

# Hampshire Bird Report 2019



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**Hampshire  
Ornithological  
Society**

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# Hampshire Ornithological Society

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## Chairman's Report 2019

As the 2019 birding year ended nobody could have predicted how life (and birding) would change in the months that were to follow. As I write this in August 2020, it feels as though local birding is now much as it was a year ago. But life is not the same, and it won't be back to normal for some time to come. Let's hope that normality returns faster than we think.

Once again HOS has been finding ways to help people to refresh their birding skills and I am grateful to the workshop leaders who made that possible. Over 100 people benefitted from the training sessions, and more are planned. Recruitment of HOS members remains high and we were delighted to see 143 new people sign up in 2019. We are also grateful to the Cameron Bespolka Trust for continuing their support of our Young Member initiative which enabled 30 birders under the age of 21 to benefit from free HOS membership in 2019.

Survey work focused on Woodlarks and breeding waders in the New Forest, with HOS winning competitive tenders to carry out a complete census across some 250 sq km of habitat. Around 70 volunteers carried out the work at no cost, meaning that the contract fees can be used to fund future conservation and research work in Hampshire. The Woodlark survey showed that numbers have increased since 2014 with 169 territories being found, and birds were present in several new areas. A summary of the results is given in this report. The breeding wader survey resulted in estimates of 65 Lapwing territories, 40 Curlew territories and 7 Redshank territories. Survey work on Snipe was scheduled for 2020 but will now be undertaken in 2021. Many thanks to the volunteers for their work, and for demonstrating the power of the assiduous amateur in delivering results. Thanks also go to Andy Page for helping to put the results into perspective. The Hen Harrier wintering survey (another paid contract) was completed in March 2019. The enthusiasm from those taking part was so strong that daily monitoring was resumed at two sites in the New Forest in the winter of 2019/20 with around 40 people taking part.

Once again, the HOS Grants Programme supported projects that make positive changes for Hampshire's birds. We agreed to fund satellite tracking of breeding Curlews in the New Forest (£2,880) and additional monitoring of Hawfinches, also in the New Forest (£3,000). To help the RSPB with habitat management at Hazeley Heath we agreed to fund "virtual fencing" (£1,500). This uses buried transponders to deter cattle from entering exclusion areas – a novel idea that avoids using real fencing. HOS has also been active in making representations on planning applications that negatively impact on birds and we now monitor all new applications alongside our colleagues at HBIC.

The Hampshire Bird Report first appeared as a stand-alone publication in 1958. Back then it contained the records of around 150 observers both in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and ran to 30 pages. Today, at over 250 pages it presents the combined fieldwork of over 1,000 observers in Hampshire alone. The challenge of bringing all this data together is enormous, and yet those charged with ensuring that everything works just make the task look easy. On behalf of everyone who enjoys this report my thanks go to Mike Chalmers and his team of writers, reviewers and photographers. Our online database grows by around 250,000 records each year and it is a powerful resource that demands constant attention. Keeping it under control is Alan Cox, who is both methodical and meticulous, and never happier than when faced with an Excel sheet and 25 columns of data! Without those data there would be no report. Thank you, Alan.

In fact, we are adding to our data in other ways too. John Clark is overseeing a project that will see our mass of bird records prior to the 1990s being digitized. He is being assisted by a team of HOS members who are also transcribing the detailed logbooks of Dave Billett covering 40 years of observations at Farlington Marshes. Keeping with the past, John has just finished writing a new HOS publication – a book that assesses the status of all rare birds that visited Hampshire between 1950 and 2020. This will be published in 2021 and will be an essential reference for all Hampshire birders. Watch out for the pre-publication offer.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Society to achieve so much in 2019. I hope you enjoy this report and wish you a good (and safe) birding year ahead.

*Keith Betton, August 2020*

## Editorial and Acknowledgements

A significant behind-the-scenes change this year has been the expansion of on-line records to the Society's CoBRA2 database, especially from BTO's BirdTrack but also Cornell's eBird, resulting in more than a doubling of entries and an increase in the number of contributing observers. For the first time the species account writers were given direct access to the on-line database and provided with a new Account Writers Module. This provided useful summary reports on monthly maxima by sites and distribution of records. This additional information is reflected in some of the species accounts as well as providing data for the coverage maps in the introduction to the Systematic List. For the first time these show species/tetrad as well as number of records/tetrad.

There has also been a major change to the list itself with an extensive revision of the sequence of species by BOURC in the British List issued in January 2020. This is based on the latest scientific thinking and IOC decisions. Amongst other changes, the list now begins with gamebirds before geese; Nightjar, Swift, Cuckoo and doves are immediately after ducks; and seabirds, herons and birds of prey now follow gulls and terns. If you have trouble navigating the new sequence, please use the index at the end of this report.

There were two new species added to the Hampshire list. The only one during 2019 was the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler at Farlington Marshes. A short paper describing the finding and identification of this "mega" rarity by its finder, Peter Gammage, is included in this report. The second new species is an "armchair tick" for those who saw it, the Eastern Black-eared Wheatear at Acres Down in 2015 (see *HBR 2015: 229-231*), which has now been declared a full species by IOC/BOURC. There are also a number of additions to previous years in Appendix IB to the Systematic List, some going as far back as 50 years or more. These are records which had not previously been assessed by BBRC but have recently been submitted and accepted as part of the preparations for HOS to publish a new book next year by John Clark on Hampshire's rare birds.

This year I have been spoilt for choice by a larger than normal number of papers offered for publication. This has regrettably resulted in having to defer several until HBR 2020 due to lack of space. Included this year are six main papers and one note in addition to the short paper on the first record referred to above. The first main paper is by Rob Clements summarising his studies of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, particularly in the New Forest, and including a revised estimate of the county population. The second by Graham Giddens describes the establishment of breeding Avocets in Hampshire with a focus on the Needs Ore colonies and movements revealed by colour-ringing. The third summarises the bird movement study in 2017/18 and 2018/19 for The Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy by Debbie Whitfield of HIWWT and Trevor Codlin. The study was partly funded by HOS and the report identifies important land areas for waders and geese in the town planning process. The fourth is by Peter Milinets-Raby and describes the first confirmed breeding of Cattle Egrets in Hampshire at Langstone Mill Pond in 2019. The fifth summarises the New Forest Woodlark survey carried out by HOS for Forestry England in 2019. A separate survey on breeding waders in the New Forest is planned to be published when completed in a future HBR. The last paper is by Matthew Shaft and summarises his breeding bird surveys over 15 years or more at Longmoor Inclosure, part of the Woolmer Forest SSSI. It identifies both increasing and decreasing species, examines nine in more detail and discusses possible reasons for variations. His results are a testament to dedicated patchwork and the value of long-term databases. Finally the note by Marcus Ward informs readers of the 2019 projects awarded HOS grants.

The production of this report is a team effort which relies each year on the generosity and expertise of a large number of volunteers. Thank you all for your contributions. It begins with the submission of records by observers who are listed in Appendix 2 to the Systematic List. In addition to records submitted directly to HOS and those posted on the Going Birding

in Hampshire website, BTO provided Hampshire records from their national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), BirdTrack (BT) and Garden BirdWatch (GBW) surveys; visible migration data were obtained from the Trektellen website; waterbird survey data (WeBS) were provided with the agreement of the WeBS Partnership of WWT, RSPB, BTO and NCC. Additional information was received from Living Record, eBird and reserve staff and volunteers.

Keith Betton oversaw the vetting and input of records supported by the Records Panel whose members are named with other HOS Committee members after the title page. Alan Cox managed the CoBRA2 database, input records and produced the data for the coverage maps. He also provided invaluable help with the change of sequencing in the text and tables. Janet Shelley transferred sightings from the Needs Ore log and Jane Calderin helped transcribe handwritten record sheets. WeBS data were prepared by John Shillitoe (coastal sites), Keith Wills (inland sites other than Avon Valley), John Clark (Avon Valley) and James Parkin (Chichester Harbour). Additional waterfowl records from Blashford Lakes were provided by Bob Chapman (HIWWT). Brian Sharkey provided results from the Heronries Survey, 2Js Ecology made available results from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (TB&WH) Breeding Bird Survey and Jane Calderin summarised the findings from the New Forest Winter Bird Survey (NFWBS).

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, Mike Armitage, Keith Betton, Andy Broadhurst, David Brookes, John Clark, Rob Clements, Alan Cox, Tony Davis, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, John Jones, William Legge, Graham Osborne, Andy Page, Martin Pitt, Andy Rhodes, John Shillitoe, Jeremy Smallwood, Barry Stalker, Andrew Walmsley, Marcus Ward and Simon Woolley. Andy Broadhurst stood down from writing the warbler accounts but retained Swift, and his vacancy was filled by Martin Pitt. I thank Andy for his contributions over recent years and welcome Martin to the team. Individual writers are identified by their initials in italics at the end of each species account. In addition, Tables 1 and 8 were prepared by John Clark, Table 2 by Neil Calbrade and the GBW team at BTO, Tables 3, 6 and 7 by myself (the first based on BTO data from Sarah Harris), Table 4 by Jane Calderin and Table 5 by John Shillitoe, John Clark and Keith Wills.

My thanks also go to Keith Betton for his Chairman's Report, Richard Carpenter for the Review of the Year, Tony Davis for the Ringing and Nest Recording Report, and all our other authors of papers and notes. Our regular illustrators, Dan Powell and David Thelwell, have again generously donated their artwork for the frontispiece and elsewhere in the report. Thanks are also due 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, and 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: Keith Betton, John Clark, John Cloyne, Andy Collins, Tim Doran, Andy Johnson and Alan Lewis. Any outstanding errors or omissions are my responsibility alone. For the second year, Rob Still and his team at WildGuides have been responsible for design and production editing. Finally Keith Betton arranged the advertisers and Bryan and Sandy Coates are responsible for sales.

Lastly, a reminder that digital back-copies of the Hampshire Bird Report from 2010 to 2016 are now available on-line on the HOS website. As each new report is published it is planned to add another from three years before to the on-line archive. I hope you enjoy reading this report and I welcome any constructive feedback.

*Mike Chalmers, August 2020*

## Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2019

*Richard Carpenter*



*Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (Dan Powell)*

**A total of 249 species** was recorded in the county in 2019, two less than last year (see Appendix for trends over last ten years). Many spring migrants arrived exceptionally early, especially hirundines and warblers. Cattle Egrets were confirmed to have bred for the first time in Hampshire at Langstone Mill Pond. There was one new species during the year - Eastern Olivaceous Warbler at Farlington Marshes in September.

**January** was very cold on 4th and dry until 15th. Winds were mainly light but strong from west/north-west on 27th/28th and from the south-east from 29th-31st. Snow fell on 31st.

Still present from 2018, the small flock of seven White-fronted Geese remained at Needs Ore until March 24th, other singles remained at Ibsley Water and Fishlake Meadows. Single Ferruginous Ducks remained at Bedhampton Mill Pond until 6th and Kingfisher Lake, Blashford until March 2nd. The first-winter drake Scaup at Lymington-Hurst remained until March 24th and the Weston Shore female Long-tailed Duck was last seen on March 23rd. The wintering group of Black-necked Grebes in Langstone Harbour remained until March 25th, peaking at 18 in January and February. The Ibsley Water Caspian Gull was still present and was joined by two others, the last being seen on February 17th. A juvenile White-tailed Eagle remained at Roe Inclosure, NF until January 11th and was seen again near Broughton Down in early February. The 11 Waxwings around the Asda car park at Totton remained until January 6th and were also reported in the surrounding area. Up to two were also noted during the month at Eastleigh and in the Basingstoke/Old Basing areas.

New birds included a wintering Yellow-browed Warbler at Ivy Lake from 4th-30th and two drake Red-crested Pochards at Bramshill Park Lake on 2nd which were seen intermittently until April 3rd. The only Bewick's Swan this year was at Ibsley/Harbridge on 3rd and then occasionally until March 11th. A Great Skua was off Southsea on 19th, the first of several sightings along the coast up to early March. The only Black Brants this year were singles at Needs Ore on 20th and Eastney on 24th. A Lesser Scaup, assumed to be the returning bird from 2017, was at Ibsley Water on 20th and a redhead Smew was in Langstone Harbour on 29th.

**February** was very cold on 2nd/3rd but warm from 23rd-28th. There were strong westerly winds from 7th-10th including Storm Erik on 8th. The only significant rainfall was from 6th-8th.

An adult and juvenile Whooper Swan flew north-west over Bickerley Common on 2nd. Other than an unseasonal June record, these were the only birds seen this year. The regular Ring-billed Gull at Ibsley Water was first seen on 3rd remaining until March 27th. Another wintering Yellow-browed Warbler was at Eastleigh STW from 10th-17th and 25th and a Red-necked Grebe was off Black Point on 18th. Spring got under way with new early dates for both Sand Martin at Anton Lakes on 19th and Swallows at three locations on 23rd followed by an early House Martin at Needs Ore the next day. A pair of Garganey at Fawley on 22nd also set a new early date. The first Wheatear was at Sturt Pond from 24th and the first Stone-curlews were two near Porton Down on 25th. A Glossy Ibis was at Sturt Pond briefly on 25th and another was at Posbrook Flood and Hayling Island later in the day.

**March** was very unsettled from 3rd-17th with much rainfall and some strong westerly winds including Storm Gareth on 10th. It was sunny and warm from 26th.

The first-winter drake Scaup at Lymington-Hurst was joined by a second drake on 2nd. A Hooded Crow was at Fort Widley on 8th, remaining until 17th. The first Osprey of the spring was at Fishlake Meadows on 9th. A Glossy Ibis appeared at Fishlake Meadows on 20th where it was subsequently seen regularly from 24th to April 29th. Newly arrived spring migrants included Tree Pipit at Hale Purlieu, NF on the early date of 20th, Willow Warbler at Silchester Common on 21st, Sedge Warbler at Fishlake Meadows on 24th, Cuckoo at Acres Down, NF from 31st and Redstart at Sandy Point and Fort Cumberland on 31st. Two first-winter White-fronted Geese flew west over Hurst Beach on 31st.

**April** started with moderate south-westerly winds. There was rain on 4th and again from 24th-28th but dry in between, often with easterly winds. There was a cold spell from 11th-14th and it became quite warm from 18th-23rd.

More spring migrants arrived with an early Whitethroat at St Catherine's Hill on 1st, Reed Warbler at Hamble Common on 2nd and Nightingale at Horsebridge on 5th although the main arrival was not until 15th-18th. Four Velvet Scoters moved east along the coast on 5th followed by two the next day, and 5th was also the peak date for easterly movement of Common Scoters with 35 past Hill Head and 99 past Sandy Point. Manx Shearwaters were noted from 5th and peaked on 27th when 21 flew east off Sandy Point. Two Dotterels set a new early date at Cheesefoot Head from 6th-8th and the first spring Ring Ouzel was at Fort Nelson on 6th-7th followed by a further nine, all in April. Other first sightings of migrants included Yellow Wagtails at three different locations on 6th, three Swifts over Fleet Pond on 7th, Garden Warbler at Ashlett Creek on 10th, Pied Flycatcher at Acres Down on 11th, Hobby at Pennington on 13th, Grasshopper Warbler reeling at Twyford Meadows on 14th, Turtle Dove at Wootton, NF on 15th, Whinchats at five locations on 17th, Lesser Whitethroats at three locations on 18th and two Spotted Flycatchers at Titchfield Canal Path on 18th. The first Black Terns were three at Ibsley Water on 19th and the first Wood Warbler was at Hurst Castle on the same day. A Hoopoe was at Standford, near Bordon, also on 19th. Passage of Bar-tailed Godwits peaked on 22nd when 362 flew east past Hill Head. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Farlington Marshes on 22nd-23rd followed by two at Normandy Marsh on 24th. The first Nightjars of the year were two at Botley Wood on 23rd and the first Honey-buzzards was seen over Frater Shore on 24th. Spring Pomarine Skua passage started on 24th with two passing Hurst Beach, and Arctic Skua spring passage peaked the next day with double-figure counts at Hurst Beach, Hill Head and Sandy Point. A well-watched Bonaparte's Gull was at Ibsley Water on 25th remaining until May 12th. The first Wood Sandpipers of the spring were also there with three on 30th.

**May** had thunderstorms on 8th but was dry from 9th with little rainfall. Winds were easterly from 15th-17th and strong south-westerly from 29th-31st.

A Glossy Ibis was at Titchfield Haven and Posbrook Flood on May 1st/2nd and an adult male Long-tailed Duck was off Hill Head from 7th-12th. A Montagu's Harrier was at Martin Down



*Black Redstart (Dan Powell)*

briefly on 12th; another flew in off the sea at Stokes Bay on 17th. A Golden Oriole was at Titchfield Haven on 12th and another at Sopley on 25th. The only Little Stints of the spring were two at Pennington Marshes on 13th. A Roseate Tern was feeding off Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 14th and another was at Titchfield Haven on 26th. A female Red-backed Shrike was found at Yateley Common on 16th. A Temminck's Stint was at Pennington Marshes on 17th-18th and again from 23rd-25th. An adult Squacco Heron was at Posbrook Flood from 24th-26th. It moved to Testwood Lakes on June 2nd and then returned to Posbrook on June 8th-9th. A summer-plumaged male Red-necked Phalarope was at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington from 31st to June 1st and a Gull-billed Tern was there briefly on 31st.

**June** had Storm Miguel on 7th/8th bringing rain and thunder and it remained wet from 7th-13th. The last week was clear and sunny.

Very unusual for the time of year was a Whooper Swan at Avon Causeway on 2nd which was seen intermittently until 23rd. A Hoopoe was in Andover on 2nd and the first Quails of the year were three heard at Over Wallop on 8th. A Wryneck at Ocknell Plain, NF on 19th was an unusual summer record. A singing Icterine Warbler was found at Colemore near East Tisted on June 18th-19th. Two Roseate Terns were at Titchfield Haven on 28th and a Pomarine Skua passed Hurst Castle on 30th.

Breeding birds had mixed fortunes. There was no confirmed breeding of Quail this year but two pairs may have bred at Martin Down. Three pairs of Pochard and two pairs of Goosander were confirmed as breeding. Turtle Doves possibly bred in at least eight areas with Martin Down again the stronghold. Stone-curlews did well with more than 24 pairs producing at least 13 young. Over 70 pairs of Avocets attempted breeding at five sites, but with mixed fortunes due to heavy predation, and about 30 pairs of Little Ringed Plovers bred with only 22 young raised. New Forest survey work located 40 Curlew territories. At least 600 pairs of Mediterranean Gulls bred, mainly in Langstone Harbour, where 176 young were raised. Sandwich Terns bred at two sites with 119 nests producing 49 young; Little Terns bred at two sites but their 60 nests only produced four young and Common Terns bred at seven sites with 254 nests producing 161 young. Cattle Egrets bred in Hampshire for the first time at Langstone Mill Pond where four pairs fledged 11 young. Honey-buzzards bred successfully at four sites fledging five or more young and were strongly suspected of breeding at two other locations. There were 33 known Goshawk sites in the New Forest where successful breeding took place with 50 young ringed. Marsh Harriers were noted in seven potential breeding sites. Between 300 and 400 pairs of Red Kites were considered to have bred.



*Bluethroat (Dan Powell)*

A pair of Long-eared Owls bred in the north of the county raising three young. Peregrines bred at 17 sites with 13 pairs fledging 32 young. Ravens were confirmed breeding at 11 sites and suspected at 37 more locations. Black Redstarts bred near Hawley Lake and were again present at Sandy Point but not proved to breed.

**July** was a dry month with the only significant rainfall on 19th/20th. Winds were variable but strong south-westerly 19th-21st, gale force on 30th and south-easterly from 23rd-25th.

Autumn passage of Curlew Sandpipers commenced on 4th with one at Pennington Marshes. Ospreys began their return passage on 7th with one at Fishlake Meadows; passage continued until October 14th. A male Red-backed Shrike was at Martin Down on 7th. The first returning Wood Sandpiper was at Pennington Marshes on 12th. Elsewhere the only Savi's Warbler of the year was heard singing from 16th-26th. The first Pied Flycatcher of the autumn was at Botley Wood on 20th with passage continuing until September 19th.

**August** was largely cool and unsettled with some strong westerly winds on 5th-20th, storm force on 10th.

A Storm Petrel flew west past Milford on Sea on 10th and the first Balearic Shearwaters of the autumn were four flying west off Hurst Castle the same day; one or two others were seen offshore later in the month and during September. An American Golden Plover was at Keyhaven Lagoon on 13th and a Montagu's Harrier at Havant Thicket on 19th. There was an influx of Black Terns from 24th with double-figure counts at six sites. A Tree Sparrow was at Keyhaven on 25th, the first of four separate birds seen at various locations during the autumn. The first autumn Wryneck was at Farlington Marshes on 26th-30th followed by sightings at seven other sites.

**September** had a long dry spell until 21st. There were easterly winds and rain from 20th-22nd and westerlies thereafter.

The month began with an Aquatic Warbler trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven on 1st followed by another nearby on the Titchfield Canal Path on 15th. A Manx Shearwater was an unexpected sight just offshore at Hook-with-Warsash on 5th. A Kentish Plover was at Eastoke seafront on 2nd, reappearing on 7th. A Bluethroat was at Hook-with-Warsash from 8th-13th and a different bird was at Titchfield Haven from 19th-28th. A flock of 28 Light-bellied Brent Geese was in Langstone Harbour on 11th and 12th. Highlight of the year was

an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler at Farlington Marshes from 14th-19th, a county first. The first returning Slavonian Grebe was off Solent Breezes equalling the previous early date of 18th and the first returning Dark-bellied Brent Geese were at Black Point on 19th. A Grey Phalarope was at or near Pennington Lagoon on 26th-27th and another was at Hill Head on 29th. The only autumn Roseate Tern flew west off Hurst Beach on 26th and a juvenile Sabine's Gull was off Pennington Marshes on 30th.

**October** was a changeable month with mostly westerly winds, strong on 25th/26th but veering to the east from 28th-31st.

There were four Pomarine Skuas between 1st and 20th, the last of these spending time in Titchfield Haven and later in Langstone Harbour including off West Hayling Island. Ring Ouzel passage commenced on 1st and continued until November 3rd. The first of the winter's Goldeneye was off Hill Head on 2nd. The first autumn Yellow-browed Warbler was ringed at Titchfield Haven on 2nd; records from another seven locations followed, all in October except for one at Old Basing on Dec 17th. The first Redwings of the winter were at two locations on 3rd, with heavy diurnal movement from 5th, and the first Fieldfares were eight at Latchmore Bottom, NF on 5th. The first of several wintering Scaup was at Ripley Farm Reservoir on 8th; others were at various sites between then and the year-end. The first Bramblings of the winter were two at Nursling Mill on 8th; numbers stayed low during the remaining months of the year. Single juvenile Long-tailed Skuas flew west at Milford on Sea on 11th and 26th. The first Great Grey Shrike was at Black Gutter Bottom, NF on 15th, one of only a few this winter. A first-winter Caspian Gull was at Sturt Pond on 17th and 18th. Five Black-necked Grebes returned to Langstone Harbour on 22nd increasing to 11 by early December. The first of several wintering Long-tailed Ducks was off Hurst/Milford on Sea on 25th. A Leach's Petrel flew west of Milford on Sea in stormy conditions on 26th. The drake Ferruginous Duck returned to Kingfisher Lake, Blashford on 29th and a Red-necked Grebe was off Eastoke on 31st.

**November** started with a severe south-westerly storm on 2nd followed by further moderate/strong westerlies on 26th-28th. The first frosts of the winter were on 8th/9th and there was a period of easterly winds from 19th-23rd.

A Grey Phalarope flew east at Hurst Beach on 4th and a Leach's Petrel flew east over Farlington Marshes in strong winds on 5th. A male and two female Red-crested Pochards were at Ibsley Water on 11th. A count of 19 first-winter Brent Geese in a flock of 256 on Nov 13th suggested a fairly poor breeding season for this species which winters locally in internationally important numbers. The only late year Bittern was at Fishlake Meadows from 15th remaining until at least December 21st. A Siberian Chiffchaff was ringed at Eastleigh STW on 16th and seen again there in mid-December, and a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper



*Oystercatchers (Dan Powell)*

was at Oxy Lagoon from 16th-23rd. The only late-year Waxwing was one at Longslade Bottom, NF on 18th. A Snow Bunting was in the Hill Head/Lee-on-the-Solent area from 21st-25th and at Lymington-Hurst from 25th to December 2nd. A different bird was at Hill Head from 30th until December 2nd. A Hoopoe was at Needs Ore on 22nd and was seen subsequently on three December dates. A Black Guillemot flew east off Milford on Sea on 26th and a Siberian Chiffchaff was ringed at Titchfield Haven on 30th.

**December** started with some cold nights. There was a lot of rain on 8th-21st which led to some flooding. There was a brief period of southerly/south-easterly winds on 18th-21st.

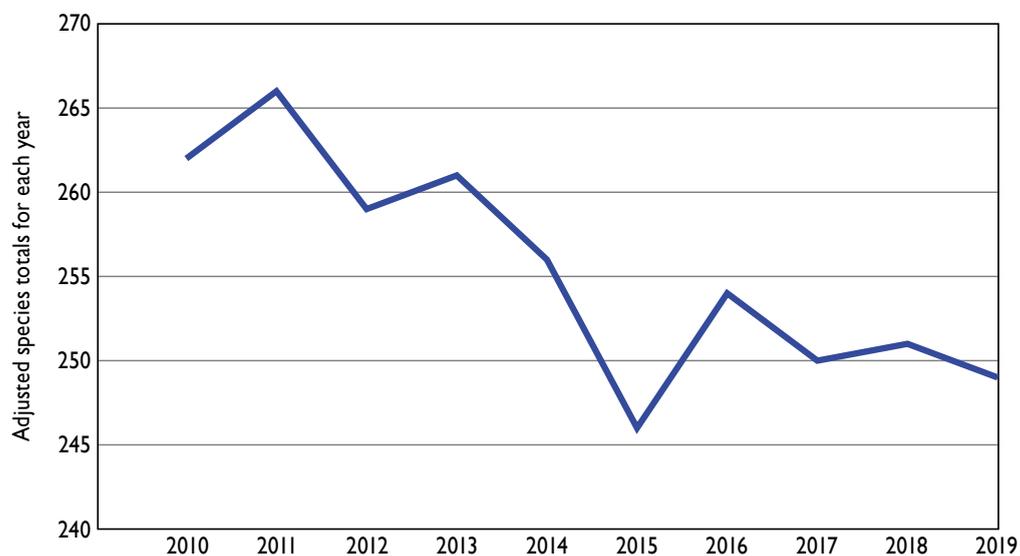
An adult Caspian Gull was at Ibsley Water gull roost on 3rd and 5th. Two drake Red-crested Pochards were at Bramshill Park Lake on 14th moving to Eversley GP later in the month.

## Appendix

The monthly totals of species and cumulative species in Hampshire in 2019 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In month	172	178	182	202	193	172	175	179	191	195	177	166
Additions to year list		11	10	27	9	3	1	4	7	2	3	0
Year to date	172	183	193	220	229	232	233	237	244	246	249	249

A step change in the total of species recorded each year occurred at the mid-point of this last decade. As shown in the graph below, which uses adjusted figures including new splits and additions, the annual total in the last five years has averaged 250 compared to 260, although apparently declining, in the previous five years. The difference is due to fewer vagrants and formerly regular rare visitors. A typical list of ten such species would be Tundra Bean Goose, Ruddy Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Black Kite, Richard's Pipit, Common Redpoll, Serin and Lapland Bunting, none of which are recorded in the 2019 Systematic List. The increased caution over accepting records of Crane, White Stork and White-tailed Eagle as wild birds, due to widespread releases, is also a relevant factor.



# Systematic List of Species

## Introduction

### General information and terminology

Species categories, sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List (9th edition revised 24 January 2020). Alternative IOC English names are also included in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v10.1 at January 2020). 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.

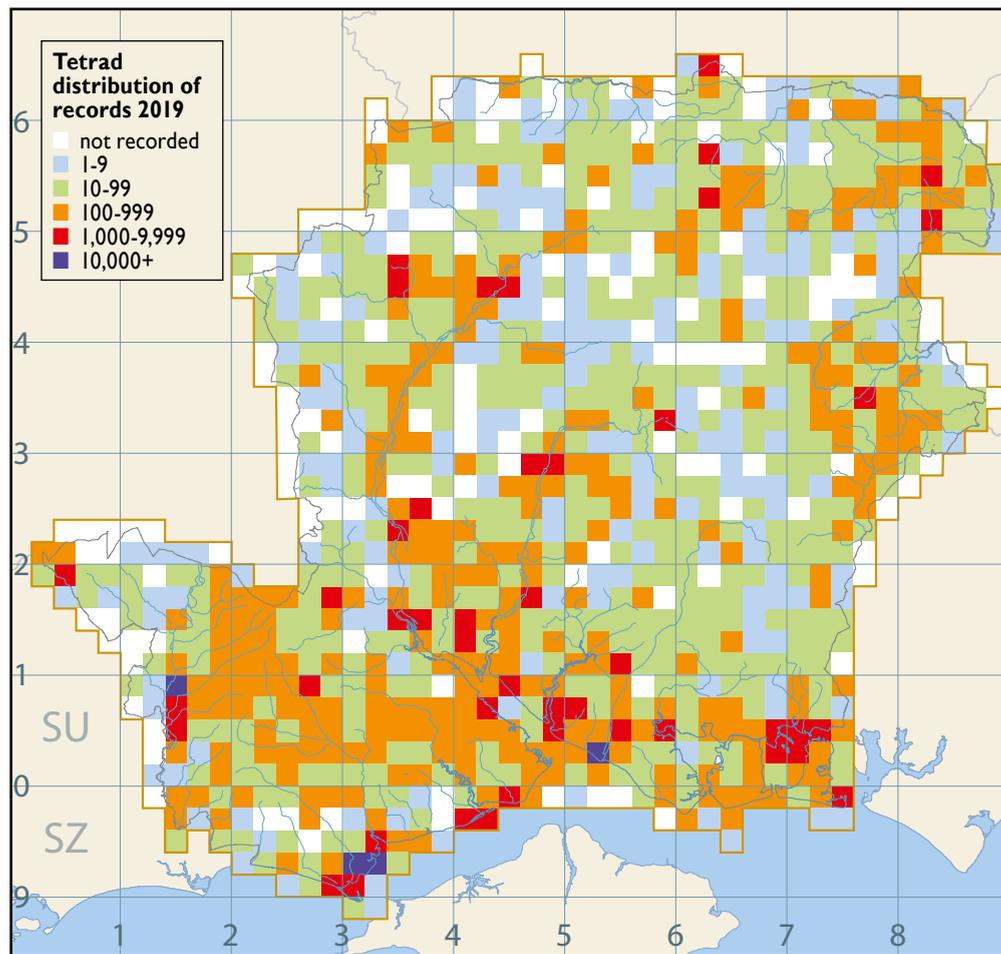
Status	Breeding pairs	Winter/passage	Status	Breeding pairs	Winter/passage
<b>Very rare</b>	Fewer than 5 records	Fewer than 10 records	<b>Moderately common</b>	101-1,000	201-2,000
<b>Rare</b>	Less than annual	Less than annual	<b>Common</b>	1,001-5,000	2,001-10,000
<b>Very scarce</b>	1-10 per year	1-20 per year	<b>Numerous</b>	5,001-30,000	10,001-60,000
<b>Scarce</b>	11-100	21-200	<b>Abundant</b>	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 2018 and (iii) in 2019. Where statistical analysis has been more recently introduced (i) refers to the initial year. All records of rare species that appear in the Systematic List have been accepted by BBRC or HOSRP as appropriate. 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.

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

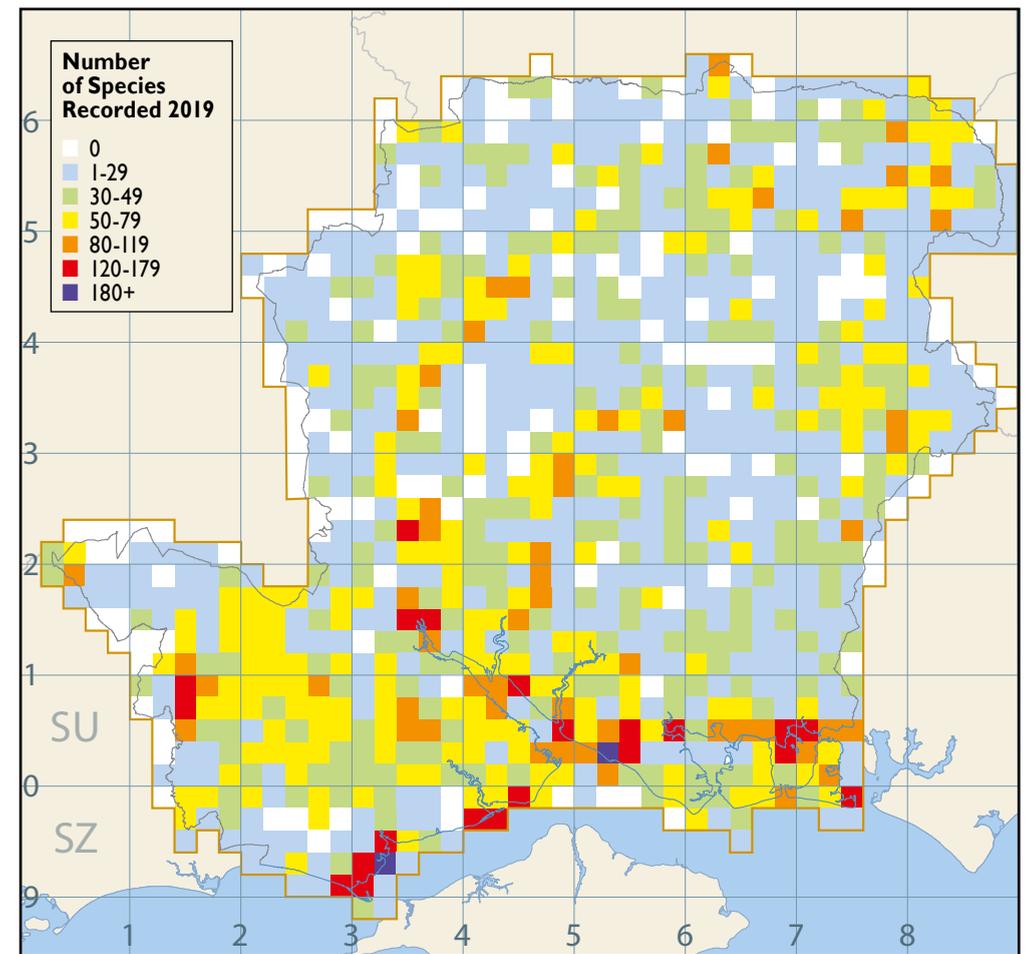
The accounts for some species, particularly those monitored by WeBS, include tabulated monthly maxima for various localities. These are either the official WeBS counts or a higher count, if one exists on a different day. For species well monitored by WeBS, the final row in each table shows the cumulative 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 WeBS counts for Chichester Harbour (Hampshire and Sussex) are



**Number of records in HOS 2019 database for each tetrad in Hampshire**

tabulated for information but are not included in the county total nor do they form part of the species account; only the WeBS sub-totals for the Hampshire sectors are included in the county total. Occasionally other sites in Chichester Harbour such as Black Point are listed separately where counts exceed the WeBS totals for Hampshire Sectors. However if others not listed separately (e.g. Warblington Shore) exceed the WeBS totals, then the Hampshire sectors total is increased accordingly. In both cases the Chichester Harbour WeBS total remains unaltered. 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



**Number of species in HOS 2019 database for each tetrad in Hampshire**

BTO Breeding Bird Survey are summarised in Table 3. Results of the New Forest Winter Bird Survey are given in Table 4 and the coverage achieved in the WeBS counts is summarised in Table 5. The first and last dates of winter and summer visitors are included in the Systematic List but are also summarised in Tables 6 and 7. These tables also show average arrival and departure dates for migrants. Finally, Table 8 summarises monthly movements at inland migration watchpoints.

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

### Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society's CoBRA2 database (County Bird Recording Application). This year's database contained 292,746 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: BTO BirdTrack (61.7%), eBird (12.8%), HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets, correspondence and rarities submissions) (6.4%), Going Birding website (5.5%), WeBS counts (3.6%), Living Record (3.4%), BTO Breeding Birds Survey (2.5%), Trektellen (1.7%) and others (each <1%). This represents a very large increase from last year when the total was 127,554 and is due in part to greater use by observers

of on-line methods together with the inclusion of all such records without filtering of low numbers of common species. Records from eBird have for the first time been included and together with BirdTrack now account for nearly 75% of the total. In addition, BTO Garden BirdWatch contributed a further 125,167 records covering 267 Hampshire gardens, which were used in some of the species accounts.

Note that many counts in BirdTrack refer to aggregate totals along routes of various lengths (referred to as polygons or paths), and not flocks or concentrations at fixed points. Similarly, BBS registers all adults along two one km transects within selected one km squares during the breeding season. These differences need to be appreciated when interpreting the species accounts. Note average coverage and densities for BBS 2019 in Hampshire are given in Table 3 for reference and comparisons.

## Coverage

A total of 1,466 individual observers contributed records to the database. Analysis of previous records has highlighted the large differences in coverage between the separate parts of the county. The distribution of 2019 records in the CoBRA2 database used to prepare this report is shown on the map below at tetrad level. Similar to recent years, the highest numbers of records were submitted for the coastal areas, the main reserves, the New Forest, the centre west and north-east. There were 49 squares with over 1,000 records, with the highest concentration in the south. Within this group there were four tetrads with over 10,000 records each at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and Blashford Lakes.

Whilst the focus on the coast and major rivers and lakes results in good coverage of wetland species, the same cannot be said of woodland or farmland birds, particularly on the chalk extending diagonally across the county from the south-east to the north-west, and such differences should be borne in mind when interpreting the records in the Systematic List. However with the increased number of records from BirdTrack, eBird, Living Record and BTO's Breeding Birds Survey (BBS), which include many farmland areas and other randomly selected squares, a greater balance has been achieved this year. One measure to illustrate this is the total number of tetrads across the whole county for which records were received. This total was 941 which represents 87.7% of the 1,073 maximum number available including all the partial tetrads around the edges, and demonstrates the high degree of coverage achieved by the many observers whose records contributed to the HOS database.

For the first time many of the species in the Systematic List, particularly residents, have information on their distribution within the county as measured by the number of tetrads and ten km squares in which they were recorded during the year. Whilst the tetrad coverage for each species is also expressed as a percentage of the maximum available, a more meaningful index can be obtained by comparing with the 88% observer coverage. Thus any species with over 44% tetrad coverage was recorded in more than 50% of the tetrads for which records were received. Likewise any species recorded in 50 or more ten km squares was effectively distributed throughout the county even though it had not been logged in all partial marginal squares, some of which had very small areas.

A further use of the CoBRA2 data has been to produce a new map showing the number of species recorded in each tetrad in 2019. There are 23 squares with over 120 species. These are all in the south and include the well-watched wetland sites along the coast and around Blashford Lakes and the Test Valley, with the top two squares with over 180 species each being around Titchfield Haven and Pennington Marshes.

## Categories A, B & C

### Red-legged Partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

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

Records were submitted from 198 sites (cf. 98 in 2018) predominantly from downland habitat. In the early year there were counts exceeding 20 at Tidgrove Warren (60, Jan 10th), Winchester SF/Deacon Hill (26, Jan 13th) and Norton Farm, Selborne (20-25, Jan-Feb).

Breeding was confirmed at Martin Down (adult with 7 chicks, July 1st), Rooksdown, Basingstoke (adult with chick, Aug 3rd), Shirley Common, Bransgore (adult and 4 young, Aug. 25th) and Botley Wood (single fledgling, Sept 5th), whilst BTO Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) registered double-figure counts in one km squares during April at Roundwood Estate, Micheldever (11, 18th), Tufton Warren Farm (11, 19th), Robley Belt (10, 19th) and Four Lanes End, South Warnborough (14, 28th).

The vexed question of what proportion of the population is feral and what is pen-released remains. Late year coveys of 150 at Longwood Warren and Newton Valance, 100 at Selborne, 60 at Kempshott, Basingstoke and 50 at Bransbury Common no doubt referred to released stock. (PFF)

### Grey Partridge

*Perdix perdix*

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

*Red, S41, HBAP*

There were records from 47 localities, a dozen more than in 2018, with all but two on typical chalk terrain. Although a group of nine, and three others independent of this, were at Toyd Down on Feb 14th, the largest covey was 12 at Breach Farm, Oakley on Nov 7th. The only records away from the Downs were at Needs Ore (10, Oct 19th) and Eastleigh Railway Works (5, Oct 27th) where a dead bird was also found nearby on 29th. As above, it is not possible to determine which, if any, were wild or released stock as many are still released each year for shooting but on a much smaller scale than Red-legged Partridge.

There were sightings of one or two in May/June in suitable breeding habitat at Picket Twenty (Andover), Kentsboro, Cutty Brow, Twyford Down, Overton, Morestead (4, May 5th), Colemore (possibly from reintroductions at nearby Rotherfield Estate) and Kingsley, but no evidence of breeding. However at Martin Down, in addition to confirmed breeding on July 8th (two adults and three young), a second pair held territory. Breeding was also suspected at Longwood Warren and Bidden Grange, but whilst pairs were seemingly holding territory at Pitt Down, Easton and Barnetside, there was no confirmation of success. (PFF)

### Quail (Common Quail)

*Coturnix coturnix*

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

*Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP*

Whilst heard singing/calling at six sites, there was no confirmation of breeding. The first arrivals were at Over Wallop, where three were heard on June 8th, and where subsequently at Croft Farm two were vocal on June 16th and one on 22nd. Another was calling between Broughton and Nether Wallop on Aug 29th. The only other reports from the North Hampshire Downs were of one calling at Vernham Dean on July 27th-28th and one seen at Willesley Warren on Sep 17th, the last date. There were also a dozen or more records from Martin Down between June 28th and August 1st which suggested two territories. Elsewhere singles were audible at Danebury on June 12th, Casbrook Common on June 21st and Havant Thicket on July 13th. (PFF)

## Pheasant (Common Pheasant)

*Phasianus colchicus*

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

There was a plethora of records from all parts and in all months. Typically, the highest counts were in the north from September onwards due to large-scale releases for shoots. These included 100 at Facombe on Sep 14th, Hannington Farm on Oct 5th, Selborne on Oct 23rd and Hartley Mauditt on Nov 12th; 150 at Hartley Park, Selborne on Nov 12th and Northbrook on Dec 19th; 200 at Wyck on Oct 23rd and 500 at Newton Valance on Dec 28th. Fifty-four at Winchester SF on Oct 24th was a high count for the site.

Coastal sites with double-figure counts included Warblington (15, Feb 4th), Titchfield Haven (10, May 30th), Needs Ore (45, Oct 12th), Tanners Lane (20, Sep 16th) and Lymington-Hurst (23, Apr 18th). In addition there were single-figure counts from nine localities along the West Solent coast, and singles at Sandy Point, Langstone Mill, Hook-with-Warsash and Dibden Bay. There were also singles at Blashford Lakes from Jan 1st to May 2nd and again from Oct 9th.

Feral breeding was confirmed with fledglings at Burton Common (1, May 17th), Itchen Valley CP (4, June 23rd) and Gavelacre (5, July 4th), and suspected at 17 further sites including seven in the Test Valley and three on the North Hampshire Downs. (PFF)

## Brent Goose (Brant Goose)

*Branta bernicla*

### Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*

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

*Amber, S41, HBAP*

WeBS count totals for January and February increased considerably from those in late 2018 (max. 10,725 in November) but the March total was very low due to the late date of the count after most had departed. Five flocks in Hampshire totalling 2,941 contained 5.8% first-winters. National data gave the proportion of young as 8.0% compared with 1.0% in the 2017/18 winter.

Eastbound spring passage off Sandy Point totalled 372 on 20 dates between Jan 29th and Apr 25th with a maximum of 63 on Feb 28th. Few were recorded elsewhere with only 50 on two dates to add to the total. Around 50 were noted in May including 16 at Weston Shore (Itchen Estuary) from 1st-3rd declining to eight by 17th and 14 in Langstone Harbour on 18th. Up to 14 summered at three locations.

The first returns were seven at Black Point on Sep 19th. That month produced three-figure counts in all three eastern harbours but no count higher than 24 further west. The WeBS



*Light-bellied Brent Geese, Lower Pennington, Nov 30th (Alan Lewis)*

count totals reached 13,894 in December. Small numbers of first-winters suggested a fairly poor breeding season again; the maximum reported was 19 in a flock of 256 (7.4%) at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 13th. National data from WWT indicate an average of 13%.

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	8,721	8,196	446	21	6		6	7	601	4,320	8,827	8,883
Hampshire sectors	2,418	3,141	244	12					542	2,111	3,928	2,930
Langstone Harbour	4,309	4,796	487	30	14		9	9	271	1,740	4,322	4,359
Portsmouth Harbour	2,185	1,829	91						382	1,134	1,608	1,902
Titchfield Haven area	1,200	1,070	800	150	2				13	650	786	1,060
Hamble Estuary	299	245	241	149	2	1	1		11	281	502	365
Itchen Estuary	100	57	173	80	16				1	41		114
Hythe-Calshot	479	466	463	32	1					604	573	188
Beaulieu Estuary	1,141	704	501	70	1				24	508	1,144	1,649
Sowley-Lymington	350	300	200	9					7	200	150	10
Lymington-Hurst	1,942	1,910	605	34	4	2	3	4	10	340	700	1,426
WeBS count totals	14,331	13,361	4,162	125	16		10	9	1,223	6,965	13,356	13,894

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

Inland, the single with Greylags at Ibsley Water in late December 2018 was still present on Jan 1st and was later seen flying towards Ibsley WM. The only other inland record was one (not sub-specifically identified) flying SSE over Tweseldown as fog cleared at 12:07 on Oct 15th. (JMC)

### Light-bellied Brent Goose

*Branta bernicla hrota*

*Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Amber*

Sightings in the early year involved one off Emsworth on Jan 28th, an adult at Needs Ore from Feb 24th to Mar 17th which was apparently paired with a Dark-bellied on Mar 3rd, an adult at Langstone Harbour on Mar 2nd and a first-winter there from Mar 23rd-26th.

There was an influx in the second week of September with 28 (17 first-winters) in Langstone Harbour on 11th and 12th, 16 (12 first-winters) of which remained until Sep 27th and 22, presumably of this race, were seen off Pennington on 12th. Later records were a first-winter at Black Point on Sep 24th and Oct 1st, five at Keyhaven on Oct 29th and Lower Pennington Lane on Nov 30th with one east at Hurst Beach on Dec 16th, and one in Langstone Harbour between Nov 5th and Dec 30th noted as paired with a Dark-bellied Brent on Dec 27th and accompanied by three first-winters.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JMC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	3						51	11	11	1

### Black Brant

*Branta bernicla nigricans*

*Formerly rare but now a very scarce winter visitor recorded annually since 1999. (0,37,2)*

There were two records involving adults at Needs Ore on Jan 20th (DJU et al.) and Eastney on Jan 24th (RC, RN).

Two sightings is currently about the annual average now for this North American vagrant, and compares with a previous annual average of around five that would be seen for much of the winter. This decline is in common with the experience in other counties. (KFB)

## Canada Goose

*Branta canadensis*

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

The WeBS count total in November was well above average. However there was clearly duplication with 412 at Eling and 806 Dibden Bay on different dates contributing to the inflated total.

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	310	270	110	66	72	112	132	88	89	415	310	448
Titchfield Haven area	221	126	108	46	40	27	35	360	500	300	153	355
Beaulieu Estuary	365	190	296	206	133	139	78	267	102	244	215	193
Lymington-Hurst	415	735	377	140	145	180	140	250	493	654	682	470
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	421	409	66					296	319	167	475	495
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Blashford Lakes	315	291	306	70		450	232	335	307	257	749	579
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	104	63	39	25	29	257	452	326	345	687	740	293
Tundry Pond	280	280	56	27		34	148	342	760	13	188	184
WeBS count totals	2,793	2,891	1,978	793	593	1,724	1,229	1,389	3,383	3,711	4,763	3,427

Counts exceeding 200 at non-tabulated sites were as follows: 300, Fishlake Meadows, Jan 22nd; 255 Busta Triangle, Aug 7th; 225, Eversley Common, Aug 13th (Busta birds); 273, Alresford Pond, Sep 18th; 286, Wellington CP, Sep 22nd; 806, Dibden Bay, November 24th (Lower Test birds); 287, Edenbrook CP, Dec 15th.

A total of around 70 broods was recorded at 25 sites. These included 12 broods of 47 mostly well-grown young at Needs Ore, ten broods of 51 young at Farlington Marshes and seven broods of 33 young at Fleet Pond of which 12 fledged. At least ten pairs nested at Blashford Lakes but nest control measures were again undertaken. (JMC)

## Barnacle Goose

*Branta leucopsis*

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

There were some unusual records in May/June and December. On May 12th a flock of 13 was at Pennington Marshes in the morning before leaving north; presumably the same group arrived from the north at Farlington Marshes at 19:13. The next day 21 flew east over Hurst Beach at 10:15 and later that morning ten were at nearby Pennington Marshes. On May 31st 13 arrived at Titchfield Haven from the north at 10:04 and left south at 12:15. On June 1st 17 flew west over Weston Shore at 05:58 and the same group were over Oxy Marsh at 07:57. At about the same time 27 dropped into Titchfield Haven and left NE at 08:15. The next day ten were seen from Weston Shore to take off from Shore Road, Hythe and fly south towards Calshot at 08:08. These sightings suggest a minimum involvement of 44 birds.

At the end of the year a flock of 67 flew past Weston Shore up Southampton Water at 08:40 on Dec 29th. They were later seen from Testwood Lakes heading north up the Test Valley. Their origins are open to conjecture but feral flocks in the IOW and East Sussex seem the most likely sources.

The regular flock in the Blackwater Valley mostly stayed in Berkshire but occasionally ventured into Hampshire. They dispersed as usual in spring and two pairs attempted breeding at Wellington CP but were unsuccessful. Apart from the unusual occurrences above, there were small numbers at various coastal locations and one was in the Avon Valley on Feb 10th, June 4th and Aug 26th,

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below. (JMC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven	1		1		13	27		1	2	3	3	3
Needs Ore			4		2	6					3	
Lymington-Hurst					13	17	3	3		7	3	
Eversley GP	32	32	32					18		22	22	26

## Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

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

WeBS counts peaked as usual after the breeding season with a maximum of 1,008 in December, somewhat below the recent five-year mean (see header).

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	150	99	64	49	61	97	32	9	35	51	124	138
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	85	95	38		110			307	156	119	110	248
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Ibsley Water	165	111	55	24		155	220	310	64	21	30	150
Test: Fishlake Meadows	120	141	28	24	6	30	18	240	300	21	90	256
Trigpoint Hill	37							280	350	2		
Longparish	5	23	30	17	18	38	68	60	1	20	1	
Testbourne Lake	220	226	94	33	36	86	93	143	250	165	215	130
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	134	70	32	4	30	11	57	150	102	170	84	2
The Vyne	132	1	11	12	10	6	85	187		88	95	18
Tundry Pond	82	61	11	8		2	73	178	60	71	60	70
WeBS count totals	800	785	402	177	183	414	339	516	864	863	747	1,008

Counts of birds flying over Trigpoint Hill offer clear evidence of regular movements between Testbourne Lake and Fishlake Meadows. Conversely counts of 310 at roost at Ibsley Water on the evening of Aug 29th and 307 leaving a roost at Hamer Warren just after first light the next morning confirmed the presence of two discrete flocks in the Avon Valley at that time. Other counts exceeding 50 at non-tabulated localities were as follows: 56, Hawley Lake, June 20th; 80 in stubble near Edenbrook CP, Aug 10th; 66, Burnt Common, Aug 22nd; 170 roosting at Fleet Pond, Aug 25th and 170 there, Sep 5th; 233 flying into roost at Eversley GP, Oct 15th and 80 in a field at Horton Heath on Dec 20th.

Breeding reports (single broods unless stated otherwise) came from Bramshill Park Lake (5 broods), Fishlake Meadows (4 young), Fleet Pond (4 young, all lost), Ibsley Water (6 young), Longparish (2 broods, 10 young), Needs Ore (6 broods, 31 young), Stratfield Saye (6 broods, 21 young), Testbourne Lake (4 broods), The Vyne Lake (6 young), Timsbury (11 broods), Woodmill (2 broods, 13 young) and Wylds Farm (3 young). Additionally one at Bramshill was paired with a Greylag/Canada hybrid and raised one young. (JMC)

## Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

*Rare winter visitor but presumed feral birds have occurred in most months (24,149,4).* Amber

An immature was at Efford Lake, Keyhaven on Jan 1st (NRJ, PEJ). The bird previously seen in the Lower Test area in both early and late 2018 remained, being reported from Jan 5th to

Feb 1st and on May 17th (m.o.). One was at Breach Farm, Bishopstoke from Feb 12th-Mar 7th (DJU). An adult at Stratfield Saye on Mar 26th (JMC, BS) was thought to be the same as one at Bramshill Park Lake on Apr 3rd and 26th (JMC) and, based on photographs, may also have been the Bishopstoke bird. Another was at Titchfield Haven from May 12th-13th (ALR *et al.*). (KFB)

**White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose)** *Anser albifrons*  
*Scarce winter visitor that has declined in recent years.* ET, Red, S41, HBAP

A total of nine present at the following three locations in December 2018 remained into the new year. At Needs Ore the group of two adults and five first-winters was seen intermittently until Mar 24th. In the Avon Valley one was at Ibsley Water on Jan 1st and 6th. At Fishlake Meadows one was recorded on Jan 3rd, Feb 9th and 21st and Apr 10th and nearby at Greatbridge on Apr 6th. The only new arrivals were two first-winters flying west over Hurst Beach on Mar 31st.

None was recorded in the late year. (JMC)

**Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

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

After the small recovery in WeBS count totals during the 2018/19 winter, late year numbers were below average. Low counts in the Avon Valley seem to be largely responsible.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly reached 30 or more are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	44	31	56	13	6	18	23	26	18	15	17	13
Southsea Canoe Lake	55	55	38	35	10	9	6	13	16	23	24	46
Portsmouth Harbour	99	71	76	53	46	70	76	80	106	129	129	134
Itchen: Woolston-Woodmill	61	63	75	45	39	99		35	35	86	67	66
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	7	6	5	6	35	38	46	54	20	16	17	21
Lymington-Hurst	54	47	47	39	47	39	43	37	25	31	32	35
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	131	26	10	30					145	57	23	79
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	217	221	184						131	101	97	133
Avon: Blashford Lakes	60	41	23	21		48	66	34	41	66	42	55
Avon above Fordingbridge	38	64	26								37	29
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	14	14	15	12	16	17	16	29	28	56	59	15
Avington Lake	12	32	21	20	12	22	22	44	45	30	8	6
Alresford Pond	35	34	30	32	71	70	75	49	12	20	24	39
Yateley GP	74	66	49						45	44	42	35
Heath Pond, Petersfield	23	30	28	24	25	18	8	12	12	16	14	22
WeBS count totals	923	821	730	203	159	177	224	229	696	658	660	741

More than 30 were also noted at Emsworth with 40 on Jan 28th and 46 on Feb 25th. For such an obvious species it is poorly recorded during the breeding season. Many observers must walk past broods of young without recording them! Breeding season reports involved 31 pairs which raised 129 young, four pairs with unstated numbers of young and 12 pairs with nests where young were not reported subsequently and most are presumed to have failed. The only significant concentration was in Southampton on the Itchen upstream to Woodmill and the Common where six pairs raised 31 young. Only one brood of two young was reported on the Test adjacent to Southampton – surely an under-representation. (JMC)



Bewick's Swan, Ibsley WM, Jan 13th (Alan Lewis) Whooper Swan, Avon Causeway, June 8th (Alan Lewis)

**Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan)** *Cygnus columbianus*

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

The only record was an adult at Ibsley WM from Jan 3rd-5th and 13th-20th, Feb 2nd-4th and 16th, and Mar 3rd-11th. Presumably it was secreted in private areas of the Avon Valley on intervening dates. Photographs indicate that this is the same individual present in early 2018. (JMC)

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

*Rare winter visitor. (since 1992: 46,3)* ET, Schedule 1, Amber

An adult and a juvenile flew NW low over Bickerley Common at 11:23 on Feb 2nd (KM). A particularly unusual record was an adult on the river at Avon Causeway from June 2nd-8th and then 17th, 22nd and 23rd (KRS *et al.*, photo). The bird was seen to be unringed. Almost all records have been from November to March, with just five records for April and one for May. Given the date it would seem unlikely that this could be a wild bird but, although there were no other records in southern England around this time, there were birds in Anglesey, Leicester and Nottingham. (KFB)

**Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

*Scarce but increasing feral resident.*

With numbers continuing to rise, WeBS count totals are included in this report for the first time. As with other feral geese, numbers peaked after the breeding season at 321 in September. The largest concentrations are in the east and north-east and in the Avon Valley, but it may now turn up at any wetland in the county.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu Estuary	6	11	17	5	6	15	1	8	22	25	8	2
Lymington-Hurst	2	2	2	5	10	10	6	16	18	1	12	2
Ripley Farm Reservoir	5			2	2	2	10	7	12			5
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	26	19	29	4	2				104	54	24	37
Avon: Ibsley Water	14	6	13	18	8	32	75	97	37	36	20	6
Wellington CP		2	2		7	65			37	7		4
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley	66		22						58	116	77	65
Tundry Pond	2		4	2		7		23	27		2	2
Heath Pond, Petersfield	16	13	24	9	5	35	63	69	62	19	47	58
WeBS count totals	114	69	96	38	30	120	119	85	321	263	195	197

Counts exceeding five were made at a further 12 locations including 14 at Wishanger on Jan 13th, 22 at Edenbrook CP on Aug 5th, ten at The Vyne on Oct 11th, 17 at Oakhanger on Oct 15th, 25 at Lode Farm, Kingsley on Oct 27th and 12 at Rampton Lane on Nov 16th.

Reports of young (single broods unless stated otherwise) came from Bramshill Park Lake (2 broods, 5 young\*), Dogmersfield Lake (4 young), East Worldham (6 young), Edenbrook CP (7 young\*), Fleet Pond (4 young\*), Hawley Lake (8 young), Mockbeggar Lake (2 broods), Needs Ore (2 broods, 5 young\*), Passfield Pond (1 young\*), Pennington Marshes (2 broods, 3 young\* and 5 young), Petersfield (2 broods, 2 young\* at Heath Pond; 2 broods, 11 young\* at nearby heath; a late brood of four at Heath Pond on Nov 28th did not survive), Ripley Farm Reservoir (8 young\*), Sleaford Reservoir (1 brood), Stratfield Saye (2 broods, 10 young\*), Tundry Pond (2 broods, 6 young\*), Wellington CP (2 broods, 9 young\*) and Winchfield (8 young). (Fledged young are indicated by \*). Note the lack of breeding records in the Test and Itchen Valleys. (JMC)

### Shelduck (Common Shelduck)

*Tadorna tadorna*

Scarce breeder and moderately common but declining winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,794; 2002-07: 1,353; 2007-12: 1,296; 2012-17: 1,068. Amber

WeBS totals were again below average with the only four-figure count being 1,025 in January, slightly below the latest five-year mean maximum (see header). Monthly maxima at coastal sites where counts exceeded 50 and regularly used inland sites are tabulated below. (DB)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	502	479	284	240	114	57	13	11	14	78	298	382
Hampshire sectors	106	112	39	25	13	6	6		9	47	89	123
Langstone Harbour	393	290	207	117	68	53	61	28	19	30	176	236
Portsmouth Harbour	168	86	68	40	6	10	4	3		92	88	65
Titchfield Haven	22	31	30	42	90	53	25	3	3	2	9	15
Southampton Water incl. Hamble & Test Estuaries	61	54	84	60	39	19	6		3	5	20	34
Fawley-Calshot	92	73	73	25	18	11	10	2	1	15	11	41
Beaulieu Estuary	49	85	70	48	45	57	11	9	3	4	18	22
Lymington-Hurst	79	99	116	87	79	38	50	27	14	40	20	30
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir	10	2	21	17	11	9						
Avon: Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	14		1	2	2	3						
Alresford Pond	3	4	2	5	16	12	12				1	3
Other inland records (no. of sites)	8(5)	14(9)	24(11)	16(7)	13(7)	6(2)					1(1)	2(2)
WeBS count totals	1,025	640	572	290	260	176	77	21	27	181	415	529

Breeding was recorded at coastal sites at Farlington Marshes (4 broods of 7, 4, 2 and 6), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (10 broods) and Titchfield Haven (2 broods of 14 and 8). Inland broods were reported at Alresford Pond (2 broods of 12 and 1) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (2 broods of 3 and 4). Up to three pairs were present at Blashford Lakes but there was no indication of breeding. (DB)

### Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Moderately common introduced resident.

The extent of how widespread this species has become is illustrated by records in 104 tetrads (10%) in 38 ten km squares mostly extending diagonally across the county from north-east to south-west. Monthly maxima are tabulated below for sites where counts reached double figures in two or more months. Reported numbers from sites formerly included at Headley

Mill Pond, Hookheath Farm (Southwick), The Grange Lake and Bramshill Park Lake did not reach double figures this year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blashford Lakes	4		2	11	4	11	10	8	4	3	8	12
Stratfield Saye	15	83	12	8	27	5			22			
Eyeworth Pond, NF	12	7	8	7	4		3		2	1	8	20

Counts of ten or more at non-tabulated sites were 17 at Sowley Pond on Feb 3rd, 11 at Timsbury on May 11th, 26 at Oakhanger on Oct 1st, 15 at Lye Heath, Denmead on Dec 15th and 42 at Lode Farm, Kingsley SP on Dec 30th.

Broods (with number of ducklings in parentheses) were reported at The Vyne Lake (1, 2), Timsbury (10), Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) (7), Stratfield Saye (3), Bishop's Dyke (Denny Lodge), Foley Manor (1), Shatterford Bottom (3), Waggoners Wells (2) and Eyeworth Pond (3). (DB)

### Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber

Numbers were slightly up on last year with 23 reported in spring and three in autumn. The first arrival was a pair at Fawley on Feb 22nd, a new early date beating the previous earliest of Feb 28th 2018 by six days. Spring passage continued from Mar 19th to May 24th. The highest count was seven (4 males and 3 females) initially offshore at Meon Shore and later in flight to Titchfield Haven on Apr 15th. Three were at Keyhaven on Apr 8th and ones and



Male Garganey, Edenbrook CP, Mar 29th (Lee Fuller)

twos were reported from Farlington Marshes, Ibsley Water, Posbrook Floods, Edenbrook CP, Ranvilles Lane (Fareham), Fishlake Meadows and Fleet Pond.

Summer records comprised an eclipse male at Titchfield Haven between June 28th and July 3rd followed by two on July 20th, two female types at Needs Ore on July 1st and a male at Fishlake Meadows on July 22nd.

The first autumn record, an eclipse male, was at Fleet Pond from Aug 1st-20th followed by reports from Keyhaven Marshes (juvenile, Aug 19th) and Alresford Pond (male, Sep 16th to Oct 13th). (DB)

### Shoveler† (Northern Shoveler)

*Spatula clypeata*

*Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasionally breeds. Mean maximum*

*WeBS totals 1997-2002: 662; 2002-07: 742; 2007-12: 741; 2012-17: 847. Amber*

WeBS counts early in the year were down on the previous year. The highest were at Blashford Lakes where at least 100 were reported between Jan 20th and Mar 18th peaking at 206 on Feb 8th. In the late year numbers peaked in November and December when three-figure counts were recorded at Blashford Lakes (peak 204, Dec 15th) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (144, Dec 27th).

Monthly maxima at sites with 20 or more in more than one month are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	122	122	70	30	17	6	9	5	10	48	52	55
Titchfield Haven	27	39	52	30	10	12	8	8	31	30	38	65
Southampton Water	20	20	23	19		1		15	11	15	6	77
Beaulieu Estuary	50	37	44	6	4	1		6	26	10	59	84
Lymington-Hurst	114	188	168	93	8	2	14	8	11	30	82	144
Blashford Lakes	164	206	179	26	3	3	2	2	50	44	83	204
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	4	12	95	38					2	7		36
Test: Fishlake Meadows	35	11	10	15			3	12	5	20	7	11
Alresford Pond	30	17	10	7		2		13	18	23	19	15
Rampton's Lane GP & Burnt Common	36	31	51*	9		2		8	6	44	10	25
The Vyne	10	25	36	8					6	38	41	10
Eversley GP	55	31							12	17	11	87
Fleet Pond		2	6	2			2	9	43	21	27	8
Tundry Pond	116	107								1	53	27
WeBS count totals	735	604	605	88	13	3	12	15	143	281	363	749

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

The only other counts of 20 or more at non-tabulated sites were 20 at Yateley GP on Feb 15th and 24 at Baffins Pond on Oct 31st.

The only breeding records were at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes where a pair with nine ducklings were sighted on May 18th, and Farlington Marshes where one surviving duckling was seen on July 27th. No breeding surveys results were submitted for Titchfield Haven or Needs Ore. (DB)

### Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

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

WeBS totals were down on the previous year, except for February, May and August, and fell again compared to long-term mean maxima (see header). Counts at the main site at Blashford

Lakes showed a similar pattern except for April to June when numbers were higher than the previous year. A high summer count of 115 was recorded at Alresford Pond on June 20th.

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	117	60	39	35	53	32	22	37	141	31	117	105
Titchfield Haven	53	97	95	86	80	66	14	12	60	55	57	87
Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash	26	16	12	17	19	34	16	59	15	13	8	29
Beaulieu Estuary	24	54	32	23	30	36	20	19	10	10	53	62
Lymington-Hurst	25	32	66	34	40	34	21	17	12	32	25	42
Avon: Blashford Lakes incl. Hamer Warren	554	633	67	43	23	30	30	86	87	135	367	398
Fishlake Meadows	30	14	35	20	10	54	95	6	9	2	8	26
Testbourne Lake	60	46	27	18	14	20	4	17	18	60	54	85
Laverstoke Park Lake	4	4	4						138		72	27
Overton/Ashe	17	32	31	42	39	27			48	53	34	52
Winchester SF	46	112	100	80	29	30	1	1	2	31	61	79
Alresford Pond	52	97	31	28	46	115	5	16	125	104	29	117
Eversley GP	131	60	6	2					11	11	92	135
Yateley GP	88	60	6						7	25	70	72
Bramshill Park Lake	62	61	7	3	1	2	1	14	12	6	12	2
Warnford Park	74	12	10			2	6	13	39	33	105	37
WeBS count totals	1,366	1,453	685	394	170	128	101	206	579	645	1,028	1,052

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

Except for June and July, between 20 and 50 were also recorded at widespread non-tabulated sites including Lower Test Marshes, Avon Valley (Sabines Farm and Ringwood-Fordingbridge), Test Valley (Stockbridge-Fullerton), Longparish Trout Lakes, Anton Lakes (Andover), Testwood Lakes, Gavelacre, Avington Lake, The Grange Lake, The Vyne, Burnt Common, Stratfield Saye and Dogmersfield Lake.

At least 44 broods were recorded with ten on a four km stretch of the River Test at Leckford; six at Lymington-Hurst; five at Hook-with-Warsash and Avington Lake; four at Farlington Marshes; two at Alresford Pond, Fleet Pond and The Vyne Lake; and single broods at Titchfield Haven, Needs Ore, Testbourne Lake, Fishlake Meadows, Stratfield Saye, Blashford Lakes, Itchen Waterworks and Gavelacre. A count of 30 was reported from Winchester SF on June 8th but there was no evidence of breeding. Post-breeding gatherings in excess of 50 were recorded at five locations. (DB)

### Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon)

*Mareca penelope*

*Common winter visitor and passage migrant; a few summer each year. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 11,656; 2002-07: 10,697; 2007-12: 8,655; 2012-17: 9,887. Amber*

The maximum WeBS count of 6,691 in January was significantly lower than the recent five-year mean maxima (see header). Between one and three were reported in late spring/summer between Apr 21st and Aug 26th at coastal sites. September arrivals were higher than 2018 with the highest count being 400 at Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore on Sep 20th. Overall numbers for October to December were then lower than last year with December counts at Lower Test Marshes, Beaulieu Estuary and Lymington-Hurst being 739, 1,123 and 511 respectively compared to 1,017, 1,241 and 1,660 in 2018. A high count of 800 was recorded at Sabines Farm, Avon Tyrell on Dec 28th

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 (inland 50) are tabulated below. The only other count to exceed 50 was 54 at Ranvilles Lane on Dec 10th. (DB)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	2,103	1,464	337	2	2			2	722	1,560	1,982	1,993
Hampshire sectors	279	174	92						37	95	427	230
Langstone Harbour	790	912	305	50	1	1		7	400	160	543	645
Portsmouth Harbour	307	218	91	1					84	196	160	154
Titchfield Haven	236	187	146	10	1			2	9	11	57	129
Hamble Estuary	322	150	328	15				2	58	176	360	272
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	762	1,162	522	10				3	44	316	776	739
Hythe-Calshot	181	307	150						2	149	393	314
Beaulieu Estuary	707	470	245	2	2	1	1	2	92	332	356	1123
Sowley-Lymington	250	80								65	230	20
Lymington-Hurst	900	1026	400	36	3	1		2	204	865	1,015	511
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood incl. Ripley Farm Reservoir	372	471	158							17	50	800
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	137	250	184	1						125	95	275
Avon: Blashford Lakes	648	884	371	50	1	2	2	3	27	142	573	824
Testwood Lakes	85	85	40	1						1	20	
Test: Fishlake Meadows	39	65	5	1	1	1	1			1	1	7
The Vyne	133	183	103						5	12	74	29
Eversley GP	212	51	12						2	22	131	250
WeBS count totals	6,691	6,174	2,037	17	4		3	4	554	2,544	4,839	5,544

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

## Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Peak WeBS totals fell short of 4,000 and below the mean maxima for the two last five-year periods (see header). The highest early year count was 388 at Lymington-Hurst on Jan 19th and the highest count in the late year was 324 at Ewhurst Lake on Oct 15th. At Braishfield 360 were recorded flying into the Test Valley on Jan 12th having been displaced by shooting in the area.

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	344	240	227	111	102	19	124	130	301	415	379	305
Hampshire sectors	178	118	135	60	64		70	102	227	237	232	212
Beaulieu Estuary	160	52	57	49	57	48	60	117	141	200	220	141
Lymington-Hurst	388	164	201	180	151	157	56	68	178	126	233	118
Avon: Blashford Lakes	201	80	85	58	20	72	73	127	134	154	79	162
Ripley Farm Reservoir	62	71	73	20	42	104	2	280	15	9		
Andover Town	92	88	75	83	57	18	44	65	72	120	117	90
Alresford Pond	62	27	15	20	42	63	205	101	83	32	59	106
Ewhurst Lake	70	8	137	118	43					324	129	292
WeBS count totals	3,224	2,311	1,800	808	697	997	938	1,319	2,860	3,289	3,211	3,201

Maxima at other non-tabulated sites with counts of 150 or more were 150 at Testbourne Lake on Jan 11th, 173 at Testwood Lakes on Jan 20th, 173 at Fishlake Meadows on July 7th, 150 at Titchfield Haven on July 27th, 158 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Sep 5th, 161 at King's Pond, Alton on Sep 14th, 156 at Bramshill Park Lake on Sep 15th, 154 at Winchester SF on Oct 20th, 150 at Wyck on Oct 23rd, 155 at Edenbrook CP on Nov 10th, 178 at Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 23rd and 161 at Yateley GP on Dec 13th.

Breeding was widespread. Comparisons of numbers of broods and young at sites reported last year (with 2018 broods in parentheses) are as follows: Lower Test Marshes 22 (20); Fleet Pond, 8 with 47 young (18 with 110 young); Avington Lake, 5 (6); Hook-with-Warsash, 6 (5 with 16 young); The Grange Lake, 1 (2); Alresford Pond, 3 (5). At Itchen Water Works eight broods totalled 33 young. No counts of breeding pairs or young were submitted for Farlington Marshes or Titchfield Haven. (DB)

## Pintail (Northern Pintail)

*Anas acuta*

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional in summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 918; 2002-07: 1,360; 2007-12: 774; 2012-17: 848. Schedule 1, Amber

WeBS counts early in the year were again below average with a peak of 643 in January including 234 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and 233 at Langstone Harbour. Note a higher count of 350 was recorded at Pennington Marshes on Jan 27th. Totals late in the year peaked in December with 392 including 97 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and 128 at Langstone Harbour.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	154	152	16						4	8	1	40
Langstone Harbour incl. Farlington Marshes	233	215	185	2				6	67	95	75	128
Portsmouth Harbour	7	12							3			
Titchfield Haven	32	20	12	4					10	30	8	45
Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash	62	47	19						14	57	75	53
Fawley-Calshot	21	18										16
Beaulieu Estuary	39	9	4				2	2	1	2	4	29
Sowley-Lymington (Pylewell Lake)	60	50								2		40
Lymington-Hurst	350	255	76	6	2	2			18	40	182	97
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		12										60
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	18	4	8									15
Avon: Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water)	18	27	8	2					1	2	70	117
Test: Fishlake Meadows	20	11	10	1					5	11	1	3
WeBS count totals	643	510	36	1		1			41	62	340	392

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

The only early year records away from the tabulated sites were males at Ewhurst Lake on Jan 10th, The Vyne Lake from Jan 20th to Feb 19th (probably the same) and Overton Lagoons on Feb 1st. The last double-figure count was 13 at Lymington-Hurst on Mar 31st. Subsequently a pair was reported there in May and June and at Needs Ore in July and August.

The first double-figure counts of new arrivals in the autumn were 11 at Butts Lagoon on Sep 19th and ten at Farlington Marshes the same day with 67 there on Sep 25th. The only records

away from the tabulated sites in the second half-year were singles at Alresford Pond on Oct 5th, Ewhurst Lake on Oct 25th and The Vyne Lake on Dec 21st-31st. (DB)

### Teal (Eurasian Teal)

*Anas crecca*

*Very scarce and declining resident and common winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 6,164; 2002-07: 6,202; 2007-12: 5,567; 2012-17: 6,872. Amber*

WeBS count of 4,178 in January was an increase on 2018 (cf. 3,830) but was still well down on the long-term mean maxima (see header). WeBS counts in the last three months of the year were also well down on 2018 with November and December being approximately 2,000 lower than last year. The only sites where numbers exceeded 1,000 were Lymington-Hurst (1,300, Nov 23rd) and Beaulieu Estuary (1,351, Dec 13th).

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	966	854	530	24			1		302	370	555	661
Hampshire sectors	127	135	59	15				3	83	76	72	187
Langstone Harbour	400	250	188	67	4	9	13	85	211	235	181	164
Portsmouth Harbour	124	80	64	12					120	152	100	86
Titchfield Haven	420	193	170	64	6	15	18	50	334	324	261	276
Hamble Estuary	190	148	122	30	2	1	2	39	84	149	260	264
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	38	159	102	23		2	2	9	15	55	113	94
Dibden Bay	79		42						1	50	165	288
Ashlett-Calshot	129	125	40	20					4	30	72	36
Beaulieu Estuary	558	304	144	32	3	7	4	105	522	651	650	1,351
Lymington-Hurst	735	835	539	218	1	5	6	29	516	521	1,300	567
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	245	439	74	1					9	150	12	318
Avon: Blashford Lakes	246	127	67	4	2	2	5	23	52	20	134	182
Test: Fishlake Meadows	220	70	55	26		9	20	2	86	25	30	299
Testbourne Lake	200	110	26	13	2		1	2	22	80	95	30
Winchester SF	139	76	40	28	1	1	1	1	1	69	168	148
Alresford Pond	232	209	183	101	13	4	18	117	267	247	272	193
The Vyne	244	175	74	45			1	31	51	42	71	138
WeBS count totals	4,178	3,129	1,546	313	5	4	14	94	1,726	2,491	3,568	4,183

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

The only non-tabulated counts of 50 or more were 57 at Barton's Mill, Old Basing on Jan 8th, 50 at Marsh Court on Jan 13th, 70 at Pylewell Lake on Jan 18th-19th, 51 at Testwood Lakes and 130 at Holmsley GP, NF on Jan 20th, and 54 at Stratfield Saye on Sep 26th.

Although low numbers remained throughout May and June at many sites there was no confirmed breeding this year. (DB)

### Red-crested Pochard

*Netta rufina*

*Scarce feral visitor or escape.*

Two drakes were at Bramshill Park Lake from Jan 2nd to Apr 3rd. They were again present on Dec 14th (JMCK). They also appeared at Eversley GP from Dec 28th-31st (JMCK). One drake and two ducks were at Ibsley Water on Nov 11th (RAC, CDJ). (KFB)

### Pochard (Common Pochard)

*Aythya ferina*

*Scarce breeder and moderately common but declining winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 831; 2002-07: 673; 2007-12: 445; 2012-17: 287. VU, Red, HBAP*

The January WeBS Count (354) was the highest for any month in any year since February 2013 (392), but numbers in November-December were considerably lower than for the corresponding months last year. Again the Blashford Lakes complex was the highest contributor to the monthly totals, as high as 75% in January. Although down to below 50% for the late year, it remains a key site for this species, which has been in gradual decline for the past twenty years as reflected in successively reducing five-year mean maximum WeBS totals (see header).

The highest count at Blashford Lakes was 265 on Jan 8th. Exclusive to Ibsley Water was a count of 144 on an ice-free patch on Feb 3rd and October's monthly maximum count of 84 on 29th. The highest counts elsewhere were 24 on Kingfisher Lake on Jan 10th and 69 on Ivy Lake on Feb 16th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour/Budds Farm STW	20	12	2	4	1					1	2	
Needs Ore/Beaulieu	11	16	8	5	4	2	1	6			10	9
Blashford Lakes	265	173	55	7	2	4	6	8	6	84	63	73
Test: Fishlake Meadows	15	12	12	16	7	4	5	2	3	12	11	13
Dogmersfield Lake	29	10	7							3	23	26
Tundry Pond	13	10			2		1	2	1	1	6	20
Eversley GP	26	15	5	1						1	6	19
WeBS count totals	354	274	95	17	7	3	3	8	5	69	157	141

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

Elsewhere, double-figure counts between January and March came from Tundry Pond (13, Jan 3rd; 10, Feb 2nd), Titchfield Haven NR (14, Jan 12th), Alresford Pond (10, Jan 14th) and in the late year from Tundry Pond (20, Dec 14th) and Winchester SF (12, Dec 29th).

Fewer than ten were recorded from a dozen or more inland sites including Fisher's Pond, Colden Common (6, Feb 18th and Mar 16th), The Grange Lake (8, Feb 5th), Testbourne Lakes (9, Nov/Dec) and Bramshill Park Lake (8, Dec 14th). There were one or two on Southampton Common between January to March except for four on Feb 17th and from October to the year end, and rarely more than three between Lymington-Hurst.

Although in May/June, two pairs were at Needs Ore and Alresford Pond and one pair at Marsh Court, breeding was only confirmed at three sites. A female and seven fledglings were recorded at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on May 10th, but subsequent visits over the following week revealed a steady depletion in numbers until there was only the female left on May 15th. A pair at Fishlake Meadows produced four fledglings, whilst a single duckling was seen with a female on Stockbridge Common Marsh on June 15th. (PFF)

### Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

*Rare vagrant recorded in every month from September to April. (0,14,0).*

ET

A juvenile found at Bedhampton Mill Pond on Dec 16th 2018 remained until Jan 6th (JC et al., photo). The record was not submitted in time for the BBRC Report for 2018 and so also did not appear in HBR 2018. The male that had frequented Kingfisher Lake, Blashford from October 2018 remained in the area until Mar 2nd (m.o., photo). A male, presumed to be the same individual, returned to Kingfisher Lake on Oct 29th and remained until December (m.o., photo). Viewing restrictions at this location remained a challenge and undoubtedly

reduced the number of sightings. In December it was only seen on 5th and 15th. In contrast to other years it was not reported at all from Ibsley Water. This male has probably been responsible for all sightings since the 2011/2012 winter. Prior to this the only record this century was in 2000. (KFB)

**1999 addition.** A single was at Titchfield Haven from Nov 10th-12th (DP, BSD).

### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

*Moderately common breeding species whose numbers increase considerably in winter. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,294; 2002-07: 1,568; 2007-12: 1,557; 2012-17: 1,658. Green*

WeBS counts closely mirrored last year's monthly totals with the highest number (1,457) again in February. This corresponded with the annual maximum at Blashford Lakes where there were 581 on Feb 8th, and where the winter population remained stable. The gravel pits at Eversley and Yateley had their peak counts in the late year with 169 at Yateley on Nov 18th and 217 at Eversley on Dec 28th.

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
Lymington-Hurst	66	50	55	27	17	22	19	20	21	9	57	50
Ripley Farm Reservoir	7	4	21	32	12	29	17	22	52	37	17	10
Blashford Lakes	497	581	416	306	100	172	75	188	129	202	364	368
Test: Fishlake Meadows	25	30	60	30	6	5	23	4	3	7	3	1
Test: Testbourne Lake	27	44	30	42	34	26	26	20	10	54	35	30
Meon: Warnford Park	33	35	29	57		35	9	16	30	42	70	53
Bramshill Park Lake	31	21	4	3	4		2	15	59	42	38	29
Eversley GP	181	121	209	107					59	79	130	217
Yateley GP	110	122	79						28	63	169	167
WeBS count totals	1,326	1,457	1,315	732	207	355	214	300	526	728	1,078	964

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

As usual there were records from a multitude of localities but only at 15 further sites did counts exceed 25 during the winter months. These included (maxima in parentheses) the Itchen Valley at Allington GP (43, Jan 19th), Avington Trout Fishery (43, Jan 21st), Lakeside CP (47, Jan 24th - the highest count there for 18 years) and Alresford Pond (30, Nov 1st); Test Valley and tributaries at Longparish (48, Feb 9th), Rooksbury Mill (35, Jan 6th) and Anton Lakes (48, Dec 29th); the north at Ewhurst Lake (48, Mar 1st), Tundry Pond (30, Jan 20th), Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) (30, Mar 2nd) and Camp Farm GP (49, Nov 10th); and coastal sites at Chichester Harbour (35, Apr 20th), Baffins Pond (120, Jan 3rd), Farlington Marshes (40, Oct 27th) and Brownwich Pond (26, Dec 1st).

Confirmation of breeding came from 28 sites with a total of 60 broods (cf. 26 sites with 54 broods last year) with a minimum of 250 fledglings. Fleet Pond contributed 11 broods and 50 ducklings, but only 20 survived, which was an improvement on the success rate of 2018. Along the River Test four broods were raised at Romsey, Testbourne Lake and Timsbury; three at Longstock South; and one each at Testwood Lake, Fishlake Meadows, Gavelacre, North Houghton and Mottisfont. In the Itchen Valley there were three broods at The Grange Lake, two pairs bred at Avington Lake and a pair produced a brood each at Alresford Pond and Arlebury Lake. Elsewhere there were single broods at Charlton Lakes, Straits Inclosure (Alice Holt Forest), Bramshill Park Lake, Passfield Pond, Tundry Pond, Stratfield Saye Park and Vyne Park. Along the coast up to three pairs bred at Langstone Mill Pond, two pairs bred at Broadmarsh/Bedhampton, Farlington and Keyhaven, and one pair at Fishery Creek in Chichester Harbour. A pair also bred at Ripley Farm Reservoir for the first time, whilst there were five broods on Blashford Lakes. (PFF)



First-winter male Scaup in flight with Tufted Ducks, Keyhaven Lagoon, Jan 19th (Alan Lewis)

### Scaup (Greater Scaup)

*Aythya marila*

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*VU, Schedule 1, Red, S41*

Whilst recorded at eight localities, the exact number of individuals involved is inconclusive. The first-winter drake, recorded between Lymington-Hurst from Dec 22nd last year, was present until Mar 24th and was joined for one day on Mar 2nd by a second drake.

The first report in the second half-year was an immature drake at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Oct 8th and 13th. A second sighting there on Oct 22nd, whilst of indeterminate gender, was considered to be a different individual. This was however most likely to have been the same, identified as an immature female, as on Blashford Lakes from Oct 26th (Ibsley Water) to Dec 4th (Rockford Lake). A female and an immature male flew up the Test Estuary from Weston Shore on Oct 21st, one of which presumably accounted for the subsequent record at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 23rd and 27th. A first-winter on Testwood Lakes on Nov 6th could also have been one of these two. The only record from the East Solent was at Frater Shore in Portsmouth Harbour on Dec 20th-21st. (PFF)

### Lesser Scaup

*Aythya affinis*

*Very rare vagrant (0,1,0)*

A drake was at Ibsley Water on Jan 20th (DPH et al., photo). This is assumed to be the same bird that spent two days at Ibsley Water in February 2018 and a week in the Blashford area in October/November 2017. (KFB)



Returning adult male Lesser Scaup, Ibsley Water, Jan 20th (Alan Lewis)

### *Aythya hybrid*

The only record was of a hybrid Tufted Duck/Pochard at Frith End SP on Feb 20th. (PFF)

## Eider (Common Eider)

*Somateria mollissima*

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

VU, Amber

Lymington-Hurst and Hill Head were again the principal sites, but a third significant raft re-established itself on the sea off Sandy Point during the winter months at both ends of the year. Not since 2011 has there been such regular and significant counts off Hayling Island (see table below) including a maximum of 62 on Dec 28th comprising at least 50 drakes.

After a succession of low counts in February, numbers at Lymington-Hurst increased from early March to peak at 55 on Apr 7th and remained stable until May 5th. Thereafter there was a small decrease leaving a summer concentration of non-breeders at around 35. The annual maximum off Hill Head was 36 in mid-November which was well down on the last two years. The group off Hill Head often drifted into Southampton Water but rarely further than Hook-with-Warsash. A party of eight as far up the Hamble Estuary as the M27 bridge on Mar 23rd, and one or two off Weston Shore from Oct 8th-26th, were exceptions. Ones and twos in Langstone Harbour between Oct 29th and Dec 14th were the only other records away from the open sea.

Numbers fluctuated at all three localities, probably because of local movements. This was best illustrated by analysis of specific dates and counts in November and December. This showed corresponding peaks and troughs at Hill Head and Sandy Point, suggesting movement between the two sites. It is unlikely that the overall winter population in The Solent totalled more than the maximum count of 86 on Jan 21st-22nd. Whilst numbers are well down on those of the previous decade (*cf.* 220 in Feb 2006), the winter population has been relatively stable for the past three years.

Breeding was confirmed when a female and three ducklings were seen at Normandy Marsh on June 23rd. Sadly, only one of the young survived the summer.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	52	40	50	9	8		4		4	5	50	62
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	14	15	10	20	3					3	36	32
Lepe-Needs Ore	9	4	1	1				4				
Sowley-Lymington				6	1				22			
Lymington-Keyhaven	30	11	47	55	54	34	31	36	29	30	45	6
Hurst and Milford on Sea	4	14		6		3					1	5

## Velvet Scoter

*Melanitta fusca*

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

VU, Schedule 1, Red

Recorded at several coastal localities from Milford on Sea east to Sandy Point. Two females and a male off Iley Point, Keyhaven on Jan 1st and three off Needs Ore on 15th may have been the same individuals. Four flew east past Needs Ore on Jan 29th and singles were recorded on several dates in January along this stretch of The Solent. In the spring four flew east past Milford on Sea on Apr 5th, only to return to the bay a little later, whilst the same day one flew east past Sandy Point. The next day two flew east through the Narrows into The Solent.

Apart from a female off Black Point on Nov 11th-12th, all late year records came from the West Solent and Southampton Water. Singles flew east past Milford on Sea on Oct 31st, Dec 2nd and 16th and a first-winter was off Hill Head between Nov 17th and Dec 7th. Possibly the same individual flew west past Needs Ore on the day it departed Hill Head. Further up Southampton Water there were two females and a first-winter male off Weston Shore from Dec 8th-24th, with the drake remaining until 27th. (PFF)

## Common Scoter

*Melanitta nigra*

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

Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP

Numbers were low at the usual coastal sites in the early year, the only double-figure counts being 14 in Milford Bay on Mar 16th, 15 off Hill Head on Mar 23rd and 24 off Hurst Castle on March 31st, the last heralding the start of what was a most disappointing spring passage. April 5th was the date for peak easterly movement with 35 past Hill Head and 99 past Sandy Point. Whilst a loose gathering of 171 in Milford Bay on the same day was not seen to fly east through the Narrows, the number is included in the relevant column in the Table below as it is unlikely that birds passing south of the Isle of Wight would have been included in the Sandy Point tally. Even so, over 16 days between Mar 31st and May 31st only 561 were counted on passage, which is in sharp contrast to last year when in the same period 1,072 moved east through The Solent over 19 days.

There were more records than normal for the summer months. Three east past Sandy Point on June 13th and 11 east through Hurst Narrows on June 15th were probably late passage, whilst others referred to non-breeding adults. There were regular sightings of up to six from Lymington-Hurst through June-August, with ten on July 4th off Keyhaven being the highest count there. Elsewhere there was a drake off Weston Shore on June 25th and two males and a female there on Aug 13th, three males and an immature/female off Hill Head on June 26th, with four there on July 3rd and two on Aug 25th, and a male in Stokes Bay on Aug 12th.

Passage in autumn was no more prolific than in spring, the only significant day of movement being on Oct 31st when 88 flew east past Hurst and 24 passed Sandy Point. Other than ones and twos in Langstone Harbour, one at Emsworth Harbour and occasional single-figure counts off Sandy Point, except for 25 there on Nov 9th-10th, the only established late winter flock was off Hill Head. Here there were up to 12 regularly recorded from Oct 13th to mid-December, except for 20 on Nov 24th. The only inland records came from Itchen Valley (Fobdown Farm Reservoir, Mar 21st-June 2nd) and Avon Valley (female on Ibsley Water, Oct 29th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point and Hayling Bay	3	2			6				12	4	25	9
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	3	1	15	22	15	3	4	2	5	12	20	12
Southampton Water			1	1		3		3	1	1	5	11
Hurst and Milford on Sea	2	10	14	171	15	3	3			8	2	6
Moving east			24	490	44	20	3		17	88	3	
Moving west			5	1	2							

## Long-tailed Duck

*Clangula hyemalis*

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.*

VU, Schedule 1, Red

Records were mostly from the coast and referred to at least ten individuals. The long-staying female at Weston Shore, present from Nov 22nd last year, remained until Mar 23rd. An adult male was on the sea off Hill Head between May 7th-12th. All other records were later in the year.

In the West Solent, drakes were seen off Hurst/Milford on Sea on Oct 25th and Dec 16th, whilst a female flew east down The Solent on Oct 26th, the same day as a drake flew east past Hill Head. A female off Lee-on-the-Solent on Nov 8th was possibly the same as at Royal Victoria CP, Netley on 14th. An immature female was on Oxy Lake and Pennington Lagoon between Nov 13th and Dec 7th.

To the east, an adult male was off Black Point, Hayling Island between Oct 31st and Nov 4th and a female was there from Nov 8th to Dec 3rd. An immature female recorded from a variety of locations in and around Langstone Harbour, including Farlington Marshes, between Nov 19th and Dec 30th was probably the same individual, but there was also a drake in the harbour on Nov 9th and off Lee-on-the-Solent on Dec 27th. The only inland record was an immature male on Ibsley Water from Nov 4th to year's end. (PFF)

### Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye)

*Bucephala clangula*

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

*Schedule 1, Amber*

The January WeBS count of 66 was the highest for any month in several years (cf. 95 in February 2013), but returns for the other months do not suggest that the decline in population over the past twenty years is being reversed. The maximum count in Langstone Harbour was 41 on Jan 19th. At the other principal site, Ibsley Water, the highest count was 24 including 21 females on Mar 6th. Other than those tabulated below, records elsewhere were confined to three localities. One was at Titchfield Haven on Jan 6th and a drake was off Weston Shore on 20th and likely the same individual was at Bury Marshes on 23rd. Two on Ibsley Water on Apr 13th were the last in spring.

The first winter return was one off Hill Head on Oct 2nd, seen later that day in flight off Chilling Cliffs, followed by a female off Lepe on Oct 31st.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	11	5					1	10	8
Hampshire sectors	3	2						5	2
Langstone Harbour	41	12						6	3
Portsmouth Harbour	3	1						4	1
Lymington-Hurst	8	6	2					1	7
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	20	22	24	10			7	13	16
WeBS count totals	66	42	15				4	21	16

### Smew

*Mergellus albellus*

*Very scarce winter visitor.*

*ET, Amber*

A red-head in Langstone Harbour seen from West Hayling on Jan 29th was the only record and the first since 2014 (ACJ et al.). (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; 2012-17: 145.*

*Green, HBAP*

A WeBS count total of 160 in mid-January was the highest for this month for several years. The only higher counts since 2012 were in December 2013 (177) and 2016 (203). Overall, numbers for this year are not dissimilar to last, which is encouraging given the recent steady decline in the winter population.

At Ibsley Water roost the maximum in the early year was 89 on Jan 20th (42 males) and in the late year was 83 on Nov 27th (26 males). Counts in November and December for the entire Blashford Lakes complex totalled 86 on Nov 26th and 80 on Dec 27th. As customary, a number spread out during the day along the River Avon or visited other lakes at Blashford (e.g. 25 at Kingfisher on Jan 13th), but there were very few records from the New Forest ponds. The last spring record at Ibsley Water was on Apr 22nd and the first return was on Sep 29th. At the Eversley GP roost, which included Moor Green on the Berkshire side of the

pits, the maximum count was 59 (26 males) on Feb 2nd, whilst the peak count at the nearby Bramshill Plantation roost was in the late year with 19 on Dec 24th. A combined roost count at these two sites on Dec 24th registered a total of 48.

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst		6				5	3	3	3	4	4	1
Ibsley Water (roost)	89	42	41	5					1	40	83	58
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	8		29	8					4		3	1
Eyeworth Pond	6	1										1
Sowley Pond	7	5										
Bramshill Planation (roost)	7	14	2								17	19
Tundry Pond		1										1
Eversley GP (roost)	58	59	3	1					1		16	36
Yateley GP	19	10	5								1	4
WeBS count totals	160	81	73	1	1				12	18	108	84

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

The only double-figure count not shown in the above table was of 15 between Stockbridge and Fullerton on Nov 16th. Records were submitted from numerous sites along The Solent coastline. To the east these included four red-heads off Hill Head from Jan 1st-12th, but which were not reported on 10th when four females were off Black Point in Chichester Harbour in the morning and on the water close to Southsea South Parade Pier in the afternoon. Of the several records from Sandy Point, a first-winter on Oct 10th was early for this site. Winter records also came from Portsmouth Harbour (max. 3, Jan 26th), Fishery Creek (3, Oct 28th) and Langstone Harbour (3, Nov 8th). To the west of Southampton Water there were records from Lepe (1, Jan 19th) and Needs Ore (3, June 24th and Aug 29th). The summering birds at Lymington-Hurst shown above (and presumably the same at Needs Ore) are assumed to have dispersed from the Avon Valley.

In addition to two or three on Southampton Common between Jan 1st and Mar 29th, there was a sprinkling of records from Southampton Water. These included nine on Fawley Reservoir on Jan 25th and five off Weston Shore on 26th. On the Lower Test there were up to four from Jan 1st to Apr 3rd and then again from Oct 19th to the year's end. The highest counts in north Hampshire were at Benyon's Inclosure (7, Jan 6th) and Stratfield Saye (4, Feb 17th), whilst one at Rampton's Lane GP, Mortimer West End on Mar 30th was the first ever for this site. In the Itchen Valley one to three were recorded on three occasions or less in the first winter period at Alresford Pond, Hockley WM south of Winchester and in the Bishopstoke/Itchen Valley CP area.

Breeding was confirmed at Ibsley where a female and five young were observed on the River Avon on May 19th, and at Somerley Park where a female and four young were seen on June 17th. A pair was present at Leckford Village in early May. Two fledged juveniles were on the River Itchen at Highbridge on July 2nd and 4th and, although breeding on the Itchen cannot be assumed from this, it would seem likely. (PFF)

### Red-breasted Merganser

*Mergus serrator*

*Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare inland. Mean maximum WeBS*

*totals 1997-2002: 415; 2002-07: 393; 2007-12: 337; 2012-17: 329.*

*NT, Green, HBAP*

WeBS totals showed a slight improvement on 2018, with numbers marginally higher for the first three months of the year but still well below the recent five-year means (see header), and appreciably so for October. Langstone Harbour, still the principal wintering ground,

recorded a late year maximum of 116 on Nov 23rd. In Portsmouth Harbour there were low double-figure counts for all six winter months, the highest being 42 on Dec 14th. With the exception of a sprinkling of records from Southampton Water and along The Solent coast to Lymington, the highest number being 12 off Tanners Lane on Jan 24th, the only other locality to have regular double-figure counts was Lymington-Hurst with 22 on Feb 19th the annual maximum there.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	88	132	134	8						13	92	85
Hampshire sectors	22	13	39	8						6	25	20
Langstone Harbour	95	93	59	8						46	116	71
Portsmouth Harbour	39	26	41	2						25	34	42
Hill Head/Brownwich	3	5	2	2							2	2
Upper Southampton Water	3		3	4						4	1	3
Lepe-Needs Ore	6	4								1		
Sowley-Lymington	12	8	1								3	
Lymington-Hurst	15	22	11							10	7	16
WeBS count totals	166	145	136							74	128	131

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

Spring passage was evident off Sandy Point in the first week of April with four east on 2nd, three on 5th and five north on 6th, the last group possibly going no further than Langstone or Chichester Harbours. The last spring records were eight off Budds Farm in Langstone Harbour on Apr 22nd and two off Wade Court in Chichester Harbour on Apr 29th, and the first return was at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 1st. (PFF)

### Nightjar (European Nightjar)

*Caprimulgus europaeus*

*Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*ET, Amber, S41, HBAP*

Recorded from 103 tetrads (10%) in 29 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west, south and north-east excluding the chalk downlands. The first spring arrivals were two at Botley Wood on April 23rd and Foxbury Plantation on April 25th. There was no systematic survey of the New Forest, but casual records amounted to approximately 118 churring males, including eight at Foxbury Plantation and six at Shatterford Bottom.

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 106 and 75 churring males respectively, compared to 102 and 72 last year (Table 1). Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows (where appropriate 2018 in parentheses): Alice Holt Forest, 2 (3); Ampfield Wood 4; Badminton Common, 1 (2); Benyon's Inclosure, 3 (6); Biddenfield, 1; Botley Wood, 5 (2); Burton Common 7; Denmead, 2 (3); Great Covert Wood, 2 (1); Hamble Common, 2 (3); Havant Thicket, 1 (1); Hucklesbrook Lake 1; Hut Wood 4 (3); Hythe 1; Keyhaven 2; Hundred Acre Piece, Mortimer West End, 2 (2); Newtown Common, 3 (4); Rownhams Wood, 1 (1); Shootash 2; Sinah Warren 1; Southwick 1; Squabb Wood 1; West Walk, 1 (2); Wickham Common, 1 (1). The final record was a single at Fritham Plain on Sept 10th. (BS)

### Swift (Common Swift)

*Apus apus*

*Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Amber*

The first spring arrival was three over Fleet Pond on Apr 7th. In contrast to 2018, when large April counts of up to 500 were recorded over seven sites, the only double-figure counts in April were ten at Titchfield Haven, Bossington and Trigpoint Hill; 12 at Marlhill Copse; 15 at Ibsley Water and 25 at Hook-with-Warsash, Romsey and Fishlake Meadows. Late arrival of Swifts in numbers was reported widely across the UK associated with poor weather on migration.

During the breeding season counts exceeding 100 were recorded over ten water bodies including 110 over Fishlake Meadows on May 2nd, numerous counts of up to 400 over Blashford Lakes between early May and late June including 200 and 300 over Ibsley Water on May 9th and 28th, 120 over Farlington Marshes on May 26th, 100 over Titchfield Haven on May 26th and June 13th; 252 over Weston Shore on June 8th, 103 over Houghton on June 15th, 112 over Sandy Point, Hayling Island on June 30th, 450 over Keyhaven Marshes on July 20th and 140 over Fleet Pond on July 30th. In addition 150 were reported over Winchester on June 12th, 250 over Hiltisbury and 100 over Romsey on July 22nd, and 300 over Funtley on July 28th. Reports from four areas of higher elevation were 835 at Trigpoint Hill on June 13th, 100 over Portsdown Hill on June 28th, 100 over Gander Down on June 30th and 100 over Longwood Warren on July 31st.



*Swift, Romsey, July 2nd (Andy Tew)*

Records of confirmed breeding in approximately 273 nest sites were submitted from 180 locations via the Hampshire Swifts on-line portal. Low-level screaming parties were reported in an additional 21 locations indicating a high probability of breeding in the immediate vicinity. The Hampshire Swift survey was designed to record the exact locations of Swift nest sites for uploading into the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) database. This information flags up the presence of nest sites when planning applications are submitted. All reports of nest site locations are requested to be entered onto the recording forms found on the Hampshire Swifts website. Hampshire Swifts installs Swift boxes across the county but feedback on the success of these boxes is scarce so all breeding records (Swifts or other species) should also be submitted.

Differentiating the start of return passage from large-scale bad-weather movements and large feeding groups is further complicated by the fact that a high proportion of birds are non-breeders and, especially in years when arrival is delayed, it is not unusual for breeding to continue through into August and even September, albeit in much smaller numbers. Triple-figure counts in August declined from two in the first week, one in the second and third week and none in the last week. There were four reports of more than three in September. The last record was two at Titchfield Haven on Oct 6th. (AMB)

### Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo)

*Cuculus canorus*

*Moderately common but declining summer visitor.*

*Red, S41*

An early arrival was recorded at Acres Down, NF by four separate observers between Mar 31st and Apr 6th. At least ten more were on territory by mid-month (mostly in the New Forest). Widespread reports continued through April, May and June. Observer bias and replication skew the data for this species perhaps more than any other. A measure of numbers is given by summing the maximum monthly counts at each of the 289 sites giving 150, 266 and 289 for each of the above months respectively. An indication of how widespread this species was this year is given by the 1,015 records (cf. 832 in 2018) in 230 tetrads (21%) in 50 ten km squares. The highest numbers of records were from the New Forest, north-east (mostly heathlands) and popular sites such as Titchfield Haven (max. 3), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (max. 2) and Fishlake Meadows (max. 3 males and 2 females on three different dates).

Cuckoo populations have declined by 65% nationally since the 1980s (BTO), and are falling fastest in the south and east, though heathland populations are faring better than wetland/farmland ones. Twelve territories were recorded on the Thames Basin Heaths, up from eight in 2018 (Table 1). Eleven individuals were seen in July including two juveniles being fed in close proximity at Lower Test Marshes. Nine more in August were mostly (or perhaps all) juveniles, with only three coastal sightings at Sandy Point on 1st, Hook-with-Warsash on 12th and Northney on 29th. The last was at Turf Hill Inclosure, NF on 30th. (SKW/MLC)

### Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Numerous resident.

Green

Six localities held three-figure flocks, with a maximum of 450 at Posbrook Flood on Sep 20th. Others were Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (max. 300, Aug 18th); Crondall (300, Nov 3rd); Andover (max. 190, Oct 15th); Chilling (180, Dec 9th) and Southampton Common (100, Oct 5th-6th, Dec 24th). (SKW)

### Stock Dove

*Columba oenas*

Numerous resident and winter visitor.

Amber

Just five counts of grounded birds exceeded 100 all year, the highest being 350 at Trigpoint Hill on the unusual summer date of June 8th. Others were 120 at Tidpit Down on Jan 31st, 150 feeding on stubble at Sowley Pond on Feb 13th, 114 at Janesmoor Plain, NF on Aug 26th and 115 feeding on maize at Exton on Oct 20th. A single at Hurst Castle on Feb 21st was a local rarity.

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 in parenthesis): Longmoor Inclosure, 7 (7). The maximum number of registrations in BBS one km squares was nine at Roundwood Estate, Micheldever on Apr 18th.

There was no significant spring passage. This was followed by post-breeding dispersal in June, with a peak of 52 SW at Trigpoint Hill in one hour on June 2nd (Table 8), and then the now familiar October-November main passage with a maximum of 115 SW at Tweseldown on Oct 9th. The table of passage totals below illustrates clearly the peak movement in late October. Overall numbers were similar to last year but the peak was up to a month later. (SKW)

	Sep 1-10	Sep 11-20	Sep 21-30	Oct 1-10	Oct 11-20	Oct 21-31	Nov 1-10	Nov 11-20	Nov 21-30	Dec 1-10	Dec 11-20	Dec 21-31
Totals	66	37	155	426	528	814	360	140	11	25	32	13

### Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

*Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 629 tetrads (59%) in 55 ten km squares making it the most widespread species in terms of tetrad coverage. Four grounded winter flocks reached four figures with a maximum of 2,000 at Hambledon on Dec 7th. Others were 1,000 at Upton Grey on Feb 16th, 1,100 at Wildhern on Dec 11th and 1,000 at Swanmore on Dec 16th. Diligent work by surveyors recorded 82 territories at Bolinge Hill Farm, Buriton and 70 in Longmoor Inclosure (cf. 55 in 2018).

As usual, spring movements were limited to small numbers. A total of 1,689 moved NE in the period up to early May including an interesting movement of 300 at Trigpoint Hill on July 17th. Apparently mid-summer movements are not without precedent, but are rarely recorded.

Autumn movements began as early as Aug 21st, and were significant (but intermittent) from mid-September onwards with the usual peak in early November. Maximum daily counts during the last few days of October included 8,170 west in 2.4 hours on 28th at Barton on Sea, 4,050 NW in one hour on the same day at Weston Shore and 4,300 SW at Tweseldown on 29th.

Movements increased to higher levels in the first ten days of November with an exceptional 31,890 west at Barton on Sea in 3.5 hours on 6th, 11, 440 W/NW at Chilling in 3.5 hours on 8th and 9,430 W/NW at Weston Shore in 2.5 hours on 9th. Several observers noted that the autumn passage was more protracted than usual but the total is below average being just above last year's low of 112,372. The table below summarises movement totals in each week of the period between Oct 15th and Dec 16th. (SKW)

	Oct 15-21	Oct 22-28	Oct 29 -Nov 4	Nov 5-11	Nov 12-18	Nov 19-25	Nov 26 -Dec 2	Dec 3-9	Dec 10-16	Totals
Moving SE/SW/NW	3,646	30,048	16,263	57,629	6,525	1,090	500			115,701
Moving N/E			100	986	165	300	180			1,731
Totals	3,646	30,048	16,363	58,615	6,690	1,390	680			117,432
Days with movements	7	6	6	7	6	2	3			37

### Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove)

*Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S41, HBAP

The first spring record came from Wootton, NF on Apr 15th followed by two singles in separate gardens in Totton on Apr 25th. Other spring migrants, all singles, were subsequently seen at Sandy Point (Hayling Island), Farlington Marshes and Bolderwood, NF in May.

In the stronghold at Martin Down the first record was on Apr 30th and the last on Aug 3rd. Coordinated counts at the reserve in early June yielded up to 14 territories, the same as in 2018. Elsewhere there was an encouraging number of possible breeding records, particularly in the South Downs, with reports from Bishop's Waltham, Corhampton Down, Preshaw and Shirrell Heath. Multiple records of between one and three throughout the summer indicated at least three territories in the local area around Finchdean and Chalton Down aided by initiatives under RSPB's Operation Turtle Dove. Outside the South Downs, two were seen at both Longparish and Litchfield in May and a singing male was heard once at Botley Wood in July. Remarkably, after a pair bred successfully at Oakhanger, with an adult and two fledged young noted on Sep 22nd and two still present on Oct 2nd, one of the adults remained and was consistently recorded throughout the remainder of the year.

Late summer/autumn migrants were noted as singles at Titchfield Haven and Swanmore followed by the last flushed along the Ancient Highway at Keyhaven on Aug 27th. (MJA)



Turtle Dove, Oakhanger, Dec 12th (Richard Ford)

## Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove)

*Streptopelia decaocto*

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Four gatherings exceeded 50, three of them at Lower Test Marshes during August-September with a maximum of 82 on Sep 30th. The other high count was 72 at Cheriton on Dec 31st. No observers commented on a decline in abundance, contrary to some recent years. No significant movements were noted with only a combined total of 14 NE/SW at the two "vismig" stations of Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown during Oct 6th to Dec 21st (Table 8). (SKW)

## Water Rail

*Rallus aquaticus*

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records for January to April involved a minimum of 150 at 71 sites (cf. 108 at 64 sites in 2018). Locations at which five or more were recorded included Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (23, Apr 17th), Fishlake Meadows (monthly maxima 11, Jan 17th; 11, Feb 19th; 5, Mar 2nd; 6, Apr 9th).

Breeding was confirmed or probable at Hook-with-Warsash, Itchen Water Works (2 pairs, courtship calls, 1 juvenile), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (23 territories), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (fledged young), Blashford Lakes (3 calling), Fishlake Meadows, Alresford Pond (1 fledged young) and Fleet Pond.

Records between September and December included a total of 168 at 67 sites (cf. 2018: 151 at 69 sites in 2018). Locations at which five or more were recorded included Titchfield Haven (15, Nov 11th), Fishlake Meadows (monthly maxima 7, Sep 15th; 7, Oct 20th; 7, Nov 17th; 20, Dec 22nd). (JS)

## Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Very scarce passage migrant, most frequent in autumn, and rare winter visitor; has bred, (?180,1) ET, Schedule 1, Amber

A single was at Hook Links from Sep 15th-17th (RKL, TjL et al., photo). (KFB)

## Moorhen (Common Moorhen)

*Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Green

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	44	39	58	19	14		13	9	20	31	48	58
Hampshire sectors	16	16	26	7	6		5	5	12	19	32	30
Langstone Harbour	80	57	54	37	21	14	13	17	16	37	56	54
Portsmouth Harbour	53	39	35	2	1	3	1	3	20	26	33	36
Blashford Lakes	18	9	13	11	3	9	9	20	19	26	15	23
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	30	28	25	9	10	13	21	37	24	14	8	12
Edenbrook CP	23	22	14	9	9	7	8	44	21	12	44	23
King's Pond, Alton	36	28	12	14	10	10		19	21	27	40	27
Heath Pond, Petersfield	31	26	20	15	11	12	21	20	29	29	36	38

Other sites with counts of 25 or more included Fleet Pond (26, Feb 17th), Eversley GP (28, Oct 15th) and Yateley GP (29, Nov 18th; 28, Oct 15th).

Breeding was widespread with juveniles reported at Edenbrook CP (26), Blashford Lakes (Ivy Lake, Ibsley Water and Lapwing Hide Silt Pond), Sandy Point (1), Chawton Park Farm (1), Farleigh Hill, Itchen Valley CP, Shawford, below St Catherine's Hill, Farlington Marshes (1), Milton Common, Greywell, Rotherwick, Eyeworth Pond, Eastrop Park, Wildern (1), Marhill Copse (1), Southampton Common (2), Southampton Riverside Park (2), Woodmill, Ranvilles Lane (2), Titchfield Haven, IBM Lake (4 broods), Atners Hill and the Bunny, Bransbury Common,

Fishlake Meadows, Leckford Great Common, Ivy Farm, Longstock South, Marsh Court, Three Halves Copse (1) and Testbourne Lake (1). Five pairs bred at Itchen Water Works. Breeding success at Fleet Pond was again reported as poor with broods from 15-20 pairs. (JS)

## Coot (Eurasian Coot)

*Fulica atra*

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

NT, Green

WeBS counts were a little lower than last year although the peak of 2,963 in January was slightly above the recent five-year average (see header). 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	411	293	169	55	37	14	57	77	165	257	304	375
Hampshire sectors	99	88	36	12	9		21	29	54	47	70	45
Lymington-Hurst	112	87	83	49	70	84	128	123	28	17	122	143
Blashford Lakes	1,388	1,350	435	95	58	322	346	560	650	776	771	756
Testbourne Lake	105	87	32	25	19	21	38	70	50	90	90	95
Eversley GP	338	243	118	70					168	210	270	269
Yateley GP	197	113	111						156	145	185	191
Heath Pond, Petersfield	94	80	59	32	33	53	71	81	93	97	104	106
WeBS count totals	2,963	2,665	1,434	525	242	661	655	995	1,638	1,906	2,068	2,001

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

Other sites holding 50 or more included Testbourne Lake (95, Dec 17th), Alresford Pond (77, Aug 8th), Warnford Park (71, Dec 15th), Portsmouth Harbour (64, Dec 14th) and Farlington Marshes (53, Dec 27th).

Counts of breeding pairs/broods included the following (2018 figures in parentheses): IBM Lake, 4 (6); Hook-with-Warsash, 3 (4); Avington Lake, 2 (3); The Grange Lake, 1 (3); Alresford Pond, 3 (2); Wellington CP, 9 (4); Fox Lane GP, Eversley, 2; Fleet Pond, 8 (10); King's Pond, Alton, 5 (5). (JS)

## Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Green

A count of 98 at Portsmouth Harbour on Jan 19th was the highest since 2009 and contributed to the WeBS January total and monthly maximum of 317, which by contrast was the lowest for the period 2005-19. Monthly maxima at sites where counts equalled or exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Hbr-East Hayling	44	56	32	6	7	8	9	11	32	35	52	30
Langstone Harbour	37	32	22	12	5	12	7	10	19	25	31	26
Portsmouth Harbour	98	77	38	2	2	7	6	4	37	47	66	55
Lymington-Hurst	21	22	13	5	8	22	5	14	8	13	22	25
Blashford Lakes	14	16	23	19	14	25	31	48	55	30	26	17
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	30	22	13	5	6	14	14	36	37	26	45	40
Testbourne Lake	9	8	6	2	8	5	10	22	16	22	13	7
WeBS count totals	317	273	185	75	38	93	80	136	265	270	296	223

Double-figure counts elsewhere were made at 13 sites and included totals of 12 from the lower Hamble Estuary (Jan 21st, Oct 27th), Busta Triangle (Aug 20th), Avon Valley above Ibsley (Sep 15th and Oct 3rd) and The Vyne Lake (Nov 16th, 29th).

Successful breeding was reported from 22 sites. Nest building was noted, without later confirmation, at another three and territorial behaviour at a further 24. Young were noted at IBM Lake (6, June 14th), Hook-with-Warsash (3, July 23rd) and Bourley Bottom (3, 26th). A group of 20 at Testbourne Lake on Aug 7th included fledged young. At Blashford Lakes successful breeding was recorded at Ibsley Water, Mockbeggar Silt Pond, Ellingham Lake and probably Ivy Lake. A count of 26 at Ibsley North Lake on Aug 30th included 16 juveniles from an estimated eight broods. Nine at The Grange Lake on Sep 4th included three independent juveniles and a pair with one young. (AFJC)



Little Grebe, Riverside Park, Dec 4th (Ian Williamson)

### Red-necked Grebe

*Podiceps grisegena*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Red

Two records. Singles were seen along the Emsworth Channel from Black Point on Feb 18th (ACJ) and on the sea off Eastoke on Oct 31st before flying east (ACJ), (photo). (AFJC)

### Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*

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

Green

The WeBS year maximum of 252 in January was the lowest since 2012, possibly due to the lack of freezing conditions inland in the first half of the month. The highest count of 100 off Brownwich on Jan 21st was a minimum as others noted east of Hill Head were not included. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 in two or more months are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour-East Hayling	10	24	36	19	20	4	2	1	7	27	51	18
Langstone Harbour	39	40	33	22	47	4	11	26	24	37	33	30
Portsmouth Harbour	15	28	20						3	5	40	11
Hill Head-Brownwich	100	92	14	24	4	3	4	5	4	6	20	20
Southampton Water	71	30	34	12	5	10	9	4	16	10	24	17
Blashford Lakes	25	17	42	41	30	47	34	59	54	45	23	23
Fleet Pond	11	17	14	16	11	8	4	11	21	24	16	17
WeBS count totals	252	214	245	128	79	77	51	77	174	210	208	146

Southampton Water numbers are principally roost counts observed from Weston Shore or Hythe Marina. Notable peaks were also recorded at Yateley GP (15, Jan 18th-Feb 15th), Eversley GP (22, Apr 20th), Fishlake Meadows (16, Aug 3rd), Dogmersfield Lake (10, Aug 24th to Sep 15th), Lymington-Hurst (21, Nov 9th) and Wellington CP (13, Dec 20th).

Breeding was confirmed at 11 sites and suspected at a further five. At Blashford Lakes breeding was attempted at least on Ivy Lake (4 pairs, at least 2 young reared), Mockbeggar Lake (1 brood, 3 juveniles, Aug 30th) and Ibsley North (adult pair, 1 juvenile, Sep 29th) and young were also reared at both Blashford (Spinnaker) Lake and Ibsley Water. Elsewhere counts of young were made as follows: Fishlake Meadows (2), Testwood Lakes (3), Titchfield Haven (2, nested along river), Timsbury (3), Badshot Lea (2), Bramshill Park Lake (1 and 2, two broods), Tundry Pond (1, first successful breeding since 1996), Eversley GP (1), Fleet Pond (2) and Heath Pond, Petersfield (1). Young were also seen at Ash Vale GP. (AFJC)



Great Crested Grebe with young on its back, River Test, Timsbury, June 30th (Richard Jacobs)

### Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe)

*Podiceps auritus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

Peak counts of six were made at Needs Ore on Jan 22nd and Black Point on Dec 23rd. Multiple early year sightings were confined to Beaulieu Estuary (14 dates, 2-6), Oxy Lake area (three dates, max. 3, Feb 10th) and Chichester Harbour entrance (3 moulting into summer plumage, Mar 16th). Solitary individuals appeared at the three main sites and between Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head on a further 19 dates. The last of the early year was off Needs Ore on Mar 18th.

The first return was reported on Sep 18th, equalling the previous earliest date, off Solent Breezes drifting north-west into Southampton Water and was seen mainly off Hill Head until Oct 3rd. The next was present at the north end of Langstone Harbour from Oct 20th to at least Nov 12th. The first West Solent arrival was off Normandy on Nov 3rd. One was subsequently present throughout the winter, with two on five dates and four on Dec 27th, with possible excursions to Beaulieu Estuary on four dates between Nov 24th and Dec 28th. Inland one was at Ivy Lake (photo, per RAC) on Nov 18th. At Sandy Point and nearby Black Point there were no sightings until Nov 22nd, but one or two were regular thereafter until Dec 23rd. One was off Hill Head on Dec 17th and 30th. Monthly maxima from the main sites are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point-Sandy Point		1	3	2							2	6
Langstone Harbour										1	1	1
Lee-on-the-Solent-Weston Shore	1	1							1	2		1
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	6	5	2								1	2
Lymington-Hurst	1	3	1								2	4
Approx. monthly totals	8	10	6	2					1	3	7	14

## Black-necked Grebe

*Podiceps nigricollis*

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

*Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP*

There were four counts of 18 for the Langstone Harbour wintering group from Jan 1st to Feb 22nd, an increase of four from December 2018 and the same total as early 2018. Numbers declined in March with 12 on 23rd and the last three on 25th. Long-stayers elsewhere in the early year included one at Ibsley Water until Mar 9th, two at Weston Shore until Feb 10th and two on Beaulieu River from Jan 20th to Feb 2nd. The last of the early year was off Royal Victoria CP, Southampton on Apr 5th.

The first returns were five off the Oysterbeds at West Hayling LNR on Oct 22nd. This group may have accounted for the sighting off Hill Head on Nov 7th, returning to Langstone Harbour by Nov 10th where numbers then grew to a peak of 11 on Dec 4th. In November singles were off Black Point on 6th and Hill Head on 8th followed by two there on 16th. At Ibsley Water an arrival on Nov 28th stayed into 2020 and was joined by another from Dec 20th apart from three there on Dec 2nd. One off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Dec 25th was the only record there. Monthly maxima from the principal localities and the approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (AF/C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	18	18	12							5	9	11
Hill Head - Weston Shore	2	2		1							5	
Ibsley Water	1	1	1								1	3
Approx. monthly totals	23	23	13	1						5	13	15

## Stone-curlew (Eurasian Stone-curlew)

*Burhinus oedicanus*

*Scarce summer visitor and localized breeder.*

*ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP*

The first report was of two near Porton Down on Feb 25th. Although this is not the earliest county record, it is equal to the earliest sighting in a breeding area which was set in 1938.

After the shortage of fieldworkers reported in 2018, a new volunteer team was established to fill any gaps. As a result close to full coverage was achieved. The RSPB team found 24 pairs on territory across the county, most of which were proved to breed, with 35 nesting attempts in total fledging a minimum of 13 young. This is comparable to the 23 pairs found nesting in 2017. Comparisons with 2018 are not realistic because a number of regular breeding sites were not monitored that year. In addition it is understood that about another eight pairs nested on land which is not signed up to the RSPB scheme. Hampshire currently supports 18% of the breeding population in the Wessex area.



Stone-curlew, North Hampshire, Mar 30th (Barry Stalker)

It was a good year for Stone-curlews in terms of weather conditions. The relatively mild winter may have meant that invertebrate survival was good, helping provide food for chicks during the season. This also meant that plot management was carried out in good time for returning birds. There were no periods of prolonged cold or wet weather, it was warm in early April for nesting to begin, and it stayed mild very late in the year, encouraging later nesting attempts and giving them time to complete.

Autumn roosts started to gather early with 30 together near Kingsclere on Aug 27th declining to 13 by Sep 5th. However close to Porton Down there were 53 on Sep 22nd, 43 on Sep 27th and 20 on Oct 13th, which was the last sighting. (KFB)

## Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher)

*Haematopus ostralegus*

*Scarce resident and moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum*

*WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,711; 2002-07: 3,784; 2007-12: 3,110; 2012-17: 2,767. VU, Amber*

WeBS counts were higher compared to 2018 in January and from September with a maximum of 3,082 in December (cf. peak of 2,850 in Nov 2018). 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	1,049	987	557	314	203	201	265	633	845	906	1,218	642
Hampshire sectors	48	45	44	6	4	2	9	9	9	48	196	95
Black Point	145	165	69	32	8	8	5	17	77	119	151	140
Langstone Harbour	727	820	320	315	200	72	397	773	1251	862	911	1,278
Portsmouth Harbour	574	216	128	25					612	1350	691	433
Titchfield Haven	220	135	77	61	75	34	47	76	140	180	170	196
Hamble Estuary	112	184	14	45	8	19	70	225	310	190	147	149
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	42	38	28	20	14	7	10	30	68	66	56	51
Hythe	39	35	26	8		20		224	242	118	100	77
Calshot	600	400	300	2				40	1	520	500	500
Beaulieu Estuary	129	70	107	91	110	62	117	181	91	9	74	83
Lymington-Hurst	100	96	93	97	53	45	58	56	148	80	77	150
Sowley-Lymington	12	7	15	9	6	10	5	6	2			
WeBS count totals	2,457	1,999	1,259	629	342	217	631	1,293	2,601	3,296	2,871	3,082

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

Counts of breeding pairs from east to west along the coast were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): IBM Lake, 1 (1); Titchfield Haven, 1 (4); Hook-with-Warsash, 2 (3); Needs Ore, 16 (12); Sowley-Lymington, 5; Lymington-Hurst, 8 (9). Pairs were also reported at Blashford Lakes (3); Park Shore (1); Centurion Business Park, Southampton (1 probable nest); Quayside Road, Southampton (3 pairs, 2 juveniles) and Hythe (1).

Inland a group was heard flying north over Bishopstoke at 21:25 on March 25th. One or two were also recorded at Yateley GP on Mar 22nd; Exbury, NF on Mar 23rd; Hatchet Pond, NF on Mar 26th, Apr 19th and May 3rd; Burnt Comon on Apr 13th; Fishlake Meadows on Apr 21st; Stratfield Saye Park on June 26th; Heath Pond, Petersfield on Aug 7th. (JS)

## Avocet† (Pied Avocet)

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

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

*ET, Schedule 1, Amber*

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below. The highest counts in winter were at Farlington Marshes (53, Jan 12th; 54, Dec 30th) and in summer at Titchfield Haven (101, July 2nd) following dispersal from Needs Ore (max. 67, May 19th) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (max. 68, May 25th).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour:	34		7								43	29
Langstone Harbour/ Farlington Marshes	53	38	17	26	24	22	30	13	12	30	45	54
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1	42	34	26	26	99	101	22	7	12	5	1
Hook-with-Warsash/ Hamble Estuary		2	2		7	2		4				
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore/ Park Shore	19	19	30	58	67	40	12	10	4	4	20	19
Lymington-Hurst	25	13	29	30	68	59	15	13	9	3	12	16
WeBS count totals	78	16	91	125	124	45	40	19	4	18	60	63

Other coastal sightings were at Bury Marshes/Dibden Bay/Eling Great Marsh (1, Feb 11th; 1, Mar 12th and 23rd); Weston Shore (1, Mar 27th); Brownwich (1, Oct 23rd) and Hythe (2, Nov 24th). There was also an unusual inland record of one at The Vyne Lake on May 13th.

The only reported movement involved small numbers at Sandy Point (2 E, May 16th; 4 W, Aug 30th; 5 E, Sep 21st).

Breeding numbers continued to increase despite predation pressures. Breeding was confirmed at Needs Ore/Park Shore (40 pairs, 33 juveniles), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (at least 19 pairs and 11 young at three separate locations), Farlington Marshes (ten pairs but heavily predated by foxes, 4 fledged) and Titchfield Haven (6 pairs all predated by foxes). Elsewhere a pair was observed nest scraping at Hook-with-Warsash on May 17th but there was no evidence of subsequent breeding. At Needs Ore the 40 pairs were divided between two sites with 20 pairs at Site A and 20 pairs at Site B. Unfortunately none managed to hatch chicks at Site A due to predation including from Great Black-backed Gull, Grey Heron and Raven. Falling water levels also allowed other predators easier access. The situation was very different at Site B where all pairs hatched young and at least 33 survived (see separate paper on p.210). Thus in total at least 70 pairs attempted breeding at five sites (counting Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes as a single site) compared to around 50 pairs at six sites in 2018. (JS)

## Lapwing (Northern Lapwing)

### *Vanellus vanellus*

*Moderately common but declining breeder, passage migrant and common winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 13,580; 2002-07: 11,565; 2007-12: 5,516; 2012-17: 6,024.*

*VU, Red, S41, HBAP*

The WeBS maximum of 3,822 in January was significantly lower than the peak of 5,821 in February 2018 and continues the downward trend of wintering numbers (see header).

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	865	248	5	1	6	8	41	30	64	325	479	1,081
Hampshire sectors	99	70					4	6	15	43	65	49
Langstone Harbour	424	207	29	25	42	34	18	48	97	100	202	345
Titchfield Haven area	350	200	40	8	14	39	47	39	84	100	142	227
Dibden Bay	655	370	8	1		2				26	20	607
Hythe		426								3	200	149
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	750	1,000+	100	49	39	24	18	47		105	400+	800
Lymington-Hurst	653	438	46	53	50	36	38	99	130	240	461	870
Winchester SF	927	832	3	3	2	12	1	12	15	30	108	300
WeBS count totals	3,822	2,138	250	100	93	165	191	257	524	756	1,605	3,104

Other sites where 200 or more were reported included Trigpoint Hill (252, Feb 2nd), Wattons Ford (315, Feb 10th), Tidpit Down (300, Feb 10th), South Wonston (480, Nov 16th), Lower Test Marshes (200, Dec 25th) and Hamer Warren Lakes (200+, Dec 30th).

There were no large movements. The only counts of 50 or more were at Trigpoint Hill (87 NW, Jan 10th; 131 SW, Feb 2nd; 85 NE, Dec 2nd) and Saddlers Mill (60 S, Feb 17th),

Breeding season reports referred to approximately 114 territories or pairs (cf. 98 in 2018) from the following localities (2018 numbers in parentheses): Abbottswood, Romsey, 1 (0); Bishopstoke, 2 (3); Busta Triangle, 2 (0); Fox Lane GP, Eversley, 1 (1); Exton, 1 (0); Farlington Marshes, 34 (15); Fobdown, Alresford, 1 (0); Gander Down, 1 (0); Ibsley Water, 8 (12); Ibsley/Harbridge WM, 1 (0); Longwood Warren, 1 (0); Lymington-Hurst, 36 (24); Needs Ore, 18 (20); Nether Wallop, 4 (0); Selborne, 3 (0); Testwood Lakes (1); Titchfield Haven, 2 (6); Wildmoor, 3 (0); Winchester SF, 1 (0); Woodcote, 1 (0); Woolmer Forest, 1 (0) and Woolmer Pond, 1 (1). Reports of possible breeding were also received from a number of other localities but the information was insufficient to establish whether territorial pairs were established. In addition the Avon Valley GWCT project found 75 pairs on territory within the Hampshire part (cf. 46 pairs in 2018). At Farlington Marshes 19 pairs fledged 26 young. Other sites where chicks were seen included Bishopstoke (1); Busta Triangle (1); Fox Lane GP, Eversley (2); Exton (1); Gander Down (1); Ibsley/Harbridge WM (2); Needs Ore (6). (JS)

## Golden Plover (European Golden Plover)

### *Pluvialis apricaria*

*Common but declining winter visitor and passage migrant; very scarce in summer. ET, Green, HBAP*

The last spring record was Apr 27th and the earliest return was on 17th July, both at Titchfield Haven. The highest numbers were recorded in the early year at Mill Rithe, Hayling Island (700, Jan 16th) and in the late year at Longwood Warren (700, Dec 14th) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (710, Dec 27th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	195	6									325	46
Hampshire sectors	30	75									250	
Black Point-Mill Rithe	700									2	500	
Titchfield Haven area	56	220		1			1		11	30	2	40
Lymington-Hurst	400	320	200	1				1	25	80	260	710
Overton/Wootton St Lawrence area	105									250		250
Middle Wallop area				104					1	150		80
Odiham area										120	500	60
Winchester SF	387	450										
Cheesefoot Head area		100	1	32						220	150	700

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

Other sightings of over 100 included Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (109, Feb 3rd); Warnford Park (150, Apr 3rd); Selborne (113, Oct 23rd; 100, Dec 8th); Langstone Harbour (120, Oct 26th); Willesley Warren (100, Nov 10th); Warsash (50, Dec 1st); Beauworth (400, Dec 22nd) and South Warnborough (400, Dec 31st),

Movements of 50 or more included Monk Sherborne (50 S, Jan 1st); Ibsley Water (68 N, Feb 2nd); Winchester SF (100 S, Feb 28th); Hillside, Odiham (500 SW, Nov 24th); Trigpoint Hill (80 NE, Nov 29th); North Houghton (80 W, Dec 28th). Three were also recorded as nocturnal flight calls at St Cross, Winchester on Nov 20th. (JS)



Adult American Golden Plover moulting from summer plumage, Keyhaven Lagoon, Aug 13th (Clayton Jones)

## American Golden Plover

*Pluvialis dominica*

Very rare vagrant. (0,5,1)

An adult in moulting summer plumage was found at Keyhaven Lagoon from 08:45-08:56 on Aug 13th (CDJ, photo). The bird flew off but was present just long enough for photographs to be obtained.

There have been five previous records, four of which were in the Keyhaven/Pennington area and one was at Farlington. Three of these records were in autumn in the more typical months of October and November. (KFB)

## Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Moderately common but declining winter visitor and passage migrant; often present in small numbers in summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,087; 2002-07: 2,346; 2007-12: 1,824; 2012-17: 1,584. Amber, HBAP

Except for September, WeBS counts were less than in 2018 with a maximum of only 999 in January compared to 1,527 in January 2018. Increased numbers in Chichester Harbour in the late year are a possible reason why Hampshire totals were not higher at this time. Langstone Harbour remained the stronghold with the highest numbers in most winter months.

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	957	407	4		28		2	2	117	523	1,073	895
Hampshire sectors	25	41	8				3	31	21	35	81	38
Langstone Harbour	511	210	4	4	14		2	92	286	111	500	471
Hamble Estuary	57	47	11	2			1	5	6	16	36	43
Hythe	58	42	11					2	9	30	54	126
Beaulieu Estuary	185	82	35	1	9				2	53	73	163
Sowley-Lymington	70	80		18	30	4	1		50	15	8	30
Lymington-Hurst	128	210	60	35	11	2	1	80	81	40	33	200
WeBS count totals	999	487	115	20	62	5	1	69	432	264	778	829

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

Movements were limited to small numbers with reports in spring and autumn from Sandy Point, Hayling Island (1 E, Apr 5th; 4 E May 14th); Hill Head (1 E, May 5th; 25 E, May 14th; 2 E, May 15th); Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (24E, May 6th; 20E, May 13th); Lymington-Hurst (1 E, May 25th; 1 E, May 26th) and Brownwich (1 W, Oct 22nd). (JS)

## Ringed Plover† (Common Ringed Plover)

*Charadrius hiaticula*

Scarce and declining breeder, moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 872; 2002-07: 809; 2007-12: 691; 2012-17: 630. Red

WeBS counts exceeded last year in six out of 12 months. Whilst 158 in August was lower than last year's peak (cf. 497 in August 2018), September-November counts were significantly higher than the corresponding months in 2018 with peaks of 494 in September and 495 in November. However these remain lower than the previous five-year average mean maximum (see header). 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	126	4	63	20	138	28	12	12	60	172	86	28
Hampshire sectors	53				13			22		71	67	9
Black Point	46	47	23	6	10		12	88	102	100	90	64
Hayling Island Sandy Point	1			1	2			60	138	75	30	12
Northney										85		140
Langstone Harbour	117	88	19	1	18	2	7	215	349	143	175	165
Portsmouth Harbour	7	20							18	20	26	4
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	50	15			5	1	1	25	15	14	15	30
Hamble Estuary	42	31	4	5	16	3	17	65	35	36	21	24
Weston Shore	10				2				21		15	
Hythe/Calshot	47	60	25			6	8	29	60	150	123	30
Beaulieu Estuary	13	18	5	18	4	15	1	11	62	54	20	4
Lymington-Hurst	15	113	20	22	23	6	8	35	118	100	78	54
Hurst Castle	92											32
Lepe		6			3		1		62	54	20	
WeBS count totals	213	279	60	11	35	13	7	158	494	439	495	133

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

Other non-tabulated sites where over 20 were observed included Dibden Bay/Hythe Marina (35, Jan 29th); Stokes Bay (85, Feb 11th); Gunner Point, Hayling Island (25, Mar 20th); Weston Shore (21, Sep 21st) and Lee-on-the-Solent (60, Oct 27th). Inland records included one at Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) on Aug 21-23rd. The only movements reported were at Lepe (3 E, May 8th) and inland at Tweseldown (1 W, Oct 5th).

Breeding pairs were reported in the following localities (2018 numbers in parentheses): Hook-with-Warsash, 1 (2); Cracknore Hard, 1 (0); Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, 15 (16). Fledged young were subsequently noted at Hook-with-Warsash (1), Cracknore Hard (2) and Normandy Marsh (2). (JS)

## Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

The first arrival was a very early bird at Ibsley Water from Mar 3rd-5th. Another was there from Mar 13th onwards. Elsewhere the first was at Edenbrook CP on Mar 19th with records following from a further 11 locations up to the end of the month. Migrants away from known breeding sites included singles at Hook-with-Warsash on Mar 24th and Stansore Point, Lepe on Apr 1st and two at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 9th.

Around 30-31 pairs were located as shown below. It was a disappointing breeding season with only 22 young known to have been raised.

Site	Maximum number of pairs present	Breeding data
Abbottswood, Romsey	1	2 young raised
Badminton GP	1-2	No young seen
Barton Stacey	1	4 young raised
Bourley & Long Valley and nearby	2	1 pair made 2 attempts; both failed at egg stage. 1 pair appeared with 2 juveniles from unknown nearby site
Burnt Common	3	3 pairs raised 7 young
Busta Triangle	2	1 pair raised 2 young
Edenbrook CP	3	1 pair raised 1 young on nearby building site
Eversley Common	3	No young seen, probably overlooked
Fishtail Lagoon	2	1 pair raised 1 young
Ibsley Water	5	5 pairs attempted, no young fledged
Normandy Lagoon	2	1 pair raised 1 young
Rampton's Lane GP	1	Probably failed at egg stage.
Ripley Farm Reservoir	3	1 pair raised 1 young
Testbourne Lake and nearby	1	1 young raised

It is difficult to be sure whether other records, particularly at coastal locations, refer to migrants or breeding attempts in the vicinity. Such records included those from Farlington Marshes (4, Mar 23rd; 1 or 2, Apr 1st to June 26th; 1 juv, June 26th; 2 juvs, July 3rd), Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (3, Mar 29th; 2, May 5th), Titchfield Haven/Posbrook Flood (2, Mar 29th; 2, May 5th; 1 from June 20th increasing to 3 ads, July 11th; 1 juv, 12th; 5 ads, 15th; 1-2 including 1 juv until Aug 15th), Woolmer Pond (1/2, Mar 31st-May 18th), Fleet Pond (1-3, Apr 3rd to May 1st), Moorcourt Farm (pair on flooded field, Apr 6th), Testwood Lakes (1 or 2, Apr 12th to May 8th), Needs Ore (3, Apr 17th; 2, Apr 20th; 1, May 16th-31st; 2, July 6th), Hamer Warren (3, Apr 28th; 1, June 22nd); Blackbushe Airfield (1, Apr 30th), The Vyne (1, June 9th) and Hythe (1 or 2, July 13th to Aug 11th including 1 juv on final date),

Other autumn records came from Hook-with-Warsash (max. 3 at any one time, June 19th to July 31st but at least 2 males, 2 females and 1 juv during July 1st-16th) and Alresford Pond (1, Aug 3rd-9th). Locally bred juveniles were still at Busta Triangle and Edenbrook CP on Aug 15th and 22nd respectively. The only later records were one at Fishtail Lagoon from Sep 1st-3rd and on 9th, one at Titchfield Haven on 3rd, two at Farlington Marshes on 15th, one heard flying over North Baddesley on the evening of Sep 25th and a late bird at Ibsley Water from Oct 1st-4th. (JMC)

## Kentish Plover

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

*Rare passage migrant with one wintering record. (2,58,1) ET, Schedule 1*

A juvenile was with Ringed Plovers and Sanderlings at a high tide roost on Eastoke seafront from 13:20-15:40 on Sep 2nd (ACJ et al., photo). It was present again at the same location on Sep 7th, but not on the intervening days.

After an absence between 2009 and 2017, this was a welcome sighting. Kentish Plovers are now considered so rare that they have been added back to the list of species considered by BBRC. (KFB)



*Kentish Plover, Sandy Point, Sep 2nd (Andy Johnson)*



*Two Dotterels, one of which is in transition to summer plumage, Cheesefoot Head, Apr 7th (Simon M. King)*

## Dotterel (Eurasian Dotterel)

*Charadrius morinellus*

*Rare passage migrant with one wintering record. (8,109,2)*

*ET, Schedule 1, Red*

Two were at Cheesefoot Head from Apr 6th-8th (TRMJ et al., photo). This is the earliest spring record and only the sixth sighting in April. The previous earliest record was on Apr 15th 1996. This species is mostly seen in the first week of May. The Cheesefoot Head area has had migrants in spring on four previous occasions, most recently in 2011. (KFB)

## Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus*

*Moderately common passage migrant; very scarce but increasing in winter. Schedule 1, Red*

In the early year there were up to five wintering with regular reports of two in the Bury Marsh/Eling area, one or two in Chichester Harbour on four dates, singles in Langstone Harbour on two dates and in the Lymington area on three dates. One on March 27th at Weston Shore may have been the first passage bird. One was heard flying north over Snails Lake on Apr 2nd and one was seen at Titchfield on 3rd. Spring records continued throughout April and May with small numbers recorded along the coast. The only grounded counts over 30 were at Pennington Marshes (40, Apr 8th) and Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes (35, Apr 19th; 70, Apr 20th; 48, May 3rd).

Passage movements were recorded from Apr 5th with two past Sandy Point and a further 627 east or north until May 22nd. Notable peak counts were recorded at Hurst Beach (100, Apr 24th) and Hill Head (60 Apr 15th; 48, Apr 17th; 30, Apr 20th; 51, May 13th). Inland records came from Blashford Lakes/Ibsley Water with singles on Apr 25th, 30th and May 5th and three on May 7th; seven NE over Acres Down on Apr 28th; one over Round Hill at night on Apr 29th and one at Chilbolton on May 3rd. June records comprised one at Ibsley Water and two at Titchfield Haven on 1st, two at Needs Ore on 2nd, and singles at Hook-with-Warsash on 4th, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes between 9th and 22nd, Calshot on 15th and Lepe on 22nd.

Autumn passage started in late June with singles in Langstone Harbour and Portsmouth Harbour on 26th and Southampton Water between 27th-29th commuting between Weston Shore and Hythe. In July and August there were widespread single-figure records from coastal sites with double-figure counts at Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour (12, July 5th; 11, 3rd Aug), Frater Shore (22, July 8th rising to a maximum of 54, July 17th) and Bury Marshes (13, Aug 3rd). Throughout September there were reports of mostly singles along the coast with a notable inland record of one feeding at Frost Hill, Overton on 4th. One remained at Sandy Point until Oct 15th with it or another at Hayling Oysterbeds on Oct 20th and Chichester

Harbour on Oct 26th and Nov 23rd. Up to four were reported at Eling/Bury Marshes from Oct 20th until year end. The only other records in this period were singles at Farlington, Warsash and Pennington Marshes. (ASR)

### **Curlew (Eurasian Curlew)**

*Numenius arquata*

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce and declining breeder, mainly in the New Forest. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 2,850; 2002-07: 3,078; 2007-12: 2,933; 2012-17: 2,493.*

*VU, Red, S4I*

WeBS numbers dropped from the high December 2018 total of 1,511 to 1,048 in January due to lower numbers in Langstone Harbour but rose again in February and March to the largest WeBS totals of the year of 1,461 and 1,453 respectively. However, as can be seen from the header, these were below the last five-year mean continuing the downward trend. Inland records, all singles, came from Blashford Lakes/Ibsley Water (Feb 7th-8th; June 20th) and Woolmer Pond (Apr 19th; May 29th). There was no spring passage recorded in 2019.

Survey work in the New Forest during the breeding season located a total of 40 territories (cf. 40 in 2018).

Numbers in the summer/autumn period saw another year on year reduction continuing the steady decline. The September WeBS count of 1,239 was the highest in the second half with numbers dropping and then rising in December to 1,223 coinciding with a high count in Chichester Harbour on both sides of the county border.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	475	911	1,025	61	17	40	345	833	638	881	577	1,246
Hampshire sectors	76	230	435	47			30	71	37	252	172	456
Langstone Harbour	279	646	579	135	71	3	49	873	653	185	300	230
Portsmouth Harbour	88	61	76	12	9	12	220	17	75	30	138	119
Southampton Water	343	309	188	21	8	23	12	92	175	391	263	237
Beaulieu Estuary	170	139	87	23	14	4	29	105	159	125	102	91
Sowley-Lymington	45	7	4	1		4	108		30	20		20
Lymington-Hurst	100	123	81	80	10	49	102	107	175	120	110	166
WeBS count totals	1,048	1,461	1,453	226	88	23	254	1,075	1,239	1,051	927	1,223

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

### **Bar-tailed Godwit**

*Limosa lapponica*

*Moderately common but declining passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers summer.*

*Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,188; 2002-07: 795; 2007-12: 342; 2012-17: 331.*

*ET, Amber, HBAP*

The decline in numbers continued with only two months recording three figure WeBS counts of 141 in January and 126 in December. The highest count of the year was 250 on Jan 6th at Farlington Marshes. During each winter the highest numbers were instead in the West Sussex sectors of Chichester Harbour with near absence in the Hampshire sectors.

Spring passage numbers were up on recent years with a minimum of 539 between Apr 15th and May 16th. This was due to a large movement of 362 east past Hill Head on Apr 22nd. The only other high count was 86 the next day at the same site. There were inland records from three sites including heard calling at night over Middle Wallop Airfield (1, Apr 16th), Fleet Pond (1, Apr 30th) and Ibsley Water (1, May 1st; 2, 8th). In June and early July small numbers were reported from Lymington-Hurst (max. 10), Titchfield area (max. 2) and Chichester Harbour (max. 2) with a brief visit by one at Weston Shore on June 9th.



*Summer-plumage Bar-tailed Godwit, Ibsley Water, May 1st (Richard Ford)*

The first returning birds were ten in Langstone Harbour on July 28th followed by 85 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Aug 11th. Numbers in the late year remained low with the only count over 100 being 125 at Langstone Harbour on Dec 10th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	330	27	7	9	48	2	1	21	5	2	455	409
Hampshire sectors	8	8	3		1				2	12	21	3
Black Point	19	5						3		2	4	6
Langstone Harbour	250	25	18	20	30		10	10	22	20	71	125
Titchfield Haven-Chilling			1	2	3	2	1		19			1
Lymington-Hurst	8	3	8	46	10	10		85	33	19	7	10
WeBS count totals	141	9	19	15	72			10	58	5	74	126

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

### **Black-tailed Godwit† *Limosa limosa***

*Common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 2,066; 2002-07: 2,753; 2007-12: 2,210; 2012-17: 2,749.*

*VU, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP*

WeBS counts were low in the early part of the year dropping from 1,105 in December 2018 to 588 in January with a peak in March of 1,165. In the late year WeBS totals were broadly the same as the early year period with a peak in October of 1,206. Again numbers in the Avon Valley were very low throughout the year with the only notable flocks being in December with 400 at Ibsley Water on 6th and 330 on floods at Sabine's Farm, Avon on 31st. Away from the Avon Valley, other inland records came from Aldershot (2 flew over from Tice's Meadow, Surrey, May 10th), The Vyne WM (1, June 11th, 25th and 26th), Testbourne Lake (1, July 7th) and Alresford Pond (1, Aug 8th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	417	341	119	39			34	39	81	850	272	242
Hampshire sectors	112	80	181	136			64	76	33	270	114	43
Langstone Harbour	110	407	337	115	80	68	285	456	493	249	24	30
Portsmouth Harbour	388	55	139					32	257	320	352	21
Titchfield Haven	107	200	270	71	50	97	73	149	80	37	65	116
Hamble Estuary	82	103	214	208	10	10	225	484	287	223	26	35
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	47	132	131				3	9	115	93	63	216
Hythe-Calshot	15	68	30	1			5	27	21	70	28	20
Beaulieu Estuary	35	42	70	8	4	20	17	14	10		40	54
Lymington-Hurst	200	200	293	220	189	125	455	391	215	400	563	130
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		1										330
Blashford Lakes	3	4	14	2			4	1			3	400
WeBS count totals	588	665	1,165	340	79	77	323	826	982	1,206	839	511

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

### Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone)

*Arenaria interpres*

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 764; 2002-07: 915; 2007-12: 874; 2012-17: 904. Amber, HBAP

WeBS counts rose in January from 373 in December 2018 followed by a slight drop then the normal rise in March with passage migrants. As in 2018, only a few remained in the summer months with up to three singles present on various dates during June at Langstone Harbour, Titchfield Haven and Keyhaven/Pennington/Oxey Marshes.

Autumn passage started on July 6th with seven at Pennington Marshes. Numbers in August were again low compared to previous years with no counts in three figures. Numbers started to rise in September with a high count of 231 in Langstone Harbour on 28th. WeBS counts in the late year were low with the peak of 508 in November being well below the average mean maximum totals of recent years (see header).

Inland there were records from Ibsley Water (1, May 1st-2nd; 6, May 8th; 2, May 20th; 1, July 25th; 2, Sept 26th).



Turnstone, Hill Head, Jan 1st (Richard Jacobs)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	119	97	74		6			29	63	38	196	219
Hampshire Sectors	5		9						25	34	32	20
Langstone Harbour	99	186	108	7	6	1	8	80	231	70	106	173
Portsmouth Harbour	50	39	31	10				22	31		90	63
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/Brownwich	50	68	60	67	22	1	27	82	101	75	66	51
Hamble Estuary	89	30	70	67	2		9	48	96	106	92	92
Weston Shore (L)												
Hythe-Calshot	55	33	55	7			19	76	40	96	49	16
Lepe (L)												
Beaulieu Estuary	76	67	79	22	2		16	87	140	80	80	36
Sowley-Lymington	7				1			25	22		8	2
Lymington-Hurst	43	35	71	41	7	1	22	87	114	45	46	100
WeBS count totals	450	335	404	119	3	1	9	67	441	305	508	460

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

### Knot (Red Knot)

*Calidris canutus*

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 1,414; 2002-07: 1,108; 2007-12: 1,045; 2012-17: 736. Amber, HBAP

The January WeBS total of 527 was significantly lower than the December 2018 total of 1,843. This was due to the large decrease in Chichester Harbour from over 1,400, the majority of which were in Hampshire, to just 686 with only 220 in Hampshire sectors. Away from the tabulated sites the only three-figure count was 100 at Warsash on Feb 27th. One remained at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes into the first half of July. It or another was then seen at Hook-with-Warsash from July 16th-20th.

The first return was a flock of 24 at Normandy Marsh on July 20th. There were low numbers in August with the only counts above 20 being 24 at Wade Court, Chichester Harbour on 1st and 35 at Langstone Harbour on 18th. Numbers slowly picked up from September to the end of the year peaking with 531 in November. The only three-figure count at a non-tabulated site during this period was 249 at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on Dec 13th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	686	604							16	33	1,105	614
Hampshire sectors	220	2						24	57	11	474	
Black Point	400	250	99						30	18	250	300
Langstone Harbour	236	5			8			35	50	95	38	110
Sowley-Lymington	30	50		12					5			
Lymington-Hurst	320	160	25	20	39	1	24	11	60	25	200	50
WeBS count totals	527	292	2	12	3	1	1	108	61	531	359	

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

### Ruff

*Calidris pugnax*

Scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Red

In the first four months there were regular reports of winterers from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with monthly peak counts of six, 13, 11 and six respectively. Elsewhere the only other records in the early year were singles at Lepe on Feb 23rd and Mar 13th and Ibsley Water

on Apr 4th. Numbers at Pennington Marshes dropped in late April with the last reported on 22nd. After a three week gap, the next was one at Hurst Beach on May 13th followed by six at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes from 14th-17th.

The first returns were in July with singles at Farlington Marshes on 14th and 15th, inland at The Vyne Lake on 18th and at Pennington Marshes on 20th. In August there was another at Farlington Marshes and up to two at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes. In September there were widespread sightings of up to 11, the highest count being five at Titchfield Haven on 2nd. There were two inland reports of singles at Ibsley Water on 12th and Avon Causeway on 15th. In October a juvenile was at Alresford Pond from 7th-13th after which all records came from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes where five or six wintered, apart from one at Farlington Marshes on Oct 27th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (ASR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	14	11	7	6		3	2	11	7	6	5

## Curlew Sandpiper

*Calidris ferruginea*

*Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; has wintered.*

*VU, Amber*

The first arrivals were in summer plumage, with one at Farlington Marshes on Apr 22nd-23rd and two at Normandy Marsh on Apr 24th. There was one at Pennington Marshes between May 2nd and 5th, with a second on May 3rd, both moulting into summer plumage, and another there in non-breeding plumage on May 31st.

Early autumn passage was lighter than 2018 with reports between July 4th and Aug 8th presumed to be adults unless stated. The first was at Pennington Marshes on July 4th-5th. There were singles at Farlington Marshes on July 27th, 31st and Aug 3rd and a juvenile at Normandy Lagoon on Aug 8th. For the rest of the autumn period many were identified as juveniles. However a significant number were unaged but these were probably juveniles too. The first reports were singles at Keyhaven/Pennington on Aug 24th-26th and 28th, and the last from Farlington Marshes on Oct 27th. Passage numbers were similar to poor recent years, amounting to around 18 birds. The bulk of the reports came from Farlington Marshes and the Keyhaven to Normandy area, with up to three on eight dates between Aug 31st and Sep 21st at the former site and up to five on five dates between Sep 8th-13th at the latter. There were two at Needs Ore on Sep 3rd, two at Warblington Shore on Sep 8th, and singles at Lepe CP on Sep 15th and Black Point, Hayling Island on Oct 10th and 12th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

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

## Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

*Very scarce passage migrant. (6,140,1)*

*Schedule 1*

A single was at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes from May 17th-18th. The bird was not seen again until May 23rd-25th (SGK, ASR et al., photo). It was often elusive when present, which may explain how it disappeared for four days – assuming that two birds were not involved.

This was formerly an annual visitor in small numbers, but this is only the fourth record since 2009. (KFB)



*Temminck's Stint, Fishtail Lagoon, May 18th (Chris Rose)*



*Sanderling, Hill Head, Jan 1st (Richard Jacobs)*

## 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. Records from the main sites, Black Point and Sandy Point, are likely to refer to the same birds which also roost at Pilsea in the West Sussex portion of Chichester Harbour. Reports continued from Langstone Harbour, although these also probably refer to Chichester Harbour and east Hayling birds. A separate flock continued using the Hill Head area and probably accounted for those seen further west at Hook-with-Warsash and occasionally east to Gilkicker Point.

Away from the tabulated sites, reports in the early winter period and spring included small flocks of up to nine on 16 dates until June 9th in the Lymington-Hurst area. At Needs Ore there were two on Apr 30th, eight on May 18th and 30 on May 19th. Flocks of 16 on Jan 18th and 14 on Feb 1st at Gilkicker Point and 76 on Mar 30th at Browdown, probably came from sites to the west. In June there were seven on 2nd and five on 8th at Weston Shore and 27 at Barton on Sea on 9th. From July 26th there were again small flocks of up to 20 on ten dates in the Lymington-Hurst area. Four were at Needs Ore on Aug 4th and seven nearby at Lepe CP on Aug 8th, with two there on Nov 7th. There was a single at Calshot on Oct 17th. A flock of approximately 150 at East Winner Sands on Nov 24th probably came from further east on Hayling Island.

Reports of coastal spring passage were a little higher than in 2018 with a total of 69 heading east at Hurst Beach/Spit on four dates between May 6th and June 4th, with a maximum of 31 on May 13th. The only other spring passage reported was 28 east on May 16th at Sandy Point and 12 east at Hill Head on June 1st. Reports of autumn passage were restricted to five on three dates at Hurst Beach.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	34	65	25	21	90		2	61	5	148	130	120
Sandy Point-Gunner Point		20	60	100	44		30	248	106	175	20	12
Langstone Harbour		52	32		5		1	1		2		
Eastney-Southsea	57	91	93							24	210	70
Hill Head-Brownwich	34	51	59	22	32	9	1	4	4	22	42	140
Hook-with-Warsash	39	16	42	8		17	1	2	3	1	25	21

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

## Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Numerous but declining winter visitor and moderately common passage migrant; small numbers summer. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 35,171; 2002-07: 29,906; 2007-12: 24,140; 2012-17: 23,233. ET, NT (*C.a. schinzii*), Amber, HBAP

The very high January WeBS total of 31,874 is deceptive. Most of Chichester Harbour is in West Sussex but out of the Harbour WeBS total (14,252), a very large number (11,442) roosted at Black Point that day compared to typical January counts there in recent years of around 2,000. Making allowance for this, the January Hampshire count would be in the low 20,000s. The numbers at the end of the year were comparable with the late winter of the previous year, although the peak was in November rather than December. Ignoring the January count for the reasons above, the maximum WeBS count in 2019 was lower than the mean maximum for the preceding five-year periods (in header) indicating a continuing downward trend.

In the early year to end March, away from the tabulated sites, there were three-figure counts at Fawley (200, Jan 4th; 400, 18th; 200, 19th), Dibden Bay (720, Jan 28th; 250, 29th) and Stokes Bay (100, Feb 11th). In the Titchfield Haven area there were small groups on 28 dates (max. 30, Mar 24th). The only inland record in this period was a single at Ibsley Water on Mar 3rd-4th.

The only reports of eastward migration through The Solent in spring were ten on Apr 15th at Sandy Point and two on May 8th at Lepe CP. Up to 18 grounded migrants were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on 22 dates between Apr 8th and June 14th. Inland records in spring came from Ibsley Water (13 dates between Apr 2nd and May 12th, max. 6 on May 9th) and singles at Ibsley WM and Ivy Lake (Apr 28th), Fleet Pond (May 8th), Eversley Common (May 9th) and Edenbrook CP (May 10th).

Inland return passage was reported from Ibsley Water (11 dates between July 7th and Oct 10th; max. 4, July 31st), Alresford Pond with singles on Aug 6th-9th and Sep 6th-13th, Burnt Common (2, July 20th; one, Aug 5th-6th), Woolmer Pond (1, Sep 2nd) and Ibsley Water (Oct 3rd). Small flocks of mainly passage birds were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on 39 dates between July 6th and Oct 30th with a maximum of 48 on Aug 11th.

In the late year, away from the tabulated sites, there were small groups in the Titchfield Haven area on 13 dates (max. 17, Nov 6th). The only inland report was of a single located by nocturnal flight call over St Cross, Winchester on Nov 20th.



Dunlin, Hill Head, Jan 1st (Richard Jacobs)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	14,252	3,313	231	45	67	16	24	193	59	795	6,880	4,791
Hampshire sectors	11,442	1,249			23				5	22	2,966	291
Sandy Point		200		1	50		2	10	53	35	200	100
Black Point	11,442	3,000	500	2	7		1	45	73	500	4,000	5,000
Emsworth/ Warblington (L)	532	396	17	25	4	1	3	33	46	159	451	516
Langstone Harbour	9,756	8,606	250	107	100	13	25	261	120	3,716	10,650	13,128
Portsmouth Harbour	5,339	509	500							130	2,384	600
Hamble Estuary	560	590	100	4	3	3	12	15	7	63	300	147
Weston Shore/ Chessel Bay (L)	140	22		3	3				2		100	800
Hythe	1,400	1,200	200					4	3	310	1,000	1,100
Calshot	10		5							30	152	40
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	1,000	605	150	20	12	16	2	10	20	500	248	682
Sowley-Lymington	600	600		20	9				26	100	450	150
Lymington-Hurst	2,050	1,230	100	75	220	77	230	47	253	364	1,120	550
WeBS count totals	31,874	13,871	317	169	76	14	18	276	422	4,735	19,086	16,273

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

## Purple Sandpiper

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

*Calidris maritima*

Schedule 1, Amber

With reports of up to 11 on 51 dates in the early winter period and spring, the main site continues to be Southsea Castle. There was one at Haslar Creek on Mar 25th, probably displaced from Southsea. The last sighting was one on Apr 25th. The first return at Southsea Castle was on Oct 24th followed by reports of up to 12 on a further 23 dates up to the end of the year.

Away from Southsea there were four at Barton on Sea on Jan 6th, nine there on Jan 28th and a single at Hill Head on the early date of Sep 9th. Other records came only from the Lymington-



Purple Sandpiper, Keyhaven, Nov 18th (Simon Buckell)

Hurst area. Apart from three on Jan 2nd and Feb 26th and four on Nov 24th, all records were singles on Apr 24th, Nov 18th-20th, 22nd and 28th, Dec 9th, 11th, 15th and 22nd-23rd.

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

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

### Little Stint

*Calidris minuta*

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

Green

In spring the only report was of two at Pennington Marshes on May 13th.

The autumn total of ten was the lowest ever, the previous minimum being 13 in 2009. Unusually there were no reports in July, which are mostly of returning adults. The first reports were not until Aug 13th with singles at Farlington Marshes and Keyhaven Lagoon. The only other August record was at Farlington Marshes on Aug 27th-28th. There was a gap until the next sighting of one at Pennington Marshes on Sep 12th which stayed until 15th and was joined by a second on 14th. On the same date one was also at Farlington Marshes. A single was at Pennington Marshes from Sep 21st-23rd and another at Needs Ore on Sep 26th. The only other records were singles at Hythe on Oct 13th and Normandy Lagoon on Nov 8th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

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

### Semipalmated Sandpiper

*Calidris pusilla*

Very rare vagrant. (0,6,1)

A juvenile was present at Oxy Lagoon from Nov 16th-23rd (CR, IAS et al., photo). This bird, which was moulting into first-winter plumage, caused quite a stir due to its relatively long bill, causing some to consider the possibility of Western Sandpiper. However the combination of plumage features led to that possibility being dismissed.

This is the seventh record, and the fifth for the Keyhaven/Pennington area. The most recent was in 2016 and, with the exception of the first-ever in July 1994, all other records have been in September. The species breeds in the sub-arctic tundra of Canada and Alaska and winters along the northern and central coasts of South America. (KFB)

### Woodcock† (Eurasian Woodcock)

*Scolopax rusticola*

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

Red

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 87 at 65 sites. The only large gathering was ten at Emer Bog (Feb 9th). Counts of three were also reported from Burbush Hill NF (Jan 5th) and Lasham (Feb 25th). All other sightings were of ones or twos. Sites with records on more than one date were Blashford Lakes, Biddenfield Farm (near Botley Wood), Sandy Point, Warren Bottom Copse, Yateley Common, Foxbury Plantation NF, Roe Inclosure NF, Frater Shore, Elson Wood, Gosport, Hook-with-Warsash, Titchfield Haven and Emer Bog. The New Forest Winter Bird survey reported three, two and one respectively in the January, February and March surveys (Table 4).

Roding was first recorded at Emer Bog on Mar 29th. During 2019 there were two organised breeding surveys based on one km squares. These were a BTO partial survey (31 squares) covering all of the county and the annual survey of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (17 squares). The two surveys used different metrics. The BTO survey was based on registrations (heard and/or seen) during a one hour survey period. Based on the maxima in each square



Semipalmated Sandpiper, Oxy Marsh, Nov 16th (Chris Rose), 20th (Simon Buckell) and 16th with Dunlin (Matthew Barfield)

there were 410 registrations in the 31 BTO survey squares which approximated to 136 territorial males using a formula developed by GWCT. The last full survey in 2013 estimated the Hampshire breeding population as 2,930 males and the 2019 partial survey suggested a small increase on this. The TB and WH survey estimated 22 territories in Thames Basin Heaths and 12 on Wealden Heaths (Table 1). The corresponding figures in 2018 were 12 and six. There was no overlap in the one km squares covered by these two surveys.

A further 94 records were received during the breeding season. These indicated around 61 territories at 44 sites. Most sites had only one territory, but more than one was reported from 11 sites. A small number of these sites could have overlapped with the squares of the organised surveys. The last report of this period was a single at Shootash on July 13th. There were three late summer reports of singles at Old Basing (Aug 23rd), Woolmer Forest (Sep 9th) and Headley Down (Sep 26th). There were no further reports until Oct 3rd when one was at Old Basing.

From October to December a total of 81 was reported from 44 sites. There were reports of three or more from Wyck (9, Dec 27th; 6, Oct 23rd; 5, Dec 4th; 4, Dec 6th; 3, Nov 22nd), Newton Valance (7, Dec 28th; 6, Dec 7th), Bentley Mill (6, Nov 28th), Northbrook (5, Dec

19th; 4, Dec 5th), South Hay (5, Nov 22nd), Selborne Common (4, Nov 25th) and Bransbury Common (3, Dec 17th). There were also reports on more than two dates from Blashford Lakes, Sandy Point, Crookham Village, Northbrook, Selborne area, Wyck, Hazeley Heath, Burley area, Old Basing, Frater Shore, Newton Valance, Hook-with-Warsash, Bransbury Common and Longparish. The New Forest Winter Bird survey in the second winter period reported three in November and two in December (Table 4). (JRDS)

## Jack Snipe

*Lymnocyptes minimus*

*Scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Green*

Between January and late April, there were reports of at least 24 from 17 sites. The number of sites was significantly lower when compared to 2018 (50 from 23 sites). Reports of more than one came from Farlington Marshes (3, Jan 19th; 3, Feb 22nd; 2, Mar 7th and 26th), The Vyne (2, Jan 20th), Curbridge (2, Jan 24th), Lakeside CP (3, Feb 17th) and Long Valley (2, Mar 20th). Reports from all other sites were of singles. NFWBS found one in February (Table 4). The last records were singles at Farlington Marshes on April 21st and 23rd followed by one at a confidential site on 24th.

In the autumn period to year end at least 30 were reported from 14 sites. The first return was one at Farlington Marshes on Oct 5th. Thereafter reports were all of singles apart from Bourley Long Valley (6, Nov 9th; 2, Dec 30th), Farlington Marshes (2, Oct 5th; 2, Nov 6th), Sandy Point (2, Dec 12th) and The Vyne WM (2, Nov 18th; 2, Dec 29th). Night-time ringing at an undisclosed New Forest site resulted in 23 captures on seven dates, including 11 on Dec 19th, five on Dec 2nd, two on Oct 28th and two on Dec 18th. NFWBS found one in December. (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 the last three years continued in 2019, with three-figure counts only at Titchfield Haven (as a result of census work) with a peak of 208 on Dec 13th and at Winchester SF with 114 on Jan 4th.

In the first winter period, away from tabulated sites, the only double-figure counts came from Fleet Pond (68, Jan 16th), Kingston Ponds (24, Feb 2nd), Avon Causeway to Wattons Ford (20, Jan 20th), Holmsley GP (12, Feb 10th) and Longparish (11, Jan 4th; 10, Jan 17th). NFWBS reported 14, 30 and 21 respectively in the first three months (Table 4). Most had left wintering/passage sites by early May with the last being at Fleet Pond on 3rd. A single at Titchfield Haven on June 8th may have been a failed local breeder.

Reports in suitable breeding habitat came from the following 14 sites in the New Forest (cf. 14 in 2018, 8 in 2017 and 22 in 2016): Acres Down, Bolderwood, Shatterford Bottom, Sway, Beaulieu Road, Goatspen Plain, Ibsley Common (2), Longslade Bottom (2), Penny Moor, Linwood, Bratley Inclosure, Crockford Bridge, Godshill and Mill Lawn, Burley.

The first returning migrant was a single on July 1st-3rd at Titchfield Haven. Reports were almost daily along the coast from July 10th and included inland records of one at Blashford Lakes on 16th and two at Fleet Pond on 30th. Visible migration was reported from Tweseldown (1 SW, Sep 23rd; 2SV, Oct 6th; 1 SW, Oct 16th) and Trigpoint Hill (1 NE, Oct 4th; 1 SW, Nov 6th). One was reported flying over St Cross, Winchester on Nov 20th based on nocturnal flight call. The only double-figure reports in the second winter period, away from the tabulated sites, were at Brogenslade Bottom, NF (17, Dec 5th), Loddon Valley Copse (15, Dec 27th), Bucklers Hard (15, Dec 29th), Holmsley GP (14, Nov 17th) and Calshot (10, Dec 8th). NFWBS reported counts of 4, 8 and 18 respectively for October to December (Table 4).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	2	2	1				1				2	1
Langstone Harbour	28	20	15	6				4	5	18	8	1
Portsmouth Harbour	1		1	1					1	1		1
Titchfield Haven	115	166	6	20		1	1	1	6	20	12	208
Hook-with-Warsash	75	49	31	2				5	5	4	37	4
Lower Test Marshes	18	52	25	3				3	3	21	58	35
Badminston GP	15		2								7	
Lepe	7	14	20				1		1	13	20	45
Needs Ore	6	2	2	11			1		1			27
Lymington-Hurst	35	13	12	3			2	5	5	5	65	6
Blashford Lakes	2	1	26	1			1	1				2
Ringwood / Fordingbridge	30	11	25						3	2		
Testwood Lakes	5		6						1		8	15
Testbourne Lake	14	8	13	3					1	5	21	14
Lakeside CP	9	62	22							18	30	38
Itchen Valley CP	5	1	4	9							21	5
Winchester SF	114	32	10	6						3	1	20
Fishlake Meadows	11	6	2	3					1		12	8
Alresford Pond	1	7	3					1	1	9	12	
Edenbrook CP	4	1	1	1					1	7	2	
The Vyne	40			40				5	4	5	72	67
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	35	85	50							9	25	12
Thames Basin Heaths		16	24	2					2	2	9	46
Woolmer Pond	12	1		2					1			



Snipe, Burnt Common (Mortimer West End), Sep 27th (Barry Stalker)



Red-necked Phalarope in flight with Dunlin, Fishtail Lagoon, May 31st (Lee Fuller)

### Red-necked Phalarope

*Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant. (3,51,1)

Red

A summer-plumaged male was at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington from May 31st to June 1st (NJM *et al.*, photo). There have only been seven spring records and this is only the third sighting for May – the others appearing on 27th and 29th. (KFB)

### Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)

*Phalaropus fulicarius*

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (? ,310,3)

There were three records. One was on Pennington Lagoon and the sea around the jetty on Sep 26th-27th (PRD *et al.*). A single was seen briefly off Hill Head on Sep 29th (NG, photo). Finally one flew east at Hurst Beach on Nov 4th (MPP). (KFB)

### Common Sandpiper†

*Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Amber

In January-March there were records from the regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima 2, 1, 1), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (3, 5, 4) and Curbridge (2, 2, 3). There were also reports of up to three on 13 dates from Portsmouth Harbour, one or two on seven dates from Langstone Harbour, and singles from coastal sites at Titchfield Haven (Feb 24th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (Mar 17th) and Needs Ore (Mar 27th).

Wintering birds stayed on into April at Curbridge and Lower Test Marshes, but the first spring migrant appeared at Blashford Lakes on 6th. From then there were records until June 3rd at Titchfield Haven, 20 inland sites and 12 coastal sites. In this period the only counts above three were six on the Upper Hamble River (Apr 24th) and four at Farlington Marshes (May 7th) and Blashford Lakes (May 17th).

The first return was at Titchfield Haven on June 19th. Autumn passage continued until late October with reports from 17 coastal sites and 28 inland sites. The only counts above seven were ten at Hordle Cliff (July 2nd), 11 at Tundry Pond (July 27th), 14 at Langstone Harbour (Aug 3rd), nine at Blashford Lakes (Aug 12th) and ten at Lower Test Marshes (Aug 29th).

In November and December there were records from the regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima, 2, 2), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (8, 4) and Curbridge (3, 4). In Portsmouth Harbour there was one on Nov 23rd and two on Dec 14th. Other

coastal reports of singles came from Hamble Estuary (Nov 15th, Nov 30th), Bury Marshes (Nov 29th), Titchfield Haven (Dec 2nd) and Bucklers Hard (Dec 28th). Inland there were regular reports throughout the period of a winterer at Ibsley Water (with two on Nov 2nd) and possibly the same at Harbridge WM on Nov 8th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	14	11	39	49	12	87	103	48	22	20	15

### Green Sandpiper

*Tringa ochropus*

Scarce passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber

Between January and March there were reports from 26 inland sites and eight coastal sites with a maximum of 12 at Drayton Farm WCB, Alresford on Jan 14th. The only reports of more than two from non-tabulated sites were three at Hurstbourne Priors on Jan 15th and three at Broadlands on Jan 27th. Most had departed by mid-April, the last at Ibsley Water being on Apr 26th. There were singles at Testwood Lakes on May 8th and Pennington Marshes on May 30th.

Return passage commenced with one or two at Titchfield Haven on several dates between June 6th-19th and one at Pennington Marshes on June 19th. From the last week of June reports were widespread from 53 sites to the end of October with highest counts from Alresford Pond peaking at 20 on Aug 25th. Counts exceeding two at non-tabulated sites were at Sandy Point (9, July 27th), Hermitage Stream, Havant (4, July 31st), Burgate Meadows, Avon Valley (3, Aug 4th) and The Vyne (3, Aug 25th-26th). In November and December late passage and wintering birds were reported from 18 inland sites and two coastal sites.

The approximate monthly maxima from well-recorded sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes area	1	1	1				1	4	3	3	2	3
Titchfield Haven area			1	2		3	11	6	2	1		
Hook-with-Warsash						1	1	3	2			
Lower Test Marshes	2	4	2	1			3	1	2	2	1	1
Testwood Lakes												
Badminton/Fawley								1	1	1		
Lepe CP		1	1									
Needs Ore	1	1				2	5	5	5	2		
Lymington-Hurst	2			8	1	1		1	1			
Blashford Lakes	3		1	2				2	1	2	2	2
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	3		1						2		2	1
Moorcourt Farm area				3	5							4
Alresford Pond	1	1	1	2			18	20	18	11	2	
Alresford area WCBs	12	7	2	2				5	3	4	3	3
Burnt Common/Ramptons Lane GP			1	2			1	2	1	1	1	
Woolmer Pond												
Busta Triangle							1	2	2	1		
Fleet Pond		1						2	2			
Longparish	2	2	2	1		1	10	5	4	1	4	5
Testbourne Lake	2	2	1	2		4	5	4	2	1	1	1

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
44	23	23	36	2	16	78	84	66	38	25	25

## Redshank (Common Redshank)

*Tringa totanus*

Scarce and declining breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1998-2002: 2,322; 2002-07: 2,454; 2007-12: 2,455; 2012-17: 2,326. Amber, HBAP

The WeBS counts for each month in the first winter period were higher than the corresponding months in 2018. By contrast the counts in the second winter period were lower in each of the corresponding months. The highest monthly count of 2,115 in October was almost 10% lower than any of the mean maxima of the previous four five-year periods (see header).

Away from the tabulated sites, maximum counts from other regularly watched sites during the first winter period included Bury Marshes (37, Feb 13th), Pylewell/Tanners Lane (30, Jan 18th-19th), Lower Itchen (20, Jan 10th), Dibden Bay (15, Feb 24th), Hythe (15, Mar 9th), Titchfield Haven (14, Mar 10th), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (14, Feb 2nd) and Upper Hamble (11, Mar 23rd). There were inland records from Ibsley Water (2, Feb 28th; 2, Mar 2nd) and Burnt Common (1, Mar 17th; 2, 23rd; 1, 28th).

In spring inland records, singles unless stated, came from Brockenhurst (2, Apr 7th), Fleet Pond (Apr 9th), Hill Top, NF (6, Apr 17th) and Burnt Common (May 19th). A single was also present at The Vyne WM on four dates between May 28th and June 11th. The only reports of coastal passage came from Hurst Beach in May with five east on 13th and 18 east on 15th.

Breeding territories were reported from the following coastal sites: Needs Ore (19 pairs with several fully fledged young), Lymington-Hurst (14 pairs with successful breeding on Normandy Lagoon) and Farlington Marshes (14 pairs, 8 young hatched but only four fledged). A pair attempted breeding but failed at Testwood Lakes. Tanners Lane and the Hook-with-Warsash area have had possible breeding in the past, but this year reports in the breeding season were limited to pairs present on a single date. In 2019 HOS organised a comprehensive survey of breeding Redshank, Curlew and Lapwing in the New Forest. The only Redshank territories located were at Stonyford (six) and Bagshot Moor (one) compared to the previous survey in 2014 which found 14 territories in the same areas. Elsewhere inland, a GWCT survey in the Avon Valley found 20 breeding pairs (cf. 22 in 2018). Two pairs were seen regularly at Ibsley Water but with no evidence of nesting. Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records, singles unless stated, at Burnt Common (June 16th and 27th; July 20th), Ibsley Water (2, July 1st and 21st), Busta Triangle (July 26th), Fleet Pond (Aug 10th) and Alresford Pond (Oct 14th).

Maximum counts from regularly watched coastal sites away from the tabulated areas during the second winter period, included Bury Marshes (48, Sep 23rd), Lower Itchen (37, Oct 30th), Pylewell/Tanners Lane (25, Oct 27th), Hythe (22, Aug 17th), Titchfield Haven (21, Dec 15th), Lepe (20, Oct 27th), Dibden Bay (18, Dec 15th), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (16, Dec 11th) and Upper Hamble Estuary (9, Dec 14th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	983	1,456	710	135	6	9	386	656	731	1,607	1,407	1,542
Hampshire sectors	92	324	181	80		4	107	137	198	527	317	377
Langstone Harbour	429	657	492	125	25	130	420	688	766	745	438	493
Portsmouth Harbour	697	424	221	34	1	13	66	64	244	230	398	407
Hamble Estuary	62	75	41	31			32	64	52	125	85	65
Fawley-Calshot	198	45	63		1	1			38	123	52	151
Beaulieu Estuary	76	72	57	48	17	12	25	13	63	116	105	97
Lymington-Hurst	106	177	124	46	28	17	75	94	191	146	80	140
WeBS count totals	1,746	1,839	1,258	267	60	37	566	997	1,552	2,115	1,545	1,794

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

## Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

After only four in spring 2018, there was an increase this year to eight. The first report was of a group of three at Ibsley Water on Apr 30th followed by singles at Pennington Marshes on May 1st and Posbrook Flood on May 3rd. One was heard flying over Aldershot on May 6th. The last records in spring were singles at Pennington Marshes on May 18th and Posbrook Flood on May 25th.

The first of the autumn passage was at Pennington Marshes on July 12th. The next were singles at Hamble Estuary (July 20th) and Titchfield Haven (July 23rd) followed by two at Pennington Marshes (July 26th). One arrived at Titchfield Haven on July 27th and stayed until Aug 1st, when a second was seen. One remained until Aug 9th and another was reported there on Aug 12th. In early August singles were reported from The Vyne WM (Aug 1st-7th), Farlington Marshes (Aug 2nd-3rd) and up to two at Keyhaven Marshes (2, Aug 3rd: 1, 5th). One also arrived at Alresford Pond on Aug 5th and remained until 9th. The next was at Testwood Lakes on Aug 10th. On Aug 13th there were two at Calshot and singles at Chilling and Black Point. One was at Titchfield Haven on Aug 21st-22nd, another was at The Vyne WM from Aug 22nd-25th, and one stayed at Needs Ore from Aug 30th to Sep 2nd. The last of the year were singles at Boldre, NF on Sep 8th and Farlington Marshes on Sep 14th. The autumn passage totalled around 25 birds. (JRDS)



Wood Sandpiper, The Vyne WM, Aug 7th (Barry Stalker)

## 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 76 dates up to May 6th with a maximum of eight on Jan 25th. The poor early year showing of 2018 was repeated at Langstone Harbour with a single on Feb 15th and then 13 dates from Mar 23rd to Apr 21st. Similarly reports from Needs Ore and nearby at Lepe were restricted to singles on nine dates until three arrived on Apr 19th. The regular wintering bird remained at Nore Barn, Emsworth until Mar 23rd. Elsewhere there were two at Titchfield Haven on Mar 31st and one at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 29th. The last of the early year was a single at Pennington Marshes on May 6th.

Early return passage started with one in summer plumage at Oxey Marsh on June 23rd and Needs Ore the next day. These were followed by one in summer plumage at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes from July 2nd-20th and up to two at Needs Ore from July 1st to Aug 12th. Reports then increased at Needs Ore with between one and four on 15 dates up to Sep 29th. At the main site at Lymington-Hurst there were reports on 83 dates from July 21st to Dec 30th, with a maximum of ten on Oct 27th. At Farlington Marshes there were reports of singles on 26 dates from July 27th to Oct 21st, with two there on Aug 3rd, 19th, Sep 15th, Oct 21st and a late report on Dec 30th. The Nore Barn winterer returned to its favoured site on Oct 31st to start its 16th winter in the area. The only other late year reports were singles at Titchfield Haven (Aug 2nd, Nov 17th), Testwood Lakes (Sep 8th, 10th) and an unusual inland record from Burnt Common (Sep 7th).

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

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

### Greenshank (Common Greenshank)

*Tringa nebularia*

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

*Schedule 1, Amber*

In January to March a minimum of 55 wintered at 14 sites. Sightings were more widespread through April and May with a minimum of around 59 recorded at 15 sites. These figures are significantly higher than 2018 (36 at ten sites) and nearer to 2017 (62 at 17 sites). The 2019 counts included inland reports of singles, unless stated, from Testwood Lakes (1, Jan 1st; Apr 16th), Burnt Common (Apr 19th-20th; May 18th), Fishlake Meadows (Apr 21st), Busta Triangle (Apr 30th), Ibsley Water (May 16th-17th) and Ibsley WM (May 18th). Away from the tabulated sites and inland locations mentioned above, there were also coastal records of singles at Tanners Lane, Ashlett Creek, Weston Shore and Black Point between Jan 10th and Apr 19th. Records reduced markedly from the third week of May with the last of spring at Needs Ore on May 31st.

Return passage started with singles at Needs Ore (June 21st) and Frater Shore (June 25th-26th) and reports became widespread from the last two days of June. Autumn passage involved a minimum of 139 up to the end of October with records from 27 sites including 14 inland. The inland reports were singles (unless stated) from Alresford Pond (July 14th), Ibsley Water (July 14th, Aug 30th), Fishlake Meadows (July 24th), Burnt Common (Aug 9th), Bricksbury Hill (Aug 21st), Romsey (Aug 24th, heard at 22:00), Hamer Warren Lakes (2, Aug 26th), Beaulieu (Aug 26th, Oct 27th), Highbridge (Aug 27th), Busta Triangle (Aug 27th, 29th, Sep 2nd, 4th, 12th, 16th), Whitton Bottom NF (Sep 7th), North Baddesley (Sep 7th, heard at 21:15), Eversley GP (Sep 15th) and Hucklesbrook WM (Oct 15th).



Greenshank, Nore Barn, Feb 21st (Richard Ford)

Away from the tabulated sites there were coastal reports of singles from Tanners Lane, Hythe, Calshot (2), Weston Shore, Lepe and Sandy Point/BlackPoint (including 14 on July 27th). In November and December approximately 41 wintered at 14 sites. There was a late inland record from Edenbrook CP, Fleet (Nov 9th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour/ Warblington shore	2	3	1	7	2		2	4	9	6	3	2
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	4	7	4	9	9	1	18	21	30	20	11	7
Portsmouth Harbour	5	4	6	5		1	3	11	10	8	3	4
Titchfield Haven		1	1	8	4	2	1	2	1	1	2	
Hamble Estuary	7	6	5	10	1	2	4	9	12	8	5	4
Curbridge	2	2	4	9	6		1				1	1
Upper Test	1	1	1		3		2	1	2	1	1	1
Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe	2	2	1	2	1	1	5	15	16	5	1	2
Lymington-Hurst	12	4	7	5	2	2	11	18	16	12	8	6
WeBS count totals	17	16	15	19	2		9	44	65	42	22	16

### Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake)

*Rissa tridactyla*

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

The first were on Jan 18th with ten adults off Hill Head and two off Hurst Beach, both timed at 09:30. Singles in Chichester Harbour (Jan 19th) and at Sandy Point (an adult heading W, Jan 21st) were the only other January records. On Feb 9th Hurst Beach and Hill Head both recorded two during very windy weather when gusts reached 82 mph at the Needles. Earlier in the month reports were from Sandy Point (1 juv, 5th; 6 W, 7th) and off Portsmouth (1, 6th) and later from Hurst Beach (2, 17th; 1 adult E, 21st; 1 adult E, 28th).

Spring passage totalled 81 between Mar 10th and June 11th. Most were logged at Hurst Beach with a cumulative total of 66 (highest day 42, Apr 5th). Totals elsewhere were four at Calshot (all on Mar 16th), 20 at Hill Head (highest day 7 adults and 2 first-summers, Apr 4th), five at Stokes Bay (highest day 3 adults, Mar 16th), three at Sandy Point (highest day 2 E, May 16th) and one at Chichester Harbour on May 17th. There were two inland records of single adults at Fleet Pond (Mar 10th) and Ibsley Water (Mar 27th-29th). The final early year records were a single at Hurst Beach on June 11th followed by a late adult at Weston Shore on June 24th.

The first juvenile on return passage was at Milford on Sea on July 30th. From Aug 8th-10th during very windy conditions a total of probably three juveniles were recorded at Lepe (1, 8th), Hurst Beach (2, 10th), Hill Head (1, 10th) and Sandy Point (1, 10th). There were no records for September, the next being three adults and six juveniles heading west during a morning's sea watch at Hurst Beach on Oct 11th. On Nov 4th a count of 38 west at Hurst Beach was the highest record of the year and followed strong south-westerly winds that gusted up to 109 mph at the Needles on Nov 2nd. The last few records of the year included Weston Shore (1 adult, Nov 6th) and Hurst Beach (1, Nov 22nd; 2 adults W, Dec 10th). There was also an inland record of an adult at Ibsley Water on Dec 13th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	14	15	57	8	2	1	3		9	40	3

## Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

*Rare visitor, usually storm-driven, mostly August-December but once each in January and May. (1,165,1)*

A juvenile flew west about 400m offshore at Pennington at 09:40 on Sep 30th (SGK). Birds were seen almost annually from 2000 to 2014, but this is only the second record since then. (KFB)

## Bonaparte's Gull

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Very rare vagrant. (0,5,1)

A first-year was at Ibsley Water from Apr 25th-May 12th (KJS *et al.*, photo). It was seen at various times of the day, providing easy viewing.

There have been only five previous records, all of which were first-summerers – the last being at the same location on similar dates in 2018. The species breeds in Alaska and Canada and winters in the USA, northern Mexico and the West Indies. (KFB)



*First-summer Bonaparte's Gull, Ibsley Water, May 11th (Alan Lewis)*

## Black-headed Gull† *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

*Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Amber*

The highest early year counts came as usual from the Ibsley Water roost where 5,000 were recorded on Jan 20th, Mar 2nd and 4th. Excluding Chichester Harbour, which also includes West Sussex, the highest elsewhere were the monthly WeBS counts from Portsmouth Harbour (1,051, Jan 19th; 1,422, Feb 23rd). On Southampton Water the highest were at Eling Great Marsh (473, Feb 16th) and Dibden Bay (437, Jan 28th) while a dawn movement of 1,180 up the Itchen Valley was recorded at Marlhill Copse south of Itchen Valley CP on Jan 2nd. The highest West Solent counts were at Keyhaven (500, Feb 25th) and Pylewell Lake/Tanners Lane (500, Mar 24th). Inland high counts were from the Test Valley at Fishlake Meadows (max. 1370, Mar 2nd) and Tadburn Meadows, Romsey (500, Mar 16th) and in the north the highest was from Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) (600, Jan 20th). The spring pre-nesting build-up at Titchfield Haven reached 1,200 on Mar 30th. On Apr 7th an evening count of 800 at Fleet Pond contained around 50% first-years.

In the breeding season a total of 9,878 pairs (*cf.* 13,253 in 2018) was reported excluding Blashford where there was no count of numbers nesting (*cf.* estimated 400 in 2018). Along the coast at Lymington 5,094 pairs nested but there was no report on fledging success. On Langstone Harbour islands 3,474 pairs raised 1,473 young and at nearby West Hayling LNR 510 pairs raised 425 young. In Chichester Harbour near Emsworth a new site was occupied by 299 pairs but there was no report of fledging success. At Titchfield Haven, despite a promising build-up in late March, there was no successful breeding on the scrapes where because of heavy predation only 134 pairs attempted to nest and all subsequently failed. An estimated 90 pairs attempted to nest on the islands and platforms in the lower river but heavy predation by Lesser Black-backed Gulls reduced the number of fledged young to only nine. Up to 92 pairs attempted to nest at Hook-with-Warsash but foxes and avian predators prevented successful raising of young. At Needs Ore a total of 24 pairs raised eight young. Inland at Blashford Lakes a large colony again nested on Ibsley Water with lesser numbers on Blashford (Spinnaker) Lake and on the rafts on Ivy and Ellingham Lakes. No count was made of the number of pairs and breeding success was low due to heavy predation. At Fleet Pond 160 pairs raised 50 young and at Silchester STW one pair raised two young.

Natural England again provided information on the commercial collection of Black-headed Gulls' eggs in Hampshire. As in 2018, twenty licences were issued under which a total of 13,851 eggs was collected (*cf.* 18,659 in 2018). Each licence permits the holder to take a

prescribed maximum number of eggs from a specific location between Apr 1st and May 15th, after which the colonies relay and are counted as above.

Large post-breeding numbers from non-tabulated sites included Portsmouth naval base (613, July 9th), Hythe MOD base (700, July 27th; 500, Sep 14th), Hook-with-Warsash (465, Aug 2nd) and Dibden Bay (537, Sep 29th). Large movements were recorded in late autumn with a record 1,800 west off Hurst Beach between 07:40 and 11:40 on Oct 11th, and 4,240 heading over Waterloo to roost in the eastern harbours between 15:35 and 17:55 on Oct 22nd. Significant counts at non-tabulated sites included Petersfield (500, Oct 12th), Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea (500, Oct 19th) and Moorcourt Farm/Skidmore in the Test Valley (500, Dec 22nd; 700, Dec 27th).

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	1,051	1,422	556						1,281	1,815	1,577	1,375
Titchfield Haven	400	971	1,200	1,250	760	500	350	500	300	423	781	520
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	382	209	150	213	50	87	99	436	170	61	40	174
Ibsley Water#	5,000	1,000	5,000	700	193	200	100	350	180	3,000	5,000	5,000
Winchester SF	283	334	430	127		8	4	1	5	80	141	209
Avington Lake	320	370						4	225	182	244	193
Alresford Pond	336	400	386				218	479	331	1,400	550	92
Heath Pond, Petersfield	280	375	235	20	2	7	40	40	125	150	320	200
Northam/Mansbridge	1,180	483	208					50	635	720	335	750

# night roost

## Little Gull

*Scarce visitor, although sometimes moderately common, recorded in all months but most numerous in spring and autumn.*

*Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*ET, NT, Schedule 1, Green*

In the first three months of the year there were only five records, all singles. The first was an adult at Weston Shore moving south down Southampton Water on Jan 6th. The next was not until Mar 8th when an individual was observed hawking over Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes. The first inland record of the year was at Ibsley Water on Mar 21st followed by coastal sightings of individuals at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 22nd and Hill Head (adult) on 30th.

During the main passage period from April 1st to May 26th an estimated 78 were recorded with, as usual, the majority in April. Records from coastal locations were at Hurst Beach (13; max. 5, Apr 5th and 25th), Brownwich (2, Apr 22nd), Hill Head (13; max. 7 adults E, Apr 5th), Stokes Bay (13; max. 10, Apr 18th), Farlington Marshes (1 adult, Apr 13th), West Hayling LNR (16; max. 10 E, Apr 7th), Sandy Point (6 E, Apr 22nd; 1 E, Apr 25th) and Black Point (1, May 1st). In addition to those moving along the coast two first-summerers lingered in the vicinity of Fishtail Lagoon between May 20th-26th. Inland records were from Ibsley Water (min. total 21; max. 12 adults, Apr 7th), Testwood Lakes (1 adult and 1 first-summer, Apr 10th), Itchen Water Works (1 adult and 1 first-summer flying up the valley, Apr 15th) and Fleet Pond (3 adults, Apr 6th-9th). The maximum at Ibsley Water could theoretically have been as high as 44 depending on assumptions about onward movement of new arrivals. After adjusting for same-day coastal counts at different locations to prevent double-counting, the number recorded at the coast was 49 compared with a minimum of 26 inland, indicating the importance of inland spring migration routes for this species.

There was no discernable return passage and few juveniles were recorded in the remainder of the year. The first record after spring passage was an adult at Titchfield Haven on July 7th.

Subsequent reports came from Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (1, Aug 5th), Weston Shore (1 adult, Sep 22nd; 2 first-summers, Oct 30th) and Hurst Beach (1 adult, Oct 11th; 1 adult and 1 juvenile, Oct 26th). On Nov 2nd at Hurst Beach during a lengthy sea-watch in very windy conditions 11 were recorded driven east over the spit in small groups which included a juvenile and second-winter. The only other record was four (adult and 3 immatures) on Southampton Water off Royal Victoria CP on Dec 27th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1		4	72	5		3	1	1	5	11	4

## Mediterranean Gull†

*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

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

In January there were reports on most days though mainly in single figures and mainly coastal. In the West Solent the first double-figure count was 11 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 6th. The highest were 54 at Beaulieu Estuary on 20th and a group of 12 west on 26th. The highest East Solent count was six at Portsmouth Harbour on 19th and six north over Leigh Park, Havant on 21st. In February there were 16 counts exceeding ten, the focal point for large numbers being, as usual, Langstone Harbour. The build-up there began late in the month and reached 300 at West Hayling LNR (Oysterbeds) on 23rd. About four miles inland at Deanlane End an estimated 250 flew over in a mixed flock with Black-headed Gulls on 26th.

In March there were 48 counts above ten. On Mar 2nd the number at West Hayling LNR conservatively reached 600. Away from the tabulated sites there were significant counts of feeding flocks on the South Downs from Deanlane End (300, 2nd; 100, 18th), Stroud (145, 14th) and Petersfield (150, 25th; 150, 31st). In April there were 65 counts above ten. On 16th West Hayling LNR reached its highest count of the year with 1,751. The only other large coastal concentrations were at Titchfield Haven (max. 222, Apr 6th) and Normandy Marsh (300, Apr 19th). The highest count from the South Downs during the month was 100 at Teglease Down on 1st.

There was evidence of breeding at four locations with a total of around 600 pairs, significantly lower than last year's record high (cf. 1,740 in 2018). The prime site was again Langstone Harbour where, without a complete survey, 600 pairs at most were estimated to have raised 176 young on the islands. No breeding took place at nearby West Hayling LNR. One pair nested on the Emsworth shore of Chichester Harbour and three pairs nested on the saltmarsh at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes but no young were counted. At Blashford one pair nested on Ivy Lake but both young were predated.

The customary movements from Langstone Harbour inland to the South Downs were reported through May to July. The largest numbers were at Denmead (60, May 29th), Soberton (250, June 12th), Winchester SF (185, June 17th), Colemore (68, June 18th), Droxford (126, June 21st), Bishopstoke (120, June 24th) and Gander Down (230 NW, July 7th). At Leigh Park on July 6th 270 flew inland between 09:30 and 14:00. At the end of July significant numbers were still lingering in Langstone Harbour with 200 on Broadmarsh/Bedhampton shore on 22nd and 110 juveniles east of Farlington Marshes on 28th. In late summer the usual coastal gatherings were reported with the largest numbers at Stansore Point, Lepe (145 E, Aug 4th), Brownwich (200, Aug 24th; 250, Sep 15th) and Sandy Point (130, Sep 9th; 100, Oct 8th). Inland 33 at Alresford Pond during heavy rain on Aug 7th was a high August count for this site. The final large gathering of the year was at Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea between Oct 11th-30th with a maximum of 203 on 14th. In the final two months of the year there were only single-figure counts, the highest being five at Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 23rd.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1	25	100	30	43	25	32	60	588	70	1	
South Hayling shore		1	1		1	5	2		130	100		
Langstone Harbour		300	600	1,751	1,200	1,200	200	81	6	1	1	
Portsmouth Harbour	6	8	7	20	2	3	21	43	43	5	5	
Titchfield Haven area	2	11	150	222	8	11	60	200	259	3	2	2
Hamble Estuary	1	20	6	40	4	50	4	27	13	2		
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	54	27	14	61	7	4	45	145	20	3	3	3
Sowley/Lymington				13	17	4	50		7	40	2	
Lymington-Hurst	11	4	31	300	52	5	6	3	3	203	2	3
Ibsley Water	3	4	7	8	2	3	1				2	
Winchester SF	1		7		3	185	8					2

## Common Gull (Mew Gull)

*Larus canus*

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

Most non-tabulated three-figure counts in the first three months of the year were, as usual, on the South Downs. This is the main destination for diurnal feeding flocks from East Solent winter roosts. The highest were at South Boarhunt (150 S, Jan 1st), Soberton (180, Jan 5th; 108, Jan 26th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (100, Jan 13th), East Meon (120, Jan 20th), Chidden Green Lane (450, Jan 25th), North Boarhunt (150, Feb 7th), Stroud (500, Mar 7th) and Meonstoke (600, Mar 9th). The highest counts in the East Solent were at Chichester Harbour (517, Feb 23rd) and Farlington Marshes where 1,000 headed west at 17:00 on Mar 2nd. In the west the only significant counts were 400 at Ibsley Water on Feb 2nd, which coincided with a brief cold period, and Beaulieu Estuary (128, Feb 24th). High counts came from Southampton Water at Redbridge Wharf (120, Jan 2nd), Weston Shore (145, Mar 11th) and inland along the Test Valley from Fishlake Meadows (190, Feb 17th; 200, Mar 17th).

The only significant spring movements were at Sandy Point where 91 moved east over six dates between Apr 16th-25th, the daily maximum being 40 on 19th. Until late July all subsequent counts were in low single figures except for Hill Head (50, May 17th).

The first double-figure post-breeding returns were at Lepe (10, July 26th; 12, Aug 4th) and the first triple-figure count was on the South Downs at Chidden Green Lane (120, Sep 26th). The first juvenile was seen off Hurst Beach on July 30th. In the final three months all three-figure counts were from the east of the county. Non-tabulated totals for eastern harbours included Chichester Harbour (850, Oct 26th; 363, Dec 14th) and Langstone Harbour where 655 flew into roost on Nov 2nd and 400 were at Farlington Marshes on Dec 31st. On Oct 22nd at Waterlooville an evening count between 15:35 and 17:55 logged 330 flying south to roost. High counts from the South Downs included Old Winchester Hill (1,200, Nov 4th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (140, Dec 7th) and Cheriton (320, Dec 31st). Elsewhere numbers were much lower with the highest being at Hythe MOD base (55, Dec 14th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour	141	200	42					1	25	155	60	99
Beaulieu Estuary	4	128	6	2			1	18	1			13
Ibsley Water	25	400	30	2					1	7	8	30
Winchester SF	188	106	58	3							70	40
Avington Lake	49	54	237					1	1	5	97	38
Alresford Pond	525	209	311				3	22	25	175	512	432

## Ring-billed Gull

*Larus delawarensis*

*Very scarce visitor recorded in every month except May. (0,44,0)*

The adult that had returned for its fifth winter at Ibsley Water in November 2018 was not reported until Feb 3rd, but was then present almost daily until Mar 27th, being seen at the roost although not at other times of the day (RAC *et al.*, photo). It was not seen in the late year. (KFB)

## Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus*

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

The first three months followed the usual pattern with reports mainly from the coast and along the main river valleys with generally low numbers. There were only six double-figure reports from Hurst Beach (30, Jan 5th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (11, Mar 31st), Farlington Marshes (10, Jan 6th), Chichester Harbour (12, Jan 19th), Titchfield Haven (12, Mar 3rd) and inland at Ibsley Water (15, Feb 6th). In April there were three double-figure records from Ibsley Water (20, 9th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (18, 19th) and Stokes Bay (12, 22nd).

Six nesting pairs were reported. Single pairs were on roofs at the Ocean Terminal building in Southampton's East Docks, on a factory at Burrfields, Portsmouth and on a house near Milford on Sea, two pairs nested in natural habitat near the mouth of the Lymington Estuary and a pair nested on Slipper Mill Pond at Emsworth. Summering flocks were small and mainly located in the West Solent with reports from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (max. 35, May 13th; max. 31, June 4th; max. 36, July 10th) and Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (13, May 19th; 27, June 5th). In the East Solent 15 flew east at Sandy Point on May 16th.

An influx towards the end of summer added to numbers around Pennington Marshes where counts increased to 64 on Aug 31st and 138 on Sep 29th. At this time there were also double-figure counts at Hook-with-Warsash (12, Aug 28th), Titchfield Haven (13, Sep 23rd) and Weston Shore (17, Sep 29th). Numbers in the final three months were lower with the highest being a WeBS count at Portsmouth Harbour (39, Oct 26th). At Titchfield Haven numbers increased to 32 on Nov 5th. Meanwhile at Pennington Marshes the highest count was 21 on Nov 22nd and inland the highest was seven at Ibsley Water on Oct 16th. (JRJ)

## Herring Gull (European Herring Gull)

*Larus argentatus*

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

*NT, Red, S4I*

In the first three months there were 40 counts of 50 or more at ten coastal and seven inland locations. The highest was from the West Solent where 750 were feeding off Hurst Beach on Jan 5th. In Southampton Water counts were from Eling Great Marsh (67, Feb 16th), Dibden Bay (max. 118, Feb 16th), Hythe MOD base (70, Mar 9th) and Weston Shore (70, Mar 26th), and in the East Solent from Farlington Marshes (200, Jan 6th), Hill Head (50, Feb 3rd), Portsmouth Harbour (max. 105, Feb 23rd) and Chichester Harbour (max. 113, Feb 23rd). All inland reports of 50 or over were typically close to river valleys and all were in the south. Those in the Avon Valley featured Ibsley Water (max. 250, Feb 13th), Sopley/Avon Causeway (100, Jan 4th) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (64, Mar 23rd). In the Test Valley the maximum at Longparish was 120 on Jan 11th. At Itchen Valley CP the maximum movement from Southampton Water was 70 in 3 hours on Jan 13th and at nearby Eastleigh railway works there were 75 on Mar 9th. In the Upper Hamble at Botley there were 100 on Mar 9th. Only two double-figure counts were reported in the north from Farnborough (48, Feb 23rd) and Wootton St Lawrence (20, Jan 10th).

A total of 186 breeding pairs was reported all of which were on roofs or other built structures. Southampton had the highest number with 87 even though there was no complete survey



*Caspian Gulls, third-winter, Ibsley Water, Feb 17th (Alan Lewis) and first-winter, Sturt Pond, Oct 18th (Lee Fuller)*

this year. These were in the eastern docks at Dock Head (48 pairs), western docks (10 pairs), a warehouse on West Quay Road (25 pairs), Itchen Estuary (3 pairs) and the city centre (1 pair). In New Milton a survey using a drone revealed 64 pairs on warehouse roofs. In Eastleigh there were 16 pairs and in the East Solent 15 pairs at Horse Sand Fort. Locations with single pairs included Old Portsmouth, Havant, Lyndhurst and Royal Victoria CP, Netley.

The first three-figure post-breeding counts came from Portsmouth naval base (597, July 9th) and Pennington Marshes (140, July 10th). From mid-August high numbers were recorded at Pennington Marshes (max. 140, Aug 14th), Hythe MOD base (200, Aug 22nd; 150, Sep 14th) and Chichester Harbour (200, Sep 28th). Inland counts at this time included Highbridge (245 S, Aug 23rd), Ibsley Water (250, Aug 29th) and Chidden Green Lane (350, Sep 26th). The highest counts of the year occurred in the final three months though most were in October. Inland locations were overwhelmingly in the south and included Longwood Warren (601, Oct 5th; 1,000, Oct 6th), Gander Down (520, Oct 13th), Avington Lake (max. 750, Oct 15th), Ibsley Water (800, Oct 19th; 500, Dec 31st), Itchen Valley CP (max. 150, Oct 20th), Waterlooville (890 south, Oct 22nd), Heath Pond, Petersfield (112, Oct 31st) and Chidden Green Lane (800, Dec 18th). The highest coastal counts were from Hurst Beach where at least 1,200 were reported over The Solent on Oct 27th, 750 on Oct 11th and 650 on Nov 10th. Other coastal counts included Itchen Estuary (122, Oct 3rd), Titchfield Haven (120, Oct 24th) and Farlington Marshes (100, Oct 27th).

In the latter part of the year light movements, both SW and NE, were recorded during early mornings at Trigpoint Hill with totals of 335 SW and 424 NE on 61 dates between Aug 4th and Dec 31st with a peak count of 117 NE in 1.5 hours on Oct 23rd. (JRJ)

## Caspian Gull

*Larus cachinnans*

*Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,49,4).*

*Amber*

A first-winter that arrived at Ibsley Water in October 2018 remained and was joined by another first-winter from Jan 3rd. One of these was present up to Jan 29th and the other (smaller, perhaps female) until Feb 17th (m.o., photo). A third-winter was present from Feb 9th-17th (m.o., photo). As usual all of these came into the evening roost but were not usually present during the day. In the late year a first-winter was at Sturt Pond on Oct 17th-18th (SGK *et al.*, photo). An adult was seen in the Ibsley Water roost on Dec 3rd and 5th (PDW, MPM, photo). (KFB)

## Yellow-legged Gull

*Larus michahellis*

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

Reported from seven coastal and seven inland locations with the highest counts from Ibsley Water during the winter months. In addition to the tabulated locations, coastal records of singles, unless otherwise stated, for the first six months came from Keyhaven Marshes (Jan 13th), Stokes Bay (Jan 30th), Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point (Feb 15th; Apr 19th) and Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash (Apr 21st; May 15th to June 30th). Inland records came from Fishlake Meadows (Jan 27th; 3, Apr 23rd), Basingstoke (2, Mar 29th; 2, Apr 10th) and Ramptons Lane GP/Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) (3, Jan 15th; 2, Mar 2nd).

In the breeding season a pair nested for the sixth year on a roof at Northam along the Itchen Estuary raising two young. One of the adults is considered to have hybrid ancestry which appeared again in the plumage of one of the juveniles.

In the second half-year coastal records came from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (July 7th, 30th; Aug 2nd-20th; Nov 16th), Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash (July 6th to Sep 23rd; Oct 3rd; Dec 9th) and Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point (July 17th, 30th; Aug 9th, 13th; Sep 2nd, 28th). Inland records came from Bickton (Sep 29th), Fishlake Meadows (July 27th; Dec 14th, 16th), Alresford Pond (Aug 5th, 8th), Eversley Common/ Busta Triangle (2, July 17th, 23rd; 3, Aug 3rd; 1, Aug 5th; 1, Sep 16th) and Ramptons Lane GP/ Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) (Nov 10th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water roost)	6	7	4	1			1	1	1	5	11	8
Itchen Estuary area	2	3	2			2	4		1	1	1	1
Lower Test Marshes/Eling	1			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1	1	1	1		1	2					
Approx. monthly totals	15	12	11	10	2	5	14	9	7	8	15	11

## Lesser Black-backed Gull

*Larus fuscus*

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

In the first three months of the year the highest counts were at Ibsley Water roost followed by the usual sharp decline by March as the return to breeding colonies progressed. The monthly maxima at Ibsley were 4,000 on Jan 1st, 850 on Feb 13th and 200 on Mar 2nd. All other significant counts were in the north including Ramptons Lane GP/Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP) roost (max. 510, Jan 15th). There were also counts from Wootton St Lawrence (max. 100, Jan 10th) and Busta Triangle (50, Jan 21st). The highest coastal count was a movement of 61 north over Hurst Beach on Mar 18th. The highest count in April was at Winchester SF (48, Apr 8th) and in May at Bishopstoke (115, May 21st). Significant north-easterly spring movements totalling 790 were recorded at Trigpoint Hill during 48 morning counts of typically 1.0-1.5 hours each. Most were logged during March when there were four high day counts (87, 16th; 58, 19th; 266, 20th; 98, 22nd).

A total of 13 breeding pairs was reported, all of them on roofs. These included two pairs in Southampton, one of them in the western Docks and the other on the Ocean Terminal building in the eastern Docks. Elsewhere four pairs nested on warehouse roofs at New Milton, two pairs at Barton Park Industrial estate in Eastleigh and five pairs on Horse Sand Fort in East Solent.

The highest post-breeding counts were as usual at Ibsley Water (100, July 7th; 2,750, Aug

29th). Elsewhere the highest number was at Alresford Pond (88, Aug 27th). In the last three months the highest counts were again at Ibsley Water roost (4,000, Oct 19th; 5,000, Nov 17th; 7,000, Dec 4th). Three-figure counts came from Polhampton (245, Nov 22nd), Overton Lagoons (149 NE, Nov 29th) and Ewhurst Park (100, Dec 7th). (JRJ)

## Gull-billed Tern

*Gelochelidon nilotica*

*Rare vagrant. (0,13,1)*

An adult was at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington from 15:45-16:30 on May 31st. It had arrived from the east and sat preening and sleeping before departing NW after its short stay (LMF *et al.*, photo). Rapid sharing of the news allowed several people to connect with this much-wanted bird.

There are 13 previous records, all between Apr 29th and July 15th. There were 11 records of 13 birds between 1958 and 1982, since which the only sightings have been in May 1994 and May 2003. The absence of recent records mirrors the pattern elsewhere in Britain and is probably connected with the decline of the breeding population in north-west Europe, with only one colony remaining with up to 37 pairs in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Breeding has ceased in the Netherlands and Denmark. (KFB)



Gull-billed Tern, Fishtail Lagoon, May 31st (Lee Fuller)

## Sandwich Tern

*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

Early year records were concentrated in the eastern harbours with 16 off Sandy Point on Feb 9th being the highest count. Elsewhere there were singles at three sites. Spring passage started on Mar 13th with one west at Hurst Beach and was evident from 23rd when there were records from six sites. Approximately 765 moved east up to May 8th with counts of 353 at Hurst Beach (peak 141, Apr 5th), 284 past Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 80, Apr 5th) and 543 past Sandy Point (peak 270, Apr 25th). Inland one was heard calling over Crookham Village at 00:10 on Apr 19th.

On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 60 pairs raised 29 young (*cf.* 60 pairs raising 22 young in 2018). At Langstone Harbour RSPB 59 pairs raised 20 young (*cf.* 113 pairs raising 42 young in 2018).

The highest counts of the autumn were at Black Point, Hayling Island with a peak of 130 on Aug 9th. Elsewhere the highest count was 40 at Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 13th. Unusually one flew north-east over Winchester Cathedral on July 18th. In the late year numbers in Chichester Harbour peaked on Nov 7th when 27 were at Black Point. Elsewhere records came from four sites. (MLE)

## Little Tern

*Sternula albifrons*

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

The first were one past Hurst Beach and two at Normandy Lagoon on Apr 17th. Spring passage was poor with approximately 42 east through The Solent up to May 8th. Totals from the main sites were 14 at Hurst Beach (max. 5, Apr 25th), 20 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 10, Apr 24th) and 23 past Sandy Point (max. 16, Apr 25th).

In the breeding season there were 60 nests at two sites but productivity was very poor. In the West Solent three young fledged from 11 nests and in Langstone Harbour only one young fledged from 49 nests.

Post-breeding numbers were lower than in 2018. The highest counts were at Black Point, Hayling Island with a peak of 38 on Aug 15th. Elsewhere 13 off Hill Head on Aug 24th was the last record of the year. (MLE)

## Roseate Tern

*Sterna dougallii*

*Very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds.* ET, Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP

It was another poor year with only five recorded. The first was feeding off Sandy Point, Hayling Island for 20 minutes on May 14th. Another single was at Titchfield Haven on May 26th with two there on June 28th. The only autumn record came from Hurst Beach where one flew west on Sep 26th. (MLE)

## Common Tern

*Sterna hirundo*

*Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.* ET, Amber

The first on the coast was off Hill Head on Mar 29th and the first inland was at Ibsley Water on Apr 13th. Eastbound passage along the coast was modest with 619 recorded between Mar 29th and May 8th. Counts at the main watch-points were 133 at Hurst Beach (max. 100, May 8th), 421 past Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 221, May 8th) and 337 at Sandy Point (max. 250, Apr 25th).



Common Terns courtship feeding, Keyhaven, May 12th (Matthew Barfield)

Breeding season success was similar to the previous year with 254 pairs raising 161 young (cf. 215 pairs raised 149 young in 2018). On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 59 young fledged from 115 nests. In Langstone Harbour three pairs raised one chick on the RSPB islands and at West Hayling LNR 104 pairs raised 75 young. Eight pairs raised three young at Titchfield Haven and four pairs raised four young at Needs Ore. Inland at Blashford Lakes 20 pairs raised 19 young and at Testwood Lakes four pairs raised five young.

Post-breeding numbers were similar to 2018 with 23 three-figure counts at six sites. The peak counts were 550 at Forton Lake, Portsmouth Harbour on Aug 7th and 510 off Eastney on Aug 18th. There were 13 October records with the last, a single, at Black Point on 26th. (MLE)

## Arctic Tern

*Sterna paradisaea*

*Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.* ET, Amber

Spring passage was relatively high with approximately 107 recorded. This is the highest count since 2012 when 171 were recorded. The first were two past Hordle Cliff and 11 past Hurst Beach on Apr 5th. They were followed by a further 70 at six coastal sites up to May 23rd with peaks of 40 east at Hill Head on Apr 24th and 12 east past Hurst Beach on Apr 25th. Inland ten flew north-east from Fleet Pond on Apr 19th with a further 11 east there on May 8th. At Ibsley Water two were present on Apr 27th with a further single on May 10th.

In the autumn approximately 28 were recorded. After an early juvenile at Keyhaven Marshes on July 18th, there were ones and twos at six coastal and three inland sites from Aug 9th to Oct 31st. Higher counts came from Hythe (5, Sep 4th) and Hurst Beach (7, Sep 26th) and an adult at Burnt Common on Oct 5th-6th was noteworthy. The last was a single at Hurst Beach on Oct 31st. (MLE)

## Black Tern

*Chlidonias niger*

*Scarce passage migrant.* ET, Schedule 1, Green

The spring passage total of 55 along the coast and 19 inland was a significant increase on the 15 recorded in 2018. The first were three at Ibsley Water on Apr 19th followed by four east past Hill Head on Apr 22nd. Coastal passage was noted at five sites up to May 21st with double-figure counts only at Hill Head (14 E, May 8th; 24, May 17th). Inland there were a further ten at Ibsley Water between May 5th and 17th (max. 7, May 8th) and five at Fleet Pond between Apr 25th and May 17th.

Autumn passage commenced with one at Hill Head on July 18th followed by approximately 118 up to Oct 13th. Most sites recorded single-figure counts but there was an influx along the coast on Aug 24th when double-figure counts were made at six sites including 38 at Weston Shore. Thereafter numbers dropped quickly and there were no further counts of more than six after 20 at Titchfield Haven on Aug 26th. The last was a relatively late bird at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Oct 13th.

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

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
11	63		5	109	3	1

## Great Skua

*Stercorarius skua*

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

The annual total of 29 was similar to the low numbers recorded in the previous four years. The first was off Southsea on Jan 19th. It, or another, was at five sites between Lepe and Sandy Point from Feb 20th to Mar 3rd.



*Great Skua, Efford Lake, Lower Pennington, Feb 23rd (Chris Rose)*

Spring passage started on Mar 23rd with one past Sinah Common, Hayling Island. There were a further 18 up to May 12th including 14 at Hurst Beach, four off Hill Head/Stokes Bay and 11 off Sandy Point. Six off Hurst Beach on Apr 5th and five off Sandy Point on Apr 25th were the only counts greater than three.

Seven were recorded in autumn between Aug 9th and Nov 13th with three at Hurst Beach on Sep 29th being the peak count. The last of the year was one off this site on Dec 16th. (MLE)

### **Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)**

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

A modest year with 25 in spring, one in summer and three in autumn. After two past Hurst Beach on Apr 24th, one of which passed Stokes Bay later the same day, there were a further 23 up to May 17th. On May 16th 17 were recorded in the late afternoon and early evening at Sandy Point including a flock of eight at 17:05. Thus totals for the main sites, including repeat sightings, were five at Hurst Beach (peak 2, Apr 24th and May 17th), 20 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 14, May 16th) and 17 at Sandy Point.



*Adult Pomarine Skua in flight at Titchfield Haven, Oct 19th (Chris Rose) and at rest at West Hayling Oyster Beds, Oct 20th (Lee Fuller)*

A pale morph adult was off Hurst Castle on June 30th. The four autumn records were all between Oct 1st-20th. These included an adult at Titchfield Haven for most of the day on 19th before relocating to Langstone Harbour in the late afternoon where it was seen to kill and eat a Little Egret. It was still present the following morning at West Hayling LNR. (MLE)

### **Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)**

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

A dark morph adult was off Hurst Beach on Jan 14th. The first of the spring was also here on Apr 4th. Passage was relatively poor with only 68 recorded up to May 23rd (cf. 89 in 2018). Totals at the main sites were 37 at Hurst Beach (peak 16, Apr 25th), 60 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 18, Apr 25th) and 31 at Sandy Point (peak 12, Apr 25th).

One flew north over Titchfield Haven on May 30th and coastal birds were noted on June 8th and 30th. Autumn passage was evident from July 18th when one was off Lepe Beach and Needs Ore. There were a further 12 records of ones or twos up to Oct 14th when one was off Hurst Beach. (MLE)

**Long-tailed Skua (Long-tailed Jaeger)**  
*Stercorarius longicaudus*

Very scarce passage migrant, also recorded twice in winter. (1,47,2) Green

A juvenile flew west at Milford on Sea at 09:25 on Oct 11th (SGK, CDJ), and another juvenile also flew west there at 12:15 on Oct 26th (AIL, photo).

There have been records every year this century apart from 2004, 2012, 2015 and 2018. Most Long-tailed Skuas are recorded in autumn with the majority being in September and October, particularly after strong south-westerly winds. (KFB)



Juvenile Long-tailed Skua, Milford on Sea, Oct 26th (Alan Lewis)

**Common Guillemot (Common Murre)**

*Uria aalge*

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

It was a poor year with only 31 recorded. In the early winter period approximately 11 were at four sites including up to two in Southampton Water from Jan 28th to Feb 13th and five west at Hurst Beach on Feb 28th. Spring passage was only evident at Hurst Beach where ten were recorded between Apr 25th and May 8th (peak 3, Apr 25th-26th).

The first of the autumn were singles off Pennington/Keyhaven and Sandy Point on Aug 24th. Thereafter eight singles were recorded at four sites with the last off Southsea on Dec 24th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	4	5	1	7	3			2	1	4		1
Moving east	1									1	1	

**Razorbill**

*Alca torda*

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

Compared to last year there was a modest improvement in numbers with 27 recorded (cf. 19 in 2018). In the early year 18 were noted at six sites including one in Southampton Water from Jan 3rd to Feb 16th, seven in Portsmouth Harbour on Feb 13th with four, which may have been part of this group, off Southsea Castle on Feb 16th and up to three around Chichester Harbour from Feb 7th to Mar 13th.

Spring passage was only noted at Hurst Beach where one flew east on Apr 26th and two were present on May 19th. One was off Hurst Castle on June 30th. There were no further records until Oct 11th when one was off Lepe Beach. There were a further four records of singles between Oct 18th and Nov 13th.



Razorbill, Black Point, Mar 2nd (Alan Lewis)

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

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

**Auk species**

A total of 41 were recorded at Sandy Point, Hill Head, Lepe and Hurst Beach. Thirty-four were in the early winter, three in spring and four in autumn. The only double-figure count was ten off Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Feb 10th. (MLE)

**Black Guillemot**

*Cephus grylle*

Very rare vagrant. (0,4,1)

A single was seen flying east about 50m beyond the green buoy off Milford on Sea at 08:18 on Nov 26th (SGK). It was lost to view in blustery rain and so it is not known whether it continued towards Hurst Narrows.

There have been five previous records of four individuals – in 1986, 1989, 2010, 2017 and 2018. Generally Black Guillemots remain close to their nesting sites throughout the year, but first-winters do wander. The 2017 and 2018 individuals were first-winters so perhaps this was one as well. The nearest breeding colonies are on Anglesey, Wales and in Ireland. (KFB)

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

*Gavia stellata*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

It was a good year by recent standards (315 bird-days) involving some unusually long-staying individuals and a significant westerly movement in the early year. January reports were widespread. At Sandy Point one was present on the sea until 7th and again from 20th-28th (2, 24th); movements (10 E, 1 W) included six east there on 25th. In the west a seemingly healthy first-winter fished between Normandy and Keyhaven Harbour (1st-28th), one to three were on the sea off Hurst Beach/Hurst Castle (3rd-25th), two flew east into the Narrows on 3rd and another on 5th. Off Hill Head there were sightings on six dates - all singles except for three (21st) and two (28th). Reports elsewhere came from Southsea Castle (1, 15th), Needs Ore (1 E, 20th) and Langstone Bridge (1, 29th).

A brief spell of severe winter weather led to significant movements at the beginning of February. On 1st at least 36 were off Sandy Point (20 on sea; 4 into harbour; 9 E; 3 W) and late morning three drifted east past Hill Head. A cold spell with strong NE winds abated by Feb 3rd followed by a massive westerly movement totalling 577 past Selsey Bill, West Sussex. Those moving into Hampshire waters included parties of 20, 16 and two off Sandy Point early morning (4 returned east), nine on the sea two km east in Hayling Bay, 12 past Hill Head at 09:22 and a total of 27, including groups of 14 and eight, in a subsequent two-hour watch there. It is not possible to arrive at a definitive total for the scale of this westerly movement but of the 91 recorded flying west possibly 65 separate birds were involved. Given the number that entered The Solent it is surprising that none were noted further west. Scattered records were then reported throughout the rest of February until the last (two singles) on Mar 8th. Totals were 12 east (max. 8, Sandy Point, Feb 5th), ten west (max. 8, Hill Head, Feb 10th) and one to three on the sea including reports from Hurst Castle (1, Feb 9th), Portchester Castle (1, Feb 23rd) and Needs Ore (1 E, Jan 20th; 1, Mar 8th). A conservative early-year total of 185 bird-days was the most since 2011.

A light easterly passage of just 14 individuals was observed on six dates between Apr 2nd and 26th including four each on 5th at Hurst Beach/Hordle Cliff (08:50, 08:55, 13:00 and 14:00) and Sandy Point, with the last past Hurst Beach on 26th.

The first returns were in September with one in full breeding plumage at Hill Head/Brownwich (10th-12th), two resting off the Lifeboat Station at the Chichester Harbour entrance (breeding



Red-throated Diver, Keyhaven Harbour, Jan 22nd (Andy Tew)

and winter plumages, 29th) and one flying west past Hurst Beach (29th). In October singles flew east past Hill Head (3rd, 9th), Sandy Point (5th) and Milford on Sea (26th). At Chichester Harbour one was at the entrance (Oct 10th), off Black Point (Oct 22nd) then one to five regularly there to year-end, or off Sandy Point to the year-end (4, Nov 4th and Dec 4th; 5, Nov 25th and Dec 28th). Along the West Solent one arrived from inland crossing Lower Pennington Lane on Nov 9th. Movements off Hurst Beach totalled 11 east and five west on nine dates from Nov 25th to Dec 29th (max. 4, Nov 25th). Elsewhere singles were noted flying into Southampton Water from Hamble Point (Oct 31st), Hill Head/Brownwich (Nov 8th, 10th, 23rd-24th) and two at Portsmouth Harbour entrance (Nov 9th). The approximate monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	11	27	1	3					3	3	11	5
Moving east	14	23	1	14						3		11
Moving west	1	78							1	1	4	

### Black-throated Diver (Black-throated Loon)

*Gavia arctica*

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*ET, Schedule 1, Amber*

Recorded in 13 coastal tetrads. A first-winter that arrived at Chichester Harbour on Nov 8th 2018 was perhaps the same individual seen there on Jan 3rd, Feb 11th and Mar 18th-19th and off Hill Head on Jan 21st and Hayling Bay on Jan 25th. The only other early year record was a single off Hurst Beach on Jan 1st. Easterly passage was confined to three dates with up to five east on Apr 5th (3, Sandy Point; 2, Hurst Beach), two east at Stokes Bay on Apr 25th and the last in breeding plumage past Sandy Point on May 16th.

The first return flew west past Hurst Beach on Sep 30th. One moulting out of breeding plumage rested briefly on the sea at Stansore Point before continuing to fly west on Oct 30th. The next flew into Chichester Harbour on Oct 31st, two were present along the Emsworth Channel on Nov 3rd-4th and one was seen there on four subsequent dates until 15th, including flying to roost at sea on 9th. Elsewhere one flew west past Hurst Castle on Nov 16th and one, perhaps the Chichester Harbour individual, was at Langstone Harbour between Dec 26th-29th. Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

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

### Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)

*Gavia immer*

*Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber*

A total of just 51 records in the early year compared to 207 in the late year when 36% of all records came from Southampton Water. This contrasted with the previous two diver species for which there were none. The crustacean shellfish diet of this species is apparently not part of the normal prey of the other two divers and suggests Southampton Water stocks are important for this species. All records were of singles unless otherwise stated. One of three off Brownwich on Jan 1st flew west (the only flight record of the early year). This group probably accounted for all seven records between Hill Head and Hamble Point up to the last on Jan 21st. Elsewhere recorded off Southsea Castle (2, Jan 3rd; five further dates to Feb 15th), Hurst Castle (seven dates, Jan 1st to Mar 16th) and Hayling Bay (Jan 24th, 29th).

Easterly passage was restricted to single sightings at Hill Head (Apr 7th), Southsea Castle (Apr 25th) and Hurst Beach (2, May 13th). Westerly movements were noted at Sandy Point (Apr 16th, May 29th).

An early return flew west past Hurst Beach on Sep 30th and another in summer plumage was there on Oct 26th. One moulting out of breeding plumage was off Weston Shore on Oct 26th, another in winter plumage flew south-east on Oct 29th followed by daily records either there, or in the upper reaches of Southampton Water, to the year-end (2, Nov 13-14th; 4, 16th-17th; 2, Dec 18th; 4, 19th; 3-5, 22nd-31st). At Sandy Point an arrival on Oct 30th-31st remained until the year-end (2, Nov 13th-14th and Dec 13th, 17th). Along The Solent there were reports between Lepe and Needs Ore on eight dates (1-2, Nov 6th-Dec 15th), one intermittently between Hill Head and Chilling Cliffs between Nov 10th and Dec 3rd and then one to three regularly from Dec 16th to the year-end and up to four from Hamble Point to Solent Breezes from Dec 11th onwards (six dates). In the eastern harbours recorded on ten dates from Nov 23rd to Dec 30th including Conigar Point (Dec 23rd-29th) and Cams Bay/Port Solent (Dec 30th-31st). One was off Oxey Lake on Nov 3rd and seen from Pylewell to Hurst Beach on seven further dates to Dec 16th. The estimated peak total of 14 in December assumes movements between sites, especially in Southampton Water. Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	2	1	3	3				1	3	11	14

### Diver sp.

Nine reports of unidentified divers were received. These referred to birds seen distantly on the sea off Hurst Beach (4, Jan 3rd; 3, May 8th), Eastney (2, Jan 19th) and past Sandy Point (a total of 16 E on five dates and 1 W, Dec 4th). (AFJC)

### Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel)

*Hydrobates pelagicus*

*Very scarce visitor, usually after autumn gales but recorded in every month from May to January. (1,335,3)*

*ET, Amber*

A single flew west past Milford on Sea between 08:55-08:58 on Aug 10th. The bird was at 150m range allowing good views for six observers (SI *et al.*). Later at 10:55 two flew west past Hurst Castle (MPM). These sightings came at a time when weather warnings had been in place for two days across much of England with strong south-westerly winds hitting the coast.

Most recent sightings have been in May and June although the largest ever influx of at least 115 was in October 2000. There are only four previous August records, the most recent being in 2014 when again poor weather was likely to have been a factor in the bird being blown towards the coast. (KFB)

## Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel)

*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

*Very scarce autumn and winter visitor, usually after gales; mostly from September to January but once each in February, April and June. (11, 325+,2)*

*ET, Schedule 1, Amber*

A single battled against the winds as it tried to fly west past Milford on Sea at 08:20 on Oct 26th. It spent 20 minutes struggling to leave the bay against strong south-westerly winds and came within 100m of the shore (SGK *et al.*, photo). Another fought its way eastwards across Farlington Marshes in strong winds on Nov 5th (KPS).

There have been records in most years but not in 2016 or 2018. These have mainly been singles between October and December, but over 100 were reported across many coastal sites after storms in November 2009. (KFB)

## Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)

*Fulmarus glacialis*

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

*EN, Amber*

As usual, small numbers were reported from the regular coastal watch-points at each end of The Solent off Milford on Sea/Hurst Beach in the west and Sandy Point in the east, with scattered records within The Solent and Southampton Water. The first was one east at Hill Head on Feb 23rd. This was followed by between one and four in each of the subsequent months up to September except for the following day counts which peaked with ten between Hurst Beach and Milford on Sea/Hurst Beach on Apr 5th and 25th respectively. The only other day counts to exceed four were six, mostly west, at Milford on Sea/Hurst Beach in 3.5 hours on June 8th and seven off Sandy Point on June 13th.

Elsewhere, in addition to the first record, there were three west at Hill Head on Mar 16th during over seven hours of watching and one on Apr 24th also seen from Stokes Bay, two west off Eastney on Apr 13th and singles offshore from Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 30th, Lepe on May 3rd, Stokes Bay on May 8th, Portsmouth on June 20th and Lymington-Hurst on July 20th. The year ended with singles east off Milford on Sea/Hurst Beach on Nov 26th and Dec 12th.

The monthly maxima are shown below. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	3	10	2	7	2	4	1		1	1

## Manx Shearwater

*Puffinus puffinus*

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

*Amber*

There were only 18 records with the highest day count being 21 east at Sandy Point on Apr 27th including two harassed by an Arctic Skua. Sightings began on Apr 5th with one east off Hordle Cliff and seven south at Hurst Beach. These were followed at Sandy Point by one east on Apr 24th, one west on 25th and one east on 26th before the 21 east referred to above on 27th. The only other record at this time was five at Milford on Sea on 25th. The next were not until May 7th when two south-east at Hurst Beach were followed by a flock of 14 which headed towards Hurst Narrows from the west but then turned back. The only June record was six at Hurst Beach on 6th and the last of the year was one on the sea close inshore at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 5th.

The monthly cumulative totals are shown below. The year total of 60 on 8 days compares poorly with 399 on 13 days in 2018. The mix of directions again suggests feeding forays and not passage. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			37	16	61			1			

## Balearic Shearwater

*Puffinus mauretanicus*

*Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in late summer and autumn. (0,240,10)*

*ET, CR, Red, S41*

Four were seen from Hurst Castle flying west at 11:03 on Aug 10th (MPM). Then from Milford on Sea a single flew west at 08:52 on Aug 18th (MPM) and on Sep 2nd two were seen flying north-west off Hurst Beach at 09:39 (MPM). Finally two flew west off Milford on Sea at 07:55 on Sep 29th (SGK) and a single flew east at 11:00 hrs (NJM).

After a blank year in 2018 it is good that numbers increased again, but sadly the breeding population is falling fast enough to warrant Critically Endangered status. The birds breed exclusively in the Balearic Islands of Spain. The bulk of the population leaves the Mediterranean after breeding and concentrates off the coasts of Spain, Portugal and France. A significant number also make it to western reaches of the English Channel before returning to the breeding areas after October. (KFB)

## Shearwater sp.

A single bird, thought possibly to be Balearic Shearwater, was seen very distantly in poor light off Milford on Sea at 17:00 on June 7th (PFF). The next morning a single was seen at 07:00 (AIL) followed by seven at 08:10 (PFF) and three at 10:30 (AIL). It was clear that these birds were circling. Again they were suspected to be Balearic Shearwaters but the distance prevented confirmation of the identification. (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 every month of the year with counts of 100 or more in April, July and October. Relatively low numbers in the first three months included monthly maxima of eight off Eastney and Southsea on Jan 19th, 30 west at Sandy Point on Feb 7th and 35 west in over 7 hours of sea-watching at Hill Head on Mar 16th following several days of strong westerlies. Peak monthly numbers increased in April with easterly passage of 39 at Sandy Point and 137 at Hurst Beach on 5th reducing over the next two months to 20 east at Hill Head on May 8th and six at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on June 4th. As often in previous years, higher numbers occurred in the late summer with monthly maxima of 100 off Hurst Beach on July 19th and within The Solent off Needs Ore on Aug 9th and 85 off Hurst Beach on Sep 29th. The highest count of the year was then recorded in October with 200 off Hurst Beach on 11th. The year ended with much reduced peaks of nine west at Southsea Castle on Nov 2nd and ten off Hurst Beach on Dec 10th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point-Hayling Bay	6	30	11	39	11	5	10	10	10	15	1	1
Stokes Bay-Hill Head		2	35	3	20	3	5	4	1	1		
Southampton Water			1	5	2	2	1					
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	6	1	35	127	9	6	100	1	85	200	6	10

## Shag (European Shag)

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

*Red*

A total of 144 records was received from 21 coastal tetrads in winter and spring, but localised to the West Solent and sea off Hurst Beach in summer and the East Solent and Hayling Bay in autumn.

At Sandy Point there were singles on six dates from Jan 22nd to Mar 17th, four east on both Apr 15th-16th and 15 bird-days on ten dates between Aug 24th and Oct 31st. On the sea off Southsea Castle there were almost daily reports of one to three until Mar 14th, but much

scarcer thereafter totalling ten bird-days (3, Aug 20th; 2, Nov 1st and singles on five dates). Intermittent reports occurred in the early year from the West Solent to Hurst Beach (4, Jan 2nd; singles Feb 10th, 24th, 26th), and then regularly from Mar 24th to May 8th (1-2 on 14 dates; 10, Cut Bridge, Apr 6th; 4, May 13th). There were four singles in summer (May 18th; June 7th; July 20th, 30th), then none until late November (2, 26th) and December (1, 8th; 1-2, 17th-29th).

Elsewhere reports were of singles unless otherwise stated. Between Langstone Harbour entrance and Eastney there were eight bird-days in the early year (2, Feb 16th; 2, Mar 15th), then just three in the rest of the year (Apr 14th, Sep 14th, Dec 4th). Singles were recorded at Portsmouth Harbour entrance on Jan 2nd and Feb 13th with two on Dec 29th. The only report away from the sea was from Fareham Creek on Feb 28th. Within Southampton Water there were scattered reports from Mayflower Park/Town Quay (Jan 29th, May 13th, Nov 19th) and Hythe (Nov 24th), and then regular after Dec 14th from Dibden Bay to Weston Shore. Finally there were sightings off Hill Head between Dec 15th and 27th on four dates. Monthly maxima are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	1	1	1	8				1	3	3	2	2
Southsea Castle	3	3	1	1				3	1		2	1
Southampton Water	1				1						1	1
Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea	1	1	2	10	2	1	1					
Other localities	5	2	2	1	4	1	1		1		1	5

### Cormorant (Great Cormorant)

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor with scattered non-breeding summer records. One to three pairs bred annually from 2006-10. Mean maximum WeBS total 2004-7: 579; 2007-12: 720; 2012-17: 624.

Green

The table below compares WeBS counts for inland and coastal waters (note not all sites are counted between April-August). There is a consistent year-on-year trend in which the lowest ratios between coastal and inland totals occur in October and November, suggesting movement from inland to coastal sites in those months. The WeBS maximum monthly total of 632 in January was the lowest since 581 in 2016.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS coastal counts total	162	149	107	55	45	21	30	58	93	192	212	183
WeBS inland counts total	470	365	396	52	2	35	53	116	404	313	315	423
WeBS total	632	514	503	107	47	56	83	174	497	505	527	606

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour-East Hayling*	51†	55*	27*	12*	15*	14*	14*	16*	88*	137*	75*	45*
Portsmouth Harbour*	31	37	24		1		3		22	26	62	44
Southampton Water*	68	73	49	9	5	12	14	41	40	81	71	72
Titchfield Haven HCC Reserve	45	30	24	16*	12	18	20	13	18	40	45†	28
Lymington-Hurst*	20	9	12	13	10	7	15	15	35	37	19	14
Blashford Lakes	183†	199†	150*	40	30	27	42	120†	189*	130*	175*	160*
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	156*	179*	181*	30	1	1			93*	94	124*	196*
Fishlake Meadows	65	76	35	15	5	2	14	6	20*	16*	23	70
Eversley GP (Berks & Hants)	90†	17*	18*	13*					11*	12*	20*	91†
Yateley GP*	37	24	6						7	22	28	31

† = nocturnal roost counts; \* = WeBS total all sectors; † = count total all lakes/pits (R.A.Chapman)

The population between Ringwood and Fordingbridge is mobile between the Blashford Lakes complex and Avon W/M and fisheries. The Ivy Lake nocturnal roost count of 199 on Feb 7th was the highest of the year. Counts of 20 or more from sites not tabulated above include Alresford Pond (20, Jan 12th), Leckford (50, Jan 30th), Tanners Lane, Lymington (23, Oct 27th), Farlington Marshes (38, Oct 27th), Trigpoint Hill (local movement, 22, 09:15-10:15, Dec 24th) and Allington GP (nocturnal roost, 21, Nov 23rd; 24, Dec 29th). There were also counts of 15-18 from five further sites. (AFJC)

### Glossy Ibis

*Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare but increasing vagrant, recorded in every month. (2,51,3) ET

A single landed at Sturt Pond, Keyhaven for about fifteen minutes from 14:30-14:45 on Feb 25th (RS), and then flew off south. A different bird then arrived from NE and flew SE over Posbrook Floods, Titchfield at 14:52 (ALR, photo), and presumably this bird was that which flew east over Mill Rythe, Hayling at 15:25 (RCL). After this a single appeared at Fishlake



Glossy Ibises, Sturt Pond, Feb 25th (Roger Stone) and Fishlake Meadows, Apr 30th (Richard Jacobs)

Meadows on Mar 20th (RAB) and was then seen daily from Mar 24th to Apr 30th (m.o., photo) and was much enjoyed by many people. Finally a single was at Titchfield Haven and Posbrook Flood from May 1st-2nd (CM et al.).

Yet again it was an excellent year for this species although, of course, it is quite possible that many of these records referred to the same individual. (KFB)

### Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill)

*Platalea leucorodia*

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

A total of 684 reports were received of which 560 were from the West Solent including all records (125) up to mid-February and after Oct 5th. There was no evident passage in spring but three records in autumn and two or three summered. Without regular coordinated counts (including ageing), estimating the size of the wintering population is difficult because of frequent movements along the West Solent and to the Isle of Wight. In January there were counts of nine at Needs Ore and five at Keyhaven Lagoon on 1st with nine at the latter site on 13th, and presumably the same were at Tanners Lane from 17th-22nd. Eight were seen to cross The Solent from Inchmery to the Isle of Wight late morning on Jan 5th. The January total was estimated at 14-17. In February a group of eight gathered at Pennington Lagoon at 13:00 on 3rd. The previous day the same count was made at Needs Ore but increased there to 16 on 8th (year maximum) with further peaks of 10-13 between 12th-26th. Elsewhere an adult was at Farlington Marshes from Feb 15th to Mar 16th and three adults were at Titchfield Haven from Feb 18th-27th. One there from Mar 24th was presumably joined by the Farlington bird from Mar 28th to May 1st with some commuting between the two sites. Up to eight were mobile along the West Solent throughout March.

In April there were seven immatures and one adult at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on 6th. Eight unaged were seen to arrive on 14th and eight were aged as adults on 23rd thus giving a total of at least 15 individuals. Despite multiple reports of up to nine on most days throughout the month, these were the only reports that detailed ages. In May four flew south-west over Bishopstoke at 06:58 on 4th, three were at Farlington Marshes on 9th (first-summerers, 17th-20th) and at least 11 were along the West Solent on 18th (6, Needs Ore; 5 juveniles, Fishtail Lagoon where four remained until 30th). In June-July one was at Needs Ore on seven dates. Following three at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on June 4th, one or two then summered until July 27th. Elsewhere there were singles at Farlington Marshes (June 22nd, July 25th-28th), Titchfield Haven (June 21st, 27-28th) and south over Port Solent (July 3rd).

There were no further records until one at Needs Ore on Aug 17th-18th, three there on 30th and then a gap until the last week of September when singles were at Keyhaven Marshes (23rd, 30th), Needs Ore (26th) and East Hayling (28th). Two flew south-west over Tweseldown on Sep 30th and singles flew west over Chilling Cliffs on Oct 4th and Southsea the next day. The first of the West Solent overwintering population arrived at Needs Ore on Oct 12th (2, from 25th; 8, Nov 12th; 12, Nov 24th; 11, Dec 13th), Normandy on Oct 19th (5, Nov 8th; 8, Nov 12th) and Lymington Estuary saltings on Dec 29th (6). Approximate monthly totals are shown in the table below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	10	16	9	3	6	1	1	3	1	1	12	11
Lymington-Sowley	9	3	3	3								6
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes	9	8	8	17	6	3	1		1	1	8	5
Titchfield Haven		3	2	2	2	1				1		
Farlington Marshes		1	2	2	3	1	1					
Other localities					4		2		2	1		
Minimum total	14	16	12	19	15	6	3	3	2	3	12	13

### Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)

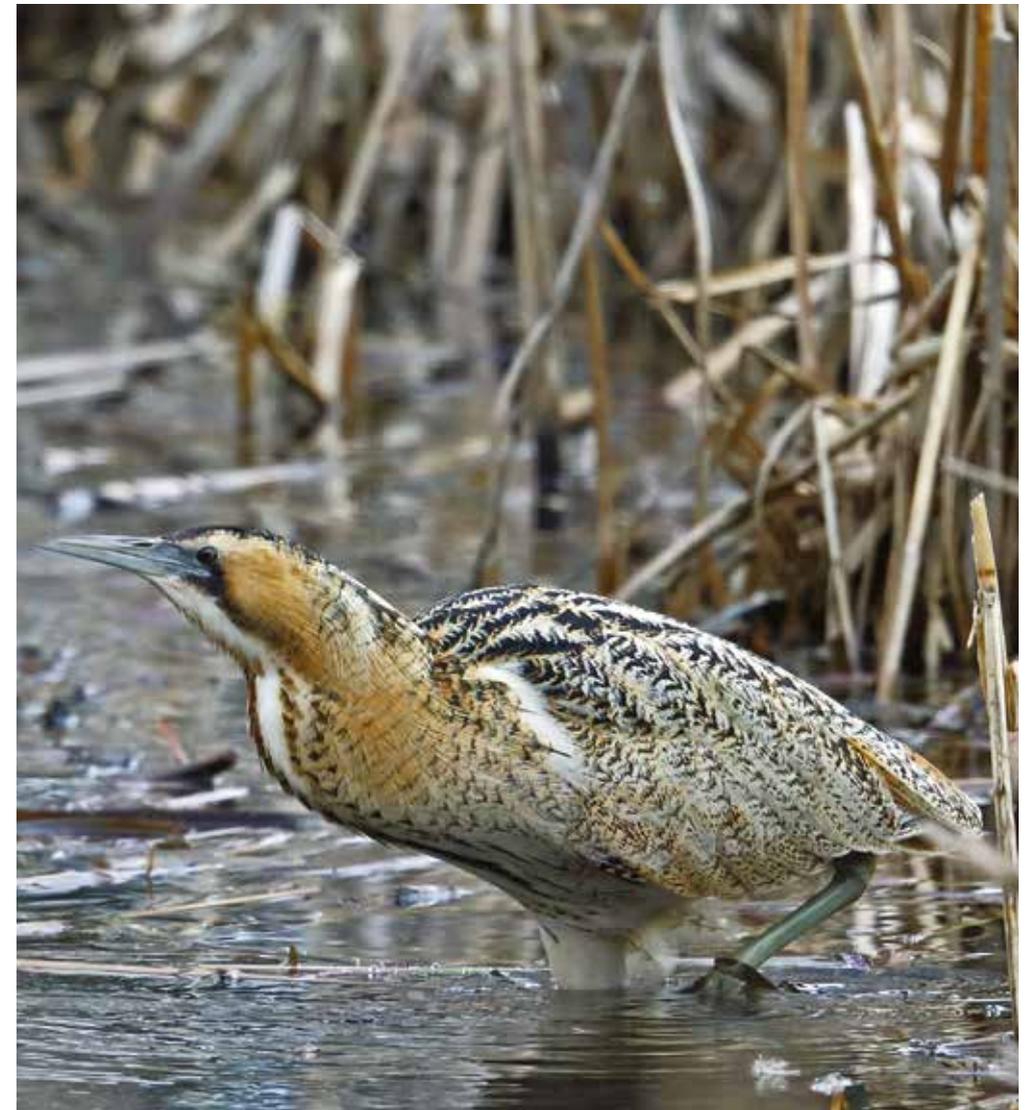
*Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce but regular winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP

Overwintering was evident at five localities in the early year but at only one in the late year. All records were of singles except for two at Fishlake Meadows on Feb 14th. At Ivy Lake the favoured small reedbed close to the north hide provided daily sightings until Mar 27th. At Avon Water, Keyhaven the new observatory produced just one report on Jan 11th although what was presumably the same individual was seen at adjacent Keyhaven Marshes on Mar 12th. One was at Meadow Lake, Testwood Lakes on Jan 1st and then intermittently to Mar 1st (8 dates). Next there was one at Titchfield Haven on Mar 15th. The last sighting of the early year was at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 20th.

The only record in the late year was one at Fishlake Meadows from Nov 15th to at least Dec 21st. (AFJC)



Bittern, Ivy Lake, Mar 4th (Richard Jacobs)



*Squacco Heron, Titchfield Haven in flight on May 24th (Lee Fuller) and perched in reeds on 26th (Alan Lewis)*

### Squacco Heron

*Ardeola ralloides*

*Very rare vagrant. (0,3,1)*

An adult was present at Posbrook Floods from May 24th-26th (MF et al., photo). It was next seen at Testwood Lakes on June 2nd (KL, photo). After another six days it reappeared back at Posbrook Floods on June 8th-9th.

There are only three previous records – in June 1982, July 1994 and Aug 1996. The two most recent records were also in the Titchfield Haven area and in each case stayed for between one and three days, so it was greatly appreciated that this bird reappeared for a second showing.

Squacco Heron is a summer visitor to southern Europe and occasionally birds overshoot and arrive in spring. It seems likely that this individual then moved to Pagham Harbour (West Sussex) where one was seen two days later. Further sightings in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and then back at Pagham (for two weeks in August) may well also relate to the same bird. (KFB)

### Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret)

*Bubulcus ibis*

*Formerly rare vagrant now a scarce but increasing visitor. Bred for first time in 2019. (0,159+,-)*

*ET, Schedule 1*

There were 130 reports with much duplication involved. The annual total of new individuals has not therefore been assessed. Sightings were made in every month of the year. Most notably, nesting was confirmed at Langstone Mill Pond – the first breeding in Hampshire.

During the 2018/19 winter the fields around Warblington held up to five birds and in previous years these had departed by late February. However 2019 was different and the birds lingered into March and then April. From late March onwards they were often in the fields with at least 20 Little Egrets which were beginning to pair up and start to display. Eventually the Cattle Egrets did move away on Apr 23rd and it appeared that they had completely left. However on June 2nd five suddenly appeared in the Little Egret colony at Langstone Mill Pond. Within days the birds had started to settle down. Eleven adults were involved, though only four pairs were successful and fledged 11 young. The other adults consisted of a male that waited in vain for a mate and a possible pair that were not visible. The outcome of their efforts is not known.

Cattle Egrets had already bred in Cheshire and Somerset but 2019 saw them colonise Essex and Northamptonshire as well. Without the monitoring by Peter Milinets-Raby much of the detail would have remained unknown (see separate paper on page 215).



*Cattle Egrets, Warblington, Feb 2nd (Alan Lewis) and juvenile, Emsworth, Sep 5th (Richard Ford)*

Sightings away from Chichester Harbour North Shore and Langstone Harbour are summarised below (singles unless stated):

Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford: Oct 13th.

Ibsley Water: 2 south, Sep 23rd.

Park Shore: 9 (flock approaching a herd of cattle), Mar 10th.

Pinglestone WCB: Feb 21st.

Aldershot: 1 north, Apr 1st.

Chilling Cliffs: 1, in off the sea 10:20, Feb 2nd.

Titchfield Haven: Feb 2nd, 10th; Mar 18th, 31st; 2, Apr 28th; Aug 4th; 2, Oct 28th.

Fishlake Meadows: July 7th; 6, 14th; Sep 7th.

Testwood Lakes: 4, Oct 13th.

### Grey Heron

*Ardea cinerea*

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

*Green*

Coverage of known heronries was almost complete. Counts of apparently occupied nests (with 2018 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Andwell 19 (25); Arlebury Park, 3 (0); Bramshill Plantation, 7 (7); Efford Mill, 4 (4); Elvetham Park, 17 (17); Eversley GP, 6 (4); Fleet Pond, 7 (7); Fort Elson, nc (14); Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 18 (14); near Fordingbridge, 80 (115); King's Pond, Alton, 3 (2); Kingston North Common, nc (7); Lammas Wood, Fawley Refinery, 47 (36); Langstone Mill Pond, 5 (12); Sowley Pond, 11 (17); Somerley Estate, 19 (16); Tournurbury Wood, 2 (nc); Yateley GP, 1 (1). These data suggest a county population of at least 250 pairs compared to about 300 pairs in 2018.

Monthly maxima at the four sites summarised last year are tabulated below for comparison.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	62	82	78						67	59	63	
Blashford Lakes	11	24	7	5	6	14	36	78	65	21	11	10
Fobdown Farm Reservoir	6		6			7	18	31	18	9	5	1
Portsmouth Harbour	5	3	5						10	6	10	5

There is much movement between the Avon Valley and Blashford Lakes. Other significant counts were 43 at Sandy Point (including a flock of 39) on Sep 10th, 34 SW (flocks of 18 and 16 SW) over Brownwich on Sep 14th and 30 at Bickton on Dec 31st. (KFB)

## Great White Egret (Great Egret)

*Ardea alba*

*Very scarce but increasing visitor, recorded in every month. (0,85+,-)*

ET

Birds were recorded in all months. With over 650 records submitted, this species is now so frequently seen that estimates of birds in the county are often meaningless. However it is useful to show the monthly maxima at the main sites and in general areas.

Monthly maxima at the main sites are tabulated here

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon Valley	3	5	2	1			1	2	3	2	6	4
Lymington-Hurst		1	1	2			1	1	2		1	
Fishlake Meadows and nearby	4	4	4	4	2	1	2	5	6	2	1	1
Testwood Lakes and nearby	2	1	1	1			1			2	2	2
Upper Test Valley	1	1	1	1		1					1	3
Totals elsewhere	2	2	1	4	2	2	2	2	5	7	6	

Many of the sightings at Blashford Lakes at both ends of the year involved "Walter", first seen in 2003. The totals elsewhere included records from 23 locations. All were single birds apart from two WNW over Needs Ore on May 27th, three west over Brownwich on Sep 14th and two in Chichester Harbour on Nov 23rd. (KFB)

## Little Egret†

*Egretta garzetta*

*Moderately common winter visitor, passage migrant and scarce but increasing breeder since 1998. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2002-2007: 353; 2007-2012: 430; 2012-17: 352. ET, Green, HBAP*

Now very widely distributed across the county apart from the mid and north-west with reports from 227 tetrads (21%) in 44 ten km squares. Monthly maxima at localities which regularly exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour*	24	58	100	23	33	23	42	87	127	136	62	12
Hampshire sectors*	3	25	54	1	4	4	12	6	37	68	35	2
Langstone Mill Pond/Wade Court	7	7	6	25†	20	36	30	128†	17		12	4
Langstone Harbour	15	20	32	16	26	17	37	64	64	24	13	5
Portsmouth Harbour	20	36	50	12	16	17	32	37	49	31	35	10
Southampton Water*	16	17	27	20	13	18	39	61	35	34	12	9
Beaulieu Estuary	5	4	7	16	9	7	19	30	21	42	4	22
Lymington-Hurst	21†	29*	27*	21*	22*	15*	32*	87†	81†	16*	25*	12*
Allington GP†	14	22								25	23	27
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	31		2	1		1			2	2	1	30†
WeBS counts total	162	186	227	89	76	60	113	180	256	230	161	108

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

Notable diurnal counts elsewhere were at Castle Farm, Warblington (29, Mar 13th), Hook Links (34, Aug 8th), Lower Upham (23, Nov 28th) and Middle Farm, Cheriton (20, Dec 31st). In addition to the nocturnal roosts tabulated above, counts of note were made at Eversley GP (12, Jan 30th), Fishlake Meadows (19, Dec 14th), and coordinated across four north-east sites (31, Dec 29th which included 18 at Bird World, Alice Holt Forest). Two roost counts at Langstone Mill Pond on Aug 5th (97) and 29th (128) were year peaks but 18 less than the 2018 maximum there.

At Langstone Mill Pond a pair began prospecting old nests in the Holm Oaks on Mar 19th increasing to 11 pairs by 28th. Five nests were occupied by Apr 2nd rising to 29 on 29th. Young were first seen on May 21st and 31 juveniles were subsequently noted at the peak of

the breeding season on July 1st, including one unusual variant with a yellow bill. A new pair began nest building on the late date of July 12th separate from the main Langstone Mill Pond heronry. Two young were raised subsequently in September but only one fledged. A total of 35 pairs were thought to have bred (all reports from PNM-R). Away from Langstone Mill Pond there were three breeding reports with six occupied nests at each of Fawley Refinery and Holt Pound Inclosure at Alice Holt Forest and two at Efford. (AFJC)

## Osprey† (Western Osprey)

*Pandion haliaetus*

*Scarce passage migrant.*

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

The first reports came in March from Fishlake Meadows on 9th, with another at Ampfield on 24th also reported in the Test Valley. There were two further reports on March 31st; one at Moortown near Ringwood had been colour-ringed at Glaslyn, Gwynned in 2014; the other was seen eating a fish at Gull Island, Needs Ore. Further reports followed from the usual locations in April and May but the only June sighting was at Hamble on 22nd.

As usual in recent years there was a spate of records from Fishlake Meadows from July 7th onwards featuring several individuals, one of which was a colour-ringed bird from Rutland Water. This individual, the fourth from Rutland Water in recent years, had been ringed in 2017 and had been reported from Kent in May 2019. In August records continued from Fishlake Meadows with ones and twos elsewhere at Chichester Harbour, Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven, Southampton Water, Needs Ore and Keyhaven amongst other locations, mostly coastal or along the main river valleys. In September the majority of records came from Chichester and Langstone Harbours with a paucity of inland reports. The last report from Fishlake Meadows was on October 1st, with the last record of the year from Frater Shore, Gosport on 14th.

With a re-introduction scheme in progress at Poole Harbour in Dorset and numerous summering individuals, the possibility of a breeding attempt in Hampshire increases. Monthly bird-day totals for selected areas are tabulated below. (RC)

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chichester Harbour: Hampshire sectors		2	2			1	14	2	
Langstone Harbour						10	9	3	
Titchfield Haven/ Hook-with-Warsash		3				8	4		
Lower Test Marshes			2			4	3		
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	1	2	1		2	4	5	2	
Keyhaven area			1			3	6		
Blashford Lakes/ Avon Valley	1	2				1			
Itchen Valley			2			1			
Test Valley incl. Fishlake Meadows	2	1	1		17	14	2	1	
Elsewhere		4	2	1	2	2	3	2	



Osprey, Fishlake Meadows, July 8th, (Andy Tew)



Male Honey-buzzards showing light, intermediate and dark morphs, New Forest, May 27th (Simon Buckell), June 21st and July 15th (Will Morley)

### Honey-buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)

*Pernis apivorus*

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

*ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP*

Following the poor records total of just 37 in 2018, the tally for 2019 bounced back to the yearly average with 63 sightings. The first was on Apr 24th from Frater Shore. One in off Gosport on May 2nd and another from Hurst Beach on 10th indicated more spring arrivals.

As usual the majority of New Forest records, 21 in total, came from Acres Down or nearby where a non-breeding bird enabled regular sightings for visiting birders. Eight sightings came from the regular viewpoints in the south of the Forest and 13 sightings from those in the north. Based on a collection of photographs, some observers estimated that up to 20 different individuals may have been present in the New Forest area during 2019.

The small licensed group monitoring this species in the county recorded pairs or singles from 13 sites. Birds were known to have bred successfully at four of these fledging a minimum of five young, and were strongly suspected of breeding at another two sites. The colour-ringed New Forest individual that bred in 2018 successfully bred for the second year. However the colour-ringed bird AJ, reported on at length in HBR 2018 when she was 13 years old, was not located so we do not know if she is still alive.

Sightings outside of the New Forest and immediate area and all relating to singles were as follows: Martin Down (24th May), East Dean (15th June and 6th July) and Fishlake Meadows (20th August). One at Old Basing on Aug 30th denoted possible return migration and the last sighting for the year came from the Test Valley on Sep 10th. (AP)

### Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)

*Accipiter nisus*

*Moderately common resident, passage migrant and probable winter visitor; declining in the New Forest.*

*Green*

Recorded in 269 tetrads (25%) in 53 ten km squares across the county. NFWBS totals were three and three in January and February and five, two and five during October-December (Table 4). Many reports were of Sparrowhawks attacking birds attracted to garden feeders with Blackbird, House Sparrow, Blue and Coal Tits, Collared Dove and Wood Pigeon among the recorded victims. A rat was a more unusual mammalian prey at one location and a Snipe was taken at Lower Pennington.

Despite its widespread distribution, evidence of current breeding density is sparse. In BBS it was registered in ones and twos in only nine one km squares. Reports of confirmed breeding came from Woolmer Forest, IBM Lake, Titchfield Haven, Bordon and Fareham. There was only one report of successful breeding from the New Forest, where the long-running survey has been discontinued. Although the increasing Goshawk population has undoubtedly had an impact on Sparrowhawk numbers, records continue from many New Forest locations indicating a larger breeding population than the data would suggest.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	11	10	16	14	10	5	12	41	24	29	10	8

### Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

*Accipiter gentilis*

*Scarce but increasing resident.*

*Schedule 1, Green*

A total of 349 records was received, an increase of 112 on the previous year reflecting the inexorable spread of this raptor as a breeding species in the county. Sightings throughout the year were in line with its resident status.

The New Forest and surrounding area remain the core area for the species within Hampshire and account for 263 of the 349 records. On the New Forest Crown Lands a minimum of 35 sites were occupied and breeding attempted, but there were a further nine sites where no evidence of breeding could be found. It is inevitable that a handful of sites are probably now going undetected each year in the New Forest. From the known and monitored sites, 33 pairs successfully raised young, 52 chicks were ringed from xx climbed nests (xx males and xx females) and two sites failed.

Outside of the core area, 50 records were received from the Test Valley and between one and six records from a further 23 locations, with attempted breeding recorded only at six of these. Due to sensitivities around some of these sites, locations are not being published but it is safe to assume that breeding birds could turn up just about anywhere in the county. (AP)

### Marsh Harrier (Western Marsh Harrier)

*Circus aeruginosus*

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

Numbers continue to increase with birds present all year round at most coastal wetland locations. In addition, individuals either hunting or moving through were recorded from inland sites, including the New Forest, in all seasons. Up to four were present at the Keyhaven roost in January, with two or more at Titchfield and Needs Ore.

Breeding season records came from at least seven potential breeding sites, but no confirmed breeding was reported. Pairs at Keyhaven and Titchfield Haven were seen carrying nest material but no juveniles were reported. One was seen hunting at Shatterford, NF on April 30th with more reports from the New Forest in August and September. By November numbers were building up again at coastal locations, with up to eight using the Keyhaven roost except for a peak count of nine going in to roost on December 17th. A female was also reported from Emsworth in Chichester Harbour on Dec 20th.

The minimum monthly totals at the regular sites are tabulated below. (RC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	3
Titchfield Haven area	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	4	2	2
Lower Test Marshes		1			1					2	1	3
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	2	1	2	3	2	2		1	1	3	3	4
Keyhaven area	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8	9
Blashford Lakes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		2	1	2	1
Fishlake Meadows	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	2	1	1

### Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

*Very scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP*

In the early year up to three individuals (two males and a female) used the northern roost site in the New Forest, with the last record of a single on April 5th. Single ringtails were reported elsewhere in January from Titchfield Haven on 12th-14th and Badminton on 26th. In February the Bransbury Common roost was used by one or two ringtails while sightings at Cheesefoot Head on 2nd, Toyd Down on 10th and Winchester SF on 25th probably refer to birds roosting elsewhere. A male at South Charford Farm in the Avon Valley on 12th was probably from the New Forest roost. A ringtail was also seen at Lymington-Hurst on 16th and 27th. Notable records in March were single ringtails at Winchester SF again on 4th, Trigpoint Hill in the Test Valley on 17th, Kilmeston on 18th and Itchen Stoke on 24th, and a male at Micheldever also on 24th. None were recorded at Alresford Pond which has been a regular roost in recent years.

There were no reports between May and September. The first of the autumn was at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Oct 19th with another at Sandy Point on 21st. In November one was present at the Bransbury Common roost with further sightings at Needs Ore and several New Forest locations. In December a male and female were present at the northern roost site in the New Forest while another male and ringtail used a central roost site. With reports also from Keyhaven on 23rd and 24th and Martin Down on 27th, there were apparently at least as many individuals present in the county as last year and more than we have become used to in previous years.

The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. (RC)

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

### Montagu's Harrier

*Circus pygargus*

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

A male was hunting for three minutes at Martin Down at 15:20 on May 12th before flying off north (SC, photo). On May 17th a female was seen to fly in off the sea at Stokes Bay at 08:10 (IC, BJC, KPM). The only record of late-summer was a male hunting over the Gypsies Plain area of Havant Thicket at 18:30 on Aug 19th which was watched for a few minutes before it dived into the long grass and was lost from view (MC, photo). (KFB)

**2017 addition.** A satellite-tagged female known as Ruth roosted overnight near Havant on Aug 29th and headed south over The Solent at 06:30 the next morning (Paul Castle, Wilts Orn. Soc.).

### Harrier sp. *Circus sp.*

The following records of singles were submitted as Montagu's Harriers but the possibility of Pallid Harrier could not be eliminated: Warblington on Apr 15th and Stubbington on Apr 18th. (KFB)

### Red Kite

*Milvus milvus*

*Moderately common and increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Green, HBAP*

Recorded in 483 tetrads (45%) in 51 ten km squares making this the second most widespread bird of prey in terms of tetrad coverage after Buzzard. There were reports from 587 sites during the year with the highest densities of records in the north, the Test Valley and around the South Downs. The number of reports was 1,842 which is a 13% increase over 1,570 in 2018, but by comparison only one ten km square had more than 50 records (compared to ten in 2018). This clearly shows how people no longer report Red Kites from areas where they are seen daily. However the increase in total reports indicates that the species is spreading – particularly in the east and south of the county. Estimating breeding numbers is difficult but between April and July birds were reported in 319 separate one km squares. In the north there are nests as close as 400m apart, while in the south the distribution is more sparse. It is likely that the actual nesting population was probably in the region of 300-400 pairs, with perhaps at least 500 first-years in addition.

Monthly bird-day totals of sightings on the coast and the New Forest are tabulated below. These clearly show the growth in spring records when non-breeding birds wander away from the main population. With the spread towards the south and east, it is difficult to assess the numbers present in areas where they are not breeding. Groups of seven were seen at Hook-with-Warsash on May 21st and Titchfield Haven on May 24th. These were most likely non-breeding first-summer birds that often group up and explore together in the spring.



Red Kite, Bramley, Jan 4th (Barry Stalker)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	3	12	18	20	29	4	1	6	2	7	2	1
New Forest	4	6	9	5	15		3		3	2	5	1

Winter roosts dwindle as populations grow because Red Kites no longer need to gather in order to find others, but roost counts included 26 at Newton Valence on Jan 8th and 23 there on Dec 1st, 52 at Chilton Candover on Feb 10th and 45 there on Dec 1st, 22 at Warnford Park on Nov 12th and Dec 1st, 25 at Tunworth on Dec 8th, 15 at East Meon on Dec 20th, 51 at Bransbury Common on Dec 27th, 20 at Upton Grey on Dec 28th and 46 at Blouance on Dec 30th.

Although we have requested all records in the past we now only need counts of ten or more from the north of the county, although all records from the south are still welcomed, as are all confirmed breeding records. (KFB)

### White-tailed Eagle

*Haliaeetus albicilla*

Formerly rare vagrant. (11,3,0) ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red

A juvenile discovered near Roe Inclosure, NF on Dec 7th 2018 remained in that area until Jan 11th (m.o., photo). It was not seen there again but was filmed by a gamekeeper on an unknown date in early February on farmland near Broughton Down where it stayed for several days (per KFB, video). No further sightings were received although an immature was photographed just over the county boundary in West Sussex on Mar 7th. The bird had a metal ring on its right leg but no colour ring, proving that it was not from the UK or Dutch populations. (KFB)



White-tailed Eagle, Roe Enclosure, NF, Jan 6th (Alan Lewis)

(Other records of released White-tailed Eagles are given in Category E.)

### Rough-legged Buzzard

*Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant (11, 53, 0)

1999 addition. A single was seen near Sluffers Inclosure, NF on Nov 23rd in the late afternoon. It was watched for two to three minutes (DP). (KFB)

### Buzzard (Common Buzzard)

*Buteo buteo*

Common resident.

Green

Recorded in 520 tetrads (48%) across 56 ten km squares. This makes it by far the most widespread bird of prey recorded in 2019 ahead of Red Kite and Kestrel. Breeding was confirmed in 15 tetrads and probable in a further 92. The only confirmed breeding record from the New Forest was a juvenile begging for food from adults at Foxbury Plantation on July 29th. The highest number of registrations in BBS surveys was six in the one km square at Marylane Plantation near Four Marks on Apr 26th.

Highest counts prior to the breeding season included 32 from Trigpoint Hill on Mar 5th, 24 visible from Hurst Castle on Mar 18th and 18 feeding together on the ground in a paddock at Teglease Down on April 7th. NFWBS gave totals of 35, 51 and 60 for January-March and 25, 24 and 28 for October-December (Table 4).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point		1	19	9	12			5	2	3		

### Barn Owl (Western Barn Owl)

*Tyto alba*

Moderately common resident.

Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 125 tetrads (12%) in 41 ten km squares, with an absence in parts of the south-west in addition to most partial squares in coastal and boundary areas. Reports were received from around 135 widespread locations. The Hawk Conservancy reported a good year with 73 breeding attempts from 107 boxes resulting in successful fledging of at least 188 young. A further 65 boxes were also known to have been used but the data are incomplete. In addition five chicks were ringed in a nest box at Hursley Village. Successful breeding was confirmed at a further two locations including six pairs on the Cholderton Estate and probable breeding was recorded at a further two. (BS)

### Tawny Owl

*Strix aluco*

Common resident.

Amber

Recorded in 220 tetrads (21%) in 47 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 250 widespread locations compared to 210 last year. The highest concentrations of calling males were four at Chawton Park Wood in May and six at Bransbury Common in November. A county-wide nest box scheme resulted in 19 nesting attempts from 21 boxes and the successful fledging of at least 31 young. Additional breeding was confirmed at a further 12 locations.

As usual the number of submitted records does not reflect the true status of this common and widespread woodland resident although the tetrad count does indicate a widespread distribution of records. (BS)

## Little Owl

*Athene noctua*

*Moderately common but declining resident.*

Recorded in 56 tetrads (5%) in 31 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 54 locations with the highest number of records in the central south region. A scheme in the north reported four fledged young from two breeding attempts in nest boxes and at least five other nesting attempts in natural cavities. Successful breeding was confirmed at an additional four locations with probable breeding at a further four. (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 regular location in the north and was present until at least Feb 17th. Another was heard calling repeatedly at a New Forest location on Feb 4th. Breeding was again confirmed in the north where three fledged young were observed on May 20th. In late autumn one was also found at a more central location.

This secretive species is almost certainly under-recorded. Observers are encouraged to check suitable habitat during the breeding season and be alert to the far-reaching begging calls of recently fledged young, which can continue for up to three months after leaving the nest. (BS)

## Short-eared Owl

*Asio flammeus*

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

*ET, Amber*

It was another generally poor year for the species. In the period up to April the peak counts were four at Bransbury Common on Jan 1st, two on Jan 11th, 18th and Feb 13th; two at Keyhaven on Feb 22nd; two at Chichester Harbour on Feb 23rd and two at Whitsbury Down on Mar 26th. Elsewhere, singles were recorded at Martin Down on Jan 1st, Keyhaven on several dates between Jan 2nd and April 27th, Bransbury Common on several dates between Jan 15th and Feb 24th, Picket Post on Jan 17th, Cosham on Jan 18th, Needs Ore on several dates between Jan 26th and April 19th, Langstone Harbour on Feb 11th and 25th, Farlington Marshes on Feb 15th and April 3rd and Hurst Castle on Feb 21st. The last spring sighting was a single at Needs Ore on May 19th.

The earliest returns were singles in October at Chalton on 3rd; Gunner Point, Chichester Harbour on 19th; Sandy Point on 23rd and 29th; Calshot on 23rd; Widden Bottom NF on 28th and Barton on Sea on 29th. In November and December the only multiple counts were two at Bransbury Common on Dec 17th and three at South Moors on Dec 30th, reducing to two the next day. Singles were at Yateley Common on Nov 7th, Black Point on Nov 13th, Nether Wallop on Dec 3rd, Keyhaven on Dec 3rd-4th, Farlington Marshes on Dec 17th and 27th, Colemore Common on Dec 18th, Holmhill Bog on Dec 29th and Bransbury Common on Dec 30th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	10	3	3	1					6	2	9

## Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe)

*Upupa epops*

*Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since.*

*(?,263,3)*

*Schedule 1*

The first was at Standford, near Bordon on Apr 19th (per TDC, video). A surprising find was another that flew across the grounds of St Mary's Church, Andover on June 2nd (SW, photo). It would seem likely that this was also the bird seen three km NW at Redenham



*Long-eared Owl, North Hampshire, Feb 17th (Alan Lewis)*



*Short-eared Owl, Bransbury Common, Jan 25th (Simon Buckell)*

Park on June 22nd and July 7th (MI). There was only one autumn record, a bird first noted at Needs Ore on Nov 22nd, being seen again on Dec 13th, 24th and 27th (AVV, MR, JB). This was presumably the same individual seen further north in the early part of 2020. (KFB)

**Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)**

*Alcedo atthis*

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

*ET, VU, Schedule I, Amber*

Records were received from around 280 locations including 39 in the Test Valley catchment, 32 in the Itchen catchment, 12 in the Avon catchment, 29 in the north-east, 20 in the New Forest and 80 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at Timsbury where chicks were heard in a nest in the root ball of a fallen tree. No other definite breeding records were received but three pairs were suspected to have nested along Dockens Water, Blashford. Probable breeding was also reported at a further six locations.

Post-breeding dispersal and over-wintering on the coast are demonstrated by the monthly bird-day totals from three sites with regular records tabulated below. (BS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	31	3	3	1	1		4	4	29	30	48	25
Lower Test Marshes	4	1	3	4	1		4	19	19	20	14	13
Titchfield Haven	24	15	5	6	14	11	17	16	39	45	35	11



Male Kingfisher, River Test, Timsbury, Mar 26th (Richard Jacobs)

**Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck)**

*Jynx torquilla*

*Very scarce passage migrant; formerly a moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1975.*

*Schedule I, Red, HBAP*

There were no spring records but there was a single summer record at Ocknell Plain, NF on the afternoon of June 19th (NRJ) ranging over a distance of 1.5 miles and calling frequently.

There were nine autumn records, all singles unless noted, at Farlington Marshes on Aug 26th-30th (m.o.), with two on Aug 27th (CDJ, DJR), and Sept 14th (MF, SPP); Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 29th (RHM); Southampton Common on Sept 11th (IRW); Woolmer Forest on Sept 15th (MRL); Wickham on Sept 16th (ABH); Chilling on Oct 5th-6th (DW); Meon Shore on Oct 15th-22nd (m.o.) and Sturt Pond on Oct 16th (AFB, KDM). (BS)

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dryobates minor*

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

*Red, S4I, HBAP*

Recorded in 29 tetrads (3%) in 15 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east of the county. New Year's Day bird racers reported the first of the year from New Forest locations but records were sparse in the winter period during the first half-year. Reports were received from 18 locations outside the New Forest, compared with 27 in 2018. Among the more unusual were garden records from Vernham Dean near Andover and Basingstoke town centre.



Male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, New Forest, May 17th (Richard Jacobs)

While the Test Valley and surrounding woodland provides most records away from the New Forest, reports continue from other areas suggesting that breeding birds are still present at low density throughout the county. Confirmed breeding was reported from only one location, in the north-east. In the New Forest, still the major stronghold for the species, records came from around 40 locations. There was more emphasis on nest-finding this year, in conjunction with the Woodpecker Network project, with remarkable success. Breeding season surveys found active nests at 13 sites, with ten successful and three failures, two probably due to wet weather late in the season and one due to predation by Great Spotted Woodpecker. Nests were located in several tree species, with Beech and Alder the most used, but also more unusually in dead stumps of Hawthorn and Holly. A paper summarising recent surveys in the New Forest and elsewhere is given in this report (page 204) and includes a revised county population estimate of 250-300 pairs.

In the second half of the year there were only 29 records with the majority, as usual, reported from the New Forest. Exceptions were from Woolmer Forest, Fishlake Meadows, Botley Wood and Velmead Common. (RC)

### Great Spotted Woodpecker

*Dendrocopos major*

*Numerous resident.*

*Green*

Reported in 418 tetrads (39%) in 55 ten km squares. Records were received from around 490 widespread locations compared to just 90 in 2018, largely due to the inclusion of unfiltered Birdtrack and BBS survey records. The highest numbers of territories were eight at Spearywell Wood and seven at North Boarhunt. Breeding was confirmed at eight locations. In addition there were 65 territories at 18 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1), compared to 48 territories at 11 sites in 2018.

As usual these numbers grossly underestimate the county population of this numerous and widespread species. However the tetrad count demonstrates the very wide distribution of this frequently encountered resident. (BS)



Male Great Spotted Woodpecker, New Forest, Nov 10th (Ian Wells)

### Green Woodpecker (European Green Woodpecker)

*Picus viridis*

*Numerous resident.*

*Green*

Reported from 301 tetrads (28%) in 52 ten km squares. Records were received from around 340 widespread locations compared to 200 in 2018. The highest numbers of territories were four at Bere Farm (Wickham), Hoe Gate and Durley. In addition there were 55 territories at 16 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1), compared to 58 territories at 17 sites in 2018. NFWBS reported totals of 11, 16 and 11 in January-March and 27, 18 and 11 in October-December (Table 4). (BS)

### Kestrel (Common Kestrel)

*Falco tinnunculus*

*Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Amber*

Recorded in 304 tetrads (28%) which makes it the third-most widely reported bird of prey after Buzzard and Red Kite and ahead of Sparrowhawk, being present in 52 ten km squares. NFWBS recorded eight, seven and three in January-March with eleven, six and five in October-December (Table 4). The only records of four or more up to May were four at Frater Shore from Feb 15th and then regularly throughout the year.

There were more breeding records than usual, with evidence of successful nesting from Deacon Hill, Fawley, Selborne, Needs Ore, Shawford, Gander Down, Bourley, Butser Hill, Kingsclere and St. Cross. This scatter of locations across the county indicates that the species remains a widespread breeder despite suggestions that the population is in decline. The Hawk Conservancy reported 51 breeding attempts in their nest-boxes, with at least 168 young fledged. As usual, breeding season records from the New Forest were scarce with Shirley Holms, near Sway, being the only site where fledged young (three) were reported.

Between May and November there were reports of four or more, mostly family parties, from Farlington Marshes; Ranvilles Lane, Fareham; Frater Shore; Itchen Valley CP; Lower Test Marshes; Sway, NF; Trigpoint Hill; Gander Down; Thruxton Airfield and Kingsclere with peak counts of six at Frater Shore on July 17th and Farlington Marshes on Sep 8th and 15th. (RC)

### Merlin

*Falco columbarius*

*Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP*

NFWBS produced totals of two, two and none in January-March and none, one and four in October-December (Table 4). In January and February there were numerous reports of singles from coastal and inland sites, but the first record of a male and female together was from Needs Ore on Mar 1st. April records came from Avington Park on 5th, Farley Mount CP on 9th and Needs Ore on 12th.

The first returning birds in September were at Needs Ore on 14th, Old Winchester Hill and Hartley Mauditt on 20th and Pennington Marshes on 24th. The first New Forest record came from Black Gutter Bottom on Oct 3rd. One at Ampfield on Oct 23rd was seen from a garden. Reports of a male and female together came from Whitsbury Down on Nov 3rd. Three together at a probable roost site were noted in the northern New Forest on Dec 4th and 14th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below, though it must be stressed that this only includes sites regularly visited by birders and that the true wintering population is probably rather higher. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	8	8	4					4	8	10	10

## Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)

*Falco subbuteo*

*Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Schedule 1, Green, HBAP*

Recorded in 152 tetrads (14%) across 41 widespread ten km squares except from the north-west of the county. The earliest sighting was one in April at Lower Pennington Lane on 13th with further records of singles from Stockbridge on 15th and Ampfield on 17th. Records from many locations followed over the next ten days as numbers built up. The highest multiple sightings between April and June were of four to five catching insects at Fishlake Meadows with highs of five on Apr 26th and May 13th, and four at Somerley Park in the Avon Valley on June 17th.

Reports of breeding from the New Forest remained at a low ebb. While there were reports of pairs present at seven locations, only three pairs bred successfully while two pairs definitely failed. Elsewhere breeding success was limited at the regular north-east study area with two pairs breeding, fledging two and three young, while at the remaining two sites no juveniles were recorded. Breeding was recorded at a further four sites elsewhere although the true number breeding in Hampshire is clearly much higher than the records suggest.

In the late summer highs of four were reported at Blackbushe Airfield on Aug 23rd and five at Botley Wood on Aug 30th. In September and October, Hobbies were reported from numerous coastal locations as birds dispersed, with the last record from Titchfield Haven on Oct 19th. (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*

Recorded in 219 tetrads (20%) in 46 ten km squares, making it more widespread than Hobby but less than Kestrel. There were reports from 264 sites including 44 locations in the New Forest and around 140 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 128 locations during March-July of which 46 were on the coast compared to 65 in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 17 localities with 13 pairs known to have fledged 32 young. Four nests failed. There were five pylon nests which fledged six chicks. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (4), tall chimneys (2) and quarries (4). In addition two pairs nested on coastal shingle, just a few metres from the high-water mark, and both of these were successful raising five chicks in total. Birds were also present at a further five former nest sites but did not breed. Of the HOS nestboxes that exist, four were used.

The programme of colour-ringing continued and 14 chicks at five nests were fitted with orange colour-rings. Among the recoveries was a 2013 chick that became only the second UK Peregrine to reach the Netherlands. (KFB)

## Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet)

*Psittacula krameri*

*Scarce introduced visitor, bred for the first time in 2019.*

Records doubled and extended to 36 tetrads (3%) in 15 ten km squares, mostly in urban/suburban areas, compared to 26 tetrads in 13 ten km squares last year. Colonisation of the Southampton area has now occurred with birds seen regularly in all months in many of the city parks, urban and suburban areas. Out of a total of 157 records, 123 occurred in the ten km square (SU41) centred on Southampton. Up to Apr 23rd, when four were recorded at Riverside Park, all records had been of ones or twos but from then numbers increased in the lower Itchen area to a maximum of eight in family groups at Riverside Park on Oct 15th and 24th and at nearby Bitterne Park on the latter date.

Breeding was confirmed for the first time with a pair nesting in a hole in an Ash tree in Riverside Park, a male feeding a begging juvenile in a group of five at nearby Woodmill on May 20th and an adult feeding two there on 25th. A pair was also seen exploring a tree hole in Queen's Park, Southampton on July 23rd.



Hobby, Keyhaven, June 6th (Matthew Barfield)



Peregrine, Keyhaven, June 21st (Matthew Barfield)

Elsewhere they were scattered reports of singles unless noted otherwise at Gosport and Testwood Lakes (Jan), Sandy Point (Mar, Apr), Fleet (May), Winchester (May, Aug, Sep), Calshot (2, May), Basingstoke (June), Romsey including Fishlake Meadows (Aug, Oct), Aldershot (2, Oct), Matley Wood, NF (3, Oct), Portchester (Nov, Dec) and Warblington (Dec). (MLC)

### Red-backed Shrike

*Lanius collurio*

*Very scarce passage migrant; formerly moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1984. (since 1984: 63,2)* ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

A female was at Yateley Common on May 16th (KBW) and a male was at Martin Down on July 7th (DJ).

Two birds is about average for most recent years. Since the cessation of regular breeding in Britain in the 1980s, the majority of records have occurred in autumn. There have now been only nine May records since breeding ceased in 1982. (KFB)

### Daurian/Turkestan Shrike (Isabelline/Red-tailed Shrike)

*Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*

*Very rare vagrant. (0, 2, 0)*

Following the decision in 2018 by BOURC to split the former Isabelline Shrike into the above two species, BBRC have reviewed previous records and “upgraded” the adult female at Forton Lake on Sep 10th-11th 2010 (Norton 2011) to Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (Stoddart & Hudson 2020). The other previous record in 2011 remains indeterminate as Daurian/Turkestan Shrike. (KFB)

Norton, J. 2011. First for Hampshire - Isabelline Shrike at Forton Lake, Gosport. *HBR* 2010:183-186.

Stoddart, A. & Hudson, N. 2020 (in press). From the rarities committee's files: BBRC and newly split species. *British Birds* 114.

### Great Grey Shrike

*Lanius excubitor*

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.* VU

In the early year there were probably two wintering in the New Forest and one elsewhere, and in the late year there were two again and just a single elsewhere. The bird that had first appeared in the Holm Hill/Crab Tree Bog area in November 2018 remained and was seen regularly up to Mar 2nd. Singles were at Black Gutter Bottom on Jan 1st and 22nd. The only other New Forest sighting was at Kings Garden on Mar 29th. However a single was at East Tisted on Feb 21st (not far from where one was seen in October 2018).

The first return was at Black Gutter Bottom on Oct 15th, being seen there subsequently only on Oct 29th. Away from the heaths a single was at Minstead on Oct 21st. One was back at Holm Hill/Crab Tree Bog from Nov 10th through to the year-end, occasionally wandering towards Ober Heath. The only record away from the New Forest was at Woolmer Forest where a single was seen on Nov 16th. (KFB)

### Golden Oriole (Eurasian Golden Oriole)

*Oriolus oriolus*

*Very scarce passage migrant; occasionally breeds. (?65,2)* VU

A male was heard twice and then seen flying away at Titchfield Haven at 07:35 on May 12th, but was not seen again (RKL, TJV). At Sopley a male was recorded singing several times over the period 08:15-12:45 on May 25th. The bird was in Poplars and was only seen once as it flew to another group of trees (LMP, OF, recording).

Both records are typical of recent Golden Oriole reports – the last being in 2016. There have now been records in nine years this century. (KFB)

### Jay† (Eurasian Jay)

*Garrulus glandarius*

*Numerous resident and passage migrant.* Green

Records were submitted for 335 tetrads (31%) in ten km squares. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 9 (7); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (2). The only other counts to exceed five in April to June during the breeding season were BBS registrations in one km squares of six at both Applemore, NF on Apr 19th and The Slab, Oakhanger on May 31st, and 15 at Blashford Lakes on Apr 1st.

No significant autumn movements were observed. Maximum counts at Tweseldown during watch periods of typically one to two hours were 20, 25, 23 and 20 on Oct 9th, 16th, 25th and Nov 6th respectively in both NE and SW directions and may have been local birds. Elsewhere groups of ten were counted at Blashford Lakes on Oct 3rd, 20 and 14 at Old Basing on Oct 8th and 16th respectively, 11 at Wyck on Nov 15th and ten at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Nov 24th. (MLC)

### Magpie (Eurasian Magpie)

*Pica pica*

*Numerous resident.* Green

Records were submitted for 479 tetrads (45%) making this species more widespread than Jay. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 6 (8); Lower Test Marshes, at least 2 (2). The highest number of registrations per sq.km in BBS was 18 at East Cosham on June 15th and The Gillies, Farnham on June 27th.

As usual the highest counts of 50 or more were all from winter roosts. At Fishlake Meadows the maxima were 52, 50 and 79 on Jan 6th, 9th and 17th. At Fleet Pond 80 were reported on Aug 24th rising to 200 on Nov 10th and 210 on Dec 28th. The highest count was however at Southampton Common with 218 on Dec 15th. (MLC)

### Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw)

*Coloews monedula*

*Numerous resident.* Green

Reported from 457 tetrads (43%) in 54 ten km squares making this species significantly more widespread than Rook with which it often associates. As usual, counts of 500 or more were reported mostly from winter roosts but also during summer. In the first half-year 800 were noted dispersing east pre-dawn at Alton on Jan 15th. In the summer high counts of 700 were recorded roosting near Edenbrook Park, Fleet on June 23rd and 500 at Martin Down on 29th. In the second half-year 500 were first reported from Frater Land, Gosport on Sep 12th. Numbers peaked in October with 1,200 at Weston Shore on 19th followed by 2,685 NW the next day up to mid-morning and 1,050 NW in over two hours in the early morning on 28th. Nearby at Chilling 930 were counted heading west during the day in flocks of up to 250 on Oct 22nd. In November 500 were counted into roost near Edenbrook CP, Fleet on 3rd increasing to 1,110 on 10th. High numbers continued into December with 500 during the day at Abshot on 10th, 600 into roost at Southampton Common on 15th and 1,100 from roost at Bickton on 31st.

Also of note was the establishment of a roost at Fleet Pond for the first time in over 50 years of regular watching. Peak counts in each winter were 215 on Mar 21st and 350 on Nov 16th.

During the breeding season the highest BBS count was 100 in the one km square at Leckford on Apr 20th. (MLC)

## Rook

*Corvus frugilegus*

*Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded from 370 tetrads (34%) in 49 ten km squares. In the first half-year flocks of 250 or more were recorded at Stoke Charity (350, Jan 8th), East Meon (400, Jan 27th) and Martin Down (1,000, June 29th), the last including recently fledged young.

Numbers of reported rookeries and nest counts were higher than last year with 29 rookeries containing a total of 959 apparently occupied nests compared to 18 rookeries with 587 nests in 2018. Rookeries containing 50 or more nests were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): South Warnborough, 92 (75); Longstock South, 80 (80); Martin Down, 70; Chilbolton, 65; Houghton, 50 (50). Other comparisons with last year were Charlton Lakes, Andover, 42 (30); Leckford, 40 (40); Mottisfont, 27 (77) and Widley, 28 (44).

Counts of 250 or more in the second half-year were reported from Four Marks (400, Nov 20th), Wonston (450, Nov 30th) and Houghton (400, Dec 28th), the last two being flocks feeding in stubble. (MLC)

## Carrion Crow

*Corvus corone*

*Numerous resident.*

*Green*

Recorded in 555 tetrads (52%) in 56 ten km squares making it the most widespread corvid with highest numbers recorded at coastal locations. The regularly watched site at Weston Shore again produced maximum monthly counts as shown in the table below. As last year, the annual maximum was recorded in October with 406 on 14th (cf. 440 in 2018).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
445	265	250	240	295	320	290	295	320	406	290	274

In the first half-year groups of 100 or more were reported from Eastleigh STW (170, Mar 24th) and Bourley North/Long Valley (100, Feb 17th and Mar 25th), and in the second half-year from Titchfield Haven (194, Oct 21st), Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (126, Dec 31st), Brownwich (110, Nov 25th) and Thruxton Airfield (100, Aug 18th). NFWBS totals were respectively 453, 296 and 254 in the first three months and 287, 311 and 274 in the last three months (Table 4).

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 17 (16); Lower Test Marshes, at least 4 (6). (MLC)

## Hooded Crow

*Corvus cornix*

*Rare visitor, usually in winter.*

*Green*

An adult was discovered in fields at Fort Widley on Mar 8th and was seen daily until Mar 17th (PAH *et al.*, photo).

This was a much-wanted bird for many people given that the last record was in 2002. Prior to that there had been a steep decline in records with 17 in the 1970s, and just 14 from 1980-2002. This decline is in common with other parts of southern England, although there are still occasional records in Kent and Sussex. The reduction in records is likely to be linked to the decline of the species as a winter visitor to the Netherlands where it used to be abundant but now is scarce. (KFB)



*Hooded Crow, Fort Widley, Mar 8th  
(Andy Johnson)*

## Raven (Northern Raven)

*Corvus corax*

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

Recorded in 372 tetrads (35%) which is surprisingly similar to, even slightly higher than, the coverage for Rook although numbers of individual Ravens were very much smaller. This is an increase over the 347 tetrads in which it was recorded in 2018. Another measure of just how widespread this species has now become is to note that it was recorded in 53 ten km squares, more than Rook and nearly as many as Carrion Crow.

The majority of records were of ones and twos or other single figures probably representing family groups. However several double-digit counts were recorded with 14 at Tidpit Down on Jan 1st and 20 there on Feb 16th, 15 at Facombe on Jan 20th and a flock of 32 circling overhead there with Red Kites on Feb 20th, 11 SE over Armsworth on July 17th, 14 over Ashford Hangers on July 23rd and 20 over Abbotswood, Romsey on Sep 7th. The higher concentrations seen in previous years at pig farms or game shoots were not repeated this year. In the New Forest the monthly winter counts recorded 23, 16 and 16 in the first three months and 16, 15 and 17 in the last three (Table 4).

Breeding was confirmed at eleven sites, three of which were on pylons. Nesting was probable at up to a further 37 sites. (MLC)

## Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing)

*Bombycilla garrulus*

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

*Green.*

The group of 11 recorded at the end of December 2018 in and around the Asda car park at Totton remained in the area until Jan 6th. They were also recorded at nearby Eling/Redbridge on 1st and 2nd and Lower Test Marshes between 1st and 4th. Elsewhere in January two were seen at Eastrop Park, Basingstoke on 4th, two were at Eastleigh on 8th and one flew over



*Waxwing, Totton, Jan 4th (Richard Jacobs)*

The Mill Field, Old Basing the same day. Two were subsequently seen briefly at Barton's Mill, Old Basing on Feb 1st.

The only record from the second winter period was one at Longslade Bottom, NF on Nov 18th. (MLC)

### Coal Tit

*Periparus ater*

*Numerous resident.*

*Green*

Recorded in 342 tetrads (32%) in 51 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 86.9% of surveyed gardens compared to 100% for Blue Tit and 97.8% for Great Tit. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 80.5% in November to a low of 47.0% in July (Table 2). The highest number in any one garden was 12 in Yateley on Feb 10th.

Double-figure counts included an exceptional 50 reported at Hut Wood on Aug 17th including birds feeding on small spiders in long grass. There were also many other double-figure counts up to 17 at widespread sites in the New Forest and elsewhere at The Chase (max. 16, Mar 2nd). The highest BBS result for a one km square was at North Oakley, NF with 20 on June 24th. The regular breeding survey at Longmoor Inclosure recorded 137 territories compared with 129 in 2018. (MLC)

### Marsh Tit

*Poecile palustris*

*Common but declining resident.*

*Red, S4I*

Recorded in 253 tetrads (24%) and in 43 ten km squares. These included all the full squares in the county with the notable exception of SU41 centred on Southampton. Between one to three were reported from 12.7% of Hampshire gardens in BTO Garden BirdWatch with monthly reporting rates varying between a high of 9.8% in December and a low of 3.6% in May. Undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits (most, if not all, probably being Marsh Tits) were reported from 4.9% of gardens with a high of 3.8% in February and a low of 1.3% in June (Table 2).

Double-figure counts were reported from Mark Ash Wood, NF (14, Jan 11th), Denny Wood, NF (12, Jan 29th and Nov 24th) and Kites Croft (10, Nov 25th). The highest BBS result was five registrations in the one km square at Millyford Bridge, NF on May 13th. Results from NFWBS were 14, 24 and 13 in the first three months of the year and 4, 3 and 5 in the last three months (Table 4). (MLC)

### Willow Tit

*Poecile montanus*

*Scarce and declining resident.*

*Red, S4I*

There were ten records of one or two birds from eight sites in previously recorded areas in the north-west and near Dummer. All reports were in the first six months, with most in March, except for one in September. This was the lowest number of records in recent years (cf. 18 in 2018) and suggests further losses of this declining resident.

Five records from other areas were also submitted but it is considered that Marsh Tit could not be ruled out for some of these, which were well away from areas that Willow Tits have recently been proved to inhabit. To add to the problem, Marsh Tits have been found singing like Willow Tits on occasions. For 2020 records the HOS Records Panel will require written descriptions or photographs of any birds claimed as Willow Tits.

A survey of all recently occupied sites is planned next year to give a better assessment of current status as part of a two-year national study led by RSPB. (MLC)



Marsh Tit, Eyeworth Pond, Dec 3rd (Ian Williamson)



Willow Tit, North Hampshire, Mar 8th (Barry Stalker)

## Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit)

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

*Abundant resident and passage migrant.*

*Green*

Recorded in 564 tetrads (53%) in 55 ten km squares making it the most widely recorded tit species, slightly more than Great Tit. This was also the most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being recorded in all of the 267 Hampshire gardens compared to 266 (99.6%) for both Woodpigeon and Robin in joint second place followed by 264 (98.9%) for Blackbird in third place. Monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 99.1% in January and May to a low of 93.4% in August (Table 2). The highest count in any one garden was 32 at Old Basing on Nov 3rd.

High counts of 50 or more comprised flocks of mostly juveniles at Fleet (50, June 25th; 120, July 26th) and in a Petersfield garden (60, Aug 28th). The highest BBS registrations were in one km squares at Steep Marsh (34, Apr 23rd) and Foxlease (31, June 27th). Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2018 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Lower Test Marshes, 42 (23); Longmoor Inclosure, 93 (66). (MLC)

## Great Tit

*Parus major*

*Abundant resident.*

*Green*

Recorded in 531 tetrads (49%) making it the second most widespread recorded tit species. This was the fifth most widespread garden species in Hampshire according to BTO Garden BirdWatch occurring in 261 (97.8%) surveyed gardens. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 93.2% in November and a low of 78.1% in July (Table 2). The highest count in any one garden was 15 at Lockerley near Romsey on June 2nd.

High counts of 30 or more were reported from a cycleway below St. Catherine's Hill feeding on crushed Beechmast (34, Jan 13th), Itchen Valley CP (32, Mar 17th), Selborne (67, Oct 23rd), Wyck (31, Nov 15th) and feeding on leaf litter at Ashley Warren (30, Dec 3rd). The highest BBS registration in a one km square was 22 at Foxlease on May 15th. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2018 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Lower Test Marshes, 26 (19); Longmoor Inclosure, 52 (26). (MLC)

## Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling)

*Panurus biarmicus*

*Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Schedule 1, Green, HBAP*

Recorded in every month with most reports from the four regular sites in the table below. The highest numbers were again recorded at Farlington Marshes where the post-breeding peak of 50 on Oct 15th signalled a return to pre-2018 levels. Double-digit counts were also reported there in September, November and December.

At Titchfield Haven the autumn peak count was 19 on Nov 3rd with double-figure counts in each adjacent month. Note that the Titchfield Haven figures also include reports from Upper Titchfield Haven. Lower numbers were recorded intermittently from Hook-with-Warsash including Hamble River with a peak of seven on Oct 8th. At Lymington-Hurst (mostly Fishtail and Butts Lagoons) records spanned all months except February with a maximum of 12 on Sep 30th. Breeding was confirmed in the Avon Water reedbeds by the trapping, between the end of June and end of August, of four males and a female all showing brood patches followed by a total of eight recently fledged juveniles. Elsewhere one was reported from Needs Ore on May 29th, July 1st and 5th; two were at Lymington River reedbeds on Nov 10th; singles were at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 16th and Fishlake Meadows on Dec 9th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	1		4	3	1	4	4	3	12	8	6	
Hook-with-Warsash		2	4				1			7		
Titchfield Haven	2	2	1		1	1	5	4	5	10	19	11
Farlington Marshes		3	6	3	2	?	2	3	13	50	22	29



*Bearded Tit, Farlington Marshes, Dec 30th (Lee Fuller)*

## Woodlark

*Lullula arborea*

*Moderately common resident and passage migrant.*

*ET, Schedule 1, Green, S41, HBAP*

In January there were reports from the New Forest of one at Burbush Hill on 5th, two at Honey Hill on 14th and then at three sites from 20th including five at Half Moon Common on 29th. None was recorded at breeding sites in the north-east until Feb 9th when one was at Woolmer. Other records at this time included 13 at Portsdown Hill on Jan 29th, 21 feeding in stubbles under partial snow cover near Ditch Acre Copse, Clanfield on Feb 2nd, four in a field by Crofton Cemetery on 3rd and one flying west at Barton on Sea on 11th. NFWBS recorded totals of none in January, 15 in February and 23 in March (Table 4). Also during February and early March singing males were recorded away from traditional heathland sites at Corhampton (two sites), Dummer (3, two sites), Faccombe, Farley Mount, Medstead, Mottisfont, Nether Wallop, Popham Down Copse and Upper Woodcott Down. There were no further reports from most of these sites apart from Medstead where a probable pair was seen on Mar 20th and Dummer where one was singing on Apr 7th. Between late March and early June further records came from Adhurst Estate, Axmansford, Brockwood Copse, Burton Common, Cole Henley, Crux Easton, Eversley GP, Hartland Park (Fleet), Martin Down, Watership Down, Weston Common/Shalden (3 singing) and Woodmancott (3 singing). There were multiple sightings from Adhurst Estate, Crux Easton, Hartland Park and Weston Common where breeding no doubt occurred.

HOS organized a full survey of the New Forest on behalf of the Forestry Commission. A total of 169 territories was located. For full details see <https://www.hos.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Woodlark-survey-Final.pdf>. (See summary paper on page 226).

The usual surveys on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 49 and 47 pairs/singing males respectively (Table 1). The study at Bourley and Long Valley SSSI continued where the population increased from 19 territories in 2018 to 21 in 2019. Twenty-five nests were monitored of which 13 were successful, ten failed and for two the outcome was unknown. The successful nests fledged 46 young, a productivity of 3.54 and an overall productivity of 2.0



Woodlark, Burnt Common (Mortimer West End), Apr 19th (Barry Stalker)

per nesting attempt (excluding the two for which the outcome was unknown). Colour-ringing of both pulli and adults continued, enabling identification of many located in a flock which built up on Tweseldown (see below). Other breeding reports were of a pair seen with one young in Ringwood Forest, at least four territories in the Burnt Common/Benyon's Inclosure area with fledged young seen, and a pair at Silchester Common on June 22nd which was not recorded during the Thames Basin Heaths survey.

A post-breeding gathering at Tweseldown had monthly maxima of 15 on July 22nd nine of which were colour-ringed, 23 on Aug 24th, 17 on Sep 10th and eight on Oct 12th. Seven were still present on Oct 27th and the last was one on Nov 4th. Other double-figure flocks were 12 at Liss Forest on July 29th and 12 at Woolmer Pond on Sep 15th. NFWBS produced a total of 21 on Oct 5th. Autumn movements at visible migration watchpoints were light with 11 SW over Tweseldown between Sep 23rd and Oct 17th, and ten SW and five NE over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 30th and Nov 9th (Table 8). Other movements in October were singles south at Hinton Ampner on 2nd, over Keyhaven on 13th and 15th, one east over Farley Mount and two east over Overton on 17th, three NW over Testwood Lakes on 20th and two east over Allbrook on 27th.

Further records were sparse. In November only one was found by NFWBS on 9th and elsewhere there were singles at Hinton Ampner on 1st, flying north over Romsey Abbey on 16th and at Normandy Lagoon on 17th, three at Matley Heath on 23rd and four at Half Moon Common on 24th. In December one flew over Skidmore on 1st, two were at Up Somborne on 2nd and eight were located at the traditional Portsdown Hill site on 14th. NFWBS on 21st produced only one but three were found at Half Moon Common on the same day. (JMC)

### Skylark (Eurasian Skylark)

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

*Alauda arvensis*

Red, S41, HBAP

Recorded in 322 tetrads (30%) in 51 ten km squares. In the first half year, flocks of 100 or more were recorded at Wallers Ash east of South Wonston (120, Jan 5th), Skidmore (100, Jan 29th; 150, Feb 2nd) and Willesley Warren (100, Feb 3rd).

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas included 19 at Butser Hill. The highest numbers of registrations in BBS one km squares were both in the South Downs with 22 at Kilmeston Down on Apr 29th and 21 at Preshaw Down on May 14th.

Six grounded flocks in autumn/winter exceeded 100 with maxima of 200 at Over Wallop on Oct 2nd and the same number at Brownwich on Oct 17th, both flushed by a Peregrine. Others were in stubble at Portsdown Hill (140, Nov 16th), Longwood Warren (120, Oct 5th; 100, Dec 14th) and at Trigpoint Hill (122, Oct 8th).

Minimum half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. The peak count at inland watchpoints was 57 SW in just over two hours at Trigpoint Hill on Oct 16th. As in previous years, variations in observer effort account for some of the inland vs. coastal differences, but of note is the apparent (and probably real) difference in timing, with the inland peak distinctly earlier by around two weeks compared to movements at the coast. (SKW)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving		30	30	252	38		
Inland moving	5	173	632	402	106	4	

### Sand Martin

*Riparia riparia*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and common passage migrant.

Green

An exceptionally early individual appeared at Anton Lakes on Feb 19th to establish a new early record by eight days (cf. previous earliest on Feb 27th 1990). This was followed by a further 12 at four sites on Feb 28th including seven at Fishlake Meadows. Passage was slow until mid-March with the first double-figure counts on 19th and no really large gatherings until 500 at Ibsley Water on 31st. The peak spring count of 850 followed at this site on Apr 3rd with numbers remaining high, regularly above 500, throughout the summer.

Breeding reports were limited to Burnt Common (Mortimer West End GP) where up to ten were seen visiting nest holes on June 8th, Ibsley Water where 120 were using the nest holes next to the Goosander Hide on June 3rd, and at Testwood Lakes where 104 occupied nest holes were counted. There was no sign of breeding at Barton on Sea where the cliffs had eroded since last year when 50 pairs had bred there.

Return passage is always hard to detect (just 53 were recorded on the move in autumn from the two inland watchpoints at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown), but was suspected from late June including 800 at Ibsley Water on July 1st which were probably not all local breeders. The only autumn roost reported was 50 at Fleet Pond on Aug 20th. There were only five October records, the last of the year being at Ibsley Water on 14th.

Half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below.

	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	June 13-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland	43	369	104				10	5	42	2	
Coast	4						1				

The above table is of limited value as it only includes records where observers have reported directional movements. A better indication of the scale and timing of major movements is indicated by the large feeding flocks, usually over water, which are reported during migration periods and summarised by the maximum half-monthly counts in the table below. (SKW)

Mar 10-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	June 13-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
6	500	850	300	300	800	500	500	500	600	200	30

## Swallow (Barn Swallow)

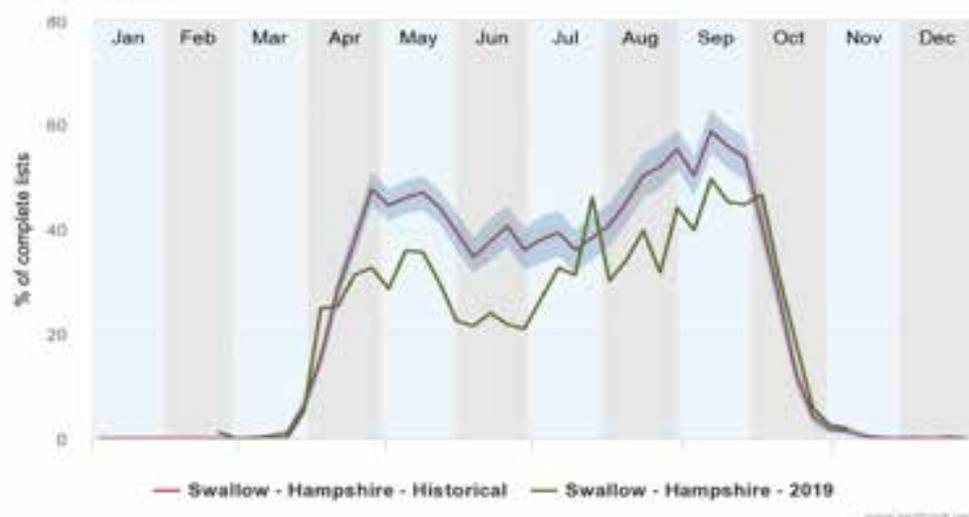
*Hirundo rustica*

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green

The year began with a trickle of exceptionally early arrivals at three separate locations on Feb 23rd, perhaps as a result of the unseasonal warm weather (see House Martin below), with one at Ibsley Water, one at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and two at New Alresford. These equalled the earliest ever record set ten years ago on Feb 23rd 2009 and were followed by one at Needs Ore the next day. There was then a gap of 13 days before the next, a single at Titchfield Haven on Mar 8th, followed by a further gap of nine days before one at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 17th. After this a further 140 or so were reported by the month's end, with an obvious push in the last two days. Fifty at Ibsley Water on Apr 2nd was the first significant congregation but, worryingly, there were only two three-figure spring counts with 150 at Eastleigh on Apr 14th and 100 at Ibsley Water on May 9th. Numbers remained lower than usual in spring with only 92 reported as actively migrating. Heavy losses on northward migration due to extreme weather around the Mediterranean has been suggested as a possible cause. The lower numbers this year are illustrated by comparing BTO's BirdTrack reporting rate with the historical average over the last ten years.

Reporting rate



BTO BirdTrack reporting rate for Swallow in Hampshire 2019 compared with historical average.

Autumn numbers were higher, although still low by historic standards. Small movements were noted from mid-June, and by late August higher numbers were being reported at various coastal and inland sites (e.g. 500 at Dibden Bay on Aug 30th). As tabulated below, migration peaked in mid-September with almost 2,000 on Sep 21st. Elevated numbers continued at favoured sites late in the month (e.g. 1,000 at Ibsley Water on 26th). Fully 75% of the 11,921 visible migrants in September were seen from the two watchpoints at Tweseldown (peak 1,615 mostly NE in two hours, 9th) and Trigpoint Hill (peak 928 SW in 2 hours, 22nd). The departure seems to have been quite protracted with daily reports until Nov 7th, a total of 47 during November as a whole, and the last at Hurst Beach on Nov 24th.

The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving in the autumn are tabulated below. (SKW/MLC)

	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Inland	22	41	54	367	362	5,904	4,371	693	71		
Coast		110	4	6		1,142	1,250	146	36	1	1

## House Martin (Common House Martin)

*Delichon urbicum*

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first was one at Needs Ore on Feb 24th during the warmest British February ever. The British winter daytime temperature record was set on 26th with 21.2°C at Kew, the culmination of a sustained mid-month southerly airflow. The only comparable February this century was in 2004 which also saw a remarkable early House Martin arrival setting a new early date of Feb 10th. After a long gap of 31 days about 75 arrived on more typical dates in the last five days of March. These started with five at Cut Bridge, Hurst Beach and two at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on 27th, after which numbers picked up by mid-April although no count exceeded 60. Apart from 100 at Ibsley Water on May 2nd and 4th, 100 at Eastleigh STW on 5th and 400 at Ibsley Water on 9th, it was double-figure counts at best elsewhere.

Very little information on confirmed breeding was submitted. Observers are requested to count occupied nests each year given the concerns over declines in breeding numbers. The few records received included at least 11 occupied nests at Colemore Church and 62 nests at Compton, where not all were occupied but numbers were considered to be similar to last year (cf. 35 occupied nests). The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was 28 at Fritham, NF on June 22nd.

Big gatherings resumed at Ibsley Water from June 12th (200 with 600 the next day), but these may have been failed breeders rather than migrants. Autumn passage appeared to start in July and a count of 72 SW at Trigpoint Hill on Aug 1st was the first day count to exceed 50. Inland movements and gatherings in August were widespread with the highest being 300 on 11th at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham. The main migration push was heralded on Sep 3rd by 900 at Ibsley Water increasing on 9th to over 2,000 NE in two hours at Tweseldown and 895 mostly NE in 1.3 hours at Trigpoint Hill. A coastal concentration of well over 5,000 was noted at Pennington Marshes on Sep 15th (accounting for over 60% of the visible coastal migrants in one session!) and there were 14 counts over 1,000 throughout the month with easily the biggest being 15,150 west at Tweseldown on 28th. Numbers dropped rapidly in October with just over 300 in the second half. There were 20 in November with the last lingering at Normandy from 9th-11th. During the peak movement period a striking albino was observed in a flock of 250 at Ibsley Water on Sep 29th and a few days earlier according to the hide log.

Autumn half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Inland	3	44	16	20	32	15	40	795	767	8,892	29,634	1,487	205
Coast	4		3							5,000	150	2,922	8

## Cetti's Warbler

*Cettia cetti*

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979. Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

The population clearly continues at a high level at coastal locations and in the main river valleys. In excess of 265 pairs/singing males were reported. Counts at surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 7; Milton Common, 5; Titchfield Haven, 33 (19+); Hook-with-Warsash, 5 (4); Lower Test Marshes, 54 (46); Lepe, 5 (5); Oxey-Keyhaven 6; Blashford Lakes, 6 (4); Fishlake Meadows, 20-25 (15); Itchen Water Works, 6; Bishopstoke, 13 (9). Additionally there were 21 at 13 coastal localities, 23 in seven one km squares in the Avon Valley, 35 in 20 squares in the Test Valley and 26 in 13 squares in the Itchen Valley.

Other records included a singing male at Fleet Pond from Mar 30th to June 9th with two present on May 19th, one in a garden at Boyatt Wood, Chandlers Ford on Apr 16th, one at Stratfield Saye on May 24th, one at Sandy Point from July 17th to Dec 29th with two on Nov 1st, and one at Sinah on Nov 24th. (JMC)

## Long-tailed Tit

*Aegithalos caudatus*

*Numerous resident.*

*Green*

Recorded in 437 tetrads (41%) in 54 ten km squares. In the first three months of the year there were only five reports of 20 or more, with the majority of large counts from the Avon Valley. In January 24 were at Four Marks on 9th and also at Ivy Lake the same day and 20 were at Kingston Ponds on 15th. In February a flock of 45 at Blashford Lakes Centre on 6th had grown to 50 by 13th.

In the breeding season counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 10 (8); Lower Test Marshes, 13 (10).

Post-breeding season and autumn counts of 20 or greater were received from seven sites with 20 at Sandy Point on July 13th; 22 at The Vyne on July 20th; 30 at Wildgrounds, Gosport on Aug 8th; 25 at Alice Holt Forest on Aug 17th; 25 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Aug 30th and 67 there on Sep 11th; 20 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 15th; 21 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Sep 28th. Notable numbers were also recorded in the last three months of the year with 32 at Denny Wood NF on Nov 24th and 31 at Darby Green on Dec 24th. (MJP)

## Wood Warbler

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

*Scarce and declining summer visitor now largely confined to the New Forest.*

*Red*

Recorded in 21 tetrads in seven ten km squares, including passage migrants, with most reports from the New Forest. The first record was one at Hurst Castle on Apr 19th followed by singles at three New Forest sites between 21st-28th. Outside of the New Forest other spring records were singles at Chilland on Apr 22nd; Upper Titchfield Haven and Yateley Common on May 6th and two at Queen Elizabeth CP the same day.

Up to 23 adults were seen or heard during the breeding season at 14 locations in the New Forest but, as they move when unmated or when breeding fails, the true number is likely to be lower.

The year ended with singles in August at Titchfield Abbey on 4th and at separate New Forest sites on 13th and 28th. (TD/MLC)

## 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. (0,157,12)*

There were ten records. As usual there was a concentration in October, particularly from 17th-22nd.

Ivy Lake, Blashford: Jan 4th-30th (RAC *et al.*, photo).

Eastleigh STW: Feb 10th-17th and 25th (DJU *et al.*).

Titchfield Haven: Oct 2nd, ringed (BSD, photo).

Lymington: Oct 13th, ringed (MW, photo).

Allbrook: Oct 17th (SI).

Old Winchester Hill: Oct 18th (DGHM).

Keyhaven: Oct 20th, ringed (GG, photo).

Canoe Lake, Southsea: Oct 20th (JJG, photo).

Petersfield: Oct 22nd (ACS).

The Mill Field, Old Basing: Dec 17th (JKA).

**2017 addition.** One at Beacon Hill, Warnford on Nov 5th (JAF).

**2018 addition.** One at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 16th (JAF).

(KFB)



*Yellow-browed Warbler, Keyhaven, Oct 20th (Graham Giddens)*

## Willow Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

*Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Amber*

The first for the year was singing at Silchester Common on Mar 21st. Thereafter a widespread arrival occurred with records from 17 sites by the end of the month (a return to the normal pattern after only six sites by the end of March 2018). The first double-figure count was 15 at Sandy Point on Apr 8th, but then only five others to the month-end including a peak of 30 at Sandy Point on 17th. Sandy Point recorded 93 bird-days between Apr 10th and May 15th (*cf.* 44 in 2018 and 158 in 2017).

Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths totalled 160 at 19 sites and 73 at eight sites respectively (see Table 1). The Thames Basin total increased from 63 in 2018 largely due to a total of 54 at Bourley & Long Valley SSSI which was covered for the first time.

In autumn 256 were trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 16th and Sep 22nd, with a maximum of 31 on Aug 13th, a material increase on both 2018 (136) and 2017 (161). In addition, counts of 20 or more were received from Cadnam Common, Chilling, Hut Wood, Ranvilles Lane and Wildgrounds, Gosport, with the highest count being 70 at Chilling on Aug 13th. Smaller numbers were reported throughout September into October with the last for the year being one at Moorcourt Farm, Test Valley on Oct 5th. (MJP)

## 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 234 reports of 598 birds at 98 sites, an increase on both of the previous years (241 at 55 sites in 2018; 300 at 80 sites in 2017). Again the highest numbers were recorded at Eastleigh STW where, after a slow start, numbers built through January to reach double figures by the month-end and peak at 25 on Feb 11th before dropping back to 17 by 27th. Elsewhere the highest count was ten at Titchfield Haven on Feb 27th.

As in previous years, and with so many wintering birds around, it is difficult to pinpoint the arrival of summer migrants. The count of ten at Anton Lakes on Mar 3rd could well be wintering birds. There was then a distinct gap until Mar 23rd for the next double-figure count. Thereafter another 12 sites had double-figure counts by the month-end, although no count exceeded 15. Of note is the record of ten moving NE at Trigpoint Hill on Mar 26th.

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 21 (11); Fishlake Meadows, 23 (20); Blackbushe Airfield, 21 (22); Yateley Common, 27 (17); Longmoor Inclosure, 50 (31); Lower Test Marshes, 20 (13).

In autumn 80 at Chilling on Oct 3rd was the only record of over 40 between early September and the first week of October. Counts of more than 30 in the same period were 35 at Lepe CP and 37 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham, both on Sep 30th. In November-December there were 148 reports of 343 birds at 49 sites. These compare with 332 birds at 65 sites in 2018. As in previous years, the only double-figure counts were received from Eastleigh STW with peaks of 32 trapped and ringed on both Nov 16th and Dec 29th. (MJP)

### Siberian Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

*Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 2009: 28,3)*

Four birds were trapped as follows: Eastleigh STW: two, Jan 26th to Mar 17th (DNA analysis awaited) and Nov 16th (analysis awaited) (DJU, photo), also reported Dec 15th-19th; Titchfield Haven: Nov 30th (BSD, DAB). In addition a bird with plumage features strongly indicative of Siberian Chiffchaff was by the chalets at Titchfield Haven on Nov 3rd – it was not heard to call (ALR, photo). (KFB)

### Aquatic Warbler

*Acrocephalus paludicola*

*Rare and declining autumn passage migrant, mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes. (1,87,2)*

A juvenile was trapped at Titchfield Haven on Sep 1st (BSD, TDC, DAB). Another was at Titchfield Haven by the Canal Path on Sep 15th (ALR).

Two records (as in 2018) is pleasing given that there had been a gap in sightings prior to that and none in the period 2010-2015. (KFB)

### Sedge Warbler†

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green*

The first for the year was a singing male at Fishlake Meadows on the evening of Mar 24th. There were no further records until one at Lower Test Marshes on March 31st. However during April it was widely reported with 170 records relating to 426 birds at 44 sites. In addition to Fishlake Meadows, there were double-figure counts at Lower Test Marshes and Titchfield Haven, the peak count being 18 at the latter site on Apr 20th (cf. 2018; four sites with a peak of 10).

During the breeding season approximately 186 singing males were reported from 40 localities (cf. 298 at 44 sites in 2018), although counts were missing from some previously high population sites. Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Fishlake Meadows, 28 (27); Lower Test Marshes, 51 (28).

In autumn numbers increased at Titchfield Haven with a total of 737 trapped and ringed between July 9th and Sep 21st (cf. 647 in 2018, although this still compares unfavourably with 1,224 in 2014) with a peak of 58 on Sep 1st. The highest counts elsewhere included a run of records at Pennington Marshes where 20 on Aug 2nd dropped to 14 by 12th and then gradually reduced to the final one on Sep 22nd. Elsewhere there were singles in October at Farlington Marshes on 5th and finally at Lower Test Marshes on 10th. (MJP)

### Reed Warbler† (Eurasian Reed Warbler)

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green, HBAP*

The first for the year was a single at Hamble Common on Apr 2nd. The second was not recorded until Apr 8th at Blashford Lakes but thereafter sightings were widespread. By the end

of the month there were six locations with double-figure counts with up to 20 at Pennington Marshes; up to 18 at Fishlake Meadows; 15 at Fleet Pond; 15 at IBM Lake, Portsmouth; 11 at Edenbrook CP and ten at Hook-with-Warsash.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 445 singing males/territories at 83 sites (cf. 2018: 255 at 73 sites). Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses where available): Lower Test Marshes, 105 (77); Fishlake Meadows, 18 (18). The increase is positive news as again totals are missing from some previously populous sites. Other notable counts of singing males in May (with 2018 figures in parentheses) were 11 at Edenbrook CP, 14 (14) at Itchen Water Works, 15 (15) at Fleet Pond, 20 (15) at IBM Lake, 20 at Sopley Island and 23 at Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes.

In autumn 586 were trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven (cf. 2018; 475) between July 7th and Oct 18th with a peak of 42 on July 29th (cf. 2018: 56, Aug 14th). Away from Titchfield Haven the only other double-figure count was from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with a maximum of 26 on Aug 3rd. The last record was a single at Titchfield Haven on Oct 12th. (MJP)

### Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

*Iduna pallida*

*Very rare vagrant. (0,0,1)*

This was undoubtedly the bird of the year for most people, and a first for Hampshire. It was discovered in the western fields (“the bushes”) at Farlington Marshes at 10:00 on Sep 14th and remained there until 19th (PAG et al., photo). A full account of the discovery is given on page 238.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler breeds from south-eastern Europe eastwards through the Middle East to Central Asia, wintering south to east and north-east Africa. It is a rare vagrant to north-west Europe, including Britain and Ireland, where there have been 22 and three previous records respectively. Shetland has fared best for British records with ten occurrences. Although there have been very few records in England, three of these have been in Dorset – all at Portland Bill. In comparison the Western Olivaceous Warbler is almost unknown north of its breeding range. (KFB)



*Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Farlington Marshes, Sep 14th (Simon M. King)*

## Icterine Warbler

*Hippolais icterina*

*Rare passage migrant principally recorded in autumn. (0.10,1).*

Three observers (one of which was completely unaware of the others) chanced upon a singing bird in the Beech trees of the churchyard at Colemore near East Tisted in the early morning on June 18th (LH, MH, FB et al., photo). The bird was faithful to that general area and still present the next day but was also remarkably elusive, at times wandering 100m from the churchyard.

There are ten previous records, but the most recent was a singing male in May 2009. That was an early record, and all of the others were in either in June or October. The species was recorded for four years in a row from 1993-1996 but there have only been two records since then. (KFB)

## Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

*Scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor; moderately common autumn passage migrant mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven.* Red, S41, HBAP

The first record was a single at Twyford Meadows reeling on the evening of Apr 14th. During April up to 16 reeling individuals were heard at 12 locations (cf. 2018: 13 at 7 sites), with Fishlake Meadows and Twyford Meadows each holding up to three. There were 15 reports in May but the majority relate to long-stayers at both Fishlake Meadows and Titchfield Haven. Away from these two sites, there were just four reported on single dates (cf. 2018: 8 at 7 sites).

It is believed that breeding was attempted at three sites with singing birds still present through June. This is a slight improvement from the two sites in 2018, but still down on the five suspected in 2017. The difficulty of finding birds once they have stopped reeling means that proving breeding will continue to be problematic. In addition, return migration begins early and birds were found at the end of July in areas where they were not believed to breed.

In autumn, singles were reported in ten locations (cf. 2018: 11). A total of 188 was trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 13th and Sep 20th (cf. 2018: 82) with a peak of 35 on Aug 27th. The last for the year was one at Titchfield Haven on Sep 22nd. (MJP)

## Savi's Warbler

*Locustella luscinioides*

*Rare summer visitor, breeding confirmed most recently in 1992. (0,40,1)* Red, Schedule 1, S41

A bird sang at a confidential location from July 16th-26th (observers' names withheld by request). (KFB)

## Blackcap† (Eurasian Blackcap)

*Sylvia atricapilla*

*Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.* Green

During January-March there were 396 reports of approximately 652 birds at 160 sites (cf. 337 at 73 sites in 2018), many of which were in gardens. Monthly presence in BTO Garden BirdWatch was highest in January at 31.9% of the monitored Hampshire gardens whereas in the breeding season a low of 9.4% was registered in August, illustrating the widespread distribution and higher visibility of this species at feeders in winter. All reports were between one and four except for seven colour-ringed birds on Jan 8th at Drayton, Portsmouth and six at Culverwell, Winchester on Feb 18th.

Whilst it is difficult to separate spring arrivals from those wintering, which then leave to breed mainly in Germany, it appears that the first wave of arrivals started from Mar 24th onwards. Records from regularly monitored sites showed an increase in numbers throughout April as migrants moved in. The first double-figure count after ten at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 24th was at Lower Test Marshes where from Apr 2nd the number rapidly grew from 12 to 45 on 8th. For most locations the peak came later in April. For example at Titchfield Haven the first double-figure count was on 18th and the peak of 30 was on 20th. Elsewhere counts of 20 were reported from both Botley Wood on 14th and Hollybank Woods on 26th.

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 22 (28); Itchen Water Works, 17 (12); Lower Test Marshes, 53 (36); Fishlake Meadows, 22 (19); Longmoor Inclosure, 32 (21); Fleet Pond, 11 (13). This species remains both numerous and widespread.

Autumn passage was most evident in September with counts of over 40 at four sites; namely 40 at Portsdown Hill on 7th; 60 at Chilling on 8th; 42 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on 11th and on four dates at Titchfield Haven (84, 8th; 48, 9th; 65, 14th and 62, 15th). Approximately 132 were recorded at 48 sites during November-December compared with 110 at 41 sites in the same period in 2018. All reports during these two months relate to one to three birds. (MJP)

## Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

*Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.* Green

The first for the year was at Ashlett Creek on Apr 10th, followed by a further 25 in the same week. Thereafter arrivals were widespread with the first double-figure count being on Apr 29th with 12 at Home Farm Woodland Trust, Burkhams.

During the period of May to June, there were approximately 294 records from 129 locations (cf. 2018: 279 at 112 sites) with the majority being one or two singing males. Notable counts of singing males included (2018 in parenthesis) Broxhead Common, 3 (5); Testwood Lakes, 3 (5); Botley Wood, 9 (6); Stockbridge Down, 6 (6); Shortheath Common, 6 (7); Fishlake Meadows, 11 (7); Blackbushe, 17 (11) and Yateley Common, 6 (8). Additionally 20-25 territories were recorded at Blashford Lakes.

In autumn a new site record was achieved with 90 (cf. 43 in 2018) trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 13th and Oct 2nd, with a daily peak of 11 on both Aug 27th and Sep 1st. Despite the high numbers there, the only other sites to record more than two were Chilling, with four on both Aug 13th and Aug 26th, and Hook-with-Warsash with three on Aug 8th. The last record was one at Stoney Cross Plain, NF on Oct 3rd. (MJP)

## Lesser Whitethroat

*Sylvia curruca*

*Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded 11 times in winter.* Green

The first records were on Apr 18th with two at Budds Farm STW and one at Casbrook Common. No doubt by being the Easter weekend and there being good observer coverage, double-figure totals followed on 19th (18 at 8 locations); 20th (13 at 8 locations) and 21st (14 at 7 locations). Individuals were noted at a total of 51 sites (cf. 2018: 48) by the end of the month. Most records were of one or two but seven were singing near Langstone Bridge on 19th and five at Calshot on 28th, whilst three were found at Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven, Brownwich and Martin Down.

The unobtrusive nature of this species makes assessing the potential breeding numbers difficult. Despite this, records of singing males totalled 101 from 70 localities (cf. 2018: 89 at 49 sites), an improvement on the two previous years. Highest counts were six at both Calshot and Stockbridge Down; four at Pennington Marshes and Brook Meadow, Emsworth; three at Brownwich, Titchfield Haven, Lepe CP and Martin Down. No other site held more than one or two singing males.

Post-breeding numbers were low with most records being of ones and twos. In August, three were reported at Pennington Marshes on 3rd and again on 25th, three at Sandy Point on 12th, five at Chilling on 13th and three at Old Winchester Hill on 20th. Four were ringed at Titchfield Haven between Aug 23rd and 27th. In September there were six at Hook-with-Warsash on 10th and three at Farlington Marshes on 16th. There were almost daily records through September and the sole October record and last sighting was one at Stansore Point, Lepe on Oct 4th. (MJP)



Male Whitethroat, Titchfield Haven, May 7th (Richard Jacobs)

### Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

*Sylvia communis*

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded five times in winter. Green

The first sighting was from St Catherine's Hill on the early date of Apr 1st. In the following week a further four reports relating to five birds were received from Pennington Marshes and Needs Ore. By the middle of April records were plentiful and widespread. Significant counts were 19 at Keyhaven Marshes on 19th, 24 at Frater Shore on 24th and 22 at the same location on 29th, and 20 at Budds Farm STW on 30th.

Counts of territories in previously surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses where available): Botley Wood, 13 (8); Butser Hill, 8 (13); Frater Shore 22 (22); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham 14 (11); Itchen Water Works, 4 (4); Lower Test Marshes, 8 (17); Blackfield Fields Farm, 10 (11); Casbrook Common 18 (15); Blackbushe Airfield 13 (10) and Hazeley Heath 21 (12). Whilst eight sites in the central New Forest (ten km squares SU20, 21, 30, and 31) reported one or two in May and June, numbers remained low and breeding success was not known.

Return passage began in earnest in the second week of August and built steadily until the month's end with counts of 25 or over at Chilling, St Catherine's Hill and Pennington Marshes. At Titchfield Haven 96 were trapped and ringed between July 13th and Oct 22nd (cf. 55 in 2018 between July 24th and Sep 22nd). Numbers remained high in early September with double-figure counts at Keyhaven/Pennington (34, 1st gradually reduced to 13, 17th); Alverstoke, Gosport (13, 1st); Portsdown Hill (23, 7th) and Ranvilles Lane, Gosport (10, 15th), but then tailed off later in the month. There were 14 records of singles in October and the final sighting was one at Hook-with-Warsash on the very late date of Nov 7th. (MJP)

### Dartford Warbler

*Sylvia undata*

Moderately common resident, largely confined to heaths of New Forest and north-east but with small numbers in coastal scrub. Highly susceptible to harsh winters.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Records from non-breeding sites in January-April (singles unless stated otherwise) came from Hill Head (Jan 1st), Gilkicker Point (Jan 4th), Burnt Common (Jan 30th), The Warren, Oakhanger (Feb 17th), Deacon Hill (Feb 28th-Mar 9th) and Sandy Point (Feb 27th and Apr 21st). NFWBS recorded totals of 8, 24 and 12 in January-March respectively (Table 4).

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs showed a continuing recovery with 82 and 71 pairs/singing males respectively compared with 52 and 33 in 2018 (Table 1). There were widespread records from the New Forest but no systematic surveys were carried out. Other breeding season records included three pairs at Oxey-Keyhaven, one pair at Hook-with-Warsash which raised two broods, five territories at Burton Common, seven at Browndown South on Mar 30th and three at Ringwood Forest on May 6th. The number of pairs/singing males was not stated for the last two records.

Post-breeding records from non-breeding sites (singles unless stated otherwise) came from Badminton Common (July 24th and Aug 8th, the first there since the "Beasts from the East"), Lepe (July 28th), Portsdown Hill (Aug 21st), Twyford Down (Aug 26th), The Mill Field (Sep 27th and Nov 12th), Brownwich (Oct 5th), Ranvilles Lane (Oct 6th, 20th and Nov 3rd), Titchfield Haven (Oct 15th and Nov 4th), Chilling (Oct 17th), Itchen Valley CP (Oct 19th), Becton Bunny (Oct 21st), Lower Test Marshes (Oct 28th), Sandy Point (Oct 29th to Nov 17th), Field Farm, Blackfield (Nov 24th), The Warren, Oakhanger (3, Dec 3rd) and Posbrook (Dec 13th and 21st). NFWBS recorded 48, 51 and 19 in October-December respectively. (JMC)

### Firecrest (Common Firecrest)

*Regulus ignicapilla*

Common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in 262 tetrads (24%) in 45 ten km squares, with most reports from the south and east and fewest in the north and west. In terms of tetrad coverage, this species was reported in more than 2/3 of the number of squares with Goldcrests. Wintering individuals were widely reported in January and February from the southern half of the county in slightly higher numbers than 2018, with reports of four or more in February from the following four locations: six at Dundridge on 15th and four at Hut Wood on 21st, Queen Elizabeth CP on 25th and Norley Wood, NF on 28th. In contrast only three records, all singles, were received from the northern half as follows highlighting the divide in wintering range: Fleet Pond on Jan 1st, Ramptons Lane GP on Jan 2nd and Passfield Pond on Feb 20th. There was a marked increase in records in March with many on territory by mid-month including seven around Acres Down, NF on Mar 9th and eight at Gaze Hill, NF on Mar 25th.



Dartford Warbler, Keyhaven, Oct 19th (Matthew Barfield)

During the breeding season a minimum of 267 territories was reported from 149 sites, an 11% increase on 2018 but still well down on 2016 and 2017 levels when systematic surveys were undertaken. The New Forest remains the stronghold with a minimum of 122 territories (cf. 120 in 2018) but other significant breeding sites included nine territories at Farley Mount CP (including five at Crab Wood), eight at Hilliers Arboretum and six at Adhurst Wood, Sheet. Most reports in July, August and September came from known breeding sites, many comprising family parties.

Migrants started to appear in early September at non-breeding sites culminating in a drawn-out autumn peak between the beginning of October and the third week of November, with two well-watched sites logging over 30 bird-days as follows: Sandy Point with 39 bird-days on 28 dates between Sep 2nd and Nov 29th (peak 3, Nov 5th and 6th) and Titchfield Haven with 31 bird-days on 22 dates between Sep 21st and Nov 28th (peak 4, Nov 24th). Autumn ringing totals included ten trapped at Titchfield Haven between Oct 13th and Nov 30th. A count of ten at Hut Wood on Nov 29th was the only site to report more than four in the last four months of the year.

Minimum totals are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	20	28	61	14	15	5	11
- No. of New Forest sites	16	18	24	10	11	5	10
Southampton Common	2		2		2	2	2
Southampton area	3	7	3	6	2	25	3
- No. Southampton area sites	3	4	1	2	2	8	3
Other inland locations	31	42	58	14	15	41	12
- No. of other inland sites	24	27	45	11	9	26	12
Coastal locations	19	20	17	12	35	33	19
- No. of coastal sites	14	12	14	8	23	21	14
Total recorded	75	97	141	46	68	106	47

## Goldcrest†

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Recorded in 371 tetrads (35%) in 54 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from five sites (two in 2018), with high counts as follows: 24 at Burbush Hill, Burley, NF and 14 at adjoining Thorney Hill, both on Jan 5th; 19 at Blashford Lakes Centre on Feb 13th; ten at Itchen Valley CP on Feb 17th and 15 at The Chase, Woolton Hill on Mar 2nd.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 6; Longmoor Inclosure, 34 (33) and Lower Test Marshes, 3 (1). While under-reported elsewhere, there seems to have been a recovery from the low levels in 2018 with a minimum of 321 territories (221 in 2018), primarily from BBS, including 70 territories from the New Forest (52 in 2018). Other notable spring records included ten at Millyford Bridge, NF on Apr 14th and Itchen Valley CP on Apr 28th, and 14 at Lucy Hill, NF on June 6th.

In the second half-year, double-figure counts were received from seven sites (five in 2018) with the highest being 20 at Broomy Plain, NF on Oct 22nd and 17 at The Chase on Nov 29th. Autumn ringing totals included 101 trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 9th and Nov 16th (a significant increase over 2018's low of 32) and 82 trapped at Eastleigh STW on two dates in December. (WGDL)

## Regulus regulus

*Green*

## Wren (Eurasian Wren)

*Abundant resident.*

Reported from 520 tetrads (48%) in 56 ten km squares. The highest counts in the first three months were 38 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 31st and 26 at The Chase, Woolton Hill on Mar 2nd. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Buriton, 89; Fishlake Meadows, 36 (46); Fleet Pond, 16 (15); Hollybank Wood, Emsworth, 21 (24); Itchen Valley CP, 48 (29); Longmoor Inclosure, 132 (137) and Lower Test Marshes, 115 (105). Results from BBS contained 12 one km squares with counts of 20 or more (16 in 2018) including (2018 figures in parentheses) Foxlease Meadow, Fleet, 44 (41) and Ramnor Inclosure, NF, 35 (33). In the latter part of the year the only two sites to report more than 20 were Itchen Valley CP (33, Oct 27th) and Martin Down (29, Nov 1st). (WGDL)

## Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch)

*Numerous resident.*

Recorded in 384 tetrads (36%) and 50 ten km squares across the county. Notable counts in the early year included 21 at Adhurst Wood, Sheet on Jan 14th, 12 at Mark Ash Wood, NF on Jan 11th, 12 at The Chase, Woolton Hill on Feb 5th and ten at Combe Wood, Facombe on Jan 20th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Buriton, 12; Fleet Pond, 3 (4) and Longmoor Inclosure, 9 (8). Results from BBS one km squares produced a total of 266 territories including counts of 14 at Vernham Row, Woodside on Apr 21st and 13 at Foxlease Meadow, Fleet on June 27th. Double-figure counts in the second half came from Acres Down, NF, 14 on July 23rd; Bourley Bottom, 13 on July 23rd; Denny Wood, 12 on Oct 20th and Nov 24th; Botley Wood, 11 on Aug 30th; Mill Field, Old Basing, 14 on Sep 11th; Ampfield Wood, ten on Sep 15th and The Chase, Woolton Hill, ten on Nov 29th. (WGDL)

## Treecreeper

### (Eurasian Treecreeper)

*Certhia familiaris*

*Numerous resident.*

*Green*

Whilst occupying similar woodland habitat to Nuthatch, recorded in only 214 tetrads (20%) and 43 ten km squares, possibly due to its less vocal and less conspicuous behaviour and thus lower detection rate. In the early year the only counts to exceed five were seven at Burbush Hill, Burley NF on Jan 5th and six at Ivy Lake, Blashford Lakes on Jan 9th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were limited to the following (2018 figures in parentheses): Buriton, 7; Longmoor Inclosure, 16 (4); Lower Test Marshes, 4 (2). Elsewhere 76 territories were reported including 48 from BBS. Notable counts in the latter half of the year included eight at Lucy Hill, NF on July 21st; 12 at Pignall Inclosure, NF on Sep 2nd; six at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Sep 11th and ten at The Chase, Woolton Hill on Nov 29th. (WGDL)



*Treecreeper, Hayling Island, Oct 23rd (Richard Ford)*

## Troglodytes troglodytes

*Green*

## Starling (Common Starling)

*Sturnus vulgaris*

*Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Red, S41*

Recorded in 377 tetrads (35%) in 50 ten km squares slightly ahead of House Sparrow. It was always going to be tough to match this century's record numbers from 2017/2018 and counts were lower at both ends of the year, especially in January-March. Four-figure counts were reported from nine sites (11 in 2018) with only one reaching five-figures (three in 2018). In contrast there was further stabilization and perhaps even a recovery in breeding numbers.

The early winter period was dominated by a roost count of 5,000 at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 3rd, the only four-figure count in the first half. Of nine other sites reporting three-figure flocks in January, none exceeded 300. Reports from February and March suggested a further exodus and three-figure counts were limited to just five sites in February and six in March, the highest being 400 at Upper Titchfield Haven on Mar 16th. Spring movements were limited and included 328 SW over Trigpoint Hill on nine dates between Mar 1st-20th, with a peak of 119 SW on Mar 5th, and 65 east over Fleet Pond on Mar 17th.

Breeding reports were again dominated by BBS submissions with the highest totals of adults in one km squares coming from Hamble Lane, Southampton (51, June 10th), Southsea Cricket Pitch (47, April 27th), Rowner, Gosport (47, May 3rd) and Bitterne, Southampton (47, June 9th). The first fledged young were reported from Stockheath, Havant and Four Marks on the early date of Apr 24th, several weeks earlier than in 2018. Post-breeding flocks started to appear shortly thereafter and included 70 at Farlington Marshes on May 3rd and 100 at Sandy Point on May 21st. Based on the comments of several observers and the number of post-breeding flocks reported between June and September, it seems to have been a successful breeding season. Three-figure counts (2018 figures in parentheses) were logged at six sites in June (four), eight in July (four), 15 in August (eight) and 15 in September (12), with five reaching four-figures (four in 2018). Peak post-breeding counts came from Fishlake Meadows (2,400 roosting on June 21st and 1,500 on July 10th), Farlington Marshes (2,000 on July 24th and Sep 20th), Fleet Pond (700 roosting on June 3rd, 1,550 on Aug 21st and 1,200 on Sep 5th), Edenbrook CP, Fleet (1,000 roosting on June 23rd) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (1,000 on Aug 25th and Sep 26th).

Autumn diurnal passage was in line with recent averages with peak movements recorded between Oct 13th and Nov 10th. At the two main inland watchpoints 8,678 were logged flying W/NW over Tweseldown between Oct 5th and Nov 20th, with peaks of 1,355 west on Oct 13th and 2,018 W/NW on Oct 25th, and 1,646 flew mainly NE over Trigpoint Hill between Oct 1st and Nov 29th, with a peak of 405 NE on Oct 15th. Coastal movements were detected at five sites between Oct 22nd and Nov 10th including 1,369 west over Barton on Sea on four dates (peak 725 W, Nov 6th); 1,270 west over Sandy Point on five dates (peak 700 W, Oct 30th) and 998 NW over Weston Shore on two dates (peak 878 NW, Nov 10th).

The minimum half-monthly totals of spring and autumn migrant movements are tabulated below.

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15*	Nov 16-30*	Dec 1-15*	Dec 16-29*
Coast movements	-	-	-	30	-	2,267	2,366	-	-	-
Inland movements	192	183	141	16	2,954	4,541	2,577	349	34	164

\* = Excludes movement believed to be to and from roost sites.

In October sizeable roosts and grounded flocks were limited to one four-figure count of 2,000 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 24th, with twelve further sites logging three-figure counts including 500 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Oct 5th. Numbers steadily grew from early November into December with four-figure counts at three sites in November and six in December dominated by a growing roost adjacent to Blashford Lakes which peaked at 30,000 on Dec 17th. Maximum counts elsewhere included 7,000 roosting at Fishlake Meadows

on Nov 24th, 3,000 at Farlington Marshes on Nov 9th, 2,000 at Alresford Pond on Dec 8th, 1,000 at Skidmore on Dec 6th and 1,000 at Bucklers Hard on Dec 21st.

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)	7,893	1,167	1,913	488	864	5,258	5,455	6,284	7,388	5,440	17,957	41,887

## Ring Ouzel

*Turdus torquatus*

*Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered.*

*Red, S41*

In spring a minimum of ten individuals was reported from eight sites, well below the ten-year average and the lowest since 2010. All were reported during a 19-day period between Apr 6th-24th within the expected passage period. The first of the year, a male, was located at Fort Nelson on Apr 6th and 7th and overlapped with another male at Lower Test Marshes on 7th. Subsequent records came from Leaden Hall, NF (male, 8th); Beacon Hill, Burghclere (3-4, 14th); Rooksdown, Basingstoke (male, 14th); Martin Down (male, 23rd); Sandy Point (1, 24th) and Ashlett Creek (1, 24th).

It was a better showing in autumn with a minimum of 54 individuals and 106 bird-days reported from 19 sites over a 34-day period from Oct 1st. This was slightly above the ten-year average and the highest number since 2016's record influx. The New Forest accounted for almost 60% of sightings with a minimum of 24 individuals and 63 bird-days including reports from Park Ground Inclosure (4, Oct 1st); Leaden Hall and Black Gutter Bottom area (36 bird-days between Oct 2nd-19th, peak 6 on Oct 15th); Shoot Woods (3, Oct 6th), Pig Bush (4, Oct 8th) and Clay Hill, Burley (14 bird-days between Oct 15th-19th, peak 6 on Oct 18th). Elsewhere reports in October came from St. Catherine's Hill (1, 8th); Farlington Marshes (1, 8th and 12th); Titchfield Canal Path (1, 9th); Portsdown Hill (14 bird-days between 9th-22nd, peak 7 on 12th); Ashley Warren (1, 13th); The Mill Field, Old Basing (1, 13th); Sandy Point (singles on 16th, 19th and 23rd); Farley Mount CP (2, 17th); Lower Test Marshes (male, 19th, 22nd and 23rd); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (1, 19th); Titchfield Haven (3, 20th) and South Farnborough (male, 21st). Inland autumn diurnal passage was recorded at Tweseldown with a total of three SW/W on Oct 6th, 7th and 9th and at nearby Brickbury Hill with one SW on Oct 17th and a group of three SW on Oct 22nd. The last of the autumn was a male at lbsley Common, NF on Nov 3rd.

Minimum totals over the last ten years are given in the table below. (WGDL)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Spring	9	28	15	26	11	20	21	20	11	10
Autumn	67	19	53	31	52	34	120	32	31	54

## Blackbird† (Common Blackbird)

*Turdus merula*

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded from 599 tetrads (56%) in 55 ten km squares. This was the fourth most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being present in 264 out of 267 Hampshire gardens during the year. Monthly reporting rates exceeded 90% in most months except October when they dropped to a low of 86.7% (Table 2). In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from 45 sites (73 sites in 2018) with three exceeding 40 as follows: 67 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Jan 22nd; 45 at Rockford Common, NF on Jan 12th and 46 at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 21st. NFWBS produced totals of 365, 358 and 252 in January-March, above the five-year average but 15% down on 2018's levels (Table 4).

In the breeding season the only two counts of territories from regularly surveyed areas were from Longmoor Inclosure with 86 (78 in 2018) and Lower Test Marshes, 40 (47). In BBS it achieved the second highest average density for passerines with 14.9 registrations per occupied one km square, just behind House Sparrow but ahead of Starling, Wren and Robin (Table 3). Peak results from BBS produced 35 one km squares with 20 or more (40 in 2018) including 33 at Slackstead on June 1st, 32 at Oliver's Battery on June 21st and 31 at Steep Marsh on Apr 23rd. Other notable counts in the breeding season included 50 at Beaulieu on May 4th, 33 at Ower Farm, Upham on May 3rd and 32 at Stockheath, Havant on May 19th.

Inland autumn diurnal movements were again few with 63 mainly SW over Tweseldown between Oct 5th and Nov 20th, with a peak of nine SW on Oct 31st, and 13 mainly SW over Trigpoint Hill between Oct 16th and Nov 5th. In the last four months double-figure counts were reported from 54 sites (46 in 2018) including 41 at Wyck on Dec 27th and 40 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 11th and Old Down Park, Basingstoke on Nov 6th. The October-December NFWBS produced monthly totals of 202, 337 and 258, slightly down on comparative counts in 2018 and 15% below the five-year average. (WGDL)

## Fieldfare

*Turdus pilaris*

*Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Schedule 1, Red*

In the early winter period, numbers were below the recent average with no cold weather movements noted. While widely recorded, grounded flocks reached three-figures at only six sites in January (six in 2018), four in February (20 in 2018) and none in March (20 in 2018), the highest being 200 at Lyde Green north of Hook on Jan 17th and 140 at Micheldever on Jan 5th. NFWBS produced January-March counts of 85, 103 and 136, the lowest totals in this survey's history and 73% below the five-year average for comparable months. While March's total numbers were the lowest this century, there was a better showing in April with 29 records (16 in 2018) being the highest since 2013. These included 250 at Quarley Down, Cholderton Estate on Apr 5th which reduced to 183 on 12th and 150 on 15th. Other April grounded flocks included 75 at Down Farm, Andover on 12th; 65 at Humbers Wood, King's Somborne on 11th and 60 at each of Loddon Copse, Basingstoke on 7th; Beech Hanger Copse, Crux Easton on 13th and Hazeley Down, Morestead on 19th. Spring movement was detected at Trigpoint Hill with 480 mainly NE on 12 dates between Mar 1st and Apr 18th, including 250 NE on Apr 2nd. The last April record of 24 heading north over Teglease Down on 25th was trumped by an 'exhausted' individual reported from Hinton Ampner on May 24th (ASD), beating the latest spring departure date of May 23rd 1980 by one day.

The first autumn record was eight at Latchmore Bottom, NF on Oct 5th, coinciding with the recent average first arrival date, followed by six at Chilling on Oct 8th. Reports thereafter were few until the first significant wave and largest movement of the autumn took place between Oct 20th-29th. Subsequent diurnal movements were recorded throughout November but numbers were well down on recent years. Totals from the well-watched inland sites included 2,155 mainly SW or NW over Tweseldown on 30 dates between Oct 20th and Dec 8th (peaks 238 NW, Oct 21st; 580 NW, Oct 29th and 175 WNW, Nov 9th), and 1,801 mainly SW over Trigpoint Hill on 30 dates between Oct 21st and Dec 31st (peaks 1,010 SW, Oct 21st and 122 NE, Nov 23rd). Notable movements elsewhere were limited to 120 west at Sandy Point on Oct 21st and 1,035 NW over Weston Shore on Nov 28th.

The first double-figure grounded flock was noted on Oct 13th with 20 at Dogmersfield Park and subsequently grounded flocks reached three-figures at two sites in October (one in 2018) with counts of 200 at both Selborne and nearby Wyke, both on Oct 23rd. Three-figure counts followed from eight sites in November (19 in 2018) and 14 sites in December (ten in 2018) including 410 at Nether Wallop on Dec 30th, 335 at Upper Foyle on Dec 29th, 300 at Itchen Stoke on Nov 9th and 250 at Selborne on Nov 30th. NFWBS produced October-December counts of eight, 936 and 616, 35% below the five-year average (Table 4).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	2,123	2,003	927	705	1	-	850	4,022	4,131
Movements	303	93	149	355	-	-	2,707	2,608	226

## Redwing

*Turdus iliacus*

*Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*NT, Schedule 1, Red*

Grounded flocks were near recent highs at both ends of the year and there was a strong autumn passage. In the early winter period January's totals were the highest since 1996 with three-figure flocks (2018 figures in parentheses) reported from 17 sites (six) including 800 at Cranbury Park, Otterbourne on Jan 28th and 260 at Southwick on Jan 1st. Numbers were much reduced in February with three-figure flocks logged at just six sites (eight) including 300 at Chawton Park Farm on Feb 10th and 200 at Moorcourt Farm on Feb 11th. March failed to log a three-figure count, in marked contrast to March 2018's cold weather influx, the highest grounded flock being 90 at Hampshire Hatches Lane near Ringwood on Mar 4th. NFWBS January-March counts were 60% below the recent averages as follows (five-year averages 2014-2018 in parentheses): 410 (656), 485 (691) and 116 (418) respectively. Sixteen records were submitted for April including 20 at Abbots Barton, Winchester on 5th, the last being singles NE over Fleet Pond on 23rd and north over Teglease Down on 25th.

The first reports of autumn were on Oct 3rd, five days later than the recent average arrival date since 2010, with ten at Hut Wood and one at Avington Park. Multiple records followed in subsequent days. There was particularly strong diurnal passage from inland sites from Oct 5th in several pulses through to the end of the month. Peak inland diurnal passage was earlier than usual and particularly impressive from Tweseldown which logged a record 29,497 mostly SW, west or NW on 46 dates between Oct 5th and Dec 8th, including peaks in October of 2,305 west on 13th, 2,590 SW on 16th, 9,600 NW on 21st and 3,550 NW on 29th. Passage at the other regular inland watchpoint at Trigpoint Hill totalled 5,232 on 41 dates between Oct 4th and Dec 31st with peaks of 636 NW on Oct 7th and 2,100 SW on Oct 21st. Except for 200 west at Titchfield Haven on Oct 21st, no coastal location recorded October's impressive inland passage. However strong coastal movement was detected between Nov 27th and Dec 7th including 8,881 NW at Weston Shore (5,925 NW on Nov 28th and 2,956 NW on Dec 7th) and 640 north over Hook Valley, Warsash and 406 S/SW at Millbrook, both on Nov 28th at a time when few were being reported inland. Nocturnal flight call recording at St Cross, Winchester logged totals of 278 and 152 on Nov 27th and 29th respectively.

Numbers of grounded and roost flocks built as the autumn progressed and peaked in December especially in the New Forest. However there were surprisingly few recorded in October despite the large diurnal passage logged throughout the month at inland locations. Three-figure counts (2018 figures in parentheses) were logged at four (seven) sites in October, 19 (24) sites in November and 23 (ten) sites in December, with the largest being from the New Forest including 3,000 at Sloden Inclosure, NF on Dec 5th; 1,890 heading to roost over Sway, NF on Dec 4th; 1,000 at Bolderwood, NF on Nov 3rd and 800 at Gorley Bushes, NF on Dec 2nd. High counts elsewhere included 450 at Skidmore on Dec 27th and 300 at Breamore Wood on Nov 16th. October-December results from NFWBS were at both ends of the spectrum with October's early survey date yielding well below usual numbers while December's count far exceeded records for that month respectively as follows (five-year averages 2014-2018 in parentheses): 17 (477), 1,719 (1,159) and 2,005 (711).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	6,667	2,722	936	48	-	-	-	2,158	6,569	13,050
Movements	77	84	60	8	-	-	-	31,890	10,317	3,413

## Song Thrush

*Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Whilst still widespread with records in 458 tetrads (43%) and 54 ten km squares, reported from only 190 out of 267 Hampshire gardens in BTO Garden BirdWatch (Table 2). This was significantly less than Blackbird and is reflected in the lower monthly reporting rates which varied from a peak of 48.9% in January to a low of 7.9% in October. In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at eight sites (five in 2018) including 40 at Winchester SF on Jan 31st and 25 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Jan 22nd.

Counts in territories at the regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Bolinge Hill Farm, Buriton, 29; Fleet Pond, 5 (5); Longmoor Inclosure, 14 (9); Marlhill Copse, 11 (6) and Lower Test Marshes, 6 (6). Only three sites recorded ten or more in BBS one km squares (*cf.* five in 2018) with the highest count being 14 at Foxlease, Fleet on June 27th. Four other sites recorded ten or more.

Autumn diurnal passage was recorded from Sep 11th into December and was above average, particularly between Oct 6th and Nov 3rd, peaking on Oct 16th-17th. At the well-watched inland sites, Tweseldown logged 316 on 37 dates between Sep 11th and Nov 20th, with peaks of 23 SW on Oct 16th, 33 SW on Oct 17th and 24 WNW on Oct 30th, while Trigpoint Hill logged 118 from 25 dates between Sep 14th and Dec 29th, with a peak of 38 SW on Oct 16th. Grounded counts of ten or more were reported from ten locations between September and December (three in 2018) with a notable cluster of double-figure counts between Oct 4th-20th. These coincided with peak diurnal passage including 20 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on 4th and Old Winchester Hill on 6th and 40 at Sandy Point on 16th.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements	1	-	1	-	-	-	11	340	87	3

## Mistle Thrush

*Common but declining resident and passage migrant.*

Reported from 316 tetrads (29%) in 52 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts were recorded from three locations (three in 2018) with 26 at Avington Park on Jan 30th and ten at Whitefield Moor, NF on Jan 28th and Lucy Hill, NF on Feb 25th. NFWBS produced counts of 66, 71 and 54 in the January-March period, 24% below the five-year average (Table 4).

In the breeding season the only count of territories at regularly surveyed sites was at Longmoor Inclosure with eight (four in 2018). Elsewhere successful breeding was reported from Black Dam (Basingstoke), Blackmoor Golf Course, Cholderton Park, Golden Pot, Itchen Valley CP, Itchen Water Works, Marlhill Copse, Needs Ore, Queen Elizabeth CP and Wade Court (Havant), as well as six sites in the New Forest. At least ten pairs held territory at Cranbury Park, Otterbourne. Records were received from 62 BBS one km squares with a high count of six at Kingston Great Common, NF on June 14th.

Post-breeding flocks started to appear in early June and double-figure counts were reported from 19 sites (16 in 2018) between June and the end of September including 55 at Avington Park on Sep 16th; 45 at Pignall Inclosure, NF on Aug 31st; 29 at Woolmer Pond on Aug 19th; 25 at Drayton Farm WCB, Alresford on July 18th and 24 at Black Gutter Bottom, NF on Aug 4th.

Autumn movements from the two main inland watchpoints were again limited with 72 mostly SW at Tweseldown on 21 dates between Aug 21st and Nov 11th, with a peak of 11 SW on Oct 15th, and 49 at Trigpoint Hill on 26 dates between Aug 1st and Dec 1st. Grounded double-figure counts were reported from just three sites (seven in 2018) between October and December

*Turdus philomelos*

*Red, S41, HBAP*

with the largest being 20 at Hut Wood on Oct 3rd and 17th. NFWBS produced totals of 78, 90 and 42 in October-December, in line with the five-year averages for comparable months.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements	3	10	1	-	-	21	7	29	88	13	3

## Spotted Flycatcher

*Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Muscicapa striata*

*Red, S41, HBAP*

Despite declining numbers, still fairly widespread with reports from 208 tetrads (19%) in 45 ten km squares. It appeared to be a better year than last with a 38% increase in submissions over 2018. The first of the year was on the early date of April 18th with two at Titchfield Canal Path, 11 days earlier than the average arrival date since 2010 (Table 7). The next were on May 6th with singles at Tiptoe and IBM Lake followed by a flurry of sightings including five at North Common, Northney on 10th and 12th and four at Amberwood Inclosure, NF on 14th.

Breeding season records from the New Forest stronghold produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable habitat from 68 locations (48 in 2018), with successful breeding suspected from at least 11 sites (nine in 2018). Elsewhere pairs, singing males or individuals seen in suitable habitat were reported from 51 locations (53 in 2018), including six from BBS between late May and early August. Successful breeding was reported from 11 sites (11 in 2018) as follows: Ampfield Wood, Chawton, Crookham Village, Danebury, Ecchinswell, Farley Mount CP, Pamber Forest, Queen Elizabeth CP, St. Catherine's Hill, St. Cross and Shawford.

Post-breeding gatherings in August at or close to breeding sites included 18 at St. Catherine's Hill on 11th; 14 at Cadnam Common, NF on 19th; 14 at Ridley Wood, NF on 26th; 12 at East Dean on 15th; 11 at Busketts Lawn Inclosure, NF on 24th; 11 at Lyndhurst, NF on 29th and ten at Ashford Hangers LNR on 23rd, King's Hat, NF on 25th and Stockbridge Down on 26th.

Autumn migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from the second week of August and reports were widespread from Aug 21st into the third week of September. Five sites logged 20 bird-days or more (three in 2018) as follows: St. Catherine's Hill with 90 bird-days on 13 dates between Aug 10th and Sep 21st (peaks 18, Aug 11th and 16, Aug 31st); IBM Lake with 39 bird-days on 16 dates between Aug 29th and Sep 28th (peak 8, Sep 8th); Beacon Hill (Warnford) with 38 bird-days on seven dates between Aug 20th and Sep 7th (peak 8, Aug 22nd-23rd); North Common, Northney with 33 bird-days on nine dates between Aug 21st and Sep 21st (peak 10, Sep 7th) and Baddesley Common with 22 bird-days on four dates between Aug 26th and Sep 18th (peak 12, Aug 31st). Elsewhere notable counts in September included nine at Portsdown Hill on 7th, eight at Emer Bog, North Baddesley on 12th and six at Tangle on 12th, Wildern on 13th, Farley Mount CP on 14th and Selborne Common on 21st. Finally there were two records in October with two at Titchfield Haven on 4th and the last of the year, a single, on the late date of 28th at Bisterne Close, Burley, NF. (WGDL)

## Robin (European Robin)

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Erithacus rubecula*

*Green*

Recorded in 581 tetrads (54%) in 55 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 99.6% of the surveyed Hampshire gardens making this, along with Woodpigeon, the equal second most widespread garden species after Blue Tit. Monthly reporting rates varied from a peak of 99.1% in September to a low of 95.3% in July (Table 2).

At Anton Lakes 14-29 territories were counted between January and April, whilst 7-18 territories were counted at Charlton Lakes between January and March. At Itchen Valley CP 42 counts throughout the year ranged from 27 (Feb 3rd) to four (Aug 11th) and at Rockford/lbsley Common 24 were counted on Jan 12th, 44 on Feb 16th, Mar 17th and Oct 5th, 13 on

Nov 8th and 21 on Dec 24th. Other notable counts included Farlington Marshes (40, Oct 27th; 30, Sep 15th); The Chase (38, Mar 2nd; 36, Oct 22nd; 28, Nov 29th); Ampfield Wood (28, Sep 15th); Blashford Lakes (25, Apr 1st); 25 at Stockheath, Havant (25, Apr 24th) and Pennington Marshes (25, Aug 25th). At Titchfield Haven 98 were ringed between July 7th and Nov 30th.

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures, where available, are in parentheses): Hollybank Woods, 31 (49), Longmoor Inclosure, 149 (127) and Lower Test Marshes, 39 (37). BBS one km squares with notable counts were Winsor, Totton, 40 (May 3rd); Studland Common, Milford on Sea, 32 (May 18th), 23 (Apr 18th); Durlley, 25 (Apr 28th), 20 (June 2nd); Warsash, 25 (May 6th); Fleet Pond, 23 (Apr 21st); Steep Marsh, 22 (Apr 23rd) and Ampfield, 21 (Apr 19th). (APW)

## Bluethroat

*Luscinia svecica*

*Rare passage migrant. (0,33,2) Schedule 1*

Single adults were at Hook-with-Warsash from Sep 8th-13th (KR *et al.*, photo) and at Titchfield Haven from Sep 19th-28th (DRW *et al.*, photo). Despite the lack of overlap between the dates, photographs clearly showed that these were different birds.

After the arrival of two in 2018 it surprised quite a few people that we had two again in 2019. The Hook-with-Warsash bird was a skulker, so the appearance of a more showy individual was much appreciated by many who had been unlucky just a few days earlier. There have now been records of 12 birds in eight years so far this century. September is the most frequent month for this species which is rarely seen in spring. (KFB)



*Bluethroat, Hook-with-Warsash, Sep 9th (Lee Fuller)*

## Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

*Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.*

*Red, HBAP*

The first was noted at Horsebridge on Apr 5th followed by up to 13 at six other locations from 15th-18th. Breeding was probably attempted in five areas involving a total of 16 territorial birds (*cf.* 14 in 2018 based on a county-wide survey reported in HBR 2018). Successful

breeding was subsequently confirmed by the trapping of four recently fledged young from three separate territories. Reports of ones and twos were also received from a further 12 sites, mostly in the south, between April 20th and June 16th. In all, recorded in 23 tetrads in 14 ten km squares. The last record was one on July 7th.

The national trend, as assessed by BTO Breeding Bird Survey, has been a decline of 55% between 1994 and 2019. This was also reflected in HBA which assessed the range reduction in the county as 76% between 1986-91 and 2012. The local population is now at a very low level and is clearly very fragile with continued threats from habitat loss and disturbance. Everyone is therefore requested to avoid disturbing breeding birds. (APW/MLC)

## Pied Flycatcher (European Pied Flycatcher)

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

*Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995.*

*Red*

Spring records were all singles as follows: Acres Down (Apr 11th); Fritham (male, Apr 15th); Sparkes Marina/Sandy Point, Hayling Island (female, Apr 20th; male, 21st); Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (May 6th).

Return passage was noted from July 20th when an immature/female was seen at Botley Wood followed by another immature/female at Rowbarrow on Aug 4th and nearby at Pig Bush on Aug 5th-6th, and a female in Holmhill Inclosure, NF also on Aug 6th. There were then 49 further reports on 23 dates up to Sep 14th from widespread areas. All reports were of singles apart from two at Bushy Leaze Wood, Alton (Aug 23rd); Woolmer Pond and King's Hat, NF (Aug 25th); Lyndhurst, IBM Lake and Petersfield Heath (Aug 29th); Pignall Inclosure, NF (Aug 31st) and Portsdown Hill (Sep 7th); and three at Northney (Aug 27th) and Markway Hill, NF (Aug 28th). The last were at Farlington playing fields (Sep 15th), Titchfield Haven (Sep 15th, 19th) and Titchfield Canal Path (Sep 16th). (APW)

## Black Redstart

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds. Schedule 1, Red*

In the first half-year Sandy Point/Eastoke had reports on 15 dates between Jan 2nd and June 18th, all singles. Fort Cumberland had reports of singles on 11 dates between Jan 1st and Mar 23rd and two on Feb 10th, whilst one was at Hurst Castle on Jan 8th and from Feb 21st-26th. Singles were also reported from Brownwich, Hill Head and Titchfield Haven (Jan 1st-2nd); St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth (Jan 1st); Frater Shore (Jan 4th-5th); Ashlett Creek (Jan 11th); Old Portsmouth (Jan 24th, Feb 2nd); Eastleigh STW (Feb 3rd); Southsea (Feb 6th); Curbridge (Feb 28th); Farnborough (Mar 14th); Fishlake Meadows/Cupernham (Apr 22nd) and Western Docks, Southampton (Apr 23rd-24th).

Successful breeding was confirmed from Hawley Lake where an adult was seen feeding fully grown young on May 29th and June 1st, two young were again seen with the adults but feeding independently from June 18th-20th, and an adult male was still present on July 12th. Summer records at Sandy Point suggested possible breeding again there, as in 2018, but no evidence was found.

In the second half-year unusually high numbers were recorded between Oct 22nd and Nov 15th. Sandy Point/Eastoke had reports on 12 dates from Oct 22nd to Nov 28th with a maximum of 11 (five males, six females) on Oct 23rd, nine still present on 24th and up to four until Nov 5th. Two were at Milford on Sea on Nov 1st and 3rd with one still present on Nov 4th, 5th and 8th. Singles were also reported from Hurst Castle on Nov 5th, 14th and Dec 24th. Four were at Fort Cumberland on Oct 23rd and a single was present on Oct 29th. Four were at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 20th, two on Oct 23rd and 28th, and singles on Oct 24th and 29th. Other reports were as follows, all singles unless otherwise stated: Leaden Hall (Sep 19th); Brownwich/Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (Oct 20th, Nov 5th); Frater Shore (Oct 23rd, 31st, Nov 9th-10th; 2, Oct 24th); Eling/Redbridge (Oct 24th; 2, 27th-28th);



Male Black Redstart, Milford on Sea, Nov 5th (Andy Tew)

Royal Victoria CP (Oct 24th-25th); Calshot (Oct 25th, 28th); Maybush, Southampton (Oct 25th, 30th); Weston Shore (Oct 25th); North Boarhunt (3, Oct 25th; 1, Oct 29th); Langstone Harbour (Oct 25th and Nov 10th; 2, Nov 5th); Ibsley Water (Oct 30th); Old Portsmouth, (Oct 30th); Eastleigh Railway Works (Oct 31st); Southsea Castle (Nov 1st, 12th); Gosport (Nov 8th); Baffins Pond, Portsmouth (Nov 8th); St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth (Nov 15th); Southsea Castle (Nov 23rd) and Moorcourt Farm (Dec 7th-9th).

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	8	4	4	3	7	1	-	1	39	19	2

### Redstart (Common Redstart)

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant.

Amber

The first, all singles, were at Sandy Point (Mar 31st, Apr 2nd); Fort Cumberland (Mar 31st); Acres Down, Denny Wood, Shatterford Bottom and Burley (Apr 6th). The next day two were at Amberwood Inclosure and singles were at Anses Wood, Titchfield Canal Path and Woolmer Forest. Away from traditional breeding areas, further April reports, all of singles unless otherwise stated, came from Eastney, Lower Test Marshes (3) and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (8th); Burnt Common and Lower Test Marshes (13th, 18th); St. Catherine's Hill (14th); Sandy Point (16th); Chawton (17th); Skidmore (18th); Farley Mount CP, Bishopstoke, Hazeley Down, Great Posbrook Farm and Titchfield Canal Path/Titchfield Haven (19th); Botley Wood, Burton Common, Portchester, Great Posbrook Flood and Titchfield Haven (20th); Palestine (21st), Fishlake Meadows (23rd); Foxhunting Inclosure (24th) and Farlington Marshes (30th). In May, presumed migrants away from traditional breeding areas, all singles, were at Sandy Point (3rd, 7th) and Titchfield Haven (6th).

There was no systematic breeding survey work undertaken in the New Forest where the species remains common. Highest counts came from Acres Down (12, Apr 13th; 10, 14th), Lucy Hill (9, Apr 28th), Mark Ash Wood (9, May 22nd) and Ashurst (10, May 31st; 11, June 15th). Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wheaden Heaths SPAs produced totals of two and 39 territories respectively compared to two and 45 in 2018 (Table 1).

Subsequent return passage, all singles unless otherwise stated, was reported in July from Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (7th) and Martin Down (3, 11th) and in the first half of August from Gavelacre (1st), Chawton (6th), South Warnborough (from 9th for one month), Edenbrook CP (2, 10th), St. Catherine's Hill (11th) and Chineham (12th). Records were then almost daily during the peak passage period from Aug 15th until Oct 6th with peak counts of five at Old Winchester Hill and Stockbridge Down on Aug 26th and Farley Mount CP on Sep 14th. Later reports, all singles, came from Fort Widley (Oct 20th), Sandy Point and Eastoke (Oct 22nd-23rd), Cannon Heath Down (Oct 27th) and Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (Nov 4th-5th).

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants away from traditional breeding areas are tabulated below. (APW)

	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31
Inland		2	9		
Coast	2	7	7	3	

	June 1-15	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Inland			3		8	23	12	3	2	1		
Coast			1		1	34	34	6	4	3	1	

### Whinchat

*Saxicola rubetra*

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.

Red, HBAP

The first, all singles, were at Sandy Point, Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore, Rockford Common, Fort Southwick and Portsdown Hill (Apr 17th); Sandy Point and Titchfield Haven (Apr 18th); and Hurst Castle, Little Posbrook and Titchfield Haven (Apr 19th). There were ten further April records, all singles and all at different sites, followed by 21 May records at 18 sites – all singles apart from two at Weston Shore (6th) and Foxbury Plantation (23rd). The latter and one at Farlington Marshes on the same date were the last of the spring.

The first return was at Sandy Point (July 6th) followed by other singles in August at Martin Down (3rd), Hook-with-Warsash and Titchfield Haven (8th), Keyhaven (11th) and Sandy Point (16th). On 17th two were at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, three at Martin Down, five at Warsash and one at Farlington Marshes. A total of 238 reports then followed from 78 sites on all dates from Aug 18th-Sep 30th. The highest counts during the second period were nine at Farlington Marshes (Sep 14th), eight at Lower Test Marshes (Aug 27th) and seven at Pennington Marshes (Sep 9th), Dundridge (Aug 26th) and Chilling (Sep 14th). October reports, all of singles unless otherwise stated, came from Winchester SF (2), Pennington and Farlington Marshes (2nd); Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (5th); Titchfield Haven (8th, 15th); Hook-with-Warsash (15th, 16th and 17th); Soberton (2, 16th); Gunner Point (19th) and Blackbushe Airfield (2, 19th). The last was at Hook-with-Warsash (Oct 22nd).

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below for the two passage periods. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-23	June 1-15	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31
Inland		5	8	2				
Coast		12	9	3			1	

	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Inland	1	56	35	8	2	4		
Coast	2	75	76	46	6	2		



Male Stonechat, Silchester, Apr 20th (Barry Stalker)

### Stonechat† (European Stonechat)

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

*Saxicola rubicola*

*Green*

The widespread distribution of this species is illustrated by being recorded in 263 tetrads (25%) in 50 ten km squares. NFWBS early year totals increased from 20 in January to 51 and 54 in February and March respectively reflecting modest influxes of newly arrived migrants (cf. 34, 14 and 160 in 2018) (Table 4).

Notable breeding season counts in the New Forest included Lyndhurst (25, June 28th); Fritham (20, June 28th); Ashurst (15, May 31st); Beaulieu Heath West (14, June 21st); Avon Clump (13, May 16th) and Acres Down (12, May 11th). Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs revealed 91 and 57 territories respectively compared to 56 and 49 in 2018 (Table 1). Elsewhere confirmed breeding was reported from Hook-with-Warsash, Burton Common, Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea, Lymington-Hurst, Sleaford Reservoir, Burnt Common (Welshmans Road GP), Edenbrook CP (2 pairs), Biddenfield Farm, Martin Down, The Vyne WM, Itchen Valley CP, Shawford, St. Catherine's Hill, Itchen Abbas, Baddesley Common, Bransbury Common, Fishlake Meadows and Gavelacre. Pairs and/or territorial birds in April-July were also recorded at Browndown South, Lower Test Marshes (3), Titchfield Haven, Ranvilles Lane, Havant Thicket, Needs Ore, Porton Down, Highbridge, Ringwood Forest (3 pairs), Romsey/Saddlers Mill, Sopley Island and Ellingham Meadows.

The highest post-breeding aggregations of ten or more in the New Forest were at Bisterne Common (14, Aug 11th), Crockford Bridge (12, Aug 24th), Backley Plain (11, Sep 17th), Beaulieu Road (11, Sep 14th), Foxbury Plantation (11, July 29th), Longslade Bottom (11, July 6th), Pig Bush (10, Aug 2nd), Bratley Plain (10, Oct 10th) and Shipton Holms (10, Aug 24th). A total of 88 was recorded on Bourley & Long Valley SSSI between Aug 21st-26th.

Throughout the year, away from the established New Forest and NE Hants breeding areas, 34 sites (20 coastal) had counts exceeding five compared to 21 sites (13 coastal) in 2018. Widely reported on autumn passage with high counts including Portsdown Hill (41, Sep 28th; 34, Sep 30th; 32, Oct 19th); Titchfield Haven/Canal Path (31, Sep 28th; 28, Sep 17th; 19, Oct 19th); Lower Test Marshes (25, Sep 21st; 13, Sep 23rd and Oct 5th); Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (18, Aug 27th) and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (15, Oct 4th). NFWBS produced totals of 302, 119 and 54 for October, November and December respectively (cf. 159, 47, and 13 in 2018) (Table 4).

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	20	51	54	123*	75*	302	119	54
Coastal sites	122	52	53	94	327	423	147	131
River valley sites	19	31	8	25	104	88	38	48
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	2	32	61	104	32	11	-	1
Other sites	21	22	9	29	36	78	25	26
Total	184	188	185	375	574	902	329	260

\* = casual records only

### Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

*Moderately common passage migrant; formerly scarce summer visitor which last bred in 2005. Green*

Records during spring migration came from 104 locations. The first was from Sturt Pond on the relatively early dates of Feb 24th-28th and again on Mar 7th. Elsewhere singles, unless otherwise noted, were at Bramshaw Telegraph and Janesmoor Plain on Mar 7th, Janesmoor Plain (2) on Mar 9th, Keyhaven on 10th, Farlington Marshes and Hook-with-Warsash on 13th and Black Gutter Bottom, NF on 15th. Virtually daily records followed until May 13th with the last in the first period, all singles, at Skidmore (May 18th), Lower Test Marshes (May 31st) and Lyndhurst (June 5th). The highest day totals each month were February – one; March – 65 at 11 sites (31st), 47 at 17 sites (23rd); April – 35 at 13 sites (17th); May – eight at five sites (3rd). The highest individual counts came from Sandy Point (30, Mar 31st; 19, Mar 30th; 11, Mar 20th; 8, Apr 17th) and Sinah Common and Hayling GC (17, Mar 31st; 10, Mar 23rd).

As in the last 14 years, there were no confirmed breeding records. Whilst what was considered to be territorial behaviour was reported during BBS at Pitt Down (Apr 13th), Lymington-Hurst and Roundwood Estate, Micheldever (Apr 18th) and Beaulieu Heath West (Apr 20th), these were all probably passage migrants.

The first returning migrants were in July with three at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (18th) and singles at Keyhaven Marshes (18th, 22nd-23rd), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (27th-28th), Foxbury Plantation (28th) and Beachlands, Hayling Island (30th). Others followed on virtually all dates from Aug 1st until Oct 24th. The highest day totals were all in September with 58 at 10 sites (7th), 47 at 11 sites (13th), 41 at 12 sites (10th), 38 at 11 sites (5th), 37 at 12 sites (14th) and 35 at 10 sites (17th). By comparison in 2018, a year of relatively low day totals, the highest were 28 at 11 sites on Aug 25th and 28 at ten sites on Sep 6th. At individual sites the highest day counts were 23 at Sandy Point and 20 at Farlington Marshes, both on Sep 7th, with six other double-figure day counts from four other sites. Subsequent October reports, the last of the year and both singles, came from Titchfield Haven on 28th and Barton on Sea GC on 29th.

The approximate half-monthly totals in spring and autumn are tabulated below. (APW)

	Feb 16-28	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	48	16	36	11	1	1		117
Coast	1	4	168	32	97	33	1			336

	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Total
Inland		1	16	51	39	35	22	1			165
Coast		7	54	99	232	110	39	13			554

## Eastern Black-eared Wheatear

*Oenanthe melanoleuca*

*Very rare vagrant. (0,1,0)*

**2015 addition.** The adult seen at Acres Down, NF on June 13th 2015 and accepted at the time as the eastern race of Black-eared Wheatear (Howard 2016) has now been elevated to full species status in the revised British List issued by BOURC on Jan 24th 2020 (BOURC 2020). This now becomes the first record of this species for Hampshire.

BOURC. 2020. 51st Report (January 2020) <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.12817> Howard, G. 2016. Black-eared Wheatear at Acres Down: first record of eastern race in Hampshire. *HBR 2015*: 229-231.

## House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

*Abundant but declining resident.*

*Red, S41*

Recorded in 360 tetrads (34%) in 50 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 85.4% of gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged from a peak of 80.3% in June to a low of 69.5% in Feb (Table 2).

Sightings were reported from 389 locations, an increase on 218 locations in 2018. Flocks of 50 and above came from 25 sites (*cf.* 14 in 2018) whilst flocks of 80 and above were at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (160, Aug 8th; 92, Oct 5th); Havant-Stockheath, Havant (121, May 19th); Newlands Copse, Brockenhurst (120, Sep 18th); Leigh Park, Havant (100, Sep 2nd; 80, July 28th; 80, Aug 21st); Sandy Point (100, Aug 16th); Beaulieu (100, May 4th); Cheriton (90, Dec 31st); The Mill Field, Old Basing (83, Oct 29th) and Blendworth (81, May 19th).

In BBS this species recorded the highest average density for passerines with 15.9 registrations per occupied one km square. Peak registrations of over 50 in each square were at East Cosham (71, June 15th; 65, Apr 20th); Lymington (70, Apr 23rd; 68, May 29th); Alton West (56, May 6th and June 9th); Warsash (55, June 23rd) and North Boarhunt (52, June 20th). (APW)

## Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow)

*Passer montanus*

*Rare irregular visitor, formerly resident and winter visitor which last bred in 1996. Red, S41, HBAP*

One at Saltgrass Lane, Keyhaven on Aug 25th (SGK) was followed by singles at Brownwich on Sep 22nd (MLE), Testwood Lakes on Oct 6th (SSK) and Hooks Links, Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 13th (DES). These follow two last year at Windmill Hill, Alton on Aug 26th which were the first since 2014. (APW)

## Dunnock

*Prunella modularis*

*Abundant resident.*

*Amber, S41*

Recorded in 462 tetrads (43%) in 53 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 94.8% of gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged from a peak of 90.4% in June to a low of 78.8% in Aug (Table 2).

Throughout the year counts of ten and above came from Hartley Mauditt (16, Nov 12th); Blashford Lakes (15, Apr 1st; 10, Feb 18th); Northbrook (12, Dec 5th and Dec 19th); Yateley Common (12, May 13th); Hartford Heath (12, Apr 7th); Rockford Common (12, Feb 16th; 11, Mar 17th); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (12, Apr 19th; 10, Sep 30th); Newton Valence (12, Dec 7th); Castle Farm, Warblington (11, Feb 15th); Itchen Water Works (12, June 1st); Selborne (11, Dec 12th; 10, Oct 23rd); Wyck (11, Nov 15th and Dec 4th; 10, Oct 23rd); Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (10, Jan 4th and Aug 28th); Burbush Hill, Burley (10, Jan 5th) and Peartree Green, Southampton (10, Apr 3rd).

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures, where available, in parentheses): Lower Test Marshes, 30 (29); Butser Hill, 13 (15); Longmoor Inclosure, 22 (16). Highest registrations in BBS one km squares were at Alton West (16, May 5th), Steep Marsh (14, Apr 23rd), Warsash (14, May 6th) and Buriton (14, May 20th). (APW)

## Yellow Wagtail (Western Yellow Wagtail)

*Motacilla flava*

*Moderately common passage migrant; formerly locally common summer visitor which last bred in 2003. Red, S41, HBAP*

The first of the year were singles on Apr 6th at three different sites comprising flying north at Slap Bottom, in off the sea at Hurst Beach and flying south at Edenbrook CP. Spring passage involved approximately 56 birds up to May 27th. The largest counts were eight over at Hurst Beach on Apr 17th and seven over North Oakley Inclosure on Apr 20th.

Return passage on the coast began on the early date of June 21st at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes. The highest count was 145 at Titchfield Haven roost on Sep 3rd. Elsewhere the highest counts were 61 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 2nd and 50 at Farlington Marshes roost the same day. Inland the highest count was 24 at Chidden Green Lane on Sep 24th. The last records of the year were one south over Old Winchester Hill on Oct 20th and one in a flooded field with Pied Wagtails at Nursling on Oct 31st.

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 6-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland grounded	1	1					64	39	47	3
Inland moving	9	13	1		1		30	31	9	1
Coast grounded	1	1	3	3	1	3	245	270	136	3
Coast moving	1	15	2			1	126	172	22	12

## Grey Wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

*Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red*

*Red*

Recorded in 234 tetrads (22%) in 43 ten km squares, only slightly less than Pied Wagtail although in much fewer numbers. In January and February there were winterers at 74 sites, all one or two birds apart from three at Drayton Farm WCB on Jan 14th, Winchester City Centre on Jan 19th and Eversley GP on Feb 11th. Light spring passage on the coast included three north at Sandy Point on Feb 23rd and inland singles SW at Tweseldown on Feb 2nd and Trigpoint Hill on Apr 5th and 7th.

During the breeding season pairs or singing males were reported from 40 sites. Successful breeding was reported from Bourley North/Long Valley; Bramshill Park Lake; Conford Park Lake; Frith End SP; Heath Pond, Petersfield; Itchen Water Works; Mansbridge Fen; North Stoneham; Pinglestone WCB; Riverside Park, Southampton and Strathfield Saye.

Autumn passage on the coast began on Aug 20th at Sandy Point where there were 13 bird-days in August, 48 bird-days in September and 15 bird-days in October. The largest coastal movement was five west at Brownwich on Sep 15th. At inland watchpoints ten flew in various directions at Trigpoint Hill between Sep 12th and Oct 27th and at Tweseldown eight flew SW between Sep 3rd and Oct 17th and one flew NE on Oct 21st. The highest autumn grounded count was six at Titchfield Haven on Sep 8th. In November and December winterers were reported from 82 locations. All reports were of one or two apart from five at Alresford Pond on Dec 27th and three at Longparish Common on Nov 6th and Drayton Farm WCB on Dec 27th. (GO)

## Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail)

*Motacilla alba*

### Pied Wagtail

*Motacilla alba yarrellii*

*Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded in 285 tetrads (27%) in 45 ten km squares. In January and February the largest count was 450 into roost at Fleet Town Centre on Jan 3rd. At Trigpoint Hill 52 (29 NE and 23 SW) were recorded moving between Jan 1st and Apr 19th.

Breeding was confirmed in May-June at widespread locations including Sandy Point; Keyhaven Marshes; Kingston Ponds; Blashford Lakes; various New Forest sites including Acres Down, Denny Wood, Black Down and Bull Hill; North Baddesley; Longparish; Itchen Water Works and Botley Wood. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was nine at Totton on May 3rd.

On the coast 201 moved in various directions at Sandy Point between Sep 22nd and Nov 5th with a maximum of 39 on Oct 14th. At inland watchpoints 428 (111 NE and 327 W) flew over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 9th and Dec 29th and at Tweseldown 225 flew mostly SW between Sep 16th and Nov 13th. In autumn the largest count was 421 at Andover roost on Nov 3rd and 247 at Lower Test Marshes roost on Oct 6th. The highest December count was 250 at the Fleet Town Centre roost on Dec 26th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. Note these also include records submitted as Pied/White Wagtails. (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		11			2	11	125	81	24	
Inland moving	8	18	1	1	1	63	204	246	41	56

### White Wagtail

*Motacilla alba alba*

*Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.*

In a poor spring approximately 13 were recorded between Mar 18th and May 4th. At Keyhaven Marshes singles were present on Mar 20th, 24th, Apr 3rd, 20th and 22nd. One was at Sandy Point on Mar 23rd, two were there on Apr 7th and one was at Posbrook Flood between Apr 30th and May 4th. Other coastal records were singles at Farlington Marshes on Mar 29th and Lepe on Mar 31st. Inland records were at Burley on Mar 18th and Tundry Pond on Apr 1st.

Autumn passage involved approximately 20 individuals. The first of the autumn was at Pennington Marshes on July 24th followed by one on Sep 17th, two on Oct 5th and 13th. One



*Male White Wagtail, Sandy Point, Apr 7th (Andy Johnson)*

was at Beaulieu/Needs Ore from Aug 30th to Sep 1st and three were at Titchfield Haven on Sep 20th with one still there the following day. There was a noteworthy count of eight at Posbrook Flood on Sep 26th-27th. (GO)

### Meadow Pipit

*Anthus pratensis*

*Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor.* *NT, Amber*

Recorded in 263 tetrads (25%) in 51 ten km squares. In January and February there were double-digit grounded flocks at 27 locations. The highest counts were 62 at South Boarhunt on Jan 1st, 60 at Dogmersfield Park on Jan 3rd-4th, 60 at Skidmore on Jan 12th and 60 at Anna Valley on Jan 27th. The largest spring movements were noted at Trigpoint Hill where 1,830 moved NE between Mar 4th and Apr 24th (max. 519, Mar 20th). At Tweseldown 390 (234 NW, 138 NE and 2 N) were counted between Feb 27th and Mar 26th (max. 235 NW, Mar 20th). On the coast there were three-figure movements at Hurst Beach of 307 north on Mar 18th and 114 north on Mar 26th, and at Hayling Island 186 east at Sinah Common on Mar 27th and 185 north at Sandy Point on Apr 2nd. NFWBS reported 62, 144 and 322 in January-March respectively.

The only specific count of breeding territories was three at Butser Hill, down from six in 2018. Highest counts in May and June were 15 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and up to 11 at various New Forest sites including the highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares of 11 at Ibsley Common and Beaulieu Heath, both in June. Up to three at Kilmeston Down in May and June also suggested breeding.

Autumn passage began on Aug 24th. The largest coastal movements were 2,715 in various directions at Lyminster-Hurst (1,256, Sep 30th; 1,459, Oct 14th), 784 at Sandy Point in various directions between Sep 2nd and Nov 5th (peak 350 NE, Oct 14th) and 756 NE at Chilling on Oct 2nd. At inland watchpoints 5,338 moved mostly SW at Tweseldown between Sep 18th and Nov 10th (record peak 3,456, Sep 30th) and at Trigpoint Hill 2,373 were counted (2,286 SW and 87 NE) between Sep 2nd and Nov 23rd (peak 914, Sep 26th) (Table 8). In autumn the largest grounded flocks were 400 at Teglease Down on Oct 1st, 300 at Chilling on Sep 30th, 210 at Longwood Warren on Oct 5th and 170 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Oct 2nd. In December the largest grounded counts reduced to 80 at Beauworth on Dec 22nd and 70 at Crookham on Dec 30th. NFWBS reported 1,143, 317 and 309 in October-December respectively.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-29	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	66	843	198	3	379	551	1,253	478	10	
Inland moving	19	1,750	436	46	598	5,776	2,360	578	74	42

### Tree Pipit

*Anthus trivialis*

*Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Red, S41*

Recorded in 107 tetrads (10%) in 34 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west, south and north-east. The first was an early bird on Mar 20th at Hale Purlieu, NF followed by a 17 day gap before the next on Apr 6th comprising singles at Beacon Hill, Burghclere; Bossington and Woolmer Forest. Passage away from breeding sites included singles at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Apr 11th and 29th and a ringed bird on May 9th; Beacon Hill, Burghclere on Apr 16th; Hurst Beach on Apr 17th; Budds Farm on Apr 18th and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Apr 23rd.

Surveys on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 32 pairs and 50 pairs respectively (cf. 31 pairs and 55 pairs last year) (Table 1). There was incomplete coverage in the New Forest but at least 25 singing males were reported. Sites away from the core breeding areas with singing males included Burkham, Crux Easton (2 singing males), Pilot Hill, Porton Down, Sladen Green, Preston Oak Hills, Tunworth, Weston Common (13 singing males) and Golden Pot (2 singing males).

Autumn passage began with one at Sandy Point on Aug 2nd. Sites that recorded cumulative movements of ten or more were Chilling (37 between Aug 12th and Sep 8th), Sandy Point (19 between Aug 2nd and Sep 23rd), Lymington-Hurst (18 between Aug 13th and Sep 15th) and Titchfield Haven (ten between Aug 8th and Sep 8th). The highest single count was 15 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 24th-25th. At inland watchpoints 17 flew SW over Tweseldown between Aug 20th and Sep 23rd and ten flew SW over Trigpoint Hill between Aug 9th and Sep 30th including the last of the year.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-10
Inland grounded	2	3			35	9	3	
Inland moving				4	34	6	3	
Coast grounded	1	2	1	12	18	12		
Coast moving		1		18	34	10	1	

## Water Pipit

*Anthus spinoletta*

*Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant.*

*Amber*

It was a good year with minima of 83 at 13 sites in the early year and 56 at ten sites in the second half. Monthly maxima at the regularly used locations and totals elsewhere are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven area	13	15	20	7	1	7	10
Lower Test Marshes	10	8	18	5	2	15	10
Lymington-Hurst	2	3	2	1	3	2	3
Ibsley Water	2	1	3		1	1	1
Drayton Farm/ Pinglestone/ Manor Farm WCBs, Alresford	21	18	23	14	9	3	22
Totals elsewhere (sites)	2 (2)	7 (4)	6 (3)	5 (1)	3 (3)	1 (1)	2 (2)

Records elsewhere in the early year came from Farlington Marshes (1, Jan 6th-8th, 25th and Mar 30th), Warnford WCB (1, Jan 29th), Hamble (1, Feb 3rd), Needs Ore (1, Feb 8th and 19th), West Hayling fields (1, Feb 24th), Warblington (1-4, Feb 26th to Mar 28th), Hook-with-Warsash (1, Mar 13th) and the last of the spring at Lepe (5, Apr 18th).

The first return was one at Shawford on Oct 18th. Further records away from tabulated sites came from Lepe (1, Oct 27th to Nov 1st), Farlington Marshes (1, Oct 30th), Eastleigh STW (1, Dec 4th) and South Moor (1, Dec 30th). (GO/JMC)

## Rock Pipit (Eurasian Rock Pipit)

*Anthus petrosus*

*Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

During January and February there were approximately 98 winterers at 17 coastal sites. The highest counts were 18 in Hurst Beach/Sturt Pond area on Jan 6th, 37 there on Feb 21st and 20 at Hythe on Feb 23rd. Other counts of five or more were eight at Calshot on Jan 20th and six at Chichester Harbour on Feb 23rd.

Breeding season coverage was incomplete. At the main site at Hurst there were approximately four pairs. Display flighting was noted at Southsea Castle between Mar 11th and Apr 10th and a singing male was present at Cut Bridge, Hurst Beach on Apr 24th. Breeding season records in April and May of one to three were also reported from Broadmarsh, Calshot, Ashlett Creek/Fawley and Taddiford Gap. There were also two at Weston Shore on June 10th.

Between October and December there were approximately 90 winterers at 31 coastal sites. Maxima at sites where counts were five or more were nine at Cut Bridge, Hurst Beach on



Water Pipit, Ibsley Water, Jan 27th (Alan Lewis)



Rock Pipit, Milford on Sea, Apr 18th (Andy Tew)

Dec 28th, submitted as apparent Scandinavian race *littoralis* by the observer (SGK), eight at Hythe on Dec 11th and seven there on 14th, eight at Southsea Castle on Nov 8th-9th, seven at Broadmarsh on Nov 8th, seven at Hamble Estuary on Nov 23rd, six at Chichester Harbour on Dec 14th, five at Hayling Oysterbeds on Nov 23rd, submitted as *littoralis* (SPi), and five at Northney on Dec 25th. (GO)

## Chaffinch† (Common Chaffinch)

*Fringilla coelebs*

*Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded in 506 tetrads (47%) across 53 ten km squares making this a close second to Goldfinch in terms of tetrad coverage. Reporting rates in BTO Garden BirdWatch varied from a maximum of 63.5% of surveyed gardens in January to a minimum of 40.6% in August (Table 2). From January to March flocks of over 50 were reported from multiple locations with the highest counts being 470 at Hurst Farm, Winchfield on Jan 2nd, 800 at Mark Ash Wood on Jan 6th and 11th, 200 at Woosons Hill Enclosure NF on Jan 12th, 200 at Sopley on Jan 20th, 250 at Acres Down on March 3rd and 150 at Edenbrook CP on Mar 6th. NFWBS recorded 488, 688 and 277 respectively in the first three months (Table 4).

Counts of territories from regularly surveyed sites were as follows: Lower Test Marshes, 28 (29); Longmoor Inclosure, 139 (155) (2018 figure in parentheses). BBS reported maximum registrations in one km squares of 30 at Slackstead, 23 at Kilmeston Down and 18 each at Whitchurch, Barnetside (Stockbridge Down) and Ibsley Common.

Autumn movements peaked in late October. Highest counts inland were 655 NW over Testwood Lakes on Oct 20th and 933 NW over Tweseldown the next day, and coastal 128 west over Brownwich in 2.75 hours on Oct 20th. Highest grounded counts in the last three months included flocks of 100-200 at several locations including multiple sightings at New Forest sites and around Selborne with the highest being 592 leaving roost at Holmhill Inclosure, NF on Dec 23rd. NFWBS recorded 156, 251 and 306 respectively in the last three months.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-29
Coast moving			40	215	68	2		
Inland moving	14	147	1,093	2,560	899	288	115	55

## Brambling†

*Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.*

## *Fringilla montifringilla*

*Schedule 1, Green*

Recorded in 93 tetrads (9%) in 34 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east. During January to March the highest counts in the New Forest were in January with 250 at Broomy Inclosure on 1st and 20th, 150 at Highland Water Inclosure on 27th, 90 at Bratley Wood on 5th and 70 at Mark Ash Wood on 11th. Numbers dropped in February and March with the highest being 50 at Aldridge Inclosure, NF on Feb 13th and elsewhere 40 at Danebury on Mar 18th. However in BTO Garden BirdWatch sightings in surveyed gardens reached their maximum frequency of 5.0% in March (Table 2). Numbers increased from late March when 34 moved over Tweseldown on 26th and into April with peaks of 120 at Blashford Lakes Centre, 75 at Yateley Common (MOD) and 30 at Woolmer Pond on 6th. The last report in the first half of the year was a singing male at Fleet Pond on Apr 18th-20th. It is interesting to note that more than 50% of the grounded birds were at New Forest sites in January whereas during April most of them were reported from other locations.

The first returning individuals were two with Chaffinches at Nursling Mill on Oct 8th. Migration watches at Tweseldown produced a total of 92 between Oct 22nd and Nov 16th including 43 on the first date. Numbers in the second half were unusually low with no substantial flocks at the regular New Forest locations, the highest count being 24 at Holmhill Inclosure on Dec 23rd.

Monthly totals are tabulated below. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	6	5	5	3			4	6	4
Monthly maxima NF roosts	617	37	13	10			16	35	40
County total grounded	1,272	211	470	1,188			38	58	79
County total moving							58	57	

## Hawfinch

*Scarce to moderately common resident, most numerous in the New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

## *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

*Red, S41, HBAP*

Recorded in 62 tetrads (6%) in 20 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west with scattered reports in the centre and north-east. Survey work continued through 2019 with two new roosts located in the New Forest bringing the total of known permanent communal roost sites to 38 in the New Forest and two in the Test Valley. In addition a GPS tracking project in the New Forest, in part funded with a HOS grant, generated a wealth of new data. Two

roosts in the New Forest were monitored fortnightly throughout the year and monthly maxima at these sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	18	24	21	14		4		4	2	7	8	11
Roost 2	49	41	33	44		5	13	8	4	25	24	49

From January to March all of the known roosts were surveyed producing an overall total of 474 and average of 13.1 per site from the 36 known roosts at the time (cf. 512 from 30 roosts in 2018 giving an average of 17.1 per roost). It is worth noting that the 2018 count took place during the nationwide influx of Hawfinches documented in HBR 2018. The roosts in the Test Valley were also counted producing totals of three and ten respectively. Away from the New Forest early year records also came from Weston Common (2, Jan 4th; 1, 12th); Romsey (1, Jan 6th; 1, 7th; 2, 10th); Farley Mount CP (3 out of roost, Jan 23rd; 2, Feb 12th); Ampfield Wood (10 out of roost, Jan 29th) and Hursley (1, Feb 15th).

During the breeding season a total of eight nests were located and monitored via the GPS tracking project in the New Forest, all of which were believed to be successful. An additional four nest sites were found in the forest. A number of young were recorded across the New Forest from early June. Two communal creches were monitored each containing c.15 juveniles while a third contained c.10 juveniles. No confirmed breeding records were received from outside the New Forest. However there were reports from four locations considered to hold suitable breeding habitat during the peak courtship and breeding period at Breamore Wood, Farley Mount CP, Owslebury and Burkham. In addition records of individuals in flight over Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury on Apr 10th and June 25th most likely related to movements of local breeders. A total of 33 were caught and colour-ringed in the Bolderwood area between Apr 6th and June 6th, all fitted with a coded yellow darvic ring, ten of which were also GPS/radio-tagged and tracked to help research into foraging behaviour and preferences of off-duty males (a full report will be published in a future edition of HBR).

Autumn passage was light with records from six locations including two south at Old Winchester Hill on Aug 24th; a total of 80 at Trigpoint Hill mainly heading NE and SW on 16 dates between Oct 6th and Nov 27th with a peak count of 15 on Oct 18th; two west at Lepe and six high NW over South Stoneham on Oct 19th; one south over Church Crookham on Oct 24th and one west at Tweseldown on Nov 13th.

In the late year outside of the New Forest records came from Ivy Lake, Blashford (1, Dec 13th); Breamore Wood (7, Nov 16th); Testwood Lakes (1, Nov 1st; 1, Dec 3rd); Fishlake Meadows (1, Nov 15th); Mercer Way, Romsey (1, Oct 29th; 1, Nov 24th; 1-2, Dec 24th-30th); Ampfield Wood (6 out of roost, Nov 5th); Hursley (2, Nov 22nd; 1, Dec 22nd); Old Down, Basingstoke (4, Nov 4th) and Old Basing (3, Oct 27th; 1, Oct 29th; 2, Nov 12th). In the New Forest a significant gathering occurred in a small mixed copse where birds gathered to feed on Hornbeam peaking at 120 on Dec 29th. (MW)

## Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch)

*Common but declining resident and passage migrant.*

## *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

*Amber, S41, HBAP*

Recorded in 274 tetrads (26%) in 51 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch showed a substantial monthly variation with reports from just 6.9% of surveyed gardens in October up to a maximum of 30.7% in June (Table 2). During the period January to March the only count of ten was at Rooksbury Mill in January. All other counts were nine or less marking a continuing decline for this species in winter. Totals in NFWBS were 17, 13 and 24 respectively (Table 4).

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites included (2018 figures in parentheses) Butser Hill, 8 (3); Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (3). Six fledged young from two breeding pairs were also observed at Latchmore Bottom (NF) in August.

During the second half of the year counts of ten or more were at Itchen Valley CP (10, Oct 27th), Rockford Common (12, Nov 8th), Dibden Bay (10, Nov 24th), Old Basing (10, Dec 9th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (12, Dec 11th) and Titchfield Abbey (10, Dec 29th). NFWBS totals were nine, 40 and 22 respectively for the last three months. (AL)

### Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

*Chloris chloris*

*Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded in 344 tetrads (32%) in 53 ten km squares. It is the third most frequently recorded finch in BTO Garden Birdwatch after Goldfinch and Chaffinch with reports from a maximum of 56.6% of surveyed gardens in June and a minimum of 37.1% in September (Table 2). During the first three months of the year the highest roost counts were 250 in Southampton City Centre on Jan 25th, 75 at Mottisfont on Jan 12th and 40 at Langstone Bridge/Northney Marina on Feb 2nd.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Lower Test Marshes, 12 (2). BBS registered up to 15 in the one km square at Pitt Down and nine at Bourley. All other counts were eight or less. Post-breeding flocks peaked at 320 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 26th. All other post-breeding flocks were 60 or less.

From September through to the year-end the highest coastal counts were 120 feeding on sea kale seeds at Langstone Harbour on Sep 29th and 200 at Gunner Point, Hayling Island on Oct 19th. Inland movements peaked at 206 mostly SW over Trigpoint Hill in 1.2 hours on Nov 23rd. (AL)

### Linnet (Common Linnet)

*Linaria cannabina*

*Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Red, S41, HBAP*

Recorded in 331 tetrads (31%) in 53 ten km squares. During the first three months of the year 100 or more were recorded at 14 locations. Peak counts were 200 at Hambledon on Jan 6th, 300 at Toyd Down on Feb 10th, 220 at Dur Hill Down on Feb 17th and 204 at Conigar Point, Chichester Harbour on Mar 22nd with at least 200 still there on 27th and Apr 1st.

Counts of territories were as follows (2018 in parentheses): Thames Basin Heaths 68 (65); Wealden Heaths 27 (45) including Longmoor Inclosure 23 (18); Butser Hill 12 (13). The highest numbers of BBS registrations in one km squares were 33 at Keyhaven on Apr 18th, 75 at Widley on June 1st and 36 at Hambledon on June 30th, the last two possibly including juveniles as well as adults.

Autumn movements were up on 2018 with significant numbers on the coast during October as tabulated below. Peak counts were 590 NE at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Oct 14th and 464 east at Barton on Sea on Oct 23rd followed there by 369 east on 28th and 331 east on 29th. Inland movements were more modest with no day counts of 200 or more from any one location. Grounded autumn counts were not unusually high except for 2,000 at Chilbolton Old Airfield on Oct 19th. Other counts of 200 or more were 300 at Hurst Beach/Sturt Pond on Aug 19th and Oct 19th remaining between 200 and 250 up to Dec 23rd, 200 at Gander Down on Oct 13th, 220 at South Wonston on Nov 16th, 200 at Skidmore on Dec 14th and 27th, and 200 at Upper Titchfield on Dec 31st.

Half-monthly totals of autumn movements are tabulated below. (AL)

	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		61	972	1,568	355			
Inland moving	8	107	751	1,165	92	83	190	436

### Lesser Redpoll

*Acanthis cabaret*

*Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006.*

*Red, S41*

Recorded in 102 tetrads (10%) in 36 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east. It was a very poor year again with no counts of more than 60. During the period from January to March the highest counts were 35 at Tweseldown on Jan 3rd rising to 60 on Mar 15th. Elsewhere the maximum was 50 at Fleet Pond on Mar 18th. All other counts were less than 30 with 20 or more at only seven locations for the entire year. NFWBS reported 2, 35 and 13 in January-March respectively (Table 4).

The breeding season was also quiet with the highest mid-spring count of just 20 in early April at a private site near Chilworth. In May just one male was observed in suitable breeding habitat. There were no reports from May 25th through to Sep 2nd.

No significant autumn grounded flocks were recorded, the highest being 45 at Denny Wood on Oct 20th and 50 at Nursling Mill on Nov 5th. NFWBS reported one, 19 and 26 in October-December. Half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. As with the rest of the year, numbers were down on the previous year by a considerable margin, with no obvious passage peaks in October when most of the movements of other finches was taking place. (AL)

	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				4				
Inland moving				6	6			1

### Crossbill (Red Crossbill)

*Loxia curvirostra*

*Moderately common resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn.*

*Schedule 1, Green*

Recorded in 93 tetrads (9%) in 24 ten km squares, mostly on heathlands in the south-west and north-east. It was another non-irruptive year with the maximum count in the first three months being 29 at Woolmer Forest on Jan 1st. The next highest counts were in the



Crossbill, New Forest, Jan 23rd (Martin Bennett)

same month with 18 at Vernham Dean, NF on 6th, 15 at Burbush Hill, NF on 5th and 14 at Morgaston Wood on 25th. NFWBS reported 17, 27 and 15 in each of the first three months respectively (Table 4).

Maximum counts over the breeding season were ten at Pignall Inclosure, NF on May 18th, 12 at Beaulieu Road on May 19th, ten at Chawton Park Wood on May 25th, 15 at Minstead on June 27th and 22 at Blackwater Arboretum, NF on June 29th. The highest number of registrations in BBS was six for the one km square at Millyford Bridge, NF. Three fledged young were observed at New Forest sites in April.

Low numbers were recorded through the autumn with the largest single count being 25 at Holly Hatch, NF on Dec 30th. NFWBS recorded none, six and nine respectively in the last three months. A summary of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	251	120	89	56	71	82	39	26	25	66	62	110
North-east sites	54	33	29	6	3	1	1	1	1			8
Other sites	89	29	21	8	16	3	5	7	2			
Moving			7	2	4					1		

Monthly maxima are tabulated below for two communal finch roosts in the New Forest which were monitored fortnightly throughout the year. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	4	3	3	1		22	2	7	4	20	4	5
Holmhill Inclosure	5	4	7						4	1	3	13

### Goldfinch† (European Goldfinch)

*Carduelis carduelis*

*Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded in 512 tetrads (48%) in 54 ten km squares making this the most widely reported finch just ahead of Chaffinch. Similar to last year it also remained the most frequently recorded finch in BTO Garden BirdWatch. Throughout the year monthly presence in surveyed gardens remained high between 70.6% in December and 87.4% in May (Table 2). During each of the first three months there were peak counts of 53 at Tipner Lane on Jan 26th, 80 passed NW at Tweseldown on Feb 2nd and 82 were at Botley Wood on Mar 20th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 19 (10); Lower Test Marshes, 9 (4). The highest number of registrations in BBS was 37 in the one km square at East Cosham on Apr 20th. Excluding BBS, the highest counts from elsewhere were seven pairs at Botley Wood, seven at Upton and six at Funtley.

Autumn movements were unremarkable with a peak during the second half of October as shown in the table below. The highest coastal counts were at Barton on Sea in October with 1,212 east in 2.75 hours on 23rd and 1,156 east in 2.5 hours on 28th. Elsewhere at Sandy Point, Hayling Island highs were 880 NE on Oct 14th and 1,092 NE on Nov 5th. Inland flocks were more modest with no counts exceeding 200. The highest count on the ground was 240 at Nursling on Oct 29th.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving			1,643	4,383	1,271	78	
Inland moving	17	21	270	786	387	138	16

### Siskin (Eurasian Siskin)

*Spinus spinus*

*Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Green*

Recorded in 196 tetrads (18%) in 45 ten km squares. Reported in a maximum of 25% of surveyed gardens in March and a minimum of 2% in October in BTO Garden BirdWatch (Table 2). During January to March the highest counts were 200 at Beacon Hill (Ewshot) on Jan 30th, 100 at Fleet Pond on Jan 9th, 80 at Lakeside CP on Feb 5th and 70 at Blashford Lakes on Feb 6th. NFWBS totals were 65, 49 and 30 in January-March (Table 4).

The highest number of registrations in a one km square in BBS was 12 at Houghton Down on Apr 16th. In a better year for breeding birds (excluding BBS data), seven pairs were observed at Acres Down, NF, two pairs at Beaulieu Road, NF and two at Wickham, all in May. There were seven territories recorded at Longmoor Inclosure and Hawley Common reported two pairs. In BBS the highest number of registrations was 12 in the one km square at Houghton Down on Apr 16th.

Movements were unexceptional, both inland and on the coast, with no day counts of more than 35 at any site. Grounded birds during the autumn and early winter period peaked at 100 on Nov 13th and 20th at Blashford Lakes, 70 at Stoney Cross Plain, NF on Oct 3rd and 70 at Cadnam Common, NF on Dec 16th. NFWBS monthly totals for October-December were 22, 22 and 18.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving		9	29	21	3	
Inland moving		1	48	83	24	43

### Snow Bunting

*Plectrophenax nivalis*

*Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Schedule 1, Amber*

A female/first-winter was at Barton on Sea on Oct 19th (Eric Read, photo). Records followed from Calshot (Nov 4th), Hurst Castle (Nov 8th), Pennington Marshes (Nov 19th, 29th to Dec 2nd), Salterns Park, Lee-on-the-Solent (male, Nov 20th-24th) and Hill Head (Nov 30th to Dec 2nd). (AL, JMC)



*Snow Bunting, Lee-on-the-Solent, Nov 24th (Simon M. King)*

## Corn Bunting

*Emberiza calandra*

*Locally moderately common but declining resident.*

*Red, S41, HBAP*

Recorded in 33 tetrads (3%) in 11 ten km squares with most reports concentrated in the extreme west and along the central downlands. Counts during January to March were low with just three locations reporting flocks of ten or more on multiple dates. The highest count was a flock of 45 at Tidpit Down on Jan 21st.

Breeding season counts of singing males were recorded as follows (2018 figures in parentheses):

*On the chalk west of Avon Valley:* Martin Down, 10 (15); Tidpit Down, 0 (1); Rockbourne Down, 0 (1).

*West of Test Valley:* The Wallops to Cholderton, 9 (8); Houghton Down, 0 (2).

*In the Test Valley:* Chilbolton, 2 (3).

*East of Winchester:* Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head/Gander Down, 12 (16); Hazeley Down, 0 (1).

*North Hampshire:* Kingsclere, 2 (1); Ashley Warren, 1 (1).

*Coast:* Lymington-Hurst (New Lane), 0 (1).

Single singing males were also recorded from Broughton, Palestine, Danebury, Stockbridge and Hannington. Away from the usual sites the only other multiple sighting was three pairs in the Shepherds Bush/Longstock area. The only spring/summer count of note was 16 on the Cholderton Estate feeding on a barley crop on Apr 21st.

The autumn was quiet with records from just six locations. This is likely to be due to under-recording rather than absence from areas of suitable habitat. The only count involving more than 15 was a flock of 90 at Eveley Farm, Broughton feeding on stubble and unharvested barley on Dec 28th. (AL)



*Corn Bunting, Hannington, June 22nd (Barry Stalker)*

## Yellowhammer

*Emberiza citrinella*

*Numerous but declining resident.*

*Red, S41*

Recorded in 244 tetrads (23%) in 47 ten km squares, with highest numbers on the chalk downland and fewest in the south-west. During January to March the highest counts were 200 at Cholderton Park on Feb 6th and 110 there on Jan 7th. No other counts exceeded 50 and away from Cholderton only Nether Wallop produced flocks of over 30.

Territory counts at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Weston, 9; Butser Hill, 11 (10); Nether Wallop 12; Stockbridge Down, 6; Wealden Heaths, 33 (33) including Longmoor Inclosure which had 23. Numbers of territories elsewhere appeared to be similar to 2018 with no obvious trends observed. A high count of 15 pairs was recorded at Bolinge Hill Farm, Buriton. The maximum number of registrations in BBS was 16 in the one km square at Winters Down on May 2nd.

Counts during the period September to December were a little higher than 2018, with nine locations recording flocks of 30 or more. The highest autumn count was 56 at Wyck Pond on Nov 15th. (AL)

## Ortolan Bunting

*Emberiza hortulana*

*Rare vagrant (1,13,0)*

**2015 addition.** A single flew up from a field near Workman's Lane, Warsash. It was quite relaxed by the observers' presence and allowed time for a couple of considered sketches to be made. After about five minutes it flicked back into the field and never came back up again (DP, RP).

## Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting)

*Emberiza schoeniclus*

*Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Amber, S41, HBAP*

Recorded in 171 tetrads (16%) in 40 ten km squares, with highest numbers along the river valleys. During the first three months only four locations recorded flocks of 30 or more as follows: Ringwood, feeding on millet in a garden (49, Feb 1st); Winnall Moors (50, Feb 10th); Fishlake Meadows (36 into roost, Feb 20th); Newton Stacey (35, Mar 11th).

Breeding season counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2018 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 5 (8); Lower Test Marshes, 19; Fishlake Meadows, 4 (5). There were nine pairs at Woolmer Forest and seven at Bransbury Common; all other locations reported five or less. The highest number of registrations in BBS was three each in the one km squares at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Apr 20th and Foxlease on May 15th.

It was a quiet autumn with low numbers of movements peaking in the second half of October. There were no counts of 30 or more grounded during the period from September to December except for 30 at a feeding station at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 27th. This remains an under-recorded species.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving			16			
Inland moving	16	32	72	43	10	3

## Categories D & E: escapes & others (KFB/MLC)

The above categories do not form part of the British List and refer to birds whose origin cannot be accepted as from a wild state. It is not the intention here to follow BTO practice and record birds which are free-ranging but domestically held, such as Helmeted Guineafowl and Indian Peafowl. Most species reported here are escapes from captive origin but some will always be open to dispute. The taxonomic order and English and scientific names follow the IOC World Bird List v8.2: 2018 in accordance with BOURC. Several reports of hybrid waterfowl were also submitted but are not included, except for *Aythya* hybrids in the main list, unless details of likely species involved were supplied.

### Greater Rhea

*Rhea americana*

*Escape (South America).*

One at Four Lane Ends near Odiham Airfield on March 30th was assumed to be the same individual seen occasionally in the Long Sutton/Odiham area between 2013 and 2016. It is remarkable that such a large and conspicuous bird has survived and not been sighted for nearly three years.

### Cackling Goose

*Branta hutchinsii*

*Escape (North America). Whilst birds of wild origin have now been admitted to Category A of the British List, the record below is considered to be from captive stock.*

One at Titchfield Haven Reserve on Sep 10th, Oct 21st and 24th.

### Bar-headed Goose

*Anser indicus*

*Escape (Central Asia). The small feral population previously established in the north-east of the county is extinct.*

One reported from Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Jan 1st; two at Kingston Ponds, Ringwood on Feb 23rd; one split in flight from a flock of Brent Geese at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Mar 4th; two seen in Chichester Harbour from Black Point on Dec 18th.

### Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

*Escape (Australasia).*

Recorded throughout the year in the Itchen River area of Southampton including Riverside Park, where breeding again took place. Three adults with five young, one of which was subsequently lost, were first noted on Apr 27th. By June the remaining brood of four had been joined by a second of five cygnets with a third brood of two in October. Numbers of adults and young often exceeded ten with a maximum of 21 on June 6th including five adults caring for nine young.

Elsewhere there were widespread reports of ones and twos at coastal sites from Chichester Harbour to Milford on Sea. Inland records included two at Mottisfont on Feb 3rd and Mar 5th; one or two at Heath Pond, Petersfield from Feb 14th-Dec 31st; two at Fishlake Meadows from Apr 19th-25th and one at Ibsley Water from May 8th-Aug 7th.

### Ruddy Shelduck

*Tadorna ferruginea*

*Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia).*

A female at Heath Pond, Petersfield from Aug 4th-Sep 23rd and from Dec 1st-31st was joined by a male between Dec 2nd-30th.



*Black Swan, Bitterne Park, Southampton, Apr 4th (Andy Tew)*

### Australian Shelduck

*Tadorna tadornoides*

*Escape (Australia).*

One flew north at Sandy Point with three Shelduck on Oct 21st. This was possibly the same as seen in Hampshire and West Sussex since 2016 (see photo in *HBR 2016: 170*).

### Muscovy Duck

*Cairina moschata*

*Escape (Central & South America).*

Six at Cadnam's Pool, NF on Jan 21st, three on Feb 5th, two on Mar 7th and one at nearby Eyeworth Pond, NF between Sep 15th-Dec 8th. Elsewhere the long-stayer from 2017 at Heath Pond, Petersfield was recorded between Mar 24th-Dec 15th.

### Wood Duck

*Aix sponsa*

*Escape (North America).*

A pair nested at Rockbourne Trout Fishery north-west of Fordingbridge.

### Maned Duck

*Chenonetta jubata*

*Escape (Australia).*

A male at Stratfield Saye Park on Sep 26th.

### Golden Pheasant

*Chrysolophus pictus*

*Escape/release (China); formerly very scarce feral resident, now presumed extinct.*

Singles at Marwell Zoo on Jan 1st and Normandy on Apr 21st.

## Reeves's Pheasant

*Syrnaticus reevesii*

Escape/release (China).

The individual seen in previous years remained at Biddenfield Farm, Botley Wood and was reported between Mar 20th-Oct 9th. One was also at Hillside, Odiham on Dec 7th.

## White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

*Escape/release (Europe, North Africa & Middle East).*

It is impossible to say how many birds were involved in the records below.

Romsey: 1, Mar 24th-25th (AJBL et al., photo).

Fishlake Meadows: 1S, Apr 7th (SR).

Wharf Hill, Winchester: 1 north, Apr 14th (DJH).

Romsey: 1 east, Apr 19th (PL, RKP).

Conford Park Lake: 1, May 20th (GAM).

Hayling Island: 30 circling, Aug 23rd at 13:22 (MAG, photo) – released at Knepp that week.

Totton: 26 circling, Aug 23rd at 15:00 (CB) – assumed same as Hayling Island.

Titchfield Haven: 1 east, Sep 1st (MF, RJC).

Broadmarsh: 1, Sep 1st (ID, DF, RD).

Eling Marshes: 1, Sep 3rd-4th. Blue ring GB8E (AG, WSP).

Needs Ore: 3 north, Sep 3rd (Tues Group).

Shedfield: 1, Sep 10th (KP, photo).

Southampton: 1 SW, Sep 10th (WVP).

Everton: 2, Sep 11th (WSP).

RAE Farnborough: 1, Sep 26th-27th (WSP).

With the recent creation of a breeding and release programme in both Sussex and Surrey there is now a population of free-flying birds that ranges widely in southern England. These birds carry blue colour rings that are not always obvious in flight. We will assume that all birds are of captive origin unless there is strong evidence to the contrary, although clearly the chance of genuinely wild birds appearing cannot be forgotten.

## White-tailed Eagle

*Haliaeetus albicilla*

*Release (Europe and northern Asia).*

On Aug 22nd, the Isle of Wight White-tailed Eagle Project released six juveniles taken from nests in Scotland just a few weeks earlier. Each of these was given a GPS satellite tracker so that its exact movements could be followed. These birds are known by their ring numbers and three ventured into Hampshire in their first few months of freedom as described below.

G3-84: male, flew to the area around Needs Ore and Sowley from Aug 28th to Sep 1st before returning to the Isle of Wight.

G3-22: male, made an epic journey in its first week of freedom. On Aug 29th it flew to Lymington and across the New Forest to the Avon Valley where it roosted. The next day it spent the morning exploring the Avon Valley between Fordingbridge and Blashford and then flew across the southern part of Hampshire, crossing Stockbridge, Romsey, Totton and Lyndhurst. On Aug 31st it travelled over Southampton and Portsmouth and headed towards Essex via London, returning via Hayling Island on Sep 5th. Later that day it headed back north into Hampshire and roosted in the Meon Valley. On Sep 6th it started to move northwards up the valley but for reasons that are not known, transmissions from both its satellite tracker and separate radio tag stopped, and the bird was never seen again.

G3-93: male, flew to the Beaulieu Estuary on Sep 13th and was also over Eling before returning to the Isle of Wight. It later spent the autumn and winter in Oxfordshire.

(A separate individual observed in the New Forest on many dates in January and then elsewhere was considered wild and is included in Category A.)

## Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

*Escape (North America).*

One at Thruxton Airfield on Aug 17th had escaped from the nearby Hawk Conservancy.

## Harris's Hawk

*Parabuteo unicinctus*

*Escape (North & South America).*

One at Yateley GP on Jan 18th and Feb 15th, presumably the same as present in November 2018.

## Great Bustard

*Otis tarda*

*Escape/release (Europe & Asia).*

One seen intermittently at Keyhaven Marshes between Nov 16th-Dec 30th was assumed to be from the Great Bustard Group release scheme in Wiltshire. When observed at Vidle Van Farm, Keyhaven on Nov 17th it was observed to have a Red 85 colour tag. It was seen in flight on several occasions including heading towards the Isle of Wight on Dec 28th.

## Crane (Common Crane)

*Grus grus*

*Escape/release (Europe and North Asia).*

Given the reintroduction programme in the West Country, HOS Records Panel takes a cautious approach to each record and considered the following to be probable introductions.

Two flew west over Black Gutter Bottom, NF and Fishlake Meadows on Mar 9th; one was calling over North Baddesley on Mar 29th; two were soaring over Marlhill Copse, Southampton on Apr 18th.

## Andean Cock-of-the-Rock

*Rupicola peruvianus*

*Escape (South America).*

One at Soberton in the Meon Valley on Apr 24th.

## White-throated Sparrow

*Zonotrichia albicollis*

*Assisted passage (North America).*

A first-winter was present in a Marchwood garden from Oct 30th to Nov 7th (MCA). This is 5km west of Ocean Cruise Terminal, Southampton. Several had been observed on the Queen Mary 2 which arrived in Southampton from New York the previous week. Photographs taken by passengers showed that the birds were being fed regularly. Given the proximity to Southampton Docks, this bird is likely to have been one of these and therefore ship-assisted.

The species breeds mainly in central and eastern Canada and winters in the south-eastern USA. There have been three previous records, of which at least two were either known or likely to have been ship-assisted. The most recent of these was one at Old Winchester Hill in November 2008 that remained until July 2011.

**Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2019**

Site	Woodcock	Cuckoo	Nightjar	Green Woodpecker	Gt Sp Woodpecker	Hobby	Woodlark	Skylark	Willow Warbler	Whitethroat	Dartford Warbler	Redstart	Stonechat	Tree Pipit	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
<i>Thames Basin Heaths</i>																	
Blackbushe Airfield*			1	nc	nc			2	4	13	6		4		4		
Bourley North/Long Valley	2	1	11	nc	nc		12	1	19	10	13	1	14	2	13		
Bourley South	2	2	12	nc	nc		6		30	7	16		17	10	12		1
Bramshill Plantation	2	1	9	nc	nc	1	1		20						9		
Bramshill Park Heath				1	1				1	1			1		1		
Bramshot Heath*	1		1	1			1		2	1			1				
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill	1		2	1	1						3		8				
Eversley Common including Busta Triangle		1	6		2		3	3	15	2	3		5	2	10		1
Castle Bottom			3	2	1		1		9	1		1	1	1			
Hawley Common	4	1	7	2	1		3		1	1	2		3		2		
Hazeley Heath		3	6	8	8		3		3	21	11		5	1	15		
Heath Warren	1	1	6	2	2	1	4		20	10			1	3			
Silchester Common*	2		2	2					3		2				4		
Tadley Common*			1						1		4				3		
Tweseldown			3	nc	nc		2		3	2	1		5	2	2		
Velmead Common			1	nc	nc		1		2				3	1			
Warren Heath	2		9	2	1	1	1		1								
Yateley Common (HCC)			8	nc	nc		3		12	15	6		7	2	3		
Yateley Common South (MOD)	3	1	9	1	3		3		6	13	14		11	3	13		1
Yateley Heath Wood	2	1	9	nc	nc	1	5	2	8		1		5	5	6		
TBH total 2019	22	12	106	22	26	4	49	8	160	97	82	2	91	32	97	0	3
TBH total 2018	12	8	102	19	19	nc	39	12	63	49	52	2	56	31	59	0	4
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott Common	1	1	2	1	3		2		3		1	1	3		3		
Broxhead Common (HCC)			3	nc	nc		2		3		6			1	2		
Broxhead Common (MOD)			3	nc	nc		1				6		2	2			
Conford Moor	1		2						1				1				
Cranmer Heath	nc		1									1		2			
Hammer Common	1		2		3		2				1		1	1	1		
Kingsley Common			2	3	3		1						1				
Longmoor Inclosure	1	2	20	13	21		16		23	4	21	13	19	16	23	23	
Ludshott Common	3	1	16	nc	nc		3		19	21	15	2	9	2	5	3	
Passfield Common	4		1		3								1				
Shortheath Common**		2	1	4	3				2	1				2		1	
The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC**			4	6	6		4	1	6	2			2	1	3	7	
Weavers Down/Holly Hills	1		1														
Woolmer Forest	nc	2	17	2	nc		16		16		22	22	19	23	10		9
WH total 2019	12	8	75	29	42	0	47	1	73	29	71	39	58	50	47	34	9
WH total 2018	6	8	72	39	37	0	44	1	63	37	34	45	49	55	43	33	10

\* = not included in Thames Basin Heaths SPA; \*\* = not included in Wealden Heaths SPA; nc = no count; blank square = 0

Thanks are due to the following who contributed to this survey: J Baldwin, N Bolter, ML Chalmers, JM Clark, JR Collman, AFJ Cox, PJ Crowley, JA Eyre, AR James, C Jones, J Lee, EA Lintott, SJ Mansfield, D Murray, M Shaft, B Stalker and KB Wills.

**Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2019**

The table shows mean monthly reporting rates (% of gardens each month reporting the species) for 42 species categories recorded by BTO Garden BirdWatch. The final column shows the total number of gardens from which the species was reported at least once during 2019. Note results in red are unconfirmed.

Species	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	SITES
Blackbird	99.1	99.2	99.2	99.6	98.7	98.7	98.6	92.5	90.6	86.7	95.6	99.2	264
Blackcap	31.3	30.5	25.1	26.1	15.7	18.0	13.0	9.4	16.4	6.4	11.2	22.9	150
Black-headed Gull	10.3	4.7	6.7	5.7	4.5	5.7	3.7	5.2	3.8	3.4	5.9	5.7	44
Blue Tit	99.1	98.7	97.9	97.8	99.1	96.1	94.0	93.4	95.8	97.5	98.0	98.4	267
Brambling	2.1	4.2	5.0	1.7	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.8	21
Bullfinch	26.2	23.3	23.4	23.9	27.4	30.7	23.7	19.3	12.2	6.9	11.7	18.4	125
Carrion Crow	39.9	42.4	48.1	48.7	51.1	44.3	39.1	36.8	33.8	36.0	40.0	40.0	186
Chaffinch	63.5	62.7	64.4	55.7	49.8	47.8	42.3	40.6	45.1	52.2	61.0	60.0	212
Coal Tit	65.7	60.6	58.6	50.9	48.9	52.2	47.0	57.1	70.0	75.4	80.5	76.3	232
Collared Dove	72.5	72.5	75.3	74.8	74.4	75.9	71.6	69.3	70.0	64.5	61.5	68.6	233
Dunnock	89.7	89.4	89.5	90.0	88.8	90.4	84.7	78.8	82.6	85.7	90.2	88.6	253
Feral Pigeon	12.4	14.0	16.7	14.3	14.3	16.2	17.2	18.9	19.7	18.2	17.1	16.3	66
Fieldfare	6.4	3.0	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.9	4.5	27
Goldcrest	12.0	9.3	11.7	8.3	9.9	8.8	4.2	4.2	6.6	7.9	17.6	15.1	87
Goldfinch	74.7	78.8	84.9	85.2	87.4	85.1	80.9	75.0	72.8	73.4	74.1	70.6	252
Great Spotted Woodpecker	41.2	36.9	41.4	41.3	44.8	54.8	40.5	29.2	25.4	39.4	44.9	46.9	192
Great Tit	89.3	92.4	89.5	88.7	88.3	85.5	78.1	82.5	89.2	88.2	93.2	91.8	261
Greenfinch	40.3	48.7	53.1	53.0	55.6	56.6	51.6	49.1	37.1	39.4	44.4	42.4	189
House Sparrow	71.2	69.5	72.0	75.7	77.6	80.3	78.6	73.1	73.2	70.4	69.8	70.2	228
Jackdaw	39.5	41.5	46.4	51.3	52.9	48.7	40.0	37.3	37.6	36.9	41.5	39.2	175
Jay	19.7	16.1	19.2	15.2	20.2	23.2	12.1	9.0	17.4	17.2	22.0	18.4	119
Long-tailed Tit	72.5	66.5	62.8	40.9	26.0	30.3	31.6	48.1	56.8	62.6	76.1	69.8	245
Magpie	75.1	74.2	80.3	79.1	85.7	78.1	74.4	67.9	73.2	78.8	79.5	79.2	248
Marsh Tit	6.9	5.9	4.2	4.8	3.6	3.9	4.7	6.1	6.1	6.4	8.8	9.8	34
Marsh/Willow Tit	3.4	3.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.3	2.3	1.9	2.8	3.4	3.4	2.4	13
Mistle Thrush	6.9	6.4	5.9	6.5	5.8	3.5	2.8	0.9	2.8	3.9	4.4	6.5	40
Nuthatch	44.6	44.1	34.7	29.6	35.0	41.2	43.3	48.1	53.1	51.7	53.7	49.8	175
Pied/White Wagtail	24.9	17.4	11.7	7.4	9.4	8.8	7.0	4.2	3.3	12.3	14.6	19.2	94
Redwing	12.4	9.3	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	3.9	8.8	15.1	60
Reed Bunting	2.1	2.1	2.9	0.9	0.4	0.4	0	0	0.9	0	0.5	1.6	12
Robin	98.7	98.7	98.7	97.4	98.2	96.9	95.3	96.7	99.1	96.9	98.5	98.4	266
Rook	16.3	19.1	23.0	25.2	26.5	21.9	15.3	11.8	12.2	14.3	17.1	15.1	91
Siskin	19.7	25.0	25.5	14.8	10.3	11.8	7.4	7.1	2.8	2.0	2.9	5.3	100
Song Thrush	48.9	43.2	29.7	30.9	34.1	33.3	31.6	10.8	9.4	7.9	20.5	36.3	190
Sparrowhawk	15.0	12.7	18.8	13.0	12.6	18.9	17.2	21.7	22.5	19.2	22.9	18.0	136
Starling	68.7	69.5	67.4	73.9	76.2	75.9	65.1	51.9	51.2	55.2	60.0	64.5	232
Tawny Owl	7.7	11.0	11.3	8.7	7.6	6.6	7.4	13.2	12.2	10.8	13.7	8.6	54
Tree Sparrow	3.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.9	2.2	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.6	12
Treecreeper	2.6	1.7	2.5	2.6	0.9	3.1	2.3	1.9	0.9	2.0	3.4	4.5	31
Woodpigeon	97.9	97.5	98.3	99.6	98.7	98.2	98.1	97.2	96.7	98.0	97.6	98.4	266
Wren	57.5	51.7	54.4	47.4	38.1	41.7	40.5	41.0	43.7	46.8	55.6	52.2	228
Yellowhammer	0.9	2.1	1.3	2.2	2.2	2.6	0.5	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.2	13

BTO Garden BirdWatch monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of 'citizen scientists'. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers are analysed by BTO researchers and the results inform our understanding of the use of

gardens and other human sites by birds. BTO Garden BirdWatchers have charted the decline of the House Sparrow, the rise of the Woodpigeon, have discovered that urban birds get up later than their rural counterparts and have alerted conservationists to the impact of an emerging disease in Greenfinches. The project, which involves weekly observations, is funded through the generosity of its participants. For a free enquiry pack, please write to BTO Garden BirdWatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU; email [gbw@bto.org](mailto: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](http://www.bto.org/gbw).

Thanks to Neil Calbrade at BTO for producing the table and associated spreadsheet of all records which together have been used for several species accounts in the Systematic List. Thanks also to all observers who contributed records for 2019 from the 267 Hampshire gardens in the scheme. Note GBW records are reported on a week-commencing basis.

**Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2019.**

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with fieldwork conducted by volunteers. The BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in April-June 2019 a total of 149 randomly located one 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 one 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. Data are provided here for 2019 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 sum of the maximum counts recorded from each square divided by the total number of occupied squares. Species present in 2019 in 12 or more squares are tabulated below followed by lists of scarcer registrations:

Species	Square Occupancy			Mean Number of Birds Detected per Occupied Square		
	2014-2018		2019	2014-2018		2019
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
N° of Squares Surveyed	143.2	129-152	149			
Red-legged Partridge	34%	32-39%	34%	3.2	2.3 - 3.6	4.2
Pheasant	79%	75-83%	78%	6.0	4.9 - 7.0	7.3
Canada Goose	24%	22-25%	22%	6.1	5.7 - 6.6	6.5
Mute Swan	8%	7-10%	8%	5.4	4.5 - 6.8	6.4
Mallard	40%	36-47%	34%	7.3	5.4 - 9.4	8.1
Swift	28%	27-29%	30%	7.4	5.4 - 9.1	5.8
Cuckoo	26%	21-29%	20%	1.6	1.4 - 1.8	1.6
Feral Pigeon	14%	12-17%	16%	10.3	7.4 - 13.5	8.8
Stock Dove	50%	46-54%	52%	3.0	2.7 - 3.4	2.4
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	100%	33.5	30.8 - 35.6	32.6
Collared Dove	54%	48-59%	53%	5.0	4.4 - 5.6	4.9
Moorhen	14%	11-17%	14%	2.0	1.9 - 2.3	1.5
Coot	9%	8-12%	8%	4.9	3.4 - 7.2	3.9
Lapwing	13%	10-15%	15%	4.1	2.9 - 5.6	3.1

Black-headed Gull	34%	29-38%	28%	10.7	8.3 - 12.5	15.8
Mediterranean Gull	8%	2-12%	8%	5.0	2.0 - 7.9	4.8
Herring Gull	27%	25-31%	30%	7.9	5.2 - 11.7	6.3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	17%	14-22%	15%	2.9	2.1 - 3.9	2.7
Grey Heron	24%	19-27%	23%	1.7	1.5 - 2.1	1.6
Little Egret	6%	5-7%	9%	2.4	1.6 - 3.9	1.5
Red Kite	16%	12-22%	35%	1.8	1.5 - 2.3	1.6
Buzzard	53%	49-57%	52%	1.8	1.5 - 2.0	1.7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	73%	71-77%	66%	2.3	2.2 - 2.4	1.9
Green Woodpecker	51%	47-55%	32%	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	1.7
Kestrel	18%	15-19%	17%	1.1	1.0 - 1.2	1.0
Jay	49%	46-51%	47%	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	1.6
Magpie	76%	72-78%	70%	3.8	3.6 - 4.0	4.1
Jackdaw	79%	78-80%	79%	10.9	9.5 - 11.8	11.0
Rook	59%	57-62%	59%	27.0	21.0 - 32.3	24.3
Carrion Crow	95%	94-97%	95%	9.7	9.3 - 10.4	9.3
Raven	9%	5-13%	11%	1.7	1.1 - 2.2	1.4
Coal Tit	40%	33-45%	40%	3.2	2.7 - 3.8	3.0
Marsh Tit	11%	10-12%	16%	1.7	1.4 - 2.1	1.9
Blue Tit	98%	97-99%	97%	8.7	7.8 - 9.2	9.6
Great Tit	94%	91-96%	95%	5.8	5.1 - 6.3	6.4
Skylark	56%	50-60%	52%	5.1	4.8 - 5.5	6.4
Swallow	60%	53-65%	56%	4.2	3.8 - 4.5	3.8
House Martin	27%	25-30%	23%	6.3	5.4 - 6.9	9.0
Long-tailed Tit	57%	55-63%	63%	3.0	2.7 - 3.2	2.9
Willow Warbler	26%	23-31%	21%	2.2	1.8 - 2.4	2.1
Chiffchaff	87%	84-90%	74%	4.0	3.4 - 4.5	3.9
Blackcap	87%	85-90%	87%	4.4	3.8 - 4.8	5.5
Garden Warbler	13%	13-17%	18%	1.5	1.2 - 1.9	1.4
Whitethroat	48%	42-53%	51%	2.7	2.5 - 3.0	3.1
Firecrest	10%	7-14%	13%	2.2	1.9 - 2.7	1.4
Goldcrest	54%	47-62%	53%	2.7	2.3 - 2.9	2.7
Wren	98%	97-100%	96%	11.4	10.8 - 12.2	10.9
Nuthatch	54%	51-57%	62%	2.7	2.4 - 3.1	3.0
Treecreeper	25%	23-30%	24%	1.6	1.4 - 1.8	1.4
Starling	52%	49-57%	52%	13.6	12.4 - 15.5	14.6
Blackbird	100%	99-100%	100%	15.4	15.1 - 15.9	14.9
Song Thrush	92%	90-93%	92%	4.2	3.6 - 4.6	3.8
Mistle Thrush	46%	40-53%	44%	2.1	1.7 - 2.4	1.8
Spotted Flycatcher	6%	5-7%	9%	1.3	1.2 - 1.3	1.2
Robin	98%	96-99%	97%	9.6	8.9 - 10.4	8.9

Stonechat	11%	9-12%	10%	4.1	3.6 – 4.8	5.0
House Sparrow	57%	56-58%	60%	12.5	11.5 – 14.4	15.9
Duncock	90%	88-91%	87%	4.0	3.7 - 4.2	3.7
Pied Wagtail	32%	22-37%	30%	1.6	1.5 - 1.8	1.7
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-14%	9%	5.3	4.5 – 6.0	4.0
Chaffinch	94%	92-97%	92%	8.1	7.3 – 8.9	6.9
Bullfinch	34%	26-37%	28%	1.9	1.7 - 2.3	1.8
Greenfinch	64%	55-70%	55%	3.9	3.4 - 4.3	2.6
Linnet	38%	35-41%	39%	6.7	4.3 – 9.0	8.5
Goldfinch	80%	73-87%	88%	6.3	5.6 – 7.4	7.5
Siskin	7%	5-8%	9%	3.8	3.3 – 3.9	4.6
Yellowhammer	43%	40-46%	49%	3.6	3.3 - 3.9	3.6

**Species recorded in 8-11 squares:** Cormorant, Sparrowhawk, Curlew, Cetti's Warbler, Dartford Warbler and Redstart.

**Species recorded in 3-7 squares:** Grey Partridge, Greylag Goose, Egyptian Goose, Shelduck, Mandarin, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Oystercatcher, Snipe, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Peregrine, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Kingfisher, Woodlark, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Fieldfare, Whinchat, Wheatear, Tree Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Corn Bunting and Reed Bunting.

**Species recorded in one or two squares:** Brent Goose, Barnacle Goose, Wigeon, Teal, Goosander, Marsh Harrier, Stone-curlew, Avocet, Whimbrel, Common Gull, Little Tern, Marsh Harrier, Little Owl, Hobby, Willow Tit, Sand Martin, Black Redstart, Brambling, Hawfinch, Lesser Redpoll and Crossbill.

**Species not recorded in 2019 but in three or more of the five previous years:** Pintail, Ringed Plover, Sandwich Tern, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Wood Warbler and Rock Pipit.

Thanks are due to the BTO for managing the project, Glynne Evans for organising the survey in the county, all participants who are listed in Appendix 2, and Sarah Harris and Neil Calbrade at BTO for providing the data.



Male Reed Bunting (David Thelwell)

**Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2019**

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lapwing		23	45	1	13	5
Curlew			4			1
Woodcock	3	2	1		3	2
Jack Snipe		1				1
Snipe	14	30	21	4	8	18
Green Sandpiper			1			
Little Egret	3			1		2
Sparrowhawk	3	3	2	5	2	5
Goshawk	3		3	1		1
Hen Harrier	4	2	1			2
Red Kite		1				
Buzzard	35	51	60	25	24	28
Green Woodpecker	11	16	11	27	18	11
Kestrel	8	7	3	11	6	5
Merlin	2	2			1	4
Peregrine		1		1	2	2
Great Grey Shrike	1				2	
Carrion Crow	453	296	254	287	311	274
Raven	23	16	16	16	15	17
Marsh Tit	14	24	13	4	3	5
Woodlark		15	23	21	1	1
Skylark		7	21	10	2	4
Dartford Warbler	8	24	12	48	51	19
Ring Ouzel				3		
Blackbird	365	358	252	202	337	258
Fieldfare	85	103	136	8	936	616
Redwing	410	485	116	17	1,719	2,005
Mistle Thrush	66	71	54	78	90	42
Stonechat	20	51	54	302	119	54
Meadow Pipit	62	144	322	1,143	317	309
Chaffinch	488	688	277	156	251	306
Brambling	24	4	25		2	
Hawfinch	1	13	16		3	
Bullfinch	17	13	24	9	40	22
Linnet	29	12	62	160	88	68
Lesser Redpoll	2	35	13	1	19	26
Crossbill	17	27	15		6	9
Siskin	65	49	30	22	22	18
Yellowhammer		1	2	1		
Reed Bunting	1	4	9	2	7	3
People	850	819	486	598	719	463
Dogs	436	381	265	279	365	265
No. of sites covered	38	36	34	35	38	36

Blank spaces indicate not recorded in 2019.

Thanks to Jane Calderin for organising NFWBS. New volunteers are always welcome – please email Jane Calderin at [shrikesurvey@hotmail.com](mailto:shrikesurvey@hotmail.com).

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**Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2019**

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 et al.)	19	23	23	20	17	8	5	2	28	26	23	14
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn et al.)	19	23	23	20	18	8	6	3	28	26	23	14
Great Salterns Lake (G Witton-Maclean)										26	23	14
Milton Pools (G Witton-Maclean)									28	26	23	14
Portsmouth Harbour (I Calderwood et al.)	19	23	23						28	26	23	14
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)	17	21	22	18						25	24	15
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)	19		23							27	23	14
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett, T Viney)	20	23	23				9	3	28	27	23	14
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)	18	23	23	20	18		6	3	28	27	23	14
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)	10	23	23								23	14
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	19	22	22						28	27	23	13
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	19	23	23	20	18	8	6	3	28	26	16	14
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)	20	24	24						29	28	24	15
Hythe (BJ Roberts)	20	23	23	23		9		4	28	28	24	15
Fawley Refinery (JG Ross)	19	23	23	20	18	8						14
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)	20	23	24							27	24	14
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth et al.)	20	24	24	19	19	9	7	4	29	27	24	13
Sowley Pond (EJ Wiseman)									16	14	18	
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)	18	25		19	19		6			28		
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)	18	23	24	19	18	8	6		28	27	23	15
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman et al.)	19	23	23	20	18	8	7	4	28	27	23	14
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke)	20	10	3						15	13	17	15
R. Avon Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark, K Sayer, O Frampton)	20	10	4						15	13	17	15
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer, JM Clark)	20	10	4						15	13	17	15
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	20	10	4						15	13	17	15
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)	20	12	4								18	16
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)	20	10	3						15	13	17	15
Holmsley GP (O Frampton)	20	10	3						15	13	17	15
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran)	20	8	2	28		22	21	26	29	29	17	15
<i>Test and Anton Valleys</i>												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth)	20	17	24						15	13	17	15
Broadlands Lake (P White)	20	17							15	13	16	15
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	20	17	24	21					15	20	17	16
Awbridge Lake (P White)	20	17							15	13	16	15
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	13	22	10	14	6	9				6	6	9
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	13	22	10	14	6	9	8	5	14	6	6	9
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)	30	16	18	19	5	3	16	13	18	22	16	21
Bransbury Common (GC Evans)	15	26	11	11		14	4	1	20	16	10	11
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	9	14	11	11	21	9	8	11	7	13	6	16
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)	11	13	25	10	23	20	2	7	10	30	13	17
Rooksbury Mill (D Piper)	20	17										
Anton Lakes (D Piper)	20	17										
Charlton Lakes (D Piper)	20	17										

Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)	30	8	8								27	25		20
Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	3	15	16	18							15	13	10	8
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	3	15	16								15	25	10	8
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)		15	16								15	25	10	8
<i>Itchen Valley</i>														
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	27	17	24									13	17	22
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)	21	18	25								15	22	22	
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)	21	18	25								15	22	22	
Winnall Moors (P White)	20	17									16	13	16	15
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	17	15	20	20		17					15	13	18	13
Avington Lake	nc	nc	nc								nc	nc	nc	nc
Arlebury Lakes	nc	nc	nc								nc	nc	nc	nc
Alresford Pond	nc	nc	nc								nc	nc	nc	nc
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)		5	28						10		4	2	5	
<i>North and north-east</i>														
Rampton Lane GP (B Stalker)	2	17	17								15	12	16	15
Welshman's Road GP (B Stalker)	2	17	17								15	12	16	15
Wolverton Pond (B Sharkey)	20	17	27	21							15	17	15	
Ewhurst Lake (B Sharkey)	20	17	27	21							15	17	15	
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	20										15	11	18	15
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark/B Stalker)		17	26	3	24	26					26			
Wellington CP (JM Clark/B Stalker)		17	26		24	26					22	20	13	20
Bramshill Plantation (N Bolter/JM Clark)	20	16	24										13	14
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	19	6	24	3	11	26	11	21	15	13	13	14		
Busta Triangle (N Bolter/K Wills)	20	16	24								16	15	18	19
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	19		24								15	13	13	14
Fleethill Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	21	16	24		12	24	7				11	13	14	
Eversley GP (RC Murfitt)	21	11	18	20							15	15	17	15
Yateley GP (A Stoney)	18	15	22								13	15	18	13
Hawley Lake (D Johnson)	20	16	24	21	19	20	7	7	15	14	17	15		
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	20	28	18								15	16	16	14
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)	20	17	24								15	13	17	15
Edenbrook CP (J Blithe)	9	20	16	21	18	16	7	4	15	13	16	15		
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	20	24	17								15	13	16	14
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	20	24	17								15	13	16	14
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	20	24	17								15	13	16	14
<i>East</i>														
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	20	16	24	19	18	16			10	14	12	24	15	
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	22	19	28								12	15	29	18
Wyck Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	22	19	28								12	15	29	18
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)	22	19	28								12	15	29	18
Headley Mill Pond (R Stephens)	19	16	24	21							15	13	16	14
Passfield Pond (R Stephens)	19	16	24	21							15	13	16	14
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	20	17	24	21	19	16	7	4	15	13	17	15		
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	19	16	24	21		9	7	4	16	15	17	15		

Chichester Harbour team: T Bickerton, J Chapman, J Curtin, J Darley, T Hall, P Hughes. Langstone Harbour team: D Ball, GC Barrett, T Bickerton, G Butler, C Cockburn, A Cox, J Crook, TMJ Doran, M Eagles, G Farwell, A Field, C Lee, G Maclean-Henry, T. Jones, P Potts, JRD Shillitoe, J Smallwood, A Smith. Portsmouth Harbour team: I Calderwood, TMJ Doran, T Jones, C Lee, M Pyrzewski, A Robjohns, J Smallwood, PJ Strangeman. Beaulieu Estuary team: A Wells, BJ Pinchen, DJ Unsworth. Lymington-Hurst team: A Clark, PR Durnell, O Haisell, P Hobby, M Ward, EJ Wiseman. Coastal organiser: John Shillitoe; Inland Organiser: Keith Wills; Avon Valley Organiser: John Clark.

**Table 6: Departure and arrival dates of winter visitors**

Species	Latest 1954-2018	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2018	Latest 2019	Earliest 1954-2018	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2018	Earliest 2019	Summering records
White-fr. Goose	29.5.15	28 Mar	6 Apr	10 Apr	4.10.52 4.10.14	12 Nov	26 Oct	NA	6 (June-Sep)
Bewick's Swan	2.4.18	12 Mar	7 Mar	11 Mar	15.10.04	3 Nov	19 Nov	NA	9 (Apr/May)
Scaup	26.5.10	8 Apr	11 Apr	24 Mar	9.9.00	27 Oct	4 Nov	8 Oct	4 (June-Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	12 May	6 Apr	29.9.91	30 Oct	5 Nov	31 Oct	
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	18 Apr	12 May	23.9.61	4 Nov	7 Nov	25 Oct	5 (June-Aug)
Smew	10.4.63	NA	4 Mar	29 Jan	8.11.82	NA	11 Dec*	NA	1 (June)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	10 Mar	18 Feb	24.8.94	18 Oct	22 Nov	31 Oct	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	8 Apr	18 Mar	18.9.09	25 Oct	27 Oct	<b>18 Sep</b>	2 (Aug)
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	12 May	25 Apr	7.7.69	4 Oct	12 Oct	24 Oct	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	21.8.08	28 Sep	29 Sep	5 Oct	
Bl.-throated Diver	6.6.07	5 May	4 May	16 May	8.9.09	4 Nov	15 Nov	30 Sep	2 (May-Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	22.6.13	12 May	27 May	29 May	16.9.03	5 Nov	21 Oct	30 Sep	1 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	23 Apr	5 Apr	23.8.07	25 Sep	27 Sep	19 Oct	1 (July)
Merlin	24.5.03	23 Apr	1 May	12 Apr	30.7.05	24 Aug	23 Aug	14 Sep	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	11 Apr	29 Mar	4.10.72	17 Oct	15 Oct	15 Oct	
Fieldfare	23.5.80	28 Apr	24 Apr	<b>24 May</b>	3.9.04	30 Sep	5 Oct	15 Oct	5 (June)
Redwing	12.5.81	23 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	11.9.99 11.9.15	27 Sep	28 Sep	3 Oct	3 (June-July)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	14 Oct	18 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	25 Apr	20 Apr	22.9.96	5 Oct	9 Oct	8 Oct	1 (July)
Twite	13.4.75	NA	NA	NA	30.9.83	NA	NA	NA	
Lapland Bunting	23.4.10	NA	NA	NA	9.9.70	NA	18 Oct*	NA	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	10 Feb*	NA	3.10.75	NA	21 Nov	21 Nov	

bold = new/equal earliest or latest date; \* = based on limited data set; NA = not available

**Table 7: Arrival and departure dates of summer visitors**

Species	Earliest 1954-2018	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2018	Earliest 2019	Latest 1954-2018	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2018	Latest 2019	Wintering records
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	18 May	8 June	19.11.58	24 Aug	19 Aug*	17 Sep	6 (Dec-Mar)
Garganey	28.2.18	19 Mar	13 Mar	<b>22 Feb</b>	29.11.53	28 Sep	3 Nov	13 Oct	
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	29 Apr	23 Apr	13.10.74	7 Sep	14 Sep	10 Sep	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	13 Apr	7 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	25 Sep	6 Oct	
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	2 Apr	31 Mar	30.10.10	13 Sep	12 Sep	30 Aug	
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr	7.11.70	3 Oct	10 Sep	27 Aug**	6 (Dec-Feb)

Species	Earliest 1954-2018	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2018	Earliest 2019	Latest 1954-2018	Av. 1971-2009	Av. 2010-2018	Latest 2019	Wintering records
Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	25 Mar	25 Feb	6.11.66	2 Oct	7 Oct	13 Oct	2 (Dec)
Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	14 Mar	3 Mar	29.10.05	18 Sep	22 Sep	4 Oct	
Dotterel	15.4.96	3 May*	NA	<b>6 Apr</b>	25.9.82	4 Sep*	NA	NA	1 (Dec/Jan)
Wood Sandpiper	23.3.03	3 May	26 Apr	30 Apr	26.10.75	22 Sep	18 Sep	14 Sep	1 (Feb)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	18 Sep	24 Aug	1 (Jan)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	29 Apr	14 May	10.10.99	10 Sep	31 Aug	26 Sep	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	31 Mar	29 Mar	30.11.73	25 Oct	23 Oct	26 Oct	3 (Dec)
Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	12 Apr	5 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	26 Oct	31 Oct	
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	23 Sep	13 Oct	
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	1 Apr	4 Apr	29.11.14	27 Oct	16 Oct	14 Oct	16 (Dec/Jan)
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	16 Mar	9 Mar	11.12.99	14 Oct	5 Nov	14 Oct	
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	2 May	24 Apr	30.10.76	5 Oct	27 Sep	10 Sep	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	4 May*	12 May	2.11.60	31 Aug	27 Aug*	19 Aug	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	1 May	19 June	9.11.13	27 Sep	14 Oct*	22 Oct	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	2 Apr	13 Apr	6.11.01 6.11.10	11 Oct	21 Oct	19 Oct	
Sand Martin	27.2.90	16 Mar	9 Mar	<b>19 Feb</b>	28.11.13	15 Oct	20 Oct	14 Oct	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09	20 Mar	16 Mar	<b>23 Feb</b>	22.12.77	27 Nov	2 Dec	24 Nov	7 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	25 Mar	24 Feb	22.12.82	16 Nov	7 Nov	11 Nov	2 (Jan/Feb)
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	29.9.64	23 Aug	20 Aug	28 Aug	
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	19 Mar	21 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	11 Oct	5 Oct	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	31 Mar	24 Mar	9.11.63	10 Oct	16 Oct	10 Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	29.3.18	13 Apr	4 Apr	2 Apr	2.12.84	19 Oct	24 Oct	12 Oct	
Grasshopper Warbler	1.4.97	16 Apr	11 Apr	14 Apr	26.10.17	20 Sep	4 Oct	22 Sep	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	5 Oct	3 Oct	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	12 Apr	18 Apr	31.10.82	3 Oct	9 Oct	4 Oct	11 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	4 Apr	1 Apr	17.11.95	7 Oct	17 Oct	7 Nov	5 (Dec/Jan)
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	23 Mar	6 Apr	4.12.03	30 Oct	9 Nov	3 Nov	7 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	29 Apr	18 Apr	29.10.61	3 Oct	7 Oct	28 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75 3.4.12	14 Apr	9 Apr	5 Apr	9.10.85	20 Aug	7 Aug	7 July	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	9 Apr	11 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	22 Sep	19 Sep	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	2 Apr	31 Mar	24.11.89	15 Oct	17 Oct	5 Nov	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	15 Apr	17 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	28 Oct	22 Oct	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	9 Mar	24 Feb	31.12.94	10 Nov	14 Nov	29 Oct	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	30 Mar	6 Apr	20.11.76	19 Oct	20 Oct	31 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	29 Mar	20 Mar	25.10.79	4 Oct	11 Oct	30 Sep	

bold = new/equal earliest or latest date; \* = based on limited data set; \*\* = excludes late-stayer at Oakhanger to Dec 30th; NA = not available

**Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over inland watchpoints during 2019**

Data are extracted from the visible migration website [www.trektellen.nl](http://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](mailto:clive.mckay@btinternet.com).

**Trigpoint Hill, mid-Test valley (David Thelwell).**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	11	10	17	14	7	13	10	17	19	20	14	13
Total hours:mins	10.20	10.20	19.50	13.00	6.40	13.30	32.20	20.46	25.05	30.45	17.05	11.45
Swift				11	41	1,800	781	86				
Stock Dove	116	39	40	47	39	172	28	171	134	183	48	42
Woodpigeon	650	80	55		150				220	631	1,435	
Collared Dove				2		2		6	1	3		2
Lapwing	129	131	5	3					2	3	28	85
Golden Plover	6										101	
Black-headed Gull						1	6		26	175	107	36
Common Gull	44	73	38						2	9	10	8
GBB Gull	2	3	8	2				3	1	5	2	2
Herring Gull	22	95	74	23	4	18	3	147	147	332	87	31
LBB Gull		15	601	175	19	51	37	80	3		5	8
Cormorant	56	49	61	11	4	14	20	63	63	80	65	76
Gt Sp Woodpecker							1	3	9	14		1
Merlin										1	1	
Hobby				2	1			5	4			
Peregrine	1	1	1			1		1	1			
Jay					1				6	33	14	2
Jackdaw		10	15							222		
Raven			4			1	2	2	1	3		
Woodlark		1	1						2	12	1	
Skylark	2		3					2	112	406	40	
Sand Martin			24	62				8	7			
Swallow			6	29	17	11	100	472	3,740	307		
House Martin				47	36	57	55	1,332	7,756	1,093		
Starling	198	208	328	2	2	23	35	607	164	1,270	376	225
Blackbird										7	3	
Fieldfare	303	59	149	331						1,146	541	188
Song Thrush	1		1						8	95	12	3
Redwing	77	61	23	6						4,053	865	421
Mistle Thrush	3	9	1			7	23	6	17	18	7	1
<i>flava</i> Wagtail				2				1	6			
Grey Wagtail			2						2	8	1	1
<i>alba</i> Wagtail	16	13	21	2		9	1	2	27	225	82	49
Meadow Pipit	3	22	1,394	436				1	1,769	576	36	
Tree Pipit								6	4			
Chaffinch	164	84	98	4	2	9	12	20	92	622	413	94
Brambling			1							2	1	
Hawfinch			2		2					72	7	
Bullfinch	3							6	1	8	3	4
Greenfinch		1	1					1	1	77	441	67
Linnet	88	89	104	56		87	112	50	85	852	127	112

Lesser Redpoll	2	3								3	4		
Goldfinch	46	37	100	17			26	11	34	152	451	221	15
Siskin	2	2	6								18	9	
Yellowhammer	4	8	8	3				1	1	2	22	35	9
Reed Bunting	20	11	7							9	72	10	8

**Tweseldown Racecourse and Caesar's Camp near Fleet (Graham Stephenson and John Clark).**

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	4	21	26	19	1
Total hours:mins	6.45	44.30	75.00	36.30	1.00
Stock Dove	30	122	1,040	253	7
Woodpigeon	45	450	18,067	7,135	
Collared Dove		1	2	7	
Lapwing		1	4		
Golden Plover		3			
Black-headed Gull	16	28	48	41	
Common Gull		1	3	6	
Herring Gull	33	16	62	86	6
LBB Gull	13	24	13	2	1
Cormorant	6	22	45	2	
Gt Sp Woodpecker	1	3	9	5	
Kestrel	1	1	2		
Merlin			1		
Hobby		4			
Jay		3	67	12	
Magpie			11		
Jackdaw		5	791	178	4
Rook		2	6		
Carrion Crow			39		
Raven			4	12	
Woodlark		8	3		
Skylark		27	159	33	
Sand Martin	2	36			
Swallow	19	3,163	85		
House Martin	161	29,405	535		

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	4	21	26	19	1
Total hours:mins	6.45	44.30	75.00	36.30	1.00
Blue Tit			38		
Great Tit			4		
Starling			6,269	2,409	
Ring Ouzel			7		
Blackbird			32	31	
Fieldfare			1,321	831	3
Song Thrush		3	239	74	
Redwing			27,524	2,266	22
Mistle Thrush	1	12	52	7	
<i>flava</i> Wagtail		14			
Grey Wagtail		6	2		
<i>alba</i> Wagtail		11	211	3	
Meadow Pipit		4,364	957	17	
Tree Pipit	16	1			
Chaffinch		38	2,963	659	7
Brambling			48	44	
Hawfinch				1	
Bullfinch			14	1	
Greenfinch			28	48	8
Linnet		32	1,189	44	21
Lesser Redpoll			3	1	
Goldfinch			942	303	11
Siskin			49	64	
Yellowhammer			4		
Reed Bunting		6	27	37	

## Appendix I

### Appendix IA: Not proven records

#### 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.

#### 2019– BBRC

**Subalpine Warbler (group)** *Sylvia cantillans*: Pennington Marshes, Sep 20th.

#### 2019– HOSRP

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*: Oxey, Jan 25th.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*: Fareham, Mar 10th.

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*: Acres Down, Mar 31st.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*: Milford on Sea, Apr 19th.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*: Barton on Sea, Oct 23rd.

### Appendix IB: Records from previous years recently considered by BBRC

The following records from previous years were submitted recently to BBRC for the first time in preparation for the forthcoming *Rare Birds of Hampshire* due to be published in 2021. Outcomes were published by BBRC in their reports for 2018 and 2019. These records have previously been published in *HBRs* unless otherwise stated.

#### Pending records

##### 1992

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*: Needs Ore, Sep 27th (submitted 2020). Not previously published.

##### 2006

**Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*. Hook-with-Warsash, May 5th-6th (submitted 2020). Not previously published.

##### 2013

**Falcated Duck** *Mareca falcata*: Bury Marsh, Feb 9th. Originally accepted as Cat D: now being reviewed for Cat A or Cat E.

#### Accepted records

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

**1990 addition.** A male at Farlington Marshes between Apr 30th and May 2nd (G.C.Stephenson *et al.*) (photo).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

**1989 addition.** An adult at Keyhaven Lagoon between Sep 5th-12th (E.J.Wiseman, M.P.Moody *et al.*) (photo).

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

**1973 addition.** An adult flying east at Farlington Marshes on May 26th (K.R.Grant, R.W.Huxford).

**1991 addition.** An adult at Pennington Marshes on June 3rd (A.Clark, O.Haisell, E.J.Wiseman).

**1992 addition.** A second-summer flying east at Normandy Marsh on May 18th (E.J.Wiseman).

**Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**1973 addition.** One at Sowley Pond on Jan 12th (A.P.Clark): seen by others between Dec 11th 1972 and Feb 15th 1973.

**1988 addition.** A first-winter at Danes Stream, Milford on Sea between Oct 30th and Nov 16th (G.Condell, J.Maskrey, E.J.Wiseman *et al.*).

**1990 addition.** An adult at Titchfield Haven NNR on May 14th (B.S.Duffin, R.K.Levett).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

**2008 addition.** A first-winter at Romsey on Dec 3rd (J-P. Charteris) was part of the large influx to southern England which resulted in at least four other individuals in Hampshire that winter.

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

**1989 addition.** One at Yateley on July 27th (I.H.Brown). Previously not accepted.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus*

**1968 addition.** One in at Fleet garden from June 12th-21st (N.E.G.Elms). Previously accepted as an escape, now accepted as a wild bird.

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*

**1982 addition.** One with a plastic ring at Fareham from Feb 3rd-14th (S.G. Keen *et al.*). Not previously published. Identification accepted but considered to be an escape.

#### Not proven records

##### 1990

**Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Arlebury Lake, Mar 25th (submitted 2019).

## Appendix 2

### Observers and Contributors 2019

#### Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2019 database of records used to prepare the Systematic List; it does not include those submitting to BTO's Garden BirdWatch.

Abrahams, R	Andrews, C	Baker, MJ	Barrett, B	Beer, M
Ahmed, J	Andrews, JK	Baker, N	Barrett, B	Beeson, J
Ailes, A	Andrews, S	Baker, PJ	Barrett, GC	Bell, J
Airey, A	Archer, J	Baker, R	Barrett, MA	Bell, M
Akkaraju, S	Armitage, M	Baldwin, A	Barry, C	Bellis, DJ
Albanese, C	Armstrong, P	Ball, DJG	Bartlett, C	Bennell, I
Aldhouse, J	Arnold, T	Ballam, ID	Barton, D	Bennen, G
Alexander, G	Ash, GR	Balmer, AJ	Bass, D	Bennett, JA
Alexander, S	Ashworth, IA	Barber, LJ	Bassett, S	Bennett, M
Alexander, T	Austin, D	Barber, R	Batchelor, SD	Bennett, MJ
Allen, J	Avis, DV	Barfield, M	Bate, P	Benson, A
Alley, S	Aylward, J	Barilli, S	Bates, CM	Beresford, A
Allnut, DP	Aylward, PJ	Barker, A	Batho, GS	Beresford, PJ
Anderson, A	Aylward, S	Barker, D	Batiste, E	Bershader, S
Anderson, J	Bailey, L	Barker, K	Bayly, A	Berti, G
Anderson, M	Bailey, S	Barlow, S	Bayne, D	Bertram, M
Anderson, N	Baker, CG	Barnes, P	Bealey, CG	Best, TJ
Anderson, P	Baker, G&T	Barnett, T	Beardmore, MD	Betteridge, E
Andrewes, J	Baker, M	Barrass, C	Beare, R	Betton, KF

Bevis, S	Brothwell, D	Chapman, B	Cooke, BP	Darrell-Lambert, DG	Druett, JE	Fawkes, PF	Giddens, GSA	Hampton, D	Hiscock, P
Bicker, AH	Brown, F	Chapman, E	Cookson, M	DG	Dryden, M	Fellows, BJ	Gilbert, J	Handley, MJ	Hoare, DJ
Bickerton, T	Brown, NH	Chapman, JW	Coomber, R	Davidson, AS	Dryden, RA	Felstead, R	Gilby, D	Hannam, JC	Hobby, P
Bignell, S	Brown, PM	Chapman, M	Cooper, A	Davies, G	Duckworth, NA	Fennemore, GD	Gilham, R	Hardie, AJ	Hocking, C
Bingley, JH	Brown, RI	Chapman, P	Cooper, B	Davies, K	Dudley, A	Fenton-Scott, D	Gillingham, D	Harding, A	Hodson, R
Bird, A	Brown, SA	Chapman, RA	Cooper, J	Davies, L	Duffield, A	Ferreira, A	Gillingham, JKC	Hare, M	Hogan, P
Bird, D	Browne, A	Charles, P	Cooper, MD	Davies, SJ	Duffin, BS	Field, AR	Gillingham, MA	Hargreaves, BT	Hogg, J
Bird, G	Brunton, S	Charlton, K	Cooper, N	Davis, AM	Duffy, B	Fielding, J	Glasgow, S	Hargreaves, R	Hogston, P
Bird, ME	Bryan, G	Chastell, SM	Copleston, P	Davis, G	Duffy, MD	Fielker, M	Goater, B	Hargreaves, R	Hoit, M
Birder, L	Bryant, P	Cheadle, J	Copsey, S	Davis, M	Duggan, N	Finch, S	Goble, C	Harley, RP	Holderness, M
Birkett, J	Bryant, R	Cheke, RA	Cordery, RJ	Davison, R	Duncan, KP	Findlay, R	Goddard, A	Harley, S	Holding, AP
Bishop, G	Buck, T	Childs, RN	Cornford, HR	Dawes, G	Dunford, C	Fisk, A	Goddard, B	Harper, H	Holland, D
Bishop, P	Buckel, FC	Christie, DA	Corrigan, C	Dawson, A&C	Dunne, R	Fitzgerald, M	Godden, NR	Harrington, E	Holland, RG
Bissett, M	Buckell, S	Christopher, R	Cotten, G	Dawson, B	Dunstan, S	Flannagan, AW	Goldsmith, N	Harris, B	Holliday, S
Blackmore, DA	Buckler, DJ	Church, C	Court, JMC	Dawson, J	Durb, A	Fleming, K	Gooch, C	Harris, S	Hollidge, K
Blade, J	Buckley, M	Churcher, K	Cox, AFJ&PR	Dawson, SJ	Durkin, R	Flesher, R	Goodridge, JJ	Harrison, C	Holmes, P
Blake, M	Budd, PA	Churcher, T	Cox, B	De Mello, L	Durnell, PR	Fletcher, D	Goodspeed, JR	Harrison, M	Holmes, PDJ
Blake, R	Budden, N	Churcher, T	Cox, D	deBruyn, G	Dye, J	Fletcher, J	Gordon, S	Harrison, P	Holt, MJ
Blakeley, AF	Bunday, AW	Churchus, CD	Cozens, BR	Dedman, JW	Eagles, M	Floyd, P	Goriup, P	Harrop, T	Holter, CA
Blandford, D	Buner, F	Claridge, RJ	Crabbe, O	Deem, A	Easom, L	Foote, C	Gosnell, E	Hart, R	Honey, G
Blithe, J	Burch, C	Clark, FC	Craft, SJ	Deem, R	Eaton-Brown, J	Forbes, A	Gould, O	Hartill, S	Hooper, A
Blunden, AC	Burchall, G	Clark, JA	Craven, PJM	Deeney, R	Edden, A	Forbes, P	Gowers, J	Hasell, P	Hooper, L
Bollen, CF	Burnett, JW	Clark, JM	Crawford, AD	Deighan, M	Edden, R	Ford, C	Graham, T	Haslam, J	Hooper, MJ
Bolter, N	Burns, ANM	Clarke, D	Creer, R	Dell, N	Edge, C	Ford, PMS	Grant, I	Hassell, E	Hopkins, B
Bolton, A	Burston, P	Clarke, M	Creese, M	Denison-Pender, R	Edgeller, ML	Ford, R	Grantham, B	Hatch, MD	Hopkins, R
Boorman, H	Butcher, E	Clarke, N	Creighton, M	Dennett, S	Edmunds, H	Ford, RE	Gravely, L	Hatcher, JJ	Holder, J
Boswell, S	Butcher, JR	Clarke, P	Crisp, K	Dennis, G	Edwards, L	Ford, S	Graves, L	Hatcher, SP	Horman, M
Boswell, SA	Butler, AJ	Cleal, DL	Crook, J	Dennis, I	Eldridge, T	Fordred, S	Green, AE	Hatfield, L	Horton, R
Boswell, SR	Butler, ED	Clements, J	Crook, K	Denton, J	Elkins, B&M	Forster, JE	Green, C	Havard, G	Houghton, DP
Boult, P	Butler, G	Clemons, S	Cross, A	Denyer, P	Ellinor, M	Foster, N	Green, F	Hawes, C	Houghton, AM
Bournat, M	Butler, TJ	Cliffe, J	Cross, AR	Devereau, SC	Elliott-Moustache, G	Fox, A	Greenfield, C	Hawtree, JN	Howe, AR
Bowman, SM	Button, C	Cloyne, JM	Crow, C	Dewey, S	G	Fox, D	Gregoire, K	Hay, MJW	Howe, PD
Bown, C	Buttress, S	Cluett, D	Crow, TH	DEY, S	Ellis, A	Foy, A	Gregoire, S	Hayden, A	Howell, R
Boyce, H	Buxton, J	Coates, BC	Crowe, S	Diamond, JR	ElNahas, Y	Foyle, G	Griffin, N	Haydon, RM	Hribljan, B
Boyd, S	Calcutt, D	Coates, BF	Crowley, PJ	Diaz, F	Elsoffer, M	Frampton, M	Griffiths, D	Hayman, L	Huddie, M
Boyde, B	Calder, L	Coates, SA	Crozier, S	Dick, GM	Emmens, P	Frampton, OJ	Griffiths, RD	Haysom, KA	Hughes, J
Boyle, S	Calderin, J	Cobb, JW	Cryer, J	Dickety, AJ	Emmott, K	Francis, M	Grist, DM	Hayward, B	Hughes, P
Braddock, R	Calderwood, G	Cobbett, K	Cuff, S	Dickinson, J	Endersby, P	Free, P	Gross, J	Hayward, RJ	Hughes, P
Bradnum, D	Calderwood, I	Cobley, A	Cumming, A	Dicks, DEJ	Engebretsen, M	French, CD	Grossman, G	Heard, PA	Hull, JD
Bramley, S	Campbell, DK	Cockburn, C	Cumming, DA	Dicks, S	Etheridge, L	Friend, A	Gunton, M	Heath, D	Hull, NJ
Brandsma, J	Campbell, P	Cockshoot, D	Cumming, I	Dixon, K	Etheridge, P	Friery, K	Gussman, DA	Heath, PA	Hulme, J
Bray, J	Candelin, GW	Codlin, TD	Cumming, R	Dodsworth, P	Etheridge, P	Fry, D	Gutteridge, AC	Heaver, MC	Humble, H
Breakwell, RG	Canfor, N	Coffey, S	Cummins, T	Doe, B	Evans, B	Fussell, M	Gwynn, BS	Hedley, B	Humphries, C
Brennan, G	Cannon, F	Colcomb, K	Curran, M	Doherty, TA	Evans, DG	Gainey, S	Gwynn, K	Hedley, J	Humphries, DJ
Brett, EC	Cannon, R	Colenutt, SR	Curson, L	Donaldson, PC	Evans, E	Gamblin, A	Hackett, SJ	Hellier, RD	Humphrys, A
Bridges, D	Carey, P	Colledge, D	Curtin, J	Doran, TMJ	Evans, GC	Gammage, PA	Hadfield, J	Hemming, R	Hunnisett, C
Bridges, M	Carley, T	Collingridge, RJH	Curtis, C	Dore, P	Evans, LGR	Gardner, I	Haines, W	Hennissy, R	Hunt, D
Bristow, T	Carmichael, G	Collins, AR	Cuthbert, L	Dore, P	Evely, R	Gardner, R	Hainsworth, IR	Henry, T	Hunt, PR
Britten, K	Carpenter, BR	Collins, B&M	Cutt, C	Dougherty, T	Everett, C	Garzon, O	Haisell, O	Hewson, T	Hunter, E
Broadley, D	Carpenter, RJ	Collins, CB	Cutting, J	Dove, A	Everitt, J	Gaskin, LA	Hale, APS	Hibberd, JW	Hunter, P
Broadway, R	Carpenter, TF	Collins, E	Cutts, MAJ	Down, G	Eyre, JA	Gathercole, S	Hale, JA	Hickman, PJ	Hurst, F
Brook, S	Casson, J	Collins, M	Dale, M	Downey, B	Fagan, A	Geary, CJ	Hall, T	Hicks, TD	Hutchins, AJ
Brooke, K	Catty, N	Collins, P	Daley, F	Downing, J	Fagan, B	Genna, P	Hallett, RJ	Higham, M	Hutchins, PE
Brookes, CM	Cavey, I	Collman, JR	Daly, C	Dowty, M	Fairley, M	Gent, T	Halliday, C	Highfield, M	Hutchinson, F
Brookes, D	Chadwick, J	Combridge, P	Daniel, FL	Doye, R	Faithfull, JA	Gibbons, M	Halligan, MJ	Hill, C	Ingram, S
Brookes, K	Chalmers, ML	Connolly, R	Daniel, J	Doyle, J	Farrell, C	Gibbs, P	Halstead, H	Hill, MJ	Iredale, R
Brookes, K	Chamberlain, J	Cook, CR	Daniel, M	Drake, V	Farwell, G	Gibbs, P	Hamlen, P	Hillebrandt, KA	Iribar, H
Brookes, M	Chambers, C	Cook, GM	Daniels, B	Drew, M	Faulkner, K	Gibson, T	Hampson, IR	Hilton, JJ	Irvine, RJ
Brooks, T	Chance, P	Cook, M	Daniels, R	Drewett, A	Faux, M	Gibson-Poole, TE	Hampson, P	Hinson, R	Ison, L
Broom, L	Chapman, A	Cook, M	Dare, LA	Drewitt, EJA					

Ison, M	Knight, N	Loader, S	May, NG	Murphy, R	Patmore, S	Powell, D	Richardson, B	Scantlebury, RL	Smith, PJS
Jackson, K	Knight, S	Lock, C	Mayhead, C	Murray, D	Paton, N	Powell, J	Riches, J	Scorey, PS	Smith, R
Jackson, SJ	Knox, T	Locke, D	Mayne, W	Murray, I	Paxton, E	Powell, S	Richmond, T	Scott, AD	Smith, R
Jacobs, RJK	Lackie, D	Lomax, P	Mayson, S	Musgrove, A	Paxton, TS	Power, T	Riddle, D	Scott, D	Smith, SF
Jacobs, RS	Ladd, RC	Lopes, C	McCann, J	Mylett, T	Payne, D	Prescott, C	Ridley, MJ	Scriven, A	Snaddon, J
Jafkins, K	Lailey, J	Love, R	McCarthy, MG	Nance, S	Peacock, D	Price, I	Riley, S	Scutt, P	Snook, AM
Jafkins, K	Lajeunesse, M	Lowe, WJ	McCourt, G	Nash, CS	Pearce, N	Price, N	Rios, R	Seaton, C	Soares, V
James, AR	Lambden, M	Lowings, VA	McCullagh, SFH	Natt, S	Pearce, RK	Price, S	Roberts, GCM	Seaward, J	Soldat, J
James, G	Lambe, GP	Lucas, D	McJannet, T	Neal, SM	Pearson, DJ	Prince, M	Roberts, JB	Severs, R	Sorby, T
Jarvis, J	Lambert, SR	Luke, C	McKenna, A	Nelson, R	Pearson, P	Pringle, M	Roberts, K	Seymour, K	Sortwell, I
Jennings, PP	Lamond, C	Lunn, AP	Mcmullan, H	Nethercott, J	Peat, L	Prior, R	Roberts, K	Shaft, M	Sparshott, J
Jepson, P	Lang, IM	Luther, CM	McNeil, A	Netherton, J	Peck, R	Przyblyski, J	Roberts, MTM	Shaheen, S	Spencer, G
Johnson, AC	Langley, GB	Lycett, C	McQueen, B	Netley, N	Pedersen, T	Pugh, G	Robertson, D	Sharkey, B	Sproule, J
Johnson, C	Lanning, B	Lyle, B	McVeigh, A	Newbound, PJ	Pelly, C	Pullin, GJ	Robertson, J	Sharp, G	Stacey, G
Johnson, D	Larkin, A	Lyness, D	Mead, G	newbury, s	Penney, S	Pullinger, S	Robertson, MJ	Sharples, G	Stacey, S
Johnson-Hughes, S	Latham, MJ	Lyons, M	Meads, M	Newman, CJ	Pennington, M	Puttock, B	Robin, C	Shave, MJ	Stalker, B
Johnston, D	Lawford, J	Mabbett, T	Mears, I	Newman, D	Pentek, P	Puzio, J	Robin, D	Shaw, MD	Stanhope, I
Jones, B	Lawn, MR	Macbean, H	Mechan, M	Newnham, Z	Pepper, G	Pyke, L	Robinson, A	Sheils, B	Stanyer, MP
Jones, C	Lawrence, B	MacCallum, L	Meikle, J	Newton, SJ	Percival, K	Pyrezewski, MS	Robinson, CC	Sheldon, R	Starbuck, A
Jones, CD	Lawrence, P	Macfadyen, M	Melrose, M	Nicol-Harper, A	Perrin, CA	Pyrzewski, M	Robinson-Ruffle, J&D	Shelley, J&C	Steaggles, GJ
Jones, CM	Lawrence, SP	MacKenzie, C	Melville, S	Niedrum, T	Perry, A	Quinn, N	Robison, DM	Shepherd, C	Steele, AJ
Jones, G	Layton, S	MacKenzie, J	Mercer, J	Nield, P	Pesant, P	R. Silva, R	Robjohns, AL	Sherriffs, I	Steele, R
Jones, J	Leach, S	MacKenzie, K	Merrifield, J	Niland, D	Peters, F	Radcliffe Stevens, N	Robson, J	Shilland, EM	Stephens, R
Jones, MF	Lee, C	Mackowski, A	Merritt, A	Nilsson, J	Peters, JN	Radden, DJC	Robson, S	Shillitoe, JRD	Stephenson, GC
Jones, NR	Lee, J	Mackrill, M	Metcalf, KD	Noble, K	Peterson, L	Rafter, M	Rolfe, MD	Short, PP	Stevens, C
Jones, PD	Lee, R	Maclay, M	Middleton, L	Norris, D	Phelps, MS	Ralph, L	Romaine, L	Shrewsbury, R	Stevens, DG
Jones, PE	Lee, RD	Maclean-Henry, G	Miles, S	Norriss, TJ	Phethean, S	Ralphs, IL	Romero, L	Shrive, D	Stevens, M
Jones, RA	Leech, R	Maclennan, I	Milnits-Raby, PN	Norton, JA	Phillips, R	Ramm, H	Rooney, P	Shutt, J	Stevens, P
Jones, T	Legg, J	MacNish, A	Miller, H	Nurse, MW	Pibworth, I	Randall, M	Rooney, G	Sibley, J	Stevenson, DE
Jordan, M	Legge, WGD	Maguire, M	Miller, H	Oliver, N	Piccolo, A	Randall, R	Rooney, S	Sigrist, M	Stewart, AH
Jordan, TRM	Leishman, S	Manley, J	Milligan, RF	Onley, N	Pickering, P	Rankin, G	Roque, I	Silvestre_David, R	Stewart, D
Jordon, T	Leonard, H	Manley, J	Mills, DGH	Oram, MA	Piercey, B	Raven, J	Rose, C	Simcox, WF	Stewart, G
Josey, R	Leonardi, E	Mann, L	Mills, H	Ord, S	Pierson, L	Rawlings, ND	Roseveare, CD	Simmonds, Y	Stewart, I
Joy, R	leonhardt, k	Mansfield, SJ	Mitchell, D	Orizaola, G	Piggott, SP	Ray, J	Ross, JG	Simms, O	Stewart, G
Kaestner, P	Lester, AJB	Marchant, JH	Mitchell, R	O'Rourke, JF	Pigot, M	Raybone, K	Ross, HEJ	Simper, J	Stewart, T
Kalveitis, M	Lester, D	Marchant, RH	Molyneaux, W	Otero, J	Pinchen, BJ	Raynor, EM	Rowland, C	Simpson, KJ	Stocker, A
Keen, SG	Lethbridge, J	Marriner, N	Monkhouse, J	Ouseley, D	Pinhorn, M	Raynor, PJ	Rowse, P	Sims, AC	Stokes, G
Keighley, L	Levell, JE	Marshall, A	Montegriffo, NJ	Owen, AE	Pink, L	Read, E	Rowse, PAS	Sissons, D	Stone, R
Kellett, G	Lever, A	Marston, PC	Moody, MP	Owen, GM	Pink, MA	Read, R	Roy, K	Skei, A	Stoneman, M
Kelson, D	Lever, P	Martin, AP	Moon, J&J	Owen, NT	Piotrowicz, V	Reavey, JB	Russell, LCN	Sketch, PA	Stoney, A
Kelson, DW	Levett, RK	Martin, JP	Moore, L	Owens, A	Piotrowski, S	Reavey, S	Russell, V	Slade, C	Stouse, KP
Kennelly, AD	Levy, D&J	Martin, KP	Moore, R	Page, AG	Piper, C	Redhead, JW	Rusu, S	Slater (Per Peh), S	Strangeman, PJ
Kerrison, J	Levy, DA	Martin, R	Moore, MC	Painter, MG	Piper, CJ	Rees, GD	Rutter, PM	Sleath, J	Strong, A
Keyes, S	Levy, S	Martin, S	Morris, G	Palmer, G	Piper, DJ	Reeves, DJ	Ryan, P	slingo, s	Strong, A
Keynes, R	Lewin, PJ	Marylebone	Morrison, P&S	Palmer, K	Pitt, MJ	Reeves, J	Rylands, J	Smallbone, AC	Stubbs, C
King, M	Lewis, Alan	Birdwatching	Mortimer, L	Palmer, MJ	Place, RM	Reeves, M	Ryves, DJ	Smallwood, J	Stubbs, E
King, S	Lewis, G	Society, M	Morton, N	Panchaud, D	Plunkett, J	Reid, GS	Salter, C	Smart, NR	Stylianou, J
King, SJ	Lewis, JH	Maskell, JM	Moseley, J	Panda, N	Poland, H	Reid, M	Salter, D	Suart, A	Suttle, K
King, SS	Lhopkins, CP	Maskell, K	Moseley, M	Papps, N	Pollinger, G	Reid, N	Sambrook, R	Smiles, M	Sutton, P
Kirby, AJ	Lifton, T	Mason, F	Moser, R	Papworth, D	Pope, RJ	Reid-Aldred, E	Sames, E	Smith, AG	Sutton, P
Kirkham, K	Lilley, R	Mason, H	Mountford, R	Parikian, L	Pople, R	Rekittke, N	Sames, E	Smith, BE	Swallow, JL
Kirton, L	Lintott, BJ	Masters, P	Moxon, J	Parke, R	Pople, R	Remnant, R	Sampson, C	Smith, G	Swann, M
Kitching, I	Lintott, EA	Mathews, K	Munday, DR	Parkes, M	Porter, RJ	Reynolds, DE	Sampson, D	Smith, H	Sweet, J
Kleiman, S	Litjens, MA	Mathews, N	Munnery, T	Parry-Davies, D	Portwood, L	Reynolds, P	Sampson, N	Smith, IA	Sweetland, T
Knight, A	Little, P	Mathews, PJ	Murdoch, DA	Parsons, I	Postill, M	Rhodes, AS	Satterley, A	Smith, JF	Swensson, DE
Knight, CM	Littlechild, B	Maundrell, AJ	Murdock, A	Parsons, TE	Potter, J	Rice, E	Savage, M	Smith, JT	Swinbank, R
Knight, DC	Livingston, S	Mavin, A	Murfitt, RC	Parsons, TEG	Potts, D	Rich, G	Sayer, KR	Smith, LC	Symonds, ERC
Knight, J	Lloyd, G	May, G	Murphy, CRP	Part, E	Potts, PM	Richards, G	Sayers, L	Smith, MJ	Sztytuljak, T
Knight, L	Lloyd, SJH	May, K	Murphy, G	Pascal, RW	Poulter, R	Richards, HE	Scammell, BW	Smith, NC	Talbot, N

## Appendix 3

Tatchley, C	Toynnton, PE	Walker, TH	White, KG	Winkworth, M
Taylor, A	Treadaway, D	Walkingshaw, E	White, PJ	Winter, PD
Taylor, C	Trout, NS	Wall, N	White, SN	Wiseman, EJ
Taylor, D	Trunicka, S	Wallace, D	Whitehead, D	Withers, B
Taylor, DH	Tubbs, JM	Wallis, RJ	Whitehead, G	Witton, M
Taylor, J	Turner, H	Walls, SS	Whitehead, SG	Wood, A
Taylor, MJ	Turner, JP	Walters, M	Whitehouse, R	Wood, B
Taylor, RJ	Turner, KA	Ward, AD	Whitewright, J	Wood, C
Taylor, RW	Turner, RM	Ward, C	Whitmarsh, C	Wood, H
Tennyson, D	Turton, MH	Ward, JN	Whitmarsh, N	Wood, M
Terry, MGW	Tustain, J	Ward, M	Why, M	Wood, R
Terry, MH	Twitcheen, C	Ward, P	Wickens, T	Wood, T
Tew, AB	Twyman, AP	Ward, RJ	WICKS, SP	Woodley, SR
Thelwell, DA	Tyler, D	Wareham, M	Wiggins, M	Woods, R
Theobald, RC	Unsworth, C	Warner, R	Wilcox, C	Woodward, G
Thomas, B	Unsworth, DJ	Warren, P	Wildish, MF	Woolfries, SA
Thomas, K	Uphill, N	Warren, R	Wilhelmy, O	Woolley, SK
Thompson, AM	Upton, G	Warschauer, L	Wilkerson, G	Wren, C
Thompson, BG	Upton, N	Warwick, N	Wilkes, KR	Wright, C
Thompson, E	Uren, D	Waterfall, KW	Wilkins, J	Wright, D
Thompson, J	Valler, D	Waterman, JR	Wilkins, P	Wright, T
Thompson, SRB	van der Horst, ST	Watson, IR	Wilkinson, D	Wykes, C
Thomson, A	Van Tol, M	Watts, IR	Wilkinson, T	Wynde, AR
Thorley, C	Vaughan, J	Watts, R	Williams, B	Yankov, T
Thornton, GA	Vaughan, T	Watts, X	Williams, BR	Yates, CD
Thorpe, A	Verbrugge, L	Wearing, MF	Williams, CE	Yates, SR
Thorpe, CJ	Versaw, D	Wearn, D	Williams, N	Yeh, T
Tickle, JE	Viles, DJ	Webb, RM	Williams, NP	Yelland, DM
Tillin, G	Vincent, T	Webley, JJ	Williams, TM	Yeti, S
Tiltscher, J	Viney, TJ	Wells, A	Williams-Jones, D	Young, A
Tindale, AD	Vokes, MG	West, J	Williamson, ID	Young, K
Titman, R	Vyas, J	West, P	Williamson, J	Young, M
Todd, A	Wagstaff, MA	Weston, B	Willing, D	Young, S
Toft, RT	Wainhouse, B	Weston, ILG	Wills, C	Younger, A
Tofts, R	Wakeford, H	Whalley, EJ	Wills, KB	Younger, S
Toomer, J	Walker, BJ	Whiffen, C	Wills, P	Zhang, R
Tovell, LM	Walker, H	Whitaker, S	Wilson, IS	
Towers, M	Walker, J	White, H	Windibank, ND	
Townsend, W	Walker, K	White, JJ	Winfield, I	

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Forestry Commission (NF raptor data)	Rare Bird Alert
GWCT Avon Valley WM Project	Richard Carpenter's weekly Titchfield Haven area summaries
Hawk Conservancy	RSPB Stone-curlew Team
Hoslist Yahoo Group	
HIWWT Reserves Officers and Wardens	

### 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](mailto: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 2020 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.

Red-legged Partridge	B, F (50), R
Grey Partridge	A
Quail	A
Pheasant	CB, R
Golden Pheasant	A
Dark-bellied Brent Goose bernicla	F (100), MM, F&L, M, R, inland A
Light-bellied Brent Goose hrota	A
Canada Goose	B, F(100), MM
Barnacle Goose	A
Cackling Goose	A, Notes
Snow Goose	A
Greylag Goose	B, F (50), MM, R
White-fronted Goose	A
Mute Swan	B, F (20), MM
Egyptian Goose	A
Shelduck	coast: B, F (50), MM, inland: A
Ruddy Shelduck	A, Notes
Mandarin Duck	B, F (10), MM, R
Garganey	A

Shoveler	B, F (10), MM, F&L, R
Gadwall	B,F (25), MM, F&L, R
Wigeon	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
Teal	B,F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), 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
Velvet Scoter	A, inland Notes
Common Scoter	A
Long-tailed Duck	A, inland & summer Notes
Goldeneye	A
Smew	A
Goosander	A
Red-breasted Merganser	Main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Ruddy Duck	A
Nightjar	A
Swift	A, especially B
Great Bustard	A
Cuckoo	A
Feral Pigeon	CB, F (100)
Stock Dove	CB, F (25), M
Woodpigeon	CB, F (500), M
Turtle Dove	A
Collared Dove	CB, F (25), M
Water Rail	A
Moorhen	CB, F (20), MM
Coot	CB, F (20), MM
Crane	A, Notes
Little Grebe	B, F (5), MM, R
Great Crested Grebe	B, F (10), MM, R
Slavonian Grebe	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-necked Grebe	A
Stone-curlew	A
Oystercatcher	B, F (100), MM, M, inland A
Avocet	A
Lapwing	B, F (100), MM, M, R
Golden Plover	A
Grey Plover	F (20), F&L, S, R, inland A
Ringed Plover	B, F (20), MM, M, inland A
Little Ringed Plover	A
Whimbrel	F (10), F&L, M, W, R, inland A
Curlew	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Bar-tailed Godwit	A
Black-tailed Godwit islandica	F (50), F&L, S, R, inland A
Turnstone	F (20), F&L, M, S, R, inland A
Knot	A
Ruff	A
Curlew Sandpiper	A

Sanderling	A
Dunlin	F (100), MM, M, S, inland A
Purple Sandpiper	A
Little Stint	A
Woodcock	A
Jack Snipe	A
Snipe	B, F (5), MM, F&L, R
Grey Phalarope	A, Notes
Common Sandpiper	A
Green Sandpiper	A
Redshank	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Wood Sandpiper	A
Spotted Redshank	A
Greenshank	A
Kittiwake	A – include age/plumage
Black-headed Gull	B, F (500), MM, S
Little Gull	A – include age/plumage
Mediterranean Gull	CB, F(10)
Common Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Great Black-backed Gull	B, F (10), MM, S, inland A
Herring Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Caspian Gull	A, Notes - include age/plumage
Yellow-legged Gull	A – include age/plumage
Lesser Black-backed Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Sandwich Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R
Little Tern	B, F (25), F&L, M, R
Roseate Tern	A– include age/plumage, inland Notes
Common Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R, inland A
Arctic Tern	A – include age/plumage
Black Tern	A
Great Skua	A, inland Notes
Pomarine Skua	A, Notes excluding coast in spring
Arctic Skua	A, inland Notes
Little Auk	A, Notes
Common Guillemot	A
Razorbill	A
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
White Stork	A, Notes
Gannet	A, inland Notes
Shag	A, inland Notes
Cormorant	F (20), MM, R
Spoonbill	A, inland Notes
Bittern	A
Cattle Egret	A
Grey Heron	B, F (10), MM, M
Great White Egret	A
Little Egret	B, F (10), MM, M, R
Osprey	A

Honey-buzzard	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Sparrowhawk	B, M
Goshawk	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Marsh Harrier	A
Hen Harrier	A
Red Kite	A excluding North Hants, CB, F(10)
Buzzard	B, F (10), M, R
Barn Owl	A
Tawny Owl	B, R
Little Owl	A
Long-eared Owl	A
Short-eared Owl	A
Hoopoe	A, Notes
Kingfisher	A especially B
Wryneck	A, Notes
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A
Great Spotted Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Green Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Kestrel	B, M
Merlin	A
Hobby	A
Peregrine	A away from coast, CB
Ring-necked Parakeet	A
Great Grey Shrike	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Golden Oriole	A, Notes
Jay	CB, F (10), M
Magpie	CB, F (50), M
Jackdaw	CB, F (500), M
Rook	CB, F (250), M
Carrion Crow	CB, F (50), M
Raven	A
Waxwing	A, Notes excluding invasion years
Coal Tit brittanicus	CB, F (20), M
Continental Coal Tit ater	A
Marsh Tit	A
Blue Tit	CB, F (50), M
Great Tit	CB, F (20), M
Bearded Tit	A
Woodlark	A
Skylark	CB, F (20), M
Sand Martin	B, F (25), F&L, M
Swallow	CB, F (100), F&L, M
House Martin	CB, F (100), F&L, M
Cetti's Warbler	A
Long-tailed Tit	CB, F (20), M
Wood Warbler	A
Yellow-browed Warbler	A, Notes
Willow Warbler	A
Chiffchaff collybita	CB, F (10), W
Sedge Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Reed Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Grasshopper Warbler	A

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 excluding New Forest, CB
Firecrest	A
Goldcrest	CB, F (10)
Wren	CB, F (25)
Nuthatch	CB, F (10)
Treecreeper	CB, F (10)
Starling	CB, F (100), M
Ring Ouzel	A
Blackbird	CB, F (25), M
Fieldfare	F (25), M, F&L
Redwing	F (25), M, F&L
Song Thrush	CB, F (10), M
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
House Sparrow	CB, F (20), M
Tree Sparrow	A, Notes
Duncock	CB, F (10)
Yellow Wagtail flavissima	A
Yellow Wagtail other races	A, Notes
Grey Wagtail	B, F (5), M
Pied Wagtail yarrelli	CB, F (50), M
White Wagtail alba	A, autumn Notes
Meadow Pipit	B, F (25), M
Tree Pipit	A
Water Pipit	A
Rock Pipit	A
Chaffinch	CB, F (25), M
Brambling	A
Hawfinch	A
Bullfinch	CB, F (5), M
Greenfinch	CB, F (20), M
Linnet	CB, F (20), M
Common Redpoll	A, Notes
Lesser Redpoll	A
Crossbill	A
Goldfinch	CB, F (50), M
Siskin	B, F (10), M, S
Snow Bunting	A, inland Notes
Corn Bunting	A
Yellowhammer	CB, F (10), M
Reed 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 the following species will not be published in the *Hampshire Bird Report* unless they have been accepted by the *HOS Records Panel*.

Tundra Bean, Taiga Bean, Pink-footed and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Black Brant, **Bewick's & Whooper Swans**, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter, Alpine Swift, Corncrake, **Spotted Crane**, Corncrake, Spotted Crane, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Black-winged Stilt**, American Golden Plover, **Dotterel**, Black-tailed Godwit race *limosa*, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Sabine's, Ring-billed & **Glaucous Gulls**, **Iceland Gull races glaucoides & kumleini**, White-winged Black Tern, Long-tailed Skua, Black Guillemot, **Puffin**, White-billed Diver, Cory's, Sooty & Balearic Shearwaters, Storm and Leach's Petrels, Glossy Ibis, Night-heron, Purple Heron, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, **White-tailed Eagle**, Rough-legged Buzzard, Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon, **Red-backed & Woodchat Shrikes**, Chough, **Hooded Crow**, Penduline Tit, **Willow Tit**, **Shore & Short-toed Larks**, Red-rumped Swallow, Pallas's, Radde's, Dusky, Barred, Icterine, Melodious, Blyth's Reed & Marsh Warblers, Chiffchaff (other than nominate race), Rose-coloured Starling, **Red-flanked Bluetail**, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Dipper, Citrine Wagtail, Richard's & Olive-backed Pipits, Common Rosefinch, **Twite**, Parrot Crossbill, **Serin**, Lapland, Cirl, Ortolan & 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.

### Nocturnal Migration – call only records

For all description species and a few others (such as Common Scoter, uncommon waders etc.), we require a recording to be provided and that preferably has several examples of calls audible. Ideally the submitter will have obtained a spectrogram of this using the widely available free software. With recordings we would like to have the whole call sequence (e.g. 10-15 sec.) and not just each call isolated. Two sources of free software to create spectrograms are given below.

<https://www.audacityteam.org/>

<https://ravensoundsoftware.com/software/raven-lite/>

### UK rarities

Records of rarer species and sub-species are dealt with by BBRC. Record forms are available from the Recorder and should be returned to him for onward transmission to BBRC. Alternatively, submissions can be made online at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting>, in which case it is appreciated if copies are e-mailed to the Recorder. Note with effect from 1st Jan 2020 records of Lesser Scaup and Kentish Plover are required by BBRC.

### Urgent Bird News

In addition to the formal submission of rarities to the HOS Recorder, or where relevant to BBRC, observers of rarities in Hampshire are requested to pass on the news as soon as possible, assuming there are no confidentiality issues, so that others may benefit. The preferred method for those with smartphones or other internet access is to post on the Going Birding in Hampshire website at <http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/birdnews.asp>.

To submit records, it is first necessary to register with a personal log-in name and password for a free account. After acceptance, records can be submitted at any time using your log-in and password. A separate part of the website also allows photographs to be submitted. Alternatives to Going Birding include one of the national bird news services such as Rare Bird Alert or Birdguides. For those without internet access, please ask others to post for you.

## Appendix 4

### Photographs for inclusion in the *Hampshire Bird Report*

The Photographic Editor welcomes the submission of good quality digital photographs of birds taken in Hampshire for consideration for future reports. Images of any species, including common ones, are welcome. Photographs of birds in flight, in flocks or with extensive areas of habitat visible are particularly encouraged.

The filename should include the photographer's name, species name, locality and date taken. Please also submit poorer quality record shots of rarities, especially if it is likely that the bird has not been otherwise photographed. Please send images for consideration to Alan Lewis [alanlewis1@virginmedia.com](mailto: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.



Wryneck, Chilling, Oct 6th (Simon M. King)

# Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2019

Tony Davis

## Introduction

This report summarises the fieldwork carried out by ringers and nest recorders in Hampshire during 2019. Further details can be viewed in the on-line ringing report on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) web site at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports> (Robinson et al., 2020).

The total number of birds ringed in Hampshire was a record 28,703, including 2,899 nestlings. This is probably a reflection of both the increasing number of ringers in the county and excellent conditions during the late summer and early autumn when the highest numbers of birds are ringed. The number of species ringed was 102, five less than in 2018.

Nest recording provides valuable information about the productivity of birds and this can be used in combination with data from ringing to understand the causes of population changes revealed by the Breeding Bird Survey and other surveys. In line with the national report, this paper includes a summary on nest recording in the county.

## Ringling summary of the year

Results were received from 33 ringers or groups, additional information was obtained from the BTO's on-line ringing report. The number of each species ringed in 2019, and the all-time totals since 1972, are shown in Table I (note this follows the sequence used in previous Ringing Reports).

**Table I: 2019 Hampshire ringing totals**

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2019	Total 1972 – 2019
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	9	0	9	1,574
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	0	0	15
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	0	0	1,322
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	0	0	0	1
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	12	0	12	239
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	0	0	74
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	0	0	0	57
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	0	0	0	401
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	0	0	0	45
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	0	0	0	595
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5	0	5	475
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	0	0	0	1
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	0	0	0	35
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	0	0	0	10
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	0	0	0	22
Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	0	0	0	1
Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	0	0	0	2
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	0	0	0	118
Leach's Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	0	0	0	2
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	0	0	110
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	0	0	0	65
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	0	19

Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	0	5	5	44
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	52	52	436
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	14	0	14	1,514
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	0	0	178
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	5	0	5	137
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	394
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	0	87
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedipnemos</i>	0	10	10	288
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	0	27	27	70
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	10	3	13	1,063
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	0	0	9
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	0	271
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	5	125	130	2,818
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	0	0	150
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	6	6	1,825
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	0	0	0	2
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	0	6
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	21	4	25	216
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	3	0	3	609
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
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	499
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	1	0	1	13,389
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	0	0	0	99
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	0	0	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	0	0	0	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	0	0	0	191
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i>	0	0	0	1
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	0	0	0	20
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	0	0	0	23
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	0	0	0	626
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	0	0	0	4
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	0	0	2,878
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	4	0	4	83
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	201	0	201	2,775
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	5	0	5	550
Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	0	0	0	2
Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	0	0	0	22
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	0	0	0	241
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	7	7	670

Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	2	85	87	8,418
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	7	7	246
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	133
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	0	0	0	1
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	1	2	3	30
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	11	18	29	951
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	31	4	35	1,232
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	8	3	11	2,905
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	0	0	62
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	2	3	87
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	13	176	189	1,932
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	2	0	2	209
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	6	28	34	534
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>	16	17	33	447
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	7	57	64	3,220
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	0	0	0	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	54	0	54	1,231
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	0	0	0	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	2	0	2	342
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	57	0	57	1,320
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>	0	0	0	44
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	0	147	147	1,807
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0	0	0	21
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	14	14	83
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	0	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	7	0	7	598
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	14	0	14	849
Jackdaw <i>Coloeus monedula</i>	14	3	17	618
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	5	0	5	646
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	1	0	1	113
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	913	0	913	14,273
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	177	0	177	1,622
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	1
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	3,249	441	3,690	108,006
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	1,570	271	1,841	44,416
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	315	6	321	6,789
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montanus</i>	0	0	0	277
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	48	5	53	1,050
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	53	0	53	1,454
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	15	52	67	702
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	4	4	8	424
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	60	0	60	24,123
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	268	418	686	44,686
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	11	0	11	5,564
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	196	0	196	2,504
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	754	0	754	16,481

Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	3	0	3	20
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	9	14	23	1,805
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1,770	11	1,781	29,275
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	639	44	683	20,141
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	3,444	124	3,568	35,669
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	182	7	189	3,985
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	0	0	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	64	1	65	1,540
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	530	0	530	7,528
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	4	4	8	446
Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	0	0	0	1
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	0	0	0	1
Lanceolated Warbler <i>Locustella lanceolata</i>	0	0	0	1
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	201	0	201	5,820
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	0	0	0	4
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	0	2
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	1	0	1	57
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1,060	0	1,060	43,963
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>	1,185	67	1,252	37,885
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	0	0	38
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	105	26	131	2,299
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	76	5	81	1,838
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	518	0	518	15,470
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	713	27	740	14,536
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	479	178	657	27,231
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	5	0	5	1,346
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	153	134	287	8,139
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	191	0	191	4,517
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	0	1	693
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	5	0	5	1,620
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	918	41	959	22,241
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	8	0	8	263
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	0	0	0	5
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	2	0	2	88
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	0	0	32
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	6	20	26	723
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	0	0	0	195
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	44	38	82	2,201
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	0	0	0	73
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	549	23	572	16,358
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	305	9	314	7,722
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	0	0	0	757
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	34	0	34	2,501
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	18	68	86	2,245
Pied / White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	4	12	16	12,123
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1

Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	75	0	75	741
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	252	8	260	4,936
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	0	0	0	108
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	0	0	0	43
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	24	0	24	6,044
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	331	13	344	18,095
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	33	0	33	202
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	277	6	283	6,623
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	726	1	727	40,748
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	447	9	456	4,988
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	227	0	227	4,699
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	1	0	1	40
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	0	0	8
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1,658	5	1,663	16,513
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	124	0	124	17,031
Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	0	0	0	89
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	8	0	8	2,539
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	216	4	220	10,616
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	0	0	0	4
TOTALS	25,807	2,899	28,706	806,685

Apart from a short cold snap in late January, the early winter period was mild and dry, resulting in good survival for resident species. The breeding season did not suffer from the extremes of weather of many recent years but was generally warm and wet meaning that productivity of species such as thrushes was much improved on the drought conditions of 2018. The late summer and early autumn provided generally dry and settled conditions resulting in good catches during autumn migration but the last quarter of the year was wet and windy, with suitable days for ringing being rather hard to find.

Record ringing totals were achieved for thirteen species: Bullfinch and Linnet are the subject of specialist studies; Goshawk, Avocet and Nightjar are all species ringed in small numbers by particular individuals; Blackcap, Cetti's Warbler and Great Tit numbers are likely to be the result of increasing population trends; Tree Pipit numbers probably reflect a new catching technique combined with a good autumn passage. The record numbers of Garden Warbler, Nuthatch, Treecreeper and Robin are more difficult to explain. They may be the result of increased general ringing activity, the good ringing conditions in late summer when large number of juveniles are present or a productive breeding season.

## Ringings projects

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.

The CES scheme involves standardised ringing at a specific site at regular intervals during the breeding season. The scheme provides information on changes in population size, breeding success and survival rates for 28 species. Increasing the number of CES sites will enable data to be analysed for further species. In Hampshire there are four CES sites: Blashford Lakes, Martin Down, Pamber Forest and Winchester WM.

The BTO strategy also encourages species-specific projects and many Hampshire ringers participate in a number of important studies. Many of these projects involve colour-ringing so that individuals can be identified in the field and other birders can make important contributions by reporting any colour-ringed birds that they see. Care should be taken to record the colour and position of the rings accurately and photographs can be extremely helpful to scheme organisers in verifying the colours. Please report sightings to the organisers listed below. For other species, sightings can be reported at [www.cr-birding.org](http://www.cr-birding.org).

The following schemes are currently known to be operating in Hampshire:

**Honey-buzzards** are marked with a single colour-ring at various sites in England and Wales, including Hampshire. In recent years the rings used are white with black letters but older birds could have other colours. The colour ring can be on either leg but will be on the opposite leg from the metal ring. Sightings to [sjroberts100@hotmail.com](mailto:sjroberts100@hotmail.com).

**Waders and wildfowl:** Farlington Ringing Group is undertaking a series of long-term shorebird colour-ringing studies in The Solent and welcomes sightings of marked Brent Geese, Wigeon and waders. Birds are marked with unique colour-ring combinations enabling them to be tracked throughout their lives. The projects are designed to provide detailed information on the birds' use of The Solent, helping us to understand their breeding, wintering locations and migration routes. The expanding datasets involving large numbers of re-sightings allow survival analysis to be undertaken. This helps us to monitor and assess the importance of The Solent's estuaries in a national and international context, comparing our mudflats with other intertidal areas. Several of the projects are being undertaken in collaboration with shorebird ecologists and researchers across Europe.

**Brent Geese** are colour-marked in Southampton Water, Langstone and Chichester Harbours using darvic colour-rings. Sightings can be entered directly on the Dutch goose website [www.geese.org](http://www.geese.org) where life histories and maps of sightings can be seen on-line for each bird entered. Alternatively, sightings can be sent to Pete Potts at [petermpotts@gmail.com](mailto:petermpotts@gmail.com)

**Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlews, Redshanks and Turnstones** are colour-ringed in Southampton Water, while **Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks** ([www.greenshank.info/](http://www.greenshank.info/)), **Ringed Plovers** have been marked primarily in Langstone and Chichester Harbours and Sanderling have been marked on Hayling Island. Colour-ring sightings of any of these species should be sent to Pete Potts at [petermpotts@gmail.com](mailto:petermpotts@gmail.com). **Sanderling** sightings can also be entered direct on <https://animaltrack.org/>.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. A yellow flag may also be present. Sightings to [grahamiddens@googlemail.com](mailto:grahamiddens@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](mailto:ahoodless@gwct.org.uk).

**Common Sandpipers** are being colour-ringed at Farlington Marshes under a ten-year project. Sightings to [duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com](mailto:duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com).

**Woodcock** are marked in the New Forest with a single colour ring plus metal ring. Sightings to [nfwg@newforestgateway.org](mailto: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 [kevs866@gmail.com](mailto:kevs866@gmail.com).

**Mediterranean Gulls** are ringed in Langstone Harbour with a yellow ring with four digits. Sightings to [medgullring@gmail.com](mailto:medgullring@gmail.com).

**Kestrels** are colour-ringed across Hampshire (except the New Forest and extreme south-west of the county) as well as neighbouring areas of Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey and West



Juvenile Aquatic Warbler at Titchfield Haven, Sep 1st – one of two records this year of this declining passage migrant and the only one to be caught and ringed (Trevor Codlin).



Colour-ringed Linnets at Cut Bridge, Milford on Sea, Aug 22nd – part of the ongoing study in the Keyhaven area (see Ringing Projects) (Marcus Ward).



Young Swifts from a nest box in Lee-on-the-Solent (Trevor Codlin).

Sussex. The colour rings are dark blue and engraved with three white digits (letters/numbers). Sightings to [matt@hawkconservancy.org](mailto:matt@hawkconservancy.org).

**Peregrines** are marked at various sites in the county with an orange ring on the left leg. The rings have a two or three alpha-numeric code in black. Sightings to [nigelrjns@aol.com](mailto:nigelrjns@aol.com).

**Firecrests** are marked in the New Forest and on Southampton Common. Those in the New Forest have a colour above the metal ring on the left leg. Sightings should be sent to [marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk](mailto:marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk). Those on Southampton Common have a colour below the metal ring on the left leg (sightings to [andy\\_welch@sky.com](mailto:andy_welch@sky.com)).

**Woodlark** nestlings are marked in the north-east of the county. Sightings to [sibilatrix@btinternet.com](mailto:sibilatrix@btinternet.com).

**Wood Warblers** are marked in the New Forest. Note that some birds have a striped ring as well as plain colours. Sightings to [sibilatrix@btinternet.com](mailto:sibilatrix@btinternet.com).

Wintering **Blackcaps** are marked in Drayton, Portsmouth gardens, sightings to [graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com) and in Chilbolton, sightings to [hantsbto@hotmail.com](mailto:hantsbto@hotmail.com).

**Nightingales** are marked in Botley Wood. Sightings to [trevor.codlin@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fbuner@gwct.org.uk). The project at Manor Farm CP uses a yellow ring carrying one letter and two numbers. Sightings to [trevor.codlin@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.codlin@gmail.com).

**Linnets** are marked at Keyhaven. Sightings to [marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk](mailto:marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk).

**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](mailto:tim.walker14@btinternet.com).

**Hawfinches** are marked in the New Forest with a yellow ring bearing two digits which are a mixture of letters and numbers. Sightings to [marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk](mailto:marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk).

### Recoveries

Details of the more significant recoveries can now be found on the BTO web site at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports> so only summary information is provided in this report. Readers wishing to find detailed information on a particular recovery can do so at the link above.

A number of reports of colour-ringed birds from abroad do not appear to have been submitted to the BTO and are sadly therefore lost to the national dataset. They are not included in this report. Observers receiving information about colour-ringed birds from foreign ringers are urged to submit this data to the BTO.



Close-up of Yellow-browed Warbler in a Lymington garden, Oct 13th – one of three caught and ringed this year out of a total of ten (Marcus Ward).



Firecrest at Lymington, Dec 18th - increasing numbers are being ringed - this was one of 177 this year (Marcus Ward).

**Shoveler.** A species that is rarely ringed in the county but an adult male ringed at Farlington Marshes in September 2009 was shot on the Isle of Grain, Kent in January 2019.

**Little Egret.** A nestling colour-ringed at Sowley Pond in June 2006 set another new national age record for this species when it was resighted on Normandy Marsh in late December 2019. Any further reports will of course set further national age records so do please report any sightings to Graham Giddens [grahamgiddens@googlemail.com](mailto:grahamgiddens@googlemail.com).

**Osprey.** A nestling ringed in Brandenburg, Germany in June 2016 was seen in Devon in July 2018 then in Powys in early April 2019 before being sighted at Stubbington two days later.

**Avocet.** Colour ringing of small numbers of chicks at North Solent NNR continues to produce interesting movements, including an individual ringed in 2018 being resighted at a site in Vendee, France in April 2019.

**Ringed Plover.** A first-year bird ringed at Farlington Marshes in September 2008 was retrapped by a ringer in Dumfries & Galloway in May 2019. An adult ringed in 2013 at Eastoke, Hayling Island was resighted in Germany in July 2019 and a first-year bird ringed in Norway in September 2017 was resighted in Langstone Harbour at the beginning of October 2019.

**Black-tailed Godwit.** A chick ringed in Iceland in July 2012 was resighted at Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes at the start of January 2019.

**Woodcock.** An adult ringed at Charity Farm in November 2018 was shot in Denmark almost exactly a year later.

**Common Sandpiper.** The adult ringed at Farlington Marshes in August 2013 and then resighted on its breeding grounds in Norway in 2015 – 17 was once again seen at the same Norwegian site in late July 2019 before returning to Farlington just nine days later.

**Black-headed Gull.** A nestling from Fleet Pond, ringed in June 2018, was resighted in Portugal in February 2019, whilst a Blashford nestling from June 2018 had moved to Cork, Eire by April 2019 and was seen in the same area twice during November.



*The record-breaking long-lived Little Egret "JN" (see Recoveries) at Normandy Marsh, Feb 3rd (Marcus Ward).*

**Mediterranean Gull.** Four Belgian-ringed birds were resighted in Hampshire during 2019. A nestling ringed in the Czech Republic in 2017 was seen on Hayling Island in April 2019.

**Peregrine.** A female nestling ringed at Sway in 2013 was resighted in Zeeland, The Netherlands in June 2019.

**Jay.** An adult male ringed at Shedfield in 2013 was found freshly dead near Chalford, Gloucestershire in October 2019.

**Chiffchaff.** A first-year bird ringed in the Badajoz region of Spain in December 2018 was presumably breeding when retrapped at Whiteley Pastures in May and June 2019. An individual ringed in Hut Wood in mid-September took 34 days to travel almost 800km south to Landes, France.

**Sedge Warbler.** A first-year bird travelled 460km from Tyne and Wear to Titchfield Haven in four days in early September.

**Reed Warbler.** A first-year bird ringed at Gins Farm in September 2017 was retrapped in Belgium just short of two years later. A nestling ringed at Mockbeggar Lakes in July 2018 was retrapped in Guipuzcoa, Spain in late August 2019.

**Blackcap.** Typical autumn movements were recorded from Titchfield Haven to France and Spain. Perhaps of greater interest were males ringed in December 2017 which moved from Drayton to West-Vlaanderen, Belgium in late October 2019 and from Chilbolton to Swindon, Wiltshire in January 2019 and then Mecklenburg – Vorpommern, Germany in early June.

**Goldcrest.** The longest movement noted during the year was of a female ringed in Aberdeenshire in mid-October which was retrapped two months later at Eastleigh STW.

**Blackbird.** An adult female ringed in Vestfold, Norway at the beginning of September 2018 was resighted in Farnborough in December 2019.

**Stonechat.** A first-year male ringed at Fishlake Meadows in late September 2017 was retrapped in Zaragoza, Spain at the end of November 2019.

**Chaffinch.** A first-year male ringed at Chilling in October 2018 was taken by a cat in Västernorrland, Sweden in August 2019. A female ringed in January 2018 in Belgium was found freshly dead at Lower Common in late March 2019.

**Brambling.** An adult male ringed at Straight Mile, Romsey in March 2018 was retrapped in Norbotten, Sweden in mid-May 2019.

**Goldfinch.** Three first-year birds ringed in Hampshire in autumn 2018 were found in France during the first three months of 2019.

### **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/our-science/projects/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 2019, together with totals for the last 12 years to provide some context. A total of 924 nests were monitored during the year, another welcome increase from the low point of 2015. Hampshire contributed the highest number of nest records of any county for six species: Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcap, Treecreeper, Blackbird, Song Thrush and Grey Wagtail, but even for these species there was a considerable bias towards nests in the New Forest and records from elsewhere in the county would be valuable.

The proportion of nests which are not in artificial sites that are monitored is extremely important but many species are still very poorly monitored. For example not a single record

**Table 2: Nest records submitted in Hampshire in 2019 and during period 2007 to 2019**

Species	2019	Total 2007-19	Species	2019	Total 2007-19
Mute Swan	1	22	Jay		1
Greylag Goose		1	Jackdaw	1	33
Canada Goose		4	Carrion Crow		3
Mandarin Duck		2	Raven		9
Teal		1	Goldcrest	1	3
Mallard	1	13	Blue Tit	66	745
Tufted Duck		1	Great Tit	49	949
Red-legged Partridge		1	Coal Tit	1	18
Pheasant		8	Marsh Tit		3
Grey Heron		23	Woodlark	26	397
Little Grebe		11	Skylark	1	20
Great Crested Grebe		2	Swallow	82	1,337
Honey-buzzard	4	46	House Martin		1
Red Kite	4	29	Long-tailed Tit	2	95
Goshawk	1	18	Wood Warbler	11	233
Sparrowhawk		5	Chiffchaff	2	23
Buzzard		4	Willow Warbler	8	58
Kestrel	8	63	Blackcap	77	146
Hobby		8	Garden Warbler	4	10
Peregrine	5	29	Whitethroat	1	17
Water Rail		3	Dartford Warbler	1	19
Moorhen	3	50	Sedge Warbler		5
Coot		12	Reed Warbler	48	126
Avocet	1	1	Nuthatch	2	51
Oystercatcher		3	Treecreeper	7	18
Lapwing	4	64	Wren	2	67
Little Ringed Plover	3	9	Starling	2	20
Ringed Plover		3	Blackbird	138	517
Curlew		2	Song Thrush	82	249
Redshank		1	Mistle Thrush		3
Snipe		1	Spotted Flycatcher	1	14
Sandwich Tern		29	Robin	16	119
Common Tern		38	Redstart	4	38
Black-headed Gull		10	Stonechat	12	102
Mediterranean Gull	1	4	Duncock	18	76
Herring Gull		2	House Sparrow	4	61
Yellow-legged Gull		1	Grey Wagtail	22	65
Stock Dove	6	157	Pied/White Wagtail	2	24
Woodpigeon	7	109	Tree Pipit		10
Collared Dove		23	Meadow Pipit	1	32
Cuckoo	1	2	Chaffinch	10	63
Barn Owl	87	456	Greenfinch	1	24
Little Owl		17	Goldfinch	5	29
Tawny Owl	5	39	Siskin		1
Nightjar	15	102	Linnet	3	44
Swift	31	100	Bullfinch	6	13
Kingfisher		3	Hawfinch		34
Green Woodpecker		6	Yellowhammer		11
Great Spotted Woodpecker		8	Reed Bunting	1	13
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	16	30	Corn Bunting		10
Magpie		1	Totals	924	7,535

of Canada Goose, Coot or Collared Dove was submitted during the year and less than five nests of common species such as Mute Swan, Moorhen, Long-tailed Tit, Wren and Greenfinch were monitored. The paucity of records of such species shows how easy it would be for any birdwatcher to make a significant contribution to monitoring breeding success in the county. Any birdwatcher who is interested in participating in the Nest Record Scheme is invited to contact the author for assistance.

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On behalf of Hampshire ringers and nest recorders, I would like to thank all the landowners and managers who allow ringing and nest recording to take place on their land. Without their support and understanding, ringing and nest recording in Hampshire would not be possible. Particular thanks are due to the BTO who administer the British and Irish ringing scheme and who make available comprehensive results via the on-line ringing reports.

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Tony Davis, 17 Orchards Way, West End, Southampton, SO30 3FB

# The Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in Hampshire

Rob Clements



Male Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers at nest holes in (left) Holly (Martin Bennet) and (right) Hawthorn (Richard Jacobs)

## Abstract

A summary of the status of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers *Dryobates minor* in Hampshire over the last 50 years is followed by the results of survey work carried out since 2014 in the New Forest. These have led to a clearer picture of breeding numbers and a revised estimate of 250-300 pairs for the county population.

## Introduction

Hampshire has always been an important county for Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers (LSW) and that importance has grown as the national population has fallen over the past 40 years. The national population was estimated at 5,000-10,000 pairs at the time of the 1968-72 Atlas (Sharrock 1976). A highpoint in the population may have been reached in the 1970s as Dutch Elm disease provided a brief episode of abundant food and nest-sites in decaying timber. Since then numbers halved in the decade to 1999 and the species became too scarce to be monitored by national annual schemes (BTO Bird Trends). Following further decline, the species was added to those monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) in 2010.

Although it comes with considerable uncertainty, the most recent population estimate, based on data from county recorders, was 600-1,000 pairs in 2015 (Woodward *et al.* 2020). Several reasons for the long-term decline have been suggested including increased competition and predation by Great Spotted Woodpeckers *Dendrocopos major*, a decline

in woodland quality and low breeding productivity (Smith & Charman 2012). The decline in breeding productivity has been highlighted by recent studies, with a lack of food availability, perhaps linked to climate change, suggested as a contributing factor (Smith K.W. & L. 2020 in press). Since the RBBP began collating data for this species, the annual total reported from England and Wales has fallen from 486 in 2010 to 309 in 2017. The true population is larger than these data suggest but the Hampshire population is clearly an important part of the total. My survey work, starting in 2014, has focussed on locating breeding/territorial pairs throughout Hampshire, but with special emphasis on the core area of the New Forest.

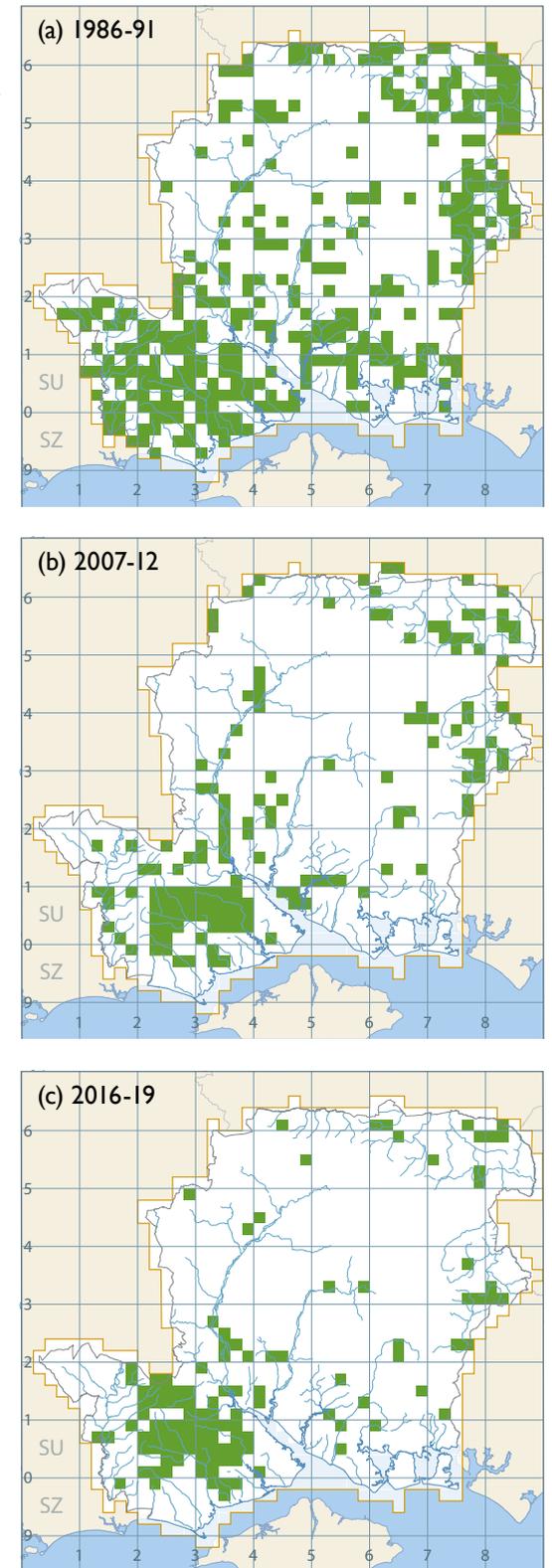
Since 2015 I have contributed to The Woodpecker Network project, set up by Ken and Linda Smith ([www.woodpecker-network.org.uk](http://www.woodpecker-network.org.uk)) to encourage interest in the species, and especially the location and monitoring of nesting attempts. As a result there has been a marked increase in breeding season data from Hampshire allowing a clearer picture of numbers and breeding success to be obtained.

## The Hampshire population

We have little information on LSW numbers in Hampshire before the 1980s, although it was suggested that they were more numerous than Great Spotted Woodpeckers at the end of the 19th century (Kelsall & Munn 1905) and elsewhere (K. Smith pers. comm.). Birds of Hampshire (Clark & Eyre 1991) stated that LSW were most numerous in the New Forest, quoting Colin Tubb's estimate of 1-4 pairs per sq km in deciduous woodland. In addition, they described the species as widely distributed and locally common in the north east of the county, with 2-3 pairs at Fleet Pond and 4

## Figure 1. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker distribution in Hampshire.

Note data for 1986-91 and 2007-12 are from Hampshire tetrad breeding atlases (Clark & Eyre 1991 and Eyre 2015). The 2016-19 map is based on HOS data and records from New Forest surveys.



pairs at Stratfield Saye estate. In the south-east, on the Southwick Estate, 12 pairs were found in 3.5 sq km of woodland in 1984 with 17 pairs in 5.0 sq km in the following year. The total county population at that time was estimated at 600-700 pairs.

The Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-12 (Eyre 2015) noted a reduction in occupied tetrads of 54% since the first Atlas carried out in 1986-91, down from 328 to 150. The biggest losses were in the agricultural heartland, with numbers holding up in the New Forest and the north-east. However more recent data from the Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) (Figure 1) show a continued reduction in numbers in the north-east with only a handful of records in the period 2016-19. The data for 2016-19 exaggerate the decline away from the New Forest since they record LSW in those areas regularly visited by birders, but not from those where birders only visit during Atlas fieldwork.

By contrast, survey work in the New Forest over the period 2014-19 has probably resulted in better coverage than during the 2007-12 Atlas period with a resultant increase in occupied tetrads. Almost certainly this does not reflect a real increase but it does suggest that the range in terms of occupied tetrads has remained fairly constant. Anecdotal evidence, however, suggests that LSW are much harder to find in the New Forest than in the past indicating perhaps, that even though breeding pairs remain not uncommon, the numbers of non-breeding birds has fallen leading to less noisy interaction. In this paper the results of intensive studies of LSW in the New Forest are used to arrive at a county population estimate and to consider the future prospects for the species.

### New Forest Survey 2014-2019

Survey work targetting LSW began in 2014 with two main aims:-

- (a) Mapping of breeding season territories in selected study areas to ascertain breeding density in specific habitats. More widely data were collated on LSW presence during the study period at tetrad level throughout the whole New Forest National Park area (approx. 460 sq. km) which included some private woodland and some parts of adjoining counties.
- (b) Location and monitoring of nest-sites carried out with the assistance of Ken and Linda Smith (The Woodpecker Network Project).

### Methodology

Mapping of LSW territories took place in the period February 1st to April 30th when LSW are most vocal. Repeated visits were made and routes chosen to ensure full coverage of the chosen study area. Contacts (drumming/calling birds and visual sightings) were marked on maps as the picture of the number and extent of occupied territories was built up. LSW are most active and vocal in the first two hours after dawn, although it was worth continuing until around midday in calm, sunny weather when activity was extended. Windy, rainy weather is hopeless for LSW searching. Around 90% of LSW contacts were of drumming or calling birds. Drumming can be prolonged in good weather, especially if several LSW are establishing territories in a small area of woodland. Some LSW were located by listening for the continual tapping noise they make during exploration of fine-diameter branches in tree-tops. As always, the more experience gained in the field, the easier LSW location becomes. LSW have large territories so it is often hard to decide what counts as a new territory. I worked on the assumption that contacts more than 500m away from a known nest-site or territory centre probably referred to different birds. Multiple further visits would be needed to confirm the presence of separate pairs in adjoining territories.

Nest location requires persistence and determination. Nest holes are smaller than those created by Great Spotted Woodpeckers, around the size of a 50 pence piece, typically excavated in March, though sometimes older excavations are used for breeding. A fresh nest-hole is usually perfectly round and there is often a scatter of fine wood chips on the ground beneath the hole. All nest-holes are excavated in dead wood, either in a dead trunk

or in a dead branch of a live tree. A high proportion are located along streams or other watercourses. Nest-searching in March and April is aided by watching and listening for adult display and chasing in the vicinity of the nest tree. A further search period from around May 15th to June 15th may find active nests, with noisy activity from the adults around the nest hole or the persistent calling of young within the nest being the main factors leading to discovery.

**Table 1. New Forest Lesser Spotted Woodpecker nests located 2014-2020**

Year	Tree species	Found	Young fledged	Fledging date	Notes
2014	Birch	F	2+	May 28th	
2015	Birch	CE	4	May 24th	
2016	Beech	CE	0		No eggs laid
2017	Alder	F	3	June 1st	
	Alder	F	3	May 25th	
	Ash	CE	0		Enlarged by Gt.Sp. Woodpecker - no eggs laid
2018	Ash	CE	1	June 6th	
	Holly	F	3	June 7th	
	Beech	F	2	June 7th	
2019	Oak	F	2	June 21st	
	Willow	F	3	June 3rd	
	Birch	CE	0		Taken over by Blue Tits - no eggs laid
	Holly	CE	0		Predated by Gt.Sp.Woodpecker
	Hawthorn	CE	3	May 24th	
	Alder	CE	0		Young died in nest
	Alder	F	3	June 5th	
2020	Alder	F	0		Young died in nest
	Beech	F	4	May 25th	
	Beech	F	2	June 2nd	
	Beech	F	1+	June 1st	
	Alder	F	2	June 5th	
	Birch	F	4	May 31st	
	Beech	F	2+	June 3rd	
	Alder	CE	1+	June 1st	
	Alder	F	2	May 31st	
	Alder	F	2	May 30th	
	Birch	F	2	May 31st	
Birch	F	2	May 31st		
Beech	F	2+	June 1st		
Birch	F	2	June 6th		

F = Feeding young CE = Cavity excavation

### Results

Data on breeding density for LSW are very hard to confirm since the species occurs at such low density and is normally so secretive and hard to record. LSW nests are almost always hard to find, so it was difficult to be sure whether a territorial pair had bred or not. The most intensively covered study area of around ten sq km regularly held around 19 territories. Nearest neighbour distance varied between 500m and 1,000m, with an average of around 650m. Spacing of territories in pure deciduous habitat was closer, often around 500m apart,

while in areas with a mix of conifer plantations and broadleaf inclosures the spacing was on average wider with gaps up to 1,000m. Interestingly the range of spacing between 500m and 1,000m exactly corresponds with Tubbs' finding that LSW were present at between one to four pairs per sq km in the 1980s. Similar spacing occurred in another study area containing approximately three sq km of deciduous woodland, with ten territories located having an average nearest neighbour distance of c.600m. Along one watercourse three active nests were located with the distance between nests being 1,000m and 400m. Overall the average density for all study areas was 2.34 pairs per 100ha of woodland. We found LSW present in all deciduous woods visited, including those private woods outside the perambulation where access was possible. We recorded LSW in 63 tetrads within the National Park area and thought their presence was probable in another 16-18 tetrads where the habitat was suitable but visits were not made due to lack of time or access constraints.

Some nests were discovered during territory-mapping, typically by finding adults engaged in cavity excavation, but most nest-sites were located during the period May 15th to June 15th when activity by adults near the nest-hole and the repeated calling by the near-fledged young drew attention to the nest. Examination with an endoscopic nest-camera, carried out by Ken and Linda Smith, allowed us to ascertain the nest contents and calculate the approximate date when eggs were laid. Repeated visits then informed us of fledging date. Table 1 summarises data from 24 nests located during survey work in 2014-20. (Travel restrictions in 2020 resulted in severely truncated surveys).

A wide range of tree species was utilised, with location and the state of the dead wood most important in LSW choice. Many nests were along streams or other waterways, or near boggy ground. This habitat typically provided a wider choice of tree species and may have also held better food resources than surrounding drier woodland. Nest height varied between 2 and 20m; many nests were at 3 to 5m up in dead trunks, typically Birch or Alder, though these nests are probably the easiest for observers to find. The number of young fledged was typically two to four. In some cases nests were inaccessible with our nest-cameras so the figure provided is a minimum, usually the number of fledged young seen outside the nest. Fledging date varied between May 24th and June 21st, but later nests were more likely to fail, probably due to reduced food availability. Six of the 24 nests located failed; at one no eggs were laid; at two the nest was rendered unusable by other bird species and probably no eggs were laid; another was predated by Great Spotted Woodpecker at large young stage. The remaining two failed prior to fledging probably due to inclement weather and lack of food.

## Discussion – a population estimate

The Crown Lands of the New Forest hold around 75 sq km of broadleaf woodland, of which around half is unenclosed, known as Ancient and Ornamental Woodland. The remainder, within the Inclosures, are typically Oak and Beech plantations of varying age. Outside the Crown Lands, but within the National Park boundary, there are approximately a further 20 sq km of broadleaf woodland within the substantial areas of mixed woodland surrounding the New Forest perambulation. Assuming that the spacing between territories found in the intensive study areas, equivalent to 2-3 pairs per sq km, was duplicated throughout this 95 sq km of broadleaf woodland, the current population within the New Forest National Park would be between 190-285 pairs. Allowing for the possibility that density was lower in some private woodland in peripheral areas, a conservative estimate is that the New Forest population is around 200 pairs.

Outside the New Forest, we have less information. Although presence was recorded in around 100 tetrads during the 2007-12 Hampshire Atlas period, the anecdotal evidence is that the population outside core areas has declined. An analysis of HOS records for the same six-year period as the New Forest surveys in 2014-2019 has shown that records occurred in between 28 to 55 tetrads throughout each year including the New Forest. At the ten km grid level these extended over 16 squares in addition to the four core New Forest squares.

An analysis using atlas criteria for breeding evidence identified 55 sites at the one km level comprising two definite, 14 probable and 39 possible breeding records over the six-year period. Whilst there appears to have been fewer records in the last few years, with results at some locations not repeated in subsequent years, evidence from some well-watched sites has been more positive. Allowing for these factors, for sites where birds were present but not detected, and for other unknown sites, it may be that only 50-100 pairs remain in Hampshire outside the New Forest. The current total Hampshire population is therefore probably not in excess of 250-300 territorial pairs. The evidence from recent studies showing that LSW breeding success is declining due to an increasing disconnect with food availability suggests that the population, even in core areas, is likely to decline further as the climate warms.

## Acknowledgements

The gathering of data on nest-sites was greatly facilitated through the advice and assistance of Ken and Linda Smith. Active nests were located by Rob Clements, Simon Currie, Tara Dempsey, Ken Smith, Mark Swann, David Taylor and Marcus Ward, and assistance with fieldwork and nest-recording was provided by Martin Bennett, Richard Jacobs, Nigel Owen and Ron Taylor. Ken Smith kindly processed my breeding season records to calculate the breeding density in the New Forest study areas. Marcus Ward provided numerous LSW records as a by-product of his ongoing survey work on Hawfinches *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

We encourage more observers to get involved in the study of this fascinating species. If you are fortunate enough to find an active nest please contact Ken and Linda Smith at [www.woodpecker-network.org.uk](http://www.woodpecker-network.org.uk).

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# Avocet colour-ringing study at Needs Ore Reserve 2014 – 2019

Graham Giddens



Avocet chick, Needs Ore 2015 (Marcus Ward)

## Abstract

The colonisation of Hampshire by Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* is summarised since 2003 with special reference to Needs Ore Reserve including a discussion on predation pressures. The results of a colour-ringing study of chicks between 2014 and 2019 are presented showing the period of family bonds, chick survival rates and the extent of wandering in early years, both in winter and subsequent breeding seasons.

## Introduction

Since colonising a small number of sites in East Anglia in the 1940s, Avocets have spread across many other coastal regions of England and Wales (RSPB 2020). During the same period the species has also thrived just across the Channel in northern and western France (LPO 2015). Avocets first bred in Hampshire at Hook-with-Warsash in 2002 with the young subsequently transferred to Titchfield Haven (HBR 2002). The second site colonised was Needs Ore NNR on the Beaulieu Estate, where they bred for the first time in 2007 (B. Pinchen 2007). Since 2013 Needs Ore has had two separate colonies which, for the purposes of this paper, are referred to as Site A and Site B.

To begin with, the numbers wintering and breeding in the whole of the county were small but these soon increased and by 2019 around 70 pairs were nesting at seven nature reserves at Farlington Marshes, Hook, Titchfield Haven, Needs Ore and three sites along the Lymington to Keyhaven Marshes (observations by Robert Chapman, Graham Giddens and Ivor McPherson

*et al.*). The exact numbers nesting are slightly clouded by the fact that many pairs may have their first clutches predated causing those pairs to move and try again at different sites.

In recent years the habitat for Avocets at Needs Ore has been improved. Work outside the breeding season, carried out by Natural England (NE) and funded by the Beaulieu Estate, has proved successful. The available nesting habitat was enhanced by making more nesting islands and by the creation of a variety of water depths, shallows for optimum feeding and deeper areas around the colony to deter Foxes *Vulpes vulpes* and Badgers *Meles meles*, which all helped to attract more nesting avocets.

In 2013 I approached NE and the Beaulieu Estate to request permission to ring Avocet chicks at Needs Ore. The idea was to gain information on chick survival rates and to learn where they dispersed and wintered. After permission was granted, a single chick was ringed at the end of the 2013 breeding season. From 2014 to 2019 the full breeding seasons were studied and it is this period which this paper covers.

## Methodology

From the early gatherings of adults in late February into March, the Needs Ore nesting colonies were observed from hides and other cover. A good deal of information was also passed on by the NE Reserve Managers, who were able to use their vehicles as mobile hides to gain close views of the nesting birds. The first nest scrapes tended to occur in late March and the first egg-laying began in April. The first chicks usually appeared in May and these were large enough to be ringed at just over a week old. Observations continued throughout the summer and visits into the colonies were made to ring chicks. During July nesting activities ceased and the colonies were vacated. By way of a comparison, nesting was also observed over the same years at other Hampshire sites but the colour-ringing was carried out solely at Needs Ore.

As well as being ringed with a standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) metal ring, a set of individual colour-rings was fitted to each chick. When re-sighted the colour-rings enabled the bird to be precisely recognised as an individual. Where possible broods were caught and ringed together and siblings noted. This proved valuable when observing how family groups used the colony prior to fledging and the time families remained together after fledging.

The BTO provided the colours to be used and, in order that the rings remained unique to each bird, these were agreed with other European Avocet ringers. Sets of two colour-rings on each tibia were used in 2014. After this the BTO ran out of plain colour-ring combinations. Therefore from 2015 all British Avocet ringers were instructed to use combinations including a yellow flag with two black letters or numbers. No instances were ever recorded of a chick suffering any mobility issues or added predation levels due to being colour-ringed.

## Results

2014 proved an excellent year to begin the study because, despite the loss of numbers of chicks to Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea*, 19 chicks were ringed and 17 of these successfully fledged. In the following years the Needs Ore colonies experienced mixed fortunes, including one complete failure in 2017 when all the eggs and chicks were predated by Great Black-backed Gulls *Larus marinus* and Grey Herons. Table 1 below shows the numbers of breeding pairs and the numbers of chicks ringed, together with their fledging success.

**Table 1: Numbers of breeding pairs, chicks ringed and fledged**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of breeding pairs*	34	23	27	13	18	40
Number of chicks ringed	19	3	3	0	12	26
Percentage of ringed chicks seen after fledging	90%	33%	67%	-	67%	19%

\*The exact numbers nesting are slightly clouded by the fact that many pairs may have their first clutches predated, causing them to move and try again at different sites.

Much like the family groups within a flock of Brent Geese *Branta bernicla*, individual Avocet families enjoy the protection of being within a flock, but the adults jealously guard their own feeding and roosting territories within the nesting colonies. When chicks were ringed, they would later be seen regularly with their parents in the same particular part of the colony. The parents would actively drive other adults and chicks away but would join neighbouring adults to drive away other species that were potential predators.

Very soon after fledging the adults invariably flew with their broods to Titchfield Haven which is 13 km to the north-east of Needs Ore. It appears that Titchfield Haven is an important site in the second half of the summer, where adults undergo the main part of their wing moult and families gather before dispersing to wintering grounds.

Observations by Ivor McPherson of the colour-ringed family groups at Titchfield Haven showed that families typically stayed together for approximately two weeks. After that they split up and the juveniles became totally independent, with some of them journeying a long way east or west outside of the county whilst others remained within Hampshire. Many of the adults also moved, heading to wintering sites as early as August. The juveniles did not follow their parents and siblings undertook separate routes and never occurred together afterwards.

A pattern of favoured wintering sites soon began to emerge with Poole Harbour in Dorset being the most regular, attracting wintering flocks of around 700. Thirty percent of Needs Ore colour-ringed Avocets wintered at Poole Harbour with three seen there in successive winters. Smaller numbers wintered at or close to the main Hampshire breeding colonies. Typically 15-20 wintered at Needs Ore, but these only occasionally contained birds that had been ringed at the site. Birds in their first and second years were more likely to roam further afield in winter, but most of these returned to sites in Hampshire for the summer.

Avocets become sexually mature in their third year. However there were four cases of colour-ringed birds attempting to nest in their second years. In two cases eggs were seen but only one of these nests produced young (Site A in 2016). From their third year, good numbers of the colour-ringed birds went on to nest at the following Hampshire sites: Needs Ore (7), Lymington to Keyhaven Marshes (4), Titchfield Haven (2) and outside the county at Pagham Harbour, West Sussex (1), Rye Harbour, East Sussex (1) and Orfordness, Suffolk (1). One individual exemplifies how far some of the Needs Ore Avocets travelled. This bird (Yellow Flag AC) visited wide areas of southern England and Wales. A summary of its life history appears in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Life history of an individual Avocet**

Date	Location
Early July 2015	Ringed as a chick at Needs Ore Reserve, Hampshire.
Mid-July 2015	Seen at Titchfield Haven with its parents.
December 2015	Seen at Poole Harbour, Dorset in a wintering flock.
February to April 2016	Seen at Newport, Gwent, Wales.
May to July 2016	Seen at Titchfield Haven.
August 2016	Seen at Poole Harbour, Dorset in a flock of 700+.
April 2017	Seen at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.
May 2017	Seen at Needs Ore nesting (4 eggs) but nest failed.
June 2017	Seen at Titchfield Haven.
July 2017	Seen at Newport, Gwent, Wales.
October 2017	Seen at Poole Harbour, Dorset in a flock of 600+.
February 2019	Rings found in a Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> nest in Bournemouth, Dorset. (Likely to have been killed in 2018).

One of the 2018 ringed chicks was seen in western France in 2019. The map on the right (Figure 1) shows the sites across the UK where Needs Ore Avocets have been seen. The red square represents Needs Ore Reserve and covers nearby sites to the south west, on

the Lymington to Keyhaven Marshes, where Needs Ore ringed Avocets were often seen.

### Foreign colour-ring sightings

During the survey period two continental ringed Avocets were seen at Site A. One had been ringed as a chick in France and the other had been ringed as a chick in Germany. The French bird was seen on multiple occasions over several breeding seasons but the German bird was only present for one day before heading west to Ireland.



**Figure 1. UK sites where Needs Ore Avocets seen**

### Predation pressures

At Needs Ore the legal control of Foxes and corvids at the end of each winter is believed to have aided the breeding success of Avocets and other ground-nesting waders. Predation levels appeared less there than at other nesting sites in the county where predator controls were not practised. However, in some years heavy predation by protected species was a problem at Needs Ore, particularly at Site A, with the greatest threats coming from Great Black-backed Gulls taking eggs and Grey Herons taking chicks. Another protected species, this time Otter *Lutra lutra*, was active at night at Site A in the spring of 2018. Over 30 Avocets were present and they clearly wanted to begin nesting, but they were put off by the Otter, a known predator of birds' eggs. All of the Avocets vacated Site A and a subsequent influx of pairs was noticed at Site B. In 2014, when a large number of chicks hatched at Site A, quite a few were taken by adult Grey Herons. A few pairs of Avocets walked their chicks onto an adjacent partially flooded field, where there was more cover. The tactic worked because most of the chicks ringed there were known to have fledged. More extraordinary were the two pairs of adults in 2016 which, in a bid to avoid the Herons, walked their small chicks across fields, ditches, under hedges, across saltmarsh and gravel beaches from Site A to Site B, a distance of almost 2km. Again this tactic worked and those families fledged their young.

Predation of fully-grown Avocets is rarely witnessed, but evidence occurred in three instances. The legs of an unringed adult were found among other prey items in an active Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* nest 0.3km from Site B. It is not known if the Tawny Owl took the Avocet when it was alive or if it scavenged the body. A juvenile was picked up injured on the River Hamble, only 3 months after being ringed at Needs Ore, and died from injuries believed to have been inflicted by an unidentified bird of prey. Lastly, the rings from an adult, which had been ringed three years previously as a chick at Needs Ore, were found in a Peregrine nest in Bournemouth.

### Conclusions

In only 20 years the Avocet has gone from being a scarce visitor in Hampshire to a relatively common passage migrant, wintering and breeding species. They are able to use both estuarine and coastal lagoon habitats and there are now seven breeding sites in Hampshire. Avocets also now regularly appear outside of the breeding season at several other coastal sites within the county. Further expansion of their numbers is limited by the available nesting habitat and predation of eggs and chicks.

It seems that nesting Avocets can tolerate some predation during the breeding season, but the presence of predators at the colony or human disturbance early in the season will prevent the birds from nesting. If eggs or small chicks are predated before the beginning of June, the adults are likely to move to another site and nest again. Predation after that time will lead to the adults giving up and the likelihood of them choosing a different nesting site the following summer.

The combined numbers nesting at the two Needs Ore colonies represent the largest concentration of nesting Avocets in the county with 40 pairs in 2019. Dedicated work carried out at the site to limit predation and improve habitats has greatly aided the birds. The best breeding success at Needs Ore during the study period, in terms of fledging success of ringed birds, was in 2014 when 90% of ringed chicks fledged. The worst year was in 2019 when only 19% of ringed chicks fledged. Over the whole study period an average of 55% of ringed chicks fledged and survived into their first autumn.

The results of the colour-ringing show that Hampshire bred Avocets will roam in their early years, but most return to breed in Hampshire. Titchfield Haven appears to be an important site for Avocet families in the second half of the summer, attracting post-breeding birds to moult and prepare for winter. Although small numbers of Avocets winter at several Hampshire sites, Poole Harbour in Dorset is the most important wintering site in the region. There was also some exchange with continental Europe, particularly with France.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the landowner, Lord Montagu, along with the land managers, Peter Stagg (Beaulieu Estate) and Adam Wells (NE Reserve Manager) for arranging access. Thank you also to all the HOS members and observers in other counties, along with David Mounier in France, who reported colour-ring sightings. I am also very grateful to the following ringers, helpers, observers and photographers who provided a great deal of help to the study: Adham Ashton-Butt, Jim Baldwin, Chris Barrass, Keith Betton, Jez Blackburn (BTO), Simon Buckall, Ryan Burrell (IWSG), Robert Chapman, Trevor Codlin, Graham Davies, Tara Dempsey, Jason Fathers, Matthew Figg, Katie Ford, Sarah Gammie, Keith Harris, Clare Harrison, Manuel Hinge, Steve Hogan, Graham Johnstone (NE), Geoff Jones, Nigel Jones, Steve Keen, Tony Martin, Ivor McPherson, Alan McVittie (NE), Marc Moody, Sarah Moss, Joe Murphy, Sharon O'Reilly, Mark Painter, Matt Phelps, Matt Philips, Bryan Pinchen, Pete Potts, Amy Robjohns, John Shillitoe, Andy Tew, Marcus Ward and Adam Wells (NE). Marcus Ward also kindly allowed the use of his Avocet photograph.

### Licensing

All ringing activities and photography at the Avocet colonies were carried out under the necessary Schedule One Licences. The author is a BTO licensed ringer and trainer. The colour-rings, flags and Special Methods endorsement were arranged by the BTO. Consent to carry out the study on the SSSI was kindly arranged by NE in agreement with the Beaulieu Estate.

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## First confirmed breeding of Cattle Egrets in Hampshire

Peter Milinets-Raby



Adult in full nuptial plumage with flushed bare parts (Peter Milinets-Raby)

### Abstract

Following regular wintering records of Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* in the Warblington area since 2016, breeding was confirmed for the first time in Hampshire at Langstone Mill Pond in 2019. A total of four pairs bred successfully within the established colony of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* resulting in 11 fledged young. The following account is summarised from the detailed observations published on-line in a personal report (Milinets-Raby 2020).

### Background

At Warblington the two wintering Cattle Egrets from December 2018 continued to be seen throughout the early part of 2019 until February 5th when they were joined by three others. These five were then present throughout March favouring the field to the west of Warblington Cemetery. From April 1st numbers dropped to four, then down to three from 17th. The last sighting in the area was on April 23rd when they were in the fields to the north of Castle Farm. In previous years these wintering birds had departed by late February but this year they lingered into April. From late March onwards they were often present in the Castle Farm fields with 20+ Little Egrets. The Little Egrets were pairing up, displaying and developing spring plumes and I thought it was only a matter of time before this behaviour would rub off on the Cattle Egrets. However to my disappointment, the Cattle Egrets suddenly vanished and were not seen after April 23rd. The chance of breeding had gone, or so I thought!

## First breeding

Then, right out of the blue on June 2nd, five Cattle Egrets appeared in the Little Egret colony at Langstone Mill Pond, less than 2km west of Warblington. Where had they been for the intervening 38 days? Activity during the first few days was quite hectic and chaotic with birds chasing each other, displaying or just loafing around. By June 8th they had started to settle down and at least four nest sites were beginning to be established, apparently using old Little Egret nests. Over subsequent visits usually only four to five birds would ever be seen. The non-sitting adults never seemed to hang around, which made confirming nest sites very difficult. However with detailed observations extending to late August the full picture gradually became clearer.

Seven separate nests and eleven adults were involved, although only four pairs were successful (at Nests A, B, D and E) rearing 11 young. A summary of this unprecedented event is given below for each of the nest sites. Regular reports throughout the 2019 breeding season are also available on the Friends of Emsworth Wildlife blog at <http://familyfellows.com/0-0-0-wildlife-diary.htm>.

**Nest A.** This pair was observed bringing small branches from June 3rd onwards to a nest site that was out of view, halfway down the left side of the main Holm Oak. However from 10th there was no observable activity and I wondered if the nest was still occupied. However the male on Nest F accidentally disturbed the sitting bird on June 21st, giving the first indication in 11 days that this nest was still a going concern.

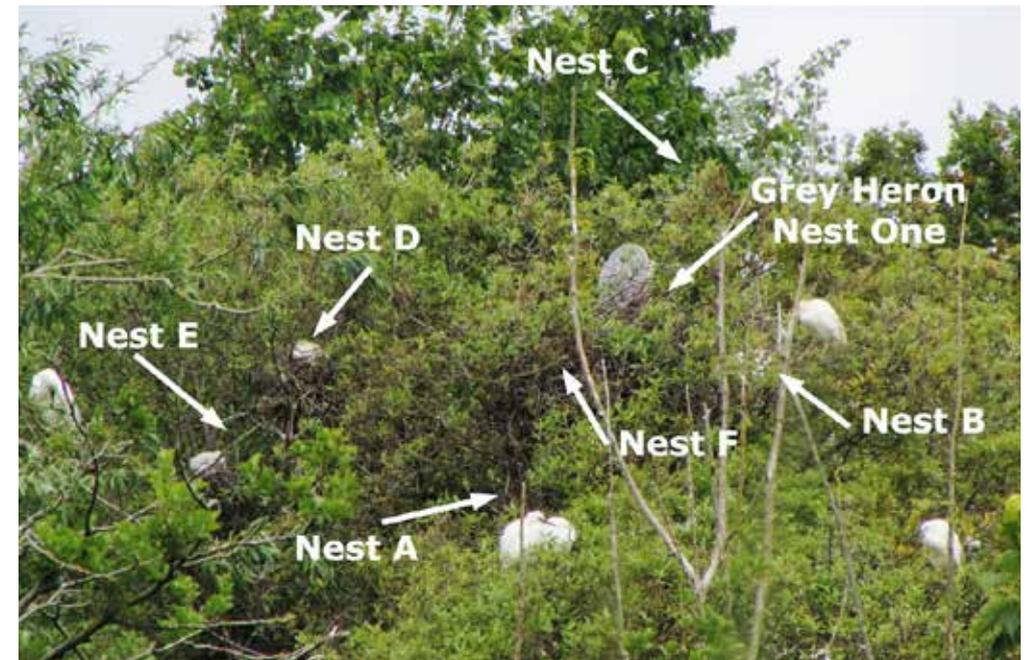
On the morning of July 21st the head of an adult bird was observed briefly as it stood up in the nest. Ten minutes later a second adult flew in from the east straight into the nest and out of sight. Barely a minute later the sitting adult departed to perch in the Willow and preen for five minutes before it flew off to the east. This was the first clear indication that this nest was occupied.

On August 4th two chicks were seen and on the evening of August 15th they were becoming more adventurous and were climbing to the top of the branches above their nest site. On the evening of August 18th one of the adults flew into the nest to feed the young and surprisingly a third chick was observed. These youngsters were still being fed on the nest on 23rd and the last sighting of them was on September 4th when they were perched next to the nest.

**Nest B.** This nest was just half a metre away from a Grey Heron nest. Despite it being barely visible through the foliage, an adult was clearly sitting from June 5th. This pair was very attentive to one another with the non-sitting bird often perched a few metres away and busy stick-collecting from June 17th virtually on a daily basis.

On July 12th breeding was confirmed when an adult was observed to fly directly to the nest, swap around with the sitting bird, then this new arrival proceeded to regurgitate and feed a tiny chick. Two small chicks were subsequently observed on July 21st when an adult flew in, swapped duties and fed them. On the morning of July 26th, when an adult flew in from the east and regurgitated its pay load to feed the chicks in the usual frenzy of wings, necks and beaks, I was able to confirm that this nest had three chicks. The three youngsters were still present and occasionally being fed in the canopy of the Holm Oak on the evening of August 18th. On the evening of 23rd it was assumed that the three juveniles roosting with seven adults at the rear of the pond were from this nest. Two of the juveniles were still begging to be fed.

**Nest C.** On June 8th two adults were observed regularly carrying leafy twigs to behind one of the Grey Heron nests and on 10th one was seen bringing twigs to this area on two occasions. The last day of activity occurred on July 29th when single adults were seen on three occasions in and around the area where this nest was presumed to be located. However there were no further observations from this area and it was assumed that this nest failed as all the subsequently fledged young were accounted for from other nests.



*Nest locations at Langstone Mill Pond (Peter Milinets-Raby)*



*Two of the three chicks climbing out of Nest B on Aug 15th 2019 (Peter Milinets-Raby)*

**Nest D.** From June 8th an adult, not in nuptial plumage, was observed sitting on an old Little Egret's nest for a couple of weeks. However after strong winds the nest was obscured by partly fallen Willow branches. On June 29th (after watching this colony for the last three weeks and for more than 35 hours) I observed the first changeover of nesting duties. A bird flew in from the Thorney Island direction, landed barely a metre from the nest, walked in and swapped over.

On the morning of July 5th I observed a tiny chick tucked under the wing of the sitting adult. This was the first confirmed breeding of Cattle Egret in Hampshire. I had suspected this was the case over the preceding days, but the restricted views of the nest through dense foliage made observation very tricky. On 12th two chicks of different ages were observed in this nest.

On July 29th the nest was no longer visible due to foliage covering the site, but fortunately the two chicks climbed up from the nest to sit amongst the top branches of the Willow where the adults continued to feed them. By August 5th these two youngsters roosted on the adjacent empty Grey Heron nest along with the offspring from Nest E. On the evening of August 8th individuals from this group of five juveniles were making very short circular flights to the lower branches of the Holm Oak. A few days later on 11th these two juveniles could not be located within the colony and it was therefore assumed that they had successfully fledged and left the pond. On August 17th there was a report of ten adults and two juveniles feeding on Thorney Island – these were almost certainly the young from this nest.

**Nest E.** On June 8th two adults were observed climbing down through the Willows with sticks on several occasions and it was surmised that they were topping up an old Little Egret's nest that was not in view. On 17th an adult was again observed clambering down through the Willow with a stick, again in the vicinity of this nest site. After a short spell of preening, the egret flew off and I followed it until it was well over the north end of Thorney Island before I lost it. This was the first indication that these birds were feeding in West Sussex somewhere and not locally at Warblington. Later in the summer, via e-mail correspondence (B. Collins 2019, pers. comm.), I learnt that Cattle Egrets had been feeding amongst the cattle at Thorney Deeps on May 27th when four summer plumage birds had been seen. They peaked at seven, all in summer plumage, on June 1st and 2nd and since that date and up to July 7th five had been seen on a daily basis feeding amongst the cattle.

On the morning of July 26th, after two days of summer thunderstorms, several huge Willow branches had fallen away and miraculously this nest site was revealed. It contained three chicks standing tall and huddled together. On the morning of July 31st the three youngsters had clambered out of their nest and were sitting on the nearby unoccupied Grey Heron nest. When each adult returned to feed, the juveniles would scramble back to the nest at high speed. From August 3rd the three juveniles spent their days perched beside or on the Grey Heron nest where on the 11th the adult was still feeding them. On the evening of August 15th the three juveniles were off the colony tree and roosting with the main egret flock in the trees at the rear of the pond and were still present on the evening of 18th.

**Nest F.** On June 18th a male in full nuptial plumage suddenly appeared in the colony and initially caused havoc chasing and displaying to any egret that came its way. On the following day it had settled down and spent a lot of its time next to an old Little Egret's nest, keeping its bright nuptial plumage for its entire stay of 17 days until July 5th, without finding a mate.

**Nest G.** On June 22nd a pair was observed mating on an old Little Egret's nest but subsequently this nest was not used. This was possibly an attempt by a failed pair to have another try at breeding.

## Regional and national context

The first Cattle Egret recorded in Hampshire was during the winter of 1986/1987. Since then, particularly since 2015, sightings have increased mirroring the national trend and its status in

the county up to 2018 changed from vagrant to scarce visitor. Numbers in 2018 exceeded all previous annual totals with over 85 individuals reported including a flock of 56 near Trigpoint Hill (HBR 2018). However all of these had been in the winter or autumn periods. Breeding had occurred elsewhere in the UK, first in Somerset in 2008 and then subsequently in other southern counties and elsewhere. In 2017 breeding was confirmed in Somerset (six pairs), Devon (one pair), Dorset (two pairs) and Cheshire & Wirral (one pair) (Holling *et al.* 2018). It was therefore just a matter of time before this colonising breeder extended its range to Hampshire and became a welcome addition to the county avifauna.

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# Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy: Bird Movement Study

Deborah Whitfield & Trevor Codlin



Brent Geese (Dan Powell)

## Abstract

The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy is a conservation partnership project which aims to conserve the internationally important Brent Goose and wading bird populations within and around the Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar wetlands of The Solent coast. The current strategy is focused on understanding bird movements from the SPA to and between inland sites. Three years of winter surveys have been carried out (in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19) and the results have been analysed for importance using a new metric-based classification system. In addition, new mitigation guidance has also been produced by the Solent Waders and Brent Geese Steering Group; together these aim to maintain the integrity of the ecological network used by migratory coastal birds.

The steering group members include Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT), Natural England (NE), RSPB, Hampshire County Council (HCC), HOS and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP). HIWWT led on the co-ordination of survey work and analysis of data.

## Introduction

The Solent provides an internationally important over-wintering area for waterfowl (waders, ducks and geese) and as such is protected under national and international law. This suite of protection includes designation under the Ramsar Convention as a Wetland of International Importance, under the European Habitats Directive as a Special Protection Area, under national legislation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and locally as County Wildlife Sites. The Solent qualifies for these designations because it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographic population of key species including Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, and an outstanding assemblage of wintering and passage birds that are reliant on the wetland habitats within The Solent.

Land-use planning and management for these diverse interests have become increasingly

complex in recent years, particularly along the coast. It is perhaps inevitable that conflicts have arisen between the needs of wildlife and those of people. Such conflicts are exemplified in The Solent by the pressures for built development on grasslands and agricultural land used for foraging and roosting by Brent Geese and wading birds such as Godwits and Curlews *Numenius arquata* during the winter months. Whilst there are statutory mechanisms in place to designate areas of special protection for important habitats and species, there is a mismatch between such sites and the needs of the particular species or habitats of interest. Brent Geese and wading birds are species of international importance generally protected under European legislation and specially protected within designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs). But birds are mobile species, they are also dependent on sites outside of formal designations and rely on the availability of a network of feeding and roosting resources over the winter period.

In 2002 the Brent Goose Strategy Steering Group delivered the Brent Goose Strategy, which aimed to provide a proactive and multi-disciplinary approach to resolving conflicts between Brent Geese and the needs of people along the south-east Hampshire coast (Wicks 2002). With increased levels of built development and a lack of open space, increased pressure was being put on areas that Brent Geese were using for feeding, often outside the defined SPA boundary. The strategy's aim was to identify these areas to help inform decision-making.

In 2010 the strategy was enlarged and expanded to cover the whole of the Hampshire coast and also the north coast of the Isle of Wight (King 2010). At the same time the breadth of the strategy increased to include over-wintering waders, as well as Brent Geese. The wading birds included in the study were either listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive and/or listed as qualifying features of The Solent's SPA sites. Several of these species such as Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Redshank *Tringa totanus* use inland sites to feed and roost, often on features with no other intrinsic biodiversity value. These sites can therefore be overlooked during the usual biodiversity checks. This strategy identified sites where there was regular recorded use, classifying these as "important". Sites where too few records were collected to be confident of regular use (important) were classified as "uncertain". The strategy also used the data gathered to model the features of sites, which make them potentially suitable for use by waders and/or Brent Geese, creating a set of habitat suitability criteria.

In order for the strategy to continue as a useful and important tool for all user groups the decision was taken by the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) Steering Group to take forward the next phase of the strategy. The 2010 strategy focused on the identification of sites in order to raise awareness, but also looked to prioritise the conservation of the existing key network of sites used by birds and maintain them in favourable management through agreements with landowners and/or land acquisition. From 2016 to 2018 survey work focused on understanding how and when birds use the various sites in order to demonstrate their functional relationship to the SPA and a new bird movement study was devised.

## Bird Movement Study Methodology

Various options for tracking movements were discussed, including use of modern technologies such as tagging, but given the limited budgets and timescales a surveyor-based approach was agreed. Funding was sought from the coastal local authorities to carry out an update of the strategy and funding from Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) in both 2017 and 2018 was successfully granted to support the movement studies specifically.

The movement study method was based on vantage point surveys for observing flightpaths in relation to wind farm development. Surveyors were recruited from the birding community, their expertise and local knowledge helping to shape the method. The method was trialled in October 2016 and refined to form a standard replicable method by November 2016. The survey took place over three years, the first year covered the Eastern Solent, the second, the Western Solent and the third, the Isle of Wight. The method divided the Eastern Solent into eight sections, the Western Solent into five and the Isle of Wight into four. A lead surveyor and three support surveyors were assigned to each section and each survey lasted four hours. Both movement observations and species counts were recorded.

Survey times and days were selected using tide timetables, with surveys carried out three times a month, alternating between morning, midday and evening, around the high-tide. Although high-tide was not found to be crucial in driving movements of birds between sites, it was used as a basis to maximise chances of seeing birds on the inland sites, which was also found to increase over the course of the winter as the intertidal feeding resources depleted.

In order to observe movements both within and across sections, surveyors kept in touch by mobile phone. Within sections three surveyors were based at “vantage” point locations and one surveyor at a point from which they could move to follow any movement observed. Such observations were recorded on a bespoke survey form and annotated on a map. The maps were used to provide additional information and for confirming site and movement locations. Sites codes from the previous strategies were used for consistency.

The Brent Goose Strategy originally identified sites by field codes and all the later surveys continued with this system, with now 1,000 site boundaries drawn and named accordingly. A site-based approach was taken rather than using individual grid references for two main reasons. Firstly birds move around within sites and secondly the whole site needs to be considered in decision-making as site integrity is vital in order for it to remain functional and attractive for birds to use. Site boundaries were originally identified using desktop mapping but ground truthing has been used to refine them over the years. The boundaries are regularly revised when further ground truthing information is submitted and changes in field boundaries are reported.

### Data Collation

In order to update the Strategy, bird observation records were collated from the 2010 strategy and supplemented with more recent data from HOS, HIWWT surveyors, The Solent Birds Studies surveys and Solent Birds App, recent surveys by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, and the three bird movement surveys in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19. These data were all formatted to consistent attributes, with obvious errors and duplicates removed. Records were also filtered to be within the survey period (October to March inclusive) and any non-target species were omitted. All records were collated into a single “master” dataset. Each record was spatially linked to a network site and assigned the site’s unique code using GIS.

### Metric Scoring System

A new metric scoring system was devised to understand how sites are used by birds in order to classify them as either “low use”, “primary support areas”, “secondary support areas” or “core areas”. The metrics included scores for proportions of the birds using the site in relation to SPA and GB populations for each species and SPA assemblage figures, as well as maximum counts. The “uncertain” category was redefined and replaced with the term “candidate” site and includes only sites where high numbers of birds have been recorded but with less than three observations.

A novel metric was also devised to incorporate the bird movement study results. This metric was termed the “network score”. The network of sites used by Brent Geese and waders was mapped and all movements where both the origin and destination were observed by a surveyor analysed. The results focused on determining how birds moved to and from the intertidal areas to inland sites and between inland sites. The properties of this network were then assessed and this identified two types of sites: those that function as “hubs” with connections to lots of other sites, and those that function as “bottlenecks” linking two areas of the network together.

Hubs are identified by their “degree” defined as the number of other sites to which they are connected. Bottlenecks are identified by their “betweenness centrality”, a measure of the number of pathways through the network that pass through a given site. Some sites may score highly on both, functioning essentially as both a hub and a bottleneck. The concept of hubs and bottleneck sites is illustrated in Figure 1.

The network analyses were conducted by Josh Nightingale using the igraph software package (Csardi & Nepusz 2006).

## Results and Mapping

The mapping output for classified sites for the Eastern Solent is shown in Figure 2.

The mapping outputs are publicly available on the project website via an interactive Google Map. The data and GIS layers are available via Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. The movement data for the Eastern and Western Solent have been analysed and published. The Isle of Wight data are due to be published alongside an updated Strategy document in 2020.

To date, over 20,000 bird records have been used to produce the Strategy. The data analysis has so far identified a total of 561 inland sites (non-SPA) used by birds and forming the ecological network. Ninety-six core area sites have also been identified (dark blue in Figure 2). Forty-two sites were identified as having a network value from the movement study analysis (Primary and Secondary Support Areas coloured purple and red in Figure 2). These

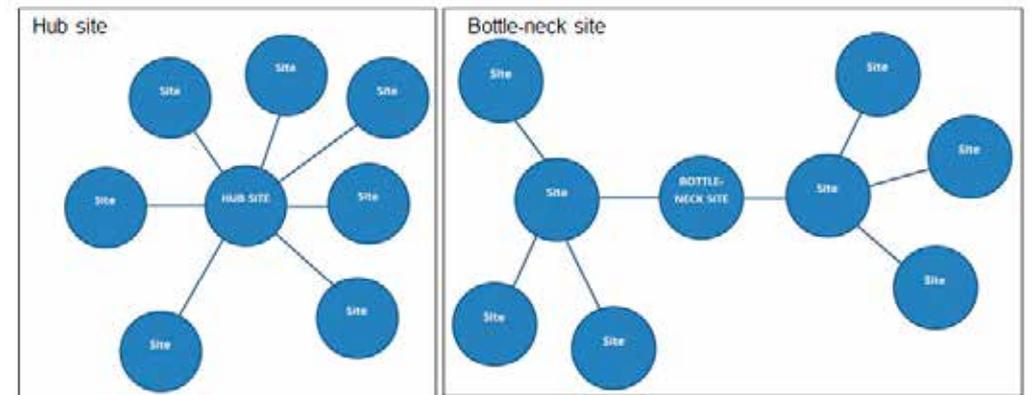


Figure 1. Hub and bottleneck sites

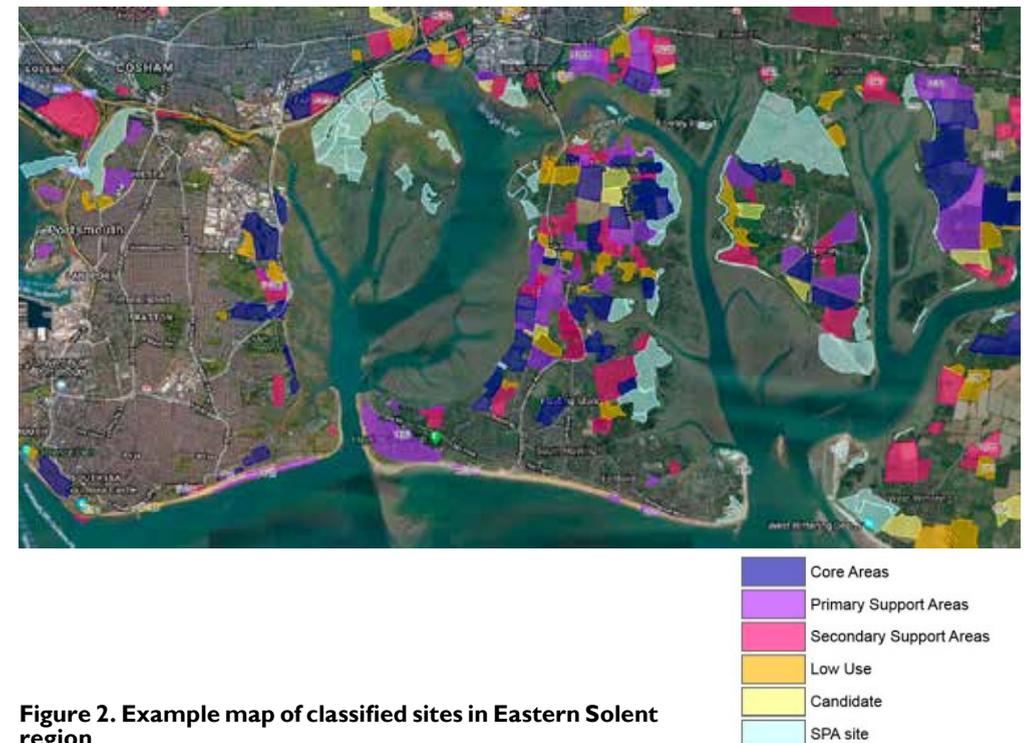


Figure 2. Example map of classified sites in Eastern Solent region

totals include Chichester Harbour and adjacent parts of West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. A breakdown by regions and sections for the Hampshire sites only is given in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Distribution of Core Sites and Network Value Sites in Hampshire**

Region	Section	Core Sites	Network Value Sites
East Solent	Hayling	20	2
	Havant	2	2
	Portchester & Portsmouth	16	9
	Gosport	9	9
	Fareham	3	1
West Solent	Southampton Water and the Hamble	4	4
	Hythe to Totton	1	1
	Beaulieu to Fawley	1	1
	Lymington to Beaulieu	4	3
	Milford on Sea to Lymington	16	10
Hampshire totals		76	42

Whilst all regions have high value sites, the highest concentration of such sites is at Hayling Island followed by Portchester & Portsmouth, and Milford on Sea to Lymington. Gosport had a high number of sites with a network value in relation to the total number of sites and this was supported by prior observations by local birders of how birds use the area. A general observation is that birds are moving more between sites in the Eastern Solent than the Western Solent, potentially driven by smaller field sizes and higher numbers of disturbance events.

### Threatened Sites

The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy Steering Group (SWBGS Steering Group) is responsible for guiding and supporting the project. The group has produced new mitigation guidance to accompany the Strategy. The guidance sets out how sites identified by the Strategy would need to be mitigated and/or compensated for should they be impacted by development proposals.

The mitigation guidance was published in 2019 and is currently being used to inform planning decisions. For example, in Havant an important inland site for Curlew has been proposed for development, where counts of over 40 to 150 wintering birds are regularly recorded. The site is also used by Brent Geese and, like many of the sites in the Strategy, is an inland grassland that would typically be considered of low value during ecological assessments. It is vital that the Strategy is used to inform decisions, and where important sites are identified the impacts are avoided to ensure that the network is maintained. There may of course be situations where mitigation and/or compensation measures could be used. In such instances early engagement with statutory consultees and relevant Local Authority ecologists is recommended. The mitigation guidance is also available to download from the project website <https://solentwbgs.wordpress.com/>.

The Strategy has also highlighted the need to mitigate for increased disturbance to coastal sites (see Figure 3 (a) & (b)). The data were used to inform the studies commissioned by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware Solent). A key aim of the Strategy is to identify and deliver a network of strategic sites that will be protected from both development and disturbance.

### Next steps

The need for the Strategy remains high and the evidence it provides has proved fundamental to coastal decision-making with regards to impacts from increased disturbance, sea-level rise and development pressure. The Strategy highlights the importance of using accurate and robust data that if challenged will stand up to scrutiny. It is also therefore important that the Strategy is kept up to date with recent data, which without HOS members regularly



**Figure 3. Bird scarer on agricultural field used by geese (left); Use of an amenity site with birds disturbed (right). (Trevor Codlin)**

submitting their records would be impossible to achieve. It is enormously helpful to have the field codes submitted as part of any bird records sent via the various recording formats.

However, it will be essential to continually update bird movements in order to capture changes that may occur as a result of climate change and other factors impacting the coast. The strategy will require future funding to ensure that such studies can be updated; therefore further funding will be sought in order to maintain the Strategy and keep it up to date. In the future, additional areas of work potentially include focussing on the detailed identification and understanding of high-tide roosting sites.

The latest version of the Strategy document is due to be published in 2020. The data and mapping will also be updated and made available via the project website <https://solentwbgs.wordpress.com/> and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

### Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all the bird recorders and surveyors who have surveyed sites and sent in their records; the project funders comprising HOS, RSBP, NE, Environment Agency, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the Solent Forum and all the coastal local authorities; the Steering Group members including HIWWT, NE, RSPB, HCC, HOS and the ESCP; and in particular Josh Nightingale for devising the new metric system.

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# New Forest Woodlark Survey 2019

Keith Betton & Andy Page



Woodlark feeding young at nest (Paul Haffield)

## Abstract

In 2019 HOS carried out a survey for Forestry England to assess the breeding population of Woodlarks *Lullula arborea* within the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) area in the New Forest and adjoining commons. A total of 169 territories was found. Comparisons with previous assessments indicate that the breeding population within the New Forest is similar to surveys prior to 2014 and the current population is at least stable and at best increasing slightly. A copy of the full report is available on the HOS website at <https://www.hos.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Woodlark-survey-Final.pdf>.

## Introduction

Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) was commissioned after tender in 2019 by the then Forestry Commission (now Forestry England) to undertake a survey of breeding Woodlarks on land covered by the Verderers of New Forest HLS Scheme and New Forest Crown Lands on behalf of its partners within the New Forest HLS scheme. As part of the HLS agreement there is a requirement to undertake surveys for bird species for which the New Forest Special Protected Area (SPA) is designated. The HLS Board agreed the requirement for a survey of breeding Woodlarks in 2019 in line with the methodology used in previous Woodlark surveys within the New Forest.

## Woodlark habitats and ecology

Woodlarks principally breed on lowland heathland, where there is sufficient grazing or management to promote the short sward and bare ground essential for them to feed upon,



Typical Woodlark nesting habitats in sparse bracken (left) and restored conifer site (Andy Page)



Woodlark nest with four eggs and sitting bird (Andy Page)

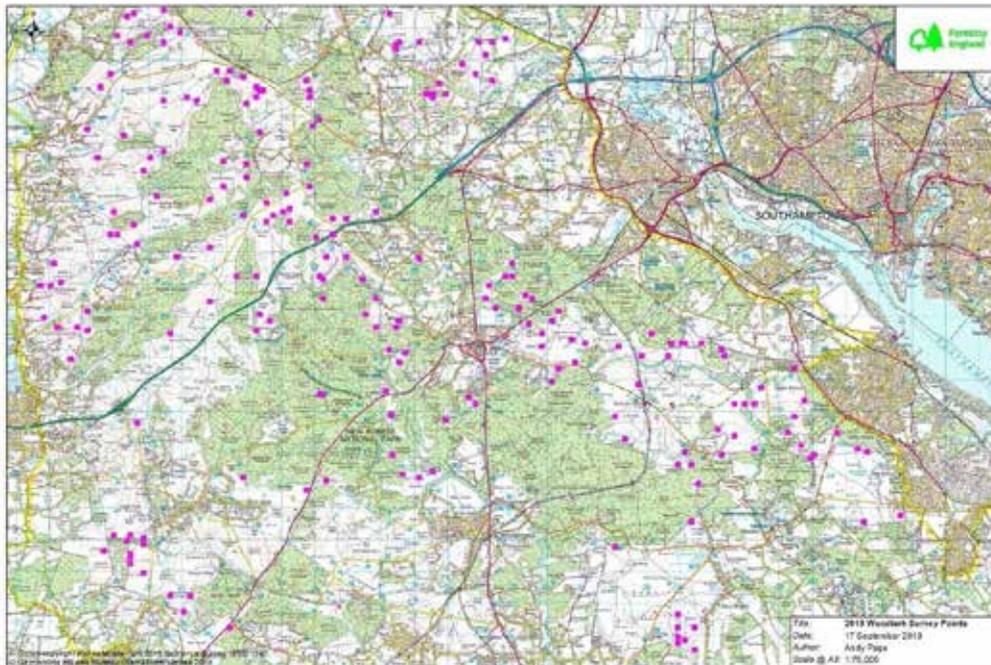
and within young conifer plantations, where suitable habitat is generated as a consequence of rotational clear-felling.

New Forest studies have shown that nesting generally occurs in small often sparse clumps of vegetation, especially grass and heather but also bracken, where the very short vegetation enables birds to walk easily into the nest (A. Page unpublished). Birds generally return to territory in February and nest-building and egg-laying commence in March. The normal clutch size is 3-4 but occasionally 5-6 eggs are laid. Incubation lasts around 14 days and young can leave the nest after a further 12 days. Most pairs are incubating by early April. If predation occurs, multiple repeat clutches can be laid within 10-14 days. Successful pairs are often double-brooded.

In 1997 a BTO coordinated survey revealed the New Forest as holding 181-185 territories. Notwithstanding the small differences in sampling methodology, the subsequent 2006 national Woodlark survey recorded 152-171 breeding pairs in the New Forest which represented a decrease from the survey in 1997 (Eyre 2007). This went against the trend elsewhere in the county and nationally for the same period which saw increases in the Woodlark population. This downward trend then appeared to be continued with the results of the 2014 New Forest HLS survey finding 134 territories (RPS 2014).

## Method

Volunteers with experience in the calls and identification of Woodlark were sought from within HOS's 2,000 members and around 60 individuals agreed to participate in the survey. All one km squares with the potential to support at least one Woodlark territory were



**Figure 1. Map of Woodlark observations in the New Forest survey 2019**

surveyed using the standard BTO guidelines used in previous surveys. Volunteer observers were allocated one km squares with instruction to survey the area twice. The first visit was undertaken during the period February 15th to March 31st and the second between April 1st and May 31st. Recording sheets showing the mapped square also noted date, start /finish times and weather conditions. Singing Woodlarks were mapped as accurately as possible on the sheet with a different colour for each visit. Pairs or singles flushed or seen but not singing were also mapped in the same way but using different symbols.

All sightings and survey forms were then collated and the point data transferred to a GIS layer in Forester Web, the Forestry England mapping system. An assessment was then made by Keith Betton and Andy Page as to the probable number of territories. Plots more than 300m apart were automatically assumed to relate to different birds/pairs. A territory boundary was drawn around each based on the average territory size of a well-studied area of maximum Woodlark density in the New Forest, where the average territory size was approximately 15 hectares.

## Results

The breeding population of Woodlarks recorded from the entire HLS area within the New Forest National Park area in 2019 was assessed to be 169 territories/pairs derived from 214 separate registrations. The survey recorded 148 territories on Crown Land within the HLS Scheme, with none being found within fenced inclosures which lie outside the HLS Scheme but included in the survey. A further 21 territories were recorded on National Trust land within the HLS area. A map of the individual Woodlark observations registered in the 2019 survey is shown in Figure 1.

## Discussion

Previous attempts to evaluate New Forest breeding densities have concluded that they are low compared to other heathland SPAs in southern England, but the mechanisms and reasons for this are poorly described. Within the New Forest, Woodlark habitat can be broadly defined

as falling into two categories. Stable breeding sites, where the habitat has been maintained in optimum condition by decades of very heavy grazing, and more transient sites created by clear-fell, restoration of plantation to heathland or early succession of habitat created by Forestry England's annual programme of cut-and-burn. The last is probably largely, though not wholly, responsible for those squares where Woodlarks may have been found in previous surveys but not this one and vice versa.

Woodlarks have a distinct relationship with woodland edge and in particular where this is characterised by scattered low scrub, small trees and bushes. They are not found in large open areas of heathland where this edge effect is not present; hence large apparently suitable heathland areas will not have Woodlarks. This is important in assessing true density. On prime habitat, where all the key Woodlark criteria are met and pairs are evenly spaced, then Woodlark territory size averages 15-18 hectares equating to a density of 0.05 – 0.07 per hectare of suitable habitat. However even highly experienced observers can miss breeding Woodlarks. To try and quantify this, multiple visits to selected squares were undertaken to try and gauge under-recording using statistical analysis. From the results it was quite clear that a number of pairs could be missed under the standard methodology but it was unfortunately not possible to put a figure to this. It is therefore possible that the declines noted in the previous surveys of Woodlark were due to a combination of the methodology and different surveyors rather than a true decline in numbers.

## Conclusions

Comparisons with previous surveys indicate that the breeding population of Woodlarks within the New Forest during 2019 appears to show an increase, which is against the trend recorded in the previous surveys in the New Forest in 1997, 2006 and 2014. However multiple visits to a number of sites proved that the perceived differences could readily be accounted for by surveyor knowledge and effort. As the 2019 survey total is similar to the pre-2014 surveys, it is suggested that the Woodlark population has probably been relatively stable over the intervening period. It is recommended that a shorter and more targeted survey period in future might give a more accurate assessment of the overall breeding population.

## Acknowledgements

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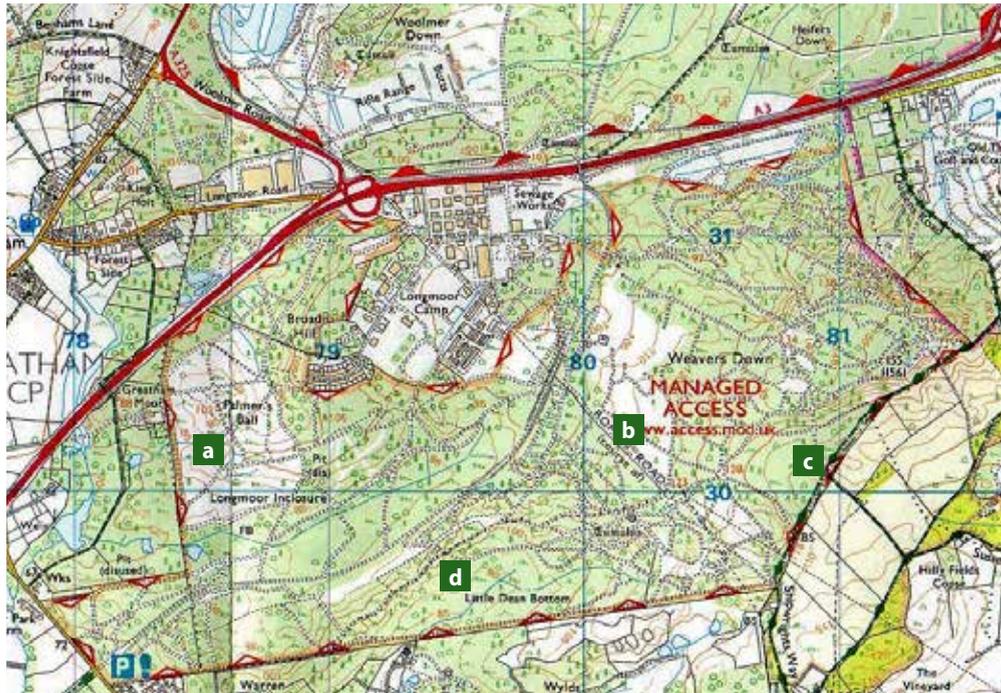
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# Breeding birds at Longmoor Inclosure 2005-2019

Matthew Shaft



**Figure 1. Location plan and site map of Longmoor Inclosure**

Note survey area inside open red triangles excludes pines in north-east corner. Letters (a)-(d) refer to photographs in Figure 2. OS Crown copyright.

## Abstract

The long-term study of breeding birds at Longmoor Inclosure adjacent to Woolmer Forest in East Hampshire is summarised from 1998 but more particularly for the 15 year period since 2005. A brief history of the site, including its ongoing military use, is followed by a description of the main habitats. The mean numbers of territories of the regular breeding species are given for the first and second halves of the 15 year survey period. These are then compared to determine which are increasing, stable or declining. The possible reasons for changes are then discussed with particular reference to nine key species. Scarce or irregular breeding species are also briefly reviewed. The paper concludes with a summary of threats to the site and its future outlook.

## Introduction

Longmoor Inclosure has an area of 383ha and is part of the 1,298ha Woolmer Forest SSSI. This is one of four component SSSIs which form the 2,060ha Wealden Heaths (Phase II) SPA which was notified in 1998 on account of significant populations of the three ET Annex 1 species: Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler. It is situated immediately south of the A3 dual carriageway trunk road between Liss Forest and Liphook and includes Longmoor Camp (Figure 1). The War Department purchased the land for army training in 1863. Construction of Longmoor Camp began in 1900 and was completed for occupation by 1903. The Longmoor Military Railway from Bordon to Liss passed through the area and was used by the army between 1903 and 1969 as well as featuring in several popular films. Although the railway is



**Figure 2. Typical habitats at Longmoor Inclosure: (a) Palmer's Ball (top left); (b) Roman Road area (top right); (c) Grazing cattle (bottom left); (d) Above Little Dean Bottom (bottom right).** Note locations (a) - (d) are identified on Figure 1.

long gone, its track bed remains and some sections are used by cyclists. Today the area is still used for military training but unlike the Longmoor Range Danger Area, which occupies Woolmer Forest to the north, it is rarely restricted for public use.

## Habitats

The underlying geology is mostly sandstone of the Lower Greensand Group. The main habitat is dry lowland heath with areas of heather and gorse with scattered Oak, Silver Birch, Scots Pine and grassland (Figure 2(a), (b) and (d)). There are also extensive areas of mixed pine, mainly in the eastern third, which were planted in the 19th century. Although there are some small streams which flow during and following wet weather, most of the site is well-drained and there is little standing water. There are two small ponds in the south-west of the site but these dry out in spring and summer. The site had become overgrown with scrub by the late 1990s. Many trees were then cut down and much scrub cleared between 2002 and 2007 by the Hampshire Heathland Project with the help of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Fencing was erected around the perimeter of the whole site during summer 2010 and a dozen Shetland cattle put out to graze with numbers being doubled a few years later (Figure 2(c)). The cattle contribute to the maintenance of suitable habitat for Nightjar and Woodlark but do not control the young pines. Management is now carried out by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust except for two areas managed by The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust.

## Methodology

During spring 1998 I took part for the first time in the Wealden Heaths SPA Breeding Bird Survey. The next year I made a rough estimate of all the breeding birds and from 2002 started to map the territories of selected birds with all species mapped from 2005. The main survey period is from early May to early July with a few earlier visits from late February. The total

**Table 1. Average numbers of territories and change in status of breeding species between 2005-11 and 2012-19.**

Species	Scientific name	Average (2005-2011)	Average (2012-2019)	Percentage change	Status
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	0.3	0.1	-56	Decreased
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	13.9	8.9	-36	Decreased
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1.4	0.5	-65	Decreased
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1.3	3.5	172	Gained (2006)
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	0.0	0.0	NA	Lost (2003)
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	3.0	2.1	-29	Decreased
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	3.3	5.6	71	Increased
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	39.7	51.3	29	Increased
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0.0	0.0	NA	Lost (2004)
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2.1	2.1	0	No change
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	16.4	18.6	13	Increased
Gt Sp. Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	23.6	21.3	-10	Decreased
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	23.6	16.5	-30	Decreased
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	0.4	0.3	-42	Decreased
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	5.7	6.4	12	Increased
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	4.1	5.0	21	Increased
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	14.6	17.5	20	Increased
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	105.7	120.8	14	Increased
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	57.3	63.4	11	Increased
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	41.3	33.1	-20	Decreased
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	15.9	14.8	-7	Decreased
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	0.6	0.0	-100	Lost (2010)
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	6.0	6.9	15	Increased
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	24.3	18.6	-23	Decreased
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	14.1	33.4	136	Increased
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	11.1	17.0	53	Increased
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	2.1	2.9	34	Increased
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	26.3	13.1	-50	Decreased
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	31.1	9.1	-71	Decreased
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	0.0	0.4	NA	Gained (2013)
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	33.7	36.1	7	Increased
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	93.0	115.5	24	Increased
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	3.0	5.3	75	Increased
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	8.3	10.1	22	Increased
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	51.9	68.1	31	Increased
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	7.6	11.6	54	Increased
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	4.0	4.5	13	Increased
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	107.4	120.8	12	Increased
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicuros</i>	14.7	14.3	-3	Decreased
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	13.6	12.0	-12	Decreased
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	18.3	15.9	-13	Decreased
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	22.6	18.0	-20	Decreased
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	247.4	155.0	-37	Decreased
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	3.6	4.4	23	Increased
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	6.1	1.9	-69	Decreased
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	19.9	16.6	-16	Decreased
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	0.0	0.0	NA	Lost (1998)
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	1.0	0.5	-50	Decreased
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2.7	6.9	153	Increased
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	6.0	6.4	6	Increased
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	8.7	16.6	91	Increased
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	0.9	0.6	-27	Decreased

time spent surveying averages between 24 and 30 hours each year, but is higher in years when Dartford Warbler numbers are high. Most of the site is included in the surveys except for an area of pine woodland in the extreme north-east.

### Summary of breeding birds

The changes in status of 52 species of breeding birds between 2005-11 and 2012-19 are shown in Table 1. During the period from 1998 four previously regular breeding species have been lost (with year of last breeding in brackets), 21 have decreased, one has not changed, two were gained and 24 have increased. The losses were Curlew which bred last in 2003, Turtle Dove up to 2004, Skylark up to 2010 and Lesser Redpoll in 1998. On the plus side Buzzard first bred in 2006 and has been regular since 2008, and Firecrest has bred sporadically since 2013. Most have followed the national and regional trends (Harris *et al.* 2019), with some apparent exceptions which are discussed below. Two regular breeding species are omitted from the table due to lack of data. The first is Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*, which is heard on most Nightjar surveys but would need an autumn survey to determine number of territories, and Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*, six or seven pairs of which breed within the restricted area of Longmoor Camp.

Table 2 summarises which species have increased or declined the most. The largest increases in territories were for Buzzard, Goldfinch and Chiffchaff, with all more than doubling, whereas declines of more than half were recorded for Red-legged Partridge, Sparrowhawk, Greenfinch and Dartford Warbler.

**Table 2. Species with most increased and decreased percentages of territories between 2005-11 and 2012-19.**

Increased species	Percentage increase	Decreased species	Percentage decrease
Buzzard	172	Whitethroat	-50
Goldfinch	153	Crossbill	-50
Chiffchaff	136	Red-legged Partridge	-56
Yellowhammer	91	Sparrowhawk	-65
Nuthatch	75	Greenfinch	-69
Stock Dove	71	Dartford Warbler	-71
Song Thrush	54	Skylark	-100
Blackcap	53		
All other increased species	Less than 50% increase	All other decreased species	Less than 50% decline

### Discussion

Nine species, including the three Annex 1 species of Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler, are discussed in depth followed by brief mentions of selected other species. All nine are also illustrated by histograms in Figure 3 showing the variations in number of recorded territories each year of the survey period.

**Nightjar.** This species is surveyed only once each year so a few are probably missed, including any in the extreme east and north-east areas which are not covered. Between 1998 and 2009 two of us carried out the survey but the evenings when we were both free did not always have suitable weather. Since 2010 I have carried out the survey on my own on warm, dry, clear evenings and numbers recorded have been more stable. There appears to have been a slight increase in the second half of the survey period, but as noted above this could be due to better survey conditions. Overall numbers have been relatively stable, especially over the past decade, at around 15-20 territories.

**Woodlark.** Numbers have been relatively stable with 11-16 territories including an average of 15.9 territories in the seven year period following heathland restoration in 2004. The cold winters of 2009 to 2013 had very little effect on this species. On the other hand spring and

summer were unusually wet in 2012 and many species struggled to fledge young including Woodlark which declined by 25% in the following year. There was no recovery in 2014 due to spring 2013 being very cold, including the coldest March since 1962, but numbers then recovered in 2015. Grazing by cattle appears to be maintaining suitable habitat for this species.

**Willow Warbler.** In the first year of mapping in 2001, 67 territories were found. In the next nine years there was a severe decline and numbers had dropped to 14 territories by 2010. In the period up to 2017 numbers were fairly stable with a low of 11 territories in 2013. Some of the decline was due to loss of their favoured habitat when much Silver Birch was cleared between 2002 and 2007. In recent years areas of young Birch have become suitable and numbers of territories have increased in response with a ten-year high of 27 in 2018, although numbers fell back slightly the next year. During the same period there was a severe decline across southern England with 78% loss between 1995 and 2017, whereas in Scotland an 18% increase was recorded. This suggests either a problem on migration or wintering areas for English birds, or more likely that the climate in southern England is becoming too warm for this species. The recent slight recovery at Longmoor may therefore be only short-term.

**Chiffchaff.** The story for Chiffchaff contrasts with that for Willow Warbler. Whilst only four territories were found in 1999, numbers had increased to 14 by 2002 and 25 by 2003. Over the next decade territories showed wide variations ranging from eight in 2006 to 24 in 2012. Since 2015 the number of territories has exceeded 30. The highest was 60 in 2017, a near doubling of the previous two years, falling back to 31 in 2018 and rising to 50 in 2019. Between 1995 and 2017 there was an increase of 115% across Britain but only 60% in south-east England. Warmer springs and summers are possibly the main cause for the increase combined with lower mortality in the warmer wintering areas in south-west Europe and north-west Africa.

**Blackcap.** Low numbers were recorded up to 2006 with double figures only in 2004. However since 2007 the number of territories has regularly been in double figures except for 2013 following a very poor breeding season the previous year. Recently there has been a marked increase from 14 territories in 2016 to 32 in 2019. Part of this increase can be explained by the increase in scrub. Nationally Blackcaps have doubled during the period 1995 to 2017 and the same has occurred in south-east England, probably for climate-related reasons similar to Chiffchaff.

**Whitethroat.** High numbers were recorded early in the period peaking at 55 territories in 2004. Since then numbers have steadily declined. At first this could be linked to the removal of scrub with territories falling by over 60% by 2009. However despite the recent increase in scrub, numbers have only exceeded 20 territories in three years during the past decade. Since 2015 the decline has continued with 2019 being the first year that territories have failed to make double figures with only four found. This is in contrast to their fortunes nationally including south-east England where increases of 15% and 34% respectively have been recorded between 1995 and 2017. The reason for their continued decline at Longmoor remains a mystery but may be linked to habitat changes.

**Dartford Warbler.** In 1998 16 territories were found increasing to 71 in 2004 following a run of mild winters. The population in southern England including Hampshire was then at an all-time high. The winter of 2005/6 was the coldest for ten years and as a consequence numbers fell by almost half. The next two winters were mild and numbers recovered to 56 territories by 2008 but the next five winters had various severe spells of weather which had a disastrous impact on the species. Winter 2008/9 was the coldest since 1986 and early January had the longest freeze in the area since 1996/97 resulting in Dartford Warbler territories declining by over 80%. The following winter was even colder, the coldest since 1978/79 with the heaviest snowfall since 1963, and only two territories were subsequently found in 2010. December of that year was the coldest since 1890 with more very heavy snow and no Dartford Warblers survived. Severe weather in the following winters resulted in just one territory in 2012 but

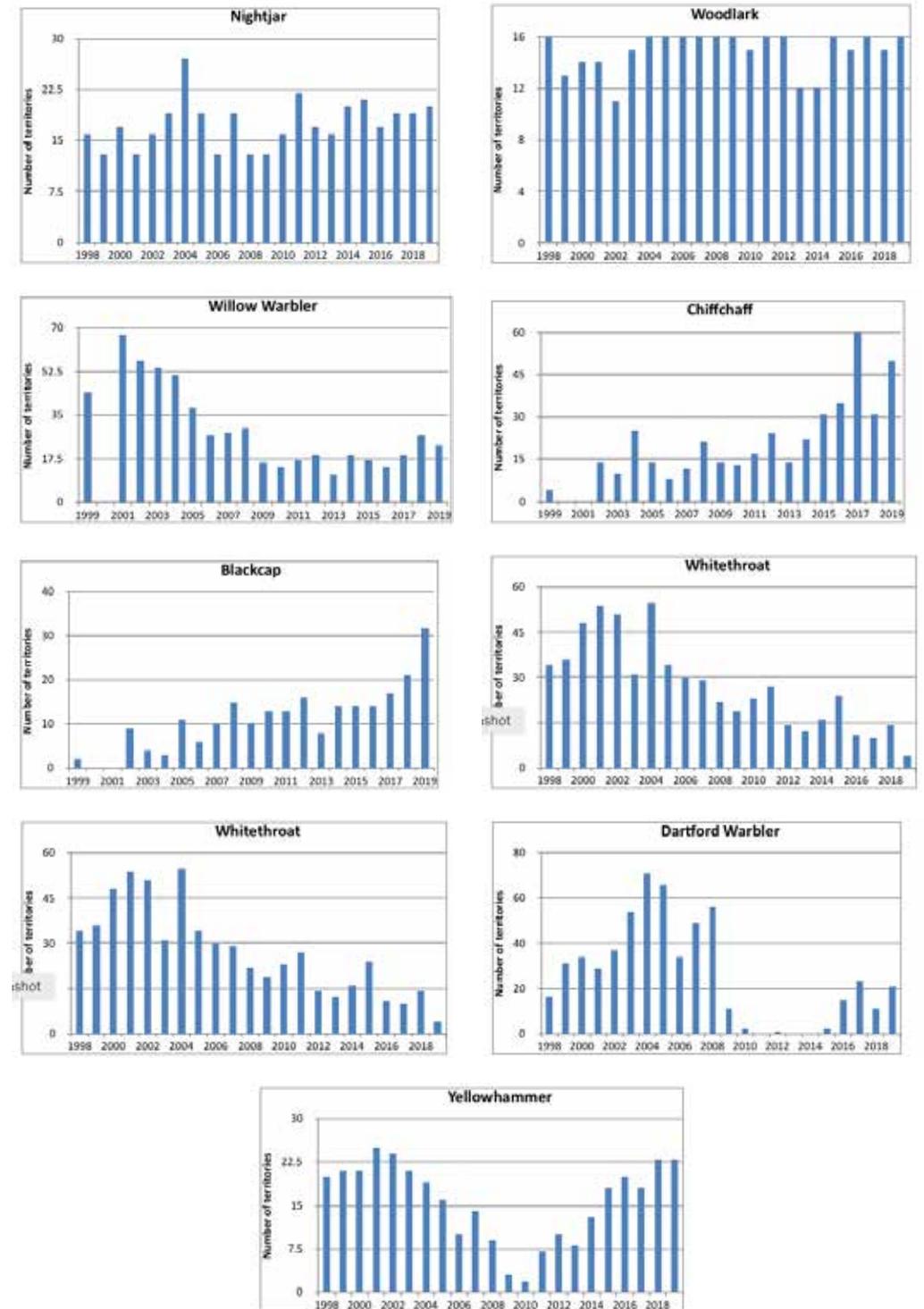


Figure 3. Numbers of territories recorded each year of survey period for selected species.

none in 2013, after the coldest March since 1962, and none the following year despite a milder winter. Since then winters have generally been mild, apart from two short severe spells during late winter 2018 (“The Beasts from the East”), and the species has returned but recovery has been slow. Whilst severe winters have had the largest impact, habitat losses have also played a part. When the scrub was cleared from the western part of the site, almost all the gorse was removed and very little has since regenerated. There is now little shelter for Dartford Warblers from both the prevailing south-westerlies as well cold spells. In addition some suitable habitat has been lost due to growth of young pines, especially in the south-east of the site. The recovery has also been slow on other heaths in the SPA although it has been quicker on some of the nearby Surrey heaths and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA to the north. Differences in habitat management between sites may be a contributory factor to the recovery rate but local variations in the severity of winter weather will probably be the main reason.

**Chaffinch.** For most of the period Chaffinch has been the most numerous species peaking at 292 territories in 2006. Since then there has been a decline, slow at first but more rapid since 2011. Numbers reached a low of 125 territories in 2016 followed since by a modest increase. The decline has probably been exacerbated by the trichomonosis virus which hit this species a few years after it first infected Greenfinch in 2005. Although numbers have become more stable over the past few years, this species has declined by over half since the peak. Despite this it has remained the most numerous breeding bird in all years except 2017, when Wren and Coal Tit were more numerous, and 2019, when Robin and Coal Tit had the highest totals.

**Yellowhammer.** Contrary to declines nationwide, this species was still present at Longmoor during the late 1990s and reached a peak of 25 territories in 2001. A decline then followed, slowly at first, but down to only two territories in 2010; it looked like it would soon cease to breed. Surprisingly numbers then started to increase reaching 23 territories by 2018 and 2019. The decline from 2002 coincided with the beginning of scrub removal and the increase in recent years corresponds with the site become much scrubbier again. At nearby Woolmer Forest Yellowhammers also declined at the same time, but there was no recovery with the species becoming only an intermittent breeder since 2009 last breeding in 2015 (J.M.Clark pers.comm.). The main driver of the national decline is lack of winter feeding due to loss of stubble so the Longmoor birds, which are absent from the heath in winter, must have an adequate food source nearby.

### **Other breeding species that have not apparently followed national trends**

The following species have apparently declined contra to the national trends. Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge numbers are subject to releases and are not discussed further. The 65% decline in Sparrowhawk for the period 2012-2019 is probably misleading although the large increase in Buzzards may be having a negative effect. The Sparrowhawk is usually secretive when breeding and can easily be overlooked unless begging young are heard. It is likely that one or two pairs continue to breed each year. The 50% decline in Crossbills is due to a run of poor years for reasons unknown with 2019 being the first year that any have bred since 2013. On the other hand Cuckoo has declined nationally but numbers have appeared stable at Longmoor with two or three calling males each year. This may be due to the lack of pesticides at the site with only bracken treated in some years.

### **Scarce breeding species**

In addition to the regular breeding species listed in Table 1, the following scarce breeders have also been occasionally recorded. Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* held territory in 2002 and 2010 on the south edge of the site close to Wylds Estate lake. Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* was a regular breeder up to 2008 with one territory except for two in 2002. Its loss was due to the run of cold winters between 2009 and 2013. It returned to breed in

2019. Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, although occasionally seen, does not breed possibly due to the lack of standing water and dragonflies, but does breed nearby in Woolmer Forest. Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* was recorded once with one territory in 1999. It has long since become extinct in the area. Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* bred in most years up to 2008 with one or two territories. Given its national decline it was something of a surprise that one held territory again in 2019. A Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* held territory in 1999 but soon afterwards was lost as a breeder in East Hampshire. A female Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* was seen carrying food in 2015 and presumably nested under one of the bridges over the streams. Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* was a regular breeder up to 2008, with a peak of six territories in 2000, after which it was lost. However it returned in 2017 with two territories which increased to three the next year but none in 2019.

### **Other species of interest**

Over 100 nest boxes were installed in the south-west of the site around 30 years ago by Ted Lintott. They are occupied by Blue and Great Tits creating higher breeding densities than other parts of the site. Due to the large areas of pines, Coal Tit has exceeded over 100 territories in most years peaking at 153 in 2017 and reaching high densities of 30 or more per sq km. Nuthatch and Goldfinch have bred in low numbers but both have increased in the last two years to nine and 19 territories respectively. Whilst heathland is not their preferred breeding habitat, both appear to be moving into sub-optimal areas although the increasing scrub is providing more nesting opportunities for Goldfinch.

### **Threats and future outlook**

At present the biggest threat, at least to ground-nesting birds, is the increasing number of dogs being walked on the site. Numbers have increased greatly over the survey period and the site is now also regularly used by professional dog walkers. Natural succession of scrub and trees will cause continued changes to the numbers and composition of breeding birds and habitat management by grazing or other means must be maintained for the iconic heathland specialists. In the next few years much of the newly established scrub will also have to be cleared to prevent declines in Nightjar and Woodlark, whilst recognising that this will cause loss of nesting sites for other more widespread species such as warblers and finches. In the short-term, climate change appears to be having a positive effect, mostly on resident species, with milder winters. Overall in 2019 a total of 1,380 territories was recorded, the only higher figure being 1,397 in 2008. Nine species (Woodpigeon, Jay, Blue Tit, Blackcap, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush and Goldfinch) all recorded their highest numbers mainly due to a productive breeding season in 2018. With appropriate management Longmoor Inclosure is expected to maintain a wide diversity of breeding birds.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank John Clark for suggesting I write this paper and for providing me with information on the status of breeding Yellowhammers at Woolmer Forest. Special thanks to Mike Chalmers for providing the charts, graphs and photographs. I would also like to thank Ted Lintott for providing information on the number of nest boxes that he put on the site.

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## First for Hampshire: Eastern Olivaceous Warbler at Farlington Marshes

Peter Gammage



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Farlington Marshes, Sep 14th (Lee Fuller)

### Abstract

An unusual warbler discovered at Farlington Marshes on 14th September was by a process of elimination identified as an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*. It remained in the same area until 19th September allowing it to be seen by many observers. This paper is based on an article previously published on-line by Birdguides (Gammage 2019). The record has been accepted by BBRC and is the first for Hampshire of this south-east European and central Asian species.

### Discovery

After finishing work on Friday 13th September the weather was warm and pleasant so I decided to pop in quickly to Farlington Marshes just to check the lake to see if any new migrant waders had been attracted by the recently exposed mud. I bumped into Farlington Marshes stalwart, Jason Crook, and we mulled over the possibilities for the next few days. The weather was set fine with high pressure establishing over the UK. The consensus was that migrants would likely take the opportunity to leave rather than the hoped for influx of new arrivals. We consoled ourselves with the fact that Farlington Marshes does not necessarily work to a strict set of rules where rare birds are concerned; they have in the past turned up when least expected.

Despite the prospects, I was still keen to be out birding on Saturday and so decided to return in the morning to have a good look around. My usual birding companions, Keith Turner and Martin Gillingham, were for various reasons unavailable and so, with no pressing time

commitments, I was late into the field. Arriving a little after 9am, I took a route through the western section of “the bushes”, an area of mostly hawthorn and bramble scrub which often holds passerine migrants. There were plenty of Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla* present along with a few Whitethroats *Sylvia communis*. Pretty standard fare, but then I had a Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* and a glimpse of a Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. Perhaps there were new birds in after all!

I skirted along the south side of the “old sea wall”, actually a land-locked bank covered in scrub, notching up a few more *Sylvias* and then crossed the gap towards the east section of the bushes. It was just before 10am as I approached a tall bramble-smothered hawthorn and picked up a pale warbler, seemingly an “Acro”, close to ground level. I was immediately struck by how pale and plain-looking it was and thought I could hear a “tack” call coming from the bird. I moved forward a few paces so that I could determine whether it was actually the pale warbler that was calling. It was and as the bird was pumping its tail downwards as it called, the adrenaline was already starting to kick in. I was convinced it was something good but realised I had seen very little actual detail. The only features noted were a plain face, whitish underparts, uniform grey-brown upperparts, a rather long looking pale bill and just a suggestion of a square-ended tail

The warbler had quickly moved to the top of the bush and flicked over out of view. I moved around only to find a walker wandering past exactly where the warbler had disappeared and thought I caught it double-back. I waited a few minutes but it seemed I had lost touch. At this point I realised I needed help so I decided to phone a friend. I first called Jason who I thought would be on the marsh, but unfortunately he was not. I left him with the news that I thought it could be a Blyth’s Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* but couldn’t rule out a grey “Hippo”. Next I tried Tim Doran, another Farlington regular. He was not on the marsh but only a few miles away. Ten minutes later he arrived and we split up to try and relocate the bird. The day was already warming up and bird activity was reducing. I was already beginning to regret making those calls.

Fortunately Jason had contacted Andy Johnson and they both arrived to join the search at around 10:30. It was just as I was explaining that I had not seen the bird since the initial brief sighting when Andy lifted his bins and announced “that’s got to be the bird”. He and Jason caught the “tail dipping” warbler just before it flicked into the original bush. We quickly moved to the sunny side and backed off to give the bird room. I beckoned Tim over and the bird started to show. The head shape and broad based, long yellowish bill were apparent and it was lacking the long under-tail coverts of an *Acrocephalus*. The tail appeared relatively long and squared off and the legs greyish and sturdy. Now with a decent view through a telescope it was immediately clear we were looking at either a *Hippolais* or *Iduna*.

### Identification

The question now was: which one? Having read a few articles and finders’ accounts, I was aware that there were several possibilities that needed to be considered. We quickly excluded Melodious and Icterine Warblers *Hippolais polyglotta* and *icterina* on the lack of green and yellow tones in the plumage. I don’t recall that we properly considered Upcher’s Warbler *Hippolais languida* as a possibility, but that could have been eliminated as our bird had a long tapering bill, shallow tapering forehead and lacked both the prominent wing panel and tail-swaying habits of that species. That left the *Iduna* complex.

The bird seemed too long-billed and bulky to be a Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* and the upperpart colouration was more on the grey scale than “milky tea”. Eastern or Western Olivaceous Warblers *Iduna pallidalopaca* were then tabled. Having all had some previous experience of one or other of these two Olivaceous Warbler species, they did immediately fit. However I was aware that Sykes’s Warbler *Iduna rama* could also be a contender and would need to be eliminated.



*Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Farlington Marshes, Sep 14th (Lee Fuller)*

Tim checked his Cornell Merlin App and came up with some key features. Tail dipping – a good feature for Eastern; prominent and staggered primary projection – Sykes has a short, even primary projection ; the faint presence of a loreal line between bill and eye – Western should show plain pale lores. We were all agreed that Eastern Olivaceous seemed the best fit. It was approaching 11am and the consensus was to start putting news out now that we felt more confident about the identity. I posted a hastily taken digiscoped image on the Hants Rarity News WhatsApp group and it didn't take long to get a response.

Up until this point the bird had remained faithful to the same clump of bushes. Typically, just as the first visitors started to arrive, the warbler flew strongly west towards a large and dense area of bushes and was lost to view. A tense hour passed before the trail was picked up again, during which time another lucky observer found what proved to be a very elusive Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. Before long the Olivaceous Warbler had returned back to its favoured bramble-covered hawthorn.

Unfortunately I had to leave just as the twitch was getting underway and unaware just how popular it would prove to be, or indeed just how few records there had previously been. The bird remained in place for most of the week performing well at times, especially in the hot sunshine. To my knowledge it was last seen on the evening of 19th September.

### **Taxonomy and Status in Britain**

Eastern and Western Olivaceous Warblers were formerly considered conspecific but differences in structure, plumage, vocalisations and mtDNA recently led to them being treated as separate species (Svensson 2001). Eastern Olivaceous Warbler has several races with *elaeica* breeding from south-eastern Europe and north Africa eastwards through the Middle East to south central Asia, wintering south to north-east and east Africa. The record has been accepted by BBRC (Holt *et al.* 2020). It represents the first record for Hampshire and only the 23rd for Britain.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Tim, Jason and Andy for their help with relocating the bird and providing assistance with the identification.

### **References**

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- Svensson, L. 2001. Identification of Western and Eastern Olivaceous, Booted and Sykes's Warblers. *Birding World* 14: 192-219.

P. Gammage [petegammage@hotmail.com](mailto:petegammage@hotmail.com)

## Grants for projects undertaken in 2019

Marcus Ward

Since 2015 HOS has invited applications each autumn for funding for projects to advance bird conservation or research in Hampshire. The note in last year's report outlined projects agreed in 2017 for implementation in 2018. This note continues that process by summarising the projects agreed in autumn 2018 for implementation in 2019. Detailed written submissions were received from six applicants and considered by the Scientific Sub-committee at its meeting on September 10th 2018. Four projects were selected from five applications and awards totalling £5,900, based on a maximum budget of £6,000, were recommended and accepted by the Management Committee at its meeting on October 18th as follows:-

**\*HIWWT: Roydon Woods – improving habitat for wading birds and Nightjars, £1,950**

Following the successful completion by HIWWT of six wader scrapes in 2017, it was agreed to fund the request to hire an excavator to clear scrub and construct six further scrapes in 2019. The objective was to create suitable breeding habitat for waders, with particular focus on Snipe and Woodcock, and Nightjars. HIWWT agreed to allow access for HOS surveyors.

**\*Marcus Ward: Hawfinch tracking in the New Forest, £2,100**

As part of the ongoing detailed study of Hawfinches in the New Forest, it was agreed to provide a grant of £2,100 towards total costs of over £6,000 for the purchase of ten reusable GPS tags at £450 each with combined radio tags at £170 each and other associated equipment. The new generation of GPS tags each weigh just 1.05g and are designed to fall off after about 10-14 days. The radio tags facilitate the recovery of the GPS tags. It was proposed to deploy the tags during the 2019 breeding season to provide detailed data on movements of individuals at this time.

**\*Tim Norris of Hampshire Swift Group: installation of Swift nest boxes in church belfries: a feasibility study, £250**

It was agreed to fund the installation of nest boxes and associated sound systems behind louvres in belfry towers at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ringwood and St. Michael and All Angels Church, Cheriton by way of a feasibility study for future installations at other churches. Following relevant approvals it was proposed to carry out the installations by April 2019.

**\*Pete Potts and Andrew Hoodless: New Forest and Solent Curlew project - additional GPS tags, £1,600**

In 2017 HOS agreed to fund the purchase of four GPS tags at £800 each to provide high resolution data on habitat usage around The Solent in winter 2017/2018 and breeding females in the New Forest in 2018. The results from the 2018 breeding season and subsequent autumn dispersal were published in HBR 2018 and revealed fascinating insights into the needs of this endangered and declining breeding species. To enable this tracking project to continue in 2019 it was agreed to fund the purchase of two further tags to supplement those recovered from 2018.

## 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 2,000, 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 magazine *Kingfisher* with three issues each year. Membership is available as follows (correct at September 1st, 2020):

Ordinary Membership: £16 p.a.

Family Membership (two or more members at the same address): £16 p.a.

Corporate Membership (sponsors, schools, Bird Clubs, etc): £16 p.a.

Junior Membership (under 18): £5 p.a. but free for under 21 in full-time education

To join, send your name and address with the appropriate subscription to:

Membership Secretary: Kay Shillitoe

Westerly, Hundred Acres Road, Wickham PO17 6HY

e-mail: [kay.shillitoe@gmail.com](mailto:kay.shillitoe@gmail.com) 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 & Members' 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 & Members' 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 *Kingfisher* magazine published every four months contains news of society events, field meetings and recent bird sightings, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Scientific sub-committee. New surveys are started every year, and the newsletter serves as a medium to contact potential volunteers. All members are invited to take part in surveys and contribute articles to the newsletter.

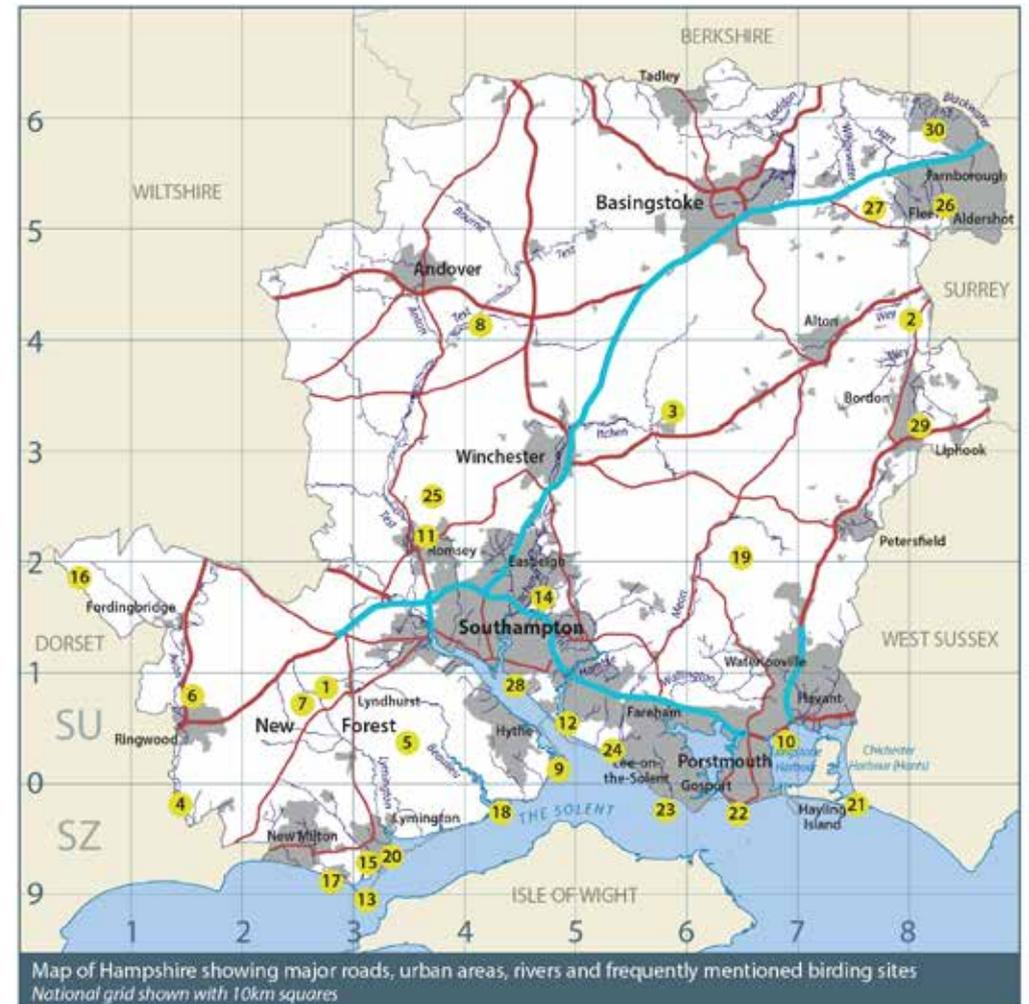
## Map and Gazetteer

National Grid coordinates are given to four figure accuracy (i.e. to relevant 1 km square). The map shows 30 selected birding sites frequently mentioned in the Systematic List. Coordinates for other sites in this gazetteer can be used to identify approximate locations on the map by interpolating between the National Grid 10km squares gridlines. Other gazetteers with links to Ordnance Survey maps are also available on the HOS and Going Birding in Hampshire websites as follows:

<http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/hampshire-birding/gazetteer>

<http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/sites.asp>

Abbotts Ann	SU 3243	Beachlands (Hayling Island)	SU 7198	Bramshott	SU 7560
Abbotts Wood	SU 8139	Beacon Hill (Burghclere)	SU 4557	Bransbury Common	SU 8633
Acres Down	SU 2709	Beacon Hill (Warnford)	SU 6022	Bratley Plain	SU 4141
Adanac Park (Southampton)	SU 3714	Beaulieu Estuary	SZ 4298	Bratley Water	SU 2208
Adhurst Wood (Sheet)	SU 7625	Beaulieu River	SZ 4199	Breamore	SU 2308
Alderhill Inclosure	SU 1913	Beaulieu Road	SU 3406	Bricksbury Hill	SU 1518
Aldershot	SU 8751	Beauworth	SU 5725	Brinken Wood	SU 8349
Alice Holt Forest	SU 8042	Beckford	SU 6310	Broadhalfpenny Down	SU 2705
Allington GPt	SU 4717	Becton Bunny	SZ 2592	Broadlands Estate	SU 6515
Alresford Pond	SU 5933	Bedhampton	SU 7006	Broadmarsh	SU 3520
Alton	SU 7238	Beech Bed Inclosure	SU 2206	Brockenhurst	SU 7005
Alver Valley	SU 5700	Bentley	SU 7844	Brockley Warren	SU 3002
Ampfield	SU 4023	Bentley Wood	SU 2528	Brockwood Park (West Meon)	SU 4236
Amport	SU 3045	Benyon's Inclosure	SU 6263	Broomy Lodge	SU 2111
Ancell's Farm (Fleet)	SU 8155	Bere Hill Farm	SU 3745	Broomy Plain	SU 2100
Ancient Highway (Pennington)	SZ 3192	Berewood (Waterlooville)	SU 6709	Broughton	SU 3132
Anderwood Inclosure	SU 2406	Bickerley Common	SU 1404	Browdown	SZ 5899
Andover Down	SU 3945	Bickton	SU 1412	Brownwich	SU 5103
Andwell	SU 6852	Bidden Grange	SU 7049	Brownwich Cliffs	SU 5103
Anglesey Lake (Gosport)	SZ 6098	Bilcombe's Pond	SU 4502	Broxhead Common	SU 8037
Anthony's Bee Bottom	SU 2201	Binsted	SU 7741	Buckherd Bottom	SU 2008
Anton Lakes	SU 3740	Binswood	SU 7637	Bucklers Hard	SU 4000
Appleshaw	SU 3048	Bishops Dyke	SU 3405	Budds Farm STW	SU 7005
Appleslade Inclosure	SU 1808	Bishopstoke	SU 4619	Bunny Meadows	SU 4806
Arlebury Park & Lake	SU 5732	Bishops Sutton	SU 6031	Burgate	SU 1515
Ashe Park Lake	SU 5449	Bishops Waltham	SU 5617	Buriton	SU 7420
Ashford Hangers LNR	SU 7427	Bisterne	SU 1400	Burkham	SU 6541
Ashford Stream	SU 7326	Bitterne (Southampton)	SU 4513	Burley	SU 2103
Ashlett Creek	SU 4603	Blackbushe	SU 8059	Burley New Inclosure	SU 2304
Ashlett	SU 4603	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Burley Street	SU 2004
Ashley Walk	SU 2014	Blackfield	SU 4502	Burley Whitten Pond	SU 2001
Ashley Warren	SU 4956	Black Gutter Bottom	SU 2016	Burrfields (Portsmouth)	SZ 6497
Ashmansworth	SU 4157	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Bursledon	SU 4809
Ashurst	SU 3310	Blackheath Down	SU 0717	Burton Common	SZ 1995
Ash Vale	SU 8953	Blacklands Farm (Newnham)	SU 6954	Bury Marsh	SU 3811
Atner's Hill	SU 3636	Blackmoor	SU 7733	Bury Hill (Andover)	SU 3443
Avington Park & Lake	SU 5332	Blacknest	SU 7941	Bushfield (Winchester)	SU 4627
Avon Castle	SU 1403	Black Point (Hayling)	SZ 7599	Busketts Lawn	SU 3110
Avon Causeway	SZ 1497	Blackwater (Needs Ore)	SZ 4197	Busta Triangle	SU 7859
Avon Floods (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Blackwater Arboretum	SU 2604	Butlocks Heath	SU 4609
Avon Tyrrell	SZ 1499	Blashford Lakes	SU 1507	Butser Hill	SU 7120
Awbridge	SU 3324	Blendworth	SU 7113	Butts Bay	SZ 3292
Axmansford	SU 0717	Bolderwood	SU 2408	Cadman's Pool	SU 2212
Backley Plain	SU 2106	Bordon	SU 8035	Cadnam Common	SU 2815
Backley Inclosure	SU 2207	Bossington	SU 3331	Calmore	SU 3414
Baddesley Common	SU 3921	Botley Wood	SU 5410	Calshot	SU 4802
Badminton Common	SU 4501	Bourley Catchment	SU 8250	Calshot Spit	SU 4802
Badminton GP	SU 4602	Bradley Hill	SU 6442	Camp Farm GP (Aldershot)	SU 8852
Badminton Pond	SU 6601	Braemar-Searchfield Farm	SU 1718	Cams Bay	SU 5904
Bagshot Moor	SU 3600	Braishfield	SU 3725	Casbrook Common	SU 3625
Balancing Pools (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Brambridge	SU 4622	Castle Bottom LNR	SU 7959
Balmer Lawn (Brockenhurst)	SU 3003	Bramdean	SU 6228	Centurion Business Park	SU 4313
Barton on Sea	SZ 2392	Bramley	SU 6559	Chalton	SU 7316
Barton Stacey	SU 4340	Bramshaw	SU 2516	Chandler's Ford	SU 4321
Barton Common	SZ 2593	Bramshill (Warren Heath)	SU 7759	Chandler's Green	SU 7058
Bassett (Southampton)	SU 4116	Bramshill Plantation	SU 7562	Charlton Lakes	SU 3646
		Bramshill Police College Lake			



### Key to birding sites

1 Acres Down	SU2709	11 Fishlake Meadows	SU3522	20 Pennington Marshes	SZ3292
2 Alice Holt Forest	SU8042	12 Hook-with-Warsash	SU4905	21 Sandy Point	SZ7498
3 Alresford Pond	SU5933	13 Hurst Castle	SZ3189	22 Southsea Castle	SZ6498
4 Avon Causeway	SZ1497	14 Itchen Valley		23 Stokes Bay	SZ5898
5 Beaulieu Rd Stn/		15 Country Park	SU4616	24 Titchfield Haven	SU5302
6 Bishop's Dyke	SU3406	16 Keyhaven Marshes	SZ3192	25 Trigpoint Hill	SU3625
7 Blashford Lakes	SU1507	17 Martin Down	SU0419	26 Tweseldown	SU8352
8 Bolderwood	SU2408	18 Milford on Sea	SZ2891	27 Tundry Pond	SU7752
9 Bransbury Common	SU4141	19 Needs Ore/		28 Weston Shore	SU4409
10 Calshot	SU4802	20 Beaulieu Estuary	SZ4297	29 Woolmer Forest	SU8032
		21 Old Winchester Hill	SU6420	30 Yateley Common	SU8259

Map reproduced with permission from Figure i of Hampshire Bird Atlas modified by WILDGuides Ltd.

Charter Alley	SU 5957	Cheriton	SU 5828	Chichester Harbour	SU 7400
Chawton	SU 7037	Cherque	SU 5701	Chidden Down	SU 6619
Chawton Park Woods	SU 7037	Chessell Bay	SU 4412	Chidden Green Lane	SU 6417
Cheesefoot Head	SU 5327	Chewton Bunny	SZ 2193	Chilbolton	SU 3939

Chilland	SU 5232	Eastleigh STW	SU 4618	Fyfield	SU 6532	Hiltingbury	SU 4322	Kilmeaton Down	SU 5724	Martin	SU 0619
Chilling	SU 5004	Eastney	SZ 6799	Gander Down	SU 5527	Hinchelsea Bog	SU 2700	Kimbridge	SU 3225	Martin Down	SU 0419
Chilworth	SU 4018	Eastoke	SZ 7598	Gavelcacre	SU 4142	Hinton Admiral	SZ 2095	Kingsclere	SU 5258	Martyr Worthy	SU 5132
Chineham	SU 6555	Eastrop Park (Basingstoke)	SU 6452	Gilkicker Point	SZ 6097	Hinton Ampner	SU 6027	King's Garden	SU 2109	Marwell Zoo	SU 5021
Cholderton Estate	SU 2342	East Tytherley	SU 2828	Godshill Ridge	SU 1815	Hitches Lane CP	SU 7952	Kingsley	SU 7939	Matley Bog	SU 3307
Church Crookham	SU 8154	Edenbrook CP	SU 7854	Golden Pot	SU 7043	HMS Mercury	SU 6719	King's Pond (Alton)	SU 7239	Mattingley	SU 7357
Clanfield Down	SU 7116	Eelmoor Marsh	SU 8452	Goodworth Clatford	SU 3642	HMS Sultan	SZ 5899	King's Somborne	SU 3534	Mayflower Park (So'ton)	SU 4111
Clarken Green	SU 5651	Efford Mill	SZ 3094	Gorley	SU 1511	Hoccombe Mead	SU 4322	Kingston (Avon valley)	SU 1401	Mellow Farm (Headley)	SU 8239
Clatford Oakcuts	SU 3338	Eldon	SU 3627	Gosport	SU 6000	Hoe Cross	SU 6314	Kingston Great Common	SU 1802	Meon Shore	SU 5402
Clay Hill	SU 2302	Eling	SU 3612	Grange Lake, The	SU 5636	Hoe Gate	SU 6213	Kites Croft	SU 5206	Meonstoke	SU 6020
Cleave Hill	SU 3538	Eling Great Marsh	SU 3712	Greatbridge (Romsey)	SU 3423	Hoglands Park (Southampton)		Kitwood	SU 6632	Meon Valley GC	SU 5513
Cliddesden	SU 6349	Ellinham Bridge	SU 1408	Great Covert Wood	SU 4120			Knightwood Inclosure	SU 2506	Micheldever Wood	SU 5337
Clumber Inclosure	SU 2603	Ellingham Lake (Blashford)	SU 1408	Great Litchfield Down	SU 4755	Hollybank Woods	SU 4211	Knowles, The	SU 2608	Michelmersh	SU 3525
Cole Henley	SU 4752	Ellisfield	SU 6345	Greatham	SU 7730	Holly Hatch Inclosure	SU 2112	Ladycross Inclosure	SU 3302	Middle Wallop	SU 2937
Colemore	SU 7030	Elvetham Park	SU 7856	Great Pen Wood	SU 4462	Holly Hill Park (Warsash)	SU 4907	Lakeside CP (Eastleigh)	SU 4417	Midgham Wood	SU 1412
Compton	SU 4429	Embley Wood	SU 5441	Greenhill (Romsey)	SU 3420	Hollywater Green	SU 8133	Lane End Down	SU 5526	Milford on Sea	SZ 2891
Conigar Point	SU 7305	Emer Bog	SU 3921	Greywell	SU 7151	Holm Hill	SU 2602	Langdown	SU 4306	Milkhams Inclosure	SU 2110
Conford Moor	SU 8233	Emsworth Channel	SU 7402	Griggs Green	SU 8231	Holmsley	SU 2200	Langstone Harbour	SU 6802	Milking Pond Bottom	SZ 2999
Coombe	SU 6620	Emsworth Mill Pond	SU 7405	Gunner Point (Sinah Common)		Holt Pound (Alice Holt Forest)		Langstone Mill Pond	SU 7105	Mill Field (Old Basing)	SU 6653
Coopers Hill	SU 2014	Eversley Gravel Pit	SU 7662		SZ 6899		SU 8144	Lasham	SU 6743	Mill Lane (Romsey)	SU 3421
Copythorne Common	SU 3015	Ewhurst Park	SU 5757	Gurnetfields Furzebreak	SU 3705	Holybourne	SU 7441	Latchmore Bottom	SU 1812	Mill Rythe	SU 7300
Corhampton	SU 6020	Exbury	SU 4200	Gutner Point (Hayling)	SU 7302	Hook-with-Warsash	SU 4905	Laverstoke	SU 4948	Millbrook	SU 3813
Cosham	SU 6505	Exton	SU 6120	Hale Purlieu	SU 1918	Hook Links	SU 4904	Leaden Hall	SU 2015	Millersford Bottom	SU 1816
Costicles Inclosure	SU 3210	Eyeworth Pond	SU 2215	Half Moon Common	SU 2916	Hook Spit	SU 4805	Leckford	SU 3737	Millyford Bridge	SU 2607
Cove	SU 8556	Facombe	SU 3958	Hamble	SU 4807	Hordle	SZ 2695	Lee (Nursling)	SU 3617	Milton Common (Portsmouth)	
Farley Farm	SU 3927	Fair Oak	SU 4919	Hamble Country Park	SU 4911	Horndean	SU 7013	Lee-on-the-Solent	SU 5500		SZ 6700
Cowplain	SU 6911	Fareham	SU 5706	Hamble Estuary	SU 4805	Horsebridge	SU 3430	Leigh Park (Havant)	SU 7108	Mogshade Hill	SU 2309
Crab Tree Earth	SU 2602	Fareham Creek	SU 5805	Hamer Warren Sand Pit	SU 1210	Horsedown Common	SU 7648	Lepe	SZ 4598	Monxton	SU 3345
Cranes Moor	SU 1902	Farleigh Wallop	SU 6245	Hampshire Hatches Lane	SU 1403	Horse Sand Fort	SZ 6594	Lifelands (Ringwood)	SU 1406	Moody's Down	SU 4338
Cranmer Pond (Woolmer)	SU 7932	Farley Chamberlayne	SU 3927	Hampton Ridge	SU 1913	Horton Heath	SU 4916	Linwood	SU 1809	Moon Hills	SU 4002
Crawley	SU 4235	Farley Mount	SU 4229	Handy Cross Plain	SU 1906	Houghton	SU 3432	Lisle Court	SZ 3595	Moorcourt Farm	SU 3417
Creech Walk	SU 6311	Farlington Marshes	SU 6804	Hannington	SU 5355	Houndwell Park (So'ton)	SU 4211	Liss	SU 7728	Mopley Pond	SU 4501
Crockford Bridge	SZ 3499	Farnborough	SU 8754	Harbridge	SU 1410	Howen Bottom	SU 2315	Little London (Andover)	SU 3749	Morestead Old Down	SU 5948
Cron dall	SU 7848	Farnborough Airport	SU 8552	Hardway (Portsmouth Hbr)	SU 6101	Hucklesbrook	SU 1509	Locks Heath	SU 5107	Mortimer West End	SU 6363
Crookham	SU 7952	Fawley	SU 4503	Harestock	SU 4631	Hundred Acres (Wickham)	SU 5911	Lode Farm (Kingsley)	SU 7737	Mottisfont	SU 3227
Crux Easton	SU 4255	Fawley Power Station	SU 4603	Hare Warren Farm	SU 4854	Hunton	SU 4839	Long Beech Inclosure	SU 2512	Neatham Down (Alton)	SU 7338
Curbridge	SU 5211	Fawley Reclamation	SU 4801	Harewood Forest	SU 3943	Hursley	SU 4225	Long Down (Hambledon)	SU 6619	Needs Ore	SZ 4297
Curdridge	SU 5214	Fawley Refinery	SU 4504	Harroway Farm	SU 7121	Hurst Beach	SZ 3090	Long Island	SU 7004	Nether Wallop	SU 3036
Cut Bridge (Hurst Beach)	SZ 2990	Fawley Reservoir	SU 4405	Hartley Mauditt	SU 7436	Hurstbourne Tarrant	SU 3853	Long Valley (Bricksbury Hill)		Netherton	SU 3757
Cutty Brow	SU 4044	Ferny Crofts	SU 3605	Hartley Wintney	SU 7656	Hurstbourne Common	SU 3752		SU 8352	Netherton Bottom	SU 3856
Damerham	SU 1016	Ferny Nap	SU 2503	Harvest Slade	SU 2106	Hurstbourne Priors	SU 4247	Longmoor Inclosure	SU 7930	Nertley	SU 4508
Danebury	SU 3237	Fields Heath	SU 4502	Haslar Creek	SZ 6299	Hurst Castle	SZ 3189	Longparish	SU 4344	New Copse Inclosure	SU 3202
Darby Green	SU 8360	Finchdean	SU 7213	Hasley Inclosure	SU 1912	Hurst Narrows	SZ 3189	Longslade Bottom	SU 2700	New Lane	SZ 2991
Dark Lane Pond	SU 4402	Fishery Creek	SZ 7499	Hatchet Pond	SU 3601	Hurst Spit	SZ 3189	Longstock	SU 3636	New Milton	SZ 2395
Dark Water	SZ 4598	Fishlake Meadows	SU 3522	Hatchet Moor	SU 3500	Hut Wood	SU 4218	Longwood Warren	SU 5226	Newlands Farm (Stubbington)	
Dean Hill	SU 2626	Fishtail Lagoon	SZ 3192	Hattingley	SU 6337	Hythe	SU 4307	Lordshill	SU 3815		SU 5604
Deanlane End	SU 7312	Fleet	SU 8154	Havant	SU 7106	IBM Lake (Cosham)	SU 6404	Lower Brook	SU 3327	New Queen (Avon)	SZ 1498
Deep Dene Woods	SU 4413	Fleet Pond	SU 8255	Havant Thicket	SU 7110	Ibsley Bridge	SU 1409	Lower Bullington	SU 4641	Newton Stacey	SZ 4140
Denmead	SU 6509	Fletchers Thorn Inclosure	SU 2704	Hawley Meadows	SU 8559	Ibsley Common	SU 1710	Lower Froyle	SU 7644	Newtown (Meon Valley)	SU 6111
Denny Wood	SU 3305	Fobdown	SU 5733	Hawkhill Inclosure	SU 3502	Ibsley North GP (Blashford)		Lower Pennington	SZ 3193	Newtown (Weston)	SU 4510
Dibden Bay	SU 4008	Fordingbridge	SU 1414	Hawley Lake	SU 8357		SU 1509	Lower Test Marshes	SU 3614	New Warren Farm	SU 5327
Dibden Purlieu	SU 4006	Forest of Bere Farm	SU 4029	Hayling Bay	SZ 7298		SU 1508	Ludshott Common	SU 8535	Noar Hill	SU 7431
Dibden Bottom	SU 3806	Fort Brockhurst	SU 5902	Hayling Island	SU 7101	Ibsley Water (Blashford)	SU 1508	Lyeway	SU 6731	Nomansland	SU 2517
Ditcham Park	SU 7517	Fort Cumberland	SZ 6899	Hayling Oysterbeds	SU 7102	Idsworth Farm (Horndean)	SU 7414	Lymington NR	SZ 3494	Norley Wood	SZ 3498
Dogmersfield Lake	SU 7551	Fort Elson	SU 6001	Hazel Down	SU 3639	Iley Lane (Keyhaven)	SZ 3193	Lymington River	SZ 3494	Normandy Marsh	SZ 3394
Dorridge Hill	SU 1711	Fort Nelson	SU 6007	Hazeley Heath	SU 7558	Iley Point (Keyhaven)	SZ 3191	Lyndhurst	SU 2908	North Baddesley	SU 3919
Down Farm (Andover)	SU 4046	Fort Widley	SU 6506	Headbourne Worthy	SU 4832	Inchmery	SZ 4398	Lyndridge Farm (Eversley)	SU 7760	North Boarhunt	SU 6109
Drayton Farm	SU 5933	Forton Lake	SU 6100	Headley Mill Pond	SU 8134	Ipley Green	SU 3706	Magdalen Hill Down	SU 5029	North Camp (Aldershot)	SU 8652
Duckhole Bog	SU 2502	Four Marks	SU 6831	Headley Park	SU 8237	Itchell Mill Springs (Cron dall)		Mallard Wood	SU 3209	Northam Bridge	SU 4312
Dummer	SU 5846	Foxbury Plantation	SU 3017	Heath Pond (Petersfield)	SU 7522		SU 7849	Malshanger	SU 5753	North End (Portsmouth)	SU 6502
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Redbridge	SU 3713	Southampton Water	SU 4308	Trigpoint Hill	SU 3625						

## List of Abbreviations

AON	Apparently Occupied Nest	HIWWT	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
asl	above sea level	IOC	International Ornithological Congress
BB	British Birds magazine	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey (BTO)	m.o.	many observers
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern	MOD	Ministry of Defence
BoH	Birds of Hampshire	n/a	not applicable
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union	nc	no count (in tables)
BOURC	BOU Records Committee	NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
BWP	The Birds of the Western Palearctic	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
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
EN	Endangered	S41	Section 41 of NERC Act, 2006
ET	European Threatened	SF	Sewage Farm
GBW	Garden BirdWatch (BTO)	SP	Sand Pit
GC	Golf Course	SPA	Special Protection Area
GP	Gravel Pit	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
GWCT	Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	STW	Sewage Treatment Works
HBA	Hampshire Bird Atlas	VU	Vulnerable
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	w/c	week commencing
HBR	Hampshire Bird Report	WCB	Watercress Bed
HCC	Hampshire County Council	WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society	WM	Water Meadows
HOSRP	HOS Records Panel	WWT	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

### Symbols

- † (after species name in systematic list) species account in Ringing Report recoveries section
- \* record count for locality

## Corrections to HBR 2018

The following corrections have also been made to the digital copy of HBR 2018 in HOS archives and will be available on-line in the usual way in due course.

### Apologies and corrections

PI0 & 11. Sincere apologies to family and friends for the inadvertent switching of photographs of Ralph Cook and Dr Norman Pratt in their respective obituaries.

PI03. Black Tern. Monthly totals in table to be replaced by Apr, 3; May, 12; July, 26; Aug, 8; Sep, 2; Oct, 1.

PI77. NFWBS Table 4. Apologies to observers and organisers for omission of the following acknowledgements.

Thanks to Martin Orchard-Webb for organising the NFWBS. This has been his last full year in the role – so a big thank you from HOS – and thanks to Jane Calderin for offering to take over the role of organiser. New volunteers are always welcome-please email Jane at [shrikesurvey@hotmail.com](mailto:shrikesurvey@hotmail.com). Thanks are also due to the following observers who took part: Tony Bates, Janice Beck, Martin Bennett, Pam Bennett, Keith Betton, Tony & Jill Blakeley, Steve & Margaret Boswell, Andy Broadhurst, David Brooks, Phil Budd, Chris Chapleo, Rosemary Cook, Lawrence Dare, John & Janet Dedman, Ashley Field, Ollly Frampton, Owen Haisell, Ian Hampson, Steve Harrington, Chris Harris, Alan Hayden & Leo Pyke, Andy Holding, Judy Hunt, Laura Jackson, Kevin Kearns, Graham Kesby, Bob Lee, Mark Litjens, Chris Manning, Adrian Martin, Keith Maskell, Nigel Matthews, Dave Munday, Martin Orchard-Webb, Andy Pullen, Derek, Diana & Nicola Radden, Mike Rafter, Sue & Malcolm Renyard, Barrie Roberts, Dave Smith, Alan Snook, Dave Taylor, Tony Tindale, Jan Toomer, Roger Webb, Brian Weston, Nick Windibank, Alan Young.

PI96-200. Ringing Report. Column 4 and 5 headers to Table 1 should read Total 2018 and Total 1972-2018 respectively.

P205. Nest Recording Report. Column 2 and 3 headers to each half of Table 2 should read 2018 and Total 2007-2018 respectively.

P234. Thayer's Gull. Subsequent pattern of sightings. In first paragraph change 2nd January to 2nd February.

### Deletions

The following additional text and table rows were included in error and should be deleted:-

PI6 Review for March: all of second paragraph. P25 Canada Goose: last line of table. P35 Mallard: last two lines in table. P38 Pochard: last line of table. P39 Tufted Duck: last five lines of table. P68 Coot: last line of table. PI37 Firecrest: all of last paragraph.



Little Grebe (David Thelwell)

## Index to English Names

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SWAROVSKI OPTIK  
SUPPLIER OF BINOCULARS

NL PURE  
ONE WITH  
NATURE

SEE THE UNSEEN



SWAROVSKI  
OPTIK