

The Birds of Richmond Park

National Nature Reserve

2011-2020



f. Wheatear



m. Wheatear



Pair of m. Wheatears

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

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mute Swan	Res	Breeds Annually. One or two pairs.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Whooper Swan	RareWV	First ever record, one on Upper Pen Pond 2nd December 2019.									✓	
White-fronted Goose	RareWV	First ever record, two on golf course 4th December 2020.										✓
Greylag Goose	U	Previously ccasional visitors, but now breeding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	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	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	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 on Upper Pen Pond 29th November 2019, the first 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	Pb	B	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	Pb	B	B	Pb	B	B	B	B	B
Common Buzzard	RegV	Increasingly frequent visitor and passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	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	Pb	B	Pb	B	Pb	B	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.								✓		
Oystercatcher	Rare	One on 8th May 2020 was only the sixth 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.					✓					
Common Sandpiper	RegWV/Sc	Passage migrant usually in couples and singles at Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mediterranean Gull	Rare	Rare winter visitor. Five Park records in total.					✓			✓	✓	
Black-headed Gull	RegV	Common visitor to Pen Ponds outside of the breeding season.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B
Little Gull	Rare	Rare migrant. Nine seen at Pen Ponds on 25th March 2020.									✓	✓
Common Gull	RegWV	Fairly common winter visitor, especially to Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	RegV	Usually seen overflying to and from their roosting sites.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Herring Gull	U	Occasional visitor to Pen Ponds. Regularly seen overflying.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	Rare	Rare visitor. Occasional one or two at Pen Ponds.			✓			✓				
Great Black-backed Gull	UWV	Mainly overflying to and from roosting sites to the west.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sandwich Tern	Rare	Rare visitor. Two seen 2015, first since 1992. Three in May 2019.					✓				✓	
Common Tern	RegSV	Passage migrant and post-breeding summer visitor. Few pairs now nesting on tern rafts installed at Upper Pen Pond.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓	✓
Black Tern	Rare	2015 sighting only the seventh ever, last seen in 1993.					✓					
Feral Pigeon	Res	Resident. Perhaps no longer breeds.	B	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓	B	B
Stock Dove	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Wood Pigeon	Res	Common resident breeder. Numbers supplemented in winter by continental birds.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Collared Dove	U	One pair usually breed.	B	B		✓	✓	✓	B	B	✓	✓
Turtle Dove	Rare	Passage migrant. One at Holly Lodge on 7th July 2015.					✓					
Ring-necked Parakeet	Res	Abundant resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cuckoo	Sc	Passage migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pb	Pb
Barn Owl	Sc	Highly elusive, but occasionally seen after dark.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Little Owl	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tawny Owl	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Short-eared Owl	U	Occasional passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Nightjar	Rare	Passage migrant.	✓			✓	✓					
Common Swift	RegSV	Common summer visitor. Nests in buildings outside the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hoopoe	Rare	Individual seen on 6th July 2012 only the 6th record.		✓								
Kingfisher	Res	Regularly seen along Beverley Brook and at Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	B	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wryneck	Rare	Passage migrant. Only two sightings since 1957.				✓						✓
Green Woodpecker	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Res	Once a regular breeder, but now fewer sightings.	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Skylark	Res	Breeding population variable and under threat in recent years. Number of wintering birds varies with the weather conditions.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Sand Martin	RegSV	Passage migrant & summer visitor to Pen Ponds. Bred in 2017.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B	B
Swallow	RegSV	Common passage migrant. Two or three pairs breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓
House Martin	RegSV	Common passage migrant. A few feed over the Park in summer.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	U	Uncommon passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	Res	Occasionally breeds. Otherwise winter visitor and passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B	✓	✓		✓
Rock Pipit	Rare	Single bird at Pen Ponds on 19th March 2015, the first since 1949.					✓					
Yellow Wagtail	U	Passage migrant that rarely land in the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	Res	Fairly common on Beverley Brook and occasionally elsewhere.	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	Pb	B	B
Pied Wagtail	Res	Occasionally breeds in the Park.. White wagtail seen 2015.	✓	B	B	B	✓	✓	B	B	B	✓
Waxwing	RareWV	Unpredictable irruptive visitor to UK, rarely seen in the Park.			✓				✓			
Wren	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Duncock	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Robin	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Black Redstart	Sc	Scarce passage migrant, occasionally found in Holly Lodge paddocks.	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Common Redstart	U	Uncommon passage migrant. Last bred in the early 1970's.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whinchat	RegSV	Passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stonechat	Res	A small population supplemented by passage migrants.	✓	B	✓	B	✓	B	B	B	B	B
Northern Wheatear	RegSV	Passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring Ouzel	U	Occasional passage migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackbird	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Fieldfare	RegWV	Occasional winter visitor. Regular autumn migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Redwing	RegWV	Common winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Grasshopper Warbler	Rare	Passage migrant.	✓			✓		✓		✓		
Sedge Warbler	U	Passage migrant.	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Reed Warbler	RegSV	Summer visitor. A small number breed in the Pen Ponds reedbed.	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Blackcap	RegSV	Common breeding summer visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B
Garden Warbler	Sc	Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor.	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	B	B
Lesser Whitethroat	U	Uncommon passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
Common Whitethroat	RegSV	Breeding population now well established.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cetti's Warbler	Rare	First Park records in 2018.								✓	✓	✓
Dartford Warbler	Sc	One or two winter visitors. A record of seven on 3rd November 2017.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood Warbler	Rare	Passage migrant. One on 7th August 2019 was the first since 2009.										✓
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	Pb	Pb	B	B

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
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	Pb	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.									✓	
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.				✓	✓			✓	✓	
Carion 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	pB	✓	B	pB
Brambling	U	Scarce autumn migrant in small numbers.	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch	Res	Declining breeding resident.	B	B	Pb	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B
Goldfinch	Res	Resident in small numbers. More on passage	B	B	Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	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						✓	✓			
Ortolan 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
TOTAL SPECIES FOR YEAR			120	117	115	127	125	114	115	128	127	123

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

Key to Birds of Conservation Concern in Britain

 	Red List, Highest Concern
 	Amber List, High Concern

Additional species (excl. escaped or non-naturalised feral exotic species) seen in the prior ten -year period 2001 to 2010:

Bittern (2001-2004), Great Grey Shrike (2002), Ring-billed Gull (2002), Brent Goose (2005), Woodchat Shrike (2005), Gannet (2008), Grey Plover (2008), Woodlark (2008), Long-eared Owl (2009), Common Scoter (2009), Yellowhammer (2009), Stone Curlew (2010), Red-backed Shrike (2010)

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

Number of species recorded in 10 year period: 174, of which 70 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. Sources: RPBG and LNHS records.