

## Records requiring descriptions or notes

The BRC examines all records that involve rare species (see the accompanying lists), unusual dates and unusually large counts that are accompanied with descriptive notes. Unfortunately, there are still a substantial number of records that have to be omitted from the report due to the lack of supporting notes. On occasions when the bird has been seen by a large number of observers the BRC may accept the record without further details. However, the record may run the risk of being attributed to the wrong observer/s or may be attributed to many observers (MO).

Species for which notes or descriptions are required fall into 3 categories: (Category 1) Nationally rare species for which records first have to be accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and any record of a species new to Berkshire; (Category 2) Locally rare species for which a full description is required (this includes all former BBRC rarities); (Category 3) Locally scarce species (or commoner species seen at an unusual time of year or in exceptional circumstances) for which short supporting notes are required.

The Berkshire Records Committee (the BRC) recently conducted a review of the species on the Category 2 and category 3 lists. The primary aim was to recognise the changes in status of many of the species on the lists. A secondary consideration was to aid observers by reducing the number of species on the Category 3 list, those that require at least short notes to prove identity. The new lists, tabulated below, are to be implemented for records on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Among the changes of note:

- Ferruginous Duck moved back to Category 1 on 01/01/2017;
- sadly, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow and Turtle Dove have been moved to Category 2 (Willow Tit remains on Category 3 pending the outcome of the national survey);
- Yellow-browed Warbler moves from Category 2 to Category 3;
- Brent Goose, Bittern, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Mediterranean Gull and Woodlark are removed from the categories altogether.
- The status of Barnacle Goose is still under discussion.

## CATEGORY 2 species

|                      |                           |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Taiga Bean Goose     | Crane                     | Woodchat Shrike        |
| Pink-footed Goose    | Black-winged Stilt        | Golden Oriole          |
| Tundra Bean Goose    | Kentish Plover            | Hooded Crow            |
| American Wigeon      | Dotterel                  | Waxwing                |
| Green-winged Teal    | Curlew Sandpiper          | Penduline Tit          |
| Ring-necked Duck     | Purple Sandpiper          | Bearded Tit            |
| Lesser Scaup         | Pectoral Sandpiper        | Shore Lark             |
| Eider                | Red-necked Phalarope      | Short-toed Lark        |
| Velvet Scoter        | Grey Phalarope            | Red-rumped Swallow     |
| Long-tailed Duck     | Spotted Redshank          | Wood Warbler           |
| Ruddy Duck           | Sabine's Gull             | Pallas's Warbler       |
| Red-throated Diver   | Ring-billed Gull          | Marsh Warbler          |
| Black-throated Diver | Glaucous Gull             | Melodious Warbler      |
| Storm Petrel         | Iceland Gull              | Icterine Warbler       |
| Leach's Petrel       | Caspian Gull              | Rose-coloured Starling |
| Fulmar               | Roseate Tern              | Bluethroat             |
| Manx Shearwater      | White-winged Black Tern   | Black-throated Thrush  |
| White Stork          | Great Skua                | Pied Flycatcher        |
| Glossy Ibis          | Pomarine Skua             | Dipper                 |
| Spoonbill            | Arctic Skua               | Tree Sparrow           |
| Night-heron          | Long-tailed Skua          | Richard's Pipit        |
| Cattle Egret         | Little Auk                | Olive-backed Pipit     |
| Purple Heron         | Common Guillemot          | Common Rosefinch       |
| Honey-buzzard        | Razorbill                 | Twite                  |
| Golden Eagle         | Puffin                    | Common (Mealy) Redpoll |
| Goshawk              | Turtle Dove               | Parrot Crossbill       |
| Montagu's Harrier    | Long-eared Owl            | Serin                  |
| Black Kite           | Alpine Swift              | Lapland Bunting        |
| White-tailed Eagle   | Wryneck                   | Snow Bunting           |
| Rough-legged Buzzard | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | Ortolan Bunting        |
| Corncrake            | Red-footed Falcon         | Cirl Bunting           |
| Spotted Crake        | Red-backed Shrike         | Little Bunting         |

Plus, all non-BBRC species not on the **Berkshire** list and all species identified to subspecies level.

## CATEGORY 3 species

|                           |                    |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Barnacle Goose            | Shag               | Sandwich Tern                  |
| White-fronted Goose       | Osprey             | Little Tern                    |
| Bewick's Swan             | Marsh Harrier      | Arctic Tern                    |
| Whooper Swan              | Hen Harrier        | Hoopoe                         |
| Garganey (autumn records) | Avocet             | Merlin                         |
| Scaup                     | Grey Plover        | Great Grey Shrike              |
| Comon Scoter              | Bar-tailed Godwit  | Willow Tit                     |
| Red-breasted Merganser    | Knot               | Yellow-browed Warbler          |
| Quail                     | Temminck's Stint   | Ring Ouzel                     |
| Great Northern Diver      | Sanderling         | Black Redstart                 |
| Red-necked Grebe          | Little Stint       | White Wagtail (autumn records) |
| Slavonian Grebe           | Wood Sandpiper     | Water Pipit                    |
| Black-necked Grebe        | Kittiwake          | Rock Pipit                     |
| Great White Egret         | Little Gull        | Hawfinch                       |
| Gannet                    | Yellow-legged Gull |                                |