

A young owl with brown and white mottled feathers is perched on a dark tree branch. The owl is looking slightly to the right. The background is filled with vibrant green leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a natural, forest-like setting. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Regent's Park Bird Report 2007

By Tony Duckett

Review of the Year

January It was good to see the Water Rail on a new years day walk. A Common Buzzard flew north-east on the 2nd; the Common Pheasant was last seen 5th before moving off to Hyde Park. Two Blackcaps were feeding in an Ivy covered trees in Queen Mary's, three Common Teal were feeding with the collection Teal. A Kingfisher was perched in the wetland scrape 10th, a Little Owl sat out in the sun 14th, an adult Yellow-legged Gull was on the lake 15th, a female Brambling showed briefly 17th and 2 Greater Black-backed Gulls flew over, two Hawfinches over the Leaf Yard was very rewarding. **February:** Two male Tawny Owls were calling 6th and a Peregrine flew over, a Jackdaw perched briefly 18th, a male Reed Bunting sang from a reed bed 24th, five Bramblings flew west 26th, a female Blackcap was near the Bandstand 28th and eight Redwings fed in the wood. **March:** A flock of twenty eight Redwings 1st, a Siskin 2nd, two Waxwings were brought down by a heavy shower 3rd, a 2nd summer Mediterranean Gull was briefly seen on the lake 7th and five Jackdaws and the first Meadow Pipits of the year flew north. Two Woodcock were in the wood 10th, another Water Rail was in the wetland 12th to 17th, a Woodcock was seen in Queen Mary's at 7.05am and again at 3.00pm 13th and again the following day. The first Little Grebes were calling on the lake 14th, three Reed Buntings 17th, one Chiffchaff 18th, Common Buzzard 21st, The Water Rail by Hanover Bridge was last seen 28th. **April:** The first singing Blackcap 1st, a Skylark north 2nd, a Red Kite for ten minutes 6th, Wheatears, Willow Warblers and Swallows 10th, Red Kite 11th, Marsh Harrier, 2 Red Kites and a Jack Snipe 14th, Sand Martin and thirteen Greater Black-backed Gulls 15th, three more Common Buzzards were seen before the end of the month. Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Sedge Warbler turned up 22nd, the only spring Lesser Whitethroat 24th. The 25th was a red letter day with a superb Stone Curlew over at 8.10am, shortly followed by a Turtle Dove. The first Swifts were over the park 26th, the 28th was another good day with Little-ringed Plover, 2 Common Sandpipers and a Ring Ouzel, two Arctic Terns 30th. **May:** Still the waders kept coming two Bar-tailed Godwits flew south-east. A pair of Common Terns turned up 2nd and were almost present daily until 12/5, the male constantly bringing in fish for his mate. A Sandwich Tern 3rd, male Kingfisher and Yellow Wagtail 5th, The first Reed Warbler sang 6th, when another Common Buzzard (6th record) flew over, a Hobby and 1st summer Yellow-legged Gull 9th. A pair of Common Whitethroats in the cricket pen 12th, Hobby over the wetland pen 17th, and the first of three Cuckoos 19th. **June:** Two pairs of Kestrel nested successfully, a Kingfisher was in the wetland 22/6 and remained until the end of the year. Little Owls bred for the first time, raising three owlets. **July:** Three Common Terns 1st, Cuckoo for twenty minutes 2nd, a Nuthatch was on feeders in the Leaf Yard 15th and was present until 25th. Our third Cuckoo was in this area 18th. A Little Egret flew north-east and a Peregrine flew west carrying prey 19th. Garden Warbler two were present 21st, a flock of twenty-eight fed on thistles 23rd. **August:** Pied Flycatcher in the Leaf Yard Wood and a Sedge Warbler by Long Bridge 1st, three Garden Warblers 9th, Lesser Whitethroat 17th, Hobby 18th and two 23rd, Yellow Wagtails began to move 23rd, Lesser Redpoll and Common Sandpiper 24th, a Honey Buzzard flew south-east 28th, a fall of Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs 29th. **September:** Two Whinchats 1st, the first of fourteen Common Buzzard to pass over was seen 3rd, Hobby two 5th were the first of nine birds we were to see during autumn, Tree Pipit 6th, a lunchtime watch 7th saw Hobby, Buzzard, two Peregrines and six Sparrowhawks, Meadow Pipit passage began 12th, and the first Redwings were heard 26th, two Teal 27th and a second pair of Tawny Owls were found 30th. **October :** two Skylarks 2nd, three hundred Redwings and eighty Meadow Pipits 4th, three Ring Ouzels 8th. A male Marsh Harrier, Firecrest and the first Fieldfares 10th, Rock Pipit 11th, a late Common Sandpiper 18th, Hobby 19th was also quite late, Lapwing the only one of the year 20th. **November:** Female Merlin and Rook 3rd, Reed Bunting 4th, Brambling in Nursery Lodge Garden 5th, twenty Siskins 9th, two Woodcocks in the Leaf Yard Wood 16th, two Chiffchaffs 26th. **December:** Twenty Egyptian Geese arrived 4th, these eventually peaked at twenty-five, Peregrine 11th, a Snipe was in the wetland all day 21st and the Kingfisher was still present at the end of the year.

Little Grebe

Summer visitor. One bird overwintered due to the mild weather conditions. A pair was present from 13/3. Three pairs eventually took up territories, with only one pair eventually bringing off any young. Again due to the large number of Coots on the lake they lost them and also the young after relaying. The last bird was seen on 3/12.

Great Crested Grebe

Resident. Due to the lack of cold weather several birds were present during the winter period, with six present on 16/2. Four pairs attempted to breed with two of those pairs successfully raising young and then raising second broods.



Great crested Grebe

Cormorant

Resident. Seen daily throughout the year. The winter roost peaking at over eighty birds in December. Some birds were occasionally seen carrying nesting material during spring.

Heron

Resident. It is very hard to say exactly how many different pairs nest in the park. Again twenty-five nests were used, with young birds occupying nests from February until the middle of October.



Grey Herons

Little Egret

Occasional visitor. One was seen flying over the open spaces heading north-east. As this species now breeds amongst Herons in the Lea Valley Park; there is a chance of it one day breeding in the park.

Mute Swan

Resident. One pair attempted to nest, but the eggs failed to hatch. Another pair was also present but was continually bullied if they flew on to the main lake.

Greylag Goose

Resident. Birds peaked at sixty-two during September.

Canada Goose

Resident. Birds peaked at two hundred and ninety-five during July.

Egyptian Goose

Regular visitor. One pair were seen on and off until August. Then a pair with 1 juvenile turned up 2/8, from then numbers steadily increased until peaking at twenty-five 21/12. These birds have probably arrived from the population in west London. The only slight mystery is why the other central parks haven't had an increase.

Common Shelduck

Occasional visitor. One bird was chased off by a pinioned male on the main lake 19/4.

Mandarin Duck

Resident. One pair bred. A group of fourteen birds were present during January and February.



Pair of Mandarins

Eurasian Wigeon

Occasional winter visitor. Single birds were seen on 5/1 and 19/11, by the way they behaved, these were almost certainly of wild origin.

Gadwall

Resident. This year's peak count of twelve on 13/1 was well below last year's record of thirty three birds. Several pairs were present throughout the year, but there was no proof of breeding.

Green-winged Teal

Winter visitor. As many as five birds were present until 15/3 feeding in the Hanover Bridge sanctuary. In autumn, two birds arrived on 5/10. One bird remained until the end of the year.

Mallard

Resident. Again not a very successful breeding season, due the cool spring.

Northern Pintail

Winter visitor. Up to three birds present during the winter period, which constitute part of the small feral population in the London area.

Northern Shoveler

Winter visitor. Possibly due to the lack of cold weather, the numbers were again low peaking at eighteen birds 26/1.

Red-Crested Pochard

Resident. This species now has an increasing feral population in Central London. Several birds attempted to breed but had their eggs eaten by a fox or foxes that have taken to swimming across to the islands that the waterfowl prefer to nest on. The largest flock seen on the lake was thirty-five on 24/1.

Eurasian Pochard

Resident. The number of breeding pairs was down to twelve pairs, probably due to the wet spring and the presence of the fox.

Tufted Duck

Resident. The same problems affected this species with breeding pairs were down to thirteen pairs.

Greater Scaup

Resident. A drake remains present at the Longbridge Sanctuary for its eleventh year.

Ruddy Duck

Resident. Numbers reached nine during the winter periods.

Marsh Harrier

Occasional passage migrant. There were two sightings again this year. A female was seen flying north-east 14/4. Then a male was seen flying south on 10/10.



Female Marsh Harrier (not taken in the park)

Common Buzzard

Annual. Last years record year with eight birds being seen on seven dates was well and truly smashed with twenty-one birds seen on thirteen dates. In spring main the passage was noted from 21/3 through to 20/4. During the autumn the peak passage was noted between 5/9 to the 13/9, as many as four birds were seen on some days.

Honey Buzzard

Rare migrant. Two records, one was seen on the 1/6, possibly a late returning first year bird. Another bird flew south-east 28/8.

Red Kite

Passage migrant. Singles recorded on three dates between 6/4 and 14/4.

Sparrowhawk

Resident. Sightings were very limited between late March and August with only pair thought to have bred. Peak day count was six over during lunchtime 7/9.

Merlin

Occasional passage migrant. On 3/11 a female was seen attacking a finch flock, it singled out one of the birds but disappeared behind trees. An hour later it was seen flying off north.

Eurasian Hobby

Summer visitor and passage migrant. This year sightings increased again, with sixteen birds seen on eleven dates. There were only two records in spring, involving possibly the same bird flying low over the wetland. In autumn birds were seen between 18/8 and 20/9, several of these were seen chase and on one occasion to catch a martin.

Kestrel

Resident. Two pairs bred, one pair on Primrose Hill and the other in the centre of the park.



Juvenile Kestrel after being rescued from the long grass

Peregrine Falcon

Occasional visitor. Birds were seen on thirteen dates, with pairs together on some of those occasions.

Common Pheasant

Scarce visitor. Last years bird was still present in early January before moving on to Hyde Park.

Moorhen

Resident. Numbers are difficult to assess because of their secretive behaviour.

Coot

Resident. A large flock of up to one hundred and twenty can be seen on the lake by Clarence Bridge.

Water Rail

Scarce Visitor. The over-wintering bird in the reed bed by Hanover Bridge remained until 28/3. There was another bird present in the wetland pen from 12/3 until 17/3 at least. This bird could have been the bird that was present here the previous autumn.



Water Rail

Stone Curlew

Rare passage migrant. A truly amazing record of a bird flying low over the open spaces 26/4 was only the second Inner London and park record.

Little-ringed Plover

Rare passage migrant. One seen flying south-west over the park at 8.05am on 28/4, was also only the second record.

Lapwing

Passage migrant. This was possibly the worst year ever for this once common farmland bird, with one bird over on 20/10.

Jack Snipe

Scarce visitor. The park record relates to a bird seen twice in the wetland pen 14/4.

Common Snipe

Annual visitor or passage migrant. Two records this year, one seen by the side of the main lake 7/2 and another in the wetland pen 21/12.

Woodcock

Winter visitor. One of the best years for the total number of birds seen. Two birds were in the Leaf Yard Wood 10/3. Then another bird spent two days near Nursery Lodge from 13/3. In the autumn two birds were flushed in the Leaf Yard Wood 16/11.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Scarce passage migrant. Two birds flew over the lake 1/5; these represent the second park record.

Common Sandpiper

Passage migrant. A similar year to last year with two sightings in spring two on the 28/4 and then one present for three days from 3/5. The autumn passage involved two singles on 24/8 and 9/9.

Black-Headed Gull

Winter visitor. Seen in every month of the year, Numbers peaked at over three hundred during February.

Mediterranean Gull

Scarce visitor. A 2nd summer was on the lake for a short time 7/3. This was probably the bird had spent several weeks in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.



Mediterranean Gull 2nd summer

Common Gull

Winter visitor. Maximum numbers are usually during February. The first of the autumn were two birds 29/10, wintering birds arrived in November.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull

Summer visitor. Small numbers occur during the winter months.

Herring Gull

Resident. Their numbers increase during the winter period; an early morning count of one hundred and eighty 1/3 was the largest of the year. As with the above species, local breeding is also on the increase.

Yellow-Legged Gull

Winter visitor. What was probably the regular returning adult was seen on and off from July through to March. A first winter bird was on the lake for most of April and a 2nd summer was present 8/9.several dates between



Yellow-legged Gulls

Great Black-Backed Gull

Occasional visitor. Eight records this year is above average for this our rarest member of UK's resident gull. The most remarkable record was a flock of seventeen birds flying just above rooftop height 15/4.

Arctic Tern

Scarce passage migrant. Two birds flew north-east on 30/4.

Common Tern

Summer visitor. The first bird of the year was a pair that arrived on the lake 2/5. These remained on the lake until 21/6; the mail would go off to the canal to catch fish. Up to three birds were present most from 2/7 until 17/7. Birds that were possibly migrants from outside London were seen on three dates in August.



Common Tern

Feral Pigeon

Resident. A few pairs breed under Clarence Bridge, numbers in the park have risen possibly due to the lack of food provided in Trafalgar Square

Stock Dove

Resident. At least eighteen pairs bred. Birds are often seen at the feeding stations, especially the one in the small plantation. Birds have recently moved away from this location, for health reasons. The local Sparrowhawks have been using this site as regular fast food pick up points.

Wood Pigeon

Resident. There were two periods during the autumn where large numbers were observed flying over. Between 18th and 20th October over four thousand five hundred birds flew west. Then between the 2nd and 4th November over three thousand flew through.

Turtle Dove

Scarce passage migrant. Let us hope that something is done to stop the downward spiral of this attractive dove in the UK. One flew north 26/4.

Collared Dove

Passage migrant. Recorded on five dates during the spring with a maximum of three 28/4. There were no records in the second half of the year.

Ring-Necked Parakeet

Occasional visitor. Birds were seen throughout the year normally in ones and two's. A flock of ten birds regularly came to one of the feeding station. This they did for a week before fortunately returning to Hampstead Heath.

Cuckoo

Passage migrant. The best year since the seventies, with three birds recorded.

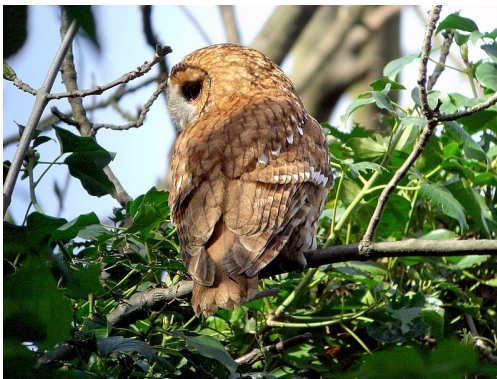
19/5 in the wetland pen

2/7 seen twice between 6.00am and 6.20am.

18/7 one perched for several minutes in the Leaf Yard (DP).

Tawny Owl

Resident. The pair in the Leaf Yard Wood bred but only managed to rear one youngster. The male in Queen Mary's Gardens managed to attract a mate.



Tawny Owl juvenile



Little Owl juvenile

Little Owl

Occasional visitor. The pair found last year bred and raised three young. This is the first Inner London breeding record.

Common Swift

Summer visitor. First sighting of the year was a bird on 18/4. As with most insectivorous birds they appear to have had a poor breeding season. Two artificial nests in London Zoo were inspected and showed signs that birds had attempted to breed but failed.

Kingfisher

Scarce passage migrant. Hopefully this species is going to become a regular visitor, if not a resident. One bird was seen in February and again in May. There were regular sightings of one and occasionally two birds from late June until the end of the year.

Green Woodpecker

Resident. Two pairs bred. This species is becoming very tolerant to the presence of the public, often allowing you to approach quite closely.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Resident. Six pairs bred. Birds regularly use the peanut holders at the feeding station.

Skylark

Passage migrant. The number of sightings was slightly up on last year, with fifteen birds recorded on seven dates. Two singles during the spring on 7/3 and 2/4. During autumn birds were recorded from 2/10 through to 14/11 with a maximum of five on 20/10.

Sand Martin

Passage migrant. Recorded on twelve dates, the best chance of seeing this bird is after a spring shower. In the autumn it is worth looking through any martins or swallows that are over the lake early in the day. The first bird of the year was seen on 15/4, with the last bird 7/9.

Swallow

Passage migrant. Three birds through on the 10/4 were the first birds of the year. The largest number in spring involved twenty birds on 18/4 and thirty 11/5. Autumn passage began with two on 31/8. There were now particularly large movements noted, though over a hundred passed through on 13/9, 25/9 and 30/9. Fifteen birds 8/10 were the last birds of the year.

House Martin

Summer visitor. The first birds of the year were two on 17/4. There were sixty birds over the nearby flats in Park Road 28/5. The largest passage noticed during the autumn involved three hundred and twenty 23/9. The last record of the year was six on 6/10.

Tree Pipit

Passage migrant. Single birds were recorded on four dates, three during the spring; 18/4, 22/4 and 29/4. The only autumn sighting was on 6/9; all these birds flew over.

Meadow Pipit

Passage migrant. Spring passage was slightly better than last year with twenty-two birds recorded on six dates from 6/3 until 18/4. The autumn passage began on 11/9 and peaked at eighty on 4/10. The last sighting of the year was on 7/11.

Rock Pipit

Scarce passage migrant. One flew over at 7.40am on 11/10.



Pied Wagtail juvenile

Pied Wagtail

Resident. The first birds were not seen until 9/5, with one pair breeding close to the park. Birds were then seen in every month. There were no large flocks seen feeding on the open spaces, the largest flock was six on several dates in October

White Wagtail

Annual passage migrant. One bird fed with Pied Wagtails by the Hub early morning on 13/9.

Grey Wagtail

Resident. Birds were recorded in every month of the year, with two pairs breeding just outside the parks boundaries. Two juveniles were regularly found feeding in the waterfowl breeding boxes. Autumn passage was light with a maximum of four birds seen passing.

Yellow Wagtail

Passage migrant. A disappointing year with only six birds recorded on six dates. One in spring 5/5, then during the autumn between 23/8 and 11/9.

Wren

Resident. Widespread in areas that have suitable habitat.

Dunnock

Resident. Very secretive, easily overlooked once the males have stopped singing in spring.

Robin

Resident. Widespread in areas with a suitable habitat.

Northern Wheatear

Passage migrant. This was the worst year since the nineteenth century with only nine birds recorded on five dates. In spring birds were seen as follows; 3 on 10/4, 1 on 18/4, two birds 11/5 were birds of the Greenland race. For the first time in thirty years I didn't see a bird during the autumn migration. Birds were reported by members of the public on 13/8 and two birds 27/8.



Northern Wheatear

Greenland Wheatear

Whinchat

Passage migrant. Recorded on three dates; a single bird was enjoyed by people on a Natural History bird walk 22/4, another bird fed in one of the wild flower areas 29/5. During the autumn two birds were seen 1/9, feeding in the same area of wild flowers at the north-east end of the lake.

Blackbird

Resident. Widespread, the numbers being boosted by the arrival of birds from the continent in late October, which stay until all the berries have been consumed.

Fieldfare

Passage migrant. There were no records during the first quarter. Autumn passage commenced with twenty-eight birds over 10/10 Numbers on the whole were low, with day counts not exceeding ninety birds.

Song Thrush

Resident. Numbers seem to stable; with birds unlikely to increase unless some of the more recently planted shrubberies are able to thicken up. Birds thought to from the continent were as follows; four 29/10, six 30/10 and fourteen 11/10.

Redwing

Passage migrant and winter visitor. The small wintering flock remained low with only eight birds present. From the beginning of March they began to increase peaking at fifty birds 13/3. Five birds over on 26/9 were the first of the autumn. As with the Fieldfare the peak passage was lighter than normal. The best days saw three hundred 4/10 and two-hundred and thirty 11/10. Birds were then seen off and on until the end of the year, with birds roosting over-night in some of the areas of the park with evergreen trees.

Mistle Thrush

Resident. No large gatherings were noted this year the largest being eleven that tended to favour Cumberland Green or the football pitches nearest to the zoo.

Ring Ouzel

Scarce passage migrant. A single bird was recorded in spring 28/4. A party of three possibly landed in the grounds of the American Ambassador 8/10.

Reed Warbler

Summer visitor and passage migrant. The number of males holding territories was down to four. There was only proof of one pair being breeding successfully, the others are presumed to have failed due to the bad weather. The only migrant away from the lake was a bird seen in the Avenue Gardens 7/8.



Reed Warbler with ring on

Sedge Warbler

Passage migrant. An n average showing with five records in spring all single birds from 22/4 through to the 25/5. During the autumn there were two records, 1/8 and 21/8.

Lesser Whitethroat

Passage migrant. This year there was one record in spring 24/4, after none last year. In the autumn birds were recorded on eight dates between 24/8 and the 19/9, with two birds being present 13/9.

Common Whitethroat

Passage migrant. A male held territory from 17/5 and was seen with a female on two dates. He was seen build three different nests over the course of the next forty-five days. Autumn migrants were seen from 7/8 through to 4/9, with birds recorded on nine dates.

Blackcap

Summer and winter visitor. Queen Mary's Gardens held a pair of bird during the winter period. The number of males holding territory was 12 the same as last year. Autumn passage peaked at ten on 7/8 and 2/9, the last migrant was seen 18/10.

Garden Warbler

Passage migrant. There were no spring records for this plane but attractive warbler. Autumn was on a par with last year, with birds recorded on fifteen dates between 21/7 and 4/9. Peak days saw three on 9/8 and 27/8.

Chiffchaff

Summer visitor and passage migrant. The first bird of the year was seen on 12/3; four males held territories with breeding confirmed at one location. Autumn passage started with three birds 1/8; peaking at around twenty birds 29/8. The last migrant of the year was recorded on 26/11.



Chiffchaff 1st migrant of the year

Willow Warbler

Passage migrant. The first bird arrived on 10/4, in what was a disappointing spring; birds peaked at 5 19/4. The return passage began with one on 19/7, peaking at over twenty birds 29/8. The last birds of the year were three on 12/9.

Goldcrest

Resident. Again due to the mild winter, the population in the park is stable at eight pairs. There numbers are swelled by birds arriving in late autumn, peak counts were eighteen 8/1 and fourteen 10/9.

Firecrest

Passage migrant and winter visitor. This year recorded just the once on 10/10, when a male was seen in the same location as last year's bird.

Spotted Flycatcher

Passage migrant. Again there were no spring records. One on the 18/7 was almost a month earlier than the average date for departing birds. There were then no records until 7/8 with birds then being seen sporadically until 23/9. Numbers were down with two being the peak day count.

Pied Flycatcher

Passage migrant. We always look forward to seeing several of this species in the park. However this year was the same as last with only one record on 1/9.



Pied Flycatcher

Spotted Flycatcher

Long-Tailed Tit

Resident. At least eleven pairs breeding. The largest post breeding flock was one of forty-six birds on 3/7.

Coal Tit

Resident. Six pairs breeding. The best locations in the park to see this, the smallest member of the tit family are the areas that have yew trees especially Queen Mary's. They are also seen at all of the parks feeding stations

Blue Tit

Resident. Makes good use of nest boxes that have been erected in the park.

Great Tit

Resident. The number of pairs are slightly less numbers than the above species.

Jay

Resident. This species is the most secretive member of the crow family. They have now grown accustomed to using the peanut feeders.

Magpie

Resident. This species has a pre-roost gathering site on Primrose Hill, before moving on to Hampstead Heath.

Crow

Resident. There is a flock of non-breeding birds that move between the side of the main lake and the open spaces. This flock tends to have a large number of weak looking individuals. Probably due to the fact that they rely largely on the public to feed them, rather than foraging for natural food stuffs.

Rook

Passage migrant. There were two sightings on typical dates for this species; two flew north-east 5/4 and one south-west 3/11.

Jackdaw

Passage migrant. Birds recorded on ten dates, eight of those in spring between 3/3 and 9/4 with a maximum of five birds 7/3. During the autumn birds were recorded from 23/9 and 4/11, with a maximum of six birds 30/10.

Starling

Resident, passage migrant. The new areas of rough grassland surrounding the sports pitches continue to offer the birds food away from the aviaries in London Zoo. Autumn passage was extremely with know large flocks recorded

House Sparrow

Resident in London Zoo. The only records away from London Zoo were again in the garden by St Marks Bridge. Birds were recorded here on five occasions; usually this involves a single male bird. For the first time for many years a female plus a juvenile turned up 14/7.

Goldfinch

Resident. At least three pairs probably bred, resulting in a small flock of twenty-eight birds being seen feeding on thistles from 23/7. Numbers then gradually reduced until a small group was left, these regularly use the feeding station at the north-east end of the lake.



Goldfinch

Chaffinch

Resident, passage migrant. This attractive finch can be seen at all the feeding stations in the park. The largest number recorded during the autumn passage involved fifty 11/10 and eighty 2/11.

Brambling

Passage migrant, winter visitor. Birds were recorded on seven dates, twice in the early winter period. It was disappointing that we had only two birds visit a feeding station, one 24/1 and another 5/11. The latter birds however joined our small flock of Chaffinches and was seen again 8/11. The largest movement noted during the autumn saw fourteen pass through 11/10.

Hawfinch

Scarce passage migrant. Two birds flew north-west over the Leaf Yard Wood 29/1.

Greenfinch

Resident. Several cases of this species looking lethargic during mid summer were thought to be due to birds suffering from the affects of a trichomonad parasite. This parasite blocks the bird's throat, thus causing it to starve to death. There was then hardly any sightings of birds at the feeding stations.

Eurasian Siskin

Passage migrant. There were six sightings in the first quarter of the year, mainly of birds passing through, though one was present for three days in March. The autumn passage started 11/10 and lasted until 9/11. Small flocks headed westwards, with thirty being the largest day count. A small group was then present in the park from early December and was still present at the end of the year.



Eurasian Siskin

Lesser Redpoll

Passage migrant. Sightings were again low with just seven bird days.

Linnet

Passage migrant. This once common farmland species was recorded on ten dates involving 14 birds. There was one winter record 16/1, after that all records were during the autumn, from 24/8 through to 6/11.

Common Crossbill

Rare passage migrant. One male bird landed briefly in a pine tree in the small plantation on 6/7.

Reed Bunting

Summer visitor, scarce passage migrant. A 1st winter male was seen the reed bed by Hanover Bridge 24/2. A bird we presumed to be the male from the previous three years returned to this reed bed 2/3. The female joined him 17/3, when another male was also present. This bird then moved over to the wetland pen, before he too was joined by a mate 26/4. There was no evidence of successful breeding by either of the pairs.

Acknowledgement:

Thanks to Dave Johnson for his sightings.

Checklist

Little Grebe	1	Dunlin	75	Black Redstart	146
Great crested Grebe	2	Jack Snipe	76	Common Redstart	147
Slavonian Grebe	3	Common Snipe	77	Stonechat	148
Black-necked Grebe	4	Woodcock	78	Whinchat	149
Leach's Petrel	5	Bar-tailed Godwit	79	Northern Wheatear	150
Gannet	6			Black-eared Wheatear	151
Cormorant	7	Whimbrel	80	Ring Ouzel	152
Shag	8	Curlew	81	Blackbird	153
Little Egret	9	Redshank	82	Fieldfare	154
Bittern	10	Spottede Redshank	83	Mistle Thrush	155
Grey Heron	11	Greenshank	84	Redwing	156
Mute Swan	12	Green Sandpiper	85	Song Thrush	157
Whooper Swan	13	Wood Sandpiper	86	Grasshopper Warbler	158
Bewick Swan	14	Common Sandpiper	87	Sedge Warbler	158
White fronted Goose	15	Turnstone	88	Eurasian Reed Warbler	159
Pink footed Goose	16	Arctic Skua	89	Melodious Warbler	160
Grey lag Goose	17	Pomarine Skua	90	Lesser Whitethroat	161
Canada Goose	18	Long-tailed Skua	91	Greater Whitethroat	162
Brent Goose	19			Blackcap	163
Egyptian Goose	20	Mediterranean Gull	92	Garden Warbler	164
Common Shelduck	21	Black-headed Gull	93		
Mandarin Duck	22	Little Gull	94		
Mallard	23	Common Gull	95	Wood Warbler	165
Eurasian Wigeon	24	Herring Gull	96	Willow Warbler	166
Gadwall	25	Yellow Legged Gull	97		
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