

# The Birds of Richmond Park National Nature Reserve 2013-2022



f. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker



Oystercatcher with Black-headed Gull



Little Gull

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

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mute Swan	Res	Breeds Annually. One or two pairs.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓
Whooper Swan	RareWV	First ever record, one on Upper Pen Pond 2nd Dec 2019.							✓			
White-fronted Goose	RareWV	First ever record was two on golf course 4th Dec 2020.								✓	✓	
Greylag Goose	Res	Previously occasional visitors, but now breeding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	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	Fly-overs of 8 in 2019 and 4 on 2nd Mar 2021 the only records.							✓		✓	
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 25th Mar 2021.			✓	✓		✓			✓	
Garganey	Rare	A drake seen on 22nd Apr 2022 and again on 3rd May 2022										✓
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	✓	✓
Tufted Duck	Res	A few pairs usually breed. Numbers increase in Winter.	B	B	B	✓	B	B	B	B	B	✓
Red-breasted Merganser	Rare	7 over on 4th Nov 2022 only record other than in 1916 & 1966.										✓
Goosander	Rare	14 over in Nov. 2018. Two at Pen Ponds Feb. 2019. One Feb. 2021.			✓			✓	✓		✓	
Goldeneye	Rare	Two females in Oct 2018. One female on 21st Feb 2021.		✓		✓		✓			✓	
Smew	RareWV	Pair at Pen Ponds on 2nd Feb 2015.			✓							
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 Sep 2017 was a Park first.					✓					
Spoonbill	Rare	Six over the Park 12th Sep 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 15th Oct 2013 only the fourth Park record.	✓									
Slavonian Grebe	RareWV	One on Upper Pen Pond 29th Nov 2019, the first since 1939.							✓			
Cormorant	RegV	Regular visitor to Pen Ponds. 2019 marked first breeding record.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	B	✓
Cattle Egret	Rare	One at Pen Ponds briefly on 13th Apr 2017 was first for Park.					✓					
Little Egret	RegV	One or two seen on Beverley Brook and Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Egret	Rare	One fly-over on 26th Nov 2012 was Park first. Four in 2018.						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	Res	Breeds at the Pen Ponds.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Honey Buzzard	Rare	Passage migrant flying over.	✓	✓			✓					
Red Kite	RegV	Once uncommon visitor, but now increasingly seen.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsh Harrier	Rare	Passage migrant occasionally seen overflying the Park.	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hen Harrier	Rare	One flew over on 13th Nov 2016.				✓						
Goshawk	Rare	First ever record, flying over on 24th Sep 2013.	✓									
Sparrowhawk	Res	A few pairs usually breed.	B	B	Pb	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb
Common Buzzard	RegV	Once frequent visitor and passage migrant, now breeding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	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 Sep 2015. Only the third Park record.			✓							
Hobby	RegSV	Summer visitor. Occasionally a pair breed in the Park.	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	RegV	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	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	Four sightings in 2022, the last being only the Park's tenth 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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ringed Plover	Rare	Heard calling in flight on 4th Aug 2022. First since 1999.										✓
Little Ringed Plover	Rare	Rare visitor. At least 3 in Summer 2014. Only 3 previous records.		✓								
Dunlin	Rare	Two sightings at Pen Ponds in 2018. One on 15th Feb 2021.						✓			✓	
Jack Snipe	U	Uncommon in winter and on passage, but deceptively elusive.		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Snipe	Sc	Elusive, occasionally seen at any time but especially in winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodcock	RegWV	Small numbers in Park each winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whimbrel	Rare	Passage migrant. 25 flew over on 22nd Aug 2014.		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Curlew	Rare	One seen on 4th May 2022	✓					✓			✓	✓
Black-tailed Godwit	Rare	Eight flew over on 19th Jul 2022, only fourth record since 1952.							✓		✓	✓
Bar-tailed Godwit	Rare	One flew over on 21st Jun 2012. 35 over on 29th Apr 2018.						✓				
Ruff	Rare	Low over Pen Ponds 24th Sep 2013. Last recorded 1997.	✓									
Redshank	Rare	Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor.		✓			✓			✓		✓





Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Garden Warbler	Sc	Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor.	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	B	B	✓	✓
Lesser Whitethroat	U	Uncommon passage migrant. Occasional breeds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	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	A few winter visitors. A record of seven on 3rd Nov 2017.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood Warbler	Rare	Passage migrant. Only three since 2009.							✓		✓	✓
Chiffchaff	RegSV	Common breeding summer visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb
Willow Warbler	RegSV	Fairly common passage migrant. Rarely breeds.	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goldcrest	Res	Resident. Numbers increase in winter.	B	B	B	B	Pb	Pb	B	B	B	B
Firecrest	Rare	Mainly a passage migrant, but a few overwintering more recently.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	RegSV	Formerly bred, now a scarce passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	Pb	Pb	Pb	B	Pb	B
Bearded Tit	Rare	Single bird at Pen Ponds on 17th Oct 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 Europe	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	Res?	Recorded increasingly. A few are now probably resident.	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Starling	Res	Fairly common, but only breeds in small numbers if at all now.	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	Pb	✓	B	Pb	Pb	Pb
Brambling	U	Scarce autumn migrant in small numbers.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch	Res	Declining resident that may no longer breed in the Park.	Pb	✓	B	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓
Goldfinch	Res	Resident in small numbers. More on passage	Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	Pb	B
Siskin	RegWV	Usually seen by Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snow Bunting	RareWV	One flew over on 16th Oct 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	Rare	The 'continental' redpoll is a rare winter visitor.						✓				
Common Crossbill	Rare	Rare visitor on passage.		✓	✓						✓	
Bullfinch	U	Occasional mainly winter visitor.		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawfinch	Rare	Three together in Oct. 2016 & Oct. 2017, five flew over Nov. 2021				✓	✓				✓	✓
Yellowhammer	Rare	Bred in the park until the early 1970s.										✓
Reed Bunting	Res	Fairly common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
<b>TOTAL SPECIES FOR YEAR</b>			<b>115</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>128</b>

**Park Status Key**

Res	Resident
RegSV	Regular Summer Visitor
RegWV	Regular Winter Visitor
U	Uncommon
UWV	Uncommon Winter Visitor
S	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 2003 to 2012:**

Bittern (2004), 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), Montagu Harrier (2011), Orlolan Bunting (2011), Ruddy Duck (2012), Black-necked Grebe (2012).

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

Number of species recorded in 10-year period: 173, 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. Sources: RPBG and LNHS records.