

Hampshire Bird Report 2018



Hampshire Ornithological Society
Published November 2019



Hampshire Ornithological Society

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AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The Hampshire Ornithological Society has three broad aims:

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

MEMBERSHIP

The annual subscription is £16 for Ordinary, Joint or Family membership; £5 for Junior membership (under 18) but free for under 21 in full-time education. Full membership information is given on p. 251 and on the HOS web site: <http://www.hos.org.uk>.

Hampshire Bird Report 2018



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**Hampshire
Ornithological
Society**

Published November 2019

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

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Contents

Honorary Officers, Committee Members and Life Members	2
Contents	3
Chairman's Report 2018 <i>Keith Betton</i>	6
Editorial and Acknowledgements <i>Mike Chalmers</i>	7
Michael Bryant (1934-2019) <i>Rosemary Billett</i>	9
Ralph Cook (1922-2018) <i>Penny Raynor & Tony Hale</i>	10
Ron King (1934-2019) <i>Bryan Coates & Ron's family</i>	11
Dr. Norman Harold Pratt (1933-2019) <i>John Eyre</i>	12
John Keith Rainbird Wood (1928–2019) <i>Glynne Evans</i>	13
Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2018 <i>Richard Carpenter</i>	15
Systematic List of Species	
<i>Mike Armitage, Keith Betton, Andy Broadhurst, David Brookes, Mike Chalmers, John Clark, Rob Clements, Alan Cox, Tony Davis, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, John Jones, William Legge, Andy Lester, Graham Osborne, Andy Page, Andy Rhodes, John Shillitoe, Jeremy Smallwood, Barry Stalker, Andrew Walmsley, Marcus Ward and Simon Woolley</i>	
Introduction	21
Categories A, B & C	23
Categories D & E: escapes & others	169
Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2018	172
Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2018	173
Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2018	175
Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2018	177
Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2018	178
Table 6: Departure and arrival dates of winter visitors	180
Table 7: Arrival and departure dates of summer visitors	180
Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over inland watchpoints during 2018	182
Appendix 1: Outstanding and not proven records	184
Appendix 2: Observers and Contributors 2018	185
Appendix 3: Guidelines for the Submission of Records	189
Appendix 4: Photographs for inclusion in the <i>Hampshire Bird Report</i>	195
Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2018 <i>Tony Davis</i>	196
Papers	
A breeding season survey of the Nightingale in Hampshire 2018 <i>Trevor Codlin</i>	208
Dartford Warbler study 2018 <i>Rob Clements</i>	216
Movements of GPS-tracked Curlews within the New Forest and The Solent <i>Pete Potts, Andrew Hoodless, Andy Page & Phil Atkinson</i>	220
A Woodlark's Tale - from cradle to grave <i>John Eyre</i>	228
First for Hampshire: Thayer's Gull at Ibsley Water and Tidpit Down <i>Alan Lewis</i>	233
Notes	
The Hawfinch influx of 2017/18 <i>Marcus Ward</i>	237
Grants for projects undertaken in 2018 <i>Marcus Ward</i>	240
The Hampshire Ornithological Society Organisation and Membership	241
Map and Gazetteer	242
List of Abbreviations	247
Index to English Names	248

Bird photographs

Black Brant, Farlington Marshes, Jan 9th (Richard Ford)	25
White-fronted Geese, Keyhaven Marshes, Jan 29th (Gareth Rees)	27
Pink-footed Goose, Harbridge WM, Jan 20th (Alan Lewis)	27
Bewick's Swan, Harbridge WM, Mar 23rd (Lee Fuller)	29
Eclipse drake Garganey, Edenbrook CP, Fleet, Oct 3rd (David Hampton)	31
Drake Shoveler, Pennington Marshes, Nov 2nd (Joe Murphy)	32
Gadwall, Blashford Lakes, Mar 16th (Martin Bennett)	33
Drake Mallard, Four Marks, Mar 3rd (Chris Rose)	35
Drake Green-winged Teal, Keyhaven Balancing Pond, Mar 31st (Lee Fuller)	37
Drake Lesser Scaup, Ibsley Water, Feb 3rd (Lee Fuller)	40
Drake Goosander, Janesmoor Pond, New Forest, Dec 22nd (Lee Fuller)	44
Black-throated Diver, Sparks Marina, Black Point, Nov 13th (Andy Johnson)	46
Great Northern Diver, Centurion Business Park, Southampton, Jan 13th (Lee Fuller)	47
Sooty Shearwater, in care from Southampton Water, July 29th (Keith Betton)	48
Great Crested Grebes, Timsbury, River Test, Mar 16th (Richard Jacobs)	51
White Stork, Ashurst, New Forest, Apr 29th (Lee Fuller)	52
Glossy Ibis, Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea, Feb 28th (Gareth Rees)	53
Bittern, Ivy Lake, Blashford, Dec 19th (James West)	54
Cattle Egret, Warblington, Feb 2nd (Lee Fuller)	55
Osprey being mobbed by Avocet, Pennington Marshes, June 6th (Joe Murphy)	61
Honey-buzzard, New Forest, Aug 30th (Simon Buckell)	62
Sparrowhawk, Pennington Marshes, Sep 29th (Sue Marshall)	63
Juvenile White-tailed Eagle, New Forest, Dec 16th (Oliver Frampton)	65
Water Rail, Keyhaven Marshes, Jan 14th (Chris Rose)	66
Juvenile Spotted Crake, Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes, Sep 8th (Alan Lewis)	67
Five adult Cranes, Tanners Lane, Sep 26th (Alan Lewis)	68
Stone-curlew, North Wessex Downs, Apr 7th (Barry Stalker)	69
Ringed Plover, Hill Head, Nov 18th (Martin Clay)	74
Knot, Saltgrass Lane, Keyhaven, Mar 31st (Dan Houghton)	78
Ruff, Keyhaven Marshes, Feb 22nd (Joe Murphy)	79
Two adult Curlew Sandpipers, Pennington Marshes, July 23rd (Martin Bennett)	80
Temminck's Stint, Keyhaven, Marshes, Sep 25th (Robin Pascal)	80
Sanderling, Hill Head, Nov 18th (Martin Clay)	81
Juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper, The Vyne Lake, Sep 28th (Barry Stalker)	83
Jack Snipe, Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea, Feb 28th (Gareth Rees)	84
Snipe, Pennington Marshes, Aug 1st (Joe Murphy)	85
Grey Phalarope moulting to first-winter, Keyhaven Marshes, Sep 25th (Simon Buckell)	86
Adult Marsh Sandpiper, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes, June 10th (Steve Bassett)	89
Spotted Redshanks, Pennington Marshes, Jan 26th (Joe Murphy)	90
Greenshank, Emsworth, Nov 11th (Lee Fuller)	91
Adult Kittiwake, Riverside Park, Southampton, Apr 2nd (Lee Fuller)	92
Adult Ring-billed Gull, Tidpit, Mar 6th (Paul Winter)	96
Juvenile Iceland Gull, Keyhaven, Jan 29th (Gareth Rees)	98
Juvenile Thayer's Gull, Martin village, Feb 9th (Gareth Rees)	98
First-winter Caspian Gull, Tidpit, Feb 11th (Alan Lewis)	99
Turtle Dove, Martin Down, May 19th (Alan Lewis)	106
Cuckoo, Ibsley Common, May 17th (Sue Marshall)	107
Barn Owl, Alton, Nov 11th (Richard Ford)	107
Little Owl, St. Leonards Barn, New Forest, June 2nd (Ian Williamson)	109
Tawny Owl, Alton, Jan 9th (Richard Ford)	109
Nightjar, New Forest, June 9th (Martin Bennett)	110
Pair of Kingfishers, Timsbury, River Test, Mar 23rd (Richard Jacobs)	111
Hoopoe, IBM Lake, Sep 1st (Simon King)	112
Wryneck, New Forest, June 3rd (Steve Davies)	112

Male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, New Forest, Feb 17th (Alan Lewis)	113
Adult and juvenile Peregrines, Winchester Cathedral, June 11th (Richard Jacobs)	115
Juvenile Red-backed Shrike, Farlington Marshes, Sep 21st (Lee Fuller)	117
Jackdaw, Barton Stacey, Apr 2nd (Martin Clay)	118
Raven, Hurst Spit, Apr 16th (Lee Fuller)	120
Willow Tit, Walker's Copse, Dummer, Apr 1st (Lee Fuller)	121
Wood Warbler, New Forest, Apr 21st (Lee Fuller)	127
Siberian Chiffchaff, Funtley, Nov 15th (Trevor Codlin)	129
Aquatic Warbler, Farlington Marshes, Aug 20th (John Burnett)	129
Juvenile Sedge Warbler, Pennington Marshes, July 26th (Joe Murphy)	130
Leucistic Reed Warbler, Titchfield Haven, July 17th (Gareth Rees)	131
Male Blackcap, Barton Stacey, Mar 3rd (Martin Clay)	132
Dartford Warbler, Keyhaven, Nov 26th (Lee Fuller)	135
Dartford Warbler, Titchfield Haven, Oct 18th (John Hilton)	135
Dartford Warbler, New Forest, Dec 20th (Martin Bennett)	135
Firecrest, New Forest, Apr 20th (Martin Bennett)	136
Treecreeper, New Forest, Apr 5th (Martin Bennett)	138
Starling, Barton Stacey, Mar 2nd (Martin Clay)	139
Fieldfare, Romsey, Mar 3rd (Lee Fuller)	143
Redwing, Barton Stacey, Mar 2nd (Martin Clay)	143
Mistle Thrush, Furze Hill, Nov 21st (Martin Bennett)	143
Male Bluethroat, Farlington Marshes, Sep 17th (Steve Bassett)	146
Male Pied Flycatcher, Keyhaven, Apr 14th (Lee Fuller)	147
Female Black Redstart, Portsmouth, Feb 12th (John Hilton)	148
Male Black Redstart, Portsmouth, Feb 16th (Lee Fuller)	148
Male Stonechat, Silchester, June 30th (Barry Stalker)	151
Male House Sparrow, Furze Hill, New Forest, Mar 4th (Martin Bennett)	153
Richard's Pipit, Oxey Marsh, Sep 15th (Tommy Saunders (left) and Alan Lewis (right))	155
Male Brambling, Blashford Lakes, Apr 10th (Martin Bennett)	158
Hawfinch, Romsey, Feb 2nd (Richard Jacobs)	160
Male Bullfinch, Blashford Lakes, Mar 23rd (Lee Fuller)	161
Male Twite, Normandy Marsh, Nov 30th (Alan Lewis)	162
Common Redpoll, North Baddesley, Mar 17th (Carol Thorpe)	163
Juvenile Siskin, Furze Hill, Mar 24th (Martin Bennett)	165
Snow Bunting, Hill Head, Nov 25th (Richard Jacobs)	166
Ortolan Bunting, Pigeon House Farm, Portsdown Hill, Sep 14th (Lee Fuller)	168
Little Bunting, North Baddesley, Apr 8th (Alan Lewis)	168
Cackling Goose, Lower Test Marshes, Feb 6th (Paul Winter)	169
Male Kingfisher, River Test at Timsbury, Mar 16th (Richard Jacobs)	195
Little Ringed Plover (Tony Davis)	206
Willow Warbler (Trevor Codlin)	206
Hawfinch (Marcus Ward)	206
Barn Owl (Graham Giddens)	206
Singing Nightingale (Martin Bennett)	208
Dartford Warbler (Lee Fuller)	216
Curlew, New Forest (Marcus Ward)	220
Juvenile Thayer's Gull during its initial fly-past Tern Hide. Ibsley Water, Jan 28th (Alan Lewis)	233
Juvenile Thayer's Gull showing underwing and upperwing patterns. Martin village, Feb 8th (Alan Lewis)	234
Juvenile Thayer's Gull showing upperwing and tail pattern, Tidpit Down, Feb 11th (Alan Lewis)	234
Juvenile Thayer's Gull, with Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Martin village, Feb 9th (Gareth Rees)	235
Colour-ringed Hawfinch, New Forest (Marcus Ward)	237

Chairman's Report 2018

The HOS team has been coming up with new ideas - particularly to involve more members in purposeful birding and finding ways to help them to learn new skills. I want to thank Andy Page, Marcus Ward and Bob Chapman for running specialist identification workshops, and John Clark, Simon Curson, Andy Lester and Nigel Matthews for joining me in leading specific walks to focus on bird song. Over 150 people benefitted from the training.

2018 was again a busy year with a joint survey with HIWWT to locate every territorial Nightingale in the county. In total 26 singing males were located but tragically only six of these were thought to have bred. This is an all-time low for a species which has declined by more than 50% in seven years. Timing sometimes works against us and the heavy snowfall in March preceded our Dartford Warbler Survey by a month. Focusing on the New Forest our team found 143 territories which shows a decline of perhaps 60-70% on recent numbers. A further survey in five years would make sense once the population has had time to recover. Our thanks go to Trevor Codlin and Rob Clements for co-ordinating these surveys – and to everyone who took part. We also won a competitive bid to survey wintering Hen Harriers in the New Forest across 20 current and former roost sites over the 2018/19 winter.

Four years ago we established a Grants Programme aimed at significant projects that make positive changes for Hampshire's birds or our understanding of their lives.

In 2018 money was given to three projects – £250 towards the costs of running a Swift Awareness Day; £2,100 for tracking work to understand how Hawfinches use their nearby habitats and £1,950 for creation of wader habitats at Roydon Woods.

HOS has also been active on many other levels – making representations on planning applications that negatively impact on birds, liaising with Hampshire County Council's staff, and maintaining a strong dialogue with conservation professionals in the RSPB and HIWWT. Andy Lester is our new Conservation Officer and is keen to hear from members who know of potential threats to birds and their habitats.

Recruitment of HOS members is at a ten year high and we were delighted to see 143 new members join us in 2018, bringing our membership to over 2,000 people at 1,343 home addresses. These include 16 young members who have joined for free as a result of the kind support of The Cameron Bepolka Trust.

For most members, this Bird Report is the main thing that they associate with us, and my thanks go to Mike Chalmers and his team of writers and photographers as the quality gets better every year. Thanks also to John Norton who has stepped aside having designed the report for many years. The bird data that we collect from many sources now goes into an online database that is powerful yet demanding in its own way and I am grateful to Alan Cox for meeting its demands and keeping on top of the data. Thanks also to John Clark for his encyclopaedic knowledge of past records and trends.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Society to achieve so much in the last year. There is a saying that if you want a job done you should ask a busy person. I think all of our volunteers are already busy people, yet they rarely refuse a request for help. We couldn't even attempt a tenth of the things I have listed above without a great team of volunteers – and we must never forget that.

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

Keith Betton, July 2019

Editorial and Acknowledgements

Following the Chairman's Report and this Editorial, this report is unusual because of the unprecedented number of five obituaries, four of whom were former Life Members. Whilst one died in 2018, the other four all passed away in early 2019. As a result it has been decided to break with tradition and publish their obituaries now rather than wait another year until the 2019 report.

The report then resumes its regular sequence with the annual review by Richard Carpenter, which is illustrated as usual by Dan Powell, followed by the Systematic List and associated tables and appendices. The taxonomy and sequence remain largely unchanged apart from some changes in the order of warblers and buntings to keep in step with the BOURC British List as at February 2019. As last year, the records database includes data from BTO's Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire as well as the other regular sources, all as described in the introduction to the Systematic List.

Next there are four main papers, one short paper and two notes. The first three papers provide new information on individual threatened breeding species. The first of these by Trevor Codlin presents the results of the Nightingale survey carried out in 2018 to assess the declining population in Hampshire. The second by Rob Clements summarises the results of the 2018 survey of Dartford Warblers, not just in the New Forest but across the county. This coincided with a significant drop in breeding numbers and illustrated the susceptibility of this species to adverse winter weather. The third paper by Pete Potts, Andrew Hoodless, Andy Page and Phil Atkinson describes the results of tagging and tracking of Curlews from the remaining breeding population in the New Forest, and gives fascinating insights into their movements. The last paper by John Eyre tracks the ups and downs of a colour-ringed Woodlark through its record-breaking long life and many breeding seasons on one of the Thames Basin heaths.

The short paper by Alan Lewis describes another Hampshire first – Thayer's Gull at Ibsley Water and Tidpit Down. This taxon has a complex history with BOURC and IOC now treating it as a subspecies of Iceland Gull whereas some other authorities have considered it to be a separate species.

The two notes cover the exceptional Hawfinch invasion during winter 2018/2019 and the projects awarded HOS grants in 2017 for implementation in 2018, both by Marcus Ward.

The production of this report is a team effort by a large number of members in many different roles; without them there would be no report. Thank you all for your contributions. It all begins with the submission of records by observers and other contributors who are listed in Appendix 2 to the Systematic List. The processing of records and production of the report relies each year on the generosity and expertise of a large number of volunteers. As usual records have been submitted through many different channels. BTO provided Hampshire records from their national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), BirdTrack (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 and the reserve staff and volunteers at Blashford Lakes, Farlington Marshes, Keyhaven Marshes, Needs Ore and Titchfield Haven.

Keith Betton oversaw the vetting and input of records supported by the Records Panel whose members are named with other HOS Committee members after the title page. Alan Cox managed the CoBRA2 database, input records and produced the data for the coverage map by John Norton, Janet Shelley transferred sightings from the Needs Ore log, Jane Calderin helped transcribe handwritten record sheets, Mark Painter edited data from BirdTrack and Living Record and Barry Stalker extracted records from the Going Birding website. WeBS

data were prepared by John Shillitoe (coastal sites), Keith Wills (inland sites other than Avon Valley), John Clark (Avon Valley) and James Parkin (Chichester Harbour). Additional waterfowl records from Blashford Lakes were provided by Bob Chapman (HIWWT). Brian Sharkey provided results from the Heronries Survey, 2Js Ecology made available results from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (TB&WH) Breeding Bird Survey, and Keith Betton and Martin Orchard-Webb summarised the findings from the New Forest Winter Bird Survey (NFWBS).

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; 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, Andy Rhodes, John Shillitoe, Jeremy Smallwood, Barry Stalker, Andrew Walmsley, Marcus Ward and Simon Woolley. Caroline French and Dave Unsworth stood down this year and I thank them for their sterling service, and Mike Armitage, Tony Davis, Andy Lester and Jeremy Smallwood joined the team. Writers' contributions are individually identified by their initials in italics at the end of each of their species accounts. In addition Tables 1 and 8 were prepared by John Clark, Table 2 by Neil Calbrade and the GBW team at BTO, Table 3 by Alan Cox based on BTO data from Sarah Harris, Table 4 by Keith Betton, Table 5 by John Shillitoe and Tables 6 and 7 by myself.

My thanks also go to Keith Betton for his Chairman's Report, the writers and contributors to all the obituaries, 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 quality of images remains high in the Systematic List as well as providing another stunning front cover. The following team of proof-readers and reviewers all identified errors and made valuable comments: Keith Betton, John Clark, John Cloyne, Andy Collins, Alan Cox, Tim Doran, Andy Johnson and Alan Lewis. Any outstanding errors or omissions are my responsibility alone.

Finally, a very special thanks and a debt of gratitude are owed to John Norton who has been Production Editor since HBR 2010. He has carried out this vital task of designing and formatting the entire report, including placing all the photographs and finalising everything for the printer in a thoroughly professional manner with great skill and meticulous attention to detail. The quality of the reports owes a great deal to John's inputs and I have relied heavily on him to maintain standards and ensure timely publication. This year that task has been carried out by Rob Still and his team at WildGuides. Finally Keith Betton arranged the advertisers and financial support and Bryan and Sandy Coates are responsible for sales.

Lastly, please note that digital back copies of the Hampshire Bird Report from 2010 to 2015 are now available on-line on the HOS website. As each new report is published it is planned to add another earlier report to the on-line archive. I hope you enjoy reading this report and I welcome any constructive feedback.

Mike Chalmers, September 2019

Michael Bryant (1934-2019)

Michael was born in 1934 to Gilbert and Tatiana Bryant in Surbiton, Surrey, but the family home was established at Farlington. From the first floor bedroom was a splendid view to the south right down Langstone Harbour and incorporating Farlington Marshes. Living here at home in September 1952 Michael became an Articled Clerk and trained as a solicitor.



Although he had visited the Marshes from time to time for some years, it was from now on that he became associated with other birdwatchers all about his own age including Bryan Renyard, Graham Rees and David Billett, who all became close friends. These young men formed an active and dedicated group working together “Birding with a purpose” being their motto. Having written for advice to the leading naturalists of the time, they realised from the replies the need for facts and figures if the Marshes and adjacent waters were to obtain reserve status and the need also to rally local support. The latter was achieved by joining the Portsmouth Natural History Society almost “en bloc”.

Forming an active county naturalist trust became Michael’s “out of hours” task which he performed with missionary zeal, being very persuasive in his usual quiet way. This county-wide organisation was in its infancy in Hampshire and for a while Michael was secretary and treasurer until a fully active committee was formed. However, it was “in the field” that Michael excelled and found most fulfilment. He was particularly interested in and a much-valued identifier and recorder of plants. He participated in surveys and his work did much to help obtain recognition of sites hoping to gain validation of their special interest. Later, in the sixties, Michael, with others, established the Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) as a separate organisation from the Hants Field Club. His contribution was recognized by the granting of Life Membership in 1990.

Michael’s special friend, with similar and complementary interests, was Fay Stranack, who pre-deceased him. Between them they bought two tranches of Bere Copse, part of an ancient wood with special flora and rare tree species. On Fay’s death Michael had sole ownership which has now passed to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and is a fitting memorial to them both.

One aspect of Michael’s life which may have been less well known was his passion for books – yes, passion, because it exceeded mere enthusiasm. Eventually, with space running out, he left the family home and moved up Portsdown Hill to Grant Road, which he shared with his collection. Dauntsey’s, his school in Wiltshire where he had been a boarder, has inherited his library.

Not all his time was devoted to work, and Michael travelled widely – Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and both coasts of North America and elsewhere. Companions, usually “birdy”, remember him with pleasure and as being easy to get on with.

Michael chose to keep himself to himself. As his relatives said, he was “a man of quiet charm that belied a character that was energetic and persuasive”. He could be summed up in one of the words which has tended to become debased these days, which is nice. He was fastidious, able to discriminate, kind and considerate and possessing good taste – Michael was a very nice man.

Rosemary Billett

Ralph Cook (1922-2018)

Ralph was born in Ramsdell in 1922, a different era. His mother was the village schoolteacher and ambitious for her children, which didn't suit him, and he felt overshadowed by his older brother. After leaving school he went into the RAF where he spent the rest of the War. He subsequently went to work for local authority parks departments in Harrow and Bournemouth. Whether his passion for gardening led him to this work or the reverse is unknown, but it lasted the rest of his life. He had an equally strong passion for the natural world and joined the Ornithological Section of the Hampshire Field Club, in which he became very active. By the early 1970s he was the Outdoor Meetings Organiser and led a walk every month. He also organised an annual coach outing which included pre-booked coffee and tea stops with almost military precision. In those days communication about scarce birds in Hampshire



was restricted and I remember him walking past a Red-backed Shrike's territory in the New Forest whilst looking determinedly the other way. He was more embarrassed by a singing Siskin at Bolderwood before it was admitted that they bred in the county. His meetings became rather too popular and he had to recruit extra leaders and split the attendance by putting on meetings in different parts of the county on the same day. In this way he built up a number of walk leaders and this has continued to the present, although the system has changed to holding meetings more frequently rather than several on the same day. Ralph was always very strict about parting from the meeting place exactly on time. He thought that if he gave people five minutes they would then need ten!

Following his stint with the outdoor meetings he became Membership Secretary in the newly-formed HOS, a position he held for around ten years writing all the envelopes by hand. He would have no truck with modern technology (he never owned a television) so when it was decided to computerise the records and postal system he resigned, but continued to drive round the county delivering newsletters and bird reports until he gave up his car. He felt it kept him in touch with the members, something he valued highly. His efforts for HOS were recognised by him being made a Life Member in 1989.

After working in parks departments, Ralph joined the arboricultural team at Hampshire County Council eventually becoming the County Arboricultural Officer. He was strongly of the view that road verges should be planted with natives, and it is to him that we owe so many of the plantings along our roads. So strong were his views that when he saw a Forsythia where it should not have been, he simply pulled it up!

When Ralph's father died, he returned to the family home in Ramsdell where he spent a lot of his time cultivating vegetables and wild flowers and looking after the local churchyard, where his preference for the natural order eventually led to conflict with the tidy faction. He was involved in a serious car accident and on his recovery moved to Kingsclere, where he spent the remainder of his life becoming very involved in the local church, once more cultivating wild flowers in the churchyard and recreation ground. He was extremely proud of the orchids in the churchyard and monitored them closely. He also met a kindred spirit in the daughter of an Alton naturalist, and they went out in to the countryside together on an almost daily basis.

Ralph was a loyal friend who believed in regular contact. He visited monthly over a long period, always arriving and leaving on the dot and never failing to arrange the next visit before he left. He was also a talented artist and attended classes for a number of years. It

was typical of him that he took along a companion who had learning difficulties and that he ceased to go when his companion no longer attended. It was inconceivable for him that he should continue solely for his own enjoyment. All his actions were designed to benefit others, whether it was leading walks or giving Christmas presents of Fairtrade chocolate. His Christian faith was all-embracing and lifelong.

Ralph never lost his enthusiasm for the natural world and even in his final days would brighten up if told, for instance, that a butterfly had flown in front of his window or that a particular plant had flowered. He died in August 2018 at the age of 96.

Penny Raynor & Tony Hale

Ron King (1934-2019)

Ron King was a legend. His cheery greeting “alright mush” often echoed around many hides and birding sites, not only in his native Hampshire but much further afield. Referred to with great affection as “Chunky” he was well known countrywide from Shetland to Scilly.

Ronald Arthur King was born on 3rd May 1934 in Winchester to Reginald and Agnes King. Ron was at school in Winchester where he lived almost all of his 84-year life. The only time away was during his 2-year period in the Army on National Service, part of which was spent in the Canal Zone in Egypt.

Leaving school at 16, he went to work for the Post Office (now BT) as a telephone engineer and stayed with them for the whole of his career. Ron met Wendy in Winchester where they married on 14th September 1957 and then lived in the house they had built in Oliver’s Battery for the 61 years of their marriage. However, Ron was far from sedentary and his passion for birds - particularly rare ones - took him all over the UK and many other countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Americas. Together with Wendy, Ron travelled extensively during holidays though never leaving his binoculars behind. Destinations included multiple trips to Turkey and the U.S. visiting Simon whilst he was working overseas, both travelling together with Wendy for holidays and separately to go birding.

His family was a vital part of his life. Ron and Wendy rejoiced in their four children - Lesley, Julie, Mandy and Simon and, in due time, five grandchildren and most recently Phoebe, their great granddaughter. In turn the family treasured Ron and in these latter years it was unusual to see Ron without Simon who drove him many miles in search of birds.

Ron’s skill and experience in bird identification were widely acknowledged being well respected for his straight talking and openly sharing his point of view. Since retirement he became a volunteer at Titchfield and enjoyed sharing his passion for birds with many who visited the reserve. When not in Hampshire, Portland became almost his second home with regular day trips and stays at the observatory during both spring and autumn each year, and it was there that he became part of the story of the discovery of Britain’s first Savannah Sparrow.

It was standing room only in the Chapel for his Thanksgiving Service. We gathered to celebrate Ron as a loving family man, a birder of high renown and a good friend to so many. Grateful for his life and glad to have enjoyed his company, we extend our condolences to Wendy and the whole family. Ron will be truly missed from the Hampshire birding scene.

Bryan Coates & Ron’s family



Dr. Norman Harold Pratt (1933-2019)

I first met Norman in 1984. At the time he was the Conservation Liaison representative on the HOS Field Studies Committee and our paths first crossed at a meeting to explore the possibility of the Society carrying out its first tetrad atlas survey. I was new to HOS but the meeting was attended by several of the Society's founder members - the organisation's movers and shakers of whom Norman was very obviously one. My first impression was of a rather serious, incisive man who asked penetrating questions and delivered authoritative answers but, as I got to know him, I discovered he had a much less serious side. I can do no better than to quote Glynne Evans, who was also at that meeting. Norman's grasp of any subject matter always seemed second to none, and he invariably came up with instant coherent arguments for a planned course of action. For many, he seemed over-serious in committee - sometimes delivering his arguments in the manner of a judge announcing a guilty verdict. But actually, when one got to know him, he had a wonderfully very dry sense of humour.



At our first meeting Norman would have been around 50 and, although I met him numerous times at HOS committee meetings and events after that, I'm sorry to say that I know very little about his earlier years. I am grateful to his daughter, Heather, for the following information. He was born on 12th May 1933 in Langley near Slough and grew up in that area. Following National Service, he obtained a degree in Chemistry at University College London, followed by a PhD in applied chemistry at Imperial College. He then moved, with his wife Christine, to Hampshire to work for a short time at the National Gas Turbine Establishment, Farnborough. In 1963 he moved to Totton to take up a position at The University of Southampton in the department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and, apart from a year's exchange with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970/1, spent the rest of his career there. Despite his specialised and highly technical profession he suffered from a distraction common to many birders! A friend and colleague at the University recalls that he occasionally disappeared at short notice, his absences mysteriously coinciding with the appearance of a rare bird that had turned up in some remote part of the country!

His interest in birds went back a long way. He first joined the BTO in March 1953 and remained a member for the rest of his life, an amazing span of 66 years. His Hampshire records appeared in the Hampshire Bird Report from 1961 when he reported a pair of Bearded Tits at Fleet Pond on December 9th, only the third 20th century record for Hampshire. At that time he lived in Church Crookham, close to Farnborough, and his early records are of personal interest to me because they were often from my local patch. In 1962 he found Dartford Warblers in the Bricksbury area, making this just one of two sites in north-east Hampshire (the other being Woolmer) where they were known to have survived the 1961/62 winter.

In 1968 he became the first Chairman of the Field Studies Committee, a newly formed group in the Ornithological Section of the Hampshire Field Club. The purpose of the Committee was to oversee organised field work in the county, to liaise with the Editorial and Records Committee and to look after conservation matters. It was in the last of these areas that Norman was to play a major role. Living in Totton, he was very familiar with the upper reaches of Southampton Water and he had already demonstrated his interest in using bird records for conservation purposes. The previous year he had co-authored a paper with David Glue, a young Hampshire birder who was soon to become the organiser of the BTO's Estuaries Counts Pilot survey, forerunner of the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry and subsequently WeBS. Their paper *The Influence of Reclamation on Wader Numbers at Dibden Bay 1950-1967*,

was published in the 1967 HBR and demonstrates Norman's appreciation of the value of quantitative ornithology, using bird counts, trends in their numbers and habitat requirements for evidence-based conservation. This conviction, coupled with his knowledge of the Dibden Bay area, remained with him and was to play an important part in his subsequent contributions to Hampshire ornithology.

It was also during the 1960s that the move to set up an independent ornithological organisation in Hampshire began but it was not until 1979 that the Hampshire Ornithological Society was launched. Norman was a founder member of the new Field Studies Committee, responsible for Conservation Liaison, a role he continued to hold until he stood down in 2003. His long involvement in Hampshire ornithology made him the ideal man to write a chapter of *Birds of Hampshire* published by HOS in 1993. Co-authored with Richard Leach and entitled *Twentieth Century Ornithology in Hampshire*, the paper is unusual in detailing the development of ornithology at county level. Not surprising given Norman's authorship, it contains a section on the conservation interface in which he emphasises the importance of having comprehensive, collated ornithological data available to support the conservation of the county's birds and their habitats.

There can be no better example of the value of this than the Dibden Bay Public Inquiry which began in 2001. Norman represented HOS when many conservation organisations joined together to put the case against Associated British Ports, who wanted to build a massive container port at Dibden Bay. He put in many hours collecting, analysing and reporting information as well as attending relevant sections of the inquiry. The outcome was heralded by the headline in the *Southern Daily Echo* on 21st April 2004 as "A Victory for Wildlife". The government's decision to block ABP's development had saved what was described as «the ultimate bird table».

Norman played a major role in this and many other aspects of HOS's development. In recognition of his contribution he was awarded honorary life membership of the Society in 2005. He passed away peacefully on 1st February 2019 aged 85. Our sympathies go to his family – his wife Christine, four daughters, six grandsons and one granddaughter.

John Eyre

John Keith Rainbird Wood (1928–2019)

I'm told that when John was younger, he used to say that he would one day like to write a book. His children were never quite sure what this book might be about; it could have been about any one of a number of things: birds, environment, statistics, philosophy or politics. John was a thinker and he was interested in and knowledgeable about many things.

John's early childhood was in North London, but his parents moved to Harrogate during the war and John went to Harrogate Grammar School. He did well at school, and when the family returned to London after the war he studied at Imperial College, London and graduated with a first class degree in Maths. He went on to study Statistics at University College before joining the Civil Service – firstly as a Scientific Officer with Rothamstead Agricultural Research Station, and then for a major part of his career as a Scientific Adviser with the Ministry of Defence.



John was married to Alison in 1959 and they lived at Chalfont St Peter in Bucks, with John commuting daily into London. The Hampshire connection came about in 1972, when John was moved to a new job at what was then RAF Andover, and they moved to Monxton. Sadly though, Alison became ill and died shortly after John retired in 1983. But soon he married Jean, a mutual long-time friend of them both, and for many years he was then able to share with her his love of birds and the countryside – both in Hampshire and further afield.

Though he was born in London, John had loved the natural world from an early age. After he had moved to Monxton, he was soon enthusiastically contributing to HOS and BTO surveys, combining his support for conservation and all things natural with his skills in meticulous record keeping and attention to detail. It wasn't long before he was persuaded to join the HOS Management Committee, and he then served in many roles over the subsequent 20 years - HOS Secretary, Bird Report Editor for four years (1990-93), Secretary of the then Records & Publications Committee, and finally Secretary of Field Studies and Scientific Committees. And when he eventually retired from committee roles, he was elected an Honorary Life Member in 2001.

In all these roles and in life more generally, as well as being meticulous with the detail, John was dependable, fair, pleasant, unassuming, and a thoroughly decent man. It was always a great pleasure to work with him.

John is survived by his wife Jean, two grown-up married daughters Anne and Gillian, and three grand-children.

Glynne Evans

With thanks to Anne Wilkins for help in compiling this tribute

Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2018

Richard Carpenter



Sanderling (Dan Powell)

A total of 251 species was recorded in 2018. This was one more than last year. There were no new birds for the county this year but there was a first occurrence of Thayer's Gull, a distinctive sub-species of Iceland Gull.

January was an unsettled month with westerly/south-westerly storms on 3rd, 18th and 24th. Winds were from the east or south from 9th-14th.

Still ongoing from 2017 the Hawfinch influx continued to be noted until well into April at many sites.

The Avon Valley Pink-footed Goose remained until at least January 28th and the Blashford Lakes Ferruginous Duck remained until March 20th. The first-winter male Long-tailed Duck was still present in Langstone Harbour until April 21st and the female/immature off Weston Shore remained until April 21st. The Red-necked Grebe off Pennington Marshes was seen up to April 15th moulting into breeding plumage from March. What was assumed to be the regular adult Ring-billed Gull returned to Ibsley Water for its fourth winter and was recorded up to March 31st, and the previously reported first-winter Caspian Gull remained there until March 3rd with at least three other immatures of varying ages.

Another Red-necked Grebe was in Langstone Harbour on 3rd and 28th. Unusually for Hampshire, three Merlins were seen together at Shatterford Bottom, NF on 7th. A first-winter Black Guillemot was at the entrance to Beaulieu River on 8th, probably the same as first seen at Black Point in November 2017, and a Black Brant was at Farlington Marshes on 9th. A juvenile Iceland Gull was reported at Hurst Beach on 14th, one of six seen at coastal locations between then and late April. A Long-eared Owl was flushed from a roost in Pamber Forest on 19th and the highest Brambling count of the year was recorded at Mark Ash Wood, NF with 300 on 22nd. Three White-fronted Geese were present at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes between 26th-Mar 18th. A first-winter Thayer's Gull, the first county record of this sub-species of Iceland Gull, was first seen at Ibsley Water on 28th. It regularly commuted between the pig farm at Tidpit and the roost at Ibsley Water and was last seen on March 8th.

February was a cold, showery month with a lot of frosts especially from 4th-14th. Winds were from the east on 5th and 16th. It was then very cold from 23rd-28th with strong icy winds from the east or north-east: the period was popularly known as the 'The-Beast-from-the-East' and it lasted into the first days of March.

Record high numbers of 16 Spoonbills were at Needs Ore on 2nd and the drake Lesser Scaup, first seen in October 2017, returned to Ibsley Water on 3rd-4th. Bitterns were observed briefly at Keyhaven on 4th and 10th, Titchfield Haven between 16th-25th and on March 4th and Testwood Lakes on 25th. A Bewick's Swan turned up at Ibsley Water on 5th and nearby Harbridge on 7th and 8th. Two Waxwings were at Bramshill Plantation on 11th with one nearby at West Green, Hartley Witney on the same day. A Long-eared Owl was found east of Overton on 13th. An early Osprey arrived at Calshot Spit on 24th, the first of a spring passage which lasted until June 6th. A Glossy Ibis was at Sturt Pond on 27th-28th and a pair of Garganey at Farlington Marshes on 28th were the first with others following until early May. Cold weather movements associated with the 'The-Beast-from-the-East' included up to 85 Golden Plovers at Sandy Point between 27th-Mar 6th and approximately 50 at other coastal sites where they are not normally reported.

March was generally a wet month though it was very cold at times with snowfall on 1st-2nd and again from 17th-21st (the second 'Beast-from-the-East'). Winds were east or south from 1st-5th, 9th-11th and 15th-24th.

The severe weather in the first couple of days led to a noticeable westerly movement of hundreds of Lapwings, Redwings, Fieldfares and Starlings, followed by larger numbers driven by the second 'Beast' on 18th. A first-winter male Velvet Scoter was in Langstone Harbour from 9th-May 1st. The first Wheatears were two at Furze Hill, NF and Ibsley Common on 10th and the first Little Ringed Plover was recorded at Weston Shore on 11th. An early Willow Warbler arrived at Fleet on 16th. A Little Bunting took up residence in a North Baddesley garden from 17th-Apr 10th. Probably the same Bewick's Swan was again present at Harbridge from 21st-Apr 2nd. A Green-winged Teal stayed at Keyhaven from 28th-Apr 14th. Golden Plovers were again on the move when cold weather returned on 18th with a flock of 190 over Scholing, Southampton. The first of three Little Stints in spring was at Pennington Marshes on 25th and the first Stone-curlew was recorded at Overton on 29th. A female Red-crested Pochard was unusual at Woolmer Pond on 30th.

April was a warmer month with a mini-heatwave from 18th-21st. Winds were east or south from 4th-14th, 18th-21st and 27th-30th.

Short-eared Owl numbers peaked at Farlington Marshes with three on April 2nd-3rd. Spring migrants included a Ring Ouzel at Long Valley, Bourley on 3rd, the first of a concentrated passage that continued until 14th with records from a further six sites. Other firsts were a Redstart at Denny Wood, NF on 4th, Cuckoos at Ibsley Water and possibly the same at Rockford Common on 6th, Whinchat at Longcross Plain, NF on 6th and Tree Pipits at Ibsley Water and Oakhanger on 7th. A male White-spotted Bluethroat was at Hamble Common on 11th. Further arrivals included a Nightingale at Casbrook Common on 13th and a Pied Flycatcher at Keyhaven on 14th followed by four more at other sites during the month. Seabird sightings included 60 Manx Shearwaters off Hurst Beach on 15th, the first of 397 seen offshore between then and May 13th. Up to two Savi's Warblers were singing at Farlington Marshes from 18th-May 3rd with singles heard at two other sites during spring. A Wryneck was seen on the Titchfield Canal Path on 20th. An unusually large movement of just over 150 Light-bellied Brent Geese passed west through the Solent on 27th. A Bittern flew over Swaythling at dusk on 28th and a Blue-headed Wagtail was at Ripley Farm on 29th.

May was a warm month but not particularly sunny. There was heavy rain on 29th. Winds were east or south on 7th, 11th-12th and from 18th-31st.

The first Nightjars were at Hook-with-Warsash and Velmead Common on 1st. An Alpine Swift flew NE over Compton near Winchester on 1st and the only Serin of the year flew over Sir George Staunton CP, Havant on 9th. The same day a Roseate Tern flew south past Sandy Point, one of very few seen this year. A Wryneck was calling at Milkham Inclosure, NF on



Short-eared Owl (Dan Powell)

10th and 12th. The only reported spring passage of Pomarine Skuas took place on 11th when six (including a group of four) were logged flying east at Hill Head and Sandy Point. This was also the peak day for Arctic Skua movement with a maximum of 16 at Sandy Point contributing to a minimum spring total of 89 between Mar 30th-June 18th. The only Bee-eater of the year was perched on wires at Needs Ore on 11th. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 13th-15th and another or the same there on 22nd. A Red-footed Falcon graced Noar Hill on 13th. A Wryneck was seen in the New Forest between 18th and June 3rd investigating a potential nest hole but there was no subsequent evidence of breeding. An early Marsh Warbler was singing at Lower Test Marshes on 19th and an adult Rose-coloured Starling flew NW at Hook-with-Warsash on 29th. A male Long-tailed Duck in full summer plumage was seen off Hill Head from 30th until June 2nd.

June saw the start of a dry period that lasted well into July. Winds were from the east or south from 1st-12th and on 26th.

Interesting birds included a Quail flying NW and calling over Fishlake Meadows on 2nd, another adult Rose-coloured Starling, this time in a Petersfield garden on 4th, a Marsh Warbler singing at Waterditch on the county boundary with Dorset on 9th-10th and a Marsh Sandpiper at Keyhaven Marshes on 10th, the fifth Hampshire record.

Our breeding birds had mixed fortunes. Birds of prey had a relatively successful year. Honey Buzzards bred at six sites raising at least 11 young, in the New Forest Goshawks bred at 26 sites raising at least 58 young, a pair of Marsh Harriers bred at Titchfield Haven raising two young and between 250 and 350 pairs of Red Kites were estimated to have bred across the county. A minimum of 14 pairs of Stone-curlews raised a minimum of five young. Successful waders included 50 pairs of Avocets at six sites hatching at least 77 young and a minimum of 29 pairs of Little Ringed Plovers, 13 of which raised 31 young. Numbers of Mediterranean Gulls almost doubled to a new high of 1,740 pairs at four locations, the vast majority in Langstone Harbour. A total of 173 pairs of Sandwich Terns bred in Langstone and Keyhaven harbours raising 64 young, but Little Terns had an unsuccessful year with 75 pairs raising just nine young. Common Terns had mixed success at ten sites with a total of 215 pairs raising 149 young, the most productive being those using the HOS-sponsored rafts at Ivy Lake and West Hayling LNR. Three pairs of Goosanders bred in the Avon Valley. Turtle Doves continued

to hang on at Martin Down with between 14-21 purring males plus three more nearby but breeding was not confirmed. At least eight pairs of Hobbies nested in the New Forest and the north-east and Peregrines bred at 25 localities with 17 pairs known to have fledged 38 young. Ravens were recorded nesting at 14 or more sites and a pair of Black Redstarts bred successfully at Sandy Point. A county-wide breeding survey of Dartford Warblers reported significantly reduced numbers as a result of mortality during the severe cold spells earlier in the year.

July continued dry until 20th. It was very warm and the first heavy rain for two months fell on 29th. Winds were east or south on 26th-27th.

Two adult Roseate Terns were at Hill Head from 11th-25th. The first returning Curlew Sandpiper was at Hook-with-Warsash on 19th and passage continued at coastal sites until October 13th. The first returning Osprey was at Fishlake Meadows on 20th and passage continued until October 16th. A male Hen Harrier observed in the New Forest on 18th was the first July record since 1995. There was a movement of Black Terns off Hill Head from 21st-27th with a peak of 25 on 26th. A singing male Quail at Broughton Down on 22nd was the only potential breeding bird this year. An injured Sooty Shearwater off Weston Shore on 27th was taken into care.

August continued with the hot weather. There was heavy rain on 10th and 26th. Winds were east or south on 5th and 21st-22nd.

Return passage of Pied Flycatchers commenced on 3rd with sightings at seven different sites and passage continuing until September 13th. A Spotted Crake was at Titchfield Haven on 4th and another at Ramptons Lane GP on 22nd. The first autumn Wryneck was at Hinton Ampner on 20th-21st and others followed sporadically at five sites until October 15th. An Aquatic Warbler was seen briefly at Farlington Marshes on 20th followed by another at Lepe the next day. An adult Roseate Tern was at Hill Head on 23rd. The only Tree Sparrows seen this year were two at Windmill Hill, Alton on 26th. A juvenile Red-backed Shrike was at Workman's Lane, Chilling on 27th.

September was largely dry to start with and again from 24th. There was a stormy period of westerlies from 18th to 23rd. Winds were south-east on 2nd and 25th.

A Hoopoe was at IBM Lake on 1st. The Yellow Wagtail roost at Titchfield Haven peaked at 300 on 1st and a Temminck's Stint was there from 2nd-7th and then at Keyhaven Marshes from 24th-Oct 9th. A Glossy Ibis was at Testbourne Lakes on 4th. The first returning Bittern was at Ivy Lake on 4th followed by brief sightings in October and November until December when it was seen regularly. Another Bittern was at Pennington Marshes on 6th and intermittently until the year's end. The third Spotted Crake of the year was at Keyhaven from 8th-17th. There was a movement of Ortolan Buntings mid-month with singles at Bishop's Dyke, NF on 13th, Emer Bog on 14th and Portsdown Hill on 14th-15th. The only Richard's Pipit this year was at Pennington Lagoon/Oxey Marsh on 14th-15th. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper was at Farlington Marshes on 15th-22nd followed by another there on 27th, and another juvenile was at The Vyne WM from 27th-Oct 14th. A Bluethroat of indeterminate race was at Farlington Marshes on 17th. A Grey Phalarope was present at Ibsley Water from 20th-30th with five other singles during this period at other sites. The first returning Hen Harrier was at Shatterford, New Forest on 24th. Five Cranes, which were recorded moving south across England, were seen over Andover on 25th and then at Tanners Lane the following morning. A male Red-crested Pochard was at Dogmersfield Lake from 29th-Oct 4th. The first returning Redwings were three at Tweseldown on 29th.

October was changeable to start with but there was a long dry spell from 18th-31st. Winds were east or south from 8th-10th, 29th and 31st.

The Blashford Lakes Ferruginous Duck returned on 1st and remained until the end of the year. The first returning Fieldfares were at Longparish and Tweseldown on 7th. A Yellow-browed Warbler at Sandy Point on 8th was the first of the autumn; it was followed by 12 more at other sites between then and the year's end. A Red-necked Grebe flew east past Hurst Castle on 13th followed by five sightings of possibly the same individual along the coast in November and December. A first-winter Caspian Gull was at Ibsley Water on 18th and on several dates between then and the end of the year. The first Great Grey Shrike of the winter was at East Tisted on 18th. The only Lapland Bunting of the year flew east over Pennington Marshes on 21st and the only Shore Lark was at Ibsley Water briefly on 23rd. An exceptionally large group of 56 Cattle Egrets was found feeding near Trigpoint Hill on 24th. A Hoopoe was at Bentley from 25th-27th. A flock of 16 Greenland White-fronted Geese flew east after circling Pennington Marshes on 26th and the only autumn Pomarine Skuas were a group of six off Pennington Marshes the same day. A juvenile Rough-legged Buzzard flew west over Farlington Marshes on 29th, the first since 2011.



Bittern (Dan Powell)

November Winds were from the south or east from 4th-6th and it was very wet from 9th-11th. There was a period of easterly winds and a cold spell from 20th-27th and a strong south-westerlies on 29th.

The first returning Slavonian Grebe was found at Chichester Harbour entrance on 1st and small numbers were seen subsequently along the coast. A male Red-crested Pochard was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on 6th. A Bittern returned to Testwood Lakes on 6th and was seen intermittently through the month. Single Snow Buntings were at Bucklers Hard on 11th, Hill Head on 22nd-26th and Hurst Castle on 26th. A fly-over Twite was noted at Tweseldown on 13th and another at Normandy Marsh on 15th remained until December 24th. The adult Ring-billed Gull returned to Ibsley Water on 15th and was recorded intermittently until December 2nd. There was a small influx of White-fronted Geese from 17th with up to seven at several sites until well into December. A male Long-tailed Duck was seen off Hill Head from 22nd-26th and a female appeared in Southampton Water on the same date and was still present at the year's end. A late Curlew Sandpiper was at Calshot on 22nd and a late Sooty Shearwater flew east at Milford on Sea on 29th.

December was a mild month. There were strong westerlies from 5th-8th and easterlies from 12th-15th. A dry spell lasted from 25th-31st.

The Ibsley Water roost of Goosanders peaked at 118 on 4th and the only inland record of Scaup this year was a drake at Rooksbury Mill on 5th. A juvenile White-tailed Eagle was an unexpected find at Roe Inclosure, NF on 7th remaining in the general area until early 2019. Single Bitterns

were reported from Titchfield Haven on 8th and 17th and Fishlake Meadows on 19th. A winter Ring Ouzel was at Beacon Hill, Warnford 8th to 14th. A Glossy Ibis was at Needs Ore on 9th and seen later that day flying over Pennington. Five Waxwings provided an attractive end to the year at the Asda car park at Totton on 31st remaining until early 2019.

The monthly totals of species and cumulative species in Hampshire in 2018 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In month	165	166	179	202	197	172	172	178	191	198	176	174
Additions to year list		7	17	28	11	2	1	4	7	5	2	2
Year to date		172	189	217	228	230	231	235	242	247	249	251



Cattle Egrets (Dan Powell)

Systematic List of Species

Introduction

General information and terminology

Species categories, sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List (9th edition revised February 2019). Alternative IOC English names are also included in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v9.1 at January 2019). Each species account begins with a brief statement of its status in Hampshire. These use certain terms that have an approximate numerical range attached to them, as shown below, based on average numbers in recent years.

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

For most species monitored by the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), the means of maxima for up to three periods of five successive winters are given. For rare species, three numbers are given in parentheses after the status statement. These refer to the total numbers of individuals recorded (i) prior to 1950, (ii) between 1950 and 2017 and (iii) in 2018. 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.

ET	European threatened – included in Annex I of the EC ‘Birds Directive’ (2009/147/EC).
CR	Critically Endangered in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
EN	Endangered in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
VU	Vulnerable in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
NT	Near-threatened in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2015
Schedule I	Included in Schedule I of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
Red	Red-listed in UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC4), see British Birds 108: 708-746.
Amber	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC4)
Green	Not categorised under any of the criteria for Amber and Red (BoCC4)
S41	England most threatened – included in Section 41 of NERC Act, 2006 (updated 2014)
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, 1998

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

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

Information from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Surveys is summarised in the species accounts and presented in more detail in Table 1. Data from the BTO Garden BirdWatch survey are included in selected species accounts. This comprises information from some gardens where weekly counts were made of all species and others where only presence was recorded. A summary of the data for all species is presented in Table 2. Findings from the BTO Breeding Bird Survey are summarised in Table 3. Results of the New Forest Winter Bird Survey are given in Table 4 and the coverage achieved in the WeBS counts is summarised in Table 5. The first and last dates of winter and summer visitors are included in the Systematic List but are also summarised in Tables 6 and 7. These tables also show average arrival and departure dates for migrants. Finally, Table 8 summarises monthly movements at inland migration watchpoints.

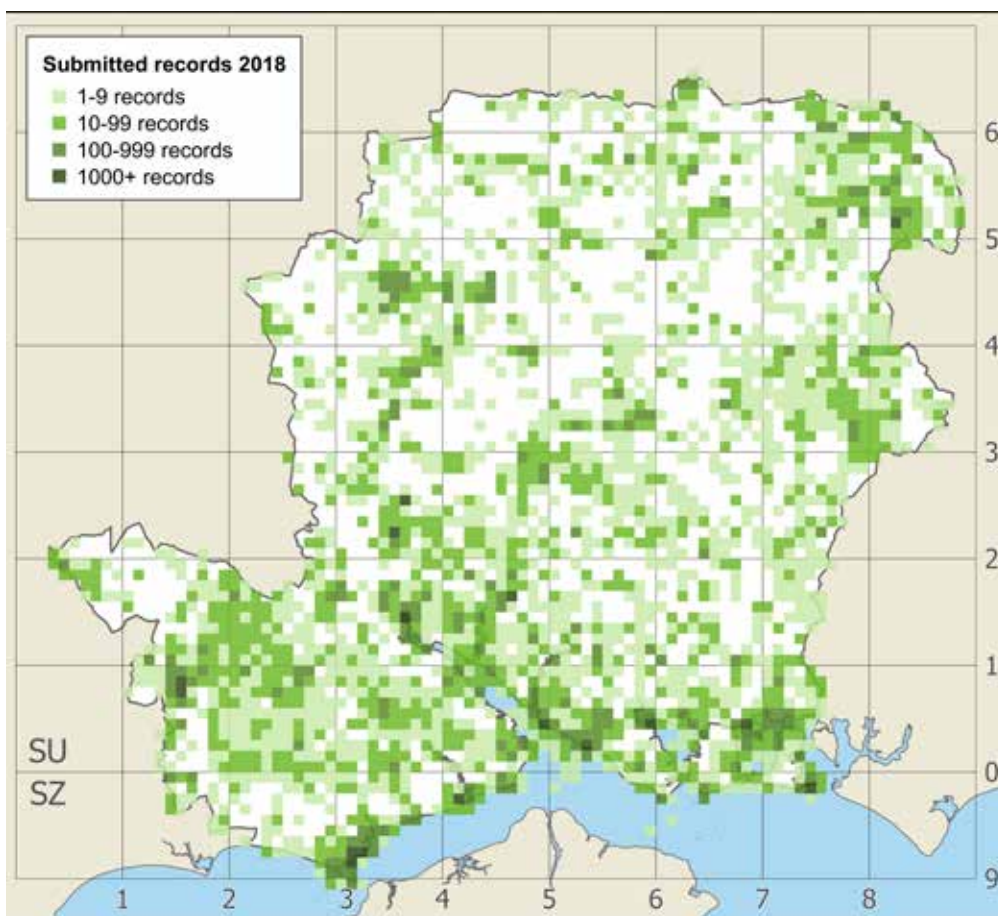
Occasionally, reference is made to the term 'bird-days' in the Systematic List. It is used to give the sum of the numbers of birds recorded at a well-watched site over a given period, e.g. totals of 3, 2, 1, 2, 4, 0, 2 recorded over a week would indicate 14 bird-days, although the number of different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

Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society's CoBRA 2 database (County Bird Recording Application). This year's database contained 127,554 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: BTO BirdTrack (42.8%), HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets, correspondence and rarities submissions) (15.3%), Going Birding website (13.7%), WeBS counts (8.7%), BTO Breeding Birds Survey (6.2%), Living Record (4.6%), Trektellen (2.8%), New Forest Winter Bird Survey (2.0%); Needs Ore Log (1.8%) and others (each <1%). Note on-line sources are filtered to meet the threshold criteria for HOS record submissions (Appendix 2). In particular, BTO BirdTrack records for Hampshire totalled 143,862 of which 54,247 met the submission criteria. This was nearly double the number last year thus making BirdTrack the major data source. The above breakdown includes 7,876 records from BTO's Breeding Birds Survey (BBS). This records all adults along two one km transects within selected one km squares during the breeding season. In addition BTO Garden BirdWatch contributed a further 159,000 records, including mammals and insects covering 272 Hampshire gardens, which were used in some of the species accounts.

Coverage

A total of 1,156 individual observers contributed records to the database. Analysis of previous records has highlighted the very large differences in coverage between the separate parts of the county. The distribution of 2018 records in the CoBRA2 database used to prepare this report is shown on the map below at the one km square level, similar to last year. As expected, the highest numbers of records were submitted for the coastal areas, the main reserves, the New Forest and the north-east with other concentrations around Bordon, Winchester and Andover. There were 16 squares with over 1,000 records, the highest again being Titchfield Haven/Hill Head with over 9,000. Whilst the emphasis on the coast and lakes results in good coverage of wetland species, the same cannot be said of woodland or farmland species inhabiting much of the central, northern and western parts of the county, and such differences should be borne in mind when interpreting the records summarised in the Systematic List.



Number of records in HOS 2018 database for each 1 km square in Hampshire

Categories A, B & C

Brent Goose (Brant Goose)

Branta bernicla

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla bernicla

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

Amber, S4I, HBAP.

In the early year WeBS count totals peaked at 14,253 in February which is below the average for the last five year period (see header). This can be attributed to a poor breeding season in 2017. National data showed a total of 1.0% young in 42,706 which were aged; this included 0.76% young in 8,653 aged in The Solent (<https://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/species-accounts/dark-bellied-brant-geese/>). Interestingly, the Sussex part of Chichester Harbour held an exceptional 13,027 in February which was over 50% higher than any other count there during the 2017/18 winter.

Recorded eastbound spring passage was light with 318 logged at Sandy Point on 12 dates in March and 336 on 15 dates in April up to 27th; only 60 extra birds were noted at other watchpoints where coverage was poor. Most had evidently left by early April as indicated by the WeBS total of only 233 on 13th. Only 11 were noted in May up to 30th and the next were two in Langstone Harbour on Aug 11th. These remained there subsequently with the

first evidence of returners being two in Chichester Harbour on Sep 20th, six in Langstone Harbour on Sep 23rd, 62 the next day and 40 in Portsmouth Harbour on 26th.

The late year WeBS totals peaked at a very low 10,725 in November despite counts of first-winters indicating that 2018 was a better breeding season. The national data were not available at the time of writing.

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	8,562	16,354	9,089	43	11	11	13	13	19	4,040	7,596	8,225
Hampshire sectors	2,722	3,327	1,850	4	1				93	2,518	2,662	1,969
Langstone Harbour	4,344	4,789	4,606	34	1			2	90	2,341	3,223	2,567
Portsmouth Harbour	1,863	1,666	2,142						40	568	1,726	2,066
Titchfield Haven area	1,020	1,150	950	41	2				19	252	1,122	1,440
Hamble Estuary	267	301	317	93						105	235	191
Itchen Estuary	48	60	208	126						20	73	105
Hythe-Calshot	160	183	248	39					1	277	232	395
Beaulieu Estuary	910	1,001	700	200	3					610	1,009	1,165
Sowley-Lymington	365	160	150	7						120	100	100
Lymington-Hurst	1,560	1,170	1,235	74	1				6	490	700	1,450
WeBS count totals	11,868	14,253	12,622	233	1			2		7,457	10,725	10,345

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

Inland records involved one at Ibsley Water on Jan 3rd, 17 flying west over Tweseldown on Oct 26th and one with Greylags in the Avon Valley at Ibsley Water on Dec 19th and 31st and Harbridge on 29th. (JMC)

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber.

Possibly four remained from 2017 although they were not well recorded. At Keyhaven there was one on Jan 1st, two on 20th and one on Mar 28th and 29th. At Beaulieu Estuary there was one on Jan 5th and 7th and two on Feb 2nd and 4th. No doubt the same bird was at nearby Lepe on Jan 6th, Feb 25th and Mar 17th. At Farlington Marshes an adult was present between Jan 6th and Feb 3rd, a first-winter on Mar 13th and an unaged bird on Mar 25th. There was also an adult at West Hayling Shore on Mar 17th. Singles were also seen at Warblington on Jan 24th and Weston Shore on Mar 6th.

An unprecedented passage took place on Apr 27th involving possibly 153. Two large groups of around 125 Brent Geese flying west distantly off Sandy Point were no doubt the same flocks of 52 and 57 which flew west off Stokes Bay between 06:45 and 10:00. One of these groups was seen off Hurst Beach where 52 flew west at 09:31. Another flock of 45 was seen from Weston Shore as they flew up Southampton Water before 08:45. Possibly these were the same as a group of 44 seen at 17:00 at Pennington Marshes. A group of c.60 seen distantly moving west off Hurst Beach at 18:00 may also have been these birds. The next day a flock of 20 flew east off Hill Head at 10:00.

In the late year there were four at Southsea Common on Oct 31st, an adult in Chichester Harbour from Nov 2nd-22nd with two on 4th and 5th, an adult and two first-winters at Pennington Marshes on Nov 3rd and two at the Beaulieu Estuary on Dec 23rd.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JMC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	3	5	153						4	5	2

Black Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

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

There were two records involving adults at Farlington Marshes on Jan 9th (REF, photo) and Warblington on Jan 14th (PS). These may relate to the same individual but even if different are probably both returners from early 2017. The bird at Gosport in late December 2017 was not reported at the same site in early 2018.

2017 correction. The female at Tournerbury between Jan 17th and Mar 3rd is assumed to be that seen in the area between Oct 28th and Nov 3rd 2016; thus the all-time total has been revised downwards to 37. (JMC)



*Black Brant, Farlington Marshes, Jan 9th
(Richard Ford)*

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 peak WeBS count total of 3,242 was in line with numbers recorded in previous years. Monthly maxima at regularly used sites where counts reached 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	162	165	33	43	81	91	148	111	95	390	355	315
Titchfield Haven area	159	153	110	32	30	31	50	500	294	50	324	250
Beaulieu Estuary	225	122	88	122	60	105	266	150	50	124	212	286
Lymington-Hurst	407	406	100	119	159	223	200	350	390	525	500	350
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	254	317	133						143	87	310	339
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Blashford Lakes	409	218	211			259	100	282	295	559	320	295
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	208	186	19	24	13	370	217	266	180	210	170	250
Upper Itchen Valley	93	68	21	71	49	52	20	74	145	267	150	70
Rampton's Lane GP	14		2		10			244	360*	12	12	120
Bramshill Park	20	38	49	24	46	118	111	144	420	675	11	36
Tundry Pond	299	157	14	6	17		76	112	290	104	320	348
Heath Pond, Petersfield	20	23	29	14	14	67	57	117	166	480*	313	3
WeBS count totals	3,017	2,606	1,371	701	527	1,396	1,252	1,307	2,149	3,055	3,156	3,242

* = record for locality

Counts exceeding 200 at non-tabulated sites were as follows: 345, Busta Triangle, Sep 20th; 275 roosting Fleet Pond, Oct 4th; 296*, Lyndridge Farm, Eversley, Nov 15th; 330, Dibden Bay, Dec 23rd (Lower Test birds).

A total of 41 broods of young was recorded at 24 sites. This included four broods at Farlington Marshes which fledged 19 young, three totalling 17 young at The Grange Lake and three totalling 11 at IBM Lake. At Fleet Pond six broods totalled 28 young but as in 2017 none survived. Approximately 12 pairs attempted to nest mostly at Blashford Lake, Ivy Lake and lbsley Water; nest control was undertaken to reduce numbers. (JMC)

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

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

The group of 42 at Farlington Marshes since Dec 15th 2017 remained into the New Year. On Jan 6th a further flock of c.80 flew into Langstone Harbour from the south at 15:15 and landed at The Deeps. The WeBS total for that day was recorded as 125. Variable numbers were recorded on subsequent dates including 92 on 7th, 44 on 9th, 67 on 11th, 90 on 13th and 14th and 69 on 19th, the final date the flock was present. The flock of 23 at Eversley GP in late 2017 remained until at least Mar 14th although it was usually to be found grazing fields just in Berkshire. The only other early year records were singles regularly at Frater (Portsmouth Harbour) and Titchfield Haven and at Baffins Pond on Jan 5th.

Three pairs, including at least one with a nest, were at Wellington CP on Apr 19th but no young were raised there. Also in the north one was at Clapperhill, Pamber End on June 6th. Singles were at various localities in the south-east in April-September while at Titchfield Haven there were two on May 20th and June 6th, five on June 24th and three on July 7th. These three were probably those with Canada Geese at Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes on many dates between July 11th and Oct 19th. Two were at Farlington Marshes on Sep 11th.

An influx on Dec 26th involved a flock of c.160 which arrived from the east over Langstone Harbour at 12:15 and split into c.50 landing on South Binness Island and the rest at North Hayling. Another flock of 57 arrived from the east and landed off Normandy Marsh also at 12:15. It seems likely that these were from the resident flock at Seaview, Isle of Wight which had been temporarily displaced by some form of disturbance. Other late year records involved the returning flock at Eversley GP which numbered 14 on Oct 13th and 32 on Dec 16th, one at Fleet Pond on Oct 4th, two at Portchester on Oct 5th, two at Farlington Marshes from Oct 13th-Nov 23rd with one until the year's end and one at Frater on Dec 8th, 19th and 24th. (JMC)

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Rare feral visitor.

The one surviving individual of the north-east Hampshire/Berkshire feral population, last seen in Hampshire from Sep 6th-8th 2016, was at Bramshill Park on Oct 15th. (JMC)

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.

As in 2017, WeBS counts totals in the post-breeding period were lower than expected except in September when 1,274 were counted. 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	81	52	60	35	145	5	68	12		120	163	134
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	143	131	19	14				6	350	370	25	125
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Blashford Lakes	139	115	78			135	56	148	259	150	150	79
Test: Fishlake Meadows	156	42	27	24	6	30	16	30	220	160	265	75
Longparish	100	3	10	12	20	48	55	80	1	1	1	1
Testbourne Lake	26	115	138	42	21		80	204	220	210	248	240
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	110	87	59	24	34	14	66	118	139	131		
The Vyne	150	107				31	76	12	7	120	135	80
Tundry Pond	60	72	39		4		13	94	154	67	91	88
Fleet Pond (roosts)												
WeBS count totals	529	530	350	149	84	223	259	354	1,274	892	839	847

Other counts exceeding 40 were as follows: 66, Fleet Pond, Jan 11th; 61, Stratfield Saye, Jan 16th; 58, Wellington CP, Feb 17th; 60 roosting Fleet Pond, Aug 4th; 62, Bramshill Park, Aug 14th and 83 there, Oct 16th; 62 (a record high for the locality), Lepe, Aug 17th; 44, Ewhurst Lake, Sep 16th.

Breeding reports (single broods unless stated otherwise) came from Anton Lakes (6 young), Blackmoor (3 young), Bramshill Park (3 broods, 7 young), Fleet Pond (2 broods, 1 young), Hamer Warren (10 young), Lakeside CP (9 young), Liss Forest (3 young), Needs Ore (3 young; clearly under-recorded), Rockford Lake (1 young), Tundry Pond (2 broods, 11 young) and Wellington CP (3 broods, 14 young). Pairs were also reported with young on Ibsley Water, possibly from having nested on Mockbeggar Lake. (JMC)

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Rare winter visitor but presumed feral birds have occurred in most months (24,145,4). Amber.

The adult first seen in the Avon Valley on Dec 4th 2017 remained until at least Jan 28th and was regularly seen in fields at Harbridge and at Ibsley Water.

A first-winter was found with Canada Geese at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 25th (SC, SSK, PDW). It remained until at least Feb 1st 2019 with regular sightings from the Lower Test area and Testwood Lakes and other occurrences at Broadlands Estate on Nov 13th and 15th and Dibden Bay on Dec 23rd. A flock of three was with Brent Geese at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes from Nov 18th-Dec 4th (SGK et al.). (JMC)



*Pink-footed Goose, Harbridge WM, Jan 20th
(Alan Lewis)*

White-fronted Goose

(Greater White-fronted Goose)

Anser albifrons

European White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons albifrons

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

The only early year record was two adults and a first-winter at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes from Jan 26th-Mar 18th.



White-fronted Geese, Keyhaven Marshes, Jan 29th (Gareth Rees)

A small influx occurred in late autumn with two adults and a first-winter at Park Shore on Nov 17th and 18th, one at Farlington Marshes on Nov 23rd and Dec 12th, two at Pennington Marshes on Nov 25th, one in the Avon Valley at Somerley Estate on Nov 25th and Bisterne on Dec 16th, four at Needs Ore on Dec 20th and seven there on 31st, and one at Fishlake Meadows on Dec 21st and 27th. (JMC)

Greenland White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons flavirostris

Very rare winter visitor. (0,19,16) ET.

Red.

A flock of 16 arrived from the west and circled over Pennington Marshes for five minutes on Oct 26th before leaving east at 08:30 (SGK). There was a significant influx to England at this time including a flock of 21 at Langton Herring, Dorset later the same day which may have included the Pennington birds. There have been four previous records involving a total of 19 birds all since 2000. Most recently ten were seen over Farlington Marshes on Oct 22nd 2014. (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.

The maximum WeBS count total of 846 in November compared with 739 in November 2017 but, despite this increase, numbers in the main resort in the Avon Valley continued at the lower level of recent years. Numbers were also lower than usual on the Itchen Estuary where increased numbers of Black Swans have been recorded. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 30 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	14	7	5	13	18	15	13	32	45	21	28	24
Southsea Canoe Lake	41	46	39	27	16	12			6	18	20	35
Portsmouth Harbour	79	69	68		45		77	71	93	110	112	97
Itchen: Woolston-Woodmill	49	46	38	46	28	31	85	71	71	45	49	51
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	4	11	7	8	36	23	37	33	37	12	8	2
Lymington-Hurst	46	46	44	41	26	33	30	51	32	26	27	62
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	56	29	14	14					102	30	53	44
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	119	128	118	120		58			127	139	90	140
Avon: Blashford Lakes	46	28	22	14	14	31	74	66	55	65	101	64
Avon above Fordingbridge	30	36	46						5	45	44	67
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	21	14	7	8	12	17	5	7	11	39	55	52
Alresford Pond	35	7	29	32	43	59	69	43	37	21	16	11
Yateley GP	47	21	49	47				71	75*	39	50	58
Heath Pond, Petersfield	33	31	33	31	30	32	21	27	18	21	17	23
WeBS count totals	714	717	609	242	181	206	232	324	753	795	846	841

* = record for locality

The only other count to exceed 30 was 35 at Avington Lake on Sep 25th.

Breeding season reports involved 48 pairs which raised 187 young, four which failed at the egg stage, two that lost their young and two which nested but the outcome was unknown. Among the records were five broods totalling 22 young at Yateley GP, a large brood of ten on the Basingstoke Canal between Fleet and Eelmoor, and Polish cygnets at Alresford Pond (one, of a brood of two, which probably did not survive) and IBM Lake (two of a brood of five, all of which disappeared). (JMC)

Bewick’s Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

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

After last year’s blank in the Avon Valley at least one was recorded there in the early year. An adult flew into roost at Ibsley Water on Feb 5th and was then relocated at Harbridge on 7th and 8th. Another or the same was at Harbridge from Mar 21st-Apr 2nd (m.o.). (JMC)



Bewick’s Swan, Harbridge WM, Mar 23rd (Lee Fuller)

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Scarce but increasing feral resident.

Numbers continued to rise with record counts at most sites.

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	2	2	9	9	4	10	2		19	11	21*	7
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir	27	23	10				10	9	36	42	2	10
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	47	41	10	2	2	8			86	102*	80	12
Avon: Ibsley Water	7	4	4	4	10	15	67	73	103*	70	23	12
Rampton’s Lane GP & Welshman’s Road GP					2			1	104*	4		
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley	48	48	15					125	166	157	112	88
Eversley GP (mostly roost counts)	2	7	9	4	16	30	22	50	56	93	2	3
Heath Pond, Petersfield	14	14	20	14	23		38*	31	16	8	14	20

* = record for locality

The count of 103 at Ibsley Water on Sep 17th included 79 on Ibsley North GP. Other sites with less regular records or counts below ten came from 41 sites including four which flew over Southsea Castle towards the Isle of Wight on Jan 27th, 15 at Wellington CP on June 4th, 11 at Hawley Lake on Dec 9th and regular records in the east of the county with high counts in December including 35 at Wishanger on 14th and 21 at Kingsley and 23 at Great Holt Farm, Headley on 29th.

Breeding reports of fledged young came from Blackmoor (1 young), Bramshill Park (1 young), Busta Triangle (8 young), Dogmersfield Lake (2 young), Edenbrook CP (3 young), Heath Pond, Petersfield (5 broods, 4 young), Needs Ore (2 broods, 11 young), Testwood Lake (2 young), Ripley Farm Reservoir (2 broods, 15 young), Tundry Pond (2 broods, 8 young) and Wellington CP (7 young). Two broods seen at Ibsley Water were believed to have come from outside the reserve. (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.

The WeBS totals were again below average with no four-figure counts this year. Monthly maxima at coastal sites where counts exceeded 50 and regularly used inland sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	542	457	656	187	93	26	14		12	103	325	472
Hampshire sectors	106	78	169	42	16	1				71	25	12
Langstone Harbour	380	254	290	110	55	31	27	22	6	40	130	248
Portsmouth Harbour	142	84	151	26	16	8	3	1	6	10	71	123
Southampton Water	44	94	96	44	33	24	19	1		5	38	62
Beaulieu Estuary	23	40	48	60	33	50	3	5		12	20	42
Lymington-Hurst	110	187	123	106	47	27	3	16	11	71	67	130
Sowley-Lymington	18	10		8	15	16	8	2			10	24
Titchfield Haven	36	33	35	24	58	33	13	3	1	5	30	31
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir	15	26	44	33	17							3
Avon: Blashford Lakes/Ibsley area	1		3	6	5	1						
Alresford Pond	5	6	4	5	6	4	4	10		1	2	2
Other inland records (no. of sites)	4(3)	6(2)	8(2)	9(3)	9(7)	1						1
WeBS count totals	745	812	951	397	149	121	41	24	19	200	389	644

At coastal sites breeding was recorded at Farlington Marshes (5 broods of 8, 7, 5, 3 and 1), Needs Ore (1 adult with a brood of 15), Pennington Marshes (1 brood, 9 fledged), Sowley Marsh (1 brood, 10 fledged) and Titchfield Haven (1 brood, 5 fledged). Inland broods were reported at Alresford Pond (2 broods of 4 and 3). 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.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Headley Mill Pond	25	15		1								17
Hook Heath Farm, Southwick	12			3								15
Blashford Lakes	6	5	2	2	12	9	27				28	19
The Grange Lake	12			1				4		21	2	
Bramshill Lake									3	22	14	
Stratfield Saye	100	70							75	62	59	108

Other double-figure counts were ten at Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest on Feb 20th, ten at Fishlake Meadows on Sep 12th, 15 at Eyeworth Pond, NF on Sep 24th, ten at Blackmoor on Sep 28th and 22 at Oakhanger on Oct 28th.

Broods were reported at Abbots Ann, Butts Lawn (NF), Fleet Pond, Mockbeggar Lake, Mortimer West End area (4), Passfield Pond, Sherfield-on-Loddon and Woodfidley (NF). A male at Farlington Marshes on June 1st was unusual at that site. (DB)

Garganey

Spatula querquedula

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber.

Numbers were similar to last year with 19 reported in spring and six in autumn. The first was a pair at Farlington Marshes on Feb 28th, a new early date (AQB, photo), and the highest count was seven comprising four males and three females at Ibsley Water on Apr 6th with up to three there until 11th. Three pairs flew east at Hurst Beach on Apr 6th and three were on the sea there on Apr 27th. Ones and twos were reported at Pennington Marshes (males, Mar 7th and Apr 19th); Farlington Marshes (male, Mar 7th-25th); Hill Head (female E, Mar 11th and pair on beach, Apr 11th); Titchfield Haven (Apr 4th); Posbrook Flood (pair, Apr 29th); Ibsley/Hucklesbrook (male, May 1st, pair, May 17th) and Fishlake Meadows (female, May 3rd).

The first autumn report was at Edenbrook CP (1 eclipse male, Aug 20th and 21st). This was followed by reports at Testwood Lakes (eclipse male, Aug 27th-29th), Farlington Marshes (juv, Aug 31st), Ivy Lake (juvenile, Sep 4th), Edenbrook CP (eclipse male, Sep 7th-Oct 4th), Alresford Pond (1, Sep 23rd-28th) and Ibsley Water (juvenile, Sep 30th). After a gap of several weeks presumably the same male reappeared at Edenbrook CP on Nov 16th but was not seen again. (DB)



Eclipse drake Garganey, Edenbrook CP, Fleet, Oct 3rd (David Hampton)

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler)

Spatula clypeata

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

WeBS counts in early 2018 were slightly higher than last year. The highest counts in this period were at Blashford Lakes where at least 150 were reported between Jan 16th and Apr 3rd, peaking at 307 on Mockbeggar Lake on Feb 8th when the lakes were partially frozen. In the late year numbers peaked in November and December when three-figure counts were recorded at Blashford Lakes (221, Nov 25th), Langstone Harbour (102, Dec 22nd) and Lymington-Hurst (128, Nov 24th; 105, Dec 22nd).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	100	119	135	76	6	6	6	8	14	42	77	102
Titchfield Haven	43	43	37	20	8	12	10	18	24	26	39	44
Southampton Water	32	12	10	9	2		1	3	2	31	5	20
Southampton Common	22	15	11	11							13	
Beaulieu Estuary	85	65	20	18	3	1		1	20	36	81	49
Lymington-Hurst	227	219	157	54	15	1		4	15	57	128	105
Blashford Lakes	185	307	146	160		1	2	9	35	112	221	87
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	25	29	4	2								19
Testwood Lakes	31	11	40							4	5	15
Test: Fishlake Meadows	17	12	5	3		4			3	20	15	20
Overton Lagoons			9						12	14	10	8
Winchester SF	13	30	22	22						2	4	2
Alresford Pond	20	13	7	2			2	4	20	29	45	25
The Grange Lake	42	16		1						32		20
Rampton's Lane GP & Welshman's Road GP	37	37	15					2		20	28	36
Ewhurst Park/Lake	8	5	11	3							10	6
The Vyne	10	8	9							6	16	19
Eversley GP	74	81	101	1					21	72	42	83
Yateley GP	25							2	11	10	10	11
Fleet Pond	20		4	1			2	2	17	2	2	
Tundry Pond	55	34	3						12	14	49	56*
Busta Triangle									6	32	22	
WeBS count totals	860	811	643	121	16	3	1	12	107	438	676	663

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

The only other double-figure counts not included in the table above were 12 at Edenbrook CP on Oct 4th, 19 at Kingston Ponds on Dec 28th and 81* at Dogmersfield Lake on Dec 29th.

The only breeding records were at Titchfield Haven where seven pairs were present during the summer and eight ducklings were recorded on June 5th, Needs Ore where seven ducklings were seen on June 1st and Farlington Marshes where five young were reported on July 18th. (DB)



*Drake Shoveler, Pennington Marshes, Nov 2nd
 (Joe Murphy)*



Gadwall, Blashford Lakes, Mar 16th (Martin Bennett)

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 for January and February were down on the previous year and the long-term mean maxima (see header). However numbers in the late year peaked at 1,619 in December which was significantly up on 2017. Counts at the main site at Blashford Lakes showed a similar pattern with numbers in January and February down on 2017 whereas October to December were higher.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	109	70	37	29	34	8	11	18	25	22	109	111
Titchfield Haven	112	113	100	85	73	104	52	77	45	81	60	62
Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash	24	22	20	19	13	10		7	6	15	11	26
Badminton Common	9	6	6	13	4	2		2	9	7	28	17
Calshot-Fawley	13	20	19								20	8
Beaulieu Estuary	28	61	41	55	12	56	33	8	2	16	39	61
Lymington-Hurst	63	20	8	10	7	15	27	4	7	10	6	2
Avon: Blashford Lakes incl. Hamer Warren	811	562	102	10	10	7	157	89	246	193	474	588
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	12		2		52	107			16	11	2	2
Fishlake Meadows	2	14	26	6		2	5	7	13	44	12	125
Stockbridge-Fullerton	9	5	7	3	5	5	37	12	11	25	40	28
Longparish Trout Lakes	32	23	32	29	10	6	26	3	16	38	35	13
Anton Lakes, Andover	6	6	7	4	2	2		2	26	12	22	20
Testbourne Lake	66	37	27	23	23		15	5	14	20	25	52
Testwood Lakes	14	16	24	1			7		27	46	25	13
Overton/Ashe	46		46	45	44				87	38	45	50
Winchester SF	105	122	115	109	52	28	4	20	14		23	92
Avington Lake	38	14	11	23	19	30	16	28	16	22	16	19
Alresford Pond	78	23	36	9	23	37	35	161	265*	173	159	85
The Grange Lake	31	35		51	15	12			58	94	8	35
Welshman's Road GP	35	7	15							18	36	20
Stratfield Saye	19	20								22	41	45
Eversley GP	148	61	14	10	6	15		3	36	51	62	120
Yateley GP	121	68	18	15				8	24	41	64	85
Bramshill Park Lake	37	26		2					11	31	44	52
Warnford Park	47	8		2					1	8	62	53
WeBS count totals	1,682	1,305	768	418	128	157	275	157	678	1,020	1,458	1,619

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

In January-April maxima at non-tabulated sites with counts above 20 were 29 at Wattons Ford and 29 at Bramshill Plantation on Feb 18th and 24 at Maxwell's Farm WCB, Alresford on Mar 24th.

At least 41 broods were recorded with at least nine at Titchfield Haven, seven at Avington Lake, four at Beaulieu Estuary, three at Alresford Pond, Winchester SF, Farlington Marshes and Hook-with-Warsash, two at Fleet Pond, Longstock Water Gardens and Fishlake Meadows, and one at The Vyne Lake, Leckford Village and Marlhill Copse (Itchen Waterworks). A count of 36 was recorded at The Vyne Lake on June 4th. 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 WeBS counts for January to April were significantly lower than 2017 except for March when an exceptionally high count was recorded at the three sites in the Lower Test area. September arrivals in the eastern harbours were much lower than 2017 with the highest count being 198 in Langstone Harbour on 8th. Overall numbers increased in October but remained low at Beaulieu Estuary and Blashford Lakes where counts of 380 and 228 respectively compared to 800 and 751 in 2017. Numbers continued to increase above last year's figures in November and December with the WeBS total in December of 7,427 including four-figure counts at Lower Test Marshes, Beaulieu Estuary and Lymington-Hurst.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 (inland 50) are tabulated below. The only other count to exceed 50 was 62 at Stratfield Saye on Feb 21st. (DB)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,841	1,914	1,865	18	2			4	90	1,967	2,821	1,549
Hampshire sectors	151	193	100						1	197	969	122
Langstone Harbour	1,022	735	405	60	2	2	1	27	198	540	552	522
Portsmouth Harbour	130	219	195					2	100	200	137	330
Titchfield Haven	216	250	243	40		1		2	12	35	62	110
Hamble Estuary	420	307	323							109	181	454
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	1,116	1,030	1,843	12					19	464	857	1,017
Hythe-Calshot	452	511	195							28	80	259
Beaulieu Estuary	650	500	400	70	5	4	4	1	6	380	925	1,241
Sowley-Lymington	100	200	35						16	350	404	450
Lymington-Hurst	1,231	1,267	951	23	4				25	490	850	1,660
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood incl. Ripley Farm Reservoir	244	138	423	17						15	104	181
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	84	185	35									75
Avon: Blashford Lakes	855	1,088	408	133		2	4	2	14	228	417	677
Testwood Lakes	24	61	56	1					4	13	85	81
Test: Fishlake Meadows	95	42	12	2						14	14	70
The Vyne	200	187	4							26	70	95
Eversley GP	339	180	53	2					19	179	159	209
Yateley GP	80	47	20						6		48	65
Tundry Pond	60	51	53	13							24	
WeBS count totals	7,338	6,355	5,547	48	2	3	4		273	3,008	5,943	7,427

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.

The WeBS totals again fell short of 4,000 except in November. The highest counts were again at Ewhurst Lake where a significant proportion are released birds.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	369	267	229	105	104	81	173	208	233	256	350	462
Hampshire sectors	161	143	144	49	55	56	85	135	201	163	166	231
Lymington-Hurst	120	96	140	102	134	148	70	147	278	162	243	165
Avon: Blashford Lakes	94	86	71	12	36	56	84	100	91	108	176	113
Andover Town	190	219	92	44	41	67	32	140	120	168	186	181
Alresford Pond	53	20	19	16	37	90	201	60	60	35	51	37
Ewhurst Lake	428	51	31	46		12			538		469	306
WeBS count totals	3,318	2,348	1,729	746	635	869	1,158	1,740	3,999	3,852	4,266	3,941

Maxima at other sites with counts of 150 or more were 192 at Yateley GP on Jan 2nd, 176 at The Grange Lake on Jan 9th, 168 at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Aug 13th and Sep 9th, 168 at Edenbrook CP on Aug 31st, 169 at Titchfield Haven on Nov 1st, 189 at Beaulieu Estuary on Nov 25th, 176 at Great Holt Decoy Farm on Dec 2nd, 173 at Testwood Lakes on Dec 9th, 182 at Winchester Sewage Farm on Dec 20th, 167 at King’s Pond, Alton on Dec 29th and 166 at Blackwater Valley between Hawley Meadows and Darby Green on Dec 30th.

There were widespread breeding reports. Comparisons of numbers of broods and young with sites reported last year (with 2017 broods in parentheses) are as follows: the two CBC plots at Lower Test Marshes, 20 (33); Fleet Pond, 18 with 110 young (15 with 70 young); Avington Lake, 6 (6); Hook-with-Warsash, 5 with 16 young (6 with 18 young); The Grange Lake, 2 (5); Titchfield Haven, 4 with 29 young (4 with 34 young); Farlington Marshes, 5 with 24 young (14 young) and Alresford Pond, 5. No breeding reports were received from Itchen Valley CP. (DB)



Drake Mallard, Four Marks, Mar 3rd (Chris Rose)

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 621 in January including 307 at Lymington-Hurst and 170 at Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes. Note a higher count of 277 was subsequently recorded at Farlington Marshes on Jan 30th. Counts late in the year peaked in December with a total of 473 including 303 at Lymington-Hurst and 86 at Langstone Harbour.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	16	66	136						9	18	31	20
Hampshire sectors	10	10	39									
Langstone Harbour incl. Farlington Marshes	277	210	228	33	1	2	1	1	52	158	195	143
Portsmouth Harbour	6	5	8						1			7
Titchfield Haven	39	64	57						12	35	4	21
Hamble Estuary (Hook-with-Warsash)	72	30	12	2						105	102	81
Fawley-Calshot	9										14	
Beaulieu Estuary	64	76	4						9	25	8	21
Sowley-Lymington	39	20	6	5						2	10	5
Lymington-Hurst	307	183	127	3			1	1	1	42	285	303
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	50	22	92						9	5	4	30
Avon: Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water)	96	80	33				1		3	6	6	52
Test: Fishlake Meadows	11	12	7						1	2	7	11
WeBS count totals	621	552	492	6	1	2		1	21	179	416	473

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

The only early year records away from the tabulated sites were one at Ewhurst Lake on Jan 2nd and a cold weather influx of up to 16* there between Mar 1st and 4th (max. on 4th), a pair at Woolmer Pond on Feb 3rd, one at Itchen Valley CP on Feb 4th, a pair at Lakeside CP on Mar 1st and a male at Bishopstoke on Mar 25th.

The last double-figure count was 33 at Farlington Marshes on Apr 1st. Subsequently up to two summered there. The first double-figure counts of new arrivals in the autumn were 20 at Langstone Harbour on Sep 8th and 12 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 29th. The only records away from the tabulated sites in the second half-year were an eclipse male at Lower Test Marshes from Oct 13th-27th, a pair at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Dec 11th and a male on the sea off Royal Victoria CP, Netley on Dec 31st. (DB)

2017 addition. A further early year record away from tabulated sites was a pair at Fleet Pond on May 7th.

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.

The WeBS total of 3,830 in January was down significantly on 2017 (cf. 5,282). This is the second successive fall following increasing numbers up to 2016. However the December total of 6,129 is in line with the corresponding total for 2016 after a fall in 2017 to 4,429. The only

sites where numbers exceeded 1,000 were Beaulieu Estuary in November and December and Langstone Harbour in December.

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	748	1,083	912	16				29	254	306	580	1,005
Hampshire sectors	162	335	250			1			13	58	177	408
Langstone Harbour	400	159	398	95	7	34	27	127	200	342	318	308
Portsmouth Harbour	40	85	74	14	1	1		14	100	160	72	94
Titchfield Haven	453	276	173	32	2	30	40	110	128	525	920	610
Hamble Estuary	120	102	182	8		7	6	12	78	127	145	194
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	121	132	306	29	1			10	13	30	75	178
Dibden Bay	124	148	501	21							55	310
Ashlett-Calshot	317	92	70						11	21	233	96
Beaulieu Estuary	475	295	124	10	2	5	26	50	100	426	1,245	1,612
Sowley Pond		60										
Lymington-Hurst	850	605	282	80	16	4	7	18	219	670	985	1,140
Holmsley GP	45									177	290	85
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	116	95	152						1	20	34	175
Avon: Blashford Lakes	172	94	55	30			2	22	33	102	265	262
Test: Fishlake Meadows	187	70	65	8		1		2	2	80	142	150
Testbourne Lake	110	110	40	11	4				36	86	105	120
Winchester SF	93	144	77	31	1	4	4	9	15	2	122	260
Alresford Pond	152	95	93	7	6	1	16	67	218	260	300	245
The Vyne	190	86	30			3	5	13	7	55	150	115
Stratfield Saye	70	30							10	120	180	15
WeBS count totals	3,830	3,159	3,195	270	21	3	41	100	772	2,958	5,579	6,129

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

The only non-tabulated counts to exceed 50 were 85 at Kingston Ponds, Avon Valley on Dec 28th and 59 at Warnford Park on Nov 11th.

This species is now a very scarce breeder and the only confirmed record was at Woodfidley, NF where a female with a maximum of nine young was seen on June 8th. (DB)

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Rare vagrant in every month from October to May (0,24,1)

A male was at the Lower Balancing Pond, Keyhaven from Mar 28th-Apr 14th (MPM, SGK et al., photo). There have been records in eight previous years this century, most recently in 2016. (KFB)



Drake Green-winged Teal, Keyhaven Balancing Pond, Mar 31st (Lee Fuller)

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

Scarce feral visitor or escape.

There were three records. A female was at Woolmer Pond on Mar 30th (JPT), a male at Dogmersfield Lake from Sep 29th-Oct 4th (GJSR) and a male at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Nov 6th (PB, ACS, MS).(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.

Following several years of steady population decline, WeBS showed early year numbers healthier than in 2017 and late year totals the highest since 2012. Blashford Lakes continued to be the principal site where early and late maxima were 178 in January and 168 on Nov 25th. A count of 150 on Ivy Lake alone on Dec 7th was noteworthy. There was only one record from Tundry Pond (1, Apr 12th), a site which has contributed regular double-figure counts in the past, and the highest count at Yateley, another former stronghold, was only four on Dec 30th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore/Beaulieu	20	1	14	6	6	4	1			1		8
Blashford Lakes	178	120	50	14	2	4	12	9	4	56	168	155
Test: Fishlake Meadows	2	8	17	17	3		3	1		4	8	5
Dogmersfield Lake	33	34	37							6		9
Eversley GP	13	13	18						2	3	8	25
WeBS count totals	237	177	119	27	7	3	18	7	7	69	200	219

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

The only double-figure counts elsewhere (maxima in parentheses) were at Testwood Lakes (11, Jan 11th-13th), Sowley Pond (17, Jan 13th), Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore (12, Mar 20th), Hook-with-Warsash (10, Oct 5th) and Lymington-Hurst (11, Nov 24th).

There was an abundance of other records from across the county. The annual maximum at each locality, where there was a presence in three or more months of the year, is given in parenthesis: Welshmans Road (6, Jan 3rd), Fleet Pond (2, Jan 11th), Southampton Common/Cemetery (3, Jan 14th), Winchester Sewage Farm (6, Feb 11th), Titchfield Haven Reserve (9, Feb 11th), Bramshill Park/Lake (2, Feb 17th), Alresford Pond (5, Feb 24th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (9, Feb 27th), Woolmer Pond (5, Mar 10th) and Stockbridge-Fullerton (7, Mar 25th). Three on Anton Lakes on Mar 1st were unusual there.

Breeding was confirmed at only three sites: Needs Ore/Warren Farm (a female with two fledglings), Edenbrook CP (a brood of three with only one surviving) and Fishlake Meadows (a female with a week-old duckling). There were no reports of breeding in the Test Valley (cf. 5 pairs in 2017), and whilst pairs were present in May and June at several locations, including Ibsley Water and Testbourne Lakes, and four males were at Titchfield Haven, there was no evidence of breeding. (PFF)

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

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

ET.

The male that had frequented several locations around Blashford Lakes (but primarily Kingfisher Lake) from September 2017 remained in the area until Mar 20th (m.o., photo). A male, presumed to be the same individual, returned to Blashford Lakes on Oct 1st. Once again it favoured Kingfisher Lake until the year end, although viewing restrictions reduced the

number of sightings. In both winters it was occasionally reported from Ibsley Water (m.o., photo). This record has been accepted by BBRC. This male has probably been responsible for all sightings since the 2011/2012 winter. Prior to this the only record this century was in 2000. (KFB)

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

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

Following last year's significant decline in early year numbers, WeBS counts for January and February returned to pre-2016 levels, the peak count for the year being 1,689 on Feb 18th. February was also the month for the highest count of the year on Blashford Lakes (546 on 18th), but numbers there in April and May were well below the recent norm, and late year's counts were also down on the previous year's figures, albeit only marginally.

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
Blashford Lakes	467	546	386	109	42	153	215	188	157	285	398	376
Test: Longparish	40	50	36	34	23	19	8		10	20	25	31
Meon: Warnford Park	35	33	32	54	33		55		12	63	45	58
Ewhurst Lake	58	11	17	2					36			6
Eversley GP	202	175	147	113					62	81	148	97
Yateley GP	201	120	83	55				15	54	38	135	91
WeBS count totals	1,533	1,689	1,284	520	200	293	362	298	555	705	1,157	1,103

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

There were no returns from Baffins Pond and after last year's record numbers at Bramshill Park Lake no count there exceeded 50, with 48 on Dec 24th being the annual maximum. This was also the case at the previously tabulated sites of Testbourne Lake, Andover Lakes and Tundry Pond. Here there were counts in excess of 25, but less than 50, in most of the winter months with the annual maximum at each as follows: Testbourne Lake (48, Apr 12th), Andover Lakes (46, Feb 18th) and Tundry Pond (44, Mar 3rd).

Other inland counts in excess of 25 in January-May (maxima in parentheses) were at Testwood Lakes (28, Jan 11th), Allington GP (45, Jan 20th), Camp Farm GP (27, Jan 20th), Ash Vale Basingstoke Canal (27, Feb 9th), Vyne Lake (43, Feb 11th), Fishlake Meadows (45, Feb 18th), Arlebury Lakes (29, Feb 18th), Passfield Pond (26, Mar 3rd), Stockbridge-Fullerton (38, Mar 25th), Alresford Pond (38, Mar 24th), Dogmersfield Lake (34, Apr 3rd), Ripley Farm Estate (34, Apr 14th), Ashe nr Overton (27, Apr 15th) and Fleet Pond (32, May 13th). Coastal records came from Langstone Harbour (29, Feb 3rd), Chichester Harbour (32, Mar 3rd), Farlington Marshes (26, Apr 8th) and Lymington-Hurst (46, Apr 15th).

Breeding was confirmed at 26 sites with a total of at least 56 broods which was comparable with the last two seasons. Ten pairs at Fleet Pond was a record but of the 50 young hatched there only five to ten survived owing to Lesser Black-backed Gull predation. One of two pairs breeding on Farlington Marshes lost seven of its brood of eight. Along the Test Valley there were five broods on Testbourne Lake and five females with 24 ducklings on the river at Romsey on July 19th; three broods at Longstock; two each on Fishlake Meadows and at Timsbury and a single brood at Marsh Court. Blashford Lakes held 12 breeding pairs, an improvement on the previous summer (cf. 4 in 2017). Elsewhere two pairs bred at Welshman's Road GP and Avington Lake and there were single broods at Needs Ore/Warren Farm, Alresford Pond, Bramshill Lake, Dogmersfield Lake, Vyne Lake (where there were three additional nesting pairs but no confirmation of young), The Grange Lake, Keyhaven and Woolmer Pond. There were also three pairs on Langstone Mill Pond on May 31st but no evidence of breeding. Nesting

was attempted at Blashford Lake and Ibsley Water and broods were seen, but many nests near the Black-headed Gull colony appear to have been deserted.

Sites where numbers exceeded 25 between September and December (maxima in parentheses) were Ripley Farm Estate (49, Sep 29th), Camp Farm GP (35, Nov 12th), Houghton (37, Dec 19th), Allington GP (35, Dec 28th) and Passfield Pond (28, Dec 29th), and on the coast at Chichester Harbour (28, Dec 8th) and Lymington-Hurst (46, Dec 22nd).

Of note were counts of 33 in Chichester Harbour on June 15th, 27 in Langstone Harbour on July 14th and 33 at Ripley Farm Estate on Aug 29th, whilst the highest moult count on Ibsley Water was 180 on July 5th. (PFF)

Scaup (Greater Scaup)

Aythya marila

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red, S41.

There were fewer records than in 2017. Two pairs were reported from Needs Ore on Jan 1st and 5th, which were likely the same four seen off Hill Head on Jan 4th and where, in addition, there were two males on Mar 2nd and a first-winter male on Mar 11th (also seen off Brownich Cliffs the same day). A long-staying male in Langstone Harbour from Mar 20th to May 1st was seen mostly from the sea wall off Farlington Marshes but also elsewhere in the harbour. There was also a male at Keyhaven on Apr 6th.

The only late year records were two single males, one at Rooksbury Mill (the only inland record) on Dec 5th and the other between Normandy Marsh and Keyhaven, inside and outside the sea wall, from Dec 22nd to the year's end. (PFF)

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

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

A drake was at Ibsley Water from Feb 3rd-4th (ARH *et al.*, photo). This is presumed to be the same bird that spent a week in the Blashford complex in October/November 2017 having previously been seen at Longham Lakes in Dorset. (KFB)



Drake Lesser Scaup, Ibsley Water, Feb 3rd (Lee Fuller)

Aythya hybrid

Aythya sp.

The drake Paget's Pochard (Ferruginous Duck x Pochard), having not been recorded in the Blackwater Valley since March 2017, was present for its twelfth winter at Yateley GP on Jan 17th. There was also a Scaup x Tufted Duck drake hybrid on Ripley Farm Reservoir from Apr 1st-29th and a probable drake Tufted Duck x Pochard at Benyons Inclosure on June 26th. (PFF)

Eider (Common Eider)

Somateria mollissima

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

VU, Amber.

Winter rafts were again present at the entrance to Southampton Water (Hill Head to Hook-with-Warsash) and off the saltmarshes between Lymington-Keyhaven. The annual maximum was 54 off Hill Head on Jan 12th, but late year counts from there were far lower than for corresponding months in 2017. Small parties drifted east and west between Lepe and Lymington, and whilst 43 off Needs Ore on Nov 2nd was the peak count there, numbers along this stretch of coast were generally down on recent years. This may be explained by higher congregations to the west of Lymington where there was the usual summering party of non-breeders and where monthly counts, mostly in double-figures, were higher in all months

except November, when there were 29 further west in Milford Bay. A pair, with the female sitting on a nest, was seen at Lymington on May 15th but there was no evidence of success.

In the East Solent there were six off Sandy Point on Feb 18th and 30 on Apr 1st. Flights east and west during the spring were mostly in single figures, the exception being 17 off Southsea Pier on Apr 5th and 16 off Hayling Island on Apr 16th. In the late year there were six in Langstone Harbour on Nov 23rd and up to four regularly off Sandy Point, with seven or eight there between Dec 16th-21st.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	54	45	30	6	2				1	5	6	20
Lepe-Needs Ore	12	2	15		2					3	43	6
Sowley-Lymington	9	7	2	6					5		7	1
Lymington-Keyhaven	17	6	29	35	35	25	31	33	25	25	5	20
Hurst and Milford on Sea	2		2	5	9						29	4

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

VU, Schedule 1, Red.

A first-winter male was in Langstone Harbour, seen most often from the sea wall off Farlington Marshes, between Mar 9th-May 1st. A male in Portsmouth Harbour on Apr 14th-15th was considered a different individual. One of four seen off Hill Head on Apr 15th remained at the entrance to Southampton Water until May 25th.

There were single records of females/immatures in Chichester Harbour (Nov 22nd), at Milford on Sea (Nov 28th) and off Oxey Marsh, Lymington (Dec 24th), and an adult female was in Southampton Water from Nov 23rd to Dec 6th. Three females/immatures were on the sea off Needs Ore (before flying west) on Dec 26th and at Iley Point, Keyhaven on Dec 31st. (PFF)

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

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

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP.

Present at the entrance to Southampton Water (Hill Head to Brownwich) from January to mid-March with a maximum of 20 on Jan 6th. Otherwise the only early year records were three off Keyhaven Marshes on Jan 3rd, an immature/female in Langstone Harbour from Jan 7th-Feb 17th, one at Sandy Point from Feb 18th-Mar 20th, a pair on Woolmer Pond on Mar 31st (the only inland record for 2017) and four off Weston Shore on Apr 9th.

Spring passage was underway by late March with 68 east past Hurst on the 30th. Over 19 days between Mar 30th and May 31st a record total of 1,072 was logged flying east through The Solent. This takes into account the fact that assessment of passage past Hurst Castle into The Solent was again complicated by groups circling Milford Bay. This was the case on Apr 4th, when 314 flew east past Hurst Beach but 185 returned to linger, and on Apr 6th when there was a count of 354, but only 118 appeared to pass the Narrows and enter The Solent. On Apr 15th, when 51 passed Hill Head and Sandy Point recorded its highest number of 206 flying east, a raft of 200 off Milford on Sea in the early morning departed east in small groups throughout the day. Whilst passage was most evident in April, there was a steady trickle through May with day totals of 28 off Hurst Beach on 7th and 69 off Sandy Point on 11th. There were several June-July records of small groups on the water off Hill Head, the monthly maxima being six on June 9th and 14 on July 22nd, whilst the only other mid-summer

records were three at Sandy Point on June 3rd and one there on 12th, one off Lepe on June 28th and a male off Pennington-Keyhaven Marshes from July 17th to Oct 5th.

Autumn passage through The Solent was again practically non-existent, 14 east past Sandy Point on Sep 11th being the only record of significance. In the late year the only records in the East Solent were from Langstone Harbour (two females, Nov 23rd-24th and a single female, Dec 4th-16th), Black Point (7, Dec 4th) and off Sandy Point (15, Dec 24th). There were a handful of records from sites along the West Solent coast with the only double-figure counts being ten in Milford Bay on Oct 13th, 15 off Lepe on Oct 28th and ten off Tanners Lane on Dec 28th. Flocks were again present at the mouth of Southampton Water with the highest counts off Hill Head (18, Nov 21st) and off the Hamble River (15, Dec 31st), whilst records from the upper reaches included three at Royal Victoria CP on Nov 26th.

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		1	16	20	10	3		4		1	8	15
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	20	10	29	54	37	6	14	3	5	5	18	9
Southampton Water	3			9						1	3	15
Hurst and Milford on Sea			12	354	60				1	10	1	4
Moving east			68	876	128				14			
Moving west				2	10							

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red.

A first-winter male in Langstone Harbour, which arrived on Nov 9th 2017, was present until Apr 12th and a female/immature off Weston Shore, first recorded on Nov 26th 2017, stayed until Apr 21st. In addition, there were three off Farlington Marshes on Jan 7th and one in Portsmouth Harbour on Apr 14th, whilst a male in full summer plumage was seen regularly off Hill Head/Stubington between May 30th-June 2nd.

There were several late year records, the first being a female/immature from Oct 17th-28th between Lymington and Hurst which was seen most often off Oxey Marsh. It was joined by a second on Oct 27th. An adult male in striking plumage was off Hill Head between Nov 22nd-26th, whilst a female was seen from various sites in Southampton Water between Weston Shore and Calshot from Nov 22nd to the year's end. A first-winter was also off Hayling Island on Dec 16th. (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.

Returns from WeBS counts showed little change in status from last year, other than the highest number being in February rather than January and the March count of 34 on 25th being the highest for four years (*cf.* 50 in 2014).

Numbers on Blashford Lakes (Ibsley Water/Mockbeggar Lake/Rockford Lake) were lower than the previous year with 21 on Feb 18th being the annual maximum. The peak early and late year counts came from Langstone Harbour where there were 20 on both Jan 7th and Dec 22nd. Small numbers were present in Portsmouth Harbour and between Lymington-Hurst but at neither did counts reach double figures. The last spring record was a female on Ibsley Water on Apr 15th and the first autumn return was at Lymington on Oct 27th.

Away from the key sites there were coastal records from Hill Head (female, Jan 7th-9th), Tanners Lane (immature female, Nov 1st) and Weston Shore (male, Dec 13th), and inland records from Avington Lake (3, Mar 20th), Southampton Common (1, Mar 18th), Fishlake Meadows (male, Nov 11th-18th), Yateley (male, Nov 19th) and Broomy Inclosure (6 females/immatures and 1 male, Dec 17th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	6	7	1				1	5	6
Hampshire sectors	3	6	2						
Langstone Harbour	20	12	14	1				6	20
Portsmouth Harbour	3	5	6					2	4
Lymington-Hurst	6	7	4				1	3	8
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	14	21	11	9			14	12	16
WeBS count totals	32	43	34				5	14	37

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.

Except for January, WeBS monthly winter totals were an improvement on last year suggesting that the recent decline may have been temporarily arrested. Numbers at the principal roost site of Ibsley Water peaked in the early year at 81 on Feb 18th (33 males) and in the late year at 118 on Dec 4th (35 males). The last there was on May 9th and the first return was on Aug 30th. The maximum counts at the other established roost sites of Bramshill Plantation and Eversley GP were 18 on Feb 16th (10 males) and 49 on Dec 29th (22 males) respectively, but numbers on the ponds at Eyeworth, Sowley and Tundry were down on recent years. Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ibsley Water (roost)	70	81	72	20	2	9		2		51	103	118
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	37	38	29							8		9
Eyeworth Pond	4											2
Sowley Pond	5	5	4									
Bramshill Planation (roost)	7	18	14								10	11
Tundry Pond	1	3										
Eversley GP (roost)	30	29	1	4							21	49
Yateley GP	7	4	14	1	1						8	12
WeBS count totals	78	130	76	2	3	2	2	2	1	20	113	145

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

The only double-figure counts in the Avon Valley at non-tabulated sites were at Mockbeggar Lake (48, Nov 25th), Ivy Lake (38, Nov 27th), Avon Causeway (10, Dec 16th), Linbrook Lake (15, Dec 23rd) and Kingfisher Lake (13, Dec 23rd).

Again the only reported breeding was in the Avon Valley where eight ducklings were seen with an adult at Somerley Park on Apr 20th, 11 ducklings with an adult at nearby Somerley Lakes the next day and four ducklings with an adult female in Somerley Park on June 20th.

Otherwise there was a plethora of autumn and winter records from the river valleys, numerous small inland waters and the coast. Whilst the majority referred to ones and twos, there were double-figure counts of 13 (all redheads) on the sea off Sandy Point on Nov 2nd, 13 in Cams Bay on Dec 9th and 18 at Stockbridge-Fullerton on Dec 11th. Other freshwater

sightings of note came from Anton Lakes (2, Jan 1st-31st), Fawley Reservoir (8, Jan 5th), Paultons Park (7, Jan 25th), St. Cross (2, Dec 18th), Trigpoint Hill (1, Dec 21st) and Lower Test Marshes (where the long-staying pair was present in all months except November). Notable brackish/seawater records were from Normandy Lagoon (female, Apr 24th-May 25th), Weston Shore (male, Apr 4th), Keyhaven Marshes (3, July 18th-Oct 8th), Farlington Marshes (2-4, Nov 2nd-3rd), Hill Head (3-4, Nov 19th-23rd), Emsworth Shore (5, Nov 26th) and Northney Marina (5, Dec 22nd). (PFF)



Drake Goosander, Janesmoor Pond, New Forest, Dec 22nd (Lee Fuller)

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

The recent decline in the winter population continued with WeBS counts lower than last year in all months except November, when there were 107 in Langstone Harbour on 24th. This was the only three-figure count in what traditionally has been the principal wintering ground. Numbers elsewhere also reflected the steady reversal in fortune with maximum annual counts of 49 on Jan 6th in Chichester Harbour (Hampshire Sectors), 19 on Nov 24th between Lymington-Hurst and 55 on Dec 11th in Portsmouth Harbour (cf. 98 in 2017), The only double-figure count away from the eastern harbours and the Lymington-Hurst coastline was 11 off Sowley-Pitts Deep on Feb 2nd. The last spring record was off Hill Head (2, May 4th) and the first autumn return off Pennington Marshes (3, Aug 1st).

There was a suggestion of spring passage with one or two passing Sandy Point on three dates around mid-April. The only June-July records were one at Hurst Castle on June 5th and two in Chichester Harbour (Black Point) on June 20th, 22nd and July 19th. There were no inland records.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	103	98	46	4						3	136	82
Hampshire sectors	49	22	21			2	2		2	17	28	21
Langstone Harbour	72	61	53	13	1			1		2	107	88
Portsmouth Harbour	33	14	13							3	17	55
Hill Head/Brownwich	2	1	1	2	2						5	1
Upper Southampton Water	2	1	1	2						1	2	1
Lepe-Needs Ore	1	2	4	2							2	2
Sowley-Lymington			11	2	6						2	6
Lymington-Hurst	14	11	13	5				3	2	7	19	12
WeBS count totals	143	129	100	15				1		12	152	149

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

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

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

Records came from at least 98 localities (cf. 19 in 2017) doubtless in response to the additional records from BTO surveys included in this year's database. Whilst the only confirmed breeding was at Twyford (adult with eight young on July 9th), there were early and late season returns from 22 sites, the majority from the chalk downs. The most significant gatherings of released birds were in the autumn with 370 at Overton on Sep 1st, 150 at Longwood Warren on Oct 7th, 21 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Oct 25th and 36 at Andover Foxcote on Oct 29th. A covey of 30 at Winchester SF between Dec 6th-30th was a high count for this site. (PFF)

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

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

Red, S41, HBAP.

Any analysis of its status is complicated by the numbers released for shooting. Records came from 35 sites, most of which were again from the Hampshire Downs. A covey of 15 at Stoke Charity on Oct 27th was an unusually high count and was also the maximum for any locality during the year. There were no other double-figure counts, the next highest being eight at Kingsley on Jan 10th and Hartley on Dec 31st.

May/June records of single pairs came from Houghton, Over Wallop, Palestine, Kingsley, Tidpit, Bidden Water and Overton, whilst there were three pairs at Greywell on May 5th and up to four at Martin Down on several dates in June, but there was no evidence of breeding at any of these sites. There was confirmed breeding at the Rotherfield Estate, East Tistead with 30 pairs located on land that is managed specifically for the species. Elsewhere there was confirmed breeding at Whitnal near Overton (pair with 9 fledglings, Aug 3rd) and Cholderton Estate (female with 9 chicks, Sep 22nd), whilst a pair was seen building a nest at Alice Holt Forest as early as Feb 20th. (PFF)

Quail (Common Quail)

Coturnix coturnix

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

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP.

The only record from a potential breeding site was a singing male at Broughton Down on July 22nd. Elsewhere the only other reports were one flying NW over Fishlake Meadows calling on June 2nd and three of questionable origin flushed during a working party session at Titchfield Haven on Aug 14th. (PFF)

Pheasant (Common Pheasant)

Phasianus colchicus

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

As with Red-legged Partridge, increased BTO survey results accounted for an abundance of records. There were early and late season records from 85 localities, with an additional 44 sites returning either early season (April) or late season (May/June) records, but there was very little information given on the number of territories held in the surveyed areas. There were five territories recorded at Longmore Inclosure (cf. 15 in 2014) with breeding only confirmed at Abbots Ann where there were two pairs.

Localities where there were gatherings of at least 20 in April/June were Pitt Down (22, Apr 8th), Kilmeston Down (54, May 4th), Keyhaven (34, May 10th) and Bramshill Plantation (33, June 2nd), whilst in winter they were Winchester SF (28, Oct 7th), Markswell Wood (20, Oct 16th), Ashford Hill (36, Oct 21st), Vernham Dean (20, Nov 3rd), Bransbury Common (21, Nov 10th) and Headley (30, Dec 2nd). Again large-scale releases for shooting make it difficult to establish the feral population but 150 at Facombe on Aug 2nd were doubtless released birds. (PFF)

Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon)

Gavia stellata

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule I, Green.

There were low numbers in the early year (just 18 bird-days compared to 158 in 2017) but a strong passage in April followed by late year movements contributed to an annual total of 221 bird-days. From Jan 1st to 4th one ranged between Itchen Bridge and Weston Shore. At Milford on Sea two flew east on Jan 6th and 10th (also seen off Normandy), then on 13th two approached past The Needles to settle on the sea. In the east there were singles east past Sandy Point on Jan 14th and Feb 18th (the only record in the month). One flew west early morning past Stansore Point, Lepe on Jan 31st when it, or another, was also seen off Hill Head. In March settled flocks of ten (4th) and three (11th) were off Milford on Sea; singles were also there on 16th and off Black Point on 22nd-23rd.

Easterly spring passage was recorded at Sandy Point (27, Apr 3rd-27th: peak 10, 7th); Hurst Spit (26, Apr 4th-May 6th); Hill Head/Stokes Bay (5, Apr 6th-May 5th) and Southampton Water (1, Apr 1st and 9th). The last of spring was reported from the West Solent on May 13th.

The first return, an adult on Oct 4th off Hill Head, was against the recent trend (see table) being 11 days later than the average for the previous decade being closer to the two earlier decades:

Mean first return date	1988-97	1998-2007	2008-2017
	Oct 13th	Oct 9th	Sep 23rd

The first off Hurst Spit was on Oct 13th, four flew east there in November, up to three were also on the sea (26th-27th) and in December significant easterly movements were recorded (38: peaks 12, 16th and 20, 26th) and one or two fished off Hurst Castle on six dates. The first late-year arrival at Sandy Point was on Oct 28th, again followed by offshore movements (18 E, Nov 19th-Dec 28th: peak 7, Nov 23rd; 3 W, Nov 22nd, Dec 16th) and singles on the sea or in Chichester Harbour (7 dates). At Hill Head there were singles from Nov 18th-26th and on Dec 21st then five on 24th. A scatter of records came from elsewhere (singles unless stated otherwise): Southsea Castle (2, Nov 24th), Weston Shore (Dec 5th), Langstone Harbour (14th), Needs Ore (2 W, 23rd) and settled off Normandy (26th). The approximate monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	4-6		17	3	1					3	11	10
Moving east	3-7	1		56	2						15	45
Moving west	1			2							1	4

Black-throated Diver (Black-throated Loon)

Gavia arctica

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule I, Amber.

A good spring passage was combined with typical winter numbers of three and six in the early and late years respectively. One overwintered at Chichester Harbour from Nov 14th 2017 to Mar 15th typically ranging from Black Point into Emsworth Channel and as far as Langstone Mill on Jan 2nd. One flew east past Sandy Point on 14th. One drifted west, in the company of a Great Northern Diver off Needs Ore on Jan 9th; possibly



Black-throated Diver, Sparks Marina, Black Point, Nov 13th (Andy Johnson)

the same was off Normandy later that day and again on 14th. In February singles, possibly all the same, were off Frater Shore (17th) and Hill Head (19th) and flying off Hook Links into Southampton Water on 27th. One was again in West Solent in March drifting west off Tanners Lane on 12th and east off Needs Ore on 22nd.

Easterly passage was recorded off Hurst Beach (11, Apr 2nd-May 11th: peaks 3, Apr 6th and 18th); Stokes Bay/Hill Head (7, Apr 2nd-May 5th: peak 4, Apr 6th) and Sandy Point (4, Apr 6th). In addition singles were off Needs Ore (Apr 6th), Weston Shore (11th) and flying into strong south-westerlies past Lepe (17th).

The first winter return, in apparent juvenile plumage, flew into Chichester Harbour on Nov 8th and frequented the waters north and west of Black Point into 2019. Reports elsewhere (singles unless stated otherwise) were from Hurst Beach (E, Nov 19th; W, 16th; 2 E, Dec 26th), Lepe (drifting W, Nov 23rd), Hill Head (Nov 23rd, Dec 11-12th, 20th, 25th), Langstone Harbour (Dec 8th), off Royal Victoria CP (Dec 4th) and Calshot (presumed same, Dec 11th). Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	3	16	3						4	6

Great Northern Diver (Common Loon)

Gavia immer

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant. ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber.

A total of 297 records was submitted of which only 11 were in flight, typical of a wintering population undergoing moult. January records came from 15 coastal localities with estimated totals of seven at Southampton Water, five in the eastern harbours and two at West Solent. Peak counts were as follows: Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point (5, 4th); Town Quay and Mayflower Park, Southampton (4, 9th); Hythe Marina/Dibden Bay (3, 20th); twos at Weston Shore (6 dates), Langstone Harbour (2nd, 6th), Normandy (1st) and singles at eight further locations. Monthly records declined slowly from January to June (103, 40, 24, 8, 3 and 1 respectively). Wintering last dates in April were as follows: Chichester Harbour (15th), Langstone Harbour (14th) and Southampton Water (1st). Passage was indicated by one lingering off Pennington Marshes on Apr 14th-15th, singles east past Hurst Beach on May 2nd and 28th, Stokes Bay on May 3rd and one in non-breeding plumage distantly off Hill Head on June 8th.



Great Northern Diver, Centurion Business Park, Southampton, Jan 13th (Lee Fuller)

Only singles were observed in the late year except for two together in Langstone Harbour on Nov 11th. The first were fly-pasts at Sandy Point (E) and Hill Head both on Nov 5th. Settled individuals were then recorded at Chichester Harbour from Nov 15th; Hill Head (Nov 20th-22nd; 13 dates, Dec 4th-28th); Gilkicker Point (Nov 28th); Southsea Castle (8 dates, Dec 4th-27th); Needs Ore (Dec 4th); Lepe (7 dates, Dec 6th-24th); Langstone Harbour (Dec 9th onwards); Calshot (Dec 24th), Hurst Beach (Dec 28th) and off Pennington Marshes (Dec 31st). Away from the eastern harbours one or two individuals could possibly account for all other records. Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	9	6	5	3	1					4	4

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)

Fulmarus glacialis

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

Recorded in all months between April and December except November. The first records were three singles at Milford Shelter on April 4th. Up to three were then reported from Hurst Beach and Sandy Point intermittently during the month except on 27th when a total of 24 were counted at Hurst Beach between 06:30 and 19:00 including groups of seven and four. The only records in May were at Hurst Beach (2, 2nd; 10, 11th) and Sandy Point (2, 2nd; 1, 11th). The only other records after this were at Sandy Point (singles on June 5th, 7th, 14th and 20th), Hurst Beach (3, July 29th) and singles at Sandy Point (Aug 10th and Sep 15th), Hurst Castle (Aug 26th and Dec 26th) and from the Cowes ferry off Hamble (Oct 26th).

With the possible exception of Apr 27th, the above pattern was again consistent with occasional visits from prospecting individuals or nearby local breeders from the east and west of the Isle of Wight.

The monthly maxima are shown below. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			24	10	1	3	1	1	1		1

Shearwater sp.

A possible Cory's Shearwater off Sandy Point on Aug 9th was too distant in heat haze for positive identification (ACJ). (KFB)

Sooty Shearwater

Ardenna grisea

Rare autumn passage migrant, also recorded once in April, June and July (long dead). (0,36,2).

A single was seen on Southampton Water off Weston Shore at about 08:45 on July 27th (MGP et al.). It was clearly injured and in distress. An urgent message was relayed to the port authorities who rescued the bird and passed it to the RSPCA where it was seen by a vet specialising in shipwrecked seabirds. Sadly, it had sustained serious internal injuries and could not be saved. Although there is no hard evidence to prove facts, it is possible that it had hitched a lift on the RMS Queen Mary which had passed by as it returned from a transatlantic voyage about an hour earlier. A single flew east at Milford on Sea at 08:44 on Nov 29th (SGK). There have been only two previous November records.

Sooty Shearwaters breed on sub-Antarctic islands and winter in the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Apart from a corpse in 1974, all records have been since 1994 with sightings in all but six years this century. This is the first record for July, with the majority of records occurring between August and October. (KFB)

2009 addition. Sandy Point, two west at 12:25 on Sep 2nd and a single lingering offshore at 15:20 on Oct 6th (ACJ).



Sooty Shearwater, in care from Southampton Water, July 29th (Keith Betton)

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

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

Higher numbers were reported in spring compared to recent years with sightings on six days in the second half of April and five days in the first half of May. The first in April were 60 in several flocks from Hurst Beach during the morning of 15th and a further 26 from Hurst Beach in the evening. Smaller numbers were recorded a week later from Sandy Point (10, 22nd; 2 W, 23rd; 4 W, 24th), Hurst Beach (1 E, 22nd; 7 W, 24th; 1 W, 25th) and Hill Head (2 W, 24th). Numbers then increased on 27th to 52 west from Hurst Beach, with all but three in the early evening, together with one east at Sandy Point.

High numbers continued into May with 119 east in one hour from Hordle Cliff on 1st, followed by one east and two west at Sandy Point on 2nd and four east there on 10th. On 11th there were 70 off Hurst Beach and 42 east off Sandy Point, at least six of which were very close suggesting they may have passed through The Solent. This was proved two days later with six off Pennington Marshes on 13th, which was also the last spring record.

Several records referred to circling flocks or birds first flying in one direction and then returning in the opposite direction, which may have led to some double-counting. This may be due to birds being confused on being faced with entering The Solent but could also indicate foraging from known colonies to the west rather than coastal passage. This is supported by the higher numbers recorded in previous years at Portland Bill in spring not being reflected at seawatching points further east along the south coast.

The only autumn records were singles off Sandy Point on Aug 9th and Sep 19th. The monthly cumulative totals are shown below. The year total of 399 on 13 days compares with 108 on five days in 2017. At Sandy Point the total of 66 bird-days was the highest on record beating the previous maximum there of 56 bird-days in 2011. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			160	237			1	1			

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

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

The November monthly WeBS count total of 364 was the highest since 2014 but still lower than the mean annual maximum of 382 between 2008-17. The highest counts as usual were in Portsmouth Harbour with 77 on Jan 6th and 72 on Dec 22nd. Nearby a count of 46 at Langstone Harbour on Nov 24th was the highest there since 63 in 2007. Monthly maxima at sites where counts equalled or exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	25	25	14	11	4	1	7	21	25	25	46	29
Portsmouth Harbour	77	69	49						17	50	49	72
Lymington-Hurst	22	23	22		2	1	1	3	9	19	24	18
Blashford Lakes	28	17	25			11	24	23	48	45*	32	25
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	32	30	11	8	9	5	19	30	52	35	51	47
Testbourne Lake	10	11	11	8	8		13	14	22	13	10	10
WeBS count totals	287	276	209	73	39	42	109	129	295	297	364	322

*Ibsley Water only on Oct 2nd

WeBS totals reached double figures at seven further locations including three counts of 14 from the River Avon between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (Sep 23rd), Chichester Harbour's Hampshire sectors (Nov 24th) and The Grange Lake (Sep 17th).

Breeding was confirmed at 25 locations of which 12 recorded a total of 34 fledged young including (broods and juveniles in brackets): Busta Triangle, Eversley (2 broods, 6 juveniles; June 4th); King's Pond, Alton (at least 4 broods, 6 juveniles; May 21st-Sep 10th); Southampton Common (2 broods, 6 juveniles) and IBM Lake (6 broods, 12 juveniles; June 24th). In common with last year, breeding occurred on Ibsley Water, Mockbeggar Silt Pond and Ellingham Lake, and probably Ivy Lake, with fledged young seen at the first three sites. (AFJC)

2017 addition. Monthly maxima for Blashford Lakes in September-December were 29, 36, 39 and 32 respectively.

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena
Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Red.

There were reports of two in the early year and at least two in the late year. One first seen on Dec 21st 2017 wintered off Pennington Marshes ranging between Oxey Lake and the jetty adjacent to Butts/Pennington Lagoons with moult to breeding plumage beginning in March and completing before departure on Apr 15th. Another at Langstone Harbour was first seen west of Eastern Bridge on Portsea Creek on Jan 3rd (MFW) and not reported further until off West Hayling LNR on 28th (KBW).

The first in autumn flew east past Hurst Castle on Oct 13th landing briefly on the sea (AIL, photo). One in Chichester Harbour entrance on Nov 1st-2nd (ACJ) and 11th (DC) was the first there since 2015. There were further reports, possibly referring to the same roaming individual, from Keyhaven on Nov 6th (SDB), Hill Head on Nov 17th (ALR) and Langstone Harbour on Nov 23rd (TMJD) and Dev 4th (GCS). (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.

A peak WeBS count of 264 in December was well below the mean annual maximum of 383 between 2008-17 and the lowest since 220 in 2012. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 20 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	44	34	22	26	31	9	4	13	24	32	32	58
Portsmouth Harbour	17	11	20	16	5				1	13	6	19
Hill Head-Brownwich	73	32	3	12	4			3	8	8	20	68
Southampton Water	54	27	26	6				4	3	18	18	46
Blashford Lakes	31	40	40	10	12	50	110	117	128	89	33	30
Fleet Pond	3	8	8	8	9	10	10	15	15	31	27	16
Eversley/Yateley GP	26	22	21	21				22	37	40	35	23
WeBS count totals	211	227	179	89	58	64	122	159	255	216	180	264

Notable peaks were also recorded at Black Point (12, Apr 19th), Lymington-Hurst (18, May 19th), Tundry Pond (15, Sep 15th), Fishlake Meadows (18, Oct 16th), Sandy Point (34, Dec 17th) and ten at three further sites.

In the west confirmed breeding came from Blashford Lakes (at least 11 broods and 16 young noted on July 28th across six lakes) and Fishlake Meadows (at least 2 broods, 2 young). In the north-east single broods with young (number in brackets) were seen at Bramshill Park (3, but just 2 by Aug 14th); Dogmersfield Lake (2); Fleet Pond (2 still being fed aged at least ten weeks in November); Wellington CP (1); Camp Farm GP (3) and Yateley GP (7 including broods of 1 and 2). Breeding was suspected but not confirmed at the Broadlands Estate and Sowley Pond. (AFJC)



Great Crested Grebes, Timsbury, River Test, Mar 16th (Richard Jacobs)

Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe)

Podiceps auritus

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP.

In addition to the regular winterers in the West Solent there was a stronger showing at Chichester/Langstone Harbours than in 2017, as well as records from Hill Head in four winter months and Weston Shore in one. In the early year there were regular reports from Sandy Point (peaks 6, Jan 17th and 4 on four dates including the last on Mar 19th); One or two were off Weston Shore between Jan 4th and 20th and one at Hill Head on four dates. In the West Solent one was off Lepe on Jan 20th; three regularly off Needs Ore from Jan 1st to Mar 16th, and mostly one or two but up to four on Jan 5th between Oxey Lake and Pennington Jetty until Mar 16th. The last early year record was two off West Hayling LNR on Mar 25th.

The first return was in the Chichester Harbour entrance on Nov 1st-2nd and another off West Hayling LNR on 2nd. There were singles between the two harbours on nine further dates to the year-end, two off Sandy Point on Nov 29th-30th and four there on Dec 16th. One was regular off Hill Head from Nov 19th onwards with a peak of three on Nov 21st. Three were again off Needs Ore from Dec 3rd to the end of the year. The first at Oxey Lake was on Nov 12th was followed by reports on 12 dates including a peak of four on Dec 28th. 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	6	2	4								2	4
Langstone Harbour	1	1	2								1	
Hill Head/Brownwich	1	1									3	2
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	3	3	3									3
Lymington-Hurst	4	3	2								1	4

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 2004.
Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP.

The individual which had arrived at Ibsley Water on Dec 18th 2017 was joined by a second on Jan 1st. The two were recorded on six further dates until Feb 7th and one at least remained until Mar 31st. On The Solent one was at Lepe on Jan 8th-9th and one in breeding plumage was at Needs Ore from Mar 13th to 23rd. In the early year there were new arrivals in Langstone Harbour when three flocks (8, 5 and 5) were reported west of West Hayling LNR on Jan 10th (cf. peak 9, December 2017). Often scattered around the north of the harbour they were all present to Mar 6th, but only noted once as a tight-knit flock of 18 on Feb 7th. This was the highest confirmed total since 20 on Mar 3rd 2014.

In spring one paused in Langstone Harbour and two flew NW past Hurst Beach on Apr 12th and two were at Ibsley Water on May 1st-2nd - all were in breeding plumage.

The first return was off West Hayling LNR on Sep 22nd, two were there on 26th followed by three on Oct 8th and eight on Nov 4th increased to a December peak of 14 on 16th. The only other late year records were one returning to Ibsley Water from Nov 25th onwards and up to two off Weston Shore from Dec 22nd to 29th. Monthly maxima from the two main sites and the approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	18	18	18	1					2	3	8	14
Ibsley Water	2	2	2		2						1	1
Approx. monthly totals	21	20	21	3	2				2	3	9	17

White Stork†

Ciconia ciconia

Rare vagrant (5,55,1).

ET.

One with a blue colour ring of Dutch origin was widely seen in the south in the last week of April including Titchfield Haven/Posbrook Flood from 24th-27th; Hilsea on 24th; Portsdown Hill, Curbridge, Botley and Testwood Lakes on 26th; Totton and Ashurst, NF on 29th and Bartley, NF on 30th. Research including discussion with Dutch birders has revealed that this individual was born in the wild in a nest at Warten in Freisland in 2015. It is descended from captive birds released across the Netherlands in the 1980s and early 1990s to replenish the wild population that had declined to just 19 pairs. The reintroduction programme, which ceased about 25 years ago, was highly successful and now there are about 800 pairs in the Netherlands. Reports of one at Bishopstoke on Apr 24th, flying over Farlington Marshes the same day and circling over Sopley on May 3rd probably referred to the same individual. (KFB)

Reports of others considered to be of captive origin are given in the Escapes section.



White Stork, Ashurst, New Forest, Apr 29th
(Lee Fuller)



Glossy Ibis, Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea, Feb 28th (Gareth Rees)

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Rare but increasing vagrant, recorded in every month (2,48,3).

ET.

Once again it was an excellent year for this species. Singles were at Sturt Pond from Feb 27th-28th (SAB *et al.*, photo), Testbourne Lake on Sep 4th (GCE, photo) and Needs Ore on Dec 9th (BRC *et al.*). The latter was presumably that seen later in the day flying west over Pennington (ZC, photo). (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 I, Amber.

A small wintering/spring population is now established in the West Solent with a total of 21-25 present there in January/February including a county record count of 16 at Needs Ore on Feb 2nd (BJP). On Jan 1st groups of 13 and eight were feeding along both the Beaulieu and Lymington River estuaries. Assessing the size of the wintering population is difficult as there are local movements west from Needs Ore (e.g. 6, Feb 12th) and arrivals from the east at Lymington (e.g. 4 and 2, Tanners Lane, Feb 2nd). Numbers fluctuated on the Beaulieu Estuary with monthly highs (14, Jan 20th; 16, Feb 2nd, 4th; 12 Mar 14th; 8, April 3rd) and the last two from Apr to May 11th. Just nine early year records came from Lymington Estuary which held five on Jan 13th increasing to at least seven on Feb 5th. Further west, either feeding on Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes or the Hurst Castle salt marsh, there were four to six on 17 out of 37 dates from Jan 1st to Apr 13th. To the east an adult was at Titchfield Haven on eight dates (Feb 8th, Mar 5th- 25th: 2, 26th: Apr 12-13th); possibly the same was at Lepe CP pools (Mar 3rd-5th). A different adult visited Farlington Marshes (Mar 11th-Apr 4th) and two flew east past Hill Head on Apr 12th. All these eastern coastal sightings could have come from the dispersal of the Needs Ore group as could one to four on the Isle of Wight's Solent reserves (J. Baldwin pers.comm.)

In late spring and summer there was apparently a separate phase of long-staying visitors. A first-summer arrived at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on May 1st and two more first-summer on 3rd; this group remained into July and was augmented by further arrivals (unaged) (June 16th, 29th, July 8th) until a maximum of eight was present on July 17th. The next day just one remained and none thereafter. There were four early summer records elsewhere as follows (all singles): Titchfield Haven (S, May 7th; N, June 13th); Hook-with-Warsash (June 1st) and Farlington Marshes (June 13th). Overlapping with the Keyhaven departures were stop-over arrivals at Needs Ore (1, July 6th; 10 on four dates July 15th-27th; 11, 28th) but just four more records (1-4) until late October.

Autumn records elsewhere (all singles) were as follows: Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (Aug 20th; W; 26th; Sep 2nd; Oct 5th-6th); Titchfield Haven (Aug 22nd); over Budds Farm STW (Sep 25th) and a juvenile west over Black Point and then north through Chichester Harbour (Sep 30th).

Late year winterers, continuously present into 2019, began arriving at Needs Ore in late October (2 E, 30th; 7, 31st; 9, Nov 23rd; 11, Dec 16th and 15, 21st). Nearby eight were feeding at Inchmery salt marsh on Nov 23rd and three at Lepe CP on Dec 30th. Five east over Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Oct 30th were presumably later at Needs Ore, but none further until four flew south on Dec 13th; perhaps these contributed to a total of 13 feeding along the Lymington Estuary on 19th - a record count there (MCA).

Approximate monthly totals are shown in the table below. Observers are reminded that whenever possible records should include age details of this colonising species, particularly in summer and autumn. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven		1	2	2	1	1		1				
Beaulieu Estuary	14	16	12	8	2		11	4	4	9	9	15
Lymington River-Sowley	8	7						5				13
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes	2	5	6	2	3	3	8	3	1	6		5
Elsewhere			2	4		2			2		9	3
Minimum total	21	21	20	12	5	6	18	8	7	13	15	19

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)
Very scarce but regular winter visitor.

Botaurus stellaris
ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP.

There were three in the early winter, one in spring and five in the late year. All records were singles. None of the four seen in December 2017 were registered in January but three of these were presumably relocated in February. There were two brief flight views at Avon Water, Keyhaven on Feb 4th and 10th; another at Titchfield Haven showed well between Feb 16th and 25th and again on Mar 4th but the most elusive was at Testwood Lakes - seen once on Feb 25th. A migrant flew over Swaythling at 21:00 on Apr 28th - a rare spring record and unsurprisingly a garden tick!

The first of the late year flew across Ivy Lake on Sep 4th, repeating the manoeuvre both on Oct 1st and Nov 7th but between remaining undetected until it appeared very close to the North Hide almost daily from Dec 9th to 31st to thrill a delighted audience. One flew north off Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes at 06:35 on Sep 6th. Presumably the same individual remained from Sep 16th to the year-end but was only intermittently reported from the newly opened observatory covering Avon Water and The Pans on Sep 16th, Nov 15th, Dec 2nd, 8th and 29th. One returned to Testwood Lakes on Nov 6th frequenting Meadow Lake and was detected regularly during the month (6-7th, 11-12th, 24-26th and 30th) but not thereafter. The last arrivals were seen on two dates at Titchfield Haven (Dec 8th and 17th) and at Fishlake Meadows (Dec 19th). (AFJC)



Bittern, Ivy Lake, Blashford, Dec 19th (James West)

Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret)

Bubulcus ibis

Formerly rare vagrant now a scarce visitor. (0,73+,85+).

ET, Schedule 1.

There were nearly 140 reports with much duplication involved. Sightings were made from January to February and August to December. An astonishing record involved a flock of 56 feeding in pasture near Trigpoint Hill on Oct 24th which then took off and flew north, never to be seen elsewhere as a group. Sightings are summarised by area below.

Blashford Lakes area: 2 at Ibsley Water, Aug 30th followed by 3 on Sep 13th and Oct 20th and singles on five dates until Nov 13th. Harbridge WM: 2 Sep 14th and 20th. Ivy Lake: 1, Dec 17th. Sopley-Avon Causeway: 1, Oct 14th.

Needs Ore: 1, Sep 14th.

Warblington: 1 from 2017 until Feb 24th and briefly at Langstone Mill Pond on Jan 30th. 1, Nov 18th to the year-end with 2 on Dec 3rd, 14th and 31st.

Northney: 1, Feb 2nd.

Winnal Moors: 8, Sep 1st (presumably same as Alresford Pond on Sep 4th.)

Alresford Pond: 8, Sep 4th; 7, Sep 7th; then 3-4 between Sep 13th-20th and 1 on Sep 23rd.

Brambridge: 1, Oct 15th.

Lymington-Hurst: 1, Oct 20th, 21st and 28th.

Farlington Marshes: 1, Aug 18th, Sep 23rd.

Frater Land, Portsmouth Harbour: 1, Sep 8th.

Titchfield Haven: 2, Sep 22nd-26th rising to 3 on 23rd and back to 1 on 27th-28th.

Trigpoint Hill, near Romsey: 56, Oct 24th – fed and then flew north (DAT).

Romsey: 7, Nov 27th-29th; 9, Dec 1st-12th.

Barton’s Mill, Old Basing: 1, Dec 15th.

(KFB)



Cattle Egret, Warblington, Feb 2nd (Lee Fuller)

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 2017 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Andwell 25 (21); Arlebury Park, 0 (5); Bramshill Plantation, 7 (6); Efford Mill, 4 (3); Elvetham Park, 17 (19); Eversley GP, 4 (4); Fleet Pond, 7 (9); Fort Elson, NC (14); Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 14 (12); near Fordingbridge, 115 (72); King’s Pond, Alton, 2 (2); Kingston North Common, 7 (4); Lammas Wood, Fawley Refinery, 36 (42); Langstone Mill Pond, 12 (10); Sowley Pond, 17 (16); Somerley Estate, 16 (17); Tournurbury Wood, NC (2); Yateley GP, 1 (1). These data suggest a county population of around 300 pairs compared to about 259 pairs in 2017.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	56	84	64							60	58	92
Blashford Lakes	5	6	3	3	8	8	28	32	110	90	12	14
Fobdown Farm Reservoir		2				8	7	10	3		5	4
Portsmouth Harbour	31	14	8	12	13	13	4	5	11	9	5	11

Great White Egret† (Great Egret)

Ardea alba

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

This species is now so frequently reported that estimates of birds arriving are often meaningless, so no attempt has been made to estimate. Sightings are summarised below by area.

Avon Valley

Blashford Lakes area: 1, from 2017 to Feb 19th, then only on Mar 13th. First returned on July 14th, then Aug 1st-11th, Aug 26th-Dec 31st, rising to 2 from Sep 30th, 3 from Oct 8th, 4 on Dec 6th and 12th. Many of these sightings involved "Walter", first seen in 2003.

Fordingbridge: 1 Jan 2nd.

Avon Causeway: 1, Jan 9th, 10th, 13th; Feb 8th; Mar 28th; Apr 19th; 2, Nov 25th.

Sopley: 2, Apr 18th.

Wattons Ford: 1, Nov 25th.

New Forest and nearby

Broomy Plain, NF: 1, Sep 27th.

Copythorne, NF: 1, June 10th.

Paultons Park: 1, Dec 15th and 18th.

West Wellow: 1, Dec 1st.

Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes: 1, Jan 2nd, 13th; 1, Mar 24th, 27th; 3, Apr 13th; 1, Sep 6th, 26th, 28th; 1 Nov 16th.

Needs Ore: 1, Mar 16th; 1, Oct 19th.

Calshot: 1, Apr 15th.

Southampton and nearby

West End, Southampton: 1, Jan 21st.

Hamble Common: 1, Apr 16th.

Otterbourne: 1, Oct 19th.

Hook-with-Warsash: 1, Sep 19th.

Titchfield Haven: 1, Apr 15th; 1, May 7th; 2, Aug 1st; 1, Aug 28th-30th; 1, Sep 12th; 2, Oct 7th; 1, Oct 8th; 2, Oct 19th; 1, Oct 20th.

Test Valley

Broadlands Lake: 1, Jan 2nd; 1-2, Jan 26th-29th; 1, Feb 21st; 1, Mar 24th; 1, Apr 2nd; 1, Oct 14th-16th; 2, Nov 13th-15th; 2, Dec 21st; 1, Dec 25th.

Fishlake Meadows: present in every month with 1-2 on many dates and maxima of 4 on Apr 11th, 3 on Oct 20th and 27th, 3 on Nov 18th and 4 on Dec 27th.

Fullerton area: 1, Nov 13th and 25th; Dec 2nd and 11th.

Goodworth Clatford: 1, Nov 20th and Dec 12th.

Leckford: 1, Dec 11th.

Lee Drove: 2, Dec 21st.

Longstock: 1, Nov 13th-17th and Dec 10th.

Nursling: 1, Feb 15th.

Skidmore: 3, Jan 17th; 1, Jan 20th; 2, Feb 16th; 1, Feb 18th; 1, Dec 26th.

Testwood Lakes: present from January to March with 1-2 on many dates and 3 on Feb 18th, then singles on Apr 1st and 5th, May 3rd and 5th-6th and Aug 29th. Then present from October to December with monthly maxima of 4 on Oct 7th, 3 on Nov 11th, and 1 in December.

Lower Test Marshes: 1, Sep 13th; Oct 25th.

Portsmouth/SE Hants

Farlington Marshes: 1, Sep 5th; 1, Oct 20th.

Langstone Harbour: 1, Jan 11th.

Sandy Point: 1, Oct 28th.

North-east and nearby

Tundry Pond: 1, Nov 13th, 16th, 26th.

Eversley GP: 1, Nov 22nd; Dec 4th.

Stratfield Saye Park: 1, Oct 24th; 1, Nov 20th.

The Vyne Lake/WM: 1, Nov 10th.

Overton Lagoons: 1, Aug 4th-5th.

Heath Pond, Petersfield: 1, Oct 27th-31st.

(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.

The WeBS peak month total of 370 in October was slightly below the previous mean of 392 for 2008-2017 but no trend is discernible. At Langstone Harbour the WeBS count of 148 on Sep 8th was the highest since the same record total in 2014. The nearby nocturnal roost count at Langstone Mill Pond of 136 on Aug 29th was however close to the recent mean peak of 143 (2011-2017). By contrast at Oxey Marsh the dawn count of the dispersing nocturnal roost at 4:40-5:10 on July 27th of 148 was the highest of three unprecedented three-figure counts for the West Solent (MW). The first of these was a minimum count of 124 between Keyhaven Lagoon and the jetty, Pennington Marshes at 05:30 on July 17th (SGK) including 71 on Fishtail Lagoon. The roost was recounted as 102 on Sep 6th. Such a concentration, where WeBS diurnal totals average below 30, suggests significant commuting from a much wider catchment area.

Cold weather at the beginning of March (one dead egret at Farlington Marshes found on 7th) may have impacted on breeding. Four egrettries were not monitored and hence confirmed breeding was confined to just two. At Langstone Mill Pond 22 nests were occupied by Apr 19th including three on the island, but all were abandoned reducing the colony to half its 2017 size. The first chicks were evident on May 24th and by June 1st at least 11 nests held young followed by a count of 31 juveniles on 12th. At Alice Holt Forest there were eight occupied nests but no count of juveniles was possible.

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*	49	35	10	28	16	40	50	63	209	167	42	34
Hampshire sectors*	25	10	4	6	6	4	2	2	37	53	4	6
Langstone Mill Pond	39			22	20	31		136†				
Langstone Harbour	8	12	3	11	15	29	75	78	148	110	28	7
Portsmouth Harbour	13	27	8	17	11	9	48	41	71	73	16	22
Southampton Water*	27	27	19	25	11	12	40	46	33	30	27	18
Beaulieu Estuary	7	4	9	5	4	6	32	13	10	24	15	7
Lymington-Hurst diurnal	14	14	7	19	15	10	124	21	24	23	21	25
Oxey Marsh†							141		102	13		
Avon Valley	32	25	5	6	6	5	1	11	13	24	32	8
Arlebury Lakes†	30	39									1*	42
WeBS counts total	169	146	60	66	53	72	153	160	346	370	189	151

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

A flock of 35 at Hamble Point on Oct 24th was notably higher than the WeBS total for all Southampton Water earlier that month. Peak nocturnal roost counts not tabulated above included: Rooksbury Mill (9, Jan 1st); Bickton (30, Jan 28th); Eversley GP (14, Feb 25th); Holt Pond, Alice Holt Forest (9, Feb 20th and Dec 13th); Allington GP (14, Nov 24th); Springhead,

Greywell (16, Nov 26th) and Kings Pond, Alton (10, Dec 12th). Further notable diurnal counts included Itchen Valley CP (15, Jan 26th); Black Hill, NF (13, Jan 29th); Pinglestone WCB (14, Feb 6th); North Boarhunt (12, Feb 23rd); Durley (20, Mar 11th); Lisle Court lagoon (25, July 23rd); Edenbrook CP (14, Aug 1st); Titchfield Haven (11, Sep 29th) and Botley (18, Dec 26th). (AFJC)

2017 addition. Breeding also took place at Fort Elson (7 nests) and Everton (1 nest). This brings the 2017 breeding total to 68 pairs.

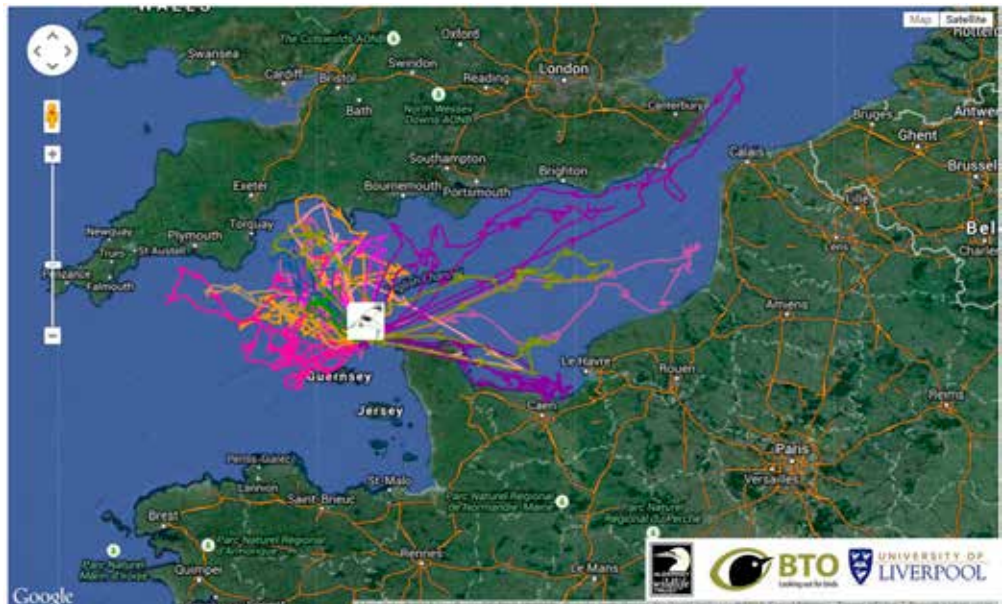
Gannet (Northern Gannet)

Morus bassanus

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

Recorded in all months except February. The year began with one or two off Sandy Point between Jan 1st-6th, up to four at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea between Jan 1st-24th except for 16 on 3rd, singles at Weston Shore on 2nd and 3rd, off Keyhaven Marshes on 3rd and off Oxy Marsh on 14th. In March up to three were at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea between 14th and 30th. Numbers then rose in April with frequent records including 103 east at Hurst Castle on 15th, 78 east at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 25th and the year's highest count of 123 south there on 27th. Elsewhere in April peak counts at other sites included ten at Sandy Point on 6th and 27th, two off Keyhaven Marshes on 11th, four at Hill Head on 15th, three at Stokes Bay the same day and three at Southsea on 29th. Relatively high numbers continued into early May with 62 at Hurst Castle on 2nd, 41 off the Needles on 11th and 31 at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 13th. Other records included peaks of 20 off Sandy Point on 11th, 12 off Hill Head on 12th and 12 off Pennington Marshes on 19th, as well as up to four elsewhere in The Solent and Southampton Water including singles as far upstream as Weston Shore on 26th and 27th.

Numbers then dropped in June at all sites with a maximum of only six off Pennington Marshes on 28th and a peak in July of only 23 at Hurst Castle on 29th. Regular reports continued in August with peaks of 25 at Sandy Point on 9th, 84 at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on 26th and eight at Hill Head the same day. There followed few records in the next three months



*Summary of GPS tracked Gannet activity from Alderney in 2015.
(Reproduced with permission from Alderney Wildlife Trust)*

with monthly peaks of ten at Sandy Point on Sep 19th, 30 there on Oct 28th and 101 east (incl. 91 adults and 3 juveniles) at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Nov 27th ahead of SW gales the next day. Several of the single records in this period referred to immatures including a juvenile upstream at Northney, Chichester Harbour on Oct 13th. The year ended with highs of 24 at Hurst Castle on Dec 22nd and 22 at Hurst Beach on 26th.

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	2			10	20	5	5	25	10	1	30	3
Stokes Bay-Hill Head				4	12	4	6	8		1	1	
Southampton Water	1				1	3	2	2		1		
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	16		3	123	62		23	84		3	101	24

GPS tracking of Gannets from Alderney, where 8,500 pairs breed on Les Etacs and Ortac, has shown the extent of feeding forays during the breeding season in the English Channel and along the south coast from Cornwall to Kent.

Shag (European Shag)
Phalacrocorax aristotelis

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

There were 59 records, the highest counts being two of four and one of three - all other records were of ones (41) and twos (15). This continues the very low counts of recent years following severe storms in 2013/14, before which there were regular wintering and autumnal groups of ten or more juveniles. The nearest breeding colony at Middle Bench, Isle of Weight recorded eight nests in both 2017 and 2018 (a total of 28 birds seen in 2017) and possibly one to four more pairs at Culver Down (J. Baldwin pers.comm.), so it is surprising that more are not recorded in county waters.

Reports from Milford on Sea/Hurst Beach were all singles unless noted otherwise. There were six reports in January-March prior to two on three dates (Mar 29th-Apr 7th), then none between Apr 11th and Aug 26th followed by four on 27th and just three more to the year end (Oct 13th, Nov 10th, Dec 16th). On the sea off Southsea Castle there were one or two on eight dates between Jan 6th and May 11th (also 1 E, Apr 22nd), and then regular sightings on 11 dates from Nov 21st to Dec 28th, usually of twos but four on Nov 29th and three on Dec 16th. From Southampton Water there were nine reports including seven between Town Quay and Weston Shore (adult, Jan 14th also seen off Hythe on 17th; 2 adults S, Apr 17th; adult, Aug 12th; 1 S, Nov 16th; 1, Dec 4th; juvenile, Dec 30th). A juvenile was at Calshot on Dec 2nd and an adult near the container port at Redbridge on Dec 30th. There were four records from Sandy Point both in spring (1 W, Apr 21st; adult and immature E, 22nd; 1, 25th; 1 W, May 11th) and the late year (1 W, Nov 10th; 1 offshore, Dec 10th, 23rd, 31st). Elsewhere there were reports from Hill Head/Brownwich (1 NW, Jan 7th, adult W, Apr 18th, adult E, May 11th); Langstone Harbour (1, Jan 11th; 1, Dec 22nd) and Stansore Point, Lepe (1 E inshore, Nov 19th).

Monthly maxima are tabulated below. (AFJC)

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

Cormorant (Great Cormorant)

Phalacrocorax carbo

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

The table below compares WeBS counts for inland and coastal waters again dominated by the former. The WeBS total of 680 in October was close to the average of 689 for the previous decade. Note not all sites are counted from April-August.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS coast counts total	149	119	140	26	9	21	22	44	102	250	200	175
WeBS inland counts total	380	326	331	36	1	37	41	70	207	430	402	441
WeBS total	529	445	471	62	10	58	63	114	309	680	602	616

The highest counts of the year were at Ibsley Water (202 including many juveniles, Aug 28th; 270, Oct 2nd). A large roost of 110 at Eversley GP (on the Hampshire side) may have been boosted by the collapse of the roost tree at nearby Fleet Pond after the October count there. At Blashford Lakes the roost is well screened amongst trees lining Ivy Lake; thus three counts of 160-168 in the early and late year are probable underestimates. The only other three-figure counts were along the Avon between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (Ibsley/Harbridge WM, 120, Feb 15th; WeBS count, 132, Mar 4th) and the highest coastal count was at Black Point (100, Nov 18th).

No nesting attempts were reported. Local movements exceeding 20 were observed at Trigpoint Hill (21-25 SW, Sep 25th-29th and Nov 4th); Tweseldown (25 W, Sep 14th); Normandy Marsh (40 W, Nov 3rd) and Avon Causeway (38 S, Dec 16th).

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: Hampshire sectors/Sandy Point	21	35	7	11			6	14	12	11	100	6
Portsmouth Harbour	47	23	24						26	34	29	41
Titchfield Haven	42	36	30	13	11	11	17	37†	24	41	32	41
Hythe†	58		28					6	15	69	63	56
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes & Dibden Bay	28	22	80	4		4	2	13	14	7	17	80
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	67	120	132						9	46	56	93
Blashford Lakes	166†	101	100	40	16	30	34	202	250	270	160†	242
Fishlake Meadows†	50	9	57	12		4	7	13	8	60	70	70
Heath Pond, Petersfield	5	3	4	1		1	1	7	60	70	20	11
Eversley GP (Berks & Hants)	78	70	15	5					7	34	16	110†
Fleet Pond	10		1		3	2	9	35	51†	60†	13	

† = nocturnal roost counts

There were four notable counts not tabulated in the early year and seven in the late year as follows: Weston Shore (80, Jan 17th); roosting at Sowley Pond (41, Jan 26th); Rooksbury Mill (25, Jan 13th); Tadburn Meadows, Romsey (25, Mar 23rd); Langstone Harbour (27, Sep 8th); Needs Ore (33, Oct 28th); Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (44, Nov 6th); Tundry Pond (26, Nov 11th); King's Pond, Alton (20, a site record, Dec 7th); Yateley GP (32, Dec 10th) and leaving the Alresford Pond roost (26, Dec 23rd). (AF/C)



Osprey being mobbed by Avocet, Pennington Marshes, June 6th (Joe Murphy)

Osprey (Western Osprey)

Scarce passage migrant.

Pandion haliaetus

ET, Schedule 1, Amber.

The year began with a very early record on Feb 24th of one eating a fish at Calshot Spit. This was followed in March by one flying south down the Test Valley at Trigpoint Hill on 13th while another was present at Ibsley Water the next day. Further records of singles followed from Ibsley Water on 21st, Havant and Paultons Park on 27th, Emer Bog on 29th and Bury Hill on 31st. Through April and May there were numerous further reports, but only one in June on 6th near Lymington.

As in 2017, Fishlake Meadows in the Test Valley was frequented by several individuals from July 20th onwards with two present on July 22nd and 23rd. One of these with a blue colour ring (NFI) originated from Loch Fleet, Sutherland having been ringed in 2016. In August records continued from Fishlake Meadows with ones and twos reported elsewhere at Chichester Harbour, Blackfield, Lepe, Pennington and Farlington Marshes amongst other locations, mostly coastal or along the main river valleys. Three fishing together in Chichester Harbour was the highest count on 29th and 30th. Further records from Trigpoint Hill in August included singles west on 2nd and SW on 31st. Reports of ones and two continued through September with the last in October of singles in Langstone Harbour on 9th and Chichester Harbour on 16th. Unusually there were no November records.

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			1			10	14	2	
Langstone Harbour						7	7	2	
Titchfield Haven/Hook-with-Warsash		4	4			1			
Lower Test Marshes		1	2			2	2		
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary		2	2			2			
Keyhaven area		3		1					
Blashford Lakes/Avon Valley	2	1	1			1	1		
Itchen Valley						1			
Test Valley incl. Fishlake Meadows	2	1	4		13	14	1		
Elsewhere	2					1	1		

Honey-buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)

Pernis apivorus

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP.

Records for this species were down to just 37 in 2018 from 61 in the previous year. However the first record on May 7th was a week earlier than 2017. Of the total records 21 came from the New Forest and the remainder from eight other sites. These included presumed migrants over Alice Holt on May 10th, Noar Hill on May 13th, Drayton Camp on Aug 15th and Chandlers Ford on Aug 21st.

Pairs or singles were present at a minimum of nine sites and successful breeding was confirmed at six of these fledging at least 11 young. The national colour ringing project for this species also yielded two interesting facts to add to our scant knowledge of the species in UK. A male chick colour-ringed in the New Forest in 2014 was proved breeding in the Forest during 2018 at a site 12km from where it was born. This is the first conclusive proof that New Forest birds can and do return to their natal area to breed. An even more remarkable picture emerged from a second colour-ringed bird found breeding successfully at a site in the north of the county. This bird, a female named AJ after her ring combination, was ringed as a nestling at a site in West Sussex in 2005. She was subsequently proved breeding 24km away from her natal site at different Hampshire sites in 2010 and 2012 and then 15 km from there at a site in Surrey in 2013 and 2014. Although not found in the next two years, she would undoubtedly have bred in 2015 and 2016 before she was relocated breeding again in Hampshire in 2018. As this site was occupied and successful in 2017, it is a safe assumption that AJ bred here in that year. Her age of 13 years provides a new longevity record for UK-ringed Honey-buzzards.

The last record came from Ibsley Water on Oct 8th. (AP)



*Honey-buzzard, New Forest, Aug 30th
(Simon Buckell)*

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)

Accipiter nisus

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

Green.

Whilst the county population in 2017 was estimated at 800-1,000 pairs, there was little evidence of current breeding density, either from the New Forest or elsewhere. Confirmed breeding records came from a variety of locations including Basingstoke, IBM Lake, the cemetery at Southampton Common and Titchfield Haven. There were no confirmed breeding records from the New Forest where survey work has been discontinued, but food-carrying was recorded at several locations. Numerous records of attacks around garden feeders were received with victims including Wren, Goldfinch, Starling, Collared Dove and Woodpigeon. Unsuccessful chases of Blackcap, House Sparrow, Green Woodpecker and Starling were also recorded.

Despite assumed predation from Goshawks, the winter months' surveys in the New Forest recorded three, four and five during January-March and seven, nine and five during October-December (Table 4).



Sparrowhawk, Pennington Marshes, Sep 29th (Sue Marshall)

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	7	7	9	15	9	9	6	26	27	31	9	2

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk)

Accipiter gentilis

Scarce but increasing resident.

Schedule I, Green.

A total of 237 records was received. Of these 63 were submitted from Acres Down covering 43 days and a further 90 were received from other areas of the New Forest. In addition 24 were seen during the six monthly New Forest Winter Bird Surveys and two came from Roydon Woods. Separately 17 records came from Needs Ore and 12 from the Avon Valley. The remaining reports related to single-figure sightings from a number of sites as far afield as South Stoneham, Andover, Old Basing, Alton and Portsdown Hill. Virtually no records were received from the Test Valley where a number of Goshawk pairs can be found.

In the core New Forest at least 30 sites were occupied and breeding attempted. There were an additional 14 previously occupied sites where no evidence of breeding could be found. Four sites were known to have failed but 26 pairs reared a minimum of 58 young and 43 chicks were ringed (27 males and 16 females). Only one other breeding record was received, relating to private land in the Avon Valley, which is a huge under-representation of breeding distribution 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 I, Amber.

Numbers continued to increase with birds present all year round at most coastal wetland locations. In addition individuals either hunting or moving through were recorded from various inland sites, including the New Forest, in all seasons.

Breeding was successful at two sites. At Titchfield Haven two young fledged and at a new site in the south-west two young also fledged. A third pair attempted breeding near the Dorset border but failed.

In the autumn indication of movement was provided by one soaring around Old Winchester Hill on Sep 14th. By November numbers of wintering individuals had built up at all the usual coastal sites with a maximum of six going to evening roost at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Nov 18th and Dec 19th.

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	2				1			2	2	2
Titchfield Haven area	3	3	2	3	2	4	6	4	2	3	2	3
Lower Test Marshes	1	1	1	1					1	1	2	
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	3	3	4	4	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Keyhaven area	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	6	6

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

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

In the early year a male and female used the northern roost site in the New Forest until Mar 3rd while a ringtail roosted at Alresford Pond from the beginning of the year up to Feb 18th. Elsewhere the only records were of ringtails at Lower Pennington Lane on Feb 6th, Brown Candover on Mar 17th and possibly the same roosting at Alresford Pond on Mar 24th, the last record in spring. Unusually there were no reports in April and May.

An adult male was at Ogdens Purlieu, NF on July 18th (Video, per MJB). The only previously published record for this month was a male at Titchfield Haven on July 31st 1995.

The first returns were single females in September at Shatterford, New Forest on 24th and Old Winchester Hill on 28th. At the inland watchpoint at Tweseldown one flew SW on Oct 21st. Coastal records came from Farlington Marshes with one or two between Oct 29th-Nov 2nd, Emsworth with one on Oct 28th and Oxey Marsh where two ringtails flew west on Oct 29th. In addition one hunting at Butts Lagoon on Nov 20th was then seen to fly south to the Isle of Wight at 08:10. At Bransbury Common two ringtails used the roost from Nov 1st-Dec 20th, while another roosted at Alresford Pond from Nov 15th-29th. Other winter records included one at Nether Wallop on Dec 2nd and a female which frequented Needs Ore from Dec 7th-23rd. At the northern roost site in the New Forest organised daily monitoring showed that birds came in (mostly to roost) on 44 evenings from Oct 11th to the year end, with one or two males on most of these occasions and three birds (one ringtail, two males) on Dec 17th and 28th. NFWBS recorded totals of one, two and zero in January-March and zero, zero and four in October-December (Table 4).

The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. (RC)

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

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

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

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Green, HBAP.

There were reports from 520 sites during the year with the highest densities of records in the north, the Test Valley and around the South Downs. Ten 10 km squares had more than

50 records in the year. Seeing a Red Kite is now an everyday experience for many observers so a 30% drop in the number of reports (from 2,200 in 2017 to 1,570) is not a surprise and indicates the daily familiarity that many of us now have with this species. Estimating breeding numbers is difficult but it is likely that the actual nesting population was probably in the region of 250-350 pairs, with perhaps 500 first-years in addition.

Monthly bird-day totals of sightings on the coast and the New Forest are tabulated below and 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.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	2	9	12	40	42	15	2	2	4	8	3	1
New Forest		1	5	7	22	11	3				2	3

Winter roosts have dwindled with the population growth but roost counts included 41 at Tunworth on Jan 4th, 25 at Ashley Warren on Nov 18th, 40 near Sydmonton on Dec 22nd, 20 at Freefolk on Dec 26th, 22 at Blounce on Dec 29th and 54 at Chilton Candover on Dec 31st. Although it is easy to be apathetic towards birds that are becoming so much more common, it would be helpful to receive regular counts from any winter roosts. (KFB)

White-tailed Eagle

Haliaeetus albicilla

Rare vagrant (11,2,1). ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red.

A juvenile was discovered near Roe Inclosure, NF on Dec 7th. It was feeding on a deer carcass and remained in the area into 2019, wandering to Ibsley Water on Dec 18th and 21st. After Dec 22nd it became more elusive (m.o.). The bird was aged as a first-winter. Interestingly it had a metal ring on its right leg but no colour ring, proving that it was not from the UK or Dutch populations.

This is the first sighting since the juvenile that appeared at several locations in the county in the winter of 2010/11. With releases of juveniles from the Isle of Wight as part of a re-introduction project over the next five years, observers are asked to note if possible wing-tag details of any birds seen. (KFB)



Juvenile White-tailed Eagle, New Forest, Dec 16th (Oliver Frampton)

Rough-legged Buzzard

Buteo lagopus

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant (11,51,1).

A juvenile flew west over Farlington Marshes at 09:30 on Oct 29th (TMJD, JCr). This is the eighth sighting this century but the first since 2011. (KFB)

Buzzard (Common Buzzard)

Common resident.

Buteo buteo

Green.

Despite the 2017 Hampshire population estimate being 1,500-2,000 pairs, very few confirmed breeding records were submitted but all the evidence is that numbers remain very high. It would be useful if observers were prepared to count breeding pairs in small study areas to see what density is currently attained.

A flock of 17 feeding on the ground in sheep paddocks near Andover on Feb 17th was an early indication of pre-breeding gatherings. Other high counts included at least 25 at Needs Ore on Feb 12th and more than 20 at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 14th. NFWBS gave totals of 19, 54 and 78 in January-March and 46, 18 and 14 in October-December (Table 4).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	1	4	6	5	7	4	3	11	14	7	2	

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

Records for January to April involved a minimum of 108 at 64 sites (cf. 2017: 141 at 75 sites). Locations at which five or more were recorded included Fishlake Meadows (6, Jan 6th, Mar 23rd and Apr 4th; 5, Jan 22nd and Apr 15th), Titchfield Haven (6, Feb 2nd) and Fleet Pond (5, Feb 17th).

Breeding was confirmed or suspected at Rooksbury Mill, Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Wood, Fleet Pond, Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, Ivy Lake, Marlhill Copse (Itchen Waterworks), Edenbrook CP and Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes.

Records between September and December showed a total of 151 at 69 sites (cf. 2017: 168 at 68 sites). Locations where five or more were recorded included Fleet Pond (6, Oct 16th; 11, Dec 9th), Titchfield Haven (10, Oct 25th; 5, Nov 2nd; 7, Dec 19th), Fishlake Meadows (6, Nov 14th; 8, Nov 29th; 5, Dec 7th and 9th; c.20, Dec 22nd); IBM Lake (5, Dec 9th); Alresford Pond (5, Dec 23rd) and Ibsley Water (6, Dec 26th). (JS)



Water Rail, Keyhaven Marshes, Jan 14th (Chris Rose)



Juvenile Spotted Crake, Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes, Sep 8th (Alan Lewis)

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

Very scarce passage migrant, most frequent in autumn, and rare winter visitor; has bred, (? ,177,3). ET, Schedule 1, Amber.

Singles were at Titchfield Haven on Aug 4th (SK *et al.*), Ramptons Lane GP on Aug 22nd (BSt *et al.*) and Keyhaven Marshes from Sep 8th-17th (PRD *et al.*).

1995 addition. Itchen Valley CP, a single was seen and heard on Apr 12th, 14th and 16th (MAO, PO). (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	49	48	17	7	6	7	21	45	39	62	51
Hampshire sectors	22	26	23	6	6	3	7	14	25	15	33	15
Langstone Harbour	69	45	38	25	21	9	17	25	26	43	69	67
Portsmouth Harbour	36	39	32						25	36	55	40
Blashford Lakes	15	11	17			3	18	26	33	31	15	34
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	15	21	8	2	16	5	29	44	42	39	39	36
Edenbrook CP	28	15	9	7	5	6	24	38	19	21	28	38
King's Pond, Alton	17	14	11	10	9	11	12	12	33	25	38	34
Heath Pond, Petersfield	31	21	18	14	11	5	11	17	20	28	36	26

Other sites with counts of 25 or more were Lakeside Holiday Village (30, Feb 8th), Wattons Ford (25, Sep 24th), and Lower Test Marshes (28, Nov 19th). Breeding was reported at widespread water bodies but success was considered poor at Fleet Pond with only seven broods totalling 12 young compared to 11 broods last year. (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 in the first seven months were slightly lower than last year but were significantly higher in the last five months due mainly to very large numbers at Blashford Lakes. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	345	253	220	56	24	26	81	138	175	246	442	453
Hampshire sectors	68	64	59	11	8	16	31	36	47	68	75	81
Blashford Lakes	1,013	495	132	42	32	112	426	715	1,469	1,505	1,671	1,575
Alresford Pond	10	16	8	17	12	29	52	68	101	86	29	24
Testbourne Lake	100	70	62	38	26		52	75	83	70	100	106
Eversley GP	243	101	110	62					184	300	378	384
Yateley GP	165	112	89	35				122	149	176	193	199
Tundry Pond	125	71	46	16	15		52	50	37	24	26	29
Heath Pond, Petersfield	104	91	39	37	39	45	62	99	93	100	101	105
WeBS count totals	2,317	1,694	1,197	482	274	413	831	1,207	2,315	2,609	3,113	3,211

Sites of international importance 17,500+; national importance 1,800+.

Other sites holding 50 or more were Chichester Harbour, Hampshire Sectors (68, Jan 6th; 64, Feb 3rd; 59, Mar 3rd; 68, Oct 27th; 75, Nov 24th and 81, Dec 22nd), Ibsley North Lake (58, Nov 25th), Needs Ore (50, Feb 4th), Lymington-Hurst (74, Mar 4th; 83, Sep 8th; 86, Oct 26th), Langstone Harbour (61, Feb 3rd; 66, Mar 3rd; 50, June 16th; 61, July 14th; 82, Sep 8th; 54, Dec 22nd), Bramshill Lake (53, Oct 4th; 57, Oct 16th; 50, Nov 1st; 67, Nov 10th; 66, Nov 15th; 64, Dec 14th; 67, Dec 24th; 60, Dec 29th), Portsmouth Harbour (77, Jan 6th; 60, Feb 3rd; 53, Mar 3rd; 52, Oct 27th; 68, Dec 22nd), Titchfield Haven (74, Feb 2nd; 79, Mar 9th; 57, Apr 13th) and Fishlake Meadows (70, Jan 1st and 22nd; 50, Oct 16th; 50, Nov 14th; 75, Dec 7th; 51, Dec 9th),

Counts of territories (not necessarily complete) included the following (2017 figures in parentheses): The Grange Lake, 3 (3); Alresford Pond, 2 (3); Avington Lake, 3 (4-5); Farlington Marshes, 7 (7); Fleet Pond, 10 (6); IBM Lake, 6 (5); Itchen Valley CP, 4 (6); King's Pond, Alton, 5 (5); Wellington CP, 4 (11) and Titchfield Haven 4. (JS)

Crane (Common Crane)

Grus grus

A rare vagrant recorded in every month except March, July and August. [ET, SPEC3, Amber] (0,141+,5)

Five were tracked by many observers on Sep 25th as they crossed central and southern England from the Midlands to Wiltshire and eventually Hampshire. They circled over Finkley



Five adult Cranes, Tanners Lane, Sep 26th (Alan Lewis)

near Andover for ten minutes at 16:23 (MI) and were relocated the following morning at Tanners Lane, departing south over the Isle of Wight at 10:40 (AH, SPP, DWV, photo). Because this group was tracked as they moved south, it can be said with confidence that they had not originated from any of the release schemes in south-west England.

Note other records are listed in the Escapes section. With the recent creation of breeding programmes in Gloucestershire and Somerset there is now a small population of free-flying released birds that range widely in southern England. These birds carry colour rings that are not always obvious in flight. It is therefore assumed that all birds are of captive origin unless there is strong evidence to the contrary. (KFB)

Stone-curlew (Eurasian Stone-curlew)

Burhinus oedicephalus

Scarce summer visitor and localized breeder.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP.

The first report was of one near Overton on Mar 29th. Due to funding cutbacks RSPB staff were unable to give full coverage to the central west area that they study. The whole team found 14 pairs on territory across the county, most of which were proved to breed, with 18 nesting attempts in total. This is a significant reduction on 23 pairs found nesting in 2017 but undoubtedly some pairs were missed. It is known that a minimum of five young fledged. In addition it is understood that a further three to four pairs nested on land to which access is not granted to the RSPB or its volunteers.

It was also a challenging year with the weather – ranging between the extremes of the cold spring and the hot, dry summer. The very cold conditions in spring affected large areas of western and central Europe, and it has been suggested that some species did not follow their normal migratory patterns, or perished attempting the journey. This may have impacted on migrating Stone-curlews, and it appears that there was a slight decline across neighbouring areas of Wiltshire and Berkshire too. The 2018 data suggests that Hampshire currently holds 13% of the Wessex population (well down on 25% in 2016). However this is an unreliable figure given the temporary staff shortages and the figure is expected to increase again in 2019.

Autumn roost counts were relatively few in number but included 19 near Porton Down on Sep 19th and 21 near Kingsclere on Oct 8th - the last sighting of the year. (KFB)

2017 addition: An autumn flock of 39 was reported near Kingsclere on Sep 1st.



Stone-curlew, North Wessex Downs, Apr 7th (Barry Stalker)

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 in January and February were similar to last year but unlike then remained high in March. Although lower than last year from May to August, numbers then increased markedly for the last four months to exceed 2017 with a peak in November of 2,850 (cf. peak of 2,460 in December 2017). 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	1,227	1,092	1,014	349	301	283	136	617	864	1,049	1,219	941
Hampshire sectors	169	113	187	12	13	4	8		6	50	141	37
Black Point	200	109	83	2	4	2	2	8	43	150	163	147
Langstone Harbour	824	590	781	321	205	204	471	1,000	1,257	1,146	1,031	1,013
Portsmouth Harbour	86	491	567						325	95	600	439
Titchfield Haven	137	142	105	63	30	12	18	94	100	192	173	210
Hamble Estuary	78	127	83				11	2		3	28	25
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	33	49	37	30	4	9	10	26	6	45	20	47
Hythe	74	1	43					41	120	77	38	12
Calshot	600	410	370		1		3		450	400	610	590
Beaulieu Estuary	82	124	63	107	71	78	64			8	70	129
Lymington-Hurst	187	127	154	83	65	39	87	52	75	46	67	160
Sowley-Lymington	6	14		6	3		17	27	110	10	16	14
WeBS count totals	2,274	2,154	2,345	666	363	340	680	1,000	2,235	2,098	2,850	2,708

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

Counts of breeding pairs from east to west along the coast were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): IBM Lake, 1 (1); Titchfield Haven, 4 (4); Hook-with-Warsash, 3 (2); Lower Test Marshes, 1 (2); Badminton Common, Fawley, 1 (1); Needs Ore, 12 (13); Lymington-Hurst, 9 (7); Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea, 4-5. No breeding data were received this year from Langstone Harbour RSPB or Sowley-Lymington. However summer counts at Langstone Harbour RSPB islands included 31 on June 16th and 68 on July 14th. Elsewhere two pairs raised at least one chick each at Ibsley Water and pairs probably nested on flat roofs at IBM Lake and Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth. (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 winter flock counts were 60 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 17th and Dec 11th, and the highest summer count was 82 adults at Titchfield Haven on July 2nd.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour												
Hampshire sectors			2		1					10		3
Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes	60	40	31	12	9	12	13	3	1	25	56	60
Titchfield Haven		1	15	39	30	51	68	82	11	5	1	
Hook-with-Warsash			2	4	5	14	12	15		1		
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore/Park Shore	25	22	25	37	26	18	15	7		19	10	15
Lymington-Hurst	32	16	19	11	17	28	27	11	11	4	20	14

In addition to the tabulated six sites, other sightings were at Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (1, Feb 19th; 2, Mar 3rd-10th; 1, Mar 19th, Apr 2nd and Oct 31st), Baffins Pond (2, Mar 1st), Curbridge (2, Mar 5th-8th), Weston Shore (1, Mar 1st; 5, Aug 30th), Sandy Point (1 W, May 10th and 2 E, May 25th), Testwood Lakes (1, June 24th) and Tanners Lane (3, Nov 17th; 20 E, Nov 24th).

Breeding was confirmed at Farlington Marshes (3 pairs, at least 4 young); Titchfield Haven (14 pairs, at least 23 young); Hook Links scrape, Hook-with-Warsash (3 pairs, at least 10 young); Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (18 pairs, at least 25 young of which 14 were colour-ringed); Park Shore (at least 5 pairs, at least 6 young) and Lymington–Hurst (including Normandy Marsh, Fishtail and Keyhaven Lagoons) (at least 7 pairs, at least 9 young). Assessing the total number of breeding pairs and young successfully reared remains problematic as failed breeders can move to other sites and all chicks are subject to high levels of predation. Despite this it appears around 50 pairs attempted breeding in six sites which continues the upward trend of recent years (cf. at least 37 pairs at 5 sites in 2017). (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.

Contrary to the declines in recent years, WeBS counts during the winter months at both ends of the year were higher than last year with the peak count of 5,281 in February approaching the last two five-year averages (see header). Increased numbers at Lymington-Hurst contributed to the higher totals.

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	996	1,397	309		3	11	35	55	100	363	840	1,002
Hampshire sectors	80	321	164							23	167	20
Langstone Harbour	459	533	65	17	26	44	27	61	75	155	279	320
Titchfield Haven area	150	151	379	14	8	25	40	62	90	150	212	500
Hamble Estuary	272	191	80				17	8	9	42	77	132
Lower Test Marshes-Eling	130	107	80			10	30	17	1	43	22	245
Dibden Bay	500	691	426	3						96	372	50
Hythe	670	276										219
Beaulieu Estuary	800	862	1,000	19	21	20	39		4	130	393	587
Lymington-Hurst	1,400	705	105	15	15	16	18	150	110	168	380	1,070
Needs Ore	800	862	1,000	19	21	20	39		4	130	393	587
Avon: Wattons Ford	70	107	62							122		222
Avon: Ringwood - Fordingbridge	55	200	40							90	43	35
Ripley Farm Reservoir	200	172	12	8	8			97	171			
Blashford Lakes	250	150	65	30	15	15	24	117	130	182	390	188
Alresford Pond							7			130	400	309
Winchester SF	442	480	420	2	4	34	45	85	98	155	462	740
Testwood Lakes	250	268	4			10	18		64	39	103	160
Trigpoint Hill	27	247	112				1			51	140	197
WeBS count totals	3,674	5,281	1,184	66	62	130	221	316	899	1,195	2,936	3,923

Other sites where 200 or over were reported included Toyd Down (250, Feb 6th), Tidpit Down (300, Feb 11th), Old Winchester Hill (200, Feb 11th; 252, Mar 4th), Nether Wallop (300, Feb 15th), Blackheath Down (200, Feb 18th), Willesley Warren (200, Oct 26th), Dilton Farm Brockenhurst (310, Nov 4th), Middle Wallop Airfield (200, Nov 6th) and Morestead

(200, Dec 17th). Cold weather movements associated with ‘The Beast from the East’ included 380 west at Fleet Pond on Feb 28th, 1,882 west at Sandy Point on Mar 1st and 500 west there the next day, 450 W/NW at Weston Shore on Mar 1st and 1,200 W/NW there the next day.

Breeding season reports referred to approximately 98 territories or pairs (cf. 199-201 in 2017). Numbers for comparison at sites surveyed last year are as follows (numbers in parentheses refer to 2017): Beaulieu Heath West, 1 (13); Bishopstoke, 3 (4); Bourley-Long Valley Reclamation Area, 0 (3); Burley, 1 (3); Busta Triangle, 0 (1); Cholderton Park, 1 (2); Farlington Marshes, 15 (15); Eversley GP, 1 (2); Ibsley Water, 12 (4); Lymington-Hurst, 24 (24-25); Needs Ore, 20 (27); Ripley Farm Reservoir, 3 (1); Testwood Lakes, 5, all failed (11); Titchfield Haven, 6 (7) and Woolmer Pond, 1 (5-6). Breeding season reports were also received from nine other localities with between one and three pairs each. Possible or probable breeding occurred at a number of other locations but information was insufficient to determine whether territorial pairs were established. In addition the Avon Valley WM project by GWCT found 73 pairs on territory (cf. 69 pairs in 2017). (JS)

Golden Plover (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

ET, Green, HBAP.

The high numbers in Chichester Harbour and the Odiham area in late 2017 continued into January with the highest count being 1,000 on the mudflats north of Black Point on Jan 27th. The marshes between Lymington and Hurst also produced high counts in the early year up to early March. The last record in spring was 65 at Oakley on Apr 6th, apart from a summer plumage adult on Ocknell Plain, NF on May 19th, and the first return was one at Bunny Meadows, Warsash on Aug 22nd. Peak numbers were lower in the second half-year with a maximum of 600 over Snatchangers Farm, Odiham on Dec 4th. 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	1,000	40	200							301	492	150
Hampshire sectors	1,000	40	200							100	1	5
Titchfield Haven area	59	48	200	1					5	25	85	150
Hamble Estuary	45	46	6					5	9	92	169	1
Lymington-Hurst	860	375	600						5	100	250	612
Gander Down/ Longwood Warren	236	200	175							25	14	
Overton/Wootton St Lawrence area	100			65						250	40	
Middle Wallop area		100	40								300	120
Odiham area	700	846	450						31	450	150	600

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

Other sightings over 100 included East Worldham (300, Feb 2nd), Four Marks (154, Feb 25th), Winchester SF (120 W, Nov 15th) and West Tisted (250, Nov 25th). Cold weather movements associated with the ‘The Beast from the East’ were noted between Feb 27th and Mar 6th with a maximum of 85 west at Sandy Point on Mar 1st, approximately 50 moving over a further ten sites and small numbers grounded at coastal locations where not normally recorded such as Calshot, Southsea and Weston Shore. A flock of 190 which flew over Sholing, Southampton on Mar 18th was associated with the second ‘Beast’. (JS)

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

Contrary to the declining trend in recent years, the early year WeBS maximum of 1,527 in January was an increase over last year's 1,149 and close to the last five-year average (see header). It included the highest count of the year of 789 in Langstone Harbour on Jan 6th. However there were no four-figure counts in the late year with the maximum of 987 in December falling below last year's peak of 1,078. 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	930	771	468	7	6	7		7	199	378	364	371
Hampshire sectors	216	207	153						16	72	26	48
Langstone Harbour	789	443	521	42	4	17	28	193	274	440	541	518
Hamble Estuary	60	58	93				1	5	7	23	43	38
Hythe	109	1	50					4		14	17	61
Beaulieu Estuary	96	198	114	25	5	4				71	129	149
Sowley-Lymington	80	90	30					12	24	60	30	70
Lymington-Hurst	200	218	50	40	9	3	3	83	120	93	48	143
WeBS count totals	1,527	1,227	979	16	7	5	29	214	410	783	865	987

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

The only report of movement was five high NW over Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on May 25th. (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

Monthly WeBS counts straddled the variations in recent years with five months exceeding last year but seven being lower. The most marked difference was for September when only 273 were recorded compared to last year's peak count of 712. October was also significantly lower than the total of 427 last year. These differences were mainly due to low numbers at Black Point and Lymington-Hurst, perhaps reflecting few autumn passage migrants or excessive disturbance. As a result the annual maximum of 497 in August fell well below the latest five-year average (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	105	181	34	49	14	6	6	47	119	6	70	31
Hampshire sectors	7		24	2				29				12
Black Point	120	20	25	8	5	5	14	94	91	127	56	96
Langstone Harbour	112	29	80	3	5	4	3	183	151	90	93	129
Portsmouth Harbour	28	19	23						5	25		18
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	45	36	26	6	20	1	1	21	39	35	33	54
Hamble Estuary	32	50	21	8	8	5	16	77	60	42	43	26
Hythe/Calshot	26	30					30	39	30	25	27	31
Beaulieu Estuary	15	6	12	9	7	16	3		96	5	20	1
Sowley-Lymington		1	3	1	6			15	18	100	16	
Lymington-Hurst	140	4	36	34	33	7	8	193	69	110	67	58
WeBS count totals	196	121	204	24	19	14	14	497	273	286	222	255

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

A flock of 25 was also found at Stokes Bay on Feb 16th. The only inland records were at Ibsley Water (1, Mar 17th and Aug 9th, 12th and 26th; 2, Sep 20th), Ripley Farm Reservoir (1, Apr 21st), Hucklesbrook WVM (1, May 17th), Winchester SF (1, May 22nd), Edenbrook CP, Fleet (8, May 24th) and Alresford Pond (1, Aug 23rd). The Fleet Pond birds are likely to have been of the northern race *tundræ* and coincided with a flock of seven at Posbrook Flood and 22 moving east off Hill Head. Further evidence for a passage of this race was given by an isolated peak of 33 at Pennington Marshes the next day and 12 at Hill Head on June 12th. The only other reported movement was four east at Hurst Beach on Apr 27th.



Ringed Plover, Hill Head, Nov 18th (Martin Clay)

Breeding pairs were reported along the coast as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): The Kench, Hayling Island, 1; Hook Spit and Hook Links, Hook-with-Warsash, 2 (1); Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, 16 (13); Normandy Marsh, 1; Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea, 3. (JSJ/MC)

Little Ringed Plover†

Charadrius dubius

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

There were several early records despite the cold weather. The first was at Weston Shore on Mar 11th, the first ever there. Records followed from Ibsley Water and Busta Triangle on 13th and a further six sites up to 20th including two evidently migrating over Fleet Pond in severe weather on 18th. Later records of migrants included singles at Drayton Farm WCB on Mar 20th and possibly the same at nearby Pinglestone WCB on Mar 25th, Sandy Point on May 8th and Weston Shore on May 15th.

Around 30 territorial pairs were located of which 13 are known to have raised 31 young. In the Avon Valley five pairs were at Ibsley Water with two pairs known to have fledged five young. There were three pairs at Ripley Farm Reservoir of which two raised seven young. One was at Hamer Warren on June 17th but this area was poorly covered and it is likely that breeding was overlooked there. In the Test Valley the only report was of one pair at Testwood Lakes which was unsuccessful. In the Mortimer West End area pairs or singles were seen at three sites between Mar 30th and June 27th and a juvenile was at one on Aug 5th and 11th, but it is not known if this was reared locally. In the north-east, ten pairs bred in one large area with seven raising at least 13 young, two pairs raised six young at Edenbrook CP, one pair raised at least two young at Bourley and two pairs were at Woolmer but no young were seen. At the coast, one pair was at Pennington Marshes early in the season evidently moving to Normandy Marsh, where they failed to raise young. A pair was also present at Badminton GP but no young were seen. At Ibsley Water from five pairs present, at least two are known to have hatched chicks and up to five probably fledged.

Autumn passage started in late June and continued in strength until late July with a trickle thereafter. Peak counts at inland sites included 15 (4+ juveniles) at Edenbrook on July 5th and 12 (10 juveniles) at Ripley on July 22nd. These counts are inflated from the populations breeding on site but probably are largely comprised of birds from nearby locations. However at the coast the presence of migrants from further afield was demonstrated by one at Pennington Marshes on July 21st which had been colour-ringed as an adult male at Forfar, Angus on May 20th 2018. Counts here included 12 (3 juveniles) on July 6th, 14 (11 juveniles) on 11th and

16 (7+ juveniles) on 21st. Maxima at other coastal sites were four at Farlington Marshes and Hook-with-Warsash and two at Titchfield Haven.

The approximate weekly totals are tabulated below.

	25 June- 1 July	2-9 July	10-16 July	17-23 July	24-30 July	31 July- 6 Aug	7-13 Aug	14-20 Aug	21-27 Aug	28 Aug- 3 Sep
Inland	49	44	26	19	20	20	5	4	4	2
Coast	5	17	20	23	9	6	2	4	4	1

The last inland were two juveniles at Busta Triangle on Aug 28th but at the coast juveniles remained at Farlington Marshes until Sep 5th and Pennington Marshes until 9th. A late bird was found at Fishery Creek, Chichester Harbour on Oct 7th and presumably the same was roosting with Ringed Plovers at nearby Black Point on 11th and along the seafront at Sandy Point later that day and the next. The only previous later record for Hampshire was at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 29th 2005. (JMC)

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Moderately common passage migrant; very scarce but increasing in winter.

Schedule 1, Red.

In the early year there were up to six wintering with regular reports of one to three in the Bury Marsh/Eling area, one or two in the Lymington-Hurst area and one on two dates at Langstone Mill Pond and West Hayling LNR. One was at Farlington Marshes on Apr 1st and two were at Needs Ore on 7th. From then recorded along the coast in small numbers throughout April and May with notable grounded counts of over 30 at Farlington Marshes (49, Apr 25th; 62, Apr 29th; 45, May 6th) and Lymington-Hurst (60, Apr 18th; 40, Apr 29th; 73, May 6th).

Passage movements were recorded from Apr 3rd with one past Stokes Bay followed by a further 517 east or north until May 31st. At Hurst a total of 380 was recorded including peak counts of 103 on Apr 21st, 47 on Apr 27th and 74 on May 6th. A total of 287 was recorded at Sandy Point with peak counts of 54 on Apr 22nd and 39 on May 6th. In The Solent at Hill Head and Stokes Bay 173 were recorded with a peak count of 65 on May 6th. There were more inland reports than last year with records from Ibsley Water with one on three dates between Apr 24th and May 2nd; six flew SE over Fleet Pond on Apr 27th and another on May 13th; one was at Beaulieu Heath West on Apr 28th; one or two were present at Fishlake Meadows between Apr 29th and May 10th; six were seen at Dur Hill Down, NF on May 1st; four were heard flying north over Overton on May 18th; one was heard flying over Sway on May 20th and two were at Woolmer Pond on May 22nd. In the first half of June one was seen at Hook Links on 2nd, one at Black Point on 5th, two at Pennington Marshes on 10th and one flew north over Barton on Sea on 12th.

Autumn passage started in late June with records of seven at Farlington Marshes on 19th and one at Sandy Point on 20th. Numbers in July remained low until 25th when 24 were recorded at Frater Shore increasing to 30 on 26th. The only other notable sighting in July was 12 heading south at Testwood Lakes on 29th. In August there were small numbers along the coast with the only flocks of more than ten being 19 south at Sandy Point on 4th and 31 at Frater Shore on 6th. In September there were reports on 11 days until the 29th with highs of six at Frater Shore on 2nd and seven in Langstone Harbour on 8th. In October two were at Bury Marshes on 27th with one remaining until the year end and one was at Farlington Marshes from 28th until Dec 14th. (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, S41.

There was an increase in the WeBS totals in January from the December 2017 count of 956 to 1,340 due to higher numbers in Southampton Water and Langstone Harbour. Whilst this was

the highest WeBS total for the year, it continued the decline in recent years and confirmed the downward trend compared to the last five-year mean maximum total (see header).

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	743	838	1,116	156	16	102	210	724	684	757	1,024	491
Hampshire sectors	303	243	283	25	2			8	69	38	300	6
Langstone Harbour	440	130	300	384	58	124	563	747	996	294	291	781
Portsmouth Harbour	189	63	109	2	3	1	32	270	240	202	35	117
Southampton Water	409	247	315	88	4	17	171	52	95	139	206	403
Beaulieu Estuary	114	50	49	30	6	10	29	10	20	56	104	102
Sowley-Lymington	12	40	1	2	2	3	6	100	18	25	10	30
Lymington-Hurst	169	200	43	35	6	7	118	136	144	57	150	185
WeBS count totals	1,340	910	950	549	72	156	628	994	1,328	814	1,082	1,511

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

Spring passage was recorded in April at Sandy Point (1 E, 4th; 6 E, 5th; 13 NE, 16th; 15 NE, 20th; 2 E, 27th). The peak late summer/autumn count of 1,328 in September saw a further decline from 1,592 in Aug 2017. In just three years the summer peak has reduced from 2,466 recorded in Aug 2015. Numbers dropped back in October before increasing to four figures in November and then to the highest WeBS count of the year of 1,511 in December (cf. 1,752 peak in Nov 2017).

Inland records came from Hucklesbrook WM in the Avon Valley (10, Mar 10th); Ibsley Water (21, Mar 19th; 1, Mar 25th; 1, Apr 6th); Southwick (1, Mar 25th); Testwood Lakes (1, Apr 7th); Cholderton Estate (1 on 3 dates between May 8th and June 12th).

Survey work in the New Forest during the breeding season located a total of 40 territories (cf. 38 in 2017), but productivity was reported to be low. (MW)

2017 addition. Inland records also included Ramptons Lane GP (1 SE, Apr 2nd).

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 WeBS count of 424 in January was the highest since 2012 and an encouraging sign that numbers might be increasing back to previous levels. It included the highest count of the year with 416 at Langstone Harbour on 6th. However this was short-lived as numbers during the rest of the year were low with only November reaching three figures. The drop was due to low counts in Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour with the only flock of significance being 200 on Dec 30th.

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	323	609	434	17	20			43	12	200	133	60
Hampshire sectors	1	1	32	1				9	1			200
Black Point	40	3	20		1				1	7	3	4
Langstone Harbour	416	45	4	9	1	5		5	6	8	99	125
Titchfield Haven-Chilling	62	30	4	5	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	1
Lymington-Hurst	12	7	35	11	2	12	4		1	4	1	8
WeBS count totals	424	35	44	13	6	12			6	8	106	92

Sites of international importance: 1,200+; national importance: 380+.

Spring passage was up on last year's numbers with a minimum of 305 between Apr 19th and May 11th (cf. 126 max. in 2017). This was due to large movements on just two dates in late April; on 27th 81 went past Hurst, 25 passed Hill Head and 36 were seen off Sandy Point, and on 29th 145 were recorded past Hurst, 193 past Hill Head and 95 off Sandy Point. Inland four were present at Blashford Lakes on May 5th.

Away from the tabulated areas there were wintering birds in the Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe area (2-9 between Jan 7th and Mar 6th; 1, Dec 28th); Eling/Hythe area (1-4 between Jan 13th and Mar 6th); Weston Shore (1, Mar 2nd); Calshot (3, Mar 3rd) and Tanners Lane (1, Mar 12th). In spring notable grounded flocks were recorded at Needs Ore (19, May 5th), Weston Shore (6, May 19th) and Tanners Lane (4, May 19th). (ASR)

Black-tailed Godwit†

Limosa limosa

European Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa limosa

Status uncertain, probably scarce visitor.

VU, Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP.

A juvenile was at Titchfield Haven on July 13th amongst a flock of 20 *islandica* (ALR). (ASR)

Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa islandica

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

VU, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP.

As in 2017 there were no large flocks in the Avon Valley although there were 96 at Ibsley Water just after New Year. This increase was also seen at other localities in January with 345 at Bury Marshes on 4th, 203 at Needs Ore on 20th and 629 at Pennington Marshes on 28th. WeBS totals in the early winter period were slightly below last year with a peak of 1,414 in February (cf. 1,476 in Feb 2017). Late year WeBS totals were lower with a peak in December of 1,015 (cf. 1,281 in 2017). Monthly maxima at various sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	241	192	271	187		27	8	162	333	171	644	81
Hampshire sectors	131	45	12	112				40	150	2	56	5
Langstone Harbour	400	135	161	105	10	63	258	472	487	460	268	34
Portsmouth Harbour	164	42	320				2	14	249	644	278	143
Titchfield Haven	128	262	420	320	28	43	220	130	70	55	38	86
Hamble Estuary	36	67	137	180	63	9	182	229	215	93	66	58
Itchen Estuary			34	54				1			2	
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	345	193	183					28	49	35	52	122
Hythe-Calshot	36	44	66	3	26			66	5		100	45
Beaulieu Estuary	203	100	120	25	18	5	9	20	60	20	1	120
Lymington-Hurst	629	355	185	692	34	72	250	195	296	165	103	670
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood			4		12	22		7				34
Blashford Lakes	96	13	11	18	16	3	7	7	2	1		2
WeBS count totals	1,085	831	1,414	738	11	31	286	739	760	811	814	1,015

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

Away from the Avon Valley, inland records came from Fleet (1 heard flying overhead at 03:00, June 4th); Fleet Pond (7 S, July 30th; 2 NW, Sep 12th); Edenbrook CP (Aug 5th and 6th); Alresford Pond (1, Aug 5th-9th); Winnall Moors (22 S, Aug 23rd); Broadlands Estate (1, Oct 16th). (ASR)

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone)

Arenaria interpres

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

WeBS counts in the early year dropped from the December 2017 count of 540 with a notable decrease in the eastern harbours from 288 to 88. Unlike previous years there was no increase in March before numbers reduced in April and May. The only records in June were four at Hook-with-Warsash on 7th and one at Titchfield Haven on 21st and 27th.

Autumn passage started in late July with four at Sandy Point on 20th rising to 23 on 28th. Numbers in August were low compared to recent years with only one three-figure flock of 119 at Lepe on 17th. In September numbers started to rise with notable counts of 150 at Lymington-Hurst and 131 at Farlington Marshes on 8th and 102 at Titchfield Haven the next day. Although numbers were lower than in 2017, the maximum monthly WeBS total of 777 in November was comparable with last year's peak of 771. This was due to 398 being recorded at Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 24th which was a record count for the site.

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	158	215	122	30	8		2	36	51	128	198	168
Hampshire sectors	31	65	45		9		23	16	32	100	16	32
Langstone Harbour	44	32	50	48			1	83	131	110	97	60
Portsmouth Harbour	13	33	49	2			1		33	91	398*	71
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/Brownwich	72	60	82	65	27	1	11	82	102	90	49	52
Hamble Estuary	102	101	69	69	7	4	28	90	86	100	105	76
Weston Shore (L)	27	29	21	63	3					35	34	28
HytheCalshot	21	10	10	5				36	8	13	21	27
Lepe (L)	1	1		48				119	86	119	120	10
Beaulieu Estuary	66	43	30	6					10	44	35	41
SowleyLymington	10	5	10	8				8	20	20	3	8
LymingtonHurst	133	51	70	62	10		6	47	150	106	65	52
WeBS count totals	318	342	336	118	3		6	182	354	695	777	373

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

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 631 was the same as last year but significantly higher than 191 recorded in December 2017 due to large increases in the eastern harbours. Numbers in February increased further and reached the highest total since 2014 including a peak count of 265 at Needs Ore on 4th. Other than the WeBS surveys, there were notable counts of 250 at Park Shore on Jan 14th and 1,000 at Black Point on Feb 2nd.

The first return was one at Titchfield Haven on July 9th with further records that month



Knot, Saltgrass Lane, Keyhaven, Mar 31st (Dan Houghton)

at Keyhaven/Lymington Marshes and Langstone Harbour. Numbers remained low until November when there was a flock of 200 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 14th and 250 at Black Point on 21st. Numbers then rose to 1,843 in December, the highest total since 2008, boosted by the very high count of 1,414 in Hampshire sectors of Chichester Harbour on 22nd.

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	1,411	1,203	431							30	500	1,456
Hampshire sectors	1	193	181							30		1,414
Black Point	900	1,000	350						1	25	250	700
Langstone Harbour	447	25	77	5	1		3	100	39	27	15	31
Sowley-Lymington	100	100										
Lymington-Hurst	350	290	200	2	3		5	10	30	26	200	500
WeBS count totals	631	849	272		1		3	2	52	83	15	1,843

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

There was an unusual inland record of one feeding at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Mar 1st (DJB), no doubt associated with the cold weather at that time. (ASR)

Ruff

Calidris pugnax

Scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor.ET, Schedule I, Red.

In the first three months numbers were slightly higher than in 2017 with regular reports from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and monthly peaks of six, seven and nine respectively. One in the Titchfield area remained from 2017 until Mar 10th when it was joined by two more. The only other records in March were one at Lower Test Marshes on 3rd, two at Ripley Farm Reservoir on 4th and two at Needs Ore on 23rd. In April birds remained at Keyhaven and Titchfield with peaks of five and two respectively. Elsewhere there were between one and three at Farlington Marshes between 8th and 14th. These may have been birds moving along the coast as one was a white-headed male assumed to be one of two seen at Pennington Marshes earlier in the year. Up to three remained at Titchfield Haven into May including a male displaying to a female on 16th. The only other sighting in May was at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with two on 18th.



Ruff, Keyhaven Marshes, Feb 22nd (Joe Murphy)

The first returns were two at Posbrook Flood on July 3rd with one to three in the Titchfield Haven area through to Oct 13th and one remaining until Dec 6th. Elsewhere there were two at Farlington Marshes from July 12th to 22nd and one at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes from Aug 9th until December when it was joined by others with a peak of four on 29th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (ASR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	8	11	7	3		3	3	5	3	2	4



Two adult Curlew Sandpipers, Pennington Marshes, July 23rd (Martin Bennett)

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; has wintered.

VU, Amber.

The only reports in spring were from Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with a single from May 13th to 15th and another, or the same, a week later on May 22nd.

The early autumn passage was heavier than 2017 with reports between July 19th and Aug 8th, all presumed to be adults. The first was one at Hook-with-Warsash on July 19th. There were three at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes between July 20th and 23rd with two on July 26th and 28th and singles on Aug 4th and 8th. At Farlington Marshes there was a single on July 20th and up to three between Aug 3rd and 5th.

For the rest of the autumn period many were identified as juveniles but a significant number were not aged. Apart from an adult at Titchfield Haven on Sep 6th and 7th, most if not all of these others were probably juveniles too. The first reports were singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Aug 25th and 27th, and the last in the same area were on Oct 10th and 13th. Passage numbers were similar to the lows recorded in 2017 amounting to around 17 birds. The bulk of the reports came from the Keyhaven to Normandy area with one or two on ten dates between Sep 6th and Oct 2nd. At Farlington Marshes there were two on Sep 1st and a single on Sep 24th. There was a single at Titchfield Haven on Sep 19th and 20th. There were no inland records. A late individual was reported from Calshot on Nov 22nd.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

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

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Very scarce passage migrant (6,139,1).

Schedule 1.

A single was at Titchfield Haven from Sep 2nd-7th (SH et al., photo) and later at Keyhaven Marshes from Sep 24th-Oct 9th (ASR et al., photo). Comparison of photographs strongly suggests that this was the same individual. This was formerly an annual visitor in small numbers, but this is only the third record since 2009. (KFB)



Temminck's Stint, Keyhaven, Marshes, Sep 25th
(Robin Pascal)



Sanderling, Hill Head, Nov 18th (Martin Clay)

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, HBAP.

As usual winter records were largely confined to east of Southampton Water. Counts from the main sites at Black Point and Sandy Point are likely to refer to the same birds which also roost at Pilsea in the West Sussex portion of Chichester Harbour. There continued to be reports from Langstone Harbour although these also probably refer to Chichester Harbour and east Hayling birds. A flock continued to use the Hill Head area and probably accounted for reports further north-west at Hook-with-Warsash and occasionally east to Gilkicker Point.

Away from the tabulated sites reports in the first half-year were of small flocks of up to eight on 17 dates until June 16th in the Lymington-Hurst area. At Lepe there was one on May 12th and 23 on May 21st and at Needs Ore there were nine on May 20th. In the upper part of Southampton Water there were three on Feb 14th at Weston Shore and up to 30 there between May 10th and 12th. In the autumn there were again small flocks of up to four on 16 dates in the Lymington-Hurst area as well as one at Needs Ore on Aug 11th, two there on Nov 8th and one at Lepe on Sep 9th.

Reports of coastal passage were lower than in 2017. At Hurst there was a total of 34 heading east on seven dates between Apr 21st and May 27th, with a maximum of 11 on May 6th. Between Apr 28th and May 24th four reports of easterly movements at Stokes Bay and Hill Head totalled 70, but these may have been local birds.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	80	140	96	65	7	15	3	8	12	70	50	176
Sandy Point-Gunner Point	1		120	160	160	57	33	230	120	142	30	1
Langstone Harbour	1		50						1			70
Eastney-Southsea	110	1	3								1	7
Hill Head-Brownwich	45	32	36	45	50	3		7	3	17	32	37
Hook-with-Warsash	28	33			17	18	1	4	1	1		4

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 January WeBS numbers continued the low levels seen at the end of 2017 but increased in February. Numbers at the end of the year were up by more than 4,000 compared to the

later winter period of the previous year. Despite this short-term increase, the maximum WeBS count in 2018 was lower than the mean maximum for the preceding five-year period (see header) indicating a continuing downward trend.

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	12,960	11,830	4,733	91		1	32	196	180	1,749	3,143	4,122
Hampshire sectors	1,557	3,027	3,571	6				11		32	344	3,109
Warblington Shore/ Emsworth (L)	500	100	1					15				200
Black Point	7,000	5,000	3,000	25	2		15	107	41	1,000	3,000	15,000
Langstone Harbour	8,868	10,860	4,454	24	14	8	200	282	356	9,144	11,282	10,000
Portsmouth Harbour	159	575	283			1		1	21	363	559	590
Hamble Estuary	500	490	600	9	9	1	87	18		82	452	470
Weston Shore/ Chessel Bay (L)	150	276	300	1	3		1				175	250
Hythe	800	1	1,000					6	4	400	172	2,200
Calshot		28	55					6	3	7	54	2
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	660	722	1,000	26	12	2				262	850	897
Sowley-Lymington	1,000	800	100	90	10			40	40	500	600	600
Lymington-Hurst	1,300	2,500	200	43	70	24	480	680	191	760	667	2,750
WeBS count totals	14,515	19,052	10,248	146	45	11	49	602	595	11,625	14,813	20,168

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

In the early year to end March there were no three-figure counts away from the tabulated sites. In the Titchfield Haven area there were small groups on 26 dates (max. 30, Jan 2nd and Feb 10th). There were inland records at Blashford Lakes, mainly of one to three on eight dates between Jan 13th and Mar 27th but including 14 on Mar 3rd. Around this date, probably driven by the cold period referred to as 'The Beast from the East', there were other inland reports at Pinglestone WCB (1, Mar 2nd), Eastleigh, Lakeside CP (2, Mar 2nd-3rd), Winchester SF (7, Mar 2nd; 8, Mar 3rd; 4, Mar 4th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (2, Mar 1st; 3, Mar 2nd; 3, Mar 3rd), Testwood Lakes (2, Mar 1st) and Ewhurst Park (Mar 1st-3rd). On the coast there were unusual gatherings at Lower Test Marshes / Eling Great Marsh / Bury Marshes at the same time in early March (1, 1st; 9, 2nd; 61, 3rd; 46, 4th; 9, 5th; 1, 6th).

There were very few reports of eastward migration through The Solent in spring, with only ten recorded from Hurst Beach and Sandy Point between Apr 19th and May 11th. Between one and three grounded migrants were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on 20 dates between Apr 5th and June 14th. Inland records in spring came from Eversley GP (Mar 19th), Ibsley Water (2-4, Apr 24th-26th; 2, May 10th), Avington Lake (Apr 26th), Fleet Pond (May 4th) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (May 12th).

The only reports of inland return passage were of singles at Alresford Pond on Sep 9th and 15th. Small flocks of mainly passage birds were recorded from the Titchfield Haven area on many dates between July 7th and Oct 29th with a maximum of 36 on Sep 6th.

In the late year, away from the tabulated sites, there were three-figure counts at Sandy Point (100, Oct 2nd; 100, Oct 7th; 200, Oct 28th) and Dibden Bay (145, Dec 2nd). In the Titchfield Haven area there were small groups on 12 dates (max. 30, Dec 5th). The only inland reports were at Alresford Pond (2, Nov 17th), Hucklesbrook WM (Nov 18th) and one or two at Ibsley Water on Nov 18th and Dec 1st-2nd. (JRDS)

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Amber.

With reports of up to 15 on 52 dates in the early winter period and spring, the main site continues to be Southsea Castle. There was one at Haslar Creek, Gosport on Mar 25th, probably displaced from Southsea. The last report was of two at Southsea Castle on May 8th. Elsewhere 13 flew east at Barton on Sea on Jan 9th. At Pennington Marshes one from 2017 remained along the seawall up to Apr 3rd, often with the Turnstone flock, while two at Milford on Sea on Jan 3rd had first been seen on Dec 31st 2017.

In the second winter period the first return at Southsea Castle was on Oct 21st followed by reports of up to 11 on a further 17 dates up to the end of the year. The only records away from Southsea were singles on the seawall at Milford on Sea on Nov 29th and at Black Point on Dec 5th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	14	15	15	4					3	7	11

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

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

Green.

In spring there were singles at Pennington Marshes on Mar 25th, Farlington Marshes on Apr 29th and Titchfield Haven on May 24th.

Autumn passage was lighter than 2017, which in turn was significantly less than in 2016. The first return was an adult at Pennington Marshes on July 18th. The next day there was one at Hook-with-Warsash followed on July 20th by two adults at Pennington Marshes, thought to be different from the individual on 18th. Both remained until July 22nd with one until 24th. On the latter date one was heard at night in flight over Farnborough. There were then three adults at Pennington Marshes on Aug 7th. The next was a juvenile at Farlington Marshes on Aug 12th. Other August reports were at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (1, 17th; 5, 27th; 2, 30th). With the exception of singles at Farlington Marshes (Sep 15th, Oct 4th), the remaining autumn records were all singles from the Keyhaven/Pennington area on 13 dates between Sep 8th-Oct 26th. One on Oct 18th-19th was aged as an adult. The last of the year was one at Lepe on Nov 25th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

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

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Rare passage migrant recorded in every month from May to October. (0,93,3)

A juvenile was at Farlington Marshes from Sep 15th-22nd (TMJD *et al.*, photo) and what was thought to be a different bird (based on plumage) on Sep 27th (AF, photo). Another juvenile was at The Vyne WM from Sep 27th-Oct 14th (PEH *et al.*, photo). There have been records in every year this century apart from 2007 and 2015. (KFB)



Juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper, The Vyne Lake, Sep 28th (Barry Stalker)

Woodcock† (Eurasian Woodcock)

Scolopax rusticola

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

Red.

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 82 at 67 sites. No large gatherings were noted but counts of three or more came from Crookham Village (4, Mar 11th), Botley Wood (3, Jan 19th), Well (3, Mar 20th) and Benyons Inclosure (3, Mar 10th). All other sightings were of ones or twos. Sites with records on more than one date were Sandy Point, Cutty Brow, Preston Oak Hills, Itchen Valley CP, Crookham Village, Beaulieu Heath West, Mortimer West End, Pamber Forest and Frater Shore. NFWBS reported three, four and five respectively in the January, February and March surveys (Table 4).

Roding was first recorded at Benyons Inclosure and Mortimer West End on Mar 10th. In the spring/summer around 116 reports came from 60 sites. These included 20 sites on the Thames Basin/Wealden Heaths and 17 in the New Forest. Most reports involved singles but multiple sightings were reported from 24 sites. The last reports in this spring/summer period were of singles at Bransbury Common and Gavelacre on July 26th.

There were no further reports until Oct 5th when two were at Hut Wood. From October to December a total of 38 was recorded from 32 sites. All reports were of ones or twos apart from three at Caesar's Camp, Bricksbury Hill on Nov 4th. There were also reports on more than two dates from Sandy Point, Frater Shore, Pamber Forest and Trigpoint Hill. The only counts by NFWBS in the second winter period totalled four in December (Table 4). (JRDS)

Jack Snipe

Lymnocryptes minimus

Scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant.

Green.

Both the numbers of individuals and sites were higher in each winter period compared to last year. Between January and late April there were reports of at least 50 from 23 sites (cf. 39 from sites in 2017), with more than one at Bourley North/Long Valley (3, Jan 12th; 6, Feb 15th), Ibsley Water/Harbridge WM (3, Jan 15th and 23rd), Itchen Valley CP (2, Jan 17th; 3, Feb 15th; 3, Mar 13th), Titchfield Haven (9, Jan 19th; 4, Feb 19th; 4, Mar 16th), Lower Test Marshes (2, Feb 3rd, 4th, Mar 21st), Marlhill Copse (Itchen Waterworks) (2, Feb 15th), Lakeside CP (3, Feb 18th), Sandy Point (2, Feb 26th, 28th, Mar 18th, 20th, 25th), Sturt Pond (2, Feb 28th), Winchester SF (3, Mar 2nd) and Farlington Marshes (3, Mar 9th; 2, Apr 3rd). All other sites reported only singles. NFWBS found three in February (Table 4). The last report was on Apr 23rd at Hook-with-Warsash.

The first autumn return was not until Oct 8th at Hook-with-Warsash. From then to year-end at least 31 were reported from 13 sites (cf. 23 from 16 sites in 2017). Reports were all of singles apart from Farlington Marshes (4, Oct 22nd; 2, Oct 23rd; 3, Oct 31st, Nov 6th and Dec 28th), Lower Test Marshes (2, Nov 5th), Titchfield Haven (5, Nov 8th), Winchester SF (4, Dec 2nd), The Vyne (2, Dec 9th) and Bourley North/Long Valley (5, Dec 12th; 7, Dec 30th). (JRDS)



*Jack Snipe, Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea, Feb 28th
(Gareth Rees)*

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 2018. Three-figure counts were again only reported from Titchfield Haven with 125 on Jan 19th and 139 on Feb 2nd (as a result of census work) and between Ringwood and Fordingbridge with 150 on Jan 15th.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular counts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	1	2	4	1					1	2	1	2
Langstone Harbour	5	6	40	2			1	7	10	20	5	20
Portsmouth Harbour	1	2	1	1					3		1	
Titchfield Haven	125	139	86	15	1	2	3	11	15	24	14	96
Hook-with-Warsash	12	15	36	20		1	1		2	5	19	18
Lower Test Marshes	8	11	33	11			1	1	1	4	13	37
Badminton GP	12	6	9	7					2	4	9	7
Lepe	3	26									15	49
Needs Ore		5	9	4		1	1	1	1	1	7	8
Lymington-Hurst	15	5	40	4			6	3	10	14	4	6
Blashford Lakes	11	1	7	2					4	2	1	
Ringwood / Fordingbridge	150	11	18			2		2	4	3	20	11
Testwood Lakes		5	8	6				1	3	3	4	1
Testbourne Lake	14	17	11	1				5	11	3	1	4
Lakeside CP	45	37	34	1				1		6	32	
Itchen Valley CP	68	40	88	3					1		2	7
Winchester SF	38	55	93	24					4	1	30	63
Alresford Pond								1	9	9	7	3
Avington Lake	4	4	1						2	3	4	1
Edenbrook CP		1	3	30					2	2	7	6
The Vyne	3	5						3	11	20	10	9
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	10	25	55									27
Eversley GP	14	5	9						4	11	17	11
Thames Basin Heaths	35	17	10	27	1				1			30
Woolmer Pond	20	17	12	2	1				1			8



Snipe, Pennington Marshes, Aug 1st (Joe Murphy)

In the first winter period, away from tabulated sites, the only double-figure counts came from Marlhill Copse (Itchen Waterworks) (11, Jan 3rd), Fleet Pond (52, Jan 12th; 50 E/NE in hard weather, Mar 18th), East Hayling (21, Feb 3rd), Pondhead Inclosure NF (10, Mar 18th), Fareham (10, Mar 18th), Longstock (13, Mar 25th) and Stockbridge (13, Mar 25th). Most had left wintering sites by early May with the last being singles at Titchfield Haven and Woolmer Pond on May 9th.

Reports in suitable breeding habitat came from the following 14 sites in the New Forest (cf. 8 in 2017 and 22 in 2016) at Sluffers Inclosure (3 pairs), Acres Down (2), Alderhill Inclosure, Beaulieu Heath West, Boldrewood, Shatterford Bottom, Fritham Plain, Hatchet Moor, Highland Water Inclosure, Ibsley Common, Kingston Great Common, Latchmore Bottom, Markway Inclosure and Matley Heath. Elsewhere there were reports of drumming males from Hucklesbrook WM on June 6th (one) and 12th (two).

The first returning migrants were singles in June at Hook-with-Warsash on 26th and Titchfield Haven on 30th. Reports were then almost daily along the coast from early July. There were two inland at Fleet Pond on July 30th. This widespread return was a month earlier than in 2018. The only double-figure counts in the second winter period, away from the tabulated sites, were between Avon Causeway and Wattons Ford (53, Dec 16th) and at Fishlake Meadows (26, Dec 29th), Longparish (12, Oct 7th; 10, Sep 29th) and Fleet Pond (11, Nov 1st). NFWBS reported counts of 12, 11, 11 respectively for January-March and 10, 8, 11 for October-December (Table 4). (JRDS)

Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)

Phalaropus fulicarius

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (?304,6)

There were records involving six birds over a ten-day period. This continues the recent trend for occurrences mainly in September rather than the more traditional month of October, which accounts for 44% of all reports since records began. All sightings are summarised below.

Ibsley Water: Sep 20th-30th (RAC *et al.*, photo).

Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea: Sep 20th (DRB).



Juvenile Grey Phalarope moulting to first-winter, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes, Sep 25th (Simon Buckell)

Keyhaven Marshes: Sep 21st-28th (ASR *et al.*, photo), with a second present on Sep 24th-25th (m.o., photo).
Hook-with-Warsash: Sep 21st (RHM *et al.*, photo).
Riverside Park, Southampton: Sep 22nd-24th (TWB *et al.*, photo).
Needs Ore: Sep 26th (PFF)

(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 regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima 3, 3, 3), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (3, 2, 4) and Curbridge (1, 2, 3). One or two were also reported on five dates from Langstone Harbour and four dates from Portsmouth Harbour. There were two other coastal reports of singles at Hamble (Feb 18th) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (Mar 7th), and three inland reports of singles from Pinglestone WCB (Jan 10th, 17th) and between Wattons Ford and Ringwood (Feb 18th). Winterers stayed on into April at the Itchen Estuary, Curbridge and Lower Test Marshes, with the first spring migrant appearing at Ewhurst Lake on 13th. From April there were records until May 28th from 19 inland and 13 coastal sites. During this period there were three counts exceeding four with seven at Lower Test Marshes (Apr 7th) and five each at Redbridge (Apr 8th) and Southsea (Apr 24th).

The first return was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on June 19th. Autumn passage continued until late October with reports from 21 coastal sites and 31 inland sites. The only counts above seven were at Hook-with-Warsash (8, July 31st) and Lower Test/Eling Marshes (10, Aug 11th). In November and December there were regular records from the Itchen Estuary (monthly maxima, 2, 1), Lower Test/Eling Great Marsh (5, 4) and Upper Hamble Estuary (2, 2). There were also singles in Langstone Harbour on five dates (with two on Dec 22nd) and Portsmouth Harbour on three dates (also with two on Dec 22nd). Elsewhere there were singles at Keyhaven Marshes (Nov 6th) and Warblington (Dec 29th), possibly displaced from Langstone Harbour. Inland there were three reports of singles from Warnford (Nov 5th, 11th and 25th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	11	14	68	23	5	65	81	54	22	13	11

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Scarce passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber.

Between January and March there were reports from 22 inland sites and nine coastal sites. Most had departed by early April when the last were two at Mortimer West End on Apr 21st.

The first returns were two at Needs Ore and one at Titchfield Haven on June 6th. There was then a single at Busta Triangle (June 11th) and two at Hucklesbrook WM (June 12th). From the last week of June reports were widespread with an exceptional early high count of nine at Alresford Pond on 27th. Autumn passage continued with reports from 52 sites to the end of October.

Alresford Pond produced the largest count of the year with 19 on Sep 3rd. Counts exceeding two at non-tabulated sites were at Eversley Cross (4, Oct 16th), The Vyne (3, Aug 2nd), Overton Lagoons (3, Aug 12th) and Boldre (3, Aug 27th). In November and December late passage and wintering birds were reported from 19 inland sites and five coastal sites.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes area	2		1	1			1	2	3	1	1	1
Titchfield Haven						2	4	4	4	1	1	1
Hook-with-Warsash						3	3	3	1			
Lower Test Marshes	1	1	1				3	4	4	4	4	3
Testwood Lakes							3	2		1		
Badminton/Fawley	1	1	1	2				1				
Lepe CP		1	2					1	1	2		
Needs Ore		1		2		3	7	5	2	2	1	1
Lymington-Hurst	1		1				1	1	1			
Blashford Lakes	2	1	1				2	1	2	3	2	3
Ringwood to Fordingbridge	1	1	1			2	2	5	4	1	3	5
Alresford Pond	1	3		1		9	5	11	19	14	4	
Alresford area WCBs	5	5	9	1			1	7	9	2	5	5
Mortimer West End area			1	1		2	1	4	2	1		
Woolmer Pond	1			1			1	2			1	
Busta Triangle						1		1	3			
Fleet Pond							2	1	5	2		
Longparish	1		1	1			4		4	5	2	2
Testbourne Lake	1	1	4	1			1	2	6	1	3	3

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	25	29	13		30	59	89	79	51	36	33

Redshank (Common Redshank)

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

Amber, HBAP.

The WeBS counts in the first winter period were lower than those in 2017, especially in March, which may have been caused by the cold conditions in that month. The counts in the second winter period were higher in both October and December. Following the low count in November, the annual maximum was 2,373 in December, which is within the spread of mean maxima for the previous four five-year periods (see header).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,169	1,222	984	208	18	40	661	752	1,306	1,686	1,094	1,324
Hampshire sectors	302	444	261	77	1	1	50	100	422	547	269	388
Langstone Harbour	426	296	207	223	24	147	470	474	625	797	545	667
Portsmouth Harbour	241	171	112	60			48	113	281	467	459	690
Hamble Estuary	72	62	22	23	2	10	51	80	45	104	59	71
Hythe-Calshot	82	213	92	7	1		90	105	21	79	151	218
Beaulieu Estuary	61	20	46	33	12	13	26	2		80	102	63
Lymington-Hurst	190	238	68	25	18	24	40	50	265	139	87	220
WeBS count totals	1,483	1,518	866	402	55	83	348	629	1,651	2,283	1,753	2,373

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

Maximum counts from other regularly watched sites during the first winter period included Titchfield Haven (15, Mar 11th), Upper Hamble (10, Apr 15th), Lower Itchen (45, Jan 6th), Upper Southampton Water (41, Mar 3rd), Dibden Bay (6, Jan 7th and Mar 4th) and Pitts Deep (20, Apr 16th). There were no inland records until spring when singles were reported from Avon Causeway to Wattons Ford (Mar 4th), Harbridge WM (Mar 13th) and Winchester SF (Apr 13th), with two at Hucklesbrook WM (May 17th).

Breeding territories were reported from the following four coastal sites: Needs Ore (22 territories), Lymington-Hurst (16 pairs, two hatched young), Hurst/Milford (3-4 pairs), Tanners Lane (2 pairs), Hook Links (one pair) and Farlington Marshes (one pair with juvenile). No consolidated data were received for Farlington Marshes, the RSPB islands in Langstone Harbour or Hook-with-Warsash, all of which normally hold breeding birds. In the New Forest single pairs were reported from Beaulieu Heath East and West with two pairs at Hatchet Moor. One or two were reported from Ibsley Water between Mar 5th and July 17th with no evidence of breeding. A pair was in possible breeding habitat at Eversley GP. The Avon Valley WM project by GWCT reported 33 pairs.

Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records in the Avon Valley at Ripley Farm Reservoir (July 7th), Ibsley Water (Oct 7th) and Hucklesbrook WM (7, June 12th). Other reports came from Winchester SF (June 8th) and Mortimer West End (July 14th).

Maximum counts from regularly watched coastal sites away from the tabulated areas during the second winter period included Lepe (45, Aug 14th), Titchfield Haven (30, Sep 13th and Dec 14th), Upper Hamble Estuary (8, Dec 22nd), Lower Itchen (40, Nov 24th), Upper Southampton Water (32, Sep 8th), Dibden Bay (15, Oct 28th) and Pitts Deep/Tanners Lane (30, Sep 28th). There was also an inland record from Beaulieu on Dec 29th. (JRDS)

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Very rare vagrant (0,4,1).

An adult was present all day on Fishtail Lagoon at Keyhaven Marshes on June 10th (SGK *et al.*) but had departed by the next day. The record has been accepted by BBRC and is the fifth for Hampshire, the previous occurrences being at Farlington Marshes in June 1976, July 1977 and July 2006, and Pennington Marshes in July/August 1983. As the 2006 record was only seen by a single observer, this was a much-wanted bird for most Hampshire birders. (KFB)



Adult Marsh Sandpiper, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes, June 10th (Steve Bassett)

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

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

ET, Schedule I, Amber.

In contrast to approximately 13 in spring in 2017 there were just four in spring this year. The first was at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 23rd. The other three were singles in May at Lower Test Marshes (1st) and Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes (3rd with another there, presumed different, on 6th).

The first of the autumn passage was heard only at Southampton Docks on July 10th. This was followed by one at Broadlands Estate on July 21st which stayed there or nearby at Testwood Lakes until 30th. The next was inland at Woolmer Pond from July 30th-Aug 3rd. There was one at Fishery Creek, Hayling Island on Aug 2nd and another there on Aug 6th. Two arrived

at Titchfield Haven on Aug 4th. Both remained until Aug 16th with one until Aug 23rd. A third appeared there on Aug 22nd but did not stay. A juvenile was at Needs Ore on Aug 17th. Additional singles were reported from Titchfield Haven on Aug 26th and Sep 3rd. Around Langstone Harbour there was one at Bedhampton on Aug 24th and another at Farlington Marshes on Sep 18th. One was reported at Testwood Lakes on Sep 21st. The remaining records were inland from Ibsley Water with singles on Sep 15th and 24th and the last of the year from Sep 29th until Oct 6th. The autumn passage totalled around 17 individuals. (JRDS)

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Scarce and declining passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

In the early year the highest numbers were in the Lymington-Hurst area with records on 80 dates up to May 19th, with a maximum of eight on six dates in January and February. Unlike 2017, when early year sightings at Langstone Harbour were on 39 dates, this year there were singles on two dates only (Jan 6th, Feb 21st). Similarly reports from Needs Ore and nearby at Lepe were restricted to singles on two dates each (Mar 13th, 29th and Jan 20th, Mar 5th, respectively). Away from these sites the regular winterer remained at Nore Barn, Emsworth until Mar 22nd and was joined by another on Jan 18th. There was one at Bury Marshes on Mar 3rd-4th and two at Gosport in Portsmouth Harbour on Apr 4th. The last of the early year were singles at Pennington Marshes on May 1st and 19th.

There were mid-summer records at Farlington Marshes (1, June 12th which stayed until Aug 29th) and Needs Ore (1, June 22nd; 2, July 4th and 6th). The first returns were a new individual at Farlington Marshes on July 22nd, one at Needs Ore on the same date and an adult at Pennington Marshes on July 28th which remained until Aug 12th. There were two at Needs Ore on Aug 3rd and one at Farlington Marshes on Aug 11th, 12th and 17th. These preceded the main return which started on Aug 19th with two at Needs Ore and one at Keyhaven. Counts increased thereafter with reports from Lymington-Hurst on 75 dates to year-end with a maximum of nine on Nov 24th and eight on Dec 15th. At Needs Ore there were sightings on 26 dates up to Dec 7th with a maximum of six (Sep 16th, 18th; Oct 19th, 21st). At Farlington Marshes there were counts on 56 dates of up to three between Aug 20th and Dec 7th. The Nore Barn winterer returned to its favoured site on Oct 29th for its 15th winter. The only other late year reports were singles at Titchfield Haven between Aug 21st and Sep 2nd.



Spotted Redshanks, Pennington Marshes, Jan 26th (Joe Murphy)

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	2	5	6	6	1	2
Lymington-Hurst	8	8	5	5	1		1	2	6	5	9	8
Totals elsewhere	3	2	3	2		1	2	2	4	3	3	2

Greenshank
(Common Greenshank)
Tringa nebularia

Moderately common passage migrant, especially in autumn; formerly scarce but increasing winter visitor.
Schedule 1, Amber.



Greenshank, Emsworth, Nov 11th (Lee Fuller)

In January to March a minimum of 37 wintered at 12 coastal sites. Sightings were more widespread through April and May with a minimum of around 36 at ten sites. These figures are significantly lower than 2017 with 62 at 17 sites. Counts included inland reports of singles, unless stated, from Ibsley Water (2, Apr 6th, 18th) and Hucklesbrook WM (May 17th). Reports reduced markedly from early May with the last in spring at Titchfield Haven on May 24th. There was also an unusual mid-summer record from Winchester SF on June 6th.

Returns started with singles in June at Farlington Marshes on 26th, Pennington Marshes on 28th and Hook-with-Warsash on 30th, and became widespread from the beginning of July. Autumn passage involved a minimum of 128 up to the end of October with records from 19 sites including nine inland. The inland reports were singles (unless stated) from Ibsley Water (July 11th, Oct 13th), Testwood Lakes and nearby Broadlands (July 21st-30th with 2 on 24th), Fleet Pond (Aug 18th), Drayton Farm WCB (Aug 19th), The Vyne (Aug 28th-31st, Sep 3rd-4th) and Testbourne Lake (2, Sep 4th). In November and December approximately 61 wintered at 13 sites. Away from the tabulated sites, there were coastal reports of up to three from Tanners Lane, Ashlett Creek, Calshot and Weston Shore.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour/ Warblington shore	1	2	3				2	16	15	1	1	1
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	4	4	5	4	6	1	12	23	23	19	12	5
Portsmouth Harbour	4	3	4	5	1		5	2	9	16	4	3
Titchfield Haven	1	1		4	5		3	2	5	1	3	11
Hamble Estuary	5	4	2	3		1	4	15	1	10	5	9
Curbridge	2	2	7	7	1					1		2
Upper Test	1	1						3	2	1	1	1
Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe	2	1	1	2	3		7	17	20	10	4	1
Lymington-Hurst	6	5	6	3	1	1	16	16	17	17	8	7
WeBS count totals	18	19	13	8			8	32	40	38	14	26

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 occurred during strong winds on Jan 3rd when three were recorded at Hurst and one in Langstone Harbour. An adult flew west at Hurst on Jan 6th and a juvenile was at Black Point, Hayling Island on Jan 9th. Later in the month there were three adults at Hill Head on 16th and a first-winter amongst a group of Black-headed Gulls at Hamble Common on 25th. There were no records for February. The first March record was an adult at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 8th.



Adult Kittiwake, Riverside Park, Southampton, Apr 2nd (Lee Fuller)

Spring passage totalled 114 between Mar 15th and May 24th. The highest number was at Hurst Beach with a total of 75 (max. 26, Apr 16th; 28, May 11th). Totals elsewhere were three at Stansore Point, Lepe (all on Apr 6th), ten at Weston Shore (max. 9, May 24th), six at Solent Breezes (all on May 12th), 17 at Hill Head (max. 6 E, May 11th), four at Stokes Bay (all on Apr 27th) and 14 at Sandy Point (max. 6 E, Apr 7th). The furthest inland record was an adult on the Itchen at Riverside Park, Southampton on Apr 2nd and 3rd.

Following spring passage there were no further sightings until the end of July when an adult was at Hill Head on 28th and another flew east at Hurst Beach on 29th. The next was a juvenile at Sandy Point on Aug 12th and another moving west at Barton on Sea on Aug 17th. The only other report before November was three at Hurst Beach on Oct 13th during stormy weather. In November there were five records from Hurst Beach and Hill Head. Those at Hurst Beach were four on 7th (2 adults and 2 first-winters E) and 29th (3 adults and 1 first-winter) and those at Hill Head were on 5th (2 adults E), 7th (2 unaged E) and 27th (6 adults and 2 first-winters E). There were also two adults at Sandy Point on 29th. In December there were singles at Hill Head on 8th (adult), Hurst Beach on 13th and 26th, the final record of the year, and Hook-with-Warsash on 18th (adult).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9		7	60	48		2	1		3	18	4

Sabine's Gull

Xema sabini

Rare visitor, usually storm-driven, mostly August-December but once each in January and May (1,165,0)

2013 correction. The published entry should be deleted as it inadvertently repeated the entry from 2012.

2013 addition. Two juveniles flew west off Keyhaven Marshes on Oct 29th, the first at about 08:20 and the second at 09:23 (PCo, PT). (KFB)

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Very rare vagrant (0,5,0)

2017 addition. The first-summer at Ibsley Water from Apr 17th to May 11th (RAC *et al.*, photos) and Hamer Warren Lake on Apr 29th (TMJD) has now been accepted by BBRC. (KFB)

Black-headed Gull†

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber.

As usual the highest counts in the first three months came from roost sites. The highest was from Southampton Water where an estimated 10,000 gathered off Weston Shore late in the afternoon on Jan 6th while at Ibsley Water there were 5,000 on Feb 18th (see table). Away from tabulated sites high inland counts came from the lower Avon Valley at Ripley Farm Reservoir with monthly maxima of 1,430 on Feb 4th and 1,300 on Mar 1st. On pig fields at Blackheath Down/Tidpit there was a monthly peak of 2,000 on Feb 15th and in the Test Valley at Tadburn Meadows, Romsey there were 900 on Mar 23rd. In February, in addition to the tabulated count of 1,800 at Winchester SF, other high counts to the east of Winchester came from the neighbourhood of Cheesefoot Head with the highest being 1,500 at Longwood Warren on Feb 25th. In April there were high 'dusk' counts from Fleet Pond with 1,050 on 6th and 1,100 on 23rd.

In the breeding season a total of 13,253 pairs (*cf.* 12,352 in 2017) was reported. Along the coast around Lymington 6,331 pairs nested but there was no report on fledging success. On the Langstone Harbour islands 4,776 pairs raised 994 young and at nearby West Hayling LNR 805 pairs raised 498 young. At Titchfield Haven an estimated 570 pairs raised an estimated 340 young with predation being much lower than in recent years. At Hook-with-Warsash 40 pairs raised few young due to avian predation. Inland at Blashford Lakes an estimated 400 pairs had reasonable nesting success. The main nest sites were Gull Island (*c.* 250 pairs), Blashford Lake (over 100 pairs) and Ivy Lake (*c.* 20 pairs on rafts). The numbers for Gull Island and Blashford Lake include around 80 to 100 pairs that moved there to re-lay after their initial nest site on Long Spit was predated, probably by foxes. At the other inland nesting site at Fleet Pond 325 pairs raised around 350 young. Six pairs also nested on Gull Island in the Beaulieu Estuary but while the outcome was not reported it is likely that the usual inundation by high spring tides prevented success.

For many years the colonies in the West Solent have been subject to commercial egg collecting, the eggs largely being sold to London restaurants. All collecting is done under licence from Natural England who, on request, have provided statistics on the number of eggs collected. In 2018 twenty licences were issued in Hampshire under which a total of 18,659 eggs was collected (*cf.* 19,067 in 2017). Natural England stated that each licence permits the taking of a specific number of eggs from a specific location and that all collecting is limited to the period Apr 1st to May 15th.

Post-breeding large counts from non-tabulated sites included Ripley Farm Reservoir (monthly max. 820, July 14th; 1,660, Aug 22nd; 400, Sep 13th), Waterlooville (500, July 18th; 1,000, Aug 2nd) and Oxenbourne, Queen Elizabeth CP (750, Sep 26th). In the final three months of the year there were several large counts along the flyway into Southampton Water including Peartree Green with evening movements down the Itchen (2,060, Oct 1st; 4,490, Sep 17th) as well as a large arrival at dusk of 7,750 at Weston Shore on Nov 21st. The table also includes an early morning movement of 4,620 north over Northam/Mansbridge on Nov 14th. At Lower Test Marshes there were 2,500 on the afternoon of Dec 11th and further up the Test Valley significant counts came from Fishlake Meadows, Romsey (500, Oct 31st and Nov 3rd; 2,010, Dec 23rd; 1,200, Dec 30th). At Waterlooville 2,000 were counted moving north out of the eastern harbours early on Oct 18th. Other inland counts from non-tabulated locations in the final three months included The Vyne Lake (915, Nov 3rd) and Sopley pig farm (480, Dec 16th).

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	813	1,262	867	70				250	886	1,011	1,031	1,502
Titchfield Haven	874	441	780	1,000	1,000	800	600	700	300	300	400	400
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	229	104	142	374	39	99	141			41	133	5
Ibsley Water#	2,000	5,000	200	300	200	400	250	50	150	1,000	1,500	5,000
Winchester SF	519	1,800	219	2	7	6	42	97	78		123	496
Avington Lake	1,100	700	37				3		250	288	603	202
Alresford Pond	30	246	23			8	230	69	840	700	400	360
Heath Pond, Petersfield	180	100	85	2	3	3	52	51	41	450	300	430
Northam/Mansbridge	795	585							452	424	4,620	900

night roost

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

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

There were no records in January and February. The first was two adults feeding off Sandy Point at the mouth of Chichester Harbour on Mar 2nd followed on Mar 11th by five adults moving east off Hurst Beach. Most March records came from inland at Ibsley Water with daily reports between Mar 15th-26th and a maximum of nine on 17th. All other reports were of one or two winter-plumaged adults which after allowing for turnover probably amounted to around six individuals. The final count in March from Ibsley Water was five on 30th bringing the total for the site to 20 for the month. This contributed to a high there of 51 for the year, which was around one third of the county total of 155.

During the main spring passage from Apr 1st to June 9th 101 were recorded of which 70 occurred in the first half of April. The highest coastal counts were from Hurst Beach (44; max. 11 adults E, Apr 4th; 9 adults and 2 first-summers E, Apr 15th) and Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (40; max. 10 adults E, Apr 4th; 10 adults, Apr 6th). Counts from other coastal locations included Weston Shore (2), Hook-with-Warsash (2), Stokes Bay (11; max. 10, Apr 6th), Bedhampton Shore (1) and Sandy Point (1). Inland records came from Ibsley Water (22) and Fleet Pond (3). All Ibsley Water records were between Apr 2nd and 16th with maxima of five (4 adults and 1 first-summer) on 2nd and six adults on 10th. The final spring record was two adults at Hill Head on June 9th.

There were no further reports until a light return passage began with three adults sighted from Meon Shore next to Hill Head in mid-Solent amidst a large mixed flock of terns and gulls on Sep 3rd. The first report of a juvenile came from Farlington Marshes on Sep 16th followed by two at Ibsley Water on Sep 20th which remained until 27th. A second-winter was also present there on 21st. The count in October totalled six with a juvenile at Hill Head on 5th and the rest at Ibsley Water where there were four adults on 16th and a juvenile on 28th.

Records in the final two months amounted to 11 most of which were at the coast from Lymington-Hurst (3), Weston Shore (2), Hill Head (1) and Southsea (3). Singles at Southsea on Dec 16th and 18th were associated with stormy weather. The final record of the year was an adult at Hill Head on Dec 31st. Inland records during this period were an unaged single at Ibsley Water on Nov 7th and a first-winter at Fleet Pond on Nov 8th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRJ)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		27	80	19	2			10	6	4	7

Mediterranean Gull†

Ichthyaetus melanocephalus

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

January followed the usual pattern of low numbers, mainly coastal, increasing in February. The highest count for January was only seven at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on 7th but in February 11 counts exceeded ten with highs at Pitts Deep (120, 2nd) followed by a build-up at West Hayling LNR from 42 on 16th to 160 on 22nd. There were also 43 at Ibsley Water on 22nd and 27 at Lepe on 28th.

During March there were 38 counts above ten mainly in the east. Peaks were at West Hayling LNR with 295 on 5th and Pennington Marshes where 179 flew east on 7th. Other coastal reports included Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (25, 16th), Little Posbrook, Titchfield (91, 8th), Titchfield Haven (max. 58, 31st), Farlington Marshes (12, 24th), Tipner Lake (10, 13th) and Southsea (44, 28th). Later in the month inland feeding flocks following ploughs were reported from Clanfield (200, 26th), Deanlane End north of Rowlands Castle (200, 20th-27th) and Denmead (100, 29th). On 27th 75 were reported flying over Havant to roost. Further inland there were reports from Ibsley Water (10, 11th). Petersfield (max. 41, 13th) and Alresford Pond (12, 26th).

In April reports of more than ten increased to 57 including several high counts from West Hayling LNR which peaked at 1,500 on 17th. Other Hayling Island counts included Black Point (100, 1st) and Beachlands (300, 18th). The highest count at Titchfield Haven was 310 on 10th and in West Solent was 139 at Normandy Marsh on 24th. The few inland records were mostly single figures, the highest being at Teglease Down (35, 26th).

Breeding was recorded at four locations with a total of 1,740 pairs, which is a new county record almost doubling the previous high of 897 in 2016. At Langstone Harbour 1,736 pairs raised 621 young on the islands and one pair raised two young at the nearby West Hayling LNR. At Normandy Marsh one pair nested but the outcome was unknown. At Blashford Lakes two pairs were present but only one was thought to have bred successfully.

There were fewer summer reports of inland movements from the Langstone Harbour colony than in recent years. The largest numbers were at North Boarhunt (72, May 17th), Soberton (68, May 26th; 90, June 1st) and Bishops Waltham (40, June 29th). Subsequently there were inland counts of post-breeding gatherings at Chalton (120) and Hambledon (250) on July 19th. Others were mainly coastal beginning with 287 at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on July 15th. As in recent years large numbers were reported from the coast between the Hamble Estuary and Hill Head including Titchfield Haven (130, July 20th), Brownwich (max. 450, Aug 25th) and Hill Head (300, Sep 4th) and nearby at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (340, Sep 7th). The final three-figure count of the year was 204 off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Oct 27th. In the final two months of the year the only double-figure count was 50 passing west through Hurst Narrows on Nov 10th between 07:00 and 10:30. The highest December counts were at Lymington-Hurst (6, 15th) and Portsmouth Harbour (6, 22nd).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	3	1		100	5	60	1	1				
South Hayling shore		1	1	300	2	6	18	45				
Langstone Harbour	2	160	295	1,500	3,474	3,474	6		1			
Portsmouth Harbour	6	9	10	4			10	4	14	5	2	6
Titchfield Haven area	1	4	91	310	10	6	130	450	340	1	2	2
Hamble Estuary	1		4	31	4	3	14	2	7	3		1
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	7	27	25	52	2	4	287	55	50	1	2	3
Sowley/Lymington		120	2	7	1	2	1		30	5	8	1
Lymington-Hurst	5		179	139	14	8	25	2	2	204	50	6
Ibsley Water	2	43	10	6		2	3	3			1	1
Winchester SF	1	4	1			18	38					1

Common Gull (Mew Gull)

Larus canus

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

Amber.

Away from tabulated locations other high counts in the first three months were mainly divided between the South Downs, the destination for diurnal feeding flocks from East Solent winter roosts, and the coast. Reports from the South Downs included Ropley (100, Jan 9th), Chidden (650, Feb 8th; 280, Mar 20th), Old Winchester Hill (300, Feb 8th; 400, Feb 11th), Longwood Warren (200, Feb 25th), Warnford (450, Mar 8th) and Soberton (280, Mar 15th). At Petersfield on Jan 4th 120 were counted moving SW at sunset towards their coastal roost. Other inland reports came from Fishlake Meadows near Romsey (118, Jan 22nd) and Tidpit on the Wiltshire/Dorset border (200, Feb 27th from the Ibsley Water roost). The highest coastal count was from Weston Shore (700, Jan 14th). There was also a three-figure count at Redbridge Wharf (101, Feb 28th). Movements at Sandy Point totalled 237 east between Apr 6th and May 8th with the highest daily count being 115 on Apr 7th. Coincidentally there was a count of 90 east at Milford on Sea on the same date between 07:15 and 11:10 which may have contributed to those at Sandy Point later in the day. The final inland spring count from the South Downs was at Wheely Down near Warnford (100, Apr 8th). A few reports, mostly of singles, followed in May and June mainly from the coast.

The first juvenile was reported from Fleet Pond on July 6th and there were seven adults at Beaulieu Estuary on July 15th. The first double-figure count of the second half-year was ten at Hamble Estuary on Aug 11th. Non-tabulated three-figure counts in the final three months were once again dominated by large feeding flocks on the South Downs. At West End Farm, Hambledon the monthly maxima were 600 on Oct 16th, 470 on Nov 8th and 3,500 on Dec 12th apparently attracted to fields that were freshly sprayed with slurry. At Hoe Cross Farm, Hambledon there were 350 on Oct 16th that were different from the 600 at nearby West End Farm on the same date. Other large counts came from Cheriton (435, Dec 15th) and Soberton (1,100, Dec 29th). The only significant coastal count was 700 at Weston Shore on Nov 21st.

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	285	97	340					3	20	77	76	167
Beaulieu Estuary	18	12	22				7	1		6	9	3
Ibsley Water	196	389	100	1		1			1	1		14
Winchester SF	148	225	30	2							104	184
Avington Lake	384	320	78						3	29	48	70
Alresford Pond	146	301	185				5		7	364	294	263

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

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

An adult was in the Ibsley Water roost daily from 2017 to at least Mar 31st (RAC et al., photo). This was presumably the same bird as the previous three winters. It was also seen in the gull flock at Tidpit on Feb 10th, 16th and 27th and Mar 6th (m.o.). This adult re-appeared at Ibsley Water for its fifth winter from Nov 15th-18th and 22nd and again on Dec 2nd (RAC et al., photo). (KFB)



*Adult Ring-billed Gull, Tidpit, Mar 6th
(Paul Winter)*

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

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

There were frequent and widespread reports in the first three months in coastal areas with small numbers at inland sites mostly along the river valleys. All were single-figures except at Chichester Harbour (10, Jan 6th) and Milford on Sea (20, Jan 13th). Double-figure counts in April came from Stokes Bay (12, 15th) and Farlington Marshes (12, 20th).

There were reports of six nesting pairs, all of them on rooftops. Three pairs were reported from Southampton waterfront at West Quay Road, Town Quay and the eastern docks and one pair on Waitrose's roof in Lymington. The usual pair nested again at Burrfields, Portsmouth and there was also a pair on the roof of the Sanderson Centre in Gosport. Summering flocks were small and, as usual, included Beaulieu Estuary (10, May 8th; 15, June 17th; 10 July 15th). There were ten over Middle Wallop Airfield on May 25th and in the Alver Valley, Gosport on June 28th. On July 23rd there was a significantly larger flock of 43 at Pennington Marshes.

Double-figure counts in late summer and autumn came from Titchfield Haven (10, Aug 8th; 11, Oct 4th; 15, Oct 31st), Weston Shore (17, Aug 11th; 12, Sep 9th; 24, Sep 20th), Gilkicker Point, Gosport (19, Sep 14th), Hook-with-Warsash (11, Sep 29th), Woolston (13, Sep 30th), Ibsley Water (10, Oct 22nd) and Portsmouth Harbour (10, Oct 27th). On Oct 28th 80 at Sandy Point indicated a significant autumn influx which was also evident at other nearby locations during November. On Nov 1st there were 57 at Browdown near Gosport and 21 at Titchfield Haven. Later on Nov 12th there was a count of 75 at Efford Lake near Pennington. Further counts in November at Titchfield Haven were 11 on 15th and 22 on 16th. The final double-figure record was 75 at Hurst Castle on Dec 20th. In the last two months the highest inland count was eight at Ibsley Water on Nov 6th and 23rd. (JRJ)

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter, but recorded in every month. (3,100,6).

After a blank year in 2017 it was good to have many sightings again although with birds of different ages appearing at different times it is difficult to be sure how many were involved. It seems likely that at least six were reported. These are summarised as follows:

Hurst Beach: juvenile, Jan 14th (SAB, MPM).

Keyhaven: juvenile, Jan 23rd-Feb 4th (mo, photo); juvenile, Apr 1st (SGK, photo).

Ibsley Water: juvenile, Jan 31st-Feb 9th (mo, photo); juvenile, Mar 26th (RT) and 31st (RAC).

Weston Shore: fourth-winter, Jan 29th (JN, PMP); second-winter, Mar 6th (IRW).

Posbrook Flood: second-winter, Mar 5th (IC).

Stokes Bay: juvenile, Apr 15th and 17th (MLE, IC).

Southsea Castle: juvenile, Apr 25th (TMJD).

Chilling Cliffs: juvenile, Apr 6th (RHM).

(KFB)

Thayer's Gull

Larus glaucoides thayeri

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

This is the first record of this form for Hampshire. It was in juvenile plumage, and was initially found at Ibsley Water on Jan 28th (AL et al., photo). It roosted there on many days until Mar 6th and was often found by day in the pig farm at Tidpit or in the Martin village area along with hundreds of other gulls up to Mar 8th. The record has been accepted by BBRC. This is the eighth accepted record for Great Britain having been first recorded in the winter of 2007/08. See separate paper in this report on p.233.



Juvenile Iceland Gull (left), Keyhaven, Jan 29th (Gareth Rees) and Juvenile Thayer's Gull (right), Martin village, Feb 9th (Gareth Rees)

The taxonomic position of Iceland Gull has long been the subject of debate. IOC recognises three subspecies – nominate *glaucoides* ('Iceland Gull') breeding in Greenland; *kumlieni* ('Kumlien's Gull') breeding mainly on Baffin Island; and *thayeri* ('Thayer's Gull') which breeds in the Canadian Arctic from Banks Island to South Ellesmere and Baffin Island, Southampton Island and NW Greenland. It winters on the Pacific coast of North America from British Columbia south to California and north Mexico. (KFB)

Herring Gull (European Herring Gull)

Larus argentatus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; moderately common and increasing breeder.
NT, Red, S4I.

In the first three months there were 42 counts of 50 or more. Most were from ten inland sites with records from only five coastal locations. Avon Valley counts were from Ibsley Water (max. 500, Feb 5th), Harbridge (max. 100, Feb 15th) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (max. 1,000, Mar 18th) and from nearby Blackheath Down (70, Feb 15th) and Tidpit (100, Feb 27th). The only Test Valley count was from Romsey (110, Feb 8th). At Itchen Valley CP movements from Southampton Water were reported (max. 130, Feb 20th). In the north-east there were counts from Ramptons Lane GP (max. 226, Feb 24th) and Sherborne St John near Basingstoke (115, Jan 27th). At Stroud near Petersfield there were 50 on Feb 1st. Most coastal counts were from the East Solent and included Chichester Harbour (113, Jan 6th), Langstone Harbour (140, Jan 12th), Black Point, Hayling Island (50, Jan 25th) and Portsmouth Harbour (max. 63, Feb 3rd). In Southampton Water the highest number was at Weston Shore (570, Feb 15th). The highest count from the West Solent during this period was at Lymington-Hurst (30, Feb 3rd). In April there were high counts from Black Point, Hayling Island (max. 400, 15th).

A total of 236 breeding pairs was reported. A survey of Southampton recorded 90 pairs in the city and 45 pairs in the eastern docks at Dock Head. A survey of New Milton Industrial Estate revealed 34 nests. At Fawley Refinery 20 pairs nested on an office roof. At a factory demolition site in New Road, Havant 22 pairs were counted on one roof but these had been reduced to eight or nine by the time demolition was halted. The colony on factory roofs at Burrfields, Portsmouth continued to grow and had ten pairs. All other reports of pairs were from roof-top sites and included Havant (1), Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth (2), Southsea (2), Gosport (3), Hythe (2), Lymington (2), New Milton (1) and Basingstoke (2). High flock counts during the breeding season came from Sandy Point, Hayling with a maximum of 208 (all immatures) on May 14th; Weston Shore, Southampton (max. 340, May 15th) and Bishopstoke, Eastleigh with 250 on flooded playing fields on May 30th.

Towards the end of the breeding season 117 were reported at Hill Head on July 1st. Subsequent high post-breeding counts were from Winchester SF (112, Aug 16th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (290, Aug 20th; 150, Sep 25th), Avington Lake (229, Sep 14th) and Cholderton Estate (100, Sep 26th).

In the last three months the majority of three-figure counts were from inland locations. The highest came from Ibsley Water (monthly max. 500, Oct 28th; 1,000, Nov 23rd; 200, Dec 2nd) with other Avon Valley counts including Avon Causeway (max. 141, Dec 16th). In the Itchen Valley there were counts from Avington Lake (monthly max. 228, Oct 24th; 333 Nov 15th) and Winchester SF (110, Dec 30th). On the flyway from Southampton Water, morning movements inland at Itchen Valley CP and nearby Marlhill Copse were mostly less than 150 with the exception of 790 on Oct 24th. Other reports came from the Test Valley at Longparish (104, Dec 27th) and the north-east at The Vyne Lake (104, Nov 3rd) and Busta Triangle (max. 200, Nov 2nd). Three-figure coastal counts were from Portsmouth Harbour (154, Oct 27th), Hurst Beach (800, Nov 5th), Black Point, Hayling Island (550, Dec 4th), Southsea (500 mostly first-winters, Dec 19th) and Southampton Water (481, Nov 17th).

Strong SW movements were recorded during early morning counts at Trigpoint Hill with totals of 2,163 SW and 87 NE on 42 dates between Oct 1st and Dec 31st with a peak count of 425 SW in 1.25 hr on Dec 21st. Counts at Tweseldown over the same period showed a different pattern with totals of 127 SW and 1,002 NE over 19 dates between Oct 2nd and Dec 22nd with a peak of 173 NE in 1.5 hr on Nov 10th. (JRJ)

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

*Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,44,5).
Amber.*

A first-winter was present at the Ibsley Water roost on many dates from Jan 1st-Mar 3rd, with possibly up to two involved (m.o., photo). In addition an adult was present on Jan 22nd and Feb 8th (DT), a third-winter with a damaged foot was seen on Feb 15th, 17th, 18th and 22nd (m.o., photo) and a second-winter was present on Feb 9th and 27th (m.o., photo). All three immatures were also reported from the fields at Tidpit where they often provided better views. To be precise – the first-winter was on Feb 11th, 12th and 16th; the second-winter on Feb 8th, 9th, 11th, 16th and Mar 3rd; and the third-winter on Feb 11th, 13th and 15th and Mar 3rd.



*First-winter Caspian Gull, Tidpit, Feb 11th
(Alan Lewis)*

In the late year a first-winter was present at Ibsley Water from Oct 18th, Nov 17th-18th, Dec 1st, 24th, 27th-29th and 31st (m.o., 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.

There were reports from eight coastal and 12 inland sites. Like last year the highest numbers were reported from Ibsley Water during the winter months. There were no reports from Fox Lane GP, Eversley, which has been infilled, although counts of up to five were recorded in both July and August from Eversley Common. In addition to the tabulated locations, first half-year records of singles, unless otherwise stated, came from Ramptons Lane GP/ Welshmans Road GP (2, Jan 20th; 1, Jan 28th; 1, Feb 11th and 16th), Blackheath Down/Tidpit (2, Feb 10th; 5, Feb 11th; 1, Feb 16th), Tipner Lake, Portsmouth (Feb 23rd: Feb 27th; Mar

20th-27th), Overton (Feb 25th), Winchester SF (Mar 3rd), Lymington-Hurst (Apr 6th) and Hamble Common/Hook-with-Warsash (May 18th-29th; June 4th-27th).

Since 2014 a pair has been reported each breeding season nesting on a roof at Northam along the Itchen Estuary. Breeding occurred again this year and one young was raised. However it was noted in HBR 2017 that photos of the young suggested hybridization despite the adults appearing to be pure, and more recently photos of one of the adults suggest it may also have hybrid characters. Therefore, while no final conclusion can yet be reached about the genetic status of this pair, there are serious doubts about whether it can be considered a pure Yellow-legged Gull pair.

In the second half-year records came from Fleet Pond (1, July 1st-Nov 4th; 2, Nov 7th; 1, Nov 8th-Dec 6th), Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (juvenile, July 29th), Edenbrook CP (July 28th), Eversley Common (1, July 3rd; 2, July 8th; 1, July 16th; 2, July 18th and 28th; 5, July 31st and Aug 7th; 1, Aug 11th; 3, Aug 20th), Hook-with-Warsash (July 4th-31st), Busta Triangle (3, July 14th; 1, Sep 26th-29th; 1, Oct 5th; 1, Nov 2nd and 10th; 1, Dec 4th), Sandy Point (Aug 9th-31st; Sep 1st-21st), Taddiford Gap (Oct 13th) and Alresford Pond (Oct 28th).

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)	11	7	1	2	1						6	11
Itchen Estuary area	2	2	2	3				2	1		1	2
Lower Test Marshes/Eling			1		1		2	1	1	1		
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1	1	1	1		1	2	1	1	1		1
Approx. monthly totals	16	18	7	7	3	2	16	13	6	7	11	16

Lesser Black-backed Gull†

Larus fuscus

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

The highest counts in the first three months were at Ibsley Water (monthly max. 1,500, Jan 4th; 1,000, Feb 5th; 200, Mar 4th) with other significant Avon Valley counts at Ripley Farm Reservoir (110, Mar 18th) and Harbridge (200, Feb 15th). To the north of Ibsley there were 250 at Blackheath Down on Feb 15th. All other significant counts in the period were from the north with highs at Ramptons Lane GP/Welshman's Road GP roost (monthly max. 860, Jan 27th; 425, Feb 16th; 151, Mar 10th), Kingsclere (284, Jan 12th) and Sherborne St John (130, Jan 27th). The highest coastal count was at Weston Shore (31, Jan 7th). There were no three-figure counts in April, the highest being at Ibsley Water (35, Apr 1st) and Alresford Pond (23, Apr 14th). Spring movements recorded at Trigpoint Hill between Mar 4th and May 31st totalled 278 including 159 moving NE with a maximum day count of 31 in 1.7hr on Apr 27th.

A total of 47 breeding pairs was reported, all of them nesting on roofs. This included 12 pairs in Southampton recorded during a full survey of the city and a further pair in the eastern docks at Dock Head. A survey in Basingstoke revealed 19 pairs nesting on a warehouse roof. A further six pairs nested at Fawley Refinery and five pairs at New Milton Industrial Estate. There were two pairs at Burrfields, Portsmouth and two pairs at a former factory site in New Road, Havant which was being demolished when the nests were recorded. The highest late spring and early summer counts were at Bishopstoke (136 on flooded playing fields on May 30th) and Winchester SF (66, June 6th).

The highest post-breeding counts were at Ibsley Water (120, July 11th), Avington Lake (140, July 17th) and Alresford Pond (79, Aug 23rd). The winter roost at Ibsley Water reached a high in early September with 5,000 on Sep 7th. Thereafter the monthly maxima were 1,100 on Oct 28th, 1,500 on Nov 29th and 5,000 on Dec 28th. In the north-east large flights

towards Berkshire roosts were recorded at Edenbrook CP at dusk on Sep 29th when 467 moved NE and at Busta Triangle on Nov 2nd when around 250 flew towards Berkshire's Moor Green Lakes leaving 220 roosting at Busta Triangle. Most other significant counts in the latter part of the year came from the north with reports from Alresford Pond (100, Sep 13th), Crookham village (74, Sep 14th), The Vyne Lake (175, Nov 3rd), Kingsclere (160, Nov 6th), Busta Triangle (300, Nov 15th) and Ramptons Lane GP/Welshmans Road GP (76, Dec 2nd). Three-figure counts were also reported from the south at Tidpit Down (300, Nov 18th) and Hamer Warren Lake (100, Nov 25th). (JRJ)

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis

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

In the early year approximately 30 were recorded in five areas. The only site with double-figure counts was Chichester Harbour with a peak of 20 on Jan 3rd. Spring passage started with two past Hurst Beach on Mar 11th and involved approximately 985 moving east up to May 13th. Counts at the main sites included 274 past Hurst Beach (peak, 85, Apr 6th), 297 past Hill Head (peak 114, Apr 6th) and 643 past Sandy Point (peak 350, Apr 6th). Inland, four flew south over Ibsley Water on Apr 4th and one was at Ewhurst Park Lake the next day.

Breeding success was slightly improved on the previous year. On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 60 pairs raised 22 young (cf. 48 pairs raising eight young in 2017). At Langstone Harbour RSPB 113 pairs raised 42 young (cf. 73 pairs raising 44 young in 2017).

The peak count of the autumn was 119 off Hill Head on Sep 5th. Elsewhere the highest counts were 80 in the Lymington-Hurst area on Aug 15th and 50 on the Hamble Estuary on Aug 22nd. Inland 18 were at Fleet Pond on the early morning of Sep 12th before flying SW and one was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Sep 18th. Fifteen were recorded from three sites from late October with a peak count of 20 in Chichester Harbour on Nov 1st. Smaller numbers remained in December with a maximum of 14 at Black Point on 8th and six still present there on 29th. (MLE)

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

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

The first was one past Sandy Point on Apr 6th. Spring passage was similar to 2017 with 131 noted moving east through The Solent up to May 14th (cf. 115 in 2017). Totals from the main sites were 35 at Hurst Beach (max. 9, May 11th), 32 past Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 17, Apr 27th) and 96 past Sandy Point (max. 51, Apr 27th). Inland, one was at Skidmore, River Test on May 13th.

It was a poor breeding season compared with 2017. In the West Solent 18 pairs raised eight young (cf. 12 pairs raising two young in 2017). In Langstone Harbour 57 pairs raised one young (cf. 51 pairs raising 27 young in 2017).

Post-breeding numbers were similar to 2017 with six double-figure counts at Black Point, Hayling (peak 60, July 31st). Elsewhere the highest count was eight off Hill Head on Aug 9th and the last of the year were three off this site on Aug 31st and one at Black Point on Sep 20th. (MLE)

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

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

It was a poor year with only four individuals recorded. In spring one flew south past Sandy Point on May 9th (ACJ). In the late summer two adults were present at Hill Head from July 11th-25th with one still present the following day (m.o.). A further adult was seen there on Aug 23rd (RJC, TJP). (MLE)

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.

ET, Amber.

The first of the year were singles on the coast at Titchfield Haven on Mar 27th and Sandy Point on 30th. Inland the first were singles at Lakeside CP and Ibsley Water on Apr 4th. Eastbound passage through The Solent was evident from Apr 2nd to May 13th with approximately 890 recorded. Counts at the main watch-points were 349 at Hurst Beach (max. 95, Apr 15th), 326 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (max. 156, Apr 27th) and 373 at Sandy Point (max. 80, May 11th).

Breeding season success was mixed with 215 pairs raising 149 young (*cf.* 330 pairs raising 143 young in 2017). On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 36 young fledged from 33 nests. In Langstone Harbour 23 pairs on the RSPB islands failed to raise any young and at West Hayling LNR 126 pairs nesting on rafts raised 79 young. Elsewhere along the coast three pairs were present at Needs Ore and a pair held territory at Hook-with-Warsash but fledged no young. At Titchfield Haven 19 pairs raised eight young. Inland at Blashford Lakes 20 pairs on rafts at Ivy Lake and one pair at Ellingham Pound raised on average 1.5 chicks/pair. A pair at Ibsley Water failed and at Testwood Lakes one pair raised four young from two broods.

Post-breeding numbers were similar to 2017 with 20 three-figure counts at two sites. The peak counts were 450 at Black Point on Aug 6th and 600 at Hill Head on Sep 1st. There were three October records with the last, a single, at Weston Shore on 27th. (MLE)

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.

ET, Amber.

Spring passage was much heavier than in the previous two years with approximately 86 recorded (*cf.* 21 in 2017 and 51 in 2016). The first were singles off Hurst Beach on Apr 6th and Sandy Point the next day. A further 52 were recorded at four coastal sites up to May 15th with 25 off Hurst Beach (peak 13, Apr 27th), 27 off Hill Head (peak, 7, Apr 17th), six off Southsea (peak 5, Apr 29th) and three singles off Sandy Point. Inland 25 were at Ibsley Water on Apr 25th, one was at Tundry Pond on Apr 28th and seven were at Fleet Pond on four dates from Apr 30th to May 11th (peak 4, May 2nd).

In the autumn there were approximately 34 records. After early birds off Hill Head on July 15th and Keyhaven on July 19th, there were reports from five coastal and two inland sites from July 28th to Nov 15th. No counts exceeded three except for four off Hill Head on Aug 23rd and five off Weston Shore on Aug 26th and Sep 21st. The only inland record was a juvenile at Fleet Pond on Aug 12th. Last sightings were three off Hill Head on Oct 27th and a very late juvenile off Pennington Marshes on Nov 15th. (MLE)

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green.

Spring passage was very light with 14 on the coast and one inland. The first were two west off Hurst Beach and one at Weston Shore on Apr 16th. Eastbound passage was noted at Hurst Beach (1, May 2nd), Southsea (3, May 11th) and Hill Head (5, May 12th; 2, May 13th). One was inland at Ivy Lake on May 24th.

Autumn passage commenced on July 21st when six were in the Hill Head/Titchfield Haven area. There were daily counts from there through to July 27th with a peak of 25 on 26th. This flock included an adult which had been colour-ringed white with black alphanumerics on passage at Cota Donana, Spain in 2010/11. Two off Chilling and Calshot on July 28th and one off Solent Breezes on 30th were probably part of this flock. There were five at Black Point between Aug 8th-26th, a further three at Hill Head on Aug 20th and one from Aug 24th-Sep 6th. Elsewhere along the coast singles were off Hurst Beach on July 29th, at Needs Ore on

Aug 27th and in Langstone Harbour on Aug 29th. Inland singles were at Ibsley Water on Aug 22nd, Sep 15th-23rd (with 2, Sep 20th) and Oct 2nd, and Fleet Pond on Aug 26th-31st.

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

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
3	12		26	8	2	1

2017 addition. Inland spring records also included four at Fleet Pond on May 7th.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

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

The total of 27 was very similar to the low numbers of the previous three years. The first was off Chilling on Jan 17th and Lepe on 20th. Spring passage started on Apr 7th with singles off Hurst Beach and Sandy Point. There were a further 15 up to May 13th including 11 off Hurst Beach and seven off Sandy Point but no sites recorded more than three in one day.

Autumn passage was recorded at two sites between Aug 27th and Nov 29th with totals of six at Hurst Beach and three at Sandy Point. The last of the year was off Lepe on Dec 18th. (MLE)

Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)

Stercorarius pomarinus

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

A poor year with only six in spring and six in autumn. A lack of weather conditions conducive to passage during the key period from late April until early May limited spring movement to a two-hour period on May 11th. Four (2 pale and 2 dark) were tracked as they passed Hurst Beach (16:32), Hill Head (17:00) and Sandy Point (17:30). A further pale phase bird passed Hill Head (17:30) and Sandy Point (18:02) and another pale phase came round the Isle of Wight and passed Sandy Point at 18:32.

The only autumn record was six (4 pale adults, 1 second-year and 1 dark immature) on the sea off Pennington Marshes at 08:45 on Oct 26th before flying west. The only previous larger autumn group was ten west off Keyhaven in gales on Sep 7th 2008. (MLE)

Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)

Stercorarius parasiticus

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

The first were three east past Hurst Beach on March 30th. There was an increase in spring passage with a minimum of 89 recorded compared with approximately 67 in 2017. Totals at the main sites were 44 at Hurst Beach (peak 11, May 11th), 49 at Hill Head/Stokes Bay (peak 7, May 11th) and 50 at Sandy Point (peak 16, May 11th).

After four records of one or two in June, the last being on 18th, autumn passage commenced with at least three off Hurst Beach on July 28th. There were a further eight records of ones or twos up to Sep 14th when a single was off Hurst Beach. (MLE)

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 modest year with approximately 52 recorded. In the early year there were 14 records from five sites including up to six in the Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point area and three in the Lepe/Southampton Water/Hill Head area.

The first of the spring was off Hurst Beach on Apr 15th. It was followed by a further 21 in this area up to May 13th (peak 10 E, May 11th). Elsewhere one flew east at Sandy Point on May 11th.

Singles were off Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 18th and Hurst Beach on Sep 26th. There were no further records until Oct 31st when one was off Hill Head. During the final two months of the year there were 13 widely scattered records of singles including only one long-stayer in Southampton Water from Dec 16th-31st.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	14			4	8				2	1	9	4
Moving east					11							

Razorbill

Alca torda

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

Yet another poor year with only 19 recorded. In the early year seven were noted at four sites including one in Southampton Water from Jan 1st to Feb 3rd and up to four in the Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point area from Jan 8th to Feb 20th. There were only two spring records with singles at Hurst Beach on Apr 27th and May 13th.

There were no further records until Oct 28th when one was off Hill Head. In the late year nine were noted. Most were singles on one date only except for two in Chichester Harbour on Nov 28th, one there from Dec 21st-31st, one in Southampton Water from Dec 26th-29th and two in Langstone Harbour on Dec 29th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7			1	1					1	5	4

Auk species

In spring a total of eight were off Sandy Point on five dates from Apr 24th to May 10th and 11 were off Hurst Beach on May 13th. Further singles were off Hurst Beach on Oct 13th and Dec 29th and two were off Sandy Point on Nov 27th. (MLE)

Black Guillemot

Cepphus grylle

Very rare vagrant (0,4,0)

A first-winter was in the channel at the entrance to Beaulieu River, 50-75 m off the beach midway between Gypsy Lane, Lepe and Inchmery, at 14:50 on Jan 8th. It was lost to view at 15:30 when drifting east (PFF). This was just 46 days after the sighting of a first-winter at Black Point on Nov 23rd 2017. It is therefore reasonable to assume that this was the same bird, which was also seen just across The Solent off Ryde on two dates in January.

Generally Black Guillemots remain close to their nesting sites throughout the year, but first-winters do wander. The previous records were at Southsea in January 1986 and Hurst in May 1989 and May 2010. (KFB)

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

Numerous resident.

Green.

Present in all urban areas and widely elsewhere. Three-figure counts were noted at Brownwich (100, Jan 5th); Andover (all winter and autumn months, max. 225, Nov 25th; Posbrook Flood (120, Aug 18th); Petersfield (110, Nov 28th); Hoglands Park, Southampton (100, Oct 17th) and Southampton Common (150, Oct 29th). (SKW)

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Numerous resident and winter visitor.

Amber.

Only four counts of grounded birds exceeded 100, the highest being 160 feeding on stubble at Weston Patrick on Mar 11th. The others were at Longwood Warren with 102 foraging on a game cover plot on Feb 25th and 110 on Oct 21st, and at Exton with 150 on Nov 11th.

Counts of breeding territories in previously reported areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 8 (8) and Longmoor Inclosure, 7 (6).

About 300 were noted moving in spring/summer, almost all at Trigpoint Hill, suggesting that mobility is widely under-recorded. The maximum visible migration count before September was from Titchfield Haven where 120 flew east on Aug 22nd. Visible migration numbers for the autumn are summarized in the table below with a total of 2,694 moving, almost all south-west and almost all from Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill, with a maximum of 223 over the former on Sep 22nd, one of 11 counts of 50 typically over periods of 2-4 hours from the site. The movement pattern, which consistently contrasts in timing with the next species, appears well-established. (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	254	502	518	420	255	143	162	90	22	148	70	110

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

Columba palumbus

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

Whilst this species remains abundant and widespread, only three grounded flocks exceeding four figures were reported as follows: Tile Barn Farm, Upton Grey (2,000, Mar 25th); Weston Common (1,000, Nov 4th) and Skidmore (2,500, Nov 17th).

During the breeding season 55 territories at Longmoor Inclosure were up from 47 in 2017.

The table below summarises movement totals in each week between mid-October and mid-December. The first real ‘push’ was on Oct 20th, with some 6,000 noted, followed by the peak, as usual, around the last week of October. The scale of movements at this time was illustrated by high rates of passage of 4,170 west at Tweseldown in 1.75 hr on 27th, 1,460 NE at Trigpoint Hill in 1.25 hr on 28th and 1,400 west at Fort Widley, Portsdown Hill in 30 minutes on 30th. As ever, the majority were heading towards the south and west. However the only count to exceed 10,000 (21,813 at Weston Shore between 08:15 and 11:00 on Oct 27th) concerned birds flying NW thus avoiding crossing Southampton Water at this point.

The overall late autumn movement total was 112,372 which was less than last year (cf. 151,321 in 2017). However comparisons are affected by the vagaries of the weather in the peak period together with variations in coverage which make it difficult to identify the real fluctuations in numbers. (SKW/AFJC)

	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	8,948	41,573	22,003	5,534	20,298	970	170	142	370	99,078
Moving N/E	560	2,035	670	1,325	1,595	300	2,739	930	2,210	13,294
Totals	9,508	43,608	22,673	6,859	21,893	1,270	2,909	1,072	2,580	112,372
Days with movements	4	7	6	7	6	3	3	3	4	44



Turtle Dove, Martin Down, May 19th (Alan Lewis)

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove)

Streptopelia turtur

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP.

The first report of the year came from Bramshill Plantation on Apr 19th. Presumed migrants were then seen at Casbrook Common on Apr 20th and Needs Ore on May 25th.

Following the targeted survey of traditional breeding sites in 2017, twenty sites were surveyed again in 2018. Outside of Martin Down, records were once again very scarce and there was no confirmed evidence of successful breeding. Single reports of territorial (purring) birds came from Old Alresford, Wield Wood, Chalton Down and Leckford. One or possibly two purring males were located at Shirrell Heath north of Wickham and a purring male was heard again at Bramshill Plantation in May.

Martin Down again proved to be the most reliable site in the county with 14 to 21 purring males throughout the reserve based on combining the results of a late morning count of 11 males on June 11th with other known territory locations from separate repeated dawn surveys. In addition there were a further three purring males heard in the farm cluster outside the reserve. The last record of the year was at Martin Down on Aug 1st. (MJA)

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove)

Streptopelia decaocto

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green.

Four counts, all in winter, exceeded 50 at Romsey (60, Jan 1st), North Poulner (with the annual maximum of 91 at a pre-roost gathering on Jan 2nd), Lower Test Marshes (at least 70 into roost, Dec 1st) and Cheriton (70, Dec 15th). Only 20 were noted on the move in the last quarter of the year at visible migration watchpoints indicating no significant autumn passage movements. (SKW)

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo)

Cuculus canorus

Moderately common but declining summer visitor. Red, S4I.

The first reports at Ibsley Water and Rockford Common on Apr 6th perhaps refer to the same bird. Another was at Ampfield on 7th and a further 25 or so were noted by mid-month, with a clear increase in arrivals from 14th. The highest subsequent counts were at Kingston Great Common (8, Apr 20th), Ibsley Common (8, May 7th), various New Forest sites including Wilverley Plain (5, May 19th), Fishlake Meadows (where six were seen at the same time on May 30th) and Needs Ore (5, June 1st).



Cuckoo, Ibsley Common, May 17th (Sue Marshall)

Once again very numerous spring/summer records (totalling 832 compared to 759 last year) attest to the widespread popularity and detectability of this species, but no meaningful population trends can be inferred. About ten juveniles were seen from mid-June, and of the 11 noted in August, most were this age. Following one at Stokes Bay on Aug 28th, the last of the year was noted at Cliddesden on Sep 19th. (SKW)

Barn Owl† (Western Barn Owl)

Tyto alba

Moderately common resident. Schedule 1, Green.

Reports were received from around 130 widespread locations. The Hawk Conservancy reported a generally poor year with 58 breeding attempts from 87 boxes, of which 50 were successful fledging 107 young. Median brood size at fledging was two with only four nests fledging more than three. In addition two chicks were ringed in a nest box at Liphook. Successful breeding was confirmed at a further six locations and probable breeding at three.

Most sightings were of one or two, but four were observed at Botley Wood on July 15th, Martin Down on July 30th and Manor Farm CP on Oct 19th. (BS)



Barn Owl, Alton, Nov 11th (Richard Ford)

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Common resident.

Amber.

Reports were received from around 210 widespread locations compared to 190 last year. The highest concentration was at Morgaston Wood, Sherborne St. John with at least seven calling males. A county-wide nest box scheme resulted in 19 nesting attempts from 20 boxes of which 14 were successful fledging 22 young. This was an increase in breeding attempts from the previous year but the brood sizes were smaller resulting in fewer fledged 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. (BS)

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Moderately common but declining resident.

Reports were received from around 45 locations in widespread parts of the county. The most frequently reported sites were Needs Ore, Frater Shore, Durley, Chilling and Trigpoint Hill. A nest box scheme in the north resulted in four fledged young from two breeding attempts. Successful breeding was confirmed at an additional two locations with probable breeding at a further two. (BS)

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

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

Green.

One was flushed from a roost by a work party at Pamber Forest on Jan 19th. Another was observed east of Overton on Feb 13th. After a break in 2017, breeding was again confirmed in the north where two fledged young were observed between June 21st and 24th.

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 two at Bransbury Common on Feb 8th, two possibly three at Overton on Mar 13th and three at Farlington Marshes on April 2nd-3rd. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Milkham Bottom NF on Jan 2nd, Kingsclere on Jan 12th, Lower Test Marshes on Jan 13th, Farlington Marshes on several dates between Jan 17th and April 11th, Keyhaven/Pennington/Oxey Marshes on several dates between Feb 1st and Apr 22nd, Burridge on Feb 14th, Acres Down NF on Mar 25th and Milton Common on Apr 29th. Late spring sightings, all singles, were at Beachlands/Gunner Point (Hayling Island) on May 2nd, Old Tip (Pennington) on May 7th, Weston Shore on May 13th and Sandy Point (Hayling Island) on June 2nd.

The earliest returns were singles in September at Farlington Marshes on 4th and 7th, Needs Ore on 9th and Black Point, Hayling Island on 30th. In the period October to December the only multiple count was two at Martin Down on Dec 26th. Elsewhere singles were at Sandy Point on Oct 3rd, 22nd and 30th; Farlington Marshes on Oct 8th, Nov 2nd and 17th, Dec 4th, 5th and 9th; Needs Ore and Milford on Sea on Oct 22nd; Titchfield Haven on Nov 5th; Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 6th; Oxey Marsh on Nov 10th and 14th; Foxbury Plantation NF on Nov 16th; Langstone Harbour on Dec 14th; Keyhaven Lagoon on Dec 25th-28th and Ibsley Water on Dec 28th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	8	5	12	4	1	0	0	5	17	11	11



Little Owl, St. Leonards Barn, New Forest, June 2nd (Ian Williamson)



Tawny Owl, Alton, Jan 9th (Richard Ford)



Nightjar, New Forest, June 9th (Martin Bennett)

Nightjar (European Nightjar)

Caprimulgus europaeus

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Amber, S4I, HBAP.

The first spring arrivals were a pair at Velmead Common and a single at Hook Links, Warsash on May 1st. A systematic survey of the New Forest carried out by the Forestry Commission and Natural England identified 435 territorial males (303 within the open forest/HLS area), a decline on the results of 2013 which recorded 544 territorial males (441 within the open forest/HLS area).

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 101 and 72 churring males respectively compared to 97 and 66 last year (Table 1). Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows (2017 in parentheses): Alice Holt Forest, 3 (6); Badminton Common, 2 (2); Benyon's Inclosure, 6 (6); Blackfield, 4 (3); Botley Wood, 2 (2); Browdown, 2 (1); Denmead, 3 (1); Four Marks, 1; Great Covert Wood, 1 (1); Great Pen Wood, 3; Hamble Common, 3; Hut Wood (Chilworth), 3 (2); Havant Thicket, 1 (2); Mortimer West End, 2 (2); Newtown Common, 4 (4); Rownhams Wood, 1; Toms Down, 1 (2); West Walk, 2 (2); Wickham Common, 1 (1).

The final record was a juvenile at Iley Point, Keyhaven on Sep 7th. (BS)

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

Rare vagrant (3,10,1).

A single flew NE at Compton, near Winchester at 14:35 on May 1st (GP). There have been records in four years this century, most recently in March and June 2012. (KFB)

Swift (Common Swift)

Apus apus

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber.

The first arrival was one over Itchen Stoke on Apr 11th. This was followed by a nine-day gap with the next being four at Posbrook Flood and one at Fleet Pond on 20th. Large counts of up to 500 were subsequently recorded over Ibsley Water, Farlington Marshes, Posbrook Flood, Titchfield Haven, Braishfield, Trigpoint Hill and Fishlake Meadows in the remainder of April.

During the breeding season counts exceeding 100 were recorded over seven water bodies. These comprised 150 over Fishlake Meadows on May 9th; 130 over Heath Pond, Petersfield on May 24th; 150 and 370 over Pennington Marshes on May 24th and 30th respectively; four counts of between 150 and 750 over Ibsley Water on May 30th, June 5th and 17th; 200

over Fleet Pond and 120 over Titchfield Haven on June 6th, 850 west over Sandy Point on June 21st; 580 and 1,400 over Sinah Common/ Hayling GC on July 5th and 17th respectively. In addition large numbers were reported over two areas of higher elevation with 256 at Trigpoint Hill on June 6th and 160 over Farley Mount on July 28th.

Records of confirmed breeding in approximately 420 nest sites were submitted from 211 locations via the Hampshire Swifts on-line portal. Low-level screaming parties were reported in an additional 67 locations indicating a high probability of breeding in the immediate vicinity. The Hampshire Swift survey was designed specifically to record the exact locations of Swift nest sites for uploading into the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) database. This information should flag up the presence of Swift nest sites when planning applications are submitted for relevant properties and so assists the conservation of nest sites, either by conserving the original sites or by ensuring adequate mitigation is included. All reports of Swift nest site locations should be entered onto the recording form found on the Hampshire Swifts website.

Differentiating the start of return passage from large-scale bad-weather movements and large groups feeding over insect-rich water bodies during the breeding season is further complicated by the fact that a high proportion of birds are non-breeders and it is not unusual for breeding to continue through into August and even September, albeit in much smaller numbers.

Double-figure counts in August declined from six in the first week, four in the second week, three in the third week and two in the last week. There were five reports of between one and five in September, the last on 30th over St Giles Hill, Winchester, followed by an exceptionally late report of a single at Newtown Common on Nov 9th. Being so late in the year, the possibility of Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* cannot be excluded. (AMB)

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher)

Alcedo atthis

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

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber.

Records were received from around 250 locations including 36 in the Test Valley catchment, 33 in the Itchen catchment, 17 in the Avon catchment, 30 in the north-east, 14 in the New Forest and 87 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at Sherfield-on-Loddon, where adults were observed taking food to a nest hole, and Timsbury, where four recently fledged young were observed. No other definite breeding records were received although three pairs probably nested along the Dockens Water at Blashford Lakes.



Pair of Kingfishers, Timsbury, River Test, Mar 23rd (Richard Jacobs)

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	48	19	1	1	0	0	1	5	9	8	7	19
Lower Test Marshes	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	9	6	15	9	7
Titchfield Haven	16	8	12	3	4	1	6	27	39	28	21	21

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater)

Merops apiaster

Rare summer visitor recorded in April to August and October (0,37,1).

Schedule 1.

A single was perched on wires at Needs Ore from 06:15-06:20 on May 11th before it flew off high NE (BJP, photo).

The previous record was three perching on telephone wires at Needs Ore on May 21st 2017! May and August are the peak months for this vagrant, which is being recorded more frequently than at any time previously. Apart from an early record in 1903 and sightings in 1979 and 1981, all other records have been since 1995. (KFB)

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe)

Upupa epops

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since. (? ,259,4).

Schedule 1.

Singles were at Milford on Sea on May 24th (DJG, photo), IBM lake on Sep 1st from 17:30-19:40 at least (TMJD et al., photo), South Hayling on Sep 12th (GCP, photo) and Bentley on Oct 25th-27th (RC, photo). The species has been seen annually since 1993. (KFB)



Hoopoe, IBM Lake, Sep 1st (Simon King)

Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck)

Jynx torquilla

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

Schedule 1, Red, HBAP.

There were four spring records, all singles. The first three were at Titchfield Haven canal path on Apr 20th (DJR), Holm Hill, NF on Apr 20th (AJC) and heard calling at Milkham Inclosure, NF on May 10th and 12th (DR). At another site in the New Forest a male was present for three weeks from May 18th-June 3rd and was observed exploring and clearing out a potential nest hole. Sadly no mate was ever seen so the chance of breeding was lost. The last known breeding attempt in Hampshire was in 1975.

A surprising record was a single seen to fly in from the sea at Lee-on-the-Solent on July 7th. It landed in a gorse bush and fed briefly on the ground before flying further inland. This



Wryneck, New Forest, June 3rd (Steve Davies)

was the first July record since 1998 (MH). There were seven additional autumn records, all singles, at Hinton Ampner on Aug 20th and 21st (ASD), North Baddesley on Aug 30th (SAB), Beachlands (Hayling Island) on Aug 31st (DJ), Farlington Marshes on Sep 2nd and separately on 7th (TMJD, GCS), Romsey on Sep 11th (DB) and Old Basing on Oct 15th (JKA). (BS)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dryobates minor

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

Red, S4I, HBAP.

In the first half of the year, records were received from 27 sites outside the New Forest, compared with 16 sites in 2016 and 22 sites in 2017. Most records as usual came from locations along the major river valleys and large woodland areas including Harewood Forest, Doles Wood, Yateley and Shortheath Commons, Pamber Forest, Petersfield and Mottisfont to illustrate the spread. Several reports came from the Southampton area including one at Southampton Common on Mar 23rd. In the New Forest, still the major stronghold for the species, records came from around 40 sites, mostly from the southern half with the north still seemingly attracting fewer observers.



Male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, New Forest, Feb 17th (Alan Lewis)

Breeding season survey work in the New Forest found active nests at four sites – all successful. Nests were recorded in Alder, Beech, Oak and Holly and all nest-sites were within ten metres of a stream or water-course.

In the second half-year there were 22 records, mostly from New Forest locations but also including Trigpoint Hill and Woolmer Forest. (RC)

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Numerous resident.

Green.

Records were received from around 90 widespread locations compared to 170 in 2017, the highest count being ten at Plaitford Green on Apr 21st. Occupied nests or juveniles were recorded at eight locations. Counts of territories in selected regularly surveyed areas (2017 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Itchen Valley CP, 9 (9); Longmoor Inclosure, 20 (10). In addition there were 48 territories at 11 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1) compared to 50 territories at 12 sites in 2017.

As usual, these numbers grossly underestimate the county population of this numerous and widespread species. (BS)

Green Woodpecker (European Green Woodpecker)

Picus viridis

Numerous resident.

Green.

Records were received from around 200 widespread locations compared to 110 in 2017, the highest counts being seven at Hawley Common on May 7th and Frater Shore on May 12th. There were six territories at Itchen Valley CP. In addition there were 58 territories at 17 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1) compared to 37 territories at nine

sites in 2017. NFWBS reported totals of 28, 20 and 37 in January-March and 17, 11 and 18 in October-December (Table 4). (BS)

Kestrel† (Common Kestrel)

Falco tinnunculus

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber.

NFWBS recorded seven in each month in January-March suggesting a remarkably stable population, with 12, seven and six in October-December showing the usual decline in numbers in the winter (Table 4).

The only evidence of breeding of this widespread species came from Timsbury in the Test Valley, Deacon Hill at Winchester and Bourley in the north-east. There were more records than usual from the New Forest, with two young in a tree-hole nest in Denny Wood and evidence of breeding at Leaden Hall, Vales Moor, Thorney Hill Holms, Foxbury and Cadnam Common. Across the county the Hawk Conservancy reported 50 breeding attempts in their nest-boxes, with at least 39 successfully rearing more than 120 fledged young. Most juveniles were colour-ringed (blue with white digits) and records of sightings of these would be most useful (see Ringing Report).

Most sightings were between one and four but higher numbers were recorded at Adanac Park (5, Apr 6th), Titchfield Haven (6, Apr 11th), Needs Ore (5, July 10th), Posbrook Flood (5, July 22nd), Frater Shore (6, July 25th), Chilling (5, Aug 10th) and Old Winchester Hill (max. 8, Aug 11th), many of the summer records being family parties. (RC)

Red-footed Falcon

Falco vespertinus

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant (2,56,1).

NT.

A male was seen heading north at Noar Hill at 15:15 on May 13th (DGHM *et al.*). May to mid-June remains the peak period for seeing this rare passage migrant. (KFB)

Merlin

Falco columbarius

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP.

NFWBS produced totals of five, one and zero in January-March and zero, two and zero in October-December (Table 4). Three together (two males and a female) are an unusual sight in Hampshire so the record from Shatterford Bottom, NF on Jan 7th perhaps suggested a nearby roost. Reports continued from the usual coastal and New Forest sites through February and March with the last reports in April from Old Winchester Hill on 12th, Farlington Marshes on 17th, Keyhaven and Ibsley Common on 18th and Stubbington on May 5th.

The first return was at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 8th followed in September by singles at Brownwich on 7th and Pennington Marshes on 9th. Numbers increased to the end of the year with at least ten present in November and December at widespread coastal and New Forest sites as well as inland at Butser Hill, Trigpoint Hill and Bransbury Common.

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	9	4	1			1	5	9	10	10



Adult (top) and juvenile Peregrines (bottom), Winchester Cathedral, June 11th (Richard Jacobs)

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby)

Falco subbuteo

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP.

The earliest sightings came from St. Leonards near Beaulieu with one on Mar 25th and Nursling on 29th, with further reports on 31st from Lower Test Marshes and Fishlake Meadows. One at Keyhaven Marshes on Apr 11th was being mobbed by a Raven. Most reports were between one and three but the highest counts were four at Fishlake Meadows on May 4th, Cranes Moor, NF on 13th, Ferny Napp, NF on 19th and Titchfield Haven on Sep 29th.

Evidence of breeding came from four sites in the New Forest, which is sadly about the average in recent years. The main survey effort elsewhere came from the north-east with four pairs breeding and territorial pairs at several other locations where breeding was not confirmed. Typical late season records in October came from Lepe on 13th and Pennington Marshes on 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.

There were reports from 223 sites including 32 locations in the New Forest and around 112 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 120 locations during March-July of which 48 were on the coast compared to 79 in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 25 localities with 17 pairs known to have fledged 38 young. Eight nests failed and the outcome at another nest is not known. There were seven pylon nests which fledged 14 chicks. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (7), tall chimneys (2) and quarries (6). In addition three pairs nested on coastal shingle just a few metres from the high-water mark and two of these were successful raising five chicks in total. Ground-level nesting has only been recorded in Hampshire, Sussex and Norfolk, although it is recorded in the Arctic. A nesting tray was placed in a gutter at Winchester Cathedral with great success after the birds failed there in 2017.

The programme of colour-ringing continued and 18 chicks at six nests were fitted with orange colour-rings. Among the colour-ringed birds was a female nesting on coastal shingle who had herself been born in a shingle nest elsewhere in Hampshire in 2016 – suggesting that such nesting behaviour is learned. A male at one of the quarry nests was found to be ‘Peter’, who had been born on Salisbury Cathedral (Wilts) in 2014 and shot near Stockbridge in March 2017. He had spent two months in a bird of prey hospital so it was great to see that he had recovered from the attack. (KFB)

Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet)

Psittacula krameri

Scarce introduced visitor, possibly resident.

Recorded in all months except July in ones and twos apart from five at Tanners Lane on Sep 26th and six at Aldershot on Oct 24th. Sightings increased with 75 reports from 31 widespread locations. Southampton remained the stronghold with 37 records, several of which were in the city centre including Andrews, Hoglands and Queens Parks as well as along the Itchen between Itchen Bridge and Mansbridge. This was followed by 14 records in the Test Valley at Braishfield, Adanac Park, Nursling, Romsey and Testwood Lakes, 11 at Basingstoke, Old Basing and Pamber Forest, and six in the north-east at Fleet, Farnborough and Aldershot.

Elsewhere singles were recorded at Shipton Bellinger on Apr 17th, Farlington Marshes on Apr 23rd, Sandy Point on May 8th, Chandlers Ford on Aug 19th and Gosport on Nov 23rd and 30th. Breeding was not confirmed but one was seen entering a tree hole in Southampton opposite Debenhams on Feb 11th. (MLC)



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike, Farlington Marshes, Sep 21st (Lee Fuller)

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 juvenile was in bramble bushes near Workman's Lane, Chilling from 13:00-18:45 at least on Aug 27th but was gone the next day (BFC *et al.*, photo). Another juvenile was in hawthorns at Farlington Marshes from Sep 19th-21st (ABH *et al.*, photo). Since the cessation of regular breeding in Britain in the 1980s, the majority of autumn records have occurred in September although the last three have included two in August. (KFB)

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU.

In the early year there were probably three wintering in the New Forest, and in the late year there were at least three there and two early migrants elsewhere.

Surprisingly none were seen in the New Forest until Jan 16th when a single was at King's Garden and subsequently around Milkham Bottom on several dates up to Feb 6th. It or another was at Picket Post on Jan 29th. A single was in the Strodgemoor Bottom/Cranes Moor area on Feb 6th and then Mar 4th-8th. At Linwood there was a single on Feb 11th. The only other reports were of a single between Markwood and Holm Hill from Feb 25th-27th and Mar 4th.

The first return was at East Tisted on Oct 18th and another was at Burkhams on Oct 30th. In the New Forest a single was at Black Gutter Bottom on Oct 25th but there were no other sightings in that area until Bramshaw Telegraph on Nov 19th, Hampton Ridge on Nov 30th and Deadman Bottom on Dec 20th. The most frequently seen were in the Beaulieu Road area from Oct 29th to Nov 19th and Holm Hill area from Nov 17th to the year end. The only other sighting was at Milkham Bottom on Dec 20th. (KFB)

Jay (Eurasian Jay)

Garrulus glandarius

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green.

No large numbers or significant movements were reported this year. Highest counts were nine at Moyles Court, NF on Oct 20th and eight at Eversley GP on Mar 22nd, Itchen Valley CP on Sep 9th, Woolmer Pond on Sep 30th, Titchfield Haven on Oct 27th and Moyles Court

on Nov 17th. The highest movements recorded at the two regular inland watchpoints were eight at Tweseldown on Oct 7th and 18th and seven mostly NE at Trigpoint Hill on various dates between Sep 29th and Oct 10th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 6 (6); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (0); Longmoor Inclosure, 7 (7). (MLC)

Magpie (Eurasian Magpie)

Pica pica

Numerous resident.

Green.

The highest counts were as usual from the large winter roosts. At Fleet Pond the maximum in the early year was 140 on Feb 16th and in the late year 200 on Dec 31st. Nearby at Edenbrook CP the peaks counts were 60 on Jan 3rd and 80 on Dec 19th. At Southampton Common not more than 25 were reported in the early year but 218 were counted coming to roost on Dec 23rd. Maxima at other roosts were 30 at Mansbridge Fen on Jan 14th, 24 at Park View Infant School, Basingstoke on Jan 27th, 51 at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 30th, 65 at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 31st, 70 at Darby Green on Dec 31st and 25 at nearby Yateley the same day. Elsewhere there were many double-figure counts up to and including 20 throughout the year except for Winchester SF (29, Jan 10th; 28, Mar 5th), Frater Shore (35, Jan 22nd), Titchfield Haven (21, Jan 27th), 26 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (26, Feb 18th) and Posbrook Flood (21, Nov 4th).

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Lower Test Marshes, 2 (4); Longmoor Inclosure, 8 (4). (MLC)

Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw)

Coloeus monedula

Numerous resident.

Green.

Large numbers were again recorded mostly arriving at or dispersing from winter roosts with widespread flocks of over 100 in the winter months. Counts of 500 or more in the first half-year included a monthly peak of 600 at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 14th and 28th, 570 NW at Greywell and 800 at Old Winchester Hill on Mar 4th. In the summer 600 were recorded going to roost at Plaitford Common, NF on June 5th. Numbers over 500 were higher in the second half-year with monthly peaks of 800 at Edenbrook CP on Sep 29th and 900 on Nov 5th, 2,000 at Pooks Green on Dec 3rd, 650 at Holt Pound, Alice Holt on 13th, 600 at Southampton Common on 23rd and 1,157 at Edenbrook CP on 30th.



Jackdaw, Barton Stacey, Apr 2nd (Martin Clay)

Peak autumn movements reported at the two regular inland watchpoints were 105 SW in 4 hours on Oct 10th and 118 SE/SW in 4.5 hours on Nov 3rd at Tweseldown, and 382 west in 2 hours on Oct 19th and 175 west in 30 minutes on Oct 22nd at Trigpoint Hill. There was a significant coastal movement from Oct 19th-21st with 191 west at Sandy Point on 19th; 2,903 NW over Weston Shore between 07:15 and 10:40 and 618 SW over Itchen Waterworks, Southampton on 20th; 1,703 NW over Weston Shore between 07:15 and 10:30 and smaller numbers at other sites on 21st. (MLC)

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.

Green.

In the first three months flocks of 250 or more were recorded at Brambridge (250, Jan 1st), Longwood Warren (300, Jan 14th) and Old Winchester Hill (700, Mar 4th). Summer counts of 600 at Martin Down on June 9th and 270 at Charlton on July 19th were no doubt boosted by recently fledged young.

Numbers of rookeries and nest counts were lower than last year with only 18 rookeries reported with a total of 587 apparently occupied nests compared to 30 rookeries with 828 nests in 2017. Note this includes 519 counted nests plus 68 logged as ON (occupied nest) in BTO's BirdTrack even though the latter are individuals, not nests. Clearly the results are not comparable with previous years as the apparent drop is probably an artefact of the reporting method rather than a real decline. Many more sites were reported with probable breeding but without nest counts being given. Observers are requested in future to submit nest counts for active colonies.

The only sites to equal or exceed 50 nests were at Mottisfont (77), Houghton (50), Longstock (80) and South Warnborough (75). Comparisons with last year, where available, were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Charlton Lakes, Andover, 30 (34); Hatchet Pond, 4 (15); Hoglands Park, Southampton, 12 (16); Houghton, 50 (51); Leckford, 40 (40); Longstock, 80 (76); Lower Test Marshes, 13 (new); South Warnborough, 75 (78); Widley, 44 (40). Whilst the reduction at Hatchet Pond can be explained by tree-felling in 2017, others appear relatively stable. However in some cases rookeries had fragmented or moved so reductions in nest counts do not necessarily mean fewer breeding birds in the wider areas.

Counts of 250 or more in the last three months were reported over Upper Shirley, Southampton (1,000, Nov 15th), at Avington Manor Farm (250, Nov 29th) and Chidden Down (300, Dec 9th). (MLC)

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Numerous resident.

Green.

Widespread with highest numbers recorded at coastal locations. The regularly watched site at Weston Shore again produced the highest totals with maximum monthly counts shown in the table below. As last year, the annual maximum was recorded in October with 440 on 8th (cf. 410 in 2017).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
170	180	235	171	294	230	320	300	340	440	435	336

In the New Forest the monthly winter counts peaked in the first quarter with 394 in March at 35 sites and in the last quarter with 554 in October at 35 sites (Table 4). The average for the six months surveyed was 383 which compares with 430 in 2017 and 385 the year before. Elsewhere the only counts of 100 or more were 100 at Posbrook Flood on Oct 21st, 110 there on Nov 4th and 100 at Beachlands, Hayling Island on Oct 17th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Lower Test Marshes, 6 (4); Longmoor Inclosure, 16 (21). (MLC)



Raven, Hurst Spit, Apr 16th (Lee Fuller)

Raven (Northern Raven)

Corvus corax

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

A total of 1,373 records was received including multiples from the same site (cf. 1,293 in 2017). Most reports were of ones and twos or family groups from widespread locations across the county, especially downland and heathland areas. Whilst the high concentrations of 35-75 recorded last year were not repeated, there were seven locations where more than ten were reported. The pig farm at Damerham attracted 12 on Jan 1st and nearby Tidpit Down pig fields hosted 28 on Jan 1st and 26, 12, 12 and 40 on Feb 15th, 16th, 19th, and 20th respectively; 24 were at Lakeside CP on Jan 18th; 16 flew east at Holmhill Inclosure, NF on Jan 27th; 11 were at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on June 29th; 25 were at Martin Down on July 14th and 14 flew over Dean near Sparsholt on July 23rd.

In the New Forest, the monthly winter counts recorded 14, 21 and 20 in the first three months of the year and 28, 19 and 20 in the last three (Table 4).

Nesting was confirmed at 14 sites between Jan 22nd and May 28th. The earliest date when young were noted in the nest was Apr 15th. Of seven sites described, three were on pylons and four in trees. Breeding was probable at another six sites. (MLC)

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing)

Bombycilla garrulus

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

Green.

Only three records on two dates. In the early winter period two were at Bramshill Plantation on Feb 11th (GCS, FCC, R.Seargent) and one was nearby at West Green, Hartley Witney the same day (R.Seargent). At the end of the year five were photographed in the Asda car park, Totton on Dec 31st (IAS, per IDW). This group increased to 11 the next day and continued to be seen during early January 2019. (MLC)

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Numerous resident.

Green.

BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 88% of surveyed gardens compared to over 99% for Blue Tit and 88% for Great Tit. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 74.1% in January to a low of 45.1% in July (Table 2). In addition to the garden surveys and Longmoor Inclosure results below, double-figure counts were recorded from the New Forest as follows: Mark Ash Wood (25, Jan 13th; 12, May 13th); Church Moor (20, Jan 22nd); Acres Down (28, Apr 2nd; 27, Apr 23rd); Hale Purlieu (14, Apr 18th); Ramnor Inclosure (14, May 1st); North Oakley Inclosure (26, May 1st; 18, June 20th) and Millyford Bridge (10, May 9th; 18, June 26th). Elsewhere double-figure counts were also reported at Great Pen Wood (10, Apr 19th); Queen Elizabeth CP (14, Apr 19th); The Slab, Oakhanger (10, Apr 20th); Woolmer Forest (15, Apr 29th; 12, June 23rd) and The Chase, Woolton Hill (17, Oct 18th). One moving rapidly north at Sandy Point on Mar 26th was considered to be of the continental nominate race.

The regular breeding survey at Longmoor Inclosure recorded 129 territories compared with 153 in 2017 and 103 the year before. (MLC)

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

Common but declining resident.

Red, S4I

A total of 717 records was submitted, including multiples at the same site, compared to 517 last year representing a 39% increase. Most were between one and seven with the only reports of eight or more being at Mark Ash Wood, NF (10, Jan 13th and Feb 14th); Bentley Wood (8, June 28th); Buckherd Bottom, NF (12, July 1st); Old Winchester Hill (12, Sep 26th; 10, Oct 3rd); Walker's Copse (8, Dec 2nd) and Preston Oak Hills (8, Dec 2nd).

Winter numbers recorded in the New Forest monthly surveys were again low varying between a high of 12 in March and October at 35 sites and a low of five in December at 34 sites for the six months covered by NFWBS (Table 4).

Also reported mostly in ones and twos from 29% of Hampshire gardens in BTO's Garden BirdWatch with monthly reporting rates varying between a high of 7% in December and a low of no reports in June. Undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits (most, if not all, being Marsh Tits) were reported from 30% of all surveyed gardens with a maximum of six near Lymington in w/c Jan 10th. (MLC)

Willow Tit

Poecile montanus

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S4I.

Only 18 records were submitted from seven locations, five of which were in the known cluster in the north-west of the county and the other two in the known Dummer/Ellisfield area. Recorded in every month except September and October in ones and twos except for three pairs at Hurstbourne Tarrant in March and April together with at least three other unattached individuals, at least two and possibly three at Walker's Copse, Dummer on Apr 1st and three at Preston Oak Hills, Ellisfield on July 4th.



*Willow Tit, Walker's Copse, Dummer, Apr 1st
(Lee Fuller)*

The partially leucistic individual at Preston Oak Hills (see photo in HBR 2017) was again seen on Feb 18th and Dec 2nd.

A nation-wide survey is planned in 2020 to monitor the status of this declining red-listed species during which it is planned to revisit the breeding sites identified in the most recent 2014-16 study. (MLC)

Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit)

Cyanistes caeruleus

Abundant resident and passage migrant.

Green.

This was the second most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being recorded in 271 out of a total of 272 Hampshire gardens compared to 270 for Blackbird and 272 for Robin. Monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 100% in January to a low of 94.2% in July (Table 2). The only reports of more than 20 were 24 near Tadley in w/c Aug 5th and 33 near Havant in w/c Sep 9th.

The inclusion of BTO Breeding Bird Survey data increased the number of double-figure records to 293 compared to only 55 last year excluding BBS. The highest counts were between 30 and 46 at Itchen Valley CP (up to 35, Feb 11th–Mar 24th); Southleigh Forest (46, Jan 9th); Hollybank Woods (37, Apr 22nd); Hawley Common (36, June 23rd); Needs Ore (30, Aug 28th); Wildgrounds, Gosport (30, Oct 3rd) and Four Marks (30, Dec 17th). Note these numbers relate to totals surveyed in each one km square as opposed to individual flock sizes.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2017 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Lower Test Marshes, 23 (25); Longmoor Inclosure, 66 (81). No breeding data were received from Farlington Marshes. (MLC)

Great Tit

Parus major

Abundant resident.

Green.

This was the fifth most widespread garden species in Hampshire according to BTO Garden BirdWatch occurring in 96% of surveyed gardens. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 94.4% in April to a low of 80.4% in July (Table 2). With the inclusion of BTO Breeding Bird Survey data for the first time, the number of double-figure counts increased to 170 from 44 last year. The only sites to record 25 or more were Itchen Valley CP (up to 33 on Feb 11th and Mar 24th) and Rowner, Gosport (25, Apr 25th).

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed areas (2017 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Lower Test Marshes, 19 (20); Longmoor Inclosure, 26 (23). No breeding data were received for Farlington Marshes. (MLC)

Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling)

Panurus biarmicus

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP.

Recorded in every month with most records from the four regular sites tabulated below. As usual, highest numbers were recorded at Farlington Marshes with double-figure counts in five months peaking at 18 on Dec 4th. This was lower than last year (cf. 40 max.) and suggests numbers were probably reduced by the cold spell early in the year. The usual post-breeding peak in October was only 12 on 13th (cf. 20 in 2017), again suggesting lower breeding numbers or poorer breeding success. Elsewhere the only other double-figure counts were ten at Titchfield Haven on Nov 5th and 26th and 12 there on 25th. The absence of any records at Hook Lake between April and November suggests breeding did not take place there.

The only other reports were four at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 11th, one at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 22nd, one at the lake on Milton Common on Apr 11th, and ten and nine at Meon Shore near Titchfield Haven on Nov 26th and Dec 4th respectively.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	4	3	2	2			4	1	3	4		
Hook-with-Warsash	1		1									4
Titchfield Haven	5		2	1	1	2	1	1	6	7	12	2
Farlington Marshes	11	10	5	15	3	1	2		4	12		18

*trapped for ringing

Woodlark†

Lullula arborea

Moderately common resident and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green, S4I, HBAP.

The most notable January record was 13 in stubble at Hookheath Farm, Portsdown Hill on 14th. Other records for the month included six of one or two birds in the New Forest from 19th and singing birds at Bentworth on 22nd and Bramshill Plantation, Ramptons Lane GP and Upper Adhurst Farm (Sheet) on 28th.

In February-March there were widespread and numerous records from the New Forest and Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths. Elsewhere there were sightings at 12 locations but only at Hinton Ampner and the Mortimer West End area were birds seen on more than one date.

The breeding season survey of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA produced a decrease from 46 territories in 2017 to 39 (Table 1). In the ongoing study of Woodlark productivity on Bourley & Long Valley SSSI, the most important site, 19 territories were located. This was the same as in 2017 but the number of nests found fell from 19 to 14. Of these, nine were successful and produced 30 fledged young, just one less than the previous year. Since Woodlarks generally have two nests, this was an exceptionally poor result, one of the worst on record for the site. The reason for the low number of nests is unknown but could have been linked to the extremely long hot summer. Several of the pairs seemed to give up after their first clutch with some leaving the site altogether. Totals at several other sites fell by one or two; this could possibly be attributed to habitat deterioration. On the Wealden Heaths SPA, the total was up from 39 to 44 territories. This was largely accounted for by an increase from ten to 15 at Woolmer Forest and the location of three at The Warren which was not covered in 2017.

In the New Forest there was no organised survey but records came from 53 different one km squares, some of which held two or three territories. A survey of the National Trust property at Foxbury Plantation produced five territories.

Elsewhere there were April-July reports from 17 locations, mostly on farmland or restocked plantations. Breeding was confirmed at Welshman’s Road GP, where three broods totalling ten young fledged, and Ringwood Forest while territories were established at Badminton Plantation, Barnetside, Crux Easton, Weston Common and Wivelrod. The only double-figure post-breeding flocks were 15 at Beaulieu Heath West on Aug 11th and ten at Tweseldown on Sep 24th.

Visible migration watches at Tweseldown produced a total of 24 W/SW between Sep 21st and Nov 14th (peaks 8 on Sep 21st and 22nd). At Trigpoint Hill there were ten mostly SW between Oct 18th and Nov 4th (Table 8). Coastal movements were confined to the period between Oct 16th and 27th with totals of five at Titchfield Haven, four at Keyhaven and two at Sandy Point. Other possible migrants included singles over North Stoneham on Oct 31st and Middle Wallop Airfield on Nov 5th.

There was an above average total of 11 records for December including ten at Portsdown Hill on 2nd, three SW over Tweseldown on 4th, five at Half Moon Common on 11th and four at Fields Farm, Blackfield on 23rd. (JMC)

Skylark (Eurasian Skylark)

Alauda arvensis

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP.

Twenty winter flocks exceeding 100 were recorded, many feeding on winter stubble, with four between January and April and the remainder between October and December. The early winter and spring flocks were at Kingsley (100, Jan 3rd), Hursley (100, Jan 10th), Froxfield (170, Feb 11th) and Martin Down (100, Mar 5th; Apr 18th and 23rd). Visible spring passage was negligible.

Breeding records in spring and summer were widespread with a noteworthy high count of 150 at Martin Down on June 13th.

In the autumn and late winter three-figure flocks were reported from Longwood Warren (140, Oct 7th; 110, Nov 17th), Chilling (100, Oct 31st; 110, Dec 24th), Wootton St. Lawrence (100, Nov 4th), Posbrook Flood (110-150, Nov 17th-Dec 27th), Willesley Warren (100, Nov 25th), Blackmoor (100, Dec 14th), Kilmeston (140, Dec 16th), Bentworth (200, Dec 18th), Brownich (110, Dec 24th) and finally the largest at Houghton (250, Dec 29th).

In the autumn a total of 1,326 was recorded migrating inland, almost all at just the two regular watchpoints at Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill, with over 90% towards points south and west. A further 427 were recorded moving at the coast. Minimum half-monthly totals of migrants at both coastal and inland sites from mid-September to mid-December are tabulated below. These again confirm October, especially the second half this year, as the peak period for autumn passage.

Minimum half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Sep 17-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	2	69	288	54	14	
Inland moving	172	378	495	171	104	6

Shore Lark (Horned Lark)

Eremophila alpestris

Rare late autumn migrant and winter visitor (0,47,1).

Schedule 1, Amber.

Two observers were very lucky that an adult landed 5m in front of the Tern Hide at Ibsley Water at 11:00 on Oct 23rd. Having landed it walked up the bank next to the hide and spent two minutes there before flying off (ANMB, MDS). The only previous inland record was one at Ashley Walk in November 1978; another at Eversley GP in April 1998, although published in the HBR, did not enter Hampshire. (KFB)

Sand Martin†

Riparia riparia

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and common passage migrant.

Green.

Low numbers indicated a poor year for this species. After the first at Havant on Mar 5th, only another 300 or so were recorded in March. There was a significant arrival from about Mar 17th followed by groups of up to 40 by the end of the month. On Apr 9th 200 were observed on passage at Ibsley Water and on Apr 28th the annual peak count of 450 was noted at Titchfield Haven. Several observers commented on the late and/or reduced spring migration.

The only counts at breeding colonies were 40 pairs at Nea Farm GP, Ringwood Forest, 50 pairs at Barton Cliff (cf. 58 pairs in 2017) and 76 occupied holes at Testwood Lakes (cf. 106 in 2017). At Ibsley Water probably at least 50 pairs bred in the wall at the Goosander Hide with many young seen. Smaller numbers were present at nest sites at Kingsley SP and Woolmer Pond but no definite counts of occupied nest-holes were received.

As usual it was hard to distinguish the earliest signs of dispersal/autumn migration from late breeders, but by late June small parties were being recorded at non-breeding sites and undoubted migration was underway by early July. Visible autumn passage was generally weak with just eight counts reaching three figures, with a maximum of only 350 at Ibsley Water on Sep 19th. The last for the year was one SW over Fleet Pond on Oct 28th

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
Totals	36	70	462	5	47	25	1	0	14	12	0

The above table is of limited value as it only includes records where observers reported directional movements. A better indication of the scale and timing of movements is indicated by large feeding flocks, usually over water, during migration periods, summarised by the maximum half-monthly counts in the table below. By all measures, it appears that Sand Martins were very substantially fewer than in 2017 although it is recognised that passage numbers are very much a function of weather; the better the weather, the lighter the recorded passage. (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
7	40	200	120	150	43	50	100	300	50	350	1

Swallow (Barn Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green.

The first was at Milton Common on Mar 11th and, after another at Ibsley Water on 19th, a further 19 were seen in March. Numbers increased only slowly in April, with three-figure gatherings not appearing until 24th. An unprecedented arrival occurred on 28th starting with 250 north over Fishlake Meadows at 06:30. Later 600 arrived off the sea at Hill Head in less than an hour and as cloud descended in mid-morning around 1,500 were grounded on fence posts, phone wires and bushes in the Posbrook area while large numbers continued to move northward inland. At least 5,000 were estimated to have passed through Titchfield Haven area that morning (AJBL). Passage continued until late May although 150 at Ibsley Water on May 2nd was the last three-figure count.

By early July small numbers were being recorded away from breeding sites including 100 at Fleet Pond on 6th and 175 roosting nearby on 8th. By mid-month return passage was clearly detected. An autumn roost developed at Fleet Pond for the first time in many years, peaking at 200 on Aug 24th but petering out by mid-September.

The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below. While over 12,000 were counted definitely on the move, a frustrating number of autumn records indicated no hint of direction or movement. They are thus excluded from these figures which are accordingly under-estimates of the passage totals. The major pulses of movement appeared to be during the first and last weeks of September. Records continued through October decreasing with only five into November. The last three, all singles heading north or east, were in December on 6th at Normandy, 10th at Titchfield Haven and 21st at Farlington Marshes. (SKW)

	Mar 20-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
Inland	4	42	376	86	112	12	54	83	182	280	2,180	2,069	41	6
Coast	1	15	5,083	0	8	0	13	11	16	326	4,890	1,812	115	18

House Martin (Common House Martin)

Delichon urbicum

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber.

The first arrivals were at Anton Lakes and Buriton on Apr 3rd, with daily reports thereafter and over 200 recorded by mid-month. Three-figure gatherings were restricted to the last four days of April comprising just five counts from four sites with a maximum of 550 at Posbrook Floods on 28th. Several observers reported reduced numbers and/or late arrival, similar to comments on Sand Martins. Records specifying movement in spring were too few to be meaningful in tabular form.

Breeding records were fragmentary with no colonies reporting more than 15 nests except for 35 nests at farm buildings at Compton, Test Valley (cf. 47 in 2017 and 56 the year before).

Return movements totalling over 23,000 were noted from July onwards, a figure less than 50% of that for 2017. At specific sites, under 3,000 at Trigpoint Hill was well down on previous years and fully two-thirds of all the migration records came from Tweseldown alone (over 14,800 SW, nearly all in 45 hours during September). However the low number of only six four-figure flocks in September comprising 1,000 at Pennington Marshes on 8th and 4,000 there on 14th; 1,000 at Bransbury Common on 9th; 1,000 at Middle Wallop Airfield on 13th; 2,000 at Ibsley Water on 22nd and 3,000 there on 24th adds to the impression that this was a poor year all-round for the species. The only record after mid-October was a single SW at Tweseldown on Nov 11th. The autumn movements included an albino photographed on a wire at Needs Ore on Oct 2nd.

Autumn half-monthly totals of birds recorded as moving both inland and on the coast are tabulated below. As last year, September is confirmed as the peak month for autumn passage as illustrated by peak passage rates at Tweseldown of 2,600 SW in 3 hr on 16th and 3,200 SW in 2.25 hr on 27th. (SKW)

	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Totals	26	5	201	445	9,863	12,878	50

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979. Schedule 1, Green, HBAP.

Numerous records were received, particularly for coastal localities, the Blashford Lakes area and parts of the Test and Itchen Valleys. However the lack of coordinated counts from important coastal sites such as Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven and Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes and most of the river valleys makes it impossible to give an overall figure for the county population although clearly it remains healthy. Counts of singing males were received for the following sites although some of these may be incomplete: Milton Reclamation, 4; Posbrook Meadows, 15; Titchfield Haven, 19+ (unknown degree of possible overlap with Posbrook Meadows); Hook-with-Warsash, 4; Lower Test Marshes, 46; Dibden Bay, 3; Stansore Point-Dark Water, 5; Needs Ore, 2; Blashford Lakes, 4; Fishlake Meadows, 15; Itchen Valley CP, 12; Bishopstoke, 9. Other records of singing birds included singles near Hill Lane, Southampton on May 5th, Sherfield-on-Loddon from May 28th to at least July 3rd (as in 2017) and Hermitage Stream, Leigh Park on June 3rd.

At Sandy Point, where one held territory in 2017, one was present from Jan 9th-Mar 7th (with 2 on Jan 26th) and from Sep 19th-Oct 9th but breeding did not occur. Similarly at IBM Lake no breeding was recorded but at least one was present from July 13th-Dec 31st. Other records from non-breeding localities included singles at The Vyne Lake on Jan 22nd, Fleet Pond on Mar 3rd, Overton Lagoons on Sep 23rd and Edenbrook CP from Oct 8th-Nov 11th. Monthly counts of birds during the WeBS counts at Titchfield Haven produced a peak of 29 on Oct 25th. (JMC)

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Numerous resident.

Green.

In the first three months of the year there were only three reports of 20 or more, all in January, with 20 at Lower Test Marshes on 1st, 23 at Worting Road Cemetery, Basingstoke on 14th and several flocks totalling 31 at Hook-with-Warsash also on 14th.

In the breeding season counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 8 (8); Lower Test Marshes, 10 (10).

Post-breeding season and autumn counts of 20 or greater were received from four sites with 40 at West Wood, Netley on Aug 20th, 20 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 9th, 20 at Needs Ore on Sep 18th and 20 at Peartree Green, Southampton on Sep 29th. Notable numbers were also recorded in the last three months of the year with 40 at Old Winchester Hill on Oct 3rd, 30 at Blashford Lakes on Nov 10th and 30 at Lower Test Marshes on Dec 11th. (AMB)

Wood Warbler†

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Scarce and declining summer visitor now confined to the New Forest. Red.

The first for the year was reported from Petersfield Heath on Apr 14th. Other spring passage birds were noted at Titchfield Canal Path on Apr 21st and Chawton on May 7th.

The first male on breeding territory was located in the New Forest on Apr 19th. Over the course of the next two months 40 – 44 singing males were recorded from 14 localities in the New Forest. The number of locations was the same as in 2017, following significant declines in previous years, but the number of individuals continued to decline and it is now possible to make a fairly accurate estimate of the total New Forest population. The number of females was only just over half that of the males. Once again breeding success was very low with a mean of just 1.16 fledglings per breeding attempt, well below that needed for a small migrant passerine to maintain a stable population.

Autumn passage birds were noted at Fawley on Aug 11th, Stansore Point, Lepe on Aug 21st and Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Aug 25th, only the second record at this site and last of the year. (TD)



Wood Warbler, New Forest, Apr 21st (Lee Fuller)

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. (0,144,13)

It was another excellent year for the species with 13 records, mostly between Oct 8th-28th as follows:

Sandy Point: Oct 8th (ACJ).
Sinah Warren: Oct 9th (AP).
Titchfield Canal Path: Oct 9th (MAL).
Lakeside CP: Oct 18th (SI).
Andrews Park, Southampton: Oct 18th (RM).
Titchfield Haven: Oct 21st-25th (MJP, ALR, RJC et al.).
Ranvilles Lane, Fareham: Oct 24th (TJ).
Chandlers Ford: Oct 28th (TJS).
Kings Worthy: Nov 5th (WFS, ringed).
Hayling Billy Path South: Nov 11th (ACJ et al., photo).
Ovington: Nov 17th (EMR, PJR).
Needs Ore: Dec 4th (MAO).
Normandy: Dec 28th (AH).
(KFB)

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

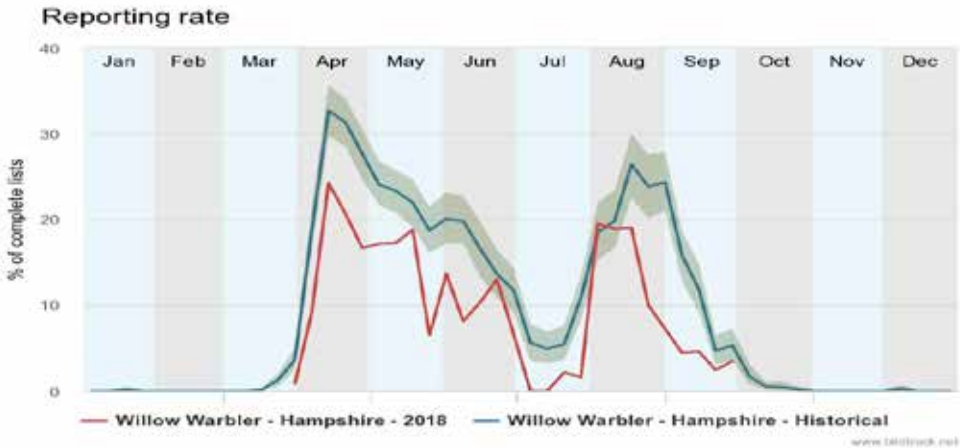
Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber.

The first for the year was one at Bramshott Farm, Fleet on the early date of Mar 16th followed by ones and twos at five other sites by the end of the month suggesting delays in migration (cf. 2017 with records at 18 sites in March). The slow arrival continued into April with only one double-figure count of 12 at Pennington Marshes on Apr 29th (cf. 2017 with first double-figure count of 12 at Hayling Island on 9th followed by six others between 11th-15th). Sandy Point recorded only 44 bird-days between Apr 10th and May 15th (cf. 158 in 2017).

Significant counts in the breeding season were received from Heath Warren (11) and Moyles Court, NF (24). Territory counts at regularly surveyed sites (2017 figures in parentheses) were Yateley Common South, 2 (11); Castle Bottom, 5 (11); Eversley Common, 4 (13), Ludshott Common, 18 (18); Longmoor Inclosure, 27 (19); Yateley Common, 10 (21).

In the autumn a total of 136 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 20th and Sep 22nd, slightly down on the 161 ringed in 2017. Counts of 20 or more were received from



BTO BirdTrack reporting rate for Willow Warbler in Hampshire 2018 compared with historical average

Hut Wood, Old Winchester Hill, Cadnam Common and Titchfield Haven with the highest count being an exceptional 52 at Keyhaven/Penington Marshes on Aug 4th. Small numbers continued to be reported throughout September into October with the last for the year being at Home Farm Woodland Trust, Burkhams on Oct 19th. (AMB)

The later arrival, relatively low numbers and early departure of many are illustrated by comparing the reporting rate (% of full lists which included Willow Warbler) in BTO's BirdTrack for Hampshire in 2018 with the historical average since 2010 (see above).

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff)

Phylloscopus collybita

Common Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita collybita

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.

Green.

In January-February there were approximately 241 at 55 sites, a decrease on 300 at 80 sites in 2017. Highest numbers were at Eastleigh STW where January numbers peaked at 18 on 1st declining to six on 28th and then remaining constant with eight on Feb 4th and nine on 17th. Elsewhere the highest counts were six at both Anton Lakes on Jan 22nd and Ringwood STW on Feb 18th.

In a few locations migrants appeared to arrive in numbers in early to mid-March although at many sites it was difficult to identify a significant influx given the widespread wintering population. The first double-figure count was on Mar 3rd when 11 were at Darby Green, although these were mostly winterers attracted to the area in the severe weather at that time. Subsequent counts were 12 at East Wellow on 17th, 79 caught and ringed at Iley Point, Keyhaven Marshes on 25th and 20 at Lower Test Marshes on 27th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 11 (15); Itchen Valley CP, 58 (78); Fishlake Meadows, 20 (25); Yateley Common, 17 (19); Blackbushe Airfield, 22 (21); Longmoor Inclosure, 31 (60);

When compared with 2017 overall counts were down between early September and the first week of October with none of 40 or more (cf. 3 in 2017). Daily counts of 30 or more in September included 30 at St. Catherine's Hill on 16th, 30 at Lepe CP on 17th, 35 at Old Winchester Hill on 29th and 31 at Pennington Marshes on 30th. In November-December there were approximately 332 at 65 sites (cf. 135 at 57 sites in 2017). The only double-figure counts were at Eastleigh STW with peaks of 12 on Dec 16th and 27th, although a total of 17 was trapped there on two dates in November. (AMB)

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 2009: 26,2).

Regular ringing sessions at Eastleigh STW paid dividends again with DNA analyses of individuals on Jan 28th and Dec 27th-29th confirming their race as *tristis* (DJU). At Sandy Point one was in bushes behind the lifeboat station on Nov 25th-26th and called loudly (ACJ). Other putative birds that were seen but not heard were as follows:

Eastleigh STW: Feb 23rd and 25th (MGWT, IRW).

Darby Green: Mar 3rd and 10th (GCS).

Funtley: Nov 15th (TDC).

Eastleigh STW: Dec 30th (a different bird to Dec 27th-29th) (DJU).

(KFB)



*Siberian Chiffchaff, Funtley, Nov 15th
(Trevor Codlin)*



Aquatic Warbler (left), Farlington Marshes, Aug 20th (John Burnett) and juvenile Sedge Warbler (right), Pennington Marshes, July 26th (Joe Murphy)

Aquatic Warbler

Acrocephalus paludicola

Rare and declining autumn passage migrant, mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes (1,85,2).

After a gap of three years it was pleasing to have two birds. A single showed briefly at the edge of Farlington Marshes at 11:30 on Aug 20th (JVB, photo). A single showed on and off for 20 minutes near a small pond at Lepe at 10:15 on Aug 21st (PFF). Both records have been accepted by BBRC. There was a time when up to four would be recorded annually but there have been only four in the last decade. (KFB)

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green.

The first for the year were single singing males at Fishlake Meadows and IBM Lake on Apr 3rd. Thereafter the species was widely recorded at 35 sites in April with all double-figure counts of 12, 19 and 25 being from Fishlake Meadows on 14th, 16th and 28th (cf. 2017 with 10 at Fishlake Meadows on 17th and 10 at three other sites between 22nd and 29th).

During the breeding season approximately 298 singing males were reported from 44 localities (cf. 230 at 33 sites in 2017). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Fishlake Meadows, 27 (40); Itchen Valley CP, 18 (26); Lower Test Marshes, 28 (32).

In autumn there was a slight increase compared to last year in the number trapped at Titchfield Haven with a total of 647 between July 7th and Sep 26th (cf. 597 in 2017, although this continued the decreasing trend over the previous three years from 688 in 2016, 799 in 2015 and 1,224 in 2014) with a peak of 65 on Aug 14th. Only one other location had a double-figure count with 11 at Farlington Marshes on Aug 6th. The highest counts elsewhere were five at Hook-with-Warsash on July 22nd and eight at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 7th. There were four records in October, all singles, at Lower Test Marshes and Titchfield Haven on 8th, Ibsley Water on 9th and the last at Titchfield Haven on 16th. (AMB)

Reed Warbler† (Eurasian Reed Warbler)

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green, HBAP.

The first for the year were two at Titchfield Haven on a new early date of Mar 29th beating the previous earliest on Apr 1st 1994 and 2015. The next was at Hook-with-Warsash on Apr 5th. There were four double-figure counts in April with ten at Ibsley Water on 24th,

20 and 18 at Fishlake Meadows on 26th and 28th respectively and 25 between Keyhaven and Normandy Marsh on 28th.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 255 singing males/territories at 73 sites (cf. 2017: 338 at 73 sites). Counts of territories at surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses where available): Farlington Marshes, 11 (26); Itchen Valley CP, 23 (23); Lower Test Marshes, 77 (76); Ibsley Water, 18 (11); Fishlake Meadows, 18 (28). Other notable records in May were 15 at Fleet Pond on 14th, 11 at Hook-with-Warsash on 18th, 12 at Hamble Common on 19th and 12 at Needs Ore on 20th followed by 15 at IBM Lake on June 1st.



Leucistic Reed Warbler, Titchfield Haven, July 17th
(Gareth Rees)

In the autumn 475 were trapped at Titchfield Haven (cf. 2017: 360) between July 7th and Sep 30th with a peak of 56 (cf. 2017 peak of 61) on Aug 14th. At Iley Point, Keyhaven 29 were caught and ringed between July 21st and Sep 22nd. Elsewhere there were only two double-figure counts, both from Farlington Marshes, with 14 on July 26th and 25 on Aug 6th. The last records were in October with singles at Fishlake Meadows on 7th and Titchfield Haven on 10th and 29th. (AMB)

Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant (7,24,2).

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP.

A very early bird was heard to sing at Lower Test Marshes on May 19th (SSK). A singing male was present in scrub by the River Mude right on the county boundary with Dorset at Waterditch from June 9th-10th (OF). (KFB)

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler)

Locustella naevia

Scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor; moderately common autumn passage migrant mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven.

Red, S4I, HBAP.

The first record was a single at Hockley WM, Shawford on Apr 13th. During April between eight and 13 were reported at seven locations (cf. 2017: 17 at 15 sites) with two at Itchen Valley CP on Apr 20th. There were at least eight reports in May at seven locations (cf. 2017: eight at eight sites) with two reeling at Hockley WM, Shawford on 10th and singles at Horsedown Common and Calshot on 1st, Fishlake Meadows on 6th, Ibsley on 13th and at two sites in St. Cross WM on 13th and 25th.

Evidence for birds remaining on territory during the breeding season was suggested at two locations in June with singles at Fishlake Meadows on 2nd and 3rd and Lower Test Marshes on 5th. This was less than last year when there were six June records at five locations.

In autumn singles were reported at eleven locations (cf. 2017: 12). A total of 82 was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 14th and Sep 30th (cf. 2017: 156) with a peak of 11 on Aug 25th. Eight were trapped at Iley Point, Keyhaven between July 22nd and Aug 20th (cf. 2017: four). A juvenile and adult were trapped at Deacon Hill above Winchester SF on Aug 10th and Sep 14th respectively. The last for the year was one at Titchfield Haven on Sep 29th. (AMB)

Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

Rare summer visitor, breeding confirmed most recently in 1992 (0,36,4). Schedule 1, Red, S41.

It was an excellent year with four records. At Farlington Marshes two males sang from the lagoon reedbed from Apr 18th-May 3rd and Apr 21st-29th (JCr et al., photo). Singing males were at two other confidential sites – the first being heard to sing on Apr 21st, 23rd, May 3rd-10th and again on June 2nd. At the second site a male sang from May 6th-7th. These records have been accepted by BBRC.

After a number of blank years in the 1990s and 2000s the species is now occurring in very small numbers in most years. The total of four singing males was the second highest ever since six singing males in 1978, and reflects a general increase in the UK in the last five years. (KFB)

Blackcap† (Eurasian Blackcap)

Sylvia atricapilla

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter. Green.

During January-March there were reports of approximately 337 at 73 sites (cf. 145 at 107 sites in 2017), many of which were in gardens. BTO's Garden Birdwatch reported presence in 27% to 31% of surveyed gardens during the three-month period. All reports were between one and four except for ten, five, nine, eight and eleven, most of which were colour-ringed, at Drayton (Portsmouth) on Jan 10th and 28th, Feb 3rd and 28th and Mar 3rd respectively.

Records from regularly monitored sites showed an increase in numbers throughout April as migrants supplemented those over-wintering. At Ibsley Water numbers increased to six on 14th and then 12 on 22nd and a similar pattern was noted at Lymington-Hurst where low numbers were recorded until ten on 18th. In contrast at Lower Test Marshes there was an early peak of 16 on 5th followed by 50 on 10th. The second double-figure count of the year was at Farlington Marshes with ten on 8th. Other April counts of 15 or more were 23 at Lower Test Marshes on 11th, 15 at Fishlake Meadows and Itchen Valley CP on 14th and 15th and 19 at Hollybank Woods on 22nd.



Male Blackcap, Barton Stacey, Mar 3rd (Martin Clay)

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 28 (20); Fishlake Meadows, 19 (19); Longmoor Inclosure, 21 (17); Itchen Valley CP, 83 (87), Peartree Green, 6 and Fleet Pond, 13. The species remains numerous in suitable breeding habitat throughout the county.

Autumn passage was most evident in September with ten at Trigpoint Hill and 30 at Old Winchester Hill on 2nd, 50 at St. Catherine's Hill and 14 at Calshot on 3rd, 18 at Itchen Valley CP on 9th, 60 at Farlington Marshes on 10th and 168 at Titchfield Haven on 13th. Approximately 110 were recorded at 41 sites during November-December compared with 55 at 48 localities in the same period in 2017. All reports were of one to four. (AMB)

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

Green.

The first for the year were singles at Old Alresford and Heath Pond, Petersfield on Apr 17th followed by singles at Hale, Ibsley Water, Dibden Bay, Hedge End and Kites Croft on 18th. The main arrival was at the end of April/beginning of May with four at Binswood on Apr 29th and five at Fishlake Meadows on May 5th, with the species being widely reported from the beginning of May mostly from inland sites.

During the period of May to June there were approximately 279 records at 112 locations (cf. 2017: 220 at 98 sites) with most records being of one or two singing males. Notable counts of singing males included (2017 in parentheses) Broxhead Common, 5; Testwood Lakes, 5 (3); Botley Wood, 6 (7); Stockbridge Down, 6 (5); Shortheath Common, 7 (8); Fishlake Meadows, 7 (6); Yateley Common, 8 (1). There were also double-figure records at Bramshill Plantation, 11 (1); Blackbushe, 15 (8) and Pamber Forest, 22.

In autumn a total of 43 (cf. 15 in 2017) was trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 21st and Sep 22nd with a peak of 12 on Aug 14th. Six were trapped at Iley Point, Keyhaven Marshes between Aug 17th and Sep 1st (cf. 2017: 6). As usual, numbers on autumn passage were unremarkable with no daily count at any individual site exceeding two with the exception of three, nine and four at Titchfield Haven on Aug 9th, 11th and 25th. The final record was at Old Basing on Oct 1st. (AMB)

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded 11 times in winter.

Green.

The first record was one at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 11th. The main arrival was from Apr 18th with a daily total of 19 at 14 locations, 12 at nine locations on 19th and 25 at 13 locations on 20th. These figures represent an increase on 2017 when daily totals in the same period failed to achieve double figures.

Individuals were noted at a total of 48 (cf. 2017: 32) sites by the end of the month. Most records were of one to two individuals but four were singing at Casbrook Common on 20th, five at Keyhaven-Pennington and Farlington Marshes on 20th and 21st and four at Itchen Valley CP on 25th.

The unobtrusive nature of the species makes calculating potential breeding numbers difficult. Despite this, numbers were remarkably consistent with the previous year. Reports of singing males totalled 89 at 49 localities (cf. 2017: 84 at 59 sites). Highest counts were three at Needs Ore, Ashlett Creek, Calshot and Trigpoint Hill between May 3rd and May 13th. No other site held more than one or two singing males.

Post-breeding numbers were low with most records being of ones or twos. Three were noted at Havant Thicket on Aug 14th, five at Needs Ore on Aug 17th, four at St Catherine's Hill on Sep 3rd and four at Stansore Point, Lepe on Sep 14th. Three were ringed at Titchfield

Haven between Aug 7th and Sep 1st and 18 bird-days were recorded at IBM Lake between July 23rd and Sep 3rd. There were daily records throughout September and early October with the final sighting being at Titchfield Haven on Oct 18th. (AMB)

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat)

Sylvia communis

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded five times in winter.

Green.

The first was singing at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on Apr 11th followed by singles at Timsbury on 13th, Hook-with-Warsash and Casbrook Common the next day and widespread records from 17th onwards. Significant counts were ten at Farlington and 19 between Keyhaven and Normandy Marsh on 28th and 15 at Milton Common on 29th.

Counts of territories in previously surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses where available): Botley Wood, 8 (13); Butser Hill, 13 (14); Farlington Marshes, 16 (14); Itchen Valley CP, 19 (33); Lower Test Marshes, 17 (10). Other double-figure counts were at Blackbushe Airfield, 10; Titchfield Haven, 10; Blackfield Fields Farm, 11; Ranvilles Lane, Fareham, 11; Hazeley Heath, 12; Casbrook Common, 15 and Frater Shore, 22. Last year it was noted that following the reported decline in the New Forest, as shown by the recent Hampshire Bird Atlas, not a single breeding record was submitted from the four main New Forest 10 km squares (SU 20, 21, 30 and 31). Whilst still not regular in the centre of the forest, it is gratifying to see more records this year, albeit mostly from the edges.

Return passage began in earnest after the first week of August and remained steady throughout the month with counts of over 20 at Chilling, Farlington and Pennington Marshes. At Titchfield Haven 55 were ringed between July 24th-Sep 22nd (cf. 23 in 2017 between July 8th-Sep 27th), and daily counts of up to 19 were noted at Posbrook Flood between Aug 4th and Sep 27th. Numbers declined in September although there were still four double-figure counts of ten at Gilkicker Point, Gosport and 13 at Calshot on 1st, 20 at St Catherine's Hill on 3rd and 12 at Farlington Marshes on 7th. There were three reports of singles in October with the last for the year being a late individual at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on 27th. (AMB)

Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Moderately common resident, largely confined to heaths of New Forest and north-east but with small numbers in coastal scrub. Highly susceptible to harsh winters. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP.

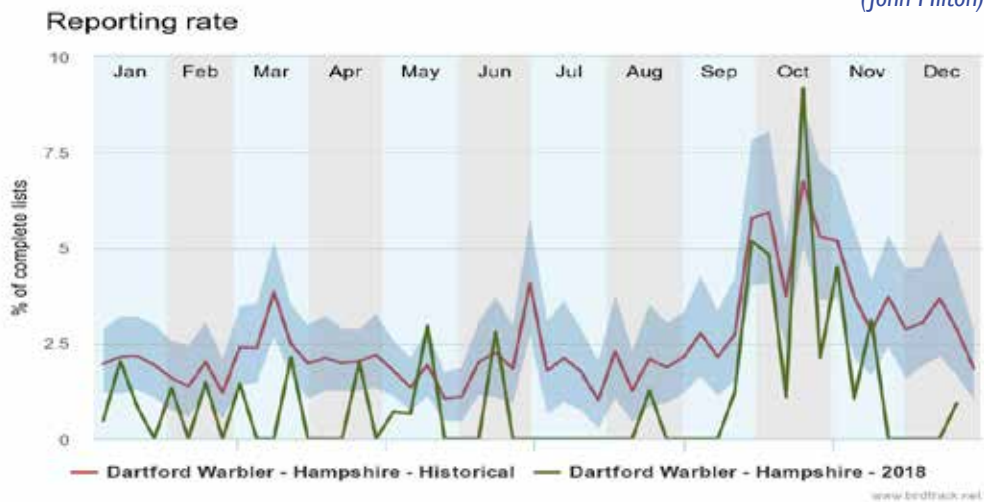
Records from non-breeding sites in January-April (singles unless otherwise stated) came from Itchen Valley CP (Jan 1st-26th, first seen in November 2017), Sandy Point (Jan 1st-Apr 18th), Hook-with-Warsash (Jan 9th), Brownwich Lane (2, Jan 30th), Farlington Marshes (Mar 22nd and 23rd), Welshman's Road GP (Jan 5th-Feb 10th with two from Feb 17th-Mar 16th), Burton Common (3, Mar 15th) and Brownwich/Hill Head (1 or 2, Apr 16th-26th).

The choice of 2018 for a full county survey was not a good one. The two spells of severe cold weather late in the winter (colloquially known as 'The Beasts from the East') resulted in a much reduced population. In the New Forest a total of 143 territories was located, the lowest total recorded since 1980. Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of 52 and 33 respectively (Table 1) compared with 106 and 54 in 2017. The coastal population was largely exterminated although there were records in May-July in the Keyhaven-Normandy area and at Browndown and Gilkicker Point. Full details of the survey are given in a separate paper on p. 216.

Post-breeding records from non-breeding sites (singles unless otherwise stated) came from Hook-with-Warsash (June 30th-Dec 31st with 2 from Sep 29th and 3 on Dec 11th), Hill Head area (July 14th-15th; Aug 11th-21st; Sep 26th-Dec 31st), Portsdown Hill (Sep 15th), Hamble Common (Sep 29th and Oct 18th), Sandy Point (Oct 16th-17th) and Farlington Marshes (Oct 25th). (JMC)



Dartford Warbler, (left) Keyhaven, Nov 26th (Lee Fuller); (right) Titchfield Haven, Oct 18th (John Hilton)



BTO BirdTrack reporting rate for Dartford Warbler in Hampshire 2018 compared with historical average



Dartford Warbler, New Forest, Dec 20th (Martin Bennett)

Despite the small number of reports involved, the lower numbers are demonstrated by comparing BTO's BirdTrack reporting rate (% of full lists including Dartford Warbler) in Hampshire for 2018 with the historical average since 2010 (see p. 135). Reports in the first nine months are mostly lower until the October peak which suggests a successful breeding season.

Firecrest (Common Firecrest)

Regulus ignicapilla

Common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP.

Once again wintering individuals were widely recorded between January and March, with over 90% of records emanating from the southern half of the county. Counts of four or more were received from five locations: four at Nore Barn, Emsworth on Jan 24th-25th; five at Hut Wood, Chilworth on Jan 26th and six on Feb 22nd; four at Holly Hill Park, Warsash on Jan 26th; four at Acres Down, NF and 15 at Minstead, NF both on Feb 21st. The first report of singing came from Bitterne, Southampton on the early date of Jan 24th.

During the breeding season a minimum of 239 territories was reported from widespread areas, a 50% decline over 2017 (478 territories) and 73% down on 2016 (882 territories). While the low numbers undoubtedly reflect the lower levels of survey work undertaken in 2018 versus 2017 and 2016, it is suspected that the unseasonably cold weather in March 2018 may also have had a significant toll on breeding numbers. As in recent years the main concentration came from the New Forest, with a minimum of 120 territories reported including 25 at Bolderwood (cf. 38 in 2017). It was commented that the favoured breeding habitat seems to be changing in the New Forest with a notable increase in territories from deciduous woodland with ivy and adjoining town gardens, and a decrease from formerly favoured woodlands comprising Douglas Fir and Norway Spruce in non-urban areas.



Firecrest, New Forest, Apr 20th (Martin Bennett)

Most reports in July, August and September came from known breeding sites, many of family parties, and few true migrants were recorded until October. As in previous years, autumn numbers peaked in October but reports were below last year's levels, particularly from Southampton and coastal areas. The highest autumn counts came from Hut Wood, Chilworth with peaks of 20 on Oct 3rd and 15 on Oct 15th. Only three other sites recorded counts of four or more: Old Winchester Hill (4, Sep 26th); Old Bursledon, Hamble Estuary (6, Oct 21st) and Hook-with-Warsash (4, Oct 29th).

Minimum totals are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	7	25	38	3	12	12	5
- No. of New Forest sites	6	7	24	3	8	10	5
Southampton Common	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
Southampton area	10	3	5	3	1	3	2
- No. Southampton area sites	9	3	4	1	1	2	2
Other inland locations	28	31	34	17	37	19	23
- No. of other inland sites	20	23	25	8	13	13	17
Coastal locations	21	15	28	8	28	16	17
- No. of coastal sites	10	11	16	6	15	13	12
Total recorded	67	76	107	33	79	51	48

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

In the early winter period double-figure counts were received from just two sites (eight in 2017) with 11 at Itchen Valley CP on Feb 17th and 15 at Darby Green in severe weather on Mar 3rd.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were only received from Longmoor Inclosure with 33 (58 in 2017). Elsewhere a minimum of 221 territories was reported, primarily from BBS, including 52 territories in the New Forest. While this represents a fraction of the breeding population, it is believed that the unseasonably cold weather in March did have a negative impact. Other notable records in the spring included a count of 20 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Apr 19th.

In the second half-year double-figure counts were recorded from just five sites (11 sites in 2017), with the highest being 19 at The Chase, Woolton Hill on both Oct 18th and Nov 6th and 14 at Titchfield Haven on Nov 17th. Autumn ringing totals included 32 trapped at Titchfield Haven between July 20th and Nov 16th, one of the lowest totals from this site in the last 20 years and a stark contrast to last year's record when 203 were trapped. (WGDL)

Wren (Eurasian Wren)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Abundant resident.

Green.

First half-year counts included 31 at Itchen Valley CP on Apr 8th and 43 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Apr 19th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Fishlake Meadows, 46 (49); Fleet Pond, 15 (18); Hollybank Woods, Emsworth, 24 (25); Itchen Valley CP, 29 (25); Longmoor Inclosure, 137 (159); Lower Test Marshes, 105 (115). Results from BBS produced 16 one km squares with counts of 20 or more including 41 from Foxlease Meadow, Fleet and 33 at Ramnor Inclosure, NF. In the latter part of the year the only site to report counts in excess of 20 was Itchen Valley CP with a high of 28 on Sep 30th. (WGDL)

Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch)

Sitta europaea

Numerous resident.

Green.

The only notable early year count was 12 at Great Pen Wood, Woolton Hill on Feb 26th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 4 (2); Longmoor Inclosure 8 (5); Itchen Valley CP, 7 (4). The highest totals in BBS one km squares came from Conford Moor with 16 on Apr 16th and Foxlease Meadow, Fleet with 20 on June 23rd. Notable late year submissions included 16 at Deanlane End on Sep 28th and 14 at The Chase, Woolton Hill on Oct 18th. (WGDL)

Treecreeper

(Eurasian Treecreeper)

Certhia familiaris

Numerous resident.

Green.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 5 (5); Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (10); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (3). In addition, confirmed breeding was reported from

Hazeley Heath, Mark Ash Wood, NF, Overton Lagoons, Ramptons Lane GP and Warren Heath. The highest BBS one km square total was five at Woolmer Forest on June 23rd. Outside the breeding season no counts exceeded six. (WGDL)



Treecreeper, New Forest, Apr 5th (Martin Bennett)

Rose-coloured Starling (Rosy Starling)

Pastor roseus

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except December (0,26,2).

Two records. An adult was seen for just 30 seconds as it flew NW at Hook Links on May 29th (RHM, JF) and another adult was in a Petersfield garden from 19:42-20:08 on June 4th (MS). (KFB)

Starling (Common Starling)

Sturnus vulgaris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I.

Another stellar year with total site maxima exceeding comparable numbers last year in nine out of twelve months. Only a significant decline in December prevented maximum yearly totals exceeding those of 2017, which were the highest this century. Four-figure counts were reported from 11 sites (13 in 2017) with three reaching five figures (five in 2017). Notably counts were higher between April and September versus 2017 suggesting a better breeding season.

The early winter period was dominated by the continued large roost at Fishlake Meadows which peaked at an estimated 70,000 on Jan 1st and 3rd before dropping to 10,000 by Jan 7th. Other notable counts in January included 7,000 at Winnall Industrial Estate, Winchester on Jan 22nd, 5,000 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 17th and 1,000 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Jan 2nd. Numbers were significantly lower in February with only one four-figure count reported at Tidpit Down, with 3,000 on Feb 11th and Feb 20th, and no other counts



Starling, Barton Stacey, Mar 2nd (Martin Clay)

exceeding 400. March numbers were similar but likely included passage migrants with high counts at Farlington Marshes with 2,000 on Mar 14th, 820 roosting at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Mar 15th and 800 at Old Winchester Hill on Mar 4th. Spring movements were more evident than in recent years and included 1,518 mostly south over Trigpoint Hill on eight dates between Mar 6th and 26th, with a peak of 910 south/east on Mar 13th, and 345 mostly north/NE over Fleet Pond, with a peak of 180 north on Mar 18th (*cf.* Fieldfare and Redwing) coinciding with a period of unseasonably cold weather.

Breeding reports were dominated by BBS submissions and included reports of over 50 adults in one km squares from Hamble Lane, Netley (56, Apr 22nd); East Anton, Andover (53, May 4th) and Lymington (53, May 4th). Fledged young started to appear in mid-May and a successful breeding season was evidenced by the high proportion of juveniles reported in post-breeding flocks, e.g. a flock of 132 at Blendworth, Horndean on May 22nd comprised 100 juveniles. This was further borne out by larger post-breeding flocks in June-September versus recent years. Three-figure counts (2017 figures in parentheses) were logged at four sites in June (four), four in July (seven), eight in August (ten) and 12 in September, with four of these sites reaching four-figures (two). Peak counts came from Fishlake Meadows, 1,400 roosting on June 11th and Aug 8th; Farlington Marshes, 1,000 on July 15th rising to 5,000 on Aug 22nd and 7,500 on Sep 29th; Lymington River reedbed, 3,000 roosting on Aug 8th and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, 1,000 on Sep 1st.

Most observations of autumn diurnal passage were made at inland watch-points and concentrated within a five-week period from Oct 15th, with two distinct waves on Oct 28th-29th and Nov 3rd-8th. At the two main inland watch-points 7,337 flew on a NE-SW axis over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 2nd and Dec 31st in 67 hours of observation with a peak of 3,450 SW on Nov 4th and 6,392 flew mostly SW over Tweseldown between Sep 6th and

Dec 17th in 143 hours of observation with peaks of 2,370 NW on Oct 28th at Fleet Pond 3km to the north, 1,210 west on Nov 3rd and 903 WNW on Nov 4th. Coastal movements were limited to 730 west over Sandy Point on six dates between Oct 19th and Nov 15th with a peak of 450 west on Oct 28th, 280 NW over Weston Shore on Oct 20th and 369 west over Marlhill Copse on Oct 28th and 29th.

Sizeable roosts and grounded flocks started to be reported from early October, peaking between late October and mid-November and coinciding with peak passage. Six sites recorded four-figure counts, two reaching five-figures as follows: North Somerley Lake, 53,270 roosting on Oct 30th with 15,000 roosting on Nov 11th rising to 30,000 on Nov 22nd before reducing to 5,000 on Dec 7th; Fishlake Meadows, 3,000 roosting on Nov 2nd rising to 15,000 on Nov 14th before reducing to 10,000 by Dec 7th. Other notable counts included the re-emergence of a roost at Fleet Pond peaking at 3,000 on Oct 17th (and displacing the previously favoured roost site at Edenbrook CP, Fleet due to dry conditions at the latter), a peak of 3,000 roosting at Alresford Pond on Nov 13th and 3,000 roosting at East Docks/High Street, Southampton on Oct 22nd. A feeding flock of 1,000 at Bury Hill south of Andover on Oct 31st was the only four-figure count away from the above roost sites in the last three months of the year.

The minimum half-monthly totals of spring and autumn migrants are tabulated below.

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15*	Nov 16-30*	Dec 1-15*	Dec 16-29*
Coast movements		300				1,219	180			
Inland movements	1,443	604	13	47	123	4,220	7,240	384	739	944

* = Excludes movement believed to be to and from roost sites.

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)	89,336	6,874	6,028	460	880	3,178	3,417	11,996	10,931	72,747	51,657	18,977

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered.

Red, S41.

A minimum of 11 individuals was reported in the spring from seven sites, well below the ten-year average and the lowest since 2014. Most were concentrated into a 12-day period between Apr 3rd and 14th as follows: Long Valley Reclamation Area, Bourley (male, 3rd; pair, 4th), Latchmore Bottom, NF (2, 3rd), Ocknell Plain, NF (male, 6th), Lower Test Marshes (male, 7th-13th), Hook-with-Warsash (male, 9th), Blackbushe Airfield (male, 10th) and Beacon Hill, Burghclere (female, 13th; male, 14th). A male was in a garden at Farnborough on May 13th-14th and appeared to have sustained an injury which may have delayed its migration.

As with spring, autumn's numbers were below the ten-year average with a minimum of 31 individuals and 47 bird-days recorded from 17 sites over a 40-day period from Sep 22nd, when the first of the autumn (a female) was reported from Pig Bush, NF. The New Forest logged the most sightings with Ashley Walk, Leaden Hall and Black Gutter Bottom areas taking top honours with 18 bird-days between Oct 9th and 18th and a high count of four on 16th. Elsewhere in the New Forest records were received from Pig Bush (female, Sep 22nd; 1, Oct 28th), Pipers Wait (2, Oct 18th), Ober Heath (1, Oct 20th) and Bratley Plain (male, Oct 22nd). Away from the New Forest reports came from IBM Lake (1, Sep 24th), Portsdown Hill (1, Oct 7th; 6, Oct 20th), Southampton Common (male, Oct 7th), Testwood Lakes (1, Oct 7th), Noar Hill, Selborne (1, Oct 16th and 31st), Sarisbury Green (male, Oct 17th), Old Winchester Hill (1, Oct 18th; 26th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (first-winter male, Oct 19th; 1, Oct 25th), Farlington Marshes (male, Oct 20th), Butser Hill, Buriton (2,

Oct 20th), Beacon Hill, Burghclere (1, Oct 21st) and Beacon Hill, Warnford (1, Oct 31st). A female at Beacon Hill, Warnford between Dec 8th-14th represents the eighth winter record between December and February.

Minimum totals over the last 11 years are given in the table below. (WGDL)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Spring	13	13	9	28	15	26	11	20	21	20	11
Autumn	13	30	67	19	53	31	52	34	120	32	31

Blackbird (Common Blackbird)

Turdus merula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

This was the third most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being present in 270 out of 272 gardens during the year. Monthly reporting rates were 100% between February and March with a low of 90.6% in August (Table 2).

In the early winter period two-figure counts were recorded from 73 sites (35 in 2017), with no counts exceeding 50. The highest numbers all came from the New Forest with 47 at Deadman Bottom, NF on Feb 11th; 46 at Rockford Common, NF on Mar 10th; and 40 at Longwater Lawn, NF on Jan 20th. NFWBS produced totals of 423, 343 and 405 in January-March, a 45% average increase over the previous year (Table 4).

In the breeding season, counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 78 (75); Lower Test Marshes, 47 (36). Results from BBS produced 40 one km squares with counts of 20 or more including 46 at Stockheath, Havant on May 22nd, 45 at Hollybanks Wood, Emsworth on May 28th and 40 at The Gillies, Fareham on Apr 22nd.

Autumn passage was very light with diurnal movements logged at Tweseldown totalling just 53 between Sep 24th and Dec 17th, with a peak of ten SW on Nov 9th, and 12 over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 29th and Nov 7th. Double-figure counts were reported from 46 sites (15 in 2017) between September and the end of the year with the highest again coming from the New Forest with 59 at Furze Hill (South Gorley), NF and 44 at Rockford Common, NF both on Dec 14th. The October-December NFWBS produced monthly totals as follows (comparable 2017 counts in parentheses): 200 (142), 240 (343) and 391 (477). (WGDL)

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red.

Numbers were about average in the early winter period, but there were large variations between months with January being well below and March well above recent averages. The onset of a spell of unseasonably cold weather at the end of February and another in mid-March resulted in influxes. The first took place between Feb 28th and Mar 2nd and included 115 west at Fleet Pond on Feb 28th and 700 west/NW at Weston Shore on Mar 2nd. This coincided with a spike in sightings from suburban gardens between Feb 28th and Mar 4th. A second more impressive movement took place on Mar 18th after widespread snow across much of England and included 1,517 west over Sholing, Southampton, 319 SW/west over Lower Test Marshes and 105 north/south over Fleet Pond (cf. Redwing). Grounded flocks reached three-figures at only six sites in January, 20 in February and 20 in March, including 510 at Pitt Hall Farm, Kingsclere Estates on Mar 23rd, 380 at Newtown Town Farm, Chilbolton on Feb 9th and 300 at Ridgeway Farm, Willesley Warren on Mar 13th. NFWBS produced January-March counts as follows (5-year averages 2013-2017 in parentheses): 299 (465), 570 (502) and 426 (223) (Table 4). There were 16 records submitted for April including 100 at Great Litchfield Down north of Whitchurch on Apr 2nd with the last being six at Cholderton Estate and a single at Longparish on the early departure date of Apr 14th.

In line with the recent trend of later arrival, the first of the autumn were recorded on Oct 7th with a single at Longparish and 33 SW over Tweseldown. As in 2017, reports were comparatively scarce until the end of the third week of October with peak passage taking place in mid-November before dropping off in December. Diurnal movements were the heaviest since 2015, with particularly strong passage recorded on Nov 18th-19th and smaller waves on Oct 28th, Nov 3rd and Nov 25th-26th. Diurnal movements from well-watched sites included 5,254 north over Testwood Lakes on three dates (319 N on Oct 28th, 4,308 N on Nov 18th and 627 N on Nov 25th), 4,757 over Tweseldown between Oct 7th and Dec 22nd on 43 dates (peaks of 885 SW on Oct 28th and 605 SW on Nov 3rd), and 3,305 over Trigpoint Hill between Oct 8th and Dec 31st on 36 dates (peak of 1,510 north on Nov 18th). The New Forest recorded the first double-figure grounded flock of the season with 22 at Bramshaw Telegraph, NF on Oct 10th, as well as the only three-figure count in October of 300 at Black Gutter Bottom, NF on 20th. Three-figure grounded flocks were subsequently recorded from 19 sites in November and ten sites in December including 500 at Ashley Warren on Nov 18th, 400 at Swanmore on Dec 15th, 340 at Furze Hill (South Gorley), NF on Nov 23rd and 300 at Black Down, NF (Nov 17th), Nether Wallop (Dec 4th) and East Worldham (Dec 30th). As usual NFWBS produced highly variable October-December counts as follows (5-year averages 2013-2017 in parentheses): 489 (1,808), 2,155 (896) and 107 (600).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	2,324	4,715	6,018	221			902	6,015	3,290
Movements	75	250	3,151	18			1,988	11,537	1,494

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

NT, Schedule 1, Red.

Numbers were well below average in January and February. Three-figure flocks (2017 figures in parentheses) numbered only six (ten) in January and eight (16) in February. They included 500 at Vherwell on Feb 15th, 250 at Highwood Reservoir on Jan 6th and 200 at Sherfield English on Jan 7th. In contrast two unseasonably cold spells in March resulted in a significant influx, with numbers reaching record levels for the month this century. The first movement was detected on Mar 1st and 2nd and included 1,000 west/NW over Weston Shore on Mar 2nd. A second more extensive movement took place early on Mar 18th after widespread snow and freezing temperatures across much of England (cf. Starling and Fieldfare) and included 2,060 SW over Fleet Pond, 1,442 west over Sholing, Southampton and 188 SW over Lower Test Marshes. Three-figure flocks were logged at 18 sites (zero in 2017) in March including 300 at Pamber Forest on 1st, 250 at Exbury, NF on 5th and 200 at Mortimer West End on 12th, Titchfield Haven on 18th and Cholderton Estate on 21st. NFWBS January-March counts were slightly below average as follows (5-year averages 2013-2017 in parentheses): 543 (611), 564 (633) and 385 (407) (Table 4). The exodus was swift in late March and only 20 records were submitted for April including one double-figure grounded count of 20 at Crookham Village on Apr 2nd. Continuing the recent trend of earlier spring departure, the last were logged on Apr 12th with two at Bere Hill Farm, Andover and a single at Itchen Valley CP.

The first report of the autumn was of three west at Tweseldown on Sep 29th with a further 46 west there the next day along with five NW over Trigpoint Hill, five at Woolmer Pond and two at Pitts Wood Inclosure, NF. Diurnal passage was about average for recent autumns and again drawn out, with the most significant movement taking place between Oct 8th and Dec 6th in multiple waves including most days in November. Inland watch-points accounted for the majority of visible migration with Tweseldown logging 20,420 mainly SW on 53 dates between Sep 29th and Dec 22nd with multiple peaks as follows: 2,995 mostly NNW on Oct 8th; 845 NNW on Oct 28th; 1,110 south/SE on Nov 3rd; 1,402 on Nov 3rd; 1,757 mostly east on Nov 19th; 1,200 east on Nov 26th; 2,245 west on Dec 3rd and 1,053 WNW on Dec 4th.



Fieldfare, Romsey, Mar 3rd (Lee Fuller)



Redwings, Barton Stacey, Mar 2nd (Martin Clay)



Mistle Thrush, Furze Hill, Nov 21st (Martin Bennett)

Trigpoint Hill logged 6,705 mostly NE on 45 days between Sep 30th and Dec 26th with peaks of 840 north on Nov 18th, 980 NE on Nov 19th and 820 WNW on Dec 3rd. Elsewhere notable movements included Testwood Lakes with 2,499 north on Nov 18th and 1,356 north on Nov 25th, and Avington Park with 700 SE on Nov 21st and 340 mainly SE on Nov 23rd.

Grounded and roost flocks peaked in November coinciding with peak passage and three-figure flocks (2017 figures in parentheses) were logged at seven (six) sites in October, 24 (16) sites in November and ten (16) sites in December. The first grounded three-figure count of the autumn came from Tweseldown with 200 on Oct 8th, which was also the largest grounded flock in October and November. The New Forest logged the largest flocks for the rest of the year in November including 600 at Broomy Plain on 5th and 400 at Eyeworth Pond on 5th, Stoney Cross Plain on 6th and Cadnam Common on 20th. Elsewhere the largest flocks were reported from White Hill, Kingsclere with 365 on Nov 6th and Somerley Park with 300 on Nov 18th. December saw a sharp drop in numbers with the highest counts from Old Winchester Hill (235, Dec 29th) and Baddesley Common (200, Dec 26th). NFWBS produced highly variable October-December counts as follows (5-year averages 2013-2017 in parentheses): 330 (779), 1,127 (1,118) and 236 (1,082).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	2,783	3,713	5,649	51			7	1,637	8,374	3,774
Movements	43	39	5,784	51			54	7,961	19,690	5,611

Song Thrush

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Turdus philomelos

Red, S4I, HBAP.

In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at only five sites (ten in 2017) including 18 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 24th, 16 at Picket Hill, NF and 15 at Long Slade Bottom/Hinchelsea Bog, NF, both on Feb 11th.

Counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 5; Longmoor Inclosure, 9 (9); Lower Test Marshes, 6 (8). Five sites recorded ten or more in BBS one km squares with a high count of 22 at Slackstead on Apr 15th.

Autumn diurnal passage from inland watch points was above average and comparable to 2017. Tweseldown logged the lion's share with 367 mostly SW on 40 dates between Sep 6th and Dec 4th, with peaks of 88 NW on Oct 7th, 28 ESE on Oct 10th and 28 SW on Nov 6th. At Trigpoint Hill 61 were recorded on 29 dates between Sep 14th and Dec 14th with a peak count of eight NE on Nov 18th. Counts of ten or more were received from only three locations between September and December (nine in 2017) with the highest being 24 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Oct 11th.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements		14					15	268	132	13

Mistle Thrush

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Turdus viscivorus

Red.

In the early winter period double-figure counts were received from three locations (two in 2017), all in the New Forest with the largest being 18 at Longwater Lawn, NF on Feb 11th. NFWBS produced totals of 90, 120 and 106 in the January-March period, 34% above the five-year average (Table 4).

In the breeding season counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 4 (3); Longmoor Inclosure, 4 (5). Elsewhere successful breeding was reported from Denmead, Fleet Pond, Golden Pot, Sluifers Inclosure, NF and Woolmer Pond. The highest total in BBS one km squares was seven at Brockis Hill, NF on Apr 28th and June 24th.

Post-breeding flocks started to appear from late-May onwards and double-figure counts were reported from 16 sites (13 in 2017) between late-May and end of September including 35 at Cadnam Common, NF on Aug 13th; 34 at Avington Park on Sep 14th; 25 at Woolmer Pond on July 30th, Old Winchester Hill on Aug 6th and Cholderton Estate on Aug 17th.

Autumn movements from the two main inland watch-points were again light with 107 mostly NE over Trigpoint Hill on 38 dates between Sep 4th and Dec 31st, and 69 mainly SW over Tweseldown on 17 dates between Sep 13th and Nov 26th with a peak of 12 SW on Sep 24th. Double-figure counts were reported from seven sites (six in 2017) between October and December with the largest being 28 at Bur Bushes, NF on Oct 4th and 21 at Sprats Down, Calshot on Oct 27th. NFWBS produced totals of 74, 33 and 47 in October-December, 30% below the five-year average.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements						5		51	79	38	8

Spotted Flycatcher†

Muscicapa striata

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S4I, HBAP.

Arrival was earlier than usual with the first of the spring at Selborne on Apr 22nd. Sightings followed from Sandy Point on Apr 25th, Lower Test Marshes on Apr 28th, Mansbridge (Itchen Navigation) on Apr 30th-May 1st and Alresford Pond and Hockley WM, Shawford on May 1st.

Breeding season records from the New Forest stronghold produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable habitat from 48 locations (32 in 2017), with successful breeding suspected from at least nine sites. Elsewhere pairs, singing males or individuals seen in suitable habitat were reported from 53 sites (cf. 52 in 2017), including four from BBS, from late May to early August with successful breeding reported from 11 sites as follows: Bartley Heath (Hook), Baddesley Common, Bentworth, Crookham Village, Hannington, Old Winchester Hill, Rockbourne, Rotherfield Park, St. Catherine's Hill, Woolmer Forest and Wyeford Farm (West Heath).

Post-breeding gatherings in August at or close to breeding sites included 12 at Gurnetfields Furzebrake, NF (3rd), 15 at St. Catherine's Hill (4th and 6th), ten at Holmsley, NF (13th), 12 at Leaden Hall, NF (18th) and 15 at Pitts Wood Inclosure (20th).

Autumn migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites in early August, with the majority being reported between Aug 20th and Sep 16th followed by smaller numbers to early October. Three sites logged 20 bird-days or more (five in 2017) as follows: St. Catherine Hill with 50 bird-days on six dates between Aug 4th and Sep 4th, Old Winchester Hill with 31 bird-days on five dates between Aug 6th and Aug 28th (peaks of eight on Aug 10th and 17th) and Beacon Hill (Warnford) with 31 bird-days on seven dates between Aug 4th and Sep 5th (peak of 16 on Aug 30th). Elsewhere notable counts included five at Lower Test Marshes on Aug 29th, six at Catherington Down on Sep 1st and five at Northney Paddocks on Sep 5th. There were three records submitted for October, all singles, from Sandy Point on Oct 1st and 3rd and the last from Blashford Lakes on Oct 4th. (WGDL)

Robin (European Robin)

Erithacus rubecula

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

At Anton Lakes six counts between January and April yielded 11 to 15 territories, whilst 14 were counted in September and ten in December. At Charlton Lakes territory counts in the first three months were 13, 12 and 12 respectively and 11, 10 and 13 respectively in the last three months. At Needs Ore 23 counts throughout the year, excluding July, ranged from one to 12 with the peak on Dec 4th. Thirty-two counts at Itchen Valley CP throughout the year ranged from 10 to 33 with the peak on Oct 20th. Counts at Moyles Court, NF peaked in March and October with 25 (Jan 20th), 44 (Mar 10th), 23 (May 13th), 27 (May 19th), 10 (June 15th), 57 (Oct 20th) and 18 (Nov 17th). Nine counts at Peartree Green, Southampton from April to December ranged from two to 20 peaking on Sep 29th.

Notable counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Fleet Pond, 21 (29); Hollybank Woods, 49 (44) and Longmoor Inclosure, 127 (134). Single counts of 13 and 24 individuals were made at the two Lower Test Marshes BTO CBC plots on June 4th and 5th.

BTO Breeding Bird Survey data indicated further notable territory counts in one km squares at Stockheath, 35; Plaitford Green, 35; Milford on Sea, 34; Horton Heath, 27; Brockenhurst, 25. BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in all 272 of the surveyed Hampshire gardens making this the most widespread garden species. Monthly reporting rates varied from 100% in January, February and September to a low of 95.5% in July (Table 2). (APW)

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Rare passage migrant (0,31,2). Schedule 1.

A male of the white-spotted race was at Hamble Common on Apr 11th (AJB). An adult of indeterminate race was at Farlington Marshes on Sep 17th (CH et al., photo). There have now been records of ten birds in eight years so far this century. September is the most frequent month for this species which is rarely seen in spring. (KFB)



*Male Bluethroat, Farlington Marshes, Sep 17th
(Steve Bassett)*

Nightingale (Common Nightingale)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.

Red, HBAP.

The first was at Casbrook Common on Apr 13th followed by two at Botley Wood/Whiteley Pastures on Apr 15th and further singles at Fields Farm, Blackfield (16th), Botley Wood (18th), Hamble Common (18th) and Ashlett Creek (20th). A further 27 reports came from Trigpoint Hill/Casbrook Common whilst another 11 reports came from Botley Wood/Whiteley Pastures. Reports from other sites until the end of May were limited to singles at Titchfield Haven (Apr 27th and 28th), Yateley Common (May 3rd), Bunny Meadows (May 4th) and two at Hawstead (May 28th). The final reports came from Martin Down (June 5th) and The Mill Field, Old Basing (July 3rd and 4th). This last date of July 4th is over a month earlier than recent averages (Table 7).

Reports of territorial birds showed yet another decline, as tabulated below. Compared to 66 during the 2012 national survey, the overall decline was 85%. The stronghold remains Botley Wood/Whiteley Pastures with six territories although this was significantly less than the 11 recorded last year. The results of a county-wide survey in 2018 are included in the table below and given in a paper elsewhere in this report on p.208. This concludes that whilst

there were 26 singing males in 18 tetrads, only between 6 and 14 were holding territories and of these only six were considered to be proved breeding. (APW)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Blackfield/Badminster Common/Toms Down	2	1	1	2
Blackbushe Airfield/Yateley Common	2			
Bossington	2			
Botley Wood area	8	11	11	6
Bramshill Plantation	1			
Calshot/Ashlett Creek	1	1	2	1
Cowplain/Dunsbury Hill Farm	1			1
Funtley Landfill Site	1			
Needs Ore	1	2		
Nursling GP	1			
Romsey/Timsbury area	4	3	2	4
Stockbridge Down			1	
West Walk	1			
West Wood, Netley	1			
Total	26	18	17	14

Pied Flycatcher
(European Pied Flycatcher)

Ficedula hypoleuca

Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995. Red.

There were six records of singles in spring between Apr 14th-30th. The first, a male that stayed for three days, was at Iley Lane near the Lower Balancing Pond, Keyhaven on 14th followed by Martin Down on 18th, New Copse Inclosure, NF on 20th (male), Roydon Woods on 21st and Keyhaven Marshes on 30th (male). The final record in the first half-year was a male at Acres Down on June 7th but there was no evidence of breeding.

Return passage was noted from Aug 3rd when singles were at Ashley Heath, Sandy Point, Applemore, Gurnetfields Furzebreak, NF and Marlpit Oak, Sway, NF. The next day further singles were at Lepe CP, Burridge, Posbrook Flood and Titchfield Haven, and two were at Pig Bush, NF and nearby Stubbs Wood. Twenty-one others, all singles except for two at Holmsley, NF on 11th, were subsequently noted on most days up to Aug 14th and then from Aug 20th-Sep 2nd. Most were at coastal or New Forest sites except for St.Catherine's Hill, Winchester on Aug 6th, Fleet Pond on 20th and Beacon Hill, Warnford on 30th. The last were singles at Titchfield Canal Path and Sandy Point on Sep 13th. (APW)

Black Redstart
Phoenicurus ochrurus

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds.
Schedule 1, Red.

As usual there were scattered reports of mostly singles from mainly coastal sites with the highest numbers during the winter months.



Male Pied Flycatcher, Keyhaven, Apr 14th
(Lee Fuller)



Female Black Redstart (left), Portsmouth, Feb 12th (John Hilton) and male Black Redstart (right), Portsmouth, Feb 16th (Lee Fuller)

In the first half-year Sandy Point/Eastoke had reports from January to June with three in February and March and two in April. Elsewhere reports (all singles unless otherwise noted) were from Fawley Power Station (Jan 7th), Fort Cumberland (Jan 10th and Apr 15th), Ringwood (Jan 13th), Frater Shore (Jan 16th), Old Portsmouth (Jan 19th; male and 2 females, Feb 7th-12th), Forton Lake/Priddy's Hard (Feb 3rd; 2 males and 1 female, Feb 7th and 2 males and 2 females, 17th), Lincoln Road, Portsmouth (2, Feb 16th), West Lane, Hayling Island (male, Feb 16th), North End, Portsmouth (2, Mar 13th), Lower Pennington Lane (Apr 5th), Hill Head (Apr 9th), Winnall Moors (Apr 26th), Hamble Common (May 2nd) and Farnborough (June 4th).

Successful breeding was reported only from Sandy Point where fledged young were seen on May 27th. A second nest was deserted on June 20th but nest building had resumed by June 22nd. On July 20th young were being fed in the nest; they were ready to leave by 27th and were seen nearby on Aug 9th. The only other July report, came from Four Marks where one was seen on 18th. There were no other August or September records. Twenty-five further reports came from Sandy Point up to Nov 25th, mostly of singles but with two on Sep 1st, 17th and 24th, Oct 9th and 18th, and three on Sep 29th. A single was also at nearby Black Point on Nov 1st.

In the last three months other reports came from Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (Oct 7th-17th with 2 on 11th; Dec 27th), Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (Oct 8th and 10th), Middle Wallop Airfield/Middle Wallop (Nov 2nd, 15th and Dec 14th), Hurst Castle (2 adult males and an immature male, Nov 26th and an immature female, Dec 20th), Frater Shore (Oct 18th and Dec 9th) and Redbridge (Nov 17th-18th and Dec 6th-19th). Reports on single dates came from Magdalen Hill Down (Oct 24th), Lincoln Road, Portsmouth (Nov 9th), Lee-on-the-Solent (Nov 23rd) and Cheriton (Dec 30th). All were singles unless otherwise stated.

Approximate monthly totals, including juveniles only when fledged, are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Redstart (Common Redstart)*Phoenicurus phoenicurus**Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant.**Amber.*

The first, all singles in April, were at Denny Wood, NF (4th), Mark Ash Wood, NF (5th and 7th), Woolmer Pond (5th, 6th and 7th), Havant Thicket and Ocknell Plain, NF (6th) and Bishop's Dyke, NF (7th). Two were also at Matley Wood (7th). Others followed on virtually all days throughout the remainder of April. Away from the traditional breeding areas reports of singles (unless otherwise stated) were from Blackbushe Airfield (10th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, Old Winchester Hill, Southampton Common (two) and Lower Test Marshes (11th), Old Basing (11th and 12th), HMS Mercury (14th), Sandy Point (15th, 21st, 3 on 23rd, and 30th), Chilling (19th), Milford on Sea and Hook-with-Warsash (20th), Chawton (23rd), Mortimer West End/Welshmans Road GP (27th) and Titchfield Canal Path (29th and 30th).

In May presumed migrants (all singles) away from traditional breeding areas were at Manor Farm CP (1st), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (2nd), Kilmeston Down (4th), Titchfield Canal Path (18th), Sandy Point (22nd) and East End, Sowley (27th). In early June a single was at Sandy Point on 2nd.

There was no systematic breeding survey work undertaken in the New Forest, where the species remains common. The highest counts came from Bishop's Dyke (7, May 19th), Shatterford Bottom (7, Aug 1st), Acres Down (6, June 5th), Beaulieu Road (6, May 26th; July 3rd) and Denny Wood (6, June 6th). Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of two and 45 territories respectively compared to four and 18 in 2017 (Table 1). The large increase on the Wealden Heaths is accounted for by 25 territories at Woolmer Forest which has not been surveyed since 2011.

Return passage was evident from June 22nd when a single was at Widley Farm. Other reports followed, all singles, at Little Posbrook and Titchfield Haven (July 2nd), Gilkicker Point (July 6th), Ropley (July 27th), West Wood, Netley (Aug 7th), Vernham Dean (Aug 8th) and Old Winchester Hill (Aug 11th). Records were then almost daily from Aug 17th until Sep 17th. Later reports came from Farlington Marshes, Hogmoor Inclosure and Old Basing, all on Sep 23rd; Hook-with-Warsash (Sep 24th); Old Winchester Hill and Fishlake Meadows (Sep 26th). Highest cumulative bird-days during this period (with 2017 figures in parentheses) were at Lymington-Hurst, 6; Priddy's Hard, 5; Old Winchester Hill, 9 (6); Hook-with-Warsash, 9 (26); Fareham-Ranvilles Lane, 5; Titchfield Haven/Canal Path, 8 (14) and Baddesley Common, 5.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (APW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-30
Inland	8	3	2	2				1	2	24	16	4		
Coast	3	9	1	2	1	1	3		1	38	30	3		

Whinchat*Saxicola rubetra**Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.**Red, HBAP.*

The first was at Longcross Plain, NF on Apr 6th followed by other singles in the same month at Old Basing (11th), HMS Mercury (14th), Hook-with-Warsash (19th), and Woolmer Forest and Titchfield Canal Path/Titchfield Haven (20th). There were then 41 other spring records at 25 sites. The last was a single at Mark Ash Wood, NF (June 11th). The highest counts were six at Lower Test Marshes (Apr 28th) and three at Farlington Marshes the same day.

The first return was at Farlington Marshes on July 6th. Subsequent passage was noted from Aug 5th when a single was at Badminton GP/Farm followed by two at Chilling on Aug 7th,

three at Farlington Marshes on Aug 9th, and singles at Farlington Marshes (Aug 11th-13th) and Burton Common, Chilling and Baddesley Common (Aug 13th). Records from 70 sites then followed on virtually all dates until Oct 12th. Relatively high counts were noted at Hook-with-Warsash (9, Sep 3rd), Portsdown Hill (8, Sep 17th), Hook-with-Warsash (8, Sep 4th), Farlington Marshes (6, Aug 20th, 22nd, 31st and Sep 27th), Titchfield Canal Path (6, Oct 10th) and Broadlands Estate (6, Sep 2nd). Subsequently three were at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (Oct 17th) and a single was present at Titchfield Haven (Oct 18th).

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below for the spring and autumn 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	3	14	7	1	1			
Coast		23	12	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	3	48	47	5	4			
Coast	13	159	140	86	19	4		

Stonechat (European Stonechat)

Saxicola rubicola

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

NFWBS early year totals reduced from 34 in January to 14 in February before increasing to 160 in March reflecting influxes of newly arrived migrants (cf. 37, 72 and 167 in 2017) (Table 4).

Notable breeding season counts in the New Forest included those from Moyles Court (30, May 19th; 16, May 13th and June 15th), Roydon Woods (19, May 26th), Wilverley Plain (11, May 25th), Islands Thorns Inclosure (10, June 2nd), Beaulieu Heath West (9, Apr 19th; 17, July 5th), Foxbury Plantation (9, June 2nd) and Ibsley Common (9, May 7th). Elsewhere confirmed breeding was reported from Mortimer West End/Welshmans Road GP, Butser Hill, Martyr Worthy, Chilland, Lower Test Marshes (3 territories), Martin Down, Havant Thicket, Hale and East End at Sowley. Pairs and/or territorial birds in April-July were also recorded at Botley Wood, Porton Down, Highbridge Farm, Bramshill Park, Ewhurst Park, Hamble Common, Holbury, Itchen Valley CP and Titchfield Haven.

The highest post-breeding aggregations in the New Forest were at Ocknell Plain (23, Sep 3rd), Vales Moor/Foulford Bottom (19, Oct 20th), Furze Hill/Dorridge Hill/Brogenslade Bottom (18, Oct 20th), Longslade Bottom and Hinchleslea Wood (18, Sep 23rd), Fritham Plain (16, Sep 3rd), Dibden Bottom (13, July 18th), Wilverley Plain/Wilverley Wood and Hinchleslea Moor (12, Sep 16th), Black Down/Yew Tree Heath (11, Oct 20th) and Strodgmoor Bottom/Cranes Moor (11, Nov 17th). Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs revealed 56 and 49 territories respectively (Table 1) compared to 69 and 55 in 2017.

Throughout the year, away from the established New Forest and NE Hants breeding areas, 21 sites (13 coastal) had counts exceeding five compared to 31 sites (19 coastal) in 2017 including Portsdown Hill (18, Oct 7th), Lymington-Hurst (16, Oct 8th; 15, Sep 30th; 12, Oct 17th), Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (12, Oct 7th), Titchfield Haven (12, Oct 25th) and Hook-with-Warsash (11, Sep 29th). NFWBS produced totals of 159, 47 and 13 for October, November and December respectively (cf. 161, 70 and 18 in 2017).

Monthly totals of birds recorded in various grouped sites in January-March and August-December are tabulated below. (APW)



Male Stonechat, Silchester, June 30th (Barry Stalker)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest	34	14	160	37*	101*	159	47	13
Coastal sites	83	69	42	23	172	292	75	74
River valley sites	35	44	33	10	27	44	33	21
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	3	10	38	7	45	8	1	-
Other sites	34	21	14	18	75	55	20	13
Total	189	158	287	95	420	558	176	121

* = casual records only

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)

Oenanthe oenanthe

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly scarce summer visitor which last bred in 2005. Green.

The first were recorded on Mar 10th when two were at Furze Hill, NF (South Gorley) and nearby Ibsley Common. The next was at Hurst Castle on Mar 13th whilst two were noted on the same day between Lymington-Hurst. Singles were then noted at Farlington Marshes and Linwood (Mar 14th), Eastoke and Sandy Point, Hayling Island (Mar 15th), Bunny Meadows, Warsash and Hook-with-Warsash (Mar 16th) and Ripley Farm Reservoir and Ibsley Water (Mar 18th). Virtually daily records followed until May 15th with others from May 19th-26th until the last in the first period, a single at Eversley Common (June 4th) and another at New Lane, Hurst Beach (June 5th). The highest day totals each month were as follows: March - eight at five sites (31st), seven at five sites (21st) and five at four sites (26th); April - 77 at 20 sites (20th), 41 at 18 sites (29th), 37 at 11 sites (27th), 32 at ten sites (28th), 30 at 13 sites (21st and 29th) and 30 at eight sites (30th); May - 26 at seven sites (1st), 20 at eight sites (3rd), 11 at nine sites (4th) and ten at seven sites (10th). The highest individual counts came from Sandy Point (16, Apr 23rd) and Keyhaven Marshes (13, Apr 30th). Records during spring migration came from 120 locations.

There were no confirmed breeding records although five reports were considered to be exhibiting territorial behaviour as noted during BTO Breeding Bird Surveys at HMS Mercury (Apr 14th), Ferny Crofts (Apr 20th), Woolmer Forest (Apr 29th), Horsedown Common (May 1st) and Houghton Down (May 3rd).

The first returning migrants were juveniles in July at Beaulieu Road (1st), Keyhaven Marshes (12th) and Farlington Marshes (12th), followed by singles (unless otherwise stated) at Lymington-Hurst (26th), Widden Bottom (27th), Sinah Common and Hayling GC (2, 30th) and Pennington Marshes, two (31st). Others followed with reports on virtually all dates from Aug 1st – Oct 21st. Subsequent October reports, all singles, came from Warsash (24th), Big West End Farm, Hambledon (30th), Titchfield Haven (30th) and Bunny Meadows, Warsash (31st). There were four November records, again singles, from Bunny Meadows (2nd and 11th), Hamble Common (2nd) and Warsash (10th). Day totals were low compared to those in 2017 which, in turn, were low compared to 2016. The highest day totals in 2018 were 28 at 11 sites (Aug 25th), 28 at ten sites (Sep 6th) and 26 at 13 sites (Sep 7th) (cf. 2017 when there was a one day total of 50 and above at 17 sites with a peak of 75 on Sep 2nd). There was only one double-figure count in the second half-year from Farlington Marshes on Sep 27th compared to nine from four sites in 2017 and 25 from eight sites in 2016.

Suspected Greenland race *leucorhoa* were reported from Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (Apr 26th), Hannington (Apr 29th), Bramshill Plantation (May 3rd), Tunworth (May 19th) and Hinton Ampner (May 20th).

The approximate half-monthly totals in spring and autumn are tabulated below. (APW)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	Total
Inland	5	19	13	112	37	5	1		192
Coast	6	27	76	260	83	2	1		455

	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	1	10	44	54	11	9	8			138
Coast	2	5	35	146	122	119	28	16	4		477

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Abundant but declining resident.

Red, S41.

Sightings were reported from 218 locations. Flocks of 50 and above were noted from 14 sites (14 in 2017, 12 in 2016, 15 in 2015) as follows: Westbourne (76, Jan 9th; 146, Nov 15th), Leigh Park, Havant (60, Jan 24th; 60, Feb 10th; 50, Mar 1st; 80, Aug 7th; 100, Sep 15th; 60, Nov 3rd; 50, Dec 1st), Stockheath (80, Apr 12th; 99, May 22nd), Plaitford Green (65, Apr 21st), Damerham (50, Jan 1st), Lymington (56, May 4th; 94, July 7th), Sandy Point (60, July 31st; 50, Aug 13th; 60, Aug 21st), Old Basing (60, Feb 13th), Cosham (70, Dec 25th), Blendworth (72, Apr 12th; 62, May 22nd), Heath Pond, Petersfield (50, Aug 2nd), Northam (51, Aug 17th), Posbrook Flood (50, Aug 11th; 90, Aug 12th; 90, Aug 18th) and Romsey (50, Jan 1st).

Twenty-eight territories were located at Charlton Lakes, Andover (23 in 2017), whilst BTO Breeding Bird Survey data included over 50 territorial birds at the following one km square areas: over 99 at Stockheath, Havant; 94 at Lymington; 65 at Plaitford Green.

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 85% of gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged from a peak of 78.8% in June to a low of 67.7% in September and December (Table 2). (APW)



Male House Sparrow, Furze Hill, New Forest, Mar 4th (Martin Bennett)

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow)

Passer montanus

Rare irregular visitor, formerly resident and winter visitor which last bred in 1996. Red, S4I, HBAP.

Two were located at Windmill Hill, Alton, on Aug 26th. These were the first reported anywhere in the county since 2014 (SJM). Separate reports in BTO's Garden Birdwatch are unconfirmed (Table 2). (APW)

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

Abundant resident.

Amber, S4I.

Counts of ten or more territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Lower Test Marshes, 29 (29); Longmoor Inclosure, 16 (19); Butser Hill, 15 (16); Horton Heath, 13; Chilbolton, 13; Palestine, 11; Minstead, 11; Whitchurch, 10; Lasham, 10; Milford on Sea, 10 and Steep Marsh, 10.

Other counts of ten and above came from Blashford Lakes (14, Feb 19th); Itchen Valley CP (14, Mar 11th; 11, Mar 25th; 12, Apr 1st); Old Basing (14, Mar 13th); Bere Hill Farm, Andover (12, Mar 3rd); Milton Common (12, Mar 25th); Moyles Court (10, Mar 10th; 12, Oct 20th); Rooksbury Mill (11, Jan 25th); Blendworth (11, May 22nd) and Owslebury (11, June 8th).

BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 95% of surveyed gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged from a peak of 92.4% in February to a low of 77.6% in August (Table 2). (APW)

Yellow Wagtail (Western Yellow Wagtail)

Motacilla flava

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly locally common summer visitor which last bred in 2003.
Red, S4I, HBAP.

The first record was one over Pennington Marshes on the comparatively late date of Apr 12th. A typical light spring passage involved approximately 73 birds with a noticeable peak in the second half of April.

There was no evidence of breeding but there were three June records, one at Titchfield Haven on 18th, one at Farlington Marshes on 28th and an immature at Pennington Marshes on 30th.

The first evidence of return passage was one over Iley Point, Keyhaven on July 15th. The highest autumn counts were at the Titchfield Haven roost with 300 on Sep 1st and 249 on Sep 4th. Elsewhere on the coast the highest counts were 49 at Sandy Point on Aug 31st, 30 at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Aug 31st, 60 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Sep 1st and 70 at the Farlington Marshes roost on Sep 15th. Inland the highest counts were 20 at Highbridge Farm on Aug 26th, 80 at North Boarhunt on Aug 27th, 50 at Newlands Farm on Aug 30th and 18 at Crookham Village on Sep 12th. The last records were singles at Titchfield Haven on Oct 16th, flying north at Sandy Point on Oct 19th and at Hamble Point on Oct 20th.

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 12-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-28	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland grounded		12	1	3		1	132	84	10	3
Inland moving		14	1	1		1	34	52	14	1
Coast grounded	3	11		3	1	2	409	444	160	5
Coast moving	3	14	6	1			117	7	29	

Blue-headed Wagtail

Motacilla flava flava

A very scarce passage migrant which has bred in 2003 (since 2003, 12, 1)

On Apr 29th there was a first-summer male with three *flavissima* on the west end of the gravel pit at Ripley Farm (OJF). (GO)

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

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

In January and February there were winterers at 63 locations, all one of two birds apart from four at Hawley Meadows on Jan 22nd and Pinglestone WCB on Feb 24th. Light spring passage included singles at Trigpoint Hill SW on Feb 15th and NE on Feb 17th. During a period of cold weather there was a notable gathering of 12 at Darby Green on Mar 3rd.

During the breeding season there were pairs or singing males at 35 locations. Breeding success was reported from Bourley, Conford Park Lake, Exton, Gaters Mill, Mottisfont, Petersfield and Silchester STW (2 pairs).

Autumn migration began with one over Trigpoint Hill on July 6th. At Sandy Point there were ten bird-days in August, 53 in September and 34 in October with a maximum count of eight on Sep 4th. Counts at inland watchpoints totalled 19 SW at Tweseldown between Sep 8th and Nov 18th and six at Trigpoint Hill (4 NE, 2 SW) between July 6th and Nov 26th. The highest grounded count was 11 at Itchen Abbas on Aug 23rd.

In November and December there were winterers at 64 locations, all ones or twos apart from four at Romsey on Dec 3rd and three at Waterlooville on Dec 8th and Pinglestone WCB and Manor Farm WCB on Dec 23rd. (GO)

Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail)

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba yarrelli

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

In January and February the largest flocks were 310 at the roost in Fleet High Street on Jan 1st and 300 there on Feb 13th, 200 at Ringwood STW on Feb 18th and 95 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Feb 11th.

Adults with recently fledged young indicating local breeding were noted in June and July at Riverside Park, Southampton; Winchester STF; Woolmer Pond and Eversley Common.

On the coast post-breeding movements at Sandy Point totalled 423 NE between Sep 25th and Nov 10th with a maximum of 90 on Oct 15th. Counts at inland watchpoints totalled 150 at Trigpoint Hill between Sep 1st and Nov 19th (max. 18, Oct 10th) and 96 at Tweseldown between Sep 6th and Nov 6th (max 20, Oct 10th). In October the largest roost counts were 133 at Southampton Airport on Oct 1st and 100 at Alresford Pond on Oct 6th. The largest late year count was 228 leaving the roost at Andover on Nov 11th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. Note these also include birds 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		2				39	266	163	7	
Inland moving		3		7	11	34	135	47	16	3

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba alba

Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.

In the early year there were approximately 14 between Mar 25th and May 13th. The highest count was five at Farlington Marshes on Apr 10th and 14th. There were three at Ibsley Water on Apr 16th and two at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Apr 20th. Singles were recorded at New Lane, Pennington on Mar 25th and Apr 15th, Busta Triangle on Mar 29th and May 1st, Hambledon on Apr 6th and Frater Shore on May 15th.

In autumn there were five between Aug 29th and Sep 24th comprising singles at Middle Wallop Airfield on Aug 29th, Testwood Lakes on Sep 4th, Busta Triangle on Sep 9th, Titchfield Haven on Sep 22nd and Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Sep 24th. (GO)

Richard's Pipit

Anthus richardi

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn. (0,4,1)

A single was flighty and elusive in long grass but was seen by many observers around Pennington Lagoon and Oxey Marsh on Sep 14th-15th (SGK et al., photo). Most records are in October with about half as many in September. (KFB)



Richard's Pipit, Oxey Marsh, Sep 15th (Tommy Saunders (left) and Alan Lewis (right))

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. NT, Amber.

During January and February double-digit grounded flocks were reported from 31 locations. The largest of these were 50 at Crookham Village on Jan 14th and Cadnam Common on Jan 17th and 60 near Denmead on Feb 4th. The biggest coastal spring movements were 146 in off at Hurst Beach on Mar 11th and 136 south at Weston Shore on Mar 18th. At inland watchpoints 422 flew mostly NE at Trigpoint Hill between Mar 6th and Apr 18th.

Counts of breeding territories included 17 at Beaulieu/Needs Ore, six at Butser Hill and five or six at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea.

Autumn passage began on Sep 2nd. On the coast the peak movement was in the last third of September when 810 (760W and 50N) were noted at Sandy Point between Sep 12th and Sep 24th, 737 were moving at Weston Shore on Sep 24th, 290 flew west at Brownwich on Sep 22nd and 247 flew NW/W at Hook-with-Warsash on the same day. At inland watchpoints at Tweseldown 4,129 flew SW between Sep 6th to Nov 18th (max. 2,136 on Sep 22nd) and at Trigpoint Hill 895 flew mostly SW between Sep 2nd to Nov 30th (max. 124 on Sep 25th). In autumn the largest grounded flocks were 350 at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 22nd, 250 at Brownwich on the same date and inland 171 at Longwood Warren on Oct 7th. The largest grounded flock in December was 60 at Cheesefoot Head on Dec 8th.

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	166	268	3		64	2,300	21	25		
Inland moving	12	372			398	3,717	236	166	102	20

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant. Red, S41.

The first records were singles on Apr 7th at Ibsley Water and The Warren, Oakhanger. There was a more widespread arrival from Apr 10th. Passage away from breeding sites comprised singles in April over Sandy Point and Trigpoint Hill on 13th, Farlington Marshes on 22nd and Lower Test Marshes on 29th, followed in May by one at Old Winchester Hill on 6th.

Surveys of breeding pairs on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 26 and 54 pairs respectively compared to 31 and 64 last year (Table 1). There was not full coverage in the New Forest but at least 31 singing males or pairs were recorded. Sites away from the core areas with singing males were Burkham (3 pairs); Ellisfield, Farley Mount and Golden Pot (3 singing males); Kingsclere, Ringwood Forest (7 pairs); Thedden and Watership Down (3 singing males); Weston Common (6-8 singing males).

The first departing migrant was a bird overflying Overton on Aug 2nd. Sites with a movement of ten or more were Sandy Point (25, Aug 11th-Oct 15th). Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (14, Aug 6th-Sep 22nd) and Trigpoint Hill (13, Aug 27th-Sep 30th). There were 17 at Newlands Farm on Sep 1st and 15 at Posbrook Flood, Titchfield Haven on Aug 31st. The last inland record was one over Trigpoint Hill on Sep 30th and the only later bird was one at Sandy Point on Oct 15th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 7-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	Aug 2-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30
Inland grounded	1	1	3	4	4	22	1
Inland moving	1	1		1	4	19	4
Coast grounded				1	22	16	7
Coast moving	1	1		3	17	9	2

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

In the first four months of the year a minimum of 38 was recorded with the last two at Lower Test Marshes on Apr 13th and one at Pinglestone WCB the next day. The highest numbers were at Alresford WCBs where the recent recovery in numbers was maintained. Records from other sites were Ibsley Water (1, Jan 1st-Mar 19th), Lymington/Hurst (1-2, Jan 1st-Feb 4th; 1, Apr 6th), Langstone/Warblington (1-2, Jan 7th-Feb 10th), Anna Valley WCB (2, Jan 25th), Swanwick (1, Feb 10th), Farlington Marshes (1-2, Feb 17th-Apr 1st) and St. Mary Bourne (1, Feb 18th and Mar 24th).

The first return was at Lower Test on Oct 13th with the next at Farlington Marshes on 24th. Above average numbers were present later in the year with at least 61 in December including up to 19 at Titchfield Haven and 17 at Lower Test Marshes where the flooded grasslands proved attractive. Records from others sites were Farlington Marshes (1, Oct 24th-Dec 23rd), Ibsley Water (1-3, Oct 25th-Dec 31st), Hamble Estuary (1, Oct 29th), Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (1, Nov 10th), Lepe (1, Nov 14th), Lymington-Hurst (1-7, Nov 6th-Dec 30th) and Otterbourne (1, Dec 2nd).

Monthly maxima at the main locations and the totals elsewhere are tabulated below. (GO/JMC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Drayton Farm/ Pinglestone/Manor Farm WCBs, Alresford	8	8	14	11	2	5	12
Lower Test Marshes	4	5	5	5	3	7	17
Titchfield Haven	2	5	4	7		10	19
Totals elsewhere (sites)	6(4)	7(6)	4(3)	2(2)	4(3)	6(5)	13(5)

Rock Pipit (Eurasian Rock Pipit)

Anthus petrosus

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

In January and February there were approximately 49 at 22 coastal sites. The highest count was five at the Hamble Estuary on Jan 6th and Feb 3rd, Hurst Beach on Jan 13th and Hythe on Jan 14th.

Breeding numbers remained low with five or six pairs at Hurst Castle and a pair with dependent young at Barton on Sea. At least one pair probably also bred at Southsea Castle.

Between October and December there were approximately 75 winterers at 28 coastal locations. The highest counts were ten at Calshot on Nov 24th and five at Sandy Point on Oct 19th. (GO)

Chaffinch† (Common Chaffinch)

Fringilla coelebs

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

In January-March flocks of over 50 were reported from 11 sites with counts of 100 or more at Avon Causeway (200, Jan 5th), Blackmoor (100, Feb 5th) and Longwood Warren (100, Mar 18th). No significant movements were noted during this period.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP 39 (48); Longmoor Inclosure, 155 (138); Lower Test Marshes CBC, 29 (26). Other sites recording over 20 territories on BBS surveys of one km squares were Marylane Plantation, 32; Whitchurch area, 23; Slackstead area, 22 and Woolmer Forest, 21.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. Coastal counts were again low with only Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes producing three-figure counts of 330 NW on Oct 14th and 275 E/SE on Nov 18th. During the period September to December

grounded flocks over 50 were recorded at 11 sites, with highs in the New Forest where 950 were recorded at Broomy Inclosure on Dec 7th, 250 at Bratley on Dec 11th and 211 at Furze Hill on Dec 14th. Elsewhere 330 were counted at Hurst Farm, Winchfield on Dec 31st. Inland movements peaked in late October with 2,446 birds recorded between Oct 16th-31st followed by 1,559 from Nov 1st-15th at Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill. The separate totals for the last four months were 3,671 at Tweseldown in 158 hours between Sep 6th-Dec 22nd and 1,209 at Trigpoint Hill in 89 hours between Sep 1st-Dec 31st. (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	3	5	484	135	78	170	2	
Inland moving	58	133	516	2,446	1,559	222	194	167

Brambling†
Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Fringilla montifringilla
Schedule 1, Green.

The initial winter period between January to March produced high counts in the New Forest with a maximum of 300 at Mark Ash Wood on Jan 22nd. Other significant January counts included 250 at Barrow Moor, NF on 3rd and 150 at Wick Wood, NF on 11th, but these are likely to refer to the Mark Ash flock. In February a high of 100 was reported from Stockbridge Down on 4th. Passage was light with a maximum day count at Trigpoint Hill of 72 in one hour on Mar 19th of which 65 were grounded. The last records in spring were single females in gardens at Ampfield and Crookham Village on Apr 30th.

The first returning birds were on Oct 7th with one at Titchfield Haven and two east at Iley Point, Keyhaven. The period from October to December was far quieter than the early year with no flocks exceeding 100 although the New Forest continued to report the majority of records with a maximum of 50 at Broomy Inclosure on Dec 7th.



Male Brambling, Blashford Lakes, Apr 10th (Martin Bennett)

Tweseldown recorded a total of 227 between Oct 10th-Dec 4th including 187 over 12 days between Nov 1st-18th. As with previous years, the relatively low counts of moving birds may be a reflection of the lack of migration reports rather than low actual totals, with just three sites returning data on visible migration.

BTO's Garden BirdWatch reported between one and six in January-April with reports from 8.0% of gardens in the peak month of March (Table 2). Reports in May are unconfirmed.

Monthly totals are tabulated below. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	4	2	1				3	3	2
Monthly maxima NF roosts	43	101	0				20	60	30
County total grounded	691	343	273	149			87	181	288
County total moving	9	1	211				40	197	16

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Scarce to moderately common resident, most numerous in the New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Red, S4I, HBAP.

Survey work continued through 2018 with six new roosts located in the New Forest bringing the known total of permanent communal roost sites to 36. In addition two new roosts were found outside the New Forest in the Test Valley. 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	41	52	31	28	12	5	1	4	2	25	14	18
Roost 2	57	66	54	23	18	9	14	18	33	62	45	25

The main feature of the early year was the ongoing influx of migrant Hawfinch (see separate paper in this report on p. 237). This was notable for the volume of records received with 489 of the 663 being for the period between January and March. Based on adding peak counts, possibly as many as 500 were in the county.

Through February and March 30 of the known roosts in the New Forest were counted on consecutive days producing a total of 512 birds giving an average of 17.1 per roost site (cf. 307 from 20 roosts in 2017 giving an average of 15.4 per roost site). Overall numbers in the New Forest were only slightly higher than average. No doubt the poor Beech mast crop of autumn 2017 encouraged individuals to forage further afield.

Continuing the widespread sightings in late 2017, away from the New Forest unprecedented numbers of records were received from 79 locations. Flocks of ten or more individuals were reported from 15 locations as follows: Mattingley (seven records between Jan 1st and Feb 8th peaking at 60 on Jan 1st); Avington Park (seven records between Jan 1st and Mar 19th peaking at 20 on Jan 29th); Sherborne St John (19 records between Jan 1st and Apr 7th peaking at 25 on Mar 16th); Mercer Way, Romsey (48 records between Jan 1st and Apr 14th peaking at 31 on Jan 16th); Hursley Village (20 records between Jan 4th and Apr 4th peaking at 10 on Jan 18th); Ecchinswell (10 records between Jan 6th and Mar 16th peaking at 28 on Jan 7th); Longparish (five records between Jan 7th and Mar 25th peaking at 43 on Mar 11th); Chawton (26 records between Jan 9th and Apr 8th peaking at 30 on several dates); Farley Mount CP (three records between Jan 12th and Mar 30th peaking at 26 on Mar 30th); West Green, Hartley Wintney (14 records between Jan 23rd and Apr 3rd peaking at 30 on Mar 8th); Old Alresford (three records between Jan 27th and Mar 18th peaking at 10 on Mar 14th); Ashford Stream, Petersfield (four records between Feb 2nd and Mar 22nd peaking at 20 on Mar 22nd); Old Winchester Hill (Feb 16th to 18th peaking at 25 on Feb 18th); Southampton Common (16 records between Feb 18th and Mar 19th peaking at 15 on Mar 18th) and Crawley (40 on Mar 18th and 19th).



Hawfinch, Romsey, Feb 2nd (Richard Jacobs)

Despite the large numbers in Hampshire through the first four months of the year, little passage was detected. The only records of movements were received from Trigpoint Hill where a total of 26 were recorded in various directions on ten dates between Jan 7th and May 12th.

During the breeding season eight territories were located in the main study area in the New Forest while a further 20 were located at widespread locations across the area. A total of 70 was colour-ringed at two locations between February and July including five fledged juveniles. Overall productivity in the New Forest was good with juveniles recorded from a number of locations. Away from the New Forest no breeding was confirmed but records during the peak breeding period were received from the following five locations in June, some of these no doubt relating to late migrants: Mill Field, Old Basing (1, 5th); Farley Mount CP (1, 8th); Upton Grey (1, 9th); Itchen Valley CP (1, 10th) and Townhill Park, Mansbridge (3 SW, 17th).

Autumn passage was light with records of moving birds from six locations including one south over Keyhaven Marshes on Oct 3rd and one NE there on Oct 27th; a total of 11 in various directions over Trigpoint Hill on eight dates between Oct 15th and Nov 19th; one east over West End, Southampton on Oct 19th; one NE over North Stoneham on Oct 27th; one SW over Tweseldown on Nov 17th and four NW over Testwood Lakes on Nov 25th.

In the late year outside of the New Forest records included two at Lakeside CP, Eastleigh on Oct 19th, with one there on Nov 22nd; one at Old Basing on three dates between Oct 24th and Nov 4th; 15 out of roost in Ampfield Wood on Oct 30th and 13 out of roost on Dec 28th; two at Longparish on Nov 3rd; one at Lychpit Estate, Basingstoke on Nov 24th; one at Mercer Way, Romsey on three dates between Dec 1st and 31st; one at Pitt Down on Dec 4th; two at Testwood Lakes on Dec 22nd and one at Harewood Forest on Dec 29th. (MW)



Male Bullfinch, Blashford Lakes, Mar 23rd (Lee Fuller)

Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

During the first winter period counts of ten or more were recorded inland at Anton Lakes (10, Jan 14th), Furze Hill, NF (11, Jan 19th), Winchester SF (12, Jan 22nd), Old Winchester Hill (10, Feb 11th), Redenham Park (24, Feb 17th) and near the coast at Lower Test Marshes (13, Jan 1st; 11 Feb 24th), Dibden Bay (11, Jan 7th), Badminton Common (10, Mar 1st) and Blackfield (12, Mar 3rd). These were followed in April by 13 taking seed in a garden at Ampfield on 15th.

Counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites included (2017 figures in parentheses) Butser Hill, 3 (7); Itchen Valley CP, 4 (9); Longmoor Inclosure, 3 (4). Declines were noted at all three of these sites. The only other locations returning more than two territories were Brockis Hill, NF with three pairs and Minstead, NF with seven.

During the second half of the year the only totals of ten or more were 12 at Old Winchester Hill on Aug 6th and 12 at Nursling on Nov 26th.

BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 53% of surveyed gardens during the year with maximum counts of six near Tadley in w/c Mar 25th and near Liss in w/c Dec 2nd. As in previous years, the peak month for GBW records was June with 32.0% of gardens reporting presence compared to a low of only 12.3% in October. (AL)

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch)

Chloris chloris

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

There were nearly 1,600 records during the year making this the most frequently reported finch. From January to March the highest counts involving 30 or more were at Cholderton

Estate roost (60, Jan 7th; 85, Feb 1st); Mansbridge (40, Jan 12th); West Lane, Hayling Island (55, Jan 23rd); Southampton University (46, Jan 26th; 52, Jan 31st) and at garden feeders in cold weather at Drayton (30, Mar 2nd).

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 15 (13); Lower Test Marshes, 2 (14). Other locations recording ten or more territories were Marylane Plantation, 14; Pitt Down, 17; Slackstead, 20; Milton Common, 12 and Hilbury, ten. Large post-breeding numbers were recorded at Posbrook Flood in August peaking at 100 on 28th and 29th.

The highest count in the second half-year was 260 roosting at Cholderton Estate on Dec 5th. Other autumn/early winter counts of 30 or more were at The Kench, Hayling Island (30, Sep 10th), Farlington Marshes (45, Oct 11th; 40, Nov 13th), Posbrook Flood (32, Nov 4th), Hook-with-Warsash (30, Nov 17th), Gilkicker Point (31, Nov 23rd) and Normandy (60, Dec 23rd).

Reported in 78% of BTO surveyed gardens with the peak being 61.9% in April and a maximum of 22 in w/c July 29th near Waltham Chase. (Table 2). (AL)

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

*Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
(?, since 2009:30,2).* Red.

Two records. The first was a fly-over at Tweseldown on Nov 13th (JMC, GCS). Two days later on Nov 15th another was located at Normandy Marsh where it remained until Dec 24th, although it often proved elusive (MW). (AL)



*Male Twite, Normandy Marsh, Nov 30th
(Alan Lewis)*

Linnet (Common Linnet)

Linaria cannabina

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red, S4I, HBAP.

During January-March substantial flocks of more than 200 were recorded at six locations with the highest numbers being 400 at Hill Head on Mar 18th, 370 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Mar 11th, 300 near Thorny Down Wood on March 17th, 250 at South Warnborough on Jan 21st and Stockbridge Down on Feb 4th. Several records referred to flocks feeding in game cover strips or stubble.

Breeding season surveys (with 2017 figures in parentheses) at the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths recorded territories of 65 (87) and 45 (32) respectively (Table 1). Significant counts in other areas produced 55 territories across the New Forest, 45 on Stockbridge Downs and 23 in the Test Valley.

Autumn saw just six flocks of over 200 with the largest being 500 at Titchfield Haven on Oct 15th and Cheriton on Dec 15th followed by 300 at Hambledon on Oct 13th and 290 at Keyhaven on Oct 14th.

Half-monthly totals of autumn movements are tabulated below. Inland movements came only from the two regular migration watchpoints at Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill and as usual demonstrated peak movements in October (Table 8). (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		27	1,195	438	121	20		
Inland moving	103	398	546	592	280	49	193	20

Common Redpoll

Acanthis flammea

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.
Amber.

It was a better year than average with singles being reported in three gardens. One was feeding on nyger seed with 30 Lesser Redpolls in Crookham Village on Mar 10th and 16th (RDH). Similarly, one was present on feeders in North Baddesley on Mar 17th, 19th and Apr 10th (CJT *et al.*, photo), and at Dibden Purlieu one was on nyger seed with Goldfinches on Mar 27th (RAC). (KFB)



Common Redpoll, North Baddesley, Mar 17th
(Carol Thorpe)

Lesser Redpoll

Acanthis cabaret

Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006.
Red, S41.

In January-March BTO Garden BirdWatch reported a maximum of 14 in a garden near North Boarhunt in w/c Feb 25th and Mar 4th, and NFWBS reported ten, seven and 32 respectively in the same three months (Table 4).

During the year just 13 locations recorded flocks of more than 20 in what was a very poor year for the species. In the initial winter period the highest count was 89 on garden feeders in Crookham Village at first light on Feb 27th, where numbers were consistently well into double figures throughout the period. Other significant counts were 50 at Hazeley Heath on Mar 13th, 40 at Tidpit Down on Feb 11th and 40 at Blackheath Down on Feb 18th. Nursling Mill produced a late count of 50 on Apr 15th.

Summer records were noteworthy singles at New Forest locations at Acres Down on May 13th and Holmsley Bog on May 28th, the latter song-flighting, but there was no confirmation of breeding.

Highest autumn counts were 60 at Tweseldown on Nov 11th and 30 at Hartley Wintney Golf Course on Nov 12th. NFWBS reported ten, 15 and seven in October-December (Table 4).

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 16-31
Coast moving	1	9	2	54	2	2		
Inland moving			8	34	6	2	50	

Crossbill (Red Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Moderately common resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn.
Schedule 1, Green.

It was an unremarkable year away from the New Forest with higher totals towards the end of the year. During January to April numbers peaked in the New Forest with 127 records in January declining to just 22 in April. The highest early year count was 35 at Holmsley, NF on Jan 13th, with 30 recorded in the same month at Mark Ash Wood, NF on 20th. Elsewhere the highest count was 20 at Chawton Park Wood on Apr 2nd.

Counts in the forest were quite consistent through the breeding season with a peak of 65 in June, although this was down by about a third on the previous year.

In the autumn evidence of coastal movement was provided at Iley Point, Keyhaven (2 E, Oct 7th; 1 NE, Oct 27th) and Sandy Point (2 E, Nov 5th). There was no significant movement of birds during October and November at Tweseldown, the monthly totals being 24 in 14 hours and 14 in 51 hours respectively although regular local counts increased to a peak of 26 at Bourley Catchment on Nov 8th. Highest counts in the New Forest were 36 at a dawn roost at Puckpits Inclosure, NF on Oct 25th and 24 at Blackwater Arboretum on Nov 3rd. Elsewhere maxima were 25 at Woolmer Forest on Dec 1st and 21st and 20 at Ampfield Woods on Dec 28th.

A summary of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	127	98	56	22	45	65	45	37	24	97	211	85
North-east sites	0	2	3	8	8	1	1	2	12	57	195	49
Other sites	4	0	16	0	0	7	6	2	5	2	20	39
Moving	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	7	31	48	2

Monthly maxima are tabulated below for two communal finch roosts in the New Forest which were monitored fortnightly throughout the year. Counts were similar to the previous year, with a small late autumn peak coinciding with the highest counts elsewhere across the county. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Arboretum	3	3	1	1	4	3	6	4	5	5	24	9
Holmhill Inclosure	3	5	1	0	0	1	7	5	5	17	7	5

Goldfinch† (European Goldfinch)

Carduelis carduelis

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green.

As in previous years, this was one of the most actively recorded finches with over 950 individual records (excluding BTO data) placing it third after Greenfinch and Chaffinch. The highest grounded counts in each of the first three months were 100 at Petersfield on Jan 3rd and Titchfield Abbey on Jan 28th, 60 at Biddenfield Farm, Botley Wood on Feb 6th and 178 there on Mar 8th.

Similar to last year, it remained the most frequently recorded finch in the BTO Garden BirdWatch. Throughout the year monthly presence in surveyed gardens remained high between 86.1% and 68.6% with the peak month being April (Table 2).

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Longmoor Inclosure, 10 (2); Lower Test Marshes, 4 (8). Elsewhere highest counts of territories were from Marylane Plantation, 19; Avon Tyrrell/Sabines Farm, 17; North Boarhunt, Leckford and Twiggs Lane (Ipley) with 16 each; Ampfield Woods, 14 and Foxlease, 13. The largest post-breeding flock in August was 100 at Longparish on 2nd.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. Large numbers were noted moving on the coast in October. Inland counts were typical with a second-half October peak of 398 totalled from four locations including Tweseldown where the monthly total was 341 in 47 hours of observations. During the autumn/winter period nine locations recorded flocks of 60 or more between September and December. The highest grounded counts were 300 at Shoveler Pools and Old Tip, Pennington Marshes on Sep 1st followed in October by Sandy Point with multiple days recording 400 or more. The highest day totals there were 937 on Oct 15th and 1,419 on Oct 18th. Other high autumn counts included 430 at Somerley Park on Oct 16th. High numbers continued into November at Sandy Point with a peak of 515 on 6th. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving		132	3,029	6,059	2,120	316	25
Inland moving	163	188	231	398	205	54	187

Serin (European Serin)

Serinus serinus

Rare visitor recorded in every month except August (1,46,1).

A single flew over Sir George Staunton CP, Havant on May 9th (NC). Sightings of fly-overs near the coast were formerly annual, but there has been a reduction in reports in recent years. (KFB)

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin)

Spinus spinus

Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

During January-March counts of ten or more were reported from 38 sites; this compares with 43 sites in 2017 and 59 in 2016. Counts of 40 or more were reported from 12 sites, with the highest being 200 at Eversley GP on Jan 20th. The next highest was 121 at Fleet Pond on Jan 27th with 100 at Bramshill Plantation on Jan 3rd and 100 at Great Pen Wood on Mar 20th.

Breeding was suspected at eleven sites (cf. six locations in 2017) with the highest count of ten territories reported at Millyford Bridge, NF in May followed by seven at North Oakley Inclosure, NF in August. Juveniles were observed at just two sites; Hundred Acres Wood (West Walk), where up to four were seen between May 8th-June 12th, and Bourley (Aldershot) with one on Aug 4th.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. As with the previous year, peak movement took place in October with 19 sites recording a total of 1,254 between Oct 1st-15th. This reduced to 453 from nine sites between Oct 16th-30th and just 52 from five sites between Nov 1st-15th. Highest day counts were at Iley Point, Keyhaven with 200 east on Oct 7th, Tweseldown with 104 SW on Oct 8th and Sandy Point with 129 NE on Oct 19th.

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	2	115	694	395	36	37
Inland moving	0	70	560	58	16	1



Juvenile Siskin, Furze Hill, Mar 24th (Martin Bennett)

Highest autumn dawn roost counts were 84 at Blackwater Arboretum, NF on Sep 24th and 105 at Holm Hill, NF on Oct 11th. Grounded totals of 40 or more were reported from 13 locations with highs of 200 at Hasley Inclosure, NF on Oct 3rd, 81 at Sandy Point on Oct 15th, 300 at Fleet Pond on Dec 5th and 150 at Mockbeggar Lake, Blashford on Dec 16th.

Reports from BTO Garden BirdWatch were in all months from 103 (38%) of the monitored gardens. The peak monthly rate of 28.6% in March reduced to a minimum of 2.7% in October and the highest count was 20 at Winchester in w/c Oct 21st. (AL)

Lapland Bunting (Lapland Longspur)

Calcarius lapponicus

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (1, 176+, 1).

Schedule 1, Amber.

A single flew low east over Fishtail Lagoon, Pennington Marshes at 09:42 on Oct 21st (SGK). (KFB)

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

Three records. A single was reported from Bucklers Hard on Nov 11th but was seen to fly off (AW). A well-watched but mobile first-winter male frequented the Brownwich, Titchfield Haven and Hill Head areas from Nov 22nd-26th (PB et al.), but was picked up dead on 26th having flown into a barbed wire fence. Lastly one was seen briefly at Hurst Castle on Nov 26th (MM). (AL)



Snow Bunting, Hill Head, Nov 25th (Richard Jacobs)

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Locally moderately common but declining resident.

Red, S41, HBAP.

During January-March six sites reported ten or more. Highest counts were 80 at Toyd Down on Jan 22nd, 70 at Cholderton Estate on Feb 28th and 42 there on Mar 21st, and 35 at Chilbolton Telescope on Jan 5th. Other counts of ten or more elsewhere were 30 at Charity Down Farm on Jan 10th and ten each at Bransbury Common on Feb 17th and Martin Down on Mar 26th.

During the breeding season 15 locations reported singing males with strong evidence of breeding/territories at seven sites. Highest counts of territories were 16 in the Chessefoot Head area, 15 at Martin Down and eight at Palestine. All remaining breeding sites had less than five territories each. Breeding season counts of singing males were recorded as follows (2017 figures in parentheses). Note that many of the 2017 figures are not comparable as they resulted from a special survey that year with unprecedented access to additional areas of private land.

On the chalk west of the Avon Valley: Martin Down, 15 (12); Tidpit Down, 1; Rockbourne Down, 1.

West of the Test Valley: The Wallops to Cholderton, 8 (44); Houghton Down, 2 (10).

In the Test Valley: Chilbolton, 3 (15).

East of Winchester: Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head/Gander Down, 16 (13); Hazeley Down, 1.

North Hampshire: Kingsclere, 1 (2); Ashley Warren, 1.

Coast: Lymington-Hurst (New Lane): 1.

Reports came from just six locations between October and December. The highest day count was 34 feeding in a maize strip at Broughton with less than ten recorded at each of the other sites. There were three autumn coastal records at Sandy Point, Hayling Island with one on Aug 20th, two on Nov 5th and one on Nov 15th. These were the first there since 2014. (AL)

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

Numerous but declining resident.

Red, S41.

During January-March just four locations recorded flocks of 60 or more. The highest counts were from the Cholderton Estate with at least 60 from Jan 21st and a peak of 220 on Feb 28th. Elsewhere 80 were recorded from Wickham on Mar 3rd, 60 at Longwood Warren on Mar 18th and 60 at Stubb's Farm Ponds, Binsted on Mar 21st.

Ten locations recorded six or more territories in the breeding season. Territory counts at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Wealden Heath SPA, 33 (29) (Table 1); Butser Hill, 10 (10); Ramsdean Road, 10 (6). Other territory counts included 12 at Barnetstoke, ten at Martin Down and seven at Ewhurst Park.

During September to December just three locations reported flocks of 30 or more at Twyford Down (30, Sep 3rd), Nuthanger Down (30, Dec 22nd) and Portsdown Hill (39, Dec 27th). (AL)

Ortolan Bunting

Emberiza hortulana

Rare vagrant (1,9,3).

It was a record year with three in very quick succession. Firstly, a single was discovered near Bishop's Dyke, NF on the afternoon of Sep 13th (MPM *et al.*, photo). It was rather elusive and created a degree of stress for those hoping to see it. However, they need not have worried as the next day another was found on farmland along Pigeon House Lane on Portsdown Hill (PAG *et al.*, photo). This was seen by many until 15th. In the same period, another single flew



Ortolan Bunting (left), Pigeon House Farm, Portsdown Hill, Sep 14th (Lee Fuller) and *Little Bunting* (right), North Baddesley, Apr 8th (Alan Lewis)

high to the south over Emer Bog at 18:40 on Sep 14th (AJBL). The majority of past records were also in September. This sudden influx was mirrored in other locations in Britain and Europe. (KFB)

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Very rare vagrant. (0,6.1)

One took up residence in a garden in North Baddesley from at least Mar 17th-Apr 10th (CJT et al., photo), but due to the location relatively few people were able to see it. This species was considered an outstanding rarity in past years but, of the seven records, three have been seen in the last three years. (KFB)

Reed Bunting† (Common Reed Bunting) *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. *Amber, S4I, HBAP.*

During January-March there were just 28 double-figure counts; a drop from 38 in 2017. Highest counts were in February with a maximum of 70 at Lower Test Marshes on 27th, 50 at Winnall Moors on 10th and a peak of 40 at Hurst Farm, Winchfield on 28th. The only double-figure count reported by NFWBS was 27 over 33 sites in January (Table 4).

Breeding season counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2017 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley CP, 8 (13); Needs Ore, 11 (14); Fishlake Meadows, 5 (6). Other sites recording five or more territories were Kingston Great Common, 6; Sabines Farm (Avon), 5 and Posbrook Floods, 5. At Ibsley Water the number of territories appeared to be increasing, especially from the expanding reed-bed between Goosander and Lapwing Hides.

During the period October to December there were 22 double-figure counts, a drop from 29 in 2017. Just six locations returned counts of 25 or more with the highest totals in decreasing order being 33 at Portsdown Hill on Dec 27th; 30 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 25th and 30 at roost at Easton on Dec 28th. A total of 42 were caught and ringed in the second half-year at Iley Point, Keyhaven Marshes.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. The highest daily movement recorded at inland sites was 26 in less than 2 hours at Trigpoint Hill on Nov 5th. (AL)

	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	21	7	32	2		1
Inland moving	15	39	104	76	39	35

Categories D & E: escapes & others (KFB/JMC/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 List. Several reports of hybrid waterfowl were also submitted but are not included, except for *Aythya* hybrids in the main list, unless details of likely species involved were supplied.

Cackling Goose

Branta hutchinsii

Escape (North America).

Whilst birds of wild origin have now been admitted to Category A of the British List, the record below is considered to be from captive stock.

The individual present in the Lower Test Marshes area since 2014 was seen again on Jan 7th, 13th and 29th and Feb 6th.



*Cackling Goose (standing), Lower Test Marshes,
Feb 6th
(Paul Winter)*

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Escape (Central Asia). The small feral population previously established in the north-east of the county is extinct.

Singles reported in June at IBM Lake on 3rd, Woodmill on 5th, Testwood on 6th, Farlington Marshes on 13th and between Aug 15th and Sep 30th, Ibsley Water between July 30th and Sep 21st, nearby at Somerley Park and Hammer Lake, Ringwood on Sep 23rd, Avon Causeway on Sep 30th and Kingston on Dec 28th. Many of these records probably referred to the same individual.

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape (Australasia).

At Riverside Park, Southampton numbers increased from up to five in January to monthly maxima between 11 and 14 between April and August before dropping back to two in December. Two pairs made three attempts to breed. Of two eggs laid, one hatched on Apr 12th but was lost by July. Two further eggs were laid; one hatched mid-August and the cygnet survived into 2019. The final attempt resulted in two eggs hatched around Oct 30th but were lost by Nov 13th. The highest count in the area was 15 including one cygnet on the River Itchen Estuary on Sep 9th.

Regular reports were also received of up to four in Portsmouth Harbour in all months except December, including up to two in Fareham Creek from July to December, two in the Lymington-Hurst area between Mar 31st and Dec 8th, and one at Cut Bridge on Nov 29th, 30th and Dec 26th. Elsewhere there were three at Langstone Mill Pond on Jan 7th, two in Langstone Harbour on Apr 2nd, two at Emsworth on Oct 2nd and off East Hayling Island on Oct 21st and Nov 1st, and one at Mottisfont on Sep 24th and 30th with two there on Dec 19th.

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia).

Following sightings in November and December 2017, the adult female continued to be seen intermittently at Ripley Farm Reservoir up to Feb 21st. Possibly the same bird was subsequently seen at Farlington Marshes on June 23rd and Pennington Marshes the next day.

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escape (Central & South America).

The long-stayer from 2017 continued to be seen regularly at Heath Pond, Petersfield between Jan 6th and Dec 9th.

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape (North America).

A female with four ducklings was seen on a tributary of the Itchen at Shawford on June 9th.

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape (South America).

Pair present at Sherborne St. John on Mar 16th.

White-cheeked Pintail

Anas bahamensis

Escape (North & South America).

One at Woolmer Pond on Apr 2nd.

Barrow's Goldeneye

Bucephala islandica

Escape (North America & Iceland).

A free-flying male was seen on a shallow stream at Leckford on Feb 16th.

Reeves's Pheasant

Syrnaticus reevesii

Escape (China).

One still present at Biddenfield Farm, Botley Wood on various dates between Feb 6th and Apr 4th.

Flamingo sp.

Phoenicopterus sp.

Escape (Europe, Africa & South America).

An unidentified flamingo flew over North Hants Hospital, Basingstoke on June 27th.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Middle East).

With the White Stork Project reintroduction programme releasing birds at Knepp and Wadhurst Park in West Sussex and Wintershall Estate in Surrey, free-flying birds range widely in southern England. It has therefore been assumed that all of the following are of captive origin in the absence of strong evidence to the contrary.

Two were seen circling over Langstone Harbour on June 15th followed by one there and at East Meon on Aug 25th. In September singles were also seen at West Tisted on 7th and Petersfield on 25th and a group of five flew NE at Portsdown Hill on 15th. A separate colour-ringed individual of Dutch origin is considered to be wild and is included in the main Systematic List.

Harris's Hawk

Parabuteo unicinctus

Escape (North & South America).

Singles seen at Holmsley Ridge, NF on May 7th, nearby at Sway, NF on May 26th and Yateley GP on Nov 9th and 10th. (MLC)

2017 addition. One at Waterloooville on Nov 8th.

Great Bustard

Otis tarda

Escape (Europe & Asia).

Singles at Hannington Farm on Apr 5th and 6th and Poors Common, Bransgore on June 16th were both assumed to be from the Great Bustard Group release scheme in Wiltshire.

Crane (Common Crane)

Grus grus

Escape (Europe and North Asia).

Given the reintroduction programme in the West Country and the number of escapees from collections, the HOS Records Panel takes a cautious approach to each record and considered two circling over Martin Down on June 3rd to be probable escapes.

Others considered to be wild are listed in Category A.

Diamond Dove

Geopelia cuneata

Escape (Australia).

One at Titchfield Haven on Oct 18th.

Eagle Owl (Eurasian Eagle-Owl)

Bubo bubo

Escape (Europe & Asia).

One roosting at Sandy Point on Mar 17th was vigorously mobbed by Carrion Crows, Magpies and Herring Gulls.

Blue-winged Kookaburra

Dacelo leachii

Escape (Australia).

One at Brook Meadow, Emsworth on June 4th until at least early August.

Alexandrine Parakeet

Psittacula eupatria

Escape (South & South-east Asia).

Long-stayer seen again at Lower Pennington on Oct 21st.

Rainbow Lorikeet

Trichoglossus moluccanus

Escape (Australia).

One present in a garden at Farnborough on Apr 7th.

Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2018

Site	Woodcock†	Cuckoo	Nightjar	Green Woodpecker	Gt Sp Woodpecker	Woodlark	Skylark	Willow Warbler	Whitethroat	Dartford Warbler	Redstart	Stonechat	Tree Pipit	Meadow Pipit	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
<i>Thames Basin Heaths</i>																	
Blackbushe Airfield*							3	2	10	4		2			3		
Bourley North/Long Valley		1	13	nc	nc	10	5	nc	nc	8	1	10	4		nc		1
Bourley South			10	nc	nc	8		nc	nc	4		13	11		nc		1
Bramshill Plantation	3	1	6			1		16					1		9+		1
Bramshill Park Heath						1						1			1		
Bramshot Heath*						1						1					
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill	1		1	1	1		2		3	2		8		1			
Eversley Common including Busta Triangle			4	1		2		4		2		1			4		1
Castle Bottom	1	1	4	2	2	1		5	1			1	1		1		
Hawley Common	1		5	2	2	1				1		2					
Hazeley Heath	2		8	9	7	2		4	16	11		2	1		13		
Ivyhole Wood*			1														
Silchester Common*	1		2	1				2		2					5		
Tadley Common*			1					1		5					3		
Tweseldown			3									1	2				
Velmead Common		1	1			1		nc	nc			1			nc		
Warren Heath/Heath Warren	2	2	16	3	7	3		14	6				2				
Yateley Common (HCC)			12			1		10	8	4		2			3		
Yateley Common South (MOD)		1	8			2		2	5	9		7	3		11		
Yateley Heath Wood	1	1	9			5	2	3			1	4	6		6		
TBH total 2018	12	8	102	19	19	39	12	63	49	52	2	56	31	1	59	0	4
TBH total 2017	17	3	101	21	21	46	8	75	64	106	4	69	35	1	87	0	2
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott Common	1		2	2	3	5		3	2	1	1	1	2		1	1	
Broxhead Common		1	6			1		4	2	7		2	2		5		
Conford Moor	1		2	1	2				4	0						1	
Cranmer Heath			1								1	1	1		1		
Hammer Common	1			1	2			1									
Kingsley Common			2	1	2	1											
Longmoor Inclosure	nc	3	19	18	20	15		27	14	11	16	13	19		18	23	3
Ludshott Common		1	15			3		13	14	6	1	7	2		5	3	
Passfield Common	3		1	3								2					
Shortheath Common**			1	2	1			2									
The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC**			4	6	6	3	1	6	1			2	3		2	5	
Weavers Down/Holly Hills		1		1	1	1					1						
Woolmer Forest	nc	2	19	3	nc	15		7	nc	8	25	21	26		11		7
WH total 2018	6	8	72	39	37	44	1	63	37	33	45	49	55	0	43	33	10
WH total 2017	4	6	66	16	28	39	0	52	28	54	18	55	64	0	32	29	3

* = not included in Thames Basin Heaths SPA; ** = not included in Wealden Heaths SPA; nc = no count; blank square = 0; † = number of 1 km squares with roding birds; (1) = singing male for a few days; not included in totals.

Thanks are due to the following who contributed to this survey: J Baldwin, N Bolter, ML Chalmers, JM Clark, JR Collman, PJ Crowley, JA Eyre, HCC Staff (Yateley Common), AR James, C Jones, EA Lintott, SJ Mansfield, D Murray, M Shaft, B Stalker, DJ Sussex and KB Wills. Thanks are due to the following who contributed to this survey: J Baldwin, N Bolter, ML Chalmers, JM Clark, JR Collman, PJ Crowley, JA Eyre, HCC Staff (Yateley Common), AR James, C Jones, EA Lintott, SJ Mansfield, D Murray, M Shaft, B Stalker, DJ Sussex and KB Wills. 2017 Additions to Table 1 in 2017 report: Warren Heath/Heath Warren – add Stonechat 2 and Tree Pipit 2 territories.

Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2018

Table showing mean monthly reporting rate (% of gardens each month reporting the species) for 42 species categories recorded by BTO Garden BirdWatch. Note the number of gardens each month varies between 220-239 compared to the year total of 272. The final column shows the total number of gardens from which the species was reported at least once during 2018.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sites
Blackbird	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.5	99.1	90.6	90.7	92.7	97.3	99.6	270
Blackcap	26.8	30.7	31.1	35.5	11.9	11.3	9.4	9.0	9.7	5.5	11.6	19.2	159
Black-headed Gull	6.3	10.5	5.9	4.3	3.1	6.3	5.8	2.2	2.7	5.0	4.4	5.7	45
Blue Tit	100.0	98.7	99.6	99.6	98.7	94.6	94.2	94.6	96.0	95.9	98.2	97.8	271
Brambling	4.6	6.7	8.0	6.1	0.4						0.4		32
Bullfinch	30.1	27.7	25.2	27.7	29.5	32.0	27.2	21.5	14.6	12.3	15.6	19.2	143
Carrion Crow	42.3	42.0	41.6	50.2	44.9	39.2	33.5	31.4	35.8	37.7	41.8	36.7	173
Chaffinch	66.5	69.7	72.7	63.2	54.6	53.6	47.8	39.0	40.7	41.8	56.0	58.1	223
Coal Tit	74.1	68.9	67.6	57.6	51.5	47.3	45.1	57.8	53.5	65.5	73.8	69.4	240
Collared Dove	76.6	79.0	77.7	77.9	78.0	74.8	73.7	73.5	73.0	68.2	67.1	71.2	250
Dunnock	91.2	92.4	91.2	90.5	87.7	89.6	85.7	77.6	86.3	85.0	86.7	86.5	258
Feral Pigeon	12.1	11.8	11.8	13.0	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.5	12.8	13.2	13.3	14.0	60
Fieldfare	5.4	26.5	10.5							1.4	6.2	3.1	78
Goldcrest	28.0	24.4	23.1	16.5	9.7	8.1	6.7	4.5	7.5	8.2	12.4	7.4	125
Goldfinch	76.6	76.9	80.3	86.1	85.0	82.9	78.1	72.6	68.6	70.5	74.2	71.6	254
Great Spotted Woodpecker	42.3	42.9	37.0	46.8	48.9	51.8	44.6	27.8	31.0	37.3	48.0	46.7	187
Great Tit	90.0	89.9	89.9	94.4	92.1	86.5	80.4	83.4	84.5	82.7	88.4	89.1	261
Greenfinch	45.2	51.3	55.0	61.9	61.7	59.9	55.8	49.8	41.2	35.5	38.2	40.2	212
House Sparrow	69.9	68.9	71.4	74.9	78.4	78.8	77.2	71.7	67.7	68.2	72.0	67.7	231
Jackdaw	37.7	37.0	37.0	47.6	54.2	53.6	40.6	32.7	38.1	33.2	35.6	36.2	184
Jay	13.0	11.8	13.4	15.6	19.4	21.6	16.5	13.5	21.2	20.9	21.8	22.7	116
Long-tailed Tit	82.8	79.4	76.5	64.1	30.8	26.6	37.5	46.6	53.5	50.9	42.7	58.5	239
Magpie	74.5	73.9	78.2	79.7	81.9	77.9	72.8	70.4	76.5	80.5	81.8	78.2	253
Marsh Tit	4.6	2.9	2.1	2.6	1.3		1.8	2.7	4.5	3.1	5.9	6.7	29
Marsh/Willow Tit	6.3	3.3	5.0	5.7	2.2	1.4	2.2	4.4	3.6	4.6	5.3	5.3	30
Mistle Thrush	7.1	12.2	6.7	4.8	6.6	4.5	4.5	3.1	4.4	5.0	1.8	5.7	55
Nuthatch	39.7	37.0	37.4	32.5	32.6	33.3	38.8	43.9	42.5	46.8	46.2	45.0	164
Pied/White Wagtail	19.2	27.3	18.9	10.4	8.4	8.6	6.3	1.3	5.3	10.5	19.1	16.6	109
Redwing	8.4	22.7	9.7	0.4						3.2	8.0	10.9	89
Reed Bunting	2.1	2.5	3.4	2.2	0.4							1.7	12
Robin	100.0	100.0	98.3	99.1	98.7	97.3	95.5	97.8	100.0	98.2	98.2	98.3	272
Rook	13.4	18.9	26.9	26.4	24.7	20.7	16.5	9.9	11.5	15.5	14.7	17.0	96
Siskin	18.0	25.2	28.6	24.2	9.3	9.0	7.1	5.4	4.0	2.7	4.0	7.0	103
Song Thrush	43.9	56.3	46.2	32.0	29.1	34.2	39.7	14.8	11.5	12.3	22.2	34.5	207

Sparrowhawk	22.6	18.1	17.2	19.0	12.8	16.7	18.3	17.9	20.8	22.3	19.6	18.8	145
Starling	68.6	68.9	69.7	74.5	80.2	72.1	59.4	50.7	53.1	53.2	61.3	67.7	234
Tawny Owl	10.5	7.6	7.6	8.7	9.3	6.3	12.1	12.1	13.3	11.4	12.0	9.2	58
Tree Sparrow	1.7	0.8	0.8	1.7	1.3	2.3	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.8	2.2	2.6	13
Treecreeper	6.7	3.8	2.9	2.6	3.1	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	3.6	1.3	37
Woodpigeon	96.2	97.1	97.5	97.4	97.4	97.7	97.8	96.9	97.8	93.6	96.4	95.6	265
Wren	70.3	66.0	63.4	54.5	43.2	37.8	39.3	33.2	26.5	40.5	50.2	44.5	237
Yellowhammer	0.4		2.1	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.8	0.4	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.4	10

BTO Garden BirdWatch monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of 'citizen scientists'. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers are analysed by BTO researchers and the results inform our understanding of the use of gardens and other human sites by birds. BTO Garden BirdWatchers have charted the decline of the House Sparrow, the rise of the Woodpigeon, have discovered that urban birds get up later than their rural counterparts and have alerted conservationists to the impact of an emerging disease in Greenfinches. The project, which involves weekly observations, is funded through the generosity of its participants. For a free enquiry pack, please write to BTO Garden BirdWatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU; email gbw@bto.org or call the Garden Ecology Team on 01842-750050. More information on the project, including the latest results, can be found at www.bto.org/gbw.

Thanks to Neil Calbrade and the GBW team at BTO for producing the table and associated spreadsheet which together have been used for several species accounts in the Systematic List. Thanks also to all observers who contributed records for 2018 from the 272 Hampshire gardens in the scheme. Note GBW records are reported on a week-commencing basis.



Yellowhammer (David Thelwell)

Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2018

The BTO BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in April-June 2018 a total of 157 randomly located 1-km squares in the county were surveyed using the line-transect counting technique. A line-transect count is the number of birds of a given species detected (heard or seen, including fly-bys) on a two km walk completed in 2-3 hours within the 1-km square. These figures provide a useful indication of the relative abundance of different species although they do not take account of differences in detectability between species. Data are provided here for 2018 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 2018 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		
	2013-2017		2018	2013-2017		2018
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
N° of Squares Surveyed	136.6	125-147	157			
Canada Goose	23%	22-25%	25%	6.4	5.8 - 7.1	5.7
Greylag Goose	9%	7-10%	10%	6.0	4.5 - 7.4	6.9
Mute Swan	9%	7-11%	8%	6.3	4.8 - 8.7	4.5
Red-legged Partridge	32%	24-39%	32%	3.1	2.3 - 3.6	3.6
Pheasant	77%	73-80%	83%	5.9	4.9 - 7	6.3
Grey Heron	22%	19-27%	27%	1.7	1.5 - 2.1	1.6
Red Kite	15%	12-17%	22%	1.6	1.4 - 1.9	2.3
Buzzard	54%	49-58%	51%	1.7	1.5 - 1.8	2.0
Moorhen	14%	11-17%	11%	2.0	1.9 - 2.1	2.3
Coot	10%	8-12%	9%	0.1	0 - 0.2	3.4
Lapwing	15%	13-19%	10%	4.3	3.4 - 5.6	2.9
Black-headed Gull	34%	28-38%	33%	12.6	10 - 18	8.3
Herring Gull	27%	25-31%	27%	7.8	5.2 - 12	6.4
Lesser Black-backed Gull	15%	14-19%	22%	2.9	2.1 - 3.9	3.0
Feral Pigeon	14%	12-15%	17%	10.1	7.4 - 14	9.1
Stock Dove	47%	40-52%	54%	3.1	2.8 - 3.4	2.7
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	100%	33.7	31 - 36	35.1
Collared Dove	53%	48-59%	55%	5.4	4.7 - 6.4	4.4
Cuckoo	25%	21-29%	26%	1.6	1.4 - 1.8	1.8
Swift	28%	27-29%	28%	7.2	5.4 - 8.4	9.1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	73%	71-78%	77%	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	2.3
Green Woodpecker	53%	47-55%	48%	1.9	1.7 - 2.3	1.8
Kestrel	18%	15-22%	19%	1.2	1 - 1.2	1.1
Jay	51%	46-58%	48%	1.8	1.7 - 2	1.7
Magpie	75%	72-78%	75%	3.9	3.6 - 4.2	4.0
Jackdaw	79%	78-80%	78%	11.2	10 - 12	9.5
Rook	61%	57-62%	57%	25.1	21 - 32	32.3
Carrion Crow	95%	94-97%	94%	9.7	9.3 - 10	9.6
Raven	7%	4-13%	11%	1.5	1.1 - 2.2	2.1
Coal Tit	38%	30-45%	44%	2.9	2.6 - 3.4	3.8
Marsh Tit	12%	10-14%	12%	1.6	1.4 - 2.2	2.1
Blue Tit	97%	95-98%	99%	9.2	7.8 - 12	9.1
Great Tit	94%	92-96%	96%	6.0	5.1 - 7.3	6.3
Skylark	56%	50-59%	60%	5.2	4.8 - 5.5	4.9

Swallow	61%	57-65%	53%	4.3	4 - 4.5	3.8
House Martin	27%	24-30%	27%	6.2	4.4 - 6.9	5.4
Long-tailed Tit	57%	50-63%	48%	2.9	2.6 - 3.2	3.0
Willow Warbler	28%	23-31%	24%	2.3	2.2 - 2.4	1.8
Chiffchaff	85%	76-90%	84%	4.1	3.6 - 4.5	3.4
Blackcap	88%	85-91%	88%	4.3	3.8 - 4.6	4.8
Garden Warbler	13%	10-17%	13%	1.4	1.2 - 1.9	1.4
Whitethroat	49%	42-53%	46%	2.7	2.5 - 3	2.5
Goldcrest	53%	46-62%	51%	2.8	2.5 - 2.9	2.3
Wren	98%	97-100%	98%	11.0	9 - 12	10.8
Nuthatch	55%	51-58%	55%	2.7	2.4 - 2.9	3.1
Treecreeper	25%	21-30%	24%	1.6	1.4 - 2	1.6
Starling	53%	49-57%	50%	13.5	12 - 16	12.6
Blackbird	100%	99-100%	100%	15.4	15 - 16	15.4
Song Thrush	91%	90-93%	91%	4.1	3.6 - 4.6	4.1
Mistle Thrush	46%	40-52%	44%	2.0	1.7 - 2.4	1.9
Robin	98%	96-99%	97%	9.7	9.2 - 10	8.9
Redstart	7%	6-9%	8%	3.1	2.1 - 4.1	2.3
Stonechat	10%	6-12%	9%	4.3	3.6 - 5.1	4.4
House Sparrow	58%	57-58%	56%	12.0	11 - 12	14.4
Duncock	89%	85-91%	89%	4.0	3.7 - 4.2	4.0
Pied Wagtail	35%	33-37%	22%	1.7	1.5 - 1.8	1.5
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-14%	9%	5.0	4.3 - 5.4	6.0
Chaffinch	95%	93-97%	92%	8.5	7.3 - 9.2	7.4
Bullfinch	31%	21-37%	37%	2.0	1.7 - 2.3	1.7
Greenfinch	68%	58-78%	55%	4.3	3.4 - 5.2	3.6
Linnet	37%	34-41%	41%	6.6	4.3 - 9	5.9
Goldfinch	78%	73-82%	87%	5.9	5.4 - 6.8	7.4
Yellowhammer	42%	40-45%	46%	3.7	3.3 - 3.9	3.4
Species Total	122.2	120-125	121			

Species recorded in 8-11 squares: Shelduck, Tufted Duck, Little Egret, Cormorant, Sparrowhawk, Curlew, Mediterranean Gull, Tawny Owl, Firecrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Grey Wagtail, Siskin and Reed Bunting.

Species recorded in 3-7 squares: Egyptian Goose, Mandarin, Shoveler, Gadwall, Little Grebe, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Great Black-backed Gull, Barn Owl, Kingfisher, Hobby, Woodlark, Sand Martin, Cetti's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Dartford Warbler, Wheatear, Tree Pipit, Hawfinch, Crossbill and Corn Bunting.

Species recorded in one or two squares: Teal, Goosander, Grey Partridge, Great Crested Grebe, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier, Stone-curlew, Avocet, Whimbrel, Dunlin, Woodcock, Snipe, Common Gull, Little Tern, Common Tern, Little Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Peregrine, Wood Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler and Whinchat.

Species not recorded in 2018 but in three or more of the five previous years: Wigeon, Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Sandwich Tern, Turtle Dove, Willow Tit, 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 at BTO and her team for providing the data.

Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2018

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Teal	5		4	2	2	
Little Egret		2	2			
Sparrowhawk	3	4	5	7	9	5
Goshawk	3	7	3	6		5
Hen Harrier	1	2				4
Red Kite						
Buzzard	19	54	78	46	18	14
Water Rail						
Oystercatcher						
Lapwing	26	1	60	2	3	
Woodcock	3	4	5			4
Jack Snipe		3				
Snipe	12	11	11	10	8	11
Kingfisher				1		
Green Woodpecker	28	20	37	17	11	18
Kestrel	7	7	7	12	7	6
Merlin	5	1			2	
Peregrine	1	3	2	1	1	4
Great Grey Shrike	1	1			1	2
Carrion Crow	325	305	394	554	376	340
Raven	14	21	20	28	19	20
Marsh Tit	10	6	12	12	10	5
Woodlark	1	9	15	12		2
Skylark	1	2	41	38	8	5
Dartford Warbler	20	17	20	69	16	10
Firecrest						
Ring Ouzel				1		
Blackbird	423	343	405	200	240	391
Fieldfare	299	570	426	489	2,155	107
Redwing	543	564	385	330	1,127	236
Mistle Thrush	90	120	106	74	33	47
Stonechat	34	14	160	159	47	13
Meadow Pipit	155	83	214	516	536	34
Chaffinch	172	171	291	379	234	485
Brambling	21				3	40
Hawfinch	50	7	10	1		1
Bullfinch	52	47	25	16	21	16
Linnet	7	4	16	77	44	8
Lesser Redpoll	10	7	32	10	15	7
Crossbill	17	5	3	2	11	18
Siskin	20	20	34	66	17	13
Yellowhammer		3	1		3	
Reed Bunting	27	9	9	9	4	3
People	470	804	682	1,040	904	414
Dogs	278	383	275	439	388	257
No. of sites covered	33	33	35	35	31	34

Blank lines and spaces indicate not recorded in 2018.

For acknowledgments - see p. 183

Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2018

The figures in each cell show the date of the months in which counts were carried out.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Coast: east to west</i>												
Chichester Harbour Hampshire sectors (J Parkin <i>et al.</i>)	6	3	3	14	18	15	13	10	8	27	24	22
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn <i>et al.</i>)	6	3	3	14	19	16	14	11	8	27	24	22
Canoe Lake, Southsea (L McBean)		18	18									
Portsmouth Harbour (I Calderwood <i>et al.</i>)	6	3	3						8	27	24	22
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)	5	2	9	13						25	21	19
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)	6	4	3							27	24	19
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett)	6	3	3				19	11		27	23	22
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)	7	4	3	15	19	17	14	11	7	27	25	22
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)	6	3	4							26	24	21
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	5	2	3						9	26	23	22
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	6	3	3	14	19	16	14	11	8	27	24	22
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)	7	4	4	15						28	25	23
Hythe (BJ Roberts)	6		4	14					8	27	25	22
Fawley Refinery (JG Ross)	6	3	3	14								
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)	18	20	20						1			10
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth <i>et al.</i>)	7	4	16	15	20	17	15			28	25	23
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)	7	2		16	20	18	15	13	8	28	26	22
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)	6	2		13	19	16	16	11	7	27	24	21
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman <i>et al.</i>)	6	3	4	15	19	16	14	11	8	27	24	22
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke)	21	18	4						23	28	25	16
R. Avon Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark, K Sayer)	22	18	4						24	28	25	16
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer, JM Clark)	22	18	4						24	28	25	16
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	23	18	4						23	28	25	16
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)	25	19	5						23	29	25	16
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)	21	18	4						23	28	25	16
Holmsley GP (O Frampton)										28	26	16
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran)	27	18	25			17	28	27	23	28	25	22
<i>Test and Anton Valleys</i>												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth)	21	18	18						9	14	11	9
Broadlands Lake (P White)	21	18	24							14	11	9
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	22	18	23	15					10	14	11	9
Awbridge Lake (P White)	21	18	24							14	11	9
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	25	17	17	19	14	12	22	9	9	7	22	16
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	25	17	17	19	14	12	22	9	8	7	22	16
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)	19	16	25	17	18	5	19	10	7	8	13	11
Bransbury Common (GC Evans)	17	15	16	13	12		26	9	3	16	10	10
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	16	14	15	10	19	15	17	6	5	18	11	4
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)	18	21	14	12	17		13	8	4	23	8	13
Rooksbury Mill (D Piper)	20	18	18						9	14	11	9
R. Anton, Andover (N Goldsmith)	21	18			25			9	13	28	11	8
Cricklade Pond (N Goldsmith)	21	18			25			9	13	28		
Anton Lakes (D Piper)	20	18	18						9	14	11	9
Charlton Lakes (D Piper)	20	18	18						9	14	11	9
Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)	19	23	29						29	12		

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	21		16	29					14	14	11	9
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	21		16	29					21	14	11	9
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)	21		16	29					21	14	11	9
<i>Itchen Valley</i>												
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	21	18	18						10	14	17	
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)	19	20	16						19	14	12	9
Marwell Manor Trout Fishery (JM Cloyne)	19	20	16									
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)	19	20	16						19	14	12	9
Winnall Moors (P White)	21	18	24							14	11	9
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	22	16	16	16	21	14	14	10	16	16	12	11
Avington Lake (DJ Pearson/M Armitage)	21	18	17						27			
Arlebury Lakes (M Armitage)	21	18	20						9	15	11	16
Alresford Pond (M Armitage)	22	18	20						9	14	11	16
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)	9	8		5	9	13			17	31	29	17
<i>North and north-east</i>												
Ramptons Lane GP (B Stalker)	20	17	16						7	14	11	2
Welshman's Road GP (B Stalker)	20	17	16						9	14	11	2
Wolverton Pond (B Sharkey)	20	18	16						15	14	11	9
Ewhurst Lake (B Sharkey)	20	18	26						16	14	11	9
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	21	11	18						9	11	10	9
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark)	16	21							12	14	20	31
Wellington CP (JM Clark)	16	17	19	19					12	14	20	31
Bramshill Plantation (N Bolter)		18	18						9	14	11	9
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	16	17	19	26	3	29	17	14	12	14	10	14
Busta Triangle (N Bolter)	21	18	18						9	14	11	9
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	16	17	19					14	12	14	10	14
Fleethill Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	17	19				19	25	11	10	16	10	29
Eversley GP (RC Murfitt)	20	24	19	15					16	13	10	16
Yateley GP (JM Clark/A Stoney)	17	15	14	12				22	10	12	9	10
Hawley Lake (D Johnson)	20	18	19	15	19	17	15	12	9	15	11	9
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	20	20	10						9	13	12	12
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)	27	17	18						9	14	11	9
Edenbrook CP (J Blithe)	20	18	18	15	20	17	16	12	9	14	11	9
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	20	24	10						9	13	11	9
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	20	24	10						9	13	11	9
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	20	24	10						9	13	11	9
<i>East</i>												
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	21	18	16	13	21	17	16	12	10	13	11	8
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	26	25							18	11	14	
Wyck Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	26	25							18	11	14	
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)	26	25							18	11	14	
Headley Mill Pond (R Stephens)	21	18	18	15	20	16	15	12	8	14	11	9
Passfield Pond (R Stephens)	21	18	18	15	20	16	15	12	8	14	11	9
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	12	9	14	11	9
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	21	21		15	20		15		9	14	11	8

Chichester Harbour team: T Bickerton, J Chapman, J Curtin, J Darley, S Gilbert, T Hall, P Hughes.
 Langstone Harbour team: D Ball, GC Barrett, T Bickerton, G Butler, C Cockburn, A Cox, TMJ Doran,
 M Eagles, G Farwell, A Field, 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, 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- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2017	Latest 2018	Earliest 1954- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2017	Earliest 2018	Summering records
White-fr. Goose	29.5.15	28 Mar	8 Apr	18 Mar	4.10.52 4.10.14	12 Nov	26 Oct	26 Oct	6 (June- Sep)
Bewick's Swan	25.3.16	12 Mar	4 Mar	2 Apr	15.10.04	3 Nov	19 Nov	NA	9 (Apr/ May)
Scaup	26.5.10	8 Apr	8 Apr	1 May	9.9.00	27 Oct	31 Oct	5 Dec	4 (June- Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	10 May	25 May	29.9.91	30 Oct	3 Nov	22 Nov	
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	18 Apr	21 Apr	23.9.61	4 Nov	10 Nov	17 Oct	5 (June- Aug)
Smew	10.4.63	NA	4 Mar	NA	8.11.82	NA	11 Dec*	NA	1 (June)
Bl.-throated Diver	6.6.07	5 May	9 May	22 Mar	8.9.09	4 Nov	16 Nov	8 Nov	2 (May- Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	22.6.13	12 May	26 May	8 June	16.9.03	5 Nov	19 Oct	5 Nov	1 (Aug)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	5 Mar	15 Apr	24.8.94	18 Oct	27 Nov	13 Oct	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	10 Apr	25 Mar	18.9.09	25 Oct	26 Oct	1 Nov	2 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	26 Apr	24 Mar	23.8.07	25 Sep	27 Sep	24 Sep	1 (July)
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	12 May	8 May	7.7.69	4 Oct	11 Oct	21 Oct	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	14 Apr	23 Apr	21.8.08	28 Sep	28 Sep	8 Oct	
Merlin	24.5.03	23 Apr	30 Apr	5 May	30.7.05	24 Aug	25 Aug	8 Aug	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	15 Apr	8 Mar	4.10.72	17 Oct	15 Oct	18 Oct	
Fieldfare	23.5.80	28 Apr	25 Apr	14 Apr	3.9.04	30 Sep	5 Oct	7 Oct	5 (June)
Redwing	12.5.81	23 Apr	16 Apr	12 Apr	11.9.99 11.9.15	27 Sep	28 Sep	29 Sep	3 (June- July)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	14 Oct	13 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	22.9.96	5 Oct	9 Oct	7 Oct	1 (July)
Twite	13.4.75	NA	NA	NA	30.9.83	NA	NA	13 Nov	
Lapland Bunting	23.4.10	NA	NA	NA	9.9.70	NA	18 Oct*	21 Oct	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	10 Feb*	NA	3.10.75	NA	4 Nov	11 Nov	

bold = new earliest or latest date; * = based on limited data set; NA = not available

Table 7: Arrival and departure dates of summer visitors

Species	Earliest 1954- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2017	Earliest 2018	Latest 1954- 2016	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2017	Latest 2018	Wintering records
Garganey	2.3.03	19 Mar	15 Mar	28 Feb	29.11.53	28 Sep	28 Sep	16 Nov	
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	16 May	2 June	19.11.58	24 Aug	20 Aug*	14 Aug	6 (Dec- Mar)
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	18 Mar	24 Feb	11.12.99	14 Oct	7 Nov	16 Oct	
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	1 May	7 May	30.10.76	5 Oct	25 Sep	8 Oct	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	4 May*	NA	2.11.60	31 Aug	27 Aug*	NA	
Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	24 Mar	29 Mar	6.11.66	2 Oct	7 Oct	8 Oct	2 (Dec)

Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	14 Mar	11 Mar	29.10.05	18 Sep	19 Sep	12 Oct	
Dotterel	15.4.96	3 May*	NA	NA	25.9.82	4 Sep*	NA	NA	1 (Dec/Jan)
Wood Sandpiper	23.3.03	3 May	25Apr	6 May	26.10.75	22 Sep	16 Sep	6 Oct	1 (Feb)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	12 Apr	6 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	18 Sep	20 Sep	1 (Jan)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	28 Apr	9 May	10.10.99	10 Sep	1 Sep	23 Aug	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	31 Mar	27 Mar	30.11.73	25 Oct	23 Oct	27 Oct	3 (Dec)
Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	13Apr	6 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	23 Oct	15 Nov	
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	20 Apr	16 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	22 Sep	2 Oct	
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	1 Apr	30 Mar	29.11.14	27 Oct	20 Oct	14 Sep	15 (Dec/Jan)
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	7.11.70	3 Oct	16 Sep	25 July	5 (Dec-Feb)
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	2 Apr	6 Apr	30.10.10	13 Sep	11 Sep	19 Sep	
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	29 Apr	1 May	13.10.74	7 Sep	15 Sep	7 Sep	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	24 Sep	30 Sep**	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	2 May	20 Apr	9.11.13	27 Sep	14 Oct*	15 Oct	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	3 Apr	25 Mar	6.11.01 6.11.10	11 Oct	21 Oct	19 Oct	
Sand Martin	27.2.90	16 Mar	10 Mar	5 Mar	28.11.13	15 Oct	19 Oct	28 Oct	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09	20 Mar	17 Mar	11 Mar	22.12.77	27 Nov	30 Nov	21 Dec	7 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	24 Mar	3 Apr	22.12.82	17 Nov	6 Nov	11 Nov	2 (Jan/Feb)
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	19 Mar	16 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	10 Oct	19 Oct	
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	29.9.64	24 Aug	19 Aug	25 Aug	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	31 Mar	3 Apr	9.11.63	9 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	1.4.94 1.4.15	13 Apr	5 Apr	29 Mar	2.12.84	19 Oct	23 Oct	29 Oct	
Grasshopper Wbr	1.4.97	16 Apr	11 Apr	13 Apr	20.10.01	18 Sep	5 Oct	29 Sep	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	10Apr	17 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	5 Oct	1 Oct	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	31.10.82	2 Oct	8 Oct	18 Oct	11 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	3 Apr	11 Apr	17.11.95	6 Oct	16 Oct	27 Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	22 Mar	3 Apr	4.12.03	29 Oct	10 Nov	31 Oct	7 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	30 Apr	22 Apr	29.10.61	2 Oct	7 Oct	4 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75 3.4.12	14 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	9.10.85	21 Aug	11 Aug	4 July	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	9 Apr	14 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	23 Sep	13 Sep	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	2 Apr	4 Apr	24.11.89	14 Oct	20 Oct	26 Sep	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	16 Apr	6 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	29 Oct	18 Oct	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	31.12.94	10 Nov	14 Nov	10 Nov	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	30Mar	12 Apr	20.11.76	19 Oct	20 Oct	20 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	29 Mar	7 Apr	25.10.79	4 Oct	11 Oct	15 Oct	

bold = new earliest or latest date ; * = based on limited data set; ** excludes one on Nov 9th;
NA = not available

Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over inland watchpoints during 2018

Data are extracted from the visible migration website www.trektellen.nl. Other Hampshire observers are encouraged to set up their own watchpoint sites on Trekten, which has excellent tools available for analysing the data, by contacting the UK Trekten organiser Clive McKay at clive.mckay@btinternet.com.

Trigpoint Hill, mid-Test Valley (David Thelwell)

Species	Trig Jan	Trig Feb	Trig Mar	Trig Apr	Trig May	Trig June	Trig July	Trig Aug	Trig Sep	Trig Oct	Trig Nov	Trig Dec
Days	6	8	15	15	10	8	9	12	15	23	15	13
Totals hours	4.50	8.00	15.20	13.50	9.55	7.35	10.05	11.45	23.25	31.25	19.21	12.50
Cormorant	32	55	49	14	12	11	12	31	110	119	144	47
Golden Plover	29		1						2	32	11	
Lapwing	28	147	3	2	3					121	25	47
Black-headed Gull					1		1	3	107	203		
Common Gull		11	35						2	32	60	27
LBB Gull		8	63	92	28	12	26	20	6	19	5	
Herring Gull	1		7	7	10	3	4	83	119	214	752	1,282
GBB Gull	4	2	6	5	4		2			2	1	
Stock Dove	8	43	44	42	15	6	28	47	107	268	63	133
Woodpigeon					132			775	1,100	2,440	3,870	501
Collared Dove				2					8	4		
Swift				25	202	361	49	14				
Gt Sp Woodpecker							1	3	8	13	2	1
Merlin				1						1	1	
Hobby				1	4			2	3			
Peregrine		1	1					1		1	1	
Jay									12	6		
Jackdaw										912	38	3
Raven		9	1		2			4	5	3		4
Woodlark										7	3	
Skylark			6						108	575	94	10
Sand Martin				23	7	1	2		15			
Swallow				135	173	33	126	479	3,251	28		
House Martin				21	220	26	13	493	2,529	25		
Starling	4,545	217	1,520		3	29	166	206	23	1,517	4,225	1,202
Blackbird			3						1	5	6	
Fieldfare	75	25	330	18						108	2,585	612
Song Thrush		14	1						3	34	21	3
Redwing	12	4	596	23					1,111	3,853	1,736	7,340
Mistle Thrush	2		1		2		5		23	58	18	8
flava Wagtail				3	1			6	18			
Grey Wagtail		2					1		1	2	2	
alba Wagtail			3	4	4		2		23	112	16	5
Tree Pipit				1				1	13			
Meadow Pipit	4	26	250	174					441	321	100	14
Brambling	9	1	81							8		1
Chaffinch	67	100	241	19	1	6	12	14	99	507	376	196
Hawfinch	1	1	14	6	2					2	6	
Bullfinch	2				3			1	7	11	10	4
Greenfinch	2	5	11	5		3	7	1	2	18	2	9

Linnet	42	79	199	156	45	73	190	125	89	624	265	45
Lesser Redpoll	3	2	1	43						18	2	
Crossbill										2		
Goldfinch	8	4	11	37	19	23	62	38	64	146	63	51
Siskin	2	1	1	2					1	60	10	25
Yellowhammer	2	5	3	6					1	37	24	5
Reed Bunting	2	2	10	1					3	117	101	37

Tweseldown Racecourse and Caesar's Camp near Fleet (Graham Stephenson and John Clark).

Species	Twes Sep	Twes Oct	Twes Nov	Twes Dec
Days	24	20	23	10
Totals hours	48	47.15	51	15
Cormorant	92	35	50	10
Golden Plover			6	
Lapwing		1		
Black-headed Gull	64	86	105	78
Common Gull	0	20	5	1
LBB Gull	13	10	84	10
Herring Gull	29	57	889	183
Stock Dove	1171	437	204	122
Woodpigeon	201	12,210	24,153	4,359
Gt Sp Woodpecker	2	3	3	5
Kestrel	1	1		
Merlin		1		
Hobby	3			
Peregrine		1		
Magpie		1		
Jackdaw	40	234	288	9
Rook	1	3	0	7
Raven	7			
Woodlark	17	5	4	3
Skylark	11	217	43	1
Sand Martin	1	1		
Swallow	847	19		

Species	Twes Sep	Twes Oct	Twes Nov	Twes Dec
House Martin	14,795	18	1	
Starling	22	2,932	3,215	41
Ring Ouzel				
Blackbird	2	11	37	3
Fieldfare		1,495	2,507	755
Song Thrush	12	234	111	10
Redwing	49	5,898	10,777	3,696
Mistle Thrush	28	21	20	
<i>flava</i> Wagtail	30	1		
Grey Wagtail	12	4	3	
<i>alba</i> Wagtail	23	70	3	
Tree Pipit	2			
Meadow Pipit	3,981	81	2	
Brambling		24	187	16
Chaffinch	97	1,941	1,471	162
Hawfinch			1	
Bullfinch		5		
Greenfinch	8	9	21	35
Linnet	121	221	34	18
Lesser Redpoll		2	6	20
Goldfinch	165	341	142	116
Siskin	49	55	3	1
Yellowhammer				
Reed Bunting	2	12	6	

New Forest Winter Bird Survey 2018 Acknowledgments

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 Calderin at 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, Olly 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.

Appendix I

Outstanding and not proven records

Outstanding records

Records for which descriptions are required for consideration by BBRC or HOSRP

The following are records which either (a) have not been officially submitted or (b) have been submitted but without the necessary supporting documentation as detailed in Appendix 3. If the necessary documentation is not submitted to the Recorder for consideration the record will be lost from the Hampshire avifauna.

2018 – BBRC

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: Bedhampton, Dec 16th into 2019

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.

2018 – HOSRP

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: Weston Shore, Dec 30th

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Hayling Bay, May 12th

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*, Milford on Sea, Dec 16th

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Leigh Park, June 11th

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Alton, July 21st

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*: Pennington, Sep 12th

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*: Hurst Beach, Mar 31st

Little Auk *Alle alle*: Hill Head, Nov 5th

Bee-eater *Merops merops*: Burkham, July 11th

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: Hill Head, Sep 22nd

Appendix 2

Observers and Contributors 2018

Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2018 database of records used to prepare the Systematic List. In addition to those submitting directly to HOS Recorder, it includes contributions from the following sources: BTO BirdTrack, BTO Breeding Bird Survey, Going Birding website, Thames Basin & Wealden Heath Breeding Bird Survey, Trektellen, WeBS and Living Record. It does not include those submitting to Birdguides or BTO's Garden BirdWatch.

Abrahams, R	Bates, A	Brookes, D	Chapman, RA	Cooper, A
Adams, M	Bath, M	Brookes, K	Chapman, SE	Copleston, P
Adams, MC	Batho, GS	Brown, D	Chastell, SM	Cordery, RJ
Adams, N	Beardmore, MD	Brown, NH	Cheadle, J	Cornford, HR
Adams, T	Beare, R	Brown, PM	Cheeseman, C	Corrigan, C
Agombar, D	Beck, J	Brown, RI	Cheke, RA	Cossey, S
Alexander, G	Bell, M	Brown, SA	Christie, DA	Coumbe, MJ
Allen, PE	Bennett, JA	Brunton, S	Christopher, R	Court, JMC
Allnutt, DP	Bennett, M	Bryant, D	Church, C	Coventry, R
Amaira, K	Bennett, M&P	Bryant, P	Church, J	Cox, AFJ&PR
Amery, A	Bennett, MJ	Bryant, R	Churcher, K	Cox, AP
Anderson, J	Bennett, P	Buchanan, ME	Churchus, CD	Cox, D
Anderson, P	Beresford, A	Buck, T	Clack, P	Cox, P
Andersson, M	Beresford, PJ	Buckler, DJ	Claridge, RJ	Cox, S
Andrews, JK	Betton, KF	Budd, PA	Clark, FC	Cozens, BR
Angliss, R	Bicker, R	Bunday, AW	Clark, JM	Crabbe, O
Annell, GR	Bickerton, T	Burchall, G	Clarke, D	Craft, SJ Craig, C
Annell, J	Bingley, JH	Burdfield, I	Clay, BR	Creighton, M
Aplin, R	Bird, G	Burge, J	Clay, RP	Cripps, J
Appleby-Goudberg, R	Bird, ME	Burnett, JW	Clayton-Harding, M	Crisp, K
Arbuckle, M	Birkett, J	Burns, ANM	Cleal, DL	Crook, K
Armitage, M	Bishop, DR	Burton, H	Clements, J	Crook, N
Ashworth, IA	Bishop, G	Bush, S	Clements, R	Cross, AR
Austin, D	Bissell, LJ	Butcher, JR	Clemons, S	Crow, TH
Aylward, S	Black, H	Butcher, S	Cliffe, J	Crowe, S
Bailey, JB	Blackmore, DA	Butler, ED	Cloyne, JM	Crowley, PJ
Bainbridge, CA	Blakeley, AF	Butler, G	Coates, AQ	Culley, K
Baker, CG	Blandford, D	Butler, TJ	Coates, BF	Cumming, DA
Baker, LJ	Blithe, J	Cadera, J	Cobley, A	Cumming, I
Baker, M	Bollen, CF	Calcutt, D	Cockburn, C	Cummins, T
Baker, MJ	Bolter, N	Calderwood, G	Codlin, TD	Curran, M
Baker, R	Bolton, A	Calderwood, I	Colcomb, K	Currie, S
Baldwin, I	Booth, A	Callaghan, SA	Cole, R	Curson, L
Baldwin, J	Boreham, C	Callegari, SE	Colenutt, AJ	Curtin, J
Baldwin, M	Boswell, M	Camp, J	Colenutt, SR	Curtis, CR
Ball, DJG	Boswell, SA	Campbell, DK	Colledge, D	Cutts, MAJ
Ball, S	Boswell, SR	Campbell, P	Collins, AR	D'Agorne, C
Ballam, ID	Boult, P	Carley, T	Collins, B&M	Dale, M
Balmer, AJ	Boulter, J	Carpenter, RJ	Collins, CB	Daniel, M
Balnaves, R	Bowley, AQ	Carpenter, TF	Collins, M	Daniels, B
Barber, LJ	Bowman, C	Carter, G	Collins, P	Daniels, R
Barber, R	Bown, C	Cartwright, BM	Collins, REC	d'Apice, MHR
Barfield, M	Boyle, S	Cashman, P	Collins, S	Darch, M
Barrass, C	Bradford, S	Casson, J	Collman, JR	Dare, L
Barrett, GC	Bradley, DW	Castle, C	Combridge, P	Darley, J
Barrett, MA	Brandsma, J	Catty, N	Compton, DK	Darrell-Lambert, DG
Barton, D	Brenton, J	Cavey, I	Connell, G	Davidson, AS
Bass, D	Brett, EC	Chalmers, ML	Cook, CR	Davies, G
Bassett, S	Bristow, P	Chapleo, C	Cook, R	Davies, K
Batchelor, SD	Broadfield, KA	Chapman, B	Cooke, RE	Davies, P
Bate, P	Broadhurst, A	Chapman, EG	Cookson, M	Davies, SJ
Bate, P&J	Broadway, R	Chapman, JW	Coomber, R	Davis, G
	Brook, R	Chapman, P	Cooper J&A	Davis, S

Davison, B	Evans, GC	Golledge, DJ	Harvey, MJ	Hughes, L
Davison, BR	Evans, LGR	Goodridge, JJ	Harvey, SC	Hughes, P
Dawson, A&C	Eyre, JA	Goodspeed, JR	Hastings, D	Hull, JD&NJ
Dawson, R	Fagan, A	Gorman, D	Hatcher, SP	Hulme, J
Dawson, SJ	Faithfull, J	Gould, M	Hatfield, L	Humphrey, P
de Retuerto, MA	Farmer, E	Gowers, J	Hausmann, C	Humphrey, VF
Dedman, JW	Farrell, C	Graham, S	Hawes, C	Hunt, J
Dennett, S	Farwell, G	Graham, T	Hawkins, M	Hunt, MA
Dennis, G	Faulkner, K	Grant, KR	Hawtree, JN	Hurst, A
Denton, J	Faux, M	Gray, M	Hay, MJW	Hurst, DT
Derrick, DM	Fawkes, PF	Green, AE	Hayden, A	Hurst, F
Devereau, SC	Fellows, BJ	Green, C	Haydon, RM	Hutchins, PE
Dewey, S	Fennemore, GD	Greenwood, D	Haysom, KA	Hutchinson, F
Diamond, JR	Fenton-Scott, D	Gregory, AP	Hayward, RJ	Hyam, M
Dicker, GM	Field, AR	Griffin, P	Heard, PA	Illesley, KJ
Dickety, AJ	Finlason, M	Griffin, TN	Heath, A	Ingram, S
Dickinson, J	Fitzgerald, M	Grist, DM	Heath, AB	Inman, N
Dicks, S	Flannagan, AW	Grist, M	Heath, PA	Iredale, R
Dillon, H	Fleming, K	Gross, J	Heaven, K	Irwin, RN
Dixon, K	Floyd, P	Grove, K	Heaver, M	Ison, M
Dobbs, R	Foad, P	Groves, B	Heaver, MC	Ives, BGR
Doherty, TA	Foote, SR	Groves, R	Hedley, B	Jackson, A
Donaldson, PC	Forbes-Wood, G	Guest, IR	Hefford, M	Jackson, K
Dor, G	Ford, PMS	Guinane, M	Hellier, RD	Jackson, L
Doran, TMJ	Ford, R	Gunningham, BM	Hewes, A	Jackson, SJ
Douglas, A	Ford, S	Gutteridge, AC	Hewlins, N	Jacobs, RJK
Downey, B	Fordred, S	Gwynn, BS	Hicks, AD	Jacobs, RS
Downing, J	Forster, R	Hack, PJ	Highfield, M	James, AR
Dowty, M	Frampton, M	Hacking, N	Hiley, S	James, P
Drain, I	Frampton, OJ	Haines, W	Hill, CHJ	James, W
Drew, MJ	Francis, M	Hainsworth, IR	Hill, MJ	James-Knell, JS
Driver, PW	Free, D	Haisell, O	Hilliard, RA	Jarvis, JE
Druett, JE	French, CD	Hale, APS	Hills, R	Jewsbury, D
Dryden, M	French, N	Hale, JA	Hilton, JI	Johnson, AC
Duckworth, NA	Friend, A	Hall, R	Hoare, DJ	Johnson, D
Dudley, B	Friery, K	Hall, T	Hobbs, K	Johnson-Hughes, S
Duffin, BS	Fuller, LM	Hallam, N	Hobby, P	Johnston, C
Duffus, G	Fussell, M	Hallett, RJ	Hobson, JA	Johnstone, G
Duggan, N	Gale, L	Halligan, MJ	Hocking, C	Jones, B
Duncan, KP	Gammage, PA	Hamilton, R	Hogan, P	Jones, C
Dunford, T	Garner-Langham, L	Hammatt, N	Hogg, J	Jones, CD
Durkin, R	Garnier-Edwards, P	Hammond, C	Holderness, M	Jones, D
Durnell, PR	Gartshore, N	Hampson, IR	Holding, AP	Jones, I
Dye, J	Gaskin, LA	Hampton, D	Holland, D	Jones, J
Dyos, A	Gates, NJF	Hampton, TM	Holland, R	Jones, JR
Eagles, M	Geall, E	Hamzija, MJ	Hollidge, K	Jones, KL
Earley, S	Geall, EC	Hankinson, L	Holloway, S	Jones, M
Easom, L	Gent, J	Hannam, JC	Holloway, Y	Jones, MF
Easterbrook, M	George, CM	Hardie, AJ	Holmes, PJ	Jones, NR
Eaton-Brown, J	Germain, A	Harding, A	Holt, MJ	Jones, PD
Edge, B	Germain, C	Harewood, D	Holter, CA	Jones, PE
Edgeller, ML	Gibbons, M	Harley, RP	Hooper, L	Jones, RI
Edmunds, H	Gibbons, MJ	Harley, S	Hooper, MJ	Jones, T
Edwardes, A	Giddens, GSA	Harmer, F	Hosen, C	Jordan, TRM
Edwards, MR	Gilbert, SA	Harrington, E	Houghton, DP	Joughin, R
Elliott, D	Gilham, R	Harrington, ST	Howard, A	Judge, B
Ellis, A	Gillingham, D	Harris, CJ	Howard, AM	Kearns, K
Ellis, D	Gillingham, JKC	Harris, GO	Howard, M	Keen, SG
Ellis, R	Gillingham, MA	Harris, JR	Howe, AR	Keep, G
Emmott, K	Gillings, S	Harris, KN	Howe, O	Keightley, DW
Endersby, P	Glavin, M	Harris, NG	Howe, PD	Kelson, D
Etheridge, L	Goater, B	Harrison, C	Howell, R	Kennelly, AD
Etherington, M	Goddard, B	Harrison, P	Hudson, A	Kent, A
Etherton, H	Goddard, J	Hart, R	Hughes, DJ	Kesby, G
Evans, DG	Goldsmith, N	Hartill, S	Hughes, J	King, GJ

King, M	Louch, A	Milligan, RF	Osborne, J	Pullen, AP
King, S	Lowe, WJ	Millington, SJ	Overy, L	Pullin, G
King, SJ	Lowings, VA	Mills, DGH	Owen, AE	Pully, S
King, SS	Lunn, AP	Mintram, G	Owen, GM	Puttock, B
Kirby, AJ	Lush, M	Mitchell, D	Owen, NT	Pyke, L
Kirkham-Brown, K	Luther, CM	Mitchell, R	Page, AG	Pyrah, RJ
Kitching, I	Lycett, C	Mitchellmore, A	Painter, MG	Pyrzewski, M
Knight, AR	Lyle, R	Mogg, D	Painton, JL	Rackett, BJ
Knight, D	Lynch, M	Monkhouse, J	Paley, RA	Radden, DJC
Knight, DC	Lyons, H	Montegriffo, NJ	Palmer, JC	Rafter, M
Knight, N	Lyons, M	Moody, MP	Palmer, MJ	Ralphs, IL
Knott, G	MacCallum, L	Moon, J&J	Palmer, RA	Randall, M
Kohler, M	Maclean-Henry, G	Moore, AP	Papps, N	Rapley, G
Lacy	MacLennan, I	Moore, M	Papworth, D	Rawlings, ND
Ladd, RC	MacNish, A	Morris, G&J	Parfitt, A	Rayment, E
Lailey, J	Mallalieu, M	Mortimer, L	Park, N	Raymond, CJ
Lambden, M	Mallinson, JJ	Morton, G	Parker, AJ	Raynor, EM&PJ
Lambe, GP	Manfield, I	Moseley, J	Parkhurst, R&S	Read, E
Lambert, SR	Manias, F	Moser, R	Parkin, LT	Reaney, A
Lane, CS	Mann, L	Mountford, R	Parsonage, A	Reavey, JB&J
Lang, IM	Manning, CP	Munday, DR	Parsons, TEG	Redhead, JW
Langford, K	Mansfield, SJ	Munts, D	Pascal, RW	Reed, C
Langley, GB	Marchant, JH	Murdoch, DA	Paton, N	Reedman, R
Lansley, AM	Marchant, RH	Murdock, A	Patrick, G	Rees, GD
Latham, MJ	Marcuse, D	Murfitt, RC	Payne, D	Reeves, G
Lawn, MR	Markham, RJ	Murphy, G	Peace, RK	Reeves, J
Lawrence, N	Marriner, N	Murray, D	Pearce, E	Reid, GS
Lawrence, SP	Marshall, SK	Nash, CS	Pearce, R	Renyard, S&M
Lawson, MJ	Martin, A	Neal, SM	Pearce, RK	Rhodes, AR
Layton, S	Martin, JP	Nelson, M	Pearson, DJ	Rhodes, AS
Le Grice, R	Martin, JT	Nelson, R	Pearson, P	Rice, E
Leach, PR	Martin, KP	Newbound, PJ	Peart, RH	Rich, G
Lee, DR	Maskell, JM	Newton, C	Peat, L	Richards, AK
Lee, J	Maskell, K	Newton, SJ	Peck, R	Richards, HE
Lee, R	Matthews, N	Nicholls, R	Pell, R	Richardson, B
Lee, RD	Matthews, PJ	Nield, P	Pell, R	Richardson, B
Lee, RL	Maundrell, AJ	Nieuwkerk, A	Pepper, G	Richmond, J
Lee, T	May, K	Nightingale, J	Perry, A	Rickard, M
Legg, J	May, NG	Nixon, K	Peters, JN	Riddle, D
Legge, WGD	Mayhead, C	Noble, D	Peterson, L	Ritchie, S
Leishman, S	Mayne, KR&WA	Norman, MJ	Phillips, D	Roberts, ET
Lester, AJB	Mayne, WA	Norris, PR	Pibworth, I	Roberts, GCM
Levell, JE	McArdle, A	Norriss, TJ	Picksley, J	Roberts, JB
Lever, A	McBean, L	Norton, JA	Piggott, SP	Roberts, K
Lever, P	McCarthy, JS	Norton, T	Pinchen, BJ	Roberts, KJ
Levesley, JM	McCrum, A	Nurse, MW	Pink, MA	Robertson, D
Levett, RK	McCullagh, SFH	Nutbourne, G	Piper, DJ	Robertson, MJ
Levy, DA	McDonald, A	Oakes, S	Pitt, MJ	Robinson, CC
Levy, S	McEwan, C	Oakley-Martin, D	Place, RM	Robinson, PJ
Lewin, PJ	McKenna, A	Oakshott, P	Pleasance, J	Robison, DM
Lewis, AI	McMullan, H	O'Connell, D	Pollinger, GC	Robjohns, AL
Lewis, JH	McPherson, I	O'Hanlon, J	Potter, J	Rockhill, JR
Lewis, M	McVeigh, A	Oldfield, M	Potter, S	Rodger, B
Lhopkins, CP	Mead, G	Oliver, M	Potts, PM	Rogers, D
Liley, MJS	Mead, V	Oliver, N	Powell, DW	Rolfe, MD
Lintott, BJ	Mears, I	Oram, MA	Powell, S	Rooney, G
Lintott, EA	Meikle, J	Orchard, D	Prater, D	Rose, C
Litjens, MA	Melrose, M	Orchard-Webb, MA	Pratt, E	Roseveare, CD
Lloyd, G	Melville, S	Ord, S	Pratt, GC	Ross, JG
Lloyd, SJH	Menari, R	Orme, A	Price, N	Rossiter, BN
Lloyd-Williams, I	Metcalfe, KD	Ormerod, P	Price, S	Rowe, HEJ
Loader, S	Middleton, L	Orriss, H	Prince, M	Rowland, GJS
Locke, A	Miles, S	Orson, N	Pringle, M	Rowse, P
Lockhart, SJ	Milinet-Raby, PN	Osborn, P	Prior, R	Roy, JM
Lodge, C	Miller, H	Osborne, A	Pritchard, DM	Roy, K
				Rudderham, C

Ruff, EA	Smith, A	Swanson, CD	Veale, C	Whittaker, P
Rutter, PM	Smith, AG	Swensson, DE	Viney, TJ	Wildish, MF
Rycroft, N	Smith, BE	Swinbank, R	Vokes, MG	Wilkerson, G
Ryland, C	Smith, D	Symonds, ERC	Wagstaff, MA	Wilkes, KR
Rylands, K	Smith, IA	Szwinto, HE	Walford, MF	Wilkinson, D
Ryves, DJ	Smith, JF	Taylor, A	Walker, BJ	Wilkinson, T
Sambrook, R	Smith, MJ	Taylor, C	Walker, D	Wilks, T
Sames, E	Smith, TC	Taylor, D	Walker, H	Williams, A
Sampson, C	Smith, W	Taylor, J	Walker, J	Williams, C
Saunders, TJ	Smy, T	Taylor, MJ	Walker, K	Williams, CT
Savage, KA	Snelgar, G	Taylor, RJ	Walker, S	Williams, WP
Sayer, KR	Snook, AM	Taylor, RW	Walker, TH	Williams-Jones, D
Scamell, J	Solomon, JWH	Terry, MGW	Wallace, D	Williamson, ID
Scammell, BW	Speller, T	Terry, MH	Walters, A	Williamson, J
Scantlebury, RL	Spence, IM	Tew, AB	Ward, AD	Williamson, MJ
Scorey, PS	Spencer, G	Thelwell, DA	Ward, M	Wills, KB
Scott, AD	Spicer, M	Theobald, RC	Ward, RJ	Wills, P
Scott, D	Spooner, CD	Thomas, L	Wareham, M	Wilson, HJ
Scriven, A	Stacey, G	Thomson, D	Warner, C	Wilson, IS
Seargent, R	Stalker, B	Thornton, GA	Warren, C	Wilton, C
Seaward, J	Stannard, R	Thorpe, A	Waterman, JR	Windibank, N
Severs, R	Steaggles, GJ	Thorpe, CJ	Watson, RF	Winkworth, MP
Seymour, K	Steele, AJ	Thurnell-Read, J	Watts, IR	Winter, PD
Shaft, M	Stephens, D	Tickle, J	Watts, R	Wiseman, EJ
Sharkey, B	Stephens, R	Tindale, AD	Wearing, MF	Wodehouse, D
Sharp, A	Stephenson, GC	Todd, A	Webb, R	Wolmer, W
Sharp, G	Sterry, P	Toft, RT	Webb, RM	Womack, GP
Shaw, A	Stevens, A	Tofts, R	Webley, JJ	Wood, M
Shaw, MD	Stevens, DG	Toomer, J	Weeks, S	Wood, T
Shelley, J&C	Stevens, M	Tovell, LM	Welch, A	Woodhouse, C
Sherriffs, I	Stevens, T	Townsend, T	Wells, A	Woodley, SR
Shilland, EM	Stevenson, DE	Treadaway, D	Wells, ID	Woods, NJ
Shillitoe, JRD	Stewart, AH	Trout, NS	Wescombe, JW	Woods, R
Shillitoe, KV	Stewart, D	Tubbs, JM	West, J	Woodward, G
Short, PP	Stewart, GJ	Tucker, JJ	West, R	Woolfries, SA
Shrive, D	Stimpson, T	Tucker, P	Weston, B	Woolley, SK
Silver, N	Stocker, A	Tulloch, R	Weston, ILG	Worcester, K
Simcox, WF	Stockwell, T	Turkoglu, C	Wheatcroft, AV	Worgan, AW
Simmonds, Y	Stoneman, I	Turner, JP	Wheeler, MJ	Wright, D
Simons, J	Stoneman, M	Turner, KA	White, C	Wynde, AR
Simpson, KJ	Stoney, A	Turner, RM	White, JJ	Yarwood, C
Sinclair, J	Stouse, K	Turpin, R	White, KG	Yelland, DM
Sketch, PA	Strangeman, PJ	Turton, MH	White, PJ	Young, A
Slade, AM	Styles, P	Tutt, D	Whitehead, RD	Young, K
Slade, C	Suart, A	Twinberrow, G	Whitehead, SG	Young, M
Smallbone, AC	Sutton, B	Twyman, AP	Whitfield, DJ	
Smallwood, J	Sutton, P	Tyler, D	Whitmarsh, C	
Smart, NR	Swallow, JL	Unsworth, DJ	Whitmarsh, C	
Smart, S	Swann, M	Upton, P	Whittaker, I	

Contributors

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Andy Johnson's Sandy Point Report

Birdguides

BTO BirdTrack

BTO Garden BirdWatch

Forestry Commission (NF raptor data)

GWCT Avon Valley WM Project

Hawk Conservancy

Hoslist Yahoo Group

HIWWT Reserves Officers and Wardens

Needs Ore Log

Rare Bird Alert

Richard Carpenter's weekly Titchfield Haven area summaries

RSPB Stone-curlew Team

Trekten

WeBS Partnership

Appendix 3

Guidelines for the Submission of Records

All observers birding in Hampshire are urged to submit their sightings to the Recorder on Hampshire Ornithological Society record forms. The form is available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording/record-form>. Completed forms should be e-mailed to the Recorder at keithbetton@hotmail.com. Records can also be submitted in an excel spreadsheet (preferred) or Microsoft Word file. Handwritten submissions by post are also welcome and should be sent to Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR. It would be of great assistance if observers would comply with the following points when submitting records.

- Records should be listed either by species (in the order used in the Hampshire Bird Report) or by date.
- Please submit your sightings to the Recorder quarterly and at the latest by Jan 31st of the following year.

Information required for species occurring annually.

Key to codes used in table:

- A All records; details of age, plumage, time, direction of movement, etc. should be included as appropriate, especially for birds seen in places where not usually recorded or out of season.
- B All breeding records, with type of evidence obtained: confirmed, probable or possible.
- CB Counts of breeding pairs/singing males/territories in clearly defined areas.
- F Flocks, roosts and falls: minimum number required is given in parentheses.
- F&L First and last dates of summer and winter visitors.
- M Observations of birds moving on migration: give each day's count separately, with time of observation and direction the birds were moving.
- MM Dated monthly maxima from localities you regularly watch, counts may be below the threshold in F when submitting a complete year's data.
- R All records from localities where not normally recorded.
- S All summer records.
- W All winter records.

Notes Brief notes of diagnostic identification features observed should be written on the record form.

Mute Swan	B, F (20), MM
Bewick's Swan	A, Notes excluding Avon valley
White-fronted Goose	A
Greylag Goose	B, F (50), MM, R
Bar-headed Goose	A
Snow Goose	A
Canada Goose	B, F(100), MM
Lesser Canada Goose	A, Notes
Barnacle Goose	A
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	F (100), MM, F&L, M, R, inland A
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	A
Egyptian Goose	A
Ruddy Shelduck	A
Shelduck	coast: B, F (50), MM, inland: A
Mandarin Duck	B, F (10), MM, R
Wigeon	F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R
Gadwall	B,F (25), MM, F&L, R
Teal	B,F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R
Mallard	CB, F (100), MM
Pintail	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Garganey	A

Shoveler	B, F (10), MM, F&L, R
Red-crested Pochard	A
Pochard	A
Tufted Duck	B, F (25), MM, F&L, R
Scaup	A, inland & summer Notes
Eider	A, inland Notes
Long-tailed Duck	A, inland & summer Notes
Common Scoter	A
Velvet Scoter	A, inland Notes
Goldeneye	A
Smew	A
Red-breasted Merganser	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Goosander	A
Ruddy Duck	A
Red-legged Partridge	B, F (50), R
Grey Partridge	A
Quail	A
Pheasant	CB, R
Golden Pheasant	A
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	A, Notes
Red-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Great Northern Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Fulmar	A, inland Notes
Manx Shearwater	A, inland Notes
Gannet	A, inland Notes
Cormorant	F (20), MM, R
Shag	A, inland Notes
Bittern	A
Cattle Egret	A
Little Egret	B, F (10), MM, M, R
Great White Egret	A, Notes excluding Avon Valley
Grey Heron	B, F (10), MM, M
Spoonbill	A, inland Notes
Little Grebe	B, F (5), MM, R
Great Crested Grebe	B, F (10), MM, R
Red-necked Grebe	A, Notes
Slavonian Grebe	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-necked Grebe	A
Honey-buzzard	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Red Kite	A
Marsh Harrier	A
Hen Harrier	A
Goshawk	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Sparrowhawk	B, M
Buzzard	B, F (10), M, R
Osprey	A
Water Rail	A
Spotted Crake	A, Notes
Moorhen	CB, F (20), MM
Coot	CB, F (20), MM
Stone-curlew	A
Avocet	A
Oystercatcher	B, F (100), MM, M, inland A

Golden Plover	A
Grey Plover	F (20), F&L, S, R, inland A
Lapwing	B, F (100), MM, M, R
Little Ringed Plover	A
Ringed Plover	B, F (20), MM, M, inland A
Dotterel	A, Notes
Whimbrel	F (10), F&L, M, W, R, inland A
Curlew	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Black-tailed Godwit	F (50), F&L, S, R, inland A
Bar-tailed Godwit	A
Turnstone	F (20), F&L, M, S, R, inland A
Knot	A
Ruff	A
Curlew Sandpiper	A
Dunlin	F (100), MM, M, S, inland A
Sanderling	A
Purple Sandpiper	A
Little Stint	A
Grey Phalarope	A, Notes
Common Sandpiper	A
Green Sandpiper	A
Spotted Redshank	A
Greenshank	A
Wood Sandpiper	A
Redshank	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Jack Snipe	A
Woodcock	CB, R, W
Snipe	B, F (5), MM, F&L, R
Pomarine Skua	A, Notes excluding coast in spring
Arctic Skua	A, inland Notes
Great Skua	A, inland Notes
Puffin	A, Notes
Razorbill	A
Little Auk	A, Notes
Guillemot	A
Little Tern	B, F (25), F&L, M, R
Black Tern	A
Sandwich Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R
Common Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R, inland A
Roseate Tern	A, Notes – include age/plumage
Arctic Tern	A – include age/plumage
Kittiwake	A – include age/plumage
Black-headed Gull	B, F (500), MM, S
Little Gull	A – include age/plumage
Mediterranean Gull	A – include age/plumage
Common Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Lesser Black-backed Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Herring Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Yellow-legged Gull	A – include age/plumage
Iceland Gull	A, Notes
Glaucous Gull	A, Notes
Great Black-backed Gull	B, F (10), MM, S, inland A
Feral Pigeon	CB, F (100)
Stock Dove	CB, F (25), M

Woodpigeon	CB, F (500), M
Collared Dove	CB, F (25), M
Turtle Dove	A
Cuckoo	A
Barn Owl	A
Little Owl	A
Tawny Owl	B, R
Long-eared Owl	A, Notes
Short-eared Owl	A
Nightjar	A
Swift	A, especially B
Kingfisher	A especially B
Hoopoe	A, Notes
Wryneck	A, Notes
Green Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Great Spotted Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A
Kestrel	B, M
Merlin	A
Hobby	B, F&L, M, R
Peregrine	A
Ring-necked Parakeet	A
Golden Oriole	A, Notes
Red-backed Shrike	A, Notes
Great Grey Shrike	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Magpie	CB, F (50), M
Jay	CB, F (10), M
Jackdaw	CB, F (500), M
Rook	CB, F (250), M
Carrion Crow	CB, F (50), M
Hooded Crow	A, Notes
Raven	A
Goldcrest	CB, F (10)
Firecrest	A
Blue Tit	CB, F (50), M
Great Tit	CB, F (20), M
Coal Tit	CB, F (20), M
Willow Tit	A, Notes
Marsh Tit	A
Bearded Tit	A
Woodlark	A
Skylark	CB, F (20), M
Shore Lark	A, Notes
Sand Martin	B, F (25), F&L, M
Swallow	CB, F (100), F&L, M
House Martin	CB, F (100), F&L, M
Cetti's Warbler	A
Long-tailed Tit	CB, F (20), M
Yellow-browed Warbler	A, Notes
Wood Warbler	A
Chiffchaff collybita	CB, F (10), W
Willow Warbler	CB, F (10), F&L
Blackcap	CB, F (10), W
Garden Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R

Lesser Whitethroat	A
Whitethroat	CB, F (10), F&L
Dartford Warbler	A
Grasshopper Warbler	A
Sedge Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Reed Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Waxwing	A, Notes excluding invasion years
Nuthatch	CB, F (10), R
Treecreeper	CB, F (10), R
Wren	CB, F (25)
Starling	CB, F (100), M
Ring Ouzel	A
Blackbird	CB, F (25), M
Fieldfare	F (25), M, F&L
Song Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Redwing	F (25), M, F&L
Mistle Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Spotted Flycatcher	A
Robin	CB, F (25)
Nightingale	A
Pied Flycatcher	A
Black Redstart	A
Redstart	A
Whinchat	A
Stonechat	A
Wheatear	A
Dunnock	CB, F (10)
House Sparrow	CB, F (20), M
Tree Sparrow	A
Yellow Wagtail flavissima	A
Yellow Wagtail other races	A, Notes
Grey Wagtail	B, F (5), M
Pied Wagtail	CB, F (50), M
White Wagtail	A, autumn Notes
Tree Pipit	A
Meadow Pipit	B, F (25), M
Rock Pipit	A
Water Pipit	A
Brambling	A
Chaffinch	CB, F (50), M
Hawfinch	A
Bullfinch	CB, F (5), M
Greenfinch	CB, F (20), M
Linnet	CB, F (20), M
Twite	A, Notes
Lesser Redpoll	A
Common Crossbill	A
Goldfinch	CB, F (50), M
Serin	A, Notes
Siskin	B, F (10), M, S
Snow Bunting	A, inland Notes
Yellowhammer	CB, F (10), M
Reed Bunting	A
Corn Bunting	A

Scarcer species

A list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) is given on their website at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa>. Records of scarcer species not considered by BBRC but required to be submitted for consideration by HOS Rarities Panel are listed below and must be supported by the completion of Unusual Record Forms which are available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording>. Additional evidence in the form of digital photographs or sound recordings in electronic format is also welcomed. Records of these species will not be published in the Hampshire Bird Report unless they have been accepted by the HOS Records Panel.

Whooper Swan, Tundra Bean, Taiga Bean, Pink-footed and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Black Brant, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked and Ferruginous Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-billed Diver, Cory's, Sooty and Balearic Shearwaters, Wilson's, Storm and Leach's Petrels, Night-heron, Purple Heron, White Stork, Glossy Ibis, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, Corncrake, Crane, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, Black-tailed Godwit of race *limosa*, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-tailed Skua, Black Guillemot, White-winged Black Tern, Sabine's, Ring-billed and Caspian Gulls, Iceland Gull of race *kumleini*, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon, Woodchat Shrike, Chough, Hooded Crow, Penduline Tit, Short-toed Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Greenish, Arctic, Pallas's, Radde's, Dusky, Barred, Icterine, Melodious, Blyth's Reed and Marsh Warblers, Chiffchaff (other than nominate race), Rose-coloured Starling, Dipper, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Citrine Wagtail, Richard's, Olive-backed and Red-throated Pipits, Common Rosefinch, Common (Mealy) Redpoll, Parrot Crossbill and Lapland, Cirl, Ortolan and Little Buntings. All exceptionally early or late migrants.

Heard only records of the above species

Criteria for the acceptance of these by the panel are as follows:

- The observer must have good experience of the species concerned and demonstrate that the call of the bird claimed was heard clearly.
- The call must be described in detail including transcription on paper (length, quality, tone, etc. of call), comparison with other calls heard either at the same or around the same time (or failing that, qualification as to why it was different to commoner species) and frequency/timing of call(s).
- The observer should provide an exact account of the record including, for example, how many times the bird called and over what period of time it was heard.

UK rarities

Records of rarer species and sub-species are dealt with by the BBRC. Record forms are available from the Recorder and should be returned to him for onward transmission to the BBRC. Alternatively, submissions can be made online at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting>, in which case it is appreciated if copies are e-mailed to the Recorder. Note with effect from 1st Jan 2019 records of Lesser Yellowlegs and Arctic Warbler are no longer required by BBRC but Subalpine Warbler and Arctic Redpoll (all taxa of both) have been added.

Urgent Bird News

In addition to the formal submission of rarities to the HOS Recorder, or where relevant to BBRC, observers of rarities in Hampshire are requested to pass on the news as soon as possible, assuming there are no confidentiality issues, so that others may benefit. The preferred method for those with smartphones or other internet access is to post on the Going Birding in Hampshire website at <http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/birdnews.asp>.

To submit records, it is first necessary to register with a personal log-in name and password for a free account. After acceptance, records can be submitted at any time using your log-in and password. A separate part of the website also allows photographs to be submitted. Alternatives to Going Birding include one of the national bird news services such as Rare Bird Alert or Birdguides. For those without internet access, please ask others to post for you.

Appendix 4

Photographs for inclusion in the *Hampshire Bird Report*

The Photographic Editor welcomes the submission of good quality digital photographs of birds taken in Hampshire for consideration for future reports. Images of any species, including common ones, are welcome. Photographs of birds in flight, in flocks or with extensive areas of habitat visible are particularly encouraged.

The filename should include the photographer's name, species name, locality and date taken. Please also submit poorer quality record shots of rarities, especially if it is likely that the bird has not been otherwise photographed.

Please send images for consideration to Alan Lewis alanlewis1@virginmedia.com. Photographers are asked to send medium resolution images but to retain the unedited originals as these may be requested later for publication.



Male Kingfisher, River Test at Timsbury, Mar 16th (Richard Jacobs)

Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2018

Tony Davis

Introduction

This report summarises the fieldwork carried out by ringers and nest recorders in Hampshire during 2018. 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., 2019).

The total number of birds ringed in Hampshire was 25,751, including 2,823 nestlings. This represents a reduction of about 6.5% on the record set in 2017 but is the second highest total and includes a welcome increase in the number of nestlings. The number of species ringed was 107, an increase of three on 2017. The Yellow-legged Gull was the first to be ringed in the county and the first nestling of this species to be ringed anywhere in the British Isles.

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.

Ringing summary of the year

Results were received from 28 ringers or groups, additional information was obtained from the BTO's on-line ringing report. The number of each species ringed in 2018, and the all-time totals since 1972, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2018 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2018	Total 1972-2018
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	5	3	8	1,565
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	0	0	15
Greater Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	0	0	1,322
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	0	0	0	1
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	0	0	0	227
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	0	0	74
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	2	0	2	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>	1	0	1	470
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>	1	0	1	19

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2018	Total 1972-2018
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	0	8	8	39
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	43	43	384
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	9	0	9	1,500
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	0	1	178
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	15	0	15	132
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 oedicnemus</i>	0	7	7	278
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	0	12	12	43
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	0	0	1,050
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	0	0	9
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	0	271
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1	112	113	2,688
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	11	11	150
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	11	11	1,819
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	0	0	0	2
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	0	6
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	3	8	11	191
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	0	0	0	606
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>	0	0	0	13,388
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	0	0	0	99
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	0	0	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	0	0	0	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	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>	0	0	0	79
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	236	0	236	2,574
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	12	0	12	545
Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	0	0	0	2
Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	0	0	0	1
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	0	4	4	22
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	0	25	25	241

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2018	Total 1972-2018
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	18	18	663
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	4	185	189	8,331
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	124	124	239
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	4	4	133
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	0	1	1	1
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	0	2	2	27
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	12	24	36	922
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	36	15	51	1,197
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	11	1	12	2,894
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	0	0	62
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	5	1	6	84
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	25	162	187	1,743
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	4	4	8	207
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	10	27	37	500
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	0	0	0	1
Short-eared Owl <i>Asia flammeus</i>	0	0	0	1
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	12	7	19	414
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	2	45	47	3,156
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	0	0	0	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	44	0	44	1,177
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	0	0	0	9
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	5	0	5	340
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	90	0	90	1,263
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	1	0	1	44
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	133	135	1,660
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0	0	0	21
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	18	18	69
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	0	1
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	10	0	10	591
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	15	0	15	835
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	14	9	23	601
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	3	0	3	641
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	0	3	3	112
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	561	0	561	13,360
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	101	0	101	1,445
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	1
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2,708	442	3,150	104,316
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	1,317	264	1,581	42,575
Coal Tit <i>Pariparus ater</i>	257	11	268	6,468
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	0	0	0	277
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	34	0	34	997
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	11	0	11	1,401
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	0	26	26	635
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2	0	2	416
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	103	0	103	24,063
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	337	371	708	44,246
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	75	0	75	5,553

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2018	Total 1972-2018
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	109	0	109	2,308
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	673	0	673	15,727
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1	0	1	17
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	1
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	27	53	80	1,782
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1,186	17	1,203	27,494
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	426	52	478	19,458
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2,828	48	2,876	32,101
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	143	0	143	3,796
Barred Warbler <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	0	0	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	43	0	43	1,475
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	432	0	432	6,998
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	5	8	13	438
Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	0	0	0	1
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	99	0	99	5,619
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	0	0	0	4
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	0	2
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	0	0	0	56
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1,054	0	1,054	42,903
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>	954	121	1,075	36,633
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	0	0	38
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	94	9	103	2,168
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	54	4	58	1,757
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	480	5	485	14,952
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	576	19	595	13,796
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	472	87	559	26,574
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	23	0	23	1,341
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	186	48	234	7,852
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	105	0	105	4,326
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	3	0	3	692
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	8	8	16	1,615
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	800	70	870	21,282
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	4	0	4	255
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	0	0	0	5
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	1	0	1	86
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	0	0	32
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	4	11	15	697
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	4	0	4	195
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	14	42	56	2,119
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1	0	1	73
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	456	12	468	15,786
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	252	11	263	7,408
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	0	0	0	757
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	57	0	57	2,467
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	17	32	49	2,159

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2018	Total 1972-2018
Pied / White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	9	5	14	12,107
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	16	3	19	666
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	358	4	362	4,676
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	0	0	0	108
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	1	0	1	43
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	240	0	240	6,020
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	327	5	332	17,751
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	72	0	72	169
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	271	0	271	6,340
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	509	0	509	40,021
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	354	0	354	4,532
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	434	0	434	4,472
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	0	0	0	39
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0	0	0	8
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1,517	4	1,521	14,850
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	804	0	804	16,907
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>	48	0	48	2,531
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	280	4	284	10,396
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	0	0	0	4
TOTALS	22,928	2,823	25,751	777,981

Two notable weather events occurred during 2018; the period of severe cold in late February and early March, and the hot, dry summer. The cold snap caused significant mortality amongst a number of species including Lapwing, Stonechat, Woodlark, Goldcrest, Firecrest and Long-tailed Tit, although other species which can be adversely affected by cold weather such as Barn Owl and Wren did not seem to be similarly impacted. Conditions in the late spring and summer allowed many species to have a successful breeding season although thrushes and some waders struggled to find food in the very dry ground. Thrushes caught in late July and August were in very poor condition and it is likely that young birds in particular suffered high mortality.

Outside the UK, conditions on spring migration clearly had an adverse impact upon a number of summer visitors, with late arrivals and poor numbers of species as diverse as Chiffchaff and Common Tern.

Record ringing totals were achieved for nine species: Hawfinch and Linnet are the subject of specialist studies; Water Rail, Mediterranean Gull and Peregrine are all species ringed in small numbers by particular individuals; Blackcap and Great Tit numbers are likely to be the result of increasing population trends; Meadow Pipit numbers probably reflect a good autumn passage and the aforementioned Yellow-legged Gull, which has not previously been ringed in the county.

Ringing 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.

The following schemes are currently known to be operating in Hampshire:

Honey-buzzards are marked with a single colour-ring at various sites in England and Wales, including Hampshire. In recent years the rings used are white with black letters but older birds could have other colours. The colour ring can be on either leg but will be on the opposite leg from the metal ring. Sightings to sjroberts100@hotmail.com.

Waders and wildfowl: Farlington Ringing Group is undertaking a series of long-term shorebird colour-ringing studies in The Solent and welcomes sightings of marked Brent Geese, Wigeon and waders. Birds are marked with unique colour-ring combinations enabling them to be tracked throughout their lives. The projects are designed to provide detailed information on the birds' use of The Solent, helping us to understand their breeding, wintering locations and migration routes. The expanding datasets involving large numbers of re-sightings allow survival analysis to be undertaken. This helps us to monitor and assess the importance of The Solent's estuaries in a national and international context, comparing our mudflats with other intertidal areas. Several of the projects are being undertaken in collaboration with shorebird ecologists and researchers across Europe.

Brent Geese are colour-marked in Southampton Water, Langstone & Chichester Harbours using darvic colour-rings. Sightings can be entered directly on the Dutch goose website: www.geese.org where life histories and maps of sightings can be seen on-line for each bird entered. Alternatively, sightings can be sent to Pete Potts at petermpotts@gmail.com

Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Dunlins, Curlews, Redshanks and Turnstones are colour-ringed in Southampton Water, while **Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks** (www.greenshank.info/), **Ringed Plovers** have been marked primarily in Langstone and Chichester Harbours and 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. **Sanderling** sightings can also be entered direct on <https://animaltrack.org/>.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. Sightings to grahamgiddens@googlemail.com.

Lapwings are marked at various sites in north-west Hampshire. Birds have four colour rings plus a black flag. Sightings should be sent to ahoodless@gwct.org.uk.

Common Sandpipers are being colour-ringed at Farlington Marshes under a ten-year project. Sightings to duncan.bell5@ntlworld.com.

Woodcock are marked in the New Forest with a single colour ring plus metal ring. Sightings to nfwg@newforestgateway.org.

Black-headed Gulls are marked at Blashford Lakes with an orange ring on the right leg. The rings have black characters in the format 2nnA or 2nnC, where the n's are numbers. Sightings to kevs866@gmail.com.

Mediterranean Gulls are ringed in Langstone Harbour with a yellow ring with four digits. Sightings to medgullring@gmail.com.

Kestrels are colour-ringed across Hampshire (except the New Forest and extreme south-west of the county) as well as neighbouring areas of Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex. The colour rings are dark blue and engraved with three white digits (letters/numbers). Sightings to matt@hawkconservancy.org.

Peregrines are marked at various sites in the county with an orange ring on the left leg. The rings have a two-letter code in black. Sightings to nigelrjns@aol.com.

Firecrests are marked in the New Forest and on Southampton Common. Those in the New Forest have a colour above the metal ring on the left leg. Sightings should be sent to marcus.zoe@sky.com. Those on Southampton Common have a colour below the metal ring on the left leg (sightings to andy_welch@sky.com).

Woodlark nestlings are marked in the north-east of the county. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wood Warblers are marked in the New Forest. Note that many birds have a striped ring as well as plain colours. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wintering **Blackcaps** are marked in Drayton, Portsmouth gardens, sightings to graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com and in Chilbolton, sightings to hantsbto@hotmail.com.

Nightingales are marked in Botley Wood. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

There are two **House Sparrow** projects. At East Tisted birds are marked with a white or orange ring carrying two black letters or numbers. Sightings to fbuner@gwct.org.uk. The project at Manor Farm CP uses a yellow ring carrying one letter and two numbers. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

Linnets are marked at Keyhaven. Sightings to 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.

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.

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.

White Stork. An individual seen at Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven, Posbrook Flood, Portsdown Hill and Woodlands in late April was ringed as a nestling in Friesland, The Netherlands in June 2015.

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 mid-September 2018. Any further reports will of course set further national age records so do please report any sightings to Graham Giddens grahamgiddens@googlemail.com.

Great White Egret. A nestling colour-ringed at a confidential site in Somerset in May was resighted at Titchfield Haven in early August.

Oystercatcher. A first year bird ringed at Farlington in August 2012 and resighted during the breeding season of 2017 in The Netherlands was seen again at the same Dutch site in late May. A second year bird ringed at Hamble Point in the last few days of 2007 was once again seen breeding on Stracathro Hospital in Angus where it has been seen almost annually since 2013.

Avocet. A nestling ringed at Greenabella Marsh in Hartlepool in 2016 was resighted at Farlington Marshes in April 2018. Colour ringing of small numbers of chicks at North Solent NNR continues to produce interesting movements, including resightings in Suffolk in May, Essex in July and East Sussex in March. One 2014 chick was seen at Bowling Green Marsh in Devon in mid-February before returning to North Solent a month later.

Grey Plover. An adult ringed at Hamble Point in January 2009 was resighted in Finland in mid-August, just over 1800km from its ringing site.

Little Ringed Plover. An adult female, ringed on her breeding grounds near Forfar in Angus in late May was resighted on migration at Keyhaven Lagoon in late July.

Curlew. A first year bird ringed at Farlington Marshes in December 2011 was picked up sick in Antwerpen, Belgium in March.

Black-tailed Godwit. An adult female ringed at Harty in Kent was resighted in the Somme region of France in early July and then in Hampshire at Bedenham at the end of October.

Knot. An adult ringed in May 2007 in Finnmark, Norway was found long dead at North Solent NNR in January.

Dunlin. A second year bird ringed in Pomorskie, Poland in July 2016 was resighted at Hythe on Southampton Water in early March.

Woodcock. A typical set of recoveries, with New Forest ringed birds being shot in France in February and Russia in mid-October.

Snipe. A first year bird, ringed at Gins Farm in August 2014, was another victim of French shooters in early September.

Black-headed Gull. A nestling from Blashford, ringed in June 2015, resighted in July 2016 in Calvados, France and again nearby in August 2017, was back at its 2017 site almost exactly a year later. Another 2015 Blashford chick which was in the Manche region of France in October 2017 had moved further south to Madrid, Spain when it was seen again in late March. A nestling ringed in Skane, Sweden in June 2017 was resighted at Lee on Solent at the beginning of December.

Mediterranean Gull. Colour ringed chicks from Langstone Harbour produced a number of resightings in Cornwall in the autumn and winter following their birth. Second year birds appear to be more mobile, with 2017 chicks being seen in Cadiz, Spain in November and County Down, Northern Ireland in August.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. A nestling ringed at Felixstowe, Suffolk in July 2013 was resighted on the coast of The Gambia in mid-February but by early July it was at Baffins Pond in Portsmouth.

Barn Owl. A female nestling ringed at Sherborne St John at the end of July was, rather shockingly, found shot at Bramley just 31 days later.

Kestrel. Following an established pattern, a nestling ringed in Hedmark, Norway in June 2017 was found dead in March in Fareham.

Woodlark. Birds from the Breckland population on the Norfolk / Suffolk border are thought to be more migratory than other British birds but a nestling ringed at North Stow Hall, Suffolk in May 2015 and found freshly dead at West Wellow at the beginning of March appears to be the first example of a Breckland bird being found in Hampshire.

Sand Martin. A juvenile ringed at Ibsley Water in mid-August was retrapped in the Seine-Maritime region of France just four days later.

Wood Warbler. A nestling ringed on the Welsh border in Shropshire in June 2016 and retrapped as a breeding female in the New Forest in early May is the first example of movement between these populations.

Blackcap. An adult male ringed in Embley Wood in early August was found dead in the Somme region of France in mid-November.

Reed Warbler. A first-year bird ringed at Itchen Abbas in early August was retrapped in Charente-Maritime, France at the end of the month. Moving in the opposite direction, a first-year bird ringed in the same French region in August 2017 was retrapped at Farlington Marshes in mid-May.

Spotted Flycatcher. A rare recovery of this species involved an adult ringed at Walton in Gordano, Somerset in early August and retrapped at Titchfield Haven 20 days later.

Chaffinch. A first year male ringed in Vest-Agder, Norway in July was retrapped at Chilbolton four months later.

Brambling. An adult female ringed in Hainaut, Belgium at the end of January 2016 was retrapped in early February of this year at Straight Mile, Romsey, illustrating the flexibility of wintering area for this species.

Goldfinch. A juvenile ringed at Chilling, Warsash in mid-September 2017 was found freshly dead in Indre-et-Loire, France in late January. A second-year female ringed in late May at Beckstedde was found dead in Yonne, France in March. A second-year female ringed in Wexford, Ireland in April 2016 was retrapped at Lymington in May.

Reed Bunting. A first-year bird ringed in Friesland, The Netherlands in June 2014 was retrapped at Farlington Marshes at the end of December.

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 2018, together with totals for the last 11 years to provide some context. A total of 722 nests were monitored during the year, another welcome increase from the low point of 2015. The proportion of nests which are not in artificial sites that are monitored is extremely valuable but many species are still very poorly monitored. For example not a single record of Greenfinch was submitted during the year and less than half a dozen nests of common species such as Mute Swan, Moorhen and Chaffinch 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.

Table 2: Nest records submitted in Hampshire in 2018 and during period 2008 to 2018

Species	2018	Total 2007-18	Species	2018	Total 2007-18
Mute Swan	1	21	Jackdaw	5	32
Greylag Goose		1	Carrion Crow	1	3
Canada Goose		4	Raven	1	9
Mandarin Duck	1	2	Goldcrest		2
Teal		1	Blue Tit	71	679
Mallard	2	12	Great Tit	62	900
Tufted Duck		1	Coal Tit	1	17
Red-legged Partridge		1	Marsh Tit		3
Pheasant	1	8	Woodlark	15	371
Grey Heron		23	Skylark	1	19
Little Grebe	1	11	Swallow	77	1,255
Great Crested Grebe		2	House Martin		1
Honey-buzzard	6	42	Long-tailed Tit	3	93
Red Kite	4	25	Wood Warbler	23	222
Goshawk		17	Chiffchaff	4	21
Sparrowhawk	1	5	Willow Warbler	9	50
Buzzard		4	Blackcap	29	69
Kestrel	3	55	Garden Warbler	1	6
Hobby		8	Whitethroat		16
Peregrine	5	24	Dartford Warbler	2	18
Water Rail		3	Sedge Warbler		5
Moorhen	4	47	Reed Warbler	44	78
Coot	2	12	Nuthatch	3	49
Oystercatcher		3	Treecreeper	2	11
Lapwing	3	60	Wren	3	65
Little Ringed Plover	6	6	Starling	5	18
Ringed Plover		3	Blackbird	57	379
Curlew		2	Song Thrush	25	167
Redshank		1	Mistle Thrush	1	3
Snipe		1	Spotted Flycatcher	2	13
Sandwich Tern	22	29	Robin	15	103
Common Tern	18	38	Redstart	2	34
Black-headed Gull	9	10	Stonechat	10	90
Mediterranean Gull	1	3	Dunnock	9	58
Herring Gull	1	2	House Sparrow	3	57
Yellow-legged Gull	1	1	Grey Wagtail	16	43
Stock Dove	9	151	Pied/White Wagtail	1	22
Woodpigeon	12	102	Tree Pipit	1	10
Collared Dove	2	23	Meadow Pipit	2	31
Cuckoo		1	Chaffinch	4	53
Barn Owl	59	369	Greenfinch		23
Little Owl		17	Goldfinch	3	24
Tawny Owl	3	34	Siskin		1
Nightjar	7	87	Linnet	3	41
Swift	15	69	Bullfinch	1	7
Kingfisher		3	Hawfinch		34
Green Woodpecker	1	6	Yellowhammer		11
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	8	Reed Bunting	1	12
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	6	14	Corn Bunting		10
Magpie		1	Totals	726	6,611
Jay		1			



Little Ringed Plover – The highest number of Little Ringed Plovers since 1980 were ringed in the county during the year (Tony Davis)



*Willow Warbler (left) – A mixed singing *Phylloscopus* warbler which started singing as a Chiffchaff before switching to Willow Warbler. In the hand it was confirmed to be a Willow Warbler. Lee Ground Coppice. (Trevor Codlin). Hawfinch (right) – Record numbers of Hawfinch were ringed as part of a specialist study in the New Forest (Marcus Ward)*



Barn Owls – Barn Owls did not seem to be as adversely affected by the extreme cold at the end of the winter as some species (Graham Giddens)

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A breeding season survey of the Nightingale in Hampshire 2018

Trevor Codlin



Singing Nightingale (Martin Bennett)

Abstract

Recent declines in the breeding population of the Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* in Hampshire prompted the need for an updated survey in 2018. Visits were made to a total of 111 tetrads during the survey period resulting in 26 singing males being recorded in 18 tetrads. Of those, 12 were considered migrants and 6 - 14 territorial. Possible reasons for the decline are discussed and future steps proposed.

Background

Once a common summer visitor to most parts of England, the Nightingale has now disappeared from many of its former haunts. In Hampshire its decline has mirrored the national trend and the most recent British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) survey, carried out in 2012, recorded only 61 – 65 territorial males in Hampshire and a range reduction of 76% compared with the 1986-91 Atlas (Eyre 2015). Earlier national surveys produced county totals of 259 in 1976, 355 in 1980 and 105-123 in 1999. A review of submitted records in 2017 revealed a further steep decline and range contraction, although the data were based on predominantly ad-hoc records. It highlighted that the bulk of the remaining population was restricted to just two core areas in the county, and therefore in a vulnerable position (Figure 1).

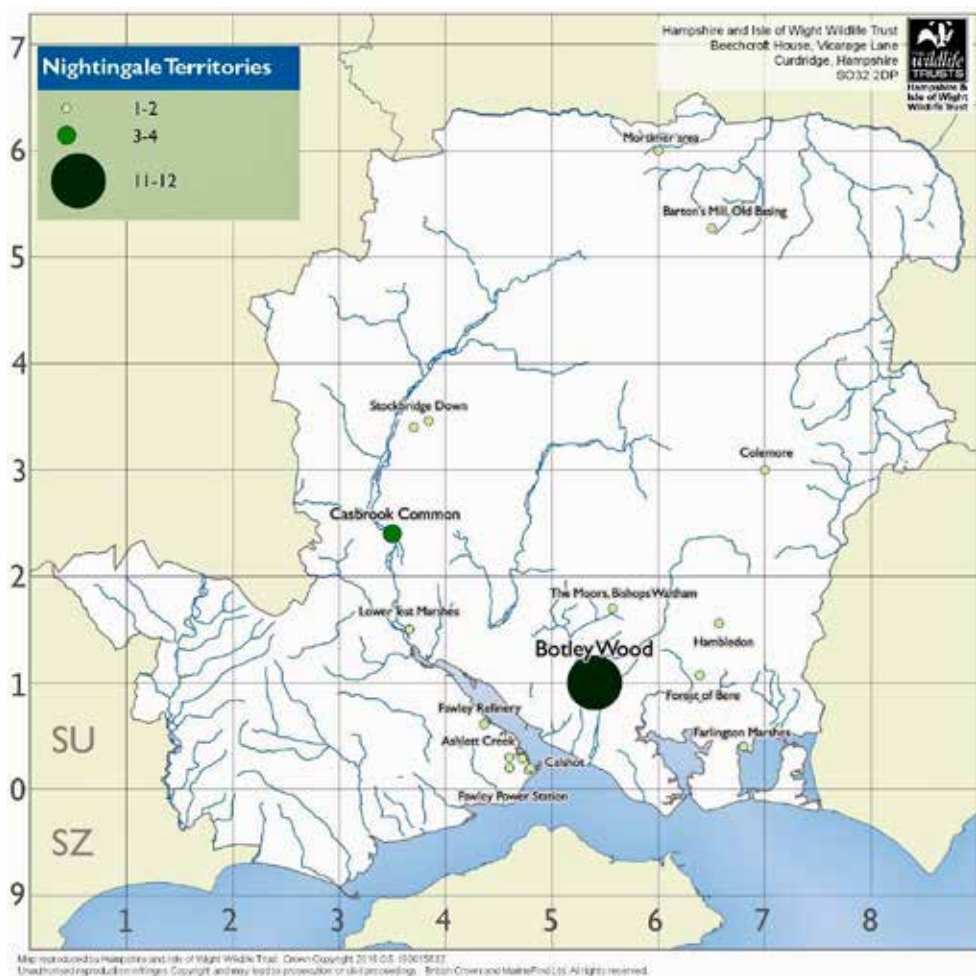


Figure 1. Map of Nightingale records submitted in 2017.

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Nationally the population has also continued to decline and in the UK the trend has been a 59% decline between 1995 and 2016 (Harris *et al.* 2017). Given the Nightingale's precarious position in Hampshire, it was decided that an updated survey in 2018 would be worthwhile and HOS and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) agreed to pool their resources in order to gain as much coverage as possible. The survey area was enlarged to include the Isle of Wight to provide a more complete picture across the Wildlife Trust's region, but these results are not discussed in this paper. By comparison, 21 singing males were recorded on the Isle of Wight, 18 of which were considered breeding; a higher total than in Hampshire (<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/news/nightingale-survey-shows-continuing-decline-numbers>).

The Nightingale is a priority species in Hampshire and is included on the UK red list of birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al.* 2015). Globally the Nightingale is included on the IUCN Red list as Least Concern because of its large population and wide range in Europe, Asia and north Africa. Nightingales require dense undergrowth greater 1.5m tall (Figure 2). This requirement can be met by a wide range of habitat types which can be hard to define. Singing males might occupy thorny scrub, bramble, young coppice and regenerating woodland, willow carr or young conifer plantations with a rich and complex shrub layer (BTO 2015).



Figure 2. Typical Nightingale habitat with tall dense scrub.

Thus any landscape that holds these habitats might be occupied. Birds can sometimes be encountered on farmland, in patches of scrub or woodland and even in dense hedgerows or shelterbelts. Mature woodland is unlikely to be suitable but may conceal patches of coppice or scrub or have rides or edges where Nightingales might breed. In urban areas only the least disturbed areas of woodland and scrub might hold the species (BTO 2015).

Methodology

The survey methodology followed that devised by BTO during previous Nightingale surveys. The main purpose of the survey was to establish the total population of singing Nightingales in Hampshire during the spring of 2018. A secondary aim was to record whether individual males were paired using nocturnal surveys, as birds heard singing between midnight and 02:00 after 18th May are likely to be unpaired.

The survey did not follow a random tetrad sample, but rather a stratified sample of suitable habitat at sites that were known to support singing Nightingales from the recent past. This included some sites that were former strongholds for the species but lacked any recent records. It was vital for the success of the survey that searches were thorough and that all zero counts were reported to the organiser.

Surveyors were asked to carry out an initial reconnaissance visit to locate suitable habitat and obtain access permissions. If, through a recce or otherwise, it was considered that the tetrad had no habitat likely to hold singing Nightingales, full survey visits were not considered necessary and a zero return was submitted. Where potential habitat was present, surveyors were asked to carry out a minimum of two full visits. Surveyors were advised not to use song playback and to avoid surveying in wet or windy weather conditions.

Sites with suitable habitat were searched on a minimum of two occasions during the daytime, ideally a week or so apart, between 21st April and 14th May. Each survey covered all suitable habitat within the tetrad/survey area. Surveys were carried out in the early morning (from around first light to 08:30). Where singing Nightingales were recorded, surveyors were also asked to carry out two nocturnal visits between 18th May and 4th June between 00:00 (midnight) and 02:00. These visits were optional but highly desirable as the aim was to determine whether each of the recorded territorial males was singing nocturnally after 18th May, which would indicate whether they were paired or not. Surveyors were asked to listen for at least 20 minutes to establish a negative record.

Limitations

The spring of 2018 proved to be highly unusual with many summer migrants arriving later than the average arrival dates for respective species and in lower numbers. In the case of the

Nightingale, this meant that many birds had not arrived back on their breeding grounds prior to the commencement of the survey, and where they had arrived, numbers were much lower.

With lower numbers competition for the best territories and mates is not as intense, and therefore birds do not sing for as long. In many cases singing stops once they have attracted a mate, and the only evidence of their presence is occasional ‘wheet’ or ‘croak’ contact calls. As such they can be easy to overlook unless the surveyor is familiar with those calls or commits more time to a particular survey area.

Site access was not always easy or possible at the best survey time, and therefore surveys at some sites were carried out slightly later than was ideal. At some others, where singing Nightingales were recorded, access was not permitted at night for health and safety or security reasons.

Results

In Hampshire a total of 111 tetrads was covered during the survey period (Figure 3). Additional information was received from another six tetrads from the HOS database.

A total of 26 singing male Nightingales was recorded from 18 tetrads (Table 1 & Figure 4) which represents an occupancy rate of 16% of sites surveyed. Twelve birds were considered to be migrants as they were only recorded on one or two days and not subsequently. Fourteen

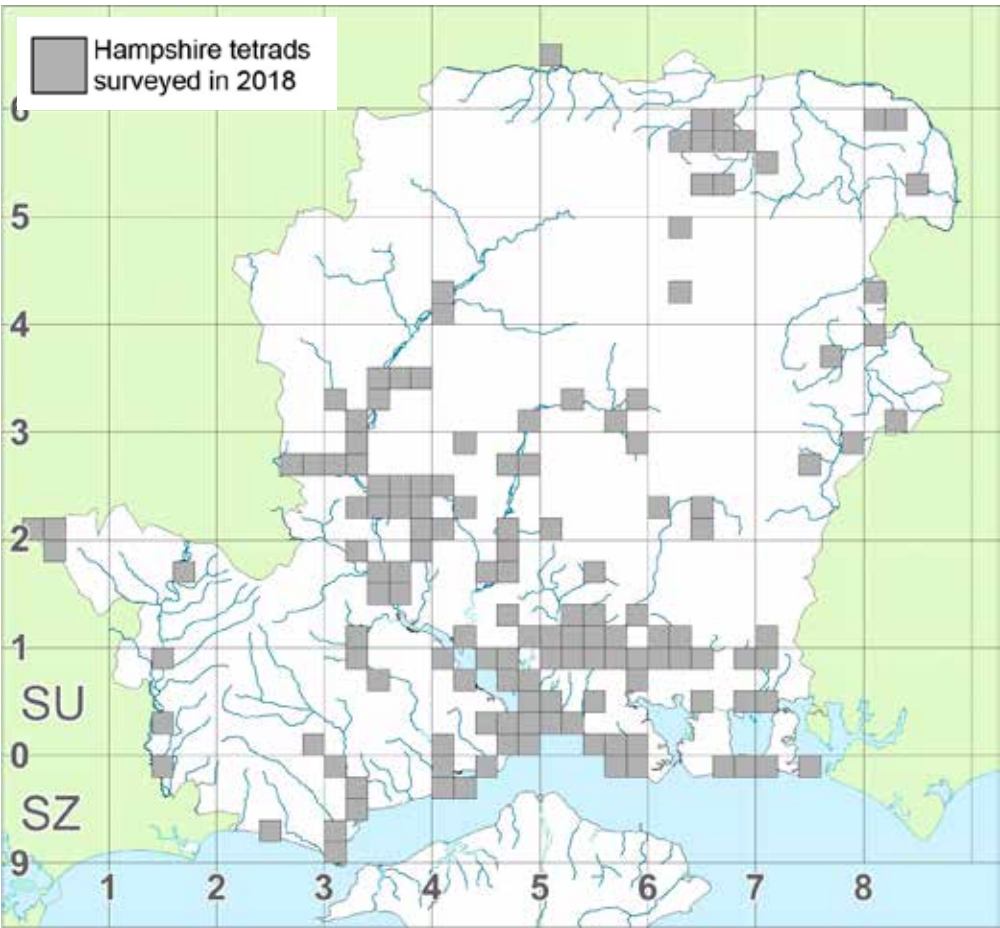


Figure 3. Map of tetrads surveyed in 2018.
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territorial males were recorded from eight tetrads and of those only six from three tetrads were considered to be breeding.

Nocturnal surveys were carried out at six of the tetrads where singing males had been recorded resulting in a total of three birds found singing at night at two of those sites.

Table 1: Tetrads where singing Nightingales were recorded with numbers and status

	SU01P	SU32J	SU32M	SU33B	SU33F	SU40L	SU40R	SU40Y	SU42G
Migrant	1		1	1	1			1	2
Territorial		2	2			1	2		
Breeding									
	SU50G	SU50P	SU50V	SU51F	SU51K	SU70E	SU85E	SZ59U	SZ59Z
Migrant	1		1				1	1	1
Territorial						1			
Breeding		2		2	2				

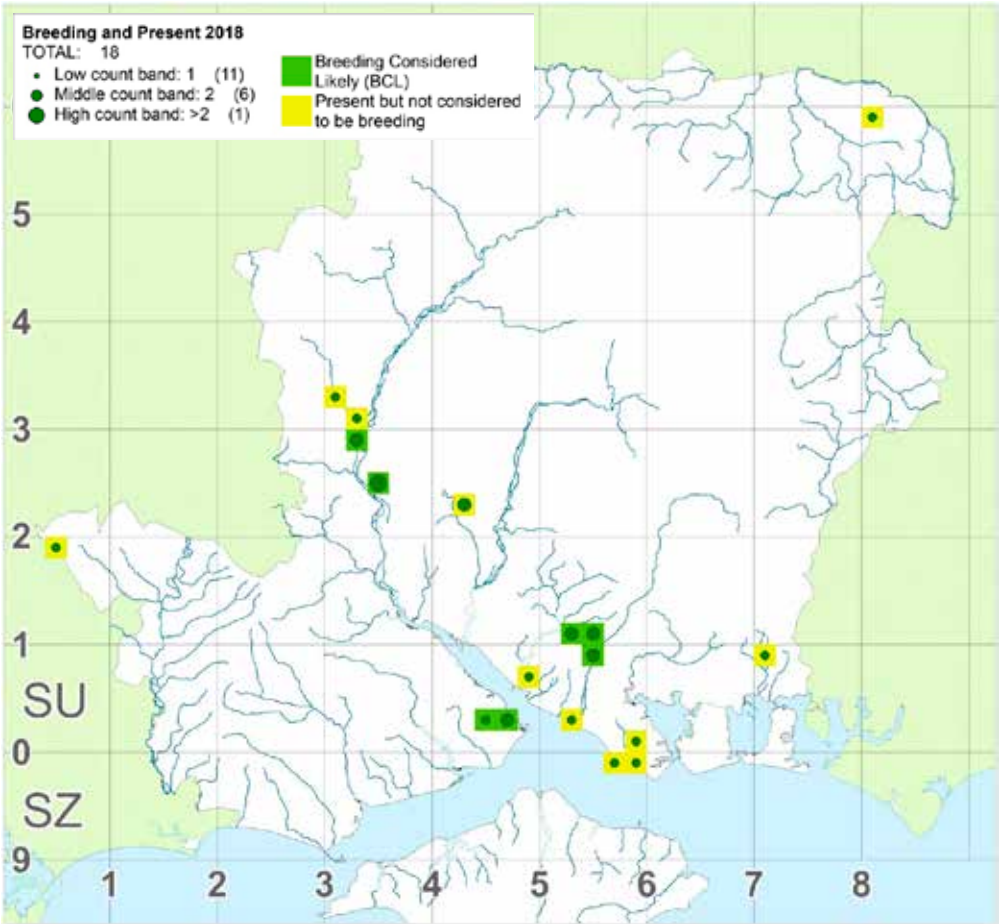


Figure 4. Map of tetrads where Nightingales were recorded in 2018.
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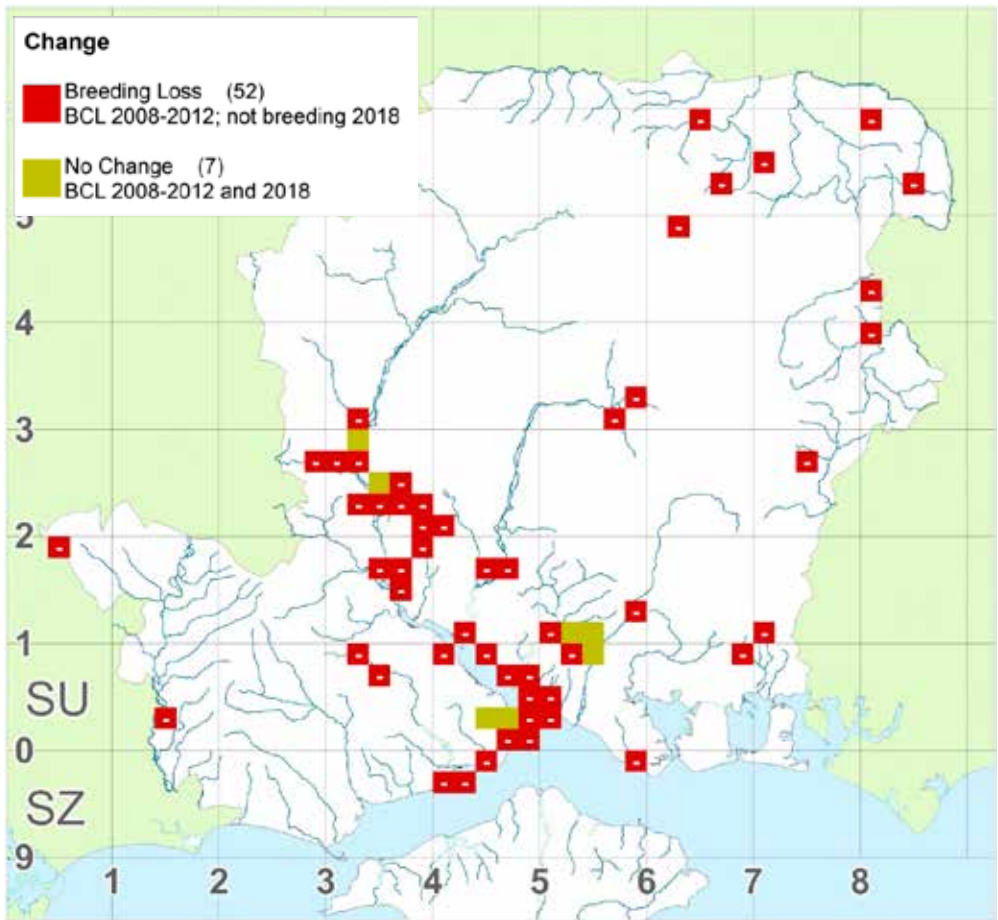


Figure 5. Map showing changes between 2008-12 and 2018 in tetrads with breeding Nightingales.

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It is evident from the results that there has been a further significant decline and range contraction in the Nightingale population in Hampshire. Comparison with the 2008-2012 survey has revealed a 65% decline in the number of tetrads where they were recorded (Figure 5). The presumed breeding population (which includes birds holding territory) has declined even more dramatically from 61-65 territorial males to 6-14, a reduction of around 90% in the same last six years.

Discussion

The reasons for the general decline are complicated and are still the focus of on-going work by the BTO and RSPB. The loss of suitable habitat through a number of factors such as lack of or inappropriate management, deer browsing (Newson *et al.* 2012) and general human pressure have all been suggested. Changes to and losses of habitat on their wintering grounds and migration stopover sites are also considered to be having an impact. There has been a long and steady decline in Hampshire, which was reported to have started in the 1950s (Eyre 2015), which would suggest that there are underlying difficulties for the species. The Nightingale is situated at the north-western extreme of its climatic range in the UK and, as the population declines globally, it is inevitable that it will contract from the fringes into the core population.

Nationally the UK Nightingale population has declined by 59% through the period 1995 – 2016, 25% through the period 2006 – 2016 and 29% between 2016 - 2017 (Harris *et al.* 2017). At the time of writing, breeding data for 2018 were not available, but given the events of the spring 2018 it is probable that the scale of the decline will have increased nationally. The recent Breeding Bird Survey results from BTO indicate that Nightingales were recorded from only 33 tetrads (Harris *et al.* 2018). If the sample size drops below 30, it will no longer be possible to provide a statistically robust trend for the species.

The core breeding population in the county remains in the Botley Wood/Whiteley Pastures area, where six breeding pairs were recorded, but this represented a 50% decline from 2017 when 11 or 12 territorial males were present. Two birds held territory at Casbrook Common, but it is considered that they did not breed since both were recorded singing at night. The loss of breeding habitat is the likely cause of failed breeding at this site, which was a result of the landowner clearing much of the scrub in response to the site being put forward for designation as a county wildlife site (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). Three birds were also recorded along the River Test near Houghton, but it was not possible to gain access to the area at night and confirm if the birds were breeding. It is understood that this is an established site and therefore it is hoped that they did indeed breed there.

The Next Steps

The Nightingale is in trouble and if the current trend continues it is likely that we will lose it as a breeding species in Hampshire. It is acknowledged that its decline is complex and likely to be the result of a number of causes here and overseas but, in an attempt to reverse the trend, I would like to continue to work with partners to ensure that suitable habitat is available for the species in and around the core areas.

Through HOS and HIWWT, I would also like to continue to raise awareness of the plight of the Nightingale. As an iconic species it is ideally suited as the headline species for the promotion of the development and better management of scrub habitats. Scrub habitats are afforded no protection and are often considered to be invasive and problematic. But they are critically important to the landscape for a variety of species, both for shelter and the abundance of food on offer.

One final aspiration of mine is to establish some Nightingale ‘champions’ who would be willing to monitor core sites including liaising with land owners, providing management advice and recording the success of breeding pairs where they are present. Rotational management of scrub habitats and exclusion of certain species such as deer will be critical if the Nightingale is to remain a breeding species in Hampshire.

Given the speed with which the Nightingale is declining, it is a species which urgently needs to be afforded better protection. As a rare breeding bird in Hampshire the detailed locations of nesting birds should not be broadcast in order to increase their chances of breeding successfully without disturbance.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to all of the HOS and HIWWT members and others who assisted with the surveys and provided their results. Without their enthusiasm it would not have been possible to deliver such a comprehensive survey. I would like to thank Hampshire County Council, Forestry Commission, National Grid, Ministry of Defence and other site managers/owners for facilitating access to enable the surveys to be carried out. I would also like to thank the British Trust for Ornithology, particularly Chris Hewson, Dawn Balmer and Jim Baldwin. Finally I would like to thank David Rumble from HIWWT for commenting on the draft paper.

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Dartford Warbler study 2018

Rob Clements



Dartford Warbler (Lee Fuller)

Abstract

HOS carried out a county-wide survey of this iconic heathland species in 2018. The Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths have been surveyed annually since recolonization in 1974 but no full New Forest survey had been attempted since the national survey in 2006. Unfortunately two episodes of severe weather, with lying snow and persistent easterly winds in late February/March, resulted in a much reduced population in all parts of the county when compared with the previous survey in 2006. In total 225 pairs/territories were located, with 143 in the New Forest. This paper summarises results from the survey and suggests the likely county population both before and after the 2018 severe weather.

Methodology

The design of the HOS survey was based on the national survey methodology (Wotton *et al.* 2009). A minimum of two visits was required increasing preferably to three or four if Dartford Warblers *Sylvia undata* were located. The first two visits were due between May 1st-31st, with further visits (if required) in June. There was preferably a week or more between visits which were carried out between dawn and mid-morning in calm, dry weather. All areas of the allocated square were visited so all suitable habitat was located.

A map was provided to surveyors, who mapped all Dartford Warbler contacts during each visit. Singing males, especially those singing simultaneously with neighbouring birds, were

noted and six-figure map references provided. All other observations of calling birds, birds carrying food and birds in flight were recorded. Where several pairs bred closely, in a loose colony, three or more visits allowed sufficient data to be recorded for all territorial pairs to be identified.

The definition of a territory followed that used in the national survey. A territory was defined as such if it contained:

- A singing male
- A pair exhibiting breeding behaviour (nest, mating, display etc.)
- Individuals present on more than one occasion and/or two individuals present.

On completion of the survey, individual territories were determined using the standard methods (in Wotton *et al.* 2009, Bibby *et al.* 2000). Simultaneously singing males were marked as separate territories, and further singing males recorded at least 200 m apart were regarded as indicating territorial occupation. In most cases, where three or four visits were made, the consolidated map clearly showed a pattern of discrete territories. A centre point for each territory was chosen, based on the distribution of registrations, for mapping purposes.

The results

The North-east Heaths

A total of 82 territories was located compared with 160 in 2017 (Table 1). The relative resilience of Dartford Warbler populations on small, sheltered reserves such as Hazeley Heath contrasts with the much steeper fall in numbers (over 60%) on more exposed habitat such as Bourley and Long Valley.

Table 1. Dartford Warbler territories recorded on the North-east Heaths in 2018 and 2017.

	2018	2017	Decline 2018/2017
Bourley and Long Valley	12	36	67%
Bramshill	0	3	100%
Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley	20	50	60%
Eelmoor Marsh	2	3	33%
Hazeley Heath	8	8	0%
Pamber and Silchester	7	6	(17%)
Thames Basin Heaths Total	49	106	54%
Bramshott & Ludshott	7	14	50%
Broxhead & Kingsley	7	5	(40%)
Woolmer Forest	19	35	46%
Wealden Heaths Total	33	54	39%

The New Forest

The Dartford Warbler population has been the subject of regular survey efforts since the 1950s, with more recent full surveys in 1988, 1994 and 2006. Since the last of these, there has been little survey effort, though anecdotal evidence suggested that cold winter weather in 2008/9 and 2009/10 had not had much effect on the New Forest population. However, the 2018 late winter severe spell led to prolonged snow cover in all parts of the Forest and the survey was expected to show a substantial decrease.

Around fifty volunteers were allocated two or more 1 km squares to survey, with all 2006 occupied squares visited, plus a sample of other squares containing possible breeding habitat. As expected, the results showed a marked decrease (over 60%) on the 2006 total.

Dartford Warblers were recorded in 77 squares, with a total of 143 territories identified. The survey recorded 135 territories on land within the New Forest perambulation, and a further eight territories on land just outside these boundaries but within the New Forest National Park.

Fearnley *et al.* (2012) considered the breeding population in 2006 within the New Forest survey area to be 420 territories/pairs (corrected figure). The total of 143 territories recorded in 2018 represents a 66% decrease, with numbers at a low level not recorded since around 1980. A 30 sq.km study area in the southern New Forest was surveyed in 2017 as a preliminary to the main 2018 survey (R. Clements unpublished data). The results shown in Table 2 have added significance since the population in the study area was at a high level prior to the major decrease (61%) consequent on the 2018 late winter cold spell. Extrapolated over the whole New Forest, the data suggest that the New Forest population in 2017 could have been higher than that recorded in 2006. It is suggested that 400-500 territories is a conservative estimate for the New Forest population prior to the 2017/18 winter.

Table 2. Dartford Warbler territories located in 30 sq.km southern New Forest study area. (R. Clements data)

2006	2017	2018	Decline 2018/2017
100	121	47	61%

Discussion

Table 3 shows clearly the reduction in numbers recorded during the 2018 survey, and suggests that the total population in 2017 was at a similar level to 2006. The percentage decrease was not uniform across the whole county. Rather surprisingly, numbers held up better in the North-east than in the New Forest, where traditionally survival has been better due to the milder climate at a more southerly coastal location. The absence of confirmed breeding records from the coast is also surprising since better survival rates could be expected at the coast over inland sites.

Table 3. Dartford Warbler territories recorded in 2006 and 2018 Hampshire surveys with 2017 estimates.

	2006	2018	Average decline 2018/2006	2017
New Forest	416-423	143	66%	400-500 estimate
North-east Heaths	191	82	57%	160 count
Coast	16-18	0-5	85%	20 estimate
Other	3	0	100%	0
Total	626-635	225-230	64%	580-680

The relatively low density of breeding Dartford Warblers in the New Forest compared with other heathland sites in southern England has previously been noted (Fearnley *et al.* 2012), with density on New Forest dry heathland in 2006 at 0.030 territories per hectare compared to 0.110 on the Dorset Heaths SPA and 0.102 on the Thames Heaths SPA. Clearly the New Forest contains much marginal habitat which may be occupied by Dartford Warblers at low density when the total population is high. However, in general the overall density is much lower than that recorded in areas specifically managed for avian species. Preliminary data from the RSPB Dorset Heathland Survey in 2018, covering 31 sites mainly in the east of the county, show a decline of only 18% from 450 territories in 2017 to 369 in 2018 (S. Robson pers. comm.) The higher survival rate compared to the New Forest could be due to less severe weather in a more westerly location or different land management techniques.

Past experience shows that Dartford Warbler populations can recover quickly from a weather –related decline if winter conditions remain benign for a few years. However, it may be at least five years before the New Forest and North-east Hampshire populations recover to the level attained prior to 2018.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the many HOS volunteers who carried out the survey in the New Forest, to John Eyre and John Clark of 2Js Ecology for organising the survey of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPA and to their volunteers who participated.

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Movements of GPS-tracked Curlews within the New Forest and The Solent

Pete Potts, Andrew Hoodless, Andy Page and Phil Atkinson



Curlew, New Forest (Marcus Ward)

Summary

Three Eurasian Curlews were fitted with GPS-GSM tags at sites spread across the New Forest in late May/early June 2018. This comprised part of the New Forest & Solent Curlew Project, established to provide data on habitat use and movements of Curlews whose breeding and wintering numbers are declining in Hampshire. High-quality data were delivered on brood ranges, off-duty feeding locations and use of coastal sites. This small initial sample of individuals clearly highlights the importance of feeding sites for adult Curlews up to 12.5 km from the breeding site and functional linkages with The Solent coast and fields at the edge of the New Forest. An issue of premature tag loss has now been addressed and continued tagging of more birds in winter and spring will rapidly increase our understanding of Curlews using the New Forest and The Solent, with implications for their conservation.

Background

The Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (hereafter Curlew) is a species of high conservation concern, having undergone a 49% decline in numbers in the last 25 years in the UK. It has been red-listed in the UK since December 2015. It has been argued that the Curlew should currently be considered the UK's most pressing bird conservation priority given its global status (Near Threatened), the significance of the UK breeding population and the rapid decline in that population (Brown *et al.* 2015).

At a workshop on Curlew hosted by WWT at Slimbridge in February 2017, it became apparent that the relative importance of issues facing local breeding populations is likely to vary regionally and that better information on fine-scale habitat use and predation pressure was required from a range of sites. The New Forest is one of four remaining strongholds for lowland breeding Curlews in England along with the Brecks, Upper Thames meadows and Severn Vales, but we currently have a very poor understanding of the habitat use and survival rates of these birds.

The New Forest breeding population

The historical context of the New Forest breeding population in terms of numbers of territories is summarised in Table 1. It clearly increased substantially from the late 1800s to the 1960s, probably peaked in the 1980s to early 1990s and has suffered a sharp decline since about 2000. A volunteer-based survey co-ordinated by Russell Wynn in 2016 (Wynn 2016 & 2017) covering 86 sq.km of New Forest bog, heath and mire found just 40 pairs. Repeat surveys of 31 one km grid squares surveyed in 1993/94 and 2004 showed a dramatic decline in the population after 2004.

Table 1: New Forest Curlew breeding population

Year	Population estimate (pairs)	Derivation, notes	Reference
1880s	1-2		Kelsall & Munn (1905)
1930s	Increasing population		Cohen (1963)
1957	27		Cohen (1963)
1960	60	Based on count of 44	Cohen (1963)
1966	58	Based on count of 29 in 63 sq km	Cohen & Taverner (1972)
1981-84	120		Tubbs (1986)
c.1993	120	Considered same as 1980s	Clark & Eyre (1993)
1993-94	90	Estimate revised down from counts suggesting 132	Tubbs & Tubbs (1994). RSPB contract survey.
2004	99	Based on 33 in 31 sq km surveyed	Goater <i>et al.</i> (2004). RSPB New Forest Breeding Wader Survey.
2014	123	Considered an over-estimate by local birders	Gates 2014. RPS New Forest Breeding Wader Survey commissioned by New Forest National Park Authority and The Verderers.
2016	40	Possibly 50 in 2016 reported at one stage but revised down to 40 pairs	Wynn (2016). Wild New Forest & Forestry England survey.
2017	42		Wynn (2017). Wild New Forest & Forestry England survey.

Little is known about the wintering locations of Curlews breeding in the New Forest, but one individual that was colour-ringed in France on 26 September 2014 has been seen on

territory at Howen Bottom, near Fritham in spring 2016, 2017 and 2018. In autumn-winter 2016 and 2017, this bird was resighted close to where it was marked just south of La Rochelle.

The Solent wintering population

The Greater Solent area (comprising Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, The Solent and its harbours and the north shore of the Isle of Wight) together with Poole Harbour, Dorset supports >1% of the European wintering Curlew population and 8.5% of the UK wintering population within the Greater Solent or 10% including sites west to Poole Harbour. The Hampshire Solent's wintering population has fallen dramatically from c.4000 individuals in the 1980s to just 2,300 in the period of the Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-2012 (Eyre 2015). Consequently, we have an increasing responsibility and urgent need for research into and conservation of the Hampshire Curlew populations.

Threats to New Forest and Solent Curlew populations

Curlews in Hampshire are likely already being affected by human-induced pressures, although evidence for their effects is currently limited. We suggest that the main factors which could be important are as follows:

- Pressure from increased recreational disturbance, with dog walkers (often with dogs off leads), walkers and cyclists all off main paths and through Curlew territories. The situation is likely to get worse with an increasing human population and major house building schemes within easy reach of the New Forest.
- High levels of predation of nests and chicks leading to low productivity, probably caused by both mammals (e.g. Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Badger *Meles meles*) and birds (e.g. Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*). There may be an interaction between human disturbance and predation rate.
- Decreasing availability of suitable coastal fields used by Curlews as they are lost to, or threatened with, developments and/or surrounded by housing schemes. Frequent disturbance, particularly by dog walkers, of unprotected wet pastures and arable fields upon which Curlews depend for feeding throughout the winter may also be important.

Objectives of the New Forest and Solent Curlew study

The New Forest & Solent Curlew Project aims to understand the rapidly declining New Forest breeding population and the declining and threatened wintering populations. Through helping identify the key habitat and site requirements, we can better inform statutory authorities and conservation organisations on appropriate management and help advise the planning system. We have a national and international responsibility for the species and must better understand its ecology and conservation needs.

Whilst one recent study of Curlew ringed in winter has indicated a high annual adult survival rate (Taylor & Dodd 2013), very little is known about movements of Curlew between inter-tidal and inland feeding areas in winter and the impact of increased recreational disturbance and housing development, especially in The Solent. This may result in the loss of essential feeding sites and consequently in reduced adult survival. We need data on a fine spatial scale to establish which fields wintering Curlews favour and whether they are faithful to certain fields or groups of fields. This could be significant for conservation as Curlews form part of the SPA (Special Protection Area for birds) assemblage and are listed in the SPA citation for eastern harbours. The terrestrial sites have no designations, but must be considered integral to the SPA. Without data we can't help with their protection from possible housing developments and recreational disturbance. The importance of meadows and arable fields around The Solent may be greatly underestimated and undervalued.

We envisaged a five-year project, starting with tracking of three Curlews in the New Forest in spring 2018 and followed by tagging of up to ten Curlews during winter 2018/19. Solar-



Figure 1. (a) Curlew on its nest (Shane King); (b) Colour-ringed female Curlew (Pete Potts)

powered GPS-GSM tags have the advantage that they relay very accurate locations (c.8-15 m accuracy) via the mobile phone network. Tag life is expected to be 3-4 years, enabling data collection on breeding and winter habitat use from the same individuals in different years.

Backed up with an additional sample of colour-ringed individuals, our aims are to:

- 1) Determine fine-scale habitat use by breeding adults and broods in the New Forest.
- 2) Assess the frequency of use and seasonal dependence on feeding sites outside the Forest by Curlews breeding in the Forest.
- 3) Measure nest site fidelity of individual Curlews.
- 4) Gain a better understanding of the use and importance of terrestrial habitats around The Solent for wintering Curlews.
- 5) Determine the breeding origins of migrant Curlews visiting The Solent for winter.
- 6) Measure and compare survival rates of local breeders with the wintering Curlews and contrast with other UK studies and projects in continental Europe.

Methods

Three adult Curlews were trapped on the nest with the purpose of fitting GPS-GSM tags (Figure 1(a)). A male was caught at Duck Hole (between Brockenhurst and the A35) and a female at Strodgemoor Bottom (near Burley) on 25th May 2018. A second male was caught near Ferny Crofts (Beaulieu Road Station) on 7th June 2018. The birds were tagged from four days before hatching to the day of hatching. All were colour-ringed with individual combinations (Figure 1(b)) and fitted with Movetech Telemetry Flyway-I8 GPS-GSM tags under a BTO Special Methods licence. Tags were fitted so that they sat on the lower back using a modified Rappole-style leg-loop harness (Sanzenbacher *et al.* 2000). GPS location data were relayed to and stored online at the Movebank repository. Tags were initially programmed to transmit once an hour between 07:00 and 19:00 and four times during the night, but solar charging was sufficient to allow collection of data at 30 minute intervals during daylight hours once chicks had hatched.



Figure 2. (a) Curlew nest with eggs (Andy Page); (b) Recently hatched young (Shane King)

Results

Bird safety and data obtained. No issues were encountered with tag attachment and fit of the harnesses. All birds flew on release and returned to the nest within ten minutes. Each bird was re-sighted several times, behaving normally for at least a week after tagging. The GPS-GSM tags worked as expected yielding position fixes as scheduled. All three of the tagged birds hatched their clutches (Figure 2). We believe the birds lost their broods when 9-15 days old because the adults suddenly moved to The Solent coast before the young reached fledging age, although we have no direct evidence of predation. It is possible that the tagged female's brood survived longer because females often leave the male to raise the brood after about two weeks, but we were unable to confirm an outcome for this brood. The Duck Hole male and Strodgemoor Bottom female moved to Poole Harbour on 9th June and 11th June, with the Ferny Crofts male moving to the coast east of Lymington on 16th June. The tags indicated that the birds were alive and moving around in these coastal areas.

Data transmission ceased for these birds on 19th June, 29th June and 7th July respectively (25-35 days after tagging and 10-21 days after moving to the coast). We subsequently retrieved one of the tags and have evidence that the harnesses failed but that the birds were alive. One of them was regularly seen wintering (identified from its unique colour-ring combination) at Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour and was seen in the Avon Valley in March 2019. All three were seen back on breeding territories in 2019.

Brood ranges

All three broods used wet mire habitats. The Duck Hole brood ranged over c.60 ha, the Strodgemoor Bottom one over c.65 ha after making a movement of about 500 m in the first two days after leaving the nest, and the Ferny Crofts one covered an area of c.50 ha. Several sightings of alarm-calling birds were made to confirm locations and the presence of chicks.

Off-duty feeding sites

All tagged birds left the vicinity of the nest or brood on most days to visit sites away from the breeding area. This was presumably for feeding and we conclude that the mire habitats, whilst providing good availability of food for chicks, did not provide a good source of larger

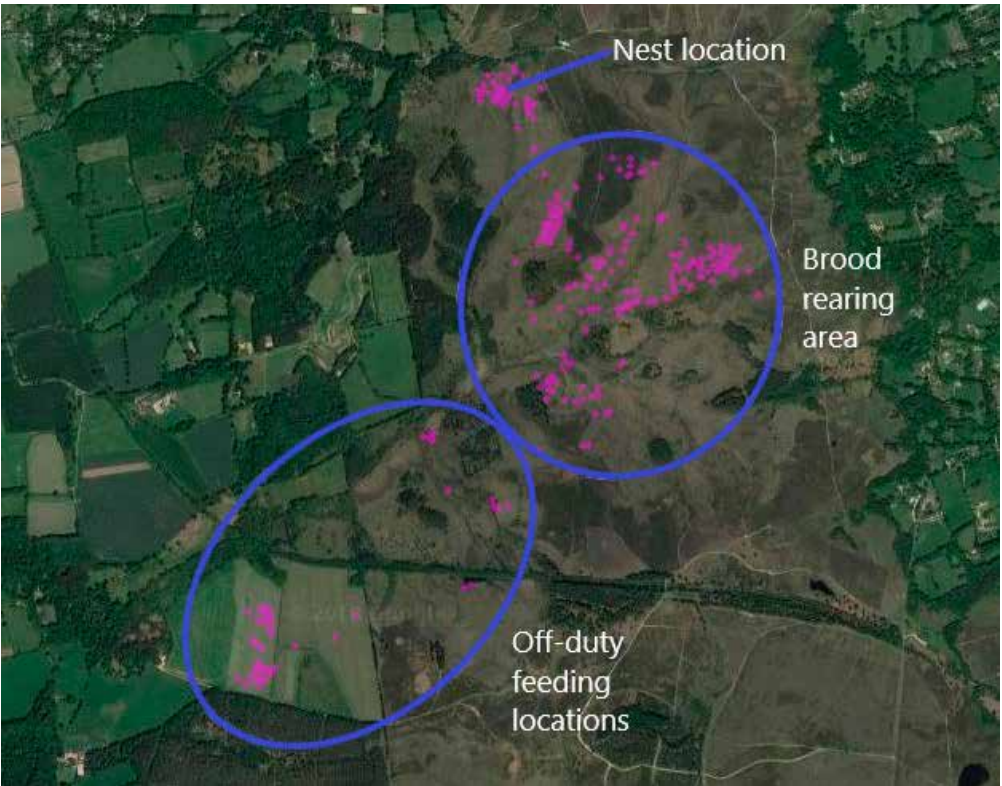


Figure 3. Locations of the Strodgemoor Bottom female over the two weeks following tagging. (Landsat/Copernicus image © Google Earth).



Figure 4. Locations of the Strodgemoor Bottom female showing use of different parts of Poole Harbour during mid to late June. (Landsat/Copernicus image © Google Earth).

prey for adult Curlews. The Duck Hole male flew 1.0-3.9 km to inland feeding sites on heath and grassland and regularly 12.5 km to feed on the coast at Lymington. The Strodgemoor Bottom female flew up to 2.0 km to heathland feeding sites when off duty and regularly flew 2.3 km to one particular field on the eastern edge of Bisterne Estate (Figure 3). On a visit to this field for visual confirmation of the bird's location, six feeding Curlews were observed. The Ferny Crofts male flew 1.0 km to feed on a wet mire within the Forest, but more regularly 10 km to an inlet on the coast south of Sowley Pond.

Coastal sites

The two males visited the coast while their broods were still alive. The Duck Hole male used the Lymington coast and then moved to Brands Bay in Poole Harbour once its brood failed. It continued to use a relatively small area there until it shed its tag. The Ferny Crofts male visited the inlet near Sowley regularly while its brood was alive and then moved to Lymington once it had lost its brood. The Strodgemoor Bottom female flew to Poole Harbour following breeding and used several parts of the harbour until shedding its tag (Figure 4).

Further work

The loss of tags was frustrating, but we are now clear on the reason for this. All birds appeared to behave normally following tagging and yielded valuable insights into brood movements, the use of off-duty feeding sites and connections with the coast. We now have a solution for the tag attachment issue and are confident that tags can be attached safely without further issues. Planned fieldwork has subsequently continued, with tagging of three Curlews on the coast in January 2019 and two further birds in the New Forest in spring 2019.

It is important that we continue to build up a larger sample of tagged individuals. With this we will start to classify habitats from the combination of satellite imagery and measures recorded in the field. We plan to test for differences from random habitat use during the breeding season and winter using coarse categories from imagery. We will then use measures of vegetation type and height, and soil dampness or penetrability, recorded in the field at locations used by tagged birds, to examine fine-scale requirements by comparison with measures at random locations.

Now that we have more experience of catching Curlews in the breeding season, we intend to increase the number of colour-ringed individuals. Cohorts of individually colour-ringed birds will be built up in both the New Forest and The Solent to help establish adult survival rates. This will take several years and we hope that reporting rates will be sufficient to enable marked birds to be followed and their life-histories established. Our aim is for data of sufficient quality to run analyses of annual survival rate and to compare with other estuarine complexes and breeding populations.

As well as providing necessary information on Curlew requirements at a local level, the data will complement work at sites elsewhere in the country and could be used in a combined analysis with data from other tracking projects to help answer over-arching questions on Curlew populations.

Acknowledgements

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Shaun Robson and Steve Smith. Finally we thank Vincent Lelong, Philippe Delaporte and Pierre Rousseau for sharing details of the New Forest Curlew colour-ringed and wintering in France.

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A Woodlark's Tale - from cradle to grave

John Eyre



Figure 1. Woodlark on nest in heather. The bird is beautifully camouflaged making the nest a difficult one to find. (John Eyre)

Abstract

Long-term nest monitoring and colour-ringing of breeding Woodlarks *Lullula arborea* on a site in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area is revealing fascinating insights into their lives. The paper follows the life of an individual over seven years and records the ups and downs of his breeding seasons.

In the beginning

Little did we know when we found the nest that it would be a record breaker! The date was 11th April 2010, the nest a Woodlark's and only the third that Jim Baldwin and I had found that season. It was on Bourley & Long Valley (B&LV) SSSI, one of the 13 component sites of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, and in an area where we had found Woodlark nests before. There was nothing unusual about this one. It was built in short heather (Figure 1) and held three eggs, typical of a first clutch.

The eggs hatched a few days later and on 24th April the three young were colour-ringed by Tony Davis. One of the trio was given the ring combination: left leg - pale blue over yellow; right leg - metal over orange - PYMO for short (Figure 2). Pale blue was, and remains, our signature colour, unique to our project, so if you see a Woodlark carrying a pale blue ring it is one of ours. Please get in touch with Tony, Jim or myself with details. All three pulli

fledged successfully and that may well have been the end of the story. Jim and I continued monitoring Woodlark nests and on 24th June found what we assumed was the pair's second nest about 140 m from the first. This one had an unusually large brood of six young which, thanks to Tony's speedy response, were colour-ringed the same day.

Adulthood

Where our Woodlarks go in winter remains something of a mystery, so we must move on to the following spring when, on 22nd April 2011, we found a nest with four eggs about 2.2 km from PYMO's natal site. It belonged to a pair of colour-ringed Woodlarks. This, in itself, was unusual because we had already discovered that very few Woodlark pulli return to their natal sites to breed. We seldom find more than half a dozen colour-ringed birds on B&LV in any given year despite having marked over 600 pulli in the decade 2009-18, so to find a pair, both with rings, was a rare occurrence. But an even bigger surprise came when we identified the male as PYMO and discovered that he appeared to be mated to his sister! She was not from the same clutch as him but from their parent's second nest. Inbreeding in birds is not uncommon, particularly in communal species, but is more unusual for pair-breeders such as Woodlark. Inbreeding typically reduces fitness and studies have shown strong negative effects on the hatching success of eggs (Spottiswoode, C. & Møller, A. P. 2003; Keller, L. F. & Waller, D. M. 2002.). This was consistent with the outcome of PYMO's first nest. Four eggs were laid but two failed to hatch.

Once bitten, twice shy, PYMO changed his mate for his second nest and the pair successfully raised three young. The mate swap was obvious because his second female was not ringed. We had previously thought that Woodlark pairs stayed together, as Jim put it 'as a happily married couple', but this clearly wasn't always the case. This also threw doubts on our assumption that PYMO and his first mate shared the same parents. Since neither of the adults was ringed, and we now knew that pairs sometimes swap mates between clutches, it was possible that this could have happened to PYMO's parents. Furthermore, we've since seen territories usurped by a completely different pair and given the distance and time gap between nests, this was another possibility. It was becoming clear that colour-ringing the young was fascinating but threw up as many questions as it answered!

In 2012 PYMO moved to a new territory around 1 km from his 2011 nest site. He was paired with an un-ringed hen, possibly the same as his second mate the previous year. We found the nest on 20th April with four eggs but it was short-lived. On April 26th it held only two broken eggshells with another outside the nest. Predation is by far the biggest cause of Woodlark nest failure. Out of 351 nests monitored on B&LV over the 2006-18 period, where the outcome was known, 133 (37.9%) have failed. Over the 2009-12 seasons, we used nest cameras to determine the causes of failure and found that out of 144 nests, 48 (33%) were unsuccessful in fledging young. Of these 36 (75%) were predated (Eyre, J.A. & Baldwin, J. 2014). The main culprit was fox followed by Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*, but PYMO's nest was unlikely to have been lost to either of these. Contrary to our expectations, we have found that foxes pick the eggs or young delicately out of the nest like taking plums from a fruit bowl. They leave the nest empty but undisturbed. In contrast Crows and Magpies *Pica pica* rip the nest apart, apparently searching for more delicacies hidden in the lining! Unfortunately such forensic clues didn't help in this case. Broken egg shells, both inside and outside the nest, suggested a smaller predator, probably a small mammal, was to blame but regrettably the camera failed to record the offender.

It took us a while to find the second nest in 2012, although it was only 40 m from the first. It contained three large young, ready to fledge, when found on June 3rd. It typically takes 12-14 days from hatching for Woodlark chicks to leave the nest although they venture out to get food from the incoming adults a few days before that and can leave earlier if disturbed. Tony headed north the following day but the nest was empty when he arrived.

2013 was a poor year for Woodlarks on B&LV. We monitored only 18 nests compared with 46 the previous year. It was also disappointing as far as our PYMO saga was concerned. Jim saw him once, in April close to his first nest site, but we had no further sightings or evidence that he bred on B&LV that year.

In 2014 PYMO returned to the same area as in 2012. We found his first nest on 23rd March. He had a new mate, a female that had been colour-ringed as a pullus on Velmead Common in 2012. Despite it being unusual to have both partners marked, once again we were fortunate to have a colour-ringed pair. This made it relatively easy to keep track of what was happening. No doubts about partner swapping this time. The pair bred successfully raising seven young in two clutches.



Figure 2. PYMO - Pale blue over Yellow, Metal over Orange. The best way to read the colour code is to photograph the bird. (John Eyre)

The pair stayed together the following year. We found them with two young out of the nest on 27th April 2015. The female doesn't usually stay with the young from the first brood very long, beginning her second nest after a few days and leaving them with the male. Seeing both adults together with the young suggests that they had not been out of the nest very long. We found the second nest on 23rd May 2015 with five eggs, four of which hatched around 31st May, were ringed on 8th June and left the nest a few days later.

By now PYMO was nearing six years old which is a ripe old age for a Woodlark. His mate was approaching four years old so it came as a pleasant surprise to find the pair back close to their 2015 nest site on 29th February 2016. We had no further sightings throughout March but then found them again in the same area in early April. We were sure they had a nest but, despite searching, we were unable to find it. One of the best ways of finding the nest is to watch the female return to it after feeding, so we were puzzled when, on 16th April, we found the pair feeding under pine trees about 1.3 km northeast of where we had been searching! Our confidence was restored a little when, after ten minutes, they took off and flew back towards their suspected nest site. We found it, with three eggs, on April 23rd. They hatched on or about April 26th and Tony ringed the young on 4th May. Counting back, this meant that the pair had a nest with eggs on 16th April when we had seen them feeding 1.3 km away! It isn't unusual to find Woodlarks feeding up to a few hundred metres from their nest but we had never seen a pair anywhere near as distant as this one. When we inspected PYMO's nest on 13th May it was undamaged but empty. It looked as if the three young had fledged successfully but when we found the second nest with one egg and three young on 29th May something was wrong. There just hadn't been time for the first three young to have fledged and the pair to have built a new nest, laid eggs and hatched them. The only explanation was that the first nest had been predated, most probably by another fox. Unfortunately, the second nest did no better. All three young died, probably due to heavy rain, and the remaining egg didn't hatch. PYMO failed to raise any young in 2016.

Record breaker

On 25th March 2017 PYMO returned. We found him singing close to an established territory of another pair of Woodlarks but there was no sign of his regular mate. On 10th April we located him again about 1.4 km further east and back in his 2016 territory. Here too he was fighting with another male. There was still no sign of a female but by 15th May he

had acquired a new mate. The pair now established a new territory midway between the previous two 2017 attempts but, again, in close proximity to another pair. The original territory-holders had a nest about 100 m from where PYMO and his mate built theirs. The two pairs coexisted with only the occasional squabbles and both were successful although, in PYMO's case, of four eggs laid, only two young were fledged.

PYMO was last seen on 25th June 2017. Measured from his ringing date, this made him 7 years, 2 months and 1 day old. The previous longevity record for a British Woodlark was just short of six years so PYMO smashed that and became the UK gold-medal holder in the longevity stakes. I would venture to suggest that he might also be one of the best monitored wild Woodlarks anywhere in the world!

Lessons learned

So what have we learned from monitoring his record-breaking lifespan? The first and obvious result is that Woodlarks can live for longer and be more productive than was previously thought. The loss rate of adult Woodlarks has been determined at 40% per year (Wright *et al.* 2009) which means that the majority of birds will not live for more than two breeding seasons. PYMO survived six, during which we monitored ten of his nests and knew of another that we failed to find but know that it fledged at least two young. Of the 11 nests, eight fledged young, a success rate of 72.7%. This exceeds the average success rate of the 351 Woodlark nests that we monitored over the 2006-18 period, which was 62.1%. So age and experience seem to be a winning combination as far as mating success is concerned! From his eight successful nests, PYMO sired a minimum of 23 fledged young - and this takes no account of the missing 2013 season when we lost track of him.

We have also learned that adult Woodlarks can remain faithful to a site for several years, unlike their offspring which usually disperse to more distant locations. But even the adults are not faithful to a particular territory, often moving by a kilometre or more from year to year. This is perhaps to be expected given that the quality of Woodlark habitat can change over a short time scale, but it would be interesting to know whether the birds have a pecking order, upgrading or downgrading their breeding sites according to their status. Not only do they move territories but they also sometimes swap their mates. Is this because something happens to one of the pair or maybe because another male turns up and muscles in? It's very common to see males apparently unmated for quite a while before acquiring a partner as PYMO did in 2017. During this spell he sang in three already-occupied territories but we don't know whether the mate that he finally acquired was a late arrival or stolen from another male!

These movements and partner swaps make counting territories more complicated than we had expected. The accepted survey methodology is to count singing males, but this obviously risks double-counting when a bird moves between territories like PYMO did. It would be easier if every adult was colour-ringed but as we have discovered, thanks to Tony's sterling efforts, catching adult Woodlarks in mist nets is far from easy. An alternative method is required and therein lies another tale!

Where next?

Finally, although we followed PYMO for over seven years, we learned absolutely nothing about his whereabouts or behaviour during six out of every twelve months of those years. As mentioned above, we know very little about where our Woodlarks go from the time they leave their breeding grounds in the autumn to their return the following spring. The generally accepted thinking is that they winter locally, most probably on farmland, which is consistent with their early return to breeding sites, but we have little hard evidence to confirm it. Despite colour-ringing well over 600 pulli on Bourley and Long Valley, we have not had a single re-sighting of any of them during the November-January period. Obviously

small numbers of Woodlarks are recorded in Hampshire in winter but we don't generally know where they breed. The only record of a colour-ringed local breeding Woodlark in winter is of one ringed as a pullus by Tony on Hankley Common, Surrey, on 11 April 2012 which was re-sighted and photographed at Hengistbury Head, Dorset, on 20th January 2013, 88km WSW. It has long been known that Woodlarks move to the coast in bad weather so this was probably a result of a cold weather movement, but it is also possible that they are partial migrants with some moving south or southwest and possibly even to the continent in winter (Sitters 1986). It would be good to know more about their movements and the obvious solution would be to fit GPS tags to the birds. Unfortunately, this has been trialled by the BTO and found not to work because the batteries failed between fitting and recovery (G. Conway pers.comm.). Geolocators are another option. They are lighter, cheaper and have longer-lasting batteries but don't have anything like the resolution of GPS tags. At best they might tell us whether some of our Woodlarks move long distances during the winter. However, both types of tags require the birds to be caught twice, first to fit them and again the following year, to retrieve them. Since few of the pulli return, we are left with tagging the adults and hoping that they behave like PYMO did, returning annually to their breeding site. To prove this is what actually happens, we are aiming to colour-ring as many of the adult Woodlarks on B&LV as possible. We have already managed to mark around half of them in 2019 and are looking forward to monitoring their return next spring.

Acknowledgements

This story would have remained untold were it not for Jim Baldwin's legendary nest-finding abilities and remarkable knowledge of bird behaviour! Tony Davis's ringing skills and willingness to jump in his car and drive up to the distant north-east have also been invaluable. I have learned a great deal from both of them. Many thanks guys! I must also acknowledge the support and help given by the MOD, particularly from Ray Warwick who, prior to his recent retirement, was my number one trouble-shooter for all access and other issues related to B&LV.

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First for Hampshire: Thayer's Gull at Ibsley Water and Tidpit Down

Alan Lewis



Juvenile Thayer's Gull during its initial fly-past Tern Hide. Ibsley Water, Jan 28th (Alan Lewis)

Abstract

A juvenile Thayer's Gull *Larus glaucoides thayeri* was present in the gull roost at Ibsley Water between 28th January and 6th March 2018. It was also seen in the Tidpit Down and Martin village area between 5th February and 8th March. The record has been accepted by BBRC and is the first for Hampshire of this North American form currently treated by IOC and BOURC as a subspecies of Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*.

Discovery

On Sunday 28th January 2018 I made an early morning visit to Staines Reservoir to obtain closer views of the long-staying Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*. After seeing it well I was keen to get back to Hampshire and to one of my regular winter birding routes. This involves a walk around the Keyhaven and Lower Pennington area, then a late afternoon visit to the gull roost at Ibsley Water at Blashford. By the time I made it to Keyhaven it was already late morning so I only managed a three hour circuit of the marshes, seeing the long-staying juvenile Iceland Gull but little else, before heading off to Ibsley Water.

Arriving at the Tern Hide at Ibsley Water at about 3pm, I began scanning the gulls which had already arrived. The hide soon began filling up with people keen to see the long-staying Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* for their year lists, and it was soon standing room only.



Juvenile Thayer's Gull showing underwing and upperwing patterns. Martin village, Feb 8th (left) and upperwing and tail pattern, Tidpit Down, Feb 11th (right) (Alan Lewis)

Once people had had their fill of the Ring-billed Gull, they began to leave and by 4.15pm I was the only one left in the hide. I've never seen a Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* in the roost here so have often stayed late to see if I could find one in poor light.

At about 4.20pm I noticed an interesting juvenile large gull on its own behind the closest Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. The primaries were dark brown with narrow pale fringes, rather than the solid black of most juvenile large gulls, the body plumage was rather smooth mid-brown and relatively unstreaked and the bill was rather stocky and black. Having seen two before, I thought there was a possibility that it could be a juvenile Thayer's Gull and so took a series of images with my DSLR. After a few minutes it flew past the hide with other gulls and I managed to get a reasonable series of images in flight before it landed in a group of other large gulls. Seeing it in direct comparison with other gulls for the first time, it was clearly an 'Iceland Gull type' with rather long wings, a relatively short stocky bill and a rounded head, and I was convinced by now that it must be either a very dark Kumlien's *L.g.kumlieni* or a Thayer's *L.g.thayeri*. I left the hide as the light faded and the bird was still present.

Returning home, I forwarded a selection of the images to several friends and discussed the bird with them. The flight shots were important and showed the extensive dark outer webs on the outer five primaries contrasting with the paler inner webs (the oft-quoted 'venetian blind' effect of Thayer's) and the extensively dark tail, something I hadn't noticed in the field. We were all certain that this was indeed a juvenile Thayer's Gull and the news was released.

Subsequent pattern of sightings

Despite many others checking the gull roost on subsequent evenings, it was not seen again until Friday 2nd January when I re-visited the roost and picked up the bird as it dropped in very briefly allowing six other lucky birders to see it. I also managed to fire off a few more distant flight shots as it flew off.

To the relief of many, the bird then showed very well in the roost over the weekend of 3rd – 4th February, enabling many more the chance to see it. The most fortunate were those on 3rd February who also saw the returning drake Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*.

On 5th February, Olly Frampton located the Thayer's at the pig fields at Tidpit Down, approximately 13km north-west of Ibsley Water, where it was then seen regularly (and also on floods close to Martin village) during the day until 8th March. On most evenings the bird returned to Ibsley Water roost, where it was last seen on 6th March.



*Juvenile Thayer's Gull, with Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Martin village, Feb 9th
(Gareth Rees)*

In early February I met Brett Spencer at Tidpit Down watching the Thayer's Gull. I discussed with him the possibility that the bird must overfly Dorset airspace en route to Ibsley Water and identified a possible location at Alderholt. Brett visited Bull Hill Farm at Alderholt, Dorset on 18th February and was able to intercept and photograph the overflying Thayer's Gull as well as picking up the regular Ring-billed Gull and a Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*! The first Thayer's Gull for Hampshire thus also become the first for Dorset!

Description

The following points taken together confirm the identification as a juvenile Thayer's Gull:

- The spread wing pattern:
 - on the upperwing, a classic 'venetian blind' pattern across the primaries with predominantly mid-brown dark outer webs and paler inner webs of the outer five primaries, with a ghosting of this on the next two primary tips;
 - at rest, mid-brown visible primaries with narrow pale fringes;
 - underwing showing 'pale primaries' with narrow dark tips forming a slight dark trailing edge;
 - dark secondary bar on the upperwing with the feathers pale fringed.
- Uppertail pattern: extensively dark tail with some marbling at the base of the outer feathers.
- Ventral area: strongly barred in the style of a juvenile Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*.
- Head and underparts: smooth velvety brown with a white streaked crown and subtle pale loreal saddle and forehead and 'eyelids' creating a distinctive head pattern at some angles, but with no prominent dark streaking.
- Jizz: subtly distinctive shape with rather long primaries relative to the tail tip, a somewhat long-lored 'snouty' appearance (though not as long-lored as the well photographed bird in Lincolnshire which I had seen and photographed in 2012); bill structure rather parallel-sided and stocky but without a prominent gonydeal angle, rather modest in size (unlike the long-billed Lincs bird); for size, see below.

Although almost all observers who saw the bird in the field were convinced of the identity, there was some concern by a few over its size. When viewed side by side with an average Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, it was clearly slightly larger and closer to a small (i.e. female) Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, though with a somewhat different shape and jizz (see above). However, a review of measurements (and images from California) revealed that there is very substantial overlap in measurements, presumably with at least some (male?) Thayer's

being larger than (female?) Herring Gulls. Having looked closely at this at the time, I had no concerns over the size of the bird.

Some commentators also thought the bird might be too pale, especially the mid-brown primaries. Many observers (including me!) had been struck by the near blackish colour of the primaries of the well-watched Lincolnshire juvenile (Lowe 2012), which had certainly coloured our impressions of the appearance of juvenile Thayer's, but again review of many images of juvenile Thayer's Gull from California, together with many texts and field guides, confirmed that mid-brown is the expected colour. It is those with blackish primaries that are outliers.

Status in Britain and Ireland

Up to the end of 2017 a total of 17 Thayer's Gulls had been accepted across Britain and Ireland. These comprise a total of eight in Britain (with the first in Oxfordshire in 2007) and nine in Ireland (with the first in Cork in 1990). Of the 17 records, just four have been adults with the remainder in juvenile or first-winter plumage.

Taxonomy

Thayer's Gull has had a chequered history taxonomically, being subsumed within Iceland Gull for long periods by various authorities and also for several recent decades being listed as a distinct species (e.g. del Hoyo *et al.*, 1996; Olsen & Larsson, 2003). In 2017 the American Ornithological Society and IOC decided to lump it with Iceland Gull and BOURC thus continued to treat it as a subspecies of Iceland Gull since adopting IOC taxonomy in 2018.

Acceptance

The record has been accepted by BBRC (Holt *et al.* 2019).

References

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The Hawfinch influx of 2017/18

Marcus Ward



Colour-ringed Hawfinch, New Forest (Marcus Ward)

The winter of 2017/18 saw an unprecedented influx of Hawfinches *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* into the UK with the first migrants recorded from mid-October in a broad front across the country originating from the east and south-east coasts.

In Hampshire the first definite migrant was recorded over Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Oct 13th. It soon became clear that something significant was occurring in the following days with 11 recorded heading SW over Tundry Pond, Dogmersfield and 18 heading SW over Fishlake Meadows on Oct 15th. Hot on their heels were 15 SW over North Stoneham on Oct 16th, 23 west over Pennington Marshes between Oct 23rd and 30th, 20 NW over New Milton on Oct 25th and eight over Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 28th.

Hampshire's two regular inland visible migration watch-points logged some impressive totals during the period with 263 recorded over Trigpoint Hill, Casbrook Common on 35 dates between Sep 29th and Dec 27th, with a peak day count of 44 on Nov 24th. Separately at Tweseldown 154 were recorded on 27 dates between Oct 27th and Nov 26th, with a peak day count of 21 on Nov 5th.

As the records suggest, the arrival occurred over a relatively short period of 3-4 weeks although movements continued as groups roamed around the country in search of food. In the New Forest the increase in numbers was detected almost straight away with a record count at a central New Forest roost of 155 on Oct 16th, though numbers quickly declined almost certainly due to the poor mast and berry crop experienced through the autumn of

2017 leaving little natural food to feed on. This was replicated in most roosts across the New Forest. After the initial influx, average to below average numbers were recorded in most of the known roosts suggesting that few migrants remained in the New Forest.

Table 1: Summary of counts from a central New Forest Hawfinch roost. Typically this roost holds 60-70 Hawfinches in the late winter period. After the initial influx, peak counts fluctuated often dropping to below average.

Date	Sep 18th	Oct 2nd	Oct 16th	Oct 25th	Nov 2nd	Nov 10th	Nov 24th	Dec 3rd	Dec 18th
Count	26	58	155	74	52	48	79	24	45

Outside the New Forest, Hawfinches continued to roam widely during the winter months, although a few key locations attracted and held on to good numbers throughout the winter period. These included those listed in Table 2. The last sighting of a settled bird outside of normal Hawfinch range was Apr 14th. Many of the peak counts were in March, possibly an indication of birds gathering ahead of departure. The sum of all the peak counts in Tables 1 and 2 is 647. Whilst this probably includes some double-counting as birds moved from one site to another, it suggests that, in addition to the local residents, several hundred migrants were probably involved in Hampshire as part of this remarkable influx.

Table 2: Summary of Hampshire records of flocks of five or more outside the New Forest between October 2017 and April 2018

Location	Number of records	Earliest Date	Latest date	Peak count	Peak count date (latest)
Harewood Forest	10	Oct 14th	Jan 5th	17	Dec 3rd
Ecchinswell	13	Oct 14th	Mar 16th	28	Jan 7th
Testwood Lakes	22	Oct 15th	Jan 13th	39	Nov 21st
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh	43	Oct 16th	Apr 5th	6	Jan 26th
Mill Field, Old Basing	8	Oct 30th	Apr 11th	5	Feb 26th
Mercer Way, Romsey	69	Nov 3rd	Apr 14th	31	Jan 16th
West Green, Hartley Wintney	29	Nov 7th	Apr 3rd	30	Mar 8th
Hursley Village	17	Nov 27th	Apr 4th	10	Jan 18th
Ashford Stream/Hangers	5	Nov 29th	Mar 22nd	20	Mar 22nd
Ampfield Wood	2	Dec 21st	Dec 26th	15	Dec 26th
South Warnborough	3	Dec 22nd	Apr 20th	7	Jan 13th
Farley Mount CP	4	Dec 28th	Mar 30th	26	Mar 30th
Mattingly	7	Jan 1st	Feb 8th	60	Jan 1st
Avington Park	7	Jan 1st	Mar 19th	20	Jan 29th
Sherborne St. John	19	Jan 1st	Apr 7th	25	Mar 16th
Longparish	5	Jan 7th	Mar 25th	43	Mar 11th
Chawton	26	Jan 9th	Apr 8th	30	Jan 26th
Old Alresford	3	Jan 17th	Mar 18th	10	Mar 14th
Old Winchester Hill	2	Feb 16th	Feb 18th	25	Feb 18th
Southampton Common	16	Feb 18th	Mar 19th	15	Mar 18th
Crawley	1	Mar 18th	Mar 19th	40	Mar 19th

Hawfinches in the UK are considered to be a partial migrant with the breeding population remaining largely sedentary, though local movements have been recorded. Each year UK usually receives a number of migrants from the small Scandinavian population although we believe few of these penetrate as far south as Hampshire.

It is believed that the Hawfinches involved in the invasion of October 2017 originated mainly from eastern Europe. Typically Hawfinches migrate from eastern to central Europe once they have completed their post-breeding moult in late September/early October, although in autumn 2017 the beech mast crop was especially poor resulting in a larger than normal number partaking in the annual migration. This combined with Storm Ophelia, which at the time was moving eastwards over mainland Europe generating strong anti-clockwise cyclonic winds, which pushed many of the migrating birds northwards and westwards towards the UK.

As a result of the influx additional effort was made at the traditional Hawfinch ringing station in the New Forest during the 2017/18 winter. Despite Hawfinches being typically very difficult to catch during the winter period, small numbers were caught. Of the ten unringed trapped between February and April, just two displayed the characteristics of a continental Hawfinch being heavier (over 61g vs a typical weight of c.50g for residents) and longer-winged (110mm vs c.105mm for residents).

It was hoped that some of the Hawfinches involved in the influx might stay to breed. Observers in both Hampshire and Sussex (where they were lucky enough to have a gathering of over 400 Hawfinches at one site) put a lot of field-time into investigating whether any remained to breed. No new sites have been located in Hampshire although the larger numbers, which made gatherings easier to detect and track, did help identify new communal roost sites in the Test Valley. However in Sussex a handful have been confirmed breeding. These are at sites where Hawfinches have been recorded on occasions over the years and so it is thought that these are probably areas where the population is so small that they have escaped detection in recent years. It shouldn't be underestimated just how difficult it can be to confirm breeding of a species as quiet and secretive as a Hawfinch!

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Grants for projects undertaken in 2018

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 2016 for implementation in 2017. This note continues that process by summarising the projects agreed in autumn 2017 for implementation in 2018. Detailed written submissions were received from six applicants and considered by the Scientific Sub-committee at its meeting on November 13th 2017. Four projects were selected and awards based on an increased budget of £9,005 were recommended and accepted by the Management Committee at its meeting on November 22nd as follows:

***HIWWT: Solent waders and Brent Goose strategy, £1,500**

Following the award of £2,000 last year for the first year of this three-year project to provide up-to-date planning and land use information on sites used by waders and Brent Geese in The Solent area, it was agreed to grant a further £1,500 towards the £10,000 needed for this important study in its second year.

***BTO: Wood Warbler migration tracking from the New Forest, £2,405**

Wood Warblers are a declining species in the New Forest with little information on their migration or wintering areas in Africa. With a high proportion of the birds being trapped each year, there was considered to be a good chance of recovering valuable data from the latest lightweight trackers suitable for use on this species. The project will provide new insights into the migration challenges for Wood Warblers, their key stopovers and wintering areas and the factors that may affect their successful return. It was agreed to fund the full amount requested of £2,405 towards a project total of £16,375 for 15 geolocators to be fitted in the 2018 breeding season for tracking the autumn 2018 and spring 2019 migrations to and from Africa.

***Hampshire Swift Group: Hampshire Swifts recovery, £1,900**

Because of the public and media interest in this popular tourist site, it was agreed to fund six nest boxes to be installed at Selborne Church for £500 and to contribute £1,000 towards the total cost of £3,800 for a proprietary Swift tower with 20 nest sites to be installed by the Gilbert White Museum in the grounds of White's house in Selborne. It was further agreed to fund the cost of a speaker and hall hire for Swift Day 2018 for £300 and sundry other costs of £100 to support the Swift recovery programme.

***Farlington Ringing Group: New Forest and Solent Curlew project, £3,200**

Curlews are a rapidly declining breeding species in the New Forest and information is needed on their movements throughout the year to develop an appropriate conservation strategy. High resolution tracking by GPS tags was proposed and it was agreed to fund the costs of four tags at £800 each. The results from the 2018 breeding season and subsequent autumn dispersal are given elsewhere in this report (see p. 220).

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 quarterly magazine *Kingfisher*. Membership is available as follows (correct at September 1st, 2019):

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.freemove.co.uk telephone: 01329 833086

Applications to join after September 30th (to the year end) shall also cover the succeeding calendar year. Members so joining will not receive the *Hampshire Bird Report* published in the year they join but will be able to obtain it at a reduced price. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st each year. The preferred method of payment is by standing order, but payments may also be made by internet banking (forms and full details are on the HOS website).

Meetings & Committees

Regular field meetings are arranged in all parts of the county throughout the year. Meetings are designed to introduce members to various habitats and to provide opportunities for novices of all ages to learn more about birds under field conditions. The Annual General Meeting & 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 quarterly *Kingfisher* magazines contains news of society events, field meetings and recent bird sightings, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Scientific sub-committee. New surveys are started every year, and the newsletter serves as a medium to contact potential volunteers. All members are invited to take part in surveys and contribute articles to the newsletter.

Map and Gazetteer

National Grid coordinates are given to four figure accuracy (i.e. to relevant 1 km square). The map shows 30 selected birding sites frequently mentioned in the Systematic List. Coordinates for other sites in this gazetteer can be used to identify approximate locations on the map by interpolating between the National Grid 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		
Abbotts Wood	SU 8139	Beacon Hill (Burghclere)	SU 4557	Bramshott	SU 8633
Acres Down	SU 2709	Beacon Hill (Warnford)	SU 6022	Bransbury Common	SU 4141
Adanac Park (Southampton)	SU 3714	Beaulieu Estuary	SZ 4298	Bratley Plain	SU 2208
Adhurst Wood (Sheet)	SU 7625	Beaulieu River	SZ 4199	Bratley Water	SU 2308
Alderhill Inclosure	SU 1913	Beaulieu Road	SU 3406	Breamore	SU 1518
Aldershot	SU 8751	Beauworth	SU 5725	Bricksbury Hill	SU 8349
Alice Holt Forest	SU 8042	Beckford	SU 6310	Brinken Wood	SU 2705
Allington Gpt	SU 4717	Becton Bunny	SZ 2592	Broadhalfpenny Down	SU 6515
Alresford Pond	SU 5933	Bedhampton	SU 7006	Broadlands Estate	SU 3520
Alton	SU 7238	Beech Bed Inclosure	SU 2206	Broadmarsh	SU 7005
Alver Valley	SU 5700	Bentley	SU 7844	Brockenhurst	SU 3002
Ampfield	SU 4023	Bentley Wood	SU 2528	Brockley Warren	SU 4236
Amport	SU 3045	Benyon's Inclosure	SU 6263	Brockwood Park (West Meon)	
Ancell's Farm (Fleet)	SU 8155	Bere Hill Farm	SU 3745		SU 6025
Ancient Highway (Pennington)		Berewood (Waterlooville)	SU 6709	Broomy Lodge	SU 2111
	SZ 3192	Bickerley Common	SU 1404	Broomy Plain	SU 2010
Anderwood Inclosure	SU 2406	Bickton	SU 1412	Broughton	SU 3132
Andover Down	SU 3945	Bidden Grange	SU 7049	Browdown	SZ 5899
Andwell	SU 6852	Bilcombe's Pond	SU 4502	Brownwich	SU 5103
Anglesey Lake (Gosport)	SZ 6098	Binsted	SU 7741	Brownwich Cliffs	SU 5103
Anthony's Bee Bottom	SU 2201	Binswood	SU 7637	Broxhead Common	SU 8037
Anton Lakes	SU 3740	Bishops Dyke	SU 3405	Buckherd Bottom	SU 2008
Appleshaw	SU 3048	Bishopstoke	SU 4619	Bucklers Hard	SU 4000
Appleslade Inclosure	SU 1808	Bishops Sutton	SU 6031	Budds Farm Sewage Farm	SU 7005
Arlebury Park & Lake	SU 5732	Bishops Waltham	SU 5617	Bunny Meadows	SU 4806
Ashe Park Lake	SU 5449	Bisterne	SU 1400	Burgate	SU 1515
Ashford Hangers LNR	SU 7427	Bitterne (Southampton)	SU 4513	Buriton	SU 7420
Ashford Stream	SU 7326	Blackbushe	SU 8059	Burkham	SU 6541
Ashlett Creek	SU 4603	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Burley	SU 2103
Ashlett	SU 4603	Blackfield	SU 4502	Burley New Inclosure	SU 2304
Ashley Walk	SU 2014	Black Gutter Bottom	SU 2016	Burley Street	SU 2004
Ashley Warren	SU 4956	Blackhamsley Hill	SU 2800	Burley Whitten Pond	SU 2001
Ashmansworth	SU 4157	Blackheath Down	SU 0717	Burrfields (Portsmouth)	SZ 6497
Ashurst	SU 3310	Blacklands Farm (Newnham)		Bursledon	SU 4809
Ash Vale	SU 8953		SU 6954	Burton Common	SZ 1995
Atner's Hill	SU 3636	Blackmoor	SU 7733	Bury Marsh	SU 3811
Avington Park & Lake	SU 5332	Blacknest	SU 7941	Bury Hill (Andover)	SU 3443
Avon Castle	SU 1403	Black Point (Hayling)	SZ 7599	Bushfield (Winchester)	SU 4627
Avon Causeway	SZ 1497	Blackwater (Needs Ore)	SZ 4197	Busketts Lawn	SU 3110
Avon Floods (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Blackwater Arboretum	SU 2604	Busta Triangle	SU 7859
Avon Tyrrell	SZ 1499	Blashford Lakes	SU 1507	Butlocks Heath	SU 4609
Awbridge	SU 3324	Blendworth	SU 7113	Butser Hill	SU 7120
Axmansford	SU 0717	Bolderwood	SU 2408	Butts Bay	SZ 3292
Backley Plain	SU 2106	Bordon	SU 8035	Cadman's Pool	SU 2212
Backley Inclosure	SU 2207	Bossington	SU 3331	Cadnam Common	SU 2815
Baddesley Common	SU 3921	Botley Wood	SU 5410	Calmore	SU 3414
Badminton Common	SU 4501	Bourley Catchment	SU 8250	Calshot	SU 4802
Badminton GP	SU 4602	Bradley Hill	SU 6442	Calshot Spit	SU 4802
Baffins Pond	SU 6601	Braemar-Searchfield Farm	SU 1718	Camp Farm SF (Aldershot)	SU 8752
Bagshot Moor	SU 3600	Braishfield	SU 3725	Cams Bay	SU 5904
Balancing Pools (Keyhaven)	SZ 3091	Brambridge	SU 4622	Casbrook Common	SU 3625
Balmer Lawn (Brockenhurst)		Bramdean	SU 6228	Castle Bottom LNR	SU 7959
	SU 3003	Bramley	SU 6559	Centurion Business Park	SU 4313
Barton on Sea	SZ 2392	Bramshaw	SU 2516	Chalton	SU 7316
Barton Stacey	SU 4340	Bramshill (Warren Heath)	SU 7759	Chandler's Ford	SU 4321
Barton Common	SZ 2593	Bramshill Plantation	SU 7562	Chandlers Green	SU 7058
Bassett (Southampton)	SU 4116	Bramshill Police College Lake		Charlton Lakes	SU 3646

Chilland	SU 5232	Eastleigh Sewage Farm	SU 4618	Fyfield	SU 6532
Chilling	SU 5004	Eastney	SZ 6799	Gander Down	SU 5527
Chilworth	SU 4018	Eastoke	SZ 7598	Gavelcacre	SU 4142
Chineham	SU 6555	Eastrop Park (Basingstoke)	SU 6452	Gilkicker Point	SZ 6097
Cholderton Estate	SU 2342	East Tytherley	SU 2828	Godshill Ridge	SU 1815
Church Crookham	SU 8154	Edenbrook CP	SU 7854	Golden Pot	SU 7043
Clanfield Down	SU 7116	Eelmoor Marsh	SU 8452	Goodworth Clatford	SU 3642
Clarcken Green	SU 5651	Efford Mill	SZ 3094	Gorley	SU 1511
Clatford Oakcuts	SU 3338	Eldon	SU 3627	Gosport	SU 6000
Clay Hill	SU 2302	Eling	SU 3612	Grange Lake, The	SU 5636
Cleave Hill	SU 3538	Eling Great Marsh	SU 3712	Greatbridge (Romsey)	SU 3423
Cliddesden	SU 6349	Ellinham Bridge	SU 1408	Great Covert Wood	SU 4120
Clumber Inclosure	SU 2603	Ellingham Lake (Blashford)	SU 1408	Great Litchfield Down	SU 4755
Cole Henley	SU 4752	Ellisfield	SU 6345	Greatham	SU 7730
Colemore	SU 7030	Elvetham Park	SU 7856	Great Pen Wood	SU 4462
Compton	SU 4429	Embley Wood	SU 5441	Greenhill (Romsey)	SU 3420
Conigar Point	SU 7305	Emer Bog	SU 3921	Greywell	SU 7151
Conford Moor	SU 8233	Emsworth Channel	SU 7402	Griggs Green	SU 8231
Coombe	SU 6620	Emsworth Mill Pond	SU 7405	Gunner Point (Sinah Common)	
Coopers Hill	SU 2014	Eversley Gravel Pit	SU 7662		SZ 6899
Copythorne Common	SU 3015	Exhurst Park	SU 5757	Gurnetfields Furzebreak	SU 3705
Corhampton	SU 6020	Exbury	SU 4200	Gutner Point (Hayling)	SU 7302
Cosham	SU 6505	Exton	SU 6120	Hale Purlieu	SU 1918
Costicles Inclosure	SU 3210	Eyeworth Pond	SU 2215	Half Moon Common	SU 2916
Cove	SU 8556	Facombe	SU 3958	Hamble	SU 4807
Farley Farm	SU 3927	Fair Oak	SU 4919	Hamble Country Park	SU 4911
Cowplain	SU 6911	Fareham	SU 5706	Hamble Estuary	SU 4805
Crab Tree Earth	SU 2602	Fareham Creek	SU 5805	Hamer Warren Sand Pit	SU 1210
Cranes Moor	SU 1902	Farleigh Wallop	SU 6245	Hampshire Hatches Lane	SU 1403
Cranmer Pond (Woolmer)	SU 7932	Farley Chamberlayne	SU 3927	Hampton Ridge	SU 1913
Crawley	SU 4235	Farley Mount	SU 4229	Handy Cross Plain	SU 1906
Crech Walk	SU 6311	Farlington Marshes	SU 6804	Hannington	SU 5355
Crockford Bridge	SZ 3499	Farnborough	SU 8754	Harbridge	SU 1410
Cron dall	SU 7848	Farnborough Airport	SU 8552	Hardway (Portsmouth Hbr)	SU 6101
Crookham	SU 7952	Fawley	SU 4503	Harestock	SU 4631
Crux Easton	SU 4255	Fawley Power Station	SU 4603	Hare Warren Farm	SU 4854
Curbridge	SU 5211	Fawley Reclamation	SU 4801	Harewood Forest	SU 3943
Curridge	SU 5214	Fawley Refinery	SU 4504	Harroway Farm	SU 7121
Cut Bridge (Milford-on-Sea)	SZ 2990	Fawley Reservoir	SU 4405	Hartley Mauditt	SU 7436
Cutty Brow	SU 4044	Ferny Crofts	SU 3605	Hartley Wintney	SU 7656
Damerham	SU 1016	Ferny Nap	SU 2503	Harvest Slade	SU 2106
Danebury	SU 3237	Fields Heath	SU 4502	Haslar Creek	SZ 6299
Darby Green	SU 8360	Finchdean	SU 7213	Hasley Inclosure	SU 1912
Dark Lane Pond	SU 4402	Fishery Creek	SZ 7499	Hatchet Pond	SU 3601
Dark Water	SZ 4598	Fishlake Meadows	SU 3522	Hatchet Moor	SU 3500
Dean Hill	SU 2626	Fishtail Lagoon	SZ 3192	Hattingley	SU 6337
Deanlane End	SU 7312	Fleet	SU 8154	Havant	SU 7106
Deep Dene Woods	SU 4413	Fleet Pond	SU 8255	Havant Thicket	SU 7110
Denmead	SU 6509	Fletchers Thorn Inclosure	SU 2704	Hawley Meadows	SU 8559
Denny Wood	SU 3305	Fobdown	SU 5733	Hawkhill Inclosure	SU 3502
Dibden Bay	SU 4008	Fordingbridge	SU 1414	Hawley Lake	SU 8357
Dibden Purlieu	SU 4006	Forest of Bere Farm	SU 4029	Hayling Bay	SZ 7298
Dibden Bottom	SU 3806	Fort Brockhurst	SU 5902	Hayling Island	SU 7101
Ditcham Park	SU 7517	Fort Cumberland	SZ 6899	Hayling Oysterbeds	SU 7102
Dogmersfield Lake	SU 7551	Fort Elson	SU 6001	Hazel Down	SU 3639
Dorridge Hill	SU 1711	Fort Nelson	SU 6007	Hazeley Heath	SU 7558
Down Farm (Andover)	SU 4046	Fort Widley	SU 6506	Headbourne Worthy	SU 4832
Drayton Farm	SU 5933	Forton Lake	SU 6100	Headley Mill Pond	SU 8134
Duckhole Bog	SU 2502	Four Marks	SU 6831	Headley Park	SU 8237
Dummer	SU 5846	Foxbury Plantation	SU 3017	Heath Pond (Petersfield)	SU 7522
Dundridge	SU 5618	Fox Lane GP (Eversley)	SU 8061	Heath Warren	SU 7660
Dur Hill Down	SU 1901	Frater	SU 5903	Hedge End	SU 4811
Durley	SU 5016	Fratton (Portsmouth)	SU 6500	Highland Water Inclosure	SU 2409
East Boldre	SU 3700	Frensham Great Pond	SU 8440	Highbridge	SU 3430
East Cosham	SU 6605	Frith End Sand Pit	SU 8039	Highclere	SU 4854
East Dean	SU 2626	Fritham	SU 2213	Highclere Park	SU 4458
East Hayling	SU 7302	Fryern Court	SU 1416	Hill Head	SU 5402
East Meon	SU 5203	Fullerton	SU 3739	Hilliers Arboretum	SU 3823
East Park (Southampton)	SU 4212	Funtley	SU 5608	Hillside (Odiham)	SU 7450
East Tisted	SU 7032	Funtington Airfield	SU 7006	Hill Top (Beaulieu)	SU 4003
East Worldham	SU 7538	Furze Hill	SU 1711	Hilly Fields (Southampton)	SU 3715
Eastleigh	SU 4419	Furzley Common	SU 2815	Hilsea	SU 6604

Hiltingbury	SU 4322	Kimbridge	SU 3225	Martyr Worthy	SU 5132
Hinchelsea Bog	SU 2700	Kingsclere	SU 5258	Marwell Zoo	SU 5021
Hinton Admiral	SZ 2095	King's Garden	SU 2109	Matley Bog	SU 3307
Hinton Ampner	SU 6027	Kingsley	SU 7939	Mattingley	SU 7357
Hitches Lane CP	SU 7952	King's Pond (Alton)	SU 7239	Mayflower Park (So'ton)	SU 4111
HMS Mercury	SU 6719	King's Somborne	SU 3534	Mellow Farm (Headley)	SU 8239
HMS Sultan	SZ 5899	Kingston (Avon valley)	SU 1401	Meon Shore	SU 5402
Hoccombe Mead	SU 4322	Kingston Great Common	SU 1802	Meonstoke	SU 6020
Hoe Cross	SU 6314	Kites Croft	SU 5206	Meon Valley GC	SU 5513
Hoe Gate	SU 6213	Kitwood	SU 6632	Micheldever Wood	SU 5337
Hoglands Park (Southampton)		Knightwood Inclosure	SU 2506	Michelmersh	SU 3525
	SU 4211	Knowles, The	SU 2608	Middle Wallop	SU 2937
Hollybank Woods	SU 7408	Ladycross Inclosure	SU 3302	Midgham Wood	SU 1412
Holly Hatch Inclosure	SU 2112	Lakeside CP (Eastleigh)	SU 4417	Milford on Sea	SZ 2891
Holly Hill Park (Warsash)	SU 4907	Lane End Down	SU 5526	Milkham Inclosure	SU 2110
Hollywater Green	SU 8133	Langdown	SU 4306	Milking Pond Bottom	SZ 2999
Holm Hill	SU 2602	Langstone Harbour	SU 6802	Mill Field (Old Basing)	SU 6653
Holmsley	SU 2200	Langstone Mill Pond	SU 7105	Mill Lane (Romsey)	SU 3421
Holt Pound (Alice Holt Forest)		Lasham	SU 6743	Mill Rythe	SU 7300
	SU 8144	Latchmore Bottom	SU 1812	Millbrook	SU 3813
Holybourne	SU 7441	Laverstoke	SU 4948	Millersford Bottom	SU 1816
Hook-with-Warsash	SU 4905	Leaden Hall	SU 2015	Millyford Bridge	SU 2607
Hook Links	SU 4904	Leckford	SU 3737	Milton Common (Portsmouth)	
Hook Spit	SU 4805	Lee (Nursling)	SU 3617		SZ 6700
Hordle	SZ 2695	Lee-on-the-Solent	SU 5500	Mogshade Hill	SU 2309
Horndean	SU 7013	Leigh Park (Havant)	SU 7108	Monxton	SU 3345
Horsebridge	SU 3430	Lepe	SZ 4598	Moody's Down	SU 4338
Horsedown Common	SU 7648	Lifelands (Ringwood)	SU 1406	Moon Hills	SU 4002
Horse Sand Fort	SZ 6594	Linwood	SU 1809	Moorcourt Farm	SU 3417
Horton Heath	SU 4916	Lisle Court	SZ 3595	Mopley Pond	SU 4501
Houghton	SU 3432	Liss	SU 7728	Morestead Old Down	SU 5948
Houndwell Park (So'ton)	SU 4211	Little London (Andover)	SU 3749	Mortimer West End	SU 6363
Howen Bottom	SU 2315	Locks Heath	SU 5107	Mottisfont	SU 3227
Hucklesbrook	SU 1509	Lode Farm (Kingsley)	SU 7737	Neatham Down (Alton)	SU 7338
Hundred Acres (Wickham)	SU 5911	Long Beech Inclosure	SU 2512	Needs Ore	SZ 4297
Hunton	SU 4839	Long Down (Hambledon)	SU 6619	Nether Wallop	SU 3036
Hursley	SU 4225	Long Island	SU 7004	Netherton	SU 3757
Hurst Beach	SZ 3090	Long Valley (Bricksbury Hill)		Netherton Bottom	SU 3856
Hurstbourne Tarrant	SU 3853		SU 8352	Netley	SU 4508
Hurstbourne Common	SU 3752	Longmoor Inclosure	SU 7930	New Copse Inclosure	SU 3202
Hurstbourne Priors	SU 4247	Longparish	SU 4344	New Lane	SZ 2991
Hurst Castle	SZ 3189	Longslade Bottom	SU 2700	New Milton	SZ 2395
Hurst Narrows	SZ 3189	Longstock	SU 3636	Newlands Farm (Stubbington)	
Hurst Spit	SZ 3189	Longwood Warren	SU 5226		SU 5604
Hut Wood	SU 4218	Lordshill	SU 3815	New Queen (Avon)	SZ 1498
Hythe	SU 4307	Lower Brook	SU 3327	Newton Stacey	SU 4140
IBM Lake (Cosham)	SU 6404	Lower Bullington	SU 4641	Newtown (Meon Valley)	SU 6111
Ibsley Bridge	SU 1409	Lower Froyle	SU 7644	Newtown (Weston)	SU 4510
Ibsley Common	SU 1710	Lower Pennington	SZ 3193	New Warren Farm	SU 5327
Ibsley North GP (Blashford)		Lower Test Marshes	SU 3614	Noar Hill	SU 7431
	SU 1509	Ludshott Common	SU 8535	Nomansland	SU 2517
Ibsley Water (Blashford)	SU 1508	Lyeway	SU 6731	Norley Wood	SZ 3498
Idsworth Farm (Horndean)	SU 7414	Lymington NR	SZ 3494	Normandy Marsh	SZ 3394
Iley Lane (Keyhaven)	SZ 3193	Lymington River	SZ 3494	North Baddesley	SU 3919
Iley Point (Keyhaven)	SZ 3191	Lyndhurst	SU 2908	North Boarhunt	SU 6109
Inchmery	SZ 4398	Lyndridge Farm (Eversley)	SU 7760	North Camp (Aldershot)	SU 8652
Ipley Green	SU 3706	Magdalen Hill Down	SU 5029	Northam Bridge	SU 4312
Itchell Mill Springs (Crandall)		Mallard Wood	SU 3209	North End (Portsmouth)	SU 6502
	SU 7849	Malshanger	SU 5753	Northington Lake	SU 5636
Itchen Abbas	SU 5332	Malthouse Farm (Sleaford)	SU 8039	Northney	SU 7303
Itchen Estuary	SU 4309	Manor Farm (Old Alresford)		North Stoneham	SU 4317
Itchen Stoke	SU 5532		SU 5833	Nursling	SU 3515
Itchen Valley CP	SU 4616	Manor Farm CP	SU 5011	Oakford Coppice	SU 0412
Ivy Lake (Blashford)	SU 1507	Mansbridge (River Itchen)	SU 4415	Oakhanger	SU 7836
Janesmoor Plain	SU 2413	Mapledurwell	SU 6851	Oakley Copse	SU 3328
Kempshott	SU 6049	Marchwood	SU 3909	Oakley	SU 5751
Kench, The	SZ 6999	Mark Ash Wood	SU 2407	Ober Heath	SU 2803
Kentford Lake	SU 3219	Markells Wood	SU 7513	Ocknell Plain	SU 2311
Kentsboro	SU 3140	Markway Inclosure	SU 2503	Odiham	SU 7450
Keyhaven Marshes	SZ 3192	Marsh Court (Stockbridge)	SU 3533	Ogdens Purlieu	SU 1811
Keyhaven	SZ 3191	Martin	SU 0619	Old Alresford	SU 5834
Kilmeaton Down	SU 5724	Martin Down	SU 0419	Old Basing	SU 6652

Old Burghclere	SU 4757	Redrise Furze Break	SU 2403	South Boarhunt	SU 6008
Old Down (Basingstoke)	SU 5948	Rhinefield	SU 2602	South Ham (Basingstoke)	SU 6151
Old Idsworth	SU 7515	Ridge & Lythe Hangers	SU 7225	South Hayling	SZ 7198
Old Netley	SU 4610	Ridley Plain	SU 2006	Southleigh Forest	SU 7408
Old Winchester Hill	SU 6420	Ringwood Forest	SU 1108	Southmoor (Langstone)	SU 7104
Oliver's Battery	SU 4527	Ripley Farm Reservoir	SZ 1699	South Oakley Inclosure	SU 2205
Ordnance Survey (So'ton)	SU 3715	Riverside Park (Southampton)		Southsea	SZ 6799
Otterbourne	SU 4623		SU 4314	Southsea Castle	SZ 6498
Ovington	SU 5631	RNAY Fleetlands	SU 5804	South Stoneham	SU 4416
Over Wallop	SU 2838	Rockbourne Down	SU 1021	South Wonston	SU 4836
Overton	SU 5149	Rockford Lake (Blashford)	SU 1708	South Warnborough	SU 7247
Ower	SU 3216	Rockford Common	SU 1608	Southwick	SU 6208
Oxey Marsh	SZ 3393	Roe Inclosure	SU 1908	Sowley Pond	SZ 3796
Oxney Meadows (Bordon)	SU 7937	Roke Park	SU 7648	Sparsholt	SU 4331
Palestine	SU 2640	Romsey	SU 3521	Spinnaker Lake (Blashford)	SU 1507
Pamber Forest	SU 6161	Rooksbury Mill (Andover)	SU 3544	Springfields Farm (Oakhanger)	
Parkhill Inclosure	SU 3305	Ropley	SU 6632		SU 7734
Park Shore (Needs Ore)	SZ 4096	Round Hill Campsite	SU 3301	Standing Hat	SU 3104
Parnholt Wood	SU 3828	Rowbarrow	SU 3504	Stansore Point	SZ 4698
Passfield Pond	SU 8234	Rowlands Castle	SU 7310	St.Catherine's Hill	SU 4827
Paulsgrove Reclamation	SU 6305	Rownest Wood	SU 5542	St. Cross	SU 4728
Paucefoot Hill	SU 3420	Rownhams	SU 3816	St. Denys	SU 4313
Peartree Green (Southampton)		Royal Victoria CP	SU 4607	Steep	SU 7526
	SU 4311	Roydon Woods (Brockenhurst)		St. Mary Bourne	SU 4250
Peel Common STW	SU 5603		SU 3100	Stockbridge	SU 3535
Pennington Marshes	SZ 3292	Rushpole Wood	SU 3109	Stockley Inclosure	SU 3401
Perrywood Ironhill Inclosure		Sabines Farm (Avon)	SZ 1499	Stoke Charity	SU 4839
	SU 3201	Salisbury Trench	SU 2514	Stoney Cross	SU 2510
Petersfield Heath Pond	SU 7522	Saltgrass Lane	SZ 3091	Steventon	SU 5348
Phoenix Green	SU 7655	Sandy Point (Hayling)	SZ 7498	Stockbridge Down	SU 3734
Pig Bush	SU 3604	Sandy Ridge	SU 2307	Stokes Bay	SZ 5898
Pilot Hill	SU 3959	Sanisbury Green	SU 5008	Straight Mile (Romsey)	SU 3822
Pinglestone	SU 5833	Selborne	SU 7433	Straits Inclosure (Alice Holt)	
Piper's Wait	SU 2416	Setley Plain	SZ 2999		SU 7940
Pitt Down	SU 4129	Set Thorns Inclosure	SZ 2699	Stratfield Turgis	SU 7060
Pitts Deep	SZ 3795	Shatterford Bottom	SU 3406	Stubbington	SU 5503
Pitts Wood Inclosure	SU 1914	Shave Green Inclosure	SU 2812	Stubbs Farm (Binsted)	SU 7640
Plastow Green	SU 5361	Shedfield	SU 5613	Sturt Pond (Milford on Sea)	SZ 2991
Plumley	SU 1210	Sheet	SU 7624	Stratfield Saye	SU 7061
Poors Common	SZ 2098	Shepherd's Bush	SU 3336	Suddern Hill	SU 2637
Popham Down (Dummer)	SU 5743	Shepherd's Spring	SU 3646	Swanmore	SU 5715
Posbrook Flood	SU 5404	Shepherd's Meadow	SU 8460	Swanwick Lakes	SU 5009
Potbridge Fishery	SU 7454	Sherborne St. John	SU 6255	Sway	SZ 2798
Portchester Castle	SU 6204	Sherfield on Loddon	SU 6757	Swaythling	SU 4415
Porton Down	SU 2135	Sherfield English	SU 2922	Sydmonton	SU 4656
Portsdown Hill	SU 6406	Shipton Bellinger	SU 2345	Taddiford Gap	SZ 2692
Portsea Island (Portsmouth)		Shipton Holms	SZ 3599	Tadley	SU 6061
	SU 6600	Sholing	SU 4512	Tangley	SU 3351
Portsmouth	SZ 6497	Shortheath Common	SU 7736	Tanners Lane	SZ 3695
Portsmouth Harbour	SU 5902	Silchester	SU 6362	Tantany Wood	SU 3603
Portsmouth Naval Base	SU 6300	Sinah GP/Common	SZ 6999	Teglease Down	SU 6519
Port Solent	SU 6304	Sir George Stanton CP	SU 7108	Testbourne	SU 4446
Portway Farm	SU 2541	Skidmore	SU 3517	Testwood Lakes	SU 3614
Poundhill Heath	SU 2804	Sleaford Reservoir	SU 8039	Thatcher's Copse (Brownwich)	
Preshaw	SU 5623	Sloden Inclosure	SU 2113		SU 5203
Preshaw Down	SU 5922	Sluffers Inclosure	SU 2210	Theddon	SU 6839
Preston Oak Hills	SU 6343	Snatchangers Farm (Odiham)		Thorny Hill Holms	SU 2000
Preston Candover	SU 6041		SU 7449	Thruxton	SU 2945
Priddy's Hard (Gosport)	SU 6001	Snoddington Down	SU 2445	Tidgrove Warren	SU 5254
Purbrook	SU 6708	Soberton	SU 6017	Tidpit Down	SU 0617
Puttles Bridge	SU 2602	Somerley Estate	SU 1307	Timsbury	SU 3425
Pylewell	SZ 3595	Somerley Park	SU 1307	Tipner Lake	SU 6403
Quarley Hill	SU 2642	Sopley	SZ 1597	Titchbourne	SU 5629
Queen Elizabeth CP	SU 7219	Sotherington Farm	SU 7633	Titchfield	SU 5305
Queen's Park (Southampton)		Southampton Common	SU 4114	Titchfield Haven	SU 5302
	SU 4111	Southampton Container Term		Toms Down	SU 4501
Ramptons Lane GP	SU 6653		SU 3812	Totford	SU 5738
Ramsdell	SU 5857	Southampton Eastern Docks		Totton	SU 3513
Ranvilles Lane (Fareham)	SU 5405		SU 4210	Tournerbury	SZ 7399
Raven's Nest Inclosure	SU 2514	Southampton Town Quay	SU 4110	Toydown	SU 0819
Redbridge	SU 3713	Southampton Water	SU 4308	Trigpoint Hill	SU 3625
Redenham Park	SU 3049	Southampton Western Docks		Truncheants (Alton)	SU 7338
Red Hill Bog	SU 2601		SU 3812	Tumulus Wood	SU 3015

Tundry Pond	SU 7752	Watership Down	SU 4957	Widden Bottom	SZ 2899
Tunworth	SU 6748	Wattons Ford	SU 1301	Widley	SU 6606
Turf Hill Inclosure	SU 2017	Well	SU 7646	Wield Wood	SU 6138
Totford	SU 5637	Wellington Country Park	SU 7161	Wildgrounds (Gosport)	SU 5701
Tweseldown	SU 8352	Weavers Down	SU 8029	Willesley Warren	SU 4951
Twiggs Lane (Ipley)	SU 3708	Welshman Road GP	SU 6264	Wilverley Plain	SU 2501
Twyford	SU 4824	Westbourne	SU 7508	Winchester Sewage Farm	SU 4927
Twyford Down	SU 4827	West End	SU 4714	Winchester St. Cross	SU 4728
Upham	SU 5421	West Green House	SU 7456	Winchfield, Pale Lane	SU 7653
Upper Clatford	SU 3543	West Hayling LNR	SU 7102	Windmill Hill (Alton)	SU 7238
Upper Froyle	SU 7442	West Meon	SU 6423	Winnall Moors	SU 4830
Upper Wield	SU 6136	Weston	SU 7221	Winters Down	SU 5921
Up Somborne	SU 3932	Weston Common	SU 6944	Wishanger	SU 8339
Upton Grey	SU 6947	Weston Shore	SU 4409	Wolverton Park	SU 5558
Vales Moor	SU 1804	West Tisted	SU 6528	Wonston	SU 4739
Vereley Hill	SU 1905	West Tytherley	SU 2428	Woodfiddly	SU 3405
Vernham Dean	SU 3356	West Walk	SU 5912	Woodford Bottom	SU 1811
Vinney Ridge	SU 2505	West Wellow	SU 2818	Woodgreen	SU 1717
Vokes Park (Southampton)	SU 4211	West Winner Bank	SZ 6898	Woodley Grange Meadows	SU 7322
Vyne, The	SU 6357	West Wood (Netley)	SU 4509	Woodmancott	SU 5743
Waggoners Wells	SU 8534	West Wood (Farley Mount)	SU 4129	Woodmill	SU 4315
Walkers Copse (Dummer)	SU 5844	West Worldham	SU 7337	Woolmer Forest	SU 8032
Walpole Park (Gosport)	SZ 6199	Weyhill	SU 3045	Woolmer Pond	SU 7831
Waltham Chase	SU 5614	Whale Island (Portsmouth)	SU 6302	Wootton St. Lawrence	SU 5953
Walworth Trading Estate	SU 3846	Wheely Down	SU 6023	Wormstall Wood	SZ 3599
Warblington	SU 7205	Whitchurch	SU 4648	Worthy Down	SU 4735
Warnford	SU 6223	Whitehill	SU 7934	Wylds Farm (Liss)	SU 8029
Warren Flats	SZ 4196	White Hill (Kingsclere)	SU 5156	Yateley	SU 8160
Warren Heath (Bramshill)	SU 7759	Whiteley	SU 5209	Yateley Common	SU 8259
Warren, The (Oakhanger)	SU 7735	Whitewool Pond	SU 6521	Yateley Gravel Pit	SU 8261
Warsash	SU 4906	Whitsbury Down	SU 1121	Yateley Heath Wood	SU 8057
Water Copse Inclosure	SU 2903	Whitten Ponds	SU 2001	Yavington	SU 5432
Waterditch	SZ 1895	Wivelrod	SU 6738		
Waterlooville	SU 6710	Wickham	SU 5711		

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 Rareities 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

Index to English Names

Page numbers are given in **bold** for species accounts in the Systematic List and for papers where the species is featured, *italic* for entries in the Ringing Report recoveries section and regular font for other noteworthy entries.

Auk species	104	Eagle		Common	103
Avocet	70, 203	White-tailed	65	Gull	
Aythya hybrid	40	Egret		Black-headed	93, 203
Bee-eater	112	Cattle	55	Bonaparte's	93
Bittern	54	Great White	56, 203	Caspian	98, 99
Blackbird	141	Little	57, 203	Common	96
Black Brant	25	Eider	40	Great Black-backed	97
Blackcap	132, 204	Falcon		Iceland	97
Bluethroat	146	Red-footed	114	Lesser Black-backed	100, 203
Brambling	158, 204	Fieldfare	141	Little	94
Bullfinch	161	Firecrest	136	Mediterranean	95, 203
Bunting		Flamingo	170	Ring-billed	96
Corn	167	Flycatcher		Sabine's	92
Lapland	166	Pied	147	Thayer's	97, 233
Little	168	Spotted	145, 204	Yellow-legged	99
Ortolan	167	Fulmar	48	Harrier	
Reed	168, 204	Gadwall	33	Hen	64
Snow	166	Gannet	58	Marsh	63
Bustard		Garganey	31	Hawfinch	159, 237
Great	171	Godwit		Hawk	
Buzzard	65	Bar-tailed	76	Harris's	171
Rough-legged	65	Black-tailed	77, 203	Heron	
Chaffinch	157, 204	Goldcrest	137	Grey	55
Chiffchaff	129	Goldeneye	42	Hobby	116
Siberian	129	Barrow's	170	Honey-buzzard	62
Coot	67	Goldfinch	164, 204	Hoopoe	112
Cormorant	60	Goosander	43	Ibis	
Crake		Goose		Glossy	53
Spotted	67	Bar-headed	169	Jackdaw	118
Crane	68, 171	Barnacle	26	Jay	117
Crossbill	163	Brent	23	Kestrel	114, 204
Crow		Cackling	169	Kingfisher	111
Carion	119	Canada	25	Kite	
Cuckoo	106	Dark-bellied Brent	23	Red	64
Curlew	75, 203, 220	Egyptian	29	Kittiwake	92
Diver		European White-fronted	27	Knot	78, 203
Black-throated	46	Greenland White-fronted	28	Kookaburra	
Great Northern	47	Greylag	26	Blue-winged	171
Red-throated	46	Light-bellied Brent	24	Lapwing	71
Dove		Pink-footed	27	Lark	
Collared	106	Snow	26	Shore	124
Diamond	171	White-fronted	27	Linnet	162
Stock	104, 105	Goshawk	63	Lorikeet	
Turtle	106	Grebe		Rainbow	171
Duck		Black-necked	52	Magpie	118
Ferruginous	38	Great Crested	50	Mallard	35
Long-tailed	42	Little	49	Martin	
Mandarin	30	Red-necked	50	House	126
Muscovy	170	Slavonian	51	Sand	124, 204
Tufted	39	Greenfinch	161	Merganser	
Wood	170	Greenshank	91	Red-breasted	44
Dunlin	81, 203	Guillemot		Merlin	114
Dunnoek	153	Black	104	Moorhen	67

Nightingale	146, 208	Sanderling	81	Black	102
Nightjar	110	Sandpiper		Common	102
Nuthatch	138	Common	87	Little	101
Osprey	61	Curlew	80	Roseate	101
Owl		Green	87	Sandwich	101
Barn	107, 204	Marsh	89	Thrush	
Eagle	171	Pectoral	83	Mistle	145
Little	108	Purple	83	Song	144
Long-eared	108	Wood	89	Tit	
Short-eared	108	Scaup	40	Bearded	122
Tawny	108	Lesser	40	Blue	122
Oystercatcher	70, 203	Scoter		Coal	121
Parakeet		Common	41	Great	122
Alexandrine	171	Velvet	41	Long-tailed	127
Ring-necked	116	Serin	165	Marsh	121
Partridge		Shag	59	Willow	121
Grey	45	Shearwater	48	Treecreeper	138
Red-legged	45	Manx	49	Turnstone	78
Peregrine	116	Sooty	48	Twite	162
Phalarope		Shelduck	30	Wagtail	
Grey	86	Ruddy	170	Blue-headed	154
Red-necked	86	Shoveler	32	Grey	154
Pheasant	45	Shrike		Pied	155
Reeves's	170	Great Grey	117	White	155
Pigeon		Red-backed	117	Yellow	154
Feral	104	Siskin	165	Warbler	
Pintail	36	Skua		Aquatic	130
White-cheeked	170	Arctic	103	Cetti's	126
Pipit		Great	103	Dartford	134, 216
Meadow	156	Pomarine	103	Garden	133
Richard's	155	Skylark	124	Grasshopper	131
Rock	157	Snipe	85, 203	Marsh	131
Tree	156	Jack	84	Reed	130, 204
Water	157	Sparrow		Savi's	132
Plover		House	152	Sedge	130
Golden	72	Tree	153	Willow	128
Grey	73, 203	Sparrowhawk	62	Wood	127, 204
Little Ringed	74, 203	Spoonbill	53	Yellow-browed	128
Ringed	73	Starling	138	Waxwing	120
Pochard	38	Rose-coloured	138	Wheatear	151
Red-crested	38	Stint		Whimbrel	75
Quail	45	Little	83	Whinchat	149
Rail		Temminck's	80	Whitethroat	134
Water	66	Stonechat	150	Lesser	133
Raven	120	Stone-curlew	69	Wigeon	34
Razorbill	104	Stork		Chiloe	170
Redpoll		White	52, 170, 202	Woodcock	84, 203
Common	163	Swallow	125	Woodlark	123, 204, 228
Lesser	163	Swan		Woodpecker	
Redshank	88	Bewick's	29	Great Spotted	113
Spotted	90	Black	169	Green	113
Redstart	149	Mute	28	Lesser Spotted	113
Black	148	Swift	110	Woodpigeon	105
Redwing	142	Alpine	110	Wren	137
Ring Ouzel	140	Teal	36	Wryneck	112
Robin	146	Green-winged	37	Yellowhammer	167
Rook	119	Tern			
Ruff	79	Arctic	102		



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This is an epic trip that will really blow any nature lover's senses. Although we will focus on the birds, there is so much more to see including the world famous Taj Mahal, the beautiful pink city of Jaipur and have fantastic chances of encountering a Tiger at Ranthambore reserve. This trip even coincides with the Holi festival, so you will really see India at her most vibrant. India has experienced a catastrophic decline in vultures. This trip supports the Jatayu Vulture Breeding Centre to rehabilitate critically endangered Red-headed, Long-billed and Slender-billed vultures. We will meet experts in Ranthambore to hear more about this project and look for these magnificent birds.



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