
Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Bird Report for 2014



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Introduction

After the bumper 10th anniversary edition of 2013, this year will see a return to the more standard format we used between 2004 and 2012. This is now our 11th consecutive year of production for the Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits bird report with the prototype being produced in 1996 - several years before our first (Brew, 1997). The 1996 report was produced as a response to the Herts Bird Club's Year-List Challenge that year and similarly after the Hertfordshire Year-List Challenge of 2004 some of us rose to the challenge of producing a report for that year (Christian *et al.*, 2006). The rest as many will know, is history.

The format over the last 11 years has generally followed that of the 1996 and 2004 reports with the hope that maintaining a similar layout and content would allow comparisons to be more readily made across years. The core of this, and previous, reports is the systematic list of bird observations for the year and the analysis that goes with these observations. As 10 years is (almost!) the upper limit for effectively presenting much of the data that is available, we have also continued the transition begun last year to introduce some new, hopefully useful and informative, ways of summarising the data - an outline and explanation of which can be found in more detail in the section "Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation". Along with the full Systematic List we have continued to provide details of the recording area, public access to the site and a short review of the year. The latter includes ornithological highlights along with summaries of physical and structural changes and outstanding meteorological events.

As in previous years we hope 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 of improving your enjoyment, then please let us know.

Finally, as we move into a new era of reporting and of summarising what is becoming an increasingly large body of data on the birds of Tyttenhanger, we leave you with the hope that you are encouraged to venture on-site and to submit your records through the available channels for inclusion in what will hopefully be a long line of future reports.

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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 Snack". 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.

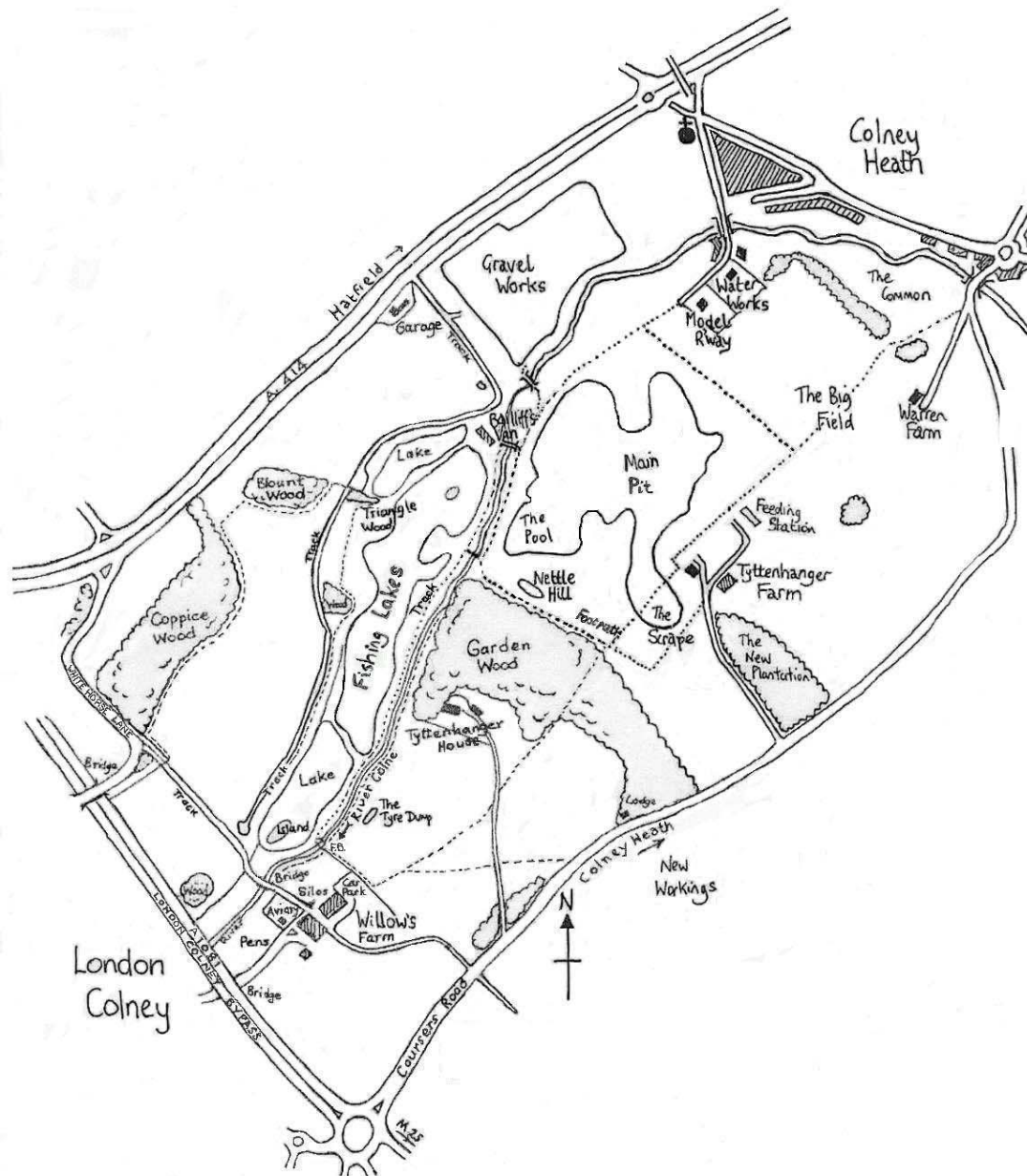


Figure 1. Map of the recording area covered in the current report. This map is a revised version of that shown in Brew (1997) and is the best representation of the situation in 2014. A previous version of the map with a superimposed grid is available in earlier reports. Scale approximately 1.5cm = 250 metres.

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 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 and that there are a number of remotely controlled security cameras along the conveyor belt with speaker's that will tell you that you are in a restricted area! We have also been informed that if people are seen on the access track that security will notify the police. 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 rights of way.



Review of the Year 2014

Most of the main physical features on-site remained much the same as they were in 2013 with the sand-spit in the Main Pit continuing to be a major feature. The rainfall at the end of 2013 continued into 2014 with flooding that was even more impressive than that at the end of 2013! The photographs to the left and below show the extent of the flooding at the beginning of February – with most of the lower lying areas and footpaths under a considerable amount of water. With a quarter (352.9 mm) of the year’s rainfall (1014.5 mm) falling in January and February, it is not surprising that the Colne should burst its banks.

Notwithstanding the outstanding rainfall in January/February (which followed on from an exceptional December 2013), the year was otherwise a generally wet year - with most months recording rainfall greater than the monthly average for the period 1981-2010. In contrast to the rainfall, the year was relatively mild with only 24.4 days of airfrost – the second lowest duration in the period 2001-2014. ¹ Summary data for rainfall and airfrost duration for the last 10 years is shown below.



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2001-13 Median
Annual Rainfall (mm)	612.0	788.4	845.2	851.1	821.7	689.9	629.8	1004.0	805.7	1014.7	813.70
Airfrost Durat'n (days)	51.0	43.5	34.3	43.7	49.9	80.1	29.0	46.6	55.6	24.4	45.15

Coverage of the site this year came to 289 days (79.18%) – with peak coverage being in the usual months of March/April and August/September. Full coverage in April of this year is only the second time we have had full coverage of a month in the period 2004-2014 (the other being March 2008). Coverage (days per month), median number of days-covered for the month (2004-2014) and the proportion - as a % of the total days covered from the period 2004-2014 that fall in each month are shown in the table below.

¹ The rainfall and airfrost duration are adapted from the Met Office website. The data are for the S & SE England region (covering London, the home counties, across to Somerset and the south coast from Dorset to Kent). Data have been summarised from the available summaries for the period 2001-2014 (see <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries>)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	22	19	28	30	28	23	22	27	26	24	19	21
Median	22.0	19.0	26.0	28.0	24.0	22.0	25.0	27.0	24.0	24.0	20.0	18.0
%	7.69	7.36	9.33	10.13	8.73	7.36	9.13	9.73	8.26	8.06	7.36	6.86

Birding Highlights of 2014

As expected in the winter months, **January** was quiet, with just the usual winter species on site. Garden Wood produced several birds of interest on the 2nd with a **Woodcock** and a **Ring-necked Parakeet** along with the first (of 149!) **Red Kite** for the year; 8 **Egyptian Geese** were recorded elsewhere on site. Also of note on the 2nd were 6 **Siskin**, not notable in their own right but as this was the only record this year of a usually more frequent visitor it seems notable in retrospect!. There was then a bit of a gap before another **Ring-necked Parakeet** on the 12th. A **Tawny Owl** was heard calling on the 20th.

February started with an overwintering **Chiffchaff** around the Main Pit on the 4th but then petered out slightly before an **Oystercatcher** was found on the 22nd - which was hoped to be a returning half of the regular breeding pair. A **Shelduck** was noted on the Main Pit on 24th and a second **Oystercatcher** joined the first on 26th - so hopes were high for another breeding attempt. The month ended again with a **Tawny Owl** heard calling in Garden Wood.

Things started to get more interesting in **March**, beginning with a fine male **Stonechat** on the 4th along with the first **Chiffchaff** of the year. Definite wader movement on the 8th, with a **Black-tailed Godwit** on the Main Pit till 9.40am, the first returning **Redshank** and then 4 **Avocet**; the latter stayed for just 5 minutes, indicating an urgency to continue the journey to their breeding grounds! A **Shelduck** on 9th was subsequently seen on 3 further days this month and then more migrant passage on 20th with 2 **Dunlin** found on the Fishing Lake and 5 **Sand Martin** flying overhead. Other flyovers were a **Curlew** heading east on 22nd and 2 **Golden Plover** over on 23rd. The month concluded with the first **Swallow** and **Wheatear** on the 29th, another **Avocet** on the 30th along with the first **Ringed Plover** of the year, a rare sighting of a **Mandarin**, and a brief visit by 10 **Pintail** – which also happened to be record site-count.

April is usually the month when local breeders begin to arrive and passage migrants pass through and this pattern repeated this year with the arrival of the first **Blackcap** on the 4th and the first **Willow Warbler** on 5th, an **Osprey**, being mobbed by crows headed north on 6th, and then 2 **Little Ringed Plover** and a 4th c/year **Great Black-backed Gull** were seen on the 8th. A **Common Tern** on 9th and a lone **House Martin** over on 10th were followed by a **Whitethroat** and **Yellow Wagtail** on 11th. A species that has disappeared from Tyttenhanger in recent years is **Marsh Tit**, but incredibly, two lucky birders heard one singing in Plantation Wood on the 12th - but it was not seen or heard of again despite several searches. An unreadable colour ringed **Great Black-backed Gull** appeared on 14th and stayed for three days, while **Common Tern** and **Little Ringed Plover** numbers increased to 3 on this date. Warblers were now arriving daily - **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Reed Warbler** on 18th, **Sedge Warbler** on 19th along with 2 **Cuckoo** also on this day. There was an early sighting of a **Hobby** on 21st and a **Garden Warbler** on 22nd before another (drake) **Shelduck** on 23rd. Wader passage continued with a **Dunlin** on the 25th, 2 **Sanderling** on the Main Pit on the 27th and the first **Common Sandpiper** of the year on the 30th.

May slowed slightly but migrants continued to arrive, either staying or passing through and hopes were high for a rare species to visit. Starting on the 1st, two lucky observers were watching 4 **Dunlin** and a **Common Sandpiper** on the Main Pit when a **Little Tern** flew through heading S/SE – there were also 2 **Lesser Whitethroat** heard singing on this day. Another **Cuckoo** was heard on 2nd, and the first **Swift** of the year arrived on the 3rd. Some breeding was in evidence with the **Oystercatcher** pair seen on a nest from the 2nd and **Little Ringed Plover** were seen mating on the 6th. On the 12th a **Ringed Plover** and 5 **Dunlin** joined the 2 **Little Ringed Plover** on the sand spit and another **Hobby** was seen on the 14th and a **Cuckoo** on the 18th. Real quality arrived on the 19th in the form of 2 **Temminck's Stint** that suddenly appeared on the Main Pit. Initial identification proved to be very difficult, due to the distances involved and the general y erratic behaviour of these two nervous arrivals. Frustratingly they were flushed at 1.15pm, not to be seen again that day! They were positively identified from photographs that were circulated later that day and luckily, were present again the next day. to the delight of many local and far travelling birders they settled down and afforded everyone some great photo opportunities; they were last seen on the 22nd. Excitement over, and the month ended with a **Yellow-legged Gull** on the 20th, a **Hobby** on 25th, a **Greenshank** on the 28th and a **Cuckoo** on 29th with another two on 31st.

June: most passage migrants had passed through by now, and those on site were well into their breeding cycles. The first of nine records for the month of **Cuckoo** was logged with a bird seen and heard on 1st. The **Little Ringed Plover** were still attending their nest from the 5th to the 19th and a **Hobby** was seen over the site on 4 dates. A **Barnacle Goose** joined the resident Canada's from 20th to 29th and the month concluded with the last **Redshank** of the year on the 25th and 3 **Black-tailed Godwit** in full summer plumage on 30th.

July: with the breeding season now well underway, attention was concentrated on trying to establish proven breeding, but continual checking of the hedgerows and water bodies for rarer species was still high on the agenda! This proved to be the case, as a smart but elusive **Redstart** was found on the 1st. The same **Redstart** was present on the 2nd with a **Yellow-legged Gull** also found on this day. Three **Green Sandpiper** were on the sand spit on 5th – joined by a

Greenshank briefly on the 8th. Two **Common Sandpiper** on 12th along with the last **Oystercatcher** of the year, another **Greenshank** on the 13th and then 2 on the 16th. A juvenile **Cuckoo** was noted on 19th and a smart adult **Mediterranean Gull** on 20th. On 23rd the **Common Tern** numbers had increased by 2 juveniles – both being fed by adults. These were obviously on passage, as there had been no evidence of breeding on-site this year! The month ended with records of a **Snipe** and a **Black-necked Grebe** on the 25th.

August: a **Hobby** on the 1st was the first of several individuals recorded this month and a juvenile **Little Ringed Plover** on 2nd was unlikely to have been a result of local breeding as it was concluded that the local breeding pair had failed. The first of four **Wheatear** recorded this month was at Willows Farm on 5th and another **Greenshank** visited on 6th. A juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** paid a very brief visit on 7th and was the first of four different individuals recorded this month. A **Wood Sandpiper** (a rare visitor to the site) stayed for just one day on the Main Pit on the 14th and 2 **Greenshank** paused briefly on 16th. A **Peregrine** in the area on 17th made its presence known to all on site! There was a lone **Dunlin** on the 23rd/24th before the month concluded with the last **Swift** of the year on the 26th and a **Knot** - another scarce(ish) migrant at Tyttenhanger - on 27th.

September continued the theme of “return migration” starting on the 1st with a much sought-after **Spotted Flycatcher**, the first recorded this year, and the first of six recorded this month! Also on this day, a migrant **Yellow Wagtail** (a species absent since June!) and the following day the first **Whinchat** of the year was seen. The first **Wigeon** of the autumn arrived on the 3rd as did another **Wheatear** (Willows Farm). A **Redstart** was seen along the River Colne by many observers on 6th and a male **Stonechat** was found in the hedgerow north of the Main Pit on the 8th. A **Common Sandpiper** was feeding on the Main Pit 10th and an **Osprey** passed low over Tyttenhanger farm on the 12th, giving two lucky observers great views as it moved very slowly south. Another **Redstart** on 13th, found in the “Tree Sparrow” hedge, and the following day a **Tawny Owl** was found roosting in the same hedge as 2 **Raven** flew over the bird hide. A male **Stonechat**, found north of the Main Pit on 15th shared the same hedge with a female **Redstart** on the 16th and probably the same **Redstart** was noted again on the 17th. The last **Cuckoo** of the year was seen heading south on the 19th and two juvenile **Shelduck** rested on the sand spit on 22nd. **Wheatears** continued to pass through, the last **Sand Martin** was seen on the 24th and the month concluded with another rarity at Tyttenhanger - four **Ring-necked Parakeet** noisily passing over Garden Wood on the 27th.

October started with **Hobby** on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd - all seen feeding over the scrape area. Two **Pintail**, an eclipse male and female were noted on Main Pit on 4th, the last **Yellow Wagtail** of the year was recorded on this day and then more quality arrived on 6th with a **Brent Goose** found on the Main Pit. Unfortunately, the latter had a head injury, probably due to flying into one of the many power lines in this area, but it must have been ok to continue its journey, as it was not seen the next day, but, was replaced by a **Barnacle Goose** that appeared on the first of three days this month. A **Stonechat** found this day stayed until the 9th and then it was gulls that grabbed the limelight, beginning with a **Great Black-backed Gull** on the 15th, **Mediterranean Gull** on the 16th, a very smart **Yellow-legged Gull** on the 20th and finally, more **Mediterranean Gull** action on the 22nd (adult) and 27th (2nd W). Scattered around the gulls were the last **Swallow** on the 12th, the last **Hobby** on the 15th, the first returning **Redwing** on the 16th and a **Whinchat** on the 19th. The only **Brambling** of the year was seen on 26th, a relatively late **Common Sandpiper** was present on the 27th and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was seen for only 10 minutes by one lucky observer on 30th. The month concluded with another male **Stonechat**, this one found in the Willows farm area on the 31st.

November: proved to be a lot quieter, except for a few notable exceptions – a **Peregrine** on 1st and 4th, first returning **Fieldfare** (130) on the 1st, 2 **Ring-necked Parakeet** on the 3rd, the first autumn **Lesser Redpoll**, 2 on 8th. Another 1st winter **Mediterranean Gull** was seen on the 13th and a **Dunlin** stayed for two days – first arriving on the 21st. The first **Water Rail** of the winter was found on the 26th and 7 **Golden Plover** were seen on the 28th. Finally, the **Lesser Redpoll** numbers increased to 4 on 30th.

December: **Golden Plover** dominated until 13th, with a maximum count of 143 seen on 4th and, not surprisingly, a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in the area on more than one occasion during their stay! Another 2 **Great Black-backed Gull** found on the Main Pit on 20th and a female **Goosander** flew over the same afternoon. A **Water Rail** on the 20th was the first of three for the month and the 22nd provided the last **Ringed Plover** of the year – with November being a very unusual month for this species on-site and this being the only record for this month that we have! The 24th yielded a **Tawny Owl** and the last notable birds of the year were a **Woodcock**, flushed from the banks of the river Colne on 28th and 14 **Lesser Redpoll** seen on the same day.

In summary, Tyttenhanger produced a total of 132 species in 2014, which somewhat disappointingly equals the low of 2007. Despite the low total there were 13 species recorded this year that were not seen in 2013 – **Barnacle Goose**, **Brent Goose**, **Mandarin**, **Pintail** (including a record on-site count!), **Goosander**, **Avocet**, **Knot**, **Temminck's Stint** (undoubtedly the stars of the year – and the first since 2002), **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Little Tern**, **Marsh Tit** and **Brambling**. Conversely there were 14 species seen in 2013 that did not put in an appearance this year – **Goldeneye**, **Grey Partridge**, **Great White Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Ruff**, **Jack Snipe**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Turnstone**, **Little Gull**, **Barn Owl**, **Hoopoe**, **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Pied Flycatcher**. With no additions to the Tyttenhanger list this year

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.

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. Also, don't forget there is a Tyttenhanger Twitter account. So, to find out the latest bird news (and other news) from Tyttenhanger go to @TyttGP.

Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation

Data Collection

This report represents the 7th year for which we have access to all of the records from both the Herts Bird Club database and Birdtrack. As shown in the Table below the numbers of observers was slightly lower than the last couple of years – but the number of records has risen again to around 8,800 – which is close to the numbers logged in 2008 and 2009. It will be interesting to see if these numbers continue to rise.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of Records	11,415	9,498	6,968	7,105	5,548	7,087	8,783
Number of Recorders	57	49	76	72	58	60	55

Analysis

As the data made available to us comes from different sources there is a certain amount of duplication. Initial analysis for each species involves the removal of duplicated data, re-ordering and in some instances re-coding. The basic unit for most species is the daily maximum count. Depending on the species, calculation of parameters such as number of records, monthly maxima, maximum counts and bird days (see below for an explanation of some of these terms) are then made from the sorted data and the relevant tables and figures constructed. In some cases we also calculate the number of records that have been generated for a particular species. When this is done records from the same day are not removed unless they are an obvious duplication (which can occur with data entered through two different routes i.e. the HBC website and Birdtrack) and records ascribed to discrete observers are retained. We refer to this statistic as the Total Record Number.

Statistics used

As indicated above, the basic unit from which we work for each species is the Daily Maximum Count. The parameters calculated from the Daily Maximum Count and used in our analyses are outlined below:

Daily maximum Count – the maximum count for a particular species on any given day.

Days Recorded – the number of days that a species is recorded in a given period (month, year etc.). This measure is independent of the number of individuals recorded and is used primarily for species that show little variation in the Daily Maximum Count e.g. resident species such as Grey Wagtail and Kingfisher.

Bird days – Bird Days are the sum of the Daily Maximum Count in a given period. This measure is therefore a function of not only days recorded but also the (maximum) number of individuals recorded in a given period and is used for species that can show a large variation in Daily Maximum Count e.g. migrant species that can come through in variable numbers such as Yellow Wagtail or Dunlin. In the current report, for the analysis of some data prior to 2004 we have tended to use a conservative approach to the calculation of bird days. This is because many of the records have been drawn directly from the Hertfordshire Bird Report where statements such as “two birds present between 19th and 29th March” are frequently encountered. In such a case we have taken the approach that both birds were present on the 19th and 29th and at least one day in between i.e. as 10 days might warrant enough gap to indicate separate birds/different records. Conservatively this would therefore be a minimum of 6 bird days (2 birds, three dates) – but would only constitute a single record (if we believed all sightings had a high probability of being the same birds).

In addition to the above statistics that are generated from the Daily Maximum Count, we also occasionally calculate the following parameters – Records and Total Record Number.

Records – this is a term that we have tried to avoid over the last few years as there has been some confusion as to what a “record” may entail. For the purposes of this report we have used the term “record” to refer to any series of sightings for which we believe there is a high probability that the same bird(s) was/were involved in each sighting and was probably continuously present on-site or frequently using the site during the period of observation. This definition sounds quite vague – and wordy!- but rather than lose some records in any subsequent analysis, the above provides a convenient way of still using the data. For instance, a species may be referred to in the Hertfordshire Bird report as “2 birds present

in April and May”, and so with the definition above we would still be able to show two birds present in both of these months even though other details are lacking. Note, as outlined above under “Bird Days”, long-staying birds are treated as a single record – irrespective of the total number of days that they were present.

Total Record Number – this is occasionally calculated for a given species/month etc and is generated from all individual records for that species after the removal of obvious duplicates. While it is an overestimate of the number of birds present, it may offer insights into the way that certain species may or may not be recorded.


Finally, for some data e.g. spring arrival dates, monthly maxima or daily maximum count it is sometimes useful to have an estimate of the “average” or “middle” for those data over the period of reporting/across all of the available data. The following are therefore used as indicators of the “middle” of the data:

Mean – the numerical average of the data available. We have generally tended to avoid this measure as it can be very susceptible to outliers e.g. a very late arrival date for one year or an exceptional count will skew the parameter significantly. However, in some instances it is a useful measure and we do occasionally use it.

Median - when the number of data points is small (and 10 years is still a small amount of data!), the median is an alternative measure to the mean (or average) to indicate a measure of the central tendency of the data. The median is useful when there may be outliers in the data that can skew the mean and therefore bias the mid-point of the data. We have generally tended to use this measure in the current report in preference to the mean.

Presentation

Continuing on from last year, in the systematic section of the report the scientific name of each species is followed by three numbers. As shown below these numbers are in the order of the “Number of years the species has occurred in the last 5 years” and the “Maximum count on-site” for that species.

Number of years recorded in the last 5 *Number of years recorded in the last 11 (since 2004)*

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (5, 11, 56)
Maximum on-site count

In addition, below the header for each species are the current on-site status summaries. The following is a guideline to how several generalised terms have been applied in these descriptions:

Rare visitor – has occurred on less than three occasions

Infrequent visitor – has occurred on three to ten occasions

Irregular visitor – has occurred on 10-20 occasions

Frequent visitor - has occurred on more than 20 occasions – but is not expected to occur in the majority of years

Regular visitor - occurs in most years.

Finally, a comment about breeding species. A number of species undoubtedly breed, or attempt to breed on-site, each year - although in most cases there is no data that indicates their success. For the purposes of this report (and those of previous years) we have attempted to separate “possible breeding” from “confirmed breeding” – and have generally only tended to use the latter term. Towards this end the following criteria are used to designate “confirmed breeding:”

- Adult seen carrying food and/or faecal sac to/from a nest
- Young birds in the nest
- Adults and newly fledged birds seen together.

In the latter case, the possibility usually exists that these birds may have bred either on-site or just off-site and so this caveat is usually applied to these observations where appropriate.

Corrections and Addendum to the 2013 Report

Greylag Goose – a change in the way that Birdtrack recorded domestic geese from 2012 onwards was not recognised until this year. Records for the period 2012 and 2013 have been revised to capture the previous errors.

Red Kite – The recording frequency for 2013 was erroneously stated as 52.0% - this should have read 55.7%.

Grey Wagtail – there are some small errors in the number of bird days and days-recorded in the table for this species that are currently being revised as the relevant e-data are updated.

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 who made the Tyttenhanger records from the Herts Bird Club database and Birdtrack available to us – without which there would have been many serious “gaps” in the current report. Thanks also to Marcus Brew for permission to use 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.

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The above 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 2014 and your name doesn't appear on the above list - but please let us know so that we can make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

References

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (5, 11, 56)

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

Three broods this year with six young noted on the back-scraps on the 24th May and five young on the River Colne on the 14th June and another brood of four on the River Colne on the 14th July. Numbers were similar this year to last with four double figure counts and a maximum count of 15 on 31st May - which included young birds. A summary of monthly maxima data from the last 11 years are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2014	3	4	4	5	15*	14*	9	6	8	4	4	11
Median 2004-2014	11	6	5	5	9	9	9	8	11	12	10	11
Maximum 2004-2014	18	23	9	11	18*	14	12	14	20	24	28	26
Minimum 2004-2014	3	3	4	3	5	6	3	6	5	4	4	2

* Includes young birds

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (5, 11, 30)

Birds of presumed feral origin have appeared in most years with a dramatic rise in the recent past

This was another good year for this species with birds noted in all months of the year and 59 days-recorded in total (64 in 2013 and 60 in 2012). There were 18 records of 10 or more birds this year (28 in 2013 and 21 in 2012) and a site-maximum count of 27 birds on several dates in August. In addition, this is the second consecutive year this species has bred on site with broods noted in May and June.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	9	6	31	21	71	118	87	56	60	64	59
Maximum Count	5	2	8	6	23	26	20	17	30	28	27
Counts of 10 or more	0	0	0	0	11	50	36	7	21	28	18

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (5, 11; 400)

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

Numbers were much the same as most other years with the usual peaks in August and September. However, it was a bad year for breeding with only 3 broods noted in May and June (5 in 2013). The maximum for the year was of 268 on the 6th September. Monthly maxima data from the last 11 years are summarised in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2014	41	38	76	19	45*	59*	68	234	268	52	38	43
Median 2004-2014	65	47	41	16	40	40	62	191	216	92	59	49
Maximum 2004-2014	98	91	76	28	62	59*	77	304	400	315	116	91
Minimum 2004-2014	19	16	15	9	18	15	28	125	118	37	38	37

* Includes young birds

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (3, 7, 12)

Frequent visitor with birds probably coming from the Category C population in Bedfordshire.

A single bird was seen on 20 days through the latter half of the year - being first seen on the 20th June until 23rd July then from the 7th October until the end of the year. These records probably refer to the same bird (which was noted as un-ringed on the 23rd June) and is probably part of the Home Counties feral population centred in Bedfordshire - but interesting nevertheless that it should have chosen to visit so frequently given its relative scarcity in the past (see below). The other notable feature about this year's records are that they are all in the period Jun-Dec - which matches with the records between 2004-13 when all but 2 of the 26 records were in that window.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days-recorded	2	0	3	1	7	0	11	2	0	0	20

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (2, 3, 48)

Infrequent visitor.

A single bird was found on 6th October (Steve Blake) and didn't linger for many to connect. This is the 7th record for the site and the first since 2010.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (4, 9, 10)

Infrequent visitor

There was just one record for the year with eight birds noted on the 2nd January.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days-recorded	1	2	0	5	12	18	41	0	1	4	1

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (5, 11, 12)

Regular visitor in small numbers. Has bred in the past - both on-site and locally – but has recently declined.

Another year with just 9 days-recorded, again indicating that birds probably did not attempt to breed in the local area. Records were of single birds on the 24th February, 9th, 13th, 15th and 31st March, 23rd April, 7th May and then two birds on the 19th May and 22nd September. Interestingly the September record was the first in this month since 2005. A summary of days recorded since 2004 is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days-recorded	60	27	9	54	74	86	93	50	52	9	9

Mandarin *Aix galericulata* (2, 6, 3)

Irregular visitor.

One record for the year - with a male noted on the 30th March. A summary of days recorded since 2004 is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days-recorded	4	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	1

Wigeon *Anas penelope* (5, 11; 77)

Usually occurs through the winter months in small numbers with additional passage migrants in spring and autumn.

There were 35 days-recorded this year with 15 in the first winter period and 20 in the second. The last record in the first winter period was on the 18th March and the first in the second winter period was on the 3rd September. The maximum for the year was of 7 on the 14th September and again on the 7th October. Summary data from the last 11 years are shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2014	4	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	4	4
Median⁽¹⁾	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	3	6
No Years Recorded⁽¹⁾	9	8	8	2	2	2	1	4	11	11	11	11

⁽¹⁾ Median and No Years Recorded refer to the period 2004-2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days-recorded	23	24	26	28	41	36	42	21	12	42	35

Pintail *Anas acuta* (4, 9, 10)

Frequent visitor.

Two records for the year with the first being ten birds for five minutes on the morning of the 30th March – which is a record count for the site (Ricky Flesher) . The second record was of two birds (an eclipse male and a female) on the 4th October.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	8	4	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
Bird Days	13	5	3	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	12

Gadwall *Anas strepera* (5, 11, 34)

Frequently recorded; breeding infrequently proven.

Breeding was confirmed this year with two broods (of 4 and 6 young) noted on the 29th May and 11th June respectively. Numbers were good this year (see table below) with maximum monthly counts from the last 11 years recorded in February, March, August and November. The maximum count for the year was of 25 birds on the 3rd March and 27th July. Summary monthly maxima data from the last 11 years are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	22	18	25	6	4	12	25	24	11	15	15	14
Median 2004-2014*	11	11	14	9	7	9	7	10	11	6	6	12
Maximum 2004-2014*	23	18	25	18	14	34	29	24	25	19	15	23

*Median and Maximum of the monthly maximum for the period 2004-14

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (5, 11, 250)

Common resident present throughout the year. Birds have also been released for wildfowling in the past.

A relatively good breeding seasons for this species with 7 broods noted across the site compared with 6 in 2013 and just 2 in 2012. Numbers were slightly up on last year, but overall a little below the median for period 2004-2014. The maximum for the year was of 146 on the 4th and 8th November - which is the second highest count in the last 5 years. Summary data from the last 11 years are shown in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. Broods	2	2	15	6	7	10	10	9	2	6	7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	53	30	20	11	43*	51*	20	76	50	96	146	94
Median 2004-2014**	60	54	29	36	58	60	40	67	98	80	78	96
Maximum 2004-2014**	168	101	83	81	92	128	101	193	250	152	146	152

* Includes young birds; **Median and Maximum of the monthly maximum for the period 2004-14

Teal *Anas crecca* (5, 11, 85)

Frequent visitor and passage migrant. Highest numbers usually observed in the first winter period/early spring.

An increase number of days-recorded this year i.e. 99 compared to 77 in 2013 and 74 in 2012, with a concomitant increase in the number of bird days i.e a total of 1056 compared to 741 in 2013 and 500 in 2012. This is the third time we have recorded over 1000+ bird days in a year in the period 2004-2014 – and the first time since 2010. There was the usual dip in records in the middle of the year - with no records between 21st April and 30th June. The maximum count for the year was of 55 birds on the 18th October. The number of days-recorded and bird days for the last 11 years are shown in the table below; a summary of daily maxima for the period 2004-14 is provided in Figure 2.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	79	104	75	106	144	135	101	79	74	77	99
Bird Days	443	588	855	449	605	1041	1145	386	500	741	1056

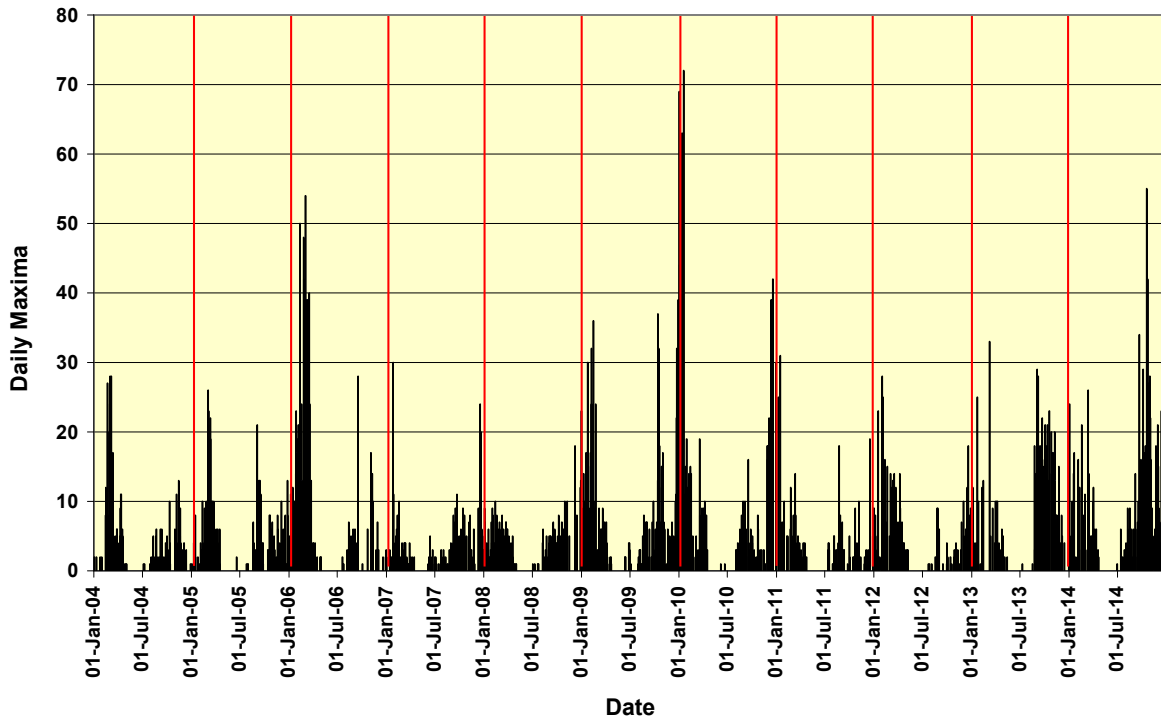


Figure 2. Summary of daily maxima for Teal *Anas crecca* during the period 2004-2014. The red lines show the divisions between years.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (5, 11, 54)

Commonly encountered spring migrant and winter visitor that may occasionally breed

This is the third exceptional year in a row for this species - with bird days above 600 days again (761 in 2013) and birds seen in all months of the year. Unfortunately there was no evidence of breeding again this year. There were 24 counts of 10 or more birds this year – compared to 25 in 2013; with the largest count being 28 birds on the 18th March. A summary of bird days from the for the last 5 years and summary data form the period 2004-14 are shown in the tables below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bird Days 2014	43	41	132	88	24	8	3	18	9	49	59	148	622
Bird Days 2013	134	61	308	104	2	14	2	7	4	28	78	21	763
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	53	74	6	0	3	11	28	9	19	6	254

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	22	26	29	81	115	89	71	57	59	72	103
Bird Days	72	60	62	289	315	214	254	134	343	763	624
Max Count	15	6	7	15	17	14	13	6	24	54	28
Counts ≥10	2	0	0	7	3	3	3	0	12	25	24

Pochard *Aythya farina* (5, 11, 132)

Reasonably common winter visitor.

Reported in small numbers in all months of the year - apart from May - with a maximum of eleven birds on the 1st November - which was also the only double-figure count for the year. A summary of data from the last 11 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days-recorded	20	32	12	83	161	112	94	84	53	47	70
Bird Days	101	127	37	540	885	373	376	312	171	126	216
Maximum Count	24	12	10	20	31	19	20	27	12	18	11

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (5, 11, 95)

Relatively common species that breeds in some years.

This species bred on-site again this year with two broods of 8 and 6 noted in July and August. Numbers were much the same as last year apart from a noticeable increase in the last two months of the year – which provided a record December count of 45 birds on the 30th December and which was also the highest count for the year. A summary of data from the last 11 years is provided below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	13	22	33	12	23	8	14	9	12	11	24	45
Median 2004-2014**	40	50	36	30	18	11	16	16	13	16	22	25
Maximum 2004-2014**	59	74	54	47	30	41	37	38	34	50	42	45

* Includes young birds; **Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. Broods	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	2	2	3	2

Goosander *Mergus merganser* (4, 9, 9)

Regular visitor with one or two records in most winters.

It is nice to have this species back albeit with just one record for the year, that of a female flying over on the 20th December (Rupert Pyrah). This species was not recorded in 2013.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (5, 11, 200)

Resident, previously supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm; appears to be declining

The number of records this year (30) was similar to last year (32) with a maximum of just 10 on 8th October – compared to 6 last year. Birds reported in 11 months of the year - but were not reported in September - and there were only 30 days-recorded for the year. Breeding was noted again this year with 4 adults and 5 juveniles seen on the 23rd August.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	160	200	100	200	50	50	70	71	44	6	10

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (5, 11, 50)

Resident, previously supplemented by released birds from Tyttenhanger Farm; appears to be declining

Reported in 11 months of the year in small numbers, with a maximum count of 7 birds on the 14 October - not reported in November. There were only 37 days-recorded for the year and no records of breeding. Interestingly, there were only 6 days-recorded after the end of June – albeit the largest count for the year was in this period – 7 birds on the 14th October. A summary of maximum counts from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	30	25	50	20	12	13	15	20	17	10	7

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* (3, 3, 2)*Infrequent visitor*

One record for the year of a single bird on the 25th July. This is only the eighth record for the site.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (5; 11, 46)*Present throughout the year with small numbers of pairs breeding.*

Only two broods this year with 3 young noted on the 14th April and 2 on the 31st May. Numbers this year were around the median counts for the period 2004-14 (see below) and the maximum count for the year was of 28 birds on the 6th December. A summary of monthly maxima data for the period 2004-14 is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	10	8	20	11	18*	15	13	24	13	23	14	28
Median 2004-2014**	8	15	19	19	17	19	15	19	19	19	17	10
Maximum 2004-2014**	17	22	31	30	39	27	32	29	23	29	36	28

* Includes young birds; **Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. Broods	2	0	0	4	5	8	6	6	3	3	2

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (5; 11, 16)*Regular breeding species present throughout much of the year – often absent in the winter months.*

The only indication of breeding on-site (or close by) was the presence of 2 juveniles on the relatively late date of the 5th September. Of interest was an adult bird found dead on the back scrape on the 30th April with no obvious signs of injury – possibly the bird was killed during displaying/mating?. A summary of bird days and breeding for the last 11 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	38	10	8	120	140	296	151	75	46	39	23
No. Broods	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	3	0

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (5; 11, 94)*A common winter visitor with birds present through much of the year.*

Present throughout the year in small numbers with numbers in the first winter period below the median for the period 2004-2014. January, February and March produced the lowest counts for those months in the corresponding period. The only double-figure counts for the year were in the last quarter when numbers were more like long term median values (see below). The maximum for the year was 31 birds on the 6th December. A summary of monthly maxima data from the period 2004-14 is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	8	7	7	5	4	6	6	8	3	10	22	31
Median 2004-2014*	16	14	13	10	5	4	3	6	6	8	21	21
Maximum 2004-2014*	42	62	34	25	8	9	11	11	10	17	59	91

*Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (5, 11; 9)*Very irregular visitor in the past with the first record in 1999; becoming more frequent as this species continues to spread through the UK as a breeding species.*

After the record-breaking 2013, numbers were slightly down this year – although they still amount to the second best year on record. The maximum count for the year was of 3 birds on the 12th and 19th July. Summary data of days recorded and bird days for the last 11 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	16	7	5	2	31	12	21	29	51	84	74
Bird Days	17	8	7	2	42	12	34	49	58	105	88

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (5, 11, 26)*Present throughout the year with numbers generally increasing as a result of the small breeding colony that has recently been established.*

This is the fifth consecutive year this species has bred on site with six occupied nests on the back scrape between February and April. However, only two broods of young were noted on the 26th May (3 and 2) in contrast to the previous two years where 3-4 broods were noted. The maximum count for the year was of 19 birds on the 22nd February. Interestingly, the monthly maxima for January, February and March were all records for those months. A summary of monthly maxima data from the period 2004-2014 is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	12	19	10	8	10	10	5	5	6	5	6	8
Median 2004-2014**	7	6	6	6	7	9	6	8	9	5	6	7
Maximum 2004-2014**	12	19	10	9	14	14	20	26	23	18	8	11

* Includes young birds; **Median and maximum values of the monthly maxima for the period 2004-13

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4, 9, 1)
Regular passage migrant

Two records for the year (2 also in 2013), with the first being a bird being mobbed several times between 12.40pm – 12.50pm on the 6th April (Steven Pearce) and the second record a bird heading south on the 12th September (R Coombes and Steve Blake).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (5, 11, 4)

Frequent visitor – becoming much more common as the English population continues to burgeon.

Last year’s report mused about when we would see the first Tyttenhanger-born young of this species. Well we didn’t have to wait long! There were a number of reports in May of birds carrying items into Garden Wood and an occupied nest was found on the 13th May and a single chick observed on the 28th May. Breeding aside this species set new records being observed on 143 days (95 in 2012) (138 in 2013), with the reporting frequency reaching an impressive 69.3% this year (recorded on 52 dates from a total of 75 visits for one regular recorder) – a further increase on the last two years (42.0% in 2012 and 55.7% in 2013). The maximum count for the year was of 4 birds on the 1st April. A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003 – 2014 for this and the three other common birds of prey on-site is shown in Figure 3.

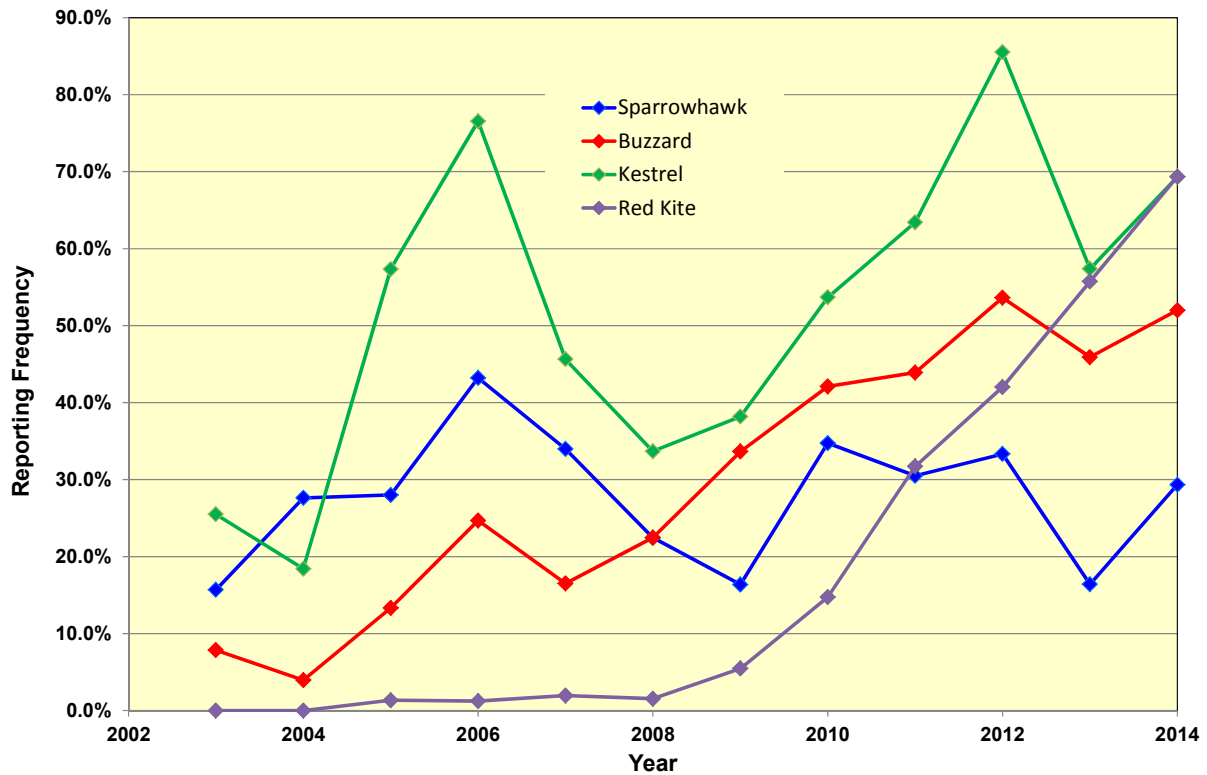


Figure 3. Summary of recording frequency for the more common birds of prey at Tyttenhanger during the period 2003-2014. Recording frequency is calculated from data generated by a single observer for each species-year combination and is based on the number of days-recorded for the year as a percentage 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.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (5, 11 4)

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

Breeding on-site or nearby was indicated by juveniles heard calling over Garden Wood on 9th August. The reporting frequency for this species was up to 29.3% this year (recorded on 22 dates from a total of 75 visits for one regular recorder) from the relative low of 16.4% in 2013. There was a maximum of two birds on several dates throughout the

year. A summary of the recording frequency on-site during the period 2003 – 2014 for this and the three other common birds of prey is shown in Figure 3.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (5, 11 10)

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

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 10 birds on the 5th April – which is a record count for the site – and the recording frequency for this species was up to 52.0% this year (recorded on 39 dates from a total of 75 visits for one regular recorder). A summary of the recording frequency during the period 2003 – 2014 for this and the three other common birds of prey on-site is shown in Figure 3. A summary of the records for this species for the last 11 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days-recorded 2014	5	5	13	11	10	6	7	11	11	2	4	4
Median 2004-2014**	5	4	10	10	6	4	4	7	7	5	3	3
Maximum 2004-2014**	7	8	14	15	11	8	7	16	13	9	5	6

**Median and Maximum values of the days-recorded for each month in the period 2004-14.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (5, 11, 5)

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

Present throughout the year with an occupied nest noted on the 19th March, courtship and display noted on 5th April and a female and at least 2 young seen on the 31st May and 3 young seen with an adult on the 13th June. There was a reporting frequency of 69.3% for this species (recorded on 52 dates from a total of 75 visits for one regular recorder) compared to 85.5% in 2012 and 57.4% in 2013. A summary of the on-site recording frequency during the period 2003 – 2014 for this and the three other common birds of prey is shown in Figure 3.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (5, 11 5)

Passage migrant and summer visitor.

It was a reasonable year for this species which was recorded on 38 days for a total of 43 bird days (see table below). There was a maximum of two birds on 5 dates scattered across the summer but there were no breeding records this year. The first record for the year was on the 21st April (Median - 30th April) last record for the year on the 15th October (Median – 25th September) – which is the latest recorded data from the site. A summary of records for the period 2004 – 2014 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days recorded	19	23	35	25	46	45	30	24	26	28	38
Bird days	25	34	37	31	72	75	46	32	30	35	43
Earliest Date*	1 st Apr	26 th Apr	28 th Apr	5 th May	30 th Apr	28 th Apr	6 th May	24 th Apr	5 th May	8 th May	21 st Apr
Latest Date*	11 th Sep	17 th Sep	24 th Sep	23 rd Sep	25 th Sep	29 th Sep	7 th Oct	2 nd Oct	21 st Sep	7 th Oct	15 th Oct

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* (5, 11, 2)

Regular visitor.

There were eight records this year all of single birds – which is fairly typical of the last several years. A summary of the number of days recorded each year for the period 2004 – 2014 is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	6	4	2	6	5	7	12	24	12	10	8

Of the eight records for the year 7 were in November and December: A summary of the distribution of days-recorded by month for the period 2004-14 is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days Recorded 2004-14	13	6	9	4	2	5	5	11	13	8	8	12

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (5,11, 4)

Regular winter visitor in the recent past.

A big increase over last year with a total of 15 days recorded and birds present in both winter periods. Interestingly, over ½ of the records (10) for the year came from December and there was also a very unusual record from the 14th Aug - this being the first record we have that is not in the period October-April inclusive There was a maximum of two birds noted on several dates in December. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	4	12	5	8	54	46	28	11	14	4	15
Maximum	2	1	1	1	4	4	2	1	2	1	2
Late Date*	N/A	1 st Apr	4 th Mar	3 rd Mar	21 st Apr	6 th Apr	6 th Mar	15 th Mar	8 th Apr	N/A	16 th Mar
Early Date*	19 th Nov	18 th Nov	23 rd Dec	N/A	31 st Oct	11 th Nov	1 st Nov	15 th Oct	27 th Oct	11 th Dec	26 th Nov

* The latest date in spring (Late date) and earliest date in autumn/winter (Early date). The record from 14th August 2014 is not treated as an early return data.

Coot *Fulica atra* (5, 11, 214)

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

There were at least 16 broods counted in June which is a very welcome increase from the 10 broods in 2013. Numbers were generally much the same as last year with a maximum count of 100+ noted on the 22nd February. A summary of monthly maxima data for the period 2004-14 is shown below along with a summary of brood counts for the period 2004-14.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2014	88	100	58	38	82*	68*	70	72	80	98	50	86
Median 2004-2014**	80	88	54	55	52	68	70	100	80	53	65	86
Maximum 2004-2014**	148	148	120	81	107	171	207	150	214	178	178	170

* Includes young birds. **Median and maximum counts each month in the period 2004-14.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. of Broods	0	0	3	20	12	23	21	14	7	10	16

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (5; 11, 69)

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

There was no change in breeding numbers this year with 4 broods noted in July again. Overall numbers were typical of the last few years – but counts may have been affected by the apparent use in some parts of the year of the fields around Willow's Farm rather than the water's edge. 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 2014	19	10	33	10	12	16*	6	21	20	36	15	41
Monthly Max 2013	22	38	25	18	20	14*	13*	40	24	27	42	18
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

*Includes young birds.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (5, 11, 6)

Regular summer visitor, has bred in the recent past.

The first bird of the year was seen on the 22nd February and was joined by a second on the 26th February; both birds were then seen until the 22nd May. An occupied nest was reported on the 23rd April in the pumpkin/maize field but the field was ploughed and the nest was found destroyed/deserted the following day. The birds re-nested in the same area, at the start of May and were still incubating on the 15th May but no young were subsequently seen. A summary of data from the last 10 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	5	2	30	50	76	67	84	60	57	71	60
Early Date	14 th May	26 th Feb	6 th May	28 th Mar	6 th Mar	6 th Mar	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	3 rd Mar	7 th Mar	22 nd Feb
Late Date	16 th Jun	23 rd Jul	20 th Jul	20 th Jul	23 rd Jul	18 th Jul	22 nd Jul	15 th Jul	29 th Aug	28 th Jul	12 th Jul

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (3, 7, 8)

Infrequent visitor.

There were two records for the year, the first was of four birds on the 8th March - which were feeding together at 2.20pm before flying off south at 2.25pm (Steve Murray). The second was of one bird on the 30th March found in the morning (Ricky Flesher) and still present at 6.50pm. Interestingly these are the 13th and 14th records for the site – and we are still waiting for an autumn record (unless you count the June record from 1997!). A summary of data for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	2
Maximum Count	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	8	2	0	4

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (5, 11, 15)

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

Another poor year for this species with only 18 days recorded and 24 bird days for the year. The first record was of a single bird on the 30th March, and the last record was on the late date of the 22nd November- the latest date we have for the site. A summary of data from 2004 onwards is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Earliest Date	24 th Jan	16 th Jan	7 th Feb	24 th Feb	23 rd Feb	23 rd Feb	5 th Mar	8 th Feb	19 th Feb	10 th May	30 th Mar
Latest Date	1 st Oct	18 th Sep	17 th Sep	6 th Oct	8 th Oct	29 th Aug	5 th Aug	30 th Jul	19 th Aug	29 th Aug	22 nd Nov
Days Recorded	91	111	93	101	94	67	51	29	36	11	18
Bird Days	360	361	287	199	167	105	65	42	60	17	24
Maximum Count	12	11	10	5	5	3	2	3	4	5	3

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (5, 11, 18)

Passage migrant ; former breeding species.

The first record of the year was of two birds on the 8th April with one or two birds subsequently reported until mid-August. Courtship and display were noted in May and 1-2 occupied nests reported in June - but without any young seen. This was a relatively good year for this species and despite no young being reported was an improvement on 2013. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Earliest Date	16 th Mar	19 th Mar	21 st Mar	30 th Mar	3 rd Apr	20 th Mar	30 th Mar	29 th Mar	2 nd Apr	15 th Apr	8 th Apr
Latest Date	1 st Oct	1 st Aug	28 th Aug	1 st Aug	8 th Jul	4 th Sep	24 th Jul	10 th Aug	30 th Aug	17 th Aug	17 th Aug
Days Recorded	84	80	75	41	31	43	50	76	71	53	73
Bird Days	393	326	277	65	50	63	69	179	133	88	146
Maximum Count	12	13	15	4	3	3	3	6	7	4	5

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (5, 11, 2160)

Regular winter visitor to the area becoming less common in the recent past.

A better year for this species with thirteen records (7 in 2012 and 2013) - but only one in the first winter period with 2 birds flying over on the 23rd March. There were then four records in November and eight in December with a maximum of 143 on the 4th December. All days-recorded for the year are shown below.

2 on 23rd Mar 7 on 28th Nov 70 on 3rd Dec 111 on 7th Dec 15 on 1st Nov 2 on 29th Nov
 143 on 4th Dec 30 on 8th Dec 2 on 16th Nov 67 on 1st Dec 66 on 5th Dec 3 on 12th Dec
 26 on 13th Dec

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (5, 11, 2000)

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 reported again this year with 3 broods (4-4-1) seen in June. Numbers were relatively good - although counts were low in the period Mar-May and were close to, or better than, the median of the last 11 years in the last quarter. The maximum for the year was of 542 on the 3rd December. A partial albino bird with heavily white-mottled upperparts was seen on the 2nd July (Steve Murray). A summary of the monthly maxima for the last 5 years and the median for the period 2004-14 are shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Max 2014	250	150	41	7	8*	83	173	200	184	220	348	542
Monthly Max 2013	300	102	240	50	16*	24*	79	5	36	143	340	189
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
Median 2004-2014	339	420	175	28	16	57	150	200	138	220	254	300

*Includes young birds.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (3, 8, 4)*Occasional visitor.*

There was one record of 2 birds on the main pit on the 27th April. The two birds - in winter-plumage - flew in at 9.10am and flew off at 9.41am (Ricky Flesher, Brendon Fagan). This is the 21st record for the site – with the first record being in 1986.

Knot *Calidris canutus* (2, 6, 4)*Infrequent visitor.*

After a blank in 2013 it was good to have this species back with a single bird seen on the 27th August on the Main Pit. This is only the 10th record for the site.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (5, 11 12)*Regular passage migrant and occasional visitor likely to turn up at any time of the year.*

A dip in days-recorded this year - with just nine compared to thirteen in 2013 - nine being equal lowest number of days-recorded (with 2010) in the last 11 years (see below). The maximum count for the year was of 5 birds on the 12th May. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	34	26	17	23	17	33	9	19	15	13	9
Bird Days	72	39	30	35	21	46	9	40	19	15	17
Maximum Count	8	4	6	7	2	4	1	9	4	2	5

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (1, 1, 3)*Rare visitor.*

Two birds were found on the main on the 19th May (Steve Blake) and flew off at 13.15pm before being fully identified, Subsequent identification was confirmed from photographs taken at the time and the birds (thankfully!) reappeared the following day. They then stayed until 22nd May during which time they were seen by most Tyttenhanger regulars and many of Hertfordshire's other birders – some of whom were treated to the sight of the pair mating on the 20th May! This is the third record for the site (all in May); the first was of one bird on the 12th May 1988 and the second was of three birds on the 18th May 2002. A full story about the finding and identification of these birds can be seen on page xx along with additional information on this species in Hertfordshire.



Temminck's Stints – images of the birds present on the Main Pit between 19th and 22nd May 2014. Photographs courtesy of Simon West

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* (5, 8, 5)*Frequent visitor.*

There were two records this year, one on the 2nd January in Garden Wood and one on the 28th December that flew low from the River Colne to the edge of Garden Wood. A summary of records from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	0	3	0	0	3	5	5	2	2	1	2
Bird Days	0	3	0	0	3	5	7	5	7	1	2
Maximum Count	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	1	1

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (5, 11, 34)*Winter visitor and passage migrant.*

This is the best year for this species since 2009 with 308 bird days, nine double figure counts (all in the first three months of the year) and a maximum of 34 birds on the 12th March - which equals the previous record count made on 14th March 2009. The latest spring record was 22nd April and earliest autumn record was 25th July - both of which are close to the respective 2004-14 medians of 25th April and 9th August. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown in the table below and in Figure 4.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	88	141	132	105	529	597	155	85	111	118	308
Maximum Count	8	7	8	8	27	34	7	5	11	13	34

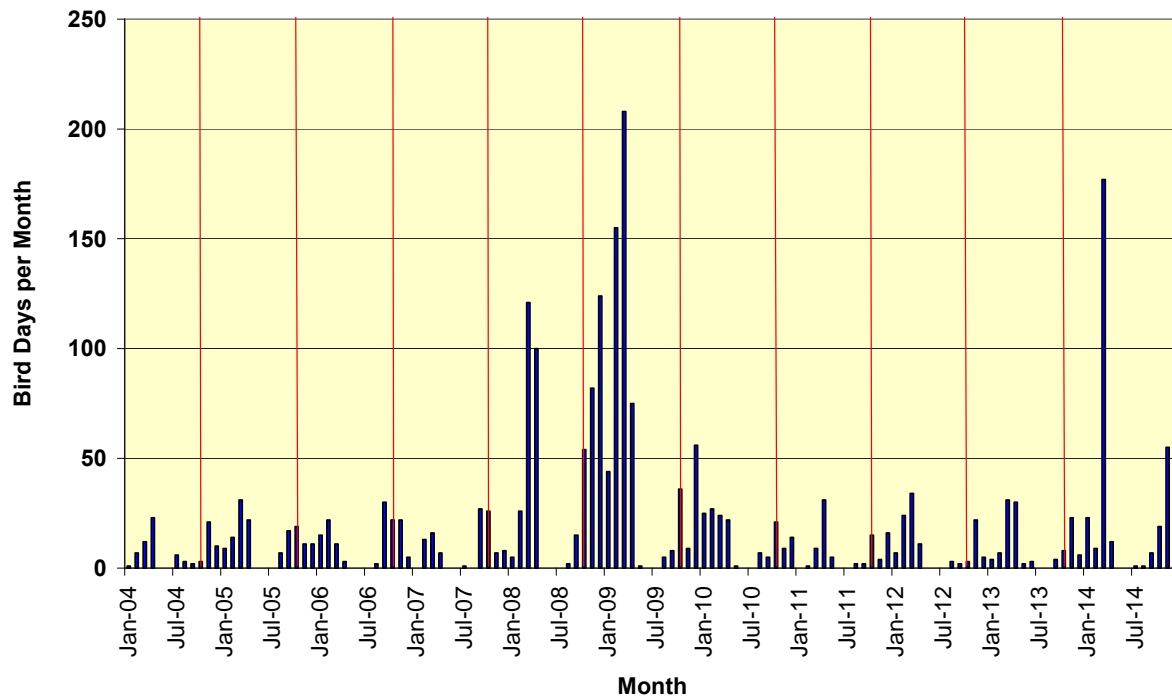


Figure 4. Bird days per month for Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*, for the period 2004-2014. The red lines show the divisions between years.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* (5, 10, 19)*Irregular migrant.*

One record of a bird flying over on the 22nd March (Steve Blake and Ricky Flesher). A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	1
Bird Days	4	5	2	1	2	0	5	1	1	2	1
Maximum Count	2	2	2	1	1	0	4	1	1	1	1

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (5, 10, 25)*Irregular passage migrant.*

There were two records this year, one bird on the 8th March and 3 (Icelandic adult) birds in summer-plumage on the 30th June. These are the 50th and 51st days-recorded for the site. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	0	2	15	2	1	3	3	5	2	1	2
Bird Days	0	3	18	31	1	7	9	10	4	2	4

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (3, 5, 4)*Scarce migrant.*

After the bumper year of 2012 (4 records) and no records in 2013 it was nice to have this species back with a record of a

single bird for 10 minutes on the 30th October on the main pit (Alan Gardiner). This is only the 11th record for the site.

Redshank *Tringa totanus* (5, 11, 14)

Summer visitor with 2-3 pairs breeding in most years.

Another poor year for this species with just 27 days-recorded and a maximum of just 4 birds late March. Again there were no breeding records - with the last confirmed breeding on site in 2007. A summary of data from 2004 to 2014 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	91	91	81	93	83	70	91	69	58	30	27
Bird Days	318	300	288	250	295	291	331	229	177	49	52
Early Date	3 rd Mar	15 th Mar	12 th Mar	16 th Feb	28 th Feb	23 rd Feb	22 nd Feb	22 nd Feb	29 th Feb	7 th Mar	8 th Mar
Late Date	13 th Aug	29 th Oct	25 th Jun	15 th Sep	20 th Jul	28 th Aug	24 th Sep	24 th Sep	12 th Jul	10 th Sep	25 th Jun
Broods	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (5, 11, 18)

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Five records for the year is another slight improvement on the 2 in 2012 and 3 in 2013. There were four records of single birds and one record of two birds. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	36	6	51	9	9	6	7	9	2	3	5
Bird Days	58	10	104	9	14	8	11	20	2	8	6
Maximum Count	5	2	5	1	3	2	3	9	1	3	2

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* (5, 11, 14)

Frequent winter visitor and passage migrant.

Another relatively poor year for this species, with only 27 days recorded (33 bird days) and a maximum of just 3 birds this is the second-worst year after 2010 in the last 11 years. A summary of data from 2004 to 2014 are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Late Spring Date	20 th Apr	27 th Apr	16 th Apr	7 th Apr	20 th Apr	18 th Apr	9 th Mar	4 th May	20 th Apr	20 th Apr	22 nd Apr
Early Autumn Date	19 th Jun	8 th Jun	18 th Jun	8 th Jun	14 th Jun	13 th Jun	29 th Jun	27 th Jun	4 th Jul	18 th Jun	13 th Jun
Days Recor'd	158	190	159	106	120	69	19	40	120	67	27
Bird Days	420	538	501	184	191	105	22	47	175	95	33
Average Birds/Day*	2.66	2.83	3.15	1.74	1.59	1.52	1.16	1.18	1.46	1.42	1.22
Maximum Count	9	9	14	4	8	3	2	5	5	4	3

* Average number of birds on each day recorded.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (1, 3 13)

Infrequent visitor.

A very welcome return for this species with a single bird found on the 14th August (Steve Murray). This is the first record since 2009, the 20th record for the site and the eighth August record.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos* (5, 11, 18)

Regular passage migrant, more frequent in autumn.

The numbers of days recorded and bird days were slightly down on the last two years – although birds appeared earlier and departed later than the medians for the last 11 years (14th April and 28th October respectively). Interestingly this species was recorded on 6 days in October this year (from the 3rd to the 27th) – which more than doubled the number of days-recorded for this month since 2004! More than 1 bird was involved in the latter string of records as there were two birds seen on the 22nd and 27th October. The maximum count for the year was of 4 birds on the 21st July. A summary of data from 2004 to 2014 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Record'd	64	77	58	43	60	47	28	40	48	54	41
Bird Days	155	153	144	62	111	70	36	56	86	84	56
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	16 th Apr	30 th Mar
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	7 th Oct	27 th Oct
Maximum	7	8	10	3	5	3	3	5	5	6	4

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (5, 11 1900)

Common non-breeding species present virtually all year around.

Present through-out the year with a maximum of 1000+ in August - which is the largest count in the period 2004-14. and interestingly, record counts for the same period were also made in July and November. Also of note was a leucistic bird seen in August and September on several dates – could this be the same bird that was seen in 2011 (but not in 2012-13)? A summary of monthly maxima data for the last 11 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	372	200	50	7	10	72	500	1000	750	400	700	300
Median 2004-2014**	250	200	210	14	8	21	305	550	516	350	304	300
Maximum 2004-2014**	500	650	450	30	18	109	500	1000	940	500	700	700
Minimum 2004-2014**	50	80	42	1	2	6	115	189	300	240	141	166

** Median, Maximum and Minimum values from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (4, 10, 3)

Infrequent visitor.

Records continue to increase with birds noted on a record 11 days this year compared to 9 in 2013 and 7 in 2012. The first bird of the year was an adult on the 20th July and the last bird of the year was a 1st winter on the 13th November – the first record for this month. It is interesting that eight of the records this year were from one observer - who is a regular afternoon visitor, and may give some clues to when this species uses the site most. A month by month breakdown of the days on which this species has been recorded since the first record in 2001 is shown below. Days recorded this year (7 of 11) reflected the strong bias towards the July-September quarter.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days Recorded	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	20	8	4	1	2

Common Gull *Larus canus* (5,11, 256)

Regular winter visitor; absent during the summer months.

Reported in all months of the year - apart from May - the maximum for the year was 170 birds on the 23rd December. However, it is of interest that the maxima for October, November and December were all records for those months! A summary of monthly maxima data for the last 11 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	58	114	80	1	0	1	1	3	3	50	144	170
Median 2004-2014*	79	66	80	3	1	0	2	3	3	22	70	72
Maximum 2004-2014*	200	256	218	142	4	4	8	28	16	50	144	170
Minimum 2004-2014*	29	29	26	1	0	0	1	1	2	11	20	36

* Median, Maximum and Minimum values from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (5, 11; 74)

Present throughout the year; with a recently established breeding population nearby in London Colney

A slow start to the first part of the year, then May through to December produced record counts for the period 2004-14 in all months except for June and September. There was courtship and display noted in May but there was no further evidence of breeding. A summary of monthly maxima data for the last 11 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maximum 2014	3	3	6	14	33	28	32	74	30	48	24	21
Median 2004-2014**	7	5	7	9	9	8	7	12	17	10	20	7
Maximum 2004-2014**	26	42	26	21	33	44	32	74	40	48	24	21
Minimum 2004-2014**	1	3	5	1	0	3	2	5	5	2	4	4

** Median, Maximum and Minimum values obtained from the monthly maxima for the period 2004-14.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (5, 11; 38)

Present through much of the year in small numbers. Local breeding is increasing records in the summer months.

After the big increase in bird days and days-recorded between 2012 and 2013, this year was much the same as 2013 – maybe indicating this species has reached its on-site peak. The maximum count for the year was of 10 birds on the 16th and 28th August. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	20	55	75	44	37	37	34	116	125	264	245
Days Recorded	5	24	24	23	20	21	21	51	43	83	91

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* (4, 8; 2)

Irregular visitor.

Three records for the year is typical of the last few years. Records were of a 3rd year bird on the 20th May then an adult on the 2nd July and another adult on the 20th October. There have now been 22 records for the site since the first in 1996 and the distribution by month is shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days Recorded	1	4	4	0	1	1	2	2	0	2	4	1

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* (5, 11, 13)

An infrequent visitor most often encountered in the winter months.

Six records for the year - all of single birds apart from two on the 20th December – is only the second time this many records have been made. A summary of records from the last 11 years is shown below along with a summary of the months in which birds have been recorded.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	4	5	3	6	2	5	5	5	3	3	6
Days Recorded	4	6	3	10	2	7	6	7	3	3	7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days Recorded	6	11	7	6	2	0	0	1	0	4	5	5

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* (2, 3, 2)

Very infrequent visitor.

It was good to have this species back after a four-year gap, with one bird seen on the 1st May as it flew through the main pit at 11.25am (Simon West). All records for this species are shown below.

1988: 2 on 17th June **1991:** 1 on 21st May **1994:** 1 on 5th August **1997:** 1 on 3rd May
2009: 1 on 7th August **2010:** 1 on 11th July **2010:** 1 on 13th July **2014:** 1 on 1st May

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (5, 11, 30)

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

A good year for this species with the first birds of the year arriving on the 9th April and reaching double figures in late April. Courtship and display was noted in May and breeding was confirmed in July with a newly fledged chick seen on the 27th. Breeding has only previously been confirmed in 1996, 2007 and 2008.. The earliest and latest dates along with the maximum counts for the last 11 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Counts	30	19	14	25	16	20	16	18	20	22	20
Earliest Date*	4 th Apr	9 th Apr	3 rd Apr	16 th Apr	13 th Apr	8 th Apr	19 th Apr	8 th Apr	11 th Apr	7 th Apr	9 th Apr
Latest Date*	30 th Aug	14 th Sep	21 st Aug	2 nd Sep	12 th Sep	14 th Sep	4 th Sep	4 th Sep	3 rd Sep	26 th Aug	22 nd Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are shaded.

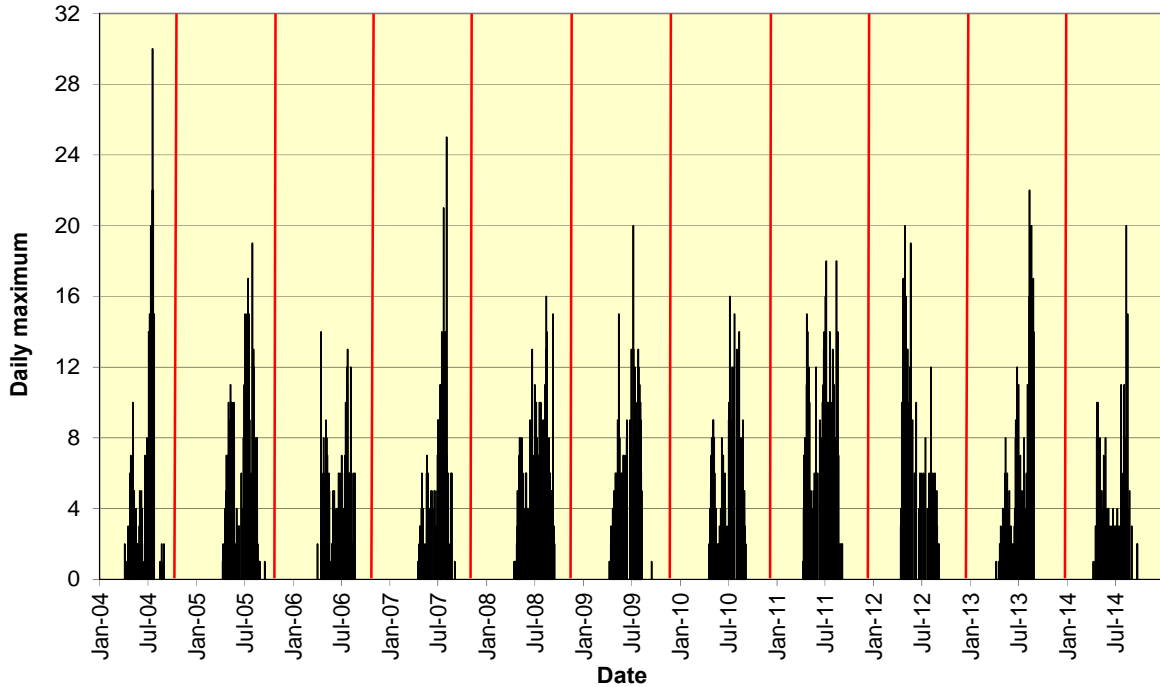


Figure 5. Daily maxima for Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* for the period 2004-2013. The vertical redlines show the divisions between the years.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* (5, 11, 1250)

Common resident, particularly common around Willows Farm.

Present all year with a maximum of 103 birds on the 17th August and 34 double figure counts throughout the year. It appears that this and the other three common Pigeons/Doves on-site are still very much overlooked. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004-2014 for this and the other regular Pigeons/Doves on site is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Feral Pigeon	200	197	1250	188	1000	100	500	100	150	50	103
Stock Dove	50	200	65	70	50	6	12	10	5	20	25
Woodpigeon	500	3000	400	2000	732	1000	500	800	300	140	500
Collared Dove	9	6	57	12	23	18	8	13	2	11	2

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* (5, 11, 200)

Common resident present throughout the year.

Reported in small numbers throughout the year with a maximum of 25 birds on the 14th October. Breeding was confirmed on-site or close-by with a recently fledged bird seen on the 2nd August. A summary of maximum counts on-site for this and the other regular Pigeons/Doves in the period 2004-2014 is shown above.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* (5, 11, 4000)

Common resident present throughout the year often in large flocks and with a notable late autumn passage in some years.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 500+ flying over on the 29th November. Breeding was confirmed on-site or close by with recently fledged young seen on the 10th August. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2006-2014 for this and the other regular Pigeons/Doves on site is shown above.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (5, 11, 57)

Patchily distributed resident.

Only thirteen records for the year - with a maximum of just two birds in January and August. There were no confirmed breeding records for the year which all-in-all makes a bad year for this species. A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004-2014 for this and the other regular Pigeons/Doves on site are shown above.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (5, 8, 11)

Irregular visitor.

Five days-recorded for the year is a good year for this species and a maximum of four birds on the 27th September makes it a very good year. A month by month breakdown of the day-recorded and bird-days is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Days-Recorded	2	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	4	5	2	0
Bird Days	2	2	13	0	3	0	0	0	8	21	3	0

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (5, 11; 5)

Summer visitor in small numbers.

Twenty-one days-recorded for this species (including 4 dates with 2 birds) makes the days-recorded more than double that of 2013, and a juvenile bird was seen in July - which may indicate breeding on-site or close-by. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	22	14	22	7	12	12	9	15	17	10	21
Earliest Date*	11 th Apr	16 th Apr	16 th Apr	22 nd Apr	17 th Apr	12 th Apr	24 th Apr	12 th Apr	19 th Apr	24 th Apr	19 th Apr
Latest Date*	15 th Aug	8 th Jun	28 th Aug	21 st Jul	4 th Aug	14 th Aug	15 th May	1 st Aug	5 th Jun	16 th Aug	19 th Sep

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (5, 11, 2)

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

Recorded/heard on seven dates this year with records from Garden Wood and the Tree Sparrow hedge in both the January -March and September-November periods. A summary of data for the period 2004-2014 is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	2	1	1	10	3	2	3	9	9	11	7

Little Owl *Athene noctua* (5, 11, 4)

Resident; birds usually seen around the Model Railway Club and Willows Farm, regularly breeds.

Twenty-one days-recorded for this species - including 4 days with 2 birds and 1 with 3 birds - is considerably more days-recorded and multiple-bird days than 2013. There were no records from Willow's Farm this year with most records coming from the Model Railway/Water Works. Breeding was noted in July with one recently fledged bird reported from the Model Railway/Water Works. A summary of records from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	10	9	10	41	54	36	27	42	27	10	21
Multiple Birds	3	2	2	10	4	2	1	12	4	1	5

Swift *Apus apus* (5, 11, 300)

Relatively common summer visitor with feeding birds present throughout the summer months.

Much the same as last year with birds seen on 29 days between 3rd May and 26th August (29 in 2013), but with only 7 counts of 10 or more birds (13 in 2013) and a maximum of just 30 birds (40 in 2013) numbers were, overall, slightly down. A summary of data from the last 11 years is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Earliest Date	27 th Apr	23 rd Apr	27 th Apr	23 rd Apr	28 th Apr	28 th Apr	30 th Apr	30 th Apr	26 th Apr	27 th Apr	3 rd May
Latest Date	22 nd Aug	30 th Jul	13 th Aug	29 th Jul	13 th Aug	1 st Aug	20 th Aug	30 th Jul	21 st Jul	28 th Jul	26 th Aug
Maximum Count	150	100	50	200	50	30	100	300	30	40	30

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (5, 11; 4)

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

Another slight increase for this species, with a total of 56 days recorded (44 in 2013) and 7 records of two birds throughout the year (5 in 2013). A summary of data is presented below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird Days 2014	4	2	3	2	2	2	5	8	9	4	8	4
Median 2004-2014*	17	10	14	16	12	6	9	26	26	21	15	12
Maximum 2004-2014*	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	3
Minimum 2004-2014*	4	2	3	2	2	2	5	8	9	4	8	4

* Median, Maximum and minimum bird days for each month in the period 2004-13

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird days	106	131	85	71	89	48	36	37	18	49	63

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* (5, 11, 10)*Common resident.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 5 birds on the 27th July, breeding was noted with recently fledged birds seen in Garden Wood on the 30th June.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (5, 11, 5)*Common Resident*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 4 birds on the 13th September, breeding was confirmed with a nest with young reported on 1st June.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (5, 11, 100)*Breeding resident also recorded as passage migrant and in winter flocks.*

Reported throughout the year in small numbers, with a maximum of two singing males noted during the breeding season; there were however, no confirmed records of breeding this year. The number of days recorded was up to 98 this year – the highest since 2009 - albeit there was still only one count of 40 birds or more i.e. 43 on the 30th December. A summary of data from the last 8 years is shown below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	116	105	66	66	48	67	98
Counts of 40+ Birds	0	5	4	1	1	0	1

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (5, 11; 200)*Summer visitor that previously bred and has recently returned to breed on-site.*

A good year for this species - recorded on 75 days between 20th March and 4th September with 12 reports of 30 or more birds compared to only 6 in 2013. A breeding colony of between 40 and 70 holes were observed to be active in the main workings of Lafarge in early August, with reports of juveniles in the holes on the 4th August. The maximum count was of 80 birds on the 14th June. Early and late dates and maxima for the last 11 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Max. Count	25	10	50	70	100	50	50	200	50	40	80
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	13 th Apr	20 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	15 th Sep	4 th Sep

*The earliest date in Spring and latest date in Autumn – the earliest and latest dates in the last 11 years are shaded.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (5, 11, 500)*Summer visitor with small breeding population centred on Willows Farm.*

Birds were reported throughout the summer months in small numbers from 29th March through to 12th October. Again, there were no breeding records on-site with, surprisingly, the last confirmed breeding now as long ago as 2009. The maximum count for the year was of 100 birds on the 26th August. Early and late dates and maxima for the last 11 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Max. Count	120	30	105	50	50	50	100	300	100	100	100
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	13 th Apr	29 th 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	6 th Oct	12 th Oct

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are shaded.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum* (15,11, 290)*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 from 10th April to 24th September, with a maximum of 80+ birds on the 26th April. Again there were no breeding records for the year with the last breeding recorded in 2007. Early and late dates and maxima for the last 11 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Max. Count	220	150	80	80	20	50	130	150	170	50	80
Earliest Date*	5 th Apr	16 th Apr	13 th Apr	13 th Apr	11 th Apr	31 st Mar	3 rd Apr	5 th Apr	17 th Apr	13 th Apr	10 th Apr
Latest Date*	3 rd Oct	5 th Nov	8 th Oct	22 nd Sep	6 th Oct	11 th Oct	6 th Oct	8 th Oct	2 nd Oct	22 nd Sep	24 th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are shaded.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (5, 11, 30)

Passage migrant with 1-2 pairs breeding in some years.

Another relatively poor year for this species with no counts of more than 2 birds and a total of just 31 bird days. There was no confirmed breeding this year after last years success. A summary of data from the last 10 years and confirmed breeding years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	110	41	123	10	49	172	60	23	28	56	31
Days Record'd	38	22	42	7	12	17	24	10	13	33	22
Max. Count	25	5	18	3	12	30	10	8	5	5	2
Earliest Date*	4 th Apr	11 th Apr	6 th Apr	11 th Apr	24 th Apr	7 th Apr	30 th Mar	5 th Apr	17 th Apr	15 th Apr	11 th Apr
Latest Date*	2 nd Sep	19 th Aug	3 rd Sep	22 nd Sep	25 th Sep	24 th Sep	5 th Oct	27 th Sep	19 th Sep	14 th Sep	1 st Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are shaded.

Confirmed breeding years for Yellow Wagtail													
1983	1984	1986	1987	1989	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	2003	2004	2013

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (5, 11; 5)

Local resident and winter visitor.

Another poor year for this species recorded on just 14 days with a maximum of two birds on five dates throughout the year. There was no breeding noted and birds were only seen in seven of the twelve months. A summary of bird days and number of days recorded for the last 11 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	59	121	99	54	28	34	10	2	34	21	19
Days Recorded	46	78	74	43	27	25	7	2	24	18	14

White/Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (5, 11; 90)

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

Present throughout the year in small numbers with another small increase in bird days and days recorded over last year, but still way down on the numbers in the period 2008 – 2010. There were no breeding records received and the maximum for the year was of 11 birds on the 25th April. There were three records of **White Wagtail** this year - all in April and all of single birds - on the 5th, 8th, and 26th April. A summary of data from the last 7 years is shown in the table below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	250	349	523	184	108	134	156
Number Days Recorded	113	128	107	60	44	59	79
Maximum Count	8	18	37	37	7	20	11
White Wagtail Days Recorded	1	1	5	2	0	2	3

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* (5, 11; 120)

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

A reasonable year for this species with a maximum of 30+ birds in the first winter period (37 in 2013) but just 8 in the second winter period (30 in 2013). A summary of maximum counts for the period 2004 – 2014 are presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Counts	80	60	78	50	52	30	64	25	8	37	30

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (5, 11, 14)

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 10 birds on the 2nd April – which is the first double figure count for this species since 2006!. There were no confirmed breeding records this year.

Duncock *Prunella modularis* (5, 11; 15)

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 15 birds on the 26th June – which also happens to be a maximum count for the site. In fact, there were 3 counts of 10 or more birds made from around the feeders at Tyttenhanger Farm between 26th June and 27th August (Peter Delaloye). There were no confirmed breeding records this year.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (5, 11, 15)

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 12 birds on the 18th January. Breeding probably occurred on site as indicated by the reports of recently fledged young in June and July.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (4, 8 3)

Irregular visitor usually on spring passage.

Four records and 6 days recorded is the best year for this species in the period 2004 – 2014. The first record was of a male found along the hedge between the big-field and Colney Heath Common on the 1st July (Steve Blake) - and still present the next day. The next record was of a female/juvenile type along the hedge between Tyttenhanger House and the River Colne on the 6th September. The third bird was found on the 13th September in the Tree Sparrow hedge, and the last bird, a female/immature, was in the hedge in the middle of the field north of the main pit on the 16th and 17th September. All together there were four birds – two of which stayed for more than a day – significantly there has only been one previous instance of a bird staying for more than one day - a single from the 2nd to 4th October 1990. A summary of days recorded for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Days Rec'd	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	3	6	17

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (5, 11, 7)

Uncommon passage migrant.

Three days-recorded this year - all of single birds and all in the autumn passage. Birds were seen on the 2nd and 6th September and on the 19th October; all the records were from the field north of the main pit. The bird on the 18th October is the latest ever recorded at Tyttenhanger, the previous record being held by a bird seen on the 8th October 1995. A summary of data from the last 11 years is provided below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	1	9	5	4	6	16	11	9	8	5	3
Earliest Date*	3 rd May	30 th Apr	NS	14 th Apr	1 st May	NS	24 th Apr	8 th May	NS	19 th Apr	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	31 st Aug	19 th Oct
Days Recorded	1	6	4	4	6	8	6	9	7	5	3

NS = no spring date: NA = no autumn date. *The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn – the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are shaded.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (5, 11, 6)

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

A reasonable year for this species with 9 days recorded – which means that you have to go as far back as 2008 to find a better year! The birds recorded (all males!) comprised: a male on 4th March, a male on the 8th September, first-year male on the 15th and 16th September, male on the 6th and 7th October, two males (one first-year) on the 8th and 9th October, and finally, another male on the 31st October. A summary of data for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days – 1st Winter Period	0	40	0	0	35	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bird Days – 2nd Winter Period	58	9	15	23	21	5	1	0	7	0	10
Number of Days Recorded	25	26	13	16	46	5	1	1	7	1	9

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (5, 11, 30)

Regular passage migrant, more frequent in spring.

A relatively poor year for this species with only 16 days-recorded across the two-migration periods, a total of just 18 bird days and a maximum of just three birds on the 7th April; all other records where of single birds. A summary of data from

the last 11 years is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird Days	13	9	63	16	24	40	44	56	32	71	18
Bird Days - Spring	13	9	58	15	5	29	29	30	30	67	10
Bird Days Autumn	0	0	5	1	19	11	15	26	2	4	8
Earliest Date*	20 th Mar	25 th Mar	25 th Mar	12 th Apr	15 th Mar	14 th Mar	20 th Mar	25 th Mar	17 th Mar	30 th Mar	19 th Mar
Latest Date*	ND	NA	3 rd Oct	7 th Sep	8 th Oct	1 st Oct	12 th Sep	8 th Oct	4 th Oct	18 th Sep	25 th Sep

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* (5, 11, 600)

Common winter visitor.

This was a very good year for this species – albeit a story of two winters! The first winter period yielded record counts for the period 2004-14 for January, February and March– with the count of 320 on the 17th February being the highest count in this period. The second winter period kicked-off poorly with no record in October (the first time between 2004-14 this has occurred) and the highest count in the second winter period was of 130 on the 1st November. In total there were 16 counts of 50 or more birds this year (15 in 2013 and 6 in 2012) with a maximum of 320 on the 17th February. A summary of monthly maxima from the last 5 years is shown below with the latest spring and earliest autumn dates from the last 11 years.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maxima 2014	200	320	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	50
Median 2004-2014*	62	96	76	3	0	0	0	0	0	25	55	50
Maximum 2004-2014*	200	320	300	118	1	0	0	0	5	100	190	100
Minimum 2004-2014*	6	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13

* Median, Maximum and Minimum Monthly Maxima for each month in the period 2004-14.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Median
Latest Spring Date	12 th Apr	20 th Mar	8 th Apr	8 th Apr	6 th Apr	7 th Mar	27 th Mar	8 th Apr	9 th Apr	12 th May	31 st Mar	8 th Apr
Earliest Autumn Date	9 th Oct	27 th Oct	28 th Oct	14 th Oct	30 th Oct	29 th Oct	18 th Sep	9 th Oct	27 th Oct	15 th Oct	1 st Nov	27 th Oct

The latest spring date and earliest autumn date in the last 11 years is highlighted.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* (5, 11, 617)

Common winter visitor.

A reasonable year for this species with 4 counts of 50 or more birds (6 in 2013 and 4 in 2012), a maximum in the first-winter period of 96 on the 2nd January and a high count in the second winter period of 85 on the 1st November. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Maxima 2014	96	45	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	85	6
Median 2004-2014*	50	45	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	40	16
Maximum 2004-2014*	125	200	125	50	0	0	0	0	0	617	150	60
Minimum 2004-2014*	6	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	2

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Median
Latest Spring Date	13 th Mar	12 th Mar	14 th Apr	5 th Apr	12 th Apr	17 th Mar	29 th Mar	26 th Mar	10 th Mar	13 th Apr	23 rd Mar	26 th Mar
Earliest Autumn Date	9 th Oct	16 th Oct	21 st Oct	30 th Sep	19 th Oct	28 th Oct	9 th Oct	13 th Oct	14 th Oct	7 th Oct	16 th Oct	27 th Oct

The latest spring date and earliest autumn date for the last 11 years is highlighted.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* (5, 11, 20)

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

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 10 birds on the 20th December. There were no confirmed breeding records for the year.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (5, 11, 13)*Breeding resident.*

Present throughout the year with a typical 3-4 singing males through spring and a maximum count of 5 birds on the 25th May, breeding was confirmed with a faecal sac/food seen being carried in May.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* (5, 11, 125)*Breeding resident and local migrant.*

Noted throughout the year with maximum counts of 14 birds seen on the 30th August and 12 birds on the 14th September. This would seem to be another year in which numbers did not build up significantly in late summer/early autumn as they have done in the past. As can be seen from the maximum counts and their dates for the last 11 years shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	54	30	21	34	30	17	29	32	24	8	14
Maximum Count date	11 th Sep	21 st Aug	27 th Aug	30 th Jul	10 th Sep	15 th Aug	4 th Oct	26 th Jul	10 th Jun	28 th Jul	30 th Aug

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (5, 11, 5)*Summer visitor and breeding species.*

Overall numbers were slightly down this year with 24 days recorded (35 in 2013 and 21 in 2012) and a maximum count of just 3 birds – albeit on 3 separate dates. Breeding was confirmed by two recently fledged young reported on the 14th June and one recently fledged young on the 5th August. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	15 th Apr	19 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	17 th Sep	6 th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (5, 11, 8)*Summer visitor and breeding species.*

This species continues to increase on-site with 53 days recorded (41 in 2013) and a maximum of 8 birds on the 12th and 17th May. There was no confirmed breeding this year - but we are reasonably sure they did breed on-site. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	16 th Apr	18 th Apr
Latest Date*	14 th Aug	28 th Aug	12 th Sep	9 th Sep	15 th Aug	5 th Sep	7 th Aug	19 th Sep	28 th Sep	6 th Aug	19 th Sep

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (5, 11, 10)*Common summer visitor and breeding species.*

A typical year for this species, recorded on 53 days (46 in 2013) with a maximum of 5 birds recorded on the 18th May. Breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 11th June and 14th July. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	14 th Apr	2 nd Apr
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	6 th Oct	18 th Oct

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* (5, 11, 5)*Regular summer visitor.*

Thirty-four days-recorded is much the same as last year (32) with a maximum of four birds - including young - seen on the 13th June. There was a maximum of three singing males reported in May and two recently fledged young were seen

on the 13th June and two juveniles on the 25th July. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	23 rd Apr	22 nd Apr
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	28 th Jul	14 th Aug

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* (5, 11, 4)

Frequent spring migrant/summer visitor. Breeding status uncertain.

Twenty records for the year is the best for the period 2004 – 2014 and includes two records of 2 birds on the 1st May and 7th June. A summary of arrival and departure data from the last 11 years along with days-recorded and bird-days is shown in the tables below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Earliest Date*	24 th Apr	29 th Apr	23 rd Apr	23 rd Apr	26 th Apr	15 th Apr	3 rd May	21 st Apr	2 nd May	21 st Apr	18 th Apr
Latest Date*	3 rd Jun	14 th Aug	7 th July	14 th Sep	29 th Aug	22 nd Aug	1 st Sep	24 th Jul	25 th Aug	27 th Jun	9 th Sep
Days Recorded	7	12	16	12	9	19	11	9	8	6	20
Bird Days	7	13	20	18	11	22	15	9	13	6	22

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* (5, 11, 20)

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

This is still the commonest warbler on site – albeit recorded less often than the following species! This year saw a maximum of 14 birds on the 4th May and 26th July and breeding was confirmed with reports of recently fledged young on the 7th and 22nd June and 8th July. A summary of earliest and latest dates and maximum counts for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	15 th Apr	11 th Apr
Latest Date*	19 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	24 th Sep	19 th Sep
Maximum Count	10	10	15	20	14	14	9	19	14	10	14

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (5, 11, 11)

Common summer visitor and breeding species.

There were a number of wintering birds this year with records from both winter periods – which is the first year this has happened. For wintering birds there was a single bird on the 4th February and then two birds on the 4th March. There was then a single bird on four dates in December and three on the 24th December. In all there have been a total of 28 bird-days recorded for over-wintering Chiffchaffs since 2005, which are broken down as follows:

Over-wintering Chiffchaffs ; Bird-days 2004-2014

	1 st Winter Period	2 nd Winter Period	Month	
2005	11	-	Jan	8
2009	-	8	Feb	4
2010	-	1	Nov	2
2014	1	7	Dec	14

Following the two birds on the 4th March there was a single bird seen on the 10th March – a very early migrant or an overwintering bird - we are inclined to treat it as the former. Numbers were good through spring with at least 10 birds noted on 21st April and breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 30th June. Ten birds again noted on the 28th August with good numbers in Autumn until the last migrant was seen on the 20th October. All in all this was a good year for this species being recorded on 89 days – including the winter records – which is the highest total for the period 2008-2014 (the period for which we currently have complete digitised data). A summary of earliest and latest dates along with days recorded from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	28 th Mar	10 th Mar
Latest Date*	30 th Oct	14 th Oct	12 th Oct	7 th Oct	15 th Oct	21 st Oct	6 th Oct	12 th Nov	30 th Oct	19 th Oct	20 th Oct

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Days Recorded	77	75	59	54	41	89

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (5,11, 8)

Regular summer visitor and breeding species.

Numbers increased from the low of 2012 (13) and were up on the 22 of last year. The maximum count for the year was of four birds on the 22nd April – which is a bit lower than most of the last several years - and there were no confirmed records of breeding. Interestingly the last record for the year was on the relatively late date of 4th October – but the interesting aspect of this record was that the previous record was over 5 weeks before that on the 28th August. A summary of earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years is shown below along with data on the number of days recorded for the period 2008-14.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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	15 th Apr	5 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	28 th Aug	4 th Oct

*The earliest date in spring and latest date in autumn - the earliest and latest dates for the last 11 years are highlighted.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Days Recorded	49	43	50	36	13	22

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (5, 11 10)

Small resident population supplemented by regular passage migrants and winter visitors, irregular breeder.

A species that is undoubtedly over-looked on-site but this year produced records from 20 days throughout the year. Intriguingly, there with four days-recorded between January and March and then no reports until the 27th July with a subsequent 15 days through till the end of the year. There were, not surprisingly, no confirmed records of breeding for the year and a maximum of just two birds. The number of days-recorded for each month in 2014 and in the period 2008-13 are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days Recorded 2014	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	4	6
Days Recorded 2008-13	18	10	21	12	3	7	4	19	12	17	15	20

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* (5,11, 6)

Declining passage migrant; has bred in the past years.

A better year for this species with six records - all of single birds and all in September (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 10th). It is tempting to speculate that they are all records of the same bird, however, specific locations given were both Garden Wood and Willows farm besides the more general "Tyttenhanger GPs" location – which indicates that there were at least 2 birds involved.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* (5, 11, 30)

Common resident and breeding species.

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 20+ birds on the 4th October, breeding was confirmed with birds seen carrying a faecal sac from a nest in April.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* (5, 11, 50)

Common resident and breeding species.

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 30 birds on the 19th February; breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 31st May.

Great Tit *Parus major* (5,11, 50)*Common resident and breeding species.*

Present throughout the year with a maximum of 28 birds on the 26th June, breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young seen on the 31st May and the 30th June.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* (5, 11, 5)*Resident and probable breeding species.*

Thirty-two days-recorded is the second best year on record for this species which, coupled with a record on-site record count of 5 birds on the 16th August, makes this a very good year indeed! Breeding was also confirmed this year with recently fledged young seen on the 10th August. A summary of days-recorded and maximum counts for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	12	29	27	13	20	17	37	18	11	18	32
Maximum Count	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	5

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* (2, 6, 2)*Previous resident and breeding species, irregular since 2006.*

A bird found singing in Plantation Wood on the 12th April (Ken & Linda Smith) is the first record since 2010. The bird was searched-for over the next couple of weeks - without any luck - indicating this was probably a local wanderer.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* (5, 11, 3)*Common resident and probable breeding species.*

Reported in nine months of the year (7 in 2013) with 15 days-recorded and a maximum of two birds on two dates in December this all adds-up to a reasonable year for this species. There were no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of days-recorded for the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	18	17	20	12	19	5	12	12	7	10	15

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* (5, 11, 4)*Common resident and probable breeding species.*

Reported in 9 months of the year (8 in 2013) with 17 days-recorded and a maximum count of two birds on the 12th and 31st May. There was some evidence of breeding this year with a bird seen carrying a faecal sac/food on the 12th May.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* (5, 11, 15)*Common resident.*

Reported in all months of the year with a maximum of 10 birds on the 30th September; interestingly this is only the 5th on-site count of 10 or more birds - the other 4 all being in September/October 2012. There was no evidence of breeding this year.

Magpie *Pica pica* (5, 11, 55)*Common resident.*

Present throughout the year with 21 counts of 10 or more birds and a maximum count of 23 birds on the 18th March; there was no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of maximum counts for this and the other common corvids for the last 11 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Magpie	19	26	24	22	16	21	28	29	36	22	23
Carrion Crow	50	150	250	150	107	50	40	74	44	70	100
Rook	41	108	68	67	30	74	21	40	117	80	50
Jackdaw	200	175	500	322	300	200	60	50	280	100	70

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* (5, 11, 117)*Local breeder and relatively common visitor to the site.*

A species whose status on-site appears to have gone un-noticed in the last couple of years as the maximum counts provide no indications of anything untoward. However, an examination of the days-recorded since 2008 (the start of fully digitised data) – shown in the table below – indicates that this species is rapidly becoming much less frequent on-site. With the exception of the count of 50 birds on 22nd December, other counts are all of 3 or less birds. Unsurprisingly there were no records of breeding this year. Clearly a species we will be keeping an eye on in the near future.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	63	49	32	38	40	18	11

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* (5, 11, 250)
Common resident.

Present throughout the year with 9 counts of 50 or more birds compared to just 3 in the period 2009-2013! There was no evidence of breeding and a summary of maximum yearly counts for the last 11 years are shown in the table above.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* (5, 11, 500)
Local breeder and common visitor to the site.

Present throughout the year with 7 counts of 40 or more birds and a maximum of 70 birds on the 3rd December – interesting the same day as the site-record count of 500 birds in 2006. As usual, there was no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of maximum yearly counts for the last 11 years are shown in the table above.

Raven *Corvus corax* (3, 4, 2).
Infrequent visitor.

Only one record for the year (7th record for the site) of 2 birds flying over the hide on the 14th September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (5, 11, 10000)
Common resident and winter visitor.

Reported throughout the year with 11 counts of 100 or more birds - but as usual there were no records of breeding. A summary of maximum counts for the last 11 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	300	200	400	300	220	200	300	400	500	250	380

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (5, 11, 100)
Breeding resident and frequent visitor from other local breeding populations.

By any standards this was an excellent year for this species following the apparent decline of the last couple of years. There were a total of 172 days recorded – which may well be a year-record for any resident breeding species on-site and nearly two-fold better than any other year in the period 2004-13! There were 35 counts of 10 or more birds – also far and away the best since 2004 - and breeding was confirmed with 3 or 4 broods noted in June/July and second broods in August. The only “low” point is the maximum count for the years which was “only” 19 – but it must be remembered that birds are distributed between two sites these days and on 23rd June one observer noted “at least 44 Tree Sparrows in the area”. A phenomenal year by anybodies standards and one that we hope is only bettered in years to come. An inadequate summary of the date from this and previous years is presented in the figure and tables below.

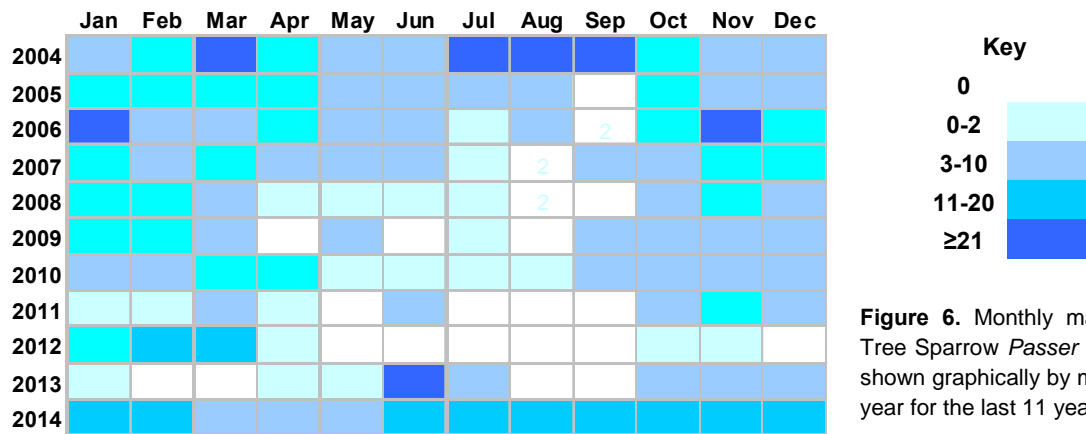


Figure 6. Monthly maxima for Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* shown graphically by month and year for the last 11 years.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	90	84	89	93	76	62	98	63	37	41	179
Counts of 10 or more	24	18	13	9	9	4	3	2	2	1	35
Maximum count	41	20	25	20	18	14	10	12	13	28	19

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days Recorded	17	14	18	14	18	19	11	11	19	12	9	17

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (5, 11, 36)

Small resident populations around Willows Farm and in Colney Heath.

Reported throughout most of the year – with the exception of November – there was a maximum count of 10 birds on the 27th March.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	11	15	36	29	14	20	15	20	18	6	10
Days Recorded	NA	NA	NA	NA				27	12	26	18

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* (5, 11, 100)

Common resident and probable breeding species.

Reported throughout the year in very small numbers and again no breeding records. Maximum counts and count dates for the last 11 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	25	37	50	8	25	21	50	70	4	7	8
Count Date	15 th Feb	11 th Feb	5 th Sep	25 th Mar	8 th Nov	19 th Dec	27 th Nov	2 nd Nov	SDs*	18 th Aug	2 nd Jan

* Indicates the same count was made on several days.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (5, 11, 100)

Common resident and probable breeding species.

Present throughout the year with 17 counts of 20 or more birds (7 in 2013) and 5 counts of 50 or more birds (1 in 2013) – but there were no breeding records this year. The maximum count was of 100 birds on 4th September – which is the highest count in the period 2004 – 2014 and equals the record on-site count made on 6th August 1993. Maximum counts and count dates for the last 11 years are shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count	30	32	30	30	26	37	52	32	50	89	100
Count Date	28 th Nov	30 th Jul	SDs*t	07 th Jan	3 rd Oct	21 st Oct	11 th Jan	11 th Mar	27 th Aug	18 th Aug	4 th Sep

* Indicates the same count was made on several dates.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* (5, 11, 80)

Regular winter visitor.

With only five records for the year, this is a species that clearly has its up and down on-site as the table below shows!. There was just one double-figure count this year - of 14 birds on the 28th December in the Car Park at Willow's Farm. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded – 1st WP*	1	3	20	3	3	1	3	8	18	38	1
Days Recorded – 2nd WP*	0	14	0	4	0	0	1	7	18	11	4
Maximum Count	1	15	7	4	2	1	6	10	20	28	14

*WP = Winter Period

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* (5, 11, 120)

Frequent winter visitor - usually along the River Colne at Colney Heath.

A very bad year for this species with just one record of six birds along the River Colne at Colney Heath on the 2nd January. A summary of data for the last 11 years is presented below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1st Winter Period Days	6	6	11	1	9	7	5	9	3	2	1
Latest Spring Date	23 st Feb	5 th Mar	10 th Apr	27 th Jan	7 th Mar	28 th Mar	6 th Mar	12 th Mar	3 rd Mar	27 th Mar	NA
2nd Winter Period Days	3	11	2	4	11	5	5	8	5	2	0
Earliest Autumn Date	28 th Nov	14 th Sep	11 th Nov	4 th Oct	21 st Sep	18 th Oct	17 th Oct	1 st Oct	14 th Oct	2 nd Nov	NA
Maximum Count	100	100	40	11	100	120	80	60	60	9	6
Maximum Count Date	5 th Jan	24 th Dec	7 th Jan	19 th Dec	30 th Sep	12 th Dec	11 th Dec	5 th Nov	20 th Oct	11 th Dec	2 nd Jan

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (5, 11, 350)

Common resident and breeding species; large winter flocks often present.

Reported throughout the year with counts of 50 or more birds on 5 days (1 in 2013 and 10 in 2012) - all in the second winter period. The maximum count for the year was of 150 birds on the 22nd October. A summary of data from the last 11 years is shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum Count – 1st WP*	60	40	70	6	5	25	200	70	24	34	30
Maximum Count – 2nd WP*	100	100	30	30	50	104	80	64	94	120	150

*WP = Winter Period

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (5, 11; 200)

Common resident and breeding species with winter flocks commonly noted.

Four counts of 20 or more birds again this year (5 in 2013 and 9 in 2012) with one in the first winter period and three in the second winter period. There was no evidence of breeding this year. A summary of counts of 20 or more birds and maximum counts from the last 11 years are shown below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Counts of 20 or more	NA	1	8	14	8	12	16	8	8	5	4
Maximum Count	40	50	45	80	110	150	150	150	200	79	80

NA = data currently not available.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* (3, 9; 9)

Regular/irruptive winter visitor.

After two blanks years it is good to have this species back (just!) with a single record of a female by the Amazing Maze field on the 26th October.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (5, 11, 12)

Resident, probably breeds.

Reported in only 8 months of the year with a maximum of 5 birds on the 20th and 24th January – which equals the previous largest counts for the period 2004-2014. The majority of days-recorded (18 of 30) were in the months of January and December – which are the most frequent months this species has been observed in the last 11 years. The recording frequency for this species of 12.0% (9 records from 75 visits by one regular observer) is also the median for the last 11 years! A summary of recording frequency for the last 11 years is shown in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Recording Rate	22.4%	28.4%	13.6%	7.8%	6.1%	8.2%	11.6%	14.6%	26.1%	11.5%	12.0%

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (5, 11, 50)

Regular winter visitor especially around Tyttenhanger Farm.

Undoubtedly the worst year for this species since 2004 – even though e-records are yet to be updated completely for 2004-07. However, with just two days-recorded – 7 birds on 6th December and 1 on the 14th December all is not as bad as it might seem as there were an additional; 20 days recorded close-by (Coursers Road). The latter observation obviously begs the question why that site has become so much more attractive to this species? Irrespective, a summary of e-data from the last 7 years is provided below.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Days Recorded	46	64	63	48	34	10	2
Bird days	366	598	291	276	156	16	8
Counts ≥ 10	18	23	4	7	3	0	0

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (5, 11, 14)

Resident with a small number of presumed breeding pairs.

Reported throughout the year with two singing males noted on-site in spring and a bird seen carrying nest material on the 27th April and a bird carrying a faecal sac /food on the 9th May all providing evidence of breeding. There was a maximum of 6 birds seen on two days in February.

Temminck’s Stints 19th – 22nd May 2014

I was on my usual circuit of Tyttenhanger, and had seen a couple of Little Ringed Plover and a lone Common Sandpiper on the Fishing Lake. I reached the Main Pit full of my usual optimism; but - as on many occasions before – nothing.

I decided that I would refill the “Tree Sparrow feeder” then return to the viewpoint on the east bank for another look over the pit from a different angle - still nothing! Then, I noticed movement amongst the short vegetation on the point of the sand spit. Two small Waders were moving in and out of the weeds! Because of a combination of the long distance and strong sunshine, that was ‘bleaching out’ the patterning and colours on the birds, I found it extremely difficult to get any inkling of what species they were.

This was the beginning of a very frustrating period of time. I could not get a decent shot from that distance and was running around the pit, from one viewpoint to another! And all the time,



these little waders insisted on moving around, usually out of sight again! To add to my frustration, all of the usual reliable local birders, for one reason or another, were not available to help me until later in the afternoon.

When help finally arrived, his presence immediately flushed the birds and they were not seen again that day.....great!!

I emailed a poor picture to a couple of birders, and their verdict was - Temminck’s Stint.

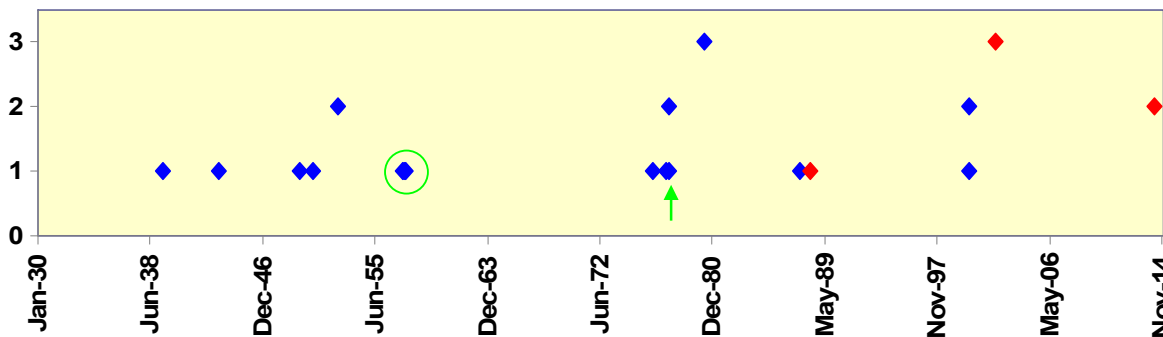
The next day, my luck was in, as the birds had stayed overnight. And with the luxury of better light, and a few LRP’s around for size comparison, was able to put the news out to the masses, who over the next 3 days were able to see and photograph these ever confiding birds!

Steve Blake

Photographs courtesy of Simon West

Temminck’s Stint in Hertfordshire

The first of 19 records of this species in Hertfordshire is of a single bird at Tring Reservoirs on 24th May 1939. Until the birds described above there are a further 6 records at Tring Reservoirs (all before 1978) along with 4 from Rye Meads (1957 and 2000), Stanstead Abbots (1977), Royston Sewage Farm (1977), Broxbourne (1980) and Amwell (1987). Since the flooding of the gravel workings at Tyttenhanger in the early 1980s it has clearly been the pre-eminent Hertfordshire site for what has been termed a “rare passage migrant” in the county (Smith *et al.*, 2015) - notching-up 3 of the 5 records since 1988 (see below).



Time-line showing the date of first occurrence for the 19 records of Temminck’s Stint in Hertfordshire. Records from Tyttenhanger are shown in red, a cluster of 3 records from Rye Meads in 1957 are circled in green, and the two records in 1977 are indicated by the green arrow.

Escapes & Birds of Uncertain Origin

Domestic Goose *Anser sp.*

Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 50 birds on the 18th March. Breeding was noted with 3 young seen in late June.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

There were 12 records this year - all of single birds from Tyttenhanger House

Appendix 1

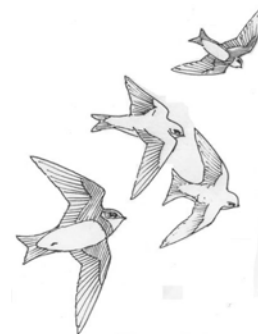
Arrival and Departure Dates for Common Migrants

Arrival dates for 2013 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	21 st Apr (1 st Apr)	15 th Oct (7 th Oct)
Little Ringed Plover	8 th Apr (9 th Mar)	17 th Aug (1 st Oct)
Common Sandpiper	30 th Mar (28 th Mar) ⁽¹⁾	27 th Oct (8 th Nov)
Common Tern	9 th Apr (4 th Apr)	22 nd Sep (27 th Sep)
Cuckoo	19 th Apr (25 th Mar)	19 th Sep (25 th Sep)
Sand Martin	20 th Mar (15 th Mar)	4 th Sep (7 th Oct)
Swallow	29 th Mar (25 th Mar)	12 th Oct (22 nd Oct)
House Martin	10 th Apr (31 st Mar)	24 th Sep (5 th Nov)
Yellow Wagtail	11 th Apr (30 th Mar)	1 st Sep (5 th Oct)
Whinchat	NR (14 th Apr)	19 th Oct (8 th Oct)
Wheatear	19 th Mar (14 th Mar)	25 th Sep (8 th Oct)
Sedge Warbler	19 th Apr (7 th Apr)	6 th Sep (14 th Sep)
Reed Warbler	18 th Apr (7 th Apr)	19 th Sep (28 th Sep)
Willow Warbler	5 th Apr (18 th Mar)	4 th Oct (12 th Oct)
Chiffchaff	10 th Mar (9 th Mar) ⁽²⁾	20 th Oct (30 th Oct) ⁽²⁾
Blackcap	2 nd Apr (28 th Mar)	18 th Oct (30 th Oct)
Garden Warbler	22 nd Apr (17 th Apr)	14 th Aug (17 th Sep)
Whitethroat	11 th Apr (4 th Apr)	19 th Sep (2 nd Oct)
Lesser Whitethroat	18 th Apr (15 th Apr)	9 th Sep (14 th Sep)
Spotted Flycatcher	NR (10 th May)	10 th Sep (25 th Sep)
Winter Migrants		
Golden Plover	28 th Nov (29 th Sep)	23 rd Mar (10 th May)
Fieldfare	27 th Oct (18 th Sep)	31 st Mar (12 th May)
Redwing	16 th Oct (30 th Sep)	23 rd Mar (14 th Apr)
Siskin	NR (21 st Sep)	2 nd Jan (10 th Apr)
Lesser Redpoll	8 th Nov (14 th Oct)	16 th Mar (23 rd Apr)

⁽¹⁾ A bird on the 31st January 2005 is considered an overwintering bird rather than a migrant.

⁽²⁾ Records from November through to February are treated as overwintering rather than migrant birds.



SPECIES YEARLISTS FOR TYTTENHANGER GRAVEL PITS 2004-2014

The following is a list of species that have occurred at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits for which we have located 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 2013. Some records for 2014 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 and records shaded in **blue** are first records for the site. Note, in the case of some species (e.g. Whooper Swan, Barnacle Goose) the first record is taken as the first recorded year after the species was admitted to the relevant category of the British List. The list also shows the first year for which we are able to find records for each species. Most of these dates are drawn from the Hertfordshire Bird Report – but we would suggest that anybody with earlier records for any of the species listed contact the editors.

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mute Swan	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bewick's Swan	1985	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Whooper Swan	2004	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-fronted Goose	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bean Goose (Tundra)	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Greylag Goose	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Canada Goose	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barnacle Goose	2006	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Brent Goose	1996	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Egyptian Goose	1993	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Shelduck	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mandarin Duck	1988	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Wigeon	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gadwall	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Teal	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mallard	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pintail	1985	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Garganey	1986	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Shoveler	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-crested Pochard	1988	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Pochard	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tufted Duck	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scaup	2007	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Scoter	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	1983	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Smew	1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Goosander	1988	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Ruddy Duck	1989	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Red-legged Partridge	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Partridge	1983	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Pheasant	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Little Grebe	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Crested Grebe	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-necked Grebe	2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Cormorant	1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shag	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bittern	1996	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Great White Egret	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Little Egret	1999	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Heron	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black Stork	1990	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Stork	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Glossy Ibis	2009	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Honey-Buzzard	1987	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Kite	2004	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Montague's Harrier	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Marsh-Harrier	1991	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Goshawk	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sparrowhawk	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Buzzard	1991	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Osprey	1988	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Kestrel	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Merlin	1996	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hobby	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Water Rail	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moorhen	1992	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coot	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oystercatcher	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-winged Stilt	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avocet	1988	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Stone Curlew	2002	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Ringed Plover	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ringed Plover	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Golden Plover	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Plover	1987	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lapwing	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Knot	1986	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Sanderling	1986	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Little Stint	1987	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temminck's Stint	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dunlin	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruff	1984	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Jack Snipe	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Snipe	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodcock	1995	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black-tailed Godwit	1987	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1987	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Whimbrel	1986	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Curlew	1986	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Spotted Redshank	1985	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Redshank	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenshank	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Green Sandpiper	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wood Sandpiper	1985	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turnstone	1991	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mediterranean Gull	2001	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Little Gull	1987	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Black-headed Gull	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Common Gull	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yellow-legged Gull	1996	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Caspian Gull	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Herring Gull	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iceland Gull	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kittiwake	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Little Tern	1988	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Black Tern	1987	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Sandwich Tern	1996	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Common Tern	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Arctic Tern	1992	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feral Pigeon	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stock Dove	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodpigeon	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Collared-Dove	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turtle-Dove	1986	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Parakeet	1993	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Cuckoo	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barn Owl	1997	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Little Owl	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tawny Owl	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Long-eared Owl	1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-eared Owl	1998	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Swift	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kingfisher	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hoopoe	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Green Woodpecker	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1990	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1984	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Wryneck	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Short-toed Lark	1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skylark	1995	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sand Martin	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swallow	1988	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
House Martin	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tree Pipit	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meadow Pipit	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rock Pipit	1992	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Pipit	1992	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Yellow Wagtail	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grey Wagtail	1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pied Wagtail	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Waxwing	2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Wren	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dunnock	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Robin	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nightingale	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Redstart	1988	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Redstart	1989	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Whinchat	1989	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stonechat	1985	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wheatear	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ring Ouzel	1987	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Blackbird	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fieldfare	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	First Record	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Song Thrush	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Redwing	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mistle Thrush	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grasshopper Warbler	1985	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedge Warbler	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reed Warbler	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blackcap	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garden Warbler	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1987	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whitethroat	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dartford Warbler	2006	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Warbler	1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chiffchaff	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Willow Warbler	1990	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goldcrest	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Firecrest	1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Spotted Flycatcher	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pied Flycatcher	1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Long-tailed Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blue Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coal Tit	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Willow Tit	1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh Tit	1990	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nuthatch	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Treecreeper	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-backed Shrike	1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jay	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magpie	1992	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jackdaw	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rook	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carrion Crow	1988	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Raven	2009	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Starling	1988	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
House Sparrow	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tree Sparrow	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chaffinch	1991	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brambling	1999	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Greenfinch	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goldfinch	1984	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Siskin	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Linnet	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lesser Redpoll	1994	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mealy Redpoll	2005	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Crossbill	1991	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	1996	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hawfinch	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Snow Bunting	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowhammer	1983	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reed Bunting	1986	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Corn Bunting	1987	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		137	136	142	132	137	135	139	140	138	133	132