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# Journal of Field Ornithology

## 2007

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## London Natural History Society

The Society publishes ornithological and other natural history records for the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. As well as Ornithology there are sections of the Society covering Arachnology, Archaeology, Botany, Conchology, Conservation, Ecology, Entomology, Geology, Herpetology, Mammalogy, Palaeontology and Rambling. The sections' meetings are open to all members without formality.

New members, beginners and experts alike, are welcomed. An extensive programme of lectures and field meetings is provided throughout the year. As well as the annual London Bird Report, the Society publishes a journal, The London Naturalist, each year and a Newsletter and Ornithological Bulletin every second month. Members have access to a large lending and reference library of natural history books and can join one or more of several reading circles which circulate many natural history journals at a fraction of the cost of subscribing direct.

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Further copies of this issue of the London Bird Report may be obtained (price £7.00 plus £1.00 postage and packing in the UK and Republic of Ireland) from: Catherine Schmitt, 4 Falkland Avenue, London, N3 1QR. Back numbers of most recent issues are also available from the same address. Cheques should be made payable to the London Natural History Society.

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# London Bird Report for 2002 & 2003

edited by Andrew Self

NUMBER 67/68

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**Front Cover:** Lesser Scaup, Regent's Park by Nick Sampford.

Line Drawings by Jan Wilczur: Golden Plover and Lapwings (p14), Spotted Redshanks (p74), Bittern (p185), Common Crane (p195).

# London Natural History Society

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# London Bird Report for 2001

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this special double issue of the London Bird Report for 2002 and 2003. This double issue is just intended to be a one-off and is in an effort to try and catch up with the production of the LBR. Although the increase in records is welcome it does multiply the time it takes to put it together. Once again I would like to issue a plea for help, particular with data input. Without sufficient volunteers we cannot hope to get the LBR back on track. Whilst on the subject of records we can no longer accept vast amounts of records in paper form as we don't have the time it takes to input these. An Excel or MS Works spreadsheet for records can be obtained from myself or the recorders by email or on disk.

It will not go unnoticed that this issue follows the new BOU taxonomic order. I can understand that some people won't like it but the LBR has followed changes to the order before, indeed the first LBR I have (for 1944) starts with Hawfinch and ends with Red-legged Partridge. The main difference with the new order is that wildfowl now come at the front although there are a few smaller changes elsewhere.

There are also a few name changes, mainly with the addition of a prefix. However we decided that we would continue to follow the more 'birder-friendly' names from the Birdwatch magazine checklist rather than the latest BOU names that have yet to find public acceptance. Although people will still use names such as Chiffchaff or Cuckoo in the field and be clearly understood, when documenting records in a journal it is helpful to be more specific so there are names such as Common Chiffchaff to avoid confusion. Unfortunately the BOU Checklist uses names that are just too unwieldy such as Common Grasshopper Warbler and Eurasian Penduline Tit as well as names like Wood Nuthatch and Hedge Accentor that birders will not accept. In addition, BOU use names like Black-billed Magpie for 'our' magpie yet this is the name of the American magpie which has recently been split from ours.

As for the birding in 2002 and 03, they were both good years with more species seen than 2001 - 228 in 2002 and 241 in 2003 – which appears to be a record high. There were no new species added to the London List but it has increased by one due to the discovery of a historical record of a drake King Eider shot at Erith Reach prior to 1847. The specimen currently resides in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Many thanks to Des McKenzie for discovering and verifying this record.

There has been one recent change of recorder with John Horton taking over from Dave Miller as Kent Recorder. My thanks go to Dave for all the work he has put in.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Records Committee, it is my pleasure to thank a record number of 886 observers over the two years covered by this report as well as other organisations who contributed records for this double issue of the London Bird Report.

I'd like to thank all those who worked towards the production of this report, particularly Peter Naylor who wrote all of the systematic list for both years, Steve Spooner for putting together the database, Jan Wilczur for his illustrations, Dominic Mitchell for sorting out the colour plates, Mike Trier for editing all the papers, and all of the photographers who kindly provided their photos.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, for the time-consuming task of checking through the species accounts in the systematic list and for providing invaluable comments and corrections at the draft stage as well as their responses to my requests for information; to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to members; and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

Birdguides  
British Birds Rarities Committee  
British Trust for Ornithology  
Buckinghamshire Bird Club  
East London Birders Forum  
Essex Birdwatching Society  
Hertfordshire Natural History Society  
Kent Ornithological Society  
Surrey Bird Club

Andrew Self

October 2006

## Records Committee

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## Recording Arrangements

The area covered by this Report, conventionally known as 'the London Area', is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, Watsonian vice counties are used in this Report instead of the present administrative areas (but note that vice counties 18 and 19, South and North Essex, are lumped together as Essex). The vice county boundaries are shown on the map of the Area which follows. There is also a special recording zone for Inner London. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square, which covers parts of Middx, Surrey and, just, Kent. **A detailed Map of the Area together with a Gazetteer of Sites appears on pages 7 to 14.**

The names used in this Report for certain sites are not shown on, or differ from those on, Ordnance Survey maps. Please consult the Gazetteer of Sites if in any doubt. It would be helpful if these names could be used by observers when submitting records. A National Ordnance Survey Grid Reference should be given in any difficult or doubtful case.

All records of interest are welcome, from LNHS members and non members alike. These include information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on migration (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations and notes on behaviour and on the occurrence of unusual birds. Many of the passerines, in particular, are under recorded. Regular reports from the same localities are invaluable in assessing population trends; such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. **A guide for contributors of records is published in this report on pages 318 to 320.** Records should be sent to the appropriate recorder listed on page 5 or, if in doubt, to the LBR Editor.

It will greatly assist the speedy entering of records if the Society's electronic recording sheets are used. These are available from any of the Recorders or the Editor on request. Species should be listed in the sequence as used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area. Completed recording sheets for the period January to July should be submitted in August and for the period August to December in early January of the following year.

Records of nationally rare species should be submitted via the local Recorder to the British Birds Rarities Committee as soon as possible after the sighting. Breeding records of rare species should be sent via the local Recorder to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence.

Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are examined by the LNHS Records Committee before inclusion in the London Bird Report. Therefore, please complete and submit a LNHS Unusual Species Description Form (available from the Recorders or the Editor) or a brief description/copy of your field notes for these species. Please submit these as soon as possible after the sighting. **Species for which a full description or brief description/field notes are required are evident from the 'guide to contributors' at the back of this report.**



|                         |          |                           |          |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Aberdare Gardens        | TQ260842 | Beverley Brook, Richmond  | TQ213726 |
| Abney Park Cemetery     | TQ334888 | Bexley Hospital           | TQ513727 |
| Acton Green             | TQ204790 | Bexley Wood               | TQ483737 |
| Addington Hills         | TQ353643 | Biggin Hill               | TQ457572 |
| Addlestone              | TQ056643 | Bishops Wood              | TQ066920 |
| Albert Embankment       | TQ303783 | Black Park                | TQ010836 |
| Aldenham Res            | TQ169955 | Blackfriars Bridge        | TQ317807 |
| Alderbourne WCB         | TQ029850 | Blackheath                | TQ390766 |
| Alexandra Park          | TQ302900 | Blackwall Basin           | TQ381802 |
| Amwell GP               | TL380125 | Bletchingley              | TQ326506 |
| Apps Court Farm GP      | TQ165625 | Blue Lake, Northfleet     | TQ622737 |
| Arbrook Common          | TQ145630 | Bookham Common            | TQ130565 |
| Archbishop's Park       | TQ241761 | Borehamwood               | TQ195975 |
| Ashford                 | TQ070715 | Bowman's Heath            | TQ518738 |
| Ashted Common           | TQ175595 | Bowmansgreen Farm         | TL189041 |
| Aveley Landfill         | TQ558812 | Box Wood                  | TL353096 |
| Balls Wood              | TL344106 | Boxer's Lake, Enfield     | TQ305962 |
| Banbury Res             | TQ362915 | Brent Park                | TQ240889 |
| Bangors Park Farm, Iver | TQ035824 | Brent Res                 | TQ215870 |
| Bankside PS             | TQ320806 | Brentford Ait             | TQ187778 |
| Banstead Down           | TQ252610 | Brickendonbury            | TL330104 |
| Banstead Heath          | TQ235545 | Bricket Wood/Common       | TL130010 |
| Banstead Wood           | TQ260560 | Brimsdown                 | TQ368970 |
| Barking Bay/Marsh       | TQ451816 | Brixton Hill              | TQ306734 |
| Barnes                  | TQ222761 | Broad Colney Fields       | TL180030 |
| Barnes Common           | TQ222758 | Broad Colney Lakes        | TL178034 |
| Barn Hill               | TQ194874 | Broadgate EC2             | TQ334817 |
| Barwell Court Farm      | TQ170630 | Broadwater Lake           | TQ045892 |
| Barrack Wood            | TQ597915 | Brockwell Park            | TQ316740 |
| Batchworth Lake         | TQ058940 | Bromley Common            | TQ415655 |
| Batler's Green          | TL158985 | Brompton Cemetery         | TQ258777 |
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| Battersea Park          | TQ282772 | Brookmans Park            | TL253038 |
| Bayford                 | TL310084 | Broomfield Park           | TQ304927 |
| Bayhurst Wood           | TQ065892 | Broxbourne GP             | TL379078 |
| Bealieu Heights Wood    | TQ334696 | Broxbourne Woods          | TL340080 |
| Beckenham Place Park    | TQ385705 | Bruce Castle Park         | TQ336908 |
| Beddington Corner       | TQ281668 | Brunswick Park            | TQ331769 |
| Beddington Park         | TQ292654 | Buckhurst Hill GP         | TQ425934 |
| Beddington SF           | TQ290662 | Buckland SP               | TQ227510 |
| Bedfont Lakes/GP        | TQ078726 | Buckland, Rectory Lane    | TQ219513 |
| Bedford Park            | TQ210791 | Bugsby's Reach            | TQ398798 |
| Bedfords Park           | TQ518925 | Bully Point NR, Stratford | TQ374839 |
| Beech Farm GP           | TL190086 | Bulphan Fen               | TQ633864 |
| Belair Park             | TQ328733 | Burgess Park              | TQ335778 |
| Bell Wharf, Harefield   | TQ052866 | Burhill Allotments        | TQ115635 |
| Bell Lance Fields       | TL198040 | Burnt Oak                 | TQ205912 |
| Belvedere PS            | TQ499808 | Burwood Park              | TQ100644 |
| Bencroft Wood           | TL330064 | Bury Lake                 | TQ053938 |
| Bentley Priory          | TQ155927 | Bushy Park                | TQ160690 |
| Berrybushes Wood        | TL069007 | Camberwell Old Cemetery   | TQ348742 |
| Berrylands              | TQ192674 | Camley St Natural Park    | TQ298836 |
| Berwick Ponds           | TQ543835 | Cannon Hill Common        | TQ238683 |
| Bessels Green           | TQ505555 | Cannons Park              | TQ182915 |
| Betchworth              | TQ218505 | Carshalton Beeches        | TQ272638 |



|                            |          |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| Cassiobury Park            | TQ090970 | Crayford Marsh             | TQ532775 |
| Cassiobury Park WCB        | TQ090968 | Crayford Ness              | TQ532781 |
| Chalfont Lodge             | TQ894899 | Creekmouth, Barking        | TQ457814 |
| Chalfont Park              | TQ013896 | Crews Hill                 | TQ312000 |
| Chandlers Hill, Iver Hth   | TQ035834 | Croham Hurst               | TQ337632 |
| Charlton GP                | TQ087692 | Crossness                  | TQ478815 |
| Chelsea Bridge             | TQ286778 | Crossness East             | TQ492809 |
| Chelsfield                 | TQ482642 | Crouch End                 | TQ298885 |
| Chelsham                   | TQ373589 | Crouch End Rec Ground      | TQ295881 |
| Chertsey                   | TQ043664 | Croxley Green              | TQ070955 |
| Chertsey Meads             | TQ060662 | Croxley Hall GPs           | TQ068943 |
| Cheshunt GP                | TL370030 | Croxley Moor               | TQ065956 |
| Cheshunt GP (70 Acres GP)  | TL874030 | Crystal Palace Park        | TQ347707 |
| Cheshunt GP (Bowyer's GP)  | TL368018 | Cuddington Golf Club       | TQ239615 |
| Cheshunt GP (Friday Lake)  | TL371020 | Cuffley                    | TL303030 |
| Cheshunt GP (Police Pit)   | TL371025 | Curtismill Green           | TQ519965 |
| Cheshunt GP (North Met GP) | TL369033 | Dagenham Chase             | TQ514858 |
| Cheshunt Marsh             | TL367018 | Dagenham Corridor          | TQ495875 |
| Cheshunt Park Farm         | TL355046 | Dagnam Park                | TQ550933 |
| Chevening                  | TQ488577 | Danson Park                | TQ473748 |
| Chigwell Res               | TQ460937 | Darenth Lake               | TQ559710 |
| Chipstead Lake             | TQ505565 | Darenth Valley Walk        | TQ560704 |
| Chiswell Green             | TQ125047 | Darenth Wood               | TQ580727 |
| Chiswick Eyot              | TQ219779 | Darlands Lake              | TQ243943 |
| Chorleywood Common         | TQ033963 | Dartford Heath             | TQ516733 |
| City Road Basin, Islington | TQ322830 | Dartford Marsh             | TQ544774 |
| Clackett Lane Services     | TQ425544 | Dartford Marsh Pig Farm    | TQ539769 |
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| Claybury                   | TQ435913 | Denham Aerodrome           | TQ033887 |
| Claygate Common            | TQ161632 | Denham CP                  | TQ048865 |
| Claygate Green             | TQ157637 | Denham Quarry Lake         | TQ045870 |
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| Colindale                  | TQ210900 | Denham Station             | TQ042878 |
| Colnbrook                  | TQ025775 | Denham Village             | TQ040870 |
| Colne Brook, Iver          | TQ042813 | Desborough Island          | TQ084664 |
| Colney Heath               | TL205062 | Dews Farm Lake             | TQ053878 |
| Connaught Water            | TQ404933 | Ditton Field               | TQ157679 |
| Coopers Green Lane         | TL193098 | Dobbs Weir                 | TL384043 |
| Coopersale                 | TQ480025 | Dog Kennel Covert          | TQ103783 |
| Copped Hall                | TL430010 | Downe Barns Farm           | TQ105841 |
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| Copse Wood                 | TQ085897 | Dulwich Golf Course        | TQ339728 |
| Corbets Tey                | TQ577851 | Dulwich Mill Pond          | TQ333731 |
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| Court Lane, Dulwich        | TQ336739 | Dulwich Woods              | TQ340725 |
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| Cowley Peachy              | TQ054814 | Eagle Pond                 | TQ390884 |
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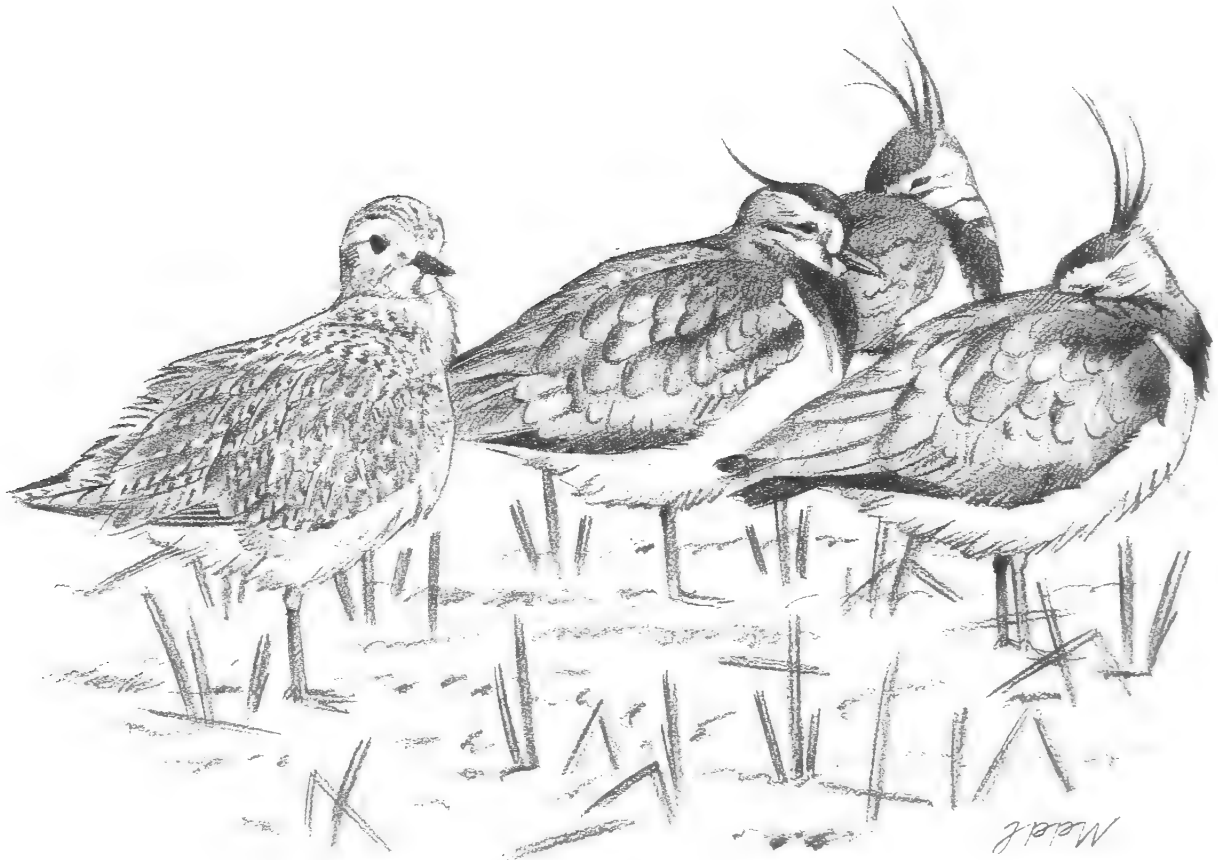
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| East Iver Lakes             | TQ047804 | Gutteridge Wood           | TQ091843 |
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| Enfield Golf Course         | TQ313962 | Hackney Marsh             | TQ367860 |
| Enfield Lock                | TQ368982 | Hadley Common             | TQ265972 |
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| Epsom Common                | TQ190605 | Ham Lands                 | TQ165725 |
| Epsom Downs                 | TQ211580 | Hampermill Lake           | TQ095942 |
| Erith Marsh                 | TQ488805 | Hampstead Heath           | TQ273866 |
| Erith Reach                 | TQ500788 | Hampton                   | TQ133700 |
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| Fernyhill Farm, Enfield     | TQ282981 | Harrow Weald              | TQ150910 |
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| Finsbury Park               | TQ317875 | Hatfield Aerodrome        | TL210090 |
| Fishers Green               | TL376044 | Hatfield Park             | TL240080 |
| Fitzroy Square              | TQ294823 | Hatherop Park             | TQ124704 |
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| Forster Park                | TQ387722 | Hawkshead Wood            | TQ220030 |
| Forty Hall, Enfield         | TQ337987 | Hawkwood                  | TQ442695 |
| Frays Carp Lake             | TQ054865 | Hays Wharf, SE1           | TQ330804 |
| Frays Meadow, Uxbridge      | TQ057853 | Headley Heath             | TQ200535 |
| Frays Middle Lake           | TQ056866 | Headstone                 | TQ139895 |
| Frays Northern Lake         | TQ056868 | Heathfield Rec Ground     | TQ134743 |
| Friern Barnet               | TQ280925 | Helicon Lake              | TQ039909 |
| Frogmore GP, Radlett        | TL150033 | Hendon Park               | TQ233884 |
| Furzefield Wood             | TL103055 | Henley Wood, Chelsham     | TQ374587 |
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| Gernon Bushes               | TL490085 | Hersham GP                | TQ128663 |
| Gladwin's Wood              | TQ019864 | Hersham SF                | TQ127657 |
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| Golders Green               | TQ245883 | Hertingfordbury           | TL305122 |
| Grays                       | TQ610773 | Hextable                  | TQ522712 |
| Grays Chalk Pits            | TQ609788 | High Elms                 | TQ450630 |
| Great Amwell                | TL368122 | Highgate Wood             | TQ283887 |
| Great Halings Wood          | TQ032895 | Highway Farm, Harefield   | TQ060881 |
| Great Soloms Wood, Banstead | TQ272588 | Hilfield Park Res         | TQ158959 |
| Great Warley                | TQ583907 | Hill End                  | TQ050918 |
| Greenhill Wood, Shoreham    | TQ538602 | Hinchley Wood             | TQ157650 |
| Greenhithe                  | TQ585753 | Hither Green Cemetery     | TQ398729 |
| Green Park                  | TQ290800 | Hither Green NR           | TQ390740 |
| Greenwich Park              | TQ390775 | Hoblingwell Wood          | TQ450690 |
| Grovelands Park             | TQ305944 | Hoddesdonpark Wood        | TL352084 |
| Gunnersbury Triangle NR     | TQ201787 | Hogsmill SF               | TQ197682 |

|                             |          |                            |          |
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| Hogwood                     | TQ555631 | Limpsfield Chart           | TQ445523 |
| Holland Park                | TQ248796 | Little Britain Lake        | TQ049813 |
| Hollow Pond                 | TQ414873 | Little Venice              | TQ263818 |
| Holmethorpe SP              | TQ295515 | Littlebrook Lake           | TQ553756 |
| Holyfield Hall Farm         | TL384038 | Littlebrook PS             | TQ563764 |
| Home Cottage Farm           | TQ028825 | London Wetland Centre      | TQ228770 |
| Honor Oak                   | TQ358742 | Long Coppice               | TQ031849 |
| Hooks Marsh                 | TL373023 | Long Ditton                | TQ174664 |
| Hornchurch CP               | TQ535825 | Long Reach SF              | TQ553768 |
| Horsenden Hill              | TQ164844 | Lonsdale Road Res          | TQ218775 |
| Horton CP                   | TQ190627 | Lordship Lane Rec Ground   | TQ326902 |
| Horton Fields               | TQ015764 | Loseberry Farm, Claygate   | TQ148636 |
| Horton GP                   | TQ005753 | Love Hill House Farm, Iver | TQ013810 |
| Horton Kirby                | TQ565686 | Lower Feltham              | TQ099838 |
| Hounslow Heath              | TQ123745 | Lullingstone Lake/Park     | TQ523644 |
| Howell Hill, Ewell          | TQ238621 | Lynster's Farm             | TQ034920 |
| Hunston Mead                | TL422114 | Lynsters Lake              | TQ038916 |
| Hunton Bridge Hill          | TL076006 | Mad Bess Wood              | TQ076895 |
| Huntsmoor Park              | TQ047815 | Malden Rushett             | TQ169615 |
| Hyde Park                   | TQ270803 | Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath | TQ039836 |
| Hythe                       | TQ020718 | Maple Lodge NR             | TQ036924 |
| Ingrebourne Valley          | TQ538843 | Martens Grove              | TQ505752 |
| Island Barn Res             | TQ140670 | Maryon Wilson Park         | TQ419785 |
| Isleworth Ait               | TQ167757 | Mayfield Lakes             | TQ052789 |
| Itchingwood Common          | TQ416506 | Mayow Park                 | TQ358718 |
| Iver Heath                  | TQ033835 | Merchant Taylors' School   | TQ088940 |
| Jersey Farm                 | TL174097 | Merstham Sewage Works      | TQ303523 |
| Joyce Green Hospital        | TQ547760 | Middlesex Filter Beds      | TQ359865 |
| Joyce Green Hospital Farm   | TQ545765 | Mill Green SF              | TL245100 |
| Joyden's Wood               | TQ500715 | Millwall Docks             | TQ377795 |
| Jubilee Gardens             | TQ318803 | Mitcham Common             | TQ290675 |
| Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth | TQ060931 | Moat Mount Open Space      | TQ215944 |
| Juniper Wood                | TQ025895 | Molesey GP                 | TQ129671 |
| Kelsey Park                 | TQ376688 | Molesey Heath              | TQ132672 |
| Kempton Park                | TQ117700 | Moor Mill                  | TL145030 |
| Kempton Park Res            | TQ122702 | Moor Park GC               | TQ075935 |
| Kenley Aerodrome            | TQ328587 | Moorhall Lake*             | TQ048889 |
| Kensington Gardens          | TQ270803 | Moorhouse                  | TQ433532 |
| Kenton Recreation Ground    | TQ165890 | Morden Hall Park           | TQ264687 |
| Keston Ponds                | TQ426645 | Muswell Hill               | TQ282900 |
| Kevington                   | TQ482675 | Nashes Farm                | TL180096 |
| Kew Gardens                 | TQ182769 | Navestock Lake/Park        | TQ538985 |
| King George V Res           | TQ374964 | Nazeing GP                 | TL385072 |
| King George VI Res          | TQ041732 | Netherhall GP              | TL394083 |
| King's Cross Development    | TQ834302 | New Beckenham              | TQ367710 |
| Korda Lake                  | TQ045886 | New Cross Railway Cutting  | TQ363768 |
| Kynaston Wood               | TQ482672 | New Denham                 | TQ046849 |
| Ladywell Park               | TQ372740 | New Southgate              | TQ292925 |
| Lafone St, SE1              | TQ338799 | Nightingale Wood           | TQ038888 |
| Laleham Park                | TQ053680 | Noke Farm                  | TL125037 |
| Langley Park                | TQ013814 | Nonsuch Park               | TQ232638 |
| Layham's Farm               | TQ400627 | Norbury Park               | TQ310699 |
| Leaves Green                | TQ415615 | North Cray                 | TQ490723 |
| Lee                         | TQ395750 | Northaw Great Wood         | TL285044 |
| Limpsfield                  | TQ402531 | Northolt RAF Aerodrome     | TQ100850 |

|                                |          |                         |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Norwood Grove                  | TQ333704 | Putney Heath            | TQ230739 |
| Nower Wood                     | TQ195547 | Pygro Park              | TQ524935 |
| Nunhead Cemetery               | TQ355756 | Queen Elizabeth II Res  | TQ120670 |
| Nutfield Ridge                 | TQ293540 | Queen Mary GP           | TQ059700 |
| Oak Hill Park                  | TQ277947 | Queen Mary Res          | TQ070695 |
| Oak Hill Wood                  | TQ280952 | Queen Mother Res        | TQ017773 |
| Oakend Wood                    | TQ020890 | Queens Wood, Highgate   | TQ283887 |
| Oakmere Park                   | TL264014 | Rainham GP              | TQ549829 |
| Old Parkbury                   | TL163023 | Rainham Marsh           | TQ525800 |
| Old Slade Lake                 | TQ040780 | Rammey Marsh            | TQ996374 |
| Old Wood, Richings Park        | TQ031781 | Ranston Covert          | TQ041890 |
| One Tree Hill, Honor Oak       | TQ354743 | Ravensbury Park         | TQ268681 |
| Ongar Park Wood                | TL495025 | Ravenscourt Park        | TQ223790 |
| Orlitts North Lake             | TQ041780 | Raynes Park             | TQ231684 |
| Orlitts South Lake             | TQ039775 | Regent's Park           | TQ277830 |
| Orsett Fen                     | TQ628833 | Reigate Hill            | TQ255522 |
| Osterley Park                  | TQ145780 | Richings Park           | TQ030794 |
| Oxhey Wood                     | TQ105925 | Richmond Park           | TQ200730 |
| Oxleas Wood                    | TQ450686 | Rickmansworth Aquadrome | TQ057940 |
| Oxted, Hurst Green             | TQ396512 | Riddlesdown             | TQ326602 |
| Oylers Farm                    | TL350005 | Ridgehill               | TL202025 |
| Panshanger Park                | TL283130 | Riverside Open Space    | TQ143693 |
| Park Downs, Banstead           | TQ267585 | Rockingham Rec Ground   | TQ058837 |
| Park Farm, Chessington         | TQ181623 | Roding Valley Meadows   | TQ435956 |
| Park Farm, Enfield             | TQ292983 | Roehyde                 | TL210010 |
| Park Street GP                 | TL149024 | Rowdown Wood            | TQ547595 |
| Park Wood                      | TQ095890 | Rowley Farm             | TQ004828 |
| Parkland Walk                  | TQ294902 | Royal Albert Dock       | TQ425807 |
| Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield     | TQ303982 | Royal Oak Lake          | TQ034915 |
| Parndon Meads                  | TL433113 | Royal Victoria Dock     | TQ410807 |
| Paynes Lane GP                 | TL380052 | Ruislip Common          | TQ085893 |
| Paynesfield North Lake         | TQ038912 | Ruislip Gardens         | TQ095863 |
| Paynesfield South Lake         | TQ035910 | Ruislip Lido            | TQ089891 |
| Peckham Rye Park               | TQ348750 | Rush Green, Hertford    | TL350127 |
| Pen Ponds, Richmond Park       | TQ200730 | Rushett Farm            | TQ173608 |
| Penton Hook                    | TQ043692 | Ruxley GP               | TQ473700 |
| Perry Oaks SF                  | TQ054758 | Rye Meads RSPB          | TL388100 |
| Petersham Meadows              | TQ180736 | Salisbury Hall Farm     | TL195028 |
| Petts Wood                     | TQ445670 | Sanderstead             | TQ344614 |
| Pickett's Lock                 | TQ361945 | Savay Lake              | TQ049880 |
| Pilvage Wood                   | TL236028 | Saxten's Wood           | TQ585648 |
| Pinner Park                    | TQ132905 | Scadbury Park           | TQ455700 |
| Polhill                        | TQ500610 | Scotsbridge Meadows     | TQ064955 |
| Pond Wood                      | TL279006 | Scratch Wood, Surrey    | TQ271593 |
| Ponders End Lake               | TQ362946 | Sevenoaks WR            | TQ522570 |
| Poplar Docks                   | TQ382803 | Sewardstone             | TQ379985 |
| Post Wood                      | TL363131 | Shadwell Basin          | TQ352807 |
| Potters Bar                    | TL250012 | Sheen Common            | TQ196746 |
| Potters Crouch Plantation      | TL103050 | Sheepwash Pond          | TQ224928 |
| Prae Wood                      | TQ120070 | Shenleybury             | TL183018 |
| Primrose Hill                  | TQ276839 | Shepherds Bush          | TQ228805 |
| Prince George's Playing Fields | TQ235688 | Shepperton GP           | TQ065674 |
| Princes Coverts                | TQ160610 | Silvertown              | TQ412799 |
| Purfleet                       | TQ550783 | Slipe Lane GP           | TL370049 |
| Purfleet Chalk Pits            | TQ566785 | Smallford GP            | TL198071 |

|                            |          |                           |          |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Sopwell Mill, St Albans    | TL154054 | Thrift's Pit              | TL366132 |
| South Harrow               | TQ135861 | Thorndon Park             | TQ620916 |
| South Norwood CP           | TQ353684 | Thorney CP                | TQ048790 |
| South Norwood Lake         | TQ341693 | Thorney Weir Lake Lake    | TQ051799 |
| South Ruislip              | TQ115860 | Thorpe Water Park         | TQ030681 |
| Southwood Manor Farm       | TQ116632 | Tilehouse North Lake      | TQ038898 |
| Sparrows Wood              | TQ436667 | Tilehouse South Lake      | TQ038896 |
| Spitalfields/Bishopsgate   | TQ334818 | Titsey                    | TQ409551 |
| Spring Ponds               | TQ165932 | Tolpits Lake              | TQ085943 |
| Springfield Marina         | TQ347878 | Tolworth                  | TQ194659 |
| Springfield Park           | TQ347875 | Tooting Common            | TQ292724 |
| Springwell Lake            | TQ043932 | Tottenham Cemetery        | TQ333911 |
| Springwell Lock            | TQ044923 | Tottenham Lock            | TQ348895 |
| Springwell Reedbed         | TQ041924 | Tottenham Marsh           | TQ354910 |
| St Ann's Hill, Chertsey    | TQ038674 | Totteridge Long Pond      | TQ234942 |
| St James's Park            | TQ294798 | Tower Bridge              | TQ337802 |
| St Saviour's Creek, SE1    | TQ340799 | Tower Hamlets Cemetery    | TQ370823 |
| St Thomas's Hospital       | TQ307793 | Tower of London           | TQ337806 |
| Stain Hill Res             | TQ124693 | Tower Wood, Westerham     | TQ448528 |
| Staines Moor               | TQ033734 | Trent Park                | TQ290970 |
| Staines Res                | TQ051731 | Trevereux/Swaynesland     | TQ433504 |
| Stanborough Lakes          | TL230108 | Troy Mill Lake            | TQ039905 |
| Stanmore CP                | TQ175930 | Turnford Brook            | TL368037 |
| Stanmore Common            | TQ156940 | Turnford Marsh GP         | TL370044 |
| Stanstead Abbotts GP       | TL391109 | Tyler's Common, Upminster | TQ568907 |
| Stanwell Moor              | TQ040743 | Tyttenhanger GP           | TQ191865 |
| Stanwell Moor GP           | TQ034744 | Upper Halliford           | TQ091680 |
| Stapleford Tawney          | TQ503900 | Upper Norwood             | TQ329699 |
| Streatham Common           | TQ305709 | Vauxhall Bridge           | TQ303781 |
| Stocker's Lake             | TQ046935 | Verulamium Lake           | TL140070 |
| Stocker's West Lake        | TQ042934 | Vicarage Farm, Enfield    | TQ305975 |
| Stocker's Farm             | TQ053934 | Victoria Park             | TQ360837 |
| Stockley Park              | TQ080790 | Waddon Ponds              | TQ309650 |
| Stoke Newington Res        | TQ326876 | Walligton Green Nurseries | TQ290625 |
| Stone Chalk Pit            | TQ566753 | Walsingham Wood           | TL243040 |
| Stone Lake                 | TQ565752 | Waltham Cross             | TL362003 |
| Stone Marsh                | TQ568755 | Waltham Cross GP          | TL369006 |
| Sundridge Park             | TQ410700 | Waltham Marsh             | TL373013 |
| Surrey Docks               | TQ360797 | Walthamstow Marsh         | TQ350878 |
| Sutton at Hone Lakes       | TQ560700 | Walthamstow Res           | TQ353980 |
| Swanscombe Marsh           | TQ605760 | Walton Heath              | TQ232540 |
| Sydenham Hill              | TQ335722 | Walton Res                | TQ122685 |
| Symondshyde Great Wood     | TL195110 | Wandsworth Common         | TQ274741 |
| Syon Park                  | TQ175765 | Wanstead Park             | TQ415875 |
| Tandridge                  | TQ376505 | Warley Place              | TQ582909 |
| Tatling End                | TQ020870 | Warlingham                | TQ358581 |
| Telegraph Hill, Claygate   | TQ159647 | Waterlow Park             | TQ286872 |
| Ten Acre Wood              | TQ094720 | Watermeads                | TQ275675 |
| Thames Ditton              | TQ158673 | Waterworks NR             | TQ363868 |
| Thamesmead                 | TQ474811 | Watts Wood, Purfleet      | TQ565788 |
| The Basin, Edgware         | TQ188919 | Weald Park                | TQ570945 |
| The Causeway NR            | TQ105754 | Welham Green              | TL235055 |
| The Clump, Iver Heath      | TQ022845 | Wells Park                | TQ345717 |
| Theobalds Park, Enfield    | TL345005 | West Byfleet              | TQ048607 |
| Thistledene, Thames Ditton | TQ155673 | West End Common           | TQ125632 |

|                          |          |                            |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| West Hyde Fields         | TQ030910 | Windsor Open Space         | TQ241905 |
| West India South Dock    | TQ376800 | Winterdown Woods           | TQ123622 |
| West Kingsdown           | TQ580626 | Wintry Wood                | TL475035 |
| West Ruislip GC          | TQ081872 | Wm Girling Res             | TQ367945 |
| West Thurrock            | TQ582770 | Woldingham                 | TQ370572 |
| Westerham Heights        | TQ430560 | Wood Green Res             | TQ304900 |
| Westminster Bridge       | TQ305796 | Woodford GC                | TQ395928 |
| Wey Meadows, Weybridge   | TQ067645 | Woodlands Park             | TQ038830 |
| Whitgift Centre, Croydon | TQ323657 | Woodlands Park Lake        | TQ043826 |
| Whippendell Wood         | TL075978 | Woodmansterne              | TQ276597 |
| Whitewebbs Wood/Lake     | TQ325997 | Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross | TQ033933 |
| Whyteleafe               | TQ337582 | Worcester Park             | TQ222655 |
| Wick Woodland            | TQ370854 | Wormley Wood               | TL322058 |
| Willet Wood              | TQ452685 | Wormwood Scrubs            | TQ221818 |
| Wimbledon Common         | TQ247723 | Wraysbury GP               | TQ015735 |
| Wimbledon Park           | TQ246723 | Wraysbury Res              | TQ025745 |
| Wimbledon Park Lake      | TQ247724 | Yeading Brook Meadows      | TQ105835 |
| Winchmore Hill           | TQ316946 | Yiewsley Lake              | TQ050804 |





## Review of the Year 2002

### January

Notable birds remaining from 2001 including the Ring-necked Duck on its park lake at Ewell (to Feb 17th) and four Velvet Scoter at Island Barn Res (up to five were then in the area until Apr 14th). A Cattle Egret was seen occasionally near Higher Denham from early Jan to late Feb, though its presence was not publicised. Another Ring-necked Duck was found at Island Barn on 4th and stayed in the area till May 3rd. Glaucous Gulls showed up at Rainham Marsh on 5th and 11th (both staying to Feb 2nd) and at QEII Res (13th and 15th); while Icelands were picked out at Queen Mother Res on 1st, Rainham on 12th and 18th, and QEII on 15th. The regular Isle of Dogs Ring-billed Gull was seen again from 9th. Finally a Red-throated Diver stayed at Wm Girling Res from 20th to Feb 5th.

### February

An Iceland Gull roosted at Nazeing GP on 8th and 9th, and new Ring-billed Gulls turned up at Richmond Park (9th) and Kensington Gardens (13th). In Sidcup a Serin lingered from 28th to Mar 2nd.

### March

Migrant wildfowl included a Green-winged Teal at Staines Res on 9th and Long-tailed Duck at Brent Res on 23rd. A Goshawk at Fetcham on 26th was unexpected.

### April

Rainham Marsh hosted two Spoonbills on 2nd, with one lingering till 18th. In Inner London, a Raven over Primrose Hill on 16th must have been a bizarre sight—certainly a far rarer one than the exotic Hoopoe in a garden at Joyden's Wood on 22nd.

### May

A Spotted Crake was a good find at Waterworks NR on 3rd, then unexpectedly another Ring-necked Duck appeared, at Broadwater Lake on 6th, and then summered till Aug 24th. Tiny Temminck's Stints dropped in at Beddington SF (8th), Rainham (13th), Tyttenhanger GP (three on 18th) and Ponders End Lake (22nd). An Arctic Skua passed through QEII Res on 10th and a late Glaucous Gull was at Rainham on 12th. Two displaying Roseate Terns at East India Dock Basin on 14th were a surprise treat for those who could get to see them.

### June

Remarkably, another Roseate Tern appeared, at Staines Res on 3rd. Amwell GP then grabbed the headlines with a superb fly-through Black Stork on 4th and a late Arctic Skua on 7th. Rainham's third Spoonbill of the year was present on 26th-27th.

## July

A male Red-backed Shrike must have been a fine sight on 14th at Trevereux (Surrey). In the same sector a Quail was calling at Riddlesdown on 16th and an early returning Arctic Skua passed QEII Res on 31st.

## August

Staines Res hosted a juvenile Montagu's Harrier briefly on 2nd, and other notable raptors were a Honey Buzzard in the Ingrebourne Valley on 17th and an intriguing quartet of Goshawks in Surrey late in the month. Single Wrynecks were exciting finds at Vicarage Farm on 24th and Hainault Forest on 28th.

## September

As usual, the peak month for rarities. Headline birds were a hugely popular Solitary Sandpiper at Rye Meads (13th-24th), a brief but promptly publicised Great White Egret at Staines Moor (6th) and an astonishing group of six Common Cranes over Regent's Park (3rd). Scarce waders comprised a Red-necked Phalarope at Wm Girling Res (16th), a Purple Sandpiper at Queen Mother Res (20th) and Pectoral Sandpipers at Rainham (two on 21st-22nd and one on 29th). Passerine migration served up Red-backed Shrikes at Tyler's Common (2nd-6th) and Rainham (21st), plus an Ortolan at Pinner Park Farm (2nd). Other welcome oddities were Quail at Stocker's Farm (8th), Nightjar in a Twickenham garden (15th), Honey Buzzard at Regent's Park (21st), Arctic Skua at Beddington SF (23rd) and Wryneck at Queen Mother on 24th.

## October

Another rare American wader appeared this month in the shape of a Lesser Yellowlegs, which was on show at Amwell GP from 18th-28th. Further Pectoral Sandpipers were at Beddington SF (3rd-12th) and Sevenoaks (7th). Waterbird migration brought in a Great Northern Diver at KGV Res (16th), five Whooper Swans at Island Barn (18th) and a juvenile Ferruginous Duck at Wraysbury GP and Staines Res on 1st (and then elsewhere in Middx/Bucks from 28th). The Thames attracted a Guillemot at Northfleet on 9th and a Ring-billed Gull at the Thames Barrier on 13th, and sharp-eyed observers recorded Lapland Buntings at Horton (Bucks) on 2nd and KGV Res on 8th.

## November

KGV Res pulled in further Great Northern Divers on 14th-30th and from 16th into 2003. Elsewhere a Ferruginous Duck remained at Amwell GP from 17th-27th.

## December

Waterbirds supplied the main scarcity interest this month, featuring Red-throated Divers at Walthamstow Res (7th and again on 16th), Swanscombe Marsh (8th) and Northfleet (9th) and a Black-throated at Walton Res on 21st. Six Bewick's Swans flew over Walthamstow on 9th and an Eider passed Dartford Marsh on 14th. The Ewell Ring-necked Duck was again present from 5th and an Iceland Gull joined the roost at Broadwater Lake on 14th and 15th.

## Review of the Year 2003

### January

The year started off well with the Ewell Ring-necked Duck from 2002 and a Great Northern Diver at KGVI Res (1st). London's second Lesser Scaup put in a brief appearance at Stocker's Lake (4th). Three Pink-feets flew over Brent Res (4th) and about 40 White-fronted Geese flew over Walthamstow (9th). An unseasonal Marsh Harrier was at Rainham Marshes (12th). A Black-throated Diver began a long stay at Staines Res (from 14th). Three Iceland and two Glaucous Gulls were seen during the month at various locations and the Thames Ring-billed Gull continued to be seen. An influx of Waxwings took place which continued into February.

### February

An influx of White-fronted Geese took place mid-month with two flocks taking up residence at opposite ends of London. At the same time, the Lesser Scaup reappeared, this time at Brent Res (from 14th) and a Green-winged Teal was found at Walthamstow Res (from 16th). Harriers were well represented with Hens at Havering CP (20th) and Hornchurch (24th) and a Marsh at Broadwater Lake (22nd). Another two Iceland and a Glaucous Gull were seen during the month.

### March

A Tundra Bean Goose was at Island Barn Res (1st & 2nd). The Lesser Scaup moved to Regent's Park (from 3rd) and also made a short trip over to Cheshunt GP. Another wanderer was the Green-winged Teal which also visited Cornmill Meadows (17th) and Thamesmead (23rd).

### April

A fourth record for London was the Subalpine Warbler at Lonsdale Road Res (21st). One of the most impressive sights of the year was the flock of 13 Pom Skuas over Queen Mother Res (25th). Two Red-rumped Swallows turned up at Beddington SF and Staines Res on the same day (28th).

### May

A Woodchat Shrike spent three days at Langley Park (1st—3rd). An Alpine Swift was briefly seen over Brent Res (5th). Singing Golden Orioles were found at Hainault Forest (12th) and Epping Forest (13th). Ospreys were seen over Dagenham (9th) and Cricklewood (21st). A Quail stayed two days at Havering CP (11th & 12th). A fine Red-backed Shrike spent a day at Bushy Park (25th). A Honey Buzzard flew over Dagenham Chase (28th).

### June

Incredibly a Blyth's Reed Warbler, the second for London, spent a day in the Lee Valley (16th). A Hoopoe was found in a Dagenham garden (19th).

## July

An adult Rose-coloured Starling was seen in a garden in Custom House (6th). The only Goshawk of the year was in the Trevereux area (10th).

## August

Dagenham Chase scored its second Honey Buzzard of the year (3rd). A Quail was found at Vicarage Farm (10th). Seabirds made into the area with a Sabine's Gull at KGVI Res (12th) and a Long-tailed Skua at Queen Mother Res (17th). A Black Kite was seen over Regent's Park and the London Wetland Centre (30th).

## September

An Ortolan Bunting was at Wormwood Scrubs (2nd) and three were seen at Sewardstone during the month. A White Stork toured the outer parts of London for two days (16th & 17th). More seabirds were seen with a Guillemot off Bishops Park (6th), a Manx Shearwater at Staines Res (18th), a Leach's Petrel (24th) and Red-necked Phalarope (26th) both at Walton Res. Three Honey Buzzards were seen: at Waterworks NR (5th), Walton Heath (6th) and Trent Park (11th). A Red-backed Shrike was at Staines Moor (28th & 29th).

## October

All eyes were on the Thames with a Fulmar, several Leach's Petrels and the year's only Eider. Another two Leach's were seen at QE II Res (2nd) and London Wetland Centre (17th). A Barred Warbler was found at Sewardstone (1st) and a Lapland Bunting was at Queen Mother Res (4th). A Crane flew over Fairlop Waters (13th). A Stone Curlew spent two days at Walthamstow Res (22nd & 23rd). A Whooper Swan spent two days at Girling Res (24th & 25th) and a Bewick's was at Holyfield Lake (27th). A Yellow-browed Warbler began a three day stay at Brent Res (from 31st).

## November

A Spoonbill was seen on many days at Queen Mother Res where it was later joined by a Grey Phalarope. A Bewick's Swan was at QE II Res (8th). Four Pink-feet flew over Girling Res (14th). An Iceland Gull flew over London Wetland Centre (10th) and a Glaucous Gull was seen at Regent's Park (17th).

## December

The year petered out quickly, the only birds of note were a Storm Petrel at Queen Mother Res (2nd) and a Gannet over Beddington SF and London Wetland Centre (31st).

## Contributors to the Systematic List

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2002 and 2003 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been inadvertently omitted. Many records of scarce species listed in this LBR are attributed to the observer who found or reported the bird and the attribution normally consists of the observer's initials. However if more than one observer possesses the same initials, a letter from the attributed observer's surname may be used.

|                                |                                  |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| P. Abbott (PA <sub>t</sub> )   | G. Barnes (GB <sub>s</sub> )     | T. Blake (TB)                    |
| D. Abrahams (DA <sub>s</sub> ) | J. Barnes (JB <sub>s</sub> )     | P. Blatcher (PB <sub>r</sub> )   |
| J.E. Agar (JEA)                | R. Barnes (RB <sub>s</sub> )     | M.J. Blunden (MJB)               |
| J. Agombar (JA)                | S. Barnes (SB)                   | V.E. Blunden (VEB)               |
| J. Aldred (JAd)                | K.P. Barrell (KPB)               | N. Bond (NB <sub>d</sub> )       |
| R. Aldridge (RA)               | A. Barratt (AB <sub>t</sub> )    | D.J. Booth (DJB <sub>t</sub> )   |
| I. Alexander (IA)              | K. Barrett (KB)                  | R.G. Booth (RGB)                 |
| P. Alfrey (PA)                 | P.A. Barrett (PAB <sub>t</sub> ) | L. Borg (LB)                     |
| J.P. Allan (JPA)               | J. Barrington (JB <sub>n</sub> ) | C. Boulton (CB <sub>t</sub> )    |
| P.S.A. Allday (PSAA)           | G. Barter (GB <sub>r</sub> )     | C. Bowden (CB <sub>n</sub> )     |
| J. Allen (JAn)                 | R. Bartlett (RB <sub>t</sub> )   | A.I. Bowman (AIB)                |
| D. Anderson (DAn)              | A. Bashford (Ab <sub>d</sub> )   | T. Bowman (TB <sub>n</sub> )     |
| J. Anderson (JAr)              | W. Baston (WB)                   | D.P. Boyle (DPB)                 |
| L. Anderson (LA)               | C. Bates (CB <sub>s</sub> )      | P.A. Bradley (PAB <sub>y</sub> ) |
| N. Anderson (NA)               | L.A. Batten (LAB)                | A. Bradshaw (AB <sub>w</sub> )   |
| D. Andrews (DA)                | N.S. Batten (NSB)                | C. Bradshaw (CB)                 |
| M. Andrews (MA)                | A. Baumber (AB <sub>r</sub> )    | H. Bradshaw (HB <sub>w</sub> )   |
| R. & D. Andrews (RDA)          | P.A. Baumber (PAB )              | I. Bradshaw (IB <sub>w</sub> )   |
| R.D. Andrews (RAs)             | M. (Dr.) Baverstock (MBk)        | J. Bray (JBy)                    |
| J. Arbon (JAb)                 | C.M. Beach (CMB)                 | R. Bray (RBy)                    |
| B.M. Archer (BMA)              | D. Beal (DBI)                    | P. Brayshaw (PB <sub>w</sub> )   |
| J. Archer (JAc)                | J. Beckett (JB <sub>t</sub> )    | M.E. Brett (MEB)                 |
| M. Archer (MA <sub>r</sub> )   | R. Beddard (RB)                  | P. Briggs (PB <sub>s</sub> )     |
| R. Archer (RA )                | Beddington Farm Bird Report      | A. Bright (AB)                   |
| B.P. Aris (BPA)                | (BBR)                            | N. Bristow (NB)                  |
| R.J. Arnfield (RJA)            | Beddington Farm Breeding         | R. Broadie (RBe)                 |
| S. Austen (SA)                 | Survey (BFBS)                    | J.H. Brock (JHB)                 |
| T. Austin (TA)                 | J. Bedford (JB)                  | P. Bromhead (PB <sub>d</sub> )   |
| G. Avison (GA)                 | R. Begum (RB <sub>m</sub> )      | S. Brooks (SB <sub>r</sub> )     |
| S. Bacon (SB <sub>n</sub> )    | A.A. Bell (AAB)                  | F. Broom (FB <sub>m</sub> )      |
| G. Bailey (GB)                 | I. Bennell (IB)                  | T. Broom (TB <sub>m</sub> )      |
| C. Baines (CB)                 | B.T. Bennett (BTB)               | D. Brothwell (DBI)               |
| H. Baker (HB)                  | P. Bennett (PB <sub>t</sub> )    | D. Brougham (DB <sub>m</sub> )   |
| P. Baker (PB)                  | J. Benson (JB <sub>e</sub> )     | F. Brown (FB)                    |
| P. Ball (PB)                   | Berkshire Bird Club (BeBC)       | G. Brown (GB)                    |
| S. Banks (SB <sub>s</sub> )    | J.R. Bexley (JRB)                | M.P. Brown (MPB)                 |
| H. Bantock (HBk)               | R.S. Birch (RSB)                 | M. Browning (MBg)                |
| P. Bantock (PBk)               | Birdguides (BG)                  | T. Brownsell (TB)                |
| S.E. Barbato (SEB)             | J. Birkett (JBk)                 | N. Bruce-White (NBW)             |
| R. Bargiel (RBI)               | M. Birnstingl (MBI)              | BTO Migration Watch              |
| D.J. Barker (DJB)              | S. Blackmore (SB)                | (BTOMW)                          |
| Barn Elms Natural History      | R.A. Blades (RAB)                | T. Buck (TBk)                    |
| Group (BENHG)                  | A. Blake (ABe)                   | Buckingham Palace Bird           |
| D. Barnes (DB)                 | N. Blake (NBe)                   | Report (BPBR) .                  |

- Buckinghamshire Bird Club  
(BBC)
- R. Bullock (RBk)  
M. Bunce (MB )  
T. Burrows (TBs)  
I. Burrus (IBs)  
J. Butcher (JBr)  
M. Butler (MBr)  
C. Butterworth (CBh)  
K. Button (KBn)  
P.J. Bysh (PJB)  
M. Cabourn-Smith (MCS)  
G.D. Caine (GDC)  
T.S. Caine (TSC)  
D. Callaghan (DCn)  
R.M. Callf (RMC)  
F.R. Cannings (FRC)  
G. Carr (GC)  
P. Carruthers (PCs)  
S.J. Carter (SJC)  
A. Catt (ACt)  
M.N. Chaffe (MNC)  
V. Chambers (VC)  
B. Champion (BC)  
J. Chapman (JCn)  
N. Chapman (NCn)  
R. Chapman (RC)  
T. Chapman (TC)  
E. Charleson (EC)  
J.P. Charteris (JPC)  
P. Chasteauneuf (PCf)  
P. Christian (PCn)  
D. Cianfarani (DCi)  
P. Clack (PC)  
A. Clancy (AC)  
B.A.J. Clark (BAJC)  
J. Clarke (JCe)  
M. Clarke (MCe)  
T. Clarke (TCe)  
B.D. Clews (BDC)  
C. Coates (CC)  
M. Coath (MC)  
D. Coe (DCe)  
K. Cockerill (KC)  
H.C. Coe (HCC)  
J. Cole (JCo)  
D.A. Coleman (DAC)  
C.P. Collins (CPC)  
M. Collins (MCo)  
J. Colmans (JC)  
B. Conn (BC)  
A. Connelly (ACy)  
S. Connor (SC)  
A. Cook (ACK)  
M. Cook (Mck)
- S. Cooke (SCe)  
D. Cooper (DCr)  
M. Cooper (MCR)  
R. Cope (RCe)  
D.S. Corben (DSC)  
P. Cornelius (PCs)  
R.J. Cornish (RJC)  
K. Cotton (KCn)  
A. Cox (ACx)  
R. Cox (RC)  
M. Craig (MCg)  
A. Crawford (ACd)  
R. Crawford (RCd)  
M. Creasey (MCy)  
R. Cripps (RCs)  
A. Crocker (ACr)  
P. Cropper (PCR)  
N. Crossley (NC)  
P.J. Crowley (PJC)  
A.J. Culshaw (AJC)  
L. Cumming (LC)  
D. Cummings (DCs)  
S. Cummings (SCs)  
J. Curmi (JCi)  
C. Curtis (CC)  
D. Curtis (DC)  
L.H. Curtis (LHC)  
M. Cutts (MCu)  
W. Cutts (WC)  
T. Dackus (TD)  
A.J.A. Dally (AJAD)  
I. Darbyshire (ID)  
D.G. Darrell-Lambert (DGDL)  
J. Davies (JD)  
P. Davies (PD)  
R.C.V.V. Davies (RCVVD)  
B. Dawton (BD)  
J. Day (JDy)  
J. Deakin (JDn)  
C. Dean (CDn)  
D. Dean (DD)  
P. Dean (PDn)  
M.T. Deans (MTD)  
F. Dearing (FD)  
R.J. Debono (RJD)  
C. Dee (CDe)  
P. Delaloye (PDe)  
R. Dennis (RDs)  
A. Dent (ADt)  
M. Dent (MD)  
R.A. Denyer (RAD)  
F. Desmette (FDe)  
R.A. Dewey (RADy)  
T. Dick (TDk)  
I. Dickie (ID)
- D. Digby (DDy)  
L. Dingain (LD)  
D. Doe (DDe)  
A. Donnelly (ADy)  
D. Dorken (DDn)  
A. Dorman (AD)  
R. Douglas (RD)  
A. Drakeford (ADd)  
C. Draper (CD)  
C. Drury (CD)  
R. Dryden (RDn)  
A.R. Duckett (ARD)  
G.F. Dumbleton (GFD)  
S.M. Dungay (SMD)  
M. Dunkley (MDy)  
J.P. Earley (JPE)  
M.J. East (MJE)  
East London Birders Forum  
(ELBF)  
B. Ecott (BEt)  
D. Edwards (DE)  
J. Edwards (JE)  
G. Ekins (GE)  
D.J. Eland (DJE)  
C. Ellis (CE)  
I.S. Ellis (ISE)  
D. Ellisdon (DE)  
J.P. Elmes (JPEs)  
B. Elson (BE)  
D. Emery (DEy)  
R. Emmens (RE)  
T. & S. Endean (TSE)  
D. England (DEd)  
D. English (DEh)  
Essex Birdwatching Society  
(EBS)  
Essex Ranger Service (ERS)  
L. Ettridge (LE)  
H.W. Evans (HWE)  
L.G.R. Evans (LGRE)  
M. Evans (ME)  
R.D. Evans (RDE)  
S. Evans (SE)  
C.M. Everett (CME)  
R. Evershed (REd)  
P. Ewin (PE)  
I. Eyre (IE)  
R.D. Facer (RDF)  
R. Falkner (RF)  
P. Fallance (PF)  
J.D. Fearnside (JFe)  
A. Feltham (AF)  
C. Fenn (CF)  
D.M. Ferguson (DMF)  
L.J. Finch (LJF)



- P. Fitzgibbon (PFn)  
 J. Fitzpatrick (JFk)  
 J. & M. Fitzpatrick (JMF)  
 D. Fleck (DFk)  
 R. Flesher (RFR)  
 R. Flindall (RF)  
 I.S. Flinn (ISF)  
 E. Flynn (EF)  
 J. Flynn (JF)  
 S. Fogg (SF)  
 A. Ford (AFd)  
 N.& E. Ford (NEF)  
 S. Forder (SFR)  
 J. Forgham (JFm)  
 E.M. Forsyth (EMF)  
 K. Fox (KF)  
 M. Frankling (MF)  
 M. Free (MFe)  
 T. Freeman (TF)  
 Friends of Kempton Nature  
 Reserve (FoKNR)  
 M. Frith (MFh)  
 C.H.R.J. Fuller (CHRJF)  
 D. Fuller (DF)  
 D. Funnell (DFI)  
 A. Fure (AFe)  
 J. Gale (JG)  
 S.W. Gale (SWG)  
 P. Gann (PG)  
 A. Gardener (AGr)  
 A. Gardiner (AGa)  
 G.G. Gardiner (GGG)  
 N. Gardner (NG)  
 J. Gaskell (JGI)  
 P. Gasson (PGn)  
 J. Gates (JGs)  
 N. Gates (NGs)  
 S.J. Gatley (SJG)  
 D. Gedge (DGe)  
 B.D. Gee (BDG)  
 C. Gellor (CG)  
 S. Gibb (SG)  
 A. Gibbs (AGi)  
 A. Gibson (AG)  
 J. Gibson (JGn)  
 S. Gibson (SG)  
 G. Giddens (GG)  
 T. Gilbert (TG)  
 A. Giles (AGI)  
 M. Gill (MG)  
 Q. Given (QG)  
 A.P. Goddard (APG)  
 T. Goddard (TGd)  
 A. Godden (AGn)  
 G. Goodhall (GGI)
- M. Goodman (MGn)  
 D. Goodwin (DGn)  
 J. Gordon (JGo)  
 W. Gordon (WG)  
 G.C. Gore (GCG)  
 S. Gough (SGh)  
 J. Gowland (JGd)  
 A. Graham (AGm)  
 P. Gratwick (PGk)  
 T. Gray (TG)  
 R. Greaves (RGs)  
 B. Green (BGn)  
 D. Green (DGr)  
 J. Green (JGr)  
 N. Green (NGn)  
 R. Green (RG)  
 P. Greening (PGg)  
 L. Gregory (LG)  
 D. Griffin (DG)  
 A. Griffiths (AGs)  
 B.J.W. Griffiths (BJWG)  
 E.J. Griffiths (EJG)  
 A. Grimsey (AGy)  
 M.J. Grounds (MJG)  
 R. Grover (RGr)  
 T. Groves (TGs)  
 P. Gurr (PGr)  
 P. Hadrill (PHI)  
 D. Haldane (DHe)  
 J. Hall (JHI)  
 V. Halley-Frame (VHF)  
 A. Hamilton (AHn)  
 S. Hamilton (SH)  
 Hampstead Heath Bird Report  
 (HHBR)  
 J. Hanlon (JH)  
 A. Harbott (Aht)  
 J. Harden (JHa)  
 J. Harlow (JHw)  
 A. Harris (AH)  
 A.J. Harris (AJH)  
 D.M. Harris (DMH)  
 G.J. Harris (GJH)  
 M. Harris (MH)  
 R. Harris (RHs)  
 S.R. Harris (SRH)  
 D. Harrison (DH)  
 L. Harrison (LH)  
 Harrow Natural History  
 Society (HNHS)  
 P. Hart (PHt)  
 N. Harvey (NH)  
 N. Harwood (NHd)  
 A. Hatfield (AHd)  
 J. Hatton (JHn)
- W. Hatton (WH)  
 W.A. Hatton (WAH)  
 A. Hawkes (AHa)  
 P. Hawkins (PH)  
 J. Haworth (JHh)  
 A. Hayes (AHy)  
 A. Haynes (AHs)  
 G. Hazlehurst (GH)  
 C.D.R. Heard (CDRH)  
 C.N. Hedderwick (CNH)  
 P. Hegarty (PHY)  
 S. Hepton (SHp)  
 R. Herbert (RHt)  
 Hertfordshire Bird Club (HBC)  
 J. Hickie (JHe)  
 S.A. Hikmet (SAH)  
 Hilfield Reservoir Bird Report  
 (HRBR)  
 T. Hill (TH)  
 M. Hindle (MHe)  
 A. Hobson (AHb)  
 A. Hodges (AHo)  
 M. Holderness (MHs)  
 J. Holt (JHo)  
 B. Holwell (BH)  
 M.R. Honey (MRH)  
 J.D. Hook (JDH)  
 A. Hooton (AHn)  
 D. Hopkins (DHs)  
 G.L. Hopkins (GLH)  
 P. Hopkins (PHs)  
 G. Horn (GHn)  
 F. Horne (FH)  
 R. Horrocks (RH)  
 D. Housley (DHy)  
 M. Howell (MHI)  
 A. Howells (AHI)  
 P. Howells (PHo)  
 M. Howes (MHo)  
 S. Howlett (SHt)  
 M. Hows (MHw)  
 S. Huggins (SHn)  
 C. Hughes (CHs)  
 E. Hughes (EH)  
 C. Hull (CH)  
 C.C. Humphrey (CCH)  
 J.R. Hunter (JRH)  
 R.A. Husband (RAH)  
 D. Hutley (DHT)  
 Hyde Park & Kensington  
 Gardens Bird Report  
 (HPKGBR)  
 M. Illett (MI)  
 In Focus (IF)  
 R.J. Ingold (RJI)

|                         |                           |                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Innes (AI)           | A. Lee (ALe)              | J. Meier (JM)            |
| D. Innes (DI)           | R. Lee (RL)               | G. Merchant (GMt)        |
| R.E. Innes (REI)        | S. Lee (SL)               | P. Merchant (PMt)        |
| D. James (DJe)          | R. Leighton (RL)          | G.D.J. Messenbird (GDJM) |
| G. James (GJ)           | C. Leonard (CLd)          | D. Messenger (DMr)       |
| T. James (TJ)           | A. Lewis (ALs)            | P. Michalik (PMk)        |
| M. Jameson (MJn)        | B. Lewis (BLs)            | A. Middleton (AM)        |
| A. Jardine (AJ)         | P. Lewis (PL)             | R. Middleton (RM)        |
| A.P. Jeffrey (APJ)      | D.J. Lindo (DJL)          | B. Miller (BMr)          |
| D. Jeffries (DJJs)      | C. Lindsay (CLy)          | D. Miller (DM)           |
| R. Jeffries (RJ)        | D.J. Ling (DJLg)          | D. Millington (DMi)      |
| R. Jenkinson (RJn)      | J. Loach (JL)             | E. Minns (EMs)           |
| R. Jenner (RJr)         | A. Lobb (ALb)             | C. Mitchell (CM)         |
| L. Jensen (LJ)          | K.W. Lockett (KWL)        | D. Mitchell (DMI)        |
| A. Jewels (AJs)         | S. Long (SLg)             | J. Mitchell (JMi)        |
| D. Jobbins (DJo)        | S. Lowe (SLe)             | D. Monk (DMk)            |
| D. Johnson (DJ)         | D.P. Lowman (DPL)         | N. Montague-Gibson (NMG) |
| J. Johnson (JJ)         | P. Lufkin (PLn)           | D.J. Montier (DJMr)      |
| A. Jones (AJn)          | B. Luke (BL)              | A.V. Moon (AVM)          |
| M. Jones (MJes)         | P.J. Lynch (PJL)          | E. Moore (EMe)           |
| D. Jordan (DJ)          | N. Machin (NM)            | R. Morden (RMn)          |
| C.R. Jupp (CRJ)         | A. Mackay (AMy)           | P. Morgan (PMn)          |
| J. Kaunang (JK)         | C. MacKenzie-Grieve (CMG) | D.J. Morris (DJM)        |
| R. Kaye (RK)            | H. Mackie (HM)            | D. Morrison (DMn)        |
| A. Kellett (AK)         | J. Macleod (JM)           | R.C. Mortimer (RCM)      |
| I. Kendall (IK)         | G. Maddison (GM)          | J. Moss (JM)s)           |
| A. Kennelly (AKy)       | J. Madgwick (JMK)         | S. Moss (SM)             |
| L. Ketchen (LK)         | P. Mantle (PM)            | J. Mould (JMI)           |
| M. Ketcher (MK)         | Maple Cross Ringing Group | C. Moyle (CMo)           |
| M. Kettell (MK)         | (MCRG)                    | J. Murray (JMy)          |
| I. Kettle (IKe)         | F.J. Maroevic (FJM)       | S.H. Murray (SHM)        |
| R.H. Kettle (RHK)       | L. Marshall (LMI)         | P. Murrell (PMI)         |
| E.W.L. Keymer (EWLK)    | E. Martyn (EM)            | M. Nagle (MNe)           |
| W. Kilby (WK)           | J. Mason (JMn)            | G. Nash (GNh)            |
| R. Kilminster (RKr)     | A. Massey (AMa)           | J. Nash (JNh)            |
| S. King (SK)            | L. Matthews (LM)          | N. Nash (NN)             |
| A. Kirshel (AKI)        | J. May (JMa)              | A. Nasir (AN)            |
| G. Knight (GK)          | N. May (NMy)              | P. Naylor (PN)           |
| M. Kohler (MKr)         | D. Mayall (DMI)           | A. Nethercleft (ANt)     |
| S. Lambert (SL)         | G. McBeath (GMB)          | M. Netherwood (MN)       |
| C. Lamont (CLt)         | L. McCallum (LMc)         | H. Netley (HN)           |
| C. Lamsdell (CL)        | M. McCarthy (MM)          | W. Neunham (WN)          |
| R.R. Langley (RRL)      | B. McCartney (BM)         | P. Newbound (PNd)        |
| C. Langsdon (CLn)       | B. McGrew (BMG)           | D. W. Newton (DWN)       |
| P.J. Langsdon (PJL)     | G. McGuire (GMG)          | J. Newton (JN)           |
| J.R. Laundon (JRL)      | A. McKechnie (AMK)        | G.C. Nicholls (GCN)      |
| M. Lawford (ML)         | D.T. McKenzie (DTM)       | L. Nicholson (LN)        |
| B. Lawrence (BLe)       | G. McKinney (GMK)         | G. Noble (GN)            |
| P. Lawrence (PLe)       | T. McKinnon (TM)          | Keith Noble (KeN)        |
| A. Lawson (AL)          | R. McLean (RM)            | Kenneth Noble (KN)       |
| E. Lawson (EL)          | K.J. McManus (KJM)        | T. Nodder (TN)           |
| M. Lawson (MLn)         | M. McManus (MMM)          | P. Norris (PNs)          |
| Lea Valley Park Rangers | P. McManus (PMM)          | M.D. Nowers (MDN)        |
| (LVPR)                  | M. McNabb (MMN)           | M.J. Oakland (MJO)       |
| E. Leahy (ELe)          | J. Mead (JMd)             | P. Oakley (PO)           |

- A. Oakshett (AO)  
 S. Oates (SO)  
 J. O'Brien (JO)  
 J. O'Ceallaigh (JOC)  
 K. O'Halloran (KO)  
 P.J. Oliver (PJO)  
 L. O'Neill (LO)  
 M. Orchard (MOd)  
 M.C. Orr (MCO)  
 A.J. Osborne (AJO)  
 K.C. Osborne (KCO)  
 L.B.C. Osborne (LBCO)  
 G. O'Sea (GO)  
 C. Page (CP)  
 A. Palmer (APr)  
 S. Papps (SP)  
 D. Parker (DP)  
 R. Parker (RP)  
 M. Parr (MPr)  
 M. Parry (MP)  
 R. Parry-Jones (RPJ)  
 S. Pash (SPH)  
 S. Patmore (SPa)  
 C. Patrick (CPK)  
 J. Pavey (JP)  
 P. Pearce (PP)  
 R. Pearce (RPc)  
 S. Pearce (SPe)  
 A. Pearson (AP)  
 R. Pearson (RP)  
 D. Peers (DPs)  
 S.& G. Peggs (SGP)  
 K. Pepper (KP)  
 M. Peppiatt (MP)  
 J. Perkins (JP)  
 R. Perry (RPy)  
 S. & J. Perry (SJP)  
 S.R. Perry (SRPy)  
 S. Petts (SPs)  
 S.R. Pickering (SRP)  
 A. Pickett (APt)  
 J. Picton (JPn)  
 A. Podmore (APo)  
 C.& S. Poole (CSP)  
 C.R. Poole (CRP)  
 N. Pope (NP)  
 R. Poppleton (RPn)  
 S.G. Posen (SPo)  
 J. Postlewaite (JPo)  
 K.G. Poulton (KGP)  
 E. Priestley (EP)  
 E.J. Pritchard (EJP)  
 J. Pritchard (JPd)  
 A. Prowse (APe)  
 R. Pryde (RPe)
- C. Pumphrett (CPT)  
 K.L. Purdey (KLP)  
 J.R. Puttock (JRP)  
 R. Pyrah (RPh)  
 J. Quail (JQ)  
 A. Quinn (AQ)  
 M. Randall (MR)  
 P.E. Randall (PER)  
 M. Ransdale (MRe)  
 N. Ransdale (NR)  
 J. Reader (JRr)  
 D. Rear (DR)  
 K.M. Rebeiro (KMR)  
 B. Reed (BR)  
 E. & P. Reed (EPR)  
 J.P. Reeves (JPR)  
 D. Reid (DRd)  
 J. Reid (JR)  
 A. Revell (ARI)  
 A. Reynolds (AR)  
 P. Rhodes (PRs)  
 G. Richards (GR)  
 J. Richardson (JRn)  
 P. Richardson (PRn)  
 J. Ridge (JRe)  
 M.S. Riddler (MSR)  
 D. Rimes (DRs)  
 A.& A. Rix (AAR)  
 H. Roberts (HR)  
 T. Robertson (TRn)  
 C. Robinson (CR)  
 S.H. Robson (SHR)  
 C. Roger (CRr)  
 J. Rogers (JRr)  
 D. Rook (DRk)  
 P. Roper (PRr)  
 J.E. Rose (JER)  
 P. Royston (PR)  
 RSPB Croydon Group  
 (RSPBCG)  
 RSPB NW London Group  
 (RSPBNWL)  
 RSPB NW Surrey Group  
 (RSPBNWS)  
 J. Rudgen (JRu)  
 M. Ruggins (MR)  
 Runnymede Ringing Group  
 (RRG)  
 Ruislip & District NHS  
 (RDNHS)  
 H. Russell (HR)  
 M. Russell (MRI)  
 S. Ryan (SR)  
 T. Ryder (TR)
- Rye Meads Ringing Group  
 (RMRG)  
 A. Salmon (AS)  
 N. Sampford (NSd)  
 D. Sampson (DS)  
 P. Saunders (PS)  
 S. Saunders (SSs)  
 B. Sawford (BS)  
 C. Sawyer (CSa)  
 M. Schickner (MS)  
 J. Schmidt (JSt)  
 C. Schmitt (CSc)  
 N. Schorbon (NS)  
 C. Seabrook (CS)  
 M. Searle (MSe)  
 A.S.M. Self (ASMS)  
 P. Sellar (PSr)  
 P. Sellers (PSs)  
 N.P. Senior (NPS)  
 Sevenoaks WR Report  
 (SWRR)  
 P. Sharp (PSp)  
 R. Sharp (RS)  
 W. Sharp (WS)  
 B. Sharpe (BSe)  
 D.G. Sharpe (DGS)  
 M. Sheehan (MSn)  
 E.M. Sheen (EMS)  
 M. Shepherd (MSd)  
 W. Shepherd (WS)  
 C. Shepperson (CSn)  
 B. Sherlock (BSk)  
 R. Shinebaum (RSm)  
 S. Shippey (SS)  
 L. Shreaves (LS)  
 A. Siddens (ASs)  
 J.A. Simpson (JAS)  
 M. Sims (MSs)  
 R. Skinner (RSr)  
 A. Skotnicki (ASi)  
 D. Slanley (DS)  
 D. Smart (DSt)  
 T.R. Smeeton (TRS)  
 A.J. Smith (AJS)  
 C. Smith (CSh)  
 D. Smith (DSh)  
 M. Smith (MSs)  
 M. & D. Smith (MDS)  
 N. Smith (NSh)  
 P. Smith (PSh)  
 R. Smith (RSh)  
 S. Smith (SSH)  
 T. Smith (TS)  
 C. Smout (CSt)  
 J. Snow (JS)

G. Sparkes (GS)  
 C. Spencer (CSr)  
 P.A. Spencer (PAS)  
 B. Sperring (BSg)  
 M.J. Spicer (MJS)  
 D.M. Spittle (DMS)  
 S.J. Spooner (SJS)  
 D. Spratt (DSt)  
 B. Squires (BSs)  
 St James' Park Bird Report  
 (SJPBR)  
 R. Standing (RSg)  
 D. Stanley (DSy)  
 E. Stannard (ES)  
 P.J. Stead (PJS)  
 A.J. Stevens (AJSt)  
 R. Stevenson (RSn)  
 G.J. Stewart (GJS)  
 I. Stewart (IS)  
 B. Stoneham (BSm)  
 P. Street (PSt)  
 A. Stroud (Asd)  
 R. Stroud (RSd)  
 D. Strutt (DSr)  
 S. Stuart (SSt)  
 Surbiton & District  
 Birdwatching Society  
 (SDBWS)  
 U. Sutcliffe (US)  
 B. Taggart (BT)  
 N. Tanner (NT)  
 P. Tarrant (PT)  
 A. Taylor (AT)  
 C.D. Taylor (CDT)  
 N. Taylor (NTr)  
 P. Taylor (PTr)  
 R. Taylor (RTr)  
 B. Temple (BTe)  
 J.H. Terry (JHT)  
 Thames Water (TWr)  
 R. Thewlis (RTs)  
 A. Thomas (ATs)  
 B. Thomas (BTs)  
 B.J. Thomas (BJT)  
 D. Thomas (DTs)  
 J. Thompson (JT)  
 M. Thompson (MT)  
 J. Thornley (JTy)  
 A. Thorpe (ATe)  
 C. Thraves (CT)  
 D. Tipling (DTg)  
 A. Tipping (ATg)  
 R. Todd (RT)  
 A. Tomczynski (ATi)  
 G. Tordoff (GT)  
 C. Townend (CTd)  
 P. Tregenza (PTa)  
 B. Trevis (BTr)  
 J. Trew (JTw)  
 P. Trodd (PTd)  
 D. Tucker (DT)  
 B. Turner (BTr)  
 D. Turner (DTr)  
 J. Turner (JTr)  
 F. Twilley (FT)  
 N. Twyford (NTd)  
 J. Tyler (JTe)  
 P. Udell (PUI)  
 P. Unwin (PU)  
 B.M. Utton (BMU)  
 A. Vaughan (AV)  
 H. Vaughan (HV)  
 P. Vaughan (PV)  
 H. Venables (HVs)  
 B. Verney (BV)  
 C. Vero (CV)  
 A.G. Verrall (AGV)  
 B. Villiers (BV)  
 P.J. Vines (PJV)  
 B. Waite (BW)  
 M. Waite (MW)  
 M. Walford (MWd)  
 C. Walker (CW)  
 N. Wallace (NW)  
 A. Waller (AW)  
 M. Waller (MWr)  
 C.A. Walsh (CAW)  
 J. Walsh (JW)  
 C. Wansbury (CW)  
 D. Ward (DWd)  
 I.P. Ward (IPW)  
 S.J. Ward (SJW)  
 M. Warden (MWn)  
 R. Warden (RWn)  
 S. Warrington (SWn)  
 D. Waters (DWa)  
 S. Waters (SWs)  
 A. Watkins (AW)  
 G.G. Watkins (GGW)  
 M. Watkins (MWs)  
 D. Watson (DWn)  
 R. Watson (RWa)  
 I. Watt (IWt)  
 R.J. Watts (R JW)  
 M. Webb (MWb)  
 R. Webb (RWb)  
 J. Weir (JWr)  
 S. Welch (SW)  
 R.D. Weller (RDW)  
 Welsh Harp Conservation  
 Group (WHCG)  
 M. Wemys (MWe)  
 J. Weston (JWn)  
 Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)  
 J. Wharton (JWn)  
 D. Wheatcroft (DW)  
 P. Wheeldon (PWn)  
 D. Wheeler (DWr)  
 G. Wheeler (GW)  
 G. White (GWe)  
 G.J. White (GJW)  
 P. White (PW)  
 P.D. White (PDW)  
 R.J. White (RWe)  
 D. Whitehouse (DWe)  
 J.P.P. Wilczur (JPPW)  
 A. Wileman (AWi)  
 T. Wilkins (TWs)  
 C. Wilkinson (CWn)  
 T. Wilkinson (TWn)  
 D. Willet (DWt)  
 I. Williams (IWs)  
 N. Willits (NWi)  
 C. Wills (CWs)  
 D. Wills (DWs)  
 A. Wilson (AWn)  
 A.D. Wilson (ADW)  
 M. Wilson (MWi)  
 N. Wilson (NW)  
 J.S. Winder (JSW)  
 N. Wood (NWs)  
 P. Wood (PWd)  
 A. Woodcock (AWk)  
 I. Woodward (IW)  
 R. Woodward (RW)  
 M. Woolsey (MWy)  
 M. Worby (MWo)  
 H. Worpole (HW)  
 B.E. Wright (BEW)  
 T. Wright (TW)  
 R. Wyatt (RWt)  
 S. Young (SYg)  
 S. Younger (SY)  
 J. Zadeh (JZ)

# Birds of the London Area, 2002

with Additions and Corrections for previous years

## A REPORT ON BIRD LIFE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The sequence and nomenclature of species in the systematic list of this report is based on the *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist* (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2006) and the relevant EURING number appears beside each species and sub-species heading.

The six counties within the London Area are signified in the report as follows: Essex, Herts = Hertfordshire, Middx = Middlesex, Bucks = Buckinghamshire, Kent, Surrey and In Lond = Inner London. North, South, East and West are abbreviated to N,S,E and W. Other abbreviations are:

|        |   |                           |       |   |                        |
|--------|---|---------------------------|-------|---|------------------------|
| CBC    | = | <i>Common Bird Census</i> | OS    | = | Open Space             |
| CP     | = | Country Park              | PF    | = | Playing Field(s)       |
| GC     | = | Golf Course               | PS    | = | Power Station          |
| Gdn(s) | = | Garden(s)                 | QE II | = | Queen Elizabeth II Res |
| GP     | = | Gravel Pit(s)             | R.    | = | River                  |
| KGV    | = | King George V (Essex)     | Res   | = | Reservoir(s)           |
| KGVI   | = | King George VI (Middx)    | RG    | = | Ringing Group          |
| LBR    | = | <i>London Bird Report</i> | SF/W  | = | Sewage Farm/Works      |
| LNR    | = | Local Nature Reserve      | SP    | = | Sand Pit               |
| NR     | = | Nature Reserve            | WCB   | = | Watercress Beds        |
| OPC    | = | Outdoor Pursuits Centre   | WR    | = | Wildfowl Reserve       |

Observers' initials in the report are shown against principal records. A full list of observers appear on pages 19 to 24. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. Sightings of more than one bird (where they are assumed to have arrived together) are treated as one record. All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list can be assumed to refer occurrences since 1900, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

### 0152 Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

Status: common breeding resident.

The number of breeding, or attempted breeding, pairs in each county is given below, By no means were all pairs successful.

| Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| 37    | 31    | 17    | 5     | 4    | 26     | 7       | 127   |

The total of 127 breeding pairs was remarkably similar to the previous two years but, with the lack of continuity of reporting from one year to the next at many sites, it is often a question of chance whether many pairs are included in these figures or not. The highest counts for each county are given below.

Essex Harrow Lodge Farm, 135 on Feb 10th. Walthamstow Res, 126 on Dec 22nd.  
Herts Bowyer's GP, 67 on Oct 1st. Bury Lake, c100 on Mar 3rd. Stocker's Lake, 96 on Mar 23rd. Troy Mill GP, 97 on Oct 9th.

- Middx Bushy Park, 59 on Sept 13th. Hampton Court Park, 81 on Feb 8th. Wraysbury Res, 84 on Sept 8th.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, 14 on Oct 10th.  
 Kent Danson Park, 18 on Dec 2nd and 20th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, 56 on Apr 9th. QE II Res, 65 on Aug 8th and 16th. Thorpe Water Park, 89 on Oct 6th.  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, 121 on Jan 10th and 14th.

**0153 Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*  
 Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

- Essex Walthamstow, five on Dec 9th (DGDL).  
 Middx Brent Res, one flew SW on Feb 16th (ISE).

**0154 Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*  
 Status: rare winter visitor

- Surrey Island Barn Res, five, two adults and three juveniles from 17.35 until at least 19.30 on Oct 18th (DMH).

A newly arrived family party that did not stay long. 2002 only managed to muster three sightings of wild swans in London, which was well below par.

**0159 White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers.

- Herts Cheshunt GP, five, including two adults, flew W on Jan 2nd (IK).  
 Middx Brent Res, one flew N on Feb 16th (ISE).  
 Surrey Beddington SF, two adults flew SW on Dec 18th (JPA).

Only three records in a poor year, and no birds seen on the ground. As usual it is impossible to know the provenance of these birds, although perhaps the Cheshunt birds have the best credentials as wild birds.

**0161 Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*  
 Status: common feral breeding resident, controlled.

In the following summary, the number of breeding pairs at each site is listed in brackets, together with the highest counts at all localities with flocks of over 50 birds at some time during the year.

- Essex Fishers Green (10), 52 on Oct 29th. Grays (3+). Holyfield Marsh GP (2). Ingrebourne Valley (4). Mayesbrook Farm, Barking (2). Mollands Lane GPs (2), on Dec 17th. Rainham Marsh (5), 223 on Oct 13th. Thurrock Angling Lakes (3). Waltham Abbey (13). Waltham Marsh (5). Walthamstow Res (11), 63 on Mar 16th.



- Herts Amwell GP (1). Cheshunt GP (2). Lynster's Farm, 73 on Dec 23rd. Maple Lodge NR, 73 on Jan 15th. Rye Meads RSPB, 55 on Dec 28th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 105 from September to November.
- Bucks Park Lodge Farm, 79 on Jan 31st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 200 flew over on Oct 5th. Ruxley GP (1). Sevenoaks WR, 60 juveniles on May 25th, and 286 on Sept 30th.
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP (1), 172 on Sept 22nd. Kew Gdns (1). London Wetland Centre (2). Trevereux/Swaynesland, 100 on Oct 2nd. Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (3). Hyde Park (6). St. James's Park (2). Victoria Park, Hackney (2). The highest counts were 275 in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns on Sept 11th, 117 in St. James's Park on Aug 7th, and 79 in Victoria Park on Jan 1st. The population of Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns and St. James's Park combined was estimated to be about 360 birds.

**0166 Canada Goose*****Branta canadensis***

Status: very common breeding resident; controlled.

All localities are given where there were at least five breeding pairs (numbers of pairs in brackets) or the annual maximum where counts of over 200 were reported. In Inner London, all breeding records are shown together with highest counts for sites with over 10 birds. Control measures, mostly the pricking of eggs, continues in many of the larger parks.

- Essex Connaught Water (11). Fairlop Waters, 615 on Sept 18th. Fishers Green, 312 on Nov 24th. Holyfield Marsh GP (33), 231 on Mar 28th. Mollands Lane GPs (5). Rainham Marsh (7-8), 279 on Sept 27th. Walthamstow Res (38), 945 on July 14th. Wanstead Flats (5).
- Herts Amwell GP (22). Cheshunt GP (33). Coopers Green GP, 235 on Sept 8th. Hilfield Park Res, 236 in August. Lynster's Farm (5). Maple Lodge NR (5). Oylers Farm, 220 on Aug 27th. Rye Meads RSPB, 220 in Sept. Stocker's Lake, 217 on July 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, 340 on Nov 2nd. Verulamium Lake, 351 on Oct 7th.
- Middx Brent Res, 302 on July 12th. Halliford Mere Lakes (8). Hampton Court Park, c340 on Oct 27th. Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 359 on Sept 19th. Kempton NR (11). Little Britain Lake (7). SITA quarry, Sipson, 202 on Aug 9th. Stanwell Moor, 224 on Oct 7th.
- Bucks Farlows Lake (7). Orlitts Lake South (5). Park Lodge Farm, 233 on Jan 31st. Wraysbury GP (46).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR (41 juveniles) and 212 on Aug 3rd.
- Surrey Walton Res, 240 on Oct 11th. Wimbledon Common (10).
- In Lond Battersea Park, 14 on Nov 17th. Buckingham Palace (1) and 51 on Jan 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (7) and 196 in January. Limehouse, 17 on Nov 16th. Little Venice, 44 in June included young birds. St. James's Park (1) and 111 in March. Victoria Park (6), 93 in January.

- 0167 Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*  
Status: very rare winter visitor.
- Essex Rainham Marsh, 16 on Dec 22nd (KBa, DMO). This flock flew in from high in the East, settled on the Thames before moving to the foreshore to preen and then headed off back East. In all likelihood, these were probably wild birds.
- 0168 Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*  
Status: formerly scarce migrant and winter visitor, greatly increased in recent years.
- Essex Grays, one on Feb 11th (ELBF). Rainham Marsh, singles on Feb 10th (PH), July 14th (*per* WeBS) and Nov 19th (HV).
- Middx Staines Res, six on Nov 20th (KLP). See also Beddington SF (Surrey).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Feb 4th (JAS).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Dec 7th (GB,DM). R. Thames, 22 flew up river past Greenhithe on Nov 17th as far as the Queen Elizabeth II bridge, and then downriver past Swanscombe Marsh (DM). Also on Nov 17th there were seven between Rainham and Beckton SW (*per* WeBS). On Dec 8th, three off Greenhithe flew down river past Swanscombe Marsh (DMr).
- Surrey Beddington SF, six flew S on Nov 21st, and one for most of the day on Dec 8th (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, three flew SW on Nov 10th (HBw). QE II Res, 16 flew SW on Dec 11th (DMH). South Norwood CP, five flew W on Nov 1st (JB, RSPBCG).
- 0170 Egyptian Goose** *Alopechen aegyptiacus*  
Status: uncommon feral breeding resident.
- All breeding records for each county are shown below, followed by all other sites where this species was also seen at some time during the year (with annual maximum counts given where five or more were seen). In Kent and Inner London, all records are given.
- Essex Up to four birds were seen during the year at Bumbles Green, Dagenham, Dagenham Chase, Fishers Green, Harrow Lodge Farm, KGV Res, Nazeing GP, Parsloes Park, South Park (Ilford), Waltham Marsh, Walthamstow Res and Wm Girling Res.
- Herts Amwell GP, the regular pair attempted to breed but was unsuccessful. Up to four birds were also seen during the year at Cheshunt GP, Great Amwell, Lynster's Farm, Stanstead Abbots GP, Stocker's Farm and Lake.
- Middx Bushy Park, a total of 3–4 pairs nested successfully, and the post-breeding flock reached 32 birds on Sept 8th. Hampton Court Park, two pairs bred raising broods of three and two. Highest count here for the year was 29 on Sept 27th. Also seen at Brent Res, Hampton Green, Kempton NR, Queen Mary Res and Staines Res.
- Bucks Denham Court, a pair with five young. Also seen at Chalfont Park, Denham GC, Langley Park (10 on July 16th) and Wraysbury GP (14 on Dec 14th).

- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Oct 29th. Sevenoaks WR, one from May 12th to Dec 18th.
- Surrey Kew Gdns, one pair bred. Richmond Park, a pair bred on Pen Ponds, and nine on Oct 13th. Thorpe Water Park, a pair bred. Other records from Ham Common (six on Mar 4th), Holmethorpe SP, London Wetland Centre (14 on Nov 2nd), Oxted (ten on Apr 29th) and QE II Res (12 on Mar 4th).
- In Lond Regent's Park, two on Feb 2nd and 4th, and three on Mar 18th.

**0173 Shelduck*****Tadorna tadorna***

Status: decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major inland waters where it breeds in small numbers.

For each county, all breeding records are given, and the highest counts achieved at the most important sites. At inland sites, highest numbers are usually reached between April and June, when most birds are paired. This year, KGVI Res was drained in January and February and provided good feeding conditions.

- Essex Monthly maxima along the R. Thames during the winter months are shown in the following table.

|                   | <i>Jan</i> | <i>Feb</i> | <i>Mar</i> | <i>Oct</i> | <i>Nov</i> | <i>Dec</i> |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Barking Bay/Marsh | 233        | 198        | 217        | 112        | 86         | 109        |
| Rainham Marsh     | 167        | 257        | 299        | 33         | 64         | 72         |

Cornmill Meadows, seven on Apr 21st and May 19th. Creekmouth, Barking (1) and 40 on Jan 14th. Fishers Green, seven on May 5th. Rainham Marsh, (40 territories, 8–10 broods) and a summer maximum of 246 on June 9th. Walthamstow Res (1), nine on July 14th.

- Herts Otterspool (1). Rye Meads RSPB (1), with up to 11 in April. Stanstead Abbots, eight on May 9th.
- Middx KGVI Res, 36 on Jan 28th, 60 on Feb 15th and 26 on May 9th. Queen Mary Res, nine on June 9th. Staines Res, 15 on Apr 18th. Stanwell Moor, 13 on Apr 6th. Wraysbury Res, nine on Apr 14th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, eight on Aug 18th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1), with highest counts here on the R. Thames of 28 on Feb 2nd and 40+ on May 27th. Northfleet, 60 on Dec 9th. Sevenoaks WR, six on Apr 13th and 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to 13 in May. Island Barn Res, 11 on May 10th. QE II Res, (1) and 26 on Apr 2nd. Walton Res, 11 on May 24th.
- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, one flew NE on June 4th.

**0178 Mandarin Duck*****Aix galericulata***

Status: established, locally common, introduced breeding resident.

Well reported as usual from Epping Forest and north Middlesex, with some very high winter counts. Not so in the southwest fringes of London, where although still widespread, most counts were of a relatively few birds and very

few breeding records were submitted. All breeding records are given (number of pairs in brackets) together with the highest counts for each county.

- Essex Epping Forest (10–11), a total of 118 at five different ponds in a combined count on Dec 8th, included 76 at Lost Pond.
- Herts Panshanger Park (2), and 24 on Feb 16th and 21st.
- Middx Bentley Priory, 13 on Nov 11th. Bushy Park (3–5), c40 on Sept 1st. Enfield (1), at Turkey Brook. Grovelands Park (1), 125 on Jan 5th. Hampton Court Park (1). Monken Hadley (1). Osterley Park, 20 on July 15th. Stanmore Common (1). Trent Park (1). Wildwoods Lake, 22 on Dec 3rd.
- Bucks Black Park, 15 on Nov 1st and 3rd.
- Kent Hall Place Gdns, one in Mar and Apr. Sevenoaks WR, singles between May and Aug, two on July 21st.
- Surrey Gatton Park Lake, 18 on Oct 13th. Kew Gdns, 27 on Nov 15th. Richmond Park (1), 11 on Oct 13th. Walton Res (1), 13 on May 15th. Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, seven on Apr 26th. Regent's/Hertford Canal, a pair between Mar 13th and Apr 15th, and two drakes on Apr 16th.

### 0179 Eurasian Wigeon

*Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor, with occasional summer records.

In the table below, monthly maxima are given for all localities with counts of 200 or more and with counts in at least three months.

|        |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Cornmill Meadows  | 209 | 300 | 182 | 2   | -   | 2   | 8   | 160 | -   |
|        | Rainham Marsh     | 796 | 880 | 660 | 54  | 12  | 311 | 343 | 477 | 591 |
| Herts  | Amwell GP         | 87  | 20  | 25  | -   | -   | 9   | 204 | 106 | 98  |
|        | Bowyer's GP       | 4   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 242 | 730 | 400 | 34  |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake   | 50  | -   | 314 | -   | -   | 456 | 624 | 490 | 300 |
|        | Kempton NR        | 280 | 295 | 304 | -   | 11  | 6   | 14  | 250 | 411 |
|        | Staines Res       | 367 | 319 | 289 | 11  | 3   | 193 | 319 | 254 | 590 |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP      | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 160 | 340 | 200 | 0   |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh    | 5   | 7   | 14  | 9   | -   | 251 | 4   | 108 | 45  |
| Surrey | Thorpe Water Park | 208 | 260 | 192 | -   | -   | 6   | 130 | 156 | 150 |
|        | Walton Res        | 464 | 101 | 303 | 2   | 2   | 35  | 61  | 52  | 540 |

Several other sites also produced noteworthy counts which are detailed below, together with some interesting records of overflying birds, and a summary of summer records.

- Essex Mollands Lane GPs, 104 on Dec 20th. Rainham Marsh, one from May to July, two on June 14th. Stubbers OPC, 127 on Oct 20th. Wm Girling Res, one from May 31st to June 11th.
- Middx Kempton Park racecourse, 253 on Dec 14th. KGV1 Res, 131 on Oct 8th. Ponders End Lake, 123 on Jan 2nd, one from June 23rd to Aug 2nd. Queen Mary Res, 124 on Jan 16th, 120 on Mar 1st and 108 on Dec 8th. Stain Hill Res, 105 on Feb 10th. Staines Moor, 209 flew E on Nov 19th. Staines Res, a pair in May and June, and one on July 27th. Stanwell Moor, flocks counted flying E in October were 367 on 2nd, 420 on 8th and 323 on 22nd—many appeared to land on adjacent reservoirs.
- Bucks Woodlands Park GP, 118 on Feb 14th, and 100 on Mar 15th.

There were some remarkably high counts this year. Rainham Marsh, where the wintering flock reached 880 on Feb 10th, had consistently large numbers all winter, and looks set to become the premier site for this species in London. Elsewhere, the count of 730 at Bowyer's GP on Oct 14th, coupled with that of 624 from Broadwater Lake only two days before, and a few over flying flocks seen, suggests a much larger influx than usual of migrants, around this time.

**0182 Gadwall*****Anas strepera***

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Numbers during the first three months of the year appeared to be rather low, with only Rainham Marsh regularly attracting over 200 birds, although six other sites exceeded 100. Numbers were a good deal higher between September and November, and whilst counts at Rainham were a lot lower, there were about 400 in the Lonsdale Road Res/London Wetland Centre area by mid-November.

As a breeding bird, this species goes from strength to strength. A total of 72 pairs were recorded in 2002, of which 57 were found in the Herts sector of the Lea Valley, and 42 alone at Rye Meads RSPB. The largest count of the year was 328 at Cheshunt GP on July 14th, which is an astonishing number for July (and on the same date there were 160 in the Colne Valley at Maple Lodge NR), clearly reflects the growth of this breeding population.

Winter counts from the main sites are given in the following table, and are followed by details of breeding birds (numbers of pairs or broods in brackets) and other high counts for each sector.

|        |                       | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Netherhall GP         | -   | 20  | -   | 11  | -   | 21  | -   | 207 |
|        | Rainham Marsh         | 263 | 254 | 182 | 32  | 150 | 78  | 63  | 95  |
| Herts  | Amwell GP             | 73  | 42  | 33  | 15  | 65  | 78  | 126 | 130 |
|        | Bowyer's GP           | 37  | 1   | 4   | 2   | 205 | 119 | 200 | 151 |
|        | Rye Meads RSPB        | 100 | 170 | 91  | 179 | 93  | 154 | 50  | 35  |
| Middx  | Staines Res           | 15  | 99  | 101 | 30  | 166 | 162 | 83  | 74  |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre | 158 | 50  | 42  | 27  | 172 | 218 | 107 | 64  |
|        | Lonsdale Road Res     | 165 | 179 | 73  | 2   | -   | 24  | 293 | 311 |
|        | QE II Res             | 160 | 98  | 89  | 30  | 1   | 14  | 5   | 19  |

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 103 on Feb 10th. Cornmill Meadows (1), 63 on June 11th. Hall Marsh (2). Hooks Marsh (2 on R. Lea).
- Herts Amwell GP (6). Broxbourne GP (1). Cheshunt GP (4), 328 on July 14th. Maple Lodge NR (1), 160 on July 14th. Panshanger Park (3), 146 on Dec 14th. Rye Meads RSPB (42).
- Middx Brent Res (7), 109 on Sept 16th. Broadwater Lake, 120 on Dec 22nd. Stoke Newington Res, 115 on Nov 17th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park (1). Old Slade Lake, 52 on Jan 4th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 41 on Nov 30th. Ruxley GP, 63 on Nov 9th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, 106 on Aug 31st. QE II Res, 63 on June 27th. Thorpe Water Park, 84 on Dec 15th. Walton Res, 89 on July 31st.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). St. James's Park (2).

**0184 Common Teal*****Anas crecca***

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Breeding was again proved at Rainham Marsh where one brood was seen. In addition, birds were present in June at least 11 other sites during the month, all of which are possible breeding locations.

Counts at sites holding over 200 birds at some time during the winter or over 100 in at least three winter months are given in the table below. This is followed by details of other high counts from sites, which are not shown in the table. For counts to surpass 1,000 is normally an indication of excellent feeding conditions, and for three such places to hold that number in January and February is unprecedented. The January counts at Barking and Rainham were made on the same day, and KGV Res was drained during the first two months of the year. The number of birds at Rainham during both winters is some of the highest ever seen in London, and in fact the November figure is probably second to none.

|        |                       | Jan  | Feb  | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov  | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Essex  | Barking Bay           | 1147 | 595  | 981 | -   | -   | 60  | -   | -    | -   |
|        | Cornmill Meadows      | 77   | 262  | 45  | 55  | 64  | 80  | 91  | -    | -   |
|        | Creekmouth            | 763  | 253  | 387 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -    | -   |
|        | Ingrebourne Valley    | 44   | 144  | 63  | 29  | 12  | 60  | 62  | 121  | 217 |
|        | KGV Res               | 240  | 30   | 8   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -    | -   |
|        | Rainham Marsh         | 1384 | 1193 | 845 | 340 | 693 | 600 | 393 | 2500 | 900 |
| Herts  | Rye Meads RSPB        | 154  | 228  | 132 | 14  | 31  | 47  | 70  | 200  | 167 |
| Middx  | Brent Res             | 115  | 31   | 54  | -   | -   | 118 | 61  | 106  | 100 |
|        | KGV Res               | 983  | 1081 | -   | 32  | 1   | -   | 2   | 518  | 293 |
|        | Staines Res           | 5    | 101  | 122 | 73  | 60  | 89  | 118 | 21   | 35  |
| Kent   | Sevenoaks WR          | 190  | 105  | 60  | 21  | 30  | 50  | 57  | 97   | 206 |
| Surrey | Beddington SF         | 695  | 479  | 250 | 50  | 158 | 320 | 497 | 478  | 546 |
|        | Hersham GP            | 220  | -    | 60  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 65   | 93  |
|        | London Wetland Cent   | 537  | 197  | 173 | 52  | 97  | 141 | 177 | 180  | 248 |
|        | Thames: Barnes-Putney | 410  | 4    | 195 | -   | -   | -   | 108 | 11   | 131 |

- Essex Connaught Water, 120 on Jan 20th. Walthamtow Res, 174 on Jan 4th.  
 Herts Beech Farm, 100 on Dec 17th. Cooper's Green GP, 106 on Jan 27th.  
 Bucks Horton GP, 170 on Nov 21st.  
 Kent Belvedere, 200+ on Jan 14th. Dartford Marsh, 120 on Feb 2nd. Swanscombe Marsh, 125 on Jan 27th.  
 Surrey Walton Res, 143 on Feb 11th and 174 on Nov 17th.  
 In Lond Hyde Park, two flew NW on Aug 8th. Regent's Park, singles from Jan 3rd to 8th, Feb 4th, Oct 7th, Nov 25th, Dec 17th and 19th.

**0184.01 Green-winged Teal*****Anas carolinensis***

Status: rare vagrant.

- Middx Staines Res, a drake on Mar 9th (DJM, PN *et al*).

This one-day bird becomes the 8th record for London, with four of the seven 20th Century records all being seen in the 1990s, so it is being found with

increasing frequency. Of these eight records, six have occurred between February and April, which appears to be the best time to see this bird.

**0186 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident, with numbers increasing in winter.

Reports of breeding came from a total of 64 sites, although this clearly does not represent the true total for this extremely common breeding bird. At Rainham Marsh there were 50–70 pairs in the summer; 53 territories were counted on the R. Wandle between Hackbridge and Morden Hall Park; and 33 broods raised 210 young at Rye Meads RSPB. Below are shown some of the highest counts outside the breeding season. A total of 11 sites held at least 200 birds at some time during the year. Inner London records are given in more detail.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 189 on Jan 13th. Harrow Lodge Farm, 221 on Dec 8th. Rainham Marsh, 401 on Feb 10th and 403 on Mar 3rd. Walthamstow Res, 267 on Dec 22nd. Weald Park, 124 on Jan 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 236 on Oct 26th. Bowyer's GP, 105 on Jan 12th. Cheshunt GP, 185 on Jan 12th. Panshanger Park, 500 on Oct 12th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 230 on July 4th. Rye Meads RSPB, 117 in Nov. Stocker's Farm, 181 in Jan.
- Middx Hampstead and Highgate Ponds, 198 on Dec 8th. Harmondsworth, 180 at Home Farm on Sept 5th and 122 at Harmondsworth CP on Dec 8th. KGVI Res, 387 on Jan 12th on the drained reservoir basin. Osterley Park, 119 on Nov 18th. Queen Mary Res, 139 on Sept 8th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, 125 on Jan 2nd. Denham Court, 100 on Dec 19th.
- Kent Highest counts were 75 at Foots Cray Meadows, 79 at Sevenoaks WR, and 74 at Swanscombe Marsh, all in Jan.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 201 in Nov. London Wetland Centre, 320 on Jan 14th and 258 on Dec 16th. Lonsdale Road Res, 148 on Jan 13th. R. Thames (Barnes to Putney), 571 on Jan 13th, and 538 on Dec 8th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, six broods seen. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 121 on Jan 16th and 145 on Dec 11th. R. Thames, highest count was 75 at Crown Reach, Pimlico, on Dec 12th. St. James's Park, 24 broods seen, 210 on Aug 14th. Victoria Park, two broods, 110 on July 13th.

**0189 Pintail *Anas acuta***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer records, declining.

Rainham Marsh held relatively good numbers of birds throughout both winter periods, as did KGVI Res whilst it was drained early in the year. The highest count however came from Beddington SF. Breeding season records only came from Rainham. All records are given from other sites. The presence of free flying birds of feral origin, especially in the Surrey sector, should also be borne in mind.

- Essex Fishers Green, one on Dec 25th. KGV Res, four on Nov 22nd. Rainham Marsh, two pairs summered; maxima of 24 on Feb 15th and 32 on Dec 31st. Wm Girling Res, four on Jan 5th and Feb 15th, and singles on Apr 13th and Oct 11th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Jan 8th, Jan 12th and Dec 14th. Beech Farm, one on Dec 22nd. Bowyer's GP, one from Oct 31st to Nov 2nd. Coopers Green GP, one from Dec 22nd to 25th. Great Amwell, one on Jan 8th. Hilfield Park Res, singles in Jan on 3rd, 9th, 19th, 22nd, and 31st, one on Sept 17th and two on Sept 24th. Rye Meads RSPB, three on Sept 14th and one on Nov 2nd. Stocker's Lake, ten on Mar 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, seven on Jan 10th, and two on Sept 13th.
- Middx Kempton NR, one on Jan 25th. KGVI Res, present from Jan 1st until at least Feb 16th (when the reservoir was refilled) with a peak of 28 on Feb 10th. Thereafter, there were five on Mar 3rd, singles on Apr 25th and Nov 30th, and six on Dec 9th. Pinner Park, one on Nov 30th may have been present for about two weeks. Staines Res, up to 15 in Jan, four on Feb 10th, and singles on Aug 5th, 29th and 31st, and Sept 7th and 16th. Stanwell Moor, 1-2 in Mar, and one from Dec 14th to 28th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, nine on Jan 5th and two on Feb 8th. Wraysbury GP, four on Sept 22nd and one on Nov 30th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Jan 1st and two on Feb 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, three sightings totalling 35 birds on Sept 14th (largest flock 31), also two on Oct 12th and three the next day. QE II Res, singles on Sept 23rd and Oct 11th, three on Dec 21st. Walton Res, one on Jan 31st, seven on Feb 16th, three remaining until 17th, and one Sept 1st.

**0191 Garganey *Anas querquedula***

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, very occasional breeder.

The wintering bird at Island Barn Res remained in to the New Year, and the first migrant was noted as early as March 3rd. At Rainham Marsh birds were regular in mid-summer and reported as 'probably bred'. All spring records are given below, but sightings are summarised for some sites from July onwards.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, singles on May 12th, Aug 29th, from Sept 7th to 10th and on 15th. Waterworks NR, one from Sept 13th to 15th. KGV Res, three on Mar 24th. Rainham Marsh, reported between Apr 1st and Sept 12th on many dates, with three pairs present during the summer months and thought to have bred. Records in July and Aug included at least three juveniles and counts included four on Aug 3rd and five on Aug 11th. Walthamstow Res, a very early drake on Mar 3rd, another on Mar 29th and 30th, on five dates between Apr 7th and 21st, and one on Sept 4th. Wm Girling Res, 2-3 between Aug 3rd and 24th, and one from Sept 2nd to 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Aug 27th. Beech Farm, singles on Aug 19th and 23rd, and two on Sept 24th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Apr 13th and 18th, two on Sept 10th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Mar 15th. Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 26th and 27th.
- Middx Brent Res, five from July 27th to Aug 7th, with two to 19th. Kempton NR, one on May 1st, and up to three between Aug 18th and Sept 11th. KGVI Res, two



on Sept 19th. Staines Res, 1–2 between Sept 4th and 12th. Stanwell Moor, a pair from Apr 11th to 14th, singles on May 17th, July 9th and 11th, and then regularly between Aug 17th and Sept 15th with up to three on several dates. Sevenoaks WR, one on May 18th.

Kent Beddington SF, one on May 4th. Island Barn Res, the female from 2001 remained until at least Apr 24th, during which time it also visited the nearby R. Ember and QE II Res; another female from Sept 13th to Oct 13th. London Wetland Centre, singles on several dates between Aug 31st and Sept 15th. QE II Res, a drake on Apr 21st, and a female on June 27th. Walton Res, a one on June 28th, one on July 23rd, two on July 31st, and four on Aug 2nd.

**0194 Shoveler*****Anas clypeata***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with birds often recorded in summer.

In the breeding season, this species was reported from 15 sites during June but breeding was proved at only one, Rye Meads RSPB, where a brood of six was noted. At Rainham Marsh, 13 pairs were present but no broods seen. The following table shows autumn/winter monthly maxima for all localities holding flocks of more than 100 birds at some time followed by all Inner London.

|        |                       | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Creekmouth            | 122 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Rainham Marsh         | 220 | 415 | 445 | 216 | 219 | 220 | 102 | 336 | 354 |
|        | Walthamstow Res       | 26  | 6   | 11  | 10  | 13  | 105 | 135 | 32  | 28  |
| Herts  | Cheshunt GP           | 39  | 62  | 100 | -   | 1   | -   | 22  | 42  | 36  |
|        | Hilfield Park Res     | 126 | 30  | 21  | 17  | 11  | 29  | 53  | 58  | 38  |
| Middx  | Brent Res             | -   | -   | 5   | 2   | -   | 125 | 69  | 20  | 22  |
|        | Kempton NR            | 29  | 110 | 72  | 28  | 18  | 16  | 86  | 95  | 62  |
|        | KGVI Res              | 181 | 3   | -   | 4   | 1   | -   | -   | 4   | 3   |
|        | Stain Hill Res        | 72  | 45  | 136 | 20  | -   | -   | 18  | 17  | 28  |
|        | Staines Res           | 142 | 356 | 209 | 160 | 39  | 245 | 377 | 190 | 32  |
| Surrey | Stoke Newington Res   | -   | -   | -   | 2   | 11  | 100 | 100 | 6   | -   |
|        | Beddington SF         | 65  | 100 | 65  | 35  | 69  | 50  | 63  | 85  | 87  |
|        | London Wetland Centre | 201 | 135 | 125 | 4   | 76  | 176 | 152 | 97  | 105 |
|        | Walton Res            | 69  | 74  | 44  | 6   | 86  | 58  | 61  | 129 | 60  |

In Lond Battersea Park, four on Nov 17th and six on Dec 17th. Buckingham Palace, up to three from Jan to Mar 25th, a pair on June 18th, and one on Sept 27th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, monthly maxima of Jan (19), Feb (10), Oct (6), Nov (9) and Dec (7). Paddington Green, one flew W on May 11th. Primrose Hill, two flew NW on Mar 20th. Regent's Park, monthly max: Jan (50), Feb (12), Mar (5), June (20 on 10th), Sept (10) and Nov (8). St Katherine's Dock, one on June 26th. Victoria Park, two on Jan 1st and four on Dec 14th.

**0196 Red-crested Pochard*****Netta rufina***

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, with its true status clouded by frequent escapes.

It remains impossible to decide how many of the following records relate to escaped or feral birds, and whether to publish all or none of the records. It seems likely that the vast majority are not wild birds, but that occasionally these do occur. Further records may be found in *Appendix 1: Escapes*. All other records are shown below.

- Essex KGV Res, one on May 7th. Wm Girling Res, singles on Mar 8th and Aug 30th.  
 Herts Aldenham Res, one on Jan 6th. Cheshunt GP, one on July 28th. Rye Meads RSPB, two on Aug 18th. Verulamium Lake, one on Mar 30th.  
 Middx Kempton NR, one on Sept 8th. Ponders End Lake, singles on Jan 29th and June 28th. Shepperton GP, one on Jan 27th.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Jan 2nd.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one from June 12th to Aug 13th. Field Common GP, one on Jan 28th. Island Barn Res, singles on Jan 18th, Feb 13th, Feb 21st and Aug 6th. London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 2nd, two on Mar 15th and one on Oct 26th. QE II and Walton Res, three on Jan 3rd and one from July 21st to Sept 17th, with two at Walton Res from Aug 30th to Sept 4th. Waddon Ponds, one from Sept 20th to Dec 31st.

**0198 Pochard*****Aythya ferina***

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

A total of 43 pairs were reported to have bred during year, and whilst not a particularly high figure in historical terms, is a good deal higher than the figure in 2001. In the winter months, five sites had over 200 birds at the beginning of the year but there were no really large flocks seen, and the highest count of the year was in August. The following table shows monthly maxima for all sites where there were over 100 birds at least once. Below this all breeding records (numbers of pairs or broods in brackets) are given along with Inner London records.

|        |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Netherhall GP     | 4   | 92  | 7   | -   | -   | -   | 210 | -   | 114 |
|        | Walthamstow Res   | 236 | 103 | 120 | 89  | 97  | 36  | 70  | 90  | 107 |
| Herts  | Hilfield Park Res | 82  | 69  | 11  | 191 | 269 | 181 | 59  | 19  | 19  |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake   | 80  | 15  | 230 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Kempton NR        | 120 | 36  | 8   | -   | 3   | 1   | 12  | 1   | 9   |
|        | KG VI Res         | 271 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 4   | -   |
| Berks  | Q. Mother Res     | 203 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Wraysbury GP      | -   | 155 | 40  | -   | -   | -   | 10  | -   | -   |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res   | 213 | 33  | 16  | 2   | 5   | 38  | 30  | 20  | 31  |
|        | Thorpe Water Pk   | 43  | 49  | 26  | -   | -   | 72  | 188 | 156 | 101 |

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (4). Langridge GP (3). Purfleet Chalk Pit (1). Rainham GP (1). Rainham Marsh (1). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (8).  
 Herts Cheshunt GP (4). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads RSPB (3).  
 Middx Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Pymmes Park (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Town Park, Enfield (1).

Surrey London Wetland Centre (2).  
 In Lond Battersea Park, four on Dec 17th. Buckingham Palace, seven on June 2nd.  
 Chepstow Rod, W2, two flew over on May 24th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns  
 (1), 24 on June 2nd. Little Venice, three on Sept 6th. St. James's Park (6), 59  
 on Nov 9th. Victoria Park (2), 29 on Mar 2nd.

**0200 Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*  
 Status: rare vagrant.

Middx Broadwater Lake, a drake from May 6th to Aug 24th (CL *et al*). Shepperton  
 GP, a duck from Apr 4th to 14th, also at Charlton GP on Apr 6th, was probably  
 the Island Barn bird (mo).

Surrey Ewell, a duck first seen at Bourne Hall Lake on Dec 7th 2001, remained here  
 or at Court Lake until Feb 17th (mo). What was presumed to be the same bird  
 was seen again on Dec 5th at Bourne Hall Lake, and was still present at the  
 end of the year. Island Barn and Walton Res, another duck that was found at  
 Island Barn Res on Nov 26th 2001 remained in the area until last seen on May  
 4th. During this time what is assumed to be the same bird was seen at a  
 number of sites in Surrey (and Middlesex—see above). These include  
 Fieldcommon GP and the R. Ember at East Molesey on several dates, at the  
 London Wetland Centre on Feb 3rd, and Beddington SF on Feb 24th and  
 26th, both Feb 3rd and 24th being a Sunday when there is heavy sailing  
 pressure at Island Barn Res.

The two females that were in Surrey at the beginning of the year started to  
 roam widely after a while, and it became almost impossible to tell which was  
 which. An attempt is made here to rationalise the situation, although many  
 observers may disagree. A new bird then arrived to stay the summer. At least  
 this one was a male and chose to stay put. The Ewell bird returned in  
 December to spend a second winter here.

**0202 Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*  
 Status: rare vagrant

Middx Harmondsworth CP, one at Saxon Lake from Oct 28th to Nov 1st (ADW *et al*).  
 Staines Res, one on Oct 1st (CDRH, DJM, PN).

Bucks Old Slade Lake, one from Nov 2nd to Nov 24th, and at Orlitts Lake North on  
 Nov 30th (DJM, PN *et al*). Wraysbury GP, one for five minutes on Oct 1st flew  
 off E and was relocated at Staines Res that evening (CDRH).

All these records are of a juvenile. There is little doubt that the above sightings  
 all relate to the same individual, despite not being seen for 26 days during its  
 two month stay. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**2001 Additional Record**

Herts Amwell GP, a female on Nov 3rd and 4th (BR *et al*).

**0203 Tufted Duck*****Aythya fuligula***

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

A total of 272 broods were reported during the summer, which is the highest number since 293 in 1994. It is probably not wise to read too much in to these figures, however, as data was reported from only 47 sites, although this does seem to have included most of the important breeding concentrations, apart from Hyde Park. Exceptional figures again came from Rye Meads RSPB where there were 69 broods (440 young) and the London Wetland Centre is also now becoming an important site for breeding Tufted Ducks (33 broods). Walthamstow Res also produced its usual crop of 31 broods.

The table following shows the largest flocks of birds outside the breeding season, and gives peak monthly counts from sites holding at least 500 birds at some time. Below this are shown the largest breeding concentrations (number of broods in brackets) and Inner London records of note. There was some evidence of a cold weather movement in early January as numbers built up at several reservoirs, but these high counts did not last as the weather soon improved. Moulting flocks at Staines and Walthamstow were very much in evidence as usual, reaching their peak in August.

|        |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | July | Aug  | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Walthamstow Res   | 909 | 574 | 567 | 1054 | 1867 | 923 | 805 | 717 | 702 |
|        | Wm Girling Res    | -   | -   | -   | 715  | 804  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Middx  | Queen Mary Res    | 910 | 140 | 53  | 82   | 76   | 452 | 598 | 16  | -   |
|        | Staines Res       | 428 | 42  | 174 | 1004 | 1971 | 390 | 177 | 329 | 88  |
|        | Wraysbury Res     | 151 | 24  | 53  | -    | 653  | 424 | 271 | 32  | 33  |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res   | 807 | 75  | 98  | 28   | 221  | 289 | 148 | 160 | 97  |
|        | Thorpe Water Park | 735 | 538 | 311 | -    | -    | 203 | 215 | 490 | 652 |
|        | Walton Res        | 363 | 141 | 84  | 407  | 508  | 407 | 158 | 203 | 112 |

Essex Valentines Park (9). Walthamstow Res (31).

Herts Cheshunt GP (16). Amwell GP (7). Maple Lodge NR (6). Panshanger Park (6). Rye Meads RSPB (69, raised a record total of 440 young).

Middx Brent Res (4). Ponders End Lake (4).

Surrey London Wetland Centre (33).

In Lond Battersea Park, 50+ on Nov 17th and Dec 17th. Buckingham Palace (4 pairs raised 19 young), 18 on Feb 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 222 on Feb 6th. St. James's Park (23), 184 on Feb 6th. Victoria Park (1), 78 on Mar 2nd.

**0204 Scaup*****Aythya marila***

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

Essex KGV Res, one from Sept 14th to 26th (SRH).

Middx Brent Res one on Dec 27th (LAB, ASMS). Queen Mary Res, one on Jan 3rd (CL) and three on Jan 13th (DJM, PN). Staines Res, one on Jan 3rd, two on Mar 4th, three on Mar 17th, singles on May 11th and Nov 11th (mo).

Bucks Horton GP, one from Dec 4th to 28th (JO *et al*). Queen Mother Res, singles from Jan 1st to 3rd, Apr 17th, and Dec 19th to 30th (CDRH, JAS *et al*).

Wraysbury GP, three on Mar 11th, 18th and 21st were also at Staines Res on 17th (CDRH).

- Surrey Beddington SF, three on Oct 26th (NG). Island Barn Res, one from 2001 until Feb 27th, also visited Walton Res (DMH *et al*). London Wetland Centre, singles from Jan 1st to 26th (BENHG), and from Dec 14th to 16th (NPG).
- In Lond Battersea Park, one on Mar 3rd (RJA). Kensington Gdns, one on Dec 26th (NA).

**0206 Common Eider** *Somateria molissima*  
Status: scarce visitor, usually in winter.

- Kent Dartford Marsh, a duck flew E along the R. Thames on Dec 14th (DMr).

**0212 Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*  
Status: scarce but annual visitor.

- Middx Brent Res, a drake on Mar 23rd (ISE *et al*).

**0213 Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*  
Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

- Essex KGV Res, 17 on Mar 23rd (SC *et al*), eight on May 12th (AM) and 16 on July 7th (ELBF). R. Thames, four at Purfleet on Apr 7th (ELBF). Rainham Marsh, seven on May 11th (RSg), one on June 9th (EBR) and 33 on Nov 17th (*per* WeBS). Wm Girling Res, one from July 28th to Sept 14th (EBR).

- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on July 4th (SHM).

- Middx Brent Res, three on Apr 2nd (JC). KGV Res, 16 on July 6th (DJM *et al*). Queen Mary Res, one on Oct 27th (PN). Staines Res, two on Mar 15th (KLP) and eight on May 12th (FRC, APG, CAW).

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Apr 25th (JAS), one on Sept 13th (CDRH,CL), three on Oct 13th, and one on Dec 8th (JAS).

- Kent R. Thames: at Dartford Marsh, five on Apr 6th (DM); at Northfleet, one on Dec 11th (SC); and at the Thames Barrier, two on Sept 16th (SRH).

- Surrey Holmethorpe SP, one from Jan 11th to Feb 19th (SBC *et al*). Island Barn Res, one on May 23rd (DMH) was at Walton Res from 24th-27th (SBC *et al*). QE II Res, two on Nov 3rd, and one on Dec 14th (DMH).

- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, six flew NE on Sept 14th (DTM).

The flock at Rainham of 33 birds was the largest since 1991. This is a well-known overland migrant across the London Area, and the eight birds that flew off from Staines Res on May 12th at 09.45 seem to have crossed London to KGV Res on the same day. The same can be said of the 16 drakes at KGV Res on July 6th, which also seem to have landed at KGV the following day. With this in mind, the sighting over Inner London begins to look less unusual.

**0215 Velvet Scoter*****Melanitta fusca***

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Surrey Island Barn Res, four present since Dec 7th 2001 remained here until Jan 25th, then being seen at QE II Res on Feb 3rd, before joining the fifth bird at Walton Res on Feb 5th. Walton Res, one from Dec 7th 2001 remained into the New Year. All these five birds were then seen in the area in groups up to five at Island Barn, QE II and Walton reservoirs until at least Apr 14th. (DMH, SJS). QE II Res, a single bird here on Mar 30th was different from the five that were at Walton Res simultaneously (DMH).

The party of four and the single immature bird that graced the Walton group of reservoirs at the end of the year eventually all joined up. What was surprising was that a sixth bird then appeared before they all left. As they began to moult in the spring, it became apparent that the majority were first-year males.

**0218 Common Goldeneye*****Bucephala clangula***

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer record

The largest counts in the winter months are shown in the following table, which gives monthly maxima for all sites with 20 or more birds. Other notable counts are given below this, together with some details of birds seen during the summer months, and all Inner London records.

|        |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | KGV Res           | 58  | 39  | 56  | 5   | 8   | 25  | 35  |
|        | Walthamstow Res   | 24  | 17  | 15  | -   | -   | 4   | 18  |
| Herts  | Amwell GP         | 29  | 30  | 15  | -   | 8   | 13  | 14  |
|        | Stocker's Lake    | 11  | 26  | 8   | -   | -   | 5   | 8   |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake   | 16  | 24  | 38  | -   | -   | 7   | 12  |
|        | KGVI Res          | 1   | -   | -   | 6   | 19  | 24  | 24  |
|        | Staines Res       | 51  | 80  | 87  | 25  | 14  | 48  | 43  |
|        | Wraysbury Res     | 73  | 9   | 16  | 9   | -   | 35  | 25  |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP      | 4   | 24  | 32  | 4   | 3   | 22  | 20  |
| Surrey | Thorpe Water Park | 42  | 13  | 14  | -   | -   | 12  | 11  |
|        | Walton Res        | 15  | 36  | 39  | 12  | 11  | 20  | 8   |

Essex KGV Res, 1–2 on several dates in Aug and Sept. Wm Girling Res, a drake on July 16th, and a duck on Aug 24th and 28th.

Herts Amwell GP, one on July 22nd, 24th and Aug 2nd.

Middx Broadwater GP, a female summered. Staines Res, a drake from May to Sept.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on July 26th.

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four on Oct 31st, and one on Nov 20th.

**0220 Smew*****Mergus albellus***

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

Reported in rather small numbers both at the beginning and end of the year, and only four flocks of more than ten birds were seen in 2002. Cold weather in early January produced two of these and a total of 13 sites held more than

five birds during the first month. Numbers declined in February with only six places holding more than five birds. The last reported was on Mar 25th. First returning birds were seen on Nov 3rd, but numbers did not build up until just before Christmas. The largest counts from each county are given below.

- Essex Holyfield Hall GP, eight on Feb 20th and five on Dec 22nd. Hooks Marsh, six on Jan 5th and Feb 23rd. KGV Res, six on Jan 2nd. Mollands Lane GPs, nine on Dec 15th, 17th and 29th. Netherhall GP, eight on Jan 1st.
- Herts Amwell GP, 11 on Jan 4th and nine on Dec 8th. Cheshunt GP, nine on Jan 13th and ten on Dec 19th. Stocker's Lake, seven on Jan 9th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, seven on Jan 4th. Broadwater Lake, nine on Jan 17th and Feb 13th and six on Dec 22nd. Korda Lake, ten on Jan 27th and seven on Dec 18th. Moorhall Lake, nine on Feb 19th. Staines Res, 12 on Jan 1st.
- Bucks Horton GP, 11 on Dec 31st. Wraysbury GP, nine on Jan 3rd and Feb 17th, ten on Nov 29th and 13 on Dec 19th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, three on Jan 9th then one until Mar 17th, and one on Dec 14th until year-end.
- Surrey Thorpe Water Park, six on Feb 10th and eight on Dec 15th.

### 0221 Red-breasted Merganser

*Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

In what was a good year for this species, numbers were boosted considerably by the 27 birds that were seen at three sites across the area on Nov 20th, including a flock of 17 at KGV Res. Previous movements have been noted during November so this is clearly a good time for overland migration of this mainly coastal bird in the winter months. All records are given, and refer to female/immature birds unless stated otherwise.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, a pair on Mar 21st. KGV Res, one from Dec 30th 2001 until Mar 8th, was also seen at Wm Girling Res; three on Mar 16th, 17 (including four males) on Nov 20th, four still on 21st. North Woolwich, two flew upriver on Mar 11th. Rainham Marsh, one on Dec 14th. Walthamstow Res singles on Jan 13th and Mar 3rd.
- Middx Queen Mary Res, one on Mar 2nd. Staines Res, two from Jan 2nd to 17th, one on Feb 23rd and one from Mar 1st to 17th; in Nov three on Nov 19th, five on 20th, with one until Dec 9th, but two on Nov 26th and 30th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Jan 6th. Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 17th, 19th and 20th, and five on Nov 20th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, five on Nov 1st. Walton Res, one on May 8th and a drake on Oct 31st.

### 0223 Goosander

*Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Peak counts during the winter months are given in the following table for the more regular sites for this species. Other notable flocks, two summer records and an Inner London record follow this.

|        |                     | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Nov | Dec |
|--------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Holyfield Hall Farm | 21  | 11  | -   | -   | 7   | 11  |
|        | KGV Res             | 32  | 4   | 10  | -   | 2   | 5   |
|        | Nazeing GP          | 28  | 14  | 9   | -   | 21  | 7   |
|        | Wm Girling Res      | 23  | 14  | 9   | 2   | 14  | -   |
| Herts  | Cheshunt GP         | 16  | -   | 5   | -   | -   | 3   |
|        | Stocker's Lake      | 13  | 10  | 5   | 1   | 1   | 8   |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake     | 3   | 2   | 5   | -   | 1   | 11  |
|        | Wraysbury Res       | 13  | 26  | 17  | 2   | 17  | 12  |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res     | 15  | 4   | 2   | -   | -   | 1   |
|        | QE II Res           | 32  | 29  | 21  | 2   | 21  | 9   |
|        | Walton Res          | 26  | 22  | 13  | 6   | 21  | 46  |

Essex Banbury Res, ten on Feb 16th. Walthamstow Res, 11 on Jan 13th.

Bucks Horton GP, ten on Dec 31st. Queen Mother Res, 22 on Dec 31st.

Surrey R. Mole at Hershams, 14 on Jan 2nd. R. Thames, near Thames Ditton Island, four on July 5th and 6th. QE II Res, one on May 17th flew from the R. Thames

In Lond Regent's Park, three flew NE on Dec 28th (ARD).

## 0225 Ruddy Duck

## *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: widespread winter visitor of non-native origin, resident in small numbers, localised breeder.

Peak counts outside the breeding season are shown in the following table, which gives monthly maxima for those sites with 50 or more birds.

|        |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | KGV Res           | 140 | 152 | 142 | 89  | 2   | 46  | 44  | 85  |
|        | Wm Girling Res    | 85  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Herts  | Hilfield Park Res | 117 | 187 | 157 | 64  | 163 | 125 | 66  | 51  |
| Middx  | Brent Res         | 2   | -   | 15  | -   | 115 | 64  | 38  | 13  |
|        | Broadwater Lake   | 12  | 1   | -   | -   | 3   | 13  | 52  | 100 |
|        | Staines Res       | 444 | 295 | 253 | 42  | 13  | 301 | 547 | 482 |
| Surrey | Walton Res        | 122 | 84  | 46  | 10  | 22  | 36  | 24  | 30  |

The large increase in numbers at Staines Res, first noted in January 2001, was maintained this year, with record flocks of over 400 in January and over 500 in November. Numbers at KGV Res were also a large increase for this site. In contrast most other wintering sites recorded fewer than normal (e.g. Hilfield Park Res) which suggests a redistribution of wintering birds, with Staines now attracting far more birds than all other sites combined. Interestingly, the quite large numbers that were present in September at both Hilfield Park and Brent Reservoirs were not there by November.

In the breeding season, a total of 32 broods were counted which is the largest number yet. The London Wetland Centre looks set to become a new stronghold for this duck, with seven broods seen here (only two in 2001). All breeding records are given below, with the number of broods in brackets where known.

Essex Belhus Woods CP (1). Connaught Water (1). Harrow Lodge Farm (2). Rainham Marsh (1). South Park, Ilford (1). Walthamstow Res (2).



- Herts Beech Farm (2). Cheshunt GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (4, 21 young). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads RSPB (1).
- Middx Brent Res (4). Stanwell Moor (1).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (7).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). St. James's Park (1).

In May 2002, a government-commissioned three-year 'trial cull' of Ruddy Ducks came to an end. This trial cull, which started in April 1999 was centred in the West Midlands, Anglesey and Fife and the purpose of it was to test the feasibility of eradicating 95% of the UK Ruddy Duck population.

### 0358 Red-legged Partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

Although still quite common at a few places on the outer fringes of the Area, there is no doubt that this species has declined considerably and is now nowhere to be seen at many of its former breeding localities. The situation is complicated by occasional releases, and the tendency it has to appear suddenly in some odd places, especially in the spring, when odd wandering birds are often encountered. All breeding records are given, together with some notable counts at other times of the year.

- Essex Copped Hall, ten on Jan 31st and seven on Oct 18th. Easley Wood, three pairs on May 25th. Fishers Green, two on May 19th. Howletts Hall, 17 on Dec 14th. Navestock, two on June 16th. Navestock Heath, one on June 12th. Netherhall GP, two on May 1st. Paynes Lane GP, two on May 6th. Sewardstone, at Cob Fields, eight in Nov. Stanford Rivers, 30 on Jan 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, three on Mar 2nd and one on Apr 7th. Batlers Green, Radlett, one pair bred. Beech Farm, a pair plus a male on Apr 23rd. Brookmans Park, two on Mar 1st. Chiswell Green, one pair bred. Colney Heath, two on Apr 6th. Hertingfordbury, two pairs on Mar 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, a pair in April and counts of 46 in Aug, 100 in Sept, and 30 in Oct. Windridge Farm, a pair on Mar 20th.
- Middx All records from the Enfield area. Parkside Farm, a pair on Feb 24th, and up to 11 in Sept and Oct. Vicarage Farm, seen all year with 11 on Sept 13th, and up to five in the spring and summer. Whitewebbs Farm, one on July 19th.
- Kent Brasted, six on Mar 26th. Hogtrough Hill, up to five between March and June.
- Surrey Clacket Lane Services, M25, eight on Nov 30th; releases are known in this area. Holmethorpe SP, one on June 22nd. Oxted, two at Foyle Farm on Mar 8th, and 1-2 at Hurst Green Mar-July. Ridlands, up to six Jan-mid May.

### 0367 Grey Partridge

*Perdix perdix*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

Two areas still maintain a small breeding population. These are parts of south Essex, mostly between Upminster and Rainham, and a fairly small area of countryside to the north of Radlett and Potters Bar in Hertfordshire where this species is still widely reported, and from where three sites reported coveys of

more than ten birds in November. The one sighting in Middlesex is close to and probably related to the Hertfordshire birds, and the very few records from Kent and Surrey suggest some birds are still present in these areas.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 2–3 reported intermittently Jan–April, four in June and Aug, and nine on Sept 16th. Bulphan Fen, two pairs bred. Ingrebourne Valley, 14 on Jan 4th, and two pairs in May. Jack's Hatch, two on Mar 16th. Orsett, six on Jan 6th. Rainham Marsh, present all year, max seven on Sept 19th. Sewardstone, one on Mar 4th
- Herts Beech Farm, two pairs raised ten young, 11 on Nov 18th. Bricket Wood area, a pair on June 15th. Chiswell Green, two pairs bred. Colney Heath, three on Feb 4th. Hatfield, two on Aug 24th. Hatfield Aerodrome, two pairs in April, and ten on Nov 3rd. Jersey Farm, one on July 14th. Panshanger Park, two Mar–May, and 25 on Nov 9th. Sopwell, one pair bred. Tyttenhanger Farm and GP, a pair in Mar and Apr.
- Middx Vicarage Farm, one on Mar 26th and early April, was also seen on Apr 25th.
- Kent Brasted, two along Pilgrim's Way and Hogtrough Hill on Mar 26th and 28th, and one on June 19th.
- Surrey Betchworth, three on Oct 16th. Chelsham, two on Apr 17th. Holmethorpe SP, one on June 29th.

### 0370 Quail

*Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor, irruptive.

- Herts Stocker's Farm, one calling on Sept 8th (SPh).
- Surrey Riddlesdown, one calling on July 16th (ISF).

Two typical records—both were only heard and stayed for one day.

### 0394 Pheasant

*Phasianus colchicius*

Status: common breeding resident.

This species is clearly widely distributed in some parts of the area, but rather scarce in other parts. It is also very under recorded. All breeding records are shown below, the figure in brackets being the number of pairs breeding or territorial males, as is a few notable gatherings of birds at other sites.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows (2+). Hall Marsh (1). Holyfield Marsh GP (2). Ingrebourne Valley (18). Stubbers OPC (1+). Waltham Abbey Arboretum (2+). Waltham Abbey Woods (3+). Also reported from Netherhall GP (33 on Feb 26th), Ongar (105 on Oct 16th) and Rainham Marsh (26 on Dec 14th).
- Herts Blackbirds SF (1). Borehamwood (2). Bowyer's GP (1+). Broxbourne Woods (1). Cheshunt GP (7). Chiswell Green (6), 22 on Dec 28th. Garston (2), Maple Lodge NR (1). Otterspool (1). Park Street GP (1). Rye Meads RSPB (8 pairs raised 43 young). Thunderfield Grove (2). Also reported from Amwell GP (12 on Mar 9th), and Panshanger Park (100 on Nov 9th).
- Middx No breeding records, but reported at Brent Res, Broadwater Lake, Bushy Park, Kempton NR, SITA Quarry (Sipson), and Staines Moor.

- Bucks No breeding records, but reported at Denham, Hollybush Lane, Kingcup Farm, Old Slade Lake, Oldhouse Wood and Watergate Farm.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh (1). Also reported from Cudham, Dartford Marsh, Ruxley GP and Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Ashted Common (1). Barwell Court Farm (1). Beddington SF (2). Nower Wood (2). Reports also came from Croydon, Field Common GP, Hersham GP, Holmethorpe GP, Island Barn Res, Molesey Heath, QE II Res, R. Mole at Leatherhead, Shirley, Tadworth, Walton Res and Wimbledon Common.

**0002 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

- Essex Walthamstow Res, one on Dec 7th and 16th, was also seen at Hollow Pond, Leyton Flats on the latter date (DGD *et al*). Wm Girling Res, one from Jan 20th to Feb 5th, also visited KGV Res during this period (PJV).
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Dec 10th and 13th (TRS). Northfleet, one flew E on Dec 9th (SC). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 8th, landed on the R.Thames and drifted down river (DM).

**0003 Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

- Surrey Walton Res, one flew in from QE II Res on Dec 21st (DMH, SJS).
- The only record this year, and a short-stayer putting in an appearance timed at approximately 38 minutes.

**0004 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

- Middx KGV Res, an adult in almost breeding plumage on Oct 16th. This was followed by another adult between Nov 14th and the end of the year, which was joined by a first-year bird, from Nov 16th to 30th (REI, PN, KLP *et al*).

These three birds arrived within a month, at a reservoir well favoured by this species in recent years. What is perhaps surprising, in view of their well-known mobility, is that none were seen at any nearby local reservoirs.

**0007 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of 152 pairs/broods is well up to the level of recent years, given the usual caveat about the variability of site recording from one year to the next. Without the huge number of pairs reported from Rainham Marsh, and to a

lesser extent Rye Meads RSPB, counts would be a lot lower. The new London Wetland Centre at Barnes has also rapidly found favour with this species.

In the following summary all breeding records are given (pairs or broods in brackets), together with the largest counts in each county. Inner London records are reported in more detail.

- Essex Clayton Hill, Nazeing (1). Dagenham Chase (2). Fairlop Water (2). Goldings Pond, Epping Forest (1). Harrow Lodge Farm (2). Ingrebourne Valley (1). Langridge GP (2). Mayesbrook Park, Barking (1). Parsloes Park (1). Paynes Lane GP (2). Purfleet Chalk Pits (6), 33 on Dec 23rd. Rainham Marsh (c40). Stubbers OPC (3). Valentines Park (2). Waltham Abbey Woods (1). Walthamstow Res (1), 41 on Oct 6th. Wanstead Park (4).
- Herts Beech Farm (1). Cheshunt GP (1). Coopers Green GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (3). Maple Lodge NR (2). Panshanger Park (3). Pond Wood (1). Rye Meads RSPB (14), and up to 41 in September.
- Middx Brent Res (2), with a maximum of 32 on Sept 16th. Fir & Pond Woods (1). Kempton NR (2). Parkside Farm/Res (1). Ponders End Lake (2). Prince's Ski Club, Bedford (2). SITA quarry, Sipson (2). Stanwell Moor (2). Stockley Park (1). Swan Lake (3).
- Bucks Chalfont Park (3). Denham Court (3). Old Slade Lake (1). Orlitts Lake South (1). Thorney CP, 19 on Oct 2nd.
- Kent Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (1). Sevenoaks WR, 22 in Jan.
- Surrey Beddington Park (1). Beddington SF (2) with 35 on Sept 8th. Bookham Common (1). Holmethorpe SP (3). London Wetland Centre (13). Ravensbury Park (1). Trevereux/Swaynesland (2). Waddon Ponds (1). Watermeads, Mitcham (1).
- In Lond Battersea Park, two on Nov 12th. Buckingham Palace, one pair hatched five young, but only one survived. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 1–3 regularly seen Jan-Mar and 1–4 Sept-Dec. Regent's Park, singles on twelve dates with three on Nov 20th. St. James's Park, one pair bred hatching three young; highest winter count here was four on Dec 24th.

#### 0009 Great Crested Grebe

#### *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The number of pairs breeding (not necessarily successfully) or the number of broods seen is given under counties below, together with a summary of records from Inner London.

- Essex 40 pairs/broods at 22 sites.
- Herts 43 pairs/broods at only 11 sites, with 20 pairs at Cheshunt GP.
- Middx 22+ pairs at six sites, with 12+ nests at Brent Res.
- Bucks 10 pairs/broods at eight sites.
- Kent 4 pairs/broods at only two sites.
- Surrey 13 pairs/broods at six sites.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, three pairs bred. Regent's Park, a pair with young on June 5th. Victoria Park, a pair during the breeding season. Outside the breeding season, the highest count was 38 on Jan 16th in Hyde

Park/Kensington Gdns, but no more than four elsewhere, including one on the Thames at Vauxhall on Nov 29th.

A further apparent decline in the breeding population to only around 137 pairs although it does appear that coverage and reporting this year is well down.

Following noticeably cold and freezing conditions at the end of Dec 2001 and during the first week of Jan 2002, there were some high counts on the deeper reservoirs in Jan, as birds were displaced from nearby frozen lakes and pits. On Jan 3rd there were 175 at QE II Res and 351 at Queen Mary Res. Not far away, 232 were counted at Queen Mother Res on Jan 7th. These must have been different birds which all ended up on Queen Mary Res, as there was a massive count here of 671 on Jan 13th. This almost matches the record count in London of 679 at the same place on Jan 14th, 1997.

**0010 Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, one was found dead on Feb 15th (AM).  
 Middx KGV Res, one on Dec 9th (KLP). Staines Res, one on Oct 6th (DJM, PN *et al*).  
 Surrey Walton Res, a juvenile on Nov 23rd (DMH, SJS).

**0011 Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, traditionally less frequent than the next species.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, one from Feb 9th to Mar 3rd (SBn). KGV Res, one from Dec 5th to 22nd (PJV, RJW). Stubbers OPC, one on Dec 19th (DMn).  
 Herts Stanstead Abbots GP, one from Dec 11th to 31st (ELBF, AJH *et al*).  
 Middx Kempton Park, one at the small 'Red House' distribution reservoir on Nov 16th and 17th (PN *et al*). KGV Res, one on Dec 9th (KLP *et al*). Queen Mary Res, one on Jan 13th (DJM,PN) and 16th (KLP). Staines Res, one at the beginning of the year was joined by a second bird from Feb 13th to Apr 16th, and another remained from Aug 18th to Oct 17th (PN *et al*). Wraysbury Res, one on Jan 3rd, two on Mar 4th and two on Dec 14th (CL).  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Dec 9th and from Dec 17th to 25th (CDRH, JAS).  
 Surrey Holmethorpe SP, one from Jan 25th to Feb 25th (SHR, MJS, BJT *et al*). Island Barn Res, singles from Apr 3rd to 16th, and Nov 9th to Dec 22nd (DMH, SJS *et al*). QE II Res, one on Dec 22nd. Walton Res, one on Apr 4th (DMH).  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, one at the Round Pond on Dec 11th (MKr) was then seen at St. James's Park on Dec 13th (ASMS).

The Inner London record is only the fourth ever. The bird that arrived at Staines Res on Aug 18th is the earliest arrival date since one at Staines Res on July 25th 1975, although one summered in this area in 1948.

**0012 Black-necked Grebe*****Podiceps nigricollis***

Status: passage migrant and occasional breeder.

Evidence of breeding was obtained at two sites. At the regular site in Herts four pairs were present in summer but heavy rain in early July probably flooded out the nests, although one small chick was seen being fed late in the month. At a second site in Essex, a pair was present between April and August, successfully breeding and raising two young. Away from breeding sites, a summary of records is given under counties below, and includes an Inner London record.

Essex Monthly maxima at Wm Girling Res, which has now become the most important site for this species in the London Area in the autumn and winter months, is shown in the following table.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 10  | 13  | 12  | 2   | -   | 4   | 9   | 17  | 15  | 25  | 19  | 13  |

Dagenham Chase, one from May 8th to 12th. KGV Res, two on Apr 5th, singles on Apr 9th, 13th, May 2nd, Sept 14th and 16th. Rainham Marsh, one on Sept 16th. Stubbers OPC, singles from Feb 3rd to 23rd, and on May 12th and 19th. Walthamstow Res, one from Sept 9th to 17th.

Herts Amwell GP, three on Mar 17th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on June 8th.

Middx KGV Res, one on Aug 20th, two on Sept 3rd, and singles on Sept 10th and 21st. Staines Res, up to three between Feb 28th and Mar 21st, and then singles on Apr 20th and from May 1st to 3rd. In autumn, 1–4 from July 25th to Aug 19th, an influx of nine on Aug 20th which stayed at this number until 25th, decreasing to four by Sept 1st with the final bird on Sept 20th, apart from one on Nov 11th. Wraysbury Res, two on May 11th.

Bucks Horton GP, one from Feb 8th to Mar 1st. Queen Mother Res, singles on Jan 2nd and 3rd, Feb 14th, July 31st and Aug 14th. Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 10th.

Surrey Island Barn Res, one on July 16th. QE II Res, one on Aug 28th. Walton Res, singles on Mar 2nd and July 17th.

In Lond Regent's Park, two flew along the Regent's Canal on May 4th (AJD).

Apart from its obvious increases as a breeding bird in the London Area in recent years, further increases in the numbers of autumn and winter birds visiting Wm Girling Res in the Lea Valley are proving significant, with the count in October again reaching an all time high. The large counts that used to occur at Staines Res in autumn were mostly in August and September, and numbers have been at very low ebb over the last 20 years or more. Even so the count of nine at Staines in August is the best here since September 1989. The sighting of two birds flying over Regent's Canal appears to be the first record for Inner London.

0072 **Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Status: rapidly increasing breeding resident, common elsewhere especially in winter.

With further increases noted in the breeding population in the London Area, recent research has shown that in England as a whole, this increase is being fuelled by a rapidly increasing population of the continental, tree-nesting race, *P. c. sinensis*, as opposed to the cliff-nesting North Atlantic race, *P. c. carbo*. There seems no doubt that the same situation is occurring in the London Area, and that *sinensis* Cormorants have played a major part in the increase in the breeding population within the London Area. This is supported by a far more frequent identification of *sinensis* based on the angle of the gular pouch at the base of the bill, together with the sighting of many colour-ringed birds from such places as France and Denmark. At the same time, it is equally clear that *carbo* also nests in London and that the exact mix of the two different races is not yet fully known.

A summary of breeding records in the five years up to 2002 is shown in the following table. The number of pairs breeding or attempting to breed at each site is given.

|        |                    | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Essex  | Holyfield Marsh GP | -    | -    | -    | 15   | 7    |
|        | Netherhall GP      | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |
|        | Walthamstow Res    | 208  | 170  | 242  | 270  | 293  |
| Herts  | Amwell GP          | -    | -    | -    | 2    | 1    |
|        | Stocker's Lake     | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake    | 6    | 11   | 24   | 19+  | 32   |
|        | Frays Valley NR    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |
| Bucks  | Orlitts Lake       | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    |
| Surrey | QE II Res          | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |
|        | TOTAL PAIRS        | 214  | 182  | 266  | 306+ | 337  |

This represents a 57% increase in breeding attempts in the last five years, and includes large increases at the two main colonies and four new single nests found in 2002. Nearly all nest in large trees on islands in lakes and gravel pits in the Colne and Lea Valleys. The pair that built a nest at the QE II Res did so on one of the reservoir's towers, although it was later deserted. This is the first such nesting away from trees, and also the first pair south of the R. Thames, in the London Area.

Highest monthly counts at the main overnight roosting sites are shown in the following table. The best daytime counts from other sites follows this.

|        |                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Walthamstow Res | 438 | 381 | 492 | 197 | 523 | -   | 180 |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake | 153 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Wraysbury Res   | 72  | 64  | 12  | 169 | 88  | 127 | 89  |
| Surrey | QE II Res       | 680 | 215 | 310 | 415 | 382 | 364 | 350 |

Essex Beckton SW, 139 on Jan 13th. Rainham Marsh, 113 on Dec 8th.  
Herts Amwell GP, 75 on Feb 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, 66 on Dec 21st.  
Middx Queen Mary Res, 580 on Jan 13th and 407 on Feb 10th.  
Bucks Wraysbury GP, 50 on Oct 26th.  
Kent Greenhithe, 88 on Sept 10th. Sevenoaks WR, 81 on Jan 1st.

- Surrey Island Barn Res, 287 on Oct 6th. London Wetland Centre, 157 on Mar 17th. Walton Res, 204 on Sept 28th.
- In Lond Battersea Park, 30 on Nov 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 26 on Nov 23rd. Regent's Park, 34 roosted on Nov 25th. R. Thames, parties up to 30 noted during the year.

- 0080 Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
 Status: irregular visitor, occasionally in good numbers. Usually occurs in winter, but may stay for long periods.
- Essex Barking, an immature flew N along the R. Roding on Mar 30th (HV).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a first-winter bird from Nov 9th to Dec 24th (HPBR). Tyttenhanger GP, one on July 5th (JHT).
- Middx Brent Res, one from Dec 25th to 28th (ASMS *et al*). East India Dock Basin, one from Sept 7th to Oct 8th (GJ).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a first-winter bird on Dec 8th (JAS).
- Surrey Island Barn and QE II Reservoirs, a juvenile seen at both sites on Dec 29th was still at Island Barn in early 2003 (DMH). London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 5th (DMk), two on 9th (JGd) and one still on 17th (PSP). R. Thames at Wandsworth Park, 1–2 present from Feb 17th to June 9th (RJA).

- 0095 Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.
- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on Jan 5th (LH). Netherhall GP, one on Nov 26th (SC). Turnford Marsh GP, singles on Jan 6th (SRH) and Nov 29th (AJH). Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 4th (SRH) and 13th (DGDL) plus another date in Feb (*per* DGDL)
- Herts Amwell GP, 1–2 present between Jan 18th and Apr 7th and one between Oct 22nd and Dec 18th (mo). Cheshunt GP complex, most birds were seen from the Bittern Watchpoint but occasionally from nearby lakes; up to three from Jan 1st until Mar 2nd (mo). The first seen in autumn was on Oct 8th and three were present by early Nov increasing to five by Nov 29th (AJH). Rye Meads RSPB, one present from Jan 5th to 24th with two on the latter date, and one from Nov 22nd to Dec 18th, and two on Dec 12th (RMRG, GJW). Slipe Lane GP, one on Feb 2nd (ELBF). Stanstead Abbots GP, one on Feb 10th (ELBF) and on Oct 18th (AJH) associated with Rye Meads records.
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on Feb 8th (CL) and Dec 31st (REI). Old Slade Lake, one on Jan 12th (CL). Wraysbury GP, one on Dec 14th (REI).
- Kent Littlebrook Lake, one on Dec 22nd (PR). Ruxley GP, one on Feb 13th 'had been present two weeks' (GCN).
- Surrey Gatton Park Lake, one on Mar 3rd (DAC). Holmethorpe SP, one on Jan 3rd (ABd) London Wetland Centre, three on Jan 11th, two from Jan 12th to 20th, and one remaining until Feb 22nd (NA *et al*); in Dec, 1–3 from 14th to 31st (JGd,DMk,RK). Richmond Park, one on the Pen Ponds on Jan 20th (*per* BG).

The approximate number of birds recorded during each month was Jan (13), Feb (9), Mar (5), Apr (1), Oct (3), Nov (9) and Dec (14).



**0111 Cattle Egret*****Bubulcus ibis***

Status: rare vagrant

Bucks Higher Denham, one was present from early Jan to the end of Feb, although the exact dates are not known (MR).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, and only the fourth London Area record. Details of this record are somewhat sketchy, but it was known to have been present at a 'wetland nature reserve' in a factory complex very close to the western edge of the London Area. During this period a Cattle Egret was seen in flight at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire on Jan 16th and is presumed to be the same bird.

**0119 Little Egret*****Egretta garzetta***

Status: now regular and ever increasing visitor in growing numbers.

There is no doubt that 2002 saw significant increases in the numbers of Little Egrets in the London Area. A record 321 sightings were reported during the year. An important winter roost that was first noted in December 2001 at Broadwater Lake in the Colne valley was permanently established by January 2002 and 14 birds were seen using this roost in December 2002. Elsewhere at Rainham Marsh, which attracted many birds throughout the year, birds were found not only roosting in trees overnight on some dates but also in large numbers during daylight hours in June and July. In the following summary of the year's records winter records (Jan to Apr and Oct to Dec) are dealt with separately from summer records (May to Sept). It is no longer possible to publish every individual record. With now so many sightings, a pattern of occurrence does seem to be emerging. As can be seen below, there were very few sightings in Sept and Oct.

***Winter records***

In the following table, highest monthly counts are given for apparently regular wintering sites, where there were more than just one or two records in these months, some nearby sites being shown together.

|        |                              | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Mardyke Valley               | -   | 1   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Parsloes Park                | -   | -   | 2   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Rainham Marsh                | 3   | 1   | 5   | 5   | -   | 2   | 3   |
| Herts  | Amwell GP                    | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
|        | Rye Meads RSPB               | -   | 1   | 1   | 1   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Stocker's Lake               | 2   | 5   | 2   | 1   | -   | -   | -   |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake              | 9   | 11  | 12  | -   | -   | 5   | 14  |
|        | Bushy/Hampton Court Parks    | 2   | 1   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
|        | Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | -   | -   | -   |
| Bucks  | Higher Denham                | 10  | 10  | 4   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh               | 1   | 2   | 3   | -   | -   | 1   | 5   |
|        | Sevenoaks WR                 | -   | 3   | 2   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
| Surrey | Beddington SF                | 6   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Island Barn/QE II Reservoirs | 1   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   |

Counts at Broadwater Lake were mostly made at dawn and dusk, and far fewer birds were present during daylight hours. There were no records from here between Mar 4th and Nov 8th. The counts at Higher Denham, which is very close to this site, are clearly related to these, and possibly also those at Stocker's Lake. Whilst there must be a lot of mobility during normal day time feeding activities, and also with birds flying long distances to and from roosts, the numbers of birds involved can begin to be estimated. There were many other records of single birds on one date only during these months that are too numerous to detail here.

### **Summer records**

There are no breeding records in the London Area as yet, and there appears to be a small passage of birds in May, but late summer sees another build up of birds, especially during July, of adults and juvenile birds dispersing from breeding colonies, either in south-east England or from abroad. The monthly maxima for Rainham Marsh was: 10 in May; 28 in June; 32 in July; and 2 in August.

#### **0121 Great White Egret**

***Ardea alba***

Status: rare vagrant

Middx Staines Moor, one on Sept 6th (FJM *et al*).

The third London Area record, this bird follows on from the previous two records in May 1997 and October 2001. However, unlike those two birds, and despite the apparent efforts of local dog-walkers, it stayed long enough to draw an appreciative crowd of observers. A bird seen at Pudmore Pond, Thursley, Surrey the following day was presumably the same individual. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **0122 Grey Heron**

***Ardea cinerea***

Status: common breeding resident.

A very successful breeding season, with between 493 and 498 pairs or nests at London's heronries this year which was at a minimum 22 more than 2001 and puts it second in the all-time list of best ever years (see table in *LBR 2001*). In the following summary, the figure in brackets after each location is the number of pairs or nests counted. A few large counts of individual birds away from heronries are also given.

Essex Harrow Lodge Farm (1). Holyfield Marsh GP (9). Hornchurch CP (4). Mayesbrook Park, Barking (5). Netherhall GP (3). Waltham Abbey Woods (17). Walthamstow (89). Rainham Marsh, 38 on Feb 10th.

Herts Amwell GP (15). Verulamium Lake (18). Stocker's Lake, 30 on Mar 23rd.

Middx Broadwater Lake (30). Frays Valley NR (6–8). Kempton Park (47). Little Britain Lake (7–8). Osterley Park (6–7). Prince's Ski Club, Bedfont (1). Syon Park (1). Yiewsley Lake (9). Brent Res, 23 on Jan 2nd.

Bucks Wraysbury GP (3).

- Kent Kelsey Park (25). Swanscombe Marsh (9–10).  
 Surrey Bookham Common (22). Brentford Ait (24). Corporation Island, R. Thames at Richmond (11). Gatton Park Lake (28). Horton CP (6). Isleworth Ait (7). Lonsdale Road Res (4). Morden Hall Park (6). Pen Ponds, Richmond Park (13). Watermeads, Mitcham (3).  
 In Lond Battersea Park (27). Regent's Park (27).

**0131 Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*  
 Status: rare vagrant

- Herts Amwell, one on June 4th (BR *et al*).

Only seen in flight this bird was seen over Amwell GP, arriving from the north, circling Easneye for 25 minutes, before departing high to the east. The fifth record for London, and the first since 1991. The very first record in 1989 was also seen over Amwell (and other sites in the Lea Valley). The *British Birds* Rarities Committee has accepted the record.

**0144 Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*  
 Status: rare migrant not recorded annually.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, two on Apr 2nd, one of which was seen intermittently until Apr 18th (KBa, HV *et al*).

Another record to add to the two in 2001. The total for the London Area now comes to 27 records, and seems to be increasing rapidly.

**0239 Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*  
 Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

- Essex Orsett, one drifted N on Mar 7th (CRJ).  
 Herts Chess Valley, singles on June 29th and July 18th (ACk). Chorleywood Common, by M25, one on July 13th (SY). Garston, one flew W on Apr 17th (CME). Milwards Park, two apparently displaying on Apr 14th (SHM). North Mymms Park, one on Dec 14th (RPh). Rye Meads RSPB, one flew S on Mar 30th (RMRG, NS *et al*). Tyttenhanger GP, a wing-tagged bird flew NE on Mar 22nd (NTr). Watford, one flew NE low over M25 on Apr 6th (DRs).  
 Middx Alexandra Park, one flew NW on Apr 1st (AGr). Cranford Park, one flew N on Sept 4th (EM). Enfield, two over Crews Hill on May 19th (JHB). Hounslow, one flew NW on Mar 30th (KC).  
 Kent Mottingham, one on Mar 30th (PP).  
 Surrey Beddington SF, singles flying over on Mar 24th, Apr 18th, Apr 26th and Dec 25th (GDJM). Epsom Common, one flew SSE on June 15th (AGs). Putney, one flew high SE on Mar 29th (RJA). Reigate, one flew W on June 3rd (DSt, AWn). Wimbledon Common, one flew W on Apr 18th (DWs).

A dramatic increase in the number of reported sightings in the London Area this year, with a total of 25 records involving some 27 birds, although it is

impossible to suggest how many sightings may be duplicated. The released population in the Chilterns continues to grow rapidly, and there were 139 breeding pairs in 2002. Whilst this rapid expansion may be playing a large part in this upsurge in London Area records, it may not be the whole story as there are six other re-introduction schemes currently in place in mainland Britain, as well as the possibility of continental migrants also being seen.

- 0260 Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*  
 Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant.
- Essex Rainham Marsh, singles on Apr 13th (PH) and 16th (PSt), on Aug 19th (DMn), and two juveniles on Sept 3rd (PSt), one until 5th (HV), and further singles on Sept 11th and 12th (PGr, DMn) and a female on Dec 14th (DFI).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Oct 6th (BR) and one on Oct 27th (ELBF). Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 4th (JMi).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Sept 9th (DM) and one flew across the R. Thames from Essex on Dec 14th (DMn). Ruxley GP, a male on Apr 12th (SJG).
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 14th, May 14th and Oct 2nd (GDJM). Selsdon Wood, one flew SE on Sept 26th (EMF).
- 0261 Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*  
 Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames-side marshes.
- Essex Rainham Marsh, an immature male on Nov 23rd (PH).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, a female on Jan 8th (DMk).
- 0263 Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*  
 Status: rare vagrant
- Middx Staines Res, a juvenile flew W on the evening of Aug 5th (REI).
- The first record of this species since September 1995, when two were seen on the same day, and only the 20th in all. The third record in August, the first being at nearby Staines Moor coincidentally on the same date in 1953.
- 0267 Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*  
 Status: rare passage migrant
- Surrey Fetcham, one drifted W in a thermal on Mar 26th (APe). At another site in the county, one on Aug 23rd, four (two adults and two juveniles) on Aug 24th, a juvenile on Aug 26th, an adult on Aug 29th and a probable juvenile on Sept 21st (location and observer's name withheld).
- The series of records at the second Surrey site is interesting, although the observer involved does not think this family party bred at the site.

**0269 Sparrowhawk*****Accipiter nisus***

Status: common breeding resident.

|         | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex   | 18                           | 9                              | -                          | 27            |
| Herts   | 5                            | 4                              | 2                          | 11            |
| Middx   | 7                            | 6                              | 1                          | 14            |
| Bucks   | -                            | -                              | 1                          | 1             |
| Kent    | 4                            | 2                              | -                          | 6             |
| Surrey  | 11                           | 4                              | 3                          | 18            |
| In Lond | 3                            | -                              | 1                          | 4             |
| Totals  | 48                           | 25                             | 8                          | 81            |

This is a rather secretive species in the breeding season; so all records of displaying birds are welcome. Also when there are young in (and out of) the nest they can be extremely noisy. The number of breeding reports this year is rather on the low side, although there is no evidence whatsoever of any decline in numbers. Reported during the year from a total of 128 different localities with 57 in Essex, 33 in Herts, 34 in Middlesex, 6 in Bucks, 23 in Kent, 54 in Surrey and 11 in Inner London. Records from Inner London are summarised below.

In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, a male on Jan 3rd and two on Feb 2nd. Archbishops Park, SE1, one on Jan 10th. Buckingham Palace, one pair bred raising a solitary chick. Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, reported on ten dates during the year, including two females on Sept 5th. Lambeth, one on Apr 9th. The Natural History Museum, one in the wildlife gardens on Feb 27th. The Oval, SE11, singles on Aug 23rd, Sept 5th and 6th. Regent's Park, a pair on Mar 24th and Apr 9th and two on May 1st. St. James's Park, a pair bred and raised three young. Victoria Park, singles on Mar 9th, Apr 1st, July 13th and Dec 14th.

**0287 Common Buzzard*****Buteo buteo***

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/visitor.

With the first proved breeding in the London Area in modern times as recently as 1998, the number of breeding pairs continues to grow year after year. So far this has been mainly confined to the more rural parts of Herts and Essex. Records away from breeding sites are also increasingly frequent, and with the number of sightings now running at over 300 a year, is too many for a detailed list to be shown in the *LBR*. A summary of records is given for each county below, with Inner London records in more detail.

Essex Bred at three localities, with up to three birds at one site. A further 11 sightings away from these areas.

Herts Birds were seen displaying at five different sites, two sites having at least six birds in March, and another with up to eight birds together in September, so breeding is strongly suspected. Two other sites had birds throughout most of the year. Away from these areas there were reports of three over Rickmansworth on Nov 4th, and five together at Woodoaks Farm on Apr 10th, as well as numerous reports of one or two birds.

- Middx A total of 11 sightings during the year, all of single birds flying over.  
 Bucks Only one record this year, at Roberts Farm, flying N on Apr 4th. This is now a common species just west of the Area boundary.  
 Kent A pair bred at one locality, and another unpaired bird was also present. Only single sightings at four other places, all flying over.  
 Surrey Frequent sightings from one area of the M25 motorway leading to strong suspicion of breeding somewhere to the north of here. Many other sightings of singles, including on seven dates at Beddington, and on three dates at the London Wetland Centre.  
 In Lond Paddington Green, W2, two flew NE on Mar 29th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on Mar 27th, Apr 4th and Nov 11th (ARD, DJ).

### 2001 Additional record

- Kent A pair bred at a site on the North Downs but the outcome was not known.

### Buzzard sp

### *Buteo/Pernis sp*

- Essex Leyton Flats, one on Sept 5th. Waltham Abbey, two on July 14th. Both records were possible Honey Buzzards.

### 0301 Osprey

### *Pandion haliaetus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Apr 2nd (SH). Waterworks NR, one on Sept 4th (GJ), presumed same as at Leyton Flats. KGV Res, singles on May 14th (ELBF), presumed same as at Ponders End Lake, and on Sept 10th (RJW). Leyton Flats, one moving S on Sept 4th (PHI).  
 Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Sept 1st (RMRG).  
 Middx Ponders End Lake, one drifted N on May 14th (SC). Staines Moor, one flew N on Aug 17th (PN), and one fishing on Sept 7th (EM).  
 Surrey Fetcham, one flew N on May 1st (APe).

Only ten reports of what were assumed to be eight different birds is rather few in comparison with recent years when the number of birds seen has normally reached double figures.

### 1999 Additional record

- Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile on Aug 30th (DJEEd).

### 0304 Kestrel

### *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: common breeding resident.

Records of pairs in the breeding season are shown in the following table.

|         | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex   | 18                           | 10                             | 4                          | 32            |
| Herts   | 9                            | -                              | -                          | 9             |
| Middx   | 11                           | -                              | 2                          | 13            |
| Bucks   | 1                            | -                              | -                          | 1             |
| Kent    | 3                            | -                              | -                          | 3             |
| Surrey  | 3                            | 3                              | 3                          | 9             |
| In Lond | 1                            | 1                              | 1                          | 3             |
| Totals  | 46                           | 14                             | 10                         | 70            |

This is a species whose status is very difficult to monitor on an annual basis as coverage of breeding records is not only very variable from year to year but from one area to the next. Essex again seems to be the only county whose figures for breeding pairs seem to be anywhere near a realistic one, but the low numbers from certain sectors, especially those south of the R. Thames, does seem to show a real decline. The overall consensus seems to be that it is less common than it used to be. The following summary includes details of the largest gatherings of birds, observer's comments on status, and Inner London sightings

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Essex   | Reported from 43 localities during the year. The highest count was 13 at Rainham Marsh on Sept 4th.   |
| Herts   | Reported from 21 localities.  |
| Middx   | Only recorded at 16 localities, 13 of which were breeding sites. At Bushy Park 'a lot of juveniles seen in the autumn'. Staines Moor, eight on Oct 19th.  |
| Bucks   | Up to three birds at only four localities during the year.  |
| Kent    | Reports came from 20 localities, many of which just refer to odd sightings, and the figure for breeding birds is extremely low.   |
| Surrey  | Reported at 30 localities. Comments on status came from Beddington SF 'less commonly recorded recently'; Sanderstead 'scarce visitor here'; and South Norwood Lake 'still very scarce here'.  |
| In Lond | Reports during the year came from Battersea Power Station (bred), Chepstow Road SW2, Hyde Park, Kensington Gdns (juvenile seen), Lambeth, Limehouse, Millbank, The Oval area, Parliament Square, Regent's Park, Vauxhall Cross, Victoria Park in Hackney, Victoria Station, Westminster/Westminster Abbey (one pair) and Whitehall Place SW1. |

### 0309 Merlin

*Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Essex  | Dagenham Chase, a male on Nov 13th (KB).  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF, one on Oct 16th (MN, MCK). Fetcham Mill Pond, a male on Jan 21st (APe). Island Barn Res, one on Dec 19th (SJS). London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 21st (RK). |

All records refer to female or immature birds unless shown specifically as males. A further 11 claims were not supported by notes.



**0310 Hobby*****Falco subbuteo***

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Records of pairs in the breeding season are shown in the following table.

|         | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex   | 3                            | -                              | -                          | 3             |
| Herts   | 2                            | -                              | 2                          | 4             |
| Middx   | 3                            | 3                              | -                          | 6             |
| Bucks   | -                            | -                              | -                          | -             |
| Kent    | -                            | -                              | 1                          | 1             |
| Surrey  | 1                            | -                              | -                          | 1             |
| In Lond | 1                            | -                              | -                          | 1             |
| Totals  | 10                           | 3                              | 3                          | 16            |

At a site in Inner London, a pair is thought to have laid eggs in an old crow's nest, but despite being present between May 31st and July 21st, the breeding attempt failed. Otherwise a fairly normal set of breeding statistics for the year. A summary of records is given under counties below, together with one or two large gatherings of birds, and all Inner London records.

- Essex Recorded at a total of 48 localities, with the highest count of only four.
- Herts Records came from 41 localities. At Amwell GP there were counts of 14 on June 8th and ten on June 15th.
- Middx Reported from 35 localities, mostly in numbers of up to three.
- Bucks Seen at only six localities, but there were eight together at Queen Mother Res on July 6th, feeding on Cockchafers, and 15 at Wraysbury GP on May 31st.
- Kent Recorded at 14 localities.
- Surrey Recorded at 19 localities.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on July 19th. Primrose Hill, one on May 2nd. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 25th, Aug 25th and Sept 11th.

**0320 Peregrine Falcon*****Falco peregrinus***

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/winter visitor.

This magnificent falcon has become an essential feature of London's avifauna in recent years, with the combination of tall buildings and a constant diet of Feral Rock Doves providing a good home for this species in the capital, as it has in many large cities throughout the world. In 2002 breeding success was repeated at the two sites reported in 2001, each pair raising a healthy brood of three chicks, but a third pair at another site failed to rear any young. All were using large buildings along side the R. Thames, which accounts for the majority of the sightings along the River, including such places as Rainham Marshes and the London Wetland Centre, but also frequently over built-up areas in Inner London. Elsewhere, they have become a regular visitor to the southwestern reservoirs, feeding on a variety of birds including parakeets! All breeding records and Inner London records are given, and records from localities where regular sightings were made are given in a little more detail.

- Essex Reported from 18 sites during the year.
- Herts Only reported at Beech Farm, Cheshunt GP and Maple Cross.

- Middx There was numerous sightings, especially during the winter months, at eight different sites.
- Kent Location A, a pair bred successfully, fledging three young. Location B, a pair were present and attempted to breed, but were unsuccessful. Location C, two birds were seen displaying on at least one date.
- Surrey Reports included being seen on 17 days during the year over Beddington SF, and 36 days at the London Wetland Centre, as well as at four other localities.
- In Lond Location D, a pair bred raising three young. Gloucester Road, Feb 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Mar 9th, Apr 4th and May 16th. Lambeth, Feb 26th. Little Venice, Feb 14th. Oval area, SE11, June 9th. Paddington, Apr 11th. Paddington Green, W2, Apr 10th, 11th, 23rd. May 11th, 30th, 31st, two July 10th and Aug 29th, Sept 14th, 18th, two Nov 20th and 23rd. Primrose Hill, Feb 5th. Regent's Park, July 5th and Nov 11th. South Kensington, Feb 13th. Tate Modern, two Feb 10th, singles on Mar 7th, May 7th, Aug 15th and 30th. Westminster, July 10th over Houses of Parliament.

**0407 Water Rail*****Rallus aquaticus***

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; rare breeder.

The following shows the number of sites from which this species was recorded during the year, with the approximate number of birds in each county during both winter periods.

|                         | <i>Essex</i> | <i>Herts</i> | <i>Middx</i> | <i>Bucks</i> | <i>Kent</i> | <i>Surrey</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total sites             | 13           | 20           | 8            | 7            | 7           | 11            | 66            |
| No. of birds—Jan to Apr | 32           | 30           | 10           | 6            | 16          | 21            | 115           |
| No. of birds—Oct to Dec | 32           | 59           | 11           | 8            | 9           | 38            | 157           |

All breeding records, sightings between May and August, and some of the highest counts in the winter months are shown below.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on July 14th. Ingrebourne Valley, ten on Feb 9th, up to three in Aug and 14 on Nov 17th. Rainham Marsh, two pairs reported as breeding and one brood seen.
- Herts Amwell GP, two breeding pairs present, nine on Dec 14th. Broxbourne GP, one on July 20th. Rye Meads RSPB, three pairs breeding, and at least 13 during Oct to Dec.
- Middx Brent Res, seven on Oct 17th. Kempton NR, one on several dates in July.
- Kent Ruxley GP, seven calling on Feb 16th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, seven pairs between May and Aug, three broods were seen, and peak counts of 20 on Nov 11th and 26 on Dec 18th.

The breeding season records are very high, with 14 pairs at four sites, producing some very high numbers of birds in the second winter period.

**0408 Spotted Crake*****Porzana porzana***

Status: very scarce passage migrant

- Essex Waterworks NR, one on May 3rd (GJ).

**0421 Corncrake** ***Crex crex***  
 Status: very rare passage migrant

**1970 Additional Record**

Essex Abridge, one found dead in September; wing on display in Hanningfield Res Visitor Centre (*per JTS*).

**0424 Moorhen** ***Gallinula chloropus***  
 Status: very common breeding resident.

All breeding records of more than five pairs at any one site are given (number of broods/nests in brackets), together with the highest counts. A more detailed summary is given for Inner London. The count at the London Wetland Centre in November was remarkable by any standards.

Essex Connaught Water, 44 in Oct. Cornmill Meadows (11), 40 in Jan. Dagenham Chase, 41 in Oct. Fishers Green, 89 in Jan. Holyfield Hall Farm, 45 in Jan. Ingrebourne Valley, 122 in Jan. Rainham Marsh (70–100 pairs), 181 in Jan. Valentines Park (6). Walthamstow Res (13), 75 in Dec.

Herts Amwell GP (13). Bowyer's GP, 42 in Jan. Cheshunt GP (21 pairs in incomplete survey), 43 in Jan. Lynster's Farm, 50 in Jan and Dec. Maple Lodge NR, 98 in Feb. Panshanger Park (6). Tyttenhanger GP, 40 in Sept.

Middx Brent Res, 102 in Jan. Bushy Park, 40 in Dec. Hampstead and Highgate Ponds, 79 in June. Hampstead Heath, 57 in Feb.

Bucks Chalfont Park, 49 in Jan.

Kent Danson Park, 30 in Dec.

Surrey Beddington SF (26), 138 in Sept. London Wetland Centre (57 pairs/nests, 50 broods), 282 in Nov. R. Wandle between Hackbridge and Morden Hall Park (46), 65 in Dec.

In Lond Battersea Park, 10 in Nov. Buckingham Palace (2). Burgess Park, four in Sept. Camley Street Natural Park (1). Holland Park (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3+, nine young), 34 in Nov. Limehouse, 10 in November. Natural History Museum (1). St. James's Park (9), 68 in Oct. Victoria Park (3), 23 in Dec.

**0429 Coot** ***Fulica atra***  
 Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The two new reserves of the London Wetland Centre and Rainham RSPB both feature strongly in the breeding stakes, as do two Lea Valley sites. Outside the breeding season, peak counts at some of the larger, deeper waters are often reached in autumn. Smaller, shallower waters often see their highest counts in January and December. In the summary below, the highest breeding counts for each county are given (number of pairs or broods in brackets) and the annual maxima for the best sites in autumn and winter.

- Essex Barking Park (18). Connaught Water (17). Holyfield Hall Farm, 304 on Dec 8th. Nazeing GP (20). Netherhall GP, 411 on Dec 30th. Rainham Marsh (50–80). Walthamstow Res (46), 879 on Oct 22nd. Wanstead Flats (10).
- Herts Amwell GP (18), 376 on Dec 14th. Bowyer's GP, 432 on Jan 6th. Broxbourne GP, 535 on Jan 12th. Cheshunt GP (137), 513 on Jan 12th. Hilfield Park Res, 611 on Oct 12th. Panshanger Park, (14). Rye Meads RSPB (14), 474 in Sept. Stocker's Lake, 336 on Aug 17th. Verulamium Lake (17).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 375 on Jan 13th. Brent Res, 556 on Oct 17th. Broadwater Lake (15), 630 on Jan 27th. Prince's Ski Club (17). Staines Res, 464 on Sept 8th. Stoke Newington Res, 340 on Nov 17th. Wraysbury Res, 389 on Oct 6th.
- Bucks Farlows Lake (13). Highest count was only 96 at Tilehouse Lakes on Jan 4th, but no figures received for Wraysbury GP.
- Kent Danson Park, 260 on Dec 2nd. Ruxley GP, 242 on Dec 8th. Sevenoaks WR, 277 on Jan 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (20), 350 on Sept 8th. Holmethorpe SP (c20). London Wetland Centre (52) and 515 on Jan 13th.
- In Lond Battersea Park, 60+ in Nov and Dec. Buckingham Palace (8), 28 on Feb 20th. Camley Street Natural Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (9), 155 on Sept 11th. Limehouse, up to ten in April and June. St. James's Park (32), 141 on Sept 24th. Surrey Docks, 35 on Apr 23rd. R. Thames near Temple Pier (1 pair nested on raft). Victoria Park (14), 69 on May 10th.

**0433 Common Crane*****Grus grus***

Status: very rare vagrant

- In Lond Regent's Park, a flock of six flew high NW at 08.28 on Sept 3rd (ARD, DJ).

An outstanding sighting for central London during a Tuesday morning rush hour. Only the eighth record for London, all previous birds being singles and no later in the year than July. This was not however the first in Inner London, as there is a report of a flock heard at night from Kensington on May 8th 1924.

**0450 Oystercatcher*****Haematopus ostralegus***

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This is a regular visitor along the Lower Thames in small numbers. At Rainham Marsh four pairs bred and at Dartford Marsh a pair was present but there was no proof of breeding. Highest count at Rainham was nine on May 12th, and at Dartford, six on Aug 10th. At the beginning of the year, one was at Rainham on Jan 29th, and up to four were at four sites on Feb 10th. Between March and August up to four were also seen at Barking Bay, West Thurrock, Crossness East, Greenhithe, Greenwich, Stone Marsh, Swanscombe Marsh and the Thames Barrier.

Away from the Lower Thames, there were no records before Mar 21st and birds were seen in every month until December. As usual, most sightings were in spring and early autumn and the similarity of dates of birds in nearby

areas suggest several birds moved around quite a lot. In the following summary, all dates refer to single birds unless shown otherwise.

- Essex Fishers Green, Mar 28th. Holyfield Marsh GP, March 28th. Netherhall GP, two on May 12th. Rushey mead, Nazeing, July 17th and Sept 2nd. Walthamstow, Apr 16th. Wm. Girling Res, three on May 12th, singles on June 20th and 27th, July 29th, Aug 14th to 20th with two on 15th and 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, Mar 29th. Hilfield Park Res, Aug 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP Apr 29th, May 1st and 7th and Aug 4th.
- Middx KGVI Res, Apr 7th and two on Aug 17th. Staines Res, Nov 14th to 15th, and Nov 24th to 25th. Stanwell Moor, Apr 4th to 10th and Nov 18th.
- Bucks Horton Fields, Aug 9th. Horton GP, Apr 23rd. Queen Mother Res, Apr 23rd and 29th, May 5th, July 15th and 26th, Aug 8th, 9th and 22nd, Oct 4th, 21st and 31st, and Nov 16th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, Dec 7th.
- Surrey Beddington SF May 24th, four on July 23rd and again on Aug 10th, and one on Dec 14th. Island Barn Res, May 12th, QE II Res, Mar 21st, Apr 24th, July 4th, 22nd and 27th, Aug 14th, two on 17th, and one on 20th. London Wetland Centre, May 4th and two on 16th, July 4th, 14th, 22nd and eight on 28th, Oct 31st and Nov 23rd.

**0455 Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

Status: Rare vagrant

**1998 Additional Record**

- Herts Park Street GP, one on May 28th (JFe, LMI *et al*).

Accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee, this late record now becomes the seventh for the London Area.

**0456 Avocet**

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Status: a scarce visitor in all months of the year has bred once.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, singles on Jan 13th (AJAD) and Oct 7th (DSh). Nags Head Fishing Lake, 12 in mid-Dec (BV). Rainham Marsh, one here and at Purfleet from Jan 13th to 15th (SHn, ELBF), singles on Mar 30th (PH) and Apr 21st (MBr), four on May 21st, and one on Dec 18th (HV). West Thurrock, one on Feb 13th (DJo).
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, three on Mar 24th (REd *et al*).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Aug 22nd (REI, PN) and ten on Nov 20th (REI), the latter flock having been reported at KGVI Res earlier in the day.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one flew off SE at 07.05 on Aug 22nd (JAS), presumably seen later at Staines Res.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Feb 2nd (BEW) and two on Apr 1st (PR). Swanscombe Marsh, singles on Jan 27th (BEW) and Sept 15th (DM).
- Surrey Beddington SF, three on Mar 24th and one on Apr 21st (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, ten on Mar 15th (SEB, HBw). Walton Res, 15 on Nov 22nd, with five still present on Nov 25th (SJS).

The first two months saw only singles along the Lower Thames, but birds were more widespread in spring and included a flock of ten in Surrey. Early winter movements again included several large flocks in November and mid-December when parties of birds have a tendency to embark on cross-country expeditions. Reported in all months of the year except June and July.

**0469 Little Ringed Plover*****Charadrius dubius***

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first sighting of the year was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 11th, a fairly typical date. There were few large concentrations in Spring, and the only double-figure flocks noted were 11 at Walton Res on Apr 6th, 11 at Rainham Marsh on Apr 26th, and 13 at the London Wetland Centre on May 12th.

The numbers of pairs showing evidence of breeding is shown in the following table.

|        | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex  | 8                            | 10                             | 4                          | 14            |
| Herts  | 9                            | 10                             | 18                         | 18            |
| Middx  | 3                            | 3                              | 1                          | 4             |
| Bucks  | 0                            | 0                              | 0                          | 0             |
| Kent   | 0                            | 0                              | 0                          | 0             |
| Surrey | 2                            | 7                              | 3                          | 10            |
| Total  | 22                           | 30                             | 16                         | 46            |

The creation of two new reserves, the London Wetland Centre and Rainham Marsh RSPB have been extremely beneficial to this species, and had breeding populations of seven and five pairs respectively. The lack of reported breeding pairs in other counties is however a little worrying, especially in Middx, Bucks and Kent.

The only large flock seen in late summer was a count of 20 at Rainham Marsh on July 30th. The last bird reported was at Kempton NR on Sept 26th.

**0470 Ringed Plover*****Charadrius hiaticula***

Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

All records of breeding are given below, together with counts of wintering birds and migrant flocks. The largest flock on the Thames was c200 and inland, just 17.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh, 18 on Aug 30th and Oct 29th. Belhus Woods CP, one pair bred. Grays to West Thurrock, c200 on Dec 10th. Ingrebourne Valley, one pair bred. Rainham Marsh, three pairs bred; 98 on May 13th and 62 on May 18th. Wm Girling Res, six on Aug 13th, 14th and Sept 10th. |
| Herts | Amwell GP, two pairs bred. Cooper's Green GP, 3-4 pairs bred. Hatfield, one pair present. Panshanger Park, one on nest. Tyttenhanger GP, four broods.   |
| Middx | Kempton NR, one pair with two young, ten on May 18th. Staines Res, nine on Apr 18th. Stanwell Moor, nine on May 17th. Trent Park, eight on Aug 25th.  |

- Bucks No breeding records this year.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 46 on Aug 31st, 31 on Sept 27th, 65 on Nov 16th and 50 on Dec 28th. Greenhithe, 22 on Jan 13th, 27 on Aug 26th, 31 on Sept 1st, eight on Oct 6th and 46 on Nov 17th. Swanscombe Marsh, 24 on Apr 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to ten in May. QE II Res, 17 on Aug 17th. London Wetland Centre, two pairs displaying in May. Walton Res, one pair in breeding season.

**0485 European Golden Plover*****Pluvialis apricaria***

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the Area, scarce winter and passage migrant elsewhere.

As usual, the largest flocks of this winter visitor were found on arable land in parts of Herts and to a lesser extent in Essex. Monthly peak counts are given in the following table for the best sites in these two counties; there were very few seen after mid-April or before mid-October.

|               |                     | Jan  | Feb  | Mar | Apr  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  |
|---------------|---------------------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Essex         | Dagenham Chase      | -    | 110  | -   | -    | 12   | 212  | 583  |
|               | Ongar               | -    | 400  | -   | -    | -    | -    | -    |
|               | Rainham Marsh       | 30   | 528  | 82  | 1    | 1    | 210  | 450  |
| Herts         | Beech Farm          | 2000 | 1    | -   | -    | 17   | -    | 1800 |
|               | Great Amwell        | 2500 | 220  | -   | -    | 250  | 3000 | 2500 |
|               | Hatfield            | -    | 350  | -   | -    | -    | 1200 | 2000 |
|               | Oylers Farm         | 2000 | 350  | -   | 2000 |      |      |      |
|               | Prae Wood/St Albans | -    | 2000 | 250 | -    | -    | -    | 2000 |
|               | Radlett             | -    | -    | -   | 2000 | -    | -    | -    |
|               | Rye Meads RSPB      | 600  | -    | -   | -    | -    | -    | -    |
|               | Stanstead Abbots GP | -    | -    | 350 | -    | 3    | -    | 20   |
|               | Tythenhanger GP     | 300  | 400  | 15  | -    | 300  | 140  | -    |
| Woodoaks Farm | 300                 | -    | -    | -   | -    | 1024 | -    |      |

Whilst most of these counts are by their nature broad estimates, numbers in Essex seem to be lower than in recent winters. The same could not be said about the Herts flocks, although many of these sites are quite close and could involve many of the same birds. Certainly the count at Great Amwell in November is a very high figure for the London Area.

Away from these two counties, whilst not uncommon in small parties, large flocks are normally unusual, but it now seems that there is a regular flock which uses fields near Windsor and the Jubilee River (both Berkshire) which are now also found at Withy Bridge (Bucks) and fields near Sipson (Middx), both within the LNHS recording boundary. The last bird in spring was at Rainham Marsh on May 17th, and two sites recorded birds on Aug 18th as the first seen in the autumn. Records from the other counties are listed below.

- Middx Fernyhill Farm, 300+ on Mar 29th. Kempton NR, one on Feb 4th. SITA quarry, Sipson, 145 on Feb 23rd. Staines Moor, one on Oct 31st. Staines Res, one on Aug 23rd and seven on Sept 27th. Vicarage Farm, 15 on Jan 15th.
- Bucks Horton Fields, one on Aug 18th. Queen Mother Res, two on Sept 13th and one on Oct 18th. Withy Bridge, Iver, 325 on Jan 12th, 450 on Nov 7th and 145 on Dec 12th.

- Kent Brasted and Hogtrough Hill, 30 on Jan 8th and one on Aug 23rd. Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Jan 6th, Oct 19th and Dec 21st—22nd, and 28 on Dec 25th. Epsom Common, 65 on Jan 4th. Holmethorpe SP, eight on Jan 8th. London Wetland Centre, ten on Jan 6th, two on Jan 30th, three on Mar 15th, one on Sept 28th, 11 on Oct 18th and one on Nov 3rd. Oxted, Hurst Green, four on Oct 20th. QE II Res, singles on Oct 17th and Dec 31st. West Ewell, one on Nov 4th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, one on Oct 19th.

**0486 Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor

- Essex Grays, one on Dec 8th and seven on 10th. KGV Res, one on Apr 4th. Rainham Marsh, noted on 17 dates during the year with a max of eight on May 17th and Dec 18th. West Thurrock, two on Dec 22nd.
- Herts The Grove, Watford, one flying over in thick fog on Jan 5th.
- Middx Staines Res, one flew N in fog on Jan 6th, and one from May 15th to 17th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 21st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, recorded on ten dates during the year (numbers of birds in brackets)—Jan 1st (4) and 6th (10), May 18th (2), Oct 26th (1), Nov 2nd (1), 21st (9) and 23rd (2), Dec 14th (5), 22nd (5) and 28th (4). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Jan 2nd, Mar 15th and May 17th, three on Sept 29th and five on Dec 11th. London Wetland Centre, one flew SE on Mar 15th. QE II Res, seven on May 7th, singles on Oct 10th, Nov 3rd and Dec 12th). Walton Res, one on Jan 10th. Walton-on-Thames, one on Aug 15th.

Four sightings of singles at sites away from the Thames in January are probably linked to the cold weather during the month. Otherwise, well over half the sightings were along the Lower Thames this year, and certainly most of the largest counts. There were only three records of more than one bird away from the river, all in Surrey.

**0493 Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

The total of about 165 pairs breeding or holding territory during the year is a very high figure indeed, but includes some high concentrations of breeding birds at certain key areas such as Beddington SF (24 territories) and the new reserves at Rainham Marsh (15 pairs) and the London Wetland Centre (13 pairs), as well as several other sites which held eight or nine pairs. There is no doubt that such places will play an increasingly important role in securing the future for this species in the London area for what has become a declining breeding species. In the winter months, the largest flocks in each sector are given, as well as all Inner London records. The size of flocks at Rainham Marsh in winter is particularly notable.



- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 592 on Jan 13th. Dagenham Chase, 600 on Feb 21st. Mollands Lane GPs, 500 on Dec 17th. Netherhall GP, 650 on Dec 30th. Rainham Marsh, 5,000 on Jan 29th, 3,500 on Feb 15th, 3,174 on Nov 17th and 3,500 on Dec 22nd.
- Herts Beech Farm, 1,000 in Jan. Great Amwell, 1,000 on Dec 21st. Hatfield, 500 on Dec 27th. Hatfield Aerodrome, 600 on Nov 28th. Oylers Farm, 512 on Jan 28th. Rye Meads RSPB, 900 on Dec 14th. St. Albans, 1,000 on Feb 28th. Symondshyde Farm, 500 on Dec 19th.
- Middx Kempton NR, 1,200 in Jan, 1,154 in Feb and 1,273 on Dec 14th.
- Bucks Withy Bridge, Iver, 600 on Jan 10th and 520 on Dec 12th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1,024 in Jan. Swanscombe Marsh, 500 on Dec 9th.
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP, 1,500 on Jan 16th.
- In Lond Chepstow Road, W2, ten flew N on Mar 17th (SEB). Hyde Park, four flew SW on Nov 20th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on Jan 14th, Mar 4th, June 27th, July 16th and three on Dec 22nd (ARD, DJ).

**0496 Knot *Calidris canutus***  
 Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, a juvenile from Aug 27th to 31st (HV *et al*), two juveniles on Sept 3rd (PSt), and singles on Sept 5th, 8th and an adult on Oct 10th (DFI). Walthamstow Res, one flew N on Nov 16th (DGDL).
- Herts Amwell GP, six flew W on Nov 3rd (BR).
- Middx Brent Res, one on Dec 21st (RB, ASMS). Staines Res, one on Apr 23rd (CL, PN) and five on Sept 1st (REI).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Jan 13th (CL) and Apr 22nd and 26th (JAS).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on May 10th (PR) and one on Nov 16th (BEW). Swanscombe Marsh, two on Nov 10th (BEW).
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Dec 11th (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, two on May 17th (JPPW). QE II Res, one on Sept 12th (DMH).

A typical scattering of birds throughout the year, in parties of up to six, with most in autumn and early winter, but lacking any of the large flocks that have occasionally turned up at some sites in recent years.

**0497 Sanderling *Calidris alba***  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex KGV Res, one on May 13th and 14th (AM). Rainham Marsh, two on May 13th (DMn) and four on 17th (RSg). Wm Girling Res, one on Aug 1st, three on Aug 3rd and 4th (PJV).
- Middx KGV Res, two on Apr 7th (KLP) and two on Aug 10th and 11th (PN). Ponders End Lake, one on May 31st (SC *et al*). Staines Res, in May singles on 1st, 3rd, 7th and 9th, seven on 12th, four on 13th, three on 14th, two on 15th, three on 16th and one on 17th, four on 21st and singles on 26th and 27th (mo).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Apr 16th and May 28th, four on July 31st and two on Sept 3rd (CDRH, CL).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 13th and four on Nov 3rd (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, five on May 11th, one on May 12th and five on May 17th (BENHG, JPPW). QE II Res, two on May 7th, singles on May 8th, 13th, and 31st, July 15th and 18th and Aug 19th (mo).

In a rather mediocre spring passage from Apr 7th numbers began to look promising before mid-May, but tailed off considerably thereafter and no flocks exceeded seven for the rest of the month (and there were no June records, which is unusual for this late spring migrant). About 14 were seen in July and August, in parties of up to four, until Sept 3rd, but the four at Beddington in November were rather late.

**0501 Little Stint *Calidris minutus***

Status: passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

Essex KGV Res, one on Sept 10th (RJW) and two on Dec 8th (AM). Rainham Marsh, singles on May 13th, May 19th and Oct 6th (DMn).

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 20th (RPh).

Middx Staines Res, one on Jan 1st (KLP).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 23rd (GDJM). Walton Res, one on July 31st (SJS).

As happens in some years, an almost complete lack of autumn juveniles in 2002 meant a really poor year for this species with only nine records involving ten birds in total.

**0502 Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii***

Status: rare but annual passage migrant.

Essex Rainham Marsh, one on May 13th (DMn, SRP).

Middx Ponders End Lake, one on May 22nd (SC *et al*).

A fairly predictable selection of spring stopovers during the May peak for this popular stint, whose undemonstrative nature can make it very easy to overlook.

**0507 Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos***

Status: rare vagrant.

Essex Rainham Marsh, two juveniles on Sept 21st and 22nd (HV, IW, RJW *et al*), one of which was probably taken by a Sparrowhawk on 22nd (KB), and a third juvenile on Sept 29th (SBn).

Kent Sevenoaks WR, a juvenile photographed on Oct 7th (CS, JTr *et al*).

Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile from Oct 3rd to 12th (JPA *et al*).

Another five records of this increasingly frequent visitor, typically all juveniles. The presence of two 'Pecs' (and a Red-backed Shrike) at Rainham on the RSPB reserve's very first open day on Sept 21st certainly boosted

attendance, as about 2,500 people turned up on the day. No doubt this site will provide a very profitable hunting ground for London and Essex wader aficionados in years to come, once the new reserve is open.

**0509 Curlew Sandpiper*****Calidris ferruginea***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, most regular in autumn.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, two on May 12th (WeBS) and adults on Aug 18th (AAB) and 21st (KB).
- Middx Kempton NR, one on May 19th (DJM *et al*).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, a juvenile on Aug 31st (DM).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 11th (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 1st (SEB).

As with Little Stint an almost complete lack of any juveniles in autumn.

**0510 Purple Sandpiper*****Calidris maritima***

Status: very scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile/first-winter bird on Sept 20th (JAS).

It is always a surprise when this chunky shorebird is seen away from a rocky coast, although a concrete-banked reservoir seems to be the best bet for an inland site.

**0512 Dunlin*****Calidris alpina***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Along the Lower Thames, this is mainly a winter visitor with only significant numbers present between November and February. No counts over 26 were reported outside these months. The following table gives monthly maxima for both shores of the Thames during these months.

|       |                   | <i>Jan</i> | <i>Feb</i> | <i>Mar</i> | <i>Oct</i> | <i>Nov</i> | <i>Dec</i> |
|-------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh | 920        | 958        | 261        | -          | -          | -          |
|       | Rainham Marsh     | 350        | 250        | 12         | 15         | 1432       | 540        |
|       | West Thurrock     | -          | 200        | -          | -          | -          | 5000       |
| Kent  | Crossness East    | -          | 70         | -          | -          | -          | -          |
|       | Dartford Marsh    | 150        | 21         | 149        | 3          | 1100       | 1300       |
|       | Greenhithe        | 450        | 65         | -          | -          | -          | -          |
|       | Stone Marsh       | -          | 250        | -          | -          | -          | -          |
|       | Swanscombe Marsh  | 84         | -          | 54         | -          | 800        | 85         |

At sites away from the Lower Thames numbers remained rather low throughout the year. A few wintering birds were found at the beginning of the year in the Walton area of Surrey, but none elsewhere, and none at the end of the year. More widespread during both passage periods, but again few large flocks were seen. The highest counts for each county are shown below, away from Kent and Essex Thames-side locations.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, ten on Mar 26th. Wm Girling Res, 13 on Aug 9th.  
 Herts No more than one or two throughout the year at three sites.  
 Middx Kempton NR, 15 on Apr 10th. Staines Res, highest counts were 17 on Jan 4th, 13 on Apr 18th and 15 on Sept 11th and 12th.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, eight on Sept 18th.  
 Kent Singles only at Sevenoaks WR on 11 dates.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 22 in December. Island Barn Res, up to 30 in January. QE II Res, 41 on Jan 16th, 46 on Feb 16th, 40 on Mar 2nd, 11 on May 15th and nine on Aug 16th. London Wetland Centre, 25 on Mar 15th. Thorpe Water Park, 32 on Mar 3rd.

**0517 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on July 14th. Rainham Marsh, seen in every month of the year with maximum counts for each month as follows:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2   | 2   | 25  | 9   | 1   | 1   | 5   | 3   | 11  | 5   | 3   | 3   |

Small numbers wintered at Rainham Marsh at both ends of the year, and there was a large influx on Mar 22nd when 25 birds arrived for one day only, otherwise the passage peaks were nine on Apr 5th and 11 on Sept 12th.

- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on July 18th and 19th. Tyttenhanger GP, two between Jan and the end of March, with three on Mar 28th and 29th.  
 Middx Canon's Lake, Edgware, two on May 1st. Kempton NR, two on Mar 24th. Staines Res, two on Mar 30th and 31st, and three on Apr 1st; in autumn, one from Sept 7th to 10th, two from Sept 29th to Oct 2nd, with one until 6th which visited both KGVI Res and Stanwell Moor during this period.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Jan 8th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, three on Jan 2nd, and then singles on Apr 7th, July 24th, Sept 9th and 25th, and Oct 6th. London Wetland Centre, three on Jan 6th, singles on Apr 8th-11th, July 15th-18th, Sept 7th, 8th and 14th, and Nov 23rd. QE II Res, one on Aug 4th, 6th and 17th, also at Walton Res on Aug 6th.

A good year for this species at Rainham Marsh; the spring count in March is in fact the highest number seen in London since May 1994. By comparison, reported from few other sites in parties of only up to three birds.

**0518 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus***

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

Multiple arrivals at Rainham in early October were at an extremely high level, and produced record numbers for the London Area when the whole site was covered on Oct 10th. Overall, October records were far higher than most years, and also included up to 15 at Beddington. In the following summary, highest counts are given for each site at the beginning and the end of the year.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Essex  | Dagenham Chase (1:0). Dagenham Corridor (1:0). KGV Res (1:0). Mollands Lane GPs (1:0). Rainham Marsh (1:32). Sawbridgeworth Marsh (1:0). Sewardstone Marsh (2:3). Walthamstow Marsh (1:0). Walthamstow Res (1:0). Waterworks NR (3:0). |
| Herts  | Amwell GP (1:3). Beech Farm (0:1). Broxbourne GP (1:0). Coopers Green GP (1:0). Rye Meads RSPB (3:3). Tyttenhanger GP (2:2).   |
| Middx  | Brent Res (1:0). Kempton NR (1:1). Ponders End Lake (0:1). Staines Moor (0:1). Trent Park (1:0).   |
| Bucks  | Horton GP (9:3). Old Slade Lake (0:1). Wraysbury GP (7:1).   |
| Kent   | Swanscombe Marsh (1:0). Sydenham (1:0).  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF (6:15). Fetcham Mill Pond (1:0). Hersham GP (3:0). Hogsmill SF (2:0). Holmethorpe SP (2:1). London Wetland Centre (1:0).   |

**0519 Common Snipe*****Gallinago gallinago***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce breeder.

The following gives the highest winter and passage records at the main sites together with all breeding season records. There were no proved breeding records this year, or any birds seen in Inner London. The largest flock coincided with a count of the whole site at Rainham Marsh on Oct 10th. Counts of over 200 birds are unusual and all such recent counts have come from Thames-side marshes.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Essex  | Cornmill Meadows, 44 on Mar 2nd and 37 on Sept 29th. Dagenham Chase, 44 on Mar 3rd. Rainham Marsh, 45 on Jan 26th, 69 on Feb 10th, 82 on Mar 3rd, 103 on Sept 21st, 205 on Oct 10th, 60 on Nov 17th, and 64 on Dec 31st; also singles on May 12th and June 1st. |
| Herts  | Amwell GP, 102 on Jan 21st and 120 on Dec 1st; also 1–3 throughout May–June. Beech Farm, 38 on Dec 22nd. Great Amwell, 26 on Mar 17th. Rye Meads RSPB, 45 on Feb 21st and a pair present in the summer.   |
| Middx  | Brent Res, 31 on Mar 17th and 30 on Dec 21st. Kempton NR. 88 on Mar 21st and 31 on Nov 17th. Staines Moor, 55 on Dec 20th.  |
| Bucks  | Horton GP, 35 on Mar 16th. Wraysbury GP, 45 on Feb 10th.  |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh, 30+ on Jan 1st. Sevenoaks WR, 55 on Mar 3rd and 62 on Dec 26th. Swanscombe Marsh, 75 on Mar 3rd.  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF, 55 in Jan, 40 in Oct, and 50 in Dec. Hersham GP, 80 on Mar 29th. Holmethorpe SP, 37 on Jan 7th. London Wetland Centre, 39 on Jan 26th, 46 on Feb 5th, 54 on Oct 12th and 46 on Nov 6th; also one on May 5th, 6th and 19th.                       |

**0529 Woodcock*****Scolopax rusticola***

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

All records from breeding sites, all Inner London records, and counts of more than one outside of the breeding season are given.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Essex | Copped Hall, two on Nov 28th. Fishers Green, two on Jan 6th and Feb 10th. Epping Forest, roding birds reported from Long Running (2–3) and Monks |
|-------|--|

Wood (1). Sewardstone Marsh, two on Jan 6th. Tylers Common, Upminster, two on Dec 8th.

- Herts Hilfield Park Res, two on Jan 5th. North Mymms Park, two on Oct 30th and Nov 16th. Rye Meads RSPB, two on Nov 27th. Whippendell Woods, one flew over the nearby A41 on July 25th.
- Middx Stanmore Common, at least one roding in May. Trent Park, three on Jan 7th and two on Feb 14th, Nov 17th and Dec 10th.
- Bucks Only one sighting, outside the breeding season.
- Kent Four singles reported outside the breeding season.
- Surrey Bookham Common, one on Apr 16th. Headley Heath, one roding on June 8th. Limsfield Chart, one roding in May and June. Nower Wood, one 'present' on CBC territory in May. Wimbledon Common, two on Mar 5th and 13th.
- In Lond Hyde Park, one on Mar 26th (TF). Regent's Park, one on Nov 4th and 5th (ARD, DJ).

### 0532 Black-tailed Godwit

### *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable but increasing numbers.

There were records from somewhere along the Lower Thames shore in every month of the year except June, and monthly maxima for the most productive sites are shown in the table below.

|       |                | J  | F  | M | A | M  | J | J  | A  | S | O  | N   | D |
|-------|----------------|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|-----|---|
| Essex | Barking Bay    | 1  | 10 | 1 | - | -  | - | 3  | -  | - | -  | -   | - |
|       | Rainham Marsh  | 41 | 19 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 27 | 18 | 4 | 6  | 23  |   |
| Kent  | Dartford Marsh | 50 | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | 1 | 1  | 1   | - |
|       | Greenhithe     | 31 | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | 4  | -   | - |
|       | Swanscombe     | 32 | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | 20 | 180 | - |

The presence of wintering flocks along the Lower Thames dates back to only as recently as December 1997, so after the almost the complete lack of any records for the previous winter, 2000/01, nor any sign of any at the end of 2001, it was pleasing to see up to 50 in January. At the end of the year, one count of 245 along the Grays/West Thurrock shoreline on Dec 10th becomes the new record count, eclipsing the 144 in Feb 1998. The continued development of permanent shallow-water wetland habitat at the new RSPB reserve at Rainham Marsh meant this site claimed nearly all the records of spring and autumn passage birds along the Thames, with an autumn peak of 27 on Aug 30th.

Away from the Thames, all records at inland sites are shown in full under counties below.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, singles on Apr 21st and Aug 24th. Dagenham Chase, two on July 9th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on July 10th.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Sept 6th.
- Middx Stanwell Moor, four on May 23rd and again on July 11th, and one on July 30th and Aug 1st.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, four on Mar 24th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 9th; recorded regularly from July 4th-Aug 22nd with maxima of five on July 6th, nine on July 10th, seven on July 11th, five on July 20th, six on July 31st, five on Aug 1st and six on Aug 2nd. QE II Res, six flew E on July 10th.

A very poor year for inland migrants, with the notable exception being the London Wetland Centre where an almost continual turnover of migrants was recorded during the peak July/August period.

**0534 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

During the spring passage exceptionally large numbers occurred in May along opposite banks of the Lower Thames at both Rainham Marsh and Dartford Marsh. The table below covers counts each day where available for both sites during May 2002.

Lower Thames daily counts during May 2002

| MAY      | 1 | 2 | 6  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 25 | 27 |
|----------|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Rainham  | - | 5 | 14 | 37 | -  | 16 | -  | 20 | 15 | 7  | 8  | 3  | 8  | 1  | 3  |
| Dartford | 5 | - | -  | 45 | 29 | 26 | 24 | -  | 15 | -  | 8  | -  | -  | -  | 3  |

Even though there looks to have been a good deal of duplication between the two sites from one day to the next, such numbers are wholly unprecedented for either place. Other records from these two sites in months other than May are included below as well as all records from other localities.

Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Jan 19th. Creekmouth, Barking, one on Dec 20th. KGV Res, one on Apr 24th. Rainham Marsh, one on Apr 2nd, one on June 1st, two on July 3rd, singles on Aug 23rd and Sept 10th, and then in December, seven on 11th, four on 14th and five on 18th. Sewardstone, one flew N on Dec 12th. West Thurrock, one on Dec 10th.

Herts Amwell GP, two on May 11th. Cheshunt GP, two flew N on Dec 11th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Apr 27th. Stanstead Abbots GP, one on May 9th.

Middx Kempton NR, two on Apr 25th, one until 28th. KGV Res, two on May 7th. Staines Res, one on Apr 24th, two on Apr 25th and 26th, one on 27th, two on May 7th, five on May 8th, three on 10th, and one on May 12th; on Sept 4th a flock of 26 flew in from N and off to the W in the evening.

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Sept 7th, and in December, six on 14th, five on 21st, seven on 22nd and two on 28th. Sevenoaks WR, one on May 6th.

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Nov 17th. Island Barn Res, one E on Apr 7th. Limpsfield Chart, eight NNE on May 10th. London Wetland Centre, two circled on Oct 3rd. QE II Res, a total of 39 in four flocks flew N or NNE between 05.15 and 07.00 on May 7th and one on Oct 12th. Walton Res, one from Apr 22nd to 24th.

An exceptionally good year, with an excellent spring passage between Apr 2nd and June 1st, where the large numbers on the Thames peaked between May 6th and 11th, and shared a similar timing at inland sites. Less common in autumn, but typically one large autumn large flock, at Staines (in

September), and a small influx from Dec 11th along the Thames, at least two birds of which carried on N up the Lea Valley.

**0538 Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
Status: regular passage migrant.

Essex KGV Res, one on Apr 29th. Paynes Lane GP, one on May 2nd. Rainham Marsh, spring passage from Apr 15th to May 19th with highest counts of 11 on Apr 25th, 12 on 26th, nine on 27th, 17 on May 2nd, 16 on May 3rd, seven on May 6th and four on May 10th, no more than three on 11 other dates. In autumn, an early bird on June 28th, and singles on Aug 11th, 13th and 15th. Rushmead, Nazeing, one on Aug 3rd. Wm Girling Res, 12 on July 27th.

Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Apr 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, ten on May 6th.

Middx KGV Res, singles on Apr 23rd and May 12th. Staines Res, seven on Apr 23rd, 12 on 28th, two on 29th, one on May 6th, three on 10th and one on 14th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 29th. Tottenham Marsh, one on May 2nd.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Apr 17th and two on May 14th.

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 19th, six on 21st and ten on May 7th. Island Barn Res, 22 flew E on May 7th and one on Aug 18th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 22nd and May 6th, and two on May 7th. QE II Res, one on Apr 20th, two N on 27th, two on May 2nd, 19 NE in two flocks on 7th, seven on 10th, and one on 27th. Walton Res, two on Apr 22nd and six W on 30th. Wandsworth Common, one over on July 19th.

Spring birds dominated a very good year even more so than usual, with passage noted between Apr 15th and May 27th. In contrast, after an early bird on June 28th, the autumn consisted of 20 birds—one flock of 12 and eight singles—with none later than Aug 15th.

**0541 Curlew** *Numenius arquata*  
Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Wintering birds were present at both ends of the year on the Lower Thames in quite good numbers, although not always in the same place every month. Highest counts are given for each site, followed by all other records.

|       |                  | J  | F  | M  | A  | M | J | J  | A | S | O  | N  | D  |
|-------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Essex | Barking Bay      | 1  | -  | 1  | -  | - | - | -  | - | - | -  | -  | -  |
|       | Rainham Marsh    | 11 | 3  | 2  | 10 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 3  | 17 | 20 |
|       | West Thurrock    | 15 | 17 | -  | -  | - | - | -  | - | - | 12 | -  | 24 |
| Kent  | Dartford Marsh   | 1  | -  | 9  | 24 | - | - | 2  | 1 | 1 | 12 | 22 | 22 |
|       | Swanscombe Marsh | 19 | 24 | 20 | 2  | 1 | - | -  | 1 | - | 1  | 1  | 17 |

Essex KGV Res, singles on Mar 26th and Apr 28th.

Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Oct 14th. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on Apr 27th, July 28th and Aug 18th. South Mimms, two on Jan 26th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Mar 23rd and Aug 14th.

Middx Alexandra Park, one on Apr 24th. Brent Res, one on Mar 15th. KGV Res, one on Feb 10th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 22nd and June 2nd.



- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Apr 17th, June 20th and Aug 10th, three on Aug 16th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR singles on July 7th and Dec 11th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two flew W on June 16th, singles on Sept 14th, Nov 1st and Dec 11th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 4th and Mar 16th, two on Mar 22nd, singles on Mar 24th, Apr 2nd and June 6th, nine on June 15th, two on June 26th, one on July 7th, two on Nov 1st, singles on Nov 10th, 13th, Dec 9th and 17th. QE II Res, one on July 6th, three on 7th, two on 12th, singles on Aug 23rd and Sept 1st and three on Nov 17th.

**0545 Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant

- Essex Rainham Marsh, singles on Jan 4th, Feb 20th, June 26th and 27th and July 12th; in Aug, singles on 13th, 19th, 24th, 25th and 30th.
- Middx Stanwell Moor, a juvenile from Aug 25th-31st .
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile on Aug 21st.
- Kent Bexley Wood, two flew W on Aug 6th. Sevenoaks WR, one on July 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 7th. London Wetland Centre, a flock of 12 on May 7th (JPPW *et al*), and eight on Nov 20th, flew off high SE. QE II and Walton Res, one on June 8th.

The impressive flock in Surrey on May 7th arrived around the time of some spectacular spring wader movements through London. In the past all large numbers have been during the autumn, and the previous highest count of 11 at Rainham Marsh was as long ago as August 1969. Another flock of eight at the same site followed in November, which is equally unusual.



**0546 Redshank*****Tringa totanus***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, but decreasing breeder.

Peak monthly counts from selected Lower Thames sites during the winter months are shown in the table below.

|       |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh | 48  | 70  | 41  | -   | -   | -   |
|       | Rainham Marsh     | 688 | 143 | 165 | 34  | 130 | 207 |
|       | West Thurrock     | -   | 200 | -   | -   | -   | 340 |
| Kent  | Dartford Marsh    | 23  | 60  | 22  | 94  | 139 |     |
|       | Greenhithe        | 16  | 84  | 23  | 11  | 13  | 90  |
|       | Stone Marsh       | 16  | 84  | 23  | -   | -   | -   |
|       | Swanscombe Marsh  | 30  | -   | 23  | -   | 29  | 19  |

Other good counts from the Thames included 62 at Littlebrook PS on Oct 27th, and 45 at Northfleet on Oct 9th. All breeding records, and the largest flocks at inland sites are given below. In spring, numbers were at their peak at the end of March.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, six pairs in April, and a juvenile seen in July. Dagenham Chase, one pair probably bred. Ingrebourne Valley, four pairs bred. Mollands Lane GPs, ten on Apr 4th. Rainham Marsh, 18 territories in June.
- Herts Amwell GP, one brood seen. Great Amwell, seven on Mar 25th. Rye Meads RSPB, one pair may have attempted to breed, but no young seen. Tyttenhanger GP, some territorial behaviour was seen in June: also seven on Mar 26th.
- Middx Kempton NR, 30 on Jan 29th and 26 on Feb 5th; at least two pairs bred successfully. Staines Res, 29 on Mar 30th. Stanwell Moor, up to six in April and May.
- Bucks Horton GP, up to four in April and May.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two pairs displaying in April and one May, but unlikely to have bred.
- Surrey Beddington SF, three territories reported, and one family party seen. Island Barn Res, 19 on Feb 6th. London Wetland Centre, two pairs nested, but no young seen. Walton Res, one pair in spring but no young seen. Also 26 on Mar 29th, 28 on Apr 6th and 25 on Dec 31st.

**0548 Greenshank*****Tringa nebularia***

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

This year there were records in every month of the year except November, and a surprising number of winter records, especially in Hertfordshire. In January one was at Otterspool on Jan 20th, and one arrived at Tyttenhanger on Feb 9th where it stayed until at least early April. One was present at Rainham Marsh on Mar 3rd, followed by another at QE II Res on Mar 20th. The latter was probably the same at Walton Res from Apr 1st-14th. At Rainham, spring passage was regular from Apr 12th to June 1st, and peaked at 11 in May, but no more than four were seen at other sites. Rainham also had the first regular returning birds by June 21st, and the peak autumn count of 26 in July. Elsewhere, counts of up to 11 were noted. The last autumn

record was on Oct 30th. In December, singles were seen at Beddington SF on 11th, Rainham Marsh on 18th, Tyttenhanger GP from Dec 20th-27th, and at Beech Farm, Coopers Green GP and Hatfield Aerodrome all on Dec 22nd. The last four of these records may all refer to the same bird.

Details of highest counts in each sector are given below.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Essex  | Rainham Marsh, 11 on May 9th, eight on 12th and 14th, six on June 1st, 26 on July 20th and ten on Aug 13th. Wm Girling Res, 11 on Aug 26th and 27th.             |
| Herts  | Beech Farm, three on Sept 1st. Hatfield, four on Aug 24th. Tyttenhanger GP, three on Aug 18th.   |
| Middx  | Kempton NR, three on July 20th and Sept 1st. Staines Res, four on Sept 11th.   |
| Bucks  | Queen Mother Res, two on Aug 29th was the only record.   |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh, 11 on Aug 18th.  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF, up to four between May 4th and 12th and from July 14th- Sept 29th, with a maximum of six in Aug. London Wetland Centre, four from July 15th-17th. |

**0551 Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*  
Status: rare vagrant

Herts Amwell GP, a juvenile/first-winter from Oct 18th to 28th (BR et al).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee and the eighth London record. The previous seven records were all in autumn, with arrival dates between Aug 21st and Oct 15th, so this is the latest to appear.

**0552 Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*  
Status: rare vagrant

Herts Rye Meads RSPB, an adult from Sept 13th to 24th (P. Roper et al).

With only 28 previous records in Britain of this North American migrant wader, this is still quite a rarity, especially at inland sites. There are three previous London records spanning 1967 to 1977, the first of which was from this site. The many who visited Rye Meads on the first weekend of this bird's stay must be grateful to those who arranged access to this star bird. Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**0553 Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*  
Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, commonest in autumn.

Peak monthly counts for the main localities are shown below, for all months except May and June.

|        |                    | <i>J</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>J</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>O</i> | <i>N</i> | <i>D</i> |
|--------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Essex  | Chingford Marsh    | 2        | -        | 9        | -        | -        | 6        | 10       | -        | -        | -        |
|        | Cornmill Meadows   | -        | 1        | -        | -        | 3        | 11       | 5        | 1        | -        | -        |
|        | Ingrebourne Valley | -        | -        | -        | 1        | 9        | 2        | -        | -        | -        | -        |
|        | Rainham Marsh      | 2        | 1        | 3        | 12       | 26       | 37       | 27       | 2        | 2        | 1        |
|        | Wm Girling Res     | 1        | 5        | 14       | 4        | 7        | 4        | 6        | 5        | 7        | 4        |
| Herts  | Rye Meads RSPB     | 7        | 4        | 4        | 35       | 5        | 5        | 8        | 9        | 6        | 4        |
| Surrey | Beddington SF      | 11       | 10       | 17       | 5        | 42       | 28       | 13       | 9        | 11       | 7        |
|        | Island Barn Res    | 3        | 4        | 3        | 2        | 2        | 1        | 5        | 8        | 7        | 7        |

Beddington had the highest numbers in most of the winter months, and a record count for the site on July 24th. Along with Rainham Marsh, both sites stood out above all others as prime localities for this species in autumn, and of national importance. Rainham seems to be returning to its heyday in the 1960s and 70s when large numbers occurred here. The last bird in spring was on May 9th, and the first in the autumn on June 9th.

#### 0554 Wood Sandpiper

#### *Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

Essex Chingford Marsh, one on Aug 8th (AC). Cornmill Meadows, five on Aug 1st, six on 2nd, four on 3rd, and one on 4th (mo). KGV Res, one on Aug 4th (AM). Rainham Marsh, one on May 21st (HV), singles between July 30th and Aug 30th, with two on Aug 5th, 12th and 24th (mo). Wm Girling Res, one from July 21st-28th (PJV).

Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Aug 2nd-3rd (RMRG).

Middx SITA quarry, Sipson, one on Aug 9th (ADW).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 22nd, one on Aug 3rd and two Aug 6th-9th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, two on Aug 3rd and 4th with one remaining until 7th (BENHG).

Rather a poor year for this species, with only two spring records and most sites only getting ones and twos in the autumn except Cornmill Meadows, where up to six were seen. There was a minor influx in early August, but only Rainham Marsh had records after Aug 9th.

#### 0556 Common Sandpiper

#### *Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Wintering birds were present at 13 sites in groups of up to three birds. Most were found in the Lea Valley or along the Lower Thames, but one was in the Queen Mary/Walton/Island Barn area in early January, and two at QE II and Walton Res in November and December. A group of seven at Walthamstow Res on Mar 28th, were probably all wintering birds, and passage was noted from April and lasted until June 9th, peaking at eight at Rainham on May 18th. Several sites had birds before the end of June (from 24th) and August saw the largest counts of 34 at both KGV Res and Wm Girling Res.

The following table gives monthly maxima for the main sites during the best migration months, and all Inner London records are shown below this.

|        |                   | Apr | May | Jul | Aug | Sep |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Barking Bay/Marsh | -   | -   | -   | 26  | -   |
|        | KGV Res           | 3   | 2   | 7   | 15  | 8   |
|        | Rainham Marsh     | -   | 8   | 9   | 11  | 3   |
|        | Walthamstow Res   | 4   | 3   | 10  | 22  | 7   |
|        | Wm Girling Res    | -   | 1   | 20  | 34  | 8   |
| Middx  | KGVI Res          | -   | 2   | 10  | 34  | 4   |
|        | Staines Res       | 3   | 3   | 4   | 10  | 3   |
|        | Wraysbury Res     | -   | -   | 14  | 10  | -   |
| Bucks  | Queen Mother Res  | 5   | 3   | 10  | 21  | 2   |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh    | 1   | 3   | 1   | 14  | 5   |
|        | Swanscombe Marsh  | -   | 4   | 16  | 8   | 1   |
| Surrey | Beddington SF     | 3   | 3   | 10  | 12  | 4   |
|        | QE II Res         | -   | 5   | 14  | 15  | 3   |

In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on July 10th (BPBR). Regent's Park, singles on May 7th and 13th, two on May 16th, and singles on July 20th, Aug 3rd and 11th (ARD, DJ). Victoria Park, one on May 2nd (BDG).

### 0561 Turnstone

### *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

There were very few Lower Thames winter records this year, but they did include a count of 20 at Grays. A record in Surrey on Mar 22nd is a very early date for a spring migrant, as few are expected before mid-April. There was a small arrival in the first half of May, but numbers did not exceed four birds, and there were none later than May 21st. In autumn, seen between July 21st and Sept 23rd, and there were parties of up to six in July, but only singles in August and September.

- Essex Grays, nine on Feb 10th and 20 on Dec 28th. KGV Res, singles on May 7th and July 31st. Rainham Marsh, singles on May 13th and 14th, Sept 15th and Dec 18th. Wm Girling Res, singles on July 21st and 28th, and from Aug 21st to 28th.
- Middx KGVI Res, two on July 27th, one on Aug 20th and 24th. Staines Res, in May one on 6th, three on 7th-9th, one on 12th and two on 14th; in autumn, one on July 27th and three on July 28th, and in Aug singles on 11th, 16th, 18th, 19th and 20th, and one on Sept 7th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on May 12th, one on July 22nd and 27th, two on July 31st, and singles on Aug 10th and from Sept 20th -23rd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Nov 30th. Northfleet, one on Dec 9th. Swanscombe Marsh, singles on Mar 3rd, Aug 19th and Dec 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 7th, four on 8th, one on 11th and four on 12th. London Wetland Centre, two on May 21st. QE II Res, singles on Mar 22nd and July 24th, six on July 31st, and singles on Aug 4th and 8th, and on Sep 1st.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one flew SW on Aug 3rd (ARD).

**0564 Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*  
Status: rare passage migrant

Essex Wm Girling Res, a juvenile on Sept 16th (RMC, PJV).

The last five birds in London have all been autumn juveniles, with the most recent spring record in May 1996. London records now total 23.

**0565 Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria*  
Status: rare visitor, normally in late autumn and winter.

**2001 Correction**

Essex Banbury Res, the correct dates for this record were Oct 13th-17th and the original finder was DGDL.

**0567 Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
Status: regular, but scarce, autumn migrant; rare in spring and summer

Herts Amwell GP, an adult flew N on June 6th (BR).

Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile on Sept 23rd (JPA). QE II Res, a dark phase adult flew NE on May 10th, and a pale-phase bird, also seen over Walton Res, on July 31st (DMH).

The two spring records include a late bird in June. There has not been a bird in this month since 1990. Only two seen in autumn, and July records are also unusual, although not unprecedented.

**2000 Additional Record**

Middx Staines Res, a dark morph bird flew over on Nov 19th (FRC, DJM).

This bird was seen at Queen Mother Res earlier the same day.

**Skua Sp** *Stercorarius Sp*

Surrey Putney, two flew W or SSW on Oct 2nd (RJA).

In Lond Regent's Park, two dark phase birds flew NE on May 2nd (ARD, DJ).

Both sightings were to be considered to be of Arctic Skuas.

**0575 Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*  
Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant

The following table gives the approximate total of birds present in the Area during each month of the year.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 10  | 23  | 15  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 8   | 5   | 5   | 11  | 11  | 20  |

All dates refer to individual birds unless shown otherwise in brackets. At several sites, many birds overlap in the dates they were present, and this is shown where possible.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, Jan 23rd. Chingford, Feb 13th. Copped Hall, Mar 13th. Creekmouth, Barking, Oct 27th. Dagenham Chase, Dec 31st. Fishers Green, Sept 25th and Dec 30th. Kennington Park, Dec 8th. KGV Res, Mar 15th, Sept 2nd, Dec 8th and Dec 31st (2). Nazeing GP, Jan 1st, Feb 2nd, 18th and 22nd. Rainham Marsh, Feb 6th (2), Feb 10th and 14th, Mar 12th, June 23rd, July 12th, Aug 4th, Nov 17th and Dec 4th. Valentines Park, Jan 15th-28th and Oct 20th-Dec 8th. Walthamstow Res, Mar 3rd. Wm Girling Res, Jan 23rd-Feb 28th, Aug 30th-31st, Nov 30th and Dec 26th.
- Herts Amwell GP, Sept 23rd-Oct 21st (2). Hilfield Park Res, Jan 1st-Feb 9th, Feb 15th-Mar 3rd, Aug 27th, Oct 9th (2), Nov 3rd and Dec 26th. Rye Meads RSPB, Feb 2nd.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, Dec 7th. Enfield, at Enfield Lock and Soham Fields, Jan 1st-Feb 23rd, Dec 4th and 9th. Hampton, Feb 2nd and 10th in Hatherop Park. Kempton NR, Feb 26th-Mar 19th, and a different bird Mar 5th. Ponders End Lake, Sept 4th and Nov 28th, latter same as at Enfield Lock. Queen Mary Res, Feb 6th and Nov 17th. Staines Res, May 8th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, Jan 3rd, Mar 7th, Aug 8th-19th, Aug 9th (2), Oct 26th-Nov 9th (2) with Nov 5th (3) and Nov 10th (3), Nov 25th and Dec 7th. Wraysbury GP, Dec 23rd.
- Kent R. Thames, at the Thames Barrier on July 1st and 9th, at Littlebrook PS on Oct 27th and at Erith Reach on Dec 21st. Ruxley GP, Nov 16th and 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, Dec 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to four between Jan 2nd and Feb 28th and up to three from July 12th to Dec 30th. Chessington, Dec 20th. Holmethorpe SP, Feb 2nd. Island Barn Res, Mar 28th. London Wetland Centre, Feb 4th and July 12th. QE II Res, Jan 10th, 11th, Feb 6th, 13th, 14th, 21st, Mar 7th, 11th, 16th, July 15th (2) and Sept 26th.
- In Lond St. James's Park, Dec 31st (ASMS).

### 0578 Little Gull

*Larus minutus*

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter

A few wintering birds were present at either end of the year, but numbers during the spring were not high, and counts of mostly juvenile birds in August and September were even fewer. Late autumn movements, when large numbers are present in the North Sea, was reflected in double figure flocks (mostly adults) seen flying over in each month during October to December. These late autumn and early winter numbers turned a rather poor year in to a reasonably good one.

At the beginning of the year, the only records came from the Lower Thames. In **JANUARY** an adult was at Swanscombe Marsh on 13th. In **FEBRUARY** one was at Rainham Marsh from 3rd to 19th, with two at Swanscombe on 10th and 23rd. Singles continued to be recorded along the Thames during the first three days of **MARCH**, but there was no further records until the first

scattering of inland spring migrants with singles at KGV Res on 14th, Sevenoaks WR on 15th, and two at Staines Res on 18th and four here on 19th. Five sites had birds from 20th to 31st, with peaks of six at Island Barn Res on 25th and five at Beddington SF on 30th. In **APRIL** passage continued throughout the month but overall numbers were not large. At Hilfield Park Res, there were five on 2nd, and at Staines Res seven on 2nd increased to nine on 3rd. After mid-month the highest count was three at Staines on 21st and 22nd, with only singles at five other sites. In **MAY** there was practically no evidence of any movements at all. Apart from two at KGV Res on 4th, most records related to a long-staying first summer bird in the Staines area up to 27th, and a similar such bird at Rainham Marsh on May 31st. The only record in **JUNE** was this bird which stayed at Rainham until 6th. There were no further records until **JULY** when one was at QE II Res on 17th, but this was the only bird seen during this month. There was the first flush of juvenile birds in **AUGUST** between 17th-21st consisting of up to five at Girling Res, two at Staines, and one at the Wetland Centre. The five at Girling on Aug 17th proved to be the highest count at any site in Aug and Sept, in what was a very poor early autumn. In **SEPTEMBER** numbers were very low, with highest counts of up to three at the west London reservoirs between 7th and 22nd. Best day total for the whole area was only five on 13th. **OCTOBER** was a better month, with birds reported on 21 dates after 7th at 11 localities. Numbers peaked around mid-month, and included four at Staines on 7th and at Beddington SF on 14th, a flock of 12, which flew NE at Queen Mother Res on 15th, and four at Hilfield Park Res on 16th. In **NOVEMBER**, five adults were at Beddington on 17th, and two groups totalling ten birds flying S here on 20th. The month ended with one at Long Reach SF on 23rd and two at Walton Res on 28th. In **DECEMBER** singles visited Swanscombe Marsh, and Walton and Island Barn Res on 8th, and also Beddington on 11th and 25th. On the last day of the year, 11 adults flew over Beddington in two flocks, a late date in the year for such a large number.

**0582 Black-headed Gull***Larus ridibundus*

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

Peak winter counts at sites holding over 1,500 (or over 200 in Inner London) are given along with breeding details and other comments. Note that many of the large roosts at certain reservoirs in winter are not counted every year.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 4,298 on Jan 13th and 5,959 on Feb 10th. KGV Res, 69 found dead on Mar 5th mostly beneath power cables following gales. Nazeing GP, c2,500 on Jan 12th and 8,500 on Feb 10th. Rainham Marsh, 11,203 on Feb 10th, 16,367 on Mar 3rd and 8,775 on Nov 17th. Roding Valley Park, 2,770 on Feb 5th and 2,760 on Dec 31st. Walthamstow Res, 1,634 on Mar 3rd. Wm Girling Res, two leucistic birds in Jan and Feb.

Herts Rye Meads RSPB, up to c3, 000 in Aug.

Middx Brent Res, 2,000+ at roost in Aug. Staines Res, 18 nests in May and at least 13 pairs with a total of at least 26 chicks by early July.



- Surrey Beddington SF, 15,000 in Mar and 10,480 in Dec. Holmethorpe SP, 2,000 on Jan 8th. QE II Res, 1,200 at roost on July 15th. R. Thames, between Barnes and Putney bridges, 3,150 on Jan 13th and 2,050 on Dec 8th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 506 on Nov 6th. Paddington Green, W2, 300+ flew over on Aug 15th. Victoria Park, 309 on Dec 14th.

**0589 Ring-billed Gull**  
Status: rare visitor

*Larus delawarensis*

- Essex Stratford, an adult on Mar 18th (DMn).
- Middx Isle of Dogs, the long-staying adult, first seen in Aug 1997, was again seen at both ends of the year up to Mar 2nd and from Aug 8th (SHn).
- Kent Thames Barrier, an adult on Oct 13th (PD).
- Surrey Richmond Park, a second-winter at the Pen Ponds from 15:45 to 16:10 on Feb 9th (RJA).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, a second-winter on Feb 13th and early on 14th was seen as close as ten feet (DTM *et al*). The first record for the Inner London recording area.

The small Isle of Dogs bird returned for its sixth winter, surpassing the five winters stay of the Uxbridge bird in the early 1990s. This same bird was at the Thames Barrier, but the adult in Essex was clearly a different bird on size. Also the two second-winter birds in February are considered to be different, so there were three new birds in 2002, bringing the London Area total to 21.

**0590 Common Gull**

*Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant

The highest counts from sites holding more than 100 during the year are given, together with counts of more than 10 in Inner London. Double figure counts are rare after April or before August.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 437 on Jan 13th. Nazeing GP, 1,500 on Feb 8th and 19th. Rainham Marsh, 570 on Mar 3rd and 582 on Nov 17th. Roding Valley Park, 900 on Dec 1st. Walthamstow Res, 320 on Mar 3rd. Wanstead Flats, 327 on Dec 2nd.
- Herts Ellern Mede Farm, 450 on Feb 28th. Rye Meads RSPB, 549 in December.
- Middx Brent Res, 367 on Mar 21st and 300 on Dec 28th. Edmonton, 104 on Feb 13th. Kempton NR, 200 on Jan 21st. Laleham, 166 on Feb 21st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, c100 on Feb 9th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 364 on Jan 17th. Beddington SF, 137 in Jan and 169 in Dec. Holmethorpe SP, 200 on Feb 8th. QE II Res, 138 at roost on Dec 10th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 400 on Feb 2nd. Walton Res, 420 in roost on Jan 1st and 220 on Aug 19th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 52 on Dec 14th. Lambeth, 13 on Feb 5th.

**0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull***Larus fuscus*

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small numbers.

At least 38 pairs were reported during the breeding season. This species' tendency to nest on flat rooftops means that this figure is likely to be greatly under recorded as the difficulty of viewing means that many sites must be missed, and at others counting the number of pairs is nigh on impossible. No count was received from Beckton SW (109 pairs in 2001), or Billingsgate Market. Likewise, the highest winter counts are likely to be obtained at gull roosts, which are rarely attempted in most years. All breeding season records are given, together with the highest counts at sites with over 200 birds and over 20 in Inner London.

- Essex Highams Park School, one pair probably bred. Templefields, Harlow, one pair bred. Walthamstow Res, 24 pairs nested. Dagenham Chase, 455 on June 8th. Nazeing GP, 420 in Jan, 335 in Feb, 450 in Mar and 721 in Oct. Rainham Marsh, 320 in May, 300 in July and Aug, 612 in Oct, 417 in Nov and 875 in Dec. Wm Girling Res, c1500 on Aug 31st.
- Herts Amwell GP, one pair displaying in Apr. Watford, at least one pair present on rooftops in the town centre. Amwell GP, 700 in Oct and 510 in Dec.
- Middx Brent Res, a pair nested on rafts but nest abandoned. Ponders End, pair bred on factory roof raising two young.
- Kent Greenwich, at least five pairs nested at the Delta Wharf but only one pair successful.
- Surrey Beddington SF, monthly maxima of 557 in Jan, 558 in Feb, 873 in Mar, 345 in July, 853 in Aug, 246 in Sept, 520 in Oct, 559 in Nov and 1,155 in Dec. Holmethorpe SP, 405 in Jan. Island Barn Res, 275 in Dec.
- In Lond Agar Street, WC2, 2-3 nesting pairs. Blackfriars Bridge, one pair nested. Fisherton Street Estate, NW8, one pair bred. Mount Street, W1, one pair raised one young. Whitehall, SW1, one pair raised one young on the roof of the old War Office building. Regent's Park, 26 on Mar 18th.

**0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull***Larus michahellis*

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor to the Lower Thames and western reservoirs, but also widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year and from elsewhere within the Area.

The following table shows the peak monthly maxima for localities with five or more birds at some time during 2002. All Inner London records are given below this.

|        |                | J | F | M | A | M | J | J  | A  | S  | O  | N | D  |
|--------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Essex  | KGV Res        | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | -  | -  | -  | -  | - | -  |
|        | Nazeing GP     | 9 | 7 | 3 | - | - | - | -  | -  | -  | 3  | - | 2  |
|        | Rainham Marsh  | 3 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 20 | 17 | 26 | 38 | 5 | 4  |
|        | Wm Girling Res | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | -  | 1  | 1  | 1  | - | 3  |
| Middx  | BroadwaterLake | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | -  | -  | -  | -  | - | 12 |
|        | KG VI Res      | - | - | - | - | - | - | -  | -  | 6  | -  | - | 1  |
|        | Laleham        | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | -  | -  | -  | -  | - | -  |
|        | Staines Res    | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 2  | 34 | 1  | 5  | - | -  |
| Bucks  | Horton Fields  | - | - | - | - | - | - | -  | 23 | -  | -  | - | -  |
|        | Queen Mother   | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | -  | 8  | 12 | 7  | 1 | 3  |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh | - | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2  | 26 | 5  | 9  | 3 | 2  |
|        | Greenhithe     | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 2  | 3  | 1  | -  | 5 | 2  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF  | 6 | 5 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | 2  | 1  | 1  | 4  | 2 | 8  |
|        | Thorpe Park    | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | -  | -  | -  | -  | - | -  |

In Lond Paddington Green, W2, an adult on Jan 30th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 2nd and 21st, and an adult on Apr 30th. Tate Modern, singles on Oct 9th and Dec 27th. Westminster, an adult on Apr 30th.

### 1999 Correction

Surrey Beddington SF, the peak monthly count for January should be three and not 12 as shown in the table for that year.

### 0592.01 Caspian Gull

### *Larus cachinnans*

Status: rare, but likely to be an increasingly regular visitor.

The elegant Caspian Gull is a newcomer to the UK's recognized avifauna. Its taxonomy and identification have been much discussed in recent years, and there are now a number of authoritative references available to field birdwatchers, notably the Helm Identification Guide *Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America*, by Klaus Malling Olsen and Hans Larsson (2003).

Gradually, a picture is emerging of the Caspian Gull's status in the UK: it is scarce or uncommon rather than truly rare, and seems to be much more numerous in SE England than elsewhere. In fact, London may form an important piece of its distributional jigsaw. For this reason, it is important to publish accurate data for our Area, and the Records Committee will try to provide some 'quality control'. Hitherto, the *London Bird Report* has included all records considered by the observers to show characters of Caspian Gull; in future, to preserve high standards of published information, it will give priority to documented sightings. If you identify a Caspian Gull in London, please either provide a full description, OR supply photographs with briefer notes giving reasons for your identification. The Records Committee is keen to build an image bank of Caspian Gulls in London, so all digital images are especially welcome.

Below are all the reports received for 2002. Note that records are summarised for the two most prolific locations, Beddington SF and the London Wetland Centre.

- Essex King George V Dock, adult on Nov 2nd and Dec 7th-8th (PD). KGV Res, adult on Jan 3rd (KB). Nazeing GP, adult and 1st-winter on Jan 22nd and 30th, adult on Feb 13th and 3rd-winter on Feb 22nd (ADW). North Woolwich, adult on Nov 3rd (PD). Rainham Marsh, 1st-year and 2nd-year on May 5th (HV) and an adult on Dec 11th (HV). Wm Girling Res, 1st-winter on Jan 18th (SC).
- Herts Amwell GP, adult on Oct 23rd (BR).
- Middx Broadwater Lake, adult on Dec 11th (CDRH *et al*) and 17th (CL). Staines Res, adult on Nov 15th (REI).
- Bucks Horton Fields, adult on Dec 4th (CDRH), also at Queen Mother Res. Queen Mother Res, sub-adult on Aug 29th, juv on Oct 10th and adult on Dec 4th (CDRH).
- Kent Woolwich, adult on Nov 7th (HV).
- Surrey Beddington SF, at least four individuals during Jan-Mar, then single adults during Aug and Oct and two 1st-winters during Dec (BBR). Island Barn Res, adults on Feb 13th (SJS) and Oct 17th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, 2nd-winter on Jan 1st, near-adult on Feb 10th, at least three immatures during March, at least six immatures during April, at least three immatures during May (latest May 23rd), then in Nov an adult on 19th, 2nd-winter on 21st and near adult on 30th (mo).

### 2001 Additional Record

- Essex KGV Res, adult on Dec 19th, 20th and 31st (SC)

### 0592 Herring Gull

### *Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

A total of ten pairs were reported during the breeding season. All breeding records are given below, together with counts of 200 or more birds (20 or more in Inner London).

- Essex Walthamstow Res, two pairs nested. Nazeing GP, 370 in Feb. Rainham Marsh, monthly maxima of 324 in Jan, 500 in Feb, 257 in Mar. 809 in May, 1,000 in Oct, 454 in Nov and 402 in Dec.
- Herts Amwell GP, 450 in Dec. Rye Meads RSPB, 222 in Dec.
- Middx Brent Res, one pair nested on the rafts.
- Kent Greenwich, two pairs bred and raised four young on an old gas works pier.
- Surrey Beddington SF, monthly maxima of 795 in Jan, 758 in Feb, 2,066 in Mar, 259 in July, 1,059 in Aug, 1,111 in Sept, 593 in Oct, 520 in Nov and 800 in Dec. Holmethorpe SP, 1,525 in Jan. Island Barn Res, 1,110 in Nov and 661 in Dec at the roost. QE II Res, 212 in Feb at the roost. South Norwood Lake, 460 flew SSW in 20 mins on Apr 28th, and 420 flew NE on June 6th. Walton Res, 425 in Nov at the roost.
- In Lond Agar Street, WC2, one pair nested. Fisherton Street Estate, NW8, three pairs bred. Paddington Station, one pair bred. Chepstow Road, W2, 21 on Feb 1st. Regent's Park, 110 on Mar 18th. Southbank, 33 on Apr 16th.

- 0598 Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*  
 Status: scarce late winter and early spring visitor.
- Essex Nazeing GP, a 1st-winter on Feb 8th and 9th (IK, ADW *et al*). Rainham Marsh, a 2nd-winter on Jan 12th (SRP).
- Middx Broadwater Lake, an adult on Dec 14th and 15th (AVM *et al*).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, an adult first seen on Dec 31st 2001 was seen again on Jan 1st and 7th, and Feb 14th (CDRH).
- Surrey QE II Res, an adult roosted on Jan 15th (KLP, SJS).

**2001 Additional Record**

- Surrey Beddington SF, a first-summer bird on Apr 29th (PA, GDJM).

- 0599 Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.
- Essex Rainham Marsh, a 1st-winter from Jan 5th to Feb 2nd, an adult from Jan 11th to Feb 2nd (SRP *et al*) and a 2nd-summer on May 12th (HV, SRP *et al*).
- Surrey QE II Res and Walton Res, a 1st-winter in the roost from Jan 13th to 15th (DMH, KLP, SJS).

**1999 Additional Record**

- Surrey Beddington SF, a first-winter bird from Mar 6th-11th and possibly the same again on Apr 5th (PA *et al*).

- 0600 Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*  
 Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons.

A summary of the highest counts in each sector is given below at sites with at least 20 birds at some time in the year, together with all records in Inner London.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 44 on Mar 4th. Nazeing GP, 53 on Feb 2nd and 35 on Dec 22nd. Rainham Marsh, 157 on Mar 3rd, 179 on Nov 17th and c400 on Dec 27th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 90 on Jan 31st and 145 on Dec 30th. Rye Meads RSPB, 20 in Jan and 63 in Dec.
- Middx Staines Res, 131 on Nov 15th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 218 on Dec 25th. Withy Bridge, 36 on Jan 10th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 30 on Nov 10th. R. Thames at Greenwich, 29 on foreshore on Sept 28th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 30 in Jan and Feb and 20 in Dec. QE II Res, 75 on Jan 5th and 45 on Dec 31st. Thorpe Water Park, 30 on Jan 20th. Walton Res, 155 on Jan 5th and 95 on Dec 30th.
- In Lond Bankside, one on Oct 11th. Chepstow Road, W2, singles on Jan 2nd and June 9th. Kensington Gdns, one on Sept 4th. Lambeth, singles on Sept 27th, Oct 10th and Dec 18th. Millbank, singles on Jan 4th and 24th, Oct 16th and

28th, four on 29th and 30th, and three on Dec 13th. Paddington Green, W2, four flew W on Jan 18th. Regent's Park, four on Jan 9th and one on Mar 4th. Tate Modern, present throughout the year with a maximum of four on Sept 3rd. Westminster, one on Oct 10th.

**0602 Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

- Essex KGV Res, an adult on Mar 15th, nine on May 10th, one on May 19th and a 1st-winter on Dec 17th. Wm Girling Res, an adult on Apr 13th.
- Herts Amwell GP, a 1st-winter on Apr 9th. Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 6th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, an adult on Dec 16th. Staines Res, one, possibly two juveniles on Aug 19th and one on Oct 27th. Stanwell Moor, an adult on Oct 28th.
- Bucks Horton GP, an adult on May 31st. Queen Mother Res, single adults on Feb 11th and Oct 30th. Wraysbury GP, an adult on Nov 10th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, an adult on June 1st. Northfleet, adults on Dec 9th and 11th. Queen Elizabeth Bridge, two 1st-winters on Oct 28th. Swanscombe Marsh, one 1st-winter on Dec 8th. Thames Barrier, an adult on Sept 3rd Woolwich, a 1st-year on May 12th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, an adult on Feb 11th, two 1st-years on Mar 15th, an adult on Mar 16th, a 1st-summer on Mar 18th single adults on Apr 6th and 18th, an adult on Nov 10th, seven on Nov 17th, three on Dec 7th and an adult on Dec 26th. Esher, one picked up and taken into care on Dec 8th. Island Barn Res, adults on Mar 16th and Apr 14th. London Wetland Centre, two flew W on June 1st. QE II Res, two adults flew N on Nov 10th. Walton and QE II Res, an adult on Feb 27th.
- In Lond Bankside, an adult flew upriver on Jan 7th (DGD). Regent's Park, a 1st-winter on Nov 2nd (ARD, DJ).

A total of about 56 birds spread throughout the year is quite a good total, but the largest flock was only eight and most records were of single birds only.

**0624 Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon, but annual, passage migrant

- Essex KGV Res, two on Apr 30th (SC, PJV), three on May 9th (SHn) and three flew N on Sept 13th (AM). Rainham Marsh, one on May 5th (SRP). Wm Girling Res, three on Aug 8th (RMC).
- Middx Staines Res, singles on Apr 18th (PN, KLP), Apr 30th (KLP), May 14th (FRC) and Aug 18th (APG *et al*).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 23rd flew up the R. Thames (RK) and three on the main lake on Apr 26th (RK, JPPW). QE II Res, three on May 19th (DMH).

A typically strong spring passage involving nine sightings of 15 birds between Apr 18th and May 19th. Three more sightings in the autumn of seven birds

between Aug 8th and Sept 13th. Few birds seem to stay for any length of time.

### 2001 Correction

Essex KGV Res, two on May 9th (SC).

### 0627 **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular, often common, spring and autumn passage migrant, occasional in summer

An uneventful year for this species, with only low numbers seen on both spring and autumn passages. At only one site were birds seen with any regularity (Staines Res), and there were very few records from the Lower Thames. The highest count for the year was only 12 in August.

The first spring record came from Staines Res, one on Apr 21st, and then no more were reported until May 7th, when a total of seven birds were seen at three sites. Passage then continued until May 18th but the peak counts during this period were only four, at North Woolwich on May 9th, five at Amwell GP on the same day, and another five at Walton Res on 13th, and four more at Staines Res on 18th. Thereafter, only singles were seen at Walton and Staines Res on May 24th, Friday Wood/Lake on June 1st and KGV Res on June 9th.

There were no further records until one at Amwell GP on July 17th, and further singles in July at Staines on 28th and QE II Res on July 30th. August was the most productive month of the year, although only Staines Res had many records with highest counts here of five on 1st and 10th, seven on 11th, six on 14th, five on 15th, eight on 18th and 11 on 19th. Birds were present somewhere in the area continually between Aug 9th and 24th, and there were 12 at Queen Mother Res on 18th. Very few were seen in September, with three at Staines on 11th and a further five singles between Sept 8th and the last bird of the year, at Hilfield Park Res, on Sept 29th.

### 0611 **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in flocks.

There were approximately 49 records during the year involving about 99 birds, not allowing for duplication of sightings at nearby sites (of which there look to be several). The first in spring was at Brent Res on Apr 9th, and all spring and mid-summer records were at inland sites and did not involve more than three birds together. Birds appeared along the Lower Thames from early August. Highest counts during the autumn were ten at Queen Mother Res in August, and nine at Rainham Marsh in September. There were two records after Sept 22nd, both of which were notably late: at Amwell GP on Nov 23rd and at Grays on Dec 10th.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Aug 21st. East Ham, one on May 8th. Grays, singles on Sept 8th and Dec 10th. KGV Res, one on May 9th and two on Sept

- 13th. Rainham Marsh, nine on Sept 15th. Royal Docks, two on Aug 2nd. Walthamstow Res, two on Sept 1st.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Nov 23rd. Hilfield Park Res, one on Sept 3rd. Watford, one flew over the town on July 30th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 9th. East India Dock Basin, two on May 4th and one on Aug 16th. Staines Res, one on Apr 21st, two on Aug 11th, one on Aug 14th and two on Sept 11th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Apr 17th, two on 21st, three on May 23rd, one on Aug 17th, ten on Aug 20th, two on Sept 1st and 3rd, four on 6th, two on 13th and two on Sept 22nd.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Sept 12th. Dartford Marsh, four on Sept 13th. Greenhithe, singles on Sept 10th and 15th. Northfleet, two on Sept 10th. Sevenoaks WR, one on May 25th. Stone Marsh, three flew E on Sept 15th. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Aug 26th and two on Sept 15th. Thames Barrier, two on Aug 5th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on May 10th. London Wetland Centre, one on May 21st. QE II Res, one on Apr 21st, three on 22nd, three on June 1st, one on June 8th, three on July 14th and two on Sept 12th. R. Thames at Kingston, two on May 17th. South Norwood CP, one on June 11th. Walton Res, one on May 10th also seen later at Island Barn Res.

**0615 Common Tern*****Sterna hirundo***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasing as a breeding species.

A sharp decline in the number of breeding pairs noted this year down to 176 pairs (332 in 2001), with major decreases reported at the two main colonies, Rye Meads RSPB—down to 47 pairs (100 in 2001) and Staines Res to at least 12 pairs (61 in 2001). After two record years, a particularly poor breeding season for this species is hopefully only a temporary setback.

The number of pairs during the breeding season is given below for each site (with the number of pairs in brackets). This is followed by a summary of sightings during spring and autumn passage, with more detailed summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Friday Wood/Lake (5). Ingrebourne Valley (1). Stubbers OPC (1). Walthamstow Res (21).
- Herts Amwell GP (16). Cheshunt GP (8). Hilfield Park Res (4). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads RSPB (47). Stocker's Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Brent Res (38). Ponders End Lake (12). Staines Res (12+).
- Bucks Langley Park (1). Queen Mother Res (1). Thorney CP (9).
- Surrey Lonsdale Road Res (1). London Wetland Centre (1). QE II Res (15).
- Spring The first bird of the year was one at Hilfield Park Res on Mar 30th, and singles were seen the next day at Brent, Island Barn and Staines Reservoirs. A steady trickle then appeared over the next 18 days gradually increasing until the first double-figure flock at KGV Res, with ten on 18th. Major arrivals were then noted as April progressed, with 60 at Staines on 21st, and 61 at Staines and 50 at Walthamstow on 27th. A total for the whole area on 29th was 181,



including 90 at Staines. Numbers remained high in early May, with ongoing passage noted on May 6th when 129 flew through Queen Mother Res, and a further 74 through this site on May 13th. As breeding birds consolidated, there were 80 at Amwell GP on June 10th.

- Autumn As usual it is difficult to separate breeding birds from migrants, but there seems to have been few passage birds at inland sites, and few large flocks seen anywhere. There was only one record of three birds on the Lower Thames in July, and a count of 100 at the Royal Docks on Aug 3rd probably involved local breeding birds. A few small flocks along the Thames in August included 60 at Barking Bay and 49 past the London Wetland Centre on Aug 9th, and the count at inland sites reached 187 on Aug 17th, including 129 at Walthamstow Res (only 46 here the day before). The next day there were 35 at Banbury, 33 at Dartford Marsh, 24 at Staines and 22 at Queen Mother. After this date the largest flocks were along the Thames, and included 43 at Greenhithe on Sept 1st, 60 at Northfleet on 10th, and 20 at Greenhithe on 15th. The rest of September saw no more than nine on the Thames or two at inland sites. There were only five October records, the last bird of the year being seen at Hilfield Park Res on Oct 17th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, up to three on five dates between May 3rd and June 27th. Limehouse, three on June 2nd and one on July 17th. Little Venice, two on May 8th, singles on June 6th and July 9th. Regent's Park, up to three on 12 dates between May 3rd and Aug 20th. Surrey Docks, two on Apr 23rd and six on May 17th. Victoria Park, singles on May 20th and June 3rd.

**0614 Roseate Tern**

***Sterna dougallii***

Status: very rare migrant

- Essex The two birds seen at the East India Dock Basin (see below) were also seen at the confluence of the Rivers Thames and Lea during their stay.
- Middx East India Dock Basin, a mating pair in full summer plumage was photographed on May 14th (CWs *et al*). Staines Res, one on the north basin on tern rafts for about 55 mins on June 3rd was in full summer plumage (EM, per AVM, PN).

All of these three birds had white colour rings on both legs, which is a feature of Roseate Tern ringed in UK and Ireland. In fact the pair at the East India Docks had been ringed at Coquet Island in Northumberland. Historically, there had been 14 records in the London Area up to 1973, but then no more until one in 1988, and then another long gap until one in 2001, which explains the much-sought after status in the Area of this rarity in last 30 years. These three birds become the 17th and 18th records.

**0616 Arctic Tern*****Sterna paradisaea***

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in large flocks.

A good spring passage was noted between Apr 13th and May 22nd, with about 186 birds seen across the Area. Best days all fell in the peak period and produced 56 on Apr 29th/30th, and 60 on May 5th/6th. The largest flock seen was 28. In contrast only 38 birds were seen in the whole of the autumn, between July 31st and Oct 6th with no more than three seen together.

- Essex Banbury Res, two on Apr 27th. Fairlop Lakes, one on Apr 19th. Grays, three on Apr 29th and one on Oct 6th. Holyfield Hall Farm, four on Apr 21st. KGV Res, in April, three on 13th, two on 14th, ten on 26th, three on 29th and one on 30th. In May, two on 4th and 5th. Singles on Aug 31st and from Sept 22nd-25th. Purfleet one on Oct 6th. Rainham Marsh, four on May 5th, five on 6th, and one on 9th. Walthamstow Res, three on May 5th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, singles on Apr 26th and 29th, two on 30th, and singles on May 16th and 22nd.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on May 1st, 3rd and 4th, two on Aug 3rd and one on Aug 18th. Broadwater Lake, three on May 6th and one on Sept 19th. East India Dock Basin, one on July 31st, and three on Aug 23rd and 27th. KGV Res, singles on May 14th and Sept 10th. Staines Res, seven on Apr 13th, two on 20th, eight on 29th, two on 30th, three on May 1st, two on 2nd and 5th, 12 on 6th, and singles on 7th 8th and 14th; in autumn, singles on Aug 19th and Sept 6th, two on Sept 16th- 17th and one from Sept 19th-23rd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, four on May 6th and one on Aug 27th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Aug 18th. Swanscombe Marsh, three on Apr 29th and one on Aug 19th. Thames Barrier, one on Sept 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 25th, 29th and Sept 13th. Island Barn Res, six on Apr 26th and one on 29th. Walton Res, two on Apr 22nd, six on 26th, five on 27th, one on 28th, two on 29th, 28 on 30th, one on May 1st, 17 on 5th and one on 13th.

**0634 Common Guillemot*****Uria aalge***

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor; subject to occasional cold weather influxes.

- Kent Northfleet, one on the R. Thames on Oct 9th (SC).

Always a good find (as is any auk in the London Area), but in many respects typical in both time and place.

**0665 Feral Rock Dove*****Columbia livia***

Status: abundant breeding resident

Traditionally ignored by many birdwatchers, we are grateful to those who continue to submit records of this very common bird. A selection of the highest counts and the largest breeding concentrations is given below.

- Essex Barking Abbey, 240 on July 1st. Central Park, East Ham, 47 pairs bred. Holly Hill Farm, 300 on stubble on Aug 27th. Ilford, 280 on July 1st. Rainham Marsh, 373 on Oct 29th. Valentines Park, 400 on Dec 8th. Wanstead Flats, 440 on Dec 2nd.
- Herts Chiswell Green, 270 on Jan 1st.
- Middx Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 300 on Sept 20th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 262 on Nov 17th.
- Surrey South Norwood CP, 300 on Sept 27th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 891 on Nov 1st. Limehouse, 132 on Oct 19th. Oval, SE11, 134 on July 7th. St James's Park, 737 on Aug 20th. Trafalgar Square, c1, 000 on Feb 5th, c1, 800 on Apr 30th and c600 on June 29th. Victoria Park, 169 on Jan 1st.

**0668 Stock Dove*****Columba oenas***

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

A total of about 150 pairs were reported in the breeding season at approximately 56 localities. Again, well reported in the two counties where arable land predominates, that is Essex and Hertfordshire, which between them accounted for over two-thirds of the breeding records. It is probably still under reported in other counties and there were no records at all from Bucks this year. Highest breeding concentrations were: Long Running, Epping Forest (8), Rainham Marsh (6), Bricket Wood area (14+), Rye Meads RSPB (7), Bushy Park (6–7), Horsenden Hill (5–6).

Some of the largest flocks seen in each county are given below together with all Inner London breeding records.

- Essex Paynes Lane GP, 60 on May 6th. Rainham Marsh, 52 on Oct 6th.
- Herts Lynster's Farm, 277 on Feb 4th. Panshanger Park, 60 on Feb 4th. Sandridge, 150 on Apr 12th.
- Middx Stanwell Moor, 56 on Sept 22nd. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, 50+ on Dec 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 135 on Feb 8th. Holmethorpe SP, c100 on Feb 10th. Rushett Farm, c150 on Feb 7th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 70 on Oct 27th. West End Common, 230 on Feb 8th. Wimbledon Common, 57 on June 11th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one pair bred, raising one young. Holland Park, one pair probably bred. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, there were at least three nest sites. Regent's Park, 35 on Nov 22nd. St. James's Park, only singles seen. Victoria Park, two on June 27th.

**0670 Woodpigeon*****Columba palumbus***

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Highest counts at the beginning of the year came from Copped Hall where numbers reached 1,000 on Jan 24th, and there were 900 at Oxted, Hurst Green on Jan 30th. On Mar 3rd, there were 1,000 in the Beddlestead Valley.

The well known southerly movements in the autumn were particularly well recorded this year in late October and early November from several sites in

Inner London and Surrey, where most records were of birds moving SW shortly after dawn. The first of such was noted on Oct 19th at Limpsfield Chart, when 1,365 flew over SW in 45 mins, and 463 flew over Paddington Green, W2. On 24th, there were 2,850 over the London Wetland Centre, and 2,000 leaving the Amwell GP roost on 27th. The 28th saw counts of 560 SW in ten minutes over Chepstow Road, W2, 1,150 SW over Paddington Green, both eclipsed by a massive 14,000 birds moving SW over the London Wetland Centre in three hours after dawn. Continued movements in the next few days reached another peak on Nov 4th when counts were 3,270 at Paddington Green and 11,800 at the Wetland Centre, after which numbers tailed off rapidly.

The large number of birds at Copped Hall at the beginning of the year was repeated during the final few months, with 3,750 on Nov 17th and 4,000 on Dec 20th. Elsewhere, there were 2,000 at Sewardstone on Dec 12th, and 500 at Beech Farm on Dec 27th.

**0684 Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

Status: common breeding resident.

For such a common bird in the outer suburbs, very few records were submitted for this species. In Leyton, one on Aug 13th was described as the first, and a count at Brent Res of 11 was reported as a record. One observer in Herts had got the impression 'that numbers locally have actually increased'.

A few large feeding concentrations were seen, including 300 at Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross on Nov 10th, 121 at Mayesbrook Park, Barking on Dec 11th, 70 at Harmondsworth on newly planted winter wheat on Sept 21st, 84 at Queen Mother Res on Sept 21st and 68 at Rainham Marsh on Oct 29th.

The following records were received for Inner London.

In Lond Chepstow Road, W2, two on Mar 26th. Compayne Gdns, NW6, a pair between April and June. Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 16th flew S. Regent's Park, reported singly on nine dates between Mar 13th and Sept 18th, but four on Mar 24th and five on Mar 31st.

**0687 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

Status: localised breeding summer resident and passage migrant.

The dramatic decline in the fortunes of this summer visitor has seen the breeding range within the London Area contract considerably and the few breeding pairs remaining are now mostly found in the Essex sector, either in the south Essex farmland or the Lea Valley. There are very few left in those parts of Herts and Surrey within the London boundary, and across the western side of London this has now become only a rare passage migrant. All breeding records are given below, together with an Inner London record, and a few records from elsewhere.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, two territories. Bush Farm, Corbets Tey, one pair. Fishers Green, two territories. Green Lanes, one singing in July. Ingrebourne Valley, two territories. Langridge GP, two singing in Aug. Netherhall GP, two territories. Rainham Marsh, up to two from May-Sept. South Ockendon, a pair in June.
- Herts Jersey Farm Woodland Park, one singing on two dates in July. Rye Meads RSPB, seven pairs bred.
- Middx Four migrants reported in May, Aug and Sept.
- Bucks None reported.
- Kent No breeding reports. Three at Dartford Marsh on June 19th was the highest count. Only five records
- Surrey Bookham Common, only two records in May. Headley Heath, up to two singing from May-July. Limpsfield Chart, up to two from May-July. Oxted, Hurst Green probably five birds holding territory in the summer. Only two records at Beddington SF, both in May.
- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, one flew N on June 25th (DTM).

## 0712 Ring-necked Parakeet

*Psittacula krameri*

Status: feral breeding resident.

Recent studies at the Edward Grey Institute at Oxford have resulted in the publication of an informative paper on the population biology of this feral parrot in Britain, a large part of whose population is found within the London Area boundaries. The following table shows highest counts of this species at the three major communal roosts in the London Area during the period 1995–2001/2.

|        |          | 1995 | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  | Winter<br>2000/01 | Winter<br>2001/02 |
|--------|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kent   | Lewisham | -    | 85    | 275   | 210   | -     | 641               | 900               |
| Surrey | Esher    | 692  | 1,123 | 1,507 | 1,704 | 2,500 | 2,999             | 4,096             |
|        | Reigate  | -    | 118   | 123   | 75    | -     | 277               | 540               |

(Source: BUTLER, C., 2002. Breeding parrots in Britain. *Brit. Birds* 95: 345–348)

It soon becomes apparent that counts such as shown in the above table reveal a continuing population growth in both the south-western population (roosting at Esher Rugby Club and Reigate) and the south-east London population (at Lewisham Crematorium). Observers are urged to continue counting these and all other known communal roosts in the future.

In terms of range there also seems little doubt that the southwestern population has expanded rapidly from its stronghold along the Thames between Barnes and Wraysbury (where its preference for tall riverside trees especially Poplars *Populus* spp. is well known) westwards into Berkshire, northwards into Middlesex, and further south within Surrey. Birds are now found as far north as Iver Heath, Black Park, Harrow and Hampstead Heath, and reports from Inner London Parks and open spaces increased in 2002. In Surrey the range now extends as far south as Gatwick Airport, well past the LNHS boundary. Records from Essex and Herts are shown below, together with a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Bedfords Park, one on Jan 16th. Buckhurst Hill, one on Aug 26th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Sept 9th. Dagenham Chase, one resident bird. Purfleet, one flew across the Thames on Apr 14th. Romford, singles on Jan 18th, Feb 24th and May 3rd. Stratford Tunnel, one on July 2nd. Thorndon Park, one on Sept 1st. Upminster, one on Dec 23rd. Valentine Park, singles on Jan 30th and Oct 31st. Wanstead Cemetery, one on Aug 30th. Wanstead Park, one on Dec 11th.
- Herts Rickmansworth, two on Nov 4th. Rye Meads RSPB, two on Sept 20th and 21st, and one on Nov 1st. Verulamium Lake, one on Nov 19th.
- In Lond Holland Park, 1–2 seen flying over during the summer. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, up to four in Apr, two on May 1st, three on Sept 17th-18th and two on 24th and one on Oct 31st. Queensway, W2, one on Mar 21st. Regent's Park, one on Sept 17th and 21st, 13 on Nov 4th and one on 6th.

**0724 Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first birds of the year were seen at Amwell GP, Hurst Green and Twickenham, all on Apr 14th. A further nine sites reported their first birds between then and Apr 22nd, and birds remained at their most widespread as usual until June.

What few comments were made by observers regarding breeding status referred to declines in most areas. Only three sites had up to four singing birds at one time, namely the Ingrebourne Valley and Sewardstone Marsh, and also Swanscombe Marsh. A further six localities reported up to three singing, including Wraysbury GP and Ashtead Common.

The few July birds reported were mostly juveniles, as were single August birds at Wm Girling Res on 9th, at Kempton NR on 11th and 18th, Brent Res on 18th and 25th and Stanwell Moor on 21st.

The last birds seen were at the London Wetland Centre on Sept 1st, and a late bird at Cheshunt GP on Sept 25th. There were no Inner London records this year.

**0735 Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident.

There was a welcome increase in breeding records this year. In Herts, an adult was seen taking prey to a nest box assumed to contain young at one site. At a second site, a pair raised three young and was present between March and September. And at a third site, the behaviour of a pair from June-August strongly suggested breeding. There was a second-hand report of a pair raising five young at a site in Middlesex. In Kent, one pair again bred. Records away from these breeding sites are given below.

- Essex Lower Nazeing, one on Nov.24th. Thorndon Park, one on Aug 25th.

- Herts Briggens, one on Oct 27th. Heronsgate, Rickmansworth, one on Nov 10th. Maple Lodge SF, one hunting on July 13th and Aug 5th. South Mimms, one on Jan 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jan 1st.
- Middx Ickenham, one on Feb 10th.
- Surrey Chelsham, one found dead in road on Oct 28th and two live birds reported on the same date. Merstham, one on Dec 31st. Trevereux/Swaynesland, one in the second week of September.

**0757 Little Owl*****Athene noctua***

Status: localised breeding resident.

Reported from a total of 81 localities during the year. At least 18 pairs were specifically reported as breeding or holding territory, but the species was reported from an additional 30 sites in the summer months, which is strong evidence that it is a commoner breeding bird than these figures suggest.

- Essex Reported at least 18 sites during the year, but only three pairs are known to have bred.
- Herts A total of 24 pairs were present at some time during the year, of which 8–9 was thought to have bred.
- Middx Birds were present at 11 localities although there was no proof of breeding at any of them.
- Bucks Present at two sites only.
- Kent Birds were reported at three different sites during the year.
- Surrey At least 22 pairs were found, but only four pairs are known to have bred.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Jan 16th, Mar 5th, Sept 10th, Oct 28th and Nov 9th, 11th and 22nd.

**0761 Tawny Owl*****Strix aluco***

Status: common breeding resident.

Although reported from about 80 localities during the year (83 in 2001), at very few of these places were there any breeding records. A total of only 17 pairs were said to have bred or to probably have bred, which compares with 25 pairs in 2001, and 50 in 2000, so this is probably the lowest number of pairs ever reported in the *London Bird Report*. This suggests a certain lack of interest (or nocturnal habits) amongst observers rather than a sharp decline in birds, but all comments concerning this species' status would be most welcome.

All Inner London records are given below. It is pleasing to report that this bird is maintaining its breeding presence in Inner London.

- In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, one calling on Dec 1st. Buckingham Palace, one on Apr 16th. Compayne Gdns, NW6, one on Apr 17th and 24th. Greville Place, NW6, one on several nights in Jan, on Apr 8th and July 8th. Holland Park, one pair probably bred. Kensington Gdns, at least one pair bred, raising one young. Paddington Green, W2, one calling on Dec 8th.

- 0767 Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*  
 Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare breeder.  
 Breeding reported again at two sites on the eastern side of London in areas where this has become regular event in recent years. Rather scarce in both winter periods, with only small numbers discovered at the few roosts.
- Essex Location A, one pair bred. Rainham Marsh, singles on Feb 20th (DFI) and Nov 28th (ATs).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, one roosting on the island on Seventy Acres Lake in Jan up until 28th (IK *et al*) but none at the end of the year, although one was seen hunting here on Nov 17th (MBr). North Mymms Park, one roosting in bushes on Mar 13th and 17th, and three here on Mar 24th (SHM, RPh).
- Kent Location B, a pair bred, raising two young.
- Surrey South Norwood CP, two roosting in bushes from Dec 21st-27th (JBk, RSPBCG *et al*).
- 0768 Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*  
 Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in summer.  
 At the beginning of the year reported at five localities, but nearly all were single birds on one date only, and none remained after March apart from at Rainham Marsh, where there was a bird displaying on May 12th, but which did not stay.  
 A small influx in October saw up to four at Staines Moor by mid-month, but only three other single birds reported elsewhere. A more widespread influx was reported in November, and produced counts of up to six at Staines Moor, three at Rainham and Hatfield Aerodrome, and two at Bulphan Fen. Numbers fell slightly after early December at most of these sites.
- Essex Bulphan Fen, two were present throughout Nov. Fairlop Lakes, one on Mar 29th and 30th. Rainham Marsh, singles on Jan 10th, Mar 29th, Apr 3rd and 13th, and one in display flight on May 12th; in autumn, one on Oct 18th up to four in Nov and one on Dec 8th.
- Herts Bushey, one at Merry Hill on Nov 19th. Hatfield Aerodrome, up to three seen regularly between Nov 3rd and Dec 31st, Rye Meads RSPB, one on Oct 26th.
- Middx Enfield, one at Vicarage Farm on Oct 18th. Staines Moor, one on Oct 10th, four on 14th and 16th, two on 19th and one still on Oct 23rd. No further reports from here until one on Nov 9th, then regularly from Nov 14th-Dec 5th, peaking at six from Nov 28th-Dec 5th, but thereafter only two on Dec 20th and one on Dec 27th. Birds from Staines Moor also visited KGV I Res, two on Oct 16th and one on Nov 15th, and on the same dates singles also were seen at Staines Res. Yeading Brook Meadows, two on Jan 5th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles flying over on Mar 26th and Oct 3rd. London Wetland Centre, one for most of the day on Nov 6th. QE II Res, one on Nov 10th. South Norwood CP, one flew over on Dec 15th.



**0778 European Nightjar*****Caprimulgus europaeus***

Status: rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

Middx Twickenham, one photographed on a garden fence on Sept 15th (CWs).  
 Bucks One heard churring on a single date in July, close to a previous breeding site.  
 Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Sept 15th (PR).  
 Surrey At one site, a male churring on June 19th and 27th, but no sign of any female.

This species barely maintains a foothold in the London Area, with breeding evidence consisting only of males at two sites on three dates. The two autumn migrants both occurred on the same date.

**0795 Common Swift*****Apus apus***

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrival dates at most localities were rather late, and numbers during the spring passage, based on the largest counts, were generally rather low. The first birds seen were two at the London Wetland Centre, and one at Beddington SF, both on Apr 21st. Another two days passed before the next bird was seen at Regent's Park on 23rd, followed by seven more birds at four sites the next day. On 25th, 160 flew W at Staines, and there were counts of 50 at Island Barn Res, 30 at the Wetland Centre and 18 at Regent's Park. Numbers built up rapidly during the remainder of April, with many sites reporting their first birds, and 600 were at Staines by Apr 30th. Partial albino birds were again a feature of the spring, which from the from brief descriptions received could all relate to the same individual, and were seen at Walton Res (Apr 28th), Hilfield Park Res (May 1st), Island Barn (May 4th), Staines Res (May 5th), Beddington SF (May 20th) and Walton Res (May 30th).

As usual, few breeding records were submitted, but included counts in the Dagenham area where there were thought to be ten pairs at Heathway, 30+ pairs at Martins Corner, and 50 pairs at Leys Avenue. At Horsenden Hill there were thought to be 25–30 pairs nesting. No breeding was confirmed in Inner London, but there were plenty of birds present in the summer.

There were few large feeding flocks during the summer months, but did include 1,000+ at Staines Res on May 26th and Rainham Marsh on June 5th, followed by 800 at Hilfield Park Res on June 9th, and another 1,000 at Brent Res on July 21st. Overall numbers declined rapidly after late July. A small movement on Aug 10th saw 500 at Brent Res, 320 at Paddington Green in Inner London and 150 at Croydon. There were hardly any double figure counts after mid-August, but a flock of 150 at Brent Res on Aug 31st was rather late.

September records included 15 at Brent Res on 8th and 21 at Ruxley GP on 11th, before the last bird reported at Beddington SF, on the relatively early date of Sept 16th. High counts in Inner London were as follows:

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 40 on May 8th. Paddington Green, W2, c215 on Aug 4th and c320 on Aug 10th. Regent's Park, 150 on June 5th and 200 on Aug 6th. Talbot Road, W2, 'present, may have bred'. Victoria Park, 25 on July 13th.

**0798 Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*  
Status: vagrant.

**2001 Additional Record**

Essex Hooks Marsh, Lea Valley CP, one on Oct 13th (HV).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Records Committee, this becomes the 16th record for the London Area.

**0831 Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*  
Status: breeding resident, locally common in some areas.

At least 44 pairs were reported during the breeding season. Birds were also present at about 20 other sites in the summer months where pairs may also be nesting undiscovered. It is also clear that many stretches of river are not much covered, and that many pairs must go unreported. Birds disperse more widely outside the breeding season, and it remains a frequently encountered bird in most suitable habitats. The following summary shows the location of breeding pairs (number of pairs in brackets), a few of the larger counts, and all Inner London records for the year.

Essex Chingford Marsh (1). Holyfield Marsh GP (1). Nazeing GP (1). Purfleet Chalk Pits (1). Rainham Marsh (1). R. Roding at South Woodford (1). Roding Valley Park (1). Walthamstow Res (2–3), six on Aug 11th. Wanstead Park (1).

Herts Amwell GP (2). Brickendonbury (1). Cheshunt GP (3). Hampermill Lake (1). Hartham Common, Hertford (1). Otterspool (1). Park Street/Sopwell (1–2). Rye Meads RSPB (1), 20 birds ringed during the year.

Middx Brent Res (1). Horsenden Hill (1). Kempton NR (1). Little Britain Lake (1). Prince's Ski Club, Bedfont (1).

Bucks Orlitts Lake South (1). Wraysbury GP (1).

Kent Bexley Wood (1). Fooks Cray Meadows (1). R. Shuttle at Bexley (1). Ruxley GP (1). Sevenoaks WR (1), seven on Aug 11th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre (1). Oxted, Hurst Green (1). R. Hogsmill at Kingston (1). R. Mole at Leatherhead (4). R Wandle from Hackbridge to Morden Hall Park (4), five on Dec 28th. Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond Battersea Power Station, one on a jetty on Mar 29th (DMn). Buckingham Palace, one on Apr 22nd (BPBR). Kensington Gdns, one on Oct 31st (MG) and Nov 21st–25th (DTM).

**0846 Hoopoe** ***Upupa epops***  
 Status: vagrant.

Kent Joyden's Wood estate, Bexley, one on Apr 22nd (EP).

Another year with just one record of this continental over-shooter, but a pleasing find in the observer's front garden.

**0848 Wryneck** ***Jynx torquilla***  
 Status: scarce passage migrant, usually in autumn

Middx Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Aug 24th (RMC).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 24th on the reservoir outer bank (ATi *et al*).

Two records is a reasonable showing for this small woodpecker that is always high in the popularity stakes—combining as it does a pleasing appearance with a sometimes-confiding nature, a definite rarity value, and the fact it can be found almost anywhere.

**0856 Green Woodpecker** ***Picus viridis***  
 Status: common breeding resident.

This resident species was present at a total of 171 sites during the year, which is a slight improvement on the 164 sites reported in the previous year, and it remains a common and widespread species throughout most of the London Area. The following table records the breakdown of sites by county for the year, and compares these figures with those of 2001.

|        | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Total |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| 2001   | 45    | 21    | 35    | 1     | 24   | 29     | 9       | 164   |
| 2002   | 64    | 40    | 16    | 5     | 19   | 19     | 8       | 171   |
| Change | +19   | +19   | -19   | +4    | -5   | -10    | -1      | +5    |

These changes are probably more an indication of the changes in recording effort in certain areas, rather than anything else, so it should be obvious to observers from where more records would be welcome.

Although a few birds only occupy most sites, some places seem to be able to hold large numbers, either in terms of breeding pairs or the number of individual birds. A few such places were reported as follows: Bricket Wood area, 13–15 territories; Bushy Park, up to ten in July and August; Copped Hall, 18 on Mar 22nd; Dagenham Chase, ten on Aug 23rd; Horsenden Hill, six pairs present and 13 on June 14th; Ingrebourne Valley, eight territories.

A summary of Inner London records is shown below. Although not absolutely confirmed, it seems very probable that this species bred successfully in Kensington Gdns.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, one regularly Apr 27th–June 4th. Holland Park, a male present in the breeding season. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 1–2 pairs were resident and three together in July strongly suggests breeding took place. Limehouse, one on Sept 20th. Paddington Green, W2, one calling in the

summer but no evidence of breeding. Regent's Park, a juvenile on Dec 7th. St James's Park, one on Sept 10th. Victoria Park, four on Sept 14th.

**0876 Great Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Records this year came from a total of 174 localities during the year, which is slightly below the comparable figure of 183 in 2001. The reporting of pairs on territory suggests a different picture, with only 184 pairs on record for this year compared to 284 in 2001, but drawing any conclusions from these figures is fraught with danger, these bare statistics not revealing the differences in areas covered in different years. For instance no records were received from Wimbledon Common this year, a site where 17 nest holes were reported the year before.

Some of the largest concentrations of pairs or birds, and a more detailed summary of birds in the Inner London recording area, are given below.

Bushy Park, ten on Apr 1st; Copped Hall, eight on Mar 22nd; Epping Forest, 21 territories in central area, seven territories at Long Running; Horsenden Hill, 12 territories, 14 birds on June 15th; Ingrebourne Valley, five territories; Kelvedon, seven territories; Northaw Great Wood, seven in a nearby garden on Jan 1st.

In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, one in Jan/Feb was drumming on Feb 16th. Buckingham Palace, singles on Apr 10th, May 10th and 13th. Burgess Park, one on Nov 17th. Chepstow Road, W2, one on Apr 10th. Compayne Gdns, NW6, drumming on Jan 25th and Feb 27th. Greville Place, NW6, one in Jan. Holland Park, one pair bred. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one pair probably bred. Limehouse, two on Apr 11th, Oct 19th and Dec 21st. Paddington Green, W2, one pair bred. St. James's Park singles on eight dates during the year. Victoria Park, three on Apr 1st, May 18th and June 3rd.

**0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos minor*

Status: localised, declining breeding resident.

There has been a rapid population decline in this species in recent years, and our smallest woodpecker was placed on the UK 'Red List' in 2002. There seems no doubt that this is affecting the London Area population, although this remains very difficult to monitor. Many observers are beginning to comment on its apparent scarcity. The following table shows the number of sites from which this species was reported during the year, with comparable figures for 2001.

|        | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | Total |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| 2001   | 35    | 7     | 14    | 0     | 11   | 20     | 87    |
| 2002   | 21    | 15    | 16    | 2     | 5    | 18     | 77    |
| Change | -14   | +8    | +2    | +2    | -6   | -2     | -10   |

Whilst the usual caveat is repeated about relying too heavily on these figures, the overall trend does suggest a downturn in the population. Below is listed those localities where there was some evidence for this species presence in the breeding season.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP. Copped Hall. Dagenham Chase. Epping Forest (Long Hills North). Gilwell Park. Hatters Wood. Ingrebourne Valley. Kelvedon. Lippitts Hill. Pole Hill. Waltham Abbey. Wanstead Park.
- Herts Amwell GP/Great Amwell. Bricket Wood area. Cassiobury Park. Elstree. Cheshunt GP. Garston area. Northaw Great Wood.
- Middx Bentley Priory. Brent Res. Bushy Park. Covert Way LNR. Denham CP. Grovelands Park. Horsenden Hill. Hounslow Heath. Pinner Village Gdns. Trent Park.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods. Roundabout Wood.
- Surrey Addington Wood. Bookham Common. Carshalton. Ewell. Holmethorpe SP. Nower Wood. Putney Heath. Richmond Park. South Norwood Lake. Stambourne Woodland Walk.

**0974 Woodlark**

***Lullula arborea***

Status: scarce passage migrant and recently re-established rare breeder.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, one on July 16th (PJV).
- Herts At a possible breeding site, a pair was present on Mar 16th (observers name withheld). Amwell GP, one flew over on Oct 13th (TA).
- Middx Coppetts Wood, two flew N on Oct 12th (AC). Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield, two in a weedy field on Oct 11th-12th (RMC).
- Surrey At one site, two pairs were present (the males both singing) in April and May. At a second site, there were two singing males, but only one pair known to have bred. London Wetland Centre, singles flew SW on Oct 17th (RK) and Oct 31st (JPPW). Walton Downs, two on Sept 1st (APe). Walton Res, one on Sept 11th (SJS).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one flew N on Mar 12th (DTM).

Three to five pairs were breeding this year. The bird reported at Girling Res on July 16th was a strange date for one to be here. The nearest former breeding site is Epping Forest, but the species has not bred here since 1962.

The only spring migrant was in Inner London, but there was a good crop of autumn birds in September and October, with several birds seen flying over.

**0976 Skylark**

***Alauda arvensis***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Despite well-publicised declines in the national population, this bird is still found quite commonly in many areas on the outer fringes of the London Area where suitable habitat exists.

Large winter flocks at the beginning of the year were far fewer than those reported at the same time in 2001. Only two sites had flocks of around 100

birds, Holyfield Marsh Farm and Chiswell Green, both in January. The largest count in February was 70 at Panshanger Park on Feb 17th.

Widely reported from some areas in the breeding season. In Essex there were 55 territories at Rainham Marsh, ten at Wanstead Flats and eight at Tylers Common, Upminster. Notable concentrations in Herts included 17 territories at Chiswell Green and 12 in the Bricket Wood area. Elsewhere the highest count was seven males singing at Trevereux Moat/Tenchleys, although 19 adults were found at Bushy Park in June.

Late autumn visible migration was not much reported and only in small numbers. At the London Wetland Centre, daily watching revealed overflying birds in the autumn regularly between Oct 8th and Nov 30th, with a peak of 31 on Nov 15th. Elsewhere the highest count was 22 over KGV Res on Oct 13th. Counts of 40 at Great Amwell (Oct 21st), 47 at Rainham (Oct 13th), 50 at Staines Moor (Oct 16th and 28th) and 70 at Beddington SF (Oct 31st) must have all consisted of mostly migrant birds. By the end of the year the only large flock reported was of 50 at Rainham Marsh on Dec 22nd.

All Inner London Records are given below.

In Lond Kensington Garden, singles flew over on Oct 2nd and 29th. Paddington Green, W2, one flew S on July 27th. Regent's Park, singles on five dates between Oct 17th and 31st, and on Nov 2nd and 5th.

### 0981 Sand Martin

*Riparia riparia*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

First bird of the year was reported at Queen Mother Res on Mar 9th, with two there the following day as well as one at Coopers Green GP. Small numbers were seen during the rest of March. The largest flocks in spring were 100 at KGV Res on Apr 5th and 250 flying S there on Apr 18th, 100 at Walthamstow Res on Apr 27th, c200 at Sevenoaks WR on Apr 29th, 100 at Hilfield Park Res on May 5th, and c100 at Sevenoaks WR on May 14th.

A few late-summer gatherings were noted as usual, the highest of which were 130 at Rainham Marsh on June 30th, and 170 at Walton Res on July 8th. Autumn passage seems to have been almost unnoticed with most leaving early. There were 160 at Rye Meads RSPB on Sept 9th, but no other large flocks were seen until Sept 26th when 270 flew WSW over South Norwood Lake in 15 minutes, followed by six at South Norwood CP on Sept 28th. This rather surprisingly proved to be the latest sighting of the year, a very early date for a bird that normally remains well in to October in most years.

Details of the eight nesting colonies reported (a very poor figure—there were 11 in 2001 and 13 in 2000) are given below, together with all Inner London records.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Essex | Halls Aggregates, Werrington, one pair bred. Rainham GP, 12 pairs bred. R. Roding at Barking, seven pairs bred. Sewardstone Marsh, four pairs bred. |
| Herts | Tyttenhanger GP, 10+ active nest holes.   |
| Bucks | Warren Farm, 68 active nest holes.  |

- Surrey Beddington SF, 1–2 pairs bred in holes in the effluent channel. Walton Res, there were 54 nest holes.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, three on Apr 9th, two on Aug 5th and 15 on Sept 3rd. Limehouse, one on July 17th. Regent's Park, one on Mar 24th, three on Apr 21st, one on May 1st and two on 8th and 11th, one on June 6th, two on Aug 18th and one on 27th, singles on Sept 1st and 3rd. Victoria Park, two on June 3rd.

**0992 Swallow*****Hirundo rustica***

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of spring was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 22nd. There was then just ones and twos before March ended. April continued in this vein, and it took several weeks before numbers built up to any significant levels. The highest counts of the spring were 50 at Staines Res Apr 29th, 100 at Hilfield Park Res on May 5th, 70 at the Wetland Centre on May 13th and 50 again at Staines on May 18th.

The few breeding records received seem to suggest that this species is confined to suitable sites well away from the built-up areas of the inner conurbation. Probably the closest breeding site to the centre of London was in Bushy Park, where birds were present all summer and probably bred. In Herts, nests or territories were found in nearly 20 different areas, but birds were absent at other previous breeding sites. Elsewhere, there were seven nests at a farm at Bentley Priory, five nests at riding stables at West End Common and at Barwell Court Farm and four at Paynes Lane GP.

Autumn passage was widely reported and as is usual peaked very clearly in September. An evening roost of 300 gathered at Beech Farm on Aug 24th. On Sept 3rd there were 300 at Tylers Common, Upminster, and up to 150 at Hurst Green in the evenings of Sept 5th and 6th. First evidence of large-scale movements started around Sept 7th when 105 flew SW at Limpsfield Chart. As the month progressed numbers at Hurst Green increased to 250 on Sept 15th and 300 on 17th, and the next day there were 350 in North Mymms Park. Very heavy southward migration was noted on Sept 21st with counts of 1,200 through Regent's Park, 500 at Beddington SF, and 181 at the Wetland Centre. The next day, 400 flew W at Staines Res. Movements were still continuing on Sept 26th, with 70 per hour going past the R. Hogsmill at West Ewell in an overall count of 210. After this date numbers tailed off very rapidly. Small counts of birds were seen regularly through October until 26th including a count of 15 still at Wraysbury GP on this last date. November records were four at Amwell GP on 1st, and one on 1st, two on 2nd and one on 7th at the London Wetland Centre, one at Wimbledon Common on 2nd, one at Dagenham Chase on 3rd, and the last bird of the year was reported at Beddington SF on Nov 13th.

**1001 House Martin*****Delichon urbica***

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Three birds seen at Amwell GP on the very early date of Mar 11th were the first arrivals of the year, and two more here on Mar 30th completed the sightings for March. Further birds were then reported from various sites between Apr 5th and 11th on four dates, and then daily from Apr 14th, but numbers did not reach double figures at any site until 20th. It was not until the last few days of the month that appreciable numbers began to arrive. The largest spring flocks seen were 100 at Littlebrook Lake on Apr 29th, 120 at the London Wetland Centre on Apr 30th, and 100 at Hilfield Park Res on May 5th. There were still 100 at the Wetland Centre on May 22nd and 25th, and at Kempton NR on May 31st. In June there were 200 at Hilfield Park Res on June 9th.

Autumn passage was particularly uneventful, with the main departure as usual in the second half of September, when the largest flocks were seen. Numbers began to build up at several sites towards the end of August, and there were 350 at Brent Res and 305 at the London Wetland Centre, both on Aug 26th. Birds were widespread at many localities throughout September but few places reported counts of more than 100 on any single day, which suggests a rapid departure, which mostly went unnoticed. At the beginning of the month the highest count was 200 at Amwell GP on Sept 7th, followed by 146 at Brent Res on Sept 15th, 130 at Valentines Park on Sept 19th, and 150 at South Norwood CP on 20th. The next day, a huge movement of 1,400 passed over Regent's Park, but very few reports were received from elsewhere. As September came to an end, there were 500 at Croxley Moor on 25th, 350 at Little Woodcote, and 225 at the Wetland Centre on 29th. Most birds seem to have gone by the beginning of October, with no more than 25 reported anywhere after the 1st of the month. Last sighting of the year was six at Rye Meads RSPB on Oct 20th.

Still a widespread breeding species in the London Area, including Inner London. In Essex, 63 nests were counted at seven sites. In Herts, the total was 42 nests at seven sites. Kent reports came from only four localities, with eight nests. In Surrey, special surveys in Barnes (29 first-broods and 11–13 second-broods), the London Borough of Sutton and Molesey (114 nests alone) brought the county totals to over 264 nests at only ten sites. In contrast, more records are needed to be able to assess the true position in the west of the area, as there was no reports of breeding in the Bucks sector, and at only one site in Middlesex. Inner London breeding records are given below.

In Lond Bunsen Street, E3, one nesting pair. Chelsea Wharf, 5–8 pairs nested. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, six active nests at Queen's Gate. Knightsbridge, 2+ pairs bred at the French Embassy. Rossmore Road, NW1, one active nest.



- 1009 Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*  
 Status: passage migrant and decreasing breeding summer visitor.
- The first bird reported in the spring was at Fairlop Waters on Mar 28th, and the last in autumn at Beddington SF on Sept 25th. Only a handful of migrant birds were reported in spring and autumn, all singles apart from two at KGV Res on Sept 13th, London Wetland Centre on May 1st and Sept 11th, and Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Sept 12th.
- Further declines amongst the already small breeding population meant that it might not be too long before this species is extinct as a breeding species in the London Area. This year reported from nine localities in the breeding season, but only three pairs were proved to have bred successfully.
- All records of proved or possible breeding are given below, together with an Inner London record.
- Essex Chingford Plain, one bird singing during the summer. Epping Forest, present at three localities; two pairs bred at one site, two singing males at a second site and one territory at the third.
- Herts North Mymms Park, a single reported on five dates between Apr 22nd and June 25th.
- Middx Bushy Park, one in song flight on Apr 12th was not seen again.
- Surrey Limpsfield Chart, one pair was present but nested unsuccessfully.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Sept 11th.

- 1011 Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*  
 Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor and common but increasingly localised breeder.
- In the first two months of the year, flocks of 40–50 were found at Bulphan Fen, Bushy Park, QE II Res and Roundshaw Downs. Spring passage was light from mid-March to early April, with highest counts at the London Wetland Centre of 166 flying NW on Mar 21st and 60 flying NW on Mar 22nd, and in Regent's Park, 30 on Mar 22nd, 24 on Mar 23rd and 27 on Mar 29th. Autumn migration was underway by mid September and lasted well in to November, peaking around the last week of September and the first three weeks of October. Visible migration was noticeably lacking, and the largest flocks seen were all on the ground. These included those from Staines Moor, 140 on Sept 17th, 119 on Oct 4th and 136 on Oct 16th; Rainham Marsh, 100 on Sept 28th; Horton Fields, 300 on Oct 7th; and Queen Mother Res, 110 on Oct 5th. Towards the end of year, there were 102 at Staines Moor on Nov 15th, 70 at Chingford Plain on Nov 16th, 40 at Hersham GP on Nov 25th and 45 at Staines Moor on Dec 20th.
- Breeding sites, with the number of pairs or singing males in brackets are given below, together with a summary of Inner London records.
- Herts Chingford Plain (2). Dagenham Chase (11). Fairlop Waters (8). Ingrebourne Valley (28). Rainham Marsh (47). Stubbers OPC (11). Wanstead Flats (1).
- Herts Hatfield Aerodrome (7+). Smallford (1).

- Middx Bushy Park (8). Lake Farm, Hayes (1). Yeading Brook Meadows (1).  
 Kent Dartford Marsh (1).  
 Surrey Molesey Heath (1). Nore Hill, Chelsham (10). Riddlesdown (2). Roundshaw Downs (6+). Walton Res (1).  
 In Lond Chepstow Road, W2, one N on Sept 18th. De Beauvoir Town, one on Sept 19th. Green Park, singles on Sept 27th and Dec 9th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Feb 14th and Apr 15th, and between Sept 16th and Oct 28th, maxima of seven SE on Sept 16th. Paddington Green, W2, two N on Mar 29th and 30th, and a total of 21 between Sept 16th and Nov 5th. Regent's Park, spring passage from Mar 16th to Apr 16th, highest counts given above, and in autumn from Sept 15th to Nov 19th, maximum of 16 on Sept 16th. St James's Park, one on Apr 10th. Tate Modern, two on Oct 2nd.

**1014 Rock Pipit*****Anthus petrosus***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Wintering birds were again present at both ends of the year at several sites along the Lower Thames, with the highest numbers at Rainham Marsh, where counts reached 12 in November. Migrants at inland sites in the spring were only noted at four places between Mar 4th and Apr 14th with no more than two birds reported. In autumn, passage birds were seen between Sept 19th and Dec 10th at seven large reservoirs and two other sites in Surrey. Although most widespread in October, a notable influx was recorded at a few sites in late September, and included 12 at KGV Res and four at Staines Res on 25th, six at Rainham Marsh on Sept 26th, eight at KGV I Res on Sept 27th and four at QE II Res on Sept 30th.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, four on Jan 13th and one on Oct 6th. Grays, six on Dec 28th. KGV Res, in Apr two on 1st and one on 3rd, and 1–2 on seven dates in Sept and Oct with 12 on Sept 25th. Netherhall GP, one on Sept 25th. Rainham Marsh, peaks of three on Jan 29th, six on Feb 13th, 17th and Mar 6th; in the autumn from Sept 24th, with six on Sept 26th, 12 on Nov 26th and eight on Dec 14th. West Thurrock, three on Dec 22nd.
- Middx KGV I Res, eight on Sept 27th, two on Oct 16th and one on Dec 10th. Queen Mary Res, two on Oct 11th and one on Nov 13th. Staines Res, four on Sept 25th, two on 27th and Oct 17th and singles on seven other dates.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on five dates between Sept 19th and Oct 8th, with two on Sept 25th and 27th, four on Oct 20th and 1–2 between Oct 21st–31st, two on Nov 17th and one on 21st and 29th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, four on Feb 9th, one on Oct 27th, four on Nov 23rd, three on Nov 30th and one on Dec 14th. Erith Reach, one on Mar 10th. Greenhithe, singles on Jan 13th, Feb 10th and Nov 17th. Swanscombe Marsh, peak counts on the Thames foreshore were four on Jan 1st and 27th, six on Feb 23rd, Mar 3rd and Nov 10th, and at least seven on Dec 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1–3 on seven dates between Sept 23rd and Oct 14th. Island Barn Res, one on Apr 4th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 4th, two on Mar 17th and one on Apr 7th; 1–2 on eight dates between Sept 21st and Nov 9th. QE II Res, 1–4 on eight dates between Sept 26th and Oct 19th. Walton Res, singles on Apr 14th and Oct 3rd.

**1015 Water Pipit*****Anthus spinoletta***

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Reported again at two long established wintering sites, Rainham Marsh and Beddington SF. Birds also returned in large numbers to the Staines Moor area where a wintering flock was first noted as recently as the winter of 2000/2001, following the complete flooding of the R. Colne flood plain at the time. This was despite much drier conditions prevailing in subsequent winters. The same birds were also found feeding regularly at two sites adjacent to Staines Moor (KGV Res and Stanwell Moor) and also at nearby Staines Res, with increasing regularity during both winter periods. There were records from a further eight sites. All sites of occurrence are shown, with records summarised for the best localities.

- Essex KGV Res, one on Jan 3rd and 4th. Rainham Marsh, present from Jan 1 to Apr 7th, with monthly maxima of seven on Jan 30th, four on Feb 10th, and four on Mar 17th and 23rd. The first returning bird was seen on Oct 10th, increasing to four in Nov and a Dec peak of three.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Oct 19th and Nov 9th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Feb 16th.
- Middx KGV Res, one on Jan 16th, four on Jan 19th and one on Oct 28th. Staines Moor, three on Feb 5th and five on 28th, and six on Mar 19th; then from Oct 28th and regularly in Nov and Dec with seven on Nov 15th and 13 on Dec 27th. Staines Res, one on Jan 3rd, two on Feb 20th and one on Mar 27th. Stanwell Moor, two on Jan 15th, six on Mar 10th, two on Nov 4th and one on Nov 7th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Feb 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to three in Jan, Feb and Mar with the last on Apr 7th; in autumn one from Oct 20th with six before the end of the month, up to five in Nov and two in Dec. Holmethorpe SP, one on Mar 22nd and 23rd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 24th, Oct 7th and 12th, and two on Oct 14th and 22nd. Walton Res, singles on Mar 4th and Nov 25th.

**1017 Yellow Wagtail*****Motacilla flava***

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing breeder.

The first spring migrants were two at Rainham Marsh on Apr 2nd, followed by widespread reports throughout the rest of this month and into early May. Numbers of birds were generally very small, although a total of 25 birds were reported at two sites in Surrey on Apr 26th.

In the breeding season, now confined to the Essex and Herts sectors only, nine or ten pairs bred or held territory. The complete absence in the summer months from all other areas is evidence of the rapid decline of this species in the London Area in recent years.

Far more numerous in autumn, when some quite large feeding flocks were noted at a few sites. Numbers peaked in late August and September with the highest counts around Sept 10th-15th. Few birds remained by the end of

September, with only small numbers up to Oct 6th, and a quite late bird at Staines Res on Oct 20th.

A summary of breeding season records (numbers of pairs or birds holding territory in brackets), passage concentrations and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Collier Row, 12 on Aug 18th. KGV Res, 11 on Apr 18th and ten on Sept 13th. Ingrebourne Valley (2). Rainham Marsh (1–2), 62 on Aug 27th and 48 on Sept 4th. Tylers Common, Upminster (1). Werrington, Halls Aggregates (1).
- Herts Abbots Langley (1). Chiswell Green at Noke Farm (1). Coursers Lane Fields (2). Shafford Farm, near St. Albans, 20 on Aug 26th and Sept 1st.
- Middx KGV Res, 25 on Sept 10th. Staines Moor, 80 on Sept 10th. Stanwell Moor GP, 24 on Sept 25th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, ten on Sept 11th.
- Kent Reports of only three single birds received.
- Surrey Beddington SF, ten on Apr 26th and 15 on Sept 15th. London Wetland Centre, 15 on Apr 26th. QE II Res, 19 on Sept 15th.
- In Lond Primrose Hill, one flew N on May 1st (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on Apr 15th, May 7th and 11th, and up to four between Aug 21st and Sept 20th, but 11 on Sept 16th (ARD, DJ)

### 1999 Additional record

- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one flew N on Apr 6th (SEB).

### Blue-headed Wagtail

*M.f.flava*

- Surrey Island Barn Res, a male on Apr 13th and 14th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, a first-year female on Apr 26th and a male on May 1st (RK, JPPW).

### 1019 Grey Wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The number of sites holding birds during the breeding season over the last five years is given in the following table.

|  | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of sites holding birds during breeding season | 77   | 71   | 66   | 73   | 70   |

Given the variation in coverage from one year to the next, these figures remain remarkably consistent.

A summary of breeding and Inner London records is given below, together with some of the largest gatherings of birds at individual sites.

- Essex About 18 pairs were reported at 11 sites. Harold Wood SF, eight on Jan 26th. Rainham Marsh, up to 18 in October. Walthamstow Res, 12 on Sept 7th.
- Herts At least 18 pairs were present or bred at 14 sites in the breeding season. Rye Meads RSPB, a very high count of 35 on Aug 16th.
- Middx One pair bred at each of seven sites. Horsenden Hill, 16 on June 17th.

- Bucks Five pairs bred at individual sites.  
 Kent A total of nine pairs at nine sites.  
 Surrey A total of 21 sites held breeding season birds, and about 24 pairs may have bred. Beddington SF, up to 11 in October. London Wetland Centre, ten on Nov 3rd (of which six flew SW).  
 In Lond Breeding records came from the Paddington Green area (one pair), Regent's Park (two pairs), and Victoria, SW1 (one pair). At Regent's Park present throughout much of the year with a peak of five on Oct 8th. At Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, there were singles on seven dates between June 24th and Nov 14th, with two on Sept 27th. One or two birds were also seen on odd dates at a further nine sites.

**1020 Pied Wagtail*****Motacilla alba***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

This is a common breeding species, and the few breeding records submitted were hardly representative of the total numbers involved. The largest concentrations of birds are normally found at winter roosts, but large flocks are sometimes found at favoured daytime feeding sites. Counts at all roost sites, other large flocks of 50 or more, and a summary of records from Inner London are given below.

- Essex Coppermill FBs, c60 on Feb 10th. Harold Wood SF, 160 on Jan 16th and 200 on Feb 10th. Rainham Marsh, 55 on Dec 23rd.  
 Herts Abbots Langley, 50 at a pre-roost gathering on Oct 19th. Rye Meads RSPB, up to 57 in September.  
 Middx Lower Holloway, 200 at roost on Nov 28th in Holloway Road. Uxbridge, 200 at roost on Jan 19th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 100 on Jan 29th. Croydon, highest monthly counts at the North End roost were 550 in Jan, 350 in Feb, 180 in Mar, 50–100 in Nov and 150–200 in Dec. Epsom, 100+ on Sept 22nd. Oxted, Hurst Green, 52 on Nov 10th. QE II Res, 78 on Oct 20th. Sutton, monthly maxima at the High Street roost were 150 on Jan 31st, 110 on Feb 7th, 90 on Mar 17th, 60 on Apr 15th and 80 on Dec 19th. Tolworth, 60+ at roost on Jan 16th. Wimbledon, at the roost opposite Wimbledon Station, 80–100 on Jan 31st, 100 on Feb 25th and 77 on Mar 4th.  
 In Lond There were no breeding reports this year, although one was in Buckingham Palace in April and May, two at Dalston in July and up to three in Regent's Park in May and June. Outside the breeding season reported from 10 sites with a maximum of ten at Victoria Park on Jan 1st.

**1020.01 White Wagtail*****M.a.alba***

Status: passage migrant, rarely identified in autumn.

Birds were noted in spring between Mar 10th and May 22nd at 14 localities, but passage was very light with most records being of just one or two birds, and did not exceed three anywhere. Autumn records were confined to three single birds. Although adult males in spring can be very obvious, observers

should exercise caution when identifying female and immature *alba* wagtails in spring and all birds of this race at other times of the year.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Mar 10th. Dagenham Chase, one on Mar 21st. Fairlop Waters, two on Mar 16th. KGV Res singles on six dates between Mar 17th and May 5th, with three on Apr 5th and 23rd; one on Sept 14th. Rainham Marsh, one on Mar 18th, two on Mar 25th and singles on Apr 18th, 26th and Sept 10th.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common, a male on May 22nd.
- Middx Staines Res, 1–2 reported on 12 dates between Mar 16th and May 9th. Stanwell Moor, one on May 9th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Mar 28th, two on Apr 16th, one on Apr 17th and three on Apr 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Apr 28th and one on May 13th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 6th. Island Barn Res, two on May 3rd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 12th, 19th and 21st and Apr 29th. QE II Res, singles on Apr 4th, 23rd and 25th, May 3rd and Oct 10th. Walton Res, singles on seven dates between Mar 24th and May 3rd, and two on Apr 6th.

**1066 Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
Status: abundant resident.

Highest counts of pairs or territories are given for each sector below (numbers in brackets), together with some other notable records. Comparison with previous years' figures suggest this very common bird is benefiting from the lack of hard winters in recent years.

- Essex Ash Plantation, Clayhill (20). Copped Hall, 93 on Mar 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley (62). Kelvedon (31). Sewardstone Marsh (17). Wanstead Cemetery (21).
- Herts Amwell GP (41). Cheshunt GP (53). Chess Valley (17). Chorleywood Common (16). Hilfield Park Res (20–23). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (22). Rye Meads RSPB (54).
- Middx Bushy Park (27–35).
- Kent Bexley Wood (7). Hall Place Gdns (5). Ruxley GP, 12 on Nov 2nd.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (26). Barwell Court Farm (35). Beddington SF (69). Leatherhead, by R. Mole (40). London Wetland Centre (21). Nower Wood (20+).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (4). Embankment main gardens (1). Green Park (2). Kensington Gdns (6). Limehouse, 11 on May 5th. Paddington Green, W2 (3). St James's Park (8). Tate Modern (1). Victoria Park, 15 on Mar 6th.

**1084 Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*  
Status: abundant resident.

Highest counts of pairs or territories are given for each sector below (numbers in brackets), together with a few other notable records from other localities.

- Essex Copped Hall, 47 on Mar 22nd and 18 on Nov 17th. Ingrebourne Valley (22). Stubbers OPC (5).
- Herts Amwell GP (5). Cheshunt GP (13+ in incomplete survey). Chess Valley (8). Chorleywood Common (6). Hilfield Park Res (14). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (5). Rye Meads RSPB (35). Whippendell Woods (10).
- Middx Bushy Park (12–14).
- Kent Ruxley GP, ten on Sept 29th.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (5–12). Barwell Court Farm (12). Beddington SF (29). London Wetland Centre (13).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Kensington Gdns (2–3). Paddington Green, W2 (3). Pimlico (1). St James's Park (2). Victoria Park, seven on Jan 4th and Sept 3rd. Westminster (1).

**1099 Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

The largest concentrations of breeding birds (numbers of pairs or territories in brackets), together with a few high counts of individual birds are given below.

- Essex Ash Plantation, Clayhall (18). Copped Hall, 79 on Mar 22nd. Kelvedon (31). Piercing Hill, Epping Forest (13). Sewardstone Marsh (18). Stubbers OPC (11). Wanstead Cemetery (28).
- Herts Amwell GP (17). Cheshunt GP (24, but survey incomplete). Chess Valley (11). Chorleywood Common (25). Hilfield Park Res (12). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (15). Rye Meads RSPB (23).
- Middx Bushy Park (26–32).
- Kent Ruxley GP, ten in Oct and Nov. Sevenoaks WR, 25 on May 3rd.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (38). Barwell Court Farm (23). Beddington SF (20). Cannon Hill Common, 24 on May 3rd. Holmethorpe SP, 16 on Apr 14th. London Wetland Centre, 34 on Nov 9th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (4). Green Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5). Paddington Green, W2 (c5). St James's Park (6). Victoria Park, 16 on Sept 14th. Victoria Tower Gdns (1). Whitehall Gdns, SW1, (1).

**1104 Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

A total of 28–30 singing males were reported on more than one date during the spring and summer months at nine different sites. This is slightly lower than in recent years, but it was a record year in terms of the number of pairs for the main site, Bookham Common.

- Essex Copped Hall, 2–3 territories. Fishers Green, 1–3 territories. Green Lanes, Nazeing, a juvenile on July 18th. Hainault Forest, one territory. Holyfield Copse, one on May 11th. Sewardstone Marsh, 6–7 territories.
- Herts Broxbourne Woods, one singing on July 26th.
- Middx Rammey Marsh, one territory. Staines Moor, one on July 16th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one territory.

- Kent Stone Lodge, one territory.  
 Surrey Barnes Common, one singing on Apr 22nd. Bookham Common, a record count of 12 territories. Happy Valley, Old Coulsdon, a pair with young in June, but were predated by Magpies. Morden Hall Park, one on May 12th.

**1121 Black Redstart*****Phoenicurus ochruros***

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

The following pairs or singing males were located in the breeding season. Given the difficulty in finding or gaining access to some of this species' breeding sites in the capital (which are normally only found, away from well-known sites, by special searching of suitable habitat) these figures probably do not represent the true population.

|         |                       | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Additional singing males</i> |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Essex   | Silvertown            | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | Stratford Tunnell     | 1                            |                            |                                 |
| Middx   | Brimsdown             | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | East India Dock Basin | 1                            | 1                          |                                 |
|         | Heathrow Airport      | 1                            |                            |                                 |
| Kent    | Charlton              | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | Deptford Creek        | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | Greenwich             | 1                            | 2                          |                                 |
| In Lond | Baker Street          | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | Battersea             | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | Battersea PS          | 1                            |                            |                                 |
|         | King's Cross          | 1                            |                            |                                 |
| Totals  |                       | 3                            | 7                          | 5                               |

Records outside the breeding season are shown below. Wintering birds are regular in very small numbers and a few sites have held birds for several winters in a row.

- Essex Brimsdown, a male from Jan 1st-5th, one on Mar 9th and a pair on Mar 24th. KGV Res, birds from Brimsdown regularly visited here. Rainham GP, one on Apr 1st. Rainham Marsh, one on Nov 9th. Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 4th.  
 Middx Wood Green FBs, one on Aug 28th and from Sept 7th-15th.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Dec 15th.  
 Kent Littlebrook PS, one on Oct 2nd.  
 Surrey Island Barn Res, one on July 2nd. Prince Georges PF, one on Nov 4th. QE II Res, one on Nov 24th. South Norwood CP, one on Nov 8th. Walton Res, one from Jan 1st-Mar 4th, one on Nov 25th and from Dec 20th -31st.

**1122 Common Redstart*****Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

Status: uncommon passage migrant and former breeder.

A male at Stocker's Farm on Mar 30th was the first migrant to appear, and was the earliest in spring since one in Surrey on Mar 29th 1989. There were no more records until a further nine birds were concentrated into the six-day



period from Apr 17th-22nd. Of these ten spring birds, seven were reported as males (and two were not sexed).

A male in a Bexleyheath garden on May 8th would normally be presumed to be a spring migrant, but the report of this or another male in the same garden on the unusual date of June 9th suggests that this might not be the case. More widespread in autumn, with about 31 birds noted between Aug 14th and Sept 29th. All records are given.

- Essex Hainault Forest, two on Aug 28th. KGV Res, one on Sept 4th. Rainham Marsh, one on Sept 21st. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Apr 21st and 22nd. Tylers Common, one on Sept 2nd. West Essex GC, one on Sept 4th.
- Herts Bedmond, one on Sept 29th. Bushey, one on Sept 8th. Jersey Farm Woodland Park, one on Sept 1st. North Mymms Park, one on Sept 13th. Stocker's Farm, one on Mar 30th. Watford, one on Sept 5th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on Sept 18th. Brent Res, singles on Apr 20th and Aug 23rd. Bushy Park, one on Aug 18th. Greenford CP, one on Sept 1st. Kempton NR, one on Sept 24th and 26th. Tottenham Marsh, one on Sept 7th. Trent Park, one on Apr 17th. Vicarage Farm, singles on Aug 24th, Aug 31st and Sept 2nd.
- Kent Bexleyheath, one in observer's garden on May 8th and June 9th. Chipstead Lake, one from Sept 21st-23rd. Woolwich Common, one on Aug 28th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 18th. Nore Hill, Chelsham, two on Sept 3rd. Richmond Park, singles on Apr 21st, Aug 31st and Sept 19th. Sanderstead, one on Apr 19th. South Norwood Lake, one on Aug 14th. Stoneleigh, one on Sept 11th. Walton Downs, one on Aug 19th and 20th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Sept 17th and 18th (SEB). Regent's Park, singles on Apr 20th and Sept 17th (ARD, DJ).

### 1137 Whinchat

### *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

The first migrant in spring was at Brookmans Park on Apr 21st, after which small numbers were widespread on almost every day through to May 27th. Although most records in the spring were of single birds, numbers reached three at the London Wetland Centre on May 2nd and at Fairlop Waters on May 3rd. An approximate total of 60 birds were recorded in spring from 21 sites, but the highest day-total for the whole Area was only six on May 3rd.

The first of autumn was at Island Barn Res on July 13th. Another early single was at the London Wetland Centre on Aug 3rd and 4th and autumn passage started in earnest from Aug 11th, with up to four seen at several sites before the end of the month and six in Richmond Park on Aug 30th and 31st. Passage numbers increased as usual during September, numbers peaking with 11 at Nore Hill, Chelsham on Sept 5th and also at Staines Moor on Sept 10th, ten at Beech Farm on Sept 7th, eight at Fairlop Waters on Sept 16th, and seven at both Rainham and Dartford Marshes on Sept 21st. Parties of up to five continued to be seen until the end of the month, but only ones and twos were seen during the first five days of October. The last records were of one at the London Wetland Centre on Oct 19th and two at Dagenham Chase on

Oct 20th. The estimated total of birds in autumn was 484 at 64 sites, with the best day being Sept 7th when 31 birds were seen at eight sites. Autumn records outnumbered those in spring by a factor of over 8:1.

All Inner London records are given below.

In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Sept 4th (MG). Regent's Park, singles on Aug 21st and 28th (ARD, DJ).

### 1139 European Stonechat

*Saxicola torquata*

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 22 pairs or birds on territory were reported at seven sites, and all but seven pairs were on the Lower Thames Marshes with Rainham Marsh again the main site. This is close to the average in recent years, but an increase from the 15 pairs reported in 2001.

Wintering birds were widely scattered at 45 sites at the beginning of the year, with up to six birds present in some places, but after mid-March few remained away from breeding localities. A small influx at several sites in the first half of March suggested that some migration was took place, and in a few places some birds were present until late April. Odd dispersing birds (mostly juveniles) were seen in August away from breeding sites, but there was the usual strong influx of birds dating from about Sept 20th with the largest numbers of the year recorded in late autumn and early winter. The last four months of the year saw records from 53 sites.

The following summary gives all breeding records and a few of the more notable counts in each sector. There were no Inner London records this year.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one pair bred. Rainham Marsh, 14 territories in the summer, and highest counts of ten on Oct 13th and 19th and 15 on Dec 1st.
- Herts Beech Farm, eight on Sept 24th. Merry Hill, Oxhey, a pair bred and raised four young.
- Middx Bushy Park, two pairs bred the first breeding record here for at least 15 years. Rammey Marsh, nine on Nov 16th. Staines Moor, 12 on Oct 28th, ten on Nov 7th and 11 on Dec 20th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, six on Oct 28th.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, a male on May 12th and June 22nd.
- Surrey Richmond Park, three males in separate areas in May, and juveniles seen in two of these areas up until July with the highest count here of ten on Sept 18th. Walton Downs, two pairs bred and both were double-brooded.

### 1146 Northern Wheatear

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

The first arrivals in the spring were at the Queen Mother and KGV Reservoirs on Mar 15th, but this was followed by just a trickle of birds, and it was well into April before many sites saw their first birds of the spring. The largest count

anywhere before the end of March was only three, and the first half of April only saw a slow increase as the month progressed. The first real influxes came between Apr 18th and 20th (when 20 sites had counts of up to six birds), 33 birds being reported on 20th, and again on Apr 25th when 30 birds included nine at Rainham Marsh and five at two other sites. Early May saw further influxes, especially on May 3rd when 64 birds were recorded at 17 sites, with counts of six at Fairlop Waters, seven at Brent Res and Bushy Park, ten at QE II Res and 15 at the London Wetland Centre. Good numbers were recorded during the next few days, but migration tailed off rapidly after May 11th, and the last birds of the spring were at four sites on May 18th. A total of around 420 bird/days was recorded during spring migration, which is a good if not spectacular figure.

There were two June records in Herts, both of single birds on June 16th, at Rye Meads RSPB and Tyttenhanger GP. In July there were two reports from Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, a female on July 1st and one on July 24th,. This latter bird, or the one at Queen Mother Res on July 31st were probably the first autumn migrants to appear. August started very slowly, with only single birds appearing at many sites until 17th. A small influx during the rest of August brought many more birds, with 11 at Queen Mother Res on Aug 20th, nine at Fairlop Waters on 21st (and six here on 25th), and five at Rainham Marsh on Aug 28th the highest counts. Such numbers were not seen again during the rest of the autumn, and September and October produced only a steady trickle of birds, with mostly only one or two at most sites on any one date, and with no obviously large movements. The last bird of the year was at Queen Mother Res on Oct 23rd. About 414 bird/days were reported during the autumn, similar to the figure for the spring.

Birds were recorded in Inner London as follows.

In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Mar 21st and 30th; Apr 15th, 23rd and 30th; May 3rd and 9th; three on Aug 21st; and singles on Sept 1st and 21st (ARD, DJ).

The following records refer to birds considered by their observers to show characteristics of the race *leucorrhoea*, known as the Greenland Wheatear.

Essex Rainham Marsh, two on Sept 21st (SHn).

Middx Brent Res, seven on May 3rd (RJW).

Surrey London Wetland Centre, a male on Apr 25th (NPS), two females on May 1st (RK, NPS) and another female on May 3rd (RK, DMk).

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 21st, males on Apr 15th and 23rd, and one on Apr 30th (TRD, DJ).

## 1186 Ring Ouzel

*Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

The nine spring records were fairly typical in that they were all single birds in April and mostly males. The eight autumn records were between Sept 17th and Nov 16th, but the five in October (including three in Inner London) coincided with some large coastal counts. There were no wintering birds this year.

- Essex Leyton Flats, one on Oct 11th, three on 12th, and two on Nov 12th (PHI). Manor Park Cemetery, a first-winter on Sept 17th (HV). Mollands Lane GPs, a male on Apr 8th (KB). Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 16th (DGDL).
- Herts Bowyer's GP, a male on Apr 24th (SC, PJV).
- Middx Bushy Park, a female on Apr 19th (PGg). Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Apr 14th and a male on Oct 16th (RMC).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a male on Apr 11th and 12th (JAS).
- Kent Sidcup, a male found dead in early April in Colindale Avenue (MAn).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 13th (DAC). QE II Res, one on Apr 1st (DMH).
- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, one flew in to St Mary's churchyard on Oct 18th (DTM). Regent's Park, one female flew N on Oct 17th (ARD, DJ). Victoria Park, Hackney, a male from Oct 21st-23rd. (BDG).

**1187 Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Those sites in each county with the highest breeding counts are given below (numbers of territories in brackets), and also the highest counts received of individual birds. Numbers are considerably boosted during the winter by the arrival of continental immigrants, and it would seem that many sites have their highest numbers in November and December.

- Essex Copped Hall, 71 on Nov 17th. Epping Forest (29 in central area). Ingrebourne Valley (39). Larks Wood, Chingford (32). Mansfield Park, 47 on Dec 7th. Rainham Marsh, 42 on Nov 30th and Dec 11th. Walthamstow Res, 45 on Jan 4th and Dec 3rd.
- Herts Amwell GP, 36 on Nov 20th. Hilfield Park Res (17-19). Rye Meads RSPB (23), 50 on Nov 23rd.
- Middx Bushy Park (20-22; 18-20 in 2001).
- Surrey Ashted Common (27-29; 29 in 2001). Barwell Court Farm (23). Beddington SF (28; 30 in 2001), 69 on Dec 19th. R. Mole at Leatherhead (25; 23 in 2000).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (5; 8 in 2001). Chepstow Road, W2 (1-2). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (20+). Limehouse, 42 on Feb 6th. Paddington Green, W2 (5; 6 in 2001). St James's Park (6; 7-9 in 2001). Vauxhall Park, 19 on June 24th. Victoria Park, 67 on July 13th. Whitehall Gdns, SW1 (6)

**1198 Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Despite cold weather at the beginning of January, the year began with only moderate numbers in the London Area, and little changed during the next three months. January saw flocks of 100 or more birds at 12 sites during the month with 500 at the Sevenoaks WR the largest count. During February, only eight sites had counts of 100 or more, but these included two localities with over 300 birds, and another three with more than 200. Numbers remained constant throughout March and 12 places had flocks of over 100, including 250 at Stanwell Moor, but there was a rapid departure at the end of March. The first two weeks of April produced parties of mostly less than 40, but there

were 70 at Tyttenhanger GP on Apr 14th. After this only single figures were reported with the last two birds seen at Dartford Marsh on Apr 24th.

Although there was an early bird reported on Sept 21st at Rainham Marsh, the autumn migration was very slow in getting going, and the next records (at two sites) were not until Oct 7th, and then daily from Oct 16th when up to 40 birds were seen at some sites. Large arrivals took place on Oct 30th (with the first large flock of 120) and on 31st when there were 300 in Regent's Park and 180 at Nore Hill, Surrey. Numbers in November were far higher with 100+ flocks at 12 sites, and small-scale movements were widespread. The best days were Nov 23rd when 915 birds were reported (with 600 alone at the Copped Hall Estate) and the next day when 1,239 birds were noted. By the end of the month, numbers had reached 500 at Dartford Marsh. December saw flocks of 100 or more at eight sites, with the highest count of 270 (at Stanwell Moor), and a few small movements were noted around the middle of the month, including 130 over Beddington SF on Dec 14th.

The highest counts in each county are given below, together with all Inner London records.

- Essex Copped Hall, 600 on Nov 23rd and 155 on Mar 10th. Fairlop Waters, 200 on Jan 29th. Fishers Green, 200 on Jan 29th and 400 on Nov 27th. Hall Marsh, 300 on Feb 10th. Orsett, 372 on Feb 8th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 200 on Nov 3rd. Coopers Green GP, 209 on Jan 27th. Oxhey, 300 on Nov 26th. Tyttenhanger GP, 200 on Nov 30th.
- Middx Brent Res, 260 on Nov 24th. Stanwell Moor, 250 on Mar 16th and 270 on Dec 20th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 175 on Dec 5th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 500 on Nov 30th. Sevenoaks WR, 500 on Jan 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 300 flew SE on Nov 24th. Little Woodcote, 200 on Jan 12th. Nore Hill, Chelsham, 200 on Mar 29th. Rushett Farm, 200 on Feb 10th. Woldingham, 200 on Nov 10th at the North Downs GC.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, three on Jan 2nd, two on Oct 16th and one on Dec 14th. Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, one on Dec 10th. Paddington Green, W2, seven on Nov 26th and one on Dec 11th. Regent's Park, four on Jan 1st and one on Mar 5th; four on Oct 17th and 300 on 31st, 100 on Nov 5th, 40 on 9th, 70 on 10th, 33 on 26th, 92 on 27th and 45 on 29th, and 30 on Dec 2nd, 21 on 5th, 20 on 18th and 25 on 26th. Victoria Park, c40 on Oct 24th.

## 1200 **Song Thrush**

*Turdus philomelos*

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only comment on breeding status received referred to the area of SW Herts where it was stated that this species "remains very common with no evidence of any further decline during the last decade". Judging from the massive effort to record this species in several counties in recent years, it seems this comment could well apply to a many other areas within the London Area.

The largest concentrations of territories in each county are shown below, (numbers in brackets). A few other high counts during the winter months, all evidence of migration, and most Inner London records are also given.

- Essex 136 territories/singing males at 30 sites. Ash Plantation, Clayhall (5). Copped Hall (13; 2+ in 2000), 45 on Nov 17th. East Ham, Leigh Road (5). Epping Forest (21 in the central area, 6 at Long Running, 7 at Piercing Hill. Roding Valley Park (5; 5+ in 1999).
- Herts 78 territories/singing males at 15 sites. Bricket Wood area (22; 15+ in 2000). Cassiobury Park (6; 7 in 2001). Cheshunt GP (9). Croxley Moor, 20 on Oct 18th. Garston area (14; 10+ in 2000). Rye Meads RSPB (6; 12 in 2000). Slipe Lane GP (8).
- Middx 47 territories at ten sites. Bushy Park (9; 9–10 in 2001). Coppetts Wood (7). Grovelands Park (7; 5 in 1998). Horsenden Hill (13; 11 in 2001). Staines Moor, ten together on Oct 16th. Trent Park, ten flew to roost on Oct 3rd.
- Bucks No breeding reports received.
- Kent Nine territories or singing males were reported at six sites. Also seven at Dartford Marsh on Nov 16th.
- Surrey 101 territories/singing males at 18 sites. Ashtead Common (6; 6 in 2001). Barwell Court Farm (5; 4 in 2000). Beddington SF (5; 7 in 1999). Bookham Common (15 in census area; 13 in 2001), Horton CP (16). Limpsfield Chart (15; 11 in 2001). London Wetland Centre (5; 5 in 2001); two of the continental race on Oct 8th; 33 NW on Oct 19th and eight W on Nov 3rd. Molesey Heath (8). Nore Hill, Chelsham, 20+ presumed migrants on Oct 7th. Putney Heath (6). Trevereux/Swaynesland (7; 2 in 2001). Wandsworth Common (5).
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3; 1 in 2001). Primrose Hill (1). Regent's Park, no breeding census this year, but migrants in October were two on 10th, five on 11th, five on 16th and 12 on 17th. St. James's Park (2; 2 in 2001).

## 1201 Redwing

## *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The beginning of the year saw relatively few birds in London. In January, two sites held 150 birds, but most counts were well below 50. Very few were reported in February, with the highest count only reaching 115. There was some evidence of departure during the period Mar 12th–19th, when three figure flocks were found at four sites and a little overhead movement was seen, but very few double figure counts were noted during the rest of the month. In April, apart from four at Trent Park on 9th, 11 other sites had single birds with the last at Horsenden Hill and Rye Meads RSPB on Apr 17th. There were two records of single birds seen in May, at Danson Park on 9th and at Watford on 10th.

First reports in autumn came from Barking, with one on Sept 18th, followed by one at the London Wetland Centre on 19th. At South Norwood CP a high count of 32 was recorded on Sept 21st. Further records of 1–4 birds at seven sites were noted before the end of the month. Counts of more than 100 came from 13 sites in October, 11 in November and eight in December.

The highest counts in each county are given. Also a more detailed summary of birds in Inner London is shown.

- Essex Chigwell, 150 on Dec 13th. Copped Hall, 160 on Mar 16th, East Ham, 265 on Mar 12th. Rainham Marsh, 187 on Dec 11th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 220 on Nov 1st. Croxley Moor, 200 on Oct 18th. Garston, 150 on Jan 15th and Dec 8th. North Mymms Park, 200 flew over on Oct 16th. Oxhey, 1,200 on Nov 26th.
- Middx Brent Res, 225 on Nov 24th. Coppetts Wood, 'hundreds' flying over on Mar 18th and 'thousands' on the night of Oct 26th. Hampton Court Park, 150 on Jan 18th. Parkside Farm/Res, 230 flew W on Oct 16th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 120 on Nov 16th. Sevenoaks WR, 100 on Mar 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 135 on Oct 20th and 130 on Dec 14th. Croham Hurst, 150 on Oct 20th. Limpsfield Chart, 155 flew W on Nov 1st. South Norwood CP, 200 on Nov 1st.
- In Lond Chepstow Road, W2, 2+ on Oct 31st and on one or two dates in Nov. Compayne Garden, NW6, ten on Jan 26th and 1–2 in Feb up to 27th. Green Park, one on Dec 24th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, monthly maxima of eight in Jan, five in Feb, 12 on Mar 7th, one on Oct 18th and 14 on Dec 17th. Regent's Park, monthly maxima of 30 on Jan 1st, 50 on Feb 12th, 60 on Mar 5th, one on Apr 5th and 7th, two on Sept 27th, 140 on Oct 17th, and 50 on Nov 27th and Dec 3rd. St James's Park, one on Dec 12th. Victoria Park, maxima of 36 on Mar 2nd and ten on Dec 14th.

## 1202 Mistle Thrush

*Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common breeding resident.

The total number of territories, pairs or singing males reported during the breeding season was 116–121 at 57 sites, but only a small proportion of these came from the counties of Middlesex, Bucks or Kent. Significant breeding sites are given below, together with some of the largest groups of individual birds seen in each county during the year, and a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex 41 territories/singing males were reported from 24 sites. Highest counts were 33 at Valentines Park on Sept 9th, 33 at Walthamstow Res on Sept 4th, and 29 at the West Essex GC on June 12th.
- Herts 26 territories/singing males were reported from ten sites. This included 11 territories in the Bricket Wood area. There were 32 at Bedmond on Sept 2nd.
- Middx Only nine pairs or singing males were reported. Highest counts were 20 at both Bushy Park on Nov 5th, and Perivale Wood on June 21st.
- Bucks No breeding reports received. Largest count was 22 at Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath on July 27th.
- Kent Five pairs reported from five sites in the breeding season.
- Surrey 29–34 territories or pairs were reported, of which 15–20 were at Wimbledon Common. There were 31 at Joseph Hood Recreation Ground on Sept 20th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one regularly in April. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, at least one pair bred and at least four territories. Limehouse, four on Apr 11th, Paddington Green, W2, six on June 30th. Parliament Square, one singing on



Jan 19th. Regent's Park, highest count was 25 on Aug 18th. St James's Park, one pair may have nested in or near the park. Victoria Park, maximum of 15 on June 27th. Victoria Tower Gdns, one singing on Mar 20th. Whitehall Gdns. SW1, one pair bred.

**1220 Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti***

Status: scarce migrant, winter visitor and occasional breeder.

Essex Ingrebourne Valley, 1-2 present from Oct 20th-Nov 10th (DSh *et al*) and two singing on Dec 27th (DMn).

Herts Amwell GP, one remaining from Oct 2001 until at least Mar 23rd, and another from Sept 29th was joined by a further bird on Dec 15th and both were present until the end of the year (BR, GJW *et al*). Rye Meads RSPB, a female ringed on Mar 30th, one on Oct 18th and ringed on Nov 16th, also seen on Nov 23rd, 30th and Dec 12th (RMRG).

Middx Brent Res, one on Sept 22nd (ASMS).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 5th (AP). London Wetland Centre, one from Nov 30th and two from Dec 29th, both birds staying in to 2003 (RK, DMk *et al*).

Only one bird wintered at the beginning of the year, but long-staying birds were present at four sites in the last three months, and at three of these a second bird appeared so that six birds were present at the end of December.

**1236 Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first reported in the spring was at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Apr 15th, and as usual there was a widespread influx of birds in the last ten days of April and early May. Many of these soon passed through, but there were still reports at seven sites in June. The last was at Cheshunt GP on Aug 3rd.

Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 22nd and 24th. Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 19th and 20th. Fishers Green, two on June 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Apr 22nd and one pair bred. Rainham Marsh, one on Apr 27th and six singing in June. Tylers Common, two on Apr 21st and one on Apr 23rd.

Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Aug 3rd. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 25th. Potters Crouch, one on Apr 23rd. Rye Meads RSPB, one on May 2nd. St Albans, one on Apr 25th. Stocker's Lake, one from Apr 24th-26th.

Middx Rammey Marsh, two on June 18th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Apr 15th, two on 22nd, three on 23rd, and then 1-2 from May 8th to June 28th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 1-2 from Apr 22nd -May 5th, and one trapped on June 22nd.  
Surrey Roundshaw Downs, one on June 27th.



- 1243 Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
 Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.
- First seen in the spring at Rammey Marsh on Apr 4th, although several other sites reported an arrival in the next few days. The last records of the year were at Staines Moor and Wraysbury GP on Oct 2nd. Sites holding more than ten males during the spring and summer are shown below (numbers of singing males/territories in brackets), although counts at some sites in April and May may include migrants. Although compared with similar figures in 2001, numbers at some places were well down, it is interesting to note an increase at Rainham Marsh from 35 singing males in 2001 to 180 in 2002. A few other high counts of birds and all Inner London records are also given.
- Essex Fishers Green (10). Ingrebourne Valley (16). Rainham Marsh (180). Sewardstone Marsh (13).
- Herts Amwell GP (24). Cheshunt GP (30). Rye Meads RSPB (60). Stocker's Lake (12).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP (18).
- Kent Ruxley GP, 14 on Sept 27th was a surprisingly late date for such numbers.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (17), 14 on Sept 2nd.
- In Lond Guy's Hospital, one was singing from bushes on May 27th (AJO). Regent's Park, one on May 19th (ARD, DJ). Tate Modern, one on Sept 9th (DGDL).

#### 2001 Additional Record

- Middx Rammey Marsh, 11 territories.

- 1250 Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*  
 Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant.
- Essex Site A, one singing from May 19th to June 6th and "breeding behaviour observed". Walthamstow Marsh, one singing on June 24th-25th (GJ *et al*).
- Two more singing birds in Essex, which has been the centre of the recent upsurge in London records over the last few years.

- 1251 Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
 Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
- The first arrival was at Walton Res on Apr 10th. The four localities with the highest counts of breeding birds all saw large increases compared to the previous year, and in at least two cases, probably as a result of habitat improvement. Breeding was again reported in Inner London. There were only two records in October with the latest at the Wetland Centre on Oct 19th, but one reported at Island Barn Res on Nov 26th is over a month later, and was feeding in grass and an ivy-covered bush.
- Sites with totals of ten or more territories or singing males, and all Inner London records, are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (16). Ingrebourne Valley (109). Rainham Marsh (510). Walthamstow Res (21).
- Herts Amwell GP (55). Bowyer's GP (c11). Cheshunt GP (22 but survey incomplete). Rye Meads RSPB (65).
- Middx Horsenden Hill, 22 on June 23rd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (17+). Ruxley GP (11).
- Surrey Beddington SF (16). London Wetland Centre (88).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, a male singing from May 30th-June 11th until disturbed by heavy machinery (MG). Paddington Green, W2, one on Sept 26th (DTM). Regent's Park, one pair bred and may have been double-brooded, with other birds recorded on seven dates between May 9th and Sept 13th (ARD, DJ). Surrey Docks, three males singing on May 17th (DTM).

**1277 Blackcap*****Sylvia atricapilla***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

The widespread occurrence of wintering birds in the first three and last three months of the year masked the first and last sightings of summer visitors as usual, but there was a clear evidence of birds arriving in force before the end of March and departing in September and October. Breeding season records came from a huge number of localities in all counties including the Inner London recording area. The highest counts in the summer months are summarised below (number of singing males/territories shown in brackets) along with other large counts. All Inner London breeding season records are also given.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (10). Dagenham Chase (14). Holyfield Hall Farm (11). Ingrebourne Valley (20). Larks Wood, Chingford (16). Sewardstone Marsh (13).
- Herts Cheshunt GP (32, in incomplete survey). Chorleywood Common (10). Garston area (12). Rye Meads RSPB (31).
- Middx Brent Res (23). Bushy Park (12-15). Coppetts Wood (12). Horsenden Hill (18) with 23 singing males here and at Perivale Wood on Apr 14th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 45 trapped in Aug and 80 in Sept, and 16 counted on Oct 5th.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods (18-20). Ruxley GP, up to 12 singing in April and May.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (10 in census area). Bookham Common (29 in census area).
- In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, one singing on Apr 25th. Adelaide Road, NW3, two singing on June 30th. Buckingham Palace, two singing on Apr 23rd. Camley Street Natural Park, one singing on May 15th. Compayne Gdns, NW6 (1). Holland Park (4-5). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1-2). Limehouse, two on Apr 11th. Paddington Green, W2 (1). Primrose Hill (1). Regent's Park (14). Regent's/Hertford Canal, four singing on Apr 28th. Royal Embankment Gardens, one singing on Apr 16th. Surrey Docks, four singing on Apr 23rd. Victoria Park (1).

The following table shows the approximate number of birds in each county during the winter months. As is normal, Surrey had most of the birds, and

probably the largest risk of some duplication of individual birds as many are found at relatively nearby sites (mostly gardens). These figures included a count of seven birds in Regent's Park on Dec 18th, the largest gathering anywhere in London at the end of the year. Overall numbers remained at a consistently high level at both ends of the year.

|     | <i>Essex</i> | <i>Herts</i> | <i>Middx</i> | <i>Bucks</i> | <i>Kent</i> | <i>Surrey</i> | <i>In Lond</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Jan | 7            | 5            | 6            | 1            | 3           | 35            | 1              | 58           |
| Feb | 3            | 6            | 3            | -            | 1           | 28            | 1              | 42           |
| Nov | 2            | -            | 2            | 1            | 2           | 17            | 1              | 25           |
| Dec | 6            | 3            | 5            | 2            | -           | 33            | 7              | 56           |

### 1276 Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A late arrival for this summer visitor with the first report not until one at Ashtead Common on Apr 21st. Although plentiful enough in August, a likewise rapid departure with surprisingly none seen after Sept 13th, when the last bird of the year was at Sewardstone Marsh.

The highest counts of territories/singing males in each county are given below (numbers in brackets), with a few other large counts and also a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Dagnam Park (4). Fishers Green (12). Hainault Forest (8). Sewardstone Marsh (10).
- Herts Amwell GP (6). Cheshunt GP (10+ in incomplete survey). Hilfield Park Res (3). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (8). Rye Meads RSPB (11).
- Middx Bentley Priory (3). Broadwater Lake (4).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 17 trapped in Aug.
- Kent Ruxley GP (3). Sevenoaks WR, ten on May 11th and 13 on June 3rd.
- Surrey Bookham Common (20). Limpsfield Chart (6). Oxted, Hurst Green (5+). Wimbledon Common (14).
- In Lond Hyde Park, one singing on May 3rd. Regent's Park, singles on five dates between Apr 30th and May 12th, and on nine dates Aug between 2nd and 31st with two on 7th, 21st, 24th and 26th. Victoria Park, one on May 18th.

### 1274 Lesser Whitethroat

*Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A rather late arrival this year with the first birds not seen in spring until Apr 19th at both Rainham Marsh and Horton CP. Approximately 127 singing males were reported from 61 sites during the spring and summer, although many of these must have been migrants. Autumn was rather a low-key affair, with few large parties being seen anywhere. Most had gone by mid-September, with only about nine birds reported between Sept 16th and 22nd. There was then a gap of over a month before the very last bird of the year, at Mollands Lane GPs on Oct 30th. Such late birds have been quite regular in

recent years, and presumably are not British breeding birds. In fact this bird was described as of 'indeterminate race'.

The highest counts of singing males/territories (numbers in brackets), other notable counts and all Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Dagnam Park (4). Ingrebourne Valley (5). Mansfield Park, Chingford, eight on June 23rd.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB (7).
- Middx Bentley Priory (4). Brent Res, six on May 2nd. Trent Park, five on May 10th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, five on Aug 22nd and Sept 1st.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, eight trapped in Aug and 19 trapped in Sept.
- Surrey Ashted Common (4). Oxted, Hurst Green (7+).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Sept 16th and 18th. Regent's Park, singles on May 1st, 8th and three on May 12th, two on Aug 16th, and singles on Aug 23rd and 24th, and Sept 19th and 20th. Surrey Docks, two singing on Apr 23rd. Tate Modern, one on Sept 13th.

## 1275 Common Whitethroat

*Sylvia communis*

Status: common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Two early birds were reported at Rye Meads RSPB on Mar 29th, and then two more at Fishers Green on Apr 1st. The main arrival was from Apr 14th onwards. Counts of singing males during the breeding season suggest a very healthy population of birds, especially in some large areas of suitable habitat in south Essex. In Inner London, the Surrey Docks record strongly suggests breeding took place. Birds remained common throughout much of August, but a rapid departure took place in September, and none were seen after Sept 21st with the sole exception of one at Bowyer's GP on Nov 26th, a remarkably unseasonal record, but not unprecedented.

Sites with ten or more territories/singing males are given below (numbers in brackets), together with a few other high counts and all Inner London records.

- Essex Beauchamp Roding (12). Dagenham Chase (22). Fairlop Waters (12). Holyfield Marsh GP (12). Ingrebourne Valley (170). Rainham Marsh (190). Roding Valley Park (20). Sewardstone Marsh (17). Stubbers OPC (13).
- Herts Chiswell Green/Potters Crouch (11). Rye Meads RSPB (23).
- Middx Brent Res (15). Horsenden Hill (18). Tottenham Marsh, 19 on Aug 18th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP (20), 46 trapped during Aug.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (33). Foots Cray Meadows (15).
- Surrey Beddington SF (67). Bookham Common (29 in census area). Ewell, 16 on June 29th. Molesey Heath (18). South Norwood CP (30). Wimbledon Common (31).
- In Lond Battersea PS, two on Apr 28th. Limehouse, one on May 5th. Regent's Park, singles on May 2nd, May 19th and Aug 13th, two on Aug 20th, and one on Aug 22nd, Sept 1st and 10th. Surrey Docks, four singing on May 17th. Tate Modern, one from Sept 16th-18th.

- 1262 Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor and rare breeding species.
- Considering that there were no records at all of this species in the London Area from 1939 to 1971, and that the only breeding record post-war was in 1989, it is pleasing to see at least one site in Surrey has had breeding birds in the last two years. Birds were also present at two other sites in the late summer in suitable breeding habitat. All records are given.
- Essex Rainham Marsh, an immature on Nov 16th (MU) and Dec 27th (SC).  
 Upminster, an immature from Oct 21st-Nov 3rd at Pages Wood (CR).
- Middx Bushy Park a male from Jan 11th-31st was presumably the bird from Dec 2001 (MB, DHy). Staines Moor, an immature from Oct 14th-19th (REI *et al*).
- Bucks A male was present at one locality from Aug 14th until at least Sept 7th.
- Surrey Site A, at least four birds were singing on territory in May and June. Site B, one on July 27th with probably the same bird on Sept 7th and 27th. Nonsuch Park, one seen up to Dec 7th 2001, was seen again on Jan 4th (BTt). South Norwood CP, one last reported on Dec 31st 2001 was seen again on Jan 5th (JB).

**1998 / 1999 Correction**

- Surrey Beddington SF, the record published in *LBR 1999* of one from Nov 11th 1998 to Jan 9th 1999 is incorrect and should be deleted. The correct dates are those as shown in *LBR 2000*.

- 1308 Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant, former breeding species.
- Essex Hainault Forest CP, one on Sept 29th (SBn).
- Middx Perivale Wood, one singing on Apr 21st (AJC). Trent Park, one singing on Apr 24th and 27th (RMC).
- Kent Bexley Wood, one on Apr 24th (GCN).
- Surrey Ashtead Common, one on Apr 23rd (BTOMW). Morden Park, one singing on Apr 19th (SJW). Wimbledon Common, one singing on Apr 28th (SJW).
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 25th and Sept 1st (ARD, DJ).

Seven or eight spring records all came in a nine-day period during the peak time between Apr 19th and 28th, but the only two seen in autumn were at either end of September. The poor showing of this species in recent years continues, and it has become a hard bird to see in the London Area.

- 1311 Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
 Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor; increasingly widespread in winter.

The number of wintering birds at the beginning of the year was at a rather low level, following very cold weather (and lack of insects) at the end of 2001, which continued in early January. Numbers declined even further in February. At the end of the year counts indicated a more normal wintering population in

December. The following table shows the approximate number of birds in each sector in the main winter months.

|     | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Total |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| Jan | 7     | 8     | 6     | 1     | 6    | 5      | -       | 33    |
| Feb | 3     | 4     | 1     | 0     | 3    | 2      | 2       | 15    |
| Nov | 1     | 8     | 5     | 4     | 3    | 9      | 2       | 32    |
| Dec | 6     | 9     | 14    | 8     | 7    | 9      | 7       | 60    |

The largest numbers of wintering birds were found at Rye Meads RSPB, with six in January (compared to 15 in December 2001) and seven at Bedfont Lakes CP in December.

Migrants had arrived in force by mid-March and were very widely recorded. For example at Wraysbury GP, one on Mar 9th had increased to 20 by Mar 23rd. In the following summary the highest number of breeding pairs/territories recorded in each sector is shown (numbers in brackets), a few large counts of individuals, and a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Ash Plantation, Clayhall (6). Belhus Woods CP, 20 on Apr 1st. Holyfield Marsh GP (9). Ingrebourne Valley (10). Ongar Park Wood (7). Roding Valley Park (8). Wanstead Cemetery (6).
- Herts Bricket Wood area (13). Cheshunt GP (15, in incomplete count). Chorleywood Common (6). Hilfield Park Res (11–12). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (6). Rye Meads RSPB (15), and up to 40 in Sept. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, 20 on Sept 15th. Stocker's Lake (6).
- Middx Bentley Priory (7). Brent Res (11), 33 on Aug 31st and 22 on Sept 15th. Horsenden Hill (12), and 26 on June 27th. Hounslow Heath (10).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 45 trapped during Aug, 193 during Sept and 18 still present on Oct 12th.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods (8). Lullingstone Lake/Park (10). Sevenoaks WR, 16 on Aug 28th.
- Surrey Ashted Common (18). Barwell Court Farm (11). Bookham Common (27 in census area). Limpsfield Chart (14); 39 on Aug 20th. London Wetland Centre, 27 on Sept 2nd and 20 on Sept 19th. Nower Wood (9). Putney Heath (11). R. Mole at Leatherhead (8).
- In Lond Holland Park, one pair possibly bred. Singing birds reported from Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Regent's Park, St James's Park and Surrey Docks. Migrants also reported from Limehouse, Paddington Green, W2, Tate Modern and Victoria Park, all of which were in autumn.

Birds thought by their observers to show characteristics of the Scandinavian race *abietinus* were seen in Regent's Park on Aug 21st and Sept 11th, and of the eastern race *tristis* at Mudchute City Farm on Nov 16th.

### 1312 Willow Warbler

### *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Fishers Green on Mar 25th, and seven more sites reported birds before the end of March. The usual large influx took place

in early April, and counts had reached over 30 at Wraysbury GP by Apr 17th, and 25 at Croxley Moor on Apr 23rd. In the autumn, passage was well underway during August, and included an influx of 20+ on Aug 16th at Regent's Park, but numbers decreased rapidly after early September, and the only bird remaining after Sept 26th was at Wimbledon Common on Oct 2nd.

Reports during the breeding season suggest continuing low numbers of breeding pairs, and if anything, further decreases. This was certainly the case at the Bookham Common census area where only five territories were reported compared to 14 in 2001, and as many as 36 as recently as 1997.

Given below is a sample of localities with largest numbers of singing males or territories (figures in brackets) in each county, other large counts and a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Chingford Plain (5). Dagenham Chase (9). Fairlop Waters (14). Hainault Forest CP (10). Holyfield Marsh GP (11). Hooks Marsh, 12 on Aug 24th. Ingrebourne Valley (18). Tylers Common, Upminster (8).
- Herts Amwell GP (5). Bowyer's GP (8). Bricket Wood area (8). Chorleywood Common (4). Croxley Moor, 25 on Apr 23rd. Rye Meads RSPB (11).
- Middx Bentley Priory, ten during May. Brent Res, 15 on Aug 21st. Prince's Ski Club, Bedfont (6). Trent Park (4).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 30+ on Apr 16th, 20 on May 4th and 17 trapped during Aug.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (4).
- Surrey Ashted Common (15). Bookham Common (5 in census area). Limpsfield Chart (15), 15 on Aug 7th. Wandsworth Common (6). Wimbledon Common (7), 12 on Aug 28th.
- In Lond Compayne Gdns, NW6, one singing on Apr 18th. Holland Park, one singing on Apr 21st. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one singing on Mar 30th and 31st, and singles on Aug 19th, 27th, Sept 3rd and 4th. Limehouse, three on Sept 20th. Paddington Green, W2, one on Sept 20th. Regent's Park, 1-6 from Apr 2nd-May 23rd, and up to eight from July 29th-Sept 10th, but 20+ on Aug 16th; an unidentified *Phylloscopus* warbler from Nov 25th into 2003 was considered by some observers to be of this species, but others felt that this was not proven and that the possibility of a hybrid (with Chiffchaff) could not be ruled out. Tate Modern, one on Sept 9th.

### 1314 Goldcrest

### *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of breeding pairs or singing males reported increased considerably to at least 160, but this was probably due to increased effort by observers in the Hertfordshire sector (from which 76 of these were reported), and this species is doubtless still under recorded in many other areas. There was a small influx of migrants and winter visitors from September, and peaking in late October and November.

Breeding season records (numbers of pairs or territories in brackets), the largest counts and a summary of Inner London records are given.

- Essex Copped Hall (10), 24 on Nov 7th. Long Running, Epping Forest (4). Piercing Hill, Epping Forest (11). Upminster Crematorium (4). Wanstead Cemetery (6). 1–2 territories were at nine other sites.
- Herts Bedmond (3). Bricket Wood area (8+). Broxbourne Woods (4), 20 on July 21st. Garston area (10+). Hilfield Park Res (7–9). Potters Crouch Plantation (3). Radlett area (7+). Watford area (5). 23 other sites held 1–2 pairs or birds on territory.
- Middx Brent Res, 19 on Oct 5th. Broadwater Lake, ten on Oct 12th. Seven sites had 1–2 breeding pairs or singing males.
- Bucks Denham GC (2). Wraysbury GP, nine trapped on Sept 28th.
- Kent Bexley Woods (2), 12–15 in Nov and Dec.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, 50 on Nov 17th. Limpsfield Chart, 20 on Oct 31st. R. Hogsmill at West Ewell, 17 on Nov 4th. Sanderstead area (8). South Norwood CP, 13 in Nov. Wimbledon Common (11). 1–2 birds singing at five other sites.
- In Lond Holland Park (2–3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), up to nine between Sept and Dec. Priory Road, NW6 (1). Regent's Park (1), 12 on Sept 15th. Non-breeding birds reported from Aberdare Gdns, NW6, Buckingham Palace, Chepstow Road, W2, Greville Place, NW6, Victoria Park.

**1315 Firecrest*****Regulus ignicapillus***

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Eight or nine pairs or singing males were present in the breeding season at six sites. At one site in Essex, possibly two pairs bred. At a second site, two males were singing in June, and at a third site a pair were present and two males were singing in April. In Herts, a male was singing in April at a previous breeding site, and a male was singing at another site on at least two dates in May. At a site in Surrey, a pair from the start of the year was still there in April (the male singing) but the site was not visited again until Oct 26th when presumably the same pair was still present and remained until Nov 25th.

Records of assumed migrants and winter visitors are given in full below.

- Essex Connaught Water, one on Nov 11th. Corbets Tey Park, one Dec 8th. Fishers Green, one on Feb 2nd and 15th. Great Warley, one on Sept 23rd, four on Nov 18th and two on Dec 23rd. Harold Wood, one on Dec 1st and 3rd. Piercing Hill, Epping Forest, one on Feb 6th and 16th. Purfleet, one on Feb 10th at Heritage Centre Wood. Valentines Park, one on Oct 22nd. Warley Place NR, three on Nov 10th.
- Herts Cheshunt GP, singles on Feb 2nd and Dec 22nd. Rye Meads RSPB, a female trapped on Apr 13th.
- Middx Brent Res, one singing on May 14th. Coppetts Wood, singles on Sept 29th, Oct 26th and Dec 21st. Grovelands Park, two on Oct 9th. Mudchute City Farm, one on Nov 16th and two on 17th. Osterley Park, one on Nov 12th. Trent Park, 1–2 from Dec 10th–31st. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Oct 20th. Wildwoods Lake, one on Oct 24th.
- Kent Lower Sydenham, one on Jan 6th. Oxleas Wood, one on Oct 22nd.
- Surrey Addington Hills, two on Oct 21st. Cannizaro Park, one on Sept 22nd. Epsom, one on Mar 5th. Limpsfield Chart, singles on Sept 25th and Oct 19th.



Norwood, one present in Jan and Feb. Park Hill Park, Croydon, two on Oct 23rd. R. Hogsmill at West Ewell, one on Nov 3rd. Richmond Park, one on Mar 24th. South Norwood Lake and nearby gardens, one from Nov 22nd-26th. Upper Norwood, two on Feb 16th. Wimbledon Common, a male singing from Mar 16th-29th, two on Oct 25th and one on Nov 2nd.

In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Mar 6th and Nov 9th, two on Nov 15th and 30th, and 1-3 in Dec (ARD, DJ, DTM). Victoria Park, one on Mar 19th, two on Oct 24th (BDG), singles on Nov 11th (R JW) and Dec 14th (DH).

### 1335 Spotted Flycatcher

### *Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of this late migrant was at Mudchute City Farm on May 7th. Up to the end of May only 16 birds had been seen away from breeding sites, and the best count was only three at the London Wetland Centre on May 18th. Concerns about this species' decline seem to be well founded. The following records were received for the main breeding season. These records came from a total of 25 sites in June and July, but many of the early June records could refer to late spring migrants, and post-breeding dispersal can take place from mid-July. The fact that definite breeding activity was only noted at nine of these sites is probably the lowest figure on record.

Essex Aimes Green, one on July 3rd. Ingrebourne Valley, one on July 28th.  
 Herts Amwell GP, one on July 3rd and two on 5th. Bricket Wood Common, one on June 4th. North Mymms Park, one pair bred, adult seen feeding young. Stafford Farm, two in June and July. St Albans, two in a garden on July 28th.  
 Middx Grovelands Park, a male singing from June 11th-17th. Trent Park, two nest building from May 27th-31st and one in June, but not successful.  
 Bucks Chalfont Park, one on July 1st.  
 Kent Bessels Green, one pair bred and raised two young. Eltham Palace grounds, two on July 19th. Greenwich Park, up to three pairs in June, and at least four young seen. North Cray, one on June 8th. Petts Wood, two on June 27th.  
 Surrey Barwell Court Farm, one territory. Hersham, a dead bird brought in by a cat on June 15th. London Wetland Centre, one on June 1st and 29th. Oxted, one in a garden on June 2nd-5th. Richmond Park, at least one pair raised two young. Titsey, two feeding young in June at Home Farm, also reported at Pitchfont Farm. Wandsworth Common, a pair bred.  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on July 19th.

Much more widespread in the autumn in small numbers. During August birds were seen away from breeding sites from the beginning of the month, but the core period for autumn migration was from Aug 15th-Sept 19th. During this period the highest counts were five at Fairlop Waters, six at Hainault Forest and six at Greenwich Park on Sept 19th. In Inner London, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns had up to four in September until 17th, and in Regent's Park, the peak counts was six on Aug 16th. The rest of September saw only single birds reported until the last of the year at Regent's Park on Sept 27th.

- 1349 Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.
- About 21 records this year, all but two in the autumn, is around the average since the last bumper influx in the autumn of 1997 (when there were at least 95 birds during the year).
- Essex Purfleet, one on Sept 10th (HV *et al*). Rainham Marsh, one on Aug 24th (SRP). Weald Park, one on Sept 13th (KB, MTM). West Ham, one on Sept 21st (MJ).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, on Aug 24th (ADW). Rye Meads RSPB, one on Sept 10th (RMRG).
- Middx Brent Res, a male on May 2nd (RB). Pymmes Park, one on Sept 11th (RMC).
- Kent Foots Cray Meadows, one on Sept 6th (SJG). Sevenoaks WR, singles on Sept 13th and 14th (CS, JTr) and Sept 21st (PT).
- Surrey Oxted, Hurst Green, one on Aug 25th (KN). Wandle Meadow NR, one on Apr 14th (BTOMW).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, two from Sept 16th-18th (SEB, DTM). Regent's Park, one on Aug 13th, two on 21st, singles on 25th, 28th and Sept 5th (ARD, DJ), two on Sept 17th, three on 18th and one from 19th-22nd (ARD, DJ, DTM).

- 1364 Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*  
 Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.
- Essex Rainham Marsh, a colour-ringed male on Apr 16th had been ringed as a nestling at Icklesham, East Sussex on May 9th, 1999; two females on June 19th; a pair with two juveniles on Aug 19th and noted as having probably bred here; a pair on Sept 28th and 29th and on three more dates until Oct 13th; two on Dec 23rd (mo).
- Herts Amwell GP/Great Amwell, a pair from Nov 3rd to the end of the year (BR *et al*). Broxbourne GP, one on Nov 30th had probably been present since Nov 19th (SC). Rye Meads RSPB, one heard on Oct 24th and three (two males) from Oct 25th to the end of the year (BG, RMRG, RPh).

The first records since 1998, following several years in the 1990s when summer records strongly suggested breeding in Essex. The presence of adults and juveniles at Rainham Marsh in August is very good evidence that a pair bred there this year.

- 1437 Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*  
 Status: common and widespread breeding resident.
- Breeding season distribution is shown where three or more pairs/territories were reported (number of pairs in brackets), together with the highest counts in each sector. Inner London records are summarised.
- Essex Aimes Green (3). Ash Plantation, Clayhall (4). Ingrebourne Valley (10). Kelvedon (5). Manor Park Cemetery, 79 on Sept 17th. Stubbers OPC (4). The Birkbeck, Woodford Green (3). Wanstead Cemetery (6).

- Herts Cheshunt GP (3+). Croxley Moor, 100 on Oct 14th. Rye Meads RSPB, (14).  
 Middx Horsenden Hill, 33 on Nov 1st.  
 Kent Foots Cray Woods (4). Ruxley GP (4), 30 on Dec 11th. Sevenoaks WR, 30 on Dec 26th.  
 Surrey Ashtead Common (3). Barwell Court Farm (3). Berrylands, 50 on Aug 6th. R. Mole at Leatherhead (3). Wimbledon Common, 50 on Sept 4th.  
 In Lond Holland Park (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3), 30 on Oct 9th. Millbank, 20 on Oct 21st. Natural History Museum (1).

**1462 Blue Tit** ***Cyanistes caeruleus***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Some of the more noteworthy counts of breeding pairs (numbers of pairs or territories in brackets) and high counts are shown below.

- Essex Connaught Water, 42 on June 20th. Copped Hall, 72 on Mar 22nd and 56 on Nov 17th.  
 Herts Amwell GP, 32 on Dec 14th. Rye Meads RSPB (21).  
 Middx Brent Res, 50 on Aug 5th. Bushy Park (c20).  
 Surrey Ashtead Common (29). Banstead Wood, 90 on Jan 7th. Barwell Court Farm (21). Croydon, 40 in September. Holmethorpe SP, 45 on Aug 10th. South Croydon, c80 in June. Wimbledon Common, c70 on Oct 11th.  
 In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, 35 on Sept 14th. Buckingham Palace (6). Kensington Gdns (4+). Limehouse, 20 on June 2nd. Paddington Green, W2 (1), c30 in Oct and Nov. St James's Park (7). Victoria Park, 48 on Mar 6th. Whitehall Gdns, SW1 (1).

**1464 Great Tit** ***Parus major***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

A selection of the highest counts of breeding pairs (number of pairs or territories in brackets) and the largest counts are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall, 55 on Mar 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley (14). Kelvedon (29). Manor Park Cemetery, 42 on Sept 17th. Stubbers OPC (7).  
 Herts Amwell GP (17). Broxbourne Woods, 25 on Dec 31st. Northaw Great Wood, 20 in Jan. Rickmansworth Aquadrome (11). Rye Meads RSPB (21).  
 Middx Bushy Park (17). Kempton NR, 20 on Sept 17th.  
 Surrey Ashtead Common (19). Banstead Wood, 50 on Jan 7th and 46 on Feb 18th. Barwell Court Farm (13). Beddington SF (19). Epsom Downs, 40 on Jan 14th. London Wetland Centre (10). Nower Wood (20+). R. Mole at Leatherhead (14). Wimbledon Common, 50 on July 6th.  
 In Lond Buckingham Palace (2). Kensington Gdns (7). Paddington Green, W2 (1), 10–12 on Jan 29th. St James's Park (6). Victoria Park, 21 on June 3rd.

- 1461 Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*  
 Status: common breeding species.
- A common species that is not much reported; all breeding season records are given below with the number of breeding pairs/territories shown in brackets.
- Essex Copped Hall (7). Holyfield Marsh GP (1). Long Running, Epping Forest (5). Piercing Hill, Epping Forest (10). Thorndon Park, eight on Aug 18th.
- Herts Bricket Wood area (11). Broxbourne Woods (5). Chorleywood Common (2). Garston area (7). Hilfield Park Res (3).
- Middx Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (1–2). Grovelands Park (1). Lavender Hill Cemetery (1). Osterley Park (1–2 broods). Pymmes Park (1). Trent Park (17).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on June 15th.
- Kent Crofton Heath, presumed bred in area.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (1). Nower Wood (2). Wimbledon Common (28).
- In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, adult feeding juvenile. Buckingham Palace, one singing in April. Compayne Gdns, NW6, one singing on June 26th. Kensington Gdns (2+), six on Nov 15th. Paddington Green, W2 (1). Priory Road, NW6, one singing on May 7th. St James's Park (1).

- 1442 Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*  
 Status: very scarce and probably now a former breeding resident.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Apr 17th (RMRG).
- Surrey Headley Heath, a singing male on Apr 14th (CRP).

This species now seems to have reached the verge of extinction in the London Area.

- 1440 Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*  
 Status: localised breeding resident, declining.

Another species that has recently been added to the UK 'Red List' as a result of population declines. All localities at which this species were reported during the year are shown below. Although at relatively few sites is breeding reported, this is a fairly sedentary species and is worth reporting at any time of the year. It seems to be still well distributed in the larger woods along the northern edges of the London Area, and also in Surrey, albeit in much reduced numbers than previously.

- Essex Corbets Tey, a pair on July 7th in the South Essex Crematorium. Hainault Forest CP, one singing on Mar 19th. Long Hills, Epping Forest, one singing on Apr 14th. Roydon, one on Feb 3rd.
- Herts Amwell GP/Great Amwell, 1–5 for most of year. Brickendonbury, one on Sept 19th. Brookmans Park, one on Mar 1st and three on Oct 22nd. Broxbourne Woods, singles on Jan 19th and June 22nd. Chorleywood Common, one on Dec 24th. Croxley Green, two ringed in a garden on Nov 9th. Harrocks Wood,

Watford, one singing. Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth, at least one pair present. North Mymms Park 1–2 from Mar to Dec. Northaw Great Wood, reports included eight in an adjacent garden on Jan 1st, seven on Jan 3rd (including two singing males), a pair with four young in May, and six on Dec 29th. Panshanger Park, singles on Mar 3rd and Sept 1st. Pond Wood, four on July 9th. Tyttenhanger GP one on Apr 6th and 7th. Whippendell Woods, one on Mar 23rd.

Middx Fir and Pond Woods, 1+ on Jan 16th and May 12th. Forty Hall, one at Archers Wood on Mar 3rd, and two juveniles on June 19th but not thought to have bred here. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, a pair bred.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, singles on Jan 12th, 13th and 30th, and June 22nd.

Surrey Banstead Wood, a pair on Jan 6th and Feb 18th. Barnes, one near the Beverley Brook at Barnes Green on Jan 18th—the first seen here in nearly 50 years. Berrylands one on July 25th. Bookham Common, at least seven territories with many areas not visited. Colley Hill, Reigate, one on Jan 11th. Croydon, present at one site during the year and at a second site during winter. Farleigh, a family party of five in Frylands Wood on May 30th. Lumberdine Wood, Chelsham, one on Mar 29th. Marden Park Wood, Woldingham, one on Apr 27th. Moorhouse, seen on four dates up to Feb 26th and regularly after Aug 12th. Nower Wood, one territory. Sanderstead, one in a garden on Nov 6th. Selsdon Wood, one on Jan 7th.

#### 1479 Nuthatch

*Sitta europaea*

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding season records are given below (number of pairs/territories in brackets), with a few other large counts, but it was not reported from many areas where it is known to be present.

Essex Copped Hall (1). Epping Forest: Baldwins Hill Pond (1), Bury Wood (1), Long Running (2), Piercing Hill (2), Warren Pond (1) and Wintry Wood/Lower Forest (3); also singles in June and July at High Beech and Monks Wood. Knighton Wood (2). Thorndon Park (1). Weald Park (1).

Herts Amwell GP, one in June and July. Garston area (3). North Mymms Park (1). Northaw Great Wood, up to ten in Jan. Panshanger Park, five on Apr 14th.

Middx Bushy Park (1–2). Enfield Town Park (2). Forty Hall, Enfield (1). Grovelands Park (c3). Monken Hadley, eight on Apr 7th. Perivale Wood (1). Trent Park (12). Whitewebbs Wood and Lake (1).

Kent Crofton Heath (1). Foots Cray Meadows (1). Sevenoaks WR (1).

Surrey Ashted Common, one on June 12th. Barwell Court Farm (3 on CBC). Chaldon Woods, Caterham (1). Nower Wood (2 on CBC). Oxted (1). Oxted, Hurst Green, five on Apr 7th. Tadworth, juveniles present in summer. Wimbledon Common, seen at 13 sites during breeding season, with proof of breeding at least two of these.

In Lond Kensington Gdns (1).

**1486 Treecreeper*****Certhia familiaris***

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding season reports are shown below with the number of breeding pairs/territories where applicable shown in brackets. Successful breeding was again reported in Kensington Gdns in Inner London.

- Essex Copped Hall (2). Epping Forest: Barn Hoppitt (2), Central area (22), Long Running (7), Piercing Hill (4) and Wintry Wood/Lower Forest (6). Hatters Wood, Harold Hill (1). Kelvedon (3), Netherhall GP (1).
- Herts Bedmond (1). Bricket Wood area (12+). Garston area (1). Otterspool (1–2). Potters Crouch (1). Radlett area (2). Verulamium Lake (1).
- Middx Bushy Park (1). Forty Hall, Enfield (2) and eight on Dec 18th. Grovelands Park (2). Potters Bar (1). Trent Park (6).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, three trapped in Aug.
- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Sevenoaks WR, up to two in May and three in June.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, present in June. Barwell Court Farm (1). R. Mole at Leatherhead, one in June. Wimbledon Common (15).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, at least one pair nested successfully. Regent's Park, a pair on Apr 3rd, and two on Sept 20th.

**1515 Red-backed Shrike*****Lanius collurio***

Status: rare passage migrant.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, a juvenile from Sept 21st-Oct 3rd (DMn *et al*). Tylers Common, a juvenile from Sept 2nd-6th (CRJ *et al*).
- Surrey Trevereux, a moulting adult male on July 14th (PJO).

After only one record during the previous three years, these three birds made it the best year since the four in 1998. July records are unexpected, although there were single birds in this month in both 1994 and 1995.

**1539 Jay*****Garrulus glandarius***

Status: common breeding resident, with numbers boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.

Few reports received of this common species. All breeding season records (with numbers of pairs/territories in brackets where over two) together with some of the largest flocks at other times of the year are given below, along with all Inner London records.

- Essex Chingford Plain, 12 on Oct 22nd. Copped Hall, 11 on Mar 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley (6). Kelvedon (4). Manor Park Cemetery (3). Wanstead Cemetery (7). Wanstead Park (4).
- Herts Garston area (5–6).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, ten on Mar 23rd and Nov 20th.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (9). Barwell Court Farm (3). Cannon Hill Common (3). Croydon, 12 in one garden in March. Kew Gdns, 20+ on Oct 19th. London Wetland Centre, 14 on Sept 29th. Wimbledon Common, 12 in early March.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, 1–2 all year. Chepstow Gdns, W2 (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, young seen in June, and up to eight in the autumn. Lambeth Palace, one on Dec 6th. Regent's Park, three NW on Sept 29th. St James's Park, singles on July 26th and Aug 20th. Tate Modern, two on Apr 19th and one on Aug 19th. Victoria Park, maximum of two during year.

**1549 Magpie*****Pica pica***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The very few breeding records received are given below (number of breeding pairs in brackets where over two), and also some of the highest counts in each county. The large counts at the Farthing Downs roost in Surrey in 2001 were maintained in January.

Essex Copped Hall, 54 on Mar 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley (20). Kelvedon (14). Mardyke Valley, 58 on Jan 13th. Rainham Marsh, 52 on Feb 10th. Romford GC, 43 on Mar 1st. Stubbers OPC (3). Wanstead Cemetery (9).

Herts Beech Farm, 36 on Feb 15th. Lynster's Farm, 26 on Feb 7th. Maple Lodge NR, 43 on Mar 11th. Rye Meads RSPB (4).

Middx Oakwood Park, 21 on Mar 18th. Southgate, 35 on Feb 8th. Trent Park, 33 on Feb 10th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 26 on Dec 20th.

Kent Highest count was 18 at Dartford Marsh on Dec 14th.

Surrey Ashted Common (9). Barwell Court Farm (11). Beddington SF, 25 on Mar 25th. Bushey Mead, 35 on Jan 1st. Cannon Hill Common (6), 22 on Mar 7th. Farthing Downs, c250 at roost on Jan 13th. Holmethorpe SP, 36 at roost on Oct 27th. London Wetland Centre (3), 27 flew over on Oct 24th. Oxted (4+). R. Mole at Leatherhead (13). Wimbledon Common, 36 on June 26th.

In Lond Buckingham Palace (1), nine on Jan 4th. De Beauvoir Town (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, probably bred in both parks, ten on Nov 14th. Limehouse, seven in Feb and Mar. Paddington Green, W2 (1). Pimlico, three on Apr 16th. Primrose Hill, seven on Oct 26th. St James's Park, three on Sept 24th. Victoria Park, ten on Apr 4th and Sept 14th.

**1560 Jackdaw*****Corvus monedula***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in urban areas.

The following gives all breeding sites reported, the largest flocks seen and evidence of migration in any numbers.

Essex Reported breeding at five sites. Copped Hall, 375 on Mar 28th. Holyfield Farm, 3,000 at roost on Nov 30th. KGV Res, 84 on Feb 18th. Sewardstone Marsh, 250 on Sept 20th.

Herts Breeding records came from seven sites. Beech Farm, 3,000+ at roost on Oct 8th. Goffs Oak, 250 on Mar 16th. Hatfield Aerodrome, 1,200+ on Nov 26th. Hatfield Park, 135 on Dec 20th. Oaklands College, 600 roosting on May 15th. Panshanger Park, 850 on Dec 14th. Slipe Lane GP, c500 flying to roost (at

Holyfield Farm) on Feb 2nd. Sopwell, 200 on Nov 16th in pre-roost gathering. Stanstead Abbots GP, 600 at roost on Aug 28th.

Middx Brent Res, 1–3 flying over on 14 dates, but 53 on Oct 19th. Bushy Park, 50 on Mar 5th. Forty Hall Farm, 18 on Feb 12th. Hampton Court Park, peak of 110 on Jan 18th. Kempton NR, 320 flying to roost at dusk on Nov 30th.

Kent Breeding reported in Greenwich Park. Sevenoaks WR, 40 on Mar 16th, 20 on Mar 30th, and 240 on Oct 27th, the latter described as an 'isolated count'.

Surrey Breeding records from six sites. Beddington SF, 600 on Dec 29th. Epsom Common, 752 in roosting flight on Jan 4th. Hersham GP, roost count of 2,400 on Jan 4th. Oxted, Hurst Green, c500 at dusk on Sept 22nd. R. Mole at Leatherhead, 105 on Mar 5th. Tenchleys, 125 on July 27th. Wimbledon Common, c250 in May.

In Lond Paddington Green, W2, one N on Apr 19th and 20 SW on Oct 13th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on Feb 12th and Mar 2nd, two on Mar 7th and 22nd, seven on Mar 24th and three on May 17th, singles on Aug 9th, 22nd, Sept 6th, 10th, 16th and 17th, six on Sept 30th and three on Oct 24th (ARD, DJ).

## 1563 Rook

## *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in urban areas.

The excellent coverage that was achieved by observers in 2001 was maintained this year, especially in Essex, and coverage also improved slightly in other counties. A direct comparison with the numbers of rookeries and nests between the two years is shown in the following table.

| Year | Essex |       | Herts |       | Bucks |       | Kent  |       | Surrey |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
|      | Sites | Nests | Sites | Nests | Sites | Nests | Sites | Nests | Sites  | Nests |
| 2001 | 35    | 1199  | 6     | 136   | 3     | 126   | 3     | 44    | -      | -     |
| 2002 | 33    | 1102  | 12    | 206   | 4     | 111   | 3     | 32    | 3      | 50    |

Although improved coverage is probably the reason for the increase in the number of rookeries reported, despite this, the number of nests reported was down in several sectors and also overall, in comparison with 2001.

Sites of all known rookeries (number of nests in brackets) are given below, and some counts where numbers were either very high or at an unusual site.

Essex Breachs Barns Caravan Site (58). Chipping Ongar (14). Clatterford End: Embridge Hall (46) and Gypsy Mead (4). Clay Tye Wood ('bred'). Epping (15). Folygats, Shelley (22). Fyfield Hall Farm (8). Harlow (23). High Laver (two sites: 8 and 14). Holyfield Hall Farm, 1,000 at roost on Nov 30th. Horseshoes Farm (9). Little End, (35 at Bridge Farm). Magdalen Laver (46). Marden Ash (57). Moreton (3 near Crispins). Navestock Hall (63). Nazeing CP (38). North Weald Church (32). Old Harlow (15). Ongar (50). Passingford Bridge (46 at Suttons). Pedlars End (13 at Moreton). Stanford Rivers (4). Stapleford Tawney (85). Stondon Massey (37). Theydon Bois (4). Thornwood Common (47). Weald Bridge (81). Weald Lodge (6). Willingate (61 at the Old Rectory). Wintry Wood and Lower Forest (140). Deserted former rookeries were reported at Bedfords Park, Chigwell Row, Chipping Ongar, Curtismill Green, Hill Hall, Parslow Wood Common, Pick Hill and Stapleford Tawney Church,



- Herts Blackbird SF (4 near Wall Hall). Bricket Wood area 100+ at roost on Jan 1st. Chiswell Green (18). Garston (40). Grove Mill Lane, Watford (13). Harebreaks Wood, Watford (16, all but one deserted). Hunton Bridge (19). Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth (4). Langleybury School, Watford (16). Park Street (2). Rickmansworth (39 by J19 of M25). Rye Meads RSPB, up to 300 in Sept. St Albans (43). Watford Tunnels (2).
- Middx No breeding records. 1–2 seen at four sites during the year.
- Bucks Colnbrook (8+). Denham Place (47). Long Coppice (39). Richings Park (17).
- Kent Downe, at Farthing Street (14) and near Holwood Farm (15). Hazelwood (3).
- Surrey Gatton Park (7). Titsey Estate, at two sites (40 and 3).
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Feb 28th, Mar 4th and Apr 14th.

**1567 Carrion Crow*****Corvus corone***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Not many breeding reports were received, but it is still a very common breeding bird. Annual maxima for localities reporting 100 or more during the year are given. Two sites had counts exceeding 500 and a flock of around 1,000 birds was seen in Surrey during the year. Most of these large flocks were gathering prior to going to roost. Inner London records are shown in a little more detail (numbers of pairs in brackets).

- Essex Barking Park, 100 all year. Fairlop Waters, 100 on Sept 20th. Parsloes Park, 106 on Sept 28th. Rainham Marsh, 560 on Mar 3rd. Wanstead Flats, 452 on June 16th.
- Herts Abbots Langley, 150 on Sept 4th. Amwell GP, 110 on Jan 17th. Hatfield Aerodrome, 400 on Nov 26th. Letchmore Heath, 100 on Sept 1st.
- Middx Brent Res, 167 on Apr 20th.
- Kent Blackheath, 100 on Mar 27th. Sevenoaks WR, 105 on Nov 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 762 on July 24th. Holmethorpe SP, 200 on Sept 22nd. London Wetland Centre, 200 on Nov 6th. Wimbledon Common, c1000 on Feb 6th.
- In Lond Battersea, 89 on the Thames foreshore on Apr 30th. Buckingham Palace (3). Chepstow Road, W2 (2), 25+ on Oct 4th. Kensington Gdns, (bred), 140 on Mar 25th. Lambeth, 10–15 on Oct 7th. Limehouse, 36 on Mar 16th. Mornington Terrace, NW1 (1). Paddington Green, W2 (1–2), 30 on Mar 2nd. St James's Park (1+), 89 on Jan 22nd. Tate Modern, 20 on Oct 9th. Victoria Park, 87 on Oct 5th. Victoria Tower Garden, nine on Dec 13th. Westminster, 15 on Oct 16th.

**1572 Raven*****Corvus corax***

Status: rare visitor

- In Lond Primrose Hill, one flew N at 10.08 hours on Apr 16th (DTM).

In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, this record is accepted as a wild bird. There have been many sightings of Ravens in the Home Counties in the last ten years or so. In the London Area in the 20th century there were

17 records of 22 birds dating back to 1902 with no more than five records in any decade (the 1970s), and the last two records in 1990. This bird therefore becomes the 18th record, and the first for Inner London, not including those in the Tower of London.

- 1582 Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
 Status: very common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- All breeding reports received (number of pairs/territories in brackets above five), comments on status, and some of the largest counts are given.
- Essex Ash Plantation, Clayhall (7). East Ham: Central Park (15), Leigh Road (10). Manor Park Cemetery (8). Rainham Marsh, maxima of 3,000 in Mar, 8,000 in Aug and 10,000 in Oct. Seven Kings Park (20). Walthamstow Res (10+). Wanstead Cemetery (11). West Ham Cemetery (12).
- Herts Great Amwell, 500 on Oct 21st. Rye Meads RSPB, 600 in July. Watford, 1,000+ on Oct 29th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, reported as "declining in numbers". Brimsdown, 4,000 roosting on June 19th. KGV Res, a bird with largely white mantle and scapulars on Oct 2nd. Stanford Hill, 1,160 SW on Nov 1st.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a leucistic bird on July 10th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, c800 on Feb 2nd.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm (5). Beddington SF, 2,000 on July 7th. London Wetland Centre, 1,500 in Jan, 1,000 in Feb and July, and 2,560 W on Nov 15th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns (bred, number of pairs unspecified) and 160–180 in Sept and Oct. Limehouse, maximum of 28 on Feb 6th. Paddington Green, W2, (c5). Regent's Park, 800 on Mar 18th and 500 on Oct 31st. St James's Park (7). Tate Modern, 42 on Aug 27th. Victoria Park, 93 on Sept 14th.

- 1591 House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
 Status: breeding resident, declining.
- Although still quite a common bird in many areas, there is nothing to suggest that the much discussed decline in the overall population of the familiar cockney sparrow has been reversed. Conversely, based on the comments of several observers, and some quite high counts in July and August, it appears to have been a rather good breeding season for this species in some areas. All breeding records are given (number of pairs/territories over five in brackets), some comments on status, and a selection of the annual maxima at various sites during the year. Inner London records are more detailed.
- Essex Chingford Marsh, 34 on Apr 1st. East Ham: Central Park (11), Leigh Road (15), 46 on July 1st. Grays, 36 on July 7th. Ilford (13). Ingrebourne Valley, 52 on May 5th. Romford, 54 on Aug 9th. Seven Kings Park (12).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, 30 on Dec 24th. Jersey Farm (6–7) and 30 on Oct 27th.
- Middx Bushy Park 'no sign of breeding'. Hampton, 30 on Nov 27th. Horsenden Hill (16), 30 on July 1st. Lake Farm, Hayes, 68 on Aug 5th. Mudchute City Farm,

- 'declining', 29 on July 14th. Tottenham, 50 (mostly juveniles) on garden feeder on July 12th.
- Kent Bexley, 40 on July 30th. Dartford Marsh 'very scarce here now'. Hextable, 32 on Aug 5th. Littlebrook Lake 'very scarce this year'.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, present in breeding season. Chessington, 40 on Jan 13th. Ewell, 25 on June 9th. Molesey 'absent this year, previously regular'. Oxted, Hurst Green, 'evidently a good breeding season'. Park Farm, 21 on Jan 5th. Tadworth, 'one on July 6th was the first for over two years'. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 45 on Aug 10th.
- In Lond Bernie Spain Gdns, five on Jan 25th and two on July 5th. Broadley Street Gdns, NW8, up to five during the year. Chepstow Road, W2, singles in Jan, Mar and June. Gabriels Wharf, two on July 5th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, at the beginning of the year up to seven (on Mar 30th) but the four males failed to find mates and none were seen after Apr 23rd. Limehouse, 24 on Mar 16th and June 2nd. Paddington Green, W2, six, including four juveniles, on May 28th and 29th. Pimlico one on Jan 17th and 1-2 on Mar 4th and 5th. Regent's Park, singles on Feb 28th, Mar 1st, May 12th, Nov 11th and Dec 19th, five W on Sept 3rd and 28 at London Zoo on Mar 11th. Surrey Docks, 35+ on Apr 23rd. Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1, several on Apr 8th. Victoria Park, six on June 3rd was the peak for the year.

**1598 Tree Sparrow*****Passer montanus***

Status: scarce and local breeding resident, population probably still declining.

There were plenty of reports in the main Hertfordshire area again this year, but breeding reports were lacking, and there were no records at all from Colney Heath. Beddington enjoyed another very successful breeding season, and winter counts here reached their highest level since October 1993. Local observers emphasise the importance of supplementary feeding at this site, which is probably the source of other records at nearby sites in Surrey.

- Herts Coopers Green GP, three on June 5th. Coursers Lane Fields, 45 on Mar 16th, 15 on July 12th and 25 on Sept 19th. Tyttenhanger Farm, 20 on Jan 1st and 10th, six on Feb 28th, 20 in Mar, up to three in Apr, two on May 21st, eight on Sept 23rd, 20 on Oct 16th, 14 on Nov 9th and six on Dec 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 77 territories (same as 2001) and a minimum of 618 fledged, of which 456 were ringed. The highest counts were 100 in Jan, 119 in July, 200 in Sept, 250 in Oct and Nov and 130 in Dec. Beddlestead Valley, four on Jan 18th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Feb 9th, 14 on 16th and four on 19th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Dec 24th (ARD, DJ).

**2001 Additional Record**

- Surrey Beddington SF, 77 territories.

**1636 Chaffinch*****Fringilla coelebs***

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

Very common at the beginning of the year, with eight localities reporting flocks of 100 or more birds, including a massive count of 575 at Copped Hall. Breeding season records were well reported in some counties, but not in others. The autumn passage was best covered by daily counts of overflying birds at the London Wetland Centre. Passage birds were recorded here between Sept 21st and Nov 15th, during which counts of 50 or more were reported on ten dates. The peak period was clearly during Oct 17th-Nov 3rd, with the best days on Oct 17th (308), 18th (223) and Nov 3rd (107). The vast majority of birds were flying in a roughly westerly direction. This peak period coincides very closely to records from Inner London. In December, counts of 100 or more birds came from only three sites.

In the following summary, the highest counts in the winter months, sites with the highest number of breeding pairs (number of pairs or territories in brackets) and a selection of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall, 575 on Jan 3rd. Doddinghurst, 100 on Jan 8th and 17th at Cowes Farm. Great Monk Wood, 150 on Dec 7th. Hainault Forest, 150 on Mar 19th. Ongar Park Wood, 190 on Feb 10th. Sewardstone Marsh (13). Stapleford Tawney, 120 on Jan 30th.
- Herts Amwell GP (17), 120 on Dec 7th and 30th. Cheshunt GP (41 in incomplete survey). Chorleywood Common (11). Hilfield Park Res (17-18). Lynster's Farm, 100 on Feb 7th. Rye Meads RSPB (23).
- Middx Only breeding reports came from Brent Res (3), Bushy Park (7-8 in census area) and Horsenden Hill (5).
- Bucks Black Park, 166+ on Oct 10th.
- Kent Bexley Wood, 110 on Feb 27th.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (21). Barwell Court Farm (17). London Wetland Centre and surrounds (15). R. Mole at Leatherhead (35).
- In Lond Chepstow Road, W2, up to five from Jan-Mar and 20 flew S on Oct 28th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5). Limehouse, maximum of 15 on Feb 13th. Paddington Green, W2, 55 N on Oct 17th, 52 SW on Oct 19th, 20 WSW on Oct 28th and 18 W on Nov 5th. Regent's Park, 40 on Jan 16th, 25 on Mar 4th, and in Oct, 50 on 17th, 20 on 19th and 22nd, 25 on 28th and seven on Nov 9th. St James's Park (1), eight on Feb 13th. Victoria Park, maxima of 21 on Jan 1st and Feb 3rd.

**1638 Brambling*****Fringilla montifringilla***

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

Small numbers were widespread at the beginning of the year, being reported at 32 sites between January and April. During this period the largest flock was 37 at Copped Hall in January. The last bird seen in the spring was at Trent Park on Apr 21st. In the autumn, early returning birds were at Broxbourne Woods on Sept 22nd and 19 at Wimbledon Common on 26th. These were the

only September sightings. Visible migration was noted at the London Wetland Centre between Oct 6th and Nov 11th but numbers were rather small with the highest count of eight flying S on Oct 13th. Elsewhere, few were recorded, although at Purfleet 16 flew S on Oct 16th. By the end of the year, reports came from a total of 31 sites, with a maximum of 20 at Warren Wood in Epping Forest in December. Seasonal maxima are given for all sites with at least five birds at some time, and all Inner London records.

- Essex Copped Hall, 37 on Jan 3rd. Doddinghurst, six on Jan 17th at Cowes Farm. Epping Forest, five at Great Monks Wood on Dec 7th, five at Jack's Hill on Dec 8th and 20 at Warren Wood and The Warren on Dec 16th. Ongar Park Wood, 18 on Feb 10th. Purfleet, 16 S on Oct 29th.
- Herts Hertford, 11 on Jan 23rd. Watford, five on Nov 1st.
- Middx Trent Park, nine on Oct 17th.
- Bucks Iver Heath, one on Feb 19th was the only sighting in this sector.
- Kent Joyden's Wood estate, 10+ in a garden on Mar 29th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, five on Oct 18th. Beddlesstead, six in Jan. London Wetland Centre, eight S on Oct 13th. Moorhouse, seven on Dec 20th. North Downs GC, Woldingham, eight on Oct 25th. QE II Res, five on Oct 24th. Wimbledon Common, 19 on Sept 26th.
- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, four W on Oct 28th (DTM). Regent's Park, one on Mar 17th, three on Oct 19th and singles on Oct 29th and Nov 4th (ARD, DJ).

**1640 Serin** *Serinus serinus*  
Status: rare vagrant.

- Kent Sidcup, a singing male from Feb 28th until at least Mar 2nd (AAB *et al*).

This bird was seen on industrial wasteland at Crittalls Corner at Sidcup, and is the 16th London Area record. The previous 15 records date back to 1969, but records have increased subsequently with two in the 1970s, five in the 1980s and seven in the 1990s. The last record was in 1999.

**1649 Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*  
Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

All breeding records are given for Inner London and elsewhere sites where five or more breeding pairs/territories were recorded (numbers of pairs shown in brackets). Outside the breeding season the annual maxima are given for all sites in Inner London, and elsewhere where they either reached 50 or more, or sector maxima, whichever was applicable.

- Essex Bush Farm, Corbets Tey, 80 on Aug 10th. Netherhall GP, 103 on Feb 26th. Purfleet, 72 on Dec 18th. Seven Kings Park (5).
- Herts Amwell GP, 50 on Nov 21st. Chiswell Green, 80 on Nov 26th. Panshanger Park, 150 on Nov 9th. Potters Crouch, 50 on Aug 10th. Rye Meads RSPB (13) and 50 in October. Watford, 100 on Sept 26th.
- Middx Horsenden Hill (6). Osterley Park, 60 on Nov 2nd.
- Bucks Denham Church, 32 on Nov 25th was the highest count in this sector.

- Kent Abbey Hill Park, Sidcup, 15 on Sept 7th.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (5). Barwell Court Farm (8). London Wetland Centre (7), 210 S on Oct 28th. Limpsfield Chart, 55 on Jan 9th. Sanderstead, up to 50 in Nov and Dec.
- In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, present during the breeding season, eight on Dec 8th. Compayne Gdns, NW6 (1). Embankment, SW1 (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), 10 on Dec 16th. Jubilee Gdns (1). Limehouse, three on July 17th. Paddington Green, W2 (1), 17 on Nov 17th. Regent's Park, 35 on Oct 7th and 30 on Oct 19th and Dec 30th. St James's Park (1). Victoria Embankment (2). Victoria Park, eight on Mar 9th and Nov 9th.

**1653 Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

Status: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Neither comments on current breeding status, nor very many breeding records were received. Judging by the number of large flocks reported in autumn, many including large numbers of juveniles, this small finch is thriving right across the area. The following shows annual maxima for all localities where 50 or more were seen at some time during the year. Inner London records include all breeding season records as well as the largest counts at each site. As with all species in this genus, which tends to form large flocks, counts given are mostly estimates rather than strictly accurate counts.

- Essex Copped Hall, 110 on Nov 14th. KGV Res, 65 on Sept 14th. Purfleet, 86 on Dec 18th. Rainham Marsh, 220 on Sept 27th. Waltham Marsh, 70 on Sept 1st. Walthamstow Res, 55 on Jan 1st. Wm Girling Res, 50 on Aug 16th.
- Herts Chiswell Green, 50 on Nov 26th. Hertford Heath, 80 on Apr 7th. Rye House PS, 182 on Jan 15th. Rye Meads RSPB, 65 in Jan. Smallford, 55 on Nov 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, 110 on Sept 14th.
- Middx Brent Res, 70 on Aug 4th. Bushy Park, 100 on Aug 26th. Rammey Marsh, 50 on Oct 31st. Staines Moor, 66 on Oct 19th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 60 on Oct 12th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 140 on Oct 30th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 62 on Oct 28th. Chessington, c50 on Mar 18th. Holmethorpe SP, 50 on Nov 7th. Little Woodcote, 60 on Jan 1st. London Wetland Centre, 81 flew over on Nov 15th. South Norwood CP, 180+ on Aug 31st.
- In Lond Chepstow Road, W2, two on July 12th. Kensington Gdns, a pair during the breeding season, and up to four in other months. Limehouse, nine on Sept 20th. Paddington Green, W2, one pair bred. Regent's Park, maximum of 25 on Oct 28th, and up to 11 on 16 other dates. St James's Park, 12 in Jan. Victoria Park, maximum of 26 on May 10th.

**1654 Siskin *Carduelis spinus***

Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer and a potential breeding species.

Birds were quite numerous during both winter periods, and 16 sites reported flocks of 50 or more between January and March, at least six of which held

over 100 birds. Most birds had gone by April, but there were several records in May, and one in June. Two of these referred to juveniles. Early arrivals in autumn were reported from Sept 8th. In November and December there were 14 sites with 50 or more, and at four of which there were 100 or more.

The following gives all sites and seasonal maxima for places with 50 or more birds, all summer records and a more detailed summary for Inner London.

- Essex Hall Marsh, 50 on Feb 10th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 100 on Jan 1st and 50 on Dec 28th. Kelvedon Hatch, 80 on Feb 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 100 on Jan 6th and 150 on Nov 10th. Brookmans Park, 90 on Jan 1st. Cheshunt, 130 on Mar 4th. Cheshunt GP, 100 on Jan 31st and 80 on Nov 29th. Hertford, 80 on a garden feeder on Mar 12th. Hilfield Park Res, 50 on Dec 1st. Maple Lodge NR, 60 on Feb 7th. North Mymms Park, one on May 3rd. Rye Meads RSPB, 50 on Dec 14th. Stocker's Lake, 70 on Jan 13th. Turnford Marsh GP, 80 on Dec 3rd.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 90 on Dec 22nd. Bushy Park, 100 on Feb 21st and Dec 21st. Trent Park, 100+ on Dec 10th.
- Bucks Black Park, 50 on Mar 16th. Horton GP, 80 on Feb 8th and 160 on Dec 31st. Northmoor Hill Wood, 54 on Dec 19th. Tilehouse Lakes, 150 on Jan 21st. Wraysbury GP, 80 on Dec 15th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, 100 on Dec 16th. Sevenoaks WR, 300 on Jan 12th and 250 on Dec 14th.
- Surrey Kenley, a juvenile on May 5th and an adult on May 13th. London Wetland Centre, 52 flew W on Nov 11th. Limpsfield Chart, one on May 8th. Sanderstead, a juvenile on June 20th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, singles on Mar 5th and Dec 19th. Paddington Green, W2, three W on Sept 8th, four W on both Oct 17th and 18th, and three SW on Oct 19th. Primrose Hill, one on Mar 19th and four on Apr 17th, all flying N. Regent's Park, seen on 23 dates, with highest counts of 30 on Mar 10th and 13 on Dec 20th. Victoria Park, two on Nov 5th.

## 1660 Linnets

## *Carduelis cannabina*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The following gives all sites where three or more pairs were reported (number of pairs/territories in brackets), and the annual maximum for those sites where flocks of at least 70 were reported at some time, together with all records in Inner London. Flocks of 100 or more were recorded at ten sites across four counties during the year, with a clear peak in September and October when eight of these sites recorded their annual maxima.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (3). Copped Hall, 85 on Dec 11th. Crystal Waters (4). Dagenham Chase (6). Ingrebourne Valley (15). Mollands Lane GPs (4). Rainham Marsh (5) and 250 on Sept 8th. Stubbers OPC (5).
- Herts Brookmans Park, 80 on Oct 22nd. Chiswell Green (9+), 180 on Sept 2nd. Hatfield Aerodrome, 100 in Jan and Feb. Old Parkbury, 200 on Oct 6th. Rye Meads RSPB (3). Shafford Farm, St Albans, 150 on Sept 22nd.
- Middx Parkside Farm/Res, 120+ on Oct 14th.
- Bucks South Iver, 85 on Aug 17th.



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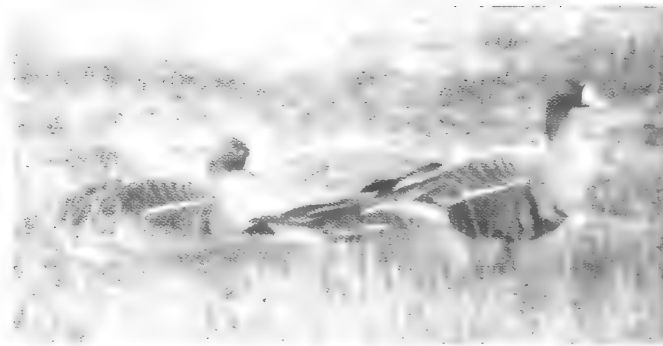
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Above: a rare visitor to the London Area, these Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus* were at Wraysbury GP on 4 January 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Right: two Eurasian White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons albifrons* were present at Stanwell Moor on 6 April 2003. (Andrew Moon)



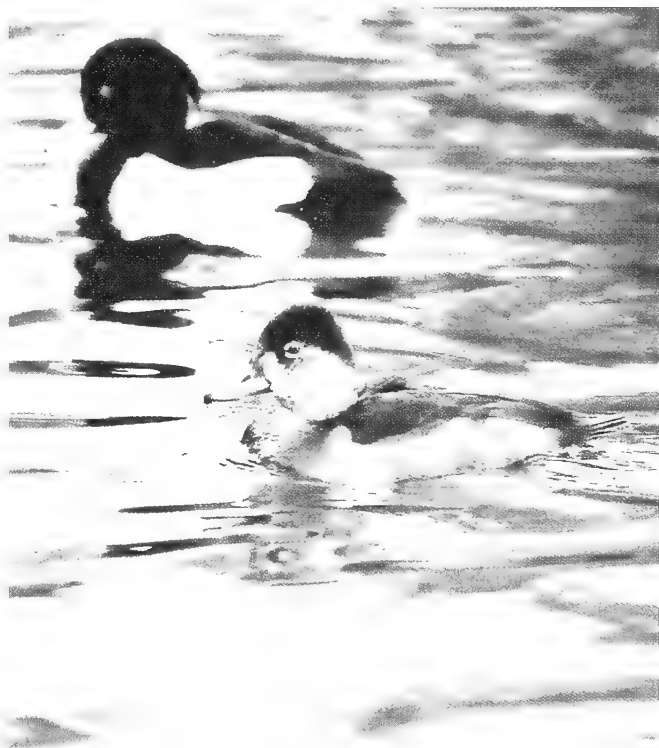
Above: among the more regular species caught for ringing by Rye Meads Ringing Group was this drake Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. (Paul Roper)



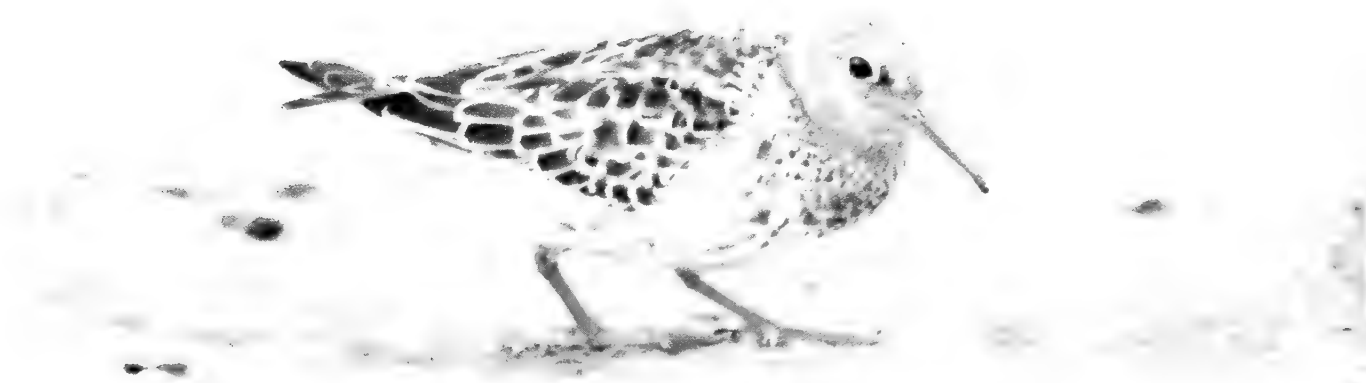
Above: recorded at four sites in London in 2003, this long-staying male Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* at Regent's Park in April was a very noteworthy first record for Inner London. (Dominic Mitchell)



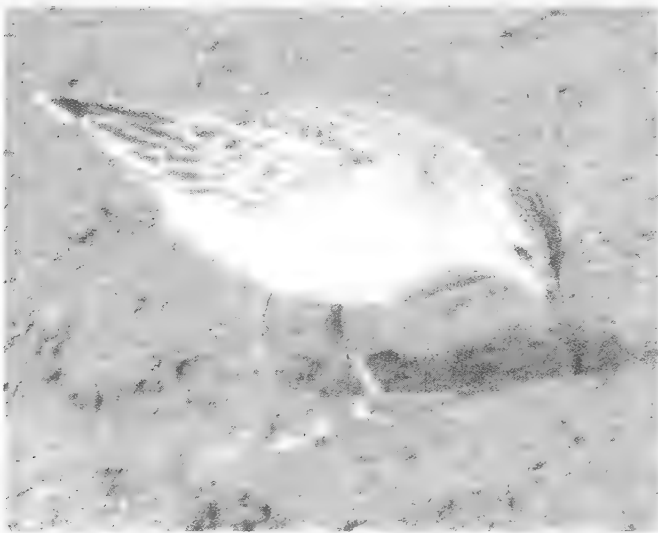
Top: the Lesser Scaup was first seen at Stocker's Lake in January 2003. (Andrew Moon)  
Above: the same bird then spent 10 days at Brent Reservoir in February 2003. (Andrew Self)



Above: this female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*, pictured here with a drake Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* on 23 February 2002, returned for two successive winters to Ewell. (Gary Messenbird)



Above: Queen Mother Reservoir is perhaps the most likely site for wandering Purple Sandpipers *Calidris maritima* to appear in the London Area. This one was at the site on 20 September 2002. (John Simpson)



Above: this Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* was a good find at King George VI Reservoir on 26 September 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Above: Another unexpected coastal shorebird at Queen Mother Reservoir was this juvenile Knot *Calidris canutus* on 17 October 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Above: these two Sanderlings *Calidris alba* at King George VI Reservoir on 20 May 2003 provided an excellent opportunity to compare the species' winter and breeding plumages. (Andrew Moon)



Above: Amwell, at the northern limit of the London Area, played host to this confiding Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* in October 2002. (Nick Sampford)



Above: remarkably, the London Area's third Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, at Rye Meads in September 2002, was the site's second record. (Richard Cope)



Above: more expected waders at Rye Meads in 2002 included this Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, which was trapped and ringed in August. (Paul Roper)





Wader passage was noted at a number of sites across London in spring 2002, and included this party of breeding-plumaged Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* at Beddington Sewage Farm in mid-May. (Peter Alfrey)



This confident juvenile Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* lingered at Walton Reservoir on 26 September 2003. (Andrew Moon)



A reliable site for the species in spring, Staines Reservoir hosted this adult Little Gull *Larus minutus* on 20 April 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Beddington Sewage Farm has long attracted gulls in large numbers, and among them are occasional scarcer visitors such as this first-winter Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* in January 2003. (Peter Alfrey)



Above: Queen Mother Reservoir continued to produce exciting birds with this Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* on 19 October 2003. (Andrew Moon)

Left: this Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* was an unusual visitor to a rooftop in Essex Road, Islington, in April 2002. (Dominic Mitchell)



In-the-hand views help facilitate appreciation of characters less easy to see in the field. This male Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*, trapped at Rye Meads, can be sexed by its red moustachial stripe. (Paul Roper)



Records of Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* in the London Area relate to the Scandinavian race *littoralis*. This bird was at King George VI Reservoir on 31 October 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Staines Moor regularly attracts Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* in winter: note the prominent supercilium compared to Rock Pipit (left). This individual was photographed on 18 January 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Above: an early Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* was found at King George VI Reservoir on 5 April 2003. (Andrew Moon)

Right: another migrant arrival in the same month was this Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* at Rye Meads. (Paul Roper)





Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* is a scarce visitor to the London Area, with the reedbeds of the Lee Valley among the more favoured locations. This male was trapped at Rye Meads in November 2002. (Richard Cope)



Above: this female Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* was also present at Rye Meads in November 2002. (Richard Cope)



Right: Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* numbers are in decline nationally. This female was ringed at Rye Meads in January 2003. (Paul Roper)

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Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* occur most years on passage in the London Area, typically in autumn, so this fine spring male bucked the trend at Bushy Park on 25 May 2003. (Andrew Moon)



Above: this Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* at Langley Park on 3 May 2003 was another excellent spring shrike record. (Andrew Moon)

Right: this juvenile Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* was a welcome visitor to a Rickmansworth garden in July 2003. (Andrew Moon)



- Kent Dartford Marsh, 160 on Sept 12th. Ruxley GP, 80 on Sept 22nd. Upper College Farm, Bexley (4), 70 on Nov 28th.
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm (7). Chelsham, 70 on Mar 31st. Epsom Common, 87 on Jan 1st. Fetcham Mill Pond, 150+ on Jan 21st. Headley Heath (c7). London Wetland Centre, 92 on Nov 3rd. Roundshaw Downs, 120 on Jan 5th. Rushett Farm, 200+ in Jan and Feb. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 70 on Oct 5th.
- In Lond Chepstow Road, NW2, five N on Sept 18th. Kensington Gdns, two flew over on Feb 12th and Oct 18th. Paddington Green, W2, singles N on Sept 27th and W on Oct 18th. Primrose Hill, a total of 12 seen between Mar 29th and May 1st. Regent's Park, reported on nine dates in spring from Mar 5th-Apr 16th, highest count of seven on Apr 14th, one on Sept 26th and seven on Oct 13th. Victoria Park, six on May 18th.

**1662 Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*  
 Status: scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, two on Feb 10th (MU) and one on Nov 26th (HV).

The lower Thames marshes probably remain the most likely place to see this species in London (and Rainham in particular), even if numbers here are much lower than in the past.

**1663 Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*  
 Status: former breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

For the second year running there was no evidence of breeding in the London Area. There were a handful of reports in May and one bird in early June, but no records at all from July-September. In the autumn and winter, it was quite widespread in small numbers, with counts of up to 60 at the beginning of the year and up to 41 between Oct 2nd and the end of December.

The highest counts during the year for all sites holding ten or more birds, all records in May and June, and all Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Corbets Tey Park, 11 on Dec 8th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 12 on Feb 20th. Ongar Park Wood, 20 on Feb 10th.
- Herts Hawkshead Wood, 50 on Jan 8th. North Mymms Park, 45 on Apr 14th. Northaw Great Wood, 30 on Jan 1st. Potters Crouch Plantation, one singing on May 6th. Rickmansworth, 15+ on Nov 4th. Tyttenhanger GP, ten on Mar 3rd.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 13 on Nov 5th. Bushy Park, 18 on Mar 14th. Trent Park, 17 on Apr 2nd. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 25 on Dec 20th.
- Bucks Black Park, nine on Jan 31st was the highest sector count.
- Kent Farnborough, 20-30 on Mar 8th. Green Street Green, one flew W on May 2nd. Sevenoaks WR, 40 on Mar 19th.
- Surrey Banstead Woods, 20 on Jan 7th. Croydon, ten on Nov 19th. Epsom Common, 25 on Jan 16th. Limpsfield Chart, 40 on Nov 3rd. Moorhouse, 40 on Dec 3rd. Purley, five in a garden on May 25th. Richmond Park, one on May 5th and 30 on Nov 16th. South Norwood Lake, 15 in Dec. London Wetland Centre,

singles on May 7th and June 2nd, 41 SW on Oct 23rd. Walton Heath, 45 on Jan 1st and 2nd. Wandsworth Common, one on May 16th. West End Common, 60 on Jan 24th. Wimbledon Common, 40 on Oct 21st.

In Lond Kensington Gdns, one flew over on Feb 14th (SEB). Regent's Park, one on Jan 14th, three on Mar 3rd, two on May 7th and singles on May 11th and 13th, one on Oct 11th, two on 20th and 1-3 on five dates in Nov (ARD, DJ). Victoria Park, 20 on Nov 4th (RJW).

**1663.1 Mealy Redpoll**

*Carduelis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

Observers of putative Mealies must provide supporting field notes showing how the bird was identified. All records are given.

Surrey New Malden, up to five between Feb 2nd and Apr 21st at a garden feeder with Lesser Redpolls (CG, GW).

**1666 Common Crossbill**

*Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

The year began very slowly, with few records, and the first seven months only produced birds at six sites with a highest count of 16. In August there was an influx dating from about 13th and this continued throughout September. During this period, numbers reached 40 at both Trent Park on Aug 28th, and Thorndon Park on Aug 30th and there were up to 60 in Black Park during September. Reports of smaller numbers were widespread during this time, and overflying birds very noticeable. There were only three records in October, but far more during the last two months with 30 at Black Park on Nov 27th and 20 at Broxbourne Woods in November and December.

Essex Chipping Ongar, 14 on Sept 4th. Collier Row, seven on Aug 18th. Copped Hall, one on Oct 11th and six on Nov 17th. Hainault Forest, two on Aug 28th. Old Harlow, a male on Sept 10th. Ongar Park Wood, 16 on Apr 9th. Rusheymead, Nazeing, one on Sept 1st. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Sept 7th. Thorndon Park, seven on Aug 13th, 40 on Aug 30th and two on Sept 3rd. Tylers Common, Upminster, one on Sept 9th. Weald Park, one on Sept 11th. Higham Hill, Walthamstow, one flew NE on Sept 2nd.

Herts Amwell GP, two on Aug 31st. Broxbourne Woods, five W on Sept 22nd, 20 on Nov 24th and then on four dates in Dec, reaching a peak of 20 on Dec 22nd. Garston Manor, one SW on Sept 7th. North Mymms Park, six on July 19th. Rye Meads RSPB, 12 over on Aug 24th and two SW on Sept 7th. Watford, seven SW on Sept 7th.

Middx Alexandra Park, five on Aug 24th and 11 on Sept 1st. Heston, three SW on Nov 2nd. Trent Park 40+ flew over on Aug 28th and 15 flew over on Nov 15th. Wraysbury Res, two flew over on Sept 20th.

Bucks Black Park, 11 on Jan 13th and 15 on Feb 2nd, and present from Aug 13th-Sept 12th, with numbers peaking at 60 on Sept 1st and 2nd, then 50 on Sept 22nd, 30 on Nov 27th and seven on Dec 28th

- Kent Joyden's Wood, a male on June 6th. Wilmington, five flew over on Aug 28th.  
 Surrey Banstead, one on Aug 15th and four on Nov 9th. Banstead Heath, two on Aug 31st. Beddington SF, one S on Sept 20th. Limpsfield Chart, singles on June 28th, Aug 6th and 26th, 22 W on Sept 3rd, one on Oct 6th, six W on Oct 13th, one on Nov 2nd and 16 on Dec 16th. North Downs GC, Woldingham, one on Nov 16th and four SE on Nov 27th. Purley, seven flew over on Nov 11th. R. Hogsmill at West Ewell, a female on Aug 28th. Wandsworth Common, ten W on Aug 29th.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, two on May 18th (ARD, DJ).

**1710 Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

About 64 pairs were reporting in the breeding season, which is fewer than the previous two years. Pairs can be mobile, elusive and difficult to pin down in the summer so the best indication of breeding is often the sighting of juveniles in late summer and early autumn. Notable breeding concentrations, together with annual maxima for places reporting more than five birds during the year, and all Inner London records, are given.

- Essex Copped Hall, 15 on Nov 17th. Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest, ten on Mar 3rd. Thorndon Park, seven on Dec 30th. Waltham Abbey Arboretum, six on Jan 1st. Wanstead Park, six on Nov 22nd.  
 Herts Bricket Wood area, a minimum of eight territories. North Mymms Park, six on Dec 14th. Rye Meads RSPB, four pairs bred. Tyttenhanger GP, eight on Dec 21st.  
 Middx Brent Res, six on Sept 24th. Horsenden Hill, five territories. Trent Park, up to six in Jan, Feb and Oct.  
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, six on Apr 20th.  
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, six on Sept 2nd.  
 Surrey Bookham Common, ten territories in census area. Oxted, Hurst Green, at least eight on Aug 31st. Wimbledon Common, eight on Jan 10th.  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, three on Sept 1st. Regent's Park, one on Nov 16th.

**1717 Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

- Herts Amwell GP, one on Mar 17th. Broxbourne Woods, five on Jan 19th, two on Apr 4th and one on Dec 28th. North Mymms Park, two flew over on July 1st.  
 Middx Bentley Priory, one on Jan 30th.  
 Surrey Bookham Common, one on Nov 25th. Headley Heath, two on Mar 16th.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, two on Apr 15th, two NE on Sept 9th and two flew over on Nov 13th (ARD, DJ).

Only 12 sightings at eight sites is a poor showing for this large seedeater.

- 1847 Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*  
 Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.
- Essex KGV Res, one on Oct 8th (AM).  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 2nd flew over to the adjacent Horton Fields where it was relocated in stubble on the same day, and it was seen here again in flight on Oct 7th (CDRH).
- Two more typical October records of this rare migrant.
- 1850 Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
 Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one, possibly two, on Jan 1st, and presumably the same on Jan 6th (DM *et al*). Swanscombe Marsh, two on Jan 1st (BMU).  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one flew SW on Oct 19th (RK, JPPW).
- 1857 Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*  
 Status: widespread but declining breeding resident.
- The approximate total of 92 breeding pairs follows two years of decline since 1999, although it is mostly accounted for by better coverage in the Essex sector where there were 41 pairs, far more than any other county. All breeding records (with the number of singing males/territories in brackets), annual maxima for all sites with ten or more birds and any observer comments on status are given.
- Essex Beauchamp Roding (5). Bulphan Fen (8), 24 on Jan 10th. Bush Farm, Corbets Tey (2). Collier Row (2). Copped Hall (5), 25 on Nov 1st. Fishers Green, 70 on Feb 10th. Ingrebourne Valley (14). Nazeing GP, 70 on Feb 10th. Rainham at The Slips (1) and Rainham GP (1). Stubbers OPC (1). Upshire (1).
- Herts Beech Farm (1) and 16 on Nov 25th. Broad Colney Lakes, 60 on Feb 3rd. Chiswell Green/Potters Crouch area (9) and 40 at Chiswell Green on Feb 3rd. Garston (1). Jersey Farm Woodland Park (2) and 20 on Dec 28th. Mopes Farm. West Hyde (5), 'very much in decline in this area'. Panshanger Park, 120 on Feb 17th. Potters Crouch, 20 on Dec 8th. Rye Meads RSPB, ten on Feb 1st. Tyttenhanger GP (1), ten on Dec 3rd. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1).
- Middx Fernyhill Farm, ten or more on Jan 12th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield (2) and 70 on Dec 25th is a record count for this site. Whitewebbs Farm, 14 on Dec 3rd.
- Kent Green Street Green (1). Horton Kirby, 42 on Feb 11th. Lullingstone Park/Lake (3). South Darenth (2).
- Surrey Beddlestead Valley, 30+ on Jan 21st. Epsom Common, 13 on Jan 1st. Banstead Down 'none seen for the second year running'. Holmethorpe SP (3), 12 on Dec 29th. Horton CP, 20 on Feb 3rd. Island Barn Res, one on Feb 10th was 'the first in Walton-on-Thames area since 1996'. Limpsfield Chart (9). Oxted, at Foyle Farm (2) and Hurst Green (2-3). Rushett Farm, 20 on Feb 10th. Tandridge (1). Trevereux/Swaynesland (1). Walton Heath (4).

- 1866 Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*  
 Status: rare vagrant.
- Middx Pinner Park Farm, one on Sept 2nd. (JRi *et al*).
- The 19th London Area record, and although previous records date back as far as 1908, seven of these were in the 1990s so although not quite of annual occurrence, it is being found with increasing regularity.
- 1877 Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
 Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- The total of breeding pairs reported was about 260, although this figure includes a broad estimate of c100 pairs at Rainham Marsh and must therefore in itself be very approximate. Nevertheless these figures are close to those of 2000 when 265 pairs (with 116 at Rainham) were reported, and do not suggest a declining population. Sites holding three or more pairs/ territories (shown in brackets) and the largest count for the year at sites where this was ten or more (except Bucks) is given. All Inner London records are also shown.
- Essex Chingford Plain (5). Copped Hall, 12 on Nov 16th. Cornmill Meadows (4). Dagenham Chase (5). Fairlop Waters (6), 14 on Mar 9th. Ingrebourne Valley (23). Rainham Marsh (c100). Walthamstow Res (5). Walthamstow Marsh (1).
- Herts Amwell GP (8), 60 in roost on Oct 27th. Bowyer's GP (5). Bricket Wood area (3). Cheshunt GP (3). Hilfield Park Res (7). Panshanger Park, 20 on Jan 10th. Rye Meads RSPB (15), 60 at roost in Feb. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, ten on Aug 24th and Sept 7th. Tyttenhanger GP, ten on Dec 3rd. Watford Link Road, 15 at roost on Nov 26th.
- Middx Bushy Park (3–5). Horsenden Hill (5). Kempton NR (3). Tottenham Marsh, 10+ on Feb 16th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, eight on Apr 20th.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh (4).
- Surrey Beddington SF (11). Holmethorpe SP, ten on Feb 19th. Jubilee Wood, Chessington, 20 on Jan 8th and 10th. London Wetland Centre (21), 28 on Nov 16th. Walton Res (3). Wimbledon Common (3).
- In Lond Primrose Hill, one flew N on Mar 26th. Regent's Park, one flew over on Mar 27th and singles flew SE on Nov 7th and NW on Nov 13th.

- 1882 Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*  
 Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Fewer and fewer in the London Area each year, with only 16 pairs or singing males reported in three counties, ten of which were in Essex. It may not be too long before this species is confined to south Essex, where at least some large winter flocks are still being found. Records are given for all sites of occurrence, but summarised in one or two cases.

- Essex Bulphan Fen, two territories in June, 70 on Jan 1st and 30 in Nov. Dagenham Chase, two on Apr 2nd. Fairlop Waters, six territories, 25 on Jan 30th and 32 on Mar 9th. Halls Aggregates, Werrington, one singing on May 6th. Rainham Marsh, one singing on July 6th and 7th, and 1–2 in Mar and Sept and four on Nov 24th. Upminster, 16 on Jan 1st at Tylers Common and four on Nov 10th at Pages Wood.
- Herts Chiswell Green/Potters Crouch area, 4+ territories reported (but incomplete coverage), also 20 on Jan 15th. Jersey Farm, two on Jan 6th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two singing from Apr-July, probably bred. Horton Kirby, two on Jan 2nd and Nov 4th. Ruxley GP, one on Mar 31st. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Feb 2nd, four on Mar 3rd and singles on Apr 14th, June 22nd and Nov 17th.

### Appendix I: Escapes

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are full-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in St James's Park and other collections.

#### 0134 White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

- Surrey Warlingham, one on May 22nd, was thought to be the ringed bird 'AX' from Bristol Zoo.

#### Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

- Essex Singles at Dagenham Chase (Nov 24th-26th and Dec 21st-26th), Rainham Marsh (Jan 29th-Feb 24th and Sept 4th-Dec 22nd) and Walthamstow Res (one throughout the year).
- Herts Singles widely reported throughout the year at Amwell GP, Bowyer's GP, Bury Lake, Cheshunt GP, Stanstead Abbots GP and Stocker's Lake.
- Middx Singles at Brent Res (many dates), Bushy Park (Sept 11th), Hampton Court Park (Feb 21st), Kempton NR (Aug 30th-Sept 29th) and Tottenham Lock (Dec 31st).
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Apr 7th.
- Kent Singles at Swanscombe Marsh (Dec 22nd and 28th) and the Thames Barrier (Sept 8th-25th).
- Surrey Singles at Beddington SF (Sept 2nd-7th), QE II Res (Aug 12th), London Wetland Centre (Mar 6th-Apr 12th), R. Thames at Kingston (Jan 6th-Mar 16th), South Norwood CP (June 26th-29th), Thorpe Water Park (Sept 22nd and Oct 6th, with two on Nov 17th), and Walton Res (Aug 19th and 30th).
- In Lond Kensington Gardens (one from Jan 1st-Mar 8th).

**0154 Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one was present all year.

**0158 Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Essex Fishers Green, one from Mar 22nd-Apr 28th. Holyfield Marsh GP, one on Mar 24th. Sewardstone Marsh, one from 2001 until Feb 25th. Waltham Marsh, one on Jan 6th.

Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Aug 3rd.

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Essex Walthamstow Res, one on June 9th.

Herts Amwell GP, one on May 11th.

Middx Brent Res, one on June 9th. Home Farm, Harmondsworth, one on Sept 19th. KGV Res, one on Aug 24th. SITA quarry, Sipson, one on June 8th. Stanwell Moor, one on Sept 5th. Stockley Park, one throughout most of the year.

Surrey Ham Common, one on Jan 21st, 28th and from Mar 11th-May 26th. London Wetland Centre, two on Mar 23rd, one on Mar 27th and Apr 17th. Richmond Park, one on Feb 17th. R. Thames at Richmond, a pair on July 21st. Rushett Farm, one on Jan 4th.

**0163 Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

Essex Mayesbrook Park, Barking, one present all year.

Middx Tottenham Cemetery, a dark morph bird on Aug 30th.

Bucks Horton GP, one on Mar 1st.

**Emperor Goose** *Anser canagicus*

Surrey QE II Res, one on Jan 28th, two on Feb 23rd, three on Mar 18th, one on Oct 9th, three on Oct 17th and two on Dec 30th.

These birds seem to originate from Claremont Lake in Esher. Many birds that appear to be this species are hybrids.

**Swan Goose** *Anser cygnoides*

Essex Walthamstow Res, one present all year.

**0167 Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Essex Up to six were reported at Fishers Green during the year. Also seen at Belhus Woods CP, Fairlop Waters, Hainault Forest CP, Hall Marsh, Holyfield Hall Farm and Holyfield Marsh GP (up to two), Rainham Marsh (three) Roding Valley CP and Valentine Park.



- Herts Coopers Green GP, a flock of 14 including a juvenile on Sept 8th. Also seen at Bowyer's GP, Broxbourne GP, Cheshunt GP (up to three) and Stanborough Lakes.
- Middx Bushy Park, one on June 6th. Osterley Park, maximum of nine on Feb 15th. Pinner Park, one on Dec 22nd. Staines Res/Stanwell Moor, one on Sept 17th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Nov 23rd and Dec 19th.
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP, singles between Mar and Aug, with five from Aug 31st-Sept 22nd. Oxted, Hurst Green, two on Feb 14th and Mar 2nd. Walton Res, one on Sept 14th and 15th.

**0171 Ruddy Shelduck*****Tadorna ferruginea***

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on Feb 14th and Mar 10th and one from May 13th-June 11th. Fishers Green, one from Feb 16th-Apr 22nd and from Aug 31st-Sept 26th.
- Herts Great Amwell, one on Mar 12th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Aug 15th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Jan 5th and 6th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on Apr 12th.

**Cape Shelduck*****Tadorna cana***

- Surrey R. Ember at East Molesey, a female on Feb 2nd and 4th. West End Common, one described as 'virtually resident'.
- Many Cape and Ruddy Shelducks reported are in fact hybrids of unknown parentage.

**Paradise Shelduck*****Tadorna variegata***

- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Aug 22nd and 30th.

**Blue-winged Goose*****Cyanochen cyanopterus***

- Herts Fishers Green, one on Dec 22nd.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on June 15th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on June 17th.

**0177 Wood Duck*****Aix sponsa***

- Middx Brent Res, a female from Apr 6th-16th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, two drakes in November and December.

**Muscovy Duck*****Cairina moschata***

- Herts Verulamium Lake, ten on Mar 20th.
- Surrey Epsom Common, a pair displaying on Mar 1st. London Wetland Centre, one flew in on Aug 13th. Stamford Green Pond, Epsom, a pair throughout January was seen displaying in March.

All records of this species should be submitted as there is a feral population in Ely that may cause it to be added to the British List.

- 0179 Wigeon** *Anas penelope*  
 In Lond Southbank, a pair on Apr 16th, 25th and May 3rd, and a male on June 18th.  
 Tate Modern, a male on June 11th.
- Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix*  
 Essex Connaught Water, two from Jan 13th-Mar 12th. KGV Res, three on Mar 12th.  
 Sewardstone Marsh, a pair on Apr 29th.
- Speckled Teal** *Anas flavirostris*  
 Middx Bushy Park, three on Jan 8th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 1st.
- 0189 Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
 A feral population of up to 14 birds was present throughout the year at the  
 London Wetland Centre, and nearby areas of Surrey and Inner London.
- Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*  
 Middx Brent Res, a drake on Apr 16th. Bushy Park, one on Jan 8th
- Cape Teal** *Anas capensis*  
 Middx Bushy Park, four on Jan 28th
- Silver Teal** *Anas versicolor*  
 Essex Connaught Water, one on Oct 20th.
- Puna Teal** *Anas versicolor puna*  
 Essex Connaught Water, one on Oct 22nd and two on Nov 22nd.
- Red Shoveler** *Anas platalea*  
 Essex Connaught Water, one from May 12th-June 4th.  
 Middx Brent Res, a drake and two ducks on July 22nd.
- Australian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchollis*  
 Middx Brent Res, one on Dec 25th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 5th.
- 0193 Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*  
 Essex Epping Forest, a pair at Connaught Water from Feb to June and a drake on  
 Nov 15th, and no doubt the same pair at Strawberry Hill in May and June and  
 at Warren Pond in May.

- 0196 Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*  
 The following records were considered to refer to escapes or birds of feral origin.
- Essex Connaught Water, a duck between Oct 18th and Dec 3rd. KGV and Wm Girling Res, 1–2 all year. Strawberry Hill, Epping Forest, one on July 21st.  
 Herts Stanstead Abbots GP, a tame female on Jan 18th and May 20th. Stocker's Lake, a pair on Jan 1st, Oct 26th and 27th.  
 Middx Bushy Park, up to three were probably pinioned. Stockley Park, a drake on Feb 15th and Apr 17th.  
 Bucks East Iver Lakes, eight on Jan 16th. Tilehouse Lakes, five on Feb 14th.  
 Kent Foots Cray Meadows, a leucistic bird on Sept 6th. The same at Ruxley GP between July and Sept.  
 Surrey Kew Gdns, five on Feb 6th. London Wetland Centre, probably all birds here are from Inner London Parks  
 In Lond Several feral pairs were present in Inner London parks during the year.
- Rosybill** *Netta peposaca*  
 Herts Rye Meads RSPB, a female on Aug 28th.
- Baer's Pochard** *Aythya baeri*  
 Essex KGV Res, one on Nov 20th and 22nd.
- 0202 Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*  
 Middx Bushy Park, one on Jan 8th.
- New Zealand Scaup** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*  
 Essex Connaught Water, a drake throughout the year.
- 0207 King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*  
 Bucks Chalfont Park, two on Oct 1st
- White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*  
 Essex Connaught Water, one on Jan 27th.
- White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus*  
 Essex Hooks Marsh, one on Oct 5th and 6th.
- White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala*  
 Middx Broadwater Lake, a first-winter female from Dec 14th–18th.

Both these records, and a previous one at Walthamstow Res on various dates between Sept 1999 and Feb 2000, have up to now been assumed to refer to escapes from wildfowl collections. It is worth noting that as regards to all

British records, this assumption is now being questioned in some quarters. Interested readers should see *Birdwatch* 145: 24–27, and also *Brit. Birds* 98:693–694.

- 0225 Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*  
Essex Paynes Lane GP, one of the *andina* race on May 6th.
- Argentine Blue-bill** *Oxyura vittata*  
Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on May 5th. Tyttenhanger GP, a drake on May 19th.  
In Lond Hyde Park, two fully winged drakes on Mar 3rd.
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*  
Herts Panshanger Park, one being mobbed by Buzzards on June 16th.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*  
Essex Dagenham Chase, one with jesses on Oct 17th.  
Herts Amwell GP, one on May 6th and 11th, and from Nov 9th-Dec 12th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Apr 17th and 20th.  
Kent Dartford Marsh, one with jesses on Mar 10th.  
Surrey Oxted, Hurst Green, one on Jan 23rd.
- Saker** *Falco cherrug*  
Essex Dagenham Chase, one with jesses on Jan 20th.
- 0396 Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*  
Surrey Kew, one near the shops and station at Kew Gardens Road on Mar 22nd.
- Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*  
Herts Tyttenhanger GP, an adult from Sept 27th-Dec 26th was also seen at Coursers Lane Fields with Golden Plover and Lapwing on Oct 6th.
- Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*  
In Lond Regent's Park, the bird first seen in Oct 2000 was again present from Jan to Mar 6th and in Dec.
- Grey-headed Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus*  
Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on three dates from Apr 17th-28th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 28th.  
Surrey Beddington SF, one on several dates between Jan 16th-May 17th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 28th.  
In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 7th.

**Monk Parakeet***Myiopsitta monachus*

Herts Borehamwood, reported to be up to 40 roosting at Aberford Park throughout the year.

Middx Horsenden Hill, one on Nov 4th.

Surrey Beddington SF, one from June 20th-25th. Lonsdale Road Res, singles on Feb 9th, May 12th and June 19th. London Wetland Centre, singles on seven dates in April, May and July.

**Budgerigar***Melopsittacus undulatus*

Essex Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 4th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 14th.

In Lond Paddington Green , W2, one on Apr 8th. Regent's Park, one on Oct 8th.

**Orange-winged Parrot***Amazona amazonica*

Middx Osterley Park, one on four dates from Nov 2nd-Dec 17th.

Surrey Molesey, one flying to roost on Mar 27th.

**Cockatiel***Nymphicus hollandicus*

All records refer to single birds.

Essex KGV Res, Nov 20th. Plaistow, Aug 7th. Walthamstow Res, May 11th. Wm Girling Res, Oct 29th.

Herts Amwell GP, Oct 27th.

Middx Brent Res, July 29th. Ravenscourt Park, June 11th.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, Oct 28th.

Surrey Beddington SF, Apr 14th, Sept 4th and Dec 22nd. London Wetland Centre, Apr 15th, Sept 3rd and Oct 2nd. South Norwood Lake, Jan 29th, July 23rd, Oct 20th and Nov 5th.

In Lond Battersea PS, Mar 16th was taken by a Peregrine. Hyde Park, Aug 14th.

A frequent escape, although there is no evidence that they survive long.

**Alexandrine Parakeet***Psittacula erithacus*

Essex Parsloes Park, one was present all year.

Middx Brent Res, one on Nov 30th.

Surrey Hersham, the 'usual' bird in the parakeet roost at Esher RFC on Nov 30th. London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 2nd.

**0744 Eagle Owl***Bubo bubo*

Herts Bedwell Park GC, a report of a breeding pair (the female sitting on eggs) on the balcony of the Hatfield Country Club, although the outcome was not known.

**Yellow-fronted Canary***Serinus mozambicus*Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on July 12<sup>th</sup>.**Chestnut Bunting***Emberiza rutilla*Herts Bushey, a male on Aug 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.**Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda***Middx Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. QE II Res, one on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.**Zebra Finch***Poephila guttata*Surrey Beddington SF, one on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>.In Lond Regent's/Hertford Canal, one on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.**Scaly-breasted (or Spotted) Munia***Lonchura punctulata*Surrey Beddington SF, one on June 21<sup>st</sup>**African Golden Weaver***Ploceus aurantius*Surrey Beddington SF, one on June 11<sup>th</sup>.**Appendix II: Hybrids**

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

**Canada Goose x Greylag Goose**Essex Fishers Green, singles on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup> and Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. Hooks Marsh, one on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rainham Marsh, one on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>. Valentines Park, one was present all year. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 17<sup>th</sup>, two on 27<sup>th</sup>, and singles on June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.Herts Tyttenhanger GP, five on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.Middx Enfield, one on June 1<sup>st</sup>.Surrey London Wetland Centre, up to four during the year. Lonsdale Road Res, one on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Wandsworth Common, four on Mar 12<sup>th</sup>.

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, up to six during the year, apart from April-July. St James's Park, one or two from July-October.

**Canada Goose x Lesser White-fronted Goose**

Herts Amwell GP, one on July 7th, Sept 23rd and Oct 15th.

**Canada Goose x 'grey' Goose**

Surrey Oxted, Hurst Green, one on Mar 14th.

**Canada Goose x Emperor Goose**

In Lond Hyde Park, one on May 4th.

**Canada Goose x Swan Goose**

Herts Bowyer's GP, one from Aug 31st-Sept 21st.

Middx Princes Ski Club, Bedfont, one on June 21st and 24th. Pymmes Park, one on July 14th.

**Mallard x Gadwall**

Herts Amwell GP, a drake all year. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Mar 2nd.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, a drake from Oct 31st-Dec 31st.

**Mallard x Teal**

Herts Amwell GP, a drake on May 19th.

**Mallard x Shoveler**

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 26th and Mar 6th.

**Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal**

Herts Amwell GP, a drake throughout the year.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, a drake in Jan, Feb and Apr. Lonsdale Road Res, one on Jan 13th and Feb 9th.

***Aythya* hybrids**

Essex Connaught Water, one on Jan 13th, 27th and Mar 23rd was similar to a New Zealand Scaup. Hooks Marsh, a female Tufted x Pochard on Oct 14th. Netherhall GP, a female Tufted x Ferruginous on Jan 1st and a male Tufted x Pochard on Oct 6th.

Herts Amwell GP, a male Tufted x Pochard on Sept 21st. Cheshunt GP, a female Tufted x Pochard on Oct 24th. Hilfield Park Res, a drake Pochard x Red-crested Pochard present in March and May.

Middx Brent Res, one resembling a Ring-necked Duck on Dec 27th. Forty Hall, Enfield, a Scaup type on Feb 12th.

Surrey A Tufted x Ring-necked Duck was at the London Wetland Centre, Putney and Wandsworth between Jan 2nd-9th and May 14th. London Wetland Centre, a



Tufted x Pochard on Mar 4th-7th and 23rd, and May 18th-June 16th, a Lesser Scaup type on May 15th and a Tufted x Scaup on Dec 2nd.

### **Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye**

Essex Wm Girling Res, one on Feb 8th and 13th.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, one from Apr 24th until Oct 17th.

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Sept 18th. Prince's Ski Club, Bedfont, one on Apr 19th.

### **Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull**

Essex Wm Girling Res, one on Feb 8th and 13th.

### **Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull**

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, an adult on Mar 4th.

### **Chiffchaff x Willow Warbler**

Surrey Island Barn Res, a singing bird on May 6th gave phrases of both Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff song.

See also the comment under Willow Warbler regarding an unidentified *Phylloscopus* warbler at Regent's Park, Inner London.

# Birds of the London Area, 2003

## 0152 Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

Status: common breeding resident.

The number of breeding pairs (nest building or with young) is shown below.

| Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| 41    | 36    | 25    | 12    | 5    | 20     | 4       | 143   |

After three years with the number of breeding pairs reported consistently around the 120–130 mark, a further increase this year. The highest counts during the year in each sector are listed below.

- Essex Harrow Lodge Park, Romford, 149 on Feb 16th is a new record for the site. KGV Res, 97 on Nov 18th. Walthamstow Res, 84 on Sept 14th.
- Herts Bury Lake, Rickmansworth, 76 on Mar 24th. Stocker's Lake, 96 on Mar 1st.
- Middx Bushy Park, 73 on Oct 8th. Hampton Court Park, 102 on Oct 27th.
- Bucks Horton GP, 38 on Mar 21st.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 20 on July 30th.
- Surrey R. Thames, 65 at Kingston on June 5th, 109 at Truss's Island on May 1st and 80 at Walton-on-Thames on May 5th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, 86 on Feb 10th.

## 0153 Bewick's Swan

*Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

- Essex Fishers Green, one on Oct 27th (SC *et al*).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, an adult during the afternoon on Nov 8th (RCs).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two adults on Jan 4th (DJM *et al*).
- Surrey QEII Res, an adult flew E at 08.12 on Nov 8th (DMH).

## 0154 Whooper Swan

*Cygnus cygnus*

Status: rare winter visitor.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, one on Oct 24th and 25th (PJV *et al*).

## 0157 Bean Goose

*Anser fabalis*

Status: winter vagrant.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a flock of 17 flew NE on Feb 24th (CDRH).
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one of the race *A. f. rossicus* (Tundra Bean Goose) on the reservoir bank and by the nearby R Ember on Mar 1st and 2nd, and again on Mar 20th (DMH *et al*).

The Bucks record is the largest flock of this rare goose to be recorded in the London Area. Prior to 1978 most records of this species seemed to refer to escapes. Since 1978 there have been seven records of apparently wild birds, and the previous three (dating back to 1993) all attributable to the smaller race (*A. f. rossicus*). Most of the sporadic sightings elsewhere refer to the smaller Tundra form, especially in southeast England, and which winters on the Continent. This seems to be the race that is most likely to occur in the London Area.

**0158 Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: very rare winter visitor.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, four flew N on Nov 14th (PJV).  
 Middx Brent Res, three flew NE on Jan 4th (LAB, RB, ASMS *et al*).  
 Surrey Wimbledon Common, two were present on Feb 26th (DWs).

The first records since 1998, but with massive flocks as nearby as Norfolk, it might be expected to occur in the London Area more frequently than it does. However, correct identification of flying geese can be tricky, and requires a thorough knowledge of the species, and especially the calls, and should not be attempted lightly. The escape possibility of individual birds is also very high.

**0159 White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers.

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, 18 on Feb 16th, with 20 on Feb 17th and 18th, 19 from 19th-21st and 16 remaining until 27th (TS *et al*). Mardyke Valley, 12 flew NE on Dec 8th (HV). Rainham Marshes, ten from Feb 23rd-27th (DFI *et al*). Walthamstow Marsh and Res, c40 flew N on Jan 9th (DGDL). Wm Girling Res, two on Feb 14th and one still on Feb 15th (PJV).  
 Middx Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor area, three from Feb 14th-Apr 11th (REI *et al*), also seen on KGV Res on Feb 22nd and Mar 2nd.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, five flew SW on Feb 11th (GDJM). Island Barn Res, one flew W on Nov 25th (DMH). London Wetland Centre and on nearby playing field, one on Feb 13th (RK *et al*).  
 In Lond Tate Modern, a first-winter flew down river on Feb 10th (DGDL).

The majority of records this year formed part of an obvious small influx in the second half of February.

**0161 Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Status: common feral breeding resident, controlled.

The following summary gives all sites with breeding records during the year (the number of pairs shown in brackets), and also the annual maxima at

localities where counts over 50 birds were recorded at some time. Inner London records are more detailed.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (5), 200 on Sept 18th. Corbets Tey (1). Fairlop (1). Fishers Green, 100+ on Sept 28th. Hall Marsh (1). Hooks Marsh (1). Rainham GP, 76 on Dec 20th. Rainham Marshes, 150 on Aug 31st. South Ockendon, 251 at Grange Waters on Jan 12th, and 118 at Great Mollands Pit on Dec 7th. Waltham Marsh (11), 66 on Feb 19th and Oct 5th. Walthamstow Res (11), 69 on June 14th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Bowyer's GP, 75 in July. Cheshunt GP (1), 63 at Seventy Acres Lake on Sept 5th. Lynsters Farm, 83 on Nov 24th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 88 on Sept 7th.
- Bucks Park Lodge Farm, 85 on Feb 21st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 120 on Aug 31st. Sevenoaks WR, 67 juveniles on June 6th, and 311 on Sept 23rd.
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP (2), 60 in Aug and Sept. Kew Gdns (1). London Wetland Centre (2). Trevereux area, 102 on Feb 20th. Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Burgess Park, 16 on Feb 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2), 219 on Nov 11th. Regent's Park, 35 on Dec 15th. St James's Park, 134 on Dec 11th.

#### 0168 Brent Goose

#### *Branta bernicla*

Status: formerly scarce migrant and winter visitor greatly increased in recent years.

- Essex Barking Bay, two E on Mar 5th (SC). KGV Res, one on Nov 7th (SC). Rainham Marshes, nine on Oct 23rd, six on Nov 7th and two on Nov 18th (HV). Wm Girling Res, six on Feb 19th (SC, PJV) and one on Nov 8th (PJV).
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one from May 4th-21st (PCn *et al*) may not have been a wild bird.
- Middx Staines Res, an adult of the race (*B. b. hrota*) known as Pale-bellied Brent Goose on the north reservoir on Dec 29th (REI, FJM).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Mar 5th (REI) and singles on Mar 15th (JAS) and Dec 1st (CDRH).
- Kent R. Thames at Northfleet, two parties of four and six flew E on Oct 15th, and two singles and a flock of eight flew E on Oct 17th (SC). Swanscombe Marsh, one on Jan 4th (BMU).
- Surrey Beddington SF, three flew E on Jan 1st (JPA). R. Thames at London Wetland Centre, six flew W on Nov 7th (RoG, RK *et al*).

Very few away from the Lower Thames this year, but these did include a Pale-bellied Brent Goose, which appears to be only the second record of this distinctive form in the London Area, there being a report in Surrey of one flying over Beddington in February 1998. With a record of a Black Brant (*B. b. nigricans*) also at Staines north reservoir in 1984, this site probably has a unique claim (for a non-coastal site) to three races of Brent Goose within its boundaries at some time.

- 0166 Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*  
 Status: very common breeding resident; controlled.
- Sites with five or more breeding pairs (the number shown in brackets) and/or an annual maximum of 200 or more birds are given below. In Inner London annual maxima is given for sites with more than ten birds. The figures for breeding pairs is often a lot larger than the number of broods seen, as this species is still widely controlled, mostly by egg pricking.
- Essex Belhus Woods CP (5). Fishers Green (5). Harrow Lodge Park, Romford, 405 on Feb 16th. Holyfield Lake (7). Great Mollands Pit (6). Walthamstow Res (41), 815 on July 5th.
- Herts Amwell GP (10). Bowyer's GP, 218 in July. Rye Meads RSPB (6). Tyttenhanger GP, 216 on Aug 13th. Verulamium Lake, 392 on Sept 27th. West Hyde, 585 on Sept 18th.
- Middx Brent Res (10), 202 on July 20th. Halliford Mere Lakes (15–16). Hampton Court Park, 340 on Feb 12th. Hampton Water Works (11). Harmondsworth/Sipson, 456 on Sept 3rd. Kempton NR (13). Little Britain Lake (8). Osterley Park, 213 on Aug 20th. Staines Moor, 469 on Jan 14th. Stanwell Moor, 433 on Aug 21st.
- Bucks Farlows Lake (8). Horton GP (6). Orlitts Lake (6). Wraysbury GP (45).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 65 juveniles, and 326 on Sept 10th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (13). London Wetland Centre (5). Molesey, c200 at the Riverside OS on July 1st. Thorpe Water Park (9). Wimbledon Common (8).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (2), 67 on Feb 5th. Burgess Park, 15 on Feb 16th. Canada Water, SE16 (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), 148 on Aug 13th. Little Venice (2), 55 on Jan 24th. Regent's Park, 200 on Aug 17th. St James's Park, 107 in July and Aug.

- 0170 Egyptian Goose** *Alopechen aegyptiacus*  
 Status: increasing feral breeding resident.
- The following summary gives all breeding records and all localities where this species was seen during the year, with the largest annual counts for other sites.
- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, 1–3 from Jan to Apr and two June to Nov. Also 1–2 (mostly on single dates) at Dagenham Chase, Harrow Lodge Farm/Park, Hayes Hill Farm, KGV Res, Nazeing GP, Rainham Marshes and South Park, Ilford.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Oct 15th and Dec 15th. All other sightings were in the Colne Valley at Bury Lake, Helicon GP, Lynsters Farm (six on Dec 19th) and Stocker's Farm and Lake (five on May 20th).
- Middx Bushy and Hampton Court Parks, present for most of the year at these two sites with a pair fledging 11 young in Bushy Park and three pairs raising 12 young in Hampton Court Park, 40 at Hampton Court Park in Sept. In the Colne Valley, 1–3 at Broadwater and Moorhall Lakes; six over KGV Res on Oct 12th, and 1–2 at Queen Mary Res and Stanwell Moor.
- Bucks Langley Park, seven on May 4th and a pair at Denham Court in Feb, May and July. Also two at Queen Mother Res and Wraysbury GP on Oct 21st.

- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one in Jan and Feb and two from Mar to Dec.  
 Surrey Kew Gdns, a pair bred with 12 young on Mar 30th. Richmond Park, a pair bred (five young at Adams Pond). Oxted, a pair probably bred at Townland Pond where a count of 13 included three juveniles on Mar 9th. Thorpe Water Park, a pair with a brood of five. Also seen at 15 other sites.  
 In Lond Southbank, two flew down river on Oct 17th (DGDL).

There seems little doubt that this species is expanding its range in London. The centre of its population appears to be based at Bushy and Hampton Court Parks, and it is extending its range across the Thames into Surrey and Kent. Increasing numbers are now also seen in the Colne Valley but far fewer are seen elsewhere north of the Thames.

### 0173 **Shelduck**

### *Tadorna tadorna*

Status: decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major inland waters where it breeds in small numbers.

All reports of breeding are given, with the number of broods seen at each locality given in brackets. Also shown are the highest counts of birds in each county. A total of 23 broods were seen during the year.

- Essex Barking Bay, 243 in Feb. Barking, Creekmouth (1), up to 50 in Sept. Beckton SW (2), 103 on Jan 18th. Bow Creek (1). Dagenham Chase, 16 on Dec 12th. Havering Aggregates GP, one pair probably bred. Holyfield Hall Farm, 11 on Apr 30th. KGV Res (1). Netherhall GP (1). North Woolwich (1). Rainham Marshes (8), 177 in Feb. Sewardstone Marsh, seven on Apr 23rd. Walthamstow Res (1) and 11 on May 14th.  
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, seven on May 4th. Rye Meads RSPB, 4–5 pairs, but no broods seen, and up to 11 in Mar and Apr. Seventy Acres Lake, eight on May 7th.  
 Middx KGV Res (1), 13 adults on May 30th. Queen Mary Res (1), 11 on Apr 20th. Staines Res, 15 in Dec. Stanwell Moor, ten on Apr 20th.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res (1), ten on May 14th.  
 Kent Crossness, 130 on Jan 6th. Dartford Marsh (2), 82 on Mar 9th and 56 on Dec 13th. Long Reach SF (1). Swanscombe Marsh, ten on Feb 11th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 18 on Apr 14th. QEII Res (1), 17 on Apr 25th. Walton Res, 20 on Mar 20th.  
 In Lond Buckingham Palace, one from Apr 9th-May 23rd (BPBR). St James's Park, two on Apr 30th (ASMS). Tate Modern, two on Apr 14th (DGDL).

### 0178 **Mandarin Duck**

### *Aix galericulata*

Status: established, locally common, introduced breeding resident.

The table below summarises the highest counts outside the breeding season at localities where ten or more birds were present on more than just one date.

|        |                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Connaught Water | 75  | 20  | -   | -   | -   | 16  | 33  | 35  |
| Middx  | Bushy Park      | 13  | 21  | 31  | 17  | 8   | 6   | 12  | 10  |
|        | Grovelands Park | 12  | 12  | 11  | 14  | 35  | 79  | 173 | 180 |
|        | Trent Park      | 24  | 22  | 15  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 19  |
| Surrey | Kew Gdns        | -   | -   | 2   | -   | -   | 51  | 69  | 30  |

The numbers at Grovelands Park in the last two months are the highest ever here, and emphasise the strength of the north London population.

Other records are summarised under counties, which gives all breeding records (number of broods seen in brackets). There were also a few sightings in Inner London parks that are also shown.

- Essex Epping Forest (14), and see table above for Connaught Water. Reported from eight other sites.
- Herts Coopers Green GP (1). Panshanger Park (3). Tykeswater Lake (2). Reported from 12 other sites.
- Middx Bushy Park (2-4) and see table above. Enfield, at Turkey Brook (1). Grovelands Park (2), see also table above. Highgate and Hampstead Ponds (1). Kenwood (1). Osterley Park (1). Potters Bar (2). Stanmore Common (2). Trent Park (2) and see table above. Reported from nine other sites.
- Bucks Black Park, 14 on Jan 11th. Wraysbury GP (1).
- Kent 1-3 seen at Chipstead, Hall Place Gdns and Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Epsom Common (1). Hurst Green, a pair displaying in an oak tree. Kew Gdns, see table above for highest counts. Nower Wood (2). R Mole at Leatherhead (1). Richmond Park (1). Wimbledon Common (1). Reported from 16 other sites.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, maximum of four on Apr 9th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a pair on Mar 29th and Apr 2nd. Regent's Park, seven on Mar 17th and three on 18th.

## 0179 Eurasian Wigeon

*Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor, with occasional summer records.

In the table below monthly maxima are given for sites where flocks reached at least 150 birds and there were counts in at least three of these months.

|        |                       | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Cornmill Meadows      | 219 | 175 | 94  | 34  | -   | -   | -   | 124 |
|        | Rainham Marshes       | 718 | 638 | 294 | 31  | 99  | 186 | 200 | 516 |
| Herts  | Cheshunt GP           | 4   | -   | -   | -   | 221 | 247 | 15  | 16  |
|        | Hilfield Park Res     | 157 | 128 | 2   | -   | 29  | 92  | 96  | 124 |
| Middx  | KGVI Res              | 15  | -   | -   | -   | 4   | -   | 171 | 7   |
|        | Kempton NR            | 565 | 269 | 325 | -   | 6   | 6   | 110 | 412 |
|        | Queen Mary Res        | 172 | 115 | -   | -   | -   | 34  | -   | 44  |
|        | Staines Res           | 448 | 334 | 152 | 27  | 51  | 129 | 35  | 370 |
| Bucks  | Woodlands Park GP     | 138 | 156 | 146 | 15  | -   | -   | -   | 144 |
|        | Wraysbury GP          | 6   | 2   | -   | -   | 55  | 468 | -   | -   |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre | 71  | 62  | 58  | 25  | -   | 200 | 120 | 141 |
|        | Walton Res            | 618 | 454 | 169 | 19  | 22  | 140 | 99  | 195 |

Also reported at many other sites, and the highest count for the year is given for those where this was more than 50 birds, together with details of summering birds (May to July).

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 86 on Feb 19th. Fishers Green, 100 on Jan 11th. Netherhall GP, 153 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, one on July 27th. South Ockendon area, 82 at Great Mollands Pit on Jan 12th, 52 at Grange Waters on Nov 2nd and 51 at Stubbers OPC on Oct 19th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 112 on Oct 19th. Bowyer's GP, 61 in December. Stocker's Farm, 70 on Mar 11th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 200+ on Feb 22nd. Kempton NR, a female from May 14th-June 19th. Stain Hill Res, 82 on Oct 12th. Staines Res, a female on May 9th. Stanwell Moor, single drakes on May 19th-23rd and July 20th, and 111 on Dec 30th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a drake from June 22nd-July 9th. London Wetland Centre, two drakes on June 27th. QEII Res, one on June 19th. Richmond Park, 309 on Oct 26th. Walton Res, a female from May 13th-July 3rd and a drake from June 16th-July 2nd.

## 0182 Gadwall

## *Anas strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Counts in the winter months and during the autumn are summarised in the following table, which gives monthly maxima for sites where this species featured regularly during the year. Other counts of over 100 are shown below as well as all breeding records with number of broods in brackets.

|        |                           | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Rainham Marshes           | 211 | 115 | 112 | 18  | 10  | 41  | 86  |
|        | Amwell GP                 | 184 | 68  | 41  | -   | -   | -   | 250 |
| Herts  | Cheshunt GP (Friday Lake) | 81  | -   | 4   | 140 | 119 | 67  | 8   |
|        | Hilfield Park Res         | 43  | 14  | 32  | 22  | 69  | 73  | 113 |
|        | Rye Meads RSPB            | 63  | 110 | 145 | 132 | 91  | 134 | 97  |
| Middx  | Brent Res                 | 27  | 20  | 15  | 135 | 157 | 99  | 90  |
|        | Staines Res               | 33  | 26  | 7   | 126 | 55  | 4   | 9   |
|        | Stoke Newington Res       | 265 | 255 | 32  | 40  | 150 | -   | 165 |
| Kent   | Sevenoaks WR              | 84  | 103 | 68  | 17  | 48  | 46  | 41  |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre     | 56  | 60  | 38  | 165 | 151 | 87  | 90  |
|        | QEII Res                  | 50  | 125 | 100 | 2   | 7   | 14  | 13  |
|        | Walton Res                | 32  | -   | 54  | 32  | 73  | 118 | 182 |

- Essex Barking Bay, 112 on Dec 14th. Hall Marsh (2). Netherhall GP, 196 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes (1). Wm Girling Res (3).
- Herts Amwell GP (5). Maple Lodge NR, 158 on July 25th. Panshanger Park (4). Rye Meads RSPB (36). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Brent Res (11+). Princes Ski Pit, 205 on Dec 22nd. Stanwell Moor (1).
- Bucks Chalfont Park (1).
- Surrey Molesey GP (1). Richmond Park, 198 on Oct 26th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, probably bred. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park, maximum of five on Oct 16th. St James's Park (3).



**0184 Common Teal*****Anas crecca***

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

There was no evidence of breeding at any site this year, despite birds being present at ten sites during June and there being counts of up to 17 at Rainham Marshes, 10 at Kempton NR and eight at Stanwell Moor in July.

Outside the breeding season, large numbers were present in January at many sites, but numbers dropped off somewhat during the rest of the first-winter period, and were not repeated at the end of the year. Along the Lower Thames WeBS counters produced a massive figure at Rainham Marshes and foreshore of 3,475 on Jan 5th as part of a Thames Estuary count totalling 9,780 on that day, suggesting that a significant proportion were further upriver on that date than usual.

The following table shows monthly winter maxima for all sites where flocks of 100 or more birds were seen at least once. A summary of Inner London reports is also given.

|        |                      | <i>Jan</i> | <i>Feb</i> | <i>Mar</i> | <i>Apr</i> | <i>Aug</i> | <i>Sep</i> | <i>Oct</i> | <i>Nov</i> | <i>Dec</i> |
|--------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Essex  | Barking Bay          | 289        | 1500       | 600        | -          | -          | 152        | 570        | -          | 607        |
|        | Connaught Water      | 163        | 105        | -          | -          | -          | -          | 58         | -          | -          |
|        | Creekmouth           | -          | 270        | 317        | -          | -          | 254        | 300        | -          | 158        |
|        | Ingrebourne Valley   | 250        | 243        | 52         | 26         | 41         | 35         | 32         | 63         | 45         |
|        | Rainham Marshes      | 3475       | 1283       | 350        | 153        | 112        | 210        | 119        | 400        | 727        |
|        | West Thurrock        | -          | 153        | 100        | -          | -          | -          | -          | -          | -          |
| Herts  | Rye Meads RSPB       | 297        | 120        | 75         | 20         | 44         | 46         | 20         | 78         | 163        |
| Middx  | KGVI Res             | 793        | 90         | 27         | 8          | 5          | 16         | 3          | 25         | 38         |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP         | 210        | -          | 6          | 12         | -          | -          | -          | -          | -          |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh       | 140        | 168        | 90         | 30         | 19         | 65         | 128        | 150        | 154        |
| Surrey | Beddington SF        | 617        | 384        | 357        | 100        | 60         | 190        | 362        | 575        | 502        |
|        | London Wetland Centr | 282        | 305        | 225        | 111        | 80         | 162        | 182        | 194        | 227        |
|        | Walton Res           | 71         | 70         | 102        | 26         | 8          | 35         | 40         | 62         | 282        |

In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on Apr 9th. Kensington Gdns, one on Oct 18th. Pimlico, a drake at Crown Reach on Jan 22nd. Regent's Park, one on Jan 8th, two from Feb 20th-Mar 7th, one on Mar 19th, two on Oct 15th and one on 16th, three on Nov 10th, two on 11th and one from 20th-24th, and in December, two on 1st and 2nd, and three on 9th.

**0184.01 Green-winged Teal*****Anas carolinensis***

Status: rare vagrant.

Essex Cornmill Meadows on Mar 17th (JBr). Walthamstow Res, a drake from Feb 16th-Mar10th (DGD *et al*). Wm Girling Res, on Feb 24th (SC).

Kent Thamesmead, a drake on Mar 23rd and at Belvedere on Apr 16th (SHn).

All sightings are assumed to relate to the same bird which now becomes the 9th record in London, following on from one in 2002.

- 0186 Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Status: very common and widespread breeding resident, with numbers increasing in winter.
- Maxima counts over 100 are given along with the largest concentrations of nesting pairs (number of broods in brackets). Ten localities had counts of 200 or more during the year, but only two of these sites exceeded 300.
- Essex Barking Bay, 212 on Aug 17th. Creekmouth, Barking, 200 on Oct 28th. Epping Forest (23+). Grange Waters, 114 on June 29th. Harrow Lodge Park, 173 on Feb 16th. Mardyke Valley, 156 on Dec 14th. Mollands Lane GPs, 140 on Nov 2nd. Rainham Marshes, 423 on Feb 16th. Stubbers OPC, 119 on Jan 12th. Valentines Park (16 broods), 156 on Sept 6th. Walthamstow Res (16), 156 on Jan 18th. Weald Park. 200 on Feb 16th.
- Herts Amwell GP (10), 205 in October. Cheshunt GP, 51 ducklings at the North Met Pit in July. Rickmansworth Aquadrome. 108 on May 25th. Rye Meads RSPB (32). Tyttenhanger GP, 100 on Oct 26th. Verulamium Lake (11).
- Middx Brent Res, 101 on Oct 9th and 12th. Hampstead and Highgate Ponds, 240 on Nov 16th. Ruislip Lido, 131 on Oct 12th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 150 on Oct 4th.
- Kent Danson Park, 85 on Jan 11th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 137 on Nov 10th. London Wetland Centre, 276 on Nov 24th. R Thames between Barnes and Putney bridges, 301 on Oct 12th. R Wandle, 300 between Carshalton and Morden Hall Park on Dec 30th. Reigate Priory, 128 on Sept 14th.
- In Lond Barbican, E2 (1). Buckingham Palace (1+), 54 on Jan 29th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2), 202 on Dec 11th. R Thames at Crown Reach, 85 on Jan 8th. Regent's Park, 250 on Dec 14th. St James's Park. 150 on Mar 26th.

- 0189 Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
 Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer records, declining.

There were no summer sightings this year, with all records dated up to Apr 18th and from Aug 24th. High numbers on the Lower Thames in the first three months of the year were all at Rainham Marshes, but these did not return at the end of the year. Away from the Thames, a very poor year with only three sites with five or more birds. The usual caveat applies about free-flying feral birds, and only what were considered to be wild birds are included in the records below.

- Essex Barking Bay, three on Feb 23rd. Cornhill Meadows, one on Oct 24th. Creekmouth, Barking, two on Feb 16th and singles on Sept 19th and Nov 19th. Gunpowder Park, two on Mar 16th. Harrow Lodge Park, one on Feb 25th and 26th. Holyfield Hall Farm, an injured bird on Apr 16th. Holyfield Lake, three on Jan 12th and Feb 13th. KGV Res, singles on Aug 28th-Sept 3rd, Oct 21st and Rainham Marshes, maxima of 59 in Jan, 88 in Feb, 36 in Mar, 27 in Apr and four in Dec. Nov 6th. Netherhall GP, two on Sept 14th. North Woolwich, one on Nov 15th. Walthamstow Res, three on Jan 10th. Wm Girling Res, three on Oct 2nd.

- Herts Amwell GP, a pair from Jan 26th-28th, four on Jan 31st, two on Feb 12th and singles on Mar 6th and Apr 14th. Beech Farm, three on Sept 6th. Hilfield Park Res, three on Sept 6th and four on 17th, singles on Oct 9th and 14th. Otterspool, a pair on Feb 22nd. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Feb 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, a drake on Nov 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, two on Sept 21st. Broadwater Lake, five on Jan 5th. KGVI Res, up to eight in Jan, and three flew W on Sept 7th. Kempton NR, one on Jan 26th. Queen Mary Res, four on Jan 12th. Staines Moor, two on Jan 5th and three on 18th. Staines Res, four on Jan 19th and three on 27th, a pair on Mar 2nd, one on Apr 15th, two on Nov 10th and one on Dec 14th-15th. Stanwell Moor, singles on Jan 16th, Mar 3rd, Aug 24th-29th and two on Dec 30th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 31st. Wraysbury GP, two on Nov 9th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, nine on Mar 11th and one on Apr 18th.
- Surrey QEII Res, two on Jan 12th and one on Feb 15th. Walton Res, three on Mar 20th and one on 22nd.

**0191 Garganey *Anas querquedula***  
 Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, very occasional breeder.

There were no winter sightings this year, and all records were confined to the period from Mar 2nd to Oct 11th. What looks to have been a good arrival of birds in the second half of March (mostly paired) was in the main confined to the Lea Valley and south Essex, and the dates suggest that some of these pairs were seen in more than one place. April and May saw only very few new birds, and there was no evidence of breeding. Numbers in late summer and autumn were relatively small.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, a pair from Mar 19th-21st and on Apr 1st. Hall Marsh, a pair from Mar 18th-Apr 23rd. Ingrebourne Valley, a pair from Mar 18th-25th. Hornchurch CP, a pair on Mar 18th. KGV Res, two on Aug 25th, three on 26th, four on 28th and singles on Sept 2nd and 7th. Rainham Marshes, one on Mar 27th, three on 28th, a pair on 30th and one on June 14th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Mar 2nd, Aug 23rd, Sept 1st and 6th. Cheshunt GP, a pair on Mar 25th and a drake on 26th, and a duck on June 29th and two on Aug 10th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Aug 23rd-25th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Sept 15th. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on Sept 16th and Oct 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, two from Sept 13th-20th and one on 24th. KGVI Res, one on Aug 9th and two on Sept 16th. Kempton NR, single drakes on Apr 25th and July 16th. Staines Res, two from Aug 25th-Sept 3rd. Stanwell Moor, one on June 30th and July 1st, and also from July 29th with two from Aug 8th-Sept 1st, one on Sept 8th and two on Sept 19th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 21st.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, a pair on Mar 26th and one on Aug 18th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a drake from Apr 20th-23rd, one from Aug 12th-19th and two from Aug 21st-Sept 6th. London Wetland Centre, a pair from Apr 6th-21st with an additional drake from 16th-19th, a drake remaining until 26th, another pair from May 4th-12th, and singles in autumn from Aug 16th-Sept 24th with two on Aug 16th and Sept 9th. QEII Res, one on Aug 11th.

**0194 Shoveler*****Anas clypeata***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with birds often recorded in summer.

Breeding was again proved at Rye Meads RSPB, where two broods were seen, but there were rather few seen elsewhere in the summer, although there were up to 18 at Rainham Marshes in June. The table below summarises the highest monthly counts where counts reached a 100 or more birds at some time outside the breeding season.

|        |                       | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Belhus Woods CP       | 120 | 52  | 46  | -   | -   | -   | 21  | 34  | 42  |
|        | Epping Forest ponds   | 114 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 117 | 47  | -   |
|        | Rainham Marshes       | 298 | 268 | 150 | 61  | 44  | 33  | 68  | 36  | -   |
|        | Walthamstow Res       | 23  | 18  | -   | 11  | 34  | 172 | 212 | 32  | 33  |
| Middx  | Brent Res             | 12  | 2   | -   | 2   | 30  | 125 | 127 | 83  | 74  |
|        | KGVI Res              | 26  | 14  | 163 | 23  | -   | 11  | -   | 36  | 18  |
|        | Staines Res           | 117 | 100 | 20  | 38  | 179 | 186 | 261 | 101 | 37  |
|        | Stain Hill Res        | 20  | 26  | 46  | -   | -   | 8   | 34  | 131 | 31  |
|        | Wraysbury Res         | -   | -   | 2   | -   | -   | 89  | 135 | 21  | -   |
| Surrey | Beddington SF         | 121 | 60  | 67  | 46  | 24  | 35  | 62  | 70  | 39  |
|        | London Wetland Centre | 101 | 148 | 96  | 59  | 39  | 73  | 83  | 124 | 107 |
|        | Walton Res            | 64  | 55  | 118 | 68  | 28  | 91  | 84  | 134 | 89  |

In Lond Battersea Park, 12 on Dec 21st. Buckingham Palace, one on Jan 29th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a maximum of 34 on Feb 5th. Regent's Park, 15 on Jan 2nd and up to 14 in Sept, 45 in Oct and 59 in Nov.

**0196 Red-crested Pochard*****Netta rufina***

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, with its true status clouded by frequent escapes.

In the records below, all large groups of birds and tame, long-staying or leucistic individuals have been excluded, as well as those from certain areas where birds are known to be more or less resident. Those that remain are shown below, but it seems probable that the majority, if not all of these are also not wild birds. Often the inclusion in this section is a very arbitrary one.

Essex Grange Waters, one on Nov 2nd. KGV Res, a drake from Mar 23rd-Apr 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on Aug 20th. Wm Girling Res, females on Mar 4th and Sept 18th.

Herts Cheshunt GP one at Friday Lake on Aug 5th, 6th and 20th. Hilfield Park Res, two drakes on Nov 27th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on July 27th.

Middx Kempton Park, three on Nov 16th. Ponders End Lake, one on Jan 15th.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Aug 24th and Oct 19th.

Surrey Beddington SF, single males were recorded on a total of nine dates between Mar and Aug. London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 1st, two on Aug 19th and one on Aug 23rd. Thorpe Water Park, two from Dec 22nd-26th.

**0198 Pochard*****Aythya ferina***

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

Numbers of pairs breeding totalled 39, slightly below the 2002 figure of 43 pairs. Few large flocks were present during the first three months, with only one count over 200, and Hilfield Park Res was the only site with good numbers of moulting birds in July and August. At the end of the year numbers were slightly higher with three sites reporting counts of more than 200. The table below gives monthly maxima for all those localities where more than 100 were recorded on at least one date. All breeding records are shown below the table (with the number of pairs or broods in bracket).

|        |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Holyfield Lake    | 117 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 70  | 50  | -   |
|        | Netherhall GP     | 120 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Walthamstow Res   | 100 | 110 | 82  | 95  | 92  | 38  | 70  | 219 | 224 |
| Herts  | Hilfield Park Res | 144 | 87  | 46  | 183 | 269 | 98  | 17  | 12  | 49  |
|        | Stocker's Lake    | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 127 |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake   | =   | 190 | 100 | -   | -   | -   | -   | 250 | -   |
|        | Staines Res       | -   | 16  | 1   | 15  | -   | 9   | 14  | 6   | 142 |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP      | -   | 257 | -   | 35  | 75  | -   | -   | 10  | 60  |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res   | 75  | 36  | 4   | -   | 26  | 86  | 217 | 88  | 50  |
|        | Walton Res        | 28  | 7   | 4   | 15  | 8   | 83  | 188 | 77  | 36  |

Essex Hooks Marsh Lake (1). Ingrebourne Valley (3). Purfleet Chalk Pits (1). Rainham GP (2). Walthamstow Res (9). Valentines Park (3). Waterworks NR (1).

Herts Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads RSPB (5).

Middx Brent Res (2) Pymmes Park, Edmonton (2). Town Park, Enfield (1).

In Lond Buckingham Palace present from Apr-Sept but no proof of breeding. Burgess Park, four on Feb 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Garden (2), 38 on Jan 16th. Regent's Park, six free flying birds on Mar 30th.

**0200 Ring-necked Duck*****Aythya collaris***

Status: rare vagrant.

Surrey Ewell, the female at Bourne Hall Pond that returned for its second winter on Dec 5th 2002 remained here until Feb 26th (mo). Island Barn Res, a female on Mar 1st (DMH *et al*).

It seems likely that both of these records relate to the same individual that spent its second winter in a row in Surrey.

**0203 Tufted Duck*****Aythya fuligula***

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

The table below shows the approximate number of broods reported during the year, compared with the figures for the previous year. It seems to have been a very unproductive breeding season for this species, confirmed by the fact that at those sites where there are large numbers of pairs breeding, the number of broods seen was up to 50% down on the previous year.

|      |        | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Total |
|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| 2003 | broods | 61    | 48    | 19    | 4     | 2    | 37     | 19      | 222   |
|      | sites  | 16    | 7     | 7     | 2     | 2    | 5      | 3       | 42    |
| 2002 | broods | 72    | 110   | 13    | -     | 4    | 45     | 28      | 272   |
|      | sites  | 19    | 8     | 6     | -     | 3    | 8      | 3       | 47    |

Outside the breeding season, monthly maxima are shown in the following table for those localities where counts exceeded 500 birds at least once during the year. The moulting flocks have normally moved on by the end of August, so the September count at Wm Girling is particularly notable. Details of the largest concentrations of breeding birds and all Inner London records are given below the table.

|        |                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul   | Aug   | Sep  | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | KGV Res         | 30  | -   | -   | -     | -     | -    | -   | -   | 525 |
|        | Walthamstow Res | 574 | 526 | 473 | 1,489 | 2,086 | 537  | 641 | 744 | 623 |
|        | Wm Girling Res  | -   | -   | -   | 513   | 1,062 | 1600 | -   | -   | -   |
| Middx  | KGVI Res        | 26  | 34  | 50  | 215   | 548   | 72   | 68  | 394 | 155 |
|        | Shepperton GP   | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -    | -   | -   | 640 |
|        | Staines Res     | 79  | 72  | 132 | 1,133 | 591   | 278  | 571 | 229 | 197 |
|        | Wraysbury Res   | 11  | 52  | 20  | -     | 858   | 954  | -   | 101 | -   |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP    | -   | 547 | -   | -     | -     | -    | 635 | -   | 846 |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res | 157 | 151 | 147 | 5     | 132   | 223  | 506 | 868 | 289 |
|        | Walton Res      | 159 | 89  | 85  | 458   | 546   | 236  | 613 | 760 | 181 |

Essex Walthamstow Res, 16 broods. Valentines Park, ten broods.

Herts Rye Meads RSPB, 32 broods totalling a minimum of 168 ducklings.

Middx Ponders End Lake, five broods.

In Lond Burgess Park, ten on Feb 16th. Canada Water, SE16, 73 on Feb 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, at least five pairs bred, 179 on Feb 10th. Little Venice, a brood of five seen. St James's Park, 13 broods, 211 on Jan 8th.

## 0204 Scaup

## *Aythya marila*

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 17th. Walthamstow Res, one from Feb 22nd-Mar 25th.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Mar 18th. Stocker's Lake, one on Mar 11th.

Middx Brent Res, singles from Jan 7th-Feb 19th and on Sept 21st. Broadwater Lake, three on Feb 1st. KGVI Res, three on Nov 6th, two on 7th and one on Dec 31st. Staines Res, singles on Feb 19th, Oct 12th, Nov 15th-19th and the same on Dec 13th-23rd. Wraysbury Res, one on Jan 18th.

Bucks Horton GP, one from Dec 4th 2002 until Jan 18th. Queen Mother Res, two on Jan 3rd, one remaining until Feb 8th. Wraysbury GP, one from Queen Mother Res was here on Jan 17th and 24th, and the bird from Horton GP was seen here on four dates between Jan 21st-Feb 14th.

Kent R Thames at Woolwich Reach, one on Jan 12th.

Surrey Holmethorpe SP, one on Mar 2nd. Island Barn and Walton Res, one at both sites from Oct 9th-29th, and six together at Walton Res on Nov 9th, five of which were at Island Barn Res later in the day; five remained on 10th, four on

15th, two until 20th and one still on Nov 22nd. QEII Res, two on Feb 21st and two on Nov 9th.

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a first-winter drake from Jan 2nd-Feb 5th (DTM *et al*) and presumably the same on Feb 27th (SEB). St James's Park, an adult drake on Feb 19th (SRH, ASMS).

The majority of records during the year were of single birds, but there was a multiple arrival in November at the Walton area reservoirs, and to a much lesser extent in Middlesex.

**0205 Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*

Status: very rare vagrant.

Herts Seventy Acres Lake, a drake from Mar 23rd-25th (AJH *et al*). Stocker's Lake, a first-winter drake on Jan 4th (AVM *et al*).

Middx Brent Res, a first-winter drake from Feb 14th-23rd and again on Apr 17th (RB, ASMS *et al*).

In Lond Regent's Park, a first-winter drake from Mar 3rd-9th and then on 16th-22nd, 26th-27th, 29th-31st and Apr 2nd-6th (ARD, DTM *et al*).

Despite being seen at four different localities over a period exceeding three months, it is clear that all reports of this rare American duck relate to the one individual, after its original discovery at Stocker's Lake on Jan 4th. Following a long gap, it reappeared at Brent Res, and then moved on to Regent's Park where it stayed intermittently, making at least one brief visit to the Lea Valley during this time. It was only the second ever record in the London Area, seven years after the first in April 1996. All sightings have been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**0206 Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Status: scarce visitor, usually in winter.

Kent R. Thames at Northfleet, a juvenile or first-winter male drifted upstream on Oct 17th (SC *et al*).

**0212 Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Status: scarce but annual visitor.

Surrey Island Barn Res, a first-winter female from Nov 4th until the end of the year also visited both QEII and Walton reservoirs during this time (SJS *et al*). Walton Res, an adult male on Sept 27th (DMH *et al*).

**0213 Common Scoter*****Melanitta nigra***

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

- Essex KGV Res, a female on many dates between Mar 13th-Apr 7th, also four on Mar 30th, and three on Apr 21st (PJV *et al*). Wm Girling Res, four drakes on July 27th (PJV).
- Herts Bowyer's GP, two on Apr 6th (IB). Hilfield Park Res, eight on Apr 6th (RCs, SFr) and one on July 27th (SHM).
- Middx KGV Res, three on Apr 6th (AVM *et al*). Staines Res, singles on Feb 12th (REI, KLP), Sept 3rd (DJM *et al*) and Oct 31st (AVM, KLP).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, up to four on Apr 6th (CDRH *et al*), one on Apr 30th, three on May 2nd, one on May 5th and two on June 23rd and 24th (CDRH, JAS).
- Kent On the Lower Thames, there were two at Aveley Bay on Jan 25th (DMn) and Apr 5th (HV), a flock of 16 on Apr 6th (PH, SRP), followed by five off Dartford Marsh on Apr 21st (PR) and a further five off Aveley Bay on Apr 25th (DFI). On July 6th a party of 20 (19 drakes) were seen from both banks in the Dartford/Rainham area during the morning, and flying E downriver over the QEII Bridge (DM, DMn). On Oct 16th another flock of 20 flew E past Grays/Northfleet (SC), and one was at Aveley on Oct 17th (DMn). Sevenoaks WR, two on Apr 6th (PWn).
- Surrey QEII Res, three on Apr 6th, singles on Aug 4th and Nov 9th. Walton Res, two on Apr 6th and one on Nov 9th, the latter also at QEII (DMH, SJS).

The spring passage was notable for a major movement on Apr 6th, which produced 40 birds at eight sites right across the Area. Apart from the Lower Thames, which had two flocks of 20 in July and October, numbers elsewhere were rather low during the rest of the year. Whilst the sexual ratio amongst spring flocks seems quite variable (although they often appear in pairs), drakes always seem to predominate in large midsummer flocks (in June and July), whereas large numbers in October or November are invariably made up of mostly females and/or immature birds.

**0218 Common Goldeneye*****Bucephala clangula***

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer records.

Monthly maxima at regular sites is given in the following table. Highest counts from a few other localities are listed below this table. There were no records in Inner London.

|        |                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | KGV Res         | -   | 40  | 40  | 8   | -   | 3   | 25  |
|        | Walthamstow Res | 22  | 21  | 18  | -   | 1   | 3   | 15  |
| Herts  | Amwell GP       | 15  | 39  | 39  | 1   | 2   | 10  | 23  |
|        | Stocker's Lake  | 18  | 10  | 12  | -   | 3   | 2   | 25  |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake | 16  | 30  | 20  | 10  | 1   | 5   | 7   |
|        | KGV Res         | 8   | 5   | 23  | -   | 14  | 18  | 22  |
|        | Staines Res     | 49  | 95  | 108 | 30  | 19  | 18  | 33  |
|        | Wraysbury Res   | 22  | 20  | 8   | 9   | -   | 5   | -   |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP    | 32  | 45  | 28  | 23  | 6   | 25  | 40  |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res | 13  | 22  | 15  | -   | 2   | 6   | 7   |
|        | Walton Res      | 16  | 20  | 26  | 18  | 12  | 16  | 16  |



- Essex Holyfield Lake, 13 on Mar 9th. Wm Girling Res, 15 on Dec 8th.  
 Herts Bowyer's GP, six on Jan 26th. Cheshunt GP, up to eight in Feb. Hilfield Park Res, nine on Oct 14th.  
 Middx Moorhall Lake, seven on Apr 6th. KGVI Res, one from Apr 18th-Sept 18th. Shepperton GP, 11 on Dec 30th. Stain Hill Res and Hampton Water Works, six on Jan 15th.  
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, five on Feb 5th.  
 Surrey Field Common GP, five on Jan 2nd.

**0220 Smew*****Mergus albellus***

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

Birds were present at the beginning of the year up to Mar 17th. A highly unusual record was an eclipse drake at KGV Res on Aug 30th and again at Wm Girling Res on Sept 11th. Also at KGV Res there was a redhead on Oct 11th (very few are normally seen before mid-November) and it was probably responsible for a number of records in the Lea Valley and Connaught Water up to Oct 26th. The table below shows monthly maxima for those sites where counts exceeded ten or more during the year. The highest counts for other sites during the year, not included in the table, are listed below this.

|       |                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Nov | Dec |
|-------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Belhus Woods CP    | -   | 9   | 1   | -   | 12  |
|       | Great Mollands Pit | 11  | 3   | -   | -   | 8   |
|       | Holyfield Lake     | 17  | 18  | 3   | -   | 4   |
| Herts | Amwell GP          | 12  | 9   | 2   | 2   | 10  |
|       | Cheshunt GP        | 14  | 2   | 1   | -   | 2   |
|       | Seventy Acres Lake | 11  | 9   | 3   | 1   | 4   |
| Middx | Bedfont area lakes | 16  | 10  | 3   | -   | 12  |
| Bucks | Wraysbury GP       | 15  | 13  | 4   | 2   | 11  |

- Essex Hooks Marsh Lake, seven on Dec 28th. Nazeing GP, eight on Feb 7th.  
 Herts Stocker's Lake, seven on Jan 16th, Feb 13th and Dec 14th.  
 Middx Broadwater Lake, nine on Jan 25th. Littleton GP, eight on Jan 15th. Staines Res, seven on Jan 11th.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, six on Jan 11th.  
 Kent Only reported from Sevenoaks WR, where there were up to three in Jan and Feb.  
 Surrey Thorpe Water Park, six on Dec 21st.

The peak months of January and February showed a slight improvement for the 2002/2003 winter compared with the previous one, although numbers are still well down on those recorded during some winters in recent memory.

**0221 Red-breasted Merganser*****Mergus serrator***

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A poor year with rather few at the beginning of the year, some evidence of spring passage in March and April and probably only four different birds in

November and December. All but two sightings were of just one or two birds. All records are given below.

- Essex Banbury Res, one on Jan 19th. KGV Res, singles from Jan 4th-13th and on Mar 14th. Wm Girling Res, singles on Jan 15th, Feb 1st and Mar 5th, two on Dec 12th and 14th.
- Middx Bushy Park, one on Nov 26th. Staines Res, singles on Jan 14th and from Mar 25th-Apr 9th but three on Apr 6th, also seen on KGV Res, and one from Nov 15th-21st.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, five on Jan 11th. Wraysbury GP, one Nov 29th-Dec 19th.
- Kent R Thames at Greenwich, two flew upstream on Mar 25th.
- Surrey QEII Res, two briefly on Apr 6th. Thorpe Water Park, two on Jan 4th. Walton Res, two on Apr 17th.

### 0223 Goosander

### *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

In January and February only four sites had counts of more than 20. The last seen was on Apr 21st. A very unseasonal bird was at Staines Res on Aug 10th and up to three were present at KGV Res from Sept 19th, an exceptionally early arrival date. Numbers at the end of the year were slow to build up, and only reached 20 or more at two sites in December.

The general decline in wintering numbers seems to be continuing, as is the trend for far more birds to be found widely dispersed over small well-wooded lakes and rivers. The following table summarises counts at the more regular sites. Other sites with five or more are shown under counties below this. None was seen in Inner London during the year.

|        |                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Nov | Dec |
|--------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Holyfield Lake     | 20  | 15  | 2   | 1   | 3   | 4   |
|        | KGV Res            | 6   | 13  | 8   | 1   | 2   | 7   |
|        | Nazeing GP         | 25  | 21  | 4   | -   | -   | 12  |
|        | Turnford Marsh GP  | 18  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Walthamstow Res    | 6   | 14  | 14  | 4   | -   | -   |
|        | Wm Girling Res     | 10  | 13  | 1   | 1   | 10  | 16  |
| Herts  | Stocker's Lake     | 15  | 12  | 6   | -   | -   | 7   |
| Middx  | Hampton Court Park | 17  | 5   | 2   | -   | -   | 2   |
|        | Savehay Lake       | 15  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|        | Wraysbury Res      | 12  | 13  | 5   | 1   | -   | -   |
| Bucks  | Wraysbury GP       | 10  | 8   | 3   | -   | 1   | 21  |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res    | 4   | 15  | 2   | -   | -   | 2   |
|        | QEII Res           | 22  | 40  | 15  | 4   | 3   | 12  |
|        | Walton Res         | 30  | 25  | 19  | 5   | 4   | 25  |

- Essex Sewardstone Marsh, eight on Oct 18th. Connaught Water, five on Dec 14th.
- Herts Batchworth Lake, six on Feb 16th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, five on Jan 5th.
- Middx Korda Lake, six on Feb 2nd.
- Bucks R. Colne near Denham, seven on Feb 1st. Woodlands Park GP, five on Mar 7th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, nine on Nov 22nd.
- Surrey Whiteley Village Pond, five on Feb 3rd.

**0225 Ruddy Duck*****Oxyura jamaicensis***

Status: widespread winter visitor of non-native origin, resident in small numbers, localised breeder.

Peak counts outside the breeding season are shown in the following table, which gives the highest counts for those sites with 50 or more.

|       |                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | KGV Res           | 158 | 149 | 148 | 29  | 4   | 61  | 120 | 107 |
|       | Walthamstow Res   | 91  | 81  | 70  | 47  | 15  | 48  | 37  | 48  |
| Herts | Hilfield Park Res | 102 | 100 | 76  | 39  | 81  | 83  | 85  | 86  |
| Middx | Brent Res         | 10  | 1   | 6   | 28  | 123 | 125 | 16  | 14  |
|       | Broadwater Lake   | 61  | 35  | 5   | -   | 4   | 40  | 53  | 47  |
|       | Staines Res       | 631 | 696 | 697 | 334 | 141 | 544 | 670 | 879 |

Further increases were noted in the wintering population several site records notably at Staines Res with the count reaching 879 on Dec 22nd, probably higher than at any other site in the UK during the year.

- \* In the breeding season a total of 24 pairs were seen with young. All sites with breeding pairs are listed below, with the number of broods seen shown in brackets, as well as other sites where pairs summered but no broods were seen.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (1). Dagenham Chase (1). Harrow Lodge Park (1). Ingrebourne Valley, a pair in June. Wanstead Flats (2).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, a pair in May and June. Hilfield Park Res (1). Maple Lodge NR, up to seven in May and June. Panshanger Park (1). Rye Meads RSPB, 3-4 pairs in June. Seventy Acres Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP, up to six in May.
- Middx Brent Res (2). Kempton NR, up to three in May and June. Stanwell Moor, up to three during May-July. The Causeway NR, Feltham (1).
- Kent Ruxley GP (1).
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to four displaying in summer. London Wetland Centre (9).
- In Lond Battersea Park, three on Sept 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), up to five during the year. Regent's Park, 14 on Jan 23rd. St James's Park (2).

**0358 Red-legged Partridge*****Alectoris rufa***

Status: breeding resident, declining.

Widely reported on arable land in parts of Essex and Herts, where releases account for many of the larger flocks. The count at Tyttenhanger GP is exceptionally high. Breeding information is given below.

- Essex Bulphan Fen, two pairs bred. Frost Site, two pairs bred. Ingrebourne Valley, seven juveniles on July 7th. Stapleford Tawney, two adults and seven juveniles on Aug 12th. Reported from 16 other sites.
- Herts Chiswell Green, two pairs in summer. Tyttenhanger GP, 200 on Aug 30th were mostly hand-reared. Reported from eight other sites.
- Middx No breeding reported and only seen in the Enfield area at Park Farm, Parkside Farm/Res and Vicarage Farm.
- Kent The only record was of one in a Sidcup garden on May 15th.

- Surrey Chelsham and Beddlestead Valley, 'good numbers of released game-birds' throughout the year. Reported from four other sites.  
 In Lond Buckingham Palace, one in the garden for two weeks in March.

**0367 Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*  
 Status: breeding resident, declining.

- Essex Barking Bay, two pairs bred. Berwick Ponds, one on Aug 10th. Bulphan Fen, one pair bred. Gravel Lane, Epping Forest, one in July. Havering Park, a pair on May 11th. Ingrebourne Valley, a brood of four seen. Rainham Marshes, 1-3 seen between Jan-Aug. Rainham Tip, one on Aug 24th. Grange Waters, 11 on Feb 2nd and two on Oct 5th. Stapleford Tawney, one on Aug 12th.  
 Herts Amwell GP, two on June 3rd. Beech Farm, seen between Feb and Oct with a maximum of 21 on Oct 11th. Bricket Wood area, one pair summered. Chiswell Green, one pair summered. Coopers Green Lane, two on Apr 6th. Coursers Lane Fields, six on Feb 9th. Letchworth, six at Dec 4th at Riddell Meadows. North Mymms Park, 22 on Sept 21st were possibly released birds. Panshanger Park, two on Apr 14th. Potters Crouch, two on Mar 23rd. Shenleybury, 12 on Oct 19th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 26th and four on Nov 7th.  
 Middx Parkside Farm/Res, one on Sept 1st. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Mar 31st with Red-legged Partridges.

**0370 Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*  
 Status: rare summer visitor.

- Essex Havering CP, one calling on May 11th and 12th (SC *et al*).  
 Herts Amwell GP, one calling at 21.45hrs on June 3rd (RBe).  
 Middx Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one calling from Aug 10th-12th (RMC).  
 Three records in one year is above average.

**0394 Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*  
 Status: common breeding resident.

All breeding records are shown (number of pairs/territories in brackets), and also some of the other highest counts reported outside the breeding season are given.

- Essex Fishers Green (6). Hall Marsh Scrape (2). Rainham Marshes, up to 19 in Nov. Grange Waters (2). Mollands Lane GP (1). Stapleford Tawney (1). Toot Hall (1).  
 Herts Bedmond (5). Bricket Wood and Common (12-14). Chiswell Green (7). Garston (3). Hilfield Park Res, (2). Letchmore Heath (6). Otterspool, (4). Radlett to Shenley (12). Rye Meads RSPB (3 broods). West Herts, a further 16-18 pairs away from areas noted above.

- Middx Staines Moor, up to seven in Jan and Feb. Stanwell Moor, six on Nov 27th.  
 Kent Dartford Marsh (2+). Ruxley GP (1). Sevenoaks WR, ten on Feb 9th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF (2). Bletchingley (1-2). Bookham Common (1-5). Chasemoor Farm, Downside, 15 on Dec 18th. Godstone (3). Headley Heath (10). Holmethorpe SP (1). Island Barn Res, four on Oct 29th. Molesey GP and Heath (1). R. Mole at Leatherhead (4).

**0002 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

- Herts Aldenham Res, one on Feb 9th (MWs)  
 Middx Staines Res, one on the morning of Feb 8th flew over to KGVI Res (PN *et al*) -see also Bucks below- and presumably the same was back again at Staines Res on Mar 13th (REI, KLP)  
 Bucks The Middlesex bird above visited Queen Mother Res on Feb 10th, 12th, 13th, 21st and 22nd (JAS *et al*), Wraysbury GP on Feb 14th, 16th, 19th, 23rd and 26th and Horton GP on Feb 27th (REI *et al*).  
 Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Nov 3rd (DMH).

A single wide-ranging and mobile individual in the west doubtless accounted for all the records in Middlesex and Bucks between Feb 8th and Mar 13th, in contrast to the other two records during the year, which only paid brief visits.

**0003 Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

- Middx Staines Res, a first-winter bird from Jan 14th-Feb 12th (REI *et al*) was also at KGVI Res on Jan 18th and 19th (KLP). Another at Staines Res for only 40 minutes on Dec 20th (REI).

The long-staying bird at Staines in the early part of the year was present for nearly four weeks, and appears to be the same as the one at Taplow Lake in Buckinghamshire, which had been here from Nov 27th 2002 to Jan 3rd.

**0004 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

- Essex Essex Arena GP, Thurrock, a juvenile from Dec 3rd-31st (PSt *et al*).  
 Middx KGVI Res, the juvenile present since Nov 14th 2002 stayed until Jan 3rd (SC, AVM, KLP).  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, an adult in winter plumage on May 17th (JAS).

**0007 Little Grebe*****Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

The following shows all breeding records (numbers of pairs or broods in brackets) and the highest counts for sites with a maxima of 20 or more.

An apparent decrease in the number of breeding pairs from 152 in 2002 down to 140 this year, largely explained by the estimated number of pairs of c40 at Rainham Marshes in 2002 falling to 22 territories this year.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (5). Dagenham Breach (1). Dagenham Chase (3). Fairlop (4). Harrow Lodge Park, Romford (1). Holyfield Lake (1). Ingrebourne Valley (4). Langridge GP (2). Netherhall GP (2). Noak Hill (1). Purfleet Chalk Pits (8), 38 on Jan 5th. Rainham Marshes (22). Waltham Abbey Woods (1). Walthamstow Res (3) and 40 on Oct 11th. Waterworks NR (1).
- Herts Amwell GP, 25 on Sept 25th. Beech Farm (1). Bricket Wood Sports Centre (1). Grove Mill (1). Hilfield Park Res (5) and 34 on Sept 29th. Maple Lodge NR (3). Panshanger Park, 32 in October. Rye Meads RSPB (14) and 55 in September. Seventy Acres Lake (2).
- Middx Brent Res (2), 29 in Oct. Bury Farm, Edgware (1). Grovelands Park (1). Kempton NR (2). Kempton Park Racecourse, 24 on Oct 2nd. Osterley Park (1). Ponders End Lake (3). Princes Ski Club, Bedfont, 30 on Jan 23rd. SITA quarry, Sipson (1). Stanwell Moor (1). The Causeway NR (6), 20 on Oct 5th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park (3). Denham Court (3). Old Slade Lake, 14 on Nov 24th. Thorney CP (1).
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1). Ruxley GP, 16 on Nov 27th. Sevenoaks WR (1). Swanscombe Marsh (4), 16 on Aug 24th.
- Surrey Beddington Park (2). Beddington SF (2). Bookham Common (1). Hogsmill SF (1). London Wetland Centre (8), 22 on Apr 30th. Ravensbury Park, Morden (1). Trevereux area (2).
- In Lond Blackfriars Bridge, one on the R. Thames on Oct 13th. Kensington Gdns (1), up to five in Jan. Regent's Park, six on July 15th. St James's Park (1), up to four in Feb. Swan Road, SE16 (3), and peak counts of 13 on Aug 20th and 20 on Sept 1st, both very high counts for Inner London.

**0009 Great Crested Grebe*****Podiceps cristatus***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The number of breeding pairs (or broods seen) in each county is given below. A summary of all Inner London records is given in more detail.

- Essex 39 pairs/broods at 22 sites, including 11 broods seen at Walthamstow Res.
- Herts 32 pairs/broods at 12 sites, including 12 pairs at the Cheshunt GP complex.
- Middx 19 pairs at 11 sites.
- Bucks Single pairs/broods at four sites.
- Kent Single pairs/broods at three sites.
- Surrey Eight pairs/broods at five sites.
- In Lond Battersea Park, one pair bred. Burgess Park, one on Feb 16th and Mar 23rd. Canada Water, SE16, one pair bred. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four pairs

bred, 27 on Oct 29th. Regent's Park, a maximum of eight on Mar 26th. St James's Park, 1-2 on 16 dates. Southbank, one on Jan 8th.

A total of about 111 pairs/broods represents a further decline in the breeding population (compared to 137 pairs in 2002) and the rate of decrease from one year to the next does not seem to be slowing. Only ten years ago, in 1993, there were 194 breeding pairs reported.

Monthly maxima outside the breeding season where more than 100 birds were regularly counted during the year are shown in the following table.

|        |                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Nazeing GP      | 17  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 54  | 64  | 106 |
|        | Walthamstow Res | 39  | 31  | 27  | 55  | 76  | 75  | 108 | 86  | 74  |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lake | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 84  | 143 | -   |
|        | Queen Mary Res  | 218 | 187 | 71  | 128 | 127 | 174 | 161 | 414 | 495 |
|        | Staines Res     | 10  | 10  | 17  | 90  | 146 | 204 | 110 | 15  | 11  |
| Surrey | QEII Res        | 22  | 84  | 77  | 124 | 178 | 138 | 68  | 71  | 86  |

As is apparent from the above, good numbers built up at many western reservoirs during the period from July to September, many of which may have moved to Queen Mary Res to spend the winter.

#### 0010 Red-necked Grebe

#### *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Middx KGV Res, an adult on eleven intermittent dates from Oct 30th-Dec14th (KLP *et al*), also at Staines Res on Dec 13th (REI).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Jan 21st (JAS) and presumably the KGV Res bird on Oct 6th and Dec 11th (CDRH).

Surrey In the Walton area, one at QEII Res from Feb 15th-Mar 14th, followed by a bird in full summer plumage from June 15th-Oct 1st which stayed for long periods on both QEII and Walton Reservoirs. Two further individuals here were an adult at QEII Res on Oct 24th and a first-winter at Walton Res from Nov 14th-16th (DMH, SJS *et al*). Thorpe Water Park, one from Dec 10th to the end of the year, but two on Dec 20th and 24th (JSW *et al*). Wimbledon Park, one on Dec 17th and 25th (RHK).

The remarkable lack of any overlap between the dates of birds in the latter half of the year does strongly suggest that the bird that summered at the Walton area reservoirs may have been responsible for the majority of the Surrey, and all of the Middlesex and Bucks records as it toured around west London waters in the final three months of the year.

#### 0011 Slavonian Grebe

#### *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Essex KGV Res, singles on Jan 4th (MS) and Feb 28th (PJV). Royal Albert Dock, one from Jan 4th-29th (HV *et al*). Royal Victoria Dock, singles on Jan 12th (PD) and 21st (SC). Stubbers OPC, one from Jan 12th-29th (DMn *et al*). Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 10th (TRd).

- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 4th (SRH, RPh *et al*). Stanstead Abbots GP, one present since Dec 2002 remained until Feb 5th (mo). Tykeswater Lake, one from Jan 5th-8th (SRH).
- Middx KGVI Res, two on Feb 15th (PN) and four on Feb 17th (CL, KLP) with two from Mar 14th-Apr 21st; some of these also visited Staines Res, where there was one on Feb 18th, three on 19th and 1-2 until Apr 23rd (mo). Another at KGVI Res from Nov 30th-Dec 3rd and at Staines Res on Dec 4th (KLP *et al*).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Jan 27th (JAS).
- Surrey Island Barn Res, two on Oct 26th (DMH).

Good numbers at the beginning of the year, mostly on the east side of the Area in January and on the west side during February to April, but only two records in the second winter period.

### 0012 Black-necked Grebe

### *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

At the regular breeding site in Herts, a successful year with at least five pairs nesting each hatching two young, most of which appeared to survive. There was no evidence of breeding at a second site in Essex where a pair was present on at least two dates in June and July. Outside the breeding season, winter and autumn counts at Wm Girling Res remained impressive, again peaking in October. The only other regular site, Staines Res, received the usual crop of birds in spring and autumn, but rather scarce elsewhere.

Records away from breeding sites are shown below.

- Essex Holyfield Marsh GP, one on Apr 30th. KGV Res, one on Apr 25th and eight on July 18th. Walthamstow Res, one from Aug 21st-27th and two on Oct 29th. At Wm Girling Res, the following table gives highest counts during each month of the year. There were no records during the period from Apr 13th-June 29th.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 16  | 15  | 17  | 4   | 2   | 9   | 14  | 14  | 21  | 16  | 4   |

- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 3rd and Sept 4th-10th. Coopers Green, one on Sept 28th. Tyttenhanger GP, a pair from Mar 31st-Apr 4th and one on June 5th.

- Middx Brent Res, singles on Aug 2nd and Sept 7th-12th. Monthly maxima for both KGVI and Staines reservoirs (where there can be considerable interchange of birds) is combined in the following table.

| Feb | Mar | Apr | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 5   | 2   | 2   | 4   | 3   | 4   | 2   |

No birds were seen in Jan, Nov or Dec, and winter records remain unusual here. Staines had a spring peak of five on Mar 23rd and 24th, but a rather low autumn maximum of only three on Aug 23rd and 24th. At KGVI Res only reported between July 27th and Oct 30th, numbers reaching four on July 30th and on four dates in Sept.



Surrey Beddington SF, one on Mar 29th and two on July 16th. Island Barn Res, two on Sept 16th, one on 17th and one on Nov 7th. QEII Res, one on Dec 9th. Walton Res, one from Apr 10th-14th.

**0020 Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*  
Status: rare visitor.

Kent R Thames, one at Northfleet and Tilbury Docks (Essex) on Oct 16th, 17th and 20th (SC, DMn), also seen from Greenhithe and Swanscombe Marsh on Oct 19th (DM).

**0046 Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*  
Status: rare visitor, usually in autumn.

Middx Staines Res, one on Sept 18th (KLP *et al*).

**0052 European Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*  
Status: rare visitor, normally storm driven.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Dec 2nd (CDRH *et al*).

Only the 16th record for the London Area since the first in 1950, this bird was present all morning before coming to a sad and untimely end in the early afternoon at the hands of a Peregrine. The last and rarest of four species of tubenose to occur in London during the final four months of 2003.

**0055 Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*  
Status: rare visitor, often during 'wreck' conditions.

Kent R Thames at Northfleet, one on Oct 13th and two on Oct 15th (SC *et al*).  
Surrey London Wetland Centre, one flew W on Oct 17th (RK). QEII Res, one present all day on Oct 2nd (DMH *et al*). Walton Res, one during the last two hours of daylight on Sept 24th (DMH *et al*).

**0071 Gannet** *Morus bassanus*  
Status: scarce visitor.

Surrey Beddington SF, a second-winter bird was photographed circling the site at 10.15 hrs on Dec 31st. After a 15 minute stay it departed to the SE. (JPA *et al*). London Wetland Centre, one flew W at 10.40 hrs on Dec 31st (DPs).

What surely was the same bird provided a flurry of excitement for several Surrey observers at two sites on New Year's Eve.

**0072 Cormorant*****Phalacrocorax carbo***

Status: increasing breeding resident and common, elsewhere especially in winter.

There were 412 pairs breeding or attempting to breed this year, compared to 337 in 2002; these are listed below.

Essex Holyfield Marsh GP (16). Netherall GP (2). Walthamstow Res (340)  
 Herts Stocker's Lake (2).  
 Middx Broadwater Lake (52).

In addition a pair was displaying and an adult carrying nest material at Amwell GP, and a pair was displaying at the London Wetland Centre on one date in March. The exact racial mix of these breeding birds remains unclear, but is thought that many, if not most, are of the continental race (*P.c. sinensis*).

The following table shows monthly maxima for all known overnight roosts in the London Area (where many of the counts were not necessarily done at dawn or dusk) as well as other sites where large numbers gathered during daylight hours at some time during the year.

|        |                        | Jan | Feb | Mar | Jul | Aug | Sep  | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | <i>Roost counts:</i>   |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|        | Holyfield Marsh GP     | 43  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 103  | 52  | -   | -   |
|        | Walthamstow Res        | -   | -   | 414 | 505 | 316 | 182  | 630 | 207 | 155 |
|        | <i>Daytime count:</i>  |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|        | Lower Thames           | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -    | 628 | -   | -   |
| Middx  | <i>Roost counts:</i>   |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|        | Broadwater Lake        | 194 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -    | -   | 397 | -   |
|        | Wraysbury Res          | 82  | 54  | 115 | -   | 236 | 899  | 71  | -   | -   |
|        | <i>Daytime counts:</i> |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|        | KGVI Res               | 11  | 1   | 1   | 182 | 203 | -    | 2   | 2   | 2   |
|        | Queen Mary Res         | 342 | 306 | 60  | 36  | -   | 48   | 110 | 768 | 684 |
|        | Staines Res            | 4   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 400 | 1018 | 41  | 18  | 6   |
| Surrey | <i>Roost count:</i>    |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|        | QE II Res              | 320 | 455 | 430 | 330 | 470 | 580  | 740 | 780 | 425 |
|        | <i>Daytime counts:</i> |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|        | Island Barn Res        | 15  | 14  | 11  | 137 | 60  | 125  | 32  | 525 | 475 |
|        | Walton Res             | 68  | 77  | 60  | 128 | 406 | 144  | 91  | 74  | 40  |

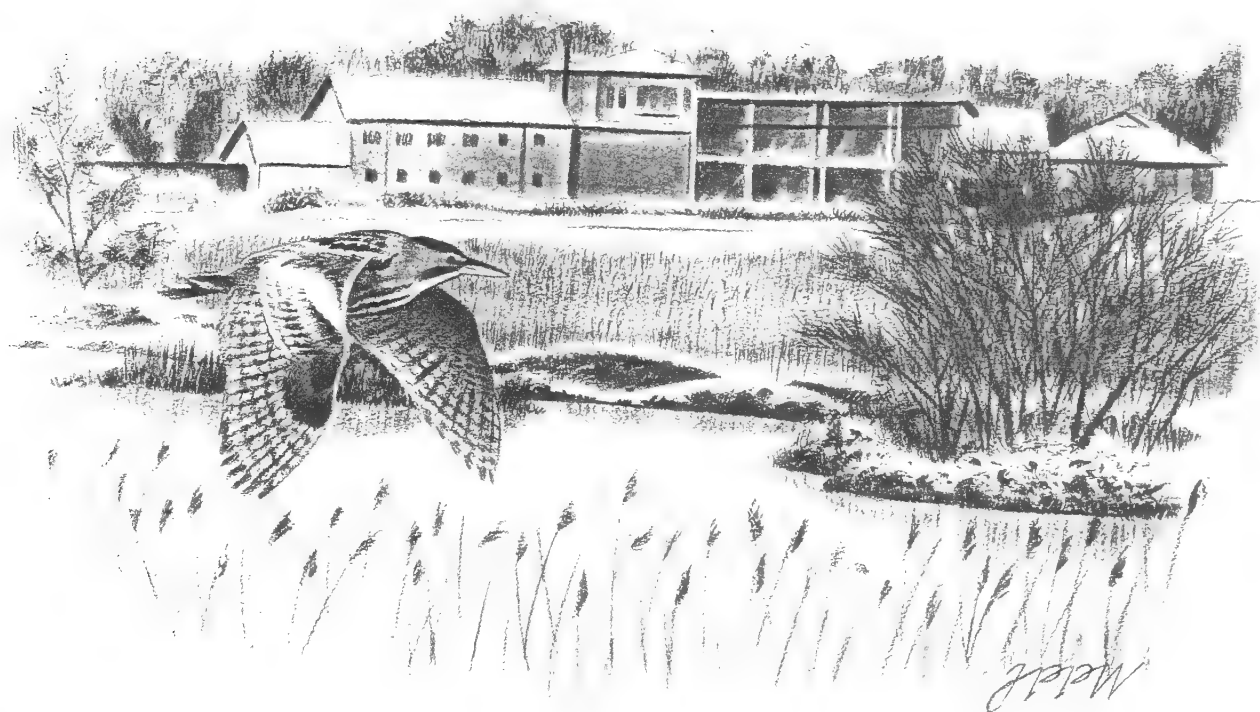
Note: count for R Thames (Essex) above is for the river and shore from Leamouth to Tilbury Docks.

It is tempting to think that most of the east London and Lower Thames birds roost at Walthamstow Res. Most of the birds in west London birds seemed to be gathered on the half-drained banks of Staines Res in daylight hours in August and September, which they found to be particularly attractive during these months. Counts of more than a 1,000 birds at a single site are extremely rare in the London Area. Elsewhere birds were very widespread and mobile as usual, but with few other counts of 100 or more. Maximum counts for Inner London sites are given below.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, two on Jan 29th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 48 on Nov 12th. Regent's Park, 60 on Dec 15th. St James's Park, seven on Apr 1st. Southbank, 18 on Feb 18th. Tate Modern, 19 on Dec 12th. Vauxhall, 18 on Jan 8th. Westminster, 25 on Mar 13th.

- 0080 Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
 Status: irregular visitor, usually in winter, occasionally in good numbers.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, a juvenile on Mar 3rd (JMy).  
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Jan 24th (SHM).  
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, one from Dec 25th-31st (SWRR).  
 Surrey Island Barn Res, the bird present since Dec 2002 remained until Jan 14th, also being seen at Fieldcommon GP on Jan 5th and 10th (DMH, SJS *et al*).

- 0095 Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.
- Essex Aveley, one in flight on Jan 29th. Berwick Ponds singles on Jan 11th, Apr 19th and Dec 10th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Feb 26th. Hall Marsh, one on Jan 12th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 1-2 from Jan 1-Apr 10th and one from Sept 30th to the end of the year. Bowyer's GP, one on Feb 3rd. Broxbourne GP, one from Jan 13th-Feb 12th. Cheshunt GP complex, up to seven in Jan and up to four in Feb and one in Mar; singles at the Bittern Watchpoint on July 24th and Aug 18th; returning birds were noted from Oct 5th, with at least two present in the last three months. Hilfield Park Res, one on Jan 2nd. Rye Meads RSPB/ Stanstead Abbots GP area, one from Jan 1st-Mar 23rd with two on Jan 7th, and one on Nov 23rd and 30th. Slipe Lane GP, one on Feb 26th and Mar 6th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Dec 11th and 30th. Princes Ski Club, Bedfont, one on Mar 17th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Jan 11th.
- Kent Littlestone Lake, one on Jan 11th. Ruxley GP, one on Jan 19th. Sevenoaks WR, 1-2 from Jan 17th-Apr 5th.



Surrey London Wetland Centre, three on Jan 1st, with 1–2 until Mar 1st, one on Aug 22nd, and from Dec 11th with two from Dec 19th–31st. Richmond Park, one at the Upper Pen Pond on Dec 16th.

**0119 Little Egret**

***Egretta garzetta***

Status: now regular and ever increasing visitor in growing numbers.

The year saw continued expansion, with records received from at least 60 sites during the year, including one in Inner London. The overnight roost at Broadwater Lake in the Colne Valley reached new highs, with up to 15 birds in January and February and 20 in December. A new roost was found at Amwell GP, where up to six birds were noted in December.

The table below gives monthly maxima for localities reporting birds on many dates and the approximate number of birds seen in each month from those sites not listed.

|        |                  | J  | F  | M  | A | M | J | J  | A  | S | O | N | D  |
|--------|------------------|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|
| Essex  | Hornchurch CP    | -  | -  | -  | - | - | - | 1  | 5  | 1 | - | - | 1  |
|        | Rainham          | 2  | 5  | 8  | 2 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 3  | - | 1 | 2 | -  |
|        | Sewardstone      | -  | 1  | -  | 1 | - | 2 | 5  | -  | - | - | - | -  |
| Herts  | Amwell GP        | 2  | 2  | 2  | - | 1 | 3 | 1  | 3  | - | 1 | 4 | 6  |
|        | Panshanger Prk   | 1  | -  | 2  | - | - | - | -  | -  | - | - | 4 | -  |
| Middx  | Broadwater Lke   | 15 | 15 | 12 | - | - | - | -  | -  | - | - | 8 | 20 |
|        | Staines/Stanwell | 1  | 1  | -  | - | 1 | - | 1  | 1  | 1 | 1 | 1 | -  |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh   | 2  | 1  | 1  | 3 | - | 2 | -  | -  | - | 1 | - | -  |
|        | Sevenoaks WR     | 3  | 2  | 4  | - | - | - | -  | -  | - | - | 2 | 1  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF    | 1  | -  | -  | 1 | - | 1 | 1  | 2  | - | - | - | 2  |
|        | 50 other sites   | 10 | 13 | 9  | 7 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 11 |

The pattern of regular wintering is now well established, together with a small spring passage followed by much larger influx during July and August. The only Inner London record is given below.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on June 28th (ARD).

**0122 Grey Heron**

***Ardea cinerea***

Status: common breeding resident.

The total number of nests reported this year was 484, slightly down on comparative figures for 2002. As usual, there are sites, which were counted in 2002, but not this year, but several apparently new sites included for the first time. In the following summary, all heronries reported are given (with the number of occupied nests for each site in brackets) together with a few of the highest counts elsewhere. Of interest was the report of a large all white heron at Beddington SF on July 23rd, which on closer inspection turned out to be an albino Grey Heron—a pitfall for the unwary.

Essex Holyfield Lake (4). Ingrebourne Valley (7). Mayesbrook Park, Barking (5). Netherhall GP (2). R. Lea at Canning Town, 21 on July 29th. Waltham Abbey Woods (8). Walthamstow Res (90).

- Herts Amwell GP (25). Broad Colney Lakes (1). Frogmore GP (6). Rye Meads RSPB, 31 on Sept 1st. Verulamium Lake (16).
- Middx Broadwater Lake (21). Frays Valley LNR (8). Kempton Park (44). Little Britain Lake (8). Osterley Park (4). Princes Ski Club, Bedfont (2). Staines Res, 19 on Sept 14th. Syon Park (1). Yiewsley Lake (10).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res (7). Wraysbury GP (6+).
- Kent Crossness (3). Kelsey Park (24). Swanscombe Marsh (9).
- Surrey Barnes, Angler's Pond (1). Bookham Common (26). Brentford Ait (32). Gatton Park Lake (29). Isleworth Ait (12). Lonsdale Road Res (4). Morden Hill Park (7). Pen Ponds, Richmond Park (11). R. Thames, 53 between Barnes and Putney bridges on Sept 14th. Watermeads, Mitcham (5).
- In Lond Battersea Park (21). Regent's Park (25).

**0134 White Stork*****Ciconia ciconia***

Status: rare visitor.

- Essex Orsett, one on Sept 16th (NO, GRy).
- Herts Hertford, one over the town on July 27th (*per* BG) also seen at Hoddesdon cemetery later the same day (DR). Troy Mill GP, the bird that left its roost at Harefield (see Middx below) flew into Herts on Sept 18th (AVM).
- Middx Harefield, a juvenile spent the night on a lamppost in Jacks Lane on Sept 17th and 18th (SB *et al*).
- Bucks Old Slade Lake, one over here at the M4/M25 motorway junction at 16.00 on Sept 17th (JCT *per* BG).
- Kent Dartford area, a juvenile over Hawley Road at 10.15 on Sept 15th (KBn), seen later near Wilmington at 12.15, and roosted overnight near Hextable, before heading off N on Sept 16th (BEW *et al*).

The timings are such that there was almost certainly only one bird involved in all the sightings between Sept 15th and 18th. It was first seen in Dartford, moved north into Essex on 16th and then appeared in Bucks on 17th, before roosting that night in Middx and was last seen leaving its roost on Sept 18th before disappearing west in to Herts. It managed to visit five different counties during its four-day crossing of the London Area. The two records this year bring the London Area total to 16 presumed wild birds since 1900.

**0144 Spoonbill*****Platalea leucorodia***

Status: rare migrant not recorded annually.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on six dates between Nov 6th and 25th (CL *et al*).

This long-staying immature bird was present for mostly very short periods over the 20-day period that it was seen, so was clearly spending most of its time elsewhere. There were no sightings of it at all between Nov 14th and 23rd. This is the 30th record for London, and the first in November, although there is one later record in December.

- 0231 Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*  
 Status: scarce visitor.
- Essex Dagenham Chase, one flew NE on May 28th (VHF) and a dark morph adult flew W on Aug 3rd (KB). Waterworks NR, one flew S on Sept 9th (GJ).  
 Middx Trent Park, one on Sept 11th (DPL).  
 Surrey Walton Heath, a dark juvenile flew W on Sept 6th (APe).
- A good crop of one spring and four autumn records of this normally uncommon raptor included three in six days in September.

- 0238 Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*  
 Status: very rare vagrant.
- Middx Staines Moor, one flew off W on Sept 29th (REI).  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one flying NE circled the site for four minutes before leaving to the NE on Aug 30th (NPS)—also seen in Inner London (see below).  
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on Aug 30th (ARD).
- These three sightings of two birds in the autumn follow only four previous records in the last 104 years in London, so are one of the highlights of the London sky this year. The last record was in 1994. The *British Birds* Rarities Committee has accepted all three records.

- 0239 Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*  
 Status: scarce but increasing visitor.
- All the records this year refer to single birds. Localities and dates are given below.
- Essex Chingford and Sewardstone Marsh, July 19th. Holyfield Hall Farm, May 25th. Ilford, Apr 23rd. Nazeing GP, Oct 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, May 9th, May 11th and Nov 8th. Bedmond, Mar 30th. Elstree, June 5th. Great Amwell, Dec 7th. Hilfield Park Res, May 11th. Jersey Farm, Apr 4th and Apr 23rd. Leavesden, Aug 12th. Milwards Park, June 29th. North Mymms Park, Feb 1st. South Mimms, Aug 15th. St Albans, Apr 23rd. Watford, Mar 31st and May 27th.
- Middx Barnet, May 11th. Brent Res, Jan 5th. Broadwater Lake, Mar 26th. Trent Park, Mar 30th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, Apr 17th and May 30th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, July 7th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, May 26th. Bookham Common, Feb 25th. Chessington, May 26th. Coulsdon, Mar 5th. Hogsmill SF, May 15th. London Wetland Centre, Apr 6th, Apr 24th, May 14th, Aug 2nd and Aug 31st. QEII Res, Apr 6th.

The increase in London Area records has been rapid and very sudden, as these 38 sightings is a further leap forward after the record 27 birds in 2002, in line with increases in the Chilterns population. Although reported in every month of the year except September, the pattern of occurrence remains much the same with 24 of the birds this year during March to May, which suggests

that unpaired birds from the Chilterns wander more widely in the spring, and that this is the source of the majority of London's birds. Indeed several wing-tagged birds were seen again during the year.

**0260 Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant.

- Essex Hornchurch, one on Aug 25th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Apr 5th, a male on Apr 13th and singles on Apr 19th and 21st at Berwick Ponds. Nazeing, one on Aug 29th. Old Harlow, one on May 29th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 12th and May 9th, from Aug 11th-14th, and three on Sept 20th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on May 16th. Waterworks NR, one on Aug 24th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Apr 17th. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, a male on Apr 6th. Stocker's Lake, one on May 5th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, one on Feb 22nd. Hatherop Park, Hampton, one on Mar 15th also seen over Kempton NR.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a first-year bird on May 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 21st. London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 10th, a male on Apr 24th, one on Sept 7th, a male on Sept 13th and one on Oct 28th.

A total of 26 different birds seen at 15 sites makes this the best year ever, and no doubt a result of the large increases in the UK breeding population, but also helped by daily observations at the two new wetland reserves, the Wetland Centre in Barnes and the RSPB reserve at Rainham, which between them contributed over half of the records. Most birds were seen during the spring and autumn but there were also a couple of winter records.

**0261 Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames-side marshes.

- Essex Copped Hall, one on Mar 26th (*per* BG). Havering CP, a male on Feb 20th (IS). Hornchurch, one on Feb 24th (DMn). KGV Res, one on Oct 14th (AM, PJV). Leyton, one on Sept 8th (ELBF). Rainham Marshes, a male on May 5th (DMn, SRP *et al*), singles on Aug 24th (RSg) and Nov 2nd (DFI).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, a male on Nov 9th (RK, NPS).

These seven records are the most reported in one year since 1990.

**0267 Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Status: rare passage migrant.

- Kent Trevereux and Swaynesland, one on July 10th (PJO).

**0269 Sparrowhawk*****Accipiter nisus***

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding season status is shown below.

|        | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex  | 16                           | 5                              | -                          | 21            |
| Herts  | 1                            | 2                              | 1                          | 4             |
| Middx  | 6                            | 6                              | -                          | 12            |
| Bucks  | -                            | 1                              | 5                          | 6             |
| Kent   | -                            | 2                              | 2                          | 4             |
| Surrey | 9                            | 6                              | 2                          | 17            |
| Totals | 32                           | 22                             | 10                         | 64            |

Many records from Essex were merely stated as having 'bred' and are included in the proved breeding column on this basis, though what standard of proof is being applied is not known, so the figures in the table may be somewhat arbitrary.

Nevertheless, the disparity with Herts records cannot be explained, except by lack of observer coverage and reporting. Certainly this small hawk remains widespread and common right across the area, and was seen at a total of 228 sites during the year.

Inner London records are summarised below.

In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, one on Jan 25th. Buckingham Palace, singles on Jan 29th, on several dates in Mar and on Dec 2nd. Green Park, one on Dec 2nd. Holland Park, a male in June but did not breed. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Apr 7th and 9th and on Sept 5th. Lambeth Road, SE1, singles on Mar 31st and Apr 30th. St James's Park, a pair displaying on two dates in Feb, and singles seen on a further six dates between Feb 4th-Apr 1st and on Aug 20th. Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1, one on Apr 14th.

**0287 Common Buzzard*****Buteo buteo***

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/visitor.

The evidence suggests that range expansion from the west of Britain is continuing at a rapid pace. Although breeding is sometimes difficult to prove, pairs were present at three sites in Essex (and bred), four in Herts, three in Kent (and bred) and one in Surrey. Records elsewhere came from all over London, and the number of reported sightings reaching nearly 350, clearly the most ever. To put this in perspective, ten years ago (1993), the 15–16 records reported in that year was described as the best year ever. A summary of records from each county is given, and also an Inner London record.

Essex Bred at three sites in the west of the county, with up to four birds at one of these, and present throughout the year at these localities. Other reports came from 20 other sites, mostly singles.

Herts The stronghold of this species in the London Area, with records from 47 sites. Although breeding was not confirmed, pairs were displaying over four woods in spring, and two pairs were present at a fifth site. Frequently seen outside



the breeding season, often in small groups, and including six together at Amwell GP on Sept 7th and at Gorhambury on July 30th.

- Middx Over 40 sightings at 21 sites, in all months except April-July. Many were in the north of the county, close to the Herts border, but there were also plenty of sightings in other areas.
- Bucks Eight records of 1-2 birds from three sites, five of these at Wraysbury GP.
- Kent A pair bred at one site but the outcome was uncertain. At a second site a pair probably raised two young, and another pair was at a third site on Apr 8th but not seen subsequently. There were also seven records of single birds.
- Surrey One or two pairs in one area were seen displaying, and at a second site birds were present throughout the year. Another 25 localities reported single birds on at least one date, and there were two together at New Malden on Aug 9th. Regular observations produced 19 birds at Beddington SF and nine at the London Wetland Centre.
- In Lond St James's Park, one flew S on Sept 16th (ASMS).

**0301 Osprey*****Pandion haliaetus***

Status: scarce passage migrant.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Sept 23rd (JH). Dagenham, one over the Ford factory on May 9th (HV). East Ham, one on Aug 31st (JH). Leyton one on Sept 24th (PWh) was also seen from Waterworks NR (GJ). Navestock Side, one on Oct 7th (CRJ). Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 16th (GJ).
- Herts Beech Farm, one on Apr 28th (IB). Hilfield Park Res, one on Sept 21st (ABe, SHM). Rye Meads RSPB, one from Aug 12th-30th (RMRG).
- Middx Cricklewood, one flew NW on May 21st (JPC).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Sept 21st (CDRH).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 24th (CSh).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Sept 18th (ARD).

**0304 Kestrel*****Falco tinnunculus***

Status: common breeding resident.

Records of pairs in the breeding season are shown in the table below.

|         | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex   | 13                           | 1                              | 22                         | 36            |
| Herts   | 5                            | 1                              | 11                         | 17            |
| Middx   | 2                            | 4                              | 3                          | 9             |
| Bucks   | -                            | -                              | -                          | -             |
| Kent    | 2                            | -                              | -                          | 2             |
| Surrey  | 4                            | 2                              | 1                          | 7             |
| In Lond | -                            | 1                              | -                          | 1             |
| Totals  | 26                           | 9                              | 37                         | 62            |

Despite slight increases in the number of pairs reported in both Essex and Herts, the overall totals were down compared with 2002, as there were decreases in all other counties. Although still quite a common sight in many areas, the lack of breeding records is rather worrying. It is also noticeable that

some of the larger gatherings of birds at certain favoured feeding sites (often of juveniles in August) seem to be rarely reported in recent years. Reported from 130 sites.

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Aug 4th. Regent's Park, 1-3 reported on 16 dates. St James's Park and Horseguards Parade, one on Mar 3rd. Waterloo, SE1, one roosting on St Thomas' Hospital on Feb 20th, territorial calls heard from here on Mar 20th and one in Lambeth Road on Mar 31st.

**0309 Merlin *Falco columbarius***

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

All records are given and relate to female or immature birds unless shown otherwise.

Essex Beckton sewage works, a male on Nov 20th and one on Dec 16th (DMn). Copped Hall Green, one on Dec 8th (AM). Dagenham Chase, one on Feb 1st (CT) and a male on Dec 30th (PD). Fairlop Waters, one on Oct 13th (AAB). Great Warley, a male on Nov 20th (CRJ). Holyfield Hall Farm, singles on Feb 22nd (NT) and Dec 31st (IK). North Weald Bassett, one on Feb 3rd (PMt). Northfield Garden Centre, one on Dec 21st (DHt). Rainham GP, one on Nov 16th and 21st (DMn). Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 25th (DMn), Feb 21st (HV), Oct 11th (DMn), Nov 5th and Dec 17th (NBW). South Weald, one on Oct 30th (RPe).

Middx Bushy Park, one on Jan 1st (PGg). Staines Res, one on Oct 10th (REI).  
Surrey London Wetland Centre, a male on Nov 13th (RK, DMk). Nore Hill, Chelsham, one on Oct 9th (BJT).

**0310 Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First reported in spring on the early date of Mar 27th at Tyttenhanger GP and again on 29th. There were further sightings from Apr 12th, but no major arrivals until about Apr 25th. The best day of the spring was May 6th, which included 12 together over Amwell GP and 11 over Wraysbury GP. Most had left by the end of September, and there were few sightings in October with the last at both Borehamwood and Shenley on Oct 13th. One unusual prey item reported was a Pectoral Sandpiper, which was taken in mid-air over QEII Res on Sept 7th.

|        | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex  | 3                            | 2                              | -                          | 5             |
| Herts  | 2                            | 1                              | -                          | 3             |
| Middx  | 7                            | -                              | -                          | 7             |
| Surrey | 1                            | 1                              | 1                          | 3             |
| Totals | 13                           | 4                              | 1                          | 18            |

This table gives the number of breeding pairs reported in each county. There were no breeding records this year in Bucks, Kent or Inner London.

In Lond Regent's Park, singles on June 1st, Aug 30th and Sept 1st.

**0320 Peregrine Falcon**

*Falco peregrinus*

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/winter visitor.

Another excellent year, with four pairs probably breeding, three of these at regular sites along the R. Thames, and also at a new site well away from the River at an urban site in Surrey. Also seen fairly regularly at southwestern and Lea Valley reservoirs, as well as in central London, in all months. It remains rather scarce in outer, more rural parts.

In the following, all breeding and Inner London records are given, together with a summary of other records for each county.

- Essex Reported at 19 sites, mostly along the River Thames and in the Lea Valley, but out as far east as Romford. Most records away from the River came from reservoirs in the Lea Valley.
- Herts Seven sightings in the Lea Valley, and also seen at Beech Farm and Tyttenhanger GP.
- Middx In the Staines area, the two large reservoirs and adjacent sites produced 18 sightings in every month except March. Several birds seemed to have been present over long periods. Elsewhere seen at Enfield Lock, Hampstead Heath, Isle of Dogs and Potters Bar.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, regular sightings throughout the year of several different birds. One was also at Wraysbury GP on Aug 9th.
- Kent At a regular site, a pair hatched four young, one of which was found dead below the nest and a second had to be taken into care after being picked up in poor condition. Sightings away from the Thames came from five other sites.
- Surrey There seems little doubt that a pair bred at a new location, where it occupied a tall building in a town centre from Mar-Nov. What was described as a pair displaying in the spring and the presence of two adults and a flying juvenile in July provided 'good evidence of breeding'. Other reports (unconfirmed) tell of two chicks being raised at this site. Almost daily sightings were made at Beddington SF, and also on many dates at the London Wetland Centre. Other reports came from eight sites.
- In Lond Two buildings along the River Thames held breeding pairs. At the first, three well-grown young were seen in July. At the second, at least one chick was seen, but probably did not survive. Paddington, two on Oct 26th. Regent's Park, 1-2 on 11 dates. St James's Park, singles on Feb 17th and Nov 12th. Tate Modern, 1-2 on six dates. Vincent Square, SW1, one on Mar 5th.

**0407 Water Rail**

*Rallus aquaticus*

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; rare breeder.

The table below gives the estimated number of birds found in each county during the first and last four months of the year, as well as the number of sites where this species was reported at some time in each county.

|         | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | Totals |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|
| Sites   | 29    | 18    | 10    | 4     | 9    | 19     | 91     |
| Jan—Apr | 39    | 38    | 14    | 4     | 21   | 30     | 146    |
| Sep—Dec | 29    | 31    | 14    | 3     | 12   | 25     | 114    |

All breeding records and other sightings between May and August are given, as well as all Inner London records, and a selection of the highest counts during the winter months.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, seven on Feb 24th; ten in the Ingrebourne Valley on Apr 19th and juvenile here in Aug. Rainham Marshes, six on Jan 5th, and one pair held territory.
- Herts Amwell GP, 11 in Jan and one pair bred. Rye Meads RSPB, numbers reached 20 in Jan and three pairs bred. Seventy Acres Lake, 12 in Jan and Feb.
- Middx Brent Res, seven on Nov 7th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, eight on Oct 31st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on July 5th. London Wetland Centre, ten on Jan 8th and at least three broods in the summer.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on many dates from Jan 3rd-Mar 25th (ARD). St James's Park singles on Oct 29th and Dec 18th (ASMS).

#### 0424 Moorhen

#### *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: very common breeding resident.

All breeding records of more than five pairs are given below (number of pairs/territories/broods in brackets), with the highest numbers reported outside the breeding season, and a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Connaught Water, 47 in Oct. Dagenham Chase, 43 in Jan. Fishers Green, 49 in Dec. Rainham Marshes, 132 on Feb 16th. South Park, Ilford (7). Valentines Park (10), 46 in Sept. Ingrebourne Valley (10), 116 on Feb 15th. Walthamstow Res, 64 in Jan. Wanstead Flats East (7). Wanstead Park (15).
- Herts Amwell GP (9). Beech Farm, 46 on Oct 11th. Bricket Wood and Common (10). Cassiobury Park (10+). Fishers Green, 49 in Nov and Dec. Gade Valley (14). Maple Lodge NR, 98 in Feb. Rye Meads RSPB (69), 143 in Nov. Verulamium Lake (7). Watford Link Road (7).
- Middx Brent Res, 52 in Oct. Bushy Park, 45 in Nov. Pymmes Park, Edmonton, 42 in Jan. Hampstead & Highgate Ponds, 81 on Nov 16th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, 53 on Dec 1st.
- Kent Ruxley GP, up to 45 in autumn.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 100 on Oct 11th. London Wetlands Centre (26), 137 on Aug 17th. R Wandle (55 between Butter Hill and Morden Hall Park), 150 between Carshalton and Wandsworth on Dec 30th. Wimbledon Common (12).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, probably bred. Holland Park (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5+). London Eye, two on Feb 21st. St James's Park, 93 on Jan 24th.

**0429 Coot*****Fulica atra***

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

In the summary below, the largest breeding concentrations reported are given (numbers of pairs in brackets), together with the highest counts at individual sites during the autumn and winter months.

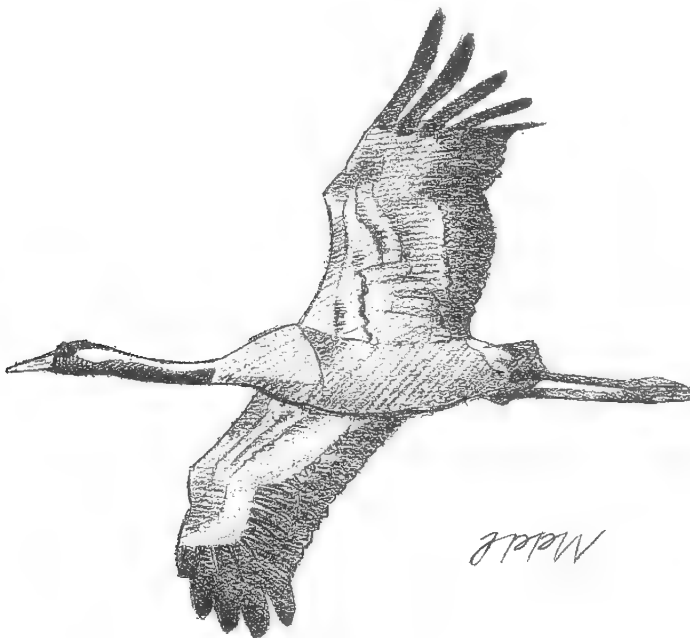
- Essex Barking Park (21). Connaught Water (17). Wanstead Flats East (5). Wanstead Park (30). Walthamstow Res, 733 on Nov 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP (17), 410 in Jan. Bowyer's GP, 362 on Dec 1st. Broxbourne GP, 520 on Dec 1st. Cheshunt GP (18 at Mariners Lake), 428 at Friday Lake on Oct 5th and 491 at the North Met Pit on Dec 1st. Hilfield Park Res, 611 on Oct 12th. Maple Lodge NR (8). Lea Valley Navigation (25 pairs from Tottenham Lock to Old Ford). Rye Meads RSPB (74), 379 on Sept 1st. Stocker's Lake, 481 on Nov 1st. Verulamium Lake (14).
- Middx Bedfont area, 395 on Jan 5th. Osterley Park (12). Brent Res (17), 750 on Nov 16th. Broadwater Lake, 500 on Nov 16th. Staines Res, 636 on Oct 12th. Stoke Newington Res, 365 on Jan 11th.
- Bucks Highest count was at Wraysbury GP, 100 on Aug 9th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 495 on Dec 13th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (31). London Wetland Centre, 304 on Dec 8th.
- In Lond Battersea Park, 70 on Nov 15th. Buckingham Palace (7), 34 on June 8th. Canada Water, SE16 (6). Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns (8), 125 on Dec 11th. St James's Park, 134 on Jan 9th. Tate Modern, two pairs attempted to breed on the R Thames.

**0433 Common Crane*****Grus grus***

Status: very rare vagrant.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one flew S at 15.15 on Oct 13th (AAB).

Only the ninth record in the London Area since 1900, and the second year in a row for this majestic honker.



- 0450 Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*  
 Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- Birds were present in small numbers again during most of the year along both shores of the Lower Thames with a maximum of 11 at West Thurrock on July 19th. On the Essex shore two pairs bred at Rainham Marshes and on the Kent side, a pair was at a disused pier at Greenhithe in March and April.
- Away from the Thames, widely reported between March and August, but relatively few outside this period. All dates refer to single birds unless a higher count is given.
- Essex Holyfield Lake, Mar 5th. KGV Res, Mar 31st, Apr 17th (3) and 20th (2), May 15th (2), May 24th (3) and Sept 6th. Rushey mead, Nazeing, June 12th. Sewardstone Marsh, Mar 29th. Walthamstow Res, Mar 31st. Wm Girling Res, July 27th and Aug 6th.
- Herts Amwell GP, June 22nd. Hilfield Park Res, July 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, Mar 2nd.
- Middx KGV Res, May 15th and 23rd and Aug 2nd (2). Staines Res, Feb 28th; Mar 21st; Apr 14th (2) and 24th; May 7th (2), 15th, 16th (3) and 17th; June 1st (2), 3rd, 4th and 14th; July 17th (2) and 27th (2).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, Mar 19th, Apr 4th; May 24th and 25th; July 28th (3); and from Nov 8th-30th. Wraysbury GP, Apr 26th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, Aug 24th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, July 5th. London Wetland Centre, Mar 21st, 29th and 31st; May 7th and 11th; June 21st (2), June 22nd; and July 13th. QEII Res, Mar 24th; Apr 14th; May 11th and 25th; June 3rd; July 26th, 28th (2) and 30th; Aug 1st and 16th; and Sept 2nd. Walton Res, Mar 24th, May 8th and June 3rd.
- 0456 Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
 Status: a scarce visitor in all months of the year and has bred once.
- Essex Barking Bay, one on Mar 5th and 6th (SC *et al*) and one on Dec 30th (KB). Grays, one on Jan 5th (DJo). Rainham Marshes, two on May 28th (SRP) and 30th (KB). West Thurrock, two on Jan 9th (SC) and six on Feb 16th (AL).
- Middx Staines Res, seven on Mar 17th, six on Apr 8th and six on Nov 29th (REI, PN, KLP).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Feb 25th (JAS) and nine on Nov 29th (CDRH), some of which presumably appeared later in the day in Middlesex.
- Kent Northfleet, two flew E on Oct 16th (SC).
- Surrey Beddington SF, three on Jan 12th (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 16th (SF, KN *et al*) and Apr 18th (JGd, RG). QE II and Walton Res, five on Apr 11th (DMH, SJS *et al*).

Another good turnover of birds in winter, spring and late autumn.

**0459 Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Status: a scarce passage migrant.

Essex Walthamstow Marsh, one on Oct 22nd and 23rd (JPEs).

Always a very good bird to find, this migrant was on quite a late date compared with many previous London records. A two-day stay is probably more typical of an autumn bird.

**0469 Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First spring arrivals were on Mar 9th at Fairlop Waters and Tyttenhanger GP with three other sites reporting birds in the next four days. An interesting development in April was the large numbers possibly using the concrete banks of Staines Res as a roosting site during the month. Counts of ten or more were found on many dates from Apr 8th-27th, mostly in the evenings, and peaking at 27 birds on Apr 12th and 13th. Such high counts in spring are previously unknown from here or at any other site in London. Other high counts were also reported in April at Sevenoaks WR with ten on 21st and 27th, and at the London Wetlands Centre, which also had ten on 27th. There were no large gatherings at all in late summer and only one record after August, which was at Tyttenhanger GP on Sept 11th-12th.

|        | Sites | Pairs attempted breeding | Other pairs present | Total pairs |
|--------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Essex  | 14    | 14                       | 6                   | 20          |
| Herts  | 11    | 11                       | 6                   | 17          |
| Middx  | 5     | 6                        | 4                   | 10          |
| Bucks  | 1     | -                        | 1                   | 1           |
| Kent   | 2     | -                        | 5                   | 5           |
| Surrey | 5     | 7                        | 1                   | 8           |
| Total  | 37    | 38                       | 24                  | 61          |

The table shows the estimated total of pairs showing evidence of breeding in the London Area during 2003. The figures suggest a good breeding season, especially in Essex and Herts.

**0470 Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

|        | Sites | Pairs present | Other | Total pairs |
|--------|-------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| Essex  | 3     | 3             | 1     | 4           |
| Herts  | 4     | 10            | -     | 10          |
| Middx  | 3     | 3             | 2     | 5           |
| Bucks  | 2     | -             | 2     | 2           |
| Kent   | 2     | 1             | 1     | 2           |
| Surrey | -     | -             | -     | -           |
| Total  | 14    | 17            | 6     | 23          |

The table shows the estimated total of breeding pairs in the London Area during the year.

The majority of pairs were on gravel-pit sites away from the Lower Thames. At one such site in Herts, at least seven different broods are thought to have hatched, although infant mortality was thought to be high.

Birds were present at inland sites from January to as late as October, but counts of wintering or passage birds that exceeded ten were scarce, numbers reaching up to 100 on the Thames marshes and foreshore but only up to 15 inland. Highest counts during the year are given below.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Essex  | Barking Bay, 11 on Aug 25th and 16 on Dec 30th. Grays, 90 on Jan 9th, 50 on Mar 12th and Nov 16th. Rainham Marshes, 22 on May 2nd and 45 on Sept 11th. West Thurrock, 100 on Feb 2nd. |
| Herts  | Tyttenhanger GP, ten on July 13th.  |
| Middx  | Kempton NR, seven on May 16th. Staines Res, ten on Mar 14th and Apr 29th, and 15 on Aug 25th.   |
| Bucks  | Queen Mother Res, nine on Sept 16th.  |
| Kent   | Crayford Marsh and Darenth Mouth, 28 on Sept 13th. Dartford Marsh, 60 on Jan 1st and 21 on Feb 22nd. Greenhithe, 44 on Aug 24th. Swanscombe Marsh, 44 on Aug 24th.                    |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre, six on Mar 30th. QEII Res, five on Mar 15th.   |

#### 0485 European Golden Plover

#### *Pluvialis apricaria*

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the Area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

The table gives the monthly winter maxima for those sites where flocks of 200 or more were found at some time during the year.

|       |                      | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | Oct | Nov  | Dec |
|-------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Essex | Dagenham Chase       | 400  | 150+ | 3    | -    | 230 | 10   | 254 |
|       | Fairlop              | 150  | 680  | 200  | -    | -   | -    | -   |
|       | Ingrebourne Valley   | -    | 1    | 325  | 232  | 4   | -    | 80  |
| Herts | Amwell               | 168  | 100  | 300  | 150  | 5   | 1300 | 200 |
|       | Beech Farm           | 2000 | 3500 | 1500 | -    | -   | 1500 | 860 |
|       | Coursers Lane Fields | 120  | 999  | -    | -    | -   | 200  | -   |
|       | Shenleybury          | 1000 | -    | -    | -    | -   | -    | -   |
|       | Theobalds Park Farm  | 500  | -    | -    | -    | -   | 200  | 500 |
|       | Tyttenhanger GP      | 200  | 300  | 23   | -    | -   | 1000 | 600 |
|       | Woodoaks Farm        | 320  | -    | -    | -    | -   | 106  | 812 |
| Middx | Sipson/Harmondsworth | 220  | 266  | 250  | 146  | -   | 180  | 85  |
| Bucks | Withy Bridge, Iver   | 80   | 120  | 90   | 300+ | -   | -    | -   |

Four sites (all in Herts) had flocks over 1,000 birds during the winter, many of which are very mobile, with the Beech Farm site having particularly impressive counts in the early part of the year. In South Essex however, numbers seemed to have declined seriously in recent winters. The regular wintering flock in west Middlesex and east Bucks has become well established in the last few years. These use fields just north of Heathrow Airport.

Away from these main wintering localities, it remains rather scarce. Migrants were last seen in spring on May 31st and the first autumn bird was noted Aug



8th. Details of records received away from the usual localities including all those for Surrey, Kent and Inner London are given below.

- Middx Enfield, flocks of 74 at Vicarage Farm on Jan 8th, 150 at Fernyhill Farm on Mar 13th and 29 at Plumridge Farm on Oct 27th. Hampton Court Park, 30 on Feb 9th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 14th. Staines Res, singles on four dates in autumn.
- Bucks Horton Fields, eight on Jan 9th. Woodland Park Lakes, 140 on Feb 14th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 14 on Jan 11th and one on Oct 5th. Horton Kirkby, 15 on Apr 17th. Wilmington, 29 on Sept 15th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, on eight dates, maxima of 47 SW on Jan 8th and 20 on Mar 22nd. Island Barn Res, one on Nov 15th. London Wetland Centre, four on Oct 4th and two on Oct 8th. QEII Res, singles on four dates and five on Oct 4th. West Ewell, three by the R Hogsmill on Oct 23rd. South Norwood Lake, one flew S on Jan 8th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Oct 23rd and 24th (ARD).

**0486 Grey Plover**

***Pluvialis squatarola***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

It was an unexceptional year with only small numbers seen on the Lower Thames in the winter months and a small passage elsewhere.

- Essex Grays, four on Jan 9th, six on Feb 1st and three on Feb 22nd. Holyfield Hall Farm, one from Apr 17th-19th. KGV Res, two on Apr 26th. Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 5th, singles on Jan 11th and Feb 1st, five on Feb 16th and then further singles on Feb 24th, 26th, Apr 21st-22nd and Sept 1st, with 14 on Sept 26th and more single birds on Oct 17th, 23rd, 25th, Nov 21st and Dec 24th. Tilbury Docks, one on Feb 19th. West Thurrock, five on Jan 9th.
- Middx KGV Res, singles on May 16th and 27th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 23rd, May 2nd, Oct 14th, Oct 20th and Nov 29th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 10th and 11th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Jan 1st, 14 on Jan 11th, six still on 12th and one on 24th, two on Jan 29th, Feb 22nd and Apr 12th, and one on Oct 26th, two on Nov 9th and one on Dec 7th. Greenhithe, one on Nov 22nd. Northfleet, two on Feb 4th and one on Oct 15th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 3rd. Swanscombe Marsh, singles on Jan 5th and Feb 14th, and four on Oct 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Jan 7th, Apr 9th and Nov 9th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Oct 12th and Nov 7th.

**0493 Northern Lapwing**

***Vanellus vanellus***

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

During the year, some evidence of breeding or display was reported from around 150 pairs of Lapwings, which is close to the recent average. There is no doubt that this figure is boosted considerably by large concentrations of breeding birds at several key sites, such as Rainham Marshes (21 pairs), Beddington SF (20-25 territories) and Tyttenhanger GP (10 broods). Many

other places had just one or two displaying, and the impression is gained that this species continues to have trouble maintaining its breeding presence in many areas. Wintering flocks remain at a very low level, with counts exceeding 1,000 birds at only four sites, all in Herts and South Essex. The lack of wintering flocks, as well as the tendency for milder winters, also masks many of the varied movements this species undergoes during the year. Highest counts in each county are given, as are all Inner London records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, 1,208 on Jan 4th and 800 on Dec 12th and 14th. Fairlop, 500 on Jan 6th. Netherhall GP, 600 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, 2,000 on Feb 25th and 3,000 on Dec 14th. Grange Waters, 650 on Dec 21st.
- Herts Beech Farm, 1,000 in Jan. Tyttenhanger GP, 600 on Feb 23rd and 1,008 on Nov 30th.
- Middx Kempton NR, 500 on Jan 2nd and 350 on Nov 27th. SITA quarry, Sipson, 400 on Mar 1st.
- Bucks Horton Fields, 300 on Jan 10th. Withy Bridge, Iver, 900 on Jan 6th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 700 on Feb 9th.
- Surrey Hersham GP, 380 on Feb 25th. Merstham, 300 on Jan 26th. Molesey, 300 in Feb. QEII Res, 370 on Dec 1st. Walton Res, 402 on Feb 12th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, 62 on Jan 31st, three on Oct 15th, one on Oct 20th, six on Nov 7th and one on Nov 25th (ARD).

**0496 Knot *Calidris canutus***  
 Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, two on Sept 12th (HV) and one on Oct 13th (NBW). Tilbury Docks, two on Feb 19th (SC).
- Middx Staines Res, three flew N on Sept 9th (REI).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles from Oct 17th-19th, Oct 22nd-23rd and on Nov 17th (JOB, CDRH et al).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile from Aug 30th-Sept 1st (JPA, GDJM). London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 1st (RPn et al) and Oct 21st (RK, DMk, JPPW). QEII Res, one on Aug 29th (DMH).

**0497 Sanderling *Calidris alba***  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex Grays, one on Feb 25th. KGV Res, singles on Apr 21st, Apr 30th and Aug 22nd. Wm Girling Res, one on May 25th.
- Middx KGV Res, approximately 48 birds between May 10th-June 4th, with best daily counts of six on May 15th, seven on 23rd, ten on 24th and six on May 30th; three on July 26th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 14th and 30th, May 2nd and 11th, and then 1-3 on many dates from May 18th-June 4th; in autumn juveniles on Aug 22nd (2), 25th (2) and 30th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Apr 11-15th; May 1st-2nd, 14th-15th, 20th; June 3rd and 5th; Aug 24; Sept 4th, and two from 9th-11th.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one on Mar 1st.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 21st. QE II Res, one on May 24th, four on 27th, one on 30th; three on June 1st, one on June 3rd; two on July 23rd one on 31st; singles on Aug 16th, 17th, and 30th and Sept 7th. Walton Res, one on May 3rd, Sept 6th and 7th and 25th.

Many small flocks of up to ten paraded around and passed through some of the concrete-banked west London reservoirs during the year, especially during the peak spring passage in late May. Elsewhere there was remarkably few. A Hobby took the bird at QEII Res on Sept 7th.

**0501 Little Stint** *Calidris minutus*

Status: passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

Essex Fairlop Waters, one from Aug 31st-Sept 6th (AAB *et al*). KGV Res, one on May 24th (AMK). Rainham Marshes, singles on Sept 3rd-4th (DSh, HV *et al*) and on Sept 12th (HV), two on Sept 14th (PH) and one on 15th (SC).

Middx KGV Res, one on Sept 12th-13th (CL *et al*).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 1st (GDJM). London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 26th (RK, MWn).

Another year with only a handful of sightings of this migrant wader, which can be relatively common in some years.

**0502 Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Status: rare but annual passage migrant.

Essex Rainham Marshes, two juveniles on Aug 25th-26th (DMn, HV *et al*).

Middx Brent Res, one on May 13th (RB). Kempton Park NR, one on May 19th (REI *et al*). Ponders End Lake, one on May 15th-16th (SC *et al*).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Aug 24th (KJM).

These six birds covered a span of only seven dates in May and three days in August.

**0507 Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Status: rare vagrant.

Essex Hornchurch CP, a juvenile from Sept 1st-11th (KB *et al*).

Middx Ruislip Lido, one on Nov 8th (JRe). Stanwell Moor, a juvenile from Sept 11th-22nd, also visited the adjacent KGV Res (REI *et al*).

Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile from Sept 24th-Oct 1st (NG *et al*). Walton Res, a juvenile on Sept 6th moved across to QEII Res the same day, but was killed by a Hobby on Sept 7th (DMH, AVM, PN *et al*).

There has been no shortage of records of this species in recent years, with ten records in the last two years in London. The Ruislip Lido bird is very late in the year, and the second latest ever, and may have been the same as reported not far away at Moor Green Lakes from Nov 1st-7th and at Slough

SF from Nov 12th-14th (both sites outside the LNHS Area in Berkshire). Quite how many birds were involved in four out of the five records will never be known, but none of these was present at two places at the same time, so there may be fewer than first appears. Certainly the bird at Hornchurch CP was last seen on Sept 11th and one appeared at Stanwell Moor that same evening. On the other hand, 2003 was the best year on record for this scarce migrant, with 170 birds reported in the U.K.

**0509 Curlew Sandpiper*****Calidris ferruginea***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, most regular in autumn.

Essex Rainham Marshes, one on seven dates from Sept 8th-20th (DFI, NBW *et al*).  
 Middx Staines Res, one on May 17th (REI, CDRJ).  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Aug 7th (GDJM). Walton Res, one on Apr 11th (DMH *et al*).

Two records in spring (the Surrey bird unusually early) and another two in autumn amounted to a very poor return for the year.

**0510 Purple Sandpiper*****Calidris maritima***

Status: very scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

Middx Staines Res, a juvenile on Aug 29th (REI, KLP *et al*) from 17.30hrs until dusk, and a first-winter bird for most of the day on Nov 8th (REI, CDRJ *et al*).

Both of these birds were found on the concrete banks of the south reservoir at Staines. There have been a few August records in the past, but not for a very long time.

**0512 Dunlin*****Calidris alpina***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

This table shows monthly maxima during the winter months at the main sites along the Lower Thames. Between March and September there were very few counts even reaching double figures. The highest counts in spring and autumn included 41 at Rainham on Apr 29th and 19 on July 22nd.

|       |                             | Jan  | Feb   | Oct  | Nov  | Dec |
|-------|-----------------------------|------|-------|------|------|-----|
| Essex | Purfleet to Grays foreshore | 500  | -     | 17   | -    | -   |
|       | Rainham Marshes             | 500  | 214   | 39   | 40   | 700 |
|       | Tilbury Docks               | 5000 | -     | -    | -    | -   |
|       | West Thurrock               | 4000 | 1000+ | 2320 | 1210 |     |
| Kent  | Crayford Ness               | -    | 500   | -    | -    | -   |
|       | Dartford Marsh              | 180  | 111   | 20   | 123  | 300 |
|       | Erith Reach                 | 200  | -     | -    | -    | -   |
|       | Greenhithe                  | 308  | 61    | -    | -    | -   |
|       | Northfleet                  | -    | -     | 90   | -    | -   |
|       | Swanscombe Marsh            | 160  | 65    | 4    | -    | -   |

Away from the Thames, there were no regular wintering flocks noted anywhere, and although there was the usual widespread scattering of migrants at assorted wetland sites, numbers remained generally on the low side. A good little influx of adults occurred at Wm Girling Res in late July. The largest counts in each county are given.

- Essex KGV Res, five on Aug 22nd and six on Aug 25th. Wm Girling Res, 17 on July 27th increased to 23 on 28th and 28 on July 29th.
- Herts Only reported from Amwell and Tyttenhanger GPs, but no more than three at each site.
- Middx KGV Res, ten on May 13th and seven on June 4th. Staines Res, maxima of ten on Apr 27th, 15 on May 2nd and 12th, seven on June 4th, nine on July 28th and seven on Nov 29th and Dec 22nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, nine on Apr 28th and ten on May 12th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, five on July 22nd. QEII Res, six on July 26th and five on Aug 14th.

**0517 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.

- Essex Rainham Marshes again proved to be the most regular site for this species during the year, with birds seen in ten months, although numbers did not reach those of the previous year. The monthly peak counts are shown below.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 8   | 5   | 9   | 7   | -   | 1   | 2   | 9   | 8   | 3   | -   | 1   |

Belhus Woods CP, one on Apr 20th. Cornmill Meadows, two on Dec 15th. KGV Res, nine on Apr 6th (also seen at nearby Sewardstone Marsh), 1-2 from Aug 19th-25th and three on 31st. Waterworks NR, two from Aug 19th-25th and three on 31st.

- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Mar 6th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Aug 10th.
- Middx Kempton NR, one on May 19th. Staines Res, three on Apr 7th, four from 8th-14th and three on 17th; three on Aug 15th, 18th-19th and 25th and singles on 26th, 29th, and Sept 12th-17th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 12th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Dec 13th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Mar 22nd and Apr 7th and 1-2 from Aug 7th-Sept 21st with three on Aug 18th-19th and 23rd-26th. London Wetland Centre, four on Apr 18th and singles on Aug 12th-14th and Sept 27th. QEII Res, a flock of 14 on Feb 26th and one on July 23rd. Walton Res, one on Jan 22nd-23rd.

Most winter records came from Rainham during the first three months, so a flock of 14 in Surrey in February was quite unexpected. A small spring passage was noted, but very few juveniles were seen in autumn.

**0518 Jack Snipe*****Lymnocyptes minimus***

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

Numbers were rather low at the beginning of the year, with many reports of just single birds. Spring passage was quite prominent, with up to eight at Staines Moor in March. One on Sept 22nd was the only record for that month, but the large influx noted in October 2002 was not repeated this year. Six at Amwell in October and at the Wetland Centre in November were the only notable counts at the end of the year.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on four dates from Mar 18th-Apr 5th and on Dec 21st. Dagenham Chase, one on Feb 16th. Fairlop Waters, one on Dec 31st. Mollands Lane GPs, two on Jan 1st. Hall Marsh Scrape, one on Feb 19th and 22nd. Harold Court, one on Feb 19th, Mar 14th and Dec 21st. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Oct 6th-9th. Nags Head Fishing Lakes, one on Apr 1st. Rainham Marshes, singles in Jan, Feb and Apr, two on Apr 24th, one in Oct. Sewardstone Marsh, singles on Jan 29th, Feb 17th and Oct 13th. Waterworks NR, one on Oct 12th and 13th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Feb 1st, 2nd and 6th.
- Herts Amwell GP, seen on many dates in Oct with a peak of six on 15th, and one on Dec 15th. Beech Farm, one on Feb 17th and 23rd. Broxbourne GP, singles on Jan 21st and Oct 1st. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Jan 1st, five on Apr 5th, one on Apr 19th and Nov 15th. Seventy Acres Lake, singles on Feb 17th, Apr 16th and Nov 29th. Tyttenhanger GP singles on Jan 31st, Oct 1st and Nov 1st and 2nd.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Oct 18th and Nov 18th. Staines Moor, two on Jan 7th, singles on Jan 14th and Mar 10th, five on Mar 19th, eight on 20th, one on 23rd, four on 24th, two on 31st and two on Apr 1st.
- Bucks Horton GP, up to in Jan and singles on Mar 18th and Dec 24th.
- Kent Singles on one date only reported from Chipstead Lake (Feb 17th), Darenth Lake (Jan 11th), Dartford Marsh (Jan 12th), Sevenoaks WR (Jan 8th), and Swanscombe Marsh (Jan 26th).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1-3 in Jan, 1-4 in Feb, three on Mar 23rd and two on 30th; 1-2 in Oct, one in Nov and 1-2 in Dec. Hersham GP, singles on Jan 2nd, 27th and Mar 17th. Hogsmill SF, one on Sept 22nd. Holmethorpe SP, one on Jan 26th. Island Barn Res, on Oct 29th. London Wetland Centre, 2 in Jan and Feb, one in Mar, Apr and Oct, six in Nov and two in Dec. Wimbledon Common, 1-2 from Jan 7th-Feb 13th and one on Dec 1st.

**0519 Common Snipe*****Gallinago gallinago***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce breeder.

The highest winter counts are given, together with all summer and Inner London records. Numbers reached their highest at most sites during the first three months of the year, and included over 100 birds in three places in February. A few small groups were still present in early May, and there were three birds in June, but there were no breeding records. No drumming birds have been seen or heard since 2000.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 83 on Mar 18th and one on June 14th. Dagenham Chase, 38 on Jan 5th. Fairlop, 41 on Mar 29th. Hall Marsh Scrape, 30 on Jan 14th. Ingrebourne Valley, 40 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, 72 on Jan 11th, three on May 5th, one on May 7th and one on June 5th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 50 on Jan 27th and one on June 23rd. Beech Farm, 30 on Jan 7th. Broxbourne GP, 22 on Jan 21st. Otterspool, 37 on Jan 11th. Rye Meads RSPB, 33 on Mar 22nd.
- Middx Brent Res, 31 on Dec 20th, three on May 3rd and one on 4th. Kempton NR, 40 on Jan 2nd. Staines Moor, 150 on Feb 25th. Stanwell Moor, 25 on Mar 25th.
- Bucks Horton GP, 30 on Jan 16th.
- Kent Littlebrook Lake, 180 on Feb 1st. Sevenoaks WR, 72 on Jan 27th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 60 on Feb 24th. Hersham GP, 113 on Feb 25th. Holmethorpe SP, 20 on Jan 26th. Hurst Green, 29 on Jan 10th. London Wetland Centre, 57 on Nov 24th, two on May 2nd and one on 3rd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Jan 7th, Oct 24th and 26th (ARD).

**0529 Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

All breeding season and Inner London records are given, and also counts of two or more outside the breeding season.

- Essex Bury Wood, two on Mar 1st. Copley Plain, roding birds on June 5th. Copped Hall, five in Jan, four in Feb, one in Mar and one roding in June. Jacks Hill, 1–3 roding in June. Long Running, at least two roding. Sewardstone Marsh, two in Jan, four in Feb and three in Dec. Sunshine Plain, birds were roding in June. Thorndon CP, three on Mar 6th. Wake Arms and Wake Valley Pond, singles on June 13th. Waterworks NR, two in Jan and Feb.
- Herts Amwell GP, two on Jan 1st. Cowheath Wood, Broxbourne, two in May and June. Wormley Wood, one on May 28th.
- Middx Stanmore Common, at least one roding. Trent Park, two on Jan 14th.
- Bucks Black Park, birds seen roding regularly in May and June.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, two in May. Headley Heath, one roding in June. Limpsfield Chart, one roding in Apr and May. Nower Wood, present on CBC in May. Princes Coverts, two roding on May 28th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 20th (HPKGBR). Regent's Park, one on Nov 19th (ARD, DJ). St James's Park, one on Nov 25th (DGDL). Also of note, two birds in care were shown on BBC TV's *Animal Hospital* programme broadcast on Dec 3rd, and described as having been picked up recently in the same area of the City, one of which was found on the windowsill of an office block.

**0532 Black-tailed Godwit*****Limosa limosa***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable but increasing numbers.

Large flocks of wintering birds were again found in January and December based mostly at Grays and West Thurrock. This table gives the highest monthly counts during the winter months along both shores of the Thames.

|       |                          | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Rainham Marshes          | 11  | 3   | 2   | 15  | 21  | 25  |
|       | Grays-Purfleet foreshore | 173 | 91  | 11  | -   | 23  | 144 |
| Kent  | Dartford Marsh           | 2   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   |
|       | Erith Reach              | 11  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|       | Greenhithe               | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 53  |
|       | Northfleet               | -   | 45  | -   | -   | -   | -   |

A summary of other records from the Thames between April and September, together with all sightings elsewhere, is shown below.

- Essex Barking Bay, three on Sept 14th and five on Oct 12th. Cornmill Meadows, singles on Mar 15th-16th, May 12th, Sept 1st-6th and Oct 9th-11th. Dagenham Chase, 35 on July 10th and three on 16th. Hall Marsh Scrape, one from Sept 7th-Oct 2nd and two from Oct 9th-28th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Aug 10th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on July 6th-7th. KGV Res, singles on Aug 16th-18th, 26th and 28th. Rainham Marshes, seen regularly between Apr and Sept with monthly maxima of one in April, four in June, 32 in July, four in Aug and five in Sept.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on May 11th and Oct 17th. Bowyer's GP, two on Oct 11th and 12th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Sept 6th. Seventy Acres Lake, singles on Aug 31st, Oct 5th and 16th and two on 22nd-28th. Stanstead Abbots GP, one on Aug 13th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 6th and 25th and five on Aug 5th.
- Middx Staines Res, two on Apr 8th and 10th and one on May 1st, and then on six dates in July with 24 on 4th and 19 on 11th, seven on Aug 14th and singles on Sept 9th and 23rd. Stanwell Moor, singles on Mar 15th and Apr 10th, two on July 18th and one on July 22nd.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, two on Nov 1st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on July 17th, one on 24th, two on 27th, two on Aug 23rd and one on Sept 3rd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 15th, 24th; three on June 30th; on four dates in July with seven on 2nd; on seven dates in Aug with 56 in two flocks on 15th; singles on three days in Sept and five on Oct 22nd. Walton Res, one on June 10th and four on July 31st.

Another spectacular year for this large shorebird, with good flocks of wintering birds again along the Thames and both spring and autumn seeing above average numbers of migrants at many different sites.

**0534 Bar-tailed Godwit*****Limosa lapponica***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

All records are given.



- Essex Creekmouth, one on Apr 19th. Grays, one on Oct 20th. KGV Res, singles on seven dates between Apr 4th-21st. Rainham Marshes, two on Feb 9th, one on Feb 25th and Mar 18th, six on Apr 17th, one on Apr 24th and May 29th, two on July 30th, one on Aug 7th, two on Sept 4th and one on 14th. R. Thames, one on Oct 20th off Grays and Tilbury Docks. West Thurrock, seven on Apr 14th.
- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 10th, two on 19th and eight on 21st, two flocks of 33 and five on the morning of May 2nd; also singles on May 20th and June 24th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on May 12th and 14th.
- Kent Crayford Marsh and Darenth Mouth, one from Sept 13th-15th. Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 11th, two on 12th and one on Apr 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Feb 12th. London Wetland Centre, six on Apr 17th. Island Barn Res, 19 flew E at 06.31 on May 2nd.

Spring birds were quite widespread as usual in April and May, though not nearly as numerous as in the same period in 2002. Early-morning watchers at two west London reservoirs witnessed the only major movement on May 2nd when flocks totalling 57 birds (assuming some did not visit both sites) made brief stopovers. The few winter and autumn records were mostly confined to Lower Thames shores. The inland records at Beddington in February and at Staines in June were at unexpected times of the year.

**0538 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus***

Status: regular passage migrant.

All records are given

- Essex Coppermill Filter Beds, two flew SW on July 20th. Creekmouth, one on Apr 24th. Holyfield Hall Marsh, one on Apr 25th and two on 28th. KGV Res, two on Apr 13th, one on 15th, three on 25th and one on May 2nd. Nazeing GP, three on Apr 24th. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 14th and 18th, two on 20th, one on 22nd and 24th; one on July 14th; one on Aug 3rd, two on 6th and one on 14th. West Thurrock, one on July 24th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on May 5th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 7th, singles on Apr 21st, one on July 29th and two on Sept 2nd.
- Middx KGV Res, one on Apr 24th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 15th and 24th, three on 25th, two on 26th, four on 27th and two on 28th; one on May 2nd and four on 4th; singles on Aug 2nd, 3rd and 25th and four on 26th. Stanwell Moor, four on May 2nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, three on Apr 23rd and 12 on 28th; two on May 1st and one on 14th; one on July 9th and five on 17th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one flew on July 17th. Dartford Marsh, two on Apr 21st. Littlebrook PS, two on Aug 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 26th and four on 28th, two on May 2nd, singles on July 16th, 20th and Aug 11th. Island Barn Res, one on Aug 11th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 6th, 8th and 22nd, five on 29th; one on May 2nd, two on 12th and one on 22nd. QEII Res, two on Apr 23rd and one on July 30th. Walton Res, one on Apr 13th, four on 14th, singles on 25th and May 8th. West Ewell, calls heard on May 18th.

There were 42 sightings in the spring involving about 75 birds. Spring birds all occurred between Apr 6th-May 22nd but there were mostly just one or two birds and the highest count was only five, so numbers were well down on the same period in 2002. In the autumn there were 18 sightings involving about 29 birds. In most years spring records normally outnumber those of autumn by a ratio of over 2:1, and 2003 fitted this usual pattern.

**0541 Curlew*****Numenius arquata***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

The majority of the records and the largest numbers during the year were on the Lower Thames foreshore and marshes. The table shows the distribution and maximum counts of birds in each month, except May when none were seen. The River Thames foreshore includes all Essex sites between Purfleet and the LNHS boundary at Tilbury. Many records are from West Thurrock.

|       |                    | <i>J</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>J</i> | <i>J</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>O</i> | <i>N</i> | <i>D</i> |
|-------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Essex | R Thames foreshore | 8        | 24       | 50       | 18       | -        | 2        | -        | -        | 4        | 9        | 5        |
|       | Rainham Marshes    | 13       | 19       | 3        | 4        | 1        | 7        | 2        | 2        | 12       | 18       | 7        |
| Kent  | Crayford Ness      | 17       | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        |
|       | Dartford Marsh     | 13       | 1        | 2        | 1        | -        | 1        | -        | -        | 4        | 5        | 4        |
|       | Northfleet         | -        | 5        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | 4        | -        | -        |
|       | Swanscombe Marsh   | 3        | 1        | 2        | 2        | -        | -        | -        | -        | 1        | -        | -        |

As can be seen, good numbers of birds were present at either end of the year. A count of 50 at West Thurrock on Mar 6th was exceptional.

All other records away from the Lower Thames are detailed below.

- Essex Fairlop, one on Apr 22nd and Aug 23rd. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Apr 26th and June 27th. KGV Res, one on Aug 26th. Walthamstow Res, one on Feb 22nd and Oct 12th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one over on Sept 8th. Leavesden Green, one SW on Oct 25th. Seventy Acres Lake, 17 flew S on July 29th.
- Middx Kempton NR, singles on May 20th and June 20th. Staines Res, one on Apr 6th, one on June 16th, two on June 22nd and one on June 29th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Mar 29th, three on Apr 27th, one on July 13th and three on Aug 24th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 1st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Jan 7th, one on Apr 2nd, four on June 22nd, one on June 30th and four on Aug 24th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 2nd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 7th, 10th, 24th; Apr 9th; June 6th, 22nd; July 10th; two on Sept 11th; singles on Oct 12th, 13th, 15th and 22nd and two on 24th. QEII Res, one on Mar 2nd and Sept 11th. West Ewell, one on Oct 4th. Walton Res, two on Mar 2nd and one on Nov 5th. Walton-on-Thames, two flew N on June 7th. Wimbledon Common, one flew W on Apr 28th.

**0545 Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

- Essex KGV Res, one from Aug 13th-20th (AM *et al*) and three on 24th and 25th (PJV). Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 22nd and two on 24th (DFI, DMn, HV).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Oct 18th (BR). Tyttenhanger GP, two on Aug 5th (SHM).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Sept 27th (KLP).

**0546 Redshank***Tringa totanus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, but decreasing breeder.

The table summarises records from the more regularly counted sites along both shores of the Lower Thames in the winter months, when numbers are at their highest, and gives monthly maxima for these months. Counts for the Essex foreshore includes areas between Purfleet, Grays and West Thurrock.

|       |                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | R Thames foreshore | 50  | 69  | -   | 124 | 442 | 289 |
|       | Rainham Marshes    | 98  | 125 | 77  | 210 | 289 | 157 |
| Kent  | Dartford Marsh     | 60  | -   | 50  | -   | 34  | -   |
|       | Greenhithe         | 44  | 6   | 7   | -   | 25  | 71  |
|       | Swanscombe Marsh   | 12  | 8   | 200 | 5   | -   | -   |

Additional counts from other Thames sites included Barking Bay, 60 on Dec 30th, mouth of the River Lea, 112 on Jan 19th, Erith Reach, 50 in January and Northfleet, 60 on Oct 23rd.

All breeding records, as well as the highest numbers at sites away from the Thames are given under counties as follows.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, three pairs in May and June. Cornmill Meadows, several pairs present in spring. Crooked Mile, one pair probably bred. Hornchurch CP, one pair present in spring, Mollands Lane GPs, two pairs present. Rainham Marshes, at least 24 territories.
- Herts Amwell GP, at least two broods in June. Rye Meads RSPB, one pair bred but appeared unsuccessful. Tyttenhanger GP, at least three pairs present, and broods of three and one seen.
- Middx Kempton NR, up to seven displaying in May, but no evidence of breeding. KGV Res, 22 on Mar 22nd. SITA quarry, Sipson, two pairs displaying in spring. Staines Res, highest counts included 17 on Jan 27th, 15 on Feb 21st, 20 on Mar 18th, 30 on Apr 10th and 14 on Nov 12th. Stanwell Moor, two pairs displaying, but there was no evidence of breeding.
- Bucks Horton GP, one displaying in March.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two pairs in spring but no evidence of breeding. Swanscombe Marsh, 1-2 pairs appeared to be nesting.
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to eight in spring with 2-3 pairs holding territory. Island Barn Res, ten on Jan 7th and 13 on Nov 13th. London Wetland Centre, up to five pairs displaying in May and two young seen in June. QEII Res, 13 on Feb 27th. Walton Res, highest count was 27 on Mar 22nd.

**0548 Greenshank*****Tringa nebularia***

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

The bird that was present in Herts at the end of 2002, mostly at Tyttenhanger GP, stayed until mid-April and was no doubt responsible for sightings from other nearby sites at Beech Farm, Bricket Wood Common, Hatfield Aerodrome and Hilfield Park Res during the same period. It returned for its third winter to Tyttenhanger on Dec 6th until the end of the year, and was again seen at Beech Farm on Dec 14th.

The first spring bird was at Cornmill Meadows on Apr 1st, and migration peaked in late April with few records in May. Birds were seen throughout June at 11 sites and there seems to have been little gap between spring and autumn movements. Numbers were quite high at several sites from July to September, but there were only four records of five birds after Sept 26th, with the last migrant at QEII Res on Nov 5th.

In the following summary, all records of three or more birds are given. There were many other records of just one or two birds.

- Essex Hornchurch CP, seven on Aug 15th. KGV Res, nine on Aug 19th, ten on Aug 18th and 24th. Rainham Marshes, seen from Apr 12th with three on 21st, five on 24th and three on 26th; 15 on July 22nd, ten on Aug 7th and 12 on Sept 14th.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, four on May 16th.
- Middx Brent Res, three on Apr 25th. Kempton NR, three on Aug 12th. Ruislip Lido, three on Aug 11th. Staines Moor, five on Aug 15th. Staines Res, five on Aug 26th. Stanwell Moor, five on Aug 21st.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, six on Aug 24th and 29th; six on Sept 2nd, five on 3rd and 4th, eight on 6th and five on 11th.
- Kent Crayford Marsh at Darenth Mouth, 12 on Aug 13th. Dartford Marsh, five on July 20th and six on Aug 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, four on Apr 19th and six on Aug 17th. London Wetland Centre, three on Apr 29th, five on Aug 17th, four on 19th and six on Sept 1st.

**0553 Green Sandpiper*****Tringa ochropus***

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, commonest in autumn.

The table shows the pattern and distribution of birds during the year, giving the monthly peak counts for regular sites for all months except May.

|       |                          | J | F | M | A | J  | J  | A  | S | O | N | D |
|-------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| Essex | Cornmill Meadows         | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 2  | 1  | 10 | 2 | - | - | - |
|       | Holyfield Hall Farm      | - | - | - | 9 | 1  | 1  | 7  | 3 | - | - | - |
|       | Rainham Marshes          | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 24 | 30 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 |
|       | Wm Girling Res           | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | -  | 8  | 4  | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| Herts | Amwell GP                | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 2  | -  | 3  | 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
|       | Rye Meads RSPB           | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1  | 8  | 5  | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
|       | Tyttenhanger GP          | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1  | 10 | 9  | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Middx | KGVI Res & Stanwell Moor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2  | 15 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
|       | Staines Res              | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | -  | 1  | 4  | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

|        |                       |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|-----------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Kent   | Sevenoaks WR          | - | -  | 6  | 5  | 2  | 8  | 5  | 3  | -  | 1  | -  |
| Surrey | Beddington SF         | 8 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 21 | 33 | 20 | 20 | 14 | 14 |
|        | Island Barn Res       | 2 | 2  | 2  | 3  | -  | 2  | 3  | 3  | 8  | 9  | 8  |
|        | London Wetland Centre | 1 | -  | -  | 18 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 2  | 2  | 1  | -  |
|        | QEII Res & Walton Res | 2 | 2  | 5  | 3  | 2  | 7  | 2  | 4  | 2  | -  | 1  |

Wintering numbers at both ends of the year were not exceptional, with only Beddington having more than ten. There was a clear increase at most sites in March and April. There were nine at Holyfield Hall Farm and five at Staines on Apr 17th. The next day flocks of nine were seen at the Wetland Centre flying NNE followed by two more parties of two and seven. Also on Apr 18th there were 15 at Beddington, seven at Morden Hall Park, five at Sevenoaks WR and four at Rainham. There were eight at the Girling Res on Apr 21st. Such obvious movements as this are not often seen in spring. They coincided with many small parties of Greenshanks and Common Sandpipers. There were only three records in May. There were some good counts in June, and many sites had their highest numbers of the year in July, but at the two best sites, Beddington and Rainham, both had their peak counts in August.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 28th (ARD). Paddington Green, three flew WNW on Sept 17th (DTM).

#### 0554 Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, singles on Aug 14th (JBr), from Aug 21st-22nd and on Aug 25th (IK *et al*). Holyfield Hall Farm, singles on Apr 18th (CLn) and Aug 10th (DW). Hornchurch CP, one from July 26th-29th (RJ *et al*). KGV Res, one from Aug 13th-16th and two from 17th-19th (PJV *et al*). Rainham Marshes, singles on June 22nd, on ten dates from July 4th-Aug 6th, two on Aug 7th, and one on Aug 11th and 13th (mo).
- Herts Stocker's Farm, one on May 31st (SC, BG, AVM).
- Middx Kempton NR, singles on May 28th (REI, KLP) and June 15th (WK). Parkside Farm and Res, Enfield, one flew over on Sept 12th (RMC). Stain Hill Res, one on Aug 17th (WK).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one circled but did not land on Apr 28th, one on May 16th (JPPW), and one on Aug 14th (TD).

Seen during the year between Apr 18th and Sept 12th, there were two records each in April, May and June, followed by the usual crop of July and August sightings, and one in September. Numbers were very low, mostly just single birds, but two together were seen at two sites in Essex on a few dates in the autumn.

#### 0556 Common Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

The table shows the maximum counts during the main migration months for this species. It shows all those sites where the maximum counts were ten or

more on at least one date during these months, and shows the overall pattern and timing of migration.

|        |                  | <i>Apr</i> | <i>May</i> | <i>Jul</i> | <i>Aug</i> | <i>Sep</i> |
|--------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Essex  | KGV Res          | 5          | 6          | 16         | 20         | 7          |
|        | Rainham Marshes  | -          | 2          | 13         | 14         | 6          |
|        | Walthamstow Res  | 4          | 1          | 13         | 15         | 5          |
|        | West Thurrock    | -          | -          | 11         | 3          | -          |
|        | Wm Girling Res   | 5          | 3          | 18         | 12         | 2          |
| Middx  | KGVI Res         | 1          | 2          | 18         | 12         | 6          |
|        | Staines Res      | 2          | 6          | 14         | 19         | 9          |
|        | Wraysbury Res    | -          | -          | -          | 10         | 3          |
| Bucks  | Queen Mother Res | 4          | 3          | 19         | 10         | 4          |
| Kent   | Dartford Marsh   | -          | -          | 10         | 2          | 4          |
| Surrey | Beddington SF    | 2          | 1          | 6          | 12         | 3          |
|        | QEII Res         | 3          | 3          | 14         | 13         | 3          |
|        | Walton Res       | 5          | 1          | 10         | 8          | 4          |

Wintering birds were found at 15 sites between January and March, and fitted the usual pattern of being in mostly small groups of one to three, and mainly in the Lea Valley or along the Lower Thames. There were five together at Banbury Res on Feb 22nd, and three also wintered at the Walton group of reservoirs. Six were at Dartford Marsh in late March. Many of the same sites had one or two in November and December.

In spring, numbers began to increase by mid-April and counts were above average during the second half of the month with several parties of four and five, all between 20th-28th. Overall, there were far fewer seen in May, despite there being six at two sites. Birds were seen throughout June, with autumn passage starting well before the end of that month. Double-figure counts were widespread in the second half of July and continued through August, although the numbers during August (often the peak month) were rather low, and at many sites fewer than in July. The highest count of the year was only 20 at KGV Res on Aug 9th.

### 0561 Turnstone

### *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Winter records were as usual confined to the Lower Thames, and remained scarce. The most regular site was the foreshore at Grays, where the highest count was 14 in December. In the passage months, there were a few on the Thames (mostly at Rainham), but otherwise confined to six reservoirs. Spring birds were noted from Apr 14th to May 20th, and numbers were low, with only four sightings in May, all at Staines Res. More widespread in the autumn from July 17th to Sept 23rd, with the best numbers in August when the highest count of six was seen. All records are given

Essex Grays, seven on Jan 9th, two on Feb 1st and 22nd, 10 on Mar 12th, nine on Nov 16th and 14 on Dec 14th. KGV Res, three on July 19th, two on July 22nd, three on Aug 24th and one on 25th. Rainham Marshes, three on Apr 29th, two on Aug 24th and one on Sept 1st. Tilbury Docks, one on Feb 19th. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 20th and 21st. West Thurrock, one on Feb 3rd. Wm Girling Res, singles on July 24th and Aug 4th.

- Middx KGV Res, singles on Apr 18th and May 20th. Staines Res, one on Apr 28th, two on 30th; one on May 2nd, two on 10th and 12th, one on 20th; two on July 17th; two on Aug 4th, one on 12th, six on Aug 16th with one remaining until 25th; two on Sept 6th and one on 23rd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on July 17th; two on Aug 11th; five on Sept 4th and three on 11th; one on Nov 21st.
- Kent Crayford Marsh and Darenth Mouth, one on Sept 13th. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Jan 4th, one on Feb 14th and two on Apr 20th.
- Surrey QEII Res, one on July 17th, four on 18th, two on 23rd and 26th; singles on Aug 13th and 29th.

**0564 Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*  
 Status: rare passage migrant.

- Surrey Walton Res, a juvenile on Sept 26th-28th and at QEII Res on Sept 30th-Oct 4th (DMH *et al*).

The large London reservoirs have had a good run of autumn juveniles in recent years. This is the sixth such bird since 1998, with only one year since then without a record, but this is still only the 24th record since 1900.

**0565 Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria*  
 Status: rare visitor, normally in late autumn and winter.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a first-winter bird from Nov 15th-20th (CDRH *et al*).

The only record of the year, this obliging bird tended to stick in the same place during its six-day stay so was seen and photographed by many.

**0566 Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*  
 Status: rare visitor, previously only in autumn and winter.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 13 adults circled the reservoir from 19.20 to 19.24 before leaving to the N on Apr 25th (CDRH). The flock consisted of 11 pale morph birds, one dark morph, and one barred.

A unique and in many ways, astonishing record from this large reservoir which is on the very edge of the LNHS boundary. Spring passage of this skua is well known around the coasts of Britain and Ireland, and the eastward movements of birds along the English Channel has been watched for many years. The highest counts at these coastal sites have always been in late April and early May, and it is known for migrating in sometimes large flocks. This record, however, is probably the first known sighting of such a flock inland in the spring, certainly in England. It suggests that these birds were cutting off the corner of southeast England en route to the North Sea, and must have been attracted by such a large body of open water. Although this is the 24th record for the Area, the previous 23 have all been of single birds between September and February.

**0567 Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
 Status: regular, but scarce, autumn migrant; rare in spring and summer.

Essex Rainham Marshes, a dark juvenile on Oct 20th (KB).  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile on Oct 19th and 20th (MMcK *et al*).  
 Kent R Thames, two off Northfleet and Tilbury Docks on Oct 17th (SC).

Only three autumn records this year, and all between Oct 17th and 20th, coinciding with other seabird movements at this time.

**0568 Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*  
 Status: rare autumn migrant.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, a dark morph juvenile on Aug 17th (CDRH *et al*).

The first record since two in autumn 1995, both at western reservoirs, and the 11th London record in all. These have all previously been seen in autumn between Aug 30th and Oct 8th, so this is the earliest yet to be seen. Three species of skua in the same year is an exceptional haul for any inland site, but is testimony to this large reservoir's obvious drawing power.

**0569 Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*  
 Status: rare autumn and winter visitor.

Essex The bird on the Thames below took off and flew N into Essex.  
 Kent R. Thames at Swanscombe Marsh, one on Oct 19th (DM).

**0575 Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*  
 Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

The table gives the minimum total of individual birds on a monthly basis at the main sites. There were records in every month except May. Under each county a combined total of birds seen away from these sites is provided under 'Other sites' (the number of such sites in each county given in brackets). Many of these latter records mostly refer to just one bird on one date.

|       |                   | J | F | M | A | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Essex | Connaught Water   | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
|       | KGV Res           | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
|       | Nazeing GP        | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
|       | Walthamstow Res   | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|       | Wm Girling Res    | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
|       | Other sites (4)   | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Herts | Amwell GP         | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
|       | Hilfield Park Res | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
|       | Other sites (1)   | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Middx | Staines Res       | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
|       | Other sites (4)   | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Bucks | Queen Mother Res  | 2 | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|       | Other sites (2)   | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |



|        |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent   | R. Thames       | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Surrey | Beddington SF   | 3 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
|        | QE II Res       | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|        | Other sites (5) | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Quite how many birds are involved in all these records is unknown. This table confirms a strong peak (as usual) in January and February, with far fewer from then until October. Numbers at the end of the year appear to be on the low side. Few adult birds were seen between June and August. Systematic checking of winter gull-roosts would no doubt produce far more sightings.

**0578 Little Gull** *Larus minutus*  
 Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter.

It was another good year for this popular small gull, which began with a mid-winter flock of 13 on the Lower Thames, and was followed by a very good spring with flocks of up to 68 in mid-April, but there were poor numbers of juvenile birds in autumn. Occurrences are outlined in the following summary.

**JANUARY** opened with a flock of 13 on the Thames at Erith Reach and three at Dartford Marsh on 1st; and inland, four at QEII and singles at KGV Res on 3rd and Queen Mother Res on 4th. This was part of a small influx also noted at Beddington on the last day of 2002. Singles were on the Thames again on 5th and the last record of the month came from Nazeing GP on 15th. The only **FEBRUARY** records were two off Greenhithe on 14th and one on 16th. After one at Staines Res on 1st, **MARCH** produced the first flush of spring migrants between 16th-20th with one at Staines, three at Hilfield Park Res, and seven at Regent's Park. Small numbers were present in early **APRIL** from 2nd, with numbers at Staines reaching seven from 9th-11th, and one or two at five other sites. On 15th there was a large arrival of migrants which was as sudden as it was spectacular, and numbers remained at a high level until 21st. The table gives details of the maximum daily counts at each site involved in this influx. There has been only one larger influx previously, in the spring of 1995 (when there were 186 at Staines Res on Apr 29th). As in that year, the flocks were mostly made up of summer-plumaged adults.

*Counts of Little Gulls in the London Area during the influx of Apr 15th-21st 2003.*

| Date:- April |                  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
|--------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Essex        | KGV Res          | 36 | 67 | 17 | 15 | 20 | 22 | 21 |
| Middx        | Brent Res        | -  | 22 | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  |
|              | Staines Res      | 15 | 52 | 45 | 36 | 68 | 47 | 38 |
| Bucks        | Queen Mother Res | -  | 23 | 8  | -  | -  | 2  | 1  |
| Surrey       | Walton Res       | -  | 16 | 12 | -  | 1  | 2  | 3  |
|              | Island Barn Res  | 1  | -  | 17 | -  | -  | -  | -  |

*Although* the biggest day of movement was clearly on Apr 16th the highest count at Staines Res came three days later, when there were few elsewhere, so could have involved birds that had been at other sites during the previous four days.

After Apr 21st no more than five lingered until 26th, and none at all during the rest of April. In **MAY** and **JUNE** probably only two first-summer birds accounted for all the records during both months. The first arrived at Staines Res on May 11th with two from 14th, these both remaining until 28th and one until June 19th. During this period these two individuals were probably responsible for records of one or two birds at KGV Res and also at Queen Mother, Walton and QEII reservoirs and Horton GP. In **JULY** two were still at Walton Res on 1st and 19th, as well as single birds at Brent Res and London Wetland Centre on 16th. In **AUGUST**, single adults were at Rainham Marsh on 3rd, at Queen Mother Res on 12th and on the Thames at the Isle of Dogs on 31st. The first two autumn juveniles were at Staines on Aug 20th until 29th, and there were six at KGV Res on 28th and 29th. **SEPTEMBER** passage was very light, and only lasted until 19th, with five at KGV on 14th, and singles at five other sites. Birds were far more widespread in **OCTOBER**, starting with 18 birds at five sites on 2nd, which included eight at Beddington SF and five at Queen Mother Res. From Oct 6th-25th birds were present in small numbers at several sites, with four at Hilfield Park Res on 17th increasing to eight on 20th and up to three on the Thames off Northfleet on 20th. In **NOVEMBER** one was at Beddington on 8th, two there on 18th and two at Island Barn Res on 23rd. The year ended with single birds in **DECEMBER** at Staines Res on 20th and on off Northfleet, on 27th.

**0579 Sabine's Gull***Larus sabini*

Status: rare autumn vagrant.

Middx KGV Res, an adult in summer plumage on Aug 12th (REI, FJM, PN *et al*).

This bird was discovered and observed from the western end of Staines Res causeway, loafing amongst an evening gathering of gulls sitting on the eastern pier of KGV and was watched from 18.55 until it flew off W at 19.20. Although possibly considered an early date for an autumn bird, there was an even earlier adult bird at Queen Mother Res on Aug 5th, 1994. The first since 2000, and probably the 79th bird seen in London, although this belies its rarity status as an estimated 64 of these were seen after the 'Great Storm' of 1987.

**0582 Black-headed Gull***Larus ridibundus*

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder.

The breeding colony at Staines Res showed its largest increase since its formation, from 18 nests in 2002 to c50 nests this year, with many young raised. In the summary below, all counts of 1,500 or more are given, together with the highest counts in Inner London. As usual, many of the largest gull roosts were not counted.

Essex Leyton Flats, 8,500 flew towards roost on Jan 3rd. Rainham Marshes, 15,960 on Jan 15th and 9,259 on Feb 16th. Walthamstow Res, 1,564 on Feb 16th and 1,122 on Dec 14th.

- Herts Amwell GP, 6,000 at roost on Nov 14th and Dec 5th. Hilfield Park Res, c13,000 in February.
- Middx Staines Res, c50 nests on two rafts on the south reservoir in May, with many young in June and July. Also c2,000 on July 27th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 7,887 on Jan 15th, 8,348 on Feb 26th, 5,694 on Mar 13th, 2,033 on Aug 14th, 1,487 on Sept 25th, 3,848 on Oct 22nd, 6,593 on Nov 12th and 5,697 on Dec 16th. New Malden, 1,500 flew over on Nov 3rd. QEII Res, 3,000 at roost on Aug 6th.
- In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, 267 on Feb 10th and 313 on Dec 30th. St James's Park, 230 on Jan 29th.

**0589 Ring-billed Gull***Larus delawarensis*

Status: rare visitor.

- Middx Isle of Dogs, an adult on the Thames foreshore on Jan 26th, July 10th, 13th and 18th and Aug 4th (SHn).
- Kent Blackheath, an adult on Aug 31st (MPB). Greenwich Reach, an adult on Jan 7th (SC). R Thames at Thames Barrier, one in January (PD).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, a 2nd-winter bird for 20 minutes on Nov 9th (NPS).

The eighth winter in a row for the long staying bird which accounted for all records in Middlesex and Kent. A new bird in Surrey brings the London Area total to 21 birds,

**0590 Common Gull***Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Very few counts from gull roosts again this year, and most large counts were during the day. This winter visitor often gathers in quite large numbers on playing fields and other open areas with short grass to feed. The highest counts for those sites with 100 or more birds are given, along with all counts of ten or more in Inner London.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, 674 on Jan 5th and 279 on Feb 16th. Walthamstow Res, 119 on Jan 5th and 292 on Feb 16th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 160 on Feb 21st and 400 on Mar 15th. Hilfield Park Res, 250 on Jan 29th, 500 on Feb 22nd and Mar 9th. Rye Meads RSPB, 250 on Apr 11th. Smallford at the St Albans RUFC, 200 on Feb 14th.
- Middx Totteridge, 400 on Jan 28th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 255 on Apr 5th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 340 on Feb 26th and 322 on Oct 22nd. London Wetland Centre, 162 flew over on Apr 6th. Walton Res, maximum roost counts of 472 on Dec 11th and 610 on Dec 16th.
- In Lond Southbank, 61 on Jan 31st.

**0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull*****Larus fuscus***

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small numbers.

All proved or possible breeding records are shown below. Its habit of nesting on flat rooftops means that many pairs are never seen. Any adult birds around buildings in the breeding season should be reported.

- Essex Banbury Res, one pair nested. Beckton SW, a large colony still present at this site, and many young seen, but not counted. Temple Fields, Harlow, one pair bred. Highams Park Lake, nine pairs bred. Walthamstow Res, 36 pairs bred and fledged 51 young.
- Herts Watford, ten adults in town centre in May, but impossible to prove breeding.
- Middx Brent Res, a pair with two chicks bred on a raft.
- In Lond Blackfriars Bridge, two pairs raised one and two young. Hyde Park, a pair took up residence in April on a tern raft but did not breed. Southbank, one pair raised three young on a barge in the middle of the Thames.

A selection of the largest counts in each county is shown in the table below. Many of these sites had their peak counts in autumn, rather than mid-winter.

|        |                   | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Aug | Sep | Oct  | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Rainham Marshes   | 1193 | 817 | -   | -   | -   | -    | -   | -   |
| Herts  | Amwell GP         | -    | -   | 360 | -   | -   | 1300 | -   | -   |
|        | Hilfield Park Res | 124  | 100 | 162 | 360 | 425 | -    | 637 | 375 |
| Kent   | Sevenoaks WR      | 8    | -   | 125 | -   | -   | 10   | 10  | 5   |
| Surrey | Beddington SF     | 644  | 378 | 166 | 341 | 467 | 932  | 637 | 375 |
|        | Island Barn Res   | 73   | 24  | 47  | 7   | 105 | 216  | 581 | 462 |
|        | Walton Res        | 97   | 299 | 11  | 9   | -   | -    | -   | -   |

**0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull*****Larus michahellis***

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

The following table shows monthly maxima for all those sites where counts of ten or more birds were noted during the year.

| Site                               | J | F | M | A | J | J  | A  | S  | O  | N | D |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| Rainham Marshes                    | 6 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5  | 2  | 45 | 27 | 1 | 6 |
| R Thames, from<br>Leamouth—Tilbury | 1 | - | - | - | - | -  | 12 | 2  | 68 | 2 | - |
| KGVI Res                           | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | 28 | 25 | 3  | -  | - | - |
| Queen Mother Res                   | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 61 | 70 | 12 | 6  | 3 | 8 |

Elsewhere only relatively small numbers were reported from many sites in all months of the year, and are too numerous to list individually. All sites where counts of five or more were reported are detailed under counties below, together with all Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Bay, six on Aug 17th. Beckton SW, six on Aug 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, five on Nov 2nd. Hilfield Park Res, nine on Jan 12th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, seven on Jan 5th and 11 on Dec 27th. Queen Mary Res, five on July 2nd and 9th. Staines Res, five on July 11th and six on Aug 8th. Wraysbury Res, eight on Aug 8th.

- Bucks Colnbrook, five on July 2nd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, nine on June 29th and July 20th, and six on Aug 24th. Northfleet, eight on Dec 7th. Thamesmead, six on Oct 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, five on Feb 26th. London Wetland Centre, eight on Aug 28th. QEII Res, five on Jan 19th. Walton Res, five on Jan 22nd.
- In Lond Millbank, one on Jan 21st. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 1st, Jan 14th, Feb 7th and Dec 9th. Southbank, singles on Mar 10th, Aug 28th, Sept 3rd and Oct 9th. Tate Modern singles July 18th and 21st, Oct 28th, Nov 18th and Dec 9th.

**0592.01 Caspian Gull***Larus cachinnans*

Status: rare, but likely to be an increasingly regular visitor.

For notes on the taxonomic status, identification and submission of records of this large gull, please refer to the comments under this species in *LBR:2002*.

The request for descriptions of all individuals and/or photographs is repeated here. All records are given of those birds during the year that were considered by their observers to show characters of Caspian Gull, although occurrences are summarised at one site.

- Essex Beckton SW, adult on Dec 14th. Rainham Marshes, adult on Jan 6th. Royal Albert Docks and Woolwich Ferry, regular adult from Jan 1st-Feb 15th and Nov 2nd-Dec 27th.
- Herts Amwell GP, adults on Oct 23rd and from Dec 14th-25th. Hilfield Park Res, adult on Jan 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, 4th-winter on Feb 15th. Staines Res, 3rd-summer on Mar 24th.
- Bucks Colnbrook, 1st-summer on Apr 6th. Queen Mother Res, adult on Jan 3rd, 1st-winter on Mar 5th, 1st-summer on Apr 6th (also at Colnbrook) and 17th, 2nd-winter on Oct 28th, juvenile/1st-winter on Nov 24th and Dec 1st, adults on Dec 2nd-3rd and 19th and 1st-winter on Dec 31st. Wraysbury GP, adult on Feb 14th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 1st-winter on Aug 24th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, adult on Jan 8th, 2nd-winter on Feb 17th, 1st-winter on Mar 10th, adult on Nov 1st, 2nd-winter on Nov 6th and Dec 10th, 1st-winter on Nov 27th and adults on Dec 5th, 24th and 31st. London Wetland Centre, up to three immatures and one adult from Jan 12th-18th; a 1st-winter on Mar 10th and 29th; up to five different immatures in Apr; three in May; one on June 17th, 22nd and 30th; 1st-summer on Aug 28th; 1st-winter on Nov 2nd and Dec 20th. R. Thames, adult at Barnes on Jan 12th. Walton Res, 3rd-summer on July 11th.

**0592 Herring Gull***Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

Only reported in the breeding season from two colonies this year, see below. This is in stark contrast to the 93 pairs reported in 2000.

Essex Beckton SW, no counts were made, but a large colony still at this site and many young raised (the last count here was 36 pairs in 2001). Walthamstow Res, four pairs raised four young.

In the autumn and winter months, a selection of the largest counts from each county is shown in the table. Although there were some impressive counts from several sites in Surrey, elsewhere counting, especially at roosts was far more intermittent or non-existent. The October peaks at two Surrey sites are notable. Birds of the Scandinavian race *argentatus* were noted at several sites, including a small influx of up to 30 at Staines Res from Aug 11th.

|        |                   | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Aug | Sep  | Oct   | Nov  | Dec  |
|--------|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|
| Essex  | Rainham Marshes   | 1458 | 973 | -   | -   | -    | -     | -    | -    |
| Herts  | Amwell GP         | -    | 1   | -   | -   | -    | -     | 250  | 197  |
|        | Hilfield Park Res | 39   | 45  | 57  | 6   | 6    | 20    | 54   | 54   |
|        | Rye Meads RSPB    | 200  | 1   | 40  | 6   | 4    | -     | 4    | 5    |
| Middx  | Staines Res       | -    | -   | -   | 30  | 135  | -     | -    | -    |
| Kent   | Sevenoaks WR      | 21   | -   | 14  | -   | -    | 1     | 11   | 11   |
| Surrey | Beddington SF     | 1935 | 582 | 784 | 253 | 1150 | 3339  | 1413 | 1514 |
|        | Island Barn Res   | 47   | 29  | 92  | 15  | 120  | 2,480 | 692  | 581  |
|        | QEII Res          | 326  | 224 | 149 | 12  | 750  | -     | 325  | -    |
|        | Walton Res        | -    | 201 | 54  | 3   | -    | -     | -    | 166  |

In Lond The highest counts were only ten in Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns on Oct 14th and at Southbank on Jan 2nd; there were no breeding records.

### 0598 Iceland Gull

### *Larus glaucooides*

Status: scarce late winter and early spring visitor.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, an adult on Feb 5th (SC) and a 1st-winter on 10th was possibly an intergrade with Kumlein's Gull (SC).
- Herts Amwell GP, an adult in the roost on Jan 26th and 27th (TA, AJH, BR).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, an adult in the roost on Jan 26th, Feb 1st and on Mar 2nd, 5th and 8th. What was presumably the same bird, returned for its sixth winter on Dec 31st (CDRH *et al*).
- Surrey QEII Res, an adult on Jan 11th (DG, DMH).

### 0599 Glaucous Gull

### *Larus hyperboreus*

Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, a 1st-winter on Jan 1st (SRP).
- Herts Amwell GP, a 2nd-winter on Mar 2nd (BR).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a 2nd-summer on Feb 20th and Apr 11th (CDRH).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a 1st-winter on Jan 12th, probably the bird seen later in the month at QEII Res (JPA *et al*). QEII Res, a 1st-winter on Jan 25th (DMH, FJM, SJS) seen again here and at Walton Res on Feb 1st (DMH) and at Island Barn Res on Feb 12th (SJS).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Nov 17th (ARD).

- 0600 Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*  
 Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons.
- The highest counts in each sector are given where numbers exceeded 20 birds at some time during the year, together with all Inner London records.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, 550 on Jan 5th, 169 on Feb 16th, 22 on Apr 5th and 37 on Nov 30th. Walthamstow Res, 166 on Jan 5th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 30 on Jan 15th and 160 on Jan 25th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 30 on Jan 5th and 54 on Dec 27th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 87 on Nov 22nd and 153 on Dec 29th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 23 on Sept 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 72 on Jan 15th and 20 on Dec 30th. Holmethorpe SP, 20 on Jan 4th. London Wetland Centre, 58 on Mar 26th. QEII Res, 20 on Jan 19th. Walton Res, 103 on Jan 5th, 35 on Feb 11th, 29 on Nov 26th and 70 on Dec 18th.
- In Lond London Eye, one on Feb 7th. Millbank, one on Aug 20th. Regent's Park, one on Jan 16th, two on Jan 24th, and singles on Jan 27th and Nov 27th. R. Thames at Crown Reach, Pimlico, two on Jan 8th, singles on Feb 6th and June 10th and in the Southbank and Tate Modern area, throughout the year with maxima of 20 on Jan 2nd and seven on Dec 22nd.

- 0602 Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*  
 Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- Essex Grays, five on Jan 5th, one on Feb 22nd, one on Oct 20th, five on Dec 6th. KGV Res, one from Apr 4th-11th was found dead on Apr 12th.
- Middx Staines Res, singles on Apr 5th, 19th, 28th and May 14th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, ten adults on Apr 3rd, one on 6th and one on Dec 24th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Mar 25th. Dartford Marsh, eight flew W and one back E on Jan 4th. Greenwich Reach, an oiled bird on Jan 2nd. Northfleet, four flew E on Feb 4th and another on Feb 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on May 9th and Dec 2nd. QEII Res, a total of 37 flew over in groups of 34 SW, 1 SE and 2 SW in an hour on Jan 29th, one found dead on Feb 22nd and one flew S on May 19th.

- 0624 Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*  
 Status: uncommon, but annual, passage migrant.
- Essex KGV Res, one on Apr 24th (AM). Rainham Marshes, one on May 5th (SRP).
- Middx Staines Res, singles on Apr 15th (REI, PN, KLP) and May 1st (JE, DHy, AQ), and three on May 2nd (REI, KLP).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on May 30th (CDRH).

- 0627 Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*  
 Status: regular, often common, spring and autumn passage migrant, occasional in summer.
- The overall number of birds seen during the year was extremely low, with a particularly poor spring passage, and an only slightly better autumn producing a total of only 54 sightings of about 110 birds during the whole of 2003. The highest counts were of no more than three in spring, and ten in August.
- The first birds of the year were two at both KGV and Queen Mother Res on Apr 15th, and then one or two at five reservoirs on every day until 19th. After this small early arrival, the rest of April saw only one at KGV on 21st, three at Staines on Apr 25th and one here on 30th. In May, only four birds were seen, at Staines on 11th and 28th, QEII on 16th and at Queen Mother on 30th.
- The next birds to appear were singles at KGV and Wm Girling Res on June 29th and 30th, and in July singles on 2nd (at KGV and QEII), 16th (Queen Mother and Staines), 20th (Hilfield Park), 22nd (QEII) and 25th and 27th (KGV). Numbers increased in August, but there were no real influxes or high counts. The period Aug 3rd-6th saw seven at Staines and three at QEII on 4th and ten at Wm Girling on 6th. There was then four at Queen Mother and five at Staines on 11th, with the next records in the month not until 21st-28th and which included one at Dartford on 24th and three at Crossness on 25th and three at Staines on 28th. Low numbers continued through September with the highest counts of six at Queen Mother on 4th, six at Broadwater Lake on 14th, and five at Queen Mother on 15th. There were only two Lower Thames records in September, three at Crossness on 5th and one at Barking Bay on 19th. The last record of the year came from QEII with one on Sept 28th.
- 0611 Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*  
 Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in flocks.
- It was an excellent year, with a total of 60 sightings (the most ever) of 172 birds, this last figure only previously surpassed by the 186 birds seen in 1989. The record of two on Mar 12th (in Inner London) is the earliest ever spring record (previously Mar 17th 1991) and was the start of a very good spring passage with a peak between Apr 10th-28th when flocks including 11 and 14 were seen, coinciding with many Little Gulls and waders at inland sites. Summer records included seven at the Thames Barrier on June 6th and six at QEII Res on June 18th. Autumn passage got underway from Aug 17th and the last sighting was at Wraysbury GP on Oct 11th. All records are given.
- Essex Barking Bay, two on Aug 17th. Beckton SW, one on June 15th. Creekmouth, one on Sept 14th. East Ham, one on Sept 2nd. KGV Res, three on Apr 17th, two on 18th; three on May 3rd and two on Aug 20th. North Woolwich, singles on May 30th and Sept 14th. Rainham Marshes, two on June 28th; nine on Aug 24th; one on Sept 3rd and two on 5th. Walthamstow Res, one on Sept 20th. Wm Girling Res, four on Oct 4th.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, 14 on Apr 19th and four on July 12th. Watford, two or more heard overhead at 23.15 on Sept 19th.



- Middx Brent Res, two on Sept 21st. East India Dock Basin, one on May 26th. KGV Res, one on June 4th. Staines Res, three on Apr 19th; one on July 19th; five on Aug 25th, two on 26th, three on 27th and three on Sept 14th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Mar 24th and four on 31st; two on Apr 10th, five on 13th and 15th, 11 on 17th and singles on 21st, 22nd and 23rd; one on May 4th and 29th; six on Sept 14th and three on Oct 2nd. Wraysbury GP, one on Oct 11th.
- Kent Crayford Marsh, three on Sept 13th. Dartford Marsh, two on Aug 23rd and 24th, and five on Oct 4th. Grays, six on Sept 2nd. Greenhithe, five on Aug 25th. Northfleet, one on Sept 21st. Thames Barrier, seven on June 8th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, two on Apr 26th and two on Sept 20th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 31st and four on Apr 15th. QE II Res, singles on Mar 25th and Apr 18th; six on June 18th and singles on June 24th and Sept 14th. Walton Res, one on Apr 16th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, two on Mar 12th (ARD).

**0615 Common Tern*****Sterna hirundo***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasing as a breeding species.

At least 256 breeding pairs were reported this year, which is a good recovery from the low of 176 pairs in 2002, and is halfway back to reaching the record total of 2001. Total pairs at each site are given below (the number of pairs in brackets). Following this a summary of both spring and autumn migration is given, and also all Inner London records.

- Essex Holyfield Lake (1). Ingrebourne Valley (1). Nazeing GP (5). Walthamstow Res (42).
- Herts Amwell GP (8). Friday Lake (4). Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads RSPB (52). Seventy Acres Lake (10). Stocker's Lake (6). Tyttenhanger GP (4).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (15). Brent Res (42). East India Dock Basin (5). Ponders End Lake (22). Staines Res (15+). Stanwell Moor (1).
- Bucks Chalfont Park (1). Queen Mary Res (1). Thorney CP (10).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR (1).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (1). QEII Res (15+).
- Spring Average arrival dates for this species in spring have become much earlier over the last 15–20 years, but the four reported on Mar 19th at Tyttenhanger GP were the earliest ever. There were further singles on Mar 24th and on two other dates before the end of the month. Small numbers gradually built up in the first half of April, reaching double-figures by 13th, followed by an influx on a few large reservoirs between 14th–19th, when counts at Staines increased daily from 29 on Apr 14th to 95 on 17th, and at KGV Res from 20 on 14th to 60 on 19th and there were also 50 at Hilfield Park Res on Apr 15th. Numbers then tailed off slightly until a further increase at Staines to 109 on Apr 26th and 106 at Staines on May 4th. Passage birds continued to arrive up to mid May and there were 90 at Amwell on May 10th. Most birds seen after the middle of May were probably local breeding birds.
- Autumn The largest counts during the mid-summer were all at breeding colonies (including 147 at Walthamstow Res on July 27th), and it was August before

there was any real evidence of migration. After a count of 110 at Queen Mary Res on Aug 6th there were 149 at five sites on Aug 17th including 50 at Queen Mother Res and 90 at Walthamstow Res on Aug 18th. A count at West Thurrock saw 85 on the Thames on Aug 23rd followed by 120 flying W at Dartford Marsh the next day. There were 40 at Staines Res on Aug 30th. Numbers decreased rapidly in early September, with no counts of more than eight at inland sites after Sept 6th, although parties of 19 at Barking Bay on Sept 19th and 20 at Northfleet on 21st lingered on the Thames, before a final flurry of 120 flew upriver at Northfleet on Sept 22nd. There were only three October records, one at Horton GP and Queen Mother Res from Oct 3rd-6th, six at Grays on 13th, and the last of the year at Wm Girling Res on Oct 17th.

In Lond Canada Water, SE16, three pairs on tern raft on June 7th. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, singles on four dates between July 1st-Aug 3rd. Little Venice, singles on July 22nd and Aug 5th. Regent's Park, 1-4 seen on 20 days from June 1st-July 28th. Southbank, two on Sept 3rd. South Hampstead, three flew SE on July 14th. Tate Modern, two on June 13th and three on 19th, one on July 25th, and up to six from Aug 19th-Sept 18th. Waterloo Bridge, singles on July 7th and Sept 8th, and unidentified Common or Arctic Terns with c20 on Sept 3rd, four on 5th and singles on 6th and 10th.

**0616 Arctic Tern*****Sterna paradisaea***

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in large flocks.

Spring migrants were noted between Apr 5th and May 9th, but there were only three isolated flocks of 14, 16 and 18 during this period, and overall numbers were rather poor, with about 111 birds noted. There was a good early arrival in small numbers, with the first at Staines Res on Apr 5th followed by counts of up to five at seven different reservoirs until 15th. These counts increased with 14 at Brent Res on 16th and 17th, much in line with influxes of Little Gulls and other terns at around the same time. They were followed by flocks of 18 on Apr 30th and 16 the next day, and a further trickle of birds from May 5th-9th. Autumn produced about 43 birds from Aug 17th to Oct 20th and these were nearly all first-year birds. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay, three on Sept 14th. Grays one on Apr 20th. KGV Res, singles on Apr 6th and 7th, two on 10th, four on 11th and singles on Apr 12th, May 1st, May 9th and Aug 25th. Leamouth, four on Oct 3rd. Rainham Marshes, one on Sept 1st. Tilbury Docks, three on Oct 13th, two on Oct 16th and three on Oct 20th. Waterworks NR, singles on Sept 30th and Oct 3rd.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, two on Apr 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on May 5th.
- Middx Brent Res, two on Apr 13th and 14 on Apr 16th and 17th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 5th and 7th, five on 9th, two on 10th, 11th and 14th, singles on 15th, 18th and 19th with two on 27th; two on May 7th; singles on Aug 25th and Sept 2nd-3rd.
- Bucks Old Slade Lake, 18 on Apr 30th. Queen Mother Res, two on Apr 21st; singles on Aug 17th and 25th; one on Sept 3rd, two on 4th and 21st, three on 28th and two on 30th.
- Kent Crossness, two on Sept 22nd. Northfleet, four on Sept 22nd.

Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Apr 7th and two on 10th; two on May 6th and one on 7th. London Wetland Centre, one on May 6th. QEII Res, singles on Aug 29th and Oct 8th. Walton Res, four on Apr 13th and 16 on May 1st.

**0634 Common Guillemot**

*Uria aalge*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor; subject to occasional cold weather influxes.

Surrey R Thames at Bishop's Park, Fulham, one on Sept 6th was swimming towards Putney Bridge (DWs).

The second year in a row this auk has been recorded in the London Area.

**0665 Feral Rock Dove**

*Columbia livia*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Well reported in Essex, but few records of this much-ignored resident were received from elsewhere. The world famous Trafalgar Square flock of up to 4,000 birds had been much reduced by 2003, following the Mayor of London's initiative in banning food sellers. Maximum counts are given below.

Essex Abridge(280). Barking Abbey (275). Barking Park (380). Barking town centre (165). East Ham (245). Grays (260). Ilford (300). Rainham Marshes (350). Romford (440). Tilbury Docks (c500). Valentines Park (530). Walthamstow (200). Wanstead Flats East (370).

Herts Letchmore Heath (300).

Middx Lake Farm CP, Hayes (230).

Kent Dartford Marsh (184).

Surrey Croham Hurst, 330 flew E on Oct 11th.

In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns (400). Oval, SE11 (119).

**0668 Stock Dove**

*Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

Reported as breeding at over 50 sites with a minimum of 120 pairs which is probably very much an under estimate. The largest concentrations of breeding pairs (with the number of pairs or singing birds shown in brackets), as well of some of the largest flocks are given.

Essex Grange Waters, 39 on Oct 5th. Lords Bushes, Epping Forest (4). Paternoster Row, 100 on Apr 4th. Wanstead Park (15). Weald Park (4).

Herts Bricket Wood Common (12+). Brookmans Park, 125 on Feb 22nd. Cassiobury Park (8–10). Chiswell Green, 71 on Jan 4th. Coopers Green, 100 on July 27th. Coursers Farm (5–6). Lynsters Farm, 110 on Apr 15th. Old Parkbury, 71 on Nov 8th. Otterspool, 62 on Sept 28th. Rye Meads RSPB (9). Shenleybury, 68 on May 12th.

Middx Bushy Park (3–4). Osterley Park, 153 on Mar 7th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 100 on May 26th.

- Kent Ruxley GP, 40 on Dec 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 77 on Feb 26th. Bookham Common (6). Ewell, 60 at Howell Hill on May 4th. Ridlands, Moorhouse, 68 on Nov 12th. Trevereux area (7). West Ewell, 55 flew over on Nov 6th. Wimbledon Common (8).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Green Park, one displaying on Mar 3rd. Holland Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (4–5). Greville Place, NW6, one singing. Regent's Park, 20 on Jan 31st. Southbank, one flew N on Apr 8th. St James's Park, singles on Apr 11th, June 4th and 9th and July 18th. Tate Modern, five flew N on Apr 8th and one on Aug 20th.

**0670 Woodpigeon*****Columba palumbus***

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The few large counts received at the beginning of the year included 500 at Butler's Green, Radlett on Feb 22nd and Mar 2nd, 300 at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 8th and 220 at Horton CP on Mar 22nd. At Brent Res there were 500+ on the ground on Oct 4th and 400 in the Trevereux area on Dec 31st.

It is a very common breeding bird everywhere, and was again noted as having nested in Buckingham Palace.

The usual large late autumn movements over the metropolis were again noted and details are given below which summarises the counts when over 1,000 birds were seen. Typically the highest counts came from over Central London and Surrey, and were made mostly on clear days in the first few hours after dawn, with most birds moving between S and SW. Individual parties of birds can be very large. These counts do not include those from Hampstead Heath where autumn dawn flights peaked at 5,000 in 'late October'.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>No of sites</i> | <i>Total count</i> | <i>Details of highest count including direction of flight (where known)</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Oct 14      | 1                  | 3,800              | Regent's Park (3,800)   |
| Oct 25      | 4                  | 3,133              | Paddington (1,213 SW)   |
| Oct 26      | 1                  | 2,000              | Paddington (2,000 SW)   |
| Oct 27      | 4                  | 6,022              | Trevereux (3,200 SW)  |
| Oct 28      | 1                  | 1,080              | London Wetland Centre (1,080 SW)  |
| Nov 4       | 5                  | 8,320              | London Wetland Centre (4,895 SW)  |
| Nov 6       | 4                  | 9,106              | Trevereux (3,400 SW)  |
| Nov 7       | 4                  | 10,645             | Trevereux (4,800 SW)  |
| Nov 9       | 4                  | 1,675              | Brent Res (520 SW)  |
| Nov 16      | 2                  | 1,362              | Beddington SF (900 flew over)   |
| Nov 27      | 2                  | 1,304              | London Wetland Centre (804 SW)  |

These movements are also noted over the west side of the London area, but are rarely seen in Herts or Essex. It was interesting to note therefore that the total count on Nov 6th included 2,000 flying N (the wrong direction?) over Rainham Marshes in Essex, which is more in line with movements on the east coast at this time of year.

- 0684 Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
 Status: common breeding resident.
- Still a very common species in the outer suburbs, but which becomes increasingly less so as one approaches the centre of London and largely absent towards the inner zone. Records are given below of the largest counts, as well as those on the edge of the normal range of occurrence.
- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, 320 on Oct 28th. Leytonstone, four pairs bred in Fairlop Road area. Rainham Marshes, 110 on Nov 7th. Sewardstone, 40 at Cob Fields on Sept 3rd.
- Herts Batler's Green, Radlett, 50 on Nov 8th. St Albans, 80 at Nashes Farm on Sept 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, two pairs bred. Bushy Park, singles on Mar 2nd-9th and May 5th. Hampstead Heath, one on Feb 15th was the only record for the year. Stoke Newington Res, two on Apr 27th and one on Aug 17th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 75 on Nov 12th. London Wetland Centre, 10 flew W on Oct 11th. West Ewell, 34 flew over on Nov 6th:
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Jan 16th, Mar 12th and 28th and Oct 7th. Tate Modern, one on Apr 24th.

- 0687 Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*  
 Status: localised breeding summer resident and passage migrant.
- The majority of breeding reports again came from Essex, but also in Herts and Surrey where numbers were far fewer. Elsewhere there were few sightings, and none at all in Bucks or Inner London. All possible breeding records are given, with the number of pairs or singing males given in brackets, as well as a summary of other sightings. There was an early record this year on Apr 10th at Rye Meads, and the latest reported was at the London Wetland Centre on Oct 2nd.
- Essex Berwick Ponds CP (2). Bulphan Fen (1). Corbets Tey at Bush Farm (1). Curtis Mill Green (1). Fishers Green (1). Navestock (1). Netherhall, two in June and July. Noak Hill (1). Grange Waters, South Ockendon (2). Ongar at Greenstead Church (4). Park Farm Nursery (1). Paternoster Row (1). Upshire (1). Waltham Abbey Arboretum (1). Also reported from a further eight sites, mostly singles in May and August.
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Bricket Wood Common (1). Rye Meads RSPB (4). Stanstead Abbots GP (1). Beech Farm, two on Sept 2nd. Brookmans Park, one on observer's lawn on May 15th and 17th. Fishers Green (1). Letchworth, four on June 15th. Verulamium Park, St Albans, one on Apr 17th.
- Middx Singles at Staines Moor on Aug 27th, Stanwell Moor on Aug 10th and one flying N at Tottenham Marsh on May 30th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on June 4th and July 12th. Littlebrook Lake, two on May 20th. Swanscombe Marsh one on June 15th.
- Surrey Hackbridge (1). Hurst Green (3+). Limpsfield Chart (1). At Beddington SF 1-2 seen on 12 dates. Ewell Court, one on May 26th and 27th. Godstone, one on May 26th. Headley Heath, one on May 4th and 5th. Island Barn Res, one on May 3rd. London Wetland Centre, singles on May 21st and Oct 2nd. South

Norwood CP, one flew S on June 2nd. West Ewell, one flew S on Sept 6th. Tooting Common, one on Sept 16th.

**0712 Ring-necked Parakeet**

*Psittacula krameri*

Status: feral breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

The main roost at Hersham reached nearly 7,000 birds in August. Small numbers are now well established in Inner London and Hampstead Heath, and in the northwest birds are now being seen regularly further north than ever before. There were more records than usual across the Herts border, still mostly singles, but one count of six together. There was also an increasing number of records in south Essex, possibly from the Kent population. The following includes all breeding records and a summary for each county.

- Essex Reported from 12 sites, all singles except for five which flew S over Walthamstow Marsh on Oct 26th
- Herts Reported from seven sites, all singles except for six at Oxhey on Nov 10th.
- Middx Reported from 20 sites. Bushy Park, at least five pairs on territory, and 300 flew through on Oct 4th. Edgware, bred in Canon's Park. Greenford, nine on Sept 16th. Hampstead Heath, a small breeding colony now established in Kenwood. Horsenden Hill, 36 on Nov 7th. Ickenham and Ruislip area, 'much more noticeable in the area', with up to 19 in Nov. Osterley Park, 91 flying to roost on Nov 23rd. Teddington, up to 20 during the year.
- Bucks Reported from nine sites. Black Park, birds seen at nest holes. Iver Heath, 12 on Sept 6th. Langley Park, 20 on Nov 17th, including at least five pairs investigating nest holes. Queen Mother Res, 60 over on Oct 21st. Wraysbury GP, 150+ on Aug 23rd.
- Kent Reported from 14 sites. Bexley Wood, 100+ on Aug 25th. Foots Cray Meadows, 20 in Jan and Feb. Greenwich Park, up to 20 from mid-Aug. Ruxley GP, 11 on Dec 5th. Wilmington, 14 on Sept 15th. There were no counts from the Lewisham Crematorium roost during the year.
- Surrey Reported from 28 sites. Cannon Hill Common, pair in tree hole. Cobham, 16 in garden on Feb 9th. Croydon, up to 18 in garden in Feb. Ewell, two nests located. Hersham, 6,918 leaving the main roost site at Esher RFC at dawn on Aug 24th. This roost moved between here and Esher SF at least twice before the end of the year. London Wetland Centre, 44 on Nov 17th. West Molesey, 1,500 flew SW to roost on July 9th, Molesey Heath, three territories. Norwood, 20 on Oct 1st. West Ewell, 54 flew W on June 16th.
- In Lond Green Park, six on Aug 27th. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, up to eight during the year, and seen prospecting nest holes. Oval area, SE11, one on May 31st. Regent's Park, four on Sept 17th and 21st and one on Dec 15th. South Hampstead, nine flew SW on May 9th. St James's Park, singles on May 2nd and June 4th.

**0724 Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first bird of the spring was early, at Bookham Common on Apr 4th, and the next report came from Stoneleigh on Apr 10th. There was a widespread arrival from Apr 13th and there were reports from twenty different places by 22nd.

During the spring and summer birds were reported on more than just one date at 18 sites in Essex, 10 in Herts, five in Middlesex, one in Bucks, five in Kent and seven in Surrey. There were at least five singing males at Rainham Marshes, four at the Frost site in the Lea Valley, and three at Sewardstone Marsh and Hornchurch CP. Two rufous-phase females were seen at Hornchurch CP on May 31st.

Most birds had gone by the end of June, and there were nine records from eight sites in July, followed by singles in August at Bushy Park on 3rd, at Park Farm, Enfield on 8th and in a Staines garden on Aug 24th. The final report of the year was from Beddington SF on Sept 1st.

**0735 Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident.

Although sightings in Essex and Herts outside the breeding season remain at a high level compared to recent years, only one pair was proved to have bred (in Herts) which is quite a downturn compared to the number of breeding records in 2002.

Essex Cranham, one on Feb 19th. Harold Wood, one on Mar 23rd. Lambourne End, one on Feb 14th. Lippitts Hill, one on May 3rd and 14th. Rainham Marshes, one on Dec 12th.

Herts Location A, one pair bred. Bedmond, one from Apr 4th-16th. Beech Farm, one on several dates in Jan and Feb, on Aug 10th and again on Nov 1st, Dec 17th and 30th. Colney Heath, one found dead on Feb 17th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Feb 17th. Hilfield Park Res, two on Apr 14th. Letty Green, one on Feb 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jan 1st.

Kent Dartford Marsh, one on May 8th, May 31st and July 15th.

Surrey Chasemoor Farm, Downside, one on Dec 6th and two on Dec 8th.

**0757 Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident.

Reported at 91 localities during the year (compared with 81 in 2002) with over a third of these sites in Herts. About 29 pairs were present or on territory during the summer months and are given below with the number of pairs in brackets.

Essex Fairlop (2). Hayes Hill Farm (1). Holyfield Hall Farm (2). Navestock (1). Sewardstone Marsh (1). South Weald (1). Stapleford Tawney (1). Weald Park (2).

Herts Aldenham GC (1). Bricket Wood Common (4+). Chiswell Green (1). Colney Street (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Letchmore Heath (1). Stocker's Farm (1).  
 Middx Edgware (1). Horsenden Hill (1).  
 Kent Dartford Marsh (1).  
 Surrey Beddington SF (1). Cannon Hill Common (2). Island Barn Res (1).  
 In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Feb 13th, Mar 25th and Oct 9th.

**0761 Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***  
 Status: common breeding resident.

Birds were seen or heard at 70 localities during the year, which is slightly fewer than the previous two years. At many of these sites only recorded during the winter and autumn, but a total of 23 pairs were reported as having bred or were present in the breeding season. One of the best places to see this owl in London is the famous 'Owl Tree' in Bushy Park where the daytime roost was occupied by at least two birds during both winter periods. In the centre of London, pairs bred again at Hampstead Heath and in Inner London. All Inner London records are given below.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, a sick bird was found on July 21st. Holland Park, one pair probably bred. Hyde Park, one was heard in the spring. Kensington Gardens, one was regularly seen between Jan 1st-Feb 6th and may have been the same bird that was found dead on Mar 17th. Regent's Park, one pair bred. South Hampstead, one on Jan 20th and Mar 4th.

**0767 Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***  
 Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare breeder.

Breeding was reported at the same two sites as in 2002. Elsewhere, only few other records.

Essex Location A, one pair bred, with at least two young seen. Ingrebourne Valley, singles on Jan 4th, 5th and 24th (LH) and Apr 13th and 19th (DMn). Sewardstone Marsh, one from Dec 14th-31st (NSh *et al*).  
 Herts Beech Farm and Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Feb 17th (SC).  
 Kent Location B, a juvenile seen in June and July.

**0768 Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***  
 Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in summer.

In the first winter period there were records up to Apr 30th, and the first autumn sighting came on Sept 27th. The only regular wintering site was at the Beech Farm and Hatfield Aerodrome area of Herts, which had up to four birds. At Rainham Marshes, birds were far less regular, with very few in the second half of the year. Elsewhere, there were only a handful of records during the year, all of single birds.



- Essex Bentley, at The Mores Wood, one on Apr 16th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Oct 12th. Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 5th and one on 9th; one on Feb 8th, two on 16th, one on 24th and two on 26th; two on Mar 23rd; and singles on Oct 16th and Dec 30th.
- Herts Beech Farm and Hatfield Aerodrome area, seen on many dates during the first three months with a maxima of four in Jan, three in Feb and four in Mar; singles on Apr 30th and Nov 1st, and then 1–2 in Dec.
- Middx Staines Moor, singles on Jan 3rd, 17th and Mar 23rd. Staines Res, one flew off W on Nov 16th and then over KGVI Res and Staines Moor.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one flew off SW on Nov 24th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 4th and Oct 24th. QEII Res, one on Sept 27th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Oct 24th (ARD).

**0778 European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*  
 Status: rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

- Essex Thorndon CP, a presumed migrant on May 20th (MBr).
- Surrey At one site, a male churring on June 14th. At a second site, one on June 20th. Wimbledon Common, one in flight during the early hours of the morning on Sept 13th (DT).

The two June records were both from former breeding sites, and are the only evidence that this species may still breed in the London Area.

**0795 Common Swift** *Apus apus*  
 Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Four birds at Island Barn Res on Apr 17th were the forerunners of a good arrival which started as a trickle but soon became a flood, and numbers reached 200 at Staines Res and Broadwater Lake by 25th, and 1,000 at Staines by Apr 28th (in heavy rain) followed by 1,300 at Walthamstow Res on Apr 29th and 1,000 on May 2nd. Many sites reported their first birds towards the end of April. Good numbers were seen over various reservoirs during May 15th-18th, with counts of 1,500 at Brent Res, 1,000 at both KGVI and Staines and 1,300 at Walthamstow Res. Two partial albino birds were amongst spring flocks at Staines Res between Apr 27th and May 15th and one of these was possibly that seen at Beddington SF on May 20th.

The largest midsummer feeding flock was 1,300 at QEII Res on June 6th. On Aug 2nd, flying ants attracted over 1,000 briefly to Brent Res and steady passage was recorded at Horton CP on Aug 3rd (250 in one and a half hours). Numbers during the rest of August were very low. A few small parties remained in to September with one at the Wetland Centre on Sept 13th the last to be seen.

The very few breeding reports received were mostly from east London, where there were 80 or more pairs in Dagenham, 10 pairs in Grays and 20+ pairs in Ilford. Records from Inner London are summarised below.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, two on May 17th. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, up to 60 seen between May 11th and July 27th. Paddington, 40+ on May 2nd. Regent's Park, recorded between Apr 24th and Sept 1st with 25 on May 1st and 40 on May 13th. St Johns Wood, 40 flew SE on Aug 3rd.

**0798 Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*  
Status: vagrant.

Middx Brent Res, one on May 5th (ISE).

The 17th record for the London Area. A second record from 2003 which was accepted by BBRC was not accepted by the LNHS.

**0831 Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*  
Status: breeding resident, locally common in some areas.

A total of 43 pairs were reported during the year, which is about average in recent years. The locations where pairs were known to have bred or possibly bred are shown below, the number of pairs at each site given in brackets. A few high counts of birds and all Inner London records are also detailed.

Essex Barking Park (1). Belhus Woods CP (1). Cornmill Meadows (1). Hornchurch CP (1). Purfleet Chalk Pits (1). Rainham GP (1). Rainham Marshes (1). R. Roding at Redbridge (1) and South Woodford (1). Walthamstow Res (2), six on Sept 14th. Wanstead Park (2).

Herts Amwell GP (1). Bricket Wood Common (1). Broad Colney Lakes (1). Hertford (1). Kings Langley on R Gade (1). Otterspool (1). Rye Meads RSPB (1). Seventy Acres Lake (1). Sopwell (1). Waltham Abbey (1). Watford at Oxhey Park (1) and The Grove (1).

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Brent Res (2). Bushy Park (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Minet CP (1). Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1).

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 14 different birds trapped during the year.

Kent Bexley Wood (1). Ruxley GP, five on Oct 28th. Sevenoaks WR, six on Sept 24th.

Surrey Beddington SF (1). East Molesey (1). Hurst Green (1). Morden Hall Park, four on Mar 15th. R. Hogsmill at West Ewell, four on Dec 1st. R. Mole at Leatherhead (4). R. Wandle between Butter Hill and Morden Hall Park (3). R. Wandle between Carshalton and Wandsworth, nine on Dec 30th. Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond Buckingham Palace, one in Mar. Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 5th and 10th and July 27th and 30th. Regent's Park, one on July 23rd and Aug 5th. Tate Modern, one on Jan 27th.

- 0846 Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*  
 Status: vagrant.
- Essex Bulphan Fen, one from Mar 25th-27th was photographed (NSd, DWb). Dagenham, one in the observer's garden on June 19th (LS).
- The first year in which there was more than just one record since 1996 (when three were seen). Spring records as early as March are unusual in London.
- 0848 Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant, usually in autumn.
- Essex Sewardstone, one for an hour on Sept 5th (AM *et al*). Weald Park, one on Sept 1st (CRJ).
- Middx Brimsdown, one on Sept 2nd (mo). Wormwood Scrubs, one on Sept 7th (DJL *et al*).
- Surrey New Malden, one in a garden on Apr 25th (RJD).
- A rare spring sighting to add to the three in autumn, which were typically all in September.
- 0856 Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*  
 Status: common breeding resident.
- This year only reported at 152 sites, down on the 171 sites in 2002, although this figure is probably meaningless. It does not seem to be any less common than in previous years and still breeds in Inner London. The vagaries of recording are such that Essex reports came from 66 localities within the London Area, yet only seven sites apparently held birds in the whole of Middlesex, and none west of the Brent Res, which is clearly not the case in reality.
- Places with high numbers of breeding pairs or individual birds are detailed below, as well as a summary of Inner London records.
- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, seven territories. Wanstead Park, eight territories.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common, 12+ territories. Garston, six territories. Radlett, 5-6 territories.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, nine on Apr 9th and July 23rd.
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP, six on Sept 9th. Wimbledon Common, over 20 pairs were thought to be present here.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, singles on May 23rd and Aug 20th. Kensington Gdns, one pair bred raising one young. Regent's Park, four juveniles on June 30th. South Hampstead, one on Feb 14th. St James's Park, one on Sept 29th.

**0876 Great Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Compared with 2002, only reported from 132 sites this year (174 in 2002) but as the majority of these records came from Essex, Herts and Surrey, with hardly any at all from Middlesex or Bucks, this is probably not significant. Conversely, the number of pairs reported as holding territory increased to 207 (184 in 2002), thanks to some very high counts of breeding territories in a few areas.

The largest counts of territories (numbers in brackets) and individual birds are shown below, together with a summary of Inner London sightings.

- Essex Epping Forest (39 at 15 different sites). Harlow, Parndon Wood (5). Ingrebourne Valley (5). Ongar Park Wood (6). Thorndon CP (5).
- Herts Cassiobury Park (5+). Garston (6).
- Middx Brent Res, six on Mar 16th. Trent Park, ten on Mar 24th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, six on Mar 19th.
- Surrey Bookham Common (28+). Cannon Hill Common, six on Feb 5th. West End Common (6). Wimbledon Common (22).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, singles on Feb 5th and Apr 22nd. Green Park, singles on Jan 3rd, Feb 14th and Nov 25th. Holland Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2-3). Regent's Park, one on Mar 23rd and three on May 17th. South Hampstead (1). St James's Park, singles on six dates from Feb 28th-Aug 6th, and two on Sept 24th.

**0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos minor*

Status: no longer common breeding resident, having suffered rapid declines in recent years.

The number of sites at which this woodpecker was recorded during the last three years is given in the table. After an apparent decline in 2002, these figures are close to those of 2001, although there may be some bias in the fact that given its known scarcity, more individual sightings tend to be reported than in the past, especially from sites where it is considered unusual.

|        | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | Total |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| 2001   | 35    | 7     | 14    | 0     | 11   | 20     | 87    |
| 2002   | 21    | 15    | 16    | 2     | 5    | 18     | 77    |
| Change | -14   | +8    | +2    | +2    | -6   | -2     | -10   |

Sites where this species was reported during the breeding season are listed below, as is the first Inner London record since 1999.

- Essex Bedfords Park. Belhus Woods CP. Cornmill Meadows. Epping Forest. Harold Hill. The Mores Wood, Bentley. Valentines Park, Ilford. Wanstead Park.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common. Brookmans Park. Oxhey.
- Middx Brent Res. Bushy Park. Hampstead Heath. Horsenden Hill. Trent Park.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Bookham Common. Lonsdale Road Res. Morden Hall Park. Richmond Park. South Norwood Lake. Tooting Common. Wimbledon Common.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Jan 23rd (ARD).

- 0974 Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant and recently re-established rare breeder.
- Essex Copped Hall Estate, one flew over on Oct 15th (AM). Rainham GP, one on May 4th (DMn).
- Middx Trent Park, one on Mar 4th (RMC, BRs).
- Surrey At a previous breeding site, up to four birds were present between Mar 9th and May 18th. At another such site, the only record was of three on Sept 14th. Four more birds were present at a third former breeding site from Aug 27th–Sept 7th. London Wetland Centre, one flew NW on Apr 18th (RK). QEII Res, one on the reservoir bank on Aug 14th (SJS).
- A disappointing year for breeding birds in Surrey with no evidence of breeding at the two sites where this was proved in 2002, although the presence of up to four birds in the spring at one of these sites suggests that breeding was at least attempted.
- 0976 Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*  
 Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.
- Large feeding flocks outside the breeding season, which used to be relatively commonplace in suitable habitat, were very few and far between this year; at only one site did any count reach 100. Highest counts at the beginning of year were 60 at Bucks Hill, Watford on Jan 1st, 50 at Smallford on Jan 31st, and 45 at Rainham Marshes on Feb 16th. There were 55 at Beech Farm on Nov 30th, and in December, 100 at Rushett Farm on 7th, 75 in the Copthall Green and Copped Hall areas on Dec 15th and 50 at Tyttenhanger GP on Dec 31st.
- Singing males were reported in the breeding season from a total of 42 sites with about 239 pairs or territories estimated. The few comments received concerning the status of this species refer to a continuing decline in the breeding population. In Essex, Rainham Marshes again held the largest number of pairs with 45 within the NR boundaries and seven outside. There were 13 territories at Dagenham Chase and 11 at Wanstead Flats East. In Herts, the Chiswell Green and Potters Crouch area held 15 territories and there were nine singing males at Essendon on Apr 29th. Bushy Park in Middlesex had 8–9 nests, and at Staines Moor there were ten singing in March. In Bucks, there were 12 singing on June 9th at Woodlands Park GP.
- Little visible migration was reported during the usual late autumn period, and most counts were small. The highest counts all came in late October: at Staines Moor, there were 35 on 17th; peak counts at the London Wetland Centre were 55 which flew NW on 24th, and 70 W on 28th; 55 flew NW at Beddington SF on 25th and 36 flew NW over Rainham Marshes on 25th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three on Feb 25th and 1–2 on four dates from Oct 10th–Nov 18th but 18 on Nov 6th (ARD). Southbank, three flew N on Oct 17th. Tate Modern, one on Oct 28th (DGD).

**0981 Sand Martin*****Riparia riparia***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first bird of the spring was one at Beddington SF on Mar 5th, an early arrival date only twice bettered in the previous ten years, and was soon followed by another at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 7th and at three sites on 9th. Birds were then recorded in increasing numbers on every day except one during the rest of March, reaching 50 at Amwell GP on 27th and Staines Moor on 31st. The main arrival was in April with 100 at Staines Res on 19th, 150 at Hilfield Park Res on Apr 28th and then 100 at Sevenoaks WR on May 12th.

Details of the ten breeding colonies are shown below (with comparative figures for 2002 in brackets where known), and also all Inner London records. No details were received from four of the eight colonies reported in 2002, but there were six sites with apparently new colonies in 2003, which is encouraging.

- Essex Berwick Pond Farm Reservoir Project, 34 nest holes in a trench specifically built for Sand Martins. Rainham GP, three pairs bred (12 in 2002). R. Roding at Barking, three pairs bred (7 in 2002). Walthamstow Res, one pair. Wennington at Havering Aggregates site, 15 pairs bred at this new locality.
- Herts Bayford, 20 pairs bred at Bunkers Hill Quarry.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two pairs bred (1–2 in 2002). Holmethorpe SP, 28 occupied nests. London Wetland Centre, a pair prospecting and carrying nest material at the new artificial bank. Walton Res, 69 nest holes (54 in 2002).
- In Lond Paddington, W2, eight on July 29th were hawking insects around the top of a twenty-story tower block. Regent's Park, one on Mar 21st, two on Apr 1st, three on Aug 29th, six on Aug 31st and singles on Sept 1st and 19th.

Post breeding flocks were few and far between, but included 100 at QEII Res on July 25th and 186 at Walton Res on Aug 1st. By the end of August there were still 100 at Coppermill Filter Beds on 27th and 70 at Brent Res on 30th, but these were the largest autumn counts reported, and it would seem that most had departed by Sept 10th when the last double figure flock was seen. Few lingered into October with the last seen at the Wetland Centre on 23rd.

**0992 Swallow*****Hirundo rustica***

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Spring passage was well reported as usual, with the first bird at Brent Res on Mar 23rd, and then a further nine birds seen at five sites during the rest of March. During the first week of April many more localities had their first birds, and then numbers began to increase very slowly during the next two weeks, with up to 25 birds in a few places. A good arrival was noted on Apr 19th with 156 counted at nine sites, and poor weather during Apr 25th–28th saw large numbers feeding over open water in often heavy rain. Counts included 150 at Island Barn Res on Apr 25th, and the next day there were 160 at Island Barn, 100 at KGV Res and 85 at the Wetland Centre. A deep depression on 28th saw counts of 150 at Dagenham Chase, 300 at the Nags Head Fishing Lakes,

300 at Hilfield Park Res, 100 at Staines Res, 150 at Beddington SF and 200 at the Wetland Centre. Passage continued during May with 300 at KGV Res on May 2nd, and overland movement was noted when 60 flew NW in 1.5 hours at Horton CP on May 3rd.

Breeding records received were mostly of single pairs in the rural outer fringe of the Area, but too few were reported for any comment to be made on current breeding status. More reports would be welcome. A few sites had good numbers of birds nesting such as at Belhus Woods CP (six pairs), Bricket Wood Common (6), Chiswell Green area (4), Bentley Priory (5) and Hampton Court Park (3).

Autumn migration was rather a moderate affair, and although there were some large gatherings in late August and early September, numbers reported in the second half of September were very low compared with most years. The first signs of autumn came at the end of August with 100 at Weald Park on 25th and 100 at Staines Res on 28th and 31st. A few places had high counts in September, with 150 at Hornchurch CP, 200 at Tylers Common, and 300 at Hampstead Heath all on Sept 3rd, but there were very few on the reservoirs at the time. More typically, 131 flew S at the London Wetland Centre on Sept 6th, as did 500 at Beddington SF on Sept 14th, but such large numbers were mostly absent at other sites. No counts of more than 40 were received during late September up until Oct 3rd, but small numbers continued to be seen throughout October until 27th. The only November record was of one at the London Wetland Centre on Nov 12th and 13th.

#### 1001 House Martin

#### *Delichon urbicum*

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

There were only two single birds reported in March this year, at KGV Res on 29th and at Staines Moor on 31st, and there were not many more birds seen during the first two weeks of April. As the month progressed, higher numbers began to appear and the first real arrival came on Apr 19th when 64 were seen at nine sites (including flocks of 20 at two of these). Numbers increased still further during poor weather on Apr 28th and 29th, and included 100 at Dagenham Chase, 150 at Hilfield Park Res, 200 at Beddington SF and 130 at the London Wetland Centre, all on 28th, and 120 at Brookmans Park and 170+ at Tyttenhanger GP the next day. Further counts of over 100 came from the Wetland Centre on May 2nd and 12th, and there was a large flock of 500 at Amwell GP on May 16th.

Autumn passage started slowly but there were 167 at Thorndon CP on Aug 23rd, 300 over Walthamstow Marsh and Res on Aug 27th, and then counts of 200 at Ingrebourne Valley on Sept 5th and Alexandra Park on Sept 12th. Few were then reported until 200 at the Wetland Centre on Sept 22nd and 200 at Brent Res on Sept 23rd, with 600 at Hampstead Heath also on 23rd. Mostly smaller numbers remained into October, but 100 flew ESE at the Wetland Centre on Oct 2nd and 51 were at Island Barn Res on Oct 10th. There was a flurry of late sightings during Oct 22nd-26th with the last report of eight at Island Barn Res on this latter date.

Reports of nesting birds were received from the following areas. A summary of Inner London records is also given.

- Essex Chafford Hundred. Chingford. Chingford Plain. East Ham. Hornchurch. Romford. Waltham Abbey. Walthamstow Res.
- Middx Enfield. Hampton Wick. Hanworth. Stanwell. Stanwell Moor. West Hendon Broadway.
- Kent Dartford. Littlebrook PS.
- Surrey Barnes. Bookham Common. Chasemoor Farm. Downside. Sanderstead. Sutton. Wimbledon. Wimbledon Common.
- In Lond Chelsea Wharf, 11–13 pairs nested. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, at least five pairs bred. Regent's Park, noted from Apr 22nd-Oct 7th, maxima of 70 on Sept 17th and 18th, and 100 on Sept 19th.

**0995 Red-rumped Swallow**

***Cecropis daurica***

Status: rare vagrant

- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 28th (FJM *et al*).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 28th (APt *et al*).

Both of these birds were watched simultaneously at their respective locations during the afternoon of Apr 28th, and stayed long enough to be seen well by numerous observers, in amongst many other hirundines feeding in heavy rain. They were part of a major influx into the UK during spring 2003, with many of these in late April. The 11th and 12th records for the London Area, and the second for Beddington and the third for Staines. The *British Birds* Rarities Committee has accepted these two records.

**1009 Tree Pipit**

***Anthus trivialis***

Status: passage migrant and decreasing breeding summer visitor.

First arrivals this year were at three sites on Mar 18th (including one in Inner London) and about 16 single birds away from probable breeding areas were reported up to May 4th. Autumn passage was mostly between Aug 16th and Sept 16th, and included records from Hampstead Heath of three on Aug 28th and four on 31st, but there were also October birds reported from the London Wetland Centre on 3rd and Wimbledon Common on 26th.

All possible breeding records are given below, as well as an Inner London sighting.

- Essex Chingford Plain, one on May 3rd. Epping Forest, two territories at each of three sites. Hornchurch CP, one on July 6th.
- Herts North Mymms Park, one singing on May 14th and June 17th.
- Surrey Limpsfield Chart, one singing on Apr 11th, 12th and 15th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 18th (ARD).



**1011 Meadow Pipit*****Anthus pratensis***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor and common but localised breeder.

Small numbers were widespread at the beginning of the year, with the highest counts of 100 at Leyton Marsh on Feb 1st and 60 at Hersham GP on Feb 20th. Spring passage was evident by early March, and the highest numbers passed through at the end of March and early April. During this period there were 100 at both Copped Hall and Edgware on Mar 28th, and a total of 403 birds counted at 13 sites on Apr 1st, including 130 at the London Wetland Centre, where there were also 143 on Apr 4th. In autumn, there were few days when any visible migration was noted. Highest counts came towards the end of September and into early October, when counts of 104 at Staines Moor on Sept 28th were followed by 125 there on Oct 2nd, and 150 at Beddington SF on Oct 5th. During the last two months of the year, no site held more than 40 birds.

Breeding records are given below (with figures for breeding pairs or number of singing males—or other evidence of breeding—given in brackets) together with a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (6). Fairlop (8). Rainham Marshes (23). Stubbers OPC (3). Wanstead Flats East (3). Yates Meadow (1).
- Herts Beech Farm (4). Kings Langley (1). Leavesden Green (3).
- Middx Bushy Park ('did very well this year'). Heathrow Airport (1). Lake Farm CP (5). Minet CP ('bred'). Staines Moor (3+). Wormwood Scrubs (2–3).
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1). Greenhithe (1). Swanscombe Marsh (1).
- Surrey Riverside Open Space, Molesey (2). Walton Heath (c20). Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 14th and 31st, Mar 14th, 23rd, 27th and 31st. Paddington, 49 S/SW on Oct 25th. Regent's Park, three on Jan 31st and one on Feb 23rd, and in spring from Mar 14th–Apr 4th, and in autumn from Sept 15th–Nov 24th, with peaks of 20 on Apr 1st, Sept 24th and Oct 6th. Tate Modern, singles on Sept 23rd and 24th, Oct 28th and Nov 6th.

**1014 Rock Pipit*****Anthus petrosus***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Two sites along the Thames held the majority of birds during the winter months, with numbers far above the average at Rainham in both February and December. Highest counts in each month at both sites are given in the table.

Many observers believe that most of those birds wintering along the Lower Thames are birds of the Nordic and Russian race '*littoralis*' (Scandinavian Rock Pipit) that is virtually identical to the W European race in winter, but some of which acquire a distinctive summer plumage. Many of the birds at Swanscombe Marsh in March apparently showed characters of this race.

|       |                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Rainham Marshes    | 12  | 26  | 6   | 1   | 1   | 11  | 20  |
| Kent  | Swanscombe Marshes | 15  | 4   | 15  | -   | 2   | -   | -   |

A summary of records from other sites is given under counties below. The majority of records away from the Thames conformed to the usual pattern of occurrence, with very small numbers in spring (mostly March) and more widespread in autumn between late-September and November. The number of birds seen this year away from the Thames was not particularly high during either period.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Dec 30th. Nags Head Fishing Lakes, one on Feb 19th. Grays, up to three in Feb, two on Mar 3rd and three on Dec 6th. KGV Res, singles on Sept 28th, 30th, Oct 13th and 21st. Walthamstow Res, singles on Feb 2nd, Mar 15th, Mar 20th and 25th, two on Oct 12th and one on Dec 14th. West Thurrock, three on Feb 1st.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Oct 1st and two on 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 30th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Oct 12th. KGVI Res, one on Sept 29th-30th, two on Oct 16th, one on 17th, two on 18th and one on 31st. Staines Moor, one on Mar 15th. Staines Res, one on Mar 21st, two on 22nd and one on 23rd-24th, and singles on seven dates from Sept 29th-Oct 22nd with two on Oct 21st, then one on Nov 8th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Feb 26th and Mar 14th then on six dates from Sept 26th-Oct 25th with two on Oct 11th and 21st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 4th, two on Jan 11th and Dec 7th. Greenhithe, three on Jan 5th and one on Oct 19th. Littlebrook PS, one on Jan 29th. Northfleet, one on Oct 15th.
- Surrey Beddington SF singles on Apr 5th and 17th-19th and from Oct 2nd-19th with two on Oct 11th and 13th and 19th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 17th, two on Oct 13th and singles on 14th, 17th and Nov 6th. London Wetland Centre, on 12 dates from Oct 3rd-Nov 15th with four on Oct 21st, three on 22nd and three on Nov 15th. QEII Res, singles on Feb 26th, Mar 2nd and Oct 30th. Walton Res, two on Oct 11th and one on 17th.

## 1015 Water Pipit

## *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

The majority of birds were again found at just the three established but widely separated wintering sites in our Area. Numbers at Staines Moor reached their highest ever here in the first three months. Monthly maxima at these sites are shown below.

|        |                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex  | Rainham Marshes | 3   | 5   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 2   |
| Middx  | Staines Moor    | 14  | 14  | 16  | 7   | 5   | 4   | 6   |
| Surrey | Beddington SF   | 5   | 3   | 4   | 4   | 2   | 4   | 6   |

Elsewhere, numbers were lower and less regular, and many records could be clearly linked to one of the above sites, either on the Lower Thames (from

Rainham) or close to Staines Moor (mostly on nearby reservoirs). Some obvious migrants also appeared briefly at several places.

Reports from other sites are summarised as follows.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Mar 6th. Beckton SW, one on Oct 28th, two on Nov 18th and one on Dec 4th. Dagenham Chase, one on Mar 29th and 30th. West Thurrock, two on Feb 2nd.
- Middx KGVI Res, up to three from Oct 28th-Nov 27th. Staines Res, singles on Mar 4th and 5th, 23rd and Apr 6th, one on Nov 8th, three on 16th and one on 17th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 12th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles from Oct 24th-26th and on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one from Oct 21st-25th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 1st, two on 16th and 18th, three on 19th and one on Nov 17th. QEII Res, singles on Apr 9th and Oct 31st. South Norwood CP, one on Mar 8th. Spencer Road Wetland, Hackbridge, one on Oct 26th. Walton Res, one on Mar 22nd.

### 1017 Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing breeder.

The first spring record was at Queen Mother Res on Mar 25th. There were no high counts in spring and few records between May and July. Breeding pairs were again confined to just a few sites in Essex, two in Herts and one in Bucks. Autumn passage was widely noted as usual, with some good sized flocks at just a few sites, especially in late August around 24th-29th, but generally passage was at a lower level than 2002. The last bird was reported at Waterworks NR on Oct 12th.

In the following summary, all breeding records (with the number of pairs in brackets), the largest passage flocks, and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, 20 on Aug 29th and 40 on Aug 31st roosting in maize field. KGV Res, 15 on Sept 8th and 11th. Magdalen Laver (1). Rainham Marshes, 27 on Aug 24th and 15 on Sept 13th. Stubbers OPC (1). Wennington, Havering Aggregates (1).
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Fishers Green, 30 on Aug 29th and 15 on Aug 31st. Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx KGVI Res, 22 on Aug 29th. Staines Moor, 50 on Aug 29th, 30 on Sept 3rd, 22 on 7th, 40 on 12th and 17 on 30th. Stanwell Moor, 16 on Sept 10th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res (2) two pairs visiting site in May, a recently fledged juvenile in July and at least ten on Aug 24th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 26 on Sept 5th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, 12 on Aug 17th.
- In Lond Hoxton, one on Sept 16th. Regent's Park, two on Apr 15th and one on 29th, three on Aug 20th, and seven other autumn singles between Aug 20th and Oct 9th. Southbank, one on Sept 3rd.

Records of birds showing characters of races other than *M. F. flavissima* are given below.

**Blue-headed Wagtail*****M.f. flava***

- Essex KGV Res, two on Apr 13th (JGI). Rainham Marshes, a male on May 3rd (DCe).  
 Middx Staines Moor, a 'beema'-type male on Apr 12th and 15th (LD, REI *et al*).

Listing of birds under this heading does not signify racial purity, and indeed many birds that have been called Blue-headed Wagtails in the past may in fact be intergrades between *flava* and *flavissima* from a narrow hybrid zone in northern France, hence the widely-used name 'Channel Wagtail'. These hybrids are very variable, but one form resembles the nominate race *flavissima* except that the blue tones of the head are paler, and the white on the head is more extensive, particularly on the throat, ear-coverts and supercilium, and can thus closely resemble the race 'beema', of which there have been many reports in the past.

**1019 Grey Wagtail*****Motacilla cinerea***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The number of sites where birds were present in the breeding season was noticeably reduced in comparison with recent years, probably as a result of lack of reporting this year. This is shown in the following table, which gives the number of sites where the species was reported between April and July.

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 72   | 77   | 71   | 66   | 73   | 70   | 57   |

Details are given below are some of the largest gatherings of birds in the autumn and winter months, and also a summary of Inner London sightings.

- Essex Beckton SW, 12 on Oct 28th and Dec 16th. Nags Head Fishing Lakes, 13 on Feb 19th. Walthamstow Res, 17 on Jan 5th.  
 Herts Watford Link Road, 18 in reed bed roost on Jan 5th and 22 on Nov 12th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, eight on Oct 19th. London Wetland Centre, seven on Oct 11th.  
 In Lond Chelsea Wharf, a pair nested. Dalston, a male singing in Apr and May. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one regularly from Jan to Apr and one on July 28th. Regent's Park, 1–5 all year, a juvenile on May 4th. St John's Gdns, SW1, one pair bred nearby. Tate Modern, two in Apr. Other sightings were of 1–2 birds at Bedford Square (WC1), Bloomfield Villas (W2), Greville Place (NW6), Little Venice (W2), the London Eye Lower Marsh (SE1), R. Thames at Crown Reach, Royal Oak Underground (W2) and Southbank.

**1020 Pied Wagtail*****Motacilla alba***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding birds were present again in Inner London with a pair feeding young in the Buckingham Palace gardens, and fledged juveniles probably having been reared at two other sites.

Details of winter roosts and a few other favourite daytime feeding areas are given below, together with a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Coppermill FB, 63 on Sept 14th. Nags Head Fishing Lakes, 300 on Feb 20th and 150 on Oct 20th. KGV Res, 75 on Apr 6th. South Weald, 75 on Apr 9th and 84 on Apr 28th. Stratford, 97 roosting in the town centre on Feb 19th.
- Middx Heathrow Airport, pre-roost gatherings at the Cargo Terminal included 225 on Jan 22nd and 153 on Oct 23rd. Lower Holloway, N7, up to 200 at the usual roost site in Jan and Nov.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 93 on Oct 5th. Croydon, at the central roost there were 150–200 in Jan and c75 on Feb 27th, and at the North end roost there were 400 in Jan, 250 in Feb, 100 in Mar and 250–300 in Dec. Sutton, monthly maxima roosting in the High Street were 140 on Jan 27th, 120 on Feb 13th, 90 on Mar 28th and 100 on Dec 31st. Tolworth, a small roost of up to 12 birds.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one pair raised young. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a pair was thought to have bred nearby, nine on Sept 9th. Regent's Park, peak counts of 13 on July 28th, 32 on Aug 18th and 15 on Sept 30th. St James's Park, one on Feb 24th. Southbank, present in Jan and Feb. Tate Modern, singles on Oct 24th, Nov 11th and Dec 3rd. Vincent Square, SW1, one pair bred nearby.

#### 1020.01 White Wagtail

*M.a.alba*

Status: passage migrant, rarely identified in autumn.

First reported in spring as early as Mar 7th, this distinctive race of Pied Wagtail was recorded up to May 15th, but numbers remained low with only three sightings of more than two birds together and the highest count of four at Walton Res on Apr 14th. The few claims in autumn all came in September and October with a peak of five at Queen Mother Res on Sept 25th.

#### 1048 Waxwing

*Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: uncommon, but sometimes numerous, irruptive visitor.

About 92 birds were seen at 21 sites in the first three months of the year, and 12 birds at seven sites in the final three months.

- Essex Grays, one on Mar 1st (PMt). Harold Hill, one on Jan 28th and 29th (CRJ). Leyton Flats, eight flew S on Jan 31st (PHL). Seven Kings Park, four on Dec 28th (ELBF). Waltham Abbey, two on Feb 21st (HV). Woodford, two on Jan 24th (DI).
- Herts Cheshunt, singles on Feb 4th (TGd) and Dec 18th (JMF). Garston, one on Dec 25th (IB). Hatfield, 12 on Feb 18th (BG). Leavesden Green, two from Dec 23rd–25th (IB *et al*). Rickmansworth, ten by the Grand Union Canal on Jan 26th (BG). Turnford Brook, two from Feb 5th increased to four on 10th and five on 12th, four present until 17th and three until Mar 3rd (ADW *et al*).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Jan 25th (PJ *et al*). Enfield Lock, two on Feb 8th (SC *et al*). Ickenham, one photographed in January (*per* RDNHS). Northfields, one on Jan 26th (J Shelner). Potters Bar, two on Jan 25th and 26th (IS *et al*).

- Bucks Black Park, one on Dec 28th (CL).  
 Kent Dartford, 15 on Feb 26th (AL). Joyden's Wood, 17 on Feb 16th (AL). Kemsing, five on Jan 17th and 18th (*per* BG). Wilmington, one from Jan 26th-31st and two on Feb 1st and 2nd (BEW *et al*).  
 Surrey Hamsey Green, one on Mar 16th (JBk, EMe *et al*). London Wetland Centre, one heard calling on Nov 4th (RK). Richmond Park, three on Oct 9th (FDe). South Norwood CP, eight on Feb 5th (J Caddick).

**1066 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***  
 Status: abundant resident.

Highest counts of singing males (shown in brackets), other high counts, a comment on breeding success and Inner London reports are given.

- Essex Highams Park Lake, 20 on June 15th. Ingrebourne Valley (77). Parndon Wood, Harlow (18). Pole Hill, Epping Forest (15). Stubbers OPC (14). The Mores Wood, Bentley (29).  
 Herts Amwell GP (28). Mundens Estate, Watford (18). North Mymms Park, 38 on May 5th. Rye Meads RSPB (66).  
 Middx Bushy Park (25).  
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 15 trapped in July.  
 Kent Ruxley GP, 'a successful breeding season'.  
 Surrey Beddington SF (65). Cannon Hill Common (29). Esher Common (21). Headley Heath, 39 on May 18th. London Wetland Centre, 26 on Nov 28th. Morden Hall Park, 80 on Apr 18th. Leatherhead, along R Mole (45). Nower Wood (27). West End Common (20).  
 In Lond Buckingham Palace (4). Kensington Gdns (11). Lambeth (1). St George's Square, SE1 (1). Southbank (1). Vincent Square, SW1 (1).

**1084 Dunnock *Prunella modularis***  
 Status: abundant resident.

Amongst the few reports received of this very common species, a selection of sites is shown with the highest number of singing males (shown in brackets) or individual birds, as well as Inner London records.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (23). Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest (6). The Mores Wood, Bentley (5). Wanstead Park (6).  
 Herts Amwell GP (14). Beech Farm, 15 on Oct 11th. Rye Meads RSPB (44). Waterend, 10 on Aug 30th.  
 Kent Ruxley GP (8).  
 Surrey Beddington SF (24), 28 on Nov 12th. Bletchingley, 14 on Mar 21st. R. Mole at Leatherhead (6). Molesey Heath (11). Morden Hall Park, 28 on Apr 12th.  
 In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2). Lambeth (1). Vincent Square, SW1 (1).

- 1099 Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*  
 Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.
- Sites with at least ten singing males (number in brackets) or with high counts of individual birds (annual site maxima given) are shown below, and all Inner London records. Thanks to the British Trust for Ornithology for their 'Migration Watch' survey, which reveals just how abundant this species can be in certain localities, especially it would seem in some parts of Surrey.
- Essex Beckton Park (10). Fairlop (16). Ingrebourne Valley (33). Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest (21). Parndon Wood, Harlow (31). Stubbers OPC (12). The Mores Wood, Bentley (33). Wanstead Flats East (10). Wanstead Park (37). Weald Park (15).
- Herts Amwell GP (16). Mundens Estate, Watford (15). Rye Meads RSPB (32).
- Middx Bushy Park (23).
- Surrey Beddington SF (24), 36 on Sept 25th. Bletchingley, 13 on Feb 26th and Mar 19th. Cannon Hill Common, 22 on Feb 21st and May 28th. Godstone, 19 on Mar 30th. Headley Heath, 28 on May 28th. London Wetland Centre, 27 on Sept 9th. Morden Hall Park, 40 on Apr 12th. Nower Wood (22). R. Mole at Leatherhead (31). Tooting Common, 17 on Nov 6th and 16th. Wandsworth Common, 22 on Nov 13th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (3). Kensington Gdns (8). Victoria Tower Gdns, SW1 (1).
- 1104 Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*  
 Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.
- First reported at Fishers Green on Apr 4th, with the only autumn sighting at Sewardstone Marsh on Sept 6th and 7th. About 28–29 singing males or territories were reported at 15 sites with nine of these in Essex.
- Essex Chingford Plain, two singing on June 8th (ELBF). Cornmill Meadows, one singing on May 24th (LVPR) and 28th (LB). Fishers Green area, up to seven territories (LVPR *et al*). Frost Site (Lea Valley), at least three singing (RW). Kelvedon Hatch, one bird holding territory (DJo). Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest, two singing on May 7th (ELBF). Sewardstone, two singing at a private site in June (RW). Sewardstone Marsh, 4–5 territories, one on Sept 6th and 7th (mo). Waltham Abbey Arboretum, one on May 12th (BD).
- Bucks Wraybury GP, one from May 3rd–10th (mo).
- Kent Dartford Heath, one singing on May 6th (LN) and 8th (BEW). Dartford Marsh, one territory (DM, PR, BEW).
- Surrey Bookham Common, at least five territories (BTOMW, AFe, APe). Horton CP, males singing on Apr 22nd and May 3rd (PBw). South Norwood Lake, one for two minutes on Apr 27th (JF).

**1121 Black Redstart*****Phoenicurus ochruros***

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

All sites where there was some evidence of breeding activity are shown in the following table. Although there are a number of sites where this species seems to nest every year, these seem to be becoming less regular. The number of pairs reported this year is very disappointing.

|         |                 | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Singing males</i> |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Essex   | Canning Town    | -                            | 1                    |
|         | Convoys Wharf   | 1                            | -                    |
| Middx   | East India Dock | 1                            | -                    |
| Kent    | Littlebrook PS  | -                            | 1                    |
|         | Woolwich        | 1                            | -                    |
| In Lond | Battersea PS    | -                            | 1                    |
|         | Marylebone      | -                            | 1                    |

Other records outside the breeding season are shown as follows.

- Essex Beckton SW, one from Dec 10th-19th. Creekmouth, Barking, a male on Apr 6th. Gunpowder Park, one on Feb 6th. KGV Res, a female from Jan 4th-Apr 12th and a male on Jan 5th. Navestock, one on Mar 23rd. Purfleet, a female on Feb 1st and two on Sept 13th. Rainham Marshes, a female from Jan 26th-Mar 15th and a male on Sept 5th. Tilbury Docks, one on Feb 19th.
- Middx Brent Res, a female on Apr 13th. Staines Res, one on Nov 12th and 15th. Uxbridge one on Mar 14th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, a female on Apr 1st.
- Surrey Hogsmill SF, a male on Oct 27th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 21st and 22nd, two on Mar 23rd and one on Sept 6th-7th. South Norwood CP, one on Sept 30th. Walton Res, singles on Jan 3rd, 4th, 31st and Feb 16th.

**1122 Common Redstart*****Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

Status: uncommon passage migrant and former breeder.

Spring sightings were confined to just seven birds between Mar 31st and May 4th, all but one males, which were evenly scattered throughout this period.

Apart from one at Osterley Park on the unusual date of July 3rd, the autumn passage saw about 34 birds at 24 sites between Aug 23rd and Oct 18th. A count of four at Hornchurch CP on Sept 3rd was exceptional, but a further six sites had two together during the peak period from Aug 30th—Sept 7th. All records are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one from Aug 25th-Sept 1st and two on Sept 5th and 7th. Fishers Green, a male from Mar 31st-Apr 8th. Hornchurch CP, four on Sept 3rd, one on 4th and 6th, two from 7th-13th and one until 15th. KGV Res, a male on Apr 27th. Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 13th. Upminster, one on Aug 29th. Waterworks NR, a female on Apr 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Oct 18th. Butler's Green, two on Sept 6th. Blackbirds SF, one on Sept 13th. Brookmans Park, one on Sept 7th. Letchmore Heath, one on Aug 23rd. North Mymms Park, one on Aug 24th. Watford, one on Aug 30th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, a male on May 4th.



- Middx Hampstead Heath, two on Aug 30th and one on Sept 5th. Hampton, one on Oct 14th. Horsenden Hill, one on Aug 20th and two on 30th. Hounslow Heath, two on Sept 7th. Middx FB, one on Aug 25th. Mudchute Park, a male on Apr 14th. Osterley Park, a male on July 3rd. Trent Park, a male on Apr 13th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Aug 30th-Sept 5th with two on Sept 1st-4th. Yeading Brook Meadows, one on Sept 14th.
- Bucks Arthur Jacobs NR, one on Aug 30th. Wraysbury GP, one on Oct 10th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one from Sept 4th-12th. London Wetland Centre, a male on Apr 16th and singles on Sept 1st, 6th and 26th. Lonsdale Road Res, one on Sept 3rd.

**1137 Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
 Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

A remarkably early bird at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 10th was the first of the year. No more were seen for over a month, with one at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Apr 16th, was the next to be reported. Peak numbers were reached between Apr 26th and May 3rd, but with no more than two birds together anywhere. Only five birds were reported in the second half of May. In June there were two at the London Wetland Centre on 7th and one at Dagenham Chase on 28th. Overall, spring produced about 58 birds.

In the autumn, the first bird was in Bushy Park on Aug 6th but numbers did not begin to build-up much before the middle of August. As numbers increased, parties included five at Dartford Marsh on Aug 24th, Staines Moor on 27th and 31st and six at Heston on 30th. Early September saw a protracted passage underway and the highest numbers of the year. Best counts were six at Wormwood Scrubs on Sept 2nd; followed by eight at Woldingham, six at Tylers Common, and five at Butler's Green, all on Sept 5th. The next day there were 11 at Tottenham Marsh, seven at Fairlop and five at Waterworks NR. During the rest of the month birds continued to be widespread, if slightly less numerous, but there were only three records in October with the last at the Wetland Centre on Oct 21st. An approximate total for the whole autumn was 499 birds. Best days in the autumn in terms of the number of birds reported were Sept 3rd (30), Sept 5th (30) and Sept 6th (47).

All Inner London records are shown below.

- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Aug 21st-23rd and two on Sept 1st and 2nd (ARD).

**1139 European Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*  
 Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Very widespread in both winter periods with many birds clearly spending most of the winter (often in pairs) at just one favoured site. Numbers were supplemented by migrants, especially in March and October and November, with these last two months producing some of the highest counts for the year.

There was a total of 17 breeding pairs or singing males during the year at six sites. The best site was as usual Rainham Marshes, with seven pairs, and Richmond Park the next with three. All breeding season records are given, together with a few of the highest counts, as well as an Inner London record.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, one pair bred. Rainham Marshes, six pairs bred on the reserve and another pair just outside and the highest winter count was six on Nov 21st and Dec 17th. Walthamstow Marsh, five on Oct 26th.
- Herts Beech Farm, nine on Jan 5th and two pairs on May 21st. Merry Hill, Bushey, a pair with two juveniles on Aug 25th.
- Middx Bushy Park, two pairs bred. Hampstead Heath, up to six in early Oct. Staines Moor, ten on Oct 3rd. Wormwood Scrubs, seven on Oct 8th.
- Bucks Black Park, a juvenile on Aug 11th and 16th was probably not a local bird.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, two pairs in the breeding season.
- Surrey Headley Heath, one on Apr 4th. Richmond Park, three pairs summered, at least two of which raised young, 12 on Sept 14th and Oct 10th. Woldingham, five on Sept 5th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, a male on Oct 21st (ARD).

#### 1146 Northern Wheatear

#### *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

In many respects it was a very untypical spring migration, and although the first bird seen was early, at Queen Mother Res on Mar 6th, numbers in March and most of April were very poor, but there were some good influxes in the first half of May. Only about 44 birds were seen during the whole of March, mainly just single birds with two together at only three sites and counts of three at Richmond Park on Mar 24th and Walthamstow Res the next day. This pattern continued during the first three weeks of April as the most notable feature was the lack of birds. Doubtless the fine weather and anticyclonic conditions of this period was not conducive to the grounding of migrants, and birds were extremely difficult to find. It was not until Apr 30th that the first real influx occurred, with 32 birds across the area including six at KGV Res, eight at Tyttenhanger GP and ten at Beddington SF, and then another 34 birds on May 2nd with eight at the London Wetland Centre and nine at Rainham Marshes. May 3rd was the day with the largest counts with nine at both Berwick Ponds and Queen Mother Res, 12 at KGV Res and a very high 21 at Rainham in an overall day-total for the Area of 79 birds. Numbers then thinned out considerably during the rest of the month and only six birds were reported after May 15th until the last on May 28th. The only June record came from Sevenoaks WR on June 22nd. The approximate total of birds during the whole of the spring was 363 with around 50% (183 birds) being seen in the six-day period from Apr 30th -May 5th.

The return migration was noted from July 24th, when the first bird was at KGV Res but the only other bird during that month was at Levens Green on July 27th. As August progressed, birds became far more widespread, but there were very few large parties seen anywhere during the autumn. The highest counts in August were four at Queen Mother Res and Vicarage Farm, Enfield,

and six at KGV Res, all on Aug 24th. In September numbers remained at a steady level throughout most of the month, and parties of up to four were seen on every day of the month. The largest flocks reported were only six at KGV Res on Sept 5th and seven at Fairlop on Sept 21st. Passage continued daily during early October, but then birds were seen on only a further four dates until the last at Minet CP on Oct 21st. A total of about 403 birds were reported during the autumn months with a steady if unspectacular migration.

NB. All races of Northern Wheatear are included in the above summary.

All Inner London records are given below.

In Lond Battersea PS, one on May 26th (DMn). Regent's Park, singles on Mar 30th and 31st, two on Apr 21st and three on Apr 30th and May 2nd, and then singles on Aug 19th and 30th, and Sept 21st (ARD). Vincent Square, SW1, one on Mar 21st (SRH).

- 1186 Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*  
 Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.
- The spring brought good numbers with 19 birds at 14 sites during the period Mar 22nd—Apr 30th. There were only two autumn birds.
- Essex Copped Hall, a male on Oct 2nd (AM). Great Warley, a female from Apr 19th-21st and a male on Apr 27th (CRJ). Hackney Marsh, a male on Mar 29th (PW *et al*) was also seen at Waterworks NR (SC). Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Apr 15th and two on 16th (IK) and a different bird from Apr 24th-29th (KB, MD *et al*). Valentines Park, Ilford, a male on Apr 3rd (PHs). Waterworks NR, a female on Apr 23rd (GJ).
- Herts Beech Farm, a male on Apr 18th (MMM, SHM). Bowyer's GP, a male on Apr 18th (RDF). Merry Hill, Bushey, a male on Apr 15th (JDF, AJ *et al*). Mundens Estate, Watford, one on Mar 22nd and a male on Apr 20th (IB). Old Parkbury, a male on Apr 18th (RHs). Otterspool, one on Apr 18th (BG).
- Middx Bury Farm, Edgware, a male on Mar 28th (FB). Horsenden Hill, a male and a female on Apr 20th (AJC). Stanwell Moor, a male on Apr 19th (LD, PN, KLP *et al*) and one from Nov 6th until at least 9th (FJM *et al*). Vicarage Farm, Enfield, a female from Apr 26th-30th (RMC).

- 1187 Blackbird** *Turdus merula*  
 Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- A selection of the highest counts of singing males (numbers in brackets) or counts in the winter months is given below.
- Essex Dagenham Chase, 40 on Nov 28th. Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest (15). Highams Park Lake, 24 on May 10th. Hornchurch CP, 49 on Dec 23rd. Ingrebourne Valley (47). Parndon Wood, Harlow (15). Rainham Marshes, 25 on Nov 20th. Wanstead Park (18).
- Herts Mundens Estate, Watford, 25 on May 5th. Rye Meads RSPB (21), 30 in Nov.
- Middx Bushy Park (15).

- Kent Darenth Lake, 50 on Dec 16th. Sevenoaks WR, 20 on Dec 8th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF (32), 72 on Jan 15th. Cannon Hill Common, 16 on Jan 3rd.  
 Godstone, 21 on May 10th. Headley Heath, 24 on May 18th. Leatherhead at  
 R. Mole (26). London Wetland Centre, 20 on Nov 15th. Nower Wood (20).  
 Wimbledon Common, 25 on Oct 9th.  
 In Lond Buckingham Palace (7-8). Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns (15). Millbank  
 Gdns (1). St John's Gdns, SW1 (1). Tate Modern (2). Victoria Tower Gdns (2).  
 Vincent Square, SW1 (6). Whitehall Gdns, SW1 (4).

**1198 Fieldfare*****Turdus pilaris***

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers in the first two months of the year reached a very high level, with 27 flocks of over 100 birds reported in January, increasing to 36 flocks during February. Highest counts included 300 at Navestock on Jan 24th and 340 flying over Brent Res on Jan 31st, a date on which considerable movements were reported from nine different localities. There were 350 at Staines Moor on Feb 10th, 310 at Coursers Farm on Feb 22nd and 600 at Tyttenhanger GP by Mar 2nd. Birds remained common throughout March and the first half of April, but few were seen after 21st, with the last of the spring at Brickendonbury on Apr 29th.

The first in autumn was not seen until Oct 6th (London Wetland Centre) but the next sighting was of about 1,000 which flew SE over Wimbledon Common in 15 mins on the evening of Oct 11th. Very few were seen elsewhere during October, except at the Wetland Centre where there was 260 on Oct 21st. In the final two months there were around 10 flocks of 100 or more with peaks of 300 at Enfield (Nov 7th), 272 at Stubbers OPC (Nov 12th) and 300 at Great Mollands GPs (on Nov 23rd).

A summary of Inner London records is given below.

- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 3rd. Paddington, two on Oct 25th and four on Oct 26th. Regent's Park, counts of up to 15 on six dates between Jan 3rd and Mar 17th, and 230 on Jan 31st; again from Oct 20th and during much of Nov with a peak of 110 on Nov 4th. Southbank, six on Oct 17th. Tate Modern, eight on Oct 24th.

**1200 Song Thrush*****Turdus philomelos***

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Records for the year suggest that this lively songster continues to do well throughout the whole of the London Area including Inner London parks and gardens, not only in terms of the numbers of singing males reported in some areas, but also in the remarkably large counts of birds seen outside the breeding season.

The following gives a selection of the highest counts of singing males/territories in each county (the number in brackets) or highest counts of

individual birds outside the breeding season. Any comments on population trends and all Inner London records are included.

- Essex Chafford Hundred, Warren Gorge (6). Dagenham Chase (5). Wanstead Park (13). Ingrebourne Valley (17), 22 on Oct 18th. The Mores Wood, Bentley (6).
- Herts Amwell GP (7). Bricket Wood Common (30–40). Cassiobury Park (11). Cheshunt (5). Cuffley (16–21). Rye Meads RSPB, 15 in Jan and Oct.
- Middx Bentley Priory (5). Brent Res (6). Bushy Park (7+). Horsenden Hill (11).
- Bucks Thorney CP, ten on Nov 18th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 'a successful breeding season'.
- Surrey Beddington SF (4), 29 on Jan 15th. Bookham Common (21). Leatherhead (10) at R. Mole. Limpsfield Chart (up to 20). Headley Heath, 11 on Apr 25th. London Wetland Centre, counts of overflying migrants included 21 on Oct 11th, 27 on 12th, 36 on 21st and 21 on Nov 4th. Morden Hall Park, ten on Apr 18th. Nower Wood (6). Wimbledon Common, 'population remains healthy'.
- In Lond Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns (3). Regent's Park, one on Oct 8th. South Hampstead, NW6 (1). Tate Modern, one on Apr 24th.

## 1201 Redwing

## *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers at the beginning of the year remained relatively low, with about 11 sites reporting flocks of 100 or more birds in January, increasing slightly in February to about 15 sites. Best counts included 225 in Osterley Park on Jan 6th, 200 at Park Street on Jan 18th, 200 at Wimbledon Common on Feb 19th and 300 at Hampton Court Park from Feb 28th-Mar 1st. Birds remained quite numerous in early March, with seven counts of 100 birds during the first eight days of the month, and many migrants must have been involved in the 500 seen over West Ewell on 23rd. Small flocks of up to 60 were seen up to Apr 11th, followed by odd birds, with the last 10 at Lippitts Hill on Apr 21st.

Late September saw the first autumn sighting of three at Sevenoaks WR on Sept 22nd, and there were ten more birds at a further three sites by the end of the month. Birds were seen on every day in October from 2nd but with no obvious large movements. Best days were on Oct 6th (443 seen at ten sites), 200 at Bowyer's GP on 12th, 130 at Hampstead Heath on 13th and 100 on Regent's Park on 20th. At West Ewell, a total of 442 birds flew over during October. Six sites had flocks of over 100 birds during November, with 1,017 SW over West Ewell on Nov 6th. Numbers increased considerably during December, with counts of 100 or more at 14 sites, especially in Essex and Herts. Highest count was 200 at Harold Hill on Dec 31st.

The largest flocks in each county are given below, together with a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, 180 on Dec 18th-19th. Harold Hill, 200 on Dec 31st. Harold Wood, 160 on Dec 29th. Nags Head Fishing Lakes, 200 on Dec 22nd.
- Herts Brookmans Park, 129 on Mar 8th. Bowyer's GP, 299 on Oct 12th. Bushey, 120 on Jan 26th. Cheshunt, 300 at North Met Pit on Dec 5th. Park Street, 200 on Jan 18th.

- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 150 on Jan 23rd. Hampstead Heath, 130 on Oct 10th. Hampton Court Park, 300 from Feb 28th-Mar 1st. Osterley Park, 225 on Jan 6th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, 100 on Feb 7th. Sevenoaks WR, 100 on Mar 8th.
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP, 150 on Feb 8th. Horton CP, 150 on Jan 13th. Hurst Green, 130 on Feb 7th. London Wetland Centre, 118 over on Nov 24th. Nonsuch Park, 150 on Feb 1st. West Ewell, 500+ after dark on Mar 23rd and 1,017 W in 2hrs 45mins on Nov 6th. South Norwood Lake, 130+ on Mar 2nd. Stoke D'Abernon, 120 on Dec 19th. Wimbledon Common, 200 on Feb 19th-20th.
- In Lond Green Park, 25 N on Nov 24th. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 5th, three on Feb 10th, 13 on Feb 13th, ten on Mar 30th and seven on Oct 18th. Regent's Park, monthly maxima of 70 on Jan 4th, 60 on Mar 6th and 11th, six on Apr 3rd. and reported from Oct 3rd with 100 on Oct 20th and Nov 6th and 30 on Dec 2nd. St James's Park, two on Dec 3rd. Tate Modern, 12 S on Oct 21st.

**1202 Mistle Thrush*****Turdus viscivorus***

Status: common breeding resident.

Counts of post breeding gatherings, local census counts and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Great Warley, 22 on Sept 28th. Rainham Marshes, 26 on Sept 7th. Valentines Park, Ilford, at least five pairs bred, 35 on Aug 5th. Wennington, 29 at Havering Aggregates on Nov 21st.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common, ten territories. Garston, six territories. Merry Hill, Bushey, 36 on Aug 25th. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, 20 on Sept 28th.
- Middx Brent Res, 14 juveniles on Aug 22nd, 17 flew W on Oct 25th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 23 on Sept 5th.
- Kent Danson Park, 17 on Sept 3rd.
- Surrey Horton CP, four pairs in May. London Wetland Centre, 22 on Oct 3rd. Prince George's PF, 23 on Oct 22nd. Wandsworth Common, 21 on Sept 26th.
- In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, one singing on Feb 10th. Archbishops' Park, SE1, two on Apr 7th and 9th. Buckingham Palace, a pair with two young either bred here or in Green Park. Fairfax Road, NW6, two on Mar 27th. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, four on Feb 17th, at least three singing males, 13 on June 13th and 30th. Tothill Street, SW1, one singing on Apr 14th. Vincent Square, SW1, one pair bred.

**1220 Cetti's Warbler*****Cettia cetti***

Status scarce migrant, winter visitor and breeding species subject to periodic colonisation.

It is practically impossible to judge the number of different birds involved in the following records, but it would seem that this species is beginning to consolidate its position as a breeding bird in the London Area at a few sites, with at least seven singing males seen at four sites, and an overall total for the year in excess of 20 different birds, which is a big increase. Although this

is very encouraging, the history of this species over the last 20 years is beset by setbacks and it will be interesting to see if this general pattern of increases can be maintained for any length of time. All records are given.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Aug 9th (PRy). Ingrebourne Valley, at least three males from mid-Jan to the end of May; at the end of the year reported from Sept 3rd, with three on Sept 14th, two on Oct 26th and one until Dec 20th (mo). Walthamstow Marsh and Res, 1–2 males from Mar 25th–July 10th (mo).
- Herts Amwell GP, one of the two present from Dec 2002 stayed to Mar 17th and one from Oct 2nd to the year-end, with two from Oct 5th–13th (BR *et al*). Hilfield Park Res, a female ringed on Oct 5th and present until 26th (RC *et al*).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, a juvenile female ringed on Oct 19th (RRG).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a male by the station from Apr 24th–26th (FRC *et al*) and near Heron Lakes on June 1st (AVM), and also one on Nov 6th (CDRH).
- Kent Littlebrook Lake, a male from Apr 14th–June 4th (DM, BEW *et al*).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one of the two present since 2002 stayed until Feb 25th and was ringed on Jan 19th and sexed as female. Also singles on Mar 14th, Apr 3rd and May 17th; one from Sept 7th on a few dates until the end of Nov, with two on Nov 30th and one on Dec 16th (mo).

**1236 Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Numbers of this scarce warbler tend to be variable from one year to the next and this was not a particularly good year. The first reported was at Holyfield Hall Farm on Apr 16th and the last on the late date of Sept 14th in the Ingrebourne Valley.

- Essex Albion Landfill, Rainham, one on June 22nd and two on July 15th. Fishers Green, singles on Apr 16th and June 17th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one pair from Apr to June. Ingrebourne Valley, up to four males from Apr 17th–June 1st and one on Sept 14th. Rainham Marshes, four males from Apr 22nd–May 30th.
- Herts Abbots Langley, one on Apr 18th. Beech Farm, one on Aug 25th. Cheshunt Marsh, one on May 3rd. Croxley Moor, 1–2 from Apr 18th–May 1st. North Mymms Park, one on June 17th. Potwells, one on Apr 30th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, a juvenile ringed on Aug 3rd. Edgware, one from Apr 25th–29th at Bury Farm. Hampstead Heath, one on Aug 31st.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one from Apr 21st–24th and four on Apr 26th.
- Surrey Penton Hook, one on Apr 19th.

**1243 Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
 Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first record was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 30th and the last at the same place on Oct 6th. Spring arrival was quite late this year with few being seen much before mid-April. Sites holding five or more singing males at are given below (number of males singing or territories in brackets) or the highest counts in counties with fewer than this. All Inner London records are also given. At the principal site at Rainham Marshes, numbers were well down



on the figure for the previous year, but slightly up in the nearby Ingrebourne Valley.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (28). Rainham Marshes (123, of which 87 on the RSPB reserve). Sewardstone Marsh (5). Walthamstow Res (16).
- Herts Amwell GP (19). Colne Valley, near Rickmansworth (8). Croxley Moor (6). Cheshunt GP (12). Hilfield Park Res, seven ringed on Aug 24th. Rye Meads RSPB (59). Stocker's Lake (8).
- Middx Brent Res (c10). Stoke Newington Res (5).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 20 on Apr 26th, and 15 ringed on May 17th.
- Kent 1–2 singing males reported from Dartford Marsh, Littlebrook PS, Ruxley GP, Sevenoaks WR, and Swanscombe Marsh.
- Surrey Beddington SF (3), six on Aug 10th. London Wetland Centre, ten on May 28th and nine on Sept 14th. Molesey Heath (4).
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 4th, 8th and 30th, May 1st-3rd and 30th and July 31st (ARD).

**1248 Blyth's Reed Warbler**

***Acrocephalus dumetorum***

Status: rare vagrant.

- Essex Fishers Green, a singing male on June 16th (SC, IK *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, and the second London Area record. This follows on from the first at Canary Wharf on Oct 6th-28th 2001. Few would have predicted this record, occurring as it did so soon after the first Blyth's Reed Warbler in London, and the time and place is not exactly what might be expected. It was however sound-recorded and photographed during its one-day stay. Some of the clouds over the identification of this species have cleared as this species' occurrences in Britain have increased, but this is still a very tricky identification.

**1251 Reed Warbler**

***Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

First reported in the spring at the London Wetland Centre on Apr 9th. October saw the few remaining birds still at six sites up to the 12th, but unusually there were three November records this year, at the Wetland Centre on 1st, Seventy Acres Lake on 9th and 10th and at Rye Meads RSPB on 24th.

All breeding sites where there were five or more singing males or territories (numbers shown in brackets), or other high counts of individual birds, are given below, as well as Inner London records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (21). Ingrebourne Valley (95). Rainham Marshes area (254 including 174 on RSPB reserve). Stubbers OPC (9). Walthamstow Res (25).
- Herts Amwell GP (42). Bowyer's GP (7). Croxley Moor, eight on Aug 20th. Rye Meads RSPB (61). Seventy Acres Lake (6). Watford Link Road (6).
- Middx Brent Res (8). Horsenden Hill (5). Staines Moor (5). Tottenham Marsh, 13 on May 14th.



- Bucks Thorney CP, six on May 29th. Tilehouse Lakes, six on May 5th. Wraysbury GP, 44 ringed in Sept.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (10). Ruxley GP (11–12). Sevenoaks WR, eight on May 26th and June 10th. Swanscombe Marsh (63).
- Surrey Beddington SF (14). Esher Common (5). London Wetland Centre (8), 15 on June 15th. Walton Res (8).
- In Lond Regent's Park, on 14 dates from May 16th-Aug 24th, with five singles in May, 1–2 from June 3rd-9th, one on June 30th, two on July 9th and one on Aug 24th (ARD). St James's Park, a male singing from June 4th-25th (ASMS). Tate Modern, a male singing on June 14th (SRH).

**1277 Blackcap*****Sylvia atricapilla***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

|         | Jan | Feb | Nov | Dec |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex   | 3   | 4   | 6   | 3   |
| Herts   | 6   | 3   | 2   | 8   |
| Middx   | 11  | 8   | 4   | 8   |
| Bucks   | 2   | 1   | -   | 1   |
| Kent    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| Surrey  | 41  | 45  | 15  | 26  |
| In Lond | 1   | -   | -   | -   |
| Totals  | 65  | 62  | 28  | 47  |

The table shows the estimated number of birds in each sector during each of the four main winter months.

As in the past, many birds favour Surrey gardens, and an effort has been made in, calculating these figures, to avoid duplication, but it is not known how successful this has been nor how mobile some wintering birds really are.

The main arrival was towards the end of March and during April, and many migrants were still around during October. Largest concentrations of singing males/territories (number in brackets) or individual birds are given below, and a summary of Inner London records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (14). Ingrebourne Valley (21). Ongar Park Wood (16). Roding Fields (20). The Mores Wood, Bentley (16). Wanstead Park (20).
- Herts Cassiobury Park (12). Garston (18). Rye Meads RSPB (28).
- Middx Bentley Priory (12). Brent Res (19).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, birds ringed included 17 in July, 40 in Aug and 281 in Sept.
- Kent Ruxley GP (10). Sevenoaks WR, 16 on Apr 27th.
- Surrey Bookham Common (29). Morden Hall Park, 12 on Apr 18th. Leatherhead, R. Mole (17). Tooting Common (12). Wimbledon Common (100+).
- In Lond Holland Park (3). Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns (3–4). Paddington Green, W2 (1). Regent's Park, one on Jan 2nd and from Mar 18th-Sept 20th, 14 males on Apr 25th. Rotherhithe, SE16, Lavender Pond (1). South Hampstead, males on Mar 19th and 29th. Victoria Tower Gdns, SW1 (1).

**1276 Garden Warbler***Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first reported this year was at Bowyer's GP on Apr 15th, and there were only eight records in September, with the last bird of the year at the London Wetland Centre on Sept 16th. The following gives all sites with three or more territories/singing males (numbers shown in brackets) or other notable counts, as well as all Inner London records.

- Essex Bedfords Park, six on May 6th. Frost site, Lea Valley (3). Ongar Park Wood (4). Sewardstone Marsh (4) and seven on May 4th
- Herts North Mymms Park, eight on May 5th. Rye Meads RSPB (16).
- Middx Broadwater Lake, five on Apr 26th. Trent Park, six on May 5th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP (8+), 13 ringed in July, six in Aug and Sept.
- Kent Ruxley GP, six on July 15th. Sevenoaks WR, eight on June 10th.
- Surrey Bookham Common (24). Headley Heath, five on Apr 25th. Hurst Green (2) and three unpaired males in June. Leatherhead (3) at R. Mole. Wimbledon Common (19).
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on May 17th, July 28th and Aug 22nd-24th (ARD). Tate Modern, one singing on Apr 30th (DGDL).

**1273 Barred Warbler***Sylvia nisoria*

Status: rare vagrant

- Essex Sewardstone Marsh, one on Oct 1st (SHn).

The seventh London record since the first in 1972 and the sixth in the Essex sector. For a species that breeds in Eastern Europe and beyond, and is almost exclusively a scarce autumn migrant to Britain, this eastern bias to London records is perhaps not unexpected.

**1274 Lesser Whitethroat***Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

First sighting of the year was at Tylers Common, Upminster on Apr 17th. The main spring arrival was quite late with few seen much before the end of April. Autumn passage this year was rather thin, although there was a clear peak in the first week of September, and few were seen after the middle of that month. There were only two October records with the last at Rye Meads RSPB on Oct 4th.

All sites with more than two territories/singing males (numbers shown in brackets) or with other notable counts of birds are given together with all Inner London records.

- Essex Bulphan Fen (4). Dagenham Chase (4) and nine on Sept 2nd. Fairlop (3). Ingrebourne Valley (10), nine on Sept 4th. Sewardstone Marsh (3).
- Herts Croxley Moor, five on Aug 19th. Rye Meads RSPB (7).
- Middx Horsenden Hill (3). Vicarage Farm, Enfield, seven on Aug 25th. Wormwood Scrubs, seven on Sept 7th.

- Bucks Wraysbury GP, five ringed in Aug and 25 in Sept.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, six on July 30th. Bookham Common (4). Hurst Green (10).  
 South Norwood CP (5).  
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on May 7th and two on Sept 2nd (ARD).

**1275 Common Whitethroat*****Sylvia communis***

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first to be seen was at Fishers Green on Apr 4th, with only a handful of sightings before a small arrival from Apr 13th-15th and a more general influx on Apr 16th. In autumn, many birds were still present in small parties during early September, but there was a rapid departure and there were no more than five sightings after Sept 12th. The last, and only record in October, was at Ruxley GP on Oct 15th.

The following summary includes all sites with ten or more territories or singing males (number shown in brackets) or high counts of individual birds. There were no Inner London records this year.

- Essex Bulphan Fen (12). Dagenham Chase (17). Ingrebourne Valley (149).  
 Rainham Marshes area (138, 102 of which were on the RSPB reserve).  
 Roding Fields (20+). Stubbers OPC (10).  
 Herts Bricket Wood Common (10). Rye Meads RSPB (27).  
 Middx Bedford Lakes CP (up to 10). Brent Res, 13 on May 5th. Feltham (15).  
 Horsenden Hill (13). Wormwood Scrubs (10).  
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 20+ on Apr 26th, 44 ringed in July, 37 in Aug and 27 in Sept.  
 Kent Dartford Marsh, 25 on Apr 27th. Swanscombe Marsh (17).  
 Surrey Beddington SF (56). Bookham Common, 18 on May 10th. Molesey Heath  
 (21). South Norwood CP (15). Wimbledon Common (31).

**1262 Dartford Warbler*****Sylvia undata***

Status: in recent years a very rare breeding species at one or two sites and still a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor at others.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, a female from Feb 25th-Mar 3rd (PH *et al*).  
 Middx Bushy Park, one from Aug 5th-9th (DHy *et al*), one on Sept 23rd (MB) and  
 presumably the same on 28th (DHy), and a male on Dec 9th (MB). Yeading  
 Brook Meadows, one on Feb 15th-16th (JE *et al*).  
 Bucks A pair with three or four recently fledged young on July 19th at a site within  
 the London Area may have nested just outside the boundary (BBC). Also six  
 here on Oct 5th and three on Oct 12th (CL).  
 Surrey Probably bred at two sites. At one site, a pair holding territory for this first time  
 in at least 40 years. At a second site, it seems to be resident with peak counts  
 of five in Apr and two in May and June and three in Nov. Beddington SF, one  
 from Sept 27th-Oct 5th (JPA). Richmond Park, one on Nov 26th had been  
 reported on unknown earlier dates (BG).

Further evidence of breeding at least three sites, one in Bucks and two in Surrey (where it is quite common on lowland heaths outside the London Area) is welcome news. Away from these sites odd birds were found at a further five places in autumn and winter. Bushy Park has a good history of Dartford Warblers in winter. Wintering birds are often found with Stonechats nearby 'keeping guard'.

- 1265 Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*  
 Status: rare vagrant
- Surrey Lonsdale Road Res, a singing 1st-summer male on Apr 21st (RJA, JGo *et al*).  
 Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee as probably of the eastern European race *S. c. albistriata*. Found sometime in the morning, this bird remained on view to an increasing crowd of observers until at least 19.00. It is only the fourth to be seen in London following two spring records, both in May (in 1976 and 1994) and one in August 1996.
- 1300 Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
 Status: very rare autumn vagrant.
- Middx Brent Res, one from Oct 31st-Nov 2nd (ASMS *et al*).  
 Although a regular late-autumn visitor to our shores from Siberia, most sightings are coastal, and it is still rare anywhere inland. This is the 14th record in the London Area, and apart from one in Feb and Mar 1991, all records have been from Sept 14th and during October, but this is the latest date of occurrence so far. This bird inhabited the woodland and marsh at the eastern end of Brent Res and is the second record from this site.
- 1308 Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common, one singing from May 1st-4th (mo). Northaw Great Wood, one on Apr 12th (SBs).  
 Middx Hampstead Heath, one on May 10th (HHBR).  
 Surrey Morden Common, a singing male from Apr 24th-26th (PDW).  
 In Lond Regent's Park, a male on Apr 23rd (ARD).
- 1311 Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
 Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor; increasingly widespread in winter.

The table shows the approximate number of wintering birds in each county in each month. Numbers were very high in January in particular, but also at high

levels again at the end of the year. Highest winter counts by far were at Rye Meads RSPB where there were 13 in Feb and an exceptional 26 in Nov.

|     | <i>Essex</i> | <i>Herts</i> | <i>Middx</i> | <i>Bucks</i> | <i>Kent</i> | <i>Surrey</i> | <i>In Lon</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jan | 21           | 16           | 14           | 1            | 6           | 13            | -             | 71            |
| Feb | 12           | 15           | 10           | 1            | 3           | 7             | 1             | 49            |
| Nov | 8            | 32           | 7            | 7            | 2           | 12            | -             | 69            |
| Dec | 8            | 10           | 8            | 7            | 2           | 8             | 1             | 44            |

Largest counts (pairs or singing males are shown in brackets) together with a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex** Fishers Green, 30 on Sept 28th. Ingrebourne Valley (14). Roding Fields (10). The Mores Wood, Bentley (10). Wanstead Park (21). Waterworks NR, 38 on Mar 13th and 25 on Sept 24th.
- Herts** Cheshunt GP (10), 20 on Mar 23rd. Hilfield Park Res, 30 on Sept 1st. Rye Meads RSPB (23) and monthly maxima included 40 in March, 60 in July, 50 in Aug, Sept and Oct.
- Middx** Brent Res (15), 40 on Aug 30th. Horsenden Hill (16).
- Bucks** Wraysbury GP, monthly ringing totals included 63 in July, 68 in Aug, 402 in Sept, and also 65 on Oct 4th.
- Kent** Ruxley GP (10). Sevenoaks WR, 20 on Mar 22nd.
- Surrey** Beddington SF, 25 on Aug 30th and Sept 6th. Bookham Common (27). Horton CP (18). Limpsfield Chart, 22 on Sept 13th. London Wetland Centre, 43 on Sept 20th. Leatherhead, R Mole (18). Molesey Heath (11). Nower Wood (18).
- In Lond** Aberdare Gdns, NW6, one on Feb 3rd. Holland Park (1–2). Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, 1–2 from Mar 18th–Sept 12th with six on the last date, and possibly bred. Regent's Park, a spring peak of ten on Apr 14th; in autumn, 20 on Aug 30th, 30 on Sept 29th and 15 on Oct 3rd; one on Dec 16th.

### 1312 Willow Warbler

### *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

There was a widespread early arrival in spring, with the first at Brent Res on Mar 22nd, daily records from Mar 26th and a total of 27 birds reported before the end of March. Most migrants had gone before the end of September, and there was only one October record, at Hilfield Park Res on Oct 3rd. More unusual was a report of one at Sewardstone Marsh on Nov 8th.

The highest counts of pairs/singing males (numbers in brackets) and other counts are given below, and also a summary of Inner London records. There was a widespread agreement amongst many observers that the 2003 breeding season was a very poor one for this species.

- Essex** Dagenham Chase (8). Fairlop (10). Ingrebourne Valley (20). Ongar Park Wood (4 'dramatic decline from 48 in 1989'). Waterworks NR, 42 on Apr 14th.
- Herts** Bowyer's GP (6). Bricket Wood Common (7). Croxley Moor, 20+ on Apr 16th. Mundens Estate, Watford (6). Rye Meads RSPB (7) and monthly maxima included 30 in Apr, 20 in Aug and ten in Sept.

- Middx Bentley Priory (7). Brent Res, 10 on Aug 23rd and 30th. Bushy Park, 'no evidence of breeding'. Hampstead Heath, 'seems to have been lost as a breeding species'.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 18 on Apr 19th and 44 ringed in Sept.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 'continuing decrease in numbers'.
- Surrey Headley Heath, 28 on Apr 25th. Horton CP (6). Limpsfield Chart (16). London Wetland Centre, 15 on Aug 25th. South Norwood Lake (7). Wimbledon Common (7).
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, singles on Apr 28th and Sept 3rd (SEB). Paddington, W2, one on Mar 28th (DTM). Regent's Park, in spring from Apr 3rd-May 3rd, maximum of four on Apr 14th, in autumn from Aug 5th-Sept 18th, maximum of 20 on Aug 26th (ARD). St James's Park, one on Aug 27th (ASMS).

**1314 Goldcrest*****Regulus regulus***

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of territories reported rose again to over 200, so this species seems to be doing well in most areas, especially in Herts and Surrey, with over 150 pairs reported in these two counties alone. The usual influx of autumn migrants in October was particularly noticeable this year.

The largest concentrations of breeding pairs/territories (numbers in brackets) and highest counts are shown below.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 15 on Oct 13th. Great Warley, 25 on Oct 22nd. Highams Park Lake (3). Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest (3). Ongar Park Wood (4). Thorndon CP, c.30 on Feb 23rd. Valentines Park, Ilford (4). Wanstead Park, 31 on Oct 21st. Weald Park, 20 on Feb 8th.
- Herts Abbots Langley (4+). Bedmond (4+). Bricket Wood Common (14-20). Cassiobury Park (6+). Garston (15-18). Hunton Bridge (4). Whippendell Woods (5+).
- Middx Brent Res, 11 on Aug 30th. Bushy Park, 12 on Jan 11th. Horsenden Hill (3).
- Surrey Esher Common (9). Leatherhead, R Mole (4). Limpsfield Chart, 18 on Oct 2nd. London Wetland Centre, 13 on Sept 28th and Dec 9th. Nower Wood (3). West End Common (3). Wimbledon Common (34).
- In Lond Holland Park (3). Kensington Gdns (3+), Regent's Park, 12 on Sept 29th and 20 on Oct 23rd. South Hampstead, NW6, one singing in Jan and Apr, and a separate one from Apr 29th-May 3rd.

**1315 Firecrest*****Regulus ignicapillus***

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Breeding season records this year came from two sites: in Essex, one pair was present at a site with two territories in the previous two years; in Herts one on July 7th in suitable breeding habitat was thought to be a juvenile.

There were good numbers reported at the beginning of the year, with a few places holding several birds. A reasonable spring passage seems to have peaked in mid-March. The first autumn arrivals were noted from Sept 1st, with

October producing the bulk of the migrants. Numbers at certain Essex localities were very high at the end of the year. The approximate number of birds seen in each month of the year is given below, outside the breeding season.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 24  | 19  | 21  | 8   | 1   | 1   | 11  | 18  | 11  |

- Essex Bedfords Park, one from Jan 5th-Feb 25th, two on Jan 27th and one singing on Mar 21st. Belhus Woods CP, one on Jan 18th. Bury Woods, one on Mar 1st. Coxtie Green, one on Oct 10th. Dagenham Chase, two on Jan 31st, one on Apr 7th, two from Oct 31st-Nov 2nd and one from Dec 19th-23rd. Fairlop Waters, one on Oct 26th. Grays, one on Oct 21st. Great Warley, 1-2 from Jan 1st-Mar 4th; two singing on Apr 18th; then from Sept 27th-Dec 31st with maxima of four on Sept 29th, eight in Oct, four in Nov and six in Dec. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Jan 13th. Hornchurch CP, one from Oct 15th-18th. South Weald, one on Nov 27th. Thorndon CP, three on Feb 21st, two on Mar 10th and one on 11th. Wanstead Park, two on Oct 21st. Warley Gap, 1-2 from Jan 1st-Mar 4th, and singles on Oct 25th, Nov 19th and Dec 23rd-30th with two on 31st. Warley Place NR, singles on Jan 1st, Feb 23rd and 1-3 from Mar 3rd-15th. Weald Park, three in Feb and Mar, two in Nov and Dec.
- Herts Croxley Green, singles ringed on Jan 3rd and Oct 31st. Garston, one from Mar 11th-22nd. Maple Lodge NR, two on Mar 1st. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on Apr 18th and Nov 29th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on Sept 1st. Brent Res, one from Jan 5th-Feb 16th. Hampstead Heath, one on Mar 18th. Mudchute Park, one on Mar 17th. Trent Park, 3-4 in Jan, two from Feb -May 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 18th. Kingston-upon-Thames, one on Jan 8th and 11th. Norwood, one in Jan. Stambourne Wood, 1-2 from Jan 4th-Feb 28th and one on Dec 30th. Wimbledon Common, singles on Jan 13th and Feb 26th, and a pair with male singing from Mar 27th-Apr 30th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, 1-3 in Jan and Feb, and in October singles on 3rd, 8th, 21st, 24th and 29th and also one on Dec 9th-10th.

### 1335 Spotted Flycatcher

### *Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First record of the year was at Regent's Park on May 1st. Relatively few were seen away from breeding sites in May, but odd birds that continued to appear until mid-June away from breeding sites were presumably migrants.

The story of this species sharp decline as a breeding species is well documented in previous *LBRs*. This year birds were present in the breeding season at only 19 sites, another all time low. With 11 of these in Herts, this is now a very rare breeding bird in most areas.

Autumn migrants were well reported with the main movements (and highest counts) seen during Aug 16th-Sept 8th, but birds continued to be seen up to 21st. In terms of the number of birds reported across the Area, the best days were on Aug 26th (32 birds) and Aug 30th (41 birds), with the largest

individual site count of 15 in Regent's Park on Aug 29th. An extremely late bird (and the only record in October) was at Amwell GP on Oct 18th.

All sites where pairs were present, the highest counts in autumn and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, six on Aug 26th. Fairlop, six on Aug 30th and 31st. Hangmans Wood, one territory. Long Running, Epping Forest, one pair in the summer. Pole Hill, three on June 10th. Weald Park, 14 on Sept 4th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one pair bred. Bricket Wood Common, a pair in May. Cassiobury Park, 1–2 in June and July. Chorleywood Common, a pair on June 8th. Grove Mill, a pair on July 19th. North Mymms Park, 'possibly bred'. Otterspool, a pair feeding young in July. Radlett, one pair bred. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, two on June 14th and one on 29th. Shenley, adults with juveniles in July. Verulamium Lake, a pair in May.
- Middx Four reported at Bushy Park on Sept 3rd and 8th, at Hampstead Heath on Aug 30th and at Ruislip Lido on Aug 31st.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, one pair present, probably bred.
- Surrey Wandsworth Common, a pair raised two young.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, three on Aug 28th and two on Sept 12th. Regent's Park, one on May 1st and up to four from Aug 19th-Sept 7th, with seven on Aug 26th and Sept 2nd and 15 on Aug 29th.

### 1349 Pied Flycatcher

### *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

There were no spring records but autumn passage was quite good with about 26 birds between Aug 6th and Sept 21st. All records are given.

- Essex Bedfords Park, singles on Aug 26th and Sept 12th (CRJ). Dagenham Chase, one on Aug 30th (KB) and two on 31st (ELBF), two on Sept 5th (KB, PD, HV) and one on Sept 15th (PD). Hornchurch CP, two on Sept 3rd (KB, NR). Lippitts Hill, one on Aug 30th (AM). Weald Park, one on Aug 27th (CRJ) and Aug 29th (DMn), two on Sept 2nd (RBs) and one on 4th (CRJ).
- Herts Aberford Park, Borehamwood, one on Aug 30th (SHM). Amwell GP, singles on Aug 7th (MI) and Sept 7th (MI, BR).
- Middx Alexandra Park, singles on Sept 13th and 21st (AGr). Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Aug 6th (RMC *et al*).
- Kent Greenwich Park, one on Sept 4th (MPB).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Aug 30th (BJWG). Lonsdale Road Res, one on Sept 3rd (JGo). Weybridge, one ringed on Aug 17th (RAD).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Aug 18th and two on Aug 29th (ARD).

### 1364 Bearded Tit

### *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

The increase in records, first noted in 2002, continued this year. There were summer records from Rainham Marshes (where two pairs bred), and at four



sites in the Lea Valley, involving up to five birds, one of which was seen carrying faecal sacs. All records are given below.

- Essex Beckton SW, two on Oct 28th and one on Dec 17th (DMn). Berwick Ponds CP, one on Apr 4th-5th (LH). Fairlop Waters, one on Sept 21st (AAB). Rainham Marshes, 1-2 in Jan and Feb with six on Jan 5th (SRP *et al*); in summer, two family parties seen with 1-2 until at least Sept 21st (mo).
- Herts Amwell GP, the pair present from Nov 2002 remained until the third week of April, and may have attempted to breed, although no young were seen (BR, GJW *et al*). Also, a different male on May 14th and 25th (BR) had probably been here since mid-April. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on Jan 4th and May 24th (RMRG *et al*). Seventy Acre Lake, five on June 17th and 1-2 until 23rd (mo). Springwell Lake, one on Mar 30th (TS).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one flew N on Oct 26th (DM).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 18th (PA, GDJM) and two ringed on Nov 9th and remained until at least Dec 25th (MN *et al*). London Wetland Centre, a pair on Oct 21st and a third bird calling nearby, one on Oct 22nd (mo).

#### 1437 Long-tailed Tit

*Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

The number of pairs/territories for sites with three or more is given (the number in brackets), and also the peak counts at sites where more than 40 birds were reported at some time. Inner London records are summarised.

- Essex Barking Park (3). Berwick Ponds CP, 47 on Sept 7th. Fishers Green, 45 on Sept 16th. Ingrebourne Valley (14). Lippitts Hill (4). The Mores Wood, Bentley (5). Walthamstow Res (6). Wanstead Park (9) and 92 on Oct 21st.
- Herts Amwell GP (4). Berrygrove Wood (2-3). Brickendonbury (3). Bricket Wood Common (26-30). Garston (11-14). Rye Meads RSPB (14) and 60 in July. Seventy Acre Lake, 43 on Nov 7th. Shafford Farm, near St Albans, 50 on June 29th.
- Middx Brent Res (4).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 48 trapped and ringed in September.
- Surrey Berrylands, 70 on Oct 14th. Bourne Hall Lake, 45 on Dec 7th. Epsom Common, c50 on Oct 25th. Ewell Court and Lake, 50 on Dec 7th. Leatherhead, R Mole (4). Richmond Park, c50 on June 26th. West Ewell, 60 on Dec 7th. Wimbledon Common (80-100) and 40 on Oct 6th and 14th.
- In Lond Holland Park (3). Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns (3), 10 on Sept 30th. Little Venice, W2, 14 on Sept 29th. Regent's Park, 32 on Dec 24th. St James's Park (3). Victoria Tower Gdns, SW1 (1).

#### 1462 Blue Tit

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

A selection of the more significant records is given, from the few received. Sites with a high number of pairs/territories (the number shown in brackets) and details of the largest flocks are given.

- Essex Epping Forest, 40 on Feb 28th. Fairlop (7). Higham Park Lake, 35 on June 15th. Ingrebourne Valley (24). Lippitts Hill (35). Parndon Wood, Harlow (32). The Mores Wood, Bentley (27). Wanstead Park (67) and 62 on Oct 21st.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB (18).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 38 trapped during September.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 40 on Sept 7th.
- Surrey Cannon Hill Common, 30+ on Feb 5th. London Wetland Centre, 34 on Nov 28th. Morden Hall Park, 40 on Apr 18th. Nower Wood (23). Richmond Park, c30 on June 26th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (5). Holland Park (34). Kensington Gdns (7). Lambeth, SE1, (2 at High Street Recreation Ground). Millbank Gdns, SW1 (1). Tate Modern (1). Victoria Tower Gdns, SW1 (1). Vincent Square, SW1 (1) .

**1464 Great Tit*****Parus major***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Details of the largest number of breeding pairs (in brackets) and flocks seen are given below. All Inner London records received are given.

- Essex Epping Forest, 40 between Long Running and Piercing Hill on Feb 28th. Ingrebourne Valley (25). Lippitts Hill (24). The Mores Wood, Bentley (17). Wanstead Park (35) and 34 on Oct 21st. Warley Gap, 25 on Jan 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP (20). Rye Meads RSPB (27).
- Middx Trent Park, 24 on Jan 7th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (21), 37 on Jan 15th. Leatherhead, R Mole (12). Morden Hall Park, 42 on Apr 12th. Nower Wood (11). Richmond Park, 20 on June 26th. West Ewell, 30+ on Dec 7th. Wimbledon Common, 40 on July 23rd.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (2). Holland Park (6). Kensington Gdns (13). Millbank Gdns, SW1 (1). St John's Gdns, SW1 (1). Tate Modern (1).

**1461 Coal Tit*****Periparus ater***

Status: common breeding species.

The few breeding records received are given (numbers of pairs/territories in brackets), and also one or two individual counts.

- Essex Copped Hall (2). Epping Forest, Piercing Hill to Long Running (15) and Strawberry Hill Pond (3). Parndon Wood, Harlow (3). The Mores Wood, Bentley (1). Thorndon CP North, ten on Mar 15th. Weald Park (6).
- Herts Bricket Wood Common (17). Cassiobury Park (4). Chiswell Green (7+). Garston (8–9). Harrocks Wood (3). Wall Hall, Aldenham (3–4).
- Middx Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (1).
- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Sevenoaks WR, four on Aug 9th.
- Surrey Bookham Common (2). Esher Common (4). London Wetland Centre (1). Nower Wood (1). Wandsworth Common (1). West End Common (2). Wimbledon Common (41).

In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Holland Park (1). Kensington Gdns (2), up to seven in Jan. Priory Road, NW6, one on Jan 11th. St James's Park, one on July 28th.

**1442 Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Status: very scarce and possibly now a former breeding resident.

Surrey Bookham Common, a singing male on Apr 22nd and in June (APe). Moorhouse, one on Sept 16th (PJO).

Records at just two sites this year, the same as in 2002. Over the last two years, three of the four sites where this species has been reported have been in Surrey, so perhaps it is just hanging on as a breeding species in this county.

**1440 Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised breeding resident.

Once again found almost exclusively in only small numbers in well-wooded areas in the northern parts of the Area and in Surrey, and hardly ever away from these two areas. It can be hard to find in many places, but occasionally visits garden feeders. The following summary gives all sites of occurrence during the year, with all known breeding records (number of pairs/territories in brackets) as well as peak counts of birds present at each of these sites at other times of the year.

Essex Connaught Water (2). Copped Hall, one on Feb 18th. Hill Wood, one on May 3rd. Piercing Hill, two in Jan, Feb and on Dec 17th. Weald Park, one on Sept 2nd. Wintry Wood, one on Feb 9th.

Herts Amwell GP, singles regularly between Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec but two on three dates, also one on June 20th. Beech Farm, one on Nov 30th. Brookmans Park, one in Feb, Aug and Sept, two on Oct 25th and three on Nov 9th. Coppice Wood, London Colney, two on Apr 4th and May 27th. Essendon, one on Sept 20th. Hertford, two on feeders on Nov 17th. Hertford Heath, one on Sept 7th. Juniper Hill, Watford, a pair on Mar 27th. Mymmshill Wood, one on Sept 7th. North Mymms Park, up to four during the year. Northaw Great Wood, eight in Jan and seven in Dec. Waterend, one on Mar 29th. Welham Green (1). Whippendell Wood (2).

Middx Archery Wood, Enfield, one on Mar 10th. Brent Res, two on Jan 6th. Fir and Pond Wood (2), five in April. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, two in Feb and Nov.

Bucks Oakend Wood, one on Mar 9th.

Surrey Bookham Common, (16 in incomplete survey). Bletchingley, one on Apr 30th and May 1st. Coulsdon Woods, one in Sept. Croydon, present in two gardens throughout the year. Esher Common, a pair on Apr 26th. Foyle Riding, one at feeder in Jan and Feb. Headley Heath, three in Mar and one in Apr and Nov. Leatherhead, R Mole, present in breeding season. Marden Park, Woldingham, three on Mar 27th. Moorhouse, up to two from Mar-May and one in Jan and Dec. Nower Wood (2). Old Coulsdon, one in garden on Sept 1st.

Park Farm, Chessington, one on Aug 12th. Sanderstead, one on Oct 10th. South Norwood CP, one on Nov 19th. Titsey Woods, one on Feb 5th and Mar 27th.

**1479 Nuthatch*****Sitta europaea***

Status: common breeding resident.

Widely reported in some areas, but absent or under recorded in many others.

Records during the year came from 91 sites Breeding season distribution is shown below with the number of pairs, singing males or territories at each site shown in brackets (where more than one), and all Inner London records.

- Essex Epping Forest (15). Hatterers Wood (2). Ongar Park Wood (5). Thorndon CP (3). Weald Park (5).
- Herts Abbots Langley (4+). Aldenham GC (2). Bencroft Wood, Wormley (5–6). Bricket Wood Common (11–14). Cassiobury Park (8). Garston (10). Otterspool (4).
- Middx Bushy Park (2). Trent Park (12).
- Surrey Bookham Common (15). Croham Hurst (3). Esher Common, present on CBC plot. Hurst Green (2). Leatherhead, R Mole (2). Nower Wood (8). Sanderstead (2). West End Common, present on CBC plot. Wimbledon Common (23).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 10th, Jan 26th and Mar 16th.

**1486 Treecreeper*****Certhia familiaris***

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding season reports are shown below with the number of breeding pairs or territories shown in brackets (where more than one), and a few other notable records including those from Inner London.

- Essex Epping Forest at Epping Thicks (2) and Lippitts Hill (5). Hainault Forest CP, five on Feb 19th. Parndon Wood, Harlow (3). The Mores Wood, Bentley (3). Weald Park, seven on Sept 2nd.
- Herts Bedmond (2–3). Bricket Wood Common (17+). Cassiobury Park (8–10). Garston (2). Otterspool (2).
- Middx Trent Park (10).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, three ringed in Aug and two in Sept.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, six on Apr 7th.
- Surrey Bookham Common (14). Esher Common, present on CBC plot. West End Common (2). Wimbledon Common (15).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, three on Jan 8th, one from Jan 20th–28th and two on Nov 27th. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 24th and Feb 2nd and two on Feb 13th.

- 1508 Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*  
 Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.
- Essex Hainault Forest CP, a singing male on May 12th (RTs). Whitehall Plain, Epping Forest, one on May 13th (RTs).
- Two typical records within a day of each other. The observer concerned in both records must have thought he had won the lottery two days running.
- 1515 Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*  
 Status: rare passage migrant.
- Middx Bushy Park, a singing male on May 25th (DH*y et al*). Staines Moor, a juvenile on Sept 28th-29th (REI *et al*).
- Despite only short stays, both birds performed well in front of many. The Bushy Park bird is the first May record since 1998. The last shrike to be seen in this Park was a Woodchat—on the same date—May 25th, 1992.
- 1523 Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*  
 Status: rare vagrant
- Bucks Langley Park, a male from May 1st-3rd (RD*n et al*).
- A nice find on a lunchtime walk from the office, this bird was fairly faithful to its stretch of fence close to a public footpath during its three-day sojourn in Langley Park. It was the first in the London Area since 1995 and the 12th record in all. Of these 12 records, six have been in May.
- 1539 Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*  
 Status: common breeding resident, with numbers boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.
- Counts of ten or more and all Inner London records are given.
- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, ten on Oct 15th. KGV Res, ten on Sept 24th.  
 Herts Cassiobury Park, c15 on Sept 25th.  
 Kent Bexley Wood, 11 on Apr 4th. Dartford Marsh, ten or more on Sept 28th.  
 Surrey Horton CP, 18 on Mar 26th. Kew Gdns, ten on Nov 10th. Morden Hall Park, 14 on Apr 12th.  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, three territories. South Hampstead, NW6, present from Jan-Apr with a maximum of ten on Apr 11th.

**1549 Magpie***Pica pica*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

A selection of breeding records (number of pairs/territories in brackets) and the largest counts of birds from each county are given. The large numbers roosting at Farthing Downs, Surrey were again noted at the end of the year.

- Essex Barking Park, 30 on Feb 12th. Beckton Park (9). Ilford, 37 at Valentines Park on Aug 3rd. Ingrebourne Valley (15). Lippitts Hill (4). Parndon Wood, Harlow (5). Plaistow (5). Roding Valley Park and NR, 39 on Oct 25th. Stubbers OPC (3). Wanstead Flats East (4). Wanstead Park (19).
- Herts Garston, 21 on Mar 1st. Moor Mill, 40 on Feb 26th. Rye Meads RSPB (4).
- Middx Kempton NR, 30 on Jan 11th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 31 on Apr 20th.
- Surrey Cannon Hill Common (6+), 33 on Feb 5th. Esher Common (3). Farthing Downs, 250 roosting on Dec 28th. Leatherhead, R Mole (12). London Wetland Centre, 25 on Oct 11th. Molesey GP, 44 at roost on Jan 2nd. Morden Hall Park, 30 on Feb 17th. Prince George's PF, 30 on Sept 3rd.
- In Lond Archbishops Park (1). Buckingham Palace, bred here or in Green Park, maximum of 11 on Feb 5th. Vincent Square, SW1 (1).

**1560 Jackdaw***Corvus monedula*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in urban areas.

This sociable small crow appears to be common and widespread in open places with scattered trees. All breeding localities are given, as well as the largest flocks reported outside the breeding season. Many of these large flocks are seen in the evenings when birds are going to their communal roosts (often with other corvids). Odd birds and small flocks do appear in the more built-up areas regularly, but usually just on passage.

- Essex Reported as nesting or holding territory at North Chingford, Parndon Wood, Wanstead Flats East and Wanstead Park. Bedfords Park, 100 on Oct 13th. Copped Hall, c120 on Jan 4th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 3,000 roosting on Feb 9th. Hayes Hill Farm, 450 on Dec 16th. Tylers Shaw, 120 on Apr 14th.
- Herts Breeding at Bricket Wood Common, Cassiobury Park, Garston, London Colney and The Grove, Watford. Abbots Langley, 120 on July 26th. Amwell GP, 200 on Mar 2nd. Beech Farm, c3,500 flying to roost on Oct 18th. Brookmans Park, 180 on Mar 8th. Rye Meads RSPB, 300 in Sept. Tyttenhanger GP, 300 in Dec. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 300 on Nov 8th.
- Middx Reported nesting in Bushy Park. Broadwater Lake, 500+ roosting on Dec 27th. Bushy Park, 120 on Jan 2nd. Hampton Court Park, 200 on Feb 5th. Osterley Park, 166 on Mar 16th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, c150 on Nov 15th.
- Surrey Breeding activity at Leatherhead and Prince George's PF. Beddington SF, 254 on Jan 15th. Epsom, c220 on Oct 3rd. Horton CP, c350 on Aug 26th. Trevereux area, 200 on Dec 6th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, singles on Mar 17th and 27th. Regent's Park, four on Jan 3rd, one on Mar 24th, two on 26th and on six dates in October from 3rd-29th.

**1563 Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in urban areas.

The table gives the number of rookeries reported in each county and the overall number of nests counted.

| Year  | Essex | Herts | Bucks | Kent | Surrey |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|
| Sites | 33    | 12    | 4     | 3    | 3      |
| Nests | 1054  | 287   | 101   | 59   | 60     |

High counts and records from localities where this species does not normally occur are given below.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 200 on Dec 11th. Stapleford Tawney, 250 on Jan 11th.  
 Herts Beech Farm, 200 roosting on Jan 3rd.  
 Middx Brent Res, singles on Mar 24th and Apr 5th. Potters Bar, 40 on Aug 28th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 55 on Feb 18th. Trevereux area, 150 on Dec 6th.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, two on Mar 14th (ARD).

**1567 Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Most reports of this very common bird concerned some of the large flocks seen during the year. Very few breeding birds were noted. The following summary gives annual maxima for localities with counts of 100 or more at some time, as well as all Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Park, 120 on Sept 17th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 250 on Feb 21st. Walthamstow Res, 350 on Jan 12th. Wanstead Flats East, 432 on June 15th.  
 Herts Abbots Langley, 300 on Apr 20th. Bricket Wood Common, 400 in Jan and Feb.  
 Middx Brent Res, 215 on Mar 24th.  
 Bucks Old Slade Lake, 196 on Sept 3rd. Queen Mother Res, 256 on Nov 10th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 544 on Feb 26th. Freshfields, Croydon, 100 in Feb. London Wetland Centre, 423 on Mar 9th. Tooting Common, 303 on Sept 22nd. Wandsworth Common, 109 on Aug 28th. Wimbledon Common, c500 on Jan 29th.  
 In Lond Buckingham Palace, a pair bred either here or in Green Park. Kensington Gdns, 300 flew over to roost on Feb 13th. Regent's Park, 137 on Sept 1st. St James's Park, 82 on Jan 23rd.

**1582 Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: very common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Although still a very common bird in most areas, there seems to be a complete lack of some of the enormous winter roosting flocks formerly reported each year. Very few breeding records were received. The following shows the largest flocks seen in each county.

- Essex Grays, 1,300 roosting on power lines on Oct 14th. Rainham Marshes, 3,000 on Dec 6th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 3,000 at roost on June 20th. Stocker's Farm, 500 on June 13th.
- Middx Hampstead Heath, 900 NW on Oct 28th. Tottenham Marsh, 650 on Oct 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 466 on Jan 15th. London Wetland Centre, 1,764 W on Oct 27th, 4,280 W on Nov 4th and 1,000 on Dec 6th. West Ewell, 605 over on Nov 6th. Treverreux area, 400 on Sept 22nd.
- In Lond Hyde Park, 185 on Aug 28th and Sept 10th. Kensington Gdns, up to 200 in January. Regent's Park, 200 on Nov 6th.

**1584 Rose-coloured Starling**  
Status: rare vagrant.

*Sturnus roseus*

- Essex Custom House, an adult bird was photographed on July 6th (Cpt).

This bird was found and photographed in a garden at this site (which is near Canning Town), and is only the seventh London Area record.

**1591 House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

This is now quite a rare bird in all areas in the inner built-up zone of central London. Very few if any are now found in most of the Royal Parks and Gardens, and it is no longer seen in places such as Hampstead Heath. It is still regularly seen in areas further out from the centre, although nowhere near as commonly as ten years ago.

In an attempt to monitor its status in 2003, all reported localities of occurrence are given below. The figures that follow each locality are either the peak annual count for that place—or the number of displaying males in the breeding season (the figure shown in brackets).

A few comments on local status are included, and all Inner London records are given.

- Essex Beckton Park (3). Brentwood 12. Canning Town: Recreation Ground (6), Star Park (2). Chafford Hundred 6. Chingford Plain 2. Clayhall (7). East Ham (15). Grays (2) and 25. Higham Park Lake 5. Holyfield Hall Farm 40. Ilford (15). Ingrebourne Valley 10. Kelvedon Hatch 'common'. Magdalen Laver (3). Manor Park Cemetery (3). Romford 32. Walthamstow, 38. Wanstead Flats East (10). Wanstead Park (1). Weald Park 1.
- Herts Beech Farm 2. Bowmansgreen Farm 60. Brickendonbury (3–4) and 14. Butterwick Fields, St Albans 10. Cheshunt 30. Rye Meads RSPB 2. Smallford 2. Stocker's Farm 16. Tyttenhanger Farm and GP 25.
- Middx Brent Res 40. Bruce Castle Park 10. Hampton 40. Hampton Court Park 25. Harrow 'still very localised'. Lake Farm CP 30. Tottenham Marsh 18.
- Kent Bexley 40. Crayford Marsh 8. Sevenoaks WR 8. Stone Marsh 8.
- Surrey Ashtead Common 6. Beddington SF 24. Bletchingley 3. Bookham Common 1. Chasemoor Farm, Downside 6. Epsom 12. Godstone 4. Heavers Meadow



80+. Holmethorpe SP 8. Hurst Green 30. Limpsfield Chart 2. London Wetland Centre 14. Molesey 45. Molesey Heath 8. Morden Hall Park 1. New Malden 22. Purley (4). Leatherhead at R Mole (4). Riddlesdown 2. Rushett Farm c20. South Norwood CP 12. Surbiton 25. Tenchleys 12. Trevereux 15. Walton-on-Thames 25. Wandsworth Common 30. Wimbledon 17. Wimbledon Common 14.

In Lond Barbican, EC2, two pairs bred. Bernie Spain Gdns, SE1, nine on Jan 3rd and July 22nd. Delaware Street, W2, a male on June 4th. Kensington Gdns, singles on Feb 26th and Mar 4th, a pair on May 1st and up to three in May. Roupell Street, SE1, one on Oct 10th. St Paul's Cathedral, one on Nov 9th. Tate Modern, singles on Apr 30th and Nov 6th. Waterloo East Station, a male on May 29th. Westminster, a male on May 21st.

**1598 Tree Sparrow**

*Passer montanus*

Status: scarce and local breeding resident, population probably still declining.

Apart from a few odd birds, all records are confined to the two main areas—in Herts, where all sites shown are more or less adjacent to each other—and Beddington SF. Nearly all birds breed in the nest boxes provided at both sites. Numbers at Beddington in January and February were the highest here since the winter of 1992/93, and breeding numbers also increased with 104 pairs compared to 77 in each of the previous two years.

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, singles on Sept 27th and Oct 12th, two on Nov 9th and one on 10th and 29th, two on Dec 14th and 16th and one until Dec 30th.

Herts Coursers Farm and Coursers Lane Fields, maxima of 14 on Jan 19th, 20 in Mar and 13 in Oct; six broods totalling 25 young were ringed in nest boxes in May. Redwell Wood Farm, three on Dec 7th. Tyttenhanger Farm and GP, maxima of 14 in Jan, 20 in Mar, 18 in Oct, 25 in Nov and 15 in Dec.

Surrey Beddington SF, 104 territories and a minimum of 762 young were hatched in nest boxes; highest monthly counts outside the breeding season were 160 in Jan and Feb and 126 in Aug. Claygate Green, one on Feb 3rd. Croydon, one on three days in Jan. South Norwood Lake, one on Dec 30th.

**1636 Chaffinch**

*Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

The largest flocks at the beginning of the year were all north of the Thames, with good numbers in Epping Forest in February and March. Six flocks of over 100 birds were found in the first three months, and three more in November and December. The following summary gives the largest winter flocks, a selection of breeding records (the number of pairs/territories shown in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex Epping Forest: at Bury Wood, 250 on Mar 7th, from Piercing Hill to Long Running, 150 on Feb 28th and at Pole Hill, 170 on Mar 11th. Ingrebourne Valley (18). Parndon Wood, Harlow (14). Wanstead Park (11).

- Herts Amwell GP (18), 200 on Jan 29th. Bricket Wood Common, 100 on Nov 8th. Bushy Hall, 120 on Dec 14th. Potters Crouch, 100 on Jan 26th. Rye Meads RSPB (18). Seventy Acre Lake, 200 on Jan 28th.
- Middx Bushy Park (7–8). Lake Farm CP, 48 on Nov 4th.
- Kent Bexley Wood, 80 on Mar 10th. Sevenoaks WR, 50 in Nov and Dec.
- Surrey Bookham Common (30). Esher Common (12). London Wetland Centre, 111 W on Oct 10th, 165 W on Oct 11th, 162 NW on Oct 24th and 146 NW on Oct 27th. Molesey Heath (11). Nower Wood (13). Leatherhead, R Mole (42). Rushett Farm, 150 on Dec 7th. West End Common (20).
- In Lond Aberdare Gdns, NW6, bred. Holland Park (1–2). Hyde Park, a pair on Mar 20th. Kensington Gdns, five singing in April. Regent's Park, 55 on Feb 18th, 25 on Oct 8th, 50 on Oct 10th, 30 on Oct 24th and Nov 4th.

**1638 Brambling*****Fringilla montifringilla***

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

Birds were present from January until about Apr 15th, with a late bird on May 1st at Wimbledon Common. Numbers were low in most places but over 41 sites had birds during this period. Counts of more than a handful were generally scarce, but there were exceptional numbers in parts of Epping and Hainault Forests for a short period in late March and early April feeding with Chaffinches (see table below). The first seen in autumn were at Holyfield Hall Farm and Regent's Park on Oct 8th, but numbers of overflying migrants in October and November were generally low. The best day at the London Wetland Centre was on Oct 27th when there were 53 overhead. November and December saw birds at a very high total of 59 sites, but no flocks on the ground exceeded five at the end of the year.

The largest flocks or highest counts of overflying birds in each county are given and all Inner London records.

- Essex The table shows the main concentrations of birds in the county during the first four months of the year. Although it is impossible to rule out duplication of sightings, these are clearly exceptional numbers, which must have involved several hundred birds at least.

*Distribution and numbers of Bramblings in Epping and Hainault Forests, Essex in Jan-Apr, 2003*

| Site             | Date  | Number | Site               | Date     | Number |
|------------------|-------|--------|--------------------|----------|--------|
| Almshouse Plain  | Apr 1 | 150    | Great Monk Wood    | Late-Mar | 100+   |
| Ambresbury Banks | 'Jan' | 20     | Hainault Forest CP | Apr 14   | 58     |
| Broom Hill       | Apr 4 | 10     | Long Hills         | Apr 13   | 20     |
| Bury Wood        | Apr 3 | 60     | Pole Hill          | Mar 11   | 30     |
| Copped Hall      | Feb 9 | 10     | Wintry Wood        | Mar 30   | 10     |

Other counts included: Fairlop, six on Dec 27th, Holyfield Hall Farm, four on Dec 23rd, Rainham Marshes, seven on Oct 25th, Thorndon CP, nine on Feb 10th, Walthamstow Marsh, four on Oct 24th, Warley seven on Mar 4th and Warley Gap, five on Feb 5th.

- Herts Amwell GP, four on Jan 27th. Seventy Acre Lake, four in Nov and Dec.
- Middx Brent Res, three on Oct 18th. Grovelands Park, six on Feb 18th. Hampstead Heath, five on Nov 4th.
- Bucks Tilehouse Lakes, five on Apr 11th. Wraysbury GP, six on Oct 18th and Dec 4th.
- Surrey Limpsfield Chart, four on Apr 15th. London Wetland Centre, overflying birds between Oct 11th-Nov 29th included 53 on Oct 27th, 13 on Nov 1st, and 18 on Nov 13th. Moorhouse, eight on Jan 15th. West End Common, c20 on Jan 4th.
- In Lond Paddington, W2, one flew SW on Oct 25th. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 2nd and 30th, two on Apr 4th, two on Oct 8th and one on Nov 19th and 21st.

**1649 Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*  
 Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Sites with the largest concentrations of breeding birds are shown (numbers of pairs/territories in brackets), and also the annual maxima for those where counts exceeded 50 or more birds. This year six sites had flocks of over 100 birds and there was an exceptional count of 350 at one of these. The few Inner London records received are given.

- Essex Hayes Hill Farm, 85 on Dec 16th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 150 on Oct 20th increased to 200 on Nov 6th and 350 on Nov 29th at the bird feeding area. Ingrebourne Valley (10).
- Herts Beech Farm, 50 on Oct 18th. Potters Crouch, 100 in an uncut field of sunflowers at East Farm on Nov 30th and Dec 27th. Rye Meads RSPB (12). Smallford, 86 on Oct 15th. Stocker's Farm, 100 on Feb 10th.
- Middx Barnet Gate, 60+ on Jan 28th. Hampstead Heath, 60 on Oct 31st. Hampton Court Park, 50 on Nov 24th. Osterley Park, 100 on Aug 27th.
- Kent Sidcup, 80 in Feb and 52 on Dec 31st at Old Farm Park. Ruxley GP (10).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 200+ on Oct 12th. Bourne Hall Pond, Ewell, 120 at roost on Nov 12th. London Wetland Centre, 90 on Sept 20th. Molesey Heath (18), 65 on Oct 18th. Surbiton (4-6). Tolworth, c50 on Nov 15th. West Ewell, 70 on Nov 16th.
- In Lond Holland Park (1-2). Kensington Gdns (2). Little Venice, W2 (1). Regent's Park, 50 on Jan 1st and 40 roosting on Mar 3rd. Tate Modern, one pair bred. Vincent Square, 11 on Feb 4th.

**1653 Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*  
 Status: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Very few reports in the summer months of this common breeding bird. Large feeding flocks are a feature of the winter and autumn, including many juveniles from late summer onwards, and this year was no exception. Annual peak counts for those sites with 50 or more birds during the year are given below, as well as a summary of Inner London records, where it is a regular visitor.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 60 on Aug 1st. Copped Hall, 175 on Jan 14th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 60 on Sept 20th. KGV Res, 50 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marsh, 100 on Dec 24th.
- Herts Croxley Moor, 100 on Aug 20th and 27th. Oxhey, 80 on Oct 17th.
- Middx Bushy Park, 50 on Aug 28th. Staines Moor, 130+ on Aug 21st. Wormwood Scrubs, 200 on July 20th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 70 on Nov 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 60 on Nov 12th. Elmbridge Leisure Centre, 70 on Jan 30th. Hurst Green, 80 on Sept 28th. Island Barn Res, 50 on July 24th. London Wetland Centre, 61 SW on Oct 28th.
- In Lond Hyde Park, three on Mar 2nd. Kensington Gdns, one on July 28th. Millennium Dome, 42 on Aug 8th. Regent's Park, monthly maxima of five in Jan and Feb, two in Mar, three in May and four in June, six on Aug 20th, 12 on Oct 24th and seven on Nov 4th. Tate Modern, one on Nov 5th.

**1654 Siskin*****Carduelis spinus***

Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer and a potential breeding species.

A large influx of Siskins was apparent during the first three months of the year, with at least 26 sites where 50 or more birds were reported, ten of these with 100 or more birds, and numbers reaching at least 450 at Sevenoaks in January. Numbers were at their peak in January, and far more were seen at garden bird feeders than usual in late winter. Nearly all had left by mid-April, but there was a report from a Tadworth garden feeder on May 28th, and then a couple of sightings in August. First birds in autumn arrived on Sept 8th, and migrants were widely reported in small numbers over the next few months. Flock sizes in the second-winter period were at a more normal level, with just seven sites holding flocks of 50 or more in November and December and only two of these peaking at 100 or more birds.

Seasonal maxima are given for all sites where counts exceeded 50 birds and also a summary of records for Inner London.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 60 on Feb 7th. Broom Wood, 100 on Jan 7th. Cornmill Meadows, 150 on Jan 15th and Feb 12th. Weald Park, 100 on Jan 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 60 on Jan 1st and 50 on Dec 20th. Brookmans Park, 90 on Jan 1st and 60 on Dec 6th. Broxbourne Woods, 100 on Feb 23rd. Cheshunt GP (North Met Pit), 120 on Jan 16th and 50 on Dec 24th. Frogmore GP, 50 on Jan 4th. Hilfield Park Res, 50 on Jan 31st. Maple Lodge NR, 100 on Jan 8th. Rickmansworth, 56 on garden feeders on Feb 9th. Stocker's Lake, 100+ from Jan 13th-16th and 100 on Dec 2nd.
- Middx Brent Res, 50 flew S on Jan 4th. Bushy Park, 80 on Feb 1st.
- Bucks Horton GP, 130 on Jan 3rd. Ranston Covert, Denham, 70 on Feb 1st.
- Kent Bexley Wood, 110 on Jan 7th and 8th. Sevenoaks WR, 450 on Jan 18th and 19th and 150 on Dec 13th.
- Surrey Hurst Green, 50 on Jan 16th. Limpsfield Chart, c100 on Mar 20th. London Wetland Centre, 95 flew over on Nov 27th. Wimbledon Common, 60 on Dec 30th.

In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 5th, eight on 23rd and two on Mar 5th. Paddington, W2, three flew SW on Oct 25th. Regent's Park, present from Jan 2nd-Feb 28th with a peak of 50 on Jan 13th, one on Apr 24th, and from Oct 9th-Nov 27th with a peak of 15 on Oct 24th.

**1660 Linnnet *Carduelis cannabina***

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

This small finch, which inevitably comes in flocks (sometimes very large), is still a common breeding bird in places where there are suitable areas of open ground and bushes. All breeding sites with more than three pairs (the number that is shown in brackets) as well annual maxima for all sites with flocks over 100 or more are shown, together with Inner London records.

Essex Ingrebourne Valley (13), 129 on Nov 14th. KGV Res, 200 on Oct 21st. Great Mollands Pit, 100 on Jan 12th. Rainham Marsh NR (5), 261 on Feb 24th. Stubbers OPC (4). Upminster, 125 at Pages Farm on Nov 11th.

Herts Amwell GP, 100 on Jan 19th. Chiswell Green, 150 on Feb 1st. Hilfield Park Res (5). North Mymms Park, 220 on Oct 4th. Potters Crouch, 300 on Jan 12th. Rye Meads RSPB (5).

Middx Staines Res, 115 on Sept 21st. Wormwood Scrubs (6+).

Surrey Beddington SF (4). Little Woodcote, 130 on Jan 19th. London Wetland Centre, 112 flew S on Nov 14th. Molesey Heath (9). Riddlesdown, 125+ on Dec 16th. Walton Heath (20).

In Lond Regent's Park, 20 on Jan 2nd, up to four from Apr 4th-16th and 30 on Oct 3rd. Tate Modern, one on Dec 17th.

**1663 Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret***

Status: former breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was a report of a male singing and displaying in Ongar Park Wood in Essex during the summer. Apart from this and one sighting in gardens adjacent to the London Wetland Centre on May 16th, birds were only seen up to Apr 30th and again from Sept 27th. The highest counts are given below for sites with ten or more birds at some time, as well as all Inner London records.

Essex Ambresbury Banks, Epping Forest, 35 on Feb 15th. Bedfords Park, 12 on Nov 30th. Harold Hill, 20 on Nov 21st and Dec 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, 15 on Oct 29th. Sewardstone Marsh, 20 on Nov 19th. Thorndon CP, 30 on Jan 9th. Warley, 15 on Jan 1st. Warley CP, 21 on Nov 12th. Weald Park, 25 on Feb 8th.

Herts Amwell GP, ten on Dec 21st. Brookmans Park, 15 on Dec 6th. Northaw Great Wood, 30 on Jan 1st and 5th. Scotsbridge Mill, 30 on Oct 21st.

Middx Horsenden Hill, 13 on Nov 13th. Southgate, 30 on Dec 13th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 20 on Nov 6th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, 16 on Apr 2nd.

Surrey Horton CP, 12 on Jan 16th. Limpsfield Chart, 30 on Jan 14th. London Wetland Centre, 48 on Oct 21st and 70 on Nov 1st. Putney, ten on Jan 22nd. Sanderstead, 20 on Dec 27th.

In Lond Regent's Park, two on Oct 24th, singles on 26th and Nov 2nd and 4th, three on 6th and one on 13th.

### 1663.1 Mealy Redpoll

*Carduelis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

Middx Southgate, one at Broomfield School on Dec 13th (PWh *et al*).

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 20th, 28th and 30th (RK *et al*).

Several other claims of this species during the year were not supported by field notes and therefore cannot be considered for publication here.

### 1666 Common Crossbill

*Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

Following the good numbers present in the later half of 2002, several sizeable flocks were around at the beginning of the year. There was a flock of 50 at Black Park in January, as well as up to 30 in Essex and 20 in Herts and Surrey during the first three months, during which there were records of birds at 20 different localities. Small parties were particularly common in some places in March. Numbers declined somewhat in April and May. A few juveniles at this time led to breeding being suspected in some areas, but this was not proved. An isolated flock of 67 at Leavesden Green on May 31st, and 15 at Black Park on June 6th were the only evidence of mid-summer movements, and numbers were generally far fewer in the second half of the year, with no count higher than eight anywhere after July, and only two small parties in September, and single birds in November and December. In the following, all sites of occurrence during the year are given but are summarised for a few of the more regular places.

Essex Bedfords Park, five on Mar 21st. Copped Hall, five on Mar 19th. Harold Wood, three N on Mar 22nd. Long Hills, Epping Forest, 11 on Mar 25th. Ongar Park Wood, three on Aug 3rd. Thorndon CP, four on Feb 24th and from Mar 5th-15th with a peak of 30 on 11th, two on Aug 22nd and one on Dec 3rd and 5th. Waltham Abbey, six flew over on Apr 10th. Weald Park, five on Mar 16th.

Herts Amwell GP, two E on Jan 31st. Bedmond area, up to 20 during Jan-Apr. Broxbourne Woods, from Jan 11th-Mar 2nd with a peak of 15 on Feb 1st and 2nd. Cassiobury Park, six on May 4th. Leavesden Green, 67 on May 31st. Symondshyde Great Wood, 16 on Feb 9th, four on Mar 9th and five on 16th.

Middx Hampstead Heath, one on Apr 13th and eight on Sept 11th. Trent Park, seven on Mar 18th and singles on Mar 31st and Apr 11th.

Bucks Black Park, 50+ on Jan 26th, 19 on Feb 27th, 15 on June 8th, five on July 11th and two on 19th and at least on Nov 3rd.

Kent Bexley, a juvenile on June 5th.

Surrey Croydon, one flew NW on July 8th. Headley Heath, nine on May 14th. Horton CP, one on Aug 14th. Kenley, 11 on Apr 27th. Limpsfield Chart, regular from

Feb 19th-Apr 21st, peaking at 20 on Mar 20th, two on Aug 7th and one on 22nd. Tooting Common, eight on Mar 14th. Wandsworth Common, one on Feb 22nd. Woldingham, eight SW on May 11th and five ESE on July 26th.

In Lond Regent's Park, five on Feb 18th and seven on Sept 2nd. (ARD).

**1710 Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

At least 67 pairs were reported across the whole Area during the year, very similar to the 64 pairs in 2002. Annual maxima for sites where five or more birds were seen are given below.

Essex Copped Hall, 18 on Jan 7th. Cornmill Meadows, five on Dec 16th. Chingford Plain, five on Feb 25th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 13 on Jan 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, seven on Dec 30th. Thorndon CP, eight on Feb 21st.

Herts Abbots Langley, seven on Dec 7th. Amwell GP, 13 on Feb 6th. Beech Farm, five on Jan 3rd and Nov 30th. Bowyer's GP, five on Jan 26th. Brookmans Park, seven on Nov 9th. Jersey Farm, at least six on Jan 9th. North Mymms Park, six on Jan 25th. Rye Meads RSPB, up to ten in Sept.

Middx Brent Res, six on Apr 4th. Horsenden Hill, nine on Aug 14th. Kempton NR, five on Feb 16th. Trent Park, six on Jan 4th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, nine ringed in July and five in Aug.

Surrey Bookham Common, seven on Oct 30th. Horton CP, eight in May and June. Hurst Green, five on Jan 25th. Riddlesdown, ten on Dec 16th. Wimbledon Common, ten on Dec 29th. Woldingham, five on July 31st.

**1717 Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

About 14 birds seen at seven sites, with no counts of more than two and all of these during the winter and autumn months. All records are given.

Essex Great Warley, one on Nov 2nd (ASd). Woodford, one in 'mid-Jan' (KMy).

Herts Amwell GP, one on Oct 13th (TA). Broxbourne Woods, a pair on Jan 11th and 12th (SC, SHM), two on Dec 17th (DJn) and nine on 27th (HBC).

Surrey Bookham Common, 3+ on Dec 31st (APe). London Wetland Centre, singles flew SW on Sept 6th (RK, NPS), flew SW on Oct 11th (RK, JPPW *et al*) and flew W on Nov 2nd (NPS).

In Lond Regent's Park, two on Dec 2nd (ARD).

**1847 Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one feeding with Meadow Pipits on the reservoir bank on Oct 4th (ATi *et al*).

- 1850 Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
 Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.  
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, a first-winter female on Dec 2nd (CDRH *et al*).  
 Several other reports were not substantiated.
- 1857 Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*  
 Status: widespread but declining breeding resident.  
 The estimated total of breeding pairs was in excess of 100 and this is still quite a widespread species in some rural parts of Herts, Essex and Surrey, and is also found in a few places in Bucks, Kent and north Middlesex. Evidence of continuing decline is provided in the size of flocks outside the breeding season, which seem to have decreased considerably in most places.  
 The following gives all breeding records (with the numbers of singing males or territories in brackets) as well as maximum counts for the year for all localities with flocks of ten or more birds (or the peak in each sector if fewer).
- Essex Bulphan Fen (10). Cranham GC (2). Copped Hall (3), 40 on Mar 13th. Fairlop, 40 on Jan 22nd. Grange Waters (2). Harold Court, ten on Feb 10th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 25 on Dec 16th. Ingrebourne Valley (9), 22 on Dec 23rd. Mar Dyke (1). Netherhall Common, 35 on Dec 4th. Ongar, 10 on Apr 21st. Priors GC, 12 on Mar 26th. Stubbers OPC (1). Theydon Bois (1). Toot Hill (1), ten on Apr 8th. Upminster, 31 at Pages Farm on Feb 22nd. Warley (3).
- Herts Abbots Langley (1–2). Bedmond (5–6). Brickendonbury (2). Bricket Wood Common (5–6). Butterwick Fields, St Albans, 25–30 on Mar 31st. Chess Valley (1). Chiswell Green (6), 41 on Feb 1st. Coursers Farm, ten on Jan 12th. Garston (1). Hunton Bridge (1). Jersey Farm, 30 on Mar 9th. Letchmore Heath, 20 on Dec 14th. Levens Green, ten on Mar 17th. London Colney (2). Merry Hill, Bushey (4+). North Mymms Park, 25 on Dec 7th. Park Street (1). Radlett (2). Rye Meads RSPB, 55 in Jan. Shenleybury (1). Tyttenhanger GP, 30 on Feb 4th. West Hyde (2–3).
- Middx Bury Farm, Edgware (2). Trent Park, 20 on Mar 22nd. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 40 in Jan and Feb.
- Bucks Langley Park, one on May 1st. Robert's Farm (2).
- Kent Bluewater Shopping Centre, a male on July 13th. Chipstead Lake, one on Mar 30th. Horton Kirby, four on Mar 3rd. Keston Ponds, four in March.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (3). Epsom Common (3). Holmethorpe SP (2). Horton CP (3), 15 on Feb 13th. Hurst Green (4). Limpsfield Chart (6). West Ewell (1). Ridlands, Moorhouse, ten on Dec 28th. Trevereux area, 35 on Nov 24th.
- 1866 Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*  
 Status: rare vagrant.
- Essex Sewardstone, one at Cob Fields on Sept 3rd, and two from Sept 28th-Oct 1st (AM *et al*)
- Middx Wormwood Scrubs, one on Sept 2nd (DJL).



These three records involving four different birds provided an exceptional year for this rare migrant to the London Area. There have been two years previously when there has been more than one sighting in a single year (in 1996 and 1999) but this is the first occurrence of two birds together. The London Area total now stands at 22 since 1900.

- 1877 Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
 Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- A minimum total of 213 breeding pairs or singing males which is very low and considerably down on the 256 reported in 2002. Two major sites in Essex reported large decreases. In the Rainham Marshes area, there were 71 pairs (c100 in 2002) and in the Ingrebourne Valley, 15 pairs (23 in 2002).
- Sites holding three or more breeding pairs/territories (shown in brackets) and maximum counts of ten or more birds are detailed below, as well as all Inner London records.
- Essex Chingford Plain (4). Cornmill Meadows (3). Dagenham Chase (5). Hayes Hill Farm, 30 on Dec 16th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 20 on Sept 20th and Dec 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley (15). Netherhall Common, 20 on Dec 4th. Rainham Marshes (71) including 45 pairs on the RSPB reserve. Sewardstone, 22 at Cob Fields on Oct 1st and ten at Sewardstone Marsh on Feb 16th. Stubbers OPC (5).
- Herts Amwell GP (4), 85 on Jan 1st. Cheshunt GP, ten on May 25th. Chiswell Green, 20 on Feb 1st. Jersey Farm, 30 on Mar 9th. Rye Meads RSPB (14), 25 on Jan 15th. Tyttenhanger GP, 20 on Jan 31st. Watford Link Road, ten in reed-bed roost on Jan 5th.
- Middx Brent Res (3). Bushy Park (7–8), ten on July 18th. Kempton NR (3). Staines Moor (10).
- Bucks Colnbrook, 18 on Jan 18th. Wraysbury GP, ten ringed in Sept.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 12 at roost on Mar 5th. Swanscombe Marsh (9).
- Surrey Beddington SF (6). Hurst Green (3+). London Wetland Centre, 17 on Mar 20th. Molesey Heath, ten on Oct 18th. Rushett Farm, c20 on Dec 7th. Trevereux area, 35 on Jan 26th. Wimbledon Common (5).
- In Lond Regent's Park, a juvenile on July 20th and 24th, and two on Nov 4th.

- 1882 Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*  
 Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

The sorry tale of this species rapid decline in our Area has now reached the stage where almost all sightings of individual birds during the year have become a noteworthy event. Although four different counties reported sightings (including the first in Middlesex since 1998), numbers were in most cases very small, and it hard to think that a viable population still exists anywhere in the London Area.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Feb 5th. Cranham GC, one on Feb 11th. Fairlop Waters, a male singing on Apr 23rd, 11 on Sept 7th, 12 on Oct 22nd and 13 on Oct 26th. Grange Waters, three on Oct 5th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Nov 9th and two from Dec 16th-21st and one until 26th. Rainham Marshes, a singing male on July 2nd. Upminster, one at Pages Farm on Feb 22nd.
- Herts Bedmond, one on July 5th. Chiswell Green, 33 on Feb 1st and two singing on June 12th. Potters Crouch, one on Jan 26th and two Nov 30th.
- Middx Edgware, one at Bury Farm from Jan 20th-Mar 4th. Enfield, one in a stubble field with Yellowhammers at Vicarage Farm from Feb 14th-17th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Mar 31st, one from Apr 26th-29th and then again in June and July, but no proof of breeding.

## Appendix I: Escapes

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are full-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in collections such as at St James's Park.

### **Black Swan**

### ***Cygnus atratus***

Small numbers were seen throughout the year at 33 localities. Up to six were seen in July at Walthamstow Res. A pair nested in St James's Park.

### **0154 Whooper Swan**

### ***Cygnus cygnus***

Surrey London Wetland Centre, the usual bird was present all year.

### **Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus***

Essex Walthamstow Res, one on June 10th.

Middx KGVI Res, one on Aug 17th and 19th.

Surrey Beddington SF, one on June 13th. London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 27th, three on Mar 29th and singles in Apr and May. R Thames at Twickenham, one on Sept 16th.

### **0159 White-fronted Goose**

### ***Anser albifrons***

Middx Bushy Park, one from Dec 5th-16th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, an adult bird from Dec 15th-28th.

### **0163 Snow Goose**

### ***Anser caerulescens***

Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Oct 20th. Mayesbrook Park one from Jan to June.

### **Emperor Goose**

### ***Anser canagicus***

Surrey QEII Res, two intermittently from Jan-April and three on Feb 17th.

**Swan Goose***Anser cygnoides*

Essex Walthamstow Res, up to two throughout the year. Weald Park, one all year.

**0167 Barnacle Goose***Branta leucopsis*

A small feral population exists in the Lea Valley, and wandering birds are regularly reported.

Essex Most reports came from the Lea Valley, where there were up to eight in Sept in the Fishers Green area. Connaught Water, one in May and Aug.

Herts Coopers Green GP, a pair built a nest and laid eggs, but there were no reports of any young. Singles were seen at Bury Lake, Croxley Moor, Hertford Heath, Lynsters Farm, Stocker's Farm, Tyttenhanger GP and West Hyde.

Middx Enfield, one on Feb 2nd. Osterley Park, up to five in Feb. Shepperton area, singles on Apr 29th and Aug 20th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1–2 birds appeared to be resident.

Surrey Beddington SF, three on May 5th and one on June 5th. Holmethorpe SP, two on May 10th and three on Aug 18th. Kew Gdns, six on Feb 22nd. London Wetland Centre, one irregularly from June to Nov. QEII Res, one on Apr 23rd. Treverreux area, one on Nov 9th.

In Lond Hyde Park, one on Mar 26th.

**Ruddy Shelduck***Tadorna ferruginea*

Essex Barking Bay, one on Mar 5th. Rainham Marsh, a juvenile on June 26th.

**Cape Shelduck***Tadorna cana*

Herts Amwell GP, a male on Oct 19th.

Surrey West End Common, one during the year was probably a hybrid.

There seems to have been a sharp decline in recent years in the large-scale releases or escapes of a bewildering array of Cape/Paradise/Ruddy Shelducks-types in southwest London. The sight of often-large free-flying flocks of what were mostly hybrids, leading to numerous reports of "Ruddy Shelducks", is hopefully now a thing of the past.

**0177 Wood Duck***Aix sponsa*

Middx The Basin, Edgware, one on Aug 1st.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 12th and 13th. Richmond Park, one on Oct 26th.

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Sept 24th.

**Muscovy Duck***Cairina moschata*

Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Mar 4th.

Herts Broxbourne GP, one on May 27th. Verulamium Lake, five on July 5th.

**Chiloe Wigeon*****Anas sibilatrix***

Herts Amwell GP, a juvenile on Sept 19th and 27th.

**0189 Pintail*****Anas acuta***

Middx Bushy Park, the regular free flying flock reached eight on Jan 12th. Pinner Memorial Park, a drake on Feb 7th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, feral birds reached counts of 16 during the year and are probably responsible for most of the records at nearby sites in Inner London and at Beddington SF.

**White-cheeked Pintail*****Anas bahamensis***

Middx Bushy Park, one on Apr 21st.

**Puna Teal*****Anas versicolor puna***

Essex Connaught Water, three on Jan 13th and two on Oct 12th.

**Ringed Teal*****Callonetta leucophrys***

Middx The Basin, Edgware, two in Aug and Sept.

**0193 Blue-winged Teal*****Anas discors***

Essex Epping Forest, a drake again at both Connaught Water and Strawberry Pond during the year was paired with a hybrid 'Cinnamon' Teal.

**0196 Red-crested Pochard*****Netta rufina***

A selection of some of the more obvious escapes reported, but not every bird coming to bread in a local park is mentioned.

Essex Wm Girling Res, a female for most of the year.

Herts Borehamwood, a tame drake in Aberford Park on Aug 30th and 31st. Rickmansworth area. 1-2 throughout the year at The Aquadrome, Bury Lake and Stocker's Lake. Stanstead Abbots, one on the R Lea and at Stanstead Abbots GP was resident. Verulamium Lake, a tame bird in April-May.

Middx Bushy Park, up to 11 during the year.

Kent Danson Park, a female on Dec 30th. Ruxley GP, a leucistic female during the year has been present since 1998.

Surrey Mitcham Common, a drake on Apr 22nd. Waddon Ponds, a drake on June 18th. Walton and QEII Res, up to two during July-Oct.

In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Oct 24th.

**Rosybill*****Netta peposaca***

Essex KGV Res, two probably first-winter drakes on Mar 30th.

Herts Maple Lodge NR, two immature drakes on Apr 29th.

- Baer's Pochard** *Aythya baeri*  
Essex KGV Res, a drake on Apr 17th.
- 0202 Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*  
Herts Seventy Acres Lake, one on Nov 2nd.
- New Zealand Scaup** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*  
Essex Connaught Water, a drake throughout the year. KGV Res, a pair on Apr 15th.
- Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*  
Essex Copped Hall, a pair were present all year.
- White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala*  
Middx Broadwater Lake, a drake on Sept 7th-16th, Oct 12th, Nov 8th, Dec 7th and 27th (AVM, CL). Staines Res, a drake on July 7th (REI *et al*).  
For comments about the exact status of this species in Britain, see *LBR* 2002. Photographs of the Staines bird, which was paired with a female Ruddy Duck, suggest that this was the same bird that was present outside the Area at Shardeloes Lake, Bucks, during April and May 2003.
- 0111 Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*  
In Lond Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, one on Nov 15th had escaped from London Zoo.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*  
Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 1st and 4th. Frogmore GP, Radlett, one on May 24th, was reported to have been there 'for three years'.  
Kent Hall Place Gdns, one on Dec 25th.
- 0267 Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*  
Essex North Mymms Park, one with jesses on Jan 12th.
- Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*  
Middx Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one with Red-legged Partridges on single dates in August, September and November.
- 0396 Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*  
Essex Copped Hall, a male on May 3rd.  
Surrey Kew Gdns, three males on Mar 24th.

**Southern Lapwing***Vanellus chilensis*

Herts The bird first seen at Tyttenhanger GP in 2002 stayed until at least Mar 9th.

**Silver Gull***Larus novaehollandiae*

In Lond St James's Park, the usual bird on several dates from Jan 15th-Feb 19th and again on Nov 24th.

**Red Lory***Eos bornea*

Surrey QEII Res, one flew to the Hersham parakeet roost on Oct 31st and Dec 24th.

**Cockatiel***Nymphicus hollandicus*

Essex Wm Girling Res, one on Sept 18th.

Middx Bentley Priory, one during the autumn was predated. Brent Res, one on Oct 25th. Staines Res, one on May 10th.

Kent Blackheath, one on Aug 18th.

Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Mar 17th and Aug 17th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 28th, June 5th and Aug 16th.

**Eastern Rosella***Platycercus eximius*

Herts Hertford Heath, one in a garden in April.

**Budgerigar***Melopsittacus undulatus*

Essex Hornchurch CP, one on Sept 18th. Pole Hill, one on Mar 31st.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 14th.

In Lond Tate Modern, one on July 29th.

**Peach-fronted Lovebird***Agapornis roseicollis*

Essex Barking Park, one on May 29th.

**Alexandrine Parakeet***Psittacula erithacus*

Essex Dagenham, one all year again in Parsloes Park. Ilford, one on Aug 15th. Weald Park, one on several dates during Aug-Dec.

Middx Edgware, one at a garden seed feeder on June 20th.

Surrey Sightings during the year of a single bird, normally with Ring-necked Parakeets, at the Hersham Roost, London Wetland Centre and QEII.

**Blue-crowned Parakeet***Aratinga acuticaudata*

Surrey Shirley, one on Oct 15th.

**Monk Parakeet*****Myiopsitta monachus***

Herts Borehamwood, present throughout the year with the main roost in Aberford Park, highest counts of 32 in Jan and 44 in Dec. Colney Heath, one on July 8th. Haberdashers Girls School, 17 on Nov 12th.

Middx Isle of Dogs at Mudchute Park, a pair at a large stick nest on Aug 23rd, was still present at the end of the year. Mill Hill, five on Feb 4th.

A species whose status is worth monitoring closely. This is the parakeet whose nest is a large mass of sticks with separate entrances for multiple pairs. It is one of the main components of feral parakeet flocks in other cities of the world. First reports in the Borehamwood area date from about 1998, where significant numbers now occur, and records are increasing.

**Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot*****Amazona aestiva***

Surrey Hersham, one at the parakeet roost on Jan 26th, and two here on Mar 25th and June 22nd.

**Orange-winged Amazon Parrot*****Amazona amazonica***

Middx Osterley Park, one on Feb 12th was first seen in November 2002

Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Nov 4th.

**0744 Eagle Owl*****Bubo bubo***

Essex Valentines Park, Ilford, one on Mar 29th.

**Cape White-eye*****Zosterops capensis***

Surrey Surbiton, a bird reported in three different gardens on Jan 7th-15th, Feb 15th and Feb 17th.

**Common Mynah*****Acridotheres tristis***

Surrey Chessington World of Adventure, one on July 14th and five on Dec 9th were in the car park and all free flying.

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill*****Estrilda melpoda***

Surrey Hersham, one at the parakeet roost on Aug 24th.

**Common Waxbill*****Estrilda astrild***

Kent Chipstead Lake, two on Sept 9th.

**Red-billed Quelea*****Quelea quelea***

Herts Garston, one on Jan 9th.

## Appendix II: Hybrids

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

### Canada Goose x Greylag Goose

This is by far the most commonly reported Canada goose hybrid, and amongst the many records received of this and hybrids with other grey geese, there were reports of six at Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns and Verulamium Lake, and four at the London Wetland Centre and at Kings Langley Lake.

### Canada Goose x Lesser White-fronted Goose

Herts Amwell GP, one on Aug 22nd.

### Canada Goose x Bar-headed Goose

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 12th

### Bar-headed Goose x Greylag Goose

In Lond Hyde Park, one on Feb 6th.

### Wigeon x American Wigeon

Surrey A female seen at London Wetland Centre on Sept 26th, 28th, 30th and Oct 1st and possibly the same at Richmond Park on Sept 19th.

### Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal

Herts Amwell GP, a drake from Jan 1st-Mar 25th and again from Nov 16th to the end of the year. Panshanger Park, a drake on Dec 27th.

### Mallard x Gadwall

Herts Amwell GP, a male all year. Seventy Acres Lake, a male on June 5th.  
Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Nov 10th and 23rd.

### Mallard x Pintail

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 23rd.

### Aythya hybrids

Essex KGV Res, one resembling a female Ferruginous Duck from Apr 13th-24th, and a possible Scaup x Ring-necked Duck on Apr 15th-24th.

Herts Aberford Park, Borehamwood, one considered a Red-crested Pochard x Pochard from Aug-Oct. Aldenham Res, a resident Red-crested Pochard x Pochard was present all year and since 1977. Amwell GP, a drake Pochard x Tufted Duck 'Lesser Scaup'-type from Jan 1st-11th.



- Middx Brent Res, a 'Ring-necked Duck'-type hybrid on Jan 1st. Staines Res, an eclipse drake 'Lesser Scaup'-type hybrid on July 10th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a drake Tufted Duck x Pochard on Feb 18th, Apr 1st-9th and possibly the same again on Nov 10th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, a drake 'Lesser Scaup'-type hybrid on Nov 11th and later at Walton Res. London Wetland Centre, a Scaup x Tufted Duck on Apr 5th and a Ring-necked Duck x Tufted Duck on Apr 17th.

### **Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye**

- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a drake from Sept 13th-20th.
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP, a drake on Nov 17th, and Dec 18th, 26th and 30th.

This well-known and distinctive hybrid is noted for its longevity and mobility.

### **Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull**

- Middx Broadwater Lake, a first-winter on Feb 22nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a first-summer on Apr 16th and two first-summer on Apr 17th (probably siblings).

### **Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull**

- Kent Dartford Marsh, an adult on Oct 5th showed characters of both species.

### **Chiffchaff x Willow Warbler?**

- Essex High Beech, Epping Forest, one singing on May 3rd.

Another mystery warbler that had a Willow Warbler's song but with strong sections of Chiffchaff song interspersed. Several similar reports of such birds are being increasingly reported and must be either aberrant Willow Warblers or possibly hybrids.

## First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants – 2002

| <b>Summer Migrants</b> | <b>Arrival</b>   |                         | <b>Departure</b> |                         |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Garganey               | Mar 3            | Walthamstow Res         | Oct 13           | Island Barn Res         |
| Osprey                 | Apr 2            | Cornmill Meadows        | Sept 10          | KGV Res                 |
| Hobby                  | Apr 17           | Hilfield Park Res       | Oct 12           | Tythenhanger GP         |
| Little Ringed Plover   | Mar 11           | London Wetland Centre   | Sept 26          | Kempton NR              |
| Whimbrel               | Apr 15           | Rainham Marsh           | Aug 15           | Rainham Marsh           |
| Black Tern             | Apr 21           | Staines Res             | Sept 29          | Hilfield Park Res       |
| Sandwich Tern          | Apr 9            | Brent Res               | Dec 10           | Grays                   |
| Common Tern            | Mar 30           | Hilfield Park Res       | Oct 17           | Hilfield Park Res       |
| Arctic Tern            | Apr 13           | KGV Res/Staines Res     | Oct 6            | Purfleet                |
| Turtle Dove            | Apr 21           | Berwick Ponds           | Sept 22          | Rainham Marsh           |
| Cuckoo                 | Apr 14           | three sites             | Sept 25          | Cheshunt GP             |
| Swift                  | Apr 21           | London WC/Beddington SF | Sept 16          | Beddington SF           |
| Sand Martin            | Mar 9            | Queen Mother Res        | Sept 28          | South Norwood CP        |
| Swallow                | Mar 22           | London Wetland Centre   | Nov 13           | Beddington SF           |
| House Martin           | Mar 11           | Amwell GP               | Oct 20           | Rye Meads RSPB          |
| Tree Pipit             | Mar 28           | Fairlop Waters          | Sept 25          | Beddington SF           |
| Yellow Wagtail         | Apr 2            | Rainham Marsh           | Oct 20           | Staines Res             |
| Nightingale            | Apr 4            | Fishers Green           | July 18          | Nazeing                 |
| Common Redstart        | Mar 30           | Stockers Farm           | Sept 29          | Bedmond                 |
| Whinchat               | Apr 21           | Brookmans Park          | Oct 20           | Dagenham Chase NR       |
| Wheatear               | Mar 15           | KGV/Queen Mother Res    | Oct 23           | Queen Mother Res        |
| Ring Ouzel             | Apr 1            | QE II Res               | Nov 16           | Walthamstow Res         |
| Grasshopper Warbler    | Apr 15           | Vicarage Farm           | Aug 3            | Cheshunt GP             |
| Sedge Warbler          | Apr 4            | Ramney Marsh            | Oct 12           | Staines Mr/Wraysbury GP |
| Reed Warbler           | Apr 10           | Walton Res              | Nov 26           | Island Barn Res         |
| Garden Warbler         | Apr 21           | Ashtead Common          | Sept 13          | Sewardstone Marsh       |
| Lesser Whitethroat     | Apr 19           | Hoton GP/Rainham Marsh  | Oct 30           | Mollands Lane GP        |
| Common Whitethroat     | Mar 29           | Rye Meads RSPB          | Nov 26           | Bowyers GP              |
| Wood Warbler           | Apr 19           | Morden Park             | Sept 29          | Hainault Forest CP      |
| Willow Warbler         | Mar 25           | Fishers Green           | Oct 2            | Wimbledon Common        |
| Spotted Flycatcher     | May 7            | Mudchute City Farm      | Sept 27          | Regent's Park           |
| Pied Flycatcher        | Apr 14           | Wandle Meadow NR        | Sept 22          | Regent's Park           |
| <b>Winter Migrants</b> | <b>Departure</b> |                         | <b>Arrival</b>   |                         |
| Smew                   | Mar 25           | Staines Res             | Nov 3            | Wraysbury GP            |
| Goosander              | Apr 15           | Walton Res              | Oct 13           | KGV Res                 |
| Bittern                | Apr 7            | Amwell GP               | Oct 8            | Cheshunt GP             |
| Jack Snipe             | Apr 28           | Mollands Lane GP        | Sept 15          | Rye Meads RSPB          |
| Rock Pipit             | Apr 14           | Walton Res              | Sept 19          | Queen Mother Res        |
| Water Pipit            | Apr 24           | London Wetland Centre   | Oct 7            | London Wetland Centre   |
| Fieldfare              | Apr 24           | Dartford Marsh          | Sept 21          | Rainham Marsh           |
| Redwing                | May 10           | Watford                 | Sept 18          | Barking                 |
| Brambling              | Apr 21           | Trent Park              | Sept 22          | Broxbourne Woods        |
| Siskin                 | May 13           | Kenley                  | Sept 8           | Paddington Green        |

## First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants – 2003

| <b>Summer Migrants</b> | <b>Arrival</b>                | <b>Departure</b>              |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Garganey               | Mar 2 Amwell GP               | Oct 11 Rye Meads RSPB         |
| Osprey                 | Apr 28 Beech Farm             | Oct 7 Navestock Side          |
| Hobby                  | Mar 27 Tyttenhanger GP        | Oct 13 Borehamwood/Shenley    |
| Little Ringed Plover   | Mar 9 Fairlop/Tyttenhanger GP | Sept 12 Tyttenhanger GP       |
| Whimbrel               | Apr 6 London Wetland Centre   | Aug 26 Staines Res            |
| Black Tern             | Apr 15 KGV/Queen Mother Res   | Sept 28 QE II Res             |
| Sandwich Tern          | Mar 12 Regents Park           | Oct 11 Wraysbury GP           |
| Common Tern            | Mar 19 Tyttenhanger GP        | Oct 17 Wm Girling Res         |
| Arctic Tern            | Apr 5 Staines Res             | Oct 20 Tilbury Docks          |
| Turtle Dove            | Apr 10 Rye Meads RSPB         | Oct 2 London Wetland Centre   |
| Cuckoo                 | Apr 4 Bookham Common          | Sept 1 Beddington SF          |
| Swift                  | Apr 17 Island Barn Res        | Sept 13 London Wetland Centre |
| Sand Martin            | Mar 5 Beddington SF           | Oct 23 London Wetland Centre  |
| Swallow                | Mar 23 Brent Res              | Nov 13 London Wetland Centre  |
| House Martin           | Mar 29 KGV Res                | Oct 26 Island Barn Res        |
| Tree Pipit             | Mar 18 Three sites            | Oct 26 Wimbledon Common       |
| Yellow Wagtail         | Mar 25 Queen Mother Res       | Oct 12 Waterworks NR          |
| Nightingale            | Apr 4 Fishers Green           | Sept 7 Sewardstone Marsh      |
| Common Redstart        | Mar 31 Fishers Green          | Oct 18 Amwell GP              |
| Whinchat               | Mar 10 London Wetland Centre  | Oct 21 London Wetland Centre  |
| Wheatear               | Mar 6 Queen Mother Res        | Oct 21 Minet CP               |
| Ring Ouzel             | Mar 22 Watford                | Nov 9 Stanwell Moor           |
| Grasshopper Warbler    | Apr 16 Holyfield Hall Farm    | Sept 14 Ingrebourne Valley    |
| Sedge Warbler          | Mar 30 London Wetland Centre  | Oct 6 London Wetland Centre   |
| Garden Warbler         | Apr 15 Bowyer's GP            | Sept 16 London Wetland Centre |
| Reed Warbler           | Apr 9 London Wetland Centre   | Nov 24 Rye Meads RSPB         |
| Lesser Whitethroat     | Apr 17 Tylers Common          | Oct 4 Rye Meads RSPB          |
| Common Whitethroat     | Apr 4 Fishers Green           | Oct 15 Ruxley GP              |
| Wood Warbler           | Apr 12 Northaw Great Wood     | none recorded                 |
| Willow Warbler         | Mar 22 Brent Res              | Nov 8 Sewardstone Marsh       |
| Spotted Flycatcher     | May 1 Regent's Park           | Oct 18 Amwell GP              |
| none recorded          |                               | Sept 21 Alexandra Park        |
| <b>Winter Migrants</b> | <b>Departure</b>              | <b>Arrival</b>                |
| Smew                   | Mar 17 Princes Ski Club       | Aug 30 KGV Res                |
| Goosander              | Apr 21 Wm Girling Res         | Aug 10 Staines Res            |
| Bittern                | Apr 19 Berwick Ponds          | July 24 Cheshunt GP           |
| Jack Snipe             | Apr 28 London Wetland Centre  | Sept 22 Hogsmill SF           |
| Rock Pipit             | Apr 19 Beddington SF          | Sept 26 Queen Mother Res      |
| Water Pipit            | Apr 19 London Wetland Centre  | Oct 11 Beddington SF          |
| Fieldfare              | Apr 29 Brickendonbury         | Oct 6 London Wetland Centre   |
| Redwing                | Apr 21 Lippitts Hill          | Sept 22 Sevenoaks WR          |
| Brambling              | May 1 Wimbledon Common        | Oct 8 Holyfield/Regent's Park |
| Siskin                 | May 28 Tadworth               | Aug 5 Cassiobury Park         |

## Ringling Report for 2002

*Roger Taylor*

The total number of birds ringed in the LNHS area during 2002 was some 28% higher than that for the previous year. This was only to be expected, as many ringers were unable to operate within their usual sites during part of 2001 due to the restrictions imposed during the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak. However, not all species were ringed in greater number in 2002; and, although the LNHS area ringling totals have been rising steadily for the last five years (with the exception of 2001), an examination of the returns from ringers shows some notable reductions.

The 2002 total of 16,586 is made up of 14,353 full-grown birds of 89 species and 2,233 pulli (nestling or chick) of 50 species. The most-ringed species was Blue Tit (2,360) followed by Great Tit (1,345), Blackcap (1,240) and Chiffchaff (1,069). The first three species occupy their usual place at the head of the table; but Chiffchaff has jumped up from eighth place in last year's table, with substantial increases reported by Rye Meads and Runnymede Ringling Groups.

For the more common species ringed there was good news: Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Blue Tit and Great Tit all had increased totals. Song Thrush numbers, however, fell back from the high of last year by 24% but remained close to the five-year average for this species. This reduction in numbers was most noticeable from the returns by the Runnymede Ringling Group, who reported a fall of 47% in catches of this species. Perhaps a reduction in winter visitors was responsible, as the ringling totals for two other thrush species—Redwing and Fieldfare—were also lower in 2002. Numbers of two other target species also fell back from their high numbers in 2001: Starling numbers were down by 26% and House Sparrow by 22%.

Birds of prey are not ringed in large numbers within the LNHS area. The commonest species is Sparrowhawk, with nine full-grown birds but no nestlings ringed in 2002; this is a reduction on the previous year and below the five-year average of 13. The number of Kestrel nestlings ringed was up 18% to 13. Waterfowl numbers showed no clear pattern of change, with Mallard and Gadwall both down but Tufted Duck up a pleasing 165% to 106 birds ringed. Water Rail, Moorhen and Coot were all down; this was especially noticeable at Rye Meads, where significant numbers of these species are ringed. Kingfisher numbers were up by 70%, but both 2000 and 2001 had been poor years for this species.

The LNHS area might be assumed to be largely suburban but it does include a wide range of habitats; ten species of warbler are regularly ringed within its boundaries although two of these—Cetti's Warbler and Grasshopper Warbler—rather infrequently. There was an increase in numbers ringed of almost all the common warblers in 2002, with increases in full-grown birds for Sedge Warbler (26%), Reed Warbler (39%), Blackcap (37%) and Chiffchaff (75%). The exception was Willow Warbler: numbers caught continued the downward trend of the last decade, with the 2002 total of 193 full-grown birds just 55% of the total reported in 1998.

With access to nest boxes unrestricted this year, the number of pulli ringed was up 59%; Blue Tit were up 87%, Great Tit 122% and Tree Sparrow 138%, the last species having an especially good year at Beddington Sewage Farm where 456 nestlings were ringed. Barry Trevis reported an increase in Grey Heron chicks ringed, with a total of 35 individuals. Sadly, the number of Common Terns ringed was down

by 53%, with 51 reported by Rye Meads, only three by Maple Cross and none at all by Runnymede.

Unusual species ringed during the year include: Ruddy Duck (3); Wood Sandpiper (1); Nightjar (2); Skylark (2); Wheatear (2); Grasshopper Warbler (1); Firecrest (1); and Brambling (1).

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these is listed below. (*Sites within the London Area are attributed to their Watsonian vice-county, as used in the rest of the London Bird Report, with the present administrative area in parentheses. This is to prevent confusion since many counties, where the original ringing, recovery or control may have taken place, use current administrative boundaries.*)

The first detail line shows the date and site of original ringing; the second line the subsequent recovery or recapture; the third line the distance (1km = 0.625 miles) and number of days since original ringing; and finally any observations or comments.

#### Key to symbols used:

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1y  | First-year                             |
| ad  | Adult                                  |
| F   | Female                                 |
| fg  | Full-grown                             |
| juv | Juvenile                               |
| M   | Male                                   |
| pul | Pullus/Nestling                        |
| R   | Caught and released by a ringer        |
| VV  | Ring or colour marks read in the field |
| X   | Found dead                             |
| +   | Shot or killed by man                  |

#### Wigeon *Anas penelope*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| FV72870 | adM | 24/12/96 | Hilfield, Elstree, Hertfordshire                    |
|         | X   | 18/04/02 | Kuzneck, Penza, <b>Russia</b><br>3185km.; 1941 days |

Probably shot on its breeding grounds, the fate of this bird underlines the need for internationally agreed hunting controls.

#### Gadwall *Anas strepera*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| FP38775 | 1yF | 09/08/01 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                              |
|         | +   | 06/11/01 | Longueville, Vendée, <b>France</b><br>604km.; 89 days |

#### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| FC05200 | fgF | 13/11/87 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                    |
|         | R   | 21/07/01 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire<br>0km.; 4999 days |

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

As in previous years there is a large number of records for this species. Unfortunately it is not possible to list all the overseas movements reported; however, there are a few exceptional records that warrant special mention.

|         |    |          |  |
|---------|----|----------|--|
| EP09900 | ad | 19/11/88 | St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)              |
|         | VV | 22/06/02 | Kadermo, Hanko, <b>Finland</b><br>1722km.; 4963 days     |
| EJ04349 | ad | 17/12/81 | Hyde Park, Middlesex (Greater London)                    |
|         | VV | 05/03/02 | Hyde Park, Middlesex (Greater London)<br>0km.; 7383 days |

Whilst not a national longevity record—which stands at 26 years—EJ04349 is still going strong at 20 years old, and has doubtless flown several thousand miles to and from its favourite wintering spot in the centre of London.

Every year a large number of records of this species are received—many of them sight records made by Alan Gibson in the Royal Parks. They comprise birds ringed in the London area, mostly as adults in winter; and birds ringed abroad, usually as pulli in countries bordering the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. In addition to the birds detailed above, there were records of ringed birds originating from Belgium (2), Denmark (1), Finland (2), Germany (1), Lithuania (3), Norway (1), Poland (1), and Sweden (6).

Roy Sanderson, who has been ringing in the parks of central London for many years, has analysed his ringing and recovery data and reports that, of 850 Black-headed Gulls ringed in London, there have been 106 reported recoveries of which 72 were outside the UK. This is a recovery rate of 12.5%—considerably higher than the national average for this species of 5.3%.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| P385508 | juv | 22/10/00 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire  |
|         | X   | 14/10/01 | Bergen op Zoom, Noord-Brabant, <b>The Netherlands</b><br>301km.; 357 days |

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| RP59064 | adF | 06/01/01 | Wraysbury GP, Bucks (Berkshire)                             |
|         | X   | 18/09/02 | Bad Berleburg, Arnsberg, <b>Germany</b><br>624km.; 621 days |

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

|         |     |          |  |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| K726001 | adM | 09/05/98 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                                   |
|         | R   | 28/07/98 | Frossay, Loire-Atlantique, <b>France</b><br>522km.; 80days |
| P385343 | juv | 11/09/00 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                                   |
|         | R   | 07/09/01 | Tréogat, Finistère, <b>France</b><br>528km.; 361 days      |

These two birds were caught and released by French ringers operating at migration sites close to the western seaboard of that country.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| F228482 | pul | 24/06/92 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                              |
|         | R   | 22/07/01 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire<br>0km.; 3315 days           |
| N922272 | adM | 05/06/99 | Ham Creek, Suffolk                                    |
|         | R   | 05/05/02 | Hilfield, Elstree, Hertfordshire<br>177km.; 1065 days |
| R171529 | juv | 15/09/02 | Bedfont Lakes, Middlesex (Greater London)             |
|         | R   | 21/09/02 | Lemsford, Hertfordshire<br>44km.; 6 days              |
| R228715 | juv | 24/07/02 | Beddington SF, Surrey (Greater London)                |
|         | R   | 09/08/02 | Isle of Grain, Kent<br>59km.; 16 days                 |
| R239038 | juv | 28/07/02 | Hilfield, Elstree, Hertfordshire                      |
|         | R   | 10/08/02 | Wijchmaal, Limburg, <b>Belgium</b><br>401km.; 13days  |

F228482 is an example of the length of time that members of this species can survive once they are past the critical first year of life. Both R228715 and R239038 demonstrate that autumn passage is underway in late July and early August, with both these birds moving almost due east. Although R171529 appears to be travelling in the wrong direction, this is no doubt an example of juvenile dispersal, which enables suitable new territories to be explored and colonised.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| N355355 | juv | 10/07/99 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                    |
|         | X   | 02/03/02 | Souama, <b>Algeria</b><br>1716km.; 966 days |
| N818956 | adF | 05/05/00 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                    |
|         | X   | 08/12/01 | Bejaïa, <b>Algeria</b><br>1716km.; 582 days |

These two birds were probably on their wintering grounds when found. Strangely, N818956 was found 'wedged in a grate.'

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

|        |     |          |  |
|--------|-----|----------|--|
| 9Z3582 | juv | 25/05/02 | Slimbridge, Gloucestershire                                |
|        | R   | 18/09/02 | Beddington SF, Surrey (Greater London)<br>160km.; 116 days |

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

|        |     |          |  |
|--------|-----|----------|--|
| OU7495 | adM | 25/02/01 | Bedfont Lakes, Middlesex (Greater London)  |
|        | X   | 07/01/02 | Hexham, Northumberland<br>406km.; 316 days |

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

|        |     |          |  |
|--------|-----|----------|--|
| 3M1806 | juv | 18/06/00 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire               |
|        | R   | 30/03/02 | Ely, Cambridgeshire<br>73km.; 650 days |

A surprisingly long-distance movement for this usually sedentary species.





|                           |       |     |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Common Tern               | 54    | 54  |       |
| Stock Dove                | 2     | 8   | 10    |
| Woodpigeon                | 18    | 3   | 21    |
| Collared Dove             | 4     | 4   |       |
| Turtle Dove               | 2     | 2   | 4     |
| Ring-necked Parakeet      | 14    |     | 14    |
| Cuckoo                    | 1     | 1   | 2     |
| Little Owl                | 4     | 4   |       |
| Tawny Owl                 | 2     | 2   |       |
| Nightjar                  | 2     | 2   |       |
| Swift                     | 6     | 6   |       |
| Kingfisher                | 70    | 70  |       |
| Green Woodpecker          | 26    | 26  |       |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker  | 55    | 55  |       |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | 1     | 1   |       |
| Skylark                   | 2     | 2   |       |
| Swallow                   | 4     | 1   | 5     |
| House Martin              | 8     | 8   |       |
| Meadow Pipit              | 48    | 48  |       |
| Grey Wagtail              | 35    | 14  | 49    |
| Pied Wagtail              | 38    | 38  |       |
| Wren                      | 640   | 7   | 647   |
| Dunnock                   | 714   | 12  | 726   |
| Robin                     | 738   | 7   | 745   |
| Stonechat                 | 4     | 4   |       |
| Wheatear                  | 2     | 2   |       |
| Blackbird                 | 671   | 27  | 698   |
| Fieldfare                 | 5     | 5   |       |
| Song Thrush               | 205   | 8   | 213   |
| Redwing                   | 32    | 32  |       |
| Cetti's Warbler           | 3     | 3   |       |
| Grasshopper Warbler       | 1     | 1   |       |
| Sedge Warbler             | 431   | 76  | 507   |
| Reed Warbler              | 690   | 85  | 775   |
| Lesser Whitethroat        | 147   | 4   | 151   |
| Common Whitethroat        | 753   | 11  | 764   |
| Garden Warbler            | 195   | 1   | 196   |
| Blackcap                  | 1,235 | 5   | 1,240 |
| Chiffchaff                | 1,053 | 16  | 1,069 |
| Willow Warbler            | 193   | 5   | 198   |
| Goldcrest                 | 219   | 219 |       |
| Firecrest                 | 1     | 1   |       |
| Spotted Flycatcher        | 2     | 2   |       |
| Pied Flycatcher           | 1     | 1   |       |
| Bearded Tit               | 3     | 3   |       |
| Long-tailed Tit           | 618   | 618 |       |
| Marsh Tit                 | 5     | 5   |       |
| Coal Tit                  | 27    | 9   | 36    |
| Blue Tit                  | 1,712 | 648 | 2,360 |
| Great Tit                 | 895   | 450 | 1,345 |
| Nuthatch                  | 16    | 7   | 23    |
| Treecreeper               | 37    | 37  |       |

|                |        |       |        |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Jay            | 50     | 3     | 53     |
| Magpie         | 17     | 17    |        |
| Starling       | 79     | 11    | 90     |
| House Sparrow  | 138    | 5     | 143    |
| Tree Sparrow   | 25     | 503   | 528    |
| Chaffinch      | 425    | 425   |        |
| Brambling      | 1      | 1     |        |
| Greenfinch     | 692    | 3     | 695    |
| Goldfinch      | 266    | 1     | 267    |
| Siskin         | 137    | 137   |        |
| Linnet         | 32     | 6     | 38     |
| Lesser Redpoll | 15     | 15    |        |
| Bullfinch      | 152    | 1     | 153    |
| Yellowhammer   | 91     | 91    |        |
| Reed Bunting   | 221    | 22    | 243    |
| Totals         | 14,353 | 2,233 | 16,586 |

### List of contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the valuable information received from the following: D. Baggott (Rye Meads Ringing Group), A. G. Beasley (Hersham Ringing Group), D. Coleman, M. Cook, C. W. Dee, P. Delaloye (Maple Cross Ringing Group), J. Gent, A. Gibson, D. Haines (Runnymede Ringing Group), P. Jones (Dartford Ringing Group), M. Netherwood, R. F. Sanderson, B. Trevis and Mrs. M. Waller.

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# Ringling Report for 2003

*Roger Taylor*

A total of 17,989 birds were reported to have been ringed within the LNHS Area in 2003. This was an 8% increase on the previous year and continues a general upward trend over the last six years. Within this total, the number of full-grown birds ringed rose by 11% to 15,881. The number of nestlings or chicks ringed, however, fell by 6% to 2,108; this was mainly as a result of poor chick survival in Blue Tits and Great Tits.

The most ringed species was, as usual, Blue Tit; but there were some surprising changes in those species that followed in the table. An increase of 77% in the number of full-grown Chiffchaff ringed brought this species into second place, followed by Blackcap and Great Tit—the latter species down from its usual second place to fourth. Greenfinch, Tree Sparrow, Wren and Long-tailed Tit have all risen several places in the table this year.

**Table 1.** Most ringed species in descending order

| Species            | Full grown | Pullus | Total |
|--------------------|------------|--------|-------|
| Blue Tit           | 1,541      | 524    | 2,065 |
| Chiffchaff         | 1,865      | 4      | 1,869 |
| Blackcap           | 1,332      | 1      | 1,333 |
| Great Tit          | 966        | 320    | 1,286 |
| Reed Warbler       | 767        | 38     | 805   |
| Greenfinch         | 787        | 5      | 792   |
| Tree Sparrow       | 24         | 673    | 697   |
| Wren               | 672        | 14     | 686   |
| Long-tailed Tit    | 671        | 671    |       |
| Common Whitethroat | 645        | 19     | 664   |

Other common species showing notable increases in numbers ringed included Greylag Goose (13%) and Canada Goose (15%) whose numbers were boosted by the largest ever catch recorded during the annual goose round-up at The Jeffery Harrison Reserve, Sevenoaks. Numbers of Gadwall caught at Rye Meads were up a notable 38%; this site produces a substantial proportion of the duck ringed in the LNHS Area, and almost all species recorded showed some increase—with the exception of Tufted Duck, where the number ringed fell by 55%. Only small numbers of waders have been ringed in recent years but in 2003, 118 Dunlin were ringed by Dartford Ringing Group on a flooded grazing-marsh site at Thamesmead.

Ring-necked Parakeet is a species that has only recently been added to the LNHS ringing list but one of which, I am sure, we will hear a lot more in years to come. Although small numbers have been ringed at other sites, it is the Runnymede Ringing Group total—up from 14 in 2002 to 47 this year—which highlights the continuing spread of this species.

The more common passerines appear to have had mixed fortunes. Wren continues to prosper, with another increase this year and a substantial 68% increase in full-grown birds ringed since 1998. Another species that continues an upward trend is the Song Thrush: although there was a dip in 2002, the 2003 figures are 95% up

on those for 1998—although it must be said that this is a recovery from a much depleted population and is not repeated in all habitat types across the country. Greenfinch showed an increase in numbers, but this is to some extent distorted by the numbers of this species that are caught at feeding stations during the winter; and there is some indication that there is an increase in this practice. Unfortunately it is not all good news, and Dunnock, Robin and Blackbird all fell back from peaks in 2002.

Both Blue Tit and Great Tit are ringed in large numbers. Their differing fortunes often hold a barometer to the prevailing climatic conditions, with one being able to prosper when the other does not. This was the case in 2003 when full-grown Great Tits increased by 8% but Blue Tit numbers were down by 10%.

Summer migrants generally did well, with small increases in the numbers of Reed Warbler (4%) and Blackcap (8%); but small decreases were recorded for Sedge Warbler, Common Whitethroat and Garden Warbler. However, the major surprise was the large increase in both Willow Warbler (67%) and Chiffchaff (75%), with Hershams, Runnymede and Rye Meads Ringing Groups all reporting sizeable increases. Willow Warbler numbers have been falling in the south-east of England for some years and, whilst this upturn is to be welcomed, it would appear that the majority of birds caught were on passage and therefore do represent an increase in the local breeding population.

Winter visitor numbers vary considerably from year to year, being more dependent on local food availability and prevailing weather conditions. Some migrant species will take advantage of artificial food put out in the winter, and this year saw the Siskin total rise to 254, with good numbers reported at Hall Grove by Barry Trevis and at some Dartford RG and Maple Cross RG ringing sites. Firecrests were also present in good numbers, with six ringed at three sites.

The number of nestlings ringed in 2003 was down by 6% on the previous year; however, 2002 was something of a bumper year and this year is above the 5-year average. Runnymede RG reported a small increase in the number of Gadwall chicks ringed, but the number of Tufted Duck chicks was down by 56%. A total of 123 Common Tern chicks were ringed, with 27 at Runnymede and 96 at Rye Meads. It was another superb year for Tree Sparrow: numbers were up 34%, with a very pleasing total of 605 ringed at Beddington Sewage Farm and 68 at Chorleywood. Several nest-box projects reported poor breeding success for Blue Tit and Great Tit, with many chicks dying in the nest when close to fledging as the result of a prolonged spell of cold wet weather in mid-May; ringing totals are down 19% for Blue Tit and 29% for Great Tit.

Unusual species ringed this year included a full-grown Little Egret, ringed at Lemsford Springs by a delighted Barry Trevis; it is, we believe, the first to be ringed in the LNHS Area and only the third in the UK. Other records were: Cormorant (2); Cuckoo (4); Nightjar (4); Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (1); Skylark (1); Common Redstart (3); Cetti's Warbler (5); Grasshopper Warbler (1); Pied Flycatcher (1); Bearded Tit (2); and Brambling (2).

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these is listed below. (*Sites within the London Area are attributed to their Watsonian vice-county, as used in the rest of the London Bird Report, with the present administrative area in parenthesis. This is to prevent confusion since many counties, where the original ringing, recovery or control may have taken place, use current administrative boundaries.*)

The first detail line shows the date and site of original ringing; the second line the subsequent recovery or recapture; the third line the distance (1km = 0.625 miles) and number of days since original ringing; and finally any observations or comments.

**Key to symbols used:**

|     |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| ad  | Adult                           |
| F   | Female                          |
| juv | Juvenile                        |
| M   | Male                            |
| pul | Pullus/Nestling                 |
| R   | Caught and released by a ringer |
| X   | Found dead                      |

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| 1289919 | pul | 26/04/03 | Verulamium, St Albans, Hertfordshire            |
|         | X   | 09/11/03 | Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex<br>63km.; 197 days |

Found dead having hit power lines.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

|         |     |          |                                     |
|---------|-----|----------|-------------------------------------|
| ET95149 | adM | 27/04/01 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire            |
|         | X   | 30/07/03 | Yarm, Cleveland<br>316km.; 824 days |

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| OA89621 | juv | 11/09/00 | Mecklenburg, <b>Germany</b>                       |
|         | R   | 26/02/03 | Crossness, Kent (Greater London) 813km.; 898 days |

The recent revival of wader ringing on the middle-tidal reaches of the Thames has uncovered a small but apparently stable winter population of Dunlin. This control from the Baltic coast of Germany indicates the origin of many of the birds wintering on this part of the river.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

As in previous years there is a large number of records for this species. Unfortunately it is not possible to list all the overseas movements reported, however this exceptional record warrants special mention.

|         |    |          |  |
|---------|----|----------|--|
| EN80534 | ad | 22/11/86 | St. James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London) |
|         | R  | 15/05/00 | Mecklenburg, <b>Germany</b>                  |
|         | R  | 29/03/01 | Szczecin, <b>Poland</b>                      |
|         | R  | 19/12/01 | St. James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London) |
|         | R  | 15/01/03 | St. James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London) |

In addition to the above record, there was a substantial number of sight records made by Alan Gibson in the Royal Parks. These comprise birds ringed in the London area, mostly as adults in winter; and birds ringed abroad, usually as pulli in countries bordering the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. These sight records include birds originating from Belgium (1), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Sweden (4), Norway (3), Lithuania (2), Finland (2), Germany (1), Holland (2) and Poland (1). Alan also reported five sight records of UK-ringed birds that were over 20 years old.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

|         |     |          |  |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| ER39563 | adM | 08/01/98 | Laleham, Surrey                                      |
|         | R   | 09/05/03 | Heston, Surrey (Greater London)<br>11km.; 3,043 days |

This species continues to increase in numbers across the LNHS Area and this sight record of a ringed bird supports the belief that, despite its origins, adult survival is high—possibly helped by the recent run of mild winters.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

|         |     |          |  |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| DB52242 | adF | 04/05/02 | Wraysbury GP, Bucks (Berkshire)                                |
|         | R   | 26/05/02 | Great Meadow Pond, Windsor, Bucks (Berkshire)<br>6km.; 22 days |

Wylie 'The Cuckoo' (1981) found that female laying-range in Cambridgeshire was dependent on host and habitat abundance. Laying-ranges of females overlapped and there may be a separate feeding place up to 4km from the laying-range.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

|         |    |          |   |
|---------|----|----------|---|
| R242871 | ad | 25/04/03 | Langard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk        |
|         | R  | 03/05/03 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire<br>93km.; 8 days |

An interesting inland movement, by this mostly (in Britain) sedentary species. Is it possible that this was a migrant from the continent where the species is highly migratory in northern latitudes?

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| R186824 | juv | 14/09/02 | Wraysbury GP, Bucks (Berkshire)                 |
|         | X   | 27/09/02 | Couhé, Vienne, <b>France</b><br>571km.; 13 days |

This unfortunate bird was taken by a cat near Poitiers during a stop-over on its autumn migration.

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| R302560 | juv | 18/08/02 | Crossness, Kent (Greater London)            |
|         | R   | 28/08/02 | Finistère, <b>France</b><br>511km.; 10 days |

Another rapid movement south-west. This bird was more fortunate and was controlled by French ringers.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

|         |     |          |                                     |
|---------|-----|----------|-------------------------------------|
| N249004 | juv | 22/08/98 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire            |
|         | R   | 29/08/98 | Levington, Suffolk<br>90km.; 7 days |

This bird's east-north-east movement may indicate random juvenile dispersal rather than true migration.

|         |     |          |   |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| P386829 | juv | 01/09/01 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire                  |
|         | R   | 15/08/02 | Liège, <b>Belgium</b><br>451km.; 348 days |



|                           |       |     |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Green Sandpiper           | 2     | 2   |       |
| Black-headed Gull         | 41    | 41  |       |
| Common Tern               | 123   | 123 |       |
| Stock Dove                | 19    | 19  |       |
| Woodpigeon                | 37    | 1   | 38    |
| Collared Dove             | 7     | 7   |       |
| Turtle Dove               | 1     | 6   | 7     |
| Ring-necked Parakeet      | 54    | 54  |       |
| Cuckoo                    | 3     | 1   | 4     |
| Little Owl                | 1     | 3   | 4     |
| Tawny Owl                 | 1     | 1   |       |
| Nightjar                  | 4     | 4   |       |
| Kingfisher                | 101   | 101 |       |
| Green Woodpecker          | 27    | 27  |       |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker  | 55    | 55  |       |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | 1     | 1   |       |
| Skylark                   | 1     | 1   |       |
| Swallow                   | 1     | 3   | 4     |
| House Martin              | 17    | 17  |       |
| Tree Pipit                | 3     | 3   |       |
| Meadow Pipit              | 28    | 28  |       |
| Grey Wagtail              | 20    | 4   | 24    |
| Pied Wagtail              | 5     | 4   | 9     |
| Wren                      | 672   | 14  | 686   |
| Dunnock                   | 594   | 11  | 605   |
| Robin                     | 643   | 11  | 654   |
| Common Redstart           | 3     | 3   |       |
| Stonechat                 | 5     | 5   |       |
| Blackbird                 | 630   | 18  | 648   |
| Fieldfare                 | 8     | 8   |       |
| Song Thrush               | 285   | 6   | 291   |
| Redwing                   | 95    | 95  |       |
| Mistle Thrush             | 6     | 6   |       |
| Cetti's Warbler           | 5     | 5   |       |
| Grasshopper Warbler       | 1     | 1   |       |
| Sedge Warbler             | 382   | 72  | 454   |
| Reed Warbler              | 767   | 38  | 805   |
| Lesser Whitethroat        | 130   | 1   | 131   |
| Common Whitethroat        | 645   | 19  | 664   |
| Garden Warbler            | 178   | 178 |       |
| Blackcap                  | 1,332 | 1   | 1,333 |
| Chiffchaff                | 1,865 | 4   | 1,869 |
| Willow Warbler            | 329   | 329 |       |
| Goldcrest                 | 303   | 303 |       |
| Firecrest                 | 6     | 6   |       |
| Spotted Flycatcher        | 3     | 3   |       |
| Pied Flycatcher           | 1     | 1   |       |
| Bearded Tit               | 2     | 2   |       |
| Long-tailed Tit           | 671   | 671 |       |
| Marsh Tit                 | 6     | 6   |       |
| Coal Tit                  | 58    | 16  | 74    |
| Blue Tit                  | 1,541 | 524 | 2,065 |



|                |        |       |        |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Great Tit      | 966    | 320   | 1,286  |
| Nuthatch       | 18     | 7     | 25     |
| Treecreeper    | 63     | 63    |        |
| Jay            | 54     | 5     | 59     |
| Magpie         | 22     | 3     | 25     |
| Jackdaw        | 9      | 9     |        |
| Carrion Crow   | 3      | 2     | 5      |
| Starling       | 125    | 4     | 129    |
| House Sparrow  | 160    | 24    | 184    |
| Tree Sparrow   | 24     | 673   | 697    |
| Chaffinch      | 414    | 2     | 416    |
| Brambling      | 2      | 2     |        |
| Greenfinch     | 787    | 5     | 792    |
| Goldfinch      | 246    | 246   |        |
| Siskin         | 254    | 254   |        |
| Linnet         | 63     | 63    |        |
| Lesser Redpoll | 85     | 85    |        |
| Bullfinch      | 170    | 170   |        |
| Hawfinch       | 7      | 7     |        |
| Yellowhammer   | 77     | 77    |        |
| Reed Bunting   | 177    | 21    | 198    |
| Totals         | 15,881 | 2,108 | 17,989 |

### List of contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the valuable information received from the following: D. Baggott, A. G. Beasley (Hersham Ringing Group), D. Coleman, M. Cook, C. W. Dee (Rye Meads Ringing Group), P. Delaloye (Maple Cross Ringing Group), J. Gent, A. Gibson, D. Harris (Runnymede Ringing Group), P. Jones (Dartford Ringing Group), M. Netherwood, R. F. Sanderson, B. Trevis and Mrs. M. Waller.

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# Status of the Mute Swan London, 2002

*Helen Baker*

## Introduction

A national survey of Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* took place in the spring of 2002. It was organised jointly by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the Swan Study Group, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the British Trust for Ornithology. The aim was to determine the size of the Mute Swan population and identify the breeding and non-breeding components, providing an update on the last survey in 1990. This would enable an assessment to be made of the recovery, following the ban on the use of lead fishing weights in early 1987, and the effect of the recent mild winters and cleaner waterways. It would also show whether there has been expansion into new areas or habitats as a consequence of the anticipated increase in numbers. The survey was based on a sample of 10km squares.

I was the London organiser. This paper summarises the results from the seven selected 10km squares in London; and also breeding records for 2002 submitted to me or to the LNHS Recorders from other 10km squares, which had been covered in the 1983 or 1990 Mute Swan Surveys. The data for 2002 are compared with the results of the 1983 and 1990 surveys (Baker, 1991) where possible. The history of the Mute Swan in the London Area is considered in more detail in Oliver (1982) and Hewlett et al. (2002).

## Method

I was asked to organise coverage for two 10km squares in the Lea Valley (TQ39 and TQ38), one in the south-east of the London Area (TQ46) and a block of four in the south-west of the London Area (TQ07, TQ06, TQ17 and TQ16). Part of TQ06 is outside the LNHS Area but the whole square is covered by this report for completeness. All suitable habitat in the each of these squares was to be surveyed, including small ponds and narrow rivers.

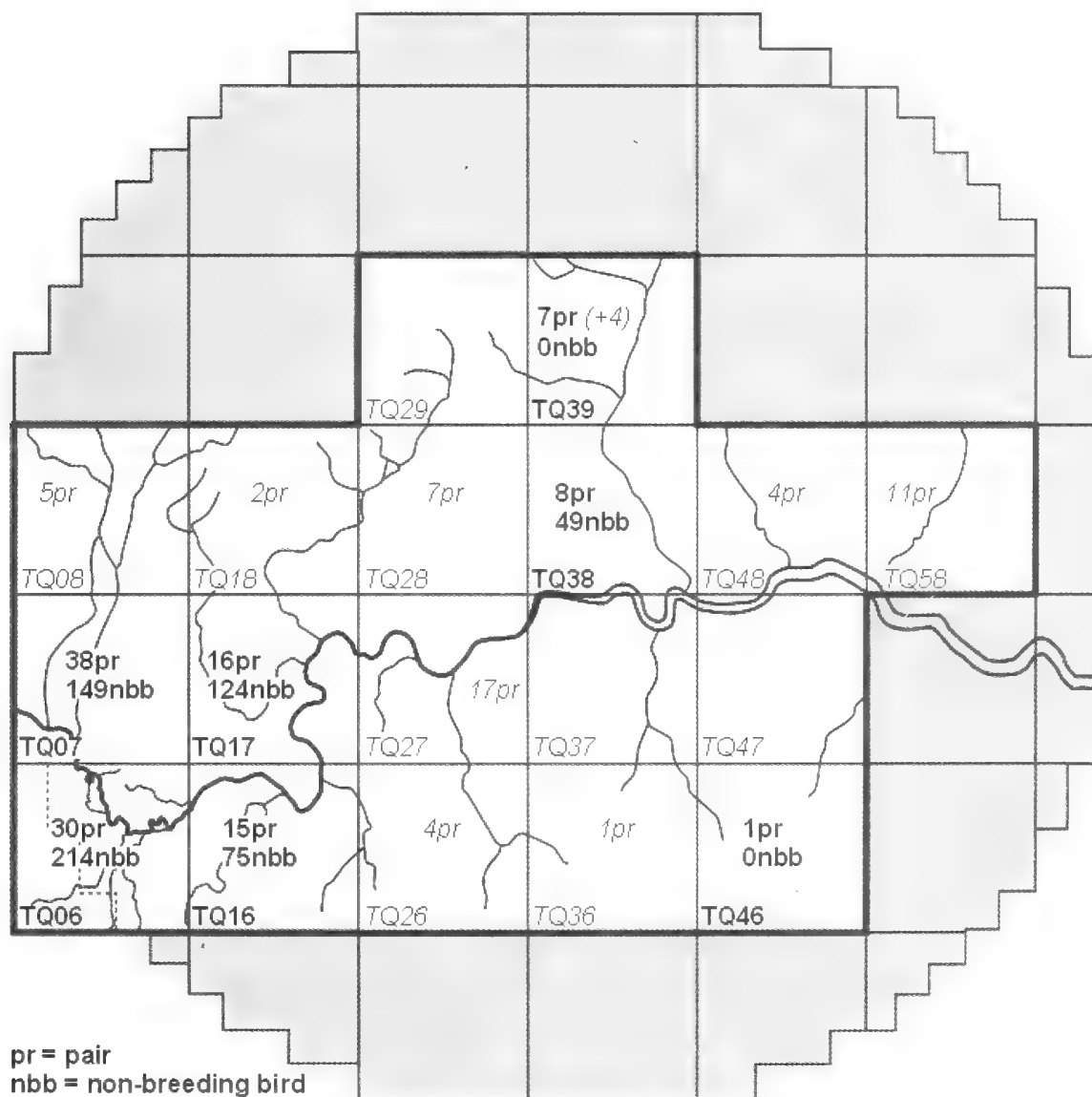
I had hoped that it would be possible to organise a survey in the remaining London 10km squares which were covered in the 1990 survey but organising full coverage of the selected squares was very time-consuming. A few volunteers carried out the survey in designated parts of other squares, and breeding records sent to the Recorders have been passed on to me.

The national Mute Swan Survey forms were similar to those used in previous surveys. They are described in the papers by Ogilvie (1981 and 1986). Some members of the team who were covering an extensive area completed one of these forms. However, most members covered relatively small areas and they were given a separate form, based on the national form, on which to record their data. All suitable habitat was to be visited in April or May to check for breeding and non-breeding birds. Wherever possible, visits to count flocks of non-breeders were made in April as, by May, numbers may have been increased by failed breeders joining the flock.

The habitat in which the swans were seen was recorded using a habitat key. The main habitats relevant to London were: pond or lake; reservoir; gravel pit; river or stream; and canal.

## Results

The results for the seven selected 10km squares are shown on a 10km-square basis in Figure 1. A total of 115 breeding pairs of Mute Swan and 611 non-breeding birds was found. Of these, four pairs and 12 non-breeding birds were outside the LNHS tetrad-based recording area. Coverage was generally very good; but records from TQ39 and TQ38—east of the River Lea—were lost in the post. Four nesting pairs in this eastern part of TQ39 were reported to the recorder and are included in *italics* in Figure 1. Casual records of breeding pairs for the remaining 10km squares which were surveyed in 1990 are also shown in *italics*. An additional 51 pairs were reported, giving a total of 166 pairs at sites within the LNHS Area.



**Figure 1.** Pairs and non-breeding Mute Swans recorded in 2002

Information was requested on the habitat where breeding and non-breeding Mute Swans were recorded. Table 1 summarises the data for the seven selected 10 km squares. Whereas the breeding pairs favoured ponds, lakes, gravel pits

and rivers or streams, the non-breeding birds were predominantly found by rivers.

**Table 1.** The number of Breeding Pairs and Non-breeding Birds in different habitats

|                        | Pond/Lake |    | Reservoir |   | Gravel Pit |    | River/Stream |    | Canal |    | Other |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|-----------|---|------------|----|--------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|
|                        | No.       | %  | No.       | % | No.        | %  | No.          | %  | No.   | %  | No.   | %  |
| 115 breeding pairs     | 33        | 29 | 7         | 6 | 32         | 28 | 30           | 26 | 11    | 10 | 2*    | 2  |
| 611 non-breeding birds | 64        | 10 | 26        | 4 | 16         | 3  | 440          | 72 | 63    | 10 | 2**   | >1 |

\* 1 pair on open marsh and 1 pair by a ditch; \*\* 2 by the estuary.

### Comparison with the 1983 and 1990 Surveys

In comparing the data for 2002 with the results of the two previous surveys, it is important to remember that the areas surveyed are not identical and that, for over half the squares, data for 2002 are derived from casual records. Table 2 compares the number of breeding pairs on a 10km-square basis over the three surveys. Table 3 compares the counts of non-breeding birds in five squares which were surveyed in 1990 and 2002.

**Table 2.** Comparison between the number of breeding pairs in 10km squares surveyed in 1983, 1990 and 2002

| 10km Square  | Number of pairs found |           |            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
|  | 1983                  | 1990      | 2002       |
| TQ08   | 7                     | 9         | 5          |
| TQ07   | 1                     | 22        | 38         |
| TQ17   | 3                     | 7*        | 16         |
| TQ29   | 0                     | 0         |            |
| TQ27   | 3                     | 5         | 17         |
| TQ26   | 2                     | 1         | 4          |
| TQ39   | 0                     | 2         | 7 (+4)**   |
| TQ37   | 0                     | 1         |            |
| TQ36   | 1                     | 2         | 1          |
| TQ48   | 7                     | 11        | 4          |
| TQ47   | 0                     | 2         |            |
| TQ58   | 4                     | 5         | 11         |
| <i>Total—for 12 squares counted in all three years</i> | <b>28</b>             | <b>67</b> | <b>103</b> |
| TQ18   | nc                    | 0         | 2          |
| TQ28   | nc                    | 3         | 7          |
| TQ38   | nc                    | 8         | 8**        |
| TQ46   | nc                    | 1         | 1          |
| <b>Total for 16 squares: 1990 and 2002</b>             |                       | <b>79</b> | <b>121</b> |

\* Incomplete coverage

\*\* Only casual records for the area east of the River Lea

**Table 3.** Comparison between the number of non-breeding birds in 10km squares surveyed in 1990 and 2002

| <i>10km square</i> | <i>Number of non-breeding birds recorded</i> |             |
|--------------------|--|-------------|
|                    | <i>1990</i>                                  | <i>2002</i> |
| TQ07               | 114  | 149         |
| TQ17               | 2*   | 124         |
| TQ39               | 10   | 0**         |
| TQ38               | 79   | 49**        |
| TQ46               | 6  | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>211</b>                                   | <b>322</b>  |

\* Incomplete coverage

\*\*No records received for the area east of the River Lea

## Discussion

Tables 2 and 3 both suggest that there has been a substantial increase in the number of Mute Swans in London between 1990 and 2002. In all the squares where a full survey was conducted in both years, the number of pairs holding a territory in 2002 was the same as, or greater than, the number in 1990. Furthermore, in five of the squares for which there was an incomplete survey or only casual records in 2002, there had also been an increase. The number of non-breeding birds in five squares surveyed in 1990 and 2002 had increased by just over 50%, though this may in part reflect incomplete coverage in TQ17 in 1990. This continues the trend which first became apparent in the 1983 survey. Prior to that, Mute Swan numbers had undergone a big decline, with just 69 breeding pairs being found in the whole of the LNHS Area in a survey in 1978. This compared with 188 in 1956, when a census also took place (Oliver, 1982). The results of the 2002 survey suggest that there may be more Mute Swans in the LNHS Area now than there were in the 1950s. They do not appear to have been inhibited by the large number of Canada Geese with which they now share their habitat (Baker and Coleman, 2004).

There has been little change since 1990 in the habitat selected by breeding pairs of Mute Swans. Ponds, lakes, gravel pits and rivers or streams remain the most favoured sites. A higher percentage of non-breeding birds were recorded by rivers or streams in 2002. This almost certainly results from the inclusion of TQ06 in the survey. In this one square, 190 Mute Swans were counted at four locations on the River Thames. There was also a large number on the River Thames in TQ17, with 93 being recorded between Eel Pie Island and Teddington Lock.

## Conclusion

Mute Swans appear to be flourishing in London and may now be more numerous than they were in the 1950s. Furthermore, they appear able to co-exist with the large number of Canada Geese which are now present in the area. It is anticipated that numbers will continue to increase until a shortage of suitable nesting sites limits the number of pairs that can breed. Future monitoring is likely to be undertaken at a national level, based on a sample of 10km squares. This

should identify any significant change in numbers. It is unlikely that we will have the resources to undertake another complete Mute Swan Survey in all of the 10km squares for which data are recorded in this paper, let alone in the whole of the LNHS Area.

## Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to all those people who helped with this survey and to those who put me in touch with potential helpers outside the LNHS Area. I would particularly like to thank Hugh Evans and Ian Kendall, who organised work in part of Surrey and in the Lea Valley respectively. I would also like to thank all those people who submitted Mute Swan records to the recorders.

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# Checklist of Birds of the London Area

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is 357, of which 344 have been recorded since 1900. It should be noted that although the LBR lists Caspian Gull separately, it has not been 'split' by the BOU and so is not counted in this checklist.

The 13 species marked with a \* in the checklist were recorded in the London Area at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. The first number for each species is its EURING species number, as now used in the LBR.

|        |                     |                              |                          |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0152   | Mute Swan           | <i>Cygnus olor</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0153   | Bewick's Swan       | <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0154   | Whooper Swan        | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0157   | Bean Goose          | <i>Anser fabalis</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0158   | Pink-footed Goose   | <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0159   | White-fronted Goose | <i>Anser albifrons</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0161   | Greylag Goose       | <i>Anser anser</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0166   | Canada Goose        | <i>Branta canadensis</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0167   | Barnacle Goose      | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0168   | Brent Goose         | <i>Branta bernicla</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0169   | Red-breasted Goose* | <i>Branta ruficollis</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0170   | Egyptian Goose      | <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0173   | Shelduck            | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0178   | Mandarin Duck       | <i>Aix galericulata</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0179   | Eurasian Wigeon     | <i>Anas penelope</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0180   | American Wigeon     | <i>Anas americana</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0182   | Gadwall             | <i>Anas strepera</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0184   | Common Teal         | <i>Anas crecca</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0184.1 | Green-winged Teal   | <i>Anas carolinensis</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0186   | Mallard             | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0189   | Pintail             | <i>Anas acuta</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0191   | Garganey            | <i>Anas querquedula</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0192   | Blue-winged Teal    | <i>Anas discors</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0194   | Shoveler            | <i>Anas clypeata</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0196   | Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0198   | Pochard             | <i>Aythya ferina</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0200   | Ring-necked Duck    | <i>Aythya collaris</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0202   | Ferruginous Duck    | <i>Aythya nyroca</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0203   | Tufted Duck         | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0204   | Scaup               | <i>Aythya marila</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0205   | Lesser Scaup        | <i>Aythya affinis</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0206   | Common Eider        | <i>Somateria mollissima</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0207   | King Eider          | <i>Somateria spectabilis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0212   | Long-tailed Duck    | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0213   | Common Scoter       | <i>Melanitta nigra</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0215   | Velvet Scoter       | <i>Melanitta fusca</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0218   | Common Goldeneye    | <i>Bucephala clangula</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|      |                        |                                  |
|------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0220 | Smew                   | <i>Mergellus albellus</i>        |
| 0221 | Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i>           |
| 0223 | Goosander              | <i>Mergus merganser</i>          |
| 0225 | Ruddy Duck             | <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>        |
| 0358 | Red-legged Partridge   | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>            |
| 0367 | Grey Partridge         | <i>Perdix perdix</i>             |
| 0370 | Quail                  | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>         |
| 0394 | Pheasant               | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>       |
| 0002 | Red-throated Diver     | <i>Gavia stellata</i>            |
| 0003 | Black-throated Diver   | <i>Gavia arctica</i>             |
| 0004 | Great Northern Diver   | <i>Gavia immer</i>               |
| 0006 | Pied-billed Grebe      | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>       |
| 0007 | Little Grebe           | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>    |
| 0009 | Great Crested Grebe    | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>        |
| 0010 | Red-necked Grebe       | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>        |
| 0011 | Slavonian Grebe        | <i>Podiceps auritus</i>          |
| 0012 | Black-necked Grebe     | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>      |
| 0020 | Fulmar                 | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>        |
| 0046 | Manx Shearwater        | <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>         |
| 0046 | Balearic Shearwater    | <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>     |
| 0048 | Macronesian Shearwater | <i>Puffinus baroli</i>           |
| 0052 | European Storm-petrel  | <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>      |
| 0055 | Leach's Storm-petrel   | <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>     |
| 0071 | Gannet                 | <i>Morus bassanus</i>            |
| 0072 | Cormorant              | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>       |
| 0080 | Shag                   | <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> |
| 0095 | Bittern                | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>        |
| 0098 | Little Bittern         | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>        |
| 0104 | Night Heron            | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>     |
| 0108 | Squacco Heron          | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>         |
| 0111 | Cattle Egret           | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>             |
| 0119 | Little Egret           | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>          |
| 0121 | Great White Egret      | <i>Ardea alba</i>                |
| 0122 | Grey Heron             | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>             |
| 0124 | Purple Heron           | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>            |
| 0131 | Black Stork            | <i>Ciconia nigra</i>             |
| 0134 | White Stork            | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>           |
| 0136 | Glossy Ibis            | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>      |
| 0144 | Spoonbill              | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>       |
| 0231 | Honey-buzzard          | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>           |
| 0238 | Black Kite             | <i>Milvus migrans</i>            |
| 0239 | Red Kite               | <i>Milvus milvus</i>             |
| 0243 | White-tailed Eagle     | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>      |
| 0260 | Marsh Harrier          | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>        |
| 0261 | Hen Harrier            | <i>Circus cyaneus</i>            |
| 0263 | Montagu's Harrier      | <i>Circus pygargus</i>           |
| 0267 | Goshawk                | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>        |
| 0269 | Sparrowhawk            | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>           |
| 0287 | Common Buzzard         | <i>Buteo buteo</i>               |





|      |                         |                                |                          |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0290 | Rough-legged Buzzard    | <i>Buteo lagopus</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0296 | Golden Eagle*           | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0301 | Osprey                  | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0303 | Lesser Kestrel          | <i>Falco naumanni</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0304 | Kestrel                 | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0307 | Red-footed Falcon       | <i>Falco vespertinus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0309 | Merlin                  | <i>Falco columbarius</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0310 | Hobby                   | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0318 | Gyr Falcon              | <i>Falco rusticolus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0320 | Peregrine Falcon        | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0407 | Water Rail              | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0408 | Spotted Crake           | <i>Porzana porzana</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0410 | Little Crake*           | <i>Porzana parva</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0410 | Baillon's Crake*        | <i>Porzana pusilla</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0421 | Corncrake               | <i>Crex crex</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0424 | Moorhen                 | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0429 | Coot                    | <i>Fulica atra</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0433 | Common Crane            | <i>Grus grus</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0446 | Great Bustard*          | <i>Otis tarda</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0450 | Oystercatcher           | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0455 | Black-winged Stilt      | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0456 | Avocet                  | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0459 | Stone-curlew            | <i>Burhinus oedicanus</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0464 | Cream-coloured Courser* | <i>Cursorius cursor</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0465 | Collared Pratincole     | <i>Glareola pratincola</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0469 | Little Ringed Plover    | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0470 | Ringed Plover           | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0474 | Killdeer                | <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0477 | Kentish Plover          | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0482 | Dotterel                | <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0483 | American Golden Plover  | <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0484 | Pacific Golden Plover*  | <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0485 | European Golden Plover  | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0486 | Grey Plover             | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0491 | Sociable Lapwing        | <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0493 | Northern Lapwing        | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0496 | Knot                    | <i>Calidris canutus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0497 | Sanderling              | <i>Calidris alba</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0499 | Western Sandpiper       | <i>Calidris mauri</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0501 | Little Stint            | <i>Calidris minuta</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0502 | Temminck's Stint        | <i>Calidris temminckii</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0505 | White-rumped Sandpiper  | <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0506 | Baird's Sandpiper       | <i>Calidris bairdii</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0507 | Pectoral Sandpiper      | <i>Calidris melanotos</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0508 | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  | <i>Calidris acuminata</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0509 | Curlew Sandpiper        | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0510 | Purple Sandpiper        | <i>Calidris maritima</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0512 | Dunlin                  | <i>Calidris alpina</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0514 | Broad-billed Sandpiper  | <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|        |                          |                                 |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0516   | Buff-breasted Sandpiper  | <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0517   | Ruff                     | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0518   | Jack Snipe               | <i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0519   | Common Snipe             | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0520   | Great Snipe              | <i>Gallinago media</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0527   | Long-billed Dowitcher    | <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0529   | Woodcock                 | <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0532   | Black-tailed Godwit      | <i>Limosa limosa</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0534   | Bar-tailed Godwit        | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0538   | Whimbrel                 | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0541   | Curlew                   | <i>Numenius arquata</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0545   | Spotted Redshank         | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0546   | Redshank                 | <i>Tringa totanus</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0547   | Marsh Sandpiper          | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0548   | Greenshank               | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0551   | Lesser Yellowlegs        | <i>Tringa flavipes</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0552   | Solitary Sandpiper       | <i>Tringa solitaria</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0553   | Green Sandpiper          | <i>Tringa ochropus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0554   | Wood Sandpiper           | <i>Tringa glareola</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0556   | Common Sandpiper         | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0557   | Spotted Sandpiper        | <i>Actitis macularius</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0561   | Turnstone                | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0563   | Wilson's Phalarope       | <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0564   | Red-necked Phalarope     | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0565   | Grey Phalarope           | <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0566   | Pomarine Skua            | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0567   | Arctic Skua              | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0568   | Long-tailed Skua         | <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0569   | Great Skua               | <i>Stercorarius skua</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0575   | Mediterranean Gull       | <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0577   | Franklin's Gull          | <i>Larus pipixcan</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0578   | Little Gull              | <i>Larus minutus</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0579   | Sabine's Gull            | <i>Larus sabini</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0581   | Bonaparte's Gull         | <i>Larus philadelphia</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0582   | Black-headed Gull        | <i>Larus ridibundus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0589   | Ring-billed Gull         | <i>Larus delawarensis</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0590   | Common Gull              | <i>Larus cānus</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0591   | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0591.2 | Yellow-legged Gull       | <i>Larus michahellis</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0592   | Herring Gull             | <i>Larus argentatus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0598   | Iceland Gull             | <i>Larus glaucoides</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0599   | Glaucous Gull            | <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0600   | Great Black-backed Gull  | <i>Larus marinus</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0602   | Kittiwake                | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0623   | Sooty Tern               | <i>Onychoprion fuscata</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0622   | Bridled Tern             | <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0624   | Little Tern              | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0605   | Gull-billed Tern         | <i>Gelocheidon nilotica</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0606   | Caspian Tern             | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|      |                           |                                  |                          |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0626 | Whiskered Tern            | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0627 | Black Tern                | <i>Chlidonias niger</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0628 | White-winged Black Tern   | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0611 | Sandwich Tern             | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0615 | Common Tern               | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0614 | Roseate Tern              | <i>Sterna dougallii</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0616 | Arctic Tern               | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0634 | Common Guillemot          | <i>Uria aalge</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0636 | Razorbill                 | <i>Alca torda</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0647 | Little Auk                | <i>Alle alle</i>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0654 | Puffin                    | <i>Fratercula arctica</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0663 | Pallas's Sandgrouse       | <i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0665 | Rock Dove                 | <i>Columba livia</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0668 | Stock Dove                | <i>Columba oenas</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0670 | Woodpigeon                | <i>Columba palumbus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0684 | Collared Dove             | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0687 | Turtle Dove               | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0712 | Ring-necked Parakeet      | <i>Psittacula krameri</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0724 | Cuckoo                    | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0728 | Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0735 | Barn Owl                  | <i>Tyto alba</i>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0739 | Scops Owl*                | <i>Otus scops</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0749 | Snowy Owl                 | <i>Bubo scandiaca</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0757 | Little Owl                | <i>Athene noctua</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0761 | Tawny Owl                 | <i>Strix aluco</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0767 | Long-eared Owl            | <i>Asio otus</i>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0768 | Short-eared Owl           | <i>Asio flammeus</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0770 | Tengmalm's Owl*           | <i>Aegolius funereus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0778 | European Nightjar         | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0786 | Common Nighthawk          | <i>Chordeiles minor</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0795 | Common Swift              | <i>Apus apus</i>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0798 | Alpine Swift              | <i>Apus melba</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0831 | Kingfisher                | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0840 | European Bee-eater        | <i>Merops apiaster</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0841 | European Roller           | <i>Coracias garrulus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0846 | Hoopoe                    | <i>Upupa epops</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0848 | Wryneck                   | <i>Jynx torquilla</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0856 | Green Woodpecker          | <i>Picus viridis</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0876 | Great Spotted Woodpecker  | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0887 | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0968 | Short-toed Lark           | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0972 | Crested Lark              | <i>Galerida cristata</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0974 | Woodlark                  | <i>Lullula arborea</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0976 | Skylark                   | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0978 | Shore Lark                | <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0981 | Sand Martin               | <i>Riparia riparia</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0992 | Swallow                   | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1001 | House Martin              | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0995 | Red-rumped Swallow        | <i>Cecropis daurica</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|      |                      |                                   |                          |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1002 | Richard's Pipit      | <i>Anthus richardi</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1005 | Tawny Pipit          | <i>Anthus campestris</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1008 | Olive-backed Pipit   | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1009 | Tree Pipit           | <i>Anthus trivialis</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1011 | Meadow Pipit         | <i>Anthus pratensis</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1012 | Red-throated Pipit   | <i>Anthus cervinus</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1014 | Rock Pipit           | <i>Anthus petrosus</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1015 | Water Pipit          | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1017 | Yellow Wagtail       | <i>Motacilla flava</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1018 | Citrine Wagtail      | <i>Motacilla citreola</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1019 | Grey Wagtail         | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1020 | Pied Wagtail         | <i>Motacilla alba</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1048 | Waxwing              | <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1050 | Dipper               | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1066 | Wren                 | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1084 | Dunnock              | <i>Prunella modularis</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1094 | Alpine Accentor*     | <i>Prunella collaris</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1099 | Robin                | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1104 | Nightingale          | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1106 | Bluethroat           | <i>Luscinia svecica</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1121 | Black Redstart       | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1122 | Common Redstart      | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1137 | Whinchat             | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1139 | European Stonechat   | <i>Saxicola torquata</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1146 | Northern Wheatear    | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1149 | Desert Wheatear      | <i>Oenanthe deserti</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1176 | Hermit Thrush        | <i>Catharus guttatus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1186 | Ring Ouzel           | <i>Turdus torquatus</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1187 | Blackbird            | <i>Turdus merula</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1197 | Dusky Thrush         | <i>Turdus naumanni</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1198 | Fieldfare            | <i>Turdus pilaris</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1200 | Song Thrush          | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1201 | Redwing              | <i>Turdus iliacus</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1202 | Mistle Thrush        | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1220 | Cetti's Warbler      | <i>Cettia cetti</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1236 | Grasshopper Warbler  | <i>Locustella naevia</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1238 | Savi's Warbler       | <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1242 | Aquatic Warbler      | <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1243 | Sedge Warbler        | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1247 | Paddyfield Warbler   | <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1248 | Blyth's Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1250 | Marsh Warbler        | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1251 | Reed Warbler         | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1259 | Icterine Warbler     | <i>Hippolais icterina</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1260 | Melodious Warbler    | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1277 | Blackcap             | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1276 | Garden Warbler       | <i>Sylvia borin</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1273 | Barred Warbler       | <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1274 | Lesser Whitethroat   | <i>Sylvia curruca</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|        |                         |                                 |                          |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1275   | Common Whitethroat      | <i>Sylvia communis</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1262   | Dartford Warbler        | <i>Sylvia undata</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1265   | Subalpine Warbler       | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1267   | Sardinian Warbler       | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1298   | Pallas's Warbler        | <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1300   | Yellow-browed Warbler   | <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1301   | Radde's Warbler         | <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1308   | Wood Warbler            | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1311   | Common Chiffchaff       | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1311.1 | Iberian Chiffchaff      | <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1312   | Willow Warbler          | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1314   | Goldcrest               | <i>Regulus regulus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1315   | Firecrest               | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1335   | Spotted Flycatcher      | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1343   | Red-breasted Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula parva</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1349   | Pied Flycatcher         | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1364   | Bearded Tit             | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1437   | Long-tailed Tit         | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1462   | Blue Tit                | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1464   | Great Tit               | <i>Parus major</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1454   | Crested Tit             | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1461   | Coal Tit                | <i>Pariparus ater</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1442   | Willow Tit              | <i>Poecile montanus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1440   | Marsh Tit               | <i>Poecile palustris</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1479   | Nuthatch                | <i>Sitta europaea</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1486   | Treecreeper             | <i>Certhia familiaris</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1487   | Short-toed Treecreeper  | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1490   | Penduline Tit           | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1508   | Golden Oriole           | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1514   | Isabelline Shrike       | <i>Lanius isabellinus</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1515   | Red-backed Shrike       | <i>Lanius collurio</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1519   | Lesser Grey Shrike      | <i>Lanius minor</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1520   | Great Grey Shrike       | <i>Lanius excubitor</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1523   | Woodchat Shrike         | <i>Lanius senator</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1539   | Jay                     | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1549   | Magpie                  | <i>Pica pica</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1557   | Nutcracker              | <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1560   | Jackdaw                 | <i>Corvus monedula</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1563   | Rook                    | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1567   | Carrion Crow            | <i>Corvus corone</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1567.1 | Hooded Crow             | <i>Corvus cornix</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1572   | Raven                   | <i>Corvus corax</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1582   | Starling                | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1584   | Rose-coloured Starling  | <i>Sturnus roseus</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1591   | House Sparrow           | <i>Passer domesticus</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1598   | Tree Sparrow            | <i>Passer montanus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1636   | Chaffinch               | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1638   | Brambling               | <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1640   | Serin                   | <i>Serinus serinus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|        |                       |                                      |                          |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1649   | Greenfinch            | <i>Carduelis chloris</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1653   | Goldfinch             | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1654   | Siskin                | <i>Carduelis spinus</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1660   | Linnet                | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1662   | Twite                 | <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1663   | Lesser Redpoll        | <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1663.1 | Mealy Redpoll         | <i>Carduelis flammea</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1664   | Arctic Redpoll        | <i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1665   | Two-barred Crossbill* | <i>Loxia leucoptera</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1666   | Common Crossbill      | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1668   | Parrot Crossbill*     | <i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1679   | Common Rosefinch      | <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1699   | Pine Grosbeak*        | <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1710   | Bullfinch             | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1717   | Hawfinch              | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1847   | Lapland Bunting       | <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1850   | Snow Bunting          | <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1856   | Pine Bunting          | <i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1857   | Yellowhammer          | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1858   | Cirl Bunting          | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1866   | Ortolan Bunting       | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1873   | Rustic Bunting        | <i>Emberiza rustica</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1874   | Little Bunting        | <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1877   | Reed Bunting          | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1881   | Black-headed Bunting  | <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1882   | Corn Bunting          | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, e.g. out of season migrants.

This guide does not apply to Inner London where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed

### KEY:

- A = all records.
- D = full description required (form available from recorders).
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance etc., form available from recorders)
- MM = dated monthly maxima for frequently visited sites and all records from elsewhere subject to >n.
- >n = minimum count required, subject to other categories.
- B = all breeding records subject to >n.
- T = all territory counts as well as definite breeding records.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- F&L = first and last dates.
- P = passage flocks and movements.
- W = all wintering records

|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mute Swan (MM, >30, B)            | Mandarin/Wigeon (A)      |
| Bewick's/Whooper Swans (A, N)     | American Wigeon (A, D)   |
| Bean/Pink-footed Goose (A, D)     | Gadwall/Teal (MM>10, S)  |
| White-fronted Goose (A)           | Green-winged Teal (A, D) |
| Greylag Goose (MM, B)             | Mallard (MM>10, >200, B) |
| Barnacle/Brent/Egyptian Goose (A) | Pintail/Garganey (A)     |
| Canada Goose (MM>20, >200, B)     | Shoveler (MM>10, S)      |
| Shelduck (MM, S)                  | Red-crested Pochard (A)  |
| [Ruddy Shelduck (A)]              | Pochard (MM>10, S)       |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Ring-necked/Ferruginous Duck (A, D) | Spotted Crake/Corncrake (A, D)         |
| Tufted Duck (MM>50, B)              | Moorhen/Coot (MM>20, B>5)              |
| Scaup (A)                           | Crane (A, D)                           |
| Eider/Long-tailed Duck (A, N)       | Oystercatcher/Avocet (A)               |
| Common Scoter (A)                   | Stone-curlew (A, D)                    |
| Velvet Scoter (A, D)                | Little Ringed Plover/Ringed Plover (A) |
| Goldeneye/Smew (A)                  | Kentish Plover/Dotterel (A, D)         |
| Red-b. Merganser/Goosander (A)      | American Golden Plover (A, D)          |
| Ruddy Duck (MM, B)                  | Golden/Grey Plover (A)                 |
| All partridges (A)                  | Lapwing (P, >10, B)                    |
| Quail (A, D)                        | Knot/Sanderling/Little Stint (A)       |
| Pheasant (>20, B)                   | Temminck's Stint (A, D)                |
| All divers (A, N)                   | White-rumped Sandpiper (A, D)          |
| Little/Great Crested Grebe (MM, B)  | Curlew Sandpiper (A)                   |
| Other grebes (A)                    | Pectoral/Purple Sandpiper (A, D)       |
| All shearwaters/Fulmar (A, D)       | Dunlin (MM>5, S)                       |
| All petrels (A, D)                  | Buff-breasted Sandpiper (A, D)         |
| Gannet (A, N)                       | Ruff/Woodcock/Jack Snipe (A)           |
| Cormorant (MM, B)                   | Snipe (MM>3, S)                        |
| Shag (A)                            | All godwits/Whimbrel/Curlew(A)         |
| Bittern (A)                         | Spotted Redshank (A)                   |
| Little Egret (A)                    | Redshank (MM>5, S)                     |
| Great White Egret (A, D)            | Greenshank (A)                         |
| Grey Heron (MM>15, B)               | Green/Wood/Common Sandpiper (A)        |
| Purple/Night Heron (A, D)           | Turnstone (A)                          |
| White Stork/Spoonbill (A, D)        | All phalaropes (A, D)                  |
| Black Kite (A, D)                   | All skuas (A, D)                       |
| Red Kite (A)                        | Mediterranean/Little Gull (A)          |
| Marsh Harrier (A)                   | Sabine's Gull (A, D)                   |
| Hen/Montagu's Harrier (A, D)        | Black-headed Gull (MM>50)              |
| Goshawk (A, D)                      | Ring-billed Gull (A, D)                |
| Sparrowhawk (A)                     | Common Gull (MM, >10)                  |
| Common Buzzard (A)                  | LBB/Herring Gull/ (MM, >10, B)         |
| Honey/Rough-legged Buzzard (A, D)   | Yellow-legged Gull (A)                 |
| Osprey (A)                          | Caspian Gull (A, D)                    |
| Kestrel (>5, B)                     | Iceland/Glaucous Gull (A,D)            |
| Red-footed Falcon (A, D)            | Great Black-backed Gull (MM, >10)      |
| Merlin (A, N)                       | Kittiwake (A)                          |
| Hobby/Peregrine (A)                 | Little/Black Tern (A)                  |
| Water Rail (A)                      | White-winged Black Tern (A, D)         |



- Sandwich/Arctic Tern (A)  
 Common Tern (>5, B, F&L)  
 Roseate Tern (A, D)  
 All auks (A, D)  
 Feral Rock Dove (>100)  
 Stock Dove (>10, B)  
 Wood Pigeon (>100, B, P)  
 Collared Dove (>20, B)  
 Turtle Dove (A)  
 Ring-necked Parakeet (A)  
 Cuckoo (S, P, F&L)  
 All owls (A)  
 Nightjar (A, N)  
 Swift (>100, B, P, F&L)  
 Alpine Swift (A, D)  
 Kingfisher (T)  
 Bee-eater/Hoopoe/Wryneck (A, D)  
 All woodpeckers (T)  
 Short-toed Lark/Shore Lark (A, D)  
 Wood Lark (A, D away from breeding sites)  
 Sky Lark (>5, B, P)  
 Sand Martin (>20, B, F&L, P)  
 Swallow/House Martin (>50, B, F&L P)  
 Red-rumped Swallow (A, D)  
 Tawny/Richard's Pipits (A, D)  
 Tree Pipit (A)  
 Meadow Pipit (>25, B, P)  
 Red-throated Pipit (A, D)  
 Rock/Water Pipit (A)  
 Yellow Wagtail (A)  
 Grey Wagtail (MM, S)  
 Pied Wagtail (>5, B)  
 Waxwing (A)  
 Dipper (A, D)  
 Wren/Dunnock/Robin (>10, T)  
 Nightingale (A)  
 Bluethroat (A, D)  
 Black Redstart/Redstart/Whinchat (A)  
 Stonechat/Wheatear/Ring Ouzel (A)  
 Blackbird (>20, P, T)  
 Fieldfare/Redwing (>20, F&L, P)  
 Song/Mistle Thrush (>5, P, T)  
 Cetti's Warbler (A, D unless singing)  
 Aquatic/Marsh Warbler (A, D)  
 Grasshopper Warbler (A)  
 Sedge/Reed Warbler (>5, F&L, T)  
 Hippolais warblers (A, D)  
 Barred/Subalpine Warbler (A, D)  
 Dartford Warbler (A)  
 Lesser Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)  
 Common Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)  
 Garden Warbler (>5, F&L, T)  
 Blackcap (>10, F&L, T, W)  
 Pallas's/Yellow-browed Warbler (A, D)  
 Radde's Warbler (A, D)  
 Wood Warbler (A)  
 Chiffchaff (>10, F&L, T, W)  
 Willow Warbler (>10, F&L, T)  
 Goldcrest (>5, T)  
 Firecrest (A)  
 Spotted/Pied Flycatcher (A)  
 Red-breasted Flycatcher (A, D)  
 Bearded Tit (A)  
 Long-tailed Tit (>20, T)  
 Marsh/Willow Tit (A)  
 Coal/Blue/Great Tit (>20, T)  
 Nuthatch/Treecreeper (T)  
 Golden Oriole (A, D)  
 All shrikes (A, D)  
 Jay/Magpie (>15, B>5, P)  
 Jackdaw/Rook (>20, B)  
 Carrion Crow (>50, B>5)  
 Hooded Crow/Raven (A, N)  
 Starling (>100, B>10)  
 Rose-coloured Starling (A, D)  
 House Sparrow (>20, B>5)  
 Tree Sparrow (A)  
 Chaffinch (>50, B, P)  
 Brambling (A)  
 Serin (A, D)

|                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greenfinch/Goldfinch (>30, B, P) | Bullfinch (>5, B)           |
| Siskin (>5, S)                   | Hawfinch (A)                |
| Linnet (>10, B, P)               | Lapland Bunting (A, D)      |
| Twite (A, D)                     | Snow Bunting (A, N)         |
| Lesser Redpoll (>5, S)           | Yellowhammer (A)            |
| Mealy Redpoll (A, N)             | Ortolan/Cirl Bunting (A, D) |
| Arctic Redpoll (A, D)            | Reed Bunting (>10, T, P)    |
| Crossbill (A)                    | Little Bunting (A, D)       |
| Common Rosefinch (A, D)          | Corn Bunting (A)            |

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Editor or recorders on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required.

### **Sub-species**

All records of sub-species/races are required. In some cases notes are required, eg White Wagtail in autumn and races of Yellow Wagtail other than *M.f. flavissima*. In many other instances notes may not be required but in difficult cases please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular sub-species/race. Such cases could be: Greenland Wheatear; Races of Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Northern Long-tailed Tit; and Northern Bullfinch

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their records - without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual London Bird Report.

*Andrew Self, on behalf of the Records Committee, October 2006*

## Notes for Contributors

The Editor welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired. Papers should be submitted to the Papers Editor.

**Papers** Texts should be emailed to the Papers Editor in a Microsoft Word or Works word processor file.

**Style** English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital. Their use in the text is optional. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Quotation marks, if used, should be double. Any references to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics.

**References** should adopt the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

**Illustrations** Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Artwork should not be prepared until size of reproduction is known and the Papers Editor has been consulted.

**Photographs** Prints must allow sufficient background for masking and block making. If sent by post they must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage. Digital photos can be submitted on a CD.

**Proofs** Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage.

**Reprints** Up to 2 free reprints of papers (but not short notes or reviews) are provided if ordered by authors in advance. Larger quantities are charged at cost.

All papers for publication should be submitted to the Papers Editor, Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, Stoke Newington, London N16 7BP, email: [miketrier@waitrose.com](mailto:miketrier@waitrose.com)

Photographs should be submitted to the Photographic Editor, Dominic Mitchell, email: [dominic.mitchell@birdwatch.co.uk](mailto:dominic.mitchell@birdwatch.co.uk)

# London Bird Report for 2002 & 2003

edited by Andrew Self

NUMBER 67/68

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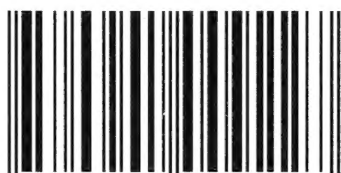
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