

Hampshire Bird Report 2021



Hampshire Ornithological Society
Published November 2022



Hampshire Ornithological Society

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The Hampshire Ornithological Society has three broad aims:

- To promote the recording and study of bird life in Hampshire and to publish the results in its annual Bird Report.
- To use these results to encourage and support the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in the County.
- To foster a wider interest in the recording and preservation of Hampshire bird life by organising a programme of indoor and outdoor meetings, by publishing a 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 258 and on the HOS web site: www.hos.org.uk.

Hampshire Bird Report 2021



Editor: Mike Chalmers

chalmersam@gmail.com

Photographic Editor: Alan Lewis

County Recorder: Keith Betton



**Hampshire
Ornithological
Society**

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Honorary Officers, Committee Members and Life Members (at August 1st 2022)

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Management Committee	
Chairman	Keith Betton keithbetton@hotmail.com
Hon. Secretary	David Brookes david.brookes176@btinternet.com
Hon. Treasurer	Andy Mitchelmore andymitch62@gmail.com
County Recorder	Keith Betton keithbetton@hotmail.com
Chair, Scientific Sub-committee	Marcus Ward marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk
Secretary, Scientific Sub-Committee	Andrew Colenutt andrewjcolenutt@googlemail.com
Chair, Membership Committee	Barry Page pagebarry@hotmail.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Kay Shillitoe kay.shillitoe@gmail.com
Editor of Bird Report	Mike Chalmers chalmersam@gmail.com
Conservation Liaison Officer	Andy Lester eagles-wings@hotmail.co.uk
Kingfisher Newsletter Editor	Carol Rawlings hoskingfisher@outlook.com
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Other Officers

Database Manager	Dr Alan Cox hosdatamanager@gmail.com
Sales Officer	Nicola Whitmarsh hos.nwhitmarsh@yahoo.co.uk
Walks Programme Co-ordinators	Di Warner & David Palmer walks@hos.org.uk
Webmaster	John Shillitoe jshillitoe@googlemail.com

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Chair's Report 2021

Although the year started with more COVID lockdowns and restrictions, it was good to be able to get out birding from April onwards. Apart from all our personal birding, this enabled HOS to complete its work on surveying breeding Snipe in the New Forest. You can read the report on this work on pages 230-240. The good news is that Snipe numbers are doing well there even if they have been lost from almost everywhere else.

HOS saw the benefit of people's increased awareness of nature and 203 new members joined us in 2021 - a 100% increase on 2020! We are working hard to keep these new members involved, and if you are new to HOS, I hope you enjoy this report.

The 2020 Hampshire Bird Report appeared in good time, as indeed this one will. We are all so grateful for the team that makes this possible. To start with around 1,600 people send us their records. These are sorted by a computer system that is supported a human team who diligently investigate records that don't match the norm. We are lucky to have a large team of writers who interpret the data, and then another team who check that nothing has been missed. And all this happens on time – every year. I know I'm part of that team, but all of us in HOS are hugely grateful for the time and effort that everyone puts in. In that respect I am delighted that Martin Pitt has agreed to succeed me as County Recorder with effect from 2023. After 13 years in that role, I am going to work with him on growing our work on rare and scarce breeders.

HOS has remained vigilant in reviewing planning applications around the county and we are trying to influence local borough plans that dictate what types of application are suitable. As before, we are standing alongside the RSPB and HIWWT in trying to persuade Portsmouth City Council to protect birds using the Tipner Peninsula. We have also worked with Hampshire Swifts to persuade Cala Homes to increase its provision of Swift nest boxes from one per 100 dwellings to one per dwelling. A great success!

We have also supported several conservation and research projects around the county and having benefited from several significant payments for survey data, we are in the fortunate position to contribute funding to larger projects in the future. A summary of the grants made can be found on page 253.

HOS is a broad church – from people who started birding this year to those who have been doing it all their lives. We have worked hard to attract and encourage young members and we now have around 80 members aged between 7 and 21. We have also tried to support those members who want to learn more and, having set up a WhatsApp group for female members, we are connecting members who would go birding more if they could go with friends.

There is a risk with any growing organisation that it loses touch with its members or becomes complacent about what people want. Your feedback helps us to shape what we do. I hope you enjoy this report and that as you read it you feel enthused to increase your birding in 2023.

I wish you good birding in the year ahead. Do please tell us what you see!

Keith Betton, August 2022

Editorial and Acknowledgements

Whilst COVID restrictions still applied to parts of 2021, particularly during the early months, their impact was much less than the previous year and most surveys and other fieldwork resumed pre-pandemic levels. Two new species were added to the county list in 2021 - a drake Baikal Teal at Ripley Farm Reservoir in March and an adult Western Sandpiper at Normandy Lagoon in October. In addition a mystery wader recorded at Farlington Marshes in September 2011 was finally identified and accepted as a Long-toed Stint - another "first" and, at the time, only the third for Great Britain. Short papers describing the finding, identification and status of these three "firsts" are included later in this report by Olly Frampton, Simon Buckell and Jason Crook.

Following this Editorial and the Chair's Report and before the Review of the Year, there are obituaries to three prominent Hampshire bird-watchers, namely Ralph Hollins, Peter Puckering and Graham Rees.

The introduction to the Systematic List repeats, like last year, the same three tetrad maps to illustrate the distribution of records, the numbers of species and the footfall of observers. These allow comparisons to be made across the county of changes to coverage between years, especially during the ups and downs of the last two. The species accounts include a range of graphics to illustrate significant trends in selected species, mostly using either WeBS counts, BirdTrack reporting rates or maps to illustrate the distribution of records and numbers at tetrad level.

As the BTO on-line ringing report for 2021 was not available at the time of going to press, the Ringing Report and Nest Finding Reports for 2021 have both been deferred until next year's bird report.

Following the Systematic List, this year's report contains four main papers in addition to the three short papers on first records referred to above. The first main paper is by Andrew Colenutt, Marcus Ward and Helen Schneider and summarises the results from tracking studies of Hawfinches throughout the 2019 and 2021 breeding seasons in the New Forest. This forms part of a longer on-going research project funded in part by HOS grants. The second paper is by Barry Duffin and summarises the development of Titchfield Haven reserve over the 50 years since its establishment in 1972. It describes how the creation of the scrapes and management of the reedbeds have increased bird diversity and numbers and gives details of the changes to selected breeding species during that period. The third by Keith Betton and Andy Page summarises the results of breeding wader surveys in the New Forest based on the findings of a report commissioned by Forestry England and carried out by HOS between 2019 and 2021. Lowland breeding waders are a particularly threatened group in Britain and the four species considered all face a range of challenges. The last by Chris Hewson of BTO and Tony Davis reveals the mysteries of Wood Warbler migration to and from their wintering quarters in sub-Saharan Africa based on tracking studies of birds from the New Forest. This was another project funded in part by HOS grants. Two notes follow on the HOS grants for projects in 2021 summarised by Marcus Ward and amendments and corrections to the recently published *Rare Birds of Hampshire* by John Clark.

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

Farlington Marshes, Titchfield Haven, Needs Ore, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, Blashford Lakes and Fishlake Meadows.

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, as HOS Data Manager, was responsible for the CoBRA2 database and all its various outputs, 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). Glynne Evans 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 in 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 spring/summer to write their accounts is much appreciated. There were three changes this year. Geoff Butler took over dabbling ducks from David Brookes; Tim Norris took over Swift from Andy Broadhurst and Amy Robjohns assisted Keith Betton with the rarities. I welcome Geoff, Tim and Amy to the team and thank Andy and David for their contributions in recent years. 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, Geoff Butler, Bob Chapman, John Clark, Rob Clements, Trevor Codlin, Alan Cox, Tony Davis, Mark Edgeller, Philip Fawkes, William Legge, Andy Lester, Tim Norriss, Graham Osborne, Andy Page, Martin Pitt, Andy Rhodes, Amy Robjohns, 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 BBS website data), 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 Chair's Report, Richard Carpenter for the Review of the Year, and all our other authors of papers and notes. Our regular illustrators, Dan Powell and David Thelwell, have again generously donated their artwork for the frontispiece and elsewhere in the report. Thanks are also due to Alan Lewis who, as Photographic Editor, has been responsible for sourcing and selecting the excellent photographs which add interest and make the report so much more attractive, and to the individual photographers who generously submitted images and are acknowledged both in the contents list and in the captions to each photograph. The following team of proof-readers and reviewers all identified errors and made valuable comments: Keith Betton, John Clark, John Cloyne, Andy Collins, Tim Doran, Andy Johnson and Alan 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. Keith Betton arranged the advertisers and financial support and Nicola Whitmarsh is responsible for sales.

Lastly, a reminder that digital back-copies of the Hampshire Bird Report from 2010 to 2018 are available on-line on the HOS website. In addition, reports from the late 1950s are being steadily added. I hope you enjoy reading this report and I welcome any constructive feedback.

Mike Chalmers, August 2022

John Ralph Wykeham Hollins (1931-2021)

Ralph Hollins was born 18th July 1931 at the village of Martin in the New Forest. His father, a clergyman, died when he was very young and he was brought up alongside his sister by his eccentric mother, his upbringing probably explaining some of his own eccentricities. He was definitely an unconventional man. He won a scholarship to St Edmunds School in Canterbury where he was taught mathematics by the computer pioneer Christopher Strachey, who was also his mentor and undoubtedly started his computer career.



After studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Keble College, Oxford and completing his National Service, he started work at Boots before moving to IBM where he spent the majority of his career. Colleagues of his at Havant remember him being called out in the middle of the night to fix problems on the mainframe computers. He would turn up with his coat over his pyjamas, sit at the screen of flashing lights which meant nothing to them, hit a couple of buttons to fix the problem and then head back home. He was indeed a very clever man.

I first met Ralph in the early 1980s at IBM Northern Road. Every May we would do a 24 hour birdwatch for charity. I recall one time when we had been exploring part of Titchfield Haven at 3am hoping to hear Grasshopper Warblers. As we returned to Ralph's camper van we could see flashing lights. We had attracted the attention of the local constabulary but after proving our identity, all was well. As they drove off Ralph said "blast, I should have asked them to sponsor us".

After moving to the North Harbour complex he would be seen every lunchtime walking the site checking on the wildlife and birds, a role he carried on for many years even after he left the company acting as advisor for the wildlife. Concurrent with his career, Ralph was actively running the Havant, Emsworth and Hayling branch of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust including a full programme of walks all led by himself (including a joint walk for HOS), monthly indoor meetings at the Spring in Havant with guest speakers and regular outings for the juniors. When the onset of cataracts forced him to curtail his walks programme, a committee of ten were needed just to cover his walks.

Taking early retirement in the 1990s he was able to concentrate even more on his love of the natural world. From 1997 to 2018 he would write a daily blog of the wildlife he and others had seen. Thankfully Brian Fellows has ensured these blogs are not lost; they can be found on the Brook Meadow website in the tributes section. No surprise then that he was awarded an MBE for his service to wildlife conservation. His two major claims to fame are as the co-finder of Red Helleborine at Petersfield in 1986 and the finder of a Lesser Sand Plover at Church Norton in August 1997. This was widely thought to be a Greater Sand Plover but Ralph being Ralph stuck to his guns and was proven correct - a first for the UK.

In March 2017 he moved from Havant to South Hayling where he could still be found out and about. In 2019 he moved to Castle Douglas in Scotland to be near his son, where he passed away on 11th August 2021. His ashes are buried with Meg, his beloved wife of 54 years, in Warblington Cemetery, a fitting resting place for a great man.

I was proud to know Ralph. He was a great teacher and I and many others will be grateful for all the knowledge he passed on to us. It was a pleasure when the last time I saw him at Warblington Cemetery I was able to show him one of the Cattle Egrets.

Kevin Stouse

Peter Jeffery Puckering (1923 - 2021)

Peter and his wife Esme lived in Winchester for the greater part of their lives. As long ago as 1961, Peter was visiting places such as Winnall Moors and sending in his bird records to the Hampshire Field Club (HFC). But with his professional background in Railway Work Study, Peter was also a good organiser and meticulous with the paperwork. So it's no surprise that by 1966 he had become Hon. Secretary for the Field Studies Committee of what was then the HFC's Ornithological Section (forerunner of HOS). He was the HFC FS Secretary from 1966 to 1971, and again from 1976 to 1978. I believe the short gap may have been because in 1972 he had become BTO's Hampshire Regional Representative (RR) with responsibilities for liaison with new BTO members, and for overseeing and arranging national surveys. Some surveys were run by other committee members, but Peter himself organised the Heronries Census every year and did an enormous amount of work coordinating the 1975 and 1980 Rook surveys. This was in addition to undertaking census and survey work himself at places such as Leckford and in and around Winchester.



In 1979, Peter was a founder member of HOS as it morphed from HFC's Ornithological Section, and we were all fortunate that he then became the first Secretary of the HOS Field Studies Committee (FSC). He then served as both Secretary of FSC and as BTO RR from 1979 to 1986. When HOS decided to embark on what was then an ambitious Tetrad Atlas project, it was natural that Peter would be at the centre of things. He became the Organiser and Coordinator for the first HOS Tetrad Atlas fieldwork (1986-91), at the same time channelling Hampshire's contribution to the second BTO Breeding Atlas (1988-91). This was of course long before the days of computers and volunteers being able to submit records on-line. I well remember visiting Peter at his home in Winchester and finding him surrounded by mountains of paper – laboriously transcribing and collating data from observers' record cards to tetrad summary cards, and then to enormous ten km square summary sheets! But all his efforts were successful and eventually resulted in the distribution maps in the "Birds of Hampshire" book.

Overall, Peter played a key role in the formation and development of the Society over a 25 year period. In recognition of all his work in running the Field Studies Committee pretty much right through from 1966 to 1986, and his tremendous efforts in organising the fieldwork and data for the 1986-91 Atlas projects, he was elected an Honorary Life Member of HOS in 1991.

Peter retired to Shalfleet on the Isle of Wight in 1996, but of course kept his interest in birds and was a BTO member until 2015. He outlived Esme by many years, and lived to the ripe old age of 98. Peter is survived by his grown-up children, Andrew and Philippa, along with two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Glynne Evans

Graham Hugh Rees (1937-2021)



Graham Rees (centre) with John Simons and David Billett (standing) at Farlington Marshes in late 1950s.

Graham Hugh Rees was born in 1936 in Llanstawell, a small village in Pembrokeshire, and died on 22 June 2021. His father initially worked in Pembroke Docks but the family moved to Portsmouth when his father became employed in the Naval Dockyard. I first knew Graham when we were pupils at Highbury Technical School in Hilsea, Portsmouth. I was in the 1947 intake, he arrived a year later. Graham's interest in birds was inspired, as were many of his generation, by S. Vere Benson's *The Observer's Book of British Birds*. At school he became fascinated by Little Owls in the elms bordering the school's southern boundary and which he was able to observe through classroom windows. He also became aware, while watching gulls on the playing fields, that Common Gulls pursued Black-headed Gulls to rob them of worms.

During his latter schoolboy years, he regularly visited nearby Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour where he met David Billett and Colin Tubbs who, having watched there since the late 1940's, had initiated routine bird counts of the area. Together they formed what became known as the Portsmouth Group (PG), a name coined by the county Bird Recorder, Edwin Cohen. Later Graham wrote 'a vigorous approach to our interest and peer pressure resulted, in a degree of integrity which has stood me in good stead for the rest of my life.'

On leaving school, he did a five-year apprenticeship as an engine fitter in Portsmouth Dockyard. I lost touch with Graham for a couple of years until our paths crossed again in late March 1955. He taught us PG 'newcomers' so much and during our Farlington years we were able to appreciate his acute abilities as an observer. He became a dedicated 'sea-watcher' and Hurst and St. Catherine's Point on the Isle of Wight became regular weekend haunts. Further afield, together with Tony Marr, Bill Truckle and me, he visited the Outer Hebrides in April 1958 where we watched at the Butt of Lewis and Tiupan Head and in April 1959, with Eric Jones, Cliff Henty and me, at Cap de la Hague and Barfleur in Normandy. On one occasion, we were birdwatching on Holy Island in Northumberland where, while camping in the dunes

and unaware that military exercises were about to take place, we were awakened in the early hours by what sounded like detonating fireworks close to our bivouac. Assuming local lads were skylarking, Taff leaped from his sleeping bag and shouted something like 'pack it in or we'll sort you out' whereupon shadowy figures stood up all around him and an Army officer replied 'did you say something?'

Graham served in the Royal Signals during his National Service. Stationed in Yorkshire, he also spent time in Libya. Following Army service, he spent five years in Fife's Rothsyth Dockyard. Occasional visits to Strumble Head area in Pembrokeshire with his wife during the late 1960s and early 1970s, led to a permanent return to his native county in 1974, where he worked at the Royal Naval Armaments Depots until retirement in 1994. His Strumble Head sea-watching reputation is his enduring legacy. His first observations there took place in 1978, initially from near the lighthouse but later from a derelict U-boat look-out station. When the National Park announced plans for its demolition, Graham was instrumental in setting-up a lobby group which resulted in the building being saved and converted to a sea-watching watchpoint. Since 1980 Graham spent as much time as possible there, particularly during autumn when he would regularly take three weeks annual leave there.

He was Bird Recorder for Pembrokeshire from 1981–2007, joint author with Jack Donovan of the *Birds of Pembrokeshire* (1994), for which he drew the distribution maps, provided most of the species accounts in the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pembrokeshire 2003–2007*, served on the Skokholm & Skomer Management Committee, and organised an annual Pembrokeshire Birdwatchers' Conference. Also he was a founding member and later Chair of the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS), Honorary Secretary of the Welsh Rarities Advisory Group from 1988 to 1992, and a recipient of a WOS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Welsh ornithology.

Graham's wife, Linda, died the year before him. They are survived by their three children who were all born in Wales, as Graham and Linda returned briefly from wherever they were living for each birth. He was a very proud Welshman who contributed so much to both his native Pembrokeshire as well as Hampshire.

Ed Wiseman

(With grateful acknowledgement of contributions from David Saunders' obituary to Graham in *British Birds* 114:556-557).

Review of Birds in Hampshire in 2021

Richard Carpenter



Western Sandpiper, Normandy Lagoon (Dan Powell)

A total of 249 species was recorded in the county in 2021 including two new species – Baikal Teal and Western Sandpiper.

January was cold until 10th, especially on 7th. There was a little snow and hail on 24th.

Still present from 2020 were three Tundra Bean Geese in the Sopley area of the Avon Valley from 1st-5th and also at Keyhaven until 17th. The drake Ferruginous Duck at Kingfisher Lake, Blashford remained until February 12th.

A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Blashford Lakes on 1st and 8th, and another frequented a garden in North End, Portsmouth from 8th until February 27th. A first-winter Caspian Gull was at Ibsley Water from 1st-4th and an adult Ring-billed Gull was there from 2nd until March 25th. A drake Scaup was off Hill Head/Brownwich from 4th until February 15th and at Posbrook Flood on February 19th. A single Black Brant was reported from three sites in the south-east from 5th, remaining into February, and a first-winter male Long-tailed Duck was in Southampton Water from 8th until April 9th. Two juvenile Snow Buntings were at Hurst Beach from 10th-23rd and a single male was there on 30th and February 3rd.

February was cold from 7th-14th, especially 8th-11th, with light snow on 8th.

A drake Scaup was at Blashford Lakes from 1st to April 18th. The only Smew of the year was a first-winter male at Mockbeggar Lake from 14th until March 3rd. A juvenile Iceland Gull flew over Farlington Marshes on 17th and the first Stone-curlew of the year was an unusual record at the same location on 21st. An early Wheatear appeared at Sherborne St. John on 23rd. A Grey Phalarope was at Keyhaven Marshes and nearby areas from 26th to March 1st and a first-winter female Long-tailed Duck was in Langstone Harbour on 27th.

March was particularly stormy 10th-13th, with winds from the south-west or west. A dry spell commenced on 28th which lasted well into April. It was particularly warm on 30th.

An early Osprey was at Hiltingbury on 1st and two very early Little Ringed Plovers were at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on 3rd. The only early-year record of Red-necked Grebe was one in Chichester Harbour on 10th. The first Great Skua of the spring flew east off Lee-on-the-Solent on 11th. An un-ringed drake Baikal Teal at Ripley Farm Reservoir on 14th was the first Hampshire record.

Other firsts for the year were a drake Garganey at Pennington Marshes on 20th, Willow Warbler at Braemore on 20th, Ring Ouzel heard over Sholing, Southampton on 23rd, Common Tern at Hill Head on 24th, Hobby at Fareham Creek on 27th, Yellow Wagtail and Tree Pipit at Bramshaw Telegraph on 27th, Redstart at Sandy Point on 29th, Reed Warbler at Keyhaven Marshes on 30th, Sedge Warbler at three locations on 30th, Whitethroat at three locations on 30th and Cuckoo at Turf Hill Inclosure, NF on 31st. A drake Scaup flew east off Hill Head on 30th.



Sparrowhawk (Dan Powell)

April remained largely dry until 27th apart from a few showers on 5th and 6th. It was cold and frosty at the start of the month.

The first Wood Sandpiper of the spring was at Farlington Marshes on 1st and a further nine were seen at other sites up to the end of May. The only Wryneck of the spring was at Fishlake Meadows on 3rd and a Blue-headed Wagtail was at Pennington Marshes on 9th and 18th followed by another at Needs Ore on 27th. An immature Iceland Gull flew over Sandy Point on 14th. The returning Hoopoe frequented gardens in the upper Test Valley from 16th until June 25th; other singles were seen at seven other sites from 18th until June 16th. A Serin was at Hill Head briefly on 16th. The first of only a few Pomarine Skuas in spring was off Lepe on 17th and a Manx Shearwater flew east off Hill Head on 24th, followed by 21 more off the coast between then and May 21st. A summer-plumage Little Stint was at Farlington Marshes from 25th-30th and a Curlew Sandpiper was at Keyhaven Marshes on 26th. A Quail flew into a window at Petersfield on 26th. A male Montagu's Harrier was at Ocknell Plain, NF and a Red-rumped Swallow was at Farlington Marshes on 29th. A Black Stork was at Lyndhurst and Woodfildley Bog, NF on 30th, and presumably the same bird was at other sites in early May.

Spring passage through The Solent lasted from 4th until well into May with good numbers of Whimbrel, Arctic Skuas, divers and terns being noted. Bar-tailed Godwit passage was heavy with a total of 2,125 passing through, especially on 14th, 21st and 22nd.

Firsts for the year were Pied Flycatcher at Shortheath Common on 2nd, Swift over the Itchen Estuary, Southampton on 3rd, Little Tern at Normandy Lagoon on 5th, Grasshopper Warbler at Titchfield Haven on 10th, Turtle Dove at Selborne on 11th, Nightingales at one site on 11th, Garden Warbler at two sites on 11th, Whinchat at Titchfield Canal Path on 12th, Wood Warbler at Trigpoint Hill on 13th, Lesser Whitethroat on 14th at Normandy Marsh, Arctic Tern off Lee-on-the-Solent on 17th, Black Tern off Hill Head on 24th, Spotted Flycatcher at Ferny Crofts, NF on 27th, Roseate Tern at Hurst Beach on 30th and Honey-buzzard in the Avon Valley on 30th.

May recorded south-westerly gales on 3rd and 20th/21st and 16th was a particularly wet day. Another dry spell commenced on 27th and lasted until mid-June.

The first Nightjar of the year was at Ibsley Water on 3rd. The only Long-tailed Skua of the year was at Cut Bridge, Milford on Sea, and later off Needs Ore, on 9th. A second Red-rumped Swallow of the spring was at Titchfield Canal Path on 11th and a second Serin flew over Pennington Marshes on 12th. Three Curlew Sandpipers were at Farlington Marshes on 15th. A Great Reed Warbler was singing and seen briefly on the Itchen Navigation, Eastleigh on 23rd and a Bee-eater was over farmland at Ibworth on 25th. A Little Stint was at Keyhaven Marshes from 28th-31st, followed by another in early June and a Grey Phalarope was in Chichester Harbour entrance on 28th. A second-summer male Montagu's Harrier flew in off the sea at Pennington on 28th and was seen later that day at Pig Bush, NF. A Purple Heron was at Fishlake Meadows on 29th remaining until June 13th. A female Woodchat Shrike was at Rowbarrow

Pond, NF on 29th. A summer-plumage male Red-necked Phalarope at Keyhaven Marshes on 31st remained until the following day.

June started off dry with a mini-heatwave from 12th-16th, but there was heavy rainfall on 17th/18th.

A pair of Long-tailed Ducks in full breeding plumage was present between Hill Head and Hook-with-Warsash from 2nd-22nd. Rose-coloured Starlings were at Ashurst on 8th-9th, Martin Down on 8th-17th and Wherwell on 14th, and at least eight Bee-eaters were briefly at Fishlake Meadows on 9th. A Pink-footed Goose was at Fleet Pond and Tundry Pond from 16th until mid-October. Roseate Terns were noted from 17th, with up to three between Hill Head and Southampton Water, and the first returning Wood Sandpiper was at Farlington Marshes on 19th. An American Golden Plover was recorded in Langstone Harbour from 23rd-27th. The first autumn Curlew Sandpiper was at Keyhaven Marshes on 23rd followed by others at several coastal sites from August to October. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Ibsley Water on 28th.



Corn Bunting (Dan Powell)

Breeding birds had mixed fortunes. Shoveler bred at Farlington Marshes and Titchfield Haven and Teal bred at Titchfield Haven and Woodfildley, NF. Broods of Goosander were observed at five locations in the Avon Valley. Quail held territory at Martin Down between late May and early August with others heard at four different sites in June and July. Turtle Doves possibly held territories at seven sites but the only successful breeding was reported at Chalton Down. At least 22 pairs of Stone-curlew established territories, raising at least 14 young. A total of 72 pairs of Avocet hatched at least 45 young but there was heavy predation by Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Territorial Little Ringed Plovers were found at 17 sites and at least 34 young were raised. Curlews established 43 breeding territories in the New Forest study area but only six young are believed to have survived. Sandwich Terns started off well with 315 pairs in the Normandy/Cockleshell area but the colony was devastated, probably by a Fox, and the only successful birds this year were five pairs in Langstone Harbour which raised four young. Little Terns bred at two sites with 15 pairs raising 17 young at Normandy Lagoon, but the pairs in Langstone Harbour failed. Common Terns were successful with 208 pairs raising 173 young, including some inland at Blashford Lakes and Testwood Lakes. Up to 12 pairs of Cattle Egret bred at Langstone Mill Pond with eight or more young being observed. Six or more pairs of Honey Buzzard bred producing at least nine young and at least 55 pairs of Goshawk bred. Marsh Harriers are considered to have bred at a minimum of nine sites with at least seven young successfully fledged. Peregrines bred at 21 localities and 16 pairs fledged 32 young. Ravens were confirmed to have bred at 19 localities and two pairs of Black Redstarts nested at Fawley Power Station.

July recorded rain and south-westerly gales on 5th/6th with significant rain on 12th/13th leading to some flooding. There was a heatwave from 16th-23rd which broke with thunderstorms on 24th.

The first Golden Plover of the autumn was at Hill Head on 1st and another Rose-coloured Starling was at South Warnborough on 7th. A Black-necked Grebe in breeding plumage was at Ibsley Water from 12th to August 13th and the only Red-footed Falcon of the year was at Furzey Lodge, NF on 16th. An adult Temminck's Stint was at Titchfield Haven on 18th followed by another, or the same, at Pennington Marshes from 19th-21st. A Black Guillemot ranged between Barton on Sea and Becton Bunny from 19th-23rd.

August was very wet from 7th-9th, but a dry period commenced on 10th, which lasted until early September.

The first returning Pied Flycatcher was at Hursthill Inclosure, NF on 4th followed by a number of others later in August and until September 10th. A Manx Shearwater was off Taddiford Gap on 6th, the only one seen in the late year. A Hoopoe was at Oakley on 11th. An adult Sabine's Gull was off Hill Head, and later off Browndown, on 21st. The first Wryneck of the autumn was at Keyhaven on 25th followed by sightings at a number of sites until October 8th. The highest grounded flock of Yellow Wagtails on return passage was 150 at Brownwich on 26th-29th. The first returning Pintail were small flocks at Farlington and Pennington Marshes on 27th followed a day later by Wigeon flocks at Black Point and Farlington Marshes.



Yellow Wagtails (Dan Powell)

September was dry and hot for most of the month, though the last few days were cooler, wetter and windier.

A White-winged Black Tern was off Hill Head from 3rd-8th and a group of four Balearic Shearwaters flew east off Hill Head and Gilkicker Point on 4th, the only ones recorded this year. The first Merlin of the autumn was at Pennington Marshes on 6th and the first Hen Harrier was at Acres Down, NF on 8th. The only Yellow-browed Warbler of the autumn was at Old Winchester Hill on 15th. The Stone-curlew roost in the Overton/Kingsclere area peaked at 59 on 23rd. A Grey Phalarope was at Ibsley Water from 27th to October 1st. The first Redwing flew over Bank, NF on 27th and the first Black-necked Grebe was in Langstone Harbour on 28th.

October was an unsettled month, wet until 5th and again on 20th/21st, which was also when temperatures started to drop. There were severe south-westerly gales and heavy rain on 31st.

A Hoopoe was at Allbrook on 1st and the first Fieldfare flew over Weston Shore on 3rd. The highlight of the month was Hampshire's first Western Sandpiper at Normandy Lagoon from 4th-14th. The first of many Bramblings flew over Weston Shore on 7th. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper was at Oxy Marsh and later at Normandy Lagoon from 9th-25th. The regular drake Ferruginous Duck at Kingfisher Lake, Blashford reappeared on 10th and remained until 2022. A first-winter drake Scaup was off Weston Shore on 10th and a female off Needs Ore from 27th to the year's end. The first Ring Ouzels of the autumn were two at Ashley Walk/Black Gutter Bottom/Leaden Hall, NF on 14th followed by others at six other locations until November 2nd. The only Little Bunting this year was in Embley Wood, Romsey on 15th. The first Slavonian Grebe was a single in Langstone Harbour on 16th. A Short-toed Lark flew west over Tweseldown on 17th. On the same day, a Richard's Pipit was located at Farlington Marshes. The first returning Purple Sandpiper was near Lymington Harbour on 22nd. A male Snow Bunting was an unexpected find at Ashley Walk/Leaden Hall, NF on 24th and 29th. The only Pomarine Skua of the autumn was at Normandy Marsh on 27th. A Great Grey Shrike was at Backley Bottom, NF from 27th to November 21st, and a Grey Phalarope on the road verge by Set Thorns Inclosure on 31st was most unusual for the New Forest.

November was dry with little rain but Storm Arwen affected the UK from 25th-27th with strong north-westerly winds, and snow fell on 28th.

A male Snow Bunting was at Hook-with-Warsash from 1st-7th and a flock of up to eight was at Hayling Island from 7th until late November with one still there on December 19th.

dThe first Velvet Scoters of the winter were two females off Black Point from 2nd. The second of the two Great Grey Shrikes was at Foxlease, NF near Lyndhurst on 4th. A female/immature Scaup was at Kingfisher Lake on 7th and, possibly the same bird, at Ripley Farm Reservoir from 7th to 9th. A Red-necked Grebe was in Hayling Bay on 11th and remained in the area until 19th. Three first-winter Caspian Gulls were at Ibsley Water from 13th to December 29th, and they were joined by a second-winter on December 2nd. The only Penduline Tits this year were a group of six seen briefly at Weybrook Park GC near Basingstoke on 14th. A second Richard's Pipit was at Northney on 21st. The first Goldeneyes were a male at Alresford Pond and two females off Hill Head on 22nd. A female Long-tailed Duck was in Langstone Harbour 23rd until December 25th. A Whooper Swan was at Keyhaven Marshes on 25th and Ripley Farm Reservoir on 28th-29th and a Green-winged Teal was found at Ripley Farm Reservoir on 30th and remained until December 6th.

December Storm Barra affected much of the country on 7th and 8th but Hampshire was largely spared. It was dry from 14th-22nd, with high-pressure and easterly winds. From 29th it was mild with southerly winds.

An adult Iceland Gull was in Southampton Water on 6th and a Black Brant at Nore Barn, Emsworth 8th-21st. A Grey Phalarope was off Needs Ore on 8th and the only Lapland Bunting of the year flew over the same day. Unusually high autumn numbers of Chaffinches and Bramblings increased to peak counts in the New Forest on 12th and 14th respectively. Large numbers of Barnacle Geese were reported throughout the month, the largest flock being 278 at Farlington Marshes and Warblington on 15th. A Long-tailed Duck flew east past Gilkicker Point on 19th. A Red-necked Grebe was off Keyhaven on 19th and remained in the area until 21st. A flock of 34 White-fronted Geese was at Farlington Marshes on 18th, five remaining until 20th. The only Little Auk of the year flew west past Gilkicker Point on 30th and a dead Leach's Petrel was found in New Milton on 31st.

Appendix

The monthly and cumulative totals of Cat A-C species in Hampshire during 2021 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In month	168	169	186	210	198	180	177	183	187	192	177	171
Additions to year list		6	20	28	6	3	3	1	3	5	3	3
Year to date	168	174	194	222	228	231	234	235	238	243	246	249



Little Egrets (Dan Powell)

Systematic List of Species

Introduction

General information and terminology

Species categories, sequence, taxonomy, vernacular and scientific names comply with the BOU maintained British List (revised 29 November 2021). Alternative IOC English names are also included in parentheses after each BOU name in the headers (based on v11.2 at July 2021).

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 2020 and (iii) in 2021. All records of rare species that appear in the Systematic List have been accepted by BBRC or HOSRP as appropriate. Numbers of records of rare birds have been updated in line with the recently published Rare Birds of Hampshire. Observers of species with fewer than ten records per year, or of unusual events or record numbers, are credited in the Systematic List.

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, 2021
EN	Endangered in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2021
VU	Vulnerable in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2021
NT	Near-threatened in European Red List of Birds, Birdlife International, 2021
Schedule I	Included in Schedule I of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
Red	Red-listed in UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5), see <i>British Birds</i> 114: 723-747
Amber	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5)
Green	Not categorised under any of the criteria for Amber and Red (BoCC5)
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 core monthly WeBS counts or a higher count recorded 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 some species 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. Where localities within Chichester Harbour, e.g. Black Point, regularly report higher counts than WeBS on different dates, these may also be tabulated. 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 of Hampshire gardens are included in selected species accounts. These comprise 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 in Hampshire are summarised in Table 3 including average coverage and densities. Results of the New Forest Winter Bird Survey are given in Table 4 and the dates of WeBS counts at each site are 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.

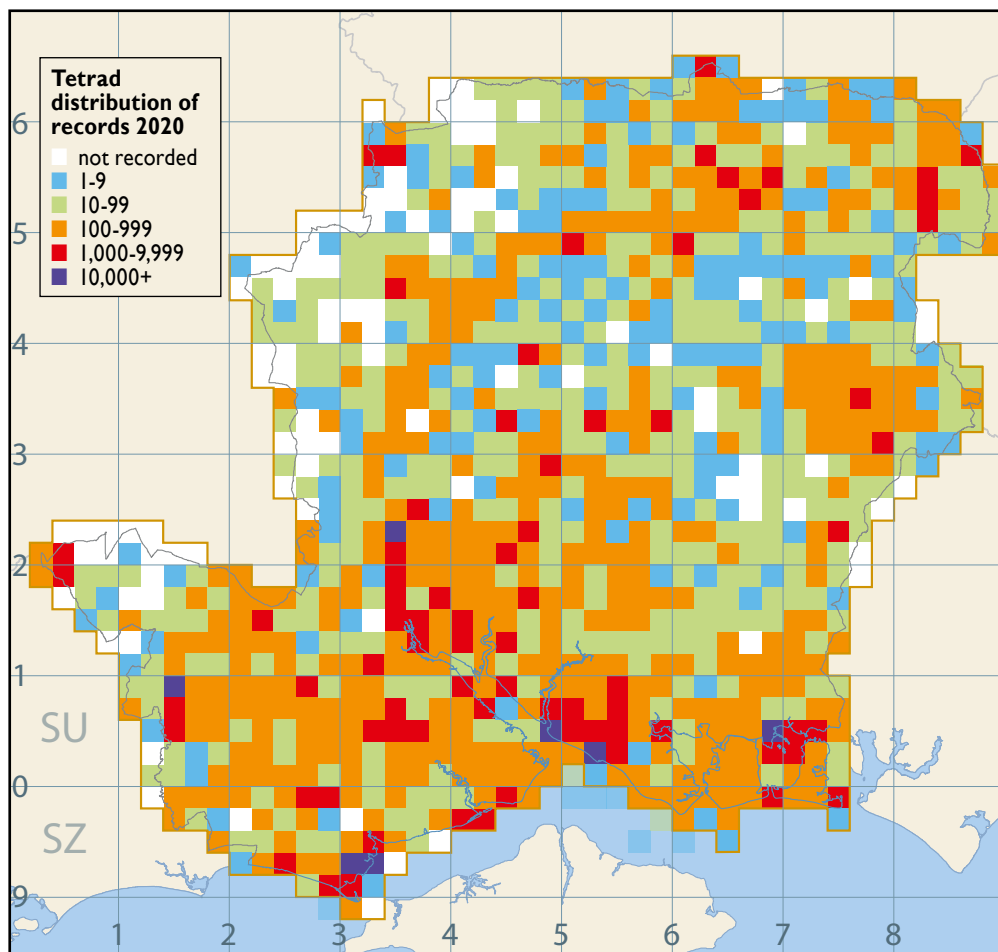
Sources of data

Each species account is written using records from the Society's CoBRA2 database (County Bird Recording Application). This year's database contained 447,744 records from the following range of sources in descending order of magnitude: BirdTrack (49.7%), eBird (26.2%), HOS Recorder (including all spreadsheets, correspondence and rarities submissions) (6.9%), Going Birding website (4.8%), BTO Garden BirdWatch (3.1%), WeBS counts (2.8%), Living Record (2.0%), Trektellen (1.8%) and others (each <1%). Despite COVID restrictions, this represents a 23% increase over last year when the total was 364,755. Records from BirdTrack and eBird accounted for 76% of the total.

Note that many counts from both BirdTrack and eBird may refer to aggregate totals along routes of various lengths, 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.

Coverage

A total of 1,802 individual observers contributed records to the database plus a number of separate groups. This was similar to last year. Analysis of previous records has highlighted the large differences in coverage between the separate parts of the county. Despite COVID, the highest numbers of records as usual were submitted for the coastal areas, main reserves and New Forest. There were 81 squares with over 1,000 records, with the highest concentration in the south. Within this group there were seven tetrads with over 10,000 records each. The highest was Farlington Marshes with 23,591 followed in descending order by Pennington Marshes, Titchfield Haven/Hill Head, Blashford Lakes, Hook-with-Warsash, Fishlake Meadows and Keyhaven Marshes.

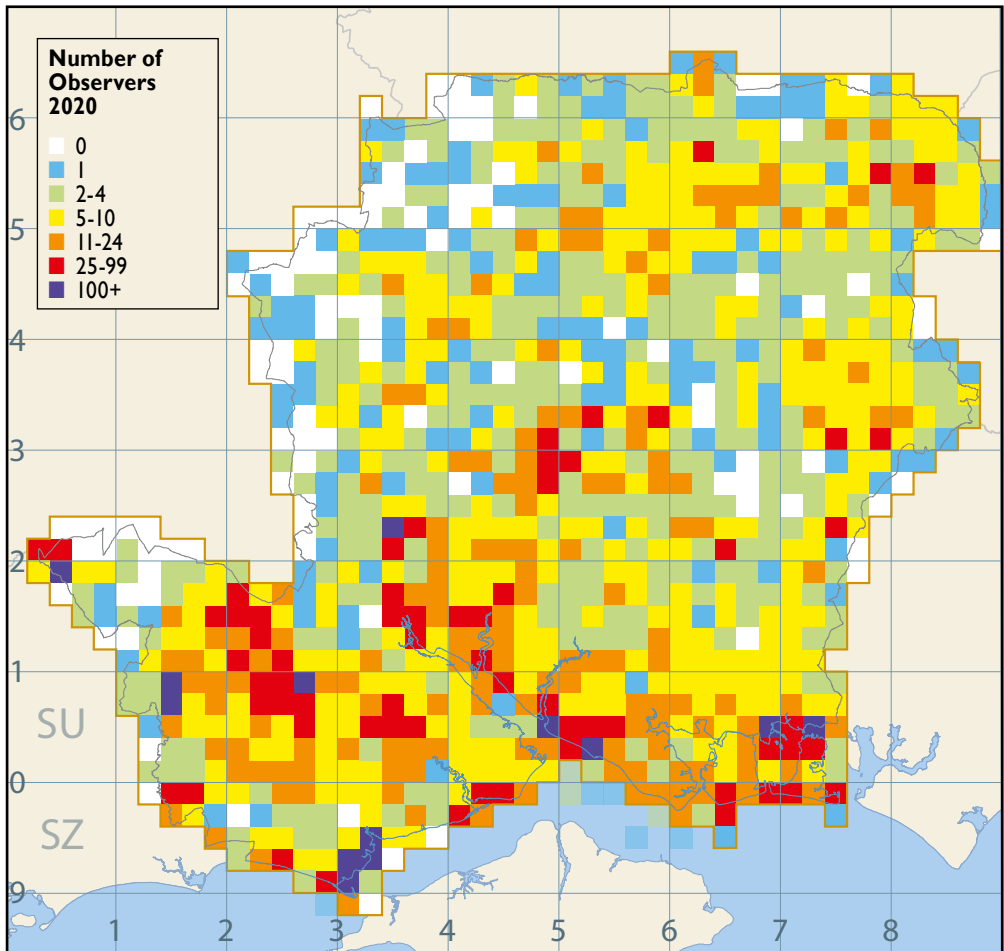


Number of records in HOS 2021 database for each tetrad in Hampshire

Whilst restrictions due to COVID still applied to parts of the year, especially the first few months when both WeBS and NFWBS were severely affected, the overall impact on bird recording and surveying in the rest of the year was much less than in 2020 with, for example, BTO registering near pre-COVID levels of coverage for BBS surveys in April to June. These factors need to be taken into account when interpreting the distribution of records and comparisons with previous years. The following maps illustrate coverage of records and species numbers at the tetrad (2km square) level. Note distribution maps for selected individual species at the tetrad level are also included in the relevant species accounts.

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. One measure to illustrate this is the total number of tetrads across the whole county for which records were received. This total was 977 (971 in 2020) which represents 90.6% of the 1,078 maximum number available including all the partial tetrads around the edges including some marine squares, and demonstrates the high degree of coverage achieved.

For the second time, a map has been included to show footfall in 2021. This is the number of observers submitting records for each tetrad. The highest count was 233 at Farlington

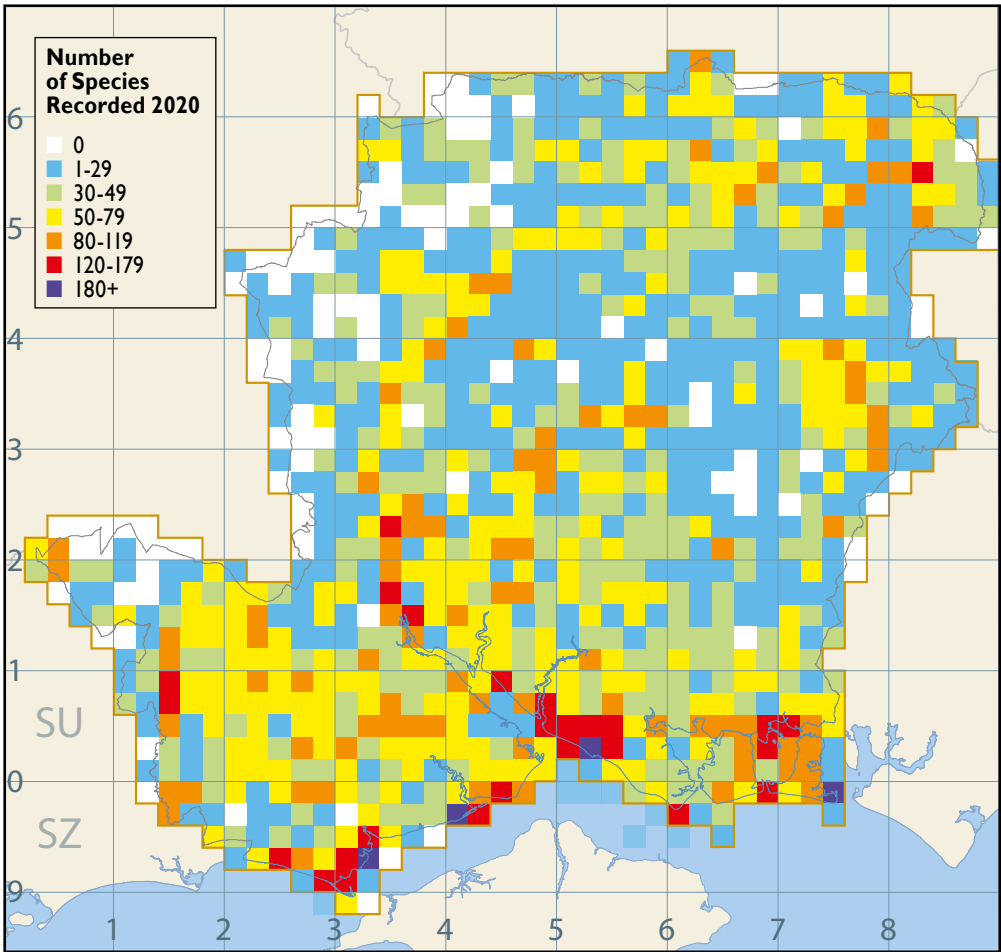


Number of observers submitting records in HOS 2021 database for each tetrad in Hampshire

Marshes followed by 12 others with over 100 observers. Out of these the only other two with over 200 observers were Pennington Marshes and Titchfield Haven/Hill Head. It is no surprise that many of these popular tetrads also produced the highest numbers of records and species.

Like the last two years, a further use of the CoBRA2 data has been to produce a map showing the number of species recorded in each tetrad in 2021. There were 30 squares with 120 or more species, all across the south except for one in the north-east. At the top end there were four squares with over 180 species. These were at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head (198) followed by Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (190), Needs Ore and Sandy Point (both 181). 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 third 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. 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



Number of species in HOS 2021 database for each tetrad in Hampshire

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.

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

WeBS counts were not undertaken at most sites in January due to pandemic restrictions. The February total was almost 3,000 lower than that for December 2020. Fifty-three flocks totalling 13,333 sampled between Oct 13th 2020 and Feb 23rd 2021 contained 7.4% first-winters. The December total was below average and this was reflected in the low numbers of first-winters reported.

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	2,000	8,871	3,704	37	2	2	4	8	2	3,775	7,673	9,741
Hampshire sectors	1,025	1,848	703	12		1	5	1	650	3,201	2,997	3,490
Langstone Harbour		5,139	2,221	36	14	4	5	7	200	2,286	3,515	3,873
Portsmouth Harbour		1,501	896	5					14	391	1,791	2,456
Titchfield Haven area	700	893	352	70	10				14	300	750	920
Hamble Estuary	1,200	1,167	525	124	8	1			4	190	300	319
Itchen Estuary	106	103	199	104	28	1				26	97	81
Hythe-Calshot		735	638	124	1					136		352
Beaulieu Estuary	950	529	734	100	3				18	210	778	897
Lymington-Hurst	1,000	1,200	1,000	35	8	4	6	6	7	300	578	716
WeBS count totals	470	10,782	6,188	356	4	4	7		10	6,298	9,371	12,674

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

Eastward spring passage totalled 878 on 37 dates between Mar 6th and May 12th. It was best recorded at Sandy Point where 849 were logged on 30 dates between Mar 10th and May 12th with peaks of 330 on Mar 22nd and 78 on Apr 24th. At Barton on Sea 174 were recorded on 15 dates between Mar 6th and Apr 30th with a peak of 37 east on Apr 24th.

Small numbers summered in Chichester and Langstone Harbours and in the Keyhaven area. One was at Weston Shore on June 1st and 2nd and Hook-with-Warsash on June 5th. One, adjudged to be an early returning bird, was in Chichester Harbour on Aug 26th and another early bird was off Hill Head on Sep 4th. Westward autumn movements totalled 155 on six dates between Sep 19th and Oct 23rd including 33 at Gilkicker Point on Sep 19th, 49 at Lepe on Oct 2nd and 42 at Gilkicker Point on Oct 23rd. A large arrival was noted in Chichester Harbour from Sep 20th but elsewhere the species was under-recorded at this time.

There were inland records of singles at Ibsley on Feb 26th and Mar 9th, Fleet Pond on Apr 16th (a first-winter which was at nearby Tice's Meadow, Surrey from Nov 29th 2020 and then moved to Stoke Lake, Surrey until May 4th) and Alresford Pond on Dec 31st. (JMC)

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

Around seven were recorded in the early year with records from Chichester Harbour (Northney, Jan 25th and Black Point, Feb 5th-Mar 4th), Langstone Harbour (1/2, Jan 1st-Mar 1st), Portsmouth Harbour (Jan 1st-18th) and Needs Ore/Park Shore (Jan 2nd-Mar 21st with 2 on Jan 23rd).

One flew east with 15 Dark-bellied Brents off Sandy Point on Apr 19th and another was at Needs Ore on May 3rd. Two were first noted with a small group of Dark-bellied Brents in the Keyhaven area on May 30th and were still present on July 26th with one until Aug 12th. Presumably the same two individuals were at Lepe on June 24th.

Around six were recorded in the late year with records from Chichester Harbour (2, Mengham and Fishery Creek, Oct 15th-Dec 24th and 1, Emsworth, Nov 8th and 22nd, Dec 8th, 15th and 24th), Langstone Harbour (Oct 15th-Nov 29th with 2, Nov 6th) and Needs Ore (Dec 5th and 22nd).

The monthly totals are shown below. (JMC)

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

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Formerly rare but now a very scarce winter visitor recorded annually since 1999. (0,48,1)

In the first two months there were 17 records involving single adults at Tipner Lake on Jan 5th-13th (HEJR), Warblington and Emsworth on Jan 14th-Feb 26th (ALR) and Farlington Marshes on Feb 27th (TH). The dates suggest that all could have involved the same individual. In December one was reported from Nore Barn, Emsworth between 8th-21st (PM-R, DJC), assumed to be returning bird. (ALR)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

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

The usual large post-breeding gatherings produced a maximum WeBS total of 4,472 in November. Maxima included 550 at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 9th, 825 at Tundry Pond the next day, 940 at Lymington-Hurst and 540 at Langstone Harbour on Nov 6th and 976 in the Avon Valley on Dec 19th. The Tundry birds mostly fly to Fleet Pond to roost at night and those in the Avon Valley use Ripley Farm Reservoir and Blashford Lakes but the locations of roost sites of coastal flocks are unknown.

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		152	87	93	137	185	282	157	143	230	540	487
Titchfield Haven area	400	300	88	57	21	30	30	300	420	300	150	430
Beaulieu Estuary		397	238	304	222	283	448	160	141	166	89	113
Lymington-Hurst	300	308	280	246	419	314	252	750	626	730	940	752
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		376							296		575	635
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl. Blashford Lakes	198	236	214				178		126	194	323	341
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	125	124	100	72	35	550	107	105	439	550	375	170
Upper Itchen Valley	88	94	66	32	28	48	50	112	206	205	140	161
Tundry Pond	269	175	45		11	15	85	445	785	825	273	215
Fleet Pond (roost)	7	2	28	36	14	35	113	273	575	705	47	43
WeBS count totals	1,076	2,653	2,102	1,164	1,019	1,654	1,912	1,049	3,399	4,123	4,472	3,943

Counts in excess of 200 elsewhere were 377 at Ramptons Lane GP on Sep 7th, 309 at Heath Pond on Sep 16th, 247 in Chichester Harbour on Sep 23rd and 240 there on Oct 8th, 254 at Dogmersfield Lake on Sep 25th, 208 at IBM Lake on Sep 29th and 283 there on Oct 9th, 270 at Testwood Lakes on Nov 23rd and 219 there on Dec 19th.

Widespread reports of breeding included those from Farlington Marshes (13 broods, 68 young), Needs Ore (c. 40 young), Fleet Pond (8 broods, 31 young), Bidden Water (4 broods, 25 young) and Titchfield Haven (4 broods, 24 young). It is not clear how many of these fledged. (JMC)

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

ET, Amber

Several unexpected flocks were noted including an unprecedented influx in December. All double-figure counts are listed below.

Jan 10th and 11th: 17 at Farlington Marshes.

Jan 11th: 23 heading north up Southampton Water at Dibden Bay.

May 29th: 14 flying east off Barton on Sea, early morning.

Oct 16th: 86 flying east off Pennington Marshes; later seen offshore.

Oct 21st: 77 flew north into Chichester Harbour and landed on Pilsey Sands (West Sussex); later left west.

Oct 23rd: 12 at Needs Ore and 15 at Normandy Lagoon; 12-13 in Normandy/Pennington Marshes area until Nov 6th.

Dec 13th: 66 west over Warblington at 09:10; circled over Farlington Marshes and returned east; c.113 west over Warblington at 09:46; landed at Farlington Marshes where estimated at 120; later what was presumably the original flock of c. 60 arrived at Farlington from the east where the total was counted as 190 (including four already present).

Dec 15th: 278 west over Warblington at 10:09 landed at Farlington Marshes six minutes later; 86 arrived from the east over Warblington at 11:09 but returned over Thorney Island; 60+ flew west there at 12:04 but may have been part of the group of 86.

Dec 16th: 18 over Sandy Point.

Dec 17th/18th: 31 at Farlington Marshes.

There was the usual flock in the Eversley GP area with maxima of 23 on Jan 17th, Aug 26th and Dec 28th. As usual, some of these moved to Wellington CP in spring with as many as 20 there on Mar 15th, but with no evidence of successful breeding subsequently. Other records of more than two involved seven to nine at Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes from Jan 1st to Apr 3rd and three there on Apr 17th, six west over Sandy Point on May 27th, three or four at Farlington Marshes between Nov 20th and Dec 24th and six at Needs Ore on Dec 21st and 22nd. (JMC)



Barnacle Geese, Pennington Marshes, Apr 3rd (Matthew Barfield)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare feral visitor.

The one survivor of the Blackwater Valley feral flock was with Canada Geese at Bramshill Park Lake on Sep 23rd (JMC). It is usually found on the Berkshire side of the county boundary. The last successful breeding was in 2005 suggesting that this individual is at least 16 years old. (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

The WeBS count total of 2,058 in September is the highest ever and probably gives an accurate assessment of the post-breeding population.

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	150	64	81	67	150	64	150	30	50	184	150	199
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	75	92	68						646	115	171	91
Avon: Ringwood-Fording-bridge incl. Ibsley Water	65	99	107		37	120	108		320	133	220	130
Test: Testwood Lakes	52	30	15	8			28	10	34	83	90	58
Test: Fishlake Meadows	89	40	88	24	59	103	91	45	253	287	213	180
Testbourne Lake			70	54	21	60		130	250	260	280	280
Lower Itchen Valley/Lakeside CP	196	187	57	24	51	43	79	16	190	8	11	167
The Vyne	50					20			148	55	40	138
Bramshill Park Lake	54	47	57				50					
Tundry Pond	140	105	32				210	263	250	243	111	104
Fleet Pond (roost)			2	5	38	36	22	286	298	237		7
Woolmer Pond								57	56		46	
WeBS count totals	434	535	657	222	258	227	267	146	2,058	1,046	1,072	923

Other counts exceeding 50 included 70 at Hawley Lake on June 20th, 67 at Edenbrook CP on July 25th, 215 at Wellington CP on Oct 19th, 250-300 in the Lee-Nursling area from Nov 4th-9th, 57 at Lower Test Marshes on Nov 16th, 95 in the Candover valley near Abbotstone on Nov 23rd (this number is very unusual in the upper Itchen Valley), 62 at Dibden Bay on Nov 24th and 100 at Longparish on Dec 11th.

Breeding was reported from 17 sites involving a minimum of 250 young. The largest concentration was on the River Test at Timsbury where 17 pairs were counted with 104 goslings. (JMC)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Rare winter visitor but presumed feral birds have occurred in most months. (27,163,1)

Amber

One was at Fleet Pond between June 16th and Oct 6th. It occasionally visited Tundry Pond during this period and was last seen there on Oct 17th (JMC et al.). (ALR)

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

Rare winter visitor. (2,198,7) Amber

Two adults and a first-winter were still present in the Sopley area of the Avon Valley from Jan 1st-5th after first appearing in mid-December 2020 (KRW et al.). Two adults and two first-winters were also still present at Keyhaven on Jan 17th (DS).

There have been ten records in eight years this century. By comparison Taiga Bean Goose has only been recorded five times, all between 1985 and 1988. (ALR)

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

Scarce winter visitor that has declined in recent years.

ET, Red, S4I, HBAP

Small numbers remained from the influx in late 2020. There were five (four first-winters) at Avon from Jan 1st to 4th and three there on 22nd, four at Needs Ore/Park Shore from Jan 1st

to Mar 19th (which were variously reported as four adults and up to two first-winters) and one until Apr 18th, one adult at Farlington Marshes from Jan 1st to Mar 8th, three adults at Bramshill Park Lake on Jan 16th, four over Strodgemoor Bottom, NF on Jan 18th, two with Greylags at Fishlake Meadows on Jan 30th and one adult with Greylags at Wellington CP on Mar 15th.

One with Canada Geese at Farlington Marshes from May 5th to 28th was aged as a first-summer and thus different to the earlier individual there. Possibly the same first-summer was at Fishtail Lagoon on June 7th.

In December a group of 34 arrived at Farlington Marshes on 18th when three also flew east off Barton on Sea. Five remained at Farlington on 19th and 20th. Subsequently, an adult flew north over Black Point on 21st and two arrived with Greylags at Fishlake Meadows on 27th. (JMC)



White-fronted Goose, Farlington Marshes, Feb 21st (Ashley Howe)

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. Green

The November WeBS total of 1,018 was the highest since January 2013 although numbers in the Avon Valley have declined in recent years, particularly in the stretch above Fordingbridge.

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
Chichester Harbour	8	54	78	37	14	133	116	166	108	252	294	209
Hampshire sectors		39	47	6	5	5	1	50	43	47	46	19
Langstone Harbour		82	79	14	54	20	15	30	32	17	64	86
Southsea Canoe Lake				46						64	61	85
Portsmouth Harbour	73	80	76						88	127	120	138
Itchen: Woolston-Woodmill	43	47	39		46				53	40	93	62
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	10	9	4	16	52	59	49	45	27	22	28	10
Lymington-Hurst		15	12	16	15	15	11	16	32	30	17	26
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		56	60						67	56	48	98
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	126	127	90	50					83	105	98	71
Avon: Blashford Lakes	35	28	21	21	13	31	31	21	71	80	75	48
Test: Longstock-Leckford			21	27	32	41	25	26	45	37	67	37
Avington Lake	5	6	10	22	7	19	21	21	38	35	3	2
Alresford Pond	53	57	42	44	44	59	67	63	66	57	41	43
Yateley GP	19	19	21						37	25	37	32
WeBS count totals	408	628	684	244	238	178	189	222	797	901	1,018	927

Forty-seven broods were reported with a total of 221 cygnets although not all of these are known to have fledged. A brood of four at Alresford Pond included three of the white Polish form. Elsewhere there were five broods of unreported size and three nests for which the outcome is unknown. (JMC)



Whooper Swan, Keyhaven, Nov 25th (Paul Sterry)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Rare winter visitor. (?466,1)

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

An adult was at Keyhaven Marshes on Nov 25th (PS, photo) and later at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 28th-29th (AH, LP, photo). (ALR)

(Note also that there were no records of Bewick's Swans for the first time in over 60 years.)

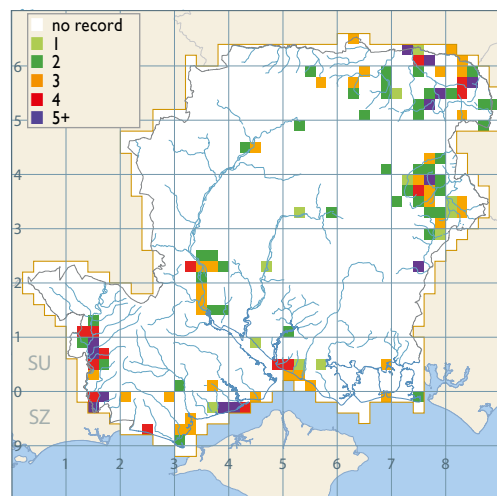
Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Scarce but increasing feral resident.

The WeBS total of 433 in September was below the level of 578 reached a year earlier but there is no indication that the expansion of this species has abated! The tetrad map below shows the species widely spread across the county with concentrations of records in two distinct areas of the north-east and separately in the south and south-west.

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



Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Egyptian Geese in 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beaulieu Estuary	5	1	8	8	7	16	4	4	2	18	20	39*
Ripley Farm Reservoir	4	2	10	7	6	4	15	11	155*	80	1	18
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	79	29	5							64	76	93
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	18	12	24						23	8	9	8
Avon: Ibsley Water	10	8	6	4	16	40	87	64	30	20	10	5
Wellington CP	4		2		11				24	103*	4	10
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley		44	28						91	70	31	54
Edenbrook CP	2	2	4	4	4	6	7	34	50*	7		2
Heath Pond, Petersfield	47	48	40	40	61	138	152	194*	127	38	44	67
WeBS count totals	184	156	154	77	119	119	181	125	433	385	224	259

*= record for locality

Other counts to exceed 20 included 21* at Hawley Lake on Aug 22nd and 33* at Lode Farm, Kingsley on Sep 28th. At least 30 broods were reported from 21 locations including four at Wellington CP and at least three at Needs Ore and Heath Pond, Petersfield. (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 continue to be below the previous five-year average maxima (see header) although totals from March to May are higher than seen in recent years. 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		265	271	195	87	115	15	67	17	28	112	367
Hampshire sectors	52	33	34	47	16	13	1		1	10	92	132
Langstone Harbour	270	248	207	170	81	60	15	20	19	20	75	155
Portsmouth Harbour	147	10	60	46	4	5	2		3	3	145	121
Titchfield Haven	20	26	22	22	75	31	8	5	1	4	52	30
Southampton Water incl. Hamble & Test Estuaries	26	77	64	33	35	19	4		4	8	18	34
Fawley-Calshot	8	41	32	53	30	5	8	2	1	1		29
Beaulieu Estuary	22	83	44	42	65	10	7	15	12	5	30	50
Lymington-Hurst	75	153	200	77	55	40	30	20	18	24	24	110
Avon: Sopley to Ringwood	32	73	10	2								2
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir	14	2	6	10	9	4	3	1			4	26
Avon: Blashford Lakes/ Ibsley area		11	2		2		2		3	6	3	
Alresford Pond	3	4	6	4	1	7	1		2	2	9	4
The Grange Lake		2	6	6	2	6		2	2	2	2	
Other inland records (no. of sites)	12(5)	16(8)	46(12)	51(10)	33(11)	11(3)	5(1)	4(1)		4(2)	9(3)	24(6)
WeBS count totals	46	706	609	438	231	78	66	39	22	31	106	599

Breeding was recorded from coastal sites at Farlington Marshes (3 broods totaling 21), Titchfield Haven (2 broods of 4 and 6), Posbrook Flood (1 brood of 4), Hook-with-Warsash (1 brood of 3), Fawley-Calshot (1 brood of 6), Dark Water, Lepe (1 brood of 10), Beaulieu Estuary (1 brood of 7 following earlier reports of 14 ducklings) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (2 broods of 8 and 4). At inland sites breeding was recorded at Ripley Farm Reservoir

(2 broods of 3 and 2). In addition, one juvenile at Alresford Pond and two at The Grange Lake on isolated dates were suggestive of local breeding. (GB)

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
Popham Court Pond	5		6	2							10	10
Eyeworth Pond, NF		12	6	6	9	6		2	8	3	11	8
Brick Kiln Inclosure, NF			14	1	11		7	10				
Keydell Nursery Pond, Horndean		16									31	31
Fishlake Meadows	3				6	3	12	10	11	3	22	30

Counts of ten or more at non-tabulated sites were 19 at Kingsley SP on Jan 6th, 25 at a fish farm at Hartley Wintney on Jan 8th, 12 at Lye Heath, Purbrook on May 13th, 15 at Fleet Pond on Oct 15th and ten at Allington GP on Nov 24th.

Broods (with numbers of young in parentheses) were reported at Bishop's Dyke, Denny Wood, NF (5), Wilverly Park Pond, Brick Kiln Inclosure, NF (5), Vinney Ridge Inclosure, NF (5), Eyeworth Pond, NF (3), Godshill and Black Bottom (up to 3), Ripley Farm Reservoir (2), Avington Lake (1), The Vyne Lake (1), Burnt Common (10) and Priory Farm, Selborne (1). (GB)

Baikal Teal *Sibirionetta formosa*

Very rare vagrant. (0,0,1)

An un-ringed drake was discovered on Ripley Farm Reservoir during the monthly WeBS survey on Mar 14th (OJF *et al.*, photo). It was seen again on Mar 16th. This is the first record of Baikal Teal for Hampshire and has been accepted by BBRC.

A short paper on the discovery, identification and status of this bird is included on pages 247-249 of this report. (ALR)



Baikal Teal, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Mar 16th (Ian Williamson)

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber

Spring sightings were higher than in 2020 with 30 reported despite the first being almost a month later and, unusually, all at coastal sites. The first arrival was a male at Salterns Lagoon, Normandy on Mar 20th (first sighting in 2020 was on Feb 23rd) followed by a female at Needs Ore the next day. The highest counts were seven at Posbrook Flood on Apr 1st and six (5 males and 1 female) on Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on Apr 2nd. Other sightings of one or two were reported at Stokes Bay, Titchfield Haven, Southampton Water and Beaulieu Estuary. The last of spring was on Apr 29th at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes.

The first autumn record was an immature female at Fishlake Meadows on Aug 1st followed by another, or same, there on Aug 9th. These were the only inland records for the year. Two were at Posbrook Flood from Aug 2nd-9th and Keyhaven Marshes on Aug 20th. The remainder of reports in autumn were singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Aug 25th and Sep 11th, Titchfield Haven on Sep 3rd, Needs Ore on Sep 12th, in the harbour at Hill



Garganey, Needs Ore, Sep 12th (Alan Lewis)

Head on Sep 15th and later at Titchfield Haven the same day and next and Posbrook Flood on Sep 18th. The last record of the year was a single at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Sep 24th. (GB)

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 lower than last year with 850 in 2021 compared to 884 in 2020, both in February. More positively the WeBS counts for 2021 were higher than 2020 in March to August except in June. The highest numbers were recorded at Blashford Lakes, particularly in February and March, the highest number on a single lake being 440 at Ibsley Water on Mar 14th.

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	83	70	44	21	3	8	5	12	11	30	56	67
Titchfield Haven	77	50	53	46	9	23	18	12	10	38	47	354
Beaulieu Estuary	20	72	150	28	4	2	6	18	50	52	86	54
Lymington-Hurst	210	140	109	82	4	4	1	25	120	29	64	111
Blashford Lakes	188	480	496	60			2	15	42	38	135	200
Test: Fishlake Meadows	8	39	37	6	1		1	11	4	19	26	7
Avon: Ripley Farm Reservoir			1						2	57	21	8
Southampton Common	43	21	15	17				1	6	22	24	26
Rampton's Lane GP & Burnt Common	47	47	50	22				5	4	38	24	31
The Vyne	10	32	19	24		1	1	12	15	27	32	9
Tundry Pond	30	24	2						13	3	12	10
Eversley GP	66	119	54	6					6	12	43	59
Fleet Pond	7	6	2	5	2	4	5	31	55	35	28	30
WeBS count totals	379	850	846	233	11	3	11	20	122	299	430	616

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

Counts of 20 or more at non-tabulated sites were 30 at Baffins Pond on Jan 30th, 21 at Winchester SF on Feb 2nd, 37 at Fawley Reservoir on Feb 5th, 22 at Ashe Park Lake on Feb

8th, 30 North of Wattons Ford, River Avon on Mar 14th, 23 at Dogmersfield Lake on Oct 10th, 30 at South Moor on Nov 20th, 21 at Alresford Pond on Nov 23rd, 21 at Testwood Lakes on Dec 2nd, 20 at Allington GP on Dec 9th and 32 at Bramshill Park Lake on Dec 29th.

Breeding was confirmed at Farlington Marshes with a brood of seven seen during July and August, with five last seen on Aug 26th. Young birds were also seen at Titchfield Haven with a maximum of six on July 15th from an unknown number of broods. (GB)

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 1,110 in December was less than the four highest months of last year and lower than the recent five-year mean maxima (see header). Three sites with maximum counts above 50 last year have fallen below that level (maximum counts in parentheses) at Fishlake Meadows (41), Marsh Court (24) and The Vyne Lake (45). No records at Winchester SF during the summer were due to no water in the lagoon and subsequently no breeding. In addition to the usual high counts at Blashford Lakes, numbers at Eversley GP were particularly high for the early part of the year, peaking at 200 in February.

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	40	53	35	23	27	50	51	30	55	78	49	68
Titchfield Haven	65	105	86	78	31	78	59	36	35	80	106	90
Beaulieu Estuary	19	15	50	13	30	29	23	29	28	15	34	54
Lymington-Hurst	57	45	52	50	20	20	10	25	30	50	53	20
Ringwood-Fordingbridge		22	109	1						4		20
Avon: Blashford Lakes incl. Hamer Warren	270	235	76	40	7		7	30	135	64	141	318
Testbourne Lake			35	18	17	30		15	15	12	30	80
Overton/Ashe	77	96	164	149	74	119	5			12	16	49
Winchester SF	69	67	58	40	4					12	11	3
The Grange Lake	24	33	29	26	27	12	16	34	58	22	45	36
Alresford Pond	85	66	15	29	14	129	17	31	168	103	57	42
Bramshill Park Lake	40	46	30	15	2	2	6	17	51	78	28	52
Eversley GP	188	200	52	12	2					31	77	84
Yateley GP	61	39	8						3	4	25	88
WeBS count totals	757	952	866	421	132	159	129	213	533	591	786	1,110

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

Between 30 and 50 were also recorded at non-tabulated sites including Chichester Harbour, Lower Test Marshes, Testwood Lakes, Nursling, Fishlake Meadows, Leckford Great Common, River Test at Longparish, Allington GP, Avington Park Lake, The Vyne Lake and Fleet Pond.

Records of broods continued to decline with only 22 definitely recorded in 2021, whereas 29 had been recorded in 2020. Records of breeding include Langstone Mill Pond (1 brood of 7), Farlington Marshes (2 broods totalling 9), Hook-with-Warsash (2 broods of 9 and 4), Beaulieu Estuary (2 broods totalling 13 and later sightings of 17 ducklings), Blashford lakes (1 brood of 9), Fishlake Meadows (1 brood of 2), Wherwell (1 brood of 5), Overton (2 broods totalling 10), Avington Park Lake (3 broods), The Grange Lake (5 broods with a maximum of 5 in a brood), Alresford Pond (2 broods of 5 each) and one duckling seen nearby at Drayton Farm WCB. (GB)

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 7,326 was similar to last year (7,617 in 2020) but again significantly lower than the five-year mean maxima (see header). All other winter WeBS totals were also lower than 2020 except for 4,800 in March (2,748 in 2020) but were comparable to 2019 from September to December. At Lower Test Marshes the February WeBS count was not completed in month leading to an underestimate of numbers there. Inland at Blashford Lakes, numbers reduced in spring far earlier than in 2020 from a winter peak of 2,383 in February to a maximum count in April of only 20 on 3rd (compared with 350 in 2020). At all coastal sites numbers fell to single figures by Apr 20th until Aug 28th with the exception of Beaulieu Estuary (20, Apr 27th) and Keyhaven (20, May 13th).

Autumn arrival was marked by counts of 50 or more at Black Point (50, Aug 28th) and Farlington Marshes (75, Aug 28th; 83, Aug 31st). In Chichester Harbour a large influx of 1,000 was recorded from Black Point on Sep 19th. In the late autumn and winter period, the highest WeBS sector counts were 1,377 at Lymington-Hurst on Nov 6th and 1,024 in Portsmouth Harbour from the low tide count on Dec 11th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	210	1,316	1,255	59		1			700	1,699	3,345	2,684
Hampshire sectors		21	22							13	824	197
Langstone Harbour	530	827	586	42	1	1		85	200	681	525	899
Portsmouth Harbour	205	281	44						360	240	508	1,024
Titchfield Haven	215	200	197	30				9	12	37	115	128
Hamble Estuary	242	250	175	1				2	60	123	342	266
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	898	965	925	46	3	2	2	34	45	400	537	887
Hythe-Calshot	130	465	427						20	211	263	525
Beaulieu Estuary	100	233	350	20	6	2	2	9	75	310	441	517
Sowley-Lymington										52	180	400
Lymington-Hurst	500	610	345	65	20	2		22	250	450	1,377	750
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood incl. Ripley Farm Reservoir	300	645	524	11						9	177	437
Avon: Blashford Lakes	2,024	2,383	620	20	2			2	13	101	269	704
Eversley GP	247	425	169	9					18	84	97	128
WeBS count totals	3,578	7,326	4,800	103	2	2	2	1	469	2,286	4,716	5,838

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

The only other counts to exceed 50 were at in the Avon Valley between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (100, Mar 14th), Testwood Lakes (54, Jan 17th; 93, Mar 14th; 64, Nov 7th; 71, Dec 19th), Fishlake Meadows (65, Jan 30th; 85, Feb 19th; 69, Mar 7th; 83, Mar 18th; 65, Dec 28th), The Vyne Lake (56, Feb 1st; 65, Feb 11th; 62, Mar 14th), Havant (80, Dec 23rd), North Pools, Bramshill Plantation (74, Dec 18th) and River Wey Floods, Isington (max. 58, Mar 13th and above 50 from Mar 5th-20th).

Wigeon x Pintail hybrids were reported at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Jan 1st and Baffins Pond on June 11th and July 7th. (GB)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Amber

The peak WeBS count of 3,262 in December fell below the mean maxima for the last three five-year periods (see header) and was below the highest three months of last year. Several sites that had monthly maxima in 2020 above 200 did not reach that level in 2021 including Blashford Lakes, Testbourne, Ewhurst Lake (which had the highest monthly maxima in 2020 of 480), Heath Pond, Petersfield and Bramshill Park Lake.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	37	175	290	124	73	230	88	195	273	337	373	437
Hampshire sectors	10	95	129	51	27	44	28	94	140	146	226	258
Titchfield Haven	56	46	48	75	54	72	228	180	132	110	97	99
Lymington-Hurst	60	30	75	88	117	167	116	90	200	123	124	126
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	14	121	88	21	16	16	47	217	464	176	93	176
Marsh Court	68	9	7	21	15	52	74	221	96	197	155	111
Ladwell-Cranbury Park, Chandlers Ford	48	2	30		17		302					6
Alresford Pond	32	14	23	20	9	58	210	225	20	12	42	28
WeBS count totals	1,233	2,193	1,920	871	654	753	1,046	1,424	3,145	2,802	2,982	3,262

Non-tabulated sites with counts of 150 or more were Yateley GP (176, Feb 12th; 178, Sep 13th; 150, Oct 15th; 177, Nov 12th and 177, Dec 17th); King's Pond, Alton (180, Feb 13th); Dogmersfield Lake and Tundry Pond combined (151, Feb 13th; 169, Sep 12th); Ewhurst Park Lake (179, May 13th); Farlington Marshes (152, July 15th); Heath Pond, Petersfield (164, Aug 22nd; 172, Sep 12th; 159, Sep 20th) and Eastrop Park and Black Dam, Basingstoke (166, Aug 28th; 191, Dec 6th).

Breeding was widespread. Comparisons of numbers of broods and young at sites reported last year (with 2020 broods in parentheses) are as follows: Hook-with-Warsash, 1 brood of 11 (8); Avington Lake, 3 broods (3); Alresford Pond, 3 broods (1) and Fleet Pond, 2 broods with 6 young (20). Very late breeding was observed at Hilsea Lines with a brood of 15 on Nov 6th. (GB)



Pintail, Langstone Mill Pond, Dec 3rd (Peter Milinets-Raby)

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.

VU, Schedule 1, Amber

The peak WeBS count was lower than all recent mean maxima five-year periods (see header) and all monthly WeBS totals were below those for 2020 except for 482 in November (382 in 2020). The highest monthly maximum of 734 in February was also below 1,046 recorded in February 2020. However, significantly higher maxima were recorded at Langstone Harbour and Blashford Lakes with 297 and 652 respectively (compared to 194 and 496 in 2020).

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	6	174	107	2						8	39	244
Hampshire Sectors	6	6	33						2	2	27	67
Langstone Harbour	177	297	222	6		1		20	155	201	194	218
Portsmouth Harbour		13							1		11	5
Titchfield Haven	44	50	37	10	1				20	3	20	32
Hamble Estuary/Hook-with-Warsash	69	2	9	2	4	1			3	41	57	84
Fawley-Calshot	3	22	16							10	42	23
Test Estuary: Dibden Bay		18	4	3								
Beaulieu Estuary	40	10	12					6	25	12	57	74
Lymington-Hurst	339	159	150	20				10	75	50	281	350
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge			12									
Avon: Blashford Lakes (mostly Ibsley Water)	462	652	450	1						1	11	60
Fishlake Meadows	6	22	6	4		1			3	8	12	16
WeBS count totals	439	734	379	14					82	254	482	456

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

Other early year records away from the tabulated sites were at The Vyne Lake with two on Jan 17th, in the Avon Valley between Wattons Ford and Ringwood and at Ripley Farm Reservoir with seven and two respectively on Feb 14th (two were also at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Jan 17th), and at Alresford Pond with one on Feb 16th.

In spring one was at Hammer Warren Lakes on Apr 11th and at Hook-with-Warsash variable numbers were reported throughout spring and early summer, with a maximum of four on May 18th after which one remained up to June 25th. Other summer sightings were singles at Fishlake Meadows on June 11th and Farlington Marshes on June 28th.

The first double-figure counts of new arrivals in the autumn were at Farlington and Pennington Marshes with ten on Aug 27th at both locations followed by ten at Titchfield Haven on Sep 17th. In contrast to high numbers at Blashford Lakes in January to March, double-figures were not seen again there until Nov 30th. Records away from tabulated sites in the second half-year were at Lymington-Sowley with three on Oct 9th and seven on Dec 5th, two off-shore at Barton on Sea on Aug 30th, one at Quidhampton on Sep 26th and four at Denvilles, Havant on Dec 23rd. (GB)

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 highest monthly WeBS total was 4,261 in December which, as with the previous two years, continues to be below the mean maxima of the previous five-year periods (see header). WeBS totals for January are normally of the same magnitude as other winter months but were lower this year due to pandemic restrictions. The only individual site count to exceed 1,000 was at Lymington-Hurst with 1,081 on Nov 6th.

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	8	708	552	79			4	50	177	376	462	965
Hampshire sectors	75	243	173	8				60	100	94	185	235
Langstone Harbour	135	208	145	60	5	8	29	80	165	183	305	384
Portsmouth Harbour	48	22	50	13					350	160	408(L)	300(L)
Titchfield Haven	220	143	91	202	18	9	27	80	500	330	310	400
Hamble Estuary	85	178	62	8				31	64	172	152	159
Lower Test/Eling/ Bury Marshes	99	68	44	20				17	30	45	111	300
Dibden Bay	200	214	216	5	1					50	25	32
Hythe-Calshot	35	58	30	9	2			4		3	36	83
Beaulieu Estuary	198	190	98	24	3	3	53	94	379	249	864	926
Lymington-Hurst	300	585	311	121	3	4	16	45	259	457	1,081	978
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood	50	541	452						4	14	54	85
Avon: Blashford Lakes	252	396	248	10	1			3	10	18	36	70
Test: Fishlake Meadows	202	320	172	35	1	2	5	9	20	110	164	260
Testbourne Lake			14	18	1				1	50	40	60
Testwood Lakes	30	76	38	20	3	1			1	47	61	27
Winchester SF	86	102	33	35						42	80	42
Alresford Pond	154	71	101	50		9	8	74	320	322	258	226
The Wyne	157	65	26	54	8	5		24	25	18	105	137
WeBS count totals	806	3,411	2,253	480	11	9	58	127	1,531	1,783	3,600	4,261

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

The only non-tabulated counts of 50 or more were 53 at Burnt Common on Jan 9th, 66 at Eversley GP on Feb 12th, 60 and 70 at Allington GP on Feb 13th and Dec 20th respectively, 52 at Wilverley Park Pond, NF on Mar 4th, 50 at Marsh Court on Mar 6th, 80 and 61 in the Avon Valley between Ringwood and Fordingbridge on Mar 18th and Sep 12th respectively and 55 on the River Dever at Micheldever on Dec 17th. Numbers at Winchester SF were lower than normal due to low water levels.

Whilst there were only single-figure counts in June, higher monthly peak totals were recorded for the late summer months compared to the previous two years due to early new arrivals, notably at Titchfield Haven (27, July 23rd), Beaulieu Estuary (53, July 30th) and Farlington Marshes (29, July 31st). Breeding was confirmed for the first time since 2018 at two separate locations. At Titchfield Haven a few pairs with broods of two and three were seen on the South Scrape and 11 acre area from June 3rd, and at Woodfidley, NF an adult with up to seven ducklings was reported between July 7th-30th at Rowbarrow Pond. (GB)

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Rare vagrant in every month from October to May. (0,25,1)

A drake was discovered at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Nov 30th (JMC) and stayed until Dec 6th (JMC). (ALR)

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Scarce feral visitor or escape. (1,167,6)

Two drakes were at Bramshill Park Lake from Jan 18th to Apr 7th. They returned for their fourth winter on Sep 23rd and were seen again on Dec 20th and 29th (JMC). A pair was at Fleet Pond on Mar 5th (GCS). A female or immature was at Ibsley North Lake, Blashford from Sep 12th to Dec 31st but also spent time on Ibsley Water (TMJD, SKW *et al.*). Two eclipse drakes, presumably the same as at Bramshill Park Lake, were at Burnt Common on Sep 20th (BS *et al.*); a pair was at Wellington CP on Nov 8th (JMC) and finally a female was at Allington GP on Dec 30th (DJU). (ALR)

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

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

The peak WeBS count of 170 on Jan 17th fell well below the mean maxima for the last four five-year periods (see header) suggesting that what was hoped to have been a reversal in trend, with a maximum of 354 in 2019, was only temporary and that the gradual but significant decline in the population, probably associated with milder winters, continues unabated. Whilst the Blashford Lakes complex contributed on average 40% of the WeBS totals for the year, numbers there were significantly lower than in recent winters as witnessed by the maximum count of 80 on Dec 4th (200 in March 2020). The peak counts at Ibsley Water and Kingfisher Lake were 52 (Dec 1st) and 45 (Dec 7th) respectively whilst away from the Avon Valley the highest counts were at Dogmersfield Lake (46, Jan 17th) and Fishlake Meadows (46, Dec 27th).

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	1	21	16	6	6	6	9	2		3	4	20
Blashford Lakes	70	50	33	2	5	4	6	7	7	24	63	80
Test: Fishlake Meadows	28	37	18	14	8	5	3	4	6	19	27	46
Dogmersfield Lake	46		7						2	4	25	31
Eversley GP	12	10	4						8	6	23	22
WeBS count totals	170	96	135	17	14		13	6	26	75	141	157

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

Sites not tabulated but returning double-figure counts were Ewhurst Lake (11, Jan 1st), Winchester SF (11, Jan 7th and 24th), Tundry Pond (17, Feb 13th and Nov 16th), Sowley Pond (18, Feb 15th) and Testbourne Lake (40, Nov 23rd). There were additional records from as many as 58 localities across the county, mostly referring to isolated winter records and up to four individuals (max. 8 at Langstone Harbour, Jan 3rd and Bramshill Park Lake, Feb 8th). There were, however, several May/July records including a male at IBM Lake on May 16th and June 2nd, seven males and a female at Fishlake Meadows on May 27th and four males at Farlington Marshes in late June-early July.

Breeding was confirmed at Edenbrook CP but the brood of eight all died; Fishlake Meadows when a female and two ducklings were seen on June 9th; Fleet Pond where four fledglings in mid-July signified the first successful breeding since 1992; and Needs Ore where two pairs produced a total of seven young. (PFF)

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

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

ET

The drake that frequented Kingfisher Lake, Blashford from December 2020 remained on the lake until Feb 12th (m.o.). Access to Kingfisher Lake is currently restricted so it is possible that it was present for longer based on dates from previous years. A male, presumed to be the same individual, returned to Kingfisher Lake on Oct 10th and remained into 2022. This drake is probably responsible for all sightings since the 2011/2012 winter. (ALR)

Aythya hybrid

A Scaup x Tufted Duck hybrid was at Conford Park Lake on Dec 29th (AFJC). (PFF)

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.

NT, Green

WeBS totals for April-July were significantly higher than in 2019, whilst the annual maximum of 1,378 in mid-March was not far adrift from that for recent years but down on the mean maximum for 2012-17 (see header). Blashford Lakes continued to be the principal site, where the highest count was 500 on Mar 14th, but Eversley GP and Yateley GP again recorded triple-figure counts in the winter months with maxima of 258 at Eversley on Feb 12th and 179 at Yateley on Jan 15th, whilst 120 on Baffins Pond on Jan 13th was the highest count ever there.

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
Blashford Lakes	334	326	500	241	108		178		133	147	319	376
Test: Fishlake Meadows	12	57	35	20	12	10	2	9	6	8	8	5
Test: Testbourne Lake			37	32	20	28		40	32	54	30	30
Anton Lakes, Andover	36	37	10	20		7			13	10	16	54
Ewhurst Park Lake	44		55	38	2	2				26	28	31
Baffins Pond	120*	25			2	2		20		50	58	67
Wellington CP	14		21		12				2	24	82	8
Bramshill Park Lake	30	28	17	9	9		13	8	8	19	11	50
Fleet Pond	24	48	57	55	36	31	45	15	10	13	22	38
Eversley GP	117	258	141	117					64	62	98	132
Yateley GP	179	114	102						25	117	164	152
Camp Farm GP	1	57	6	11					27	20	21	25
WeBS count totals	926	1,129	1,378	634	281	125	297	108	502	698	1,067	1,321

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

An additional 15 sites, several of which had appeared in the Table in past reports but which failed to meet the criteria in 2020, returned winter month counts exceeding 25 (maxima in parentheses). These were in the north-east at Tundry Pond (47, Nov 11th) and Dogmersfield Lake (34, Dec 31st); the north at The Vyne Lake (31, Feb 15th); Meon Valley at Warnford Park Lake (40, Apr 13th); Itchen Valley at Arlebury Lakes (31, Dec 10th) and Allington GP (33, Dec 30th); Test Valley at Overton Lagoons (38, Apr 14th) and Longparish (32, Dec 12th); and Avon Valley at Ripley Farm Reservoir (49, Sep 12th). There were also records from the coastal sites of Lymington-Hurst (36, Mar 13th) and Portsea Island Shore, Langstone Harbour (32, Oct 9th) and from Southampton Common Cemetery Lake (42, Jan 19th).

There was a scattering of records from numerous other localities some referring to pairs present between May-July. The first fledglings were recorded at Fleet Pond on May 28th, which had a record year for breeding with a minimum of 16 broods and 77 young up to July

25th. The only other significant breeding site was at The Vyne Lake where five broods and 21 fledglings were recorded. Overall breeding was confirmed at 23 sites with a total of 47 broods and 191 fledglings, which was slightly lower than in recent years although coverage may have been less complete. (PFF)

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. *Schedule 1, Red, S4I*

A male on the sea off Hill Head-Brownwich from Jan 4th to Feb 15th (BR et al.) was seen at Posbrook Flood on Feb 19th (ALR, ADT). There was a male at Blashford Lakes from Feb 1st to Apr 18th (RAC) and another seen flying east off Hill Head on Mar 30th (ARC). A first-winter male was at Weston Shore on Oct 10th (ARC, IRW), a female at Needs Ore from Oct 27th to the year’s end (GSAG et al.), and a female/immature at Kingfisher Lake on Nov 7th (TMJD) with possibly the same individual at Ripley Farm Reservoir from Nov 7th-9th (OJF). (PFF)



Scaup, Needs Ore, Oct 28th (Chris Button)

Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers usually summer; a very scarce breeder since 2003. *EN, 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	7	6	13		1				4		3	7
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Hook-with-Warsash	89	60	54	19	5	1			15	39	60	62
Lepe-Needs Ore	1	2	3	5	1		1		13	6	9	10
Sowley-Lymington			16		9				31			2
Lymington-Keyhaven	4	15	18	31	25	24	35	40	41	6	17	15
Hurst and Milford on Sea			4	7	7		2					

Numbers increased at the principal wintering site centered on Hill Head where a count of 89 on Jan 2nd was the highest there, or for any other location, since 2017 (96, Dec 22nd). The now well-established non-breeding summer population at Lymington-Hurst peaked at 35 in July, whilst numbers in August and September reached 40 before characteristically declining as autumn gave way to winter. Records from Lepe-Needs Ore and Sowley-Lymington reflected small local movements east and west through The Solent.

In contrast to Hill Head, the winter population at Sandy Point returned to pre-2019 numbers, with 13 on Mar 26th being the highest count, whilst there was little spring or autumn passage off either Sandy Point or Hurst. Although ‘cooing’ was heard at Keyhaven on Mar 21st, there was no evidence of breeding, and the only June record away from Lymington was a female on the sea at Chilling Cliffs on 2nd and Gilkicker Point on 6th. (PFF)



Eider, Keyhaven, Mar 23rd (Simon Buckell)

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

Records from Southampton Water constituted a female, most frequently at Weston Shore but also seen off Hamble Point, Netley and Hill Head, between Jan 1st-17th; a male off Chilling Cliffs on Jan 15th; and up to three regularly between Hill Head and Brownwich from Feb 10th to Mar 23rd with four at Solent Breezes on Feb 22nd. Further east there were early year sightings at Eastney (2 first-winter females offshore, Jan 6th) and at several sites in Chichester Harbour, where there were two females from Feb 4th-9th, three on Feb 10th and a single between Feb 19th-23rd. A pair off Hurst on Apr 24th was the only spring record.

Besides two females at Black Point, Chichester Harbour from Nov 2nd-19th and two in Hayling Island between Dec 16th and 21st, most late year records again came from the mouth of Southampton Water, with the first at Brownwich on Oct 26th, and from where the highest number of six drifted between Hill Head and Brownwich from Dec 12th-28th. There were also records from Lepe/Needs Ore (3, Dec 3rd-9th) and Keyhaven (2, Dec 21st). (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	17	22	5	60	60	1	10	8	5	5	4	11
Stokes Bay-Hill Head-Chilling	39	22	40	35	3	9	10	8		5	28	8
Southampton Water	10	15	8	2	1					4	6	5
Hurst and Milford on Sea	54	1	150	238	108	25	8	16	2	9	21	18
Moving east			35	126	71		18	10	3		26	5
Moving west			1	26	3	3				10		1

A count of 54 off Barton on Sea on Jan 1st was the early year maximum for Christchurch Bay, whilst numbers off Hill Head fluctuated with the two highest counts being 39 on Jan 2nd and 40 on Mar 20th. Spring passage, which was evident from early March, was not as heavy as in 2020. Nocturnal flight calls were heard at St. Cross (5, Mar 8th and 2, Apr 8th) and Romsey (1, Mar 18th and 6, Mar 23rd) but it was not until late March that coastal movement was noted. Easterly movements included 22 past Sandy Point on Mar 30th, 35 on Apr 24th and 21 on May 9th, whilst off Hurst there were 26 through the Narrows into The Solent on Apr 13th and 21 on 17th. Numbers built up in Milford Bay in late April and more regular coverage from Barton on Sea gave greater accuracy to numbers circling but not necessarily

passing through the Narrows. The maximum count from there was 238 on Apr 24th but rafts of more than 50 were regular throughout May with 108 on May 29th.

The only sites to record double-figures in the late year were Milford Bay (max. 21, Nov 10th), Hill Head-Chilling Cliffs (max. 28, Nov 16th) and Beachlands, Hayling Island (11, Dec 20th). Two inland records came from Ibsley Water with singles on June 7th and July 20th. (PFF)

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Schedule 1, Red

A long-staying first-winter male was present on Southampton Water, seen most frequently at Weston Shore, from Jan 8th to Apr 9th. The only other early year record came from Langstone Harbour where there was a first-winter female on Feb 27th off South Moor (PMP et al.). In the spring a female passed Hurst on Apr 24th (AL), a pair crossed Southampton Water from Hamble Point to Fawley on Apr 25th (IRW) and, somewhat unseasonally, a pair in full breeding plumage was regularly seen between Hill Head and Hook-with-Warsash from June 2nd-22nd (RHM, ALR et al.).

A female in Langstone Harbour from Nov 23rd to Dec 25th mostly frequented the stretch of water between Hayling Oysterbeds South Moor (JCr et al.). A single flying east past Gilkicker Point on Dec 19th was the only other late year record (MJP). (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, Red

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	6	3	4					3	2
Hampshire sectors	1							3	
Langstone Harbour	12	9						3	8
Portsmouth Harbour	5	5						4	1
Lymington-Hurst	8	7	1						3
Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake	10	23	32	10				8	12
WeBS count totals	10	24	33	5				7	20

WeBS counts reflected the continuing decline in the winter population (possibly due to "short-stopping" as described in HBR 2020) with the maximum count being 33 on Mar 14th as against 51 the previous year.

All regular sites showed a fall in numbers although Ibsley Water/Rockford Lake retained their status as being numerically the most important locality, as well as registering the last spring record (3, Apr 17th) and the first winter return (3, Nov 7th). There was a scattering of records from sites not tabulated, the majority of which came from the lower reaches of Southampton Water. In the early year these included a male off Hill Head on Jan 4th, a female between there and Brownwich on Jan 15th and 31st, and a male at Hook-with-Warsash from Feb 12th-15th. Spring records followed from Needs Ore (male, Apr 13th) and Fleet Pond (female, May 14th).

In the late year there was a male at Alresford Pond and two females off Hill Head on Nov 22nd, a female at Weston Shore on Nov 23rd, a pair at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Dec 12th and a female off Redbridge Wharf on Dec 16th-17th. (PFF)

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Very scarce winter visitor.

ET, Red

A first-winter male was present at Mockbegger Lake on several dates between Feb 14th and Mar 3rd (JEL, SKW). This was only the third record since the influx of six in 2014. (PFF)

Goosander (Common Merganser) *Mergus merganser*

Moderately common winter visitor; very scarce breeder in the Avon Valley since 1998. Mean maximum WeBS totals 1997-2002: 95; 2002-07: 94; 2007-12: 195; 2012-17: 145. Green, HBAP

Monthly maxima at regularly used sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	1									2		
Ibsley Water (roost)	28	2	20	4	1	1		3		3	118	37
Avon: Ringwood-Fordingbridge	12	20	6	3	9	11	8	1	8	7	6	34
Eyeworth Pond											3	5
Sowley Pond	3											5
Bramshill Plantation (roost)	21	14	17								11	28
Tundry Pond	2	1									1	2
Eversley GP (roost)	31	50	2									33
Yateley GP	22	30	4								1	41
WeBS count totals	87	84	57	4				1	17	20	46	151

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

Sporadic coverage in the early year might explain lower than usual WeBS numbers although 151 in December was comparable with the recent mean maximum WeBS totals (see header). The highest roost count at Ibsley Water was 118 on Nov 30th (which exceeded the last pre-COVID max. of 89 on Jan 20th 2019) whilst diurnal counts at Blashford Lakes included 72 on Jan 14th.

There were records from a wide range of non-tabulated sites. Along the East Solent coast these included Chichester Harbour (1, Black Point, Jan 2nd and 4, Dec 21st-23rd); Langstone Harbour (6 redheads, Hayling Oysterbeds, Feb 23rd; a pair, Farlington Marshes, Apr 19th; and further records from Nov 4th with max. 6 redheads, Broadmarsh/Bedhampton Shore, Nov 8th); and Portsmouth Harbour (female, IBM Lake, Dec 2nd and Gilkicker Point, Dec 5th). The only early year record from the West Solent was a male on Normandy Lagoon on Jan 13th, whilst late year records included four west past Barton on Sea on Nov 3rd and three on Beaulieu River on Dec 19th. The highest counts from Southampton Water were six at Hook-with-Warsash on Feb 10th and eight between Royal Victoria CP and Hamble Estuary on Dec 17th-18th. There was a single at Southampton Common on Jan 31st and four there on Dec 10th.

The highest count from Itchen Valley was five (Hockley Meadows, Jan 1st and Bishopstoke, Feb 18th) with two at Highbridge on Jan 28th and singles at Lakeside CP on Feb 1st-3rd, Avington Lake from Mar 23rd to Apr 7th and Bishopstoke on Nov 6th. There were records from 17 sites along the Test Valley with counts in double figures at Saddlers Mill, Romsey (10, Feb 6th and Dec 18th) and Leckford (13, Nov 15th). Records also came from four New Forest localities at Cadnam Common (1, Feb 1st), Fritham (1, Feb 20th and 7, Dec 19th), Cadman's Pool (1, Oct 28th and 5, Dec 5th) and Janesmoor Plain (4, Nov 3rd and 2, Dec 22nd).

In the north-east the highest counts were at Darby Green (8, Jan 1st), Wishanger (7, Feb 20th) and Bramshill Park Lake (8, Dec 12th), with other records from Blackwater (1, Jan 17th), Headley (1, Jan 29th), Fleet Pond (1, Aug 1st and Dec 4th), Dogmersfield Lake (2, Dec 22nd)



Goosander pair mating, River Avon, July 7th (Chrisie Whiffen)

and Sleaford Reservoir (1, Dec 31st). Records from North Hampshire were characteristically sparse. There were up to five at Benyon's Inclosure in January-March with a single female there on Dec 13th, whilst a pair flew over The Loddon on Mar 11th.

Breeding was confined to the Avon Valley where broods were recorded in five locations. A female and brood of nine were recorded at Ashley Farm as early as Apr 14th and subsequently at Bickerley Common on May 26th and Bisterne on July 2nd. A female with eight ducklings was at Somerley Park-Ellingham Meadows on May 7th, a brood of ten was recorded at Blashford Lakes on May 14th and a family party was seen at Bickton on June 19th. (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, Amber, HBAP

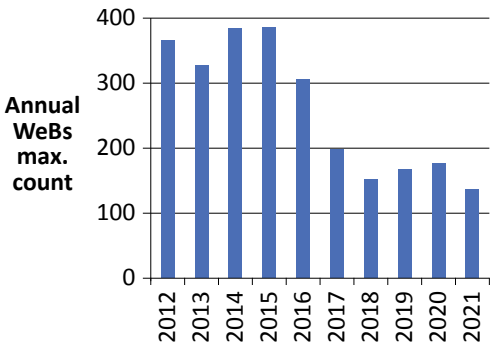
Although there was no WeBS count in January, totals for other months continued to reflect the year-on-year steady decline in the winter population since the peak in the 1990s. The maximum count of 135 (Feb 27th) was appreciably lower than the most recent five-year mean maximum (see header). This also continued the decline in recent years illustrated in the histogram below and is perhaps another example of “short-stopping” of birds from northern Europe.

Monthly maxima at sites with regular records are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour		54	56	2						3	19	60
Hampshire sectors		6	39								7	20
Langstone Harbour	15	80	71	6					1	11	80	63
Portsmouth Harbour	9	35	31	2						6	82	52
Hill Head/Brownwich	3	2	1	2	3					2	5	1
Upper Southampton Water	8	6	4	2	2	1			1		5	4
Lepe-Needs Ore	2		4		3					2	2	15
Sowley-Lymington	2	2	5							2		
Lymington-Hurst	10	20	17	4	8					3	16	12
WeBS count totals		128	135	6					1	8	43	99

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

The highest counts were again from the three eastern harbours with 80 in Langstone Harbour on Feb 27th and Nov 19th, a low-tide count of 82 in Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 28th and 60 at Black Point on Dec 21st. Except for occasional double-figure counts between Lymington-Hurst, where the annual maximum was 20 on Feb 27th and a party of 15 was off Needs Ore on Dec 20th, coastal sites elsewhere were again poorly represented. There was little or no evidence of passage either in spring or autumn. Three at Needs Ore on May 20th and a male in Southampton Water on June 24th were the only summer records, whilst the first winter return was at Hayling Shore on Sep 11th. (PFF)



Annual WeBS maximum counts for Red-breasted Merganser 2012-2021

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Scarce and declining resident with numbers supplemented by releases of captive-bred stock. Red, S4I, HBAP

Except for a covey of 50 at Trigpoint Hill on Aug 21st, which were probably released birds, the only double-figure counts came from Manor Farm, Alresford (25, Jan 3rd), Martin Down (12, Nov 25th), Gander Down (17, Dec 23rd) and Crondall (15, Dec 26th). In total there were records, predominantly of one or two individuals, from 40 sites (46 in 2020), 19 of which were along the Hampshire Downs, eight in the north-east, four in the Itchen Valley, three in Andover, two in the Test Valley, and one at Ripley Farm Reservoir in the Avon Valley and Mapledurwell in the north. Coastal records came from Inchmery (Mar 6th-27th and Nov 22nd) and Cams Bay (2, June 2nd; 3, Aug 27th; 4, Oct. 27th-Dec 8th).

Breeding data were sparse away from Martin Down where a pair and four young were seen on June 14th and where two additional pairs were recorded on several dates during the summer but with no proof of breeding. Similarly at Cheesefoot Head at least two pairs were present in early May. Single pairs were recorded once during May/July at Vernham Dean, Clare Park (Crandall), Croft Farm (Over Wallop), Trigpoint Hill, Bere Hill Farm (Andover) and Broughton Down, whilst singles were reported on one or two dates at Holybourne, Houghton Down, Lyss Place Farm (West Liss) and Lark Thistle Farm (Easton). Two adults were with a brood of 14 juveniles at Crandall on Aug 26th. (PFF)

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

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

Due mainly to the large increase in BirdTrack and eBird submissions of full counts, there was an unprecedented number of records from 559 localities with all areas/regions of the county represented except the coastal strip between Lymington and Sowley. The two highest counts of pre-shoot, large-scale releases were in September at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (300) and Woodmancott (220). Other regions where the annual maximum exceeded 50 included the North Hampshire Downs (80, Middleton Farm, Harewood Forest, Apr 17th); Portsdown Hills (57, North Boarhunt, Apr 18th); the north-east (83, Hartley Park, Selborne, Apr 20th); Test Valley (75, Ridge, Aug 15th); Botley Wood (56, Aug 27th); and the South Downs (150, Beacon Hill, Warnford, Dec 6th) which also had several sites with counts exceeding twenty-five. Although recorded at many coastal localities, the only double-figure counts were at Farlington Marshes (10, Jan 1st), Lymington-Hurst (20, Jan 1st and Apr 23rd) and Lepe CP (13, Mar 20th). The New Forest returned records from 65 localities in all months except September, but in single-figures only predominantly in ones and twos.

In the BTO Breeding Survey (BBS), 1,051 territories were logged at 95 localities in April/mid-May. (PFF)

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

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

NT, Schedule I, Amber, HBAP

One recovered from flying into a window near playing fields in Petersfield at 19:00 on Apr 26th (DM). An individual was singing from the same site at Martin Down on several dates between May 22nd and Aug 3rd but breeding was not proved (m.o.). Other singing birds were reported from Horndean Down (June 28th-29th) (DMY), King's Somborne (July 14th) (RS) and Larkwhistle Farm, Easton (July 25th-26th) (TW). (PFF)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

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

Although there may have been an element of duplication where sites were in proximity, the number of localities from which records were submitted increased to 301 (211 in 2020). Of these, 133 were from the Hampshire Downs, 40 from the north-east, 28 from the Test Valley, 24 from the Itchen Valley and 20 from the north, whilst there was a scattering of records from all other regions including one drifting out to sea off Sandy Point on Mar 21st. The only triple-figure count was of released birds (110, Woodmancott, Sep 4th), whilst counts exceeding 50 at Kempshott, Basingstoke (65, Jan 10th); Lepe CP (56, Sep 26th); Fort Southwick (53, Oct 17th); Longwood Warren (72, Nov 11th); and Polecat Corner (92, Nov 13th) were all from game-rearing areas.

The BTO Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) registered 233 territories at 49 sites. Portsdown Hill had the most registrations with 23 on Apr 17th and 20 on May 18th. (PFF)



Nightjar, New Forest, May 12th (Martin Bennett)

Nightjar (European Nightjar) *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Amber, S4I, HBAP

The first spring arrival was on May 3rd when one was seen before dawn at Ibsley Water. There was no systematic survey of the New Forest but casual records amounted to c. 200 churring males from around 43 locations, including at least ten at Yew Tree Heath and eight at Acres Down. Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths produced totals of 117 and 75 churring males respectively compared to 127 and 57 last year (Table 1). A complete survey of Ringwood Forest and Somerley Estate produced 50 territories.

Elsewhere counts of pairs or churring males were as follows (2020 in parentheses where appropriate): Alice Holt Forest, 1 (1); Ampfield Wood, 5 (4); Badminton Plantation, 5 (4); Benyon's Inclosure, 6 (5); Bickton, 1 (1); Botley Wood, 5 (4); Blackfield, 1 (4); Burghclere Common, 4; Burton Common, 6 (6); Denmead, 4 (2); Great Covert Wood, 2 (1); Hamble Common, 2 (1); Hambledon, 1; Hut Wood, 3 (5); Keyhaven, 3; Mortimer West End, 1 (5); Needs Ore, 1 (1); Newtown Common, 4 (3); Pamber Forest, 1 (1); Sandford Woods, 1; The Chase, 2; West Walk, 1 (1) and Wickham, 1. Also of note was one roosting on a log pile at Lakeside CP on May 26th.

An unusually high number of September records included one at Mockbeggar Lake on 2nd, two at North Poulner Lake on 3rd, one at Frater Shore on 5th, the last in the New Forest at Dames Slough Hill on 6th and an adult and juvenile trapped at Titchfield Haven on 10th. The final record was a single at Yateley Common (HCC) on Sep 11th. (BS)

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

NT, Red

The first arrivals were singles over the Itchen Estuary, Southampton on Apr 3rd and Polhampton on Apr 6th, around a week earlier than the recent ten-year average. The first double-figure count was ten at Ibsley Water on Apr 23rd. The very dry April weather meant that most birds flew straight through to their breeding grounds without stopping to feed. There were only ten reports of over 100 up to May 10th, most at Blashford Lakes (max. 250, May 4th) but also 200 at Fishlake Meadows on the evening of May 8th.

During the breeding season the highest numbers were 82 at Fleet Pond on May 12th; 150 at Lymington-Hurst on May 13th and 100 there on July 5th; 200 at Blashford Lakes on May 21st, 120

on May 22nd, 250 on May 25th, 150 on June 21st and 500 the next day. Thirteen were seen flying in off the sea at Hook-with-Warsash on May 21st where 120 were subsequently feeding on June 19th and 80 were at Itchen Valley CP on May 23rd.

Hampshire Swifts continues to put up many Swift boxes around the county and records of confirmed breeding in 431 separate locations were submitted from the on-line portal as well as from direct surveying of sites. Low-level screaming parties, indicating that breeding was occurring close-by, were also reported from a further fourteen sites. Reports of high occupation of boxes put up on individual houses were 15 nests in 15 boxes at Soberton, seven nests in eight boxes at Regents Park, Southampton and nine nests in 11 boxes at Southsea (18 young fledged). At the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester eight pairs fledged young and two other boxes were occupied by young birds which built nests. Fifteen internal



*Swift, Pennington Marshes, May 5th
(Matthew Barfield)*

boxes were installed there in early 2019 and in 2020 two pairs bred. At Winchester Cathedral, where 20 boxes were installed behind one of the bell tower louvres in early 2021, 35 birds were seen overhead on June 5th and one pair later fledged young. On the North Milton Estate in New Milton, detailed surveying showed that 66 integral boxes installed ten years ago were occupied (up from 38 in 2020 due to increased observer effort). It is encouraging to know that Hampshire Swifts have not heard of any reduced fledging rates at nests where these are monitored by cameras and know of no colonies in the county that are declining. Loss of nesting sites is clearly the major cause of the decline rather than loss of insects.

The latest known nesting of the year was at Ecchinswell where the adult pair both left at 09:00 on Sep 7th leaving the young alone in the nest. The two juveniles departed the following evening at 19:50 and 19:55 just as it was getting dark.

The first signs of return migration were 303 heading SW at Tweseldown on July 6th, 1,000 SW at Whitedell Farm, Boarhunt on July 7th, 350 east at Barton on Sea on July 24th and 125 at Fleet Pond on July 29th. Treble-figure counts in August were reported just twice, both during the first week. There were 36 reports during September of up to six and 25 were seen high heading south on the evening of Sep 6th over Culverwell, Winchester. Sightings continued almost daily until Sep 17th followed by one later record on Oct 19th at Leaden Hall. (TJN)

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

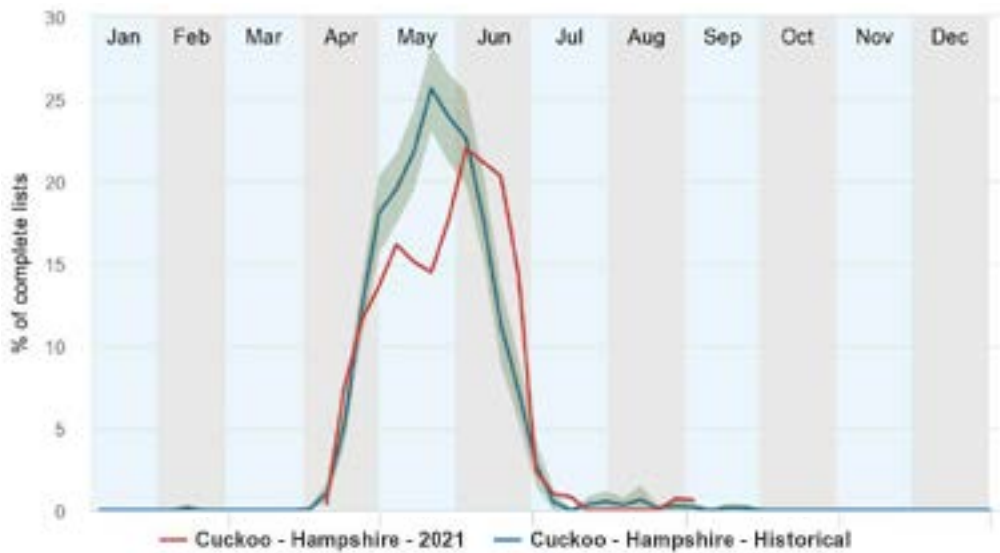
Moderately common but declining summer visitor.

Red, S4I

The first was at Turf Hill Inclosure, NF on Mar 31st followed by a further 23 in the first ten days of April. Over 1,200 records were submitted before mid-summer, with many obviously territorial birds and over 50% from the New Forest. Seventeen counts greater than four were reported, all bar one in the New Forest, with five at Holmhill Bog on May 11th and six at Beaulieu Road on May 26th. Numbers appeared lower than normal at Martin Down with a maximum of just four on June 8th. No estimates of territories were submitted for any site. Fourteen juveniles were reported.

Coastal records suggesting emigration appeared from mid-June. After mid-summer, 55 were recorded comprising 26 in June, 17 in July and 12 in August. The last of year were unusually early at both Warsash and Fishlake Meadows on Aug 30th.

The BirdTrack reporting-rate graph below illustrates the delayed arrival of many until the end of May and the later departure of many in the second half of June. (SKW)



BirdTrack reporting-rate for Cuckoo in Hampshire 2021 compared with historical average (BTO).



Juvenile Cuckoo with Reed Warbler, Pennington Marshes, Aug 2nd (Gareth Rees)

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Numerous resident.

Green

As usual there were numerous reports from all urban and many rural sites. Seventeen counts reached three figures with the highest being from Fareham peaking at 500 in late December. (SKW)

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Numerous resident and winter visitor. *Amber*

Reported in 464 tetrads (45%) in 54 ten km squares. Sixteen grounded flocks exceeded 100, with a maximum of 180 in stubble at Titchfield Common on Feb 15th.

Fewer than 100 were recorded on the move in spring, but as usual autumn passage was heavier. During the last four months of the year 6,364 were recorded moving (almost all west or SW). Peak numbers occurred between the last week of October and the third week of November with maxima at Barton on Sea of 206 between 06:50 and 08:55 on Nov 8th and 240 (I48E, 92W) between 07:05-09:40 on Nov 14th. Teweseldown reported its heaviest ever autumn passage with monthly totals of 1,579 in October and 1,461 in November (Table 8). At Barton on Sea low numbers in October were followed by a November total of 1,098. Combining all sites, the highest ten-day period totalled 1,681 in early November which was higher than the ten-day peak total of 656 recorded in mid-October last year. A summary appears below. (SKW)

	Sep 1-10	Sep 11-20	Sep 21-30	Oct 1-10	Oct 11-20	Oct 21-31	Nov 1-10	Nov 11-20	Nov 21-30	Dec 1-10	Dec 11-20	Dec 21-31
Totals	3	129	798	440	494	1,157	1,681	1,209	280	45	79	49

Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. *Amber*

Reported in 694 tetrads (70%) in 54 ten km squares making it the most widespread species in the county. Few reports of large grounded flocks were submitted, the largest being at least 1,000 at Upton on Feb 27th and Old Winchester Hill on Nov 15th. Spring movements comprised a total of just 567 birds during March to May.

As ever, autumn passage was marked. The peak occurred between late October and mid-November and is summarised below. Observers are reminded that simple counts of this and other visibly migrating species can only be included in such totals when movement direction is specified in the record submission.

Movement peaked a little earlier than usual, with the ‘big days’ being Nov 3rd and 4th when over 62,000 were recorded moving on these two dates alone. The largest single count during this period was 26,311 west/NW on a broad front between 07:00–09:30 at Weston Shore on 3rd. The same day 17,910 flew west at Barton Sea between 06:40 and 09:50. This was followed by 17,390 NW there between 07:45 and 09:15 on Nov 14th. November totals at the three regular watchpoints were 20,782 at Tweseldown, 2,419 at Trigpoint Hill and 45,879 at Barton on Sea (Table 8). Overall, the year was clearly not a vintage Woodpigeon migration year when numbers can be several times higher than this year’s total. However, it is also likely that observer effort and the coincidence of clear, still days at weekends makes a big difference to inter-annual comparisons. It is noted that movements totalling 178,381 were reported over 46 days compared to 314,121 over 67 days during the same period last year. (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	980	240	1,232	680	3,787	112,653	28,167	23,898	5,245	10	-	-	-	176,892
Moving N/E	-	-	-	80	420	265	24	410	290	-	-	-	-	1,489
Totals	980	240	1,232	760	4,207	112,918	28,191	24,308	5,535	10	-	-	-	178,381
Days with movements	2	1	5	5	7	5	7	7	7	1	0	0	0	46

Turtle Dove (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce and rapidly declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 15 tetrads in 9 ten km squares. This was less than last year when records were received from 20 tetrads in 12 ten km squares. This species remains in a highly precarious situation in the county, as well as being one of the most endangered breeding birds nationally. There were 171 records with nearly 90% attributed to the three regular areas around Martin Down, Chalton Down and Oakhanger as summarised below.

The first of the spring was heard at Noar Hill, Selborne on Apr 11th, but there were no further records from this previous breeding location during the rest of the season. Other spring migrants, all singles, were noted at Hilliers Arboretum, Braishfield on Apr 22nd, Upper Titchfield Haven on May 20th, near Gosport on June 2nd and at Sway, NF on June 20th. The only late summer/autumn record away from breeding locations was at Durlley, South Downs on Aug 28th.

Martin Down continued to be the stronghold for the Hampshire breeding population. The first record was on May 1st followed by regular reports up to Sep 7th with peak counts of ten on May 3rd and 12 on June 8th. Singles were also recorded nearby at Kitts Grave on May 28th and June 11th. The number of estimated territories in the NNR was lower than in 2020 with just four recorded during the annual coordinated one-day count in late May, compared with eight to 11 territories in the same corresponding area the previous year.

Other likely breeding records came from Chalton Down where reports of mostly one or two continued until Aug 7th with a maximum of four adults on May 22nd. At Oakhanger the first sighting was on Apr 30th with reports of one or two continuing up to Sep 21st, which was the last for the year. Other records in adjacent tetrads in the Oakhanger area suggested possible additional pairs including two at South Chapel Farm on July 9th and up to two in Binswood between May 26th and Aug 10th. Purring birds were also observed on single occasions at Bramshill and Mottisfont in early July. The only evidence of successful breeding was a juvenile seen with an adult at Chalton Down on Aug 7th. (MJA)

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Numerous resident and passage migrant.

Green

Six counts exceeded 50 with the maximum being 82 at Southington on Dec 24th. A further seven were in the range 25-50. Visible movements in both NE to westerly directions comprised small numbers up to five, mostly at Trigpoint Hill. Out of a total of 27 movements, 17 of them were in September and October. (SKW)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records for January to April involved a minimum of 168 at 102 sites (128 at 62 sites in 2020). Locations at which five or more were recorded included Fishlake Meadows (monthly max. 10, Jan 25th; 14, Feb 28th; 12, Mar 11th; 6, Apr 5th) and Barton's Mill, Old Basing (5, Jan 24th).

Breeding was suspected or confirmed at six sites with at least one fledged young unless otherwise noted at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes; Fleet Pond; Pig Bush, NF; Woodfidley, NF; Hamble-le-Rice (4); Fishlake Meadows (2/3) and Eelmoor Marsh.

Records between September and December included a total of 170 at 78 sites (164 at 82 sites in 2020). Locations with five or more included Farlington Marshes (5, Oct 7th; 8, Oct 10th), IBM Lake (5, Nov 18th), Titchfield Haven (8, Oct 23rd; 6, Nov 30th; 5, Dec 15th), Hook-with-Warsash (7, Oct 10th; 5, Nov 8th), Lower Test Marshes (6, Dec 4th), Ringwood-Fordingbridge (6, Dec 19th), Fishlake Meadows (6, Oct 10th; 5, Nov 8th and 13th; 9, Dec 26th), Alresford Pond (5, Sep 12th) and Fleet Pond (6, Oct 10th; 6, Dec 7th). (JS)



Water Rail, Oxey Marsh, Oct 16th (Gareth Rees)

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Amber

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	5	29	25	22	7	12	7	29	20	35	38	35
Farlington Marshes	62	55	47		26			29	27	41	78	95
Langstone Harbour		31	19	31	16	10	19	32	40	47	48	48
Portsmouth Harbour		48	28						21	33	44	38
Fleet Pond	30	20	40	80	5	2	24	3	19	15		22
Edenbrook CP	32	17	15	11	5	6	10	9	12	21	24	27
Yateley GP	18	15	3						17	17	41	33
King's Pond, Alton	30	32	25					24	24	28	21	20
Heath Pond, Petersfield	33	19	22	11	11	20	14	21	31	44	42	51

Counts of more than 25 were also recorded at Great Common, Leckford (33, Sep 23rd) and Bilcomes Pond, Fawley (25, Dec 20th).

Breeding was reported from more than 50 sites with counts of ten or more fledged young at Fleet Pond (15 broods, 40 young) and IBM Lake (5+ pairs, 10 young). (JS)

Coot (Eurasian Coot) *Fulica atra*

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

NT, Green

WeBS four-figure totals were lower in the first two months than in 2020 but were either similar or higher in March and the last four months. However, the peak monthly count of

2,312, which was in December, was higher than the peak monthly count of 2,105 in January 2020. 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	55	112	82	60	35	58	74	140	202	299	252	256
Lymington-Hurst	50	82	53	27	20	48	80	30	50	100	42	60
Blashford Lakes	475	203	103	54	39	3	124	200	489	530	702	670
Bramshill Park Lake	59	58	45	41	32	30	64	74	113	95	95	94
Testbourne Lake	28	20	43	30	21	62		120	190	160	130	140
Wellington CP	25	16							84	140	174	124
Yateley GP	132	108	85						121	112	147	174
Heath Pond, Petersfield	70	48	34	28	25	31	40	48	59	64	81	112
WeBS count totals	1,397	1,214	1,098	497	227	260	482	495	1,791	1,995	2,264	2,312

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

The Blashford Lakes complex remained the stronghold with the highest annual counts at the major lakes being 200 at Ibsley Water on July 19th, 195 at Kingfisher Lake on Oct 10th and 195 at Ibsley Water, 162 at Rockford Lake and 154 on Snails Lake, all on Nov 7th. Up to 284 were also recorded at Eversley GP but because this site straddles the Berks border it has been excluded from the table above.

Other sites having 50 or more included Budds Farm STW (83, Apr 13th), Farlington Marshes (63, Jan 15th; 62, Feb 1st; 50, Sep 19th; 54, Dec 22nd), Titchfield Haven (71, Feb 26th; 58, Mar 12th), Allington GP (57, Oct 13th; 64, Nov 24th; 74, Dec 9th), Ringwood-Fordingbridge (54, Mar 14th), Laverstoke Park Lake (54, Dec 15th), Alresford Pond (50, July 19th; 60, Aug 23rd; 73, Sep 12th; 68, Oct 15th), Fleet Pond (80, July 11th; 70, Aug 1st; 60, Sep 12th; 85, Oct 10th and 12th; 70, Nov 3rd; 85, Dec 14th), Dogmersfield Lake (69, Dec 29th), Tundry Pond (62, Sep 25th; 67, Oct 29th; 75, Nov 13th; 71, Dec 18th) and Wyck (53, Dec 21st). The counts at Fleet Pond were the highest for 40 years due to weed growth.

Breeding pairs and occupied nests were reported at 36 sites with counts of ten or more fledged young at Fleet Pond (14) and Marlhill Copse/Gaters Mill, Southampton (10). (JS)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

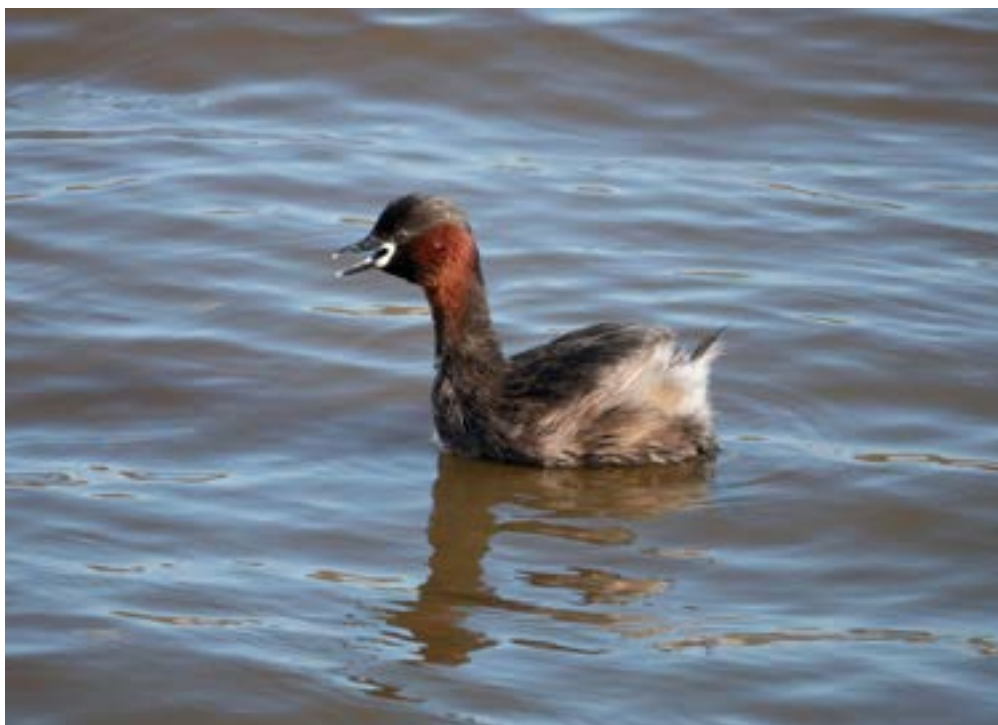
Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Mean maximum WeBS totals 2004-2007: 349; 2007-2012: 378; 2012-2017: 381.

Green

The WeBS total peaked at 255 in December, 19% lower than the previous five-year average but a modest increase compared to 2020's all-time low (237). 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		16	16	4	2	2	2	13	13	22	25	33
Portsmouth Harbour		16	23						12	21	27	47
Lymington-Hurst	22	9	10	3	5	4	5	15	20	40	42	21
Blashford Lakes	13	14	22	16	7		9		24	36	18	19
Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton	5	4	4	4	7	12	25	30	24	21	14	5
Test: Mottisfont	1	4	1		3		7	3	22		2	
The Grange Lake	10	22	7	6			2	9	3	13	7	7
WeBS count totals	57	129	140	69	39	27	50	83	190	222	206	255

Double-digit counts not tabulated above were reported from Bishop's Waltham Ponds (13, May 16th); Hook-with-Warsash (monthly max. July-October: 11, 11, 13, 10); Burnt Common's former GPs (11, Aug 30th; 10, Sep 15th); Avon between Ringwood and Fordingbridge (12,



Little Grebe, Needs Ore, Apr 15th (Chris Button)

Sep 12th); Anton Lakes (17, Oct 31st and 13, Dec 19th); Hill Head (10, Dec 16th) and along the Basingstoke Canal between Greywell and North Warnborough (14, Dec 20th).

Breeding was suspected at 58 localities (17 in the Test Valley), confirmed at 23 (by occupied nests at least). Young were reported as follows: Ibsley Water (pair, 4 young, May 15th); IBM Lake (at least two pairs raised six young, first 3, May 15th); Fawley Refinery (pair, full-grown young, May 16th); Hook-with-Warsash (at least three broods of 2, June 16th; 4 pairs, 7 young, July 31st and 4 downy young, Aug 2nd); Titchfield Haven (pair bred on a large garden pond; in July the fledglings moved onto the reserve); Edenbrook CP (two broods of one young, July 30th); Lodden Valley Copse (2 pairs, 5 young, July 31st); The Grange Lake (at least two broods, 2 stripey young, 1 full-grown, Aug 12th); Basingstoke Canal near Greywell Tunnel (2 young, Aug 15th); Test at Brook (noisy young in group of six, Aug 21st); Eversley Common (pair, 2 young, Aug 19th) and King's Pond, Alton (2 well-grown young, Oct 17th). At Blashford Lakes at least four pairs nested on the Lapwing Hide silt pond with pairs present, but no chicks were seen on Ibsley Water and Ivy Lake. Numbers on Ibsley Water have declined dramatically in the last two years both as a breeding bird and non-breeding visitor. This is assumed to be due to a lack of suitably sized prey items. (AFJC)

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

VU, Red

Three records. The only record of the early year was one drifting rapidly on the rising tide into Chichester Harbour on Mar 10th (ACJ). The first of the late year was viewed briefly off Shearwater Court, Eastoke, Hayling Bay at 11:35 on Nov 11th (RCL) and was later well seen by at least three other observers. It was reported on three subsequent dates until Nov 19th. In the West Solent one was off Keyhaven at 12:21 on Dec 19th (MV) and shown to others over the next two hours. It remained in the area until 21st and was reported associating with two Great Crested Grebes. (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

There were remarkable counts off Hill Head (spread between Lee-on-the-Solent and Chilling Cliffs) in both winter periods peaking at 150 (09:00, Jan 23rd) and 178 (Dec 19th) – the year maximum. The WeBS total year max. of 228, also in December, was the lowest since 2012 (220, November) resulting in a five-year average (2017-2021) of 255 compared to 398 from 2012-2016. 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
Langstone Harbour	20	29	6	27	24	20	5	11	26	36	55	49
Portsmouth Harbour	9	6	8	2	2	2	1	3	8	17	40(L)	29(L)
Hill Head-Brownwich	150	16	5	5	8	2	3	3	12	9	35	178
Hythe/Weston Shore	50	21	12	13	20	9	1	3	5	20	29	60
Beaulieu Estuary	22	2	3	11	1			1		4	20	14
Lymington-Hurst	15	13	17	20	10	16	5	3	10	26	10	17
Blashford Lakes	4	6	16	16	18	8	57	55	48	30	38	10
Eversley/Yateley GPs	30	28	35	21	4			6	40	28	30	21
WeBS count totals	76	141	175	128	91	44	73	25	163	203	176	228

L = Low tide count

Notable counts not included above were off Barton on Sea on Jan 1st (26) and Black Point on Dec 3rd (29).

Breeding was suspected at 27 localities (14 in the north-east; 5 in the Test Valley), confirmed at 18 and young were reported at 12, as described below. The earliest brood was at Lakeside CP on Apr 26th where at least three young were successfully raised. An adult was observed carrying one young at Testwood Lakes on May 13th. In June one fledged successfully from a brood of two at IBM lake; two pairs raised five young (3, 2) at Allington GP; two well-grown young were at Testbourne Lake and another at Fishlake Meadows. Having earlier made several failed attempts, a pair raised one young in July at Titchfield Haven. Two young were reported on July 7th at Fleet Pond, a later nest there held four eggs on Aug 24th but was predated three days later. Nesting occurred on four Blashford Lakes where up to three pairs attempted on Ivy Lake with at least two rearing young. Further young were reared on Blashford Lake and Ibsley Water where just one juvenile was amongst 56 adults recorded on Aug 19th. Elsewhere there were half-grown young in two broods at the Jet Ski Pit, Eversley on Aug 7th and single pairs with one young at Tundry Pond (Aug 20th), Eversley and Broadlands Lake (both Sep 13th). (AF/C)

Slavonian Grebe (Horned Grebe) *Podiceps auritus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

Regularly reported in the West Solent with an early winter roost maximum of four at Normandy/Oxey Lake on Jan 16/17th, followed by almost daily reports of up to three until Mar 4th and the last on 30th. At the Beaulieu Estuary up to two were present throughout January (4, 23rd); the year maximum was six on Feb 25th; three were reported on Mar 7th (presumably the same earlier at Normandy) and the last on 18th. Elsewhere there were reports from Barton on Sea (2, Jan 1st) and Chichester Harbour entrance (2, Jan 21st; 1, Feb 9th, 14/15th, Mar 8th-17th) with singles at Broadmarsh (Feb 2nd), Hill Head (Feb 12th) and Hook-with-Warsash (Feb 25th and Mar 7th).

The first October returns were singles at Langstone Harbour (16th), Weston Shore (19th) and Oxey Lake (from 22nd). One was between Hill Head and Brownwich from Nov 9th and the first multiple reports were twos at Hayling Bay (Nov 14th), off Keyhaven (from Nov 25th)



Slavonian Grebe, Pennington Marshes, Dec 17th (Matthew Barfield)

and Hill Head (Dec 10th) and in Chichester Harbour (Dec 11th). There were no records from the Beaulieu Estuary until two on Dec 28th, then four on 30th coinciding with three at Chichester Harbour, a year maximum there.

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	2	1	1									3
Langstone Harbour		1								1	1	
Hill Head-Weston Shore		1	1							1	2	2
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	4	6	3									4
Lymington-Hurst	4	2	3							1	2	2
Approx. monthly totals	6	7	5							3	5	7

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

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

VU, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

Recorded in ten months of the year, including one in breeding plumage at Ibsley Water from July 12th to Aug 13th, the first August record since a juvenile at Hook-with-Warsash from Aug 24th-28th, 2015.

The wintering flock in Langstone Harbour peaked at 12 in early January followed by counts of ten on Feb 6th and 25th and the last on Mar 11th. One was also reported from Hook-with-Warsash on 13 dates until Mar 9th but not in the late year. Elsewhere two were offshore at Oxy Lake on Jan 2nd and in the grebe roost there until their last sighting at Keyhaven Harbour on Feb 15th. Breeding plumage individuals were at the Chichester Harbour entrance on Apr 3rd, possibly the same off Hill Head on Apr 10th, and another at Needs Ore on July 11th and 14th.

The first returns there were singles in Langstone Harbour on Sep 28th and Oct 9th before reports with monthly maxima of three on Oct 22nd, nine on Nov 30th and seven on Dec



Black-necked Grebe, Needs Ore, July 11th (Matthew Barfield)

19th. Elsewhere there was one at Needs Ore on Dec 4th-5th and four at Keyhaven/Pennington on Dec 4th followed by one there on 16th.

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	12	11							1	3	9	6
Ibsley Water	1	1	1				1	1				
Approx. monthly totals	17	12	1	2			2				9	7

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

Scarce summer visitor and localized breeder.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber, S41, HBAP

The first report was of a single at Farlington Marshes possibly grounded after a foggy night and morning at 10:45 on Feb 21st (TMJD) – the earliest record in the county since a single on Hayling Island from Feb 5th-10th 2006. The next was on farmland near Kingsclere on Feb 24th which is the earliest in the breeding areas since one on the same date in 1938. One spring migrant heading back to breeding grounds in Suffolk fell victim to a young female Peregrine in Southampton. Another unusual record was one in summer at Farlington Marshes on the lake shore on July 15th.

Full coverage was achieved where access was granted. The RSPB team found 22 pairs on territory across the county, most of which were proved to have bred, with 26 nesting attempts in total, fledging a minimum of 14 young. This is close to the 24 pairs found nesting in 2019 and reflects improved coverage on 2020. In addition, it is understood that at least another four pairs nested on land to which access is denied. An interesting trend in the north of the county is for pairs to nest on cropped land in addition to the plots that have been provided for them. This means that having a volunteer team liaising with farms is essential. This team is provided by HOS working closely with RSPB staff.

Autumn roosts peaked with 59 on Sep 25th in the Overton/Kingsclere area which is a record for that area. No large roosts were noted around Porton and it is possible that birds from that area joined with others further north. The last record was near Porton on Oct 6th. (KFB)



Stone-curlew, North Hampshire, May 29th (Barry Stalker)

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

WeBS counts were higher than in 2020 in March, May and June but significantly lower in most other months. The maximum of 2,172 in December continued the downward trend as measured by the five-year average maximum counts (see header). Monthly maxima at the main high tide roosts are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour		995	826	424	657	344	340	1,433	669	1,230	994	1,376
Hampshire sectors		29	41	43	26	13		41	4	12	30	111
Black Point	146	104	46	1	2	3		2	167(L)	31	113	128
Langstone Harbour		719	709	322	399	297	391	983	1,284	1,242	1,122	870
Portsmouth Harbour		10	172						75	119	399	270
Titchfield Haven	110	150	85	45	22	15	30	59	91	148	156	114
Hamble Estuary	256	17	153	68			10	200	480	247	90	222
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	33	30	31	16	8	4	7	17	14	50	54	60
Hythe	33	56	26	5	5		6	95	171	84	53	61
Calshot	8	350	230	200						100		350
Beaulieu Estuary		66	88	77	71	76	124	48	112	13	50	100
Lymington-Hurst	210	115	196	56	57	126	126	55	137	240	60	130
Sowley-Lymington			25	5	6	5		10	15	2		10
WeBS count totals	101	1,474	1,770	795	575	529	790	1,138	1,691	1,663	1,970	2,172

Sites of international importance: 3,200+; national importance: 610+; L = Low tide count

Breeding was confirmed by occupied nests or fledged young at the following sites: Hayling Oysterbeds (2 pairs, both failed); Titchfield Haven (1 nest, 1 young); Hook-with-Warsash (3 nests, all failed); Quayside Road, Southampton (1 pair, 1 young); Lower Test Marshes (1 pair, 2 young); Testwood Lake (1 pair, 2 young); Fawley Power Station (1 nest on building roof); Needs Ore (14 pairs); Hatchet Pond (at least 1 young); Lymington-Hurst (8 pairs, 4+ young at Normandy Marsh); Blashford Lakes (3 pairs, 1 young at Ivy Lake).

No significant movements were recorded but inland at Burnt Common on Aug 5th two adults and two juveniles flew in from the north and fed before departing west. Nocturnal flight calls were reported at Ashurst (1, Feb 19th) and St Cross, Winchester (1, Mar 15th; 3, Mar 16th). One was also reported at Fishlake Meadows calling high SSE on Mar 4th. (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. Counts of 40 or more were recorded in all months except August-November with peak WeBS numbers of 113 in April similar to last year (114 in March).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour:		45	41							3	25	55
Sandy Point Hayling Island			4	4	2							40
Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes	60	23	42	44	40	32	16	3	2	4	36	61
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head		3	26	48	54	52	60	37	10	2	3	1
Hook-with-Warsash/Hamble Estuary		3	2	14	4	6	2	2	1			
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore/Park Shore	15	15	21	37	32	37	28	12	6	4	16	13
Lymington-Hurst	15	19	29	60	56	50	10	4	4	1	20	22
WeBS count totals		45	57	113	105	82	10	5	2		17	23

Other coastal sightings were at Black Point (1, Jan 22nd; 4, Sep 21st; 3, Dec 22nd), Gilkicker Point (2, June 6th; 2, Sep 5th), Ashlett Creek (2, June 12th) and Lepe (2, Jan 3rd; 1, Apr 13th; 1, May 21st), and inland sightings included singles at Blashford Lakes (Feb 8th), Ibsley Water (Nov 8th), Alresford Pond (Sep 6th) and Woolmer Pond (Sep 19th).

Breeding was confirmed at Farlington Marshes (6 pairs, at least 3 young), Titchfield Haven (13 nests/pairs, 10 young), Needs Ore (15 pairs, 7+ young), Park Shore (7 pairs, 2 young) and Lymington-Hurst (34 pairs, 23+ young). In addition a pair defended territory at Hook-with-Warsash but breeding was not confirmed. Overall a total of 72 pairs hatched at least 45 young, an increase on the 63 pairs in 2020. However, breeding success was low due to high levels of predation. At Titchfield Haven all were predated mainly by Lesser Black-backed Gulls; at Needs Ore many young were lost at one of the two locations there due to 15-35 non-breeding Great Black-backed Gulls; and at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes young were predated by Marsh Harriers.

Reported movements included Sandy Point (4 E, Apr 23rd; 1 NE, Apr 30th; 2 E, May 14th), Gilkicker Point (2 W, June 6th; 2 E, Sep 5th), Hill Head (4 E, Apr 23rd) and Lepe (1 W, May 21st). (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, S4I, HBAP

The WeBS maximum of 2,032 in December was much lower than the previous year (3,437 in February 2020) and continued the sharply falling trend in wintering numbers since 2014 as shown by the histogram below (see also header).

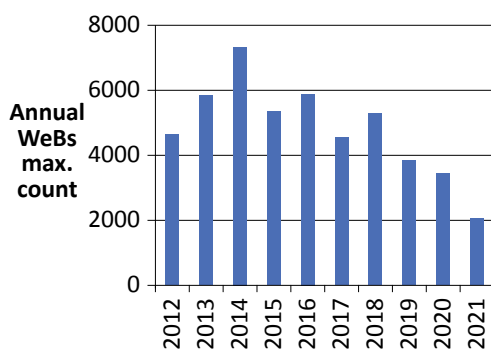
Monthly maxima at sites where counts regularly exceeded 200 are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	200	71	38	22	41	31	66	115	115	154	222	345
Langstone Harbour incl. Farlington Marshes	275	100	50	37	41	41	42	60	73	150	130	350
Titchfield Haven area	250	300	19	20	12	28	85	72	187	151	274	320
Lower Test Marshes/ Eling Great Marsh	610	456				10	31	43	27	8	180	317
Dibden Bay	560	500	40	18	7	12				19	100	92
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	165	200	75	47	47	20	4	62	26	140	400	350
Lymington-Hurst	200	400	100	200	40	40	64	80	120	300	281	750
Avon Valley: Sopley – Ringwood incl. Ripley Farm Reservoir	200	545	82	8	8	60	47	4	50	36	90	204
Avon Valley: Ringwood-Fordingbridge incl Blashford Lakes	146	462	150	10	4	4	39	140	132	60	70	200
Winchester SF	346	491	14	1						25	150	200
WeBS count totals	695	1,070	585	170	127	99	192	189	571	683	968	2,032

In addition to sites or areas included in the table above, counts exceeding 100 were also recorded at Toothill (120, Jan 10th); Awbridge (200, Feb 3rd); Hook-with-Warsash (400, Feb 10th); Skidmore (300, Feb 15th); Harrow Way, Overton (110, Oct 15th); Roke Manor, Romsey (109, Oct 17th; 183, Oct 23rd); Wallers Ash near South Wonston (300, Nov 13th); Whiteshoot Hill (150, Dec 1st), Alresford Pond (200, Dec 5th); Turrills Hill Farm, Overton (220, Dec 11th) and Scotland Farm near Hook (300, Dec 28th).

Movements of 50 or more were noted at Skidmore (50 SW, Jan 21st); Harbridge WM (89 NW, Jan 30th); Trigpoint Hill (426 SW in 10 minutes, Feb 15th; 55 NE, Dec 12th); Acres Down (94 S as flocks of 34, 42 and 18, Feb 12th); The Mill Field, Old Basing (114 S as flocks of 65, 37 and 12, Feb 13th); Broadlands Estate (60+ over M27, Nov 6th); Hunton (100 NW, Nov 22nd) and Southington (90 SW, Dec 2nd).

Breeding season reports referred to 192 territories or pairs (142 in 2020). The following localities reported three or more pairs (numbers in parentheses refer to 2020): Farlington Marshes, 25 fledged 23 young (14); Testwood Lakes, 18 fledged 31 young (10); Lymington-Hurst, 39 (25); Ripley Farm Reservoir, 4; Avon Valley GWCT project, 75 in Hants out of a total of 116; Cheesefoot Head, 7; Tidgrove Warren, 6 and Woolmer Pond, 4 (3). Young were also reported at 23 sites with the highest numbers at Pig Bush, NF (5) and Titchfield Haven (6). (JS)



Annual WeBS maximum counts for Lapwing 2012-2021

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 at Teglease Down on Apr 21st and the earliest return was at Hill Head on July 1st. The highest numbers were recorded at Lymington-Hurst (600, Dec 22nd and 25th) and Black Point (700, Jan 19th; 800, Feb 4th).

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour WeBS		50								276	534	4
Hampshire sectors other records	700	800								110		200
West Lane, Hayling Island		200	420								222	
Titchfield Haven area	200	80	79	41			1	19	2	2	55	120
Hamble Estuary	130	105	100	27					18	80	85	85
Lymington-Hurst	350	450	102	70			6	15	7	40	50	1,000
Gander Down/ Cheesefoot Head area/ Winchester SF	250	300	300								26	4
Odiham area	350	250	250	30							350	100

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

Other sites where counts equalled or exceeded 100 in the first half-year included Linkenholt (100, Jan 9th); Knowle (186, Jan 24th); Middle Wallop (100, Feb 11th); East Tisted (100, Mar 5th); Oliver's Battery (160, Mar 17th; 140, Mar 19th); Old Alresford (140, Mar 18th); Polecat Corner (161, Mar 28th) and Kilmeston (332, Apr 13th); and in the second half-year included Inchmery (100, Nov 24th); East Worldham (153, Nov 28th); Lyeway, Ropley (100, Dec 1st) and Houghton (300, Dec 28th).

Movements of 50 or more were reported at Brownwich (50, Jan 1st); Bunny Meadows, Warsash (110 W, Jan 3rd); Crawley (200 S, Jan 4th); Pennington village (70 N, Apr 4th); Trigpoint Hill (60 NE, Jan 18th; 55 NE, Nov 18th); North Waltham (88 SW, Apr 18th) and Barton Stacey (82 N, Nov 30th). (JS)

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Very rare vagrant. (0,7,1)

A summer-plumage adult was in Langstone Harbour from June 23rd-27th (JCr *et al.*). This was the second record at this site in nine months by the same observer. It is treated as a new record but could conceivably have been the previous bird returning. (ALR)

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

WeBS counts totals were lower than in 2019 in February and September to December but higher in March, May and June to August. Comparisons with January 2021 and April 2020 are not valid due to pandemic restrictions. The maximum of 843 in February was less than last year's peak of 1,067 in January but higher than 671 in February 2020. Numbers in summer remained unusually high in Langstone Harbour in May-July.

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		470	173	31				119	164	161	419	1,202
Hampshire sectors		55	151	22				75	105		62	121
Langstone Harbour		437	227	91	128	181	159	206	268	344	384	326
Hamble Estuary area	35	45	24	4			3	3	4	12	30	40
Hythe	45	26						3		13	9	59
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	178	160	75	25	3			1		73	135	211
Sowley-Lymington						30		25	12	41	35	10
Lymington-Hurst	50	153	86	20	7	7	30	51	300	179	200	75
WeBS count totals		843	510	138	128	211	176	310	389	603	692	739

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

Movements were reported only in small numbers at Sandy Point, Hayling Island (3 E, Apr 22nd and 24th; 1 E, Apr 25th) and Hill Head (2 E, Feb 20th). (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 2020 in July–December but were significantly lower in the first half-year. However, the highest count (935 in September) was higher than 2020 (608 in September) and above the recent five-year averages (see header) and indicated strong autumn passage.

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		60		57	62	19	51	965	1,108	18	31	2
Black Point	40	11	10		2		9	64	98	200	154	69
Sandy Point			30	1	2			25		197		50
Hayling Island-Gunner Point to Beachlands		7	150	10		2		1	2	49		54
Langstone Harbour	185	115	12	18	12	10	63	296	348	275	226	250
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	34	10	5	2	4	2	1	31	28	16	10	41
Hamble Estuary/ Warsash/ Hook	63	37	29	6	5	5	9	72	75	59	85	60
Weston Shore		7			4			18	32	25		17
Hythe/Calshot	20	30	1	20	2		10	39	75	40	1	15
Lepe	5	1	6	3			2	84	127	99	50	
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary	50	7	20	25	16	12	21	13	58	75	142	44
Lymington-Hurst	10	17	30	30	45	10	88	160	500	168	135	113
WeBS count totals		166	71	38	32	15	270	439	935	577	459	367

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

Other sites where over 20 or more were reported included Browdown South (98, Oct 19th); Lee-on-the-Solent (65, Nov 17th); Weston Shore (32, Sep 4th; 25, Oct 25th) and Barton on Sea (47, Sep 9th).

Breeding pairs, territorial or nesting activity were reported at Langstone Harbour (4 young on islands and Oysterbeds); Gunner Point, Hayling Island (4 pairs, Apr 27th); Hook-with-Warsash (1 juv., July 5th; 2 pairs, July 12th); Cadland North Solent NNR (1 pair with 1 juv., June 1st) and Lymington-Hurst (3/4 pairs, Mar 29th; 1 juv., June 3rd). In addition at



Ringed Plover, Pennington Jetty, May 6th (Gareth Rees)

Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary the majority of 23 pairs managed to fledge chicks. On May 21st a storm flooded parts of the shoreline but chicks were subsequently found in the unaffected areas. Eight new nests each holding two or three eggs were also found leading to several broods of chicks in June. Two pairs also nested at Needs Ore Sailing Club, with one hatching four chicks, and five nests were found on the private beach between Mary's House and Park Shore.

Inland records came from Burnt Common (1, Mar 27th-May 9th with 2, May 8th but no suggestion of breeding); Ibsley Water (1-3, May 3rd-4th; 5, May 16th: 1, May 29th; 1, Sep 29th-Oct 7th; 1, Nov 23rd) and Tweseldown (1 SW, Sep 18th). The only significant movement involving more than one or two birds at coastal sites was at Barton on Sea with 47 east in 3.25 hours on Sep 9th. (JS)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

The first were two exceptionally early birds on a flooded field at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Mar 3rd. Two or three were then there daily in March with four present on 24th. Further arrivals were noted on floods in the Moorcourt-Nursling area from Mar 7th, with up to three through the month, and at Fishtail Lagoon and nearby pools from Mar 11th with numbers increasing to six on 30th. There were records from a further 14 sites during the month involving a minimum of 36 including four at Farlington Marshes on 23rd and five among parked aircraft at Blackbushe Airfield on 25th. Records for April involved a minimum of 55 at 17 potential breeding sites and 35 at 12 sites elsewhere, mostly flooded areas. Birds are known to move between potential breeding locations and floods, e.g. Ibsley Water and Ibsley/Harbridge WM; Testwood Lakes and Moorcourt. Counts above five included seven at Edenbrook CP on 2nd, seven at Ibsley Water and eight at Ibsley/Harbridge WM on 7th, 12 at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes and Jetty Lagoons, Pennington Marshes and six at Ripley Farm Reservoir on 17th and seven at Burnt Common on 22nd.



Little Ringed Plover, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Mar 28th (Alan Lewis)

During the breeding season 33-34 territorial pairs were located at 17 sites with 12 pairs known to have raised 34 young, as shown below.

Site	Pairs attempting breeding	Breeding data
Burnt Common	3	1 young fledged.
Crofton Manor Farm	1	3 young fledged.
Downton	1	Failed
Drayton Camp	1	Outcome unknown
Edenbrook CP	1	2 young fledged, probably bred on nearby development.
Eversley Common	2	4 young fledged
Farlington Marshes	1	Failed
Fishtail Lagoon	2+	4 young fledged
Hillier's Garden Centre, Braishfield	2	6 young fledged
Ibsley Water	5	Probably all failed; juv on July 30th probably a migrant.
Needs Ore	1	4 young fledged
Normandy Lagoon	2	Failed
Ranvilles Lane	1	3 young
Ripley Farm Reservoir	2	1 young fledged
Testbourne Lake and nearby	2	Outcome unknown
Testwood Lakes	3	2 pairs fledged 8 young; 1 failed
Waterlooville	2	Young seen on development; not known if fledged.
Yateley Heath Wood	1-2	Failed

Single birds or pairs were also noted at Abbottswood, Badminton, Blackbushe Airfield, Busta Triangle, Drayton Farm WCB, Fox Lane GP, Kingsley, Lepe, Long Valley, Warren Heath, Winchester SF and Woolmer but without any evidence of breeding. Some of these sites have become unsuitable, notably Busta Triangle which held up to four pairs in recent years.

The highest autumn count was three adults and four juveniles at Titchfield Haven on July 26th. Some of these may have been from the local Crofton Farm pair. Numbers were below average in August with minima of eight at five inland sites, including a juvenile at Heath Pond, Petersfield on Aug 22nd and 23rd, and nine at five coastal sites. There were more records than usual in September. Early in the month there were six at Pennington Marshes on 1st, three at Titchfield Haven on 4th and five at Farlington Marshes. Numbers at Pennington gradually reduced to one on 19th while at Ibsley Water one or two were noted throughout the month with the last there on Oct 1st.

HOS is making a special effort to locate all breeding pairs in 2023. Please submit any such records – don't assume that other observers will do so! (JMC)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Schedule 1, Red

In the first three months of the year there was one in the Lymington area, up to three from Bury Marshes/Eling area, one or two in the east with records from Farlington Marshes and Northney and one at Warsash on Feb 22nd.

The first spring passage birds were seen on Apr 4th with two at South Moor and one at Frater Shore and then small numbers along the coast with grounded flocks of over 30 at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes (62, Apr 26th; 50, Apr 27th and 30th; 35, May 12th), Langstone Harbour (23, Apr 23rd; 55-57, May 1st-9th) and Frater Shore, Portsmouth Harbour (69, May 8th and 75, 9th). It was a good year for passage movements with records between Apr 8th and May 14th with a total of at least 1,070 flying east along the coast. During this period Hurst/Keyhaven recorded 415 (peaks 100, Apr 23rd and 71, Apr 21st), Sandy Point recorded 628 (peaks 168, Apr 23rd and 160, Apr 24th) and Hill Head recorded 300 (peak 120, Apr 24th).

There were six inland records as follows: on Apr 10th two flew SW over Acres Down, one flew north over Sopley Pig Farm on Apr 17th and three were seen there on May 25th, one



Whimbrel, Keyhaven, May 6th (Gareth Rees)

was heard flying north in the late evening over Hiltingbury on Apr 24th, two were at Norley Inclosure and nine at North Boarhunt on Apr 26th.

There were early June reports of singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes and Frater Shore on 1st, three at Pennington Marshes on 2nd and one at Needs Ore on 3rd. Autumn passage started on 19th with four at Frater Shore followed by two the next day at Farlington Marshes/Langstone increasing to six on 21st. In July there were single-figure records along the coast until 49 at Frater Shore on 21st followed by 51 there on 22nd and 54 on a WeBS count at Langstone Harbour on 24th. In August and September the only double-figure count was ten at Farlington Marshes on Aug 14th-15th. One was sound-recorded over Ecchinswell at night on Aug 28th. In October one was at Upper Hamble Estuary on 9th, three at Bury Marshes on 9th, one at Sandy Point on 10th, two at Emsworth on 16th and one at Hayling Island Oysterbeds on 23rd. In November and December there were reports of singles unless otherwise noted from the Lymington area (Nov 6th and 27th), Langstone Harbour (Nov 6th, 11th and 19th and Dec 6th) and Bury Marshes (2, Nov 7th; 1, 29th and 3, Dec 5th). (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. NT, Red, S4I

WeBS numbers in February and March remained similar to the end of 2020. Spring passage was recorded at Barton on Sea between Mar 7th and May 2nd (peak 5, Mar 5th and 7th) and Sandy Point (27 NE, Apr 8th; 65 NE, Apr 16th and 1 E, Apr 22nd). Inland there were regular records from the Avon Valley Between Feb 21st and Apr 24th peaking at 17 at Harbridge WM on Mar 9th. There were further records of singles over Hinton Ampner on Mar 4th and Apr 19th, five at Testwood Lakes on Mar 14th, one SW over Tweseldown on July 6th (the first record there), one over Aldershot on Sep 1st and one at Skidmore on Dec 5th.

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	91	663	556	597	9	192	462	870	1,300	1,535	784	924
Hampshire sectors		145	147	219	3		3	220	166	385	284	351
Langstone Harbour	35	592	517	354	67	225	885	1,600	989	838	403	335
Portsmouth Harbour	210	88	244	248	20	48	98	7	50	4	143	194
Southampton Water	60	316	262	75	15	8	83	48	181	118	166	263
Beaulieu Estuary	50	115	48	30	1	30	64	132	111	118	198	120
Sowley-Lymington			8		2	4	4	7	24	2		8
Lymington-Hurst	50	134	145	22	10	65	173	40	150	197	180	105
WeBS count totals	26	1,321	1,377	681	78	324	1,382	2,009	1,550	1,659	1,254	1,441

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

Comprehensive coverage of breeding Curlews in the New Forest study area revealed 44 territories occupied by 43 breeding pairs and one where only a single bird was seen. Of the 43 potential breeding territories, six held birds that were only seen intermittently and no breeding activity was recorded. There were a further eight sites with continued occupancy but where no nests were found, almost certainly due to predation occurring before nests could be found despite repeated visits throughout the season.

Twenty-four nests were located including re-lays covering 17 of the breeding pairs. All known clutches contained four eggs once laying was complete. Nineteen breeding attempts (including relays) were confirmed as predated at egg stage or during hatching (either from trail camera data or from nest remains), plus a further nest which was predated immediately after hatching. Fifteen nests are known to have hatched chicks, but many young were subsequently lost with

a total of only eight chicks reaching BTO fledging age. Two of these chicks were not seen again and it is probable they were predated shortly afterwards. Overall, four sites produced a total of six known young, which left the Forest in August as recruitment to the population.

Small numbers were recorded on passage in late summer/early autumn at Barton on Sea (2 W, Aug 22nd; 24 E, Aug 22nd; 4 E, Sep 4th). Overall numbers in the second half-year were again high, like last year, with the August WeBS total of 2,009 being the highest since 2016. Numbers then dropped in September, possibly as some moved to the West Sussex side of Chichester Harbour. (ASR/AP)

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 again were low with no three-figure counts all year, although separate numbers during spring passage reached nearly four figures briefly between Apr 21st-25th. The highest count in the early part of the year was 70 in Langstone Harbour on Jan 16th.

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		180	70	17				22	18	407	63	210
Hampshire sectors				14							83	
Hayling Island-Black Point	3	1	2		13	45		3	18	1		1
Langstone Harbour	70	50	7	24	41	43	53	4	4	12	55	60
Titchfield Haven-Chilling	11	13	5	5					65			1
Lymington-Hurst	19	12	4	35	6	18	6	8	28	20	17	20
WeBS count totals		67	13	2	46	45	57	8	6	30	71	62

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



Bar-tailed Godwit, Hill Head, Apr 24th (Chris Rose)

Spring passage was particularly heavy this year with at least 2,125 between Apr 10th and May 14th (223 in 2020), the highest total recorded since 4,174 in 2011. Counts of over 50 were recorded from mid-April at Hurst (80, 14th; 500, 22nd and 80, 23rd), Pylewell Saltings (310, 21st), Hill Head (300, 21st; 930, 22nd and 100, 23rd), Lepe (90, 22nd) and Sandy Point (340, 22nd; 83, 24th and 127, 25th). There were also two notable counts of 50 at Needs Ore on Apr 24th-25th and 24 at Tanners Lane on Apr 20th. Inland records involved two heard over The Straight Mile, Ampfield at 21:45 on Apr 17th and two at Ibsley Water on Apr 23rd.

A higher number than normal remained in the summer with flocks over 40 in Chichester Harbour (45, June 4th) and in Langstone Harbour (43, June 26th; 49, July 7th and 53, July 24th). In autumn two at Ripley Farm Reservoir left south on Sep 12th. Wintering numbers in the second part of the year peaked in November including 83 at Warblington Castle on Nov 19th. (ASR)

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer. Mean maximum

WeBS totals 1998-2002: 2,066; 2002-07: 2,753; 2007-12: 2,210; 2012-17: 2,749.

NT, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

WeBS numbers were a lot higher than 2020 due to large numbers at Ibsley Water with a year maximum of 2,000 on Jan 20th. There was a dip in February due to the Blashford flock moving away for a spell but numbers bounced back in March before falling away during April. During May and June the highest number of summering birds was 64 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on June 25th. Away from the Avon Valley there were other inland records at Alresford Pond (1, Mar 23rd and 2, July 20th), Edenbrook CP (1, July 3rd) and Fishlake Meadows (1, July 26th; 1, Aug 1st and 3, Sep 6th).

Late year WeBS totals were not as high as the early winter period, as there was no large gathering in the Avon Valley, although they were slightly more than 2020 due to higher numbers in the Langstone Harbour and Keyhaven-Hurst areas, with a peak in October of 1,209 including 500 in Langstone Harbour on Oct 9th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	30	474	93	171			45	30	72	157	661	724
Hampshire sectors	1	10	7	2				74	9	30	16	26
Langstone Harbour	111	39	155	217	40	24	215	475	513	500	345	291
Portsmouth Harbour	68		12				1		168	255	768	565
Titchfield Haven	100	205	107	93	34	18	110	291	141	20	51	80
Hamble Estuary	10	108	121	271			136	232	371	278	74	28
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes	217	155	108		1		6	3	12	39	75	4
Hythe-Calshot	25	4		2	27		4	4	3	10	67	59
Beaulieu Estuary			19	25	6	6	6	39	21	13	10	50
Lymington-Hurst	50	15	132	130	25	64	188	191	166	240	240	374
Avon: Sopley-Ringwood		1	200								2	
Ibsley Water	2,000	300	1,800	40	4		1			1	9	58
WeBS count totals	1,988	279	1,458	503	37	50	555	687	995	1,209	757	1,201

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

The February WeBS count was higher than December 2020 but dropped in March to a relatively low figure compared to recent years although peak counts outside of WeBS continued at

higher levels with 85 at Hill Head on 16th, 41 Lepe on 20th and 46 at Cut Bridge on 30th. Whilst most had departed by May, up to 20 remained in June at Lymington-Hurst, Hill Head, Langstone Harbour and Sandy Point.

Autumn passage started in early July with increases at the above sites and nine on 12th at Hythe. There was also an inland record of one at Ibsley Water on July 30th. Whilst the August WeBS count was similar to 2020, there was a large non-WeBS count of 115 at Lepe on 26th. Numbers continued to rise in September and October peaking in November with 952, the highest WeBS count since 972 in October 2015. This was due to a total of 417 in Portsmouth Harbour on Nov 6th, a new record count for the site (previous max. 398 in 2018).

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	11	158	192	55	2	1		57	45	51	121	103
Hampshire Sectors	11	37	62	19	12		50	57	39	42	63	45
Langstone Harbour	70	359	45	51	1	20	23	129	211	172	117	130
Portsmouth Harbour	31	76	30					1	3	89	417	103
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head/Brownwich	42	71	85	81	23	20	100	125	120	74	65	70
Hamble Estuary	43	43	70	30	1		19	45	63	118	94	91
Weston Shore (L)	25	39	35	39	23		9	12	19	26	51	43
Hythe-Calshot	40	57	10	59	6		30	53	104	120	13	48
Lepe	5	12	41	35			40	115	127	142	5	20
Beaulieu Estuary	3	10	20	8	7	7	23	4	2	5	50	45
Sowley-Lymington					1				35	129		2
Lymington-Hurst	20	80	46	37	20	15	38	70	120	202	126	60
WeBS count totals	4	597	222	169	6	14	141	282	398	592	952	496

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 February WeBS total of 518 was higher than the two previous February totals but numbers dropped back in March and the rest of the year with no individual site count over 100. However, outside of WeBS there were three-figure counts in each of the first three



Knot, Pennington Marshes, Aug 30th (Simon Buckell)

months at Black Point peaking at 485 on Feb 2nd. The only notable count away from the tabulated sites was 20 at Swanwick on the River Hamble on Jan 20th.

In June eight remained in Langstone Harbour on 1st and five at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 5th, with possible returning birds on 23rd with one at Keyhaven and 26th with three at Langstone Harbour. Numbers remained low until November when a flock of 200 was recorded at Black Point until year end and a late year high of 500 was achieved at Normandy Marsh on Dec 23rd.

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		41	26					16	2		68	355
Hampshire sectors		1	26					8				5
Black Point	200	485	400		2			5	1	2	200	200
Langstone Harbour	240	275	54	3	7	6	9	50	75	35	50	20
Lepe-Beaulieu Estuary	347	59	8	1				2		1	50	30
Sowley-Lymington												
Lymington-Hurst	200	180	150	38	8	5	6	12	31	9	35	500
WeBS count totals		518	82	3	6	3	13	9	83	15	34	29

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

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Scarce but regular passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor. ET, NT, Schedule 1, Red

In the first three months the majority of sightings came from the Lymington area with monthly peaks of six, seven and seven. Other winter records included singles at Lepe on Jan 9th, Farlington Marshes on Feb 10th and Mar 30th, Hook-with-Warsash on Feb 10th and Harbridge WM on Mar 31st which remained until Apr 2nd. In April numbers at Lymington gradually reduced from six on 5th until the last on 29th. The only other records were singles at Needs Ore on Apr 13th and Farlington Marshes between Apr 23rd and May 2nd.

Return passage commenced with one at Farlington Marshes from July 6th-8th followed by singles at Ibsley Water on 19th and Keyhaven on 20th. After one at Lepe on Aug 1st there was a gap until 21st with three at Farlington Marshes followed by three at Bridge Street Flood, Titchfield on 27th and one at Lower Test Marshes on 28th. In the latter part of the year there were regular records of up to ten at Titchfield and Warsash until Oct 4th. Away from



Ruffs, Pennington Marshes, Apr 16th (Matthew Barfield)

Titchfield there were up to two at Lymington-Hurst until late December, one at Farlington Marshes on Sep 6th, Oct 5th and 16th, nine at Needs Ore on Sep 12th, one at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 20th and 25th, two at Testbourne Lake on Sep 21st and one at Eling Great Marsh on Oct 9th.

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (ASR)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	9	9	8	1		3	9	28	5	2	1

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn; has wintered.

VU, Amber

The first arrival was in winter plumage at Keyhaven Marshes on Apr 26th. The only other spring report was of three (one in summer plumage and two intermediate) at Farlington Marshes on May 15th.

Early autumn passage was very light with one at Keyhaven Marshes on June 23rd, two moulting adults there on Aug 2nd, one there on Aug 4th and a single at Needs Ore on Aug 11th. There were no further reports until Aug 29th when there was a juvenile at Normandy Marsh to month end, with a second on Aug 31st. Reports for the rest of the year were largely of juveniles or unaged. The only adults reported were singles at Titchfield Haven on Sep 15th and Oct 2nd-5th. Passage numbers were much lower than last year, amounting to a minimum of 16, with no site count exceeding two. This included daily counts in the first half of September of ones and twos at Lymington-Hurst and similar numbers on five dates to the end of the month. In October there were singles there on Oct 8th/9th and 17th, which was the last for the year. At Farlington Marshes there was one on Sep 5th and then ones or twos on most days from Sep 20th to 30th. In October there were singles there on eight dates up to 17th. Elsewhere there were reports of two from Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 20th, 25th, 26th, 28th, Oct 10th and singles there on Sep 24th and 29th. On the north shore of Chichester Harbour at Nore Barn there was one on Sep 30th.

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1	3	1		3	8	5		

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Very scarce passage migrant. (6,141,1)

Schedule I

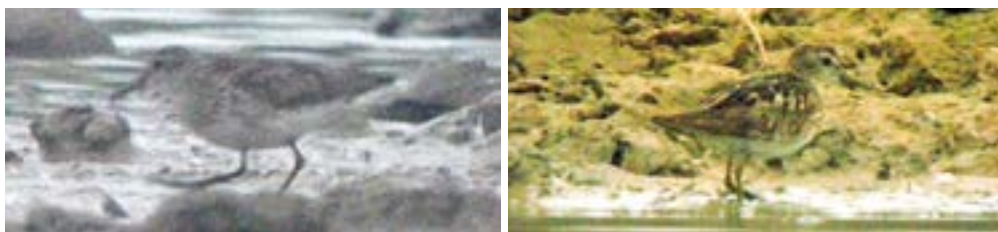
An adult was at Titchfield Haven on July 18th (SW). An adult, possibly the same, was at Pennington Marshes from July 19th to 21st (RH et al.). (ALR)

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Very rare vagrant. (0,1,0)

2011 addition. An adult was seen at dusk at Farlington Marshes on Sep 8th 2011 (JCr, video/photo). It took several years to determine its identification. It was finally accepted in 2022 after BBRC received further documentation of a bird recorded in West Sussex between Sep 15th-21st 2011 which was considered to be the same as the Farlington individual.

Up to 2011 there had only been two other accepted records in Great Britain of this Asian vagrant which breeds in central and north-eastern Siberia and winters in India, South-east Asia and Australia. This is the first record for Hampshire. A short paper on its discovery, identification and status is given on pages 246-247 of this report. (KFB)



Long-toed Stint, Farlington Marshes, Sep 8th 2011 (Jason Crook)

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Moderately common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, HBAP

Monthly maxima at the main localities are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Point	43	140	7	20	150		125	250		50	330	64
Sandy Point-Gunner Point	20	1	100	140	80	14	220	220	100	361	250	120
Eastney	220	135	150	14	7				3		70	40
Hill Head-Brownwich	60	65	104	84	80		3	6	15	30	241	195
Hook-with-Warsash	84	51	66	41	36				1	29	30	62

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

As usual wintering birds were largely confined to sites east of Southampton Water. Records from the main Hayling Island sites, Black Point and Sandy Point to Gunner Point, were likely to refer to birds which also roost at Pilsea in the West Sussex portion of Chichester Harbour. Regular reports came from Langstone Harbour, although these also probably refer to the Chichester Harbour and Hayling birds. A separate flock continued using the Hill Head area and probably accounted for those seen further west around Hook-with-Warsash and occasionally east to Browndown and Stokes Bay. The size of this flock has increased markedly in recent years with a maximum monthly count of 241 this year compared to only 50 in 2018. A total of 74 at Southsea Castle on six dates up to Apr 2nd (max. 37, Feb 5th) may have been from the Black Point or Hill Head flocks.



Sanderling, Hill Head, Feb 6th (Ashley Howe)

In the Lymington-Hurst area, there was an early winter report of three on Jan 2nd and then small flocks in spring of up to 12 on 31 dates between Apr 14th and June 8th. Spring passage at Weston Shore totalled 52 on four dates between May 4th and 20th with 35 recorded on the 4th. At Needs Ore/Lepe there were flocks up to 11 on ten dates between Apr 10th and May 31st. Passage was recorded at Barton on Sea on seven dates between Apr 23rd and May 13th with a maximum of 20 on Apr 24th. Four were at Dibden Bay on May 21st. Passage was detected inland at Ibsley Water with three on May 16th and one on May 21st-22nd. One was grounded by heavy rain at Burnt Common on May 8th. This is thought to be only the second for the Basingstoke & Deane borough. It was followed by another on May 22nd. The last early year record was two at Lymington-Hurst on June 8th and the first of autumn was 11 at Sandy Point on July 15th.

Between July 20th and Nov 22nd there were single-figure flocks on 20 dates in the Lymington-Hurst area plus larger flocks of 30 (July 23rd), 16 (July 25th), 20 (Oct 9th), ten (Oct 16th) and 14 (Oct 22nd). At Needs Ore and nearby at Lepe CP there were counts of up to three on ten dates between Aug 1st and Sep 16th with 20 on Aug 6th. Three flew south over Weston Shore on Nov 6th. There was also an interesting inland record of one feeding amongst locomotives at Eastleigh Railway Works on Aug 17th. (JRDS)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

There was no WeBS count in January because of COVID restrictions and the February count was around 6,000 lower than the corresponding count in 2020. However, numbers in November and December were higher than those of the previous year with the peak in December. The maximum WeBS count of 20,037 in December 2021 was around 3,000 lower than the mean maximum for the preceding five-year period (in header). This is in keeping with the long-term downward trend, but an improvement over 2020.

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		2,219	1,174	138	48	3	286	1,404	826	220	3,712	9,220
Hampshire sectors	100	200	166	68				2	26		70	641
Sandy Point				8	50		50			54		14
Black Point	3,000	2,500	500		2		3	5	12	200	2,000	3,000
Hayling seafront		59	300	24						75	1,600	300
Langstone Harbour	1,000	8,385	1,467	127	300	1	292	218	840	966	13,029	12,352
Portsmouth Harbour	517L	1,001	140	1	1			8		90	264	2,385
Hamble Estuary (L)	500	468	287	3	26	1	5	12	35	42	348	450
Dibden Bay/Hythe	600	1,000	500	1	1		8	8	8	32	400	1,000
Beaulieu Estuary/ Needs Ore	6	1,066	250	16	43		10	38	41	100	999	1,066
Lepe CP (L)	50	1		3					70	62	10	
Sowley-Lymington			12					30	75	9	350	400
Lymington-Hurst	300	1,100	755	250	250	25	323	100	528	780	1,156	2,020
WeBS count totals		11,114	2,530	231	6	1	949	283	1,463	1,821	16,225	20,037

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

In the early year to end March, away from the tabulated sites, there were two- or three-figure counts from Weston Shore/Chessell Bay (70, Jan 2nd; 100, Feb 13th; 25, Feb 28th) and Calshot/Fawley area (20, Feb 14th; 10, Mar 14th). In the Titchfield Haven area there were small groups on 20 dates (max. 8, Feb 4th). Inland records came from Ibsley Water with

singles on Feb 9th and Mar 24th, two at Harbridge WM on Feb 18th, singles at Testwood Lakes between Feb 9th and 12th and Romsey WM on 13th. Those in February were associated with cold weather.

Reports of eastward migration through The Solent in spring came from Sandy Point (with a total 13 on three dates between Apr 22nd and 28th), Barton on Sea (29 on six dates between Apr 23rd and July 31st), Hurst (11, May 13th; 6, Apr 30th) and Stokes Bay (7, Apr 24th). Up to 12 grounded migrants were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on ten dates between Apr 9th and June 8th. Other coastal migrants were at Weston Shore (15, May 4th), Dibden Bay (4, May 19th), Calshot (2, Apr 16th) and Tournbury (42, May 20th). Inland records in spring were up to four at Ibsley Water between May 2nd and 21st with 33 on May 8th. In the Mortimer West End area there were reports in May from Burnt Common (4, 4th; 2, 5th; 4, 8th; 1, 17th) and Fifty Acre Piece (1, 31st). One was sound-recorded over St.Cross on May 8th.

Inland return passage was reported from Alresford Pond (1, Sep 1st), Edenbrook CP (1, Aug 27th; 2, Aug 28th-30th) and Ibsley Water (nine dates between July 30th and Oct 6th with two on Sep 2nd). Small numbers were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on 38 dates between July 7th and Oct 10th (max. 14, Sep 27th) and other coastal sites between Aug 20th and Oct 19th (max. 47, Oct 19th at Browndown South).

In the late year, away from the tabulated sites, there were two- and three-figure flocks at Stoke Common (98, Dec 2nd), Weston Shore area (130, Nov 23rd; 80, Nov 25th; 200, Dec 5th; 120, Dec 17th; 350, Dec 18th), Dibden Bay (15, Dec 28th) and Calshot (40, Oct 22nd; 19, Dec 5th). The Low Tide Count in Portsmouth Harbour recorded 4,308 on Nov 28th and 3,655 on Dec 11th. There were also small groups, mainly single figures, in the Titchfield Haven area on 15 dates (max. 24, Oct 27th). There were also inland reports from Ibsley Water (1, Nov 23rd to 26th) and one was sound-recorded over St.Cross on Nov 5th. (JRDS)

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red

With reports of up to 20 on 52 dates in the early winter period and spring, Southsea Castle continued to be a productive site. The last sighting there was on May 6th. The first returns



Purple Sandpiper, Barton on Sea, Jan 21st (Simon Buckell)

were four on Oct 29th followed by reports of up to 19 on a further 24 dates up to the end of the year. Major works are taking place at Southsea to reinforce the sea defences and mitigation is in place to maintain suitable habitat for the Purple Sandpiper flock. Time will tell whether this is successful. Dedicated patch watching in the Barton on Sea/Chewton Bunny area has shown this to be also a regular site for the species. In the early period there were reports of up to 28 on 18 dates to May 6th. A maximum of eight was also recorded on five dates in December. These sightings possibly refer to the flock usually wintering at Mudeford/Hengistbury Head, Dorset.

Away from the above sites one was reported from the Lymington-Hurst area on Mar 26th and Apr 30th. The only other early year record was one at Eastney on May 5th. The first for the second winter period was one on a breakwater near Lymington Harbour on Oct 22nd followed by one at Needs Ore on Nov 11th and 22nd, Dec 5th, 11th, 26th and 29th.

Monthly maxima at the two main sites. (JRDS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Southsea Castle	17	20	20	17	4					4	19	18
Barton on Sea area	28	15	9	14	2							8

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

Green

In spring there were singles in summer plumage at Farlington Marshes from Apr 25th-30th and at Keyhaven Marshes from May 28th-31st joined by a second on 28th. One was also present there from June 6th-8th.

The autumn minimum total of 30 was an increase over the 15 recorded in 2020 and the lowest ever total of ten in 2019. In July and early August, when most in Hampshire are adults, there were records of singles from Pennington Marshes on July 11th, 12th, 19th 22nd, 23rd and Aug 2nd. There were no further records until Aug 11th when one was at Needs Ore followed by singles from Pennington Marshes (Aug 17th) and Farlington Marshes (Aug 21st). Regular passage started on Aug 26th with the bulk of records coming from the Pennington Marshes area. There were reports almost daily from Aug 26th to Sep 27th, initially of ones and twos but building to a peak of six on most days between Sep 6th and 11th. Reports from the area started again on Oct 5th with up to three per day until Oct 15th. There were then singles on 14 days until Nov 22nd. Finally, there was one seen in early December. At Titchfield Haven there were singles on July 11th, Sep 2nd and then most days between Sep 6th and 12th with two on 10th. There was then one on Sep 15th and another from Oct 28th to Nov 2nd. Nearby at Hook-with-Warsash there was one almost daily from Aug 27th to Sep 10th. The only other coastal reports were from Farlington Marshes (1, Aug 21st; 2, Sep 8th). There were two inland reports of singles from Eversley Common (juv., Sep 7th) and Ibsley Water (Oct 31st).

The minimum monthly totals are shown below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1	2	1	2	6	14	5	2	1

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Rare passage migrant recorded in every month from May to October. (1,100,1)

A juvenile was at Oxey Marsh and later Normandy Lagoon from Oct 9th-25th (MW et al.). (ALR)



Pectoral Sandpiper, Oxey Marsh, Oct 17th (Gareth Rees)

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

Very rare vagrant. (0,0,1)

An adult was discovered roosting with Dunlin at Normandy Lagoon on Oct 4th and stayed until 14th (MDC, SJB et al., photo). This is the first record for Hampshire and has been accepted by BBRC.

A short paper on the discovery, identification and status of this bird is included on pages 250-252 of this report. (ALR)



Western Sandpiper, with Dunlin, Redshank and Lapwing, Normandy Marsh, Oct 11th (Alan Lewis) and Oct 6th (Richard Ford)

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

Moderately common resident and winter visitor.

Red

There were widespread reports between January and March with at least 100 at 73 sites. Unlike 2020 (when there were seven), there were only two totals of more than three with site maxima of six at Frater Shore and five at Biddenfield Farm near Botley Wood. Away from these sites there were counts of three at Ampfield, Chandler's Ford, Millyford Bridge, NF and The Mill Field, Old Basing. All other sightings were of ones or twos. Sites with records on more than one date were Blashford Lakes, Biddenfield Farm, Deacon Hill, Sandy Point, Ampfield, Dummer, Hunton, Northington, Hazeley Heath, Norely Wood NF, Ogdens Purlieu NF, Ewhurst Park, The Mill Field-Old Basing, Pamber Forest, Frater Shore, Titchfield Haven, Bransbury Common, Fishlake Meadows, Trigpoint Hill and Mark Ash Wood NF. NFBWS only covered a limited number of sites because of COVID restrictions and did not record any in the January, February and March surveys.

Roding was first recorded at Woosons Hill Inclosure, NF on Mar 7th and Norley Wood, NF on Mar 29th. From the start of April a further 165 records were received during the breeding season. These indicated around 106 territories at 83 sites as a conservative estimate. Many observers report the number of roding passes without estimating the number of birds involved. Unless the observer states otherwise, multiple roding passes are assumed to be by a single bird although this may under-represent the number of birds at the site. Most sites had only one or two territories but higher numbers were reported from six sites. The Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths survey reported 21 territories from 14 one km squares (Table 1). There were late summer reports in September of singles at Beech (2nd), Ampfield, Hilingbury (both 5th) and Sheet (7th) with no further reports until Nov 2nd when one was at Plastow Green.

In November and December, a total of 77 was reported from 44 sites. There were reports of more than three from three sites with 11 at Wyck, 11 at Beacon Hill, Warnford and six at Twyford Down. The only report of three was from the nearby Twyford Meadows. There were also reports on more than two dates from Deacon Hill, Sandy Point, St Cross/Hockley Meadows, Twyford Down, Beacon Hill-Warnford, Wyck, Widden Bottom NF, Ashford Hangers, Toms Down, Blackfield and Bransbury Common, Woolmer area and Frater Shore. NFBWS in the second winter period reported three in November and one in December. (JRDS)

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*

Scarce but overlooked winter visitor and passage migrant.

Green

Between January and early May there were reports of at least 55 from 29 sites. This is an improvement over the last three years (max. 50 from 23 sites in 2018). Reports of more than one came from Wildmoor/Loddon Valley Copse (8, Feb 10th; 7, Mar 23rd and 4, Mar 26th using thermal imager; 3, Feb 9th, Feb 23rd), Eelmoor Flash (4, Mar 11th), Bourley North – Long Valley (5, Jan 2nd with thermal imager; 5, Jan 16th; 3, Feb 21st; 1, Mar 21st), Mansbridge (5, Jan 6th using thermal imager), Sandy Point (4, Jan 1st, Jan 21st, Feb 11th; 1-3 on 19 further dates), Farlington Marshes (2, Jan 18th, Apr 16th and 18th), The Vyne Lake (2, Apr 1st and 11th), Bishopstoke (2, Mar 8th), Winchester SF (2, Mar 6th; 1, Mar 14th), Odiham–Hillside (2, Mar 8th), Mortimer West End–Burnt Common (2, Jan 22nd), Fareham–Newlands Farm (2, Mar 14th), Titchfield Haven (2, Mar 30th) and Hinchesea Moor (2, Apr 4th). Reports at all other sites were of singles including Lymington-Hurst area on Jan 11th, Feb 10th-11th and most days from Mar 30th and Apr 20th. NFBWS found none in the first winter period. The last record in spring was a single at Berewood on May 7th (JSP). This is the second latest record on file after a bird at Farlington Marshes on May 8th 1977.

In the autumn period to year-end at least 29 were reported from 13 sites. This is much lower than 2020 when thermal imaging was more widely used. The first return was one at Titchfield Haven on Sep 26th followed by one at The Vyne Lake on Oct 11th. Reports of more than one came from Sandy Point (2, Oct 24th), Farlington Marshes (2, Oct 16th),

Hook-with-Warsash (5, Dec 21st), Lower Test Marshes (3, Nov 6th), The Vyne (5, Oct 11th; 2, Nov 7th), Eelmoor Flash (2, Dec 28th) and Bourley North–Long Valley (6, Dec 19th; 3, Dec 12th, both using thermal imaging). Other reports were all of singles including a popular long-stayer in front of one of the hides at Titchfield Haven on Sep 26th, Oct 19th, Oct 29th and then many days between Nov 6th and Dec 23rd. (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

Unlike 2020, there were only two three-figure counts with 112 at Pennington Marshes on Mar 3rd and a minimum of 100 at Hucklesbrook WM on Jan 8th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone Harbour	7	39	27	9	1		3	11	10	61	74	20
Titchfield Haven area	28	47	35	6	1	1	3	9	16	50	85	81
Hook-with-Warsash	7	9	17	6				3	5	1	3	32
Lower Test Marshes	89	64	47	7	1				1	28	49	44
Bury Marshes	7		18					8	5	5	20	13
Lepe	30	9	5	8			1	1	1	10	49	24
Needs Ore	7	9	5	5	1		2	10	12	12	21	3
Lymington-Hurst	59	76	112	17	2	1	10	18	20	29	20	15
Badminton GP	11	21	10	3	1							8
Blashford Lakes	100		1	25					1	25	10	1
Testwood Lakes	6	17	12	4				2	3	15	28	29
Testbourne Lake			83	25	2				11	19	3	2
Lakeside CP	38	18	34							8	11	17
Winchester SF	47	20	59	6						34	30	30
Fishlake Meadows	50	19	19	6	1			5	3	50	16	16
Winnall Moors			10	1					3	54	35	54
Bransbury Common	1	12	37	6					5	3	16	
Mortimer West End	23	1	3	6				2	5	2		8
The Vyne	38	12	12	26					22	48	57	45
Hillside Marsh, Odiham	49	47	42	27							22	19
Long Valley		8	11								11	12
Fleet Pond	59		32	16					2	2	32	50
Loddon Valley Copse	11	34	19	2								11

In the first winter period, away from tabulated sites, the only double-figure counts came from Eversley Common (60, Jan 31st), Leckford (41, Mar 24th; 31, Mar 24th), Denmead (31, Feb 5th), Bishopstoke (30, Mar 8th), Long Valley (22, Jan 2nd), Pondhead Inclosure (15, Jan 25th), Ringwood Forest (12, Apr 3rd), Mansbridge (12, Jan 6th), Wildmoor (12, Mar 23rd), Avon Causeway to Wattons Ford (11, Feb 14th; 10, Mar 14th), Romsey (11, Mar 20th) and Skidmore (10, Mar 19th). NFWBS reported zero, three and four respectively for January to March with limited coverage (Table 4). A single was recorded calling at night over St. Cross, Winchester on Mar 18th. Most had left wintering/passage sites by mid-May with the last at Lepe on 18th. Singles in June at Keyhaven (2nd), Titchfield Haven (7th) and Hurst Beach (13th) may have been failed Hampshire breeders.

Focussed survey work and casual observation in the New Forest resulted in reports in suitable breeding habitat from the following 34 sites (14 in 2019, 26 in 2020): Acres Down, Balmer Lawn, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu Heath East and West, Bisterne Common, Bolderwood, Bratley Water, Broadley Inclosure, Burley, Cockley Hill, Dibden Bottom, Duckhole Bog, Eyeworth



Snipe, Titchfield Haven, Oct 3rd (Chris Rose)

Wood, Ferney Crofts, Ferney Knap, Fritham Plain, Furze Hill, Goatspen Plain, Hatchet Pond, Hill Top, Longslade Bottom, Milking Pound Bottom, Red Rise, Pig Bush, Sway, Vereley Hill, Wilverley Plain, Withybed Bottom, Woodfidley and Yew Tree Heath.

The first returning migrant was one on July 11th at Titchfield Haven followed by another there on July 16th. Regular reports from the coast started on July 20th, which was over two weeks earlier than in 2020. Inland visible migration was reported from Tweseldown (between one and seven on six dates between Sep 19th and Nov 13th) and Trigpoint Hill (2, Sep 21st; 1, Nov 13th). The only double-figure reports in the second winter period, away from the tabulated sites, were at Ringwood to Fordingbridge (26, Sep 12th; 23, Dec 19th; 12, Nov 7th), Longmoor Inclosure (21, Dec 31st), Pig Bush, NF (21, Dec 2nd), Micheldever (18, Dec 17th), Long Valley (11, Nov 6th) and Holmsley GP (10, Dec 19th). NFWBS reported counts of two, 14 and 16 respectively for October to December (Table 4). (JRDS)

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare passage migrant. (3,53,2)

Red

A summer-plumage male was on Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on May 31st and June 1st (PH, SRC *et al.*). This is only the fourth sighting for May with the previous record also at this lagoon in 2019. An adult was also on Ibsley Water on June 28th (RAC). (ALR)

2012 addition. A juvenile was at Sturt Pond on Sep 19th (DHT, photo).

Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope) *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Very scarce autumn and early winter visitor, usually occurring after gales. Rare from December to February. (?,364,5)

There were five records. The first was at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes from Feb 26th to Mar 1st. It was also seen nearby on Efford Lake on Feb 26th and Pennington Lagoon on Feb 27th (JWD *et al.*). Next a breeding plumage female was in Chichester Harbour entrance on May 28th (ACJ). This was only the second spring record, the first being in April 2020. The first in autumn was on Ibsley Water from Sep 27th to Oct 1st (RAC *et al.*). Unusually another was discovered feeding and making short flights along the road verge by Set Thorns Inclosure, New Forest on Oct 31st (JAN). Finally one was on the sea off Needs Ore on Dec 8th (MMR). (ALR)



Common Sandpiper, Ibsley Water, July 28th (Gareth Rees)

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. 1, 1, 1), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (9, 7, 8), Curbridge (0, 1, 3) and inland at Blashford Lakes (1, 1, 1). There were also singles on five dates in Portsmouth Harbour in February and March, and singles on one date at Keyhaven (Jan 17th), Budds Farm (Jan 15th), Beaulieu (Jan 14th) and Needs Ore (Feb 15th). There was one inland record from Wishanger (Feb 20th).

Birds were at wintering sites into May at Itchen Estuary (19th), Lower Test Marshes (1st), Curbridge (24th) and Blashford Lakes (4th). The first spring migrant appeared at Rampton's Lane GP, Mortimer West End on Apr 5th and from then there were records until the last on June 1st at Hook-with-Warsash. During this period there were reports from 21 inland sites and 12 coastal sites. The only counts of four or more were at Lower Test Marshes in April (10, 9th; 7, 10th; 6, 27th; 5, 18th and 25th; 4, 28th) and Hook-with-Warsash (3, May 1st).

The first return was at Hook-with-Warsash on June 23rd. Autumn passage continued until late October with reports from 16 coastal sites and 25 inland sites. Counts of more than seven came only from Lower Test Marshes (19, Aug 7th reducing steadily to 9, Aug 22nd). In November and December there were records in each month from the regular wintering sites at Itchen Estuary (monthly max. 2, 0), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (5, 5), Curbridge (4, 2) and inland at Blashford Lakes (1, 1). There were singles in November at Keyhaven on three dates and Portsmouth Harbour on four dates, and at Langstone Harbour (12th, Nov; Dec 13th; 2, Dec 19th).

The approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (JRDS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	13	14	44	31	4	75	72	44	19	15	10

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce passage migrant; small numbers winter.

Schedule 1, Amber

Between January and April there were reports of up to four from 36 inland sites and nine coastal sites. Most had departed towards the end of April with the last one at Pennington Marshes on Apr 30th. There were reports of singles actively migrating at Trigpoint Hill on eight dates in March.

Return passage commenced in June with one at Titchfield Haven on 13th. There were twos at Lepe (20th) and Alresford Pond (22nd) and singles at Nursling (22nd) and Lepe (23rd). Also on 23rd there were three at Alresford Pond. From June 26th reports were widespread from 45 sites to the end of October with the highest count of nine at Needs Ore (Sep 22nd), Titchfield Haven (Aug 6th) and Longparish (Aug 22nd). The only count exceeding two at non-tabulated sites was at Langstone Mill Pond (3, Oct 29th). Visible migration was recorded at Trigpoint Hill (1 SW, Aug 28th).

In November and December late passage and wintering birds were reported from 22 inland sites and five coastal sites with maximum of six at Blashford Lakes (Dec 4th) and four there on five dates and four at Pinglestone WCB (Nov 25th). The only report of more than two away from the tabulated sites was of three between Avon Causeway and Wattons Ford (Dec 19th).

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	3	4	2	2	1	1
Titchfield Haven area		1		2		1	7	9	8	1		
Hook-with-Warsash			1				2	1	2			
Lower Test Marshes	1	1		1			1	1	1		1	1
Testwood Lakes area	1	2	1	1		1		1	1	1		
Badminton/Fawley												
Lepe CP	3	1	1	2		2	3	2	2	2	2	1
Needs Ore						3	2	7	9	1	1	
Lymington-Hurst		1		1			2	3	1	2	1	1
Blashford Lakes	1	1		2			1	2	2	3	4	6
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	3	1	4	1					3	3	2	3
Fishlake Meadows/ Romsey			1	4			1	3	1	1		1
Headbourne Worthy WCB	2	2	2	2						1	1	
Alresford Pond						3	2	3	4	3	2	2
Alresford area WCBs	5	3	4	2			2	7	2	2	4	2
Mortimer West End			1	1			1	1	1			
Woolmer Pond	1						1		1	2		1
Longparish	1						2	9	2		1	1
Testbourne Lake			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
28	24	28	30		11	37	79	57	33	26	33

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

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

There was no WeBS count in January because of COVID restrictions. The WeBS counts for February and March were higher than the corresponding months in 2020 whereas the counts

in the second winter period were broadly similar. The year's highest monthly count of 1,932 in December was more than 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	53	1,342	1,047	289	21	129	192	784	769	930	1,547	1,637
Hampshire sectors	12	390	430	92		1	12	279	256	196	123	661
Langstone Harbour	100	433	218	303	68	123	530	709	672	601	740	481
Portsmouth Harbour	167	486	356	45			24	25	346	451	371	293
Hamble Estuary	34	50	46	26	1		52	70	93	86	106	72
Fawley-Calshot	2	150	25	3						25	124	112
Beaulieu Estuary	6	71	71	36	22	12	15	63	81	112	139	91
Lymington-Hurst	40	158	107	50	25	40	112	60	120	255	150	179
WeBS count totals	26	1,759	1,340	507	59	176	833	1,128	1,598	1,738	1,641	1,932

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 (27, Mar 15th), Lower Itchen (22, Feb 13th), Hilsea Lines (16, Jan 7th), Dibden Bay (16, Feb 6th), Walhampton (15, Mar 30th), Titchfield Haven (13, Jan 15th), Lower Test Marshes/Eling Great Marsh (12, Jan 2nd, Jan 13th and Jan 28th), Hythe (12, Mar 14th) and Sandy Point (10, Jan 8th). There were inland records from Avon Causeway to Wattons Ford (10, Mar 14th), Harbridge WM (2-4, Feb 28th-Mar 27th), Bisterne (2, Feb 26th and Mar 14th), Ibsley Water (2, Mar 9th), Hill Top (2, Mar 21st), Old Basing (1, Mar 11th), Exbury (1, Mar 30th) and Beaulieu (1, Jan 14th). In spring inland, away from the New Forest, reports came from Ibsley Water/Harbridge (up to 5 on 13 dates in April and May), Avon Causeway (1, Apr 27th; 2, May 17th) and Burnt Common (1, Apr 24th).

During the spring and early summer birds were present at many coastal sites but, apart from Keyhaven/Lymington, where there were 21 pairs, information about breeding activity was very sparse. Confirming breeding was difficult to prove apart from at Normandy Lagoon where broods of chicks were often visible (6+). Elsewhere breeding was limited to the following: South Moor, Langstone Harbour (a pair at newly flooded fields), Farlington Marshes (5 pairs), Titchfield Haven (a pair in late March and 1-3 on many dates to mid-July but with no breeding evidence), Hook-with-Warsash (a pair with no further breeding evidence), Lepe (a pair with three chicks), Needs Ore (successful fledging) and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (a mating pair in late May and subsequent fledging). Inland a pair was at Harbridge WM in late March but there were no further reports. In the New Forest two pairs held territory at Hill Top with fledging recorded, one or two were regularly seen at Pig Bush between Apr 8th and June 14th, and possible breeding was reported from Hatchet Pond (two dates) and Beaulieu Heath West (one date). In the Avon Valley a survey found a total of 33 breeding pairs of which 19 were in Hampshire

Post-breeding dispersal was illustrated by inland records at Burnt Common (1, Aug 10th) and Trigpoint Hill (1 SW, Sep 1st). Dispersal and migration at well-watched coastal sites (apart from those tabulated) gave the following maximum counts: Lepe (40, July 31st), Black Point (12, Jul 16th), Hayling Island seafront (29, Oct 11th), Pitts Deep (10, Sep 11th and Oct 9th), Bury Marshes (21, Sep 11th), Lower Itchen (19, Aug 1st), Hythe (34, Aug 12th), Titchfield Haven (20, Sep 22nd and Oct 21st) and Lower Test Marshes (5, Oct 22nd). Coastal migration was reported at Barton on Sea (1, Aug 3rd and 9th) and mid-Solent off Gilkicker Point (5, Oct 21st).

Maximum counts from regularly-watched coastal sites away from the tabulated areas during the second winter period included Ashlett Mill Pond (124, Nov 20th), Calshot (112, Dec 5th), Hayling Island seafront (48, Dec 2nd), Pitts Deep (6, Dec 5th and 28th), Bury Marshes (13, Nov 7th), Lower Itchen (26, Dec 5th), Weston Shore (29, Nov 6th), Dibden Bay (10, Nov

21st), Hythe (10, Dec 10th), Lepe (25, Nov 5th), Lower Test Marshes (13, Dec 21st), Titchfield Haven (12, Nov 2nd and Dec 2nd) and Upper Hamble Estuary (7, Dec 4th). There were also reports inland from the New Forest at Pig Bush (1, Dec 2nd) and Exbury (2, Dec 11th). (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 about nine singles, compared to six, eight and four in the previous three years. The first was at Farlington Marshes (Apr 1st) (MBC *et al.*). This is the second earliest record on file after one at Ibsley/Harbridge which was present from Feb 23rd into early April 1984. The next this year was one at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (Apr 10th) followed by singles there on 24th, 27th and 29th. The remaining reports were in May with singles at Pennington Marshes from 2nd-6th, Farlington Marshes on 6th which stayed to 10th, and the last of spring at Lepe on 25th and 26th.

Autumn passage was much improved with around 32 compared to six in 2020. The first was at Farlington Marshes on June 19th-20th followed by one at Titchfield Haven on July 7th. The next was at Keyhaven/Pennington on July 11th-12th with one or two on July 16th/17th. One to three were subsequently reported there on 25 dates between Aug 14th and Sep 15th. There were two further reports from Farlington Marshes (2, Aug 2nd; 1, Aug 11th). Singles were reported from the Titchfield Haven area on most days between July 24th and Aug 8th, possibly involving three individuals. Three were present there from Aug 29th to Sep 1st and one or two on most days until the last on Sep 15th. The remaining records were two at Hook-with-Warsash (July 27th) and two singles inland at Burnt Common (July 29th to Aug 2nd) and Hucklesbrook WM (Aug 14th). Passage was detected at Hurst Beach (1 S, Aug 2nd) and Barton on Sea (Sep 9th). (JRDS)



Wood Sandpiper, Pennington Marshes, May 4th (Simon Buckell)

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 61 dates up to May 15th with a maximum of six on Mar 13th. The poor early year showing of the previous three years was repeated at Langstone Harbour with not a single report in the spring. Reports from Lepe were restricted to singles on Jan 24th, Feb 21st and Feb 28th. The regular wintering bird was last reported at Nore Barn, Emsworth on Mar 12th. Singles were at Titchfield Haven on Apr 20th and recorded calling at night at Sholing on Apr 27th.

Early return passage started with five at Hurst Beach and two in summer plumage at Farlington Marshes on June 14th. These two stayed until 20th and one remained until Aug 27th moulting into winter plumage. Elsewhere the next were singles in summer plumage at Titchfield Haven on June 23rd and July 10th. There were later reports of singles from the area on Aug 24th, Sep 5th, Sep 10th and Dec 14th. The first at Needs Ore was on Aug 8th followed by between one and four on 27 dates up to Nov 3rd. At Lymington-Hurst, the main site, there were reports on 63 dates from Aug 1st to Dec 22nd with a maximum of four on Sep 22nd and 23rd and Nov 15th. In addition to the Farlington Marshes adults mentioned above, there was a juvenile on Aug 28th and further reports of two on Sep 18th and one nearby at South Moor on Dec 10th. This last may refer to a local movement of the Nore Barn bird. A winterer was at this favoured site between Nov 8th and Dec 26th but it was thought to be a different bird from the long-stayer. Earlier there was one in the same area on Sep 17th and a second present on Nov 23rd. The only other report in the second half of the year was one at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Sep 19th.

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



Spotted Redshank, Pennington Marshes, Apr 6th (Simon Buckell)

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 39 wintered at 17 sites – all coastal (50 at 17 sites in 2020). In April and May there was a minimum of around 73 at 20 sites including inland records of up to four at Ibsley Water between Apr 23rd and May 4th plus singles at Avon Causeway (Apr 27th), Woolmer Pond (Apr 27th and May 1st), Denny Wood, NF (May 9th), Mortimer West End (Apr 23rd), Fishlake Meadows (May 7th) and Testwood Lakes (Apr 17th). These spring figures are significantly higher than 2020 (33 at 13 sites), 2019 (59 at 15) and 2018 (36 at ten). Away from the tabulated sites and inland locations above, there were also coastal records at Weston Shore (1, Apr 14th), Hayling seafront (1, May 6th) and around Fawley (1/2, Apr 3rd-23rd). Spring passage reduced markedly from mid-May ending with a single on May 17th at Needs Ore. Thereafter there were singles at Needs Ore (May 26th, June 3rd and 14th), Pennington Marshes (May 28th) and Hook-with-Warsash (June 1st).

Return passage started with two at Farlington Marshes on June 29th and one there on June 30th and July 2nd. Also on July 2nd there was one inland at Hatchet Pond. The next day there were four at Farlington Marshes. Reports became daily from July 5th. Autumn passage involved a minimum of 162 up to the end of October with records from 28 sites including six inland. The inland reports were singles (unless stated) from Ibsley Water (2, Aug 5th), Ringwood/Fordingbridge (Sep 12th), Alresford Pond (July 15th), Woolmer Pond (Sep 11th), Hatchet Pond (July 2nd) and Burnt Common (2, Sep 1st). Away from the tabulated sites there were coastal reports of singles (unless stated) from Tanners Lane (2, Sep 11th; 3, Oct 9th), Southsea (5, Aug 17th), Lower Itchen area (2, Sep 30th; Oct 29th), Hayling seafront (July 7th; Aug 6th; Aug 12th; Sep 4th; 1-2 between Oct 5th and 26th), Barton on Sea (Aug 25th and 30th), Taddiford Gap (July 15th) and Hythe (Sep 4th).

In November and December approximately 68 wintered at 14 sites – all coastal (58 at 15 sites in 2020).

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	8	2				9	15	14	2	1
Farlington Marshes/ Langstone Harbour	3	6	10	16	15	2	14	28	39	20	18	8
Portsmouth Harbour	7	2	3	5	1		4	1	12	11	10	11
Titchfield Haven				13	2		2	1	4	1		1
Hamble Estuary	3	4	3	4	1	1	8	8	11	8	5	5
Curbridge			1	6	4		1	1			1	2
Lower Test/Eling/Bury	1		1	1			1	2	1	2		1
Beaulieu Estuary-Lepe	2	2	2	3	2	1	11	8	19	16	6	2
Lymington-Hurst	3	5	6	9	7		4	6	16	13	12	5
WeBS count totals	1	21	24	13			42	36	79	42	31	36

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

After only two records in January (max. 4 at Barton on Sea, 3rd), the next were at the start of spring passage on Mar 12th with four east at Needs Ore on 12th and three (perhaps from the same) at Lee-on-the-Solent. Between Mar 25th and month's end, there were reports of six west at Barton on Sea and 20 east at Lee-on-the-Solent on 26th, eight east past Needs Ore on 28th and singles at four other coastal sites. Inland there was a first-winter at Fleet



Kittiwake, Hill Head, Mar 25th and Lee-on-the-Solent, Mar 26th (Mark Francis)

Pond on Mar 28th followed by an adult on Apr 5th. Peak counts in April were five east at Hurst on 14th, three off Weston Shore followed by four at Chilling and four at Stokes Bay on 23rd, although these could all relate to the same group. May proved the best month with at least 70 recorded. The maximum was 22 on 10th at Weston Shore with probably the same flock passing Warsash later. The month's only other double-figure count was 15 west at Sandy Point on 12th.

On Aug 3rd a juvenile was feeding with terns off Barton on Sea. Singles of unrecorded age were seen in the River Hamble and at Gilkicker Point on 8th. Further singles were with terns off Sandy Point on 8th and 10th with three there on 9th. There were fewer autumn records. In October all were singles apart from two adults east at Stokes Bay on 2nd and two off Hurst on 28th. Until year-end, records of more than one were all in December at Sandy Point (5, 7th), Barton on Sea (6 E, 22nd), Black Point (3, 31st) and Gilkicker Point (10 W, 31st). A first-winter was also at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Dec 1st.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Christchurch Bay	4		7	8	10		1	1		3		7
West Solent			8		6					2		
Southampton Water			1	4	30			1			1	
East Solent			25	4	3			1		3	1	11
Hayling Bay	1		1	1	21			6		7		10

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare visitor, usually storm-driven, mostly August-December but once each in January and May. (1,168,1)

An adult was feeding with the gull and tern flock off Hill Head on Aug 21st. It was later seen nearby off Browndown (RKL et al., photo). (ALR)



Sabine's Gull, Hill Head, Aug 21st (Mark Francis)

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

As usual peak counts occurred at main roosts in the late winter/early spring with Ibsley Water being the major site. A roost count of 6,000 in February was in line with counts in previous years. Other notable concentrations were at Skidmore (1,000, Jan 22nd), feeding in a ploughed field at Idsworth (1,000, Mar 15th), Old Winchester Hill (1,850, Mar 16th), Old Portsmouth (1,000, Sep 14th), Sandy Point (1,000 Sep 21st, 25th and 26th) and on the mudflats south of Hythe at low water (1,585, July 26th; 1,300, Aug 12th; 1,500, Sep 30th; 2,200, Dec 31st).

The monthly maxima at regularly counted sites are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Portsmouth Harbour WeBS		1,347	1,733						1,113	502	693	793
Titchfield Haven	514	1,000	800	1,300	1,200	1,000	1,000	268	500	1,000	573	355
Northam/Mansbridge	785	570	214						575	490	450	545
Beaulieu Estuary/Needs Ore		60	150	131	108	174	323	249	131	151	149	93
Ibsley Water#		6,000								2,500	4,000	1,000
Winchester SF	597	212	500	26			11		86	15	35	
Avington Lake	7	7	440	6				20	47	124	535	53
Alresford Pond	110	97	1,650	10	1		12	205	250	1,200	285	700
Heath Pond, Petersfield	77	145	55	5	4	10	35	55	40	110	190	115
Fleet Pond			280	1,200	650	400	160	40	65	47		150
Fishlake Meadows	538	2,000	705	40						80	110	110

night roost

Breeding was concentrated in Langstone Harbour, where 2,671 pairs fledged a minimum of 769 juveniles, and around the mouth of the Lymington River, where 4,780 pairs nested. At Lymington the largest group of 2,430 nests on the saltmarsh west of the river was lost due to a combination of high tides and predation. A second group of 1,850 pairs on the east side nested successfully as did c.500 pairs within the seawall on Normandy Lagoon. Elsewhere 40+ pairs nested on rafts and platforms at Needs Ore and about 70 pairs nested on rafts at Blashford Lakes divided between Ivy Lake and Ibsley Water.

Natural England again supplied information on the licensing, collecting and sale of Black-headed Gulls' eggs in Hampshire in 2021 under an Access to Information Request. A total of 14 licences were issued but only 22 eggs were collected under only one of the licences and none were sold. This is a huge decrease from the 13,851 eggs collected in 2019 and the 2,513 collected in 2020 and appears to indicate that this trade is dying out.

Movements were observed in spring and to a lesser extent autumn, mostly along the coast. At Barton on Sea 1,748 flew east between Mar 7th and May 13th with a maximum of 244 east on Apr 28th, although some of these may have been local feeding movements from the nearby breeding colony at Lymington. Inland at Trigpoint Hill peak movements were 135 NE on Feb 25th and in the late year 35 SW on Oct 29th. (RAC)

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

ET, Schedule I, Green

There was one January record of a first-winter that flew out of Chichester Harbour on 20th. There were no further records until March when reports were from Lee-on-the-Solent (3 E, 10th), Winchester SF (1 adult, 14th), Needs Ore (3 E, 25th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (1, 29th and 30th; 3, 31st) and Ibsley Water (2, 31st). Passage picked up in April with 55 noted



Little Gull, Pennington Marshes, Mar 31st (Matthew Barfield)

along the coast. Peak counts were at Cut Bridge (7, 20th) - a flock of six there at 07:27 on 23rd were presumably the same as six east at Hill Head at 08:40 and at Sandy Point; 5 east at Hill Head on 24th; flocks of nine and three, both east, at Southsea Castle on 25th probably included the eight east seen at nearby Stokes Bay. Inland the only records of more than one were at least seven with four adults at Ibsley Water on 25th and 26th. Passage continued into May with singles at Fleet Pond on 3rd and Lepe on 5th, two adults at Hill Head on 6th, an adult at Woolmer Pond on 7th, three (2 adults, 1 first-summer) at Taddiford Gap on 9th and finally two (1 adult and 1 first-summer) at Lepe on 10th. A first-summer spent May 4th-15th at Fleet Pond. One was recorded flying over Sholing during the night of May 26th, perhaps the county's first "noc-mig" record of this species.

Up to three first-summers lingered from Apr 29th between Needs Ore, Southampton Water and Titchfield Haven with at least one staying until Aug 1st. Two adults were at Titchfield Haven on June 3rd, with one remaining until 15th, and a further adult was there on July 24th-25th.

Autumn passage commenced with a single adult at Hill Head on Aug 15th. A further seven including four juveniles, all singles for one day, followed up to Oct 3rd. Towards year end single first-winters were at Sandy Point on Nov 12th and Dec 24th and single adults were at Black Point on Dec 21st and 29th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (RAC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1		13	62	12	5	2	2	6	1	1	2

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

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

Amber

The only double-figure counts in January were 35 at Needs Ore on 1st and 13 at nearby Lepe on 4th. There was a steady build-up in February with a maximum of 25 on 21st and nine others in lower double figures up to 23rd. Thereafter numbers at Hayling Oysterbeds, Langstone Harbour rose from 65 on Feb 23rd to 310 by 28th. The largest counts elsewhere were 41 at Hurst Castle on 24th and 49 at Needs Ore on 28th. During March the spring gathering at

Hayling Oysterbeds continued to build reaching 1,384 by 21st. Elsewhere along the coast 91 were in the Beaulieu Estuary on 4th, 88 at Hill Head on 14th and 35 at Lymington on 27th. Inland the roost at Ibsley Water held a maximum of 24 on 4th, 60 were at Alresford Pond on 9th, 40 flew SW at Itchen Abbas on 12th, 55 flew south over Winchester and a maximum of 90 was at Heath Pond, Petersfield on 9th and an impressive 1,000 were at Idsworth on 15th.

Away from the main nesting area gatherings, numbers were to be found feeding inland including following the plough such as 52 at Chilling on Apr 23rd. Offshore feeding movements were also regularly observed at Barton on Sea with a maximum of 215 east on Apr 27th. Throughout May and June feeding flocks could be found ranging widely, especially on the Downs such as 400 at North Boarhunt on June 29th. They were often on freshly-cut pastures but also among crops such as 350 feeding on insects in linseed at Wheely Down on June 20th.

The breeding colony in Langstone Harbour remained at a high level with 1,249 pairs fledging a minimum of 601 juveniles. The only other nesting was around the Lymington River Estuary where about 60 pairs were found in a mixed colony with Black-headed Gulls, the highest number to date in the West Solent. Unfortunately the main group of 55 pairs was the subject of a major predation event and all failed to rear any young. However, a smaller group of about five pairs nesting separately did have some success.

Post-breeding flocks, often including many juveniles, were along the coast in late July with 80 at Black Point on 19th, 150 at Hill Head on 22nd and 449 at Needs Ore on 25th. Post-breeding dispersal saw numbers drop rapidly as birds moved away, many east into West Sussex, with few counts in Hampshire into double-figures or higher during August, 350 at Brownwich on 29th being by far the largest flock. Three-figure counts in September were mostly from Brownwich with a maximum of 500 on 5th. Elsewhere 175 were off Hayling Island on 10th, 102 at Lepe on 11th and 300 at Black Point on 15th. There were no counts exceeding 50 in the last three months of the year, notable records being 40 at Lepe on Oct 21st and 40 at Taddiford on Nov 3rd.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour	1	25	121	66	1		49	1,820	849	20		
Sandy Point-Hayling Bay		14							175			
Langstone Harbour	1	310	1,384			1,249	180					50
Portsmouth Harbour		9	23						10	7	6	11
Titchfield Haven area			88	59					500	6	1	1
Lepe-Beaulieu Estuary	35	49	91	300	6	5	449	13	102	40	1	9
Sowley-Lymington				190							7	
Lymington-Hurst				30					12	23	15	3
Ibsley Water			24									1
Heath Pond, Petersfield		1	90	16	30	12	14	15				

Common Gull (Mew Gull) *Larus canus*

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

Common Gulls are generally under-recorded, with observations of larger numbers requiring winter visits to the eastern harbours, the upper half of Southampton Water at dusk, arable areas on the Downs or lakes in the Upper Itchen Valley. Numbers also rise quickly when there is colder weather, although such peaks are often short-lived and most obvious at easy to count and regularly watched sites such as Ibsley Water. A regular observer in the Meonstoke area just north of the South Downs noted that where Common Gulls used to appear primarily on spring passage, they now occur in large numbers throughout the winter from September until April. They favour winter wheat, barley and turnip fields as well as

cattle pastures. Additionally there is a notable southbound movement each evening down the Meon Valley, presumably to coastal roosts (DGHM).

Few seem to roost in the west of the county, with the most westerly large roost being in Southampton Water where there were 320 on Jan 4th. Most feed inland and these often visit inland fresh waters such as 479 at Winchester SF on Jan 31st, 241 at Avington Lake on Feb 11th and 584 at Alresford Pond on Mar 5th. Examples of feeding flocks were 300 at Meonstoke on Feb 11th and 200 at Portsdown Hill on Feb 20th. There were few records indicative of passage with only a handful recorded, predominantly E-NE in spring and W-SW in autumn.

There were a few mid-summer records, most notably five at both Dibden Bay on June 2nd and Hurst Beach on 7th. Late July saw a slow increase with seven in the Hamble Estuary on 24th and five in the Beaulieu Estuary on 25th. The first significant count of the autumn was 450 at Old Winchester Hill on Sep 3rd. The year's largest count was 1,400 feeding in fields at Hambledon on Oct 19th, whilst the only other four-figure count was 1,000 gathering to roost off Weston Shore on Nov 29th.

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	13	15	8	2	6	1	1	1	22	12	45	370
Portsmouth Harbour	16	30	161					8	35	29	182	50
Beaulieu Estuary		18	2				5	5	20	1	3	8
Ibsley Water	100	255	40									40
Winchester SF	479	12	12								20	
Avington Lake	9	241	129					1	1	3	131	80
Alresford Pond	174	36	584	1		1	1	12	85	245	130	158

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

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

An adult was on Ibsley Water from Jan 2nd to Mar 25th (AL et al., photo). This is the first sighting since the regular adult was last seen there on Mar 27th 2019 and is assumed to be the same individual having possibly been overlooked during the pandemic restrictions during early 2020. Also Tidpit Jan 3rd. (ALR)



Ring-billed Gull, Tidpit, Jan 3rd (Alan Lewis)

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 there were only six double-figure counts with the maximum being 12 at Hurst Castle on Mar 11th. There was a suggestion of spring passage with small numbers moving predominantly east during April at Barton on Sea. In late spring groups of typically sub-adults gathered at a few coastal sites staying through the summer. Peak counts by month were Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (20, Apr 13th), Needs Ore (42, May 22nd), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (22, June 14th; 40, July 24th) and the year's equal highest count at Needs Ore (42, Aug 22nd). Monthly peaks for the latter part of the year were all from the coast at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (37, Sep 20th; 20, Oct 27th), Hill Head (26, Nov 30th) and Portsmouth Harbour (14, Dec 11th).

Single pairs were proved breeding at Burrfields, Portsmouth and Emsworth Slipper Pond. Other pairs were believed present in the breeding season at Lymington Estuary but with no evidence of breeding. (RAC)

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

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

Amber

There were three records. A juvenile was seen flying over Farlington Marshes on Feb 17th (GB). An immature flew west over Sandy Point NR and then south towards the beach on Apr 14th but was not relocated (ACJ). An adult seen from Weston Shore flew across Southampton Water from Fawley and continued up the Itchen Estuary on Dec 6th (ARC). (ALR)

Herring Gull (European Herring Gull) *Larus argentatus*

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

NT, Red, S4I

Largest numbers occurred along the coast at all seasons, especially in the West Solent and Christchurch Bay. The largest count early in the year was 1,020 gathering to roost off Weston Shore on Jan 28th. The only count in excess of 500 from eastern areas was 650 at Black Point on Mar 12th. Off Weston Shore 560 were seen feeding on May 14th, a prelude to larger feeding flocks to the west later in the year.

Breeding pairs continued to increase with the largest numbers close to the coast. The main site remained on an industrial estate in New Milton where a drone survey found 216 pairs compared to 190 nests in 2020. A similar survey found 21 pairs on buildings at Burrfields Road, Portsmouth and in Southsea 30 pairs were found with a further two pairs at Gunwharf Quay. Also in the south-east, six pairs were located on buildings at Brockhampton and in Eastleigh at least four pairs were at Barton Park Industrial Estate. Buildings close to the Itchen Bridge, Southampton held about 15 pairs. Further drone surveys (thanks to Hampshire Police for their help) came from Centurion Business Park, Northam (29 nests), Kites Croft Business Park, Fareham (11 nests) and Daneshill Business Park, Basingstoke (9 nests). Inland there was an unusual first breeding record from Fleet Pond where nesting occurred on an island and one young was raised.

Off Barton on Sea large numbers gathered to feed towards the Needles from late summer with 600 on July 19th, Aug 11th and Sep 15th with even larger numbers recorded in October peaking at 1,200 on 17th. Nearby off Lymington 1,000 were noted on Oct 2nd and 8th. Inland there was a peak of 329 at Avington Lake on Sep 23rd and 500 at Preshaw on Oct 3rd. Off Weston Shore 720 came into the roost on Oct 21st, possibly from the larger feeding flocks to the west. Unusually large numbers also roosted at Ibsley Water around this time with 1,000 on Oct 30th and 1,200 on Nov 19th. Many of these arrived from the south although typically most usually arrive from the north and many just bathe before leaving south, presumably to roost on the coast. (RAC)

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor. (0,33,5).

Amber

A first-winter was at Ibsley Water on Jan 1st-4th. Three first-winters were recorded on Ibsley Water from Nov 13th to Dec 29th (AL, DHT, SKW). During this time a second-winter was also recorded on Dec 2nd at the same site (AJD). (ALR)

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

This species has undergone a rapid change in the pattern of records. Twenty years ago post-breeding counts of three figures in upper Southampton Water were not unusual, whereas now records at this time of year are almost exclusively juveniles and mainly in Christchurch Bay. Wintering numbers also seem to be declining with double-figure counts now rare.

The winter roost at Ibsley Water declined rapidly in the New Year. Records in the first three months were of scattered singles, almost all along the coast. Inland records indicative of passage occurred around mid-March at Loddon Valley (1 sub-adult, 11th), Fishlake Meadows (1 adult, 12th and 13th) and Old Basing (1 second-winter, 14th). Records between late March and the end of June suggest an adult and second-winter summered between Hill Head and the Lower Test. The only other record in this period was a second-summer at South Hayling on June 25th.

The arrival in July of juveniles started on 18th with one at Centurion Business Park, Southampton, rapidly followed by further singles at Little Posbrook (21st), Taddiford (24th), Hill Head (26th) and Barton on Sea (31st). In the following two months further juveniles were recorded in the Barton on Sea area (1, Aug 3rd-5th), one with an adult in the Hamble Estuary (Aug 18th) and another at Alresford Pond (Sep 1st). Indications of birds returning for the winter were at Trigpoint Hill (1 NE, Aug 24th), Romsey (1 adult, Aug 28th), Allbrook (1 third-winter, Aug 31st) and Busta Triangle (1 adult, Sep 7th). Thereafter most records came from the roost at Ibsley Water apart from a few in the north-east at Yateley GP (1 adult, Oct 20th and Nov 12th) and Burnt Common (1 adult, Oct 27th and 31st; 1 second-winter and 1 third-winter, Dec 5th). An adult frequented the upper end of Southampton Water in December and Hill Head recorded an adult on 21st and a third-winter the following day.

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)	5	1	1						8	8	12	10
Itchen Estuary area							1					1
Lower Test Marshes/ Eling						1						1
Titchfield Haven/Hill Head	2	2		1	1		1					1
Approx. monthly totals	10	3	4	1	1	3	8	10	16	10	14	17

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.

There was a lack of counts from the main roost site at Ibsley Water in the early year with the only one of note being 350 on Feb 26th. Elsewhere notable counts were at Burnt Common (56, Jan 1st; 92, Feb 27th). The roost off Weston Shore reached a maximum of 350 on Feb 26th. By late February passage seemed to be underway at Trigpoint Hill (6 E, Feb 25th). Between then and May 29th 101 passed NE (max. 17, Mar 27th) and a further 19 SW. Counts of note elsewhere in spring were at Bishop's Waltham (54, Apr 10th) and Fishlake Meadows (50, Apr 25th). From May 31st net passage switched directions with 77 SW (max. 20, June 6th) and 16 NE up to Aug 16th.

Nesting was confirmed at Burfields Road, Portsmouth with five pairs and Barton Park Industrial Estate, Eastleigh with at least two pairs. Further drone surveys (thanks to Hampshire Police for their help) came from Centurion Business Park, Northam (2 nests), Kites Croft Business Park, Fareham (1 nest) and Daneshill Business Park, Basingstoke (16 nests). Adult pairs were present at a number of other locations without any confirmation of nesting. It is worth looking for this species around large industrial buildings as there are undoubtedly nesting attempts being made that are unrecorded.

Returning birds were evident from mid-July with notable counts in the late year at Ibsley Water (175, July 19th), Vernham Dean (150, Aug 25th; 200, Oct 4th), Overton (465, Oct 15th), Ibsley Water (1,500, Oct 30th; 5,500, Nov 19th) and Burnt Common (1,400, Dec 11th). It would be valuable to obtain more complete data on this species at roost sites as it seems

probable that we have one site likely to be of international importance at Ibsley Water and possibly another that would be nationally important at Burnt Common.

Birds showing characteristics of the darker mantled *intermedius* race were reported from Titchfield Haven on Aug 26th and Wildern on Nov 21st. (RAC)

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

In the early year records came from ten sites with peak counts of 12 at Black Point on Jan 20th and Sandy Point on Mar 9th. The first probable migrant was inland on Mar 21st when one flew over Winchester followed by an increase in numbers at Black Point to 21 on 23rd. There were widespread records of new arrivals on the coast from Mar 26th and a second was inland at Fleet Pond on Mar 28th. Up-Channel passage was slow to get started with approximately 544 recorded moving east up to May 13th. Counts at the key sites in April included 250 at Sandy Point (150 E, 21st; 100 E, 22nd), 88 past Hurst Beach (peak 34, 24th) and 13 at Hill Head on 24th followed by 240 past Barton on Sea (peak 37, May 13th).

In the breeding season 315 pairs settled in the Normandy/Cockleshell area – the highest-ever count in the West Solent. However, disaster struck in mid-June when the colony was deserted and many well-grown young were found dead. Only one young fledged and it seems likely that a fox was responsible for this failure. Elsewhere five pairs raised four young in Langstone Harbour.

In the autumn there were four three-figure counts from Hayling Island with the peak being 400 at Black Point on Sep 10th. Inland at least two were heard flying south over Aldershot at 22:01 on Sep 20th. In the late year records came from nine sites with a peak count of 31 at Black Point on Dec 7th. (MLE)

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

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

The first was off Normandy Lagoon on Apr 5th. Spring passage extended from Apr 13th (3 E at Barton on Sea) to May 11th (1 E at Barton on Sea) with approximately 53 at five sites. Double-figure totals came from Sandy Point (44; peak 19, Apr 24th), Hill Head/Stokes Bay (17, Apr 24th) and Hurst Beach (17; peak 10, Apr 24th).



Little Tern, Oxey Marsh, June 1st (Gareth Rees)

It was a successful breeding season in the West Solent where all relocated to Normandy Lagoon and approximately 15 pairs raised 17 young. In Langstone Harbour three pairs failed to raise any young.

Autumn counts were again highest at Black Point, Hayling Island with a peak of 45 over the high tide on July 31st. Elsewhere the only double-figure counts came from Keyhaven with 15 on July 13th and 15th. The last of the year was at The Kench, Hayling Island on Sep 18th. (MLE)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Very scarce passage migrant which occasionally breeds.

ET, Schedule 1, Red, S4I, HBAP

Approximately eight were recorded with five in spring and early summer and three in late summer. The first was off Hurst Beach on Apr 30th (SI, SAB). It was followed by three at Keyhaven/Pennington on May 14th (TH) with one there on June 7th (SJM).

From June 17th to July 26th there were records on thirteen dates at five sites including a pair mating at Weston Shore on June 22nd (ARC) and a peak count of three at Hill Head on July 13th (CH, MJP). It seems likely that only three individuals accounted for all of these sightings. (MLE)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Moderately common summer visitor and common passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The first was off Hill Head on Mar 24th and was followed by further singles at Keyhaven and Farlington Marshes on 30th. Up-Channel passage was slow to get started with the first past Sandy Point on Apr 17th. From then until May 15th approximately 996 moved east – a third more than in 2020. Cumulative counts at the main coastal watch-points were 439 at Sandy Point (max. 72, Apr 23rd), 292 at Hill Head (max. 192, Apr 22nd) and 235 at Hurst Beach (max. 160, May 15th).

Breeding season success was very similar to 2020 with 208 pairs raising 173 young (213 pairs raised 169 young in 2020). In the Lymington-Hurst area 90 pairs raised 50 young including an increase to 20 pairs on Normandy Lagoon. In Langstone Harbour 61 pairs raised 58 young at Hayling Oysterbeds and six pairs raised two young on the RSPB Islands. Nineteen pairs at Titchfield Haven fledged nine young. Inland 25 pairs at Ivy Lake raised 36 young and seven pairs raised 18 young at Testwood Lakes.



Common Tern, Pennington Marshes, May 17th (Matthew Barfield)

Post-breeding numbers were similar to 2020 with 28 three-figure counts between July 6th and Sep 13th. The peak was 710 at Hill Head on Aug 12th. Ten were recorded in October including the last which was a single at Farlington Marshes on 20th. (MLE)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce but overlooked passage migrant.

ET, Amber

The first flew east at Lee-on-the-Solent on Apr 17th. Spring passage consisted of 65 on the coast and singles inland at Ibsley Water on May 3rd and Fleet Pond the next day. Only three sites recorded more than five at any one time with totals of 23 at Stokes Bay (peak 21, Apr 24th), 17 at Hill Head (peak 10, Apr 30th) and 16 at Weston Shore (peak 10, May 14th). This was a significant increase over the spring total of only 22 in 2020 although it is possible that many records may refer to the same individuals moving between the different sites. The last spring record was one at Sandy Point on May 21st.

On the return passage in summer and autumn approximately 27 were recorded. The majority were seen between Warsash and Gilkicker where up to three were present from June 12th to Aug 22nd except for five on Aug 17th. Elsewhere approximately six were seen at other coastal sites. In September a further five singles were seen on the coast with one inland at Ibsley Water on Sep 9th. The last of the year was a juvenile west at Gilkicker Point on Oct 24th. (MLE)

White-winged Black Tern (White-winged Tern) *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare passage migrant. (0,33,1)

A juvenile was feeding close inshore with the mixed gull and tern flock off Hill Head on the evening of Sep 3rd (ALR). It was seen again on Sep 4th-5th and 8th by multiple observers but proved tricky to connect with. (ALR)

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

Spring passage along the coast was light and there were no inland records. The first of the year were two off Hill Head on Apr 24th. Thereafter ten more were seen up to May 10th



Black Tern, Hill Head, July 25th (Rob Porter)

with four east at Lee-on-the-Solent on May 8th being the highest count. One off Hook-with-Warsash on June 24th was the only mid-summer record.

Autumn passage commenced on July 19th when one was at Titchfield Haven. Approximately 30 were logged with around 20 of these in the Hill Head/Titchfield Haven area including a long-staying juvenile from July 22nd to Aug 20th. The maximum count was eight off Lee-on-the-Solent on Sep 4th. The only inland records came from Ibsley Water where there were four on Aug 23rd, one on Sep 3rd and two on Sep 5th. The last was a single at Black Point, Hayling Island on Sep 10th.

Monthly totals are shown in the table below. (MLE)

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
3	9	1	4	9	17	0

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

Amber

The first was a single east at Lee-on-the-Solent on Mar 11th followed by a further 24 between Apr 8th and May 15th. Counts came from four sites with eight at Sandy Point, Hayling Island (max. 2, Apr 24th), 11 at Hill Head/Lee-on-the-Solent (max. 2, Apr 30th), six at Hurst Beach (max. 2, Apr 20th and 24th) and six at Barton on Sea (max. 5, Apr 24th).

Three were noted in the autumn with singles at Taddiford/Hurst Beach on Aug 6th and 8th, Farlington Marshes on Aug 30th-31st and west at Hill Head on Oct 20th. (MLE)

Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger) *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Green

A very poor year with only five records, all singles. The first was seen at Lepe on Apr 17th (DM). There followed a 22 day gap before the second which was observed from the Isle of Wight ferry out of Lymington on May 9th (IT). The next day one passed Lee-on-the-Solent at 11:10 (MF) and Sandy Point at 11:25 (ACJ) and another flew east past Needs Ore on May 16th (CB). The only autumn record was one at Normandy Marsh on Oct 27th (JA). (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 of the spring flew east off Hurst Beach on Apr 17th. From then until May 21st approximately 60 were recorded at six sites. Totals at the main sites were 27 at Hurst Beach (peak 8, Apr 20th), 29 at Hill Head/Lee-on-the-Solent (peak 5, Apr 23rd) and 18 at Sandy Point (peak 3, May 4th and 10th).

Return passage commenced with a single at Sandy Point on June 24th followed by approximately 18 from July 6th to Nov 13th. All were singles except for two at Hill Head on Aug 20th, three off Needs Ore on Oct 2nd and three off Sandy Point on Oct 29th. (MLE)

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

Very scarce passage migrant, also recorded twice in winter.

Green

The only record was an adult which flew high east past Cut Bridge (MC, AL) and then Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (CB) on May 9th. (ALR)

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Rare winter visitor recorded in every month from October to February, usually after storms.
(10+,176,1)

Green

One flew west with a Razorbill past Gilkicker Point on Dec 30th (LH). (ALR)

Common Guillemot (Common Murre) *Uria aalge*

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

NT, Amber

Very low numbers were present in the early year with a total of only nine recorded including five off Hurst Beach on Jan 14th. Spring passage was more pronounced than in 2020 with 47 reported. As usual the majority were seen from Hurst Beach with 41 recorded including a maximum count of ten singles west over eight hours on May 3rd.

In July two were in Langstone Harbour on 1st and a single was off Taddiford Gap on 20th and Hurst Beach the next day. After two in September there were small numbers along the coast from Oct 20th to the year's end with a peak of four off Needs Ore on Dec 22nd.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Offshore	7	2	1	11	34		3		2	14	8	14
Moving east					2							

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

NT, Amber

Another modest year with numbers boosted considerably by double-figure counts in January and December. The highest count of the year was on Jan 3rd when 25 were off Hurst Castle and 16 passed Barton on Sea. Numbers remained low thereafter with only eight others recorded up to Apr 24th.

There were no further records until Oct 1st when one was off Hill Head. Counts of up to three were made at many sites from late October onwards with five off Lepe on Nov 19th being the highest count until 16 were seen off Black Point, Hayling Island on Dec 11th. Ten were still present there on Dec 14th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (MLE)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	4	1	1						8	14	26

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Very rare vagrant. (0,6,1)

Amber

A first-summer was offshore ranging between Barton on Sea and Beckton Bunny on July 19th. It remained until 23rd when it drifted into Dorset but was taken into care on 24th (SGK et al.). This was only the seventh record for Hampshire and the fourth consecutive year in which this species has occurred. (ALR)

Auk sp.

A total of 69 auks unidentified as to species were recorded at four sites. In the early year 18 were reported including nine off Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Feb 8th. Spring passage was evident from Apr 11th to May 11th with 34 logged (peak 12, Sandy Point, Apr 24th). In the late year 17 were recorded with four off Barton on Sea on Dec 18th being the highest count. (MLE)



Common Guillemot, Sandy Point, Dec 14th (Alan Lewis)



Razorbill, Sandy Point, Dec 12th (Alan Lewis)



Black Guillemot, Barton on Sea, July 21st (Simon King)

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

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green

An average year highlighted by groups of ten off Hill Head on Feb 1st and 12 on the sea off Royal Victoria Park, Southampton the following day. Presumably these were elements of the same group. The first week of February has seen the year maximum in two other recent years (180, 2011; 42, 2019). In each case sightings were weather-related following periods of strong south-westerlies. There were records from Sandy Point in all months apart from June-August. In the early year there were 62 bird-days with 30 east to Mar 23rd, 17 west between Jan 27th and Mar 27th and a maximum of three on the sea on Feb 6th. Elsewhere there were far fewer records. At Christchurch Bay (Hurst Castle to Barton on Sea) there were 18 bird-days to Jan 17th and none thereafter (peak 4, Jan 1st and 16th). On The Solent between Hill Head and Chilling Cliffs there were reports on nine dates to Mar 15th, in addition to the highlight above, three adults were offshore at Brownwich on Jan 10th and another flew west. In the West Solent there were two on Jan 2nd and another on Mar 15th.

Easterly passage reports totalled 29 on nine dates between Apr 14th and May 9th. After correcting for multiple watchpoint observations on four dates, the actual passage may have been just 21 comprising 15 past Sandy Point (max. 4, Apr 23rd); nine off Hurst Beach (max. 3, May 9th); two off both West Solent (Apr 23rd) and Brownwich (25th) and one past Needs Ore (24th).

The first return was on the sea then flying west at Sandy Point on Sep 26th and the next rested off Hill Head on Oct 7th and possibly the same on 14th and 22nd. Thereafter records were more widespread as follows (singles unless stated): West Solent (2 W, Oct 23rd; 2 E, Nov 22nd; Dec 11th); Sandy Point/Chichester Harbour (21 dates from Oct 26th including 6, Dec 21st; 4, Dec 26th and 2 on four dates); Langstone Harbour (Oct 28th); Lee-on-the-Solent to Chilling (Oct 28th; nine dates Nov 27th-Dec 22nd including 4, Dec 6th; 2, 17th); Beaulieu Estuary (six dates Nov 7th-Dec 22nd including 5, Dec 20th); Hook-with-Warsash (Nov 7th and 14th); Gunner Point, Hayling Bay (Nov 8th, 15th); Hurst Castle (E, Dec 11th; 3 E/W, 16th/17th and presumably same Barton on Sea, 16th) and Gilkicker Point (W, Dec 30th). On Dec 8th one was close to both Black-throated and Great Northern Divers off Gutner Point, Chichester Harbour to the satisfaction of some year-listers.

The approximate monthly totals are shown below. (AF/C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
On sea	13	13	1	7	1					2	7	9
Moving east	6			16-21	5-8						1	
Moving west	7				1				1	3	2	

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

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

Numbers were typically low but up to three long-stayers in the late year were the first since 2017-18. On Jan 1st singles were feeding offshore at Barton on Sea and Meander Pools, Hook, each perhaps respectively relocating nearby, off Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 2nd and Hill Head on 6th. Two flew west past Hurst Castle on Jan 14th and another east on Feb 19th. At Chichester Harbour one present from Jan 14th to 20th flew to roost on the sea timed progressively later from 16:27 to 16:51.

Easterly passage of singles was noted on five dates between Apr 23rd and May 9th off Stokes Bay (26th), Barton on Sea (24th), Hill Head (26th), Hurst Beach (3rd) and Taddiford Gap (9th). The only autumn movement was one high east on Sep 13th over Gilkicker Point.

There were regular winterers at Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point increasing from a single, first seen on Nov 26th, to two from Dec 6th to 29th peaking at three from 9th to 11th and

again on 19th. Elsewhere one was off Weston Shore on Dec 5th; two were reported from Langstone Harbour (harbour entrance, Dec 12th; off Farlington Marshes, 16th) and one there flew up the harbour towards the Hayling Oysterbeds on 30th. The last then flew west past Gilkicker Point/Stokes Bay on 31st. The minimum monthly totals are shown below assuming that the late winter records may refer to just four mobile individuals. (AFJC)

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

Great Northern Diver (Common Loon) *Gavia immer*

Scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

There was a strong wintering population in the early year returning to more normal numbers in the late year (compare bird-day totals of 165 in January to 88 in December). A total of 19 on Jan 1st, amassed by year-listers, provided an impromptu coordinated count. Monthly maxima at principal watchpoints are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point	4	4	2	1	1	1		5
Langstone Harbour	3	1	1			1	1	1
Hill Head to Chilling	2	2	1				1	1
Hamble estuary/Hook-with-Warsash	3	4	3					1
Weston Shore	4	6	4	1		2	1	2
Dibden Bay/Hythe Marina	2	4	1					
Beaulieu Estuary/Lepe	5	3	1				1	1
Lymington-Hurst	2	2	2	1		1		1
Christchurch Bay/Hurst to Barton on Sea	2	1					1	1
Total	22	18	12	3	1	6	5	14



Great Northern Diver, Centurion Park, Dec 13th (Ian Williamson)

Totals are estimates of a relatively mobile population. Southampton Water reports ranged over 26 localities, peaking at six off Weston Shore on Feb 21st with singles penetrating as far as Chessel Bay on Jan 9th and 25th. Isolated records not tabulated above included two at Pylewell Lake on Jan 2nd and singles at Southsea on nine dates between Jan 18th and Mar 17th. Flight movements were confined to singles, four east Jan 1st-3rd, both at Lepe on Jan 31st and close inshore off Hill Head on Feb 16th, and two NW past Fawley on Jan 3rd; evidence that most are flightless during winter moult. Both Southampton Water and Chichester Harbour held winterers until early April (latest at Weston Shore, 2nd; Sandy Point, 6th) but the last was reported from off Pennington Marshes on 7th.

Spring passage was confined to four singles in May past Sandy Point (E, 8th; 11th; W, 14th) and Barton on Sea (W, 13th).

The first returns were singles at Langstone Harbour on Oct 24th and west along The Solent between Gilkicker Point and Pennington Marshes on Oct 28th. Possibly the same individual in breeding plumage was at Chichester Harbour then Sandy Point on Oct 29th. Another in winter plumage was at Weston Shore from Oct 29th throughout November (2, Oct 30th). Elsewhere in November there were singles at Taddiford Gap (W, 3rd); Langstone Harbour (5th); Brownwich (13th); Lepe (19th) and Beachlands, Hayling Bay (29th). There were regular reports at Chichester Harbour/Sandy Point from Dec 5th totalling 53 bird-days including five viewable from Black Point on 11th and 14th. By contrast Southampton Water reports were of ones and twos totalling 25 bird-days. Elsewhere in December ten bird-days included two not tabulated above west past Gilkicker Point on 30th. (AFJC)

Diver sp.

There were six reports of lone, distantly offshore, divers at Black Point (Jan 24th; Nov 15th and 23rd - all potentially Black-throated); Hurst Beach (Apr 23rd); Sandy Point (Dec 20th) and Barton on Sea (Dec 22nd). (AFJC)

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

Very scarce autumn and winter visitor, usually after gales; mostly from September to January but once each in February, April and June. (11, 325,1) *ET, Schedule 1, Amber*

A corpse was found on a street in New Milton on Dec 31st after stormy weather (GH, photo). (KFB)



Leach's Petrel, New Milton, Dec 31st
(Guy Harrauld)



Balearic Shearwaters, Hill Head, Sep 4th
(Mark Francis)

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis*

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

As usual, small numbers were reported from the regular watch-points moving both east and west at both ends of The Solent as well as occasionally from within The Solent and Southampton Water. The year began with singles off Hill Head on Jan 29th and Sandy Point on Feb 2nd. Most subsequent reports were between one and three at Sandy Point up to Aug 9th, Barton on Sea to Hurst Beach between Mar 26th and Aug 18th, and Hill Head to Stokes Bay up to May 21st. The only higher counts were five at Barton on Sea and four at Hurst Beach on Apr 24th, five at Sandy Point and Hurst Beach on May 3rd, 12 at Hurst Beach on May 8th, and four at Needs Ore and six at Sandy Point on May 21st. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Needs Ore on Apr 22nd and May 21st, Brownwich on Apr 24th, Hook-with-Warsash on May 3rd, Weston Shore on May 20th and Lepe on May 23rd.

Most of these records probably refer to birds from the nearest breeding sites on the Isle of Wight and adjacent coasts of Sussex or Dorset. Monthly maxima are shown below. (MLC)

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

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The declining trend in recent years continued with a year total of only 23 (41 in 2020) on a total of only seven days. The first was one east in mid-Solent seen from Hill Head on Apr 24th. This was followed by reports on five days in May beginning with one west off Sandy Point and four west at Hurst Beach on 3rd and two off Sandy Point on 4th. These were followed by five into Milford Shelter and then back west on 9th, singles off Barton on Sea and west off Sandy Point and three east off Lee-on-the-Solent on 20th, and one west at Hayling Bay, two east in mid-channel off Hill Head and one west off Lee-on-the-Solent during a SW gale on 21st. The only other record in the rest of the year was one off Taddiford Gap on Aug 6th.

The monthly cumulative totals are shown below. The small numbers and mix of directions again suggests feeding forays or birds storm-driven 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
			1	21			1				

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in late summer and autumn. (1,268,4) ET, CR, Red, S4I

On Sep 4th four flew east close in off Hill Head at 08:05 (MF, photo) and carried on past Gilkicker Point at 08:12 (LH, photo).

After ten were seen in 2019 and a single in 2020, it is good to have four – even if in just one group. 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. Sadly, Balearic Shearwater is now one of the rarest breeding birds, being one of just two species in Europe to be listed as Critically Endangered. (KFB)

2012 addition. A single passed east at Hill Head at 200m range on the afternoon of Apr 25th (DRP). (KFB)

Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

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

Amber

Recorded in all months but most frequently between April and August. Reports of 50 or more were spread across five months with 61 at Hurst Beach on Feb 21st, 92 (mostly west) at Barton on Sea in just over two hours on May 4th, 52 at Taddiford Gap in four hours on Aug 6th, 75 (mostly east) at Barton on Sea during five hours on Aug 21st, and at Sandy Point 72 on Sep 26th, 62 on Dec 26th and 200 on Dec 28th. The last was the highest count of the year arising from a spectacular feeding flock in the entrance to Chichester Harbour.

Also regularly reported in smaller numbers from within The Solent and Southampton Water. Highest counts were 25 off Needs Ore on May 21st and up to 12 off Hill Head the same day. Within Southampton Water two reached as far as Southampton waterfront on May 19th with peak counts elsewhere of up to four at Weston Shore on May 21st and July 14th There was also an unusual inland record of a juvenile flying south over Backley Holmes, NF on Nov 8th.

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	10		2	20	20	4	15	20	72	15	3	200
Stokes Bay-Hill Head				2	12	1	2	4		3		
Southampton Water				4	3	1	4	2				
Hurst Castle/Milford on Sea	2	61		12	25	4	40	20		13		15
Barton on Sea-Hordle Cliff	25		8	39	92		10	52	29	13	3	2

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Rare vagrant. (0,15,1)

ET

A single flew low over Woodfidley Bog, NF at 15:12 on Apr 30th (DW, JK, photo). Later that day it was on the ground near Bolton's Bench, Lyndhurst, NF and on May 1st it was seen circling over Lucy Hill, NF at 11:45 (SC). There were no further sightings until it was seen feeding in a woodland stream near the Blackwater car park at Rhinefield, NF from 10:40-11:10 on May 6th (GSAG *et al.*, photo). Presumably the same bird was seen walking in fields at Southwick at 16:00 on May 2nd (DW, PW). There were also sightings on several days in the east of the Isle of Wight.

These records have been accepted by BBRC. There have been records in six years this century in 2002, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016. (KFB)

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 no comprehensive January coverage due to pandemic restrictions).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS coastal counts total		153	101	31	33	27	42	45	109	184	170	172
WeBS inland counts total		260	219	45	13	6	27	27	165	281	293	300
WeBS total		413	320	76	46	33	69	72	274	465	463	472

The WeBS maximum monthly total of 463 is the lowest recorded in the period 2005-2021 for which the average peak county WeBS count is 656.

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
Portsmouth Harbour*		49	21						33	46	61	61
Hill Head	14	28	30	16	12	10	16	17	30	28	26	16
Southampton Water*	18	50	23	9	1	6	11	10	24	62	46	48
Beaulieu Estuary	2	8	9	10	10	4	9	9	22	27	16	40
Ringwood-Fordingbridge	79	112	62						8	21	32	31
Blashford Lakes	45	77†	30	35	8		12	10	100	80	102	134
Fishlake Meadows†	28	6	12	5	7	8	4	5	4	47	20	61
Eversley/Yateley GPs	30	44	54	15					21	36	69	96

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

Notable counts not tabulated above were recorded at Trigpoint Hill (34 W, Sep 21st); Gunner Point, Hayling Bay (35, Oct 10th); Barton on Sea (80 on sea, 1 E, 3 W, Dec 6th) and off Black point (50, Dec 11th). Nocturnal roosting was reported from 13 localities and included, in addition to those tabulated above (max. in brackets): Allington GP (12, Feb 11th); Bramshill Lake (11, Sep 23rd); Fleet Pond (11, Oct 1st); Alresford Pond (17, Dec 9th) and Fullerton (16, Dec 24th). (AFJC)

Shag (European Shag) *Gulosus aristotelis*

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

Red

There were records in every month. Monthly maxima are tabulated below from watchpoints with records in six or more months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sandy Point/Hayling Bay	1	1		2				1		1	1	1
Weston/Netley Shore	1	1			1	1		1		2	2	1
Lymington-Hurst			1	2			1	5	5	3	1	
Hurst Beach/Castle	2	1	3	4	6	1				2		
Barton on Sea	5		7	17	19		1	1	1	5	8	5

Most records were from Christchurch Bay and the western entrance to The Solent. Movements offshore at Barton on Sea totalled 61 east and 55 west between Mar 7th and May 30th, indicative of local movements presumably associated with the west Wight breeding population. Apart from three off Eastney (Jan 22nd) and two off Southsea Castle (Feb 18th), all reports not tabulated above were of singles wintering in central or eastern waters as follows (bird-days in brackets): Needs Ore (3); Chichester Harbour entrance (6); Eastney to Langstone Harbour entrance (33 including long-stayers from Feb 2nd-14th and Dec 8th-12th); Southsea to Gilkicker Point (14); Hill Head (2) and Hamble Estuary (7). (AFJC)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare but increasing vagrant, recorded in every month. (2,62,19)

ET

The first sighting was at 14:15 on Jan 1st when a single flew across the Avon Causeway from Dorset into Hampshire (AH, LP photo). Two flew SE over Lower Test Marshes at 14:45 on Jan 27th (MC) and a single was at Needs Ore on Jan 31st (AL) and Feb 1st (IW). Three tried to land at Somerley Estate on Apr 27th but were chased off by gulls (JEL). There was then a gap until Aug 19th when a single flew west over Old Basing at 13:55 (JKA). A single flew east over Oxy Marsh at 14:45 on Sep 13th (PH). After this a single was at Warblington from Sep 15th to Oct 8th (m.o.), also being seen at Farlington Marshes on Oct 6th and 9th (m.o.).

Other singles were at Needs Ore on Sep 22nd (KTC) and Inchmery on Oct 3rd (IDW). A group of nine flew SW over North Poulner at 15:30 on Oct 22nd (SWK) and two were at The Pans, Keyhaven in the early morning on Nov 12th (CB, photo).

Due to the increase in records this is no longer a HOSRP description species. Numbers recorded in Britain have increased dramatically since the mid-2000s, mirroring the increase in their breeding population in SW Europe. The majority arrive in the UK in autumn, with re-sightings of colour-ringed birds indicating that most arrive during their first year. It is likely that these are leaving Europe because of a drought that became intense from 2005 onwards. Annual sightings in Hampshire commenced in 2008 and birds have been seen every year since except 2016. Two nesting attempts have occurred in the UK (in Lincolnshire in 2014 and Somerset in 2016). (KFB)



Glossy Ibis, Needs Ore, Feb 1st (Ian Williamson) & Warblington, Sep 23rd (Gareth Rees)

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

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

For the fifth successive year a substantial flock wintered in the West Solent between Stansore Point, Lepe in the east and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes in the west, with highest numbers at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary where the WeBS count of 21 on Feb 28th was again a county record (DJU *et al.*). Prior to 2001 there had been no February records but there have now been continuous records since 2012. By contrast there were no summering records (June/July) for the first time since 2006, reflected by the very few reports of immatures with possibly just one in the first winter/spring. Perhaps a threat to this new winter refuge for the species is the presence of the nearby reintroduction scheme for White-tailed Eagles - two greatly disturbed a flock of 14 Spoonbills on Dec 1st but they subsequently settled to remain into the New Year.

In January 16 wintered along the West Solent. Ten adults at Oxey Marsh were reported between Jan 8th and 19th but only one remained at Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on 23rd; at Needs Ore six were present on 8th, rising to 15 on 23rd. A group of five adults roosted at Normandy on Feb 9th and later with an immature on Fishtail Lagoon. This first report of an immature was perhaps the long-staying individual from Yarmouth, IoW. Presumably this additional group of six contributed to the record total described above at Needs Ore where numbers slowly reduced in March with 13 in full breeding plumage on 13th/14th, eight on 21st (including one immature) and just three by 31st. Elsewhere early year sightings were from Sowley (7, Jan 24th) and away from the West Solent at Farlington Marshes (Feb 18th-22nd) and Posbrook Flood/Titchfield Haven on Mar 23rd. In April two flew past Barton on Sea on 4th, there were singles at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes until 26th (2, 15th) and three remained at Needs Ore until 17th. Thereafter the only record was a single on May 15th.

The first returns were twos at Needs Ore and Fishtail Lagoon on Aug 3rd and singles at both locations on 6th. The next were two at Butts Lagoon, Pennington from Sep 10th leaving SE on 18th. Possibly these individuals accounted for singles west past Stansore Point and arriving from the south at Titchfield Haven early on 19th. A different individual was at the lake, Farlington Marshes on 13th and another west past Inchmery on 26th. There were two inland reports in October, a juvenile circled Fleet Pond before departing S/SW on 2nd and two were at Ibsley Water on 7th. On the Beaulieu Estuary four arrived on Oct 31st and one further on Nov 1st (aged as four adults and a juvenile), seven were present on Nov 28th and 14 on Dec 1st then intermittently until the end of year. One flew late morning over a New Milton garden on Dec 3rd. At Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes in the last quarter there were records on just 12 dates (all singles except 3, Nov 6th; 4, Dec 28th, also seen nearby at Walhampton).

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	15	21	13	3	1			2		4	7	14
Lymington-Sowley	8	1	4									
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes	10	7	6	2				2	2	1	3	1
Other localities		1	3	2				4	3			1
Minimum total	16	21	13	2	1			4	3	4	7	15

Bittern (Eurasian Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris*

Very scarce but regular winter visitor. *ET, Schedule I, Amber, S4I, HBAP*

There were reports from Fishlake Meadows in the early year up to Apr 7th, normally sightings of singles late afternoon but booming males heard on eight dates between Feb 2nd and Apr 7th. Two booming males were present on Feb 28th and again on Mar 3rd when a female was

seen in flight and calling. There were no further records until one called and was seen in flight on Aug 10th, and subsequently sparingly reported until Nov 28th (Sep 6th, Oct 11th, Nov 13th-28th on eight dates). Elsewhere one was seen at dusk on Feb 26th at Farlington Marshes. Only two records were from the Avon Valley – at Bickton heading down river at dusk on Feb 19th and an isolated record from Ivy Lake, the former county stronghold, on Sep 19th. At Titchfield Haven one was seen in morning flight on Oct 14th and there was a probable sighting from the Suffern Hide on Nov 5th. (AFJC)

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, Amber

Reported from 28 tetrads along the coast (23), in the Avon Valley (4) and well inland on Mar 7th at Chapmansford Farm, North Hampshire Downs. The county stronghold remains the Langstone area where in the early year there were peaks of six or seven at Warblington on five dates to Apr 17th and smaller parties at Northney Farm, Hayling Island (max. 6, Mar 15th) but just one at nearby Farlington Marshes (Mar 31st). From Sabine's Farm to Sopley, in the lower Avon Valley, there were up to seven in the first week of January and singles on six dates thereafter increasing to three on Mar 20th. One wandering individual reached Harbridge WM (Jan 13th and Mar 22nd), Blashford Lakes (Feb 9th) and west of Bransgore on Feb 20th.

By early April up to three were prospecting the Langstone Mill Pond heronry and two nests were occupied on 13th. Another five breeding pairs were present by 24th, then on nests four days later displacing two Little Egret pairs in the process (per PM-R). Numbers further increased into May and 10-12 pairs were nesting by 15th. Three young were first noted on June 9th but heavy rain and thunderstorms on 17th and 21st led to casualties and only one was noted on 24th increasing to five on July 8th. One nest holding three young was still being brooded on Aug 21st.

In the Avon Valley one was at New Queen between Apr 18th and 22nd and Sopley on May 16th. One in breeding plumage was at Avon Water on Apr 23rd and another was nearby at Keyhaven Marshes on May 31st/June 1st. Two flew west past Barton on Sea (May 7th) and one flew from Lepe to the Isle of Wight (May 12th). On June 3rd a group of six repeatedly flew to and from Sopley Island and Town Common, Dorset. Other sightings at Farlington Marshes (2 E, June 19th); Titchfield Haven (5 adults, June 21st) and over Hook-with-Warsash (1 NE, July 1st) were probably storm-driven from the Langstone Mill breeding colony.

During August the remaining breeding pairs at Langstone dispersed, perhaps some were involved with sightings at Hook-with-Warsash (1, briefly circling before flying west, 1st); Mill



Cattle Egret, Park Shore, Oct 26th (Ian Williamson)

Rithe saltmarsh (3, 5th); Farlington Marshes (8 W, 21st); Needs Ore (1, 29th) and Taddiford Gap/Barton on Sea (15 W, 29th). September reports were all from eastern coastal areas at Tournebury (8, 24th); Farlington Marshes (1-3 including a juvenile, 12th-24th; Oct 8th, 20th, 25th-30th); Warblington (juvenile, 15th) and Titchfield Haven (3, 28th; 4, Oct 16th).

A group of up to seven settled around Park Farm, Beaulieu Estuary from Oct 17th to Nov 18th with up to three thereafter on five dates to Dec 28th. There were late year sightings at two Avon Valley localities at Sopley (4, Oct 10th; 12, Dec 19th) and Blashford Lakes (nocturnal roosts: 2, Nov 22nd; 3, Dec 3rd). Four winterers returned to Northney Farm on Nov 28th/29th and 10-12 were in the Warblington area from Dec 9th to the year end. Singles were noted at another seven localities.

Monthly estimates at locations with reports in at least five months are shown below. (AFJC)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Langstone/North Hayling	5	5	6	14	20	20	12	10	1		5	12
Farlington Marshes			1	4		2		8	3	3		
Titchfield Haven/Bridge St Flood						5			3	4	1	1
Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary					1		1	1		7	6	2
Lymington-Hurst				1	1	1			1	1		
Avon below Ringwood	7	1	3	1	1	6				4		12
Minimum Total	12	6	9	16	22	27	13	15	8	12	12	27

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Records were received from 342 tetrads (316 in 2020). The peak early year counts were associated with heronries including 131 between Ringwood and Fordingbridge on Jan 17th and 51 at Fawley Reservoir on Feb 5th. A breeding survey included 18 of the 25 known heronries and located 266 occupied nests (243 in 2019, the last full census). Counts of apparently occupied nests (with 2020 figures in parentheses) were as follows: Kingston North Common, 6 (5); Somerley Estate, 14 (18); near Fordingbridge, 110 (80); Efford Mill, 3 (3); Sowley Pond, 9 (nc); Lammas Wood, Fawley Refinery, 33 (nc); Langstone Mill Pond, 11 (4); Tournebury Wood, 2 (nc); Barton Stacey, 8 (5); Andwell, 14 (11); Winnall Moors 1 (nc); King's Pond, Alton, 5 (6); Bramshill Plantation, 5 (nc); Elvetham Park, 15 (16); Eversley GP (Jet Ski Pit), 2 (nc); Fleet Pond, 7 (8) and Holt Pound Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, 20 (15). Resulting breeding success was reported from Fleet Pond (6 pairs raised at least 10 young) and Langstone Mill Pond (6 nests failed, 4 reared young and a fifth was probably successful).

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	131	138	138	100	50	110	10		104	108	114	72
Blashford Lakes	4	6	4	1			37		42	28	9	11
Alresford Pond/Fobdown Farm Reservoir	1		2	1		16	13	7	17	6	16	3
Langstone Mill Pond		15	8	6	14	11	2				5	4

Notable counts from localities not included above included Frater Shore, Portsmouth Harbour (14, Mar 17th) and Langstone Harbour (12, Oct 9th). The peak late year count was again on the Avon around Bicton (114, Nov 7th). (AFJC)



Purple Heron, Fishlake Meadows, June (Linda Corkindale)

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Rare vagrant recorded from April to October. (1,40,1)

ET, Schedule 1

An adult was photographed at Fishlake Meadows on May 29th. Despite many people looking for it, the bird was not seen again until the morning of June 6th, after which it was seen daily to June 13th. According to a comment on Facebook the bird may have been around since May 27th. (DP *et al.*, photo).

Most past sightings have been brief single-observer records, so this (and the Farlington bird in 2020) were hugely popular. About half of the records have been in April-May. (KFB)

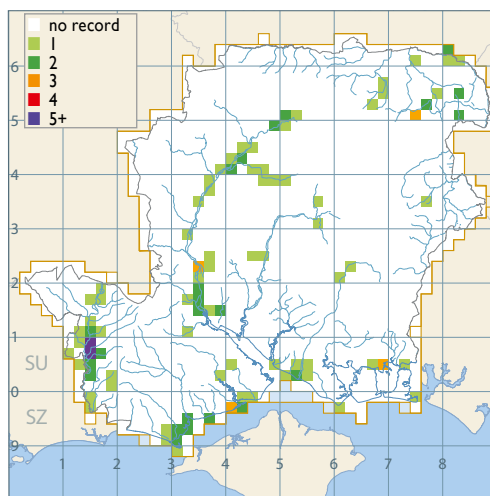
Great White Egret (Great Egret) *Ardea alba*

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

ET, Amber

Again present in all months although no birds were reported in breeding plumage. A year of consolidation contrasting with the annual expansion over the last decade. There was a total of 96 tetrad registrations comprising coastal (25), river valleys (40) and other water bodies (31), compared to a total of 101 in 2020. The tetrad map illustrates the widespread distribution of records along the coast, major river valleys and in the north-east.

The nocturnal roost monitoring programme of Little Egrets also registered this species regularly entering eight roosts including a remarkable count of nine at Blashford Lakes on Dec 9th. Most others were singles as follows: Bickton (Jan 2nd; Sep 15th; Dec 30th); Eversley GP (Jan 11th; Nov 12th; Dec 8th; 2, Dec 28th); Overton Lagoons (Jan 16th); Nursling Mill (Jan 27th); Fishlake Meadows (Mar 18th; Apr 9th;



Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Great White Egrets in 2021

2, June 6th; 3, Nov 13th; 2 Dec 26th); Fleet Pond (Oct 12th, 16th) and Blashford Lakes (1, Nov 1st; 6, Nov 30th; 7-9, Dec 3rd-9th).

Monthly maxima where regularly reported in six or more months are tabulated below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Titchfield Haven		1	1	1		1		1	1	2	1	1
Lymington-Hurst			1	1		1	2	2	1	1	1	
Blashford Lakes	2	1	1		1			1	4	6	6	9
Avon above Ringwood	4	2	3	3	1				1	2		1
Testwood Lakes	2	2	2						1	1	2	2
Fishlake Meadows	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2
Test: Brandsbury/ Longparish	2	1	2	1	1	1			1	1	1	1
Overton Lagoons	1	1	1	2							1	1
North-east	2	1		1			2	1	2	4	3	4
Bird-months elsewhere	7	9	12	4	1	4	4	8	10	8	10	9
WeBS Total	10	4	10	1	1			1	14	9	14	13

Notable counts not described above were of threes between Sopley and Ringwood (Feb 26th), at Beaulieu Estuary (Sep 15th) and on the lake at Farlington Marshes (Oct 8th). (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 291 tetrads (262 in 2020; 227 in 2019) of which 77 were coastal. The WeBS peak count of 321 in October was below the average of 374 for the previous decade although three years in that period recorded lower totals. Nocturnal arrival or dawn departure roost counts were made at several localities and in the last quarter were coordinated on fixed dates. Notable roosts (max. in brackets) were reported at Langstone Mill Pond (109, the year maximum, Aug 31st); Oxey Marsh (92, Oct 2nd); Blackwater, Needs Ore (23, Nov 10th); Blashford Lakes (26, Dec 9th) and Allington GP (23, Dec 9th).

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*	2	54	37	35	27	70	44	137	145	226	102	49
Hampshire sectors	10	13	16	52	56	28	20	109†	69	86	32	16
Langstone Mill Pond/ Warblington	10	11	16	52	56	28	20	109†	22	40†	4	4
Langstone Harbour	10	17	15	21	16	38	59	68	52	94	56	14
Portsmouth Harbour	13	8	11	25	14	15	28	17	66	41	28	39
Southampton Water*	25	24	9	22	6	28	25	37	31	37	25	7
Beaulieu Estuary	9	16	7	10	6	16	31	32	21	24	23	12
Lymington-Hurst	43	34	41	37	15	25	42	62†	81†	92†	69†	51†
WeBS counts total	60‡	111	109	101	54	130	143	207	317	321	212	143
Nocturnal roosts total	474							1815	946	1638	1339	18312

Sites of national importance: 45+; *=WeBS monthly totals only; † = night roost; ‡ restricted COVID; superscript numbers are number of roosts counted.

Other counts exceeding 20 not tabulated above were reported from the following localities: Nursling (on floods near M27, 31, Jan 4th and near M271, 28, Feb 21st); lower Avon between Sopley and Ringwood (on floods, 22, Feb 26th; 21, Mar 14th); Cheriton (22, Mar 7th) and Bickton (25, Dec 30th).

Breeding was reported from just five localities. At Langstone Mill Pond two were surveying nests as early as Mar 29th. Nests were occupied rapidly thereafter (3, Apr 3rd; 6, 10th; 8, 13th; 16, 19th; at least 26 on 28th and 28-32 by May 14th). In June first young were noted on 9th but nests were abandoned in deteriorating weather and young were lost. By 20th 15 nests remained occupied but numbers of surviving young were thought to be low. Nest counts at heronries elsewhere were as follows: Holt Pound, Alice Holt Forest (8); Barton Stacey (7); Efford Mill (4) and a confidential site (5). In addition there were peaks on Frater Shore of 14/15 in May-July suggesting breeding nearby at Fort Elson where there is no public access. It appears that the former large colony near Fordingbridge has been abandoned, perhaps because of the expansion of Grey Heron numbers there. Juveniles were first reported on Fishtail Lagoon, Keyhaven Marshes on July 15th but there were no other reports. (AFJC)

Osprey (Western Osprey) *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Amber

An early first report came from Hiltingbury on Mar 1st followed by others at Fishlake Meadows on 17th and heading north above Havant on 20th. A flood of reports followed in late March and early April. Reported at Fishlake Meadows throughout the period April-September, including one bearing a blue colour-ring, with the first record of two together on Aug 23rd followed by three on Sep 13th. With the continuing re-introduction scheme at Poole Harbour in Dorset and numerous summering individuals, the possibility of a breeding attempt in Hampshire increases each year.

During autumn passage in August and September there were numerous records from the usual locations, but few stayed into October. At Needs Ore there were reports of one or two mobbing White-tailed Eagles from the Isle of Wight re-introduction scheme. The last records came in October from Bucklers Hard on 11th, Needs Ore on Oct 16th, Curbridge on 17th and Ashlett Creek from 21st-27th, and finally in November at Upton Grey on 3rd and Needs Ore on 5th.



Osprey, Needs Ore, Aug 28th (Alan Lewis)

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

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chichester Harbour: Hampshire sectors	1	1				6	3		
Langstone Harbour	3	3	2			11	10	5	
Titchfield Haven/ Hook-with-Warsash		2				1	1		
Lower Test Marshes			1	1		6	5	1	
Lepe/Beaulieu Estuary	1	3		1		10	15	3	1
Keyhaven area	2	4	1		1	2	2		
Blashford Lakes/ Avon Valley	1	2	1			1	1	1	
Itchen Valley		1	1		1	3	5		
Test Valley incl. Fishlake Meadows	2	6	9	20	6	13	10		
Elsewhere	3	7	3	3		3	6	6	1

Honey-buzzard (European Honey Buzzard)

Pernis apivorus

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant; breeds in small numbers each year. ET, Schedule 1, Amber, HBAP

An impressive number of 143 records was received during 2021, largely due to a particularly well-watched New Forest site yielding 74 records. The first record of the year came from the Avon Valley on Apr 30th followed by the first New Forest record on May 2nd. Twenty records were submitted for Acres Down and a further 17 for the remainder of the New Forest excluding the well-watched site above. Seven records came from the Botley area between May 27th and July 25th. Twenty-four other records were received for the remainder of the county including six from the Hill Head/Titchfield area spanning the period June 2nd–19th, four from the Thames Basin heaths between May 23rd-Aug 3rd and two from the Avon Valley near Ringwood. Single records also came from Avington WM (May 23rd), Ampfield (May 29th), Hut Wood (June 1st), Kitts Grave (June 12th), Ashford Hangers (July 2nd), East Dean (July 13th), Havant (July 17th), the Test Valley (July 29th) and Basingstoke (Aug 16th).

Breeding occurred at a minimum of six sites fledging at least nine young. An adult colour-ringed male (White KJ) bred in the Forest making him the fourth colour-ringed bird proven to breed in recent years. This bird had been ringed as a chick in the New Forest six years earlier during 2015.

Two coastal records indicative of return migration came from Keyhaven Marshes on Sep 2nd and Sowley on Sep 18th. The last record of the year was one over Pinglestone WCB, Alresford on Sep 20th. (AP)



Honey-buzzards, New Forest; pale juvenile, Aug 28th (Matthew Barfield); pale male, May 30th & dark male, June 23rd (Simon Buckell)



Sparrowhawk female, Winchester, Apr 15th (Ashley Howe) and male, Furze Hill, NF, Nov 30th (Martin Bennett)

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*

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

Amber

Recorded in 439 tetrads (43%) in 52 ten km squares with widespread reports from many gardens in the BTO Garden Bird Watch project. NFWBS totals were four, four and seven during October-December respectively, early year surveys having been severely curtailed by COVID restrictions. 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, but none 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, casual records continued from many New Forest locations.

Monthly 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	6	4	14	13	11	7	12	12	10	24	17	7

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Scarce but increasing resident.

Schedule 1, Green

A total of 579 records was received, only a small increase on the previous year. The majority (370) came from the New Forest and are tabulated below, with a further 209 from the wider county.

Monthly totals of records from the New Forest are tabulated below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	40	51	49	47	61	35	15	12	12	19	11

In the Crown Lands of the New Forest study area, 51 territories were checked with 44 confirmed breeding attempts. There were four previously known sites where no occupation could be found and a further three sites where birds were present but no active nest was found. Of the confirmed breeding pairs, 35 successfully raised young with nine nests failing. No ringing or nest monitoring work was undertaken so no data on numbers of young fledged are available. Outside of the New Forest breeding was confirmed at 11 sites but the true figure is likely to be much higher given the number and spread of sightings. (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 1, Amber

The status of this species has changed rapidly over the past few years since breeding recommenced in 2015. Although Hampshire has few areas of extensive reed-bed habitat, Marsh Harriers are now present and breeding at several locations in the county. In addition, individuals either hunting away from known nest sites or moving through were recorded from numerous inland sites, including heathland areas of the New Forest, in all seasons.

Breeding season records came from at least nine locations with suitable breeding habitat. Successful breeding was confirmed at Badminton (2 young raised), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (1 flying juvenile seen) and Titchfield Haven (4 young raised). A pair at Somerley Estate failed at the egg stage. Despite frequent records in May/June from Alresford Pond, Fawley Refinery, Fishlake Meadows, Lepe and Needs Ore breeding was not suspected at these sites. It seems likely that further expansion will result in breeding attempts in more marginal habitat including farmland crops adjoining the main river valleys. With summering now so widespread it is harder to identify records of migrants passing through, but sightings at Balmer Lawn, Brockenhurst on May 8th, Martin Down on May 27th and over Southampton General Hospital on June 10th were some distance from likely breeding sites. At least four were roosting at Keyhaven on Jan 1st but no more than three were reported in the rest of the year. Another roost at the Lymington River held two on Feb 5th, 7th and Mar 4th. Co-ordinated monitoring of winter roosts would provide a good indication of the numbers in the county.

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



Marsh Harrier, Needs Ore, Feb 12th (Chris Button)



Hen Harrier, New Forest, Apr 1st (Matthew Barfield)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

NFWBS totals were nil for January-March, due to fewer surveys as a result of COVID restrictions, but three were reported in each month from October-December. In the early year there were up to five using the two regular roosts in the New Forest, two at the northern site and three at the central site. At the same time, unlike 2020, there were regular records from the south-eastern heaths. Two were also reported at Bransbury Common on Feb 16th and a female at Northington on Mar 2nd. Coastal records came from Needs Ore on Jan 9th, Normandy Marsh on Feb 10th and Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on 27th. In April a male was seen in the New Forest on 1st and at Hill Head on 15th and ringtails were reported in the New Forest from Cranesmoor on 18th and 25th and from Bisterne Common on 30th. Finally there was a late individual at Barton Stacey on May 11th and 13th.

The first returning record came from Acres Down, NF on Sep 8th followed by a month's gap until one at Ibsley Water on Oct 8th. The next New Forest report came from the northern heaths on Oct 17th. There followed regular sightings at the northern New Forest roost of a female from Oct 18th to year-end joined by a male from Nov 11th. A second male was also present from Dec 14th. At the central roost a male was present from Oct 23rd to year-end joined by a second male from Nov 27th to Dec 6th and on 22nd and 31st. There were also occasional sightings at Beaulieu Road but no reports of birds seen to roost.

Elsewhere coastal reports in November were from Needs Ore on 3rd, Black Point on 14th and Chilling Cliffs on 15th, followed by a ringtail seen arriving off the sea at Barton on Sea on Dec 18th. A female flew past the Goosander Hide at Ibsley Water on Dec 21st and one was reported from Bransbury Common on 28th.

Minimum monthly totals are tabulated below. (RC)

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

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce passage migrant and summer visitor; last bred 1998. (many, last bred 1998, III since, 2) ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

A male was seen at Ocknell Plain, NF at 11:30 on Apr 29th (AMD). On May 28th a second-summer male was seen to fly in off the sea at Pennington Marshes at around 14:40 and was later seen to pass through Pig Bush, NF at 15:00 - 11km to the north (NRJ, PFF, PJ). (KFB)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Moderately common and increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
ET, Schedule I, Green, HBAP

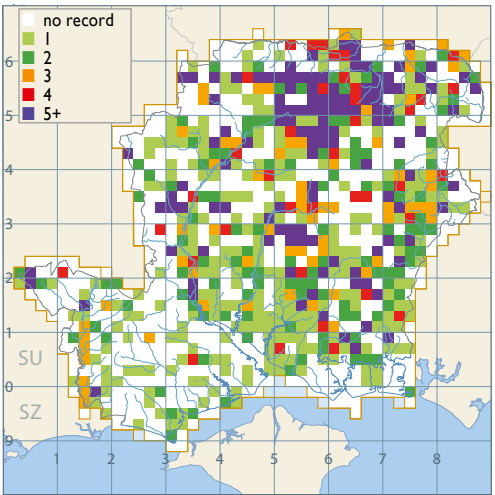
Recorded in 607 tetrads (60%) in 53 ten km squares. There were reports from 819 sites during the year with the highest densities of records in the north, the Test Valley and around the South Downs. The number of reports was an astonishing 4,938 which is a 23% increase on the 2020 figure. In total 29 ten km squares had more than 50 records (compared to 24 in 2020) and 15 of these had more than 100 records. The tetrad map illustrates the distribution of records which are now throughout the county but with higher numbers across the northern and central parts, reflecting the direction of colonisation from the Chilterns, with fewest records in the south-west including the New Forest.

The species is continuing its spread towards the east and south of the county. Estimating breeding numbers is difficult but between April and July birds were reported in 511 separate one km squares (compared to 398 in 2020) – a 28% increase. Nests in the north of the county are now quite close to each other in some areas. For example at Tidgrove Warren Farm near Overton, there were three nests in an area of just 75 ha and each nest was between 500-700m from the others. In 2020 it was estimated that the nesting population was probably in the region of 500 pairs, with perhaps 1,000 first-years in addition. Although the range and number of sightings has increased since then, there is no hard evidence to indicate a population increase.

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). There was no repeat of the major movement of birds across southern England in May 2020.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coast	4	1	16	14	3	4	0	0	0	3	4	2
New Forest	3	4	15	9	20	19	5	0	3	5	2	2



Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Red Kites in 2021



Red Kite, Mottisfont, June 29th (Richard Jacobs)

A concerted effort was made to count all known roosts in the north and east of the county on the afternoon of Dec 30th. This resulted in 436 being counted at 12 sites as follows: Bloune 43, Bramshill 38, Broughton 20, Chilton Candover 51, East Meon 20, Facombe 14, Gander Down 21, Malshanger 30, Newton Valence 30, Tunworth 34, Turrill Hill 120 and Vernham Dean 15. This is a reduction of 36% on the 685 recorded at the same time in 2020. These roosts are used by non-breeding birds and mostly immatures and may indicate a reduction in breeding success. 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)

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

Common resident.

Green

Recorded in 646 tetrads (63%) in 55 ten km squares making it the most widespread bird of prey ahead of Red Kite. NFWBS totals were 28 in March (from only nine sites due to COVID restrictions) and 44, 29 and 24 for October-December respectively. Early season reports of high multiple sightings came from Ecchinswell, where there were 16 feeding together on the ground in an arable field on Feb 21st, Trigpoint Hill (16, Mar 20th) and Ripley Farm in the Avon Valley (20, Mar 21st).

There were the usual handful of breeding records from around the county, but little evidence of current breeding density. The New Forest survey did not take place but the population 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). Double-figure counts continued in the second half-year with maxima of 12 at Trigpoint Hill on July 17th and Pig Bush, NF on Aug 28th and 29th.

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/Black Point	2	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	16	2	0

Barn Owl (Western Barn Owl)

Tyto alba

Moderately common resident. Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 131 tetrads (13%) in 42 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 135 widespread locations. The Hawk Conservancy reported 96 nest boxes used out of 182 checked (lower than usual because of COVID restrictions). At least 117 nesting attempts were made with a minimum of 57 being successful, resulting in at least 160 fledged young. Breeding was confirmed at a further twelve locations at least, with probable breeding recorded at a further nineteen. (BS)



Barn Owl, Twyford, June 13th (Adam Court)

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident.

Amber

Recorded in 285 tetrads (28%) in 49 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 310 widespread locations compared to 280 last year. The highest concentration was ten

at Warsash Common in February. A county-wide nest box scheme resulted in 14 nesting attempts from 54 checked locations, twelve of which were successful resulting in at least 19 fledged young. Additional breeding was confirmed at a further minimum of 22 locations. As usual the number of submitted records do not reflect the true status of this common and widespread woodland resident. (BS)

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Moderately common but declining resident.

Recorded in 80 tetrads (8%) in 34 ten km squares. Reports were received from around 80 widespread locations. A scheme in the north reported just two nesting attempts from seven boxes checked resulting in at least one fledged young. Successful breeding was confirmed at an additional four locations with probable breeding at a further six. (BS)

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

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

One was found with a broken wing near Overton on Jan 1st. It was taken to a wildlife hospital in Andover but subsequently died of its injuries. One was flushed from its roost in the north on June 4th. Breeding was confirmed at three locations. A pair in the south-west fledged three young; a pair in the north fledged two; and a well-developed juvenile was seen in a central location on June 25th. A roost of up to six was found at a location in the north in December.

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 the species. In the period up to May the peak count was three at Bransbury Common on Mar 5th. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Black Point, Hayling Island on Jan 12th and Mar 15th, Hook-with-Warsash on Jan 12th, South Moor on Feb 5th, Old Basing on Feb 27th, Langstone Harbour including South Moor on Feb 5th, March 3rd and May 8th, Gilkicker Point on Mar 31st, Keyhaven on Apr 3rd and May 6th, Weston Common on Apr 23rd, Pig Bush and Baddesley Common on May 6th, Fishlake Meadows on May 26th and 31st and Titchfield Haven on May 27th and 29th. The final spring record was a single at Fordingbridge on June 6th.

The earliest autumn returns were singles at Normandy Marsh on Oct 9th, Oxey Marsh on Oct 20th and Farlington Marshes on Oct 22nd. In the period November to December the only multiple counts were two at Black Point on Nov 29th and two at Langstone Harbour on Dec 10th. Singles were at Farlington Marshes on Nov 5th and 7th and Dec 4th and 22nd, Warsash on Nov 6th, Backley Bottom on Nov 13th, Titchfield Haven on Nov 15th and Dec 1st and 3rd, Black Point on Nov 16th and 29th, Sinah Common and Gunner Point on Nov 19th, Bransbury Common on Nov 21st, Keyhaven on Nov 23rd and Portsdown Hill on Dec 16th.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (BS)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	4	2	7	1				3	10	6

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe) *Upupa epops*

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since.
(44+,272,9) *Schedule 1*

For the second year in a row a male frequented several gardens in the upper Test Valley, being seen between Apr 16th and June 25th. It went missing for much of May and was only heard to call a few times and was always alone. Others were seen at Hinton Ampner on Apr 18th (ASD), Hartley Mauditt on Apr 30th (CJP), Broughton on May 1st (PG), Bramley on May 2nd (per PEH), West End Green from May 2nd-6th (CRM), Chandler's Ford on June 7th (DJL), Dummer on June 16th (AG), Oakley on Aug 11th (SS) and Allbrook on Oct 1st (AL). It is likely that some of these records refer to the same summering individual but several of these locations are up to 30km away from its regular haunts.

Very sadly the returning Hoopoe did not seem to find a mate. The last pair to nest in Hampshire was near Lyndhurst in 1959, and elsewhere in the UK the last breeding record was in 1996 in Wales. The nearest regularly-used breeding grounds are in western France. (KFB)

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

Moderately common resident whose numbers may be severely depleted during harsh winters. *ET,*
Schedule 1, Green

Records were received from around 310 locations, including 46 in the Test Valley catchment, 31 in the Itchen catchment, 20 in the Avon catchment, 38 in the north-east, 31 in the New Forest and 86 on the coast. Breeding was confirmed at six locations and probable breeding was reported at a further twelve locations.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lymington-Hurst	23	10	7	0	0	2	3	15	49	60	45	31
Lower Test Marshes	4	7	6	0	1	6	5	8	9	4	6	2
Titchfield Haven	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	6	7	8	3



Kingfisher, River Test at Timsbury, Mar 23rd (Richard Jacobs)

Bee-eater (European Bee-eater)
Merops apiaster

Very scarce visitor recorded in all months; bred on eight occasions during 1953-59 but not since. (0,41,9) Schedule I

One was heard and then seen over farmland at Ibworth at 09:50 on May 25th. The news was put out and at least one other observer managed to see the bird flying around the same area at 11:15 (SRC et al.). That was a lucky find but was somewhat eclipsed by the discovery of at least eight at Fishlake Meadows at 19:47 on June 9th. The birds were in dead trees in the centre of the reserve allowing views to within 100m. They constantly darted around catching insects for six minutes before departing (RWV).



*Bee-eater flock, Fishlake Meadows, June 9th
(Ricky Wallis)*

This remains one of the hardest birds to connect with in the county and you either have to be incredibly lucky or quick off the mark! This is the largest number to have ever been recorded in the county – the previous largest group being five in 2008. This group was possibly the group of nine seen in Yorkshire, Suffolk, Essex and Kent in the two weeks before this. Bee-eaters are being recorded more frequently around the UK so your chances of finding one are increasing. All but three sightings 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 I, HBAP

There was one spring record, a single at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 3rd (m.o.). Autumn passage was much more productive with a total of eleven records, all singles, at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 27th; Barton on Sea on Aug 29th; Portsdown Hill on Aug 29th; Fritham on Aug 31st;



Wryneck, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 3rd (Adam Court)

Farlington Marshes on Sep 3rd-4th; Great Posbrook Farm, Titchfield on Sep 3rd; Chawton on Sep 7th-9th; Brockenhurst on Sep 11th; Burnt Common on Sep 13th; Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Sep 15th-18th and Black Point, Hayling Island on Oct 7th-8th. (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 59 tetrads (6%) in 19 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east of the county. There were 249 records this year compared with 200 in 2020 and 177 in 2019, perhaps indicating greater observer effort for this elusive species. While the vast majority came from the core area of the New Forest, there were reports from 20 locations away from the Forest, down from 28 in 2020. Records continued to come from all parts of the county, suggesting that the species remains widespread, albeit at very low density.

New Forest breeding season records came from 49 locations, slightly down from 52 in 2020. Breeding attempts were reported at seven locations. Two were on private land while of the five nests in the open Forest, the four where breeding outcomes were known fledged two or three young each continuing the low productivity of recent years. Where the tree species was recorded, nests were reported in Alder (2), Oak, Ash and Birch. No successful nests were reported elsewhere in Hampshire. A major county-wide survey is planned for 2022 which will hopefully give a clearer indication of breeding numbers with full results in HBR 2022. (RC)

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported in 519 tetrads (51%) in 54 ten km squares. Records were received from around 640 widespread locations compared to 660 in 2020. The highest count was 12 at Pamber Forest in May. Breeding, or the presence of juveniles, was confirmed at 24 locations. In addition there were 56 territories at 15 sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1) compared to 66 territories at 21 sites in 2020.

As usual, these numbers grossly underestimate the county population of this numerous and widespread species. (BS)

Green Woodpecker (European Green Woodpecker) *Picus viridis*

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported from 417 tetrads (41%) in 54 ten km squares. Records were received from around 500 widespread locations. Breeding, or the presence of juveniles, was confirmed at 11 locations. In addition there were 35 territories at ten sites on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths (Table 1) compared to 46 territories at 16 sites in 2020. NFWBS reported totals of two, none and 15 in January-March (lower than usual due to COVID restrictions) and 30, 15 and 15 in October-December (Table 4). (BS)

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

Recorded in 464 tetrads (46%) and 54 ten km squares which confirmed it as the third most widely distributed bird of prey after Buzzard and Red Kite and slightly ahead of Sparrowhawk. The Hampshire population was estimated at 1,000-1,500 pairs in 2017 (HBR 2017). NFWBS totals were none in January-March (COVID restrictions) and 23, seven and six in October-December respectively.

There were no reports from the nest box scheme this year but successful breeding was reported from around a dozen locations in widespread parts of the county. In the New

Forest, where numbers may have been affected by the increasing Goshawk population, pairs were reported at a minimum of seven locations including successful breeding by two pairs in the Beaulieu Road area. There were few reports of post-breeding gatherings but five at Vernham Dean on Aug 31st, four at Pig Bush, NF on Sep 12th and a count of six between Lymington and Keyhaven on Oct 10th were worthy of note. (RC)

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant (2,60,1).

VU

A male was watched hunting at Furzey Lodge, NF from 13:35-13:55 on the relatively late date of July 16th (DAT, WFS). May to mid-June is the peak period for seeing this rare passage migrant. This is the latest record since 1987. (KFB)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

ET, VU, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

A total of 174 records was received. NFWBS totals were none in January-March (COVID restrictions) and one, two and two in October-December respectively. It is difficult to be certain about anything concerning this elusive falcon, but it seems likely that numbers visiting Hampshire are in decline. In the first winter period there were records of singles from the usual coastal, downland and New Forest heathland locations. Birds were also present but seldom recorded in the main river valleys. An exception was the Test Valley with several reports from the farmland south of Romsey, a previously under-reported area. The last sightings in spring were from Barton on Sea and Hill Head on Apr 24th.

Returning birds were first noted at Pennington Marshes on Sep 6th, with further reports that month from South Wonston, Titchfield Haven, Needs Ore and Sturt Pond. The first New Forest record was at Leaden Hall on Oct 12th. Most reports came from the north of the Forest but, unlike 2020, there were also several records from the south-eastern heaths



Merlin, Needs Ore, Oct 3rd (Chris Button)

with Pig Bush and Matley Bog the most regular locations. An interesting sighting was of one passing south over Pennington Village at 07:30 on Nov 27th, perhaps a New Forest roosting bird visiting the coast to hunt. Records of roosting in the New Forest came from only one site, with up to three present at a northern location in December. In the last three months of the year coastal records of one or two were widespread from Hayling Island and Farlington Marshes in the east to Keyhaven Marshes in the west. Elsewhere inland reports, all singles, were from Martin and Toyd Downs, Ibsley Water, Ripley Farm Reservoir, Bransbury Common, Trigpoint Hill, North Waltham, Portsdown Hill, Longwood Warren, Beacon Hill (Warnford), Hambledon, Broughton, Havant Ticket and Woolmer Pond,

Whilst birds were observed hunting Dunlin, Redshank, Starling, Skylark, Meadow Pipit and Linnet, the only successful pursuits where the prey was identified were both at Lymington-Hurst with Meadow Pipit and Linnet being the target species.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below, though it must be stressed that this only includes regularly-visited sites and that the true wintering population is probably rather higher. (RC)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	10	10	4					6	8	10	12

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Moderately common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in 190 tetrads (19%) across 49 widespread ten km squares except from the north-west of the county. Hobbies are arriving considerably earlier than they used to do, presumably as a result of changing climate. The first records of this attractive migrant were in March with one moving north at Fareham Creek on 27th and another at Blashford Lakes on 31st. Most April records came from the Test and Avon Valleys, with the first New Forest record of a pair at a regular breeding location on 23rd. There were four at Fishlake Meadows on Apr 26th and eight on May 2nd.

Breeding season records were, as usual, not indicative of the widespread nature of the species. Away from the New Forest there were reports of confirmed breeding from three sites in the long-term study area in the north-east of the county, while a scatter of other breeding records came from Botley Wood, Woolmer Forest, Meonstoke, Tundry Pond, Timsbury and Hut Wood. Confirmed breeding in the New Forest came from four locations suggesting that there has been no resurgence in the population, though undoubtedly some pairs breed unreported most years.

October records came from many locations, with the last records being from Hampton Ridge, NF on 20th and Needs Ore on 27th. (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 269 tetrads (26%) in 48 ten km squares. There were reports from 324 sites including 50 locations in the New Forest and around 166 elsewhere inland. Birds were reported from 193 locations during March-July of which 68 were on the coast compared to 59 in winter.

Breeding was confirmed at 21 localities with 16 pairs known to have fledged 32 young. Five nests failed. There were four pylon nests which fledged six chicks. Pairs at other sites were on buildings (9), tall chimneys (1) and quarries (4). In addition three pairs nested on coastal shingle, just a few metres from the high-water mark and all failed after storms in late May.



Peregrine, New Milton, June 1st (Gareth Rees)

Birds were also present at a further four former nest sites but did not breed. Four nest boxes were used with 11 chicks being reared. At Winchester Cathedral the male of the breeding pair died in late May resulting in the female having to rear the chicks alone – which she did.

The programme of colour-ringing continued and 11 chicks were fitted with orange colour-rings. Over 100 chicks have now been colour-ringed in the county since 2013 and in 2021 sightings of these birds came from Hampshire (5), Surrey (2), Dorset, Isle of Wight, Berkshire and Essex (1 each). A female ringed in 2013 remained in Middleburg in the Netherlands where she has bred annually since at least 2019. (KFB)

Ring-necked Parakeet

(Rose-ringed Parakeet)

Psittacula krameri

Scarce introduced visitor, bred for the first time in 2019.

There were 217 records from 45 tetrads (4%) in 16 ten km squares, mostly in urban/suburban areas, compared to 47 tetrads in 17 ten km squares in 2020. Records were in all months and followed the pattern established in recent years with the majority of sightings occurring in the Southampton area extending from Testwood Lakes in the west and Romsey in the north-west to Marllhill Copse in the east, mostly within SU31 and SU41. The main concentration and highest numbers were again in Southampton city centre parks and along the River Itchen including Riverside Park and neighbouring areas with maximum counts of at least eight in Queen's Park on Aug 8th and ten at Itchen Bridge on Sep 19th. There



Ring-necked Parakeet, Riverside Park, Southampton, Feb 20th (Ian Williamson)

were secondary clusters of records with singles between Hook-with-Warsash and Gosport and up to three in the north-east around Farnborough extending from Hartley Wintney and Fleet to Aldershot. Elsewhere there were scattered records of singles in the Milford on Sea to Lymington area and at Hayling Island, Langstone Mill Pond, Havant, Clanfield and Four Marks except for three at Basingstoke. There were no confirmed breeding records this year. (MLC)

2020 Correction. The five at Wickham were on June 14th, not Jan 14th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant; formerly moderately common summer visitor which last bred in 1984. (since 1984 76, 0) ET, Schedule 1, Red, HBAP

1993 addition. A male was at Itchen Valley CP on June 1st (MGWT). (KFB)

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

In the early year a single remained from 2020 in the New Forest at Milkham, being seen on Jan 15th, 22nd and Mar 21st. A bird was at Acres Down from Feb 16th-23rd and then one appeared at Harvest Slade on Apr 5th. This was probably the Milkham bird having crossed the A31. It was also seen at Witherby Bottom on Apr 5th, 6th and 11th and then at Stoney Cross on Apr 5th-6th.

Elsewhere a single was at Woolmer Forest on a variety of dates from Jan 1st through to May 1st, also wandering to Longmoor on occasions. Another was at Bransbury Common from Jan 3rd-18th, and then nearby at Wherwell on Jan 17th and from Feb 11th-Mar 1st. The only other record in the early year was at Hinton Ampner from Feb 10th-11th.

In the late year the only sightings came from the New Forest with a widely-watched single at Backley Bottom from Oct 27th to Nov 21st but also occasionally across the A31. The only other record was one at Foxlease near Lyndhurst on Nov 4th. (KFB)

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Very rare vagrant recorded in May, June and August. (0,8,1)

A female was discovered near Rowbarrow Pond, NF at 16:45 on May 29th. The bird continued to use several perches to catch insects and was still in the area at 19:15 but was not present the next day (SL, MW, photo). This is the first record since 2012 when two were seen within days of each other – also in May. (KFB)

Golden Oriole (Eurasian Golden Oriole) *Oriolus oriolus*

Very scarce passage migrant; occasionally breeds. (16 including 1 of breeding, 88 including 8 of breeding,0) Red, VU

1993 addition. A first-summer male was seen and heard in Sloden Inclosure, NF on June 6th (MGWT). (KFB)

Jay (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

Numerous resident and passage migrant. Green

Records were submitted for 449 tetrads (44%) in 52 ten km squares. There were 21 records of double-figure counts, all but three occurring during September and October when widespread movements were recorded following a failure of the acorn crop. High counts over 20 were 25 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 26th and 21 there on Oct 3rd; several flocks at Weston Shore totalling 72 N/NW on Oct 3rd, 39 NW on Oct 4th and peaking at 84 in 2.5 hours on Oct 6th; and 21 at Lepe CP on Oct 8th.

At the regular watchpoints movements were noted, both NE and SW, on many dates between Sep 13th and Oct 22nd at Trigpoint Hill, with peaks of 14 NE and 25 SW in just under two hours on Sep 21st and 24 NE in one hour on Sep 24th, and at Tweseldown between Sep 20th-29th, with peaks of 14 N and nine SW in two hours on Sep 20th and 34 SW in over 5 hours on Sep 29th. Movements were also recorded elsewhere with 15 SW at Fleet Pond on Sep 21st, 14 NE at Portsdown Hill on Sep 26th, ten west at Marlhill Copse on Oct 1st and finally ten west at Fort Widley on Oct 12th.

Counts of territories at the regularly surveyed sites were disrupted by COVID restrictions with only two being recorded at Lower Test NR. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was four at Horsedown Common and Passfield Common, both in April. (MLC)

Magpie (Eurasian Magpie) *Pica pica*

Numerous resident.

Green

Records were submitted for 576 tetrads (56%) in 55 ten km squares making this species significantly more widespread than Jay. As usual the highest numbers were recorded at winter roosts. At Fleet Pond the highest early year counts were 140 on Jan 21st and 150 on Feb 2nd, and in the late year were 57 on Oct 1st increasing to 74 on Dec 5th. At Fishlake Meadows the highest counts were 75 on Nov 14th and 60 two days later. Elsewhere 63 were recorded going to roost at Winchester SF on Feb 6th and 182 at Southampton Common on Dec 18th.

The highest numbers of registrations recorded in BBS one km squares were 16 at Widley Farm on June 5th and 17 at East Cosham on June 12th. (MLC)

Jackdaw (Western Jackdaw) *Coloeus monedula*

Numerous resident.

Green

Reported from 554 tetrads (54%) in 54 ten km squares making this species significantly more widespread than Rook, with which it often associates. As usual large winter flocks were frequently recorded often associated with winter roosts. Reports of 500 or more in the early year were 500 at Posbrook Flood on Jan 22nd, 2,000 at Hackwood Park in the late afternoon on Jan 23rd and 3,000 there on Feb 3rd.

Highest registrations in BBS one km squares were 94 at Leckford Village in April and 53 there in May followed by 30 at Isington in May and 31 at West Hythe in June.

In the late year 1,000 were reported into roost at Greywell on Oct 14th, 500 in the morning at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Nov 14th increasing to 1,000 by Dec 24th, and 1,000 nearby at Newlands Farm, Fareham in the morning of Dec 8th. On the coast movements of 900 west, comprising two flocks of 600 and 300, were reported from Sandy Point in the early morning of Oct 11th followed by 500 west there on Oct 13th, and at Weston Shore 800 west on Oct 12th were followed by 950 NW in the morning of Oct 13th and 800 west the next morning. A total of 992 was recorded moving at Tweseldown between Sep 18th and Nov 28th (Table 8) including a maximum of 121 south on Oct 28th. (MLC)

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Numerous resident and probable winter visitor.

VU, Green

Recorded from 448 tetrads (44%) in 52 ten km squares, the same as Jay. In the first half-year, flocks of 250 or more comprised 500 at Nursling on Jan 7th, 500 at Cholderton Park on Jan 8th and 700 there on Jan 17th, 500 at Four Marks on Feb 10th, 430 at Pigeon House Farm, Portsdown Hill on Feb 13th, 262 at Old Winchester Hill on Mar 16th, 300 at Martin Down on June 5th and 250 there on June 26th, and 400 at Fair Oak on June 13th.

Numbers of reported rookeries and nest counts rebounded from the low counts last year with a total of 41 rookeries and 590 apparently occupied nests. Sites where only adults were

counted but no nest counts were given probably accounted for around a further 150-200 nests. Even with these additional nests, the total is apparently less than earlier years (e.g. 959 AON in 2019) but may simply be due to the lack of nest counting, especially at some of the larger rookeries. Sites with at least 50 nests were as follows (2020 and/or 2019 in parentheses): South Warnborough, 54 (51 in 2020, 92 in 2019); Leckford Village, 60 (40 in 2019) and Longstock South, 96 (80 in 2019).

In the second half-year, counts of 250 or more comprised 350 at Shepherds Bush, NF on July 3rd, 375 at Lodden Valley Copse on Dec 17th, 260 at Broughton on Dec 28th and 300 at Blounce on Dec 30th. (MLC)

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 654 tetrads (64%) in 55 ten km squares making it the most widespread corvid (and fourth most widespread species after Woodpigeon, Blackbird and Robin) 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 495 was recorded in the morning on Oct 8th compared to last year's peak of 516 in December.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
360	230	220	260	190	330	370	445	460	495	445	275

Other sites with counts of 100 or more were 100 at Locks Heath on Jan 4th, 100 at Posbrook Flood on Jan 22nd, 120 at Long Valley on Feb 27th, 146 feeding at Warblington Castle Farm on Apr 15th, 100 at Lichett Plain flying to roost in Yateley Heath Wood on June 12th, 120 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham from Aug 14th increasing steadily to 200 on Dec 4th and 12th, 100 at RN Hospital, Haslar on Sep 6th, 120 at Crofton Manor Farm, Stubbington on Oct 15th, 100 at Long Valley on Nov 6th, 140 at nearby Tweseldown on Nov 11th, 350 feeding at Baybridge in the South Downs on Nov 12th, 253 on the foreshore at Solent Breezes on Dec 11th and 100 nearby at Brownwich on Dec 23rd. In addition NFWBS totals for the last three months of the year were 403, 403 and 366 respectively (Table 4).

The only count of territories at previously regularly surveyed sites was four at Lower Test Marshes, similar to at least four in 2019. (MLC)

Raven (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax*

Scarce but increasing resident which bred successfully for the first time since 1887 in 2003. Green

Over 2,400 records were submitted extending across 451 tetrads (44%) in 54 ten km squares. This represents a further slight increase on last year's 427 tetrads, was higher than for both Jay and Rook, and continues the upward trend established over the last 30 years. As usual most records referred to individuals or small groups of typically up to five or six. Several double-digit counts were also reported with ten at Ashley Walk, NF on Mar 3rd and Toyd Down on May 2nd and 17 at Vernham Dean on Aug 13th. There were occasional reports of possible movements including nine east at Trigpoint Hill in one hour on Feb 23rd, nine SW at Tweseldown in two hours on Sep 20th and seven SW there in three hours on Nov 11th, a high-flying flock of 17 east at Plastow Green on Aug 22nd and 13 south at Brook Common, NF on Dec 12th. Cumulative counts from NFWBS in the last three months of the year were 33, 25 and 37 respectively (Table 4).

There were only 19 confirmed breeding records commencing from Feb 27th until June 6th. Of the six where the nest locations were described, three were on pylons, two in trees and one on a building. (MLC)

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 397 tetrads (39%) in 51 ten km squares compared to 336 tetrads in 2020. BTO Garden Birdwatch reported presence in 331 (77%) of the surveyed gardens with monthly rates varying from a high of 66.5% in January to a low of 39.7% in June (Table 2).

Double-figure counts were reported from 12 locations with highest counts of 20 each at Burton Common on Feb 25th and Acres Down, NF on Mar 3rd. The highest number of registrations in a BBS one km square was 11 at Millingford Copse, NF on Apr 24th.

An individual showing the characters of Continental Coal Tit subsp. *ater* was recorded at Gilkicker Point on Sep 7th (LH). (MLC)

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Common but declining resident.

Red, S4I

Recorded in 305 tetrads (30%) in 46 ten km squares, very similar to 297 tetrads in 47 ten km squares last year. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 59 (14%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 10.9% in December to a low of 2.5% in June (Table 2). In addition undifferentiated Marsh/Willow Tits were reported from 3% of gardens with monthly rates varying from a high of 2.2% in January to a low of 0.3% in September. Most, if not all of these, were probably Marsh Tits.

The only double-figure counts were recorded in the New Forest with ten each at Burley on Apr 11th, Pig Bush on July 28th and Ashurst Wood on Aug 4th. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was four at Holidays Hill Inclosure, NF on May 14th and Norton Farm, Selborne on June 16th.

One was seen at Farlington Marshes north of the M27 on July 11th (TMJD). The species is a rarity at the site with only five previous records – the last being in 1998. NFWBS reported totals of six, three and seven respectively in the last three months of the year (Table 4). (MLC)

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Scarce and declining resident.

Red, S4I

All records came from the two known clusters in the Hampshire Downs near Dummer (15 records of which ten were between Feb 20th and Apr 9th) and in the north-west with three territories in two regular haunts, and four sightings in woods 5km away close to the



Willow Tit, Dummer, Feb 27th (Barry Stalker)

Berkshire border. There was a single sighting of a bird at a former breeding haunt not far from Highclere. All of these were above 140m altitude and some were above 170m. There were also up to two reported in the late year in the Dummer cluster between Nov 12th and Dec 4th.

Many people claim Willow Tits simply on the basis of the call, but given the willingness of Marsh Tits to respond to playback of Willow Tit songs and calls by giving typical Willow Tit notes, this is a highly unreliable measure. To be sure of your identification it is necessary to obtain a clear view of the totally all black beak (Marsh Tit almost always has a tiny white spot near the base), together with other recognised features including song. (KFB)

Blue Tit (Eurasian Blue Tit) *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident and passage migrant.

Green

Recorded in 639 tetrads (63%) in 54 ten km squares making it the most widely recorded tit species, slightly more than Great Tit. Recorded in 449 tetrads (44%) in 54 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 422 (98%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 98.8% in April to a low of 89.8% in July (Table 2).

Counts of 40 or more were reported from five locations with 50 at Darby Green on Feb 20th, 70 at South Ham, Basingstoke on Feb 21st, 40 at Southwick on Apr 15th, 145 at Hartley Wintney on July 31st and 40 at Pig Bush, NF on Aug 30th and Sep 4th. Note all of these except Hartley Wintney refer to either BirdTrack, eBird or similar submissions assumed to refer to cumulative counts. The exceptional concentration of 145 at Hartley Wintney referred to birds, mostly juveniles, passing through a garden during a ten minute period. The highest number of registrations in a BBS one km square was 30 at Mallards Copse, Fleet on June 23rd. The only count of territories at previous regularly surveyed sites was 34 at Lower Test NR (42 in 2019). (MLC)

Great Tit *Parus major*

Abundant resident.

Green

Recorded in 610 tetrads (60%) in 54 ten km squares making it the second most widespread tit species. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 415 (97%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 91.0% in April to a low of 79.1% in September (Table 2).

Less numerous than Blue Tit with the only counts of 30 or more from Hilsea Lines on Apr 19th and Beacon Hill, Warnford on Dec 6th, both cumulative counts on BirdTrack. The highest number of registrations in a BBS one km square was 28 at Mallards Copse, Fleet on June 23rd. The only count of territories at previous regularly surveyed sites was 22 at Lower Test NR (26 in 2019). (MLC)

Penduline Tit (Eurasian Penduline Tit) *Remiz pendulinus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. (0,28,6)

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP.

A group of six were busy feeding on insects and bullrush seeds in a pond on Weybrook Park GC near Basingstoke in the early morning of Nov 14th but were not seen again (AO, photo).

After four records of 14 birds between 1989-1994 there were none until 2010. Further sightings in 2015, 2016 and 2020 mirrored a national increase in reports. However, this record is the first at an inland site. (KFB)

Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in every month from Farlington Marshes but also regularly from Titchfield Haven and Keyhaven Marshes. The highest counts at Farlington Marshes were 12 on Jan 2nd and 9th and Oct 14th and 22nd followed by an autumn peak of 17 on Nov 2nd. The situation was different at Titchfield Haven where only one or two were recorded in the first half-year and the only double-digit count was 22 on Nov 2nd. The only reports from Hook-with-Warsash were up to three in January and February, possibly Titchfield birds as there were no reports from there during the same two months. At the other regular site at Keyhaven Marshes between one and four were recorded intermittently except for a maximum of 12 on Sep 18th. Elsewhere between one and three were recorded Budds Farm STW on Oct 9th; Milton Pool on Jan 28th and Feb 23rd; Lower Test Marshes on Mar 31st, June 1st and Oct 16th; Needs Ore on Jan 9th, Oct 10th and Nov 13th; and eight in a reed-bed at Great Salterns Lake, Portsmouth Harbour on Mar 2nd following two there on Feb 3rd.

Territorial behaviour was observed at Lower Test Marshes on June 1st. Breeding was confirmed at Farlington Marshes with a group of eight including recently fledged young on May 31st and juveniles in a group of four at Keyhaven Marshes on Aug 17th.

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	12	P	5	8	8	6	4	P	4	12	17	2
Titchfield Haven			1		2	1				7	22	5
Hook-with-Warsash	3	2										
Lymington-Hurst		1	2	2		1		4	12	1	2	

P=present, no count

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Moderately common resident and passage migrant.

ET, Schedule 1, Green, S4I, HBAP

The flock of 14 at Portsdown Hill in late 2020 was relocated on Jan 3rd when 18 were present. The next was one at the Hartland Development, Fleet on 10th. Other January records involved sightings at six Thames Basin and Wealden Heath sites from 15th including a notable eight (six singing) at Woolmer Forest on 17th, up to four at 12 New Forest sites from 17th, four (three singing) at Snode Hill (Beech) on 17th and singles (mostly singing) at Brick Kiln Lane (Alton), Hawkins Wood (Upper Froyle), Mottisfont, Old Basing, Plastow Green and Weston Common between 17th and 31st.

Records in February away from the traditional New Forest and north-east heaths included five on farmland at Blackmoor on 12th, four at Squabb Wood on 13th, five singing in the Hinton Ampner area on 20th and four pairs and three singing males in the Mortimer West End area on 27th. In the period up to the end of June such records came from 40 sites, mostly on stubble or downland on the chalk from the south-east through to the north-west of the county. Survey work produced a minimum of 12 territories on the Hinton Ampner and Preshaw Estates and five or six in the Mortimer West End area. One nest was found in Ringwood Forest, an area which probably holds higher numbers, and a pair bred at Burton Common. Other unusual records included one singing over Harbridge WM on Mar 19th, one over Oxey Marsh on Apr 9th, two at East Hill Farm, Lepe on Apr 13th, one over Bevois Valley, Southampton on May 2nd and one singing near Martin Down on June 12th and 13th.

The annual survey of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA revealed a further increase with a total of 74 pairs/singing males (Table 1) compared with 63 in 2020 and 49 the year before. At Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, the long-term study located 26 territories compared with 23 in 2020. This is the highest total since 30 were found in 2007. Twenty-two pairs were known to breed;

of 37 monitored nests, 25 were successful fledging a total of 80 young. On the Wealden Heaths SPA, there were 55 territories compared with 45 in 2020 (Table 1). However, the total of 13 at Longmoor Inclosure compared with only three in 2020, when coverage there was incomplete due to COVID, suggests a stable population. As in 2020 there was no survey in the New Forest but the mass of records from 116 monads indicates the population remains at or above the level of 169 territories located in 2019.

Post-breeding flocks included 11 at White Moor (west of Lyndhurst) on Aug 12th, eight at least in a weedy field near Hartley Wintney on Sep 5th, 13 at Woolmer Forest on Sep 9th, 12 at Bolton's Bench, NF on Sep 10th, 16 at Cadnam Common on Sep 18th, 18 at North Gorley on Oct 3rd, 12 on bare ground at Bisterne Estate on Oct 10th and eight at Colemore, with one singing nearby, on Nov 14th. The usual flock at Tweseldown held 11–15 between Sep 20th and Oct 6th with a peak of 20 on Sep 29th. Most of these were colour-ringed birds from the Bourley study. Up to seven continued to be recorded there until Nov 16th.

Visible migration at the main inland watchpoints produced totals of 19 SW over Tweseldown on four dates between Sep 23rd and Nov 18th and ten in various directions over Trigpoint Hill on Sep 18th and on six dates between Oct 11th and 30th (Table 8). Other such records were six NW over Allbrook on Oct 13th, singles west over Romsey on Oct 16th and NW over Fort Widley and west over Titchfield Haven on Oct 22nd, and three south over Old Winchester Hill on Nov 2nd. Other possible migrants included singles at Butser Hill on Oct 23rd and The Vyne on Nov 7th.

December records comprised flocks on farmland of 17 at Blackmoor on 9th, three at Neatham on 12th and 19 in the traditional area at Portsdown Hill on 31st, four singles in the New Forest between 11th and 24th, two at Burnt Common on 11th and one singing at Armsworth, one near Tweseldown and four at Woolmer Pond, all on 14th. (JMC)

Skylark (Eurasian Skylark) *Alauda arvensis*

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 424 tetrads (42%) in 51 ten km squares. Eight counts were reported of grounded flocks exceeding 100, all in January and February, with a maximum of 240 at West Worldham on Jan 15th. No significant spring passage was detected and breeding season data were fragmentary.

Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants (overwhelmingly heading W or SW) are tabulated below. Peak numbers occurred between mid-October and mid-November. Monthly totals at the three regular watchpoints are given in Table 8 with the highest being 322 at Trigpoint Hill in October. (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	0	-	77	189	251	6	-	523
Inland moving	0	78	178	343	341	9	86	1,035
Totals	0	78	255	532	592	15	86	1,558

Shore Lark (Horned Lark) *Eremophila alpestris*

Rare late autumn migrant and winter visitor (0,48,1). Schedule 1, Amber.

2020 addition: A single was seen on the shoreline at Browndown at 11:00 on Oct 17th. It was on the shingle near waders and then flew west and was lost to view (MH). The last record before this was in 2018. (KFB)

Short-toed Lark (Greater Short-toed Lark) *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Very rare vagrant. (0,4,1)

A single was watched following a flock of nine Redwings as they headed west during a visible migration session at Tweseldown at 09:52 on Oct 17th. The bird was flying straight towards the observers at around 30m height enabling it to be watched for around 30 seconds (GCS, JMC).

The previous four records were all on the coast – between Calshot and Ower in October 1983, Normandy in May 2010 and at Pennington in May 2013 and Aug 2017. Nationally there has been a reduction in sightings in recent years, probably driven by range contractions in the breeding population in Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Hungary. (KFB)

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and common passage migrant.

Green

After the first at Dibden Bay on Mar 3rd, four were found the next day and by mid-month reports were thinly but widely distributed. The main arrival occurred in the last week of March but, as usual, was best indicated by large gatherings in poor weather rather than direct observation of migration. Sites such as Titchfield Haven, Testwood Lakes and especially Ibsley Water hosted large gatherings (max. 600 at the latter on Mar 26th). In April high counts included 870 at Fishlake Meadows on 2nd and 1,000 at Ibsley Water on 3rd, with high three-figure counts occurring sporadically there until the end of the month. Coastal reports were also more frequent in April.

Breeding records (with nest counts in parenthesis) came from just five sites: Frith End (95), Mortimer West End/Burnt Common (3), Warren Heath (10-20), Testwood Lakes (116), Ibsley Water (30) and Barton on Sea GC (15).

Autumn passage was apparently rather light. The peak departure period was between mid-August and mid-September. Half-monthly autumn totals of all birds recorded as moving are tabulated below.

	June 13-30	July 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Totals
Inland	-	-	-	59	6	9	135	3	212
Coast	4	171	4	90	375	596	7	-	1,247
Totals	4	171	4	149	381	605	142	3	1,459

As in previous years, actual movements are swamped by casual records of migrants. Counts of 500 or more were recorded at Brownwich on Aug 26th and Ibsley Water on 30th followed by 700 at Netley on Sep 2nd. Numbers tailed off during the second half of September and October, the last being at Testwood Lakes on the late date of Oct 29th. (SKW)

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*

Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

Green

Following the first at Ampfield on Mar 16th, arrivals began in earnest from Mar 22nd with 197 reported by the end of the month. Only nine gatherings exceeded 50 before the end of April, and even after that numbers appeared on the low side, with only 14 three-figure records (max. 400 at Ibsley Water on Apr 29th and May 8th). No other spring gathering exceeded 200. Only 1,024 were specifically noted as on the move during the whole spring (9% of the total).

Hints of return passage started as early as July 5th. “Abysmal” numbers were reported at Fleet Pond in August and other observers commented on a general lack of Swallows in early autumn. No roost gatherings were recorded. Peak passage occurred during September, particularly the second half, after which numbers declined through October. Up to 24 in

ones, twos and threes were subsequently seen in November (some duplication possible), the last in that month being one at Solent Breezes on 26th. The last of the year was a very late first-winter which lingered for three days at Hook-with-Warsash during Dec 20th-22nd equalling the previous latest date set in 1977 (Table 7).

The half-monthly totals of all birds recorded as moving from mid-June onwards are tabulated below.

	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	Totals
Inland	1	6	16	63	63	1,864	4,619	755	11			7,398
Coast					692	1,938	2,301	10	5	1		4,947
Totals	1	6	16	63	755	3,802	6,920	765	16	1		12,345

The general perception of a slow and inexorable decline of this species is partly borne out by the available data. Leaving aside the exceptional passage of 2013, the downward trend in autumn migration counts appears real and concerning as illustrated by the graph above and the totals recorded at the regular watchpoints (Table 8). (SKW)

House Martin (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum*

Numerous but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Red

The first was in the Alver Valley on Mar 14th followed by another at North Waltham on 17th. Another ten were seen in the last week of March. Ten-day period totals for April were 389, 121 and 1,654, but the only three-figure counts came from Ibsley Water with 250 on Apr 28th and 1,000 the next day. Arrivals continued throughout May with three-figure gatherings in two surges between 6th-10th at Eastleigh STW (200 and 120), Tundry Pond (150) and Fleet Pond (200), and between 21st-23rd at Hook-with-Warsash (180), Itchen Valley CP (300), Pig Bush, NF (100), Blashford Lakes (600) and Fishlake Meadows (150).

Few confirmed breeding records were reported and each in low numbers not exceeding ten birds or nests. At Northington breeding birds did not return until May 29th which was the latest in 26 year's recording there.

Hints of departure were evident from early July and gathered pace through to mid-August, but numbers on the move were very small compared to previous years, especially during the peak period from mid-September to mid-October. Three-figure gatherings not reported as actively migrating totalled almost 20,000 from late August onwards, but likely involved duplication at sites such as Ibsley Water where several 1,000+ counts peaked at 3,000 on Oct 5th. Active migration was mostly recorded from inland sites. Numbers on the move were severely down on recent years, being 80% lower than in 2021. There were eleven in the second half of October and the last of the year was at Hook-with-Warsash on Nov 4th.

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	1	36	14	35			1	25	94	384	377	3,729	4,695		9,391
Coast	1	4								120	1,121	411	11		1,668
Totals	2	40	14	35			1	25	94	504	1,498	4,140	4,706		11,059

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropsis daurica*

Rare vagrant recorded April to July and October. (0,17,3)

A single was discovered among hirundines at Farlington Marshes at 09:00 on Apr 29th. It settled on wires and allowed prolonged views for at least 20 minutes (DR, photo). Another was along

the Canal Path at Titchfield Haven from 08:15-08:20 on May 11th. It was flying around among a flock of Common Swifts (RKL). Finally a single was at Ashurst from 20:30-20:50 on May 30th mainly flying over the south-eastern corner of Fletchwood Copse (SAB).

There have been records in eight previous years this century with the most recent being two records in 2020. Amazingly, of the last seven records, four have been around Titchfield Haven.



Red-rumped Swallow, Farlington Marshes, Apr 29th (David Rodden)

Occurrences are rising in the UK and the average number seen between 2010–19 was more than two-and-a-half times that of 1990–99. This is likely to be due in large part to both a northward expansion and an apparent population increase in Europe thought to be related to increasing temperatures. (KFB)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Moderately common resident along main river valleys; first bred in 1979.

Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Over 2,900 records were added to the HOS database from 147 tetrads in 34 ten km squares. Unfortunately, very few purported to counts of singing males or territories in clearly defined areas. Such records included Bishopstoke, 13 in five tetrads north of Eastleigh–Fareham railway line; Blashford Lakes, 13; Fishlake Meadows, 30; Hook-with-Warsash NR, 10; Lower Test Marshes, 71; Titchfield Haven visitor access area, 8; Winnall Moors, 20. Counts in some other areas during March–June varied over the ranges given: Bransbury Common, 4–8; Farlington Marshes, 7–14; Needs Ore, 9; Normandy/Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes, 8–12.

Breeding was confirmed in the far north-east for the first time with successful pairs recorded at Fleet Pond and Edenbrook CP and a second territory at the latter site. There was also a singing male at Greywell from Jan 2nd–May 28th and again on Sep 17th and Oct 29th. Other



Cetti's Warbler, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 9th (Gareth Rees)

noteworthy records in this area were singles at Wildmoor (Sherfield-on-Loddon) on Mar 21st and Woolmer Pond on Apr 23rd.

On Hayling Island, singles were at Sandy Point from Jan 1st–3rd, on Mar 1st and 17th and from Aug 4th–Dec 10th with two from Oct 29th–Nov 8th. Elsewhere on the island there were records from the Tournembury area of one on Feb 15th, two on May 25th and one on Aug 29th; from the Northney area of two from May 11th–June 4th and one on Dec 26th; and at Hayling Oysterbeds one singing on June 8th and 14th and Dec 19th. Records at other sites where infrequently recorded previously included single territories at Allington GP and Winchester SF and one individual at Gilkicker Point on Aug 29th. At IBM Lake, where normally resident, there was one from May 28th–June 24th and further records in September and October. (JMC)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 493 tetrads (48%) in 52 ten km squares. In the first three months of the year, despite there being 971 records distributed across the county, there were only five reports of 20 or more of which one was of 20 at Burton Common on Jan 18th and four related to a flock at Skidmore that peaked at 25 on Feb 23rd. Other reports of high numbers were 18 at Trigpoint Hill on Feb 5th and 17 at both Hawley Meadows on Jan 1st and Dibden Bay reclamation on Jan 23rd.

Post-breeding season and autumn counts were generally of low numbers and flocks of 20 or greater were reported only from six sites with 30 at Woodfidley, NF on July 7th, 20 at Linford Bottom, NF on July 22nd, 20 at Hill Head on Aug 8th, 20 at Blashford Lakes on Sep 12th, 20 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 17th and Pig Bush, NF on four dates between Aug 4th and Sep 20th. In the last three months of the year there were few large flocks and only five reports of 25 or more with 25 at Hill Head on Oct 19th, 26 at Broadmarsh on Nov 11th, 25 at Mortimer West End on Nov 13th, several family parties totaling 26 between Alresford and Abbotstone on Nov 25th and 25 at Itchen Valley CP on Dec 19th. (MJP)



Long-tailed Tit, Needs Ore, Feb 25th (Chris Button)



Wood Warbler, New Forest, May 2nd (Matthew Barfield)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce and declining summer visitor now largely confined to the New Forest.

Red

Recorded in 23 tetrads in seven ten km squares, including passage migrants, with most reports from the New Forest (24 tetrads in nine ten km squares in 2020). The first record was one at Trigpoint Hill on Apr 13th but the only other probable spring migrants were one at Rockford Common, NF on Apr 15th and notably one in the north-east at Castle Bottom on May 19th.

With the exception of one singing in suitable habitat near King's Somborne on June 24th, all breeding season records were from the New Forest. Determining the number of individuals involved is difficult due to the lack of precise locations for most records, and the fact that unmated males and failed breeders frequently move around. However, up to 18 males were recorded, seven of which had a mate and one of which had two mates. Of the seven nests found, only two are thought to have been successful.

The only autumn passage bird was one at Gunner Point, Hayling Island on Aug 1st. (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. (0,177,2)

Amber

A single from 2020 remained close to Ivy and Ellingham Lakes, Blashford on Jan 1st and 8th (RAC et al.). In North End, Portsmouth a bird frequented a back garden on many dates from Jan 8th to Feb 4th and again on Feb 23rd-24th and 27th (MFW). In the autumn a single was seen in a tit flock at Old Winchester Hill on Sep 15th (DGHM).

Three records is the lowest number since 2010 when just one was seen. This mirrors a 75% reduction in reports nationally in 2021 on the Birdguides website. (KFB)



Willow Warbler, Needs Ore, Aug 1st (Chris Button)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The first for the year was a single at Breamore on Mar 20th followed by a widespread arrival which started a week later with records from 42 sites by the end of the month (19 sites by the end of March 2020). At Sandy Point there were three April double-figure counts and a peak of 17 on Apr 19th (9 in 2020). Elsewhere the only double-figure count was 14 at Pig Bush, NF on Apr 18th with arrivals elsewhere showing a pattern of diffuse migration. Unusually there was a higher peak in May with 18 on 7th. Sandy Point recorded 105 bird-days between Apr 1st and May 20th (76 in 2020, 93 in 2019 and 44 in 2018).

Surveys on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths showed stable populations at some site sites, notably Bourley & Long Valley SSSI where there were 50 territories (51 in 2020), but across Castle Bottom, Yateley and Hawley SSSI there was a decline from 74 territories to 41. Individual site totals are given in Table 1.

In the autumn 192 were trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 23rd and Sep 18th, with a maximum of 32 on Aug 17th, a reversal from the recent increases (251 in 2020). Also 95 were ringed at Gunner Point, Hayling Island between Aug 1st and Oct 10th. In addition high counts of 30 were received from Pig Bush, NF on Aug 4th, Gilkicker Point on Aug 20th and Milking Pound Bottom, NF on Aug 22nd. Smaller numbers were reported throughout September into October, with the last single for the year being recorded at Coulters Dean Farm near Buriton on Oct 17th. (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 287 reports covering 252 birds at 138 sites, a reduction in numbers compared with the previous years (321 at 63 sites, 2020; 598 at 98 sites; 2019). The only two sites with double-figure counts were Chilbolton West Down with 13 on Feb 13th and Eastleigh STW where there was a peak of 17 on Feb 13th.



Chiffchaff, Fishlake Meadows, May 14th (Gareth Rees)

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 24 sites and maxima of 20 at Testwood Lakes on Mar 27th, 27 at Lower Test Marshes on Mar 29th and 24 at Itchen Valley CP on Mar 30th. Birds were noted at Trigpoint Hill migration watchpoint from Mar 3rd where numbers were generally low but built towards the end of the month with a peak of 12 on Mar 30th.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2020 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 17 (19); Fishlake Meadows, 20 (14); Yateley Common, 26 (26). Other notable territory counts included Ludshott Common, 31; Skidmore, 31 and Blashford Lakes, 30.

There were six records of over 40 between early September and the second week of October, with the highest count being 60 at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 15th. Two of these counts represented the ringing effort at Gunner Point, Hayling Island, with totals of 40 on Sep 22nd and 45 on Oct 10th. In November-December there were 218 reports covering 187 birds at 91 sites (2020: 489 birds at 101 sites), mostly singles or low numbers. The only double-figure counts were received from Eastleigh STW with a peak of 28 trapped and ringed on Dec 11th. (MJP)

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (since 1982:62,7)

In total, 15 individuals were reported but only seven of these were heard to call. Following the recommendations of BBRC we maintain a policy of only formally accepting records of birds confirmed by DNA analysis or vocalisations. A frustration for birders has been that this form (split as a distinct species by some but not by the BOU) has quite a distinctive plumage if you compare it against a typical *collybita* race Chiffchaff. We have softened our stance and now only ask for notes rather than a formal descriptions of birds seen – but we will continue to publish whether the birds were heard to call while this remains the approach taken by most counties.

Singles with typical pale plumage were at Darby Green STW from Jan 2nd to Feb 6th (GCS *et al.*, photo) and North Pond, Bishop's Waltham from Jan 4th to Feb 27th (PMP *et al.*, photo) – but despite numerous observations, neither was heard to call. These birds have normally

departed by the spring; however, an individual sang, which in itself was a first, from bushes at Farlington Marshes from Apr 3rd-5th (JCr *et al.*).

One was trapped at Titchfield Haven on the relatively early date of Sep 24th (BRD, TDC, photo). Others were trapped at Blashford Lakes Centre on Nov 11th and Dec 9th and both were heard to call (KRS *et al.*, photo). One was seen in scrub by St Peter's Church, Titchfield on Nov 11th (ALR). Then near the Spurgin Hide at Titchfield Haven a single was present on Nov 25th (DBCR) and the next day two were present (one of which was ringed). On the latter date calls were heard. On Dec 11th one was caught at Eastleigh STW and during the ringing process it called (DJU, TDC *et al.*). A single was at Darby Green STW on Nov 20th and Dec 24th. However, on Dec 27th two there were attracted to playback and a further two were in the area – but none of them was heard to call. A single was at Gilkicker Point on Nov 29th and on Dec 2nd two were present and both called (LH, photo). (KFB)

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Very rare vagrant recorded in May and June. (0,4,1)

One was discovered singing on the Itchen Navigation, Eastleigh at 08:30 on May 23rd. Initially being out of sight when the news of its arrival was released, it offered brief views to around eight observers later during the day. It was heard by many others but could not be found the next day (MLE, sound recorded). The record has been accepted by BBRC.

This is the fifth record and the first since 1980. All of the previous records were also in spring and three of them were at Fleet Pond – in 1970, 1975 and 1980. The last of these remained for nine days. The first-ever record was at Titchfield Haven in 1960, and that remained for five days. (KFB)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

The firsts for the year on Mar 30th came from three locations, namely Farlington Marshes, Hill Head, and Fishlake Meadows. It was clear that this was the start of the main influx as



Sedge Warbler, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 26th (Gareth Rees)

birds were seen daily from then until the end of April with a total of 188 records relating to 462 birds at 57 sites (2020: 144 records relating to 423 birds at 53 sites). Double-figure counts were received from Bickton with 11 on Apr 21st and then in the Romsey area from both the water meadows and Fishlake Meadows, the former with 11 on Apr 20th and the latter with a peak of 19 on Apr 29th (2020; two sites with a peak of 23).

During the breeding season many of the main sites were not counted and it is therefore difficult to compare the season to the pre-pandemic years. Of the strongholds, only Lower Test Marshes was counted with 42 territories found on the two CBC plots. Other main sites with reports of singing males were Sopley Island (25-30), Bransbury Common (21), Fishlake Meadows (15) and Itchen Valley CP (17). Approximately 384 singing males were reported in total from 99 localities (259 at 84 sites in 2020).

In autumn there was a slight decrease at Titchfield Haven with a total of 465 trapped and ringed between July 11th and Sep 28th (721 in 2020, although that still compared unfavourably with 1,224 in 2014) and a peak of 77 on Aug 10th. At Farlington Marshes a total of 35 bird-days was recorded between July 29th and Sep 19th with a peak of 12 on Aug 1st. Elsewhere return passage only yielded one other double-figure count, namely 12 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Aug 7th. The last sight record was one at Lower Test Marshes on Sep 28th which coincided with the final ringing date at Titchfield Haven. (MJP)

Reed Warbler (Eurasian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Green, HBAP

The firsts for the year were two at Keyhaven Marshes on Mar 30th followed by almost daily records until the end of April. By the month's end, only four locations had double-figure counts with 18 at Fishlake Meadows, 12 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, 11 at Dibden Bay Reclamation and ten at Hook-with-Warsash.

Breeding season records totalled approximately 658 singing males/territories at 130 sites (2020: 487 at 142 sites). As with Sedge Warbler, surveying was severely curtailed and most of the previously populous sites were missed, the exception being Lower Test Marshes where



Reed Warbler, Lower Pennington, June 26th (Gareth Rees)

the two CBC plots yielded 97 singing males. Other notable counts of singing males in May were as follows (2020 figures in parentheses); Edenbrook CP, 8 (13); Fleet Pond, 30 (22); IBM Lake, 17, (19); Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes, 45 (16); Dibden Bay, 15 (14); Needs Ore, 14 (16); Farlington Marshes, 19 (12) and Hook Valley, Warsash, 8 (12).

In the autumn 325 were trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven (2020; 429) between July 11th and Oct 8th with a peak of 27 on Aug 1st (2020: 48, Aug 8th). Away from the ringing sites and known breeding areas, there were no double-figure counts. Although birds were widespread in September, the last sight records were on the relatively early date of Sep 29th, with singles at both Lower Test Marshes and Keyhaven. The only records for October were from the ringing at Titchfield with the last of the year on Oct 8th. (MJP)

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

Scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor; moderately common autumn passage migrant mostly recorded at Titchfield Haven.

Red, S4I, HBAP

The first record was a bird reeling on the southern edge of Titchfield Haven NR on Apr 10th. During April up to 20 reeling birds were heard at 17 locations (2020: 14 at 13 sites), with three sites holding more than one, namely Fishlake Meadows, Lower Test Marshes and Barton on Sea each having two. Again there were no records from Twyford Meadows this year. There were only 18 reports in May with two sites holding two singing males and the remaining four sites one singing male each with three of these being common to the April records (2020: 6 at 6 sites).

Breeding may have been attempted at up to seven sites with singing birds still reported through late May/June. All of the sites were in the Test Valley. The difficulty of finding birds once they have stopped reeling means that proving status will continue to be problematic and at most sites the records were discontinuous through the period. In addition, return



Grasshopper Warbler, Ramsdell, May 9th (Barry Stalker)

migration begins early and individuals were found at the end of July in areas that they were not believed to breed in.

A total of 81 was trapped and ringed at Titchfield Haven between July 17th and Sep 25th (2020: 150) with a peak of 16 on Aug 20th. Ringing at Gunner Point, Hayling Island added one on Aug 29th. Elsewhere in late summer and autumn there were two at Gilkicker Point on Aug 29th whereas singles were reported in 11 locations (2020: 13). The last of the year was also the last to be ringed by the Titchfield Haven team on Sep 25th. (MJP)

Blackcap (Eurasian Blackcap) *Sylvia atricapilla*

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; moderately common in winter.

Green

During January–late March there were 1,274 reports of approximately 460 birds at 306 sites (2020: 719 at 196 sites), many of which were in gardens. Recording in gardens is at such a density in some areas that duplication is perhaps inevitable. All reports were of between one and four except for up to nine at Drayton, Portsmouth relating to colour-ringed birds and six at Crookham Village on Jan 1st. There is always a difficulty in separating spring arrivals from those wintering that leave to breed on the Continent. However, it appears that the first wave of arrivals started from Mar 12th whilst some wintering birds appeared to stay up to the end of the month.

Records from regularly monitored sites showed an increase in numbers from late March onwards throughout April as migrants moved in. The first double-figure counts away from the known wintering hotspots were at the end of March with 11 at Lower Test Marshes on 29th, 11 at Southampton Common on 30th, and 11 at The Mill Field, Old Basing and 15 at Lower Test Marshes, both on 31st. In April counts of over 20 were more widespread than normal, with maxima of 32 at Nursling on Apr 3rd, 29 at Skidmore and 20 at Blashford Lakes the same day. Further counts of 20 or more were received from Lower Test Marshes, Fishlake Meadows, Itchen Valley CP, Fleet Pond, Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes, Netley Marsh and Botley Wood.

Counts of territories in surveyed areas were as follows (2020 figures in parentheses): Butser Hill, 14 (16); Lower Test Marshes, 45 (36); Fishlake Meadows, 18 (32) and Fleet Pond, 23 (16).

Autumn passage was most evident in September at Brownwich with 31 on Sep 12th and Titchfield Haven where 814 were trapped between July 11th and Nov 13th including peaks of 107 on Sep 21st and 57 on Oct 12th. Approximately 153 were recorded at 114 sites during November–December compared with 183 at 125 sites in the same period in 2020. The only record to relate to more than three was four in a garden at Chilbolton on Dec 19th. (MJP)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded once in winter.

Green

The first arrivals for the year were on Apr 11th with a single at Locks Heath and two at Vereley Hill, NF. A further six were reported in that week. Thereafter, arrivals were widespread with the first double-figure count on Apr 28th with ten at Ibsley Water.

During the period of May to June there were approximately 485 records from 182 locations (2019: 411 at 174 sites) with the majority of reports being of one or two singing males. Notable counts of singing males included (2020 in parentheses) Testwood Lakes, 2 (4); Botley Wood, 9 (10); Stockbridge Down, 4 (6); Shortheath Common, 1 (5); Fishlake Meadows, 8 (11); Blackbushe, 14 (8) and Yateley Common, 6 (11). Other sites with notable counts included Blashford Lakes 20; Pamber Forest, 17; Binswood, 14; Bourley North, 7; Bourley South, 5 and Bramshill, 6.

In the autumn at Titchfield Haven it was a return to more normal numbers for ringing prior to 2020 with 75 (28 in 2020) trapped and ringed between July 20th and Oct 16th. Despite this,



Garden Warbler, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 29th (Gareth Rees)

only one site had a count of more than two, namely Gilkicker Point with five on Aug 29th. The last record of the main passage was a single at Titchfield Haven on Sep 21st. Thereafter there was a late record of one at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Nov 2nd. (MJP)

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded 11 times in winter. Green

The first record was one at Normandy Marsh on Apr 14th. In the next week a further five were found but it was only after this that the main influx began. However, numbers remained lower than normal and with a distinctly coastal bias, with birds only being found at 38 (2020: 52) sites by the end of the month. Most records were of one or two individuals, but four were singing at Needs Ore between 22nd and 29th and at Pennington Marshes on 30th. Other sites where three were found were Normandy Marsh and Calshot on 27th.

The unobtrusive nature of this species makes assessing the potential breeding numbers difficult. Despite this, records of singing males totalled 159 from 102 localities (2020: 182 at 117 sites) a step down from the previous year's high numbers. Highest counts were six at Martin Down; five in the Loddon Valley, Needs Ore and Awbridge; four at Farlington Marshes, Pennington Marshes, Dibden Bay and Old Basing; and three at Frater Shore, Hook-with-Warsash, Lower Test Marshes and Dibden.

Post-breeding numbers were low with most being ones and twos. Three were reported at Needs Ore on Aug 26th, including one still calling whilst in the talons of a Sparrowhawk, and an unprecedented ten were there on 29th. Three were at Gilkicker Point on 25th rising to four on 29th. Farlington Marshes and IBM Lake also held three in the latter part of the month. There were almost daily records throughout September but only two in October with singles at Keyhaven on 9th and Farlington Marshes on the following day. The final record relates to a bird showing characteristics of an eastern race at Sandy Point on Oct 25th.

2020 addition. The results of the DNA analysis of the bird at Chilling on Oct 17th 2020 did not support it being ascribed to one of the eastern races. (MJP)



Whitethroat, Pennington Marshes, May 12th (Gareth Rees)

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Curruca communis*

Numerous summer visitor and passage migrant; recorded five times in winter.

Amber

The first sightings were on Mar 30th with singles at Browdown South and Southampton Riverside Park. Birds were then seen daily from Apr 1st and by the middle of the month records were plentiful and widespread. Double-figure counts were reported from eight sites and counts of 20 or more were received from Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes with 25 on 23rd and then 20 on both 26th and 30th, Well with 20 on 24th and Sinah Common with 25 on 29th.

Counts of territories in previously surveyed areas were as follows (2020 figures in parentheses): Botley Wood, 8 (7); Butser Hill, 15 (17); Frater Shore, 16 (23); Ranvilles Lane, Fareham, 18 (14); Lower Test Marshes, 12 (8); Blackfield Fields Farm, 9 (16); Casbrook Common, 7 (3); Blackbushe Airfield, 12 (11) and Hazeley Heath 20 (22). In addition Martin Down had 25 singing birds and Deacon Hill had 17. This year 22 (19 in 2020) sites in the central New Forest (ten km squares SU20, 21, 30, and 31) had records in May and June showing a continuation of the recovery of the species in this area with nine records of three or more (1 in 2020) with a peak of five. In the Thames Basin Heaths the number of territories decreased to 123 compared to 186 in 2020, but in the Wealden Heaths numbers increased to 37 from 21 last year (Table 1).

Return passage began in earnest in the second week of August and built steadily until the month's end with the highest counts at Fleet Pond (28, 11th; 25, 14th) and Needs Ore (40, 24th). At Titchfield Haven 88 were trapped and ringed between July 11th and Oct 9th (109 in 2020 between July 14th and Oct 10th). In addition ringing at Gunner Point, Hayling Island trapped 41 between July 18th and Sep 21st. Migrant numbers remained high in early September but then tailed off later in the month, there being six double-figure counts with 11 at Ranvilles Lane, Gosport on Sep 3rd, 15 at Hook-with-Warsash on Sep 4th, 12 at Farlington Marshes and 11 at Gilkicker Point on Sep 5th, 13 at Fort Widley on Sep 6th and 16 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on Sep 7th. There were only two sight records in October, both singles from Farlington Marshes, the last being on Oct 15th. (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 records away from known breeding sites were two at Beachlands, Hayling Island on Feb 25th and singles at Alver Valley on Jan 6th, Shortheath Common on Jan 8th, Needs Ore from Jan 9th–Apr 24th, Velmead Common, Fleet from Feb 26th–Apr 15th, Lower Test Marshes on Feb 28th and Barton on Sea on Mar 3rd and 17th.

Despite the mostly mild weather during the 2020/21 winter, numbers on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA showed just a small increase, up to 151 pairs/singing males compared with 147 in 2020 and 82 in 2019. Numbers increased from 65 to 71 at Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI but there was a slight decline from 63 to 60 at Bourley and Long Valley SSSI. At Pondtail Heath, Fleet, adjacent to the SPA, one pair bred for the first time and another singing male was present. On the Wealden Heaths there were 135 pairs/singing males compared with 103 in 2020 and 71 in 2019. The 2020 figure was an underestimate as Longmoor Inclosure was incompletely covered in that year due to COVID restrictions. The largest concentrations were at Longmoor Inclosure (44 up from 21 in 2019), Ludshott Common (42 up from 36), Woolmer Forest (32 down from 34) and Broxhead Common (16 up from 14). Individual site counts are given in Table 1.

No survey work was undertaken in the New Forest but the plethora of records from there involved a total of 83 monads. Other breeding season counts of territories were as follows: Sandy Point, 2; Sinah Common, 1+; Gilkicker Point, 2; Browndown South, 2+; Hook-with-Warsash, 2; Hamble Common, 1; Normandy-Keyhaven, 4+; Burton Common, 3+. These counts are not the results of complete surveys and some are likely to be underestimates (indicated by +). Other summer records were singles at Naish Farm, Barton on May 31st, Barton on Sea GC on July 23rd (singing) and Galley Down Wood, Dundridge on July 28th.

Post-breeding records from non-breeding sites (singles unless stated otherwise) came from Mill Rythe (Sep 7th), Toms Down (Oct 5th), Needs Ore (1-3, Oct 9th–Dec 31st), Farlington Marshes (Oct 10th–Dec 21st with 2, Dec 12th), Weston Shore (Oct 11th), Burnt Common (Oct 13th; 3, Dec 12th; Dec 13th), Hill Head (Oct 16th–Dec 3rd), Ranvilles Lane (Oct 17th), Barton on Sea (1/2, Nov 3rd–20th), Beachlands, Hayling Island (2, Nov 15th), Hut Wood (Nov 20th, trapped), Lepe (Nov 20th), Stansore Point (Dec 2nd), Fields Farm (Dec 20th) and Park Shore (Dec 29th).

NFWBS produced totals for October–December of 81, 54 and 57. Coverage was far from complete in January–March due to COVID restrictions. (JMC)

Firecrest (Common Firecrest) *Regulus ignicapilla*

Common and increasing resident and passage migrant.

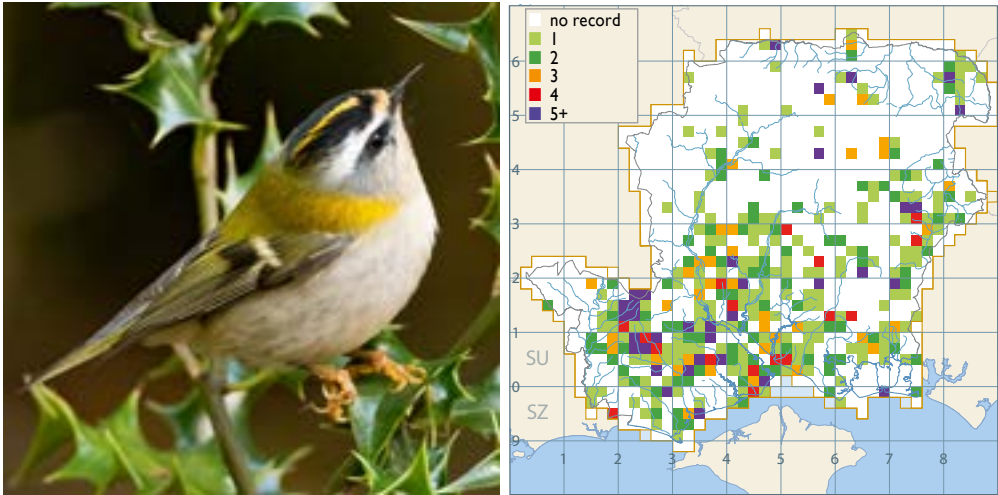
Schedule 1, Green, HBAP

Recorded in 355 tetrads (35%) in 48 ten km squares, which is a 7% increase compared to 322 tetrads in 2020. Winter numbers reached new highs in January and February and were on average 40% over 2020's minimum totals. As usual, reports were widespread from the coast and the southern half of the county but there was also a marked increase from the north, with records from 15 sites (seven in 2020 and three in 2019) centred around Basingstoke and the north-east. The tetrad map clearly illustrates this current distribution and spread from the original core area in The New Forest.

Counts of three or more were received from 14 sites (four in 2020) including eight at Hut Wood on Jan 8th and five at Pylewell Saltings on Feb 21st and Morgaston Wood on Feb 23rd, as well as three sites in the New Forest in late February. The first report of singing came from Ampfield Wood on Feb 11th.



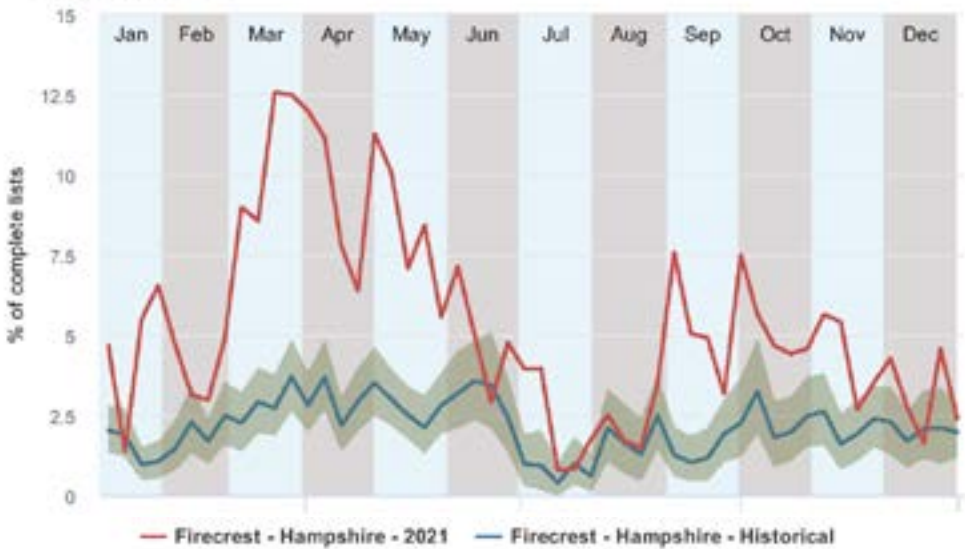
Dartford Warblers, Normandy Marsh, Mar 21st (Ashley Howe); Pennington Marshes, May 17th (Matthew Barfield) & Oxe Marsh, June 2nd (Gareth Rees)



Firecrest, New Forest, Nov 4th (Gareth Rees) Tetrad map showing distribution and maximum numbers of Firecrests in 2021

March saw the expected jump in numbers with a minimum of 264 reported, representing a new record for the month and a 25% increase over 2020 levels. During the breeding season a minimum of 443 territories was reported (14% up on 2020) from 190 sites (162 sites in 2020), but still below 2016’s levels when systematic surveys were undertaken. While the New Forest remains the stronghold with a minimum of 196 territories (139 in 2020), breeding reports were widespread across the county and notable concentrations elsewhere included ten at Ampfield Wood, ten at Minley Wood, nine at Oxenbourne Down and 20 at Bourley woods. While there were no reports from several strongholds, it appears the species has now fully recovered from the effects of 2018’s ‘Beast from the East’. Consequently, it’s plausible to estimate a current county-wide breeding population approaching or even exceeding 1,000 pairs and the species seems set for further expansion.

The marked increase in records, especially in spring, is illustrated clearly by comparing with the average over the last ten years in the BirdTrack reporting-rate graphs below.



BirdTrack reporting-rate for Firecrest in Hampshire 2021 compared with historical average (BTO).

Reports in September and October were in line with 2020, but there was a notable drop-off in November and December versus 2020. Migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from mid-September and notable counts included 12 at Old Winchester Hill on Sep 15th, ten at Hut Wood on Oct 29th and six at Dundry on Oct 14th. Elsewhere Sandy Point logged just eight bird-days between Sep 12th and Nov 30th (35 in 2020) and just three were trapped at Titchfield Haven between Oct 8th-23rd (six in 2020).

Minimum totals are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest totals	18	27	92	23	25	13	13
- No. of New Forest sites	15	12	40	13	16	10	8
Southampton Common	4	2	2	4	2	2	1
Southampton area	15	8	8	1	4	9	1
- No. Southampton area sites	10	7	5	1	3	4	1
Other inland locations	58	64	122	35	49	43	26
- No. of other inland sites	43	47	64	18	29	27	23
Coastal locations	33	30	40	9	49	24	22
- No. of coastal sites	23	21	24	6	24	16	16
Total recorded	128	131	264	72	129	91	63

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 453 tetrads (44%) in 54 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from three locations (two in 2020) as follows: 12 at Milking Pound Bottom, NF on Jan 31st and ten at Little Posbrook on Jan 17th and Holly Hill Park, Warsash on Jan 27th.

A minimum of 436 territories were reported (406 in 2020) during the breeding season including 105 from the New Forest (72 in 2020). Territories in surveyed areas (2020 figures in parenthesis) included Beacon Hill, Ewshot, 17; The Chase, Woolton Hill, 11 (17); Exton Park, 6; Hawley Lake, 8; Hoe Gate, 10; Itchen Valley CP, 7; and Lower Test Marshes, 8.

In the second half of the year, double-figure counts were few and from just six sites (18 in 2020), all occurring in a six-week period between Oct 8th and Nov 13th suggestive of autumn



Goldcrest, Fishlake Meadows, Apr 26th (Gareth Rees)

passage. Notable counts included 20 at Milking Pound Bottom, NF on Oct 15th and 20 at Burnt Common, Mortimer West End on Nov 13th. Ringing totals included 14 trapped at Blashford Lakes on Nov 6th. (WGDL)

Wren (Eurasian Wren)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Abundant resident.

Amber

Reported from 618 tetrads (61%) in 55 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from 14 sites (11 in 2020), including 22 at Itchen Valley CP on Jan 3rd, 18 at Wildern on Feb 23rd and 25th and 18 at Hedge End on Feb 28th.

BBS submissions aside, surveyed territory counts came from just three locations: The Chase, Woolton Hill, 32 (42 in 2020); Itchen Valley CP, 32; and Lower Test Marshes, 102 (115 in 2019, the last year for which a count was received from this site). BBS registrations yielded 13 one km squares with 20 or more (seven in 2020) including 61 at Mallards Copse, Fleet on June 23rd and 32 at Rowner, Gosport on June 3rd. Other notable counts in the breeding season included 32 at Martin Down on June 8th and 30 in the Blackwater Valley between Darby Green and Hawley on Apr 17th.



*Wren, Pennington Marshes, Apr 9th
(Matthew Barfield)*

In the latter half of the year double-figure counts came from 15 sites (17 in 2020), three exceeding 20 as follows: 32 at Itchen Valley CP on Sep 26th and Dec 12th; 25 at Normandy Marsh on Oct 8th; and 23 at Minstead, NF on Oct 14th. (WGDL)

Nuthatch (Eurasian Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea*

Numerous resident.

Green

Recorded in 442 tetrads (43%) and 52 ten km squares. While widely recorded in the early winter period, no double-figure counts were reported for the second year in a row, with the highest tally being eight at Denny Wood, NF on Feb 14th followed by seven at Crux Easton on Mar 2nd and Vernham Dean on Mar 15th. Territories in surveyed areas (2020 figures in parenthesis) included Adhurst Wood, Sheet, 12; The Chase, Woolton Hill, 14 (12) and Lower Test Marshes, 1. Registrations from BBS one km squares included 15 at Passfield Common on Apr 25th and eight at Steep Marsh on Apr 23rd. In the second half of the year double-figure counts came from only two sites (three in 2020) as follows: 15 at Ashurst Wood, NF on Aug 4th and 12 at Pig Bush, NF on July 3rd, with the highest count for the last three months of the year being seven at Blashford Lakes on Nov 18th. (WGDL)

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

Numerous resident.

Green

Whilst occupying similar woodland habitat to Nuthatch, recorded in only 309 tetrads (30%) and 49 ten km squares, possibly due to its less conspicuous behaviour and thus lower detection rate. In the early year counts exceeded five at just two locations (three in 2020) as follows: ten at Holmsley, NF on Mar 3rd and six at Denny Wood, NF on Feb 14th. Breeding season records (including BBS) produced a minimum of 104 territories and breeding pairs (77 in 2020) from 72 sites including territories from the following surveyed areas: Pamber Forest,

5 and Lower Test Marshes, 2. Notable counts in the latter half of the year were few with only four sites, all in the New Forest, reaching five or more including ten at Ashurst Wood, NF and eight at Pig Bush, NF, both on Aug 4th. (WGDL)

Rose-coloured Starling (Rosy Starling) *Pastor roseus*

Rare vagrant recorded in every month except December. (5,28,4)

There were four records of single adults from Ashurst from June 8th-9th (L. Liphook, photo), Martin Down from June 8th-17th (JW et al., photo), Wherwell on June 14th (PJ) and South Warnborough on July 7th (PD, photo).

A major invasion of western Europe started in May with several thousand being reported from Italy, France and Spain, and probably several hundred in the UK with records from 275 locations in June alone. (KFB)



Rose-coloured Starling, Martin Down, June 15th (Gareth Rees)

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S41

Recorded in 486 tetrads (48%) in 55 ten km squares. Numbers were just below the five-year average but, as usual, fluctuated widely at both ends of the year. November took top honours with the arrival of a significant influx of migrants and numbers remained elevated into December. For the whole year, four-figure counts were reported from nine sites (12 in 2020) with three, all winter roosts, reaching five-figures (three in 2020). Based on the size and number of post-breeding flocks between May and July, it seems to have been a reasonably successful breeding season being below 2020's elevated levels but above the recent five-year average.

In the early winter period numbers were dominated by the regular roosts at Blashford Lakes, which peaked at 10,000 on Jan 13th, and Fishlake Meadows, where numbers grew gradually from 1,500 on Jan 11th to 6,000 on Mar 3rd before dropping to just 300 the following evening. Elsewhere three-figure counts came from 20 sites (22 in 2020) in January and February, with one reaching four-figures at Southsea Castle with 1,200 on Jan 14th. Other notable counts included 600 at Farlington Marshes on Jan 11th, 600 roosting at Alresford Pond on Jan 17th and 550 at Park Shore on Jan 1st. As usual there was a marked exit in early March with just five sites (eight in 2020) reporting counts in excess of 100 including 400 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet on Mar 17th. Spring passage was barely detected with the only report of note being 100 NE over Fleet Pond on Mar 15th.

During the breeding season BBS reports included over 50 adults in one km squares from seven locations (four in 2020) as follows: Eastney (94, Apr 20th); East Cosham (86, June 12th); Rowner, Gosport (73, Apr 24th); Rowland's Castle (70, June 16th); The Gillies, Fareham (63, Apr 25th); Bitterne, Southampton (53, June 6th) and Ipers Bridge, NF (52, May 23rd). The first report of fledged juveniles came from Great Posbrook Farm on May 6th, a day earlier than 2020. The first three-figure post-breeding flock was reported on May 16th (120 at Edenbrook CP, Fleet) with another three reported by the end of May (seven in 2020) including 500 at Farlington Marshes on May 26th. Post-breeding flocks grew steadily throughout June into September confirming another productive breeding season and three-figure flocks were logged (2020 figures in parentheses) from five sites in June (8), 17 in July (12), 16 in August (19) and 16 in September (18). The most notable counts came from Farlington Marshes (500, June 30th; 1,000, July 7th; 2,000, Aug 30th); Edenbrook CP, Fleet (600, July 14th; 780, Aug 23rd); Fleet Pond (250, June 24th; 550, July 8th) and Barton on Sea (230, July 25th; 510, Aug 28th).

Autumn diurnal passage was the highest since 2017 and was particularly apparent from inland watchpoints which experienced almost daily movements from Oct 13th to Nov 24th. At the two main watchpoints 18,095 were logged heading mainly SW over Tweseldown on 41 dates between Sep 28th and Nov 25th (peaks 4,800 SW, Oct 24th; 1,641 SW, Nov 5th; 1,235 SW, Nov 6th; 1,917 SW, Nov 9th; 1,223 SW, Nov 16th) and at Trigpoint Hill where 3,550 were logged on 51 dates between Sep 6th and Dec 28th (peaks 460 SW, Oct 24th; 590 NE, Nov 9th). Coastal movement was detected from four sites from Oct 16th. Strong passage followed between Nov 1st and Nov 22nd including at Barton on Sea which logged 4,606 mainly west on 14 dates between Oct 23rd and Dec 11th (peaks 670 W, Nov 2nd; 652 W, Nov 3rd; 1,220 W, Nov 15th); Weston Shore with 2,908 NW on six dates between Nov 1st-9th (peaks 551, Nov 3rd; 744, Nov 9th) and Sandy Point with 500 west on seven dates between Oct 22nd and Nov 22nd.

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	-	-	-	-	-	302	6,925	664	387	-
Inland movements	118	42	238	86	512	9,012	9,065	2,550	367	88

* Excludes movement believed to be to and from roost sites.

In the last three months of the year, grounded flocks reached three-figures (2020 figures in parentheses) at 22 sites in October (22), 25 in November (21), and 23 in December (20) with flocks reaching four-figures at eight sites (7) and five-figures at three sites (0). Peak counts were as follows: 18,920 roosting at North Somerley Lake on Nov 13th; 16,000 roosting at Fishlake Meadows on Dec 23rd; 10,000 roosting at Blashford Lakes on Dec 29th; 4,500 roosting at Alresford Pond on Nov 23rd; 2,000 at Farlington Marshes on Oct 2nd; 1,200 at Lye Heath, Denmead on Dec 19th; 1,000 roosting at Badminton GP on Dec 17th and 1,000 at Wallers Ash near South Wonston on Nov 13th.

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)	19,853	9,259	7,440	698	1,574	2,663	4,983	6,922	5,504	11,662	49,240	33,764

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant; has occasionally wintered.

Red, S4I

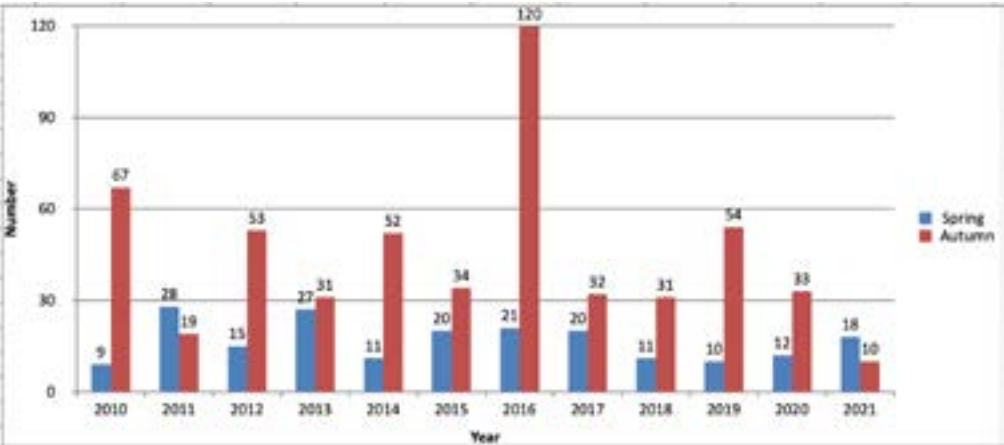
At least 18 individuals were logged in the spring over a 46-day period, representing the best showing since 2017 but still broadly in line with the diminishing ten-year average. The first was heard at Sholing, Southampton, sound-recorded at 23:00 on Mar 23rd, one day earlier than the 2010-2019 average. Records followed from Beacon Hill, Burghclere (1, Mar 25th); Ramptons Lane GP, Mortimer West End (male, Mar 25th); Old Winchester Hill (male, Mar 29th); Bilcombes Pond/Badminton GP (male, Mar 29th-Apr 3rd); Vereley Hill/Burley, NF (male, Mar 30th); Tournurbury, Hayling Island (male, Apr 5th); Woolmer Forest (female, Apr 7th); Ladle Hill, Old Burghclere (female, Apr 9th); Weston Shore (1, Apr 11th); Mark Ash Wood, NF (male, Apr 13th); Burnt Common, Mortimer West End (1, Apr 19th); Woolmer Pond (2, Apr 20th); Hannington Farm (male, Apr 25th) and Eelmoor Flash (male, Apr 29th). The last of the spring were reported in early May from Old Basing at Lodge Farm (male, 1st) with presumably the same individual relocated close by at The Mill Field on 6th, and Eelmoor Flash (pair, 7th).

Autumn produced a minimum total of just ten individuals and 34 bird-days from seven sites over a condensed 20-day period, the poorest showing this century. The first were two at Ashley Walk/Black Gutter Bottom/Leaden Hall, NF on Oct 14th, with this favoured site producing a total of 24 bird-days through to Oct 30th with a peak of three on Oct 21st. Elsewhere records were from Vesey Close, Farnborough (1, Oct 16th); Lower Test Marshes (male, Oct 16th); Sandy Point (male, Oct 24th-25th); Old Winchester Hill (female/juvenile, Oct 25th); Portsdown Hill (female, Oct 26th-28th; 2, Nov 2nd) and Markway Inclosure, NF (1, Nov 2nd).



Ring Ouzel, Old Winchester Hill, Mar 29th (Ashley Howe)

Minimum totals over the last eleven years are given in the histogram below, showing the variability between years and the predominance of autumn passage compared to spring except for 2011 and 2021. (WGDL)



Minimum annual totals of Ring Ouzels in spring and autumn 2010-2021

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded from 683 tetrads (67%) in 55 ten km squares making it the second most widespread species after Woodpigeon. In the early winter period double-figure counts were reported from 71 sites (54 in 2020) with just three exceeding 30 (three in 2020) as follows: 56 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Feb 17th; 45 at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 10th; and 36 at Wildern on Feb 25th. NFWBS counts for the period were incomplete due to COVID movement restrictions.

In the breeding season counts of territories in surveyed areas included 42 at Lower Test Marshes, while BBS yielded 27 one km squares with 20 or more registrations (10 in 2020) including 40 at Durlay on Apr 26th; 33 at Minstead, NF on May 6th; 32 at Shirley Holms, NF on Apr 18th and Ashurst, NF on Apr 30th. Other notable breeding season submissions included 49 at Hollybanks Wood on May 28th and 45 at Martin Down on June 8th.

Autumn diurnal movements from the main inland watchpoints totalled 119 SW over Tweseldown on 26 dates between Oct 13th and Nov 24th (peaks 17 SW, Nov 6th; 16 SW, Nov 7th), and 16 over Trigpoint Hill on ten dates between Oct 11th and Nov 23rd (peak 5 SW, Nov 6th). In the last four months of the year double-figure counts were reported from 61 sites (67 sites in 2020) including 55 at Wyck on Nov 28th and 35 at Rockford Common, NF on Nov 14th and Queen Elizabeth CP on Dec 3rd. The October-December NFWBS produced monthly totals of 205, 456 and 474 respectively, with November and December's counts representing a 42% and 30% increase over the 2016-2020 five-year average (Table 4). (WGDL)

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Red

In the early winter numbers were again below par, coming in 35% below the 2011-2020 ten-year average. January again provided the highest counts although, with generally mild weather, there were no cold weather influxes. Grounded flocks reached three-figures at 12 sites in January (11 in 2020), five in February (12 in 2020) and five in March (10 in 2020) including 380 at Malshanger Park on Jan 23rd and 300 at Noar Hill, Selborne on Jan 21st, Wonston on Jan 24th, Barton Stacey on Jan 27th and Wyck on Mar 22nd. In addition, local movements were observed over Priory Farm, Selborne in mid-February with 1,000 SW on Feb 15th and a further 300 SW the following day. NFWBS counts for the period were substantially incomplete

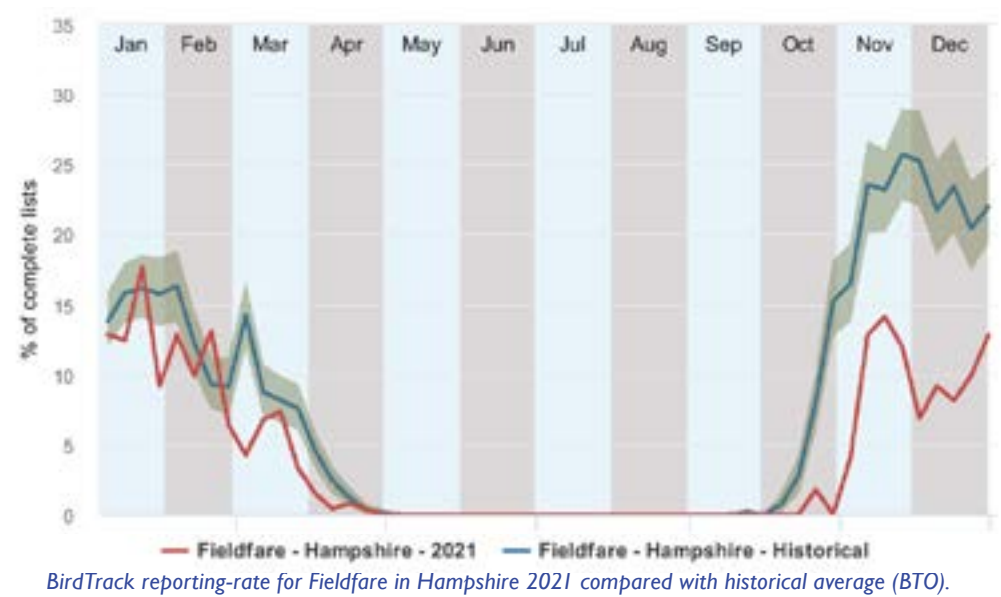
due to COVID movement restrictions. In April there were 25 records (38 in 2020) including 150 at Ewhurst Park on Apr 8th and 40 at Facombe on Apr 5th and Axmansford on Apr 12th. The last of the spring were a single at Quarley Down, Cholderton Estate between May 1st-7th and two at Shamblehurst Lane, Hedge End on May 9th.

The first of the autumn was one north over Weston Shore on Oct 3rd, three days earlier than the recent average arrival date. A wait of seven days ensued until two at both Lovedean and North Baddesley on Oct 10th. Sightings remained few for the remainder of the month with only 17 records for the whole of October including 30 at Acres Down, NF on Oct 13th, the highest count for the month. However, the floodgates opened on Nov 4th, a little later than usual, when impressive autumn diurnal passage was observed in a wave that lasted through to Nov 9th. The inland watchpoint at Tweseldown faired particularly well with passage totalling 7,913 SW from 25 dates between Oct 14th and Nov 25th, with the majority logged between Nov 4th-9th including 2,983 SW on Nov 4th and a site record of 3,317 SW on Nov 5th. At Trigpoint Hill 692 were logged from 23 dates between Nov 4th and Dec 28th with peak counts of 168 NE on Nov 4th and 180 NE on Nov 6th. Movements elsewhere included 300 west at Stoney Cross, NF on Nov 6th; 300 west at Stoke Charity on Nov 9th; 138 NW at Weston Shore between Nov 4th-9th and 110 NW at Kilmeston on Nov 6th. The first grounded three-figure flocks of the autumn coincided with this arrival with 100 at Pig Bush, NF and 120 at Skidmore on Nov 4th and 200 at Ashley Warren on Nov 5th. Surprisingly three-figure grounded flocks remained scarce thereafter suggesting most passed through the county quickly. Three-figure counts numbered just eight in November (16 in 2020) and three in December (seven in 2020), with only two exceeding 200 as follows: 500 at Hunton on Nov 19th and 500 Bransbury Common on Nov 30th. NFWBS produced October-December counts of 14, 748 and 224 respectively, marginally the lowest cumulative total since the survey began (Table 4).

Totals of site monthly maxima and movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grounded flocks	4,203	1,988	2,168	421	3	-	56	3,391	1,338
Movements	81	1,550	153	30	-	-	21	9,738	120

The delayed arrival in autumn and the subsequent lower than average distribution of records are illustrated in the BirdTrack reporting-rate graphs below.



Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Numerous to abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Amber

It was another strong year with early winter and late year totals 80% and 20% respectively above their running ten-year averages as well as record inland autumn diurnal passage. Grounded flock totals reached their highest recorded level ever in January and since 2008 in February with three-figure flocks reported from 23 sites in January (28 in 2020) and 20 sites in February (18 in 2020) including 500 at Skidmore on Feb 1st; 465 at Axmansford on Jan 10th; 418 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Feb 17th; and 400 at Roke Farm, Odiham on Jan 7th and Wherwell and Chilbolton Bottom on Jan 18th. Numbers remained above average through mid-March with three-figure flocks reported from nine sites (five in 2020), all logged up to and including Mar 22nd including 250 at Blakelands, Basingstoke on Mar 20th and 200 at Roydon Woods, NF on Mar 8th; Baker's Farm, Kingsley SP on Mar 18th; and Wyck on Mar 22nd. A rapid exodus ensued with no counts exceeding 20 thereafter. NFWBS counts for the January-March period were substantially incomplete due to COVID movement restrictions. Spring passage was most evident from nocturnal flights calls received from six sites in March including 998 over St. Cross, Winchester on 15 dates between Mar 3rd-31st (peaks 253, Mar 15th; 407, Mar 16th; 237, Mar 18th); 159 over Shirley, Southampton on Mar 16th; and 110 over Sholing, Southampton on Mar 17th. Diurnal passage included 335 NE over Tweseldown from four dates between Mar 17th-20th (peak 215 NE, Mar 17th) and 130 north/east over Fleet Pond (peak 80 E, Mar 22nd). In April 23 records were received (48 in 2020) including 12 at Bramshaw Telegraph, NF on 3rd and the last of the spring being singles at IBM Lake on 22nd and Winnall Moors on 30th.

The first of the autumn was a flyover at Bank, NF on Sep 27th, matching 2020's arrival date and two days earlier than the 2010-2019 average, followed by another over Nursling on Sep 30th. A trickle of reports followed in early October including the first double-figure count of the autumn with 11 at Old Winchester Hill on Oct 12th. Dawn on Oct 13th heralded a mass arrival across the entire country culminating in the largest one-day autumn diurnal passage ever recorded in Hampshire. Over 17,200 were logged on the day, including recorded nocturnal flight calls, with the inland watchpoint at Tweseldown bagging the lion's share (Table 8). Multiple waves of passage followed over the following six weeks up until Nov 25th, primarily from inland watchpoints, resulting in the county's highest total autumn passage since the unprecedented coastal movement in 2015. Visible migration counts from Tweseldown were particularly impressive with a site record for cumulative autumn totals for the second year in a row with 60,822 logged from 46 dates between Oct 2nd and Dec 12th (peaks 14,920 WNW, Oct 13th; 10,522 mostly WNW, Oct 14th; 3,405 S or WNW, Oct 15th; 3,850 NW, Oct 24th; 8,615 NW, Nov 4th (same day as an influx of Fieldfares); and 6,030 WNW, Nov 6th). At the other main inland watchpoint, 3,145 were logged passing over Trigpoint Hill from 29 dates between Oct 18th and Dec 28th with a peak count of 1,040 north on Nov 6th. At St. Cross, Winchester nocturnal calls peaked at 1,092 on Oct 12th with triple-figures recorded on each of six further nights between Nov 5th and Dec 1st. In contrast, comparatively little coastal movement was detected with the most notable coming from Weston Shore with 1,023 NW from nine dates between Oct 13th and Nov 14th (peak 359, Nov 6th) and Sholing, Southampton with 2,008 nocturnal night calls from three dates between Oct 7th-13th (peak 1,976, Oct 13th).

While grounded flocks in the last three months of the year were 20% above the ten-year average, it appeared that most migrants moved through the county quickly, particularly in October. The first three-figure grounded flock of the autumn coincided with Oct 13th's arrival when 400 dropped into roost at Fleet Pond that evening. Thereafter grounded three-figure flocks (2020 figures in parentheses) were logged at eight sites in October (five), 24 sites in November (six) and 13 sites in December (16). Numbers peaked in mid-November and included large numbers across the New Forest. Grounded high counts in the last three months included 2,210 heading to roost at Pig Bush, NF on Nov 13th; 1,500 at Nether Wallop

on Nov 17th; 700 roosting at Fleet Pond on Oct 16th; and 500 at Hunton on Nov 19th; Bransbury Common on Nov 30th; Queen Elizabeth CP on Dec 3rd; and Matley Holms, NF on Dec 17th. NFWBS produced October-December record totals of 559, 5,571 and 1,789, with November's count being 300% above the previous high for the month (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	9,613	6,211	4,494	47				2,998	9,227	5,764
Movements	313	122	520				2	43,031	23,485	562
Nocturnal Flight Calls			1,311					2,008		

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, S41, HBAP

Widespread with records in 543 tetrads (53%) and 52 ten km squares. In the early winter period counts reached ten or more at ten sites (nine in 2020) including 30 at Needs Ore on Jan 1st and 24 at The Mill Field, Old Basing on Jan 24th. Spring passage was detected from St. Cross, Winchester with 21 nocturnal flight calls from 12 dates between Mar 3rd-29th, with a peak of four on Mar 15th, and from Trigpoint Hill with three NE on Feb 15th.

In the breeding season, counts of territories in surveyed areas were limited to ten at Bourley Woods/Bricksbury Hill and nine at Lower Test Marshes. Other notable submissions during the breeding season included 20 at Acres Down, NF on May 30-June 1st; 19 at Itchen Valley CP on July 11th; and 15 at Lucy's Hill, NF on May 16th. Three sites recorded ten or more registrations in BBS one km squares (four in 2020) with the highest being 16 at Horsedown Common, Odiham on Apr 15th and 14 at Mallards Copse, Fleet on June 23rd.

Autumn diurnal passage was recorded from the last week of September, peaking in the first week of November. Most records came from the two main inland watchpoints with Tweseldown logging 259 from 24 dates between Sep 28th and Nov 22nd (peaks 72 NW, Nov 4th (cf. Fieldfare and Redwing); 32 W, Nov 6th; 33 W, Nov 7th), and at Trigpoint Hill with 32 from 14 dates between Sep 23rd and Nov 13th (peak 5 SW, Oct 18th). Nocturnal flight call recording from Sholing, Southampton yielded 43 on Oct 9th and 64 on Oct 13th, whilst at St.Cross, Winchester 128 were recorded overhead on Oct 12th with decreasing numbers thereafter. In the last four months of the year grounded double-figure counts came from only five sites (seven in 2020), the highest being 12 at Old Basing on Oct 15th.

Totals of monthly movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Movements		4	1				4	78	220	
Nocturnal Flight Calls			21					107		

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Red

Reported from 437 tetrads (43%) in 51 ten km squares. In the early winter period double-figure counts came from just two sites (one in 2020) with 11 at Finchdean on Jan 17th and 16 at Malshanger Park, Oakley on Feb 8th. NFWBS counts for the January-March period were substantially incomplete due to COVID movement restrictions.

In the breeding season, counts of territories in surveyed areas were limited to two at Bourley Woods. Reports of successful breeding with fledged young came from seven sites in the New Forest (seven in 2020) and six other locations at Allbrook, Colemore and Priors Dean, Biddenfield, Botley Wood, Itchen Valley CP and Newton Valence. Records were received

from 54 BBS one km squares (27 in 2020) with high counts of four from Leckford Village, Minstead, NF and Ridge and Lythe Hangers, Steep. Post-breeding flocks started to appear from mid-May onwards and double-figure counts were reported from 20 sites (32 in 2020) between mid-May and the end of September including 50 at Burley, NF on Aug 15th, 32 at Acres Down, NF on Sep 13th and 23 at Avington Park on Aug 27th.

Autumn movement was slightly above average, particularly at Tweseldown which logged 185 mainly SW from 32 dates between Sep 21st and Nov 23rd with peaks of 17 SW on Sep 28th and 27 SW on Oct 23rd. At Trigpoint Hill 57 were logged, mainly SW/W from 21 dates between Aug 26th and Nov 20th with a peak of eight on Oct 3rd. Grounded double-figure counts were reported from seven sites (three in 2020) in the last three months of the year with highest counts all from the New Forest with 50 at Bishop's Dyke on Oct 28th, 23 at Handy Cross Plain on Oct 16th and 21 at Black Gutter Bottom on Oct 25th. NFWBS produced October to December counts of 130, 79 and 51 above the recent average with October's total being the highest ever (Table 4).

Totals of movements are tabulated below. (WGDL)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	2	5	2	-	6	76	148	41	4

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

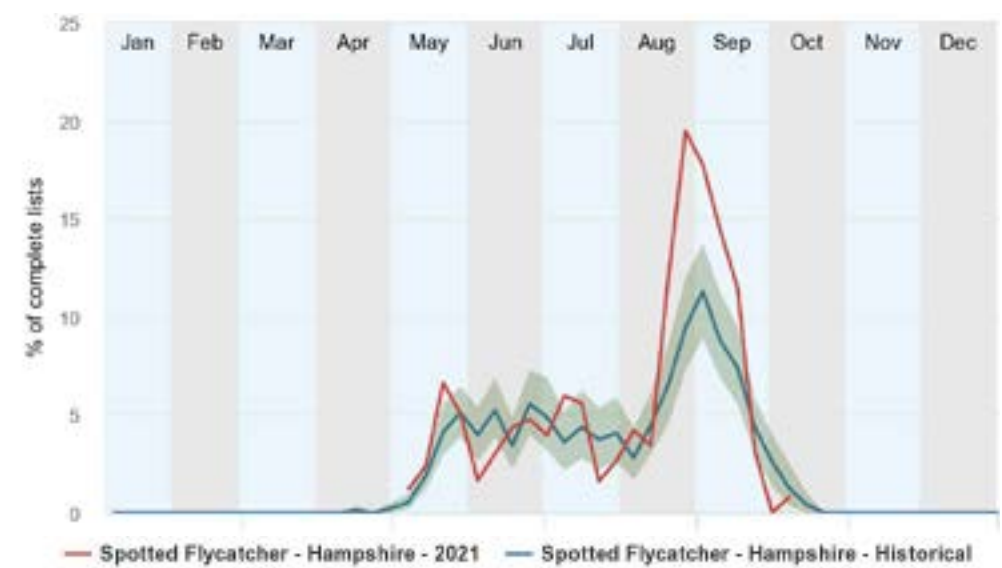
Red, S4I, HBAP

Widespread with reports from 224 tetrads (22%) in 44 ten km squares which was a 9% decrease on 235 tetrads last year. The first of the year was at Ferny Crofts, NF on Apr 27th, the same date as the ten-year average arrival date. Reports followed from Cow Down (Andover), Goodworth Clatford and Selborne on May 4th before a more widespread arrival from May 7th onwards including six at Abbotstanding Wood, NF on May 15th and seven at Pig Bush, NF on May 18th. Spring passage at Sandy Point produced nine bird-days from seven dates between May 7th-25th.

Breeding season records from the New Forest stronghold produced pairs, territories or individuals in suitable habitat from 71 locations (63 in 2020) with successful breeding confirmed at 19 of these sites (20 in 2020). Elsewhere pairs, singing males or individuals seen in suitable breeding habitat were reported from 53 locations (51 in 2020) with successful breeding confirmed from 15 sites (15 in 2020) at Abbotstone Down, Ampfield, Baddesley Common, Botley Wood, Ecchinswell, North Baddesley, Fishlake Meadows, Gander Down, Greatham, Hursley Village, Hut Wood, Martin Down, Plastow Green, Silchester and Selborne Common. Post-breeding gatherings in August at or close to breeding sites included up to 25 at Pig Bush, NF throughout the month; 24 close-by at Denny Wood, NF on 28th; 17 at Brockwood Copse, West Meon on 26th and 16 at Ipley Cross, NF on 27th.

Autumn migrants started to appear at non-breeding sites from the first week of August with peak passage noted between Aug 22nd and Sep 19th. At Markway Inclosure, NF a group of 20 was recorded on Aug 13th. Four other sites logged 20 bird-days or more (five in 2020) as follows: Old Winchester Hill with 49 bird-days from 11 dates between Aug 24th and Sep 16th (peak 10, Sep 12th); St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester with 30 bird-days from eight dates between Aug 2nd and Sep 11th (peak 8, Aug 18th); Trigpoint Hill with 29 bird-days from ten dates between Aug 7th and Sep 3rd (peak 5, Aug 21st); and Ranvilles Lane, Fareham with 24 bird-days from ten dates between Aug 22nd and Sep 18th (peak 5, Aug 29th). Elsewhere notable September counts primarily came from the New Forest with 18 at Pig Bush on Sep 1st, eight at Hinchleslea Woods on Sep 4th, Sluffers Inclosure on Sep 5th and Milking Pound Bottom on Sep 11th, and separately from Hinton Ampner with seven on Sep 18th. There were three records in October (four in 2020), all singles with the last at Titchfield Haven on Oct 5th.

The BirdTrack reporting-rate graph below shows the higher than average extent of sightings during passage in late August and early September. (WGDL)



BirdTrack reporting-rate for Spotted Flycatcher in Hampshire 2021 compared with historical average (BTO).

Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 668 tetrads (66%) in 55 ten km squares resulting in it being ranked third most widespread species after Woodpigeon and Blackbird. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 425 (99%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens, making it equal first with Blackbird and Great Tit, with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 99.4% in March to a low of 95.0% in June (Table 2).



Robin, Anton Lakes, Feb 8th (Brian Cartwright)

At Itchen Valley CP 39 counts throughout the year ranged from nine (Aug 15th) to 44 (Sep 26th); at Blashford Lakes and HWT Centre 79 reports peaked at 20 (Apr 3rd, May 15th); at Lepe CP 16 reports peaked at 16 (Mar 20th); whilst at Rockford Common 54 were counted on Oct 16th, 25 on Nov 14th and 12 on Dec 9th. Other notable counts included Hollybank Woods (47, May 28th; 35, Apr 25th); Wildern (36, Feb 23rd); Blackwater Valley (Darby Green to Hawley) (30, Apr 17th), Beaulieu Road (30, May 11th) and Dibden Bay Reclamation (30, Jan 23rd).

In March and May 11 breeding territories were noted at Anton Lakes and in April 13 were at Charlton Lakes. Counts of breeding territories at other surveyed sites included (2020 figures, where available, are in parentheses): Hollybank Woods, 35 (56); Lower Test NR CBC Plot 2, 27; Otterbourne, 25; The Chase, 22; Blendworth, 21 and Lower Test NR CBC Plot 1, 15.

BBS one km squares with notable counts were Mallards Copse, Fleet, 33 (May 20th); East Cosham, 30 (Apr 17th); Ashurst, 28 (Apr 30th); Steep Marsh, 26 (Apr 23rd); Durley, 25 (Apr 26th), 24 (May 29th); Netley Marsh, Totton, 25 (Apr 22nd); Widley Farm, 23 (Apr 10th); Milford on Sea, 22 (Apr 20th); Fleet, 22 (Apr 15th and May 27th) and Holidays Hill Inclosure, 22 (May 14th). (APW)

Nightingale (Common Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce and declining summer visitor; formerly moderately common.

Red, HBAP

Recorded in 16 tetrads in 10 ten km squares (39 tetrads in 19 ten km squares in 2020). There was a significant decline in the distribution of this species in Hampshire in 2021 and, with the number of breeding pairs remaining low, HOS has again chosen not to publish breeding locations. Everyone is requested to consider the vulnerability of this species and avoid disturbing breeding birds.

The first report was of four singing males at one site on Apr 11th. This was followed by singing birds at five widely distributed sites between Apr 12th and 30th including Fishlake Meadows, Stroud, West Walk and Newtown. All records related to singles and presumed migrants with the exception of two sites where by the end of April eight and three territorial males were recorded. Between May 1st and 30th singing birds were recorded at a further six sites including singles in Netley, Eastleigh near Barton Industrial Estate, Axmanford and near Old Basing. At only one of these additional sites did the bird stay longer than one day, in that instance from May 9th-21st.

Despite the significant decline in range, there was again an increase in the number of territorial males at the two primary sites with 17 and six recorded. Ringing data suggest that birds are moving from other sites and fringe areas, where they have failed to attract a mate or the habitat has changed, into the core area. Examples of this are where a bird that had been originally ringed in 2018 near Fawley, and retrapped at the same site in 2019, had moved into the core breeding area in 2021, a movement of 14km. Unfortunately over the winter of 2019/20 the breeding habitat at the Fawley site was cleared and the male was not recorded there during the summer of 2020. Another bird, that had held territory for the last two years 1km south of the core area, was also retrapped in the heart of it, thereby increasing its chances of finding a mate.

Breeding success was again confirmed at one site with two recently fledged birds trapped from two different territories on June 26th and July 11th. The last record of the year was one trapped at Titchfield Haven on Aug 18th. (TDC)

Pied Flycatcher (European Pied Flycatcher) *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce passage migrant; rare in summer but has bred, most recently in 1995.

Amber

Spring records were all singles as follows: Shortheath Common (male, Apr 2nd); Vernham Dean (Apr 9th); Broughton (Apr 10th); Pennington Village (Apr 23rd); Brownhill Inclosure (female, Apr 23rd); Millersford Bottom (male, Apr 24th); Ampfield Wood (male, Apr 29th) and Thornhill Park (male, May 22nd).

Return passage was noted from Aug 4th, when one was at Hursthill Inclosure, followed by further singles at Stubbington (Aug 9th) and Baddesley Common (Aug 13th-15th). There were then 37 further August reports from widespread areas, all of which were in the second half of the month and referred to singles apart from two at Warnford (Aug 24th) and two at Hayling Island Northney/North Common (Aug 25th). September reports (all singles unless otherwise stated) came from Bedhampton and Pig Bush (1st), IBM Lake (3rd), Whiteley Pastures, Botley Wood (4th), Acres Down (4th), Hayling Island South (2, 5th), Vereley Hill (5th), Northney/North Common/Paddocks, Hayling Island (8th), Pig Bush (9th), Woolston (9th), Peartree Green, Southampton (9th) and the last of the year at Northney, Hayling Island (10th). (APW)

2020 addition. Additional spring record at Bitterne Park on Apr 10th. Note this sets a new early date for 2020.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally breeds.

Schedule 1, Amber

Recorded in 69 tetrads (7%) in 25 ten km squares. Reports in the first half-year came from a total of 64 locations (37 in 2020) including Sandy Point which had records on 24 dates between Jan 3rd and May 8th, all singles except two on Mar 4th-5th. Other locations with reports on multiple dates, all singles unless otherwise stated, included Portsmouth North End (Jan 10th, Mar 6th, Apr 5th); Calshot (Jan 10th, Feb 26th, Apr 9th); Hurst Castle (Jan 11th, 14th, Feb 4th, 5th, 10th 25th; Mar 7th); Four Marks (Jan 17th, Mar 21st); Chandler's Ford (Jan 18th, Feb 28th); Southsea Castle (Jan 20th-25th); Lee-on-the-Solent (Feb 3rd, Mar 1st, 11th, 14th). Mansbridge (Feb 6th-12th); Sway (Apr 5th, 7th, 11th); Weston Shore (Feb 12th, 14th, Mar 13th, 24th, 29th); Woolston (Feb 21st, 22nd, Mar 2nd, 8th, 12th, 15th-17th, 29th); Hook-with-Warsash (Mar 24th, 25th, Apr 5th, 6th (2), 7th, 12th); Fawley Power Station (Apr 24th (3), May 2nd, 26th (5)) and Southampton City Centre (May 2nd, 3rd (2), 6th, 28th). Elsewhere more than one was present at Portsmouth Naval Base (3, May 23rd) and Hardway, Portsmouth Harbour (4, June 16th).



Black Redstart, Lympington, Apr 3rd (Matthew Barfield)

Evidence of breeding came only from Fawley Power Station where at least two pairs nested.

Second half-year reports came from a total of 28 locations (44 in 2020) including (all singles unless otherwise stated) Southampton City Centre (July 26th, Aug 4th, 8th, 16th (2), Oct 28th-30th, Nov 14th/15th); Barton's Mill, Old Basing (Aug 9th, 13th); Sandy Point (Oct 16th, Nov 14th-16th); Romsey (Oct 20th-21st); Clanfield (Oct 24th, Nov 8th); Hurst Castle (Oct 28th, Dec 11th (2), 16th/17th (2)); Lymington-Hurst (Oct 31st, Dec 11th (2)); Lee-on-the-Solent (Nov 2nd, 15th) and Hambledon (Nov 6th-8th).

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated below. (APW)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	37	40	25	17	6	2	7	2	14	17	11

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Locally common summer visitor, mostly to New Forest, and passage migrant.

Amber

Recorded in 161 tetrads (16%) in 38 ten km squares. The first was recorded at Sandy Point (Mar 29th). Other singles in March were reported from New Forest sites at Acres Down (30th and 31st), Pig Bush (30th), Mark Ash Wood and Wick Wood (31st), whilst four were at Ashurst Wood (30th) and three at Pig Bush on 31st. Early April New Forest reports, all singles unless otherwise stated, came on 1st from Acres Down (2), Pig Bush (5) and Holmsley Inclosure; on 2nd from Abbotstanding Wood (3), Acres Down, Black Bush Plain, Crows Nest Bottom, Longcross Plain, Mark Ash Wood, Matley Wood (3), Milking Pound Bottom, Setley Plain and Marlpit Oak; and on 3rd from Ashurst Wood (2), Pig Bush (5), Bramshaw Telegraph (3), Eyeworth Wood (2) and Sloden Inclosure (2) followed by many further reports throughout the first period.

Away from the New Forest, early April reports, all singles, came from Gander Down (2nd and 4th), Hill Head (2nd), Botley Wood (4th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (6th), Breach Farm, Oakley (6th-8th), Ecchinswell (7th) and Vernham Dean, Bishopstoke, Farlington Marshes, Eling/Redbridge, Lower Test Marshes, Posbrook Flood, Stubbington, Titchfield Canal Path and Trigpoint Hill, all on 9th. The first arrivals in the north-east were later in April at Woolmer Pond (13th, 14th (2), 15th, 17th (2), 18th, 19th), Fleet Pond (14th), Woolmer Forest (16th, 17th (2)) and Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt (19th). Away from traditional breeding areas, other April reports came from a further 16 locations whilst May reports, both singles, came from Bevois Valley, Southampton (2nd) and Hamble Common (6th), and in June singles were at Martin Down (13th) and Ampfield Wood (22nd).

There was no systematic breeding survey undertaken throughout the New Forest where the species remains common. Highest counts came from Pig Bush area (29, June 6th; 20, May 22nd; 19, June 4th; 18, Apr 23rd; 16, Apr 22nd and May 29th; and 15, Apr 17th and 27th), whilst elsewhere in the New Forest high counts came from Denny Inclosure (19, May 21st) and Canadian Memorial (10, May 7th), whilst eight were recorded on a variety of dates at Balmer Lawn, Denny Wood, King's Hat Inclosure, Lucy Hill and Matley Wood. Breeding surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths SPAs produced totals of seven and 16 territories respectively compared to five and 24 in 2020 (Table 1).

Return passage, all singles unless otherwise stated, was reported in July from Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (11th), Ivy Lake (12th), Nursling (2, 12th), Hoopers Bottom (20th) and Martin Down (21st); and in early/mid-August from IBM Lake and Lower Test Marshes (11th), Old Winchester Hill (14th) and Broughton Down and Lymington-Hurst (16th). Records were then almost daily during the peak passage period from Aug 20th until Sep 19th with a maximum count of ten at Old Winchester Hill on Aug 31st, five at the same site on Sep 7th and five at Baddesley Common on Sep 3rd. Away from the New Forest, the last were at Meonstoke (Sep 22nd), Hill Head (Sep 28th) and Fort Widley (Sep 29th) whilst in the New Forest late

reports came from Ashurst (2, Oct 16th), Cadman's Pool (Oct 21st), Clumber Inclosure (Nov 2nd) and the last of the year at Anderwood Inclosure/Knightwood Oak (Nov 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		18	15	1		2	1	3	2	3	54	60	2			
Coast	1	8	7	1				1			21	26	7			

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly a very scarce summer visitor; last bred in 2004.

Red, HBAP

Recorded in 116 tetrads (11%) in 39 ten km squares. The first in April was at Titchfield Canal Path (12th) followed by further singles at Barton on Sea and Hordle Cliff (21st); Magdalen Hill Down, Barton on Sea and Pig Bush (23rd); The Mill Field, Old Basing (26th); Hook-with-Warsash (27th); Watership Down and Martin Down (29th) whilst two were at Titchfield Haven/Great Posbrook Farm (29th). These were followed by 25 reports in May from 20 sites including Sandy Point (3, 7th), Barton on Sea (5, 7th), Hordle Cliff (4, 7th), Farlington Marshes (5, 7th) and Martin Down (2, 18th). There was also one June report of a single at Gosport Park (9th).

The first return was at Farlington Marshes on July 9th-10th followed by other July reports of singles at Hampton Ridge (16th), Martin Down (21st and 23rd) and Hook-with-Warsash (24th), whilst seven were at Over Wallop (24th). Blackwater Arboretum had a single on Aug 4th and there were then 318 reports from 104 sites virtually daily from Aug 10th until Sep 29th. October reports, all singles, came from Farlington Marshes (1st and 4th), Lower Test Marshes (1st), The Mill Field, Old Basing (7th), Hill Head (9th and 11th), Longwood Warren (16th) and Martin Down (21st), with the last at Toyd Down (24th). The highest counts during the second period came from Hook-with-Warsash (19, Sep 3rd; 15, Sep 4th; 11, Aug 31st and 24th; 10, Sep 8th); Lower Test Marshes (12, Sep 1st); Farlington Marshes (9, Sep 3rd and 6th) and Portsdown Hill north slope (9, Sep 4th).

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		7	10	2		1		10
Coast	1	5	32		1		2	1

	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Inland	4	92	140	20	1	4		
Coast	4	187	259	61	5			

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 374 tetrads (37%) in 52 ten km squares. Noteworthy counts in January-February included ten at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary and Lymington-Hurst (Jan 1st), eight at Milking Pound Bottom (Feb 20th) and Barton on Sea (Feb 28th) and seven at Portsdown Hill north slope (Feb 21st). March counts at Milking Pound Bottom of 14 (14th and 21st) and 15 (27th) suggest incoming migrants, as do counts at Barton on Sea of ten (6th) and 11 (7th). Due to the impact of the pandemic, there were very limited early year NFWBS counts.

There were many breeding season reports from all parts of the New Forest although no survey work was undertaken. Sites with notable counts included Sluffers Inclosure (40, May 5th), Milking Pound Bottom (33, June 12th; 20, June 5th; 19, May 31, June 19th, June 23rd), Beaulieu Road (25, May 11th), Pig Bush (25, July 19th and 20, May 26th, July 29th) and Janesmoor Plain (20, Apr 19th). On the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths respective totals of 112 and 49 pairs/singing males were located compared with 158 and 85 respectively in 2020. Individual site totals are given in Table 1.

Away from traditional heathland locations, a total of 87 pairs/singing males was recorded at 66 sites with breeding confirmed at Bickton, Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary, Botley Wood, Sinah Common, Sandy Point, South Hayling, Farley Mount CP, Hut Wood, Kitts Grave, Martin Down, Bishopstoke/Highbridge, Twyford Meadows, Shawford Down, Lymington-Hurst, Bramshot Meadows, Dogmersfield Park, Fleet-Edenbrook CP, Whitehill, Burnt Common, Pamber Forest, Silchester Common, Stephens Castle Down, Hook-with-Warsash, Lower Test Marshes, Badminton GP/Farm, Posbrook Flood, Bransbury Common, Fishlake Meadows and Romsey WM.

Relatively high population levels and a successful breeding season, as in 2020, were again reflected in high late summer and autumn numbers. Away from the New Forest there were 17 double-figure counts in August at five sites with maxima at Ridge (21, 24th), Barton on Sea (19, 30th; 16, 22nd; 15, 25th and 14, 20th) and Test Way near Skidmore (14, 5th). In September 15 double-figure counts from six sites featured maxima at Ridge (26, 8th; 16, 2nd; 13, 12th), Tweseldown (18, 1st; 12, 18th), Lower Test Marshes (12, 20th), Lymington-Hurst (12, 24th) and Barton on Sea (12, 15th). In October seven double-figure counts came from six sites as follows: Hill Head (25, 11th), Lymington-Hurst (15, 13th; 12, 8th), Hook-with-Warsash (13, 9th), Hamble Point (12, 9th), Lower Test Marshes (11, 9th) and Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (ten, 10th), whilst in November the only double-figure counts were from Farlington Marshes (12, 2nd) and Hook-with-Warsash (12, 5th). In December there were no double-figure counts but eight were at Barton on Sea (18th), seven at Hill Head (16th) and Romsey WM (18th) and six at Barton on Sea (14th, 16th), Lymington-Hurst (16th, 21st), Farlington Marshes (23rd), Dogmersfield Park (5th) and Lower Test Marshes (5th). The late year NFWBS counts were 276 (Oct 16th), 109 (Nov 13th) and 87 (Dec 11th) (Table 4).

Minimum monthly totals of birds recorded in various grouped sites in January-March and August-December are tabulated below, calculated by taking the highest count at each site during the month – the actual numbers involved are likely to be much higher. (APW)



Stonechat, Acres Down, NF, June 8th
(Gareth Rees)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest Winter Bird Survey						276	109	87
Coastal sites	75	72	53	79	132	176	121	77
River valley sites	76	66	50	70	77	63	42	49
Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths	5	36	50	6	37	4	16	2
Other sites	80	80	60	41	57	78	64	38
Total						597	352	253

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly scarce summer visitor which last bred in 2005.

Amber

Records during spring migration came from 189 locations. The first was a single at Sherborne St. John (Feb 23rd) followed in March by others (all singles unless otherwise noted) at Wainsford Farm and Lymington (5th), Langstone Harbour (13th), Farlington Marshes (14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 25th), Hill Top (14th), Barton on Sea (17th, 23rd, 25th (2)), Wildern (20th), Hook-with-Warsash (20th, 23rd), Sinah Common and Hayling GC (23rd, 25th (2)), Sandy Point (3, 25th), Hayling Island South (3, 25th), Milford on Sea (25th), Oakhanger (25th) and Waterlooville (25th). Almost daily records were then received from Mar 26th until the end of May. The only June record was a single at Hook-with-Warsash (5th, 6th). The highest day totals each month were Feb 23rd (1), Mar 29th (130 at 25 sites), Apr 9th (69 at 22 sites), May 1st (45 at 16 sites) and June 5th and 6th (1). The highest individual counts came from Farlington Marshes (30, Mar 29th; 19, May 9th; 15, Mar 26th, 27th), Barton on Sea (26, Apr 9th), Wilverley Plain (18, May 6th) and Great Posbrook Farm (13, Apr 26th).

The first returning migrants were in July with singles at Hampton Ridge (16th), Over Wallop (24th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (25th, 28th), Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes (25th) and Sandy Point (29th, 31st), whilst two were at Farlington Marshes (29th). Others followed on virtually all dates from Aug 1st until Oct 22nd. The only later record was a single at Gilkicker Point (Nov 3rd). The highest day totals were 69 at 20 sites (Sep 4th), 60 at 17 sites (Sep 3rd), 57 at 21 sites (Sep 11th), 56 at 21 sites (Aug 25th, 29th), 54 at 18 sites (Sep 1st), 52 at 17 sites (Sep 12th) and 51 at 15 sites (Aug 22nd). The highest site counts were at Gunner Point (13, Sep 4th), Farlington Marshes (12, Sep 5th; 10, Aug 22nd and Sep 3rd), Portsdown Hill (12, Sep 11th), Sandy Point (11, Sep 4th), Barton on Sea (11, Aug 25th; 10 (Aug 30th), Gilkicker Point (10, Aug 20th), Valesmoor (10, Aug 26th), Ashley Warren (10, Aug 29th), Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary (10, Aug 31st) and Efford Lake, Pennington (10, Sep 11th).

The approximate half-monthly totals in spring and autumn are tabulated below, calculated by taking the highest count at each site during the month – the actual numbers involved are likely to be considerably higher. (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	1	1	71	71	119	75	4			342
Coast		3	131	85	61	67	5	1		353

	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	2	9	140	120	40	14	2				327
Coast	5	5	115	132	31	37	5	1			331

2016 correction: A fledged juvenile was seen at Tidgrove Warren on June 10th, but had not bred at this site. In error the account suggests that breeding had taken place at that location (un-named in the account).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Abundant but declining resident.

Red, S41

Recorded in 476 tetrads (47%) in 54 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 356 (83%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 79.5% in July to a low of 62.7% in September (Table 2).

Sightings were reported from 553 locations compared to 486 in 2020. Counts of 50 and above were at 14 sites (24 in 2020), whilst counts of 80 and above were at Leigh Park, Havant



House Sparrow, Anton Lakes, Feb 23rd (Brian Cartwright)

(250, Aug 15th; 100, Aug 3rd), Parkhill Inclosure (138, Aug 2nd), Alton (100, Jan 11th) and Stockheath, Havant (82, Apr 23rd).

BBS peak registrations with 50 and over in each one km square were at Lymington (94, May 5th; 86, June 26th), East Cosham (93, June 12th) and North Boarhunt (82, Apr 18th). (APW)

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Abundant resident.

Amber, S41

Recorded in 563 tetrads (55%) in 55 ten km squares. BTO Garden BirdWatch reported presence in 393 (92%) of the surveyed Hampshire gardens with monthly reporting rates varying between a peak of 86.7% in April to a low of 76.0% in September (Table 2).

Throughout the year counts of ten and above came from 33 sites (17 in 2020) including 15 and above from Dibden Bay Reclamation (25, Apr 25th), Lymington-Hurst (20, Sep 20th), Lower Test NR CBC Plot 2 (18, June 1st), Martin Down (17, June 8th), Michelmersh (15, Jan 2nd), Milking Pound Bottom (15, Feb 27th), Southwick (15, Apr 15th), East Cosham (15, Apr 17th) and Lower Test NR CBC Plot 1 (15, June 1st).

Reports of more than ten territories were as follows: Lower Test NR CBC Plots 1 and 2 (15 and 18) and Itchen Valley CP (11, Apr 11th). The highest registrations in BBS one km squares were at Widley Farm, Portsdown Hill (19, June 5th). (APW)

Yellow Wagtail (Western Yellow Wagtail) *Motacilla flava*

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Moderately common passage migrant; formerly locally common summer visitor which last bred in 2003.

Red, S41, HBAP

The first of the year flew over Bramshaw Telegraph on Mar 27th followed by a general arrival in the first week of April. Spring passage involved approximately 112 individuals up to May 15th. The highest grounded count was seven at Farlington Marshes on Apr 12th. There were two June records involving one over Farlington Marshes on 5th and two at Pennington Marshes on 24th.

The first return was one at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on July 15th. The highest count was 150 at Brownwich on Aug 26th-29th. Other high grounded counts were 130 at Hook-with-Warsash on Aug 29th and 115 at Gilkicker Point on Aug 25th. The largest coastal movement was 109 (13 E and 96 W) at Barton on Sea on Aug 24th. Inland the largest grounded flock was

30 at Wilverley Plain, NF on Aug 30th. The last of the year were three over Harestock, Winchester on Oct 14th.

Approximate half-monthly totals are tabulated below. (GO)

	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	July 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-14
Inland grounded	5	2	9	1		137	111	39	
Inland moving	7	11	3	3		18	31	12	3
Coast grounded	13	14	5	4	2	659	562	180	17
Coast moving	2	37	3	2	1	360	90	76	6

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Very scarce passage migrant which has bred in 2003. (since 2003,13,2)

A male was seen at Pennington Marshes on Apr 9th (MW) and again on Apr 18th (RFC). A second male was photographed at Needs Ore on Apr 27th (J&CS). (GO)

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Moderately common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber

Recorded in 320 tetrads (31%) in 47 ten km squares. During January and February there were winterers at 125 sites, all of one or two birds apart from four in the Tichborne area on Jan 6th and in the Alton area on Jan 11th. There were 29 at the roost at Black Dam, Basingstoke on Jan 16th, 17th and Feb 6th.

During the breeding season pairs or singing males were recorded from 85 sites. Successful breeding was recorded from Bishop's Waltham, Botley Wood, Bourley Reservoir, Brambridge, Denny Wood, Fleet Pond, Fordingbridge, Highbridge, Leckford, Lodden Valley Copse, Lodge Pond, Longparish, Pig Bush, Pondtail Heath, Upper Bullington and Wildmoor.

Autumn passage began on the coast on Aug 24th at Sandy Point where there were four bird-days in August, 49 in September and 12 in October. At inland watchpoints 15 flew mostly SW at Tweseldown between Sep 19th and Nov 5th and 16 (11 SW and 5 NE) were recorded at Trigpoint Hill between Aug 30th and Nov 10th. The highest autumn grounded count was six at Eversley GP on Sep 13th. In November and December winterers were recorded at 99 locations. All reports were of one or two apart from five at Winnall Moors on Dec 19th and four on Nov 7th, and three at Lodden Valley Copse on Nov 28th and Dec 28th, Lower Test Marshes on Nov 16th and 18th and South Moor on Nov 19th. At Black Dam, Basingstoke roost 34 were counted on Nov 14th and Dec 16th.

The roost discovered by KPD at Black Dam is the largest found in the county apart from 81 counted into reedbeds at Lower Test Marshes on Jan 5th 1967 and 180+ with 100+ Pied Wagtails in the same habitat at Fullerton on Jan 28th 1978. (GO)

Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail) *Motacilla alba*

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 405 tetrads (40%) in 50 ten km squares. In January and February there were three-figure counts at five sites, the highest of which were 200 at Alresford Pond roost on Jan 17th and Waitrose car park, Petersfield roost on Feb 6th. On the coast at Barton on Sea 32 (11 E and 21 W) moved between Mar 1st and Apr 27th and inland at Trigpoint Hill 15 (7 NE and 8 SW) were recorded moving between Feb 23rd and Mar 22nd.

Breeding was confirmed in May-June at widespread locations including Beaulieu/Needs Ore,

Fleet Pond, Hatchet Pond, NF, Wonston, Itchen Valley CP, Loddon Valley Copse, Lymington-Hurst and Sandy Point. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was five each at Bere Farm, Wickham on Apr 14th and Portsmouth GC on May 29th.

On the coast at Sandy Point 161 moved mostly east between Sep 17th and Nov 4th and at Barton on Sea 128 (60 E and 68 W) moved between Aug 28th and Nov 8th. At inland watchpoints 96 (48 NE and 48 SW) flew over Trigpoint Hill between Sep 29th and Dec 20th and at Tweseldown 238 flew SW between Sep 21st and Dec 14th. In autumn the largest counts were 250 at Sandy Ridge on Oct 27th and 172 at Brownwich on Nov 21st. The highest December count was 160 at Whiteley shopping centre roost on Dec 7th.

Approximate half-monthly totals of migrants are tabulated below. Note these also include records submitted as Pied/White Wagtails. (GO)

	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30
Coast moving	11	14	14	3	1	28	131	81	58	
Inland moving	4	29			59	92	190	55	19	

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Scarce passage migrant, probably under-recorded in autumn.

Spring passage involved at least 37 individuals between Mar 4th and June 22nd. At Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes birds were present between Mar 31st and May 22nd, mostly at Fishtail Lagoon, (max. 8, Apr 9th). Long-stayers elsewhere were at Farlington Marshes between Apr 9th and May 6th (max. 5, Apr 10th-11th) and at Titchfield Haven/Posbrook Flood with two between Mar 14th and Apr 19th. Other coastal records were one at Gilkicker Point on Mar 13th; one at Hook-with-Warsash on four dates between Mar 16th and May 7th; one at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Mar 25th, Apr 13th and 24th; one at Sandy Point on Mar 29th, 31st and Apr 3rd; two at Lepe on Apr 3rd; two at Chilling on Apr 5th and two at Park Shore on June 3rd. Inland records were one at Blashford Lakes on Mar 6th, Apr 13th and May 4th; one at Vernham Dean on Mar 8th; two at Moorcourt Farm on Mar 12th; one at Wildmoor on Mar 21st; two at Woolmer Pond on Apr 10th; one at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Apr 12th and one at Middle Wallop Airfield on Apr 26th.

Autumn passage involved approximately nine individuals. The first record was two at Lymington-Hurst on Sep 7th and again on Oct 20th. Other records were one at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Sep 10th, one at Hill Head on Oct 4th and Nov 1st and one at Beaulieu/Needs Ore on Oct 21st. (GO)

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn. (0,44,2)

One was heard and then seen as it flew over the eastern side of Farlington Marshes at 13:50 on Oct 17th. It was at 15m height and in the company of a Skylark as it headed SE into Langstone Harbour (PS). A single was found at Northney at 08:25 on Nov 21st. It was heard calling in flight and was subsequently seen moving between a set-aside field and coastal grazing marsh where it remained for the rest of the day (RBW, photo).

The species is now recorded in most years, with the majority of records in October and about half as many in September. There have only been two inland records. (KFB)



*Richard's Pipit, Northney, Nov 21st
(Russell Wynn)*

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common but declining resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. NT, Amber

Recorded in 339 tetrads (33%) in 50 ten km squares. In January and February there were double-digit grounded flocks at 67 sites. The highest counts were 120 at Wherwell on Jan 31st, 92 at Dogmersfield Park on Jan 31st, 55 at Chandler’s Ford on Jan 23rd, 55 at Rockford Common on Jan 25th, 55 at Hook on Feb 20th and 53 at Barton on Sea on Jan 23rd. The largest spring movement was at Trigpoint Hill where 675 (max. 275 on Mar 20th) flew NE between Jan 18th and Apr 20th. On the coast there were one day three-figure movements at Beaulieu/Needs Ore (120 N, Apr 5th) and Sandy Point (100 N, Apr 1st). NFWBS found 33, 28 and 185 in January-March respectively (Table 4).

The highest counts in May and June were 25 at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on June 23rd, up to 25 at various New Forest sites and 17 at Farlington Marshes on June 30th. The highest numbers of registrations in BBS one km squares were 18 at Digden Bottom, NF on June 24th, 13 at Bere Farm, Wickham on Apr 14th and 11 at Ferny Crofts, NF on June 16th.

Autumn passage began with five east at Gilkicker Point on Sep 5th. The largest coastal movement was at Barton on Sea where 1,563 (1,013 E and 530 W; max. 324 E and 8 W on Sep 19th) moved between Sep 13th and Nov 20th. At Sandy Point 724 (max. 104 on Oct 3rd) flew in various directions between Sep 11th and Oct 23rd. There was a movement of 300 north at Pennington Marshes on Oct 1st. At inland watchpoints at Tweseldown 1,858 flew SW (max. 586, Oct 2nd) between Sep 16th and Nov 4th, at Trigpoint Hill 906 (91 NE and 815 SW; max. 155 SW on Oct 3rd) were recorded between Sep 11th and Nov 23rd and at Fleet Pond 321 flew south between Oct 2nd and 6th. The largest grounded flocks were in early October at Farlington Marshes (250, 5th), Weston Shore (145, 7th) and Normandy Marsh (200, 8th). In December the largest wintering flocks were at West Tisted (60, Dec 30th), World’s End (55, Dec 26th) and Barton on Sea (51, Dec 18th). NFWBS recorded 668, 272 and 239 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	6	363	335	28	311	1,255	776	483	358	22
Inland moving	114	540	205	28	21	1,531	1,284	161	90	20

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Moderately common but declining summer visitor resident and passage migrant.

Red, S41

Recorded in 127 tetrads (12%) in 42 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west, south and north-east. The first of the year was at Bramshaw Telegraph on Mar 27th. Passage away from breeding areas included two over Butser Hill on Apr 23rd and singles at Boyatt Wood on Apr 6th, Titchfield Haven on Apr 12th, Lower Test Marshes on Apr 12th, Preshaw on Apr 18th, Old Winchester Hill on Apr 21st, Old Basing on Apr 28th and Sandy Point on May 7th.



Tree Pipit, Mortimer West End, May 9th (Barry Stalker)

Surveys of the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths found 31 pairs and 28 pairs respectively

(37 and 49 last year) (Table I). There was incomplete coverage in the New Forest but at least 44 singing males or pairs were reported. Sites away from the core breeding areas with singing males included Bentley Wood, Burkham, Dummer, Hut Wood, Lower Wield (2 singing males), Martin Down, Pilot Hill, Preston Oak Hills (2 singing males), Town Common (5 singing males), Vernham Dean and Weston Common (6 singing males). The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was four at Millersford Copse, NF on May 30th.

The first returning migrant was at Old Winchester Hill on July 25th. Cumulative movements of ten or more were 24 at Barton on Sea between Aug 25th and Sep 22nd, 24 at Hook-with-Warsash between Aug 23rd and Sep 15th, 16 at Gilkicker Point between Aug 16th and Sep 12th and 13 at Sandy Point between Aug 19th and Sep 26th. The last of the year were singles over Brownwich and Winchester SF on Oct 16th.

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	1				8	6	3	
Inland moving		2		1	5	6		
Coast grounded	2	1	2		17	4	4	
Coast moving					46	34	4	

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Very rare vagrant. (0,3,0)

1992 addition: One was seen briefly and heard well twice by the sailing club at Needs Ore from 09:15-09:20 on Sep 27th (DJU). This record was never submitted at the time, but the observer reflected on that, so it was sent to BBRC in 2020 who accepted the record.

There are two other previous records - one at Titchfield Haven on Oct 29th 1989 and another there on Oct 15th 2011. (KFB)

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant.

Amber

Recorded until Apr 28th with one at Pennington Marshes and from Oct 17th with one at Ibsley Water. In the early year there was a minimum of 37 at five regularly watched sites and 15 at 11 other sites, mostly on one date only. In the late year numbers were reduced with a



Water Pipit, Ibsley Water, Nov 14th (Matthew Barfield)

minimum of 18 at five regularly used sites and three singles elsewhere. Monthly maxima at the regular locations and totals elsewhere are tabulated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Warblington	3	3	1			1	
Titchfield Haven area	3	2	7	2		6	1
Lower Test Marshes	2	1	4	1	4	2	1
Lymington-Hurst	1	1	1	1			
Ibsley Water					1	2	1
Drayton Farm/ Pinglestone/ Manor Farm WCBs, Alresford	4	4	5	1	1	2	2
Totals elsewhere (sites)	3(3)	9(6)	2(2)	4(3)	2(2)	3(3)	2(2)

Early year records, all singles unless otherwise noted, came from Ranvilles Lane (Jan 18th and Feb 15th), Farlington Marshes (Jan 24th and Apr 22nd), Northney (Jan 26th and Feb 26th), St. Mary Bourne WCB (Feb 17th and 28th), Langstone Harbour (Feb 28th), Needs Ore (Mar 3rd), Hayling Oysterbeds (Mar 5th), Dark Water (2, Apr 3rd) and Brownwich (Apr 14th). Late year additional records, all singles, came from Dark Water/Lepe (Oct 22nd, Nov 14th, Dec 9th, 19th and 26th), Tipner Lake (Nov 28th) and Southsea (Nov 29th). (GO)

Rock Pipit (European Rock Pipit) *Anthus petrosus*

Scarce but increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

During January and February there were approximately 51 winterers at 20 coastal sites. The highest count was ten at Lymington-Hurst on Feb 20th (8, Feb 24th; 6, Jan 1st; 5, Feb 1st). Other counts of five or more were five at Warblington Castle on Jan 14th and at Barton on Sea on Jan 21st. Two Scandinavian race *littoralis* were at Hayling Oysterbeds on Mar 8th-9th and at South Moor on Mar 13th.

During the breeding season coverage was incomplete but at Hurst Point five or six pairs were reported with birds noted carrying food. Other sites with records of between one and four during April-May included Farlington Marshes, Southsea Castle, Weston Shore, Calshot, Beaulieu/Needs Ore and Barton on Sea.

Between October and December there were approximately 75 winterers at 26 coastal sites. The highest numbers were in Langstone Harbour where reports included seven at Hayling Oysterbeds on Oct 27th, five at Broadmarsh on Nov 11th and six at South Moor on Nov 20th. The maximum elsewhere was five at Lower Test Marshes on Oct 19th. (GO)

Chaffinch (Common Chaffinch) *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 608 tetrads (60%) across 54 ten km squares making this the most widespread finch just ahead of Goldfinch in terms of tetrad coverage. Counts in the first half-year peaked at 400 feeding on stubble near Ridge on the Test Way on Feb 3rd. The second highest count was 300 at Cheesefoot Head on Mar 14th.

Passage through the autumn and winter period was largely unremarkable but high numbers built up by December. October movements involving more than 500 were reported only from Tweseldown with 539 SW in just over four hours on 14th and 701 SW in over six hours on 22nd. In December NFWBS reported 5,780 at 37 sites on 11th. The next day a northward movement from Handy Cross Plain, NF of 5,864 birds between 15:20 and 15:50 was by far the largest single count of the year. A similar movement of 1,420 was reported at the same site two days later. Neither are included in the table below as the observers reported them as "heading towards a roost site" or "to roost". At Tweseldown the passage total for October reached 2,294 which was one of the heaviest recorded there and was

followed by 2,068 for December (Table 8). The largest grounded flocks were 250 each at Froxfield on Dec 5th and Houghton on Dec 28th, the first feeding on a wildbird seed plot and the second on a sunflower strip.

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	1			15	322			
Inland moving	28	101	1,071	1,643	2,236	629	113	126

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Moderately common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 171 tetrads (17%) in 45 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east. This was a significant increase compared to last year (98 tetrads in 35 ten km squares). The first five months of the year were perhaps a poor reflection of actual numbers. COVID restrictions continued to limit recording. There were no three-digit counts at any sites during the period January-April, the highest being 40 at Woolmer Forest on Apr 11th. The last record in spring was a male singing in a garden at The Straight Mile, Ampfield on Apr 29th and the first in autumn was one NW and calling at Weston Shore on Oct 7th.

The autumn and late winter periods were more impressive as birds were attracted to an excellent crop of Beech mast with cumulative grounded totals increasing to nearly 4,000 in December. The largest autumn movement was 210 SW over Tweseldown in over four hours on Oct 24th with monthly totals of 457 for October and 322 for November being the highest recorded there (Table 8). There were 21 reports of flocks of 100 or more, all in November or December and mostly from the New Forest. The highest New Forest count was a roosting flight estimated at 1,420 low over Handy Cross Plain on Dec 14th with a similar number of Chaffinches. Elsewhere the highest counts were at Pitt Down with 300 on Nov 28th and 500 on Dec 8th.

Monthly totals are tabulated below. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NF roost survey sites	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			1	2	0
Monthly maxima NF roosts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			1	5	0
County total grounded	175	70	153	240			142	1,560	3,909
County total moving	4	3	3	1			493	360	34

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce to moderately common resident, most numerous in the New Forest, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 101 tetrads (10%) in 27 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west with scattered reports in the centre, east and north-east. Survey work continued through 2021 with three new roosts located in the New Forest bring the total of known permanent roost sites to 46 in the New Forest and two in the Test Valley. In addition, a GPS/radio-tracking project in the New Forest, in part funded with a HOS grant, added to the data generated. 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	12	13	25	36	10	4	0	0	0	1	13	9
Roost 2	31	23	20	20	4	7	0	0	0	11	24	35

Between January and March 35 of the known roosts in the New Forest were surveyed producing an overall total of 353 Hawfinches giving an average of 10.1 per roost (508 from 38 roosts in 2020 giving an average of 13.4 per roost). Significant early year counts of 25 or more came from four locations, all at roosts, with 30 at Burley New Inclosure on Jan 2nd (also 29 there on Feb 5th); 31 at Holm Hill Inclosure on Jan 18th; 27 at Roe Inclosure on Feb 20th and 25 at Blackwater Arboretum on Mar 3rd.



Hawfinch, New Forest, Dec 23rd (Martin Bennett)

Away from the New Forest early year records came from East Wellow (10, Jan 1st; 8, Jan 3rd); Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury (1, NE, Mar 3rd); Mottisfont (2, Jan 28th); Newtown, Awbridge (1, Feb 8th and 14th); Fishlake Meadows (1, Jan 3rd); Mercer Way, Romsey (up to 2 on 12 dates between Jan 1st-25th; 1 on 2 dates between Feb 19th-22nd); Hursley Church (2, Jan 1st); Sparsholt (1, Jan 7th); Harewood Forest (1, Jan 9th); Hurstbourne Tarrant (2, Jan 1st); Weston Common (1, Jan 2nd); Basingstoke area (1, Jan 15th); Waterlooville (1, Jan 6th) and Oxenbourne Down (1, Mar 14th).

Breeding was recorded from 25 locations across the New Forest with good numbers of juveniles recorded. Forty-six were caught and colour-ringed in the Bolderwood area between Mar 22nd and July 3rd. In addition ten were GPS/radio-tagged as part of ongoing fieldwork in the New Forest (see separate paper on pages 211-219). Outside of the New Forest breeding season, records came from Mockbeggar Lake, Blashford (4, July 4th); Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury (2 NE, Apr 28th) and Whitenap, Romsey (1, May 30th).

Autumn passage was recorded from seven locations including Holly Hill Park, Warsash (1, Nov 16th); Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury (5 SW, Oct 22nd; 1 SW, Oct 23rd; 2 SW, Oct 24th; 1 SW, Nov 4th; 1 SW, Nov 13th; 4 SW, Nov 18th and 1 NE, Nov 21st); Whitchurch (1 SE, Nov 10th); Overton (1 SE, Oct 18th); Sherbourne St John (1 E, Nov 20th); Old Basing (1 E, Nov 24th) and Tweseldown (3 SW, Oct 14th; 1 SW, Oct 18th and 28th; 1 SW, Nov 4th; 2 SW, 11th; 2 SW, 19th and 2 SW, 23rd).

In the late year a build-up of birds attracted to a small group of Hornbeams in the north of the New Forest reached a peak of 208 on Dec 24th, five of which were caught and colour-ringed. Records from outside of the New Forest came from Bouldsbury Wood (1, Nov 11th); Woodlands, Totton (1, Dec 19th; 2, 27th; 1, 28th); Testwood Lakes (3, Sep 12th); Ampfield Wood (1, Oct 20th; 1, Nov 14th); Hursley Village (2, Dec 2nd); Farley Mount/Pitt Down (3, Nov 15th; 1, Nov 18th; 2, Dec 2nd); Cutty Brow (1, Dec 31st); Harewood Forest (1, Nov 6th; 2, 13th; 2, 28th; 3, Dec 4th; 9, 12th); Old Winchester Hill (2, Aug 31st; 10, Oct 12th); Noar Hill (1, Dec 2nd); Weston Common (1, Dec 16th); Rowlands Castle (3, Dec 1st); Bossington (1, Dec 3rd); Finchdean (3, Nov 21st) and Buriton (2, Nov 3rd). (MW)

Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common but declining resident and passage migrant.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 428 tetrads (42%) in 50 ten km squares. This remains one of the most under-recorded finches as a result of its sedentary nature. During the first winter period the maximum site count was 20 at Dibden Bay on Jan 23rd. Inland the highest counts were 12 at Skidmore on Jan 7th and Old Basing on Jan 15th.

Reports of territories came from widespread areas but there were no double-digit site counts. In BBS one km squares the highest number of registrations was seven at Dibden Bay on June 2nd and Minstead, NF on June 7th. The highest bird counts in the summer period were 15 at Martin Down on June 12th and 13 at Milking Pound Bottom, NF on Aug 1st.

No significant movements were noted, the highest count being six mostly NE at Trigpoint Hill on Nov 2nd. In the autumn and winter period NFWBS recorded cumulative totals of 28, 23 and 36 in October-December respectively (Table 4). Within the New Forest the highest individual site count was at Milking Pound Bottom with 12 on Dec 11th. Elsewhere the highest counts were 15 at Martin Down on Sep 20th, 20 at Dibden Bay on Nov 21st and 13 at Hayling Oysterbeds on Dec 28th. (AL)

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Chloris chloris*

Numerous but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red

Recorded in 500 tetrads (49%) in 52 ten km squares. Numbers appear to have stabilised in the past few years and records of wintering birds were widespread, although roost counts remain far below historical highs. Counts of more than 50 were reported from at least seven locations. In the first winter period 127 were recorded at the Lychpit Estate near Basingstoke on Jan 15th with 103 at the same location on Feb 8th. Elsewhere the only other count over 50 was 68 at Winnall Moors, Winchester on Mar 12th.

The breeding season mirrored the winter period with good numbers reported widely from April through to July. The highest numbers of registrations in BBS one km squares were 16 at Pitts Down on Apr 10th, 12 there on May 6th and ten at Miles Hill, Bourley on May 20th.

Post-breeding dispersal flocks included 60 at Minley Farm on July 12th and 52 at Sinah Common on July 19th. The autumn and winter period started with numbers at Sinah Common peaking at 100 on Nov 12th and 20th, the only three-figure count during the second half-year. Other counts over 50 were 52 at Titchfield Haven on Oct 11th and a maximum of 55 at Sarisbury Green on Dec 19th. (AL)

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 416 tetrads (41%) in 54 ten km squares. It was a good year in terms of early year numbers with 86 reports recording 100 or more birds. The highest count was 1,000 grounded at Nether Wallop on Jan 4th followed by 460 at Meonstoke on Jan 24th, 300 at Basingstoke STW on Feb 12th and 300 at Pigeon House Farm, Portsdown Hill on Feb 13th.

The Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths recorded 110 and 47 territories respectively compared to 145 and 15 last year (Table 1). Elsewhere the maximum numbers of registrations in BBS one km squares were 38 at Upper Slackstead on Apr 19th, 24 at Ashley Warren on Apr 21st, 22 at Keyhaven Marshes on May 9th and 20 at Beaulieu Heath West on Apr 16th.

Coastal and inland movements in contrast through autumn and winter period were unremarkable with only two three-digit counts of 108 SW at Tweseldown on Oct 22nd and 150 west at Needs Ore on Oct 27th. Half-monthly totals of autumn movements are tabulated below peaking between mid-October and mid-November. Winter flock numbers increased to 350 at Wheely Down on Oct 5th peaking at 1,000 at Bransbury Common on Nov 11th. (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		439	199	21		3
Inland moving	9	32	177	558	224	9	25	31

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Moderately common passage and winter visitor; formerly locally common breeder which last bred in 2006. Red, S4I

Recorded in 205 tetrads (20%) in 47 ten km squares, mostly in the south-west and north-east. A poor year with few high counts throughout and no suspected breeding records. In the first winter and early spring periods the only three-figure counts were 120 at Hazeley Heath on Jan 2nd and 100 at Velmead Common on Apr 8th-9th. There was a scattering of records, especially across the New Forest, during late spring and summer but no territories were reported. The only double-figure records during May to August were 20 at Castle Bottom on May 7th and 30 at Hazeley Heath on May 9th.

In the autumn to late winter period the number of migrants reported moving was much less than recent years (see table below and Table 8) and the only three-figure counts were up to 150 at Tweseldown between Nov 9th and 25th, 100 there on Dec 13th and 100 at Bushy Leaze Wood, Alton on Dec 24th. The only other site to record more than 50 was Hartley Wintney with 60 on Dec 3rd.

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			2	9	29			
Inland moving			7	37	28	13	3	3

Crossbill (Red Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra*

Moderately common resident whose numbers are periodically augmented by irruptions in summer or autumn. Schedule 1, Green

Recorded in 144 tetrads (14%) in 37 ten km squares, a significant drop since last year's unusually widespread numbers (225 tetrads in 44 ten km squares). However, numbers remained reasonably high in the first winter and spring period with around 1,000 reported between January and May across a wide range of sites. As with previous years, there was a propensity for locations in the New Forest and north-east of the county. The only counts of 50 or more were 100 at West Walk on Mar 2nd, 73 at Long Valley, Bourley North on Mar 20th and 50 at Pamber Forest on May 25th.

During the breeding season records were focussed mainly on the New Forest, where territorial birds or confirmed breeding were reported from ten sites, with one territory elsewhere at Hawley Common in the north-east. The maximum number of registrations in BBS one km squares was six at Holiday Hills Inclosure, NF on June 30th.

The autumn and winter period were considerably quieter with the only records over 50 being 90 at Bouldsbury Wood on Nov 11th and a roosting flock of 260 at Anderwood Inclosure, NF on Dec 12th. NFWBS reported cumulative totals of 27, four and 29 in October-December respectively (Table 4).

A summary of all records is shown below. (AL)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New Forest sites	89	131	125	160	180	81	52	42	26	75	160	350
North-east sites	162	200	632	223	181	11	3			32	39	2
Other sites	152	285	77	21	46		3	7	5	8	119	3
Moving		5	20		1	15	1			5	17	

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Numerous resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 603 tetrads (59%) in 55 ten km squares making this a very close second to Chaffinch in terms of tetrad coverage. In a reasonable year for the species, counts in the first three months of the year included 100 at Tweseldown on Jan 18th and 21st and high double-figure counts at numerous other locations.

In the breeding season the sites with highest numbers of registrations in BBS one km squares were Widley Farm, Portsdown with 36 on Apr 10th and East Cosham with 28 on Apr 17th.

In the second half-year grounded totals included 200 at Beacon Hill, Warnford on Aug 23rd, 200 at Martin Down on Aug 21st, 200 (mostly juveniles) at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester on Aug 29th and 260 at Hook-with-Warsash on Oct 6th with 18 other sites reporting lower triple-figure numbers. Counts of over 200 were also reported moving in October with maxima of between 220 NE and 400 NE at Sandy Point over each of five days between 10th-20th and 250 south at Gilkicker Point on 21st. Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. Coastal and inland counts of birds on the move peaked in late October although overall numbers were substantially lower than in 2020. (AL)

	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving			1,430	3,349	914	65	
Inland moving	46	57	97	584	522	103	3

Serin (European Serin) *Serinus serinus*

Rare visitor recorded in every month except August. (1,47,2)

One was singing in bushes behind the sailing club at Hill Head at 07:45 on Apr 16th (ARC) and another was seen and heard to fly over the sea wall by Butts Lagoon, Pennington Marshes at 07:10 on May 12th (MB).

Records of this species have declined in recent years, with just six between 2011-2020 compared to 22 between 2001-2010. Breeding numbers have declined in parts of the Continent, possibly driven by increased urbanization. (KFB)

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin) *Spinus spinus*

Moderately common breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Green

Recorded in 361 tetrads (35%) in 52 ten km squares. During the first winter period three-figure counts included 300 at Fleet Pond on Jan 1st, 200 there on Jan 8th, 250 at Lordswood, Southampton on Feb 14th and 100 at Coxford/Old Shirley, Southampton on Feb 19th, Minley Woods on Feb 20th and Velmead Common on Apr 8th, the last being a relatively large count for spring.

During the breeding season territorial behaviour was recorded at 11 locations and fledged young observed at seven sites. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was nine at Pignal Inclosure, NF on May 9th and Holiday Hills Inclosure, NF on May 14th.

The highest counts of the year were reported in the second winter period with 200 at Mockbeggar Lake on Nov 24th followed in December with other three-figure counts of 620 at Fleet Pond on 12th followed by 220 there on 12th and 525 on 15th, 400 at Darby Green on 27th, a maximum of 300 at Blashford Lakes Centre on 15th, 100 at Eversley on 17th and 100 at Fishlake Meadows on 29th. Many of these large flocks were reported feeding on Alders. In contrast to the grounded numbers, movements during the autumn were decidedly poor, with no three-figure counts from either inland or coastal sites, the highest being 60 SW in

five hours at Tweseldown on Oct 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	4	80	22	8
Inland moving		11	99	170	97	32

Lapland Bunting (Lapland Longspur) *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. (0, 213,1)

Schedule 1, Amber

A single was seen and heard as it flew over the sailing club at Needs Ore at 10:30 on Dec 8th. The observer heard the call and thankfully had started a continuous sound recording earlier in the day. This captured the call and enabled a sonograph to be produced for independent analysis (CB, sound-recorded).

The species is reported in very small numbers in most years, although at least 78 were recorded in 2010 when a major influx to the UK took place. (KFB)

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

Schedule 1, Amber

It was a good year for this species with multiple records. Two juveniles were reported from Hurst Beach between Jan 10th and 23rd, then a single male in the same area on Jan 30th and Feb 3rd. The first in autumn was an unusual record of a male at Ashley Walk/Leaden Hall in the New Forest on Oct 24th and 29th. This was followed in November by a single male at or near Hook-with-Warsash from 1st-7th and a mobile flock at Hayling Island from Gunner Point to Beachlands first reported as seven from 7th-10th rising to eight at mid-month and finally just two between 17th-29th and on Dec 19th.

The flock of eight is the largest seen in the county since 14 flew NE over Sturt Pond on Feb 23rd 1986. (AL)



Snow Bunting, Hayling Island, Nov 8th (Gareth Rees)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Locally moderately common but declining resident.

Red, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 58 tetrads (6%) in 19 ten km squares with most reports concentrated in the extreme west and along the central and north-west downlands. The only sites to report 30 or more during early winter and spring were Hatherden (30, Jan 7th), Cholderton (max. 55, Apr 10th) feeding on weeds in barley and Toyd Down (40, May 2nd) feeding in rape field.

It was a good breeding season with more widespread records across core areas from April to July with noticeable increases north of the Test Valley. Breeding season (April to August) counts of singing males were recorded as listed below (2020 figures in parentheses):

On the chalk west of Avon Valley: Martin Down, 12 (9); Toyd Down, 7.

West of Test Valley: The Wallops to Cholderton, 9 (9); Houghton Down, 7 (10).

In the Test Valley: 10 (0).

West of Winchester: Farley Mount, 0 (1).

East of Winchester: Longwood Warren/Cheesefoot Head/Gander Down, 13 (9).

East Hampshire: Colemore, 1.

North Hampshire: Kingsclere, 3 (1); Ashley Warren, 4 (2). Burghclere, 5 (0)

Coast: None recorded, (0).

There were no counts of more than 30 during the autumn and late winter period, the highest being at Toyd Down (30, Dec 26th). (AL)



Corn Bunting, Martin Down, June 5th (Ashley Howe)

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Numerous but declining resident. Red, S4I

Recorded in 309 tetrads (30%) in 47 ten km squares, with highest numbers on the chalk downland and fewest in the south-west. In the first few months of the year the highest counts were at Barton Stacey (150, Feb 13th; 100, Feb 11th and 20th), Cholderton (140, Feb 19th; 120 Feb 7th) and Corhampton (125, Jan 11th).

In the breeding season the highest numbers of registrations in BBS one km squares were ten at Blackmoor on Apr 4th and Longparish on Apr 10th and 18 at King's Somborne on Apr 30th. Non-breeding flocks in spring and early summer included 70 at Blackheath Down on Apr 11th and 60 at Martin Down on June 8th.

In the autumn and winter the only count to exceed 50 was 55 at Kilmeston on Dec 20th. (AL)



Yellowhammer, Martin Down, May 15th
(Chris Rose)

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Very rare vagrant. (0,7,1)

A first-winter was trapped in Embley Wood, Romsey on Oct 15th (SL).

This species was considered an outstanding rarity in past years but, of the eight records, half have been since 2016. It breeds from far north-east Europe to the far east of Russia and winters in northern India, southern China and northern South-east Asia. Each autumn a small number arrive in the UK, particularly in October. Some of these go on to remain in the winter. Nationally numbers have increased with an average of 33 per year in 2000–09 increasing to 73 per year in 2010–19. (KFB)

Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting) *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Amber, S4I, HBAP

Recorded in 181 tetrads (18%) in 40 ten km squares with highest numbers along river valleys and at wetland sites. In another poor year for the species, the largest counts in the first two months were 40 at Ranvilles Lane, Fareham on Jan 23rd, 32 along the Test Way near Romsey on Feb 1st and 30 at Sopley Pig Farm on Feb 6th.

During the breeding season 26 territories were reported at the two regular survey areas at the Lower Test Marshes and 8-12 territories were at Edenbrook CP, Fleet. The highest number of registrations in BBS one km squares was four each at Ibsley Water on May 6th and June 8th, Keyhaven Marshes on May 9th and Fleet Pond on June 23rd.

Autumn movements were unremarkable with the highest being six SW at Tweseldown on Nov 5th and Trigpoint Hill on Nov 8th and 18th. Minimum half-monthly totals of autumn migrants are tabulated below. The only grounded counts to exceed 30 in the autumn or winter were at Bishopstoke in December (max. 55, 11th). (AL)

	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15
Coast moving				3		
Inland moving	1	9	42	39	20	1

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 v11.2: 2021.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Escape (South America, Central & Southern Africa & South Asia).

One on a pond at Weybrook GC, Rooksdown, Basingstoke on Oct 16th.

Cackling Goose *Anser hutchinsii*

Escape (Canada). Whilst some birds of wild origin have been admitted to Category A of the British List, the record below is considered to relate to captive stock.

One reported at Farlington Marshes on July 3rd.

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus*

Escape (West Alaska & North-east Siberia)

The long-stayer in the Avon Valley from 2020 was reported from near Avon Causeway on Jan 4th and Feb 14th and nearby at Sopley on Dec 19th.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Escape (Australasia).

Recorded in all months, mostly in widespread coastal areas between Emsworth in the east and Blashford Lakes in the west. The stronghold remains the River Itchen through Southampton, particularly between Northam Bridge and Woodmill including Riverside and Bitterne Parks. This was the only area to record double-digit numbers with 11 on Jan 30th and May 31st, 12 on July 31st, ten on Sep 5th and 11 on Sep 12th. Elsewhere all records referred to between one and three. No breeding records were submitted this year. Also recorded away from the coast or Avon Valley with two flying over a garden in The Straight Mile, Ampfield on Feb 15th, one at East Horton GC pond between Mar 15th and June 29th, one grazing with Canada and Greylag Geese at Ibsley Common, NF on Apr 13th, two at Heath Pond, Petersfield between July 28th and Sep 29th and one east over Overton on Oct 7th.

Monthly maxima are shown below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	9	8	3	11	8	12	9	11	5	9	7

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Escape (Europe, North Africa & Asia).

The group of one male and four females first seen in the Ripley Farm Reservoir/Sopley area on Nov 27th 2020 was regularly reported in the Avon Causeway area from Jan 1st until Feb 26th and again at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Mar 12th. One at Avon Causeway on Feb 27th and four at Ibsley/Harbridge WM on Mar 1st and 3rd were assumed to be part of the same group. Elsewhere an unringed male was seen at Ewhurst Lake on Jan 22nd and 24th and the resident male at Heath Pond, Petersfield continued to be recorded throughout the year. Other singles included Black Point on Apr 8th, Lepe on Apr 13th, in the Avon Valley near Somerley on May 1st and 7th, flying over Bickerley Common on June 14th and subsequently



Ruddy Shelduck, Ibsley Water, July 28th (Gareth Rees)

at Ibsley Water from July 1st to Aug 3rd (male) and again on Oct 1st, Ripley Farm Reservoir (female) from Sep 4th to Dec 31st, and Normandy Marsh on Oct 14th. In addition two flew over Sabine's Farm/Avon Tyrrell WM on Nov 26th.

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.

South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Escape (Southern Africa).

One flew over Sabines Farm/Avon Tyrrell WM on Nov 26th and was subsequently seen at Sopley on Dec 19th. On both occasions it was with a Ruddy Shelduck.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Escape (Central & South America).

One reported from Heath Pond, Petersfield throughout the year. Also one at Kiln Pond, Benyon's Inclosure on Oct 24th and Spring Lane WCB, Alresford on Dec 13th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Escape (North America).

A male on Basingstoke Canal next to Tundry Pond on Oct 11th and nearby at Dogmersfield Lake on Dec 29th and 31st.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Escape (Australia).

One at Testwood Lakes on Oct 11th and two at West Cliff Marsh, Dibden Bay on Nov 24th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Escape (South America).

A male was regularly reported from the Portsmouth Harbour area including Hilsea and IBM Lake between Jan 7th and July 12th. The long-staying male previously reported from Farm Pond, Sherborne St. John was seen there again on Apr 1st.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Escape (North & South America).

One was regularly reported from Farlington Marshes between June 6th and Oct 17th and again on Dec 16th.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Escape/release (China).

One or two reported between March and September from Botley Wood, Vernham Dean, Popham Down Copse and Walkers Copse near Dummer, Silchester and Wyck.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Escape/release (China); formerly very scarce feral resident, now presumed extinct.

Recorded by BTO Garden Bird Watch at The Straight Mile, Ampfield with six on Jan 3rd, two on Mar 28th and one on May 2nd.

Green Pheasant *Phasianus versicolor*

Escape/release (Japan).

A recently released flock of 23 at Ripley Farm Reservoir on Mar 17th included many variants/hybrids.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

Escape/release (Europe & Asia).

Five at Croft Farm, Over Wallop on May 29th were no doubt from the Salisbury Plain reintroduction programme.

Crane (Common Crane) *Grus grus*

Escape/release (Europe and North Asia).

Given the reintroduction programme in the West Country, HOS Records Panel takes a cautious approach to each record and considered the following to be probable escapes or introductions.

Two flew north over Soberton at 12:45 on Feb 24th, one flew SW at Ibsley Bridge at 12:45 on Mar 17th and one was at Lucy Hall, NF between 09:25 and 13:30 on May 1st.

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 discounted.

The first was one west over Pennington village on Feb 1st with a blue ring on its left leg. Other singles followed at Somerley Park on Apr 2nd, NE over Locks Heath on July 13th (apparently unringed) and NE over Fishlake Meadows on Aug 25th (unringed). Exceptional numbers were then recorded between Sep 15th-17th as a flock peaking at 36 was tracked along the coast. Twenty-six were first reported circling over Langstone Harbour at 16:20 on 15th and then Locks Heath with 15 subsequently roosting on Sway Tower and adjacent buildings from about 19:30. The next day 36 were counted at Sway at 06:35 with one at Farlington Marshes from 09:30 and 33 subsequently seen over Hordle at 11:00. Finally on 17th two were seen at Lymington at 06:30 followed by the flock of 36 initially drifting west but then returning NE over Hook-with-Warsash, Fawley and Wickham Common from 09:15-11:00. The last report that day was of 33 over Clanfield at 12:10. These records are assumed to refer to the Knepp flock beginning its southbound migration from West Sussex by first moving west along the coast before returning east to cross the English Channel at a narrower point.

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. A further seven juveniles were released in 2020 and 12 more in 2021. These birds all carry satellite transmitters and regularly wander into Hampshire resulting in sightings too many to summarise. As of August 2022, 17 of the released birds are still known to be alive and nine of these are in southern England.

Recorded in all months, mostly in ones and twos up to Oct 21st but then increasing up to five to year end, probably as a result of the additional releases during the second half-year. Out of the 221 records, 122 were in SU49 with 100 of these at Needs Ore/Beaulieu Estuary. All other sight records were also in the southern parts of the county except for one (G393) which roosted overnight at West Heath north of Basingstoke on Mar 23rd.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Escape (North & South America).

Singles reported from Fleet Pond on July 1st, still with jesses, Whitchurch on Nov 3rd, having been present for several days before, and Harrow Way, Overton on Dec 11th.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Escape (South & South-east Asia).

Singles at Needs Ore on Feb 21st, Sarisbury on Aug 29th and Keyhaven Marshes on Nov 14th.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Escape (Europe and Northern Asia)

An adult was with other corvids at Middle Farm, Cheriton on Nov 20th-21st but carried a plastic ring high up on one leg that indicated it was of captive origin.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Assisted passage (North America).

One found within an office at the Western Docks, Southampton on May 28th was subsequently released (photo).

Table 1: Counts of territories of selected species on the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths in 2021

The totals for each species in 2020 are also given for comparison. For the Annex I species – Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler – it is a valid exercise except that Longmoor Inclosure was incompletely covered in 2020, so the totals for the Wealden Heaths in that year are below the true figure. Unfortunately comparison of counts for the other species is misleading due to variations in coverage. In particular, Woolmer Forest was covered for all species in 2020 but only for Annex I in 2021, while Longmoor Inclosure was incompletely covered 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*				nc	nc			4	3	12	12		2		6		
Bourley North/Long Valley	nc	2	13		3		12		25	9	25	6	15	8	8		
Bourley South	nc	1	13	2	4		6		25	18	31	1	19	7	27		
Bramshill Plantation	3		11	nc	nc		5		7	10			1	1	7		1
Bramshill Park Heath							1						1				
Bramshot Heath*	2		2	nc	nc				1	1					nc		
Eelmoor Marsh/Pyestock Hill	nc		3	nc	nc		1		nc	nc	5		8	1	nc		
Eversley Common including Busta Triangle			4		1		6	3	9	5	9		7	1	6		2
Castle Bottom			4		2		3		8	5	4		2		2		
Hawley Common	4	1	7	3	3		1		2	2	2		7		4		
Hazeley Heath		3	9	4	8		6		7	20	9		7	1	19		
Heath Warren	1		5	nc	nc	1	3				1		1	2			
Ivyhole Wood			2														
Lichett Plain			4				1										
Silchester Common*	1		2	1			1		3		2		1		6		
Tadley Common*			1						2		3				5		
Tweseldown			3	nc	nc		4		nc	nc	4		5		nc		
Velmead Common			1	nc	nc		3		nc	nc			3	1	nc		
Warren Heath		1	8	nc	nc	1	3							1			
Yateley Common (HCC)		1	9	nc	nc		4		7	19	17		7		3		
Yateley Common South (MOD)	4		10	1	1		6		2	5	23		15		10		
Yateley Heath Wood	1	1	6	2	3	1	8	4	17	17	4		11	8	7		
TBH total 2021	16	10	117	13	25	3	74	11	118	123	151	7	112	31	110	0	3
TBH total 2020	19	20	127	45	50	2	63	10	185	186	147	5	158	31	145	1	4
<i>Wealden Heaths</i>																	
Bramshott Common	nc	nc	5	nc	nc		3		nc	nc		nc	nc	1	nc	3	nc
Broxhead Common (HCC)			2	nc	nc		3		2		10		1		3		
Broxhead Common (MOD)		1	2	nc	nc		2				6		1	1	1		
Conford Moor		1	1		1		1						1	1	1	1	
Cranmer Heath	nc	nc	1	nc	nc		1	nc	nc	nc		nc	nc	nc	nc		nc

Hammer Common	1		1	1	2			2	1			3		1		
Kingsley Common			2		1		1					12				
Longmoor Inclosure	5	2	19	14	18		13		21	14	44	13	20	22	27	27
Ludshott Common	nc	1	17	nc	nc		5		20	18	42	3	7	2	7	
Passfield Common	1	1	2	nc	nc		3							1		
Shortheath Common**		1		2	2				2				1			
The Slab/Warren/ Blackmoor GC**		1	6	5	6		2	1	4	2	1		3		7	2
Weavers Down/Holly Hills			1													
Woolmer Forest	nc	nc	16	nc	nc	1	21	nc	nc	nc	32	nc	nc	nc	nc	2
WH total 2021	7	8	75	22	30	1	55	1	49	37	135	16	49	28	47	35
WH total 2020	1	6	57	9	17	1	45	1	62	21	103	24	85	52	15	18

* = not included in Thames Basin Heaths SPA; ** = not included in Wealden Heaths SPA; nc = no count; blank square = 0

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Table 2: Results of BTO Garden BirdWatch in Hampshire in 2021

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 280-367 compared to the year total of 429 The final column shows the total number of gardens from which the species was reported at least once during 2021.

Species	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	SITES
Blackbird	98.4	98.3	98.6	99.1	99.4	98.4	99.3	93.6	84.2	92.7	98.0	98.6	425
Blackcap	33.2	34.8	30.6	31.5	21.7	14.5	12.0	11.1	9.2	7.3	9.3	24.1	243
Black-headed Gull	6.8	5.0	2.8	2.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	2.9	1.4	2.4	5.3	5.4	50
Blue Tit	97.0	96.7	97.2	98.8	97.0	91.5	89.8	91.1	94.2	94.5	97.0	98.6	422
Brambling	4.1	5.2	3.6	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.7	3.7	34
Bullfinch	21.0	19.6	15.2	21.7	26.2	26.2	23.0	18.2	7.5	4.8	11.3	16.0	170
Carrion Crow	38.4	39.8	45.2	46.8	50.3	43.8	35.7	32.5	29.5	40.8	38.9	40.7	268
Chaffinch	56.1	60.2	60.6	50.6	48.8	47.0	36.7	32.9	33.6	43.3	48.5	53.6	306
Coal Tit	66.5	62.2	56.2	56.6	52.7	39.7	40.6	50.4	41.1	50.5	60.1	64.2	331
Collared Dove	61.3	65.7	70.5	73.7	68.2	69.1	67.5	69.6	64.7	59.2	58.8	62.8	352
Duncock	83.9	85.1	84.8	86.7	86.3	83.0	80.6	80.0	76.0	81.0	79.7	84.5	393
Feral Pigeon	19.6	19.1	19.8	19.9	21.4	18.9	19.4	21.8	19.2	23.2	21.3	18.1	125
Fieldfare	6.3	5.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.1	2.3	3.4	38
Goldcrest	16.9	14.4	13.2	12.7	9.8	6.9	4.9	5.7	7.2	11.4	10.3	9.5	152
Goldfinch	70.3	75.7	79.6	84.4	82.7	77.3	73.5	70.0	63.4	67.5	66.8	68.5	383
Great Spotted Woodpecker	47.7	43.9	39.1	41.9	50.0	48.9	44.2	41.8	22.9	42.6	43.5	53.6	286
Great Tit	90.7	88.7	89.5	91.0	88.4	82.3	78.1	84.6	79.1	83.4	87.0	89.4	415
Greenfinch	42.5	48.6	53.7	52.9	53.0	52.7	45.6	47.1	34.6	37.0	34.2	38.7	292
House Sparrow	67.6	70.2	74.7	77.5	78.3	77.6	79.5	70.4	62.7	68.2	69.1	69.3	356
Jackdaw	36.0	35.6	41.3	43.4	50.9	43.8	38.5	32.9	33.6	38.1	39.9	38.1	244
Jay	17.7	15.7	16.3	15.3	24.4	25.9	20.8	15.4	21.2	35.3	36.5	30.4	218

Long-tailed Tit	72.5	69.6	58.7	45.4	33.6	21.1	24.0	31.4	32.5	41.9	40.9	57.0	358
Magpie	75.7	77.3	76.9	81.2	86.3	82.0	77.4	80.4	76.0	87.2	83.4	79.9	397
Marsh Tit	10.1	10.2	7.7	6.6	6.5	2.5	4.9	7.5	5.5	5.5	7.6	10.9	59
Marsh/Willow Tit	2.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.3	1.0	1.3	2.0	14
Mistle Thrush	5.7	8.3	5.0	6.6	6.0	4.1	2.5	2.1	1.4	2.8	5.0	6.9	74
Nuthatch	50.4	46.7	40.2	39.3	44.3	45.4	42.0	46.4	44.5	47.1	45.5	50.4	267
Pied/White Wagtail	17.7	14.1	12.4	12.1	10.4	10.1	8.1	3.2	3.4	10.7	17.6	17.8	132
Redwing	19.6	17.1	6.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	11.3	16.0	114
Reed Bunting	1.1	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.7	12
Robin	98.1	98.6	99.4	98.8	97.6	95.0	95.4	96.8	97.9	97.9	99.3	98.9	425
Rook	13.6	16.6	19.0	23.1	22.9	14.8	12.4	7.5	9.2	11.8	12.0	14.0	138
Siskin	21.8	28.5	29.8	29.2	26.2	18.3	12.4	12.5	5.8	3.8	5.0	11.2	162
Song Thrush	38.1	42.8	27.5	31.2	26.8	23.7	24.7	15.0	9.2	13.5	29.6	38.4	260
Sparrowhawk	21.5	18.5	20.1	16.2	16.7	16.7	22.3	25.0	19.9	21.1	22.3	19.2	224
Starling	62.1	60.2	66.4	73.7	76.8	74.1	64.0	60.4	50.0	53.6	61.8	63.9	348
Tawny Owl	11.2	8.8	7.4	6.4	6.8	4.7	6.7	12.9	12.3	13.1	12.6	10.6	85
Tree Sparrow	2.7	1.4	1.9	1.7	2.7	1.3	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	31
Treecreeper	5.7	4.1	4.1	4.0	2.1	1.3	2.1	1.1	3.1	1.7	1.3	2.3	55
Woodpigeon	96.5	96.7	97.5	97.4	97.9	98.4	98.9	98.2	97.3	96.5	97.7	97.1	418
Wren	65.7	65.2	68.0	55.8	44.3	40.1	42.8	44.3	34.6	52.2	53.8	55.6	370
Yellowhammer	1.1	0.6	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.6	19

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 2021 from the 429 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 2021

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 2021 a total of 147 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. A total of 124 species was recorded but not all were breeding.

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 2021 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 are tabulated in 2021 if present in 12 or more squares. Others are listed below the table.

After 2020, which was an exceptional year due to the pandemic with very few early visits being undertaken, coverage returned to more normal levels in 2021. For that reason the previous five-year means and ranges for square occupancy in 2015-2019 have been retained for comparison to exclude the atypical 2020 results which would otherwise have distorted the figures. For consistency, the 2015-2019 mean numbers and ranges of birds per occupied square were also retained. Attention is drawn to the large drop in Swallow occupancy with Red Kite and Buzzard also much lower than previous years.

Species	Square Occupancy			Mean Number of Birds Detected per Occupied Square		
	2015-2019		2021	2015-2019		2021
	Mean	Range		Mean	Range	
<i>No of Squares Surveyed</i>	147.4	138-158	147			
Canada Goose	23%	22-25%	22%	6.1	5.7 – 6.5	8.5
Mallard	40%	34-47%	31%	7.0	5.4 – 8.1	10.3
Red-legged Partridge	34%	32-39%	40%	3.5	3.1 – 4.2	4.5
Pheasant	78%	75-82%	71%	6.4	5.5 – 7.3	10.6
Cuckoo	24%	21-28%	18%	1.6	1.4 – 1.8	1.5
Feral Pigeon	15%	12-17%	16%	10.6	8.8 – 13.5	6.2
Stock Dove	51%	48-53%	45%	2.9	2.4 – 3.2	4.3
Woodpigeon	100%	99-100%	99%	33.8	32.1 – 35.6	26.9
Collared Dove	55%	50-59%	48%	4.8	4.4 – 5.4	4.1
Moorhen	14%	11-17%	18%	1.9	1.5 – 2.2	1.9
Coot	9%	8-12%	9%	4.4	3.4 – 7.2	4.2
Black-headed Gull	34%	28-38%	18%	11.5	8.3 – 15.8	12.6
Herring Gull	28%	25-31%	16%	7.1	5.2 – 11.7	4.2
Grey Heron	24%	22-27%	12%	1.6	1.5 – 1.8	1.2
Red Kite	21%	15-30%	8%	1.7	1.4 – 2.0	2.0
Buzzard	53%	49-57%	30%	1.8	1.8 – 2.0	1.6
Great Spotted Woodpecker	72%	71-77%	65%	2.2	1.9 – 2.4	2.1
Green Woodpecker	47%	32-55%	40%	1.8	1.7 – 2.0	1.6
Kestrel	17%	15-19%	11%	1.1	1.0 – 1.2	1.1
Jay	48%	46-51%	33%	1.8	1.6 – 2.0	1.8
Magpie	74%	70-78%	71%	3.9	3.6 – 4.1	3.7
Jackdaw	79%	78-80%	68%	10.8	9.5 – 11.8	8.5
Rook	59%	57-62%	42%	27.3	21.0 – 32.2	16.8
Carrion Crow	95%	94-97%	94%	9.7	9.3 – 10.4	7.4
Coal Tit	42%	39-45%	35%	3.2	2.7 – 3.8	3.0
Marsh Tit	13%	10-16%	10%	1.7	1.4 – 2.1	2.1
Blue Tit	97%	97-99%	98%	8.8	7.8 – 9.6	8.7
Great Tit	94%	93-96%	93%	6.0	5.1 – 6.4	5.9

Skylark	55%	50-60%	54%	5.3	4.8 – 6.4	6.1
Swallow	58%	53-65%	20%	4.1	3.8 - 4.5	2.6
Long-tailed Tit	59%	47-63%	46%	3.1	2.9 - 3.2	2.2
Willow Warbler	25%	23-31%	20%	2.2	1.8 - 2.4	1.9
Chiffchaff	84%	74-90%	83%	4.0	3.4 - 4.5	3.9
Blackcap	86%	85-87%	93%	4.6	3.8 - 4.8	5.2
Garden Warbler	15%	12-18%	13%	1.5	1.2 - 1.9	1.9
Whitethroat	47%	42-53%	50%	2.7	2.5 – 3.1	2.7
Firecrest	11%	7-14%	12%	2.1	1.4 – 2.7	2.2
Goldcrest	55%	51-62%	49%	2.7	2.3 - 2.9	2.3
Wren	98%	96-100%	98%	11.3	10.8 – 12.2	10.2
Nuthatch	56%	51-62%	61%	2.8	2.4 – 3.1	2.6
Treecreeper	25%	23-30%	22%	1.5	1.4 – 1.6	1.7
Starling	52%	49-57%	48%	14.1	12.6 – 15.5	15.3
Blackbird	100%	99-100%	99%	15.3	14.9 – 15.9	14.0
Song Thrush	92%	90-93%	88%	4.2	3.8 - 4.6	4.2
Mistle Thrush	44%	40-50%	35%	2.1	1.8 - 2.4	1.7
Robin	98%	96-99%	99%	9.6	8.9 – 10.4	10.1
Stonechat	11%	9-12%	14%	4.3	3.6 – 5.1	3.7
House Sparrow	58%	56-60%	63%	13.1	11.5 – 15.9	15.1
Duncock	89%	87-91%	88%	3.9	3.7 - 4.2	4.2
Pied Wagtail	31%	22-37%	28%	1.6	1.5 - 1.8	1.7
Meadow Pipit	11%	9-14%	11%	5.0	4.0 – 5.7	4.8
Chaffinch	93%	92-96%	91%	7.8	7.3 – 8.9	6.0
Bullfinch	34%	28-37%	25%	1.9	1.7 - 2.3	1.8
Greenfinch	61%	55-70%	52%	3.6	2.6 - 4.3	2.9
Linnet	39%	35-41%	35%	7.5	6.0 – 9.0	5.6
Goldfinch	83%	78-88%	84%	6.7	5.6 – 7.5	5.5
Siskin	7%	5-9%	8%	4.1	3.7 – 4.6	3.3
Yellowhammer	44%	40-49%	44%	3.5	3.3 - 3.8	4.0

Other species recorded in 8-11 squares: Greylag Goose, Mute Swan, Lapwing, Curlew, Woodlark, Cetti's Warbler and Tree Pipit.

Other species recorded in 3-7 squares: Egyptian Goose, Shelduck, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Swift, Oystercatcher, Mediterranean Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Cormorant, Little Egret, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Peregrine, House Martin, Sedge and Reed Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Dartford Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart, Wheatear, Grey Wagtail, Corn and Reed Buntings.

Other species recorded in one or two squares: Mandarin Duck, Shoveler, Teal, Goosander, Little and Great Crested Grebes, Avocet, Little Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Common Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Great White Egret, Goshawk, White-tailed Eagle, Barn and Little Owls, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Hobby, Wood and Grasshopper Warblers, Fieldfare, Nightingale, Pied Flycatcher, Hawfinch and Crossbill.

Thanks are due to the BTO for managing the project, Glynne Evans for organising the survey in the county, all participants who are listed in Appendix 2, and Sarah Harris and Neil Calbrade at BTO for providing the data.

Table 4: Results of New Forest Winter Bird Survey in 2021

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Teal					1	5
Lapwing	23	2	11			1
Curlew			6			
Woodcock					3	1
Snipe			4	2	14	16
Little Egret					2	1
Sparrowhawk				4	4	7
Goshawk			1		4	4
Hen Harrier		1	1	3	3	3
Buzzard	2	5	28	44	29	24
Green Woodpecker	2		15	30	15	15
Kestrel		1	3	23	7	6
Merlin	1			1	2	2
Peregrine		1	1	3	3	
Great Grey Shrike					1	
Carriion Crow	41	28	90	403	403	366
Raven		1	14	33	25	27
Marsh Tit				6	3	7
Woodlark			20	16	5	2
Skylark		4	16	33	7	5
Dartford Warbler	3	3	10	81	54	57
Firecrest						1
Blackbird	25	13	111	205	456	474
Fieldfare	38	14	13	14	748	224
Redwing	11	5	109	559	5,571	1,789
Mistle Thrush	7	7	20	130	79	51
Stonechat	2	16	153	276	109	87
Meadow Pipit	38	22	185	668	272	239
Chaffinch	15	42	62	160	190	5,780
Brambling				2	14	33
Hawfinch	1		1	3	3	9
Bullfinch	3		5	28	23	36
Linnet		14	14	194	147	39
Lesser Redpoll					30	19
Crossbill			9	27	4	29
Siskin			21	52	53	25
Yellowhammer			1	2	3	
Reed Bunting				9	12	16
People	178	107	437	1,214	1,032	693
Dogs	61	40	189	449	363	323
No. of sites covered	3	3	9	38	38	37

COVID restrictions led to very few sites being covered in the first three months. Results have therefore been shown in red above as they are not comparable to other periods. Blank lines and spaces in the table indicate species not recorded in 2021.

Thanks to Jane Calderin for organising NFWBS. New volunteers are always welcome – please email Jane Calderin at shrikesurvey@hotmail.com.

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Table 5: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) coverage during 2021

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 (P Hughes <i>et al.</i>)		27	13	10	29	25	23	20	11	9	6	4
South Hayling: Beachlands to Eastoke Pt (H Wakeford)			29									9
South Hayling: Gunner Point to Beachlands (H Wakeford)			25				11				24	5
Sinah GP (S Newbery)										10	7	19
Langstone Harbour (C Cockburn <i>et al.</i>)		27	13	10	29	26	24	21	11	9	6	4
Great Salterns Lake (G Witton-Maclean)		27	13						12	9	6	4
Milton Pools (G Witton-Maclean)		27	13						12	9	6	4
Baffins Pond (A Srdic)								24		11	7	19
Canoe Lake, Southsea (A Srdic)								24		11	7	19
Portsmouth Harbour (I Calderwood <i>et al.</i>)		27	13						11	9	6	4
Wallington River (C Lee)										10	9	6
Gilkicker Lake (R Palmer)									12	10	7	19
Titchfield Haven (BS Duffin)		26	12	16	20						4	16
Brownwich (MD Rolfe)	31	25	12							14	13	3
Hamble Estuary below M27 (RK Levett, T Viney)		27	13	10			24	22	11	9	6	4
Hamble Estuary above M27 (J Faithfull)		27	13	10		26	24	21	11	9	6	4
R. Itchen: Weston-Northam (ML Edgeller)		28	13								6	6
R. Itchen: Northam-Mansbridge (IR Watts)	30	27	28						12	9	6	4
Lower Test/Eling/Bury Marshes (SS King, P Combridge)	29	26	13	10	29	26		21	10	9	6	4
Dibden Bay (J Smallwood)		28	14	11						10		5
Hythe (BJ Roberts)		27	14	9	30		25	29	11	9	6	4
Ashlett/Calshot (AS Rhodes)		28	14	11								5
Beaulieu Estuary (DJ Unsworth <i>et al.</i>)		28	14	11	30	27	25	22	12	10	7	5
Hatchet Pond (M Naprta)		14	16	11	22	13	25		9	10		
Sowley Pond (EJ Wiseman)	17	14	14	11	23	13	25	22	12	10	7	5
Sowley-Lymington: Pitts Deep (EJ Wiseman)						26	23	22	11	9		5
Sowley-Lymington: Pylewell (EJ Wiseman)						26	23	20	11	9	6	5
Lymington-Hurst (EJ Wiseman <i>et al.</i>)		27	13	10	29	26	25	22	11	9	6	4
<i>Avon Valley</i>												
North Sopley to Burton Fields (A Hayden, L Pyke)	17	14	14							10	7	19
R. Avon Sopley-Avon Causeway (A Hayden, L Pyke)	17	14	14						12	10	7	19
R. Avon Avon Causeway-Wattons Ford (JM Clark)		14	14						12	10	7	19
R. Avon Wattons Ford-Ringwood (K Sayer)		28	14						13		7	
R. Avon Ringwood-Fordingbridge (JE Levell)	17	14	14						12	10	7	19
R. Avon above Fordingbridge (K Sayer)									26	23	20	
Ripley Farm Reservoir (O Frampton)	17	14	14						12	10	7	19
Holmsley GP (O Frampton)	17	14	14						12	10	7	19
Hightown Lake, Ringwood (A Townshend)	17	14	14	11	23		11	29	12	10	4	19
Blashford Lakes (TMJ Doran, JM Clark)	17	14	14	11	29		17		12	10	7	19
<i>Test and Anton Valleys</i>												
Testwood Lakes (I Pibworth)	17	14	14						12	10	7	19
Broadlands Lake (P White)									12	10	7	19
Fishlake Meadows (DA Thelwell)	17	21	14	12					12	10	8	19
Awbridge Lake (P White)									12	10	7	19
Marsh Court Lake (GC Evans)	4	23	6	6	5	16	8	19	13	6	5	10
Marsh Court River (GC Evans)	4	23	6	6	5	16	8	19	13	6	5	10
R. Test: Stockbridge-Fullerton (GC Evans)			24	16	12	4	21	24	23	23	15	24
Bransbury Common (GC Evans)			9	22	7	19		20	29	22	4	
Longparish Trout Lakes (GC Evans)	3	24	8	2	8	17	7	18	18	5	2	12
Testbourne Estate (GC Evans)			23	9	6	23	25	17	21	15	23	20

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rooksbury Mill (K Maskell)	17	14	14						12	10		19
Anton Lakes (K Maskell)	17	14	14						12	10		19
St Mary Bourne (J Hale)									10	8	22	19
Laverstoke Park Lake (B Stalker)												15
Overton Paper Mill Lagoons (B Stalker)	16		13							12	8	19
Lower Ashe Farm (source of R Test) (B Stalker)	16	14	14							12	8	19
Ashe Park Lake (B Stalker)	16	14	14							12	8	19
<i>Itchen Valley</i>												
Allington GP (D Unsworth)										13	24	9
Lakeside CP, Eastleigh (S Ingram)	17	21	14							10	7	19
Marwell New Ponds (JM Cloyne)		15	19									
Fishers Pond, Colden Common (JM Cloyne)		15	19									
Winchester Watermeadows (C Thorpe)		14	14	11	16	20	25		16	11	7	19
Winnall Moors (P White)									12	10	7	19
Winchester SF (JM Cloyne)	13	13	14						13	11	6	18
Avington Lake (JM Cloyne)	15	11	12						10	10	5	14
Arlebury Lakes (M Armitage)	17	14	14							6	17	19
Alresford Pond (M Armitage)	17		14	26					27	17	7	19
The Grange, Northington (AFJ & PR Cox)		18	22	30				12			22	
<i>North and north-east</i>												
Ramptons Lane GP (B Stalker)	17	14	14	11						10	7	19
Welshman's Road GP (Burnt Common) (B Stalker)	17	14	14	11						10	7	19
Wolverton Pond (B Stalker)		14	14								7	19
Ewhurst Lake (B Stalker)	16	14	14							10	7	19
The Vyne (MJ Pitt)	17	15	14	11					12	11	7	19
Stratfield Saye (JM Clark)									12	10	7	19
Wellington CP (JM Clark)	19		15		17				13	19	8	17
Bramshill Plantation Lakes (JM Clark)	16	8	6						13	19	8	18
Bramshill Park Lake (JM Clark)	16	13	15	7	17	13	31	22	13	19	8	20
Busta Triangle (K Wills)		15	15						13	11	8	17
Lyndridge Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)		13	15						13	19	8	20
Fleethill Farm, Eversley (JM Clark)	15	12	12						13	15	12	17
Eversley GP (RC Murfitt)	17	12	12	9					13	15	12	17
Yateley GP (A Stony)	15	12	12						13	15	12	17
Hawley Lake (D Johnson)	17	14	14	11	23	20	25	22	19	10	7	19
Camp Farm GP/SF (KB Wills)	17	15	15						15	15	12	19
Fleet Pond (GC Stephenson)	17	14	14	11					12	10	7	19
Edenbrook CP (J Blithe)	16	13	13	10	22	13	25	22	12	9	7	19
Tundry Pond (KB Wills)	17	13	14						12	10	7	18
Dogmersfield Lake (KB Wills)	17	13	14						12	10	7	18
Hillside, Odiham (KB Wills)	17	13	14						12	10	7	18
<i>East</i>												
Kings Pond, Alton (SJ Mansfield)	18	13	17					21	14	11	7	19
Stubbs Farm Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)										11	19	29
Wyck Ponds, Binsted (IR Hainsworth)										11	19	29
King John's Hill Pond (IR Hainsworth)										11	19	29
Woolmer Pond (M Lawn)	17	19	13	18	15	14	18	16	17	17	14	18
Waggoners Wells (R Turner)	17	14	14									
Heath Pond, Petersfield (AC Smallbone)	17	14	14	11	23	13	25	22	12	10	7	19
Warnford Park Lake (PP Short)	17	14	17	13	23	14	25	24	21	10	7	20
Bishop Waltham Ponds (D Gussman)	17	14		11					17	22	14	13

Chichester Harbour team: T Bickerton, S Chalmers, J Chapman, J Curtin, J Darley, P Hughes.
Langstone Harbour team: D Ball, GC Barrett, T Bickerton, G Butler, C Cockburn, M Coumbe,

AFJ Cox, J Crook, TMJ Doran, G Farwell, A Field, C Lee, L MacCallum, 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. **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- 2020	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2020	Latest 2021	Earliest 1954- 2020	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2020	Earliest 2021	Summering records
White-fr. Goose	29.5.15	28 Mar	5 Apr	28 May	4.10.52 4.10.14	12 Nov	25 Oct	18 Dec	7 (June-Sep)
Bewick's Swan	2.4.18	12 Mar	2 Mar	NA	15.10.04	3 Nov	19 Nov	NA	9 (Apr/May)
Scaup	26.5.10	8 Apr	3 Apr	18 Apr	30.08.20	27 Oct	26 Oct	10 Oct	4 (June-Aug)
Velvet Scoter	26.6.97	2 May	8 May	24 Apr	29.9.91	30 Oct	5 Nov	26 Oct	
Long-tailed Duck	27.5.00	3 May	23 Apr	25 Apr	23.9.61	4 Nov	5 Nov	23 Nov	7 (June-Aug)
Smew	10.4.63	NA	1 Mar	3 Mar	8.11.82	NA	11 Dec*	NA	1 (June)
Red-necked Grebe	9.5.68	29 Mar	8 Mar	10 Mar	24.8.94	18 Oct	23 Nov	11 Nov	
Slavonian Grebe	22.5.59	8 Apr	5 Apr	18 Mar	18.9.09 18.9.19	25 Oct	24 Oct	16 Oct	2 (Aug)
Purple Sandpiper	31.5.61	25 Apr	9 May	6 May	7.7.69	4 Oct	8 Oct	22 Oct	2 (July)
Jack Snipe	9.5.77	16 Apr	17 Apr	7 May	21.8.08	28 Sep	29 Sep	26 Sep	
Bl.-throated Diver	6.6.07	5 May	2 May	9 May	8.9.09	4 Nov	8 Nov	26 Nov	2 (May-Aug)
Gt. Northern Diver	26.6.20	12 May	30 May	14 May	16.9.03	5 Nov	18 Oct	24 Oct	1 (Aug)
Hen Harrier	10.6.86	8 May	23 Apr	13 May	23.8.07	25 Sep	27 Sep	8 Sep	1 (July)
Merlin	28.5.03	23 Apr	2 May	24 Apr	25.7.20	24 Aug	22 Aug	6 Sep	1 (July)
Great Grey Shrike	8.5.83	5 Apr	8 Apr	11 Apr	4.10.72	17 Oct	18 Oct	27 Oct	
Fieldfare	24.5.19	28 Apr	26 Apr	9 May	3.9.04	30 Sep	5 Oct	3 Oct	5 (June)
Redwing	17.5.20	23 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	11.9.99 11.9.15	27 Sep	29 Sep	27 Sep	3 (June-July)
Water Pipit	6.5.98	15 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	26.9.93	14 Oct	14 Oct	17 Oct	
Brambling	13.5.83	19 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	22.9.96	5 Oct	9 Oct	7 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	20 Oct*	8 Dec	
Snow Bunting	3.4.00	NA	10 Feb*	3 Feb	3.10.75	NA	22 Nov	24 Oct	

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- 2020	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2020	Earliest 2021	Latest 1954- 2020	Av. 1971- 2009	Av. 2010- 2020	Latest 2021	Wintering records
Garganey	22.2.19	19 Mar	9 Mar	20 Mar	29.11.53	28 Sep	1 Nov	24 Sep	
Quail	9.4.91	17 May	20 May	26 Apr	19.11.58	24 Aug	22 Aug*	28 July	6 (Dec-Mar)
Nightjar	22.4.09	5 May	28 Apr	3 May	13.10.74	7 Sep	14 Sep	11 Sep	1 (Nov)
Swift	2.4.09	16 Apr	12 Apr	3 Apr	17.11.74	5 Oct	25 Sep	19 Oct	
Cuckoo	15.3.89	3 Apr	2 Apr	31 Mar	30.10.10	13 Sep	13 Sep	30 Aug	
Turtle Dove	25.3.70	17 Apr	19 Apr	11 Apr	7.11.70	3 Oct	11 Sep	21 Sep	7 (Dec-Feb)
Stone-curlew	5.2.06	26 Mar	22 Mar	21 Feb	6.11.66	2 Oct	11 Oct	6 Oct	2 (Dec)
Little Ringed Plover	29.2.08	17 Mar	13 Mar	3 Mar	29.10.05	18 Sep	23 Sep	1 Oct	
Dotterel	6.4.19	3 May*	NA	NA	25.9.82	4 Sep*	NA	NA	1 (Dec/Jan)
Wood Sandpiper	23.3.03	3 May	26 Apr	1 Apr	26.10.75	22 Sep	15 Sep	15 Sep	1 (Feb)
Little Tern	24.3.57	10 Apr	12 Apr	5 Apr	22.10.72	30 Sep	15 Sep	18 Sep	1 (Jan)
Roseate Tern	17.4.11	3 May	1 May	30 Apr	10.10.99	10 Sep	2 Sep	26 July	
Common Tern	17.3.03	5 Apr	1 Apr	24 Mar	30.11.73	25 Oct	22 Oct	6 Nov	3 (Dec)
Arctic Tern	29.3.58	21 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	19.11.08	9 Oct	24 Oct	24 Oct	
Black Tern	10.4.11	22 Apr	20 Apr	24 Apr	15.11.67	6 Oct	24 Sep	10 Sep	
Arctic Skua	16.3.09	7 Apr	1 Apr	17 Apr	29.11.14	27 Oct	16 Oct	29 Oct	16 (Dec/Jan)
Osprey	7.2.07	5 Apr	15 Mar	1 Mar	11.12.99	14 Oct	2 Nov	5 Nov	
Honey-buzzard	18.4.10	30 Apr*	1 May	30 Apr	30.10.76	5 Oct	25 Sep	20 Sep	
Montagu's Harrier	8.4.79	1 May	3 May*	29 Apr	2.11.60	31 Aug	26 Aug*	NA	
Wryneck	2.4.61	25 Apr*	6 May	3 Apr	9.11.13	27 Sep	11 Oct*	8 Oct	
Hobby	16.3.02	12 Apr	3 Apr	27 Mar	6.11.01 6.11.10	11 Oct	21 Oct	27 Oct	
Sand Martin	19.2.19	16 Mar	7 Mar	3 Mar	28.11.13	15 Oct	21 Oct	29 Oct	2 (Dec/Jan)
Swallow	23.2.09 23.02.19	20 Mar	14 Mar	16 Mar	22.12.77	27 Nov	1 Dec	22 Dec	7 (Jan)
House Martin	10.2.04	27 Mar	22 Mar	14 Mar	22.12.82	16 Nov	7 Nov	4 Nov	2 (Jan/Feb)
Wood Warbler	1.4.06	19 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	29.9.64	23 Aug	20 Aug	1 Aug	
Willow Warbler	15.3.09	24 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	1.12.90	9 Oct	12 Oct	17 Oct	
Sedge Warbler	17.3.63	7 Apr	31 Mar	30 Mar	9.11.63	10 Oct	15 Oct	28 Sep	1 (Dec)
Reed Warbler	29.3.18	13 Apr	4 Apr	30 Mar	2.12.84	19 Oct	22 Oct	8 Oct	
Grasshopper Warbler	1.4.97	16 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	26.10.17	20 Sep	2 Oct	25 Sep	
Garden Warbler	17.3.74	10 Apr	10 Apr	11 Apr	29.11.87	2 Oct	5 Oct	2 Nov	1 (Dec-Feb)
Lesser Whitethroat	1.4.89	16 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	31.10.82	3 Oct	9 Oct	25 Oct	12 (Nov-Mar)
Whitethroat	7.3.97	8 Apr	4 Apr	30 Mar	17.11.95	7 Oct	20 Oct	15 Oct	5 (Dec/Jan)
Ring Ouzel	3.3.96	30 Mar	24 Mar	23 Mar	4.12.03	30 Oct	8 Nov	2 Nov	7 (Dec-Feb)
Spotted Flycatcher	8.4.00	28 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	29.10.61	3 Oct	9 Oct	5 Oct	
Nightingale	3.4.75 3.4.12	14 Apr	9 Apr	11 Apr	9.10.85	20 Aug	4 Aug	18 Aug	
Pied Flycatcher	26.3.96	13 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	22.10.77	27 Sep	23 Sep	10 Sep	
Redstart	17.3.68	3 Apr	2 Apr	29 Mar	24.11.89	15 Oct	19 Oct	23 Nov	1 (Mar)
Whinchat	21.3.68	17 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr	21.12.03	28 Oct	27 Oct	24 Oct	5 (Jan/Feb)
Wheatear	6.2.89	11 Mar	7 Mar	23 Feb	31.12.94	10 Nov	12 Nov	3 Nov	3 (Jan)
Yellow Wagtail	10.3.68	31 Mar	30 Mar	27 Mar	20.11.76	19 Oct	21 Oct	14 Oct	5 (Dec-Feb)
Tree Pipit	16.3.92	29 Mar	29 Mar	27 Mar	25.10.79	4 Oct	10 Oct	16 Oct	

Bold = new/equal earliest or latest date; * = based on limited data set; NA = not available

Table 8: Monthly totals of birds observed moving over watchpoints during 2021

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)	12	12	16	12	11	3	8	12	17	20	16	10
Total hours:mins	7:40	9:30	16:45	10:05	8:35	2:05	6:25	12:25	22:45	24:40	23:26	8:46
Swift				1	129	10	256	33				
Stock Dove	9	27	20	9	23		11	30	112	176	176	118
Woodpigeon	774				489				360	1,680	2,419	
Collared Dove					3	2			3	9		
Lapwing		445	2	4					1	2	62	56
Golden Plover	60	7							1	59	55	
Black-headed Gull	60	182		4			1	4	10	41		
Common Gull	11	34	39							7	75	16
GBB Gull	5	2	9	2						1	3	3
Herring Gull	152	27	92	99	19		11	71	59	328	211	119
LBB Gull	1	15	69	32	14	24	41	21	1	3	4	
Cormorant	12	12	22	13	10		7	16	80	76	48	21
GS Woodpecker						1		2	5	4	3	2
Merlin			1								1	
Hobby					1		1	4	2			
Peregrine			1						1		1	
Jay									112	59	6	1
Jackdaw										140	17	
Raven		10					1		3	2	3	
Woodlark									1	9		
Skylark	5		6				7		48	322	153	76
Sand Martin			23	12				31	9			
Swallow			5	49	69		22	116	2,562	697		
House Martin				13	49		6	478	362	529		
Starling	70	505	30	3	8	16	49	17	283	1,365	1,671	439
Blackbird			1							3	13	
Fieldfare	61	244	50								635	57
Song Thrush		3	1						1	21	10	
Redwing	312	122	116							976	1,937	232
Mistle Thrush		1		4				6	21	25	5	
flava Wagtail					1			7	8			
Grey Wagtail				1				1	6	4	2	
alba Wagtail	9	3	12		2			1	6	111	53	5
Meadow Pipit	4	15	473	179					380	404	94	16
Tree Pipit					1				2			
Chaffinch	33	52	52	2	1				107	670	1,178	253
Brambling			1							6	32	8
Hawfinch			1	2						8	7	
Bullfinch	2	1		1						4	16	1
Greenfinch	8	1	2		2			2	2	19	67	16
Linnet	22	49	22	43	9	8	30	14	25	220	88	64
Lesser Redpoll		4	10	1						6	34	5
Goldfinch	24	13	18	21			22	34	57	123	47	12
Siskin	2	7	8	3			1		2	34	54	9
Yellowhammer	6	19	1	1						15	38	30
Reed Bunting									1	23	43	3

**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)		1	4				3	3	13	20	24	1
Total hours:mins	0:00	0:30	4:30	0:00	0:00	0:00	5:00	4:15	29:00	58:00	59:30	1:00
Greylag Goose									12	26		
Pink-ft Goose										1		
Swift							326	10	1			
Stock Dove									818	1,579	1,461	5
Woodpigeon										3,249	20,732	
Lapwing										1	39	
Golden Plover										1		
Ringed Plover									1			
Curlew							1					
Snipe									6	1		
Black-headed Gull								5	37	76	88	
Common Gull										5	8	
Herring Gull							94	234	41	331	469	91
Yellow-leg. Gull									1			
LBB Gull							3	5	4	35	23	2
Cormorant									42	60	26	
Grey Heron									3	3		
Great White Egret									3			
Little Egret			1							7		
Hobby									4			
Peregrine											2	
Ring-n Parakeet										3		
Jay									96	56	2	
Jackdaw									113	657	222	
Carrion Crow									11	82		
Raven			2						11	6	10	
Woodlark									9		10	
Skylark									6	97	35	1
Short-toed Lark										1		
Sand Martin									4			
Swallow									1,616	4		
House Martin									3,005	1,743		
Starling			30						41	7,886	10,152	16
Blackbird										21	98	
Fieldfare		6	20							20	7,893	
Redwing			335							40,355	20,447	20
Song Thrush		1							2	47	210	
Mistle Thrush									47	106	32	
Duncock									2	3		
flava Wagtail									3			
Grey Wagtail									4	8		
alba Wagtail			1						51	85	23	
Meadow Pipit			23						1,152	693	13	
Tree Pipit								2				
Chaffinch			23						19	2,294	2,068	
Brambling										457	322	
Hawfinch										5	7	
Bullfinch			1							4	10	
Greenfinch									3	12	69	
Linnet									18	575	182	
Lesser Redpoll			1							61	8	
Crossbill											17	
Goldfinch		3							46	462	347	
Siskin			35						3	232	79	

**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)		1	4				3	3	13	20	24	1
Total hours:mins	0:00	0:30	4:30	0:00	0:00	0:00	5:00	4:15	29:00	58:00	59:30	1:00
Yellowhammer										1	6	
Reed Bunting										26	16	

Barton on Sea (Steve Keen)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)		3	21	22	17		5	21	9	4	11	9
Total hours:mins		7	55:40	100:40	56:05		18:25	71:40	25:20	8:50	29:35	18:05
Brent Goose			185	76					1	31	6	54
Barnacle Goose					14							
Canada Goose		14	88	60	40		19	290	204	4	22	53
White-fr Goose												3
Greylag Goose			6	6							8	1
Egyptian Goose					2				6	8	18	
Mute Swan		2	24	2	4			7	2	2	2	3
Shelduck		2	18	20	22		3					3
Eider				7	13						2	
Mandarin											1	
Common Scoter			42	208	189		11	18		5	6	5
Goosander											4	
Red-br Merganser					1							3
Tufted Duck								1				
Mallard								2				
Gadwall			3									
Shoveler			20	6			4	3			1	
Wigeon		14						4				4
Pintail			11					2			1	
Teal		6	5									
Red-thr Diver				1	2						1	7
Bl-throated Diver				1								
GN Diver					1							1
Diver sp												1
Swift				4	42		391					
R Dove/F Pigeon											7	
Stock Dove		2	8	3						4	1,098	
Woodpigeon			17	30						27	45,879	
Collared Dove		1					5			1		
GC Grebe				2							2	
Oystercatcher			3	21	29		7	81				
Lapwing		40	1	1							46	
Golden Plover		4		2								
Ringed Plover				1				2	48			1
Whimbrel				260	55		1	4				
Curlew			4	4	2			26	4			1
Dunlin			1	3	30		3	27				
Black-t Godwit										1		

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)		3	21	22	17		5	21	9	4	11	9
Total hours:mins		7	55:40	100:40	56:05		18:25	71:40	25:20	8:50	29:35	18:05
Bar-t Godwit				34				2	4			
Turnstone				1	4			1				
Sanderling				34	9							
Snipe				1				1	1			
Green Sandpiper			1									
Greenshank								2				
Redshank			1						1			
Kittiwake			6	2								7
Black-headed Gull			673	1,045	73			429				
Med Gull		1	119	689	53			35	7			
Common Gull		9	44	29	4		2	6	1	2	3	
GBB Gull			10	47	12			4			5	
Herring Gull			293	497	276			65				
Yellow-leg Gull								4				
LBB Gull		1	32	42	12			3			39	
Sandwich Tern			4	169	492			13	2			
Little Tern				5	7							
Common Tern				27	6							
Arctic Tern					3							
"Commic" Tern				1	11							
Great Skua				5	1							
Arctic Skua					1							
Guillemot					3							4
Razorbill												12
Auk sp				1	5							9
Fulmar			3	8	4			2				
Gannet			10	80	148		4	75				4
Cormorant		2	98	112	72			69	24	11	37	26
Shag			18	30	63		1	1	1	5	11	8
Spoonbill				2								
Grey Heron				3	1		1	5	2			1
Little Egret		2		18	7		2	7	2		1	1
Cattle Egret					2			15				
Sparrowhawk				1								
Marsh Harrier				1				1	1		2	
Hen Harrier												1
Red Kite				1							1	
White-tailed Eagle			2	1							1	
Kingfisher									1			
Merlin				2								
Jackdaw											457	
Rook											3	
Carrion Crow				8	1							
Raven			10				1	1				
Skylark										54	164	
Sand Martin								35	8			
Swallow			2	54	39			225	1,301			
House Martin				2	1			5	612			
Starling										124	4,095	387
Blackbird										1	2	

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days (dates)		3	21	22	17		5	21	9	4	11	9
Total hours:mins		7	55:40	100:40	56:05		18:25	71:40	25:20	8:50	29:35	18:05
Fieldfare											5	6
Redwing			1	2							11	10
Song Thrush										5		
Mistle Thrush											3	
Whitethroat				1								
Willow Warbler				1								
flava Wagtail				13	3			334	99			
Grey Wagtail			1	1			1	9	20	1		
alba Wagtail			19	15			1	2	21	49	56	
Meadow Pipit			158	110	5				1,027	152	379	
Tree Pipit								18	6			
Rock Pipit									3		1	
Chaffinch				1					1	9	346	
Brambling											9	
Greenfinch			1								10	
Linnet			15	53					5	180	204	6
Lesser Redpoll										2	16	
Goldfinch				10						107	526	
Siskin		2	1	1					3	5	25	
Snow Bunting											1	
Yellowhammer					1							
Reed Bunting			2								5	

Appendix I

Appendix I: 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.

1997 – HOSRP

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: Hook-with-Warsash, Sep 30th.

2011 – BBRC

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*: Titchfield Haven, Nov 19th.

2021 – BBRC

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*: Tweseldown Hill, Nov 18th.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*: Tichborne, June 17th-July 17th.

2021 – HOSRP

Smew *Mergellus albellus*: Lakeside Country Park, Feb 10th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*: Needs Ore, Dec 23rd (3).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*: Keyhaven, Oct 3rd.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*: Ocknell Plain, NF, Aug 21st.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*: Farlington Marshes, May 10th (2).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*: Keyhaven Marsh, Aug 28th.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*: Martin Down, Nov 3rd.

Appendix 2

Observers and Contributors 2021

Observers

The following list includes all names entered in the 2021 database of records used to prepare the Systematic List.

Abley, TJ	Baker, C	Bell, M	Boult, P	Bulmer, AI
Abrahams, R	Baker, CG	Bellis, DJ	Bourton, A	Bulmer, A
Adair, S	Baker, I	Bennett, EJ	Bowhay, J	Bulpitt, N
Adams, A	Baker, JD	Bennett, JA	Bowman, C	Bunday, AW
Adams, M	Baker, MJ	Bennett, Ka	Bown, C	Bunday, E
Adams, MC	Baker, R	Bennett, K	Braddock, R	Buner, FD
Adams, R	Baldwin, H	Bennett, MJ	Bradfield, S	Burchall, G
Addison, R	Baldwin, J	Bennett, T	Bradford, J	Burford, K
Adey, R	Baldwin, Na	Beraet, P	Bradnum, D	Burns, ANM
Adler, J	Baldwin, Nk	Beresford, A	Brand, K	Burrell, R
Ahmed, J	Ball, A	Beresford, PJ	Brandsma, J	Burton, DJ
Ailes, A	Ball, DJG	Berke, S	Bravery, M	Burton, R
Akehurst, T	Ball, M	Berry, S	Bray, J	Butcher, E
Akkaraju, S	Balmer, AJ	Berti, G	Brennan, G	Butler, AJ
Albanese, C	Balnaves, R	Bespolka, C	Brett, EC	Butler, E
Alderson, J	Balstone, N	Betton, KF	Brewer, R	Butler, G
Aldridge, J	Barber, C	Beusmans, AP	Briggs, A	Butler, R
Alexander, G	Barber, G	Bevan, A	Briggs, BD	Butler, TJ
Alexander, T	Barber, LJ	Bevan, M	Bristow, P	Butson, P
Al-Farhan, H	Barenhorst, C	Bew, N	Britten, K	Button, C
Allan, D	Barfield, MS	Bezuidenhout, B	Broadley, D	Buttress, J
Allcorn, R	Barker, SRj	Bicker, R	Broadway, R	Buttress, S
Allen, St	Barnes, C	Bickerton, T	Broadway, S	Byng, J
Allen, S	Barnes, E	Bignell, S	Brooke, K	Byrne, D
Allen, T	Barnes, P	Bingham, L	Brookes, CM	Cadogan, P
Alley, S	Barnett, T	Bingley, JH	Brookes, D	Cahill, J
Allnutt, DP	Barrass, CM	Bird, G	Brookes, K	Cairns, A
Amini, S	Barrett, G	Birder, C	Brookes, M	Calcutt, D
Andersen, P	Barrett, GC	Bisbing, K	Brooks, A	Calderwood, G
Anderson, J	Barrett, MA	Bish, RJ	Brown, BL	Calderwood, I
Anderson, M	Barrett, R	Bishop, A	Brown, D	Calladine, P
Andrews, JK	Barrington, K	Bishop, G	Brown, DJ	Caller, L
Annetts, L	Barry, C	Bishop, P	Brown, J	Cambell, B
Appleton, P	Barton, D	Bishop-Stafford, R	Brown, K	Cameron, E
Appleyard, H	Bass, D	Bissett, M	Brown, NH	Camp, AI
Aradas, S	Bassett, S	Black, N	Brown, PM	Campbell, D
Archer, D	Batchelor, SD	Blackford, D	Brown, RI	Campbell, P
Armitage, M	Bate, P	Blackman, R	Brown, Su	Capes, J
Armstrong, P	Bate, TJ	Blakeley, AF	Brown, Si	Carey, D
Arnold, BS	Bates, CM	Blandford, D	Brown, SA	Carley, T
Arrowsmith, B	Bath, M	Blithe, J	Brown, V	Carmichael, G
Ashley, P	Batho, GS	Bloomer, S	Brunton, S	Carpenter, BR
Ashley, S	Batiste, E	Blumsom, WG	Bryant, P	Carpenter, RJ
Atkinson, S	Baty, J	Blunden, P	Bryant, R	Carpenter, TF
Aubin, D	Bayliss, G	Boardman, M	Brydon, K	Carr, C
Axten, Sa	Beacham, B	Bolhuis, A	Buchanan, ME	Carter, D
Axten, S	Bealey, CE	Bolton, A	Buck, T	Carter, PM
Ayling, M	Beardmore, MD	Bond, N	Buckby, R	Carter, SH
Ayres, A	Beare, R	Booker, D	Buckingham, D	Cartwright, BM
Aziz, R	Beaton, A	Booker, MA	Buckland, K	Catty, N
Badenhorst, C	Beaumont, O	Boon, D	Buckle, NA	Cavey, I
Badnell, JM	Beck, R	Booth, A	Buckler, DJ	Challinor, S
Bailey, C	Beckett, R	Bose, A	Buckley, J	Chalmers, ML
Bailey, S	Bee, J	Boswell, SA	Budd, A	Chalmers, S
Baker, A	Bell, DA	Boswell, SR	Budd, PA	Chalto, T

Chamberlain, AM	Compton, P	Curson, S	Doran, TMJ	Exley, J
Chambers, R	Connell, C	Curtin, J	Double, P	Eyre, JA
Chant, N	Constable, M	Curtis, CR	Dove, G	Fabry, R
Chapleo, C	Conway, G	Curtis, R	Down, G	Fagan, A
Chapman, A	Conway, T	cutting, b	Downey, B	Fagan, B
Chapman, C	Cook, CR	Cutting, J	Downing, J	Fairbrother, B
Chapman, J	Cook, M	Cutts, MAJ	Doye, R	Fairchild, V
Chapman, P	Coomber, RF	Dack, D	Drabik-Hamshare, Ma	Faithfull, JA
Chapman, RA	Coombs, N	Dale, M	Drabik-Hamshare, Mo	Farmer, S
Chapman, SE	Cooper, A	Damant, L	Drain, I	Farnworth, R
Chapman, TD	Cooper, B	Daniel, M	Drake, A	Farrell, C
Charles, P	Cooper, D	Daniels, R	Drane, P	Farwell, G
Charlson, E	Cooper, L	Dare, L	Drever, A	Faulkner, K
Charlton, K	Cooper, MB	Darley, J	Drewett, A	Faux, M
Chastell, SM	Cooper, MD	Darrell-Lambert, DG	Driver, PW	Faux, P
Cheadle, J	Coote, M	Davey, P	Dryden, M	Fawkes, PF
Cheese, TE	Copleston, P	Davidson, AS	Duckworth, NA	Fearnley, P
Cheke, RA	Copsey, S	Davies, C	Dudley, Ad	Feavious, R
Childs, D	Cordery, RJ	Davies, G	Dudley, A	Fellows, BJ
Childs, RN	Cornell, C	Davies, H	Duffin, BS	Fennemore, GD
Chippendale, P	Cornford, HR	Davies, K	Duffy, J	Fenner, K
Chown, DJ	Cornmell, B	Davies, L	Duffy, MD	Fenton-Scott, D
Christie, DA	Costello, P	Davies, Ma	Duncan, J	Ferreira, A
Christie, H	Cottee-Jones, E	Davies, M	Duncan, KP	Fewell, J
Christopher, R	Coulton, MT	Davies, P	Dunne, R	Field, AR
Churcher, K	Coumbe, MJ	Davies, PW	Durell, D	Fielding, J
Clark, A	Court, A	Davies, S	Durham, B	Fieldsend, P
Clark, FC	Court, JMC	Davis, AM	Durkin, R	Findlay, R
Clark, H	Court, N	Davis, G	Durnell, PR	Fitzgerald, M
Clark, JM	Cousins, R	Davis, J	Dutta, A	Fleet, D
Clark, S	Couzens, D	Davis, Z	Dutton, M	Fleming, K
Clarke, D	Cover, S	Daw, A	Dye, J	Floyd, P
Clarke, JA	Cowans, M	Dawkins, P	Earls, K	Foad, P
Clayton, S	Cox, AFJ	Dawson, SJ	Easom, L	Foote, C
Cleal, DL	Cox, AP	Day, A	Easton, H	Forbes, A
Cleal, M	Cox, B	Day, J	Eckhardt, G	Ford, R
Cleave, AJ	Cox, D	de Retuerto, MA	Edcob, J	Ford, RE
Clements, A	Cox, JR	Decker, B	Edden, R	Fordred, S
Clements, J	Cox, PR	Dedman, JW	Edge, B	Foreman, M
Clemons, S	Cox, R	Denham, D	Edgeller, ML	Forshaw, T
Cliffe, J	Cox, S	Dennett, S	Edmunds, HA	Forster, R
Clifford, A	Cozens, BR	Dennis, G	Edwards, L	Forster, T
Clifton, J	Crabbe, O	Dent, P&R	Elkins, B&M	Foster, CW
Clint, M	Craig, C	Denton, JS	Elliott-Moustache, G	Foster, D
Cloyne, JM	Craven, S	Derrick, DM	Ellis, D	Foster, H
Cluett, D	Crawford, AD	Dettmar, S	Ellis, P	Foster, N
Coates, BF	Creese, M	Devereau, SC	Ellis, R	Foster, P
Coates, BJ	Creighton, M	Dey, S	Emmens, P	Foster, R
Coath, M	Crilley, TL	Dibb, C	Emmerson, A	Fowler, V
Cobbett, K	Crisp, K	Dicker, GM	Etheridge, L	Fox, A
Cobley, A	Croft, S	Dickety, AJ	Etheridge, P	Foy, A
Cockburn, C	Crook, J	Dickie, A	Evans, B	Foyle, G
Codlin, TD	Crook, N	Dicks, DEJ	Evans, DG	Frampton, M
Coggins, A	Cross, AR	Dicks, S	Evans, GC	Frampton, OJ
Cole, D	Cross, M	Digby, G	Evans, J	Francis, M
Coleman, M	Cross, P	Dimmock, DP	Evans, LGR	Franzen, S
Colenutt, SR	Crow, TH	Diserens, T	Everitt, J	Free, DV
Colledge, D	Crowe, S	Dixon, M		Free, P
Collings, H	Crowley, PJ	Dodds, J		Freezer, E
Collins, AR	Cullen, R	Dodsworth, P		French, CD
Collins, CB	Cumming, DA	Doherty, TA		Friend, A
Collins, M	Cumming, I	Donaldson, PC		Fry, D
Collis, P	Cummins, T	Donovan, E		Fuller, LM
Collman, JR	Cunningham, M	Doomly, S		Fussell, M
Collyer, A	Curson, L			Gaiger, E

Gale, B	Griffiths, S	Hawkins, P	Hooper, S	Johnson, AC
Gale, L	Grimsey, A	Hawkins, R	Horn, G	Johnson, C
Gallen, A	Grimshaw, R	Hay, A	Horn, W	Johnson, D
Gamblin, C	Grimwade, S	Hay, MJW	Horne, D	Johnson, K&F
Gammage, PA	Grist, DM	Hayden, A	Horton, R	Johnson, S
Gardner, R	Groundsell, R	Haydon, RM	Houghton, DP	Johnson, T
Gartshore, N	Groves, R	Hayman, G	Howard, AM	Johnson-Hughes, S
Gaskin, LA	Guest, IR	Hayward, N	Howard, MJ	Jollans, A
Gaymond, F	Gull, R	Hayward, RJ	Howe, AR	Jolliffe, H
Gayton, JD	Gussman, D	Heard, PA	Howell, R	Jones, A
Geall, EC	Gutteridge, AC	Heath, AB	Howes, A	Jones, B
Gearing, J	Gwynn, BS	Heath, D	Howlett, A	Jones, C
Geary, CJ	Hack, PJ	Heath, PA	Hubbard, M	Jones, CD
Geer, G	Hackett, J	Heaver, MC	Huchis, M	Jones, D
Gent, A	Hacking, N	Hedley, B	Huddie, M	Jones, DA
Germain, A	Hainsworth, IR	Hedley, J	Hudson, A	Jones, Ge
Gibbons, MJ	Haisell, O	Hein, E	Hughes, BJ	Jones, G
Gibbs, C	Halder, S	Hellier, RD	Hughes, P	Jones, I
Gibbs, M	Hale, APS	Hemingway, P	Hull, JD	Jones, J
Gibbs, P	Hale, JA	Henry, T	Hull, NJ	Jones, LA
Gibson, C	Hall, S	Herniman, S	Hulme, J	Jones, MF
Gibson, T	Hall, T	Heselden, R	Humble, H	Jones, NR
Gibson-Poole, TE	Hallam, C	Hesk, MJ	Humphrey, VF	Jones, PD
Giddens, GSA	Hallett, RJ	Hetherington, J	Hunby, T	Jones, PE
Gilby, D	Halligan, MJ	Heward, Y	Hunt, J	Jones, RA
Giles, I	Hammersley, JM	Hewitt, JH	Hunt, P	Jones, S
Gilham, R	Hampson, IR	Hibberd, JW	Hunt, PR	Jones, S
Gillingham, D	Hampton, TM	Hibberd, M	Hunt, R	Jones, T
Gillingham, JKC	Hamziz, MJ	Hibbert, J	Hunter, E	Jordan, H
Gillingham, MA	Hanby, AM	Hickman, PJ	Hunter, P	Jordan, H
Gillooly, H	Hancock, P	Hider, G	Hurst, DT	Jordan, TRM
Gilman, D	Hancox, Jo	Higham, M	Hurworth, C	Jowers, D
Glavin, M	Hannam, JC	Highfield, M	Hutchins, AJ	Joy, R
Glover, C	Hannan, L	Hilder, C	Hutchins, JED	Joyce, M
Goadsby, L	Hardie, AJ	Hill, M	Hutchins, PE	Julian, I
Goater, B	Harding, A	Hill, MJ	Hyam, M	Justice, W
Goble, C	Harding, B	Hilton, JI	Hyland, P	Kalveitis, M
Goddard, B	Hare, M	Hinves, A	Ibbetson, S	Karstadt, P
Goddard, T	Harewood, D	Hipkiss, Jo	Ingram, S	Kearns, K
Godden, N	Hargrave, C	Hirst, M	Inness, P	Keen, SG
Godden, RJ	Hargreaves, BT	Hoad, L	Irwin, RN	Kelly, I
Godfrey, KM	Hargreaves, M	Hoar, N	Isaacs, J	Kelly, J
Goldsmith, N	Hargreaves, R	Hoare, DJ	Isabella, D	Kelson, DW
Gonzalez, A	Harley, RP	Hobbs, M	Ison, M	Kemsley, NW
Goodall, A	Harley, S	Hobby, P	Ivey, M	Kendall, NN
Goodall, R	Harrington, E	Hockey, A	Jackson, AG	Kennett, J
Gooding, UF	Harrington, ST	Hocking, C	Jackson, P	Kent, HN
Goodlad, A	Harris, CJ	Hocking, T	Jackson, R	Keough, J
Goodridge, JJ	Harris, S	Hodgson, I	Jackson, SJ	Kerrison, J
Goodspeed, JR	Harrison, C	Hogston, P	Jackson, V	Kettell, MM
Gordon, P	Harrison, P	Holding, AP	Jacobs, RJK	King, GJ
Gordon, SM	Harrold, G	Holland, D	Jacobs, RS	King, JE
Gorman, D	Harrop, T	Hollidge, K	Jafkins, K	King, M
Gower, A	Hart, R	Hollis, R	James, AR	King, N
Graham, T	Hartill, S	Holloway, Y	James, G	King, SJ
Grant, KR	Harvell, K	Holmes, C	James, H	King, SS
Gravely, L	Harvey, SC	Holmes, P	James, P	King, T
Grayshon, L	Hastings, B	Holmes, PDJ	Janaway, T	Kirby, AJ
Green, AE	Hastings, D	Holmes, PJ	Jarman, A	Kirby, P
Green, C	Hatch, SG	Honey, R	Jeffes, M	Kitching, I
Green, DG	Hatch, Z-J	Honeysett, J	Jenkins, R	Kitching, S
Greenfield, C	Hatcher, JJ	Honeysett, L	Jennings, P	Kline, P
Gregory, M	Hatcher, SP	Honeysett, P	Jepson, P	Kline, S
Greig, C	Hawkes, R	Hooks, H	Jewsbury, D	Knight, CM
Griffin, T	Hawkings, T	Hooper, L	John, A	Knight, N

Knight, S	Locke, D	Matson, I	Moran, T	Ogden, K
Knox, AG	Lomax, P	Matt, J	Morgan, A	Oliver, C
Knox, T	Long, N	Matthews, A	Morgan, KJ	Oliver, F
La, T	Longstaff, E	Matthews, N	Morley, S	Oliver, M
Ladd, RC	Lord, R	Matthews, PJ	Morrison, P&S	Olliver, A.
Lambden, M	Love, K	Matthews, S	Mortimer, L	Oram, MA
Lambe, GP	Love, RE	Maundrell, AJ	Morton, J	Orchard, D
Lambert, SR	Lovell, M	May, G	Moseley, J	Ord, SD
Lamond, C	Lovett, A	May, K	Moseley, JC	Orford, M
Lamsdell, C	Lowe, WJ	Mayhead, C	Mould-Ryan, RB	Orlowski, J
Lane, S	Lowings, VA	Mayne, W	Moulds, J	Ormerod, P
Lang, IM	Lowther &	Mayo, CR	Mountford, R	Orriss, H
Langley, GB	Weingarten, J	McCann, J	Mude, D	Osborn, P
Lapworth, A	Lucy, K	McClements, J	Mullender, C	Osborne, J
Lara, S	Luff, D	McColl, S	Munday, DR	O'Shea, T
Larkin, A	Luke, C	McCullagh, SFH	Munday, R	Osman, S
Larkin, H	Lumsden, S	McCullough, A	Munro, J	O'Sullivan, K
Latham, MJ	Lunn, AP	McEwan, C	Munro, R	Oulsnam, D
Latham, S	Luther, CM	McGuire, CA	Munro, Y	Owen, AE
Lavington, S	Lycett, C	McIntosh, K	Munslow, S	Owen, NT
Lawn, MR	Lyness, D	McKechnie, E	Munt, H	Owens, Ai
Lawrence, DP	Lynham, C	Mckellar, C	Munts, D	Owens, A
Lawrence, P	Mabbett, T	Mckenna, R	Murdoch, DA	Packer, I
Lawrence, R	MacCallum, L	McLean, I	Murdoch, HI	Padget, O
Lawrence, SP	MacDonald, R	McManus, M	Murdock, AP	Page, AG
Lee, C	Macfadyen, M	Mcmullan, H	Murfitt, RC	Page, B
Lee, J	MacKenzie, C	McNamee, J	Murphy, CRP	Painter, MG
Lee, RD	Mackenzie, J	McVeigh, A	Murphy, G	Palmer, G
Leech, R	MacKenzie, K	Meacher, J	Murphy, M	Palmer, MJ
Leedham, S	Maclean, GM	Mead, G	Murray, D	Palmer, RA
Leeper, J	Maclean-Henry, G	Meads, M	Musievski, S	Panchaud, D
Legg, J	MacLennan, I	Mears, I	Mylett, T	Papps, N
Legge, WGD	Macmillan, M	Mellor, A	Naprrta, M	Papworth, D
Leishman, S	Maddocks, D	Mellor, L	Nash, A	Park, N
Leonard, C	Malcolm, S	Melrose, M	Nash, CS	Parker, R
Leonard, H	Mallett, C	Melville, CI	Neal, SM	Parker, AJ
Leonard, S	Maloney, R	Melville, C	Nelson, C	Parker, I
leonhardt, k	Mancuso, L	Melville, S	Nelson, R	Parker, K
Lester, AJB	Manley, J	Metcalf, KD	Nesbitt, M	Parker, OP
Lethbridge, J	Mann, L	Middleton, L	Newbury, S	Parker, R
Levell, JE	Mannick, S	Milburn, H	Newell, D	Parkes, E
Lever, A	Manning, CP	Miles, SJ	Newman, CJ	Parkes, M
Lever, P	Mansfield, SJ	Milinetz-Raby, PN	Newsome, P	Parkhouse, L
Levett, RK	Mapp, B	Millard, L	Newton, C	Parsonage, A
Levy, D&J	Marchant, RH	Miller, DAR	Newton, SJ	Parsons, I
Levy, DA	Marcuse, HD	Miller, HJ	Nickols, S	Parsons, T
Levy, S	Marouse, D	Miller, J	Nield, P	Parsons, TEG
Lewins, A	Marriner, L	Milligan, RF	Nieuwkerk, A	Pascal, RW
Lewis, A	Marriner, N	Mills, DGH	Nightingale, A	Pascoe, G
Lewis, P	Marsay, K	Mills, N	Nilsson, J	Pasfield, J
Lewis, R	Marston, PC	Milne, M	Noble, D	Paton, N
Lewis, T	Martin, A	Milton, G	Nockold, S	Payne, D
Lifton, T	Martin, AP	Mintram, G	Norman, G	Payne, L
Linnell, F	Martin, JP	Mist, J	Norman, MJ	Peace, R
Lintott, BJ	Martin, KP	Mitchell, D	Northcote, PH	Peacock, D
Lintott, EA	Martin, N	Mitchell, L	Norton, JA	Pearce, RK
Liphook, L	Martin, R	Mitchell, R	Norton, T	Pearson, DJ
Lisher, C	Martin, S	Mogg, D	Norwalk, K	Pearson, J
Lister, DJ	Maskell, JM	Monkhouse, J	Noyce, S	Pearson, P
Liversedge, A	Maskell, K	Moody, MP	Noyes, P	Penny, J
Lloyd, M	Mason, K	Moore, A	Nutbeen, G	Pentek, P
Lloyd, SJH	Massey, A	Moore, D	Oakes, J	Penton, G
Loader, G	Massie, D	Moore, J	Oakley, F	Pepper, G
Loader, S	Masson, D	Moore, M	Oakley, J	Perch, P
Lock, C	Masters, P	Moors, G	obsr2043517, Mr	Perrin, CA

Perry, A	Quinn, N	Rodger, B	Shelley, R	Speller, T
Perry, S	Rackett, BJ	Rodgers, A	Shepherd, C	Spencer, G
Peters, JN	Rackliffe, R	Rogers, BM	Sheppard, D	Spencer, Le
Peterson, L	Radden, DJC	Rogers, P	Sheppard, J	Spencer, L
Pett, J	Rafter, M	Rohner, M	Shepphard, S	Squires, K
Pfautsch, S	Raines, B	Rolfe, MD	Shilland, E	Srdic, A
Phelps, MS	Ralph, L	Rolls, B	Shillitoe, JRD	Sridhar, A
Phillips, A	Ralphs, IL	Romaine, L	Shipp, R	Stacey, D
Phillips, D	ramesh, A	Rooney, G	Shore, A	Stacey, S
Phillips, JN	Randall, M	Rose, C	Short, M	Stachnicki, T
Phillips, R	Raven, J	Roseveare, CD	Short, PP	Stalker, B
Pibworth, I	Raymond, CJ	Ross, JG	Shrewsbury, R	Stanbury, P
Picksley, J	Raynor, PJ	Roster, S	Shrimpton, J	Stancliffe, P
Picksley, S	Read, JE	Rowe, HEJ	Shrive, D	Stanhope, I
Pictor, GD	Read, R	Rowe, I	Shute, D	Stanley, R
Pidgeon, M	Reap, S	Rowe, R	Sibley, J	Stead, J
Piec, D	Reardon, C	Rowell, M	Sibsey, I	Steaggles, GJ
Piercey, B	Reavey, JB	Rowse, P	Simcox, WF	Steele, AJ
Piggott, SP	Redhead, JW	Rowse, PAS	Simmonds, Y	Stephens, R
Pilbrow, D	Reed, B	Rowyns, T	Simons, J	Stephens, W
Pimm, C	Reed, C	Roy, K	Simper, J	Stephenson, GC
Pinchen, BJ	Rees, GD	Royal, M	Simpson, KJ	Sterry, P
Pinchin, H	Reeves, A	Rumsby, b	Sims, AC	Stevens, A&V
Pines, C	Reeves, G	Russell, J	Singer, D	Stevens, C
Pinhorn, M	Reeves, H	Russell, V	Singlehurst, V	Stevens, DG
Pink, A	Reeves, J	Rutter, P	Sissons, D	Stevens, G
Pink, L	Reid, GS	Rutter, PM	Sketch, PA	Stevens, M
Pink, MA	Reid, N	Rylands, K	Slade, B	Stevenson, DE
Piper, CJ	Reinink, M	Ryves, DJ	Slade, C	Stewart, AH
Piper, DJ	Renton, A	Saffery, J	Sladen, P	Stewart, AP
Piper, R	Reumont, L	Salaman, P	Slaymaker, M	Stewart, G
Pitt, MJ	Reynolds, A	Sames, E	Small, D	Stileman, S
Pitts, R	Reynolds, P	Sampson, C	Smallbone, AC	Still, R
Pleasance, J	Rhodes, AS	Sardell, J	Smallwood, J	Stocker, A
Poczapsky, M	Rice, E	Saunders, P	Smart, NR	Stone, B
Pointon, D	Rich, G	Savage, M	Smart, S	Stone, S
Poland, H	Richards, S	Sawyer, R	Smith, A	Stoneman, M
Pollecoff, G	Richardson, B	Sayer, KR	Smith, AG	Stoney, A
Pont, S	Richardson, K	Sayers, L	Smith, BE	Stouse, KP
Pople, R	Riches, J	Scammell, BW	Smith, C	Strangeman, PJ
Porter, RJ	Rickard, S	Scarfone, S	Smith, DN	Strong, A
Portwood, L	Rickman, S	Schneider, H	Smith, Harry	Stubbs, C
Potts, PM	Riddle, D	schofield, n	Smith, Hayley	Stubbs, E
Powell, DW	Ridley, MJ	Scorey, PS	Smith, IA	Suits, J
Powell, S	Riley, S	Scott, A	Smith, JF	Sullivan, J
Pratt, E	Rios, R	Scourfield, P	Smith, JT	Sullivan, R
Precey, P	Roast, M	Scourfield, PT	Smith, K	Sulway, D
Prescott, C	Roberts, A	Scriven, A	Smith, LC	Sutton, K
Presswell, A	Roberts, BJ	Scudamore, P	Smith, ME	Sutton, P
Price, S	Roberts, G	Seargent, R	Smith, MJ	Swan, G
Prince, N	Roberts, GCM	Sears, B	Smith, NC	Swanmore, L
Prior, R	Roberts, KL	Seaton, C	Smith, P	Swann, M
Pritchard, E	Robertson, DBC	Seaward, J	Smith, PJS	Sweet, J
Pritchard, R	Robertson, MJ	Sewell, D	Smith, R	Swensson, DE
Proctor, P	Robinson, A	Seymour, K	Smith, S	Swinbank, R
Pullen, AP	Robinson, C	Shaft, M	Smith, SW	Symonds, ERC
Pullin, GJ	Robinson, CC	Sharp, G	Smith, T	Symons, G
Pullinger, S	Robinson-Ruffle,	Sharples, G	Smith, TC	Symons, LM
Punt, S	J&D	Shave, MJ	Smy, G	Sztypuljak, T
Puttock, B	Robison, DM	Shaw, MD	Snelgar, G	Tankard, E
Puzio, JD	Robjohns, AL	Shaw, S	Snell, J	Tarrant, K
Pyke, L	Robson, C	Shawyer, C	Snook, AM	Tate, G
Pyrah, RJ	Robson, S	Sheaf, P	Sorby, T	Taylor, D
Pyrzewski, MS	Roby, S	Sheldon, BC	Southworth, I&J	Taylor, DH
Quantrill, B	Roden, D	Shelley, J&C	Spackman, DM	Taylor, GK

Taylor, K	Tubbs, JM	Walshe, K	Whalvin, H	Williamson, C
Taylor, M	Tucker, A	Walston, J	Wheeldon, L	Williamson, ID
Taylor, MJ	Tulloch, R	Walton, J	Whelan, D	Willis, D
Taylor, RJ	Turner, B	Wang, E	Whiffen, C	Willmott, A
Teague, I	Turner, F	Ward, AD	Whitbread, P	Wills, KB
Team, C	Turner, G	Ward, C	White, C	Wills, P
Telepeni, P	Turner, J	Ward, G	White, DJ	Willshire, J
Terry, MGW	Turner, JP	Ward, JN	White, EL	Wilson, CR
Terry, MH	Turner, KA	Ward, L	White, JJ	Wilson, D
Tew, AB	Turner, RM	Ward, M	White, KG	Wilson, IS
Thelwell, DA	Turpin, R	ward, p	White, MJ	Wilson, J
Thom, R	Turvey, G	Warden, A	White, PJ	windibank, ND
Thomas, An	Twitchen, C	Warden, M	White, S&K	Winkworth, M
Thomas, A	Twyman, AP	Wareham, M	White, SN	Winson, B
Thomas, S	Tyler, D	Wareing, J	Whitehead, G	Winter, PD
Thompson, A	Tyson, S	Warne, PM	Whitehead, SG	Wiseman, EJ
Thompson, BG	Unsworth, DJ	Warner, R	Whitehouse, A	Witton, M
Thompson, D	Usher, S	Warren, C	Whitehouse, J	Witton-Maclean, G
Thompson, J	Valeriani, M	Warren, D	Whitehouse, N	Wood, B
Thompson, L	Valler, D	Warren, P	Whitelegg, D	Wood, N
Thompson, SRB	Vaughan, J	Warren-Thomas, E	Whitmarsh, N	Woodley, SR
Thorne, B	Veall, RM	Waterman, JR	Whitney, S	Woods, NJ
Thornton, GA	Villiers, P	Watson, RF	Wicks, SP	Woods, R
Thorpe, CJ	Vine, K	Watton, G	Wigeon, F	Woodward, G
Thurnell-Read, J	Viney, M	Watts, IR	Wiggins, M	Woolfries, SA
Thurstun, MH	Viney, TJ	Watts, PJ	Wiggins, R	Woolley, M
Tickle, E	Violette, M	Watts, R	Wilcox, C	Woolley, SK&J
Tickle, J	Vokes, MG	Wearing, MF	Wilcox, J	Wren, C
Tickle, S	Vora, M	Wearn, D	Wilding, J	Wren, R
Timms, A	Vrint, V	Webb, AR	Wildish, MF	Wright, A
Tindale, AD	Vyvyan-Robinson, C	Webb, HC	Wiley, NS	Wright, L
Todd, A	Wacher, T	Webb, R	Wilkerson, G	Wright, M
Todd, J	Wagstaff, MA	Webb, RM	Wilkes, E	Wright, R
Toft, RT	Waite, S	Weber, M	Wilkes, KR	Writer, T
Tofts, R	Wakefield, D	Webbley, JJ	Wilkie, A	Wynde, AR
Tomiak, S	Wakeford, H	Welbury, C	Wilkinson, C	Wynn, RB
Toomer, J	Walecki, B	Welch, A	Wilkinson, DP	Yankov, T
Tordoff, A	Walker, A	Wells, A	Wilkinson, I	Yates, G
Towheed, S	Walker, H	Wells, ID	Williams, AI	Yates, SR
Townsend, A	Walker, J	Wells, L	Williams, A	Yearwood, K
Toynnton, PE	Walker, S	West, JC	Williams, BR	Yelland, DM
Treadaway, D	Walker, TH	West, P	Williams, CE	Young, A
Trickle, ER	Wall, N	West, S	Williams, DE	Young, K
Trout, NS	Wallace, D	Westenberger, A	Williams, J	Young, R
Truluck, P	Wallace, P	Weston, B	Williams, JC&S	Younger, S
Trunecka, S	Wallis, RJ	Weston, ILG	Williams, R	Zadoya, A
Try, L		Whale, C	Williams, S	Zienkiewicz, A

Contributors

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Hawk Conservancy
Hoslist Yahoo Group

Instabirders Team
Naturetrek
Richard Carpenter's Titchfield Haven area summaries
RSPB Stone-curlew Team
Tuesday Group
Wild Winchester
10,000 Birds Collaborative

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**. It is equally important to submit your on-line records promptly to BirdTrack, eBird etc. as these are downloaded to HOS throughout each year. Whilst records received after this date will still be added to the database, they may not be included in the relevant Hampshire Bird Report for the year concerned as they either delay the compilation and circulation of records to report writers or, if issued later, risk confusion and add considerably to the workload. In both cases late record submissions risk delays to report production.

Information required for species occurring annually; updates for 2022 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 <i>bernica</i>	F (100), MM, F&L, M, R, inland A
Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>hrota</i>	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
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 <i>islandica</i>	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
Glossy Ibis	A, 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
Carrion Crow	CB, F (50), M
Raven	A
Waxwing	A, Notes excluding invasion years
Coal Tit <i>britannicus</i>	CB, F (20), M
Continental Coal Tit <i>ater</i>	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 <i>collybita</i>	CB, F (10), W
Siberian Chiffchaff <i>tristis</i>	A, Notes
Sedge Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Reed Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R

Grasshopper Warbler	A
Blackcap	CB, F (10), W
Garden Warbler	CB, F (5), F&L, R
Lesser Whitethroat	A
Whitethroat	CB, F (10), F&L
Dartford Warbler	A excluding New Forest, CB
Firecrest	A
Goldcrest	CB, F (10)
Wren	CB, F (25)
Nuthatch	CB, F (10)
Treecreeper	CB, F (10)
Starling	CB, F (100), M
Ring Ouzel	A
Blackbird	CB, F (25), M
Fieldfare	F (25), M, F&L
Redwing	F (25), M, F&L
Song Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Mistle Thrush	CB, F (10), M
Spotted Flycatcher	A
Robin	CB, F (25)
Nightingale	A
Pied Flycatcher	A
Black Redstart	A
Redstart	A
Whinchat	A
Stonechat	A
Wheatear	A
House Sparrow	CB, F (20), M
Tree Sparrow	A, Notes
Duncock	CB, F (10)
Yellow Wagtail <i>flavissima</i>	A
Yellow Wagtail other races	A, Notes
Grey Wagtail	B, F (5), M
Pied Wagtail <i>yarrelli</i>	CB, F (50), M
White Wagtail <i>alba</i>	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*. Note Smew has been added and Siberian Chiffchaff and Glossy Ibis removed and changed to brief notes only.

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, **Smew**, 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, 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, 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.

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.

GPS and radio-tracking Hawfinch in the New Forest: A summary of monitoring from 2019 & 2021

Andrew Colenutt, Marcus Ward & Helen Schneider



Figure 1. Male Hawfinch H3 (© Marcus Ward/Wild New Forest).

Abstract

Over the course of the 2019 and 2021 field seasons, between April and June, 16 adult male and four adult female Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* were fitted with dual high-resolution GPS/radio tags in the central New Forest. The combination of GPS, nearly 1,000 hours of intensive radio-tracking and visual observation data, from the field and using trail cameras, has given an insight into pre- and post-breeding mobility, range, foraging behaviour, habitat use and favoured feeding sites. Tracking of tagged individuals has shown movements away from nest sites in mature deciduous woodland, apparently rich in natural food sources, to favoured feeding areas in large Holly holms, where they were observed feeding on fallen Holly seed. Such specific movements and behaviour exhibited by tagged and non-tagged Hawfinch indicate that there is a considerable reliance on these Holly holms as an important source of high-energy food throughout the breeding season, as well as during the winter period. Four new communal crèches, with juvenile Hawfinch being provisioned by tagged and colour-ringed adult Hawfinch, were identified and confirmed from tracking tagged individuals. If they remain loyal to traditional locations, monitoring crèche sites could be a useful tool when assessing breeding success and informing woodland management.

Introduction

In the UK the Hawfinch has experienced a dramatic decline in breeding range with the 2007-2011 Breeding Bird Atlas (Balmer *et al.* 2013) estimating a 76% reduction in breeding range in Britain over 40 years with the majority of the deficit arising since the 1988-91 Breeding Atlas was published (Gibbons *et al.* 1993). The most recent population estimate of 500-1,000 pairs (Clements 2013) highlights the major reduction from the 3,000-6,500 pairs estimated from the 1988-91 Breeding Atlas. In the UK the Hawfinch is red-listed as a species of conservation concern following the recent reduction in range. This has seen many counties lose the species and the core range reduced to just a few hot spots such as Meirionnydd, Forest of Dean/Wye Valley and the New Forest, with a few small isolated outlying populations elsewhere around the country.

Hawfinch in the New Forest

Hawfinch are a challenging species to study owing to their quiet and unobtrusive nature, and can be difficult to locate and monitor. In particular, during the breeding season, finding nests is a time-consuming process. In addition it can be difficult to gauge the number of breeding pairs within a defined area. Hawfinch breed semi-colonially and are not especially territorial; therefore they don't use song to define their breeding territory. They breed relatively late in the season, building their nest from mid-April with the majority of nesting attempts underway from the last week of April/first week of May, following bud burst in the Oak and Beech that they prefer to breed in. However, Hawfinch can be eclectic in their choice of nest site. In recent years the authors have recorded them nesting in Oak, Beech, Hornbeam, Birch, Holly, Crab Apple and Yew in the New Forest while there is also anecdotal evidence of breeding in Douglas Fir.

Historically Hawfinches have been poorly monitored in the New Forest except for erratic data from the roost at Blackwater Arboretum dating back to around 1993. However, over the past 15 years studies of the breeding cycle have taken place by visual monitoring. Since 2011 a detailed study of Hawfinch in the New Forest has located 49 communal roosts, two of which were located due to tracking during the 2021 season. A colour-ringing and BTO RAS project (Ringing Adults for Survival) was established in 2016. Colour-ringing enables the assessment of, among other things, survival rates, recruitment of young into the population, breeding site fidelity and monogamy in breeding pairs, all of which will be the subject of a separate paper.

Increased fieldwork has highlighted that Hawfinch have a broad distribution, are present almost anywhere suitable habitat occurs and throughout the year. A number of important winter-feeding locations have been mapped, many associated with large communal roosts. Published material suggests that favoured food sources are Wych Elm, Hornbeam, Beech and Yew (Mountfort 1957). Of these, only Beech and Yew appear in the New Forest in any significant quantity. Tracking of tagged Hawfinch has shown that New Forest birds have a strong year-round association with Holly, which is an important food source during both the breeding season and winter period.

Project aim and objectives

In order to get a better understanding of pre- and post-breeding mobility, range, foraging behaviour, habitat use and favoured feeding sites within the New Forest, the project aimed to tag a mixture of known regular visitors to the bait station and previously un-ringed individuals with dual high-resolution GPS/radio tags. All ringing activities and deployment of tags were undertaken under special licences issued by BTO, Forestry England and RSPB, and in compliance with the Government's and BTO's guidance in relation to COVID-19. The principal objective was to gain an insight into foraging behaviour and roost site preferences throughout the breeding season. Other areas of interest were increasing knowledge and understanding of mobility, range and habitat use in the weeks prior to the breeding season, identifying breeding sites, and gathering information on behaviour and movements post-breeding and post-fledgling dispersal.

Catching Hawfinch

Following advice by RSPB and ringers based in Forest of Dean, a technique was developed where Hawfinch are attracted by bait. Using an automated feeder, timed to spread a small quantity of black sunflower seeds just before dawn in an area known to be used by Hawfinch, birds are encouraged to regularly feed within a defined area. Overtime these bait stations become established, and several were used during the 2019 and 2021 phases of the project.

Baiting starts in February as natural food sources start to run low. As the feeding site becomes established, a whoosh net is used to catch and then colour-ring the birds. By



Figure 2. Female Hawfinch HP observed at bait station (© Marcus Ward/Wild New Forest).



Figure 3. Biotrack combined GPS & Radio tag weighing 1.05g (© Marcus Ward/Wild New Forest).

rigging the baited locations with trail cameras, it was possible to monitor the number of birds visiting to feed and, in around 75% of cases, read the colour-ring to identify individuals. By replicating the bait station at other locations, together with a trail camera, movements of colour-ringed Hawfinch between locations were determined, enabling a picture of how widely they range within the New Forest to be produced. From extensive fieldwork undertaken over many years using trail cameras, observing behaviour of individuals and identifying those that were regular return visitors to the bait station, suitable candidates were selected for tagging and tracking (Figure 2).

The technology

For both 2019 and 2021 fieldwork seasons, Biotrack dual high-resolution GPS and radio tags were purchased (Avian GPS SOB tag & PicoPip AG317 Tag) weighing 1.05g per tag, with a battery life of c.28 days (Figure 3). (Due to COVID-19, the tagging planned for 2020 was rescheduled to 2021. The tags have a battery life of one year so it was deemed feasible to deploy the tags in 2021). The GPS portion of the tag has the capability to record up to 96 data fixes at pre-determined intervals. For the majority of individuals, the tag was primed to take a fix at 20 minute intervals from 07:00 through to 20:00 with an additional fix at 01:00 to record the roost site location.

The radio portion of the tag emitted a signal at a unique frequency enabling the individual to be 'live' tracked in the field using a radio receiver. The combined tag was placed on the small of the bird's back under the folded wings using a fixative designed to allow the tag to detach and fall off after c.28 days (Figure 4).

Tracking Hawfinch in the field

In 2019 nine breeding adult males were fitted with tags together with one adult female which was a regular visitor to the bait station and observed collecting food. This suggested that she had fledged young and so presented the opportunity to investigate post-fledging movements and behaviour. A total of seven adult male and three adult female Hawfinch were tagged in 2021 comprising a mixture of known regular visitors to the established bait stations and previously un-ringed individuals.



Figure 4. Male Hawfinch BJ, radio aerial visible (© Marcus Ward/Wild New Forest).

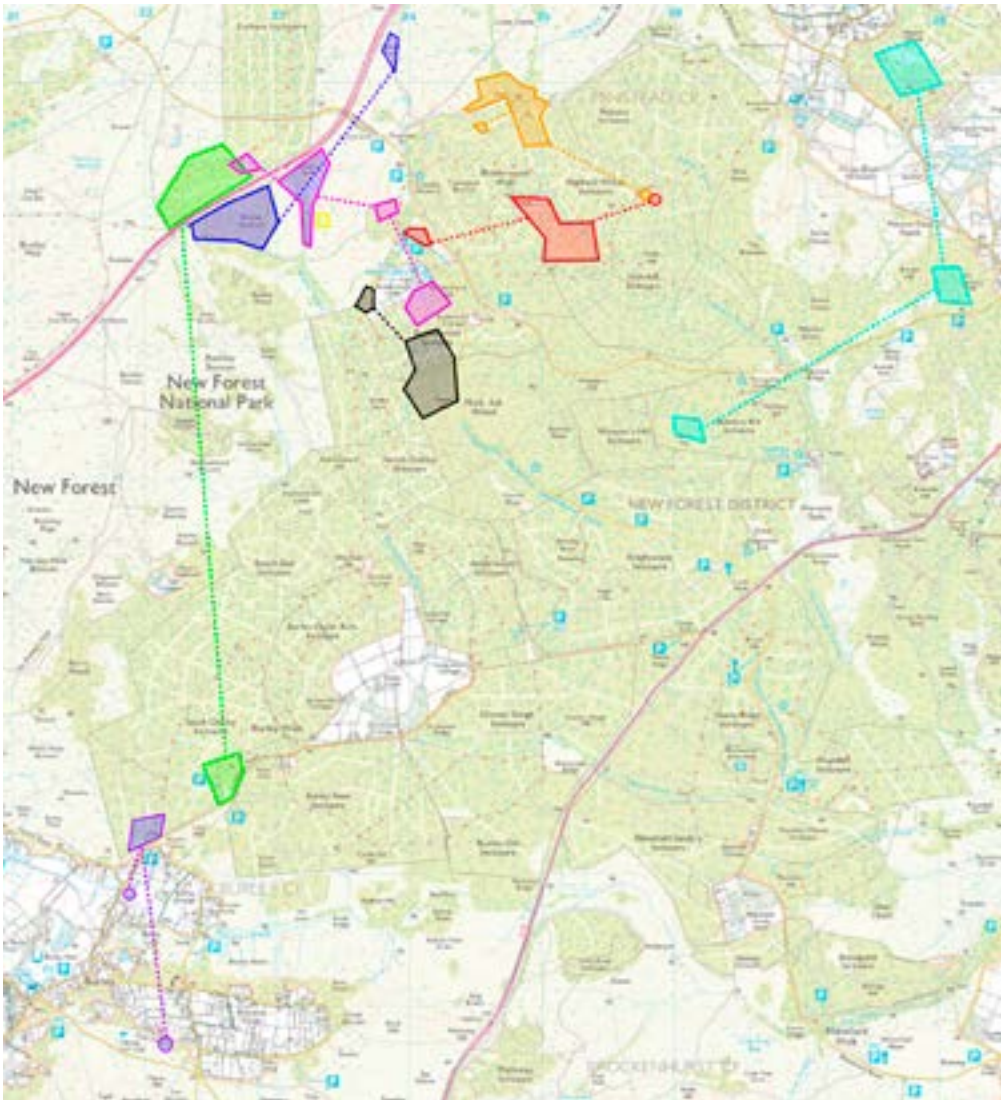


Figure 5. Primary locations and movements of tagged Hawfinch in 2019

(Note scale is indicated by 1km x 1km grid lines. OS Crown copyright).

The radio signal range of the tags varied between 4km and 50m depending on weather conditions, woodland density and terrain. The RSPB kindly loaned a receiver unit and a pair of aerials and HOS loaned a couple of aerials as spares. A small team tracked the birds in the field during the day. Tracking also continued into the evenings and overnight to discover roost sites, assess roost site fidelity and build up individual histories of movement, behaviour and interaction with non-tagged birds.

Results

Key results from the 2019 season include:

- 31 Hawfinch were caught and colour-ringed.
- Over 600 re-sightings of colour-ringed Hawfinch were recorded via trail camera.

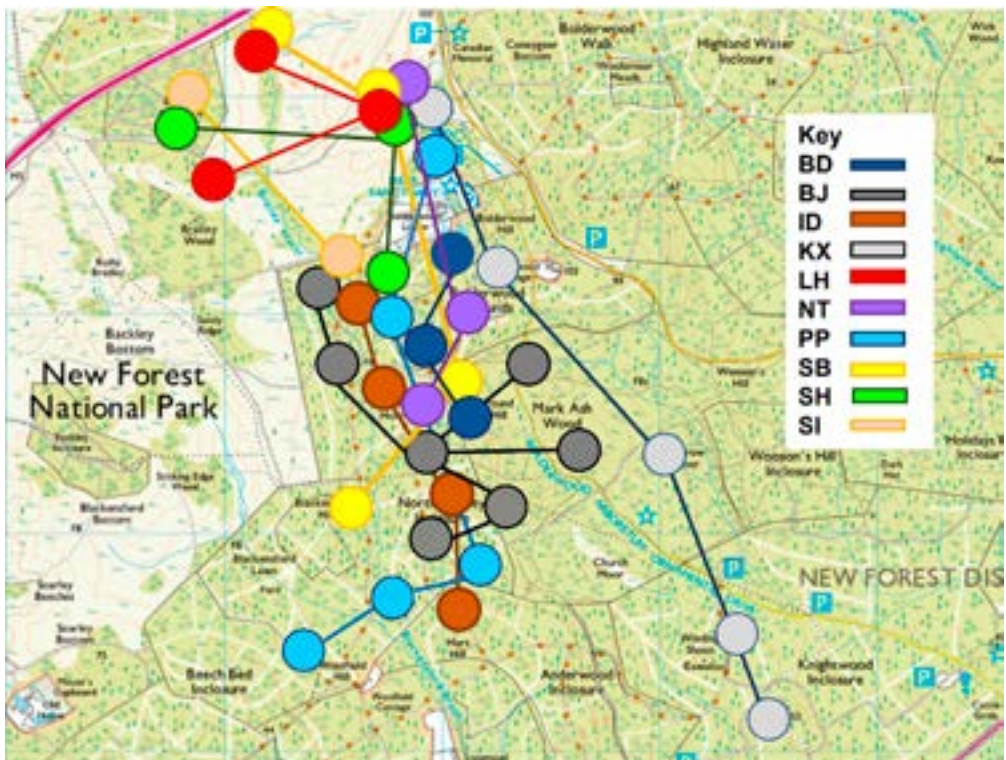


Figure 6. Primary locations and movements of tagged Hawfinch in 2021
(Note scale is indicated by 1km x 1km grid lines. OS Crown copyright).

- Tagged individuals ranged within 6km of the ringing and bait stations (Figure 5).
- Foraging areas for seven off-duty males were mapped and showed utilisation of a mix of habitats.
- Several important feeding sites were identified.
- Off-duty males were recorded in both communal and isolated roosts in a variety of tree species.
- Seven breeding attempts were mapped, mainly in ivy-clad Oak and Beech.
- Three new communal roosts were identified (twelve communal roosts used in total).
- Variable fidelity levels were associated with roost sites.
- A minimum of two crèche site locations were identified.

Key results from the 2021 season include:

- 43 Hawfinch were caught and colour-ringed.
- There were significant pre-breeding movements and ranges; for example KX travelled 8.6km from the Bolderwood Hollies bait station to Wilverley roost sites (Figure 6).
- Pre-breeding behaviour was variable with each individual visiting different areas throughout the day and showing low fidelity to favoured roost sites.
- During the breeding season, behaviours and range of movements were much more structured and routine, with males focussing on foraging and provisioning their mate and nestlings.
- Tagged birds showed variable fidelity to roost sites depending on age and growth of the fledglings. Males remained faithful to specific roost sites that were, in several cases, some distance from the nest site earlier in the nesting season. Other males opted to roost closer to the nest site, particularly as the young got closer to fledging.
- Tagged birds used a combination of multiple small-scale isolated roost sites in a variety of tree species, as well as established communal roost sites and areas.



Figure 7. LH and his mate provisioning four chicks (© Marcus Ward/Wild New Forest).

- One nest site was confirmed and monitored providing detailed information of provisioning behaviour and evidence that LH and his mate successfully fledged four juveniles.
- Two communal crèches were identified and monitored providing evidence of juveniles being provisioned by tagged and colour-ringed adults.
- Important foraging areas were identified and mapped thus illustrating utilisation of a mix of habitats.
- Movements away from nest sites in mature deciduous woodland to feed in Holly demonstrated the importance of Holly in the diet of Hawfinch in the New Forest.

In 2019 eight of the ten tags were retrieved in the field using the radio receiver (for males IP, BA, BN, TB, H3, I3, and IA, and female HP), whilst in 2021 four of the ten tags were retrieved (for female ID and males NT, SH and SI). Unfortunately no GPS data could be accessed from two of the retrieved tags in 2021 (for males NT and SI). However a significant volume of data was collected from the radio tracking of all other individuals.

In 2019 six adult males (IP, IT, BN, BA, TB & H3) were tracked in sufficient detail to get a clear picture of feeding habits. In 2021 two males (KX and SB) were tagged to gain an insight into behaviour, mobility, range and habitat use in the weeks prior to the breeding season. A further four males (NT, LH, SH, and SI) were tagged to identify breeding sites, behaviour, range of movements and foraging and roost site preferences throughout the breeding season, whilst tagging an additional male (BJ) and three adult females (PP, BD and ID) improved our understanding of parental behaviour and movements at the end of the breeding season and post-fledgling dispersal.

Breeding sites

Nest sites were located for ten of the tagged birds (IP, IT, BN, BA, TB, and H3 in 2019, and NT, LH, SH and SI in 2021). All were located in mixed mature deciduous woodland, largely comprising Oak (many ivy-clad) and Beech. During tracking multiple Hawfinches were frequently heard and seen indicating that, in almost all cases, the tracked individuals were close to other nesting birds.



Figure 8. Holly berries beneath fruiting female tree (left) and Holly seeds, four in each individual berry (right) (© Marcus Ward/Wild New Forest).

During the 2021 season, within two days of the adult male LH being tagged, his nest site had been located in an Oak in a thin linear copse south of Bratley Inclosure. Intensive visual monitoring confirmed that LH did not travel widely from his nest site and was largely responsible for foraging, feeding and provisioning his mate and nestlings (Figure 7). Mountfort (1957) stated that the young in the nest are fed an exclusively invertebrate-based diet, while the adults will feed on both invertebrates and seed, which arguably deliver a richer, higher energy diet. LH's mate, a non-colour ringed female, was generally responsible for nest duties, occasionally leaving the nest during incubation and rearing to feed. She was observed to provision the nestlings less frequently than LH during five days of monitoring, mainly foraging in the nest tree while LH travelled further afield.

The adult male LH developed a consistent pattern of movements between the established bait stations and the nest site. The adult male LH and another colour-ringed male (BT tagged in 2019) were observed with their beaks full of caterpillars, and wiping their bill on a branch to kill the prey items prior to visiting the nest and presenting them to the nestlings.

The nest areas for three other tagged males (NT, SH, SI) were located in Bratley Inclosure and Bratley Arch in 2021. However, due to leaf cover and canopy height, the nests were not located. These areas were dominated by mature Oak, many ivy-clad. The numbers of Hawfinch and other bird species actively feeding in the Oak and Beech indicate the richness of invertebrate prey available.

The importance of Holly in the diet of Hawfinch

The radio tracking of all tagged Hawfinch identified that the favoured feeding areas were dominantly mixed mature Oak and Beech, or large Holly holms. A consistent feature observed during the period of tracking in both field seasons was that both tagged and non-tagged birds continued to make visits to Holly holms. Adult males (IP, BN, BA, TB & H3) were recorded leaving the locality of the nest and moving to areas of Holly covering distances of between 400m (H3, LH, SH, SI) and 2km (IP and BD). Typically they would remain in the area of Holly

for extended periods of time of up to two hours, often showing a degree of fidelity to these locations. These visits occurred throughout the period of study but were far more regular during the breeding season than pre- or post-breeding. It was observed that although some individuals visited Holly at varying times throughout the day, there was a clear pattern of visits both early and late in the day, with males visiting these locations to feed on fallen Holly seeds (Figure 8) shortly before heading to roost. It is interesting to observe that Hawfinches will leave areas apparently rich in natural food sources and opt to move a considerable distance to feed on Holly, suggesting that the target food is available and energetically favourable. The behaviour exhibited by tagged and non-tagged Hawfinch indicates that there is a considerable reliance on these holms of Holly as an important source of high-energy food throughout the breeding season.

Roost sites

Each tagged bird was tracked to roost as frequently as possible, and as a result two new roost sites were located during the 2021 season bringing the total to 49 communal Hawfinch roosts in the New Forest. Some appear to be regular communal roosts whilst others are frequented seasonally. Long-term monitoring of roosts has shown that the majority are used year-round with off-duty and non-breeding birds continuing to use the roosts throughout the breeding season.

In 2019 roost sites of seven breeding males were monitored. Of these, just three used previously known communal roosts and only one (BN) remained in the same communal roost throughout the tracking period of 32 days. The other two (BA & H3) used the same communal roost but only for one, and two nights, respectively. The remaining four (IP, IT, TB & I3) roosted close to their nest sites opting to use the following mix of species: Ivy-clad Oak (IP & I3), Beech (IT) and Douglas Fir (TB).

During the 2021 season it was possible to confirm that the adult males LH, SH, and SI roosted close to their breeding sites, often forming or joining a fairly concentrated communal roost in ivy-clad Oak, rather than commute to an established communal roost site. Some individuals such as NT, PP, BD, and ID travelled in the order of 2km to continue to utilise favoured roosts in Douglas Fir.

Observations confirmed that, once the nestlings were ready to fledge and disperse from the nest, LH roosted in the adjacent tree rather than roost in his favoured site.

On 11th June 2021 a previously established roost contained five of the tagged individuals (three females PP, BD and ID and two males BJ and SI) in different but neighbouring Douglas Firs. Whilst not precisely faithful to a particular tree, these individuals did favour returning to roost in this relatively constrained area.

Crèches

In 2019 two crèche site locations were identified from tracking tagged individuals. One male (LF) was tracked 1.85km from a roost where no juveniles were present to join a crèche. He was tracked on two occasions making the same movement so it is assumed that he was associated with the crèche.

Observations by the authors suggest that Hawfinch crèches form at traditional locations. During the 2021 fieldwork season, a further two new crèche site locations were identified from tracking individuals. A communal nesting area within Bratley Inclosure was identified from tracking SH and SI with plenty of Hawfinch activity seen in the canopy including calling and begging from juveniles. SH was often detected close to other tagged Hawfinches (SI and LH) and other colour-ringed individuals such as BT (colour-ringed 12th May 2017). Observations of BT and other adults provisioning fledged young perhaps indicate a post-fledgling crèche had formed. This area of the Inclosure appeared to be rich in Oak buds and caterpillars with

adults observed with beaks full of food, often wiping the prey items on branches before feeding them to young.

Continued monitoring of SI confirmed he had shifted attention to North Oakley and Smoky Hole area, suggesting that the young had dispersed from the nesting area. Observations and tracking of SI, BJ and PP in the line of mature trees along the grass track south of the North Oakley bait station, confirmed that they were all actively calling and feeding with at least half a dozen juveniles forming a communal crèche. This collection of young and adult Hawfinch remained in the canopies of the same few Oak and Beech trees and were tracked and heard for several hours. This is believed to be the first confirmed and observed communal crèche in the New Forest. Interestingly, both SI and BJ were tracked to roost in the same Douglas Fir approx. 500m south on the north-east margin of Smoky Hole.

Further work

More work needs to be done on Hawfinch crèches to better understand the dynamics but if, as suspected, they remain loyal to traditional locations, monitoring crèche sites could be a useful tool when assessing the success of the breeding season and informing forest management plans.

Further investigations are required to understand what potential impact the collection of Holly for wreath-making has on both Hawfinch and other wintering species. Ideally we would do this by surveying two similar Holly holms, one that is subject to collection and one that is left as a control.

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A.J. Colenutt, andrewjcolenutt@gmail.com

M. Ward, Wild New Forest, marcus@wildnewforest.co.uk

H. Schneider, kemanaya02@gmail.com

The transformation of Titchfield Haven and its breeding birds

Barry Duffin



Titchfield Haven looking north-east from The Solent, August 1989 (Barry Duffin)

*1 - Mid-marsh Reed-beds 2 - Scrapes 3 - River Meon 4 - Hill Head Harbour 5 – Visitor Centre
6 – Water Meadows 7 - Stubbington*

Abstract and Preamble

This paper outlines some of the major creative habitat work accomplished at Titchfield Haven and the impact on the site's breeding birds between 1973 and 2016.

I arrived at the Haven in December 1972 to take up my post as Naturalist Warden, having recently left my previous employment as a warden on the Farne Islands. I guess I didn't expect to be managing it along with eight other sites four decades later. Much of Titchfield Haven was familiar to me as it was my local patch from 1960 onwards. This was a new venture for the Hampshire County Council in managing such an extensive wetland and the prospect of realising the site's potential was exciting.

Background

Titchfield Haven was formerly the estuary of the River Meon, with the village of Titchfield being a port some two miles inland at the head of the estuary. In the early 17th Century, the then landowner, the Third Earl of Southampton, sanctioned the construction of a seawall across the mouth of the estuary. A canal was later dug along the western boundary of the Haven to provide continued access to Titchfield village. The transformation of such a large area of tidal saltmarsh to a freshwater marsh would have brought about substantial changes in the birdlife of the area. By the early 19th Century much of the area then known as the Titchfield Estate, was owned by the Delme family. At that time the Haven was attracting large numbers of wildfowl and was familiar with the celebrated wildfowler Colonel Peter Hawker. In the diaries of the Colonel under the date May 7th 1823, he recalls "Went to Hamble from Southampton, sailed to inspect Mr Delme's duck marsh at Titchfield Haven and returned," (Payne-Gallwey 1893). Wildfowling at the Haven must have been a regular pastime throughout the 19th Century and indeed during the first decades of the 20th Century, for it wasn't until 1945 that legitimate wildfowling ceased.

In the period before cattle grazing was introduced around 1945, breeding Common Snipe and Redshank were numerous. At this time the site functioned as a private wildlife sanctuary for a host of wetland birds. Official recognition of the Haven as an important wetland came in 1959, when the then Nature Conservancy Council declared over 300 acres of the lower Meon valley, including Titchfield Haven, as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The purchase of 217 acres of Titchfield Haven in 1972 meant that a major part of the declared SSSI was afforded a substantially greater degree of protection and presented for the first time the prospect of seeing the site managed primarily for its wildlife interest. In the following year Titchfield Haven was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under section 19/21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Further protection and recognition came in 1995 when English Nature declared the site a National Nature Reserve.

Existing Habitats in 1972

In 1972 the River Meon and the Titchfield Canal were the only sources of freshwater existing within the 217 acre site. The river stretched from Hill Head Harbour inland for approximately one mile and was at the heart of the reserve. Flanking each side of the river were narrow margins of reed-beds. These gave way to grazed wet pastures, some of which had been improved and intensively managed for cattle for many decades, whilst lesser parcels in size were classified as unimproved rough pasture. Much of the south-east region, east of the river and fronting residential development was made up of pony paddocks and developing willow scrub.

The Creation of New Habitats 1973 to 2012

It was soon recognised that it was imperative to assess the state and distribution of the current wildlife and plant life communities. In 1973, a botanical survey was therefore carried out, and the BTO's Common Bird Breeding Census was adopted (Marchant 1982). This scheme was to become crucial in monitoring populations of breeding birds and their distribution over the site. Results of each annual CBC were to play a major role in the decision-making process of habitat management, particularly when the creation of new habitats was planned.

If a range of new conservation projects was to be realised, then the two existing agricultural tenancies, which the Hampshire County Council had inherited in their purchase of the Haven, had to be relinquished under a change of land-use planning application. This was finally achieved by September 1977. It was recognised that in the future, grazing would still be an important management tool but on a reduced scale by way of issuing annual licences.

The long-term management plan was to reduce the acreage of land under grazing and to create several features incorporating extensive areas of shallow open water and extended reed-marsh. Initial surveys found that some of the intensively managed pastures were contributing little in favour of breeding birds or plant life. Not all proposed schemes and habitat enhancements however were to involve major changes. For instance, from 1974-1976 750m of the south-west boundary was ditched and fenced, and approximately 1,000m of the western meadows was fenced and later planted with a mixed hawthorn and blackthorn hedge. These operations freed up areas that had long been abused by unauthorised access, and because of this work there was an almost immediate response from wildlife as species of both breeding and wintering birds colonised these adjacent areas.

Running in hand with the habitat programme were the plans to open the reserve to the visiting public by the end of 1976. Almost 400m of raised boardwalk was to be constructed after materials had been sawn from felled Dutch elm diseased trees on another County Council site, and four observation hides were to be built and positioned on site. With the assistance of a part-time member of staff and a band of enthusiastic volunteers, all was achieved.



*Proposed site for Scrapes, March 1975
(Barry Duffin)*



*South Scrape, March 2012
(Barry Duffin)*

The Scrape Creation Project

On October 8th 1975, earth-moving equipment began work on creating almost 13 acres of shallow freshwater scrapes with an array of small islands on former untenanted rough grazing land in the south-western region of the reserve. This was the reserve's first exercise in creative conservation management and attracted considerable attention from many established county naturalists and residents. So the pressure was on us. The project had been made possible through a generous grant. The then Nature Conservancy Council announced on August 11th 1975 that it had just awarded ninety grants, totalling £50,000, to encourage nature conservation by voluntary bodies, local authorities and private landowners (Hudson 1975). The largest individual grant of £4,500 was made to Hampshire County Council towards the scrape complex creation project. The work in forming the main scrape was completed by March 1976, whilst a further nine acres of shallow reedy pools were added in the following years 1981 to 1984. In choosing the south-western area of the reserve to locate the scrapes two goals were achieved. Firstly, being only a short distance from the shoreline, there was the likelihood that a variety of wetland bird species already using the nearby estuarine habitats and the migratory flyway of The Solent would be attracted. And secondly, with public access onto the reserve in the future, this location was very accessible when considering the linear shape of the site. Today the scrapes are considered to have been very successful in attracting a wide variety of wildfowl and wading birds throughout the year and are the main focal point for visitors. To date 38 species of waders have been recorded in the area and 21 species of wetland birds have bred. Terns and waders visit the area during both the spring and autumn migration to feed and rest. There was a time when waders feeding at low water on the exposed mudflats and shingle bars would have to flight to Calshot to find suitable undisturbed high tide roosting sites, but many now move onto the islands within the scrapes.

The Mid-marsh Reedbeds

Once land had been freed from long-standing agricultural tenancies, opportunities then arose to explore further the considerable potential of the Haven for the creation of new marshland habitats to complement existing wildlife communities. The most ambitious project was to create an extensive area of reedbeds and open water. This was achieved by constructing approximately 2,000 metres of embankment, and the flooding of the 30 acres of damp rough grazing land enclosed within. Four individual compartments were created so that the gradient of the land did not necessitate excessively high-water retaining banks whilst at the same time facilitating water level control. As there were small pockets of reed in the previously grazed pasture, the establishment of a major reedbed on the site was rapid. Already, after just two growing seasons following completion in 1986, the new reedbeds were being colonised by a variety of marshland birds including Water Rails, Reed Buntings, Reed and Sedge Warblers as well as small numbers of Bearded Tits and regular wintering Bitterns.



*Proposed site for Mid-marsh Reed-beds, 1975
(Barry Duffin)*



*Mid-marsh Reed-beds, January 2018
(Barry Duffin)*



Mid-marsh Reed-beds, September 2016 (Google Earth)

The Breeding Bird Results

The breeding bird data for Titchfield Haven included here are the result of a Common Bird Census having been carried out from 1973 until 2016. In this period a total of 92 species was mapped within the census area. In Table 1, 73 species are listed as having been confirmed as regular at some time or other, or were recently established breeders in the survey period. This list consists of 12 species having been lost, 14 gained, 13 considered to have increased, 15 to have decreased and 19 species to have maintained a stable population.

A further 13 species were confirmed as having bred irregularly and on no more than five occasions. These were Red-legged Partridge in 1985, Greylag Goose in 2007, Garganey in 2008, Teal in 1993, Little Ringed Plover in 1983, 1984 and 1991, Herring Gull in 2011-2013, Great Black-backed Gull in 2014, Tree Creeper in 1986, 2005 and 2006, Dartford Warbler in 2004 and 2008, Nightingale in 1985 and possibly in 1986, Spotted Flycatcher in 1974 and 1981, and Corn Bunting in 1976 and 1981. Tawny Owl was also recorded irregularly but the outcome was not determined. In addition, three species, Spotted Crake, Common Snipe and Garden Warbler, were suspected of breeding, and three others, Pochard, Marsh Warbler and Yellow Wagtail, were recorded but not considered to have been paired.

Table1. Average number of territories and status 1973-2016

(For scientific names please refer to the Systematic List elsewhere in this report)

Species	Average 1973-1983	Average 1984-1994	Average 1995-2005	Average 2006-2016	Status
Pheasant	5	3.3	4.4	11.2	Increasing
Canada Goose	1	3	2.4	7.2	Gained 1976
Mute Swan	2.4	5.2	6	2.6	Decreasing
Shelduck	0.2	0.2	0.6	2	Gained 1976
Shoveler	0	0.2	0	2.5	Gained 1980
Gadwall	0	0.9	0.2	6.2	Gained 1985
Mallard	8.7	11	11.7	13.8	Stable
Tufted Duck	0	1.6	0.5	1	Stable
Cuckoo	2.1	3.5	2	0.9	Decreasing
Stock Dove	0	0	0.2	1.1	Gained 2001
Woodpigeon	3	6.2	11.6	17	Increasing
Turtle Dove	6.3	3.5	0	0	Lost 1997
Collared Dove	2.2	3.3	4.7	3.8	Stable
Water Rail	1.3	3.7	6	4	Stable
Moorhen	15.8	26.2	21.6	25.4	Stable
Coot	12.2	18.8	14	13.3	Stable
Little Grebe	0.7	3.4	0.8	2	Stable
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	1	Gained 2005
Oystercatcher	0	0.9	4.3	5	Gained 1987
Avocet	0	0	0.5	7.5	Gained 2004
Lapwing	6.5	6	6.1	6.4	Stable
Ringed Plover	0.7	0.4	0.6	0	Lost 2002
Redshank	3.5	1.6	1.1	1.3	Decreasing
Black-headed Gull	0	0	11.2	905	Gained 2002
Mediterranean Gull	0	0	0	9.7	Gained 2005
Common Tern	0	0.1	2.5	14.3	Gained 2004
Sparrowhawk	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.5	Stable
Common Buzzard	0	0	0	0.3	Gained 2013
Barn Owl	0	0	0.4	0.5	Gained 2002
Little Owl	0.9	0.7	0	0	Lost 1993
G S Woodpecker	0	0.8	1	2.1	Increasing
Green Woodpecker	0.4	1.6	1.7	1.7	Stable
Kestrel	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.2	Stable
Jay	1.6	3.2	3.2	3.1	Stable
Magpie	3.7	4.8	3.8	4	Stable

Carrion Crow	0.3	1	0.3	0.3	Stable
Coal Tit	0.6	0.3	0	0	Lost 1992
Blue Tit	14.2	16.3	15.4	20.6	Increasing
Great Tit	6	9.8	9.8	14	Increasing
Bearded Tit	2.9	3	4.2	4.7	Increasing
Skylark	8.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	Decreasing
Swallow	0.3	0	0	0	Lost 1980
House Martin	1.9	0.1	0	0	Lost 1986
Cetti's Warbler	0.9	13.4	29	28	Gained 1981
Long-tailed Tit	1.4	3.7	6.5	6.4	Increasing
Willow Warbler	5.6	7.7	1.3	0	Lost 2001
Chiffchaff	2.3	5	13.3	22.7	Increasing
Sedge Warbler	34.1	35	26.5	18.1	Decreasing
Reed Warbler	52	62.6	76.9	61.9	Decreasing
Grasshopper Warbler	2	1	0.4	0.1	Lost 2012
Savi's Warbler	1.4	0.1	0	0	Lost 1993
Blackcap	2.8	5.3	7.5	12.3	Increasing
Lesser Whitethroat	2	2.9	0.8	0.5	Decreasing
Whitethroat	5.4	11.3	9	9	Stable
Goldcrest	0.6	0	0.4	0.4	Stable
Wren	42	65.4	73.3	69	Stable
Starling	3.3	3	1.9	1	Decreasing
Blackbird	18.2	17	17.5	16.2	Stable
Song Thrush	5.5	3.4	2.7	4	Stable
Mistle Thrush	1.5	1.4	0.4	0.2	Decreasing
Robin	8.2	10.5	22.9	21.8	Increasing
Stonechat	1.7	0	0.3	0	Lost 2007
House Sparrow	1.3	0.8	0	6.1	Increasing
Dunnock	17.2	15.2	15.3	12.5	Decreasing
Pied Wagtail	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1	Decreasing
Meadow Pipit	5.8	0.5	0	0	Lost 1991
Chaffinch	4	6.4	6	1.6	Decreasing
Bullfinch	2.3	2.7	2	0.5	Decreasing
Greenfinch	3.1	4.1	7.9	11	Increasing
Linnet	5	5.2	4.3	4.1	Stable
Goldfinch	1.9	0.3	0	0.9	Increasing
Yellowhammer	4.6	1.8	1.4	0.1	Lost 2008
Corn Bunting	0.2	0	0	0	Lost 1981
Reed Bunting	35	28	16.9	19.2	Decreasing

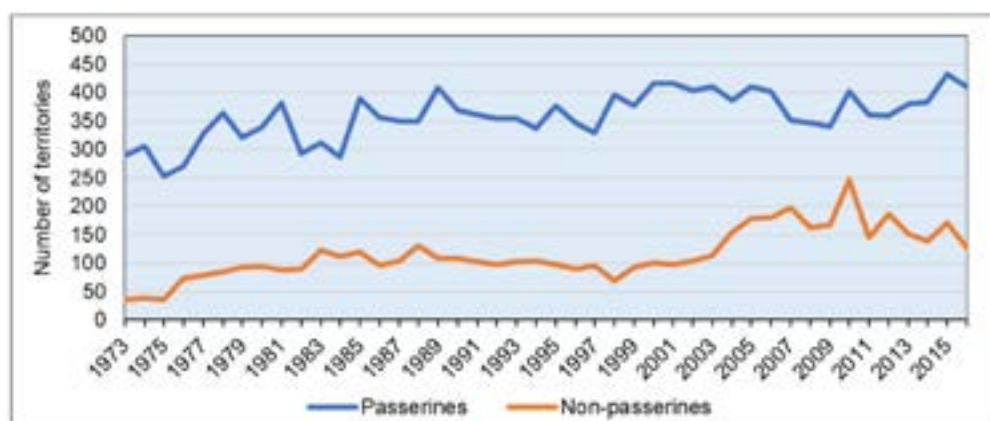


Figure 1. CBC territories 1973 to 2016 (Black-headed Gulls omitted)

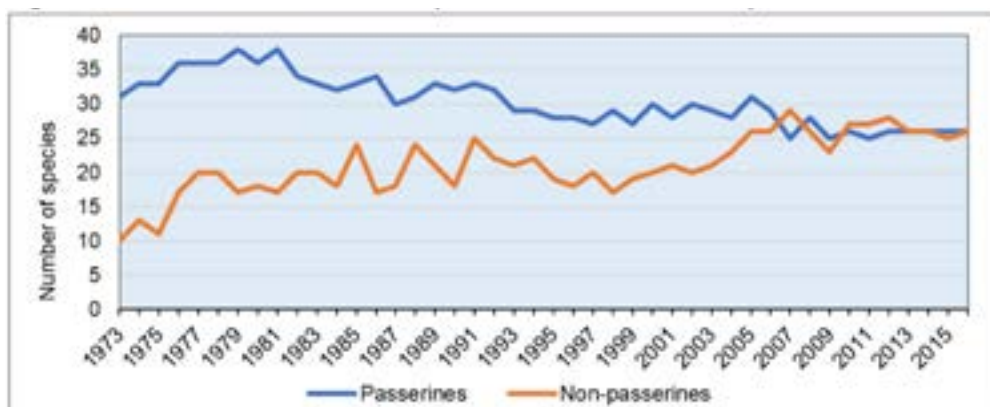


Figure 2. CBC species holding territories 1973 to 2016

Whilst the total numbers of CBC territories of both passerines and non-passerines have shown steady increases, as shown in Figure 1, the same cannot be said for numbers of species. Whilst non-passerine species have increased, passerines have declined as shown in Figure 2.

Overview

Over the years of CBC recording at Titchfield Haven a wide range of changes in the breeding bird populations has been identified. The creation of major new habitats such as the freshwater scrapes and the increased area of reedmarsh has brought obvious benefits to a variety of breeding wetland species. For example, 15 species of non-passerines have bred for the first time on the scrapes. By more than trebling the acreage of reedbeds, several species have stabilised their populations following declines, whilst Bearded Tits for instance have increased and more recently Marsh Harriers are regularly breeding.

The provision of protective fencing around the scrapes in 2004 greatly improved the success rate of the breeding birds. No more so than for Black-headed Gulls which increased from a single pair in 2002 to 1,350 pairs by 2013. This was a lifeline to a species that was having its coastal saltmarsh colonies becoming vulnerable to sea-level rise. Monitoring of the breeding birds on the scrapes has continued as illustrated in Figure 3. The peak of 1,350 pairs of gulls reached in 2013 was despite an outbreak of botulism that year and previously in 2010, and wet weather during the fledging period in 2012 that also affected the Avocets and Common Terns. Failure to maintain protective fencing around the scrapes from 2014 to 2020 led to heavy fox predation, resulting in low breeding productivity with losses of young gull chicks estimated

to have been 30% in 2014 and 99% in 2016, and the abandonment by hundreds of birds as was the case by 2020. Following the heavy predation of eggs and chicks that occurred in the 2014 season, in 2015 the offending fox family was supplied with fresh chicken each evening by a volunteer from early June until mid-July, in the hope that necessary repair works would soon materialize. The reward for this action that year was the record fledging of 32 young Avocets, and appreciable numbers of Black-headed Gulls. This gesture could unfortunately not be repeated in the follow-up years.

One significant result from the survey period has been the highlighting of the plight of many of our breeding passerines. Ten species have been lost, of which five were summer migrants. A further three summer migrants, Sedge and Reed Warblers and Lesser Whitethroat, have shown decreases in recent decades. There are many reasons that have contributed to these declines including climatic changes in African wintering quarters. On the other hand two of our summer migrants, Blackcap and Chiffchaff, tending to winter north of the Sahara, have shown incredible increases. For Blackcap there has been a long-term increase of 339%, matching BTO national data, whilst an 886% increase for Chiffchaff easily surpasses the BTO figure of 104% (BTO Report Online 2017). The other big success story is Cetti's Warbler, first recorded in Great Britain at the Haven in 1961, which has increased from first breeding in 1981 to 44 pairs in 2016.

Cetti's and other selected warbler species, illustrating both increasing and decreasing trends, are illustrated in Figure 4.

For a reserve manager the avenues for reversing declines in species are limited. However, for two species, namely House Sparrow and Reed Bunting, there is some good news. Following the loss of House Sparrow as a breeding resident in the 1990s, the introduction of multiple nesting boxes a decade later has resulted in a present-day flourishing breeding colony. Having lost breeding Cirl Buntings in the mid-1960s, followed by both Corn Bunting in 1981 and Yellowhammer in 2008, the CBC data were also indicating a drastic decline in breeding Reed Buntings, yet another winter seed-eating species. In a bid to stem the decline a wild bird seed mix, principally quinoa, was sown in the spring of 2012 on approximately two acres of land bordering the main reserve. By late October the crop had ripened and was attracting a variety of seed-eating finches and numerous Reed Buntings. Mixed flocks of Chaffinches, Lesser Redpolls, Bramblings and over 100 Reed Buntings were recorded daily until the end of the year. The follow-up breeding censuses from 2013 to 2016 brought a 100% increase in the breeding Reed Bunting population (Figure 5). Unfortunately, this easily implemented, low labour-intensive scheme, that was yielding such encouraging results was abandoned after just one season, but I would hope that the success achieved will be recognised by managers in the future.

The Future and Threats

With the Haven at the door of its 50th Anniversary we can reflect on much having been achieved. I would like to be optimistic about the future of the reserve, but I must admit to having mixed feelings when considering the numerous threats there are to the wildlife and to the very existence of the reserve itself. The coastal belt of Hampshire continues to be carpeted in development and increasing recreational needs. Much of the wildlife found within Titchfield Haven is in part reliant on the surrounding undeveloped land, but when a developer purchases the only buffer zone between existing residential areas and the reserve boundary alarm bells begin sounding. A planning application submitted in 2018 for houses on the buffer zone soon followed the purchase of the land but fortunately was refused. In a day long planning enquiry, the only enlightenment as to the damage that could be caused to the reserve if such a planning application were to go ahead was delivered that day by two of the reserve's volunteers. The commitment of Natural England and the Hampshire County Council to support Titchfield Haven will be essential to resist future challenges.

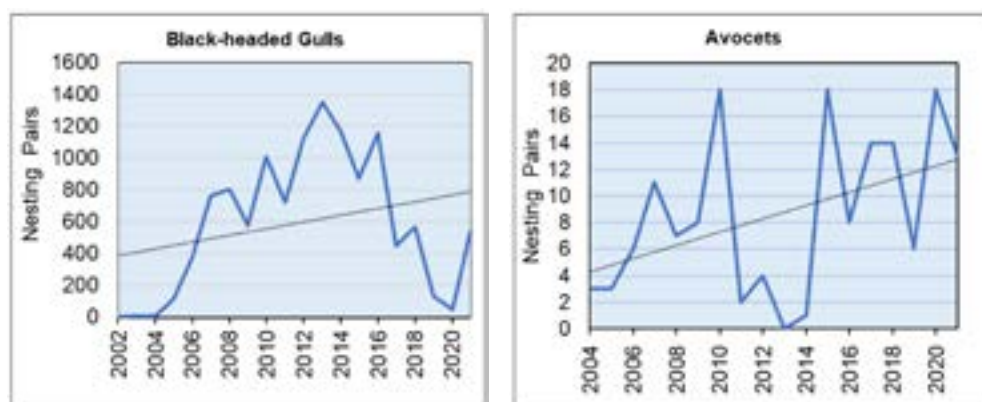


Figure 3. Nesting pairs of Black-headed Gulls and Avocets 2002 to 2021

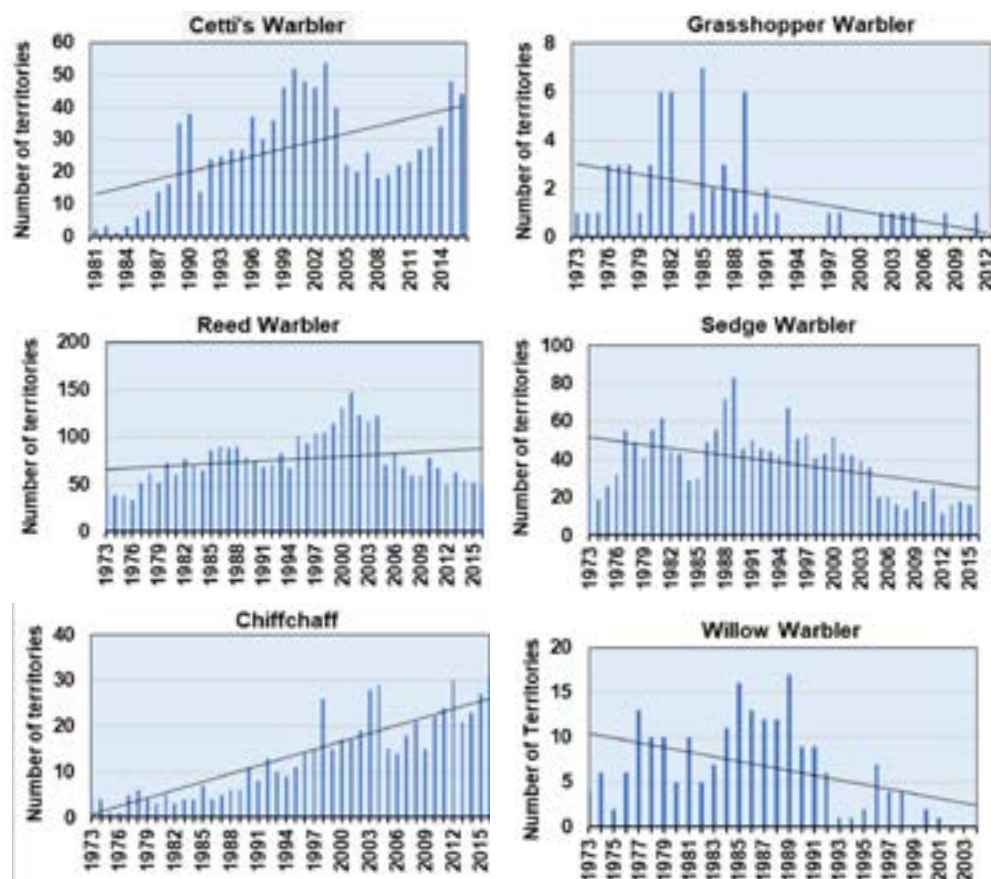


Figure 4. Numbers of breeding territories 1973 to 2016 for selected warbler species

Success of the reserve in the future will hinge on commitment shown by successive managers who must recognise the need for regular management of the variety of habitats in the interest of sustaining the current breeding populations. The upkeep of the protective measures adopted for the successful outcome of breeding birds on the scrapes for instance is paramount, if we are not to witness a repeat of the devastation that occurred to the breeding colonies between 2014 and 2020.

Acknowledgements

The scores of volunteers and an array of staff in the period 1972 to 2012 whilst I was in post have brought the success that we are accustomed to on this reserve. But I wish to express special thanks to three individuals. Firstly I thank Charles Cuthbert, as acting HCC Conservation Officer and Area Manager in the early years, and Richard Levett, Titchfield Haven's Senior Ranger, for their enthusiastic supportive roles. Lastly but not least, I thank the late dedicated conservationist Colin Tubbs, who was instrumental in supporting the purchase of Titchfield Haven and the subsequent securing of grant aid, as senior Hampshire and Isle of Wight officer for the then Nature Conservancy. I would also like to thank Mike Chalmers for comment and assistance in the preparation of this paper and John Clark for his constructive review.

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B.S.Duffin, 94A Burnt House Lane, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 2EE b_duffin@hotmail.com

New Forest wader survey 2019-2021

Keith Betton & Andy Page



Lapwing with chicks (David Thelwell)

Abstract

This report provides an account of the methods used to determine the range and density of breeding Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* within the New Forest and evaluates the findings of the surveys. It also provides an analysis of the survey information including the status of the population compared to previous local studies and explores the potential factors which may be affecting the distribution of waders within the study area and more importantly breeding success.

Introduction

Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) was commissioned after tender in February 2019 by Forestry England, on behalf of its partners within the Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme (HLS), to undertake a survey of breeding waders on land covered by the Verderers of the New Forest and National Trust HLS schemes. This included the whole of the New Forest Common land, and land under the management of the National Trust, Hampshire County Council and Wellow Parish Council.

Experienced volunteers were sought from within HOS's 2,000 members with agreement that Lapwing, Curlew and Redshank would be surveyed during 2019 and that Snipe would be covered during 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately saw fieldwork for Snipe suspended through 2020 but targeted wader survey work was commissioned from two local field workers within the government's conditions for permitted access to the countryside during the pandemic restrictions. HOS completed the fieldwork during 2021 by covering all the 1km squares not surveyed in 2020, while a sample of the 2020 survey work was repeated for comparison. Fortuitously this also enabled significant additional data to be gathered on Curlew, Lapwing and Redshank which substantiated the figures and conclusions derived from the 2019 survey work.

The full report was submitted to Forestry England and a copy is available on the HOS website at <https://www.hos.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Wader-survey-report-FINAL-2019-2021.pdf>

Methods

All 1km squares containing suitable wader habitat were surveyed using the standard BTO methodology used in previous surveys, except that in the case of Snipe suitable areas were walked to within 50m rather than 100m with the agreement of Natural England. This was hoped to give a more accurate census due to the fact that Snipe will often only flush at close quarters.

The survey methodology for all species followed the standard BTO methodology of three visits to each of the survey units. The visits were undertaken between April 10th and June 22nd 2019 with at least two weeks between visits to a survey unit. While the recording methods are broadly the same as those used in previous surveys, the 2019 survey covered all 1km squares and did not sample or extrapolate, therefore leading to a more comprehensive survey. The 1994 (Tubbs & Tubbs 1994) and 2004 (Goater 2004) population estimates relied on extrapolation where sampling was based on random squares containing a minimum of 15 hectares of wet heath/bog habitat. The 2014 survey (RPS 2014) followed the same habitat types identified in the previous two surveys and considered suitable for breeding waders. Survey units of approximately 150 hectares were then mapped and a suitable transect route determined to allow all suitable habitat to be approached within 100m.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the full Snipe survey was not completed until 2021.

Results

Upon completion of the fieldwork the data were analysed to determine the number of breeding pairs present. This produced a breeding population estimate of 68 Lapwing territories, 40 Curlew territories and seven Redshank territories within the areas surveyed in 2019, and a breeding population estimate of 181 territories/pairs for Snipe covered in 2020 and 2021.

Comparisons with previous surveys in 1994, 2004 and 2014 indicate that the breeding populations of Curlew and Lapwing have declined sharply in recent years. However the authors have serious doubts around the efficacy of the 2014 Curlew data. Concerted targeted fieldwork by a small group under the auspices of Wild New Forest over the intervening years has shown a much reduced but stable population of around 40-45 pairs/occupied territories, which is commensurate with the 2019 data and we feel is the truer figure that should have come from the 2014 survey. That said, the 2019 breeding populations of Lapwing and Curlews within the New Forest appear to be declining and robust regular monitoring is desirable to tease out normal population fluctuations from more insidious long-term declines. Comparisons with the previous surveys in 1994, 2004 and 2014 indicate that the breeding population of Snipe remains relatively stable given the challenges of surveying for this species.

The additional surveys in 2020 and 2021 also showed that Lapwing and Redshank numbers have not responded positively, as originally suggested, given the wetter spring conditions, and adds weight to the stated concerns for these species. A summary of each of the four wader species is given below.

Lapwing

Formerly a common bird of farmland, marsh, water meadow and heath, the Lapwing has been declining for decades due to changes in agriculture and is now absent from much of this landscape. The Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-12 (Eyre 2015) illustrates a near 50% reduction in tetrads holding Lapwing compared to the 1986-91 Atlas. Even on the New Forest heaths it continues to decline to the extent that two thirds of the whole Forest population today was to be found in just one 190 hectare site on Beaulieu airfield in the 1970s (Jackson & Jackson 1975 & 1980).

Lapwing Results

No individual site held more than five pairs of breeding Lapwing so plotting and accuracy were easily obtained. It was assumed that all pairs would attempt breeding and unmated



Adult Lapwing and nest with newly hatched chicks (Andy Page)



Figure 1. Map showing Lapwing territories in 2019

males were at the least acting territorially. It was also assumed that all territorial pairs will have attempted or been successful in a breeding attempt. Many will have been predated with eggs or young and some will have moved to new locations for further breeding attempts. It is therefore important that the survey period is sufficiently targeted to ensure relocating failed breeders are not counted as additional or new pairs.

The breeding population is the number of pairs present based on the recording of territorial males, pairs, or birds standing guard near nests or incubating birds. The 2019 total of 68 pairs is the lowest recorded for the New Forest area as shown on the map above (Figure 1).

Lapwing evaluation and conclusions

Previous studies (Jackson & Jackson 1975 and 1980) have proven that drier and warmer spring weather renders areas of the Forest less suitable for breeding and also leads to increased disturbance from the visiting public, particularly around the Easter period. This was the case in 2019 and could have been a contributing factor to the poor population figures derived.

Comparison with past surveys is not straightforward. The 1994 and 2004 surveys were based on extrapolation from sampled squares of key habitat. Although an approved methodology, it carries inherent pitfalls that require deeper understanding. For reasons unknown, Lapwings are completely absent from some large mire complexes of seemingly suitable habitat yet found in small marginal habitat that would not have been included in the random samples. Notwithstanding the slightly different monitoring techniques of previous surveys, the 2004 figure of 117 pairs indicated an increase of around 35% on the 1994 figure of 85 pairs. The 2014 survey figure of 144 pairs of breeding Lapwing indicated a further 23% increase in the Lapwing population. The 2019 figure of 68 pairs indicates a 52% decline in the population over five years. They are not however that dissimilar from the extrapolated population of 85 derived from the 1994 survey. Whatever the true figures were historically, it is quite clear if the previous survey figures are to be believed then at current losses the Lapwing could be almost gone from the Forest as a breeding species within ten years. However, we have already recognised that the very dry spring was not conducive to good Lapwing breeding conditions.

It has become evident in recent years that fledging success is very low, with high levels of predation. Alongside the perceived effects of global warming, driving a wider decline in wader numbers across southern Britain, and given the decline in Lapwings on farmland and increasing public pressure on somewhere as heavily visited as the New Forest, it is probably not surprising that the population of Lapwing is in a precarious position.

No work has been done on whether trampling of nests by livestock actually occurs and, if it does, what effect it might be having on wader productivity. Equally unknown are the positive or negative correlations between stock numbers and breeding waders. Grazing undoubtedly creates suitable chick foraging habitat, and invertebrate life would be associated with the dung from these large herbivores. However concentrations of stock, particularly around winter feed areas, attract large numbers of corvids which are predators of eggs and chicks.

Lapwing additional data from 2020 and 2021

Although a full forest wide survey was not undertaken during either 2020 or 2021, numerous records were collated as part of other survey work including Snipe and numbers again seem to align considerably well with the 2019 survey work. 2020 was an extremely dry spring and summer and did not produce the most favourable conditions for breeding waders. 2021 however, after a cold spring, moved into a summer of very moderate temperatures and frequent rain. The forest mires remained damp and lush throughout, producing more favourable chick rearing conditions and more fledged Lapwing chicks were noted than in 2020. However, overall population numbers of Lapwing attempting breeding across the Forest were similar in all years and had not increased as hoped in the wetter spring.

Curlew

The UK holds more than a third of the global breeding population of Eurasian Curlews. However the breeding numbers have undergone a dramatic decline of 43% from 1995–2012 and this has led to it being red-listed as a bird of the highest conservation concern. In Hampshire, the main breeding population is still to be found in the New Forest but no longer in the adjacent Avon Valley.



Adult Curlew and nest with eggs (Andy Page)



Figure 2. Map showing Curlew territories in 2019

The 2019 survey for breeding Curlews also used the most up-to-date information from intensive survey work carried out from 2016 to 2018 by local ornithologists and co-ordinated under the Wild New Forest group (Wynn & Page 2018). This detailed knowledge has led to a more accurate appraisal of territories and ultimately the population.

Curlew results

A maximum of 40 potential territories was found. The locations of all Curlew territories recorded during the survey are shown in Figure 2. However we could not positively determine the precise understanding of five potential sites where birds were recorded on a number of occasions but where disturbance or others factors was significant enough that no activity indicative of attempted breeding could be established.

Recording such a mobile species as Curlew without attempting to hone down to breeding territories can lead to over-counting. For such a wide-ranging species, over-recording is

always possible during surveys employing set visits over a set time. It is unfortunate that the 2014 survey results may have been skewed by this factor, as experienced local field workers immediately doubted the efficacy of the 111 pairs reported in 2014 and from this concern emanated the intensive local WNF study for the period 2016 – 2019.

Some Curlews that fail early in incubation undoubtedly try to nest again and repeat clutches have been found in previous years. Some sites have such high disturbance or predator pressure that no breeding activity is noted although it would almost certainly be attempted in most instances. Some registrations at first visit cannot be found in subsequent ones and this is where analysis becomes difficult. Do these birds displace to other areas, or are they overlooked as mates are intent on incubation and vocal activity drops considerably?

As previously stated, we have drawn heavily on the additional information supplied by workers studying the New Forest Curlew since 2016 to give the fullest possible picture for the current population status of this species and the results of the combined survey effort from 2016, 2017 and 2018 coupled with this official 2019 survey are tabulated below.

Table 1. Results of breeding Curlew surveys 2016-19 by Wild New Forest and others.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Probable no. of territories/ pairs or singles	40	40	41	40
Nests found	19	7	26	12

Curlew evaluation and conclusions

A concerted New Forest survey effort over the period 2016-2019 has shown a smaller but relatively stable population of around 40 pairs. Work has been undertaken to try and determine hatching success and some of the factors responsible for failures. Temperature data loggers have been placed in nests to try and assess whether disturbance from people was keeping birds from nests and at what stages of incubation and day or night was predation occurring.

During 2018 26 Curlew nests were found equating to two thirds of the known territories. Twenty-two nests contained four eggs. Results so far show that around 50% of nests are predated at incubation with one instance of a female being predated on the nest, presumably by a fox (Wynn & Page 2018). As Curlew are relatively long-lived birds, even at these high predation levels, the population could sustain itself providing enough chicks were reaching adulthood. Proving fledging is however the most difficult part of the monitoring and although hatching occurs at a number of nests, many are lost in the first couple of weeks. Efforts to reduce casual disturbance of nesting Curlews from forest users and dogs, coupled with the seasonal closure of a few key car parks and improved control of ad-hoc verge parking, are all methods that have helped mitigate against some of the factors affecting nesting Curlew. Concerted awareness campaigns, Ranger effort and co-operation from user groups have all been positive steps in efforts to give the species the best chance of recovery.

A few New Forest Curlews are currently satellite-tagged to try and identify key wintering areas and identify those feeding fields adjacent to the Forest that are important to the New Forest breeding population. Tracked birds were making regular forays to feeding grounds around Lymington from their nesting site near Brockenhurst and to pastures in the Avon Valley from a breeding site near Burley. Birds that failed in their breeding attempt soon vacated the Forest and moved to Poole Harbour or The Solent for assumed post-breeding or wintering feed areas (Potts *et al.* 2019).

Curlew additional data from 2020 and 2021

During 2020 and 2021 Curlew were again comprehensively surveyed across the New Forest as part of ongoing work into their declining national status. Aided by a PhD student, important data have been gathered on nesting success, productivity and chick survival, with camera traps now recording the causes of nest predation. The results below are the culmination of literally

hundreds of hours of joint fieldwork and represent the most comprehensive coverage for New Forest Curlew to date and reconfirm the accuracy of the 2019 survey work undertaken and published by HOS for the Verderers HLS.

In 2020 46 breeding pairs were identified of which 16 were predated on eggs including relays. Fourteen nests were known to hatch chicks but after heavy predation only three chicks were known to have fledged, a productivity well below that required to maintain a viable population.

In 2021 44 territories were occupied within the New Forest study area. Twenty breeding attempts were known to have been predated at egg or hatching stage. Fifteen nests are known to have hatched young but only eight young fledged and two were likely predated soon afterwards. Thus only four sites produced only six young to add to the population.

Redshank

Formerly a widespread breeder in the Avon and Test Valleys, the Redshank has declined steadily in numbers over the decades. This decline was already evident by the time of the 1986-91 Atlas and by the time of the 2007-12 Hampshire Atlas the species had been lost from a further 78% of tetrads. Redshank can be extremely noisy and demonstrative on their breeding territory and are unlikely to be missed by surveyors.

New Forest population trends

Tubbs (2001) cites a breeding population of 60 pairs in 1960 and 105-140 pairs in 1981 but it is not clear on how these figures were derived or how they were distributed across the Forest. By the time of his 1994 sample survey, 18 pairs had been recorded which were extrapolated to a Forest population of 54 pairs. Whatever the true figures were, they were obviously higher than they are today.

Redshank results

The survey results show the continued tenuous hold this species has as a breeding wader of the New Forest. While it has never been abundant, it has been lost from the north of the Forest in recent decades probably reflecting losses in the nearby Avon Valley. The species is however still clinging on in the south-east of the Forest where it is found close to the tidal estuaries of Beaulieu and Southampton Water. The 2019 survey showed no additional records or recolonization of former sites.

The map in Figure 3 shows that there are just seven locations where Redshanks were recorded during the survey period of 2019. The 2014 survey recorded 13 breeding pairs indicating numbers have declined even further since then. Of the two main areas for the species in 2014



Adult Redshank and nest with eggs on a New Forest mire (Andy Page)



Figure 3. Map showing Redshank territories in 2019

(at Bagshot Moor and Stonyford), only the latter held comparable numbers in 2019 with just a single registration at Hatchet representing the Bagshot Moor complex.

Redshank evaluation and conclusions

There is little to evaluate and the only conclusion is that Redshank is in danger of being lost as a breeding species from the New Forest. No successful hatching or fledging has been recorded recently and this will be contributing to the decline if there is no recruitment to the local breeding population. The effects of predation on this and the other New Forest wader species is not fully understood alongside the other environmental and recreational pressures to which they are subjected. There is considerable concern that we are in danger of losing this species as a breeding bird from the New Forest given the recent population declines.

Redshank additional data from 2020 and 2021

The extended survey results of 2020 and 2021 show no change to those reported in the 2019 survey and reinforce the conclusions drawn then that this species retains a very tenuous hold as a breeding wader of the New Forest. 2021 was however the first year for some time that young Redshank were hatched although unfortunately they were subsequently thought predated.

Snipe

Snipe suffered badly in the last century due to agricultural intensification and drainage. They are highly migratory with the UK receiving a large influx of birds from northern Europe each winter, depending on the severity of temperatures and rainfall. Their cryptic plumage and secretive behaviour mean they are inevitably under recorded, both in distribution and abundance.

The Hampshire Bird Atlas 2007-2012 documents the decline of the Snipe as a Hampshire breeding species over the two decades since the previous Atlas. There has been a 75% contraction in range across Hampshire. It has been lost as a breeding species from the Test



Drumming Snipe and nest with eggs in a New Forest mire (Marcus Ward & Andy Page)

and Itchen Valleys and was recorded as breeding in only one tetrad in the Avon Valley, a former stronghold for the species. Even in the New Forest, the HBA only recorded breeding as likely in 22 tetrads, but the methodology was not favourable to finding crepuscular species such as Snipe. Had the Atlas been carried out using our 2020-21 data, it would have recorded breeding as likely in 33 tetrads.

Snipe methods

The proposed 2020 survey for breeding Snipe was to cover all 1km squares of the Crown Lands and adjacent commons included in the Verderers of the New Forest HLS agreement containing habitat with the potential to support breeding Snipe. From 164 squares containing some wetland habitat it was decided that 23 squares did not contain enough to support breeding Snipe leaving 141 requiring survey. However the COVID-19 pandemic saw government restrictions on travel and exercise make it impossible for HOS volunteers to fulfil their commitment to the Snipe survey in 2020.

Fortunately, in an attempt to gather data on the effects of lockdown on the Forests waders, Wild New Forest were contracted by FE to sample survey disturbance and wader populations across the New Forest in the spring of 2020 thus enabling around 100 squares to be surveyed. To ensure that Snipe numbers had not changed dramatically between 2020 and 2021, the WNF team resurveyed 30 squares in 2021 to provide direct comparisons with 2020. Those squares not covered by WNF in 2020 were surveyed by HOS volunteers in spring 2021 following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

The first survey period overlaps with early breeding birds and migratory Snipe on the way back to more northerly breeding grounds and careful analysis of subsequent survey data is required to arrive at a figure which better represents the breeding population.

The 1994 and 2004 population estimates relied on extrapolation where sampling was based on random squares containing a minimum of 15 hectares of wet heath/bog habitat. The 2014 survey followed the same habitat types identified in the previous two surveys and considered suitable for breeding waders. Survey units of approximately 150 hectares were then mapped and a transect route determined to allow all suitable habitat to be approached to within 100m. To analyse comparisons with previous surveys we also completed a resurvey of 20 of the 80 transects walked in the 2014 survey during 2021 using the 2014 methodology.

Snipe results

In total 141 1km squares were surveyed over 2020 or 2021 with the result that 181 Snipe territories were found (Figure 4). This is an increase over the survey completed in 2014. For

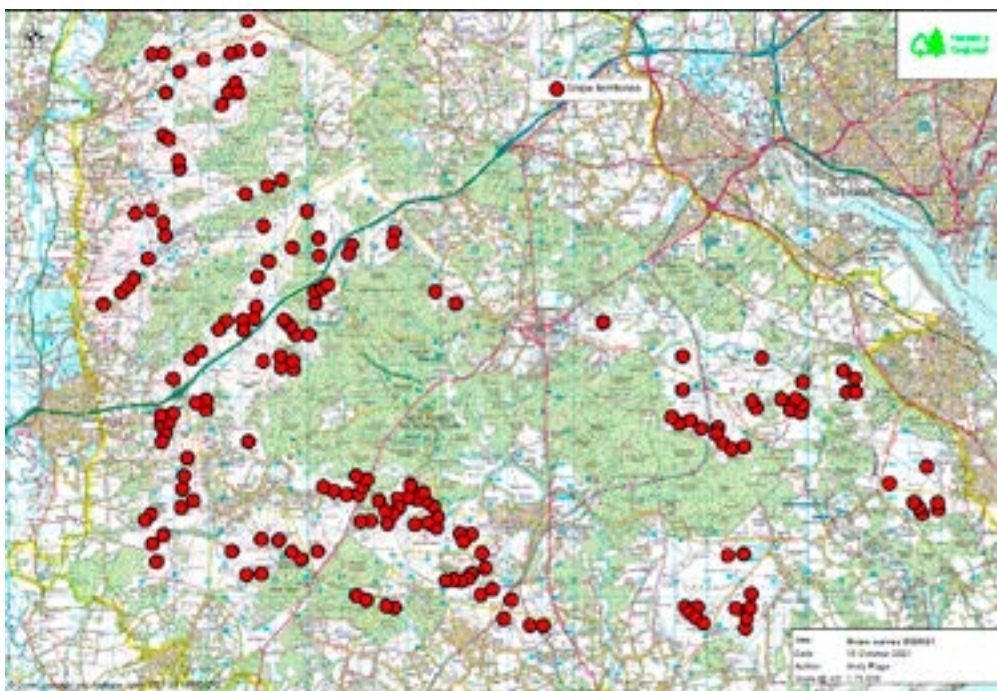


Figure 4. Map showing Snipe territories 2020-2021

the 2014 survey, RPS used 80 pre-planned transects that were designed to get within 100m of suitable wader habitat. For the HOS 1km square survey we asked observers to get within 50m of suitable Snipe habitat which may explain some of that increase. HOS also surveyed nine new 1km squares not visited in the 2014 survey and found 14 territorial males/pairs.

To ensure that Snipe numbers had not changed dramatically between 2020 and 2021, the WNF team resurveyed 30 squares in 2021 to provide direct comparisons with 2020. This 30% sample revealed 32 territories in 2021 against 36 in 2020 - a 12.5% difference which we feel reflects small movements of birds within the area.

During 2021, and to allow comparisons with the 2014 survey, we completed a resurvey of 20 of the 80 transects walked in the 2014 survey using the 2014 methodology. Sixty-four different 1km squares were covered (although many of these were only passed through slightly). Three visits at dawn or dusk were made in April, May and June and although the results varied in some cases between 2014 and 2021, a total of 47 territories were found in both surveys. We feel this shows that had we used the 2014 methodology across all 80 transects the results would have been comparable to 2014. There were 15 squares where Snipe were lost between 2014 and 2021 and 43 squares where they were gained or not surveyed in 2014.

Snipe evaluations and conclusions

The Forest's vegetation management (primarily controlled burning) probably affects Snipe less than some of the other wader species, given the wet nature of most of its preferred habitat. Numbers of stock grazing the Forest can however have a more significant impact. Large numbers of stock can access, break up and reduce the thick vegetation, particularly purple moor grass, found in many mire systems and make them more attractive and accessible to Snipe for feeding and therefore breeding. On the downside, high stock numbers can increase the chance of accidental trampling or disturbance of nests.

The weather, as always plays a part and we saw extremes in both survey years. 2020 was noted for a dry spring and protracted dry period through early summer leading to significant

drying out of the mires and arid conditions which were not conducive for ideal chick-rearing conditions. 2021 produced a very late cold spring with frequent wet weather through early summer. This retarded early spring growth and therefore nesting cover for forest waders but meant that chick foraging was much improved due to the wetter summer conditions.

The revised methodology of covering each 1km square to within 50m of all suitable habitat rather than the 100m of previous surveys, appeared to produce a more accurate result. This is not surprising given the Snipe's reluctance to break from cover until the last minute. Repeating the transect methodology used in 2014 produced very similar results in 2021 affirming the view that the New Forest Snipe population has probably remained stable over the seven-year period between surveys. Results of comparisons of data produced in 2020 and 2021 again reaffirm the belief that there was no perceivable change in population between the two years. We believe the 2020/2021 survey result of 181 territorial males/pairs shows that the New Forest population remains healthy and stable and compares favourably with previous surveys regardless of the methodologies used, but that the methods used in 2021 should be adopted for future surveys.

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K.F.Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0DR keith.betton@hotmail.com

A.G.Page andrewgraham.page@gmail.com

Identifying the wintering and stopover locations of Wood Warblers using geolocators

Chris Hewson and Tony Davis



*Wood Warbler with geolocator, New Forest
(Josie Hewitt)*

Abstract

The trapping, colour-ringing and fitting of geolocators to Wood Warblers *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* in the New Forest and Devon has provided new information on their migration routes and enabled their wintering areas to be identified for the first time.

Introduction and Background

The decline of the Wood Warbler in the UK is well-documented, with over two-thirds being lost in the last quarter of a century. Despite extensive fieldwork, primarily by the RSPB, in the UK and tropical Africa, the causes of decline remain unclear. This situation has not been helped by limited knowledge of the annual cycle of Wood Warblers, including the UK population, so as technology has become increasingly miniaturised in recent years, the species has seemed an obvious candidate for tracking.

Against this background and working in parallel with an RSPB team based in Dartmoor, the BTO teamed up with Tony Davis, who was already intensively studying a relic population of the species in the New Forest, to fill this knowledge gap using tiny geolocators. Geolocators are not strictly tracking devices, as they do not record locations or emit radio signals that can be picked up remotely. Rather, they are light-level recorders, which record data against a very accurate clock and calendar. The resulting data can be used to estimate the time of dawn and dusk for each day the bird carries the device, which in turn can be used to reconstruct the

path the bird took. Broadly speaking, day-length (the time between dawn and dusk) varies with latitude, except close to the equinoxes, and solar midday (the midpoint between dawn and dusk) varies with longitude; as there are 24 hours in a day and 360 degrees of longitude around the earth, solar midday changes by 1 hour for every 15 degrees of longitude the bird moves around the earth. The resultant tracks are not highly accurate and are prone to biases, and the devices must be retrieved for the data to be downloaded so tracking is restricted to birds that complete an annual cycle, but geolocators have one major advantage: size. The smallest devices now weigh as little as 0.3g, meaning that they can be deployed on even the smallest long-distance migrants.

The need for geolocators to be retrieved is a particular problem for Wood Warblers, which are known to be less faithful to their breeding grounds than most small passerine migrants. The reasons for this are not fully understood but may be related to vulnerability to nest predation and large local fluctuations in the abundance of key nest predators, such as rodents. We hoped that working in an isolated population would improve our chances of retrieving tags, which were limited given that the UK and Belgium are the only places in Europe where between-year return rates in excess of 10% have been recorded from ringing. For instance a study in Denmark, the only previous tracking undertaken of the species, retrieved only one tag from 20 deployed.

Fieldwork

After a period of initial training, Tony (with some assistance from Joan Castello in the first year) deployed a total of 25 geolocators on male Wood Warblers across 2016 and 2018. Of these, three were retrieved, all of which yielded useful data, complementing a single tag from which data was downloaded from Dartmoor. The return rate of 12% is pretty much as expected based on the return rates from ringing and although lower than for the control group, this was almost certainly biased by differences in the age structure and breeding times of birds in the two groups. Overall, we were happy that the tags had not significantly impacted the birds and that the information collected was a reliable indicator of the migrations of birds from this population.

The difficulties of retrieving tags for this species are illustrated in the following accounts of how this was achieved for each of the three New Forest birds. A combination of luck, persistence and skill was required – in each case, circumstances meant that things could very easily have turned out differently and it is likely that where Wood Warblers are at higher density and suitable habitat more widespread, such as in central Wales, we would have been less successful.

- **Tag number BA424** was deployed on a bird given ring JKK011 on 1st July 2016 near the main car park at Bolderwood. He was unmated at the time and is not known to have bred that year, making the chances of return to the same area the following year seem slim. On 15th May 2017, Tony became aware of a photo of a colour-ringed Wood Warbler on the *Going Birding* web site, which proved to be the first sighting of JKK011 for the year. Fortunately the photographer responded to Tony quickly about where he had seen the bird and the following morning he went to the site to try and retrieve the tag. Unfortunately there was no sign of the bird, either at the given location or in any traditional territories nearby. Having resigned himself to the fact that the bird had moved on, he went to check on a Grey Wagtail nest on Highland Water. Whilst there he heard a distant Wood Warbler singing in an area where they had never previously been recorded. This proved to be JKK011 and he was eventually recaptured and his tag retrieved. After spending a couple more days in this location, he moved on and was never sighted again.
- **Tag number BM370** was ringed JKK833 on 1st June 2018 at Lucy Hill. He was breeding at this location and it is believed that he reared six young that year. The following spring he was found near Bolderwood, 4.88km from his territory in 2018. He was recaptured on 22nd May and the tag was retrieved. It is not believed that he managed to find a mate in 2019.

- **Tag number BM375** was ringed JKK868 on 3rd July 2018 in Burley New Inclosure. Interestingly, he was the third different bird to occupy this territory during 2018 but unfortunately none found a mate. If these birds had not been colour-ringed, it would have been assumed that one male was present throughout the breeding season. He was not seen in 2019 but in the spring of 2020 he was singing 400m from his original ringing site. As soon as lockdown restrictions were eased he was recaptured and his tag was retrieved. It is not believed that he managed to find a mate that year and in late May he moved on and was not seen again.

Two (JKK011 & JKK833) were tracked for the full annual cycle and the third was tracked to the final wintering locations; together these birds have revolutionised our understanding of how Wood Warblers spend their lives away from the UK breeding grounds. Ringing recoveries had shown us that birds departed from the UK in a south-easterly direction towards Italy in autumn, whilst there was some evidence they return much further west in spring, via Morocco and Algeria, so it appeared that the birds undertook a clockwise loop migration. There was, however, no information at all about the movements or distribution of British birds south of the Sahara and hence we lacked even the most basic information about their patterns of connectivity. We were unable to answer questions such as whether British breeders wintered in the large mass of suitable habitat around the Congo basin in central Africa, or whether they were, as might be guessed on geographical grounds, amongst those birds comprising the wintering population around the Upper Guinea forests of West Africa.

Results

The migration paths of these three birds, as reconstructed from the light-level data retrieved from the geolocators they were carrying, are shown in Figure 1. These confirmed what we believed based on ringing recoveries for the early part of the post-breeding migration; they all headed off in late July directly to stopovers in or close to Italy, where they carried out their preparation for crossing the Sahara. The crossing was carried out during a non-stop flight of around two days duration in late August or early September for each bird, on a heading just east of south which took them to initial brief post-Sahara stopovers that were most likely in southern Chad in each case (latitude cannot be resolved with certainty for such short stopovers as calibration cannot be carried out, especially relatively close to an equinox due to limited variation in day-length, so this is based on an estimation of where they would first encounter suitable habitat).

The next movement answered the question we were most wanting to answer – would the Wood Warblers move directly south and winter around the Congo basin, or move into the area around the Upper Guinea forests of West Africa? At the outset of this project the answer to this question was thought to be a key piece of information in assessing the potential causes of decline of the British breeding population. It had been hypothesised that they, and other declining breeding populations of the species, would winter in West Africa, as it was thought that habitat loss had been greater there than in areas around the Congo basin. Preliminary information based on the isotopic composition of winter-grown feathers had suggested that the Congo basin was more likely, so solid evidence either way was required.

In fact, all of the birds moved westwards, to stopovers most likely in the Sahel around Burkina Faso or Mali for three birds and in Niger or Nigeria for the fourth. After remaining there for 2 – 2.5 months, they moved further west onto their mid-winter residency area in November, directly for three birds but via a 6-day stopover for the bird that had stopped off previously in Niger or Nigeria. The mid-winter location was most likely in Sierra Leone or Liberia (or possibly Guinea for one bird) in each case.

The two birds whose geolocators worked throughout the annual cycle subsequently crossed the Sahara northwards on 6th-8th April in 2019 and 23rd-25th April in 2017, via non-stop flights of 2 nights and 1 day, on a heading taking them towards Morocco and Algeria. For the

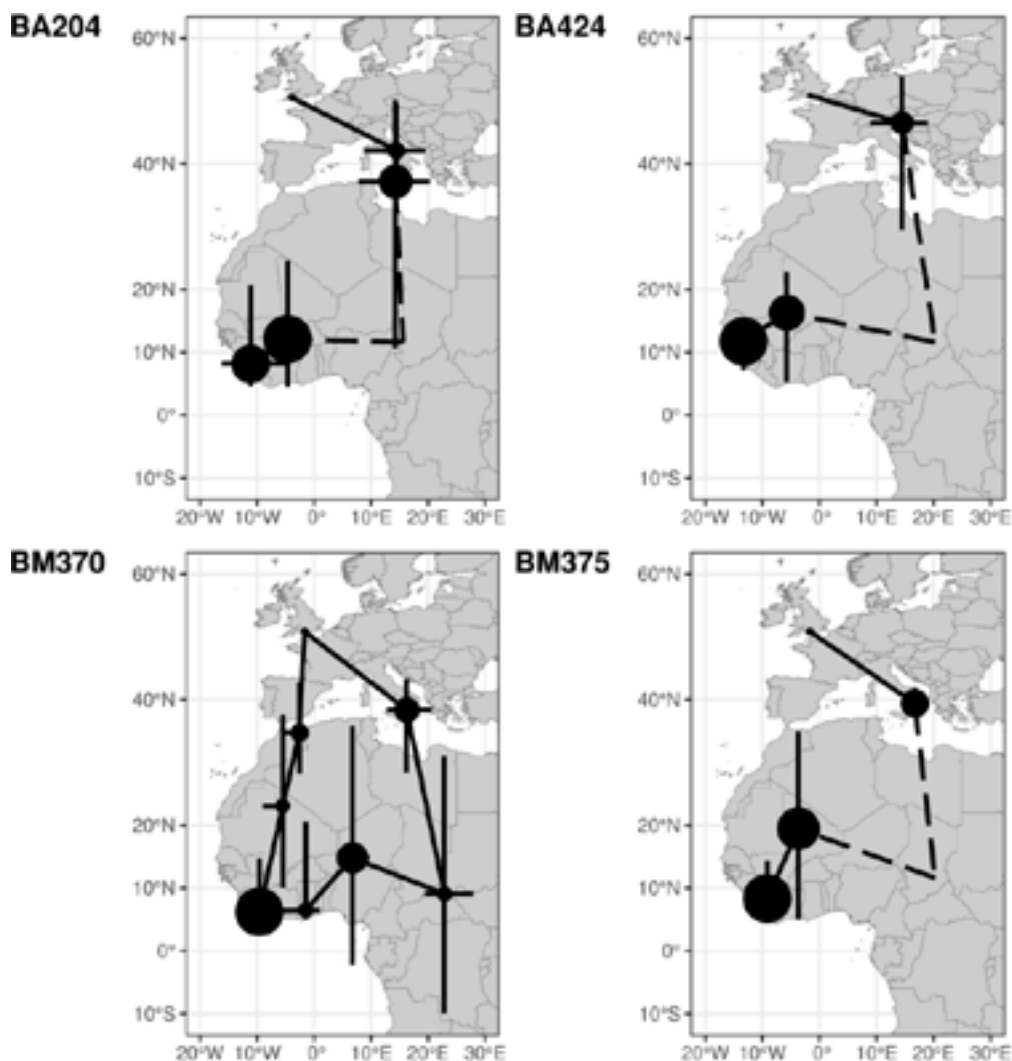


Figure 1. Breeding, stopover and non-breeding locations of four adult male Wood Warblers tracked between 2016-17 (BA204 and BA424) and 2018-19 (BM370 and BM375). (From Burgess et al. in press – *Bird Study*. Copyright BTO)

(Estimated locations are shown as black points scaled in size by relative duration with 40% and 80% quantiles of latitudinal and longitudinal error, and are connected by solid lines although these do not show the actual route taken)

bird in 2019, two stopovers could be identified during spring migration; one of 6 days, most likely in Morocco, during 8th – 13th April and one of 11 days most likely in northern Spain, during 19th-30th April.

Despite the small sample size, given that the birds undertook very similar migrations, it's highly likely that these tracks are broadly representative of at least the breeding populations from which the birds were sampled – i.e. those in southern England. A caveat is that routes that are rarely used, or less successful given that these are archival tags requiring recapture after one year, might go undetected. This project has nonetheless vastly increased our knowledge of the migrations of Wood Warblers from southern England at least.

Conclusions

So what have we learnt about causes of decline? The wintering location in West Africa seems to support the idea that loss of wintering habitat had contributed to these declines, given the lack of a 'smoking gun' found so far in research conducted in the UK, mostly by the RSPB. Recent work by them, however, suggests that in fact, despite forest being converted into farmland, the amount of habitat available for Wood Warblers may actually be increasing. This is because the optimal habitat for the species during this period is intermediate levels of tree canopy cover and this is being created by removal of trees from pristine forest at a faster rate than it is being lost during continued conversion into farmland. There are some caveats to this – the species does have a preference for certain tree species, for instance, which may hold greater prey densities, whereas habitat availability was assessed only on the basis of satellite data of tree cover. But if true, it does suggest that the causes of the decline are elsewhere.

This could be during the earlier part of the non-breeding season in Africa, due to deforestation in the Sahel for instance, where the species is known to spend the period between completion of the Sahara crossing in early September and arrival at the winter grounds in November. Or perhaps habitat change or climate change has decreased the quality of the post-breeding stopover in Italy? Or it could, despite the lack of published evidence from work undertaken so far, be here in the UK, perhaps mainly in the areas where the species has already been lost (and where it is therefore impossible to study), or perhaps through some mechanism that has not yet been detected. Unpublished data from the New Forest, for instance, strongly suggests that poor breeding success in the south of the UK is contributing to the UK decline (T. Davis, in prep.), as is already known for the Willow Warbler. One thing that is for sure is that future work undertaken to try to determine the causes of decline will be able to pinpoint those areas to look at away from the UK with much greater precision and certainty than before this study, thanks in no small part to the funding from HOS.

Acknowledgements

We thank our RSPB partners working in Devon for their contribution to the wider project; Forestry England for access; and we are grateful for funding from BTO, Dulverton Trust and Mark Constantine, in addition to HOS.

C. Hewson, British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU chris.hewson@bto.org

T. Davis sibilatrix@btinternet.com

First for Hampshire: Long-toed Stint at Farlington Marshes

Jason Crook



Long-toed Stint, Farlington Marshes, Sep 8th 2011 (Jason Crook)

Abstract

An unfamiliar small shorebird was seen and filmed at dusk on the scrape at Farlington Marshes on September 8th 2011. It took several years to determine its identification as a Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*. It was finally accepted by BBRC in 2022 (Paul French, BBRC Chair, *in litt.*) (Holt *et al.*, 2022) and is the first for Hampshire. The following account is reproduced with permission from the recently published *Rare Birds of Hampshire* (Clark 2022).

Circumstances

It was a very dull, cool and overcast evening when I found a pale-legged stint, in worn adult plumage, while looking from the hide at the scrape. In fading light, I knew that I was up against the clock to identify and document it. I decided to focus mostly on obtaining digiscoped videos of it but my time was also used, away from the scrape, consulting a couple of field guides at the reserve's building and negotiating access for other birders to see it. The general jizz of the bird, in particular its crouching posture on bent legs as it crept around feeding, did not seem to fit the typical field guide descriptions and illustrations of Long-toed Stint, a species that I had never seen before. The details of the bird's structure had not been discernible until it was closer to the hide but by this time it was already dusk. It was questionable whether the last videos would prove to be any more useful than the first ones when the bird was more distant. In near-darkness, and with the bird cowering from the presence of a Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, I also managed to get a couple of still images. Next day, despite extensive searching on the reserve, it was not seen again.

Identification

For several years the videos and images resided in an ever-increasing file of stint identification papers, photographs and videos which I had sourced from books, journals and the internet. More time elapsed before I looked at the videos again and realised that the weight of evidence pointed towards Long-toed Stint. For example, I now considered the feeding posture and behaviour that had earlier detracted from its identification were not inconsistent with the species. I was in a quandary. Had I got enough evidence to prove, beyond doubt, that the Farlington stint had indeed been a Long-toed? In early 2018 I had the opportunity to see Long-toed Stints in Thailand and this further cemented my thoughts that the Farlington bird had been of this species. But I was still unsure if I had enough to proceed further. There were key identification points, such as the tibia and toe lengths, just about visible in the videos, in support of Long-toed Stint, but would these be enough for acceptance of such a rare vagrant to the UK?

More recently I discovered that the BBRC, through a separate avenue of working, had also been pursuing a path towards the correct identification of the Farlington stint. This parallel working was blind, in that neither knew what each other was doing! I had reached a point of deciding that another visit to Thailand would be required. Here I would be able to get some digiscoped videos, using the same equipment that I used in 2011, and make a unique comparison with those of the Farlington bird. Meanwhile, the BBRC had taken the opportunity to re-assess the video evidence alongside documentation of a Long-toed Stint at Weirwood Reservoir in West Sussex, from September 15th to 21st 2011. BBRC has concluded that they were the same individual. Measurements of bill, toe and leg lengths and ratios, coupled with increased confidence in some features of Long-toed Stint identification, proved critical in their decision.

Status and distribution

Between 1970 and 2021 there have been four accepted records in Great Britain of this extremely rare vagrant. The Farlington bird was only the third. The species breeds in the boreal zone of central and north-eastern Siberia and winters in India, South-east Asia and Australia.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to this small shorebird, my run of finding species that are difficult to identify in a vagrant context continued but at least this one was finally resolved! Thanks also to the manager of Farlington Marshes at the time who had permitted me access to the scrape for long-term bird recording purposes.

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J. Crook jasoncrook73@yahoo.com

First for Hampshire: Baikal Teal at Ripley Farm Reservoir

Olly Frampton

Abstract

A drake Baikal Teal *Sibirionetta formosa* was found at Ripley Farm Reservoir on March 14th. Although not present the following day, it was seen again on March 16th but not thereafter. This has been accepted by BBRC as the eighth record of a wild bird for Britain (Holt, C. *et al.* 2022) and the first for Hampshire.

Circumstances

I've been a WeBS counter at Ripley since late 2015, having discovered the site's potential after making my first visit earlier in the summer that year. Being a fairly secluded site with little disturbance and not watched regularly by birders, it has the potential for finding something good.

Arriving at about 10:10 on March 14th, I slowly made my way along the public footpath running parallel to the northern edge of the site and met fellow Hampshire birder, Keith Young, who was just leaving. Keith had cycled ten miles to get here but, with no scope and just binoculars to hand, he'd not picked out much of interest. We agreed that Ripley probably would turn up a really good bird sometime, but didn't realise it was under our noses at this point. I made my way to the far north-west corner of the pit where there is a low fence with no viewing obstructions. I'd started the WeBS count with the gulls before turning my attention to the small number of Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, then focusing on the large Wigeon *Mareca penelope* flock which was mostly settled on the southern bank.



*Baikal Teal, Ripley Farm Reservoir, March 14th
(Olly Frampton)*

Scanning my scope along the far bank of the pit, I'd got about half way through the Wigeon flock before noticing a grey-sided roosting duck, a few feet from the water's edge, with its head tucked between its wings. I was viewing the bird side-on and immediately noticed a vertical white stripe separating the breast from the flanks; a feature of drake Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*, which initially sprung to mind having been aware that a drake was seen at nearby Longham Lakes in Dorset earlier in the year. However I next noticed the green and yellow patches just visible on its face, and immediately knew I was looking at a drake Baikal Teal. I took a few phone-scoped shots and sent them to a couple of local birders and mentioned that it had good credentials, with no rings visible, as this is a popular bird in captivity. At the time of the find, the UK was still under the government's 'lock-down' guidance, so I knew that if news went national, the mostly narrow roads around Ripley with few suitable parking areas could be inundated with birders' cars. I phoned Keith Betton for advice and, between the few who then knew about the bird, the overall agreement was that it would be best to keep it to ourselves.

However the following morning, news of the bird inadvertently appeared publicly on-line, but for those who quickly made their way to Ripley there was no sign of the bird. Fortunately, it made a reappearance on 16th and showed well throughout the day, only to disappear by 17th. It generated a steady stream of admirers who were all considerate with regards to social distancing and parking, which certainly dismissed our fears over visitor numbers.

Identification

From what was visible of the bird's head, a somewhat triangular-like yellow cheek bordered by a thin black line could be seen. Black surrounded the eye and green ear coverts led to the back of the head with a thin white horizontal stripe running from above the eye below a brown/blackish crown. When the accompanying Wigeon were disturbed, it lifted its head to show a black eye with black feather surround forming a teardrop pattern, with the base of the teardrop leading to the base of the bill.

The sides of the body were grey. The bird showed a pale off-white belly leading back to a white stripe which separated the grey flanks from the solid black undertail coverts. The chin was only visible in flight but appeared to be dark when seen very briefly. The breast was a pink/brown colour, very similar to Wigeon, although it had black speckling which didn't extend beyond the vertical white line on the breast sides. The legs were straw-coloured and

the feet were dark. The bill was fairly small and solid black. The bird only made a few very short flights whilst I was watching. The upperwing was barely visible long enough to note any distinguishing features, but the underwing had three distinct markings - a thick dark leading edge (but not as far along the wing as the primaries), a white “mid-patch” extending widely from the axillaries and narrowing to a tip towards the median coverts, and grey secondaries with what appeared to be a narrow white trailing edge.

The bird spent much of its time asleep. Three long scapular feathers, which were each tri-coloured black, white and tan, hung down towards the flanks. Some further tan-coloured feathers were visible between these three scapulars and the bird’s head. With the head turned away, the thin white lines running across the top of the head and from the neck joined at a point on the back of the head forming a white cross. The head shape was quite unique, almost appearing to form a peak, similar in profile to the head of a Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*. In terms of size, the bird was slightly smaller than the Wigeon with which it was associating and occasionally harassing.

Taxonomy and status in Britain

Baikal Teal breeds in East Siberia from Yenisey River east to Anadyr and Kamchatka and north to 70°N, although its breeding range is believed to have contracted in recent years. Most winter in South Korea and the lower Yangtze River in China, with small numbers regular in east and south Japan.)

This species was accepted by BOURC into Category A of the British List as recently as 2009 (BOURC 2009, Harrop & McGowan 2009). This followed the results of a stable-isotope analysis of feathers from a specimen shot at Tillingham, Essex on 1st January 1906 which proved consistent with having originated in Siberia, confirming this as the first record of a wild bird for Britain (Votier *et al.* 2009). In Hampshire there is one previous record from around 1915 of a drake shot on the River Itchen near Winchester. Unfortunately BBRC decided in 2009 that the identification was not proven (Clark 2022).

In the preceding weeks before this bird was found at Ripley, there had been records of Baikal Teal in Belgium, France, Poland and Sweden, suggesting a small influx into Europe. However, this was the only example of the species to be found in the UK during early 2021.

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O. Frampton olly.frampton@hotmail.co.uk

First for Hampshire: Western Sandpiper at Normandy Lagoon

Simon Buckell



Western Sandpiper, Normandy Lagoon, Oct 12th (Jeremy McClements)

Abstract

This paper describes the finding and subsequent identification of a Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* at Normandy Lagoon between 4th-14th October 2021. Detailed photographs helped confirm the identity and separation from Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris semipalmatus*. The record is the first for Hampshire and has been accepted by BBRC (Holt et al. 2022).

Initial finding

On Monday 4th October 2021 a sighting of a “Semipalmated Sandpiper at Normandy Marsh appearing very long billed so Western Sandpiper could not be ruled out” was posted on the Going Birding Hampshire website. It had been found by Martin Cooper and the sighting posted by Pete Durnell.

I was already nearby at Pennington Marshes that day and so arrived at Normandy Lagoon within an hour of the posting. I remained for the best part of the afternoon but there was no sign of the bird. I decided to return at first light the following morning to see what birds came into the Lagoon as the tide began to rise. I arrived at 07:10 and began scanning the Lagoon but there were hardly any small waders present. High tide was not due until around 10:00. A small group of five Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula*, three Dunlins *Calidris alpina* and one juvenile Little Stint *Calidris minuta* flew in at 08:10. Martin Cooper arrived but could only stay briefly before having to leave for work and then at around 08:40 more small mixed flocks of Ringed Plovers and Dunlins began to fly in to roost. I started scanning through the next group that had landed on the most western and nearest island within the Lagoon and immediately could clearly see the bird in question - a pale stint/peep. As I focused on the bird, which was walking fast along the edge of the island, it stopped to feed directly head on and through the scope I could see the long fine-tipped bill pointing downwards towards the ground. Then, as the bird turned side-on, I could see and get a feel for the attenuated jizz and egg-shaped body. In addition its tall long structure hit me immediately and I was thinking “Jesus this is a Western”.

The bird began walking again fast and erratically through the ever-growing flock of Dunlins. I grabbed my Canon compact camera. The weather wasn't helping as the wind kept buffeting my tripod and the video-footage was shaky. However I managed to follow the bird through the scope and noticed it was walking in the direction of the juvenile Little Stint and that this would be crucial for comparison of structure and *jizz*. I quickly re-attached the camera to the scope and the two birds came into view, passing each other briefly. I could now clearly see that the bird I suspected as a Western Sandpiper appeared larger, taller, longer-legged and attenuated. The bill length looked good to me and the plumage tied in nicely with an adult Western Sandpiper moulting into winter plumage. In my experience Semipalmated Sandpipers are more Little Stint like in *jizz* and structure, but this bird wasn't - it was more like a small Dunlin.

I knew I had to get the news out locally at least. I first contacted Andy Johnson and advised him that I believed this bird to be a Western Sandpiper; I think I used the words "*hand on my heart I honestly believe this to be a Western*" and Andy was on his way within the hour. I then contacted Matthew Barfield, a local birder at Pennington Marshes, as I wanted him to be aware that I believed this to be a Western Sandpiper. A few other birders who were already on site began to arrive at the southern sea wall and I advised them of my thoughts on the identification. I decided to try to relocate the bird in order to obtain more details and hopefully some better video footage. Later that evening I messaged Alan Lewis advising him that "*my gut is still saying Western*", and he was supportive having seen the photos that appeared later that evening.

Description

This bird was smaller than Dunlin but bigger, taller, more longer-legged and attenuated in appearance than the Little Stint it was seen with. The bill was thick-set at the base, long and forming a fine point at the tip, and all dark in colouration. The legs were long and dark and at times appeared to be set further back on the body giving it that taller appearance and more upright stance. The light was changing from bright sun to overcast making the bird not so bleached out white but more grey and duller looking.

The face was pale with a brown-grey loreal stripe, white supercilium which ended near the ear coverts, and a grey to brown streaked capped appearance. The chin was pale white ending at the neck where there were some small brown-grey markings creating a faint necklace across the upper breast, but different to the discrete patches often shown by Semipalmated Sandpiper. The breast, belly and undertail coverts all appeared to be a clean bright white. The upper and lower scapulars were grey with fine dark centres and pale fringes appearing to be new moulted feathers with the dark brown coverts looking worn and abraded. The primaries and tertials were worn and appeared darker being a dark brown colour.

On several visits to see the bird after the first day I noticed that at times I could see a faint mantle V rusty in colouration but only when good light was over the bird. This feature was more visible when the bird was seen feeding directly head-on and face-down. Interestingly one of the features that clinched the identification of the Western Sandpiper at Cley, Norfolk from 28th November 2011 was the presence of rusty colouration on the shoulders only visible at certain times but too brightly marked for a Semipalmated Sandpiper (Hudson *et al.* 2012).

Feeding and general behaviour

Often when seen on the islands in the Lagoon it would be roosting with its bill over its back, which didn't help identification. Also when seen in vegetation, it looked very different being smaller and more rounded due to the legs not being fully visible. When seen foraging and feeding it would walk and run fast through the associating Dunlins and Ringed Plovers, very fast and erratic at times, often picking at the ground but occasionally feeding with "*sewing machine like action*" probing deep into the mud when its long bill was very evident. I also observed it on Monday 11th October away from Normandy Lagoon feeding in the Oxy

channel at low tide. The bird was distant at around 100m but was easy to pick out by its *jizz* and colouration as it fed separately from the nearby Dunlins.

Identification

Separation of non-breeding Western from Semipalmated Sandpiper remains very demanding. The identification of the Normandy bird continued to be debated with a combination of both challenging and supportive comments. As an example, concerns were expressed that the bill tip wasn't as drooped as expected. I personally don't rely 100% on this feature because when I handled several Western Sandpipers on the arctic breeding grounds at Kotzebue, Alaska in 2010 as part of a shorebird expedition survey team, I studied the length and shape of the bill and this feature wasn't always evident. I also believe that the 2019 long-billed Semipalmated Sandpiper at Oxeby Lagoon may have clouded the situation and possibly made others hesitant to commit to an identification of the Normandy Lagoon bird. Fortunately it remained long enough to be seen and photographed very well thus enabling the identification to be confirmed.

Range and status

Western Sandpipers breed in the high arctic tundra environments of northern and western Alaska and the Chukotka Peninsula, north-east Siberia. They migrate through North America to reach the wintering grounds of California and the Gulf of Mexico and as far south as Venezuela and Peru in South America.

In addition to this being the first for Hampshire, it was only the 12th record for Great Britain and the second of the year after an adult in breeding plumage at Snettisham RSPB, Norfolk in July (Kelly 2021).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Martin Cooper for finding the bird. Thanks also to Andy Johnson and Alan Lewis for the support they provided, to Mark Edgeller who sent photos to birders in North America who provided positive feedback, and to those who passed on friendly and positive comments to me in the field once identification had been clinched. "Thank you".

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S. Buckell simonbuckell@gmail.com

Grants for projects undertaken in 2021

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 2019 for implementation in 2020. This note continues that process by summarising the projects agreed in autumn 2020 for implementation in 2021. Detailed written submissions were received initially from two applicants and considered by the Scientific Sub-committee at its meeting on 8th September 2020. A third application was subsequently received and circulated for discussion on 28th September 2020. One of the first two was considered to be outside of the scope of the grant scheme but the other two were selected totalling £5,394 out of a total available budget of £8,000. Both were recommended and agreed by the Management Committee at its subsequent meeting on 30th September 2020 as follows:-

***Lizzie Grayshon (GWCT): Improving our understanding of Redshank spatial ecology in river valleys using Avon Valley as a case study, £2,880.**

The Lower Avon Valley provides a stronghold for breeding Redshanks in Hampshire. Throughout the LIFE Waders for Real project GWCT have monitored Redshanks and documented an increase in pairs from 19 in 2015 to 35 in 2019, likely brought about by habitat improvements and predator management. However little is known about territory size and movement of birds as well as between-year and within-year site fidelity. A better understanding of Redshank movements is required to understand the habitat requirements and breeding success of this population to further conservation efforts. The aim is to catch and tag ten adults. During the first week of incubation, as determined from nest monitoring cameras and other observations, adults will be trapped on the nest, colour-ringed and fitted with glue-mounted Pathtrack GPS-UHF tags which will be moulted after 2-3 months. During this period data will be downloaded when birds come within 200m of the radio base stations. Whilst total project costs exceed £14,000, HOS were requested to fund four of the ten tags at a total cost of £2,880.

***John Eyre: Where do our Woodlarks winter? GPS tagging of Woodlarks, £2,514.**

Despite the team of John Eyre, Jim Baldwin and Tony Davis having colour-ringed over 800 Woodlarks over the last ten years at Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, very little is known about their movements outside their breeding areas including where they overwinter. The objectives of the project are therefore, through the use of GPS tags, to find out where they winter, the habitat they use and associated information on movements during the winter period. The methodology involves catching adult Woodlarks during the breeding season, fitting them with lightweight GPS tags and re-catching them to retrieve locational information the following year. This project was first proposed a few years ago but in 2015/16 the BTO carried out a trial run in which the tags failed so the project was put on hold until new tags became available. This revised proposal uses newly developed Lotek Pin 10 GPS tags, the same as those successfully used recently on Hawfinches in the New Forest, to provide locational accuracy down to a few metres and adequate battery life. The budget is based on purchasing six tags and associated equipment for fitting to adults trapped on their breeding sites. Since adults return to their breeding areas more reliably than young ones, this is a key factor in improving the successful retrieval of the data. Ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19 have led to postponement of the fieldwork planned for 2021 until 2022.

Additions and corrections to *Rare Birds of Hampshire* by John Clark (HOS, 2022).

Rare Birds of Hampshire – a brief history. Page 17: the picture is of Gilbert White's grandfather, the Rev. Gilbert White.

Stilt Sandpiper. p.149. Photo caption: change second date from May 23rd 2010 to **May 23rd 2016**.

Red-necked Phalarope. A record of one at Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes on October 12th 2012 was added to the text at a late stage but the total of records and the charts were not adjusted to account for this. The record of two at Dibden Bay on October 6th 1958 should have said October 26th 1958. As a result, the following corrections are required.

p. 180, bottom 2 lines. Subsequently, there have been **51** records in **33** years totalling **53** birds as shown opposite.

p. 181, chart. Autumn total should be **41**, not 40; **add 1 autumn record for 2012**.

p. 183, line 1. Amend to say, Dibden Bay (9 including two on October **26th** 1958).

p. 183 chart. New arrivals should be **53**, not 52. The bar for Oct 1 should be changed from 8 new arrivals and 4 long-stayers to **6 new arrivals and 4 long-stayers**; the bar for Oct 8 should be changed from 1 new arrival and 3 long-stayers to **2 new arrivals** and 3 long-stayers; the bar for Oct 22 should be changed from 1 new arrivals to **3 new arrivals**.

Grey Phalarope. Three additional records have come to light for 1952. As a result, the following corrections are required.

p. 184, header. Amend to around **364** birds in the modern era.

p. 185, chart. Annual total should be **364** not 361. Change bar for 1952 from 2 to **5**.

p. 185, second paragraph, lines 1 and 6/7, amend totals for Lymington/Hurst area from 172 to **174** and for Needs Ore from 12 to **13**.

p. 186, chart. New arrivals should be **364** not 361; **bars for Sep 17, Sep 24 and Nov 5 should each be increased by 1**.

Sabine's Gull. p. 201. The header should say One record in **1891** (not 1981) and

White-winged Black Tern. p. 255 second paragraph. The bird in Hurst Narrows at 0852 hrs on September 11th was in **2010** not 2011.

Puffin. p. 266. An additional record for the first half of the 20th century has come to light of **one picked up at East Woodhay in September 1925** (Summers-Smith 1950).

Montagu's Harrier. p. 329. An additional record of a dark morph has come to light for the 19th century of **one recorded by George Corbin as killed near Ringwood in May 1887** (*Zoologist* 1887: 352). Corbin did not see the specimen, but also stated that the dark form had been obtained once or twice before in this locality.

Black Kite. p. 332. An additional record has come to light of **one seen by Mike Terry for two minutes as it flew south over Southampton Airport at 1620 hrs on May 9th 1994**. This has now been submitted to BBRC. It may be the same individual seen over Pig Bush between 1435 and 1445 hrs on that day.

Wryneck. p. 360. Three lines from bottom. Amend to read: as many as **17** were found in 1976

Red-backed Shrike. p. 373. An additional record has come to light of **a male at Itchen Valley Country Park on June 1st 1993**. As a result, the following corrections are required.

p. 373, header. Now a rare passage migrant with around 103 recorded since 1954.

p. 374, chart. Amend spring & summer total to 45. Bar for 1993 should be amended from 2 in spring & summer and 1 in autumn to 3 in spring & summer & 1 in autumn.

p. 375, line 5, after Itchen Abbas, insert Itchen Valley Country Park.

p. 376, chart. Amend new arrivals total to 103. Bar for May 28th should be changed from 3 new arrivals and 2 long-stayers to 4 new arrivals and 2 long-stayers.

Golden Oriole. p. 383. An additional record has come to light of a first-summer male in Sloden Inclosure, New Forest on June 6th 1993. As a result, the following corrections are required.

p. 383, header. In the modern era, 88 records including eight of breeding.

p. 385, chart. Amend spring total to 75. Bar for 1993 should be changed from none to one in spring.

p. 386, first paragraph, line 10. Amend total for New Forest to 20 seen and/or heard.

p. 386, chart. Amend new arrivals total to 80. Bar for June 4 should be changed from 5 to 6.

Hooded Crow. p. 389. An additional record for the first half of the 20th century has come to light of one at Highclere on January 29th 1933. (Summers-Smith 1950).

Rose-coloured Starling. An additional record for the 19th century has come to light of one shot at Three-legged Cross, south of Newbury, in 1878 (Summers-Smith 1950). A recent record of one in Petersfield in 2018 was inadvertently omitted. As a result, the following corrections are required.

p. 454, header. A rare visitor. Five old records and 28 since 1954.

p. 455, chart. Amend totals to Adults (19) and Juveniles (9). Bar for 2017 should be amended from 1 adult to 2 adults.

p. 458, Line 5, amend as follows: seconds on May 29th but unfortunately it was not relocated. Another adult was found by Matthew Shaft in his garden at Petersfield on June 4th 2018, the second occurrence there. In summer 2020

Appendix V. p. 544. Collared Pratincole. Eric Jones remains adamant that the Stanpit bird was of this species. The record will be resubmitted to BBRC.

Appendix VIII. p. 548. Spotted Sandpiper. The correct dates are August 30th–September 3rd 1987.

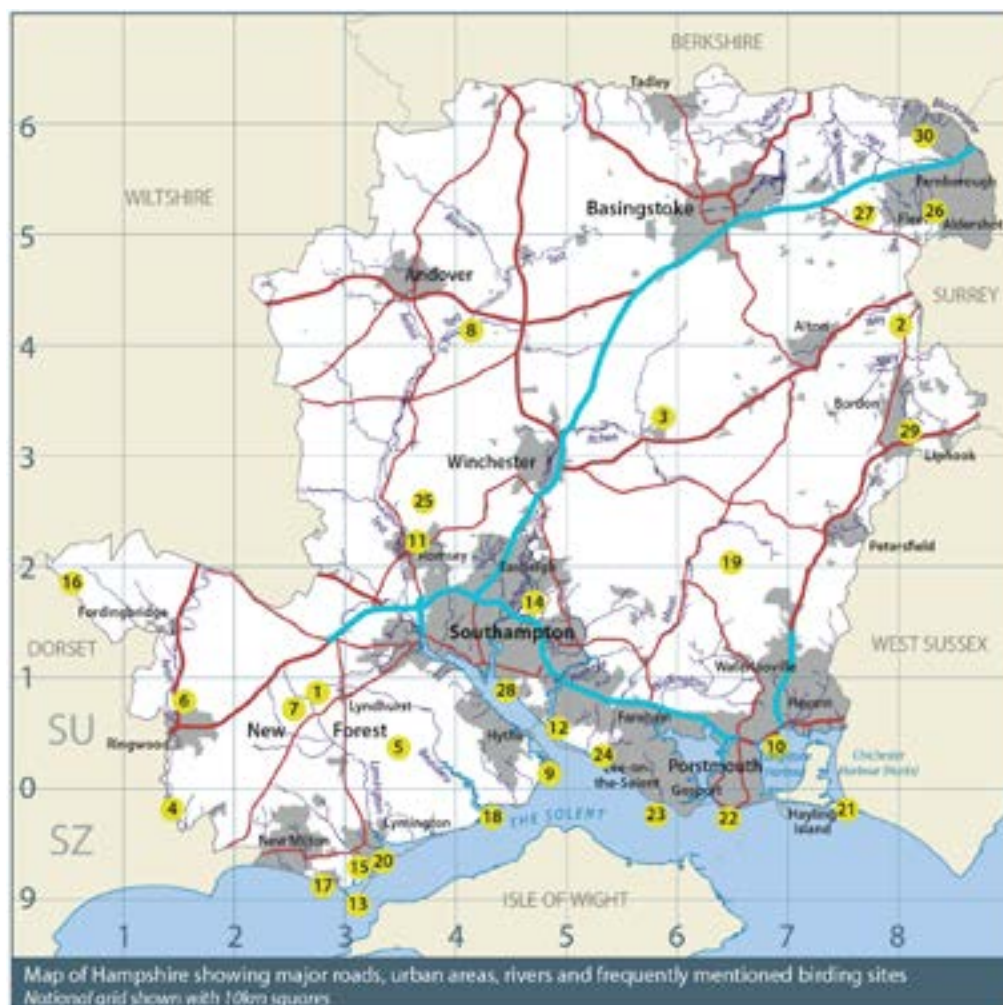
p. 550 insert after White's Thrush. Siberian Thrush. Male, Alice Holt Forest, December 28th 1976. Originally accepted (*Brit. Birds* 70: 429, 72: 121-122) but considered inadequately documented after review (*Brit. Birds* 85: 538).

My thanks to Pete Combridge, John Eyre, Eric Jones and Matthew Shaft for pointing out omissions and errors. Additional 1993 records from Mike Terry have also been incorporated.

John Clark
September 2022

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, 2022):

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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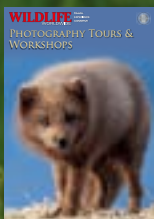
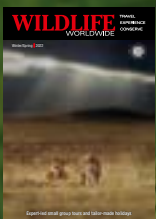
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