

Hampshire Bird Report 2020



Hampshire Ornithological Society
Published November 2021



Hampshire Ornithological Society

Published November 2021 by the Hampshire Ornithological Society

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

ISBN 978-1-9993092-4-4 Price £13 (excl. p&p)

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Printed in the United Kingdom by Henry Ling Limited at the Dorset Press, Dorchester, DT1 1HD.

Design & production by WildGuides Ltd., Old Basing, Hampshire, UK.

Front cover: Wilson's Phalarope by Ian Williamson.

Frontispiece: Red Kites by Dan Powell.

Additional artwork by Dan Powell (www.powellwildlifeart.com) and David Thelwell (www.facebook.com/David-Thelwell-Illustration-205195569617934).

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The Hampshire Ornithological Society has three broad aims:

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

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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 page 260 and on the HOS web site: www.hos.org.uk.

Hampshire Bird Report 2020



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**Hampshire
Ornithological
Society**

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Chairman's Report 2020

What a challenging year 2020 turned out to be! A third of it consisted of us being confined to birding just near to our homes, and then when we were allowed more freedom we often had to contend with restricted access to hides, and everywhere we found that our favourite places were now favourites for everyone else too! However, despite the challenges of pandemic life I think most of us were grateful to live in a county that is blessed with a great range of birds.

In such times a local bird society can make a difference for people, so the HOS team had a crash course in Zoom presenting and as a result we put on a range of online talks to help people to increase their skills and local knowledge. We plan to continue using Zoom in this way with occasional talks, not least as it attracts new members. Thank you to those who gave the talks – and to Barry Page and Nicola Whitmarsh who made sure that everything fell into place. No doubt these talks were the main reason why we managed to recruit 104 new members in a year when we held almost no meetings!

Survey work had to be delayed for the main membership, but a small New Forest team were able to carry out some essential Snipe monitoring with special permission from Forestry England. The final part of this study will be completed in 2021. We were pleased to support the GWCT with £2,880 towards a study of Redshank spatial ecology on the River Avon. We look forward to funding more studies in the future as organisations start to return to working on normal schedules.

The 2019 Hampshire Bird Report appeared in record time as the volunteer writing team were keen to get stuck into something useful, and the resulting 254 page publication was well received, with BirdGuides describing it as “(setting) a level for all county reports to aim towards”. My thanks go to everyone who pulled together to make the report such an impressive tome. I have mentioned the database team before, but it is worth noting that before these records are entered, they are checked by a separate team – and without their detective work we would overlook cases where people accidentally submit 11 Barn Owls when they meant to submit just one, or when Curlews become Curlew Sandpipers and Tree Pipits become Tree Sparrows! My thanks go to Amy Robjohns, Barry Stalker and Simon Colenutt for scrutinising BirdTrack, Going Birding and eBird respectively.

Even though many businesses slowed down in 2020 the flow of planning applications carried on regardless and HOS made representations on a number of plans that were damaging to birds. We are standing alongside the RSPB and HIWWT in opposing the proposals to develop the Tipner Peninsula in Portsmouth Harbour. Once we allow such bird habitats to be trashed they will be lost forever. We cannot oppose every plan, but if you see a proposal that is damaging to birds please let us know.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Society to achieve so much in 2020. We strive to improve on everything we do and we can only do that with feedback. Several members have encouraged us to use new technologies to allow them to meet up with others who might car-share to meetings or simply connect with others who might want to team up for a birding day. We will aim to fulfil that need in the next year. As I write this, HOS has nearly 1,500 home addresses with something like 2,000 individuals involved. That makes us one of the largest county bird societies in the UK. We are determined to make sure that while size gives us strength it does not diminish our ability to be a warm and welcoming society that tries hard to help its members.

I hope you enjoy this report and wish you a good (and safe) birding year ahead.

Keith Betton, August 2021

Editorial and Acknowledgements

In addition to the many tales of hardship and loss, 2020 will be remembered as the year of the COVID lockdowns and restrictions. As Keith Betton describes in his Chairman's Report, it was a challenging year with much survey work delayed. However despite all that, a record number of records was received and the total species list for the year reached 257, eight more than last year and a total not exceeded since before 2014. This included one addition to the Hampshire list, an Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Brownwich in October. A short paper describing the finding and identification of this "mega" rarity by Mark Francis is included in this report.

The year also changed the pattern of coverage illustrated by the tetrad mapping in the Introduction to the Systematic List with fewer visits to the main reserves and hot-spots, especially in the spring, and much more local "patch-birding". The two county-wide tetrad maps first introduced last year have been repeated to show the distribution of both records and species in this most unusual year. In addition, for the first time, a third map has been added to show observers' footfall per tetrad - that is how many different observers submitted records in each tetrad - to give a measure of coverage. Following their introduction last year, the numbers of species for which tetrad and hectad (ten km square) distributions of records are quoted has been increased. Greater use has also been made of graphics for selected species to illustrate important trends such as WeBS annual maxima, BirdTrack reporting rates to show differences in numbers and timing of migrants, and tetrad distribution maps for selected species. BOU have again made a few changes to the Systematic List based on IOC updates. These are described in the Introduction to the Systematic List, the most noticeable being the displacement of gamebirds to follow ducks resulting in Brent Goose once again leading the accounts.

In addition to the Systematic List and other regular features, this year's report contains four main papers, two short papers and two notes on topics of local interest. The first main paper is by Glynne Evans, Graham Roberts and Benjamin Van Doren and describes the results from a colour-ringing and tracking study to provide insights into the behaviour and determine the origin of Hampshire's wintering Blackcaps. If you think they all come from Germany, read on! The second paper by Chris Heward, Greg Conway and Andrew Hoodless describes surveys and population estimates of Hampshire's breeding Woodcock. It also highlights the importance of our part of southern England in the species national breeding distribution. The third by John Shillitoe summarises the results of the low tide counts carried out under WeBS in Southampton Water in the winter 2018/19. The uses of the different parts of the estuary by key species are described together with comparisons with previous years and discussion of possible changes to the habitats. The last by Graham Stephenson is a summary of 16 years of "vis-mig" observations of autumn migration at Tweseldown near Fleet. The different directions and magnitudes of movements are described and the most numerous species are selected for detailed discussion. In addition to the first record described above, the other short paper is by Nigel Jones and describes the nocturnal overland migration of Common Scoters recorded by "noc-miggers" over Hampshire and elsewhere in spring 2020. The two notes describe the findings from a comprehensive survey in 2020 of breeding Curlews in the New Forest by Andy Page and the 2020 projects awarded HOS grants summarised by Marcus Ward.

The production of this report is a team effort which each year relies on the expertise and willingness of a large number of volunteers. Thank you all for your contributions. It begins with the submission of records by observers who are listed in Appendix 2 to the Systematic List. In addition to records submitted directly to HOS and those posted on the Going Birding in Hampshire website, BTO provided Hampshire records from their national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), BirdTrack (BT) and Garden BirdWatch (GBW) surveys; visible migration data were obtained from the Trektellen website; waterbird survey data (WeBS) were provided with the agreement of the WeBS Partnership of WWT, RSPB, BTO and NCC. Additional information was received from Living Record, eBird and 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 maps. He also provided invaluable help with the change of sequencing in the text and tables. Janet Shelley transferred sightings from the Needs Ore log and Jane Calderin helped transcribe handwritten record sheets. WeBS data were prepared by John Shillitoe (coastal sites), Keith Wills (inland sites other than Avon Valley), John Clark (Avon Valley) and James Parkin (Chichester Harbour). Additional waterfowl records from Blashford Lakes were provided by Bob Chapman (HIWWT). Brian Sharkey provided results from the Heronries Survey, 2Js Ecology made available results from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (TB&WH) Breeding Bird Survey and Jane Calderin summarised the findings from the New Forest Winter Bird Survey (NFWBS).

My sincere thanks go to the writers of the individual species accounts for the Systematic List, the majority of whom have been carrying out this task for many years. The quality of the accounts depends upon their skill, accuracy and knowledge, and the time they give up each summer to write their accounts is much appreciated. There were several changes this year. John Jones retired from writing the gull accounts and his place was filled by Bob Chapman. I thank John for his meticulous contributions over the previous 11 years and welcome Bob to the team. The other new writer this year is Trevor Codlin who previously contributed review comments on the Nightingale account, based on his detailed knowledge and ongoing studies, but this year took over the writing. As a result of these changes, the writer's team this year comprised the following, in alphabetical order, in addition to myself: Mike Armitage, Keith Betton, Andy Broadhurst, David Brookes, Bob Chapman, John Clark, Rob Clements, Trevor Codlin, Alan Cox, Tony Davis, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, William Legge, Andy Lester, Graham Osborne, Andy Page, Andy Rhodes, John Shillitoe, Jeremy Smallwood, Barry Stalker, Andrew Walmsley, Marcus Ward and Simon Woolley. Individual writers are identified by their initials in italics at the end of each species account. In addition, Table 1 was prepared by John Clark, Table 2 by Neil Calbrade and the GBW team at BTO, Tables 3, 6 and 7 by myself (the first based on BTO data from Neil Calbrade), Table 4 by Jane Calderin, Table 5 by John Shillitoe, John Clark and Keith Wills, and Table 8 by Graham Stephenson, David Thelwell and Steve Keen.

My thanks also go to Keith Betton for his Chairman's Report, Richard Carpenter for the Review of the Year, Tony Davis for the Ringing and Nest Recording Report, and all our other authors of papers and notes. Our regular illustrators, Dan Powell and David Thelwell, have again generously donated their artwork for the frontispiece and elsewhere in the report with Dan's sketches copied from his lockdown sketchbook. Thanks are also due to Alan Lewis who, as Photographic Editor, has been responsible for sourcing and selecting the excellent photographs which add interest and make the report so much more attractive, and to the individual photographers who generously submitted images and are acknowledged both in the contents list and in the captions to each photograph. The following team of proof-readers and reviewers all identified errors and made valuable comments: Keith Betton, John Clark, John Cloyne, Andy Collins, Tim Doran, Andy Johnson and Alan Cox. Any outstanding errors or omissions are mine alone. Rob Still and his team at WildGuides have again been responsible for design and production editing. Finally Keith Betton arranged the advertisers and financial support and Bryan and Sandy Coates are responsible for sales.

Lastly, a reminder that digital back-copies of the Hampshire Bird Report from 2010 to 2017 are available on-line on the HOS website. I hope you enjoy reading this report and I welcome any constructive feedback.

Mike Chalmers, August 2021

Gilbert Joseph Salisbury Rowland (February 5th 1935 – May 28th 2020)

Gilbert Rowland was born in Derbyshire but moved to Sandhurst, Berkshire in 1962 when he took up a post teaching French at Farnborough Grammar School. Birdwatching was one of Gilbert's many interests and at FGS it was encouraged by one of his colleagues, Ewart Jones who was Head of Biology. Gilbert and Jonah, as he was known to pupils and colleagues alike, encouraged many pupils who were interested in birding including Malcolm Harvey, Spike and Richard Millington, Trevor Price, Steve Gantlett, Graham Stephenson, Keith Wills and myself. Gilbert and his family moved to Fleet in 1971 where he became a regular watcher at Fleet Pond and other local sites such as Blackbushe Airfield, Tundry Pond and Yateley Common and Gravel Pits.



Gilbert was accomplished at passing his knowledge on to others and was leader of the North-east Hampshire RSPB members group for several years. He also regularly led outdoor meetings for HOS including one at Fleet Pond on April 23rd 1988 when he was able to show participants a Black Kite as it took a fish off the surface of the water. This was only the fourth for the county. Gilbert was not a twitcher, much preferring local birding and survey work, but he did find a male Ring-necked Duck at Fleet Pond on May 18th 1993 and many other scarce migrants. He was a major contributor to the *Hants/Surrey Border Bird Report* and *HBR*, where his initials GJSR were frequently cited, and took part in surveys such as WeBS counts, BBS and local heathland surveys. He organised Hampshire coverage of the 1984 BTO Little Ringed Plover Survey (Rowland 1985) and also carried out two breeding surveys of the Hampshire section of the Basingstoke Canal in 1991 and 2002 (Rowland 1993, 2003). Gilbert was legendary among his birding friends for his precise knowledge of birds' scientific names – no doubt connected with his talent as a linguist – and I relied on him to proof-check many bird report drafts and other articles.

He took early retirement in 1990 and filled his time with birding, tutoring, community work, world travel, the fine art society, music appreciation, family, friends and as a committed husband to Maureen. During 1993 he was a member of the *Book Committee* which oversaw the production of *Birds of Hampshire* and took responsibility for processing the pre-publication orders, a demanding task in pre-internet and e-mail days. In 2006 Gilbert's love of learning came in hand when he appeared on the BBC2 quiz show *Egg Heads* as part of a winning team.

Gilbert and Maureen moved to Odiham in 2013. He continued birding and kept an eye on the local Golden Plover flock. Latterly, always a true gentleman, he steadfastly took on the mantle of being a dedicated and loving carer for Maureen. Sadly she passed away just seven weeks before Gilbert succumbed to a cancer undiscovered at the time of Maureen's death. Gilbert is survived by his sons, Philip and Richard and their families.

He kindly bequeathed his library of bird books to *HOS*, the sale of which has generated invaluable funds. His birding notebooks have also been passed to *HOS* and will be placed in the society archives in Winchester. He is much missed by all the Hampshire birders who knew him.

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- Rowland, G. J. S. 1985. BTO Little Ringed Plover Survey, 1984. *HBR* 1984: 79-80.
- Rowland, G. J. S. 1993. Survey of Breeding Birds along the Basingstoke Canal, 1991. *HBR* 1991: 81-84.
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John Clark with help from Richard Rowland

Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2020

Richard Carpenter



Wilson's Phalarope (Dan Powell)

A total of 257 species was recorded in 2020 including one new for the county – an Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Brownwich in October. Despite the pandemic restrictions, this total was eight more than last year and the highest since 2013.

January was largely a mild month, although there was a short cold spell from 18th-22nd. The most significant event was Storm Brendan on 13th-14th with very strong south-westerly winds.

Still present from 2019 were two drake Red-crested Pochards at Eversley GP until 10th, a drake Ferruginous Duck at Kingfisher Lake until March 14th and an immature male Long-tailed Duck at Ibsley Water until April 23rd. An adult Caspian Gull at Ibsley Water was thought to be the same as the bird seen twice the previous month.

New birds included an immature drake Scaup at Ibsley Water on 1st and a drake at Fareham Creek between 3rd-8th, reappearing on 29th and remaining until February 5th. A first-winter Waxwing was at Sandy Point on 1st and a Grey Phalarope was at Hook-with-Warsash on 3rd-4th. The only Bewick's Swan of the year was at Ibsley/Harbridge WM from 8th-15th. A Velvet Scoter was at the mouth of Southampton Water on 15th and was subsequently seen in the nearby Solent until February 7th and single Long-tailed Ducks were in Portsmouth and Langstone Harbour from 1st to March 14th.

February was a mild month with no air frosts and largely westerly winds including Storm Ciara on 9th and Storm Dennis on 16th.

A first-winter Caspian Gull was at Ibsley Water on 1st. A Hoopoe was at Badminton Common on 1st-29th and also March 15th. A wild juvenile White-tailed Eagle was over Hasley Inclosure, NF on 13th and was seen again on several dates in March. A Penduline Tit was found by the

Bridge Street Flood, Titchfield on 18th. The only Black Brant of the year was at Tournurbury, Hayling Island on 21st and 26th. A wintering Lesser Whitethroat was observed feeding in a Southampton garden on 22nd. The first Garganey of the year was an immature male at Stansore Point, Lepe on 23rd followed by others at a number of sites during the spring. An adult Iceland Gull was just off Milford on Sea on 24th and the first Wheatears of the year were two at Hill Head on 28th.

March was also a mild month with no air frosts. The last of the winter gales was on 8th. It was very dry at the end of the month with very little rainfall from 20th.

Two Waxwings were in a Wickham garden on 3rd. A Scaup was at Ibsley Water on 11th and an adult Whooper Swan flew west over Fishlake Meadows on 26th. Firsts for the year included a Sand Martin in the Titchfield Haven area on 6th, Little Ringed Plover at Edenbrook CP and Osprey at Skidmore on 16th, Swallow at Chilbolton and Willow Warbler at Southampton on 18th, House Martins at Fishlake Meadows on 20th, Yellow Wagtail at Lymington-Hurst on 21st, Stone-curlew near Kingsclere on 22nd, Ring Ouzel at Charter Alley on 28th and Redstart in the New Forest on 30th. Also on 30th an early Cuckoo was at Yateley Common followed by the main arrival five days later.

April was very warm, especially from 8th-12th and on 23rd, but it was wet on 17th, 18th and 28th. Much of the month from 4th-25th saw winds from an easterly or southerly direction rather than the usual westerlies.

A Red-rumped Swallow was at Posbrook Floods, Titchfield on 5th. A Hoopoe was at Woodlands, NF 6th-7th; others were at Sandy Point and Plastow Green. A male Montagu's Harrier flew over Itchen Water Works on 10th and was probably the same as that seen later that day over Portsdown Hill. Another male was at Milkham Bottom, NF on 20th. The first two of six Black Kites in April and early May were seen at Long Valley and New Milton on 13th. A Grey Phalarope was present at Pennington Marshes on 16th, the first ever in spring. The first of two spring Savi's Warblers was singing at Fishlake Meadows on 16th. An adult drake Ring-necked Duck was at Ibsley Water on 17th and a Night Heron was at Veal's Lane, halfway between Hythe and Marchwood, on 19th. A first-summer Bonaparte's Gull was at Ibsley Water from 20th-27th. The first of six Wood Sandpipers this spring was at Testwood Lakes on 22nd and an adult Purple Heron was at Wildgrounds, Gosport on 22nd-23rd. A Corncrake was heard calling briefly at Warblington on 24th. A Curlew Sandpiper at Farlington Marshes on 24th-25th was the first of five spring records. A Roseate Tern flew east at Hill Head on 30th and was possibly the same as seen the following day at Sandy Point; another was at Hill Head on May 6th.

Passage through The Solent included Common Scoters from 2nd and Red-breasted Mergansers from 4th, both well into May, Whimbrels from 5th until early June, Common Terns from 5th until mid-May, Arctic Skuas from 5th until mid-June and Bar-tailed Godwits from 12th until mid-May.

Firsts for the year were Garden Warbler and Whitethroat on 3rd, Hobby on 4th, Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler on 5th, Nightingale on 6th, Swift on 8th, Grasshopper Warbler on 9th, Whinchat on 11th, Lesser Whitethroat on 13th, Turtle Dove on 16th, Black Tern on 17th, Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler on 19th, Spotted Flycatcher on 20th and Nightjar and Honey Buzzard on 26th.

May was very dry, especially from 5th-22nd. Winds were easterly or south-easterly from 4th-9th followed by a spell of northerly winds and ground frosts from 11th-15th, but the second half of the month was very warm.

On 7th a Little Stint was at Pennington Marshes and nine Pomarine Skuas flew east past Sandy Point. Between 8th-10th large numbers of Red Kites were seen, mainly along the coast or just inland, the highest number being 51 at Portsdown Hill on 10th. Single Black Kites were



Spotted Flycatcher (Dan Powell)

noted with them at Itchen Valley Country Park and Portsdown Hill. A Bee-eater was near Hut Wood, Chilworth on 10th and a Glossy Ibis was at Posbrook Floods from 14th-16th. On 15th single Hoopoes were seen at Dibden Purlieu, NF and Sutton Scotney/South Wonston, the latter remaining until July 27th. A Quail was seen and heard at Martin Down on 24th intermittently until August 26th; other singles were heard in three different areas through the summer. Sixty Barnacle Geese flew over Weston Shore on 31st and a flock of c.40 were seen over Hook-with-Warsash and Titchfield Haven a few days later on June 9th. A female Red-backed Shrike was at Martin Down on 25th. An adult Whiskered Tern was a welcome sight at Posbrook Floods and Titchfield Haven on 27th and the only Marsh Warbler of the year was at a coastal site on the same day. The only Golden Oriole of the year was heard at Brighton Road, Sway on 29th and an adult Rose-coloured Starling was seen near Sandy Point on 30th. An adult Caspian Tern was over Testwood Lakes and later on Eling Great Marsh on 31st and an adult Purple Heron was at Farlington Marshes on the same day.

June was largely warm, very hot on 23rd-25th, but with thunderstorms and heavy rain on 11th and 18th.

Another Little Stint was at Pennington Marshes on 6th-7th and a Kentish Plover was at Weston Shore early on 11th. A female Red-footed Falcon circled over Titchfield on 11th; another female was over Acres Down, NF the following day. A Red-rumped Swallow was at Rownhams on 16th and five Garganeys were at Fishlake Meadows on 26th followed by singles on two July dates.

Our breeding birds had mixed fortunes. Shovelers bred at two sites, Teal breeding was not confirmed this year, Pochards bred at three sites with 12 young reported and Goosanders bred at three sites with 25 young reported. Quail breeding was not confirmed and Turtle Doves bred at their main site at Martin Down, at Oakhanger and in the South Downs. Stone-curlews bred at 23 sites raising a minimum of 16 young. Avocets bred at several coastal sites with more than 90 young seen and about 31 pairs of Little Ringed Plovers bred producing at least 16 fledged juveniles. There were 46 breeding pairs of Curlews in the New Forest but only three young survived. In Langstone Harbour 1,579 pairs of Mediterranean Gulls



Barn Owl (Dan Powell)

raised 271 juveniles to the flying stage. Yellow-legged Gulls were not observed to breed this year. Breeding Sandwich Tern numbers were similar to last year with 206 pairs raising 41 young. Little Tern numbers were poor with 39 pairs raising just six young and Common Tern numbers were similar to last year with 213 pairs raising 169 young. There were eight occupied Cattle Egret nests at Langstone Mill Pond. Honey Buzzards bred at a minimum of six sites fledging at least seven young. Goshawks bred successfully at 29 sites, Marsh Harriers bred successfully at two sites and the nesting population of Red Kites was considered to be about 500 pairs. Four breeding pairs of Long-eared Owls were recorded this year. Peregrines bred at 21 localities with 17 pairs fledging 40 young and Ravens bred at a minimum of 46 sites.

July was another warm month and particularly hot on 30th-31st. Winds were mainly west or north-west throughout.

The only Balearic Shearwater of the year flew west at Milford on Sea on 5th. Return passage of Roseate Terns began on 7th with sightings at Hill Head and Sandy Point; birds were subsequently seen along the coast until August 23rd. The first returning Knot was at Keyhaven on 10th and an immature Garganey was at Hook-with-Warsash on 13th. Fishlake Meadows produced a Bee-eater on 18th and an adult Caspian Tern on 27th-28th. A returning Merlin at Hill Head/Titchfield Haven on 25th was five days earlier than the previous record. An unidentified storm petrel was off Milford on Sea on 27th and an adult Rose-coloured Starling was at Fordingbridge on the same day.

August remained warm. There was a heatwave from 6th-13th and it was very wet on 17th. Storm Ellen brought strong south-westerly winds on 21st followed by Storm Francis a few days later on 24th with strong westerly winds and plenty of rain.

An unusual summer Long-tailed Duck was at Keyhaven on 3rd. A Hoopoe was at Petersfield on 4th and another at Beachlands, Hayling Island on 27th-28th. The first autumn Garganey was at Fleet Pond on 6th; others were seen subsequently at five sites until November 4th. A Citrine Wagtail was at Hook-with-Warsash on 8th and the only Dotterels this year were four flying south-west over Trigpoint Hill on 24th. The first returning Short-eared Owl was at Farlington Marshes on 27th. A Pectoral Sandpiper flew over Sandy Point, Hayling Island

on 24th and three other singles were recorded separately at Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven and Pennington Marshes in September. On 30th an immature Red-backed Shrike was at Needs Ore and there was an unusual inland record of a female Scaup at Woolmer Pond where it remained for three days.

September was dry and warm until 21st. Then temperatures began to drop and there was more rain. Winds were mainly westerly but from the east or south-east on 14th-22nd.

An Icterine Warbler was at Barton on Sea on 1st-2nd. An eclipse drake Red-crested Pochard was at Bramshill Park Lake from 3rd-19th. The only Wryneck of the year was seen briefly at Lower Test Marshes on 4th. The first Hen Harrier of the autumn was a ringtail at Needs Ore on 5th. The first returning Ring Ouzel was at Pennington Marshes on 10th with passage continuing at several sites until November 9th. The only Aquatic Warbler of the year was at Hook Links on 11th and a Barred Warbler was at Fort Widley on 15th. Five Dark-bellied Brent Geese returned to Langstone Harbour on 16th accompanied by a Light-bellied Brent Goose. A Glossy Ibis flew south over Overton on 19th and probably the same bird was at Sparkes Marina, Hayling Island the following day. An American Golden Plover was at Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour from 21st until October 24th. A juvenile Sabine's Gull flew past Hill Head on 23rd. There were exceptional counts of 1,035 Canada Geese at Pennington Marshes on 21st and 900 at Titchfield Haven on 24th. A single Pink-footed Goose was also at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on 25th and a juvenile Kentish Plover was at Black Point, Hayling Island on the same day. A Grey Phalarope was at Farlington Marshes from 25th until October 3rd, the first of seven at five sites this autumn. An adult Whooper Swan was at Fleet Pond on 26th-27th and the first returning Redwings were heard calling at night over Winchester on 27th.

October was very wet, particularly on 21st and 25th. Winds were mainly from the west and moderate or strong from 19th-31st.

The first returning Fieldfare was at Bricksbury Hill on 1st. An Eastern Yellow Wagtail, the first for Hampshire, was at Brownwich on 5th-6th. A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Keyhaven on 6th, the first of eight records in October and early November. A Wilson's Phalarope was a major attraction at Keyhaven Marshes from 9th-20th. The first returning Brambling was one over Portsdown Hill on 9th. A small influx of White-fronted Geese commenced with six at Farlington Marshes and two at Lower Test Marshes on 15th; birds were seen subsequently at a few other sites and numbers were supplemented by a further influx from November 29th. The only Spotted Crake of the year was at the lake at Farlington Marshes on 16th. The first of the winter's Goldeneyes was at Ibsley Water on 18th. Five Glossy Ibises flew over Pennington Marshes on 20th. A Pallid Swift was over Posbrook Floods, Titchfield on 22nd and what may have been the same bird was in the Pennington/Oxey area the next day. Scaup were at three sites from 23rd and the first of a few wintering Long-tailed Ducks was off Milford on Sea on 25th. Five Penduline Tits at Titchfield Haven on 28th were followed by intermittent sightings until December 17th.

November was mild and wet. There were strong south-westerly gales on 1st and 14th-15th.

Seven Stone-curlews near Overton on 3rd were the last of the year on an unusually late date. A Glossy Ibis flew out from Keyhaven on 3rd. Black-necked Grebes reappeared in Langstone Harbour with four on 4th increasing to ten in December. Two Penduline Tits were briefly seen at Needs Ore on 4th. The first wintering Slavonian Grebe was in Langstone Harbour on 7th followed by others elsewhere along the coast until the end of the year. The only Lapland Bunting this year was at Keyhaven on 7th and an unidentified storm petrel was off Hurst Castle on 15th. The first returning Great Grey Shrike was at Milkham/Sluifers Inclosure, NF from 15th and others were at Woolmer Forest on 22nd and Bransbury Common from 24th. A Velvet Scoter flew west off Tanners Lane on 16th and others were seen at a few coastal sites later in the month and into December. The only Little Auk of the year was on the sea

off Needs Ore on 17th. Two drake Red-crested Pochards reappeared at Bramshill Park Lake on 29th remaining until mid-December.

December was cold between 1st-9th with the first frosts. Storm Bella brought westerly gales on 26th-27th. Snow and hail fell on 28th and 31st was very cold.

There was an unusual inland sighting of a Great Northern Diver at Ibsley Water on 5th. The same day the only Snow Bunting this year was at Hill Head. A first-winter and two adult Tundra Bean Geese were in the Sopley area of the Avon Valley from 11th-30th and two adults and two first-winters were at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes from 12th-29th. An immature Iceland Gull flew west off Lee-on-the-Solent on 13th and was seen later near Weston Shore; possibly the same bird flew west off Fort Cumberland, Eastney on 28th. The regular wintering drake Ferruginous Duck re-appeared at Kingfisher Lake on 14th. A Red-necked Grebe flew east past Barton on Sea on 16th and further sightings were made at Testwood Lakes on 20th and in the Calshot/Chilling area on 27th and 28th. Following the storm the previous day, 133 Kittiwakes flew west at Hurst on 27th and the only Leach's Petrel of the year appeared the same day in Southampton Water and, possibly the same, in Langstone Harbour.

Appendix

The monthly and cumulative totals of Cat A-C species in Hampshire in 2020 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In month	168	168	176	205	199	179	182	186	194	190	174	170
Additions to year list		6	14	34	10	2	1	3	7	5	3	4
Year to date	168	174	188	222	232	234	235	238	245	250	253	257



Raven (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 (revised 30 June 2021). Alternative IOC English names are also included in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v11.1 at January 2021). Apart from minor changes in sequence, including moving partridges, Quail and Pheasant to follow ducks resulting in Brent Goose again heading the list, the most significant change from last year is from *Sylvia* to *Curruca* for several of the warblers.

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 four 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 2019 and (iii) in 2020. These numbers have been revised and updated in many cases as a result of research for the forthcoming book on Hampshire's rare birds. 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)
S4I	England most threatened – included in Section 41 of NERC Act, 2006 (updated 2014)
HBAP	Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, 1998

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

table shows the cumulative monthly totals of the official WeBS counts at all locations, not just those which are listed. They represent the best available estimate of the county population for each month. In the tables, any locality that is indented is a sub-site of the site above. Complete WeBS counts for Chichester Harbour (Hampshire and Sussex) are tabulated for information but are not included in the county total nor do they form part of the species account; only the WeBS sub-totals for the Hampshire sectors are included in the county total. Occasionally other sites in Chichester Harbour such as Black Point are listed separately where counts exceed the WeBS totals for Hampshire Sectors. However if others not listed separately (e.g. Warblington Shore) exceed the WeBS totals, then the Hampshire sectors total is increased accordingly. In both cases the Chichester Harbour WeBS total remains unaltered. Sites in tables are usually arranged coastally from east to west and then inland from west to east. Footnotes to the tables indicate thresholds for concentrations of international and national importance for each species. These are defined as 1% of the north-western European winter or passage population and 1% of the British winter or passage population of that species respectively. An asterisk in a table or text indicates a record count for the site. Blanks indicate either that no visit was made to the site or that a visit was made but no birds were recorded.

Information from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Surveys is summarised in the species accounts and presented in more detail in Table 1. Data from the BTO Garden BirdWatch survey are included in selected species accounts. This comprises information from some gardens where weekly counts were made of all species and others where only presence was recorded. A summary of the data for all species is presented in Table 2. Findings from the 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 migration watchpoints.

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

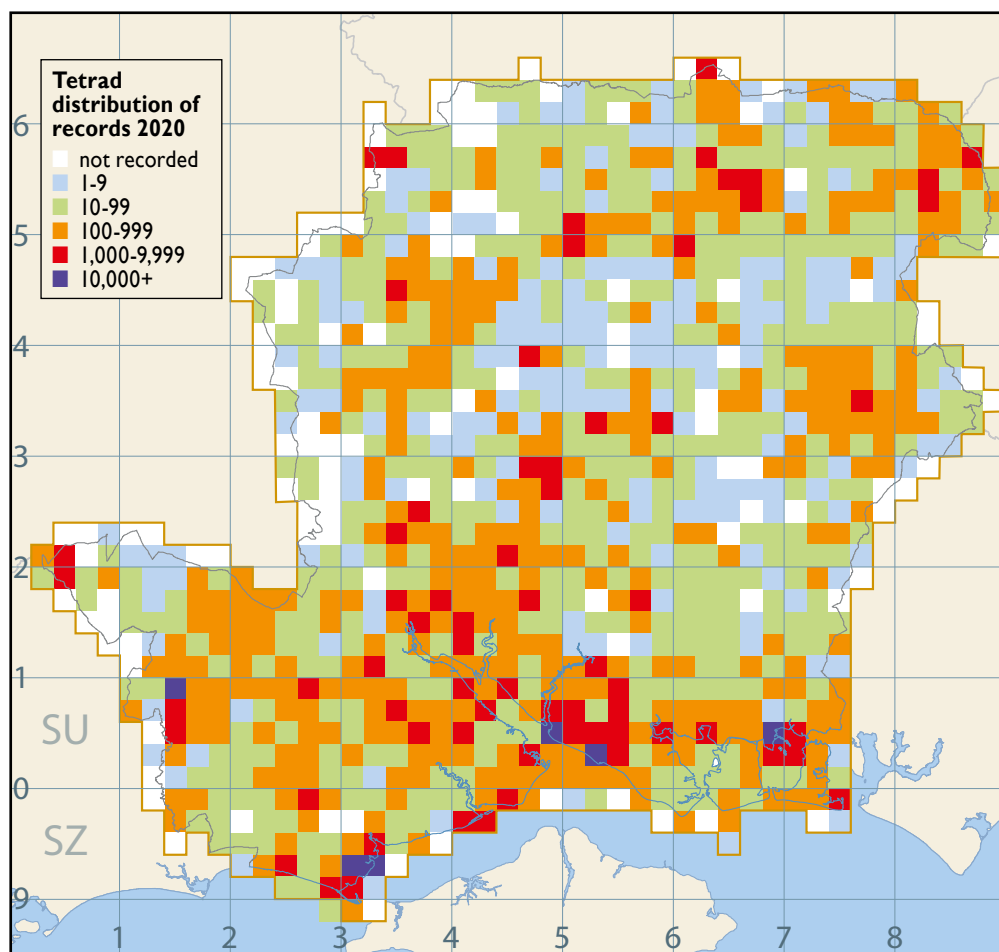
Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society's CoBRA2 database (County Bird Recording Application). This year's database contained 367,753 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: BTO BirdTrack (56.5%), eBird (20.1%), HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets, correspondence and rarities submissions) (6.1%), Going Birding website (5.9%), WeBS counts (2.8%), Living Record (2.5%), Trektellen (1.8%), BTO Garden BirdWatch (1.7%) and others (each <1%). Despite COVID-19 restrictions, this represents a 26% increase over last year when the total was 292,746. Records from BirdTrack and eBird accounted for nearly 77% of the total. In addition, BTO Garden BirdWatch contributed a total of 175,610 records covering 481 Hampshire gardens, some of which were used in some of the species accounts.

Note that many counts in Birdtrack refer to aggregate totals along routes of various lengths (referred to as polygons or paths), and not flocks or concentrations at fixed points. Similarly, BBS registers all adults along two one km transects within selected one km squares (monads) during the breeding season. These differences need to be appreciated when interpreting the species accounts. Note average coverage and densities for BBS 2020 in Hampshire are given in Table 3 for reference and comparisons.

Coverage

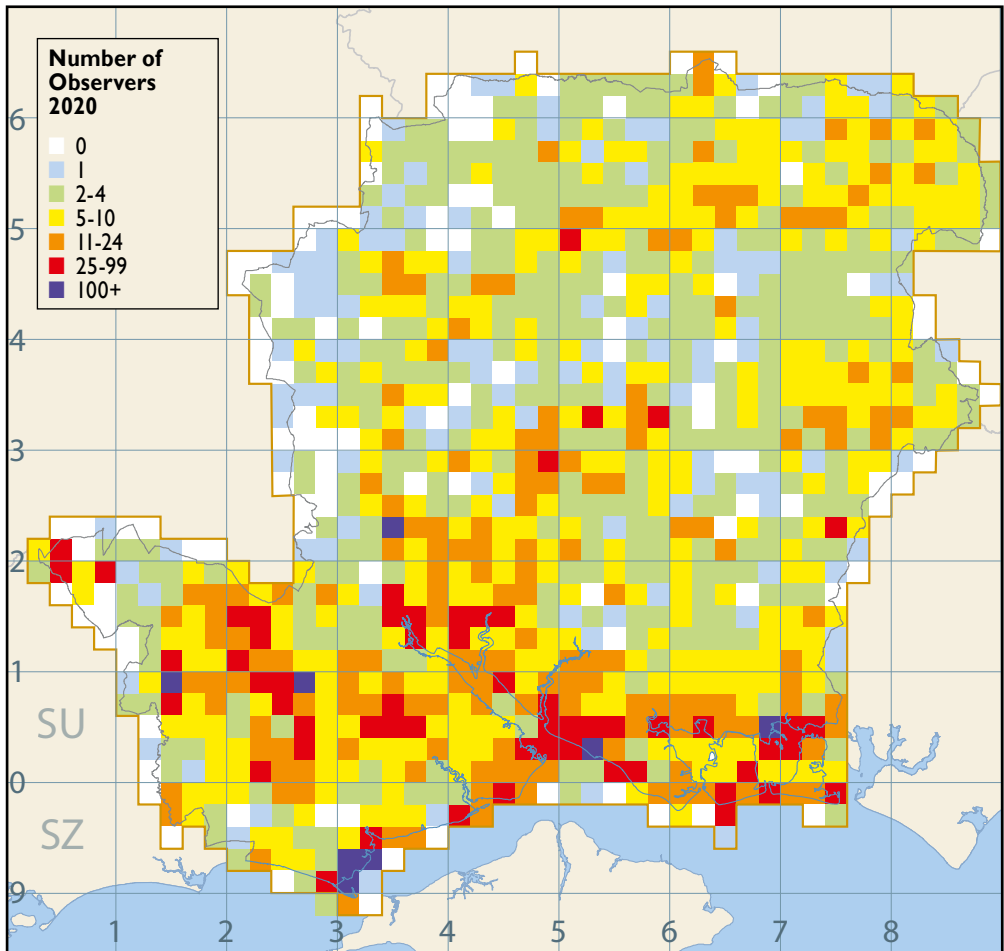
A total of 1,621 individual observers contributed records to the database. This was 15% higher than last year. Analysis of previous records has highlighted the large differences in coverage between the separate parts of the county. The distribution of 2020 records in the CoBRA2



Number of records in HOS 2020 database for each tetrad in Hampshire

database used to prepare this report is shown on the map at tetrad (two km square) level. Despite COVID-19, the highest numbers of records as usual were submitted for the coastal areas, main reserves and New Forest. There were 73 squares with over 1,000 records, with the highest concentration in the south. Within this group there were six tetrads with over 10,000 records each. The highest was Farlington Marshes with 19,206 followed in descending order by Pennington Marshes, Hook-with-Warsash, Blashford Lakes, Titchfield Haven/Hill Head and Keyhaven Marshes. Unexpectedly, Hook-with-Warsash had more records than nearby Titchfield Haven, probably as a result of COVID-19 entry restrictions at the latter.

Lockdowns and restrictions due to COVID-19 limited surveys and movements with observers being required to stay at home and confine themselves to local areas for much of the year, especially during the spring. As an example, following the Government announcement on March 23rd, BTO requested all surveyors to refrain from undertaking survey work away from their property. This resulted in few early BBS visits [only 18% of BBS squares were surveyed twice] and coverage of only about half the usual number of squares. During the relevant periods, these restrictions caused an increase in local “patch” birding and reduction in records from the main reserves and popular coastal sites. These factors need to be taken into account when interpreting the distribution of records and comparisons with previous years. Note distribution maps for selected species at the tetrad level are also included in the relevant species accounts.

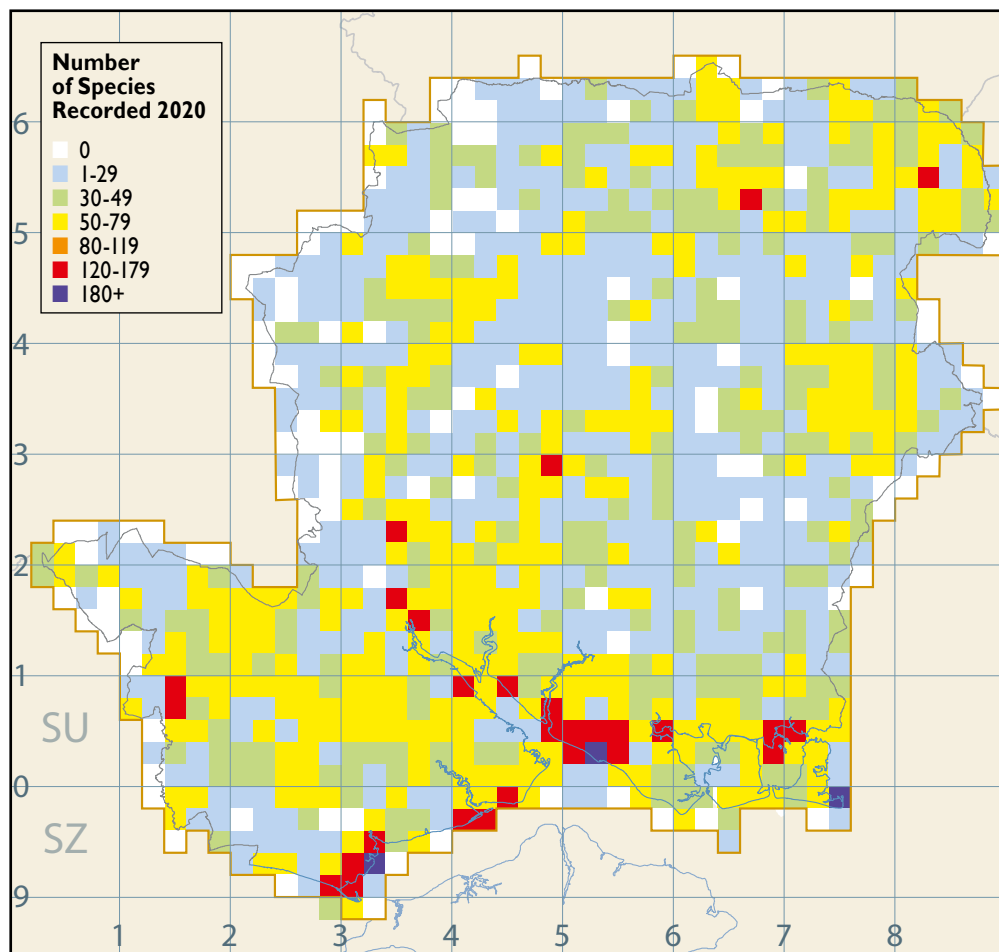


Number of observers submitting records in HOS 2020 database for each tetrad in Hampshire

Whilst the focus on the coast and major rivers and lakes results in good coverage of wetland species, the same cannot normally be said of woodland or farmland birds, particularly on the chalk extending diagonally across the county from the south-east to the north-west, although the “stay-local” restrictions slightly improved the balance this year. One measure to illustrate this is the total number of tetrads across the whole county for which records were received. This total was 971 (cf. 941 in 2019) which represents 95.1% of the 1,021 maximum number available including all the partial tetrads around the edges, and demonstrates the high degree of coverage achieved.

For the first time, a new map has been added to show footfall in 2020. This is the number of observers submitting records for each tetrad. The highest count was 214 at Farlington Marshes followed by seven others with over 100 observers. In descending order these were Pennington East/Oxey/Normandy Marshes, Titchfield Haven/Hill Head, Blashford Lakes, Fishlake Meadows, Acres Down, Keyhaven Marshes and Pennington Marshes West. It is no surprise that many of these popular tetrads also produced the highest numbers of records.

Like last year, a further use of the CoBRA2 data has been to produce a map showing the number of species recorded in each tetrad in 2020. There were 31 squares with over 120 species mostly across the south but also including sites in the centre and north-east. At the



Number of species in HOS 2020 database for each tetrad in Hampshire

top end there were three squares with over 180 species. These were at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head (197) followed by Sandy Point and Pennington Marshes (both 182). As well as indicating the local diversity over the whole year, these totals also reflect the intensity of coverage at the named sites as illustrated by the other maps on distribution of records and footfall.

For the second year many of the species in the Systematic List, particularly residents, have information on their distribution within the county measured by the number of tetrads and ten km squares (hectads) in which they were recorded. Whilst the tetrad coverage for each species is also expressed as a percentage of the maximum available, a more meaningful index can be obtained by comparing with the 95% observer coverage. Thus any species with over 48% tetrad coverage was recorded in more than 50% of the tetrads for which records were received. Likewise any species recorded in 50 or more ten km squares was effectively distributed throughout the county even though it may not have been logged in all partial marginal squares, some of which had very small areas. The increased number of “full-list” records from BirdTrack, eBird and Living Record continued to boost the numbers and geographic distribution of records, especially for commoner species.

Site names

Note Welshman’s GP at Mortimer West End is now referred to as Burnt Common.

Categories A, B & C

Brent Goose (Brant Goose) *Branta bernicla*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*

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

The January WeBS count was almost 4,000 lower than that for December 2019. This is accounted for by birds from Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours relocating to West Sussex sectors of Chichester Harbour, which are excluded from the Hampshire WeBS totals. Numbers recovered in February but were low in March due to the date of the count in mid-month by when many had departed. A sample of 15 flocks in 2019/20 totalling 3,231 held 392 juveniles (12.1%). This compares with a total of 13.1% in 18,738 sampled UK-wide (WWT data). Eastbound spring passage was noted between Mar 17th and May 15th and totalled a minimum of 1,151 comprising 1,002 off Sandy Point on 28 dates and 185 off Hurst Beach on four dates.

There were the usual summering birds including up to 13 in Langstone Harbour. A group of three in Chichester Harbour from Aug 20th to Sep 11th may have relocated there from Langstone as first returns are not expected until mid-September as evidenced by six (including one Light-bellied) at Farlington Marshes on 16th and 46 in Langstone Harbour and 28 in Chichester Harbour on 19th. A small sample of five flocks observed in late 2020 totalling 572 held 69 juveniles (12.0%). This compares with a total of 9.1% in 20,827 sampled UK-wide (WWT data). More age counts of wintering flocks would be welcome.

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	11,582	10,485	2,001		1	2			35	6,786	7,586	7,467
Hampshire sectors	2,769	3,184	400		1	1	1	3	600	3,835	3,506	1,563
Langstone Harbour	1,671	4,713	1,881	50	13	13	5	5	200	2,771	4,198	4,376
Portsmouth Harbour	1,033	1,627	300	2	2		3		200	1,952	2,105	1,826
Titchfield Haven area	1,200	800	900	104	1	1			4	600	800	1,590
Hamble Estuary	343	476	320	16	3				1	347	467	479
Itchen Estuary		105	83	25	3	1				67	126	145
Hythe-Calshot	113	565	603							200	470	921
Beaulieu Estuary	1,359	1,327	500						11	516	994	1,822
Sowley-Lymington	30	200	370							300	300	
Lymington-Hurst	1,397	783	735		3	1	1		1	157	712	1,395
WeBS count totals	9,980	12,627	4,668		9		5	5	109	9,574	12,669	13,746

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

There was an exceptional number of inland records. In early January 40 flew NW over Romsey on 3rd, 31 were photographed at Heath Pond, Petersfield on 6th and c.50 flew over Winchester Cathedral on 7th. Singles were at Ibsley Water on Feb 4th and Mar 14th and an adult was on floods at Meonstoke on Mar 2nd. Nocturnal passage was detected on Apr 5th when a small group was heard over Romsey at 01:20 and the next day ten or more were heard over Funtley. Later in the year nocturnal passage was detected on Nov 23rd when at least two were heard over St. Cross, Winchester. (JMC)

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

Six were noted in the early year with singles at Farlington Marshes from Jan 1st to Feb 16th, Portsmouth Harbour on Jan 10th, Beaulieu Estuary from Jan 12th to Mar 16th, Chichester

Harbour on Feb 12th and 20th (first-winter), and Pennington Marshes from Feb 14th to Mar 11th (first-winter) with two on Feb 27th. One was with a flock of 13 summering Dark-bellied Brent in Langstone Harbour on May 20th and 23rd and June 8th and was presumably still present on June 10th when 14 Brents were counted. There was also a family comprising a mixed pair of adult Dark-bellied and Pale-bodied with three immatures at Farlington Marshes on Jan 1st, Mar 11th and 15th.

At least ten occurred in the late year. One was at Farlington Marshes on Sep 16th and 19th and it or another stayed in Langstone Harbour until Dec 20th with two on Nov 15th. Three including one first-winter were in Chichester Harbour on Sep 19th and 20th and then three adults were there from Sep 28th. Two left south on Oct 11th but one remained until Nov 25th. Further singles were off Chilling on Oct 17th, at Beaulieu Estuary on Oct 18th and Dec 29th, in Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 1st and 22nd and flew east off Barton on Sea on Nov 22nd.

The monthly totals are shown below. (JMC)

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

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Formerly rare but now a very scarce winter visitor recorded annually since 1999. (0,47,1)

The only record was an adult at Tournerbury, Hayling Island on Feb 21st and 26th (PAB). (KFB)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

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

Post-breeding numbers were exceptionally high at several sites. The count of 1,035 at Pennington Marshes on Sep 21st (AJBL) was a record for the area and the first four-figure count since September 2001, when 1,200 roosted at Fleet Pond, while 900 at Titchfield Haven on Sep 24th equalled the highest count for that area. The marked fluctuations in the WeBS totals for July-December reflect poor coverage in the first two months and the great mobility of this species which can lead to flocks being missed when feeding on autumn stubbles or conversely being double-counted. The December total is the highest ever for the county and is probably a fairly accurate assessment of the county population.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	240	278	94	94	110	137	178	163	175	405	423	385
Titchfield Haven area	172	133	57	50	28	35	100	300	900*	500	250	200
Beaulieu Estuary	362	308	364			171	315	204	100	150	309	444
Lymington-Hurst	600	195	105	54	53	130	363	750	1,035*	825	900	603
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	459	350	257						356	520	322	688
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Blashford Lakes	559	363	206						592	131	337	344
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	293	98	46	36			446	341	209	180	50	465
Upper Itchen Valley	78	93	28	30	32	25	49	106	241	154	114	145
Bramshill Park	20	6	26		11		12	460	232	22	29	2
Tundry Pond	300	41	33		7	39	37	367	825	80	291	356
Woolmer Pond			9		4	34		210	290*	200	220	108
WeBS count totals	3,682	2,750	1,739				1,730	1,486	4,403	2,725	4,113	4,886

*= record count for locality

Other noteworthy counts included 247 at Tanners Lane on July 24th, 185 leaving a night roost on a small pool at Bourley Long Valley on Aug 5th, 220 at Busta Triangle on Aug 17th, 202 at Rampton's Lane GP on Aug 22nd, c.350 leaving the Western Yar (IOW) and flying across to Normandy Marsh during a very high tide on Aug 27th, a peak of 563 roosting at Fleet Pond on Sep 16th but only low numbers in other months, 353 at Wellington CP on Sep 19th, 246 at Barton on Sea on Oct 13th, 160 at Charlton Lakes, Andover on Oct 14th, up to 170 on barley stubble at Plastow Green from Oct 14th-24th (the first such records in 13 years of observation), 220 at Dogmersfield Lake on Oct 26th and 325 at Dibden Bay on Nov 15th and 16th.

Mostly random reports of breeding involved 46 broods of which 39 totalled 193 young most of which probably fledged. At Farlington Marshes a total of 43 young fledged from eight broods but data from other nature reserves was lacking. (JMC)

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

ET, Amber

As in 2019 there were several exceptional records. Ten flew over Pennington Marshes on May 28th, c.60 flew over Weston Shore on May 31st and c.40 flew NW over Hook-with-Warsash at 07:25 on June 9th. At 14:45 they were seen over Titchfield Haven and at 19:45 they took off from the reserve, most leaving SE but others leaving south. Later in the year nine were at Pennington Marshes from Dec 9th-26th with at least 23 there on 18th and 35 on 19th. The same day a flock of 133 was at Farlington Marshes but they were not seen again.

Otherwise up to 23 remained in the north-east although they spent most of their time on the Berkshire side of the River Blackwater; up to three were seen at Farlington Marshes, IBM



Barnacle Geese, Keyhaven Marshes, Dec 19th (Alan Lewis)

Lake, Frater Shore (Portsmouth Harbour), Titchfield Haven, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and in the Avon Valley; four flew north over Sandy Point on Oct 27th. Monthly maxima at various localities are tabulated below. (JMC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes	1	1		1	3			1		1	2	133
Titchfield Haven	1	1	1			40		1	2	1	1	1
Lymington-Hurst	3	3	3	3	10	1				1		35
Avon Valley						1	1	1		2	1	1
Eversley GP	2	23						23			22	23

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare feral visitor.

After not being recorded in Hampshire in 2019, the one survivor of the Blackwater Valley feral flock was noted with 353 Canada Geese at Wellington CP on Sep 19th. (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

Numbers continue to increase with the WeBS count total of 1,430 in September the highest yet apart from 1,512 in December 2014 when some double-counting was suspected.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu Estuary	116	66	70			66	83	21	105	45	104	130
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	302	307	73						474	525	470	405
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Ibsley Water	280	151	25		15	113	93	30	323	100	131	180
Test: Fishlake Meadows	45	187	95	34	27	70	67	205	170	95	52	90
Testbourne Lake	170	100	40			96	103	190	50	180	195	31
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	142	7	15	5	39	36	132	175	161	85		186
The Vyne	1	27		7	2	7	59	170	214*	61	81	44
Wellington CP		38	29				52		71	66	25	
Bramshill Park Lake	8	36	19		8		9	99	75	37	22	
Tundry Pond	46	63	40			2	15	187	163	12	28	132
WeBS count totals	1,149	1,085	473			220	315	294	1,430	1,034	1,137	1,085

**= record count for locality*

Other counts exceeding 50 included 125 at Skidmore on Jan 18th, 77 at Vyne Lodge Farm, Bramley on Feb 2nd, 210 at Trigpoint Hill on Sep 12th, 100 west over Overton on Sep 13th, 54 at Woolmer Pond on Nov 1st, 98 at Dibden Bay on Nov 23rd, 53 near Bramshill Plantation on Nov 28th, 54 at Ewhurst Park on Dec 13th and 58 at Oakhanger on Dec 24th.

Breeding was reported at 13 sites involving c.50 broods and c.250 young. Noteworthy concentrations included 13 broods totalling 99 young at Testbourne Lake, nine broods totalling 42 young at Timsbury and a creche of 30 goslings at Blackwater, Needs Ore. (JMC)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Rare winter visitor but presumed feral birds have occurred in most months. (27,162,1) Amber

A single was at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 25th (NRJ, PFF et al., photo). (KFB)



Tundra Bean Geese, Keyhaven Marshes, Dec 12th (Chris Rose)

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

Rare winter visitor. (2,191,7)

Amber

Two adults and a first-winter were in the Sopley area of Avon Valley from Dec 11th-30th (JSP *et al.*, photo). In addition two adults and two first-winters were at Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes from Dec 12th-29th (CR *et al.*, photo). These records coincided with a surge in sightings along the east coast of England, with Birdguides recording 334 reports in December 2020 compared to 100 in December 2019.

These are the first sightings since 2013. There have been ten records in eight years this century. By comparison the Taiga Bean Goose has only been recorded five times, all between 1985 and 1988. (KFB)

White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons*

Scarce winter visitor that has declined in recent years.

ET, Red, S4I, HBAP

The only early year records were one at Pennington Marshes on Mar 11th and four including one first-winter at Needs Ore from Mar 15th-23rd.

Exceptional numbers occurred in the late year with a small arrival of 19 in October and a substantial influx involving around 190 from late November onwards. This was shared with much of England and associated with cold weather on the near continent. Records in October involved six (three first-winters) at Farlington Marshes and two at Lower Test Marshes on 15th, three NE over Sandy Point on 17th, three (one first-winter) east over Broadlands Estate, two NW over Tweseldown and a first-winter at Pennington Marshes on 19th, and two at Needs Ore on 20th. Presumably the same first-winter was at Pennington with Brents on Nov 21st and Canadas from 29th to Dec 2nd.



White-fronted Goose, Posbrook Floods, Dec 12th (Simon M King)

The first indications of the second influx were on Nov 29th when two groups of 14 and ten were circling over Farlington Marshes between 11:45 and 11:55. The group of ten left high to the east but the 14 including ten first-winters landed and stayed the rest of the day. No more were recorded until Dec 1st when 15 arrived at Warblington from the east at 09:00. They were flushed by a dog and later relocated to Farlington Marshes. They included seven first-winters and were considered different to the flock seen two days earlier. Later that afternoon three adults and five juveniles left east towards Warblington where they were still present the next day. Meanwhile c.50 were at Lymore Lane, Keyhaven on 1st and were observed there again on 3rd when 46 adults and ten first-winters were counted (MPM). This is the largest flock recorded in the county since 66 wintered in the Avon Valley in early 1996. In the Titchfield Haven area six were with Brents on 2nd, two adults with Canadas on 6th and seven adults and two first-winters from 9th-20th when they relocated to Farlington Marshes. Further records involved four (one first-winter) at Needs Ore on 6th, 13th and 19th, four in Chichester Harbour on 12th, two first-winters at Tundry Pond from 12th-14th and six (four first-winters) at Sopley from 12th-20th. Another flock of 24 including ten first-winters was at Farlington Marshes on 17th; these were later seen over Black Point from where they were observed to land on the Selsey Peninsula (West Sussex). They remained at Medmerry RSPB reserve until 24th when they were again seen in flight over Black Point. A flock of 19 was feeding at Lower Test Marshes on 19th and these were seen moving NW over Squabb Wood, Romsey the next day. Finally ten were at Farlington Marshes on 26th, four (one first-winter) there the next day and five (four first-winters) at Avon from 28th-31st which were considered different from the earlier group at nearby Sopley. (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.*

WeBS counts were generally at the low level of recent winters although the total of 966 in December was the highest since January 2013. Some flocks wintering on flooded grassland are undoubtedly missed from WeBS counts which may account for the fluctuations. Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly reached 30 or more are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	24	20	12		32	37	40	23	18	16	21	71
Southsea Canoe Lake	57	52	44							44		59
Portsmouth Harbour	70	82	67	28			84		68	95	96	94
Itchen: Woolston-Woodmill	47	35	59		40				71	57	76	69
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	14	3	6				54	47	21	16	21	16
Lymington-Hurst	38	41	27	9	16			21	32	21	30	47
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	71	46	50						51	26	33	66
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	176	118	88		104				125	71	68	109
Avon: Blashford Lakes	43	24	16		15	48	50	44	29	45	44	73
Avon above Fordingbridge	23	56	49							34	51	55
Test: Fishlake Meadows	9	5	8	50	32	30	31	27	2	5	3	4
Avington Lake	7	5	9	12	10	13	12	22	40	29	11	3
Alresford Pond	55	43	40	50	71	66	73	71	50	52	34	62
Yateley GP	39	37	23						25	27	30	35
WeBS count totals	785	687	622						613	695	770	966

Thirty seven broods were reported including one at Alresford Pond which comprised three normal and two Polish-form cygnets. (JMC)



Bewick's Swan, Ibsley Bridge, Jan 11th (Alan Lewis)

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

Very scarce winter visitor, most frequent in the Avon Valley.

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

The only record was an adult at Ibsley/Harbridge WM from Jan 8th-15th (JEL *et al.*). Photographs confirmed that this was the same individual recorded in early 2018 and 2019. (JMC)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Rare winter visitor. (?464,2)

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

An adult flew west over Fishlake Meadows at 11:55 on Mar 26th (JIH). An adult was at Fleet Pond on Sep 26th-27th departing by 08:00 on the second day (JMC *et al.*, photo). (KFB)

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Scarce but increasing feral resident.

WeBS totals reached a record level in September when 578 were counted including 244 in the Avon Valley, 229 in the north-east and 99 at Heath Pond, Petersfield. 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	17	6	4		4	2	12	7	8	1	12	6
Ripley Farm Reservoir	5	25	4			2	10	69	98	93	36	112*
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	6	10		2		1			138	20	5	4
Avon: Ibsley Water	4	3	5	3	7	48	101	76	104*	32	24	10
Rampton's Lane GP	2					1		40	5	15	2	
Wellington CP		13	6				69*		54	4		
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley	40	64	58					129	121	90	48	62
Tundry Pond	2	4	3					9	33*	15	11	6
Heath Pond, Petersfield	68	59	44	38	49	123	125	122	104	72	53	75
WeBS count totals	119	202	156				218	237	578	307	185	283

*= record for locality

Other counts reaching double figures were 24 flying east at Brownwich on Jan 3rd, 14 at Stratfield Saye on Mar 14th, 11 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on May 16th, 15 at Edenbrook CP on June 7th, 11 at Hawley Lake on Aug 23rd, 40 leaving their roost at Busta Triangle on Sep 4th, 15 at Kingsley SP on Sep 12th, 11 at Ewhurst Lake on Nov 23rd, and 20 at Brickfields Park, Aldershot on Dec 9th.

A total of 21 broods was reported spanning every month from February to November although some of these perished. The most productive site was Wellington CP where a brood of four fledged in February, three broods totalling six fledged in July when another brood of eight small young was present but probably did not survive, and a further brood of two small young was noted in October but not seen again. Other broods were noted at Fleet Pond, Needs Ore and Petersfield GC (two each) and Avon Causeway, Bramshill Park Lake, Busta Triangle, Hawley Lake, Headley, Heath Pond, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Sleaford Reservoir and Testwood Lakes. (JMC)

Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

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

WeBs totals were again below the previous five-year average (see header) with the maximum being 924 in February (cf. 1,025 in Jan 2019). 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	407	333	312		95	110	18	3	22	109	253	426
Hampshire sectors	100	70	14		11	6	5			10	36	61
Langstone Harbour	298	294	178	86	60	45	18	6	35	57	128	218
Portsmouth Harbour	155	134	54	18	15	11	5	1	5	9	170	108
Titchfield Haven	36	57	60	9	24	12	4	5	3	1	20	7
Southampton Water incl. Hamble & Test Estuaries	26	55	40	20	20	12	2	4	1	2	35	27
Fawley-Calshot	46	26	25	13	17	41	47	2			31	41
Beaulieu Estuary	53	30	33	16	46	33	20	2	3	18	9	31
Lymington-Hurst	170	192	100	28	50	70	35	28	11	9	88	65
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir	2	4	22		7						8	15
Avon: Blashford Lakes/lbsley area	2	50	5				3		5			
Alresford Pond	4	7	6	5	10	10	5	1				1
Other inland records (no. of sites)	11(8)	15(8)	30(11)	35(12)	21(7)	6(5)					1	6(5)
WeBS count totals	845	924	401	5	83	103	35	18	30	89	350	552

Breeding was recorded at coastal sites at Farlington Marshes (4 broods of 1, 4, 5 and 8), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (4 broods totaling 34 ducklings) and Titchfield Haven (2 broods of 1 and 4), and inland at Alresford Pond (3 broods of 3, 3 and 4) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (1 brood of 5). (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
Stratfield Saye	5	120	36									
Eyeworth Pond, NF	9	10	4		8	7	2			24	8	22
Oakhanger	8	1					2		12	11		
Kingsley SP			9		1						10	20
Foxbury Plantation		2									23*	10

*= record for locality

Counts of ten or more at non-tabulated sites were 12 at Mockbeggar Lake on Oct 28th, 16 at Hollywater on Dec 9th, 14 at Headley Mill Pond on Dec 15th and 13 at West Green, Hartley Wintney on Dec 28th.

Broods (with numbers of ducklings in parentheses) were reported at Kingsley SP (3), Burnt Common (5), Waggoners Wells (12), Eyeworth Pond (7), Bradshott (4), Ripley Farm Reservoir (4), Dunbridge (5), Southwick Park (5) and Timsbury (4). (DB)

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber

Numbers were up slightly on last year with 26 reported in spring and six in autumn. The first arrival was an immature male at Stansore Point, Lepe on Feb 23rd. Spring passage continued from Mar 13th to May 31st. The highest count was seven (4 males and 3 females) which landed on the sea off Hayling Island after flying east past Sandy Point on Apr 10th. One or two were reported from Needs Ore, Fishlake Meadows, Blashford Lakes, Botley Wood, Titchfield Haven, Lymington-Hurst, Avington Lake, Spring Lane WCB (Alresford), The Vyne Lake, Woolmer Pond and Southwick.

Summer records comprised singles on July 13th and 28th and an immature male at Hook-with-Warsash on July 13th.

The first autumn record, an eclipse male, was at Fleet Pond on Aug 6th with further reports up to Oct 21st. Other singles were reported at Farlington Marshes from Aug 17th to Sep 9th, Fishlake Meadows from Aug 31st to Sep 5th, Titchfield Haven on Sep 19th-20th, Lymington-Hurst on Sep 20th and Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 4th. (DB)

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Spatula clypeata*

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

Amber

The maximum monthly WeBS count was slightly higher than last year with 884 in February compared to 749 in December 2019. The highest numbers were at Blashford Lakes where up to 400 were reported in the first three months of the year. As usual, numbers started to increase again from September and the last three months recorded peak monthly counts at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (175, Oct 6th), Beaulieu Estuary (144, Nov 15th) and Blashford Lakes (284, Dec 23rd).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	200	106	84	17	1	4	2	8	20	30	42	75
Titchfield Haven	35	59	40	28	5	10	8	8	29	35	34	75
Beaulieu Estuary	89	20	24		2	3		5	24	69	144	105
Lymington-Hurst	280	160	150	12	6	4	3		45	175	88	125
Blashford Lakes	303	352	400	300	2	2	1	1	44	93	97	284
Test: Fishlake Meadows	16	30	12	10	1	1	4	11	14	4	6	10
Alresford Pond	21	14	10	2				4	15	18	21	11
Rampton's Lane GP & Burnt Common	20	78*	77	2				4	8	34	32	23
The Vyne	17	10	10	7			1		15	23	26	22
Eversley GP	76	32	14						8	7	17	22
Fleet Pond		4	2	4	2	1	2	13	63	40	3	6
Tundry Pond	31	11	8						18	37	40	40
WeBS count totals	802	884	565			7		13	237	300	557	683

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

Counts of 20 or more at non-tabulated sites were 30 at Fawley Reservoir on Jan 3rd, 20 at Overton Lagoons on Feb 23rd, 22 at Bramshill Park Lake on Sep 3rd-5th, 20-28 at Southampton Common between Dec 6th and 31st, 24 at Baffins Pond on Dec 13th and 20 at Winchester SF on Dec 21st.

There were two confirmed breeding records. Three pairs were present at Fleet Pond on Apr 8th reducing to a single pair from Apr 14th to May 23rd. During this period the male was displaying and defending territory and breeding was confirmed with the sighting of one small duckling on May 17th. Unfortunately it did not survive. This was the first breeding record from this site. The other record was at Titchfield Haven where a female with ten juveniles was sighted at Posbrook Floods on June 14th. (DB)

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

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

The maximum monthly WeBs count of 1,504 in February was slightly higher than last year (cf. 1,453 in Feb 2019) but lower than the recent five-year mean maxima (see header). Monthly peak counts were higher than the previous year in the first and last three months with lower numbers during the summer probably due to lockdown restrictions. Counts at the main site at Blashford Lakes were down significantly on the previous year with a high of 427 in February compared to 633 in February 2019. However numbers at other main sites such as at Alresford Pond were broadly comparable or even higher than last year.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	80	86	37	26	52	76	20	36	50	62	110	132
Titchfield Haven	96	122	100	56	14	20	48	48	20	79	84	75
Beaulieu Estuary	42	26	61		4	8	6	6	110	10	36	57
Lymington-Hurst	80	87	73	17	32	8	15	25	25	75	22	38
Ringwood-Fordingbridge		131	15						12	44		
Avon: Blashford Lakes incl. Hamer Warren	279	427	100	37	10	22	6	15	54	58	204	305
Fishlake Meadows	18	10	18	15	15	10	40	20	32	8	6	8
Marsh Court	76	18			16					2	5	4
Testbourne Lake	125	93	70			100	24	34	70	32	40	60
Overton/Ashe	40	39	84	62	63	88	43	89	129	34	52	38
Winchester SF	74	58	56	25	23					29	74	90
Alresford Pond	84	89	12	27	119	104	40	93	138	123	86	70
The Grange Lake	13	9			19	19	10	4	86	197	102	39
The Vyne Lake	2	9	9	17	13	5	2	16	20	65	30	8
Eversley GP	91	70	25					2	9	23	81	153
Yateley GP	94	57	4						2	17	23	56
WeBS count totals	1,339	1,504	697	19	148	208	68	167	532	812	1,112	1,198

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

Except for July, between 20 and 50 were also recorded at widespread non-tabulated sites including Chilling Reservoir, Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash, Testwood Lakes, Wattons Ford, Longstock Pond, Test Valley (Stockbridge-Fullerton), Longparish Trout Lakes, Avington Lake, Laverstoke Park Lake, Mortimer West End, Bramshill Park Lake, Kingsley SP and Warnford Park Lake.

Records of broods were well down on 2019 (29 cf. 44), probably due to lockdown, with four at Overton Lagoons and Avington Lake; three at Hook-with-Warsash; two at Farlington Marshes,

Fleet Pond, Leckford, Stockbridge and Fishlake Meadows; and single broods at Keyhaven, Blashford Lakes, Gavelacre, Longstock Water Gardens, Longstock South, Dogmersfield Lake, Alresford Pond and The Grange Lake. (DB)

Wigeon† (Eurasian Wigeon) *Mareca penelope*

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

The maximum WeBs count of 7,617 in February (cf. 6,691 in Jan 2019) was again significantly lower than the recent five-year mean maxima (see header). Between one and three were reported in late spring/summer between Apr 24th and Aug 16th at coastal sites except for one at Blashford on June 12th. September arrivals increased more rapidly than 2019 with the highest count being 455 at Langstone Harbour on Sep 19th. Numbers continued to rise to above last year's figures from October to the year-end reaching 6,870 in December compared to 5,544 last year. However individual site counts varied up and down with December counts at Lower Test Marshes, Beaulieu Estuary, Lymington-Hurst and Blashford Lakes being 423, 717, 1,181 and 1,357 respectively compared to 739, 1,123, 511 and 824 in 2019.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,184	1,749	508						807	7,587	3,215	2,271
Hampshire sectors	100	139	30						400	1,800	429	121
Langstone Harbour	550	851	410	115	2	1		21	455	1,209	872	1,000
Portsmouth Harbour	192	229	26						150	600	1,112	338
Titchfield Haven	152	233	150	24				10	27	60	85	92
Hamble Estuary	409	330	122	2					95	171	249	153
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	478	699	179	3	2	1	1	2	162	367	473	423
Hythe-Calshot	427	426	247						34	157	445	537
Beaulieu Estuary	629	483	305		3	1	1	4	150	344	388	717
Sowley-Lymington	250	110	56						18	160	200	
Lymington-Hurst	823	872	500	9	1	2		6	178	683	1,245	1,181
Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford	1,000		225						3	16	123	225
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood incl. Ripley Farm Reservoir	195	395	395						3	17	303	263
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	60	395	30									
Avon: Blashford Lakes	2,331	1,882	917	350		1			51	94	500	1,357
Timsbury		43	124									
Eversley GP	107	121							25	78	30	220
WeBS count totals	7,160	7,617	2,748			1	1	3	1,161	5,582	5,993	6,870

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

The only other counts to exceed 50 were at Testwood Lakes (80, Jan 5th; 54, Feb 8th; 96, Mar 8th; 58, Nov 15th), Fishlake Meadows (68, Mar 8th; 64, Dec 13th), The Vyne Lake (60, Feb 12th; 58, Oct 17th; 77, Dec 27th), Bramshill Park Lake (81, Jan 10th) and Stratfield Saye (51, Feb 7th).

A male Wigeon x Pintail hybrid was reported at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Jan 10th. (DB)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Peak WeBs counts again fell short of 4,000 and below the mean maxima for the two most recent five-year periods (see header). The highest counts early and late in the year were at Ewhurst Lake with 341 recorded on Jan 12th and 480 on Oct 19th.

Monthly maxima at sites where counts equalled or exceeded 200 (plus Chichester Harbour Hampshire sectors) are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	284	307	194		50	100	76	77	120	216	328	305
Hampshire sectors	139	170	99		15	16	45	9	13	82	84	88
Wattons Ford	96	73	45						249	206	67	162
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	152								322	283	181	209
Avon: Blashford Lakes	73	61	200	6	15	30	20	35	161	132	130	173
Marsh Court	100	66	10		12	7	16	4	5	220	220	250
Testbourne								145				210
Ewhurst Lake	341	171								480	250	300
Alresford Pond	24	23	30	13	12	98	230	214	102	40	45	72
Heath Pond, Petersfield	101	72	41	32	47	91	174	211	151	197	83	93
Bramshill Park Lake	7	12	5		2		64	186	201	69	52	94
WeBS count totals	3108	2424	1331	59	284	411	689	1117	3074	3591	3330	3744

Maxima at other non-tabulated sites with counts of 150 or more were 171 at Lymington-Hurst on Jan 11th, 150 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Aug 6th, 151 at Warnford on Sep 20th, 165 at Edenbrook CP on Oct 10th, 197 at Yateley GP on Oct 15th, 170 roosting overnight at Itchen Water Works on Nov 22nd and 164 at Portsmouth Harbour on Dec 12th.

Breeding was widespread. Comparisons of numbers of broods and young at sites reported last year (with 2019 broods in parentheses) are as follows: Hook-with-Warsash, 8 broods (6) with 53 young; Itchen Water Works, 8 broods with 39 young (8 broods, 33 young); Avington Lake, 3 (5), The Grange Lake, 1 (1); Alresford Pond, 1 (3) and Fleet Pond, 20 broods with 106 young (8 broods, 47 young). (DB)

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

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

In the early year WeBs counts started below average in January but then rose above the five-year mean (see header) to 1,046 in February (cf. peak of 643 in Jan 2019) due to high numbers of 496 at Blashford Lakes, 212 at Lymington-Hurst and 194 at Langstone Harbour. A similar peak occurred late in the year with 1,051 in December (cf. 392 in Dec 2019), this time mainly due to WeBS counts of 550 at Lymington-Hurst, 240 at Langstone Harbour and 127 at Blashford Lakes. It seems likely that the total in December may have been even higher as non-WeBs counts of 500 at Langstone Harbour on Dec 2nd and 351 at Blashford Lakes on Dec 30th were separately recorded.



Pintails, Needs Ore, Nov 13th (Ian Williamson)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	67	72	8						2	18	23	180
Langstone Harbour	143	194	80	2	1	1		3	93	134	160	240
Portsmouth Harbour	6	24							1	1	39	2
Titchfield Haven	29	34	26	2					40	53	20	31
Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash	29	23	4	1	2	1	1	1	3	79	71	80
Fawley-Calshot	14	4								6	42	15
Beaulieu Estuary	40	15	12						12	8	16	20
Sowley-Lymington		30	1								42	
Lymington-Hurst	312	212	35	2					38	125	210	550
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	150		2									2
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	64	38										
Avon: Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water)	545	496	500	50						24	26	351
WeBS count totals	604	1,046	424				1		145	306	382	1,051

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

The only early year records away from the tabulated sites were at Woolmer Pond, where up to three were present between Jan 1st-15th, and at Fishlake Meadows where there were up to six between January and March. The last double-figure count was 50 at Blashford Lakes on Apr 1st. A male with a damaged wing, first seen in January at Hook-with-Warsash, remained throughout the summer until at least October. Other summer sightings were one at Langstone Harbour and up to two at Fishlake Meadows.

The first double-figure counts of new arrivals in the autumn were in September with 13 at Farlington Marshes on 1st and 38 at Lymington-Hurst on 19th. Records away from tabulated sites in the second half-year were up to ten in the Lower Test Marshes and Dibden Bay and up to six at Fishlake Meadows in the last four months, six at Bramshill Plantation on Oct 16th, four at Budds Lane on Oct 30th and singles at Sherbourne St. John between Sep 8th and Nov 20th, Testwood Lakes on Oct 5th, Alresford Pond on Oct 6-7th, Tundry Pond on Nov 21st and The Vyne Lake on Dec 6th-13th. (DB)

Teal (Eurasian Teal) *Anas crecca*

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

The maximum WeBs count of 4,212 in January was very similar to 2019 (cf. 4,178) but still well down on the previous five-year mean maxima (see header). WeBs counts in the last three months of the year were also comparable with 2019 but well down on 2018. The only site where numbers exceeded 1,000 was Beaulieu Estuary (1,335, Nov 15th). At Alresford Pond a new site record was set with 334 on Oct 1st (JMCI).

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	861	950	401					8	384	653	598	981
Hampshire sectors	188	245	51				1	3	100	57	25	152
Langstone Harbour	150	223	109	54	1	8	8	80	255	287	201	255
Portsmouth Harbour	35	96	34	2				8	54	74	256	143
Titchfield Haven	274	250	60	52	2	5	20	150	508	332	209	268
Hamble Estuary	191	143	72	11	3			9	52	80	99	94
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	104	68	74	2				6	37	53	59	127
Dibden Bay	18		94	2						17	413	115
Hythe-Calshot	105	177	40	5		4	3	5	3	40	157	125
Beaulieu Estuary	802	564	113	2	2		15	46	293	493	1,335	913
Lymington-Hurst	970	710	460	6		3	1	60	159	449	662	692
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	212	146	156						25	3	74	186
Avon: Blashford Lakes	152	199	305	2	2	2	1		34	22	59	106
Test: Fishlake Meadows	120	50	70	8		2	5	28	86	35	60	29
Testbourne Lake	40	15	40					35	60	80	70	11
Winchester SF	158	200	78	10						100	106	103
Alresford Pond	99	93	93	29		7	10	69	314	334*	219	208
The Wyne	138	110	50	54		4	2	30	104	102	88	105
WeBS count totals	4,212	3,207	1,585	29		3	10	137	1,397	2,443	4,023	3,673

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

The only non-tabulated counts of 50 or more were 350 at Walhampton on Jan 10th, 50 at Pylewell Lake on Jan 22nd, 104 at Beaulieu Mill Pond/Upper Beaulieu River on Sep 20th, 57 at Holmsley GP on Nov 22nd and up to 120 at Sandy Point, Hayling Island during the last three months. Nocturnal flight calls from one to three birds were recorded at St. Cross, Winchester between Mar 20th and Apr 8th.

Whilst low numbers remained during May and June, including in suitable habitat in the New Forest, there was no evidence of breeding. (DB)

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Scarce feral visitor or escape. (1,164,3)

The two drakes at Eversley GP in late December 2019 were still present on Jan 10th. They had moved to the Berkshire side of the River Blackwater by Jan 23rd where they remained until May 7th. An eclipse drake was at Bramshill Park Lake from Sep 3rd-19th and two drakes reappeared there for their third winter on Nov 29th. They were still present on Dec 17th but were not seen subsequently until reappearing in January 2021. (JMC)

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

Whilst WeBS counts for January and February were lower than in the corresponding months of the previous year, November and December totals were higher, principally because of numbers at Blashford, which remains by far the most important site year-round, but also because of a peak count of 71 at Dogmersfield Lake on Dec 12th. At Blashford the count of 150 on Jan 9th was exclusive to Ibsley Water, whilst annual maxima on the other lakes were 24 at Ivy on Jan 12th, 25 at Kingfisher on Mar 8th and 23 at Rockford the same day.

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	19	4	12		6	5	3				3	2
Blashford Lakes	150	84	200	2	3	7	7	7	10	54	120	103
Test: Fishlake Meadows	15	10	14	12	12	4	3	5	11	6	25	4
Dogmersfield Lake	49	30	32					8	10	15	18	71
Eversley GP	15	7	6						7	20	15	11
WeBS count totals	268	169	171	5	3	2	2	2	39	83	183	224

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

In addition to those sites tabulated above, double-figure counts came from Winchester SF (16, Jan 1st-25th; 12, Nov 3rd-Dec 31st), Sowley Pond (14, Feb 8th), Longparish (12, Mar 30th to Apr 4th), Testbourne Lake (21, Nov 4th), Tundry Pond (10, Nov 30th) and Ewhurst Lake (11, Dec 30th). Numbers at Langstone Harbour/Budds Farm STW, a former regular site, failed to reach double-figures with a winter maximum of only eight on Feb 11th. There were also winter records of less than ten from a further 20 sites including Lymington-Hurst (7, Jan 10th), Titchfield Haven NR (5, Feb 12th), Fishers Pond, Colden Common (7, Feb 22nd), Hook-with-Warsash (3, Mar 6th-12th), Arlebury Lakes (8, Nov 24th) and Bramshill Park Lake (8, Dec 28th), whilst a male flying east past Hurst Castle on May 4th was an unseasonal record there.

Breeding was confirmed at Needs Ore (3 young, June 14th), Alresford Pond (5 young, May 31st, the first breeding there since 2005) and Testbourne Lake where there were two broods (2 and 5 young). Breeding was suspected but not proven at Edenbrook CP and Fleet Pond, whilst there were May/June records from Hatchet Pond, Overton Lakes and Ashe Park Lake. Although there was a presence through the summer at Blashford Lakes and Fishlake Meadows (see table), there was no suggestion of breeding at either site. (PFF)

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Rare vagrant recorded in every month from September to April. (0,13,0)

ET

The male that had frequented Kingfisher Lake, Blashford from October 2019 remained in the area until Mar 14th (m.o., photo). It was present on Ibsley Water from Jan 12th-15th. A male, presumed to be the same individual, returned to Kingfisher Lake on the relatively late date of Dec 14th and remained into 2021. Due to the poor viewing conditions at Kingfisher Lake, it would seem likely that it was present earlier based on data from previous years. 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)

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Rare vagrant. (0,10,1)

An adult male was at Ibsley Water on Apr 17th (RAC, photo). This is the eleventh record ever although some of these were seen in multiple years. The first record was also at Blashford Lakes in 1979. (KFB)

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

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

Green

The maximum WeBS count was again in February with 1,553 on Feb 6th-8th (cf. 1,457 in February 2019). Whilst late year monthly totals were higher than 2019, April to August counts were well below the recent norm, possibly because of reduced coverage. Monthly maxima at regularly watched sites where counts were 50 or more are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	31	52	50	8	30	20	21	8	15	20	15	42
Blashford Lakes	384	495	432	20	20	98	32	50	94	211	402	393
Test: Fishlake Meadows	11	50	38	10	13	40	9	24	18	6	20	5
Test: Testbourne Lake	46	15	16			28	60	27	42	50	56	60
Test: Overton Lagoons	113	6	18	8	32	33	60	49	19	1	4	1
Alresford Pond	30	50	30	20	6	15	23	2	8	9	21	19
Meon: Warnford Park	32	50			35	36	22	18	14	25	51	
Eversley GP	145	141	125						60	66	93	83
Yateley GP	211	146	136						70	63	105	131
WeBS count totals	1,374	1,553	1,367	34	128	162	125	96	445	684	1,133	1,282

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

Maximum winter counts exceeding 25 came from the Itchen Valley at Arlebury Lakes (42, Dec 30th); Test Valley at Longparish (42, Jan 10th); Anton Lakes (50, Feb 7th); the north at The Vyne Lake (37, Jan 2nd), Wellington CP (33, Mar 6th), Camp Farm GP, Aldershot (40, Mar 7th), Passfield Pond (30, Mar 8th), Stratfield Saye Park (28, Mar 14th), Overton Lagoons (32, Apr 29th), Ewhurst Lake (45, Nov 30th), Tundry Pond (44, Nov 30th), Dogmersfield Lake (42, Dec 12th) and Charlton Lakes (28, Dec 26th); coastal sites at Milton Common/Pools (72, Nov 14th) and Baffins Pond (115, Dec 13th); and at Southampton Common (36, Dec 1st). A party of 20 at Farlington Marshes on May 4th were likely to have included migrants.

Breeding was confirmed at 29 sites resulting in 54 broods with a minimum of 230 fledglings, not too dissimilar to the previous year when there were 28 sites, 60 broods and 250 fledglings. Numbers varied at the four principal breeding sites. At Fleet Pond only ten fledged from seven broods and 35 young, whilst at Overton Lagoons there were six broods totalling 36 fledglings on July 26th. Testbourne Lake reported eight broods and 32 ducklings on July 3rd, whilst at Fishlake Meadows there were 27 young from seven broods, but no reference to the number fledged. Elsewhere there were two broods at The Grange Lake, Baffins Pond, Timsbury and Bishop's Waltham; and singles at Anton Lakes, Avington Lake, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Stoke Charity, Alresford Pond, Lymington-Hurst, Budds Farm, Bramshill Lake, Dogmersfield Lake, Edenbrook CP, Burnt Common, The Vyne Lake, Southsea, Longparish, Longstock South, Longstock Water Gardens, Marsh Court, Budds Lane and Squabb Wood (Romsey), Stockbridge Common Marsh and Ashe. (PFF)

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. *VU, Schedule I, Red, S4I*

First-winter males were at Ibsley Water on Jan 1st and Fareham Creek between Jan 3rd and 8th and again from Jan 29th to Feb 5th.

In the late year there was a female at Woolmer Pond from Aug 30th to Sep 1st, two first-winter females at Black Point on Oct 23rd, a first-winter female at Curbridge on Oct 28th and a female on Normandy Lagoon on Oct 29th-30th. (PFF).

Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima*

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

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	37	35	10	9	4				4	1	6	4
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	61	28	46	17	2	1		1	3	26	45	69
Lepe-Needs Ore	4	9	3	1					4	4	2	3
Sowley-Lymington	15		12						12			
Lymington-Keyhaven	18	8	26	14	23	18	24	30	25	2	8	5
Hurst and Milford on Sea	9	8	6									

Although numbers off Sandy Point were lower than last year, particularly during November/December, the winter population was higher to the east of Southampton Water than the west, where numbers have tended to fluctuate in recent winters.

Following two winters of depleted numbers off Hill Head, the raft there, which regularly drifts between Stokes Bay and Hook-with-Warsash, peaked at 61 in January and 69 in December, comparable with 2017 monthly maxima. Lymington-Hurst remained the only locality to have records in every month, there still being a significant presence through the summer but with no evidence of breeding. The only records away from this locality for June/August were singles off Hill Head on June 25th, Stokes Bay on Aug 2nd and Lee-on-the-Solent on Aug 31st.

Elsewhere a party of 14 off Gilkicker Point on Feb 14th were probably strays from Hill Head. There was little significant spring or autumn passage, the most notable being nine flying east off Sandy Point on Apr 4th. There were also singles at Langstone Harbour on Sept 8th and Nov 24th. (PFF)

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. *VU, Schedule I, Red*

In the early year a first-winter/female was reported at the mouth of Southampton Water between Jan 15th and Feb 7th off Hill Head, Chilling Cliffs, Brownwich and Lee-on-the-Solent. Four east off Hurst Castle on Apr 12th and two east off Sandy Point on May 7th were passage migrants.

In the late year one flew west off Tanners Lane on Nov 16th and a male was off Hill Head on Nov 21st-22nd. Single females were present in Southampton Water on Dec 6th and from Dec 27th-30th, whilst a male was off Barton on Sea on Dec 16th. (PFF)

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

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

Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point and Hayling Bay	9	1	2	10	22		28	2		3	21	45
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	4	45	7	9	16	22	15	10	1	12	30	30
Southampton Water	4	3	1	2	10	9	1	1	1	2	19	10
Hurst and Milford on Sea	8	5	16	180	76	37	6		41	4	5	2
Moving east				291	139	28	40			30		
Moving west			12	6	2		37					

In the early year a raft of 45 off Hill Head on Feb 12th was noteworthy. Spring passage started in the first week of April with 180 in Milford Bay and 93 east past Sandy Point on 5th. The following day all but 36 had departed Milford Bay. Whilst there was an easterly movement of 91 off Hurst on Apr 28th, groups adding up to 141 on Apr 29th and 76 on May 8th swirled around the Bay on countless occasions and were not seen to pass through the Narrows into The Solent. Over 17 days between April 2nd and May 26th, 430 were counted on passage, the majority east past Sandy Point, compared with 561 over 16 days in 2019 and 1,027 over 19 days in 2018. Passage in autumn was again negligible but the extent of migration through The Solent has become increasingly blurred by the growing presence of small parties in June/July. For example there were 22 at the mouth of Southampton Water on June 9th-10th and 37 off Hurst Castle on June 16th, whilst there were flights east and west off Sandy Point in early July with the highest count of 35 passing east on July 7th.

The practice of 'noc-migging' gave an added dimension to the recording of spring and autumn passage. Both this technique, described elsewhere in this report by Nigel Jones, and observers simply listening out for calls after dark, shone a light on a migratory route overland. Birds were heard overhead in April on several nights between 1st-22nd. Numbers reported were in single figures, except for an estimate of ten over North Baddesley on the night of 4th, but passage seemed to have been on a broad front moving north with records from the coast (Stubbington, Hill Head, New Milton), New Forest (Sway, Woodlands), Test Valley (North Baddesley, Ashurst, Overton), Southampton (Swaythling, South Stoneham, Sholing), Winchester (city centre and St. Cross), Meon Valley (Funtley) and the north (Fleet, Old Basing). There was one autumn record of an estimated ten flying south over Snails Lake (Blashford) an hour after dark on Oct 17th.

A party of 41 on the water off Lymington on Sep 27th was the only count in the late year to exceed 20 until Nov 22nd, after which numbers built up off Sandy Point (max. 45, Dec. 2nd) and Hill Head (max. 30, Nov 27th to Dec 2nd), whilst elsewhere there was one at Pylewell Lake on Oct 18th and a drake at the Alver Valley on Nov 8th. (PFF)

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

The only freshwater record was the long-staying immature male at Ibsley Water which had been present since Nov 4th 2019 and stayed until Apr 23rd. Elsewhere in the early year the female/immature in Langstone Harbour from Nov 19th 2019 stayed until Mar 14th, another first-winter (possibly male) was in Portsmouth Harbour from Jan 1st to Mar 14th, and a female was in the Lymington-Hurst area between Jan 3rd and 10th, Feb 5th and 8th and Mar 10th and 13th. A female flew east off Sandy Point on May 24th.

There was an unusual summer record of one at Keyhaven on Aug 3rd. The first autumn arrivals were fly-bys comprising an immature female east past Milford on Sea on Oct 25th and a male off Lymington River mouth on Nov 3rd. There was a female between Black Point and Mill Rithe on Nov 20th and another between Hook-with-Warsash and Hill Head on Nov 24th. (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

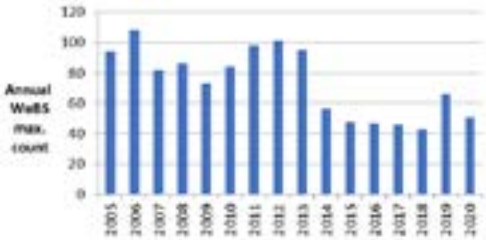
Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below. (PFF)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	10	6	1						2
Hampshire sectors	3								
Langstone Harbour	14	15	4					5	10
Portsmouth Harbour	13	6	3					1	5
Lymington-Hurst	8	6	2						6
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	20	24	17	4			1	12	10
WeBS count totals	48	51	20				1	11	26

WeBS totals suggested that the downward trend shown by the long-term mean maxima (see header) continued, with an annual maximum of 51 in February compared with 66 in January 2019. The overall downward trend over the last 15 years is also illustrated by the histogram below. A possible explanation suggested in BTO's WeBS annual report for winter 2019/20 is "short-stopping" in northern Europe/Baltic Sea due to milder winters rather than continuing west to Britain and Ireland.

Ibsley Water returned the year's highest count (24, Feb 8th), whilst typically Langstone Harbour had slightly higher winter numbers than Portsmouth Harbour, the respective peak counts in the early year being 15 on Feb 8th and 13 on Jan 5th. Elsewhere there were four off Chilling Cliffs on Mar 7th. An adult drake at Ibsley Water on Apr 8th was the last spring record although there was an eclipse drake at Heath Pond, Petersfield on June 4th.

The first autumn return was on Oct 18th, again at Ibsley Water. Late year records at non-tabulated sites included single females at Venner Pool, Needs Ore on Nov 7th, flying east off Hill Head on Nov 25th and off Brownwich Cliffs on Dec 5th and a male off Weston Shore on Nov 27th. (PFF)



Annual WeBS maximum counts for Goldeneye 2005-2020

Goosander (Common Merganser) *Mergus 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

WeBS totals showed little change in status from last year, except that the maximum count was in December with a total of 171 on 20th (99 at Blashford Lakes of which 60 were on Ibsley Water) rather than at the beginning of the year (cf. 160, Jan 2019).

Roost numbers at Ibsley Water over the 2019/20 winter were lower than usual, as were January and February roost counts at Eversley GP. There was a minimum of 30 at dusk at

Ibsley Water on Nov 22nd but no available data for December, whilst at Eversley GP the December count was comparable to 2019. Diurnal counts at sites in the Avon Valley, but away from Ibsley Water, included 23 at Somerley Lakes on Jan 12th, 28 at Wattons Ford on Sep 20th and 35 at Kingfisher Lake on Dec 28th-30th.

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	2		2			1	2	2	2	2		1
Ibsley Water (roost)	54	44	8	1					7		30	
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	3	4	9						7	5	2	14
Eyeworth Pond	5	2									9	13
Sowley Pond	1										1	
Bramshill Planation (roost)	23	25			1						3	10
Tundry Pond	3		1									4
Eversley GP (roost)	41	32	7								3	35
Yateley GP	31	23	4								2	21
WeBS count totals	108	107	33				1		36	37	56	171

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

Records from sites not listed in the table above referred to only one or two individuals unless otherwise specified. Along the coast, including Southampton Water, there were early year records from Black Point (Feb 5th), Langstone Harbour (female on several dates in March) and Weston Shore-Hythe (max. 4, Feb 26th), and late year records from Sandy Point (Nov 27th and Dec 1st-4th), Hill Head (max. 8, Nov 28th), Hook-with-Warsash (max. 4, Nov 26th), Lepe (Dec 8th) and Barton on Sea (Sep 10th and Nov 8th).

Records from Southampton Water included eight on Fawley Reservoir throughout January, whilst up to four were present on the Lower Test Marshes between Jan 11th and Apr 16th. The highest count from further up the Test Valley, from where there were sightings at 11 localities, was six at Saddlers Mill, Romsey on Dec 20th, whilst along the Itchen Valley, where there were sightings at five locations, it was five at St. Cross, Winchester on Dec 31st. In the New Forest there were five on Cadman's Pool on Dec 26th, following one there on Nov 20th, and three on Nov 28th, whilst flyovers were logged at Hampton Ridge (May 9th), Fritham Plain (Dec 24th) and Ashurst (Dec 25th). In the north-east there were records from Darby Green (6, Jan 11th), Dogmersfield Lake (Mar 14th and Dec 12th), Frith End SP (May 4th) and Wellington CP (6, Dec 11th), whilst records from elsewhere in north Hampshire were limited to Benyons Inclosure (Nov 4th and Dec 19th), Sherfield-on-London (Dec 24th) and Stratfield Saye, where a pair bred (see below). Other isolated records from other regions/localities included two at Curbridge on Jan 20th, one at Knightswood, Chandler's Ford on Apr 3rd and two at Needs Ore on Sep 14th, whilst in the late year there were two at Meonstoke on Nov 15th and singles at Bishop's Waltham South Pond (female, Nov 28th and Dec 5th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (male, Dec 2nd) and Swanwick NR (Dec 29th).

Breeding was confirmed for the first time at Stratfield Saye, where there were nine young on May 11th. This was the first away from the Avon Valley and a notable range extension. Following a pair at the traditional site of Somerley Park on Apr 26th, breeding was confirmed there, when a female with nine juveniles was seen on May 26th, and at Burgate Meadows on the River Avon, where there were seven well-grown young on June 17th. Three were above Avon Causeway on June 9th. (PFF)

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare inland. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 415; 2002-07: 393; 2007-12: 337; 2012-17: 329. NT, Green, HBAP

Whilst early year WeBS totals were consistent with the first three months of 2019, except that the maximum number was in February and not January, the late winter counts were well down, with numbers in Langstone Harbour appreciably lower in November and December. This continued the trend there and at the other principal sites in the east (Chichester Harbour and Portsmouth Harbour) over the past decade or more (see Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-12).

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	106	96	115							7	33	55
Hampshire sectors	20	14	20		1						29	18
Langstone Harbour	47	92	85	5						41	40	60
Portsmouth Harbour	41	54	54	1						3	26	16
Hill Head/Brownwich	2		2						1		3	
Upper Southampton Water	4	2	4								4	1
Lepe-Needs Ore	4	3	1								3	2
Sowley-Lymington	3	2	9							4		
Lymington-Hurst	13	14	12	1						4	20	12
WeBS count totals	114	176	133							51	53	96

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

A total of 17 off Sandy Point on six dates between Apr 4th and May 21st, with eight on Apr 5th, was the full extent of easterly passage. The last spring record was at Black Point on May 25th and the first return was at Hurst on Sep 11th followed by singles off Hill Head on 17th and Milford on 30th. There were no inland records and the only unusual locality was Eling Great Marsh where there was a pair on Jan 16th. (PFF)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

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

Records were submitted from 211 sites (cf. 198 in 2019) encompassing all regions including coastal but, as always, the largest gatherings were in game-rearing areas. In the early year these included Newton Valence (100, Jan 4th) and Hartley Park Farm, Selborne (100, Jan 5th), whilst triple-figure late year counts came from Bigpath Farm, Upham (300, Oct 8th), Cliddesden (207, Oct 8th), South Warnborough (165, Nov 16th), Upton Grey (140, Dec 24th), Weston Patrick (140, Dec 24th), Stansore, Lepe (120, Sept 9th) and South Boarhunt (100, Nov 7th).

Although a common resident, successful breeding was proved only at Wyck (fledglings, Oct 5th), although there was a bird on the nest at Well on May 2nd. The BTO Breeding Survey (BBS) registered a total of 52 territories in one km squares across 20 sites, well down on the previous season but perhaps because there were few visits before mid-May and there was a lower level of coverage generally due to COVID-19 restrictions. Medstead and Robley Belt held the most territories with five, followed by Fawley Down, Morestead and Longparish, each with four. (PFF)

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

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

Red, S41, HBAP

In a regional breakdown of records from 46 localities, 19 were along the Hampshire Downs and five on the South Downs. Elsewhere there were seven sites in the north-east (Binsted, Blackmoor,

Colemore Common, Hartley Mauditt, Odiham (Hillside), Selborne (Norton Farm) and Wyck; three each in the Test and Itchen Valleys (Houghton, Trigpoint Hill, Overton, Twyford Down, Upton Farm and Manor Farm WCB at Alresford); two each in the north (Basingstoke Roman Road and Mapledurwell WCB); two each at Andover (West Portway and Woodhouse) and Cheesefoot Head (Gander Down); and in the New Forest (Exbury Estate). There were single coastal records from Sandy Point, Hayling Island (1, Mar 13th) and Farlington Marshes (3, Sept 16th).

Up to six were seen regularly at Toyd Down in January and February, but a count of 34 at Trigpoint Hill on July 30th was logged as recent releases. Ten at Overton on Aug 31st, where breeding had been suspected, and a maximum of 16 at Martin Down NNR on Nov 8th, where breeding had been proven, were likely to have been feral coveys.

Besides Martin Down, where 12 fledglings were seen on Sept 14th, a pair at Wyck on Sep 3rd had two broods of seven and three, whilst at Hillside, Odiham there were six fully-grown young on Sept 11th. Pairs were present in May/July at Houghton, Overton (Turrills Farm and Lower Whitehill Farm), Kenstboro, Stoke Charity, Vernham Dean, Upham (Over Farm), Toyd Down, Andover (West Portway) and Basingstoke (Roman Road), but there was no proof of breeding at any of these. (PFF)

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

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

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

This year's apparent scarcity may be attributed to low-level coverage during lockdown, although typically the population varies year on year. One was heard and seen at Martin Down on May 24th, July 29th, Aug 10th and between Aug 23rd and 26th but there was no evidence of breeding. Elsewhere males were calling at Over Wallop on May 25th, Blackmoor on June 8th and Park Farm, East Meon on July 26th. (PFF)

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

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

Records were submitted from all regions except Portsmouth and Gosport, and again the highest counts came from sites where there were large-scale releases. In the north-east in January there were 200 at Northbrook and 100 at Newtown Valence, Hartley Park Farm (Selborne) and Wyck, where there was also a count of 100 in November and December. Coastal sites where the maximum count was in double-figures were limited to Stoke, Hayling Island (10, Feb 17th), Farlington Marshes (18, Mar 16th), Titchfield Haven NR (10, Jan 20th), Stanswood Farm, Lepe (35, Sept 7th), Needs Ore, Beaulieu (42, Mar 16th), Tanners Lane, Lymington (40, Oct 7th) and Lymington-Hurst (14, Feb 14th). Single-figure counts were reported from 21 other localities along The Solent coast, east and west in equal measure, and at 23 sites in the New Forest with 12 at Foxbury Plantation on Feb 14th.

Between April/June records were from 118 sites but although an abundant resident with many pairs observed in suitable habitat, the only confirmed breeding was at Farlington Marshes as late as Sep 29th, Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore, Lepe, Littledown, Overton Lagoons, The Mill Field (Old Basing) and Petersfield Heath.

Late year counts included 150 at Fawley Down, Morestead on Sept 10th and others over 50 at Bigpath Farm (Upham), Temple Valley, Itchen Stoke, Cliddesden, Old Winchester Hill and Farleigh Wallop. (PFF)

Nightjar (European Nightjar) *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Amber, S4I, HBAP

The first arrivals were singles at Hut Wood on April 26th and Cadnam Common on April 27th. There was no systematic survey of the New Forest but casual records submitted amounted to approximately 120 churring males from around 50 locations, including at least nine at Sandhill Plantation and six at Beaulieu Road, Burton Common, Half Moon Common and Holm Hill.

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 127 and 57 churring males respectively, compared to 106 and 75 last year (Table 1). Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows (2019 in parentheses where available): Alice Holt Forest, 3 (2); Ampfield Wood, 4 (4); Badminton Plantation, 4 (1); Benyons Inclosure, 5 (3); Bickton, 1; Botley Wood, 4 (5); Blackfield, 4; Burton Common, 6 (7); Denmead, 2 (2); Great Covert Wood, 1 (2); Great Pen Wood, 2; Hamble Common, 1 (2); Havant Thicket, 1 (1); Horris Hill, 3; Hut Wood, 5 (4); Keyhaven, 1 (2); Martin Down, 1; Mortimer West End, 5 (2); Needs Ore, 1; Newtown Common, 3 (3); Pamber Forest, 1; Ringwood Forest, 1; Squabb Wood, 2 (1); Tom's Down, 3; West Walk, 1 (1); Whiteley Pastures, 3; Woodgreen, 2 and Woodlands (Totton), 1.

The final record was three at Abottstanding Wood on Sept 11th. (BS)

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first arrival was one over Romsey on Apr 8th. In contrast to 2019, when poor weather on migration resulted in only a handful of double-figure records in April, three-figure counts were reported between 25th-30th at Posbrook Floods, Hill Head and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (max. 100, 29th), Fishlake Meadows (max. 800, 30th) and Ibsley Water (max. 1,000, 29th).

During the breeding season counts exceeding 150 were recorded at sixteen sites. The first of these were in May with 150 over Fishlake Meadows on 1st; 250 over Ibsley Water on 1st, 22nd and 23rd and 800 there on 3rd. All the other high counts were in July in association with poor weather, peaking in the second week, with 300 over Sandy Point, 405 at Trigpoint Hill



Nightjar, New Forest, May 19th (Lee Fuller)

and an astonishing 4,200 over Weston Shore on 8th (where a total of 6,423 was recorded in 12 hours watching on seven dates between 6th and 16th); 1,172 and 1,206 over Tweseldown on 8th and 9th respectively; 175 over Old Winchester Hill on 10th; 157 over Old Basing on 17th; 150 over Hurst Beach on 19th; 650 over Portsdown Hill on 24th; 152 over Fleet Pond on 25th; 400 over Hill Head and 300 over Titchfield Haven on 27th.

Records of confirmed breeding in approximately 497 nest sites were submitted from 259 locations via a combination of the Hampshire Swifts online portal and the SwiftMapper App available for mobile phones (cf. 2019: 273 from 180 locations). Low-level screaming parties were reported in an additional 14 locations indicating a high probability of breeding in the immediate vicinity. One site alone, the North Milton estate in New Milton, scene of an acrimonious re-roofing project in 2011 which concluded with the creation of a large number of new nest sites as mitigation for those lost, contributed 38 nest sites following a comprehensive survey.

The Hampshire Swift survey was designed to record the exact locations of Swift nest sites for uploading into the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) database. All reports of Swift nest site locations should be entered onto the recording form found on the Hampshire Swifts website. Hampshire Swifts actively installs Swift boxes across the county but feedback on their success is scarce so all breeding records (Swifts or other species) should also be submitted.

Differentiating the start of return passage from large scale bad-weather movements and large 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. In addition, especially in years when arrival is delayed, it is not unusual for breeding to continue through into August and even September, albeit in much smaller numbers. In contrast to 2019 there were no three-figure counts in August. Double-figure counts exceeding 50 were 60 at Baffins Pond, Portsmouth on Aug 6th and 70 at North Milton Estate on Aug 14th. There were no reports of more than three in September, the last record being a single at Tournerbury on Sep 15th. (AMB)

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Very rare vagrant. (0,3,1)

An immature was seen and well photographed over Posbrook Floods, Titchfield from 16:55-17:25 on Oct 22nd (MF *et al.*, photo). It was observed feeding for 30 minutes over the flooded area with Swallows, coming as close as 20m at times before flying off SE. The next day what may have been the same bird was located between Pennington and Oxe Marsh and watched down to 80m from 11:50-12:05 (PFF, NRJ). It then disappeared and was not relocated despite birders descending onto the site. Both sightings have been accepted by BBRC.

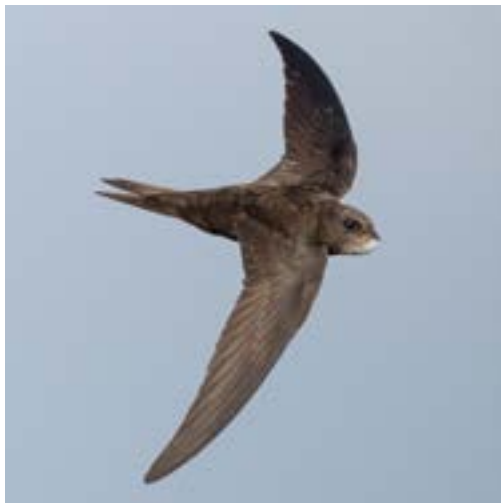
These sightings (assumed to be of the same bird) represent the third record for Hampshire. The first on May 20th 1983 at Farlington Marshes was only the second for Britain. The next record (of two birds) was not far away in Bedhampton on Oct 12th 2004. Nationally the species is a very rare spring vagrant, overshooting its Mediterranean breeding area, and a rare reverse migrant in autumn with most records coming from the east coast of Britain. (KFB)

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor.

Red, S41

Recorded from 288 tetrads (28%) in 50 ten km squares compared to 230 tetrads last year. An early return was at Yateley Common (MOD) on Mar 30th, but daily records only commenced from a more typical date of Apr 5th when singles were reported from Chandlers Ford, Godshill and Hale Purlieu, NF. There were 64 records of daily counts of more than three with three sites recording up to six at Bourley Heath on June 1st, Alderhill Inclosure, NF on May 7th and Hampton Ridge, NF on May 9th. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, over 1,200 reports were logged, including some duplications, with approximately 35% in the New Forest. A measure of



*Swift (left), Efford Lake, Lower Pennington, July 1st (Matt Barfield) and
Pallid Swift (right), Posbrook Floods, Oct 22nd (Mark Francis)*

numbers and distribution is given by summing the maximum monthly counts (2019 numbers in parentheses) in each of the 373 (290) one km squares with records as follows: Apr, 178 (150); May, 386 (266); June, 139 (89). On the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths respective totals of 20 and six territories were counted compared to 12 and eight in 2019 (Table 1).

Departing migrants began to appear at coastal sites in June, such as one at Frater Shore on 11th, and continued during July and August, e.g. at Sandy Point on July 15th and Aug 9th and Gunner Point, Hayling Island on Aug 31st. Two late juveniles in September were the last of the year at Chilling on 16th and Wootton Bridge NF on 27th. (SKW)

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Numerous resident.

Green

Seven locations reported three-figure flocks, the highest being up to 300 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 1st with over 150 there on several other dates that month. Other high counts were at Andover town centre (180, Jan 8th), Southampton Common (150, May 18-19th, 200, Aug 16th), Acres Down, NF (150, June 20th), Little Posbrook (200, Sep 1st), Stratfield Sturgis (130, Nov 6th) and Darby Green STW (110, Dec 24th). (MLC)

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Numerous resident and winter visitor.

Amber

In the first half-year grounded flocks of 100 or more were reported from Portsdown Hill (120, Mar 21st), Northney (106, May 15th) and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (110, May 12th; 127, June 4th; 110, June 14th). Higher numbers were recorded in the second half-year at Broughton (147, Sep 26th), Moorcourt Farm, Test Valley (400, Oct 9th; 200, Oct 20th; 100, Nov 6th; 120, Nov 17th and 200, Dec 23rd), Beacon Hill, Warnford (130, Dec 1st) and Wickham (110, Dec 31st).

In the regular autumn movement, significant numbers were already reported heading mostly SW at the beginning of September. Numbers continued to grow with multiple peaks observed at the inland watchpoints in mid-September, mid-October and early November with the highest one-day counts being 179 in two hours at Trigpoint Hill on Sep 18th and 194 at Tweseldown on Oct 12th (Table 8). In addition 180 were counted in three hours at Barton on Sea on Nov 5th. (MLC)

	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	393	704	406	535	656	150	630	147	129	35	8	18

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

The only grounded flocks to reach four figures in the early year were 2,000 at Skidmore on Jan 19th and 2,500 at Cheesefoot Head on Mar 1st.

Winter movements, or possible return passage, were detected at Tweseldown and Trigpoint Hill in the first four months of the year. From Jan 1st to Apr 29th a total of 907 headed high north or NE (max. 327, Feb 3rd at Tweseldown). The minor phenomenon of mid/late summer movements was also detected but remains ill-understood. From mid-June to early August over 1,300 were counted on the move, mostly SW, some in tight, high-flying groups.

No notable breeding counts/records were received, but this remains the most widespread and numerous breeding species according to BBS data (Table 3).

Autumn passage was widely observed but fairly unremarkable being mid-range in terms of total numbers although higher than the last two low years. Significant movements were detected earlier than usual in September but, as usual, the main concentration was at the

end of October and during early November. This included peak counts of 30,680 west at Barton on Sea during 3 hours 25 minutes on Nov 4th; 13,540 SW at Tweseldown in 3 hours 10 minutes on Nov 11th and 12,010 SW there on Nov 18th (Table 8).

An interesting feature (noted before but rarely so obvious) was a sudden switch to a preponderance of movements to the north and east from the third week of November. Also notable was the continuation of movements right up to the end of the year. There remains a great deal about Woodpigeon mobility that we do not understand. (SKW)

	Sep 1-14	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-14	Oct 15-21	Oct 22-28	Oct 29 -Nov 4	Nov 5-11	Nov 12-18	Nov 19-25	Nov 26- Dec 2	Dec 3-9	Dec 10-16	Dec 17-31	Totals
Moving SE/SW/ NW	775	124	60	403	7,266	136,769	63,588	49,435	4,185	4,998	172	100		267,875
Moving N/E				3			1,593	2,150	20,720	18,160	470	350	2,800	46,246
Totals	775	124	60	406	7,266	136,769	65,181	51,585	24,905	23,158	642	450	2,800	314,121
Days with movements	6	6	5	5	6	6	7	6	7	5	3	2	3	67

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP

The first spring arrivals were two at Martin Down on Apr 24th. Other migrants, all singles, were noted in early May at Botley Wood, Titchfield village, Gosport, Testwood Lakes and Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea. Later migrants were seen at Badminton GP and Hythe on June 7th.

At Oakhanger the overwintering adult was observed frequently during the first half of January, then consistently again after early March when it was joined by another in late May. Three were logged at this location in mid-July indicating successful breeding, with the last record of the year on Sep 27th.

Martin Down NNR continued to be the stronghold for the Hampshire breeding population with eight to 11 territories recorded during the annual coordinated one-day count in early June, although this was slightly lower than the 14 territories in the same area in 2019. The last record there was on Aug 26th. Other possible breeding records in the West Hampshire Downs came from Kitts Grave and Toyd Down in July. Records also came from the South Downs where there were up to five territories around Idsworth Down and Chalton Down, with immatures noted there in July and August. Also in the South Downs, a singing bird was observed at a traditional site at Shirrell Heath in early May, but not subsequently. The only other records were one or two using a garden bird bath in Upper Froyle on two occasions in June, indicative of possible local breeding, and an immature at Hillier Garden Centre, Liss on Aug 28th which was likely to have been a departing migrant. (MJA)

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Four locations recorded 50 or more, the highest count being 103 at Little Posbrook on Oct 21st following 61 at Upper Farm there on Oct 3rd. The other sites were Lower Test Marshes (50, Aug 27th; 55, Sep 4th), Neatham Farms, Wyck (71, Oct 8th; 88, Nov 18th; 73, Dec 23rd) and Wade Court, Havant (58, Nov 17th). No significant movements were noted, the highest at inland watchpoints being a flock of five NE at Trigpoint Hill on Aug 24th. (MLC)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records for January to April involved a minimum of 128 at 62 sites (cf. 2019: 150 at 71 sites). Locations at which five or more were recorded included IBM Lakes (5, Jan 1st; 5, Mar 6th), Titchfield Haven (monthly max. 8, Jan 10th; 14, Feb 6th) and Fishlake Meadows (monthly max. 15, Jan 18th; 12, Feb 10th; 12, Mar 8th; 11, Apr 7th). Nocturnal flight calls were also recorded from St. Cross, Winchester (Apr 3rd-July 14th) and Hinton Ampner (Apr 22nd).

Breeding was suspected or confirmed at 16 sites with fledged young noted at Bishop's Dyke, Farlington Marshes, Fishlake Meadows, Hook-with-Warsash, Puttles Bridge, NF and Sturt Pond (Milford on Sea).

Records between September and December included a minimum total of 164 at 82 sites (cf. 2019: 168 at 67 sites). Locations at which five or more were recorded included Farlington Marshes (6, Oct 17th); IBM Lake (5, Nov 5th); Titchfield Haven (5, Oct 25th; 10, Nov 12th; 9, Dec 10th); Lower Test Marshes (5, Oct 17th); Ellingham Meadows, Somerley Park (7, Nov 5th); Fishlake Meadows (7, Sep 20th; 6, Oct 18th and Nov 29th; 5, Dec 13th; 9, Dec 29th) and Fleet Pond (12, Oct 26th). (JS)

Corncrake (Corn Crane) *Crex crex*

Last bred in 1959; very scarce passage migrant since 1960. (?69,1)

ET, Schedule 1, Red

At 09:30 on Apr 24th a bird was heard calling for several minutes at a range of 20-30m in a field of long grass and wild flowers at Warblington (PM-R). The observer waited a further 30 minutes but it was not heard again.

There have been six records this century, the most recent being in September 2014. Almost all records have been in autumn (mostly September). The last spring sighting was in May 1976. (KFB)

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Very scarce passage migrant, most frequent in autumn, and rare winter visitor; has bred. (?168,1)

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

A single was at the lake at Farlington Marshes on Oct 16th (MH et al., photo). (KFB)

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Green

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records where counts exceeded 25 are tabulated below. Some of the gaps in the table, especially in April, are testament to the effect of COVID-19 restrictions.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	38	62	45		7	7	4	8	31	37	19	52
Hampshire sectors	19	36	21		1	1	1	5	13	20	9	18
Farlington Marshes	72	63	26	41	36	30	21	32	38	44	74	72
Langstone Harbour	46	39	29		13	9	26	11	15	58	42	42
Portsmouth Harbour	40	33	26						29	39	48	39
Fleet Pond	2	6			29		6	5	30	30	30	30
King's Pond, Alton	23	17	9						44	31	14	42
Heath Pond, Petersfield	42	30	24	14	13	11	17	34	33	39	38	44

Other sites with counts of 25 or more included Yateley GP (31, Jan 10th; 37, Oct 15th), Emsworth (34, Feb 20th), Warblington Shore (29, Feb 8th), Hook-with-Warsash (31, Aug 31st), Stockbridge-Fullerton (31, Sep 28th) and Edenbrook CP (32, Oct 17th).

Breeding was widespread with counts of over ten juveniles reported at Titchfield Haven HCC Reserve (18, at least 6 broods) and Fleet Pond (15+ broods). (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

The WeBS totals were low at both ends of the year which was largely due to the declining numbers at Blashford Lakes which fell to the lowest level since 2003. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 100 (except for Chichester Harbour Hampshire Sectors) are tabulated below. The many gaps in the table compared to 2019, especially in April, are probably due to the effect of COVID-19 restrictions.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	305	234	77		26	28	53	113	171	203	220	266
Hampshire sectors	56	20	11		1	1			7	37	48	46
Blashford Lakes	723	275	103	1	8	129	152	350	372	413	545	320
Ivy Lake	59	20	24				18		13	40	40	200
Linbrook Lake	266	96	12						85	65	100	108
Rockford Lake	165	28	10						42	92	140	
Snails Lake	98	25	20						123	166	200	119
Lymington-Hurst	121	112	56	29	35	20	41	48	47	45	75	97
Dogmersfield Lake	2	6	5				45	57	99	102	64	30
Eversley GP	187	125	82					26	190	237	208	355
Yateley GP	187	146	96						98	122	99	142
Heath Pond, Petersfield	106	64	39	16	27	56	60	69	97	109	121	104
Testbourne Lake	50	20	12			14	40	100	180	190	170	150
WeBS count totals	2,105	1,462	777	24	121	195	308	339	1,650	1,997	1,964	1,968

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



Coot chick, Langstone Mill Pond, June 15th. (Richard Ford)

Other sites holding 50 or more included Ibsley Water (50, Mar 15th; 70, Sep 20th), Kingfisher Lake (92, Jan 12th), Alresford Pond (52, July 28th; 64, Aug 28th; 72, Sep 22nd; 91, Oct 1st), Farlington Marshes (51, Jan 1st; 53, Feb 8th; 50, Sep 8th; 52, Nov 23rd; 57, Dec 28th), Langstone Harbour (51, Jan 11th; 66, Feb 8th; 55, June 6th; 56, Oct 17th; 66, Dec 12th), Bramshill Park/Lake (51, Sep 19th; 55, Oct 16th; 55, Nov 29th; 62, Dec 28th), Kingsley (67, Dec 28th), Wyck (56, Nov 18th), Portsmouth Harbour (51, Oct 17th), Hill Head (56, Feb 6th; 80, Apr 25th), Posbrook Floods (52, Apr 29th; 60, May 18th), Titchfield Haven (61, Jan 10th; 66, Feb 6th), Upper Titchfield Haven (62, Apr 26th; 52, May 7th) and Three Halves Copse, Testbourne (50, Jan 7th; 55, July 3rd).

Breeding pairs and occupied nests were widely reported with counts of over ten fledged young at Farlington Marshes (12 in 6 broods) and Fleet Pond (15 from 8 broods) (JS)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

The decline in the maximum monthly WeBS totals noted in 2019 continued with the year maximum of 237 in January being 30% lower than the previous five-year mean. This appears to be part of a decline over the last six years, but may also be due to reduced coverage this pandemic year. 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	34	26	19			2	10	11	12	25	18	23
Portsmouth Harbour	11	44	66						15	17	24	45
Southampton Water	17	11	12	4	7	6	3	7	3	18	21	22
Lymington-Hurst	31	20	6		1		1	9	15	17	13	14
Blashford Lakes	21	23	13						25	15	20	15
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	23	9			5	9	13		28	35	13	18
Testbourne Lake	7	9	4			6	6	24	15	10	10	4
WeBS count totals	237	185	165	2	10	26	42	64	175	194	191	198

Double-figure counts were reported from another nine localities as follows: River Test, Stockbridge Common (11, Jan 29th); Burnt Common (15, Aug 24th); River Avon between Ringwood/Fordingbridge (14, Sep 20th); Neatham Farms, Wyck (10, Oct 8th); River Hamble below M27 (10, Oct 17th); The Grange Lake (11, Oct 20th), River Test, Longstock (12, Oct 22nd) and Titchfield Haven (11, Nov 12th). A traditional Boxing Day walk along the Basingstoke Canal from Greywell to Church Crookham produced the highest count (14) in 25 years (KFB).

Potential breeding was reported from 46 localities including 15 in the Test Valley. Successful breeding was confirmed at 22 sites with occupied nests at three more. The earliest young (2) were observed at Milton Pools on Apr 12th. Two broods were noted at Fawley Refinery (June 7th), Odiham Castle Walk (July 9th) and Neatham Farms, Wyck (Sep 3rd). Single broods were reported as follows (young count in parentheses): Bramshill Plantation (May 14th, 2); Wellhouse Farm, Bramshill (1, May 24th); Hook-with-Warsash (1, June 22nd); Hunton Pond (1, June 23rd); Busta Triangle (1, June 26th); Marchwood (4, June 28th); Bricksbury Hill (1, July 2nd); Farlington Marshes (1, July 9th); The Grange Lake (1, Aug 4th), Kings Pond, Alton (2, July 27th); Woolmer Pond (2 surviving, Aug 7th), Avington Lake (1, Aug 17th) and Bishop's Waltham Pond (2, Sep 23rd). (AFJC)

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Red

One flew east past Barton on Sea on Dec 16th (SGK) then it, or another, was at Testwood Lakes on 20th (SSK, IB). The next report was from Calshot on 27th flying south down Southampton Water at 14:00 (PFF). Presumably the same was viewed on the sea off Chilling Cliffs between 14:08 and 14:22 after which it departed NW landing on the sea off Fawley Refinery (DPH). (AFJC)

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Green

The WeBS total peaked at 239 in September, 30% down on the previous five-year mean but a slight increase compared to 2019. Monthly maxima at sites where counts exceeded 20 in two or more months are tabulated below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point-Sandy Point	15	27	14	2	2	2	1				20	31
Langstone Harbour	19	41	24	3	11	5	8	27	43	48	34	27
Portsmouth Harbour	27	33	16						6	19	83 ⁺	13
Hill Head-Brownwich	44	36	10	7						6	24	54
Southampton Water	38	32	27	5	13	6	4	12	7	22	22	38
Lymington-Hurst	12	16	13		6		1	1	26	9	24	10
Blashford Lakes	17	28	27		30	11	20	20	50	48	39	38
Eversley GP (Berks & Hants)	7	13	9						40	23	16	13
WeBS count totals	139	231	178	10	14	11	19	27	239	231	207	183

⁺ WeBS Low Tide Count

Notable counts were also recorded at Fishlake Meadows (16, Apr 12th), Fleet Pond (21, July 31st), Tundry Pond (18, Oct 5th) and Yateley GP (18, Dec 10th).

Nest building or young with adults were reported from 12 sites including six in the north-east. Coverage at Blashford Lakes was incomplete but young were present on at least three waters including three on Kingfisher Lake. On the River Test at Fishlake Meadows at least two pairs raised young and a pair with juvenile and two eggs was seen at Timsbury. A pair made several attempts on the River Meon at Titchfield Haven and was ultimately successful in raising one young on a late date. The only Itchen Valley record was a pair raising three young at Lakeside CP. In the north-east young were noted (numbers in parentheses) at Kingsley SP (1, June 15th; 4, Sep 15th); Fleet Pond (1, July 7th); Bramshill Lake (2 well-grown, July 22nd); Eversley GP (3 juv., Aug 20th) and Ewhurst Lake (1 large juv., Sep 8th). (AFJC)

Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe) *Podiceps auritus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

Regularly recorded in the West Solent in the early year between Lymington and Hurst until Mar 17th with peaks of five into the Oxey Lake roost on Jan 11th and Feb 15th and four on Mar 14th. Also reported off Needs Ore with five on Jan 20th and up to three until Mar 6th. There was a similar continuous presence at East Hayling between Black and Sandy Points from Jan 11th to Mar 14th with monthly peaks of six (Jan 15th), seven (Feb 21st) and five (Mar 14th). Elsewhere there were singles in Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours on three well-spaced dates (Jan 8th, Feb 5th and Mar 2nd) and between Hill Head and lower Southampton Water on seven dates until Mar 23rd, except for two off Weston Shore from Feb 13th to Mar 2nd and three there on the last date.



Great Crested Grebe adult with young, River Test, Timsbury, June 4th (Richard Jacobs)



Slavonian Grebe, Keyhaven, Feb 21st (Simon Buckell)

There were no confirmed reports in the late year until Nov 7th when one returned to Langstone Harbour, the fourth year in the last seven without a traditional October return. Thereafter numbers remained low. The only other November record was one at Sandy Point from 13th-26th. Both individuals stayed into December. Elsewhere two were off Needs Ore (13th, 26th) and singles were at Chilling Cliffs (5th), Hill Head (30th) and regular in the West Solent off Pennington Marshes from 4th with two on 8th. Monthly maxima at the previously tabulated sites are given below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point-Sandy Point	6	7	5								1	1
Langstone Harbour	1	1									1	1
Hill Head-Weston Shore	1	1	1									1
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	5	3	1									2
Lymington-Hurst	5	5	4									1
Approx. monthly totals	18	17	12								2	6

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

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

Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

The Langstone Harbour total peaked at 13 between Jan 5th and Feb 14th but was often reported as groups of nine and four until the last date of Mar 14th when nine were seen there. A group of four was seen off Weston Shore on the same date. At Blashford Lakes one or two were present on Ibsley Water until Mar 31st except for three on Jan 18th and four on Mar 18th. The only records elsewhere were singles at Dibden Bay (Jan 24th); the Jetty, Pennington Marshes (Mar 14th) and the last of the early year, in breeding plumage, which flew in from the east and landed on the sea at Sandy Point (Apr 18th). Transition into breeding plumage was noted at Langstone Harbour from Feb 14th and Blashford Lakes from Mar 1st.

The first returns were not reported until the unprecedented late date of Nov 4th when four were seen from the south end of Langstone Harbour. There were eight off the Hayling Oyster Beds the following day, nine from Nov 29th and ten from Dec 8th. Elsewhere the

only records were singles in December at Ibsley Water from 9th-31st and Oxey Lake on 11-12th and three off Hill Head on 24th. Monthly maxima from the principal localities and the approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	13	13	9								9	11
Hill Head to Weston Shore	1		4									3
Ibsley Water	3	2	4									3
Approx. monthly totals	18	15	18	1							10	17

Stone-curlew (Eurasian Stone-curlew) *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Scarce summer visitor and localized breeder. *ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP*

The first report was of two near Kingsclere on Mar 22nd. COVID-19 restrictions limited survey work around the time when birds were starting to breed, but despite this the volunteer team was able to get into the field in time to find chicks from the first broods. Close to full coverage was achieved. The RSPB team found 15 pairs on territory across the county, most of which were proved to have bred, with 23 nesting attempts in total, fledging a minimum of 16 young. This is a reduction on the 24 pairs found nesting in 2019 and reflects the fact that birds were not present at several sites. In addition it is understood that at least another eight pairs nested on land which is not signed up to the RSPB scheme. If these are included, Hampshire currently supports 29% of the breeding population in the Wessex area.

Autumn roosts started to gather early with 27 near Overton and 15 near Kingsclere on Aug 23rd. However close to Porton Down there were 57 on Sep 24th. Numbers near to Overton remained high with 35 on Sep 25th declining to six on Nov 1st and seven on Nov 3rd, which was the last sighting. There are very few November records and these are the first since 2005. (KFB)

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

Scarce resident and moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 3,711; 2002-07: 3,784; 2007-12: 3,110; 2012-17: 2,767. *VU, Amber*

WeBS counts were high compared to 2019 in January, February, March, June, July and December. The April WeBS count was prevented by COVID-19 restrictions.

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	1,034	949	360		155	311	467	1,390	922	707	1,123	1,063
Hampshire sectors	172	103	61		7	13	4	2		39	142	39
Black Point	156	109	31	2	2	2	12	35	70	135	134	142
Langstone Harbour	514	781	501	3	230	429	776	1,083	1,538	1,065	876	921
Portsmouth Harbour	500	136	120						359	367	705	1,050
Titchfield Haven	180	160	50	57	5	8	24	100	100	200	126	126
Hamble Estuary	114	123	131	91		40	124	173	281	330	150	221
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	34	43	32	5	4	7	35	54	66	54	35	28
Hythe	41	26	24	6	11	5	10	52	142	106	60	59
Calshot	610	500	400		40	2	1	98		633	250	540
Beaulieu Estuary	90	128	85			52	75	20	60	103	112	105
Lymington-Hurst	186	157	100	31	40	40	157	151	121	131	72	162
Sowley-Lymington	15	8	12		35		20	25	40	25		
WeBS count totals	2,792	2,126	1,515		260	520	1,058	1,289	2,319	2,663	2,431	3,225

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

Counts of breeding pairs from east to west along the coast were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): Oysterbeds LNR, 1; Langstone Harbour RSPB, 6; Farlington Marshes, 2; IBM Lake, 1 (1), Hook-with-Warsash, 1 (2); Northam, Southampton, 1 (3); Lower Test Marshes, 1; Hythe, 1; Calshot, 1; Needs Ore, 15 (16); Lymington-Hurst, 7 (8); Ibsley Water, 2 (3) and Testwood Lakes, 1. A nest with three eggs was reported at Sparkes Marina, Black Point. Young were reported at Ibsley Water, Langstone Harbour (2, Little Binness), Lymington-Hurst (8, Normandy and Fishtail Lagoons), Hook-with-Warsash (1), Lower Test Marshes (2) and Testwood Lakes (2).

Movements included 59 east at Barton on Sea on Aug 16th and 27 east at Milford on Sea on Aug 25th. One effect of COVID-19 restrictions may have been to encourage nocturnal observations. Reports were received from Hiltingbury (Mar 1st), Mercer Way, Romsey (Apr 3rd), Fishlake Meadows (Apr 17th), Hinton Ampner (Apr 24th), St. Cross, Winchester (Apr 27th; May 3rd and 25th; July 14th, 19th-21st and 28th; Aug 1st-2nd, 6th-9th), The Straight Mile, Ampfield (May 7th) and Bishop's Waltham (June 13th). (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 April WeBS count was prevented by COVID-19 restrictions. The highest winter and summer counts were at Farlington Marshes (41, Jan 1st, 29th; 41, Dec 14th, 19th, 24th) and Titchfield Haven (90 adults and 7 chicks, July 10th).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour:	32	44	23									40
Langstone Harbour/ Farlington Marshes	41	37	41	23	16	28	40	8	7	4	39	41
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1	5	25	51	32	36	90	42	18			
Hook-with-Warsash/ Hamble Estuary		1	2	6	3	5	5	1	3	2		
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore/ Park Shore	30	18	60	38	38	34	10		3	7	9	16
Lymington-Hurst	25	20	30	34	44	60	41	6	2	60	8	20
WeBS count totals	79	31	114		22	36	4		4	1	45	68

Other coastal sightings were at Weston Shore (1, Mar 4th), Portsmouth Harbour (16, Mar 14th), Black Point (3, May 3rd; 2 N, June 2nd; 1, Aug 31st), Gilkicker Point, Gosport (2, May 17th) and Pylewell Lake/Tanners Lane (5, July 11th; Aug 26th). Inland sightings occurred at Fleet Pond (2, Apr 4th), Alresford Pond (1, Apr 26th) and The Vyne Lake (1, Sep 1st).

Breeding was confirmed at Farlington Marshes (2 nests flooded out), Titchfield Haven (18 pairs raised 4 young), Hook-with-Warsash (2 pairs failed), Needs Ore (19 pairs raised at least 6 young); Lymington-Hurst (24 pairs raised 40+ young). At Needs Ore all failed at the main colony which dried out allowing predation; most moved to a second site where they fared better. At Farlington Marshes and Titchfield Haven numbers were swelled in July by the arrival of adults and juveniles fledged elsewhere.

Movements reported included Sandy Point (2 E, May 9th; 3 E, 12th; 1 N, 21st); Hurst Castle (1 E, Mar 28th; 10 E, Apr 5th) and Barton on Sea (10 W, Aug 30th). (JS)

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

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

VU, Red, S41, HBAP

The WeBS maximum of 3,437 in February was significantly lower than the peak of 3,822 in January 2019 and continues the downward trend in wintering numbers. The April WeBS count was prevented by COVID-19 restrictions.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	653	925	23		18	32	16	66	54	439	486	1,808
Hampshire sectors	139	268	15					1	23	17	75	241
Langstone Harbour	349	371	150	100	30	23	40	30	65	145	215	400
Titchfield Haven area	200	350	50	4	11	48	30	80	60	150	158	280
Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh	324	207				10	56	15			207	217
Dibden Bay	300	473	6	10	2					128	328	200
Hythe	250	234								1		85
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	800	600	400			37	39		99	212	601	600
Lymington-Hurst	500	575	114	150	50	25	50	76	175	337	450	985
Avon Valley: Sopley-Ringwood	15	40	67				28		22		207	125
Avon Valley: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl Blashford Lakes	300	150	80			42	20	86	156	15	25	208
Testwood Lakes/Moorcourt Farm	260	329	140	12	8	10			9	73	106	79
Winchester SF	513	409	15	0	1	1	0	5	0	20	130	250
WeBS count totals	2,927	3,437	328		26	82	175	148	577	1,157	2,030	2,938

Numbers wintering well inland have collapsed in recent years. The only counts to exceed 100 were from Bere Hill Farm, Whitchurch (300 with pigs, Jan 1st); Upton Grey/South Warnborough (100, Jan 4th; 190, Feb 8th; 120, Nov 14th); Willesley Warren (170, Jan 19th); Bouldsbury Farm (135, Mar 2nd); Wallers Ash (400 with pigs, Dec 5th); Trigpoint Hill (107, Dec 9th); Scotland Farm, Hook (130, Dec 25th).

Movements of 50 or more were noted at Black Point, Hayling Island (80 W, Jan 29th; 200 NW, Feb 4th) and Trigpoint Hill (65 NE, Jan 21st; 56 NE, Dec 8th; 130 NE, Dec 25th). On Nov 22nd 350 in flight over Marchwood were probably Dibden Bay birds.

Breeding season reports referred to approximately 142 territories or pairs (cf. 114 in 2019). The following localities reported three or more pairs (numbers in parentheses refer to 2019): Hucklesbrook Lakes, 7 (0); Ibsley Water, 4 (8); Ibsley/Harbridge WM, 3 (1); Needs Ore, 3+ (18); Gander Down/Ovington Down, 5 (1); Eccinswell, 3 (0); Shorley Farm, Cheriton, 5 (0); Lymington-Hurst, 25 (36); Farlington Marshes, 14 (34); Woolmer Pond, 3 (1); Burnt Common, 3 (0) and Testwood Lakes 10 (1). In addition, GWCT reported 68 pairs in the Hampshire part of their Avon Valley project (cf. 75 last year).

At least 20 juveniles were reported from the 25 pairs at Lymington-Hurst (Normandy, 5; Oxy, 1; Butts Lagoon, 2; Pennington Marshes, 8+; Fishtail Lagoon, 4; Keyhaven Marshes, 2; Balancing Pond, 4). At Farlington Marshes 14 pairs fledged seven young and at Testwood Lakes ten pairs fledged ten young. Other sites where chicks were seen included Needs Ore (6); Ford Farm, Greywell (2); Selborne (3); Woolmer Pond (4); Beaulieu Road (2); Black Down (1); Woodfidley (2); Broadley Inclosure (2); Fulliford Bog (4); Matley Holms (3); The Vyne

Lake (2); Rotherfield Park (2); Southleigh Forest; Titchfield Haven (5); Three Halves Copse, Testbourne and Posbrook Floods. (JS)

Golden Plover (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

ET, Green, HBAP

The last spring record was May 4th at Hurst Beach and the earliest return was on Aug 22nd at Langstone Harbour RSPB Reserve. The greatest numbers were recorded at Gander Down (900, Mar 1st) and Lymington-Hurst (650, Feb 8th).

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 WeBS	26	125							1	154	421	281
Hampshire sectors	500	600								400	500	280
Titchfield Haven area	70		100						1	9	20	
Hamble Estuary			139							100	125	129
Lymington-Hurst	600	650	375	10					3	260	470	625
Trigpoint Hill area	271	270	25							43	40	60
Middle Wallop area	50	50	200	100						120		
Gander Down/Cheesefoot Head area	200	2	900							100	20	230
Overton/Wootton St Lawrence area	150									120	20	6
Odiham area	500	9	100							200	35	250

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

Other sightings of 100 or more included Monk Sherborne (132, Jan 3rd); Ibsley/Harbridge WM (130, Jan 19th); Chilbolton Down (100, Mar 7th); Langstone Harbour (100, Mar 14th); Preston Candover (250, Mar 14th); Farleigh Wallop (150, Mar 20th and 28th); Farlington Marshes (100, Dec 2nd); Winchester SF (120, Dec 2nd; 150, Dec 11th - Cheesefoot Head birds over) and Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (100, Dec 20th). Nocturnal flight calls were recorded at St. Cross, Winchester on Apr 3rd and Oct 11th and 21st. (JS)

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Very rare vagrant. (0,6,1)

An adult or second-calendar year bird was at Farlington Marshes and in Langstone Harbour from Sep 21st to Oct 24th and again on 31st (JC *et al.*, photo). During this time it was seen at the Farlington lake on Sep 21st, Oct 19th and 20th – the last coinciding with very high tides.

Although there have only been six previous records, the most recent was at Keyhaven Lagoon for just a few minutes on Aug 13th 2019. That was an unusually early bird, with the majority having occurred in October and November. Nationally the species is being recorded far more frequently than in the recent past, so we can hope to see it more often. (KFB)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Amber, HBAP

The WeBS counts were greater than in 2019 for all months except May, November and December with a maximum of 1,027 in January compared to 999 in January 2019. The April WeBS count was prevented by COVID-19 restrictions.

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	620	864	38		35	14	3	140	323	483	720	530
Hampshire sectors	71	22	12						145	93	63	50
Langstone Harbour	400	336	59	50	8	45	71	201	356	588	446	499
Hamble Estuary	60	54	45				2	1	5	16	41	42
Hythe	108	89	3					10	4	11	20	24
Beaulieu Estuary	241	104	52		1			1	25	72	100	100
Sowley-Lymington	8	30	6					14	14	20	10	
Lymington-Hurst	67	64	125		2	1		30	68	80	75	53
WeBS count totals	1,027	671	189		8	45	71	213	611	868	720	803

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

Movements were reported only in small numbers including Sandy Point (1 E, Apr 16th; 8 E, May 5th) and Hurst Beach (10 E, May 5th). (JS)

Ringed Plover (Common Ringed Plover) *Charadrius hiaticula*

Scarce and declining breeder, moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 872; 2002-07: 809; 2007-12: 691; 2012-17: 630. Red

WeBS counts exceeded last year in January-March, June-September and December. The April WeBS count was prevented by COVID-19 restrictions. The highest count (608 in September) was significantly up on 2019 (cf. 495 in November 2019) but remains slightly lower than the previous 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 WeBS	139	65	33		54	8	24	430	57	63	5	39
Hampshire sectors	56											
Black Point	61	42	22		1	3	13	96	65	79	54	49
Sandy Point							15	82	160	112	25	
Hayling Island - Gunner Point to Beachlands	40	100	159						38		100	100
Langstone Harbour	66	30						150	190	74	145	80
Portsmouth Harbour	22									27	40	
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head									20			25
Hamble Estuary	22	37	30					50		45	40	45
Weston Shore										27	30	
Hythe/Calshot		30						41	31		70	
Lepe		30						71	35	72	25	
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	31					20		91	59	80	47	22
Lymington-Hurst	38	127	20		30			150	177	45	40	40
WeBS count totals	287	287	220		11	37	11	414	608	321	426	253

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

Other sites where over 20 were observed included Pylewell Lake/Tanners Lane (30, Aug 16th); Peartree Green, Southampton (20, Dec 15th) and Browndown South (20, Oct 2nd).

Breeding pairs, territorial or nesting activity were reported in the following localities (pair numbers in parentheses refer to 2019): Langstone Harbour RSPB, 3; Gunner Point, Hayling Island, 2 (0); Cadland North Solent NNR, 1 (0); Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, 18 (15); Lymington-Hurst, 3 (2) with nests reported at Oxey/Pennington and Normandy, The Kench,

Hayling Island, 1 (0); Hook-with-Warsash, 2 (1); Cracknore Hard, 1 (1) and Calshot, 1 (0). Fledged young were noted at Blashford Lakes (1); Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (1); The Kench, Hayling Island (2); Burnt Common (2); Hook-with-Warsash (4) and Cracknore Hard (4).

The only daytime movements reported were at Hurst Beach (9 E, May 4th) and Barton on Sea (3 W, Sep 15th). Nocturnal flight calls were heard in May at St. Cross, Winchester (min. 2 with Dunlin, 3rd; 1, 16th; 1, 20th). Inland reports included up to three at Burnt Common between Apr 8th and July 26th and one that flew over Alresford Pond on Aug 14th. (JS)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

The first arrival was at Edenbrook CP on Mar 16th. Three were at Eversley Common on 18th and records followed from a further nine sites before the end of the month including four on floods at Skidmore from 26th and three on floods at Romsey on 27th. Five were at Skidmore on Apr 1st but all had departed by 3rd when the floods dried up. Subsequent records in April and May were largely at or adjacent to known breeding sites apart from two at Farlington Marshes on Mar 20th and singles there on four dates between Apr 15th and May 13th, one or two at Titchfield Haven and Posbrook Floods on five dates between May 1st and 27th and a group of four roosting at Curbridge on May 4th which left east. Intriguingly, one was recorded at night over St. Cross, Winchester on three dates between May 2nd and June 9th although no breeding sites are currently known in the vicinity.

Possibly 31 pairs were present during the breeding season but evidence of successful breeding was scant with only 16 fledged juveniles noted and small chicks or distraction display observed at three further sites as shown below.

Site	Pairs present	Breeding data
Abbottswood, Romsey	2	No young recorded
Bourley & Long Valley and nearby	1	No young recorded
Burnt Common	4	2 juvs raised
Busta Triangle	1	No young recorded
Downton	1	Distraction display noted but no young recorded
Edenbrook CP	2	4 juvs on June 30th; not raised on site but possibly on nearby building sites
Eversley Common	2	1 juv and 1 half-grown chick on June 26th
Fishtail Lagoon	2	1 hatched young; 3 juvs may have originated from this pair
Ibsley Water	3-5	No young recorded
Kingsley SP	1	No young recorded
Marchwood GP	1	No young recorded
Normandy Lagoon	2	1 hatched young but probably did not fledge
Rampton's Lane GP	1	No young recorded
Ripley Farm Reservoir	2	No young recorded
Testbourne Lake and nearby	0.5	Adult on July 3rd the only record
Testwood Lakes	2	6 juvs raised
Woolmer Forest	1	No young recorded
Yateley Heath Wood	1	2 small chicks on May 30th

Autumn passage records came from Lower Test Marshes (1, five dates, June 5th to July 13th), Farlington Marshes (adults from June 20th, juvs from July 1st, max. 4 ad and 8 juvs on July 10th; 10 still on July 24th but only 2 juvs in August, last on 13th), Hook-with-Warsash (adult, June 25th; a pair mating July 1st; 2 juvs July 11th; 4 ad and 1 juv, July 13th; 1-2 juvs Aug 9th-18th), Titchfield Haven (1-2 ad, July 2nd-20th; 1 juv July 20th; 1 ad Aug 14th-22nd), Heath Pond (2 juvs, July 11th; 1, Aug 7th), The Vyne (1-2 juvs, July 13th-22nd), Needs Ore (1, July



*Juvenile Little Ringed Plover, Keyhaven, July 14th
(Matthew Barfield)*



*Kentish Plover, Black Point, Sep 25th (Andy
Johnson)*

24th and 31st) and Alresford Pond (1, Aug 16th). None was seen after Aug 23rd apart from one at Ibsley Water on Sep 3rd, two at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Sep 7th and 14th and a juvenile at Farlington Marshes from Sep 14th-21st. (JMC)

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Rare passage migrant with one wintering record. (2,57,2)

ET, Schedule 1

A female was at Weston Shore from 06:30-06:45 on June 11th (IP, IRW, photo). A juvenile was at the high tide roost at Black Point, Hayling Island until 09:50 on Sep 25th when it flew to open mud as the tide dropped (ACJ *et al.*, photo). This bird was also seen at Pilsea Island in West Sussex between Sep 19th and Oct 7th. Both records have been accepted by BBRC.

The species was not seen between 2009 and 2017, but there have been four records since then. Internationally it is very common but in recent years it has declined as a breeding species in some countries such as the Netherlands which may explain the reduction in UK sightings. (KFB)

Dotterel (Eurasian Dotterel) *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage migrant with one wintering record. (8,112,4)

ET, Schedule 1, Red

A group of four was seen flying SW over Trigpoint Hill during a visible migration watch at 08:15 on Aug 24th (DAT).

Although we often think of Dotterel as a spring migrant in early May, there have been eight previous records in August and seven in September. (KFB)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Schedule 1, Red

In the first two months of the year there were regular sightings of singles in the Lymington and Eling/Bury Marsh areas. In March three were seen on the WeBS count in Chichester Harbour on 14th and one was seen on two dates in Langstone Harbour. Returning birds were first reported on Apr 3rd with one in Langstone Harbour followed by others on 5th including six flying over Normandy Farm. Small numbers were recorded along the coast throughout April and May. Notable grounded flocks of over 30 were recorded in April at

Farlington Marshes (38, 24th) and Frater Shore, Portsmouth Harbour (36, 24th; 78, 25th; 54, 26th) and in May at the latter site (49, 6th).

Passage was noted between Apr 5th and June 11th, the first being two past Sandy Point and seven past Hill Head. In total 541 were recorded flying east or north along the coast. At Hurst/Keyhaven 161 were recorded (peaks of 60, Apr 24th; 39, Apr 26th and 35, May 5th); at Sandy Point 316 were recorded (peak counts of 74, Apr 17th and 35, Apr 23rd) and at Hill Head 85 were recorded (peak of 40, Apr 24th). There was an increase in inland records, partly due to more nocturnal recording, with 32 widespread reports, mostly of single figures, with one daytime double-figure count of 14 at Fleet Pond on Apr 18th. On May 3rd there were four evening/night-time counts with three maybe relating to the same birds (9 over Fishlake Meadows, 10 over Allbrook and 12 over St. Cross, Winchester) and the fourth comprising 49 calls recorded in 2.5 minutes over the observer's house in Sholing at 22:00.

Numerous records followed throughout June, those seen on 13th and afterwards being presumed to be returning birds including three at Emsworth. Apart from one heard at night over Fishlake Meadows on June 24th, all were in the east of the county with a maximum of seven at Farlington Marshes on 22nd. Numbers in July and August remained low with single figures along the coast, the only double-figure counts being at Frater Shore in July (13, 12th; 36, 18th; 21, 19th and 27, 20th), Langstone Harbour (89, July 24th; 28, Aug 10th) and Bury Marshes (10, Aug 10th). Two were recorded at night over St. Cross, Winchester on Aug 1st. In September small numbers of five or less remained along the coast apart from 30 at Needs Ore on 10th and ten at Bury Marshes on 19th. In October there were reports from Needs Ore with one on three dates, one at Bunny Meadows on 4th, one or two at Hayling Island up to 9th and up to six at Bury Marshes until 17th. In November and December there were regular reports of up to three at Eling/Bury Marshes and one at Lepe on Dec 8th. (ASR)

Curlew† (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata*

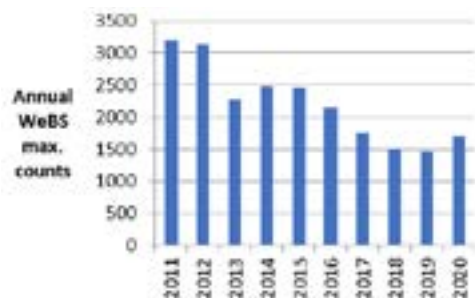
Common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce and declining breeder, mainly in the New Forest. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 2,850; 2002-07: 3,078; 2007-12: 2,933; 2012-17: 2,493.

VU, Red, S4I

WeBS numbers remained similar to December 2019 with the total of 1,223 in the first part of the year and consistent numbers seen along the coast at the main high tide roosts. Inland records were more widespread with records from Moorcourt Farm (4, Mar 1st), Avon Valley (5, Mar 8th; 1 W, Mar 17th; 1, Apr 2nd and 23rd; 1, May 2nd and 16th, and 1 W, Sep 1st), on the pits in Burnt Common (1, Mar 8th) - a first record for the site, Aldershot (2 NW, Mar 24th), St. Cross, Winchester (3 nocturnal records of singles (Apr 2nd, June 8th and 25th), Fishlake Meadows (1, June 14th), Fleet Pond (1, Apr 24th and June 20th), Ford Farm, Greywell (1, May 3rd) and Woolmer Pond (1 SW, May 24th),

Comprehensive coverage of breeding Curlews in the New Forest revealed 50 territories occupied by 46 breeding pairs. At least 14 nests subsequently hatched chicks but predation quickly followed resulting in successful fledging at only two sites of just one and two young respectively. Fuller details are given in a note elsewhere in this report.

Although numbers in the second half of the year were well below the last five-year average (see header) continuing the downward trend over the last ten years (see histogram), the peak WeBS count of 1,702 in September was the highest recorded since 2017. Numbers remained high in October before reducing in November.



Annual maximum WeBS counts for Curlew 2011-2020

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	858	989	944		17	70	633	704	1,341	1,325	893	675
Hampshire sectors	151	228	271	1		10	1	1	495	440	276	190
Langstone Harbour	340	406	406	25	98	101	985	729	589	748	281	467
Portsmouth Harbour	250	78	63	84	9	84	187	90	112	36	305	74
Southampton Water	236	230	269		2	2	4	119	131	139	267	351
Beaulieu Estuary	109	131	90	1	25	22	25	93	186	161	161	168
Sowley-Lymington	1	12	6				16	50	54	9		
Lymington-Hurst	224	123	100	1	7	35	184	72	213	164	170	179
WeBS count totals	1,234	1,176	1,137		100	152	1,098	983	1,702	1,698	1,218	1,418

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

Bar-tailed Godwit† *Limosa lapponica*

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

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

ET, Amber, HBAP

WeBS numbers remained low with only two months recording three-figure counts (178 in January and 176 in February). The higher numbers frequenting Chichester Harbour were recorded almost solely from the West Sussex side with just a few records at Black Point. The highest count of the year was 180 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 11th. In the early part of the year there were also two notable counts away from the tabulated sites of 24 at Tanners Lane on Mar 31st and 38 there on May 15th.

Spring passage occurred between Apr 12th and May 13th with a minimum of 223 recorded. Double-figure counts were reported at Sandy Point between Apr 23rd-25th (peak 65, 24th) and Hill Head (12, Apr 26th and 15, May 4th). Inland records came from Ibsley Water (1, Apr 6th), Fleet Pond (1, Apr 16th; 10 N, Apr 28th; 5 NE, May 5th) and Busta Triangle (1, Sep 28th). Nocturnal migration was also recorded in April from Ampfield (2 N, 3rd; 4, 19th), Overton (1, 7th), Snails Lake (singles on 13th and 15th) and Fishlake Meadows (1, 24th) and in May from St. Cross, Winchester (1, 21st). On Apr 30th feathers identified as this species were found at St. Mary's Church in Andover below the Peregrine nest.

Up to six were recorded in June and one or two in early July in Langstone Harbour, Lymington-Hurst, Titchfield Haven, Sandy and Black Points with the first double-figure count of returning birds being at Black Point with 15 on 19th. Three-figure counts in the latter part of the year were recorded in Langstone Harbour (100, Aug 5th; 123, Sep 7th; 105, Dec 12th and 125 Dec 28th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	400	458	1			6		132	27	99	220	162
Hampshire sectors										2		
Black Point	1	1	4	1	1		15	3	1	1		4
Langstone Harbour	180	172	9	28	1	5	13	100	123	19	25	125
Titchfield Haven-Chilling			20	2			1		20	4		50
Lymington-Hurst	30	10	25	5	1	6	2	2	6	20	8	5
WeBS count totals	178	176	11		1	5	13	11	11	26	10	110

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

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

European Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*

Status uncertain, probably scarce visitor. *VU, Schedule I, Red, S4I, HBAP.*

The colour-ringed male first seen as a juvenile on July 13th 2018 at Titchfield Haven was seen again there this year between July 23rd-26th. In May 2018 his parents were unable to nest on the Nene Washes due to flooding and so they attempted to nest on nearby farmland from where his egg was collected and incubated at WWT Welney. He hatched on May 19th 2018 and was released on June 19th 2018 (pers. comm. C. Button/J. Smart). A separate juvenile was also present at Titchfield Haven on July 25th and 26th this year in a flock of 78 *islandica*. (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 I, Red, S4I, HBAP

Although the WeBS counts remained low in the early part of the year, higher numbers were separately recorded with a large flock of 1,000 at Wattons Ford, Avon Causeway on Jan 2nd followed by a low tide count of 398 at Bury Marshes on 18th. Whilst there was no WeBS count in April due to COVID-19, numbers built up at Ibsley Water from March 23rd with 873 peaking at 2,000 on April 4th and 8th.

WeBS counts in the latter part of the year were similar to 2019 peaking at 1,311 in October. Away from Avon Valley there were inland records from Testwood Lakes (1, Feb 22nd and 23rd), Totton (41 E, Mar 24th), Fleet Pond (4 N, Apr 6th), Hiltigbury, Chandler's Ford (1 SW, Apr 27th), Alresford Pond (3, July 1st; 4, July 30th with 1 remaining until Aug 4th) and The Vyne Lake (1, July 10th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	42	351	5			1	5	146	64	857	457	644
Hampshire sectors		1						6		23	2	5
Langstone Harbour	200	2	90	75	39	53	430	505	665	699	163	130
Portsmouth Harbour	2		132	1			1	32	288	210	629	84
Titchfield Haven	100	190	275	100	100	38	120	100	120	50	90	77
Hamble Estuary	108	126	73	73		194	202	273	251	202	40	26
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	398	369	47	5				53	67	78	192	237
Hythe-Calshot	30	10	1				72	61	15	26	65	37
Beaulieu Estuary	20	35	2		5	20	36	38	50	9	1	52
Lymington-Hurst	170	10	35	80	50	110	61	50	220	212	180	125
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	1,000		250								12	
Blashford Lakes	75		873	2,000			1	7	1	1	28	14
WeBS count totals	425	445	521		15	15	533	754	550	1,311	980	761

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

Turnstone† (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres*

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

WeBS numbers started the year broadly the same as December 2019 and, as in previous years, increased by March. Although the WeBS totals for May and June were both only four, other numbers recorded in these two months outside of WeBS were unusually high with a large three-figure flock remaining in Chichester Harbour at Black Point peaking at 111 on June 1st. Elsewhere there were small numbers along the coast with the regular flock at Hill Head peaking at 28 on May 21st and 35 at Langstone Harbour on June 17th. One was also recorded at night over St.Cross, Winchester on May 3rd.

Autumn passage started in late July with increased numbers at all the main coastal sites with the flock at Black Point rising to 140 on July 24th. Unlike the previous two years, numbers rose again in August with three-figure counts of 100 at Lepe on 6th and 183 in Langstone Harbour on 22nd. Numbers continued to rise from September until November with a WeBS peak of 729 and the highest count of the year being 383 in Portsmouth Harbour on 1st.

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	202	183	122		9	1	13	5	35	36	232	105
Hampshire Sectors	17	12	22		100	111	140	16	15	20	20	8
Langstone Harbour	95	102	204	30	1	35	41	183	245	292	100	154
Portsmouth Harbour	1	11	81	60			1	3	87	200	383	35
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/ Brownwich	80	62	77	67	28	13	21	86	88	82	60	60
Hamble Estuary	96	107	63	10	1	11	64	54	84	69	101	93
Weston Shore (L)	30	40		10	4	1	2	1	25	31	36	30
Hythe-Calshot	13	34	76	2		2	43	118	44	38	75	70
Lepe (L)	80	31	44	40	14		42	102	120	142	41	30
Beaulieu Estuary	27	2	53				9		16	51	111	26
Sowley-Lymington	2	2						75	6	25		
Lymington-Hurst	103	77	81	36	12	14	43	41	164	75	128	62
WeBS count totals	439	365	586		4	4	84	279	528	724	729	435

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

Knot (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*

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

Amber, HBAP

The January WeBS total of 1,213 was the highest since December 2018. This was due to 600 recorded at Langstone Harbour on 11th, the highest number at this site since January 2007, followed by 471 at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary on 12th. Numbers dropped back in February, although a count of 650 at Inchmery on 17th was missed by WeBS, and in March the WeBS total was down to 63. The Beaulieu Estuary flock was also seen at Lepe with 360 recorded on Jan 1st, the highest count at that site, and Mar 2nd when the site record was broken again with 400 present. Passage was recorded on two dates at Hurst (28 E, Apr 28th; 3 E, May 5th). There was one summer record of 13 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on June 6th.

The first return was on July 10th with one at Keyhaven followed by another at Titchfield Haven the next day. Numbers remained low until Sep 29th when a flock of 180 was recorded at Langstone Harbour which reached a peak of 351 on Dec 12th. Other high counts in December were 318 at Oxy/Pennington Marshes on 15th and 220 at Black Point on 26th. One was recorded over St. Cross, Winchester on the night of Nov 4th/5th.

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	952	630	38					7	16	76	400	80
Hampshire sectors	142		37							65		
Black Point	200	170	50					30	72	45	50	220
Langstone Harbour	600	311	12	49	11		1	25	180	29	33	351
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	471	650	400					1	1	1	164	16
Sowley-Lymington			9		25							
Lymington-Hurst	50	60	6	8		13	1	4	29	20	125	318
WeBS count totals	1,213	400	63					22	114	95	201	380

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

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

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

In the first two months of the year the only reports were from Keyhaven-Hurst with a maximum of five until March 14th when numbers increased to 12. The first to be reported elsewhere was one at Posbrook Floods on Mar 30th which remained until Apr 6th. Up to four were also recorded at Keyhaven until 3rd followed by one or two there until May 13th. There was one summer record of one at Needs Ore on June 9th.

Return passage started on July 3rd with one at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes followed by one, possibly the same moulting male, at Farlington Marshes on 13th remaining until 21st. On Aug 26th one was briefly seen at Weston Shore and possibly the same at Titchfield Haven where it remained until Sep 15th. Other records in September came from the Keyhaven area with one up to 2nd and another from 26th, one at Farlington Marshes seen occasionally from 5th throughout the month, a juvenile at Ibsley Water from 22nd to 25th, and one at Burnt Common, the first record for this site, on 28th. In the last three months of the year one to three were reported from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes until the end of the year. Elsewhere singles were at Farlington Marshes during the first ten days of October and Titchfield Haven on Nov 2nd.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (ASR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	5	13	5	3	1	1	2	10	3	5	3

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

The first arrival was in breeding plumage at Farlington Marshes on Apr 24th and 25th. The next was at Normandy Marsh on Apr 29th and another there on May 4th. A separate individual was at Keyhaven Marshes on May 14th and the last of spring was at Farlington Marshes on May 26th and 27th.

Early autumn passage was almost non-existent with only a single at Keyhaven on July 11th. There were no further reports until Aug 20th, when there was a juvenile at Farlington Marshes, with up to three to the end of the month. The only other August records were one to three at Keyhaven/Pennington on four dates. These included two adults – the only birds reported as adults in the autumn apart from one at Titchfield Haven on Sep 2nd-4th and another from the same area on Sep 11th. Passage numbers were rather higher than recent years amounting to at least 37. This included daily counts in the first half of September up to a maximum of 15 on 4th at Farlington Marshes, with ones and twos into early October. Counts at Keyhaven/Pennington in September were lower and later with a maximum of six on Sep 17th and counts of up to three to month's end. Elsewhere there were one or two at Titchfield Haven between Sep 2nd and 6th and one on 30th, plus one nearby at Hook-with-Warsash on 17th. On the north shore of Chichester Harbour there were one or two on five dates between 7th and Oct 2nd. The last of the autumn were three at Hurst on Oct 12th. There was also a winterer at Coniger Point on north shore of Chichester Harbour on Dec 2nd and 9th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			2	3		1	6	25	6		1

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor. *Amber, HBAP*

As usual wintering birds were largely confined to sites east of Southampton Water. Records from the main sites, Black Point and Sandy Point, are likely to refer to the same birds which

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

Away from the tabulated sites, reports in the early winter period and spring included small flocks of up to 16 on 19 dates until June 7th in the Lymington-Hurst area. Spring passage at Weston Shore totalled 38 between May 18th and June 3rd including 25 on May 21st. At Needs Ore there were three on June 7th. Reports of coastal spring passage were fewer than in 2019 with a total of 30 east at Hurst Beach on four dates between Apr 12th and June 7th, including a maximum of ten on May 4th and 7th. The only other spring passage reported was a total of 13 east on three dates at Sandy Point. Eight at Farlington Lake on May 28th and six nearby in Langstone Harbour on June 3rd were unusual at these locations and were also considered to be passage migrants.

From July 20th there were single-figure flocks on 13 dates in the Lymington-Hurst area except for 50 on Nov 14th. At Needs Ore and nearby at Lepe CP there were up to seven on 12 dates between Aug 19th and Oct 6th. Two east at Hurst on July 20th was the only report of coastal autumn passage. However, there was a nocturnal flight record of a flock of at least three at St. Cross, Winchester on Aug 26th/27th. There was also an interesting inland record of a moulting adult at Burnt Common on Aug 14th, the first for the Basingstoke area. Autumn/winter records from other sites were restricted to Hythe (1, Aug 15th), Emsworth (5, Oct 23rd) and Southsea Castle (1, Nov 24th; 70, Dec 30th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	35	70	100	4	60		28	6	21	90	100	106
Sandy Point-Gunner Point		6	69	100	60	4	15	216	150	330	250	30
Langstone Harbour	45	10	18		8	6			3	1	80	205
Hill Head-Brownwich	50	67	96	95	40		1	2	15	85	145	61
Hook-with-Warsash	41	36	48		33	1	3	2	2	4	86	32

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 numbers at the end of the year were somewhat lower than the late winter of the previous year, with the peak in December rather than November. The maximum WeBS count of 16,929 in 2020 was over 6,000 lower than the mean maximum for the preceding five-year periods (in header) in keeping with the long-term downward trend.

In the early year to end March, away from the tabulated sites, there were two-figure counts at Gunner Point, Hayling (80, Jan 11th; 49, Mar 10th) and Dibden Bay (31, Jan 20th). In the Titchfield Haven area there were small groups on 16 dates (max. 7, Jan 28th). The only inland record in this period was one located by nocturnal flight call over St. Cross, Winchester on Mar 20th.

Reports of eastward migration through The Solent in spring came from Sandy Point (with total of 91 on nine dates between Apr 10th and May 13th) and Hurst (173 E on May 4th). Up to 17 grounded migrants were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on 13 dates between Apr 8th and June 16th. Other coastal migrants were at Weston Shore (2, May 4th; 3, May 23rd) and Hook-with-Warsash (3, May 7th; 1, May 19th and 20th). Inland records of singles

in spring came from Ibsley Water (May 3rd) and Burnt Common (Mortimer West End) (Apr 25th). Migrants located by nocturnal calls passed over St. Cross, Winchester (1, Apr 4th, 18th and 29th; 5 singles and party of 3, May 3rd), Ashurst (1, Apr 16th) and Ampfield (1, Apr 18th).

Inland return passage was reported from Alresford Pond with singles on Aug 12th-18th, Ibsley Water (5 dates between Aug 19th and Oct 14th with max. 3, Aug 25th), Fleet Pond (1, Sep 26th) and Burnt Common (1, Sep 28th-29th). Small numbers were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on 39 dates between July 7th and Oct 16th (max. 25, Sep 17th) and other coastal sites between July 21st and Oct 20th (max. 15, Oct 15th at Ashlett Creek/Calshot). A nocturnal migrant was also identified on call on July 30th at Sholing, Southampton.

In the late year, away from the tabulated sites, there were three-figure flocks at Gunner Point, Hayling (300, Oct 30th; 250, Nov 1st; 500, Oct 18th; 500, Dec 14th) and Calshot (210, Nov 14th). The Low Tide Count in Portsmouth Harbour recorded 6,138 on Nov 1st. There were also small groups, mainly of single figures, in the Titchfield Haven area on 14 dates (max. 50, Nov 14th). Inland reports located by nocturnal flight call were over St. Cross, Winchester (1, Nov 3rd; 3, 7th; 1, 8th) and Blashford Lakes (1, Nov 27th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	7,035	6,358	138		24		1,200	371	99	1,166	3,334	3,529
Hampshire sectors	703	11	63						1	170	20	
Sandy Point		100	30	12	21		2	12	70	33	2	
Black Point	8,000	4,000	400		40		200	12	18	300	8,000	10,000
Langstone Harbour	8,125	11,885	109	46	9	14	2,020	223	2,252	4,041	7,421	8,305
Portsmouth Harbour	2,000	2,084					1	43	3	133	2,723	3,229
Hamble Estuary (L)	331	300	300		3		9	20	32	27	410	347
Hythe	1,200	1,000	780	2		1	6	8	2	200	850	1,700
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	726	230	92		2	1	21	10	76	346	867	824
Lepe CP (L)		400	40				2	20	1	257	450	17
Sowley-Lymington	500	400	110						12	200	700	
Lymington-Hurst	2,000	1,410	310	32	60	5	120	262	285	476	2,440	1,810
WeBS count totals	12,893	16,929	682		12	14	437	495	2,661	5,910	15,658	16,536

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

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Amber

With reports of up to 13 on 46 dates in the early winter period and spring, the main site continued to be Southsea Castle. The last sighting there was three on Apr 26th and the first returns were nine on Nov 8th followed by reports of up to 15 on a further 20 dates up to the end of the year.

Away from Southsea there was one reported on most days from the start of the year to Feb 8th at Oxey Marsh. The only other early year record was 16 at Chewton Bunny on Mar 3rd. The first of the second winter period was one at Dibden Bay on Sep 29th followed by singles at Oxey Marsh on Oct 9th, Lepe CP and Hurst Beach both on Nov 2nd, and Gunner Point and Sandy Point, Hayling on Nov 3rd and 4th respectively. There was then a series of records from Barton on Sea on ten dates between Nov 8th and Dec 8th (peak 26, Nov 23rd). During this period there were reports of one to three on four dates from Hurst Beach, possibly involving the Barton on Sea birds. The last of the year were two at Sturt Pond on Dec 27th and 28 at Chewton Bunny the following day. This is the highest count in Hampshire since 32 were at Southsea in March 1982.



Purple Sandpiper, Southsea Castle, Mar 2nd (Simon Buckell)

The sightings at Chewton Bunny and Barton on Sea refer to the flock usually resident at Mudeford Quay, Dorset. The flock evidently preferred Hampshire in the late year as the maximum recorded at Mudeford was nine.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	13	13	12							13	15

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

Green

In spring there were singles in summer plumage at Pennington Marshes on May 7th and June 6th-7th.

The autumn minimum total of 15 was an increase on the lowest ever total of ten in 2019. In July and early August, when most in Hampshire are adults, there were singles at Pennington Marshes on July 19th and 25th and another at Farlington Marshes on Aug 10th. There were no further records until Aug 31st when one was at Titchfield Haven staying until Sep 4th followed by reports there on Sep 10th and 12th and the final record of one on Sep 29th which stayed until Oct 1st. There was one at Farlington Marshes on Sep 1st and 14th with a second on 15th and other singles on Sep 26th and 30th. The last report there was of two on Oct 3rd. The bulk of the other records came from Pennington Marshes and nearby with the first on Sep 14th followed by reports on 12 days between Sep 17th and Oct 6th with the last on Oct 20th. All were singles apart from four on Sep 19th, 20th, 22nd and two on Sep 21st and 25th. The only other records, all singles, were at Needs Ore on Oct 5th, 7th, 18th and 20th.



*Little Stint, Titchfield Haven, Sep 3rd
(Mark Francis)*

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

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

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Rare passage migrant recorded in every month from May to October. (1,95,5)

It was an excellent year with five records of a presumed four birds after a blank year in 2019. One was seen to fly NW over Sandy Point, Hayling Island at 09:03 on Aug 24th and then it passed over again heading south at 13:05 on 25th (ACJ). Others were at Farlington Marshes from Sep 6th-11th (GMW *et al.*, photo), Titchfield Haven from Sep 17th-18th (MHT *et al.*, photo) and Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on Sep 19th (PRD, photo). (KFB)



Pectoral Sandpiper, Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes, Sep 19th (Lee Fuller)

Woodcock† (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

Red

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 115 at 56 sites. Unlike 2019 (when there was only one), there were 16 totals of more than three with site maxima as follows: Wyck (17), Newton Valence (13), Biddenfield Farm near Botley Wood (7), Northbrook (6), Redenham Park (5), Lasham (5) and Frater Shore (5). Away from these sites there were counts of three at Oxenbourne Down and Hut Wood. All other sightings were of ones or twos. Other sites with records on more than one date were Whiteley, Sandy Point, Ampfield, Bourley Long Valley, Bourley Heath, Acres Down, Bolderwood, Foxbury Plantation, Holm Hill and Mark Ash Wood. NFBWS reported three, two and one respectively in the January, February and March surveys (Table 4).

Roding was first recorded at Yateley Common on Mar 13th. A further 180 records were received during the breeding season, almost twice the number of records in 2019. This may be a reflection of birders spending more time in their local areas as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. These indicated around 161 territories at 85 sites. Most sites had only one or two territories but higher numbers were reported from 17 sites. A small number of these could have overlapped with the squares of the annual survey of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths. This was restricted to 14 squares and estimated a total of 14 territories (Table 1). The corresponding figure in 2019 was 34. There were late summer reports in August of singles at Old Basing on 15th and Botley Wood on 22nd with no further reports until Sep 30th when one was at Fishlake Meadows.

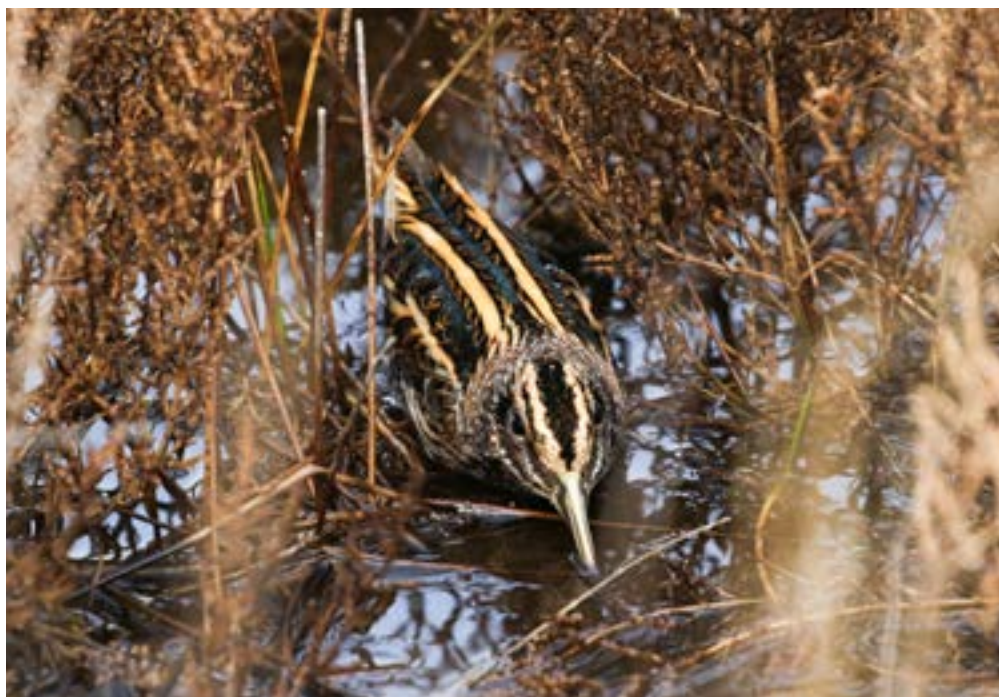
From October to December a total of 67 was reported from 50 sites. There were reports of more than three from just two sites with 11 at Wyck and five at Frater Shore, Gosport. There were also reports on more than two dates from Sandy Point, Selborne area, Wyck, Woolmer area and Frater Shore. NFWBS in the second winter period reported one in November and two in December (Table 4). (JRDS)

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant.

Green

Between January and late April there were reports of at least 32 from 18 sites. These numbers are a little higher than 2019 but still lower when compared to 2018 (50 from 23 sites). Reports of more than one came from Sandy Point (6, Jan 1st; 5, Mar 10th; 4, Jan 15th; 4, Apr 7th; 1-3 on six further dates), Broadley Inclosure (4, Jan 18th), The Vyne (4, Jan 12th), Hook-with-Warsash (2, Jan 23rd and 27th), Bourley Long Valley (2, Feb 7th-8th) and Beaulieu Heath East (2, Apr 10th). Reports at all other sites were of singles. NFWBS found none in the first winter period (Table 4). The last record was a single at Witherby Bottom on Apr 23rd.



Jack Snipe, Sandy Point, Dec 12th (Alan Lewis)

In the autumn period to year-end at least 67 were reported from 16 sites. The first return was one at Pennington Marshes on Sep 21st. In December surveys using a thermal imaging camera at regularly used sites revealed higher numbers than otherwise recorded as follows: Farlington Marshes (19, Dec 10th; 19, Dec 13th different areas), Sturt Pond (5, Dec 7th), Sandy Point (4, Dec 10th), Winnall Moors (4, Dec 15th), Titchfield Haven (4, Dec 11th), Lower Test Marshes (3, Dec 22nd) and Fishlake Meadows (2, Dec 8th). Other reports were all of singles apart from Titchfield Haven (8, Dec 18th organized flush count; 2, Nov 15th), Itchen Water Works (6, Dec 26th; 4, Nov 29th; 2, Nov 9th), Bourley Long Valley (5, Dec 27th to 29th; 3, Dec 24th; 2, Nov 18th), The Vyne (3, Oct 17th; 2, Dec 13th), Lower Test Marshes (3, Dec 13th; 2, Nov 14th), Farlington Marshes (2, Oct 20th), Sandy Point (2, Nov 13th; 2, Dec 12th), Needs Ore (2, Dec 3rd) and Bransbury Common (2, Dec 12th). NFWBS found one on Dec 19th. (JRDS)

Snipe (Common Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago*

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

Amber, HBAP

There were more large gatherings than in recent years with three-figure counts of 203 on Feb 14th and 363 on Dec 18th at Titchfield Haven as a result of census work. Other three-figure counts came from The Vyne (145, Jan 12th) and Lower Test Marshes (114, Mar 14th). Census work carried out in December using a thermal imaging camera at 16 sites recorded some reasonably sized gatherings including 90 at Titchfield Haven on 11th, 58 at Lower Test Marshes on 22nd, 44 at Farlington Marshes on 10th and 35 at Fishlake Meadows on 8th.

In the first winter period, away from tabulated sites, the only double-figure counts came from Avon Causeway to Wattons Ford (57, Feb 8th), Micheldever (50, Feb 6th), Cracknore Hard (40, Jan 24th), Broadley Inclosure (25, Jan 18th), Dibden Bay (25, Jan 18th), Ibsley/Harbridge WM (20, Mar 27th), Shortheath Common (14, Jan 15th; 11, Jan 15th), Longstock (14, Feb 11th) and Leckford (14, Feb 11th). NFWBS reported seven, three and four respectively for January

to March (Table 4). A single was recorded calling at night over St. Cross, Winchester on May 3rd. Most had left wintering/passage sites by early May with the last being at The Vyne Lake on 9th. A single at Farlington Marshes on June 8th may have been a failed Hampshire breeder.

Focussed survey work in the New Forest resulted in reports in suitable breeding habitat from the following 26 sites (cf. 14 in 2019): Acres Down, Aldridge Hill Inclosure, Beaulieu Road, Broadley Inclosure, Brockenhurst, Burley, Ditchend Bottom, Duckhole Bog, Goatspen Plain, Godshill, Greenmoor, Hatchet Pond, Hill Top, Holm Hill, Kingston Great Common, Latchmore Bottom, Linford Bottom, Longdown Inclosure, Longslade Bottom, Mead End, Picket Post, Pig Bush, Ridley Plain, Stephill Bottom, Sway and Wilverley Inclosure.

The first returning migrant was one on July 2nd at Keyhaven Marshes. There were then other singles at Farlington Marshes on July 20th and 25th. Regular reports from the coast started on Aug 5th, which was almost a month later than in 2019. Inland visible migration was reported from Tweseldown with between one and seven SW on six dates between Aug 31st and Oct 15th. Singles were reported flying over St. Cross, Winchester on Sep 27th and Oct 11th based on nocturnal flight calls. The only double-figure reports in the second winter period, away from the tabulated sites, were at Bury Marshes (75, Dec 15th; 40, Nov 15th), Micheldever (30, Dec 2nd), Wattons Ford to Ringwood (24, Nov 21st), Pond Head Farm, NF (21, Dec 31st), Staunton CP, Havant (19, Dec 17th), Denmead (11, Dec 30th) and Bransbury Common (10, Dec 10th). NFWBS reported counts of seven, 15 and seven respectively for October to December (Table 4).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point	3	5	1	1					3	1		1
Langstone Harbour	34	33	20	1		1	1	1	7	14	40	70
Titchfield Haven area	9	203	28	20				3	13	31	23	363
Hook-with-Warsash	61	61	17	7					3	10	29	17
Lower Test Marshes	38	33	114						5	69	67	58
Badminton GP		20	13	4					1	14	15	20
Lepe	42	92	3					1		6	50	16
Needs Ore	20	2	2					4	1	6	7	13
Lymington-Hurst	17	19	11	1			2	1	5	20	33	21
Testwood Lakes	18	40	69	1						7	30	7
Testbourne Lake	13	74	78					2	6	11	16	23
Lakeside CP	35		38							9		
Itchen Valley CP	39		17						2	2	28	24
Winchester SF	31	16	30	1							58	57
Fishlake Meadows	10	6	10	1		1			1	3	8	47
The Vyne	145	86	25		1				14	66	9	58
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	40	50	45	9						6	35	45
Long Valley	17	21	24					2	2	7	28	27
Fleet Pond	78			1				1	1	3		55

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Very rare vagrant. (0,6,1)

A juvenile delighted hundreds of birders with outstanding point-blank views along the edge of Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes from Oct 9th-20th (NRJ *et al.*, photo). During this time it mostly cruised the Lagoon edge in search of insects along with two Grey Phalaropes, which (despite their smaller size) were clearly dominant over it.

This is only the seventh record of this North American wader and the first since 2005. All of the records have been in August-October. (KFB)



*Wilson's Phalarope (from top), Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes, Oct 10th (Gareth Rees),
11th (Ian Wells) and 15th (Richard Jacobs)*



Grey Phalarope, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes, Oct 10th (Gareth Rees)

Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope) *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (?346,12)

A total of twelve birds was reported. In particular the Apr 16th record was very unusual as there have been no previous records between Feb 23rd and Aug 4th. All records are given below.

Hook-with-Warsash: Jan 3rd (SB *et al.*, photo); also reported on Birdguides the next day.

Pennington Marshes: Apr 16th (HDM *et al.*, photo).

Farlington Marshes: Sep 25th-Oct 3rd (DM *et al.*, photo); another Oct 31st-Nov 1st (JC *et al.*).

Ripley Reservoir: Oct 1st (CO, photo), reported still present on 5th.

Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes: 2, Oct 8th-14th (MC *et al.*, photo); 1, Oct 26th (GJS *et al.*, photo); 1-2, Nov 2nd-7th (mo, photo).

Gilkicker Lake: 1, Oct 18th-20th (RAP *et al.*, photo).

Southsea: Nov 19th (TDH, photo). (KFB)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Amber

In January-March there were records from the regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly max. 3, 2, 0), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (2, 4, 6) and Curbridge (3, 2, 1). At Bunny Meadows, Warsash there were three on Jan 1st and two on Feb 8th. There were also singles on nine dates in Portsmouth Harbour, four dates in January in Langstone Harbour, and Jan 28th at Bucklers Hard. Inland there was one on many dates up to Mar 18th at Ibsley Water.

Wintering birds stayed into May at Itchen Estuary (15th), Lower Test Marshes (10th) and Curbridge (11th). The first spring migrant appeared at Woolmer Pond on Apr 2nd and from then there were records until the last on June 3rd at Normandy Lagoon. During this period there were reports from 23 inland sites and 11 coastal sites. The only counts of four or more were at The Vyne (8, May 6th), Beaulieu village (7, Apr 24th), Lower Test Marshes (6, Apr



Common Sandpiper, Riverside Park, Southampton, March 28th (Lee Fuller)

19th; 4, 12th), Sandy Point (4, May 8th), Hook-with-Warsash (4, May 29th) and Titchfield Haven (4, May 10th). One was reported flying over St. Cross, Winchester on May 18th based on nocturnal flight call.

The first return was at Titchfield Haven on June 10th. Autumn passage continued until late October with reports from 22 coastal sites and 35 inland sites. Counts of more than seven came from Lower Test Marshes (14, Aug 20th; 11, Aug 17th; 9 on five dates between July 31st and Sep 17th; 8, Aug 3rd and Sep 5th), Langstone Harbour (13, July 25th), Ibsley Water (8, Aug 28th) and Hook-with-Warsash (8, Aug 3rd and 7th). There were reports of singles over St. Cross, Winchester on 14 dates between July 10th and Aug 23rd including three on Aug 9th, all based on nocturnal flight calls.

In November and December there were records from the regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly max. 1, 1), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (10, 9) and Curbridge (2, 1). There were singles at Bucklers Hard (Nov 10th and Dec 12th) and Fareham Creek (Nov 29th). Inland there were regular reports from Nov 23rd to Dec 29th of a winterer at Ibsley Water.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	13	10	41	60	9	90	103	40	19	18	18

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber

Between January and March there were reports of up to four from 27 inland sites and eight coastal sites. There were no reports of more than two away from the tabulated sites. Most

had departed towards the end of April with the last being singles at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 26th and Old Basing on May 4th.

Return passage commenced in June with singles at Kingsley SP on 9th, Oxe Marsh and Fleet Pond on 10th followed by two at Hook-with-Warsash on 12th and singles at Hill Head on 16th, Badminton GP on 19th and Alresford Pond on 20th. From June 25th reports were widespread from 62 sites to the end of October with highest counts at Alresford Pond peaking at 16 on July 31st, Aug 1st and Aug 8th. The only count exceeding two at non-tabulated sites was three at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 20th. Nocturnal movements were reported from St. Cross, Winchester (July 31st and Aug 10th) and Cosham (Aug 11th) plus visual migration at Trigpoint Hill (Sep 22nd and Oct 6th).

In November and December late passage and wintering birds were reported from 20 inland sites and five coastal sites with maxima of five at Moorcourt Farm on Nov 3rd, 7th and 10th and three at Eversley Cross on Nov 16th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes area	1	1	2	1		1	4	3	1	2	2	1
Titchfield Haven area		1	1	1		3	2	3	1			
Hook-with-Warsash		2				2	1	3	1			
Lower Test Marshes	1							2	1		1	1
Testwood Lakes			1	1								
Badminton/Fawley	1	1	1			1			1	1	1	1
Lepe CP	1	1	3					3	3	4	4	3
Needs Ore						1	2	5	3	1		
Lymington-Hurst	1	3	2	1		1	1	3	3	1	1	
Blashford Lakes	1	1	1				1	1	3	2	2	2
Ringwood-Fordingbridge									3	1	1	2
Moorcourt Farm area			2							4	5	3
Alresford Pond	1	2	1	2		1	16	16	11	3	2	1
Alresford area WCBs	4	4	3					4	1		2	4
Burnt Common/Rampton's Lane GP		1					6	2	1			
Woolmer Pond				1				1				
The Vyne Lake/WM						3	2	4		1		
Busta Triangle								2	1	1		
Fleet Pond						1		1	1			
Longparish	4			1		4	5	6	2	1	1	2
Testbourne Lake	2	2	1				5	5	2	1	1	1

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	23	26	11	1	19	54	86	56	31	35	29

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

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

The WeBS counts for each month in the first winter period were lower than the corresponding months in 2019 – a reversal of the comparisons in 2019 and 2018 – whereas the counts in the second winter period were broadly similar to those in 2019. The year's highest monthly count of 2,108 in October was almost 10% lower than any of the mean maxima of the previous four five-year periods (see header).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1,114	1,410	884		23	16	481	1,020	1,257	1,743	1,007	960
Hampshire sectors	313	377	113	1	1	7	75	265	414	283	224	308
Langstone Harbour	502	525	441	75	20	140	520	696	785	998	419	448
Portsmouth Harbour	239	218	128	14		4	58	58	412	345	590	331
Hamble Estuary	64	66	40		2	3	42	105	80(L)	80(L)	75	32
Fawley-Calshot	238	47	130					2	3	102	135	47
Beaulieu Estuary	85	47	24			12	6	15	80	94	124	125
Lymington-Hurst	102	110	64	7	35	55	56	114	273	155	143	179
WeBS count totals	1,600	1,435	950		26	35	398	1,141	2,076	2,108	1,735	1,555

Sites of international importance: 2,400+; national importance: 1,200+; L=Low tide count.

Away from the tabulated sites, maximum counts from other regularly watched coastal sites during the first winter period included Bury Marshes (31, Jan 18th), Lower Itchen (24, Jan 10th), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (16, Jan 11th), Pylewell/Tanners Lane (15, Mar 11th), Dibden Bay (14, Jan 12th), Upper Hamble (13, Feb 8th), Hythe (11, Feb 8th), Lepe (11, Feb 12th) and Titchfield Haven (9, Jan 3rd and Feb 4th). There were inland records from Avon Causeway to Wattons Ford (9, Mar 8th), Hill Top (4, Mar 24th-25th, 30th), Exbury (2, Mar 16th; 1, Mar 21st), Harbridge WM (2, Mar 27th), Ibsley Water (2, Feb 29th), Ringwood to Fordingbridge (2, Mar 8th), Harbridge WM (2, Mar 27th), Ashurst (2, Mar 1st), Wattons Ford to Ringwood (1, Mar 8th) and Beaulieu (1, Jan 25th).

In spring inland records, singles unless stated, came from Ellingham Meadows (2, Apr 26th), Avon Causeway (2, Apr 3rd), Havant (6, Apr 2nd), Old Basing (Apr 19th), Fleet Pond (Apr 21st) and Testwood Lakes (Apr 29th, May 1st). The only reports of coastal passage came from Sandy Point with 2 east on Apr 23rd.

Breeding information came from the following coastal sites: Langstone Harbour RSPB (1 pair), Farlington Marshes (3 pairs with only breeding evidence being an adult with 3 juveniles on July 13th), Titchfield Haven (3 birds present but no breeding evidence), Hook-with-Warsash (2 displaying birds but no further breeding evidence), Needs Ore (incomplete data but at least one pair bred) and Lymington-Hurst (12 pairs rearing at least 3 juveniles). Inland a pair successfully hatched two young at The Wyne Lake – the first confirmed breeding there in more than a decade. In the Avon Valley the GWCT project recorded a total of 28 pairs, 22 of which were in the Hants sector. In the New Forest two pairs held territory at Hill Top; otherwise there were reports, mostly on one date, of possible breeding from six other sites.

Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records, singles unless otherwise stated, at Ibsley Water (3, July 29th), Alresford Pond (June 20th and Sep 15th), Heath Pond, Petersfield (June 15th), Fleet Pond (June 28th and July 25th), Pig Bush NF (Aug 30th), Old Basing (July 6th) and Exbury (Oct 25th). Dispersal and migration at well-watched coastal sites (not tabulated) gave the following maximum counts: Lepe (49, July 30th), Bury Marshes (46, Sep 26th), Lower Itchen (29, Oct 18th), Tanners Lane area (25, Aug 28th), Hythe (22, Sep 5th), Titchfield Haven (20, Oct 28th), Lower Test Marshes (7, Oct 16th/17th) and Upper Hamble Estuary (4, Oct 17th). Coastal migration of singles east was reported at Sandy Point (July 19th) and Barton on Sea (Sep 14th).

Maximum counts from regularly watched coastal sites away from the tabulated areas during the second winter period included Bury Marshes (65, Nov 15th), Lower Itchen (20, Nov 3rd), Dibden Bay (19, Nov 15th/16th), Hythe (15, Dec 14th), Lepe (13, Nov 23rd), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (12, Dec 13th), Titchfield Haven (11, Dec 17th) and Upper Hamble Estuary (7, Nov 13th and Dec 12th). (JRDS)

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

Spring passage comprised a total of six this year, all singles, compared to eight in 2019 and only four in 2018. The first was at Testwood Lakes on Apr 22nd followed by another at Pennington Marshes on Apr 25th-26th. The following day one was at Ibsley Water. The remainder were in May at Pennington Marshes on 14th, Winchester SF on 17th and the last of spring at Needs Ore on 29th and 30th.

The autumn passage was poor involving only six compared to around 25 in 2019. The first was at Keyhaven Marshes on June 26th followed by one at Pennington Marshes on July 23rd. The remaining records were all singles in August. The first was at Hook-with-Warsash on 10th followed by Burnt Common on 12th and Alresford Pond between 16th-18th. One flew west at Sandy Point on 20th. (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 74 dates up to May 11th with a maximum of ten on Jan 10th. The poor early year showing of the previous two years was repeated at Langstone Harbour with only a single from Apr 13th-16th. Similarly reports from Needs Ore and nearby at Lepe were restricted to two on Jan 3rd and singles on Mar 15th and 17th. The regular wintering bird remained at Nore Barn, Emsworth until Apr 4th.

Early return passage started with one in summer plumage at Farlington Marshes on June 12th. No new sites reported birds until one flew south calling over Shirley, Southampton on Aug 3rd and another flew west at Sandy Point on Aug 20th. The first at Needs Ore was on Aug 23rd followed by between one and five on 26 dates up to Dec 6th. At the main site at Lymington-Hurst there were reports on 63 dates from Aug 24th to Dec 30th with a maximum of four on Oct 13th, Nov 5th and Dec 9th. At Farlington Marshes there was one on 57 dates from June 12th to Oct 3rd. These may all refer to the single which arrived in breeding plumage and then stayed to complete its moult. However the late reports on Sep 23rd and Oct 3rd may refer to different birds on passage. A later record from Langstone Harbour on Oct 31st may refer to a local movement of the Nore Barn bird. This winterer returned to its favoured site on Oct 8th to start what appears to be its 17th winter in the area. The only other late year report was of one at Hamble Point on Dec 5th.

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	2		1					2	5	4	2	1
Lymington-Hurst	10	5	5	4	1			1	2	4	4	4
Totals elsewhere	1		3	2		1	1	4	2	2	1	1

Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

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

Schedule 1, Amber

In January to March a minimum of 50 wintered at 17 sites (cf. 2019: 55 at 14 sites). In April and May there was a minimum of around 33 at 13 sites including six inland at Romsey (Apr 4th and 5th – nocturnal flight calls), Fleet Pond (Apr 25th and May 28th), St. Cross, Winchester (Apr 27th – nocturnal flight calls) and Woolmer Pond (May 13th). These figures are significantly lower than 2019 (59 at 15 sites) and nearer to 2018 (36 at ten sites). Away from the tabulated sites and inland locations above, there were also coastal records of singles at Sandy Point



Spotted Redshank with Greenshank, Nore Barn, Emsworth, Feb 25th (Simon Buckell)

(2, Jan 10th; Apr 22nd) and around Calshot (1-2, Jan 4th to May 14th). Records reduced markedly from the second week of May with the last of spring being a noteworthy flock of six at Bunny Meadows on June 2nd.

Return passage started with three at Pennington Marshes on June 15th and singles at Farlington Marshes on June 27th, Needs Ore on July 3rd, Pennington Marshes and Warblington both on July 4th. Reports became widespread from the second week of July. Autumn passage involved a minimum of 110 up to the end of October with records from 21 sites including five inland. The inland reports were singles (unless stated) from Alresford Pond (Aug 4th), Burnt Common (2, Aug 11th), Fleet Pond (Aug, 14th), Ibsley Water (Sep 2nd) and Aldershot (Oct 26th, nocturnal flight calls).

Away from the tabulated sites there were coastal reports of singles (unless stated) from Pylewell (Aug 16th, Sep 15th), Lower Itchen area (Aug 17th-19th; Sep 2nd and 10th; 2, Oct 2nd and 18th), Sandy Point (Oct 3rd and 10th; 2, Oct 25th) and Calshot area (3, Oct 20th; 28th; 2, 29th; 30th). In November and December approximately 58 wintered at 15 sites.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour/ Warblington shore	2	1	2				2	1	3	11	1	1
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	6	7	6	8	6	1	27	30	22	15	9	7
Portsmouth Harbour	2	5	2	3			6	5	10	8	8	7
Titchfield Haven				2	1		2	2	1	2	1	
Hamble Estuary	4	5	9	2		6	9	10	12	10	7	4
Curbridge	1	1	3	5	1		1					
Upper Test	1	1	1				2	1	1	2	1	1
Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe	2	2	2	1			3	7	12	6	7	2
Lymington-Hurst	7	4	4	2	1	3	17	18	10	11	9	5
WeBS count totals	22	22	18				56	57	32	39	15	21

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

Ten were recorded in January, all at Hurst, with a maximum of seven on 16th. On Feb 9th six flew east at Hurst, on 14th three were off Netley and a further five were seen within The Solent during the rest of the month. Spring passage was light and commenced with two east on Mar 15th at Hurst. Further birds at Hurst were two west on Apr 5th, four adults south on Apr 26th and two adults east on May 7th. At Sandy Point seven flew east on Apr 5th, three first-winters flew out of Chichester Harbour on Apr 7th and one flew east on Apr 17th. The largest flock of the spring was 11 adults flying down Southampton Water and past Solent Breezes on May 29th. June saw one east at Hurst on 7th and one off Royal Victoria CP. A single adult was then reported between Weston Shore and Hill Head up to 9th, when there was also a group of five adults off Weston Shore that were seen to circle high into cloud over the River Itchen.

Autumn records were primarily moving west, but at times also east with occasional birds lingering. Approximately 33 passed east and 153 west with the overwhelming majority of these being 133 west at Hurst on Dec 27th following the passage of Storm Bella the previous day with gusts up to 106mph at The Needles. Other movements of note were at Hurst (15 E, Oct 24th), Lee-on-the-Solent (8 adults E, Dec 13th) and Barton on Sea (9 W - 5 adults and 4 first-winters, Dec 16th).

Approximate monthly maximum totals at each site are tabulated below. (RAC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	13	2	13	13	22	8			19	8	168

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare visitor, usually storm-driven, mostly August-December but once each in January and May. (1,167,1)

A juvenile was feeding out to sea off Hill Head with a mixed flock of Black-headed Gulls at 15:50 on Sep 23rd (MF). This is a typical date for a species that is rarely seen but is becoming more frequent. (KFB)

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Very rare vagrant. (0,6,1)

A first-summer was at Ibsley Water from Apr 20th-27th (SKW et al., photo).

There have been only six previous records, all of which were in first-summer plumage – the last being at the same location from Apr 25th to May 12th 2019, and that followed another there from Apr 17th to May 11th 2017. There is a pattern building! The species breeds in Alaska and Canada and winters in the USA, northern Mexico and the West Indies. (KFB)

Black-headed Gull† *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

The highest counts came as usual from Ibsley Water where the roost reached 6,300 on Feb 24th. Elsewhere Portsmouth Harbour was the only site with regular four-figure counts. No systematic roost counts were received from Langstone Harbour, although counts such as 1,900 over Waterlooville heading there on the evening of Oct 10th indicated a large roost was present. Likewise no systematic counts were submitted for roosting in Southampton

Water but an evening count of 10,000 off Southampton Dockhead, seen from Weston Shore on Feb 19th, was the maximum anywhere in the county and indicated the numbers possibly roosting in Southampton Water and beyond. It seems they had collected there seeking shelter in strong winds. In the spring numbers roosting at Fleet Pond increased with 800 estimated between Mar 27th to Apr 1st possibly indicating birds on passage using the site

Feeding birds can congregate where conditions are ideal such as on floods at Moorcourt Farm where 7,000 were feeding on Mar 7th. At Trigpoint Hill a late winter/early spring movement was recorded on a number of dates with a maximum of 354 NE on Mar 2nd.

In the breeding season 3,487 pairs nested on the Langstone Harbour islands, but fledging success was poor with only 180 juveniles seen, a productivity of only 0.05 per pair. At West Hayling LNR 553 pairs raised 192 young resulting in a productivity of 0.35. Small numbers were also reported nesting at Titchfield Haven and juveniles were seen but no counts received. A few nested at Hook-with-Warsash but no juveniles were seen, and 14 pairs nested at Needs Ore. At Lymington 3,880 pairs nested with a few tens more along the coast at Keyhaven. This colony has significantly decreased over recent years, probably due to increased flooding by high tides reducing the habitat suitable for nesting. Inland about 200 pairs fledged about 150 juveniles at Fleet Pond and about 100 pairs nested at Blashford Lakes where nesting is now predominantly on rafts following predation on the main nesting islands in previous years. The overall county total was thus somewhere in the region of 8,300 pairs, a further decline from 9,878 in 2019. The large saltmarsh colonies are increasingly concentrated on the few remaining sites that stay above the highest tides and are ever more vulnerable to predation and disturbance.

Natural England again provided information on the licensing and collecting of Black-headed Gulls' eggs from Hampshire colonies under Access to Information Request No. RFI 5880. A total of 13 licences was issued permitting eggs to be taken between Apr 22nd and May 15th after which the birds usually relay and the breeding pairs are counted. In 2020 collecting was carried out under only four of the licences resulting in 2,513 eggs being taken of which 2,160 were then sold. This is a marked reduction from 2019 when 13,851 eggs were collected under 20 licences, which itself was significantly lower than the 18,659 taken in 2018. These data are Copyright Natural England and not to be used for commercial purposes.

The largest post-breeding flock noted was at least 4,000 hawking flying insects over Waterlooville on July 30th. The monthly maxima at regularly counted sites are tabulated below. (RAC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour WeBS	1,074	1,382	770						1,182	356	2,271	1,720
Titchfield Haven	648	646	930	400	500	150	600	500	295	262	667	440
Northam/Mansbridge	520		515						470	460	625	660
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore	150	105	300	30	10	160	266	294	177	162	60	68
Ibsley Water#	2,000	6,300	3,500	30	100	200	20	100	79	1,000	2,000	1,000
Winchester SF	317	200	35	49				100		44	420	203
Avington Lake		2	1				1	77	53	367	236	400
Alresford Pond	52	82	259	20	1		91	210	185	270	380	228
Heath Pond, Petersfield	100	105	85	2	1	30	37	120	105	250	205	180
Northam/Mansbridge												

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 1, Green

The first of the year was a single of unrecorded age at Titchfield Haven on Jan 15th. Spring passage started earlier than usual with one at Fleet Pond on Mar 14th and continued until about Apr 29th.

The main passage was along the coast and involved a minimum of 258 individuals. These were recorded at Hill Head (12, max. 5 E, Mar 19th) and Weston Shore (1 S, Apr 18th) but the majority of 245 east were seen at Sandy Point with most comprising a remarkable movement of 208 east on Apr 5th. A separate report of 86 east at Eastoke at mid-morning on the same day are assumed to be part of the same movement. Double-digit easterly passage was also subsequently recorded at Sandy Point with 18 and 16 on Apr 17th and 18th respectively. A total of at least 42 were also recorded inland at Ibsley Water (31, max. 11 adults and 5 first-summers, Apr 23rd) and Fleet Pond (11, max. 3 adults and 1 first-summer, Apr 13th).

One second-summer remained at Ibsley Water from about Apr 28th to May 23rd. A single second-summer was in Langstone Harbour on June 20th and another was at Ibsley Water on June 27th. There were only two further records before the end of the year; a second-winter seen in the Beaulieu Estuary on Oct 1st and an adult off Chilling on Oct 31st.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (RAC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1		10	248	2	2				2		

Mediterranean Gull† *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*

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

During January there was a scatter of mostly single records predominantly from coastal locations, the first double-figure count being ten at Lepe on 21st, and in February 12 were at Newlands Farm on 2nd. The spring build-up associated with the Langstone Harbour colony started with 20 at Northney, North Common on 9th increasing to 130 by month's end. Many of these dispersed inland to feed during the day resulting in double-figure counts at Heath Pond, Petersfield (max 42, 25th) and North Boarhunt (10, 29th). During March the build-up at West Hayling LNR continued apace with 100 on 6th; 300 on 10th; 490 on 14th; 1,680 on 18th and reached 3,998 on 23rd when the observer estimated that there may well have been as many as 5,000 present in the whole of Langstone Harbour. Numbers also increased inland as birds sought food during the day, with significant counts at Meonstoke (100, 16th), Deanlane End (200, 19th; 500, 29th), Chalton (75, 21st) and Clanfield (600, 26th). Elsewhere on the coast numbers remained modest with the largest counts being at Portsmouth Harbour (11, 14th), Hill Head (28, 19th), Beaulieu Estuary (40, 13th), Lymington-Hurst (12, 8th) and Hurst Beach (13, 25th).

An unprecedented passage occurred through the north-east on Mar 30th with totals as follows: Alton, 40; Fleet Pond, 32; Greywell, 30 and Woolmer Pond, 8. A further nine flew NE over Alton on 31st and 42 east over Woolmer Pond on Apr 15th. Exceptional numbers at Petersfield including 200 east on Mar 23rd, 162 east on 25th and 100 north on 30th were presumably part of this movement (which was also noted in Surrey) although counts of 234 displaying on Heath Pond on Apr 1st and 100 following the plough nearby on 2nd may have been Langstone birds.

The Langstone Harbour colony held 1,579 pairs and reared 271 juveniles to the flying stage, a productivity of 0.17 per pair. Twelve pairs were noted at West Hayling LNR and a single pair on Farlington Marshes. Elsewhere there was no confirmed breeding at Titchfield Haven although birds were present during the summer. Three pairs frequented the Lymington-Keyhaven saltmarshes with no evidence of nesting. A single pair also frequented Blashford Lakes, again with no evidence of nesting.

Records were widespread inland from mid-May to August. The first dispersing juveniles were observed along the eastern shore of Southampton Water from July 14th. On the coast gatherings of post-breeding adults were seen at several sites as follows: Black Point (120, July 13th; 800, Sep 8th), Sandy Point (400, July 9th), Ranvilles Lane (100, Aug 22nd), Brownwich (450, Aug 28th; 950, Sep 6th), Hook-with-Warsash (168, July 7th), Beaulieu Estuary (113, July 25th; 289, Sep 20th) and Milford on Sea (204, Oct 20th). At Hurst Castle 225 were observed

flying west also on Oct 20th. The only three-figure count after this was 204 on Sturt Pond on Nov 20th. Apart from 14 in Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 1st and 14 in Beaulieu Estuary on Dec 13th, nearly all double-figure counts in the last two months came from Hurst Castle to Barton on Sea. (RAC)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour		130	392	200	3	50	201	142	800	7		
Sandy Point/Hayling Bay		50	1	120	2	50	400	60				
Langstone Harbour		100	3,998	145*	460*	3,429	63					
Portsmouth Harbour	4	15	11	32	2	30	31	5	9	5	14	8
Titchfield Haven area	2	12	28	100	5	28	25	800	950	5	1	1
Hamble Estuary												
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	10	10	40	7	25	3	113	117	289	28	2	14
Sowley/Lymington	4		2	25	10	12	1	8		2	4	
Lymington-Hurst	4	8	12	22	6	4	8	1	3	14	11	5
Ibsley Water	2	9	1	2	2	1						3
Winchester SF	2		11		9						1	2
Avington Lake					9	46	38	5			1	
Alresford Pond		1	14			4		15	2	10		
Heath Pond, Petersfield		42	64	234		5						

*Partial count

Common Gull (Mew Gull) *Larus canus*

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

The main concentrations were found in the east, where birds roosting in the eastern harbours spent the day feeding on the nearby downs with flocks in the early year at Chidden (154, Jan 16th), Hoe Cross (168, Jan 16th), Soberton (832, Feb 1st; 260, Mar 25th) and in fields between Stocks Lane, Meonstoke and Old Winchester Hill (c.5,000, Feb 6th (DGHM)). This last was probably a new high inland count for the county. In addition to the tabulated sites, high roost numbers were reported from Fawley (510, Feb 1st) and Heath Pond, Petersfield (250, Feb 1st). There were indications of movement in March, especially inland at Alresford Pond (375, 9th; up to 364, 22nd), Alton (250 NE, 29th; 100 NE, 31st) and Fleet Pond (130 NE, 30th). Easterly passage on the coast included 190 east past Sandy Point between Mar 20th and May 9th (peaks 30, Apr 5th; 32, Apr 20th). There were a few mid-summer records of single adults along the coast with one visiting the Black-headed Gull colony at Ibsley Water on June 25th.

The first returns in the second half-year were one at Sandy Point from July 2nd and five at Needs Ore on July 17th. There were few records of flocks on the downs in the late year, with the only three-figure count being at Rockbourne (100, Sep 12th). Indications of roosting in Southampton Water in December came from pre-roost counts at Ashlett Creek (156, 20th), Redbridge Wharf (262, Dec 29th) and Weston Shore (240, Dec 30th).

Monthly maxima at regularly counted locations are tabulated below. (RAC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	30	13	5		1	1		11	540	50	170	75
Portsmouth Harbour	100	161	47						27	27	455	56
Beaulieu Estuary		25						7	16	3		4
Ibsley Water	30	11	100									3
Winchester SF	108	16	7								215	188
Avington Lake		3	1						1	32	110	96
Alresford Pond	409	250	375	4			11	4	102	336	324	292

Great Black-backed Gull† *Larus marinus*

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

In the first three months of the year all double-figure counts came from the coast. The first was from Redbridge Wharf (14, Jan 8th), all the remaining were from Lymington-Hurst with monthly maxima of 14 on Jan 11th, 12 on Feb 8th and 15 on Mar 16th.

Breeding was noted at only two localities with single pairs in Southampton city centre and Burrfields, Portsmouth. This is fewer than in recent years and may be the result of poorer coverage. Pairs of adults often frequented sites, even inland, without any evidence of breeding such as at Ibsley Water and Fishlake Meadows. Numbers built up in summer with flocks of mainly sub-adults gathering at a few coastal sites. Monthly maxima from sites recording double figures were as follows: Chichester Harbour (21, June 6th; 13 Aug 22nd), Langstone Harbour (10, Sep 16th), Weston Shore (21, Sep 3rd), Needs Ore/ Beaulieu Estuary (49, June 7th, 11, July 25th) and Lymington-Hurst (45, July 18th; 30, Aug 1st and 6th; 30, Sep 28th).

In the last three months of the year maxima for sites recording double figures were as follows: Chichester Harbour (11, Nov 14th; 10, Dec 12th), Portsmouth Harbour (10, Nov 1st), Stokes Bay (107, Oct 12th), Hill Head (20, Oct 30th; 15, Nov 23rd), Needs Ore/ Beaulieu Estuary (21, Nov 15th), Lymington-Hurst (15, Oct 17th; 10, Nov 9th) and Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (20, Nov 2nd). Westward movement was recorded at Barton on Sea with 52 on ten dates between Oct 7th and Dec 2nd (max. 11, Nov 22nd). Small numbers were recorded inland in the Itchen Valley at Avington Lake (2, Nov 17th and Dec 11th) and Alresford Pond (2, Oct 28th; 3, Nov 13th), in the Test Valley at Longparish (3, Nov 3rd; 2, Dec 9th, 10th and 20th) and Ibsley Water (max. 3, Dec 15th). (RAC)

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Very scarce visitor, usually in winter but recorded in every month. (3,104,3) Amber

An adult that flew west slowly along the seafront at Milford on Sea at 09:53 on Feb 24th was the only record in the early year (SGK, photo). On Dec 13th an immature (not aged precisely) flew west past Lee-on-the-Solent at 12:58 (MD). This was presumably the second-winter found at 15:56 by Dock Head near Weston Shore (ARC, photo). Finally a first-winter was seen to fly west slowly off Fort Cumberland, Eastney at 11:25 on Dec 28th (DM, AF, photo). (KFB)



First-winter Iceland Gull, Fort Cumberland, Dec 28th (Andrew Friend)

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 the maximum count was in the West Solent with 950 off Hurst Beach on Jan 1st. On Jan 5th 900 were seen from Itchen Water Works flying down the valley to roost. In Southampton Water the maximum was at Weston Shore (300, Feb 24th) and nearby at St Deny's there were 250 on Feb 5th. On In the east, Chichester Harbour counts rarely exceeded 100 (max. 170, Mar 13th). Counts at Ibsley Water (max. 200, Mar 5th) were generally low, with most birds typically leaving south to roost on the coast. April saw

evidence of movement with 84 NE on four dates at Trigpoint Hill (max. 20, Apr 2nd). There were also 97 at Fleet Pond on Apr 2nd and 200 at King's Somborne on Apr 3rd, suggesting an early April peak in movements.

In the breeding season a full drone survey of warehouse roofs in New Milton found 190 nests, a significant increase. In Southampton at least 45 nests were located in the docks area with a number of others in the city centre, although no full count was undertaken. In Portsmouth at least ten pairs nested at Burrfields Road and two pairs at Gunwarf Gate. Elsewhere in the south-east nesting was recorded at Bedhampton. Inland at Chineham Park, Basingstoke a drone survey found 14 pairs. In Eastleigh two pairs were at Barton Park Industrial Estate. A pair also raised two chicks on Keyhaven-Lymington Marshes, the first recorded breeding here.

On June 12th 120 at Ibsley Water, mostly sub-adults frequenting the area regularly to exploit supplementary feed put out for Fallow Deer, was the only three-figure count for the month. Early July saw an increase on the coast with 150 at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 1st increasing to 400 by 8th. Inland 56 were at Farnborough on 2nd whilst elsewhere a maximum of 75 were at Hill Head on 14th and 70 were off Hythe on 31st. In August the largest counts were inland with 177 at Avington Lake on 3rd and 100 at Alresford Pond on 28th. Movement was evident at Trigpoint Hill with the highest counts being 46 SW on 16th and 55 SW on 20th. In September the direction of movements switched with a total of 300 NE and 28 SW at Trigpoint Hill on 14 dates (max. 134 NE, 19th). On the coast any recorded movement appeared to be predominantly west including 270 at Barton on Sea on 27th. Peak counts came from the Itchen Valley with 414 at Avington Lake on 14th. October saw a continued NE bias to movements at Trigpoint Hill with 285 NE and 110 SW on 17 dates. This included 76 SW on a single date. After light SW movements through the autumn at Tweseldown, an east/NE movement was noted there with 220 on six dates from mid-month. On the coast any movement remained west (e.g. 205 W at Barton on Sea on 12th). The largest counts for the month were 630 at Weston Shore on 1st and at least 600 at Avington Lake on 7th.

In the last quarter a gathering off Hurst Beach reached at least 1,050 on Nov 15th. Otherwise all the larger counts were inland at Itchen Valley Water Works (290, Nov 2nd), Marsh Court in the Test Valley (250, Nov 2nd), Avington Lake (213, Nov 9th) and Meonstoke (226, Dec 13th). Roosting movements in the lower Itchen in November included 290 flying down the valley past Itchen Water Works on 2nd and 554 past Peartree Green on 19th. Inland movements showed an overwhelming majority heading SW at Trigpoint Hill, highest counts being in early November (124, 1st; 110, 2nd and 152, 3rd) whereas at Tweseldown movement was mainly NE with the highest counts in mid-November (134, 11th and 124, Nov 12th). Inland the maximum roost at Ibsley Water was 450 on Nov 7th. (RAC)

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,32,1)

Amber

There were just two records. An adult (thought to be the same as seen on Dec 3rd and 5th 2019) was perched on a post opposite Tern Hide at Ibsley Water at 15:30 on Jan 1st (NRJ). Also at Ibsley Water a first-winter arrived very late at 17:10 on Feb 1st and started bathing in the far NW corner (AL, 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

Most records came from the roost at Ibsley Water with an early year maximum of ten on Jan 31st. Evidence for their whereabouts during the day came from sightings of feeding birds at Toyd Down and Tidpit Down. A single was noted roosting at Yateley GP on Jan 10th. On the coast singles were at several sites with a maximum of three at Portchester Castle

on Mar 1st. At Keyhaven a third-summer on May 11th and an adult on May 15th were the only spring records there. Inland, one flew NE at Trigpoint Hill on May 10th and an adult was at Fleet Pond on May 20th. Elsewhere at least one adult frequented the coast between Weston Shore and Hill Head throughout the summer, being most frequently noted at the mouth of Hamble River, and five adults were feeding in Hurst Narrows on June 16th.



Third-winter Yellow-legged Gull, Ibsley Water, Jan 25th (Alan Lewis)

No breeding season records were received this year from Northam where nesting had taken place over the previous six years.

In the second half-year the first report was of an adult at Black Point on July 15th followed by other single adults at The Vyne Lake on July 24th, Alresford Pond on Aug 1st and Itchen Water Works on Aug 5th. The first juvenile was in August at Brownwich on 5th with another at Pennington Marshes on 15th followed by singles off Barton on Sea on 16th and Weston Shore on 26th. Evidence of movement was slight but several were noted heading west at Barton on Sea including three immatures which departed from the golf course in the early morning of Sep 6th. The only inland movement was an adult and second-year west at Tweseldown on Oct 9th. Three were reported at Alresford Pond on Nov 3rd and singles at a number of coastal localities until the end of the year. As usual the nocturnal roost at Ibsley Water provided most records with monthly maxima of nine on Oct 26th and Nov 3rd and seven on Dec 12th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water roost)	7	4	1					1		9	9	12
Itchen Estuary area	1					1	1	1				1
Lower Test Marshes/Eling							1	2	1	1	1	
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	1	2	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Approx. monthly totals	13	8	4		2	7	7	7	7	14	18	19

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

In the first three months of the year the highest counts were at Ibsley Water, with numbers tailing off rapidly as the winter progressed. The monthly maxima were 1,000 on Jan 27th, 200 on Feb 11th and 200 on Mar 3rd. Departure appeared to be somewhat earlier than normal, perhaps driven by the unusually wet and mild winter prompting an earlier return to breeding areas, which for some of our birds seem to be in SW England based on colour-ringing. Inland movement was noted at Trigpoint Hill between Jan 30th and May 26th, with a total of 268 NE, and at Tweseldown between Feb 4th and Mar 31st with a total of 65 mostly north. Observations on 20 dates between Apr 2nd and May 7th at Fleet Pond recorded 181 flying mostly north-east. Elsewhere 28 were at Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea on Feb 24th, 40 were bathing at Whitefield Moor, NF on Feb 29th and 20 passed north over Fritham Plain on Mar 1st when 50 were also noted at Fishlake Meadows. Spring maxima of 96 at Weston Shore on Mar 6th and 26 at Alresford Pond on Mar 9th were also presumably migrants, as were 13 seen flying north over Lucas Castle, NF on Mar 14th.

Breeding is concentrated in three built-up areas and numbers continued to increase. In Basingstoke a drone survey found 19 nests at Chineham Park, whilst another pair nested

at Black Dam. In Southampton there were at least two pairs in the city centre, three pairs in the Eastern Docks, two pairs in the Western Docks and two pairs on a roof at Barton Industrial Estate, Eastleigh. A further drone survey of warehouses in New Milton found 20 active nests. There was no confirmed nesting in the south-east of the county, but two pairs frequented the Burrfields area of Portsmouth throughout the breeding season and a pair with two recently fledged juveniles, which were considered too young to have come far, were present at Titchfield Haven on July 18th.

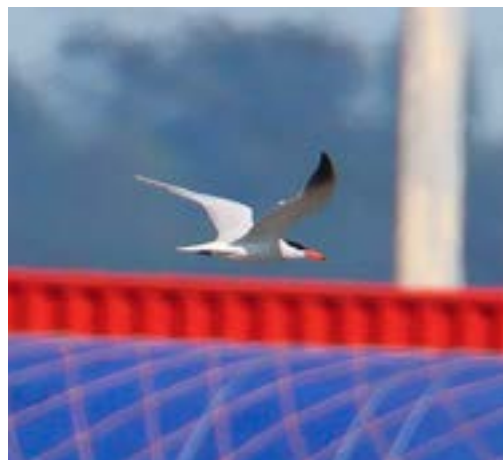
A trickle of birds continued to be noted heading NE at Trigpoint Hill until June 17th, after which the predominant direction switched to SW. Return passage appeared to pick up from late July with 100 at Ibsley Water on 21st and ten SW at Trigpoint Hill on 23rd. During August a total of 80 flew SW at Trigpoint Hill on 13 dates. Other counts indicative of return passage during August were at Avington Lake (14, 3rd), Alresford Pond (39, 4th), Old Basing (43, 4th), Farlington Marshes (10, 7th), Ibsley Water (450, 11th), Fleet Pond (40, 17th) and Lymington-Hurst (15, 17th).

In September examples of feeding birds visiting farmland were at Vernham Dean (100, 9th), Kingsley (62, 15th) and Testbourne (70, 24th). The highest three or four-figure roost counts at inland waters in the last four months of the year were at Rampton's Lane GP (c.500, Oct 1st; 305, Oct 30th; 172, Nov 12th), Alresford Pond (180, Nov 3rd), and Ibsley Water (200, Sep 1st, 2,300, Oct 26th; 4,150, Nov 5th; 2,000, Dec 17th). The late autumn peak at Ibsley Water roost is probably due to birds passing through from further north and east. Continued passage was also indicated by 52 south at Hurst Beach on Nov 3rd and 20 adults SW at Tweseldown on Nov 19th. (RAC)

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Rare vagrant. (0,4,2)

There were two records of this extremely rare visitor and for once there was a chance for people to see them if they were quick off the mark or determined. The first was an adult seen over Testwood Lakes between 12:52-13:06 on May 31st after which it headed towards Southampton Water (IP, SSK *et al.*, photo). Thankfully news of the sighting was swiftly shared on social media allowing several observers to find positions to look for it as it flew around this channel. It was relocated on exposed mud at Eling Great Marsh but was pushed off by rising water at 16:07 and was later reported off Hythe at 16:29. The second was an adult first seen at Fishlake Meadows at 12:53 on July 27th. The bird flew off but returned twice that day and was last seen at 06:50 the next day. For those who wanted to see it, this was



Caspian Tern, Eling Marsh, May 31st (Lee Fuller) and Fishlake Meadows, July 27th (Simon M King)

definitely a case of all or nothing and was totally dependent on perseverance or luck! (DAT *et al.*, photo). Both records have been accepted by BBRC.

There have been four previous records: off Milford on Sea on June 22nd 1974, Hill Head on Apr 24th 1995, at Testwood Lakes on June 9th 2013 and off Normandy Marsh on July 28th 2013. The breeding population in Europe is increasing, particularly in the Baltic Sea, so this may drive an increase in future sightings. (KFB)

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

In the early year records came from nine sites with 15 at Black Point, Hayling on Feb 2nd being the peak count. Spring passage started with one east past Hurst Beach on Mar 28th. Approximately 716 moved east up to May 4th with 67 past Hurst Beach (peak 53, Apr 5th), 11 past Hill Head (6, Apr 5th; 5, May 4th) and 702 past Sandy Point (peak 330, Apr 5th). Inland one dropped in briefly at Fleet Pond on Apr 6th and another was heard calling over Romsey at 03:28 on Apr 7th.

Breeding success was similar to 2019 although the number of pairs was higher. On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 93 pairs reared 20 young (*cf.* 60 pairs raising 29 young in 2019) with all the successful pairs at Cockleshell. At Langstone Harbour RSPB 113 pairs raised 21 young (*cf.* 59 pairs raising 20 young in 2019).

In the autumn the highest counts were at Hurst Castle where 127 roosted on the saltmarsh on July 19th and Black Point, Hayling where 90 were present on Aug 27th. In the late year records came from seven sites with a peak count of 30 at Sandy Point on Nov 12th. (MLE)

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

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

The first were noted at Hayling with two past Eastoke and five east past Sandy Point on Apr 5th. Spring passage was similar to the previous year with approximately 43 east through The Solent up to May 12th. Sandy Point was the only site to record more than three with a spring total of 40 (max. 11, May 6th).

It was another poor breeding season. In the West Solent 17 pairs raised six young and in Langstone Harbour 22 pairs failed to raise any young to fledging.

Post-breeding numbers were again low. The peak count came from Black Point, Hayling where 40 roosted on July 29th. Four were recorded in September with the last at Black Point on 7th. (MLE)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds. ET, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

Approximately nine were recorded with three in spring and six in autumn. Singles flew east at Hill Head on Apr 30th and May 5th. One off Sandy Point on May 1st was perhaps the bird seen the previous day at Hill Head.

The first of the autumn appeared on July 7th with one at Hill Head and three off Sandy Point. From then until July 28th there were frequent sightings of one or two adults at these two sites and at Weston Shore. Two of the birds bore metal rings. One at Hill Head was found to have been ringed as a chick at Coquet Island, Northumberland in 2018; the other at Sandy Point had been ringed as a chick at Rockabill, Dublin also in 2018. The last records of the year were single adults at Beaulieu Estuary and Black Point, Hayling on Aug 23rd. (MLE)



Little Tern, Pennington Marshes, June 22nd (Gareth Rees)



Ringed Roseate Tern with Mediterranean Gull, Sandy Point, July 14th (Andy Johnson)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The first were recorded at three coastal and two inland sites on Apr 5th and included 65 east past Sandy Point. Eastbound passage through The Solent was slightly up on 2019 with approximately 662 recorded up to May 16th. Cumulative counts at the main coastal watch-points were 600 at Sandy Point (max. 214, Apr 18th) and 82 at Hurst Beach (max. 62, May 4th).

Breeding season success was similar to the previous year with approximately 213 pairs raising 169 young (*cf.* 254 pairs raising 161 young in 2019). On the saltings between Pylewell and Keyhaven Harbour 102 pairs produced 84 young. In Langstone Harbour two pairs failed to



Common Tern, Pennington Marshes, June 22nd (Gareth Rees)

raise any young on the RSPB Islands; at West Hayling LNR 70 pairs raised 56 young and four pairs raised one young at Farlington Marshes - the second breeding record from this site after three pairs raised six young in 2019 on a platform at the Deeps. At Titchfield Haven seven young were produced from seven nests. Inland 21-25 pairs bred at Ivy Lake, Blashford and produced approximately 15 young. Only two nesting rafts were deployed and monitoring of breeding success was limited. Two pairs raised six young at Testwood Lakes. At Woolmer Pond one pair attempted to nest but were thought to have been predated. This was the first breeding attempt from this site.

Post-breeding numbers were up on 2019 with 29 three-figure counts mostly from Southampton Water. The peak count was 700 at Weston Shore on July 28th. There were 15 records in October with the last two off Keyhaven on 16th. (MLE)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The spring passage total was 11 along the coast and 11 inland. The first was recorded at Hill Head on Apr 17th. The only count of more than two was at Fleet Pond on Apr 28th when 11 arrived during a morning of cold NE winds, rain and poor visibility. One was around the scrapes at Titchfield Haven on May 28th-29th.

In autumn approximately 18 were recorded from July 8th to Sep 26th. On the coast mostly singles were noted at eight sites with four at Hill Head on July 20th being the peak count. Inland the only record was two juveniles at Ibsley Water on Aug 25th. (MLE)

2019 correction, The adult at Burnt Common was present between Sep 27th and Oct 6th.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Rare passage migrant. (0,14,1)

ET, Schedule 1, Green

An adult was discovered feeding around Posbrook Floods at 07:22 on May 27th after which it mostly fed offshore around Hill Head, although it returned inland and was visible on posts at Titchfield Haven in the late afternoon. Observers hoping to obtain good views the



Whiskered Tern, Titchfield Haven, May 27th (Lee Fuller)

next morning recorded it flying high west at 06:25 (ALR *et al.*, photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC.

There have been eleven previous records of 14 birds, the last being two flying across Keyhaven Lagoon on May 7th 2016. Once again this is a typical spring overshoot date for this species for which the closest breeding location is at La Brenne in the Loire Valley in France. (KFB)

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

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

A total of 26 was recorded between Apr 17th and Sep 16th as shown in the table below. This is the lowest annual total ever for this species in Hampshire.

The first of the year were inland with three at Fleet Pond on Apr 17th followed by one at Ibsley Water on Apr 28th. On the coast there were four May records with singles in Chichester Harbour on 3rd, Farlington Marshes on 14th, Weston Shore on 28th and Keyhaven Marshes on 31st.

Mid-summer records came from Weston Shore (1, June 11th-18th), Fleet Pond (2, June 13th), Testwood Lakes (1, July 6th) and Sandy Point (1, July 6th-9th). Autumn passage consisted of 13 birds at five sites between July 15th (6 at Hill Head, the only count greater than two) and Sep 16th (1 off Spithead). One at Alresford Pond on Aug 16th was the only inland record. (MLE)

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
4	4	3	9	5	1	0

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

The annual total of 29 was similar to the previous five years. The first flew west at Sandy Point on Jan 11th and was followed by three more singles between Jan 15th and Mar 1st. Spring passage started on Apr 4th with one past Hurst Beach. A further 18 were recorded up to May 7th with ten off Sandy Point (peak 2, Apr 24th), nine at Hurst Beach including three on Apr 30th and two, possibly the same, off Hill Head.

After an early bird off Taddiford on July 3rd, approximately five were noted at eight sites between Aug 25th and Dec 27th. Sightings at Hurst Beach, Hill Head and Sandy Point on the last date are thought to refer to the same individual. (MLE)

Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger) *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

A total of 19 was recorded with 15 in spring, one in summer, two in autumn and one in winter. The first were three past Hurst Beach and one past Sandy Point on Apr 29th. Two more flew east at Hurst Beach the next day and a flock of nine passed east at Sandy Point at 06:09 on May 7th.

An immature was off Hordle Cliff on July 7th. In the autumn a sub-adult was off Hill Head on Aug 16th and 20th and a dark immature passed Hurst Beach on Sep 29th. The final record of the year was a single west off Hurst Beach on Dec 19th. (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 moving east off Sandy Point on Apr 5th. From then until June 14th approximately 57 were recorded. Totals at the main sites were 31 at Hurst Beach (peak 7, May 1st), four at Hill Head (singles on Apr 25th and 29th; 2, June 14th) and 28 at Sandy Point (peak 4, Apr 26th and 29th). The highest day count elsewhere came from Eastoke, Hayling on Apr 26th when six were recorded.

After one off Sandy Point on June 19th, two were recorded at several sites from July 1st-13th including one inside Langstone Harbour on 4th. There were a further six records from Aug 23rd until the last on Oct 12th when singles, possibly the same, passed west at Sandy Point and off Chilling Cliffs. (MLE)

Skua sp.

Unidentified skuas included single pale and dark morphs which flew west past Park Shore on Aug 23rd and one off Barton on Sea on Nov 20th. (MLE)

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Rare winter visitor recorded in every month from October to February, usually after storms. (10+,175,1)

Green

A single flew in from the west and landed on the sea at Needs Ore at 11:45 on Nov 17th, was watched for five minutes and gave excellent views before disappearing in the swell (IDW). (KFB)

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 better year than 2019 with 74 recorded up to Dec 26th. The following day, as a result of Storm Bella, 289 were counted exiting The Solent at dawn west past Hurst Beach. This sets a new record for the highest day count with the previous maximum being 50 at Hurst Beach on May 14th 2010.

In the early year nine were recorded including six seen from a boat trip to The Needles on Jan 20th. Spring passage was modest with one at Lepe on Apr 6th and 21 at Hurst Beach including seven SW on May 1st and 11 on May 24th. One flew west there on July 4th.

From July 15th to Aug 2nd one or two were seen at three sites with a further 29 (including four found dead) up to Dec 26th. After the excitement of 27th there was one further record - a single off Browndown on Dec 30th.



Common Guillemot, Sandy Point, Nov 9th (Andy Johnson)

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	6	2	0	3	18	0	3	2	2	9	10	306
Moving east	1			1								

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

There was an increase in numbers compared with the previous two years with approximately 38 reported up to Dec 26th. As with the previous species, Storm Bella then brought very large numbers to western waters the next day. On Dec 27th 109 were recorded including 102 exiting The Solent at dawn past Hurst Beach. This sets a new county record for the highest day count with the previous maximum being 50 at Hurst Beach on May 14th 2010.

In the early year four were noted at three sites including two east at Hurst Beach on Jan 13th. The only spring record was two off Hurst Beach on May 7th.

The first of the autumn were singles at Hurst Beach on Sep 23rd and one dead at Park Shore on 25th. One off Hurst Beach on Oct 30th was followed by approximately 24 from Nov 11th until Dec 26th including eight west at Sandy Point on Dec 14th. The final birds of the year were the 109 on Dec 27th referred to above.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1			2				2	1	9	129

Auk sp.

In the early year three were off Sandy Point on Jan 11th with a further five there between Apr 5th and June 13th. There were no further reports until Nov 15th when one flew west at Barton on Sea. Thereafter an exceptional total of 362 was recorded. The majority were in the west with 144 off Hurst Castle on Nov 23rd, with 91 still present the next day, and 132 on Dec 15th. The final records of the year were on Dec 27th, the same day as the record-breaking counts of Guillemots and Razorbills due to Storm Bella, when 43 were counted in the West Solent off Pennington Marshes. (MLE)

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

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

A total of 147 bird-days was recorded biased towards the late year (32, Jan-Mar; 30, Apr-June; 85, Sep-Dec). Early year reports between Sandy and Black Points totalled 17 bird-days

of one or two up to Feb 5th and three west the following day. Off Hurst Beach there were just seven bird-days, all of singles except for two west on Feb 1st. Reports elsewhere were singles off Chilling Cliffs/Hill Head (Jan 15th); Keyhaven Marshes (Jan 26th and Mar 17th); Hook Spit (NW, Feb 8th) and Fawley Reservoir (Jan 31st, presumed first record for the site).

Spring passage at Sandy Point totalled one west on Apr 2nd followed by 20 east comprising eight on Apr 5th, up to three on six dates to May 19th and singles resting on the sea on May 3rd and 8th. Elsewhere there were just four reports as lock-down severely reduced coverage. Two birds roamed Southampton Water, one in breeding plumage from Apr 9th-11th and another in non-breeding plumage on the late date of June 2nd. Elsewhere singles were reported off East Stoke, Hayling Island (Apr 29th), Hurst Beach (Apr 26th) and Hurst Castle (May 4th).

The first return flew west past Sandy Point on Sep 27th followed by October singles off Keyhaven/Pennigton Marshes (12th); Hook-with-Warsash (12th-16th, 28th); Barton and Milford on Sea (18th, 24th and W, 25th). Several movements were recorded during November/December, particularly in the west at Barton on Sea (2W, Nov 29th; 3 E/2 W, Dec 6th; 6 W, 16th; 4 E, 19th; 4 W, 27th and singles on 5 dates) and Hurst Beach/Castle (2 E, Dec 19th; 5 W, 27th and singles on 7 dates). Along The Solent singles were off Needs Ore (W, Nov 15th; W, 22nd; juv., Dec 1st); Calshot (E, Dec 6th); Hythe (Nov 23rd) and up to three off Hill Head/Brownwich (3, Nov 22nd; 3 E, Dec 6th and singles on 6 dates) and Lee-on-the-Solent (3 E, Dec 13th). At Sandy Point there were sightings on 11 dates (2 E, Dec 7th; 3, 11th; 2, 14th; 4 W, 15th; 2, 24th and singles on seven dates) nearby within Chichester Harbour singles were off Black Point on three dates. The approximate monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	5	3	2	2	1	1				5	6	9
Moving east	2			19	3						5	17
Moving west	2	6		1					1	1	8	12

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

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

A poor year with just 13 records of which 11 were fly-bys. There were just three singles in flight in the early year at Needs Ore (E, Jan 31st) and across Christchurch Bay off Hurst Beach (SW, Mar 4th; NW, 22nd). The only spring record was two east past Sandy Point on Apr 5th.

All late year records were singles. The first return drifted across the Beaulieu Estuary on Oct 17th. The following three November sightings in Christchurch Bay may all have referred to one individual: Milford Shelter (15th), Barton on Sea (W, 07:43 Nov 22nd) and returning later the same day past Hurst Castle (E, 09:03). One was off Hurst Beach on Dec 19th and flew west at Hurst Castle the next day. There was just one record from the eastern harbours leaving Black Point on Dec 12th and flying high west. The only mid-Solent records were off Brownwich (Nov 28th) and Gilkicker Point (W, Dec 22nd). Minimum monthly totals are shown below. (AFJC)

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

Great Northern Diver (Common Loon) *Gavia immer*

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Amber

A remarkable year with reports across all coastal localities and unusually one inland. In the early year there were daily sightings at Sandy/Black Points until Mar 24th (peaks 4, Jan 15th; 6, Feb 25th and 27th). Southampton Water also held a wintering population until Mar 28th reported from Weston Shore (peaks, 5 on 8 dates, Jan 1st to Mar 16th, increasing to 8,

Mar 25th) and Dibden Bay/Hythe Marina (6, Feb 14th-15th). There were regular reports of one or two (last date in parentheses) from Hill Head/Solent Breezes (Mar 4th); Hook-with-Warsash (Mar 26th) and Lepe/Needs Ore (Mar 15th). Other reports of one or two were as follows (bird-days in parentheses): Hayling Bay (2); Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours (5 and 22 respectively) and West Solent (9). The total of 246 reports included 13 birds in flight comprising three to Feb 1st (presumably first-winters with a later primary moult) and ten from Feb 11th-22nd. All 18 records from April-June involved one or two feeding/resting birds on the sea. None was reported in breeding plumage consistent with them being second calendar-year birds. The last of the early year was off Hill Head on the new late date of June 26th, four days later than the previous record.

The first return flew west past Milford on Sea on Oct 5th. The next in summer plumage was off Sandy Point on Oct 6th which was joined by a second on 8th. There were no others until Oct 31st when one arrived and remained until the year end, with a second present on 11 dates and a peak of five on Dec 28th. Between Hayling Bay and Southsea there were 22 bird-days from Nov 2nd including a peak of three in Langstone Harbour on Dec 29th. One was off Hill Head or nearby on Oct 30th-31st followed by up to three from Nov 5th. These produced daily reports ranging to Hamble River entrance and into Southampton Water. On Nov 3rd seven were reported off Weston Shore comprising two groups of three and four. The four remained until the year end off Weston Shore or scattered across the waters from Calshot to Hythe with five noted on Nov 16th. At the Beaulieu Estuary the first return (Nov 9th) was followed by three west (Nov 13th-15th) and one or two on the sea on 13 following dates. At West Solent there were one or two settled on 11 dates and moving on four dates (singles E, Nov 2nd, Dec 14th, 19th and 4 W Dec 27th). Two on the sea off Oxy Marsh (Dec 27th) contributed to a peak daily count for the year of 13.

One at Ibsley Water on Dec 5th (RAC) was the first inland record since Nov 3rd 2014. It was the ninth there and the eighth in a sequence of inland records at this site since Jan 14th 1995. Similar to four of these previous records, it was only present for one day. It brings the total of inland records to just 15 since 1950. Minimum monthly totals and bird-days are shown below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Minimum count		10	10	9	3	3	1			3	7	13
Bird-days		89	81	76	11	5	3			9	102	111

Diver sp.

Unidentified divers, typically distant fly-bys, were observed off Sandy Point (1 E, Apr 8th; 2 E, Apr 23rd; 1 W, May 6th; 1, Oct 12th and 1 W, Oct 30th); Barton on Sea (1 E, Oct 15th) and Hurst Spit (1, Dec 11th; 1, Dec 19th). (AFJC)

Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel) *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

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

There were two sightings – both on Dec 27th which was the day after Storm Bella had hit the UK in the night of Dec 26th through to the following morning. The first was flying south off Hythe at 08:20 (IRW) and presumably the same bird again at 09:50 (ARC) when it was flying towards the River Itchen before it was lost to view. Another was on the west side of Langstone Harbour from 15:00-16:10 (TMJD *et al.*). Surprisingly there were no other reports anywhere in the UK that day so it would seem likely that the two sightings could refer to the same bird although the locations are 25km apart. (KFB)

Storm Petrel sp. *Hydrobates/Oceanodroma*

Unidentified singles were off Milford on Sea at 14:17 on July 27th (MPM) and Hurst Castle at 09:04 on Nov 15th (CB). (KFB)

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis*

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

As usual, recorded in small numbers from coastal watch-points at each end of The Solent with occasional records from Southampton Water. One or two were recorded at Hurst Castle, mostly west where movement noted, on Jan 13th, Feb 2nd, June 3rd and 22nd, and between Dec 15th-27th, and intermittently at Sandy Point, both east and west, between Apr 9th and Aug 25th except for six on May 22nd. Elsewhere singles were noted at Hill Head on February 24th and 28th, Hook-with-Warsash on Feb 25th, June 1st and 21st, and off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on June 6th.

The monthly maxima are shown below. (MLC)

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

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The year total of 41 over nine days is the lowest since 2016, being lower than the 60 over eight days in 2019, and continues the declining trend established in recent years. At Sandy Point the first report was of three east on Apr 24th followed by one on May 22nd and nine west on July 4th (ACJ). At the other end of The Solent, reported from Hurst Spit with three south on May 1st (MPM), ten on May 5th (MCC), one west on May 24th (MPM) and eight offshore from a boat on July 10th (NRJ). Further west at Taddiford Gap five were seen around 21:00 on June 27th and one on July 3rd (TR).

There was also an unusual record from St.Mary's Church, Andover where feathers were found below a Peregrine nest on Sep 15th and identified as Manx Shearwater by feather expert Gabriel Hartmann (SJK).

The monthly cumulative totals are shown below, excluding the Andover record. The mix of directions and spread of dates again suggest feeding forays probably from the nearest colonies in the Scilly Isles and/or northern France. (MLC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			3	15	5	18					

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in late summer and autumn. (1,266,1) ET, CR, Red, S4I

A single flew west at Milford on Sea at 06:39 on July 5th (MPM).

After a blank year in 2018 there were ten seen in 2019, but 2020 saw a return to a single record (as in 2017). The species is rarely recorded now despite the steady flow of records between 2001-2013. In neighbouring Dorset this decline has been noted at a number of sites away from the hotspot of Portland Bill. (KFB)

Shearwater sp.

A single at Hurst Beach at 07:16 on June 14th (CB) and ten SE at long range there on Sep 24th (MJM). (KFB)

Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

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

Recorded in every month with monthly maxima over 100 at Hurst/Milford on Sea in April, May, July, October and December. As usual there were very few in the first three months with peak counts of only five at Sandy Point on Jan 10th and six at Milford on Sea the next day. Numbers rose sharply in April with highs of 69 east at Sandy Point on 17th, 53 at Hurst Spit on 19th rising to 180 (125 east, 55 west) on 28th and 314 east on 29th, when on the last date 85 east were also recorded at Sandy Point. This easterly movement suggested passage to east coast colonies. The next month the only count to exceed 18 was 102 at Hurst Spit on May 5th.

Numbers fluctuated during the three summer months with highs at Sandy Point of 60 on July 9th and 55 on Aug 21st, 138 at Hurst Castle on July 27th and 50 feeding offshore near the Needles on Aug 1st. Within The Solent from Stokes Bay to Hill Head and Southampton Water as far as Weston Shore there were up to four between April and August preceded by one at Hill Head on Feb 20th. In the West Solent the highest counts were off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with ten on June 20th.

The only site to report any in September was Sandy Point with five on 27th followed in the last three months by no more than 27 on any one day. The situation was different at the western entrance to The Solent where the highest count of the year was recorded after the passage of Storm Alex on Oct 2nd followed by heavy rain the next day with at least 500 (80% juveniles and sub-adults) in a feeding frenzy off Milford on Sea near the Needles on Oct 5th and 131 still present the next day. Several sightings in November and December referred to birds moving west, the largest number being 24 on Nov 15th at Sandy Point. Within the West Solent 30 were recorded off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Dec 14th. The last three-figure counts of the year were on Dec 27th with 106 at Hurst Castle and 118 off Barton on Sea following the passage of Storm Bella gusting to around 95 knots at the Needles.

The most unexpected and truly bizarre record was a second-year observed flying NW low over Farnborough Airfield at 07:10 on Aug 23rd during a "vis-mig" session at Tweseldown (GCS, JMC).

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	5		1	5	10	3	60	55	5	20	27	22
Stokes Bay-Hill Head		1		2	4	1	3	1				
Southampton Water				1	2	3	1	3				
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	6	1		314	102	27	138	50		500	20	106

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 (with only partial coverage April-August).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS coastal counts total	119	135	88	0	6	21	27	69	144	226	167	139
WeBS inland counts total	272	315	173	10	4	5	9	8	350	333	431	360
WeBS total	391	450	261	10	10	26	36	77	494	559	598	499

The WeBS maximum of 598 in October is the lowest since 2014. 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
East Hayling to Sandy Point	10	17	10	7	1	3	40	14	7	4	57	69
Portsmouth Harbour*	12	29	32	9	3	3	6	1	13	22	37	20
Hill Head	30	36	30	10	6	6	15	19	19	28	50	32
Southampton Water*	52	33	30	5	21	4	29	48	76	88	62	38
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	36	54	56						19	10	110	61
Blashford Lakes	130†	125†	110†		10	22	20	26	159†	181*	139*	127*
Eversley GP (Berks & Hants)	9	42	31						3	12	25	95†

† = nocturnal roost counts; * = WeBS total all sectors

Nocturnal roost counts included 50 at Fishlake Meadows (Nov 12th) and a maximum of 18 at Allington GP (the last of 5 monthly counts, Dec 30th). A count of 110 at Bickton Fish Farm at first light on Nov 22nd was presumed to comprise dispersals from Blashford Lakes (Ivy Lake) roost (120, Nov 24th). Elsewhere notable counts, not tabulated above, included Fishlake Meadows (30, Jan 18th); River Test, Stockbridge-Fullerton (28, Jan 24th); Tundry Pond (31, Sep 20th); Farlington Marshes (54, Sep 27th); Trigpoint Hill (27 SW, Oct 16th), Beaulieu Estuary (55, Oct 18th) and Alresford Pond (23, Oct 30th).

At least one pair attempted breeding with an occupied nest in the heronry at Efford Mill, Everton. (AFJC)

Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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

Red

Recorded in coastal waters in every month. Sightings were typically of one or two but larger groups included Southsea Castle (4, Jan 11th; 6, Dec 20th); Christchurch Bay from Hurst Beach/Milford Shelter (5, Jan 16th; 5, June 3rd; 7 W, July 26th); Solent Breezes (2 ad., 1 imm., Aug 1st); Barton on Sea (7 fishing, Sep 7th; 5, Dec 2nd; 5 W, Dec 16th) and West Solent (5, Oct 12th). Records are assumed to originate from the small breeding colony on the Isle of Wight. Monthly maxima are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hayling Bay	1	1		2	2						1	1
Southsea Castle	4	1	1							1	1	6
Stokes Bay to Brownish	1	1	1								2	1
Chilling to Hamble Estuary	2	1	1		1	1	1	3	1	1		2
Weston Shore/Town Quay/Hythe	2	2	1	1		1	1	2	1		1	2
West Solent	2							1	1	5		
Hurst to Milford on Sea	5	3				5	7			1	2	2
Barton on Sea								2	7	2	8	5
Other localities	2	5	1	1			2		1	1	2	1

Additional observations (singles unless indicated) were as follows (bird-days in parentheses): Lepe (3); Langstone Harbour entrance to Eastney (8 including 2, Feb 5th and Nov 16th) and Portsmouth Harbour (5) including Fareham Creek (Feb 2nd) and fishing alongside HMS Warrior (Feb 19th). There was just one roost report from The Solent at Horse Sand Fort (2, July 8th). (AFJC)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare but increasing vagrant, recorded in every month. (2,54,8) ET

A single was present at Posbrook Floods, Titchfield Haven from May 14th-16th (AH *et al.*, photo). The next sighting was not until the autumn when one flew south over Overton at 17:27 on Sep 19th (PEH). This was probably the bird that was briefly at Sparkes Marina, Hayling Island before being driven off by a Black-headed Gull at 10:50 on Sep 20th (ACJ, photo). A group of five flew over Pennington Marshes at 13:00 on Oct 20th (CH, photo) and a single flew from Keyhaven Marshes out into The Solent at 12:30 on Nov 3rd (DC). (KFB)



Glossy Ibis, Posbrook Floods, May 15th (Mark Francis)

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

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

There were monthly records from the West Solent but elsewhere numbers were below average (just 36 out of 535 records). Whilst birds are known to move between The Solent and Poole Harbour in Dorset, the dynamics along the West Solent suggest Beaulieu Estuary sites are used mainly for rest, Lymington Estuary for feeding and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes for both. Apart from one count of 18 at Needs Ore on Feb 9th (the highest ever in Hampshire) (DJU *et al.*), the early year wintering population totalled 13 of which 11 at Keyhaven Marshes on Mar 21st contained six adults and five immatures. Elsewhere singles were at Langstone Harbour (8 dates, Feb 4th to Mar 9th). The dispersal of the wintering group was evident from Mar 25th when three were at Frater Shore, Portsmouth Harbour and five flew west over Normandy.

There were reports on nine dates in April (max. 5, Keyhaven Marshes, 1st) including two crossing The Solent off Hill Head on 30th followed by two May sightings in the West Solent (1, 16th; 2, 26th). Up to three ranged between Titchfield Haven and Keyhaven from May 29th to July 22nd (20 dates) including two adults north past Weston Shore (June 6th) and a juvenile at Keyhaven Marshes (June 24th-26th). An unusual inland report was of one over Winnall Moors and presumed same flying south down the Itchen Valley at Allbrook (June 19th), a garden tick for the observer as he ate his curry supper!

Three rested at Beaulieu Estuary from July 25th to Aug 18th followed by widely scattered reports of one or two on ten dates from Aug 21st to Oct 10th including Chichester Harbour (Aug 31st) and well inland at Alresford Pond (Oct 10th, based on timings, seen earlier in the day over London Wetland Centre, Longside Lake and briefly grounded at Tice's Meadow, Surrey). Although intermittent, four or five were present along the West Solent from Oct 28th until an increase on Nov 26th when eight were at Inchmery, followed by a late year maximum of 14 at Needs Ore on Dec 17th. Approximate monthly totals are shown in the table below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	13	18	8		3	3	3	3	1	5	8	14
Lymington-Sowley	8	3	3									8
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes	13	8	13	5	1	2	3	2	1		4	7
Other localities	1	1	3	2		4	1	2	1	1		
Minimum total	14	19	13	5	3	5	4	5	2	6	8	14

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce but regular winter visitor.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S4I, HBAP

There were reports from just three localities of singles unless stated otherwise. One detected at Fishlake Meadows in December 2019 may have been present throughout the year. First reports were of a male booming (SAB, DAT, RWoods) on Mar 1st followed by regular singing until Apr 25th. A second individual was suspected to be present from Apr 7th-22nd (MAN, AJBL). Two isolated reports followed into roost on May 27th (AJBL) and Aug 17th (RJT) before occasional sightings from Oct 3rd into December (DAT *et al.*). Elsewhere the only other reports were at Ivy Lake, Blashford on Mar 15th-16th (MJN) and a nocturnal calling at Woodlands, Totton on Apr 1st (RBW). (AFJC)

Night-heron (Black-crowned Night Heron) *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Very rare vagrant. (4,15,1)

An immature was sat in a tree in a small wood at Veal's Lane, halfway between Hythe and Marchwood at 06:51 on Apr 19th (JB).

There are 19 previous records, mostly in spring, although the most recent was at Dibden Purlieu on Oct 19th 2015. (KFB)

Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret) *Bubulcus ibis*

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

ET, Schedule 1

The regular flock wintering in fields around Warblington typically totalled five but eight were present on Jan 6th and nine on 8th. The last early winter record there was three on Mar 8th. Elsewhere one was at Amport on Jan 27th but the next records were not until March with a scatter of singles from Nursling (18th), Titchfield Haven (20th), Leigh Park (25th) and Fishlake Meadows (28th) - perhaps the same wandering individual.



Breeding colony of Cattle Egrets, Langstone Mill Pond, Aug 12th (Richard Ford)

In spring one flew north over Sarisbury Green on Apr 30th. Following first breeding in 2019, birds once more bred within the Little Egret colony at Langstone Mill Pond where arrivals were noted a month earlier than last year at the beginning of May. Two nests were occupied by May 20th and five noted on 25th. More joined in June bringing the minimum total to eight occupied nests. Up to three further nests were suspected but not confirmed. Three pairs had full-grown young by June 10th and by July there was a total of 18 young on nests. Reports away from the breeding colony were at Farlington Marshes (3 N, June 12th; 1, July 16th), Swanwick (2, July 9th) and Titchfield Haven (4, July 11th; 18 WNW, July 12th).

Regular evening flights from West Sussex into the Langstone Mill Pond roost were noted crossing Emsworth Harbour from July 22nd (20) to Aug 17th (28). A well-observed movement featured 13 seen over Selsey Bill, West Sussex at 05:30 on Aug 2nd, crossing Farlington Marshes 15 minutes later and flying east there again at 08:40, having been reported at Titchfield Haven at 06:25 before leaving east at 08:25. Autumnal movements were widely scattered. Three adults were at Fleet Pond (Aug 10th-11th); one was grounded at Blackwater, Beaulieu River (Aug 27th); a flock of six flew ENE over Farlington Marshes (Sep 7th); one was in a field with cattle at Itchen Abbas (Sep 29th); ten flew west over the sea at Sandy Point before turning north (Oct 10th); three were at Alresford Pond (Oct 21st and 30th) and one was at Blashford Lakes (Nov 6th-10th).

The first returns at Warblington Castle Farm were four on Nov 17th increasing to seven on Dec 8th. Nine in the lower Avon Valley from Nov 30th remained near Winkton, Dorset until finally recorded in Hampshire in early 2021. (AFJC)



*Cattle Egret, Langstone Mill Pond, Aug 12th
(Richard Ford)*



*Cattle Egret, Needs Ore, Aug 27th
(Ian Williamson)*

Grey Heron
Ardea cinerea

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Green

Full coverage of known heronries was not possible due to lockdown restrictions. As a result, a national total of 3,224 apparently occupied nests was counted in 2020, around half the number recorded in 2019. In Hampshire 172 occupied nests were counted compared to 250 the previous year. Counts of apparently occupied nests (with 2019 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Kingston North Common, 5; Somerley Estate, 18 (19); near Fordingbridge, 80 (80); Efford Mill, 3 (4); Langstone Mill Pond, 4 (5); Barton Stacey, 5 (nc); Andwell, 11 (19); King's Pond, Alton, 6 (3); Elvetham Park, 16 (17); Yateley GP, 1 (1); Fleet Pond, 8 (7) and Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 15 (18). There were no counts at other traditional heronry sites at Sowley Pond (11), Lammass Wood at Fawley Refinery (47), Tournurbury Wood (2), Arlebury Park (3), Bramshill Plantation (7) and Eversley GP (6).

Monthly maxima at regularly reported locations where numbers reached 15 in at least one month are tabulated below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge (mostly Bickton Fish Farm)	25	58	32		30	4	87	20	88	76	155	153
Blashford Lakes	2	3	8		15	1	80	15	25	24	15	20
Lower Test Marshes	1		4	9	3	1	7	14	17	4	1	1
Frater Shore, Portsmouth Harbour	9	14	14	14	14	13	16	4	7	6	2	5
The Vyne	15	1	2	2	2	1	5	3	2	10	3	2

There were records from 316 tetrads including notable counts, away from the heronries and sites tabulated above, at Winnall Moors (12, Feb 22nd), Fawley Reservoir (15, May 24th), Bury Marshes (14, Aug 26th), Fobdown Farm Reservoir (12, Oct 1st), Eling Great Marsh (12, Nov 24th) and 10-11 at another five sites. (AFJC)

Purple Heron
Ardea purpurea

Rare vagrant recorded from April to October. (1,38,2)
ET, Schedule 1

An adult was at the Wildgrounds, Gosport on Apr 22nd-23rd allowing the finder to obtain excellent photographs, but was not seen again (PT, photo). Nobody else saw that bird but an adult at Farlington Marshes on May 31st was a crowd-pleaser. Having flown to the fields behind the Lagoon, and being visible from around 18:00-21:20, it took off and flew east towards Sussex (JC et al., photo).



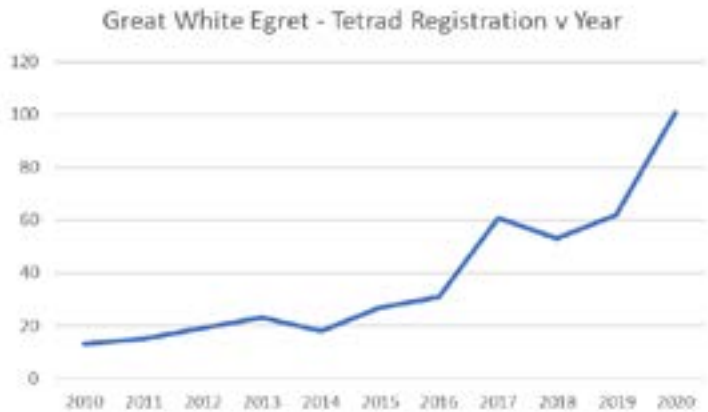
Although there have been 38 previous records since 1950, most sightings have been brief single-observer records, so the Farlington bird was hugely popular. About half of the records have been in April-May. (KFB)
 Purple Heron, Farlington Marshes, May 31st (Andy Johnson)

Great White Egret (Great Egret)
Ardea alba

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

The range expansion of this species continued with reports from 108 wetland localities in 101 tetrads (10%) in 39 ten km squares widely scattered across the county in all months, although numbers were highest in the winter periods. The increase in tetrads since 2010 is clearly demonstrated by the graph below, especially during the last five years.

Counts were mostly of singles but up to five frequented Blashford Lakes (Nov 26th-27th and Dec 24th); four between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (Feb 9th) and Fishlake Meadows (June 29th, July 27th, Aug 8th); three at seven localities (42 dates) and two at 30 localities (82 dates). Monthly maxima at the main sites are tabulated below.



Number of tetrads in which Great White Egret has been recorded each year 2010-2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst			1	2		1	1	2	1	2	1	
Southampton Water	4			1						5	2	2
Titchfield Haven area			1		1	2	2				2	
Lower Avon valley	1	4	1						1	3	1	1
Blashford Lakes	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	5	5
Testwood Lakes area	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Fishlake Meadows	1	2	2	1	1	4	4	4	3	3	1	1
Test Valley above Romsey	8	3	3				1		1	3	7	6
North-East			1				5	4	4	5	1	5
Other	1	1		2	7	1	1	2	6	6	7	6
WeBS Count Totals	5	12	7				1	1	9	5	10	10

WeBS totals provide an incomplete coverage for this species as it can be found on small waters and water meadows. As a result, numbers could be higher. For example, a coordinated morning count in the north-east of the county on Dec 29th located five when previous reports suspected only two itinerant individuals. The total of eight estimated for January in the Test Valley above Romsey comes from eight well-distanced localities, mostly singles except for two at Fullerton (16th) and Overton Lagoons (18th). Birds flying to roost were noted at Bickton (1, Jan 24th and May 20th), Fishlake Meadows (3, July 17th), Nursling Mill (2, Nov 23rd) and Eversley GP (1 amongst 10 Little Egrets, Dec 1st). (AFJC)

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 Reported from 262 tetrads (26%) in 45 ten km squares. The highest site count for the year was 112 at Langstone Harbour on Sep 19th. This contributed to the peak annual WeBS total of 401 which was within the range of recent five-year averages (see header).

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*	39	79	85		18	38	100	59	224	163	61	18
Hampshire sectors	26	54	54		6	39	42	6	91	50	17	3
Langstone Mill Pond/Wade Court	20	25	21			39	42	60†	45		17	
Langstone Harbour	20	11	11		8	12	32	39	112	90	17	16
Portsmouth Harbour	7	11	27	14	18	10	39	43	49	33	64	9
Southampton Water*	9	9	17		7	7	32	31	42	50	18	8
Beaulieu Estuary	7	7	8	10	6	10	17	27	16	20	23	18
Lymington-Hurst	19	18	54†	4	17	21	67†	70†	74†	29	61†	43†
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	36	34	32						7	8		3
Broadlands Estate/Nursling	27	25	31	14						40	17	
WeBS counts total	153	232	194		28	48	108	142	401	328	148	114

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

Notable diurnal counts elsewhere included a gathering at Posbrook Floods ranging in size from 34 to 43 between June 2nd and 10th. Inland 23 were feeding on farmland at Cheriton on Oct 21st and 28 were there on Dec 19th. The Oxy Marsh roost dawn dispersal peaked at 74 (Sep 12th) as tabulated above. Away from the coast peak roost counts included Allington GP (18, Jan 19th; 19, Oct 25th); Black Dam, Basingstoke (15, Mar 6th); Fishlake Meadows (13, Mar 24th; 14, Dec 29th); Lower Test Marshes (18, July 8th); Fleet Pond (11, Aug 9th); Eversley GP (15, Dec 1st); Springhead, Greywell (16, Dec 29th) and Alice Holt Forest (13, Dec 30th). A coordinated survey of all known roost sites in Hampshire on Dec 30th produced a total of 174 at 13 sites, rather lower than expected.

Breeding was confirmed at five sites (apparently occupied nests in brackets): Langstone Mill (15); Holt Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest (10), Efford (5), Barton Stacey (3) and a confidential site (1). Breeding success was not reported but juveniles were noted with adults at Farlington Marshes (2 ad., 1 juv., July 9th); Woolmer Pond (3 ad., 1 juv., July 12th), Fleet Pond (4 ad., 2 juv., July 25th) and Hook Links scrape (1 juv. in group of 18, Aug 8th). (AFJC)

Osprey (Western Osprey) *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

The first report was on March 16th at Skidmore with one heading towards Fishlake Meadows followed by singles from Botley on 22nd and Liss on 30th. There were 55 records in April,



Osprey, Normandy Marsh, Oct 22nd (Rob Porter)

many from lockdown gardens including one carrying a large fish and being pursued by gulls heading NE over Westwood, Netley on 12th. A colour-ringed male was present at Fishlake Meadows from May 18th to at least Aug 23rd. It had been ringed near Rutland Water in 2017 and had also been present at Fishlake Meadows during July-August 2019. An un-ringed female was also seen there in September. With the continuing re-introduction scheme at Poole Harbour in Dorset and numerous summering individuals, the possibility of a breeding attempt in Hampshire increases. Other possible summering Ospreys were reported in June from Lepe on 1st, Avington Lake on 3rd, Winnall Moors on 13th and Needs Ore on 19th. In July there were further records from Waterlooville on 15th and Ibsley Water on 16th.

During autumn passage in August and September there were numerous records from all the usual locations, but few stayed into October. The last reports of the year came in October from Fishery Creek, Hayling Island and Titchfield Haven on 19th and Normandy and Lepe CP on 22nd.

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

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chichester Harbour: Hampshire sectors						5	10	1	
Langstone Harbour		2				10	12	1	
Titchfield Haven/ Hook-with-Warsash		4	1			2	3	1	
Lower Test Marshes		1	1			6	14		
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary				2		2	2	1	
Keyhaven area		3				2	1	1	
Blashford Lakes/Avon Valley		7	4		1	2			
Itchen Valley	1	3	4	2		7			
Test Valley incl. Fishlake Meadows	1	8	9	15	12	10	5		
Elsewhere		8	5		1	4	2	3	

Honey-buzzard† (European Honey Buzzard) *Pernis apivorus*

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

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

The first record of the year came from Vernham Dean on Apr 26th followed by another in the Test Valley on May 2nd. The first New Forest record was May 6th. Despite COVID-19 restrictions an impressive 83 records were received during 2020. Unsurprisingly 50 records came from the main New Forest watch-points but nine came from the Botley area between May 10th to Aug 16th, five from widely scattered locations in the Test Valley spanning the period May 2nd to Sep 13th, nine from the NE heaths between June 1st and Aug 1st probably relating to the same summering individual, and two from Lasham (July 10th and Sep 7th). Single records came from Liss (May 28th), Selborne (June 3rd), Pamber Forest (Aug 3rd), Hawkley (Aug 18th) and Four Marks (Sep 4th).

Up to 12 individuals may have been present in the wider New Forest area during 2020. Breeding occurred at a minimum of six sites fledging at least seven young. The colour-ringed bird that had bred in the previous two years was not relocated but a different ringed individual, a dark phase female which had been ringed as a chick in Surrey in 2014, successfully reared two young at another site.

A sighting at Hill Head/Posbrook on Aug 27th was a probable indication of return passage, as was the last record of the year of one heading SW at Swanwick on Sep 22nd. (AP)



Honey-buzzards in the New Forest (clockwise from top). Adult male with honeycomb, Aug 12th (Simon Buckell); male, Aug 22nd (Martin Bennett) and juvenile, Aug 28th (Michael Darling)

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*

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

Green

Recorded in 313 tetrads (31%) in 51 ten km squares. NFWBS totals were three, one and two during January-March and four, five and five during October-December. Probably due to most observers spending considerably more time at home, there were numerous reports of Sparrowhawks catching prey in gardens. The identified prey species were Goldfinch (3), Starling (3), Blue Tit (2), Blackbird (2), Collared Dove (2), Wood Pigeon, House Sparrow and Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Despite its widespread distribution, evidence of current breeding density remains sparse. The county population was estimated at 800-1,000 pairs in 2017 (HBR 2017). Reports of confirmed breeding came from around ten locations with one pair at Portchester Shore,

where the male was engaged in nest construction in April, watched throughout the breeding season. There were two reports of successful breeding from the New Forest, where the long-running survey has been discontinued. Although the increasing Goshawk population has undoubtedly had an impact on Sparrowhawk numbers, records continue from many New Forest locations.

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	4	3	12	12	13	8	7	13	19	19	15	12

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Scarce but increasing resident.

Schedule I, Green

A total of 502 records was received, an increase of 150 on the previous year. The majority (354) came from the New Forest and are tabulated below, with a further 148 coming from the wider county.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
36	47	90	19	46	49	24	5	2	14	17	5

In the Crown Lands of the New Forest study area, 41 occupied territories were noted with 39 confirmed breeding attempts. There were seven previously known sites where no occupation could be found and a further two sites where birds were present but no active nest was found. Only 29 of the confirmed breeding pairs successfully raised young, with ten nests failing. Due to COVID-19 no ringing or nest monitoring work was undertaken so the reasons for the higher than expected failures are not known and no data on numbers of young fledged are available. Outside of the New Forest breeding was confirmed at ten sites and probable at another seven, but is obviously going unrecorded in a number of locations given the spread of Goshawk sightings across the county. (AP)

Marsh Harrier
(Western Marsh Harrier)

Circus aeruginosus

Very scarce but increasing resident and scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; formerly scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor which had occasionally summered and bred. ET, Schedule I, Amber

The status of this species has changed rapidly over the last five years. Although Hampshire is not blessed with large areas of wetland and reed-bed habitat, those areas that do exist have largely all become regularly occupied since breeding recommenced in 2015. Numbers continue to increase with birds present all year round at most coastal wetland locations as well as an increasing number of inland sites. If Marsh Harriers start nesting in crops, as they do in other English counties, then a further increase in numbers can be expected. In addition, individuals either



Juvenile Marsh Harrier, Needs Ore, March 22nd (Lee Fuller)

hunting or moving through were recorded from inland sites, including heathland areas of the New Forest, in all seasons. Up to four were present at the Keyhaven roost in January, with three at Needs Ore and Titchfield Haven. Typical inland lockdown records of birds moving between sites in April came from Fareham on 7th and North Waltham and Blackfield on 23rd.

Breeding season records came from at least ten locations. As in 2019 there was a lack of records confirming successful breeding, but juveniles were seen at two sites and nest-building/food-carrying reported at five other locations. Numbers at the Keyhaven roost in the late winter period failed to reach the highs of 2019 but there were four (a male, a female and two immatures) present on Dec 31st.

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

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

In the early year there were up to five using the two regular roosts in the New Forest, two at the northern site (male and ringtail) and three at the central site (male and two ring-tails). In January singles were reported at Budds Farm STW on 22nd, Wonston on 23rd and Emsworth on 28th. Typical records away from the New Forest in February came from Keyhaven on 5th, Needs Ore on 25th and Toyd Down on 29th, and in March from New Barn, Crawley on 26th. The last New Forest report was of a female on April 17th followed by a late record from Stubbington on May 8th.

The first of the autumn was a ringtail at Needs Ore on Sept 5th. It was over a month before the second at Keyhaven on Oct 15th. The first New Forest record came from Beaulieu Heath West on Oct 23rd. In the last two months of the year there were up to two (male and ringtail) at each of the two regular New Forest roost-sites and one at a Test Valley site.

The minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. (RC)

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

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, last bred 1998. (Many, 109 since 1998, 2)

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

A male flew low over Itchen Water Works and then departed SE at 10:33 on Apr 10th (MJWH). What was presumably the same bird was seen flying east over Portsdown Hill at 12:00 (TMJD). A male was at Milkham Bottom, NF from 17:30-18:30 on Apr 20th (RAC, RBW, photo). (KFB)



Montagu's Harrier, Milkham Bottom, NF, Apr 20th (Russell Wynn)

Harrier sp. *Circus* sp.

A male was seen from a moving car at Broomy Plain, NF on Apr 18th (DB). Interestingly, a male Montagu's Harrier was seen nearby two days later. One flew in off the sea at Sandy Point, Hayling Island at 10:00 on May 19th and made landfall inside West Sussex (ACJ). A probable female was at Fishlake Meadows on 1st (MRaf) and near Burley, NF on 4th and 5th (GD). A ringtail was also seen at Winnall Moors on June 29th (GG) and possibly the same at North Stoneham the same day (PFI). A male flew east over Cholderton on Aug 16th (HAE). (KFB)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

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

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in 575 tetrads (56%) in 52 ten km squares making it almost equal in terms of tetrad coverage to Buzzard. There were reports from 798 sites during the year with the highest densities of records in the north, the Test Valley and around the South Downs. The number of reports was an astonishing 4,031 which is a 118% increase over 1,842 in 2019. In total 24 ten km squares had more than 50 records (compared to just one in 2019) and 11 of these had more than 100 records.

The increase in reports indicates that the species is spreading steadily and particularly in the east and south of the county. Estimating breeding numbers is difficult but between April and July birds were reported in 398 separate one km squares (compared to 319 in 2019) – a 25% increase. In the north there are nests as close as 400m apart, while in the south the distribution is more sparse. It is likely that the actual nesting population was probably in the region of 500 pairs, with perhaps 1,000 first-years in addition.

Monthly bird-day totals of sightings on the coast and the New Forest are tabulated below. These clearly show the growth in spring records (traditionally non-breeding birds wandering) but on an unprecedented scale. Between May 8th-10th there were reports all along the coast with peaks counts of 17 at Burridge and 14 at Titchfield on 8th, seven at Gosport and five at Swanwick on 9th, and an astonishing 51 at Portsdown Hill, 26 at Fareham, 14 at Swaything, 11 at Lee-on-the-Solent and Warsash on 10th. The next day numbers were greatly reduced. The birds were mostly heading slowly SW and were reported all along the south coast of England finally reaching Cornwall where 200-300 were estimated to have arrived over May



Red Kite, West Meon, June 5th, (Richard Ford)

9th-10th. While it is fully understood that young Red Kites explore widely in their first spring, it is not known what stimulated the movement on this scale. One suggestion was that with the COVID-19 restrictions on travel reducing road traffic by 70% in March and April, the amount of roadkill reduced to almost nothing as small mammals were easily able to avoid approaching vehicles. As Red Kites rely heavily on road kill food, the birds were possibly desperate for food and went in search of carrion.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	3	14	56	100+	150+	11	4	4	7	9	8	
New Forest		3	32	12	18	17				3	2	

A concerted effort was made to count all known roosts in the north-east of the county on the afternoon of Dec 29th. This resulted in 685 being counted at 13 sites as follows: Blounce 56, Bramshill 120, Broughton 30, Chilton Candover 45, East Meon 25, Facombe 35, Gander Down 100, Greywell 82, Newton Valence 33, Tunworth 29, Turrill Hill 90, West End Green 19 and West Worldham 21. These roosts are used by non-breeding birds and mostly immatures. Anyone seeing Red Kites roosting in groups is asked to report sightings. Although we have requested all records in the past, we now only need counts of ten or more from the north of the county, although all records from the south are still welcomed, as are all confirmed breeding records. (KFB)

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Rare vagrant recorded in every month from April to September. (0,40,6)

ET

It was a good year for sightings with six records being accepted. These were singles at Long Valley at 07:45 on Apr 13th (JAE), New Milton on Apr 13th (CA, photo), Fishlake Meadows at 18:15 on Apr 25th (AJBL, photo), Woolmer Forest at 06:50 on Apr 30th (REF, photo), Portsdown Hill (with Red Kites) from 11:00-11:30 on May 10th before heading east (PAG, TMJD) and Itchen Valley CP at 12:15 hrs also on May 10th (GCB, DLB). The last two records probably do not refer to the same individual given the times and directions of travel. (KFB)

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Formerly rare vagrant. (11,3,1)

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red

A wild juvenile was over Hasley Inclosure, NF on Feb 13th and again on Mar 12th (JH, photo) remaining in the general area until at least Mar 18th. It ventured to Ibsley Water on Mar 1st (DL, photo). Presumably the same individual was also seen by staff at the Hawk Conservancy at Weyhill on Mar 31st (HCT, photo). Thanks to satellite tracking data we know that none of these sightings match any journeys made by the Isle of Wight birds. Examination of video from JH allowed comparisons to be matched with the one photographed in Wiltshire, which was thought to be a third-calendar year from Sweden. This is the fourth wild bird to be recorded since 2007. (KFB)

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

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

Common resident.

Green

Recorded in 592 tetrads (58%) in 55 ten km squares making it the most widespread bird of prey ahead of Red Kite. NFWBS totals were 43, 46 and 52 in January-March and 9, 21 and 27 in October-December. Typical early season reports of multiple sightings came from Trigpoint Hill (26 in 1.25h on Mar 16th) and Old Basing (21, Apr 1st). A Havant garden during lockdown also showed evidence of spring movement with 25 counted, all SE, during a four hour period on Apr 7th.

There were the usual handful of breeding records reported from around the county, but little evidence of current breeding density. The New Forest survey did not take place for obvious reasons; the population there is thought to be around 70 pairs in recent years compared to a county population estimated to number 1,500-2,000 pairs (HBR 2017.)

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

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

Barn Owl (Western Barn Owl) *Tyto alba*

Moderately common resident.

Schedule 1, Green

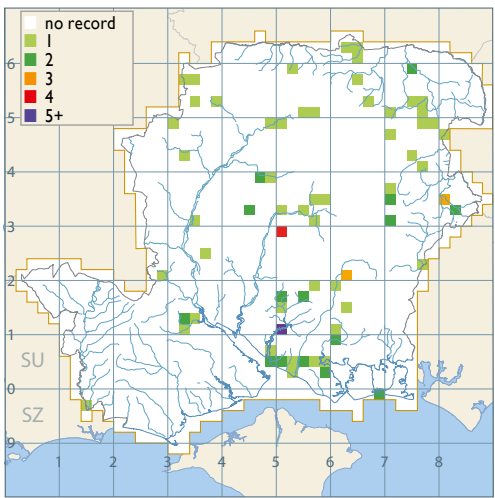
Recorded in 131 tetrads (13%) in 41 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 165 widespread locations. The Hawk Conservancy reported 195 nest boxes were used out of 370 checked. At least 122 nesting attempts were made with a minimum of 96 being successful resulting in at least 130 fledged young. Breeding was confirmed at a further ten locations and probable breeding was recorded at a further twelve. (BS)

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Moderately common but declining resident.

Recorded in 73 tetrads (7%) in 30 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 80 locations compared to 54 last year. The distribution of tetrads with records is shown in the map below. This shows scattered records in most parts of the county except the south-west.

A scheme in the north reported just two nesting attempts from twelve boxes checked resulting in a minimum of one fledged young. A location in the south reported four breeding pairs, two in nest boxes resulting in three fledged young and two in nests in natural cavities resulting in four fledged young. Successful breeding was confirmed at an additional four locations with probable breeding at a further four. (BS)



Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Little Owl in 2020



Adult Little Owl with juvenile, Bordon, June 28th, (Richard Ford)

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

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

In the early year two roosts of up to two birds were found in the north and were present throughout January at least. A single was seen near Alton during a night survey in January by observers using thermal imaging equipment and another was observed east of Overton on Feb 20th. For the first time in Hampshire successful breeding by four pairs was confirmed. Two pairs bred in the north, one fledging two young and the second fledging at least one. In the south a further two pairs bred with nests containing chicks approx. 300m apart. In the autumn one was reported at Old Basing on Aug 1st and late in the year another was seen near Hursley on Dec 29th.

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 yet another very poor year for this species. In the period up to April the peak count was two in the South Moor area of Langstone Harbour between Jan 1st-8th. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Keyhaven on several dates between Jan 10th and Feb 5th, Fareham on Jan 19th, Black Point and Holm Hill, NF on Feb 5th, Bransbury Common on Feb 11th, Eastleigh on Feb 18th, Whitnal on Feb 25th, Winnall Moors from Feb 27th to Mar 2nd, Kingsclere on March 22nd, Beaulieu Heath on April 11th and Farlington Marshes on April 15th-16th.

An exceptionally early return was recorded at Farlington Marshes on July 29th followed by one there on Aug 27th. Further singles were reported in September at Wonston on 4th and 6th, Hook-with-Warsash on 11th, Hill Head on 13th, Brownwich on 22nd, Bishop’s Dyke and Shatterford on 26th, Farlington Marshes on 27th and Needs Ore on 29th. In the period October to December the only multiple counts were two at Farlington Marshes on Oct 23rd and Nov 3rd. Elsewhere singles were at Sandy Point and Tweseldown on Oct 15th, Hill Head on Oct 16th, Chilling on Oct 17th, Leaden Hall on Oct 21st, Cheesefoot Head and Beacon Hill, Warnford on Oct 30th, Farlington Marshes on Nov 4th, 7th and 8th, Needs Ore on Nov 4th and 25th and Dec 6th and 8th, Newlands Farm on Nov 7th, Sandy Point on Nov 10th, Bransbury Common on Nov 15th, Rowlands Castle on Nov 30th, Barton On Sea and Overton on Dec 1st and Keyhaven on Dec 9th and 17th.



Short-eared Owl, Farlington Marshes, Nov 7th
(Chris Rose)

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

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

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident.

Amber

Recorded in 239 tetrads (23%) in 49 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 280 widespread locations compared to 250 last year. The highest concentration was four calling males and four females at Farley Mount in October. A county-wide nest box scheme resulted in 19 nesting attempts from 36 boxes checked resulting in successful fledging of at least 26 young. Additional breeding was confirmed at a further 17 locations.

As usual, the number of submitted records does not reflect the true status of this common and widespread woodland resident. (BS)

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe) *Upupa epops*

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

(44+,248,12)

Schedule I

An amazing run of sightings with twelve records. The previous highest number of sightings in spring was seven in 1956 and 1988. The summering bird was seen on many dates on private land and in gardens but was always seen alone. This is the first record of summering since 1959. All records are given below.

Badminton Common: Feb 1st-29th and Mar 15th (JGR *et al.*, photo).

New Copse Inclosure, NF: Feb 17th (LH).

Woodlands, NF: Apr 6th-7th (RBW, photo).

Sandy Point, Haying Island: Apr 10th-11th; a second bird on Apr 14th and a third on May 8th (ACJ, photo).

Plastow Green: Apr 24th (KW, recording).

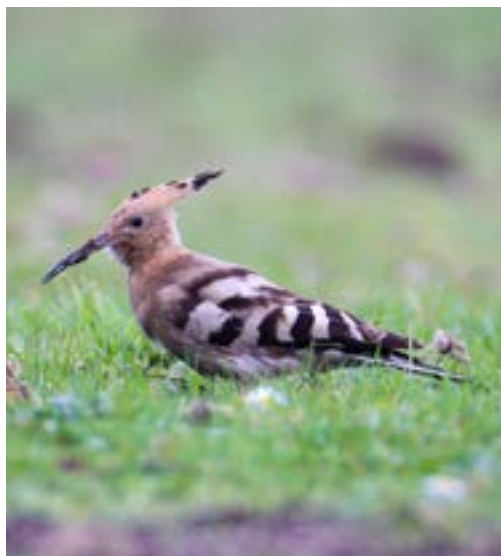
Dibden Purlieu, NF: May 15th (DS, photo).

Sutton Scotney/Wonston: May 15th-July 27th (DM *et al.*, photo).

Broxhead Common: May 25th and 27th (KWS, AD, photo).

Petersfield: Aug 4th (MC).

Beachlands, Hayling Island: Aug 27th-28th (PM). (KFB)



Hoopoes, Badminton, Feb 1st (Lee Fuller) and Sandy Point, Apr 11th (Andy Johnson)



Kingfisher, Mansbridge, Jan 29th (Ian Williamson)

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 350 locations including 35 in the Test Valley, 35 in the Itchen Valley, 11 in the Avon Valley, 37 in the north-east, 40 in the New Forest and 90 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at five locations and probable breeding was reported at a further three locations.

Post-breeding dispersal and over-wintering on the coast were 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	36	7	1	0	1	1	10	15	39	47	26	39
Lower Test Marshes	3	5	2	1	1	2	1	7	10	15	7	7
Titchfield Haven	6	1	0	0	1	1	2	6	17	7	4	2

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater) *Merops apiaster*

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since. (0,39,2)

Schedule 1

A single was hawking over a field near Hut Wood, Chilworth from 10:01-10:03 on May 10th. It gained height and departed NE (AJBL). Another was seen hawking and then perching in a bare tree at Fishlake Meadows at 15:00 on July 18th. It then departed SW (MA).

This remains one of the hardest birds to connect with in the county. However, Bee-eaters are 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)

Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck) *Jynx torquilla*

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

Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

One record. One was seen briefly at Lower Test Marshes on the morning of Sept 4th (SC). (BS)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

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

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 69 tetrads (7%) in 24 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east of the county. This was a significant increase over last year (cf. 29 tetrads in 15 ten km squares). Also more than 200 records were received this year (cf. 177 in 2019). While the majority came from the core area of the New Forest, there were breeding season records from 28 locations away from the Forest, up from 17 in 2019. Regular sites such as Woolmer Forest, Pamber Forest, Harewood Forest, Botley Wood, Shortheath Common and numerous locations in the Test Valley continue to provide sightings, perhaps suggesting that the steep decline noted over the past 40 years has bottomed out. On the other hand, this increase may have been due to more observers visiting local woodlands while lockdown restrictions were in force.

The New Forest records came from 52 locations during the breeding season, but survey effort was heavily constrained this year with the true total much higher than the data suggest. Despite nest searching being restricted this year, six nests were located in the New Forest, all successful, though the numbers of young fledged remains historically low. Away from the Forest, one nest was located in the north-east but failed due to predation by Great Spotted Woodpeckers. (RC)

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported in 444 tetrads (44%) in 53 ten km squares. Records were received for around 660 widespread locations compared to 490 in 2019. The highest count was ten adults at Wellesley Woods, Rushmoor in June. Breeding was confirmed at 20 locations. In addition there were 66 territories at 21 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1) compared to 65 territories at 18 sites in 2019. As usual, these numbers grossly underestimate the county population of this numerous and widespread species. (BS)



*Adult male Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding young at nest hole, Bordon Inclosure, July 9th
(Richard Ford)*

Green Woodpecker **(European Green Woodpecker)**

Picus viridis

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported from 351 tetrads (34%) in 52 ten km squares. Records were received from around 500 widespread locations compared to 340 in 2019. Breeding was confirmed at eight locations. In addition there were 46 territories at 16 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1) compared to 55 territories at 16 sites in 2019. NFWBS reported totals of 19, 20 and 9 in January-March and 19, 15 and 12 in October-December (Table 4). (BS)



Green Woodpecker, Furze Hill, NF, July 13th
(Martin Bennett)

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

Recorded in 401 tetrads (39%) and 54 ten km squares which confirmed it as the third most widely distributed bird of prey after Buzzard and Red Kite and ahead of Sparrowhawk. This was an increase on last year (*cf.* 304 tetrads in 52 ten km squares) suggesting either increased coverage by observers or possibly a reversal of the apparent decline in recent years, the Hampshire population having been estimated at 1,000-1,500 pairs in 2017 (HBR 2017). NFWBS totals were four, none and 14 in January-March and 16 and 10 in October and November.

In the major nest-box scheme, 98 boxes were checked with 49 nest attempts and at least 177 young fledged. In addition there were reports of successful breeding from Test Valley GC, Tidgrove Warren, Needs Ore, Manor Farm CP, Timsbury and Weston Shore with around a further twenty sites where breeding was thought likely. There were no reports of large post-breeding gatherings, with five at Portsdown Hill on Aug 19th and six at Butser Hill on Sep 13th being the largest groups recorded. (RC)

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. (2,58,2)

NT

At 09:30 on June 11th a female was circling with Swifts over Titchfield after which it drifted off south and was lost to view (ALR). A female was then seen at Acres Down, NF at 10:15 on June 12th. The bird approached from the SE and flew NW after which it hovered before dropping NE and out of sight (SC, TDC).

May to mid-June remains the peak period for seeing this rare passage migrant. However in Hampshire there have been far fewer records in recent years compared to 20 years ago although this trend is not apparent in national data. (KFB)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

NFWBS produced totals of one, two and one in January-March and two and one in October and December respectively. In January and February there were numerous reports, all singles, from coastal and inland sites in 27 and 15 one km squares respectively. At Farlington Marshes on Feb 27th a Merlin may have been killed by a Peregrine during a dispute over prey. Reports reduced in March and early April to 16 and eight one km squares respectively. The only records in late April were a female at Fishlake Meadows on 17th and a male at Stubbington the next day. The last was an unusually late record from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on May 28th, a new late date by four days.

The first reports for the second half-year were on July 25th, a new early date by five days, with singles at Hill Head and Titchfield Haven followed in August by singles at Keyhaven/ Pennington Marshes on 16th, Martin Down on 24th and Farlington Marshes on 31st. The first New Forest record was from Pig Bush on Sep 29th followed by one at Leaden Hall on Oct 5th. The first report of two together came from Leaden Hall on Oct 23rd. Unusually there were few reports from the New Forest in autumn and none from the eastern heaths around Beaulieu Road, though whether indicative of a paucity of Merlin or of observers is uncertain. One chased a Skylark unsuccessfully over a garden in Meonstoke on Nov 5th. There were two reports from Keyhaven of successful chases with Meadow Pipit and Linnets the unfortunate prey.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below, though it must be stressed that this only includes sites regularly visited by birders and that the true wintering population is probably rather higher. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	8	8	5	1		1	3	5	8	10	10

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in 196 tetrads (19%) across 47 widespread ten km squares except from the north-west of the county. This was more than last year (cf. 152 tetrads in 41 ten km squares), again possibly a result of wider coverage by observers restricted to their local areas. The first records came in April from Southsea on 4th and Bishop's Waltham, Deanlane End and Hill Head on 9th. Many further reports, often from lockdown gardens, followed throughout April and May.

Maximum counts at pre-breeding season feeding sites were six at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 27th and May 9th and four at Botley Wood on May 17th. Away from the New Forest there were reports suggestive of breeding from five sites though breeding was proven at only one. In the New Forest the population remains at a low ebb, with reports of pairs from seven locations, with breeding confirmed at two sites, while one pair failed probably due to Goshawk predation. Although there is some evidence of a decline in Hobby numbers over recent years, these records still severely understate the likely current breeding population within the county.

Most departed by the end of September followed by eight October records, with the last two from Needs Ore on 15th and Clay Hill near Burley on 25th. (RC)

Peregrine (Peregrine Falcon) *Falco peregrinus*

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

ET, Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 249 tetrads (24%) in 42 ten km squares, making it more widespread than Hobby but less so than Kestrel. There were reports from 320 sites including 55 locations in the New Forest and around 143 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 204 locations during March-July of which 86 were on the coast compared to 61 in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 21 localities with 17 pairs known to have fledged 40 young. Four nests failed. There were four pylon nests which fledged six chicks. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (9), tall chimneys (2) and quarries (4). In addition two pairs nested on coastal shingle, just a few metres from the high-water mark. One of these raised two chicks but the other failed when people trespassed close to the nest causing the adults to stay away during the time they remained. Very sadly two well-grown chicks died as a result on a very hot day. Birds were also present at a further three former nest sites but did not breed. Five nestboxes were used with 16 chicks being reared, including five at Winchester Cathedral. This is the first nest known to have fledged five chicks in the county.

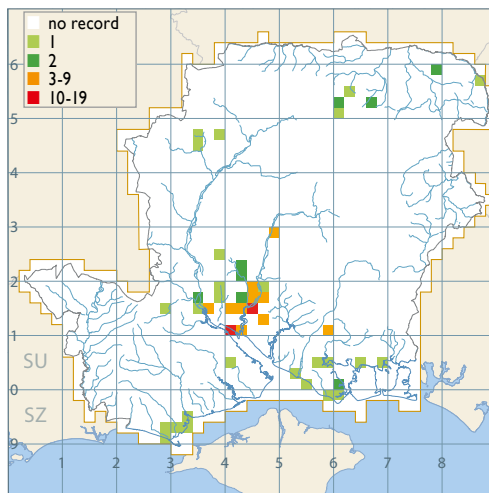
The programme of colour-ringing continued and 20 chicks at six nests were fitted with orange colour-rings. Recoveries from previous years were reported from Wiltshire (2), Dorset (1), Norfolk (1) and Hampshire (1). (KFB)

Ring-necked Parakeet (Rose-ringed Parakeet) *Psittacula krameri*

Scarce introduced visitor, bred for the first time in 2019.

Colonization of the Southampton area continued together with increasingly widespread records of smaller numbers elsewhere. Reported from 47 tetrads (5%) in 17 ten km squares, mostly in urban/suburban areas, compared to 36 tetrads in 15 ten km squares last year. The expanding range of this species is clearly illustrated by the map below showing tetrads with maximum numbers reported this year.

The main concentration of records was in the south of the county with a much smaller cluster in the north-east. Recorded in every month within the Southampton area (mostly within SU31 and SU41 which together accounted for 81 out of the total of 123 records) with peak counts of ten in the East Docks/Queen's Park area of the city centre on July 17th and Bitterne Park on Aug 27th. Many reports of up to eight were from the Itchen Valley between Peartree Green and Eastleigh, including Riverside Park where breeding was first confirmed last year. Up to six were also recorded in western areas of Southampton including Adanac Park.



Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Ring-necked Parakeet in 2020

Elsewhere reported in ones and twos from widespread locations including Andover, Basingstoke, Farnborough, Portchester, Gosport, Fareham and other coastal areas between Farlington Marshes in the east and Milford on Sea in the west. Counts of three or more were reported in January from St Giles Hill, Winchester (3, 3rd) and Wickham (5, 14th). (MLC)

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant; formerly moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1984. (since 1984 73, 2)

ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

A female was at Martin Down on May 25th (DNS, photo) and an immature was at Needs Ore on Aug 30th (IDW et al., photo).

Two birds is about average for recent years. Once again it was pleasing to have a May record. Since the cessation of regular breeding in Britain in the 1980s, the majority of records has occurred in autumn. There have been only ten May records since breeding ceased in 1984. (KFB)



*Red-backed Shrike, Needs Ore, Aug 30th
(Ian Williamson)*

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU

In the early year there was a single in the Holm Hill/Crab Tree Bog area of the New Forest (from 2019) through to Mar 23rd which was seen on many dates across six sq km of habitat. Another was in the area surrounding Milkham Inclosure from Mar 14th-17th, and presumably the same was at Linwood on Mar 18th. Away from the New Forest a single was at Woolmer Forest on Jan 1st.

The first return was in the Milkham/Slufers Inclosure area from Nov 15th into 2021. During this time it was loyal to this area and remained on the north side of the A31 except on Nov 22nd when it was seen at Backley Bottom. It was also seen at Ridley Plain on Dec 19th. Away from the New Forest singles were at Woolmer Forest on Nov 22nd and Dec 27th and at Bransbury Common from Nov 24th until Dec 2nd before reappearing in 2021. (KFB)

Golden Oriole (Eurasian Golden Oriole) *Oriolus oriolus*

Very scarce passage migrant; occasionally breeds. (16 including 1 of breeding, 86 including 8 of breeding, 1)

Red, VU

An unseen male was heard calling four times from a garden on Brighton Road, Sway at 08:30 on May 29th but not subsequently (SGK).

The peak five-day period in spring for sightings is May 26th-30th and, as often is the case, the bird was not seen. Observers hearing a bird are encouraged to make a recording. (KFB)

Jay (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Records were submitted for 378 tetrads (37%) in 50 ten km squares. The only double-figure counts, mostly cumulative counts from BirdTrack routes, were 12 at Acres Down, NF on Mar 5th; ten at Blashford Lakes on Mar 31st; 13 at Wellesley Woods, Chalk Farm, Aldershot on June 2nd; 15 at Neatham Estate, Wyck on Nov 18th; 15 at Darby Green on Dec 27th and 12 comprising mostly pairs collecting nuts at Farleigh Wallop on Dec 29th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were not available due to COVID-19. The highest number of registrations per sq km in BBS was four at Longdown Management Woods, NF on May 25th.

There were no significant autumn movements, with only one or two considered moving either SE or SW at Trigpoint Hill and Tweseldown on a few days in September and October. (MLC)

Magpie (Eurasian Magpie) *Pica pica*

Numerous resident.

Green

Records were submitted for 508 tetrads (50%) in 53 ten km squares making this species significantly more widespread than Jay. As usual, the highest counts of 50 or more were all from winter roosts. At Fishlake Meadows the peaks were 72 on Feb 6th and 65 on Dec 30th. At Winchester SF 56 were counted on Feb 8th and 70 at Titchfield Haven on Feb 12th. The largest roost was at Fleet Pond with peaks of 235 on Jan 21st, 200 on Feb 5th and 115 on Dec 30th. Southampton Common, which was the largest roost in December 2019 with 218, was reported to have 173 around the ornamental lake on Dec 24th.

Counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites were not available due to COVID-19. The highest number of registrations per sq km in BBS was 13 at Applemore, NF on June 7th. (MLC)

Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw) *Coloeus monedula*

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported from 503 tetrads (49%) in 54 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 457 tetrads in 54 ten km squares) making this species significantly more widespread than Rook, with which it often associates, and similar to Magpie. There were only five counts of 500 or more comprising roosting flocks of 610 at IBM Lake on Jan 18th moving SW from Portsdown Hill to Portsmouth Harbour, 500 gathering at dusk at Marchwood on Jan 20th, 500 NW at dawn from West Woods at Shirley, Southampton and 500 north at Longparish at dusk on Oct 10th and 31st. These numbers are fewer and lower than last year, when higher counts were more numerous and widespread (including five over 1,000 and a peak of 2,685). Counts between 400-500 this year comprised 420 roosting at Fleet Pond on Oct 26th, 400 roosting at Southampton Common on Dec 24th and 420 at West Worldham/Hartley Mauditt on Dec 26th.

The highest BBS count in a one km square during the breeding season was 106 at Leckford Village on May 25th.

Evidence of movements was provided by counts over 50 between SW and NW at Tweseldown between Oct 12th-26th (peak 75, 12th) and Trigpoint Hill with 59 SW on July 16th. On the coast the highest movements were recorded in October at Sandy Point with 96 west on 11th, 90 west on 16th and 40 west on 17th with 41 west at Barton on Sea also on 17th. (MLC)

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.

Green

Recorded from 371 tetrads (36%) in 52 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 370 tetrads in 49 ten km squares). In the first half-year flocks of 250 or more were reported from Clatford Oakcuts (260, Jan 25th), Hunton (500, Feb 29th) and Mottisfont (300, Mar 22nd).

Numbers of reported rookeries and nest counts were lower than last year with 20 sites, many being reported for the first time, containing a total of 479 apparently occupied nests compared to 29 with 959 nests in 2019. Rookeries containing 50 or more nests were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): South Warnborough, 51 (92); Titchfield Abbey, 50; Blashford Lakes, 50. No other comparisons with previous years are available due to the lack of reports from most traditionally counted sites.

In the second half-year counts of 250 or over were recorded at Martin Down (1,000, July 10th), Chalton (360, July 19th), Braishfield (700, July 28th; 300, Aug 6th; 250, Aug 7th) and Stroud Green Lane, Fareham (305, Aug 31st; 500, Oct 18th). (MLC)

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 608 tetrads (60%) in 53 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 555 tetrads in 56 ten km squares) making it the most widespread corvid with highest concentrations recorded at coastal locations. The regularly watched site at Weston Shore produced maximum monthly counts as shown in the table below. The annual maximum of 516 was recorded at low tide on Dec 29th (cf. 445 in January 2019).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
250	430	330	300	370	350	360	330	367	380	320	516

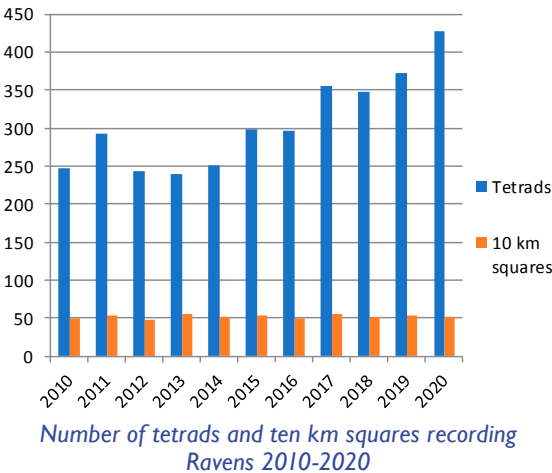
NFWBS reported comparable numbers with 276, 244 and 250 in the first three months and 497, 395 and 324 in the last three (Table 4). Elsewhere other counts of 100 or more in the first half-year were reported from Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (100, May 3rd), over The Solent (149, May 19th), Martin Down (200, June 6th) and Gilkicker Point (104, June 7th), and in the

second half-year from Southsea Castle (100, Sep 14th), Dibden Bay Reclamation (150, Oct 1st), Tweseldown (122, Oct 12th), Swanmore (351, Oct 26th) and Needs Ore (105, Dec 7th). No counts of breeding territories were received from the normally surveyed areas. (MLC)

Raven (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax*

Scarce but increasing resident which bred successfully for the first time since 1887 in 2003. Green

Over 2,200 records were submitted extending across 427 tetrads (42%) in 51 ten km squares. This represents a further increase on last year's 372 tetrads and continues the upward trend established over the last 30 years. Ravens are now reported in significantly more tetrads than Rooks. The chart below shows the number of tetrads and ten km squares with Raven records in each of the last eleven years. They became increasingly widespread from the late 1990s and by 2010 were already to be found throughout the county as evidenced by records in 49 ten km squares rising to 53 in 2011 and 55 in 2013. Progressive infilling of ten km squares continues as shown by the increase in reported tetrads from 247 in 2010 to 427 in 2020.



The distribution of records and numbers at the tetrad level is illustrated in the map below which shows that records are now widely spread across all parts of the county.

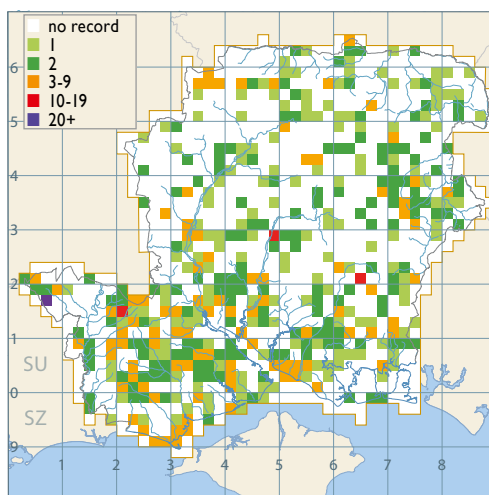
As usual the majority of records were of ones and twos and family groups, but there were also 15 double-digit counts including totals from NFWBS of 12, 11 and 12 in the first three months increasing to 16, 26 and 15 in the last three (Table 4). Other double-digit counts



Raven, Hurst Spit, June 23rd (Gareth Rees)

included 47 around a pig farm at Bouldsbury on Apr 8th; 20 at Martin Down on Aug 8th; 14 at Old Winchester Hill on July 10th followed by 15 there on Sep 12th including 13 mobbing a female Goshawk; 12 at Leaden Hall, NF on Oct 14th; 11 at Vernham Dean on Oct 28th followed by 35 there on Nov 11th and ten on Dec 2nd; and 14 SW over fields near Winchester on Dec 29th.

There were 46 confirmed breeding records in 22 tetrads and 115 probable breeding records in 47 tetrads. This illustrates the rapid growth in breeding records since the first successful attempt recorded in recent times only 17 years ago in 2003. The species is a regular nester on pylons and in 2020, in addition to nest sites in trees, at least six pylon nests were used. Numbers of fledglings varied between two and four per nest. (MLC)



Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Raven in 2020

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

Green.

There were only two records, both in the early winter period. A first-winter was present at Seafarer's Walk, Sandy Point on Jan 1st (ACJ) and two were photographed in a garden at Wickham on Mar 3rd (JH per JRDS). (MLC)

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 336 tetrads (33%) in 51 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 342 tetrads in 51 ten km squares). BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 83% of surveyed gardens compared to 99% for Blue Tit and 94% for Great Tit. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 73.5% in January and a low of 44.7% in July (Table 2). The highest number in any one garden was 22 at Bordon in w/c Mar 15th.

Double-figure counts were reported from 25 locations, the highest of 20 or more were recorded at Rushmoor Arena (31, June 2nd), Highland Water Inclosure, NF (24, Nov 2nd) and Bratley Arch, NF (20, Dec 27th). The highest BBS result for a one km square was ten at Woolmer Forest on May 23rd. No breeding survey results were reported from the regular sites. (MLC)

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Common but declining resident.

Red, S4I

Recorded in 297 tetrads (29%) in 47 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 253 tetrads in 43 ten km squares). Between one and five were reported from 14% of Hampshire gardens in BTO Garden BirdWatch with monthly reporting rates varying between a high of 12.1% in December and a low of 5.1% in May. The highest count of five was at Bradley in w/c June 21st. In addition, undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits (most, if not all, probably Marsh Tits) were reported from 3% of gardens with a high of 3.6% in February and a low of 1.2% in July (Table 2).

Totals from NFWBS were nine, five and one in the first three months of the year and six, five and four in the last three months (Table 4). Double-figure counts were reported from Denny Wood/Inclosure/Camp Site, NF (10, Jan 1st; 11, Feb 22nd; 10, Oct 11th; 15, Nov 12th), Farley Mount (10, Jan 21st), Parnholt Wood (10, July 11th), Mark Ash Wood, NF (10,

Nov 7th), Silchester (14, Dec 31st) and Preston Oak Hills (12, Dec 31st). During Willow Tit surveying in SU54 (Dummer), a total of 28 Marsh Tits was recorded in woodlands across eight tetrads. The highest BBS result was three registrations in the one km square at Minstead on June 6th. (MLC)

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S4I

Recorded in five tetrads (<1%) in two ten km squares. All records came from the two known clusters in the Hampshire Downs near Dummer (ten records) and in the north-west (six records). Reports in the first three months between Jan 31st and Mar 7th were part of a national survey organised by RSPB and undertaken locally by HOS to revisit previously known breeding sites to reassess the status of this declining species. Unfortunately the completion of the survey had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but that was after most Hampshire sites had been checked. The results indicated a further marked reduction in territorial males with only six in the Dummer area and between seven and nine in the north-west area. This compared with an estimated maximum number of territories of 20 in the Dummer area and 32 in the north-west in the previous HOS survey carried out in 2014-17. The only reports in the following nine months were four in the north-west including fledged young on May 28th and one at Walker's Copse, Dummer on Nov 19th.

This was the first year that all records of Willow Tits were required to be submitted to HOS Records Panel for approval. Claimed records in other areas to those referred to above were considered not proven. (MLC)

Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit) *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident and passage migrant.

Green

Recorded in 583 tetrads (57%) in 54 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 564 tetrads in 55 ten km squares) making it the most widely recorded tit species, slightly more than Great Tit. This was also the most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being recorded in 99% of surveyed Hampshire gardens. Monthly reporting rates varied from a high of 99.6% in March to a low of 88.6% in July (Table 2). The highest credible count in any one garden was 21 at Andover during w/c Aug 23rd.

There were eight records of high counts of 50 or more at Blashford Lakes (70, Mar 4th), The Chase (53, Mar 17th), Wellesley Woods (Rushmoor Arena) (107, June 2nd) and adjacent Rushmoor Bottom (64, June 2nd), Chalk Farm, Aldershot (62, June 2nd), Petersfield (50, Aug 13th), Wyck (57, Dec 23rd) and Yateley GP (85, Dec 24th). The highest BBS registrations were in one km squares at Foxlease Meadows (20, May 15th) and Winsor, Totton (21, June 8th). There were no breeding survey reports from the regularly surveyed areas. (MLC)

Great Tit *Parus major*

Abundant resident.

Green

Recorded in 551 tetrads (54%) in 54 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 531 tetrads in 55 ten km squares) making it the second most widespread tit species. A similar status was confirmed according to BTO Garden BirdWatch occurring in 94% of surveyed gardens. Monthly reporting rates varied between a high of 92.1% in March and a low of 81.8% in August (Table 2). The highest count in any one garden was 16 at Church Crookham in w/c June 14th.

High counts of 50 or more were reported from Blashford Lakes (50, Mar 4th), Wyck (71, Dec 23rd) and Yateley GP (75, Dec 24th). At Croft Farm, Over Wallop a group of 30 were recorded feeding under Beech trees on Jan 5th. The highest BBS registrations in one km squares were at Foxlease Meadows (23, May 15th) and Longdown Management Woods, NF (20, May 25th). No counts of breeding territories were received from the regularly surveyed areas. (MLC)



Penduline Tits, Titchfield Haven, Oct 31st (Chris Rose) and Needs Ore, Nov 4th (Nigel Jones)

Penduline Tit (Eurasian Penduline Tit) *Remiz pendulinus*

Rare vagrant. (0,20,5)

An adult was at the top of a small tree by the Bridge Street flood at Titchfield at 08:25 on Feb 18th but then flew east towards the flood and was not seen again (ALR). The next sighting was on the main reserve at Titchfield Haven when five birds (two adults and three immatures) were seen to feed on the flowering heads of reedmace near the Spurgin Hide on Oct 28th and 29th, with two staying until Nov 2nd (MSD *et al.*, photo). An adult and an immature were seen from 15:00-15:30 at Needs Ore on Nov 4th when they then flew off west (NRJ *et al.*, photo). The final sightings were of an adult at Titchfield Haven on Dec 15th and 17th (BR *et al.*, photo).

The last sightings were in 2016 which was a record year for the species nationally. The nearest breeding birds are in the Netherlands where the population is now decreasing significantly. (KFB)

Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in every month, mostly from the four regular sites tabulated below. Farlington Marshes was the only location to record double-figures. High numbers there each month were in January (20,1st; 30,5th; 22,18th), September (21,14th; 30, 17th and 28th), November (10, 29th) and December (15, 30th).

Breeding was confirmed at all four tabulated sites. The highest numbers were recorded at Farlington Marshes where there were at least 12 breeding pairs based on the trapping and ringing between May and August of 12 males and three females, all with brood patches, and 17 juveniles. Elsewhere records of recently fledged young included four at Keyhaven Marshes on June 9th; two at Titchfield Haven on June 13th; one at Hook Spit, Hook-with-Warsash on June 25th and one caught and ringed with two adults at Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes on July 6th.

Apart from several records of singles near the tabulated sites, the only other sightings were at Lymington River above Bridge Road with one on Jan 21st; Fishlake Meadows with one on

Aug 8th, three on Sep 1st and one from Sep 4th to Nov 7th; and Needs Ore/Beaulieu River on Sep 22nd. A colour-ringed female seen at Hook Lake, Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 27th, Dec 2nd and 31st provided a fascinating insight into regional movements having been ringed less than two weeks earlier at Radipole Lake, Weymouth (RHM).

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

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

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Moderately common resident and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green, S41, HBAP

In January there were records from downland sites with singing males at Whitnal on 1st, Hinton Ampner on 4th and Beech on 26th, one calling at Ower Farm, Upham on 11th, and 20 in stubble at Portsdown Hill on 18th. In the New Forest one was heard from Blackwater Arboretum on 3rd and four were at Acres Down on 8th. NFWBS located a total of 14 on 18th including 12 at Longwater Lawn and song was heard at five locations by the end of the month. On the north-east heaths the first was one singing at Eversley Common on 31st.

Records became more widespread in February. NFWBS produced 46 on 15th while a flock of seven at Eelmoor on 11th contained two colour-ringed birds. Away from traditional heathland sites singing birds were noted at Andover Down, Armsworth, Burnt Common, Crux Easton, Hill Copse and Walker's Copse at Dummer, Elvetham Park, Holybourne, Mottisfont, Netherton Valley, New Milton, Sheet, Woodcott and Woodmancott. During March to June the species was recorded again only at Armsworth, Burnt Common and Woodmancott with breeding confirmed at Burnt Common. Further records of singing males or pairs came from 19 sites. These included two males and a female near Meonstoke on Apr 29th and regular records at Weston Common where birds were present from Apr 21st to Sep 15th with three singing in clearfell on May 25th and juveniles noted on July 5th. A presumed migrant flew east over Hurst Beach on Mar 22nd.

The annual survey of the Thames Basin Heaths produced a total of 63 pairs/singing males compared with 49 in 2019 (Table 1). Most of the increase occurred at Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI where there were 25 territories compared with 18 a year earlier. At Bourley and Long Valley SSSI the long-term study revealed an increase from 21 to 23 territories. This was the highest level since 2012, although still well below the high count of 30 in 2007. Of the 23 males, 20 were known to find mates and breed. A total of 30 nests was monitored. Of the 28 where the outcome was known, 22 were successful in fledging 72 young - an above average success rate of 78.6%. On the Wealden Heaths a total of 45 pairs/singing males compared with 48 in 2019 (Table 1). However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only three territories were found at Longmoor Inclosure which held 16 in 2019. On the other hand there was a substantial rise from 16 to 23 territories at Woolmer Forest. There was no survey in the New Forest where 169 territories were located in 2019. The mass of records suggests no change in status.

Post-breeding flocks included 20 at Longdown Inclosure on July 6th, 12 at Matley Heath on Aug 17th and Sep 2nd, ten at Burnt Common from Aug 26th to Sep 3rd, 12 at Bank on Aug 30th, 20 at Ipley Inclosure on Aug 31st, 14 at Pipers Wait on Sep 5th and 12 adjacent to Mockbeggar Lake on Sep 12th. At Tweseldown 15 were noted on Aug 4th increasing to at least 26 on Aug 28th of which 15 were not ringed. However 19 different colour-ringed birds were noted in the flock which would indicate a minimum of 34. Numbers declined to 17 on Sep 22nd, eight on Oct 11th, then one to three until Nov 10th. Seven appeared on Nov 23rd

of which at least five flew off high to the west. Finally four including two singing males were recorded in mild sunny weather on Dec 17th.

Visible migration was most evident at Tweseldown where 24 flew mostly SW between Sep 22nd and Nov 18th (max. 6 W, Oct 5th), Trigpoint Hill with three SW and 11 NE between Sep 22nd and Nov 10th, and the Brownwich area where 29 were noted between Oct 7th and Nov 4th including a flock of nine west over Chilling on Oct 22nd and nine west there on Nov 4th. Other records of presumed migrants included two at Gilkicker Point on Aug 23rd, two at Calshot Spit on Sep 6th, one north over St. Giles Hill, Winchester on Oct 5th, one west over Portsdown Hill and one south of Pennington Marshes on Oct 9th, two south at Old Winchester Hill the next day, one over Normandy Marsh on Oct 13th, one south over Barton on Sea on Oct 15th, one south at West End and two east over Sandy Point on Oct 26th and one west at Weston Shore on Nov 4th.

Other records away from heathland included singles (mostly in song) at Beech on Sep 20th, Plastow Green on Sep 23rd, 30th and Oct 6th, Redenham Park on Oct 1st, Noar Hill on Oct 12th, Armsworth on Oct 17th, Vernham Dean on Oct 28th, Littledown on Nov 8th and Beacon Hill, Warnford on Nov 16th with two at Breamore Down on Nov 21st. Subsequently a flock of 14 was found in stubble at Portsdown Hill on Nov 28th and was still there on Dec 30th, while four were between Hinton Ampner and Bramdean on Nov 29th. In December NFWBS produced six on 19th. There were also December records from the Wealden Heaths at Broxhead Common, Longmoor Inclosure and Woolmer Forest up to 20th, one singing at Crawley on 19th, one NE over Trigpoint Hill on 25th, one at Lepe on 28th (the observer's first ever there) and one singing at Southwick on 28th. (JMC)

Skylark (Eurasian Skylark) *Alauda arvensis*

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. *Red, S4I, HBAP*

Recorded in 357 tetrads (35%) in 52 ten km squares. Three early year flocks reached three figures in January at Toyd Down (100, 12th), Tidpit (120, 12th) and Warnford (130, 19th), and three locations reached three figures in the latter part of the year at Keyhaven Marshes (100, Oct 17th), Shalden (120, Dec 8th), Hambledon (125, Nov 28th) and Brownwich (peak 150, Nov 8th). The only spring movements noted in April and May were one or two N/NW at Allbrook, Sandy Point and Ancell's Farm, Fleet.

The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was 16 at Kilmeston Down and Hawkley on June 5th, Palestine on June 9th and Robley Belt on June 13th.

Autumn passage started in early September and was unremarkable. The highest counts were 85 SW in two hours at Trigpoint Hill on Oct 12th, a flock of 80 NW over Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 13th and 61 west in 3 hours 25 minutes at Barton on Sea on Nov 4th. See Table 8 for details of visible migration counts. Minimum half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Totals
Coast moving		53	472	88	138		18	769
Inland moving	15	64	534	128	140	37	76	994
Totals	15	117	1,006	216	278	37	94	1763

Sand Martin† *Riparia riparia*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and common passage migrant. *Green*

A typical arrival date of Mar 6th for one in the Titchfield Haven area was followed by multiple records from traditional sites with over 1,200 reported by the end of the month. The first double-figure count was 40 at Titchfield Canal Path on 17th. Larger gatherings were initially



Sand Martins, Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes, June 22nd (Gareth Rees)

found only in the lower Meon Valley at Posbrook Flood/Titchfield Haven/Hill Head rising to 200 on 20th and 22nd, and at Fishlake Meadows with 150 on 20th. Blashford Lakes reported just three in March and no gathering above 20 before the end of April when numbers rose to 350 on 30th. Lack of coverage earlier in April was no doubt a factor.

Breeding was reported from various traditional sites including Blashford Lakes and Testwood Lakes with 105 occupied nest holes at the latter. Elsewhere there were at least seven pairs using a sand wall in Woolmer Forest firing range, a site previously reported in 2015, and at least three pairs remained at Becton Bunny after a tree fell and blocked the entrances to many adjacent nest holes.

Half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below.

	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	June 13-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland	79	135	523	14	14	60	20	6	6	26	20
Coast	185	0	3	1	189	174	8	411	59	2	0

The table above only includes records where observers have reported directional movements, and migrating Sand Martins are rarely seen in large numbers as a flock visible from the ground. A better indication of the scale and timing of major movements is indicated by the large feeding flocks, usually over water, which are reported during migration periods and summarised by the maximum half-monthly counts in the table below. These included highest counts of 800 at Blashford Lakes on Sep 3rd and 750 there the next day.

Mar 10-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
3	200	60	350	50	400	200	50	420	800	100	15

A total of ten with a maximum count of eight was recorded in the second half of October up to 24th and the last was one at Hill Head on Nov 7th. (SKW)

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green

The first of a dozen or so single records was in March from Chilbolton on 18th. Reports were not daily before Apr 1st. Double-figure parties appeared by mid-April at Titchfield Canal Path/Hill Head (150, 17th) and the next day at Ewhurst Lake (150), Fleet (126), Fishlake Meadows (120) and Pamber Forest (100). As usual, the first push then subsided followed by a steady trickle of arrivals, with a few larger counts (often poor weather dependent) in late April/early May (e.g. 400 at Ibsley Water and Fishlake Meadows, both on Apr 30th). Only 453 were recorded as actively migrating in spring. A few observers commented on less spring passage and lower breeding numbers than usual. The maximum number of registrations in BBS one km squares was 12 at Bere Farm, Wickam on May 30th. An immature at Farlington on May 15th was evidence of early breeding, possibly from elsewhere.

Mid-June perhaps captures the first failed breeders dispersing overseas. The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving from then through most of the autumn are tabulated below. Numbers peaked in the first half of September with a lesser peak in the first half of October. The only migrant count to exceed four figures was at Barton on Sea (1,420 E in 3.7 hours on Sep 1st). Ten others reached three figures, the highest two being at Barton on Sea (674 E in 3.5 hours on Sep 2nd and Brownwich (312 E in 3 hours on Sep 22nd).

	June 15-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Inland	77	31	92	138	355	1,066	551	325	38	4	1
Coast					90	4,090	711	1,655	296	14	1

In addition to the lower spring numbers, a notable feature of 2020 was the late departure of significant numbers. There were reports totalling 71 in November (max. 6, Posbrook Floods, 1st), mostly from coastal locations, with several observers noting the latest ever record at their site. Reports continued into early December with two at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 3rd and one (a juvenile) there the next day.

The delayed arrival, lower numbers in spring and summer and the slightly later autumn departure are illustrated by BTO's BirdTrack reporting rate graph for Hampshire 2020 compared with the historical ten-year average. (SKW)



BTO BirdTrack reporting rate for Swallows in Hampshire 2020 compared with the historical average

House Martin (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum*

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

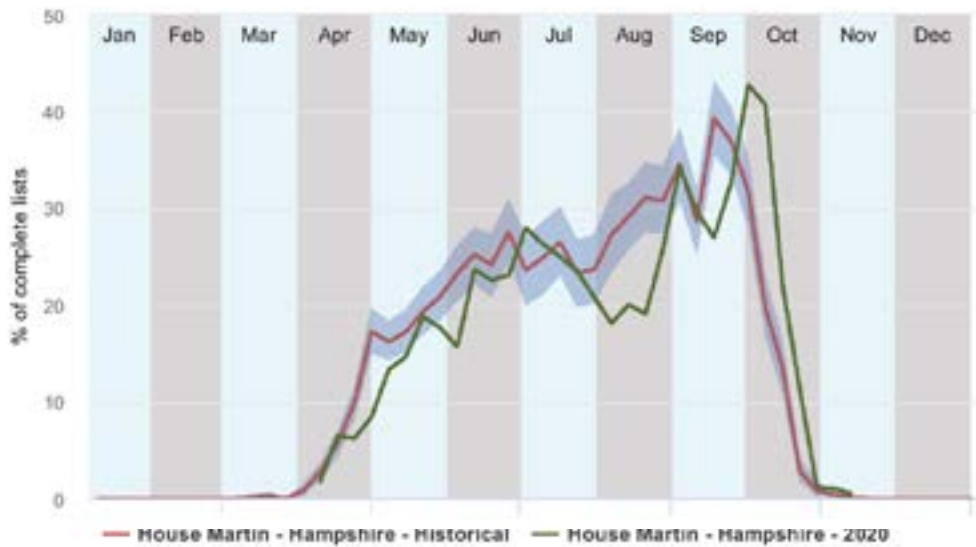
Amber

The first were at least six at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 20th followed by six at Testwood Lakes and one at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 22nd. By the end of the month the only others were three singles in the Test Valley and one at the coast. Although daily records commenced on Apr 2nd, numbers remained low with no double-digit counts until 13th. The protracted arrival continued throughout the month until 250 between Titchfield Canal Path and Hill Head on 28th and the same number at Fishlake Meadows the next day were surpassed by 1,000 at Ibsley Water on 30th. This last was by far the highest number recorded in spring, the next highest being 250 at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head on Apr 28th and Fishlake Meadows the next day. There is a suspicion that House Martins continue to arrive later in the season as illustrated by 275 recorded moving north/NE during the first three weeks of June at Trigpoint Hill. In the light of this (and other factors), the table below should be interpreted with caution.

In the breeding season the only nest count to exceed 20 was 25 around Colebury House next to Testwood Lakes. The highest number of registrations reported by BBS in one km squares was 15 at Winsor, Totton on June 8th.

As with other hirundines, defining the start of return passage was not straightforward. Autumn passage appeared to start in the second half of August but was patchy, with just five reports of gatherings of 1,000 or more, all at Ibsley Water between Aug 29th and Oct 7th (max. 2,000, Aug 29th) except for Sandy Point (1,000, Oct 2nd), and just ten records accounting for 83% of the total number of visible migrants. The main push was concentrated during the last week of September with 36,229 on the move on 27th (17,500 NW in 2.3 hours at Weston Shore; 10,000 west at Testwood Lakes and 4,030 west in 3 hours at Barton on Sea, so likely some duplication). This day alone accounted for 65% of the total autumn migration counts. Relatively high numbers continued into the first half of October with peak counts on 2nd at Tweseldown (1,870 south) and Weston Shore (2,500 NW in 45 minutes in rain). There were eight early November records of singles with the last at Sandy Point on 9th. See Table 8 for details of counts at viz-mig watchpoints.

The slow rate of arrivals in spring and the later than usual autumn departure are illustrated by comparing BTO's BirdTrack reporting rate graph for Hampshire 2020 with the ten-year



BTO BirdTrack reporting rate for House Martin in Hampshire 2020 compared with the historical average

historical average. Note the similarities with the Swallow graph except for the later and more pronounced autumn peak of House Martins in early October.

Half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving between April and October are tabulated below. (SKW)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Totals
Inland	84	394	63	12	228	70	80		3	1,184	1,160	15,799	4,544	14	23,635
Coast										48	899	26,646	3,686	298	31,577
Totals	84	394	63	12	228	70	80		3	1,232	2,059	42,445	8,230	312	55,212

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropsis daurica*

Rare vagrant recorded April to July and October. (0,15,2)

Green

Two were reported. One was at Posbrook Floods, Titchfield from 08:47-10:15 on Apr 5th when it was lost to view (ALR *et al.*, photo). Another was at Rownhams at 18:00 on June 16th where it was seen briefly as it flew low over the garden near Nightingale Wood. It then carried on SE (PJH).

The Titchfield record is the earliest ever for the county. There have been records in seven previous years this century with the most recent being two records in 2017. Amazingly, of the last four records, three were at Titchfield! (KFB)



Red-rumped Swallow, Titchfield Haven, Apr 5th (Amy Robjohns)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

There were numerous reports from coastal sites and well-watched stretches of the Avon, Test and Itchen Valleys but surveys of clearly defined areas were sadly lacking. This includes most nature reserves although COVID-19 restrictions clearly limited such work. Counts of singing males from specific areas (not necessarily complete; 2019 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Farlington Marshes, 7 (7); Milton Reclamation, 9 (5); Hook-with-Warsash, 7 (5); Dark Water, Lepe, 5 (5); Lymington-Sturt Pond, 16; Blashford Lakes, 7 and Fishlake Meadows, 32 (20+).

Records from areas where the species is not well-established were as follows. On Hayling Island at Sandy Point singles were present on Jan 11th-13th, Mar 25th-Apr 7th, Aug 3rd to Sep 10th and Oct 13th into 2021 with two on Dec 18th; in the West Hayling NR-Northney area singles were present on Feb 7th, Mar 16th, June 13th-15th and Sep 19th-25th and at Gunner Point there was one on Oct 11th. At Bishop's Waltham a singing male was at the north pond on Apr 28th and 29th, in a nearby meadow on May 7th and at the south pond on May 20th and 27th. In the Meon Valley there were ten reports between Soberton and Exton from Feb 26th to Mar 16th and from Aug 31st to Nov 23rd, but only one in summer from Exton on June 8th-9th. In the Old Basing area one or two singing males were regularly reported between Apr 21st and June 8th. In the north-east singing males were at Fleet Pond from Mar 24th to May 13th and Oct 20th to Nov 27th, Springhead on Nov 10th and Yateley GP from Nov 27th-Dec 1st. Singles were also recorded at Overton on Jan 8th, Appleshaw near Andover on Mar 19th, Stanswood Farm on Apr 4th, Portsdown Hill on Sep 4th and Allington GP on Oct 25th. (JMC)



Long-tailed Tit, Southampton, Apr 6th (Lee Fuller)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 440 tetrads (43%) in 54 ten km squares (cf. 2019: 437 tetrads in 54 ten km squares). In the first three months of the year there were only five reports of 20 or more, although these were widely spread throughout the county. The largest count came from Pamber Forest where a flock of 60-70 habitually fed in Upper Inhams Copse from the beginning of the year until Mar 12th. Other reports were 20 at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 5th, 20 at Bransbury Common on Jan 8th, 20 at Southampton Common on Feb 26th and 25 at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 13th.

There were no breeding counts received from the regularly surveyed areas and only ad-hoc and low counts from other widely spread locations.

Post-breeding season and autumn counts of 20 or greater were received from seven sites with 40 at Waltham Road, Overton on July 8th; 23 in a Chandler's Ford garden on June 27th; 22 at Petersfield on July 29th and 20 there on Sep 17th; 20 at Westwood Netley on Aug 7th and then 21 there on Aug 9th; 21 at Acres Down, NF on Aug 16th; 20 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 6th, 8th, 13th and 20th; and 20 at Cholderton Park on Sep 28th. Notable numbers were also recorded in the last three months of the year with 48 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Oct 8th and 37 there on Nov 17th, 30 at Blashford Lakes on Oct 31st and again on Dec 30th, 30 at Fobdown, Alresford on Dec 16th and 34 there on Dec 17th, 60 at Yateley GP on Dec 24th, 48 at Hawley Meadows on Dec 29th and 31 there on Dec 30th. (MJP)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce and declining summer visitor now largely confined to the New Forest.

Red

Recorded in 24 tetrads in nine ten km squares, including passage migrants, with most reports from the New Forest. This compared with 21 tetrads in seven ten km squares in 2019. The first record was a singing male at Sopley on Apr 21st followed by two at Old Basing on 22nd. Other individuals on spring passage were noted at Titchfield Haven on May 4th and Fishlake Meadows on May 9th.

With the exception of one male singing at Hocombe near Chandler's Ford, all breeding season records were from the New Forest. There were between 11 and 18 singing males but only four pairs were located and no successful nests were recorded.

No confirmed autumn passage birds were reported and the last sightings were in the New Forest on Aug 8th. (TD)

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. (0,168,9)

There were nine records. As usual there was a concentration in October, particularly from 6th-16th, but a later surge was in early November. For the third year in a row there were records in December. All records are given below.

Keyhaven Marsh: Oct 6th (SRC), possibly the same Oct 9th (MW, photo).

Straight Mile, Romsey: Oct 7th (NRJ).

Drayton, Portsmouth: Oct 11th (GR).

Sinah GP: Oct 8th-12th (KAT et al.).

Hook-with-Warsash: Oct 16th (SB et al.)

Hill Head/Posbrook area: Oct 28th-Nov 2nd (RC et al., photo)

Skidmore: Nov 4th (PDW).

Burkham: Nov 6th (EMR, PJR).

Ivy/Ellingham Lakes, Blashford Lakes: Dec 11th-31st (RAC et al.) (KFB)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first for the year was one at Southampton Old Cemetery on Mar 18th. Thereafter a widespread arrival occurred with records from 19 sites by the end of the month (cf. 17 sites by the end of March 2019). The first and only double-figure count was 12 at Castle Bottom on Apr 11th. This was typified at Sandy Point where the peak was only nine on Apr 19th (cf. 30 in 2019). Sandy Point recorded 76 bird-days between Apr 4th and May 25th (cf. 93 in 2019).

Breeding season surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (with 2019 figures in parentheses) recorded 185 (160) territories at 16 (19) sites and 62 (73) territories at eight (8) sites respectively (Table 1).

In autumn a total of 251 was trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 18th and Sep 22nd, with a maximum of 34 on Aug 4th, a continuation of the increase seen in 2019 (256) compared to the two previous years, 2018 (136) and 2017 (161). Also 14 were ringed at Gunner Point, Hayling Island on Aug 30th. In addition, counts of 20 or more were made at Linford Bottom, Emer Bog, Chilling, Hill Head and Lepe CP, with the highest count being 29 at Hill Head on July 29th. Smaller numbers were reported throughout September into October, with the last at Upper Titchfield Haven on Oct 26th. (MJP)

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita collybita*

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.

Green

In January-February there were 160 reports covering 321 birds at 63 sites, a reduction compared with the previous year (cf. 2019: 598 at 98 sites). This year the highest numbers were found at Stockbridge Common Marsh with 18 on Jan 29th, although only ten could be found the following day. Ringing efforts at Eastleigh STW again showed the importance of this site during the winter period with 11 trapped on Jan 4th and 11 more on 18th and 15 seen on Feb 20th. There were no other double-figure counts.



Wood Warbler, New Forest, June 7th (Ashley Howe)



Yellow-browed Warbler, Blashford Lakes, Dec 28th (Matthew Barfield)



Willow Warbler, Ewhurst Park, Apr 12th (Barry Stalker)

As in previous years, and with so many wintering birds around, it is difficult to pinpoint the arrival of summer migrants. Singing birds were widespread from the first week of March, and double-figure counts became commonplace after the middle of the month with reports from 19 sites with highs of 20 from the Keyhaven area on Mar 19th and Fishlake Meadows on Mar 21st. As with 2019, apparent movements were noted at Trigpoint Hill during visible migration surveys from Mar 9th, the numbers being generally low with a peak of six NE on Mar 26th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 19 (21); Fishlake Meadows, 14 (23); Yateley Common, 26 (27). Other notable territory counts included Benyons Enclosure, 40; Pamber Forest, 24; Bourley North, 30; and Bourley South, 30.

There were ten records of over 40 between early September and the second week of October, with the highest counts being 60 at Gunner Point, Hayling Island on Sep 21st followed by 59 at the same site on Sep 28th. Chilling accounted for many of the other high counts on five dates with a maximum of 50 on both Sep 11th and Oct 11th. In November-December there were 260 reports covering 489 birds at 101 sites (cf 2019: 343 at 49 sites). Most of these records were singles or small numbers. Apart from 11 at Blashford Lakes on Nov 5th, the only other double-figure counts were from Eastleigh STW with peaks of 24 trapped and ringed on Nov 21st and 25 seen on Dec 31st. (MJP)

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 1982:62,0)

There were no confirmed records (we require either DNA analysis or clear recognition of the distinctive call to validate records). A silent bird showing features suggesting Siberian Chiffchaff was at King's Pond, Alton on Dec 12th (SJM, photo). (KFB)

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Rare and declining autumn passage migrant, mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven and Farlington Marshes. (1,87,1)

Red

A juvenile was discovered in dense vegetation just east of the Cowes Lane footpath at Hook Links on Sep 11th but remained elusive throughout its one-day stay (MP, photo). The record has been accepted by BBRC.

It is good that again the species is recorded given that there had been a gap in sightings prior to that and none in the period 2010-2015. For example nationally there were only six records in 2019 compared to 18 in 1969 – a time when there were many fewer birders. (KFB)

Sedge Warbler† *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green

The first for the year on Apr 5th were reported at three locations, viz. Highbridge; St Cross, Winchester and Chilbolton Common. It was clear that this was the start of the main influx as birds were seen daily to the month-end with 144 records relating to 423 at 53 sites (cf. 170 records in 2019 relating to 426 at 44 sites). The only double-figure counts were from the Romsey area with both the Watermeadows and Fishlake Meadows yielding good counts with the peak being 23 at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 17th (cf. 2019; three sites with a peak of 18). However no counts were received from the historic strongholds elsewhere in the county.

During the breeding season the main sites were not counted and it is therefore difficult to compare to the previous year. It is clear that a large number of local sites were accessed and recorded probably for the first time resulting in approximately 259 singing males at 84 localities (cf. 186 at 40 sites in 2019). The only count of territories at a previously surveyed site (2019 figures in parentheses) was at Fishlake Meadows, 26 (28).



Sedge Warbler, Itchen Valley Country Park, Apr 19th (Lee Fuller)

In autumn there was a slight decrease in numbers at Titchfield Haven, with 721 trapped and ringed between July 14th and Sep 26th (cf. 737 in 2019, although this still compares unfavourably with 1,224 in 2014) and a peak of 100 on July 30th. It is interesting to note the comment from the ringing team “by examining previous ringing data the 2020 breeding season would appear to have been the worst for this species in the last 20 years. From 2001 to 2019 on average 88% of Sedge Warblers caught annually were juveniles; whilst in 2020 the percentage of juvenile birds was 31%”. Ringing was also carried out at Farlington Marshes on three dates in August. A total of 40 was ringed of which, contrary to the much larger dataset at Titchfield Haven, a minimum of 60% were juveniles. Elsewhere return passage was spread thinly and nowhere were double-figure counts reached, the highest being seven at both Brownwich on Aug 11th and Pennington Marshes on Sep 4th. There were only two October records, a single at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 1st and the last at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on Oct 11th. (MJP)

Reed Warbler† (Eurasian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green, HBAP

The first for the year was a single at Cemetery Lake, Southampton Common on Apr 5th and thereafter reports were daily. By the month's end, only three locations had double-figure counts, no doubt impacted by the lockdown measures, with 12 at Fishlake Meadows, ten at Farlington Marshes and 13 at Edenbrook CP.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 487 singing males/territories at 142 sites (cf. 2019: 455 at 83 sites). As with the previous species, surveying was severely curtailed and the previously populous sites were not counted. Notable counts of territories/singing males were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): Farlington Marshes, 12; IBM Lake, 19 (20);

Hook Valley, Warsash, 12; Dibden Bay, 14; Needs Ore, 16; Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes, 16 (23); Fishlake Meadows, 29 (18); Itchen Water Works, 16 (14); Edenbrook CP, 13 (11) and Fleet Pond, 16 (15).

In the autumn 429 were trapped at Titchfield Haven (cf. 2019; 586) between July 11th and Oct 6th with a peak of 48 on Aug 8th (cf. 2019: peak 42 on July 29th). Similar to the previous species, a reduction in the proportion of juveniles from typically around 80% to 62% suggested a poor breeding season. Ringing was also carried out at Farlington Marshes where 35 were trapped over three dates between Aug 2nd-9th, and again the majority here were juveniles. Away from the ringing sites, there was only one other double-figure count from Little Posbrook with a maximum of 15 on Aug 3rd. Although birds were widespread in September, there were only ten records in October, all singles, the last being at Fishlake Meadows on Oct 17th. (MJP)

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. (4,32,1)

Schedule 1, Red, S41, HBAP

A male was singing in dense vegetation at a coastal site from 06:48-06:58 on May 27th, but was not heard again despite several visits (ALR, sound-recording).

Although records have occurred in early May, most reports have been from June when birds are singing well. The last sightings were in 2018 when two were recorded. (KFB)

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare passage migrant principally recorded in autumn. (0.11,1)

A single was discovered in scrub below the cliff edge at Barton on Sea at 08:00 on Sep 1st and it remained there until the next morning (MP *et al.*, photo). The finder was holidaying in the area to celebrate a wedding anniversary and fortunately decided to take a pre-breakfast walk!

There are eleven previous records, all but two being from July-October, although the most recent was in June 2019. There is only one previous September record, and bizarrely that was also at Barton on Sea. (KFB)



Icterine Warbler, Barton cliffs, Sep 1st (Matthew Barfield)

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Rare summer visitor, breeding confirmed most recently in 1992. (0,41,2) Red, Schedule 1, S41

Two birds were present at Fishlake Meadows and both were singing vigorously during their stays. The first was heard from Apr 14th until May 6th and the second was singing nearby from Apr 18th-24th (AJBL *et al.*, recording). The records have been accepted by BBRC.

Models of the European breeding distribution in 2100, taking into account anticipated climatic changes, show this species expanding its breeding range in the UK and it is pleasing that after blank years in the 1990s and 2000s the species is now occurring in most years. (KFB)

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

Scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor; moderately common autumn passage migrant mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven. Red, S41, HBAP

The first records relate to Apr 9th when one was at Sandy Point and another was heard reeling at Sparsholt. During April up to 14 reeling birds were heard at 13 locations (*cf.* 2019: 16 at 12 sites), with only Fishlake Meadows holding more than one with two there (there being no records from St. Cross or Twyford meadows this year). There were only nine reports in May, with six sites holding single singing birds and only three of these being the same as in April (*cf.* 2019: 6 at 6 sites).

It is believed that breeding may have been attempted at up to seven sites and singing birds were still reported from these through June. This is a welcome return from the low of two sites in 2018 and three in 2019. However coverage was patchy through the period due to the pandemic. The difficulty of finding birds once they have stopped reeling means that proving status will continue to be problematic. In addition, return migration begins early and birds were found at the end of July in areas where they were not believed to breed.

In autumn, singles were reported in 13 locations (*cf.* 2019: 10). A total of 150 was trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 11th and Sep 19th (*cf.* 2018: 188) with a peak of 15 on July 30th. The last for the year was one seen at Stubbington on Sep 28th. (MJP)

Blackcap† (Eurasian Blackcap) *Sylvia atricapilla*

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter. Green

During January-March there were 719 reports of approximately 352 at 196 sites (*cf.* 652 at 160 sites in 2019), many of which were in gardens. This decrease was possibly due to the milder winter and was reflected in a decline in the percentage of gardens reporting Blackcaps in the same three months in BTO's Garden BirdWatch from a maximum of 31.9% in January 2019 to 27.1% in March 2020 (Table 2). All reports were between one and four except for 12 at Oliver's Battery, Winchester on Feb 16th, up to ten at Chilbolton on Feb 23rd and up to ten at Drayton, Portsmouth visiting garden feeders on Mar 17th comprising at least five males and five females and including eight colour-ringed birds. There is always a difficulty in identifying spring arrivals from those wintering that subsequently leave to breed in Europe. However, it appears that the first wave of arrivals started from Mar 18th onwards.

Records from regularly monitored sites showed an increase in numbers throughout April as migrants moved in. The first double-figure counts away from the known wintering hotspots were on Apr 4th with ten at Mill Field, Old Basing and ten at Dibden Bay Reclamation. As in previous years the highest counts were at Lower Test Marshes with a peak of 36 on Apr 19th, the only other count of over 20 being 28 at Mill Field, Old Basing on Apr 17th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 16 (22); Itchen Water Works, 19 (17); Lower Test Marshes, 36 (53); Fishlake Meadows, 32 (22) and Fleet Pond, 16 (11).

Autumn passage was most evident in September with counts of over 40 at Hill Head (40, 7th) and Chilling (45, 7th: 50, 9th and again on 14th). Approximately 183 were recorded at 125 sites during November-December compared with 132 at 48 sites in the same period in 2019. Only three records related to more than three birds, viz. five in Bitterne, four in Bitterne Park, Southampton and six at Crookham Village. (MJP)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

Green

The first arrival was one on Apr 3rd at Nursling. A further ten were reported that week. Thereafter arrivals were widespread with the first double-figure count being on May 4th with 15 at Home Farm, Burkhams.

During May-June there were approximately 411 records from 174 locations (cf. 2019: 294 at 129 sites) with the majority being of one or two singing males. Counts of singing males at regularly surveyed sites included (2019 in parentheses) Broxhead Common, 1 (3); Testwood Lakes, 4 (3); Botley Wood, 10 (9); Stockbridge Down, 6 (6); Shortheath Common, 5 (6); Fishlake Meadows, 11 (11); Blackbushe, 8 (17) and Yateley Common, 11 (6). Other sites with notable counts included Pamber Forest, 21; Binswood, 10; Bourley North, 7; Bourley South, 9 and Bramshill, 7.

In the autumn at Titchfield Haven it was a poor year for ringing with only 28 trapped between July 18th and Sep 5th (cf. 90 in 2019). Lower numbers were repeated elsewhere with only five sites having counts of more than two, viz. Blashford Lakes with four on July 30th, and three at Testwood Lakes on July 29th; Hook-with-Warsash on July 31st; Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 1st and Hill Head on Aug 11th. The last was one at Denny Lodge Inclosure, NF on Oct 5th. (MJP)

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

Rare vagrant. (0,13,1)

An immature was discovered at Fort Widley at 08:15 on Sep 15th (PAG). It initially showed well then crossed to a bush on the moat side and just seconds later a Sparrowhawk crashed into the same bush. A trilling alarm call was heard before the Sparrowhawk flew off unseen. Sadly there were no further sightings and it was probably caught as prey.

There have been 13 previous records, with seven of these in this century, and the most recent being at Titchfield Haven in November and December 2017 which provided close views for hundreds of observers during its stay. (KFB)

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded 11 times in winter.

Green

A single was reported feeding on fatballs in a garden in Shirley, Southampton on Feb 22nd. This represents the 12th winter record for the species. After this the first spring record was a singing male at Casbrook Common on Apr 13th. The main influx began nearly a week later, although numbers remained low. Individuals were noted at 52 sites (cf. 2019: 51) by the end of the month. Most reports were of one or two but four were singing at Hook-with-Warsash on 22nd and Frater Shore on 24th and 26th. Sites with three were Casbrook Common and Mill Field, Old Basing. There was also one "noc-mig" record over Sholing at 03:00 on May 28th.

The unobtrusive nature of this species makes assessing the potential breeding numbers difficult. Despite this, records of singing males totalled 182 from 117 localities (cf. 2019; 101 at 70 sites), an increase on the two previous years. Highest counts were six at Martin Down; five at Casbrook Common, Farlington Marshes and Tidgrove Warren; four at Hook-with-

Warsash, New Warren Farm (near Longwood Warren), Dibden Bay and Ibsley Water; and three at Blackfield, Old Basing, Testwood, Lepe CP and Brownwich.

Post-breeding numbers were low with most records being of ones and twos. Three were reported at Stansore Point, Lepe on Aug 13th and then five at the same location on Sep 2nd, four were at Chilling on Aug 31st and Brownwich the same day, and three were at Farlington Marshes on Sep 2nd. There were almost daily records through September until 20th and then a further four records to the month's end. There were three records in October, the last two being on Oct 17th at Normandy Lagoon and trapped and ringed at Chilling. (MJP)

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Curruca communis*

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded five times in winter.

Green

The first sighting was from Leigh Park, Havant on Apr 3rd but, although there were five records in the following few days, the main arrival did not start until Apr 9th. By the middle of April records were plentiful and widespread. Double-figure counts were received from seven sites and counts of 20 or more were received from Frater Shore with 21 on Apr 25th and 20 there the next day, and from Dibden Shore with 20 on Apr 25th.

Counts of territories in previously surveyed areas were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses where available): Botley Wood, 7 (13); Butser Hill, 17 (8); Frater Shore 23 (22); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham 14 (14); Itchen Water Works, 5 (4); Lower Test Marshes, 8 (8); Blackfield Fields Farm, 16 (10); Casbrook Common, 3 (18). The number of sites in the central New Forest (ten km squares SU20, 21, 30, and 31) with records in May and June increased to 19 (cf. 8 in 2019) suggesting a continued recovery in this area. The breeding surveys on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 186 and 21 territories (cf. 97 and 29 respectively in 2019) (Table 1). Coverage was much improved in the Thames Basin but reduced on the Weald.

Return passage began in earnest in the second week of August and increased steadily until the month's end including a count of 27 at Fleet Pond on Aug 17th. At Titchfield Haven 109 were trapped and ringed between July 14th and Oct 10th (cf. 96 in 2019 between July 13th and Oct 22nd). Numbers remained high in early September with 11 double-figure counts between 1st-12th, the maximum being 21 on Sep 4th at Keyhaven/Pennington. There were



Whitethroat, Lower Pennington, June 13th (Gareth Rees)

16 records of singles in October and the final sighting was one at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 26th. (MJP)

Dartford Warbler *Curruca 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

The only early year record away from breeding sites was one at Hill Head on Mar 4th. NFBWS produced totals for January-March of 61, 21 and 32 respectively (Table 4).

The extremely mild winter of 2019/20 permitted considerable expansion of the population. The annual survey of the Thames Basin Heaths produced a total of 147 pairs/singing males compared with 82 in 2019. The largest concentrations were at Bourley and Long Valley SSSI (63 up from 31) and Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI (65 up from 32), both the highest ever counts for these sites. On the Wealden Heaths there were 103 pairs/singing males compared with 71 in 2019. The largest concentrations were at Ludshott Common (36 up from 15) and Woolmer Forest (34 up from 22) but at Longmoor Inclosure, where coverage was incomplete, there were only 19 territories compared with 21 in 2019. Individual site counts are given in Table 1.

There was a mass of records for all parts of the New Forest. A total of 73 territories was located by one observer during the course of a breeding wader survey despite this species not being the focus of his work. However it was commented that they had recovered strongly from the setback following the severe weather in early 2018 (M. Ward, pers. comm.). Other breeding season counts of territories were as follows: Gilkicker Point, 1; Browndown South, 4; Hook-with-Warsash, 3; Hamble Common, 1; Normandy-Keyhaven, 3-4; Burton Common, 4; Ringwood Forest, 2.

Post-breeding records from non-breeding sites (singles unless stated otherwise) came from Sandy Point (July 2nd-Sep 24th, Oct 26th into 2021 with monthly maxima of 3 on Oct 29th, 5 on Nov 5th and 19th and 2 on Dec 4th and 9th), Fishery Creek (July 12th), Barton on Sea (Aug 16th, Oct 13th-Nov 8th), Burnt Common (Sep 4th-7th, Oct 25th), Sinah/Gunner Point area (Sep 6th, 1-3 from Oct 11th-Nov 22nd), Brownwich (Sep 9th-Oct 18th), Portsdown Hill



Dartford Warbler, Silchester, June 7th (Barry Stalker)

(Sep 16th-Oct 11th), Chilling (Sep 24th, Oct 16th), Bunny Meadows (Oct 1st-7th), Dunsbury Hill Farm (Oct 14th), Stansore Point (Oct 16th), Bitterne (1, Oct 17th), Needs Ore (1-2 from Oct 18th-Dec 17th), Tiptoe (Oct 22nd), Badminton Plantation (1/2, Oct 25th-28th), Titchfield Haven (Oct 25th-Nov 3rd), Newhouse Copse (Nov 1st), Trigpoint Hill (Nov 3rd), Lower Test Marshes (Nov 6th), Newlands Farm (Nov 7th), Gander Down (Nov 19th), Dark Water (Nov 19th and 27th), Tournurbury (Dec 8th), Fleet Pond (Dec 8th) and Edenbrook CP (Dec 13th-30th). NFWBS produced totals for October-December of 46, 52 and 26 respectively. (JMC)

Firecrest[†] (Common Firecrest) *Regulus ignicapilla*

Common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in 322 tetrads (32%) in 43 ten km squares, which is a 23% increase compared to 262 tetrads in 2019 despite the lockdown restrictions. Winter numbers in January and February were comparable to 2019. As usual, reports were widespread from the southern half of the county with counts of three or more coming from four locations: eight at Hut Wood on Jan 4th, four trapped at Eastleigh STW on Jan 18th and three each at Cadnam Common, NF on Feb 12th and Bramshaw Telegraph, NF on Feb 14th. In addition, there was a slight pick-up in winter sightings in the northern half of the county with records logged from seven sites (three in 2019) including regular sightings from Silchester Common from Jan 1st, with up to four reported there from Jan 20th onwards. The first report of singing came from Busketts Inclosure, NF on Feb 3rd.

There was a marked increase in records in March over 2018 and 2019 with a minimum of 210 reported, suggesting a further recovery from March 2018's 'Beast from the East' weather event. During the breeding season a minimum of 378 territories was reported (42% increase over 2019) from 162 sites (*cf.* 149 sites in 2019), but still below 2016 and 2017 record levels when systematic surveys were undertaken. The New Forest remains the stronghold with a minimum of 139 territories (*cf.* 122 in 2019). However breeding reports were widespread and other significant concentrations included at least ten territories at Hut Wood, ten at Four Marks, nine at both Fields Farm, Blackfield and Bordon Inclosure, and eight at Woolmer Forest.



Firecrest, Southampton, Apr 18th (Lee Fuller)

Migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites in early to mid-September with reports widespread at coastal sites from the beginning of October into early December including 35 bird-days logged at Sandy Point between Oct 1st and Nov 30th with peaks of three on Oct 3rd, 9th and 22nd, and Nov 13th. Autumn ringing totals included six trapped at Titchfield Haven between Sep 12th and Nov 4th. Other notable counts in the last four months included ten at Godshill, NF on Nov 28th and six at Old Winchester Hill on Sep 28th, Norley Inclosure, NF on Oct 26th, Danes Stream, Milford on Sea on Nov 30th and Pennington Marshes on Dec 9th.

Minimum totals are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	27	22	96	20	41	50	20
- No. of New Forest sites	21	13	46	11	24	22	13
Southampton Common	2	2	3	8	5	8	9
Southampton area	3	3	1	1	1	11	4
- No. Southampton area sites	3	3	1	1	1	7	3
Other inland locations	31	26	79	18	36	44	36
- No. of other inland sites	18	20	43	10	28	35	28
Coastal locations	20	13	31	18	44	65	44
- No. of coastal sites	14	10	24	12	32	34	25
Total recorded	83	66	210	65	127	178	113

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 384 tetrads (38%) in 52 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from only two locations (five in 2019) with particularly high numbers reported from Silchester Common peaking at 100+ on Jan 20th and 11 at Barton's Mill, Old Basing on Feb 5th.

Despite fewer BBS submissions, a minimum of 406 territories was reported (321 in 2019) during the breeding season suggesting a further recovery from 2018's low levels, including 72 from the New Forest (70 in 2019), 50 at Benyons Inclosure, Mortimer West End and 20 at nearby Pamber Forest. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were limited due to the stay-at-home order but included (2019 figures in parentheses) Bourley Woods, 6; Butser Hill, 1 (6); The Chase, Woolton Hill, 17; Fleet Pond, 2 and Woolmer Forest, 6. Other notable breeding season reports included ten at Carpenters Down Wood, Basingstoke on May 31st and 38 at Wellesley Woods, Aldershot on June 2nd.

In the second half of the year, double-figure counts were received from 18 sites (seven in 2019) with 70% of these occurring within an eight week period from the second week of October to the end of November. These included 32 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Nov 18th; 25 at Milking Pond Bottom, NF on Nov 9th, Cadnam Common, NF on Nov 30th and Velmead Common, Fleet on Dec 24th; 21 at Blashford Lakes on Nov 7th; 20 at Linford Bottom, NF on July 29th and Chilling on Oct 9th. Autumn ringing totals included 52 trapped at Titchfield Haven between Sep 22nd and Nov 11th. (WGDL)

Wren (Eurasian Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant resident.

Green

Reported from 554 tetrads (54%) in 54 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from 11 sites, including 21 at Itchen Valley CP on Feb 2nd and 20 at Blashford Lakes on Mar 4th and Acres Down, NF on Mar 5th. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): Benyons Inclosure, Mortimer West End, 50; The Chase, Woolton Hill, 42; Hollybank Wood, Emsworth, 34 (21). Other



Wren, Ibsley Common, Apr 10th (Martin Bennett)

notable counts in the breeding season included 258 at Wellesley Woods, Aldershot on June 2nd; 47 at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 3rd; 45 at Acres Down, NF on June 16th; and 41 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 22nd. Results from a reduced BBS yielded seven one km squares with 20 or more (12 in 2019) including 40 at Foxlease Meadows, Minley on May 15th. In the latter half of the year double-figures came from 17 sites, with four exceeding 20 or more including 31 at Itchen Valley CP on Oct 18th and 27 at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 8th. (WGDL)

Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 398 tetrads (39%) and 50 ten km squares. While widely reported in the early winter period, no double-figure counts were submitted (four in 2019) with nine at Acres Down, NF on Feb 5th being the highest. Counts of territories in surveyed areas were limited to The Chase, Woolton Hill, 12; and a survey of the woodlands to the east of Fleet which produced 51 territories including Ancell's NR, 5; Bramshott Meadows, 7; Bourley and Long Valley complex, 8; Fleet Pond, 11. Other notable counts in the breeding season included 18 at Wellesley Woods, Aldershot on June 2nd. In the second half of the year double-figure counts came from only three sites (seven in 2019) as follows: Yateley GP (11, Dec 24th), Hawley Meadows (11, Dec 29th) and Denny Wood, NF (10 on three dates in October). (WGDL)

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

Numerous resident.

Green

Whilst occupying similar woodland habitat to Nuthatch, recorded in only 245 tetrads (24%) and 49 ten km squares, possibly due to its normally less vocal and less conspicuous behaviour and thus lower detection rate. In the early year counts exceeded five at three locations (two in 2019) as follows: Denny Wood, NF (7, Feb 22nd); Hill Head (6, Jan 1st) and Selborne Common (6, Feb 2nd). Despite fewer surveys and BBS submissions during the breeding season, a minimum of 77 territories was reported. Notable observations included nine at Carpenters Down Wood, Basingstoke on June 28th; a family party of six at Overton Lagoons on May 22nd; six at Ramnor Inclosure, NF on June 13th. Notable counts in the latter half of the year included eight at Denny Inclosure, NF on Nov 12th and six at Pamber Forest on Aug 3rd and Beaulieu Road, NF on Sep 6th. (WGDL)



Rose-coloured Starlings, Sandy Point, May 30th (Andy Johnson) and Fordingbridge, July 27th, (Graham Rogers)

Rose-coloured Starling (Rosy Starling) *Pastor roseus*

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except December. (4,25,2)

An adult was at Sandy Point and in an adjacent garden in Treloar Road, Hayling Island for 20 minutes around 13:50 on May 30th (ACJ, photo). Another adult was in a garden in Fordingbridge on July 27th (GR, photo).

After a gap in 2019 (with fewer than usual in the UK generally) this is a return to normal levels for this species which often arrives in June/July or October. As is often the case, both birds were in gardens, and on this occasion both were adults. (KFB)

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I

Recorded in 435 tetrads (43%) in 52 ten km squares. Numbers exceeded 2019 monthly totals in nine out of twelve months and the county's breeding renaissance seems to be continuing based on the size and abundance of post-breeding flocks in May, June and July. For the year as a whole, four-figure counts were reported from 12 sites (nine in 2019) with three, all in the Avon Valley, reaching five-figures at winter roosts (one in 2019) (see below).

In the early winter period the high numbers recorded from the Avon Valley in December 2019 continued into January and February with pre-roost murmurations peaking at 38,196 (digital count) at North Somerley Lake on Feb 5th and estimates of 30,000 at Blashford Lakes on Jan 5th and 20,000 at Ashley Farm on Jan 29th. Away from the Avon Valley three-figure counts were recorded from 22 sites with two reaching four figures with 4,000 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 18th and 1,000 at Lymington-Hurst on Feb 18th. As usual there was a marked exit in early March with just eight sites recording three-figures (six in 2019) and all logged before March 17th, including 400 at Farlington Marshes on Mar 7th. Spring passage was again light with 423 over Tweseldown on four dates between Mar 7th and 16th including 225 east on 16th; 188 mainly NE at Trigpoint Hill on nine dates between Feb 29th and Mar 26th; and 65 east at Yateley Heath Wood on Mar 14th.

Reduced BBS reports included over 50 adults in one km squares from four locations (one in 2019) as follows: Ellingham Meadows, Somerley Park (279, June 6th); Bitterne, Southampton

(59, June 7th); East Cosham (68, June 13th); and Southsea Cricket Pitch (76, June 16th). Fledged juveniles started to be reported from May 7th onwards and the first three-figure post-breeding flock was logged on May 16th (200 at Brambridge) with another six being reported by the end of the May (three in 2019) including 300 at Farlington Marshes on May 18th. Post-breeding flocks and roosts grew steadily from June into September suggesting another productive breeding season and three-figure flocks were logged (2019 figures in parentheses) in June (6), 12 in July (8), 19 in August (15) and 18 in September (15). During this period the most notable counts came from Farlington Marshes (700 on June 22nd; 3,000 on July 16th; 2,500 on Aug 16th and 2,000 on Sep 15th); West Hayling LNR (3,000 on Sep 7th); Lymington-Hurst (3,000 on Sep 8th); Fleet Pond (roosts of 1,600 on June 15th and 550 on July 28th); Sandy Point (1,000 on July 18th and Aug 13th); and Fishlake Meadows (roosts of 1,000 on Aug 22nd and 600 on Sep 11th).

Autumn diurnal passage was slightly below recent levels and came in three distinct waves. The first and largest was between Oct 12th-16th and was only detected at inland watchpoints. The second, more drawn-out, came between Nov 1st-11th and was picked-up at both inland and coastal watchpoints, and a final weaker third wave was detected between Nov 18th-24th. At the two main inland watchpoints 7,590 were logged heading mainly NW over Tweseldown on 49 dates between Oct 5th and Dec 2nd (peaks of 1,188 NW, Oct 12th; 2,060 NW, Oct 15th; 418 NW, Nov 18th) and at Trigpoint Hill 2,242 were logged on 49 dates between Sep 5th and Nov 21st, most heading NE (peak, 262 NE, Oct 16th). (Table 8.) Coastal movement was detected at five sites between Oct 7th and Nov 23rd including 1,474 mainly west at Barton on Sea on 14 dates between Oct 12th and Nov 23rd, with peak counts of 326 west and 565 west on Nov 4th and 5th respectively.

The minimum half-monthly totals of spring and autumn migrant movements are tabulated below.

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15*	Nov 16-30*	Dec 1-15*	Dec 16-29*
Coast movements					384	61	1,191	114		
Inland movements	303	342	312	151	4,329	1,337	2,527	1,211	208	130

* = Excludes movement believed to be to and from roost sites.

In the last three months of the year, grounded flocks reached three-figures at 22 sites in October, 21 in November and 20 in December with flocks reaching four-figures at seven of these locations as follows: Blashford Lakes (roost counts of 8,000, Nov 13th; 5,000, Dec 9th and 29th); Alresford Pond (3,000 roosting, Dec 12th); Hook-with-Warsash (2,000, Nov 6th); Canoe Lake, Southsea (1,500 roosting, Oct 16th); South Wonston (1,400, Dec 5th); Farlington Marshes (1,000, Oct 3rd) and Fishlake Meadows (1,000 roosting, Nov 6th).

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)	48,876	57,702	2,176	618	2,285	4,396	7,033	8,821	11,704	8,648	16,481	14,205

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered.

Red, S41

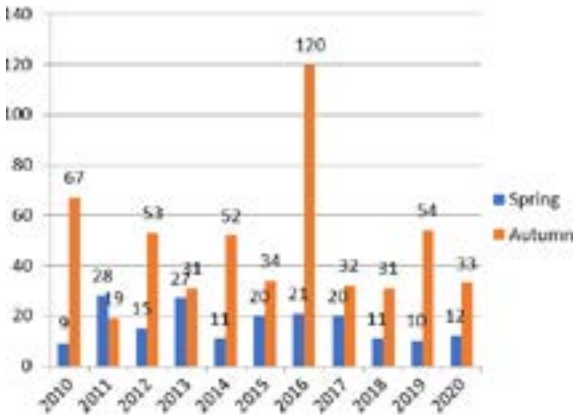
It was another disappointing spring, the third in a row, with 12 individuals reported from eleven sites compared to a diminishing ten-year average of 17. All were reported within a 27 day window from the first, a male sighted at Charter Alley on Mar 28th. Subsequent sightings came from Romsey Watermeadows (1, Mar 31st) and the remainder during April from North Baddesley (1, 5th), Portsdown Hill (1, 9th; a female, 18th), Beacon Hill, Warnford (male, 11th), Old Winchester Hill (male, 18th), Moorcourt Farm (male, 18th), Peartree Green,

Southampton (female, 19th), Easton Down, Winchester (1, 19th), Skidmore (1, 21st) and South Warnborough (1, 23rd).

Autumn produced a minimum of 33 individuals and 65 bird-days from 18 sites over a 61-day period, again below the ten-year average. The first, a female, was on the early date of Sep 10th at Pennington Marshes. The New Forest accounted for almost 60% of bird-day sightings with a minimum of nine individuals, as usual heavily concentrated around the Ashley Walk/ Black Gutter Bottom/Deadman Hill/ Leaden Hall area which produced 31 bird-days between Sep 25th and Oct 23rd with a peak of six on Oct 15th-16th. Other New Forest sightings came from Pig Bush (female, Oct 10th), Godshill (1, Oct 18th) and Holmhill Bog (female/juvenile, Oct 26th). Elsewhere records were received from Hazeley Heath (1, Sep 20th), Ladle Hill, Old Burghclere (male, Sep 26th), Bishopstoke (juvenile, Oct 4th), Farnborough (2, Oct 4th), Portsdown Hill/ Paulsgrove Chalk Pit (eight bird-days between Oct 9th-23th with a peak of 3, Oct 17th), Beacon Hill, Burghclere (1, Oct 13th), Hook-with-Warsash (female/juvenile, Oct 14th), Windmill Hill, Alton (1, Oct 15th), Sandy Point (1, Oct 17th) and The Mill Field, Old Basing (2 juveniles, Oct 29th; juvenile, Nov 5th). Inland diurnal passage was recorded from Trigpoint Hill (1 E, Sep 18th) and Tweseldown (1 SW, Oct 19th; 1 S, Oct 23rd). The last of the autumn was at Trigpoint Hill on Nov 9th.

Minimum totals over the last ten years are given in the histogram above. This shows the variability between years and the predominance of autumn passage compared to spring. (WGDL)

2013 addition: A male at Warblington on Apr 1st.



Minimum annual totals of Ring Ouzels in spring and autumn 2010-2020



Ring Ouzel, Leaden Hall, NF, Oct 16th (Rob Porter)

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded from 608 tetrads (60%) in 54 ten km squares. This was the second most widespread species in BTO Garden BirdWatch being present in 477 (over 99%) out of 481 Hampshire gardens during the year. In the early winter double-figure counts were reported from 54 sites (45 sites in 2019) with only three exceeding 30 as follows: 72 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Mar 3rd; 33 at Wilverley Plain, NF on Feb 17th; and 32 at Rockford Common, NF on Feb 14th. NFWBS produced totals of 298, 315 and 200 in January-March, below the five-year average and the lowest since 2014 (Table 4).

In the breeding season reduced BBS reporting yielded only ten one km squares with 20 or more (35 in 2019) including 36 at East Cosham on June 13th. Other notable breeding season submissions included 169 at Wellesley Woods, Aldershot on June 2nd; 57 at Testwood on May 3rd; and 39 at Fishlake Meadows on May 1st.

Inland autumn diurnal movement was limited to 61 mainly SW over Tweseldown on 24 dates between Oct 2nd and Dec 1st (peak 9 SW, Oct 18th), and nine over Trigpoint Hill on seven dates between Oct 12th and Nov 9th, (peak 3 SW, Oct 12th). In the last four months of the year double-figure counts were reported from 67 sites (54 sites in 2019) including 45 at Owslebury on Nov 23rd; 35 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Dec 28th; 34 at Wyck on Dec 23rd; and 33 at Rockford Common, NF on Nov 15th. The October-December NFWBS produced monthly totals of 220, 232 and 251 respectively, 11% down versus 2019 and the lowest to date for the last three months of the year (Table 4). (WGDL)

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red

In the early winter numbers were higher than the comparable months in 2019 but still 70% below the ten-year average; no significant cold weather influxes were noted. January's totals were comparable to December 2019 but dropped in February with the majority seemingly departed by the end of March. Grounded flocks reached three-figures at 11 sites in January (six in 2019), 12 in February (four in 2019) and ten in March (none in 2019) including 450 at Braishfield on Jan 17th, 350 at Danebury Down on Jan 4th, 350 at Caesars Belt on Feb 25th, 300 at West Stratton on Jan 19th and 271 at Lasham on Jan 24th. NFWBS produced January-March counts of 390, 196 and 52 respectively which were above the corresponding months in 2019 but 70% below the five-year average (Table 4). In April 38 records were received (29 in 2019) including 150 at Portway Farm and 80 at Vernham Dean, both on 2nd, and 85 at Stony Heath on 10th. Spring movement was detected at Trigpoint Hill with 364 mainly NE on ten dates between Feb 24th and Apr 8th with a peak of 145 NE on Mar 3rd, and from Tweseldown with 63 mainly NW on four dates between Mar 13th and 31st. The last of the spring were at Vernham Dean with three on Apr 21st, three days earlier than the recent average last departure date.

The first of the autumn dropped into Bricksbury Hill on the afternoon of Oct 1st before leaving SW, four days earlier than the recent average arrival date. Records followed from Clay Hill, NF with one on Oct 3rd and 13 at Four Marks on Oct 8th. Reports were widespread from Oct 11th onwards and the first wave of inland autumn diurnal passage took place earlier than usual between Oct 12th-19th, with a second more spread-out wave between Nov 7th-24th. Totals from the well-watched inland watchpoints included 2,995 mainly NW over Tweseldown on 40 dates between Oct 11th and Dec 17th (peaks 583 NW, Oct 12th; 355 NW, Oct 13th; 402 NW, Oct 19th; 215 NW, Nov 23rd), and 1,130 mainly SW over Trigpoint Hill on 28 dates between Oct 15th and Dec 26th (peaks 315 SW, Nov 16th; 204 SW, Nov 17th). Notable movements elsewhere were limited to 430 south over Itchen Water Works on Nov 16th and 114 mainly west at Barton on Sea on seven dates between Nov 5th-Dec 1st.

While grounded double-figure reports were widespread from Oct 12th onwards, the only three-figure counts logged in October (*cf.* one in 2019) were on 28th with 150 at Gander Down and 200 moving south at nearby Longwood Warren. Three-figure counts followed from 16 sites in November (eight in 2019) and seven sites in December (14 in 2019) including 300 roosting at Roke Farm, Horsedown Common on Nov 8th, 200 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 15th and 150 at Crondall on Dec 5th and 30th, Nether Wallop on Dec 9th and Elvetham Park on Dec 28th. NFWBS produced October-December counts of 541, 316 and 130 respectively, 57% below the five-year average (Table4).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	4,505	2,932	2,132	609			1,028	3,968	2,864
Movements	190	233	407	29			1,889	2,632	215

Redwing† *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

NT, Schedule 1, Red

High numbers were recorded in the early winter period and whilst there was another strong autumn diurnal passage, grounded counts in the last three months of the year averaged 25% below the ten-year average. In January and February grounded flocks reached their highest levels since 1996 and 2008 respectively, with three-figure flocks (2019 figures in parentheses) reported from 28 sites (17) in January and 18 sites (six) in February including 700+ at Pamber Forest on Feb 19th; 400 at Mortimer West End on Jan 11th; 350 at Whitefield Moor, NF on Jan 25th; and 300 at Headley on Jan 1st and Cholderton Park on Feb 25th. Numbers were much reduced in March with three-figure flocks logged at five sites (zero in 2019) including 200-300 still present at Pamber Forest on Mar 31st. NFWBS produced January-March counts of 1,288, 1,184 and 62 respectively, 50% over the five-year average, with January and February's totals just edging out 2016's counts to set a new record for the survey (Table 4). In April 48 records were received, well above the recent average, and notable spring passage was logged on Apr 2nd with an early morning flight of 100 north over Knightwood, Chandlers Ford, an evening flight of 170 south at Havant, and grounded flocks of 71 at Funtley, 54 at Fort Widley (leaving north) and 50 at Upper Titchfield Haven. Nocturnal flight call recording at St. Cross, Winchester produced 81 on nine dates between Mar 31st to Apr 10th with a peak of 34 on Apr 2nd. The last of the spring was a single at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on the new late date of May 17th, five days later than the previous latest departure of May 12th 1981.

A nocturnal flight call recording of four over St. Cross, Winchester on Sep 27th was the first report of the autumn followed by five at Hut Wood, two NE at Trigpoint Hill and further nocturnal call recordings of two over St. Cross, Winchester on Sep 28th. Diurnal passage at inland sites followed with a strong early wave between Oct 11th-20th, a second more drawn-out wave between Nov 6th-24th and a third smaller pulse on Dec 16th. Visible migration counts from Tweseldown were particularly impressive with site records broken for both one-day movement and cumulative autumn totals including 42,187 logged on 56 dates between Sep 30th and Dec 25th (peaks 17,100 NW including 9,500 between 07:15 and 08:45, Oct 12th (one-day site record); 1,815 NW, Oct 14th; 11,125 NW, Oct 15th; 1,174 SW, Nov 11th; 1,102 NW, Nov 19th; and 1,027 SW, Dec 16th). Elsewhere Trigpoint Hill logged 2,398 over NE or SW on 41 dates between Sep 28th and Dec 26th (peaks 353 NE, Oct 12th; 340 NE, Oct 15th) while nocturnal call recordings at St. Cross, Winchester totalled 3,392 on 33 dates between Sep 27th and Dec 23rd (peaks 388, Nov 10th; 412, Nov 22nd).

Despite the strong inland diurnal passage, autumn grounded and roost flock totals were 65% below the ten-year average in October and November before a notable pick-up in numbers to more normal levels in December. The first grounded double and three-figure flocks of the autumn were recorded on Oct 12th coinciding with peak diurnal passage with 100 at

Fritham Plain, NF, 40 at Appleshaw and 25 at Itchen Stoke. Grounded three-figure flocks (2019 figures in parentheses) were logged at five sites in October (four) and six in November (19) including 340 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Nov 5th; 250 roosting at Fleet Pond on Nov 22nd; and 230 at Fritham, NF on Oct 17th. There was a marked increase in numbers in the second week of December with three-figure counts logged at 16 sites (23 in 2019), all on or after Dec 9th with high counts of 500 at Nether Wallop on Dec 9th; 300 at Handy Cross Plain, NF on Dec 19th; and 265 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Dec 9th. NFWBS produced October-December totals of 381, 776 and 950 respectively, broadly in line with the five-year average (Table 4).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	8,373	5,383	1,914	487	1		7	1,984	3,582	6,151
Movements	398	117	247	202			18	36,188	11,421	1,739

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Whilst still widespread with records in 480 tetrads (47%) and 54 ten km squares, reported from only 289 (60%) out of the annual total of 481 Hampshire gardens in BTO Garden BirdWatch (Table 2).

In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at nine sites (eight in 2019) including 20 at Acres Down, NF on Feb 5th and 18 at Bramshaw Telegraph, NF on Mar 14th. The only report of spring passage came from nocturnal flight call recordings at St. Cross, Winchester with a total of ten detected on nine dates between Mar 3rd and June 8th.

Breeding season surveys were limited to 12 territories at Itchen Water Works (11 in 2019) and a survey of 16 one km squares to the east of Fleet which produced 43 territories including four at Ancell's NR; 21 within the Bourley Woods/Long Valley/Bricksbury Hill complex; three at Fleet Pond (five in 2019); and six at Foxlease Meadows, Minley. Other notable breeding season submissions included 65 from Wellesley Woods, Aldershot on June 2nd and 18 at Badminton Common on Apr 25th. Four sites recorded ten or more in BBS one km squares (cf. three in 2019) with the highest being 15 at Foxlease Meadows, Minley on May 15th and 14 at Minstead, NF on June 6th.

Autumn diurnal passage was recorded from the second week of September onwards. However totals from the two main inland watchpoints were well down on recent years. At Tweseldown 131 were logged on 30 dates between Sep 11th and Nov 25th (over 50% below 2019 with peaks 23 NW, Oct 12th; 15 SW, Nov 6th), while at Trigpoint Hill 44 were logged on 14 dates between Sep 28th and Nov 6th (60% down on 2019 with peak, 12 mainly SW, Oct 12th). Few other visible migration reports were received, the most notable being five NE at Sandy Point on Oct 18th. However total movements were boosted this year by the inclusion of nocturnal flight call recordings from St. Cross, Winchester where a total of 541 was logged on 37 dates between Sep 4th and Nov 23rd (peaks 62, Oct 11th; 59, Nov 4th). In the last four months of the year double-figure counts were reported from seven sites (ten in 2019) including 27 at Moortown, Ringwood on Nov 16th and 20 at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 17th.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		2	4	3		16	413	296	

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Red

Reported from 420 tetrads (41%) in 53 ten km squares. In the early winter period there was only one double-figure report (three in 2019) of 12 at Bramshaw Telegraph, NF on Feb 22nd. NFWBS produced counts of 64, 82 and 37 respectively in the January-March period, 27% below the five-year average (Table 4).

Breeding season surveys were limited and included 11 territories from 16 one km squares to the east of Fleet including seven from the Bourley Woods/Long Valley/Bricksbury Hill complex. Reports of successful breeding with fledged young came from seven sites in the New Forest as well as Ashley, King’s Somborne; Black Dam, Basingstoke; Blashford Lakes; Botley Wood; Broxhead Common; Hook-with-Warsash; Lordswood, Southampton; Marsh Court; and Vernham Dean. Records were received from 27 BBS one km squares (62 in 2019) with high counts of four from Ashley, King’s Somborne; Leckford Village; Minstead, NF and Owslebury.

Post-breeding flocks started to appear from mid-May onwards and double-figures were reported from 32 sites (19 in 2019) between mid-May and the end of September including 37 at Wyck on July 2nd; 36 at Portway Farm on Aug 18th; 35 at Avington Park on Sep 18th; 33 at Pig Bush, NF on Aug 22nd; and 30 at Burley, NF on Sep 23rd.

Autumn movement from the two main inland watchpoints was again subdued with 62 mainly SW at Tweseldown on 25 dates between Aug 24th and Dec 16th (peak 9 SW, Oct 1st), and 57 over Trigpoint Hill on 28 dates between Aug 7th and Dec 26th (peak 5 SW, Sep 23rd). Grounded double-figure counts were reported from only three sites (three in 2019) between October and December with 20 at Avington Park on Nov 15th; 15 at Lainston on Nov 22nd and Dec 1st; and ten at Old Cemetery, Southampton Common on Nov 16th. NFWBS produced counts of 60, 50 and 59 respectively in October-December, 17% below the five-year average for the comparable months.

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	2			25	2	30	74	26	3

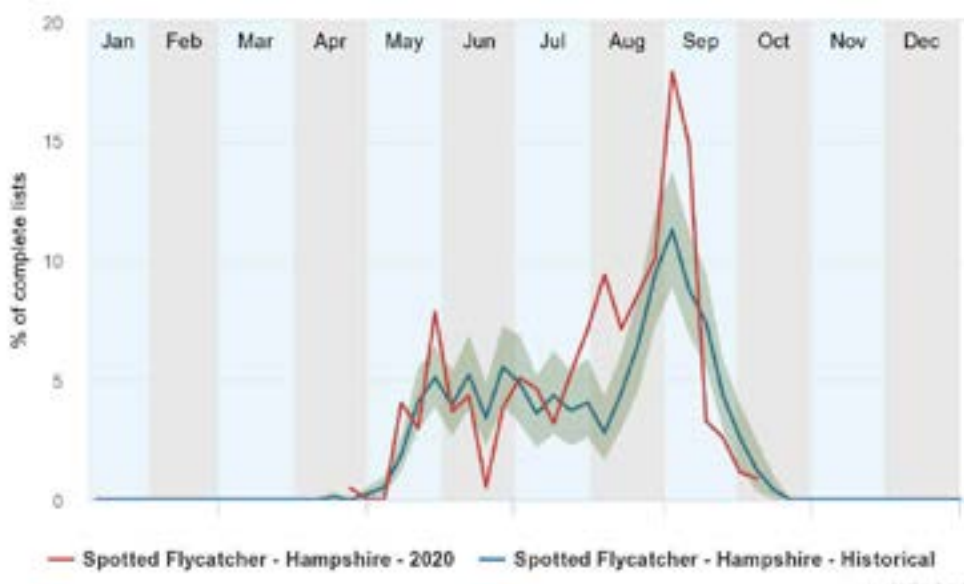
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Widespread with reports from 235 tetrads (23%) in 50 ten km squares which was a 13% increase on 208 tetrads last year. The first of the year was at Farlington Marshes on the early date of April 20th, eight days earlier than the average arrival date since 2010 (Table 7). Reports followed from Chandler’s Ford on 22nd, Ampfield Wood on April 27th, Otterbourne on May 1st, and multiple locations from May 2nd onwards including five at Abbotstanding Wood, NF on May 6th. Nocturnal flight call recording at St. Cross, Winchester logged four on four dates between May 7th and June 5th.

Breeding season records from the New Forest stronghold produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable habitat at 63 locations (68 in 2019) with successful breeding confirmed or suspected at 22 of these sites (11 in 2019). Elsewhere pairs, singing males or individuals seen in suitable habitat were reported from 51 locations (51 in 2019) including seven to eight territories at Pamber Forest. Successful breeding was reported from 15 sites (11 in 2019) as follows: Baddesley Common; Benyons Inclosure; Botley Wood; Charter Alley; Crab Wood, Farley Mount; Durley; Farleigh Wallop; Greywell; Hinton Ampner; Lower Test Marshes; Meonstoke; Pamber Forest; Roman ruins, Silchester; St. Catherine’s Hill; Selborne Common; The Vyne Lake; and Woolmer Pond. Post-breeding gatherings in August at or close to breeding sites included 17 at Selborne on 9th; 13 at St. Catherine’s Hill, Winchester on 2nd and 12 there on 10th and ten at Pig Bush, NF on 20th.



BTO BirdTrack reporting rate for Spotted Flycatcher in Hampshire 2020 compared with the historical average



Spotted Flycatcher, Charter Alley, July 10th (Barry Stalker)

Autumn migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from late July onwards with a peak between Aug 20th and Sep 13th. Five sites logged 20 bird-days or more (five in 2019) as follows: Old Winchester Hill with 67 bird-days from 15 dates between July 23rd and Sep 22nd (peaks 17, Sep 1st; 12, Sep 2nd); Beacon Hill, Warnford with 34 bird-days from nine dates between Aug 3rd and Sep 15th (peak 8, Aug 31st); Fort Widley with 28 bird-days from eight dates between Aug 9th and Sep 15th (peaks 9, Sep 2nd; 8, Sep 6th); Hook-with-Warsash with 22 bird-days from 12 dates between Aug 11th and Sep 7th (peak 4, Aug 17th); and Sandy Point with 20 bird-days from 14 dates between Aug 9th and Sep 25th (peaks 3, Aug 15th and Sep 10th). Elsewhere notable September counts included 13 at Holmsley, NF on 1st, 12 at Bishop's Dyke, NF on 4th, eight at Shatterford Bottom, NF on 1st and seven at Fort Nelson on 6th. Diurnal passage was noted from Trigpoint Hill with two NE on Sep 2nd and nocturnal flight call recordings from St. Cross, Winchester logged 17 from ten dates between July 31st and Sep 29th (peak 6, Aug 26th). Four records were received from October, all singles with the last from Lower Test Marshes on 6th, a day earlier than the recent average departure date.

The higher than average numbers in early September are illustrated by BTO's BirdTrack reporting rate graph. (WGDL)

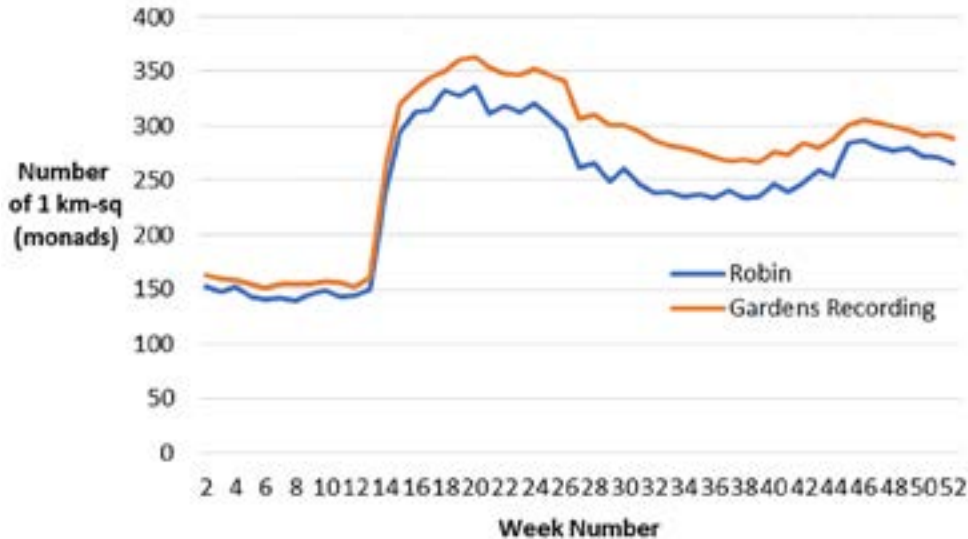
Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green

Recorded in 609 tetrads (60%) in 54 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded presence in 478 (over 99%) of the surveyed gardens in Hampshire making this the most widespread garden species. Monthly reporting rates varied between a peak of 99.6% in January to a low of 93.7% in July (Table 2).

The marked increase in one km squares containing participating gardens in the GBW project, which coincided with the start of the first lockdown in late March 2020, is clearly illustrated in the graph below together with the corresponding increase in reporting of Robins.

At Itchen Valley CP 22 counts throughout the year ranged from 11 (May 17th) to 43 (Oct 18th); at Blashford Lakes 36 counts ranged from one on five dates to 35 (Sep 3rd); at Lepe CP 31 counts ranged from one on six dates to 36 (Sep 28th); whilst at Rockford/Ibsley Common 42 were counted on Jan 18th, 27 on Feb 14th, 36 on Mar 22nd, 54 on Oct 18th, 42 on Nov



BTO Garden Bird Watch results for numbers of 1-km squares/week reporting Robins and participating gardens in Hampshire 2020

15th and 49 on Dec 17th. Other notable counts included Rushmoor Arena (63, June 2nd); Wellesley Woods, Rushmoor Bottom (49, June 2nd); Beaulieu Road (55, Sep 6th); Yateley GP (50, Dec 24th); The Chase (48, Mar 17th) and Lymington-Hurst (48, Oct 12th). At Titchfield Haven 93 were ringed between July 11th and Nov 4th with a peak of 12 on Oct 14th.

In February at Anton Lakes 19 territories were noted whilst 13 were counted at Charlton Lakes. Counts of breeding territories at other surveyed sites included the following (2019 figures, where available, are in parentheses): Hollybank Woods, 56 (31) and West Down, Chilbolton, 14 (10). There was no count at Longmoor Inclosure.

BBS one km squares with notable counts were Durley, 26 (May 31st); Millyford Bridge, 23 (May 15th); Totton, 22 (May 14th); Foxlease Meadows, Minley, 20 (May 15th); East Cosham, 19 (June 13th); Odiham Common, 19 (May 19th) and Itchen Abbas, 19 (May 15th). (APW)

Nightingale (Common Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.

Red, HBAP

Recorded in 39 tetrads in 19 ten km squares (cf. 24 tetrads in 14 ten km squares in 2019). The status of the species remains fragile and therefore HOS has chosen not to publish breeding locations. Everyone is requested to consider the vulnerability of this species and avoid disturbing breeding birds.

After the low point of 2018, with only 14 singing males recorded in only eight ten km squares across the county, there has been a slight upturn in the fortunes of this species with an increase in singing males in 2019 and again in 2020. However an increase in singing males does not mean an increase in females, and often in species that are in decline and on the edge of their range, a sex ratio of 2:1 or even 3:1 in favour of males can be exhibited (C. Hewson, BTO pers. comm.).

The first was recorded on April 6th in the New Forest. A further 27 singing males was recorded from 19 tetrads during April. Breeding was confirmed at two locations within one core area where 14 territorial males were recorded but only seven were considered to be paired. Three females with well-developed brood patches were trapped at one location and two fledglings were trapped at another location within the same core area on June 13th. Breeding was also suspected at another site. Outside of these two areas, birds were recorded in late May and June in ten tetrads. It can be difficult to establish breeding since birds are largely silent as the season progresses other than occasional contact/alarm calls or short bursts of song. In addition unpaired individuals will often move to new sites in late May to look for a mate, which can give the impression of new arrivals.

One of the fledglings ringed in 2019 was retrapped on its natal site in 2020. This was a male and appeared to be unpaired as it was ranging widely within the area. The last records were two trapped at Titchfield Haven NNR on Aug 4th. Both were juveniles, one of which was a fledgling that had been ringed elsewhere on June 13th (see above). (TDC)

Pied Flycatcher (European Pied Flycatcher) *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995.

Red

Recorded in 55 tetrads (5%) in 21 ten km squares. Spring records were all singles as follows: Testwood Lakes (male, Apr 19th); Farnborough (Apr 22nd); Havant Thicket (female, Apr 27th); Sway (May 26th) and Acres Down (June 23rd).

Return passage was noted from July 21st when a male was seen at Testwood Lakes. Further reports of singles came from Beaulieu Road, Rowbarrow and Southsea (July 30th) and Emer Bog, North Baddesley (July 31st). On Aug 1st two were at Pig Bush, NF and Southampton Common whilst one was at Red Rise, NF. There were then 91 further reports from widespread areas, nearly twice 2019's total, on 31 dates with most in the last three weeks of August. All were singles except the following in August: Sandy Point/Sparkes Marina (2, 11th, 15th, 18th:



Pied Flycatcher, Hook-with-Warsash, Aug 20th (Lee Fuller)



Black Redstarts, male, Lee-on-the-Solent airfield, Jan 17th (Lee Fuller) and female/juvenile, Nursling Church, Nov 24th (Richard Jacobs)



Redstart, Normandy Lagoon, Sep 11th, (Lee Fuller)

4, 16th); North Common, Northney (2, 11th-12th, 18th); Titchfield Haven (2, 11th); Emer Bog, North Baddesley (2, 11th); Old Cemetery, Southampton Common (2, 17th, 19th; 3, 28th); Pig Bush (2, 18th, 22nd); Chilling (2, 19th-20th); Hook-with-Warsash (2, 19th-20th); Abbotstanding Wood (2, 22nd) and Old Winchester Hill (2, 30th). Singles continued to be reported up to Sep 11th followed by one at Burley, NF on 26th and the last at Southsea on Oct 3rd. (APW)

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Red

Recorded in 77 tetrads (8%) in 26 ten km squares. Reports in the first half-year came from a total of 37 locations compared to 16 in 2019. These included Lee-on-the-Solent with records on 29 dates between Jan 5th and Mar 25th, all singles apart from two - a male and a female type - on Jan 11th, 17th and 19th, Feb 8th and Mar 25th. Other reports were from Middle Wallop Airfield with a first-winter male on seven dates between Jan 2nd and Mar 20th; Hurst Castle with up to two on five dates between Jan 7th and Mar 18th; Sandy Point with a single on four dates between Mar 19th and Apr 4th. Two were at Eastleigh Railway Works on Jan 15th, a female was there between Mar 25th and Apr 1st and one was singing nearby at Eastleigh on Apr 21st. Further reports on up to three dates came from 31 other locations, all singles apart from two at Lymington-Hurst on Apr 23rd.

Evidence of successful breeding came only from Hurst Castle where two newly fledged young were seen on July 17th.

Second half-year reports came from a total of 44 locations compared to 24 in 2019. An adult male was at Hurst Castle from Nov 9th to Dec 31st together with one or two immatures/females intermittently up to 14th. Sandy Point/Eastoke had reports on 14 dates between Aug 18th and Dec 26th, all singles apart from two (Nov 7th and 10th) and three (Nov 4th and 8th). Southsea/Southsea Castle had singles on 12 dates between Nov 13th and Dec 23rd; Calshot had singles on nine dates between Nov 13th and Dec 27th; whilst Hill Head had singles on five dates between Sep 7th and Nov 10th. Reports on four dates, all singles unless otherwise stated, came from Middle Wallop Airfield (Nov 24th, 30th and Dec 8th; 2, Nov 25th); Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (Oct 18th, Dec 17th; 2, Nov 27th and Dec 12th); Hook-with-Warsash (Sep 27th, Oct 26th, 30th, Nov 9th); and Nursling Church (Nov 21st-24th). Further reports on up to three dates came from 35 other locations, all singles apart from two at Eastleigh Railway Works (Aug 23rd), Lymington-Hurst (Dec 12th), Fort Cumberland (Dec 2nd), Hamble (Nov 26th and 28th), Bransbury Common (Dec 27th) and North Baddesley (Nov 1st). Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	3	17	14	1	1	3	4	3	9	39	19

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant.

Amber

Recorded in 152 tetrads (15%) in 40 ten km squares. The first was recorded at Furzy Lawn Inclosure/Rushpole Wood, NF on Mar 30th. This was followed in the New Forest in early April by singles at Mead End (4th); Longslade Bottom (5th); Gritnam Wood (6th); and Alderhill Inclosure, Godshill and Longdown Inclosure (7th). Two were also seen at Latchmore Bottom (7th) and six singing males were subsequently reported between Allum Green and White Shoot (9th). Away from traditional breeding areas, further April reports, all singles unless otherwise stated, came from Farlington Marshes (6th), Odiham (7th), Farlington Marshes (18th), Sandy Point (2, 18th; 2, 21st), Posbrook Floods (18th), The Mill Field, Old Basing (23rd; 2, 26th) and Kentsboro (27th), and in May individuals were at IBM Lake (4th), Sandy Point (6th and 16th) and Itchen Valley CP (6th) and Funtley (2, 6th).

There was no systematic breeding survey undertaken in the New Forest where the species remains common. Highest counts came from Pitts Wood Inclosure (12, June 8th), Bratley Wood (10, Apr 16th), Pig Bush (10, Apr 23rd, May 29th) and Amberwood Inclosure (9, June 10th). Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of five and 24 territories respectively, compared to two and 39 in 2019 (Table 1).

Return passage, all singles unless otherwise stated, was reported in July from Littleton (7th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary and Stockbridge Common Marsh (17th), Martin Down (2, 18th) and Petersfield Heath (28th), and in early August from Broughton (1st), Home Farm Woodland Trust, Burkhams (2nd), Ranvilles Lane, Fareham (3rd) and Calshot (7th). Records were then almost daily during the peak passage period from Aug 10th to Sep 29th with a maximum count of 28 at Old Winchester Hill on Sep 1st. This is the highest recorded count at a site anywhere in Hampshire. Further high counts followed in September at Old Winchester Hill (11, 2nd; 9, 4th); Fort Widley (13, 4th; 9, 6th); Stockbridge Down (7, 12th) and Bishop's Sutton (7,13th). Later reports, all singles in October, came from Havant Thicket (3rd), The Mill Field, Old Basing (5th), Hockham Down (9th) and Chilling Cliffs (15th), with the last at Lymington (23rd).

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants away from traditional breeding areas are tabulated below. (APW)

	Mar 16- 31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16- 30	May 1-15	May 16- 31	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	Nov 1-15
Inland		1	3	3				1	4	8	26	74	2	2		
Coast		1	4	2	1				1	6	40	53	11	2	1	

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.
Red, HBAP

Recorded in 99 tetrads (10%) in 39 ten km squares. The first, all singles unless otherwise stated, were at Beaulieu Heath East (Apr 11th), Hook-with-Warsash (Apr 12th), Portsdown Hill north slope and Posbrook Floods (Apr 18th), Frater Shore (Apr 25th), Newton Valence (4, Apr 27th) and Canada Common (Apr 29th). These were followed by 12 May records, all at different sites and all singles apart from two at Sandy Point (May 4th) and Ripley Farm Reservoir (May 7th). The last of spring was at Little Posbrook (May 18th).

The first return was at Lower Test Marshes (July 11th) followed by other singles at Bisterne Common, Beaulieu Road and Portsdown Hill north slope (July 12th), Hook-with-Warsash (July 13th) and Lower Test Marshes (July 14th). Other July reports, all singles unless otherwise stated, came from Needs Ore (2, 19th), Farlington Marshes (19th; 2, 21st; 24th), Lymington-Hurst and Bramshaw Telegraph (20th), Martin Down (29th), Home Farm Woodland Trust, Burkhams (30th) and Hook-with-Warsash (2, 30th). A total of 342 reports



Whinchat, Mortimer West End, Sep 7th
(Barry Stalker)

from 92 sites followed on virtually all dates in August and September up to the last on Oct 22nd at Hook-with-Warsash. The highest counts during the second period came from Farlington Marshes (9, Aug 20th; 8, Aug 28th and Sep 1st), Hook-with-Warsash (8, Sep 1st; 7, Sep 7th and 15th), Lymington-Hurst (7, Oct 17th) and Portsdown Hill north slope (7, Sep 6th).

Approximate half-monthly totals 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
Inland	1	6	7				2	3
Coast	1	3	6	1			4	7

	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	10	44	38	17	7	2		
Coast	14	87	117	30	19	9		

Stonechat (European Stonechat) *Saxicola rubicola*

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

The widespread distribution of this species is illustrated by it being recorded in 357 tetrads (35%) in 54 ten km squares. Noteworthy counts in January-February included eight at Titchfield Haven on Jan 1st, seven at Hook-with-Warsash on Jan 4th, six at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 7th, eight at Toyd Down on Jan 23rd and seven at Pennington Marshes on Feb 3rd. NFWBS produced 74 on Jan 18th but only 43 on Feb 15th when the weather was inclement. Evidence of immigration was provided by counts of 13 at Hook-with-Warsash and eight at Titchfield Haven on Feb 25th and 20 at Ocknell Plain, NF on Mar 1st. A strong arrival followed as the NFWBS count totalled 244 on Mar 21st.

The breeding population was almost certainly at its highest ever level in 2020. There were widespread and numerous reports from all parts of the New Forest although no survey work was undertaken. On the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths totals of 158 and 85 pairs/singing males were located compared with 91 and 58 respectively in 2019. Totals of 65 on Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, 71 on Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI and 44 at Woolmer Forest were the highest ever recorded. Individual site totals are given in Table 1.

However it was at sites away from traditional heathland locations that the high population level was evident. A total of 73 pairs/singing males was recorded at 53 sites with breeding confirmed at Ancells NR, Baddesley Common, Bickton, Biddenfield Farm, Bramshot Meadows (2), Burnt Common, Butser Hill (2), Calshot, Dogmersfield Park, Edenbrook CP (2), Emsworth North, Fields Farm, Fishlake Meadows, Fleet Pond fields and heaths (4), Foxlease Meadows (3), Gilkicker Point, Hamble Common, Hut Wood, Lower Swanthorpe Farm, Lower Test Marshes (2), Lymington-Hurst (8), Martin Down (3+), Needs Ore, Nursling, Oakhanger, Pamber Forest, Sandy Point (2), Straits Inclosure, Testwood Lake, Twyford Down and Vernham Dean.

The high population level and successful breeding season were reflected in unprecedented autumn numbers. Dispersal was evidently well under way on July 27th when 16 were in water meadows near Squabb Wood, Romsey. There were three double-figure counts in August of 14 at Edenbrook CP on 20th, 17 at Tweseldown on 28th and 20 at Barton on Sea on 31st. The table below shows minimum monthly totals calculated by taking the highest count at each site during the month. Clearly the numbers involved were much higher. In September double-figure counts were made at 24 sites with maxima of 20 at Keyhaven on 18th, 30 at Needs Ore on 22nd, 22 at Chilling on 26th, 33 at Hook-with-Warsash and 20 at Farlington Marshes on 28th, 39 at Titchfield Haven on 28th and 29 at Lower Test Marshes on 29th. In

October numbers were lower (in contrast to some previous years) with double-figure counts at 13 sites with maxima of 24 at Chilling on Oct 1st, 31 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 3rd, 39 at Portsdown Hill on Oct 6th, 26 at Hook-with-Warsash on 13th and 18 at Titchfield Haven on 15th. Numbers declined in November with double-figure counts at four sites with 20 at Lymington-Hurst on 3rd, ten at Farlington Marshes on 4th, 11 at Lower Test Marshes on 6th and 12 at Titchfield Haven on 12th. In December the only double-figure count was ten in the Avon Valley between Bisterne and Avon Causeway on Dec 20th while noteworthy counts elsewhere were seven at Titchfield Haven on 1st, eight at Pennington Marshes on 11th, nine at Edenbrook CP on 28th and seven at Down Grange, Basingstoke on 31st. The late year NFWBS counts were 130 on Oct 24th, 95 on Nov 21st and 42 on Dec 19th.

Monthly totals of birds recorded in various grouped sites in January-March and August-December are tabulated below. Note New Forest casual record totals in August and September were 86 and 137 respectively. (JMC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest Winter Bird Survey	74	43	244			130	95	42
Coastal sites	63	73	62	83	311	227	99	49
River valley sites	48	27	27	27	49	50	54	64
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	5	10	60	57	61	4	10	17
Other sites	40	36	61	76	158	126	65	71
Total	230	189	454	329	716	537	323	243

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly scarce summer visitor which last bred in 2005.

Green

Recorded in 194 tetrads (19%) in 47 ten km squares. Records during spring migration came from 134 locations. The first were two at Hill Head on Feb 28th followed by singles at Toyd Down (Mar 14th) and Park Shore (Mar 15th). Others, all singles unless otherwise stated, followed on Mar 15th at Farlington Marshes (3); Clay Hill, Burley; Hook-with-Warsash (2) and Browndown South; whilst Mar 16th saw a flurry of reports from Sandy Point (7), Hurst Castle, Lymington-Hurst, Eastney, Farlington Marshes (2), Fort Cumberland (2), Woolmer Forest, Acres Down, Black Down, Southsea Castle and Hook-with-Warsash (2). Almost daily reports were then received until June 1st. The last of the first period, both singles, were at Blackbushe Airfield (June 5th) and Lower Test Marshes (June 10th). The highest day totals each month were Feb 28th (2 at one site), Mar 16th (20 at 11 sites), Apr 18th (97 at 23 sites), May 4th and 7th (19 at nine and eight sites respectively) and June 1st, 5th and 10th (singles on each day at different sites). The highest individual counts came from Sandy Point (16, Apr 19th; 10, May 4th), Lower Test Marshes (15, Apr 18th), Portsdown Hill north slope (12, Apr 18th) and Farlington Marshes (10, Apr 18th).

As in the last 15 years, there were no confirmed breeding records.

The first returning migrants were in July with singles at Lymington-Hurst (16th, 18th and 19th), Langstone Mill Pond (17th) and Browndown South (17th and 18th). Others followed on virtually all dates from July 21st until the last singles on Nov 10th at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, Lymington-Hurst and Farlington Marshes. The highest day totals were 56 at 15 sites (Aug 28th), 74 at 14 sites (Aug 29th), 82 at 16 sites (Aug 30th) and 82 at 18 sites (Sep 5th). The highest site counts were at Barton on Sea (27, Aug 30th; 26, Sep 5th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (15, Oct 5th; 12, Aug 28th), Gunner Point (14, Aug 29th), Sandy Point (14, Sep 10th), Hook-with-Warsash (14, Aug 30th; 12, Aug 20th; 11, Sep 16th; 10, Aug 26th), Farlington Marshes (12, Aug 29th and Oct 6th; 11, Sep 25th; 10, Aug 24th), Lymington-Hurst (11, Aug 29th), Kingsclere (10, Aug 27th) and Dur Hill Down (10, Aug 30th).

The approximate half-monthly totals in spring and autumn are tabulated below. (APW)

	Feb 16-28	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	June 1-15	June 16-30	Total
Inland		2	12	38	89	32	12	2		187
Coast	2	7	40	32	123	32	12	1		249

	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		7	31	69	85	38	14	1			245
Coast		15	73	248	145	158	97	10	6		752

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Abundant but declining resident.

Red, S4I

Recorded in 412 tetrads (40%) in 54 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 394 (82%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 78.5% in May and a low of 62.3% in October (Table 2).

Sightings were reported from 486 locations compared to 389 in 2019. Flocks of 50 and above were at 24 sites (25 in 2019), whilst flocks of 80 and above were at Leigh Park, Havant (300, Sep 16th; 270, Aug 10th; 120 (Oct 6th), Longstock (242, Jan 4th; 100, June 27th), Upper Slackstead (180, Aug 29th), Neatham (160, Dec 4th), East Cosham (129, June 13th), Norley Inclosure (110, Dec 24th), Barton on Sea (100, July 31st), Wyck (100, Nov 18th), Fishlake Meadows (100, May 29th), Lymington (84, May 29th), Bere Farm, Wickham (80, Oct 12th) and Hurst Beach/Milford on Sea (80, Dec 25th).

In BBS peak registrations with over 50 in each one km square were at only two locations – East Cosham (129, June 13th) and Lymington (84, May 29th). (APW)

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Abundant resident.

Amber, S4I

Recorded in 484 tetrads (47%) in 54 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 87% of gardens. Monthly reporting rates ranged between a peak of 89.7% in February to a low of 77.3% in September (Table 2).

Throughout the year counts of ten and above came from Yateley GP (25, Dec 24th), Milton Common/Pools (20, Apr 2nd), Badminton Common (20, Apr 25th), The Mill Field, Old Basing (19, Mar 30th; 17, Dec 30th), Lymington-Hurst (14, Oct 12th), Lepe CP (13, Sep 28th; 10, Mar 15th; 10, Oct 5th), Wyck (13, Dec 23rd; 12, Jan 6th and 24th), Farlington Marshes (12, Apr 24th; 10, Apr 20th), Rockford Common (12, Feb 14th; 10, Nov 15th), Brownwich (12, Dec 31st), Overton (12, Mar 31st), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (11, Feb 19th), Testwood (11, May 3rd), Chandlers Ford (10, Apr 22nd), Edenbrook CP (10, Dec 26th), East Cosham (10, June 13th) and Titchfield Abbey (10, Mar 31st).

Reports of more than ten territories were as follows: Bourley South/Bricksbury Hill, 22; Yateley Common South (MOD), 19; Itchen Water Works (12); Andover (New Town, Town Centre and Gallaghers areas), 11. The highest registrations in BBS one km squares were at East Cosham (10, June 13th). (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 of the year was at Lymington-Hurst on Mar 21st followed by one at Hill Head on Mar 26th. There was a more general arrival from Apr 5th. Spring passage involved approximately 87 up to May 27th. The highest count was 13 at Posbrook Floods on Apr 18th.

The first return was an early bird at Sway on June 14th followed by one at Titchfield Haven on July 4th. The highest count was 178 at the Titchfield Haven roost on Sep 11th. Other high grounded counts were 120 at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 2nd and 116 at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 16th. The largest coastal movement was 133 (4 E and 129 W) at Barton on Sea on Sep 1st. The highest inland count was 38 at Baddesley Common on Aug 26th. The last of the year was at Farlington Marshes on Oct 23rd.

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 6-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
Inland grounded		3	12	4		1	121	142	13	
Inland moving		5	20	5			68	48	10	2
Coast grounded	2	2	20		6	5	484	476	298	25
Coast moving		4	16	8	4	13	324	711	135	1

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Rare vagrant. (0,0,1)

A first-winter was discovered at Brownwich on Oct 5th-6th (MF, AH *et al.*, photo and recording). The bird was in a ploughed field with Pied Wagtails. This is the first record for Hampshire and has been accepted by BBRC. A paper describing the discovery and identification appears on pages 253-255.

Until recently few people had ever mentioned this species as a potential vagrant to the UK and the first accepted record was only in 2009. With a further 15 records added to the end of 2019 and with more in the pipeline there can be no doubt that this cryptic species was overlooked in the past. This was because for many years it was simply listed as several races within the enlarged Yellow Wagtail species – now widely accepted as two species (Western and Eastern).

This species breeds in Siberia and North Mongolia, North China and North Japan and into the far north of the USA and Canada. The entire population was thought to winter in East and SE Asia, the Philippines, Indonesia and North Australia. However the discovery of wintering birds in western Europe (particularly in Portugal) has resulted in birders having to reassess their knowledge of this species. (KFB)



*Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Brownwich, Oct 6th
(Mark Francis)*

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Very rare vagrant. (0,5,1)

A juvenile was on the spit at Hook-with-Warsash from 11:00-11:20 on Aug 8th (DPH). It was seen in flight as well and was very vocal.

There have been just five previous records: at Titchfield Haven on Sep 22nd 1983, Fleet Pond on May 15th-16th 1993, Farlington Marshes on Aug 30th 1993, Farlington Marshes from July 6th to Sep 6th 1996 and Pennington Marshes on Sep 7th 2003. The species breeds from North Russia to Siberia and its range has expanded westwards in recent years and small numbers now breed in Belarus, the Baltic countries and South Finland. As a result numbers recorded in the UK have risen although this increase has not been noted in Hampshire! Most birds recorded in the UK are first-winters in autumn that have arrived in error, rather than heading to the normal winter range throughout the Indian subcontinent, South China and SE Asia to peninsular Thailand. (KFB)

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red

Recorded in 285 tetrads (28%) in 41 ten km squares. In January and February there were winterers at 79 sites, all one or two birds including area totals of four at Wyck on Jan 24th, four between Shawford and Winchester WM on Jan 28th, three at Alresford WCBs on Jan 8th and Boundway Hill on Feb 18th.

During the breeding season pairs or singing males were reported from 72 sites, a marked increase on the previous year although this is maybe due to better coverage rather than a real increase. Successful breeding was reported from Avington Lake; Black Dam, Basingstoke; Bossington South; Bourley Hill; Conford Park Lake; Ecchinsell; Greywell; Headley Mill Pond; Hook-with-Warsash; Longparish; Mortimer West End; Nursling; Overton; Petersfield; Selborne; Silchester Common and Winchester city centre.

Autumn passage on the coast began on Aug 17th at Sandy Point where there were 12 bird-days in August, 75 in September and 18 in October. The heaviest coastal movement was in the first week of September and the highest one-day totals were at Hook-with-Warsash (18 NW on Aug 27th, 21 NW on Sep 6th and 16 NW on Sep 19th) and Brownwich (11 W on Sep 6th). At inland watchpoints, at Tweseldown 19 flew mostly SW between Aug 24th and Dec 16th and 17 flew in various directions at Trigpoint Hill between Aug 24th and Nov 7th (Table 8). The highest autumn grounded count was 15 at Needs Ore on Sep 15th. In November and December winterers were reported at 119 locations. All reports were for either one or two birds apart from four at Wyck on Nov 18th, Winnall Moors on Nov 22nd and Axmansford on Dec 1st, and three at Old Basing on Nov 5th, Blashford Lakes on Nov 7th and Hawley Meadows on Nov 29th. At the roost at Black Dam, Basingstoke 17 were counted on Dec 29th. (GO)

Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail) *Motacilla alba*

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 364 tetrads (36%) in 53 ten km squares. In January and February the highest count was 200 at Alresford Pond roost on Jan 24th. At Trigpoint Hill 13 (10 NE and 3 SW) were recorded moving between Jan 3rd and Apr 20th.

Breeding was confirmed in May-June at widespread locations including Alresford WCBs, Badminton GP, Beaulieu Road, Chineham, Hockley GC, Hook-with-Warsash, Overton, Sandy Point and Silchester Common. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was five at Battramsley on June 14th.

On the coast at Barton on Sea 1,238 (755 E and 483 W) moved between Sep 15th and Nov 4th and at Sandy Point 230 moved in various directions between Sep 14th and Nov 9th. At inland watchpoints 691 (233 NE and 458 SW) flew over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 5th and Dec 29th and at Tweseldown 248 flew mostly SW between Sep 9th and Nov 21st. In autumn the largest count was 300 at Alresford Pond roost on Nov 3rd. The highest December counts were 364 at Fleet High Street roost on Dec 27th and 300 at Lower Test Marshes roost on Dec 20th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. Note these also include records submitted as Pied/White Wagtails. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	2		3		104	369	731	77	31	
Inland moving	4	3	4	1	39	45	265	74	157	226

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.

Spring passage involved at least 26 individuals between Feb 12th and May 4th. At Posbrook Floods birds were present between Mar 30th and Apr 18th, with a notable count of 13 on Apr 17th-18th, and at Lymington-Hurst between Mar 11th and Apr 29th (max. 4, Mar 20th). Other coastal records were singles at Fawley on Feb 21st, Lepe on Mar 15th and two on Mar 17th and Farlington Marshes on Apr 22nd. Inland records were one at Woolston on Feb 12th, Fernyhurst Lake on Feb 20th, Stoney Cross on Mar 13th, Blashford Lakes on Mar 26th and May 4th, Timsbury on Apr 5th and Bishopstoke on Apr 8th.

In a poor autumn, passage involved approximately seven birds. The first was at Lymington-Hurst on July 7th followed by regular records there through to the last of the autumn on Oct 10th. Other records were two at Bucklers Hard on Sep 19th and singles at Sandy Point on Sep 9th, Titchfield Haven on Sep 9th and 12th, Wilverley Inclosure on Sep 13th, and Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Sep 23rd and Oct 7th. (GO)

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn. (0,44,0)

2010 addition: A single flew west over the eastern seawall of Farlington Marshes at 13:06 on Oct 21st. It was calling loudly and hovered briefly before landing out of view in long grass. It remained hidden until it rose up and flew off west at 13:19 (JCK). (KFB)

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. NT, Amber

Recorded in 331 tetrads (32%) in 53 ten km squares. In January and February there were double-digit grounded flocks at 31 locations. The highest counts were 150 at North Boarhunt on Jan 15th; 71 at Lymington-Hurst on Jan 8th; 68 at Empshott on Jan 18th; 57 at Southleigh Forest on Jan 18th and 54 at East Meon on Feb 16th. The largest spring movements were at Tweseldown, where 423 flew NE (max 203, Mar 20th) between Mar 9th and 30th, and at Trigpoint Hill, where 394 (max 107, Apr 8th) flew NE between Jan 2nd and Apr 23rd. On the coast the only three-figure movement was at Sandy Point with 124 NW on Mar 18th. NFWBS found 314, 233 and 404 in January-March respectively.

The only specific count of breeding territories was at Butser Hill where there were six territories, up from three in 2019. The highest counts in May and June were 35 at Farlington Marshes, up to 24 at various New Forest sites and ten at Lymington-Hurst. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was 24 at Ibsley Common on June 26th.

Autumn passage began with two NE at Trigpoint Hill on Aug 31st. The largest coastal movement was at Barton on Sea where 1,556 (546 E and 1,010 W; max. 274 W on Sep 26th) moved between Sep 5th and Nov 9th. At Sandy Point 1,052 (max. 106 E Sep 16th, 22nd) flew in various directions between Sep 5th and Nov 8th. At inland watchpoints 1,587 flew mostly SW at Tweseldown between Sep 7th and Nov 7th (max. 351 SW, Oct 9th) and 1,087 (809 SW and 278 NE) at Trigpoint Hill between Aug 31st and Nov 21st (max. 165 NE on Sep 10th). In autumn the largest grounded flocks were 230 at Portway Farm on Sep 30th and 190 at Thruxton on Sep 28th. In December the largest grounded flocks were 50 at Wyck on Dec 9th and Roke on Dec 28th. NFWBS reported 434, 255 and 358 in October-December respectively.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	190	147	46	1	483	1,363	632	197		126
Inland moving	153	636	345	36	789	569	1,108	170	239	147

Tree Pipit† *Anthus trivialis*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor resident and passage migrant. *Red, S41*

Recorded in 123 tetrads (12%) in 41 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west, south and north-east. The first of the year was one at Woolmer Pond on Apr 4th. Passage away from breeding sites included five over Trigpoint Hill between Apr 8th and May 8th; singles at Sopley-Avon Causeway on Apr 9th, Baddesley on Apr 29th, Farlington Marshes on May 2nd and Kites Croft on May 3rd; three at Old Basing on May 5th; and singles at St. Cross, Winchester (nocturnal night call) and Alton on May 6th.

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 39 pairs and 47 pairs respectively (cf. 32 pairs and 50 pairs last year) (Table I). There was incomplete coverage in the New Forest but at least 39 singing males were reported. Sites away from the core breeding areas with singing males included Blackmoor, Burkhams, Golden Pot, Lower Wield, Parnholt Wood, Preshaw, Shirley Common, Vernham Dean (2 territories), Weston Common (8 singing males) and Wivelrod.

Autumn passage was unusually heavy and began with one SW over Trigpoint Hill on Aug 2nd. Cumulative movements of ten or more were 65 at Hook-with-Warsash between Aug 24th and Sep 26th, 30 at Sandy Point between Aug 4th and Sep 20th, 22 at Barton on Sea between Aug 31st and Oct 15th and 19 at Chilling between Aug 8th and Sep 14th. The highest single day counts were 22 at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 9th and Sep 6th and 16 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Aug 23rd. At inland watchpoints 63 flew over Tweseldown between Aug 23rd and Sep 10th and 31 over Trigpoint Hill between Aug 2nd and Sep 23rd. Fourteen were detected by nocturnal flight calls over St. Cross, Winchester between Aug 16th and Sep 5th. The last of the year was one at Ranvilles Lane on Oct 13th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-13
Inland grounded	2		3	7	20	10	3	
Inland moving	1	2	4	2	84	39	5	
Coast grounded			2	3	57	130	11	3
Coast moving				4	35	26	5	

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant. *Amber*

Recorded until Apr 15th (1, Upper Titchfield Haven) and from Oct 15th (1, Ibsley Water). In the early year there was a minimum of 48 at six regularly used sites and 13 at nine other sites, mostly on one date only. In the late year numbers were much reduced with a minimum of 19 at five regularly used sites and just three single-date records elsewhere. Monthly maxima at the regularly used locations and totals elsewhere are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Warblington	4	4	4	4		1	4
Titchfield Haven area	7	5	4	2	2	4	6
Lower Test Marshes	12	13	18	6	5	2	4
Lymington-Hurst	2	2	2				
Ibsley Water		1	1		1	1	1
Drayton Farm/ Pinglestone/ Manor Farm WCBs, Alresford	10	11	16		2	2	3
Totals elsewhere (sites)	5(5)	2(2)	4(3)	2(2)		2(2)	1

Early year records elsewhere came from Kingfisher Lake (1 E, Jan 5th), Newlands Farm, Fareham (1, Jan 9th), Fishlake Meadows (1 NE, Jan 12th), Broadmarsh (1, Jan 18th), Farlington Marshes

(1, Jan 19th, Feb 8th, Mar 14th and Apr 13th), St. Mary Bourne WCB (1, Feb 18th), Needs Ore (1, Mar 6th), Dark Water (2, Mar 17th) and Bishop's Dyke (1, Apr 12th, possibly the first ever from the New Forest). Late year additional records came from Ellingham Meadows (1, Nov 5th), Farlington Marshes (1, Nov 26th) and Swanwick NR (1, Dec 14th). (JMC)

2019 additions: At Warblington, three on Oct 22nd, two on Dec 18th and eight on Dec 24th.

Rock Pipit[†] (European Rock Pipit) *Anthus petrosus*

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green

During January and February there were approximately 60 winterers at 24 coastal sites. The highest count was 18 at Lymington-Hurst on Jan 7th. Other counts of five or more were at least eight Scandinavian race *littoralis* at Warblington Castle Farm during January, six at Hurst Castle on Feb 6th and five at Southsea Castle on Feb 5th.

During the breeding season coverage was incomplete but at Lymington-Hurst four to five pairs were reported at Hurst Castle and several juveniles were seen in June. Displaying males were noted at Southsea Castle and Barton on Sea. Other sites with breeding season records during April-May included Needs Ore, Calshot, Farlington Marshes and Portchester Castle.

Between October and December there were approximately 89 winterers at 34 coastal sites. Maxima at sites where counts were five or more were seven at Lymington-Hurst on Oct 17th and five on Nov 5th, Nov 12th and Dec 19th; six at Needs Ore on Oct 20th and five on Nov 16th; six at Hythe on Nov 13th; six at Barton on Sea on Nov 29th; and five at Lepe on Nov 11th. (GO)

Chaffinch (Common Chaffinch) *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green

Recorded in 521 tetrads (51%) across 53 ten km squares making this a close second to Goldfinch in terms of tetrad coverage. Reporting rates in BTO Garden BirdWatch varied from a maximum of 60.2% of surveyed gardens in January to a minimum of 36.4% in September (Table 2). There were many reports of large flocks in the first three months of the year with the highest numbers in the New Forest at Mark Ash Wood (max. 650, Jan 15th), Holmshill Inclosure (max. 530, Jan 6th) and Acres Down (max. 200, Feb 5th and 7th). The only other site to hold 200 or more was Cheesefoot Head (250, Mar 6th).

Counts of territories with ten or more pairs from regularly surveyed sites were as follows: Bourley North, 10; Yateley Common, 11; Fleet Pond, 12. No counts were received from either Lower Test or Longmoor Inclosure this year, the latter due to COVID-19 restrictions. BBS recorded a maximum of 17 territories at Tufton Warren Farm with 14 further one km squares recording ten or more territories.

Autumn movement was significantly higher than for the same period last year, with peak movements on the coast summed over the first half of November of 1,218, and a cumulative inland peak of 4,908 during the second half of October. The highest observed inland counts were at Tweseldown with 1,675 NW in eight hours on Oct 12th and the maximum coastal count was 522 E in three hours at Barton on Sea on Nov 9th. See Table 8 for further details of visible migration watches. Apart from the above movements, autumn flocks were smaller than the early year, the largest being 133 at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 3rd.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-29
Coast moving		3	196	200	1,218	36	3	
Inland moving	15	35	4,908	1,686	686	186	58	55

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 98 tetrads (10%) in 35 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east. This was a poor year for the species with monthly totals only exceeding 100 in November. In the first half of the year counts of over 20 were limited to a single record of 21 at a roost in Puckpits Inclosure, NF on Jan 10th. The last report in the first half-year was of one near Lyndhurst on Apr 9th and the first return in the second half was one west at Portsdown Hill on Oct 9th. Extensive coverage of 38 New Forest sites in October and December indicated a marked paucity of this species in the second half of the year. There were only four counts of over 20 comprising 25 at Beacon Hill on Nov 5th, about 40 roosting at Longwood Warren on Nov 5th, 21 SW over Tweseldown on Nov 18th and 30 at Lodden Copse, Basingstoke on Nov 24th.

Monthly totals are tabulated below. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	10	6	9				42	5	40
Monthly maxima NF roosts	185	50	59				15	14	5
County total grounded	200	59	64	3			45	126	43
County total moving							53	188	6

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce to moderately common resident, most numerous in the New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 90 tetrads (9%) in 22 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west with scattered reports in the centre and north-east. Survey work in the New Forest was heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. However one new roost was located in the New Forest prior to commencement of lockdown in March bringing the total of known permanent communal roosts to 39 in the New Forest and two in the Test Valley.



Hawfinch, New Forest, July 2nd (Martin Bennett)

Two roosts in the New Forest were monitored 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	26	25	28			0			0	0	12	11
Roost 2	29	56	46			11	3	6	6	10	49	45

From January through March all of the known roosts in the New Forest were surveyed producing an overall total of 508 Hawfinches giving an average of 13.4 per roost from the 38 known roosts at the time (cf. 474 from 36 roosts in 2019 giving an average of 13.1 per roost). Significant counts were made at a location in the north of the New Forest where birds were attracted to a small group of Hornbeams from January through to March with a peak count of 269 on Jan 22nd. This unprecedented gathering is thought to be the largest single count in Hampshire with birds originating from a number of local communal roosts. Numbers declined rapidly through March as birds dispersed ahead of the breeding season.

Away from the New Forest early year records came from Whitsbury (1, Jan 4th); Romsey (1, Jan 1st, 3rd and 28th and 3, 31st); Testwood Lakes (1, Mar 23rd); Marchwood (3, Mar 7th, 4, 8th and 1, 25th); Southampton Common (1, Jan 6th, 7th, 10th and 26th); Ampfield Wood (1, Jan 14th; 2, Feb 5th and 3, 12th; 1, Mar 29th and 2, 31st); Hursley Park (4, Jan 10th); Farley Mount CP (6, Jan 16th, 1, 21st and 54, 28th; 51, Feb 13th and 34, Mar 3rd); Weston Common, Lasham (4, Jan 5th; 1, 19th and 1, 26th); Basingstoke area (1, Jan 16th, 20th and 3, 30th and 1, Mar 29th).

The two roosts in the Test Valley area were counted monthly in the early year as tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Ampfield Wood	1	3	2
Farley Mount CP	54	51	34

Pre-breeding movements were recorded from Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury (4 NE, Apr 4th) and Hawley Common (1, Apr 4th). Fledged young were recorded from nine locations across the New Forest including an impressive total of 34 juveniles at a crèche site on June 11th. Outside of the New Forest breeding was confirmed at Breamore Wood in the Avon Valley while a singing male at Emer Bog, North Baddesley could relate to a breeding attempt nearby. Records of post-breeding movements/dispersal came from Toyd Down (1, July 19th); Marchwood (1, July 7th); St. Cross, Winchester (1 nocturnal recording, June 28th) and Harewood Forest (3, July 2nd). A total of 13 was caught and colour-ringed in the Bolderwood area between Mar 7th-19th and May 15th-27th.

Autumn passage was light with records from two locations including Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury (1 SW, Oct 19th; 1 NE, Nov 6th; 1 SW, 10th and 15th) and Tweseldown (6 SW, Nov 10th). In the late year records outside the New Forest came from Blashford Lakes (5, Oct 29th; 2, Dec 4th); Breamore Wood (5, Nov 21st); Testwood Lakes (1, Nov 10th); Mount Copse (2, Dec 31st); Compton (1, Dec 29th); Casbrook Common (1, Nov 10th); Romsey area (1, Dec 30th-31st); Ampfield Wood (1, Oct 13th and 6, Oct 27th); Hursley Church (3, Nov 15th; 2, 21st and 1, 29th; 1, Dec 13th and 2, 27th); Parnholt Wood (15, Oct 23rd); Farley Mount (1, Oct 24th); Cranbury Park (2, Nov 27th); Southampton Common (1 on 10 dates between Nov 4th and Dec 29th; 2, Nov 30th); Harewood Forest (1, Nov 22nd and 1, Dec 6th); Basingstoke area (1, Oct 12th and 22nd) and Ashford Hangers (7, Nov 9th). (MW)

Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 426 tetrads (42%) in 49 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch showed a substantial monthly variation with reports from just 6.5% of surveyed gardens in October up to a maximum of 29.0% in May (Table 2).

There were no counts of breeding territories at regularly surveyed sites this year. However there were 12 territories recorded from the Thames Basin Heaths, ten from Stockbridge Downs and five from Minstead, NF. The lack of coverage was undoubtedly responsible for the dearth of reports. Including reports from all sources, a total of just 50 territories was recorded. This is a significant under-estimation of the actual total.

Outside of the breeding season there was evidence of local movement in January, with ten or more reported from Needs Ore, Ashlett Creek and Lower Test with a peak of 25 at Dibden Bay on 12th. Inland the highest early-year count was 17 at Old Basing on Mar 25th. End of year counts were generally lower with inland peaks of 11 at Fritham Plain, NF on Oct 10th and 12 at Itchen Valley CP on Nov 29th. (AL)

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Chloris chloris*

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 367 tetrads (36%) in 54 ten km squares. It was the second most frequently recorded finch in BTO Garden Birdwatch after Goldfinch moving just ahead of Chaffinch with reports from a maximum of 53.8% of surveyed gardens in March and a minimum of 35.1% in September (Table 2). During the first quarter there were just five locations that reported flocks of 20 or more. The highest counts were 30 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 8th, 50 at Blashford Lakes roost on Mar 4th and 30 at Hayling Island on Mar 6th.

There were no counts of territories at regularly surveyed sites. However the surveys of the Thames Basin Heaths revealed a total of 53 territories (cf. 97 in 2019) (Table 1). BTO survey data included eight territories at Hamer Warren Lakes, six at Ower Farm, Upham and five at Longparish. All other survey sites recorded four or less territories.

During the autumn maximum counts in September were 36 at Barton on Sea on 5th, 50 at Petersfield on 21st and 120 at Hill Head on 30th. In October 100 were reported from Hill Head on 19th and 80 from Lymington-Hurst on 22nd. Through the early winter period maximum counts were 110 at Lymington-Hurst on Nov 5th, 78 at Lychpit Estate, Basingstoke on Nov 23rd and 127 there on Dec 26th. (AL)

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Linaria cannabina*

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 357 tetrads (35%) in 52 ten km squares. Counts of territories were impacted by reduced coverage due to COVID-19. Of the regular locations, numbers of territories were only reported from the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths with a combined total of 160 compared to 144 last year (Table 8).

There were 41 counts exceeding 200 including movements and grounded flocks, mostly in autumn and winter, including 11 of 400 or more, the highest being an easterly movement of 1,002 in over three hours at Barton on Sea on Oct 16th. The highest grounded flock was 400 in stubble at Old Winchester Hill on Oct 8th. Half-monthly totals of autumn movements are tabulated below. Peak inland and coastal counts of migrants both occurred in the second half of October. (AL)



Linnet, Pennington Marshes, June 7th (Gareth Rees)

	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	98	69	1,008	2,946	761	63	103	
Inland moving	124	104	1,311	2,696	268	300	8	24

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. (3, 191, 2)

Amber.

Singles were ringed at Castle Bottom on Nov 10th and 20th (JHH, photo). Observers are asked to take care when reporting "Redpolls". The relatively common species is Lesser Redpoll while Common Redpolls are in fact rare. (KFB)

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006. Red, S41

Recorded in 174 tetrads (17%) in 38 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east. Counts in the first few months were low with no triple-digit flocks.

Two recently fledged juveniles were trapped and ringed with an adult at Duckhole Bog, NF on July 23rd. This represented the only confirmed breeding record for the year and the first since 2006, although it is likely that this species is frequently undetected in the breeding season.

During the autumn numbers recovered with a flock of 150 at Bisterne Common on Oct 13th, 90 at Frame Wood, NF on Oct 15th and 100 at Fleet Pond on Dec 21st. Ringing at Titchfield Haven NR from Oct 6th to Nov 11th totalled 144 birds, including a day maximum of 39 on Nov 4th. Visible migration on the coast and inland peaked during the first half of October with very little movement after Nov 15th.

Half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

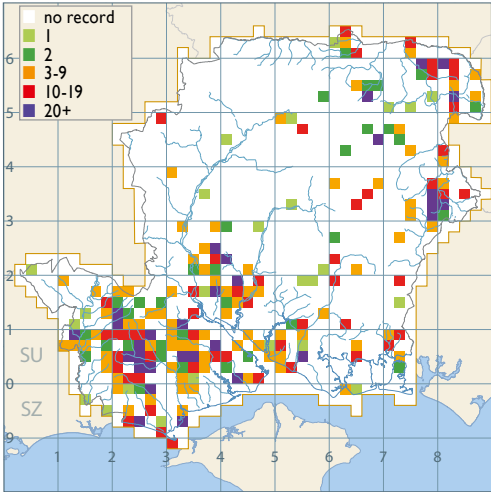
	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31
Coast moving	5	147	647	353	130			
Inland moving	1	62	411	237	126	21	11	1

Crossbill (Red Crossbill)

Loxia curvirostra

Moderately common resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn. Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 225 tetrads (22%) in 44 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west, south and north-east. This is a large increase compared to 93 tetrads in 24 ten km squares recorded last year despite lockdown restrictions. Numbers of records also showed a significant increase when compared with 2019, especially from mid-year onwards. Highest monthly totals were 986 records during June followed by 903 in October whereas for the same period last year numbers of records only exceeded 100 in December. The widespread extent of records and the relatively high numbers involved are illustrated by the tetrad distribution map (right).



Tetrad map showing distribution and numbers of Crossbills in 2020

Whilst breeding was confirmed by recently fledged young at several New Forest sites and Woolmer Pond, the lack of other breeding records is almost certainly a result of less survey work (e.g. no BTO BBS early counts were reported).

The highest single count was 82 at Duckhole Bog, NF on July 23rd. Other flocks of 50 or more were 53 feeding on Larch cones in Somerley Park on Jan 18th and at least 50 at Minley on Aug 17th and Bourley catchment the next day, most of which were females or juveniles. Increased numbers were also reported from NFWBS in November with a total of 54 from 38 sites, although this was the only double-figure count for six months of surveys (Table 4).

A summary of all records is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	195	83	149	111	156	628	316	70	111	245	156	132
North-east sites	1	1		7	22	8	73	266	176	61	169	123
Other sites	75		19	48	44	169	174	11	44	108	85	89
Moving				18		181	127	78	100	489	198	34

Monthly counts at the regular roosting sites of Blackwater Arboretum and Holmhill Enclosure were not undertaken due to lockdown restrictions. (AL)

Goldfinch† (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 546 tetrads (53%) in 55 ten km squares making this the most widely reported finch just ahead of Chaffinch. Similar to last year it also remained the most frequently recorded

finch in BTO Garden BirdWatch. Throughout the year monthly presence in surveyed gardens remained high between 84.3% in May and 63.3% in September (Table 2). In the first half-year there were three-figure counts at just two sites with 100 at The Grange Lake on Jan 23rd and 100 at Wyck on March 10th and 18th.

A better than average breeding season followed, despite there being no breeding surveys at regular locations such as Longmore Inclosure and Lower Test Marshes. The highest reported count of territories was 23 at Whiteshute Ridge, Winchester on May 10th. Cranbourne, Basingstoke recorded 17 territories on May 13th and 20 newly fledged juveniles were reported from Oakhanger on May 25th. BTO data indicated a successful year with four locations recording between 20 and 39 territories each.

The autumn/winter period was exceptional by recent standards with no fewer than 29,239 recorded moving between Sep 1st and Dec 31st. Peak movement took place in the first half of November when 13,626 individuals were reported, making it the largest half-monthly movement of any finch species for 2020. In addition there were sizeable counts of grounded flocks with a maximum of 300 at Burkhams Woodland Trust Reserve on Sep 5th and flocks of 100 or more from at least five additional locations.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	42	234	5,601	5,719	12,852	1,101	111
Inland moving	235	644	959	507	774	378	59

Siskin† (Eurasian Siskin) *Spinus spinus*

Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 308 tetrads (30%) in 49 ten km squares. Reported in a maximum of 14.9% of surveyed gardens in May and a minimum of 5.1% in September in BTO Garden BirdWatch (Table 2).

In the first three months there was only one count of over 100 with a flock of 175 at Fleet Pond on Mar 8th. There were a further eight counts over the same period of 50 or more individuals. During the breeding season (April to August) juveniles were reported from a handful of sites, with up to three at Trodds Copse, Ampfield on May 3rd and five seen together at Acres Down on June 15th. Autumn migration peaked in early September with 4,611 birds moving between Sep 1st and 15th. The highest single count was 667 east during three and a half hours at Barton on Sea on Sep 14th.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	3,241	1,628	642	499	215	26
Inland moving	1,370	433	299	147	26	13

Lapland Bunting (Lapland Longspur) *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (0, 212,1)

Schedule 1, Amber

A single flew in low over the sea wall and landed out of view behind Keyhaven Lagoon. After ten minutes it flew around and then departed north at 10:45 on Nov 7th (AL, photo).

2019 addition: One at Barton on Sea on Oct 23rd has been accepted on review (SGK). (KFB)



Lapland Bunting, Keyhaven, Nov 7th (Alan Lewis)



Snow Bunting, Hill Head, Dec 5th (Chris Rose)

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Amber

There was just one record. An individual was seen on the beach by multiple observers at Hill Head on Dec 5th. (AL)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Locally moderately common but declining resident.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 46 tetrads (5%) in 17 ten km squares with most reports concentrated in the extreme west and along the central and north-west downlands. During the first three months of the year the only count of note was 60 at Tidpit Down on Jan 1st. Only two other sites recorded 20 or more birds. Breeding season (April to August) counts of singing males were recorded as listed below (2019 figures in parentheses):

On the chalk west of Avon Valley: Martin Down, 9 (10).

West of Test Valley: The Wallops to Cholderton, 9 (9); Houghton Down, 10 (0).

In the Test Valley: None recorded.

West of Winchester: Farley Mount, 1.

East of Winchester: Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head/Gander Down, 9 (12).

North Hampshire: Kingsclere, 1 (2); Ashley Warren, 2 (1).

Coast: None recorded.

It was encouraging to see reasonable numbers at Houghton Down, though counts in the area east of Winchester were lower than the previous year. Records from Martin Down during May-July are assumed to be singing males but a count of 15 there on Aug 24th may have included family groups and has not been included in the table above.

During the period from Sep 1st to Dec 31st only three locations recorded 20 or more, with the peak count being 30 at Breamore Down on Nov 21st. (AL)

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Numerous but declining resident.

Red, S4I

Recorded in 291 tetrads (29%) in 48 ten km squares, with highest numbers on the chalk downland and fewest in the south-west. During January to April just five locations recorded flocks of over 45. The peak count was at Portway Farm near Andover with 100 on Jan 19th.

During the summer months the largest flock recorded was 74 at Weston near Petersfield on June 1st. Territory counts at regularly surveyed sites were as follows (2019 figures in



Yellowhammer, Braishfield, May 3rd (Ian Wells)

parentheses): Butser Hill, 15 (11) and Wealden Heaths, 20 (33) (Table 1). The decline on the Wealden Heaths was accounted for by incomplete coverage at Longmoor Inclosure where only eight were found (cf. 23 in 2019). There were far fewer breeding records from the regularly surveyed sites as a result of limited fieldwork during COVID-19. However the Tidgrove estate was surveyed and revealed 26 singing males on June 15th.

In the late year only three locations recorded 45 or more, the highest being 57 at Crockerhill in the Meon Valley on Dec 24th. (AL)

Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting) *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, S41, HBAP

Recorded in 176 tetrads (17) in 41 ten km squares, with highest numbers along river valleys and at wetland sites. During the first four months of the year four sites recorded 30 or more. In January 30 were at Lower Test Marshes on 7th and 50 were reported nearby at Moorcourt Farm on 10th. The maximum counts in the next two months were 34 at Bourley North on Feb 29th and 32 at Fishlake Meadows on Mar 1st.

Breeding season counts of territories in regularly surveyed areas were as follows (2019 figures in parentheses): Itchen Valley 4 (5); Fishlake Meadows, 7 (4). Edenbrook CP also recorded seven pairs, Fleet Pond four pairs (with two young from two different nests observed) and Woolmer Forest seven pairs. (See Table 1 for counts on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths.)

There were no significant counts during the second half of the year, the highest in the last three months being 15 at Brownwich on Oct 13th, 31 there on Nov 8th, 24 roosting at Winnall Moors on Dec 8th and 30 at Compton STW (near Romsey) on Dec 29th. Visible migration was poor the highest daily total being eight west at Barton Sea on Nov 4th. Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. (AL)

	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving	2	16	14	14	1	
Inland moving	1	13	15	18	5	4

Categories D & E: escapes & others (KFB/MLC)

The above categories do not form part of the British List and refer to birds whose origin cannot be accepted as from a wild state. It is not the intention here to follow BTO practice and record birds which are free-ranging but domestically held, such as Helmeted Guineafowl and Indian Peafowl. Most species reported here are escapes from captive origin but some will always be open to dispute. The taxonomic order and English and scientific names follow the IOC World Bird List v11.1: 2021.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Escape (Central Asia). The small feral population previously established in the north-east of the county is extinct.

One at Rampton's Lane GP on Oct 3rd.

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus*

Escape (West Alaska & North-east Siberia).

One in the Avon Valley at Sabines Farm/Avon Tyrrell WM on Jan 12th and Dec 29th, Ibsley Water on Sep 17th and Avon Causeway and New Queen on Dec 30th. It had apparently been in the Avon Valley for some time before the end of December.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Escape (North America).

One at Lower Test Marshes on May 3rd, Fishlake Meadows from May 5th-21st and July 26th, and Ibsley Water on June 20th. Associated with Canada or Greylag Geese at last two locations.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

Escape (North-east Asia)

One at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Feb 23rd; King's Pond, Alton on Sep 21st and 26th; Rampton's Lane GP on Oct 3rd and near Oakhanger on Dec 8th and 17th. Associated with Canada and Greylag Geese at last two locations.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Escape (Australasia).

The highest numbers, and only double-figure counts, continued to be recorded at Riverside and Bitterne Parks, Southampton and along adjacent sections of the River Itchen between Northam and Mansbridge. Monthly maxima are shown below with the peak count being 15 on Sep 19th.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	10	11		6			10	15	12	14	8

Regular reports of smaller numbers elsewhere included two at Heath Pond, Petersfield between Jan 10th and Sep 1st; up to three at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes between Jan 22nd and Aug 26th; one at Sturt Pond/Cut Bridge between Mar 5th-21st; one at Hill Head/Stubbington/upper Titchfield Haven from Mar 27th to Apr 19th and up to five at Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh/Redbridge between May 26th and Oct 3rd. In addition, three flew east past Hill Head and Brownwich on Jan 26th and two were reported at Weston Shore on May 2nd and Dec 20th and Hook-with-Warsash on Dec 11th; Hartley Wintney on May 30th; Chessel Bay, Southampton on July 6th; East Horton GC on Sep 10th and Fishery Creek/Black Point on Dec 27th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia).

Singles at Heath Pond, Petersfield from Jan 1st to Nov 30th; East Stoke Farm, Sutton Scotney on Jan 10th and Kingsley on Sep 12th were presumed escapes. A group of five (one male and four females) which arrived in the Ripley Farm Reservoir/Sopley area from Nov 27th stayed into 2021. Another male was seen at Ripley between Nov 22nd and Dec 2nd and at Ibsley Water on Nov 26th. All six were together at Ripley on Dec 1st. These possibly originated from the naturalised population in the Netherlands.

Note BOU is requesting submission of all records of Ruddy Shelducks in the wild in 1994 and the subsequent period from 1999-2020 to review the species' status and determine whether a change of category is justified in light of the established naturalised populations on the near continent and the increasing numbers associated with moult migration to the Netherlands in the late summer months.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Escape (Central & South America).

Singles at Overton on January 7th and 9th; Heath Pond, Petersfield from Jan 12th to Dec 13th; Adanac Park from Feb 18th to Mar 16th; Cadnams Pool, NF on Mar 11th and Eyeworth Pond, NF on Nov 19th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Escape (North America).

Two adult males in eclipse at Eyeworth Pond on June 10th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Escape (South America).

Single drakes at Sherborne St. Mary farm pond on Sep 11th-12th, Titchfield Haven on Oct 15th and IBM Lake/Hilsea Moat/Tipner Lake between Oct 22nd and Dec 29th.

Falcated Duck *Mareca falcata*

Escape (East Asia).

2013 amendment. An adult male at Bury Marsh on Feb 9th, formerly accepted as Category D, has on review in 2020 been moved to Category E. (See Stoddart, A. & McNerny, C.J. 2020. The Falcated Duck in Britain. *British Birds* 113: 46-53).

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Escape (North & South America).

One at Farlington Marshes lake from Aug 12th to Oct 3rd.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Escape/release (China); formerly very scarce feral resident, now presumed extinct.

Singles at Newtown near Awbridge on Mar 8th and 15th, Longparish on May 11th, Forton West on June 7th and Whitenap near Romsey on Oct 11th.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrmaticus reevesii*

Escape/release (China).

The long-stayer at Botley Wood was seen intermittently between Jan 8th and July 22nd, three males were at College Wood, Woodmancott on Feb 5th and two were there on Mar 7th, two at Bentworth on Feb 25th and one at Wyck intermittently between Mar 14th and Sep 25th.

2019 addition: Four in Monk's Wood, Sherborne St. John on Feb 5th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Escape/release (Europe, North Africa & Middle East).

With the recent creation of a breeding and release programme in both Sussex and Surrey there is now a population of free-flying birds that ranges widely in southern England. These birds carry blue colour rings that are not always obvious in flight. We assume that all birds are of captive origin unless there is strong evidence to the contrary, although clearly the chance of genuinely wild birds appearing cannot be forgotten. All are singles unless otherwise stated.



White Stork, Overton, June 6th (Simon M King)

Ampfield: 2, Mar 11th; Blashford Lakes: Apr 6th; Fishlake Meadows: Apr 7th; Petersfield: 2, Apr 12th; Empshott: Apr 20th; Sandy Point, Hayling Island: Apr 23rd; Longparish: Apr 24th-27th; East Anton, Andover: Apr 26th; Colemore: Apr 27th; Winchester: Apr 30th; Chilbolton: May 1st; Farlington: May 3rd; Pig Bush, NF: May 23rd; Bickton: May 24th; Longparish: May 24th; Chandler's Ford: May 25th; Bishopstoke: May 25th; Hambledon: May 25th; Hartley Wespall: June 3rd; Laverstoke Estate, Overton: June 4th-7th (Blue GB46); Mapledurwell: June 13th; Kings Worthy: June 14th; Old Basing: June 17th; Tweseldown: June 27th; Blashford Lakes: July 10th; Longparish: July 16th; Cliddesden/Kempshott: July 24th; Romsey: July 26th; Horndean: July 28th; Manor Farm CP: July 29th; Longparish: Aug 2nd; Nursling: Aug 5th; Sandy Point, Hayling Island: 22 heading north, Aug 30th (the Knepp flock dispersing after release); Portchester: 22 west, Aug 30th (as above); Ashurst, NF: Sep 12th; Portsdown Hill: Sep 12th; Weston Shore: Sep 12th; Titchfield: Sep 12th; Skidmore/Nursling: Sep 13th-14th (Blue GB63); Edenbrook CP: Sep 14th; Eversley Cross: Sep 15th; Somerley Park/Ringwood: Sep 15th-Oct 10th (Blue GB35). (KFB)

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Release (Europe and northern Asia).

A project to re-introduce White-tailed Eagles to southern England was initiated by the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation in 2019 and in August of that year six juveniles were released on the Isle of Wight. They all carry satellite transmitters and unsurprisingly several of them have been tracked over Hampshire since their release. A further seven juveniles were released in 2020. All of these birds have wandered into Hampshire at some point and sightings are too many to summarise. At least one wild bird was recorded in the county – see main species accounts.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Escape (North & South America).

One at Chandler's Ford on Jan 27th.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

Escape/release (Europe & Asia).

The long-staying red colour-ringed juvenile male, first reported in November 2019, was seen regularly at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, often at Vidle Van Farm, up to Mar 31st and again on Nov 5th and 28th. A separate juvenile male was at Tidpit/Toydown from Jan 4th to Feb 29th and at nearby Martin Down on May 25th. They are assumed to be from the Great Bustard Group's reintroduction programme at Salisbury Plain.



*Great Bustard, Iley Lane, Keyhaven, Mar 14th
(Mark Halligan)*

Crane (Common Crane) *Grus grus*

Escape/release (Europe and North Asia).

Given the reintroduction programme in the West Country, HOS Records Panel takes a cautious approach to each record and considered the following to be a probable escapee or introduction.

An adult was feeding on an arable field at Tidgrove Warren near Kingsclere in the early evening on May 25th (RMP). The observer did not notice whether it had rings. (KFB)

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Escape (Australia).

One in a residential garden in south-east Basingstoke on May 15th.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Escape (Australia).

One at Weston Shore on Mar 3rd.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Escape (South America).

One in St. Giles Hill Cemetery, Winchester on Jan 2nd.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Escape (Australia).

Singles at Cadnam Common, NF on Feb 10th; Leigh Park, Havant from June 29th to July 3rd and Sandy Point on Aug 31st.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Escape (Central, South & South-east Asia).

One at the Meon Hut Service Station, West Meon on Aug 16th.

Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*

Escape (Java & Bali).

One at garden feeders, Portchester on Aug 7th.

Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*

Escape (Azores, Madeira, & Canary Islands).

One at Overton on Aug 15th.

Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2020

Site	Woodcock	Cuckoo	Nightjar	Green Woodpecker	Gt Sp Woodpecker	Hobby	Woodlark	Skylark	Willow Warbler	Whitethroat	Dartford Warbler	Redstart	Stonechat	Tree Pipit	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
<i>Thames Basin Heaths</i>																	
Blackbushe Airfield*			1	2	1		1	2	5	11	6		7		4		
Bourley North/Long Valley	2	3	14	3	4		12		21	23	30	5	26	8	31		
Bourley South	2	3	13	2	10		6		30	31	31		31	11	37		1
Bramshill Plantation	3	2	8	2	2		3		7	4			2	1	4		2
Bramshill Park Heath							1			1			1				
Bramshot Heath*										1			1				
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill	1	1	3	1	1				5	3	4		6		3		
Eversley Common including Busta Triangle		1	6	4	3		5	4	11	5	9		8	1	6		1
Castle Bottom	1	1	6	4	3		2		13	12	4		5	1	4		
Hawley Common	3		7	3	3		2		1	1	3		7	1	2		
Hazeley Heath		4	8	7	8		3		22	22	9		9	1	18	1	
Heath Warren	2		4	2	2	1	3		6	6	1		2	2	1		
Lichett Plain			4														
Silchester Common*	1	1							3		2		1		3		
Tadley Common*											3						
Tweseldown			3				3		2	8	2		5		3		
Velmead Common			1	1	3		2			4			3		1		
Warren Heath			11	3	1		4		8	2				2			
Yateley Common (HCC)	1	1	17	6	5		3		23	29	17		16		6		
Yateley Common South (MOD)	2	1	11	2	1		4		7	11	21		15	1	19		
Yateley Heath Wood	1	2	10	3	3	1	9	4	21	12	5		13	9	3		
TBH total 2020	19	20	127	45	50	2	63	10	185	186	147	5	158	31	145	1	4
TBH total 2019	22	12	106	22	26	4	49	8	160	97	82	2	91	32	97	0	3
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott Common		1	2	4	4		4		5	2		3	4	1	2	2	
Broxhead Common (HCC)		1	3				2		1		7		1	1	1		
Broxhead Common (MOD)			2				2		3		7		2	2			
Conford Moor			Nc		1					1							
Cranmer Heath			1				1					1	2	2			
Hammer Common	1		1		1				3	1					1		
Kingsley Common			3		2		1						1	1			
Longmoor Inclosure			7+	Nc	Nc		3+		Nc	Nc	19+	2+	14+	12+	Nc	8+	
Ludshott Common	Nc	1	20	Nc	Nc		5		24	10	36	4	13	3	7	3	
Passfield Common	Nc		Nc										nc				
Shortheath Common**			1	2	2		3		1							1	
The Slab/Warren/Blackmoor GC**			Nc	3	6		1	1	7	7			4	1	4	3	1
Weavers Down/Holly Hills					1												
Woolmer Forest	Nc	3	17	Nc	Nc	1	23		18	Nc	34	14	44	29	Nc	1	7
WH total 2020	1	6	57	9	17	1	45	1	62	21	103	24	85	52	15	18	8
WH total 2019	12	8	75	29	42	0	47	1	73	29	71	39	58	50	47	34	9

* = not included in Thames Basin Heaths SPA; ** = not included in Wealden Heaths SPA; nc = no count; blank square = 0

Thanks are due to the following who contributed to this survey: J Baldwin, ML Chalmers, JM Clark, JR Collman, AFJ Cox, PJ Crowley, JA Eyre, AR James, C Jones, J Lee, EA Lintott, SJ Mansfield, R Murfitt, D Murray, B Stalker, GC Stephenson, AD Stoney and KB Wills.

Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2020

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 223-396 compared to the year total of 481. There was a very significant increase in participating gardens from April when entry to GBW became free to encourage interest during the COVID restrictions (see Robin account in Systematic List). The final column shows the total number of gardens from which the species was reported at least once during 2020.

Species	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	SITES
Blackbird	99.1	98.2	99.3	99.0	99.0	99.5	98.8	91.7	85.9	90.0	96.9	97.9	477
Blackcap	23.5	23.8	27.1	28.8	19.7	18.8	14.7	9.6	10.2	8.7	15.1	20.4	233
Black-headed Gull	3.1	4.5	5.4	4.9	5.8	5.0	3.9	2.6	2.2	2.3	4.0	4.1	48
Blue Tit	97.8	97.3	99.6	99.2	97.2	93.1	88.6	89.8	91.4	91.9	96.6	97.3	476
Brambling	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.7	1.8	24
Bullfinch	20.4	19.7	21.3	23.9	29.0	28.6	23.1	14.7	8.6	6.5	11.1	15.3	196
Carrion Crow	42.5	40.8	45.5	43.9	47.5	41.0	33.6	30.7	31.0	34.5	42.2	39.2	302
Chaffinch	60.2	59.2	59.6	47.8	50.0	48.1	41.4	43.5	36.4	44.8	52.0	54.9	316
Coal Tit	73.5	66.8	62.8	56.1	60.9	48.1	44.7	53.7	56.5	62.3	72.9	69.0	400
Collared Dove	67.3	65.0	67.1	67.5	71.0	67.5	64.0	65.8	59.4	51.9	59.1	57.8	381
Dunnock	88.1	89.7	87.0	82.3	80.8	81.5	82.3	78.0	77.3	77.7	81.8	79.6	419
Feral Pigeon	20.4	21.1	20.6	19.5	19.2	17.7	19.5	18.2	17.3	18.4	20.0	18.3	139
Fieldfare	2.2	2.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3	5.5	4.7	33
Goldcrest	15.5	16.6	14.4	12.7	11.9	7.1	7.2	5.8	8.3	10.6	20.0	12.1	162
Goldfinch	73.5	71.3	81.2	81.0	84.3	80.4	76.3	72.2	63.3	70.0	73.5	67.6	419
Great Spotted Woodpecker	45.6	40.8	39.7	39.0	51.5	49.5	41.7	31.3	28.1	40.3	48.3	49.6	305
Great Tit	89.8	91.5	92.1	90.1	91.4	85.7	82.6	81.8	83.7	83.5	89.2	86.1	453
Greenfinch	45.1	49.8	53.8	48.6	51.8	52.4	50.2	46.0	35.1	35.8	38.5	36.6	317
House Sparrow	69.0	69.5	71.1	74.3	78.5	78.0	75.4	70.0	64.5	62.3	68.3	67.8	394
Jackdaw	37.2	37.2	43.3	42.9	52.0	46.6	36.6	34.2	31.9	31.3	36.3	36.0	280
Jay	18.1	14.8	19.5	19.7	26.3	23.3	15.0	12.5	13.7	19.7	19.4	13.0	189
Long-tailed Tit	75.7	73.1	71.1	50.6	38.4	37.0	37.5	47.9	49.8	53.2	59.7	63.1	393
Magpie	71.2	73.1	77.6	77.9	82.3	75.9	71.2	70.6	70.9	79.4	81.8	77.3	433
Marsh Tit	8.0	6.7	7.2	6.8	5.1	7.1	7.2	6.4	6.4	7.4	11.1	12.1	66
Marsh/Willow Tit	3.5	3.6	2.5	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.9	2.2	2.7	14
Mistle Thrush	5.3	5.4	5.1	6.8	6.8	4.5	3.9	2.9	2.6	3.5	7.7	6.2	77
Nuthatch	50.4	45.7	46.2	40.8	43.2	45.2	47.7	47.0	49.8	48.4	51.4	50.7	296
Pied/White Wagtail	11.9	10.8	10.8	8.1	10.4	10.6	6.6	4.2	3.8	7.4	14.5	13.3	116
Redwing	7.1	6.7	1.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	10.8	15.0	73
Reed Bunting	1.8	1.8	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.9	7
Robin	99.6	97.8	96.0	97.1	96.7	96.0	93.7	94.9	97.1	97.1	98.8	98.5	478
Rook	13.3	15.7	19.9	20.8	21.5	16.1	12.3	10.2	8.3	12.6	12.9	11.8	142
Siskin	7.1	12.6	12.6	13.5	14.9	12.7	12.6	8.6	5.1	8.7	10.2	12.4	114
Song Thrush	33.6	35.0	30.7	33.5	42.9	36.2	35.7	18.5	9.3	10.3	21.8	28.3	289
Sparrowhawk	23.0	22.9	27.8	18.2	14.9	18.8	21.9	23.0	21.1	23.5	27.1	20.9	248
Starling	62.8	60.5	65.3	67.3	76.3	66.7	60.1	49.8	45.7	48.4	58.2	59.0	382
Tawny Owl	11.1	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.3	5.0	6.6	12.1	12.8	12.3	12.0	10.9	92
Tree Sparrow	1.8	1.8	2.2	4.9	5.1	4.2	3.3	1.9	0.6	1.0	2.2	2.1	49
Treecreeper	4.9	3.1	4.0	2.6	3.3	3.2	3.6	1.9	1.6	2.6	6.2	3.5	65
Woodpigeon	98.2	98.2	96.8	96.6	96.7	97.1	97.3	97.8	97.1	96.8	96.0	97.9	469
Wren	53.5	54.3	69.7	60.0	49.5	39.9	41.1	41.9	39.9	52.3	64.0	51.9	391
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	2.1	0.9	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.6	14

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 at BTO for producing the table which has been used for several species accounts in the Systematic List. Thanks also to all observers who contributed records for 2020 from the 481 Hampshire gardens in the scheme. Note GBW records are reported on a week-commencing basis.

Table 3: Results of Breeding Bird Survey in Hampshire BTO region 2020

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with fieldwork conducted by volunteers. The BBS project has been operating annually since 1994; in April-June 2020 a total of 91 randomly located one km squares in the County were surveyed using the line-transect counting technique. A line-transect count is the number of birds of a given species detected (heard or seen, including fly-bys) on a two km walk completed in about two hours within the one km square.

These figures provide a useful indication of the relative abundance of different species although they do not take account of differences in detectability between species. Data are provided here for 2020 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 2020, using the same list as 2019 for comparison, are tabulated below. In 2019 the list was based on species present in 12 or more squares but with the lower coverage this year that criterion has been relaxed.

2020 was an exceptional year due to the pandemic with very few early visits being undertaken. In addition the total number of squares surveyed was only about 60% of the number in recent years. This resulted in % square occupancies for most species being much lower than usual, often well below the range for the last five years. On the other hand, the mean numbers of birds per occupied square were, apart from a number of exceptions, mostly within or close to recent ranges.

Species	Square Occupancy			Mean Number of Birds Detected per Occupied Square		
	2015-2019		2020	2015-2019		2020
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
<i>No of Squares Surveyed</i>	147.4	138-158	91			
Canada Goose	23%	22-25%	14%	6.1	5.7 - 6.5	5.8
Mute Swan	8%	7-10%	5%	5.5	4.5 - 6.8	7.6
Mallard	40%	34-47%	20%	7.0	5.4 - 8.1	7.1
Red-legged Partridge	34%	32-39%	24%	3.5	3.1 - 4.2	2.3
Pheasant	78%	75-82%	67%	6.4	5.5 - 7.3	3.8
Swift	28%	27-30%	22%	6.8	5.4 - 8.9	10.2

Cuckoo	24%	21-28%	19%	1.6	1.4 - 1.8	1.3
Feral Pigeon	15%	12-17%	13%	10.6	8.8 - 13.5	9.0
Stock Dove	51%	48-53%	42%	2.9	2.4 - 3.2	2.3
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	99%	33.8	32.1 - 35.6	30.5
Collared Dove	55%	50-59%	54%	4.8	4.4 - 5.4	3.6
Moorhen	14%	11-17%	11%	1.9	1.5 - 2.2	1.7
Coot	9%	8-12%	8%	4.4	3.4 - 7.2	5.9
Lapwing	13%	9-15%	4%	3.6	2.9 - 4.6	5.8
Black-headed Gull	34%	28-38%	26%	11.5	8.3 - 15.8	9.0
Mediterranean Gull	9%	7-12%	8%	5.5	4.0 - 7.9	6.0
Herring Gull	28%	25-31%	24%	7.1	5.2 - 11.7	6.0
Lesser Black-backed Gull	17%	14-22%	12%	3.1	2.7 - 3.9	2.0
Grey Heron	24%	22-27%	13%	1.6	1.5 - 1.8	1.8
Little Egret	6%	5-7%	7%	1.9	1.5 - 2.8	1.0
Red Kite	21%	15-30%	21%	1.7	1.4 - 2.0	1.6
Buzzard	53%	49-57%	45%	1.8	1.8 - 2.0	1.4
Great Spotted Woodpecker	72%	71-77%	53%	2.2	1.9 - 2.4	2.0
Green Woodpecker	47%	32-55%	24%	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	1.5
Kestrel	17%	15-19%	12%	1.1	1.0 - 1.2	1.0
Jay	48%	46-51%	30%	1.8	1.6 - 2.0	1.6
Magpie	74%	70-78%	68%	3.9	3.6 - 4.1	3.8
Jackdaw	79%	78-80%	65%	10.8	9.5 - 11.8	12.1
Rook	59%	57-62%	53%	27.3	21.0 - 32.2	22.1
Carrion Crow	95%	94-97%	90%	9.7	9.3 - 10.4	6.8
Raven	10%	7-13%	10%	1.7	1.1 - 2.2	1.8
Coal Tit	42%	39-45%	27%	3.2	2.7 - 3.8	2.3
Marsh Tit	13%	10-16%	11%	1.7	1.4 - 2.1	1.4
Blue Tit	97%	97-99%	91%	8.8	7.8 - 9.6	6.0
Great Tit	94%	93-96%	74%	6.0	5.1 - 6.4	4.1
Skylark	55%	50-60%	52%	5.3	4.8 - 6.4	5.9
Swallow	58%	53-65%	46%	4.1	3.8 - 4.5	2.9
House Martin	27%	26-30%	15%	6.8	5.4 - 9.0	4.8
Long-tailed Tit	59%	47-63%	25%	3.1	2.9 - 3.2	3.3
Willow Warbler	25%	23-31%	12%	2.2	1.8 - 2.4	3.1
Chiffchaff	84%	74-90%	75%	4.0	3.4 - 4.5	3.3
Blackcap	86%	85-87%	80%	4.6	3.8 - 4.8	5.2
Garden Warbler	15%	12-18%	13%	1.5	1.2 - 1.9	1.4
Whitethroat	47%	42-53%	46%	2.7	2.5 - 3.1	2.7
Firecrest	11%	7-14%	5%	2.1	1.4 - 2.7	3.0

Goldcrest	55%	51-62%	38%	2.7	2.3 - 2.9	2.3
Wren	98%	96-100%	95%	11.3	10.8 - 12.2	11.0
Nuthatch	56%	51-62%	36%	2.8	2.4 - 3.1	1.9
Treecreeper	25%	23-30%	16%	1.5	1.4 - 1.6	1.9
Starling	52%	49-57%	47%	14.1	12.6 - 15.5	20.0
Blackbird	100%	99-100%	100%	15.3	14.9 - 15.9	12.3
Song Thrush	92%	90-93%	79%	4.2	3.8 - 4.6	3.9
Mistle Thrush	44%	40-50%	30%	2.1	1.8 - 2.4	2.1
Spotted Flycatcher	7%	5-9%	2%	1.2	1.2 - 1.3	1.5
Robin	98%	96-99%	95%	9.6	8.9 - 10.4	7.3
Stonechat	11%	9-12%	10%	4.3	3.6 - 5.1	5.2
House Sparrow	58%	56-60%	63%	13.1	11.5 - 15.9	13.1
Duncock	89%	87-91%	79%	3.9	3.7 - 4.2	3.0
Pied Wagtail	31%	22-37%	29%	1.6	1.5 - 1.8	1.4
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-14%	7%	5.0	4.0 - 5.7	6.7
Chaffinch	93%	92-96%	81%	7.8	7.3 - 8.9	6.4
Bullfinch	34%	28-37%	23%	1.9	1.7 - 2.3	1.6
Greenfinch	61%	55-70%	37%	3.6	2.6 - 4.3	2.3
Linnet	39%	35-41%	26%	7.5	6.0 - 9.0	3.5
Goldfinch	83%	78-88%	81%	6.7	5.6 - 7.5	6.2
Siskin	7%	5-9%	5%	4.1	3.7 - 4.6	4.8
Yellowhammer	44%	40-49%	43%	3.5	3.3 - 3.8	2.9

Other species recorded in 8-11 squares: None.

Other species recorded in 3-7 squares: Greylag Goose, Mandarin Duck, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Cormorant, Tawny Owl, Woodlark, Cetti's, Sedge and Reed Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Dartford Warbler, Redstart, Tree Pipit and Reed Bunting.

Other species recorded in one or two squares: Egyptian Goose, Shelduck, Shoveler, Goosander, Great Crested Grebe, Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier, Stone-curlew, Little Ringed Plover, Curlew, Snipe, Common Tern, Little Owl, Kingfisher, Hobby, Peregrine, Grey Wagtail, Crossbill and Corn Bunting.

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 Neil Calbrade at BTO for providing the data.

Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2020

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Teal		3				
Water Rail		1				
Lapwing	9	18	41		11	9
Woodcock	3	2	1		1	2
Jack Snipe						1
Snipe	7	3	4	7	15	7
Little Egret				1		1
Sparrowhawk	3	1	2	4	5	5
Goshawk	5	3	1	3	2	1
Hen Harrier	2	1	3	1	2	2
Red Kite			1			
Buzzard	43	46	52	9	21	27
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker			1			
Green Woodpecker	19	20	9	19	15	12
Kestrel	4	9	14	16	10	1
Merlin	1	2	1	2		1
Peregrine	1		1	2	7	2
Great Grey Shrike					1	1
Carrion Crow	276	244	250	497	395	324
Raven	12	11	12	16	26	15
Marsh Tit	9	5	1	6	5	4
Woodlark	14	46	17	13	12	6
Skylark	9	32	61	12	2	5
Dartford Warbler	61	21	32	46	52	26
Firecrest			5			
Ring Ouzel				1		
Blackbird	289	315	200	220	232	251
Fieldfare	390	196	52	541	316	130
Redwing	1288	1184	62	381	776	950
Mistle Thrush	64	82	37	60	50	59
Stonechat	74	43	244	130	95	42
Wheatear			2			
Meadow Pipit	314	237	404	434	255	338
Chaffinch	228	568	180	310	282	181
Brambling				1		4
Hawfinch		3			12	3
Bullfinch	11	28	8	11	20	28
Linnet	378	60	79	57	170	53
Lesser Redpoll	2	1		33	32	4
Crossbill	7	2	4	9	54	4
Siskin	54	21	23	20	35	9
Reed Bunting	4	2	4	5	2	
People	837	367	827	723	1487	1171
Dogs	347	291	371	374	593	425
No. of sites covered	38	36	32	36	38	36

Blank lines and spaces indicate not recorded in 2020.

Thanks to Jane Calderin for organising NFWBS. New volunteers are always welcome – please email Jane Calderin at shrikesurvey@hotmail.com.

Thanks are also due to the following observers who took part: Joy Aubin, Tony Bates, Janice Beck, Keith Betton, Tony & Jill Blakeley, Steve & Margaret Boswell, David Brooks, Phil Budd, Tony Bunday, Chris Chapleo, Rosemary Cook, Matt Coumbe, Les Easom, Olly Frampton, Joanne Gulliver, Owen Haisell, Mark Halligan, David Hammond, Ian Hampson, Alan Hayden & Leo Pyke, Andy Holding, Jenny Horner, Judy Hunt, Geraint James, Kevin Kearns, Graham Kesby, Bob Lee, Adrian Martin, Keith Maskell, Nigel Matthews, Mike Melrose, Dave & Liz Munday, Adam Parsonage & Hugh, Derek, Diana & Nicola Radden, Mike Rafter, Peter Reed, Sue & Malcolm Renyard, Barrie Roberts, Chris Roseveare, Rod Ship, Debbie Shrive, Dave Smith, Alan Snook, Dave Taylor, Gill Thornton, Tony Tindale, Roger Webb, Brian Weston, Nick Windibank, Alan Young.

Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2020

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>)	13	8	14						19	17	13	10
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn <i>et al.</i>)	11	8	14		6	24	25	22	19	17	14	12
Great Salterns Lake (G Witton-Maclean)	11	8	14						19	17	14	12
Milton Pools (G Witton-Maclean)	11	8	14			6		22	19	17	14	12
Baffins Pond (A Srdic)												13
Canoe Lake, Southsea (A Srdic)												13
Portsmouth Harbour (I Calderwood <i>et al.</i>)	11	8	14						19	17	14	12
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)	10	6								15	12	10
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)			14								11	17
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett, T Viney)	11	8	14				26	22	19	17	13	12
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)	12	8	14		23	6	26	22	19	17	13	12
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)	11	8	14							18	15	12
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	11		13						19	16	16	12
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	11	8	14				24	22	19	17	14	13
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)	12	7	15						20	18	15	13
Hythe (BJ Roberts)	11	13	14		25	7		23	19	18	16	12
Fawley Refinery (JG Ross)												
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)	12	8	14							20	14	12
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth <i>et al.</i>)	12	9	15			7	25	23	20	18	15	13
Hatchet Pond (M Naprta)											15	13
Sowley Pond (EJ Wiseman)	12	8	15	12	10	7	26	23	20	18	15	13
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)			16						19	18		
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)		7	16						19	18	14	
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman <i>et al.</i>)	11	8	14		9	6	25	22	19	16	14	12
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
North Sopley to Burton Fields (A Hayden, L Pyke)										18	22	20
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke)	11	8	8						20	18	22	20
R. Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark)	12	8	8						20	18	22	20
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer)	12	8	8						20	18	21	20
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	12	8	8						20	18	22	20
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)	15	11	9							20	23	24
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)	12	8	8						20	18	22	20
Holmsley GP (O Frampton)	12	8	8						20	18	22	21
Hightown Lake, Ringwood (A Townshend)												20
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran, JM Clark)	12	8	8						20	18	22	20
Test and Anton Valleys												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth)	12	8	3						20	18	15	13
Broadlands Lake (P White)	12	9	8							17	15	13
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	13	23	8	12					20	18	29	13
Awbridge Lake (P White)	12	9	8						20	17	15	13
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	11	6	8		16	6				11	2	8
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	11	6	8		16	6	5	22	19	11	2	8
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)	24	11			15	1	7		28	22	29	17
Bransbury Common (GC Evans)	8	8	9		29		6			12	16	12
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	10	7	8		14	5	4	26	20	13	3	10
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)	7	12	6			4	3	20	24	16	4	11
Rooksbury Mill (K Maskell)											24	12
Anton Lakes (K Maskell)												12
Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)	24	14								26	27	

Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	19	14	8							18	11	14
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	19	14	8							18	11	
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)	19	14	8							18	11	
<i>Itchen Valley</i>												
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	12		15							18	15	13
Marwell Zoo Lakes (D Gussman)												13
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)		11	12						21	18	15	15
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)		11	12						21	18	15	15
Winnall Moors (P White)	12	9	8						20	17	15	13
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	19	8	5						21	16	16	14
Avington Lake (JM Cloyne)	22	11	6		14	9	6	24	21	16	17	11
Arlebury Lakes (M Armitage)	12	9	9						21	10	24	20
Alresford Pond (M Armitage)	12	9	9	8					21	10	24	20
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)	23	27							24	10	3	
<i>North and north-east</i>												
Ramptons Lane GP (B Stalker)	11	14	8							18	15	12
Welshman's Road GP (Burnt Common) (B Stalker)	11	14	8							18	15	12
Wolverton Pond (B Sharkey)	12	12								19	13	13
Ewhurst Lake (B Sharkey)	12	12								19	13	13
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	12								20	17	15	13
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark/B Stalker)		7	14									
Wellington CP (JM Clark/B Stalker)	10	7	6				22		19	16	16	11
Bramshill Plantation Lakes (JM Clark)	10	7	6						16	16	16	11
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	10	7	6		22		22	29	19	16	16	11
Busta Triangle (K Wills)	13	11	12						21	16	20	14
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	10	7	6					29	19	16	16	11
Fleethill Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	10	7	6						18	15	16	10
Eversley GP (RC Murfitt)	10	8	6						18	15	16	10
Yateley GP (A Stony)	10	7	6						18	15	16	10
Hawley Lake (D Johnson)	12	8	8	12	10	10	5	23	19	18	15	13
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	12	13	7						23	26	20	14
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)	12	9	8						19	18	15	13
Edenbrook CP (J Blithe)	12	10	8		17	7	5	22		17	14	12
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	12	14	7						20	18	15	12
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	12	14	7						20	18	15	12
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	12	14	7						20	18	15	12
<i>East</i>												
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	11	8	9						21	18	15	12
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	16	25	17						24	26	19	
Wyck Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)	16	25	17						24	26	19	
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)	16	25	17						24	26	19	
Woolmer Pond (M Lawn)												14
Headley Mill Pond (R Stephens)	12	9	8	12					20	18	15	
Passfield Pond (R Stephens)	12	9	8	12					20	18	15	
Waggoners Wells (R Turner)												13
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	12	9	8	12	10	7	5	23	20	18	15	13
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	12	10			9	8	6	24	20	18	15	14
Bishop Waltham Ponds (D Gussman)												12

Chichester Harbour team: T Bickerton, J Chapman, J Curtin, J Darley, T Hall, P Hughes. **Langstone Harbour team:** D Ball, GC Barrett, T Bickerton, G Butler, C Cockburn, A Cox, J Crook, TMJ Doran, M Eagles, G Farwell, A Field, C Lee, G Maclean-Henry, T. Jones, P Potts, JRD Shillitoe, J Smallwood, A Smith. **Portsmouth Harbour team:** I Calderwood, TMJ Doran, T Jones, C Lee, M Pyrzewski, A Robjohns, J Smallwood, PJ Strangeman. **Beaulieu Estuary team:** A Wells, BJ Pinchen, DJ Unsworth. **Lymington-Hurst team:** A Clark, PR Durnell, O Haisell, P Hobby, M Ward, EJ Wiseman. **Coastal organiser:** John Shillitoe; **Inland Organiser:** Keith Wills; **Avon Valley Organiser:** John Clark.

Table 6: Departure and arrival dates of winter visitors

Species	Latest 1954- 2019	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2019	Latest 2020	Earliest 1954- 2019	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2019	Earliest 2020	Summering records
White-fr. Goose	29.5.15	28 Mar	6 Apr	23 Mar	4.10.52 4.10.14	12 Nov	26 Oct	15 Oct	6 (June-Sep)
Bewick's Swan	2.4.18	12 Mar	7 Mar	15 Jan	15.10.04	3 Nov	19 Nov	NA	9 (Apr/May)
Scaup	26.5.10	8 Apr	9 Apr	8 Feb	9.9.00	27 Oct	1 Nov	30 Aug	4 (June-Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	8 May	7 May	29.9.91	30 Oct	4 Nov	16 Nov	
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	20 Apr	24 May	23.9.61	4 Nov	6 Nov	25 Oct	6 (June-Aug)
Smew	10.4.63	NA	1 Mar	NA	8.11.82	NA	11 Dec*	NA	1 (June)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	8 Mar	NA	24.8.94	18 Oct	20 Nov	16 Dec	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	6 Apr	23 Mar	18.9.09 18.9.19	25 Oct	23 Oct	7 Nov	2 (Aug)
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	10 May	26 Apr	7.7.69	4 Oct	9 Oct	29 Sep	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	21.8.08	28 Sep	30 Sep	21 Sep	
Bl.-throated Diver	6.6.07	5 May	5 May	5 Apr	8.9.09	4 Nov	10 Nov	17 Oct	2 (May-Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	22.6.13	12 May	27 May	26 June	16.9.03	5 Nov	19 Oct	5 Oct	1 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	21 Apr	8 May	23.8.07	25 Sep	29 Sep	5 Sep	1 (July)
Merlin	24.5.03	23 Apr	29 Apr	28 May	30.7.05	24 Aug	25 Aug	25 July	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	10 Apr	23 Mar	4.10.72	17 Oct	15 Oct	15 Nov	
Fieldfare	24.5.19	28 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	3.9.04	30 Sep	6 Oct	1 Oct	5 (June)
Redwing	12.5.81	23 Apr	17 Apr	17 May	11.9.99 11.9.15	27 Sep	29 Sep	27 Sep	3 (June-July)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	18 Apr	15 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	14 Oct	15 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	24 Apr	9 Apr	22.9.96	5 Oct	9 Oct	9 Oct	1 (July)
Twite	13.4.75	NA	NA	NA	30.9.83	NA	NA	NA	
Lapland Bunting	23.4.10	NA	NA	NA	9.9.70	NA	18 Oct*	7 Nov	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	10 Feb*	NA	3.10.75	NA	21 Nov	5 Dec	

bold = new/equal earliest or latest date; * = based on limited data set; NA = not available

Table 7: Arrival and departure dates of summer visitors

Species	Earliest 1954- 2019	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2019	Earliest 2020	Latest 1954- 2019	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2019	Latest 2020	Wintering records
Garganey	22.2.19	19 Mar	11 Mar	23 Feb	29.11.53	28 Sep	1 Nov	4 Nov	
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	20 May	24 May	19.11.58	24 Aug	22 Aug*	26 Aug	6 (Dec-Mar)
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	13.10.74	7 Sep	14 Sep	11 Sep	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	12 Apr	8 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	26 Sep	15 Sep	
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	2 Apr	30 Mar	30.10.10	13 Sep	11 Sep	27 Sep	
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr**	7.11.70	3 Oct	9 Sep	27 Sep	7 (Dec-Feb)

Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	22 Mar	22 Mar	6.11.66	2 Oct	8 Oct	3 Nov	2 (Dec)
Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	13 Mar	16 Mar	29.10.05	18 Sep	23 Sep	21 Sep	
Dotterel	6.4.19	3 May*	NA	NA	25.9.82	4 Sep*	NA	24 Aug	1 (Dec/Jan)
Wood Sandpiper	23.3.03	3 May	26 Apr	22 Apr	26.10.75	22 Sep	18 Sep	20 Aug	1 (Feb)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	12 Apr	5 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	16 Sep	7 Sep	1 (Jan)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	1 May	30 Apr	10.10.99	10 Sep	3 Sep	23 Aug	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	31 Mar	5 Apr	30.11.73	25 Oct	23 Oct	16 Oct	3 (Dec)
Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	27 Oct	26 Sep	
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	20 Apr	17 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	25 Sep	16 Sep	
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	1 Apr	5 Apr	29.11.14	27 Oct	16 Oct	12 Oct	16 (Dec/Jan)
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	15 Mar	16 Mar	11.12.99	14 Oct	3 Nov	22 Oct	
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	1 May	26 Apr	30.10.76	5 Oct	25 Sep	22 Sep	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	5 May*	10 Apr	2.11.60	31 Aug	26 Aug*	NA	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	6 May	NA	9.11.13	27 Sep	15 Oct*	4 Sep	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	3 Apr	4 Apr	6.11.01 6.11.10	11 Oct	21 Oct	25 Oct	
Sand Martin	19.2.19	16 Mar	7 Mar	6 Mar	28.11.13	15 Oct	19 Oct	7 Nov	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09 23.02.19	20 Mar	14 Mar	18 Mar	22.12.77	27 Nov	1 Dec	4 Dec	7 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	22 Mar	20 Mar	22.12.82	16 Nov	7 Nov	9 Nov	2 (Jan/Feb)
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	29.9.64	23 Aug	21 Aug	8 Aug	
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	19 Mar	18 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	10 Oct	26 Oct	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	30 Mar	5 Apr	9.11.63	10 Oct	15 Oct	11 Oct	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	29.3.18	13 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr	2.12.84	19 Oct	23 Oct	17 Oct	
Grasshopper Warbler	1.4.97	16 Apr	11 Apr	9 Apr	26.10.17	20 Sep	3 Oct	28 Sep	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	11 Apr	3 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	5 Oct	5 Oct	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	31.10.82	3 Oct	8 Oct	17 Oct	12 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	4 Apr	3 Apr	17.11.95	7 Oct	19 Oct	26 Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	24 Mar	28 Mar	4.12.03	30 Oct	8 Nov	9 Nov	7 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	29.10.61	3 Oct	9 Oct	6 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75 3.4.12	14 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	9.10.85	20 Aug	4 Aug	4 Aug	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	9 Apr	19 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	22 Sep	3 Oct	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	2 Apr	30 Mar	24.11.89	15 Oct	19 Oct	23 Oct	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	27 Oct	22 Oct	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	8 Mar	28 Feb	31.12.94	10 Nov	12 Nov	10 Nov	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	31 Mar	21 Mar	20.11.76	19 Oct	21 Oct	23 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	28 Mar	4 Apr	25.10.79	4 Oct	10 Oct	13 Oct	

Bold = new/equal earliest or latest date; * = based on limited data set;
 ** = excludes winterer at Oakhanger; NA = not available

Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over watchpoints during 2020

Data are extracted from the visible migration website www.trektellen.nl. Other Hampshire observers are encouraged to set up their own watchpoint sites on Trektellen, which has excellent tools available for analysing the data, by contacting the UK Trektellen organiser Clive McKay at clive.mckay@btinternet.com.

Trigpoint Hill, mid-Test Valley (David Thelwell).

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	11	11	13	14	12	12	11	17	19	20	18	13
Total hours:mins	9.25	9.25	13.15	14.50	12.50	14.49	14.20	22.15	27.50	29.30	20.35	12.45
Swift				8	144	398	1,018	37				
Stock Dove	34	34	26	7	7	28	62	102	709	282	28	27
Woodpigeon	145		25	157		4	440	1,725	670	485	14,375	410
Collared Dove	2							7	15	20	1	2
Lapwing	83	39	9	2	1				1	52	5	117
Golden Plover	35	105								144	1	
Black-headed Gull	47	3	128		3	2			90	56		
Common Gull	1		3	5					2	5	10	65
GBB Gull		4	4	1	3	1		3	5	1	3	1
Herring Gull	1	19	14	97	55	3	5	182	391	393	690	67
LBB Gull	6	19	142	124	58	69	23	84	8	7	11	1
Cormorant	38	44	54	14	12	29	21	61	70	127	74	14
Gt Sp Woodpecker								1	9	14	3	
Merlin											1	1
Hobby					3	3	2	6	1			
Peregrine								1		1	1	
Jay				2						2	1	
Jackdaw				11			59			60		
Raven						1		2	1	5		1
Woodlark				1					1	12	1	1
Skylark	47								31	267	59	73
Sand Martin			4	20	20			2	22	2		
Swallow				68	86	104	133	456	730	171	2	
House Martin				14	43	163	46	951	1,576	1,146	1	
Starling	565	266	157	2	5	15	128	167	462	635	1,152	299
Blackbird										7	2	1
Fieldfare	172	111	281	28						113	923	104
Song Thrush									5	32	7	
Redwing	398	117	73	2					2	1,168	1,046	182
Mistle Thrush		1				8	25	1	19	30	6	1
flava Wagtail				2				12	9			
Grey Wagtail								2	8	3	3	
alba Wagtail	4		4	3	1				43	75	171	67
Meadow Pipit	4	7	219	269				2	458	410	226	42
Tree Pipit				2	2			19	12			
Chaffinch	43	35	68	6	12	11	16	14	45	402	274	56
Brambling										3	4	
Hawfinch				4						1	3	
Bullfinch	1					1			2	2	20	11
Greenfinch	1	5	2	2	1	3	5	5	13	64	14	16
Linnet	28	25	65	86	36	521	322	118	69	714	183	24
Lesser Redpoll									5	40	44	8
Goldfinch	4	5	6	41	3	50	38	43	51	264	50	35
Siskin		1	1			4	5	2	116	177	15	1
Yellowhammer	15		2	1	2	6			1	5	3	6
Reed Bunting	3		1						1	11	10	6

**Twesledown Racecourse and Caesar's Camp near Fleet
(Graham Stephenson and John Clark).**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	0	4	17	0	0	2	11	10	23	28	27	6
Total hours:mins	0.00	5.30	21.30	0.00	0.00	4.00	17.12	18.00	37.00	70.00	49.00	9.00
White-fronted Goose										2		
Swift						263	3,065	7				
Stock Dove		7	138				20	88	833	1,024	456	10
Woodpigeon		533	47				19	26	229	5,654	105,058	17,360
Lapwing										11		
Snipe								2	1	13		
Black-headed Gull		13	12				55	14	4	161	44	66
Common Gull			2						9	18	1	
Herring Gull		9	19					51	12	267	657	95
Yellow-leg. Gull										2		
LBB Gull		19	46					9	4	9	28	5
Gannet								1				
Cormorant		1	5					20	5	40	5	13
Grey Heron								1	1	5		2
Great White Egret							1				2	
Little Egret									2	7	1	2
Osprey										1		
Short-eared Owl										1		
Gt Sp Woodpecker							2	7	32	6	2	
Merlin										2		
Hobby										1		
Peregrine			1							2		
Jackdaw		8							13	819	107	11
Carrion Crow									58	181	23	
Raven			1							4	5	
Woodlark									8	22	7	
Skylark		3	1						4	226	25	3
Sand Martin						1	14	4	3			
Swallow							2	15	509	167		
House Martin							14	201	4,019	2,874		
Starling			423							5,073	2,481	39
Ring Ouzel										2		
Blackbird										38	22	1
Fieldfare		11	63							1,752	1,186	70
Redwing			56						6	33,301	7,544	1,522
Song Thrush									2	73	56	
Mistle Thrush			1					1	6	40	12	2
Black Redstart											1	
flava Wagtail								30	20	2		
Grey Wagtail			1					6	2	6		1
alba Wagtail			3						11	225	12	
Meadow Pipit			423						872	846	1	
Tree Pipit								41	22			
Chaffinch			145						13	5,284	551	53
Brambling										22	26	6
Hawfinch											6	
Bullfinch											2	
Greenfinch									1	34	31	1
Linnet								15	31	769	166	1
Lesser Redpoll										445	82	10
Crossbill							33	11	13	248	112	

Goldfinch								8	560	732	34
Siskin			7			3	9	4	801	279	15
Yellowhammer									5		
Reed Bunting									17	15	1

Barton on Sea (Steve Keen)

Month	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	2	15	11	15	4
Total hours:mins	6:45	44:10	30:50	38:50	9:15
Brent Goose (D-b)		2	45	49	12
Brent Goose (P-b)				1	
Canada Goose	5	50	15	6	6
Egyptian Goose	2				2
Mute Swan		4	1		
Shelduck				3	
Goosander		2		1	
Common Scoter			10	6	9
Mallard	2				
Shoveler				2	
Pintail				4	
Teal				5	
Red-throated Diver				3	6
Bl-throated Diver				1	
GN Diver				2	
Diver sp			1		
Swift		2			
Stock Dove			38	387	20
Woodpigeon			3	40,473	198
Collared Dove				5	
Oystercatcher	2	18	1		1
Avocet	10				
Lapwing			7	4	
Golden Plover				3	
Ringed Plover		3			
Curlew		2		1	2
Knot		3			
Dunlin		1		16	
Black-tailed Godwit	5		5		
Bar-tailed Godwit			1		
Redshank		1			
Black-headed Gull			273	112	
Mediterranean Gull	1		4	16	4
Common Gull			40	6	
GBB Gull		18	18	14	10
Herring Gull		153	93		
Yellow-leg. Gull	1	4	2		
LBB Gull		2	11	61	
Sandwich Tern	2	10	3		
Common Tern	7				
Arctic Tern	1				
Razorbill					2
Auk sp				1	

Month	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)	2	15	11	15	4
Total hours:mins	6:45	44:10	30:50	38:50	9:15
Gannet	1			21	3
Cormorant	4	10	25	37	
Shag				12	
Grey Heron	6	8	3		1
Great White Egret			4		
Little Egret		20	1	4	2
Short-eared Owl					1
Gt Sp Woodpecker		1	1	2	
Merlin			1	1	
Hobby		2			
Peregrine			1		
Jackdaw			62	19	1
Rook			155		
Raven	5	7	5		
Woodlark			1		
Skylark			23	72	16
Sand Martin	11	43			
Swallow		2,794	465	5	
House Martin	18	6,476	260	1	
Starling			273	1,201	
Blackbird				2	
Fieldfare				73	41
Redwing				90	11
Song Thrush			2	1	
Mistle Thrush				4	
Chiffchaff			1		
Goldcrest				1	
flava Wagtail	81	423			
Grey Wagtail	2	40	7		
alba Wagtail	2	184	758	16	
Meadow Pipit		849	621	86	
Tree Pipit	1	20	1		
Rock Pipit			4		
Chaffinch		3	291	1,136	3
Brambling			7	11	
Greenfinch			19	5	
Linnet		28	3,822	946	98
Lesser Redpoll		22	298	74	
Crossbill			61		
Goldfinch		42	5,444	6,556	49
Siskin	43	1,247	680	166	2
Yellowhammer				1	
Reed Bunting		3	24	13	

Appendix I

Appendix IA: Not proven and pending records

Not proven records

Records considered not proven by HOSRP or BBRC. In the majority of cases, the records below were categorised as not proven because the panel/committee was not convinced that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were records not accepted as, in the panel's/committee's view, a mistake had been made.

2020 - BBRC

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica*: Weston Shore, Feb 13th-14th.

“Azorean” Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis*: Ibsley Water, Jan 25th.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*: Broomy Bottom, NF, Nov 12th.

2020 - HOSRP

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*: Hurst Beach, June 14th (incl. as shearwater sp.).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*: Hurst Beach, Nov 15th (included as storm petrel sp.).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*: Cholderton, Aug 16th (included as harrier sp.).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Portchester, Apr 8th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Havant, Apr 11th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Winnall Moors, May 16th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Needs Ore, Oct 11th.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*: Milford-on-Sea, Oct 25th.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: Fishlake Meadows, Jan 30th.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*: Eastleigh STW, Nov 4th.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*: Needs Ore, Sep 17th.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*: Nursling, July 11th.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*: Fareham, June 6th.

Appendix IB: Records from previous years recently considered by BBRC

The following records from previous years were submitted recently to BBRC for the first time in preparation for the forthcoming *Rare Birds of Hampshire* due to be published in 2022. Their acceptance was published by BBRC in their report for 2020. These records have previously been published in HBRs unless otherwise stated.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*. **1964 addition.** Winnall Moors, Apr 30th-May 7th (R. A. Cheke et al.).

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*. **1969 addition.** Upper Titchfield Haven, May 11th-June 21st (R. J. Carpenter et al.).

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*. **2006 addition.** Hook-with-Warsash, May 5th and 6th (R. K. Levett). Not previously published.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*. **1992 addition.** Needs Ore Point, Sep 27th (D. J. Unsworth). Not previously published.

Appendix 2

Observers and Contributors 2020

Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2020 database of records used to prepare the Systematic List.

Abrahams, R	Baldwin, J	Bevis, S	Broadfield, K	Calderwood, G
Adams, M	Ball, DJG	Bew, N	Broadhurst, A	Calderwood, I
Adams, MC	Ball, J	Bibbings, E	Broadley, D	Cameron, E
Adcock, M	Balmer, AJ	Bickerton, T	Broadway, R	Camp, AI
Agombar, D	Barbour, J	Bifield, H	Brook, S	Campbell, DK
Ahmed, J	Barenhorst, C	BigDay, G	Brookes, CM	Campbell, K
Ailes, A	Barfield, M	Bignell, S	Brookes, DR	Campbell, P
Akkaraju, S	Barker, A	Bingley, JH	Brookes, K	Cannon, R
Albanese, C	Barker, D	Bird, G	Brookes, M	Capes, J
Alexander, G	Barker, P	Bird, ME	Brooks, A	Card, S
Alexander, S	Barker, S	Birkett, J	Brooks, C	Carden, P
Alexander, T	Barker, SRK	Birkett, T	Brooks, L	Carey, S
Allcorn, R	Barnes, C	Bish, RJ	Broome, DP	Carley, T
Allen, AE	Barnett, T	Bishop, A	Brown, A	Carmichael, G
Allen, K	Barrass, C	Bishop, DR	Brown, DJ	Carpenter, BR
Allen, S	Barrass, CM	Bishop, G	Brown, K	Carpenter, RJ
Alley, S	Barrett, GC	Bissett, M	Brown, M	Carpenter, TF
Allinson, T	Barrett, MA	Bissonnet, L	Brown, PM	Carr, P
Allnutt, DP	Barrett, R	Blackman, R	Brown, RI	Carter, B
Amery, KJ	Barrow, T	Blade, J	Brown, SA	Carver, M
Amey, J	Barry, C	Blake, M	Browne, N	Caslon, R
Anderson, J	Barth, M	Blake, T	Brunton, S	Casson, J
Anderson, M	Bartlett, H	Blakeley, AF	Bryant, P	Catty, N
Anderson, R	Barton, D	Blandford, D	Bryant, R	Cave, M
Andrews, JK	Basinger, M	Blaney, A	Buchanan, ME	Cavey, I
Aplin, R	Bass, D	Blithe, J	Buck, T	Chadwick, R
Arch, D	Bassett, S	Bolhuis, A	Buckell, SJ	Challinor, S
Armitage, M	Batchelor, SD	Bolton, A	Buckle, NA	Chalmers, ML
Armstrong, P	Bate, S	Bond, R	Buckler, DJ	Chalmers, S
Arnold, BS	Bates, AP	Boney, J	Buckley, M	Chamberlain, AM
Arrowsmith, W	Bates, T	Booker, D	Budd, PA	Chambers, R
Ash, GR	Bath, M	Booker, MA	Bunday, AW	Chapleo, C
Ash, S	Batho, GS	Borer, J	Buner, F	Chapman, A
Ashley, S	Batiste, E	Boswell, SA	Buner, FD	Chapman, CB
Ashworth, S	Bealey, CG	Boswell, SR	Burch, C	Chapman, RA
Aspinall, K	Beardmore, MD	Boult, P	Burchall, G	Charles, P
Aubin, J	Beare, R	Boulter, J	Burlinson, G	Chastell, SM
Austin, BP	Beer, M	Boulton, G	Burns, ANM	Cheadle, J
Austin, C	Belding, A	Bournat, M	Burrows, A	Cheke, RA
Austin, D	Bell, M	Bown, C	Burton, DJ	Chenery, H
Austin, T	Bennett, EJ	Boyd-marshall, J	Burton, H	Cherry, A
Axten, S	Bennett, J	Boyle, S	Butler, AJ	Childs, RN
Aziz, R	Bennett, JA	Bradfield, S	Butler, ED	Christensen, L
Baake, U	Bennett, K	Bradley, M	Butler, S	Christie, DA
Badnell, JM	Bennett, MJ	Brandsma, J	Butler, TJ	Christie, J
Bailey, A	Bennett, TJ	Branscombe, J	Button, C	Christopher, R
Bailey, S	Beresford, A	Breakwell, R	Buttress, S	Churcher, K
Baker, CG	Beresford, PJ	Brennan, G	C Smith, J&C	Churcher, T
Baker, G&T	Bertuzzo, M	Brett, EC	Calbrade, NA	Churchley, S
Baker, MJ	Betton, KF	Briggs, BD	Calcutt, D	Churchus, CD
Baldwin, H	Beusmans, AP	Brightwell, S	Calderin, J	Clapperton, C

Claridge, RJ	Cotten, G	Davies, PW	Durell, D	Ford, Mw
Clark, FC	Coumbe, MJ	Davies, SJ	Durkin, R	Ford, P
Clark, H	Court, JMC	Davis, AM	Durnell, PR	Ford, R
Clark, JM	Cousens, M	Davis, G	Dye, J	Ford, RE
Clark, P	Cousins, R	Davis, J	Eade, M	Ford, S
Clarke, D	Couzens, D	Davis, S	Eades, S	Fordred, S
Clarke, N	Cowans, M	Daw, A	Easom, L	Forshaw, T
Clarke, PJ	Cox, AFJ&PR	Dawes, G	Eaton-Brown, J	Forster, J
Clay, A	Cox, B	Dawson, A&C	Eburn, S	Forster, R
Clay, M	Cox, D	Dawson, J	Ecob, J	Forster, T
Clayton, Su	Cox, JR	Dawson, S	Edge, B	Foster, D
Clayton, So	Cox, S	Day, E	Edgeller, ML	Foster, N
Clements, J	Cozens, BR	de Retuerto, MA	Edmunds, HA	Fox, A
Clements, R	Crabbe, O	Dean, C	Edwards, C	Foy, A
Clemons, S	Craft, SJ	Dean, R	Egelhoff, CJ	Foyle, G
Clemson, R	Crawford, AD	Dedman, JW	Egleston, S	Frampton, OJ
Clewley, G	Creer, R	Dell, N	Elizabeth, K	Francis, M
Cliffe, J	Creese, M	Demopolous, H	Elkins, B&M	Free, D
Clifton, JJ	Creighton, M	Dennett, S	Ellery, T	French, CD
Close, C	Crisp, K	Dennis, A	Ellis, A	Friend, A
Clothier, B	Croasdale, K	Dennis, G	Ellis, PG	Friend, BJ
Cloyne, JM	Croll, A	Denton, JS	Emmens, P	Frost, T
Cluett, D	Crook, J	Derrick, DM	Emmott, K	Fry, D
Coates, BF	Crook, K	Devereau, SC	Etheridge, L	Fuller, LM
Cobley, A	Cross, AR	Dewey, S	Etheridge, P	Fussell, M
Cockburn, C	Cross, M	Dexter, F	Evans, B	Gale, C
Codlin, TD	Crossley, DF	Dibb, C	Evans, DE	Gale, L
Colcomb, K	Crow, TH	Dickety, AJ	Evans, DG	Galpin, SA
Coleman, Je	Crowe, S	Dicks, DEJ	Evans, GC	Gammage, PA
Coleman, Jm	Crowley, PJ	Dicks, S	Evans, J	Gardiner, H
Coleman, M	Cruickshank, C	Digby, G	Evans, LGR	Gardner, R
Colenutt, AJ	Cumming, DA	Dixon, K	Evans, M	Gartshore, N
Colenutt, SR	Cummins, OT	Dixon, M	Eyre, JA	Garzon, O
Colledge, D	Cummins, T	Dodds, J	Fagan, A	Gavin, J
Collings, H	Curnick, J	Dodsworth, P	Fagan, B	Geary, CJ
Collins, A	Curran, M	Donaldson, PC	Fairchild, V	Gent, CR
Collins, AR	Curson, L	Donkin, R	Faithfull, JA	Gent, J
Collins, CB	Curtin, J	Doran, TMJ	Farwell, G	Gent, M
Collins, M	Curtis, B	Double, P	Faulkner, K	Gent, T
Collins, S	Curtis, C	Down, G	Faux, M	Germain, A
Collman, JR	Curtis, CR	Downard, PH	Fawkes, PF	Germain, CA
Colpus, T	Cutmore, E	Downey, B	Fellows, BJ	Gibbons, M
Colverson, I	Cutting, B	Downie, IS	Fennemore, GD	Gibbons, MJ
Colwell, A	Cutting, J	Downing, J	Fenner, J	Gibbs, C
Constable, M	Cutts, MAJ	Downing, JW	Ferreira, A	Gibbs, P
Cook, CR	D'Agorne, N	Dowty, M	Ffennell, S	Gibson, T
Cook, M	Dale, M	Doye, R	Field, AR	Gibson-Poole, TE
Cooke, RE	Dalton, T	Drain, I	Fielding, J	Giddens, GSA
Coomber, RF	Daniel, M	Dryden, M	Fieldsend, P	Gilham, R
Cooper, A	Daniels, B	Dudley, A	Filkins, A	Gillingham, D
Cooper, D	Daniels, S	Dudley, B	Findlay, R	Gillingham, MA
Cooper, MB	Darley, J	Duffett, B	Fleming, K	Gillooly, H
Cooper, MC	Darvill, B	Duffin, BS	Fletcher, B	Gilman, D
Cooper, MD	Davidson, AS	Duffy, MD	Floyd, P	Glavin, M
Cope, R	Davies, C	Duncan, J	Foad, P	Glenday, P
Cordery, RJ	Davies, G	Duncan, KP	Fomison, L	Goater, B
Cornford, HR	Davies, K	Dunford, CA	Foot, C	Goble, C
Cossey, S	Davies, L	Dunn, T	Foot, SR	Goddard, B
Cottee-Jones, E	Davies, M	Dunne, R	Ford, Me	Godfrey, KM

Godson, T	Hanson, L	Highfield, M	Hunter, E	Jordan, TRM
Goldsmith, N	Hanson, N	Hilder, C	Hunter, P	Josey, S
Gooch, C	Harcourt-Smith, W	Hill, C	Hutchins, AJ	Joy, R
Goodridge, JJ	Hardie, AJ	Hill, M	Hutchins, B	Kearns, K
Goodspeed, JR	Harding, A	Hill, MJ	Hutchins, JED	Keen, SG
Gordon, P	Hare, M	Hills, M	Hutchins, PE	Keighley, L
Goriup, P	Harewood, D	Hilton, JI	Hyam, M	Kellett, G
Gorman, D	Hargreaves, BT	Hoare, DJ	Hyde, PJ	Kelly, I
Gove, J	Hargreaves, R	Hobbs, K	Illesley, KJ	Kelly, J
Gowers, J	Harley, RP	Hobby, P	Ingram, S	Kelly, L
Graham, J	Harley, S	Hobday, I	Insley, H	Kelly, S
Graham, T	Harper, H	Hockey, A	Irvine, RJ	Kelson, DW
Grantham, B	Harrington, E	Hocking, C	Irwin, RN	Kendall, P
Gravely, L	Harrington, Je	Hocking, T	Isherwood, J	Kennett, J
Gray, JR	Harrington, Jn	Hodgkinson, R	Ison, M	Kerrison, J
Gray, N	Harrington, ST	Hogan, P	Jackson, A	Kershaw, R
Gray, Tm	Harris, CJ	Hogston, P	Jackson, AG	Keynes, R
Gray, Ty	Harris, J	Holding, AP	Jackson, FD	King, M
Green, AE	Harris, M	Holland, D	Jackson, M	King, SJ
Green, C	Harris, NG	Hollingsworth, M	Jackson, SJ	King, SS
Green, K	Harris, S	Holloway, Y	Jackson, VC	Kirby, AJ
Green, P	Harrison, C	Holmes, C	Jacobs, RJK	Kitching, I
Greenfield, C	Harrison, P	Holmes, P	Jacobs, RS	Kneller, E
Greig, M	Harrop, T	Holmes, PDJ	Jafkins, K	Knight, A
Griffiths, M	Hart, R	Holter, CA	James, AR	Knight, CM
Griffiths, S	Hartill, S	Honor, A	James, H	Knight, N
Grindrod, C	Hartley, F	Hooper, L	James, P	Knox, AG
Grist, DM	Hartnell, I	Hooper, MJ	James-Knell, JS	Knox, T
Groves, M	Harvell, K	Hooper, S	Jamie, G	L, Ang
Grummett, L	Harvey, MJ	Horder, J	Jarvis, J	Ladd, RC
Grundmanis, L	Hastings, D	Horgan, C	Jenkins, G	Lailey, JW
Guest, IR	Hatch, SG	Horne, D	Jennings, PP	Lambden, M
Gull, R	Hatcher, SP	Horsley, C	Jepson, P	Lambe, GP
Gussman, D	Hatfield, L	Horton, T	Jewsbury, D	Lambert, SR
Gutteridge, AC	Hawes, C	Hoskins, S	Johnson, AC	Lamond, C
Gwynn, BS	Hawke, J	Houghton, DP	Johnson, C	Lamsdell, C
Hack, PJ	Hawtree, JN	Howard, AM	Johnson, D	Lander, JK
Hackett, J	Hay, MJW	Howard, BA	Johnson, K&F	Lang, IM
Hackett, SJ	Hayden, A	Howard, D	Johnson, SA	Langdon, W
Hacking, N	Haydon, RM	Howe, AR	Johnstone, E	Langley, GB
Hadrill, P	Hayman, G	Howe, PD	Jolliffe, H	Larkin, A
Hainsworth, IR	Hayward, RJ	Howes, A	Jones, An	Larkin, H
Haisell, O	Heap, D	Huddie, M	Jones, Ay	Latham, MJ
Halder, S	Heard, PA	Hudson, A	Jones, B	Lavender, P
Hale, APS	Heath, AB	Hughes, B	Jones, CD	Lavington, S
Hale, JA	Heath, D	Hughes, J	Jones, Chris	Lawn, MR
Hall, T	Heath, PA	Hughes, P	Jones, Claire	Lawrence, P
Hallam, C	Heaver, MC	Hughes, S	Jones, Clyde	Lawrence, SP
Hallett, RJ	Hedley, B	Hulin, L	Jones, D	Layton, S
Halligan, MJ	Hedley, J	Hull, JD	Jones, DJ	Leach, S
Hamilton, R	Hellier, RD	Hull, NJ	Jones, JR	Lee, B
Hamilton, S	Hemming, R	Hulme, J	Jones, M	Lee, J
Hampson, IR	Hesk, MJ	Humphrey, P	Jones, MF	Lee, M
Hampton, D	Hewitt, JH	Humphrey, VF	Jones, NR	Lee, RD
Hampton, M	Hibberd, JW	Humphreys, E	Jones, PD	Lee, S
Hampton, TM	Hibdige, S	Humphrys, A	Jones, RA	Lee, T
Hancock, D	Hickman, PJ	Hunby, D	Jones, S	Leech, R
Hancock, P	Hicks, TD	Hunnisett, C	Jones, T	Lees, G
Hannam, JC	Higham, M	Hunt, PR	Jones, V	Legg, J

Leishman, S	Manor, J	Miles, SJ	Nelson, R	Parks, K
Leonard, C	Mansfield, SJ	Miles, SR	Nelson, S	Parsons, I
Leonard, H	Mapp, B	Milinet-Raby, PN	Newbury, S	Parsons, TEG
Leonhardt, K	Mapper, S	Milius, N	Newman, CJ	Partridge, AM
Lester, AJB	Marchant, RH	Miller, H	Newman, H	Pascal, RW
Lester, D	Marcuse, HD	Miller, I	Newsome, P	Pasley, N
Levell, JE	Marriner, N	Miller, J	Newton, SJ	Payne, A
Lever, P	Marsh, R	Miller, T	Nichols, M	Payne, D
Levett, RK	Marshall, A	Milligan, RF	Nield, P	Payne, L
Levy, D&J	Marshall, F	Mills, C	Nieuwkerk, A	Peace, ND
Levy, DA	Marshall, R	Mills, DGH	Nightingale, A	Peacock, D
Levy, S	Marston, PC	Mills, H	Noble, D	Pearce, R
Lewis, A	Martin, A	Mills, N	Nockold, S	Pearce, RK
Lewis, AP	Martin, AP	Mills, S	Norman, G	Pearson, DJ
Lewis, JH	Martin, JP	Milsom, K	Norman, MJ	Pearson, I
Lewis, P	Martin, KP	Mintram, G	Norris, PJ	Pearson, P
Lewis, R	Maskell, JM	Mitchell, D	Norriss, TR	Peck, R
Lewis, T	Maskell, K	Mitchell, L	Northcott, S	Pepper, G
Lhopkins, CP	Mason, D	Mitchell, R	Norton, JA	Perch, P
Lifton, T	Mason, F	Mitchellmore, A	Norton, T	Percival, K
Lintott, BJ	Massey, A	Mitchener, A	Nutbeen, G	Perrin, CA
Lintott, EA	Masson, D	Monkhouse, J	O'Driscoll, M	Perry, A
Lloyd, M	Matson, I	Montegriffo, NJ	O'Sullivan, K	Peters, JN
Lloyd, SJH	Matt, H	Montieth, E	Oakshatt, P	Peterson, L
Loader, G	Matthews, N	Moody, MP	Oakshott, D	Pett, J
Loader, S	Matthews, PJ	Moon, J&J	Ogilvie, C	Pettit, R
Lock, C	Maundrell, AJ	Moore, A	Oliver, C	Phelps, MS
Locke, A	Maxted, M	Moore, AP	Oliver, M	Phillips, C
Locke, D	May, B	Moore, D	Oliver, MB	Phillips, D
Lockett, A	May, G	Moore, M	Olsen, H	Pibworth, I
Lomax, P	May, K	Moore, MJ	Oram, A	Pictor, GD
Long, A	May, P	Moors, G	Oram, MA	Pierce, K
Long, D	Mayhead, C	Morley, S	Ord, S	Piercey, B
Longstaff, E	Maynard, R	Morrison, P&S	Orford, M	Piggott, SP
Lord, R	Mayne, W	Morrison-Brand, L	Osborn, P	Pike, J
Lowe, WJ	McAvoy, S	Mortimer, L	Osborne, G	Pilbrow, D
Lowings, VA	McCann, J	Morton, P	Osborne, J	Pinchen, BJ
Lowth, DP	McClements, J	Moseley, JC	Owen, AE	Pinhorn, M
Lucas, D	McCormack, K	Moser, R	Owen, NT	Pink, A
Lucking, B	McCullagh, SFH	Mould-Ryan, RB	Owens, A	Pink, MA
Luke, C	McEwan, C	Moulds, J	Pace, S	Piper, C
Lycett, C	McIntosh, K	Moules, I	Page, BT	Piper, CJ
Lyle, B	McKechnie, E	Mowbray, AH	Painter, MG	Piper, DJ
Lyness, D	Mckellar, C	Munday, DR	Palmer, G	Pitt, MJ
Lyons, M	McLean, I	Munday, R	Palmer, J	Pitts, R
Macfarlane, S	Mcmullan, H	Munro, R	Palmer, MJ	Place, RM
Mackay, C	McNeill, M&S	Munts, D	Palmer, RA	Pleasance, J
Mackay, I	McQueen, B	Murai, M	Panchaud, D	Poffley, N
MacKenzie, C	McVeigh, A	Murdoch, DA	Papps, N	Pointer, RG
MacKenzie, K	Mead, G	Murdock, A	Parfitt, A	Poland, H
Mackfall, I	Mears, I	Murfitt, RC	Parfoot, K	Pollard, M
Macmillan, M	Mellor, J	Murphy, CRP	Parke, R	Pollecoff, G
Mallinson, JC	Melrose, M	Murphy, G	Parker, ME	Pont, S
Mallinson, JJ	Melville, S	Murphy, M	Parker, OP	Pople, R
Mancuso, L	Merryweather, A	Murphy, R	Parkes, G	Porter, RJ
Manley, J	Metcalf, KD	Murray, D	Parkes, M	Portwood, L
Mann, L	Michelmores, G	Naprt, M	Parkhouse, C	Postill, M
Mannick, JA	Middleton, L	Nash, F	Parkhouse, L	Potts, PM
Manning, CP	Miles, S	Neal, SM	Parkinson, J	Poulter, R

pounds, n	Riley, S	Sayer, KR	Smith, H	Stone, T
Powell, S	Rines, A	Scammell, BW	Smith, IA	Stoneman, M
Pratt, E	Roast, M	Schneider, H	Smith, IFE	Stoney, A
Priestley, M	Roast, P	Schwabe, F	Smith, JF	Stouse, KP
Prince, M	Roberts, A	Science, HRG	Smith, JJ	Strangeman, PJ
Prince, N	Roberts, E	Scorey, PS	Smith, JT	Strong, A
Prior, R	Roberts, G	Scott, A	Smith, KW	Stubbs, C
Proctor, B	Roberts, GCM	Scott, AD	Smith, LC	Stubbs, E
Proctor, P	Roberts, J	Scott, D	Smith, ME	Sullivan, J
Pugh, G	Roberts, JB	Scott, P	Smith, MJ	Sullivan, R
Pullen, AP	Roberts, Jo	Scott, S	Smith, NC	Sulway, D
Pullin, GJ	Roberts, KL	Scouller, A	Smith, P	Summers, Z
Pulling, S	Robertson, A	Scourfield, PT	Smith, PJS	Sutton, G
Purchon, H	Robertson, D	Scriven, A	Smith, R	Sutton, K
Puttock, B	Robertson, M	Searle, M	Smith, SF	Sutton, P
Puzio, J	Robertson, MJ	Seaton, C	Smith, SW	Swallow, JL
Pyke, L	Robertson, SJ	Seaward, J	Smy, T	Swann, M
Quinn, C	Robinson, A	Severs, R	Snelgar, G	Swanson, CD
Rackett, BJ	Robinson, CC	Seymour, K	Snell, J	Swensson, DE
Rackliffe, R	Robinson, K	Shaft, M	Snook, AM	Sykes, M
Radden, DJC	Robinson-Ruffle, J&D	Sharkey, B	Soldat, J	Symonds, ERC
Radhakrishnan, S	Robison, DM	Sharp, A	Sparshott, J	Szimuly, G
Rafter, M	Robjohns, AL	Sharp, G	Speller, T	Taplin, R
Raine, P	Robson, C	Sharp, M	Spence, IM	Tarrant, K
Ralph, L	Robson, S	Sharples, G	Spencer, JW	Tasker, N
Ralphs, IL	Roby, S	Shaw, GJ	Spicer, M	Taylor, Ce
Ramesh, A	Roddiss, SJ	Shaw, MD	Spooner, F	Taylor, Cs
Randall, M	Rodger, B	Shaw, S	Spratt, P	Taylor, D
Rawlings, ND	Rolfe, MD	Shelley, J&C	Squires, K	Taylor, DH
Raymond, CJ	Romaine, L	Shelley, R	Srdic, A	Taylor, J
Raynor, EM	Rooney, G	Shepherd, C	Srisakrapikoop, U	Taylor, MJ
Raynor, PJ	Rose, C	Shepherd, H	Stacey, G	Taylor, RJ
Read, RW	Rose, J	Shillitoe, JRD	Stacey, S	Taylor, RW
Redhead, JW	Rose, MA	Shore, SM	Stalker, B	Terry, MGW
Reece, H	Roseveare, CD	Short, PP	Stanbury, P	Terry, MH
Reed, B	Ross, JG	Shrewsbury, R	Stanhope, I	Terry, S
Reeves, G	Rowe, HEJ	Shrimpton, J	Stanyer, MP	Tew, AB
Reeves, H	Rowe, J	Shrive, D	Starbuck, A	Thelwell, DA
Reeves, J	Rowe, R	Simcox, WF	Steaggles, GJ	Thomas, HM
Reid, F	Rowell, M	Simmonds, Y	Stephens, R	Thomas, J
Reid, GS	Rowse, P	Simons, J	Stephenson, GC	Thomas, L
Reid, N	Rowyns, T	Simper, J	Stephenson, S	Thornton, GA
Remastered, Y	Roy, K	Simpson, KJ	Sterry, P	Thurnell-Read, J
Renton, A	Royal, M	Sinclair, J	Stevens, A	Thurston, MH
Renwick, P	Rumis, L	Sissons, D	Stevens, C	Tickle, S
Reumont, L	Rushton, A	Sketch, PA	Stevens, D	Timms, AR
Revill, L	Russ, I	Skinner, S	Stevens, DG	Tindale, AD
Reynard, S & M	Russell, V	Skotnicki, A	Stevens, M	Todd, A
Reynolds, C	Rutter, P	Slade, C	Stevens, NR	Toft, RT
Reynolds, D	Rutter, PM	Slingo, S	Stevens, T	Tofts, R
Reynolds, P	Ryan, L	Smallbone, AC	Stevenson, DE	Toms, D
Reynolds, SA	Rylands, K	Smallwood, J	Stewart, AH	Toogood-Johnson, I
Rhimes, SE	Ryves, DJ	Smart, NR	Stewart, D	Toomer, J
Rhodes, AS	Saffery, J	Smart, S	Still, R	Tordoff, A
Rich, G	Sames, E	Smiles, M	Stimpson, T	Tovell, LM
Richards, D	Sampson, C	Smith, A	Stocker, A	Townsend, A
Richardson, B	Sanchez, LVV	Smith, AG	Stone, B	Toynnton, PE
Richmond, J	Satterley, A	Smith, BE	Stone, R	Treadaway, D
Riddle, D	Sawyer, R	Smith, DN	Stone, S	Trout, NS

Tubbs, JM	Walker, H	Webb, RM	Wigzell, N	Wood, H
Tucker, A	Walker, J	Webb, S	Wilcox, C	Wood, R
Tulloch, R	Walker, S	Webley, JJ	Wilcox, J	Wood, SD
Turner, F	Walker, TH	Wells, A	Wildish, MF	Woodage, G
Turner, G	Wall, N	Wells, ID	Wilkerson, G	Woodford, J
Turner, J	Wallace, D	West, JC	Wilkes, E	Woodhead, R
Turner, JP	Wallis, RJ	West, P	Wilkes, KR	Woodley, SR
Turner, KA	Walls, S	West, SM	Wilkie, A	Woodmore, M
Turner, RM	Walls, SS	Weston, B	Wilkinson, D	Woods, R
Turpin, R	Walshe, K	Weston, ILG	Wilkinson, I	Woodward, G
Turton, MH	Walters, A	Whale, C	Willia, L	Wooldridge, DB
Twinning, M	Walters, JM	Wharton, J	Williams, A	Woolfries, SA
Twyman, AP	Ward, AD	Wheatcroft, AV	Williams, B	Woolley, M
Tyrrell, R	Ward, C	Wheatley, D	Williams, CE	Woolley, SK
Unsworth, DJ	Ward, JN	Wheatley, K	Williams, DE	Woolmer, W
Upton, P	Ward, M	Whiffen, C	Williams, R	Worthington, J
Valeriani, M	Ward, RJ	Whitbread, P	Williams, TM	Wren, C
Valler, D	Wareham, M	White, DJ	Williamson, C	Wright, AD
Vandeputte, P	Wareing, J	White, JJ	Williamson, ID	Wright, M
Vane, B	Warner, D	White, KG	Williamson, S	Wright, R
Vaughan, J	Warner, R	White, MJ	Wills, KB	Wynde, AR
Venables, S	Warren, P	White, PJ	Wills, P	Wynn, RB
Villiers, P	Wasley, A	White, R	Willshire, J	Yaffy, D
Vincent, R	Waterman, JR	White, SN	Wilson, C	Yates, G
Vincent, RD	Watson, P	Whitefield, B	Wilson, HM	Yates, SR
Vine, K	Watson, RF	Whitehead, G	Wilson, IS	Yelland, DM
Vogely, F	Watts, IR	Whitehead, SG	Wilson, P	Yelloly, JM
Vokes, MG	Watts, PJ	Whitehouse, J	Windibank, ND	Yeti, S
Vrint, V	Watts, R	Whitehouse, N	Winkworth, M	Young, A
Wacher, T	Wearing, MF	Whitfield, J	Winter, PD	Young, K
Waghorn, W	Wearn, D	Whitmarsh, N	Wiseman, EJ	Young, S
Wakeford, H	Wearn, GM	Why, M	Witton-Maclean, G	Younger, S
Walecki, B	Weaver, E	Wicks, L	Wolfenden, L	Zealey, J
Walford, MF	Webb, AR	Wicks, SP	Wolmer, W	
Walker, A	Webb, C	Wiggins, M	Wood, A	
Walker, GM	Webb, HC	Wiggins, R	Wood, B	
Walker, Ge	Webb, R	Wigney, J	Wood, C	

Contributors

In addition to the sources of data referred to in the Editorial and Acknowledgements and in the Introduction to the Systematic List, the assistance of the following is gratefully acknowledged in contributing information for this report:

Andy Johnson's Sandy Point Report
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

Appendix 3

Guidelines for the submission of records

All observers birding in Hampshire are urged to submit their sightings to the Recorder on Hampshire Ornithological Society record forms.

The form is available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording/record-form>. Completed forms should be e-mailed to the Recorder at keithbetton@hotmail.com. Records can also be submitted in an excel spreadsheet (preferred) or Microsoft Word file. Handwritten submissions by post are also welcome and should be sent to Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR. It would be of great assistance if observers would comply with the following points when submitting records.

- Records should be listed either by species (in the order used in the *Hampshire Bird Report*) or by date.
- Please submit your sightings to the Recorder quarterly and at the latest by Jan 31st of the following year.

Information required for species occurring annually; updates for 2020 in red.

Key to codes used in table:

- A All records; details of age, plumage, time, direction of movement, etc. should be included as appropriate, especially for birds seen in places where not usually recorded or out of season.
- B All breeding records, with type of evidence obtained: confirmed, probable or possible.
- CB Counts of breeding pairs/singing males/territories in clearly defined areas.
- F Flocks, roosts and falls: minimum number required is given in parentheses.
- F&L First and last dates of summer and winter visitors.
- M Observations of birds moving on migration: give each day's count separately, with time of observation and direction the birds were moving.
- MM Dated monthly maxima from localities you regularly watch, counts may be below the threshold in F when submitting a complete year's data.
- R All records from localities where not normally recorded.
- S All summer records.
- W All winter records.
- Notes Brief notes of diagnostic identification features observed should be written on the record form.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose bernicla	F (100), MM, F&L, M, R, inland A
Light-bellied Brent Goose hrota	A
Canada Goose	B, F(100), MM
Barnacle Goose	A
Cackling Goose	A, Notes
Snow Goose	A
Greylag Goose	B, F (50), MM, R
White-fronted Goose	A
Mute Swan	B, F (20), MM
Egyptian Goose	A
Shelduck	coast: B, F (50), MM, inland: A
Ruddy Shelduck	A, Notes
Mandarin Duck	B, F (10), MM, R
Garganey	A
Shoveler	B, F (10), MM, F&L, R
Gadwall	B,F (25), MM, F&L, R
Wigeon	F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R

Mallard	CB, F (100), MM
Pintail	main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Teal	B, F coast & Avon valley (100), elsewhere (25), MM, F&L, R
Red-crested Pochard	A
Pochard	A
Tufted Duck	B, F (25), MM, F&L, R
Scaup	A, inland & summer Notes
Eider	A, inland Notes
Velvet Scoter	A, inland Notes
Common Scoter	A
Long-tailed Duck	A, inland & summer Notes
Goldeneye	A
Smew	A
Goosander	A
Red-breasted Merganser	Main coastal sites F (20), MM, F&L, S, elsewhere A
Ruddy Duck	A
Red-legged Partridge	B, F (50), R
Grey Partridge	A
Quail	A
Pheasant	CB, R
Golden Pheasant	A
Nightjar	A
Swift	A, especially B
Great Bustard	A
Cuckoo	A
Feral Pigeon	CB, F (100)
Stock Dove	CB, F (25), M
Woodpigeon	CB, F (500), M
Turtle Dove	A
Collared Dove	CB, F (25), M
Water Rail	A
Moorhen	CB, F (20), MM
Coot	CB, F (20), MM
Crane	A, Notes
Little Grebe	B, F (5), MM, R
Great Crested Grebe	B, F (10), MM, R
Slavonian Grebe	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-necked Grebe	A
Stone-curlew	A
Oystercatcher	B, F (100), MM, M, inland A
Avocet	A
Lapwing	B, F (100), MM, M, R
Golden Plover	A
Grey Plover	F (20), F&L, S, R, inland A
Ringed Plover	B, F (20), MM, M, inland A
Little Ringed Plover	A
Whimbrel	F (10), F&L, M, W, R, inland A
Curlew	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Bar-tailed Godwit	A
Black-tailed Godwit islandica	F (50), F&L, S, R, inland A
Turnstone	F (20), F&L, M, S, R, inland A
Knot	A
Ruff	A

Curlew Sandpiper	A
Sanderling	A
Dunlin	F (100), MM, M, S, inland A
Purple Sandpiper	A
Little Stint	A
Woodcock	A
Jack Snipe	A
Snipe	B, F (5), MM, F&L, R
Grey Phalarope	A, Notes
Common Sandpiper	A
Green Sandpiper	A
Redshank	B, F (50), MM, M, inland A
Wood Sandpiper	A
Spotted Redshank	A
Greenshank	A
Kittiwake	A – include age/plumage
Black-headed Gull	B, F (500), MM, S
Little Gull	A – include age/plumage
Mediterranean Gull	CB, F(10)
Common Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Great Black-backed Gull	B, F (10), MM, S, inland A
Herring Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Caspian Gull	A, Notes - include age/plumage
Yellow-legged Gull	A – include age/plumage
Lesser Black-backed Gull	B, F (50), MM, S
Sandwich Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R
Little Tern	B, F (25), F&L, M, R
Roseate Tern	A – include age/plumage, inland Notes
Common Tern	B, F (50), F&L, M, R, inland A
Arctic Tern	A – include age/plumage
Black Tern	A
Great Skua	A, inland Notes
Pomarine Skua	A, Notes excluding coast in spring
Arctic Skua	A, inland Notes
Little Auk	A, Notes
Common Guillemot	A
Razorbill	A
Red-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Black-throated Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Great Northern Diver	A, inland & summer Notes
Fulmar	A, inland Notes
Manx Shearwater	A, inland Notes
White Stork	A, Notes
Gannet	A, inland Notes
Cormorant	F (20), MM, R
Shag	A, inland Notes
Spoonbill	A, inland Notes
Bittern	A
Cattle Egret	A
Grey Heron	B, F (10), MM, M
Great White Egret	A
Little Egret	B, F (10), MM, M, R
Osprey	A

Honey-buzzard	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Sparrowhawk	B, M
Goshawk	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Marsh Harrier	A
Hen Harrier	A
Red Kite	A excluding North Hants, CB, F(10)
Buzzard	B, F (10), M, R
Barn Owl	A
Tawny Owl	B, R
Little Owl	A
Long-eared Owl	A
Short-eared Owl	A
Hoopoe	A, Notes
Kingfisher	A especially B
Wryneck	A, Notes
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A
Great Spotted Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Green Woodpecker	CB, M, R
Kestrel	B, M
Merlin	A
Hobby	A
Peregrine	A away from coast, CB
Ring-necked Parakeet	A
Great Grey Shrike	A, Notes excluding New Forest
Golden Oriole	A, Notes
Jay	CB, F (10), M
Magpie	CB, F (50), M
Jackdaw	CB, F (500), M
Rook	CB, F (250), M
Carion Crow	CB, F (50), M
Raven	A
Waxwing	A, Notes excluding invasion years
Coal Tit brittanicus	CB, F (20), M
Continental Coal Tit ater	A
Marsh Tit	A
Blue Tit	CB, F (50), M
Great Tit	CB, F (20), M
Bearded Tit	A
Woodlark	A
Skylark	CB, F (20), M
Sand Martin	B, F (25), F&L, M
Swallow	CB, F (100), F&L, M
House Martin	CB, F (100), F&L, M
Cetti's Warbler	A
Long-tailed Tit	CB, F (20), M
Wood Warbler	A
Yellow-browed Warbler	A, Notes
Willow Warbler	A
Chiffchaff collybita	CB, F (10), W
Sedge Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Reed Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Grasshopper Warbler	A
Blackcap	CB, F (10), W

Garden Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Lesser Whitethroat	A
Whitethroat	CB, F (10), F&L
Dartford Warbler	A excluding New Forest, CB
Firecrest	A
Goldcrest	CB, F (10)
Wren	CB, F (25)
Nuthatch	CB, F (10)
Treecreeper	CB, F (10)
Starling	CB, F (100), M
Ring Ouzel	A
Blackbird	CB, F (25), M
Fieldfare	F (25), M, F&L
Redwing	F (25), M, F&L
Song Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Mistle Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Spotted Flycatcher	A
Robin	CB, F (25)
Nightingale	A
Pied Flycatcher	A
Black Redstart	A
Redstart	A
Whinchat	A
Stonechat	A
Wheatear	A
House Sparrow	CB, F (20), M
Tree Sparrow	A, Notes
Dunnock	CB, F (10)
Yellow Wagtail flavissima	A
Yellow Wagtail other races	A, Notes
Grey Wagtail	B, F (5), M
Pied Wagtail yarrelli	CB, F (50), M
White Wagtail alba	A, autumn Notes
Meadow Pipit	B, F (25), M
Tree Pipit	A
Water Pipit	A
Rock Pipit	A
Chaffinch	CB, F (25), M
Brambling	A
Hawfinch	A
Bullfinch	CB, F (5), M
Greenfinch	CB, F (20), M
Linnet	CB, F (20), M
Common Redpoll	A, Notes
Lesser Redpoll	A
Crossbill	A
Goldfinch	CB, F (50), M
Siskin	B, F (10), M, S
Snow Bunting	A, inland Notes
Corn Bunting	A
Yellowhammer	CB, F (10), M
Reed Bunting	A

Scarcer species

A list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) is given on their website at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa>. Records of scarcer species not considered by BBRC but required to be submitted for consideration by HOS Rarities Panel are listed below and must be supported by the completion of *Unusual Record Forms* which are available from the Recorder or on the society web site at <http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/bird-recording>. Additional evidence in the form of digital photographs or sound recordings in electronic format is also welcomed. Records of the following species will not be published in the *Hampshire Bird Report* unless they have been accepted by the *HOS Records Panel*.

Tundra Bean, Taiga Bean, Pink-footed and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Black Brant, Bewick's & Whooper Swans, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter, Alpine Swift, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Red-necked Grebe, Black-winged Stilt, American Golden Plover, Dotterel, Black-tailed Godwit race *limosa*, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Sabine's, Ring-billed & Glaucous Gulls, Iceland Gull races *glaucoides* & *kumleini*, White-winged Black Tern, Long-tailed Skua, Black Guillemot, Puffin, White-billed Diver, Cory's, Sooty & Balearic Shearwaters, Storm and Leach's Petrels, Glossy Ibis, Night-heron, Purple Heron, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, White-tailed Eagle, Rough-legged Buzzard, Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon, Red-backed & Woodchat Shrikes, Chough, Hooded Crow, Penduline Tit, Willow Tit, Shore & Short-toed Larks, Red-rumped Swallow, Pallas's, Radde's, Dusky, Barred, Icterine, Melodious, Blyth's Reed & Marsh Warblers, Chiffchaff (other than nominate race), Rose-coloured Starling, Red-flanked Bluetail, Bluethroat *race svecica*, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Dipper, Citrine Wagtail, Richard's & Olive-backed Pipits, Common Rosefinch, Twite, Parrot Crossbill, Serin, Lapland, Cirl, Ortolan & Little Buntings. All exceptionally early or late migrants.

Heard only records of the above species

Criteria for the acceptance of these by the panel are as follows:

- The observer must have good experience of the species concerned and demonstrate that the call of the bird claimed was heard clearly.
- The call must be described in detail including transcription on paper (length, quality, tone, etc. of call), comparison with other calls heard either at the same or around the same time (or failing that, qualification as to why it was different to commoner species) and frequency/timing of call(s).
- The observer should provide an exact account of the record including, for example, how many times the bird called and over what period of time it was heard.
- **Nocturnal Migration – call only records**
- For all description species and a few others (such as Common Scoter, uncommon waders etc.), we require a recording to be provided and that preferably has several examples of calls audible. Ideally the submitter will have obtained a spectrogram of this using the widely available free software. With recordings we would like to have the whole call sequence (e.g. 10-15 sec.) and not just each call isolated. Two sources of free software to create spectrograms are given below.

<https://www.audacityteam.org/>

<https://ravensoundsoftware.com/software/raven-lite/>

UK rarities

Records of rarer species and sub-species are dealt with by BBRC. Record forms are available from the Recorder and should be returned to him for onward transmission to BBRC. Alternatively, submissions can be made online at <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting>, in which case it is appreciated if copies are e-mailed to the Recorder. Note with effect from 1st Jan 2020 records of Lesser Scaup and Kentish Plover are required by BBRC.

Urgent Bird News

In addition to the formal submission of rarities to the HOS Recorder, or where relevant to BBRC, observers of rarities in Hampshire are requested to pass on the news as soon as possible, assuming there are no confidentiality issues, so that others may benefit. The preferred method for those with smartphones or other internet access is to post on the Going Birding in Hampshire website at <http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/birdnews.asp>.

To submit records, it is first necessary to register with a personal log-in name and password for a free account. After acceptance, records can be submitted at any time using your log-in and password. A separate part of the website also allows photographs to be submitted. Alternatives to Going Birding include one of the national bird news services such as Rare Bird Alert or Birdguides. For those without internet access, please ask others to post for you.

Appendix 4

Photographs for inclusion in the *Hampshire Bird Report*

The Photographic Editor welcomes the submission of good quality digital photographs of birds taken in Hampshire for consideration for future reports. Images of any species, including common ones, are welcome. Photographs of birds in flight, in flocks or with extensive areas of habitat visible are particularly encouraged.

The filename should include the photographer's name, species name, locality and date taken. Please also submit poorer quality record shots of rarities, especially if it is likely that the bird has not been otherwise photographed.

Please send images for consideration to Alan Lewis alanlewis1@virginmedia.com. Photographers are asked to send medium resolution images but to retain the unedited originals as these may be requested later for publication.



Nightjar, New Forest, June 14th (Martin Bennett)

Hampshire Bird Ringing and Nest Recording Report 2020

Tony Davis

Introduction

This report summarises the fieldwork carried out by ringers and nest recorders in Hampshire during 2020. 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-report> (Robinson et al., 2021).

The total number of birds ringed in Hampshire was 28,558, including 1,757 nestlings. Government restrictions during the year impacted ringing as much as other aspects of ornithology but the grand total is only about 150 less than the record total achieved in 2019. This is probably due to the most severe restrictions occurring at a time of year when relatively few birds are being ringed. The restrictions did severely impact pullus ringing and nest recording however with numbers ringed being only 60% of those in 2019. Project ringing such as Constant Effort Sites and Retrapping Adults for Survival projects were not possible to complete in some cases. The number of species ringed was 107, five more than in 2019.

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 30 ringers or groups, additional information was obtained from the BTO's on-line ringing report. The number of each species ringed in 2020, and the all-time totals since 1972, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2020 Hampshire ringing totals

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total 2020	Total 1972–2020
Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	0	0	0	2
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	0	0	0	118
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	14	0	14	253
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	0	0	1,322
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	0	0	0	1
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	0	0	0	15
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	0	0	0	1,574
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	0	0	74
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	0	0	0	57
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	0	0	0	35
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	0	0	0	45
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	27	0	27	428
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2	0	2	477
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	0	0	0	1
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	13	0	13	608
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
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	37	43	80	527
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	0	0	0	1

Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	8	62	70	3,290
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	1	3	90
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	4	13	17	968
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	50	3	53	1,285
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	0	0	0	62
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	15	3	18	2,923
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	10	0	10	147
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	0	0	0	1
Spotted Crane <i>Porzana porzana</i>	0	0	0	2
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	5	0	5	399
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	0	87
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	0	19
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	0	3	3	291
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	42	0	42	1,105
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	0	5	5	75
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	6	12	18	2,836
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	0	0	9
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	0	0	0	271
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1	8	9	1,834
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	0	0	0	150
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	0	0	0	2
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	0	0	0	6
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	0	1	217
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	0	0	0	32
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	0	1	610
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>	1	0	1	133
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	0	0	0	499
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	2	0	2	13,391
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
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	175	0	175	2,950
Jack Snipe <i>Limnocyrtus minimus</i>	6	0	6	89
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2	0	2	552
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
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	0	0	0	1
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	11	0	11	2,889
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	0	0	0	4
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	0	0	0	23
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	0	0	0	626
Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	26	2	28	8,446
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	0	0	0	246
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	0	0	0	44

Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	0	0	0	30
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	0	0	0	133
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	0	0	0	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	0	0	0	1
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	0	0	0	241
Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	0	0	0	22
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	0	0	670
Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	0	0	0	2
Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	0	0	0	1
Leach's Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	0	0	0	2
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	1	0	1	1
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	0	0	0	65
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	0	0	110
Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	0	6	6	50
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	18	0	18	1,532
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	0	0	0	436
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	0	0	0	6
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	0	0	0	38
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	0	0	178
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	18	117	135	2,067
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	2	9	11	545
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	1	4	5	214
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	0	0	0	1
Short-eared Owl <i>Asia flammeus</i>	0	0	0	1
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	53	0	53	1,284
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	0	0	0	9
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>	0	1	1	45
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	93	0	93	1,413
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	6	0	6	348
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	185	188	1,995
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	0	0	0	1
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0	0	0	21
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	20	20	103
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	0	0	0	1
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	17	0	17	866
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	14	0	14	612
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	14	2	16	634
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	2	0	2	648
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	1	0	1	114
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	0	0	0	38
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	229	22	251	7,040
Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	54	0	54	1,104
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montanus</i>	0	0	0	277
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2,522	255	2,777	110,783
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	1,306	401	1,707	46,123
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	0	0	0	1
Bearded Tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	32	0	32	1,486
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	26	71	97	799
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	0	7	7	431
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	69	0	69	24,192
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	462	180	642	45,574

House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	211	0	211	5,775
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	196	0	196	2,700
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	628	2	630	17,111
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	4	8	12	1,817
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	1	0	1	21
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	0	0	0	1
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	0	0	0	1
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	737	15	752	20,893
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2,412	3	2,415	31,690
Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	0	0	0	57
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1,145	0	1,145	45,108
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	0	0	0	1
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1,062	71	1,133	39,018
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	0	0	0	4
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	0	0	0	2
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	0	0	0	1
Lanceolated Warbler <i>Locustella lanceolata</i>	0	0	0	1
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	0	0	0	4
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	175	0	175	5,995
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2,871	25	2,896	38,565
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	103	0	103	4,088
Barred Warbler <i>Curruca nisoria</i>	0	0	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Curruca curruca</i>	67	0	67	1,607
Subalpine Warbler <i>Curruca cantillans</i>	0	0	0	1
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	603	0	603	8,131
Dartford Warbler <i>Curruca undata</i>	13	0	13	459
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	151	0	151	1,773
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	632	0	632	14,905
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	499	7	506	15,976
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	100	0	100	2,399
Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	58	2	60	1,898
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	999	12	1,011	15,547
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	0	0	0	3
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	464	15	479	27,710
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	3	0	3	1,349
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	268	0	268	4,785
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	117	20	137	8,276
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	0	1	694
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	6	8	14	1,634
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	929	18	947	23,188
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	0	0	0	5
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	7	2	9	272
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	7	0	7	95
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	0	0	0	32
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	18	10	28	751
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	0	1	196
Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	68	13	81	2,282
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2	0	2	75
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	542	31	573	8,295
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	0	0	0	757
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	597	13	610	16,968
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	57	0	57	2,558

Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	0	0	0	1
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	43	3	46	2,291
Pied / White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	10	8	18	12,141
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	323	8	331	5,267
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	35	0	35	776
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	0	0	0	1
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	0	0	0	43
Rock Pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	1	0	1	109
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	409	4	413	18,508
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	8	0	8	6,052
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	24	0	24	226
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	226	0	226	6,849
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	651	2	653	41,401
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	360	3	363	5,351
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	2	0	2	42
Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	1,207	0	1,207	5,906
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	1	0	1	9
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2,100	18	2,118	18,631
Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	128	0	128	17,159
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>	13	0	13	2,552
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	0	0	0	4
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	102	1	103	10,719
TOTALS	26,801	1,757	28,558	835,243

The early winter period was mild and wet, resulting in good survival for resident species. The breeding season was generally warm and wet, although there was virtually no rainfall during May which may have affected the productivity of species such as thrushes and waders that feed on soil invertebrates. The late summer and early autumn provided generally settled conditions resulting in good catches during autumn migration but October and December were notably wetter than normal, reducing opportunities for ringing.

Manx Shearwater was ringed for the first time in Hampshire, although unfortunately no details of the circumstances are known. Record ringing totals were achieved for a further nine species: Nightjar, Marsh Tit and Woodlark are the subject of specialist studies; Peregrine is ringed in small numbers by particular individuals; Whitethroat and Chiffchaff numbers are likely to be the result of increasing population trends and a successful breeding season; Cetti's Warbler (equal highest with 2019) is probably due to current high population levels; Lesser Redpoll was caught in good numbers by a small number of people but this did not seem to reflect general high numbers; Goldfinch populations are high but the record total may be influenced by more ringers operating in their gardens during 2020.

Hampshire ringers contributed more than 15% of the national total for eight species; Brent Goose, Honey-buzzard, Avocet, Nightjar, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Woodlark, Firecrest and Hawfinch.

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 projects on Starling, Sand Martin, Marsh Tit, Great Tit and Bullfinch.

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 now five CES sites: Blashford Lakes, Martin Down, Pamber Forest, Winchester WM and a new site at Keyhaven.

During 2020 the BTO launched pilot CES schemes focussed on domestic gardens and the winter period, and Hampshire ringers are participating in both schemes.

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 **Sanderlings** 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 directly on <https://animaltrack.org/>.

Avocet chicks have been ringed in Hampshire with green over blue on the left tibia and two other colours on the right. A yellow flag may also be present. Sightings to 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. Birds with a green ring on the right tibia and an orange ring with a black two letter code on the left tibia should be reported to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

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.

Redshank are marked in the Avon Valley. Birds have 4 colour-marks, all above the knee, one of which will be a black flag. Sightings to lgrayshon@gwct.org.uk.

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 keys866@gmail.com. Birds with the same type of ring but with characters in the format 2nnB should be reported to trevor.codlin@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 or three alpha-numeric code in black. Sightings to nigelrjns@aol.com.

Woodlarks are marked mainly in the north-east of the county. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Marsh Tits are marked in the New Forest. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wood Warblers are marked in the New Forest. Note that some birds have a striped ring as well as plain colours. Sightings to sibilatrix@btinternet.com.

Wintering **Blackcaps** are marked in Drayton, Portsmouth gardens, sightings to graham.c.m.roberts@btinternet.com and in Chilbolton, sightings to hantsbto@hotmail.com.

Dartford Warblers are marked near Fawley with two colours on the left leg and one colour plus metal ring on right leg. Sightings to oreilly_sharon@hotmail.com.

Starlings are the subject of a number of studies. Birds marked in Sway have orange rings with two black letters on the right leg or white rings with three black letters on the left leg. Sightings to brenda.e.cook@googlemail.com. Charlotte Foot in Totton uses a single dark blue ring on the left leg with a white three-digit combination. Sightings to charlotteannef@gmail.com. Trevor Codlin and Simon Ingram use dark green rings with three white letters in the Funtley and Allbrook areas. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com or simon@itchenvalleysttructures.co.uk.

Nightingales are marked in Botley Wood. Sightings to trevor.codlin@gmail.com.

House Sparrows have been marked at Manor Farm CP using 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.

Lesser Redpolls are marked in the New Forest. 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.

Wigeon. Two birds ringed at Dibden during February were shot within a day of each other in France in September.

Little Egret. A nestling colour-ringed at Sowley Pond in June 2006 set yet another new national age record for this species when it was resighted on Normandy Marsh in August 2020. The absence of any sightings later in the year suggests that it may have now succumbed but any further reports would be appreciated by Graham Giddens grahamgiddens@gmail.com.

Honey-buzzard. A nestling ringed in Surrey in 2014 was recorded on a nest camera in Hampshire during 2020.

Curlew. An adult female ringed at Weston in March 2012 was resighted in Kymi, Finland in April 2020, over 2,100km north-east of its ringing site. A chick ringed in the Netherlands in June 2020 was resighted at Cracknore Hard in late August.

Bar-tailed Godwit. A first-year male ringed in Rogaland, Norway in September 2018 was resighted on Oxy Marsh, Pennington in April 2020.

Turnstone. A first-year bird ringed in Rogaland, Norway in August 2012 and which was resighted at Keyhaven in 2013, was seen there again in September 2020.

Woodcock. Two first-year birds ringed on Ocknell Plain on the same night in November 2019 were shot in France and Russia in January and March 2020 respectively. A Rotherfield Park bird, ringed in December 2018, was found dead in Finland in June 2020.

Black-headed Gull. A nestling from Vitebsk Oblast, Belarus, ringed in 2006, was resighted in Eastrop Park, Basingstoke in November 2020.

Mediterranean Gull. Nestlings from Belgium, Netherlands, Hungary and Czech Republic were resighted at Hayling Oyster Beds during 2020. A 2018 Langstone Harbour chick was resighted in Jersey in September 2020.

Great Black-backed Gull. A nestling from Seine-Maritime, France, ringed in 2008, was resighted at Eling Tide Mill in March 2020.

Sand Martin. A first-year bird ringed at Vidle Van Farm in July was retrapped in Charente-Maritime, France 35 days later.

Sedge Warbler. A first-year bird ringed at the end of August 2016 in Aveiro, Portugal was retrapped in late July 2020 at Titchfield Haven.

Reed Warbler. A first-year bird ringed in early September 2018 was retrapped in Spain at the end of August 2020. An adult ringed in Portugal in mid-April 2015 was retrapped at Farlington Marshes in May 2020.

Blackcap. A first-year male ringed at Blashford Lakes at the start of September was retrapped on Gibraltar in early October, whilst other young males ringed in 2017 at Keyhaven and 2019 at Martin Down were retrapped in Spain during late September and early October. A female ringed in July 2019 at Pamber Forest was retrapped in Belgium in late April 2020.



Rock Pipit, Hayling Golf Club, Oct 18th (Trevor Codlin) - this was the first ringed since 2014.



Marsh Tit, Funtley, Dec 13th (Trevor Codlin) - a record number were ringed this year.



Young Little Owl (Trevor Codlin)



Wheatear, Keyhaven, Aug 27th (Marcus Ward)



*Lesser Redpoll, New Forest, June 26th (Marcus Ward)
- over 1,200 were ringed this year.*



Sparrowhawk, Funtley, Dec 6th (Trevor Codlin)

Firecrest. A first-year male ringed in Kingsbridge, Devon in December 2019 was taken by a cat in Southampton just over a year later.

Redwing. An adult ringed in Highfield, Southampton in early December 2019 was shot in Portugal just over a year later.

Tree Pipit. A first-year bird ringed at Keyhaven Marshes in late August made an odd movement 100km north to Oxfordshire where it was retrapped five days later.

Rock Pipit. Remarkably, two birds colour ringed at the same site in Norway were resighted in Hampshire during the year. One ringed in mid-March was seen on the River Hamble at Warsash in mid-October, the other was ringed during August and resighted at Farlington Marshes in mid-December.

Goldfinch. An adult male ringed at Chilbolton in November 2018 and retrapped in Vienne, France in February 2020 is a typical movement but an adult male ringed at Hazeley Heath in April 2019 and retrapped in January 2020 at Cromdale, Highland Region, almost 700km north is somewhat harder to explain.

Siskin. An adult male ringed at Hazeley Heath in March 2018 was retrapped in Luxembourg at the end of February 2020.

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 2020, together with totals for the last 14 years to provide some context. A total of 475 nests were monitored during the year, approximately half of the 2019 total due to government restrictions during the first half of the breeding season in particular. This is reflected by the fact that Barn Owl, which nests later in the year, was the second most monitored species after Great Tit.

Despite government restrictions, many species nests could be monitored in gardens and urban areas but such environments are still very poorly monitored. For example not a single record of Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Coot or Collared Dove was submitted during the year. The paucity of records of such species shows how easy it would be for any birdwatcher to make a significant contribution to monitoring breeding success in the county. Any birdwatcher who is interested in participating in the Nest Record Scheme is invited to contact the author for assistance.

Table 2: Nest records submitted in Hampshire in 2020 and during period 2007 to 2020

Species	2020 Total	2007 – 2020 Total	Species	2020 Total	2007 – 2020 Total
Mute Swan		22	Jay		1
Greylag Goose		1	Jackdaw		33
Canada Goose		4	Carriion Crow		3
Mandarin Duck		2	Raven		9
Teal		1	Goldcrest		3
Mallard	1	14	Blue Tit	59	804
Tufted Duck		1	Great Tit	70	1,019
Red-legged Partridge		1	Coal Tit	3	21
Pheasant	1	9	Marsh Tit		3
Grey Heron		23	Woodlark	31	428
Little Grebe		11	Skylark	1	21
Great Crested Grebe		2	Swallow	25	1,362
Honey-buzzard	5	51	House Martin		1
Red Kite	1	30	Long-tailed Tit		95
Goshawk		18	Wood Warbler	2	235
Sparrowhawk		5	Chiffchaff	1	24
Buzzard		4	Willow Warbler	3	61
Kestrel	8	71	Blackcap	16	162
Hobby		8	Garden Warbler		10
Peregrine	8	37	Whitethroat		17
Water Rail		3	Dartford Warbler		19
Moorhen	4	54	Sedge Warbler		5
Coot		12	Reed Warbler	46	172
Avocet	1	2	Nuthatch		51
Oystercatcher		3	Treecreeper	1	19
Lapwing	1	65	Wren	1	68
Little Ringed Plover	2	11	Starling	2	22
Ringed Plover		3	Blackbird	7	524
Curlew		2	Song Thrush	8	257
Redshank		1	Mistle Thrush		3
Snipe		1	Spotted Flycatcher	2	16
Sandwich Tern		29	Robin	10	129
Common Tern		38	Redstart	5	43
Black-headed Gull		10	Stonechat	2	104
Mediterranean Gull		4	Duncock	5	81
Herring Gull		2	House Sparrow	2	63
Yellow-legged Gull		1	Grey Wagtail	2	67
Stock Dove	4	161	Pied/White Wagtail	3	27
Woodpigeon	2	111	Tree Pipit		10
Collared Dove		23	Meadow Pipit	2	34
Cuckoo	1	3	Chaffinch	1	64
Barn Owl	67	523	Greenfinch	1	25
Little Owl	2	19	Goldfinch	4	33
Tawny Owl	1	40	Siskin		1
Nightjar	31	133	Linnet	1	45
Swift	13	113	Bullfinch	3	16
Kingfisher		3	Hawfinch		34
Green Woodpecker		6	Yellowhammer		11
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	9	Reed Bunting		13
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	2	32	Corn Bunting		10
Magpie		1	Totals	475	8,011

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all the ringers who supplied data for use in this report: Greg Alexander, Tim Alexander, Duncan Bell (on behalf of Farlington Ringing Group), Ryan Burrell, Bob Cheke, Trevor Codlin, Martin de Retuerto, Barry Duffin, Glynne Evans, Fishlake Meadows Ringing Group, Graham Giddens, Andrew Hoodless, Simon Ingram, Paul James, Nigel Jones, Simon Lane, David Murdoch, Gerald Murphy, Sharon O'Reilly, Steve Roberts, Kevin Sayer (on behalf of Wessex Ringing Group), Liz Scott, Wilf Simcox, Matt Stevens, Nick Tomalin, Tim Walker, Marcus Ward and Colin Wilson. Other ringers who have contributed to the data reported, through their membership of ringing groups in Hampshire are: Danny Alder, Waheed Arshad, Ailidh Barnes, Genevieve Barrett, Annalea Beard, Jessica Borer, Sophie Brown, Francis Buner, Beau Bussell, Lucy Capstick, Andrew Carter, Sharnna Carter, Jodie Case, Brenda Cook, Ruth Croger, Jason Crook, James Cutting, Vicky Dale, Tara Dempsey, Charlotte Foote, Simon Garlick, Nick Goldsmith, Lizzie Grayshon, Dave Green, Katharine Green, Penny Green, Chris Heward, Josie Hewitt, Leesha Hicks, Manuel Hinge, Dan Hoare, Rebecca Hodgkiss, Zoe Keeble, Derek Kelly, Kim Kirkbride, Chris Lycett, Ellie Mayhew, Niamh McHugh, Daisy Meadowcroft, Martin Meads, Helen Murdoch, Tristan Norton, Lara Nouri, Andy Page, Pete Potts, Barrie Roberts, Graham Roberts, Matthew Roberts, Theo Roberts, Tim Roberts, Carlos Sanchez, Tommy Saunders, Daisy Scott, Alison Steel, Nancy Thomas, Hannah Thompson, Brian Weston, Paul White and Trace Williams.

Thanks are also due to all birders who supplied details of ringed birds to the BTO.

I would like to thank Carl Barimore at the BTO for supplying details of nest recording in Hampshire. The following observers submitted nest record cards to the BTO for 2020: Keith Betton, Ryan Burrell, Bob Cheke, Trevor Codlin, Ruth Croger, Andrew Davidson, Tony Davis, Tara Dempsey, Craig Emms, John Eyre, Graham Giddens, Nicholas Goldsmith, Ian Hampson, John Hughes, Richard Jacobs, Keith Johnson, Nigel Jones, Nigel Lewis, Angus McCullough, Gerald Murphy, Sharon O'Reilly, Graham Roberts, Steve Roberts, Matt Stevens, Philip Truluck, Wessex Ringing Group and West Berkshire Countryside Society Barn Owl Group.

On behalf of Hampshire ringers and nest recorders, I would like to thank all the landowners and managers who allow ringing and nest recording to take place on their land. Without their support and understanding, ringing and nest recording in Hampshire would not be possible. Particular thanks are due to the BTO who administer the British and Irish ringing scheme and who make available comprehensive results via the on-line ringing reports.

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Wintering Blackcaps in Hampshire

Glynne Evans, Graham Roberts & Benjamin Van Doren



Hampshire Blackcap in February (Glynne Evans)

Abstract

A substantial number of Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla* spend their winters in gardens in southern England. They are seen in most Hampshire gardens where there are bird-feeders, and their numbers and pattern of occurrence in an East Cosham garden were noted in an earlier report (Roberts 1996). However, until recently there was relatively little information about the origin of these wintering birds. Here we report on the results from an international study using geolocator technology and with significant input from two Hampshire gardens. The study over five winters, 2016/17 to 2020/21, showed little to suggest that the wintering population includes any of our breeding birds, but that Hampshire wintering Blackcaps originate from a wide swathe of continental Europe—from Spain to Slovenia, a much wider and more southerly area than previously thought. Full reports on the UK-wide and international studies have been presented in peer-reviewed papers published in *Global Change Biology* (Van Doren et al. 2021) and *Proceeding of the Royal Society B* (Delmore et al. 2020).

Introduction

Until the 1950s relatively few Blackcaps wintered in Britain. However numbers have slowly increased, and it is now estimated that there may be more than 10,000 spending the winter in UK. These wintering birds are mainly in southern England with a good number in Hampshire. In the past a few ringing recoveries suggested that at least some of these were originating from southern Germany or Austria. But there was no great certainty and there was speculation that, with warmer winters, an increasing number of breeding birds from northern Britain or Scotland might be stopping off in the south rather than migrating to traditional winter quarters in Iberia.

BMVD conceived and led this study as part of his PhD project at Oxford University. The objective was to use geolocators to find out more about the origin and movement of the UK's wintering Blackcaps, and to use colour-ringing as a means of measuring such aspects as site fidelity, the chronology and duration of stay, winter territories and behaviour of individual birds. The project was undertaken in a collaboration between Oxford University, Exeter University, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Max Planck Institute in Germany, and work commenced in January 2017.

For the project to produce meaningful results, there needed to be a large sample of birds across a wide range of gardens. So the BTO advertised for garden-birdwatchers and ringers to assist with the study. GCMR had been colour-ringing Blackcaps at East Cosham since 1993, so he naturally would participate. GCE anticipated that his Chilbolton garden would provide a reasonable sample of birds, and also soon became involved. The involvement of two Hampshire gardens was helpful to the overall project in complementing the resources available from Exeter University in Devon and Cornwall, and provides an insight specifically about our Hampshire wintering Blackcaps.

Methods

Colour rings

During this study, birds were fitted with a unique combination of four rings – a metal numbered BTO ring and three colour rings, enabling every bird to be identified in the field. Regular observation and recording of every sighting then provided a record of the pattern of garden visits for every individual without the need for birds to be recaptured. Within a winter, this then showed the bird's frequency of visits, duration of stay, likely timing of departure and so forth. And even more valuably, the rings enabled returning birds in subsequent winters to be immediately identified or, more unusually, for a bird to be identified if it turned up elsewhere.

Both GCE and GCMR were licensed to fit colour rings, so nearly all wintering Blackcaps in the Cosham and Chilbolton gardens were fitted with them. In total 145 birds were colour-ringed at Chilbolton in the winter months of 2016/7 to 2020/21, and 263 were colour-ringed at East Cosham between 1992/93 and 2020/21. A few were also colour-ringed elsewhere in Hampshire. Colour-ringed birds were noted on each day that they were seen or re-trapped, and a total of over 9,000 observations was accumulated during the study in the two gardens (3,620 at Chilbolton in five winters and 5,460 at East Cosham in the much longer period).

Geolocators

Blackcaps weigh only about 20g so, with current technology, a geolocator is the only device small enough and light enough to be used for tracking. Weighing 0.5g, a geolocator consists of a battery, clock and logger, and continuously records ambient light levels for about a year—long enough to cover the spring and autumn migrations. The length of each day and time of noon can be determined and used to estimate the bird's latitude and longitude for each day. The accuracy is quite crude, 100km or more, but this is good enough for understanding



Blackcap with colour-rings and geolocator (Glynne Evans)

migratory patterns. The stored data can also be analysed to determine how long birds remain at their wintering sites and the timing of arrival and departure, as well as their breeding areas.

The downside of using a geolocator is that the bird has to be recaptured to retrieve the device and the data it holds. One is therefore dependent on not just the individual bird's survival for a year, but also on the bird returning to the same garden in a subsequent winter, and being able to trap it. It was a condition of the special licensing that only a proportion of the birds be fitted with geolocators – others then being used as a 'control' sample, and to demonstrate an equal likelihood of survival for 'tagged' and 'untagged' birds. A total of 61 geolocators was deployed in Hampshire and 12 of these were retrieved in subsequent years.

Trapping methods

Many birds were trapped using mist nets. However, as noted by GCMR in 1995, this can prove difficult once birds become established in their small territories. We therefore also used electro-magnetically operated potter traps that could be triggered from indoors to catch individually identified birds. All the evidence suggested older returning birds were even more difficult to catch than the average (them old birds didn't get that way without getting wise!). So use of the electro-magnetic potter traps proved particularly important for capturing those special returning birds who were carrying precious geolocators.

Results

Numbers

The long-running East Cosham survey shows numbers increasing significantly between 1970 and the early 1990s. 1993/94 was an exceptional winter with 37 (23 male and 14 female) individuals recorded during the November-February period. Aside from this, there have been relatively minor fluctuations from year to year. Numbers of individuals recorded in the November-February period in the past five winters were 11 (2016/17), 16 (2017/18), 18 (2018/19), 14 (2019/20) and 17 (2020/21). In Chilbolton, typically a dozen birds were ringed each winter during the 1990s, but these were not colour-ringed and no particular effort was made to catch Blackcaps. In the four recent winters of consistent effort, numbers of individuals recorded in the November-February period were 30 (2017/18), 40 (2018/19), 26 (2019/20) and 24 (2020/21).

Colour-ringing has shown that the number of birds that can be seen at any one time can be deceptive. When most are colour-marked, it can be seen that some confine themselves to relatively small territories and feeding stations that they defend vigorously. But other individuals appear when their guard is down and, especially in harsher weather, there is a turnover during the course of a day. It is not unusual in both the East Cosham and Chilbolton gardens for ten or more Blackcaps to put in an appearance during the course of a day. And in both gardens during poor weather, even as many as 16 colour-ringed birds have been seen in one day.

Also, there is turnover during the course of the winter resulting in as many as 40 Blackcaps being noted at the Chilbolton garden over the November-February winter period in 2018/19. Yet more birds appear in March, and evidence from sightings in subsequent years suggests these are mostly wintering birds that are moving around. But there may of course also be some breeding birds arriving, especially in the latter half of the month.

Arrival and departure

A few were recorded in our gardens during October, but these invariably turned out to be transient birds, quite likely on passage. Arrival in our gardens of the first wintering birds was usually in early November. Perhaps surprisingly though, the geolocator data from returning birds show that these arrive nearby typically in October, well before being seen in our gardens (see Figs 2b & 2d). The assumption is that natural food in the form of hedgerow berries is plentiful in October, and birds do not move to gardens till natural foods are diminished. The first to arrive in the gardens are often 'returners' from previous years, suggesting that their previous knowledge of the food source may be relevant, and also perhaps that they are establishing their territories in advance of the less-knowledgeable youngsters.

Numbers do not increase significantly till the end of December or early in the New Year, and often in response to much colder weather. It has been suggested in the past that the significant increase in garden sightings during Christmas is simply an artefact of observer holidays and increased garden feeding and watching. And whilst this is almost certainly a factor, our more consistent and regular observations indicate that it is in fact the period when more Blackcaps do actually arrive in gardens.

Even more Blackcaps appear towards the end of February and at the beginning of March, and this is the peak time for sightings in gardens irrespective of the weather (see Fig 1). Re-sighting and recapture data show that the majority of these are in fact winterers, rather than passage or breeding birds. It may be that they are arriving in response to natural foods becoming totally exhausted. Or it may be that there is local movement at this time as perhaps they seek to build up their reserves prior to migration.

Colour ring sightings, or sudden absences and reducing numbers, show that wintering birds begin to depart in mid-March. This is supported by the evidence from geolocator data (see Figs 2a & 2c). But many birds remain till the end of March, and some remain through to mid-April. There is therefore considerable overlap between the departing winter birds, and arriving UK-breeders - which appear from mid-March onwards in areas where none have been known to winter. At both Chilbolton and East Cosham, several definite wintering birds have stayed till 10th April, with the latest recorded being 18th April at Chilbolton and 21st April at East Cosham.

A most interesting output from the geolocator data shows that unlike on arrival, departing birds move directly from gardens to their breeding areas. The absence of local wanderings is shown by Fig 2c.

Fig 2a shows spring departure dates determined from geolocator data. The dates are those when the geolocator data indicated birds had moved significant distance. These dates (mainly in late March) accord well with visual observation and disappearance of colour-ringed known wintering birds. Fig 2c shows that nearly all these departing birds moved significant distance within a very few days of last being seen. They didn't loiter locally, and in fact the geolocator data details indicated that they moved rapidly to the vicinity of their breeding areas.

Fig 2b shows autumn arrival times determined from geolocator data. The dates are those when the birds first arrived close to their wintering sites, and most are in October. However, these same birds are not seen in their gardens for several weeks. Fig 2d shows for eight birds the number of days between arriving close-by, and actually being seen in a garden. Arriving birds apparently feed on natural foods through October and much of November before then moving to gardens.

Site fidelity

A number of wintering birds return to the same gardens in successive winters. Eleven have been seen after five winters or more, two of these in five consecutive winters. The longest-lived has been seen in its eighth winter – though only recorded in three of the intervening years.

But many birds do not return. Some no doubt perish through natural causes during migration or the breeding season, but there are also several records of colour-ringed birds being sighted in subsequent winters away from their original gardens. For example, one bird at East Cosham was recorded for four consecutive winters, but then in the fifth winter was seen in a garden 2km away.

Movements

It seems likely that short distance movements, such as the one in East Cosham, explain some absences from year to year. But other colour-ringed birds have been seen at greater distances from their original garden. For example, a bird ringed in Chilbolton in March 2017 was seen in a Maidenhead garden (64km NE) in early 2020. And a particularly interesting

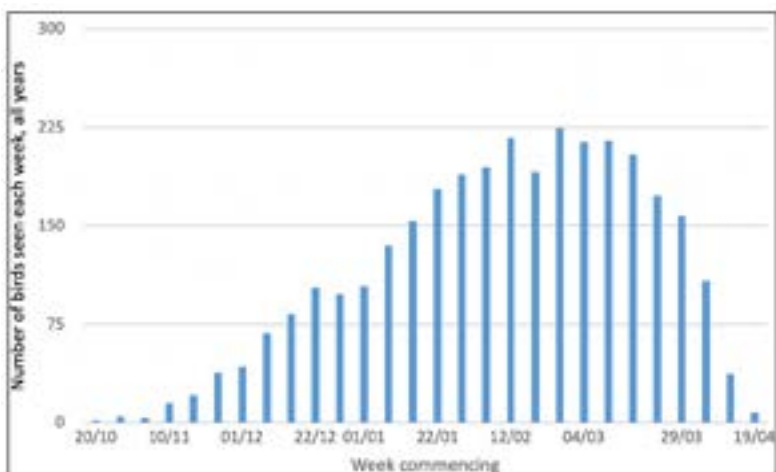


Fig 1. Numbers by week (Oct to Apr) – all years, both gardens combined

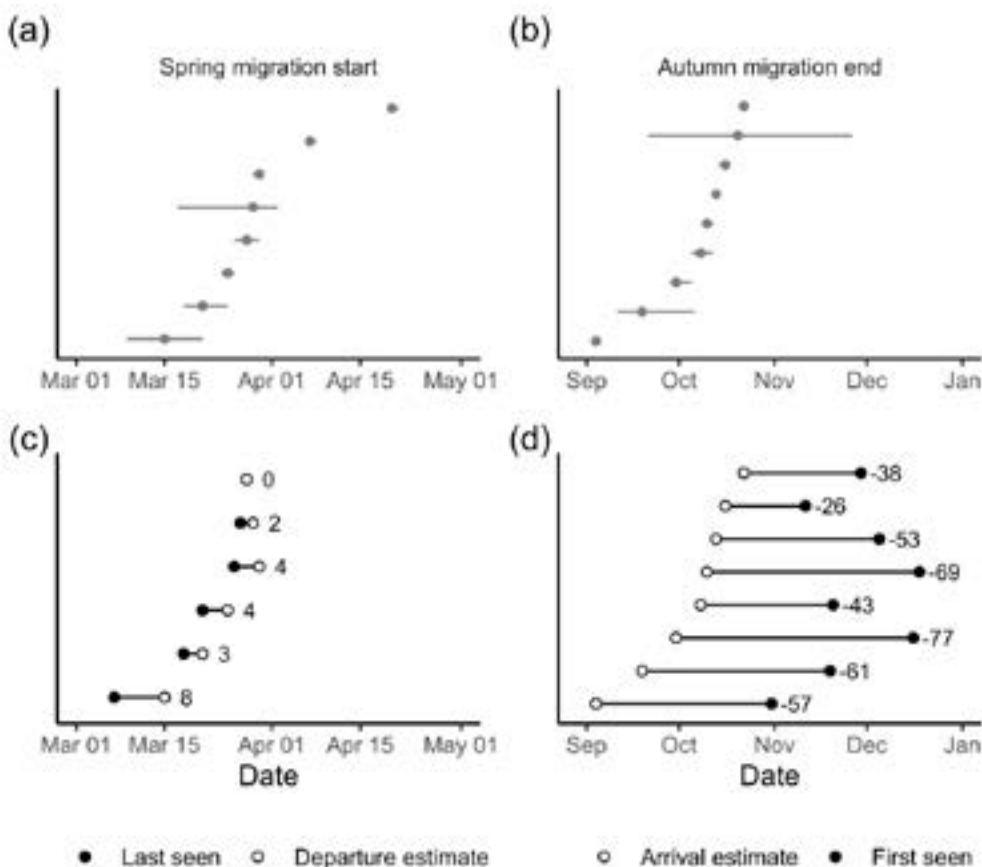


Fig 2. Migration timing of Hampshire wintering Blackcaps, as shown by geolocator estimates. (Numbers in Fig.2 (c) and (d) indicate days between the two dates).

record of a bird wintering in a different area was provided by a colour-marked individual that originally wintered at Chilbolton from 16th Dec 2017 to 10th Apr 2018. The following winter it wintered some 50km away in Swindon where it was seen from 7th Jan to 12th Feb 2019. Even more remarkably, the same bird was then caught on 4th June 2019 by a ringer in northern Germany at its breeding site (see photo). This was a nice example of combined effort by an amateur ringer, a garden bird-watcher and a professional scientist!

Interesting as it was, this movement to northern Germany turned out to be relatively unusual compared with the movements shown by the geolocator tracks of other birds (Fig.3). The majority of these were surprisingly not to the east as might have been expected, but to breeding areas south or south-east of the British Isles. Of the 38 geolocators deployed at Chilbolton, nine were retrieved in subsequent years. The birds were found to have been breeding in central France (4), southern Germany/Austria border area (1), Italy/Slovenia border (1) and English Channel area (a bird that may have been to northern France or south coast of England). Geolocators from two of the France birds were retrieved twice confirming, as would be expected, very similar breeding areas in successive seasons and also offering credibility to the geolocator analyses. Of the 23 geolocators deployed at East Cosham, three were retrieved in subsequent years. The East Cosham birds showed very similar patterns to those from Chilbolton, though one had apparently spent the breeding season south of the Pyrenees in eastern Spain. The others were found to have been breeding in France and southern Germany.

Overall, the study over four winters 2017-2021 showed little to suggest that the wintering population includes any of our breeding birds, but that wintering Blackcaps in Hampshire and other areas of southern England originate from a wide swathe of continental Europe – from Spain to Slovenia. This is a much wider and more southerly area than previously thought or expected from previous ringing recoveries.

Discussion

The South-Eastern Bird Report for 1935 noted that a Blackcap spent the winter of 1934-35 in a garden at Lewes, East Sussex (Whitlock 1936). So it seems likely that a few Blackcaps have always wintered in southern England. But up to 1960 sightings of birds in mid-winter were noteworthy. The HBR for 1960 for example noted just three wintering Blackcaps. By 1980, HBR was reporting birds from a dozen gardens, and wintering Blackcaps were by then widely reported in southern England (Leach 1981). Numbers continued to increase and now there are wintering Blackcaps occurring in nearly every Hampshire garden where suitable feeding is provided. How and why has this change come about?

The current evidence points to three main factors in combination – climate change, supplemental bird feeding and the species inherent flexibility. Prolonged periods of ice and snow are now unusual in Hampshire, so most wintering birds can probably survive on natural food for a large part of the time. But over the same period that winters have become so mild, the general public's fondness for bird-feeding has also increased enormously (Plummer 2015), and much wider varieties of food have become available. Whenever windy, wet, or cold weather prevails, wintering Blackcaps are now able to resort to garden feeding stations pretty much wherever they are in the county. Finally, it appears that the species is particularly adaptable and therefore able to take advantage of these changes in its environment. The species already has considerable migratory flexibility in the east-west migratory divide in central Europe, and the mix of trans-Saharan migration and shorter distance movement to Mediterranean areas (Wernham *et al.* 2002).

As always, this all of course still leaves questions for further research! What proportion of continental Europe's breeding population is making this novel movement to the north-west, and is that proportion still increasing? Use of geolocators on breeding birds in the Linz area of Austria shows only a very small proportion of birds moving to Britain (Delmore *et al.* 2020). But there appears to have been relatively little research on the species in central



Male Blackcap from Chilbolton 2017-18, photographed in Swindon Jan-Feb 2019 (left - Gary Samways) and caught by a ringer in northern Germany June 2019 (right – Joachim Loose).

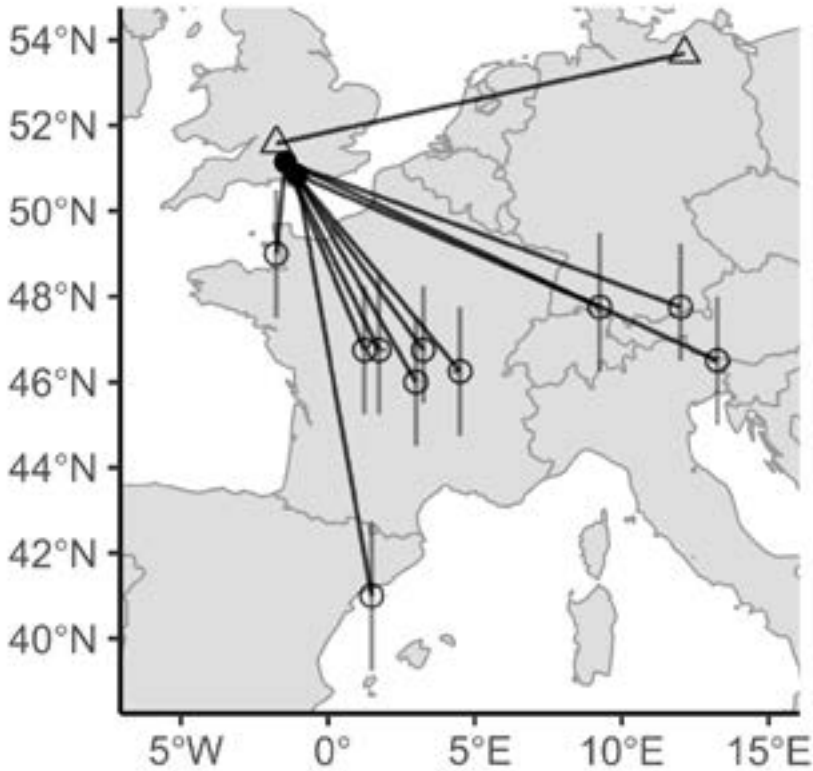


Fig 3. Movements of Blackcaps wintering in Hampshire from light-level geolocator analyses and a single ringing recovery. Circles show breeding site estimates derived from geolocator data (error bars indicate latitude estimates), and triangles show movement of the bird trapped at a breeding site in north-east Germany.

France, where many of our wintering birds originate. And if the species is so flexible, and if a proportion of the birds from continental Europe are finding it advantageous to winter in Hampshire, then why are our breeding birds still all migrating to Iberia or north Africa? And why aren't breeding birds from Scotland and Scandinavia stopping off in Hampshire for the winter? At the moment, it's pretty much a mystery. Maybe some of our wintering birds do stay here; please do look out for colour-ringed birds during the breeding season!

Conclusions

The populations of most migratory species are in decline, but the Blackcap is an exception. Not only has our Hampshire wintering population increased, but also the national breeding population has increased by over 300% during the last 50 years (Burns *et al.* 2020). The Blackcap appears to have modified its movement patterns to take advantage of both climate change and new feeding opportunities. It seems that the Blackcap is a very adaptable species, and it would be no great surprise if in future Hampshire's breeding birds also started to stay for the winter.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported by funding from the Max Planck Society, the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, the American Ornithological Society, the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund and the British Trust for Ornithology. Theo Roberts played a key role in the ringing and recording of colour ring sightings at East Cosham.

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Resident Woodcock in Hampshire

Chris Heward, Greg Conway & Andrew Hoodless



Roding Woodcock (David Thelwell)

Abstract

In Britain, the Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* occurs as both a resident and a common winter visitor. Recent declines observed in the British breeding population have been most pronounced in south and central England, but a sizeable southern population remains in Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire. In Hampshire we estimated a breeding population of 2,930 males (95% Confidence Limits (CL): 2,022 – 3,898) in 2013. Hampshire's breeding population declined by an estimated 36% between 2003 and 2013 compared to a national decline of 29%. Repeat surveys conducted in Hampshire between 2013 and 2019 suggest a moderate increase in abundance since the 2013 national survey, but this must be regarded with some caution.

Background

Most of Europe's 13.8–17.4 million Woodcock are migratory (Birdlife International 2018). It is thought that around one million migrant Woodcock visit the British Isles each year, wintering alongside a small resident population of Woodcock. Resident Woodcock populations only exist at the western edge of the species' range, where the Atlantic maritime climate reduces seasonal variation in temperature. Similar resident populations are found in Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and northern Spain, all of which also host migrant populations in winter. Surprisingly, there are no known physical differences between resident Woodcock and their migratory counterparts.

Some resident populations are experiencing long-term declines. A national survey of resident Woodcock was established in 2003 to monitor Britain's breeding population following a long-term reduction in the species' British range (Gibbons *et al.* 1993). The GWCT/BTO Breeding Woodcock Surveys use a bespoke methodology, which maximises detection of an otherwise difficult-to-survey species by conducting counts at dusk when male Woodcock perform their breeding display. Known as roding, this display consists of a two-part 'whistle-and-grunt' call repeated during a distinctive display flight. Each male flies large overlapping circuits over areas of woodland and competes with rival males for the attention of females who gather in clearings below.

Breeding Woodcock Survey data are collected across a stratified sample of random squares, categorised by region and woodland area. This allows the population estimate to account for natural variation in abundance depending on location and habitat availability. Density estimates for each stratum are used to calculate regional and national estimates of Woodcock abundance. The 2003 Breeding Woodcock Survey estimated Britain's population at 78,346 males (95% CL: 61,717-96,493) (Hoodless *et al.* 2009). This was significantly larger than previous estimates produced using less targeted methodologies. By 2013 this estimate of abundance had declined by 29% (55,241 males, 95% CL: 41,806-69,004) (Heward *et al.* 2015). In 2015 the Woodcock was given Red List status owing to the continued decline in site occupancy recorded by Bird Atlas 2007-II data (Balmer *et al.* 2013).

Both the Bird Atlas 2007-II and Breeding Woodcock Survey data suggest that site occupancy has declined fastest in southern and western Britain. There are few historic records of Woodcock breeding in Cornwall, Devon and south-west Wales (Holloway 2002), but recent declines have extended the area in which breeding Woodcock are absent. Extensive losses through central Wales, the English Midlands and Kent have isolated the remaining southern breeding population, which centres on the counties of Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire. The persistence of this southern population appears to correspond with the presence of large well-connected woodland blocks (Heward *et al.* 2015).

This paper describes our current knowledge of Hampshire's breeding Woodcock population and presents it in a national context. We use the results of the 2003 and 2013 national Breeding Woodcock Survey to estimate the size, distribution and population trend of Hampshire's population. The significance of this information is discussed with relevance to the conservation of Britain's resident breeding population.

Methods

The size of Hampshire's Woodcock population is estimated using data from the national GWCT/BTO Breeding Woodcock Survey conducted in 2013. The methodology



Woodcock (Chris Heward)

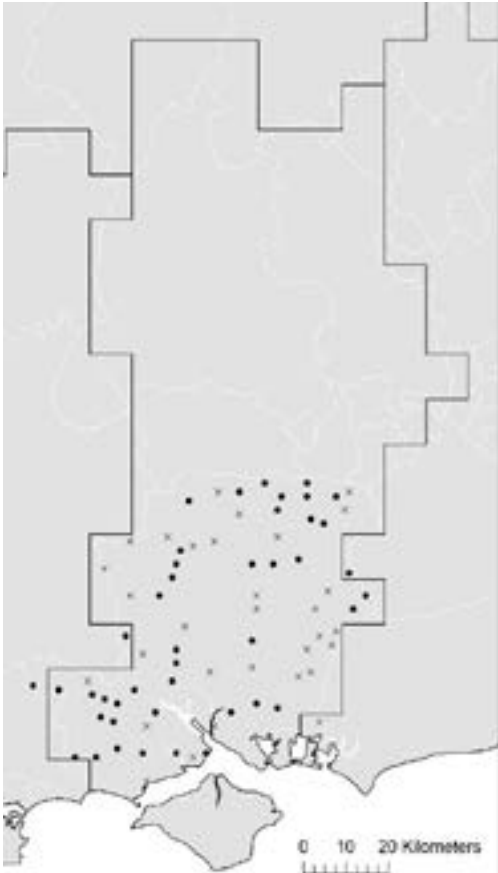


Figure 1. Map of the 'Central South' region created for the Breeding Woodcock Survey stratification.

[Hampshire 1x1km squares surveyed in the 2013 survey are shown, with filled circles representing sites where breeding Woodcock were present and crosses were Woodcock were not found. Fine white lines represent administrative boundaries.]

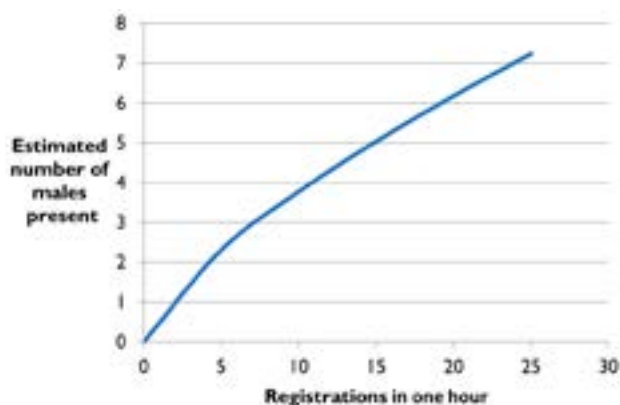


Figure 2. Estimated male densities from registrations in 60 minutes.

of this survey, and its 2003 predecessor, are described in greater detail in Heward *et al.* (2015) and Hoodless *et al.* (2009).

Selection of survey squares. A national list of 2,677 randomly selected OS grid squares was produced. To qualify for selection, squares had to contain >10 ha of woodland and be at least three km (centre-to-centre) from previously selected squares. The random sample represented four 'woodland area' categories in similar proportions (10–30, 31–50, 51–70 and 71–100 ha of woodland). The list of random squares was published on-line from which volunteer surveyors could select squares to survey.

Roding surveys. A preliminary visit was made to chosen squares in April to identify a suitable count point, e.g. an open clearing or the intersect of two rides. Three further visits were made to the count point during May–June, each at least one week apart. Visits were 60 minutes long and began 15 minutes before sunset. Surveyors were instructed not to conduct roding counts if wind speed exceeded Beaufort Scale 3 or if rain exceeded a light shower or drizzle. Surveyors recorded each instance that they saw or heard a Woodcock as a separate 'registration'.

Estimating Hampshire's population size. A preliminary sonogram study used sound recordings of roding surveys to separate individual males based upon differences in their calls. It found a consistent relationship between the number of Woodcock 'registrations' (i.e. sightings of an unknown number of males) and the true number of male Woodcock present. The following calibration equation was used to estimate male density from the number of registrations recorded in 60 minutes (see Hoodless *et al.* 2008).

$Y = 0.74N^{0.708}$ where Y = estimated number of males and N = number of registrations as illustrated in Figure 2.

The estimated number of males at each count point was taken to be approximately equivalent to the density per sq km (Hoodless *et al.* 2009). For surveys conducted within the borders of Hampshire, we calculated an average male Woodcock density for each of the four woodland area categories (W_s). These were then multiplied by the number of squares in the county belonging to each woodland area category (K_s), and summed across the four categories ($W_H = \sum_{s=1}^4 W_s \times K_s$ where W_H is the estimated number of male Woodcock in Hampshire).

Confidence limits (CL) were produced using 1,000 bootstrap samples per woodland area stratum, each equal in sample size to the number of squares surveyed.

We used data from the 2003 Breeding Woodcock Survey (Hoodless *et al.* 2009) to estimate the size of Hampshire's breeding population in 2003, following the same survey methodology

and analysis described above. We then calculated the difference between the 2003 and 2013 population estimates to assess population change over the ten-year period.

Following the 2013 national survey, some surveyors continued to visit their chosen survey site(s). Data from these revisited sites, which originate from the original random sample, means that random survey sites were more likely to be revisited if higher numbers of Woodcock were present in 2013 (Heward 2015), and the national sample is biased towards the south where squares tend to be more accessible. Nevertheless, these repeat survey sites give some impression of population change among occupied sites. We measured annual change in Woodcock abundance using a Generalised Linear Model (GLM). This statistical model allows us to account for differences between sites and the fact that not all sites were visited every year. The results express each year's average count and standard errors as a proportion of the first year (i.e. 2003 = 1).

Results

The initial list of 2,677 random squares created for the national Breeding Woodcock Surveys included 128 squares within Hampshire, 73 of which were surveyed. In 2013 Woodcock were recorded in 43 of these (59%). When weighted by the availability of the four woodland area categories, an estimated 55% of wooded 1x1 km squares in Hampshire support resident Woodcock.

Hampshire's Woodcock population, based on the 2013 Breeding Woodcock Survey data, was estimated at 2,930 males (95% CL: 2,022-3,898 males) (Table 1). This equates to approximately 5.3% of the British breeding population and 12.0% of the English breeding population. Weighted by the availability of the four woodland strata, average density at occupied sites was 2.55 ± 0.16 males per sq km (1 Standard Error). Average densities were broadly similar among the three lowest woodland area categories but markedly higher among squares containing >70 ha of woodland (Table 1). Sixteen of Hampshire's Breeding Woodcock Survey squares fell within the boundary of the New Forest National Park and resident Woodcock were recorded in all but three.

Table 1. Sample sizes, site occupancy, mean density and population estimates for the four woodland area strata in Hampshire in 2017. (The Hampshire-wide totals and means are weighted based on the availability of squares belonging to these four strata.)

Woodland area category	Hants squares surveyed	Total number of squares in Hants	Site Occupancy (%)	Mean density at occupied sites	Estimated number of males	Lower 95% CL	Upper 95% CL
10-30 ha	16	1,253	56.3	2.34	1,650	873	2,507
31-50 ha	16	469	43.8	2.40	493	209	797
51-70 ha	20	175	60.0	2.86	300	151	484
71-100 ha	21	158	71.4	4.31	486	329	639
Total	73	2,055	54.9	2.55	2,930	2,013	3,859

The 2003 Woodcock population was estimated at 4,580 males (95% CL: 3,265-5,986 males) based on 59 squares surveyed in Hampshire. The 2013 estimate represented a population decline of 36% during the ten-year period. Among the 54 squares visited in both national surveys, 26 out of 40 occupied sites recorded a decline (65%). There were five occupied squares that had apparently lost breeding Woodcock completely by 2013. This compares to 15 squares that recorded an increase, including one apparently unoccupied square that had gained breeding Woodcock by 2013. The mean number of registrations recorded fell from 8.67 ± 8.88 (1 Standard Deviation) to 6.67 ± 8.01 (1 SD) registrations.

Of the 78 squares surveyed in Hampshire (in either 2003, 2013 or both), 45 have been visited at least once since 2013. The number of sites in Hampshire receiving repeat surveys

varied between years but averaged 21.8 sites for the period 2014-2019 (range = 11 to 31). From 2013 onwards, there appears to be a modest increase in the number of Woodcock registrations recorded in Hampshire. The mean number of registrations recorded in 2013, 2014 and 2015 are significantly lower than those recorded in 2003, but from 2016 onwards means are similar to those recorded in 2003. The most recent surveys, conducted in Hampshire in 2019, recorded average numbers of registrations that are around 10% lower than those recorded in the initial 2003 surveys (but an increase of 21% since 2013) (Figure 3).

Estimated annual change shows a high degree of variation, most noticeably a pronounced spike in the number of registrations in 2016. This slight recovery is not seen on a national scale, where breeding Woodcock populations appear to have remained relatively stable since 2013 (British Trust for Ornithology 2019). These repeat surveys, although based on the initial random sample, are probably biased towards more favourable sites and estimated trends are likely to represent a 'best case' scenario (see Discussion).

Discussion

Hampshire holds approximately 12% of England's breeding Woodcock population. Along with contiguous breeding areas in West Sussex and Surrey, this forms the largest population of Woodcock in Southern England. This southern population's range stretches from east Dorset and Wiltshire to the western edge of East Sussex and as far north as the M4. Apart from single isolated records through central southern England, the only other extensive clusters of occupied 10 x10 km squares south of the Peak District are found in Thetford Forest, the Forest of Dean and parts of Kent. This is clearly shown in Figure 4 which illustrates the breeding distribution in Britain and Ireland from the Bird Atlas 2007-11.

Historically Woodcock bred over a much larger area of southern England. In the first Bird Atlas (1968-72) they were relatively widespread in every English county except Somerset, Devon and Cornwall (Sharrock 1977). The species' distribution was probably similar during the first half of the 20th century, but followed a rapid expansion recorded during the mid-19th century linked to the planting of new woods (Holloway 2002). Records of breeding in the British Isles prior to this are infrequent and generally refer to Scottish populations.

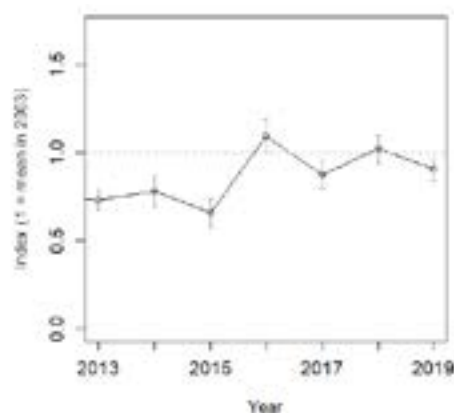


Figure 3. Change in the average number of Woodcock registrations at repeat survey sites in Hampshire. Values are presented relative to the 2003 mean (horizontal line).
(Error bars represent 1 Standard Error)



Figure 4. Breeding distribution of Woodcock in Britain and Ireland in 2008-11 showing stronghold in the south in Hampshire, Surrey & West Sussex (Bird Atlas 2007-11).

The Hampshire population was estimated to have declined by around 36% between 2003 and 2013, very close to the England-wide estimate of 35.1% (Heward *et al.* 2015). This is steeper than the British decline of 29% which is buoyed by a large northern Scottish population that declined by less than 1%. The analysis of change presented here suggests that Hampshire's Woodcock populations may have begun to recover slightly since 2016. This does not appear to be the case nationally, although there is evidence that the population trend is beginning to stabilise (BTO 2019). It is important to acknowledge the limitations of this analysis; the sub-sample of sites receiving repeat visits demonstrates a bias towards more favourable squares and the number of sites visited is relatively small.

Weather is known to cause annual fluctuations in roding survey results. Nationally, the repeat survey results recorded the steepest decline between 2008 and 2009, following a cold winter, and the lowest mean registrations in 2011, following the cold winter of 2010. It is possible that exceptionally dry summers could have an equally harmful effect given that Woodcock need access to soil-dwelling invertebrates to feed. Weather variables could account for the sharp spike in Woodcock registrations recording in 2016, given that spring rainfall and temperatures were very close to the long-term average and followed a notably mild winter.

The persistence of Woodcock populations in southern England is closely correlated with woodland area. This is reflected in the mean densities at occupied sites which were significantly higher in the most heavily wooded squares. The New Forest National Park is likely to play an important role in supporting Woodcock in Hampshire, but only a small sample of our survey squares fell within the National Park (16 squares), preventing a detailed sub-analysis of these sites. The fact that occupancy levels were so high, however, would suggest that the New Forest makes a very significant contribution to Hampshire's high population estimate. Woodland area alone is unlikely to be driving declines, given the Woodcock's once wide range included many more sparsely wooded landscapes than today. Instead, patterns of decline are more likely to reflect an interaction between woodland area and habitat quality. It is thought that habitat diversity and early successional woodland are important to Woodcock and these features may be less common in smaller woods, particularly as they are less likely to receive active woodland management. Southern Woodcock populations may face added pressures, unrelated to habitat, that have a smaller impact on northern populations breeding in remote upland regions, e.g. human disturbance of nests.

Continued monitoring will allow us to reassess population trends and examine the possible stabilisation or recovery hinted at by the repeat surveys. More certain estimates of population trends will only come from another large-scale survey like those completed in 2003 and 2013, where high levels of participation reduce bias towards favourable squares. We are hopeful that a third national survey, continuing the pattern of ten-year intervals, will be conducted in 2023. Prospective surveyors will be able to volunteer via the BTO website nearer the time or may, in the meantime, volunteer to survey a repeat survey site (see <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/woodcock-survey>). The conservation of the Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire Woodcock population may have implications beyond the three counties. Woodcock do not generally disperse over large distances, so it may be important to maintain a southern population from which Woodcock can recolonise historic breeding sites if populations are able to recover.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all volunteers who conducted surveys and to the BTO Regional Representatives who coordinated participation. We thank Rob Fuller, Nicholas Aebischer, Dan Chamberlain and Julie Ewald for their help with survey design and stratification in 2003; Nicki Read for undertaking the data entry in 2003 and Iain Downie for implementing the on-line data capture in 2013.

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Low Tide Counts in Southampton Water in winter 2018/19

John Shillitoe



Southampton Water looking north from Fawley Power Station (Keith Betton)

Abstract

The results of the series of Low Tide Counts of wetland bird species in the estuary of Southampton Water for winter 2018/19 are presented. Counts are compared for selected species with those from the survey in 1994/95 (with reference to similar counts in 2000/01 and 1990/91) and also with counts carried out at high tide for winter 2018/19. Changes over the 24-year period are shown and possible reasons for them are discussed and conclusions drawn for conservation planning.

Introduction

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) organised by the BTO is a monthly survey of major inland and coastal water bodies around Britain, known as Core Counts. The coastal counts are usually carried out at high tide. At this time wading birds are often concentrated at a limited number of roost sites above high water and waterfowl usually loaf on the water or feed on fields adjacent to the water body. At high tide birds can thus be counted relatively easily. However, this does not reflect the importance of the harbour or estuary as a feeding resource when the mud or saltmarsh is exposed. In 1993 the BTO instigated a series of counts at major coastal sites to be undertaken at low tide, with the intention of surveying each site approximately every six years. More information about these counts can be found on the BTO website (Wetland Bird Survey). Southampton Water was counted annually at low tide from 1994/1995 until 2000/2001, but it had not been counted since then until the current series of counts in 2018/19. The data from all these counts are held on the BTO WeBS website (WeBS Report Online). An earlier series of counts in winter 1990/91 pre-dates the BTO counts (Unsworth 1991).

Southampton Water

For the purposes of Low Tide Count surveying, Southampton Water is defined as the area of open water and coastline from Hill Head in the east to Calshot in the west. It extends north-west up Southampton Water to the River Test and includes the tidal sections of the Rivers Itchen and Hamble, plus the outlet from the River Meon. In the east the hinterland from Hill Head to the River Hamble is essentially agricultural consisting of both arable and grazing land. From the mouth of the Hamble to the mouth of the Itchen there is a mix of woodland, housing and amenity grassland, with the Hamble Oil Terminal on the north-west side of the Hamble. The land from the mouth of the Itchen to the mouth of the Test is heavily



Figure 1. Sectors used for LTC in Southampton Water

industrialised by the Port of Southampton and is all protected behind a sea wall. The western side of Southampton Water from the Test south to (the now reclaimed) Dibden Bay is mainly a mix of mudflats and saltmarsh, with grazing on the landward side, apart from the military port at Marchwood. From Hythe, at the south end of Dibden Bay down to Calshot Marshes, the land is heavily developed with extensive housing plus the major industrial sites of Fawley Refinery and the now-disused Fawley Power Station. The shoreline of the refinery is a high security area and there is no unauthorised access to the shore. From the refinery a jetty projects into Southampton Water where oil tankers are loaded and unloaded. At Calshot there is a shingle spit protecting an area of saltmarsh inland of which is a mix of agricultural and recreational uses.

With the exception of the Port of Southampton and Fawley Refinery, the shoreline of Southampton Water and the tidal parts of the rivers issuing into it can be counted from publicly accessible viewpoints. The Port, which has deeply dredged channels, provides limited wetland bird habitat which can be viewed from the western side of Southampton Water. The shoreline of the refinery for about 5km cannot be counted from the shore. As this is a valuable feeding/roosting area for waterbirds, it was necessary to obtain use of a shallow-draft boat to count this area.

Southampton Water is part of the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA). This extensive area is protected in part or whole by a number of designations reflecting its importance as a wildlife site including RAMSAR, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and SPA (Special Protection Area). Its designation as an SPA is as a result of qualifying populations of non-breeding Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*. It should be noted that the SPA covers a much larger area than Southampton Water. It extends from Hill Head to Hurst Spit in Hampshire and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay on the Isle of Wight. Around Southampton Water there are also a number of sites which are protected as National and Local Nature Reserves.

Methodology

For the first series of Low Tide Counts (LTC) in 1994/95, Southampton Water was subdivided into 32 sectors (Figure 1). There have been some minor alterations to the sectors since then. For the purposes of comparisons between the current survey and the survey in 1994/1995, adjustments have been carried out on the older data.

The counts for winter 2018/2019 were mainly carried out on the weekends of Nov 3rd/4th, Dec 1st/2nd, Jan 26th/27th and Feb 16th/17th. The boat was only available on weekdays and its use was subject to weather conditions, so the boat counts were carried out on different dates. All sectors were counted in each of the four months of the survey. Further information about the methodology can be found in Shillitoe (2010).

Results of 2018/19 Low Tide Count

Table 1 below gives the totals for the main species across Southampton Water. Results are presented for 29 separate taxa comprising eight waterfowl (swans, geese and ducks), five mixed species (grebes, cormorant, herons and rails), 12 shorebirds and four gulls. In addition, a further 24 species were recorded and are listed below the table. The right-hand columns have the corresponding counts for low tide winter 1994/95 and high tide 2018/19.

These totals need to be used with some caution; they are simply the sum of the counts recorded for each of the sectors and do not make allowance for movements between sectors. However, counts are carried out at low tide when movements are limited and follow the methodology used by BTO in analysing low tide WeBS data.

A further 24 species were also recorded. This list includes the maximum count and the month in which it occurred): Black Swan (10, Jan), Pintail (9, Nov), Eider (14, Jan), Goldeneye (1, Dec), Velvet Scoter (1, Dec), Common Scoter (7, Dec), Long-tailed Duck (1, Jan, Feb), Goosander (6, Jan), Red-throated Diver (1, Dec), Black-throated Diver (2, Dec), Great Northern Diver (2, Dec), Black-necked Grebe (2, Jan), Water Rail (1, Nov), Coot (1, Nov), Whimbrel (3, Jan), Bar-tailed Godwit (1, Dec), Snipe (1, Nov), Common Sandpiper (4, Nov), Greenshank (10, Nov), Mediterranean Gull (3, Jan, Feb), Yellow-legged Gull (1, Nov, Jan), Lesser Black-backed Gull (5, Feb), Sandwich Tern (2, Nov) and Kingfisher (5, Nov).

The total number of birds recorded in 1994/95, based on the maximum month for each species, was 22,045 and the equivalent in 2018/19 had dropped by 12% to 19,318.

Species Distribution

As would be expected, with a variety of habitats available around Southampton Water, bird distribution varied according to species and the available habitat in each sector. The distribution of selected species is discussed below.

Geese. Dark-bellied Brent Goose (peak count 2,239, January) is one of the qualifying species for the SPA designation of Solent and Southampton Water. At low tide they are widely distributed across Southampton Water, but a large majority is concentrated on, and just offshore from, the eastern mudflats between the Hamble and Meon. While this area is prone to human disturbance, there is extensive arable and grazed farmland adjacent to the shore for roosting and feeding. Smaller numbers use the saltmarsh and mud on the upper reaches of Southampton Water and around the mouth of the Itchen. Most of the west side of Southampton Water is not used at low tide. Canada Goose (peak 103, Jan) does not usually use salt water habitats, so those found on the survey were confined to the areas around the Hamble and Eling Great Marsh at the mouth of the Test.

Ducks. Shelduck (peak 131, Feb) were mainly confined to the southern parts of the western side of Southampton Water, with only single-figure counts north from Dibden Bay and on the eastern side. Gadwall (peak 58, Jan) records came almost exclusively from the foreshore of Hill Head, with the only other records from the nearby Hamble. Wigeon (peak 2,040, Jan) occurred commonly all along the western side of Southampton Water, with concentrations in sectors with saltmarsh around Calshot to the south, Hythe Spartina midway up, and especially at Eling Great Marsh and Bury Marshes in the upper estuary at the mouth of the Test. On the eastern shore there were good numbers around the mouth and lower reaches of the Hamble. Mallard (peak 162, Jan/Feb) were widespread around Southampton Water. They occurred in the western sectors with areas of saltmarsh. Birds also occurred well inland on the tidal Itchen and similarly on the tidal stretches of the Hamble. The mudflats at the mouth of the Meon were also attractive to Mallard. Teal (peak 544, Feb) distribution at low tide was similar to Wigeon, albeit in much smaller numbers, with concentrations at Calshot, Hythe, Bury Marsh and Eling Great Marshes on the west shore and the mouth and tidal stretches of the Hamble. Teal is one of the four qualifying species for the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

Table 1. Low tide monthly counts for 2018/19, low tide winter maxima for 2018/19 and 1994/95 and high tide winter maxima for 2018/19.

Species	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Low tide maximum 2018/19	Low tide maximum 1994/95	High tide maximum 2018/19
Brent Goose	1,237	2,111	2,293	1,876	2,293	1,600	1,986
Canada Goose	52	94	105	61	105	151	657
Mute Swan	37	88	45	70	88	92	81
Shelduck	10	36	101	131	131	239	158
Gadwall	15	3	58	53	58	4	119
Wigeon	1,346	1,751	2,040	1,763	2,040	1,368	2,031
Mallard	146	143	162	162	162	126	411
Teal	67	182	483	544	544	874	1,173
Little Grebe	13	18	21	14	21	8	39
Great Crested Grebe	42	43	113	41	113	36	101
Grey Heron	21	21	5	2	21		28
Cormorant	70	61	65	48	70	115	91
Moorhen	33	29	25	18	33		56
Oystercatcher	1,044	882	711	680	1,044	1,272	922
Lapwing	102	834	97	797	834	1,546	898
Golden Plover	122	45	6	47	122	320	169
Grey Plover	57	75	66	75	75	222	115
Ringed Plover	58	85	92	129	129	245	62
Curlew	351	221	407	402	407	535	404
Black-tailed Godwit	184	165	91	275	275	23	392
Turnstone	173	203	131	106	203	307	205
Knot	0	0	25	16	25		19
Sanderling	15	52	45	0	52	0	34
Dunlin	922	1,966	5,084	2,579	5,084	5,885	2,222
Redshank	211	227	195	197	227	813	355
Black-headed Gull	2,584	2,089	3,699	4,099	4,099	5,487	2,060
Common Gull	30	134	47	117	134	145	79
Great Black-backed Gull	26	36	29	29	36		12
Herring Gull	733	446	722	742	742	247	94
All water bird species					19,318	22,045	14,973

Waders. Oystercatcher (peak 1,044, Nov) was recorded from all sectors, including the tidal reaches of the Itchen and Hamble. There were significant gatherings at Dibden Bay and at the mouths of the Hamble and Meon and at the upper end of Southampton Water leading to the mouth of the Test. **Lapwing (peak 834, Dec)** was recorded in good numbers, but were concentrated in one sector at Hythe Marshes, with much smaller numbers from just three other sectors at Eling Great Marsh and the mouth and tidal reaches of the Hamble. **Golden Plover (peak 122, Nov)** was recorded in all four months of the survey, but only

in the Bunny Meadows area of the southern stretch of the Hamble. **Grey Plover (peak 75, Dec/ Feb)** was recorded in small numbers from eleven sectors, but were confined to those with large areas of mud around Dibden Bay and at the mouths of the Itchen, Hamble and Meon. **Ringed Plover (peak 129, Feb)**, although one of the designated species for the whole of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, was recorded in relatively small numbers from a limited number of sectors. The largest concentration was on the mudflats in the mid-section around Hythe. Otherwise most were found on the mud between the mouths of the Hamble and Meon. **Curlew (peak 407, Jan)** was similar to Oystercatcher, in that it was recorded from almost all sectors, although in smaller numbers. The largest numbers were on the western side of Southampton Water, with the main concentration on the eastern side around the mouth and tidal stretch of the Hamble. **Black-tailed Godwit (peak 275, Feb)** is also one of the qualifying species for the SPA designation. Birds occur in small numbers in most sectors, with the main concentrations at Bury Marsh and the lower reaches of the Hamble. **Turnstone (peak 203, Dec)** was recorded on most of the eastern coastal mud flats between the mouths of the Itchen and Meon. They were also recorded around Calshot Spit and on the mudflats from Hythe to Dibden. **Sanderling (peak 52, Dec)** roost at high tide at Hill Head and at low tide spread out over the nearby beaches/mudflats. **Dunlin (peak 5,084, Jan)** was widely distributed around the mudflats of Southampton Water. Flocks of more than 100 were recorded from the areas around Hythe and Dibden Bay on the western side and around the mouths of the Itchen and Hamble on the eastern side. **Redshank (peak 227, Dec)** was widely recorded across Southampton Water, including the tidal stretches of the Itchen and Hamble, but in relatively small numbers. The only area where they were not recorded was from Weston Shore to Hamble Common.

Gulls and other species. **Black-headed Gull** and **Herring Gull** were recorded from all sectors, with winter maxima of 4,099 and 742 respectively. **Common Gull** was also widely distributed, but in much smaller numbers (winter max. 134). **Great Black-backed Gull** was also well distributed, but no sector held more than single figures. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Mediterranean Gull** and **Yellow-legged Gull** were recorded in small numbers but no sector held more than two birds. **Little Egret (peak 53, Nov)** was distributed in small numbers all around the shores of Southampton Water and along the Hamble.

Count comparison considerations

Comparing the sum of the sector totals of species has to be done with caution, as there are a number of factors which can affect the numbers. There are the obvious day-to-day differences in weather, visibility and degree of disturbance which will impact the number of birds counted. Wildfowl in particular may move temporarily during periods of severe cold weather and waders may move inland when flooding of river valleys present feeding opportunities. Also, as Southampton Water is an extensive area, it is inevitable that birds will move between sectors, undetected by counters. The number of sectors counted from a boat differed between the early counts and the latest count, so the time a sector was counted (relative to low tide), and hence whether birds were using it, could vary between the two series of counts.

The normal high tide Core Counts were continued throughout the period. Direct comparisons of numbers recorded during Low Tide and Core Counts also have to be treated with caution. The Core Count methodology attempts to synchronise counts across a waterbody to the same date, thus allowing a population estimate to be made avoiding double and under-counting. The Low Tide Count methodology focusses on the importance and usage that birds make of the habitat available at low tide. It is therefore acceptable to count different sectors on different dates, with the possibility of counting the same birds in different sectors. Many birds stay in Southampton Water over all states of the tide. However, the shape of the waterbody and the similar habitat to both the east and west into The Solent, mean it is likely that many birds which use Southampton Water at low tide spend the high tide period elsewhere – and vice versa.

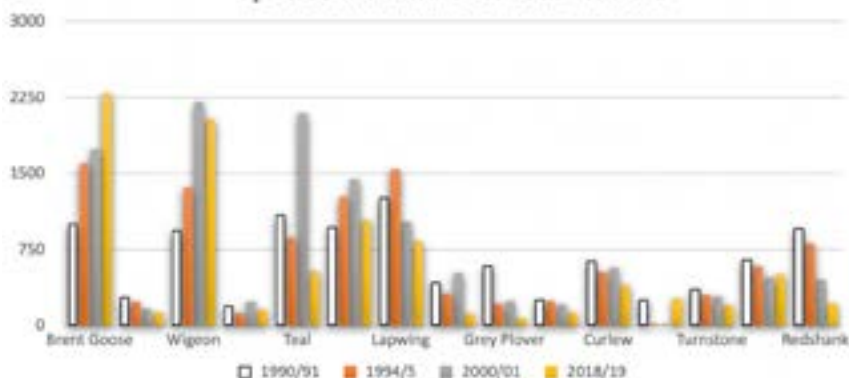


Figure 2. Selected species maximum low tide counts for winters 1990/91, 1994/95, 2000/01 and 2018/19.

In the following section, comparisons are made of selected species, where there appears to be a substantial change in numbers.

Species Comparison and Discussion

To add historical context, Figure 2 shows the maximum winter counts for selected species for the current survey, the most recent and oldest of the surveys in the period 1994/95 to 2000/01 plus the survey carried out in 1990/91. Some species show consistent trends over the four winter periods (e.g. increasing Brent Goose and declining Redshank), while for others a possibly atypical high (or low) maximum count may mask a trend (e.g. declining Teal and Lapwing).

The maps below (Figures 3 to 5) show the distribution of three of the most important species - Brent Goose, Wigeon and Black-tailed Godwit - in winter 2018/19 (red dots) and in winter 1994/95 (blue dots). Unless stated otherwise, comparisons are made between the maximum monthly count for each winter. The placement of dots on the map is based on numbers of birds present in the sector and the proportion of habitat component. They do not represent the position of individual birds. (For details see the Low Tide Counts - Data Presentation page of the WeBS website).

The remainder of this section compares the current survey with that in 1994/95, with reference to other surveys where appropriate. The comparison is made to the 1994/95 data, rather than the older data for winter 1990/91, as the latter used some different sector definitions and pre-dates the BTO system, meaning that comparison maps cannot be produced.

Brent Goose. The number of Brent Geese using Southampton Water at low tide has increased between the two counts (1994/95 monthly max. 1,600; 2018/19 max. 2,293), continuing the trend from 1990/91. This is also reflected in an increase in numbers counted at high tide via the monthly Core Counts (1994/95 max. 1,179; 2018/19 max. 1,986). Figure 3 also shows that the distribution of birds at low tide has changed, with fewer in the south-west of Southampton Water and an increase on the eastern side, especially from the Hamble to the Meon.

Wigeon. Wigeon are present at low tide in approximately similar numbers to Brent Geese and have also shown an increase between the two series of counts (1994/95 max. 1,368; 2018/19 max. 2,040) and also continuing the trend since 1990/91. As can be seen from Figure 4, the distribution of birds has also changed. Birds still use the saltmarshes on the west side of Southampton Water but many also used the mouth and lower reaches of the Hamble in 2018/19.

Teal. Teal numbers were between 30% and 40% lower in the 2018/19 survey compared to 1994/95. Although not as pronounced as Wigeon, there was an increase in birds using the saltmarshes at the mouth of the Hamble. The overall reduction of numbers is a cause for concern, as Teal is one of the species identified in the SPA designation (although it should

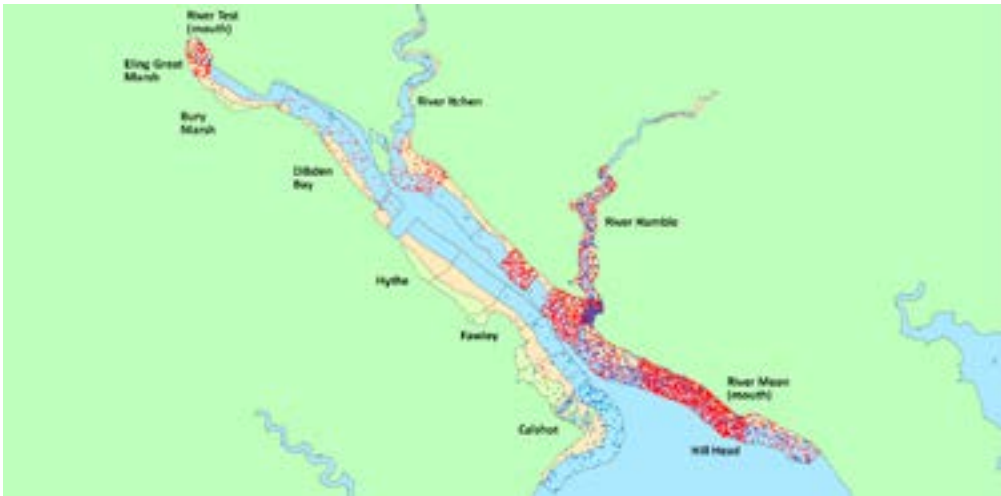


Figure 3. Brent Goose distributions in winter 2018/19 (red) and winter 1994/95 (blue)



Figure 4. Wigeon distributions in winter 2018/19 (red) and 1994/95 (blue)



Figure 5. Black-tailed Godwit distributions in winter 2018/19 (red) and 1994/95 (blue)

be emphasised that the SPA area includes much of The Solent and the Isle of Wight, not just Southampton Water).

Other wildfowl species. Other species of wildfowl were present at low tide in smaller numbers than Brent Goose, Wigeon and Teal and have experienced different changes over the period. Mute Swan numbers have stayed stable or reduced slightly and Canada Goose has also stayed stable. Shelduck numbers have dropped by around 50%, while Mallard have increased by a similar amount. Gadwall have grown substantially from less than five in 1994/95 to counts exceeding 50.

Oystercatcher. Maximum counts of Oystercatcher declined between the comparison winters by around 18% at low tide; however there was an increase of around 25% at high tide (max. 739 in 1994/95). Numbers counted at high tide tend to have increased whereas those at low tide have reduced. This suggests that a decreasing number are using the estuary at low tide, but an increasing percentage of them are remaining to roost at high tide.

Ringed Plover. Ringed Plover, which is one of the species identified in the SPA designation, showed a decline of almost 50% at low tide. The numbers recorded at high tide have declined by nearly three-quarters (max. 231 in 1994/95). Although the SPA designation covers a much larger area than Southampton Water, this decline is of concern and probably reflects a declining Hampshire population.

Curlew. The Curlew population at low tide is smaller than that of Oystercatcher and has declined rather more by around 24%. The national and international decline of Curlew is reflected in the declining low tide counts.

Black-tailed Godwit. Black-tailed Godwit numbers in Southampton Water have undergone an apparently significant increase since 1994/95. However the counts in 2018/19 were similar to those from the earliest series of counts in 1990/91. Birds move widely around The Solent and eastern harbours and are often found inland, when there is suitable feeding, usually as a result of flooding. Winter 1994/95 was such a case, with internationally significant numbers using the Avon Valley and the fields around Titchfield Haven. The county total, measured by Core Counts, has not changed significantly in the period between the two low tide surveys. The low numbers using Southampton Water at low tide in 1994/95 reflected a temporary change in feeding habits/sites by a substantial part of the wintering Hampshire population rather than a decrease in population. The distribution of birds is shown in Figure 5.

Dunlin. Like Ringed Plover, the other common small wader, Dunlin also showed a decline. Dunlin tend to occur in large mobile flocks which can be difficult to count. Accuracy will therefore be lower, meaning the extent of the decline may be harder to assess.

All wader species. Apart from Black-tailed Godwit (and Sanderling which was not recorded in the 1994/95 survey), all of the main wader species have shown a decline in numbers. This was least in the larger waders (Oystercatcher and Curlew) and most pronounced amongst the small and medium-sized waders - Lapwing, Grey Plover and Redshank. Comparing high tide Core Counts for these species showed similar sized declines.

These reducing wader numbers should be viewed in the national context (Frost *et al.*, 2020), where trends over the previous 25 years from 1993/94 to 2018/19 show declines for many wader species. For those which occur regularly in Southampton Water, national reductions were Oystercatcher (-24%), Lapwing (-40%), Grey Plover (-44%), Ringed Plover (-50%), Curlew (-33%), Dunlin (-45%) and Redshank (-21%). There are many reasons behind these reductions, but a trend for milder winters has meant that many birds can spend the winter in mainland western Europe and do not need to cross the North Sea/English Channel.

Other waterbirds. Little Egret has increased significantly with a maximum of eight in 1994/95 rising to more than 50 in 2018/19. This is unsurprising as Little Egret has become a widespread wintering and breeding bird in Hampshire during the intervening period. More surprising is

the increase in Great Crested Grebe from a monthly maximum of 36 to 113. However this count, taken in January is atypical, as the other three monthly counts were 42, 43 and 41. During the same period the numbers of Cormorant shrunk by about one third.

Further Considerations

The section above shows that species have experienced different fortunes over the period between the two series of counts. Some of these changes reflect general trends which are county and even country-wide. However, some changes may be more specific to Southampton Water itself. In addition to the usual developments that take place along the shore line, the estuary itself continues to be subject to change. In addition to the oil terminals, the military port at Marchwood and the container port, the Port of Southampton has become one of the world's busiest for cruise liners. To cater for this increasing traffic, Southampton Water has been the subject of significant amounts of capital and on-going maintenance dredging. The tidal and sediment flows around Southampton Water and The Solent are complex and changes as a result of human intervention have added to this complexity.

It is outside of the scope of this paper to attempt to correlate low tide bird population changes to the dredging of Southampton Water. However, there are some changes to the inter-tidal habitat, which are likely to have had an historic and ongoing impact. The following quote is taken from a hydraulic modelling case study report into the effects of deeper dredging of Southampton Water (ABPmer 2007). *"The results suggest that the mudflat in Southampton Water is on average eroding vertically and translating landwards with no net loss of mudflat area but a consequent loss of saltmarsh area. It should however be noted that this does not apply uniformly to all intertidal areas, nor is it consistent across any one intertidal area and ignores the accretion that has taken place behind the Fawley jetties. The subtidal is widening, to give a net increase in subtidal volume (although there is a very large degree of uncertainty attached to this estimate)."* Although the report reflects the situation after the first series of counts, it also projects that these changes will continue.

The reducing area of saltmarsh is likely to restrict the habitat available for feeding and resting wildfowl and some waders, such as Redshank and Lapwing. In particular, the saltmarsh at Eling Great Marsh and Bury Marshes at the mouth of the Test has reduced. On the other hand, the number of Wigeon using the whole of Southampton Water has increased with the reduction in saltmarsh area around the mouth of the Test possibly contributing to the substantial increase in birds around the lower Hamble.

The lowering of the mudflats will result in their being uncovered for shorter periods of time at low tide. This shortened feeding period may result in birds selecting other parts of the wider Solent area to feed. The lowering of the mudflats may also expose lower layers of mud and sediment, which may be less attractive to waders. The increasing area of deep water however, provides increased feeding opportunities for diving birds and may account for an increase in Great Crested Grebe. Several other species of diving birds were recorded in the second series of counts, which were not recorded in the first, e.g. Red-throated and Black-throated Divers, both regularly occurring Scoter species plus regular Eider flocks. Again, this may suggest more feeding opportunities as a result of the increased depth of water and, in the case of the last two species, possible changes to the sea bed facilitating mollusc growth.

Summary

In the period 1994/95 to 2018/19, the total number of waterbirds using Southampton Water at low tide dropped by around 12% to 19,318. In that period, the numbers of wildfowl, especially Brent Goose and Wigeon, increased by 22%. By contrast, the number of waders decreased by 25%. This reduction is most marked among the small and medium-sized species. Gull numbers also dropped by 16%. This is mainly due to a reduction in Black-headed Gulls, which is only partially offset by an increase in Herring Gulls.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following who helped with counts with apologies for any inadvertent omissions: Bob Chapman, Mark Edgeller, John Faithfull, Simon King, Richard Levett, Mark Litjens, Dave Munday, Jess Pain, Mark Painter, Andy Rhodes, Barrie Roberts, Amy Robjohns, John Shillitoe, Kay Shillitoe, Jeremy Smallwood and Ian Watts. Thanks are due to Trevor Codlin of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, who helped arrange funding for the boat used during the survey. This funding was kindly provided by Bird Aware Solent. The boat, Lazy Daze, was skippered by its owner, Jeff Semple. Neil Calbrade of the BTO kindly supplied summary data and produced the maps in this paper. I would also like to thank Mike Chalmers, John Clark and Jess Pain for their comments on an earlier version of this paper.

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A million birds from an inland hill - Visible autumn migration at Tweseldown, Hampshire 2005 to 2020

Graham Stephenson



Dawn at Tweseldown Hill (Graham Stephenson)

Abstract

Records of visible migration from the Tweseldown area, resulting from many hours of autumn observations, appear regularly in the systematic list of the HBR, and the detail behind these records is stored on the public database of bird migration Trektellen. The account below outlines the establishment of watching at this site and explains the conditions that are thought to influence the movement of the main migrant groups through the area. Totals of each species recorded are presented, along with summaries and highlights for those that occur in significant numbers within both a Hampshire and UK context.

Background

Tweseldown first came to the notice of north-east Hampshire birders around 2004 as a potential watchpoint to observe the regular late autumn visible migration of Woodpigeons which had often been recorded in the wider local area. This potential was soon realised by John Clark (JMC) when on 5th November 2005 a visit to the site produced an impressive 23,600 SW in 2hr 40 min (still the second highest count here). This prompted a handful of further visits by JMC in October and November 2006 and 2007. However, other local “vis mig” sites continued to attract more attention, particularly Fleet Pond just to the north. It wasn’t until autumn 2009 that the Tweseldown bug began to bite, with more regular watches carried out by JMC and the author and the period of coverage extended from September to December. Another important ingredient was the availability of the excellent open-source visible migration website/database, Trektellen www.trektellen.org, for collating and sharing counts (“Trektellen” meaning migration count in Dutch). Comparisons of our counts with those of other Trektellen sites demonstrated the benefit of focussed observations at a regular watchpoint. Coverage levels were maintained in 2010, including the first August visit, and by 2011 daily coverage, at least in October, had been achieved.

Early year watches largely set out to record the more predictable and well-known movements, usually in the ‘best’ weather conditions and on the ‘right’ dates: hirundines in late September followed by winter thrushes in October and Woodpigeons in November. However, with experience and better knowledge of the area and bird movements, enthusiasm levels rose and the focus has broadened to encompass visits in almost any weather (only fog is the killer!) and for longer periods (two hours seems the minimum to be almost certain it’s a quiet day). Interest (and maybe some belief) in the early autumn has grown too in the last two years, leading to many July and August visits and high counts of both Swift and Tree Pipit, and this remains a growth area for the future.

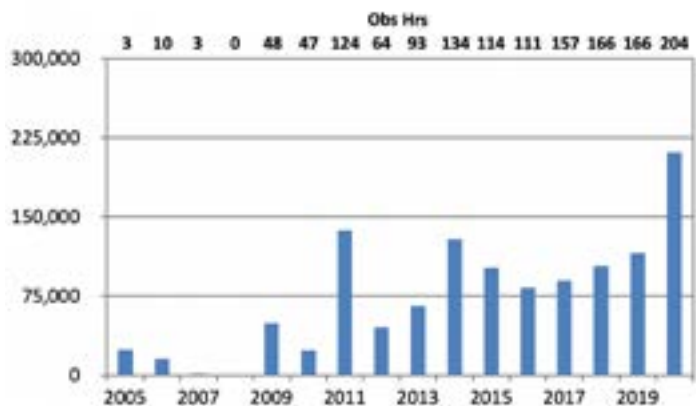


Figure 1. Total birds moving and observation hours per autumn (2005-2020)

The total counts and hours of coverage each autumn are summarised in Figure 1 for the 16 years from 2005 to 2020. By the end of autumn 2020, and after an all-time season high for coverage, the total number of birds recorded moving since 2005 had passed the one million mark.

Location and watchpoints

The Tweseldown area is in the far north-east of Hampshire on the east side of Fleet and Church Crookham approximately 2km south-west of Farnborough Airport (Figure 2). In terms of topography, the area is situated at the north-east point of the Hampshire Downs at the west end of the North Downs, and in the south-west corner of the Thames Basin.

Tweseldown Hill (101m asl) has been the main watchpoint since October 2012, and sits within the site of an old racecourse which is now used only for horse trials. The observation/commentary tower provides excellent shelter in almost all weathers. This spot enjoys uninterrupted views to the eastern horizon but views north-west and south are restricted by nearby treelines.



Figure 2. Location map

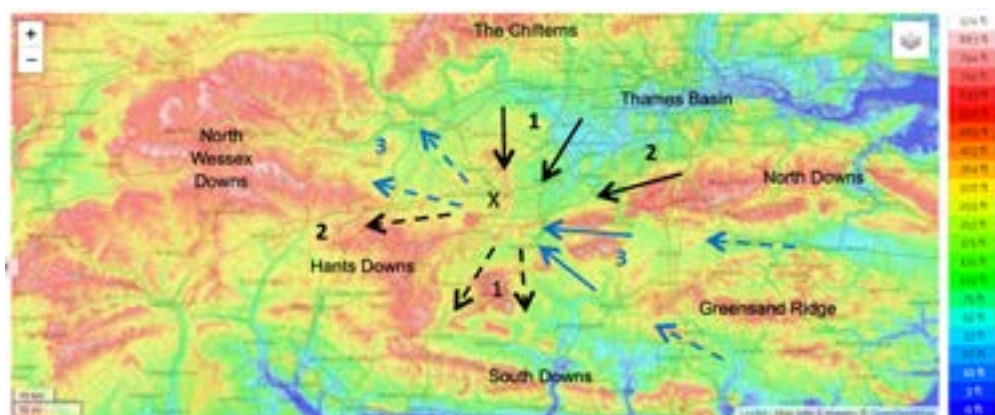


Figure 3. Observed arrival routes (solid arrows) and potential arrival and departure routes (dotted arrows).

An alternative higher watchpoint, Bricksbury Hill (aka Caesar's Camp, 188m asl, 2km SSE), has also been used since November 2015, particularly in light winds and clear skies. This north-east facing ridge dominates the local skyline and affords stunning views in clear weather, especially between the north-west and the east but low scrub restricts viewing to the south and west. This site is good for picking up high-moving birds that might be missed at Tweseldown Hill, as well great for giving head-height views, but can be challenging in dull light when birds passing below the hill are difficult to see against the surrounding woodland. Factor in limited shelter in poor weather and/or strong winds and the attraction of Tweseldown Hill is hard to ignore.

Watching first began in 2005 at a third watchpoint, Miles Hill (87m asl, 1.6km NE), a site with a similar perspective to Tweseldown, albeit from a slightly lower vantage point. Nicely placed for watching movement to the west, this spot produced several good birds (e.g. Lapland Bunting) and high counts. However, it offers very little shelter and probably only its convenient location delayed the switch to other sites in 2012 (and a return is now unlikely due to security fencing put up in 2019 making it difficult to access).

Winds, birds and migration tracks

The majority of birds passing through the area during autumn arrive from between the north and south-east. Sizeable movements can be observed in any wind, although a light or gentle breeze from between north-west and south-west is generally the most reliable for movements. Easterly winds produce a mixed bag; a gentle north-easterly/easterly with origins on the near continent can be very productive later in the autumn, whereas anything south of that is often quite poor. Like many sites, particularly inland, flat calm and clear skies are almost always dire, often resulting in persistent foggy conditions, especially over the Blackwater Valley to the east.

Broadly speaking, there are three clear migration tracks across the site, each with its own particular blend of migrants at certain stages of the autumn (see Figure 3).

1. **S/SW** - Mostly hirundines and Meadow Pipits during September, followed in October by Siskins, Goldfinches and Linnets and in November (and sometimes December) by Woodpigeons and Redwings. These birds appear to be crossing the Thames Basin on a wide front and then heading directly for Bricksbury Hill, potentially using this as a sight marker to find the eastern slope of the Hampshire Downs, and then onward over the South Downs. This may explain why, apart from Woodpigeons, very little is picked up moving south when scanning far to the east.

2. **W** - Typically in September Stock Doves, Grey and Yellow Wagtails, and later in the autumn *alba* wagtails, Skylarks and Reed Buntings. This track appears to follow the North

Downs westwards, but could equally be a “habitat line”, i.e. birds of open country following open habitat. Birds remaining on this line, once past Tweseldown, would pass between the Hampshire Downs and southern edge of the North Wessex Downs, picking up the start of the Test Valley to the west of Basingstoke.

3. NW - Mainly observed from October onwards and typically involving Redwings, Song Thrushes, Fieldfares, Starlings and Chaffinches. These birds are thought to follow the North Downs or maybe the Greensand Ridge to its south and (particularly thrushes) can be moving strongly on this track from first light. Migrants on this distinct and well-used track are presumed to be making for either the Kennet Valley/Kennet & Avon Canal (that cuts through the North Wessex Downs near Hungerford), or the Thames Valley that runs between the North Wessex Downs and the Chiltern Hills.

Of these three, the majority (if not all) of those migrants following the NW track (track 3) are thought to originate directly from the continent and are en route to more westerly wintering grounds, following arrival via Kent or East Sussex, either during the night or early morning. This “continental track” differs from the other two where there is a mix of migrants departing UK breeding grounds for the winter, as well as arrivals from the continent filtering through the UK, following arrival well to the north and east.

Movers, numbers and highlights

The list of 98 species recorded moving (see Table 1¹) comprises a diverse mix of passage migrants (moving to and through the UK), partial migrants (from within the UK) and ‘locals’ (residents and annual visitors presumably dispersing short distances only). The latter, such as Great Spotted Woodpecker and Jackdaw, frequently generate endless debate in terms of when is a mover a mover!

The number recorded is dominated by Woodpigeon, House Martin and Redwing, three iconic autumn migrants that account for 75% of the total logged. Summaries of the annual migrations and major counts for these three, along with those of other regular Hampshire migrants that have occurred in significant numbers, are included below. Each year also brings a number of remarkable observations such as White-fronted Goose (two records, including a flock of 25), Dark-bellied Brent Goose (four records including flocks of 17 and 16), Spoonbill (one record of two), the Hawfinch invasion of 2017 (154 in Oct/Nov including a day maximum of 21), Twite and Lapland Bunting, and every now and then the completely bizarre appears such as the second-year Gannet moving slowly NW one early morning in August 2020.

Day counts and totals for all species are held on the Trektellen database which also has analysis of variations in numbers over autumn (via ‘number per standard week’ graphs), comparisons with many other visible migration watchpoints (both inland and coastal), record count listings (both national and site-specific) and year-to-year variations. For more detail and a longer version of this paper see <https://www.trektellen.org/site/info/800>.

Stock Dove – This is a Tweseldown ‘signature’ species, mainly seen during early autumn when almost daily, and often quite large, movements to the west can occur through to mid-October (max. 223 on 22nd Sep 2018). This differs from the national picture of larger movements generally from late October to mid-November (associated with Woodpigeons), but ties in with Trigpoint Hill, another well-watched Hampshire site. Good days are difficult to predict, some when little else is moving, but autumn totals have risen steadily since 2017, as have local breeding numbers. This pattern, coupled with a lack of recent evidence for continental immigrants, suggests that these are UK breeders on relatively short journeys to wintering grounds to the west.

¹ The species order used in this paper follows that used by the Trektellen database. Please refer to the Systematic List elsewhere in this report for scientific names.

Table 1. Species list and cumulative totals, Tweseldown (2005-2020) (autumn only).

No	Species Name	Total	No	Species Name	Total
1	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	41	51	Peregrine	10
2	Canada Goose	675	52	Rose-ringed Parakeet	4
3	Greylag Goose	137	53	Jay	746
4	Eurasian White-fronted Goose	27	54	Magpie	271
5	Mute Swan	104	55	Jackdaw	4,729
6	Egyptian Goose	124	56	Rook	70
7	Shoveler	18	57	Carrion Crow	754
8	Wigeon	17	58	Raven	48
9	Mallard	107	59	Waxwing	4
10	Teal	7	60	Coal Tit	4
11	Tufted Duck	1	61	Blue Tit	117
12	Goosander	19	62	Great Tit	18
13	Spoonbill	2	63	Wood Lark	201
14	Grey Heron	61	64	Skylark	2,099
15	Great White Egret	6	65	Sand Martin	293
16	Little Egret	50	66	Swallow	22,294
17	Gannet	1	67	House Martin	130,585
18	Cormorant	1,270	68	Chiffchaff	2
19	Osprey	3	69	Goldcrest	3
20	Honey Buzzard	5	70	Starling	75,041
21	Sparrowhawk	36	71	Ring Ouzel	18
22	Marsh Harrier	3	72	Blackbird	462
23	Hen Harrier	1	73	Fieldfare	35,702
24	Red Kite	70	74	Redwing	199,676
25	Common Buzzard	28	75	Song Thrush	2,445
26	Lapwing	127	76	Mistle Thrush	697
27	Golden Plover	51	77	Black Redstart	1
28	Ringed Plover	1	78	Wheatear	1
29	Dunlin	4	79	Duncock	9
30	Snipe	75	80	Yellow wagtail sp.	151
31	Green Sandpiper	2	81	Grey Wagtail	134
32	Greenshank	1	82	alba wagtail sp.	2,356
33	Black-headed Gull	2,855	83	Meadow Pipit	22,288
34	Common Gull	149	84	Tree Pipit	85
35	Great Black-backed Gull	5	85	Chaffinch	32,493
36	Herring Gull	3,376	86	Brambling	502
37	Yellow-legged Gull	5	87	Hawfinch	163
38	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1,539	88	Bullfinch	72
39	Common Tern	4	89	Greenfinch	2,028
40	Feral Pigeon	23	90	Twite	1
41	Stock Dove	12,176	91	Linnet	10,802
42	Woodpigeon	568,702	92	Lesser Redpoll	2,217
43	Collared Dove	38	93	Crossbill	793
44	Short-eared Owl	3	94	Goldfinch	10,007
45	Swift	3,449	95	Siskin	3,390
46	Great Spotted Woodpecker	421	96	Lapland Bunting	1
47	Green Woodpecker	2	97	Yellowhammer	26
48	Kestrel	11	98	Reed Bunting	307
49	Merlin	7			
50	Hobby	16			
			Total Recorded Moving		1,199,687

Woodpigeon - Far and away the most numerous migrant, its late autumn mass movements are always much anticipated. A typical season will see the first noteworthy movement S/SW from around the third week of October (6,800 on 22nd was exceptional), followed by a peak during the first half of November (seven of the 11 five-figure counts have been between 2nd and 9th), and then a protracted 'tail' of smaller numbers often into December.

Later movements include increasing numbers of birds heading N/NE with flocks in both directions a regular sight in mid-November (Figure 5). This apparent 'return' movement accounts for about 20% of totals annually and continues in small numbers through to Christmas. Southbound flocks typically show more purpose, moving high and wide, whereas northbound flights are generally low, short-lived and involve flocks making short woodland stops. With surprisingly little correlation with counts from other UK Trektellen sites to the N/NE, and virtually no evidence of continental, migrant Woodpigeons reaching the UK in autumn, there is not much to suggest where these birds originate from and how far they have travelled. Counts from sites to the south-west suggest that birds reach the south coast and head west, joining others that have presumably originated further east, but to date there is little correlation between coastal counts and those from Tweseldown, and no evidence of birds 'returning' from the coast to the N/NE.



Figure 4. Woodpigeon cumulative numbers per week (2005-2020)
(h = total observation hours; n = cumulative total)

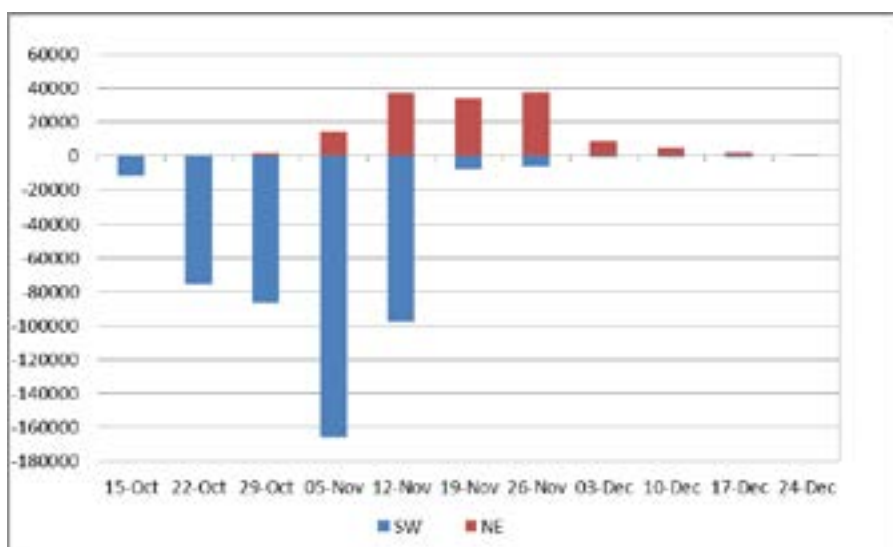


Figure 5. Weekly totals of SW and NE movements of Woodpigeon (2005-2020)

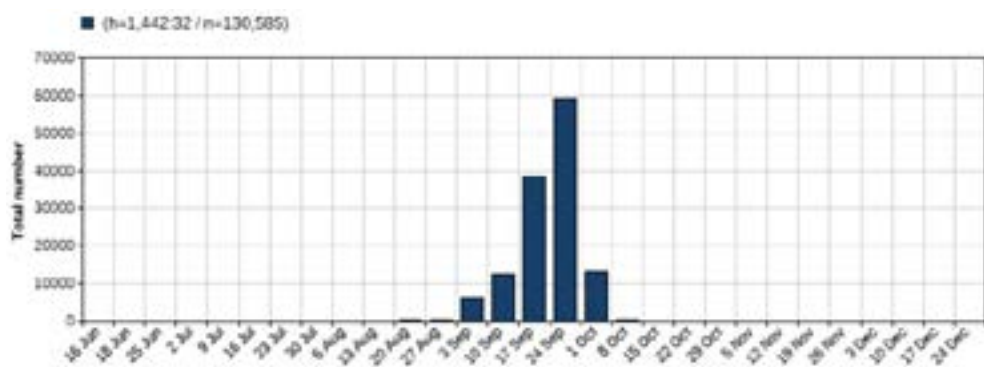


Figure 6. House Martin cumulative numbers per week (2005-2020)

(h = total observation hours; n = cumulative total)

The largest ever movement of 37,900 SE/SW (along with little else) on 6th November 2014 represents at the time of writing the ninth highest count on Trektellen for a UK inland site (the largest counts typically being at coastal sites). This massive movement was typically short-lived, starting about half an hour after a cold (0°C), clear dawn and virtually finishing by 09:00. Not for the first time a high pressure ridge across the UK and slow-moving fronts from the west proved ideal. This was consistent with a belief at the time that frosty days were the best for 'big' days. However, experience since has shown that a dry morning with a gentle to moderate S/SW headwind will deliver Woodpigeons by the thousand, even in temperatures touching 11°C. Annual totals peaked in 2011-2015 and then fell subsequently, despite apparently good migration conditions, until a bumper autumn in 2020 when almost 129,000 were logged including exceptional reverse movements of over 47,000.

Swift – With little evidence for large summer/early autumn movements on a scale seen regularly along the coast, Tweseldown has largely been ignored at this time. However, heavy westerly movements in July 2020 (1,172 in 2.5hr on 8th and 1,206 in 3hr on 9th), coinciding with low pressure, SW/W breezes and rain, suggests that this might be worth more attention in the future.

House Martin – This is the third most numerous migrant (after Woodpigeon and Redwing) with an average of around 11,500 per year since regular September watches began in 2010. Connecting with a large movement is one of the prize targets each autumn. Birds can pour through low and fast, and in unbroken streams hugging the landscape, but picking the right weather is never easy. Four-figure counts typically occur three to four times a season, any time from the second week of September (with the top ten all between 20th Sep and 2nd Oct), usually into a gentle SW or WSW breeze and under cloudy skies, but a few have occurred in clear almost calm conditions. An exceptional 15,150 moved west against the wind ahead of south-moving fronts over four hours on 28th September 2019 (nearly twice the previous best and at the time of writing the 13th highest UK count on Trektellen).

Starling – Tight flocks of Starling moving arrow-like low above the tree-line and high across the sky, doggedly following the "continental track" (see Figure 3), is another much anticipated and appreciated late autumn sight. Each year's migration is characterised by a one to three week rush, anytime from 8th October to 12th November, with smaller numbers either side. The total from year to year varies considerably (max. 8,678 in 2019; min. 3,409 in 2015), due in part to varying coverage and birds missed on days when movement picked up post watch. Most autumns include at least one four-figure day. The highest was 4,625 in 4hr 45 min on 20th October 2012 (almost twice the next highest) coinciding with settled weather well to the east and large movements at many sites on the Dutch coast. However, Starlings will move in any weather providing there is a clear route to the WNW.

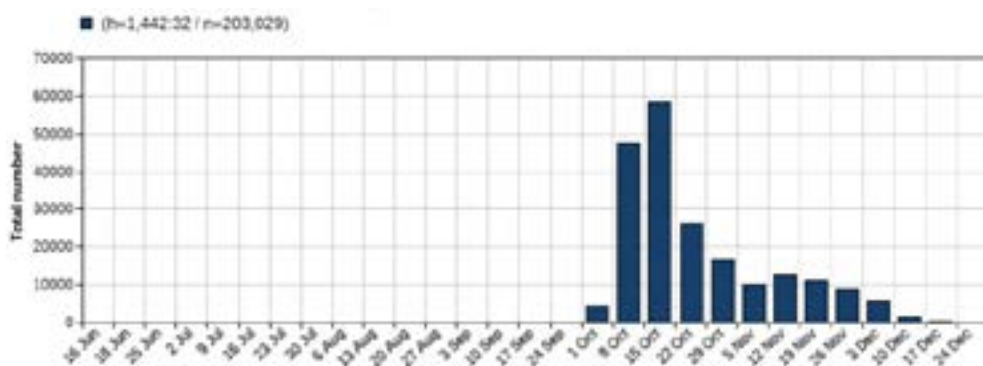


Figure 7. Redwing cumulative totals per week (2005-2020)

(h = total observation hours; n = cumulative total)

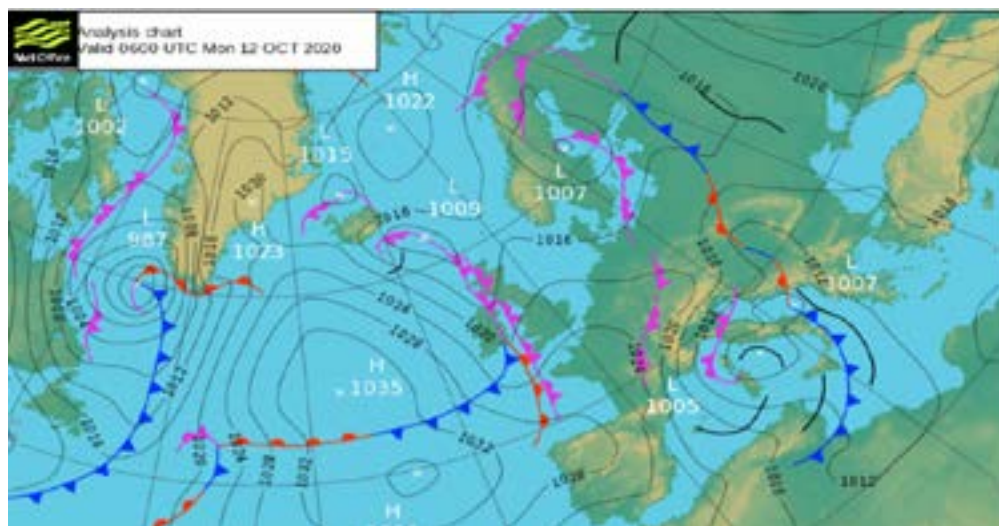


Figure 8. Weather chart for large movement of Redwings on 12th October 2020

Fieldfare - In keeping with many inland sites, particularly south of the Wash, recorded in much lower numbers than Redwing, typically only in the low hundreds per day, with a maximum of 1,202 (in 2.5 hr on 7th Nov 2017) and only two other four-figure counts. This relative scarcity may be exaggerated by a tendency to move later in the day, and sometimes at great height, which results in many being missed. It is also later to arrive, being seen only three times by the first week of October (earliest on 1st in 2020) and typically not until the second or third week. Thereafter significant arrivals can occur throughout November and even in early December (e.g. 452 on 4th Dec 2018).

Redwing – This is by far the commonest thrush and the second most numerous migrant overall. The potential for large four-figure counts, much higher than any noted elsewhere locally at the time, was clear from the early years despite limited visits during October. Regular watching from Tweseldown from October 2013 produced an impressive total of 10,654 heading north-west from 10th to 12th. Numbers have grown steadily since, most likely due to increased coverage, a better understanding of the factors determining a 'big' day, and some ideal weather during the peak arrival period.

The first arrivals have been recorded at the end of September (earliest 27th) in all but one year since 2013 and the first movements of note have followed quickly within the first week

of October (e.g. 909 on 4th in 2016). Heaviest passage is typically through October and mainly involves birds arriving directly from the continent on a well-defined track heading NW. These movements sometimes build as the morning progresses and can continue into the afternoon. Similar smaller scale arrivals can continue well into November or even early December (as evidenced by a total of 3,298 on 3rd and 4th Dec 2018) and are supplemented by birds relocating S/SE from arrival sites further north.

Classic October weather produces low pressure centred to the south-east of the UK, with clear skies to its north and generally dry settled conditions over southern England (Figure 8). This combination has delivered the five highest counts, most notably in 2020 when a staggering 17,100 flew W/NW in 8hr on 12th (at the time of writing the eighth highest UK count on Trektellen and on a day of strong movement on the Dutch coast). This was followed by 11,125 in 5hr 45min on 15th (with only modest numbers at two inland Dutch sites). Conversely, almost continuous W/SW winds during October 2014 resulted in a daily maximum of only 1,831 (also on 15th). Weather later in the autumn seems less crucial with almost any conditions, bar heavy rain and strong winds, capable of encouraging lesser movements into the wind.

Meadow Pipit – Peak migration is typically short-lived, with a large proportion within one week during the last ten days of September and often including at least one stand-out day. Prior to 2016 the highest day total was a modest 332. A significant step change has occurred since with four counts in excess of 1,000 including 2,136 in 4hr 15min on 22nd Sep 2017 and 3,456 in 4hr 20min on 30th Sep 2019. This is attributed to a combination of ideal weather (fine with a light SW wind) and a better understanding of how and when to watch. We have realised that heavy movements can continue into late morning and also that very high flocks are most easily detected at Bricksbury Hill. Passage usually tails off rapidly into October, the dozen or so three-figure counts (max. 413 on 10th Oct 2019) presumably consisting of birds that have staged further north.

Chaffinch – A migrant that rarely strays off the “continental track”. Big days often coincide with notable movements of Redwing and Starling during October (e.g. in 2020, 1,675 in 8hr on 12th and 1,775 in 5hr 45min on 15th). Daily movements come in a variety of shapes and sizes, sometimes well underway from dawn, while others suddenly pick up from mid-morning, with birds travelling at all heights and, unlike many October migrants, occasionally continuing well into the afternoon. A steady increase in numbers in recent years (to a max. 5,880 in 2020) is attributed to a combination of more hours watching, greater knowledge of migration patterns and favourable weather.

Siskin, Lesser Redpoll and Crossbill – Relatively small movements of all three occur annually but these species were only recorded in significant numbers during UK wide irruptions in 2011 and 2020. The timing and intensity of these arrivals varied between the years. Siskin passage peaked week commencing (w/c) 8th October in 2011 (total 1,046, max. day count 144) and w/c 10th September in 2020 (total 1,111, max. 131), whereas Lesser Redpoll peaked w/c 1st October in 2011 (total 852, max. 82) and w/c 22nd October in 2020 (total 537, max. 68) respectively. The first Crossbills appeared in late September in 2011 (total 161) compared to early July in 2020 (total 417), but in both years the maximum day count was in October (28 on 23rd in 2011, 33 on 28th in 2020).

Conclusions

The continued focus on visible migration at this one site over many years has been rewarding in three main ways. Firstly, the resulting body of data provides a broad context against which the latest records and counts can be assessed. Secondly, the knowledge and experience gained of the conditions that influence bird migration across our local area, particularly with reference to other sites both near and far, has demonstrated that it is possible to connect with bird movements on a scale usually only associated with more well-known coastal watchpoints. In

fact, it appears that Tweseldown's position with respect to the surrounding landscape provides excellent opportunities to observe well used autumn migrant "flight paths". Lastly, the sense of anticipation of what might fly by, coupled with the awe and excitement when birds are on the move *en masse*, is a hard to match combination as far as inland 'patch' birding goes.

However, despite the exceptional levels of visible migration watching at Tweseldown, there is still a lot to learn about the origins and destinations of the most regular and numerous migrants. Hopefully, as interest in this birding format continues to grow, other watchpoints will come 'on stream' and begin to fill in some of the gaps.

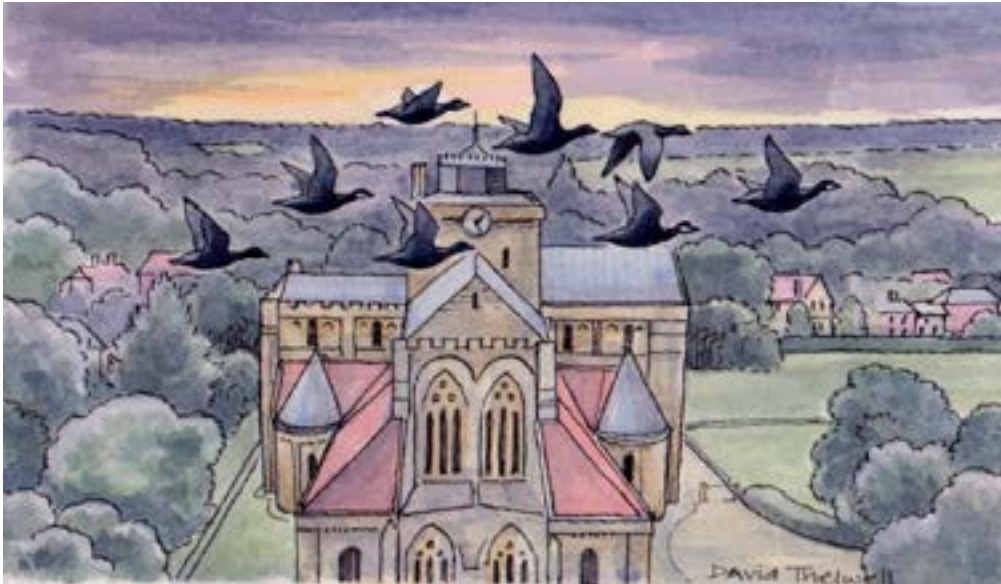
Acknowledgements

The accounts, thoughts and theories presented here result from many hours of observation and discussion with fellow 'vis mig' obsessive, John Clark. His enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, local and county birding has contributed greatly to our understanding of inland visible migration and to the preparation of this paper. I would also like to thank Clive McKay, the national Trektellen coordinator for UK migration data, for his support, encouragement and feedback, both on the content and style of this paper and the ongoing visible migration activity at Tweseldown. Thanks are due also to Mike Chalmers for his help and advice with the edit of this short paper for inclusion in the HBR. Lastly, and on behalf of all birders who visit Tweseldown Hill, I'd like to acknowledge the commitment of the current site owners to allowing access to the area and to preserving its heathland habitat.

Graham Stephenson, 43A Connaught Rd, Fleet GU51 3LR, stephfamily@hotmail.com

Overland migration of Common Scoter

Nigel Jones



Common Scoters over Romsey Abbey (David Thelwell)

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* is a large sea duck, which breeds over the far north of Europe and the Palearctic as far east as the Olenyok River (120° east). The British and Irish breeding population is roughly 200 pairs, the European population is estimated at 107,000-131,000 pairs (Birdlife International 2015), while the world population is put at approximately one million. It winters further south in temperate zones on the coasts of Europe as far south as Morocco.

In Hampshire the species is recorded in every month of the year, with the highest numbers recorded in spring and early summer such as 600 on April 10th 1991 and 103 on June 4th 2010. Smaller numbers are recorded at other periods, with some wintering flocks and occasional inland records in most years.

Birds begin to move from their wintering quarters to their breeding grounds in March and nests are occupied in northern Europe and Russia from May onwards. Traditionally, visible sea passage happens along coasts as birds move northwards but in 2020 many people in Hampshire witnessed an overland nocturnal migration for the first time. Historically, this overland migration has been documented and Dr William Eagle Clarke recorded that “on 24th April 1879, a most extraordinary migration of scoters at Skipton-in-Craven.... shortly after dusk birds were heard passing overhead and continued during the night, many being bewildered and flying against chimney pots and houses. At the railway station they were immolated against telegraph wires and several were picked up on the following morning, one porter securing as many as seventeen. It was calculated that in all, one hundred and fifty had been taken, the majority of which were males”. These deaths were due to unusual weather conditions that forced the birds to fly low and it showed that overland nocturnal migration was occurring in April over a hundred years ago. However, since then there has been virtually no mention of this night-time movement until recently.

I started “noc-migging” in my garden in Romsey in early 2020. This is the study of what is moving at night by using recorders and then analysing the eight to ten hours of recordings

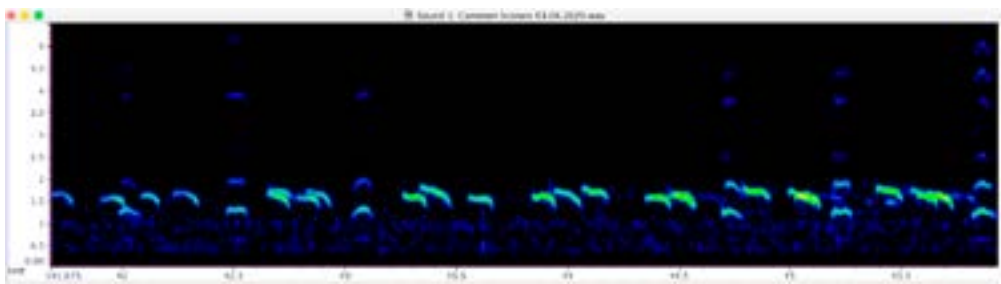


Figure 1. Sonogram of migrating Common Scoters

next day to see if any birds have called while passing overhead. One of the exponents of this art is Joe Stockwell, once resident in Hampshire but now living in Dorset. He has produced several vlogs detailing how to set up equipment and analyse the calls. These can easily be found by searching on the internet.

Common Scoter produce numerous contact notes in the dark when migrating in flocks, so they can be heard “by ear” (rather than with a recorder) if you’re fortunate enough to be in an area without too much extraneous noise. The call is a “peep” produced every few seconds, so if you have a flock you can hear quite a few notes per second as the flock moves overhead. The males give a call slightly longer than the females, which can be identified on sonograms. The calls are quite low frequency, around 1.5 to 2.5 KHz, so could easily be drowned out by man-made sounds such as cars, planes, etc. The calls can be heard on Xeno-canto at <https://www.xeno-canto.org/explore?query=common%20scoter>

Joe Stockwell has produced a sonogram of the calls of a group migrating in April 2020 (from Dorset) as shown in Figure 1.

During the COVID lockdown in early April 2020, I set up my recording equipment in my Romsey garden as it was getting dark and then let it run all night. On April 1st I found some recordings of Common Scoter just after dusk, so on April 2nd I thought I would sit outside for a few hours and listen to see if I could hear them. Sure enough, just after 10pm, I heard a series of peep calls as a group moved overhead travelling northwards. I put out this record immediately on the Hampshire Going Birding website, as well as on a Hampshire WhatsApp group. Other people then responded by listening in their gardens, and groups were heard in Fleet and Old Basing (Basingstoke). Next day, migrant birds were again recorded at night in Romsey and Basingstoke as well as Swaythling, New Milton, Winchester, Sway, Overton and Hill Head. This continued with many other records in Hampshire, with the last night record being from Sway on April 22nd.

The question to pose is why migrate overland? The obvious answer is the energy saving. The birds are heading to northern breeding grounds, a small number to nest in the UK but the vast majority to breed in northern Europe and Russia. A straight-line route from the coast at Milford on Sea overland to the mouth of The Wash is 300km (190 miles), while the coastal route eastwards, round the tip of Kent, is roughly 500km (310 miles). The difference of 200km (120 miles) would create a considerable reduction in energy expenditure. It has been estimated that Common Scoter fly at roughly 92 kph (55 mph), (their mean air speed over land in Finland; Bergman & Donner 1964) so the dusk overland route takes them under four hours. Therefore a night-time migration, starting an hour after dusk, will see them reach the North Sea well before dawn. It appears that Common Scoter also make a crossing of England from the west to the east from North Wales across Yorkshire to the North Sea (Figure 2). With many people now undertaking noc-mig studies across the UK, it seems that this crossing may be the more obvious route for Common Scoters and that the “southern movement” we have seen from Hampshire more uncommon. Indeed, Dr William Eagle Clarke’s reporting from 1879 would have been part of this movement.

Interestingly, it has been proposed that the cross-England routes are not the only ones undertaken by Common Scoters in their northern journey. Magnus Robb and the Sound Approach have also recorded overland migration in Portugal, while others have reported it in Scandinavia (Figure 3). If we now take the Hampshire birds, we can postulate that these overland journeys could be almost continuous for some birds. These overland routes have obviously evolved to save energy during spring migration. Can we conjecture that there is also a reverse movement in the autumn? More noc-mig studies will hopefully complete the picture.



Figure 2. Overland routes for Common Scoter in England

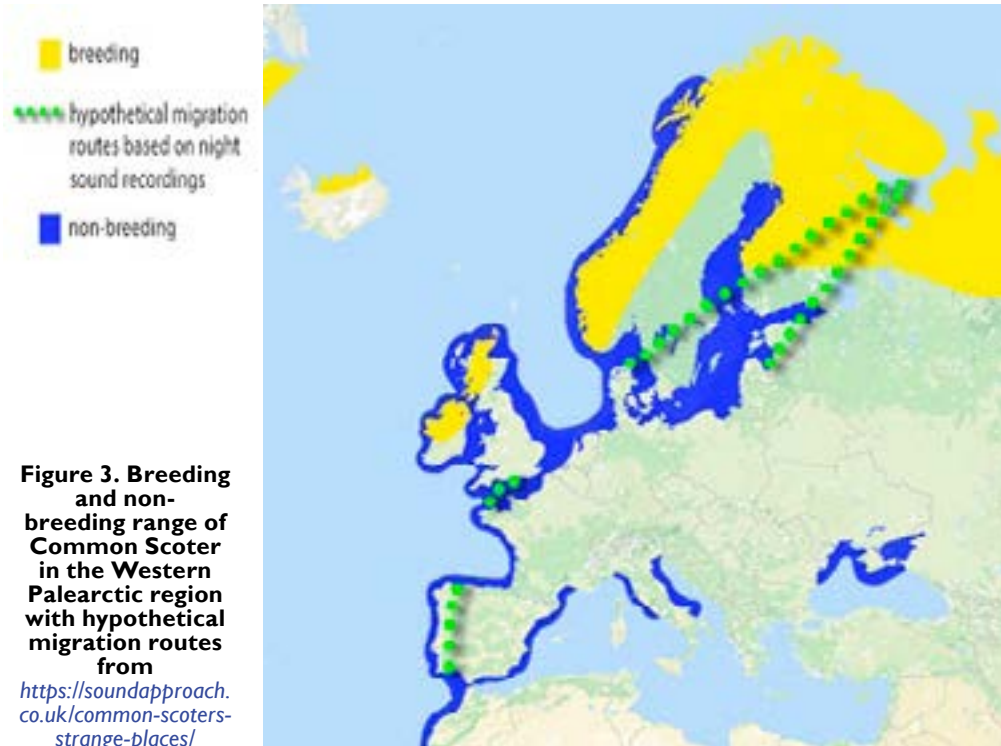


Figure 3. Breeding and non-breeding range of Common Scoter in the Western Palearctic region with hypothetical migration routes from

<https://soundapproach.co.uk/common-scoters-strange-places/>

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Joe Stockwell for the use of his sonogram and to the Sound Approach for permission to reproduce their map of Europe.

References

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First for Hampshire: Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Brownwich

Mark Francis



Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Brownwich, Oct 6th (Mark Francis)

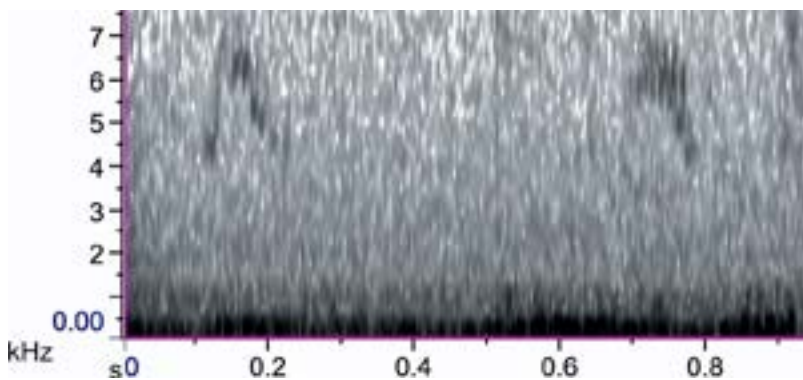
Abstract

An unusual wagtail found at Brownwich on October 5th and still present there the next day was identified as an Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* by a combination of photographs and sound recordings. The record has been accepted by BBRC (Holt *et al.*, 2021) and is the first for Hampshire.

Circumstances

October 5th started with the usual optimistic search for any new overnight arrivals at Hill Head. Starting with checking the beach (always best at low tide) and the south end of Titchfield Haven, I then searched the bushes towards the chalets. That morning I was keen to arrive early at the fields at Brownwich where in previous days there had been good numbers of Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis* and Pied Wagtails *Motacilla alba yarrellii* with smaller numbers of Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* feeding in the recently ploughed fields. Reaching Brownwich I was pleased to see there were still plenty of wagtails and pipits to sort through. Around 11:00 a bird immediately caught my eye. This individual looked very interesting in the “bins” and I was eager to get my scope on it for a better look.

Looking through the scope I could see it was monochromatic grey-and-white with only the slightest hint of a yellow wash to the vent – a plumage uncommon in (Western) Yellow Wagtails and far more frequent in birds with eastern origins. Otherwise all underparts were white extending up to the throat and chin apart from a grey smudge at the side of the breast. It also had a strong dark bill with pale lower mandible – apparently a feature also more evident in eastern-type Yellow Wagtails but not widely documented. I had previously seen photos of recent juvenile Eastern Yellow Wagtails posted online and this very grey and



Sonogram of flight calls (Amy Robjohns)

white individual raised my hopes, but I remained cautious. Realising this was something I had not seen previously, I managed to take some digiscope images on my phone. Having no experience of this species I needed guidance on getting the correct ID so I posted my ropey record shots to our Haven/Hook Birders Whatsapp group captioned “Interesting Yellow Wagtail sp on Brownich thoughts welcome”.

Ashley Howe responded within minutes explaining that, despite the poor quality of the record shots, this bird showed good potential as an eastern-type Yellow Wagtail. At this point Ashley circulated this bird to a wider audience in a separate Whatsapp group for Hampshire rarity news. Unfortunately during all the phone calls and messages, I managed to lose track of the individual in question. Luckily by 13:45 I refound it distantly as Ashley and Pete Hutchins arrived on site. From the distant scope views we all agreed this looked a promising candidate but needed better views to secure the finer details.

The birds were very flighty and moved around regularly. Frustratingly we didn’t pick up on the bird calling at all. It continued to show sporadically in the same ploughed fields until about 17:30 before going to roost, probably with other wagtails in the reed-beds at Titchfield Haven; a pattern repeated on the second day. The next day (Oct 6th) the weather had much improved in the morning. Amy Robjohns had kindly offered to use her sound-recording equipment which we felt was needed to confirm the bird’s ID. The weather helped obtain my best images and Amy managed to get her recordings of the presumed (at this point) Eastern Yellow Wagtail.

Identification

Now armed with better images we confirmed all the features previously noted. In addition we noted that the lores appeared black with grey extending to the ear coverts, crown and beyond. The ear coverts were consistently grey-toned and contrasted with other facial features. An obvious white supercilium was present which quickly tapered off behind the eye – again another feature of eastern birds whereas it tends to flare out more in western. It also had a narrower pale eye-ring under the eye which was much less obvious than in the (Western) Yellow Wagtails. The grey on the head and neck extended down on to the mantle. The coverts were boldly fringed white giving a double wing-barred appearance – the primaries and secondaries were also boldly fringed white forming a large pale window on the closed wing. No yellow was noted in the flight feathers. The rump was grey, as was the tail. The legs were black. The hindclaw was relatively long, probably in the overlap range of Eastern and Western Wagtails, but not as long as in photographs of Alex Berryman’s bird on Shetland the same day (BirdGuides).

The final piece in the identification puzzle was getting a sound recording of the call. Thankfully on the second day (after appearing silent on the first) Amy obtained a reasonably clear sound recording described as a raspy flight call reminiscent of Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*.

Detailed analysis of the sonograms confirmed that the calls fitted Eastern Yellow Wagtail and satisfactorily excluded other taxa including Citrine Wagtail. By the afternoon Ashley and Amy had circulated the recordings and photos to various people including Josh Jones, Nigel Jones and Ed Stubbs who all agreed this looked/sounded very promising. We then put the news out nationally. Unfortunately, there was no sign of the bird on the next day even though numbers of Yellow Wagtails were still high in the area.

Status

Eastern Yellow Wagtail was split by IOC from Yellow Wagtail and added to the British List by BOU when the IOC taxonomy was adopted in 2018 (BOURC, 2018). Most Eastern Yellow Wagtails are found as breeding birds in north-east Asia, but they also occur in northern and western Alaska. Being long-distance migrants, they migrate to south-east Asia or Australia for the winter.

Acknowledgements

I may have been the one lucky enough to stumble across this stunning little eastern visitor but big thanks go to Ashley Howe, Amy Robjohns and Nigel Jones for their help, support and guidance. All three played major roles in first spotting the potential in my sighting, contacting the right people and obtaining the sought-after sound recording. This record wouldn't have been possible without their help so many thanks.

References

- British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC): 48th Report (January 2018). *Ibis* 160: 241-248.
- Holt, C., French, P. and the Rarities Committee. 2021. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2020. *British Birds* 114: 570-628.

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Breeding Curlews in the New Forest in 2020

Andy Page



Curlew (David Thelwell)

The results below are the culmination of hundreds of hours of fieldwork and probably represent the most comprehensive coverage for New Forest Curlews to date.

Fifty territories were occupied within the New Forest study area, 46 by breeding pairs and four where only a single bird was seen. Of the 46 territories, four held pairs that were only seen intermittently and no breeding activity was recorded. A further ten sites had continued occupancy but where predation undoubtedly occurred before nests were found despite repeated visits throughout the season.

Nests were located for the remaining 32 pairs plus three re-lays following early predation of first clutches. Eighteen nests were visited to record clutch size, three clutches of three eggs, 14 clutches of four eggs and one clutch of five eggs. Sixteen pairs were definitely predated on eggs including the three re-lays (i.e. 19 nests) plus a further two nests which appear to have been predated on or immediately after hatching but where this cannot be conclusively ascertained.

Fourteen nests are known to have hatched chicks between the May 26th and June 12th. Loss of broods followed quickly for many of these and by July monitoring was reduced to only seven chicks from five nests. A chick capable of flight was lost to a fox in the SE of the Forest and the probable loss of two well-grown chicks near Brockenhurst meant that by late July we were monitoring just three sites with four chicks. Our final assessment was that two sites successfully raised one and two chicks respectively.

Statistically we are still getting an acceptable percentage of nests hatching to maintain the population, but heavy chick predation / losses soon occur leading to a productivity figure well below that required for sustaining numbers. Understanding the causes behind these predation events will form part of ongoing PhD work.

Grants for projects undertaken in 2020

Marcus Ward

Since 2015 HOS has invited applications each autumn for funding for projects to advance bird conservation or research in Hampshire. Last year's report outlined projects agreed in 2018 for implementation in 2019. This note continues that process by summarising the projects agreed in autumn 2019 for implementation in 2020. Detailed written submissions were received from four applicants and considered by the Scientific Sub-committee at its meeting on 11th September 2019. Two projects were selected for £5,880, based on an initial budget of £6,000, and a third for a further £1,500 was recommended and agreed by the Management Committee at its subsequent meeting on 23rd October 2019 as follows:-

***Marcus Ward: Hawfinch tracking in the New Forest - GPS & Radio Tracking Phase 2. £3,000.**

This request for additional tags and radio-tracking equipment formed the next phase of this ongoing study. Continuing to deploy the new generation of high resolution GPS and radio-tracking technology on targeted individual Hawfinches will enable the ongoing identification of nesting, roosting and feeding locations and habitats that are important for breeding birds including how widely they range. Phase 2 plans to tag ten Hawfinches targeting at least two of the individuals tagged in 2019 to assess site fidelity. Overall cost of Phase 2 for reworking eight retrieved tags and purchasing two new tags, a radio receiver and sundries is £4,326. The contribution sought from HOS was £3,000 which was approved in full. Whilst tags have subsequently been purchased, COVID has resulted in the fieldwork being deferred until 2021.

***Farlington Ringing Group c/o Pete Potts: New Forest and Solent Curlew project - additional GPS tags, £2,880**

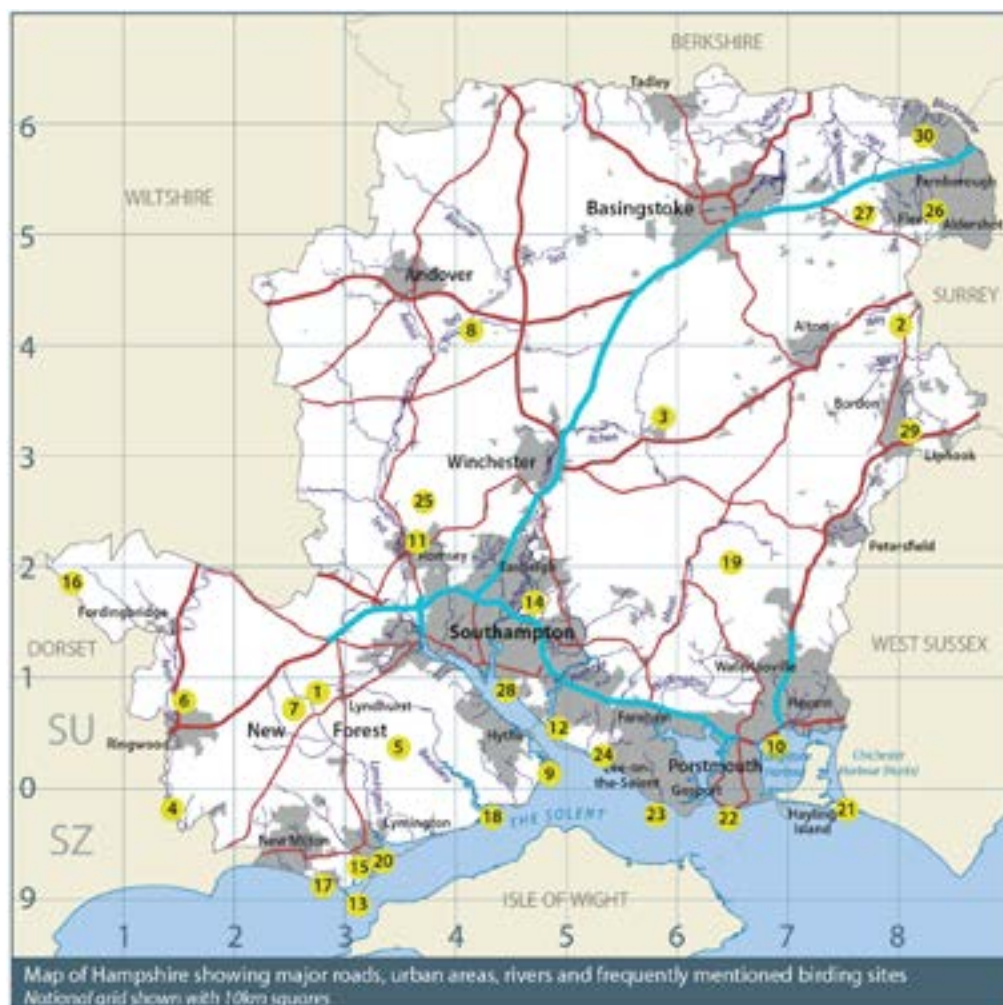
Curlews are currently one of the UK's most pressing bird conservation priorities, given the significance of the UK breeding population and the rapid decline in numbers during the last 25 years. By fitting breeding and wintering Curlews with GPS-GSM tags, backed up with additional colour-ringed individuals, the project aims to track movements in detail, identify key sites and habitats, assess site fidelity and determine survival rates. Overall, it was planned to fit ten tags to Curlews in The Solent and 15 tags on breeding birds in the New Forest by the end of 2020. Following HOS grants for GPS tags of £3,200 in 2017 and £1,600 in 2018 (not used), it was agreed to continue to support this project by funding the full amount requested for three new Pathtrack tags for deployment in 2020 at £960 each. As above, tags have been purchased but COVID has restricted fieldwork to the fitting of only one new tag in 2020, the others being deferred until 2021.

*** RSPB: Turning back the clock for biodiversity at RSPB Hazeley Heath, £1,500.**

RSPB determined that the key to restoring lowland heath habitat at Hazeley Heath near Hartley Wintney was returning cattle to the site for "Conservation Grazing" thus avoiding the need for herbicides or large machinery. To control the cattle RSPB is installing an "invisible fence" by burying an electrical cable and fitting the cattle with electronic collars. This is more cost-effective and less visually intrusive than conventional fencing. As part of the overall grazing scheme, HOS funding was requested and approved to cover the costs of two cattle troughs and connections to the mains water supply. The project is continuing into 2021.

Map and Gazetteer

The map below shows the locations of 20 sites frequently quoted in the Systematic List together with OS grid references to the nearest one km square.



Key to birding sites

1 Acres Down	SU2709	11 Fishlake Meadows	SU3522	20 Pennington Marshes	SZ3292
2 Alice Holt Forest	SU8042	12 Hook-with-Warsash	SU4905	21 Sandy Point	SZ7498
3 Alresford Pond	SU5933	13 Hurst Castle	SZ3189	22 Southsea Castle	SZ6498
4 Avon Causeway	SZ1497	14 Itchen Valley Country Park	SU4616	23 Stokes Bay	SZ5898
5 Beaulieu Rd Stn/ Bishop's Dyke	SU3406	15 Keyhaven Marshes	SZ3192	24 Titchfield Haven	SU5302
6 Blashford Lakes	SU1507	16 Martin Down	SU0419	25 Triggpoint Hill	SU3625
7 Bolderwood	SU2408	17 Milford on Sea	SZ2891	26 Tweseldown	SU8352
8 Bransbury Common	SU4141	18 Needs Ore/ Beaulieu Estuary	SZ4297	27 Tundry Pond	SU7752
9 Calshot	SU4802	19 Old Winchester Hill	SU6420	28 Weston Shore	SU4409
10 Farlington Marshes	SU6804			29 Woolmer Forest	SU8032
				30 Yateley Common	SU8259

In recent bird reports a full gazetteer has been included with OS grid references to the nearest one km square. The original intention was to include all place names mentioned in the Systematic List. However with time many site names have changed and the gazetteer has become increasingly out of step with the alternative on-line versions. These are regularly updated with a view to standardising site names to avoid confusion.

It has therefore been decided to discontinue publishing a gazetteer in the Hampshire Bird Report and instead direct readers to one of the two on-line gazetteers which are listed below.

<http://www.hos.org.uk/index.php/hampshire-birding/gazetteer>

<http://www.goingbirding.co.uk/hants/sites.asp>

List of Abbreviations

AON	Apparently Occupied Nest	HIWWT	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
asl	above sea level	IOC	International Ornithological Congress
BB	British Birds magazine	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey (BTO)	m.o.	many observers
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern	MOD	Ministry of Defence
BoH	Birds of Hampshire	n/a	not applicable
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union	nc	no count (in tables)
BOURC	BOU Records Committee	NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
BWP	The Birds of the Western Palearctic	NF	New Forest
CB	Cress Bed	NFWBS	New Forest Winter Bird Survey
CBC	Common Bird Census plot	NNR	National Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park	NR	Nature Reserve
CR	Critically Endangered	NT	Near-threatened
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
EN	Endangered	S4I	Section 4I 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

The Hampshire Ornithological Society Organisation and Membership

Background

The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society was founded in 1885 and the Ornithological Section in 1954. The section grew steadily over the next 25 years, and in March 1979 the separate Hampshire Ornithological Society was established. The Society now has a membership of around 2,000, many of whom actively take part in the Society's programme of bird surveys. The aims of the society are summarised on the inside front cover of this Report.

Membership

All members receive the annual *Hampshire Bird Report* and the magazine *Kingfisher* with three issues each year. Membership is available as follows (correct at September 1st, 2021):

Ordinary Membership: £16 p.a.

Family Membership (two or more members at the same address): £16 p.a.

Corporate Membership (sponsors, schools, Bird Clubs, etc): £16 p.a.

Junior Membership (under 18): £5 p.a. but free for under 21 in full-time education

To join, send your name and address with the appropriate subscription to:

Membership Secretary: Kay Shillitoe

Westerly, Hundred Acres Road, Wickham PO17 6HY

e-mail: kay.shillitoe@gmail.com 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 magazine *Kingfisher*, the Annual General Meeting & Members' Day, other indoor meetings and field meetings.

Publications

The *Hampshire Bird Report* is published annually and is the record of birds in Hampshire in the previous calendar year. The *Kingfisher* magazine published every four months contains news of society events, field meetings and recent bird sightings, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Scientific sub-committee. New surveys are started every year, and the newsletter serves as a medium to contact potential volunteers. All members are invited to take part in surveys and contribute articles to the newsletter.

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.

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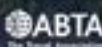
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