

# **The Birds of Richmond Park National Nature Reserve 2016-2025**



**Five juvenile Goosander at Upper Pen Pond**

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

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mute Swan	Res	Breeds Annually. One or two pairs.	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 was two on golf course 4th December 2020.					✓	✓				✓
Greylag Goose	Res	Previously occasional visitors, but now breeding.	✓	B	B	B	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	Only four Park records, the last on 16th November 2025.				✓		✓			✓	✓
Brent Goose	Rare	Two flying over on 15th October 2025, first since 2005.										✓
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	Six at Upper Pen Pond on 18th March 2025.	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Garganey	Rare	Single bird seen at Pen Ponds on 6th August 2024.							✓		✓	✓
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tufted Duck	Res	A few pairs usually breed. Numbers increase in Winter.	✓	B	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	B	B
Red-breasted Merganser	Rare	7 over on 4th November 2022 only record other than in 1916 & 1966.							✓			
Goosander	Rare	14 over, Nov. 2018. Five at Lower Pen Pond 22nd July 2025.			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Scoter	Rare	A distant 12 over on 15th October 2023. Only fourth record.								✓		
Goldeneye	Rare	Two females in October 2018. One female on 21st February 2021.	✓		✓			✓				
Smew	RareWV	Pair at Pen Ponds on 2nd February 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 September 2017 was a Park first.		✓								
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	✓
Slavonian Grebe	RareWV	One on Upper Pen Pond 29th November 2019, the first since 1939.				✓						
Gannet	Rare	Five flew over on 28th September 2024 for only second record.									✓	
Cormorant	RegV	Regular visitor to Pen Ponds. 2019 marked first breeding record.	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cattle Egret	Rare	One at Pen Ponds briefly on 13th April 2017 was first for Park.		✓								✓
Little Egret	RegV	Beverley Brook and Pen Ponds. 30 on UPP on 21st August 2024.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Red Kite	RegV	Once uncommon, but increasingly seen, and bred in 2025.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
Marsh Harrier	Rare	Passage migrant occasionally seen overflying the Park.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hen Harrier	Rare	One flew over on 13th November 2016.	✓									
Sparrowhawk	Res	A few pairs usually breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	B	B	B
Common Buzzard	Res	Once frequent visitor and passage migrant, now breeding.	✓	B	B	B	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 28th October 2025. Only the fifth Park record.									✓	✓
Hobby	RegSV	Summer visitor. Occasionally a pair breed in the Park.	B	B	Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	RegV	Breeding locally and occasionally seen in the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	Res/Sc	Evasive resident breeder, often heard in Pen Ponds reedbed.	Pb	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓	B	✓
Moorhen	Res	Common resident breeder.	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
Crane	Rare	First record was one heard calling on 11th Jan. 2018.			✓					✓		
Avocet	Rare	First record, a single bird at Upper Pen Pond on 8th March 2024.									✓	✓
Oystercatcher	Rare	Sighting in May 2025 only the Park's eleventh 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	One flying over on 18th October 2025 the 3rd sighting since 1999.							✓		✓	✓
Little Ringed Plover	Rare	One at Pen Ponds on 23rd July 2025. Only 5 previous records.									✓	✓
Sanderling	Rare	First since 1991, one at Upper Pen Pond on 12th May 2024.									✓	
Dunlin	Rare	Most recently, one at Pen Ponds on 16th August 2024.			✓			✓			✓	
Jack Snipe	U	Uncommon winter and on passage, but deceptively elusive.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodcock	RegWV	Small numbers in Park each winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snipe	Sc	Evasive, occasionally seen at any time but especially in winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arctic Skua	Rare	One over on 28th September 2024, One previous record in 1968.									✓	
Whimbrel	Rare	Passage migrant. 25 flew over on 22nd August 2014.			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Curlew	Rare	Occasional sightings			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-tailed Godwit	Rare	Eight flew over on 19th July 2022, only fourth record since 1952.				✓		✓	✓			
Bar-tailed Godwit	Rare	One flew over on 21st June 2012. 35 over on 29th April 2018.			✓							
Tumstone	Rare	Two over Pen Ponds on 28th Aug. 2024. First ever Park record.									✓	
Knot	Rare	A single bird at UPP on 6th September 2024 a first for the Park.									✓	
Ruff	Rare	Pen Ponds 1st September 2023. Previously 1997 and 2013.								✓		
Redshank	Rare	Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor.		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓
Greenshank	Rare	Migrant occasionally seen at Pen Ponds.					✓	✓		✓	✓	



Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed/Heard, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Yellow-browed Warbler	Rare	First ever record, at Thatched House Lodge on 13th October 2023.								✓		
Goldcrest	Res	Resident. Numbers increase in winter.	B	Pb	Pb	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Firecrest	UWV	A few overwintering more recently. First breeding record in 2024.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓
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	Pb	Pb	Pb	B	Pb	B	B	B	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
Maggie	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	Mostly 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	U	Once common, but now rarely seen.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Chaffinch	Res	Fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor.	B	Pb	✓	B	Pb	Pb	Pb	Pb	B	Pb
Brambling	U	Scarce autumn migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch	Res	Declining resident that may no longer breed in the Park.	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pb	Pb
Goldfinch	Res	Resident in small numbers. More on passage	✓	✓	✓	B	B	Pb	B	B	Pb	Pb
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
* Redpoll	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Crossbill	Rare	Rare visitor on passage.						✓		✓		✓
Bullfinch	U	Occasional mainly winter visitor.				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Hawfinch	Rare	Five flew over in October 2024.	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	Rare	Bred in the park until the early 1970s.							✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed Bunting	Res	Breeding resident in small numbers.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
TOTAL SPECIES FOR YEAR			115	115	128	126	123	133	128	130	149	137

**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

 Red List, Highest Concern

 Amber List, High Concern

\* Previously shown as two species, the Lesser and the Common (or Mealy) Redpoll, until officially reclassified as a single species, Redpoll, from 2024.

**Additional species (excl. escaped or non-naturalised feral exotic species) seen in the prior ten -year period 2006 to 2015:**

Spoonbill (2013), Red-necked Grebe (2013), Grey Plover (2008), Long-eared Owl (2009), Stone Curlew (2010), Red-backed Shrike (2010), Goshawk (2013), Montagu's Harrier (2011), Orlan Bunting (2011), Ruddy Duck (2012), Black-necked Grebe (2012), Hoopoe (2012), Spotted Redshank (2014), Black Tern (2015), Turtle Dove (2015)

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

Number of species recorded in 10 year period: 178\*, of which 71 are thought to have bred.

Number of species recorded since records began in 1921: 224\*

52 species bred or probably bred in 2025, and 72 species in the ten-year period.

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. With thanks to Phill Pentek (official Bird Recorder) and to all contributors.