of ten or more were 17 at Lower Test Marshes on 15th, ten at Lepe and IBM Lake both on 18th, 15 at Botley Wood on 19th and ten at Milton Common on 23rd. The last count was a small fall but by this time most birds were back at breeding sites.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Blashford Lakes, 13 (8); Burton Common, 10; Blackbushe, 14; Butser Hill, 10 (13); Farlington Marshes, 7 (6); Hazeley Heath, 27; Itchen Valley CP, 68 (75); Lepe, 10; Longmoor Inclosure, 14 (14); Lower Test Marshes, 26 (33); Martin Down CBC, 19 (16); Noar Hill, 10; Titchfield Haven, 24 (17); Weston Common, 11. The species remains common in suitable habitat throughout the county.

Although there were ten at Calshot on Aug 20th, autumn passage did not appear to really commence until early September when 14 were at Lepe on 4th and 15 at Chilling the following day. At Titchfield Haven a total of 973 was ringed between July 3rd and Nov 8th with peaks of 140 on Sep 13th and 106 on Oct 3rd. Nearby an exceptional count of at least 150 was reported from along the Titchfield Canal Path on Sep 17th when 'every bush held a Blackcap'. Other counts in September included 15 at Hook-with-Warsash on 7th, 17 at Lower Test Marshes on 17th, 15 at Needs Ore on 18th, 38 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on 19th, 40 at Sandy Point on 26th and 17 at Itchen Valley CP on 27th. At IBM Lake there were 173 bird-days between July 31st and Nov 23rd. Numbers in October were much reduced with no counts of more than ten after 3rd.

Only approximately 45 were recorded at 32 sites during November-December compared with 76 at 43 localities in the same period in 2014, many of these once again being in gardens. All reports were of one to three except for four at Badger Farm, Winchester on Nov 14th. It is unclear if this is a genuine reduction in over-wintering presence or whether observers have become blasé about Blackcaps in their gardens and are just not bothering to report them.

Data from BTO Garden BirdWatch showed between one and eight in the first three months of the year as follows (number of gardens, peak count in parentheses): January (204, 8), February (221, 5), March (220, 5). As well as higher peak counts, the numbers of gardens were much higher than the totals for the same periods in 2014 (96) or 2013 (142). However, at the end of the year numbers were much lower as follows: November (45, 3), December (44, 3). These are less than the same period in 2014 (63) or 2013 (60). Out of 347 Hampshire gardens, 185 reported Blackcaps at least once similar to last year (181). The monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 19.0% in February to a low of 2.5% in October rising to 5.6% in December (see Table 3). This pattern is similar to last year and again demonstrates the reliance on garden feeders in the winter months. (KBW)

Garden Warbler†

Sylvia borin

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

Green

The first for the year was one singing at West Walk on Apr 10th followed by singles at Abbotstone on 14th and Woolmer Pond on 15th. The main arrival was from Apr 17th with the species being widely reported by the end of the month. As usual there was very little evidence of spring passage. In particular, with the exception of several recorded at Titchfield Haven, the species was almost non-existent at coastal localities with the only reports during April and May being of singles at Lepe CP, Hook-with-Warsash and Farlington Marshes.

During the breeding season there were records of approximately 261 singing males/pairs at 125 widespread localities, this being a significant increase on the number reported in 2014 but again possibly just reflecting the import of a higher number of BirdTrack records. Notable counts of singing males included 19 at Binswood (12 in 2014), 11 at Blashford Lakes (13 in 2014) and ten at Blackbushe, Ludshott Common and on the Hampshire side of Eversley GP. The species appears to be commonest in the north-east but throughout the county during the breeding season the vast majority of sites only contained one or two territories.

In autumn a total of 44 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 29th and Sep 19th with a peak of 12 on Aug 18th. As usual numbers on autumn passage were low with no daily count at an individual site exceeding three. At Hook-with-Warsash/Chilling there were 29 bird-days between Aug 1st and Sep 7th; at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham there were 18 bird-days

between Aug 2nd and Sep 13th; at Blashford Lakes there were 15 bird-days between July 25th and Aug 29th; while at Sandy Point there were eight bird-days between Aug 12th and Sep 17th. The last for the year was one at Eastleigh SW on Sep 24th. (KBW)

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Rare vagrant. (0,10,1)

One record. A juvenile was trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven on Sep 8th and re-trapped on 10th (BSD, photo, see p. 189). This is the eleventh record for Hampshire, the last being in 2007. (KFB)

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded four times in winter. Green

The first for the year was one at Casbrook Common on Apr 15th. The main arrival was from Apr 18th with individuals being noted at a further 20 sites by the end of the month. As is usually the case with this somewhat solitary species, all records of presumed migrants were of one to two individuals.

Owing to the unobtrusive nature of the species, with many individuals being reported on one date only, calculating potential breeding numbers is difficult. However, the general impression is that numbers were very similar to the previous year with reports of singing males totalling 79 at 58 localities (88 at 58 in 2014). The sites where the species was most often encountered were Farlington Marshes, where a full survey located seven territories/pairs, and Martin Down, where there were at least six singing males on June 4th. Elsewhere three territories were confirmed at Lower Test Marshes but no other site held more than one or two singing males.

Post-breeding dispersal was evident from early August but as usual recorded numbers were low. The highest bird-day totals were 19 at Farlington Marshes (peak four, Aug 16th) and 13 at Calshot (daily max. three). This is one species that rarely turns up in the mist-nets at Titchfield Haven with only four ringed between Aug 28th and Sep 26th. Four were at Stansore Point, Lepe on Aug 31st, while two with a tit flock at Fleet Pond on Aug 23rd were unusual at this site. There were daily records throughout September followed by records of one or two at Farlington Marshes and Needs Ore during the first two days of October with the last on 2nd. However, seven weeks later there was a potential winterer at Eastleigh SW on Nov 22nd which appeared to be the nominate subspecies *curruca*, the usual form found in the UK (DJU). There have been nine previous records of late autumn migrants/over-wintering individuals in the county between November and March. (KBW)

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

Sylvia communis

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded three times in winter. Green

The first for the year was a singing male at Posbrook Flood on Apr 6th followed by one at Farlington Marshes on Apr 8th. The main arrival was from Apr 14th with the species becoming widely reported over the next few days. The first significant counts were all from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with six on Apr 18th, nine on 20th and ten on 23rd. Elsewhere 15 were at Milton Common on 23rd and eight at Lepe on 26th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 12 (8); Farlington Marshes, 25 (12); Itchen Valley CP, 49 (45); Lower Test Marshes, 10 (9); Martin Down CBC, 21 (15); Pennington Marshes, 15. The breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 76 and 67 territories respectively, virtually identical to the totals reported in 2014 although not all sites were covered (see Table 1). The total at the eight sites covered in both years showed a very slight decrease from 119 to 117.

The localities with the highest counts were Ludshott Common, 37 (40 in 2014) and Yateley Common, 35 (28 in 2014).

Return passage began in early August and remained steady throughout the month. Counts exceeding ten included 25 at Martin Down on 9th, 25 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 12th, 14 at Casbrook Common on 17th, 21 at Chilling on 19th and 25 at Barton-on-Sea on 30th. Several sites consistently recorded high numbers. At Ranvilles Lane, Fareham there were 86 bird-days between Aug 2nd and 30th (max. 16 on Aug 16th), at Calshot there were 75 bird-days between Aug 16th and Sep 20th (max. 23 on Aug 20th) and at IBM Lake there were 65 bird-days between July 31st and Sep 25th. As expected numbers declined in September although there were still 11 at Lower Test Marshes on 17th and ten at Titchfield Haven on 19th. There were three reports of singles in the first three days of October but the last for the year were late individuals at Redbridge on Oct 27th and Sandy Point on Oct 28th. (KBW)

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Moderately common resident, largely confined to heaths of New Forest and north-east but with small numbers in coastal scrub. Highly susceptible to harsh winters. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Early year records at non-breeding sites included presumed long-stayers from 2014 at Crookham Village until Feb 8th, Farlington Marshes until Feb 17th, Itchen Valley CP until Feb 27th and others at Fort Cumberland, Eastney from Jan 13th-Feb 22nd, Bishopstoke on Feb 8th and Testwood Lakes on Feb 22nd. Totals from the NFWBS in January-March were 30, 41 and 62 respectively.

In the north-east numbers continued to recover. On the Thames Basin Heaths SPA there were 107 pairs/singing males at 12 sites compared with 57 at eight sites in 2014. This included the recolonisation of Eversley Common/Castle Bottom with ten territories, where probably they were overlooked in 2014, and Heath Warren with two territories. On the Wealden Heaths the recovery was much slower with only 12 pairs/singing males at three sites compared with five at three sites in 2014. This included the return of two pairs to Longmoor Inclosure for the first time since 2008 but the pair reported at The Warren, Oakhanger in 2014 was not recorded. Details are given in Table 1.

In the New Forest there was only limited systematic breeding season survey work but there were reports from 66 different one km squares. In one which was fully surveyed there were seven territories which was the same as 2012. On the SE periphery of the Forest there were counts of territories as follows: Badminton Common, 2; Blackfield, 3; Calshot, 2; Toms Down, 1.

Counts of territories elsewhere totalled 24 as follows: Alver Valley between Cherque and Browndown South, 3+, but again lack of accurate grid references and confusion over site names makes a precise figure elusive and it may be higher – a full survey of this area is urgently needed; Burton Common, 7, the most ever recorded there; Gilkicker Point, 1; Hook-with-Warsash, 2; Lymington-Hurst, 3+; Needs Ore, 3; Sandy Point, 1. There was also one at Farlington Marshes on June 27th which may have been an early dispersing individual.

Records indicative of post-breeding dispersal included singles at Teg Down GC on Aug 11th, the Stansore/Lepe area on Aug 15th, Oct 20th and 23rd, Cutty Brow near Harewood Forest from Sep 4th-Nov 22nd, Titchfield Haven on Sep 5th and from Oct 17th-Dec 13th (at least 2), Farlington Marshes on Sep 26th, Oct 25th and 31st, Blashford Lakes Centre from Oct 3rd-11th, Paulsgrove Refuse Tip from Oct 3rd-24th and on Nov 22nd, Welshman's Road GP, Mortimer West End on Oct 10th (the first ever there), Hamble Common from Oct 14th-31st, Weston Shore on Oct 15th, Hazeley Heath on Oct 18th and West Wood, Netley on Oct 25th. Totals from the NFWBS in October-December were 124, 63 and 35 respectively. (JMC)

2013 addition: 2 territories at Burton Common.

2008 addition: 3 territories at Burton Common.



Dartford Warbler, top: adult male with juvenile, Beaulieu Heath, June 23rd (Marcus Ward); bottom: adult male, Keyhaven, Dec 7th (Gareth Rees)

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

Scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor; moderately common autumn passage migrant mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven. Red, S4I, HBAP

This year was marginally better than 2014, which had been the worst year on record, but numbers were still at a very low ebb. In spring a minimum of nine reeling males was reported at nine sites but none of these were confirmed as remaining on territory during the breeding season. In the autumn there was a reduction in the number trapped at Titchfield Haven but records of migrants were also received from ten other localities.

The first was one singing at Blackfield on Apr 13th. During April presumed migrants were reeling at Lower Test Marshes on 16th, Milton Common on 23rd, Lifelands, Ringwood on 24th and Keyhaven Marshes on 27th. The only report in May was of one singing in winter wheat just south of Worldham Park GC on 17th. Curiously there were several records in June with reeling males at Lower Test Marshes on 1st, Bratley Water, NF on 19th and 20th, Bransbury Common on 24th to 26th and New Alresford on three dates between June 21st and July 19th. There is no evidence to suggest that any of these individuals actually bred but their presence at least maintains a foothold in the county. There were no records from previous traditional sites in the Itchen Valley or Fishlake Meadows.

In autumn a low total of 135 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 29th and Sep 26th (cf. 341 in 2014) with a peak of 18 on Aug 28th. This decrease was partly due to reduced ringing effort in July but does not wholly account for such a drop in numbers. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Blashford Lakes (trapped) on July 30th, Sway on Aug 2nd, Dibden Bay on Aug 12th, Chilling on Aug 15th, Fishlake Meadows, Romsey on Aug 15th, Calshot on Aug 20th, 25th, and 29th (thought to be different individuals), Needs Ore on Aug 28th, Woolmer Forest on Sep 6th, Black Gutter Bottom on Sep 20th and Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 26th. The last for the year was another individual at Calshot on Sep 29th. (KBW)

Sedge Warbler†

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green

The first for the year were singing males at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and Langstone Technology Park on Apr 9th. Thereafter the species was widely recorded with the first double-figure count being 12 at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 18th. Passage was light as usual at non-breeding localities, e.g. only two individuals were noted at Sandy Point on Apr 14th and 23rd.

During the breeding season approximately 196 singing males were reported from 26 localities (228 at 35 in 2014). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 17 (12); Fishlake Meadows, 20 (14); Itchen Valley CP, 32 (25); Lower Test Marshes, 40 (30); Titchfield Haven, 25 (24). Counts in the Test Valley included seven singing males at Bossington and five at Houghton, but many would have been missed due to the difficulty of access along sections of the major river valleys. As usual the species was particularly scarce in the north-east of the county where the only records were one at Hitches Lane CP, Fleet on Apr 18th, a singing male holding territory at Fleet Pond between Apr 27th and May 23rd and four singing males at Stratfield Saye on May 21st. Two males held territory into June in a bramble patch near Heath Pond, Petersfield but there was no sign of confirmed breeding. One singing from a hedgerow at Martin Down on May 24th was unusual.

In autumn there was a decrease in the number trapped at Titchfield Haven with a total of 799 between July 3rd and Oct 3rd (cf. 1,224 in 2014) with a peak of 70 on Aug 15th. Whether this was due to a poor breeding season nationally is unknown but it is notable that numbers seemed particularly low during autumn migration with no double-figure counts being reported from any other site. The highest count from elsewhere was five at Calshot on Aug 29th. At Sandy Point there were eight records of singles between July 25th and Sep 18th and at IBM Lake there were ten bird-days between July 23rd and Sep 20th. The only records from the

north-east were singles at Tundry Pond on Aug 8th and Sep 6th. There were four records in October with the last being one at Farlington Marshes on 18th. (KBW)

Reed Warbler (Eurasian Reed Warbler)†

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green, HBAP

The first for the year was one that gave a short burst of song at Eastleigh SW on Apr 1st. This equals the earliest ever for Hampshire with the previous individual being one at Lower Test Marshes in 1994. The main arrival was from Apr 10th with records from Ibsley Bridge, Langstone Mill Pond and Hook-with-Warsash. The first double-figure count was not until Apr 29th when 11 were singing at Fishlake Meadows. Reports of migrants at non-breeding sites included one at Yateley Common on May 10th and one singing from scrub at Ackender Wood, Alton on June 4th.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 434 singing males/territories at 39 sites (cf. 395 in 2014). The actual number present in the county must be considerably higher as many will have been missed on privately owned sites along the major river valleys. Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Blashford Lakes, 22 in an incomplete count (24); Farlington Marshes, 43 (21); Fleet Pond, 16 (24); IBM Lake, 20 (23); Itchen Valley CP, 29 (19); Lower Test Marshes, 74 (61); Pennington Marshes, 20; Titchfield Haven, 98 (86).

In autumn 722 were trapped at Titchfield Haven (cf. 695 in 2014) between July 3rd and Oct 26th with a peak of 60 on Aug 7th. Elsewhere the only double-figure count was 11 at Blashford Lakes on Aug 1st. At Sandy Point there were records of single migrants on six dates in August with two on Sep 1st and 3rd. There were still six at Calshot on Sep 6th and four at Fleet Pond on 10th but numbers rapidly declined thereafter. Away from Titchfield Haven the latest were singles at IBM Lake on Sep 30th and Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 31st. (KBW)

Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch)

Sitta europaea

Numerous resident.

Green



Counts of territories in surveyed area were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 4; Itchen Valley CP, 6 (6), Longmoor Inclosure, 5 (3). The only double-figure counts were ten at Ridge and Lythe Hanger, Steep (north-west of Petersfield) on Apr 22nd and 15 at Ober Heath, NF on Nov 22nd. (WGDL)

Nuthatch, Blashford Lakes, Feb 24th (John Wichall)

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper)

Certhia familiaris

Numerous resident.

Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, a partial survey revealed 3 (7); Longmoor Inclosure, 13 (11). Records were received from a further 14 sites during the breeding season. Outside of the breeding season no count exceeded three. (WGDL)

Wren (Eurasian Wren)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Abundant resident.

Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas suggested a continued increase across the county as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Blashford Lakes, 26; Farlington Marshes, 18 (6); Fleet Pond, 20 (18); Longmoor Inclosure, 114 (99); Lower Test Marshes, 115 (90); Martin Down CBC, 12 (13); Titchfield Haven, 129 (118), the latter a new site record. Other notable submissions in the breeding season were 45 including juveniles at Black Wood, Micheldever on June 30th, 41 at Itchen Valley CP on May 17th, 33 at Ower Farm, Upham on June 21st and a pair with six fledged young at Headley Park on June 3rd. (WGDL)



Wren, New Forest, Apr 3rd (Martin Clay)

Starling (Common Starling)

Sturnus vulgaris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Numbers were generally down versus 2014 primarily due to a significant drop in large roost counts from the Avon Valley at both ends of the year. In the early winter period the only flock to exceed three figures was 3,000 roosting at Redbridge on Feb 6th. A further 14 sites recorded three-figure flocks in January and February with the largest counts in the south-west including 500 SW over East End, Sowley on Jan 6th, 400 SW over Trigpoint Hill on Jan 27th, 600 at East Boldre, NF on Feb 12th and 500 at Needs Ore on Feb 17th. Spring passage was light with the only notable movement being 534 over Trigpoint Hill in various directions on eight dates between Mar 10th and Mar 26th including 240 on Mar 22nd. Only five sites recorded three-figure flocks in March including 700 at Hoe Cross on Mar 2nd and 800 roosting at Plastow Green on Mar 17th.

Small post-breeding flocks started to appear from mid-May and June yielded just one three-figure flock of 100 at Needs Ore on 9th. Numbers only started to pick-up in the second half of July and there was a significant increase in August suggesting an influx particularly at the coast. For example, at Farlington Marshes 400 on July 25th (the largest flock at any site in July) had grown to 2,500 by Aug 12th with a similar number still present on Sep 3rd. Other notable flocks at this time included 1,300 at Beaulieu Road, NF on Aug 29th, 550 at

Greenhill, Romsey on Aug 29th increasing to 800 on Sep 4th and 600 at Sinah Common on Aug 22nd. No other flocks exceeded 300 in September suggesting an exodus in the first week of September.

Autumn passage was light with movement down 50% on 2014 levels. At the two main inland watch points 3,314 flew mostly NW over Tweseldown between Oct 8th and Nov 30th with peaks of 1,213 on Nov 8th and 703 on Nov 22nd, and 1,863 flew mostly NE over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 5th and Dec 31st with peaks of 202 on Oct 18th and 249 on Oct 27th (see Table 8). Elsewhere inland 578 flew mostly south over Greenhill, Romsey between Sep 5th and Nov 18th, with a peak of 140 on Nov 8th, and 145 flew west over Fleet Pond on Oct 29th. As is traditionally the case, passage at the coast was lighter but concentrated into the last three weeks of November with 600 W/NW over Quayside Road, Southampton on Nov 13th, 500 west at Weston Shore, 393 west at Brownwich and 50 west at Sandy Point on Nov 22nd, a further 50 west at Sandy Point on Nov 25th and 100 NW over Waterloooville on Nov 29th.

The minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 7-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-29
Coast movements	-	-	-	30	600	1,093	-	-
Inland movements	118	31	427	1,420	2,388	1,430	75	29

Roosts and grounded flocks peaked in late October and early November before falling off significantly in December. The highest counts of the autumn were an estimated 5,000 roosting at North Somerley Lake, Blashford on Oct 29th (the only four-figure count submitted from this location in 2015) and 4,000 into roost at Fishlake Meadows on Nov 4th. Other sites where numbers exceeded 300 included 500 at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 19th, 420 at Dogmersfield Park on Nov 3rd, 400 at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 13th and 350 at Cleave Hill on Oct 10th. The only other count of note was 1,400 flying east late afternoon at Arlebury Lakes on Dec 10th heading to roost in the direction of Alresford Pond. No other counts exceeded 250 in December.

Totals of site monthly maxima are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Roosts and grounded flocks (>25)	1,956	4,249	1,840	50	106	150	950	6,219	4,520	9,019	6,555	3,050

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered.

Red, S41

Early in the year a first-winter male was discovered at Bridleway Copse near Selborne on Jan 2nd. Although sometimes elusive it was subsequently seen regularly until Jan 15th (MRL et al.). This is the sixth wintering record for the county with the last at Hillyfields, Nursling on Feb 10th 2006.

In spring at least 20 were recorded on 26 bird-days from 11 sites between Apr 3rd and May 24th, a marked increase on 2014. The bulk of records were in an eight-day window from Apr 8th-16th. The first of the spring was a male at Sandy Point on Apr 3rd followed by records from Beacon Hill, Burghclere (4, three males and a female, Apr 8th; 1, Apr 12th), Havant Thicket (female, Apr 8th), Portsdown Hill (2, male and female, Apr 10th; 4, Apr 13th), Woolmer Pond (male, Apr 13th), Broughton (Apr 13th), Leaden Hall, NF (male, Apr 15th-16th), Farlington Marshes (female, Apr 23rd-28th; 2, Apr 25th), Welshmans Road GP, Mortimer West End (female, Apr 25th) and Norman Court Lane, Andover (Apr 26th). In May the only report was of a female again at Welshmans Road GP, Mortimer West End on May 23rd-24th with the observer speculating that this was the same individual seen at this site on Apr 25th.

Autumn produced a minimum of 48 bird-days involving 34+ individuals from 17 sites, slightly above average but well short of 2014's impressive numbers. The first of the autumn was a first-winter at Beacon Hill, Burghclere on Sep 27th. There were no other records until an influx occurred between Oct 8th-11th involving a minimum of 23 individuals at 11 widespread sites including at least ten in the Leaden Hall and Black Gutter Bottom area, NF on Oct 9th reducing to three on Oct 10th and singles on several dates there until Oct 24th. Other sites involved in this influx were as follows: Barton on Sea (female east, Oct 8th), Hook-with-Warsash (male/first-winter, Oct 8th), Brownwich (2, male and first-winter, Oct 8th; single, Oct 9th), East Meon (Oct 9th-11th), Portsdown Hill (first-winter, Oct 9th), Marchwood (first-winter, Oct 10th), Trigpoint Hill (1 NE, Oct 10th), Tweseldown (male, Oct 11th) and Old Winchester Hill (2, male and first-winter, Oct 11th-14th). Thereafter there was a scattering of records through to the end of October as follows: Hook-with-Warsash (2 N with Redwings, Oct 12th; female Oct 27th), Lymington-Hurst (Oct 17th), Testwood Lakes (Oct 18th), Kings Garden/Milkham Inclosure, NF (2, Oct 20th) and Hale Purlieu, NF (Oct 23rd). There were three records in November: Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake (first-winter, Nov 2nd), Trigpoint Hill (2 SW, Nov 3rd) and the last at Lakeside, Eastleigh (first-winter, Nov 16th). (WGDL)

Blackbird (Common Blackbird)

Turdus merula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

There was a significant increase in records for 2015 primarily due to the inclusion of more BirdTrack data. In the January-March period two-figure counts were recorded at 47 sites including 38 in an observer's garden in Petersfield on Jan 2nd, 36 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Feb 8th, 50 at Rockford Common, NF on Feb 15th and 40 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 28th. The NFWBS produced totals of 256, 376 and 268 in this quarter, an increase of 60% over 2014 levels.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 17 (8); Longmoor Inclosure, 75 (62); Lower Test Marshes, 52 (45); Martin Down CBC, 12 (13); Titchfield Haven, 25 (22). The only other report was of 22 territories at Blashford Lakes on May 23rd.

Autumn passage was again light with 33 moving SW/W/NW over Tweseldown between Oct 11th and Nov 22nd, with a peak of 13 NW in 3.5 hours on Nov 8th, and 16 mostly SW at Trigpoint Hill between Oct 8th and Nov 24th. The only other report of movement was three east at Sinah Common on Oct 31st. Only nine sites recorded double-figure counts between September and the end of the year, the highest being 40 at Ibsley Common, NF on Nov 22nd, 60 at Ober Heath, NF also on Nov 22nd and 50 at Priddy's Hard, Gosport on Dec 11th. The NFWBS produced 208, 286 and 249 in October-December, a 20% decline over the corresponding months in 2014. (WGDL)

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red

In the early winter period numbers were well below average but remarkably steady from January to mid-March with no notable influx or cold weather movement. Grounded flocks reached three figures at only eight sites in January, six in February and eight in March with the largest numbering 500 at Four Marks on Feb 1st. Other notable grounded flocks included 350 at Cholderton Park on Feb 25th, 300 at Wootton St Lawrence on Mar 11th, 270 at Appleshaw near Andover on Mar 14th and 250 at Bishop's Sutton on Jan 25th. The spring exodus was early and numbers dropped significantly in the last two weeks of March with the last three-figure count being 150 at Thruxton on the early date of Mar 16th. Only seven records were submitted for April including 90 at Hare Warren Farm on Apr 6th and the last, a single, at Kitwood on Apr 26th. The NFWBS produced totals of 357, 307 and 105 in January-March, 50% lower than the corresponding months in 2014.

In autumn the first records were on Oct 14th with a total of 875 from seven sites across the county including 802 W/NW at Weston Shore and 30 at Old Winchester Hill. Reports were widespread thereafter to the end of November but there was a significant decline in December. Diurnal movement was the heaviest for some years (cf. Redwing) with recorded passage over 31,000. Notable movements were recorded on Oct 19th-20th, Nov 3rd and daily between Nov 8th and 22nd including an exceptional passage along the eastern shore of Southampton Water where numbers are typically low. Totals from regular inland watch points were as follows: 3,930 mostly SW or NE at Trigpoint Hill over 28 dates between Oct 15th and Dec 3rd with a peak of 855 NE on Nov 3rd; 3,589 mostly NW at Tweseldown on 34 dates between Oct 16th and Nov 30th representing the best autumn ever at this site with peaks of 933 on Nov 8th and 485 on Nov 22nd; 1,874 mostly south over Greenhill, Romsey on 18 dates between Oct 18th and Nov 22nd with a peak of 760 on Nov 8th. In the Southampton area most watches were made from Weston Shore and the nearby suburbs where an impressive 14,922 flew over mostly NW including the 802 mentioned above on Oct 14th and 14,120 on 16 dates between Nov 8th and 28th with peaks of 720 on 8th, 2,649 on 14th, 2,323 on Nov 16th, 3,449 on 17th, 3,503 on 19th and 475 on 20th. Also at Testwood Lakes 500 flew NW on 8th and 519 flew west on 15th, and at Lower Test Marshes a total of 4,200 mostly SW was recorded on four dates in November with a peak of 500 on 21st. Elsewhere, 450 flew north over Hill Head on 21st. (See Table 8 and separate paper in this report, p. 221, giving more details of this movement).

Grounded flocks reached three figures at 11 sites in October and 17 sites in November including 1,250 at Millersford Bottom, NF on Oct 23rd, 500 at Turf Hill Inclosure, NF on Oct 29th, 500 at Broomy Plain on Nov 3rd, 595 at Itchen Valley CP on Nov 18th, 1,000 at Sotherington Farm, Selborne on Nov 22nd and 500 at Overton on Nov 24th. In contrast just four sites recorded three-figure flocks in December with the highest count being 120 at Cheesefoot Head on Dec 28th. The NFWBS produced totals of 2,694, 468 and 630 in October-December. BTO Garden BirdWatch produced records in up to seven gardens in the first winter period rising from four in October to 23 and 15 in November and December respectively with a maximum count of 60 at Upper Farringdon in w/c Nov 8th. Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGD/LJ/MC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	2,229	2,207	2,292	138			4,594	5,739	1,397
Movements	109	36	9				3,005	28,217	103

Song Thrush†

A numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Turdus philomelos

Red, S4I, HBAP

In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at nine sites, five of these in a four-day period between Feb 5th-8th suggesting an influx including 25 at Itchen Navigation-Mansbridge on 5th, 30 at Longwood Warren working their way north up the valley in small groups on 7th and 23 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on 8th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes 8; Itchen Valley CP, 60 (44); Longmoor Inclosure, 18 (17); Lower Test Marshes, 10 (11); Martin Down CBC, 3 (6); and Titchfield Haven, 7 (11). Other notable counts in the breeding season included 21 at Southleigh Forest near Rowlands Castle on Apr 26th, 20 at Botley Woods on Apr 28th and 20 (13 territories) at Blashford Lakes on May 10th.

Autumn passage was recorded at Tweseldown with 146 NW on 43 dates between Sep 23rd and Nov 23rd, with a peak of 35 NW on Oct 14th, and 87 mostly NE at Trigpoint Hill on 19 dates between Sep 28th and Nov 26th. Elsewhere 17 flew west over Fleet Pond in a 90 minute period on Oct 15th. The only grounded count of the autumn to exceed ten was 18 at Ober Heath, NF on Nov 22nd.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements		2	2				8	184	62	-

Redwing†

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Turdus iliacus

NT, Schedule 1, Red

As with Fieldfare numbers were below average from January to mid-March. Grounded flocks reached three figures at only seven sites in January and February and four in March with the largest count of 800 at Four Marks on Feb 1st (cf. Fieldfare). Other notable grounded flocks included 340 at Denmead on Jan 31st, 300 at Binsted on Jan 18th and 250 at Crookham Village on Jan 19th. Like Fieldfare the spring exodus was early and numbers dropped significantly in the last two weeks of March with the last three-figure count of 100 at Kingsley on Mar 20th. Spring passage was light with 127 NE over Trigpoint Hill on seven dates between Mar 10th and Mar 28th and a total of 78 north at Fleet Pond on Mar 22nd and 27th. Only ten records were submitted for April from seven sites including 40 north at Dibden Purlieu on Apr 4th and the last, a single at Bolderwood, NF on the surprisingly early date of Apr 10th. The NFWBS produced totals of 694, 775 and 146 in January-March averaging 35% higher than the corresponding months in 2014.

The first of the autumn flew south over North Baddesley on Sep 11th equalling the earliest ever from 1999. There was then a wait of 11 days to the next when 40 flew SW over Bitterne Park and four were at Old Winchester Hill on 22nd. A widespread scattering of records followed but the main arrival started only in mid-October and diurnal passage was exceptionally heavy thereafter through to the end of the third week of November (cf. Fieldfare) numbering around 84,000. The first two waves took place between Oct 12th-19th and Oct 22nd-27th with the majority of October's movement observed at inland watch points. However, the largest movement of the autumn was more drawn out from Nov 8th-Nov 22nd and was increasingly focussed around Southampton Water as the month progressed. Totals from the regular inland watch points were as follows: 13,727 NW at Tweseldown on 51 dates between Sep 27th and Nov 30th (the second highest total ever for this site) with peaks of 3,145 on Oct 15th and 1,213 on Nov 8th; 12,430 mostly SW over Greenhill, Romsey on 21 dates between Oct 8th and Nov 28th with peaks of 1,985 on Nov 8th and 1,788 on Nov 18th; 8,792 over Trigpoint Hill on 35 dates between Oct 4th and Dec 5th with peaks of 1,260 SW on Nov 10th and 1,320 NE on Nov 21st; 1,723 W at Fleet Pond on three dates with a peak of 1,510 on Oct 15th. At Weston Shore and nearby watchpoints there was a minimum of 6,195 mostly NW on six dates between Oct 2nd and 21st including 5,967 on 14th, and 20,835 mostly NW on 15 dates between Nov 8th and 23rd with peaks of 4,885 on 16th, 3,940 on 17th and 4,800 on 19th. At Testwood Lakes peaks of 3,000 NW were recorded on Nov 8th, 1,481 west on 15th and 832 on 22nd, and at Lower Test Marshes a total of 13,000 was recorded over four dates in November with a peak of 3,000 NW on 21st. Elsewhere, the only count to exceed 500 was 862 ESE over Farley Mount on Oct 24th. (See Table 8 and separate paper in this report, p. 221, giving more details of this movement).

Grounded and roosting flocks were in more modest proportions at this time with three or four-figure counts being recorded from nine sites in October and 14 in November including 1,240 roosting at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 26th rising to 3,100 on Nov 4th, 650 at Broomy Plain, NF on Nov 3rd, 488 at Blackwater Arboretum, NF on Nov 9th, 400 at Stoney Cross Plain, NF on Oct 27th, 380 roosting at Fleet Pond on Nov 4th-7th and 340 at Itchen Valley CP on Nov 8th. Numbers dropped significantly in the last week of November and December yielded just seven sites where counts reached three figures including 300 at Bolderwood, NF on Dec 23rd and 220 at Fritham Plain, NF on Dec 20th. The NFWBS produced totals of 691, 929 and 783 in October-December. BTO Garden BirdWatch produced records in ten

or more gardens in January (20), February (12), March (14), November (36) and December (32) with a maximum count of 54 at Shedfield in w/c Feb 15th.

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL/JMC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	3,233	3,519	1,659	20			11	4,298	7,845	2,269
Movements	39	239	240	40			78	22,940	60,848	185

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Red

In the early year the only double-figure count was 12 at Avington Park on Jan 14th. The NFWBS produced totals of 61, 114 and 85 in January-March, an average 22% higher than the corresponding months in 2014.

In the breeding season, counts of territories were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 7 (3); Longmoor Inclosure, 3 (2). No territories were reported this year from Titchfield Haven. Elsewhere successful breeding was confirmed at Danebury, Hurstbourne Park, Leckford, Southampton Old Cemetery and Stockbridge Down with the first fledged young seen on May 11th. Post-breeding flocks started to appear from mid-June onwards and double-figure flocks were recorded from 15 sites between mid-June and the end of September including 37 at Trigpoint Hill on June 23rd, 35 at Cholderton Park on Sep 17th and 33 at Kingsclere on Sep 9th.

Autumn movement was light at the main inland watch points with 55 SW or NE at Trigpoint Hill on 23 dates between Sep 1st and Nov 28th, 42 mostly NW at Tweseldown on 22 dates between Oct 4th and Nov 30th and 39 mostly south at Greenhill, Romsey on 13 dates between Aug 25th and Nov 8th. Double-figure flocks were reported from seven sites in the period October-December (versus none in 2014) including 28 at Old Winchester Hill on Oct 28th, 21 at Latchmore Bottom, NF on Oct 8th and 20 at Bishops Dyke, NF on Oct 31st. The NFWBS produced totals of 102, 65 and 63 in October-December, an average 6.5% lower than the corresponding months in 2014.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements	4	2				19	9	25	69	27	

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S4I, HBAP

The first of the spring was at Blackwater, Needs Ore on Apr 28th followed by singles at Sir George Staunton CP, Havant on May 1st and Bolderwood, NF on May 5th. Arrivals were widespread from May 7th onwards and included four at IBM Lake on May 9th.

Breeding season records from the New Forest, the county stronghold, produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable breeding habitat from 46 locations with breeding success reported from seven sites. Elsewhere pairs or singing males were reported from 19 other sites (18 sites in 2014). Successful breeding was confirmed at Bere Mill (Whitchurch), Buriton, Fleet Pond, Hockley (Winchester), Longparish, Springhead (Greywell), Stoke Park Wood (Bishopstoke), Stratfield Saye and The Vyne.

Migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from Aug 8th onwards with the heaviest passage evident in the period from Aug 22nd to Sep 19th. Autumn counts at well-watched sites included Old Winchester Hill with 73 bird-days on 24 dates between Aug 8th and Sep 28th (peak 13, Aug 29th), Itchen Valley CP with 45 bird-days on 15 dates between Aug 11th and Sep 24th (peak 10, Sep 6th), IBM Lake with 22 bird-days on ten dates between Aug 14th

and Oct 2nd (peak 5, Sep 19th), Hook-with-Warsash with 22 bird-days on 13 dates between Aug 2nd and Sep 19th (peak 5, Aug 2nd) and Lower Test Marshes with 16 bird-days on ten dates between Aug 25th and Oct 2nd (peak 3, Aug 31st and Sep 17th). The highest counts from other locations were as follows: eight at Ober Water, NF on Aug 29th, eight at Cadnam Common, NF on Sep 1st and eight at Northney Paddocks on Sep 19th. The last of the year were singles at IBM Lake and Lower Test Marshes on Oct 2nd. (WGDL)

Robin (European Robin)

Erithacus rubecula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 18; Longmoor Inclosure, 122 (109); Lower Test Marshes, 61 (55); Martin Down CBC, 10 (13); Titchfield Haven, 39 (45).

Other notable counts included Warblington Castle Farm (45, Jan 13th; 39, Mar 17th and 40, 24th), Rockford Common (46, Feb 15th; 35, Mar 14th), Blackhamsley Hill, NF (30, Mar 14th), Waterlooville (32, Apr 13th) and Ibsley Common (57, Oct 25th; 30, Nov 22nd).

At Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake, of 22 counts fairly evenly spread between March and November, four (two in April, two in June) were between 11 and 14 and 17 were between 20 and 30 with a peak of 33 on May 10th. At Titchfield Haven 83 were ringed between July 3rd and Oct 31st with a noticeable arrival of migrants in mid-October.

BTO Garden BirdWatch showed records from all 347 (100%) gardens in Hampshire. Double-figure counts of 11 and 15 came from only two gardens; not surprising for this highly territorial species. (APW)

Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.

Red, HBAP

The first was heard singing briefly in poor weather at Casbrook Common on Apr 11th followed by singing males at Needs Ore and Blackfield on Apr 13th. Further presumed migrants included two grounded by fog at Brownwich on Apr 14th and singles heard at West Wellow on 16th, Sandy Point on 20th, Setley Plain, NF on 28th, Cygnet Court, Fleet during a shower on 29th and Old Winchester Hill on May 4th.

Records of presumed territorial birds totalled 26 pairs/singing males, as tabulated below, compared with 33 in 2014 and 66 during the 2012 national survey.

	2014	2015		2014	2015
Blackfield/Badminster Common/Toms Down	2	2	Funtley Landfill Site		1
Blackbushe Airfield/Yateley Common	1	2	Needs Ore	1	1
Bossington		2	Nursling GP		1
Botley Wood area	7	8	Romsey/Timsbury area	6	4
Bramshill Plantation	2	1	West Walk	1	1
Calshot/Ashlett Creek	3	1	West Wood, Netley		1
Cowplain/Dunsbury Hill Farm		1			

A female trapped at Blackfield on May 11th was retrapped on Aug 7th indicating presence throughout the breeding season. Post-breeding season records came from Blashford Lakes (1, Aug 11th), Titchfield Haven (1, Aug 17th), Warren Heath (1, Sep 8th) and Northney Paddocks where one was flushed on the late date of Sep 19th. (APW/JMC)

Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica

Rare passage migrant (0,30,1)

One record. A first-winter male was photographed along the Ancient Highway at Keyhaven Marshes at 12:00 on Oct 26th but was not seen again (RC, photo). (KFB)

Pied Flycatcher (European Pied Flycatcher)

Ficedula hypoleuca

Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995.

Red

Eight singles were reported in spring – a big improvement on the single spring record in 2014. They were at Sinah (Apr 13th); Riverside Park, Southampton (Apr 13th); Forton, Longparish (Apr 16th); Portsdown Hill (Apr 17th); Chandlers Ford (Apr 20th); Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (Apr 20th); Baffins Pond (Apr 29th) and Lower Pennington Lane (May 8th).

The first return was on Aug 1st at Redenham Park followed by 14 other August sightings at Ferny Knap (8th), Yateley Common (12th), Sandy Point (13th, 14th and 25th), Acres Down (15th), Roydon Woods (16th), Chilling (16th), Swaythling (28th), Northney Paddocks (29th) and South Warnborough (29th). Six records followed in September at Sandy Point (2nd and 12th), Bitterne Park (2nd), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (4th), Dogmersfield Lake (6th) and Baddesley Common (12th). (APW)



Male Pied Flycatcher, Forton, Longparish, Apr 16th (Martin Clay)

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochrurus

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Red

Early year records from Fawley Power Station area were a female present from Jan 5th-Feb 18th and one to two males between Jan 7th and Mar 25th. At Southampton a single male was present on fourteen dates between Jan 2nd and Feb 9th at Royal Victoria CP, a male was at the City Centre from Jan 12th-18th and at St. Denys one took mealworms from a garden feeder for at least a week in early February. At Priddy's Hard, Gosport there were reports on ten dates between Jan 20th and Mar 7th with an adult male and immature male on Jan 19th and an adult male and female on Jan 25th. A male was at Portsmouth Naval Base on Jan 20th and one was later seen and heard singing there three times in the first two weeks of May. Singles were reported at Calshot on Feb 8th and 15th (a male and female on Feb 10th). At Sandy Point singles were reported on three dates between Mar 16th and Apr 3rd with

two present on Mar 18th. A pair was at Woolmer Forest on Mar 19th. Singles, mostly on one date, were also at a further sixteen sites between Jan 2nd and Apr 21st.

The only report of confirmed breeding came from Winchester Hospital where four young were raised.

The first autumn records, all singles, were in early October at Longwood Warren (3rd), Black Gutter Bottom/Leaden Hall (9th) and Charity Down Farm (10th) followed by 16 reports from 12 sites between Oct 22nd and 31st – all singles apart from two at Sandy Point and two at Southampton Western Docks. November records – 20 reports from 15 sites were fairly evenly spread throughout the month. All were singles apart from two at Sandy Point on Nov 26th, two at Lee-on-the-Solent on Nov 8th and a different two there on Nov 10th. December records – all singles – came from Ringwood (Dec 1st), Calshot Castle (male on 13th), Fawley Power Station (a female/immature on 13th, 19th, 23rd and 28th), Marchwood (28th) and Winchester City Centre (29th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	11	9	6	1	2				16	17	5



Male Black Redstart, Leadenhall, Oct 9th (Lee Fuller)

Redstart (Common Redstart)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant. *Amber*

The first arrival was in the New Forest at Poundhill Inclosure on Apr 7th, followed by two at Shatterford Bottom and three at Ravens Nest Inclosure on 9th and one at Bolderwood and two at Denny Wood on 10th. Away from the Forest singles were at Keyhaven Marshes on Apr 8th and Itchen Valley CP, Mingledown Barn, Woolmer Pond and Portsdown Hill on 9th. Thereafter multiple arrivals in the Forest included five at Parkhill Inclosure on Apr 12th,

nine at Shatterford Bottom on 15th, five at Ipley Bridge on 16th, six at Mark Ash Wood on 17th, five at Pig Bush on 22nd, eight at Denny Inclosure on 23rd, 12 at Gritnam Wood on 24th, five at Acres Down on 25th, seven at Broomy Plain on 27th, six at Coopers Hill on 27th, ten at Sloden Inclosure and Tantany Wood both on 28th and five at Cadnam Common on 29th. Away from the Forest one was in a Chandler's Ford garden on Apr 17th and two were at Woolmer Pond on 27th.

There was no systematic breeding survey work undertaken in the New Forest where the species remains common. However, relatively high counts included 21 at Burley Old Inclosure (May 8th), ten at Bishops Dyke (May 17th) and 15 at Acres Down (May 21st). Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of six and 16 territories respectively compared to six and 23 in 2014 but again there was no systematic survey at Woolmer Forest.

Away from the traditional areas possible breeding was noted at Porton Down (May 4th), as in 2014, and Hazel Down (Test Valley) where one was described as ‘agitated but seemingly not in suitable breeding habitat’ (June 27th) and a juvenile was noted in Stoke Park Wood, Bishopstoke (July 30th).

Return passage was evident from Aug 8th when a single was at Needs Ore. In total 303 were recorded – a substantial increase on the 221 in 2014 – with the last on Oct 25th at Sherborne St. John. Sites with relatively high cumulative bird-days during this period included Old Winchester Hill (61), Titchfield Haven and Canal Path (23), Martin Down (19), Itchen Valley CP (15), Hook-with-Warsash (15) and Sandy Point (13).

The approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Inland	6	5	6	57	62	32	6	1
Coast	15	10	3	36	58	33	6	3

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra
Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.
Red, HBAP

The first was at Hitches Lane CP, Fleet on Apr 14th followed by singles at Manor Farm CP (15th), Northney Paddocks, Southampton Airport and Fishlake Meadows (23rd), Farlington Marshes and Long Valley (24th), Itchen Valley CP (25th), Crawley (25th-26th) and three on the Titchfield canal path (26th). There were then 16 more spring records involving 18 birds including the last at Lymington-Hurst on May 27th.

Return migration was noted from July 27th when one was at Lepe CP followed by one at Havant Thicket (Aug 1st), two at Farlington Marshes (7th) and further singles at Stansore Point (8th), Farlington Marshes (9th) and Hook-with-Warsash (10th-11th). Daily records then followed with only two gaps up to Oct 3rd. Notable counts came from Hook-with-Warsash (11, 9 and 10, Aug 23rd, 28th and 29th; 9, 8 and 8, Sep 15th, 17th and 18th), Chilling (10, Aug 27th), Taddiford Gap (13, Aug 30th), Itchen Valley CP (10, Sep 17th) and Titchfield canal path (10, Sep 20th). The last were singles at IBM Lake on Nov 1st and possibly the same bird at nearby Port Solent on the late dates of Dec 3rd-4th.

The approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-22	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	Dec 1-15
Inland	2	7	5			2	42	102	47	2	3	1		1
Coast		10	4	3	1	25	196	189	105	9	3			

Siberian Stonechat

Saxicola maurus

Very rare vagrant. (0,2,1)

A first-winter was discovered at Hook-with-Warsash at 09:30 on Oct 23rd (RHM, DG *et al.*, photo). It was in the company of several Stonechats that were quite aggressive towards it, but remained until the next day. The record has been accepted by BBRC. This is the third record for Hampshire following singles at Titchfield Haven in October 1988 and October 2014. (KFB)



First-winter Siberian Stonechat, Hook-with-Warsash, Oct 23rd (Darryl Gorman)

Stonechat (European Stonechat)

Saxicola rubicola

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

The NFWBS early year totals were 57 in January, 47 in February and, reflecting migrant arrivals, 209 in March.

Systematic breeding season surveys were not undertaken in the New Forest but counts of pairs included nine on heathland near Slufers Inclosure (Mar 18th), nine at Setley Plain (Apr 7th), 12 at Setley Plain (May 12th), five pairs and two single males at Bratley Plain (Apr 24th) and five at Broomy Plain (Apr 27th). Post-breeding season aggregations in the New Forest included 35 at Leaden Hall (Sep 28th), 26 at Broomy Plain (Sep 23rd), 15 at Black Gutter Bottom (Sep 20th), 14 at Ibsley Common (Oct 1st) and 12 at Beaulieu Heath West (June 21st).

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths revealed 56 territories on the former (43 in 2014, 21 in 2013) and 17 on the latter (9 in 2014, 6 in 2013) although Woolmer Forest was again not systematically covered. Elsewhere pairs/singing males (* = breeding confirmed) were reported in April-July at Lower Test Marshes* and Lymington-Hurst*, 4 each; Martin Down, 3; Baddesley Common, 2; Avon Tyrrell WM, Broadlands Estate, Burton Common*, Funtley Landfill Site*, Gipsies Plain (Rowlands Castle), Hamble Common, Hook-with-Warsash*, Ibsley

WM, Pondtail Heath (Fleet)*, Sandford Woods near Kingsclere, Sinah Common*, Meon Canal Path (Titchfield Haven), Welshman's Road GP* and Winchester SF*, 1 each.

Away from the established New Forest and north-east Hants breeding areas, 25 sites (17 coastal) had counts that exceeded five compared to 19 (12 coastal) in 2014. Numbers during the second period included 19 and 17 at Hook-with-Warsash (Sep 27th and Oct 3rd), 12 at Broadlands Lake (Oct 1st), 12 at Longwood Warren (Oct 11th) and 13 at Lower Pennington Lane (Oct 31st). The NFWBS produced totals of 117, 82 and 51 in October, November and December – all relatively low compared to 258, 112 and 104 in 2014.

Monthly totals of birds recorded in various grouped sites in January-March and August-December are tabulated below. (APW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest	57	47	209	42*	133*	117	82	51
Coastal sites	173	113	66	102	363	496	208	174
River valley sites	57	71	25	6	44	131	63	52
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	34	22	44	17	110	27	5	6
Other sites	28	20	23	16	79	73	17	17
Total	349	273	367	183	729	844	375	300

* = casual records only

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)

Oenanthe oenanthe

Common passage migrant; formerly a scarce summer visitor but may not now breed annually.

Green, HBAP

The first, both singles, were at Janesmoor Pond, NF and Vereley Hill on Mar 8th followed by singles at Sandy Point (Mar 9th) and Stoney Cross Airfield (Mar 10th). By the end of the month sightings had been reported from another 24 locations. In March the highest day total was 35 at eight sites on 18th, whilst the highest individual counts were 12 at Sandy Point and six at Farlington Marshes, both on 18th. In April the highest day counts were 57 on 9th including ten at Sinah Common, Farlington Marshes and Sandy Point, 54 on 13th including 17 at Sandy Point and ten at Farlington Marshes, and 51 on 15th spread over 19 sites with the highest count of eight at Hook-with-Warsash. Records continued throughout the first half of May with smaller numbers thereafter, the maximum being five at Sandy Point on 4th. The only June records were singles at Martin Down (4th) and New Lane, Milford on Sea (20th).

The first returning migrant was at Hawley Common on July 15th followed by singles at Lymington-Hurst (18th), Stansore Point (19th), Lepe CP (27th) and Sinah Common/Hayling GC (31st). Singles were noted at three sites on Aug 1st and one on Aug 2nd. Virtually daily records then followed from Aug 8th until the end of October with peak numbers in early to mid-September. Day totals of 30 and above were as follows (totals, sites in parentheses): Aug 15th (30, 11), Sep 1st (40, 7), 2nd (110, 19), 3rd (34, 5), 4th (38, 6), 6th (32, 11), 17th (75, 13) and 19th (32, 8). Double-figure counts in September came from Farlington Marshes (10, 1st; 22, 17th), Lymington-Hurst (14, 2nd), Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (28, 2nd), Hook-with-Warsash (11, 3rd and 12, 17th), Old Winchester Hill (12, 4th) and Sinah Common/Hayling GC (23, 17th; 10, 18th and 12, 20th). The last were singles at Farlington Marshes and Lee-on-the-Solent on Nov 8th.

Five were reported as Greenland race (*leucorhoa*) as follows: Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (Apr 15th and Oct 23rd), South Moor, Langstone Harbour (Apr 23rd), Hurst Castle (Sep 19th) and Lymington-Hurst (Oct 9th).

The approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. Incoming and outgoing numbers were broadly similar to 2014 (incoming: 190 inland, 421 on the coast; outgoing: 201 inland, 805 on the coast). (APW)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	Total
Inland	4	17	79	45	22	1	1		169
Coast	7	56	251	93	44	4		1	456

	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 1-8	Total
Inland	1		7	38	71	23	19	1		160
Coast		9	63	113	310	225	83	35	3	841

Black-eared Wheatear

Oenanthe hispanica

Very rare vagrant (0,1,1)

An adult male of the eastern race (*melanoleuca*) was discovered at Acres Down, NF on the morning of June 13th (GH *et al.*, photo). News was swiftly put out and the bird stayed long enough to allow several hundred birders to see it. The record has been accepted by BBRC (see finder's account, p. 229).

The only previous record was a male of the western race (*hispanica*) at Farlington Marshes on June 5th 1987. An earlier record of a male *hispanica* at Farlington Marshes on Sep 18th 1954 is now no longer accepted by BBRC following a review of all rarities in the UK in 1950-57 (*Brit. Birds* 99: 460-464). (KFB)

Adult male Black-eared Wheatear, Acres Down, June 13th (David Aitken)



Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Numerous resident.

Amber, S41

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures are in parentheses): Butser Hill, 20 (11); Farlington Marshes, 16; Longmoor Inclosure, 19 (11); Lower Test Marshes, 32 (29); Martin Down CBC, 4 (7); Titchfield Haven, 21 (16).

Other notable counts included 19 at Warblington Shore (Feb 5th), 16 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (Feb 8th), 14 at Ibsley Water (Feb 15th), 15 at Warblington Shore (Mar 3rd) and 17 at Castle Farm (Mar 17th and 24th).

BTO Garden BirdWatch showed records from 333 (96.0%) gardens making it the fifth most widespread garden species after Robin, Blackbird, Blue and Great Tits. Highest count was 22 followed by nine to 17, all from a single garden. (APW)

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Numerous but declining resident.

Red, S41

Sightings were reported from 83 locations – a substantial increase on the 39 in 2014 probably as a result of importing more BirdTrack records – with counts exceeding 20 from 38 compared to 21 in 2014. Flocks of 50 and above were noted at Ringwood (75, Jan 11th), Blendworth (53, Apr 23rd), Warblington Shore (50 and 62, Aug 2nd and 30th), Four Marks (112, Jan 25th and 126, Feb 1st), Leigh Park, Havant (100, Aug 28th), Havant, Stockheath (88, May 22nd), Bishop's Sutton (55, Dec 27th), Morestead Old Down Plantation (100, Sep 14th; 50, July 20th and Oct 19th), Petersfield (60, Jan 1st; 50, Sep 4th and Nov 15th), Ranvilles Lane

Fareham (65, Mar 15th; 60, July 5th; 180, 55 and 90, Aug 16th, 22nd and 30th; 120 and 60, Sep 19th and 20th), Weston Shore (96 and 80, Aug 22nd and 28th), Upper Wield (60, July 25th), Crookham village (50, Jan 19th), Bolderwood (50, Jan 21st) and Lower Test Marshes (50, July 25th and Aug 28th).

Fourteen nest boxes were occupied at Titchfield Haven compared with five in 2014, eight in 2013 and 15 in 2012. Possible movement was detected at Sandy Point on Sep 17th when six were observed flying in a north-easterly direction.

BTO Garden BirdWatch showed records from 280 gardens (80.7%), the highest counts being 114, 71, 57, 54, 52, 50 and 50. (APW)

Yellow Wagtail (Western Yellow Wagtail)

Motacilla flava

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava flavissima

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly locally common summer visitor which last bred in 2003. Red, S4I, HBAP

The first was as at Titchfield Haven on Apr 3rd followed by one in off the sea at Hurst Beach on 7th. Spring passage was typically light involving 73 up to May 15th with a peak in the second half of April. The highest counts were eight at Farlington Marshes and five at Crawley, both on Apr 26th, and 11 at Woolmer Pond on 27th. Three at Manor Farm CP on the now unusual date of June 4th may have been summering.

Return passage began with two over Titchfield Haven on July 18th followed by one at Hook-with-Warsash on July 23rd. A more widespread passage was evident from Aug 15th. The largest numbers were in the roost at Titchfield Haven where at least 165 were recorded on Aug 28th. High numbers continued to be seen into the middle of September with 250 roosting on 9th and 150 on 15th. The largest numbers at other coastal sites were 120 at Keyhaven-Hurst on Aug 29th, 94 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 12th and 30 at Taddiford Gap on Aug 30th. Numbers inland were somewhat below average with a maximum count of 16 flying south at Greenhill on Sep 13th. Other double-figure counts inland were 12 west at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Sep 1st, 11 at Cole Henley on Sep 5th and 14 at Warnford on Sep 6th. The only double-figure count in October was 16 at Titchfield Haven on 1st. The last records were singles at Emsworth Harbour and Keyhaven on Oct 11th and Hitches Lane CP, Fleet on Oct 17th.

In addition, a single 'flava' type wagtail was present at Brownwich between Oct 14th-17th feeding in a ploughed field with a large number of Pied Wagtails (MJP, DW).

The approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 3-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-17
Inland grounded		22				13	73	19		1
Inland moving	6	9	1		2	35	84	30		
Coast grounded	5	5	3	1	5	481	408	159	35	
Coast moving	2	16	4	2	6	116	107	87	3	

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red

In January and February there were records from 40 sites, all of one or two apart from nine at St Mary Bourne CB on Feb 9th, four at Broadlands Estate on Jan 18th and three there on Feb 8th. In early spring a small amount of passage was observed with singles east over Petersfield on Mar 4th, SW over Trigpoint Hill on Mar 22nd and east over Calshot on Apr 10th.

During the breeding season pairs or singing males were recorded from 28 locations with breeding success reported from Bickton, Brambridge, Denny Lodge, Exton, Farnborough, Fishlake Meadows, Fleet, Hawley WM, Holmsley Inclosure, Horsebridge, Ivy Farm (Leckford), Liss, Longmoor Inclosure, Petersfield, Rookesbury Mill, St Cross Winchester, Silchester SF, Soberton and Southampton Common.

Autumn passage began with three south over Greenhill, Romsey on Aug 27th. At coastal sites the largest movements were five west at Sinah Common on Sep 6th, 13 east at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Sep 13th and 18 east at Stansore Point on Sep 13th. At Sandy Point there were 32 bird-days in September and nine bird-days in October with a maximum count of four on Sep 3rd. At inland watchpoints 35 (23 north and 12 south) were recorded at Greenhill between Aug 27th and Oct 31st, 26 (17 NE and 9 SW) at Trigpoint Hill between Sep 1st and Nov 16th and eight SW at Tweseldown between Sep 15th and 30th. The highest grounded counts were eight at Keyhaven-Hurst on Sep 1st and Ibsley Water on Sep 7th.

In November and December winterers were reported from 26 locations with no more than two at any site. (GO)

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba yarrelli

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January and February the highest number recorded was a pre-roost gathering of 300 on a cricket pitch at Godshill on Feb 14th. Other large roosts were 175 at Fishlake Meadows on Feb 14th and 150 at Fleet on Feb 19th. At Trigpoint Hill 31 (19 NE and 12 SW) moved between Jan 2nd and Apr 20th.

On the coast post-breeding movements were 1,020 at Keyhaven-Hurst S/SE between Sep 16th and Oct 19th, 389 mostly east at Sinah Common between Sep 6th and Oct 31st, 200 in various directions at Sandy Point between Sep 16th and Oct 31st and 171 west over Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 18th. Inland movements were reported at Greenhill with 206 (104 S and 102 N) between Aug 20th and Nov 28th, Trigpoint Hill with 351 in various directions between Sep 1st and Nov 30th, and Tweseldown where 113 moved SW between Sep 20th and Nov 28th. In October a flock of 181 was feeding in a field at Old Basing on 11th and 200 went to roost in Petersfield on 21st. The largest roost gathering in December was 150 at Winnall Moors on 21st.

The approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving		1			13	112	1,509	128		
Inland moving	2	5		1	55	72	259	113	70	90

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba alba

Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.

It was a poor year with just 12 recorded in spring between Feb 20th and June 7th. Two were seen at Lepe CP on Mar 14th and HMS Sultan playing fields on Apr 11th. Other records, all singles, were from Denny Wood on Feb 20th, Middle Wallop airfield on Mar 16th, Sandy Point on Apr 3rd and 6th, Needs Ore on Apr 10th, Ibsley Water on Apr 17th, Farnborough on May 12th and Keyhaven-Hurst on June 7th.

In the autumn three were at Needs Ore on Sep 18th, two at Keyhaven-Hurst on Sep 30th, a male then a female at Middle Wallop airfield on Sep 30th and Oct 1st and one at Ibsley Water on Nov 10th. (GO)

Tawny Pipit

Anthus campestris

Rare autumn passage migrant. (0,17,1)

One record. A first-year was at Gunner Point, Hayling Island at 10:20 on Sep 5th (PAG, KAT et al., photo). Despite being flushed by dog walkers on several occasions it remained long enough for other birders to connect with it and for photographs to be taken. This is the fourth record this century. The record has been accepted by BBRC. The species is now considerably rarer as a vagrant to the UK than in the last century. The nearest breeding grounds are in France and the Low Countries but it is declining in these areas. Western European birds winter in the Sahel region of Africa. (KFB)



Tawny Pipit, Sinah, Hayling, Sep 5th (Lee Fuller)

Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni

Very rare vagrant. (0,4,1)

One record. A single was found at Sandy Point at 09:00 on Nov 12th (ACJ et al.). Initially it was very flighty and mobile. Although it settled down in the afternoon it was not present the next day. This is the fifth record for Hampshire following others at Sway in November 1987, Hill Coppice at Fareham in October 1999, Hook-with-Warsash in November 1994 and Sandy Point in October 2009. The species breeds in much of the eastern Palearctic and winters in the Indian sub-continent and south-east Asia. (KFB)

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S41

The first of the year was a singing male at Backley Inclosure on Apr 1st followed by one at Frame Wood on Apr 5th. Spring passage away from breeding sites was typically light with singles at Sandy Point on Apr 9th and 26th, Trigpoint Hill on Apr 13th and 14th, Lepe CP on Apr 18th, Keyhaven on Apr 27th, IBM Lake on May 1st and Alexandra Park, Portsmouth on May 3rd.

Surveys of breeding pairs on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 24 and 29 respectively (compared to 29 and 30 last year) although a count at Woolmer Forest was not undertaken. Coverage in the New Forest was poor with 35 pairs or singing males recorded.

Sites with singing males outside the core areas included Alice Holt Forest, Baddesley Common, Bentley Wood, Facombe, Farley Mount CP, Golden Pot, Martin Down, Michelmarsh, Pilot Hill and Weston Common (3 singing males).

Autumn passage began with one over Trigpoint Hill on Aug 7th and involved a total of 139. Sites where more than ten were recorded were Chilling with 33 between Aug 15th and Sep 6th (peak of 10 on Aug 30th), Sandy Point with 21 between Aug 15th and Oct 12th, Keyhaven-Hurst with 15 between Aug 15th and Sep 29th (peak 6 on Sep 26th), Calshot with 13 between Aug 16th and Sep 20th, and Hook-with-Warsash with 11 between Aug 18th and Sep 8th. The last of the year was one at Sandy Point on Oct 12th.

The approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-5
Inland grounded	1		5	1	1	6	10	6	2	
Inland moving	2					1	8	7	4	
Coast grounded					1	6	14	5	4	
Coast moving	1	3				4	27	17	16	



Tree Pipit, Silchester, May 4th (Barry Stalker)

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. NT, Amber

In January and February there were double-figure flocks at 26 sites the largest of which were 80 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Jan 18th, 80 at Southampton Airport on Jan 24th, 90 at Bishop's Sutton on Jan 25th, 75 at Tundry Pond on Feb 17th, 100 into a roost at Woolmer Pond on Feb 20th and 69 at Drayton Farm CB on Feb 27th. The NFWBS recorded counts of 227 on Jan 10th and 295 on Feb 14th.

The largest spring movement was at Keyhaven-Hurst with a total of 4,105 N/NE between Mar 17th and Apr 7th with a peak of 2,376 on Apr 4th. Other large coastal movements included 574 north at Sandy Point between Mar 22nd and Apr 22nd with a peak of 257 on Mar 23rd. At Trigpoint Hill 1,056 passed NE between Mar 17th and Apr 20th with a peak of 582 on Apr 6th. Inland other large movements were 265 north at Farley Mount CP on Apr 3rd, 320 north at Cheesefoot Head on Apr 5th and 298 north at Fleet Pond on Apr 6th. Grounded flocks included 48 at Keyhaven-Hurst on Mar 8th, 65 at Bransbury Common on Mar 13th and 53 at Hitches Lane CP on Mar 14th. The NFWBS recorded 229 on Mar 14th.

A full survey at Farlington Marshes found 26 territories. There were 15 territories at Beaulieu/Needs Ore although no young were seen. Other counts of territories were 13 at Keyhaven-Hurst, four at Browndown South, four at Butser Hill and two at Blackbushe Airfield.

Autumn passage was recorded between Aug 22nd and Dec 22nd. The largest coastal movements were at Keyhaven-Hurst with 1,201 primarily east between Sep 16th and Oct 2nd, 834 at Sandy Point between Sep 10th and Nov 4th with a peak of 106 on Sep 17th, and 435 (289 east and 146 west) at Sinah Common between Sep 6th and Oct 31st. The following movements were recorded at inland visible migration sites: 520 SW at Tweseldown between Sep 16th and Nov 19th with peak 127 on Sep 27th; 467 SW at Casbrook Common/Trigpoint Hill between Sep 3rd and Oct 15th; 296 (211 S and 85 N) at Greenhill, Romsey between Sep 6th and Nov 20th. Inland large movements included 135 west at Cheesefoot Head on Oct 3rd, 126 west there on Oct 11th and 85 NW at Farley Mount CP on Oct 10th. The largest grounded flocks were 130 at Portsmouth on Sep 19th, 165 at Alton on Oct 4th and 500 at Fawley on Oct 17th. The largest flocks in December were 100 at Brownwich on 24th and 35 at Alver Valley on 18th with double-figure counts at two additional sites. The NFWBS found 473 on Oct 24th, 123 on Nov 21st and 137 on Dec 19th.

The approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-22	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	672	770	4,409	2	669	1,630	991	63	8	
Inland moving	18	544	2,123	20	26	943	768	121	89	20

Rock Pipit (Eurasian Rock Pipit)

Anthus petrosus

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Between January and April approximately 55 were recorded from 23 coastal sites. The largest numbers were 20 between Saltgrass Lane and Hurst Beach on Jan 20th and eight at Calshot on Feb 21st.

Breeding numbers continued at a low level the same as last year with 11 pairs between Hurst Castle and Milford on Sea, eight of which were at Hurst Castle. Elsewhere there was an adult carrying food at Portsmouth Naval Base and a family party at Southsea Castle.

In the second period the first was at Needs Ore on Aug 30th. Coastal passage included one south over Woolston on Sep 16th and one west over Brownwich on Sep 19th. Between October and December there were records from 28 coastal sites. Maxima were 47 at Hurst



Rock Pipit, Sturt Pond, Dec 19th (Gareth Rees)

Beach and Castle on Oct 28th and ten at Hythe on Nov 1st, Fawley on Dec 13th and Ashlett Creek on Dec 28th. The only inland record was one at Ibsley Water on Oct 22nd. (GO)

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

In total at least 25 were recorded in the period up to Apr 12th. At the main wintering site at Lower Test Marshes there were monthly maxima of nine in January, eight in February, seven in March and one in April with the last recorded on Apr 4th. Other sightings were at Drayton Farm CB (1, Jan 4th-Mar 26th), Farlington Marshes (1, Jan 11th-Apr 8th), Lymington-Hurst (1+, Jan 20th-Apr 12th with max. 3, Jan 22nd), Titchfield Haven (1-2, Jan 23rd-Apr 6th), Pinglestone CB (1, Jan 25th-Mar 11th), Manor Farm CB, Old Alresford (1, Feb 6th), Needs Ore (1, Mar 7th-22nd), Dibden Bay (2 and 1, Mar 12th and 23rd) and Ibsley Water (1, Mar 18th).

The first returnee was at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 19th, where it remained up to Dec 30th, followed by a second at Pinglestone CB on Oct 22nd which was also seen on Dec 10th. In total there were 16 from Titchfield Haven (1, Oct 30th-Dec 29th), Lower Test Marshes (Oct 31st-Dec 31st with monthly max. 1, 6, 5), Itchen Valley CP (1, Nov 18th), Manor Farm CB (Old Alresford) (3, Nov 23rd), Hook-with-Warsash (2, Nov 24th) and Farlington Marshes (1, Dec 23rd). (GO)

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	7	4	6	2			4	5	2
Monthly maxima NF roosts	9	16	57	1			2	9	3
County total grounded	74	59	121	17			36	187	289
County total moving	10	0	7	3			26	702	33

As in previous years the most consistent coverage came from the New Forest where reports were from a total of 30 sites. Numbers were relatively low in the early year, the only double-figure counts being ten at Mark Ash Wood on Jan 19th, 15 there on Feb 2nd, 16 at Parkhill Inclosure on Feb 14th, 57 at Rushpole Wood on Mar 15th, 11 at Beech Bed Inclosure on 27th and 22 at South Oakley Inclosure on 28th. There were 15 records into April, the maximum being eight at Shave Green Inclosure, NF on 6th. The last sighting was of a single at Broomy Walk, NF on the late date of May 5th. These counts indicate the importance of this area for the species. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed 15 gardens hosted up to four in the early year.

The first return was on Oct 10th at Holmhill Inclosure, NF. Small numbers up to five appeared at a further 12 sites by Oct 20th and similar numbers were seen at 19 sites between Oct 21st and 31st. Larger movements only occurred from mid-November. At Trigpoint Hill daily monitoring revealed the following counts: 27 SW on Nov 12th, 159 SW on 13th, 88 SW on 19th, 62 SW on 20th, 24 on 21st, 45 on 22nd, 40 SW on 24th, 90 SW on 26th, nine SW on 28th, 85 SW on 30th and 15 SW on both Dec 1st and 3rd. This site also proved popular for grounded flocks with 120 present on Nov 24th, 110 on Nov 30th, 160 on Dec 1st and at least 180 on Dec 3rd peaking eventually at 250 on Dec 14th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed 19 gardens hosted up to three in the late year. (CDF)

Chaffinch (Common Chaffinch)

Fringilla coelebs

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January-March flocks exceeding 50 were recorded at 16 sites including maxima of 958 at Handy Cross Plain, NF on Jan 10th, 695 on a pre-roost movement at Acres Down, NF on Jan 27th, 200 feeding on maize at Harewood Forest on Feb 7th, 500 at Bolderwood, NF on Feb 13th, 250 at Broomy Inclosure, NF on Mar 2nd and 200 at Woolmer Pond on 21st. The NFWBS produced totals of 1,272, 442 and 319 in January-March. Very little passage was recorded at the coast; however, 202 NE over Trigpoint Hill in 40 minutes on Mar 20th and 270 ENE over Fleet Pond on 21st suggested some passage inland.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley, 53; Longmoor Inclosure, 148 (198); Lower Test Marshes CBC, 23 (17); Martin Down CBC, 6 (17).

As with recent years, coastal passage was light with just 245 bird-days at Sandy Point including a peak easterly movement of 49 on 31st October. Interestingly nearby at Sinah 48 were recorded moving east the same day. The only other double-figure counts were at Barton on Sea with 31 east on Oct 18th and 30 west on Nov 22nd and Needs Ore with 12 east on Oct 2nd. Inland totals included 136 at Greenhill, Romsey between Sep 4th and Nov 28th, 1980 over Trigpoint Hill between Aug 17th and Dec 31st with peak 206 NE on Oct 19th, 60 west at Farley Mount CP on Oct 24th, and 1,301 NW at Tweseldown between Sep 25th and Nov 30th with a peak of 152 NW on Oct 17th (see Table 8).

The minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 3-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-29
Coast moving	10	18	80	145	46	54		
Inland moving	33	88	764	1,513	509	592	80	13

In October to December dawn roost counts were much reduced when compared to recent years, possibly as a result of the failure of the Beech mast crop in the New Forest. Feeding flocks of 50 or more included 60 at Old Winchester Hill on Nov 6th, 80 feeding in maize at Warnford and 50 at Ober Heath, NF, both on 22nd, 150 at Greatham on 30th, 50 in an observer's garden in Petersfield on Dec 6th, 60 at Steventon on 19th, 100 at Weston, Southampton on 28th and 50 in a game strip at East Worldham on 30th. In BTO Garden

BirdWatch this species was reported from 296 (85.3%) gardens with mean monthly reporting rates between a maximum of 62.1% in March and 41.9% in August. (MW)

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Scarce resident, largely confined to New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Ongoing survey work in the New Forest by MW located five new roost sites bringing the total of known locations up to 20 by the end 2015. Two roosts were monitored fortnightly throughout the year and monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	42	38	39	30	17	20	10	4	2	15	47	25
Roost 2	51	64	65	41	18	71	29	11	11	43	28	22

In addition to monitoring of all known roost sites, roosts were counted consecutively in spring and early winter to get a snap-shot count of the New Forest population at those times. In March 373 were counted from 20 roosts (average of 18.65 per roost site) and in November 268 were counted from 20 roosts (average of 13.4 per roost site). The drop in numbers in the late year is most likely as a result of the poor Beech mast crop experienced in the autumn. Coincidentally an increased number were reported from outside the New Forest in autumn/winter with 82 submitted from 15 sites.

Away from the New Forest early year records included one or two at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on 14 dates between Jan 3rd and Mar 27th, two at Netherton Bottom on Jan 6th, one to five at Mercer Close, Romsey on 12 dates between Jan 19th and Mar 6th, nine in a pre-roost gathering at Ampfield Woods on Jan 21st, four at Weston Common, Lasham on Feb 15th, one at Adhurst Wood, Sheet on Feb 17th, one NE over Trigpoint Hill, Casbrook on Mar 17th and 14 at Farley Mount CP on April 3rd followed by regular records of one to four up to May 3rd.



Hawfinch, New Forest, May 24th (Martin Bennett)

During the breeding season a total of 52 territories was located at 35 widespread locations in the New Forest. It was another successful season in the New Forest. A roost in the central New Forest known to act as a crèche was counted on June 19th producing a total of 71 of which it was estimated a minimum of 75% were juveniles. Elsewhere at Bolderwood, NF, another traditional crèche location, good numbers of juveniles were noted from mid-June. Elsewhere records suggesting breeding were received from East Dean, Farley Mount CP and Parnholt Wood.

In the late year records from outside the New Forest included one at Emer Bog, North Baddesley on July 2nd, two at Bentley Wood, West Tytherley on 18th, six at Weston Common, Lasham on Aug 16th and 29th, one east over Titchfield Haven on Sep 8th, one to three at Mercer Close, Romsey on five dates from Sep 13th-Dec 23rd, nine over Greenhill, Romsey on four dates from Sep 13th-Nov 28th, one at Ringwood Forest on Sep 23rd, one at Old Basing on Oct 4th and 11th, 14 over Trigpoint Hill, Casbrook Common on ten dates from Oct 10th-Dec 1st, up to five at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on seven dates from Oct 20th-Nov 16th plus an unseasonal record of four on June 20th, two over Stubbington on Nov 1st, one at Straight Mile, Romsey on 25th, two at Farley Mount CP on 26th and two at Testwood Lakes on Dec 16th. (MW)

Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

January-March reports of two or more were received from 119 one km squares. Highest counts were 12 in Itchen Valley CP on Jan 7th, ten at Southampton Common on 18th, 12 at Blackwater Arboretum, NF (at roost) on 25th and 12 at Stockbridge Down on 31st. NFWBS produced totals of 20, 11 and 34 for the months of January-March respectively. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed 125 gardens were visited in the early year with the highest count of eight in any one garden.

There were reports from 146 one km squares in the period April–August, the latest report of confirmed breeding coming from Mansbridge on Aug 22nd.

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 7 (6); Itchen Valley CP, 11 (7); Longmoor Inclosure, 5 (6); Lower Test Marshes, 1 (2); Martin Down CBC, 1 (1). Other counts of breeding territories included six at Bramshill Plantation, four at Steep Marsh and four at Liss. Other large counts were eight at Botley Wood on Apr 19th, eight at Gritnam Wood, NF on May 2nd, eight at Badminton Common, NF on June 21st, eight at Blackfield on July 25th, nine at Old Winchester Hill on Aug 23rd and ten at Trigpoint Hill on 28th.

Between September and December reports of two or more were received from 62 one km squares. The highest counts during this period were 11 at Old Down Plantation, Morestead on Nov 4th, 15 at Itchen Valley CP on Dec 7th and 22 at Dibden Bay on 13th. NFWBS produced totals of 13, 28 and 36 for the months October-December respectively. BTO Garden BirdWatch data for October-December showed 56 gardens were visited in the late winter period with a count of seven the most seen together. (CDF)

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

Chloris chloris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

There were 41 reports of flocks of 20 upwards including an exceptional count of 400 in October. In addition, BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed four gardens hosting 20 and above.

In the period January-March there were eight counts of 20 or more including 120 roosting at Blashford Lakes on Jan 2nd, 100 at a pre-roost gathering close to Dock Gate 4 at Southampton Docks on Jan 21st and 110 flying in to roost at Mayflower Park, Southampton on 27th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed that 211 gardens were visited in January-March with

regular large counts from a garden in Waltham Chase peaking at 84 in w/c Feb 22nd before abruptly dropping to single figures the following week. Elsewhere the largest count was 28 at Hiltingbury in w/c Jan 11th followed by 20 at Oliver's Battery in w/c Feb 1st.

Breeding season data were relatively sparse but included the following counts of territories (2014 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes full survey, 27 (16 partial survey); Itchen Valley CP, 13; Lower Test Marshes, 7 (6); Titchfield Haven, 13 (14).

There were 31 reports of flocks of 20 upwards during the period August-December. The largest flocks were at Sinah Common where there were 120 on Aug 15th, 200 on Sep 18th and 400 on Oct 27th. Nearby at Gunner Point there were 200 feeding on sea kale seeds on Nov 14th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed that 215 gardens were visited in August-December with maximum counts of 36 at Waltham Chase in w/c August 30th and 20 at Portsdown Hill in w/c Dec 6th.

Movements were monitored at Trigpoint Hill with a cumulative total of 145 flying in various directions in October, 119 (mostly SW) in November and 40 (mostly SW) in December. Similarly, at Tweseldown movements included 72 SW in October and 49 SW in November. (CDF)

Linnet (Common Linnet)

Linaria cannabina

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Between January-March there were ten counts of 100 or more, the largest being 260 at Hare Warren on Feb 8th. Other large counts included 110 at Longwood Warren on Jan 4th, 220 at Toyd Down and 150 at Overton on Jan 18th, 200 at Southwick on Jan 31st, 225 at Lepe on Feb 3rd and 150 at Weston on Feb 18th.

Annual breeding season surveys at the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths totalled 48 (39) and 19 (25) territories respectively including 24 (10) on the combined Yateley Common, 11 (10) on Hazeley Heath and 11 (19) at Longmoor Inclosure (2014 figures in parentheses) (see Table 1). Large counts during this period included 220 at Rockbourne Down and 200 at Broadhalfpenny Down on Apr 6th and 120 on Hayling Island on July 5th.

The largest counts in the period August-September were 140 at Martin Down on Aug 9th, 160 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on 16th, 300 in failed broccoli at Chilling on 30th, 120 at Sydmonton on Sep 5th and 110 at Mill Rithe, Hayling Island on 26th. Numbers increased between October-December with the largest count on winter cereal at Wheely Down on Nov 22nd. Other large counts were 255 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 11th, 300 at Gander Down and 300 at Ovington Down on 17th, 200 at Whitchurch on Nov 24th and 200 at South Warnborough on Dec 28th.

The half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (CDF)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31
Coast moving	268		1,828	627		20		
Inland moving	56	92	696	655	629	478	42	51

Lesser Redpoll (Common Redpoll)†

Acanthis cabaret

Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006.

Red, S4I, HBAP

The half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31
Coast moving		6	212	31	10	7		
Inland moving	2	23	54	173	116	41	11	2

In the period January-March there were reports of flocks in double figures from just three one km squares including 50 at Woolmer Pond on Jan 13th, 16 at Sydmonton Common on Feb 27th and 25 at Yateley Heath Wood on Mar 12th. Early year reports were received from 38 different one km sites, mainly from within the New Forest, Blashford Lakes and north-east Hants heathland areas.

April-July saw reports from seven sites including 11 at Andover Down Farm on Apr 3rd and five at Ibsley Water on 19th. A group of eight at Anthony's Bee Bottom (near Holmsley Inclosure), NF on July 17th were suspected of being a family group. There were also reports of up to two at Woolmer Pond (1, Apr 3rd; 2, Apr 15th), Holmsley Inclosure (1, Apr 6th and 25th), Acres Down (1, June 7th) and Sandy Point (1, June 16th-17th, July 14th).

The period September-December saw reports from 116 sites. The largest flock of 120 was recorded at Sleaford on Dec 28th. Other high counts were 53 at Upper Titchfield Haven on Oct 11th and an estimated 70 in a mixed flock with Linnets on Dec 18th at Kingsley. Double-figure counts were recorded at a further 14 sites.

Between Sep 30th and Nov 28th 378 were recorded over Trigpoint Hill, the majority heading SW. The maximum single-day count of 44 SW was recorded here between 09:30 and 10:30 on Nov 1st. Between Oct 16th and 31st 149 were recorded flying over in various directions, the highest number recorded in any two-week period this year. During the same period Tweseldown also recorded the highest two-week period count of 15, all heading SW. Other notable movements were 63 east over Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on Oct 2nd and 39 E/SE over Hurst Beach/Milford-on-Sea the same day. On Oct 3rd 25 were recorded SE over Calshot and 34 east over Sinah Common/Hayling GC during a 4.5 hour period on 10th. Ten flew east over Titchfield Haven on Nov 2nd.

BTO Garden BirdWatch records came from 14 gardens in the months January-April and October-December with the highest counts of eight reported in the Romsey and Chilbolton areas in w/c Dec 20th. (CDF)

Crossbill (Red Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Scarce resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn.

Schedule 1, Green

Numbers remained high in the New Forest but thinly distributed elsewhere despite a reasonable autumn passage. A summary of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	113	91	70	52	119	135	72	165	98	172	135	135
North-east sites		1				2	6	4			8	14
Other sites	8	2	2			1	7		20	8	6	20
Moving						33	44	23	5	121	52	4

From January-April numbers in the New Forest remained at a similar level to the tail-end of 2014 but only four records were received from elsewhere in the county. Double-figure counts were reported from just four locations in the New Forest including ten at a roost site on Jan 2nd, 15 at Perrywood Ironshill, NF on Jan 6th, ten at Acres Down, NF on Feb 20th and ten at a roost site on April 16th. Away from the New Forest records included seven at Ampfield on Jan 21st, two at Waterloooville on Feb 15th, one at Woolmer Pond on Feb 17th and two at Knightwood, Chandler's Ford on Mar 4th.

Between May and August records were received from 28 locations in the New Forest. Elsewhere grounded birds were recorded from eight locations including one at Longmoor Inclosure on June 4th then four there on Aug 18th, one at Yateley Heath Wood on June 26th and one at Cow Down, Andover on 27th. In July there were four at Four Marks on 5th, three at Beacon Hill, Warnford on 8th, four at Chawton Park Wood on 14th, six at Bentley Wood, Tytherley on 18th and six at Woolmer Forest on 19th. Records suggesting breeding

were received from eight locations in the New Forest with fledged young recorded at Slufers Inclosure on Apr 24th and Bramshaw Telegraph and Ferny Knap, both on June 18th.

Visible migration was recorded from early June. Inland movements totalled 213 over 26 sites between June 11th and Dec 3rd with a peak of 18 east over Adhurst Wood, Sheet on July 16th. On the coast movements totalled 61 over six sites from July 29th-Nov 11th with a peak count of 25 over Hurst Beach on Oct 2nd.

From October-December double-figure counts from the New Forest included 13 at Vinney Ridge on Sep 5th, 19 at Minstead on 20th, 13 at Fawley Inclosure on 26th, ten at Bolderwood on Oct 3rd, 30 at Hawkhill Inclosure on 11th, 20 at Standing Hat on 19th, 30 at Norley Wood on 24th, 24 at Alderhill Inclosure on Nov 8th and 11 at Ibsley Common on Dec 19th. Away from the New Forest records were received from 20 locations including 17 at Ringwood Forest on Sep 23rd, 16 at Farley Mount CP on Oct 24th, 14 at Woolmer Forest on Dec 25th and 20 at Creech Walk on 29th.

Two communal finch roosts in the New Forest were monitored fortnightly throughout the year; monthly maxima for Crossbills at these sites are tabulated below. (MW)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	4	2	7		15	28	9	86	7	2	31	12
Roost 2	3	7	4	10	10	6	12	9	3	9	10	8

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch)

Carduelis carduelis

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Between January-March flocks of 20 or more were reported from 32 sites. By far the largest was 200 at Chilworth on Jan 17th. Other high counts included 50 at Alton on Feb 1st, 50 at Romsey on 12th, 60 at Chawton Park on 28th and 80 at Hut Wood on Mar 23rd. A flock of 30 was seen to form a pre-roost gathering at IBM Lake on Jan 23rd. The BTO Garden BirdWatch data for January-March reported the species from 259 gardens, the largest count being 41 from Chilbolton in w/c Jan 4th.

Despite this being a relatively common breeding species there were few reports of breeding numbers. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows: Farlington Marshes, 8 (5 incomplete survey); Itchen Valley CP, 12; Lower Test Marshes, 3 (1).

Post-breeding numbers in August were relatively high with flocks of 100 at Fort Nelson on 15th, 150 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on 16th, 150 at Ibsley Water on 19th, 100 at Welshmans Road GP on 23rd and 120 at Titchfield Haven on 31st. During September movements began to increase in number with the largest day counts being 230 at Paulsgrove Reclamation on 1st, 186 at Isington on 3rd, 110 at Itchen Valley CP on 18th, 110 at Warblington on 27th and 180 at Stansore Point on 30th. Larger movements occurred in October with highs of 782 east at Needs Ore on 2nd, 702 E/SE at Hurst Beach on 10th and 935 east at Sinah Common on 31st. There were many other movements east or SE that month as can be seen in the table below. The highest counts in November were 1,180 at Sandy Point, 190 east in 20 minutes at Calshot on 3rd and 362 south at Hurst Beach on 4th. There were no three-figure counts in December. The BTO Garden BirdWatch data for August-December reported the species from 244 gardens, the largest count being 50 from Hurstbourne Tarrant in w/c Sep 6th. The next biggest counts of 38 came from Tadley in w/c Oct 11th and 36 from Havant on w/c Nov 22nd.

The minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (CDF)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	25	288	8,398	3,611	977		
Inland moving	92	124	196	524	229	84	5



Goldfinches, Headley Down, June 27th (John Wichall)

Serin (European Serin)

Serinus serinus

Rare visitor recorded in every month except August. (1,43,1)

One record. A female flew over Sandy Point on May 7th (ACJ). There have been 25 previous records this century in every year except 2002, 2010 and 2012. (KFB)

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin)

Spinus spinus

Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

In January-March double-figure flocks were reported from 61 localities with counts of 25 upwards from 37 locations. Records of flocks in excess of 50 were 55 at Blashford Lakes Centre on Jan 1st with 55 also counted nearby at Ibsley Water on 25th, 250 feeding in Alders on the Somerley Estate on 22nd, 50 out of roost in Anderwood Inclosure, NF on 27th, 50 feeding in Alders in Holmsley Inclosure on Feb 3rd, with 75 still there on 27th, and 50 at Eastleigh SW on 18th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed that 45 gardens were visited in January-March. Of these 27 included data on numbers which totalled 224 with a maximum of ten located in the south of the New Forest.

The first fledged young were reported from Penny Moor, NF on Apr 26th. Subsequent records of fledged juveniles came from Acres Down on May 3rd, Chandler's Ford on 10th and Bramshill Plantation on June 1st. A single territory was recorded from Bramshott Common while eight territories were located at Longmoor Inclosure. No other evidence of breeding was received but there were reports in May from Bishopstoke, Bourley Reservoirs, Hocombe Mead, North Baddesley, West Wellow, Woolmer Pond and eight locations in the New Forest. Records for May-August from BTO Garden BirdWatch involved 57 (16.4%) gardens (including 12 in the New Forest and 14 in the north-east) of which 17 recorded Siskins in three or all four months as summarised below.

	May	June	July	Aug
Gardens with counts	18	19	13	17
Total counted	101	73	93	149
Other gardens with birds present	18	11	11	10

Autumn visible migration was heavier compared with 2013-2014. Inland movements included 371 SW over Trigpoint Hill on 40 dates from Sep 3rd-Nov 30th, 437 over Greenhill, Romsey on 35 dates from Aug 20th-Nov 28th and 138 SW over Tweseldown on 59 dates from Sep 5th-Nov 30th. On the coast well-watched locations registered 2,095 S/SE at Hurst Beach from Aug 28th-Oct 19th with a peak of 363 on Oct 10th, 1,268 mainly east over Needs Ore on seven dates from Sep 6th-Oct 17th with a peak of 760 east on Sep 13th, 663 east over Stansore Point on nine dates from Sep 8th-Oct 11th with a peak of 220 east on Sep 30th, 464 over Sinah Common on nine dates from July 18th-Oct 31st with a peak of 213 on Sep 6th, and 1,927 over Sandy Point on 66 dates from July 2nd-Nov 26th with a peak of 305 on Sep 16th.

The minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Sep 7-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	2,216	1,797	1,931	612	48	8
Inland moving	230	139	223	166	135	109

In the New Forest dawn roost surveys produced a peak count of 92 at Blackwater Arboretum on Oct 9th whilst numbers remained low at other monitored roost sites. Between October and December double-figure flocks were reported from 27 locations including 100 at Tundry Pond on Oct 11th, 150 at Fleet Pond on 28th, 200 feeding in Alders at Ibsley Water on Nov 28th, 200 at Rotherlands, Petersfield on Dec 1st, 60 at Hitches Lane CP, Fleet on 27th and 150 at Shepherd's Meadow, Blackwater on 29th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data showed 38 gardens visited in September-October and 35 gardens in November-December. (MW)

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis

Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Amber

The only record was of a single female/immature flying E/NE over Hurst Beach on Nov 22nd (MPM). Although the species is recorded annually in varying numbers, this is the first time just a single has been seen since 1992. (CDF)

2014 correction: The photo credit on p.154 for the Snow Bunting at Calshot Spit on Nov 12th should be David Ryves.

Lapland Bunting (Lapland Longspur)

Calcarius lapponicus

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor (1,172+,1)

Amber

One record. A single was heard as it flew west over Barton on Sea GC on Oct 18th (SGK). There have been records in every year this century except 2001, 2009 and 2010. (KFB)

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Observers are again encouraged to report all sightings of this declining species. Six-figure grid references and notes on breeding status are particularly useful for estimating numbers of breeding territories. There were no records submitted during August and September. As this species is a late breeder, a special effort by Hampshire birders to visit known breeding areas, even into early September, would be useful to record any breeding evidence during this period.

In the period January-May there were double-figure counts from four locations, the largest being the annual maximum count of 61 at Tidpit Down on Apr 25th. Other high counts were ten at Cheesefoot Head on Jan 4th, 25 at Tidpit Down on 17th, 30 at Toyd Down on Feb 21st, 24 at Quarley Down on 21st, 13 (including at least one singing male) at Chilbolton on Apr 9th and ten (including at least one singing male) at Martin Down on May 16th.

Breeding season counts of singing males suggested a total of 45 territories distributed between regions as follows (2014 figures in parentheses):

On the chalk west of the Avon Valley: Martin Down, 6 (4-6); Tidpit Down, 1 (2); Toyd Down, 2 (1).

West of the Test Valley: Danebury, 2 (1); Houghton Down, 1 (3); Cholderton Estate, 8 (3); Over Wallop, 3 (8).

In the Test Valley: Chilbolton, 9.

East of Winchester: Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head, 5 (5); Gander Down, 2 (3); Lane End Down, 1; Teglease Down, 1 (1).

There were sightings of up to three at Old Winchester Hill during the breeding season but none of these was recorded as holding territory. However, one was singing two km to the east at Teglease Down. There were no reports from the Burghclere/Ashley Warren area in the north-west where six territories were recorded in 2014.

In the period October-December there were double-figure counts from just two locations with 30 at Toyd Down on Nov 22nd and 28 at Tidpit Down on Dec 20th. (CDF)

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Common but declining resident.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Counts of ten or more were recorded in a total of 54 one km squares. Large flocks of 100 or more were reported from three sites including the annual maximum of 300 at Quarley Down on Jan 20th and Mar 3rd. Other large early year flocks included 75 at Four Marks on Jan 11th, 100 at Watership Down on 27th, 30 at Broadhalfpenny Down, Hambledon on Feb 24th, 30 at Hare Warren Farm on Mar 7th, 80 at Toyd Down on 12th and 80 at Longwood Warren on 15th. Only 17 gardens participating in the BTO Garden BirdWatch had visits, the largest count of eight being reported from a garden in Sherborne St. John in w/c Jan 4th. Singles were recorded on the move at Trigpoint Hill between January and April, with two NE and three SW, and one was recorded heading east over Needs Ore on Mar 7th.

There were 409 records during the breeding season (Apr-Aug) from 177 one km squares. The annual Wealden Heath surveys recorded 28 territories (cf. 23 in 2014) including 18 at Longmoor Inclosure, the highest count there since 21 in 2003. Surveys on the Thames Basin Heaths found no territories compared with two in 2014, none in 2013 and three in 2012 (see Table 1). Territory counts on the chalk included 12 at Butser Hill (cf. 10 in 2014), five at Stockbridge Down and two at Weston. Around the perimeter of the New Forest there were records of mainly ones and twos from Badminton Common, Crockford Bridge, Beaulieu Heath West, Hale Purlieu, East Boldre, Norley Wood, Turf Hill Inclosure and Wormstall Wood. The highest count there was five at Shipton Holms on June 15th.

Other notable total counts during the period April-July included seven at Farley Mount on Apr 3rd, 11 at Charity Down Farm on 4th, seven at Over Wallop on 5th, seven at Damerham on 14th, six at Harroway Farm (Ramsdean) on 27th, seven at Longstock on 30th, eight at Harewood Forest on May 8th, ten at Martin Down on 16th, six at Stockbridge Down on June 1st, six at Gander Down on 14th and six at Bransbury Common on July 5th.

Post-breeding (Sep-Dec) flocks of more than ten were recorded at 21 sites with the largest of 130 at Gander Down on Oct 17th followed by 76 at Four Marks on 21st. From Sep 25th-Dec 22nd a total of 66 was recorded on the move at Trigpoint Hill comprising 34 NE, 26 SW and six NE. The only other recorded movements were five east at Leaden Hall on Oct 19th, one SW at Tweseldown on Nov 11th and one west over Titchfield Haven on Dec 11th. (CDF)

Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting)[†]

Emberiza schoeniclus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, S41, HBAP

This year only three flocks exceeded 20, the lowest total for many years. In the period January-March there were double-figure counts from only five locations, the largest being 18 at Titchfield Haven on Feb 20th, with ten at Fishlake Meadows on 10th, 11 at Lower Test Marshes on 14th, 11 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 8th and ten at St. Cross, Winchester on 10th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data for January–March reported the species from 20 gardens, the largest count being five at Chilbolton in w/c Jan 1st.

During the breeding season (Apr-July) the species was recorded in 121 one km squares. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2014 figures in parentheses): Blashford Lakes, 12 (9); Farlington Marshes, 15 (12 partial survey); Itchen Valley CP, 16 (19); Lower Test Marshes, 18 (18); Needs Ore, 9; Sopley Island, 9 (12); Titchfield Haven, 47 (33). Annual breeding season surveys at the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths totalled just two and zero respectively compared to three and one in 2014 (see Table 1).

In the period September-December there were double-figure counts from seven locations, the highest being 27 at Leaden Hall, NF on Oct 15th. Other large counts included 15 in the Lymington-Hurst area on Sep 28th and 21 going to roost at Fishlake Meadows on Nov 4th. BTO Garden BirdWatch data for September-December reported the species from seven gardens, the largest count of four being from Chilbolton in w/c Dec 20th.

The minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (CDF)

	Sep 27-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving		19	13			
Inland moving		20	32	15	1	1

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Very rare vagrant. (0,4,0)

1986 addition: One at Winnall Moors on Mar 18th-19th. It was trapped on the first date and then kept overnight and released the following morning (CRC *et al.*, photo). Accepted by BBRC in 2016, this was the first record for Hampshire.

1992 addition: A female at Titchfield Haven from Feb 16th-Apr 17th (PMP *et al.*, photo). This individual was trapped and ringed and remained in the area for two months enjoying seed that was provided at the site. Accepted by BBRC in 2016, this was the second record for Hampshire.

These records were both listed in *Birds of Hampshire* (1993) with a note to indicate that they had not yet been submitted to BBRC. We are grateful to Charles Cuthbert and Pete Potts for scouring their early notebooks to ensure that the records could be considered by BBRC. The species is now considered by HOSRP instead of BBRC as it is no longer considered to

be a great rarity. However, there have only been four Hampshire records – the others being at Stubbington from February-March 2000 and Old Basing in October 2008. The species breeds from Fenno-Scandia to eastern Siberia and winters largely in south-east Asia. (KFB)

Categories D & E: escapes & others

The above categories do not form part of the British List and refer to birds whose origin cannot be accepted as from a wild state. It is not the intention here to follow BTO practice and record birds which are free-ranging but domestically held, such as Helmeted Guineafowl and Indian Peafowl. Most species reported here are escapes from captive origin but some will always be open to dispute. The taxonomic order and English and scientific names which follow mostly follow the IOC List; exceptions relate to different names adopted by the BOURC followed by IOC name in parenthesis. Several reports of hybrid waterfowl were also submitted but are not included, except for *Aythya* hybrids in the main list, as details of likely species involved were not supplied.

Greater Rhea

Rhea americana

Escape (South America)

The male first seen in the Long Sutton/Odiham area between September and December 2013 was reported again on Jan 25th and Nov 29th in a field south of Odiham Airfield. (MLC)

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Escape (widespread in Africa, Americas and Asia).

The bird reported intermittently in 2014 between Hook and Portsmouth remained in the Southampton Water area with regular sightings at Titchfield Haven from Jan 10th-Sep 24th. It was also reported from Hook-with-Warsash from March 9th-June 3rd and on Sep 21st when it was seen flying NW along the foreshore with Canada Geese. It was also at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 24th and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 16th-17th. (MLC)

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Escape (Central Asia). 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.

One with Greylags at Ibsley Water on Jan 5th, two at Woolmer Pond on Feb 27th, one regularly seen at Needs Ore from Feb 17th-May 9th, singles at Farlington Marshes on May 21st, Keyhaven on May 25th and Heath Pond, Petersfield on June 16th-17th, and two at Farlington Marshes on Sep 27th. (MLC)

Lesser Canada Goose (Cackling Goose)

Branta hutchinsii

Escape (North America). Whilst birds of wild origin have now been admitted to the British List, the records below are all considered to be from captive stock.

One seen throughout last year at Lower Test Marshes was present again from Jan 1st-24th, on Aug 24th and from Oct 11th-Dec 12th with Greater Canada Geese, and considered by the observers to be race *minima*. Other records of singles, presumably the same individual, were at Titchfield Haven on Feb 12th and 16th and Farlington Marshes on Dec 18th and 19th. One at Avington Lake on Nov 4th and 12th, which was not consorting with other geese, may have been a different individual. (MLC)

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape (Australia)

Regularly reported in Southampton at various locations along the River Itchen, mostly between Northam and Woodmill, in all months except January and February. From Mar 9th

up to three comprising a pair and separate adult were present. On June 19th the pair was seen to be repairing a Mute Swan nest at Riverside Park and the female was sitting on Aug 20th and Oct 6th. Breeding was successful as five cygnets and two adults were reported from Oct 7th, leaving one unhatched egg in the nest, to Dec 23rd along the same part of the Itchen as above including Riverside Park. Nearby in Southampton Water there was one at Netley on Jan 25th and between one and four reported regularly at Hill Head Harbour/ Titchfield Haven in all months from Jan 6th to July 5th. At Bickton an adult was associating closely with a young family of Mute Swans on June 8th. Elsewhere singles were at Searchfield Farm in the Avon Valley on Jan 19th, Horndean on Apr 13th, Laverstoke Lake on Apr 22nd and from Oct 22nd-Dec 24th, Beaulieu Road on July 6th, Heath Pond, Petersfield on Sep 6th, and Rockford Lake, Blashford on Oct 25th. Two were also on the lake at Farlington Marshes on Mar 5th. (MLC)

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia)

A male at Titchfield Haven on July 21st was followed by an unusual record of a flock of 11 flying NE over Raley Road, Locks Heath on Sep 2nd. (MLC)

Paradise Shelduck

Tadorna variegata

Escape (New Zealand).

One at Bramshill Police College on Jan 3rd was presumably the same bird seen there in 2014 up to Dec 29th. (MLC)

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escape (Central & South America)

Between two and four present at Eyeworth Pond from Jan 5th-Mar 8th and four there again on Sep 21st including one young. Elsewhere, two were at Selborne on Jan 18th and one at Avington Lake on Nov 15th. (MLC)

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape (North America)

One at Sherborne St. John on Farm Pond on Jan 9th, and a pair at Eyeworth Pond from Feb 28th-Mar 12th following sightings of a male there in previous years. The free-flying male at Paulton's Park which has been present for the last two years was seen on Mar 7th-8th and a female was at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 4th. (MLC)

Chiloe Wigeon

Anas sibilatrix

Escape (South America)

A drake was present on the Lower Balancing Pond at Keyhaven Marshes on Apr 27th. (MLC)

Falcated Duck

Anas falcata

Uncertain origin (Eastern Palearctic)

2013 amendment: A male at Bury Marsh on Feb 9th (PC). PC was carrying out a WeBS count at about high tide at 10:00 when he observed a male in fine plumage. The legs were not visible so there was no opportunity to see whether it was ringed. The record was listed in the 2013 *Hampshire Bird Report* as an escape. However, the species is included in Category D of the British List and the record has now been accepted by BBRC on that basis following submission by the observer. Category D species are not accepted to Category A of the British List by BOURC due to their uncertain origin. However, records are still assessed by BBRC and accepted ones then forwarded to BOURC who undertake periodic reviews to

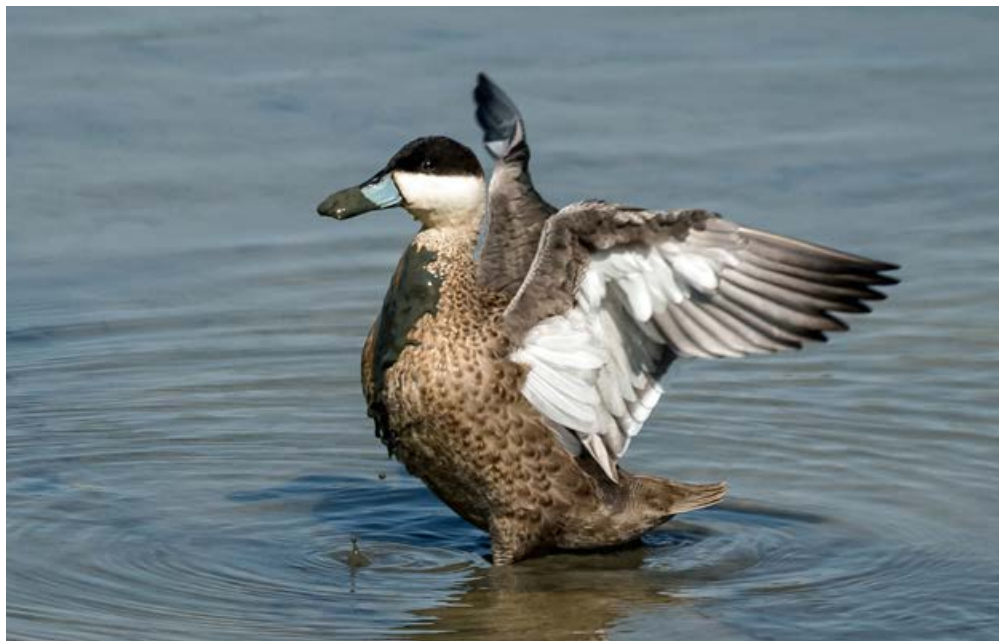
determine if the species Category can be resolved to A or E. Falcated Duck breeds in east Siberia south to NE China and Hokkaido in Japan. It winters from south Japan to SE China and locally west to Nepal. (KFB)

Puna Teal

Anas puna

Escape (South America Andes)

One at Titchfield Haven from Aug 25th-31st and on Sep 6th and 14th. (MLC)



Puna Teal, Titchfield Haven, Sep 6th (Trevor Carpenter)

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

Very scarce feral visitor or escape.

A pair at Sir George Staunton CP, Havant on Apr 4th was reported as 'very tame' (MC). (PFF)

Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2015

Site	Woodcock†	Cuckoo	Nightjar	Green Woodpecker	Gt Sp Woodpecker	Woodlark	Skylark	Willow Warbler	Whitethroat	Dartford Warbler	Redstart	Stonechat	Tree Pipit	Meadow Pipit	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
<i>Thames Basin Heaths</i>																	
Blackbushe Airfield*				nc	nc		6	5	9	3		3		2	2		
Bourley North/Long Valley	3	1	11	nc	nc	9		nc	nc	22	3	8	3		nc		1
Bourley South	2	1	6	nc	nc	5		nc	nc	21		10	10		nc		
Bramshill Plantation	nc		10	nc	nc	1		nc	nc			1			nc		
Bramshot Heath*	nc		nc	nc	nc	1			nc			1	1		nc		
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill			1	nc	nc			nc	nc	3		4			nc		
Eversley Common			6	nc	nc	3	2	7	4	8		3			2		1
Castle Bottom	1		4	1	1	2		5	1	2	1						
Hawley Common	2		5	2	5	1		1	1	5		4			1		
Hazeley Heath	5	1	7	5	6	4		10	14			1	5		11		
Silchester Common*	1		3	nc	nc	1		2		1					4		
Tadley Common*			1	nc	nc	1		1		3					4		
Tweseldown			2	nc	nc	2		nc	nc			1	1		nc		
Velmead Common	1		1	nc	nc	2		nc	nc			3	3		nc		
Warren Heath/Heath Warren	2+	1	14	nc	nc	4		7+	5+	2	2	1			nc		
Yateley Common (HCC)	1+	2	4	2+	1+	6		18	19	14		3			1+		
Yateley Common South (MOD)	2		7	nc	nc	4		13	16	23		12			23		
Yateley Heath Wood/Lichett Plain*						8						1	2				
TBH total 2015	20	6	82	10	13	54	8	69	69	107	6	56	25	2	48	0	2
TBH total 2014	20		82	13	14	52	7		75	57	6	43	29	1	39	2	3
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott/Hammer Commons	2	1	2	1	2	5		5				1	3		2		
Broxhead Common	nc	1	4	nc	nc	5		1	3			2	3		5	1	
Kingsley Common	nc	1	1	nc	nc								1				
Longmoor Inclosure	2	2	21	22	17	16		17	24	2	14	10	18		11	18	
Ludshott Common	nc	2	10	nc	nc	5		24	37	3	2	3	3		nc	5	
Shortheath Common**	nc		2	nc	nc	1										1	
The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC**	nc		nc	3	5	3	1		2			1			1	3	
Woolmer Forest	nc	nc	18	nc	nc	10		nc	nc	7	nc	nc			nc		
WH total 2015	4	7	58	26	24	45	1	47	66	12	16	17	28	0	19	28	0
WH total 2014	3		58	27	33	36	2		67	5	23	9	30	0	25	23	1

* = not included in Thames Basin Heaths SPA; ** = not included in Wealden Heaths SPA; nc = no count; blank square = 0; † = number of 1km squares with roding birds

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Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2015

The table below shows the mean monthly reporting rate (% of gardens reporting the species) for 42 species recorded by BTO Garden BirdWatch. The final column shows the number of gardens from which the species was reported during 2015.

BTO Garden BirdWatch monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of 'citizen scientists'. BTO Garden BirdWatch monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of 'citizen scientists'. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers are analysed by BTO researchers and the results inform our understanding of the use of gardens and other human sites by birds. The project, which involves weekly observations, is funded through the generosity of its participants. For a free enquiry pack, please write to BTO Garden BirdWatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU; e-mail gbw@bto.org or call the Garden Ecology Team on 01842 750050. More information on the project, including the latest results, can be found at www.bto.org/gbw.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sites
Blackbird	97.9	98.6	98.8	98.4	98.6	96.3	93.8	79.3	68.4	76.6	86.8	92.6	346
Blackcap	16.8	19.0	15.4	13.0	7.2	6.8	5.6	4.3	4.4	2.5	3.4	5.6	185
Black-headed Gull	4.9	5.0	3.4	3.9	2.8	3.5	3.6	2.7	2.5	3.0	3.4	2.8	65
Blue Tit	92.7	93.5	92.6	91.8	90.1	81.1	79.8	81.0	84.3	86.0	89.9	92.1	346
Brambling	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.8	2.6	36
Bullfinch	18.2	20.8	18.3	19.7	22.7	26.5	22.3	18.5	9.7	6.0	7.8	10.2	178
Carrion Crow	26.6	27.8	29.1	29.2	33.4	27.0	23.5	21.7	18.9	22.2	26.0	24.3	231
Chaffinch	61.4	61.8	62.1	54.8	53.0	52.0	44.9	41.9	42.6	44.6	49.6	52.9	296
Coal Tit	39.1	35.8	31.1	24.5	23.4	17.5	22.5	33.2	45.3	57.1	59.3	56.6	282
Collared Dove	63.3	66.4	68.8	70.9	68.4	67.2	64.4	62.7	58.4	53.9	56.1	57.4	326
Duncock	79.5	80.8	79.8	79.7	73.6	73.7	72.3	67.7	66.0	68.1	67.1	72.8	333
Feral Pigeon	8.3	9.9	10.9	10.0	10.5	10.8	10.1	9.5	9.4	9.2	8.6	9.1	65
Fieldfare	1.6	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.4		0.4			0.8	3.8	3.8	36
Goldcrest	6.4	7.4	8.9	7.4	5.2	4.3	2.9	2.9	4.9	9.2	9.5	8.1	134
Goldfinch	57.4	59.2	64.8	66.2	62.3	66.1	58.4	53.2	51.2	55.9	58.8	56.2	317
Gt Sp Woodpecker	36.2	34.9	32.3	32.7	40.9	40.9	36.6	27.8	15.9	20.7	30.7	35.3	261
Great Tit	77.2	76.5	74.5	75.1	72.8	69.2	65.4	68.8	73.7	76.6	77.3	77.1	343
Greenfinch	40.1	44.9	49.8	50.9	52.0	52.2	50.9	45.1	41.5	40.0	38.5	37.3	288
House Sparrow	56.2	58.7	59.5	63.2	67.9	66.2	62.9	56.8	53.7	55.4	53.4	54.4	280
Jackdaw	32.5	34.9	34.7	38.9	44.5	41.1	30.4	25.7	26.1	25.7	28.7	29.8	216
Jay	18.9	17.0	13.0	12.3	13.5	13.4	11.1	7.2	8.0	11.2	11.3	8.3	184
Long-tailed Tit	37.3	45.3	38.7	23.4	9.9	11.1	15.3	23.2	28.6	31.1	32.2	36.8	304
Magpie	59.8	58.2	60.4	65.0	66.3	62.2	56.8	54.3	54.0	60.2	64.9	59.5	327
Marsh Tit	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.1	17
Marsh/Willow Tit	2.8	2.0	2.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	2.3	3.1	4.0	3.2	3.7	41
Mistle Thrush	2.8	3.2	4.2	4.9	4.0	3.0	2.6	1.2	2.4	2.9	3.5	3.3	56
Nuthatch	31.2	28.5	25.6	19.8	20.6	25.5	28.0	30.4	29.6	32.8	32.5	29.6	214
Pied/White Wagtail	11.7	12.7	8.0	6.7	5.6	5.6	4.2	1.4	1.8	5.5	7.8	5.5	131
Redwing	3.3	1.9	1.8	0.4	0.4					1.2	5.4	6.8	65
Reed Bunting	1.9	3.3	3.0	1.6	0.5	0.5				0.6	0.6	1.3	23
Robin	95.5	96.5	95.3	94.5	90.3	85.0	82.6	86.7	89.9	90.0	89.7	90.8	347
Rook	14.2	16.1	19.6	23.4	21.1	19.2	13.5	9.9	9.6	9.4	11.3	12.9	126
Siskin	3.0	5.8	6.9	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.2	5.5	7.0	5.5	4.8	4.2	97
Song Thrush	29.0	31.3	24.0	23.0	20.2	21.5	19.5	7.6	3.4	4.7	10.2	16.8	245
Sparrowhawk	8.0	7.0	8.8	6.8	5.9	7.9	10.0	9.4	10.2	8.2	8.7	9.4	197
Starling	54.1	54.0	54.7	55.9	62.7	59.1	48.2	38.6	35.8	36.1	42.8	46.0	298

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sites
Tawny Owl	6.2	4.6	5.0	4.4	3.6	3.3	3.5	5.4	5.6	6.2	6.4	6.5	75
Tree Sparrow	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	14
Treecreeper	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.0	42
Willow Tit	0.3	0.3				0.4				0.8			4
Woodpigeon	93.8	94.4	94.3	95.9	95.3	94.5	94.3	90.7	89.2	87.9	87.3	89.8	344
Wren	35.0	38.7	41.2	35.5	26.4	26.4	27.6	27.5	25.0	37.6	38.8	35.4	303
Yellowhammer	0.9	0.8	1.9	2.1	2.8	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	17

Thanks to Kate Risely at BTO for supplying the table and answering queries. She also provided the raw data which has been used in several species accounts in the Systematic List. Note GBW records are reported on a 'week-commencing' (w/c) basis. Thanks also to all the observers who contributed records from the 347 gardens in Hampshire.

Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2015

The BTO BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in April-June 2015 a total of 138 randomly located 1-km squares in the county were surveyed using the line-transect counting technique. A line-transect count is the number of birds of a given species detected (heard or seen, including fly bys) on a two km walk completed in 2-3 hours within the 1-km square. These figures provide a useful indication of the relative abundance of different species although they do not take account of differences in detectability between species. They do not provide a measure of absolute abundance because the surveys do not detect all of the birds present in a particular square. Data are provided here for 2015 and earlier years in terms of: (a) Square Occupancy = % of squares where a species is detected and (b) Mean number of birds detected per occupied square = the totals of the maximum counts recorded from each square divided by the total number of occupied squares. Species present in 2015 in ten or more squares are tabulated below followed by lists of scarcer registrations:

Species	Square occupancy			Mean no. of birds detected per occupied square		
	2010-2014		2015	2010-2014		2015
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
<i>No of squares surveyed</i>	119.4	113-129	138			
Greylag Goose	8%	7-10%	7%	8.1	5.5-12	6.3
Canada Goose	23%	18-26%	25%	6.3	4.2-7.1	6.1
Mallard	38%	33-47%	43%	7.0	4.8-9.4	7.1
Red-legged Partridge	33%	24-42%	39%	3.1	2.3-3.6	3.1
Pheasant	79%	73-84%	77%	6.1	4.9-6.7	6.2
Grey Heron	22%	19-26%	27%	1.7	1.5-2.1	1.5
Red Kite	12%	9-16%	16%	1.6	1.4-1.8	1.5
Sparrowhawk	12%	9-14%	13%	1.0	1-1.1	1.1
Buzzard	58%	51-66%	49%	1.8	1.5-2	1.7
Moorhen	16%	11-22%	17%	2.2	1.9-2.5	2.0
Coot	11%	9-13%	9%	5.2	3.7-6.4	7.2
Lapwing	19%	15-25%	15%	4.3	2.6-5.6	4.0
Black-headed Gull	31%	28-34%	38%	16.4	12-19	10.7
Lesser Black-backed Gull	14%	11-17%	14%	2.7	1.9-4.1	2.7
Herring Gull	23%	15-28%	25%	16.4	4.4-34	11.7
Feral Pigeon	15%	13-18%	12%	8.8	7.4-11	13.5
Stock Dove	45%	40-49%	51%	3.2	2.5-3.9	2.9
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	100%	33.4	31-37	33.9
Collared Dove	55%	48-59%	59%	5.9	5.6-6.4	4.7

Species	Square occupancy			Mean no. of birds detected per occupied square		
	2010-2014		2015	2010-2014		2015
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
Cuckoo	30%	26-36%	28%	1.7	1.5-1.8	1.8
Swift	29%	27-34%	28%	9.3	7.8-14	7.3
Green Woodpecker	58%	51-62%	55%	2.0	1.7-2.3	2.0
Great Spotted Woodpecker	77%	72-79%	73%	2.6	2.4-2.7	2.2
Kestrel	23%	19-26%	15%	1.2	1.1-1.3	1.2
Magpie	76%	72-81%	78%	4.0	3.7-4.2	3.6
Jay	53%	48-58%	51%	1.9	1.8-2.1	2.0
Jackdaw	80%	78-84%	80%	12.1	11-15	11.8
Rook	63%	60-68%	61%	26.4	22-31	27.4
Carrion Crow	94%	93-97%	94%	8.8	8-9.6	10.4
Raven	5%	3-6%	7%	1.4	1.2-1.6	1.1
Goldcrest	50%	47-59%	54%	2.9	2.5-3.3	2.8
Blue Tit	97%	95-98%	97%	11.8	9.1-14	9.2
Great Tit	95%	91-98%	94%	7.2	5.6-8.5	6.3
Coal Tit	36%	30-41%	39%	2.7	2.4-3.1	3.4
Marsh Tit	13%	11-15%	12%	1.5	1.2-2.1	1.4
Skylark	58%	57-61%	58%	5.6	5.1-6.1	4.8
Swallow	63%	58-69%	65%	5.1	4.2-6	4.5
House Martin	28%	25-30%	28%	6.4	4.4-9.4	6.2
Long-tailed Tit	57%	50-70%	57%	3.0	2.6-3.8	3.1
Chiffchaff	86%	76-91%	87%	4.0	3.6-4.4	4.0
Willow Warbler	31%	26-35%	27%	2.3	2.2-2.5	2.2
Blackcap	90%	87-92%	87%	4.7	4.2-5.5	4.5
Garden Warbler	16%	10-20%	14%	1.4	1.2-1.7	1.9
Whitethroat	55%	53-61%	44%	2.9	2.5-3.4	3.0
Nuthatch	59%	55-65%	51%	2.9	2.6-3.3	2.9
Treecreeper	26%	21-31%	30%	1.7	1.4-2	1.6
Wren	99%	97-100%	97%	9.8	9-11	11.0
Starling	54%	52-60%	51%	10.9	9.3-12	13.7
Blackbird	100%	100-100%	100%	15.1	14-16	15.3
Song Thrush	89%	88-92%	93%	3.8	3.3-4.3	4.2
Mistle Thrush	49%	45-53%	50%	1.9	1.7-2.1	2.4
Robin	97%	96-99%	99%	9.1	8.2-9.4	9.6
Redstart	6%	6-7%	9%	3.2	2.1-4.1	2.9
Stonechat	7%	5-11%	10%	3.9	3.3-5.1	3.6
Duncock	88%	85-91%	90%	4.1	3.7-4.4	3.9
House Sparrow	56%	54-58%	58%	13.2	12-15	11.5
Grey Wagtail	5%	2-9%	7%	1.4	1.3-1.5	2.2
Pied Wagtail	36%	33-42%	37%	1.6	1.5-1.7	1.8
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-13%	10%	4.3	3.7-5.4	5.4
Chaffinch	97%	96-98%	96%	10.2	8.3-12	8.7
Bullfinch	30%	21-37%	35%	1.8	1.7-1.9	1.7
Greenfinch	77%	67-83%	70%	5.2	4.1-5.9	4.3
Linnet	37%	34-41%	38%	6.1	4.3-8	7.3
Goldfinch	77%	73-79%	78%	5.6	5.1-6.3	5.6
Yellowhammer	44%	40-48%	42%	4.2	3.8-4.7	3.3

Species recorded in 3-9 squares: Mute Swan, Shelduck, Mandarin, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Cormorant, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank, Mediterranean Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Tawny Owl, Kingfisher, Firecrest, Willow Tit, Woodlark, Cetti's Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Wheatear, Tree Pipit, Crossbill, Siskin, Reed Bunting, Corn Bunting, Black Redstart, Whinchat, Rock Pipit, Hawfinch and Corn Bunting.

Species recorded in one or two squares: Egyptian Goose, Teal, Goosander, Grey Partridge, Great Crested Grebe, Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Snipe, Little Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Common Gull, Turtle Dove, Barn Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Hobby, Peregrine, Sand Martin, Wood Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler, Nightingale, Yellow Wagtail, Rock Pipit and Hawfinch.

Thanks are due to the BTO for managing the project, Glynne Evans for organising the survey in the county, all participants (who are listed in Appendix 2), Sarah Harris and Andrew Joys of BTO for providing the data and Alan Cox for compiling the table.



Barn Owl, Needs Ore, Feb 21st (Lee Fuller)

Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2015

Species	Jan 10th	Feb 14th	Mar 14th	Oct 24th	Nov 21st	Dec 19th
<i>No. of sites covered</i>	33	36	35	38	37	35
Teal					7	11
Little Egret	4	10	4			
Red Kite		1	1		1	
Hen Harrier	9	7	1	3	3	5
Goshawk	4	4	5	5	3	2
Sparrowhawk	3	2	2	7	7	1
Buzzard	51	51	89	21	27	24
Water Rail			1		1	
Oystercatcher		1	1			
Lapwing		23	67	1	14	90
Jack Snipe				1	2	
Woodcock	2	2	2			
Snipe	13	15	19	17	17	16
Kingfisher			1		1	
Green Woodpecker	17	23	24	31	19	11
Kestrel	13	5	14	29	6	10
Merlin	2	2	2	1		1
Peregrine	5	6	7	5	4	2
Great Grey Shrike	1		2	2	2	1
Carrion Crow	275	368	340	519	425	328
Raven	12	21	14	30	25	18
Firecrest	1	4	9	1		1
Marsh Tit	10	7	10	6	4	7
Woodlark	1	34	25	10	1	2
Skylark	2	29	42	38	4	
Dartford Warbler	30	41	62	124	63	35
Ring Ouzel				2		
Blackbird	256	376	268	208	286	249
Fieldfare	357	307	105	2,694	468	630
Redwing	694	775	146	691	929	783
Mistle Thrush	61	114	85	102	65	63
Black Redstart	1					
Stonechat	57	47	209	117	82	51
Meadow Pipit	227	295	229	473	123	137
Brambling	2	11	1	7		15
Chaffinch	1,272	442	319	735	209	127
Hawfinch	1		4			1
Bullfinch	20	11	34	13	28	36
Linnet	15	12	10	130	7	25
Lesser Redpoll		12	11	20	10	22
Crossbill		6	2	18	7	31
Siskin	25	33	69	58	13	33
Yellowhammer			20			
Reed Bunting	7	9	4	33	26	13
People	774	835	719	1,185	812	606
Dogs	359	390	293	474	411	372

Thanks to Keith Betton for organising the NFWBS. New volunteers are always welcome – please email Martin Orchard-Webb at shrikesurvey@hotmail.com. Thanks are due to the following observers who

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Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2015

The figures in each cell show the date of the months in which counts were carried out.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coast: east to west</i>												
Chichester Harbour Hampshire sectors (J Parkin <i>et al.</i>)	24	21	21						26	31	28	12
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn <i>et al.</i>)	24	21	21	18	16	6	4	29	26	31	28	12
Milton Common (K Crisp)	19	9	26							19	17	14
Baffins Pond (K Crisp)	19	9	26							19	17	14
Portsmouth Harbour (DI Bill <i>et al.</i>)	24	21	21						25	31	28	12
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)	23	20	20							30	27	11
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)	24	21	21							31	28	21
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett)	24	21	21					29	26	31	28	13
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)	24	21	21	18	16		4	29	26	31	29	13
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)	25	20	21							31	28	12
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	19	20	23						28	30	27	15
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	24	21	22	18	16	6	4	29	26	31	28	12
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)	25	22	22							31	29	13
Hythe (BJ Roberts)	28	20		21		24	29	30	27	24		12
Fawley Refinery (JG Ross)												
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)	18	21	21	19						31	28	13
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth <i>et al.</i>)	25	22	22	19	17	7	5	30	13	30	15	13
Sowley Pond (ID Williamson)	17	8	7						13	18	21	13
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)	24	21	21	18	19	7	5	29	26	31	28	12
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)	24	20	20	18	16	6	4	29	26	31	28	12
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman <i>et al.</i>)	24	21	21	18	16	6	4	30	27	31	29	12
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke, O Frampton)	18	8	8						27	25	29	13
R. Avon Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark, K Sayer)	18	8	8						27	25	29	13
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer, JM Clark)	18	8	8						27	26	29	13
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	18	8	8						27	25	29	13
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)	19	8	7						18	27	28	14
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)								16	27	25	29	13
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran)	18	8	7	11	23	20	25	30	27	25	29	27

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Test and Anton Valleys</i>												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth)	18	8	8						13	18	15	13
Broadlands Estate (DA Thelwell)	18	8	8	19								
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	16	10	6	20					13	18	17	13
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	19	8	6	20	17	11	18	18		23	14	12
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	19	8	6	20	17	11	18	18	17	23	14	12
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)	20	15	7	14	16	8	21	19	18	20	17	17
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	15	5	5	18	15	10	23	9	11	22	12	10
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)	16	4	4	17	13	10	23	28	10	14	18	18
Rooksbury Mill (AJ Polley)	18	8	8							18	15	12
Anton Lakes (AJ Polley)	18	8	8							18	15	
Charlton Lakes (AJ Polley)	18	8	8							18	15	
St Mary Bourne (AJ Polley)	18	8	8							18	15	
Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)	21	11	18	22	20		29			22	18	24
Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	18	8	8	4	17	14	19		27	18	15	12
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	18	8	8	4	17	14	19		27	18	15	12
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)	18	8	8	4	17	14	19		27	18	15	12
<i>Itchen Valley</i>												
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	18	8								18	15	13
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)	16	6	6						29	18	15	13
Marwell Manor Trout Fishery (JM Cloyne)	16	6	6							18	15	13
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)	16	6	6						29	18	15	13
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	19	9	9	20	18	14	20	18	11	16	13	14
Avington Lake (DJ Pearson)	18	8	8							18	15	13
Arlebury Lakes (DJ Pearson)	18	8	8							18	15	13
Alresford Pond (DJ Pearson)	18	8	8							18	15	13
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)	26	24	24					6		22		
<i>North and north-east</i>												
Wolverton Pond (B Sharkey)	18		8							18		12
Ewhurst Lake (B Sharkey)	18		8							18		12
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	18	8	8						13		15	13
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark, B Stalker)	21	10	10		21				24	21	24	24
Wellington CP (JM Clark, B Stalker)	24	10	7	16	31				15	21		19
Bramshill Plantation (JM Clark, N Bolter)	18	7	8	19	17	14	19	16	12	18	15	13
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	3	7	12	16		9		26	15	18	17	30
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	3	7	12	16				26	15	18	17	30
Eversley GP (JM Clark, RC Murfitt)	17	7	7	19		18			12	18	22	19
Yateley GP (JM Clark)	28	7	12					4	20	19	15	25
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	18	8	8						20	11	15	14
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)	18	8	8						13	18	15	13
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	18	8	8						20	11	15	19
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	18	8	8						20	11	15	19
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	18	8	8						20	11	15	19
<i>East</i>												
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	15	8	8		18	18	23	21	13	17		13

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	22	24	24						13	20	16	14
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)	22	24	24						13	20	16	14
Headley Mill Pond (M Orchard-Webb)	18	8	8	20	19		22	17	14	20	17	13
Passfield Pond (M Orchard-Webb)	18	8	8	20	19		22	17	14	20	17	13
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	18	8	8	18	17	14	19	16	13	18	15	13
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	18		8	19	17	14	20	16	13	18	15	13

Chichester Harbour team: T Bickerton, C Billingham, J Chapman, J Darley, S. Gilbert, J High, AC Johnson, S McCullagh, JM Parkin, A de Potier. Langstone Harbour team: G Baker, T Baker, D Ball, GC Barrett, T Bickerton, C Cockburn, C Darnley-Smith, M Eagles, G Farwell, A Field, C French, L MacCullum, P May, D Minns, D Perks, PM Potts, A Robjohns, JRD Shillitoe, R Skinner, J Smallwood, W Smith, J Southgate, S Wiltshire. Portsmouth Harbour team: DI Bill, I Calderwood, TMJ Doran, JA Norton, J Nundy, J Smallwood, PJ Strangeman. Beaulieu Estuary team: G Johnstone, BJ Pinchen, DJ Unsworth. Lymington-Hurst team: A Clark, PR Durnell, O Haisell, P Hobby, M Ward, EJ Wiseman. Coastal organiser: John Shillitoe; Inland Organiser: Keith Wills; Avon Valley Organiser: John Clark.



Oystercatcher (Dan Powell)

Table 6: Departure and arrival dates of winter visitors

Species	Latest 1954- 2014	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2014	Latest 2015	Earliest 1954- 2009	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2014	Earliest 2015	Summering records
Bewick's Swan	24.3.76	12 Mar	7 Mar	24 Jan	15.10.04	3 Nov	22 Nov	22 Nov	9 (Apr/May)
White-fr. Goose	20.5.84	28 Mar	23 Mar	29 May	4.10.52	12 Nov	31 Oct*	26 Oct	6 (Jun-Sep)
Scaup	23.5.13	8 Apr	12 Apr	8 May	9.9.00	27 Oct	31 Oct	23 Nov	4 (Jun-Aug)
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	19 Apr	27 Mar	23.9.61	4 Nov	3 Nov	26 Dec	3 (Jun-Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	16 May	26 Apr	29.9.91	30 Oct	2 Nov	25 Oct	
Smew	10.4.63	NA	9 Mar	6 Feb	8.11.82	NA	11 Dec*	NA	1 (June)
Bl.-throated Diver	6.6.07	5 May	11 May	7 May	8.9.09	4 Nov	18 Nov	15 Nov	2 (May-Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	22.6.13	12 May	30 May	2 June	16.9.03	5 Nov	10 Oct	15 Nov	1 (Aug)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	13 Mar	22 Mar	24.8.94	18 Oct	22 Nov	23 Nov	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	16 Apr	22 Mar	18.9.09	25 Oct	26 Oct	12 Oct	2 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	20 Apr	26 Apr	23.8.07	25 Sep	28 Sep	16 Sep	
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	9 May	7 May	7.7.69	4 Oct	9 Oct	27 Oct	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	10 Apr	27 Apr	21.8.08	28 Sep	29 Sep	29 Sep	
Merlin	24.5.03	23 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	30.7.05	24 Aug	25 Aug	17 Aug	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	14 Apr	4 Apr	4.10.72	17 Oct	20 Oct	13 Oct	
Fieldfare	23.5.80	28 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	3.9.04	30 Sep	3 Oct	14 Oct	4 (June)
Redwing	12.5.81	23 Apr	21 Apr	10 Apr	11.9.99	27 Sep	1 Oct	11 Sep	2 (June)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	13 Oct	19 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	20 Apr	5 May	22.9.96	5 Oct	10 Oct	10 Oct	1 (July)
Twite	13.4.75	NA	NA	NA	30.9.83	NA	NA	NA	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	13 Feb*	NA	3.10.75	NA	25 Oct	22 Nov	
Lapland Bunting	23.4.10	NA	NA	NA	9.9.70	NA	11 Oct*	18 Oct	

bold = new earliest or latest date; * = based on limited data set; NA = not available

Table 7: Arrival and departure dates of summer visitors

Species	Earliest 1954- 2014	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2014	Earliest 2015	Latest 1954- 2014	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2014	Latest 2015	Wintering records
Garganey	2.3.03	19 Mar	16 Mar	20 Mar	29.11.53	28 Sep	24 Sep	31 Oct	
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	14 May	25 May	19.11.58	24 Aug	28 Aug*	17 July	6 (Dec-Mar)
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	28 Apr	7 May	30.10.76	5 Oct	28 Sep	17 Sep	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	8 May*	24 Apr	2.11.60	31 Aug	25 Aug*	NA	
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	18 Mar	17 Mar	11.12.99	14 Oct	7 Nov	12 Nov	
Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	28 Mar	23 Mar	6.11.66	2 Oct	5 Oct	8 Oct	2 (Dec)
Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	15 Mar	14 Mar	29.10.08	18 Sep	19 Sep	11 Sep	
Dotterel	15.4.96	3 May*	NA	NA	25.9.82	4 Sep*	NA	NA	1 (Dec/Jan)
Wood Sandpiper	23.3.03	3 May	25 Apr	16 Apr	26.10.75	22 Sep	10 Sep	11 Sep	1 (Feb)
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	3 Apr	3 Apr	29.11.14	27 Oct	28 Oct	25 Nov	15 (Dec/Jan)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	10 Apr	17 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	18 Sep	9 Sep	1 (Jan)
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	25 Sep	25 Sep	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	30 Mar	3 Apr	30.11.73	25 Oct	28 Oct	15 Oct	3 (Dec)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	10.10.99	10 Sep	28 Aug	26 Sep	

Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	11 Apr	19 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	27 Oct	14 Oct	
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	20 Apr	9 Apr	7.11.70	3 Oct	23 Sep	30 Sep	5 (Dec-Feb)
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	31 Mar	9 Apr	30.10.10	13 Sep	11 Sep	19 Sep	
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	1 May	4 May	13.10.74	7 Sep	18 Sep	27 Sep	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	15 Apr	8 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	25 Sep	20 Sep	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	21 May*	19 Apr	9.11.13	27 Sep	20 Oct*	25 Oct	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	2 Apr	7 Apr	6.11.01	11 Oct	25 Oct	10 Oct	
Sand Martin	27.2.90	16 Mar	10 Mar	8 Mar	28.11.13	15 Oct	24 Oct	18 Oct	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09	20 Mar	18 Mar	17 Mar	22.12.77	27 Nov	6 Dec	13 Dec	6 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	23 Mar	28 Mar	22.12.82	17 Nov	11 Nov	31 Oct	2 (Jan/Feb)
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	29.9.64	24 Aug	22 Aug	10 Jul	
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	20 Mar	17 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	12 Oct	27 Sep	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	9 Oct	24 Sep	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	11 Apr	15 Apr	31.10.82	2 Oct	10 Oct	2 Oct	10 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	17.11.95	6 Oct	15 Oct	28 Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Grasshopper Wbr	1.4.97	16 Apr	8 Apr	13 Apr	20.10.01	18 Sep	3 Oct	29 Sep	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	30 Mar	9 Apr	9.11.63	9 Oct	18 Oct	18 Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	1.4.94	13 Apr	6 Apr	1 Apr	2.12.84	19 Oct	27 Oct	31 Oct	
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	19 Mar	3 Apr	4.12.03	29 Oct	12 Nov	16 Nov	6 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	29.10.61	2 Oct	7 Oct	2 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75	14 Apr	6 Apr	11 Apr	9.10.85	21 Aug	23 Aug	19 Sep	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	29 Sep	12 Sep	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	31 Mar	7 Apr	24.11.89	14 Oct	22 Oct	25 Oct	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	25 Oct	4 Dec	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	7 Mar	8 Mar	31.12.94	10 Nov	13 Nov	8 Nov	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	31 Mar	3 Apr	20.11.76	19 Oct	22 Oct	17 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	28 Mar	1 Apr	25.10.79	4 Oct	11 Oct	12 Oct	

* = based on limited data set; NA = not available



Little Terns (David Thelwell)

Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over inland watchpoints

Data are extracted from the visible migration website www.trektellen.nl. Other Hampshire observers are encouraged to set up their own watchpoint sites on Trektellen, which has excellent tools available for analysing the data, by contacting the UK Trektellen organiser Clive McKay at clive.mckay@btinternet.com.

Species	Trig Jan	Trig Feb	Trig Mar	Trig Apr	Trig May	Trig June	Trig July	Ghill Aug	Trig Aug	Ghill Sep
<i>Days observation</i>	9	5	10	13	4	6	6	5	13	13
<i>Totals hours</i>	7	4	10	11	3	6	7	13	15	13
Cormorant	36	18	36	6	2	2	12	11	24	56
Golden Plover										
Lapwing	142	218	13	10	2	25			75	13
Black-headed Gull			440			3			36	16
Common Gull			17							
LBB Gull		6	35	74	4	16	12	6	43	
Herring Gull	5	6	41	2		11	73	112	158	12
GBB Gull	4	2	5	16	1			3	1	2
Stock Dove	42	19	24	48		11	25	11	123	168
Woodpigeon							125	663	3,045	120
Collared Dove	1		1	1		1		1	8	
Swift					70	201	473	3	3	1
Gt Sp Woodpecker								1		1
Jay	1	2	1	8	1				1	
Jackdaw										17
Woodlark										
Skylark		27		2						
Sand Martin				17	2		3			178
Swallow				72	72	20	106	54	548	5,402
House Martin				17	33		74	353	797	2,731
Starling	339	40	534			3	10	136	86	120
Blackbird										
Fieldfare	59	6	8							
Song Thrush		2	2							
Redwing	39	19	87							
Mistle Thrush	4						19	1	1	17
<i>flava</i> Wagtail				8				19	6	60
Grey Wagtail			1					3		27
<i>alba</i> Wagtail	11	7	5	1		2	8	16	6	88
Tree Pipit				2				4	6	5
Meadow Pipit	10	7	303	760				2		169
Brambling										
Chaffinch	21	2	366	14	2	2		14	5	56
Hawfinch			1							3
Bullfinch	1			1					2	
Greenfinch	2	5	11	5	3		2	1	6	12
Linnet	24	4	70	179	2	13	19		164	3
Lesser Redpoll										1
Crossbill										3
Goldfinch	7	6	26	16	4		4	56	18	170
Siskin	3					1	3	2	4	228
Yellowhammer	2			3						
Reed Bunting	3		1						1	

Species	Trig Sep	Tdown Sep	Ghill Oct	Trig Oct	Tdown Oct	Ghill Nov	Trig Nov	Tdown Nov	Trig Dec
<i>Days observation</i>	11	20	8	18	29	14	18	20	8
<i>Totals hours</i>	16	30	33	29	43	16	24	41	5
Cormorant	87		81	135		16	57		5
Golden Plover				71			11	217	180
Lapwing			487	48		351	37		
Black-headed Gull	21				14	80		8	
Common Gull				7			92	5	35
LBB Gull	1	31		1	36		8	217	
Herring Gull	2	15	10	242	27	79	236	201	31
GBB Gull				1			4	1	
Stock Dove	158	101	7	179	205	6	45	226	8
Woodpigeon	110		5,878	630	2,630	181,582	32,050	62,930	2,170
Collared Dove				4	1		2		
Swift									
Gt Sp Woodpecker	4	3	2	7	2		4	22	
Jay	13			8	1	1	3	3	
Jackdaw		25	134	55	188	203		36	
Woodlark			2	6	2				
Skylark	48	2	11	275	101	5	31	29	5
Sand Martin	9	124			1				
Swallow	2,357	2,160	135	444	40				
House Martin	3,367	7,905	546	664	12				
Starling	45	1	200	1,004	644	290	778	2,764	118
Blackbird				13	3		3	30	
Fieldfare			116	366	1,095	1,758	3,461	2,494	103
Song Thrush		7	1	77	86		8	54	
Redwing		24	815	3,232	9,396	11,615	5,375	4,307	185
Mistle Thrush	7	9	16	39	35	7	13	7	
<i>flava</i> Wagtail	9	2							
Grey Wagtail	7	8	8	19			4		
<i>alba</i> Wagtail	27	17	76	259	39	33	65	62	4
Tree Pipit	3								
Meadow Pipit	178	419	162	385	110	42	52	16	9
Brambling				9	6	11	674	12	42
Chaffinch	62	12	54	1,162	903	43	671	388	93
Hawfinch			3	9		3	1		3
Bullfinch	3			55	1	1	24	5	
Greenfinch	15	5	17	140	72	9	119	49	40
Linnet	94	53	14	670	325	16	448	605	63
Lesser Redpoll	1	13	7	182	29	7	138	10	13
Crossbill				15	4	1	1	31	2
Goldfinch	28	22	97	363	200	69	72	110	10
Siskin	51	45	73	236	70	137	84	23	6
Yellowhammer	1			51			11	1	3
Reed Bunting				41	5	3	19	1	3

Trig = Trigpoint Hill, mid-Test Valley (David Thelwell); Ghill = Greenhill, Romsey (Peter Jones);
Tdown = Tweseldown Racecourse near Fleet (John Clark and Graham Stephenson).

Appendix I

Outstanding and not proven records

Outstanding records

Records for which descriptions are required for consideration by BBRC or HOSRP

The following are records which either (a) have not been officially submitted or (b) have been submitted but without the necessary supporting documentation as detailed in Appendix 3. If the necessary documentation is not submitted to the Recorder for consideration the record will be lost from the Hampshire avifauna.

2015 – HOSRP

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: Gilkicker, Jan 10th.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*: Pamber, July 5th.

Not proven records

Records considered not proven by HOSRP or BBRC

In the majority of cases, the records below were categorised as not proven because the panel/committee was not convinced that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were records not accepted as, in the panel's/committee's view, a mistake had been made.

2015 – BBRC

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*: Brishfield, Sep 14th.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*: Titchfield Haven, Sep 17th-18th.

2015 – HOSRP

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Bedhampton, Apr 4th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Portsdown Hill, Apr 8th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Chandlers Ford, May 15th.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*: Hurstbourne Priors, Jan 15th.

Corncrake *Crex crex*: Basingstoke, Mar 22nd.

Crane *Grus grus*: Catfield, May 10th.

Iceland Gull (Kumlien's) *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*: Ibsley Water, Feb 2nd.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*: Hannington, Feb 21st.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: Basingstoke, June 18th.

Appendix 2

Observers and Contributors 2015

Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2015 database of records used to prepare the Systematic List. In addition to those submitting directly to HOS Recorder, it includes contributions from the following sources: BTO BirdTrack, BTO Breeding Bird Survey, Going Birding website, Solent Bird Studies, Thames Basin & Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Survey, Trektellen, WeBS and Winning Ways. It does not include those submitting to Birdguides or BTO's Garden BirdWatch.

R Abrahams	MA Barrett	IR Bowes	I Calderwood	T Clayson
M Adams	D Barton	C Bowman	C Caldwell	S Clement
MC Adams	S Bassett	C Bown	DK Campbell	B Clements
D Agombar	S Batchelor	F Boxell	G Campbell	J Clements
M Ahmad	C Bates	SD Bradley	MD Campbell	KM Clements
P Akers	T Bates	I Bradshaw	B Caplin	R Clements
G Alexander	M Bath	J Brandsma	S Carey	S Clemmons
H Alexander	GS Batho	J Bray	I Carle	G Clewley
D Allan	GJ Beanland	MT Breaks	RJ Carpenter	J Cliffe
CA Allen	CH Beazley	MA Breakspear	TF Carpenter	JM Cloyne
J Allen	M Bell	RG Breakwell	L Carr	BF Coates
D Allnutt	S Bellis	EC Brett	K Cartwright-	C Cockburn
R Alpin	EJ Bennett	H Bridgland	Hassard	TD Codlin
K Amery	K Bennett	BD Briggs	J Casson	D Cole
LJ Amey	MJ Bennett	A Brittan	M Cattell	D Colledge
K Armitage	A Berryman	AM Broadhurst	N Catty	R Collingridge
M Armitage	KF Betton	R Broadway	I Cavey	H Collings
G Armstrong	S Bevis	M Brolly	S Chadwick	AR Collins
D Austin	S Bignold	R Brook	ML Chalmers	CB Collins
DV Avis	DI Bill	D Brookes	S Chalmers	M Collins
PJ Aylward	JH Bingley	C Brooks	PG Chamberlain	MJ Collins
S Aylward	G Bird	C Brown	JR Champ	JR Collman
B Aziz	J Birkett	GB Brown	C Chapleo	I Colverson
JM Badnell	G Bishop	J Brown	C Chapman	P Combridge
A Bailey	L Bissell	SA Brown	RA Chapman	J Common
L Bailey	I Black	S Brunton	SE Chapman	DK Compton
L Baines	M Black	P Bryant	N Chappell	SP Coney
CG Baker	K Blackmore	R Bryant	P Chase	D Conway
G Baker	AF Blakeley	D Buckingham	SM Chastell	D Cook
MJ Baker	D Blandford	DJ Buckler	RA Cheke	K Cook
R Baker	J Blithe	PA Budd	DA Christie	CM Cooke
D Balcombe	GM Blockley	T Bunce	R Christopher	JD Cooke
DJG Ball	MG Blowfield	TW Bunday	K Churcher	RE Cooke
RP Ball	A Blunden	C Burch	RJ Claridge	R Coomber
S Ball	G Blythe	G Burchall	A Clark	DC Coombs
TG Ball	WR Boaton	N Burgum	B Clark	A Cooper
ID Ballam	C Bollen	ANM Burns	FC Clark	GP Cooper
A Balmer	N Bolter	AJ Burr	JM Clark	JH Cooper
L Barber	A Bolton	RA Burrell	RT Clark	MD Cooper
J Barker	P Bolton	R Burrows	S Clark	P Cooper
SRJ Barker	K Boog-Penman	D Butler	WJ Clark	P Copleston
T Barnes	M Boswell	E Butler	BP Clarke	S Copsey
T Barnes	SA Boswell	ED Butler	D Clarke	RJ Cordery
C Barrass	SR Boswell	AMB Butterworth	M Clay	R & H Cornford
GC Barrett	P Boulton	G Calderwood	RP Clay	C Corrigan

C Courtaux	B Downey	P Foad	APS Hale	MJ Holt
C Cowell	J Downing	PMS Ford	JA Hale	CA Holter
R Cowley	JM Dowson	RE Ford	C Hall	G Honey
AP Cox	A Drewett	S Ford	G Hall	I Horobin
AFJ & PR Cox	PW Driver	M Forster	KD Hall	TM Hotten
D Cox	JE Druett	CW Foster	T Hall	D Houghton
BR Cozens	NA Duckworth	O Frampton	RJ Hallett	AM Howard
SJ Craft	B Dudley	C French	MJ Halligan	G Howard
B Crathorne	BS Duffin	A Friend	N Hammatt	AR Howe
KG Creed	G Duffus	LM Fuller	JM Hammersley	R Howell
M & JB Creese	MD Duffy	M Fussell	IR Hampson	DS Hubble
K Crisp	G Duggan	PA Gammage	D Hampton	A Hudson
K Crook	N Duggan	PJ Gardner	M Hampton	D Hughes
AR Cross	KP Duncan	J Garrad	TM Hampton	J Hughes
F Cross	B Durham	CS Garrett	J Hannam	RM Hughes
PJ Crowley	R Durkin	J Gates	AJ Hardie	NJ Hull
MJ Cuff	PR Durnell	E Geall	A Harding	RA Hume
G Culbertson	R Dyde	L Geary	NR Harding	P Humphrey
DA Cumming	A Dyos	CR Gent	D Hardman	A Humphreys-
S Currie	LW Easom	MJ Gibbons	R Hardy	Jones
S Curson	ML Edgeller	TE Gibson-Poole	BT Hargreaves	A Humphries
R Curtis	M Edie	GSA Giddens	A Harmer	DJ Humphries
CR Cuthbert	H Edmunds	SA Gilbert	J Harrington	J Hunt
M Cutts	DP Edwards	R Gilham	A Harris	PR Hunt
R Daley	L Edwards	D Gillingham	NG Harris	PE Hutchins
G Dando	A Egglesfield	M Gillingham	C Harrison	M Hyam
B Daniels	D Ellis	H Gillooly	R Hart	JA Hyde
MHR Dapice	C Emm	M Glavin	S Hartill	KJ Ilsley
M Darling	K Englefield	B Goater	SC Harvey	R Ingle
DG Darrell-	L Essaye	RD Goater	E Harwood	S Ingram
Lambert	M Essenson	B Goddard	D Hastings	R Iredale
AS Davidson	L Etheridge	NR Godden	SG Hatch	M Ison
BM Davies	DG Evans	KM Godfrey	JJ Hatcher	B Ives
G Davies	GC & SL Evans	JJ Goodridge	HL Hatfield	AG Jackson
K Davies	LGR Evans	JR Goodspeed	D Hawkins	R Jackson
P Davies	M Evans	D Gorman	J Hawtree	SJ Jackson
AM Davis	RA Evans	J Gowers	MJW Hay	RJK Jacobs
A & C Dawson	JA Eyre	T Graham	A Hayden	AR James
J Day	T Fagan	L Gravely	R Haydon	P James
T Day	J Faithfull	RT Greasby	RJ Hayward	S Jarrett
A De Potier	E Farmer	AE Green	N Hazzard	FM Jennings
JW Dedman	B Farnell	C Green	SJ Healey	AC Johnson
L Demez	AR Farrar	C Greenfield	AB Heath	G Johnson
L Denham	G Farwell	MC Greenish	PA Heath	K Johnson
G Dennis	PF Fawkes	R Griffiths	B Hedley	G Johnstone
J Denton	T Fay	DM Grist	RD Hellier	AR Jones
DM Derrick	T Fegan	RD Gross	SL Hendy	B Jones
M Dewhirst	BJ Fellows	D Grubb	JH Hewitt	C Jones
JR Diamond	GD Fennemore	NJF Gtaes	R Hewitt	D Jones
GM Dicker	AR Field	M Guinane	M Highfield	DA Jones
RC Dickey	E Field	AC Gutteridge	MJ Hill	J Jones
DEJ Dicks	R Findlay	BS Gwynn	JL Hilton	KL Jones
C Dixon	M Finlason	L Gwynn	DJ Hoare	LA Jones
MJ Dixon	J Fisher	PJ Hack	P Hobby	M Jones
P Dodsworth	N Fisher	SJ Hackett	P Hodson	NR Jones
PC Donaldson	P Fitzpatrick	K Haggard	P Hogan	P Jones
TMJ Doran	R Flesher	NJ Haigh	AP Holding	PD Jones
A Dove	D Fletcher	IR Hainsworth	DA Holland	PE Jones
GJ Down	P Floyd	O Haisell	K Hollidge	S Jones

SEI Jones	P Lord	G Miller	AE Owen	AP Pullen
T Jones	W Loughborough	L Miller	NT Owen	L Pyke
T Jordan	WJ Lowe	RF Milligan	M Padmore	R Pyrah
I Julian	VA Lowings	J Mills	AG Page	BJ Rackett
K Kearns	N Lowndes	S Mills	SD Page	D Radden
SG Keen	M Lush	D Minns	MG Painter	M Rafter
A Keene	C Lycett	D Mitchell	JL Painton	IL Ralphs
S Keene	R Lyle	R Mitchell	M Palmer	M Randall
DW Keightley	J Lynch	NJ Montegriffo	MJ Palmer	N Rawlings
D Kelson	T Mabbett	MP Moody	N Papis	CJ Raymond
AD Kennelly	D Macay	J & J Moon	N Papps	EM Raynor
N Keogh	L MacCallum	AP Moore	A Parker	JW Redhead
KM Kerr	J MacGregor	D Moore	AJ Parker	B Reed
P Killip	A MacNish	G Moore	O Parker	C Reed
GJ King	D Mallard	NJ Moran	JM Parkin	R Reedman
M King	L Mann	KJ Morgan	L Parkin	DJ Reeves
RA King	CP Manning	M Morley	TJ Parminter	EJ Reeves
SS King	SJ Mansfield	W Morley	A Parsonage	J Reeves
M Kirkland	JH Marchant	G Morris	IJ Parsons	I Reid
I Kitching	RH Marchant	L Morrison	R Partis	A Reynolds
RIA Knapman	RJ Markham	R Morrison	RW Pascal	N Reynolds
D Knight	N Marriner	L Mortimer	S Patmore	AS Rhodes
G Knight	B Marshall	JC Moseley	A Pearce	E Rice
N Knight	PC Marston	A Mountford	RK Pearce	G Rich
G Knott	AP Martin	CAS Mullender	DJ Pearson	D Riddle
J Kornjaca	BS Martin	DR Munday	P Pearson	P Ridout
M Lambden	JP Martin	D Munts	R Peck	S Ritchie
SR Lambert	JM Maskell	D Murdoch	MF Peers	A Roberts
SR Lankester	K Maskell	A Murdock	G Pepper	BJ Roberts
M Larter	N Matthews	RC Murfitt	Y Perlman	D Roberts
J Last	P Matthews	AJ Murray	D Perryman	GCM Roberts
M Latham	AJ Maundrell	D Murray	JN Peters	J Roberts
S Lavington	G May	A Musgrove	SP Peters	M Roberts
MR Lawn	NG May	Naturetrek Team	M Phillips	P Roberts
S Lawrence	C Mayhead	S Neal	I Pibworth	D Robertson
J Lawson	W Mayne	M Neate-Clegg	J Pickering	MJ Robertson
MJ Lawson	JS McCarthy	R Nelson	J Picksley	DJ Robinson
S Layton	MG McCarthy	MAH Newman	SP Piggott	DM Robinson
R Lee	SFH McCullagh	SJ Newton	BJ Pinchen	D Robison
RD Lee	S McCulloch	P Nield	MA Pink	A Robjohns
T Lee	AJ McGowan	A Nieuwkerk	CJ Piper	MD Rolfe
J Legg	T McGrath	J Nightingale	D Piper	G Rooney
WGD Legge	A McKenna	A Noble	MJ Pitt	C Rose
S Leishman	D McLeod	MJ Norman	S Platts	CM Ross
AJB Lester	A McVeigh	PR Norriss	J Pleasance	JG Ross
G Lester	G Mead	TJ Norriss	RG Pointer	BN Rossiter
JE Levell	M Meads	P Northcote	AJ Polley	H Rouse
RK Levett	I Mears	JA Norton	A Pomfret	HEJ Rowe
AI Lewis	J Meikle	T Norton	CR Poole	GJS Rowland
P Lewis	M Melrose	MW Nurse	AD Pope	PAS Rowse
K Leyland	J Mercer	C Oakes	D Potter	E Rowsell
B Lintott	M Merritt	G O'Connell	PM Potts	BS Rumfitt
EA Lintott	KD Metcalf	MA Oram	A Powell	DM Russell
MA Litjens	L Middleton	D Orchard	J Powell	SA Russell
A Litvinoff	A Mielczarek	MA Orchard-Webb	E Pratt	K Rylands
S Lloyd	S Miles	N Orson	M Pringle	DJ Ryves
D Lock	SR Miles	B Osborne	DM Pritchard	C Savage
A Locke	PN Milinets-Raby	L Osgerby	B Procter	R Sawyer
C Lodge	D & M Miller	L Overy	A Pugh	K Sayer

J Scamell	RH Smith	MGW Terry	CH Vodden	JA Wichall
RL Scantlebury	SF Smith	MH Terry	M Vokes	M Wiggins
N Schofield	W Smith	E Test	M Wagstaff	M Wildish
PS Scorey	G Snelgar	AB Tew	J Wakeford	G Wilkerson
E Scott	C Snell	DA Thelwell	BJ Walker	C Wilkinson
S Scott	AM Snook	R Theobald	K Walker	D Wilkinson
SR Seagrave	R Souter	A Thomas	S Walker	T Wilkinson
BJ Sealy	J Southgate	PGL Thompson	TH Walker	A Williams
J Seaward	G Spencer	GA Thornton	D Wallace	BR Williams
A Sennitt	G Stacey	A Thorpe	J Walsha	C Williams
K Seymour	B Stalker	CJ Thorpe	JM Walters	J Williams
M Shaft	S Stapleton	I Tilbury	E Wang	PA Williams
B Sharkey	AJ Steele	C Timlett	M Ward	RD Williams
KJ Sharman	GC Stephenson	AD Tindale	R Ward	S Williams
A Sharp	A Stevens	A Todd	PM Warne	C Williamson
G Sharp	M Stevens	RT Toft	C Warren	ID Williamson
MD Shaw	T Stevens	R Tofts	JR Waterman	J Williamson
J & C Shelley	DE Stevenson	D Towers	MIG Watson	MJ Williamson
D Sheppard	D Stewart	M Towers	RF Watson	KB Wills
B Shiels	S Stileman	J Townsend	IR Watts	C Wilson
EM Shilland	T Stimpson	PE Toynton	M Watts	MA Wilson
JRD Shillitoe	A Stocker	D Treadaway	PJ Watts	S Wiltshire
R Ship	S Stone	S Trenerry	R Watts	PD Winter
PP Short	M Stoneman	J Trim	T Weale	EJ Wiseman
D Shrive	A Stoney	NS Trout	MF Wearing	M Wood
I Sibsey	K Stouse	R Trundle	GM Wearn	S Wood
G Siddle	PJ Strangeman	JM Tubbs	R Webb	R Woods
WF Simcox	M Stratton	D Tucker	RM Webb	G Woodward
O Simms	E Stupple	P Tucker	A Webster	SA Woolfries
J Simons	DJ Sussex	S Tucker	I Wells	SK Woolley
KJ Simpson	A Sutton	R Tulloch	TJ Wells	D Worton
PA Sketch	P Sutton	KA Turner	ILG Weston	D Wright
R Skinner	JL & M Swallow	M Turton	AV Wheatcroft	AR Wynde
AM Slade	M Swann	AP Twyman	MJ Wheeler	RB Wynn
C Slade	DE Swensson	D Tyler	P Whitbread	CD Yates
AC Smallbone	RW Swift	R Tyrrell	C White	SR Yates
J Smallwood	ERC Symonds	DJ Unsworth	KG White	D Yelland
NR Smart	P Tatham	G Upton	PR White	R Yeoman-Walker
S Smart	A Taylor	P Upton	R White	A Young
A Smith	C Taylor	J Vaughan	SN White	CA Young
IA Smith	D Taylor	H Venables	G Whitehead	K Young
JF Smith	L Taylor	J Venner	SG Whitehead	R Young
ME Smith	M Taylor	DJ Viles	P Whittaker	
MJ Smith	RJ Taylor	RHW Vine	K Whittleton	

Contributors

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Andy Johnson's Sandy Point Report
 Birdguides
 BTO BirdTrack
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 Hoslist Yahoo Group
 HWT Reserves Officers and Wardens

Needs Ore Log
 Rare Bird Alert
 Richard Carpenter's weekly Titchfield Haven
 area summaries
 RSPB Stone-curlew Team
 Trektellen
 WeBS Partnership

Appendix 3

Guidelines for the Submission of Records

All observers birding in Hampshire are urged to submit their sightings to the Recorder on Hampshire Ornithological Society record forms. The form is available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording/record-form>. Completed forms should be e-mailed to the Recorder at keithbetton@hotmail.com. Records can also be submitted in an excel spreadsheet (preferred) or Microsoft Word file. Handwritten submissions by post are also welcome and should be sent to Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR. It would be of great assistance if observers would comply with the following points when submitting records.

- Records should be listed either by species (in the order used in the *Hampshire Bird Report*) or by date.
- Please submit your sightings to the Recorder quarterly and at the latest by Jan 31st of the following year.

Information required for species occurring annually; updates for 2016 in red.

Key to codes used in table:

- A All records; details of age, plumage, time, direction of movement, etc. should be included as appropriate, especially for birds seen in places where not usually recorded or out of season.
- B All breeding records, with type of evidence obtained: confirmed, probable or possible.
- CB Counts of breeding pairs/singing males/territories in clearly defined areas.
- F Flocks, roosts and falls: minimum number required is given in parentheses.
- F&L First and last dates of summer and winter visitors.
- M Observations of birds moving on migration: give each day's count separately, with time of observation and direction the birds were moving.
- MM Dated monthly maxima from localities you regularly watch, counts may be below the threshold in F when submitting a complete year's data.
- R All records from localities where not normally recorded.
- S All summer records.
- W All winter records.
- Notes Brief notes of diagnostic identification features observed should be written on the record form.

Mute Swan	B, F (20), MM
Bewick's Swan	A, Notes excluding Avon valley
White-fronted Goose	A
Greylag Goose	B, F (50), MM, R
Bar-headed Goose	A
Snow Goose	A
Canada Goose	B, F(100), MM
Lesser Canada Goose	A, Notes
Barnacle Goose	A
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	F (100), MM, F&L, M, R, inland A
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	A
Egyptian Goose	A
Ruddy Shelduck	A
Shelduck	coast: B, F (50), MM, inland: A
Mandarin Duck	B, F (10), MM, R
Wigeon	F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R
Gadwall	B,F (25), MM, F&L, R
Teal	B,F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R

Mallard	CB, F (100), MM
Pintail	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Garganey	A
Shoveler	B, F (10), MM, F&L, R
Red-crested Pochard	A
Pochard	A
Tufted Duck	B, F (25), MM, F&L, R
Scaup	A, inland & summer Notes
Eider	A, inland Notes
Long-tailed Duck	A, inland & summer Notes
Common Scoter	A
Velvet Scoter	A, inland Notes
Goldeneye	A
Smew	A
Red-breasted Merganser	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Goosander	A
Ruddy Duck	A
Red-legged Partridge	B, F (50), R
Grey Partridge	A
Quail	A
Pheasant	CB, R
Golden Pheasant	A
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	A, Notes
Red-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Great Northern Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Fulmar	A, inland Notes
Manx Shearwater	A, inland Notes
Gannet	A, inland Notes
Cormorant	F (20), MM, R
Shag	A, inland Notes
Bittern	A
Little Egret	B, F (10), MM, M, R
Great White Egret	A, Notes excluding Avon Valley
Grey Heron	B, F (10), MM, M
Spoonbill	A, inland Notes
Little Grebe	B, F (5), MM, R
Great Crested Grebe	B, F (10), MM, R
Red-necked Grebe	A, Notes
Slavonian Grebe	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-necked Grebe	A
Honey-buzzard	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Red Kite	A
Marsh Harrier	A
Hen Harrier	A
Goshawk	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Sparrowhawk	B, M
Buzzard	B, F (10), M, R
Osprey	A
Water Rail	A
Spotted Crake	A, Notes
Moorhen	CB, F (20), MM

Coot	CB, F (20), MM
Stone-curlew	A
Avocet	A
Oystercatcher	B, F (100), MM, M, inland A
Golden Plover	A
Grey Plover	F (20), F&L, S, R, inland A
Lapwing	B, F (100), MM, M, R
Little Ringed Plover	A
Ringed Plover	B, F (20), MM, M, inland A
Dotterel	A, Notes
Whimbrel	F (10), F&L, M, W, R, inland A
Curlew	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Black-tailed Godwit	F (50), F&L, S, R, inland A
Bar-tailed Godwit	A
Turnstone	F (20), F&L, M, S, R, inland A
Knot	A
Ruff	A
Curlew Sandpiper	A
Dunlin	F (100), MM, M, S, inland A
Sanderling	A
Purple Sandpiper	A
Little Stint	A
Grey Phalarope	A, Notes
Common Sandpiper	A
Green Sandpiper	A
Spotted Redshank	A
Greenshank	A
Wood Sandpiper	A
Redshank	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Jack Snipe	A
Woodcock	CB, R, W
Snipe	B, F (5), MM, F&L, R
Pomarine Skua	A, Notes excluding coast in spring
Arctic Skua	A, inland Notes
Great Skua	A, inland Notes
Puffin	A, Notes
Razorbill	A
Little Auk	A, Notes
Guillemot	A
Little Tern	B, F (25), F&L, M, R
Black Tern	A
Sandwich Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R
Common Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R, inland A
Roseate Tern	A, Notes – include age/plumage
Arctic Tern	A – include age/plumage
Kittiwake	A – include age/plumage
Black-headed Gull	B, F (500), MM, S
Little Gull	A – include age/plumage
Mediterranean Gull	A – include age/plumage
Common Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Lesser Black-backed Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Herring Gull	B, F (50), MM, S

Yellow-legged Gull	A – include age/plumage
Iceland Gull	A, Notes
Glaucous Gull	A, Notes
Great Black-backed Gull	B, F (10), MM, S, inland A
Feral Pigeon	CB, F (100)
Stock Dove	CB, F (25), M
Woodpigeon	CB, F (500), M
Collared Dove	CB, F (25), M
Turtle Dove	A
Cuckoo	A
Barn Owl	A
Little Owl	A
Tawny Owl	B, R
Long-eared Owl	A, Notes
Short-eared Owl	A
Nightjar	A
Swift	A, especially B
Kingfisher	A especially B
Hoopoe	A, Notes
Wryneck	A, Notes
Green Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Great Spotted Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A
Kestrel	B, M
Merlin	A
Hobby	B, F&L, M, R
Peregrine	A
Ring-necked Parakeet	A
Golden Oriole	A, Notes
Red-backed Shrike	A, Notes
Great Grey Shrike	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Magpie	CB, F (50), M
Jay	CB, F (10), M
Jackdaw	CB, F (500), M
Rook	CB, F (250), M
Carrion Crow	CB, F (50), M
Hooded Crow	A, Notes
Raven	A
Goldcrest	CB, F (10)
Firecrest	A
Blue Tit	CB, F (50), M
Great Tit	CB, F (20), M
Coal Tit	CB, F (20), M
Willow Tit	A, Notes
Marsh Tit	A
Bearded Tit	A
Woodlark	A
Skylark	CB, F (20), M
Shore Lark	A, Notes
Sand Martin	B, F (50), F&L, M
Swallow	CB, F (100), F&L, M
House Martin	CB, F (100), F&L, M

Cetti's Warbler	A
Long-tailed Tit	CB, F (20), M
Yellow-browed Warbler	A, Notes
Wood Warbler	A
Chiffchaff <i>collybita</i>	CB, F (10), W
Willow Warbler	CB, F (10), F&L
Blackcap	CB, F (10), W
Garden Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Lesser Whitethroat	A
Whitethroat	CB, F (10), F&L
Dartford Warbler	A
Grasshopper Warbler	A
Sedge Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Reed Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Waxwing	A, Notes excluding invasion years
Nuthatch	CB, F (10), R
Treecreeper	CB, F (10), R
Wren	CB, F (25)
Starling	CB, F (100), M
Ring Ouzel	A
Blackbird	CB, F (25), M
Fieldfare	F (25), M, F&L
Song Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Redwing	F (25), M, F&L
Mistle Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Spotted Flycatcher	A
Robin	CB, F (25)
Nightingale	A
Pied Flycatcher	A
Black Redstart	A
Redstart	A
Whinchat	A
Stonechat	A
Wheatear	A
Dunnock	CB, F (10)
House Sparrow	CB, F (20), M
Tree Sparrow	A
Yellow Wagtail <i>flavissima</i>	A
Yellow Wagtail other races	A, Notes
Grey Wagtail	B, F (5), M
Pied Wagtail	CB, F (50), M
White Wagtail	A, autumn Notes
Tree Pipit	A
Meadow Pipit	B, F (25), M
Rock Pipit	A
Water Pipit	A
Brambling	A
Chaffinch	CB, F (50), M
Hawfinch	A
Bullfinch	CB, F (2), M
Greenfinch	CB, F (20), M
Linnet	CB, F (20), M

Twite	A, Notes
Lesser Redpoll	A
Common Crossbill	A
Goldfinch	CB, F (20), M
Serin	A, Notes
Siskin	B, F (10), M, S
Snow Bunting	A, inland Notes
Yellowhammer	CB, F (10), M
Reed Bunting	A
Corn Bunting	A

Scarcer species

A list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) is given on their website at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa>. Records of scarcer species not considered by BBRC but required to be submitted for consideration by HOS Rarities Panel are listed below and must be supported by the completion of *Unusual Record Forms* which are available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording>. Additional evidence in the form of digital photographs or sound recordings in electronic format is also welcomed. Records of these species will not be published in the *Hampshire Bird Report* unless they have been accepted by the *HOS Records Panel*.

Whooper Swan, Tundra Bean, Taiga Bean, Pink-footed and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Black Brant, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked and Ferruginous Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-billed Diver, Cory's, Sooty and **Balearic** Shearwaters, Wilson's, Storm and Leach's Petrels, Night-heron, Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, **White Stork**, Glossy Ibis, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, Corncrake, Crane, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, **Temminck's Stint**, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Long-tailed Skua, Black Guillemot, White-winged Black Tern, Sabine's, Ring-billed and Caspian Gulls, Iceland Gull of race *kumleini*, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon, Woodchat Shrike, Chough, Hooded Crow, Penduline Tit, Short-toed Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Greenish, Pallas's, Radde's, Dusky, Barred, Subalpine, Icterine, Melodious, Blyth's Reed and Marsh Warblers, **Chiffchaff (other than nominate race)**, Rose-coloured Starling, **Dipper**, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Citrine Wagtail, Richard's, Olive-backed and Red-throated Pipits, Common Rosefinch, Common (Mealy) Redpoll, Arctic Redpoll, Parrot Crossbill and **Lapland**, Cirl, Ortolan and Little Buntings. All exceptionally early or late migrants.

Heard only records of the above species

Criteria for the acceptance of these by the panel are as follows:

- The observer must have good experience of the species concerned and demonstrate that the call of the bird claimed was heard clearly.
- The call must be described in detail including transcription on paper (length, quality, tone, etc. of call), comparison with other calls heard either at the same or around the same time (or failing that, qualification as to why it was different to commoner species) and frequency/timing of call(s).
- The observer should provide an exact account of the record including, for example, how many times the bird called and over what period of time it was heard.

UK rarities

Records of rarer species are dealt with by the BBRC. Record forms are available from the Recorder and should be returned to him for onward transmission to the BBRC. Alternatively, submissions can be made online at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting>, in which case it is appreciated if copies are e-mailed to the Recorder. **Aquatic Warbler, Tawny Pipit and Rustic Bunting have been added to the list of species considered by the BBRC with effect from Jan 1st 2015.**

Appendix 4

Photographs for inclusion in the *Hampshire Bird Report*

The Photographic Editor welcomes the submission of good quality digital photographs of birds taken in Hampshire for consideration for future reports. Images of any species, including common ones, are welcome. The filename should include the photographer's name, species name, locality and date taken. Please also submit poorer quality record shots of rarities, especially if it is likely that the bird has not been otherwise photographed. Please send images for consideration to Alan Lewis alanlewis1@virginmedia.com. Photographers are asked to send medium resolution images but to retain the unedited originals as these may be requested later for publication.



Goshawk pair (female left, male right), New Forest, Mar 25th (Terry Jenvey)

Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2015

Tony Davis

Introduction

This report summarises the fieldwork carried out by ringers and nest recorders in Hampshire during 2015. Further details can be viewed on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) web site at <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports> (Robinson *et al.*, 2016).

The total number of birds ringed in Hampshire was 21,642, including 2,600 nestlings. This was 4,000 fewer than in 2014 although there was a small increase in the number of nestlings. The number of species ringed was 102 including Barred Warbler, which was ringed for the first time in the county.

Nest recording provides valuable information about the productivity of birds and this can be used in combination with data from ringing to understand the causes of population changes revealed by the Breeding Bird Survey and other surveys. In line with the national report, this paper will henceforth include a report on nest recording in the county.

Ringing summary of the year

Results were received from all 25 ringers or groups known to be operating within the county. The number of each species ringed in 2015, and the all-time totals since 1972, are shown in Table I.

The year started mild and overwintering survival of resident birds is likely to have been high. Things went downhill when the breeding season got into full swing, with cool and unsettled weather having an impact upon the productivity of insectivorous birds in particular. Improved conditions in June will have assisted some multiple-brooded species but poor weather in July and August may have adversely affected the survival of young inexperienced birds. The latter part of the year was characterised by long periods of strong winds meaning that many ringers were unable to undertake much fieldwork. Mild winters at both ends of the year were probably responsible for the low numbers of winter migrants that were ringed, particularly finches.

Just ten species were ringed in their highest numbers ever in the county, with one more being ringed in its equal highest number. Three of the five passerines were Goldcrest, Firecrest and Long-tailed Tit; all are small species which were ringed in record totals in 2014 as well and are presumably increasing due to a run of mild winters. Blackcaps were ringed in record numbers for the third year running and a Barred Warbler was ringed in the county for the first time. Raptor ringers did well with record totals for Honey-buzzard, Goshawk and Kestrel and the equal highest total for Peregrine. All of these species are the subjects of special studies in the county but Goshawk and Peregrine also have increasing populations. The remaining two species were Water Rail and Golden Plover which are both rarely ringed in Hampshire.

Ringing projects

Late in 2011, the BTO published a strategy to increase the contribution of ringing to conservation science (Robinson *et al.*, 2011). The aim of the strategy was to encourage ringers to target their activities in areas where they can make the greatest contribution to conservation. Key recommendations were to increase the participation in the Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) and Constant Effort Sites (CES) schemes. The RAS scheme produces high quality information on adult survival rates. In particular, projects which target species of conservation concern or those which are poorly covered by other schemes are encouraged. In Hampshire there are two projects on House Sparrows, two on Firecrests and one each on Sand Martins, Great Tits, Wood Warblers and Bullfinches.



Juvenile Barred Warbler, Titchfield Haven, Sep 8th (Trevor Codlin)



Juvenile Hawfinch and male Redstart, both ringed in the New Forest (Graham Giddens)

The CES scheme involves standardised ringing at a specific site at regular intervals during the breeding season. The scheme provides information on changes in population size, breeding success and survival rates for 28 species. Increasing the number of CES sites will enable data to be analysed for further species. In Hampshire there are five CES sites: Blashford Lakes, Fleet Pond, Martin Down, Pamber Forest and Winchester Water Meadows.

The BTO strategy also encourages species-specific projects and many Hampshire ringers participate in a number of important studies. Many of these projects involve colour-ringing so that individuals can be identified in the field and other birders can make important contributions by reporting any colour-ringed birds that they see. Care should be taken to record the colour and position of the rings accurately and photographs can be extremely helpful to scheme organisers in verifying the colours. Please report sightings to the organisers listed below. For other species, sightings can be reported at www.cr-birding.org.

Table 1. 2015 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2015	Total 1972-2015
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	8	0	8	1,549
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	0	0	15
Greater Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	1	0	1	1,322
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	0	0	0	1
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	0	0	0	227
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	0	0	73
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	0	0	0	54
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	0	0	0	401
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	0	0	0	45
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	0	0	0	594
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	0	1	463
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	0	0	0	1
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	0	0	0	35
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	0	0	0	10
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	0	0	0	22
Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	0	0	0	1
Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	0	0	0	2
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	0	0	0	118
Leach's Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	0	0	0	2
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	0	0	110
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	0	1	65
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	0	18
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	0	8	8	22
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	0	0	0	38
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	0	0	0	6
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	0	47	47	294
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	12	0	12	1,462
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	0	0	175
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	9	0	9	106
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	0	0	0	2
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	0	0	0	1
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	0	0	0	387
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	0	87
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	0	15	15	254
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	0	3	3	28
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	1	1	1,047
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	5	0	5	8
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	0	270
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	3	159	162	2,319
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	1	1	139
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	0	0	1,777
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	0	0	0	2
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	0	6
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	0	0	0	180
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limos limosa</i>	0	0	0	604
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	0	0	0	32
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	0	0	0	258
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	0	0	0	574

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2015	Total 1972-2015
Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i>	0	0	0	22
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	0	0	0	132
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	0	0	0	464
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	14	0	14	13,294
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	0	0	0	99
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	0	0	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	0	0	0	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1	0	1	189
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	0	0	0	1
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1	0	1	20
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	0	0	0	23
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1	0	1	626
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	0	0	0	4
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	0	0	2,877
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	5	0	5	77
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	328	2	330	1,891
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	33	0	33	526
Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	0	0	0	2
Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	0	0	0	8
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	0	0	0	202
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	0	0	613
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	121	40	161	7,942
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	0	0	32
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	0	0	0	44
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	0	0	0	1
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	0	0	0	124
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	0	1	1	24
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	15	27	42	816
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	38	2	40	1,064
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	6	8	14	2,867
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1	0	1	62
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	0	0	0	76
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	15	79	94	1,249
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	3	7	10	165
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	2	29	31	412
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	0	0	0	1
Short-eared Owl <i>Asia flammeus</i>	0	0	0	1
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	12	9	21	358
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	1	21	22	3,061
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	0	0	0	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	53	0	53	1,019
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1	0	1	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	12	0	12	304
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	56	0	56	969
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	0	0	0	43

Table 1 (cont.) 2015 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2015	Total 1972-2015
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	153	154	1,160
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0	2	2	17
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	11	11	34
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	0	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	8	0	8	566
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	14	0	14	769
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	6	11	17	553
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	0	0	0	629
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	0	0	0	108
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	1,000	0	1,000	10,069
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	197	0	197	892
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	1
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1,751	460	2,211	96,235
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	855	568	1,423	38,388
Coal Tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	266	0	266	5727
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	0	0	277
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	32	0	32	921
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	19	0	19	1,285
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	1	47	48	539
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2	12	14	409
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	13	0	13	23,784
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	151	591	742	42,319
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	8	0	8	5,378
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	109	0	109	1,971
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	638	0	638	13,078
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1	0	1	10
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	20	53	73	1,574
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1,596	5	1,601	22,033
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	423	0	423	17,811
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2,226	5	2,231	25,782
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	142	2	144	3,441
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	1	0	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	24	0	24	1,361
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	372	4	376	5,808
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	13	5	18	399
Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	0	0	0	1
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	138	0	138	5,163
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	0	0	0	4
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	0	2
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	0	0	0	55
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1,034	0	1,034	40,186
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	0	0	0	1
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	0	0	0	4
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1,048	0	1,048	33,972
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	0	0	38

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2015	Total 1972-2015
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	63	32	95	1,903
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	56	0	56	1,549
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	421	2	423	13,396
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	121	21	142	12,681
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	0	0	2
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	433	21	454	24,677
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	19	0	19	1,088
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	152	12	164	7,152
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	281	0	281	3,778
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	0	2	2	680
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	7	0	7	1,584
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	711	35	746	18,673
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	5	0	5	240
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	0	0	0	5
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	2	0	2	85
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	0	0	31
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	14	0	14	650
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	0	0	0	190
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	10	37	47	1,885
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	0	0	0	68
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	450	9	459	14,143
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	381	8	389	6,246
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	0	0	0	757
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	0	0	0	2,402
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	33	12	45	2,004
Pied / White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	46	5	51	12,018
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	23	8	31	556
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	170	4	174	3,829
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	0	0	0	108
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	0	0	0	42
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	8	0	8	5,501
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	566	0	566	16,447
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	2	0	2	28
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	195	5	200	5,555
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	638	2	640	37,853
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	119	6	125	3,804
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	141	0	141	3,452
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	0	0	0	38
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	0	0	8
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	696	1	697	10,209
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	104	0	104	14,651
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	1	0	1	88
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirius</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	158	0	158	2,250
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	152	0	152	9,689
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	0	0	0	3
Totals	19,046	2,610	21,656	701,694

The following schemes are currently known to be operating in Hampshire:

Honey-buzzards are marked with a single colour-ring at various sites in England and Wales, including Hampshire. In recent years the rings used are white with black letters but older birds could have other colours. The colour ring can be on either leg but will be on the opposite leg from the metal ring. Sightings to sjroberts100@hotmail.com.

Waders and wildfowl: Farlington Ringing Group is undertaking a series of long-term shorebird colour-ringing studies in The Solent and welcomes sightings of marked Brent Geese, Wigeon and waders. Birds are marked with unique colour-ring combinations enabling them to be tracked throughout their lives. The projects are designed to provide detailed information on the birds' use of The Solent, helping us to understand their breeding, wintering locations and migration routes. The expanding datasets involving large numbers of re-sightings allow survival analysis to be undertaken. This helps us to monitor and assess the importance of The Solent's estuaries in a national and international context, comparing our mudflats with other intertidal areas. Several of the projects are being undertaken in collaboration with shorebird ecologists and researchers across Europe.

Brent Geese are colour-marked in Southampton Water, Langstone & Chichester Harbours using darvic colour-rings supplied by Dr Bart Ebbing of the Dutch institute Alterra. Sightings can be entered directly on the Dutch goose website: www.geese.org. Life histories and maps of sightings can be seen immediately on line for each bird entered.

Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlews, Redshanks and Turnstones are colour-ringed in Southampton Water, while **Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks** (www.greenshank.info) and **Ringed Plovers** have been marked primarily in Langstone & Chichester Harbours. Colour-ring sightings of any of these species should be sent to Peter Potts at pmpotts@tiscali.co.uk.

A sample of **Sanderlings** has been colour-ringed on Hayling Island as part of a Dutch co-ordinated project. Sightings can be sent directly to Jeroen Reneerkens at J.W.H.Reneerkens@rug.nl. For further information on the Sanderling project see www.waderstudygroup.org/fres/project/sanderling.php.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. Sightings to grahamgiddens@googlemail.com.

Lapwings are marked at various sites in north-west Hampshire. Birds have four colour rings plus a black flag. Sightings should be sent to ahoodless@gwct.org.uk.

Common Sandpipers: A ten-year colour marking project is being undertaken at Farlington. Sightings to duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com.

Woodcock are marked in the New Forest with a single colour ring plus metal ring. Sightings to nfwg@newforestgateway.org.

Black-headed Gulls are marked at Blashford Lakes with an orange ring on the right leg. The rings have black characters in the format 2nnA or 2nnC, where the n's are numbers. Sightings to stonechat99@yahoo.co.uk.

Kestrels are colour-ringed across Hampshire (except the New Forest and extreme south-west of the county) as well as neighbouring areas of Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex. The colour-rings are dark blue and engraved with three white digits (letters/numbers). Sightings to matt@hawkconservancy.org.

Firecrests are marked in the New Forest and on Southampton Common. Those in the New Forest have a colour above the metal ring on the left leg. Sightings should be sent to marcus.zoe@sky.com. Those on Southampton Common have a colour below the metal ring on the left leg (sightings to andy_welch@sky.com).

Woodlark nestlings are marked in the north-east of the county. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wood Warblers are marked in the New Forest. Note that many birds have a striped ring as well as plain colours. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wintering **Blackcaps** are marked in Drayton, Portsmouth gardens. Sightings to graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com.

Nightingales are marked in Botley Wood. Sightings to Trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

There are two **House Sparrow** projects. At East Tisted birds are marked with a white or orange ring carrying two black letters or numbers. Sightings to fbuner@gwct.org.uk. The project at Manor

Farm Country Park uses a yellow ring carrying one letter and two numbers. Sightings to Trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

Bullfinches are marked in Winchester with a white ring on the left leg with three black numbers commencing 001. Sightings to tim.walker14@btinternet.com.

Hawfinches are marked in the New Forest with a yellow ring bearing two digits which are a mixture of letters and numbers. Sightings to marcus.zoe@sky.com.

Recoveries

Details of the more significant recoveries can now be found on the BTO web site at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports> so only summary information is provided in this report. Readers wishing to find detailed information on a particular recovery can do so at the link above.

Spoonbill. A nestling ringed in Noord-Holland, Netherlands in 2013 was resighted at Beaulieu in April 2015.

Marsh Harrier. A male nestling ringed at Lakenheath Fen in Suffolk in June 2015 was resighted near Stubbington just 56 days after being ringed.

Hen Harrier. A female nestling from Aberdeenshire, ringed in mid-July 2015, was resighted at Titchfield Haven in October.

Stone-curlew. A nestling ringed near Nether Wallop in 2002 was found sick in Gironde, France in March 2015.

Avocet. A 2014 nestling from Hartlepool was resighted at Great Marsh, Eling during April 2015 and a 2012 nestling from Belgium was resighted at Normandy Marsh at the end of December 2015. A nestling ringed in the south-west of the county in 2014 was resighted at Minsmere, Suffolk in March 2015, then at Titchwell, Norfolk later that same month and at Pagham Harbour, West Sussex in May 2015. Another 2014 nestling from the same site was resighted at Leigh on Sea, Essex in February 2015.

Oystercatcher. An adult ringed on Hayling Island in October 2011 was resighted with chicks in Rogaland, Norway in July 2015.

Sanderling. As in 2014, adults from a catch at Eastoke, Hayling Island on Sep 18th 2013 have been resighted in the Western Isles in May 2015 and the Channel Islands in January 2015.

Dunlin. A bird ringed in Poland during July 2015 was resighted at Black Point, Hayling Island in mid-December.

Common Sandpiper. An adult ringed at Farlington Marshes in August 2013 was resighted in Opland, Norway on July 1st 2015 but 20 days later it was back at Farlington.

Woodcock. Another three Hampshire-ringed birds were shot in Russia during 2015. Others were found freshly dead in Finland and Sweden and belated news was received of the ring of a Hampshire bird being found in a Peregrine nest in Germany at the end of 2014.

Black-headed Gull. An adult ringed in 1994 at Hook Tip near Warsash was alive and well when it was resighted 21 years later in Denmark in June 2015. A 1995 nestling from Finland was resighted at Lee-on-the-Solent at the end of November 2015 and a 2001 Lithuanian nestling was seen twice during October 2015 on the River Itchen in Southampton.

Mediterranean Gull. A nestling ringed in Langstone Harbour in 2001 was seen in Loiret, France on July 10th 2015 and then in Dublin, Eire just 18 days later. A nestling ringed in Poland in 2007 was resighted at Titchfield Haven in late March 2015 and a 2010 Polish adult bird was on the River Itchen in Southampton in mid-November 2015.

Raptor persecution has been much in the news recently but it is not just an issue on northern moors, as evidenced by a **Peregrine**, ringed as a nestling in Winchester in 2011 being found long dead with gunshot wounds in Cambridgeshire in March 2015. Perhaps of even greater concern is the news that a **Hobby**, ringed as a nestling in Lincolnshire in August 2003, was shot at Berry Hill, Ropley in September 2015.

Goldcrest. A first-year female, ringed at Texel, Netherlands in mid-October 2015, was retrapped near Romsey 16 days later.

Chiffchaff. The only foreign recovery reported during the year was of a first-year ringed at Blashford Lakes in August 2014 and retrapped in Landes, France in mid-March 2015.

Blackcap. An adult male, ringed at Embley Wood in August 2013, was retrapped in Sevilla, Spain in February 2015. A first-year female ringed at Titchfield Haven in September 2014 was retrapped in Noord-Holland, Netherlands in late April 2015. A first-year male ringed near Fawley in September 2014 was retrapped twice on its breeding grounds in Weser-Ems, Germany in June 2015.

Garden Warbler. An unaged bird that was ringed in Charente-Maritime, France in August 2014 was retrapped on Southampton Common almost exactly a year later.

Sedge Warbler. Seven Titchfield Haven ringed birds were retrapped in France during autumn, the most rapid movement being 617km south in seven days. One Titchfield bird, ringed in late July 2014, was found freshly dead in Tarragona, Spain in late March 2015 whilst one from Fishlake Meadows, Romsey travelled the 915km south to Navarra, Spain in 14 days during August 2015.

Reed Warbler. Interesting evidence of Swedish birds moving through Hampshire came from a bird ringed in Halland, Sweden on Sep 20th 2015 which was retrapped eight days later at Titchfield Haven, having flown 1,126km south-west. A first-year ringed at Fishlake Meadows in early September 2014 was retrapped by the same Swedish team in late August 2015. Other foreign movements were of a bird ringed at Gins Farm in September 2013 being retrapped in the Netherlands in June 2015 and of five birds, three from Titchfield and two from Blashford Lakes, being retrapped on autumn migration in France.

Song Thrush. A first-year ringed on Southampton Common in late October 2013 was sadly shot in Guarda, Portugal in February 2015.

Redwing. An adult ringed in Noord-Holland, Netherlands in October 2014 was retrapped in Pamber Forest just one day short of a year later. A first-year ringed in December 2013 at Fleet Pond was found dead in Portugal almost exactly two years later.

Meadow Pipit. Two Derbyshire ringed birds were retrapped in Hampshire during September 2015, just seven and three days after being ringed.

Lesser Redpoll. An adult male ringed at Hazeley Heath in mid-December 2014 was retrapped in Luxembourg at the end of October 2015.

Table 2: Nest records submitted in Hampshire in 2015

Species	Total	Species	Total	Species	Total
Mute Swan	3	Lesser Sp Woodpecker	1	Wren	11
Greater Canada Goose	2	Kestrel	4	Starling	2
Mandarin Duck	1	Hobby	1	Blackbird	35
Pheasant	1	Peregrine	6	Song Thrush	21
Grey Heron	4	Jackdaw	6	Mistle Thrush	1
Honey-buzzard	5	Raven	1	Robin	9
Red Kite	1	Blue Tit	85	Redstart	1
Sparrowhawk	1	Great Tit	165	Stonechat	10
Moorhen	4	Coal Tit	4	Dunnock	5
Coot	1	Woodlark	31	House Sparrow	2
Lapwing	1	Skylark	6	Grey Wagtail	4
Stock Dove	57	Swallow	169	Pied Wagtail	1
Woodpigeon	15	Long-tailed Tit	17	Tree Pipit	2
Collared Dove	5	Wood Warbler	23	Meadow Pipit	1
Barn Owl	51	Chiffchaff	1	Chaffinch	7
Little Owl	1	Blackcap	8	Greenfinch	1
Tawny Owl	3	Whitethroat	2	Linnet	3
Nightjar	6	Dartford Warbler	3	Goldfinch	2
Swift	12	Nuthatch	7		
Green Woodpecker	2	Treecreeper	1		

Reed Bunting. An adult male ringed at Titchfield Haven in November 2012 was found freshly dead in Troms, Norway in June 2015.

Nest recording

The BTO administers a Nest Record Scheme, through which observers can contribute to our understanding of breeding success and productivity. Anyone can take part and further details can be found at <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs> where a range of resources including the Nest Record Scheme Handbook can be downloaded.

Table 2 lists the number of nest records submitted for each species during 2015. A total of 835 nests were monitored during the year but many of these relate to birds nesting in artificial sites such as nest boxes and many common species in the county are very poorly recorded. Examples include Mute Swan, Moorhen, Collared Dove, Chiffchaff, Starling, House Sparrow, Pied Wagtail and Greenfinch. The paucity of records of such species shows how easy it would be for any birdwatcher to make a significant contribution to monitoring breeding success in the county.

Acknowledgements

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Heathland restoration, maintenance and impact on birds: a Thames Basin Heaths case study

John Eyre



Dartford Warbler, an iconic heathland species, May 12th 2016 (John Eyre)

Abstract

The paper describes the clearance of 37 ha of mature mixed woodland plus an additional area of scrub as a condition of the transfer of Farnborough Airport from military to civilian use. The affected area, totalling some 80 ha, lies within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Impacts on birds were monitored over a 15 year period as the newly-formed habitat developed. Some species were found to take advantage quickly of the new opportunities. The conversion succeeded in its main aim of establishing increased or new breeding populations of three Annex I species, viz. Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, together with other heathland specialists such as Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* and Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. Open country species such as Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* increased initially but subsequently declined as scrub began to take over. The effectiveness of various management options including grazing and mechanical clearance is discussed.

Background

In the mid-1990s, a proposal was made to transfer Farnborough Airport from military to civilian use. Although there was no longer a need for the airport to continue as a military facility, there remained a wish to maintain it as an operational airfield. One of the main reasons for this was that the site hosted the biennial Farnborough International Air Show, an important shop-window for UK technology. The airport's proximity to London made it potentially attractive as a centre for business travel and continuation of flying was assured when the site was acquired by TAG Aviation Ltd. to develop as a dedicated business aviation facility.

As a condition of transfer to civilian use, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) required changes to be made to the topography of neighbouring land lying outside the airport boundary. The affected area, part of the Aldershot Military Training Area, lay under the flight path of aircraft taking off and landing at the airport. The footprint of the Take-off Climb Surface (TOCS) across the area is shown in Figure 1.

To meet CAA regulations, reduction in the height of two low hills (Miles Hill and Eelmoor Hill West) and clearance of some 37 ha of mature woodland from across the site were needed. The affected land lay within the proposed Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, a component site of the planned Thames Basin Heaths SPA, which was confirmed and classified in 2005. The SPA was established to protect three species of heathland bird, Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler, as specified in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive. The boundary of the relevant part of the SSSI/SPA is shown in blue in Figure 1. It was agreed by Natural England (then English Nature) that the changes could be made providing that the affected area was restored to heathland and that the bird populations on the site were monitored to ensure that the restoration activity was effective. This paper presents the results of the annual monitoring programme carried out by the author from 1999 to 2015.

Pre-clearance habitat and birds

An aerial view of the site prior to groundwork and tree clearance is shown in Figure 2a. The photograph is oriented with north at the top and covers the central area of Figure 1. It shows Tweseldown Racecourse (which was under the TOCS but outside the area requiring groundwork) in the south-west corner. The end of Farnborough Airport runway is just out of frame in the north-east corner.

Two broad habitat types are of note: woodland and bare ground. Prior to clearance, the larger part of the site was covered by a mixture of naturally regenerated Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* woodland and scrub, with plantations of mature Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*. The

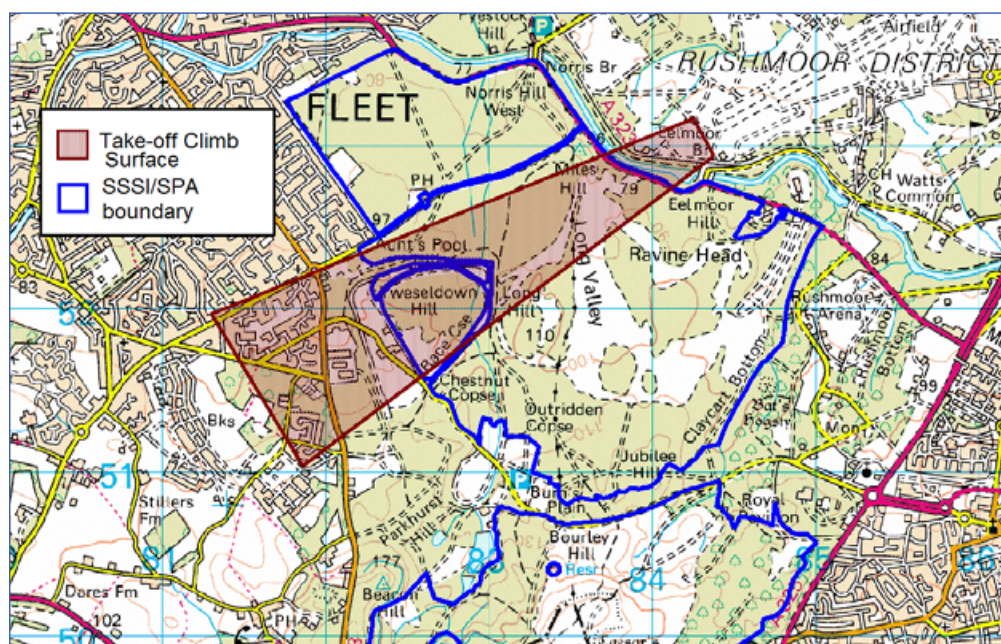


Figure 1. TOCS outline overlaid on Bourley & Long Valley SSSI. Blue grid shows 1km squares. © Crown copyright 2016 Ordnance Survey, Media 063/16.



Figure 2. Aerial view of the site (a) in 2000 prior to tree clearance and groundwork (above) and (b) after clearance in 2003 (below).

deciduous plantations can be identified by their paler green colouration in the centre of Figure 2(a). The bare ground consisted of several broad, sandy tracks resulting from testing of military vehicles. There were also areas of short vegetation following earlier scrub clearance and some small patches of existing heathland, for example on Brocks Hill (Aunt's Pool Hill in Figure 1) north of Tweseldown Racecourse. An aerial view following clearance is shown in Figure 2(b) where it can be seen that the cleared area on the southern boundary extended well beyond the TOCS footprint. The total cleared area of the SPA following removal of trees and scrub was around 80 ha. All of this, plus a narrow strip of remaining woodland along the northern edge, was included in the survey. Tweseldown Racecourse was not included, although it was surveyed as part of the larger Thames Basin Heaths SPA Annex 1 birds monitoring programme.

In 1999, prior to any groundwork being carried out, the birds breeding on the site were surveyed using BTO Common Bird Census (CBC) methodology. This involved making repeated visits during the breeding season to record the birds occupying territories on the site. The locations of territorial birds, usually detected as singing males, were plotted onto a site map. The site is large for accurate CBC coverage and errors of over- or under-counting are inevitable. This is particularly so when a species is common and territories are close together. Furthermore, experience has shown that some species can move considerable distances between first and subsequent nest sites, resulting in possible over-recording. Despite this, it is considered that the methodology provided a reasonable estimate of numbers and a sound basis for the identification of trends.

In 1999 a total of 39 species was recorded holding territories. The wooded areas supported healthy populations of common woodland birds, notably hole-nesting species such as Stock Dove *Columba oenas* and Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers *Picus viridis* and *Dendrocopos major*, together with some locally scarce species including Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* and Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. The Beech plantations had previously held one or two pairs of Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* but these had disappeared prior to 1999. On the open ground, there were up to four Woodlark territories, although it is unlikely that all of these bred within the TOCS footprint.

Heathland restoration and maintenance

The initial heathland restoration work was funded by TAG Aviation Ltd. and involved a carefully-planned programme beginning in the winter of 2000/01. To avoid disturbance of breeding birds, most of the work was carried out during the winter months beginning in September and ending in February. For the purposes of this paper, the work programme can be divided into two main phases: the preparation and clearance of the ground and the subsequent management of the evolving habitat. The latter activities were carried out by Landmarc for the non-grazed areas and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) for the grazed areas. There is insufficient space to describe the programme in detail but some of the main steps are outlined in date order in Table 1.

Habitat development

As shown in Table 1, major groundwork was carried out during the 2000/01 winter period. By spring 2001, following a very wet autumn and winter, the re-seeded areas on Miles Hill and Eelmoor Hill West were beginning to turn green as the grass seed germinated but were otherwise barren. The larger clear-felled area resembled a World War I battlefield. There were water-filled craters, smouldering fires, tree stumps, felled trunks and brash scattered across the site. There were also areas where scrub remained and others where taller pine trees were still standing. Access across much of the site was difficult because of the brash and uneven ground and was further complicated by the restrictions imposed during the spring to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Table 1. Key stages of groundwork to restore and maintain heathland

Winter	Groundwork
2000/01	Vegetation and topsoil were removed from Miles Hill and Eelmoor Hill West followed by excavation, re-distribution of the subsoil and re-seeding. All the trees underlying the TOCS were felled using mechanical tree-fellers, leaving the stumps in the ground. Much of the scrub was also cleared.
2001/02	The topsoil was scraped from much of the western half of the clear-fell area to reduce the seed bank and encourage the growth of heathland vegetation rather than the return of trees and scrub. The soil was scraped into windrows approximately 20 metres apart. Additional work carried out during this period included spraying the deciduous tree stumps, particularly Sweet Chestnut, to prevent re-growth.
2002/03	The topsoil was scraped from the eastern section of the site and most of the windrows were removed from the western section. A stock-proof fence was erected to form a western enclosure with an area of around 23 ha (Phase 1). Gates and cattle grids were installed and, in the spring of 2003, four Highland Cattle were introduced to graze within the enclosure.
2003/04	Most of the remaining windrows were removed and stock-proof fencing (Phase 2) was erected around the eastern section of the site to produce a second enclosure with an area similar to the first and bringing the total fenced area to 47 ha. Grazing by Highland Cattle was continued in the western enclosure.
2004/05	Little groundwork was carried out in this period. The Highland Cattle were removed in October 2004 and replaced with 13 Irish Moiled plus four crossbreed cattle in spring 2005. Vandalism caused grazing to be abandoned in summer 2005 when fences were cut.
2005/06-2015/16	Year-round grazing was restarted in June 2007 when ten Aberdeen Angus cows with their calves and a bull were introduced to the western enclosure. Grazing continued intermittently from then on at varying intensities and with the cattle being rotated between the two fenced enclosures. Manual clearance of regrowth gorse and birch saplings, together with mechanised clearance with cutters and mulchers was also carried out during this period. Additionally, occasional accidental fires occurred and created areas of bare ground.

Over the succeeding years the differing treatments of various sections of the site resulted in different rates and distribution of vegetation growth and evolution of the habitat. The following account identifies some of the main stages in the transition towards heathland, concentrating particularly on the large clear-felled area and the changes in the habitat on that, the major part of the site.

During the 2001-2004 period, ground clearance, particularly the scraping off of the topsoil, ensured that substantial areas of bare ground were present but by 2004 various grass species, particularly Purple Moor Grass *Molinia caerulea* and Wavy Hair Grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, were covering much of the site (Figure 3).

The area that had progressed most rapidly towards heathland was around Brock's Hill where, as mentioned above, gorse *Ulex* sp. and heather *Calluna* and *Erica* sp. were already established prior to tree clearance. Gorse had also been quick to colonise Miles Hill following re-profiling and hydro-seeding. Even so, most of the site, particularly the eastern section continued to be dominated by various grass species although birch saplings were also becoming more obvious with some up to 3 metres high; in other places heather and gorse were beginning to compete successfully against the grass. From then on, the heathland species spread rapidly and soon became dominant in some parts of the site. Figure 4 shows the transition to good quality heathland by March 2012. Elsewhere, areas of dense grass, birch, gorse and other woody scrub continued to thrive.

It was expected that the introduction of cattle would help control the rate at which scrub recolonised the ground. In fact, grazing did slow down the rate of regrowth providing the cattle were put onto land immediately after mechanical clearance of the scrub. Although they did sometimes browse on birch and other woody shrubs, the animals preferentially fed on grass. Once the scrub was established they were unable to control it with gorse and birch



Figure 3. View looking south-west across the clear-felled area in July 2004 showing establishment of grasses.



Figure 4. Mix of heather and gorse in March 2012.

being particularly problematic (Figure 5). Consequently, regular manual/mechanical clearance coupled with occasional accidental fires proved to be the only effective means of controlling the scrub. Although the combination of manual clearance and variable levels of grazing made it difficult to isolate the individual impacts of either management method, there is little doubt that, in the absence of regular manual clearance, the cattle alone would not have prevented rapid scrubbing-up of the site.



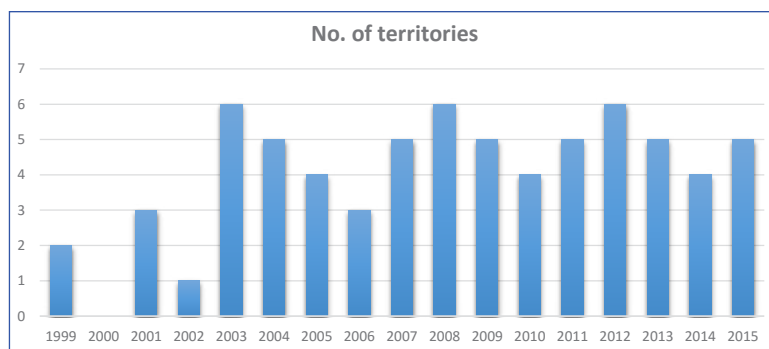
Figure 5. Dense birch regrowth in June 2009. Cattle failed to control growth once the scrub was established.

Impact of habitat changes on bird populations

The post-clearance bird survey began in spring 2001. Many of the common widespread species present before woodland clearance continued to be found, usually in smaller numbers, and often restricted to the wooded fringes around the cleared ground. The following account concentrates on heathland and open-country specialists. Since the main aim of heathland regeneration was to provide additional habitat for Annex I species, these are considered first.

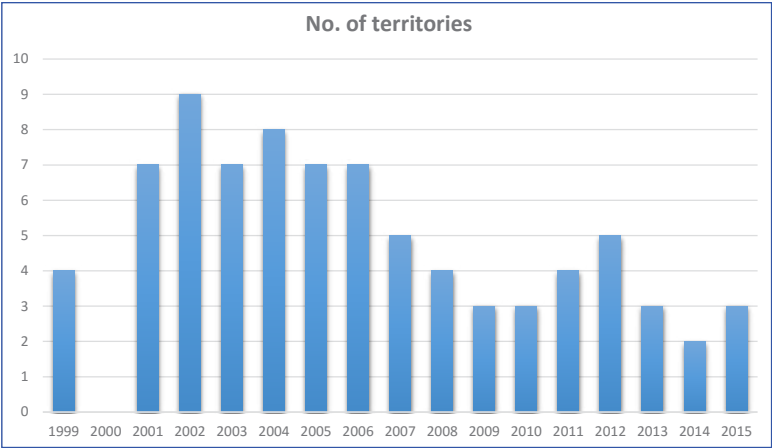
Annex I species

Nightjar



Nightjar is not a woodland bird although it will breed in clearings, young plantations and scrubby areas. Prior to tree clearance one or two pairs bred in the more open areas of the site. Following the removal of topsoil in the winter of 2001/02 numbers fell but jumped to a record six territories in 2003 as grass and low scrub covered the site. From then, numbers fluctuated but remained consistently higher than pre-clearance as expected given the considerable increase in the area of open ground. The number of territories over the 2003-15 period averaged 4.8, equivalent to an average density of 6.0 territories per sq. km. This compares favourably with other UK sites. For example, BWP quote average densities on three East Anglian sites of 7.8, 11.2 and 5.7 pairs per sq. km (Cramp 1985).

Woodlark



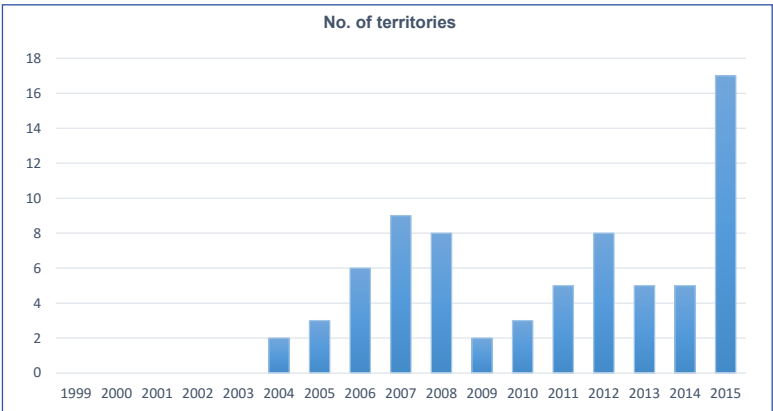
Despite its name, the Woodlark’s preferred habitat is open ground with scattered trees rather than woodland. One of the most striking features of the effect of ground clearance was how quickly this species colonised the site. In fact in 2001, prior to the clearance work stopping at the end of February, Woodlarks were already singing over the mud and brash-covered ground. Numbers peaked at nine territories in 2002 but then began to fall as the quantity of bare ground diminished. By 2008 they were back to pre-clearance levels and, from then on, fluctuated depending on the suitability of habitat created by ongoing clearance work. This species is particularly sensitive to habitat quality, quick to colonise suitable ground but equally quick to leave when the ground cover becomes too thick. The peak of nine territories was equivalent to a high breeding density of 11.25 pairs per sq. km. BWP quote a breeding density of 5 pairs per sq. km in optimal habitat at Leipzig, Germany and the highest density on sandy heath in Belgium as 7.7 pairs per sq. km (Cramp 1988) However, such comparisons must be treated with caution. The peak number quoted here is for transient habitat with densities falling to an average of just 4.1 pairs per sq. km over the 2009-15 period when the



Colour-ringed Woodlark on typical bare ground favoured by the species, June 5th 2016 (John Eyre)

ground cover had increased. Furthermore, because Woodlarks can have large territories, birds recorded close to the boundary of a small site such as this, can lead to overestimates of breeding densities.

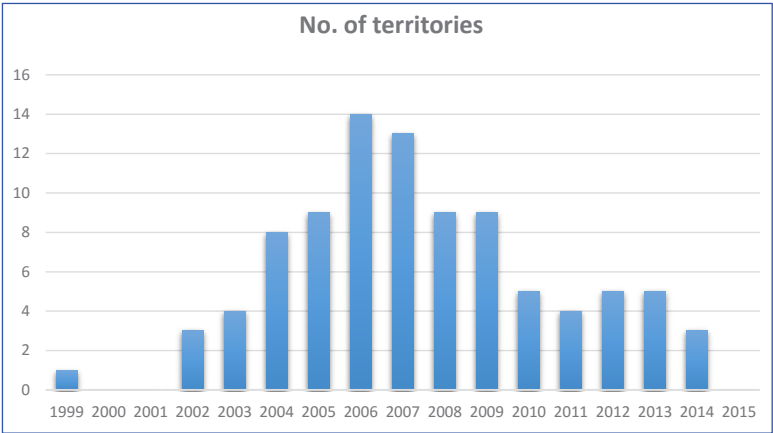
Dartford Warbler



As the only Annex I target species absent at the start of the restoration project, and probably the best-known and iconic of the heathland specialists, Dartford Warbler was undoubtedly seen as a key indicator of whether the transition to heathland had been achieved. On that basis, as the graph shows, the restoration project has certainly been successful. The first territories were established in 2004, and then increased before being knocked back by the hard winter of 2008/9. The population growth then recommenced reaching 17 territories/singing males in 2015. At this time, the habitat was particularly favourable for Dartford Warblers which like a mix of short gorse and heather for nesting with thicker gorse to provide winter refuge. Even so, the count of 17 territories in 2015, equivalent to a density of 21.25 territories per sq. km, was particularly high and may have been boosted by local immigration following a major fire on nearby Ash Ranges, 6km to the east and arguably the best site for Dartford Warblers in Britain. This compares with average breeding densities quoted in BWP for favourable habitats of 49.4 pairs per sq. km in Dorset and 35.4 pairs per sq. km in the New Forest. However, densities in the New Forest varied more typically between 1.3 and 14.2 pairs per sq. km depending upon the extent of gorse (Cramp 1992).

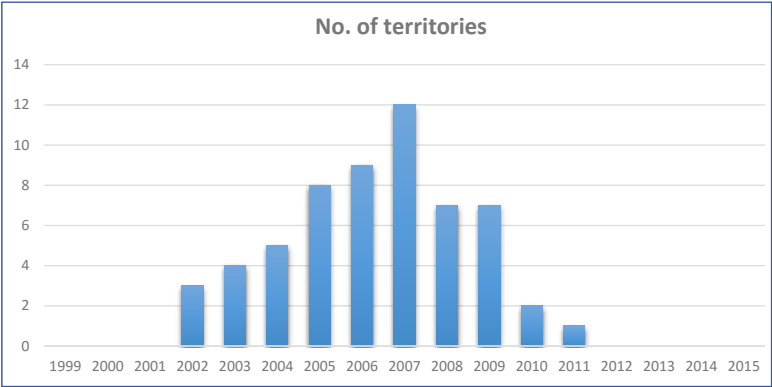
Other open-country species

Skylark



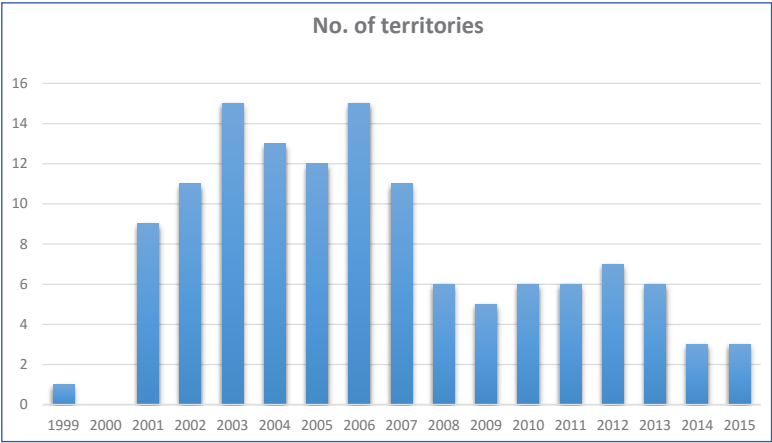
Prior to the woodland clearance, there was little suitable habitat for Skylark. The species bred on Farnborough Airfield and occasionally (as in 1999) a single territory was established within the heathland restoration area. This situation changed dramatically post-clearance with the colonisation and rapid build-up of territories on the site. Numbers peaked at 14 in 2006. At that time, most of the area was covered by grass but there was still bare ground. Post-2006, numbers fell as the grass became denser with increasing amounts of scrub progressively reducing the area of bare ground. By 2015 Skylarks were, once again, absent from the area.

Meadow Pipit



The Meadow Pipit’s status varied in much the same way as Skylark’s. The species was absent prior to tree clearance. Numbers built up rapidly as grass colonised the site but then declined, even more quickly than Skylark, when the cover became too thick. The birds were present for just ten years, peaking at 12 territories in 2007. They disappeared in 2012 and, although still present in winter, have not bred on the site since then. Although the pattern of colonisation followed by decline is likely to have resulted from changes to local habitat, annual surveys of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA have shown that Meadow Pipit has suffered a wider decline across other heathland sites in the area.

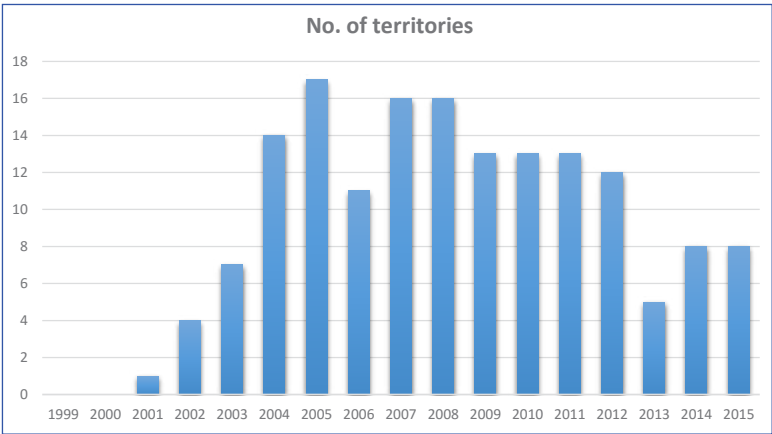
Tree Pipit



As with the previous species, Tree Pipits are found on open heathland and rough grassland but also require scattered trees and scrub to provide song posts. The edges of the cleared area proved particularly attractive so that the build-up in numbers immediately after tree-clearance was surprisingly rapid. In common with Woodlark, Skylark and Meadow Pipit, numbers then declined as scrub invaded the site, although a small population has continued

to breed to date. As with Meadow Pipit, there has been a general decline in numbers across the whole of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

Stonechat



The Stonechat’s favoured heathland habitat is a mix of heather and short gorse, a preference that it shares with Dartford Warbler. They use longer gorse and scrub as song and lookout posts but seldom nest in it. The numbers of territories on the restoration area grew strongly as suitable nesting habitat appeared but, in contrast to most of the other species discussed above, were maintained at high levels for longer. Numbers fell in 2013 following a particularly bad breeding season the preceding year but are likely to recover to pre-2013 levels in the near future.

Other species

In addition to the heathland specialists, all other birds, both breeding and migrants, seen on the site during the study period were recorded. The full list of confirmed or probable breeding species over the 2001-15 period is given in Table 2.

The totals of breeding species recorded in each year are given in Table 3. Despite a reduction in the years immediately following clearance, numbers recovered and in 2010 and 2011 actually exceeded pre-clearance levels.

Counts of territories for some of the confirmed breeding species over the 2001-15 period are given in Table 4. (Numbers for 1999 are not available.)

Although the numbers show considerable scatter, they nevertheless demonstrate some interesting trends. For example, both *Phylloscopus* warblers, Chiffchaff *P. collybita* and Willow Warbler *P. trochilus*, maintained healthy populations throughout the greater part of the survey period. In the case of Chiffchaff, many of the territories were in the woodland fringes while Willow Warblers were scattered across the site favouring birch and other scrub. Willow Warblers did not show the decline experienced in the wider Hampshire countryside (Eyre 2015). This resilience has also been noted by the author across Bourley & Long Valley SSSI indicating, perhaps, that Willow Warblers are not subject to the same pressures on heathland as they are on farmland.

Of the finches, Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* was common prior to woodland clearance. Although numbers declined immediately after tree clearance they recovered as gorse and other scrub matured and were generally the commonest breeding bird on the site. Linnet *Linaria cannabina* also increased and, perhaps most surprisingly, so did Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* and Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. These last two species are not generally thought of as heathland birds. Furthermore, based on national BBS results, Greenfinch numbers have been falling over the period of this study (Hayhow *et al.* 2015). All four finches appeared to benefit from the

Table 2. All species proven or probably breeding during the study period

Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelus</i>
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Gt Sp. Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

Table 3. Numbers of species thought to be breeding on the site

Year	99	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total	39	34	37	34	36	38	39	39	39	37	40	41	39	35	37	35

Table 4. Numbers of territories of selected species 2001-15

Year	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Chiffchaff	4	5	4	8	5	4	10	10	9	9	13	11	5	10	17
Willow Warbler	7	5	11	9	9	18	13	13	16	14	10	9	9	11	12
Chaffinch	10	14	10	9	12	14	17	15	20	22	17	16	16	16	18
Goldfinch	2	2	1	3	5	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	6	3	6
Greenfinch	0	1	4	3	2	3	5	8	12	11	13	13	7	9	8
Linnet	0	4	6	5	10	7	12	10	12	9	9	11	5	7	7
Yellowhammer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reed Bunting	0	4	4	5	4	3	4	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1

breeding opportunities provided by extensive areas of mature gorse which covered much of the site in the later years of the study. The presence of Greenfinch, in particular, may be viewed as an indication that the heathland habitat is deteriorating.

Of the buntings, Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* was already on the verge of disappearing as a breeding species from Bourley and Long Valley SSSI prior to the heathland restoration project. Just one singing male was present on the study area in 2001, the last year that it was present during the breeding season. This is consistent with the general withdrawal of Yellowhammer from heathland sites in north-east Hampshire. In contrast, Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, which still bred on the SSSI in small numbers prior to clearance, increased on the restoration area from one territory in 1999 to five in 2004 but then began to decline. By 2010 they too had ceased to breed. Single singing males were present in 2011 and 2015 but no proof of breeding was obtained.

Discussion and conclusions

Heathland restoration – lessons learned and questions unanswered

The conversion of a sizeable area of mature mixed woodland and scrub to habitat holding all three species of Annex I birds has to be viewed as a welcome and successful example of heathland restoration. The initial stages of the process – the clear-felling of the trees and cutting of scrub followed by scraping and removal of the topsoil – were straightforward and effective. The subsequent development of the habitat also went pretty much according to plan, at least in the early stages, but later the control of grass and scrub, particularly birch and gorse, proved problematic.

Considerable effort went into introducing cattle to graze the site. This involved erecting fences, gates, cattle grids, signage, etc. as well as ongoing maintenance and management of the hardware and the stock. As described above, the intention and expectation was that the cattle, in combination with manual clearance, would control the growth of grass and scrub, thereby creating and maintaining the habitat suitable for all three Annex I birds. In fact, repeated manual intervention was necessary using mechanical cutters, mulchers, etc. to keep the scrub under control. In my view, grazing did not live up to expectations as far as the target birds are concerned. It is arguable that the number of cattle (the stocking density) was too low to be effective, even though it met recommended levels (Symes & Day 2003). However higher numbers would bring additional problems such as trampling of heather, and disturbance to ground-nesting birds (Eyre & Baldwin 2014). It has been suggested that grazing by ponies, sheep or goats, all of which will feed on scrub as well as grass, could be better but each brings its own problems and regular intervention with manual clearance is still expected to be required.

This raises a fundamental issue. If mechanical control is going to be needed anyway, do the benefits of grazing dry heathland justify the prominence currently given to it as a key management option? Would the limited resources be better spent on additional manual clearance and alternatives such as controlled burning? Proponents of grazing, of whom there are many, point to benefits associated with increased biodiversity, particularly for plants and invertebrates. There may also be associated values such as providing a sense of site identity created by fencing, reduction in anti-social behaviour, increased public involvement, local food production and rare breed conservation, but here we are focusing on the management of a dry heathland SPA specifically for Annex I birds. I am not aware of any study that has proven categorically that grazing is the best way of maximising the numbers and productivity of the three species involved. I feel that in the absence of such evidence, further work is required to investigate whether this is the case. In the meantime, we need to keep an open mind and, if necessary, be willing to revise the advice currently given to land-owners.

Impact of habitat succession on birds using the site

The most striking feature of the survey results was how the numbers of heathland and open-country birds increased rapidly during the early years following clearance of the site. They subsequently peaked, at breeding densities comparable to other favourable sites in the case of the Annex I species, and then declined, in some cases disappearing entirely as breeding birds. Although this is to be expected given their successional habitat requirements, the

speed and magnitude of the changes were striking. For example, Woodlark numbers peaked very soon after clearance but within six years had fallen back to pre-clearance levels. This is consistent with the species' liking for areas of bare ground and grass tussocks. Similarly, while Skylark and Meadow Pipit numbers built up more slowly, presumably in response to increasing levels of ground cover, they then declined, both species abandoning the area when the cover became too dense. Dartford Warblers did not colonise the site until sufficient heather and gorse had developed yet, by the end of the study period, had reached record numbers. This rate of growth is unlikely to continue and, as with the other species, numbers will undoubtedly decline if the scrub is allowed to grow uncontrolled, for example if the gorse becomes too tall and leggy.

The results confirm the importance of bare ground and sparse vegetation for Woodlarks and other open-country birds. This raises another issue about the management of dry heathland for Annex I birds. A commonly held view of good heathland habitat is of an area covered by a blanket of heather and gorse, perhaps with a few scattered trees. This is certainly good for Dartford Warblers and probably for Nightjars but it is far less suitable for Woodlarks. A more varied mix of vegetation containing bare ground and short vegetation with gorse and heather covering a range of ages is ideal and also satisfies the habitat requirements of other taxa. The emphasis of management should be towards achieving this mix using the best methods available, of which mechanical clearance must take precedence.

The views expressed here are based on my long experience of surveying heathland birds, of which this study is a part. They are specific to a limited number of sites in the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and not necessarily relevant to other areas of lowland heath. Furthermore, they are my personal views and not necessarily those of HOS. I want to make it clear that no criticism of either Landmarc or HIWWT is intended. I believe both organisations have done excellent jobs in managing the heathland restoration process in line with recommended guidelines.

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Low Tide Counts in Portsmouth Harbour: results for 2014/15 and trends from 1992/93 to 2014/15

John Shillitoe



Aerial view of western side of Portsmouth Harbour at low tide, looking south (Debbie Allan)

Abstract

The results of the fifth series of Low Tide Counts of wetland bird species in Portsmouth Harbour are presented for the winter 2014/15. Numbers are compared with selected WeBS Core Count results for the same winter. Maximum counts are also compared for each species with those from the previous four surveys, the first of which was held in winter 1992/93. Trends over the 22 year period are calculated and increases and decreases identified. Possible reasons for changes are discussed and conclusions are drawn for conservation planning.

Introduction

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) organised by the BTO is a monthly survey of major inland and coastal water bodies around Britain. 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 is 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. Previous counts were in the winters of 1992/93 (Unsworth, 1994), 1997/98 (Unsworth, 1999), 2002/03 (Unsworth, 2004) and 2008/09 (Shillitoe, 2010).

Portsmouth Harbour

Portsmouth Harbour and its easterly neighbours, Langstone and Chichester Harbours, form a large interconnected area of sheltered tidal wetland. At low tide there are extensive

areas of exposed mud and a much smaller area of saltmarsh. The shoreline of Portsmouth Harbour is entirely enclosed by concrete sea walls. The land behind the shoreline is heavily developed with major naval and commercial port establishments to the south and extensive military establishments on the western and eastern shores. There is amenity grassland and farmland in the north-west corner and a significant area of reclaimed land, including a marina and housing, in the north-east.

Portsmouth Harbour is protected by a number of designations reflecting its importance as a wildlife site including RAMSAR, SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and SPA (Special Protection Area). Its designation as an SPA is as a result of qualifying populations of Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* and Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*.

Methodology

For the first series of low tide counts (LTC) in 1993, Portsmouth Harbour was subdivided into 24 sectors. These same sector definitions have been used in subsequent surveys, although from 2008/9 survey sector 10 in the north-east has been subdivided and replaced by sectors 26 and 27 (see Figure 1).

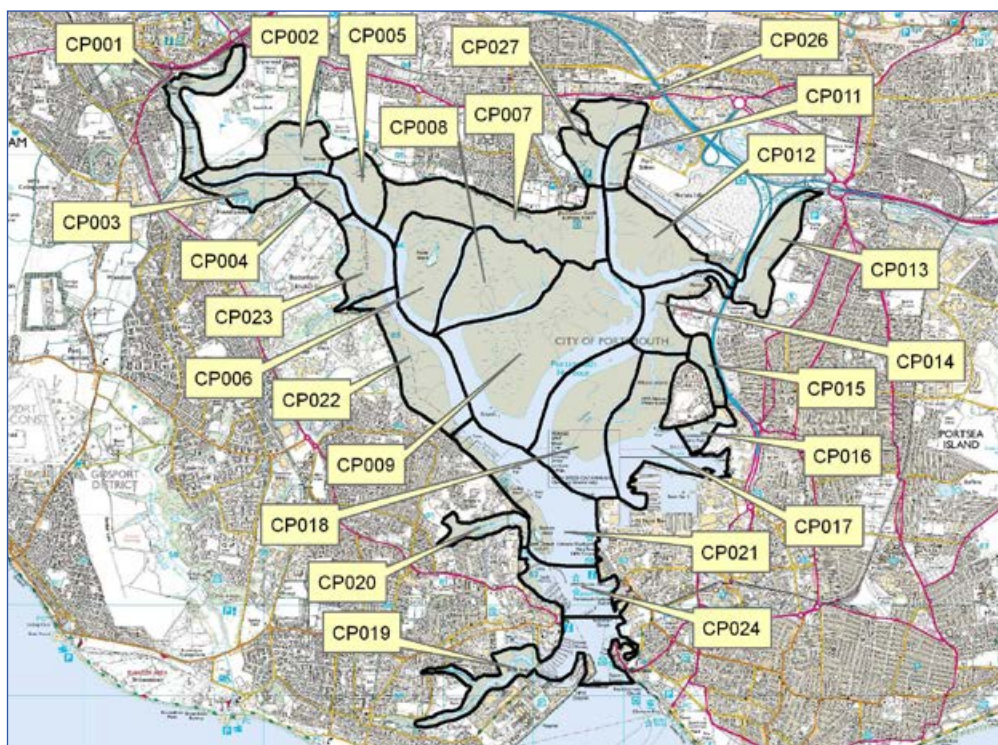


Figure 1. Sectors used for LTC in Portsmouth Harbour. © Crown copyright 2016 Ordnance Survey, Media 063/16.

Some sectors can be easily surveyed from the shoreline while others require the use of a boat in order to count mudflats which are distant or hidden from the shore. Significant lengths of the shoreline are inaccessible to counters as they are part of military or commercial establishments. The boat survey is therefore doubly important as it allows sectors where land access is not possible to be counted from the water.

The counts for the winter 2014/2015 were carried out on Nov 1st, Dec 13th, Jan 17th and Feb 14th. Further information about the methodology can be found in Shillitoe, 2010.

Results of 2014/15 Low Tide Count

Table 1 below gives the totals for each species across the whole harbour. Results are presented for 36 separate taxa comprising 14 waterfowl (swans, geese and ducks), seven mixed species (grebes, cormorant, herons and rails), 14 shorebirds and one other (Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*). These totals need to be used with some caution: they are simply the sum of the counts recorded for each of the sectors and do not make allowance for movements between sectors. For example it is possible for a flock of waders to be recorded in sector A, then

Table 1. Monthly maxima from LTC for winter 2014/15

Species	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Winter maximum	Month of maximum
Mute Swan	51	58	62	44	62	Jan
Brent Goose (Dark-bellied)	1,558	2,057	2,470	3,209	3,209	Feb
Brent Goose (Black Brant)		1	1		1	Dec, Jan
Shelduck	13	71	169	135	169	Jan
Wigeon	523	407	304	412	523	Nov
Gadwall	2				2	Nov
Teal	118	210	83	149	210	Dec
Mallard	47	65	47	22	65	Dec
Pintail		11	15	23	23	Feb
Shoveler				6	6	Feb
hybrid duck				2	2	Feb
Tufted Duck		6			6	Dec
Goldeneye		17	18	12	18	Jan
Red-breasted Merganser	65	72	69	109	109	Feb
Little Grebe	50	77	110	101	110	Jan
Great Crested Grebe	20	53	16	62	62	Feb
Cormorant	47	69	46	38	69	Dec
Little Egret	114	60	51	38	114	Nov
Grey Heron	11	18	5	5	18	Dec
Moorhen	1	2	2	3	3	Feb
Coot				1	1	Feb
Oystercatcher	543	625	513	506	625	Dec
Ringed Plover	106	59	45	69	106	Nov
Golden Plover			147		147	Jan
Grey Plover		31	24	32	32	Feb
Lapwing	25	49		28	49	Dec
Dunlin	1,444	6,254	4,322	5,557	6,254	Dec
Snipe				1	1	Feb
Black-tailed Godwit	329	452	23	165	452	Dec
Curlew	548	431	369	324	548	Nov
Common Sandpiper		1			1	Dec
Green Sandpiper			1		1	Jan
Greenshank	7	5	2	3	7	Nov
Redshank	722	419	432	390	722	Nov
Turnstone	126	42	52	51	126	Nov
Kingfisher	1		2	1	2	Jan

following disturbance be recorded half an hour later in sector B without the counters being aware of the double counting. Likewise, if the sectors A and B had been counted in reverse order, the waders would not have been counted at all. However, counts are carried out at low tide when movements are limited and this methodology follows that used by the BTO in analysing WeBS data.

Within Portsmouth Harbour the wintering low tide population of wetland birds in 2014/15, calculated by summing all the maximum counts above, was 13,862.

The maps below show the distribution of two of the flagship species – Brent Goose and Dunlin – in winter 2014/15 (red dots) and in winter 2008/09 (blue dots). The placement of dots on the map is based on numbers of birds present in the sector and the proportion of habitat component. They do not represent the position of individual birds. (For details see the WeBS Low Tide Counts – Data Presentation page of the WeBS website: <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs>).

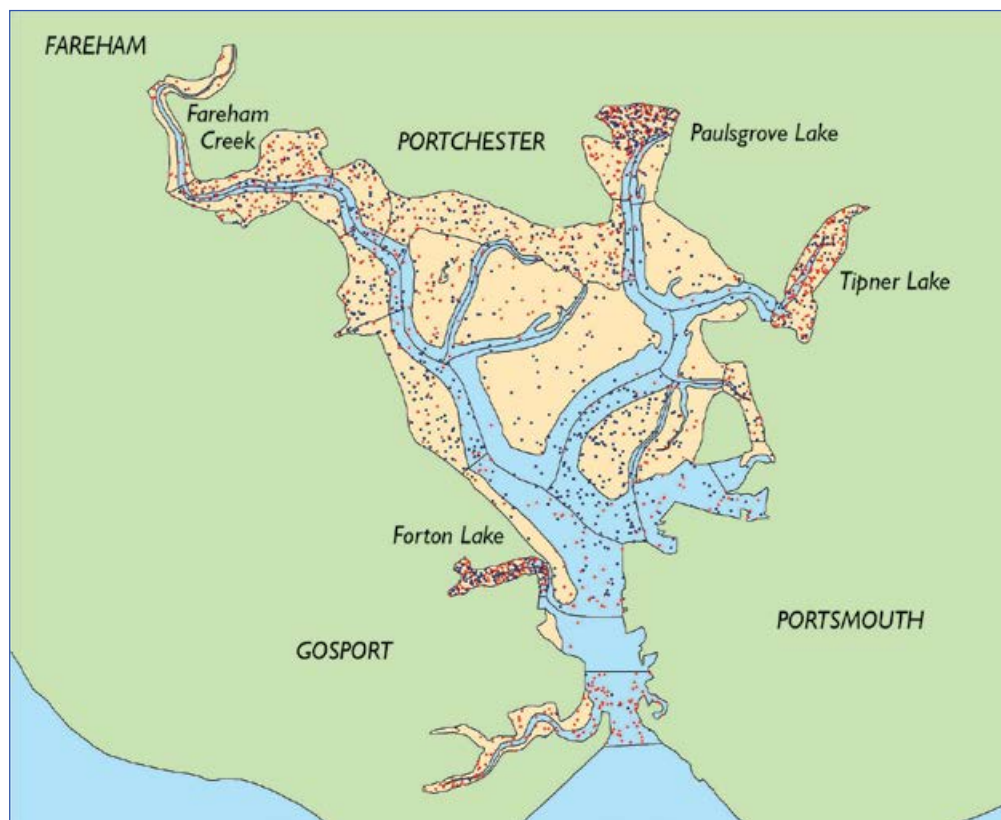


Figure 2. Dark-bellied Brent Goose distribution (2008/09 & 2014/15) (Blue dot = 2008/09; red dot = 2014/15)

Each dot in Figure 2 represents two birds. Birds were widely distributed about the harbour at low tide with concentrations in the muddy shallow inlets, especially Forton Lake in the south-west, Paulsgrove Lake near Port Solent and Tipner Lake, both in the north-east, and Fareham Creek in the north-west. The distribution is broadly similar across the two winter periods but with more birds using the central mudflats in 2008/9.

Each dot in Figure 3 represents five birds. The map appears to show a change of distribution between the two winters, with more birds using the central mudflats in 2014/15, while there was a concentration of birds in the north-west of the harbour in 2008/9. While birds

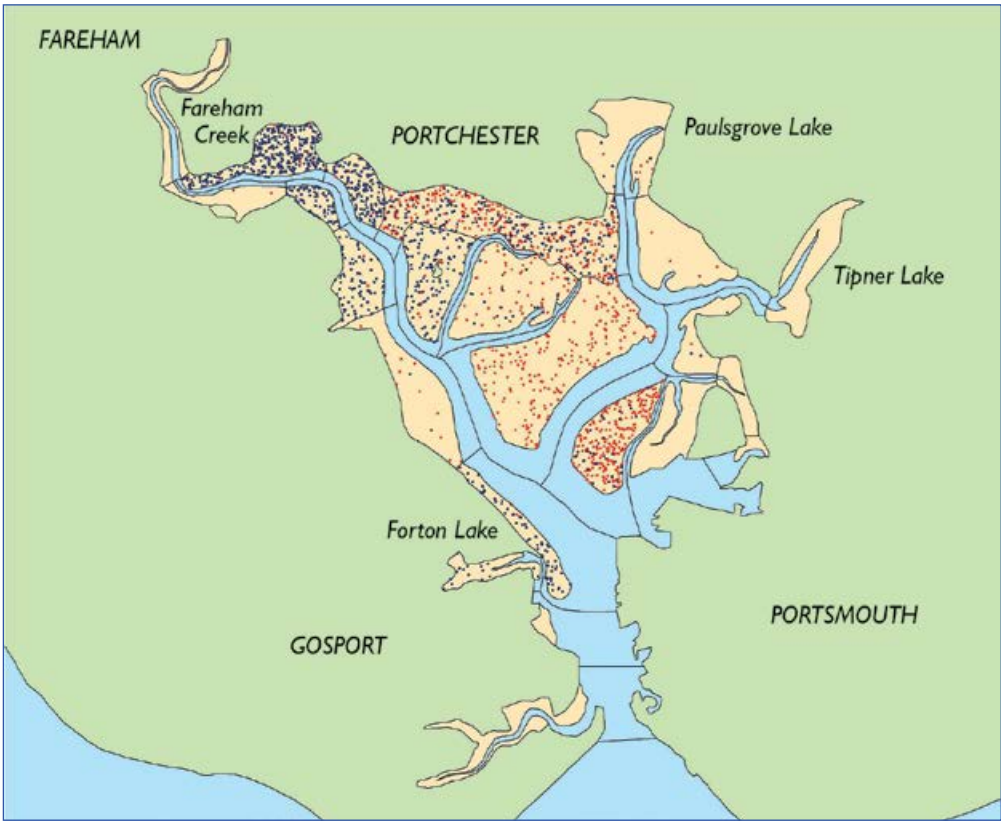


Figure 3. Dunlin distribution (2008/09 & 2014/15) (Blue dot = 2008/09; red dot = 2014/15)

undoubtedly move around the harbour during the low tide period, it is possible that these differences are a result of the site used to launch the boat. In 2008/09 the boat was launched from a slipway in the north-west of the harbour so these mudflats were counted first. In 2014/15 the boat had to be launched from a slipway in the north-east and the central mudflats were counted first. Notwithstanding this possible explanation, the map shows that apart from Fareham Creek, the highest concentrations of Dunlin were in the more open central areas of the harbour and not in the smaller more confined creeks preferred by Brent Geese

The results can also be used to compare the Low Tide Counts with the WeBS Core Counts for the same winter. Table 2 below identifies the highest monthly counts during the 2014/15 winter from each survey for the four flagship species. In each case the LTC was higher. The differences were especially marked for Black-tailed Godwit and Dunlin. The former species uses damp grassland as a high tide roost and it is possible that many of the birds using the harbour at low tide move away from the area over the high tide period. Dunlin are known to move to the adjacent Langstone Harbour as the tide rises to continue feeding, as the mudflats in Portsmouth Harbour are lower and are thus covered first.

Table 2. Comparison of maximum LTC and WeBS counts for winter 2014/15

Species	Low Tide Count	WeBS Core Count
Brent Goose	3,209 (Feb)	2,851 (Dec)
Red-breasted Merganser	109 (Feb)	76 (Jan)
Black-tailed Godwit	452 (Dec)	158 (Jan)
Dunlin	6,254 (Dec)	2,601 (Jan)

Low tide population changes – 1992 to 2015

The series of counts carried out in winter 2014/15 were the fifth such series and present an opportunity to analyse the changes that have happened over a period which extends over more than 20 years.

For each survey period and for each species, the maximum monthly count for the whole harbour was selected. This provided five counts for each species. These counts were then analysed to see if there were any trends evident. This was done by fitting a straight line to the data by the ‘least squares’ method using the Excel LINEST function. The slope of the straight line gives an indication of whether the low tide population of a species has grown over time (upward slope), reduced (downward slope), or stayed approximately stable (little or no slope). As an example the chart below shows the maximum counts for Redshank across each of the five winter periods and the trend line fitted to the data. In this case, the line has an upward slope showing an increasing population. The trends have also been quantified by calculating the percentage change over the 22 year period between the fitted values from the graph at the baseline winter of 1992/93 and the latest survey in 2014/15. Given the simplifying assumptions made to identify trends and the variability and limited nature of the input data, the results should be used with caution to identify broad trends only.

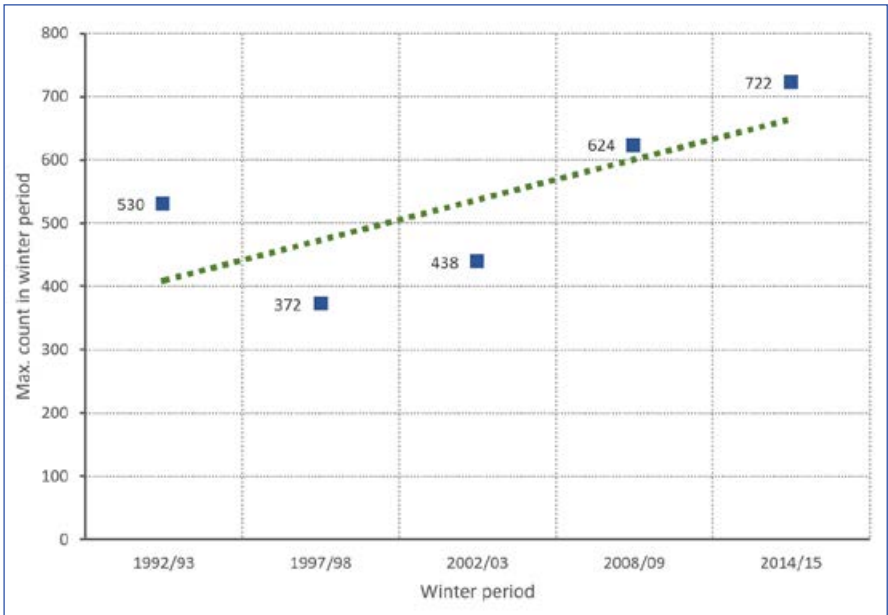


Figure 4. Trend analysis for Redshank

The results of the trend analysis are given in Table 3 below for a selection of 19 species comprising seven waterfowl, nine shorebirds and three others. Columns two to six contain the maximum monthly count for the species summed across the harbour for each of the five survey winters. The data for the 1992/93 survey has anomalies for some species with zero or negligible counts for two or more months which possibly indicate incomplete counts. Where this is apparent, the 1992/93 data have been excluded from the calculations of the averages and trends and the species marked with an asterisk. Column seven contains the averages of the five maximum counts and column eight shows the calculated percentage changes over the 22 year period from the trend analysis described above. To present the trends more clearly, the order of species has been sorted according to the percentage changes (from highest to lowest) and species have then been grouped into the following broad categories according to the amounts of percentage change calculated over the 22 year period:

- *Increasing greatly:* More than 100%
- *Increasing:* Above 10% but not more than 100%
- *Stable:* Not greater than $\pm 10\%$
- *Decreasing:* Below -10%

Discussion

The results reveal some significant and, in some cases, surprising changes over the 22 years covered by the surveys. There are three species which have shown a marked decline over the period and all are short-billed waders – Dunlin (one of the four flagship species and still the most numerous shorebird by far accounting for nearly half of all birds present in 2015/16), Grey Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. The county (Clark 2015) and national (Frost *et al.* 2016) winter populations of these three species have all been in long-term decline during the period. One element of this decline has been attributed to warmer winters in recent years. As a result, more waders have remained in mainland Europe through the winter and have not had to move south and/or west to find milder weather. Reduction in numbers in Portsmouth Harbour may therefore just be reflecting wider patterns. On the other hand, the population trends in Portsmouth Harbour at low tide for the larger, longer-billed waders – Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* – are either showing an increase or at least stability. It is therefore possible that there has been a change in the quality of the feeding habitat in the

Table 3. Maximum low tide counts for each winter, averages and percentage changes between 1992/93 and 2014/15 for selected species

Species	1992/3	1997/8	2002/3	2008/9	2014/5	Average	Percentage change
<i>INCREASING GREATLY (more than +100%)</i>							
Wigeon *	58	131	163	500	523	329	444%
Little Grebe *	4	35	33	75	110	63	345%
Teal	87	62	112	148	210	124	231%
<i>INCREASING (+10% to +100%)</i>							
Turnstone	81	70	101	142	126	104	91%
Cormorant	37	33	57	40	69	47	86%
Black-tailed Godwit *	168	358	246	666	452	431	65%
Redshank	530	372	438	624	722	537	62%
Curlew	324	410	420	369	548	414	49%
Brent Goose (Dark-bellied)	2,169	2,505	1,823	2,538	3,209	2,449	42%
Red-breasted Merganser *	10	79	77	77	109	86	38%
Grey Heron	15	14	5	16	18	14	27%
Shelduck	135	120	200	138	169	152	25%
<i>STABLE (–10% to +10%)</i>							
Oystercatcher	590	551	536	574	625	575	7%
Mallard	61	96	92	82	65	79	–3%
Mute Swan	56	49	93	29	62	58	–5%
Ringed Plover	123	47	79	62	106	83	–9%
<i>DECLINING (more than –10%)</i>							
Dunlin	10,950	8,889	8,139	6,143	6,254	8,075	–46%
Lapwing	493	465	482	113	49	320	–87%
Grey Plover	287	173	165	52	32	142	–94%



Flock of Black-tailed Godwits and Dunlins at Farlington Marshes, Oct 28th (Trevor Carpenter)

surface layer which may have disproportionately impacted the shorter-billed waders. However, for the other short-billed waders – Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – numbers have respectively stayed fairly stable over the period or increased. These birds tend to use areas of the Harbour which have more rocks or pebbles on the surface so may not be affected if there are any changes impacting the more muddy parts.

Low tide populations of ducks and geese have generally increased over the period. In particular, there has been substantial percentage growth in Wigeon *Anas penelope* as well as Teal *Anas crecca* and Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, albeit from relatively low base numbers. Although prone to fluctuations, the Teal and Wigeon populations in England have increased over the past twenty years, but not to the extent seen in Portsmouth Harbour. The trend for the low tide Brent Goose population also shows an increase. However, this masks a fairly wide fluctuation in counts between the winters. The counts in Portsmouth Harbour mirror the English WeBS counts over the same 22 year period. The drop of the English population in the early years of the 21st century was also seen in Portsmouth Harbour with a subsequent return in recent years to figures which were being seen nationally in the 1990s.

Conclusions

The low tide counts during the 2014/15 winter have reconfirmed the importance of Portsmouth Harbour as a wetland of international importance for Brent Geese and national importance for Red-breasted Merganser, Black-tailed Godwit and Dunlin. The counts have also demonstrated that they are likely to give higher totals than the WeBS core counts, especially for shorebirds.

Mapping of the LTC results appears to demonstrate the relative value of different parts of the harbour for feeding birds. In particular, it has highlighted the importance of the shallow marginal creeks for Brent Geese and the more open central mudflats for Dunlin.

Trend analysis over a 22 year period has identified some large changes in the winter low tide populations of many species. Of the 19 species studied, three (all short-billed shorebirds including Dunlin) had decreased but 12 (including Brent Goose, Red-breasted Merganser and Black-tailed Godwit) had increased, with the largest percentage gains being for Wigeon, Teal and Little Grebe.

The next series of Low Tide Counts in Portsmouth Harbour is scheduled for 2020/21.

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Unusually heavy coastal movement of Fieldfares and Redwings in late autumn 2015

John Clark



Redwings at Trigpoint Hill (David Thelwell)

Abstract

An unprecedented movement of thrushes was recorded adjacent to the coast in the environs of Southampton in mid-November 2015, involving minimum totals of 15,215 Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* and 28,550 Redwings *T. iliacus*. This is compared with movements elsewhere in Hampshire during autumn 2015 and in previous years.

Introduction

Watching the migration of landbirds, especially passerines, over Hampshire in spring and autumn is not a particularly popular pastime among the county's birders; in fact there are just a few aficionados who have devoted much time to it in recent decades. To gain a real idea of patterns of movement, it is necessary to cover a viewpoint consistently over several weeks in spring and autumn, and if possible in successive years. This level of commitment is typically limited to those who either have flexible working hours, are not gainfully employed, or are retired. Their observations can be supplemented by other, often one-off, records of heavy movements induced by particular weather conditions. These in isolation don't provide overall information about movements during a season.

Diurnal landbird movements were first recorded in Hampshire as long ago as the late 1950s, although as indicated above there have been few periods of sustained observation at one site. Effort has been greatest in the autumn when typical species recorded are pigeons and doves *Columbidae*, Jackdaws *Corvus monedula*, Skylarks *Alauda arvensis*, hirundines *Hirundinidae*, Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, thrushes *Turdus* spp., pipits and wagtails *Motacillidae* and finches *Fringillidae*. Over inland viewpoints movement is typically in directions between south and north-west. At the coast most species move into the prevailing wind although Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* passage is nearly always to the west.

The timing and size of autumn influxes of Fieldfares and Redwings into the UK are likely to depend on a combination of two main factors – weather and food supplies in Fennoscandia. Sizeable early movements during the first half of October often coincide with anticyclonic conditions over the North Sea, when clear skies and east or north-easterly winds provide favourable conditions for migration. Conversely, low pressure with strong south-westerly winds and rain are likely to delay arrivals. An abundance of Rowan and other berry crops may also delay departure from Fennoscandia until the food sources are depleted. The latter may apply particularly to Fieldfares as in some years very few are recorded in October.

Previous records

Data from three inland sites which have been consistently watched over several years are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Summary of Fieldfare movements in previous autumns at three inland sites

Location (years)	Mean annual total	Peak annual total	Peak day total	Minimum annual total
Fleet Pond (1987-1999)	1,116	3,385 (1998)	2,675 W (Nov 7th 1998)	170 (1987)
Tweseldown/Miles Hill (2009-2014)	1,722	2,569 (2011)	1,050 NW (Oct 26th 2010)	1,057 (2012)
Trigpoint Hill (2009-2014)	1,623	2,534 (2011)	665 NE (Nov 14th 2011)	877 (2013)

Table 2. Summary of Redwing movements in previous autumns at three inland sites

Location (years)	Mean annual total	Peak annual total	Peak day total	Minimum annual total
Fleet Pond (1987-1999)	5,232	16,285 (1995)	9,660 W (Oct 22nd 1995)	682 (1988)
Tweseldown/Miles Hill (2009-2014)	8,904	17,103 (2013)	5,240 W (Oct 11th 2013)	2,714 (2010)
Trigpoint Hill (2009-2014)	5,074	5,955 (2014)	2,330 N (Oct 11th 2010)	3,052 (2012)

The only heavier one-day movements at an inland site in Hampshire were at Tunworth near Basingstoke in early November 1986. On 2nd, 2,435 Fieldfares and 764 Redwings were logged flying mostly west in 3.25 hours observation and on 3rd 2,200 Fieldfares and 6,190 Redwings flew west in three hours. This followed an October when thrush numbers were generally low and unsettled cyclonic weather with westerly winds dominated the weather. A vigorous low pressure system moved eastwards across the English midlands and southern North Sea on Nov 1st. This was followed by a short period of north-easterlies the next day with the result that a massive influx of thrushes (and other species) was noted across England.

Dedicated visible migration watches have not been carried out at any sites at or adjacent to the coast. However, noteworthy thrush movements have occasionally been recorded. For Fieldfare, these include:

- 280 west over Netley on Nov 18th 1963
- 500 north at Keyhaven on Oct 22nd 1972
- 206 NW over Pennington Marsh on Oct 22nd 1978
- 478 NW over Regents Park, Southampton in one hour on Nov 14th 1988
- 250 west over Sinah Common on Oct 20th 2003
- 1,500 NW over Testwood Lakes in one hour on Nov 16th 2003
- 496 NW over the north shore of Langstone Harbour on Nov 2nd 2006.

Substantial movements of Redwings include:

- 4,500 NNW off the sea at Hordle on Oct 12th 1972
- 1,500 NNE at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 15th 1972
- 530 NW over Dibden Bay in five minutes on Oct 31st 1976
- 1,300 west at Titchfield Haven and 900 NW at Hurst on Oct 12th 1980 (when a further 4,800 were recorded at inland sites)
- 1,200 north over Keyhaven on Oct 24th 1981
- 7,372 NW over Testwood Lakes on Oct 16th 2005
- 400 NNE over Chessel Bay, Southampton on Oct 17th 2014.

There are also numerous records of Redwings, but not Fieldfares, heard moving at night over coastal locations, particularly in October, although these have become less frequent in recent years. Whether this is mostly due to nocturnal Redwing movements becoming less heavy, increased traffic noise or the declining hearing of ageing birders is not known!

These data confirm that heavy autumn thrush movements close to the coast are less frequently detected than further inland. This may be because birds crossing the southern North Sea enter the UK to the north of Kent and spread westwards across the interior of the country. However, the predominant direction of movement at Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill is north-west, which suggests that birds seen at these sites move across the English Channel at height overnight and only descend after they cross the coastline, and thus become easier to detect further inland.

The 2015 influx

Observations in autumn 2015 produced unprecedented totals of 31,325 Fieldfares and 84,051 Redwings. These are summarised in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3. Summary of Fieldfare movements observed in Hampshire, autumn 2015

Location	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tweseldown		1,095	2,494		3,589
Trigpoint Hill		366	3,461	103	3,930
Other inland		583	954		1,537
Greenhill, Romsey		116	1,758		1,874
Testwood Lakes		43	1,230		1,273
Lower Test Marshes			4,200		4,200
Southampton		802	14,120		14,922
Totals		3,005	28,217	103	31,325

Table 4. Summary of Redwing movements observed in Hampshire, autumn 2015

Location	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tweseldown	24	9,396	4,307		13,727
Trigpoint Hill		3,232	5,375	185	8,792
Other inland	54	3,098	403		3,555
Greenhill, Romsey		815	11,615		12,430
Testwood Lakes		204	5,313		5,517
Lower Test Marshes			13,000		13,000
Southampton		6,195	20,835		27,030
Totals	78	22,940	60,848	185	84,051

In late September 24 Redwings were logged at Tweseldown from 27th and 54 at other sites although none were recorded at Trigpoint Hill near Timsbury until Oct 4th.

A sizeable influx occurred between Oct 12th and 20th during a period of light east to north-easterly winds. This followed the typical autumn pattern with most recorded inland but unusually with one substantial movement at the coast. Daily observations at Tweseldown produced 8,452 Redwings (including 3,145 NNW on 15th) and 891 Fieldfares (including 324 west on 19th and 326 west on 20th). Numbers at Trigpoint Hill were lower with only 1,549 Redwings (including 435 on 15th) and 49 Fieldfares but the site was not covered on four days. Of most interest was an exceptional movement recorded at Weston Shore, Southampton on Oct 14th, when 5,967 Redwings and 802 Fieldfares were logged. These were the first Fieldfares in the county and coincided with a total of 75 at six other locations. No numbers of significance were noted over Southampton on other dates at this time. The only significant movement noted elsewhere was 1,510 Redwings west at Fleet Pond on 15th.

In the 18 day period between Oct 21st and Nov 7th the winds were mostly from the south-east quarter with rain and mist frequent. There were observations at Tweseldown on 11 days but they were frequently hampered by fog, while the weather was even poorer on the remaining days. Totals recorded were 519 Redwings (including 320 on 29th) and 220 Fieldfares. Fog was less of a problem at Trigpoint Hill, which was watched on nine days during this period with totals of 2,314 Redwings (peak 610 NW on Oct 22nd) and 1,175 Fieldfares (peak 855 ENE on Nov 3rd). The only significant movement noted elsewhere in the county during this period was 862 Redwings ESE over Farley Mount on Oct 24th.

Between Nov 8th and 22nd movements of both species were noted over Weston Shore and nearby areas of Southampton on a daily basis, particularly between 14th and 19th (see Table 5). Passage was usually in a north-west to north direction, with birds avoiding a direct crossing of Southampton Water and usually skirting around the eastern edge of Southampton Docks and City Centre. The weather during this period was mostly cloudy and mild with south-westerly winds, stormy at times, with periods of heavy rain. Figure 1 shows the weather map for Nov 16th, during the period of peak daily totals around Southampton, when a deep depression was located north-west of Scotland and frontal systems accompanied by gale force south-westerly winds swept across the country.

Table 5. Minimum daily totals of Fieldfares and Redwings observed from Weston Shore and nearby sites, Nov 8th-22nd 2015.

Date	Fieldfare	Redwing	Date	Fieldfare	Redwing
Nov 8th	720	600	Nov 16th	2,323	4,885
Nov 9th	10	180	Nov 17th	3,449	3,940
Nov 10th		250	Nov 18th	415	1,635
Nov 11th		615	Nov 19th	3,503	4,800
Nov 12th	220	400	Nov 20th	475	921
Nov 13th	150	550	Nov 21st	15	68
Nov 14th	2,649	1,641	Nov 22nd	50	
Nov 15th	70	130			

Observations at three other viewpoints in the Southampton hinterland also produced several significant movements. At Greenhill near Romsey observations on most dates produced totals of 1,758 Fieldfares and 11,615 Redwings, mostly moving in a south to south-westerly direction and possibly different to those seen over Southampton. Peak movements were on Nov 8th with 760 Fieldfares and 1,985 Redwings and Nov 18th with 1,788 Redwings. At Testwood Lakes observations on successive Sundays in November produced 500 Fieldfares and 3,000 Redwings NW on 8th, 519 Fieldfares and 1,481 Redwings west on 15th and 211 Fieldfares and 832 Redwings west on 22nd; coverage was limited at Weston Shore on the

latter two dates. At Lower Test Marshes watches on four dates produced totals of 4,200 Fieldfares and 13,000 Redwings mostly NW, including 500 and 3,000 respectively on Nov 21st when only brief observation was possible at Weston Shore. Further inland during this period, numbers were much lower. Despite virtual daily coverage at Tweseldown, the only substantial movement was on Nov 8th, when 1,213 Redwings and 933 Fieldfares moved SW. Subsequently in the period up to 22nd the totals recorded were 2,412 Redwings including 845 NW on 22nd and 1,324 Fieldfares including 485 NW on 22nd. At Trigpoint Hill there were 4,351 Redwings and 2,304 Fieldfares with peaks of 1,260 Redwings and 375 Fieldfares SW on 10th. Observations continued at Tweseldown until Nov 30th and at Trigpoint Hill into December but no substantial movements were recorded.

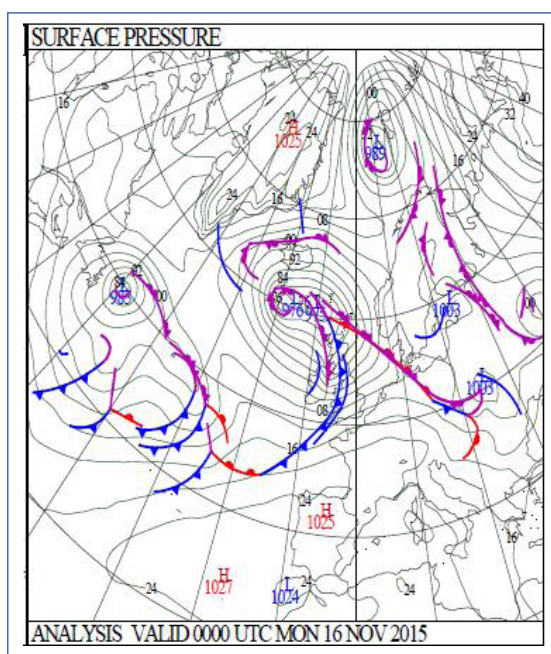


Figure 1. Weather map for Nov 16th 2015.
Source: UK Met. Office

Discussion

The weather in October and early November was mild without frosts. The winds were often from an easterly direction and were generally light and often accompanied by drizzle and/or fog. This hampered observation, particularly at Tweseldown, but despite this at inland sites there were several sizeable early movements of Redwings and an above average but later passage of Fieldfares. The heavy movement of both species over Southampton on Oct 14th was significant as it was one of the highest-ever one-day totals of Redwing and the earliest ever three-figure movement of Fieldfares.

However, as noted above, there was a change in mid-November to stormy wet weather from the west, and this appears to have coincided with the large-scale movements observed. The passage over Southampton in November was without precedent for a coastal location in Hampshire. Observations at Lower Test Marshes and Testwood Lakes were presumably part of the Southampton movement. Taking day counts from these two sites which exceeded those at Weston Shore gives totals of an additional 1,095 Fieldfares and 7,715 Redwings, thus making a grand total for Southampton of 15,215 Fieldfares and 28,550 Redwings. Those seen further up the Test Valley at Greenhill and Trigpoint Hill, four and eight km to the north of Testwood Lakes respectively, which were mostly moving south or SW, may have represented additional birds. However, at both sites, large movements of Redwings on Nov 21st involved 1,168 and 1,320 respectively moving NE and north, so possibly these were Southampton birds moving inland. Further inland at Tweseldown, where observed passage is usually much heavier than at coastal locations, numbers were minor in comparison with the Southampton totals. Records from other coastal sites, such as Sandy Point and Keyhaven in Hampshire and Christchurch Harbour and Durlston Head in Dorset, show that only minimal numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings were recorded during that period.

Figure 2(a) shows the scale of observed hourly movements of Redwings during the period Nov 8th -22nd from inland watchpoints. The concentrations around Hampshire are clearly illustrated as is another separate large movement in north-west England. The situation for

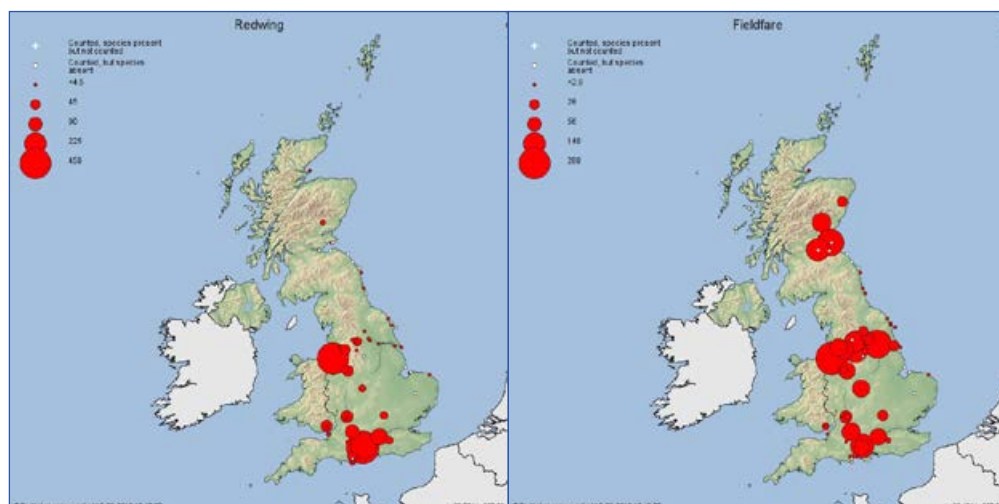


Figure 2. Hourly averages Nov 8th-22nd 2015 for (a) Redwing (left) and (b) Fieldfare (right). Source: Trektellen

Fieldfares is more complex, as shown in Figure 2(b), with large movements in east Scotland as well as across northern England and in Hampshire and adjacent inland counties. By examining the corresponding maps for the adjacent parts of the Continent at the same time, no large-scale movements were evident. This was contrary to October when the arrivals in UK corresponded with widespread movements across the Low Countries. So the origins and destinations of these November birds remain a mystery. Whilst there were other significant movements in eastern Scotland and northern England, the exceptionally high numbers observed in Hampshire appear to have been mostly a localised movement confined to the Southampton area. Whether these observations represent an unusual ornithological event or an overlooked phenomenon is not certain, although I suspect the former. Interest in autumn Woodpigeon movements has been high in recent years and the Southampton area has been well watched for these, so heavy thrush passage would presumably be detected. We wait to see what is recorded in future years.

Acknowledgements

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Second for Hampshire: Greater Yellowlegs at Titchfield

Mark Rolfe



Adult summer Greater Yellowlegs, Titchfield Haven, May 19th (Richard Ford)

Abstract

An adult Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* was found at Titchfield on Jan 11th 2015 and continued to be seen in the area from Apr 11th until July 24th. This unusual winter record, followed by its exceptionally long-stay, has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee. This was only the second record for Hampshire and the first to be seen and appreciated by many observers, the previous record having been seen well only on the evening of Sep 26th 2007, following a brief sighting earlier the same afternoon, before departing early the next morning. The following account describes the discovery and identification in 2015 of this much sought-after Nearctic vagrant, based on an account posted on the Rare Bird Alert website (Rolfe 2015), and ends with a summary of its status both in Hampshire and nationally.

Circumstances and description

On Jan 11th 2015 my regular Sunday morning walk along the Titchfield Canal Path began much like any other with counts of ducks and Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* on the River Meon floods. Not long after setting off I thought I heard a Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* calling a short distance further down the valley. Keen to add this to my year list I began to search for it. As I did so, a flock of around 60 godwits suddenly took off and began circling low over the floods. As I watched these I noticed a medium-sized wader with dark wings also take to the air. My first instinct was to assume this was the presumed Greenshank but then I noticed it had a square-cut white rump. This set alarm bells ringing in my head and I immediately thought of yellowlegs, but which one? There had been a Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* at Titchfield Haven the previous autumn and this species seemed most likely, but the bird did look a bit too big and rather Greenshank-sized in flight. Greater Yellowlegs did cross my mind but seemed unlikely given the rarity of this species in Hampshire, with just one previous record, and I dismissed this as wishful thinking. The bird flew down the valley alongside a single godwit and I feared that would be the last I would see of it, especially as it was flying into the low morning sun making any decent views impossible. However, I managed

to follow both birds and, much to my delight, they circled and began to head back towards me before appearing to land at the back of Posbrook Flood.

I moved further down the path to try to refind the bird. As I was doing so, I was telephoned by fellow local birder, Dan Houghton, who said he thought that he had just seen a possible Greater Yellowlegs further down the Canal Path but had subsequently lost it. Another birder, Rob White, who had been speaking to Dan, joined me at this point and told me that he had relocated it at the back of Posbrook Flood. He soon got me onto the bird which was roosting with the single Black-tailed Godwit and some Pintail *Anas acuta*. Its legs were completely submerged at this point and its bill inconveniently tucked out of sight. Dan and Alan Butler joined us as we waited for better views. The bird gave a few tantalising glimpses of its bill, which from some angles looked rather short but when seen side-on did look longer, and was that a slight upturn to the tip or just more wishful thinking? Dan had put the news out as a 'possible Greater legs' and by now several other birders had arrived. Eventually it began to preen and gave much better views and yes, the bill was definitely long and upturned. The long bright yellow legs could also now be seen and it began to call – a three-note 'deew, deew, deew', much like a Greenshank. It then flew a short distance up the valley to Bridge Street Flood where it gave excellent views as it fed both in and out of the water amongst roosting Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and feeding godwits.

Any earlier doubts were now a thing of the past as it was clearly too large for a Lesser Yellowlegs and lacked the dainty, almost Wood Sandpiper-like 'jizz' of that species. Structurally it was very similar to a Greenshank. The bill was dark with a grey base and the upperparts had profuse white-spotting which was particularly obvious on the tertials. The three-note call further confirmed its identification. When I left at 12:30 around 30 to 40 other birdwatchers had arrived to enjoy the bird.

What was assumed to be the same bird returned to the Titchfield area on Apr 11th and was then seen regularly up to July 24th. It was something of a mystery as to where it had disappeared in the intervening three-month period. It may possibly have been on the Isle of Wight given that a Greater Yellowlegs subsequently spent the 2015/2016 winter on the River Medina.

Previous records and status

The record was accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (Hudson *et al.* 2016) and became the second record for Hampshire. The only previous record was one found at Farlington Marshes and first seen briefly in flight on the afternoon of Sep 26th 2007. Fortunately, after an interval of over three hours, it returned and was well seen just before dusk. To the disappointment of the assembled crowd the next morning, it flew off purposefully just after dawn and was not seen again (Crook 2008).

According to Rare Bird Alert, there had been 51 previous records in Britain and Ireland prior to the Titchfield 2015 sighting. Reports have been in all months except February and June with most occurring during spring and autumn. There have been only three previous January records, one in Cork on Jan 21st 1940, a dead bird found in a Dublin poulterer's shop in late January 1947 and the last at North Kent Marshes from Jan 21st to Feb 2nd 1997.

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Black-eared Wheatear at Acres Down: first record of eastern race in Hampshire

Gary Howard



Adult male Black-eared Wheatear, Acres Down, June 13th (Gary Howard)

Abstract

An adult male Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* seen at Acres Down, New Forest, on 13th June 2015 has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (Hudson *et al.* 2016) as belonging to the eastern Mediterranean race *melanoleuca*. Whilst it is the second record of Black-eared Wheatear for Hampshire, it is the first county record of this distinctive race considered by some to be a separate species (Sangster *et al.* 1999). Details of its finding are reproduced in part from previously published articles in *Kingfisher* (Howard 2015a) and *Birdwatch* (Howard 2015b) as well as on the BirdGuides website.

Background and circumstances

I've been a regular if infrequent visitor to the New Forest for over 30 years and when a planned family weekend away to the Farne Islands got cancelled due to the weather, I suggested we go there instead. We only finalised our plans on the Friday and I booked a place at the campsite on Ocknell Plain and said to my wife 'That's not far from Acres Down, let's start there and see how we get on.' It was overcast, cool and dry when we arrived just after 09:00 on Saturday June 13th 2015 and found the car park empty. The four of us strolled up to the viewpoint in no particular hurry enjoying views of Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* and Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* en-route.

At about 10:30 as I scanned for birds I heard one of the other three birders present say something like 'Is that a shrike?' I looked to my right and about 100 metres away could see a black and white bird on the top of a pine almost at eye-level. I trained my scope on the bird and said 'No, it's a wheatear', and almost as soon as I said it the bird dropped off the tree and I said something like 'It's not a Wheatear, it's a Black-eared.' I rushed to the edge of the hill but couldn't see anything so I ran a few metres downhill to the base of the pines but still

saw nothing. I knew I'd found a 'mega' but it was slipping out of my grip and without even a record shot I feared it would be just another of those ones that got away.

I worked my way slowly and methodically around the base of the hill and after what seemed like an eternity, but was in fact 20 minutes, I saw the bird again. As I reached for my camera it flew away towards a large group of pines at the foot of the hill and out of sight. Jenny, my wife, who was now trying to cope with keeping twin 11 year old boys in sight and carrying my scope and shadowing me, saw me give the thumbs up and went back up to tell the others (James Burge, Dave Knight and Rob Clements). A few minutes later we were all walking towards the area where I'd seen it fly and I picked it up on open ground amongst the bog cotton. It was a stunning bird and eventually I got some photos, then all too quickly it once again flicked away out of sight. What a bird, I could scarcely believe it!

Description and identification

I was elated and now a little more relaxed. It was clearly a Black-eared Wheatear of the eastern form and a rather superb looking adult male. At a glance it was a starkly black and white bird but closer study revealed that the white underparts, chest, back and cap had a very slightly sandy tint contrasting strongly with the black throat and wings. In flight the tail was largely white with black edges and a marked black central bar. The legs and bill were black too. I have seen Black-eared Wheatears many times before across Europe and in the Middle East and was utterly convinced of what it was. Separation from Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* was readily confirmed by the distinctive tail pattern as Desert Wheatear has an almost wholly black tail. Being in adult male plumage, Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* was also easily eliminated by the pale, not black, back. Its striking black and white appearance without strong buff tones indicated it was of the eastern race and this was confirmed by the broader black face mask extending across the lower forehead above the bill, above the eye and down the throat to the upper breast. Whilst not diagnostic as to race, the majority of males of the eastern race have black throats whereas the majority of the western race have white throats. The extensive black on the scapulars also supported the identification as eastern race. The record was submitted with a series of photographs that I took showing all diagnostic features.

I was well aware of its rarity status and wanted to get the news out as quickly as possible. I photographed the screen image on the back of my camera and attempted to 'tweet' out the news but soon found that I had no phone signal! I dashed off up to the top of the Acres Down viewpoint and finally got the news out just before 11:30. It proved a very popular 'twit' with hundreds getting to the bird before nightfall. Despite extensive searching the bird was not seen the next day or on any subsequent day.

Previous records and range

Black-eared Wheatear is a rare vagrant to Britain with 58 records accepted by the BBRC up to the end of 2014, 47 of those since 1950. The peak month for occurrence is May with June seeing the next most records, though with only a third as many as May.

Black-eared Wheatear is currently classed by BOURC as having two races. The nominate western race *hispanica* is found in southern France, Spain, Portugal, northern and central Italy, Croatia and north-west Africa, whereas the eastern race *melanoleuca* breeds from southern Italy east into the rest of the Balkans and from Asia Minor east to Iran and Kazakhstan. As might be expected, the bulk of British records have been of the western race and only 13 previous records have been specifically attributed to the eastern race.

There has only been one previous Hampshire record, a male of the nominate *hispanica* race at Farlington Marshes on June 5th 1987. Two other previously published records are no longer considered acceptable. These were at Farlington Marshes on Sep 18th 1954 and Keyhaven on Apr 25th 1992. Like the majority of Black-eared Wheatears recorded in Britain, the 1987 Farlington bird stayed only one day disappointing a large crowd which had assembled early



Adult male Black-eared Wheatear, Acres Down, June 13th (Dave Ryves)

the next day, a Saturday, including one 21 year old who never would have dreamed he'd find his own Hampshire record nearly 30 years later!

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High numbers of post-breeding Mediterranean Gulls around Winchester

John Cloyne & Paul Pearson



Mediterranean Gulls at Winchester SF, July 3rd (Paul Pearson)

Following the 1968 discovery of a small colony of Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* in Hampshire, the county's nationally important breeding population is now in three figures. Annual breeding numbers vary but there were 520 pairs in 2011, mostly in coastal colonies with the largest being Langstone Harbour with 498 pairs (Eyre 2015). During the last ten years flocks have also occurred at inland localities on the South Downs; these were assumed to be feeding movements of birds nesting at Langstone Harbour. Large post-breeding flocks have also occurred on the coast, the highest in the period 2007-2011 being 626 near Titchfield Haven on Sep 19th 2010 (Eyre 2015).

Elsewhere inland, Mediterranean Gulls started to appear fairly regularly around the upper Itchen Valley from about 1990, mainly from August to March. This usually involved very small numbers at localities such as Alresford Pond and the main lake at Winchester Sewage Farm (SF) on the south-west outskirts of the city (grid reference SU494280). In 2013 and 2014 larger post-breeding groups appeared at Winchester SF on a few isolated dates in late June/early July (maxima 39 on July 1st 2013 and 32 on July 9th 2014). These appeared to be an extension from the South Downs areas where post-breeding flocks had been noted in recent years but these records gave no indication of the scale of the phenomenon that was to follow in the summer of 2015.

June and July of 2015 saw a totally unexpected explosion in numbers of these post-breeders in the Winchester area, most noticeably at Winchester SF. The first indications from there in June were of one on 17th, up to 12 on 19th, up to 90 on 21st and up to 190 on 23rd. By June 24th, to our growing wonder, numbers had continued to increase with at least 266 counted and an estimate of as many as 400 actually passing through during the relatively short period of observation. On subsequent days birds were seen continually arriving and departing from the lake with, for example, 152 between 10:00 and 11:00 on June 26th. To try to ascertain a clearer idea of the total numbers involved we decided to carry out a coordinated count at the site on July 3rd. As birds seemed to be flying in a general W/NW direction in the mornings and in the opposite direction later in the day, the coordinated count was aimed at counting birds moving back to their roosting areas/colonies on the coast. The count commenced at 14:00 and ended at 20:27 when the last birds departed. Over that period 811 individuals (plus one resident sick bird) were recorded. Apart from 37 'spooked' by a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter*

nisus and Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, which flew off and may have returned, all birds departed E/SE after calling in briefly at the lake, so there was no double counting. Totals for the six hours 14:00-19:59 and 20:00-20:27 were 35, 71, 83, 87, 151, 202 and 182 respectively. As far as could be ascertained, all groups were made up wholly of adults, superb in their summer finery. The gulls were not feeding at the lake and instead appeared to be using it only as a transit stop. They would glide in, the air filled with their distinctive calls, to drink and preen briefly before heading purposefully away, startlingly white against the green shoulder of the adjacent Deacon Hill, in the general direction of Langstone or Chichester Harbours over 30km to the south-east.

A similar pattern of occurrence and movement occurred at the site, with gradually reducing numbers in double figures, from then until the middle of July, with mainly single figures on most dates from then until early August when the phenomenon finally petered out. Although the vast majority were adults, very small numbers of first-years and juveniles were involved, with the maximum number of juveniles being 11 on July 25th.

Unusual numbers were also noted higher up the Itchen valley and north of Winchester at the same time (e.g. at Alresford Pond between July 8th and Aug 6th maxima were 66 and 60 on July 5th and 22nd respectively; 15 at Avington Park on July 10th which departed east at 17:30; and unusual sightings on the north side of Winchester between June 24th and July 3rd including ten flying over on June 24th and 65 flying SE between 19:00 and 20:00 on July 3rd.

We received information (Tristan Norton, pers. comm.) of large numbers of gulls feeding in pig fields just north of the village of Crawley (grid reference SU430355) about eight km NW of Winchester, which probably included these Mediterranean Gulls at this time. Those flying SE over the north side of Winchester on July 3rd were indicative of birds returning to the coast to roost in east Hampshire or West Sussex having probably fed at this Crawley source and would have ended up as part of the counts at Winchester SF on that date. It seems likely that these pig fields were the attraction for many, if not all, of the birds recorded at Winchester SF. Unfortunately we have been unable to find corroboration or details of the extent to which these pig fields may have been used and intend to investigate further in 2016. The use of pig fields would mirror the report of large numbers of post-breeding Mediterranean Gulls feeding from pig-food hoppers at a pig farm at Sopley, Hampshire eight km inland from Christchurch Harbour between July 6th and Aug 3rd 2013, with numbers peaking at 625 to 650 on July 18th (Hume 2013). The maximum count of 811 at Winchester SF in July 2015 is thus the highest inland total recorded to date in Hampshire, and indicates the distances post-breeders will travel to sufficiently attractive food sources. The Alresford Pond and Avington Park birds may indicate additional feeding sites in nearby areas.

The late John Taverner, who discovered the first breeding 'Meds' in Hampshire in 1968, often visited Winchester SF in the 1960s and could surely not have imagined what we witnessed some 50 years later.

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Breeding Goosanders in Hampshire

Philip Fawkes



Female Goosander with six young, Somerley Estate, Avon Valley, May 13th 2015 (John Levell)

Goosanders (*Mergus merganser*) are well known in Hampshire as a wintering species with numbers increasing to over 200 during hard winters. However, the county is now also established as an outpost for a small number of regular breeding pairs. Goosanders have a wide breeding distribution across northern latitudes of north America, northern Europe and Asia, with an extralimital population in central Asia. In UK the species has been expanding its range southwards for nearly 150 years since it colonised Perthshire in Scotland in 1871. It first bred in England in Northumberland in 1941 and then took a little over half a century further to expand its breeding range south to Hampshire, when in 1998 a female and six ducklings were recorded in July on the River Avon south of Ringwood.

Whilst there were individuals seen in May/June and a pair reported as prospecting a potential nest site on the River Avon, there was no evidence of breeding in the county in the following three years. Hampshire's second confirmed breeding record was in 2002, evidenced by a female with ten young on June 11th at Bickerley Common, Ringwood. In 2003 juveniles were seen at two sites in July (Ibsley Water and Itchen Valley Country Park) and breeding was confirmed on the Somerley Estate through which the River Avon flows north of Ringwood. The next year breeding was again confirmed there when a brood was observed in May and July.

At the national level, the *BTO Atlas 2007-11* (Balmer *et al.* 2014) revealed a 112% expansion in range across UK since 1968-72. The breeding distribution map for 2008-11 showed Goosanders to be well established across Scotland, Wales and northern England down to a diagonal line running approximately south-west from around the Humber to the Severn, including a population in south-west England centred on Devon. However, it remains absent as a regular breeding species across most of eastern and southern England apart from a small number of isolated breeding records including Hampshire. The *Hampshire Bird Atlas* (Eyre 2015) mapped breeding evidence between 2008-11 in six separate tetrads in the Avon Valley, with the main cluster of sites around Somerley with an outlier 6km to the south near Bisterne.

With the exception of 2005, the Somerley Estate has held at least one breeding pair since 2003, with two broods recorded there in 2008 and 2009, and at least two pairs successfully rearing young in the four years 2011-2014. Away from this now traditional site, but still on the Avon, three broods totalling twenty-two fledglings were reported in the Wattons Ford/Bisterne area in 2014. However, caution is required in assessing total numbers of breeding pairs because local ornithologist, John Levell, has noted that there has been a tendency for downstream migration of early broods from the Somerley Estate to the wider shallows at the Ford, which appears to be the preferred feeding habitat and provides better cover than elsewhere. This potential for movement along the River adds to confusion when it comes to assessing breeding success in 2015. Whilst fledglings seen at Lifelands, Blashford and Ellingham on the River Avon in May constituted three different broods of three, four and eight respectively, there is every possibility that the clutch of twelve eggs on the Somerley Lakes in April and the sighting of two young at Wattons Ford in late May referred to some, if not all, of these same birds. However, the brood of three young upstream at Woodgreen north of Fordingbridge on June 4th was probably different. Conservatively, there were therefore at least four breeding pairs in 2015, but it is possible there could have been as many as six.

In summary, between 21 and 24 broods have been recorded in the county since the first breeding record in 1998. Whilst not possible to ascertain, with any certainty, the number of pairs involved, fledglings have totalled at least 170. Confirmed breeding has been confined to the Avon Valley, with the Somerley Estate being the principal nesting site. Whilst increasing to at least four pairs, numbers remain very small in comparison to the current UK breeding population of 3,100-3,800 pairs (RSPB website 2016). However, at a time when many other species are declining, Goosanders are a welcome addition to the county's breeding birds and are significant in a regional context.

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All Hampshire records are from the relevant *Hampshire Bird Reports*.

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RSPB website 2016:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/g/goosander>

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BTO House Martin Survey 2015: Hampshire results

Glynne Evans & Mike Chalmers

The House Martin *Delichon urbicum* is amber-listed as a bird of conservation concern. Following the rapid and dramatic decline in population and distribution documented in *Bird Atlas 2007-11* (Balmer et al. 2013), the British Trust for Ornithology set about planning a nation-wide survey to obtain a robust population estimate to act as a baseline for future surveys. Planning commenced in 2014 with a small-scale pilot study to test methods and finalise decisions on data collection. A stratified sampling approach was adopted based on randomly-selected one km squares but only those containing buildings or structures. Survey squares were allocated to volunteers who were requested to make two separate visits during the 2015 breeding season to check all suitable breeding habitat within each square. Details of all occupied and total nests were recorded including building type and age, wall surface and soffit type, nest

locations and counts, and whether nest deterrents had been used. Surveyors were also asked to assess the percentage of each square not accessible or visible and to estimate total numbers of adult House Martins seen.

BTO's target was to survey between 2,000 and 3,000 squares at the national level. The higher end target was nearly achieved with results received for 2,902 squares and almost 9,500 nests counted. The largest number of 'colonies' recorded (defined as separate buildings) in any one square was 62 in the Scottish Borders, and the highest number of nests was 130 in rural Hampshire on the South Downs with six colonies.

In Hampshire a total of 132 one km squares was allocated in two batches, the second batch following the successful take-up of the first batch. Full survey results were received for 120 of the allocated squares and nesting House Martins were recorded in 37 squares (31%). For reference, the *Hampshire Bird Atlas* (Eyre 2015) recorded breeding House Martins in 625 tetrads (each comprising four one km squares) out of a total of 1,029 tetrads to give an average occupancy of 61% at this larger scale.

The total number of colonies reported in Hampshire in the 2015 BTO survey was 102, although five were either old colonies or colonies found during the recce visit but having no nests remaining by the time of the first visit, thus resulting in 97 colonies with nests. A total of 294 occupied nests and 378 complete nests were counted based on the higher count for each colony. This equates to an average of 3.03 occupied nests and 3.90 complete nests per colony, or 2.45 occupied nests and 3.15 complete nests per one km square for which results were received. Whilst comparison of averages may not be valid due to differences in sample selection, it is noted that the national average based on almost 9,500 nests in 2,902 squares was around 3.27 nests per square. For the 37 Hampshire squares where House Martins were recorded, the averages were 7.95 occupied nests and 10.22 complete nests per occupied square.

BTO are continuing with analysis of the 2015 results and will publish a full report in due course. The House Martin study has continued in 2016 with regular observations at selected nests to determine details such as timing of nesting activity, number of broods and outcome of nesting attempts. Further details are available on BTO's website at www.bto.org/housemartins-2016.

Acknowledgements

The above results for Hampshire were provided by Ian Woodward of BTO whose assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

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The Hampshire Ornithological Society

Organisation and Membership

Background

The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society was founded in 1885 and the Ornithological Section in 1954. The section grew steadily over the next 25 years, and in March 1979 the separate Hampshire Ornithological Society was established. The society now has a membership of around 1600, many of whom actively take part in the Society's programme of bird surveys. The aims of the society are summarised on the inside front cover of this Report.

Membership

All members receive the annual *Hampshire Bird Report* and the quarterly magazine *Kingfisher*. Membership is available as follows (correct at September 1st, 2016):

Ordinary Membership: £12 p.a.

Family Membership (two or more members at the same address): £12 p.a.

Corporate Membership (sponsors, schools, Bird Clubs, etc): £12 p.a.

Junior Membership (under 18): £5 p.a.

To join, send your name and address with the appropriate subscription to:

Membership Secretary: Kay Shillitoe

Westerly, Hundred Acres Road, Wickham PO17 6HY

e-mail: kay@shillitoe.freemove.co.uk telephone: 01329 833086

Applications to join after September 30th (to the year end) shall also cover the succeeding calendar year. Members so joining will not receive the *Hampshire Bird Report* published in the year they join but will be able to obtain it at a reduced price. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st each year. The preferred method of payment is by standing order, but payments may also be made by internet banking (forms and full details are on the HOS website).

Meetings & Committees

Regular field meetings are arranged in all parts of the county throughout the year. Meetings are designed to introduce members to various habitats and to provide opportunities for novices of all ages to learn more about birds under field conditions. The Annual General Meeting & Open Day and occasional indoor meetings are arranged in the winter months. These will be of interest to all members, but some may cater particularly for specialist groups, e.g. survey workers' meetings. There are two sub-committees (see p.2 for Committee Officers):

- The Scientific Sub-committee is responsible for organising surveys, for the collection of records and for the production of the *Hampshire Bird Report*. It also handles liaison with the BTO, ringing groups, conservation bodies and similar organisations.
- The Membership Sub-committee is responsible for the quarterly magazine *Kingfisher*, the Annual General Meeting & Open Day, other indoor meetings and field meetings.

Publications

The *Hampshire Bird Report* is published annually and is the record of birds in Hampshire in the previous calendar year. The quarterly *Kingfisher* magazines contains news of society events, field meetings and recent bird sightings, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Scientific sub-committee. New surveys are started every year, and the newsletter serves as a medium to contact potential volunteers. All members are invited to take part in surveys and contribute articles to the newsletter.

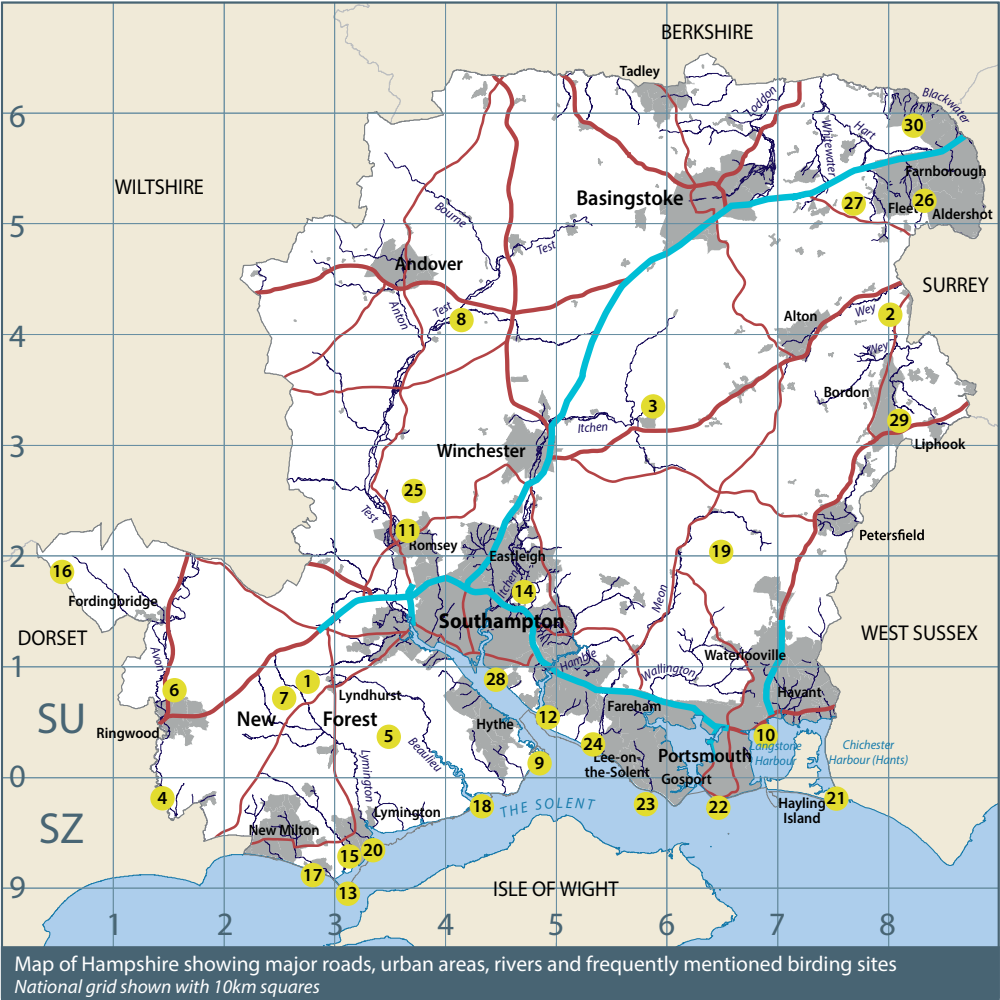
Map and Gazetteer

Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates are given to four figure accuracy (i.e. to relevant 1km square). The map opposite shows 30 selected birding sites frequently mentioned in the Systematic List. Co-ordinates for other sites in this gazetteer can be used to identify approximate locations on the map by interpolating between the National Grid 10 km squares gridlines. Other gazetteers with links to Ordnance Survey maps are also available on the HOS and Going Birding in Hampshire websites as follows:

<http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/hampshire-birding/gazetteer>

<http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/sites.asp>

Abbotts Ann	SU3243	Bentley Wood	SU2528	Broadmarsh	SU7005
Abbotts Wood	SU8139	Benyon's Inclosure	SU6263	Brockenhurst	SU3002
Acres Down	SU2709	Bere Hill Farm	SU3745	Brockwood Park (West	
Adhurst Wood (Sheet)	SU7625	Bickerley Common	SU1404	Meon)	SU6025
Alderhill Inclosure	SU1913	Bickton	SU1412	Broomy Lodge	SU2111
Aldershot	SU8751	Bilcombe's Pond	SU4502	Broomy Plain	SU2010
Alice Holt Forest	SU8042	Binsted	SU7741	Broughton	SU3132
Allington Gravel Pit	SU4717	Binswood	SU7637	Browdown	SZ5899
Alresford Pond	SU5933	Bishops Dyke	SU3405	Brownwich	SU5103
Alver Valley	SU5700	Bishopstoke	SU4619	Brownwich Cliffs	SU5103
Ampfield	SU4023	Bishops Sutton	SU6031	Broxhead Common	SU8037
Andover Down	SU3945	Bisterne	SU1400	Buckherd Bottom	SU2008
Anthony's Bee Bottom	SU2201	Blackbushe	SU8059	Budds Farm Sewage	
Anton Lakes	SU3740	Blackhamsley Hill	SU2800	Farm	SU7005
Appleshaw	SU3048	Blackfield	SU4502	Buriton	SU7420
Arlebury Park & Lake	SU5732	Black Gutter Bottom	SU2016	Burkham	SU6541
Ashe Park Lake	SU5449	Black Point (Hayling)	SZ7599	Burley	SU2103
Ashlett Creek	SU4603	Blackwater (Needs Ore)	SZ4197	Burley Street	SU2004
Ashlett	SU4603	Blackwater Arboretum	SU2604	Bursledon	SU4809
Ashley Walk	SU2014	Blashford Lakes	SU1507	Bury Marsh	SU3811
Ashley Warren	SU4956	Blendworth	SU7113	Butlocks Heath	SU4609
Ashurst	SU3310	Bolderwood	SU2408	Butsa Triangle	SU7859
Ash Vale	SU8953	Bordon	SU8035	Butser Hill	SU7120
Avington Park & Lake	SU5332	Bossington	SU3331	Cadman's Pool	SU2212
Avon Castle	SU1403	Botley Wood	SU5410	Cadnam Common	SU2815
Avon Causeway	SZ1497	Bourley Catchment	SU8250	Calmore	SU3414
Avon Floods (Keyhaven)	SZ3091	Bradley Hill	SU6442	Calshot	SU4802
Avon Tyrrell	SZ1499	Braemar-Searchfield		Calshot Spit	SU4802
Awbridge	SU3324	Farm	SU1718	Camp Farm SF	
Backley Plain	SU2106	Braishfield	SU3725	(Aldershot)	SU8752
Baddesley Common	SU3921	Brambridge	SU4622	Casbrook Common	SU3625
Badminton Common	SU4501	Bramley	SU6559	Castle Bottom LNR	SU7959
Badminton GP	SU4602	Bramshaw	SU2516	Centurion Business Park	SU4313
Baffins Pond	SU6601	Bramshill (Warren		Chandlers Ford	SU4321
Balancing Pools		Heath)	SU7759	Chandlers Green	SU7058
(Keyhaven)	SZ3091	Bramshill Plantation	SU7562	Charlton Lakes	SU3646
Barton on Sea	SZ2392	Bramshill Police College		Chawton Park Woods	SU7037
Barton Stacey	SU4340	Lake	SU7560	Cheesefoot Head	SU5327
Beacon Hill (Burghclere)	SU4557	Bramshott	SU8633	Cheriton	SU5828
Beacon Hill (Warnford)	SU6022	Bransbury Common	SU4141	Chessel Bay	SU4412
Beaulieu Estuary	SZ4298	Bratley Plain	SU2208	Chewton Bunny	SZ2193
Beaulieu River	SZ4199	Bratley Water	SU2308	Chichester Harbour	SU7400
Beaulieu Road	SU3406	Breamore	SU1518	Chilbolton	SU3939
Becton Bunny	SZ2592	Bricksbury Hill	SU8349	Chilland	SU5232
Bedhampton	SU7006	Broadhalfpenny Down	SU6515	Chilling	SU5004
Beech Bed Inclosure	SU2206	Broadlands Estate	SU3520	Chilworth	SU4018



Key to birding sites

1 Acres Down	SU2709	11 Fishlake Meadows	SU3522	20 Pennington Marshes	SZ3292
2 Alice Holt Forest	SU8042	12 Hook-with-Warsash	SU4905	21 Sandy Point	SZ7498
3 Alresford Pond	SU5933	13 Hurst Castle	SZ3189	22 Southsea Castle	SZ6498
4 Avon Causeway	SZ1497	14 Itchen Valley	SU4616	23 Stokes Bay	SZ5898
5 Beaulieu Rd Stn/ Bishop's Dyke	SU3406	15 Keyhaven Marshes	SZ3192	24 Titchfield Haven	SU5302
6 Blashford Lakes	SU1507	16 Martin Down	SU0419	25 Trigpoint Hill	SU3625
7 Bolderwood	SU2408	17 Milford on Sea	SZ2891	26 Tweseldown	SU8352
8 Bransbury Common	SU4141	18 Needs Ore/ Beaulieu Estuary	SZ4297	27 Tundry Pond	SU7752
9 Calshot	SU4802	19 Old Winchester Hill	SU6420	28 Weston Shore	SU4409
10 Farlington Marshes	SU6804			29 Woolmer Forest	SU8032
				30 Yateley Common	SU8259

Map reproduced with permission from Figure i of Hampshire Bird Atlas modified by WILDGuides Ltd.

Chineham	SU6555	Elvetham Park	SU7856	Gutner Point (Hayling)	SU7302
Cholderton Estate	SU2342	Embley Wood	SU5441	Hale Purlieu	SU1918
Cleave Hill	SU3538	Emsworth Channel	SU7402	Half Moon Common	SU2916
Cliddesden	SU6349	Emsworth Mill Pond	SU7405	Hamble	SU4807
Cole Henley	SU4752	Eversley Gravel Pit	SU7662	Hamble Country Park	SU4911
Compton	SU4429	Exbury	SU4200	Hamble Estuary	SU4805
Conigar Point	SU7305	Exton	SU6120	Hamer Warren Sand Pit	SU1210
Coopers Hill	SU2014	Eyeworth Pond	SU2215	Hampton Ridge	SU1913
Copythorne Common	SU3015	Facombe	SU3958	Handy Cross Plain	SU1906
Corhampton	SU6020	Fair Oak	SU4919	Harbridge	SU1410
Cosham	SU6505	Fareham	SU5706	Hardway (Portsmouth	
Cowplain	SU6911	Farley Mount	SU4229	Hbr)	SU6101
Cranes Moor	SU1902	Farlington Marshes	SU6804	Harestock	SU4631
Cranmer Pond		Farnborough	SU8754	Hare Warren Farm	SU4854
(Woolmer)	SU7932	Farnborough Airfield	SU8552	Harewood Forest	SU3943
Crawley	SU4235	Fawley	SU4503	Hartley Mauditt	SU7436
Crech Walk	SU6311	Fawley Power Station	SU4603	Hartley Wintney	SU7656
Crockford Bridge	SZ3499	Fawley Reclamation	SU4801	Hasley Inclosure	SU1912
Crookham	SU7952	Fawley Refinery	SU4504	Hatchet Pond	SU3601
Crux Easton	SU4255	Fawley Reservoir	SU4405	Hatchet Moor	SU3500
Curbridge	SU5211	Ferny Crofts	SU3605	Havant	SU7106
Curdridge	SU5214	Ferny Nap	SU2503	Havant Thicket	SU7110
Cut Bridge (Milford on		Fishlake Meadows	SU3522	Hawley Meadows	SU8559
Sea)	SZ2990	Fleet	SU8154	Hawkhill Inclosure	SU3502
Damerham	SU1016	Fleet Pond	SU8255	Hawley Lake	SU8357
Danebury	SU3237	Fobdown	SU5733	Hayling Bay	SZ7298
Darby Green	SU8360	Fordingbridge	SU1414	Hayling Island	SU7101
Dark Lane Pond	SU4402	Forest of Bere Farm	SU4029	Hayling Oysterbeds	SU7102
Dark Water	SZ4598	Fort Brockhurst	SU5902	Hazeley Heath	SU7558
Deep Dene Woods	SU4413	Fort Elson	SU6001	Headbourne Worthy	SU4832
Denmead	SU6509	Fort Nelson	SU6007	Headley Mill Pond	SU8134
Denny Wood	SU3305	Fort Widley	SU6506	Headley Park	SU8237
Dibden Bay	SU4008	Forton Lake	SU6100	Heath Pond (Petersfield)	SU7522
Dibden Purlieu	SU4006	Four Marks	SU6831	Highland Water	
Dogmersfield Lake	SU7551	Fox Lane GP (Eversley)	SU8061	Inclosure	SU2409
Drayton Farm	SU5933	Frensham Great Pond	SU8440	Highbridge	SU3430
Dummer	SU5846	Frith End Sand Pit	SU8039	Hill Head	SU5402
Dur Hill Down	SU1901	Fritham	SU2213	Hilsea	SU6604
Durley	SU5016	Fryern Court	SU1416	Hillside Marsh (Odiham)	SU7550
East Boldre	SU3700	Fullerton	SU3739	Hiltingbury	SU4322
East Dean	SU2626	Funtley	SU5608	Hinton Admiral	SZ2095
East Hayling	SU7302	Funtington Airfield	SU7006	Hitches Lane CP	SU7952
East Meon	SU5203	Furze Hill	SU1711	HMS Sultan	SZ5899
East Tisted	SU7032	Furzley Common	SU2815	Hoccombe Mead	SU4322
East Worldham	SU7538	Gander Down	SU5527	Hoe Cross	SU6314
Eastleigh	SU4419	Gilkicker Point	SZ6097	Hoglands Park	
Eastleigh Sewage Farm	SU4618	Godshill Ridge	SU1815	(Southampton)	SU4211
Eastoke	SZ7598	Golden Pot	SU7043	Holly Hill Park	
Eastrop Park		Goodworth Clatford	SU3642	(Warsash)	SU4907
(Basingstoke)	SU6452	Gorley	SU1511	Holm Hill	SU2602
East Tytherley	SU2828	Gosport	SU6000	Holmsley	SU2200
Edenbrook CP	SU7854	Grange Lake, The	SU5636	Holt Pound (Alice Holt	
Eelmoor Marsh	SU8452	Great Covert Wood	SU4120	Forest)	SU8144
Eldon	SU3627	Great Litchfield Down	SU4755	Holybourne	SU7441
Eling	SU3612	Greatham	SU7730	Hook-with-Warsash	SU4905
Eling Great Marsh	SU3712	Greenhill (Romsey)	SU3420	Hooks Links	SU4904
Ellinham Bridge	SU1408	Greywell	SU7151	Hook Spit	SU4805
Ellingham Lake		Gunner Point (Sinah		Hordle	SZ2695
(Blashford)	SU1408	Common)	SZ6899	Horndean	SU7013

Horsebridge	SU3430	Lode Farm (Kingsley)	SU7737	Mottisfont	SU3227
Houghton	SU3432	Long Beech Inclosure	SU2512	Needs Ore	SZ4297
Howen Bottom	SU2315	Long Down (Hambleton)	SU6619	Nether Wallop	SU3036
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List of Abbreviations

BB	<i>British Birds</i> magazine	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	m.o.	many observers
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern	MOD	Ministry of Defence
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union	nc	no count
BOURC	BOU Records Committee	NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
BWP	<i>Birds of the Western Palearctic</i>	NF	New Forest
CB	Cress Bed	NFWBS	New Forest Winter Bird Survey
CBC	Common Bird Census plot	NNR	National Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park	NR	Nature Reserve
CR	Critically Endangered	NT	Near-threatened
EN	Endangered	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ET	European Threatened	S4I	Section 41 of NERC Act, 2006
GBW	Garden BirdWatch	SF	Sewage Farm
GC	Golf Course	SP	Sand Pit
GP	Gravel Pit	SPA	Special Protection Area
HBA	<i>Hampshire Bird Atlas</i>	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	SW	Sewage Works
HBR	<i>Hampshire Bird Report</i>	VU	Vulnerable
HCC	Hampshire County Council	w/c	week commencing
HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society	WCB	Watercress Bed
HOSRP	HOS Records Panel	WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
HWT	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	WM	Water Meadows
IOC	International Ornithological Congress	WWT	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Symbols

- † (after species name in systematic list) species account in Ringing Report recoveries section
 * record count for locality

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