

The Birds of Richmond Park National Nature Reserve 2001-2010



A summary of ten years of records by the
Richmond Park Bird Recording Group

Species		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Mute Swan	Resident. Up to three pairs breed annually.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Greylag Goose	Feral birds occasionally visit Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canada Goose	Common resident. A few birds breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Brent Goose	Rare visitor. A flock of 17 flew low over Pen Ponds 20 th Mar 2005.					✓					
Egyptian Goose	Feral population establishing. Bred for the first time in 2001 and annually since then.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Shelduck	Occasional visitor. Escaped captives confuse the picture.	✓							✓		
Mandarin Duck	Resident. Several pairs breed over a wide area of the Park each year.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eurasian Wigeon	Early winter visitor in small numbers. Few remain after the turn of the year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	Common early winter visitor. Numbers decrease after the turn of the year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Teal	Regular winter visitor in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard	Common resident breeder. Numbers swollen by winter visitors	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pintail	Rare winter visitor. These records are thought to be of wild birds, but they might possibly have escaped from collections.			✓			✓				✓
Shoveler	Regular winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Crested Pochard	Birds presumed to be from the feral population at Bushy Park are now regular at Pen Ponds. One pair bred in 2007 & 2008.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	✓	✓
Pochard	Small summer population, occasional breeder.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	B	B
Tufted Duck	Small summer population. One or two pairs sometimes breed. Numbers increase in Winter.	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	✓	B	B	✓
Common Scoter	Rare passage migrant. Four drakes at Pen Ponds on 13 April 2009 were the first since 1948.									✓	
Goosander	Uncommon winter visitor to Pen Ponds in cold weather		✓	✓							
Ruddy Duck	Feral birds have been regular at Pen Ponds. However a Defra authorised national cull means they will become a rare sight.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Legged Partridge	Occasional birds of doubtful origin seen near Ladderstile Gate.					✓					✓
Pheasant	Lost as breeding resident. Now an occasional visitor.					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Grebe	Regular passage migrant in small numbers. No longer breeds. Becoming less common.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	Present at Pen Ponds all year. Attempts to breed most years, sometimes unsuccessfully.	B	B	B	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	✓
Gannet	A juvenile flew over on 4th October 2008								✓		
Cormorant	Regular visitor to Pen Ponds and often seen overflying the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bittern	Rare winter visitor to the reedbed at Pen Ponds.		✓	✓	✓						
Little Egret	Uncommon visitor but becoming more regular.	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Honey Buzzard	Rare passage migrant.								✓		
Red Kite	Uncommon visitor, increasingly regular.		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsh Harrier	Rare passage migrant.					✓	✓				✓
Hen Harrier	Rare visitor. A ringtail was seen over Pond Slade 31 Oct 2008.								✓		
Sparrowhawk	Resident. A few pairs usually breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓	B
Common Buzzard	Increasingly frequent visitor and passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rough Legged Buzzard	Rare visitor. One was photographed over Pen Ponds on 27th October 2007							✓			
Osprey	Rare passage migrant.	✓						✓			✓
Kestrel	Resident. Several pairs usually breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Hobby	Summer visitor. A few pairs breed locally outside the Park and come in to hunt.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	A bird seen in Jun 2004 was the first seen since 1957. This species now breeds in London and is being seen in the Park occasionally.				✓				✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	Resident breeder. This secretive species is heard far more often than it is seen around Pen Ponds reedbed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B
Moorhen	Common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Coot	The summer resident breeding population is boosted by a large number of winter visitors.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Stone Curlew	Rare passage migrant. Prior to bird seen in in 2004, not seen since 1957.				✓						✓
Golden Plover	Rare visitor. A flock of about 150 were seen flying over on 25th Feb 2002.		✓								
Grey Plover	Rare visitor. One seen overflying in May 2008 was the second record for the Park.								✓		
Lapwing	Sometimes seen flying over the Park in small flocks, especially in cold weather.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunlin	One at Pen Ponds 12th September 2009.									✓	
Jack Snipe	Occasional winter visitor.				✓				✓		
Snipe	Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Favours damp or boggy areas.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodcock	Regular winter visitor in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whimbrel	Rare passage migrant.	✓							✓	✓	
Curlew	Scarce visitor.						✓	✓			
Redshank	Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor.				✓	✓					
Greenshank	Uncommon passage migrant.	✓			✓	✓				✓	

Species		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Green Sandpiper	Occasional passage migrant and winter visitor in freezing conditions.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Wood Sandpiper	Rare passage migrant. One in Jul 2004 was only the second record for the Park				✓						
Common Sandpiper	Regular passage migrant in small numbers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mediterranean Gull	Rare winter visitor.			✓			✓	✓			
Little Gull	Rare visitor. One seen in Nov 2001 was the first record for the Park. A second bird was seen in May 2004	✓			✓						
Black Headed Gull	Common visitor to Pen Ponds outside of the breeding season.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring Billed Gull	Rare vagrant from North America. One in Feb 2002 was the first for the Park.		✓								
Common Gull	Fairly common winter visitor, especially to Pen Ponds. In addition, as with Black Headed Gull, many overfly the Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black Backed Gull	Fairly regular visitor to Pen Ponds in small numbers. Large numbers overfly to and from their roosting sites to the west.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Herring Gull	Occasional visitor to Pen Ponds. Small parties often cruise low over but rarely land. Large numbers overfly at height (as LBB Gull).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow Legged Gull	Rare visitor. One seen in Jan 2009 on the ice of Pen Ponds.									✓	
Great Black Backed Gull	Uncommon winter visitor, usually in harsh weather. Many overfly, commuting to and from roosting sites to the west.						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Tern	Passage migrant and post-breeding summer visitor. In 2010 one pair nested on the newly installed tern raft. Unfortunately the chick drowned near to fledging.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
Feral Pigeon	Common resident breeder concentrated mainly around Pembroke and White Ash Lodges	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Stock Dove	Common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Woodpigeon	Common resident breeder. Numbers increase in winter with the arrival of continental birds.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Collared Dove	Occasional visitor. One pair resident and breeding in Sidmouth Wood.	✓		B	✓		✓	B	B	B	B
Turtle Dove	Uncommon passage migrant.	✓	✓			✓					✓
Ring-necked Parakeet	Abundant resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cuckoo	Passage migrant in small numbers. No longer thought to breed. Becoming less common	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barn Owl	Highly elusive, but occasionally seen after dark.		✓	✓						✓	✓
Little Owl	Resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tawny Owl	Resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Long Eared Owl	A pair attempted (unsuccessfully) to breed in spring 2009. The first confirmed record for the Park.									✓	
Short Eared Owl	Occasional winter visitor.					✓			✓		✓
Nightjar	Rare passage migrant.						✓			✓	
Common Swift	Common summer visitor. Nests in buildings outside the Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingfisher	Regularly seen along Beverley Brook and also seen at Pen Ponds. Has bred in the Park.	B	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	B	✓	✓
Green Woodpecker	Common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Uncommon resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Woodlark	Rare passage migrant								✓		
Skylark	Breeding population has increased a little in recent years. Number of wintering birds varies with the weather conditions.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Sand Martin	Passage migrant and summer visitor to Pen Ponds in small numbers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow	Common passage migrant. Two or three pairs now regularly breed.	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
House Martin	Common passage migrant. A few feed over the Park in summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	Formerly bred but now a rare passage migrant.						✓			✓	
Meadow Pipit	Winter visitor, passage migrant. The small breeding population may have been lost.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓
Yellow Wagtail	Uncommon passage migrant. A handful of birds are seen most years but rarely land in the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	Fairly common along Beverley Brook and occasionally seen elsewhere.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	✓
Pied Wagtail	Occasionally breeds in the Park. Regular small numbers in winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	B	B	✓	B
Waxwing	Rare winter visitor. Three reported near Pen Ponds in Oct 2003, also at Bishops Lodge in Feb 2005			✓		✓					
Wren	Abundant resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Duncock	Fairly common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Robin	Common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Black Redstart	Scarce passage migrant, occasionally found in Holly Lodge paddocks.				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Common Redstart	Uncommon passage migrant. Formerly bred in the Park until the early 1970's	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Whinchat	Fairly common passage migrant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Species		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Stonechat	The small breeding population suffered in the winters of 2009 and 2010. Hopefully their disappearance will be temporary.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓
Northern Wheatear	Fairly common passage migrant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring Ouzel	Occasional passage migrant.	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Blackbird	Common resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Fieldfare	Winter visitor. Large numbers arrive in October but by the turn of the year they become scarce.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Songthrush	Resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Redwing	Common winter visitor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	Resident breeder	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Grasshopper Warbler	Rare passage migrant. One held a territory for a month near to Lower Pen Pond in 2008.			✓			✓		✓		
Sedge Warbler	Uncommon passage migrant	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed Warbler	Summer visitor. A small number breed in the Pen Ponds reedbed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Blackcap	Common breeding summer visitor	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Garden Warbler	Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor. A few pairs breed most years.	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓	B
Lesser Whitethroat	Uncommon passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Whitethroat	Summer visitor. Breeding population now well established and spreading.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dartford Warbler	Uncommon winter visitor. The harsh winters of 2009 and 2010 have hit this species hard and it may be a few years before we see them again.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wood Warbler	Passage migrant - now rare.			✓							
Chiffchaff	Common breeding summer visitor. The odd individual may now overwinter.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Willow Warbler	Fairly common passage migrant. Occasionally breeds	✓	✓	B	✓	B	✓	B	✓	B	✓
Goldcrest	Resident. A few pairs breed. Numbers increase in winter	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Firecrest	Rare passage migrant	✓	✓					✓	✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	Regular but scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓
Pied Flycatcher	Rare passage migrant.		✓					✓			
Long Tailed Tit	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Blue Tit	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Great Tit	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Coal Tit	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Nuthatch	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Treecreeper	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Golden Oriole	Rare passage migrant.				✓	✓	✓				
Red Backed Shrike	Rare passage migrant.								✓		✓
Great Grey Shrike	Rare winter visitor.		✓								
Woodchat Shrike	Rare vagrant.					✓					
Jay	Common breeding resident. Numbers increased in autumn by birds from the continent.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Magpie	Common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Jackdaw	Abundant breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rook	Rare visitor. Single birds overflew the Park in 2008 and 2010.								✓		✓
Carrion Crow	Common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raven	Rare visitor.								✓		
Starling	Common but decreasing breeding resident and winter visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
House Sparrow	Formerly common resident. Not seen since 2008.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Chaffinch	Fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Brambling	Scarce winter visitor in small numbers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch	Fairly common breeding resident. Number increasing.	✓	✓	B	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B
Goldfinch	Fairly common resident. Believed to be breeding in recent years.	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	B
Siskin	Winter visitor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linnet	Scarce passage migrant. A few birds overfly in spring and autumn most years.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Redpoll	Winter visitor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mealy Redpoll	The 'continental' Redpoll has recently been classified as a separate species. Scarce winter visitor.								✓		✓
Common Crossbill	Scarce visitor during irruptive years.					✓				✓	✓
Bullfinch	Occasional visitor	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Hawfinch	Rare visitor. Single bird seen with Greenfinches in April 2010.										✓
Yellowhammer	Rare visitor. Bred in the Park until the mid 1970's		✓							✓	
Reed Bunting	Fairly common breeding resident	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

The following escaped or feral exotic birds have also been seen in this 10 year period.

Black Swan	Seen at Pen Ponds in 2002, 2003
Bar Headed Goose	At Pen Ponds in 2001, 2002, 2003
Carolina Wood Duck	2? Arrived at Pegs Pond, Isabella Plantation in 2004
Chiloe Wigeon	At Pen Ponds in 2002
Aythya hybrid	One in Isabella Plantation in 2001, 2002 perhaps a Pochard x Ferruginous crossbreed

Totals (excluding escaped or non-naturalised feral exotic species)

Total number of species recorded in 10 year period: **156** of which 62 are thought to have bred.

Total number of species recorded since records began in 1921: **208**

Compiled for the Richmond Park Bird Recording Group by Tim Howard 2010. Sources: RPBRG & LNHS records. Cover painting by Jan Wilczur 2011