

# **The Birds of Richmond Park National Nature Reserve 2010-2019**



Great Crested Grebes

**A summary of ten years of records by  
The Richmond Park Bird Group**

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mute Swan	Res	Breeds Annually. One or two pairs.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Whooper Swan	RareWV	First record, one on Upper Pen Pond 2nd December 2019.										✓
Greylag Goose	U	Occasional visitors. Recently young hatched but then lost.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B
Canada Goose	Res	Common resident. A few birds breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Barnacle Goose	Rare	Eight flew over on 13th May 2019. First Park record.										✓
Egyptian Goose	Res	Feral population established since breeding in 2001.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Shelduck	U	Occasional visitors.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Mandarin Duck	Res	Several pairs breed over a wide area of the Park each year.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eurasian Wigeon	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Teal	RegWV	Winter visitor in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard	Res	Numbers swollen by winter visitors.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pintail	RareWV	A female seen on 17th November 2018.	✓					✓	✓		✓	
Garganey	Rare	Single drake on Upper Pen Pond 23rd April 2011.		✓								
Shoveler	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Crested Pochard	RegV	One pair bred in 2007 & 2008 and another in 2018.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓
Pochard	RegV	Small summer population, occasionally breeds.	B	✓	B	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	B	✓
Tufted Duck	Res	A few pairs usually breed. Numbers increase in Winter.	✓	B	✓	B	B	B	✓	B	B	B
Goosander	Rare	One Dec. 2015. 14 over in Nov. 2018. Two at Pen Ponds Feb. 2019.						✓			✓	✓
Goldeneye	Rare	Three singles seen during 2016. Two females seen October 2018.		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Smew	RareWV	Pair at Pen Ponds on 2nd February 2015.						✓				
Ruddy Duck	Rare	Once seen regularly at Pen Ponds, a Defra authorised national cull has all but exterminated these feral birds in the UK.			✓							
Red Legged Partridge	Rare	One took up long-term residence in 2018.			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Pheasant	U	Lost as breeding resident. Now an occasional visitor.	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
Glossy Ibis	Rare	Migrant flying over on 18th September 2017 was a Park first.								✓		
Spoonbill	Rare	Six over the Park 12th September 2013. First record since 1976.				✓						
Little Grebe	U	Scarce winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	Res	Present in small numbers at Pen Ponds all year.	✓	B	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓	B
Red-necked Grebe	Rare	Single on 5th October 2013 only the fourth Park record.				✓						
Black-necked Grebe	Rare	Passage migrant. A pair on 13th May 2012.			✓							
Slavonian Grebe	RareWV	One, Upper Pen Pond 29th November 2019, first record since 1939.										✓
Cormorant	RegV	Regular visitor to Pen Ponds. 2019 marked first breeding record.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
Cattle Egret	Rare	One at Pen Ponds briefly on 13th April 2017 was first for Park.								✓		
Little Egret	U	One or two seen on Beverley Brook and Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Egret	Rare	One fly-over on 26th November 2012 was Park first. Four in 2018.			✓						✓	✓
Grey Heron	Res	Breeds at the Pen Ponds.	B	B	Pb	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Honey Buzzard	Rare	Passage migrant flying over.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Kite	U	Uncommon visitor, but increasingly seen.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsh Harrier	Rare	Passage migrant occasionally seen overflying the Park.	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
Hen Harrier	Rare	One flew over on 13th November 2016.							✓			
Montagu Harrier	Rare	A male flew over on 18th April 2011. Only third record for Park.		✓								
Goshawk	Rare	First ever record, flying over on 24th September 2013.				✓						
Sparrowhawk	Res	A few pairs usually breed.	B	B	Pb	B	B	Pb	B	B	B	B
Common Buzzard	RegV	Increasingly frequent visitor and passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B
Osprey	Rare	Passage migrant.	✓				✓		✓			✓
Kestrel	Res	Several pairs usually breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Merlin	Rare	One flew over on 25th September 2015. Only the third Park record.						✓				
Hobby	RegSV	Summer visitor. A pair bred in the Park.	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	✓
Peregrine Falcon	U	Breeding locally and occasionally seen in the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	Res/Sc	Elusive resident breeder, often heard in Pen Ponds reedbed.	B	B	Pb	B	Pb	B	Pb	B	B	B
Moorhen	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Coot	Res	Breeding resident with larger numbers in winter.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Common Crane	Rare	First record, one heard calling near Pen Ponds on 11th Jan. 2018.										✓
Stone Curlew	Rare	Rare visitor. One on March 28th 2010.	✓									
Oystercatcher	Rare	One on 30th April 2019 was only the fifth Park record.					✓		✓			✓
Golden Plover	RareWV	Flocks (one of 24) over twice in 2018. Previously seen in 2002.										✓
Lapwing	Sc	Scarce visitor to Pen Ponds. Flocks may overfly in harsh winters.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Ringed Plover	Rare	Rare visitor. At least 3 in Summer 2014. Only 3 previous records.					✓					
Dunlin	Rare	One at Pen Ponds on 28th Feb. 2018 and one on 8th June 2018.										✓
Jack Snipe	Rare	Rare in winter and on passage.			✓		✓		✓	✓		
Snipe	Sc	Elusive, occasionally seen in winter.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodcock	RegWV	Small numbers in Park each winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whimbrel	Rare	Passage migrant. 25 flew over on 22nd August 2014.					✓	✓				✓
Curlew	Rare	One calling on 20th April 2018. One present on 8th May 2018.				✓						✓
Black-tailed Godwit	Rare	One over on 28th June 2019, first record since 1952.										✓
Bar-tailed Godwit	Rare	One flew over on 21st June 2012. 35 over on 29th April 2018.			✓							✓
Ruff	Rare	Low over Pen Ponds 24th September 2013. Last recorded 1997.				✓						
Redshank	Rare	Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor.			✓		✓			✓		
Spotted Redshank	Rare	One low over Pen Ponds on 9th July 2012. Only 2nd Park record.					✓					
Greenshank	Rare	Rare migrant at Pen Ponds.					✓	✓				
Green Sandpiper	U	Occasional passage migrant. Four briefly on 29th August 2018.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Wood Sandpiper	Rare	Passage migrant. One on 10th September 2015 only third record.						✓				



Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Chiffchaff	RegSV	Common breeding summer visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Willow Warbler	RegSV	Fairly common passage migrant. Rarely breeds.	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goldcrest	Res	Resident. Numbers increase in winter.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	Pb	B
Firecrest	Rare	Passage migrant.		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	RegSV	Formerly bred, now a scarce passage migrant.	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pied Flycatcher	Rare	Passage migrant.		✓								
Long Tailed Tit	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Blue Tit	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Great Tit	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Coal Tit	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	Pb	B
Bearded Tit	Rare	Single bird at Pen Ponds on 17th October 2017. First since 1975.								✓		
Nuthatch	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Treecreeper	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Golden Oriole	Rare	Passage migrant. One heard on 20th May 2019. First since 2006.										✓
Red Backed Shrike	Rare	Passage migrant.	✓									
Jay	Res	Fairly common breeding resident. Autumn influx from the continent.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Magpie	Res	Fairly common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Jackdaw	Res	Abundant breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rook	Rare	Only a single bird overflying seen each year reported.	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓
Carrion Crow	Res	Common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raven	Rare	Recorded with increasing frequency.				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Starling	Res	Fairly common, but only breeds in small numbers.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓	B	✓
House Sparrow	U	Once common, but very few in number now.						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chaffinch	Res	Fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	pB	✓	B
Brambling	U	Scarce autumn migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch	Res	Declining breeding resident.	B	B	B	Pb	✓	B	B	B	B	B
Goldfinch	Res	Resident in small numbers. More on passage	B	B	B	Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
Siskin	RegWV	Usually seen by Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snow Bunting	RareWV	One flew over on 16th October 2018 for a first Park record.										✓
Linnet	U	Passage migrant in small numbers usually flying over.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Redpoll	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mealy Redpoll	ScWV	The 'continental' redpoll is a scarce winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓						✓	
Common Crossbill	ScWV	Scarce visitor on passage.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Bullfinch	U	Occasional winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓
Hawfinch	Rare	Three seen together in October 2016 and October 2017	✓						✓	✓		
Otolan Bunting	Rare	Single bird on 5th May 2011 near Holly Lodge. Only 2nd sighting.		✓								
Reed Bunting	Res	Fairly common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
<b>TOTAL SPECIES FOR YEAR</b>			<b>116</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>127</b>

The listing follows the standard systematic (taxonomic) classification of birds, and their position in the order indicates the closeness of their relationships.

#### Park Status Key \*

Res	Resident
RegSV	Regular Summer Visitor
RegWV	Regular Winter visitor
U	Uncommon
UWV	Uncommon Winter visitor
Sc	Scarce
ScWV	Scarce Winter Visitor
Rare	Rare Occurrence

<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Red List, Highest Concern
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Amber List, High Concern

#### Additional species (excl. escaped or non-naturalised feral exotic species) seen in the prior ten -year period 2000 to 2009:

Ring-billed Gull (2002), Great Grey Shrike (2002), Bittern (2004), Woodchat Shrike (2005), Brent Goose (17 over, 2005), Gannet (2008), Grey Plover (2008), Woodlark (2008), Common Scoter (2009), Long-eared Owl (2009), Wood Warbler (2009), Yellowhammer (2009)

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

Number of species recorded in 10 year period: 175, of which 69 are thought to have bred.

Number of species recorded since records began in 1921: 216

Richmond Park is an ancient parkland with an area of almost 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares) comprising diverse habitats such as ancient trees and decaying wood, grasslands, bracken, wetlands and waterbodies (including the Pen Ponds). Consequently it attracts a wide variety of birds, both resident and migrating. The populations of some species resident in the Park, namely skylark, little owl, jackdaw, all three woodpeckers, reed bunting and stonechat, are significant in the London context. As these records show, some species are in decline locally, as well as nationally, but the Park can often reward the alert observer, occasionally with a species never before or rarely seen within its confines or airspace.

Compiled for the Richmond Park Bird Group by Nigel Jackman and Jan Wilczur. Sources: RPBG and LNHS records.