
Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Bird Report for 2012



Edited and produced by
Ricky Flesher, Peter Christian
and Steve Blake

Contents

	Page
Introduction	2
Recording Area and Access	2
Review of the Year	3
Birding Highlights of 2012	4
Taxonomy and Nomenclature	6
Corrections and Addendum to the 2011 Report	6
Submission of Records	6
Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation	6
References	6
Contributors and Acknowledgements	7
Systematic List	8
White Stork at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Saturday 12 th May 2012	32
Arrival and Departure Dates for Common Migrants	33
Appendix 1. Species Year-Lists for Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits for 2004-2012	34

Introduction

This report, for the year 2012, is the ninth consecutive report for the site known locally in Hertfordshire as Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits. The format of the report follows that used previously and through maintaining a similar layout and content we hope that comparisons can be more readily made with previous years. Wherever appropriate we have included data from previous years and/or further historical data.

In addition to the detailed systematic list of bird observations we also provide details of the recording area and access and a short review of the year - that includes the ornithological highlights and summaries of the physical and structural changes that have occurred over the course of the year. As the size of the report grows (due primarily to the amount of data included) it is possible that in future years some of these items may not be reproduced every year. We'd certainly value any feedback that you have on which sections of the report and which elements of the data you find most useful and interesting.

As in previous years we hope that you enjoy reading this report and if you do, then we encourage you to let us know either *via* the email addresses below or through the Hertsbirding Yahoo! Group (see: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hertsbirding/>). Likewise, if you did not enjoy reading it or can think of ways to improve your enjoyment, then please do not hesitate in letting us know. We leave you with the hope that you are encouraged by this report to venture on-site and to submit your records through any of the available channels for inclusion in future reports.

Ricky Flesher (rickyflesher2001@yahoo.com)
Peter Christian (tyttenhangerpete@hotmail.co.uk)
Steve Blake (blakey999@sky.com)

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Recording Area and Access

The area covered by the current report is shown in Figure 1. As indicated previously, this is an attempt to update the excellent map produced in the 1996 report and to show the current status of the area. While there are undoubtedly inaccuracies in this map it shows the general boundaries of the area considered in the report, namely, that bounded by the A414 to the west, White Horse Lane and the London Colney by-pass to the south, Coursers Road to the east and Colney Heath High Street to the north. Access can be gained from a number of public footpaths that lead onto the site (see OS Explorer Map No. 182). For those arriving by car a number of access options are available. One option is to enter *via* Church Lane in Colney Heath – parking around the entrance to the Water Works. The model railway club usually meets on Sunday mornings and space can be restricted at this time. Alternatively, park at St Peter's Church in London Colney and walk along the Colne, under the London Colney by-pass and on past the Fishing Lakes and Willows Farm. The third option is to enter on the access road for the Gravel Quarry just before the Garage on the A414 (coming from the Hatfield direction) and park at the end of this road before the entrance to the fishing lakes. The car park next to the Bailiff's van and parking elsewhere around the fishing lakes is subject to a charge of £2.00 for those not holding fishing permits. The tickets can be obtained from the machine on the toilet block wall next to the "Lakeside Snackz". The access tracks that run each side of the fishing lakes are now gated, but not locked, and providing birders obtain a parking ticket, they can go through these gates and park sensibly anywhere along the tracks.

Once on-site there is an extensive network of footpaths and tracks which cover the majority of the recording area. Observers are requested to keep to the marked footpaths to minimise disturbance to the birds, the land-owners and the

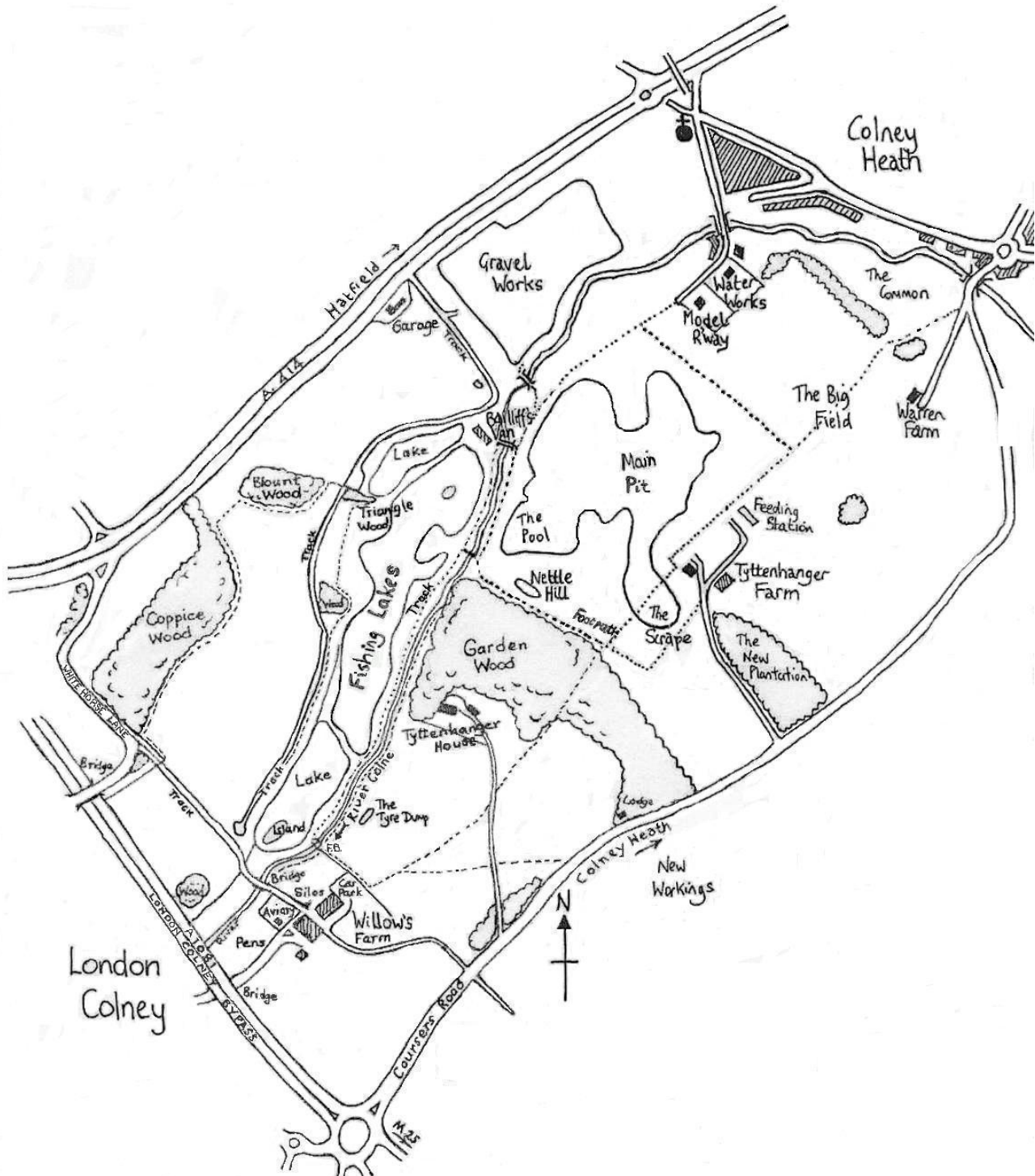


Figure 1. Map of the recording area covered in the current report. This map is a revised version of that shown in Brew (1997) and is the best representation of the situation in 2010. A previous version of the map with a superimposed grid is available in earlier reports. Scale approximately 1.5cm = 250 metres.

quarrying operations. This is particularly so around the Main Pit and it should be noted that the workings access track is not a public right of way. The current OS map (OS Explorer Map No. 182) should be consulted for some of the older paths that may not be shown on the map presented in Figure 1. However, please bear in mind that due to the active mineral extraction operations on and around the site there are frequent changes to the footpaths and any signage should be followed where appropriate.

Review of the Year 2012

The physical features of the site have remained much the same over the last few years with the sand-spit in the Main Pit continuing to be a major feature. Rainfall was the highest that we've seen in the period since 2001 and the winter periods showed around average temperatures for the years since 2001 with a total of 378.5 hours of Airfrost- 200 hours of this being in February.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Annual Rainfall (mm)	753.2	682.8	501.3	630.2	499.2	638.1	662.1	648.3	624.8	574.1	409.9	836.6
Airfrost Duration (hrs)¹	456.6	111.0	432.4	255.1	317.2	359.1	182.3	243.6	437.3	897.9	102.5	378.5

Coverage of the site for the year came to a total of 275 days (75.3%)– with peak coverage being in the usual months of March/April and August/September. Coverage (days per month) and totals for the last five years are shown below.

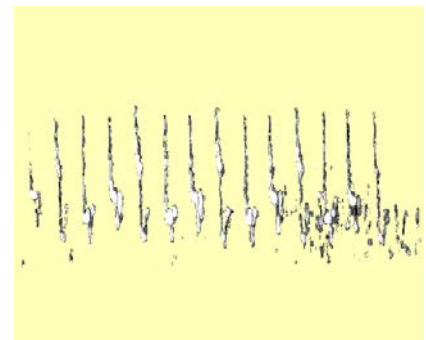
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	26	28	28	27	21	23	23	25	21	17	20	16	275
2011	23	19	28	27	24	25	27	27	24	24	25	16	289
2010	23	21	30	29	24	23	23	29	26	24	15	22	289
2009	22	19	22	28	21	13	23	28	27	26	21	21	271
2008	25	21	31	26	19	13	27	28	24	24	16	18	272

Birding Highlights 2012

The year got off to an average start with **January 1st** producing a **Little Egret** - which has now become a regular visitor to Tyttenhanger. The first of 12 sightings for the year of **Peregrine** was made on 6th and then birding got more exciting when a very handsome drake **Smew** gave great views to many observers on the 11th. A **Shelduck** on the 13th stayed for two days, as did a **Ruddy Duck** on 21st. The month ended with a **Goosander** on the 24th.

In contrast to January, **February** proved to be a lot more eventful - another drake **Goosander** on 1st joined the one already on site, 2 **Dunlin** and 2 very welcome drake **Pintail** were also seen on that day on the Main Pit. Two **Woodcock** were flushed in Garden Wood on the 8th and a **Tawny Owl** was heard calling in the same wood on the 13th. Another 2 drake **Goosander** arrived on the 17th, boosting their number to 4. Again Garden Wood came good on the 18th producing 2 **Ring-necked Parakeet** (still a rare species at this site). The arrival of 2 **Ringed Plover** on 19th, were the first migrant waders of the year, and 2 **Barn Owl** were seen flying over on this day by one lucky observer. Another "first migrant" was a **Redshank** on 29th, and on this day, another scarce species here – an adult **Great Black-backed Gull**!

March is the month that other passage and breeding migrants are expected to arrive. And this proved to be the case as an **Oystercatcher** arrived on the 3rd with another joining it on the 5th (perhaps the usual breeding pair)? An interesting gull on the 10th was eventually thought to be an intergrade with prominent **Caspian Gull** influence. The first **Chiffchaff** arrived on 12th and a fly over **Sandwich Tern** on the 14th. Two passage **Sand Martin** and a **Wheatear** were seen on the 17th, and on the 26th another **Great Black-backed Gull** landed on the sand spit. The 2 **Oystercatchers** were showing signs of breeding, displaying to each other on the sand spit and a **Water Pipit** seen on 29th by the Fishing Lake proved an excellent find. The first **Swallow** of the year passed through on 31st and also on this day a **Ruddy Duck** – the last for the year could this be the last one for the site?



With high hopes for **April** - the month started well with a pair of **Little Ringed Plover** on the 2nd. This was followed by 2 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and a male **Ring Ouzel** on the 7th, a **Common Sandpiper** and 3 **Common Tern** on the 11th, and a **Willow Warbler** 12th. And lucky for some - on the 13th, a very handsome male **Redstart** was found by the fishing lake. Another two **Little Ringed Plover** joined the two already on site, a **Whitethroat** on the 16th, **House Martin** and **Yellow Wagtail** on the 17th. The unmistakable call of a **Cuckoo** was heard on the 19th, and on 25th 2 adults and a 1st summer **Little Gull** were found sheltering on the Main Pit from some very wet and windy weather conditions. Then came the first real glimpse of summer with 2 **Swifts** flying over on the 26th. The month ended with some fantastic wader passage, starting on the 28th when 2 **Avocet** and 2 **Whimbrel** were noted. Remarkably, on the 29th they were joined by a summer plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Most probably the same birds were seen again on the 30th, when unbelievably, a **Curlew** flew in and joined them. Finally to end a great month, a **Mandarin** was seen flying over on the 30th.

May slowed slightly but still migrants continued to arrive or pass through - a **Lesser Whitethroat** on the 2nd, a **Dunlin** on the 4th. Probably the last breeding species to arrive was a **Garden Warbler** on the 5th. Another **Bar-tailed Godwit** on the

¹ Airfrost duration is the total number of hours in the year in which there was an air-frost. Generally airfrosts are restricted to the winter months of January, February, March, October, November and December. All data are from the Icen weather station in Royston and taken to be indicative of the prevailing conditions at Tyttenhanger in the same time-periods.

5th was joined by a **Black-tailed Godwit** and 6 **Redshank**. Also on this day, an all too brief visit from a **Black Tern** - perhaps deterred from staying longer by the arrival of a **Hobby** hawking low over the water! An **Osprey**, heading north on the 7th and an **Avocet** wading in the margins on the 9th were excellent finds. But the real excitement was on the 12th with another flyover **Osprey**, and then, for four lucky birders, the totally unexpected sight of a **White Stork** flying toward them (story on page 7). The notable records for this excellent month ended all too early with the almost surreal sighting of a **Kittiwake** on the 15th.

June as always was certainly a slow month in terms of quality birds, but breeding activity was very much in evidence and included a pair of displaying **Oystercatcher** on the 1st. The 2nd produced the year's only record of **Knot** with 4 on the Main Pit. A **Little Ringed Plover** nest with eggs was found on the 15th but had failed by the 18th. Amazingly, another nest was found on this day but there was immediate concern for its success due to its exposed location. Other birds of note were a **Cuckoo** on the 5th, **Dunlin** on four days, another flyover **Osprey** on the 11th and a **Peregrine** on the 19th.

July Started well - the **Little Ring Plover** nest was still intact! Two passage **Common Sandpiper** arrived and departed on the 4th and then 3 **Black-tailed Godwits** were noted on the 6th - for just one day. On the 7th - 7 **Little Ringed Plover** were on the sand spit with at least one juvenile was in the company - but not one of our own, as ours hadn't hatched yet and then sadly, and probably inevitably, the nest failed on the 10th. Other visiting species was a **Redshank** on the 9th for three days and a **Hobby** was seen in the area on several days. Three **Egyptian Goose** were present on the 23rd before the month concluded with a very brief four minute visit by a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** on the 31st.

August followed the pattern of previous years and started quietly, although after a sighting of a **Shelduck** on the 11th things started to warm up, with an adult and a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** reported on the 19th. The first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the year was seen near Willows Farm on the 21st. Another juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** was seen on the 25th and, amazingly, another adult and two juveniles noted on the 27th. Return migration started to happen toward the end of the month, with a **Wheatear** noted on the 23rd, and a **Whinchat** and 4 **Yellow Wagtail** seen on the 28th by the car park at Willows Farm. It was thought that the **Oystercatcher** pair had bred somewhere on or near the site and this theory was borne out by an adult proudly showing off a juvenile on the 29th and to continue what was to be an excellent month for **Mediterranean Gull** sightings, another two, a juvenile and 2nd winter were noted - the Juvenile bird staying on the 30th - all these birds were thought to be different individuals and constituted a fine sequence of records of this charismatic gull.

September continued the theme of "return Migration" starting on the 1st with the first of six records of **Whinchat**, and five records this month of **Yellow Wagtail**. Another **Spotted Flycatcher** was noted on the 5th and an **Osprey** was slowly making its journey south on the 15th. Amazingly, another 1st winter **Mediterranean Gull** appeared on 19th as did the first returning **Stonechat** - a male on 26th and a female on 30th.



October started with the lingering **Stonechat** at Willows Farm, which eventually departed on the 5th. A rare sighting of a **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen on the 3rd. A **Tawny Owl** in Garden Wood was heard claiming its position and status on three dates. A female **Redstart** was seen in the hedges near the Model Railway Club on the 10th winter species began to arrive on the 14th with reports of 40+ **Siskin** on Colney Heath Common, and the first **Redwing** of the autumn. A **Dunlin** was on the sand spit on the 18th - then another winter first - 2 **Redpoll** arrived on the 19th. The 20th saw the last **Swallow** departing the site and another **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was seen on this day along the river Colne - a day also marked by the rather more unusual sighting (these days) of all 4 editors of this report from years 2004-2012 birding together! The month came to an end with an elegant **Ruff** on the 26th and a male **Stonechat** at Willows Farm on the 30th.

November proved to be very quiet except for a few notable exceptions - a **Merlin** over the car park at Willows Farm on the 6th (accepted by HBC rarities committee). A **Peregrine** was seen hunting on the 7th and a **Dunlin** was on the Main Pit on the 19th. An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** noted in the same area on 20th.

December 1st and a **Tawny Owl** was heard calling in Garden wood. A drake **Goosander** arrived on the 4th and was joined by another drake on the 7th. Both were still on the Main Pit on the 8th, joined by a fine drake **Goldeneye**. No one had taken much notice of 4 swans that were loafing and fast asleep on the small island below the east bank watch point, then to the great surprise of the birders present, one of the swans raised its head and revealed a bright yellow bill! Great excitement ensued when it was realised that all four "loafers" were indeed a family party of **Bewick's Swans**, two adults

and two juveniles. One of the adults was sporting a bright yellow neck collar with ID number 078E, further details are on page 8). The two drake **Goosander** were last seen on the 9th.

In summary, Tyttenhanger produced a total of 138 species for 2012, a number in keeping with most of the last 9 years where totals have ranged between 130 and 140 – the outstanding 143 in 2006 being the exception. No new species were added to the site list this year and 14 species were recorded in 2012 that were not seen in 2011: **Bewick's Swan, Egyptian Goose, Mandarin, Smew** (first since 1997), **White Stork, Osprey, Merlin, Knot, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Barn Owl, Water Pipit, Redstart** and **Ring Ouzel**. Likewise, species seen in 2011 that were not recorded this year were **White-fronted Goose, Bean Goose, Barnacle Goose, Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Grey Partridge, Montague's Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Jack Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Waxwing, Black Redstart, Raven, Brambling** (the first year without a record in the period 2004-12), **Mealy Redpoll** and **Hawfinch**. The total number of species recorded at Tyttenhanger to the end of 2012 is 198 with a total of 180 species having been recorded in the period 2004-2010.

Taxonomy and Nomenclature

As with previous reports the systematic order that we have followed is close to that of the British Ornithologists Union (BOU) and this and the nomenclature for common names follows that used in the Hertfordshire Bird Report.

Corrections and Addendum to the 2011 Report

The following updates have been obtained from the Hertfordshire Bird Report for 2011 and the Herts Bird Club website (<http://www.hnhs.org/birds/birdspanel.php>).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The report of the single bird that flew in with a flock of Greylags on 9th April has not been submitted to the HRBP and this species is therefore removed from 2011 report. While even if it had been submitted the provenance of this bird may have been in question it is worth noting that from late 2010 there have been several records for Pink-footed Goose submitted to HBRC: 9th December 2010, Fairlands Valley Lake (A); 18th January 2011 at Amwell (A); 8th February 2012, Codicote Bottom (C); 30th October 2012, Amwell (C). Two of the records have been accepted (A) and two are still in circulation (C).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

The bird recorded on the 29th June and reported by Birdguides does not appear to have been reported to the HRBP – this species is therefore removed from 2011 list.

Submission of Records

Observers are encouraged to submit their records for the site (and for Hertfordshire generally) via the Herts Bird Club website (<http://www.hertsbirdclub.org.uk>) and to report sightings of interest through the Hertsbirding Yahoo! Email Group. Such reporting will ensure that records are passed to the County Recorder and disseminated quickly to the local birding community. It should also be mentioned that records that are submitted to the BTO's Birdtrack system also flow through to the County Recorder and so are also captured for this report.

Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation

This report is the fifth year in which we have had access to the digitised records from both the Herts Bird Club database and Birdtrack and these sources show a continuing decline in the total number of records for the site noted in the 2011 report. The number of observers alone does not explain this decline as there is no clear relationship between number of records and number of observers (see Table below). More likely are some subtle changes in reporting patterns and the visiting frequency of a few avid recorders. However, whatever the reason, we would encourage you to submit all of your records as these are the basis for this report and without them the report becomes a difficult task indeed!

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Records	11,415	9,498	6,968	7,105	5,548
Number of Recorders	57	49	76	72	58

On another note, we have again made the decision to keep the total size of the report for this year to around 40 pages. To achieve this we have decided to limit monthly maxima tables to 5 years and other tables to as much data as can be held in their current format i.e. in most cases all 9 years data. In addition, where charts and tables are failing to show anything new, these have been either deleted or modified – as has been the case with Ringed and Little Ringed Plover in the recent past. We have also included additional tables where analysis of the data has not proven to be too onerous i.e. where all the data are digitised. In some instances where analysis appears to be appropriate we have also gone back and recoded some of the earlier data that is available and/or extracted more recent data. In all of these cases we hope that the additional analysis has provided some insights to the changing status of relevant species. However, we do not

claim to have infallible vision and if you see any analyses that you feel may shed greater insight then please feel free to contact us.

Finally, we have decided to delete the WeBS count section from the end of the report as we feel it is no longer providing additional information beyond that in this and the previous Tyttenhanger reports. The WeBS data from 1998-2010 is available in the 2011 report or on request from the editors.

Contributors and Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the records that observers have made available to the broader birding community and so first thanks must go to them. A large debt of thanks is also due to Alan Gardiner and the rest of the Herts Bird Club Committee, who made available the Tyttenhanger records from the Herts Bird Club database and Birdtrack – without which there would have been many serious “gaps” in the current report. Thanks also to Marcus Brew for permission to use the vignette of the Sand Martins (previously the cover illustration for the 1996 and 2004 reports). The cover picture and other graphic images in this report were produced by Peter Christian; photographs are individually acknowledged.

The following is a list of all of those people who contributed records either directly or through the Herts Bird Club. Where records have been credited to specific observers these are shown in the text. Apologies if you submitted records for 2011 and your name doesn't appear on the list - but please let us know so that we can make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

David Armstrong	Peter Delaloye	Stephen Kitchen	Robin Pearson	Nigel Taylor
Jeff Bailey	Anthony Dorman	Ernie Leahy	Samuel Perfect	Jim Terry
Lee Batten	Lee G. R. Evans	Alex Lewis	Simon Priestnall	Steve Veal
Steve Blake	Rupert Evershed	Drew Lyness	Rupert Pyrah	Simon West
Phil Blatcher	John Fisher	Luke Massey	Steve Shand	David Wheatcroft
David Booth	Ricky Flesher	David McCarthy	Nick Sinden	Tony Wileman
Darrel Bryant	Alan Ford	Stephen Middleton	David Smith	Alan Charles Winn
Roger Buxton	Jono Forgham	Clive Harding	T. A. Smith	T. Wood
Robert Calf	Alan Gardiner	Steve Murray	Linda Smith	John Yates
Kevin Cheadle	Bill Haines	Thami Ndunge	Clifford Smout	Geoff Young
Peter Christian	Clive Harding	Mick Oakland	Darin Stanley	Herts BNA
Anthony Cooper	Wendy Hatton	Roger Payne	Andrew Steele	
Daphne Dean	Pete Jenkins	Steve Pearce	Gavin Stewart	

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Resident through much of the year. Breeds on site in small numbers (1-2 pairs); first recorded breeding in 1996.

Only one pair nested this year with courtship and display reported on 12th April and a recently fledged brood of four seen on the 5th June; the young were not reported again. The maximum for the year was 13 birds in February/ November and December. All in all a very normal year for this species with monthly maxima for the last 5 years shown below

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	12	13	9	11	8	9	3	10	5	5	13	13
Monthly Max 2011	11	6	4	9	12*	7*	5	10	10	10	7	9
Monthly Max 2010	6	5	5	4	8*	10*	10*	8	11	12	12	22
Monthly Max 2009	6	6	6	4	18*	7*	10*	14*	20*	21*	10	13
Monthly Max 2008	4	5	4	3	6*	9*	12*	6	7	11	8	6

* Includes young birds

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Infrequent visitor.

A family party of 2 adults and 2 juveniles were found on the sand spit on the Main Pit on the 8th December (Ricky Flesher, Steve Blake) One of the adult birds had a yellow neck ring numbered 078E which showed that it was a female ringed on 28th December 2008 in Texal Netherlands. She has subsequently been seen in Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands and elsewhere in England. On the 7th November 2012 she had been seen at Gudenieki in Latvia having spent the January of this year at the Nene washes. The birds did not linger and had moved on by the following day. This is the fifth record for the site since 1985 and the first since 2008.



Two juveniles and the neck-ringed adult Bewick's Swans from the family party of 4 birds that arrived on the 8th December. Photograph by Steve Blake.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Birds of presumed feral origin appear most years.

A better year for this species with 61 records – compared to 55 in 2011. Numbers were also up on 2011 with twenty records of 10 or more birds (7 in 2011); the maximum count was also up with 30 on 5th June compared to 17 in 2011. The count of 30 birds is the largest in the period 2004-2012.

Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Common throughout the year with large moulting flocks present in the autumn. Usually breeds on site.

Records indicated that only 2 or 3 broods were hatched this year with a maximum of only 4 young seen on any date. There was the usual peak in numbers in August and September with the arrival of large flocks of moulting birds and monthly maxima for the last 5 years are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	21	74	72	16	21*	34*	29	130	230	78	40	48
Monthly Max 2011	19	16	15	12	40*	50*	70	162	118	74	40	38
Monthly Max 2010	66	36	40	10	41*	30	39	125	201	40	54	61
Monthly Max 2009	72	77	27	14	37*	39	65	163	125	83	79	37
Monthly Max 2008	65	39	50	24	43	46*	77	304	310	315	63	84

* Includes young birds

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus**Infrequent visitor.*

The only record for the year was of 3 birds on 23rd July.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna**Regular visitor in small numbers. Has bred in the past and the presence of pairs during the breeding season indicates it may breed again.*

Recorded frequently in the first 4 months of the year with a single bird first reported on the 13th January and then subsequently reported on 10 days until the end of the month. There were 14 records in February, 14 in March, 11 in April and 2 in May. There were 2 birds reported on multiple dates in February, March, and April, 3 birds on 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th April and 1st May and 4 birds on 2nd May. In the second half of the year there was a single record of 1 bird on 11th August.

**Mandarin *Aix galericulata****Irregular visitor.*

The only record of the year was of a male on 30th April.

Wigeon *Anas penelope**Occurs through the winter months in small numbers with the total number of records supplemented by a small number of presumed passage migrants.*

A total of 12 records for the year was down again on 2011 (21 records) and 2010 (42 records) – and is the lowest for the period 2004-2012. The highest count for the year was of 7 birds on 10th January. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is presented below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	7	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	3
Monthly Max 2011	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	5	9	7	4
Monthly Max 2010	6	0	3	0	0	6	0	3	10	8	12	33
Monthly Max 2009	5	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	2	7
Monthly Max 2008	3	2	2	0	3	3	6	0	16	2	3	6

Gadwall *Anas strepera**Frequently recorded; breeding rarely recorded.*

No confirmed records of breeding this year and counts fairly stable throughout the year with the usual peak at the end of June. The maximum for the year was of 26 birds on 30th June. Monthly maxima for the last 5 years are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	6	14	16	8	5	26	4	12	9	5	4	16
Monthly Max 2011	12	11	11	10	11	34	21	20	18	18	6	10
Monthly Max 2010	9	11	8	11	14	18	7	14	16	10	9	16
Monthly Max 2009	9	11	7	5	9	25	29	9	7	19	12	8
Monthly Max 2008	11	8	7	7	7	9	9	23	25	7	3	8

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos**Common resident present throughout the year. Birds are also released for wildfowling.*

A poor breeding year for 2012 with only 2 broods being noted across the site (9 in 2011). The maximum count for the year was of 136 on 1st September. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	65	100	29	34	31	59*	40	84	136	53	97	96
Monthly Max 2011	56	54	32	18	59*	74*	82	30	72	52	20	50
Monthly Max 2010	75	55	37	37	58	57	20	58	40	80	43	152
Monthly Max 2009	168	94	25	81	74	120	21	72	67	50	100 [†]	126
Monthly Max 2008	49	20	55	36	92	76	101	61	98	80	42	98

* Includes young birds; † Figure from WeBs Counts.

Pintail *Anas acuta**Infrequent visitor.*

Two males on 1st February (Steve Murray) was the only record for the year.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata**Regular visitor.*

After the relatively poor year in 2011, 2012 proved to be an exceptional year for this species with the highest number of bird days for any year in the period 2004-2012 and also record numbers of bird days for November and December in the same period. In addition, there were 12 counts of 10 or more birds this year with the largest count being 24 birds on the 1st and 2nd of December. A summary of monthly bird days for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Bird Days 2012	6	8	65	71	4	12	1	12	8	9	42	105	343
Bird Days 2011	3	6	24	14	0	1	8	27	25	7	10	9	134
Bird Days 2010	13	23	61	75	6	0	3	11	28	9	19	6	254
Bird Days 2009	33	31	19	24	2	8	5	22	11	30	8	21	214
Bird Days 2008	8	9	36	107	29	6	3	13	22	30	10	42	315

Teal *Anas crecca**Frequent visitor and probably passage migrant. Highest numbers usually observed in the first winter period/early spring.*

The number of records for the year (74) was down again from the 79 in 2011 and 101 in 2010 and was actually the lowest number of records for any year in the period 2004-2012 – although interestingly total bird days (500) was higher than both 2004 (443) and 2007 (449). The highest count of the year was of 28 birds 1st February. Daily maxima for the period 2004-2012 are shown in Figure 2.

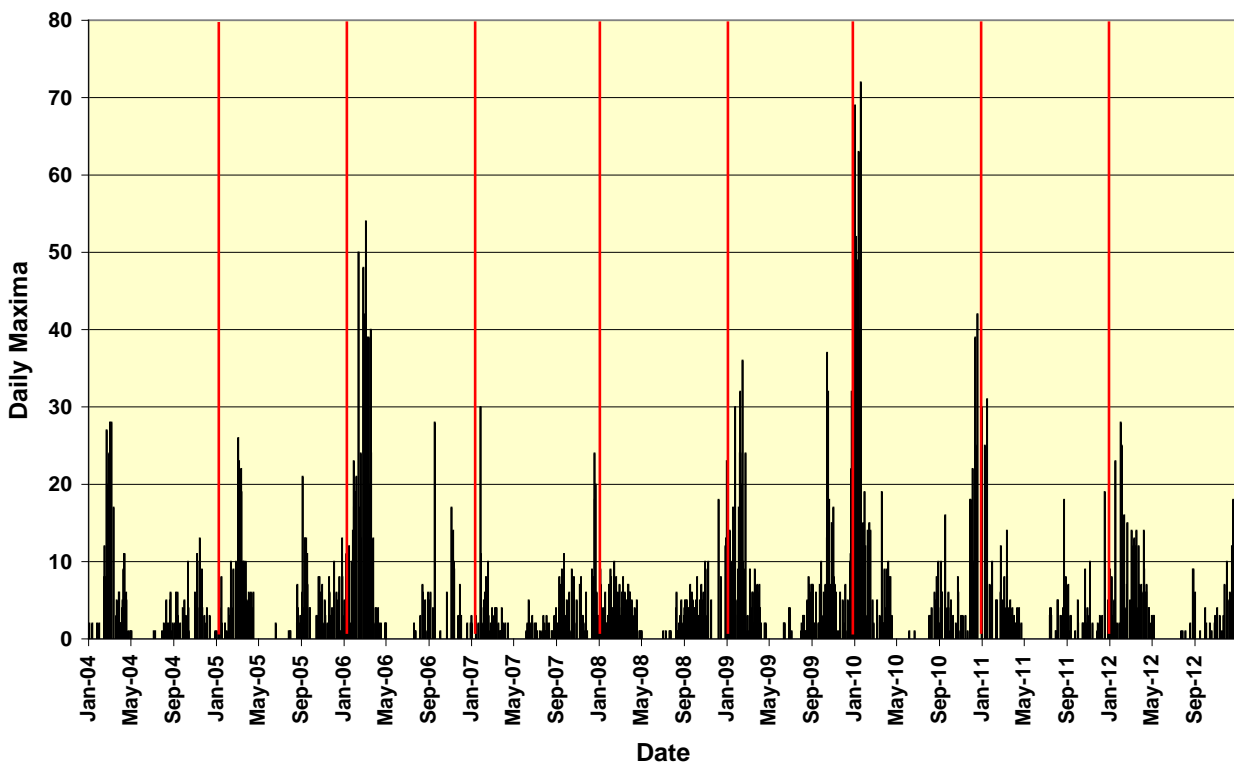


Figure 2. Summary of daily maxima for Teal *Anas crecca* during the period 2004-2012. The red lines show the divisions between years.

Pochard *Aythya farina**Reasonably common winter visitor.*

The status of this species appears to have been changed over the last few years as shown by Figure 3. In the early part of the period for which we have data (2004-2012), this species was very much an infrequent winter visitor i.e. 2004-2006. Then in 2007 and 2008 overall numbers increased but there was still a distinct gap in May/June when birds were absent. Then in the period 2009-2011 we have seen good numbers through most of the year with birds also being recorded in all months – albeit there are usually only a few May/June records. This year follows the general pattern of the last 3 years with birds recorded in all months with distinct winter/early spring peaks. Numbers this year were generally lower than the

last few years with the maximum count for the year of 12 birds on the 18th February. A summary of data from the last 9 years is shown in the Table below and in Figure 3.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	20	31	12	84	161	112	94	84	53
Maximum Count	24	10	10	20	31	20 [†]	20	27	12
Bird Days	101	138	37	402	885	373	376	312	171

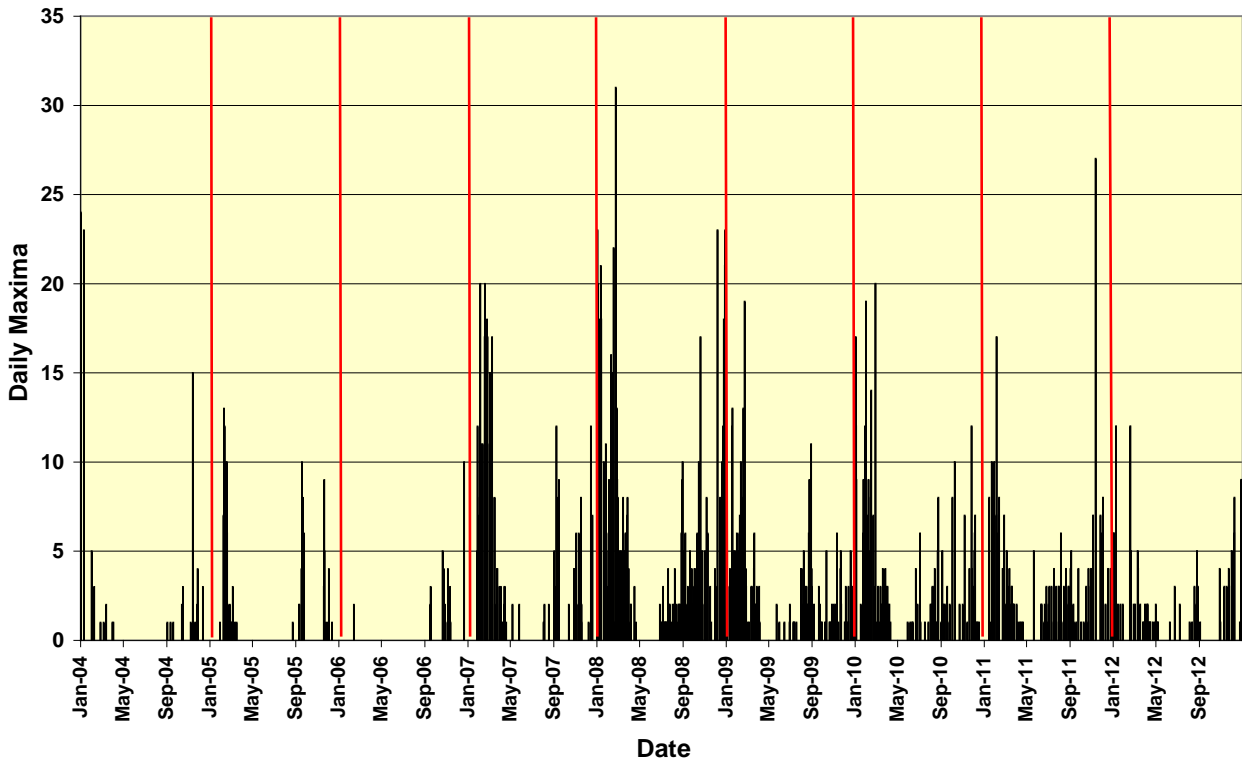


Figure 3. Summary of daily maxima for Pochard *Aythya farina* during the period 2004-2012. The red lines show the divisions between years

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Relatively common species that breeds in some years.

This species bred again this year with one brood reported on 20th July and one on 27th July (5 and 2) . Numbers were much the same as last few years with a maximum of 50 birds on 2nd January. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	50	30	42	47	12	30	9	16*	6	4	8	25
Monthly Max 2011	59	53	54	30	29	6	21*	20	15	16	40	35
Monthly Max 2010	40	74	35	47	18	41	16	18	10	19	12	24
Monthly Max 2009	48	50	45	35	30	30*	28*	30*	20	17	42	30
Monthly Max 2008	46	59	49	36	12	18	37*	38*	34	16	26	40

*Includes young birds. The main part of the breeding season is highlighted in yellow.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Sporadic visitor.

Only one record for the year of a male on 8th December. A summary of records from the last nine years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Days Recorded	1	6	1	0	2	25	8	2	1	46
Bird Days	1	7	1	0	2	31	10	2	1	53

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Irregular visitor with one or two records in most winters.

With one more record than 2011, the 13 records for this year make it the best for this species in the period 2004-2012. The first winter period provided 8 records and a total of 16 bird days and the second winter period produced 5 records

and 8 bird days. Of the 24 bird days for the year only one involved a female i.e. male and female seen on 1st February. The largest count of the year was of 4 males on 17th February.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Rare visitor.

A male on the farm lake on 11th January is the first record since 2000 and only the 7th record for the site of which we are aware. The other records were of a redhead on the 16th November 1997, a male on 14th December 1997, 2 pairs on 24th December 1999, a redhead on 28th December 1999 and a single bird (sex not reported) on 3rd February 2000.



Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Irregular visitor has bred in the past.

The control policy for this introduced species seems to be having further impacts on the population and the number of records. Only 2 records this year compared to 10 in 2011, 29 in 2010 and 60 in 2009. Both of the records were of single birds.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Common resident with the local population supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm.

There were no confirmed records of breeding for the year and although recorded in most months the maximum count was of only 44 birds on 3rd March. At the time of writing (Winter 2013/14) shooting is no longer taking place at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits and numbers seem to be decreasing as no birds are now being released.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common resident with the local population supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm.

Recorded in most months of the year but there were no confirmed records of breeding. The maximum count was of only 17 birds on 17th February. As for the above species shooting is no longer taking place and numbers seem to have declined in the absence of any released birds.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Previously bred but now an irregular visitor.

A real downturn for this species with only 46 bird days and no breeding records and only one record in the last six months of the year. We can only presume that the condition at the pits was not suitable for breeding. A summary of bird days per month for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Bird Days 2012	1	1	16	20	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	46
Bird Days 2011	0	0	13	5	8	3	9*	9	5	14	2	4	72
Bird Days 2010	12	3	25	31	11	7	10	22	16	11	0	0	148
Bird Days 2009	0	4	14	24	6	9	8	49*	55*	53*	37	37	296
Bird Days 2008	0	1	6	6	0	4	24	62*	26	8	3	0	140

*Including young

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Present throughout the year with small numbers of pairs breeding.

Only three pairs bred this year and the best count of the year was of 36 birds on 16th November – which is also the largest count for the period 2004-2012. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	17	18	22	30	17	20	19	26	20	29	36	22
Monthly Max 2011	5	28	31	19	35*	19*	32*	18	23	25	6	7
Monthly Max 2010	3	14	16	24	22	27	12	20	16	19	30	1
Monthly Max 2009	4	9	10	10	15	19*	13*	29*	14	13	21	24
Monthly Max 2008	12	8	19	20	22	24*	25*	14	22	19	6	6

* Includes young birds

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A common winter visitor with birds present through much of the year.

Present throughout the year with a maximum count of only 21 birds on 1st November and the 28th December, but overall a fairly typical year for this species. Monthly maxima for the last 5 years are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	15	11	11	10	6	9	7	2	10	17	21	21
Monthly Max 2011	16	17	13	9	7	2	6	8	9	8	6	18
Monthly Max 2010	10	14	13	6	3	1	3	10	7	16	53	24
Monthly Max 2009	24	9	11	12	4	3	8	6	5	8	28	21
Monthly Max 2008	23	15	22	25	6	4	11	11	10	7	59	91

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Becoming more regular as this species continues to spread throughout the UK.

Another large increase in days recorded this year with a total of 51 – which makes it the best year by a long way in the period 2004–2012. The first record for the year was of a single bird on 1st January which was followed by a further 46 records of single birds, 1 record of 2 birds and 3 records of 3 birds – the later all in August. A summary of bird days and number of records per year for the period 2004 – 2012 are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	16	7	5	2	31	12	21	29	51
Bird Days	17	8	7	2	42	12	34	49	58

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Present throughout the year with numbers rarely reaching double figures. Has bred in recent years.

This species bred on site again with 4 broods of 2-2-2-3 young recorded between April and July. The maximum count for the year was of 10 birds on 11th March and 18th August. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is presented below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	8	3	10	7*	7*	4	6*	10	5	4	5	6
Monthly Max 2011	3	5	3	3	7*	7*	6	6	8	6	3	3
Monthly Max 2010	9	3	6	8*	14*	11*	12*	8	8	3	8	3
Monthly Max 2009	3	6	5	6	4	9	6	10	9	6	5	11
Monthly Max 2008	5	7	3	4	5	6	8	10	9	5	4	7

* Includes young birds

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare visitor.

One seen in flight over Garden Wood from the back viewing area at 09.12am until 09.35 on 12th May (Ricky Flesher and Steve Blake). This record has been accepted by the Herts Rare Birds Panel and is the second record for the site - the last one being on the 19th March 2006. The full story can be found on page 7.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Irregular passage migrant.

This is the best year on record for this species being recorded on 4 dates in the year. The first record was of one flying north on 7th May followed by one flying over on 12th May, one flying south on 11th June and finally a bird flying low south over the fishing lakes on 15th September.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Local Resident.

The number of records for this species (95) was slightly down on last year (106) although the reporting frequency for this year has climbed to 42.0% (recorded on 29 dates from a total of 69 visits for one regular recorder) from the 31.7% of 2011. These data would indicate that there may be a slight tendency to under-reporting, despite which the species was recorded in all 12 months of the year – with maximum counts of 4 birds on 3 dates in March. A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003 – 2012 for this and the three other common birds of prey recorded on-site are shown in Figure 4.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Present throughout the year. Undoubtedly breeds locally but usually not confirmed.

Present throughout the year with a reporting frequency of 33.3% (recorded on 23 dates from a total of 69 visits for one regular recorder). No breeding records and a maximum count of 3 birds on 30th October. A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003 – 2012 for this and the other three common birds of prey recorded on-site is shown in Figure 4 along with data on the total number of records over the last 5 years in the Table on page 15 .

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Local resident becoming increasingly more common in Hertfordshire and more frequently observed at Tyttenhanger.

Interestingly, while this species continues to show an increase in recording frequency, up to 53.6% this year (recorded on 37 dates from a total of 69 visits by one regular recorder), the total numbers of records are falling from the apparent peak of 2009 (see below). The highest count for the year was of 8 birds on 12th April and 12th May again the same as last year. A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003 – 2012 for this and the three other common birds of prey recorded on-site are shown in Figure 4. A summary of the records for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
No. Days 2012	7	8	5	9	6	6	4	6	7	5	0	4	67
No. Days 2011	0	4	12	8	6	6	7	11	7	9	2	3	74
No. Days 2010	5	3	11	13	9	4	5	16	13	5	1	3	88
No. Days 2009	3	7	12	15	11	2	4	13	10	8	3	6	94
No. Days 2008	5	5	14	11	8	2	3	5	8	8	2	1	72

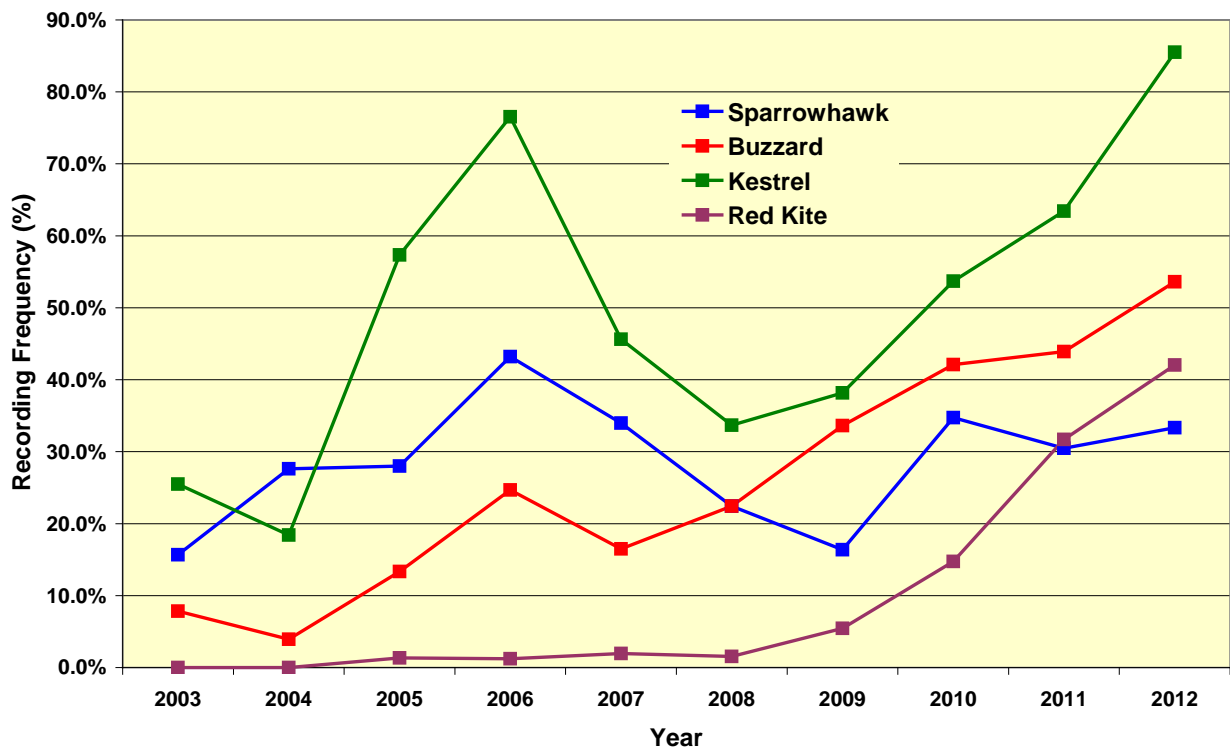


Figure 4. Summary of recording frequency for the more common birds of prey found at Tyttenhanger during the period 2003-2012. Recording frequency is calculated from data from single observer for each species-year combination and is based on the number of records for the year as a percentage of the number of visits. Note only single observer records have been used where the observer is known to record all sightings of the species involved.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Birds of both sexes present throughout the year. Undoubtedly breeds locally but usually not confirmed.

Present throughout the year with the recording frequency reaching a new peak of 85.5% (recorded on 59 dates from a total of 69 visits for one regular recorder). Breeding was confirmed this year with a juvenile seen being feed on 10th July and 2 begging juveniles on 21st July. The maximum count for the year was of 3 birds on 7 dates throughout the year. A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003-2012 for this species and other birds of prey is shown in Figure 4 and in the Table below. Interestingly, the total number of records for this species is showing a downward trend from the recent apparent peak in 2008 - even though the reporting frequency is increasing. As with Red Kite (see above)

this indicates that overall there may be a general tendency towards under-recording – which may be a general phenomena for the common birds of prey as the total number of regular recorders and the number of records are not showing the same trend as bird of prey records. (see also Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation p 6).

	Number of Records				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sparrowhawk	65	36	54	40	34
Buzzard	72	94	88	74	67
Kestrel	114	99	81	98	87
Red Kite	5	14	36	106	95

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Rare visitor.

A male at Willow's Farm on 6th November (Steve Blake) has been accepted by the Herts Rare Birds Panel (HBRP). This is only the 3rd record in the period 2004-2012 accepted by the HBRP and the first since 18th February 2007.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Passage migrant and summer visitor.

With only 26 records and 30 bird days for the year this species continues to decline from the peak of 2008/2009. The maximum count was of only 2 birds - on four dates - and there was no breeding reported this year. A summary of records for the period 2005 – 2012 are shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	34	37	31	72	74	46	32	30
Days Recorded	23	35	25	46	44	30	24	26
Earliest Date	26 th Apr	28 th Apr	5 th May	30 th Apr	28 th Apr	6 th May	24 th Apr	5 th May
Latest Date	11 th Sep	17 th Sep	24 th Sep	23 rd Sep	29 th Sep	7 th Oct	2 nd Oct	21 st Sep

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Infrequent visitor most often recorded in the winter months.

Twelve records for the year is a big decrease on the number of records from 2011 (24). All the records were of single birds. A summary of records for the period 2004 – 2012 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Records	6	4	2	6	5	7	12	24	12

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular visitor in the recent past.

Very similar to last year with just 14 records that were split 10 in the first winter period and 4 in the second winter period with the only one record of multiple birds being 2 birds on 17th March. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	12	5	8	54	46	29	11	14
Maximum Count	1	1	1	4	4	2	1	2
Spring Late Date	1 st Apr	4 th Mar	3 rd Mar	21 st Apr	6 th Apr	6 th Mar	15 th Mar	8 th Apr
Autumn Early Date	18 th Nov	23 rd Dec	NS	31 st Oct	11 th Nov	1 st Nov	15 th Oct	27 th Oct

NF = no records in first winter period; NS = no records in second winter period

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident with a few pairs presumed to breed most years.

A similar breeding season to last year with an estimated 5 to 8 broods noted between May and July. Overall, numbers were slightly up on last year with a maximum of 69 birds on 11th November – which is also the highest count for the period 2004-2012. A summary of the monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	39	38	23	24	3	16	19	31	36	30	69	26
Monthly Max. 2011	5	37	12	8	22*	19*	27*	12	50	47	6	11
Monthly Max. 2010	32	8	15	29	14	12*	4	9	8	16	49	6
Monthly Max. 2009	6	8	5	12	8	20*	10*	28*	11	27	28	32
Monthly Max. 2008	8	6	15	8	7	4	15*	10	8	10	5	11

* Includes young birds

Coot *Fulica atra*

Has seen large fluctuations in status over the years; currently a common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding pairs were down this year with only 7 broods reported between June and July compared to 14 last year. The maximum count for the year was of 148 birds on the 3rd February. A summary of the monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	144	148	120	50	48	78	72*	95	107	35	65	110
Monthly Max. 2011	80	138	54	56	107*	108*	207*	140	214	178	80	100
Monthly Max. 2010	143	92	84	74	80*	133*	100*	80	105	116	178	170
Monthly Max. 2009	105	90	95	60	80*	171*	102	150	157*	85	97	128
Monthly Max. 2008	80	75	52	64	52	52	112	100	108	100	84	94

* Includes young birds.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Infrequent visitor.

Two records for the year with two birds seen on the 28th April and then a single bird on 9th May that was present between 1.45 pm and 3.01 pm.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Regular summer visitor, has attempted to breed in the recent past.

The first bird of the year arrived on 3rd March quickly followed by a second bird on 5th March; this pair were then reported until the 16th July. The pair was seen displaying and mating on the 16th April but no breeding was believed to have occurred. One adult and 1 juvenile were seen on 29th August (the last record of the year) which was tantalising evidence that breeding may have taken place locally. There was three birds seen on the 23rd March and 23rd June and the maximum for the year was four birds on 4th July. Summary data for the last 8 years is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	2	30	50	76	67	84	60	57
Early Date	26 th Feb	6 th May	28 th Mar	6 th Mar	6 th Mar	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	3 rd Mar
Late Date	23 rd July	20 th July	20 th July	23 rd July	18 th July	22 nd Jul	15 th Jul	29 th Aug

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Passage migrant with a number of birds staying to breed in previous years.

The first record for the year was of two birds on 19th February and with a total of 36 records throughout the year this was a small increase on last year. No confirmed records of breeding this year and this is now the 6th year in a row with no breeding on-site. The maximum count of the year was 4 birds on 26th May. A summary of early/late dates for the period 2005-2012 are shown in the table below along with data on the number of days recorded, bird days and maximum counts.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	16 th Jan	7 th Feb	24 th Feb	23 rd Feb	23 rd Feb	5 th Mar	8 th Feb	19 th Feb
Latest Date	18 th Sep	17 th Sep	6 th Oct	8 th Oct	29 th Aug	5 th Aug	30 th Jul	19 th Aug
Days Recorded	111	93	101	94	67	51	29	36
Bird Days	361	287	199	167	105	65	42	60
Maximum Count	11	10	5	5	3	2	3	4

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Passage migrant.

The first record for the year was of a two birds on 2nd April and overall the season was pretty much the same as 2011. Breeding activity was noted again this year, with an occupied nest with eggs reported on three dates in June/July. Unfortunately the nest failed and no chicks were seen but a number of juveniles reported in August strongly suggests that they bred locally. A summary of early/late dates and other data for the period 2005 – 2012 are shown in the table below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	19 th Mar	21 st Mar	30 th Mar	3 rd Apr	20 th Mar	30 th Mar	29 th Mar	2 nd Apr
Latest Date	1 st Aug	28 th Aug	1 st Aug	8 th Jul	4 th Sep	24 th July	10 th Aug	30 th Aug
Days Recorded	80	75	41	31	43	50	76	69
Bird Days	326	277	65	50	63	69	179	131
Maximum Count	13	15	4	3	3	3	6	7

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common winter visitor to the area with large flocks sometimes alighting in the recording area.

After a better year for this species in 2011, there were no flocks of 100+ birds this year and only 7 records for the whole year - four from the first winter period and three from the second. The last birds (30) of the first winter period were observed on the 9th April while the first returning bird (1) of the autumn was on the 26th October. Maximum count for the year was of 36 birds on 20th November. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	5	5	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	1	36	0
Monthly Max. 2011	30+	47	100+	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	29	100+
Monthly Max. 2010	1	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	20	10
Monthly Max. 2009	6	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	400+	60+	0
Monthly Max. 2008	32	45	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	60	40	16

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Present through much of the year with large winter flocks using the Main Pit and surrounding fields. Several pairs nest on site most years but success is limited due to disturbance.

Breeding was confirmed again this year with a total of 3 or 4 broods reported between 30th April and 21st June. The maximum count for the year was of 284 in February. A summary of the monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	239	284	175	30*	10*	77*	54	70	82	192	206	150
Monthly Max. 2011	285	495	202	23*	15*	44	79	149	78	251	254	300
Monthly Max. 2010	339	238	43	21	17*	121	117	250	138	250	176	351
Monthly Max. 2009	610	250	70	49	14	137	307	246	93	146	400	427
Monthly Max. 2008	300	420	126	28	50	59	303	1000	313	150	210	500

* Includes young birds.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Occasional visitor.

Three birds in summer plumage and one in winter plumage landed on the sand spit on the Main Pit at 09.05am on the 2nd June. They stayed until 09.15am and then flew off north (Steve Blake and Ricky Flesher). This is only the fifth record in the period 2004-2012 and the first since 2009.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Regular passage migrant and occasional visitor likely to turn up at most times of the year.

Another passable year for this species with 15 records from 8 months of the year and with a maximum count of 4 birds on 3rd February. However, bird days were on the low side (19) and considerably down on 2011. A summary of records from the last 9 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	34	26	17	23	17	33	9	19	15
Bird Days	72	39	30	35	21	46	9	40	19
Maximum Count	8	4	6	7	2	4	1	9	4

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Irregular visitor.

A female was reported on 26th October was the only record for the year.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Probably much commoner than indicated from the available records.

A slight increase in bird days this year, with 111 bird days from 49 days hope that this continues to reach the peaks of 2008/2009. The maximum count for the year was of only 11 birds on 26th November. A summary of the bird days per month and other data for this species is provided in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bird Days 2012	7	24	34	11	0	0	0	3	2	3	22	5	111
Bird Days 2011	0	1	9	31	5	0	0	2	2	15	4	16	85
Bird Days 2010	25	27	24	22	1	0	0	7	5	21	9	14	155
Bird Days 2009	44	155	208	75	1	0	0	5	8	36	9	56	597
Bird Days 2008	5	26	121	100	0	0	0	2	15	54	82	124	529

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Late date (1 st winter p'd)	16 th Apr	15 th Apr	13 th Apr	28 th Apr	4 th May	5 th May	4 th May	21 st Apr
Early Date (2 nd winter p'd)	6 th Aug	19 th Aug	30 th Jul	8 th Aug	10 th Aug	7 th Aug	10 th Aug	12 th Aug
Maximum Count	7	8	8	27	34	7	5	11

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Infrequent visitor.

Two records this year (the same as last year) both involving multiple birds in Garden Wood - 2 birds on 8th February and 5 birds on 18th February. These are the 18th and 19th records since the beginning of 2004 and 5 is the highest count in this period.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Irregular passage migrant.

After a good year for this species in 2011, it was back to normal this year with just two records for the year; a single on 5th May and 3 birds on 6th July.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Scarce migrant.

This year produced four records and a total of 4 bird days with a bird in full summer plumage present on 29th and 30th April followed by another bird on 5th and 6th May. This is the second best number of bird days for a year behind 2011 (7 bird days).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage migrant.

After two years with single records that involved multiple birds i.e. 13 in 2011 and 31 in 2010, this year produced five spring records involving 2 birds on the 28th and 30th April and single birds on 1st, 5th, 6th May. This is the most number of records for a single year in the period 2004-2012 – the previous best being 3 records in 2006.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Infrequent winter visitor and passage migrant.

A single bird on the 30th April was the only record for the year.

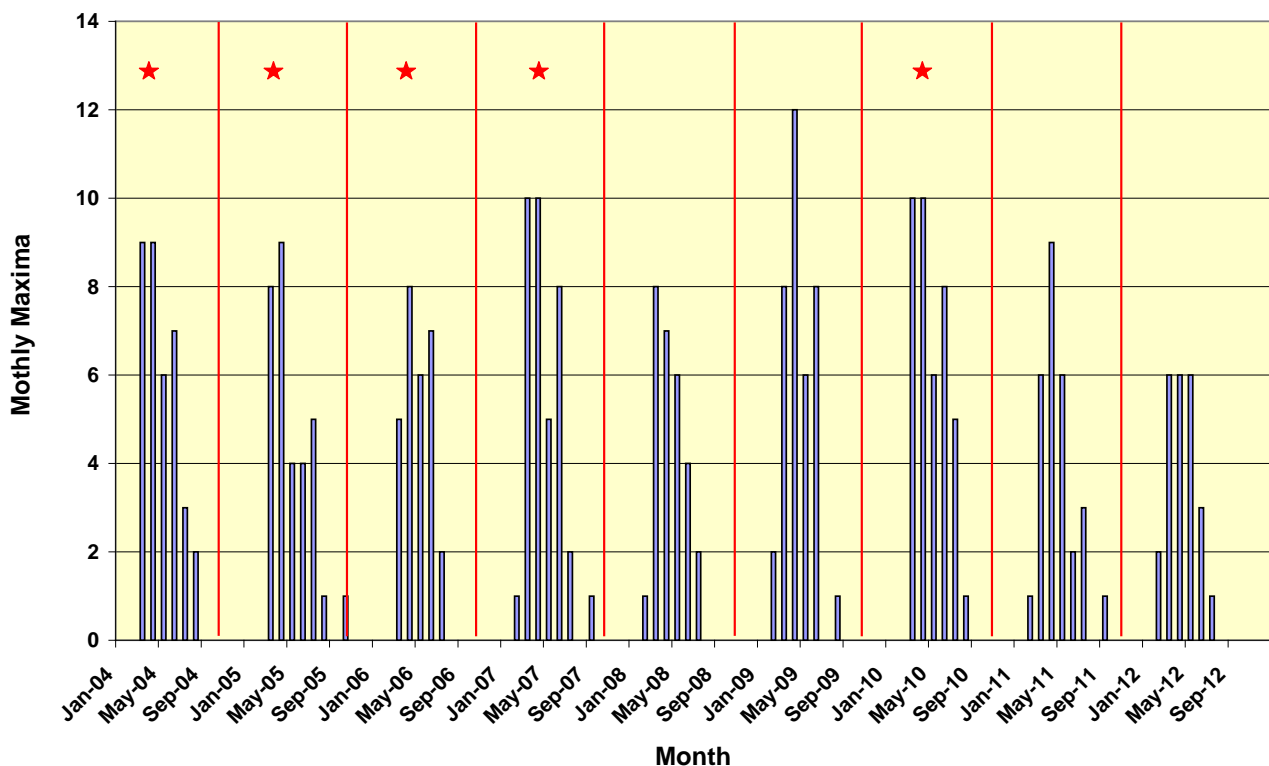


Figure 5 Monthly maxima for Redshank *Tringa totanus* shown over the period January 2004 –December 2010. Vertical red lines show the division between years and years in which breeding was recorded is shown by the red stars.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Summer visitor with breeding recorded in some years.

The first returning bird of the year was heard on 29th February after which there was the usual increase in numbers through March and April. Overall, numbers were lower than last year - and were actually the lowest in the period 2008-2012 as shown by the Table below.² . The maximum count for the year was of 6 birds on 6th April and 5th and 26th May. The last bird of the year was seen on the relatively early date of 12th July. There were no breeding records this year although birds were seen copulating on 8th April – which means that this species has only bred once in the period shown in the table below (see also Figure 5). Monthly maxima for the years 2004–2012 are shown in Figure 5.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	83	70	91	69	58
Bird Days	295	291	331	229	177

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Spring and autumn migrants in small numbers.

Only two records - both of single birds on the 14th and 29th August - is a bad year for this species after the slight recovery in 2011 (9 records and 20 bird days). A summary of the records form 2004-2012 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded	33	6	51	9	9	6	7	9	2
Bird Days	55	10	104	9	14	8	11	20	2

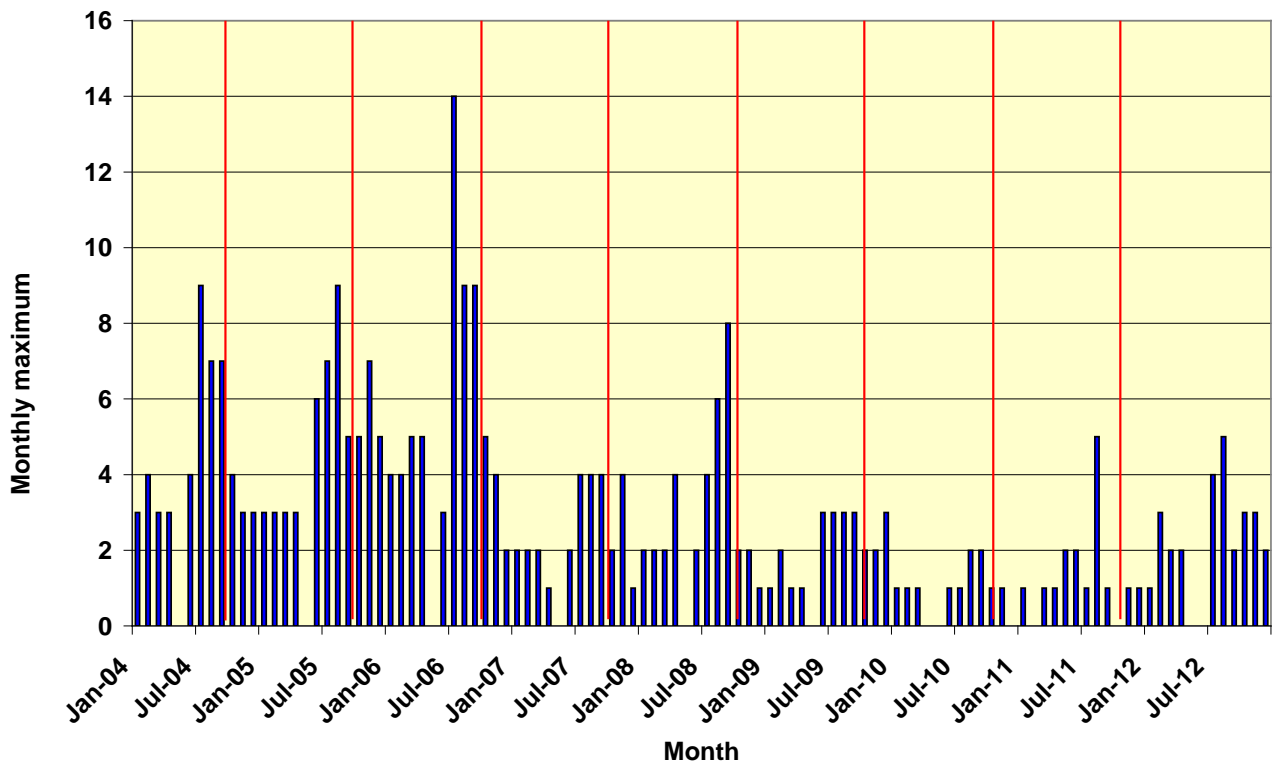


Figure 6. Monthly maxima for Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* in the period 2004-2012. Vertical red lines show the start of the years

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Frequent winter visitor and passage migrant.

Both days recorded and bird days showed an increase from the lows of 2010/2011 and with a maximum count for the year of 5 on 10th August all of the numbers figures are moving in the right direction. A summary of early and late dates and monthly maxima for the last 8 years are shown in the Table below and in Figure 6.

² Fully digitised records are only available from 2008 and so this analysis is limited to these years. See also p6 “Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation”

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Late Spring date	27 th Apr	16 th Apr	7 th Apr	20 th Apr	18 th Apr	9 th Mar	4 th May	20 th Apr
Early Autumn Date	8 th Jun	18 th Jun	8 th Jun	14 th Jun	13 th Jun	29 th Jun	27 th Jun	4 th Jul
Days Recorded	190	159	106	120	69	19	40	122
Bird Days	538	501	184	191	105	22	47	175
Average Bird Days	2.83	3.15	1.74	1.59	1.52	1.16	1.17	1.43
Maximum Count	9	14	4	8	3	2	5	5

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

Regular passage migrant, more frequent in autumn.

Another species that has shown a slight increase this year with both the number of records (48) and bird days (86) showing an improvement on the 40 and 56 of last year. The maximum count for the year was of 5 birds on 4th May. A summary of early and late dates and bird days for the last 9 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	155	153	144	62	111	70	36	56	86
Earliest Date	17 th Apr	10 th Apr	15 th Apr	28 th Mar	13 th Apr	14 th Apr	23 rd Apr	23 rd Apr	11 th Apr
Latest Date	10 th Oct	29 th Sep	5 th Sep	16 th Sep	25 th Sep	9 th Sep	24 th Sep	8 th Nov	28 th Sep

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Infrequent visitor.

One record for the year of a adult from 10.35am until 12.28pm on 15th May. This is the first record since 2010 when a dead bird was found on 16th January. The only other records we have are of 29 adults on 25th January 1993, a 1st winter on 26th February 1995 and another 1st winter bird on 30th November 1997.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Common non-breeding species present virtually all year around.

A fairly typical year for this species with a maximum count of 850 birds on 18th August and the usual peak in the August/September/October window. A summary of the monthly maxima for the last 5 years is presented below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	200	162	260	30	13	55	188	850	300	340	251	180
Monthly Max. 2011	200	650	450	14	8	17	432	600	704	500	400	350
Monthly Max. 2010	500	84	158	20	2	34	256	900	550	442	350	166
Monthly Max. 2009	320	250	260	10	10	109	151	350	940	271	141	600
Monthly Max. 2008	376	300	300	4	3	11	400	550	354	350	270	201

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Irregular visitor.

Birds were recorded on 7 separate dates this year with the first of the year being a juvenile on 31st July then an adult with a juvenile seen on the 19th August and another juvenile on 25th August. An adult and two juveniles were seen on the 27th August, a juvenile approaching 2nd winter plumage on 29th August, another juvenile on 30th August then the last bird of the year - a 1st winter on 19th September. This pattern is in line with previous records - as the following table shows. July, August and September remain the best time to see this species at Tyttenhanger.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. Days recorded 2004-2012	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	12	5	0	0	2

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Irregular visitor.

Two adults and a 1st summer on 25th April (Steve Blake) is only the fifth record that we have for the site. The other four records are of an adult on 7th February 1987, another adult from the 14th January until 24th January 1996, two 1st winter birds on 30th October 1999 with the last record being 2 adults, a 2nd summer and a 1st summer on the 23rd April 2008.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Regular winter visitor; absent during the summer months.

A good year for this species being reported in all months of the year apart from June. The maximum count for the year was of 256 birds on 17th February – which is a new record for the site in the period 2004-2012. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years and late/early dates for the last 8 years are presented in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	200	256	109	1	1	0	8	1	2	31	70	40
Monthly Max. 2011	93	147	218	3	3	0	4	2	3	17	120	80
Monthly Max. 2010	100	29	81	142	0	0	2	3	4	48	109	36
Monthly Max. 2009	79	66	140	5	2	2	1	11	3	25	44	108
Monthly Max. 2008	82	45	77	13	0	0	1	5	16	22	100	104

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Spring Late Date	10 th Apr	3 rd May	29 th Apr	6 th April	4 th April	28 th Apr	7 th May	7 th May
Autumn Early Date	9 th Jul	1 st Jul	14 th Jul	20 th Jul	17 th May	11 th Jul	4 th July	10 th Jul

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Present throughout the year. Possibly under recorded as many birds fly-through or stay for only a short time.

Recorded in every month of the year with a maximum count of 64 birds on 12th August - which is highest count in the period 2004-2012. These high numbers in an unusual part of the year are strong indications that this species bred on the roof of the warehouses on the other side of the A1081 - just off-site! With a record number and local breeding it will be interesting to see if this species will continue its upwards trend in the forthcoming years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max. 2012	12	4	6	9	11	14	16	64	40	17	15	8
Monthly Max. 2011	26	42	11	7	8	44	11	11	20	15	20	13
Monthly Max. 2010	3	32	5	7	17	8	6	12	6	10	23	5
Monthly Max. 2009	13	5	12	5	12	3	5	12	10	4	4	8
Monthly Max. 2008	10	7	11	12	6	7	7	18	5	4	24	5

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

An infrequent visitor most often encountered in the winter months.

Another good year for this species that is no doubt aided by the apparent breeding on the warehouses on the other side of the A1081. Birds were recorded in every month of the year again and the maximum count for the year was of 16 birds on 20th August. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	55	75	44	37	37	34	116	125
Days Recorded	24	24	23	20	21	21	51	43

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Irregular visitor.

There was only one record for the year of an adult on 3rd October (Steve Blake) – the first record for October. There have now been 15 records since the beginning of 2004 and the monthly distribution of these records is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	1

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

An infrequent visitor most often encountered in the winter months.

Three records for the year - all of adults - is the lowest number of records since 2008. The first record for the year was on 29th February, followed by one on 26th March and finally one on 20th November. A summary of records from the last 9 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	4	6	3	10	2	7	6	7	3
Days Recorded	4	5	3	6	2	5	5	5	3

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor. Regularly attempts to breed but not always successfully.

The first birds of the year three were on the 11th April and despite numbers increasing throughout the spring in the absence of suitable islands, there were no breeding attempts reported this year. The maximum count for the year was of 20 birds on 27th April. The earliest and latest dates along with the maximum counts for the last 8 years is shown below along with a graphical summary of the daily maxima for the same period (Figure 7.).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Maximum Count	19	14	25	16	20	16	18	20
Earliest Date	9 th Apr	3 rd Apr	16 th Apr	13 th Apr	8 th Apr	19 th Apr	8 th Apr	11 th Apr
Latest Date	14 th Sep	21 st Aug	2 nd Sep	12 th Sep	14 th Sep	4 th Sep	4 th Sep	3 rd Sep

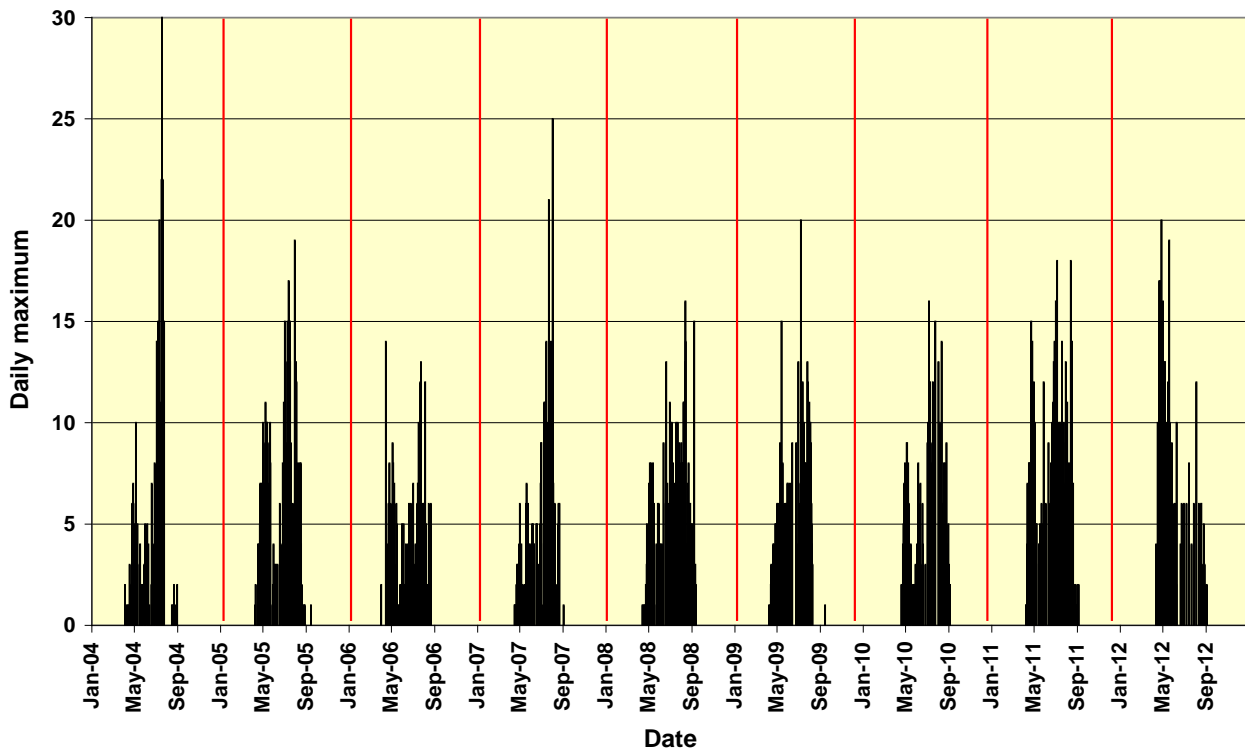


Figure 7. Daily maxima for Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* for the period 2004-2012. The vertical red lines show the divisions between the years.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Irregular visitor.

One record of a single bird on 14th March (Steve Murray) is the 5th record for the site in the period 2004-2012.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Irregular visitor occurring in most spring/autumn passage periods.

One bird on the 5th May (Birdguides) is the only record for the year.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common Resident, particularly common around Willows Farm.

Present all year with counts of 150+ in February and two of 100+ in September.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Common Resident present throughout the year.

Present in small numbers in most months of the year with a maximum count of just 5 birds. Again, there were no confirmed records of breeding and so, all-in-all, another poor year for this species. Maximum annual counts for this species in the period 2004-12 are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Stock Dove	50	200	65	70	50	6	12	10	5
Woodpigeon	500	3000	400	2000	732	1000	500	800	300
Collared Dove	9	6	57	12	23	18	8	13	2



Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident present throughout the year often in large flocks.

Present all year with a maximum count of 300 on 5th November. No confirmed breeding records for the year. Maximum annual counts for this species in the period 2004-12 are shown in the table above.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Patchily distributed resident favouring the residential area at the Colney Heath end of the recording area. Local movements supplement the resident birds.

Recorded in most months of the year with a maximum count of only 4 this year. No confirmed records of breeding. Maximum annual counts for this species in the period 2004-12 are shown in the table above.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Irregular visitor.

Three records this year with 2 birds seen on 18th February followed by 2 birds on 3rd March and 1 bird on 15th September. There have now been just fifteen records for the site between 2004 – 2012.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Summer visitor in small numbers.

A better year than last with 17 records (19 bird days) compared to 15 records (in 2011). There were 2 records of 2 birds and 15 records of single birds. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of Records	14	22	7	12	12	9	15	17
Earliest Date	9 th Apr	16 th Apr	22 nd Apr	17 th Apr	12 th April	24 th Apr	12 th Apr	19 th Apr
Latest Date	8 th June	28 th Aug	21 st Jul	4 th Aug	14 th Aug	15 th May	1 st Aug	5 th Jun

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Breeding resident; usually seen around the Model Railway Club and Willows Farm.

After a very good year last year it was back to normal for this species with only 27 records this year from both the Model Railway/Water Works and Tyttenhanger farm areas. There were no breeding records this year. A summary of records from the last 9 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Records	10	9	10	41	54	36	27	42	27
Records of Multiple birds	3	2	2	10	4	2	1	12	4

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Resident. Undoubtedly under-recorded but present in most woodland areas on the site.

There were 9 records of birds heard in the Garden Wood area in February/March and October/December. Interestingly this is the same number of records as last year.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Infrequent visitor.

Two flying over on 19th February (Gavin Stewart) is the first record of more than one bird for the site and only the fifth in the period 2004-2012.

Swift *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor with feeding birds present throughout the summer months.

Numbers overall were down on 2011 and there were only 5 counts of 10 or more birds (all in June) with a maximum count of 30 on 23rd June. A summary of early and late dates for the period 2005-2012 is presented below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	23 rd Apr	27 th Apr	23 rd Apr	28 th Apr	28 th Apr	30 th Apr	30 th Apr	26 th Apr
Latest Date	30 th Jul	13 th Aug	29 th Jul	13 th Aug	1 st Aug	20 th Aug	30 th Jul	21 st Jul
Max. count	100	50	200	50	30	100	300	30

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident, present through most of the year possibly breeding on-site or close by.

Another downturn for this species with only 18 bird days and 18 records for the year which are the lowest numbers in the period 2004-2012 – and only half those of the previous low in 2010 (36 bird days). The sorry summary of monthly bird days for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bird Days 2012	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	4	3	18
Bird Days 2011	0	2	14	5	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	4	37
Bird Days 2010	1	0	1	1	4	0	1	12	2	5	2	7	36
Bird Days 2009	3	1	1	2	2	2	7	8	9	1	8	4	48
Bird Days 2008	7	3	4	2	2	1	5	26	24	21	5	3	103

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Common resident.

Present throughout the year with reports of 3 or more birds from all months and a maximum of six on 12th September; no confirmed records of breeding this year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common Resident

Reported in all months of the year with usual counts of 1 or 2 birds. The maximum count for the year was of 4 on 9th January and 15th September; no confirmed records of breeding.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Resident that almost certainly breeds in Garden Wood.

Two records for the year for this elusive species - the first being of 2 birds on 7th April followed by a female on 20th October.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Breeding resident also recorded as passage migrant and in winter flocks.

There was evidence of breeding this year with courtship and display reported on three dates and birds visiting a probable nest site on 7th May and 8th June. Nevertheless, overall a poor year for this species with only one large flock (≥ 40) of 56 birds reported on 27th October. With the apparent rapid decline (see table below) in the last few years we will continue to monitor this species' status.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. Records	116	105	66	66	48
Counts ≥ 40	0	5	4	1	1

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor that previously bred. No recent breeding records.

The first birds of the year were recorded on 17th March and there were small numbers throughout spring and early summer but only 4 records of 30 or more birds and a maximum count of 50 birds on 19th May. There was no confirmed breeding on site – although this species may breed at the gravel pits on the other side of Coursers Road. Early and late dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	2 nd Apr	3 rd Apr	27 th Mar	30 th Mar	16 th Mar	15 th Mar	22 nd Mar	23 rd Mar	17 th Mar
Latest Date	22 nd Sep	7 th Oct	3 rd Sep	8 th Sep	7 th Sep	12 th Sep	17 th Sep	20 th Sep	1 st Sep

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Summer visitor with small breeding population centred on Willows Farm.

Reported in small numbers through spring and early summer with counts of 30 or more birds from early May and late August and 60 – 100 birds present in early September - the maximum count for the year was of 100 birds on the 4th September. There was no confirmed breeding on site this year. Early and late dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	5 th Apr	3 rd Apr	25 th Mar	6 th Apr	3 rd Apr	25 th Mar	29 th Mar	26 th Mar	31 st Mar
Latest Date	10 th Oct	14 th Oct	8 th Oct	2 nd Oct	11 th Oct	9 th Oct	11 th Oct	15 th Oct	20 th Oct

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Passage migrant with small breeding population previously on the Colney Heath margins of the site.

Reported in small numbers throughout the spring and summer months with a maximum of 170+ on 15th May. Again, no breeding records were received for the site and early and late dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	5 th Apr	16 th Apr	14 th Apr	13 th Apr	11 th Apr	31 st Mar	3 rd Apr	5 th Apr	17 th Apr
Latest Date	3 rd Oct	5 th Nov	7 th Oct	23 rd Sep	6 th Oct	11 th Oct	6 th Oct	8 th Oct	2 nd Oct

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Has bred in the past.

Another poor year for this species with a maximum of just 8 birds recorded in the first winter period and 7 in the second winter. This is the first year in the period 2004-2012 that no flocks of 25 birds or more have been recorded. A summary of monthly maxima along with median monthly maxima for the period 2004 – 2012 are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	8	8	5	3	1	0	0	0	7	3	4	3
Median 2004-12	6	20	5	3	0	0	0	0	24	15	6	5

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Infrequent visitor.

One reported on the farm lake on 29th March (Luke Massey) is only the 5th record for the site - and the first since 2006. Previous records were of 1 on 17th March 1992, 1 on 7th March 1993, 1 on 26th September 2004 and 1 on 8th April 2006.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Passage migrant.

A slight increase over last year with 28 bird days spread over 13 days - but still a poor year. The maximum count for the year was of 5 birds on the 9th May. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	41	123	10	49	172	60	23	28
Number Days Recorded	22	42	7	12	17	24	10	13
Maximum Count	5	18	3	12	30	10	8	5
Earliest Date	11 th Apr	6 th Apr	11 th Apr	24 th Apr	7 th Apr	30 th Mar	5 th Apr	17 th Apr
Latest Date	19 th Aug	3 rd Sep	22 nd Sep	25 th Sep	24 th Sep	5 th Oct	27 th Sep	19 th Sep

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Local resident and winter visitor.

A species that had a very good year this year compared to last two years both in the number of bird days and days recorded; and breeding was confirmed this year with 2 adults and a juvenile seen on the 29th June. A summary of records from 2004-12 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	62	122	96	51	28	34	10	1	34
Number Days Recorded	47	78	71	41	27	25	7	1	24

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Present through much of the year with evidence of passage in most years.

Present throughout the year but with a maximum count of only 7 birds on 17th February and 15th September and no records of **White Wagtail** (*M. alba alba*). This species appears to be in decline over the last couple of years - as shown in the table below. Clearly there is a need to monitor this species more closely over the forthcoming years.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	250	349	523	184	108
Number Days Recorded	113	128	107	60	44
Maximum Count	8	18	37	37	7
White Wagtail Days Recorded	1	1	4	2	0

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common Resident.

Present in all months of the year with a maximum of 8 birds on 11th November; no confirmed records of breeding this year.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis**Common Resident.*

Present in all months of the year with 12 birds on 28th March; no confirmed records of breeding this year.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula**Common Resident.*

Present in all months of the year with a maximum of 9 birds on 28th March; no confirmed records of breeding this year.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus**Infrequent passage migrant.*

It was a nice return for this species after a blank year in 2011 with two records - a male on 13th April and then a female on 10th October. These were only the 7th and 8th records in the period 2004-2012.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra**Uncommon passage migrant.*

Another good year for this species with 7 records - all in the autumn - with two birds present on 5th September. Summary statistics for the last 9 years are presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	1	6	5	4	6	16	9	9	8
Earliest Date	3 rd May	30 th Apr	NS	14 th Apr	1 st May	NS	24 th Apr	8 th May	NS
Latest Date	NA	7 th Sep	10 th Sep	23 rd Sep	20 th Sep	18 th Sep	1 st Sep	9 th Sep	26 th Sep

NS = no spring date; NA = no autumn date

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata**Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.*

A better year for this species after the single record of last year. This year produced 7 records all in the second winter period - so hopefully this trend will carry forward into early 2013. A summary of bird days for the last 9 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days – First Winter Period	0	36	0	0	35	0	0	1	0
Bird Days – Second Winter Period	58	12	15	23	21	5	1	0	7

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe**Regular passage migrant, more frequent in spring.*

A relatively poor year for this species with a total of 32 bird days split between the two migration periods 30:2 (spring: autumn). The maximum count for the year was of 3 birds on three dates in April/May. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bird Days	9	63	16	24	40	44	56	32
Earliest Date	25 th Mar	25 th Mar	12 th Apr	15 th Mar	14 th Mar	20 th Mar	25 th Mar	17 th Mar
Latest Date	NA	3 rd Oct	7 th Sep	8 th Oct	1 st Oct	12 th Sep	8 th Oct	4 th Oct

NA = no autumn date

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris**Common winter visitor.*

There were 6 counts of 50 or more birds with a maximum count of 250 birds on 9th March. The latest spring record was of ten birds on the 9th April and the earliest autumn birds were a group of 6 on 27th October. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	31	120	250	10	0	0	0	0	0	16	51	60
Monthly Max 2011	100	100	100	6	0	0	0	0	0	48	100	90
Monthly Max 2010	74	307	224	0	0	0	0	0	5	100	59	100
Monthly Max 2009	40	24	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	33	31
Monthly Max 2008	80	80	91	4	0	0	0	0	0	8	40	46

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common resident and breeding species; also probably occurs as passage migrant.

Present in all months of the year with a maximum of 12 birds reported on the 11th November and no confirmed breeding records for the year.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with the usual 3-4 males appearing to establish territories, but again, without producing any confirmed breeding records. A maximum count of 7 birds on 2nd December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor.

Four records of 50 or more birds for the year with a maximum of 650 flying over on 20th October - which is a maximum count for the site in the period 2004-2012. The last record in the first winter period was of 10 birds on 10th March and the first returning bird was seen on 14th October. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	40	9	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	650	30	10
Monthly Max 2011	50	150	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	6	16
Monthly Max 2010	20	49	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	30	10
Monthly Max 2009	80	27	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	40	60
Monthly Max 2008	6	16	43	4	0	0	0	0	0	35	40	12

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Breeding resident and local migrant.

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 24 birds on 10th June with two other records of significance of 20 birds on 27th July and 21 on 1st September. Breeding was indicated this year by the report of 5 juveniles on 5th June. Peak counts and dates for the last 8 years are summarized below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Maximum Count	30	21	34	30	17	29	32	24
Date	21 st Aug	27 th Aug	30 th Jul	10 th Sep	15 th Aug	4 th Oct	26 th Jul	10 th Jun

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Irregular spring passage migrant.

A male was reported on the mound and in the hedge along the Model Railway on four dates - 7th, 11th, 15th, 16th April. We believe the same bird was there in total for 10 to 14 days - but was very difficult to see most of the time.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Summer visitor and breeding species.

Numbers were slightly down on last year with a maximum of just 3 birds on 21st July. There was breeding indicated this year with two young seen being fed on the 21st July. Earliest and latest dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	17 th Apr	16 th Apr	14 th Apr	16 th Apr	12 th Apr	11 th Apr	7 th Apr	8 th Apr	13 th Apr
Latest Date	7 th Aug	10 th Sep	11 th Aug	11 th Aug	6 th Sep	12 th Sep	31 st Aug	29 th Aug	21 st Aug

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Summer visitor and breeding species.

A year in keeping with the recent past for this species with singing males scattered around the suitable reed-beds and a maximum count of 4 birds on 6 dates. Earliest and latest dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	3 rd May	6 th May	19 th Apr	23 rd Apr	26 th Apr	29 th Apr	24 th Apr	10 th Apr	20 th Apr
Latest Date	14 th Aug	19 th Aug	12 th Sep	9 th Sep	15 th Aug	5 th Sep	7 th Aug	19 th Sep	28 th Sep

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Frequent spring migrant/summer visitor. Breeding status uncertain.

Eight records for the year – with five of the records involving two birds - is slightly down on last year (9 records) but typical for the site. Earliest and latest dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	24 th Apr	29 th Apr	23 rd Apr	23 rd Apr	26 th Apr	15 th Apr	3 rd May	24 th Apr	2 nd May
Latest Date	3 rd Jun	14 th Aug	7 th July	14 th Sep	29 th Aug	22 nd Aug	1 st Sep	3 rd Jun	25 th Aug

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

Remains the most common of the migrant warblers on site and produced a maximum count of 14 birds on 6th May. Breeding was confirmed this year with a family party of adults and juveniles seen on the 21st August. Earliest and latest dates for the last 9 years are shown below

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	17 th Apr	10 th Apr	15 th Apr	15 th Apr	17 th Apr	4 th Apr	17 th Apr	8 th Apr	16 th Apr
Latest Date	10 th Sep	3 rd Sep	8 th Sep	2 nd Oct	25 th Sep	18 th Sep	4 th Sep	4 th Sep	30 th Aug

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Frequent summer visitor and probably breeds.

Seventeen records is a good year for this species with a notable maximum count of 5 birds on 21st July. And there was breeding this year with a family party of 2 adults and 2 juveniles on 21st July. Earliest and latest dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	15 th May	30 th Apr	5 th May	29 th Apr	26 th Apr	25 th Apr	25 th Apr	17 th Apr	5 th May
Latest Date	13 th Aug	16 th Aug	22 nd Aug	20 th May	30 th May	2 nd Sep	17 th Sep	13 th Aug	25 th Aug

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

The first bird of the year arrived at a fairly typical date on the 30th March and the year produced a total of 29 records – down on 2011's total (37) – and a maximum count of 6 birds on 30th April. Local breeding was indicated by the observation of a family party of 4 birds on 21st August. The latest bird of the year was on the 30th October – which is the latest record by a long way for the period 2004-2012. There were no confirmed records of breeding for the year. Earliest and latest dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	11 th Apr	28 th Mar	28 th Mar	12 th Apr	10 th Apr	3 rd Apr	1 st Apr	30 th Mar	30 th Mar
Latest Date	4 th Sep	3 rd Oct	17 th Sep	9 th Sep	6 th Oct	1 st Oct	30 th Sep	2 nd Oct	30 th Oct

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

The first bird was recorded on the 12th March and the last on the 30th October. The maximum count for the year was of 8 birds on 21st Sep. As with most years there were no confirmed records of breeding and no winter records. A summary of the early and late dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	17 th Mar	19 th Mar	31 st Mar	17 th Mar	15 th Mar	15 th Mar	17 th Mar	13 th Mar	12 th Mar
Latest Date	30 th Oct	14 th Oct	12 th Oct	7 th Oct	2 nd Nov	21 st Oct	6 th Oct	12 th Nov	30 th Oct

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

Only 13 records – with none between the 30th April and 6th August - is a very poor year for this species. The first record for the year was on 12th April which is the latest arrival date in the period 2004-2012. Interestingly the latest date for the year was 3rd September – which happens to be the earliest departure date in the period 2004-2012. There were no confirmed records of breeding for the year and a maximum count of just 3 birds on 15th April. A summary of the early and late dates for the last 9 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Earliest Date	9 th Apr	28 th Mar	2 nd Apr	6 th Apr	10 th Apr	3 rd Apr	30 th Mar	26 th Mar	12 th Apr
Latest Date	29 th Sep	11 th Sep	25 th Sep	9 th Sep	21 st Sep	18 th Sep	7 th Oct	5 th Sep	3 rd Sep

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor; possible breeder.

Recorded in 11 months this year (absent in July) with a maximum count of 8 birds on 8th October. There were no confirmed records of breeding for the year.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata**Infrequent passage migrant; breeds some years.*

Another year with just 2 records for this species with 1 on 21st August and 1 on 5th Sept. The last 4 years have now produced just 3, 3, 2 and 2 records.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus**Common resident and breeding species.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 22 on 2nd June. Recently fledged young seen on 8th June are indicative of local breeding.

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater**Resident and probable breeding species*

Eleven records of one or two scattered across only 6 months of the year with the maximum count of 2 on 8th December. No breeding records for the year.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus**Common resident and breeding species*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 36 on 1st January. No breeding records for the year.

Great Tit *Parus major**Common resident and breeding species*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 23 on 1st January. No breeding records for the year.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea**Common resident and probable breeding species*

Reported in 8 months of the year and with several records of 2 birds scattered throughout the year. Interestingly there were no records between 9th April and 21st August – which unsurprisingly meant there were no confirmed breeding records.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris**Common resident and probable breeding species*

Only recorded on 7 days this year - although reports of a pair feeding a youngster on 16th July is a good sign that they are breeding on site. As with last year, records were scattered through the year with a maximum of just 3 birds on 16th July.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius**Common resident*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 15 on 22nd September. There appears to have been a passage of birds during September and October with 4 records of 10 or more birds. No breeding records for the year.

Magpie *Pica pica**Common resident.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 36 on 1st January. No breeding records for the year.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula**Local breeder and common visitor to the site.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 280 on 21st October. No breeding records for the year. Maximum counts for the last 9 years are shown below for the 4 common corvids on-site. Interestingly the numbers for Magpie, Rook and Jackdaw seem to be increasing but Carrion Crow numbers are still down.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Magpie	19	26	24	22	16	21	28	29	36
Carrion Crow	50	150	250	150	107	50	40	74	44
Rook	41	108	68	67	30	74	21	40	117
Jackdaw	200	175	500	322	300	200	60	50	280

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone**Common resident*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of just 44 birds on 3rd November. No breeding records for the year. As noted above, numbers for this species seem to be remaining low.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus**Local breeder and relatively common visitor to the site.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 117 on 28th December and no breeding records for the year.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris**Common resident.*

Present throughout the year with 4 counts of 100 or more birds and a maximum of 500+ on 27th October. Again there were no records of breeding this year.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus**Small resident population around Willow's Farm.*

Present throughout the year in small numbers around Willow's Farm with a maximum of 18 birds on 17th February. Again there were no records of breeding for the year.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus**Breeding resident and frequent visitor from other local breeding populations.*

Another poor year for this species with all the numbers going in the wrong direction! Maximum count for the year was of 13 birds on 30th January, with only 2 counts for the year above 10 birds. Worryingly there were no records from 20th April to 19th October – and only 2 records in the whole of the second half of the year! Unsurprisingly, there were no breeding records this year. A summary of records from the last 5 years is presented below.

	Monthly Maxima												No Records	Counts >10
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
2012	13	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	37	2
2011	2	1	5	2	0	4	0	0	0	4	12	7	63	2
2010	4	6	10	10	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	4	98	3
2009	14	12	6	0	3	0	2	0	4	7	9	6	57	4
2008	18	12	7	2	2	1	2	2	0	5	12	10	76	9

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs**Common resident and breeding species with winter flocks commonly noted.*

Nine counts this year of 20 or more birds with 2 in the first winter period (maximum 100 on 4th January) and 7 in the second winter period. The maximum count for the year was of 200+ on 28th December; there were no confirmed records of breeding.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris**Resident and probable breeding species.*

Reported in small numbers in all months of the year; there were no confirmed records of breeding.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis**Common resident and probable breeding species.*

Two records of 40 or more birds this year with a maximum 50 on 27th August. There were no confirmed records of breeding.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina**Common resident and breeding species and large winter flocks often present.*

Reported in eleven months of the year with, surprisingly, no records for January! The maximum count in the first winter period was 24 on 6th March. There were 10 counts of 50 or more birds in the second winter period and a maximum count of 94 birds on the 12th November..

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret**Infrequent winter visitor.*

A very good year for this species with 36 records from Garden Wood and Willow's Farm car park areas split 50:50 between the two winter periods. The maximum count for the year was of 20 birds on 4th January in Garden Wood. The latest spring bird was seen on the 18th March and the earliest autumn birds on the 19th October. A summary of records from the last 7 years is shown below

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Days Recorded – 1st Winter Period	23	3	3	1	3	8	18
Days Recorded – 2nd Winter Period	0	4	0	0	1	7	18
Maximum Count for the Year	7	4	2	1	6+	10	20

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Frequent winter visitor – usually along the River Colne on Colney heath.

Despite relatively few records (8) another good year for this species with 6 counts above 30 birds and good counts in both winter periods. The maximum count was of 60+ birds on 20th October from along the river at Colney Heath. A summary of records from the last 7 years are shown below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1st Winter Period Days (Late Date)	11 (10 th Apr)	1 (27 th Jan)	9 (7 th Mar)	7 (28 th Mar)	5 (6 th Mar)	9 (12 th Mar)	3 (3 rd Mar)
2nd Winter Period Days (Early Date)	2 (11 th Nov)	4 (4 th Oct)	11 (21 st Sep)	5 (18 th Oct)	5 (17 th Oct)	8 (1 st Oct)	5 (14 th Oct)
Maximum Count for the Year (Date)	40 (7 th Jan)	11 (19 th Dec)	100 (30 th Sep)	120 (12 th Dec)	80 (11 th Dec)	60 (5 th Nov)	60 (20 th Oct)

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident and breeding species.

Reported in most months of the year (11) in small numbers with a maximum of 4 birds on 23rd April. The recording frequency for this species (18 records from 69 visits by one regular observer) showed a dramatic rise this year up to 26.1% - the best year since 2005.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Recording Rate	22.4%	28.4%	13.6%	7.8%	6.1%	8.2%	11.6%	14.6%	26.1%

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Regular winter visitor especially around Tyttenhanger Farm.

A species that appears to be declining on-site with just 3 records of 10 or more birds this year - all from the first winter period. The maximum for the year was of 20 birds on the 10th March while the second winter period produced a maximum count of just 4 birds on the 9th December. A summary of monthly maxima for the last 5 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2012	14	8	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4
Monthly Max 2011	44	20	15	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	3	8
Monthly Max 2010	20	2	15	10	1	0	0	2	3	9	4	6
Monthly Max 2009	50	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	20	26
Monthly Max 2008	20	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	20	23

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident with a small number of presumed breeding pairs.

Reported in all months of the year – except July - with a maximum of 14 on 23rd January. No confirmed records of breeding although a number of singing males established territories around the site.

Escapes

Domestic Goose *Anser sp.*

The geese of domestic origin were noted again throughout the year with up to 46 adults reported on 2nd October – but no breeding records this year.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

There were 4 records of single birds on 3rd June, 2nd September, 26th September and 30th October.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

One reported on the 21st March, 4th April and 20th May.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

One reported on a couple of occasions throughout the year around Tyttenhanger House / Garden Wood area.

White Stork at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Saturday 12th May 2012

As *per usual* on Saturday 12th May I had arranged to meet Steve Blake at the viewpoint in the north corner of the Main Pit at 07.30am. I arrived at the pits at about 07.20am and parked by the bailiff's car park I walked to the viewpoint and had a quick look around. The first bird I noticed was an Osprey flying over. Knowing Steve would be very close, I called his mobile and as Steve was walking along the footpath from the Water Works / Model Railway I shouted "Osprey" and after a little guidance from me Steve got on the bird and then joined me at the corner. We checked out the Main Pit, but with just the usual birds around we relocated to the viewpoint on the east bank looking over the Main Pit. We were standing there scanning around and Steve was saying "...at this time last year we had a Marsh Harrier" when I looked over Garden Wood with my bins and noticed a White Stork just over the trees. It looked like the Stork was about to land on top of the trees by Tyttenhanger House where the Grey Herons breed or had just taken off from there as its legs were dangling down. I shouted "B***dy hell! That's a White Stork" to Steve and we both got our scopes on it as the bird started to spiral and turn. It was quite low and coming our way and we followed it for about 20 minutes when it then unfortunately started to thermal upwards and we watched it turn into a little dot going W – SW.

There is an amusing story to go with this record though. As we were standing there following the Stork in our scopes we had seen a birder in the distance and were frantically gesturing to him that we had something good in the air. The birder was Gordon Cox and he had his young grandson, George Curtis, with him. George was only nine years old and had only been birding since the beginning of April that year. We got Gordon onto the Stork, and although he was mightily pleased – he said that we had just cost him £50! We both looked at him a bit confused as he explained that his grandson told him he had just seen a White Stork – Gordon said "Never! Not here - if it is I will give you £50. Gordon has e-mailed us to say that he will pay up (Good on you Gordon!). The moral of this story is clearly for those of you who are taking their children or grandchildren with them birding; when they claim to see a rare bird, don't offer them money if it proves to be correct. As, like Gordon, it could be a very expensive day out.

This record was submitted to the Herts Rare Birds Panel and has been accepted. This is the second record for Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits the other being a single bird that flew in from the east at 11.35am on the 19th March 2006 before circling the Main Pit and gaining height until it was lost to view at 11.45am (Graham Knight, Jack Fearnside and Peter Delaloye).



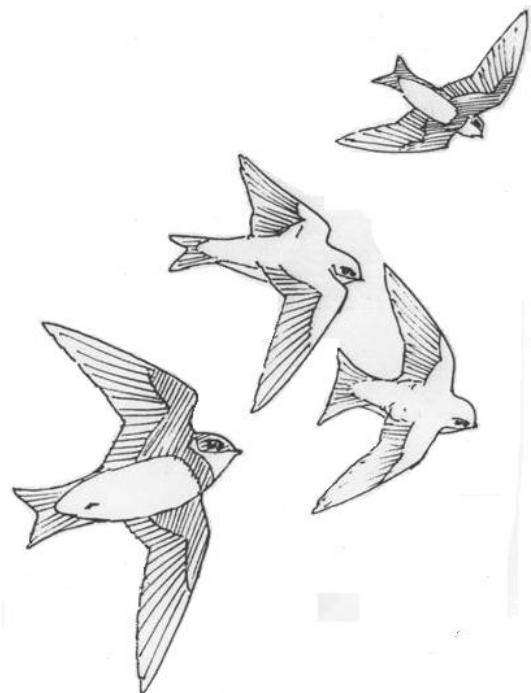
Ricky Flesher

Arrival and Departure Dates for Common Migrants

Arrival dates for 2012 are shown along with the earliest/latest dates for Tyttenhanger that we can find for this species shown in brackets. This is very much a work-in-progress and if the reader has any earlier/later dates then we'd be grateful if they could contact the authors so that this table can be revised in future reports.

Species	Arrival Date	Departure Date
Summer Migrants		
Hobby	5 th May (1 st Apr)	21 st Sep (7 th Oct)
Little Ringed Plover	2 nd Apr (15 th Mar)	30 th Aug (1 st Oct)
Common Sandpiper	11 th Apr (10 th Apr)	28 th Sep (8 th Nov)
Common Tern	11 th Apr (4 th Apr)	3 rd Sep (30 th Sep)
Cuckoo	19 th Apr (9 th Apr)	5 th Jun (28 th Aug)
Sand Martin	17 th Mar (15 th Mar)	1 st Sep (7 th Oct)
Swallow	31 st Mar (25 th Mar)	20 th Oct (15 th Oct)
House Martin	17 th Apr (31 st Mar)	2 nd Oct (5 th Nov)
Yellow Wagtail	17 th Apr (30 th Mar)	19 th Sep (5 th Oct)
Whinchat	28 th Aug (14 th Apr)	26 th Sep (8 th Oct)
Wheatear	17 th Mar (14 th Mar)	4 th Oct (8 th Oct)
Sedge Warbler	13 th Apr (7 th Apr)	21 st Aug (14 th Sep)
Reed Warbler	20 th Apr (10 th Apr)	28 th Sep (28 th Sep)
Willow Warbler	12 th Apr (26 th Mar)	3 rd Sep (12 th Oct)
Chiffchaff	12 th Mar (9 th Mar)	30 th Oct (6 th Dec) ⁽¹⁾
Blackcap	30 th Mar (28 th Mar)	30 th Oct (30 th Oct)
Garden Warbler	5 th May (25 th Apr)	25 th Aug (17 th Sep)
Whitethroat	16 th Apr (4 th Apr)	30 th Aug (2 nd Oct)
Lesser Whitethroat	2 nd May (15 th Apr)	25 th Aug (14 th Sep)
Spotted Flycatcher	NR (10 th May)	5 th Sep (25 th Sep)
Winter Migrants		
Golden Plover	26 th Oct (29 th Sep)	9 th Apr (15 th April)
Fieldfare	27 th Oct (18 th Sep)	9 th Apr (12 th Apr)
Redwing	14 th Oct (30 th Sep)	10 th Mar (14 th Apr)
Siskin	14 th Oct (21 st Sep)	3 rd Mar (10 th Apr)
Lesser Redpoll	19 th Oct (14 th Oct)	18 th Mar (2 nd Apr)

* ND = no date for this year; ⁽¹⁾Latest date refers to an overwintering bird rather than true passage migrant.



APPENDIX 1

SPECIES YEARLISTS FOR TYTTENHANGER GRAVEL PITS 2004-2012

The following is a list of species that have occurred at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits and for which we have been able to locate records. The year lists and totals have been revised in accordance with the records accepted in the Hertfordshire Bird Report for the years up until 2011. Some records for 2011/12 may still be pending but the list is indicative of the species reported for the year. Species shaded in yellow have not been seen in the period 2004-2012.

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mute Swan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bewick's Swan	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Whooper Swan	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bean Goose (Tundra)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pink-footed Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Greylag Goose	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Canada Goose	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barnacle Goose	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Brent Goose	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Egyptian Goose	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Shelduck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mandarin	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Wigeon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gadwall	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Teal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mallard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pintail	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Garganey	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Shoveler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-crested Pochard	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Pochard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tufted Duck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scaup	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Smew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Goosander	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruddy Duck	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-legged Partridge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Partridge	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Pheasant	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Little Grebe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Crested Grebe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-necked Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cormorant	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Little Egret	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Heron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black Stork	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Stork	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Glossy Ibis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Honey-Buzzard	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Kite	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Montague's Harrier	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Marsh-Harrier	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Goshawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sparrowhawk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Buzzard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Osprey	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Kestrel	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Merlin	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hobby	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peregrine	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Water Rail	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moorhen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coot	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oystercatcher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-winged Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avocet	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Stone Curlew	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ringed Plover	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Golden-Plover	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Plover	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lapwing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Knot	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Sanderling	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Little Stint	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Temminck's Stint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruff	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Jack Snipe	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Common Snipe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodcock	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Black-tailed Godwit	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Whimbrel	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Curlew	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Spotted Redshank	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redshank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenshank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Green Sandpiper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turnstone	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mediterranean Gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Little Gull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Common Gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Black-b'd Gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yellow-legged Gull	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Caspian Gull	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring Gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iceland Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Little Tern	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Black Tern	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Sandwich Tern	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Common Tern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Arctic Tern	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feral Pigeon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Stock Dove	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodpigeon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Collared Dove	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turtle Dove	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Parakeet	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Cuckoo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barn Owl	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Little Owl	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tawny Owl	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Long-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-eared Owl	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Swift	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kingfisher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Green Woodpecker	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Spotted Woodp'er	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Spot'd Woodp'er	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Wryneck	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Short-toed Lark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skylark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sand Martin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swallow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
House-Martin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tree Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meadow Pipit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rock Pipit	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Water Pipit	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Wagtail	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Wagtail	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pied Wagtail	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dunnock	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Robin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nightingale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Redstart	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Redstart	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Whinchat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stonechat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wheatear	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ring Ouzel	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fieldfare	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Song Thrush	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Redwing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mistle Thrush	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grasshopper Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedge Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reed-Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blackcap	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garden Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whitethroat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dartford Warbler	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Chiffchaff	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Willow Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goldcrest	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Firecrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Flycatcher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pied Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Long-tailed Tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blue Tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coal Tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Willow Tit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh Tit	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Nuthatch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Treecreeper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-backed Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magpie	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jackdaw	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rook	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carrion Crow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Common Raven	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Starling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
House Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tree Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chaffinch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brambling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Greenfinch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goldfinch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Siskin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Linnet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Redpoll	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mealy Redpoll	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Red Crossbill	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hawfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Snow Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowhammer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reed Bunting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Corn Bunting	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	138	136	143	132	137	135	139	140	138