

SYSTEMATIC LIST BIRD REPORT FOR 2000–2001

Observers

Please see the list of contributors at the end of this report to whom we extend our thanks.

Abbreviations and place names

The normal abbreviations are shown below in the table. For place names difficulties arise where there are several names for the same sites including where, for example, a gravel pit complex is named but not the individual pit. A map and guide to the main sites is included towards the end of the report to assist with identification.

AGE/SEX		PLACES/ LOCALITIES	
Ad	adult	Com	Common
F/s	First summer	CP	Country Park
F/w	First winter (plumage)	Fm	Farm
Imm	Immature	GC	Golf course
Juv	Juvenile	GP	Gravel Pit(s)
M	Male	Res	Reservoir
Pr	pair	R.	River
F or fem	Female	SF	Sewage Farm
R/h	Redhead	STW	Sewage Treatment Works
R/t	Ringtail		
S/p	Summer plumage	E Berks	East Berkshire
S/s	Second summer	M. Berks	Mid Berkshire
S/w	Second winter	W Berks	West Berkshire
W/p	Winter plumage	Dorney W	Dorney Wetlands
W	Winter	K&A	Kennet and Avon
3/s	Third summer	QMR	Queen Mother Reservoir
3/w	Third winter		

In an attempt to show the national status of our breeding birds, any species that is protected under Schedule One of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and any species that may be red or amber listed in the most recent list of Birds of conservation concern for the UK will have the species status placed in brackets after the county status which precedes the species account.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Scarce winter visitor.

2001 One long staying winter-plumaged bird was found at QMR on Nov 19th remaining until Dec 6th (JAS). The 19th record since 1900.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

2001 A 1st winter bird arrived on Dec 23rd (BTB) at Twyford GP. This much-admired bird, the 24th county record since 1900, stayed into 2002.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A widespread resident, breeding in all river valleys and suitable lakes and ponds.

2000 Records were received from 51 locations, 17 in W Berks, 13 in M Berks and 21 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GPs	–	–	11	6	2	1	4	5	13	20	18	14
Eversley GPs	5	7	10	6	5	6	9	22	23	9	5	6
Field Fm GP	13	–	12	–	1	1	–	25	30	23	32	21
Lower Fm GP	–	–	12	9	12	13	28	29	23	17	3	4
Old Slade NR	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	4	13	6	5	4
Padworth Lane GP	4	5	12	6	–	2	–	8	14	14	6	20
Dorney W / Slough SF	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	6	6	10	–	3
Twyford GPs (inc Whistley Green GP)	1	1	1	5	4	4	4	15	14	9	–	–
Wraysbury / Horton GPs	12	4	6	3	2	1	2	7	2	4	4	–

The high count of 32 at Field Fm GP occurred on Nov 10th (RCr). Elsewhere there were only 2 counts that exceeded 6 birds, 7 at Rapley Lake on Apr 29th (DJB) and 8 at Lane End Fm Shinfield on Sep 2nd (MBu). **Breeding:** Evidence of breeding was received from 11 locations. The highest concentration of breeding pairs occurred at Lower Fm GP where 2 young were seen on Jun 4th (IW; JL), increasing to 5 broods of 1,2,3,3 and 4 young plus a sitting adult on Jul 29th (DJB) and a count of 13 ads and 16 juvs on Aug 25th (DJB). Elsewhere an adult was feeding a juv at Crookham Com on Jun 22nd (JPM), a pair with 4 chicks at Oval Pond Padworth on Jun 28th (GEW), a pair with 3 young at Thatcham Marsh on Jul 9th and 15th (IW; JL), a pair with 2 chicks at Aldermaston GP on Aug 2nd (JPM), 2 broods of 3 and 5 at Whistley Green GP Twyford on Aug 7th (DJB) increasing to 3 broods of 3, 3 and 2 on Aug 24th (TGB), 4 ads and 4 juvs at Datchet Com GP on Aug 26th (BDC), 4 ads and 3 juvs at Horton GPs on Aug 26th (BDC), an adult on a nest at Hungerford Marsh on Sep 19th (RF), 14 young were reared at Eversley GPs (IHB) and a pair bred in the Pang valley between Bucklebury and Marlston (PDM). A prolonged and successful breeding season.

2001 Occasional records involving 6 or more birds came from Frogmill, Hurley with 6 on Mar 6th (FMF; SJF), Old Slade NR, 6 on Jan 16th (BDC), Oct 5th and Nov 18th (DR), 10 at Dorney W on Oct 28th with 9 there on Dec 12th (DJB) and 9 at Orlitts South Lake on Dec 8th (DR). **Breeding:** Successful breeding was reported at Aldermaston GP (JPM), Avington near Kintbury (DR), R Pang Bucklebury to Marlston (PDM), Hamstead

Marshall (LS; GS), Windsor Great Park (WAS), Lower Fm GP (IW; JL; RF), Old Slade GP (DR), Twyford GP (BTB; BDC) and Woolhampton GP (JPM). Highest breeding count involved 3prs all with young at Hamstead Lock on Jul 4th (IW; JL). Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	–	–	1	4	1	–	2	3	3	4	2	–
Eversley GPs	9	5	3	5	4	7	6	9	2	8	6	–
Field Fm GP	10	7	8	–	–	10	–	17	28	30	15	12
Lower Fm GP	3	5	14	18	16	11	23	28	31	12	5	4
Padworth Lane GP	9	20	14	10	–	3	5	11	10	9	7	6
Twyford GPs	–	–	1	–	–	5	13	9	7	–	–	–

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

A breeding resident and winter visitor of our larger waters and along the R Thames.

2000 Records were received from 36 locations, 7 in W Berks, 13 in M.Berks and 16 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	15	–	–	13	–	–	–	–	–	22	17	14
Burghfield / Searles Lane GP	10	–	–	7	3	–	–	–	–	–	15	10
Eversley GPs	19	14	14	14	10	23	27	22	14	18	13	15
Hosehill Lake	–	–	–	–	5	5	15	5	4	10	–	–
Moatlands GPs	–	–	25	8	15	10	46	20	30	30	15	15
Muddy Lane GP Thatcham	4	3	3	7	–	8	5	–	6	10	20	17
QMR	36	24	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Theale Main GP	25	5	6	5	5	5	10	10	20	20	–	20
Twyford / Whistley Green GP	10	10	8	5	2	–	–	3	3	–	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	41	60	57	31	47	14	22	19	26	24	49	56
Old Slade NR	–	–	10	–	–	Br*	–	–	–	11	6	8

* BR – Breeding confirmed

The high count of 60 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Feb 13th (VAC). Elsewhere the only count to exceed 20 birds was 25 including 4 juvs at Horton GPs on Aug 26th (BDC). **Breeding:** Evidence of breeding was first received from Searle's Lane GP Burghfield, where an adult was seen on a nest on Mar 13th (JA). Records were received from a further 15 locations involving at least 30 pairs, with the most favoured breeding locations being lakes or GPs. Only 1 record involved pairs on a river, 3 pairs rearing 4 young on the Thames between Old Windsor and Datchet (WAS).

2001 Counts of 20 or more came from Wraysbury GP with a peak of 67 on Jan 14th and 58 in Feb (VAC), Muddy Lane GP with 24 on Jan 20th (GJS; IW; JL), Woolhampton GP with 20 on Jul 30th (JPM), Moatlands GP with 27 on Aug 26th (SG) and Theale Main GP with 31 on Dec 15th (BMA). **Breeding:** Breeding was reported from Bottom Lane Theale (MBu), Frogmill near Hurley (FMF; SJF), Hosehill Lake (MBu), Lower Fm GP (SG), Midgham GP (NDOC), Old Slade GP (DR), Romney Lock Windsor (WAS), Thatcham Marsh Lakes (NDOC), Theale Main GP (SG), Woolhampton GPs (SG) and Wraysbury GP (JOB). The first chicks reported were at Aldermaston GP on Mar 19th (JPM) and the latest reported at Muddy Lane GP on Sep 4th (GJS). Monthly maxima at regular sites were as follows:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	7	7	–	–	3	7	2	–	9	9	9	6
Lower Fm GP	1	4	2	3	2	2	5	4	3	2	1	2
Muddy Lane GP	24	7	–	4	3	12	21	19	13	9	10	13
Woolhampton	–	–	–	4	–	8	20	19	12	9	9	9
Wraysbury GPs	67	58	14	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

2001 The recent run of poor years continued in 2001 with only one sighting. The bird, in winter plumage, was at Theale Main GP on Dec 3rd (MJH; CDRH).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Scarce but regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 Eight records involving at least 8 birds make 2000 a fairly average year. After no first winter reports a pair in s/p was located at Hosehill Lake on May 16th (BU). These birds or another pair were then located at Lower Fm GP on May 27th (IW; JL; JPM; MES) to May 29th (MO). **Autumn:** Passage commenced with a juv at QMR on Aug 22nd (JAS) and was followed by 1 at Moatlands GP on Aug 27th (RCr), 1 juv QMR on Sep 7th and Sep 23rd (JAS). **Second winter:** There were 2 records in December, 1 at Field Fm GP on Dec 4th (J Simmons) and 1 at Wraysbury GPs on Dec 26th (PNe).

2001 A probable tally of 6 different birds were seen this year. The first was 1 at Lower Fm GP on Jan 25th (BFR; PK). Four birds in summer plumage, again at Lower Fm GP, were found on Mar 26th (JPM; VS) presumably two of which stayed and were reported on Mar 31st, Apr 7th and Apr 14th (IW; JL). The only autumn record was a juv at Theale Main GP on Sep 16th (CDRH; BTB).

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare vagrant usually after storms.

2000 One discovered at Searle's Lane GP Burghfield after high winds and heavy rain at 0930hrs on Oct 30th (BU et al), was seen by several lucky observers before being taken by a Sparrowhawk at 1421hrs (CDRH). This is the seventh record for Berkshire and the first since 1 was found dead at Inkpen Com on Dec 29th 1989. Furthermore it is the first record of a live bird since 1956 and the earliest of 4 records for which we have dates.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare vagrant

2000 The storm during the night of 29th-30th October not only brought in Berkshire's 7th Storm Petrel but also Berkshire's 17th record of Leach's Petrel. One found at QMR at 1215hrs on Oct 30th was present to at least 1550hrs when it was being increasingly harried by gulls (CDRH et al).

GANNET *Sula bassana*

Rare vagrant.

2001 One adult bird was seen circling low over Moreland Avenue, Colnbrook on May 15th (CDRH). This represented the 14th record since 1900. The bird flew off SSW and was not relocated. A now infamous bird was found dead between fishing lakes at Theale, Wigmore Lane next to a deer fence on Aug 2nd (MSt). The bird is presumed to have died after flying into the fence. These records represent the 19th and 20th records for Berks. Aug 2nd is the earliest autumn date by over 3 weeks.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A common visitor in all seasons although less so in summer. A small but increasing breeding population of the continental race sinensis now exists in W Berks. (Amber listed)

2000 Reported widely throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GPs	25	28	29	48	69	35	25	14	6	12	6	10
Bray GPs	21	–	5	5	–	–	–	–	–	14	15	18
Eversley GPs	25	20	11	8	2	4	2	4	4	31	41	31
Heath Lake	6	–	–	4	–	–	3	7	10	15	12	8
Lavells Lake	15	2	15	8	2	1	5	4	16	26	16	5
Lower Fm GP	34	28	16	7	9	10	4	11	8	11	36	25
Moatlands GPs	–	–	4	–	5	–	–	2	68	36	11	17
Burnthouse La GPs(Pingewood GPs)	–	–	8	11	4	1	9	6	14	30	3	8
QMR	5	15	11	–	–	–	–	–	450	–	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	98	81	43	15	26	2	50	38	50	20	51	57

The high count of 450 at QMR occurred on Sep 10th (DJB). Away from the main sites counts exceeding 20 birds came from Reading where 25 flew west on Jan 8th (TGB) and at Twyford GPs where 50 were present on Oct 15th (DJB). Other interesting records involved a bird with a red ring lettered CX at Lavells Lake on Apr 16th (BDC) and a flock of 10 birds flying very high south over Walbury and Combe Hills (passage?) on Aug 29th (DJB). Again birds of the continental race *sinensis* bred at Aldermaston GPs. See detailed account Page 7. The count of 69 on May 12th (JPM) included several recently fledged young.

2001 Breeding: The colony at Aldermaston GP had 27 active nests holding 70+ young on Apr 18th (JPM). Monthly maxima at regular sites were as follows:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GPs	9	22	27	94	53	20	26	–	–	3	1	2
Eversley GP	40	9	3	7	4	3	1	5	10	3	–	7
Heath Lake	4	5	3	2	–	–	–	–	20	–	–	–
Lavells Lake	2	7	6	8	1	2	3	6	17	29	16	14
Lower Fm GP	29	28	2	2	3	5	23	36	32	22	22	26
Theale/Burghfield GPs	32	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	75+	90+	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	59	40	6	–	–	–	–	20	–	100+	–	30

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

2000 At QMR an immature was located on Sep 7th and was present intermittently to Oct 27th (JAS et al) being joined by a juv on Sep 16th (JAS). Further records from QMR on Nov 13th and 2 on Dec 14th (JAS) may have been these birds. At Wraysbury GPs an immature was present on Nov 16th (CDRH) with 2 there on Nov 24th (CL), 3 (1 imm, 1 juv and 1 over) on Nov 26th (CDRH), 2 (1 imm 1juv) on Nov 28th (CDRH) and 1 imm on Dec 16th (AVM). It is difficult to say how many birds were involved although it is possible that only 3 highly mobile birds accounted for all records.

2001 A first year bird with a BTO ring on the right leg was first discovered on the Thames by PK Dwyer at Boulters Lock on Feb 28th. It had been ringed as a nestling on the Isle of May, Fife on 4th Jul 2000. It remained local, being relocated at Romney Lock Windsor on Apr 20th (WAS). The bird was seen by day on the river and roosting on a nearby block of flats at night until Apr 30th (MMc). It then returned to Boulters Lock being seen at Grass Eyot on May 4th (PKD) and on May 6th (CDRH).

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Regular winter visitor in very small numbers and scarce passage migrant.

2000 Another good year with birds being reported from 7 locations and involving up to 9 birds. **First winter:** At Burghfield 2 were seen at Searle's Lane GP on Jan 1st (KEM) with 1 still present on Jan 8th (TABR). Nearby 1 was present at Hosehill Lake also on Jan 1st (DKE). These birds are probably the wintering birds reported in 1999. In E Berks 1 was located at Horton GPs on Feb 14th (CL) and 1 at Great Meadow Pond Feb 12th (RRG). **Second winter:** After 1 at Denford Mill on Nov 11th (RGS) 3 birds were located in December. In the Thatcham Marsh area 1 flew east on Dec 17th (GRW) landing near Widmead Lock and was seen again by a fisherman on Dec 20th (per RCr). In M.Berks there was 1 at Searles Lane GP, Burghfield on Dec 29th when observed 20ft up a sallow (CDRH; K Dean) and standing on ice on Dec 30th (DJB). Another was located at Burghfield Mill GP on Dec 29th (BU).

The yearly minimum totals of birds present in Berks from 1990 to 2000 are given in the table, showing how the number of wintering Bitterns has been increasing.

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
3	1	1	3	7	5	6	10	6	10	9

2001 A probable total of 5 birds for the year was the lowest since 1995. Surprisingly none of the Dec 2000 birds were seen in Jan 2001. One was found at Hosehill on Nov 25th (RCr) with 2 present the following day to Nov 27th (RCr; BU), at least one staying into 2002 (MO). A report of a bird at Searle's Lane GP, Burghfield on Dec 3rd (MGM) may have related to one of the Hosehill birds. At Wraysbury one bird was seen twenty feet up in willows over a frozen reed-bed on Dec 31st (CDRH) and followed a report of one Horton GP on Dec 24th (CL).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce but increasing visitor.

2000 Continues to increase with birds being reported from 17 locations throughout the county. The monthly distribution was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks: Number of sites	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	2
Minimum number of birds	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	2	3
M.Berks: Number of sites	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	6	1	1	1	1
Minimum number of birds	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	7	1	1	1	1
E Berks: Number of sites	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Minimum number of birds	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0

First winter: Singles were seen at Eversley GPs on Feb 2nd to Mar 22nd (IHB; SD), Bottom Lane floods Theale on Feb 4th (MR; BU) and visiting many of the local GPs until Mar 14th (MO), Aldermaston GP on Mar 15th (JPM) and Wraysbury GPs on Mar 19th (DMo). **Autumn/Second winter:** All site records are listed. *Theale GPs*, birds were seen from July to December with 2 (Hosehill Lake) on Jul 17th (NR) then singles on Aug 10th (RCr), Aug 25th (MGM), Aug 27th (MJS), Aug 28th (MGM), Sep 3rd (IT), Sep 26th (MGM), Oct 5th (NR), Oct 22nd (MO), Oct 23rd (LM), Nov 14th and 16th (DC), Nov 19th (CDRH), Nov 22nd (ROC) and Dec 18th (DC); *Horton GPs*, 1 flying low NNE on Jul 24th (CDRH) and 1 juv on Sep 7th (CDRH); *Green Park Reading*, 1 juv Jul 27th (P Thompson) to Aug 2nd (CDRH; MJT) and 1 Aug 13th-14th (TGB; D Broadley); *Eton Wick*, 1 on Jul 27th (CDRH); *The Slade Bucklebury*, 1 by a garden pond on Aug 1st (PDM); *Whistley Green GP Twyford*, 1 adult with aigrettes on Aug 1st (BTB; CDRH); *Lower Fm GP*, 2 on Aug 1st (JPM; RRK) then singles on Aug 5th (GJS), Sep 1st (JPM), Sep 2nd (MO) and Nov 4th (GJS); *Thames Valley Park Reading*, 1 on Aug 9th (Dr Gilbert); *Lavells Lake*, 2 flying south on Aug 13th (FC); *Fobney Lock* 1 on Aug 15th (per PG) was probably the Green Park bird; *Woolhampton GPs*, 2 on Aug 19th (MR) then singles on Aug 23rd (GEW), Sep 3rd (GEW), a juv on Sep 6th (CDRH) and 2 on Dec 2nd (MR); *Slough SF*, 1 on Aug 27th (BDC); *Brimpton Mill*, 1 on Nov 11th (NC); *Colthrop*, 1 on Dec 29th (RF). The minimum number of birds to have occurred in Berks since 1991 is as follows:

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Minimum number of birds	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	6	9	<32>

2001 The increase continues with no less than 106 reports this year coming from 14 locations. Although difficult to quantify with individuals probably ranging widely, a possible total of 40 different birds may have been seen during 2001. May and Jun were the only months with no reports. Single birds were seen at most sites throughout the county, higher counts involved 3 at Lower Fm GP on Jul 27th (NDOC) increasing to 5 birds on Aug 17th (RF), then reducing to 4 on Aug 30th-31st (SG) and 3 on Sep 7th (NDOC). There were 3 at Pingewood GPs on Aug 5th (MMc) and 2 were at Theale Bottom Lane floods on Dec 26th (MJS; MR). At least 3 juvs were identified during August (CDRH). As in 2000 there was again an August influx.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Locally common resident

2000 Breeding records were received from 6 Heronries throughout the county. In W Berks 4 pairs reared 7 young at Aldermaston GPs (JPM), 6+ nests were located at Donnington Grove with juvs seen on Apr 8th and 29th (IW) and nearby there was at least 1 active nest at Donnington Golf Club in early April (SG). In M.Berks 19 adults were already back at the Twyford GPs heronry on Jan 19th (DJW) with at least 13 active nests on Mar 26th (BBB). Birds were also present at the Burghfield GP heronry but breeding success is not known. In E Berks 2 nests were located at Wraysbury GPs on Feb 18th (CL) and at Home Park Windsor there were at least 6 nests and 8 juvs on May 4th (TBo). Elsewhere birds were reported widely with high counts of 22 at Whistley Green GP Twyford on Jan 16th (TGB) and at Home Fm Hungerford where there were 25 on Jun 29th and 22 on Jul 13th-16th (RGS).

2001 Records from the BTO heronry census (per CMR) showed a total of 34 nests despite the count being carried out late and no count from Twyford GPs due to foot and mouth disease restrictions. There were 2 nests at Englefield, 9 at Aldermaston GP, 19 at Burghfield GPs, 3 at Donnington and 1 at Heath Lake. Maximum counts of birds exceeding 11 at other sites included 20 Wraysbury GPs on Jan 14th and 18 there on Feb 11th (VAC), 16 at Windsor Home Park on Jan 25th (TBo), 14 at Smallmead GP on Mar 3rd (MW), 29 at Home Fm, Hungerford Jul 18th (RGS), 12 at Burnthouse Lane on Aug 24th (PBT) and 12 Lower Denford on Sep 2nd (JD). Monthly maxima at regular sites were as follows:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	3	10	15	16	9	6	7	9	1	5	4	1
Lower Fm GP	1	1	1	-	1	1	9	9	8	4	3	2
Eversley GPs	1	4	-	-	5	2	5	-	3	1	1	5
Heath Lake	1	-	1	3	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

Rare vagrant

2000 An adult seen at Lavells Lake on the evening of Apr 5th (FC), was still present the next day much to the delight of many visiting observers. Feeding on mice and voles that had been displaced by flood waters, it continually showed very well and was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year. This was the 6th record for Berks and the first since 1 at Wraysbury GPs on May 15th 1984.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Very rare vagrant

2000 One seen soaring over Englefield at 0845hrs on May 22nd (RJB) was the 3rd record for Berks and the first since 1 over Walbury Hill on March 16th 1975, not including known escapes in 1978, 1990 and 1996.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare passage migrant

2000 After an unconfirmed report of 1 at Padworth Lane GP on May 1st (Theale Logbook) an immature arrived at Lower Fm GP in the evening of May 28th (DJB; ENW et al). Flying in from the east at 1845hrs the bird remained long enough for several observers to see it before departing high to the south-west at 1940hrs. The 11th record for Berks and the first since an immature at Summerleaze GP on Oct 10th 1986.

2001 A fine group of 5 first winter birds were found at Pingewood GPs on Sep 10th (MGM) but were soon flushed by a juvenile Osprey. The birds were relocated later that morning at Hosehill Lake (MO), 1 individual wearing a Dutch ring coded RR (GEW). Four were seen flying over the M4 the next day (LM) towards Moatlands GP where the last sightings were of a single bird on Sep 17th (MO). With 11 previous records, involving 15 birds, this is the largest group seen in the county to date. The previous largest count involved 4 birds that circled Ham SF on 19th May 1945.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

A common breeding resident. (Amber listed)

2000 The monthly maxima at the main sites are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	29	14	12	8	11	9	16	24	18	21	11	21
Lower Fm GP	16	9	6	19	32	15	22	36	30	42	9	3
Padworth Lane GP	33	63	9	2	4	7	-	7	12	9	9	18
Summerleaze GP	60	75	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R Thames Windsor	-	-	152	-	-	207	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theale Main GP	-	-	-	-	64	101	114	110	-	66	-	-
Wraysbury GPs	75	81	66	41	26	25	11	14	50	111	76	18

The high count of 207 on R Thames at Windsor occurred on Jun 28th (DF) and the high counts from Theale Main GP coincided with a big increase of pondweed in the GP (BU). Elsewhere 102 were located at Burghfield GPs on Jan 4th (JA). **Breeding:** Reported from only 11 locations, a pair with 7 well grown cygnets at Strand Water on Sep 10th (BDC) being the largest family group.

2001 Records were received from 40 locations, 18 in W Berks, 14 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. Monthly maxima were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	9	7	3	21	11	15	23	24	25	26	19	16
Eversley GPs	6	9	7	3	4	6	22	32	29	48	59	-
Padworth Lane GP	4	9	4	19	-	-	10	-	-	-	6	5
Victoria Pk Newbury	-	-	19	11	28	16	6	3	22	-	-	-

High counts from other sites included: 60 at Englefield on Feb 9th (RCr), 176 on the R Thames at Windsor on Apr 25th (DF), 60 on the Bottom Lane floods on May 9th (RCr), 42 at Kings Meadow Reading on Jun 3rd (MBu), 31 at Moatlands on Aug 26th (SG), 45 R Kennet Reading on Oct 4th (MBu), 41 at Wraysbury GPs on Oct 6th (RRG), 29 at Hosehill Lake on Oct 14th (BU), 66 Burghfield GPs on Oct 28th and 90 there on Nov 4th (JA), 156 on the R Thames at Windsor on Oct 29th (DF), 97 at Summerleaze

GP on Dec 23rd (BDC) and 32 at Bisham on Dec 27th (BDC). **Breeding:** Confirmed breeding was reported from 10 locations, the largest broods involved 8 cygnets at Hosehill Lake (SG), Thatcham Marsh (SG) and Whiteknights Lake (PG).

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce winter visitor.

2000 A poor year with no records until December when a family party of a pair with 4 juvs were located on floods at Widbrook Com on Dec 19th (LM et al). They were also seen near Strand Water during their stay and were last seen at Summerleaze GP on Dec 23rd (CDRH).

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Rare winter visitor with a small feral population resident in E Berks.

2000 The only record possibly involving wild birds came from Burghfield Mill GP when an adult and 3 juvs flew over on Dec 17th (JA; LM). In E Berks the regular pair was found nesting in Windsor Great Park on Apr 30th (TBo) and successfully reared 1 cygnet (CDRH). Elsewhere an adult was present on Warfield Lake on Jun 1st (DJB) and nearby a pair with 1 well grown cygnet (possibly the Windsor Park birds) were at Warfield Pond near Bracknell on Sep 28th and Oct 25th (DJS). Finally 3 birds including 2 adults were located at Virginia Water on Dec 31st (CDRH).

2001 Two adults and one immature were seen at Virginia Water on Jan 16th, 17th and 26th (all CDRH), Apr 15th (WAS) and again in Oct (RRG). Two were in Windsor Gt Pk Jul 7th and 14th, 2 in Aug, 3 on Sep 22nd (RRG), 3 on Oct 27th (PES). One was reported at Warfield House Lake on Sep 14th (DJB).

GREY GOOSE SPECIES

2001 A flock of geese heard calling at night on Feb 12th over Brimpton were thought by the observer to be either White-fronted or Pink-footed Geese (GEW).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Scarce winter visitor.

2001 A bird of unknown origin (presumed escape) was located at Bottom Lane floods on Oct 21st (MJS et al). Aged as a juvenile (MW), it commuted between Bottom Lane and Hosehill Lake and remained in the area into 2002 (MO); its approachability and long stay indicates a captive origin.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

2001 A presumed escape seen at Pingewood GPs on May 5th (RCr) may have been the same un-ringed, wary bird there on May 22nd (CDRH). Records of wild birds involved 2 flying west over Hosehill Lake on Nov 10th (BU) and a flock of five including three

adults which flew SE over Maidenhead on Dec 14th (CDRH), a day when there was a widespread influx of this species into southern England.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Resident feral population which has increased in recent years.

2000 Reported from 29 locations, 7 in W Berks, 11 in M.Berks and 11 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	57	–	4	13	10	8	6	–	46	66	41	10
Cockmarsh / Summerleaze GP	78	90	68	12	Br	–	–	41	76	16	–	–
Padworth Lane GP	–	–	38	8	Br	3	59	59	–	–	–	57
Theale GPs	–	80	28	10	18	20	9	–	41	–	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	12	4	5	9	4	5	3	3	6	8	4	4

Generally counts were lower than in 1999, the high count of 90 occurring at Summerleaze GP on Feb 4th (DJB). Elsewhere counts exceeding 30 birds were reported from Shinfield where 35 were present on Nov 19th (MBu) and 75 by the K&A Canal at Tyle Mill near Sulhamstead on Nov 20th (PDM). **Breeding:** Was reported from 8 locations. For the first time, a pair bred at Twyford GPs (BTB), 2 pairs hatched broods of 5 and 6 at Aldermaston GP (JPM), 1 pair reared 2 young at Summerleaze GP (CDRH), an adult with 4 young was present at Englemere Pond on May 10th (E C Gates), on the RThames at Wargrave there was 1pr and 8 chicks on May 14th (DJB), a pair reared 3 young at Padworth Lane GP (MO), a brood of 4 was seen on Theale Main GP on May 19th (RCr) and another brood of 4 was present at Bottom Lane GP on May 27th (MBu).

2001 Records were received from 31 locations, 7 in W Berks, 14 in M.Berks and 10 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

Sites	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	28	3	8	5	6	–	5	–	49	73	5	–
Padworth Lane GP	68	3	8	4	7	14	40	47	91	126	–	–
Theale Bottom Lane	–	30	–	33	1	9	54	75	–	–	100	–
Summerleaze GP	30	40	–	11	12	–	–	23	2	18	–	–

High counts from other sites included c100 at Cockmarsh on Jan 22nd (LM), 40 at Wraysbury GP on May 26th (RRG), 45 Pingewood GPs on Aug 21st and 40+ there on Sep 4th (PML), 57 Twyford GPs on Sep 16th (BTB), c40 over Dinton Pastures CP on Dec 1st (LM) and an unusually high count of 91 for Hosehill Lake on Dec 31st (MW). The high count of 126 at Padworth Lane occurred on Oct 31st (JPM). **Breeding:** Confirmed breeding was reported from Bottom Lane Theale, Burghfield GPs (RCr), Theale Main GP; Wraysbury Village Pit (CDRH; WAS) and Padworth Lane GP (JPM; CDRH) and may have been successful at Englemere Pond where a pair was nesting in April (JOB).

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

Small feral population in SE Berks with occasional records elsewhere.

2000 A slightly better year for numbers at the main site, Eversley GPs, where the monthly maxima is shown below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	21	19	16	4	11	11	-	20	18	19	19

The high counts of 21 occurred on Jan 18th and Feb 15th (KBB). For the first time since 1995, a pair bred at Eversley with a brood of 2 young seen on Jul 6th (KBB). Elsewhere records came from the Kintbury area, 2 on Feb 27th, May 14th and May 22nd (RGS) and Binfield where 1 white morph was present with 8 blue snow type hybrids (\times Barnacle?) on Sep 24th (CDRH)

2001 Monthly maxima for Eversley GP were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	9	-	14	-	-	-	13	14	18	6	15

Four birds were at Thatcham Marsh on Mar 19th (IW; JL). Singles were seen on the K&A Canal at Kintbury on Apr 15th (RGS) and at Arborfield on May 16th (J Atkinson). In the autumn a bird was again seen on the K&A Canal at Kintbury on Aug 3rd (RGS) and one was at Pingewood GPs on Sep 4th (PML). Several birds at Eversley were described as "Blue phase" and 5 resembled Snow \times Barnacle hybrids (LM).

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Common resident which tends to be under reported.

2000 The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	77	19	16	12	24	22	-	-	48	83	74	9
Bray GPs	5	-	9	42	-	22	31	-	85	-	-	30
Eversley GPs	240	164	83	94	67	214	193	42	184	320	450	239
Lower Fm GP	400	219	4	5	32	39	60	84	65	72	161	150
Padworth Lane GP	28	26	8	4	2	4	-	132	19	7	31	163
Summerleaze GP	20	23	40	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
Thames Valley Park Reading	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190	217	-
Theale Main GP	-	100	-	-	-	40	300	100	150	-	-	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	-	2	9	-	39	12	-	221	-	-
Wraysbury GPs	18	18	36	30	80	17	20	25	121	98	35	12

The high count of c450 at Eversley GPs occurred on Nov 5th (BMA). Elsewhere counts exceeding 200 were c300 at Cookham Rise on Aug 8th (BDC), 590 at Twyford GPs on Aug 26th (MBu) and c200 at Brimpton GPs on Aug 27th (GEW). **Breeding:** Records were received from only 7 sites with a high count of 48 young at Eversley GPs on Jul 6th (KBB).

2001 Due to the abundance of this species within the county, many observers did not submit records. Therefore records were received from only 39 locations, 20 in W Berks, 7 in M. Berks and 12 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	69	5	28	29	53	33	80	2	45	46	153	-
Home Fm Hungerford	45	60	-	-	-	-	-	100	150	100	150	80
Lower Fm GP	97	128	1	7	48	86	123	371	108	31	204	188
Muddy Lane GP	60	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	190	79	110	155
Padworth Lane GP	162	5	2	4	-	-	78	-	-	31	-	85
Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	260	42	66	47
Eversley GPs	6	7	-	63	9	149	106	80	6	9	57	8

Additional large flocks were 220 at Bray GPs on Aug 18th (MMc), 300 at Hosehill Lake on Aug 20th (TM) and Oct 22nd (BU), 350 at Pingewood GPs on Aug 21st (RCr), 191 Crookham Com on Aug 30th (NDOC), 510 near Switchback Road, Maidenhead on Sep 11th (BDC), 101 at Woolhampton GP on Oct 5th (JMP), 400 at Remenham on Oct 25th (DJB), 254 on R Thames at Windsor on Oct 29th (DF) and 229 at Moors Fm, Theale on Nov 24th (AFd). **Breeding:** This was only confirmed at 8 sites, showing the lack of attention this species receives from most observers.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare vagrant and locally common feral resident.

2000 As expected most records received were from Eversley GPs where the monthly maxima were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
170	220	134	130	14	7	28	87	125	132	183	146

The high count of 220 occurred on Feb 11th (DJB). 2 nesting pairs were located on May 8th (DJB) but both failed to rear any young (IHB). Away from Eversley GPs single birds were noted at Aldermaston GPs (JPM), Cranemoor Lake (MR), Dinton Pastures CP (DF; DJW), Lavells Lake (FC), Padworth Lane GP (MO) and Theale Main GP (TGB; MR). Higher counts were, 3 Bottom Lane Theale on Jun 6th (IT), 146 at Binfield on Sep 24th (CDRH) and 80+ over Tickleback Row also on Sep 24th, part of the Binfield flock (CDRH). All records refer to feral birds.

2001 Monthly maxima at Eversley GP were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
133	148	-	-	13	24	-	114	200	185	216	200

Other reports were of singles at Padworth Lane GP on Jan 1st (JPM; MES; RCr), Burghfield GPs on Feb 3rd (MW) and Bottom Lane on Feb 24th (MW). Two flew over Theale Main GP on Jun 29th (CDRH). Two were present at Pingewood GPs throughout Aug and Sep (MO) and two were seen at QMR on Oct 13th (MW). All records refer to feral birds. **Breeding:** 2 pairs were incubating eggs at Eversley GPs on May 18th (DJB) and a pair with 3 young was present there on May 31st (AFd).

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

2000 After a single flying north over QMR on Feb 3rd (JAS) there were no other records until Oct 22nd when migrants arrived at either ends of the county. At Lower Fm GP 5 were located (JA; RPo; BJE) whilst 42 were present at QMR to 1000hrs when they flew south (JAS). Finally, a dark bellied adult was located at QMR on Dec 28th (CDRH).

2001 Records were received from 4 locations. An adult of the dark bellied race *bernicla* was present at Brimpton GP daily from Jan 18th-23rd (GEW) and again on Feb 7th (JPM). One was present on Horton Fields on Jan 6th (PNa; AVM) and 1 flew over QMR on Jan 14th (JAS). A dark-bellied adult which flew over Wraysbury GP on Jan 22nd (CDRH) was thought to be the same bird as at QMR in Dec 2000 and probably the adult

seen there on Feb 9th (JAS). One was also reported at Horton GP on Mar 26th (JAS). It is likely that all the E Berks reports refer to the same individual.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Widespread, small but increasing feral population.

2000 Records were received from 38 locations, 2 in W Berks, 12 in M.Berks and 24 in E Berks. Again the majority of records concerned 1 to 5 birds, higher counts were 10 on RThames at Maidenhead on Jan 1st (DF), 8 Windsor Gt Pk Feb 12th (RRG), 6 Tickleback Row on May 30th (DJB), 8 Dinton Pastures on Jul 2nd (TGB), 7 Dorney W on Aug 8th-12th (DJB), 42 (the highest ever count for Berks) at Cockmarsh on Sep 26th (CDRH) and 34 nearby on Oct 3rd (LM), 9 Summerleaze GP on Oct 15th (BAJC), 6 Pingewood GPs on Oct 15th (TGB), 6 Billingbear on Nov 6th (DJB), 8 near Holyport on Nov 9th (DJB) rising to 14 on Nov 18th (JEW), 26 at Cockmarsh on Dec 21st (BDC) and finally 6 on Theale Main GP on Dec 26th (KEM). **Breeding:** Records were received from 5 sites. An early pair with 5 goslings was present at Foxley Lane Pond Binfield on Feb 21st (DJS), 1 pair hatched 6 young at Home Park Windsor in April but all succumbed in poor weather (TBo), 1 pair with 3 young at Whiteknights Park in April all failed to fledge (PG) but another brood was reported there in June (PG) and a female nesting on Dec 26th (MBu). A pair with 3 juvs was located at Dinton Pastures CP on Jul 20th (CDRH) and a pair with 6 young on Theale Main GP on Jul 25th (CDRH) and still present on Oct 5th (NR).

2001 Records were received from 41 locations, 1 in W Berks, 14 in M.Berks and 26 in E Berks, a distribution which seems to be persisting.

Large groups include 32 at Cockmarsh on Jan 22nd (LM), 7 at Moor Green Lakes, Eversley GPs on Feb 11th (IT), 16 at Twyford GPs on Jul 19th (CDRH), 23 at Blue Mountain GC on Aug 22nd (JAt), 8 at Summerleaze GP on Oct 18th (CDRH) and 39 at Cockmarsh on Dec 2nd (DJB). **Breeding:** An adult with 5 young were present at Home Pk Windsor on Jul 18th (WAS). Elsewhere there were no confirmed cases of breeding although probable juvs were reported from Windsor Great Pk (R Gompertz), Twyford GPs (J Mitchell) and Green Pk Reading (PBT). A pair at Whiteknights Lake made 2 breeding attempts but failed to rear any young (PG). White headed variants were seen at Pingewood GPs on May 31st (CDRH) and Bray GP on Jun 16th (BDC).

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Increasing passage, winter and summer visitor which breeds in small numbers

2000 Reported from 25 locations, 7 in W Berks, 10 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	-	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horton GP area	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	5	12	14	7	Br	Br	5	-	-	-	-	6
Padworth Lane GP	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	2	-	1	2	4	3	3	-	-	-	-
Theale GPs	2	2	2	1	1	Br	1	-	1	-	3	1
Tickleback Row	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	5	-	4	3	Br	-	-	-	-	3
Wraysbury GPs	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	1	2	-	-	1

The high count of 14 at Lower Fm GP occurred on Mar 14th (IW; JL). Elsewhere the highest counts reported were 3 at Slough SF on Apr 16th (DJB) and 4 at Old Slade NR on May 2nd (CDRH). **Breeding:** A good year with records coming from 5 locations. At Lower Fm GP a pair with 9 ducklings was located on May 19th (RCr et al) with a second pair with at least 3 ducklings there on Jun 8th (RCr), a pair with 9 ducklings was found at the Beenham landfill site on Jun 25th (JPM), 1pr with 1 duckling at Theale GPs on Jun 29th (CDRH). 1pr with 8 young at Woolhampton GPs on Jul 3rd (JPM) and 1 pair with 1 young at Green Park Reading on Aug 25th (CDRH). After breeding Shelduck migrate to their traditional moulting grounds which accounts for the absence of Oct records.

2001 Records were received from 38 locations, 11 in W Berks, 17 in M.Berks and 10 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	15	14	29	24	9	3	1	-	-
Lower Fm GP	4	10	3	4	8	5	2	2	2	1	2	4
Padworth GP	-	2	6	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

Groups of 5 were seen on the Jubilee R near Dorney on Mar 14th (CDRH), Borough Marsh on Mar 27th (AT) and at Beenham landfill site on Apr 13th (JPM). Woolhampton GP held 15 adults Jun 8th (JPM) and 8 flew west with a Curlew over the A308 Windsor Road at Bray on Sep 18th (CDRH). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at 5 locations involving 7 pairs, making 2001 the best ever year for breeding in Berks. At Pingewood GPs, 2prs with broods of 4 and 3 were located in May (RCr et al) and a 3rd pair appeared with a brood of 13 chicks on Jun 7th (RCr), these young contributed to the high count of 29 noted in June. Mortality was surprisingly low at this site with 18 juvs still present on Jul 7th (JA). Elsewhere a brood of 6 was found at Brimpton GP on Jun 10th (SG), a brood of 9 with 15 adults were on floods near East Ilsley on Jun 12th (CDRH), a brood of 7 with 11 adults at Woolhampton GP on Jun 18th (JPM) and a brood of 5 were present at Aldermaston GP on Jul 3rd (JPM). Additionally, a pair with 10y was located just over the county boundary on the Compton Downs on Jun 3rd (ABT). The records from Compton and East Ilsley are unusual as these areas are usually not frequented by this species but due to high winter rainfall, these areas were flooded and remained waterlogged long enough for Shelducks to take advantage of the favourable conditions.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

A common resident in E Berks, scarce elsewhere though increasing.

2000 Records were received from 41 locations, 5 in W Berks, 10 in M.Berks and 26 in E Berks. The retiring nature of this species make accurate counts in its E Berks strongholds difficult, therefore most counts received are from well watched areas on the periphery of its range. The maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	2	-	2	12	Br	4	-	-	-	-	2	-
Whiteknights Park Lake	5	3	3	2	Br	4	3	1	5	-	-	10
Windsor Park / Virginia Water	-	3	4	4	Br	Br	5	-	17+	-	-	32
Wraysbury GPs	-	2	-	2	4	1	-	-	4	-	-	2

The high count of 32 occurred on Dec 31st at Virginia Water (CDRH). Elsewhere counts exceeding 9 birds occurred at Warfield Lake, 10 on Jun 1st (DJB); Maiden Erleigh, 13 on

Sep 29th (PG) and Romney Lock, 20 during Dec (WAS). The highest count from W Berks was 2 (1 ad f and 1 juv) at Aldermaston GP on Jul 7th (JPM). **Breeding:** was reported from 6 sites, in E Berks 6 pairs bred in nest boxes at Eversley GPs (KBB), 1 female was on 16 eggs in a Tawny Owl nest box in Quarry Woods on May 16th (BDC), 1pr with young at Boulters Lock on May 18th (SR) and 2 broods of 2 and 7 were located at Home Park Windsor on May 24th (TBo) with another brood of 6 there on Jun 8th (TBo). In M.Berks Mandarins bred for the first time at Whiteknights Lake with 1f and 8 chicks seen on May 19th (PG), 2 of which fledged. A female with 3 young was noted at Oval Pond Padworth on Jun 5th (GEW).

2001 Records were received from 35 locations, 1 in W Berks, 13 in M.Berks and 21 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites for which there were counts were:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	6	1	2	3	5	4	7	-	1	-	-	1
Whiteknights Lake	12	-	5	1	-	5	-	-	30	30	3	50

The count of 50 at Whiteknights Lake was made on several dates in Dec (PG). Other large groups include 10 birds at Great Pond Sunninghill Pk on Jan 7th (LM), 15 Romney Lock Windsor on Jan 25th (WAS) and 30 at Virginia Water on Oct 30th (SPA). As in previous years the species was regularly reported from several sites along the Thames from Datchet to Pangbourne, particularly the Maidenhead to Cookham area. **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at 9 locations. A brood of 5 were found at Pingewood GPs on May 14th (CDRH), 1f with 3y at Wraysbury GPs on May 15th (AFd), 2 pairs bred at Whiteknights Lake rearing 3y (MBu; PG), 1f with 3y at Blackpotts near Eton on Jun 8th and 1f with 4y there on Jul 12th (WAS), 1f and 1y at Padworth Lane GP on Jun 14th (JPM), 1f and 4y on the Cut nr Hawthorn Hill on Jun 15th (DJB), 1f with 4y at Purley on Jul 16th (GS), 1f with 2y on the Thames at Datchet on Jul 12th (WAS) and 1f with 1y at Aldermaston GP on Aug 8th (JPM).

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant which has bred.

2000 Reported from 26 locations, 6 in W Berks, 12 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. Monthly maxima for the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GPs	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	164	-	6	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	18	-
Eversley GPs	242	180	188	30	-	-	-	4	42	98	188	359
Lower Fm GP	119	103	64	8	-	-	-	2	9	30	31	53
Moatlands / Burghfield Mill GPs	300	320	150	-	-	-	-	6	39	155	40	246
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	22	50	45	5
Theale GPs	-	6	36	4	1	1	2	1	1	4	-	-
Twyford GPs	202	83	35	11	2	-	-	-	31	-	179	119
Wraysbury GPs	170	83	41	4	-	-	1	4	80	303	135	80

The high count of 320 at Burghfield Mill GP, Moatlands, occurred on Feb 6th (JA), whilst the 359 at Eversley GPs on Dec 31st (JMC) is a site record. Away from the main sites 2 counts exceeded 50 birds, 64 were present at Summerleaze GP on Feb 12th (JF) and 57 at Tickleback Row on Nov 2nd (DJB). Most birds had left by the end of March,

being present at only 7 sites in April. The only later dates were 2 (1 imm male and an ad female) at Twyford GPs on May 3rd (CDRH) and a female with a damaged wing which summered at Hosehill Lake (MO). Returning birds were first noted in July with 1 male at Aldermaston GP on Jul 11th (JPM), 1 Heron Lakes Wraysbury GPs on Jul 18th (CDRH) and 2 at Bottom Lane Theale on Jul 22nd (PNe). Numbers then increased through Aug and were widespread by mid Sep.

2001 Records were received from 21 locations, 5 in W Berks, 10 in M.Berks and 6 in E Berks. Monthly maxima for the main sites were:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	116	68	–	–	–	1	–	–	5	18	51	88
Eversley GPs	585	299	50	8	1	–	–	16	181	188	304	400
Pingewood GPs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	30	151	110	44
Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3	6	29	100	–
Bray GPs	6	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	150	–
Summerlease GP	45	20	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	228
Twyford GPs	142	102	30	3	–	1	–	2	–	4	4	85
Theale/Moatlands GP	430	–	–	3	2	1	2	3	45	–	43	256

The count of 585 at Eversley GPs occurring during the monthly Webs count on Jan 14th continues the recent run of high numbers wintering at this site and is the highest Berks count since 828 at Twyford GPs in Jan 1997. Other large counts include 93 at Rose Kiln Lane on Mar 10th (MW), a flock of 150 flying east over QMR on Oct 17th (CDRH), 198 at Wraysbury GP on Nov 10th (PN) and at Burghfield GPs numbers built up from 103 on Oct 28th to 300+ on Dec 23rd (JA). An injured female remained at Hosehill Lake throughout the summer (RCr et al) whilst an injured drake was at Twyford GP on Jun 1st (BTB). At Lower Fm GP a drake was seen on Jun 3rd (SG) and an eclipse male was at Theale Main Pit on Jul 2nd (CDRH). With these summering birds, assessing first and last dates is difficult, but it is likely that 1m at Theale Main GP on May 10th-11th (RCr; JLe) (or an undated May record for Eversley GPs from IHB) was the last to go and 2 at Hosehill Lake on Aug 27th (BU) may have been the first back.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Common winter visitor and increasing breeding species. (Amber listed)

2000 Reported from 37 locations, 13 in W Berks, 14 in M.Berks and 10 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	200	310	78	9	5	4	11	27	35	7	10	32
Eversley GPs	160	110	18	5	2	3	3	14	25	69	97	148
Lower Fm GP	104	50	36	8	4	2	–	37	28	42	42	47
Moatlands GPs	311	175	25	6	15	13	2	–	30	35	25	150
Old Slade NR	22	17	6	6	–	–	–	–	6	20	14	18
Pingewood GPs	–	–	3	2	1	–	3	6	30	100	30	30
Twyford GPs	94	96	19	2	2	2	–	–	53	–	128	55
Woolhampton GPs	–	2	30	12	6	20	–	–	5	–	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	519	390	331	8	9	2	2	51	197	100	64	110

The high count of 519 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Jan 8th (DJB). Elsewhere the only count to exceed 100 was at Searle's Lane GP on Jan 4th-9th (JA; TGB). **Breeding:** Summering

birds were widespread with records coming from 14 sites in June with a high count of 20 reported from Woolhampton GP on Jun 11th (GEW). However breeding was only confirmed at 2 possibly 3 sites, 1f with young at Hosehill on May 24th (TM) and 1f with 5 young at Field Fm GP on Jun 13th (RCr). Three juvs were also seen at Bottom Lane floods on Jun 13th (PG) but it is not known whether these birds were able to fly and may have been the Hosehill young.

2001 Records were received from 32 locations, 10 in W Berks, 12 in M.Berks and 10 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	15	25	20	3	–	2	–	–	6	10	7	20
Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake	82	5	2	4	2	6	2	25	50	57	110	132
Eversley GPs	20	–	2	8	5	1	–	20	22	78	78	91
Lower Fm GP	38	22	7	7	15	16	8	33	20	27	19	36
Old Slade NR	18	4	6	9	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	14
Twyford GPs	91	80	–	8	–	–	–	10	8	54	50	58
Burghfield GPs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	219	210	282
Wraysbury GPs	42	54	–	2	–	–	–	–	36	275	552	501

Other large counts were reported at Moatlands GPs with 334 on Jan 18th (RCr) and Summerleaze GP with 142 on Dec 23rd (BDC). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at Woolhampton GP, 1f 7y (JPM), Field Fm GP, probably 4 broods (CDRH; RCr), Pingewood GPs, 1f 3y (RCr) and Dinton Pastures, family party (LM).

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Common winter visitor and scarce summer visitor which has bred in the past.

2000 Records were widespread throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	28	16	10	4	–	–	–	1	–	8	4	8
Bray GPs	29	20	20	4	–	–	–	–	4	9	7	30
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	75	46	30	4	1	2	3	17	48	19	28	27
Eversley GPs	61	20	28	12	2	2	1	6	22	21	26	42
Lower Fm GP	82	27	22	16	–	–	1	15	10	21	38	50
Moatlands / Burghfield Mill GPs	–	–	4	61	–	–	–	5	3	1	–	100
Tickleback Row	81	52	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	46	35	–
Twyford GPs	32	43	4	3	–	–	–	–	–	100	6	400
Woolhampton GPs	–	5	–	4	–	–	–	11	14	–	–	50
Wraysbury GPs	42	14	6	2	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–

The high count of 400 at Twyford GPs occurred on Dec 29th (DJB). Away from the main sites counts in excess of 50 were, c200 at the Wilderness on Jan 9th (IW; JL), 90+ Horton GPs on Feb 9th and 60+ there on Mar 9th (CDRH). Late birds lingered into May with singles at Lavells Lake on May 6th (SPA), Eversley GPs (TGB) and Field Fm GP (DJB) on May 8th. Evidence of summering occurred at Eversley GP with 2 on May 26th (IHB), May 27th (TGB) and Jun 10th (IHB), 2 were present at Lavells Lake on Jun 2nd (MO) and 5 were at Field Fm GP on Jun 15th (RCr). Return passage began on Jul 8th with 1 at Eversley GPs (IHB), 8 at Field Fm GP (BU) and 2 at Lower Fm GP (IW; JL).

2001 Records were received from 26 locations, 9 in W Berks, 8 in M.Berks and 9 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	31	35	12	5	1	–	2	9	19	33	24	119
Aldermaston GP	21	15	70	31	–	–	1	3	4	4	3	9
Pingewood GPs	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	55	70	–	–
Eversley GPs	21	11	55	4	–	2	–	8	12	8	52	26
Lavell's Lake	62	12	5	4	–	5	2	31	35	14	11	14
Twyford GPs	122	46	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	26
Bray GPs	60	45	13	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	31	–

Large counts were also reported from the Old Slade NR complex with 48 on Jan 17th (DR), Moatlands GP with 95 on Jan 18th (RCr), Tickleback Row with 67 on Jan 22nd (DJB), 80 Windsor Gt Pk Sep 22nd (RRG) and there were 44 in the Dorney W/Slough SF area on Dec 23rd (DJB). **Summer:** With most birds leaving during April, May records involved just 2 single males, 1 at Old Slade NR on the 3rd (DR) and 1 at Lower Fm GP on the 12th (IW; JL). In June birds were more widespread, being reported from 5 localities. Two were present at Eversley GPs on Jun 2nd (IT), 3 at Ruscombe on Jun 8th (DJB), 2 arrived at Bottom Lane floods on Jun 9th increasing to 7 by Jun 20th (RCr), unusually 3 were on floods at East Ilsley on Jun 14th (CDRH) and 5 at Lavells Lake on Jun 19th (BTB). The third successive year with a June influx – late passage? (Recorder).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

Very rare vagrant

2001 A first winter male was located at the Moor Green Lakes reserve, Eversley GPs on Nov 17th (IHB et al) and proved to be a very popular attraction as it remained on site into 2002. This is the second county record, the first being at Burghfield GPs on Apr 21st 1990.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

2000 The monthly maxima where regular counts were made are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	30	11	15	7	4	5	7	13	32	15	20	3
Bray GPs	40	–	8	24	–	20	48	–	20	30	20	50
Eversley GPs	16	36	35	35	31	41	50	68	60	50	83	81
Heath Lake	130	–	–	–	17	–	71	97	80	95	108	221
Lower Fm GP	80	21	19	9	15	11	43	103	122	63	44	53
Old Slade NR	14	12	28	–	–	–	–	–	9	26	17	29
Wraysbury GPs	35	32	41	40	33	18	20	31	27	52	63	88

The high count of 221 at Heath Lake occurred on Dec 31st (IT). Elsewhere counts to exceed 100 were 110 at Burghfield GPs on Jan 4th (JA), 150 on flood meadows west of Kintbury on Jan 9th (IW; JL), c100 on floods at Home Fm Hungerford on Nov 17th (RGS), 140 on the Kintbury flood meadows on Dec 25th (DR) and c100 on Muddy Lane GP on Dec 31st (IW; JL).

2001 Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	10	6	15	3	5	5	9	26	17	15	21	33
Heath Lake	235	99	87	22	23	33	118	108	101	–	–	122
Lower Fm GP	74	36	9	19	25	28	37	101	76	85	120	135

Other large counts include 90 at Wraysbury GP on Jan 14th (VAC), 239 at Eversley GPs on Jan 20th (IT) and 67 at Bray GP on the same date (MMc). There were 200 at Home Fm, Hungerford on Nov 30th (RGS) and numbers at Muddy Lane GP peaked at 150 in Jan and Dec (IW; JL; GJS). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at Bray GPs (PNe), Lower Fm GP (IW; JL), Padworth GP (JPM) and Woolhampton GP (JPM), but would have been much more widespread.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant which has increased in recent years.

2000 The recent upsurge of records continued with records received from 10 sites, 1 in W Berks, 5 M.Berks and 4 in E Berks, involving at least 36 birds. **First winter:** A pair was located at Burghfield GPs on Jan 1st (JA; KEM) and at Lower Fm GP there was a run of records through Jan and into Feb with 2 males on Jan 1st (IW; JL; JPM), 1 male on Jan 8th and 16th (MO). 2 males and 1 female on Jan 31st (HMG), 3f and 1m on Feb 3rd (LS) and 3m and 1f on Feb 20th (LS). A male was present at Theale GPs on Jan 30th (IT), 1m at Field Fm GP on Feb 12th (BU) was probably 1 of the 2 males seen on Moatlands GP on Feb 13th (MO) and Eversley GPs played host to a female on Feb 19th (IHB). **Summer:** A female at Eversley GPs on Jun 10th (BMA; IHB; JEW) was only the second ever June record, after a pair visited Bulmershe Lakes on Jun 6th 1937. **Autumn Passage:** 1 female in wing moult took up temporary residence at Heron Lakes, Wraysbury, being seen on Aug 31st and Sep 12th (CDRH). A female was seen at Theale Main GP on Sep 17th (BU) and 2 f/imms were at QMR on Sep 22nd (JAS). **Second winter:** One male and 3 females were located at Eversley GPs on Nov 7th (RJG; GR) with 3 there on Nov 8th (GR) and 1f on Nov 12th (BMA), a male was found at Twyford GPs on Dec 12th (BTB; DJB) and 1pr was present at Summerleaze GP on Dec 23rd (CDRH). Finally 2 males were present at Lower Fm GP on Dec 30th (RF) and a pair at Moatlands GP on Dec 31st (BU; MJS).

2001 Records were again received from 10 locations, 1 in W Berks, 5 in M.Berks and 4 in E Berks. **First winter:** A good year for sightings of this elegant bird started with 12 at Burghfield GPs (RHS; AH; BU) and a pair at Lower Fm (IW; JL; SG) on Jan 1st. The Lower Fm birds were joined by a female on Jan 6th (NDOC) and at Bray GPs a drake was seen on Jan 5th, 6th and 28th (MMc). One female was found at Twyford GPs on Jan 5th, 4 males and 2 females were present on Jan 28th and 6m 6f on Mar 25th (BTB). A first winter male was seen at Eton Wick/Jubilee R on Jan 14th (CDRH), 2 were reported from Eversley GPs on Feb 9th (G Rowland), 3 were at Wraysbury GPs on Feb 11th (VAC), a male was at Moatlands GP on Feb 25th (BH) and at Burghfield GPs 4 birds, including 2 males, were present on Feb 5th (CDRH). The last spring sighting was on floods at Borough Marsh on Apr 4th when 2 pairs were present (ABT). **Second winter:** The earliest autumn sighting was on Sep 24th (PBT) when a female was seen at Pingewood GPs but later in the day a male was also found to be present (MGM). At Eversley GPs 6 birds, including 4 adult males, were present on Nov 19th (MMc) with 1 bird remaining on Nov 20th (JOB). Three birds were at Heron Lakes Wraysbury on Dec 14th (CDRH), a male was at Lower Fm GP on Dec 15th (IW; JL), and

this was joined by a first winter male the next day (JC; M Prince), both staying until the year end (MO). Finally, a male was at Bray GPs on Dec 30th-31st (B Pavey; CDRH).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage and summer visitor which has bred.

2000 Another above average year with 12 records involving up to 19 birds. **Spring:** Spring passage was poor with a male at Lower Fm GP on May 7th (A Bell) and 1m at Woolhampton GP on May 21st (GEW) being the only records. **Autumn:** Passage began in July with 5 at Lavells Lake on Jul 23rd (FC et al) and 1 there on Jul 24th-25th (MO), 1 Wraysbury GPs Jul 23rd (VAC), an eclipse drake resided at Green Park Reading Jul 24th to Aug 2nd (CDRH) with 3 there on Aug 23rd (PBT). In the Moatlands area 2 were located at Field Fm GP on Aug 17th (RCr) to Aug 20th (MJS) and 1 on Aug 26th (RCr), what was probably these birds were also seen on Burghfield Mill GP (RJB) and Moatlands GP (MW) on Aug 20th. A female and an immature were at Lower Fm GP Aug 25th (DJB; RRK) to Aug 28th (log book) and 1 was present at Dinton Pastures on Aug 28th (BTB). The only September record concerned a f/imm at Heron Lake, Wraysbury on Sep 11th-12th (CDRH).

2001 Records, involving up to 12 birds, were received from 7 locations; 1 in W Berks, 3 in M.Berks and 3 in E Berks. **Spring Passage:** The first bird of the year, a drake was seen for just 10 minutes before it flew east from Bray GP on Apr 8th (MMc). An equally short-stayer, another drake, was at Horton GP on May 13th (JAS) and 2 drakes were at Lower Fm GP on May 24th (RRK). **Autumn Passage:** Two juveniles were the first returning birds to be reported, at Green Park on Aug 6th (PBT). These birds were seen intermittently, with a female joining them on Aug 21st-22nd (PBT; CDRH), until the last one was seen on Sep 6th (PBT). Two (possibly the Green Pk birds) were located at Pingewood GPs on Aug 9th (MJT) and an eclipse male was present at Dinton Pastures CP from Aug 27th (BTB) to Aug 31st (M Sales). An adult female was at QMR on Sep 1st (JAS) and a bird of unknown gender was at Burghfield GP from Oct 16th (RCr) to Oct 25th (MGM).

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Common winter visitor, scarce in the summer.

2000 Records were received from 28 locations, 7 in W Berks, 14 in M.Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	56	50	21	7	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	24
Bray GPs	20	8	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	12	15	10
Burghfield / Pingewood GPs	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	16	22	38	20
Dinton Pastures / Lavells Lake	20	-	2	-	1	-	1	2	7	4	-	1
Eversley GPs	30	40	36	3	1	-	3	1	3	7	25	28
Moatlands GP / Field Fm GP	42	40	4	-	1	-	-	20	8	31	52	7
Lower Fm GP	39	32	52	9	1	-	1	20	14	21	12	11
Twyford GPs	40	8	17	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	16	16
Wraysbury GPs	18	12	19	4	2	-	5	29	100	37	174	20

The high count of 100 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Sep 2nd (VAC). Other significant counts away from the main sites were 17 at Whiteknights Lake on Feb 1st (PG) and 25 at Muddy Lane GP on Dec 31st (IW; JL; GJS). Most birds had departed by April, May records

being received from only 7 sites. Only 2 June records were received, 1pr at Bottom Lane Theale on Jun 8th (RCr) and 2 males at Woolhampton GPs on Jun 11th (GEW). Returning birds were first encountered in July with 3 at Eversley GPs on Jul 4th (KBB), 5 Heron Lake, Wraysbury on Jul 5th (CDRH), 1 Aldermaston GP on Jul 11th (JPM), 1 Lower Fm GP on Jul 16th (IW; JL) and 6 at QMR also on Jul 16th (CDRH). Numbers then increased, being widespread by late August.

2001 Records were received from 28 locations; 9 in W Berks, 11 in M. Berks and 8 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	19	15	16	2	–	–	1	–	1	–	12	8
Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake	30	–	–	–	2	–	–	7	13	27	–	56
Eversley GPs	14	–	3	5	–	–	–	–	3	3	6	15
Lower Fm GP	28	27	12	3	–	–	2	11	10	8	21	59
Moatlands GP / Field Fm GP	60	–	–	–	2	2	2	39	52	45	8	–
Muddy Lane GP	14	9	14	–	–	–	–	–	3	47	31	82
Slough SF / Dorney W	–	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	12	9	10
Twyford GPs	42	36	5	–	–	–	–	3	1	2	16	22
Wraysbury GPs	26	61	–	2	–	–	–	22	–	–	49	24

Numbers elsewhere were typical throughout the year, with good counts of 36 at Burghfield GPs on Oct 28th and 41 on Nov 4th (JA). **Summer:** Lingering birds were found at 4 sites during May with a pair taking up residence at Horton GPs throughout May (CDRH), 2m at Moatlands GP on May 9th (RCr) and a pair there on May 15th (CDRH). Unusually there was a pair on floods at East Ilsley on May 21st (P Rainsden) to May 23rd (CDRH), the male being still present on Jun 4th (CDRH). At Dinton Pastures there was a pair on May 22nd (P Lamsdale). June records involved 2m at Field Fm GP on Jun 11th (CDRH) and 2 at Pingewood GPs on Jun 23rd (RJB). The first returning bird was possibly 1 at Bottom Lane on Jul 8th (TABR) thereafter numbers slowly increased until late Aug when the first autumn influx took place.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

A scarce visitor primarily in the winter. Its true status as a wild bird is masked by escapes and visitors from feral populations such as Cotswold Water Park.

2000 The usual scattering of records involving a minimum of 14 birds from 10 sites. **First winter:** A small influx occurred in January, the 1999 female at Bray GP was seen to Jan 31st (CDRH) and what was probably this bird on Mar 5th (PNe). A female present at Theale Main GP on Jan 1st (BU) continued to be seen to Apr 21st (BU), another female found at Wraysbury GPs on Jan 1st (KEM) remained to Jan 26th (CDRH) whilst 2 males were reported there on Jan 16th (C Lindsay). Single males were at Woolhampton GP on Jan 2nd (DK) and Feb 12th (GGS), a female at Burghfield GPs on Jan 5th (BTB) was followed by a male on Jan 8th (PG), what may have been this bird was seen again on Mar 31st and Apr 21st (JA). Another male appeared at Brimpton GP on Jan 12th (GEW) (the Woolhampton bird?) and a male took up residence at Muddy Lane GP on Jan 29th (GJS) to Apr 2nd (RF). In March single females were located at Summerleaze GP on Mar 16th (PNe) to Apr 6th (BAJC) and Dinton Pastures on Mar 24th (EN; BTB) to Mar 26th (MBu). **Second winter:** Only 2 records were received, 1 male at Whiteknights Lake on Dec 5th (PG) and 1 female at Dinton Pastures CP on Dec 31st (BTB).

2001 All 8 records received were from M.Berks. **First winter:** A female was at Whiteknights Park on Jan 22nd (MBu) and a female was at Moatlands GPs (Burghfield Mill) on Mar 3rd (MGM). A pair (escapees from the Courage Brewery collection?) was seen at Fobney Meadows on Apr 25th and Green Park on May 8th (PBT). One female was at Smallmead GP on May 11th (JLe) and a pair, possibly the Green Pk birds were present at Burnthouse Lane GP on May 15th (CDRH) and a female on 18th (PBT; RHS). Finally a female flew north over Green Park on Jun 10th (CDRH). **Second winter:** An eclipse male was at Burghfield GPs on Aug 24th (PBT). A female was at Burghfield Mill GP on Nov 11th (CDRH) and a male moved around the Burghfield GPs from Nov 24th (MW) until Dec 28th (BTB). Overall, a fairly average year.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant which has bred occasionally.

2000 Birds were reported throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	13	16	6	1	–	–	2	–	–	13	13	14
Burghfield / Pingewood GPs	60	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	2	14	31	35
Bray GPs	75	50	13	–	1	3	–	–	3	26	50	120
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	150	6	8	–	–	–	–	5	4	–	14	1
Eversley GPs	53	60	36	–	–	5	4	5	4	23	38	37
Lower Fm GP	45	25	35	1	1	–	–	–	6	7	11	16
Moatlands GPs	95	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	27	45	106
Muddy Lane GP	64	44	–	2	–	–	–	2	22	40	60	90
Old Slade NR	20	20	1	–	–	7	18	54	50	15	32	14
Theale GPs	9	42	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	6	–	13
Twyford GPs	42	36	18	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	28	98
Wraysbury GPs	206	164	211	4	5	6	31	47	35	48	276	342

The high count of 211 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Mar 12th and of 342 on Dec 17th (VAC). Elsewhere the only count to exceed 50 was 61 at Donnington Grove Lake on Dec 30th (IW; JL). Birds were present in small numbers during summer, occurring at 10 sites between May 15th-Jul 10th, with maximum counts of 5 at Eversley GPs on Jun 17th (IHB), 6 Wraysbury GPs on Jun 25th (VAC), 3 Bray GP on Jun 28th (CDRH) and 7 at Old Slade NR on Jun 28th (CDRH) indicating early return passage. Passage continued in July with high counts of 18 at Old Slade NR on Jul 12th (WAS) and 31 at Wraysbury GPs on Jul 23rd (VAC).

2001 Records were received from 28 locations, 9 in W Berks, 10 in M.Berks and 9 in E Berks. Monthly maxima for the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	16	19	2	1	–	–	2	1	–	8	17	9
Bray GPs	70	35	13	–	–	1	3	–	7	47	–	45
Eversley GPs	46	21	–	1	–	–	1	6	6	17	27	40
Lower Fm GP	17	60	1	1	–	1	1	1	5	3	10	21
Moatlands GPs	213	–	–	–	2	–	1	5	2	–	140	78
Muddy Lane GP	107	100	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	69	80	83
Summerleaze GP	25	30	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	11	25
Twyford GPs	18	22	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	19	46
Wraysbury GPs	385	283	80	–	–	–	–	80	7	141	358	280

Other significant counts included 54 at Burghfield GPs on Jan 4th (JA), 84 at Hosehill Lake on Feb 19th (RCr), 120 at Windsor Gt Pk Oct 22nd (PES), 120 at Woolhampton GP on Dec 31st (IW; JL) and 170 Great Meadow Pond Oct 27th (PES). A count of 80 at Heron Lake, Wraysbury on the early date of Aug 10th (CDRH) is notable. Birds were reported from 6 sites in May-June, returning birds reappearing from July onward.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Very rare vagrant

2001 After two records in 1999 there were a further two in 2001 bringing the county total to 6 records. **First winter:** A female/immature bird was found at Virginia Water on Jan 17th (CDRH). All ducks present flew to the western (Berkshire) end of the partially frozen lake just before dusk (16.30hrs) but the lake was completely frozen the next day and no further sightings were made. **Second winter:** A first winter female was found at Searle's Lane GP Burghfield on Nov 23rd (MW et al). Although mobile between adjacent lakes many sightings were recorded before the last reports on Dec 29th (RCr; MW; KEM).

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

Rare winter visitor.

2000 First winter: At Searle's Lane GP Burghfield, the adult female present from 1999 remained until Jan 9th (MO). **Second winter:** An adult male found on Dec 29th (CDRH) at Burghfield GPs stayed into 2001 (record accepted by BBRC - Brit Birds 94:464). Burghfield GPs is an attractive site for this species with 3 of the last 4 Berkshire records coming from this site. These records bring the Berkshire total to 30.

2001 First winter: Continuing a good year for rare duck species, the drake Ferruginous Duck found in Dec 2000 remained at Searle's Lane GP until Feb 22nd (MO). **Second winter:** What is believed to be the same bird was again present at Searle's Lane GP from Dec 2nd (TGB et al) and remained into 2002. (Brit. Birds 95:487).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

2000 On wetland throughout the county; maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	80	-	44	38	-	15	46	49	65	60	130	155
Burghfield / Pingewood GPs	150	-	70	80	20	-	10	40	150	200	140	370
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	250	-	235	68	2	-	6	100	153	146	60	107
Eversley GPs	110	117	113	71	59	68	60	47	30	40	82	154
Lower Fm GP	43	26	47	27	18	24	Br	26	12	12	26	44
Moatlands GPs	400	-	80	30	50	30	60	40	100	100	100	150
Muddy Lane GP	56	36	-	32	-	7	-	7	18	42	44	76
Old Slade NR	58	77	72	18	-	16	-	22	68	37	97	14
Padworth Lane GP	38	26	14	5	10	18	-	25	8	5	16	65
QMR	8	6	5	8	28	62	58	23	35	37	86	87
Theale Main GP / Hosehill Lake	110	150	72	50	50	50	15	30	30	60	-	200
Twyford GPs	57	132	87	30	20	-	3	9	61	-	54	54
Wraysbury GPs	616	560	183	197	164	82	111	210	545	660	450	1750

The high count of 616 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Jan 16th and of 1750 on Dec 17th (VAC) and the 400 at Burghfield Mill, Moatlands GPs on Jan 1st (BU) was a high count for this site. **Breeding:** Was reported from 11 sites, a female with 5 young at QMR on Aug 5th (JAS) was unusual. Several sites recorded multiple broods with 4 broods of 6, 8, 8 and 15 at Moatlands GP on Jul 18th (RCr) being the highest count.

2001 Records were received from 21 locations in W Berks, 11 in M.Berks and 12 in E Berks reflecting their widespread distribution. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	100	–	32	27	11	23	–	–	78	100	37	60
Eversley GPs	182	108	–	69	8	34	46	51	30	60	63	52
Lower Fm GP	39	27	41	31	31	23	29	32	17	6	24	27
Moatlands GPs	600	342	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	283	600	428
Muddy Lane GP	147	53	–	23	10	2	17	15	30	50	69	73
Old Slade NR	88	59	72	39	16	–	42	–	–	–	–	58
QMR	110	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	230	219	152	149
Summerleaze GP	65	–	80	65	24	–	–	–	22	16	64	130
Twyford GPs	40	87	–	–	–	–	–	–	57	74	83	68
Wraysbury GPs	568	431	105	140	–	–	–	–	179	365	2091	1899

The high count of 2091 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on a WeBS count day. The counts of 600 at Moatlands GPs on Jan 4th (JA) and Nov 3rd (BU) are site records. Elsewhere the highest count involved 302 at Horton GPs on Nov 4th (MMc). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at 11 locations, the most productive site being Field Fm GP where broods of 2, 6, 6, 7, 10 and 18 young were noted during July (RCr). The only breeding record from the R Thames involved 1f with 2y at Frogmill nr Hurley on Jul 27th (SJF; FMF).

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

2000 First winter/Spring: The 4 birds from 1999 (2 females and 2 1st winter drakes) wintering at Heron Lakes Wraysbury continued to be seen to Mar 9th (MO) with a 5th bird (a female) joining them on Mar 10th (CDRH). The five remained in the area until Mar 20th (CDRH) and were the largest recorded group in Berks since 6 were seen at Boveney Lock in 1991. Elsewhere a pair was found on Theale Main GP on Mar 19th (MGM) with the male still present there on Apr 5th (BU) and 2 females were located at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 21st -23rd (LJF;MJF;RRG). **Autumn/Second winter:** Only 1 record was received, a female seen on both Theale Main GP and Hosehill Lake on Dec 30th (MJS).

2001 First winter: In what was a quiet year for this species one male was mobile around Burghfield GPs from Feb 24th (KEM) until Mar 14th (PBT). **Second winter:** 2 males were at Wraysbury GPs from Dec 14th-16th (CDRH). Possibly the same 2 males were at QMR from Dec 16th-24th with one staying until the year end at least (JAS;CDRH). A male at Horton GP on Dec 31st (CDRH) was presumably one of these.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 There were 5 records involving 15 birds in 2000. The only spring record involved a pair seen at Theale Main GP (BU) and Moatlands GP (IT) on Apr 2nd. In the autumn, all records came from QMR where JAS reported an adult male on Aug 11th, a party of 11 on Aug 21st and a 1st winter male on Nov 3rd. The party of 11 was the highest single flock count since 30 males were present at Theale GPs on Apr 25th 1993.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Common winter visitor with a bias to Mid and East Berks.

2000 Birds were located at 15 sites, 2 in W Berks, 8 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield / Pingewood GPs	18	-	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Dinton Pastures CP / Lavells Lake	13	17	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Eversley GPs	11	10	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7
Moatlands GPs	15	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	13
Theale GPs	16	58	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	8
Twyford GPs	10	2	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wraysbury GPs	50	48	17	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	15	38

First winter/Spring: The high count of 50 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Jan 15th (RRG) and the count of 58 at Theale (Hosehill Lake) occurred on Feb 6th (KEM) and included 14 drakes. Elsewhere 2 counts exceeded 6 birds, 8 at Summerleaze GP on Feb 13th (JF) and 7 there on Mar 16th (PNe). In W Berks the maximum count was 2 at Muddy Lane GP on Jan 29th-30th (GJS). Most birds had departed by the end of March, however small numbers could still be found at 5 locations in April with late records of 4 at Hosehill Lake on Apr 20th (RCr) and 4 at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 29th (PNe). Unusually there was a May record, 1 at Dinton Pastures CP on May 13th (IT) (the latest date since May 21st in 1984 and 1986). **Autumn/Second winter:** The first returning birds arrived in October with 1f at Hosehill Lake on Oct 28th (MR; MW) and 4 at Wraysbury GPs on Oct 29th (PNe). Numbers built up into the winter with a maximum count of 38 at Wraysbury GPs on Dec 31st (CDRH). Away from the main sites the only count to exceed 6 was 7 at Horton GPs on Dec 28th (DJB). In W Berks birds were only found at Woolhampton GPs with a max of just 2 on Dec 31st (GEW).

2001 Records were received from 13 locations, 2 in W Berks, 6 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. Monthly maxima for the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GPs	22	21	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	14
Dinton Pastures CP	3	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Eversley GPs	7	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Moatlands GPs	11	22	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	14	21
Hosehill Lake	17	23	3	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	3
Wraysbury GP	56	61	27	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	29

As in previous years this bird favoured central and eastern Berkshire with only singles reported at Lower Fm GP and Muddy Lane GP. Numbers reported were well down on

previous years at Moatlands GP. The last report in spring was of a pair at Hosehill Lake on Apr 21st (RCr) and a returning female was seen at Wigmores Lane GP Theale on the early date of Aug 28th (CDRH). In addition to the maxima above a group of 8 were at Smallmead Fm GP on Feb 3rd (MW) and 19 were at Twyford GP on Feb 11th (BTB). At Theale GPs there were 38 (including 22 at Hosehill Lake) on Feb 10th (IT).

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

Annual winter visitor in small numbers to traditional sites, scarce elsewhere.

2000 Records were received from 10 locations, 2 in W Berks, 5 in M.Berks and 3 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Twyford GPs	18	14	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Wraysbury GPs	14	16	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10

First winter: The emergence of Twyford GPs in recent winters as a regular wintering site for Smew is encouraging, the high count of 18 (3 drakes 15 rh) occurring on Jan 28th (DJB; BTB) and is the second highest count for this site (19 were present in Jan 1997). Elsewhere records involved 1r/h at Burghfield GPs on Jan 1st (JA; DKe) to Jan 16th (MO), 1 r/h at Lower Fm GP from Jan 1st (IW; JL) to Jan 31st (MET), 1 r/h Dinton Pastures CP on Jan 2nd (BTB), 3r/h Bray GP on Jan 11th (RAn; JAn), 2 r/h Horton GP on Jan 17th (CL) and 1 drake Theale Main GP on Jan 23rd (BU). At Moatlands GP, birds were present from Feb 5th, 1pr (BU) to Feb 17th, 1r/h (PG) and peaked at 4 (2 drakes) on Feb 12th (BU), 1r/h possibly a Moatlands bird was seen at Bottom Lane GP on Feb 6th (RJB) and Hosehill Lake on Feb 12th (BU) and Feb 24th (TM). Late redheads were seen at Twyford GPs on Mar 18th (MO) and Wraysbury GPs on Mar 20th (CDRH; RRG). **Second winter:** November arrivals were noted at Twyford GP, a redhead on Nov 23rd (IT) and Wraysbury GPs, a drake on Nov 24th (CL). Away from these sites the only record was of 1r/h at Padworth Lane GP on Dec 26th (JPM).

2001 Records were received from 10 locations, 1 in W Berks, 4 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. Monthly maxima (with the number of drakes where known shown in brackets) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Theale GPs	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Twyford GPs	8(2)	11(3)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6(1)
Wraysbury GPs	16(7)	13	13(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12(3)
Other locations	4(1)	13(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2(1)

Numbers appear to be down this year and the only significant count for other locations was 10 at Horton GP on Feb 17th (TBo). Only single red-heads reached the western part of the county at Lower Fm GP in both winters. The last report in spring was of 1r/h at Twyford GP on Mar 18th (BTB) and the season for Smew remains short with the first returning birds not reported until Nov 18th with 2r/h at Hosehill Lake (BU).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Uncommon but annual winter visitor

2000 An average year with 5 records. **First winter:** The 1999 wintering r/h at Theale Main GP was present until Jan 9th (MO), 1 was located at Wraysbury GPs on Jan 13th (N



Anderson) and a drake there Mar 19th (DMo). **Second winter:** For the fifth consecutive winter a r/h was at Theale Main GP from Dec 24th (BU) followed by another r/h at Padworth Lane GP Dec 28th (JPM) which appeared slightly oiled.

2001 First winter: 1 r/h was at Wraysbury Village Pit on Jan 13th (DR) and possibly the same bird on Jan 27th (PN). Two drakes and a r/h were at Bray GP Mar 22nd (CDRH) until Mar 27th (MO). A pair from these 3 birds was observed mating on Mar 24th (MMc). The last spring report was of a r/h at Lower Fm GP on Apr 28th (ABT). **Second winter:** Two r/h were at Theale Main GP on Dec 12th (MW) until Dec 23rd (PBT) also reported from Moatlands GP on Dec 16th (RCr).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Annual winter visitor which is scarce away from its E Berks strongholds.

2000 Generally a poor year for this species. Records were received from only 10 locations, 1 in W Berks, 2 in M. Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were (number of males if known is shown in brackets):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	73(36)	37(17)	22(7)	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(1)	47(28)
Theale GPs	3(2)	2(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2(1)
Wraysbury GPs	19	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11

First winter: The high count of 73 at Eversley GPs was Jan 27th (JMC) and the 19 at Wraysbury GPs Jan 16th (VAC). Elsewhere numbers were low with singles reported from Horton GP (JOB), Heath Lake Crowthorne (IT), Runnymede (TBo) and QMR on 3 dates (JAS). Birds were present on the R Thames at Romney Lock during Jan and Feb with a maximum of 4 (3 drakes) on Feb 24th (WAS) and at Twyford GP a pair was located on Feb 27th (BTB). Birds were only reported from 2 sites in March and 1 male lingered into April at Eversley GPs, being last seen on Apr 15th (IHB). **Second winter:** On Nov 16th there were singles on R Thames at Streatley (NJB) and Eversley GPs (IHB) and a male at QMR on Nov 29th (JAS). Records from 6 locations in December were 2 r/h at Twyford GPs on Dec 22nd (BDC), 1pr Romney Lock Dec 23rd-31st (WAS) and maximum counts of 6 Wraysbury GPs on Dec 26th (PNe), 47 Eversley GPs on Dec 28th (IHB), 2 Theale Main GP Dec 29th (CDRH) and 2 Wellington College Lake (RRG).

2001 Records were received from 10 locations, 2 in W Berks, 2 in M.Berks and 6 in E Berks. The monthly site maxima were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	24	22	9	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	55
Wraysbury GPs	14	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	16
Other Sites	23	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	5	3

First winter: Numbers were low during this period and apart from Eversley GPs and Wraysbury GPs, birds could be difficult to locate. However an over-wintering pair remained at Theale GPs until Mar 10th (RCr) and at QMR single males were reported Jan 3rd and Feb 25th, 2r/h on Jan 7th and 10 flew south there on Jan 25th (JAS). Small numbers appeared on the RThames at Windsor from Jan 12th (TBo) to Mar 1st (WAS) with a peak of 5 drakes and 2r/h on Jan 17th (TBo) and Feb 2nd (WAS), 4 were at Sandhurst GPs on Jan 22nd (RJG), 1m at Heath Lake from Feb 2nd-24th (IT) and the only W Berks report concerned a drake flying E over Muddy Lane GP on Feb 11th (GRW). Only Eversley GPs held birds in April, the last record being 1r/h on Apr 15th (IHB; RJG) **Second winter:** After 2 early r/h at Lower Fm GP on Oct 28th (RRK; JA; RPo), 5r/h arrived at QMR on Nov 7th (JAS). Numbers were higher at Eversley GPs with 55 (32m) on Dec 23rd (IT). Elsewhere there was 1m at Theale GPs from Dec 12th (MW) to the years end when it was joined by 1r/h (KEM), 1m on R Thames at Windsor from Dec 13th-29th then 3 drakes and 1r/h on Dec 30th (WAS) and 1m at Burghfield GPs, possibly the Theale bird, on Dec 23rd (LM).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Increasing winter visitor and scarce resident.

2000 Records were received from 16 locations, 5 in W Berks, 5 in M.Berks and 6 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	7	3	6	7	5	2	6	3	2	1	1	5
Theale GPs	2	1	1	1	1	–	–	1	2	2	3	2
Windsor Great Park	–	5	11	6	7	8	9	20	11	23	20	–
Woolhampton GPs	3	1	1	4	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	26	18	7	3	7	–	–	1	17	27	3	2
Other sites	2	1	2	2	5	–	1	1	–	2	5	5

First winter: Wraysbury GPs again was the hotspot for wintering birds with 26 on Jan 16th (VAC), 20 on Jan 26th (CDRH) and 18 on Feb 13th (VAC). Elsewhere numbers were lower with a maximum of 7 at Lower Fm GP on Jan 14th (DJB). **Spring/Summer:** With birds vacating most of the wintering sites during March and April, numbers began to build at their favoured summering sites. At Lower Fm GP 7 were present on Apr 22nd and 29th and 5 were there on May 9th (MO) but no breeding was recorded. Males were located at Muddy Lane GP, 2 on May 7th (JW) and Marsh Benham, 1 on May 30th (AG). There was no repeat of the 1999 breeding record from Woolhampton GPs although 2 pairs and 4 drakes were present on Jun 23rd (JPM). At Thatcham Marsh breeding may have occurred, a drake displaying to a female on May 2nd (DJB) was followed by a sighting of 1 juv Jul 9th (IW; JL). The only confirmed breeding came from Great Meadow Pond, Windsor Gt Pk, where displaying males were noted in March and April (TBo) and a count of 20 including 6 ducklings from 2 broods occurred Aug 31st (CDRH). A juv at Smallmead Fm GP on Aug 11th (CDRH) may have been of local origin. **Second winter:** Apart from Windsor

Gt Pk numbers were low, 5 (3m 2f) at Lower Fm GP from Dec 10th to Dec 24th (IW; JL; MW) being the maximum count.

2001 Records were received from 18 locations, 6 in W Berks, 7 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	13	7	6	10	6	4	5	11	12	9	9	8
Moatlands GPs	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Smallmead GP	1	2	1	2	2	2	-	2	-	2	1	2
Theale GPs	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	7	6
Wraysbury GPs	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Other Sites	12	-	-	9	3	1	5	2	1	2	11	4

Recorded in every month of the year, usually in numbers of less than 12. **Breeding:** There were three reports of breeding. In Windsor Gt Pk there were 9 ad and 6 young Jul 14th, 15 plus young Jul 28th, 9+ young Aug 2nd (RRG) and 10 on Oct 10th (PES). At Lower Fm GP 4 young ducklings were seen on Sep 8th (IW; JL), 4 newly hatched on Sep 12th (CDRH) and a group of 10 included 6 ducklings on Sep 15th (IW; JL). Elsewhere display was noted at 2 sites near Newbury (NDOC) and at Smallmead GP and Green Park (PBT). Away from the main sites, the only other notable counts were 8 (4m) at QMR on Jan 19th (JAS) and 5 (2m) at Old Slade NR on Apr 27th (DR). The high table count of 13 at Lower Fm GP occurred on Jan 6th (NDOC) and 8 were on Hosehill Lake (the main site for this species at Theale) on Oct 25th (MW)

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant

2000 The unprecedented migration of Honey Buzzards through Britain from Sep 19th-20th into October was witnessed within Berks where unprecedented numbers were recorded from Sep 22nd to Oct 2nd. With the bulk of records in the east of the county, many observers had their first real opportunity to observe what is normally a very difficult species to see in Berkshire. A bird not connected to this movement was reported in W Berks (area confidential) on Aug 5th (TAG). All records received during the influx follow: **Sep 22nd:** 1 pale juv circled Eversley GPs and left to the SE at 1308hrs (TGB), 1 at Lavells Lake at 1400hrs (D Spinks). **Sep 23rd:** 1 juv over Caversham at 1118hrs (TGB), 1 dark morph juv heading S over Widbrook Com at 1140 (CDRH) ; a sighting over Legoland, Windsor at 12.15 hrs (DAC) is probably the same bird, 1 Lavells Lake at 1215hrs (FC), 1 dark morph heading SW over Cookham Dean at 1235hrs (CDRH), 1 pale juv over Cookham Rise at 1340hrs (BDC; BB), 1 heading SW over Tilehurst at 1610hrs (MGM). **Sep 24th:** 1 pale juv heading S over QMR at 0905hrs (L G R Evans). **Sep 25th:** 8 dark morphs in 6 hours over Long Lane Cookham (CDRH) comprising 1 un-aged heading SSW at 0850hrs, 2 juvs together heading SSE 0930hrs (also seen by (DJB) over Summerleaze GP at 0940hrs), 1 un-aged heading SE at 1012-1015hrs, 2 juvs heading SE at 1210hrs, one of which turned north, circled high and continued south very high at 1220hrs, 2 un-aged heading SW at 1335hrs and 1355-1400hrs. Other sightings that day of 1 dark morph juv heading S over Cockmarsh toward Summerleaze GP (BDC) and 1 dark morph over east Maidenhead heading S (ENW) probably refer to the CDRH birds. Although 1 reported over Wellington College (R Anyer) is likely to have been an additional bird. **Sep 26th:** There were no reports (poor weather). **Sep 27th:** 1 pale juv flew from Cookham Dean Woods and SE over Maidenhead

Town Centre at 0915hrs (CDRH), 1 very pale juv flew SE over Malders Lane Maidenhead at 0930-0945 (CDRH) and 1 un-aged dark morph flew SE then E over Cliveden Woods Bucks at 1357-1403 but may not have entered Berks (CDRH). **Sep 29th:** 1 dark morph juv flew south over Cookham Rise at 0915 to 0920hrs (CDRH; DJB). **Sep 30th:** 1 dark morph juv south over Widbrook Com at 1018 to 1035hrs (CDRH) and 1 intermediate morph flew south there at 1113-1121hrs (CDRH), 1 dark morph juv over Theale Main GP at 1245hrs (KEM), 1 rufous juv south over Caversham (TD). **Oct 1st:** 1 dark morph juv heading SW over Cookham Dean at 1219 to 1255hrs (DJB; CDRH), 1 flying south over Eversley GPs at 1412hrs (RJG; NR Godden; DBL James), 1 pale morph juv SSE over Slough SF at 1600-1615 (CDRH), 1 flying south over Theale Main GP at 1150hrs (MJS), also 1 (TGB) and (BU) but no time given. BU also states that the bird was seen 10 minutes later over Burghfield Com being mobbed by corvids (BU). **Oct 2nd:** 1 dark morph juv SE over BA pit Wraybury at 1030hrs (CDRH). (see article earlier in this report re this influx).

2001 The only record involved a dark morph individual seen circling over the A308 at Bray (11.15 – 11.23hrs) on Sep 21st (CDRH) which then flew south/southeast.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

Very rare vagrant.

2001 One was watched for 40 minutes hunting over Hodcott Down, West Ilsley on June 26th (CDRH) during which time it may have retrieved a food item from beside the A34. Record accepted by the BBRC making this the first record of this species for Berkshire. (See article earlier in this report).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Increasingly common visitor from the booming introduced population residing in the Chilterns with breeding attempts now occurring. (Schedule 1)

2000 The increase continues with birds being reported from 41 locations, 21 in W Berks, 12 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. The monthly distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berkshire sites	1	2	15	8	7	11	3	2	2	0	1	1
Minimum number of birds	3	3	20	14	11	14	3	4	5	0	1	2
M.Berkshire sites	2	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	1	2	2	1
Minimum number of birds	4	16	5	5	6	3	2	3	4	7	4	3
E Berkshire sites	2	2	2	3	5	3	2	2	2	1	2	1
Minimum number of birds	3	3	3	5	6	4	3	3	4	2	3	2

The monthly counts show a peak in numbers from late winter into early summer. This may partly be due to the species being more visible and to more observers visiting its favoured downland habitat at this time of year. Most records were of 1-2 birds but there were 10 reports involving 3-4 birds. The only count to exceed 4 birds was 9 at Remenham on Feb 19th (DJB). The most regular record of sightings came from the Caversham area where TGB had monthly maximum counts of:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	3	3	3

Breeding: May have occurred in the Woolley Down/Farnborough area, GDS observing a pair mating on Apr 24th but no nest was found. At another W Berks site (near Great Shefford) 1 pair nested but failed to rear any young (RPr). Juveniles were encountered at Cookham, 1 juv on Sep 1st (BDC) and Lowbury Hill, 1ad and 1juv together on Sep 5th (CDRH).

2001 The expansion of this species into the County from birds introduced several years ago into the Chilterns continued in 2001 with records received from 70 locations (35 in W Berks, 16 in M.Berks and 19 in E Berks). The most frequented area was Aldworth/Streatley area with regular sightings from Apr to Dec. Other regular sightings throughout the year were made from the Cookham/Pinkneys Green area, the Twyford/Dinton Pastures CP area, Remenham, Farnborough/Brightwalton and Tilehurst. Most of the records were of 1 or 2 birds, but higher counts were 4 at Remenham Hill on Apr 1st (DJB), 3 at Streatley on May 6th (MW), 3 at West Ilsley on Jun 27th (CDRH), 4 at Tilehurst on Jul 6th and 30th (GJS), 4 at Boxford on Jul 13th (JWB), 5 together at Streatley on Aug 22nd (CDRH), 6 at Emmer Green on Sep 9th (ABT), 4 together at Sheepdrove on Sep 10th (JPB), 3 at Aldworth on Oct 9th (CDRH), 3 at Streatley on Nov 22nd (SPA) and up to 3 occasionally at Radley Bottom during Dec (DE). On several occasions birds were reported in the presence of one or more Buzzards. Breeding was suspected in the Farnborough/Brightwalton area but the exact location was not known (GDS) and nesting behaviour was also observed in the Woolley Down area but again no evidence of breeding was obtained (GDS). A party of at least 4 birds at West Wood, Bucklebury on Jul 22nd (GDS) consisted of at least 2 young calling in trees with 2 adults.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant.

2000 Three records were received this year all involving females or immature birds. **Spring:** A f/imm visited Hosehill Lake briefly before flying off to the SW on Apr 22nd (AH; RHS). **Autumn:** A f/imm flying SE over Widbrook Com at 1300hrs on Sep 25th (CDRH) was a nice distraction from a day count of 8 Honey Buzzards. Unusually an immature bird spent 2 days at Lower Fm GP, being located on Sep 30th and still present on Oct 1st (MO). This is the first definite record of a bird lingering for more than 1 day since an imm male was present in the Compton area on Jun 29th-30th 1983.

2001 Three singles were reported. A bird on spring passage was noted over meadows north of the Hungerford by-pass on Mar 25th (RDW) and a male flew low SE over rape fields at Woodlands Park, Maidenhead on Apr 17th (DJB), before drifting out of sight behind Thrift Woods. In autumn a well-watched individual was at Lower Fm GP on Aug 27th (NDOC).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce (decreasing?) passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 Another poor year with only 3 records and no evidence of birds wintering in the county. **First winter:** After a report of 1 seen at Hazelhanger Fm near North Heath on Jan 1st (D Abbot per ICB), a ringtail was seen on the Compton Downs on Jan 6th (ROC). **Second winter:** Unusually an adult male was hunting over stubble towards dusk at Stokes Fm near to Wokingham on Dec 15th (DJS). An unidentified Harrier sp seen over

White Waltham Airfield on Feb 19th (BDC) is likely to have been this species in view of the date.

2001 After no first winter records there was one spring record of an adult male over Lavells Lake on May 29th (R Reedman) which is the latest spring record since 1 on the E Berks Heaths on Jun 1st 1990. Return passage was barely more productive with a juv at Aldworth on Oct 9th (CDRH) and a ring-tail, possibly a first-winter, seen soaring briefly over QMR before moving off to the S/SE on Nov 4th (JAS). A single at Eversley GP on Dec 12th (KBB) was presumably just passing through.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Rare passage migrant and summer visitor which has become more frequent in recent years. (Schedule 1)

2000 Several records were received from the Downs, from an adult male located just inside Berkshire on May 16th (DJB; ENW) to a ringtail on Aug 28th (RPr) with 2 females present on Jul 16th and a pair with 3 fledged young on Aug 6th and Aug 12th. [In the SW of the county an adult male kept to the Hampshire side of the county boundary at West Woodhay Down on Jun 7th (RGS).]

2001 Eight records of this species were reported in 2001, all from the Berkshire Downs region and presumably emanating from the presence of summering birds just over the border in Oxon. A male was seen close to the border on Jun 4th (ABT) then a pair was observed in the area on Jun 12th (MR). Subsequent sightings were on Jun 19th (MR), Jul 15th a hunting female (IW,JL), plus a fem Jul 31st (CDRH), Aug 12th a male (BTB) Aug 19th a female (GDS) and Aug 21st ad. fem and juv (CDRH).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Common and widespread resident

2000 Records were received from 117 locations, 36 in W Berks, 23 in M.Berks and 58 in E Berks. **Breeding:** Confirmed breeding records were received from Whiteknights Park where 2 pairs took up residence and 1 juv was located on Jul 27th (PG) and 2 juvs fledged at Boardhouse Plantation Farnborough (GDS). The ongoing survey of this species in the Crown estate lands of Windsor Forest and the Great Park located 19 occupied nests (EEG; JAL). Display was observed at Farnborough (GDS), Great Hazes (DJB), Heath Copse Catmore (GDS), Inkpen Hill (DJB), Upper Green (DJB) and Wraysbury GPs (R Kaye). Of the several unusual records, the female that landed briefly on GDS's head whilst he was watching deer in Boardhouse Plantation on Jan 22nd was the most bizarre.

2001 Reported widely across the County throughout the year, with records from over 60 locations. **Breeding:** In spring, display flight was observed over Drift Road, Fifield on Apr 9th (JOB) and at Burden's Heath Bucklebury on Apr 26th (PDM). A female seen performing a display flight at Tilehurst on May 25th (GJS) was joined by a male which then drove off another intruding male. Breeding was later suspected at this site when a female was seen carrying prey on three separate occasions on Jul 23rd (GJS). Whilst no more definite reports of breeding were received, a juvenile was noted over Brimpton GP on Jul 3rd (GEW). Prey species included Robin, House Sparrow and Collared Dove, but hunting frequently failed. A male was seen to catch and carry off a still-cooking Collared

Dove at Crookham Com on Mar 17th, but on the following day a bedraggled dove appeared at the bird table again, presumably having escaped (JPM). An attempt to take Red-legged Partridge at Brightwalton on Mar 31st was abandoned without success (GDS).

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Now a not uncommon resident throughout rural Berkshire, as well as occasional passage migrant.

2000 Records were received from a massive 168 locations, 105 in W Berks, 31 in M.Berks and 32 in E Berks. The monthly total of sites where birds were reported was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WestBerks	18	30	29	26	18	21	13	17	19	12	14	21
MidBerks	7	5	4	10	9	2	9	9	10	8	3	3
EastBerks	7	4	10	9	6	5	2	2	10	4	1	2

The autumn peaks in September are evidence of passage with small numbers seen moving through at the time of the Honey Buzzard influx. The Combe area continued to be the species stronghold within the county, the monthly maxima for this area including Combe Wood to the west, Inkpen and Walbury Hills to the north and Combe Hill to the east were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	-	8	7	5	6	5	7	15	4	2	1

The high count of 15 occurred on Sep 22nd and were all seen from Combe Hill (DJB). Elsewhere 6-10 were over Caversham on Sep 30th (TGB) and 10 were on the Aldworth Downs on Dec 29th (CDRH). Counts of 6 birds came from 6 W Berks sites and also from the Shurlock Row area in E Berks in March (RAi). **Breeding:** Most records came from W Berks where breeding was confirmed at Woolley Down, 1pr reared 1 yng (GDS); Common Plantation, 1pr reared 3 yng (GDS) and Compton 1pr with 1 fledged yng on Aug 2nd (CDRH). Juveniles were also noted at Inkpen from Jul 30th to Aug 8th (GSt; LS) and Home Fm Snelsmore when 5 birds including 2 juvs were present on Aug 22nd (IW). There were no breeding records from M.Berks but in E Berks, 1 pair nested near Ascot (EEG) and 4 pairs are now resident in Windsor Forest/Great Park. Away from these sites, displaying birds were noted at a further 7 locations.

2001 Over 470 sightings, mostly of 1 or 2 birds, were reported from over 164 locations (91 in W Berks, 39 in M.Berks and 34 in E Berks) with reports received in every month of the year. Counts of 7 or more were recorded from 5 locations with the highest number being 10 in the air together at Westridge Green on Dec 19th (CDRH). Other good counts were 9 at Home Fm, Snelsmore on Jun 14th (IW) and 8 at Walbury Hill on Aug 15th (CDRH). The highest count in M.Berks was of 5 birds at Moor Copse, Tidmarsh on May 15th and May 16th (MR). In E Berks 4-6 were reported from Shurlock Row on Mar 29th (DJB). **Breeding:** All reports of successful breeding and of possible breeding came from the west of the County. Two birds were watched soaring and display diving at Brimpton GP on Mar 30th (GEW) and another pair was observed displaying over Highcroft Copse, Elcot on Apr 16th (DR). The first evidence of successful breeding came from Seven Barrows where three birds including a juvenile were seen on Jul 5th (BDC). At Nine Acre Wood, Brightwalton a pair fledged 2 young on May 15th which were still calling to be fed on Sep 9th (GDS). The adults were seen to forage at a fox earth for scraps to satisfy the demands of their offspring. Two breeding pairs were present all year at Upper Bucklebury

(NC; RAL) and juveniles were heard calling there on Aug 10th and Aug 24th (RF). A family group of 2 adults and 3 juveniles was noted over Home Fm, Snelsmore on Aug 21st (IW). It was estimated that in the 9 sq. km. between Woolley Down and Farnborough Down 4-5 pairs raised 9-11 young (GDS). These numbers include the above-mentioned Nine Acre Wood family. On a less happy note, sightings centred around Hurst, Shurlock Row and Binfield declined notably from August onwards raising the suspicion of persecution in the woodlands within these areas (DJB).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

A scarce but regular passage migrant which is becoming more frequent.

2000 A record year for this species with 15 records probably involving up to 13 birds. **Spring:** A report of a bird over Jealott's Hill on Mar 27th (PJC; P Edwards) precedes the previous earliest date for the county. This was followed by 4 April records, 1 over Eversley GPs on Apr 5th (KBB) and another there on Apr 14th (KBB), 1 Lower Fm GP on Apr 16th (T G Maynard) and 1 over Burghfield Bridge near Moatlands GP also on Apr 16th (MW). Four records in May may have referred to only 2 birds with sightings over Avington on May 9th and nearby at the Wilderness on May 10th (AG) and 1 over Irish Hill on May 20th and Marsh Benham on May 23rd (AG). **Autumn:** Passage began with a juv over Eversley GPs on Sep 17th (C Rose) and was followed by 1 heading SE over Winterbourne on Sep 23rd (MJT), 1 SW over Cookham Dean on Sep 29th (CDRH), 1 Eversley GPs on Sep 30th (IHB), 1 over the Racecourse GP Newbury on Oct 1st (GJS) and 1 juv over Horton GP on Oct 3rd (CL).

2001 For the 2nd consecutive year, record numbers were observed in the county with 16 records involving 13-16 birds. **Spring:** Passage consisted of one at QMR flying NW on April 1st (CDRH), 1 reported at Hosehill Lake on Apr 14th (per BU), 1 NW over Lower Fm GP on Apr 15th (KEM), 1 N over Tilehurst also on Apr 15th (GJS) and another over there on Apr 29th (MW), 1 N over Pingewood GPs being mobbed by a Hobby on May 11th (CDRH), 1 E over Theale Main Pit on May 15th (CDRH) and 1 at Theale GPs on May 19th (MGM). The last 3 records may refer to the same bird. **Autumn:** Return passage began with an adult on the island at Theale Main Pit on Aug 19th (RCr) and continued with a single E over Cookham Rise on Aug 22nd (BDC) and another which caught a fish and took it to a nearby tree at Brimpton GP on Aug 25th (HMG). A juvenile which arrived in the Theale area on Aug 30th (BU) was reported by many observers almost daily from various locations in the vicinity up until Sep 24th, a story of exceptional duration for Berks. A single seen at Theale Main Pit on Sep 25th (CW; DW) was reported to be a different bird. In addition to the long-staying juvenile in the Theale area 1 was located at Thatcham Marsh on Sep 6th (RPo) and 1 flew along the R Lambourn at Great Shefford on Sep 15th (RPr). A bird which arrived at Theale Main Pit on Oct 5th (TM) was subsequently seen there on Oct 6th (MGM), Oct 7th (BU) and finally on Oct 8th (MGM).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Common resident throughout the county. (Amber listed)

2000 The only count to exceed 4 birds was of 5 on the Compton Downs on Mar 12th (IW; JL). **Breeding:** Records were received from 8 locations, pairs bred at Brightwalton,

2+ young reared (GDS); Eversley GPs, 2 young reared (IHB); Great Shefford, pr reared young (RPr); Home Fm Snelsmore, 1+ young reared (IW); Kintbury, 1pr with young on Jun 4th (RGS); Slough SF, 3-4 juvs (DJB); Summerleaze GP, 1 ad with 3 juvs on Jul 21st (BDC) and Woolley Down where a pair reared 3-4 young (GDS).

2001 Reported from 124 sites (80 W Berks, 13 M.Berks, 31 E Berks), most of the records being of 1 or 2 birds. An exception was 3 males tussling on the ground at Cookham on Mar 19th (BDC). **Breeding:** Despite all the records, evidence of breeding was sparse, but 3 juvs were known to have fledged at Aldermaston GP on Jul 12th (JPM) from a nest close to a Sand Martin colony. This success was possibly helped by the abundant local source of food. Another breeding success was at Home Fm, Snelsmore, where nesting took place in an oak tree and a juvenile was observed on Jul 31st (IW). In the east of the county, family parties were encountered at Warfield on Jul 31st and Bracknell STW on Aug 3rd (DJB). There were no other definite reports of successful breeding, but 2 pairs were seen displaying over Cookham Dean on Mar 14th (BDC) and later 3 juveniles were observed at Strand Water, Cookham on Aug 31st (BDC). Another juvenile was seen flying noisily around Hell Corner Fm, Inkpen on Jul 22nd (LS).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Scarce but regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 There were 9 records 3 in W Berks, 5 in M.Berks and 1 in E Berks. **First winter/Spring:** After a female at Englefield on Jan 1st (AH; RHS) there were a further 4 reports. A female flew north over the western flood meadows at Marsh Benham on Jan 9th (IW; JL), a f/imm at Bottom Lane Theale on Jan 16th (RJB), 1 female at Great Shefford on Feb 5th (RPr) and a male at Englefield on Feb 25th (RCr). **Autumn/Second winter:** An early record of a female flying SW over Cookham Dean on Sep 26th (CDRH) was followed by 3 November records. One female was located at Tyler's Lane Bucklebury on Nov 2nd (PDM) and 2 reports were then received from Field Fm GP, a female on Nov 14th (JA; RPo) and 1 on Nov 27th (JLe). The minimum annual totals since 1990 are as follows:

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Minimum number of birds	6	11	6	9	4	7	6	12	7	10	9

2001 Another excellent year with a total of 11 records, all of single birds. **First winter:** A female near Cookham Rise on Jan 22nd (DJB) was followed by a male located at Field Fm GP on Feb 2nd (TABR) and 3rd (MW), a female was found at Cold Harbour on Feb 25th (BTB; DJB) and a female flew north over QMR on Apr 17th (CDRH). **Second winter:** After a probable imm male at Summerleaze GP on Sep 5th (CDRH) and a female at Aldworth on Oct 9th (CDRH) 2 records occurred at the end of Oct into Nov with a female reported flying low towards the southeast over Green Park, Reading on Oct 29th (PBT) and an adult male which arrived at Cold Harbour on Nov 3rd (DJB et al). This bird which subsequently over-wintered was joined by an adult female on Dec 17th (DJB et al) which also over-wintered at this site. Elsewhere a female was seen at Sheepdrove, Lambourn Nov 20th (JPB) and a f/imm flew west over Moatlands GP on Dec 9th (CDRH).

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Now a not uncommon passage migrant and thinly distributed summer visitor. (Schedule 1)

2000 Another good year with records received from 84 locations, 27 in W Berks, 19 in M.Berks and 38 in E Berks. The monthly distribution of records is as follows:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	12	34	22	23	31	40	7
Minimum number of birds	18	68	41	28	38	61	11

Spring: Records began with 2 at QMR and 1 at Horton GPs on Apr 22nd (DJB) and was followed by a further 13 records to the end of April. Passage increased in May with high counts of c10 moving between Theale Main GP and Moatlands GP on May 1st (DJB) and 13 at Horton GPs on May 25th (CDRH). Passage continued into June with a high of 12 at Eversley GP on Jun 7th (IHB). **Summer:** Reports were still frequent, suggesting a fairly high summering population in the county. However breeding records were few, with only 2 reports both from E Berks (DJS; PJC). **Autumn:** Return passage began in August and peaked in early September with a high count of 7 over Winter Hill on Sep 10th (BDC). Unusually October records were received from 7 locations with the latest departure being 1 over QMR on Oct 11th (JAS).

2001 Records were received from 68 locations, 19 in W Berks, 22 in M.Berks and 27 in E Berks. **Spring:** The first sighting was of a bird at Curridge on Apr 19th (IW) which harassed Buzzards before flying off northwards. The only other pre-May records were of singles at Wishmoor on Apr 29th (J Mitchell) and at Lavell's Lake also on Apr 29th (FC). Good numbers were not reported until mid/late May with 7 at Moatlands GP on May 13th (JA; RPo) and 10 together, mostly first summers, at Horton GP on May 22nd (CDRH) with 7 still there on May 25th (CDRH). The only other spring counts of note were of 5 at Hosehill Lake on May 25th (NR), 4 at Theale Bottom Lane on May 30th (CDRH) and 4 together on several days over Burghfield GPs in late May and early June (PBT). Horton GP remained attractive to this species in June with 10 present on June 7th and June 11th (CDRH). One bird was seen to grapple with a Sparrowhawk over a prey item on Jun 22nd (GJS). **Breeding:** Three pairs bred at traditional E Berks localities rearing 7 young (PJC). Unfortunately no records were received from elsewhere in the county. **Autumn:** Autumn passage was steady if uneventful with mostly one or two birds at many sites across the county in August, September and October. During this period birds were reported from 9 sites in W Berks, 18 sites in M Berks and 20 sites in E Berks, with the highest numbers being 3 at Finchampstead on Aug 27th (BMc; RMc), 4 at Eversley GP on Sep 1st (G Rowland), 3 at Theale Bottom Lane on Sep 8th (CMc; DMc) and Sep 10th (CDRH) and 3 at QMR on Sep 9th (CDRH). Passage continued later into October than usual with the last sightings being 1 at Green Pk on Oct 15th (PBT) and 1 fleeing from a Peregrine at Hosehill Lake on Oct 17th (JOB).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce but increasing visitor, primarily in the winter.

2000 Records were received from 18 locations, 8 in W Berks, 3 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. There were regular reports from 3 sites. *Theale GPs:* 1-2 adults were present from 1999 to Mar 16th (MO) with 3 reported on Jan 1st (DKe). A juv was located on Jun 7th (BU) and remained to Jun 29th (CDRH) and was followed by an adult from on Jul 15th

(TGB) which was seen intermittently by (MO) through the autumn and second winter, with 2 adults present on Dec 26th (BMA). *Lower Fm GP*: an adult male was present on Jan 2nd (JW Bleloch) and an unsexed adult on Jan 9th (GDS) with a female there on Feb 19th (IW; JL). There were 2 further records at this site, adult males on Aug 8th (JPM; IW; JL) and on Dec 28th, when a Golden Plover was taken (IW; JL). *QMR*: an adult female took up residence from May 13th to Dec 23rd (JAS; CDRH) with 2 present on Nov 25th (JAS). Elsewhere birds were reported from Englefield, 1 on Jan 10th (RCr); Farnborough, 1 on Feb 5th (GDS); Farnborough Down, 1 on Feb 6th (GDS); Hungerford, 1 Feb 6th (RPr); Woolley Down, 1 imm Apr 4th (GDS); Inkpen, 1 Apr 8th (MJSt); Wraysbury GPs, 1 May 6th and Jul 29th (RRG); Horton GPs, 1 male May 25th (CDRH); Burghfield Com, 1 May 30th (BU); Winter Hill, 1 Aug 28th (BDC); Combe Hill, 1 imm female Sep 22nd (DJB); Eversley GPs, 1 Sep 22nd (G Bryant) and 1 adult over Avington on Dec 28th (DJR).

2001 Records were received from 26 locations, 8 in W Berks, 9 in M.Berks and 9 in E Berks. Birds were recorded in every month; the distribution is shown in the table:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks	No of sites	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	2	1
	Max. no. of birds	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	2	2
M.Berks	No of sites	1	2	0	1	1	3	2	2	4	2	2	5
	Max. no. of birds	1	2	0	1	1	3	2	2	4	3	2	6
E Berks	No of sites	3	4	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Max. no. of birds	3	5	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2

Most records were of single birds with two reported on just five occasions. An adult male and female were seen over Quarry Wood, Cookham Dean on Feb 20th (BDC). An adult and a juvenile graced QMR on Sep 20th (JAS) and two birds were observed fighting high over Theale Main GP on Oct 28th (BU). Two birds were also present at Lower Fm GP on Dec 7th (RF) and at Theale Main GP on Dec 20th (MGM). Reports of singles were received from twelve sites with just one record in the year but the species was more regular at other sites, the most reliable being Theale Main GP with a presence in Jan and Feb, then later from June through to Dec inclusive. Other well-visited sites were Lower Fm GP with birds recorded in Jan, June, Aug and Dec, Hosehill Lake (Apr, Jun, Sep, Dec), Pingewood GP (July, Sep, Dec), QMR (Jan, Feb, Sep) and Horton GP (Apr, May, Jun). A bird at Moatlands GP was observed to take a gull or tern chick from the island colony on May 27th (CDRH) and one was flushed off a partly eaten rabbit at Pingewood GP on Sep 26th (JOB). Other prey species attacked unsuccessfully included Lapwing, Black-headed Gulls, Woodpigeon and Jackdaw.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Locally common resident on the Downs and gravel pits

2000 Records were received from 43 locations, 20 in W Berks, 9 in M.Berks and 14 in E Berks. The only area where reports were regularly received was the downland above Streatley, the monthly maxima for this site being:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	15	12	4	6	-	-	-	44	8	12	3

The high count of 44 occurred on Sep 15th (RCr). Elsewhere counts in excess of 15 came from Cabbage Hill near Bracknell, c15 Jan 17th (DJS); Cookham Rise, 21 Jan 26th

(BDC); Englefield, 18 Sep 16th (RCr) and 23 Sep 22nd (MR) and 16 at Templeton near Kintbury on Dec 25th (DR). **Breeding:** Only reported from Home Park Windsor where an adult with young was seen on Jun 23rd and up to 7 young there on Aug 29th (TBo).

2001 Records were submitted from 33 locations, 20 in W Berks, 8 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. Sites with monthly counts are shown below.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Englefield	-	-	2	2	1	4	-	2	-	31	16	9
Streatley	6	-	-	2	4	2	8	-	-	70	42	52
Hurley	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	5	5	-	-

Most reports involved less than 10 birds, but amongst the higher counts were 26 Wickham on Apr 16th, 60-70 Streatley on Oct 4th (SPA), 31 Englefield on Oct 20th and 20 Remenham on Nov 26th (DJB). Many of these were likely to be birds released by gamekeepers. **Breeding:** The only confirmed breeding records came from the Ridgeway at Streatley with 1 juv on Jun 21st (SPA) and at Aldermaston on Sep 2nd (JPM). An interesting record of 4 possible x Chukar hybrids came from West Woodhay on Nov 11th (SG).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

A locally common resident on the Downs, with several small scattered, declining populations elsewhere in the county. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from an encouraging 48 locations, 24 in W Berks, 6 in M.Berks and 18 in E Berks. Although fairly widespread in W Berks it is local in Mid and E Berks, 16 of the 18 E Berks sites were in the farmland areas to the north and west of Maidenhead. Counts in excess of 10 were received from White Place Fm Maidenhead, 13 Jan 6th (DF); Shottesbrooke, 11 Jan 8th (BTB); Burghfield Road near Theale, 13 Jan 9th (BU) and 10 at Cookham Rise on Oct 31st (BDC). A count of 38 at Home Fm Snelsmore on Sep 21st (IW) may have involved birds reared for shooting. **Breeding:** Records were received from 3 sites. A pair nested at Home Fm Snelsmore (IW), 1 pr reared 6 young at Farnborough Down (GDS) and 1 pr with 7 young were located at Englefield on Aug 11th (RCr).

2001 Reports came from 33 locations, with 19 in W Berks, 6 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. Regular counts from Englefield produced monthly maxima of 1-2 in Jan, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep and Dec, with 13 in Oct and 11 in Nov. Elsewhere counts were generally of less than 5 birds. The highest counts were 13 at Englefield on Oct 9th (RCr), 14 at Leckhamstead Dec 17th (LG) and 20 on Bury Down, West Ilsley on Nov 23rd (MW). **Breeding:** Although pairs were noted, and display recorded in 2 places, the only confirmed breeding account came from Englefield where 2 young were seen on Jul 7th (RJB).

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

An uncommon summer visitor, only regular on the Downs. (Schedule 1 and Red listed)

2000 A poor year with only 4 records, all from the Downs. One calling on the Lambourn Downs on May 20th (BTB; EN), another there on Jun 25th (GDS), one was calling at Woolley Down on Jun 28th (GDS) and finally 1 calling from the county boundary with Oxon at Crog Hill on Jul 23rd (LS).

2001 A slightly better year for records than 2000, all reports coming from the Downs. The first was on May 12th at Wellbottom Down (GDS), then May 22nd with 3 separate

sites involved (CDRH; BMA). Thereafter, single birds were calling in the Lambourn area including Wellbottom Down on May 28th and Jun 12th (GDS) and Jun 4th (ABT), at Seven Barrows on Jul 15th (IW; JL), the Lambourn Downs on Jul 7th (MW) and at Crog Hill on the Oxon border Jul 15th (IW; JL).

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

A common resident of rural Berkshire, whose numbers are inflated by the release in the autumn of captive bred birds for shooting.

2000 There were two counts in excess of 100 birds, 200+ on the Streatley Downs on Sep 15th (RCr) and 138 at Englefield on Sep 21st (RCr). Both records probably involve recently released birds.

2001 The common status of this species means few reports are submitted and most records were of less than 10 birds. Higher numbers included 20 at Crookham Hill on May 3rd (GJS), c50 on the Ridgeway on Aug 30th (SPA) and 60 at Warren Fm, Streatley on Nov 1st (SPA), most it is assumed, released by gamekeepers.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

A fairly widespread winter visitor in small numbers and scarce summer resident. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 27 locations, 8 in W Berks, 11 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. The monthly distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No of Sites	16	11	12	6	2	3	2	3	3	7	7	13
Min No of Birds	25	22	18	8	3	6	3	5	4	14	12	34

Most counts involved 1-3 birds with higher counts at Denford Mill, 4-5 on Jan 9th and Dec 17th (RGS); Brimpton GPs, 4 on Feb 3rd and 5-6 on Dec 2nd (GEW); Kintbury Cressbeds, 4-5 during both winter periods (RGS); Thatcham Marsh, 5 on Oct 22nd (IW; JL) and a high of 7 at Horton GPs on Dec 29th (CL). **Summer/Breeding:** May/June records were received from 3 sites. At Brimpton GPs, 1 was calling on May 1st (JPM) and an adult and chick was located there on Jun 10th (GEW) - one of the very few confirmed breeding records outside the Thatcham Marsh area (Recorder). There were several reports of single calling birds from Thatcham Marsh with higher counts of 2 on May 21st and Jun 24th (IW; JL). Breeding was also proved at Thatcham Marsh, a small juv seen on Jul 15th (IW; JL). There were 2 at Wraysbury GP May 7th (RRG).

2001 For a secretive bird, Water Rails were well recorded this year, the spread of the 129 reports involving 14 sites in W Berks, 6 in M.Berks and 6 in E Berks. The monthly distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks no of Sites	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	9
Minimum no of birds	10	5	6	4	4	2	5	6	4	12	10	26
M.Berks no of sites	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	7	6
Minimum no of birds	4	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	24	18
E Berks no of Sites	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	5
Minimum no of birds	4	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	8

Highest counts in W Berks were 5 at Bagnor Cress Beds on Dec 23rd (IW; JL) and 10 at Thatcham Marsh on Dec 7th (GEW). Elsewhere at least 7 were at Hosehill Lake on Nov 25th increasing to c12 by the months end (RCr) when shooting near there on Nov 27th resulted in “a cacophony of calls around the lake” (BU) - who also calculated up to 12 present to the year’s end. A count of 12 equals the highest ever total for Berks (Slough SF on Dec 11th 1940). Sites in the east of the county were generally under-recorded. By far the majority were registered by call but a confiding individual was noted at Theale, Bottom Lane floods on Dec 19th (MR; PBT) and one was observed swimming at Hosehill LNR on Dec 21st (PBT). 1 was killed and partially eaten by a Stoat at Brimpton GP on May 26th (JPM). **Breeding:** No records of successful breeding although birds summered at two sites in W Berks and one was heard at Windsor Gt Pk Aug 4th (RRG).

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 A confiding juvenile located on the Roundmoor Ditch between Eton Wick and Dorney Com Bucks from Oct 9th-19th (CDRH) proved to be a very popular bird. Being on view almost constantly, it became something of a celebrity attracting many admirers and its photograph appearing in several national bird magazines.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

A common and widespread resident, occurring in most wetland habitats from roadside ditches to lakes and rivers.

2000 Monthly counts were received from 4 sites and are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	19	5	18	6	2	4	7	16	14	12	7	16
Lower Fm GP	14	16	18	12	9	15	12	19	17	19	14	23
Padworth Lane GP	4	1	2	2	–	–	–	6	9	5	–	1
Wraysbury GPs	20	26	21	18	18	4	3	–	8	9	11	6

The only other high count was 62 along the Roundmoor Ditch between Eton Wick and Dorney Com on Oct 10th (BDC).

2001 The majority of the 139 sightings came from 10 locations in W Berks and the remainder from 7 sites in M.Berks and 7 in E Berks. Many traditional sites held lower numbers and may have been affected by Mink infestation. None were recorded at all from previous strongholds such as Strand Water, Cookham or Summerleaze GP. Good numbers could however be found at some locations where monthly maxima were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	4	1	–	–	5	–	7	6	18	6	–	5
Lower Fm	19	23	10	14	6	8	9	19	20	10	17	26
Aldermaston GP	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	1

Other good counts included c100 around Slough SF on Jan 21st (MMc), 40 at Windsor Home Park on Jan 25th (TBo) and 30 at Hungerford Marsh on Dec 24th (DR). **Breeding:** Due to poor coverage by observers of this species, the only breeding records were of 7 chicks at Hambridge Rd, Newbury on Apr 18th (SG) and 2 young raised on a new pond at Sheepdrove, Lambourn on Jul 12th (JPB).

COOT *Fulica atra*

A common resident and winter visitor which can be found in most areas of open water from sewage farm sludge lagoons to rivers and lakes.

2000 The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	9	17	15	15	14	17	7	17	9	27	26	36
Bray GPs	90	–	22	32	–	30	40	–	90	100	120	55
Eversley GPs	195	105	56	44	38	45	86	94	117	119	176	190
Lower Fm GP	227	124	73	57	36	67	136	156	193	230	101	104
Old Slade NR	110	65	66	–	–	–	–	–	54	52	94	77
Padworth Lane GP	49	19	8	12	10	5	–	34	44	46	66	85
Summerleaze GP	100	–	41	35	–	–	–	–	50	–	70	–
Theale GPs	350	200	128	–	–	–	–	900	850	–	1100	–
Wraysbury GPs	850	200	250	62	31	60	38	62	50	250	350	500

The high count of 1100 at Theale Main GP occurred on Nov 10th (RCr). Elsewhere 600+ at Burghfield GPs and 350+ at Moatlands GP, both counted on Jan 4th (JA), indicated a large wintering population in this area at the time. **Breeding:** Records were few this year with young noted at Aldermaston GP, Beenham Landfill, Crookham Com, Lower Fm GP, Rapley Lake, Whiteknights Lake, Woolhampton GPs and Wraysbury GPs. An albino individual was present at Wigmore Lane GP on Feb 5th (DJB).

2001 The only regular counts came from the sites in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston	30	21	21	18	12	30	18	6	7	8	3	2
Lower Fm	124	107	63	81	54	95	151	155	197	192	210	253
Eversley GP	91	67	–	–	–	28	65	13	110	189	254	320
Wraysbury GP	800	250	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Elsewhere high counts included at least 150 at Great Meadow Pond Jul 7th (PES); 330 at Hosehill Lake on Sep 3rd (BU) – who noted a reduction on previous autumn counts, perhaps due to less bottom vegetation; 256 at Burghfield GPs on Oct 26th (DF); 115 at Old Slade NR on Dec 8th (DR) – who also noted a decline in numbers of wintering birds at this site; and 200 at Summerleaze GP on Dec 23rd (BDC). **Breeding:** Records of procreation came from Aldermaston with at least 4 broods (JPM) and from Whiteknights Lake where a nest was built by Feb 2nd but later abandoned. However, 4 chicks were raised nearby in April (PG).

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon visitor, primarily at times of passage.

2000 Records were received from 9 locations throughout the county involving a maximum of 36 birds. The monthly distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	1	1	0	1	2	2	6	1	0	0	0	1
Number of birds	1	1	0	3	2	3	20	4	0	0	0	1

First winter: Singles were reported from Hosehill Lake on Jan 27th (BU) and Moatlands GP on Feb 27th (KEM). **Spring:** At Moatlands GP, singles on Apr 9th, 16th (BU) and

20th (DJB; RCr) may refer to the same individual. Elsewhere 1 was present at Lower Fm GP on May 6th-7th (MO), 1 at QMR on May 23rd (JAS), 2 at Brimpton GPs on Jun 3rd (GEW) and 1 over Greenham Com also on Jun 3rd (GEW) indicating late passage. **Autumn:** Heavy passage occurred during July. At QMR there were 2 on Jul 7th, 1 Jul 18th, 3 Jul 25th, 1 over Jul 26th, 1 over Jul 30th, 1 Aug 7th, 1 over Aug 12th and 2 on Aug 19th (JAS). Elsewhere, 1 at Pingewood GPs on Jul 12th (KEM), 1 at Theale Main GP on Jul 15th (NJB), 2 Moatlands GP Jul 16th (DML), a flock of 7 flew west over Wraybury GPs on Jul 24th (CDRH), 1 Lower Fm GP on Jul 25th (RRK; SCC) and 1 Eversley GPs Jul 30th (GR; IT). **Second winter:** One at QMR on Dec 28th (JAS) was the only record.

2001 All records fell between May and August and probably involved 18 to 23 birds seen at 7 localities. **Spring:** Passage began in early May with 1 at Pingewood GPs on May 2nd (RCr) and was quickly followed by 2 at Hosehill Lake on May 3rd (RCr; BU). At Lower Fm GP 2 arrived on May 5th (IW; JL) and remained through the summer, being seen regularly by MO until Aug 1st (MJD). This length of stay is unprecedented for Berks but unfortunately there was no evidence of attempted breeding. Elsewhere another single was located at Pingewood GP from May 9th-11th (BTB; MJS et al) and may have been the bird seen at Hosehill Lake on May 10th (BU). Further east 1 arrived at Horton GP on May 19th (JAS), seen again on May 22nd (CDRH). Moatlands GP hosted the next bird on May 20th (BU) then 2 were nearby at Theale Main GP on May 28th (SG). **Autumn:** After 1 at Moatlands GP on Jun 24th (JA) 2 were reported from Moatlands GP (BU) and Pingewood GPs (MW) on Jun 30th and were probably the same wandering individuals. Single birds flew over QMR on Jul 18th and 24th (JAS), 2 were at Hosehill Lake on Jul 30th (BU) and 2-3 were seen back at QMR on Aug 2nd (JAS). The last record of a very interesting year involved 1 at Pingewood GPs on Aug 15th (RCr).

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare passage migrant

2000 The only record was of 3 adults at Field Fm GP from 1920hrs to dusk on Sep 11th (MGM) and is only the second Sep record for Berks, the first being at Ham SF on Sep 16th 1969. This is the third consecutive year for records.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Summer visitor in small numbers to traditional downland sites. (Schedule 1 and Red listed)

2000 Birds returned to the Downs by Mar 31st (RCr) and were regularly reported through the summer. Breeding was confirmed in June with single chicks seen on Jun 10th (DJB) and Jun 29th (CDRH). Post breeding flocks were 10 on Aug 17th, 11 Aug 19th, 8 Aug 31st and 7 on Sep 8th (SPA; PA et al).

*Stone Curlew by
Terri Jones*



2001 Reported from the Downs from May 5th with a single bird (BTB), to Sep 11th, when 17 were present (CDRH). This is the largest count recorded in Berks for over sixty years but is still far away from the 100 plus seen in September 1932. Due to Foot and Mouth restrictions, there were fewer sightings than usual with singles on May 6th (MW) and May 7th (RCr), and a pair with a chick May 31st, Jun 4th and Jun 27th (CDRH) 1 calling Jun 24th (DJB) and 3 birds (possibly adult with 2 juv) Aug 1st (PBT). The RSPB monitoring team reported 5 breeding attempts but only 3 young fledged. Flocks in late summer were 7 Jul 24th (CDRH), 8 Aug 16th (SPA) and 16 Aug 22nd (CDRH).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant. (Schedule 1)

2000 Reported from 19 locations, 3 in W Berks, 10 in M. Berks and 6 in E Berks. The monthly distribution of records is as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	10	12	11	6	5	5	3	0	0	0

Spring: Birds began to arrive from mid March onward with 2 at Lower Fm GP on Mar 11th (IW; JL) and 2 at Twyford GPs on Mar 13th (BTB). Numbers increased with birds being reported from 14 sites by mid April with high counts of 6 at Padworth Lane on Mar 29th (RCr), 6 Twyford GPs on Apr 8th (BTB), 7 Dorney W on Apr 16th (PND) and 6 Greenham Com on Apr 16th (IW; JL). **Summer:** Breeding or attempted breeding was reported from 7 locations; *Eversley GPs*; 1pr reared 2 young (IHB), *Twyford GPs*; 1 pair nested but failed due to excessive disturbance (BTB), *Padworth Lane GPs*; Mating observed on Apr 27th (JPM) but no young reported, *Greenham Com*; 1 incubating on May 8th (DJB) and an anxious pair on May 20th (IW; JL), however of 8 seen on Jun 2nd (DJB) all were adults and no young could be found. *Lower Fm GP*; 3 juvs were noted from Jun 10th (IW; JL), 7 birds seen on Jul 16th were mostly juvs (IW; JL) and 1ad and 4 juvs were seen during Aug (MO). *Woolhampton GP*; 6 adults and 1 chick on Jun 11th (GEW). *Dorney W and Slough SF*; 1f with 2 chicks on Jul 16th (DJB). **Autumn:** The highest counts received came from Slough SF and Dorney W where up to 12 were regular through August (DJB; CDRH). Lingered birds were noted in September at Lower Fm GP, 2 on Sep 3rd (SG); Dorney W, 2 juvs on Sep 3rd (DJB) and 1 juv at Horton GP on Sep 11th-13th (CDRH).

2001 Records were received from 28 locations, 7 in W Berks, 11 in M Berks and 10 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites are shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	2	13	14	11	7	2	-	-	-
Crookham/Greenham Com	-	-	4	3	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	2	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
Lavells Lake/Dinton Pastures	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	2	3	12	12	3	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	-	4	6	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
Slough SF/Dorney W	-	-	-	-	-	4	28	6	6	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	5	5	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Green Park Reading	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Sites	-	-	8	7	7	18	7	-	-	-	-	-

Spring: The first record involved 2 birds at Brayfield Fm near Bray on Mar 14th (CDRH) and was among the first records of this species anywhere in SE England. Birds were located at a further 7 sites in March with high counts of 5 at Brayfield Fm on Mar 22nd (CDRH) and 5 at Twyford GPs on Mar 24th (BTB). Most of the usual sites had been occupied by mid April, 6 at Padworth Lane GP on Apr 18th (JA) the highest count. The new gravel workings at Burnthouse Lane and Amners Fm, Pingewood proved very popular with 4 pairs holding territories during May. **Breeding:** Breeding was attempted at 5 localities, but proved to be successful at only Pingewood GPs where 2 prs reared 3 and 1 young while 2prs failed (RCr), Lower Fm GP where 1pr reared 3y (IW; JL) and another pr attempted to breed (SG) and probably Eversley GPs where a bird was incubating eggs on May 18th (DJB) and 2ads and 1juv were seen on Jul 8th (BMA). Elsewhere mating was observed at Twyford GPs on Mar 30th (BDC) and Padworth Lane GP on Apr 5th (JPM). **Autumn:** Return passage began in June with numbers of adults and juvs moving through the county. High counts involved 12 at Lower Fm GP on Jun 26th and Jul 1st (IW; JL) and at Slough SF numbers built up from 4 on Jun 26th (MMc) to 15 on Jul 17th, peaking at 28 on Jul 22nd (CDRH). Numbers fell during August and were only reported from Pingewood GPs and Slough SF during September the latest date being Sep 14th at Slough SF (MMc).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Regular passage migrant and uncommon summer visitor. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 16 locations, 4 in W Berks, 7 in M.Berks and 5 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	-	-	8	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	3	10	7	3	8	4	4	-	-	-	-
Moatlands GP	-	-	4	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slough SF / Dorney W	-	-	-	3	3	2	10	11	1	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wraysbury GPs	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Spring: As usual returning birds first appeared in late February with 2 at Lower Fm GP on Feb 19th (IW; JL) increasing to 3 there on Feb 26th (MO) and 1 at Eversley GPs on Feb 21st (IHB). Birds became more widespread in March and April with records from 11 locations, high counts being 10+ at Lower Fm GP on Mar 17th (RCr) and 8 at Greenham Com on Apr 16th (IW; JL). The removal of the concrete runways and the creation of open areas of gravel with pools at Greenham has created an ideal habitat for this species and other ground nesting birds. **Summer:** Evidence of breeding came from only 3 sites and was possible at a fourth. At Moatlands GP, 1pr attempted to breed in late May (BU) but no young were reported. At Slough SF/Dorney W, a juvenile of presumed local origin was present on Jun 5th (CDRH) and at Lower Fm GPs 2 pairs were thought to have bred, a count of 8 on Jun 25th (IW; JL) included several juvs. Two pairs were present at Greenham Com on May 8th and an anxious pair that may have had young nearby was noted on Jun 2nd (DJB). **Autumn:** Passage was most evident at Slough SF and Dorney W, where birds

were constantly moving through during July and August. Passage there was as follows: 9 (5ad, 4juvs) on Jul 23rd (DJB); 10 adults on Jul 24th (CDRH); 5 ads on Jul 30th (CDRH; DJB); 4 ads Aug 2nd-3rd (CDRH); 10 ads Aug 7th, 6 ads Aug 8th, 11 (6ads, 5juvs) Aug 10th and 6 (3ads, 3juvs) Aug 12th (DJB); 8 ads Aug 13th, 6 (3ads, 3juvs) Aug 17th, 3 ads Aug 27th and 1 Sep 21st (CDRH), the latest record. Elsewhere birds were scarce; September records were received from Twyford GPs, 1juv on Sep 10th (BTB) and 1 over Brimpton GP on Sep 20th (GEW).

2001 Records were received from 18 localities, 6 in W Berks, 6 in M Berks and 6 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites are shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	1	4	3	1	3	12	-	-	-
Dorney W	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
East Ilsley	-	-	-	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	1	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horton GPs	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	1	2	2	2	5	7	2	2	3	-	-
Moatlands GPs	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Slough SF	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	6	-	-	-
Other Sites	-	-	-	2	5	2	1	2	-	-	-	-

Spring: Early migrants were first noted on Feb 9th with singles at Lower Fm GP (IW; JL; GJS) and Padworth Lane GP (JPM). Further Feb records came from 3 other sites, 3 at QMR on Feb 15th (JAS) being the highest count. Numbers tailed off in March before increasing again in April and peaking in May-June where the highest count was surprisingly not from a river valley site but on temporary floods at East Ilsley where 8 were present on Jun 4th (CDRH). **Breeding:** Although fairly widespread during the summer, breeding was confirmed at only Greenham Com, 1ad 3y on Jun 2nd (NDOC) and Lower Fm GP, 1pr 2y on Jun 16th (IW; JL). Elsewhere a pair was observed mating at Padworth Lane GP on Mar 29th (RCr) and records suggest summering at a further 3 sites. **Autumn:** Passage (of adults and juvs) began in late June and continued into October. A flock of 12 flying south at Pingewood GPs on Sep 5th (MGM) was the highest count, other large counts involved 7 at Lower Fm GP on Jul 1st (NDOC) and 6 at Slough SF on Sep 12th (ABT). Up to 3 juvs remained at Lower Fm GP into Oct, being last seen on Oct 9th (RF; CDRH)

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Records were received from 41 locations, 21 in W Berks, 9 in M.Berks and 11 in E Berks. The monthly site distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks	4	3	5	3	0	0	0	1	3	2	4	9
M.Berks	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
E Berks	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	7

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eton Wick / Slough SF	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	250	500
Henwick	100	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kintbury area	-	-	9	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Lower Fm GP	3000	3500	1500	2500	-	-	-	4	140	1500	3000	800
Twyford area	200	200	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White Waltham Airfield area	50	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	138	600	465

First winter/Spring passage: In W Berks the main site was Lower Fm GP with several counts of 3000+ in Jan-Feb peaking at c3500 on Feb 1st (GDS) and may be the highest number ever recorded in Berkshire. Elsewhere counts exceeding 250 were reported from Beedon (600 on Mar 5th: ICB) and Stanmore (300 on Mar 12th: ICB) probably indicating passage birds. In Mid and E Berks there were several flocks of 200 or more birds. At Slough c200 were present in fields adjacent to Junction 7 of the M4 on Jan 7th-8th (DJB), c200 were between Wargrave and Twyford on Jan 23rd (TD) and Feb 2nd (SPA) and a build up of birds at Tickleback Row in February peaked at c300 on Feb 24th (DJB). By April most birds have usually left the county, however exceptional numbers were still present at Lower Fm GP where 2500 (an April record) was estimated to be present on Apr 8th-9th (KEM) and of 1300 seen by DJB on Apr 8th almost all were in summer plumage. Nearby 150 flew over Thatcham on Apr 2nd (RF) and 50 were in the Kintbury area on Apr 8th (LS; GS). 172 at Lower Fm GP on Apr 23rd (BJE; IW) was the latest departure date. **Autumn passage/Second winter:** Unusually there were 3 August records from Lower Fm GP, 1 on Aug 12th (MJD), 4 on Aug 19th (IW; JL) and 1 on Aug 20th (MW) and are the earliest returning birds since 1990 when 1 was present at Eversley GPs on Jul 28th. There were no further reports until mid September when 9 were present at Lower Fm on Sep 16th (IW; JL), 8 flew east over Lowbury Hill on Sep 19th (CDRH) and 3 were present at Lilliebrooke Fm Maidenhead on Sep 21st (DJB). Numbers increased in West and E Berks during October although remaining absent in M.Berks. At Lower Fm, 1500 were present on Oct 8th (DL) increasing to c3000 on Nov 25th (IW; JL). Elsewhere counts of 200 or more were reported from Eton Wick, c250 on Nov 10th (DJB) and 500+ over on Dec 21st (LM); West Woodhay, 350 on Nov 12th (LS; GSt); Freemans Marsh, 250 on Nov 17th (AG); White Waltham Airfield, 600+ on Nov 20th and 465 on Dec 26th (DJB); Kintbury, 200 Dec 26th (RGS) and 1740 flew S/W over Lowbury Hill in 2 hours during a snow movement on Dec 29th (CDRH).

2001 Records were received from 44 locations with high counts from the Lower Fm GP and Kintbury area. Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Englefield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	14	167	23
Kintbury/Elcot area	100	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	200	1500
Lower Fm GP	1500	400	12	9	-	-	-	1	40	900	3500	5000
Slough SF/Eton Wick area	200	400	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	300	510	810
White Waltham/ Woodlands Pk	370	-	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	230	1

First winter: A flock of 125 at Hurst on Jan 1st (BTB) started off a good year for the species in the county. The large flock at Lower Fm GP, peaking at 1500 on Jan 6th (MJT) diminished until Apr 7th with a final record of 9 birds (IW; JL). Elsewhere flocks exceeding 100 birds involved 100+ in fields by J6 of the M4 on Feb 7th (DJB), 150 at Hurst on Mar 5th (PNe), 180 circling Bray GP on Mar 15th (CDRH) and 150 over Wasing on Mar 30th (GEW). At Templeton near Kintbury, 450 were present on Apr

14th with 405 still present on Apr 20th (DR) – the latest spring report. **Autumn/Second winter:** Unusually there were 3 August records. First back was a single at Lower Fm Aug 24th (SG) followed by 2 over Englefield (RCr) and a partial s/p bird flying east over Slough SF (MMc) both on Aug 28th. It was not until Sep 23rd that double figure records appeared, 11 at Englefield (BMA); 20+ Dorney W (CDRH). Numbers started to build at Lower Fm GP with 40 on Sep 24th (RF) to the high count of 5000 on Dec 2nd (LM) the highest ever recorded count for Berks. Impressive flocks were seen at other sites notably 300+ by the M4 at Chieveley on Oct 29th (IW), 2-300 at Winterbourne on Nov 7th (RR), 120 near Hungerford on Nov 9th (GDS), 250 at Thatcham on Nov 27th (LS), 810 Eton Wick on Dec 6th (CDRH) and 1500 at Kintbury on Dec 28th (DR).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Uncommon but regular passage migrant

2001 After no records in 2000, there were 3 records involving 3 birds. **Spring:** A bird moulting into s/p was located at Pingewood GPs on May 10th (RCr) to May 11th (CDRH). There was a full s/p bird at Dorney W on May 11th and again on May 12th when at 08:30 it flew off high northwest (CDRH). **Autumn:** The only record was of 1 seen over QMR on Sep 29th where it flew from the north east and departed east (JAS)

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

A common and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor which has shown signs of decline in recent years. (Amber listed)

2000 The monthly maxima where counts were fairly regular were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cookham / Widbrook area	250	162	–	–	–	–	–	–	200	250	130	–
Eversley GPs	700	480	53	22	22	27	180	150	270	235	161	360
Lower Fm GP	500	1000	300	20	17	70	300	230	100	400	800	300

First winter: Although records were frequent and widespread, there were no counts of over 1000 birds, the highest being c1000 Tickleback Row on Jan 1st (DJB), 700 Eversley GPs on Jan 5th (TGB), c1000 Lower Fm GP on Feb 1st (GDS). **Summer/Breeding:** Summering birds were reported throughout the county. However confirmed breeding was only reported from the following 12 sites: Ascot, 2prs bred (DCa); Home Park Windsor, 1pr reared 2 young (TBo); Brimpton, 2 nests with 4 eggs on Apr 24th (GEW); Compton Downs, 7 broods and 10 nests on May 5th (DJB); Greenham Com, c20 pairs on May 5th (DJB) and 8prs probably with young on May 20th (IW; JL); Eversley GPs, 2 juvs and 2 nests on May 8th (DJB); Woolhampton GP, 1pr with 2 young on May 12th (JPM); Lower Fm GP, 3 chicks on May 20th (IW; JL); Englefield, 25-30 pairs bred, 14 chicks from 7 broods plus 18 birds on nests on May 29th and 7 broods of small chicks on Jun 10th (RCr); Hosehill Lake, 1pr with 3 juvs on Jun 10th (BU); Moatlands GP where 3 chicks were seen on Jun 13th (RCr) and Bottom Lane Theale where 1 chick was present on Jun 28th (RCr). Display was observed at Bury Down, Crookham, Fawley, Hogs Hole Combe and Stanmore – some significant densities for an Amber List species (Recorder). **Second winter:** Post breeding flocks were fairly widespread by late July with counts exceeding 250 birds at Lower Fm GP, 300 on Jul 8th (IW; JL); Dorney W, 350 on Aug 1st (DJB) and Pingewood GPs, 268 on Aug 23rd (PBT). Again there were no counts

over 1000 birds, the highest counts being 800 at Lower Fm GP on Nov 17th-18th (IW; JL; JPM), 613 at Beenham on Nov 18th (JPM), c800 on White Waltham Airfield on Nov 20th (DJB), c700 Brimpton GPs on Dec 14th (BDC) and c1000 WSW over the Aldworth Downs on Dec 29th (CDRH).

2001 Records were submitted from over 80 sites across the county. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	-	14	50	61	300	270	70	300	-
Cookham/Summerleaze area	700	350	-	-	-	-	78	-	250	-	300	43
Eversley GPs	500	700	250	-	4	6	31	-	-	200	265	425
Kintbury/Elcot area	-	100	-	4	2	2	40	2	100	-	150	180
Lower Fm GP	800	800	45	9	19	74	250	400	203	120	300	500
Padworth Lane GP	120	1	4	1	10	-	150	250	77	-	17	-
Slough SF/Dorney W	-	-	-	-	-	41	55	370	3	60	-	1
Theale GPs	180	2	30	4	5	6	61	82	80	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	11	2	2	4	-	50	-	24	1	60
White Waltham/Woodlands Pk	560	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	400	-
Woolhampton GPs	-	-	-	-	2	2	133	227	60	-	-	100

First winter: The largest flock reported involved 1000 at Hurst Tip on Feb 18th (BTB). Other large flocks in January and February were at both ends of the county. Lower Fm saw counts of 800 on Jan 6th (IW; JL; MJT) and Feb 8th (RCr) and Eversley GP played host to a large flock throughout an eighteen day period from Jan 28th (JMC) to Feb 14th (KBB) with a peak of 700 on Feb 9th (GJSR). Both Cookham, 700 Jan 24th (BDC), and Woodlands Park, 560 Jan 16th (LJF), also had good first winter counts. **Breeding:** Evidence of breeding was received from 22 sites. One nest was located with four eggs at Hell Corner Fm on May 12th (LS) but these were not successful. The highest concentrations were at Pingewood GPs where 5prs reared 10y (RCr) and at East Ilsley where several breeding pairs were seen with young in May (P Rainsden). Chicks were noted at a further 7 locations, and display or attempted breeding was noted at all other sites. **Second winter:** Post breeding flocks began to assemble in late June and numbers peaked in Aug with counts of 400+ at Lower Fm (NDOC) and 370 at Dorney W on Aug 19th (MMc). Numbers declined a little in Sep-Oct before building up again in Nov although the highest count of 500 at Lower Fm GP on Dec 4th (JW) is low compared to recent winters. A partial albino with white on the wings reminiscent of an Egyptian Plover *pluvianus aegyptius* was seen at Dorney W on Sep 24th and Dec 2nd (CDRH)

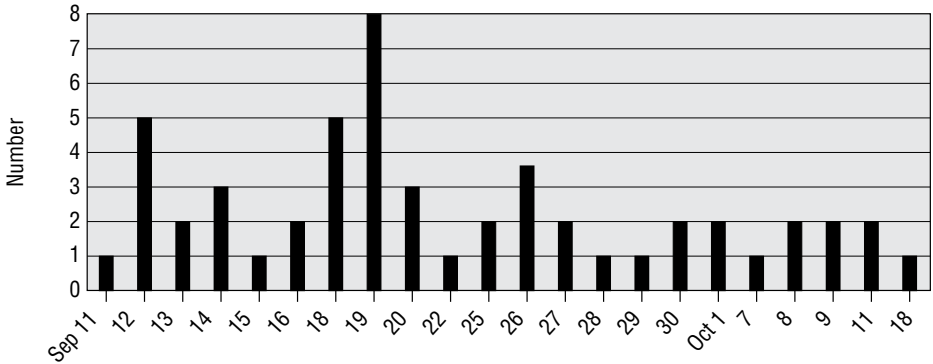
SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Uncommon but annual passage migrant.

2000 The second successive year of below average numbers. At QMR single s/p adults were located on May 7th, 20th and 23rd (JAS) with 3 s/p adults there on May 24th-25th (JAS). This species has been an annual spring migrant to this site since 1991. Elsewhere a s/p adult was present at Moatlands GP on May 23rd (RCr; BU et al). There were no autumn records.

2001 All records were of spring birds, the earliest being a single at Eversley GPs on Apr 24th (IHB). May saw 5 birds, with 2 Dunlin, at QMR on the 16th (CDRH) and a single bird moulting into summer plumage at Pingewood GPs on the 28th (RCr; BTB).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* – Autumn totals at all sites



LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon but annual passage migrant in variable numbers, more regular in the autumn.

2000 A poor year with only 3 autumn records. A juvenile with 3 Ringed Plovers was briefly present at Dorney W on Aug 27th (CDRH) and was followed by another juv at QMR on Sep 17th (JAS). Finally, 1 was located at Lower Fm GP on the late date of Nov 24th (JPM). Together with a lingering bird at QMR which was present to Nov 24th 1996, these are the latest records ever for Berkshire. The table below shows the minimum number of birds recorded in Berkshire for the last 11 years.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Min no of birds in spring	1	3	2	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
Min no of birds in autumn	25	8	3	22	3	3	107	0	32	13	3

2001 Spring: An adult in s/p at Pingewood GPs on Jun 9th (BTB; RHS; MGM) was only the second June record and is the latest spring record for Berkshire. **Autumn:** In September juveniles were located at four sites across the county. Starting at Pingewood GPs, a juvenile was found on the north pit on Sep 11th (MO) remaining to Sep 12th. Then 2 juvs turned up at both Slough SF (ABT) and QMR (JAS) on Sep 12th. Reports of juvs at Slough SF then continued into October: with 2 regular (MO) until Sep 18th when 5 were present increasing to 7 on Sep 19th (CDRH) and 3 on Sep 20th (JOB). The final record from the site was of a juv/1st winter bird on Oct 18th (CDRH). There were two further reports from QMR with 1 over on Sep 14th and 4 juvs together from Sep 26th-29th (JAS). At Pingewood GPs, after 1juv on Sep 19th (MR) between one and two juvs were regularly seen to Oct 1st (MGM). Not to be outdone Lower Fm GP had a series of records of one or two birds over a four week period lasting into October with 1juv on Sep 15th (NDOC), Sep 27th-28th (MJD), Oct 7th (JC; SG) then 2 juvs on Oct 8th (JC; JAW), Oct 9th and Oct 11th (MO). These autumn sightings are summarised in the figure.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce passage migrant, predominantly in spring

2001 Three birds were recorded this year, the first being a spring adult found at Eversley GPs on May 8th (MO) which stayed until May 11th giving very close views in front of the

hide on Colebrook Lake. Another s/p bird was found mid-afternoon at Pingewood GPs on May 14th (CDRH). A solitary autumn bird was briefly at Lower Fm GP on Sep 15th (AJP; RKK).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage migrant, formerly more regular.

2000 The only record this year was an adult in partial summer plumage present at Lower Fm GP on Jul 24th (MJD) and still present at 1630hrs on Jul 25th (DJB) but not after. This is the first July record for Berkshire and the first record since 1998. The table below shows the minimum number of birds recorded in Berkshire since 1990 and clearly shows that autumn occurrences of Curlew Sandpiper usually correspond to years when there are higher numbers of Little Stints moving through the county:

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Min no of birds in spring	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Min no of bird in autumn	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	1

2001 September is the most likely month to see this species in Berkshire and a group of five juvenile birds was found at Slough SF on Sep 8th (CDRH; MMc). A single juv was also recorded at the same site from Sep 11th (JOB; MMc) to 16th (CDRH).

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Rare vagrant, one record

2001 With only one previous record accepted for Berkshire (Thatcham GP Nov 7th 1983) the three hour stay of a juv/1st winter bird at QMR on Sep 24th was a notable addition to the county records. Feeding and briefly swimming (and photographed), the bird flew off at 10:00hrs (JAS).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

2000 Records were received from 11 locations, 2 in W Berks, 3 in M.Berks and 6 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	-	-	1	1	4	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	1	1	-	1	-
Slough SF / Dorney W	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	2	-	-	-
Theale GPs	-	-	1	1	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
Other sites	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	2	-	-	1

Spring: Passage was first observed on Mar 10th with singles at Hosehill Lake (BU) and QMR (CDRH) and on Mar 12th at Lower Fm GP (P Kenchington). Reports increased in April and May, but actual numbers remained fairly low with a maximum count of 4 at Lower Fm GP on several dates in May (MO). June records involved singles at Moatlands GP on Jun 1st (MR) and Lower Fm GP on Jun 2nd (DJB) and Jun 4th (IW; JL). **Autumn:** Return passage began with an adult at Slough SF on Jul 11th (CDRH)

and 2 at QMR on Jul 14th (JAS). The heaviest passage was reported from the Slough SF/Dorney W area with regular reports from mid July into August, high counts being 5 (3ads 2juvs) on Jul 28th-31st (CDRH) and 8 (5ads 3juvs) on Aug 6th (DJB). Elsewhere most reports were of 1-2 birds with the exception of 4 at Eversley GPs on Aug 3rd (IHB). Passage continued into September with 6 birds reported from 4 sites, the latest being 1 at Lower Fm GP on Sep 23rd (GJS). **Second winter:** Singles were found at QMR on Nov 7th and Nov 23rd (JAS) and at Widbrook Com on Dec 23rd (MW).

2001 Records of this species were received from 13 wetland sites across the county with a slight weighting towards the east. Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	-	7	3	4	2	1	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	2	2	1	2
Moatlands/ Theale GPs	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
QMR	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	5	6	-	1	-
Slough SF/Dorney W	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	5	1	4	2
Other Sites	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	3

First winter/Spring: After 1 at QMR on Jan 22nd (JAS) passage commenced from Mar 14th with 1 at Moatlands GP (BU). Birds noted at 8 sites with a high count of 7 at Burnthouse Lane on May 19th (PJC; PH; MGM) and continued into June with 1 at Pingewood GPs on Jun 14th (MW) the last report. Apart from the main sites singles were reported from Brayfield Fm on Mar 22nd (CDRH), Eversley GPs on Apr 29th (BMA; IHB) and unusually East Ilsley on May 30th and Jun 6th (CDRH). Two were located at Lea Fm GP near to Lavells Lake on Apr 19th (BTB). **Autumn/Second winter:** Return passage was first noted at Lower Fm GP with 2 on Jul 11th (MJD). High counts involved 5 at QMR on Aug 30th and 6 on Sep 4th (JAS) and 5 at Slough SF on Sep 20th (JOB). Further reports involved singles at Eversley GPs on Aug 10th-13th (GRa) and 1 at Englefield on Sep 25th (RCr). Records continued into the winter with 4 at Slough SF on Nov 10th (CDRH) and a last report of 3 associating with Golden Plovers at Eton Wick on Dec 16th (CDRH).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 Not an exceptional year, records being received from only 5 locations involving a maximum of 16 birds. **Spring:** The only reports concerned 2 at Moatlands GP on Mar 19th (BU; RCr) and Mar 20th (BTB), 1 Hosehill Lake on Apr 28th (TABR) and a group of 4 at Lower Fm GP on May 13th (GJS). **Autumn:** Passage was better, 2 were located at Slough SF on Aug 27th (DJB; CDRH) and 1 there on Sep 1st-3rd (CDRH; DJB), 1 was at QMR on Aug 28th (CDRH; JAS) with 2 there on Sep 4th (JAS). Further records occurred in October, 2 including 1juv at Lower Fm GP on Oct 1st (DL) and a female at Slough SF on Oct 27th-29th (CDRH).

2001 Records were received from 8 locations probably involving up to 15 birds. **Spring:** Passage was light with only 3 records although this may have been partly due to Foot and Mouth restrictions. Records began with 1 at Widbrook Com (with 2 Redshank) on Mar 26th (CDRH). A reeve appeared at Horton GPs on Apr 20th (JAS) and 1 was at Wigmore Lane GP on Apr 25th (CDRH). **Autumn:** Passage began with 1 at Pingewood GPs on Aug 29th (BTB; TBa; MW) which remained until Sep 4th, joined

by a second bird on Sep 2nd (CDRH) (who aged both birds as Juvs) to Sep 4th (MO), 1 remaining to Sep 5th (MGM). One was located at Slough SF on Sep 2nd (CDRH; CL) to Sep 5th (MMc), then up to 4 were present from Sep 6th (MMc) to Sep 14th (MMc) aged as 1ad and 3juvs on Sep 12th-13th (CDRH). A juv visited QMR on Sep 7th (CL; JAS) and at Lower Fm GP 1 remained from Sep 11th (SG) to Sep 23rd (MO). Further records came from Pingewood GPs with 1 on Sep 18th (BTB) and Sep 20th (PBT), a juv/reeve, then 1 at Woolhampton GP on Sep 22nd (TABR) and finally 2 at Pingewood GPs on Sep 27th (MJD).

JACK SNIBE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon but annual winter visitor, small numbers occurring on passage.

2000 Records were received from 10 locations and involved a maximum of 32 birds. Apart from Horton GPs, all records involved counts of only 1-2 birds. **First winter/Spring:** After 2 at the traditional site of Decoy Heath, Aldermaston on Jan 2nd (DJB), singles were located at Burghfield Taxi GP on Jan 29th (PH) and Twyford GPs on Feb 27th (BTB). Higher numbers were present at Horton GP with 4 on Feb 28th and 1 on Mar 9th (CDRH). Presumed migrants were located at Bray GPs on Mar 5th (PNe) and Lower Fm GP Apr 22nd (IW; JL; HMG), the latest departure date since 1 at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 26th 1985. **Autumn/Second winter:** An early report of 1 at Burghfield Mill GP on Sep 22nd (TABR) was followed by another there on Oct 22nd (RJB). Eleven at Horton GP on Oct 29th (CDRH) was the highest count for the year, with 5 there on Dec 28th (DJB). Elsewhere singles were located at Great Shefford on Dec 5th (RPr), Wraysbury GPs on Dec 28th (CDRH) and Moatlands GP on Dec 29th (TABR).

2001 Records were received from 13 locations, 4 in W Berks, 4 in M Berks and 5 in E Berks. A table showing the monthly maxima at the main site plus all other sites is below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Horton GPs	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	19	20
All other sites	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	2

First winter: After one was flushed from wet heathland at Upper Bucklebury on Jan 7th (NC) 1 was reported from Wraysbury GPs on Jan 20th (RRG). One seen by a stream at Bucklebury Slade on Feb 3rd-5th was presumably the same bird present there on Feb 22nd-24th (PDM), there was 1 near Decoy Heath, Aldermaston Feb 6th (PE Hutchins) and 3 were flushed at Hungerford Marsh on Feb 20th and Feb 24th (J Pomroy). Attention was then focused on E Berks where 3 were flushed at Horton GPs on Mar 19th, and were also noted there on Mar 22nd (1), Mar 25th (2), Apr 20th (1) and finally 1 on Apr 28th (JAS). **Second winter:** Returning birds were first noted at Horton GPs with 1 on Sep 30th (CDRH) and 1 at Englefield on Oct 13th (RCr). Horton GPs provided ideal habitat for this species, numbers building from 6 on Oct 17th to 19 on Nov 27th and peaking at 20 on Dec 6th before declining to 6 on Dec 21st (CDRH) and only 1 on Dec 24th (CL). The count of 20 is the highest since at least 27 were at Slough SF on Nov 12th 1960 (R.J.Johns). Elsewhere single birds were reported from Wraysbury GPs on Nov 6th (WAS), Decoy Heath on Nov 10th (MW), Theale GP on Nov 11th (CDRH), Lavells Lake on Nov 25th (S Cox), Lower Fm GP also on Nov 25th (JA), Eversley GPs on Nov 26th (MJT), Marsh Meadow Cookham on Dec 22nd (BDC) and Swinley Forest on Dec 30th (JOB).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

A common though declining winter visitor and passage migrant. Snipe were formerly a fairly common summer resident with the last record of confirmed breeding in 1987 and possibly in 1995 when drumming was heard. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 41 locations, 14 in W Berks, 12 in M. Berks and 15 in E Berks. The monthly number of sites where Snipe were reported was:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks	5	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	3	2	3	5
M. Berks	4	3	10	5	0	0	0	3	4	4	3	4
E Berks	4	3	7	2	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	5

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	12	18	13	3	–	–	–	1	3	2	–	3
Lavells Lake	3	13	8	2	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	4
Lower Fm GP	7	5	6	4	–	–	–	5	12	30	16	38
Theale area GPs	2	–	17	4	–	–	–	2	3	8	1	11
Twyford GPs	4	2	4	4	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	2
Wraysbury GPs	14	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	35	32	–

First winter: Fairly evenly distributed throughout the county although numbers were low with only 2 counts exceeding 15 birds. Eighteen were present at Eversley GPs on Feb 11th (DJB) and 17 were counted at Hosehill Lake on Mar 11th (RCr; BU) at a time when passage was at its peak in Mid and E Berks. Birds were present at 8 sites in April with the latest departures being 3 at Eversley GPs on Apr 20th (DJB) and 4 at Lower Fm on Apr 22nd (IW; JL; HMG). **Summer:** For the first time for many years, there were no records for the months of May, June and July. **Autumn/Second winter:** Return passage began on Aug 8th with 1 at Muddy Lane GP (GJS) and birds were reported from a further 7 sites during the month with 16 at Eton Wick on Aug 27th (CDRH) the highest count. Numbers increased during September and October with highs of 30 at Lower Fm GP on Oct 22nd (JA; BJE; RPo) and 35 at Wraysbury GPs on Oct 25th (WAS). It was these 2 sites that had the highest winter counts with 32 at Wraysbury GPs on Nov 10th (WAS) and 38 at Lower Fm GP on Dec 28th (IW; JL).

2001 Records were received from 40 localities, 15 in W Berks, 10 in M Berks and 15 in E Berks and the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake	4	2	–	7	–	–	–	1	5	6	3	8
Eversley GPs	6	11	1	4	2	–	–	1	2	2	3	7
Horton GPs	–	–	39	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
Lower Fm GP	27	10	5	6	–	–	–	6	10	28	10	3
Slough SF/Dorney W	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	8	13	3	3
Twyford GPs	19	6	6	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	4
Other sites	53	39	83	9	1	–	–	9	16	37	97	92

First winter/Spring: Widely distributed throughout the county with high counts of 40 at Eton Wick on Jan 28th (CDRH), 22 Decoy Heath, Aldermaston Feb 8th (PE Hutchins), 32 at Kintbury Cressbeds on Feb 11th and 25+ there on Mar 2nd (RGS). Passage is at its peak in March and as well as the Horton GPs count of 39 on Mar 19th (JAS) there were totals of 25 at Smallmead Landfill site on Mar 18th (PBT)

and 25 at Bray GP on Mar 25th (MMc). Most birds had left by mid April with late records involving 2 at Eversley GPs on May 6th (RJG) and singles at Hamstead Marshall (AG) and Horton GPs (JAS) on May 7th. An individual in display flight at Brimpton GP on Mar 30th (GEW) did not linger. **Autumn/Second winter:** First reported at Slough SF on Jul 29th (MMc) numbers were slow to build until Sep when the first double figure counts were achieved. Counts of 22 at Beenham on Oct 28th (JPM) and 28 at Lower Fm GP on Oct 29th (DJB) were the highest counts apart from Old Slade STW where 80+ were present on Nov 18th (J Schmidt per DR) and 55 there on Dec 8th (DR).

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

A locally common resident and widespread winter visitor in small numbers. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 25 locations, 14 in W Berks, 5 in M.Berks and 6 in E Berks. The marked decline in reports this year is probably due to under recording rather than a declining county population. The monthly number of sites where Woodcock were reported is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks	2	1	3	2	4	5	2	2	3	2	2	1
M.Berks	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
E Berks	2	0	2	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1

Jan/Feb: Singles were reported from 5 sites, the only higher count was 2 birds at Kintbury Cressbeds on several dates during this period (RGS). **Mar/Jul:** Roding was first reported in March with 2-3 at Swinley Brickpits on Mar 22nd (DJS) being the highest count. Reports of roding increased from April to June in W Berks, but were few in the east and were only reported from Mortimer in M.Berks with 1 on May 9th and May 13th and 2 on May 18th (PH). In the west, the highest counts were from Bucklebury Com with a maximum of 5 on May 30th and 4 on Jun 25th (RCr). Elsewhere the only count that exceeded 2 was 3+ roding at Snelsmore Com on Jun 18th (IW). In E Berks, Swinley Forest accounted for most records with up to 5 roding at Caesars Camp on May 13th (BTB) being the highest count. A bird flushed at Lower Star Post on Jun 3rd (DJB) probably had young nearby as it repeatedly flew around the observer, landing only short distances away and clearly did not want to leave the area. Away from Swinley Forest, 3 roding in Windsor Park on Jun 3rd (DF) was the highest count. **Aug/Dec:** Although reported from 5 sites in W Berks, there were no records elsewhere until December. All reports were of single birds, except for 2 at Kintbury Cressbeds on several dates (RGS). In M.Berks singles were found at Theale Main GP on Dec 29th (DKe) and at Twyford GPs on Dec 31st (BTB). In E Berks singles were flushed at Broadmoor Bottom (Swinley Forest) on Dec 30th (DJB) and 31st (PJC).

2001 Records were received from 20 locations with 8 in E Berks, 1 in M.Berks and 11 in W Berks. Monthly site distribution is shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks	1	1	-	-	4	5	1	-	-	-	1	1
M.Berks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
E Berks	3	1	2	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	1	-

All records are shown. **First winter:** Single birds were recorded at the following sites: Ravenswood Crowthorne on Jan 5th and 7th (DJS), Wildmoor Heath Jan 5th (DJS),

Swinley Forest on Jan 8th and Feb 17th-18th (DJS), Walbury Hill on Jan 26th (LJF), Woolley Down on Feb 23rd (GDS), Wraysbury GP Feb 17th (RRG), Bisham Woods on Mar 24th (PNe) and North Bracknell on Mar 26th (DJS). **Summer:** Reports were mostly of roding birds and were noted as follows. *E Berks:* In Swinley Forest birds were noted at Wishmoor, 1 Apr 26th (BTB), 1 May 30th-31st (AFd), 1 Jun 1st (BAJC) and 1 Jun 26th (MMC); Caesar's Camp 1 May 5th (MW), 2 May 19th (BMA), 1 May 20th (JOB), 2 May 26th (BMA), 3 May 27th (Jon Atkinson), 1 Jun 3rd (PBT), 2 Jun 4th (BMc; RMc), Jun 11th (J Mitchell), 1 Jul 9th (BMc; RMc), 2 Jul 11th (AFd); Crowthorne Wood 4 May 28th (BTB). Elsewhere in E Berks 1 was roding at Knowl Hill on Jun 5th (BDC). *M. Berks:* Possibly due to Foot and Mouth restrictions, there were no reports from the usual areas around Mortimer. *W Berks:* Inkpen 1 throughout May (MJSt), Bucklebury Com 1 May 7th, 4 May 24th (RCr), 1 Jun 6th (MBu), 5 Jul 12th (JLe); Stockcross 1 May 20th (SG); Snelsmore Com 1 May 20th (GDS), 2 Jun 7th, 2 Jun 12th, 1 Jun 18th (JW), 1 Jun 26th and 3 Jun 28th (GDS); Crookham Com 3 Jun 6th (IW; JL); West Woodhay 1 Jun 19th (JD) and Greenham Com several Jun 20th (GJS). **Second winter:** Single birds were noted at the following sites: Brimpton GP Nov 12th (GEW); Tidmarsh Nov 24th and Dec 22nd (JLe); Dorney W Nov 26th (CDRH) and east of Kintbury Dec 26th (DR).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Scarce passage migrant, autumn records predominating.

2000 A better year than both 1998 and 99 with 10 records involving at least 17 birds. **Spring:** Just 2 records, 2 were located at Hosehill Lake on May 3rd (BU) and 3 in winter plumage at Moatlands GP on the late date of May 23rd (BU). **Autumn:** Birds of the Icelandic race *islandica* were found at Etonwick on Jul 7th (1m 2f) and Jul 9th (3m 1f) (CDRH) and represents the first time this race has been identified in Berkshire. Elsewhere birds were noted at Hosehill Lake, 1 moulting adult on Jul 13th (RCr; BU); Lower Fm, 1 Jul 26th (NDOC) and Aug 13th (MO); Bottom Lane floods, 1 juv Aug 16th-18th (RCr; MJS); Lavells Lake, 2 juvs on Aug 31st to Sep 2nd (FC et al) and 1 juv to Sep 4th (MO). Finally a late bird was present at Field Fm GP on Sep 14th (JLe). A table showing the yearly status of Black-tailed Godwit since 1990 is below, showing the clear autumn bias:

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring passage records	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	3	2
Minimum number of birds	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	0	1	8	5
Autumn passage records	1	1	3	1	4	3	6	11	0	1	8
Minimum number of birds	1	2	4	1	5	4	22	20	0	1	12
Winter records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum number of birds	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2001 There were 17 records involving up to 19 birds with only 2 records for W Berks and 1 for E Berks, the remainder coming from the gravel pits to the south of Reading and the Lodden valley. **Spring:** The only record was a flock of 10 in s/p at Lea Fm near Lavells Lake on May 4th (KEM). **Autumn:** Passage began early and finished late. An exceptional record of 1 at Lower Fm GP on Jul 1st (SG) is the 3rd earliest return for Berkshire; the earlier records were both in 1994. A passage of adult birds occurred through July with 1s/p at Bottom Lane on the 5th (RCr), 2s/p at Pingewood GPs on the 10th (RCr) and 1s/p of the Icelandic race (*islandica*) there on the 13th-14th (PBT; CDRH). The last reported adult was at Moatlands GP on Jul 26th (CDRH). 1 at Pingewood GPs on Jul 28th (MW) was not

aged. August began with 2 at Pingewood GPs on the 8th (MGM; CMR), 1 remaining to 9th (MGM) then a small influx occurred on Aug 21st with 1 at Twyford GPs (MW; PML), 1juv Pingewood GPs (PBT) and 1juv at Lower Fm GP (CDRH; JPM) to Aug 22nd (SG). One at Burnthouse Lane on Sep 9th (MW) was the last report from this site. Elsewhere a juvenile frequented Green Pk Reading from Sep 9th-11th (PBT et al) with another sighting there on Sep 16th (MW). A long staying juvenile took up residence at Lavells Lake from Sep 16th (FC; BTB) to Oct 22nd (BTB) and it was possibly this bird that was seen at nearby Twyford GPs on Sep 20th (FC). This is the longest stay since 1 lingered in the Theale area from Sep 16th to Dec 15th in 1984. The year ended with another exceptional record of 1 in w/p at Dorney W on Nov 4th (MMC) which is the latest departure date recorded in Berks.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

A scarce spring passage migrant, rarer in autumn and winter.

2000 There were 5 records involving 6 birds. All reports were for the spring, beginning with 1 over QMR at 17.35hrs on the early date of Mar 23rd (CDRH). There followed an April report of 1 at Bottom Lane floods on Apr 12th-13th (MJH; AH) and a small influx at the beginning of May. Two in summer plumage were present at Dorney W on May 1st (CDRH) and a series of records then occurred at Moatlands GP with 1 on May 3rd (KEM), 1 w/p on the morning of May 4th (DJB) and 1 s/p in the evening of May 4th (MO) to May 6th (BU; RCr; DJB). A table showing the yearly status of Bar-tailed Godwit from 1990 to 2000 is below, showing the strong spring bias:

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring passage records	2	0	1	6	1	1	0	0	0	2	5
Minimum number of birds	3	0	2	8	1	3	0	0	0	2	6
Autumn passage records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Minimum number of birds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Winter records	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum number of birds	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2001 No records were noted.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Uncommon but annual passage migrant.

2000 A below average year with 4 records involving 5 birds. **Spring:** All records were in a 6 day period from late April to early May. At Eversley GPs, 1 was present on Apr 26th (EN) and another there on May 1st (BMA). The only other record involved 2 birds in fields between Maidenhead and Cookham Rise on Apr 30th (DF et al). **Autumn:** Only reported from Lower Fm GP where 1 was present on Jul 18th (RRK). The yearly status of this species through the nineties is shown below, pointing to some decline in the frequency of observation:

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring passage records	8	4	3	10	5	3	5	3	3	2	3
Minimum number of birds	14	5	3	46	6	3	8	4	5	7	4
Autumn passage records	6	1	1	0	3	0	3	3	1	0	1
Minimum number of birds	8	15	3	0	10	0	4	4	1	0	1

2001 Records from 7 sites produced 18 birds in an improved year for this species. **Spring:** Padworth Lane GP 1 Apr 8th (JLe); Twyford GPs 4 Apr 29th (ABT); Hosehill Lake 1 May 8th (BU); Binfield 3 May 9th (BTB); Lower Fm GP 1 May 9th (RRi) and at QMR 1 flew N/E May 13th (CDRH). **Autumn:** A record of 7 heading west calling over Eversley GPs Aug 7th (PBT).

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. A small summering population is attempting to expand its range. (Amber listed)

2000 Spring: After no first winter records, spring passage began in March with 1 with Lapwings and Golden Plovers at Kintbury on Mar 12th (AG). The only other record away from summering areas was a party of 6 over Theale Main GP on May 1st (NR). **Summer:** In the Compton, Aldworth and Lowbury Hill area, 2 birds had returned by Mar 12th (IW; JL) and 2-3 were regularly reported until Jun 10th (DJB). Birds were again present at Woolley Down with a singing male from Mar 12th and a pair on Apr 16th (GDS). The downland to the north of Lambourn also held birds with 3 there on May 20th (BTB; EN), 2 on Jun 2nd (DJB) and 1 on Jun 8th (RCr). Nearby at Wellbottom Down, 5+ including 2 displaying birds were present on Jun 25th (GDS; IW; JL). However there was no evidence of breeding at any of these sites. **Autumn:** Passage or local birds appeared at Lower Fm GP on Jun 17th (IW; JL) and 1 calling over Thatcham Marsh on Jun 24th (IW; JL). Further passage was noted at QMR, 1 on Jun 26th, 1 Aug 21st and 3 Sep 3rd (JAS); Bottom Lane flood, 1 on Jul 7th (RCr); Eton Wick, 2 flying W Jul 16th (CDRH); Southcote, 1 Jul 29th (JA); Wraysbury, 3 over SW on Aug 13th (CDRH) and Hosehill Lake, 1 Oct 15th (BU). **Second winter:** One flying SE over Windsor on Dec 23rd (TBo) is the only record.

2001 Spring: First reported on Mar 26th when 2 briefly visited Lower Fm GP (JPM). One flew west over Sandhurst on Apr 14th (RJG) and there were two reports from Horton GPs where singles flew south on May 8th and S/W on May 16th (JAS). **Summer:** Reported from 3 areas on the Downs. On the Compton Downs 2 were noted on May 15th (CDRH) and singles on Jun 23rd (MW) and Jun 24th (DJB). The main population was centred at Wellbottom Down where 3-4 displaying males were located on May 28th, still present on Jun 24th (GDS) and 6 were present on Jun 4th (ABT). Elsewhere 1 was noted at Woolley Down on Jun 5th and Jun 24th (GDS). **Autumn:** One flew west over Dorney W on Aug 22nd (CDRH; MMc) with another south over Brimpton on Aug 31st (GEW). There were 2 records for Sep 9th, at either ends of the county with 1 S/E over QMR (JAS) and 1 at Lower Fm GP (SG; RRR; RPo). One flew west over Bray with 8 Shelduck on Sep 18th (CDRH) and finally on Oct 28th, 1 flew over Hosehill Lake (DKe) and 1 was at Lower Fm GP (JA; RRR; RPo).

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce passage migrant

2001 After none in 2000, 2001 was better than average with 4 autumn records involving 6 birds making it the best year for records since 1996. Passage brought records of singles from Hosehill Lake on Aug 25th (BU) and Pingewood GPs Aug 28th (MGM) before a long-staying juv at Lower Fm GP from Sep 9th (RPo) until Sep 18th (ABT). Three birds were at the same site on Sep 24th (MJD).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

A locally common passage migrant and summer visitor, occasional winter records. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 26 locations, 4 in W Berks, 15 in M.Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottom Lane floods	-	3	14	13	10	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	4	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	-	-	6	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hosehill Lake	-	1	7	5	2	6	4	-	-	-	-	-
Lavells Lake	-	-	3	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	2	7	5	3	10	3	-	-	-	-	1
Moatlands GPs	-	1	8	6	8	6	-	1	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	-
Twyford GPs	-	1	2	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Woolhampton GPs	-	-	6	4	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Wraysbury GPs	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites	-	2	11	11	3	2	8	-	-	-	-	-

Spring: After an early report of 1 at Bottom Lane floods on Feb 6th (JA), the main arrival commenced from Feb 19th with singles located at Field Fm GP and Moatlands GP (BU) and at Tickleback Row (DJB). Numbers peaked in Mar/Apr with high counts of 7 at Lower Fm GP on Mar 18th (IW; JL), 14 at Bottom Lane floods on Mar 19th (RJB), 8 Moatlands GP Mar 25th (BU), 6 Woolhampton GPs Mar 26th (DKe), 13 Bottom Lane floods Apr 4th and 6 Greenham Com on Apr 16th (IW; JL). A check of local GPs in the Theale area on Mar 18th produced a total of 8 birds (KEM). **Summer:** High numbers were still present at Bottom Lane floods with 10 on May 4th (DJB) and 6 regularly in June (MO). Nine were located at Greenham Com on Jun 2nd (DJB) and 10 were present at Lower Fm GP on Jun 17th (IW; JL). Evidence of breeding occurred at Eversley GPs where 1 pair failed to rear any young (IHB), at Greenham Com, 1 pair appeared anxious when approached and may have had young nearby on May 20th (IW; JL), 2 pairs were nesting on the island at Moatlands GP on May 30th (BU), 1 pair hatched 4 chicks and reared 2 at Woolhampton GPs (GEW), 1 pair bred at Hosehill Lake with 2 young seen on Jun 25th (RCr; BU), 1 pr bred Windsor Gt Pk where 2 pulli ringed Jun 12th (RRG) and 2 juv were present at Lower Fm GP on Jun 17th and 3 juvs there on Jun 25th (IW; JL). **Autumn:** Most birds had left the county by the end of June with records only coming from 7 sites in July, the maximum counts being 7 at Slough SF on Jul 5th (CDRH) and 4 including 3 juvs at Hosehill Lake on Jul 27th (RCr). In August, a juv was present at Moatlands GP on Aug 1st-2nd (RCr) and 2 were found at QMR on Aug 24th (JAS). The last autumn record involved 1 bird at QMR on Sep 20th (CDRH). **Second winter:** Singles were present at QMR on Nov 7th and Nov 13th-15th (JAS) and at Lower Fm on Dec 16th (IW; JL).

2001 Birds were reported from 34 locations throughout Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottom Lane Theale	-	1	1	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	-	-	1	3	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
Horton GPs	-	-	3	2	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hosehill Lake	2	2	-	4	6	7	1	-	-	1	1	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Moatlands GP	-	-	6	3	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	2	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QMR	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
Ruscombe	-	-	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Widbrook Com	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere 1-2 birds were reported from Beenham Landfill, Borough Marsh, Brimpton, Crookham, Dinton Pastures, Dorney W, Field Fm, Midgham Bridge, Burghfield GPs, Twyford, Wraysbury GP and West Shefford. High counts were at Greenham Com with 8 Jun 3rd (JL; IW; JPM), Horton GP 7 Jun 1st (JAS), Hosehill LNR 7 Jun 27th (RCr) and 6 birds at each of Padworth Lane GP Mar 29th (RCr), Bottom Lane Apr 28th (GJS), Hosehill Lake May 16th (BU) and Moatlands GP Mar 17th (BU). **Breeding:** success was poor across the county with two chicks at Greenham Com Jun 3rd (JL; IW; JPM) and a single juv at Moatlands Jul 7th (JA). A pair bred at Hosehill Lake with 1 chick seen at the end of June (TABR). Neither of the pairs at Eversley GPs attempted to breed.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

2000 Records were received from 24 locations, 5 in W Berks, 9 in M.Berks and 10 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	1	1	-	-	-
Lavells Lake / Lea Fm GP*	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Lower Fm GPs	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	9	3	1	-	-
Slough SF / Dorney W*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-
Theale GPs	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	-	-	-
Tickleback Row	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	3	-	-	-
Other sites	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	11	5	-	-	1

*These are neighbouring sites that probably shared birds.

Spring: Passage was the best since the record year of 1990 with numbers on a par or even exceeding those of that year. All records fell between Apr 28th and May 12th except for a report of 3 at Eversley GPs on Jun 4th (IHB). The table below shows all of the submitted records for that April-May period.

	Apr			May											
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bottom Lane flood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Bray GPs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Lavells Lake	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Lea Fm GP	1	1	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tickleback Row	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	3	1	1	6	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

The observers of the Apr 28th reports were Lea Fm GP (BTB; EN) and Tickleback Row (DJB) and of the high counts were Eversley GPs (IHB), Lea Fm GP (BTB; FC; EN) and Tickleback Row (DJB) who states that at least 15 birds visited the site during this period. **Autumn:** One at Eversley GPs on Jun 23rd (IHB) could be the earliest ever record of a returning bird (either a late spring or early autumn migrant was present at Dinton Pastures CP on Jun 17th-20th 1988). Otherwise passage was noted from Jul 17th, 1ad Slough SF to Jul 20th (CDRH); to Oct 1st, 1 Lower Fm GP (RF; DL). Passage was unusually heavy in Aug-Sep, birds being reported from 21 locations involving at least 70 birds. Lower Fm GP was the most regular site with birds reported on 29 dates from Aug 2nd to Oct 1st with high counts of 7 on Aug 12th (SCC), 9 on Aug 25th (GJS) and Aug 26th (JA; GJS) and 6 on Aug 29th (DJB). Elsewhere, 4 at Twyford GP on Aug 25th (MJS) and Aug 27th (CDRH) were the highest counts. **Second winter:** One was located on flooded fields at Home Park Windsor on Dec 22nd (TBo).

2001 Passage began on Apr 14th, a typical date, with a single bird at Borough Marsh (ABT), followed by 14 further records of single birds in May: Bottom Lane 4th and Englefield 5th (RCr), Pingewood GPs 9th, 11th and 12th (MO) Lavell's Lake 12th (BTB) -14th (MO) and near Summerleaze GP 12th-13th (CDRH). Two birds were recorded at Hoschill Lake on May 8th (TM). Last of the spring birds were 3 at Pingewood GPs May 23rd (CDRH). **Autumn:** Return passage began in late June with 1 at Pingewood GPs on the 28th (RCr). Further records came in July at: Lower Fm GP 1 Jul 18th (RRK; GJS); Twyford GP 1ad Jul 19th and 3 juv Jul 30th (CDRH) and 1 ad QMR Jul 29th (JAS). The main body of passage however took place in August and September at three particular locations. At Lower Fm GP, 1 arrived on Aug 14th and numbers increased to 4 on Aug 19th with 1-3 regular to Sep 14th (NDOC). At Pingewood GPs a juv was present on Aug 10th (CDRH) then 1-2 were regularly seen to Sep 2nd (MO). At Slough SF/Dorney W, 3 arrived on Aug 19th (CDRH) and numbers built up to a maximum of 6 on Aug 27th (MMc) and Sep 2nd-3rd when aged as juvs (CDRH) before numbers declined to 2 on Sep 6th (MMc). Elsewhere during this period, records were received from 17 locations involving at least 32 birds with a high count of 4 at Twyford GPs on Aug 21st (MW). The latest record involved 1 at QMR on Oct 19th-24th (JAS).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Locally common passage migrant and less common winter visitor.

2000 Records were received from 33 locations, 13 in W Berks, 12 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	3	4	2	3	-	-	4	4	4	1	2	3
Horton GPs	1	-	1	-	-	3	2	2	2	-	-	3
Lavells Lake	-	-	3	2	-	2	4	4	10	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	3	1	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
QMR	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	2
Slough SF	-	-	1	1	-	4	4	12	10	7	-	1
Theale area GPs*	-	2	2	2	-	1	4	7	4	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Woolhampton GPs	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	9	9	1	-	4
Other sites	1	2	1	3	-	-	2	14	7	5	3	3

* includes Field Fm and Moatlands GPs

Birds were recorded in every month of the year, the table below shows the monthly site distribution and the minimum number of birds involved:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	4	6	8	8	1	5	11	17	15	7	6	9
Minimum number of birds	6	10	15	16	1	11	28	62	53	17	8	17

First winter: Eight sites held birds in Jan/Feb, all counts were of 1-3 birds except for 4 at Eversley GPs on Feb 11th (DJB). **Spring:** Passage began in March and continued into April. Numbers did not exceed 3 birds at any of the 10 sites that held birds during this period, the only May record was 1 at Padworth Lane GP on May 7th (MR). **Autumn:** Return passage began with 2 at Slough SF on Jun 16th, increasing to 4 there by Jun 28th (CDRH) and 3 at Horton GPs on Jun 19th and 28th (CDRH). Passage increased in July and peaked in late August and early September. High counts were 7 Field Fm GP on Aug 15th (CDRH), 7 Dorney W on Aug 25th (CDRH), 9 Woolhampton GPs on Aug 26th and Sep 10th (JPM), 12 Slough SF on Aug 27th and 10 there on Sep 3rd (DJB), 10 Lavells Lake on Sep 12th (BMA) and a high October count of 7 at Slough SF on Oct 29th (CDRH). An unusual report was of 1 at Hogs Hole Combe on Oct 15th (IW; JL). **Second winter:** Fairly widespread during this period with records coming from 12 locations, the maximum count being 4 at Woolhampton GPs on Dec 2nd (GEW).

2001 Records were received from 40 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottom Lane floods Theale	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	2	2	1
Burnthouse Lane	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	6	2	-	1	-
Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake	-	2	2	-	-	2	3	5	2	1	-	-
Eversley GPs	3	3	-	2	1	1	5	8	7	1	1	3
Horton GPs	-	-	1	1	-	3	2	-	2	-	-	1
Lower Fm GP	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	4	1	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Slough SF/Dorney W	1	1	1	4	-	2	6	12	10	6	1	1
Woolhampton/Midgham GPs	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	6	1	1	1
Other Sites	8	4	3	9	3	4	6	14	5	7	7	5

First winter/Spring: Due to Foot and Mouth restrictions there were fewer records than usual. High counts involved 4 on flooded fields at Eton Wick on Jan 14th and Apr 15th (CDRH) and 4 at Slough SF on Apr 16th (CDRH). As May is a poor month for this species 3 records is above average, these being 1 at Greenham Com on the

1st (JPM), 1 Eversley GPs on May 9th (LM) and 2 at Tickleback Row on May 11th (CDRH). **Autumn/Second winter:** Return passage began in June with 1 at Pingewood GPs on Jun 10th (BMA). Numbers increased during July, peaking in August when a high count of 12 occurred at Slough SF on Aug 9th (CDRH). Numbers remained at a high level in the Slough SF/Dorney W area into Sep with 10 noted on Aug 28th (MMc) and 10+ on Sep 3rd (CDRH). Elsewhere the highest counts involved 7 at Lower Fm GP on Aug 4th (IW; JL), 7+ at Midgham GPs (part of the Woolhampton complex) on Aug 15th (CDRH) and 8 at Eversley GPs on Aug 25th (IHB). Numbers declined from Oct onward with no counts exceeding 3 birds during Nov-Dec.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

A scarce but annual passage migrant.

2000 Just 4 records, probably involving only 3 birds. After no spring records, 3 birds were located at the end of July. At Eversley GPs, 1 was located on Jul 29th (CRG et al) and what was possibly the same bird (a juv) on Aug 8th-13th (MO). A juv at Lavells Lake on Jul 30th (IT; TGB) remained until Aug 3rd (MO) and at Lower Fm GP 1 was present on Jul 31st (RRK; MJD). The ten year status of this species shown below reveals a fairly consistent pattern since 1993, but with fewer birds than previously, particularly in spring (Recorder):

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring records		5	6	6	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
Number of birds		8	10	6	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
Autumn records		4	3	4	2	2	3	4	3	5	3
Number of birds		5	5	4	2	2	3	4	3	5	3

2001 Up to 7 birds may have been involved in a better year for the species. **Spring:** There were two records, with 1 at Pingewood GPs on May 9th (RCr) and another at Padworth Lane GP on May 30th (CDRH). **Autumn Passage:** began with 2 juv at Dorney W on Aug 19th (CDRH) with 1 juv moving to the adjacent Slough SF from Aug 22nd to Sep 14th (MMc; CDRH et al). A single bird stayed at Pingewood GPs from Aug 24th (PBT, MJT) to Aug 28th (MO) and there were reports of singletons from Lower Fm GP Aug 26th-27th (MO) and at Moatlands GP Aug 26th (JA).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

A common passage migrant, and a rare summer and winter visitor.

2000 Records were received from 32 locations, 8 in W Berks, 13 in M.Berks and 11 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	5	5	1	3	6	6	1	1	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	6	3	1	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	1	1	1	2	2	-	1	2	-	2	-	1
QMR	-	-	-	2	7	1	12	14	9	2	-	-
Slough SF / Dorney W	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	7	-	-	-
Theale area GPs*	-	-	-	5	3	1	2	4	3	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	2	1	-	-	-

*Includes Theale Main GP, Bottom Lane, Moatlands GP, Field Fm GP and Hosehill Lake.

First winter: The 1999 wintering individual remained at Padworth Lane GP until Apr 8th (KEM). **Spring:** Passage began with singles at Moatlands GP on Apr 9th (BU) and Lower Fm GP on Apr 13th (ICB). Increasing numbers were noted at Eversley GPs with 5 on Apr 20th (DJB) and May 5th (IHB), 5 Theale Main GP on Apr 29th (TGB) and 7 at QMR on May 8th (JAS). Late migrants occurred at Lower Fm, 1 on Jun 2nd (DJB) and Eversley GPs, 1 on Jun 16th (IHB). **Autumn:** Early returning birds were noted at QMR, 1 on Jun 24th (JAS) and Moatlands GP, 1 on Jun 28th-29th (RCr; CDRH). Heavy passage occurred from July especially at QMR where there were high counts of 12 on Jul 26th-27th, 14 Aug 20th and 9 Sep 4th (JAS). Elsewhere 7 were present at Slough SF on Jul 28th-30th (CDRH; DJB) and Sep 3rd (DJB), 6 at Eversley GPs on Aug 26th and Sep 2nd (IHB) and 6 at Lower Fm on Aug 29th (DJB). Passage had mainly passed by October with stragglers found at only 4 sites including 2 at Padworth Lane GP on Oct 5th (JPM) and 2 on several dates at QMR where the last record was on Oct 27th (JAS). **Second winter:** A single appeared at Eversley GPs on Nov 14th and remained until Nov 19th (IT). At Padworth Lane GP, what was presumably the same bird as in the previous winter returned on Dec 20th (MR) and remained into 2001.

2001 Records were received from 27 locations. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	2	-	-	-
Burnthouse GP	-	-	-	1	5	1	2	4	2	1	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	1	3	1	2	6	1	1	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	2	3	-	3	3	4	-	-	-
Moatlands GP / Field Fm GP	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	2	3	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	2
QMR	-	-	-	-	2	-	14	16	8	1	1	-
Slough SF/Dorney W	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	6	1	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
Other Sites	-	-	-	5	16	-	8	6	3	-	-	-

First winter: The wintering individual at Padworth Lane GP remained on site being joined by a 2nd bird on Feb 9th (JPM) and Mar 14th (MR), 1 bird was then regularly reported to Apr 26th (RCr). **Spring:** Passage began in mid April with 1 at Hamstead Marshall on Apr 15th (IW; JL) and 1 at Dinton Pastures on Apr 17th (FC). Reports peaked in May when high counts of 5 were made on 3 dates at Pingewood GPs (MO) and 4 were present at East Ilsley on May 23rd (CDRH). The latest spring migrant appears to be 1 at Moatlands GP on May 31st (JLe). **Autumn:** Passage began early with 1 at Pingewood GPs on Jun 21st (RCr) and accelerated through July and peaked in August. QMR held the highest numbers with birds present daily from Jul 15th to Sep 11th, the high count of 16 occurring on Aug 20th (JAS) and double figure counts occurred on no less than 23 dates during this period. Elsewhere the highest count involved 8 at Dorney W on Aug 8th (CDRH) and 4 at Lower Fm GP on Sep 16th (PML) was the peak count for W Berks. Late birds were noted at 5 sites in Oct including 3 at Padworth Lane GP on Oct 9th (JPM), 1 was still present at QMR on Nov 22nd (JAS). **Second winter:** Two birds (probably returning individuals) settled down to winter again at Padworth Lane GP being noted on Nov 14th (RCr) and Dec 19th (CDRH)

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

An uncommon passage migrant and a rare winter visitor.

2000 An unexceptional year with 8 records involving 8, possibly 9, birds. **Spring:** Passage was confined to Moatlands GP where singles were present from May 6th-8th (BU; KEM), May 15th-16th (BU; RCr) and May 28th (RJB; BU). **Autumn:** Of 5 records received, 4 fell between Jul 28th and Aug 7th. At QMR, 2 adults were found on Jul 28th (JAS) and 1 at Whistley Mill GP, Twyford GPs on Jul 30th (BTB) which was probably the bird found nearby at Lavells Lake on Aug 1st (BTB). An adult was located at Dorney W on Aug 7th (DAC et al) and finally 1 adult appeared at QMR on Aug 19th (JAS).

2001 Birds were located at three sites. **Spring:** A single bird was found at Eversley GPs on May 11th and remained until 20:30 at least (RJG). **Autumn:** An adult in summer plumage was recorded at QMR on Jul 26th (JAS), and on Jul 27th (CDRH). A single record from the west of the county came from Lower Fm GP at 15:20 on Aug 3rd (ABe).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare vagrant.

2000 A moulting adult at Eversley GPs on May 4th (DJB) is the first record of this species for nearly 60 years (the last being 3 at Slough SF on Oct 12th 1940) and is the 4th record for Berkshire. Found at 1200hrs, the bird showed well for 1hr allowing photographs to be taken by KBB who was the only other observer, before being flushed and nearly taken by a Hobby at 1305hrs. The bird left high to the SW into Hants.

2001 A juvenile discovered early on the morning of Sep 3rd at QMR (JAS) was being mobbed by Common Terns before flying off south-west. What was presumably the same bird was present again next morning Sep 4th (JAS) and again later in the day (MO) before departing high to the south at 18.44hrs, possibly towards Wraybury GPs but a search until dark failed to relocate the bird (CDRH). This is the second consecutive year for sightings of this rare visitor after a gap of 60 years.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

An uncommon visitor, usually in the winter.

2000 There were 5 records this year, all involving single birds. Unusually there were no records for either winter period with all records occurring from March to September. The year is also noteworthy for producing Berkshires first June and second May records. Only the second record of a juvenile also occurred in 2000. **Spring:** An adult at QMR on Mar 13th (CL) was followed by a 2nd summer at Moatlands GP on May 6th (BTB et al). **Summer:** A s/p adult, first located flying NW over Taplow Bucks with c15 Black-headed Gulls on Jun 25th (CDRH) was followed by the observer through Maidenhead before being lost to view over Furze Platt still heading NW. **Autumn:** Newly ploughed fields at Park Fm Hurst, attracted hundreds of gulls including a Juvenile Mediterranean Gull on Jul 23rd (CDRH) and a first winter was present at Summerleaze GP on Sep 20th (CDRH).

2001 Recorded from 9 locations, 5 in M Berks and 4 in E Berks involving probably 8 birds. **First winter:** The first reported was a 1st winter at Widbrook Com on Jan 21st (CDRH). A s/p adult was found at Smallmead GPs on Mar 6th (PBT) and it

was probably this bird that was present on floods at Fobney, Reading on Mar 7th (CDRH). **Summer:** Sightings of s/p adults came from the Cippenham area on Jul 16th (CDRH) and at Englefield on Jul 22nd (MMc; RJB), the same day on which yet another, a juvenile, was seen flying east over Eton Wick and relocated on playing fields at Chalvey (CDRH). **Second winter:** The first August record for Berkshire was in the form of a juvenile at Pingewood GPs Aug 11th (MGM; BTB; AH) whilst a juvenile moulting into 1st w was at QMR and the adjacent Horton Fields from Oct 16th to Oct 18th (CDRH) and a 1st w appeared at Burghfield GPs on Dec 2nd (CDRH; MW). The increasing prospects for finding this species emphasises the benefits of checking all gull flocks in any month.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

An uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

2000 There were 5 records possibly involving up to 11 birds. **Spring:** 1 s/p adult at Theale Main GP on Apr 20th (DJB). **Autumn:** A small influx occurred in early September at QMR with 4 (1 2nd yr and 3juvs) on Sep 7th, 2 juvs on Sep 9th-10th with 1 there on Sep 11th and 1 2nd yr on Sep 16th (JAS). A late record involved 3 (2 ad and 1 juv) briefly at Lower Fm GP on Oct 7th (IW; JL).

2001 There were 6 records involving up to 12 birds. **First winter/Spring:** An adult in winter plumage was present at QMR on Feb 9th (JAS) but the next was not until April when 2 were at Theale Main GP on Apr 22nd (BU). **Autumn:** The return passage was relatively light with 1 at Lower Fm GP on Aug 7th (JPM) followed by a run of records from QMR with 6 juvs on Aug 28th, a 2nd year bird on Aug 29th and another juv on Aug 30th (all JAS).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

A very common and widespread visitor with a small but increasing breeding population in M.Berks.

2000 Regular counts were received from 2 locations. The monthly maxima at these sites are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	320	285	191	2	2	1	52	126	67	240	261	265
Padworth Lane GP	78	72	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	146	115	217

First winter: Counts exceeding 1000 birds were received from 3 locations. At Tickleback Row c1500 were present on Jan 1st (DJB) and 3000 were counted at Searle's Lane GP, Burghfield on Jan 8th (TABR). A flock of 2-3000 was present at Home Park Windsor during Jan-Feb (WAS). **Spring/Summer:** Although still frequently reported, numbers are at their lowest during this period. The breeding colony at Moatlands GP numbered 17 nests on May 23rd with 2-3 chicks seen on May 28th (DJB) increasing to 21 nests by Jun 3rd (BU). Away from the Theale area the highest June count received was 16 at Beenham on Jun 25th (JPM). Numbers increased through July with a high of c1000 at Home Park Windsor on Jul 31st (WAS). **Autumn/Second winter:** After a flock of c1000 which occurred to the S/W of Maidenhead at Ockwells Park on Oct 30th (DJW), numbers again began to build. At Home Park Windsor, 2-3000 were present throughout November and December (WAS), 3000+ were roosting at Moatlands GP on Nov 14th (JA) and in the Cookham area, 2500 were on Widbrook Com on Dec 19th-20th and 3000 nearby at

Cockmarsh on Dec 20th (BDC).

2001 First winter: The only count from a gull roost involved 20,000+ at QMR on Jan 27th (AVM). Elsewhere birds were widely reported across the county, groups of 200 or more including 200 at Thames Valley Park on Jan 2nd (IT), 276 at Lower Fm GP on Jan 14th (AB), 263 at Muddy Lane GP Jan 18th (JPM) and 250 on floods near Kings Meadow, Reading in early Feb (NA). A wing-tagged individual (Green 9Z) was at Old Slade NR on Jan 16th (BDC) and turned out to have been banded in Westernieland, Netherlands on Jun 29th 1999, and was seen later in 2001 at Beddington SF, London on Dec 15th. **Summer:** Mid-summer records were few with reports from Larks Hill, Bracknell and 4 locations in the Reading area, including 210 at Pingewood GP on Jul 11th (RCr). **Breeding:** Breeding occurred once again at both Hosehill Lake with 1 pair nesting Apr 28th (MJS) and around 40 pairs on Moatlands GP with 'lots of young produced' by May 12th (BU). **Second winter:** The highest counts in the latter part of the year were c300 at Sandhurst Recreation Ground on Nov 21st (BDC), c250 at Hall Place, Burchett's Green on Nov 23rd (BDC), c500 at Hosehill Lake on Dec 22nd (BMA), 310 at Lower Fm GP on Dec 31st (JW; GS; MJD) and 700 at Padworth Lane GP Dec 30th (IW; JL). No second winter counts were received from the major roost site of QMR. The largest count involved 2,500 at Moatlands GP on Sep 6th (RCr) although higher numbers were roosting on Theale Main GP in Oct (TABR).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

A common winter visitor.

2000 First winter/Spring: Compared with Black-headed Gull, reported counts were much lower with highs of c300 Burchett's Green on Jan 15th (PNe), 200+ Moatlands GP Jan 15th (RCr), c450 Cheapside near Ascot on Jan 16th (WAN) and 150 Windsor Great Park on Jan 23rd (PNe). Most birds had departed by April, the latest date being 1 at Moatlands GP on May 5th (BTB). **Autumn/Second winter:** Returning birds were first located at Dorney W with 7 adults there on Jul 16th (DJB) increasing to 25 by Jul 23rd (CDRH). The only counts exceeding 100 birds were 220 at Eversley GP on Oct 7th (IHB), 150 at Pinkneys Green on Nov 20th (BDC) and 100+ Windsor Gt Pk Dec 21st (PES). During both winter periods this species was scarce in W Berks. Records were only received from Lower Fm GP and the Beenham area. Three on floods at Field Barn Fm, Beenham on Nov 13th (JPM) was the highest count.

2001 Common Gulls continue to be relatively scarce in W Berks, reported from just 4 or 5 locations between Jan and Mar and between Aug and Dec, with mainly 5 or less at one time. Mid and E Berks fared better. **First winter:** One of the largest gatherings occurred near Easthampstead College, Bracknell with 150 on Feb 3rd (IT), but mostly in the region, counts were of twos or threes apart from 25 at Dinton Pastures on Jan 31st (JJW). **Summer:** Often, no records are received between May and Jun and this year was no exception. Birds were however returning by Jul with 1 to 3 most days at QMR, including a juv on Jul 30th (CDRH), 3 adults at Englefield on Jul 22nd (MW) and 1 adult at Theale Main Pit on Jul 28th (BU). Another juv was at Burnthouse GP on Aug 5th (MGM). **Second winter:** In the East of the county, several flocks of 20 or more were recorded with 20 at Hall Place, Burchett's Green on Nov 23rd (BDC), 78 on Cockmarsh Nov 26th (DF) and a flock of 150 near Pinkneys Green on Dec 22nd (BDC). At Theale GPs, 200+ regularly roosted at Theale Main GP during both winters (TABR).

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Rare vagrant, seven previous records

2001 The eighth record of this rare bird for the county came from Pingewood GPs at 16.30hrs on Feb 19th (Ian Lewington). The observer was widening his search for the Ferruginous Duck reported earlier in the vicinity. Scanning gulls on the jet ski pit, the Ring-billed Gull was discovered and captured on video. MJH managed to get to the site in time to see the bird before the entire flock disappeared north.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor which is being increasingly recorded in the summer.

2000 Regular counts were received from 2 sites. The monthly maxima at these were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	600	450	64	3	1	2	3	18	25	280	112	158
Padworth Lane GPs	204	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	550	943

First winter: Although thousands of birds regularly roosted at Theale GPs and QMR, no actual counts were submitted from these sites. The only count that exceeded 500 birds was the 600 at Lower Fm GP which occurred as a pre-roost gathering on Jan 2nd (GJS). **Spring/Summer:** Although counts were small, the frequency of records point to increasing numbers of birds present in the county at this time of year. Birds were reported from 5 areas in May and 8 in June with high counts of 8 at Hosehill Lake on May 29th (TGB) and 13 (mostly adults) on the Lambourn Downs on Jun 2nd (DJB). Numbers began to build in July with a maximum of 30 at Moatlands GP on Jul 18th (RCr). **Autumn/Second winter:** A check of c50 birds at Twyford GPs on Aug 1st by CDRH showed that most were of the British race *L.f.graellsii* but included 3 of the Scandinavian race *L.f.intermedius*. Up to 500 were present at Bucklebury on Aug 27th (PDM) and 600 were on the Aldworth Downs on Sep 5th (CDRH). Numbers continued to increase with c1000 at Home Park Windsor on Sep 14th (WAS), 1263 near Beenham on Nov 10th (JPM) and a roost count of 2000+ at Moatlands GP on Nov 14th (JA). The highest December count was the 943 at Lower Fm GP on Dec 30th (JPM).

2001 The most westerly account was of 8 circling the Inkpen Hill area on Jul 22nd (SG), whilst the most easterly was a count of 300-400 at QMR on Jun 25th (CDRH), the only report from that site for the year. The largest flock reported was 1500 at Burghfield GP on Nov 16th (RCr) but 1300 had already been reported at Moatlands GP on Sep 6th (RCr). No counts came from Theale Main Pit where several thousand usually roost from September. Monthly maxima at sites where regular counts were made were as follows:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	160	320	-	1	-	-	5	7	1	2	350	400
Padworth Lane	246	432	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	72	-

Other flocks of over 200 included 300 at Beenham Landfill Site on Mar 19th (JPM), 238 near Bucklebury on Dec 9th (PDM), 432 at Padworth Lane GP on Feb 13th (JPM; MES) and 260 at Burnthouse GP on Sep 9th (LJF). A leucistic individual was amongst a flock of 400 at Green Park, Reading during Sep (TGB; PBT; MGM) and 2 partially oiled birds were at Smallmead GP on Oct 31st (PBT).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

A common passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 This is another year when this species has been under reported. In the first winter the highest count reported was c100 at Shurlock Row on Jan 1st (PNe). Herring Gulls were scarce during the summer months, the only records submitted were 3 immatures at Home Park Windsor on May 30th (TBo), 1 Caversham on Jun 24th (TGB), 1 adult Dorney W on Jun 25th (DJB), 1 Eversley GPs Jul 9th (IT) and 10 Burchett's Green on Jul 16th (PNe). Three adults at Colnbrook on Aug 28th of the race *L.a. argentatus* (CDRH) were the first sightings of this race this autumn. In the second winter, again records were few. The highest count received was 100+ near Lavells Lake on Nov 1st (IT) and 40+ high over Kintbury Cressbeds on Dec 15th (RGS) was the highest count from W Berks. No counts were received from the large gull roost at QMR where it is known that large numbers of this species roost in the winter months.

2001 Herring Gulls continue to be under-recorded in Berks, although an exceptional count of 800+ of the Scandinavian race *argentatus* was located at Colnbrook on Jan 14th (CDRH). No other first winter reports involved more than 20 birds. Records were received for all of the summer months with 11 on the Jubilee R near Windsor on Jun 7th (CDRH) and c80 on the plough at East Shefford on Jul 15th (IW; JL) being the highest counts. Up to 120 at Home Pk Windsor on Sep 17th (WAS) was the highest second winter count with 34 at Burghfield GPs on Nov 16th (RCr) and 25 Hurst Tip on Dec 17th (MBu) the only other counts reaching double figures.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Annual autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in increasing numbers.

2000 Records were received from 27 locations, 4 in W Berks, 11 in M.Berks and 12 in E Berks. The monthly status is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1
Min no of birds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1
M.Berks sites	3	0	1	0	0	1	3	3	1	1	4	3
Min no of birds	4	0	2	0	0	2	32	15	7	1	10	4
E Berks sites	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	8	4	4	1	3
Min no of birds	5	0	0	0	0	1	49	20	8	5	1	5

Jan to Mar: Yellow-legged Gulls were fairly scarce during January with birds only being found in the Theale area and QMR where a high of 5 (4 adults and 1 sub-adult) were present on Jan 19th (CDRH). After no February records, 2 were located at Padworth Lane GP in March, an adult on Mar 15th and a s/w on Mar 19th (RCr). **Jun to Sep:** Returning birds were first noted on Jun 27th with 2 adults at Hurst Tip and 1 adult at Dorney W (CDRH). Numbers peaked in July with 8 (6 adults and 2 sub-adults) at Langley Grammar School on Jul 6th (CDRH), 20 at QMR on Jul 7th increasing to 29 on Jul 17th (CDRH), 6 (4 adults and 2 sub-adults) at Dorney W on Jul 16th (DJB; CDRH), 13 adults at Park Fm Hurst on Jul 23rd (CDRH), 12 adults at Hurst Tip on Jul 25th (BTB) with 11 (10 adults and 1 s/s) on Jul 26th (DJB) and 12 (10 adults, 1 f/s and 1 s/s) on Jul 31st (CDRH). **Aug and Sep:** 7 adults at Woodlands Park on Aug 6th (DJB); 7 (5 adults and 2 f/w) at Twyford GPs on Sep 1st (CDRH) were the highest counts. **Oct to Dec:** Numbers declined in E

Berks and much of M.Berks, however birds were increasingly reported from the Theale area with 4 (3 ads and 1 3/w) at Moatlands GP on Nov 9th (CDRH) being the highest count. In W Berks an adult took up residence at Lower Fm GP from Oct to Dec (MO) and others were seen at Hogs Hole Combe on Oct 15th (IW; JL) and near Beenham on Nov 4th (JPM).

2001 Records were received from 25 locations throughout the county. The monthly distribution was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	10	7	7	1	0	2	8	6	4	5	7	6
Minimum number of birds	18	16	12	1	0	29	92	20	11	8	21	12

Analysis of the records shows that this species is most frequently encountered during the 2 winter periods and in mid summer to early autumn; with lower numbers in mid to late autumn and the spring. Being a species that breeds to the south of Britain, then dispersing northwards to our shores, adult Yellow-legged Gulls arrive earlier and usually in cleaner plumage (earlier moult) than Herring Gulls and so can be easier to locate in June to Aug when they can usually be found with Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Most records are of adult or near adult birds; juveniles and 1st winter birds are rarer and more likely to be overlooked. **First winter/Spring:** Most regularly encountered in the east of the county and in the Theale area where counts of 1-3 were not unusual. Higher counts involved 4 ads at Colnbrook on Jan 14th (CDRH), 8ads at Moatlands GP on Feb 5th and 5 (4 ads 1 sub-ad) there on Mar 7th (CDRH). In W Berks the only record involved 1 ad at Lower Fm GP during Jan –Feb (MO). The only April report is of 1 at Lea Fm GP on Apr 28th (RAL). **Summer/Second winter:** After no records in May, birds were located at 2 sites in June. An adult appeared at QMR on Jun 20th and numbers quickly increased with 4 ads and 23 sub-ads there on Jun 25th (CDRH). At Burnthouse Lane a f/s and a 3/s were found on Jun 26th (RCr). Numbers were highest in July with double figure counts coming from 3 sites. At Hurst Tip 11 (5 ads, 5 3/s and 1juv) were present on Jul 13th (CDRH), 10 (6 ads 4 3/s) were noted at Pingewood GPs on Jul 19th (CDRH) and a county record count of 64 (52 ads) was present at QMR on Jul 28th (CDRH). Lower numbers were reported during Aug-Oct with the area around Green Park Reading providing the highest counts of 7 on Aug 14th (CDRH) and Sep 4th (TGB). A sighting of 2 juvs at Pingewood GPs on Aug 21st (PBT), along with the Hurst Tip record are the first records of juvs in Berks since 1995. Numbers increased during Nov-Dec with 5 ads at Smallmead Fm GP on Nov 7th (PBT) and 5 ads at Burghfield GPs on Nov 16th (RCr). At Lower Fm GP 1-2 birds were present from Oct 28th to the end of Dec (MO) with 3 present on Nov 24th (NDOC). Finally 2 ringed ads were present at Virginia Water on Dec 31st remaining into 2002 (CDRH).

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Rare winter visitor.

2000 There were two confirmed records of this little known species/sub-species, both in the second winter. At Smallmead Fm GP an adult was located on Dec 29th (CDRH). This was followed by a third winter at QMR on Dec 30th (CDRH). As the identification of Caspian Gull is more widely understood it would be expected that records will become more frequent in the future.

2001 This distinctive gull was identified on 4 occasions, all in adult plumage, the first of the year being 1at Burghfield GP on Jan 19th (MGM). One was located at Wraysbury Village Pit on Mar 4th (CDRH), another at Hurst Tip on Mar 8th, was observed performing the diagnostic 'long-call' display (CDRH). Finally one was noted at Smallmead GP on Dec 31st (PBT).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Rare but becoming an annual winter visitor.

2000 The increase in records of this arctic species in Berkshire in recent years continued into 2000. The careful checking of the huge gull roost at QMR by CDRH achieved the desired result with a first winter seen on Mar 20th-22nd and a second winter on Mar 21st-22nd (CDRH). A record of a first winter seen in flight over Hurst tip and Lavells Lake on Mar 25th (DJB) may refer to the QMR first winter. The total of Iceland Gulls recorded to 2000 is shown below:

Year	1940	1976	1979	1984	1986	1987	1994	1998	1999	2000	Total
No of birds recorded at QMR	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	2	2	12
No of birds recorded elsewhere	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Total	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	18

2001 Iceland gulls are now seen annually at the QMR gull roost. This year an adult was located in the roost on Feb 1st (CDRH) and what was probably this bird was seen again on Mar 22nd (CDRH). Elsewhere a second winter was located at Smallmead Tip on Feb 6th (PBT). An adult appeared at QMR on the early date of Dec 31st (AVM) and returned to roost at this site into 2002. The 3 records of adults at QMR are thought to relate to the same bird.

KUMLIEN'S GULL *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*

No previous records

2001 There are no previous Berkshire records of this nearctic race of Iceland Gull, so a near-adult was closely scrutinised when it was found on the Berks/Bucks border in fields off Parlaunt Rd, Langley on Mar 29th (CDRH); it was watched for about 1 hour, in a pre-roost gathering of gulls (on both sides of the county boundary), until 17.50hrs when it flew off SW over Langley town and was later relocated in the gull-roost at QMR by the same observer. This represents the first record for Berkshire but it follows a brief sighting of a probable (adult-type) over Smallmead rubbish-tip on Mar 7th (CDRH; PBT), which, unfortunately, was only seen in flight and too distantly for certain identification.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor which has been annual since 1996.

2000 Two were reported in the first winter. A first winter and a third winter were found in the QMR gull roost on Feb 9th and again on Mar 2nd (CDRH). The first winter was also seen on Feb 17th-18th (CL). These represent the 40th and 41st records for Berkshire. The annual totals of this species since 1990 are shown below:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No of birds at QMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2
No of birds elsewhere	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	2

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Locally common winter visitor and an uncommon passage migrant.

2000 A disappointing year for records. As with all the commoner gull species, no counts were received from the gull roost at QMR where this species has previously occurred in good numbers. **First winter:** The only counts to exceed 10 birds were 25 at Searle's Lane GP Burghfield on Jan 8th (TABR) and 11 at Beenham Landfill site on Jan 23rd (JPM). **Spring/Summer:** Two adults were present at Dorney W on Apr 24th (DJB) and 2 flew over Burghfield GPs on Jun 13th (RCr). **Autumn/Second winter:** After a single at Lower Fm GP on Aug 5th (GJS), there were no further records until 5 appeared at Twyford GPs on Sep 12th (BMA). After this date, the number of records increased but counts remained low with 12 at Admoor Lane Beenham on Dec 9th (JPM) and 14 at Padworth Lane GP on Dec 30th (JPM) being the highest counts. It has been obvious that the larger gull species have been overlooked in recent years. Regular counts from gull roosts or evening flight paths to roosts would help greatly to ascertain the true wintering status of these birds in Berkshire.

2001 With no counts from major roost sites, this species was probably under-recorded again. In W Berks, ones and twos were recorded at Padworth Lane GP in Jan and Feb (JPM), Lower Fm GP in Jan and Nov (MJT; RRK; IW; JL), and at Beenham Landfill Site in Mar (JPM) after which there was a summer record at Upper Lambourn with 1 on Jul 5th (BDC). Most sightings occurred in M.Berks, with a peak of 22 at Burnthouse GP on Nov 30th (PBT) and 140 on open ground opposite Green Park, the highest count of the year, on Dec 28th (PBT). In E Berks records were restricted to 2 at Horton GP on Jan 1st (DR), 1 over Windsor Home Park on Feb 9th (TBo), 1 over Bisham on Dec 27th (BDC) and 100+ at the QMR roost on Dec 31st (AVM).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce spring migrant and winter visitor

2000 No records (the first blank year since 1989 – Recorder).

2001 A reasonable showing, with 6 birds recorded from 4 sites, commencing with 2 winter plumaged adults at Burghfield GP on Feb 23rd (RCr) and then two May records, an adult at Moatlands GP on May 17th (ABT; RHS) and 2 more adults at QMR on the same day (CDRH). Finally, an immature bird was at Lower Fm GP on Jul 11th (RRK).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant.

2000 Records were received only from QMR, in both the spring and autumn. The only spring record was of 2 on May 1st (JAS). There was a more pronounced passage in late August into September with 2 adults and 1 juv on Aug 28th, a flock of 14 on Sep 9th, 1 juv on Sep 16th and a flock of 23 on Sep 20th (JAS).

2001 There were 12 records from 5 locations involving 26-29 birds. There were no spring records, the first reports coming from QMR where 1 adult was seen on Aug 19th, 2 adults flew over on Aug 21st and 2 adults and a juv were present on Aug 28th, a party of 6 on Aug 29th, 1 ad on Sep 2nd, 1 ad and 1 juv Sep 3rd, 1 juv Sep 18th and 2 ads on Sep 26th (all JAS). Then 4 were seen at Moatlands GP on Sep 8th (MW; CDRH) and 4 were at Theale Main Pit on Sep 22nd (MW; BTB; BU). Perhaps 2 of these birds were responsible for a sighting at Hosehill LNR also on Sep 22nd (BU). The last record was of an adult bearing a ring on its right leg at Lower Fm GP on Oct 8th (JC; JAW).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

A common passage migrant and locally common summer resident.

2000 Records were received from 45 locations, 13 in W Berks, 19 in M. Berks and 13 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	-	-	-	-	2	7	11	-	4	-	-	-
Burghfield GPs	-	-	-	5	6	5	5	3	-	-	-	-
Dinton Pastures / Lavells Lake	-	-	-	2	6	5	Br	2	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	2	12	12	26	4	1	-	-	-
K&A Canal Tyle Mill	-	-	-	-	8	10	9	1	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	1	5	2	15	8	-	-	-	-
Muddy Lane GP	-	-	-	2	2	4	7	-	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	-	-	4	4	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	-	13	-	40	12	1	-	-	-
Theale GPs	-	-	-	55	116	70	70	46	1	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	-	2	4	1	4	18	1	-	-	-
Woolhampton GPs	-	-	-	1	15	15	6	1	-	-	-	-
Wraysbury GPs	-	-	-	11	31	2	10	3	-	1	-	-

Spring: A single at Woolhampton GPs on Apr 9th (DKe) preceded the next record of 2 at Eversley GPs on Apr 19th (IHB) by 10 days. The main arrival occurred from Apr 20th with birds being reported from 11 sites by Apr 25th. Counts exceeding 30 birds were received from Theale GPs with highs of 55 on Apr 29th (TGB), 80+ on May 1st (KEM) and 60 at Moatlands GP on May 14th (TGB). Elsewhere 31 were counted at Heron Lake Wraysbury on May 2nd (CDRH). **Breeding:** At Theale GPs 70-76 prs bred and good numbers fledged (BU). Elsewhere breeding was confirmed at 5 sites, a pair reared 2 young on a raft at Muddy Lane GP (IW; JL), 1 pr reared 3y Wraysbury GP (VC), 4 prs had about 8 young at Twyford GPs (BTB), 8+ chicks were counted at Lavells Lake on Jul 1st (LM) and 6 pairs reared 14 young at Eversley GPs (IHB) a site record. **Autumn:** Passage was evident from late July onwards. High counts included 40 at QMR on Jul 16th (CDRH), 15 Lower Fm GP on Jul 29th (IW; JL), 46 Moatlands GP on Aug 16th (RCr) and 18 Twyford GPs on Aug 19th (TGB). Numbers decreased during September with 4 (2ads and 2 f/w) at Bray GP on Sep 18th (CDRH), 1 f/w at Twyford GPs on Sep 18th, 1 juv Eversley GPs Sep 30th (IHB) and finally 1 f/w flew over Wraysbury GPs on Oct 2nd (CDRH).

2001 The first arrivals of the year were 1 at Theale Main GP on Apr 6th (MGM), 1 at Hosehill Lake on Apr 7th (BU), and 2 at Theale Main GP on Apr 10th (RCr). The main arrival seemed to be from Apr 27th to Apr 29th when birds were reported from most of the traditional haunts and numbers were well established by mid May, when the highest

count of 80 was at Moatlands GP on May 20th (RCr). Monthly maxima at sites where regular counts were made were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	2	4	4	5	4	-	-	-	-
Thatcham	-	-	-	2	4	2	4	3	-	2	-	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	-	6	4	1	1	5	-	-	-	-
Bray GP	-	-	-	1	2	2	8	16	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	1	18	23	-	9	3	-	-	-
Moatlands GP	-	-	-	4	80	-	70	2	-	-	-	-

On Jun 25th, 1 bird was seen fishing in Hurst Village Pond, an occurrence noted in previous years (DJB). **Breeding:** Juveniles were first noted on Jun 17th at Hosehill Lake (LM) where it was found that some pairs had been displaced from the rafts by Black-headed Gulls and had established nests on the main island (BU). Juveniles were also seen at Pingewood GPs with 2 on Jul 15th (AFd), at Twyford GPs with 7 on Jul 7th (BDC), at Bray GP where 4 were present on Jul 17th (MMc), at Lower Fm GP with 2 on Jul 28th (IW; JL) and at Eversley GPs where 18 were raised (IHB). However the presence of juveniles does not always indicate breeding at that site. Confirmed breeding only occurred at Theale GPs and Eversley GPs. Interesting behaviour was observed by BU at Hosehill Lake when numbers of House Martins were calling and rising as a flock, resulting in 'fretting' reactions from c20 Common Terns on four separate occasions. **Autumn:** The majority of birds had left by early August. After singles on Oct 9th at QMR (JAS), Aldermaston GP (JPM) and Lavells Lake (DF), the last record was of 2 birds at Thatcham Marsh on Oct 14th (IW; JL).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

A regular passage migrant in small numbers.

2000 A poor year, the only record being 1 (probably a second summer) with Common Terns at Horton GP on the fairly late date of May 23rd (CDRH).

2001 Spring Passage: There were no sightings from W Berks and an insubstantial spring movement was limited to a single bird at Moatlands GP on May 30th (CDRH). **Autumn Passage:** The return passage was a little more lively with August records from Hosehill Lake with one adult on Aug 21st (BU) and a single bird at Moatlands GP on Aug 26th (JA; SG). At Theale Main GP there was a juv with 3 Common Terns on Sep 18th (CDRH). October's records concluded a somewhat average season with one on Theale Main GP on Oct 8th (MGM; MW) and the last was a juv at Burghfield GP on Oct 10th (MGM).

(COMMIC TERN) *Sterna sp*

2000 Two birds flying over Datchet on Sep 18th (CDRH) could not be identified to species.

2001 One was seen at Lavells Lake on Sep 2nd (H Matthews per LM)

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

A scarce passage migrant, more regular in the spring.

2000 Reported only from Theale Main GP and Moatlands GP, probably involving 3 birds. One was located on Theale Main GP on May 2nd-3rd (BU) and May 4th (MGM)

before moving to Moatlands GP in the late afternoon of May 4th (RHS et al). No further records were received until 2 adults were located at Moatlands GP on May 8th (MGM; TGB). Three birds would make 2000 an above average year, the yearly status of Little Tern since 1990 is shown below.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No of bids in spring	6	0	0	3	1	2	2	0	1	2	3
No of birds in autumn	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Years total	6	0	0	8	2	3	2	0	1	3	3

2001 A single-record year with just one at Horton GP on May 5th (JAS) comprising a brief visit of just a few minutes before departing south.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

A passage migrant in varying numbers.

2000 Spring: Passage was widespread during the first half of May with records received from 11 sites. Passage began with singles at Eversley GPs (WAN) and Theale Main GP (BTB) on May 1st and continued to May 14th with 2 at QMR (JAS). Numbers peaked on May 7th when a minimum of 70 birds were spread over 8 sites. Double figure counts were noted at Theale GP, 29 on May 7th (KEM); Moatlands GP, 20 on May 7th (KEM) and 12 on May 12th (BU) and at Dinton Pastures CP, 10 on May 8th (BTB). The spring passage totals at all sites were:

	May 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bray GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dinton Pastures CP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	2	-	-	-	-
Eversley GPs	1	-	-	-	6	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horton GPs	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hosehill Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Moatlands GP	-	-	1	-	8	8*	20	2	1	1	1	12	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Theale Main GP	1	1	1	-	-	8*	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twyford GP	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*These birds visited both sites.

Autumn: Passage was poor with birds only reported from 3 locations. Two were reported from Hosehill Lake (NR) and a moulting adult was nearby on Moatlands GP on Jul 24th (CDRH). Single juveniles appeared at Moatlands GP from Aug 28th (RCr; MGM) to Sep 2nd (PG) and at Theale Main GP on Sep 10th (MGM).

2001 Spring: The first of the year was a summer-plumaged individual at Theale Main GP on Apr 25th (CDRH; ABT; BU), a fairly typical date. A second wave commenced on May 11th with 6 at Eversley GPs (IHB), 5 at Lower Fm GP and 6 at Theale Main Pit (MO), increasing to 7 that evening (MGM). Between three and four were seen around the Theale complex of lakes up to May 13th (PG; BU et al) and two were at Lower Fm GP on May 13th (RRK). There was then a gap in records until May 23rd when 6 circled floods at East Ilsley before leaving high to the SSE (CDRH) and there were 6 at Theale Main GP later that day with another at Moatlands GP (CDRH). All 7 were on Moatlands by evening and were seen to leave at c2030hrs (MJS). After no reports on May 24th, 6 were on Theale

Main GP on May 25th (BU). **Autumn:** Returning birds first appeared on Jul 27th at QMR where three were present (JAS), commencing a prolonged autumn passage. One was at Theale Main Pit on Jul 28th (BU) and a juv was at Pingewood GPs on Jul 31st (MGM; RCr) whilst the largest count of the year, of 14, were at QMR on Aug 8th, the same site holding one adult on Aug 19th and a juv plus an adult on Aug 23rd (all JAS). Meanwhile a single bird was noted at Moatlands GP on Aug 22nd-23rd (CDRH; RCr). September records comprised one over Thatcham Marsh on Sep 13th (MJD; RF) and 1, probably the same individual, over Lower Fm Trout Lake on Sep 14th (MJD; RRK). The last of the year was a juv at Muddy Lane GP, Thatcham on Oct 10th and 11th (GJS).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Common urban resident.

2000 Few records were received; counts in excess of 100 birds were c400 on stubble at Remenham on Jan 7th (DJB), 136 at Field Barn Fm Beenham on Jan 23rd (JPM) and c500 at Long Lane Cookham on Oct 31st (BDC)

2001 Despite being regarded as an abundant resident species, there were only two records submitted which were a flock of 69 at Field Barn Fm, Beenham on Jan 25th (JPM) and a larger gathering of some 300+ at Cold Harbour, near Maidenhead on Sep 29th (DJB).

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

A widespread and locally common resident which tends to be overlooked, the winter population inflated by migrants. (Amber listed)

2000 First winter: Although widespread, few counts exceeding 35 were reported. The largest count of 100+ occurred at Englefield on Jan 10th (RCr) and was followed by c40 at Home Park Windsor on Feb 23rd (TBo), 40 Eversley GPs on Mar 5th (IHB; IT) and 70 at Jealott's Hill on Mar 25th (PJC). **Breeding:** The only reports came from W Berks where pairs were found breeding at West Woodhay (RGS), Home Fm Snelmore (IW) and Inkpen (LS; GSt). **Second winter:** After 50+ at Englefield on Nov 26th (RCr), no higher counts were reported until 155 at Long Lane Cookham on Dec 6th increasing to 197 by Dec 30th (BDC).

2001 First winter/Spring: Although widely reported, flocks were small with 48 at Englefield on Feb 11th (RCr) being the highest count reported until April when up to 100 were present at Charvil (ABT), numbers peaking there at c200 on Apr 19th (CDRH). Elsewhere a flock of 96 was discovered at Burghfield on May 3rd (RCr). **Breeding:** The only confirmed breeding record concerned a pair at a nest hole at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen (LS). **Autumn/Second winter:** In E Berks flocking had begun by early August with 3-400 at Shurlock Row on Aug 8th (DJB). The growing of bean crops in the Cold Harbour area and their subsequent harvesting in September led to an influx of Pigeons and Doves with numbers building to a peak of c1500 Stock Doves there on Sep 29th (DJB) the largest flock ever recorded in Berks. Later in the year c100 were present at Crazies Hill on Nov 26th (DJB) and 52 were at Bisham on Dec 27th (BDC). Away from E Berks no counts exceeded 50 birds.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

An abundant resident and winter visitor.

2000 First winter: Flocks of 400 or more were reported from the Wilderness near Kintbury where 500+ were put up on Jan 9th (IW; JL) and from the Cookham area during late January into February with 650 at Long Lane on Jan 26th, 800 present between there and Pinkneys Green on Feb 17th and c1000 at Moor Hall Cookham on Feb 29th (BDC). On the Downs, c1000 were located at Farnborough on Feb 27th (GDS). **Autumn/Second winter:** There was evidence of movement in E Berks with c1500 flying south in 1 hour over Romney Lock Windsor on Oct 26th (WAS), c3000 moving west over Wishmoor Cross on Nov 5th (PJC) and c500 at Eversley GPs on Nov 12th (BDC).

2001 First winter: The largest flocks of this usually ignored species were c200 at Streatley on Feb 1st (SPA) and c2000 at North Heath Chieveley on Feb 3rd (MJT). **Second winter:** The highest counts were in the autumn; at Cold Harbour 2000+ were present on Sep 29th (DJB) and similar numbers were present at Sulhamstead on Nov 11th (BU). All other reported flocks were below 1000 birds; c200 were at Bury Down on Nov 23rd (MW), c500 at Cookham on Nov 27th (BDC), 400 at West Woodhay on Dec 8th (SG) and 300 roosting at Summerleaze GP on Dec 23rd (BDC).

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

A common and widespread resident.

2000 Like the other common species of Pigeons and Doves, Collared Doves were generally under-recorded. There were only 3 reported counts exceeding 39 birds, 40 at Frogmill Hurley on Sep 3rd (SJF; FMF), 45 Long Lane Cookham on Sep 29th (BDC) and a large flock of c400 at West End near Bracknell on Oct 16th (DJB). Observations by SPA of this species in her garden at Twyford produced the following monthly maximum counts.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	22	13	15	10	16	14	14	16	21	15	28

2001 Only 26 reports received. Most records refer to small groups or flocks of less than 20 but larger gatherings were noted in W Berks where 36 were counted at Thatcham Marsh on Oct 7th (IW; JL) and 50 at Compton on Dec 12th (HMG). M.Berks records were confined to daily counts in a Twyford garden with a maximum of 27 on Feb 11th (SPA). In E Berks, a group of 14 were seen at Larks Hill, Bracknell on Jul 3rd (JOB) but the largest flock of all was at West End, near Bracknell with 200+ on Sep 24th and 100+ there on Dec 3rd (DJB). A lucky individual was seen to escape the attentions of a Sparrowhawk at a feeder in Crookham and was seen subsequently in a 'dishevelled state' (JPM). **Breeding:** The only references to breeding were of an abandoned nest in Newbury in January (JAW) and of successful breeding in Upper Bucklebury (RAL).

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

An uncommon and declining summer visitor and passage migrant. (Red listed)

2000 Birds were reported from 29 locations, 15 in W Berks, 7 in M.Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly distribution is as follows:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
W Berks number of sites	1	7	6	6	5	1
Minimum number of birds	1	11	13	18	23	1
M.Berks number of sites	1	5	5	3	4	1
Minimum number of birds	1	6	10	8	8	1
E Berks number of sites	0	3	2	2	1	1
Minimum number of birds	0	3	2	3	1	1

Spring: The first arrivals occurred in late April with singles at Bottom Lane Theale on Apr 22nd (PH) and Frilsham on Apr 30th (RF). Passage was heaviest during May with birds reported from 15 locations but usually numbering 1-2 birds, many being calling males. Two pairs at Brimpton GP on May 23rd (GEW) was the only higher count. Summering birds were on territory by June/July including 2 pairs at Bottom Lane Theale on Jun 17th (MJS) and 2 pairs at Twyford GPs on Jul 25th (DJB; BTB). **Breeding:** Was confirmed at Brimpton GPs where 1 pair reared 2 young (GEW) and at Stanmore where 1 pair bred (ICB). **Autumn:** Numbers began to build from late July into August, especially in the Brimpton/Woolhampton area where 7 were present at Manor Fm Brimpton on Jul 24th, 5 on Aug 7th and 2 juvs that may have been locally bred on Aug 9th (GEW). Five (a family party?) were present at Woolhampton on Aug 19th (MR) and at Brimpton GP numbers built up from 5 including 2 juveniles on Aug 12th to 11 on Aug 27th and 10 on Aug 28th (GEW). September records involved singles at Hosehill Lake on Sep 2nd (MJS), Brimpton GP to Sep 11th (GEW) and at QMR on Sep 24th (CDRH). Like many farmland species, Turtle Dove numbers have suffered due to modern farming methods. This decline has been exacerbated by the continued shooting of large numbers of these birds in southern Europe. The inability of national governments and the EU to stop this practice may lead to the eventual disappearance of this beautiful species from Berkshire.

2001 Like 2000, records were received from 29 sites, 11 in W Berks, 9 in M Berks and 9 in E Berks. The monthly distribution was as follows (no figures for June).

	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep
W Berks sites	0	6	6	3	2
Minimum no of birds	0	7	11	4	4
M Berks sites	2	4	4	3	2
Minimum no of birds	3	5	5	3	2
E Berks sites	0	4	3	0	1
Minimum no of birds	0	5	6	0	1
Total no of sites	2	14	13	6	5
Total no of birds	3	17	22	7	7

Spring/Summer: The first arrivals appeared on Apr 28th with single birds at Theale Main GP (MJS) and Bottom Lane GP (GJSu). The Theale Main GP site was situated in gardens between this GP and Hosehill Lake and several reports of a pair was received for this area from Apr 29th (JA; MMc) to the end of May (MO) then 1 in song through to the end of Aug (RCr). Elsewhere in the county regional firsts occurred on May 6th with 1 at Upper Bucklebury which remained to summer (RAL) in W Berks and 1 at Wraysbury GPs (CDRH) in E Berks. Most sites reported only 1 bird with counts of 2 or more coming from only 8 locations; 2 at Knowl Hill on May 7th (ABT), 2 Bagnor Cressbeds on May 13th (IW; JL), 2 calling Bottom Lane GPs on Jun 9th (RCr), 1pr nest building (the best evidence to confirm breeding) at Twyford GPs on Jun 15th (DJB), 3 at Cold Harbour on Jun 21st and 2prs there on Jul 3rd (DJB), 3 near Binfield on Jun 22nd (DJB), 2 Brimpton GPs on Jun 29th (JPM) and 5 there on Jul 27th (GEW) and a pair at Aldermaston GP on



Jul 17th and Aug 15th (JPM). There were no confirmed breeding records and apart from the Twyford report the most promising may have been a male in display flight at Woolhampton GPs on Jul 3rd (JPM). **Autumn:** Passage was fairly uneventful, the species being difficult to locate anywhere away from summering sites in August while in September singles were located at Eversley GPs on Sep 1st and 12th (IHB), Woolhampton GPs (JPM) and Burnthouse Lane on Sep 2nd (MMc), Hosehill Lake on Sep 7th (BU) and 3 at Brimpton GP on Sep 10th (GEW). The last report was from Theale GPs on Sep 14th (TABR)

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

A locally common resident in E Berks, rare elsewhere.

2000 Records were received from 31 locations, 30 in E Berks and 1 in W Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray area	5	1	4	6	6	7	3	2	1	3	–	4
Cookham area	7	2	–	2	–	5	2	–	2	1	4	7
Eton Wick / Slough SF	–	–	–	10	–	25*	30*	30*	42*	2	–	–
Horton area	3	1	3	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	6	1
Widbrook Com area	3	3	2	1	4	1	1	2	2	10	9	4
Windsor	6	13	14	11	3	–	12	37*	–	–	6	14
Windsor Great Park / Home Pk	8	8	9	8	9	12	6	–	–	4	–	10
Wraysbury	40*	9	4	7	5	–	–	36*	12	40*	16	10

* Roost flights

All counts exceeding 20 were of birds flying to or from the major roost site in the Esher area in Surrey. The highest counts were 40 over Wraysbury GPs on Jan 31st (CDRH), 37 over Windsor on Aug 14th and 17th (TBo), 42 over Slough SF on Sep 11th (CDRH) and 40 over Wraysbury GPs on Oct 14th (RRG). A record of 8 flying west at Frogmill Hurley on Sep 2nd (SJF; FMF) clearly shows that the spread of this species upstream along the RThames is still continuing. Away from E Berks the only record received was 1 at the W Berks Golf Club near Chaddleworth on Aug 16th (ICB). There were no confirmed breeding records.

2001 The E Berks bias for records continued as in previous years with all but 7 of the 153 reports coming from that sector, and none at all from W Berks. Monthly maxima from regular sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wraysbury	7	–	2	4	3	–	–	2	1	–	100	1
Bray	2	2	7	5	2	40	3	–	3	10	106	136
Maidenhead	3	–	5	3	2	4	15	–	–	2	4	5
Cookham	2	3	1	4	–	4	3	2	–	–	9	7

The possible numbers of birds involved in E Berks, assumed to be birds which commute to the regular roost near Esher, seems fairly stable for most of the year, with peak numbers occurring in November and December, presumably boosted by juveniles. The highest counts included 100 at Wraysbury on Nov 3rd (JOB), 106 at Bray GP on Nov 25th (MMc) and 136 there on Dec 18th (BDC). Further west, 2 were at Whiteknights Park, Reading on Jan 20th (JJW), 2 at Burghfield GP on Feb 1st (RJG), 1 at Eversley GP on Feb 17th (IHB) and 2 there on Dec 3rd (MMc). Singles were also sighted at Burnthouse Lane GP on Aug 27th (RJB) and Finchampstead Ridges on Oct 3rd (R Smith). **Breeding:** The only breeding record came from Frogmill, Hurley with what seemed to be a family party seen on several occasions (SJF; FMF).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

A common summer visitor to rural Berkshire. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 49 locations, 27 in W Berks, 10 in M. Berks and 12 in E Berks. As usual most records were during April and May when Cuckoos are at their most vocal. Birds were first reported on Apr 16th with singles at Dinton Pastures CP (RAI), Lavells Lake (BDC) and Kintbury Cressbeds (RGS). The main arrival occurred from Apr 19th and by the end of the month birds had been reported from 26 locations with high counts of 4 at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 22nd (RRG) and 3 at Wishmoor Bottom on Apr 23rd (DJB). Birds were reported from 28 locations in May with the highest count being 4 at Thatcham Marsh on May 13th (DJB). Although still frequently heard in early June, by mid month, Cuckoos have become difficult to locate and the only records received after June were singles at Thatcham Marsh on Jul 2nd (IW; JL), Widbrook Com on Jul 24th (PNe), Wraysbury GPs on Aug 5th (RRG) and on the Lambourn Downs on Aug 12th (RPr). None of the later records indicated whether adults or juveniles were involved neither were there any records of confirmed breeding.

2001 In line with the trend for arrivals being a week or so earlier in recent years, the first report of song came from Chamberhouse Marsh, Thatcham on Apr 8th (JPM), followed by one at Wraysbury on Apr 14th (JAS). The subsequent week saw several new arrivals commencing with 1 at Lavell's Lake on Apr 22nd (EN; MBu), and most regular sites had reported song by the end of the month. The numbers of birds heard during the first four weeks from Apr 8th were 2, 3, 12 and 14. Most accounts were of single birds but the Lavell's bird was joined by a second on May 9th and by a third on Jun 11th (both PML). Swinley Forest also had 3 on May 13th (JOB), increasing to 4 on May 18th and possibly 5 there on May 30th (both DJB). 3 were also at Wraysbury GP on Jun 22nd (RRG), 4 at Hosehill Lake during the end of May (BU) and 5 were at Thatcham Marsh LNR on May 6th (IW; JL). Overall, most of the 146 sightings came from W Berks and although the higher counts came from reed beds, there was a good spread of reports from down-land and general farmland locations. **Breeding** Despite all the obvious activity, the only indications of breeding were reported from Woolley Down with a 'seemingly disoriented' juv on Aug 4th (GDS) and from Brimpton where a juv was noted on Aug 29th (GEW), which also proved to be the last record of the year.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

An uncommon resident. (Schedule 1 and Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from an encouraging 38 locations (31 locations in 1999) with 23 in W Berks, 7 in M.Berks and 8 in E Berks. The monthly site distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
West Berks	1	1	3	2	7	6	4	3	4	3	5	4
Mid Berks	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	1	1
East Berks	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	0	1	1	0	1

Reports of 2 or more birds were received from Sheepdrove Lambourn, where 3 pairs were present from April to August (JPB); Combe Gibbet with 2 on Sep 22nd (LS; GSt) and Home Fm Snelsmore where 2 were seen on Nov 21st and Dec 8th (IW). **Breeding:** Although birds were present at the 3 1999 sites, breeding was not confirmed at any of these in 2000. However, a pair successfully reared 3 young at a site near Twyford (MO), 1 pair reared 2-3 young in the Woolley area (GDS) and an adult was seen during daylight making regular return trips carrying food at a site near Inkpen on Aug 19th (DR) and was presumed to be feeding young. The vulnerability of Barn Owls to passing traffic when hunting roadside verges was again shown when 1 bearing a BTO ring was found dead by the A 34 on Mar 22nd (T Hemmett). A survey of the Crown Estate lands at Windsor by EEG located an encouraging 8 pairs.

2001 A breakdown of distribution of the number of individuals reported is as follows:

	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sep	Oct – Dec	No. of Sites
West Berks	19	5	31	4	22
Mid Berks	2	2	4	1	5
East Berks	2	–	1	1	3

Out of the 59 reports, 41 came from W Berks which has traditionally held the majority of Barn Owls in the county, but numbers recorded this year represent a significant increase on past years. Although the number of sites holding birds has remained fairly constant, the number of individuals noted is very encouraging. *W Berks:* Many sightings were of single birds but potential pairs were near Snelsmore on Jan 11th (IW); Inkpen in May and Jun (MJS) and at Hungerford in March (VE; DE); near Newbury on Jul 19th and at another Newbury location on Jul 9th (both LS). 6 were present in the Kintbury area in August (JD) and no fewer than 8 were seen regularly near Lambourn between April and Jul (Hawk & Owl Trust). A dead bird was found at Aldermaston on Mar 31st (IW). *M.Berks:* All sightings were of single birds except for 3 together south of Reading on Aug 24th (JA) and 1 was seen flying over Mulligan's Fish Restaurant in Theale on Dec 29th (D Keel). *E Berks:* Records came from Shurlock Row (RA) and Windsor (JO; CDRH) where again only a single bird was recorded; (previous years have seen up to 8 at this location so this year's true number for the county could be even higher). One was also seen by moonlight at Eversley GP on Dec 28th (PBT). **Breeding:** Young were observed at Hungerford in Jul (GDS) where grain drying had to be suspended due to the chicks having taken over the exhaust pipe of the machinery! Other young birds were near Aldworth where at least 2 were present on Jul 4th (GDS) and near West Woodhay where at least one of three known nests produced 2 fledglings (RGS). The Lambourn area produced 3 breeding pairs (JPB). There were no breeding records for M.Berks but in the East of the county, a pair was using a nest box near Binfield during August and September (DJB).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Little Owl by Helen Chadburn

A widespread and locally common resident.

2000 Records were received from 58 locations, 22 in W Berks, 12 in M. Berks and 24 in E Berks. This is quite a substantial decline on the previous year (there were 81 locations in 1999). Reports were usually of 1-2 birds with higher counts of 4 calling from along the Maidenhead Ditch near Summerleaze GP on Mar 6th-7th (DJB), 3 Manor Fm Brimpton on May 12th (GEW), 3 Windsor Great Park on Jul 25th (WAS), 3 Strand Water Cookham on Sep 10th with 5 calling there on Oct 6th (BDC) and 3 at Cookham Dean on Sep 21st (BDC). **Breeding:** records were few, all being to the west of Reading. A pair was reported nesting at Home Fm Snelsmore on Mar 8th (IW), a pair reared 3 young at Sulhamstead (PH) and juveniles were seen at Ufton Nervet on Jul 9th and 14th (PH) and possibly at Hamstead Park on Jul 11th (GRW). The ongoing scheme to provide nest boxes for this species in the Cookham area seems to be paying off. Although breeding was not reported, monitoring by BDC has shown that Little Owls are maintaining their numbers in the area and birds have been observed at nest box sites.



2001 Distribution across the county was typical, with reports from 19 sites in the west, 13 in M. Berks and 28 in the east. The monthly numbers reported were as follows:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks												
Sites	7	2	3	5	6	6	8	-	4	2	4	2
Birds	6	3	4	7	8	9	16	-	5	3	4	3
M. Berks												
Sites	3	-	-	1	3	5	1	1	2	1	2	1
Birds	3	-	-	2	4	5	1	1	4	2	2	1
E Berks												
Sites	6	6	8	1	2	10	5	5	3	2	9	8
Birds	12	6	13	1	2	10	5	5	5	2	16	14

Birds appear to straddle the central parts of the county with most being seen in West and E Berks, mostly with accounts of ones or twos but there were 5 at White Place Fm, Cookham on Jan 12th and 4 on Widbrook Com on Dec 1st (BDC). **Breeding:** A check of 30 nest boxes erected in the Cookham area of E Berks found 11 occupied, including several with eggs or young. Two other boxes had eggs but with a Squirrel dray constructed on top of them (CCH; BDC). A pair was noted utilising a nest box in Warfield earlier in the year in March (DJS). In W Berks, young were raised at Brimpton, 1 juv on Jul 26th (GEW), Inkpen (LS), Home Fm, Snelsmore, 1pr with 2 young on Jul 16th (IW) and Woolley Down (GDS).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

A fairly common and widespread resident

2000 Records were received from 59 locations, 20 in W Berks, 16 in M.Berks and 23 in E Berks. Nearly all records involved 1-2 birds that were generally heard rather than seen. Counts exceeding 2 were 3 at Wargrave Marsh on May 14th (DJB), 3 calling at Hamstead Park on May 28th (GRW), 3 calling at Great Shefford on Aug 28th (RPr) and 3 calling at E Berks GC on Nov 16th (DJS). **Breeding:** This was confirmed at Inkpen where 1 pair bred (MJS), 2 pairs bred in the Eversley GPs area (MGLR), an adult was seen carrying food at Tyle Mill on Apr 29th (PDM), 2 chicks were seen near Hamstead Lock on May 24th (LS), a pair with 4 juvs were located at Cookham Dean on Jul 2nd (BDC) and a female and a juv were calling on Ray Mill Island on Aug 21st (BDC).

2001 Reports were received from a total of 65 sites; 30 in W Berks, 17 in M.Berks and 18 in E Berks and the distribution of birds reported was as follows:

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks												
Sites	6	4	2	3	6	6	3	3	13	5	7	6
Birds	8	4	3	3	10	8	4	3	19	7	9	7
M.Berks												
Sites	2	4	3	2	2	7	4	4	2	4	3	9
Birds	2	4	3	2	2	7	4	4	2	4	3	9
E Berks												
Sites	2	5	1	1	4	3	4	3	1	3	-	1
Birds	2	8	1	3	4	3	5	4	1	6	-	1
Total Sites	10	13	6	6	12	16	11	10	16	12	10	16
Total Birds	12	16	7	8	16	18	13	11	22	17	12	17

Records came from Caversham Cemetery for the tenth consecutive year (BU). Only one report of duetting between female and male was received, from Windsor Forest on Oct 10th (BAJC) but no doubt this familiar sound went un-recorded elsewhere. Most reports were of single birds or a pair but 3 were noted at Brimpton on Sep 12th (GEW) and also in a Maidenhead garden (DF). **Breeding:** The first account of successful breeding was from Quarry Woods, Cookham where a nest box contained 3 downy young on Apr 26th (BDC; DF). One live and one dead chick was discovered at Bagnor Cress Beds on May 13th (IW) and other family groups were observed at Bucklebury Slade (PDM), Farnborough-Brightwalton (GDS), Sheepdrove (JPB), Frogmill, Hurley (SJF; FMF) and Windsor Park (BAJC).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

A rare resident and occasional winter visitor.

2000 Another poor year with only one record received. A bird was found roosting in a hedgerow near to Twyford GPs on Apr 8th (EN et al).

2001 Two records received. Adult seen and 2 juv calling persistently 22.15 hrs on Jun 4th near Lambourn (AT). Later in the year one found sitting on a fencepost at Walbury Hill on Oct 12th (GS). A pair bred just over the county boundary in Oxon rearing 3 young (CDRH) all 5 (ads and fledged juvs) seen on Berks side of Co boundary on June 27th (CDRH), of which 2 were detected subsequently (PBT). [Another eared species was reported at Greenham Com Jun 26th (RF) but which species was not established.]

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

An uncommon but annual winter visitor and passage migrant.

2000 There were 4 records involving 7 birds, all from the first winter and spring. Three were seen together on the Lambourn Downs on Jan 10th (CDRH) and was followed by a single on the Compton Downs on Feb 1st (KEM) and 2 at Bury Down on Mar 5th (BMA). In the spring, 1 was reported in the Slough SF/Dorney W area on Apr 16th (PND). There were no second winter records. The 11 year status of this species is as follows

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of records	2	10	5	5	5	2	2	1	9	5	4
Number of birds	2	11	6	6	12	3	4	1	10	5	7

2001 Four records from 4 different locations. In the spring, 1 was observed on the Downs for fifteen minutes at dusk on May 22nd (CDRH). The remaining records were all from the second winter including 1 over GJS's Tilehurst garden on Oct 12th, being mobbed by crows, and one on Oct 17th at QMR (AVM), observed down to 30 feet whilst it was being mobbed by gulls. Possibly this same bird was then seen at Wraysbury GPs on Nov 1st (JOB), possibly accompanied by a second bird.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Uncommon summer visitor. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 8 locations from May 9th (Mortimer) to Jul 31st (Padworth Com), site details are as follows. *Mortimer*: Two were churring on May 9th (RCr) then 1 was reported on May 11th, 13th and 18th (PH); *Caesars Camp*: A pair was located on May 12th (WAN; EN) and May 13th (BTB), 1 pair and 1 churring male on Jun 18th (DJB) and Jul 7th (JOB); *Bucklebury Com*: Two were churring on May 15th (RCr), 1pr, male wing clapping on Jun 8th (GJS) and 2 pairs on Jun 14th and 25th (RCr); *Snelsmore Com*: One churring on May 18th (RC) and May 22nd (IW) then 2 churring on Jun 8th (IW), Jun 9th (JW) and Jun 27th (GDS); *Decoy Heath*: One was reported on Jun 6th (GRW); *Crookham Com*: A female was seen on Jun 8th and a pair on Jun 14th (ICB) and Jun 16th (AG); *Padworth Com*: Two pairs were present on Jun 19th and 2 were churring Jul 16th and a pair and a churring male on Jul 31st (GEW); *Wishmoor Bottom*: Two churring on Jun 26th (BDC). The minimum number of 6 pairs and 8 churring males found throughout Berks was well down on the totals of 1999 due to the lack of coverage from observers and does not reflect the true status of this species especially in SE Berks and at Greenham Common (no records).

2001 Although no confirmed reports of breeding were received, all the traditional sites were occupied by typical numbers of churring or seen individuals, the first arrival being May 5th at Caesar's Camp (MW). Records were received from 10 sites and are summarised as follows: **West Berks** *Bucklebury Com*: 1 churring May 24th (RCr), 3 Jun 3rd (NC), 1 Jun 6th (MBu), 1 Jun 12th (JLe); *Crookham Com*: 3 Jun 4th (JPM), 2 Jun 5th (AG), 4 Jun 6th (IW;JL); *Greenham Com*: 3 Jun 5th (NC), 1 Jun 20th (GJS); *Snelsmore Com*: 2-4 present during June (JW;GDS); **Mid Berks** *Padworth Com*: 1-2 May 26th (MR); **East Berks** *Caesar's Camp*: 1 May 5th (MW), 3 Jun 12th (PJC), 5 Jun 19th (Jon Atkinson), 1 Jul 11th (AFd); *Crowthorne Woods*: 3 May 28th (BTB); *Wishmoor Bottom*: 1 May 26th (AFd;DJB), 2 Jun 1st, 1 wing clapping, (BAJC), 2 Jun 26th (MMc); *Butter Hill*: 1 female May 30th (DJB); *Gorrick Plantation*: 5 Jun 10th (BTB), 2m1f May 24th (PJC). The last record came from Bucklebury Com on Jul 12th (JLe). Note; of the 5 locations in E Berks only Gorrick Wood is not in Swinley Forest.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common but thinly distributed summer visitor to urban areas. Common passage migrant.

2000 Spring/Summer: First reported from Bray GP where 1 was present on Apr 16th (PNe). Numbers steadily increased through the rest of April into May when heavy passage occurred at Theale GPs from May 23rd-27th peaking at 600+ on May 26th (RCr). Birds were widespread throughout the county in June and early July with 120+ at Lower Fm GP on Jun 10th (IW; JL), c200 Cookham Rise on Jun 20th (BDC) and 150 at Wraysbury GPs on Jun 24th (RRG). **Breeding:** Only 1 record was received, several pairs breeding at Great Shefford (RPr). **Autumn:** Passage commenced from mid July when 100 were present at Dinton Pastures CP on Jul 9th (IT), 120+ Hosehill Lake on Jul 10th (RCr) and c400 were over Slough SF on Jul 23rd (DJB). Birds soon became scarce in August and were only reported from 2 sites in Sep with singles at Lower Fm GP on Sep 2nd-3rd (RRK; S Graham) and Romney Lock on Sep 12th (WAS).

2001 Spring/Summer: The first recorded arrival was at Eton College on Apr 16th (JAS) followed next day with 1 at Wraysbury GP (CDRH) and singles recorded on Apr 18th at Hosehill LNR (JA) and Dinton Pastures (BAJC, ABT). A steady trickle of small groups were reported during the next week with larger gatherings not seen until 50 at Theale Main GP Apr 25th (GJSu) and the main arrivals turned up from Apr 27th with 200 at Moatlands GP (NR). The main counts for May included 50 over Thatcham Town on 10th (GJS), and the same number at Horton GP on 21st (JOB), no less than 4-500 at Moatlands GP on 16th (BU; RCr) and a passage of c200 per hour over a four hour period at Woodlands Pk on May 29th (DJB). In June there were 200 at Wraysbury GP Jun 2nd (RRG), 400 at Bottom Lane GP Jun 2nd (RCr), 400+ at Pingewood GPs on Jun 7th (RCr) and 2-300 there on Jun 17th (RJB) 250 at Dinton Pastures Jun 11th (FC) and 100 at Lower Fm Jun 16th (IW; JL). **Breeding:** The only potential breeding record was of a bird at a possible nest site in a Newbury pub Aug 7th (SG). **Autumn:** The highest count involved c230 moving ahead of an oncoming storm at Shottesbrooke on Aug 8th (LJF) and birds could still be found into September with 1 at Dinton Pastures on 1st (LM), 3 at Pingewood GPs the same day (BMA; RCr), 1 there on 2nd (BTB) and the last of the season also came from this site with 1 on Sep 6th (PBT). At least one local authority (Bracknell Forest) has added the Swift to its Bio-diversity Action Plan and has started identifying potential sites for nest blocks. [More breeding data are needed as summer status of Swift in Berkshire is unclear (Recorder)].

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

An uncommon resident throughout river valleys. (Schedule 1 and Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 73 locations, 23 in W Berks and 25 in both Mid and E Berks. Birds were reported from all of the main GP complexes and medium to large rivers with 14 occupied territories on the R Kennet and 9 on the R Thames. **Breeding:** This was confirmed at 5 sites, pairs breeding at Eversley GPs (IHB), Bulls Lock on the K&A Canal (GGS) and Kintbury Cressbeds (RGS). One pair reared 3 young on the Thames at Romney Lock (WAS) and 2 adults and a juv at Lavells Lake on Jul 29th (DJB) were thought to be of local origin with 4 birds present there on Jul 30th (RCr). The highest counts came from Wraysbury GPs where the RRG recorded 5 on Apr 9th, 6 on May 7th, 8 on Jul 23rd and 4 (3 ringed) on Jul 29th. Four were also seen at Lower Fm on Aug 26th (JA; IW; JL) and Eversley GP on Dec 16th (KBB).

2001 Records were received from 73 locations, 20 in W Berks, 21 in M Berks and 32 in E Berks. Nearly half of all sites where birds were located were on just 4 watercourses, The R Kennet/KA Canal held 15 sites, the R Thames held 10, the Cut in E Berks held 5 and the R Loden 4. Most reports were of 1-2 birds, higher counts involved 7 at Wraysbury GPs on Jan 14th (VAC) and 7 along the R Thames near Hurley on Nov 23rd (SJF; FMF). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at 6 localities; single pairs bred at Kintbury Cressbeds (RGS), Romney Lock (WAS), Old Windsor (WAS), Woolhampton (NDOC) Thatcham Marsh where a juv was ringed on Jul 14th (IW; JL) and 2 prs bred on the R Thames at Cookham (BDC). Two adults and a juv were seen at Hosehill Lake near to the newly built Kingfisher bank and had probably bred nearby (TABR). Ending on a sad note, 1 was found dead entangled in fishing line at Odney near Cookham on Dec 1st (per Maidenhead Advertiser).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

A scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor, with fewer records since 1995.

2000 The only record involved a tailless bird present at Twyford GPs from Aug 24th to Sep 9th when it had re-grown its tail (BTB et al). It spent much of the time feeding in an area of well grazed grassland adjacent to a GP, providing excellent views to the many observers who visited the site. During its 17 day stay it was seen by an estimated 1000 observers (BTB) making it one of the most well watched rarities in Berkshire for many years. The status of Hoopoe in Berkshire since 1990 is shown in the table.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring records	1	0	3	2*	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Autumn records	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Winter records	1	0	0	0	0	1	1*	0	0	0	0
Total number of birds	2	0	4	3	1	4	1*	1	0	0	0

All records involved single birds, * 2 uncorroborated spring records in 1993 and the 1996 record involves the 1995 bird.

2001 The only report for the year was of a bird seen at Enborne Gate Fm, Newbury on Apr 23rd, observed bill-probing in a road-side verge and retrieving a large grub which it mashed and swallowed. (JPM).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

A scarce passage migrant, formerly a fairly common summer visitor.

2000 The only record involved an individual that spent the evening of May 8th feeding on a footpath at Wraysbury GPs (MO). Although autumn records are still fairly frequent, this is the first spring record since 1 was seen in a garden in Newbury on May 16th 1991. The status of Wryneck in Berkshire since 1990 is shown in the table.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring records	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Autumn records	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	0	1

All records involved single birds.

2001 For the second year in succession a spring record. A singing male was located at Wishmoor Bottom on May 26th remaining to Jun 3rd (DJB et al) thus giving many the

opportunity to see “and hear” what is now an irregular and elusive visitor to Berkshire. This bird was probably the only territorial male in England as no records appeared in the British Birds, Rare Breeding Birds report for 2001 and is the first instance of a bird holding territory within the county since 1956.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

A common and widespread resident.

2000 Records were received from many locations throughout the county with high counts of 6 at Greenham Com on Apr 16th (IW; JL) and 5 at Wishmoor Bottom on May 21st (TGB). **Breeding:** Breeding was reported from Brimpton GP (GEW), Home Fm Snelmore (IW), there were 2 juvs at Frogmill on Jun 19th (SJF; FMF), 1 ad with 1 juv at Woolhampton GPs on Jun 23rd (JPM), a pair with 2 juvs at Strand Water on Jul 21st (BDC), 2 juvs at Emmer Green on Jul 22nd (TGB), 3 juvs at Lavells Lake on Aug 2nd (JOB) and a juv at Twyford GPs on Aug 26th (MBu) with 2 juvs there on Aug 27th (JOB).

2001 Continuing an apparent recent increase in population, reports were received from 79 locations evenly spread across the county. Most records were of ones and twos but 3 were at Bray GP Jan 19th (BAJC) and 5 were squabbling on Cockmarsh Mar 1st (BDC) whilst 4 were recorded both at Englemere Pond Apr 8th (JOB) and Whitmore Bog Nov 4th (DJB). **Breeding:** Breeding records included 2 juvs at Frogmill, Hurley in Jul (SMF; FMF), a female with 2 juvs at Binfield in August (J Goodey) and a juv ringed at Brimpton GP the same month (JPM). Another juv was seen, at Lower Fm GP, in Sep (GJS) and 5 birds noted at Greenham Com earlier in the month may also have been evidence of successful breeding (IW; JL). Affirming the species’ secretive nature around the nest site, only 1 possible nest location was reported (JPM).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

A common and widespread resident.

2000 This species is increasing in Berkshire which should be of no real surprise as nationally it has increased by a staggering 185% (1970-2001 Population Trends). Birds are now reported from most parts of the county; it is only on the downs of NW Berks that Great Spotted Woodpeckers are less familiar. **Breeding:** This was confirmed from Baynes Wood Reserve (GRW), Beedon (ICB), Bracknell (JOB), Brightwalton (GDS), Frogmill (SJF; FMF), Inkpen (LS; GSt) Eversley GPs (JOB), Oare Com (MET), Rapley Lake (DJB) and Shurlock Row where 2 pairs bred (RAL). The highest count was of 11 at Windsor Great Park on Jan 23rd (PNe).

2001 The species continued to do well with over 170 records received having, if anything, a bias towards Mid and E Berks amongst the 84 sites involved. **Breeding:** Drumming was recorded from Jan to Apr and nest sites were located in Sulham Woods (GS); Sheffield Bottom (SG); Lower Star Post (DJB) and Swinley Park with 5 on Jun 9th (DJB). Juveniles were first recorded in Jun (MO) and included one which survived a window collision at Hell Corner Fm (LS). More young birds were reported in Jul including 1 on a peanut feeder (JPM) whilst another was unfortunately found dead in a Brimpton garden on Jul 2nd (GEW). One bird was ringed at Thatcham Marsh on Oct 28th (IW; JL).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

A widespread but local resident that has declined in recent years. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 37 locations, 7 in W Berks, 11 in M.Berks and 19 in E Berks. The monthly distribution of records is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	6	9	7	5	6	3	5	5	3	5	6
Number of birds	9	7	9	9	5	11	3	5	5	3	5	6

As usual most sightings were of single birds, only 14 sites recorded birds on more than 1 date. Sites that held birds more regularly were Bottom Lane Theale (MO), Kintbury Cressbeds (RGS), Lavells Lake (MO), Moor Copse (MR), Romney Lock (WAS), Twyford GPs (MO), Whiteknights Park (PG) and Windsor Great Park (MO). Drumming was heard from E Berks GC in early Feb (DJS), Moor Copse on Mar 7th (MR) and Lavells Lake on May 6th (RCr) where a pair possibly bred (BTB). A pair was also located in Windsor Great Park on Apr 30th (TBo). However, the only confirmed breeding record was from Bottom Lane Theale where after 2 males were involved in a territorial dispute on Feb 6th (JA), a pair with 4 young was located on Jun 15th (RCr). There were 3 garden records, 1 on a feeder at Great Shefford on Feb 15th (RPr), 1 at Maidenhead Court on Apr 28th (DF) and 1 on a feeder at Cookham Dean on Aug 28th (SR).

2001 A relatively low number of records (54) of this scarce and secretive bird were received from 31 locations, mainly from West and E Berks areas, with sightings spread fairly evenly throughout the year. It is interesting to compare this statistic with the fact that birds were recorded in 116 tetrads during the county-wide surveys of 1987 to 1989. Drumming was reported at Whitegrove Copse, Bracknell in March (DJS) and was also noted in April and May at Lavell's Lake (RCr), with a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming in an adjacent tree on Apr 25th (PML). Drumming was also recorded at Wraybury GPs May 8th (JOB) and a juv was ringed at Brimpton GP Jul 9th (JPM). On no occasion during 2001 was more than 1 bird reported.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Annual summer visitor to Berkshires heathlands, scarce in the winter. (Schedule 1 and Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 10 locations, 3 in W Berks and 3 in M.Berks and 4 in E Berks. **W Berks:** *Snelmore Com*; After a singing male on Feb 19th (IW; JL), 2 pairs and 2 singing males were located on Apr 24th (MJT). Breeding was confirmed when 1pr was feeding young on Jun 27th (BDC). *Crookham Com*; 1 singing on Mar 4th (JPM) and Jun 3rd (ICB) and 5 were seen Aug 28th (AG). *Greenham Com*; Three pairs Mar 16th (JPM) and 3 singing on Mar 18th (IW; JL). At least 9 territories were located on Apr 16th (IW; JL) but breeding was not confirmed. Birds were seen into Sep with 2 on the 23rd (IW; JL) the last. **M.Berks:** *Decoy Heath/Valentines Wood*; 3 wintering on Jan 2nd (DJB; ENW). 4 pairs on Feb 13th (DKe) and pairs Mar 4th (DJB) and Apr 10th (JPM). No further records until 2 on Sep 8th (DJB). *Mortimer*; There were 2 on Apr 29th (PH). *Poor's Allotments Burghfield Com*; Two on Jun 5th (GEW). **E Berks:** *Swinley Forest*; Records were received from 7 separate areas. At Caesars Camp 1 was singing on Feb 6th (WAN), 3 were singing in March (DJS) and April (WAN) and a pair with 3 juvs plus 2 singing males were located on Jun 25th (DJB). In the Wishmoor and Broadmoor area, PJC located 8 singing males on Feb 13th and 19th. Ten territories were located during the spring (PJC; DJB) with at least

3prs breeding (DJB). High numbers were seen into the autumn with 8 on Aug 28th (DJB) and Sep 3rd (BMA). The last report was of 2 on Oct 22nd (DJB). Two territories were found in the Upper/Lower Star post area from Mar to Jun (WAN; DJB) and pairs were located at Butter Hill on Mar 17th and Surrey Hill on Jun 3rd (DJB) and a singing male was present at Hut Hill on Mar 24th (DJS). *Gorrick Wood*; Two were singing on Mar 5th (DJS) and a pair with 4juvs on Jun 25th (BTB). *Wildmoor Heath NR*; A singing male was located on Mar 31st (DJW). *Swinley Brickpits*; One was singing on Jun 4th (DJB). A survey of Crown Estate lands in SE Berks (EEG; JAL) found birds at a further 7 locations. The records above lead to there possibly being up to 49 pairs or singing males present in the county during the summer and 6 pairs were known to have bred. This total would make 2000, one of the best years for this species since the early nineteen fifties when Alexander (1952) stated that the species bred widely throughout Berkshire.

2001 Fewer reported in 2001 compared to 2000 with records coming from 12 locations, 8 being in breeding habitat. **W Berks:** The earliest record involved 1 at Snelsmore Com on Feb 7th (RC). Four were singing at Snelsmore by Feb 22nd (GRW) and up to 3 were regularly reported from Apr-Jul (MO) and a pair was observed collecting nest material on Apr 27th (JPM). Two birds were located at Greenham Com on Feb 10th (DJS) and 2prs summered (JPM et al), 6 were present on Sep 29th (IW; JL) and 1 was still singing on Oct 12th (JPM). Nearby at Crookham Com a pair was located on Mar 26th and 2prs were found on Jun 4th (JPM) with 1 on Nov 13th (JPM), the latest record for the year. One sang on the Kingfisher Court Ind Estate Newbury on Apr 3rd (LS) and 1 (possibly the previous bird) was watched at Lower Fm GP on Apr 24th (IW; JL). **M. Berks:** The only spring record concerned 1 at Burghfield Com on Apr 22nd (BU) otherwise all records came in the autumn with 2 over Burnthouse Lane on Sep 27th (KEM) and 3 flying SW over this site on Oct 9th (MGM), 3 feeding with Skylarks and wagtails at Englefield on Oct 10th (RCr) and 1 singing at Decoy Heath on Oct 27th (MW). **E Berks:** One at Swinley Brickpits on Feb 5th (DJS) was the earliest record this year. Most records came from the Swinley Forest where birds were noted from Feb 9th (DJB) onward and could be found in most areas where heath and clear-fell provided ideal breeding habitat. A survey by DJB located 21 territories, 12 on the Crown Estate and Forest Enterprise lands and 9 on the MoD ranges at Broadmoor and Wishmoor. Three pairs were confirmed as breeding, pairs feeding young at Caesars Camp on Apr 13th and Surrey Hill on May 8th and a family party of 2ads and 3juvs at Wishmoor on Jun 29th. Other significant records from the Wishmoor area involved 6 on May 29th (RJG), 1ad 1juv on Jun 9th (LJF; MJF), 7 on Jun 24th (MMc) and 6 on Sep 23rd (BMA) the last E Berks report. Elsewhere the only report came from Wellington College where birds summered (RRG). The total of at least 35 singing males reported throughout the county is a good total when taking into account the restrictions that occurred during the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Also several sites were not covered adequately if at all this year most notably Wildmoor Heath, South Ascot, Gorrick Wood and Decoy Heath.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

A common but less widespread resident and winter visitor. (Red listed)

2000 First winter: High counts were 200+ at Englefield on Jan 1st, 100+ there on Feb 13th (RCr) and 72 near Summerleaze GP on Jan 1st (DF). **Spring/Summer:** Reports of singing males were widespread with high counts of 9 at Hazelhanger Fm, Chieveley on Apr 29th (ICB), 15 Brimpton on May 1st (RCr), 35+ at Greenham Com on May

8th increasing to 40+ and several juvs seen on Jun 2nd (DJB), 6 at Starveal Aldworth on May 11th (ICB) and high densities were also noted at Beedon in March (GDS) and the Compton Downs during the spring (MO). At least 100 birds were present at Englefield during May (RCr). **Second winter:** Numbers began to build at Englefield where 150+ were present from Oct 8th to the years end (RCr). A flock of 95 were present near Burghfield on Dec 29th (MJS; KEM) and a large flock of c400 was located in Kale fields at Horton on Dec 30th (CDRH).

2001 Nationally, Skylarks have been experiencing decline in many areas. Even though half the 181 records for 2001 came from W Berks, the large area of downland in that region suggests many go un-noticed. The distribution of flocks of 50 or more was as follows: **W Berks:** Brimpton GP 100 Jan 17th (GEW) and 100 Dec 26th (GEW), Crookham Com 63 Jun 4th (JPM). **M. Berks:** Englefield 100 Feb 9th, 100 Jun 6th, 100 Oct 29th and 50 Dec 2nd (all RCr), Tidmarsh 50 Nov 24th (JLe). **E Berks:** Cookham Dean 75 Mar 3rd (BDC), Crazies Hill 50 Nov 26th (DJB), Dorney W 100 Dec 9th (DJB), Strand Water 85 Nov 11th (BDC). This represents only about half the number of sites holding such numbers just a few years ago. Away from these, the majority of records were of 20 or less. Most of the higher counts were in the winter periods and probably include immigrants but the 100 at Englefield in Jun was of note. Song flight was recorded at many sites from February through to July but no confirmed breeding reports were received.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

A locally common summer visitor and passage migrant. (Amber listed)

2000 Spring: First arrivals were singles at Woolhampton GPs on Mar 10th (NR) and Lower Fm GP on Mar 11th (IW; JL) with the main arrival commencing from Mar 18th onward. Double figure counts were received from 7 locations by the end of March, the highest count being 120+ at Theale Main GP on Mar 29th (RCr). Numbers continued to build at favoured sites during April, high counts of 500+ at Theale Main GP on Apr 18th (RCr) and 22nd (TGB), 350 at Lower Fm GP on Apr 21st (GDS) and c300 at Hosehill Lake on Apr 22nd (TGB) would indicate that an influx took place at this time. **Summer:** Numbers fell at many sites during May and June with significant counts only being reported from areas where breeding was being attempted. 100+ were reported from Lower Fm GP on May 19th (RCr) and Theale Main GP on May 28th (RGB). Breeding colonies were located at Woolhampton GPs where there were 35 active nest holes on May 31st (JPM), 28 nest holes at Long Lane Cookham on Jun 15th (BDC), 20-30 nest holes at Padworth Lane GP in Jun (M Booth), 75 occupied nests at the artificial Sand Martin bank at Hosehill Lake where predation by Carrion Crows of young emerging from nest holes was witnessed on Jul 29th (TGB) and 3prs used drainage pipes emerging from the bank of the Lulle Brook Cookham (BDC). A colony of 20-30 nest holes at Lower Fm GP was regrettably destroyed by the gravel company (DJB). **Autumn:** Numbers began to build in July with 100+ at Lower Fm GP on Jul 8th-9th (IW; JL), 100+ Dinton Pastures Jul 9th (IT), 100 Eversley GPs Jul 23rd (BMA), 200 Hosehill Lake on Jul 23rd-24th (RCr; TGB) and Aug 10th (RCr) and 100+ at Lower Fm GP on Sep 7th (RCr). The latest departures were in early Oct with singles at Theale GPs, West Woodhay, Eversley GPs and finally 2 at Inkpen on Oct 10th (LS; GS).

2001 Spring: The first records involved singles at Smallmead Fm GP on Mar 10th (JAt) and Horton GPs on Mar 12th (JAS). Numbers slowly increased until Mar 25th-26th when a substantial influx occurred with counts of over 100 birds congregating at 5 locations with peak counts of 200+ at Lower Fm GP (JPM) and 250+ at Wraysbury GPs (JAS)

both on Mar 26th. High counts continued into April, Theale GPs held most birds with c600 on Theale Main GP (BU) and 200+ at Hosehill Lake (TM) on Apr 18th. **Summer/Breeding:** Birds had returned to the artificial breeding site at Hosehill Lake by early April with 100+ on Apr 5th (BU). The colony was constantly plagued by Carrion Crows, Magpies and even domestic cats and Carrion Crows were even seen to attempt to hover at the nest entrances. When the young began to fledge, they then became prey to Hobbies. With poor spring weather and pressure caused by predators it is not surprising that only 13 nests were found when the holes were cleaned (TABR). Elsewhere 20 birds were noted at the colony at Woolhampton GPs on Apr 7th (JPM) but no further information was received from this site until a count of c200 including 50+ juvs on Jul 15th (JPM) so it is not clear if these were locally breeding birds. At Aldermaston GP, 40 holes had been excavated by Apr 10th but were abandoned by Apr 18th. However the colony persisted and c70 holes (most not in use) had c20 birds in attendance by May 29th (JPM). Only 4 birds were present at the Long lane Cookham site on Apr 24th (BDC), 3prs were using pipes on the Lulle Brook Cookham (BDC) and there were 20 occupied nest holes at the Knowl Hill landfill site on Jun 1st (BDC). **Autumn:** The only counts to exceed 50 involved 75+ at Field Fm GP on Oct 1st (BU) and c150 at Lower Fm GP on Oct 7th (GDS). The latest departure was on Oct 18th with 1 at Summerleaze GP (CDRH).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant. (Amber listed)

2000 Spring: First arrivals were singles at Hosehill Lake on Mar 26th (RJB) and QMR on Mar 27th (JAS). Most records at this time concerned counts of up to 100 birds. Only at Theale GPs did numbers exceed 100 with a maximum of 400+ on Apr 17th (RCr). **Summer:** Although common throughout rural Berks, confirmed breeding records were only received from Great Shefford (RPr) and Inkpen where 1pr successfully reared 2 broods, rearing the first brood in a home made House Martin nest (LS; GS). **Autumn:** Passage was more marked than in spring, peaking in late Sep, when hundreds were moving south in small parties over Combe Hill on Sep 22nd (DJB), 500+ headed SW over Cookham on Sep 25th (CDRH) and 200 flew south over Pinkneys Green on Sep 30th (BDC). Passage fell away in October from c100 at Hosehill Lake on Oct 1st (TGB) to finally 1 over QMR on Oct 31st (JAS).

2001 Spring: The first returning bird was located at Horton GP on Mar 22nd (JAS) and birds were reported from a further 5 locations by the end of March. Although widespread by late April, numbers remained low and counts of 70+ were only reported from Theale Main GP where 100+ were noted on Apr 13th (RCr), 70+ at Padworth Lane GP on Apr 18th (JA) and 100+ at both Woolhampton (MR) and Pingewood GPs (RCr) on May 2nd. **Summer:** The only count of note concerned c100 at Compton on Jun 11th (DR). The only breeding record involved 1 pair rearing 2 broods of 4 at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen (LS). **Autumn:** Post breeding flocking was first noted in mid Aug with c60 at Dorney W on Aug 14th and 80+ there on Sep 9th (MMc). Migration was noted at Thatcham Marsh on Sep 9th when small parties totalling 100+ birds were moving SW on Sep 9th (IW; JL). A flock of 50 were feeding over Lower Fm GP on Sep 16th (PML) but it was not until October that passage peaked, with 200+ moving south over Caversham on Oct 7th (TBa) being the highest count. One over Finchampstead on Oct 27th (PBT) ended what was a disappointing year for this species.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Common passage migrant but some decline as a summer visitor. (Amber listed)

2000 Spring: House Martins are traditionally later arrivals than our other hirundines with the first records usually occurring in early April. This year was no exception with birds first noted on Apr 3rd with 4 at Theale Main GP (RCr) and 1 at Twyford GPs (BTB). Passage was steady throughout April and early May. An influx occurred from mid May with 300+ at Lower Fm GP on May 19th (RCr) increasing to c500 there on May 27th (IW; JL). At Theale GPs, 1000+ at Main GP on May 23rd and 27th (RCr) and a further c500 over Moatlands GP on May 23rd (DJB) would bring that days total to possibly 1500 birds. A calculated 1350 were present on Theale GPs on May 26th (RCr) and 800+ were still present on Theale Main GP on May 28th (RJB). **Summer:** Although under recorded, breeding was reported from Beedon (ICB), Cookham (BDC), Cox Green (DJW), Great Shefford (RPr), Snelsmore (IW), Woodlands Pk (DJB), Woolley (GDS) and Windsor (TBo). **Autumn:** Heavy passage occurred during September with 400+ at Theale Main GP on Sep 6th (RCr), 300+ Lower Fm GP on Sep 7th (RCr), c400 Wokingham SF on Sep 20th (DJB), 300+ Hosehill Lake on Sep 24th (TM), c800 Cockmarsh Sep 26th (CDRH), 500 Winter Hill on Sep 29th (BDC) and c300 moving south in 30 minutes over West Woodhay Down on Oct 1st (IW; JL). Finally 1 was seen over Sandhurst on Nov 18th (RJG) which is the latest departure date since 1 over Maidenhead on Nov 30th 1982. The latest departure date for Berks was of 1 seen over Tilehurst on Dec 1st 1974.

2001 Spring The first arrival was at Burghfield GPs Mar 25th (JA; RPo) with another at Wraybury GPs the following day (JAS), both at the front end of the range of arrival dates over the last 30 years (Mar 21st to Apr 20th). No other records came until April during most of which notably only ones and twos were reported, the only double figures being 10 at Hosehill Lake Apr 16th (PNe) and 50 at Padworth Lane GP Apr 15th (MR). It wasn't until the last week of April that larger groups, typically 30, were observed at Moatlands GP on 26th (RCr), Lower Fm on 29th (IW; JL), Woolhampton on 29th (JPM) and Hosehill Lake on 30th (NR). Numbers remained low during May with peak counts of 75+ at Hosehill Lake on May 17th (BU) and 100+ at Pingewood GPss on May 18th (RCr). **Summer** Apart from specific breeding accounts, only 12 of the 194 records for the year covered the period Jun and Jul. At Greenham Com, 47 nests were in use on an old hangar and 53 on a new building (JPM) and 2 or 3 juvs were observed at Home Fm (IW). At a Cookham Housing estate where 30 nests used to be common, just one was occupied, producing two broods (BDC). **Autumn:** Many more reports started coming in from August, the larger gatherings that month including 100+ Lower Fm GP on 12th (IW; JL), 150 Moatlands GP on 12th (JA) and 300 Widbrook Com on 18th (BDC). Many double-figure groups occurred throughout September, the highest counts being c100 at Englefield on Sep 16th (RJB) and 200 near Sonning Sep 20th (PML), whilst in October, pre-departure flocks included 350 at Wokingham STW Oct 2nd with c200 still present there on Oct 8th (DJB), 300 Hosehill Lake Oct 7th (BU) and 400 at Theale Main GP Oct 7th (RCr). 100 were still feeding at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen on Oct 9th (LS) and the last 2 of the year were seen at QMR on Oct 14th (JAS).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Locally common summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 16 locations, 9 in W Berks, 2 in M. Berks and 5 in E Berks. Thirteen locations held singing males. **W Berks:** First reported on Apr 8th with

singles at Lower Fm GP (DJB) and singing at Greenham Com (IW; JL) and West Woodhay Down (RGS). At Greenham Com numbers increased to 5 singing males on Apr 22nd (IW; JL) and breeding was confirmed with 1 carrying food on Jun 13th (GRW). At West Woodhay song was heard again on Apr 22nd (IW) and in early July (RGS) before 6, including 4 flying west, were noted on Aug 6th (RGS). At least 12 were singing at Snelsmore Com on Apr 23rd (IW) and further singing males were reported from Farnborough Down, 1 May 1st-3rd (GDS); Combe Wood, 2 May 14th (IW; JL); Bucklebury Com, (2 May 28th and 1 Jun 5th (MBu); Inkpen Com, 1 in June (MJS); and Hermitage with 2 Jun 15th (T Finnegan). **M.Berks:** The only records were singles at Mortimer Apr 29th and Jun 4th (PH) and Padworth Com Jun 19th (GEW). The recent decline in this area may be due to scrub encroachment. **E Berks:** First reported in Swinley forest where 1 was singing at Broadmoor Bottom on Apr 7th (DJB). The species soon became common and widespread throughout the forest (MO), the last record being 3 at Wishmoor Bottom on Sep 3rd (BMA). Elsewhere singing males were reported from Wildmoor Heath, 1 on Jun 2nd (JOB) and breeding was confirmed at Swinley Brickpits, 1pr with fledged young on Jul 21st (DJW). Migrants were noted at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 25th (DHo) and 1 over Eversley GPs on Aug 23rd (IHB)



Tree Pipit by Tony Keene

2001 Records were received from 10 locations, 4 in W Berks, 1 in M Berks and 5 in E Berks, 7 sites held singing birds. **W Berks:** First reported on Apr 8th with 1 singing at Bucklebury Com (NC). At Snelsmore Com 3 were in song on Apr 15th (JPM) increasing to 8+ by Apr 25th (MJT). Twenty territories were present in May-Jun and several pairs were feeding young on Jul 16th (IW). Elsewhere 4 were present on Greenham Com on Jun 3rd (SG) and 4 nearby at Crookham Com on Jun 4th (JPM). The only records after July involved singles at Crookham on Aug 31st (JPM) and Greenham on Sep 8th (IW; JL). **M.Berks:** The only record was also the earliest of the year with 1 over Field Fm GP on Apr 2nd (MGM). **E Berks:** Passage was noted at Horton GP, 1 on Apr 25th (JAS) and Wraysbury GPs, 1 May 2nd (JAS). Most records came from Swinley Forest where the first report was of 1 at Wishmoor Bottom on Apr 6th (RJG). As in 1999, Tree Pipits were surveyed in Swinley by DJB who located 98 singing males or pairs including 10 territories around Caesars Camp, 7 at Butter Hill, 30 in the Broadmoor Danger Area and 22 in the Wishmoor area. Breeding was confirmed at Caesars Camp (R&BMc), Wishmoor Bottom (DJB; R&BMc) and Butter Hill (DJB). Other notable counts within the forest included 20+ on May 13th (JOB) and 18 singing at Wishmoor on Jun 10th (BDC). Elsewhere birds were noted at Wildmoor Heath (RRG) and at Swinley Park where 4 territories were found (DJB). There were no reports after July.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

A common winter visitor, passage migrant and uncommon summer visitor which has decreased nationally in recent years (Amber listed)

2000 Records were widespread throughout the county with regular counts from 2 sites. The monthly maxima at these were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Englefield	100	20	20	4	-	-	-	-	50	100	100	50
Lower Fm GP	25	10	50	10	1	-	-	2	5	25	25	16

First winter/Passage: Apart from the count of 100+ at Englefield on Jan 1st (RCr), no other counts exceeded 30 birds until March when there were passage counts of 45 at Wraysbury GPs on Mar 8th (WAS) and 50 at Lower Fm GP on Mar 18th (IW; JL). Passage continued into April with a peak count of 25 at Twyford GPs on Apr 15th (BTB). **Summer:** Records were received from 8 locations and all from W Berks. Lower Fm GP- 1 singing from Apr 8th (DJB) into May (MO); Compton Downs – 1pr on Apr 8th and 1 on May 5th (DJB); Greenham Com – There were 10 on Apr 16th (IW; JL) and 3prs, 11 singing males and 1-2 juvs on Jun 2nd (DJB); Inkpen Hill – 2prs on May 1st (IW; JL); Combe Hill – 1pr and 1 singing on May 2nd (DJB); Lambourn Downs – 2-3 singing on May 16th and 1pr, 2 singing and 1ad f/y on Jun 2nd (DJB); Wellbottom Down – 3 Jun 25th (IW; JL) and Lowbury Hill – 1 singing on Jun 26th (DJB). **Autumn Passage/Second winter:** After an early bird at QMR on Jul 3rd (JAS), passage was slow until late September when heavy passage was noted at several sites. On the Lambourn Downs 250-300 were moving south on Sep 22nd (DJB) and 250+ per hour moved south over Widbrook Com on the same date (CDRH). This southward movement continued in E Berks with 150 over N Maidenhead on Sep 29th (CDRH) and 160 there on Sep 30th (BDC). At least 250 were grounded at Slough SF on Oct 8th (DJB) and 120 were present at QMR on Oct 13th (CL). Numbers declined in Nov-Dec with 100+ at Englefield on Nov 26th (RCr) being the maximum count.

2001 First winter/Passage: Widely reported throughout the county during Jan-Feb, although flock sizes were fairly small with 50+ at Padworth Lane GP on Jan 1st and at Englefield on Jan 24th (RCr) being the only counts to exceed 50. Passage during late Feb and March was generally slow, 100 at Brimpton GP on Mar 18th (GEW) being the only large flock reported. **Spring/Summer:** One singing at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 9th (CL) was unusual as was 1 singing at Bill Hill Wokingham on Apr 27th (DJB) and 1 held territory at Dorney W during May (CDRH). The west of the county holds the main breeding population with several pairs breeding on the Compton Downs during May (CDRH), 4 territories present at Woolley Down (GDS), 1 sang at Lower Fm GP (NDOC), 10 were present at Greenham Com in June with a pair feeding young on Jun 2nd (IW; JL) and nearby 8 could be found at Crookham Com in May-Jun with a juv seen on Jun 4th (JPM). **Autumn/Second winter:** Passage began early with singles at QMR on Jul 12th and 24th (JAS). The first autumn influx occurred in mid September when 200+ were present at Englefield on Sep 15th (RCr). Numbers remained high at this site into Oct when 110+ still present on Oct 7th (RCr). Another influx occurred in Oct when c100 per hour were moving south over Aldworth on Oct 9th (CDRH), 100+ were at Shottesbrooke on Oct 11th (DJB) and 100+ flew south over Combe Hill on Oct 13th (DJB). Lower numbers remained to winter with 32 at Burchett's Green on Nov 23rd (BDC) and 32 at Lower Fm GP on Dec 15th (IW; JL) being the highest recorded counts.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

A scarce passage migrant which is regular only at QMR. Occasional winter visitor.

2000 Birds were reported from 4 locations, all reports in March or Sep-Nov. **March:** Three were reported from QMR on Mar 10th (JAS) and an individual showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A. p. littoralis* was present at Twyford GPs on Mar 20th (DJB). **Autumn:** At QMR there were singles on Sep 24th and 29th, 2 on Oct 3rd-4th, 1 on Oct 14th, 18th and

21st, 2-3 on Oct 22nd and 1 on Nov 5th-7th, 10th and 20th (JAS). Elsewhere 1 flew over Summerleaze GP heading SE on Sep 25th (CDRH) and 1 was present at Slough SF on Oct 29th (CDRH).

2001 The only spring record was of 1 at Pingewood GPs on Apr 22nd (KEM). In the autumn, apart from a bird which lingered at Englefield Oct 16th and 17th (RCr), all other reports came from QMR, the first Sep 25th (JAS) followed by a series of records between Oct 17th and 29th with 3 on 17th (CDRH) and up to 4 on Oct 19th-20th (JAS) being the highest counts.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 An uneventful year with only 3 records, all of single birds. Wintering occurred again at Horton GPs with 1 bird remaining from 1999 and being seen on Jan 21st (CDRH). A migrant appeared at Lower Fm GP on Mar 19th (GDS) and is the first record for this site. In the second winter 1 had returned to Horton GP being seen on Nov 28th (CDRH).

2001 In what was the worst year since at least 1974, there was only 1 record, a single bird at Horton GP on Mar 4th (CDRH).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

A common passage migrant and uncommon and declining summer visitor. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 36 locations, 13 in W Berks, 14 in M. Berks and 9 in E Berks. A table showing the monthly site distribution and the minimum number of birds is shown below.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
W Berks no of sites	0	5	1	5	2	4	3	1	1
W Berks min no of birds	0	11	2	8	3	12	34	1	1
M. Berks no of sites	1	5	5	1	2	7	6	0	0
M. Berks min no of birds	1	14	16	4	4	20	11	0	0
E Berks no of sites	0	2	3	0	3	2	5	4	0
E Berks no of birds	0	3	4	0	8	30	108	5	0
Site totals	1	12	9	6	7	13	14	5	1
Bird totals	1	28	22	12	15	62	153	6	1

Spring: An individual found at Padworth Lane GP on Mar 15th (RCr) equals the earliest date since at least 1974 (the other being 1 QMR in 1994). This was followed by 1 at Lea Fm GP on Apr 9th (BTB) and 4 at Lower Fm GP on Apr 13th (ICB). There were frequent records after Apr 13th, the highest counts being 7 at Twyford GPs on Apr 15th (BTB) and Englefield on May 1st (RCr). **Summer:** Evidence of breeding was received from 4 locations. A male was carrying food at Englefield on Jun 8th (RCr). There was a pair at Seven Barrows on Jun 25th and 1juv on Jul 16th (GDS) which suggests local breeding. A pair was feeding young at Brimpton GPs on Jul 17th (GEW) and a pair with 4juvs located at QMR on Jul 26th (JAS) was thought by the observer to be of local origin. Elsewhere there was evidence of summering at Winterbourne where 1-2 birds were present in June (MJT). **Autumn:** Return passage began in July but was slow until late Aug when 17 were present at Dorney W on Aug 25th (CDRH) and 8 at QMR on Aug 29th (JAS). Heavy passage

occurred at either ends of the county in Sep. Twenty five were located at Freemans Marsh on Sep 8th (AG) while in E Berks 22 were at QMR on Sep 5th (JAS) and c30 at Dorney W on Sep 10th (DJB) increasing to 62 there on Sep 13th (CDRH). Single birds lingered into Oct at Lower Fm GP on Oct 2 (JPM), Summerlease GP on Oct 4th (DJB), Slough SF on Oct 8th (DJB), Eton Wick on Oct 9th (CDRH) and 2 at QMR also on Oct 9th (JAS). Finally a late bird was present at Field Barn Fm Beenham on Nov 10th (JPM) the latest date since 1 at QMR on Nov 15th 1991.

2001 Spring Passage: The first to move through on the early date of Mar 24th was 1 at Twyford GP (BTB; FC). The next was not until Apr 13th when a single bird traversed Eversley GP (IHB) and another was at Borough Marsh near Wargrave (ABT). Throughout the rest of April, most sightings were of 1 to 4 birds, though 12 were at QMR Apr 20th (CDRH). May produced a similar trickle, the highest count being 7 at Pingewood GPs May 14th (CDRH; RCr). **Summer:** Birds were at several locations during Jun and Jul. Three pairs were present at Cold Harbour from May into Jun and juveniles were seen from all 3 pairs in Jul (DJB). On the Compton Downs 2-3 prs were present during May (CDRH) and a juv was amongst 2 pairs there on Jun 23rd (MW). One pair bred at Twyford GPs (BTB) and another 3 pairs were feeding young during Jun at Englefield (RCr). **Autumn:** There was a steady trickle of ones, twos and threes at several locations during August and September. At sites where regular observations were made, the peak counts were 7 on Sep 18th and 8 on Sep 30th at Lower Fm GP and 8 on Aug 27th, 9 on Sep 1st and 6 on Sep 3rd at QMR. By far the most dramatic passage however occurred at Englefield in September including the highest count since 114 roosted at Slough SF on Aug 24th 1983. Please see the detailed article earlier in this report for the records. During the same period there were 25 at Wigmore Lane Sep 9th (ABT) and 14 at Freemen's Marsh Sep 14th (AG). A trickle of records during October concluded with the last of the year, at QMR Oct 28th (JAS).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flava*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

2001 A male of the 'sykes' type (also known as 'Channel Wagtail' hybrid) was present at Cold Harbour from May 25th-29th (CDRH)

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

A common resident throughout Berkshire's river valleys with numbers inflated by migrants in winter. Grey Wagtails have shown an increase nationally in recent years and this has been mirrored in Berkshire. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 90 locations, 27 in W Berks, 22 in M. Berks and 41 in E Berks. The table below shows the 3 monthly site distribution of Grey Wagtail in Berks.

	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sep	Oct – Dec
W Berks sites	12	17	11	13
M. Berks sites	13	11	11	14
E Berks sites	18	15	15	24
Total of occupied sites	43	43	37	51

In W Berks, more occupied sites were located during the breeding season, this species showing a preference for the fast flowing tributaries, mills and weirs that line the R Kennet. Moving east birds become more widespread in the winter months when GPs and SFs

are visited more frequently. The largest rivers in the county still hold the majority of the resident population with birds being reported from 21 sites along the R Kennet, 11 on the R Thames and 6 on the R Loddon. **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at 13 sites, these being Aldermaston (JPM); Eversley GPs (IHB); Frogmill (SJF; FMF); K&A Widmead Lock (IW); Kintbury Cressbeds (RGS); R Loddon at DPCP (SPA); Marsh Benham, 2 broods of 6y (per AG); R Thames Old Windsor (WAS); R Thames Romney Lock (WAS); White Waltham SF (DJB); Wokingham SF (DJB); Woolhampton GPs (JPM) and Woolhampton STW (JPM). The highest nonbreeding count was 6 at Slough SF on Aug 20th (DJB). An individual visited BMA's garden pond in Crowthorne on Nov 17th.

2001 Recorded in 83 locations. Pairs were recorded together from the beginning of the year, indicating some year-round retention of breeding territories by regular partnerships, but mostly single birds were recorded until March. Pairs were noted at 17 sites into the breeding season, and 2 together without gender indication were reported from a further 10 locations. Three were at Thatcham Reed Beds Apr 15th (IW; JL), 4 at Tyle Mill, Padworth May 19th (PDM) and 4 at Heath Lake Crowthorne on May 28th (IT). **Breeding:** A pair was displaying as early as Feb 13th at Millbank, Kintbury, a site used for nesting for the previous 8 years (BFR), and a pair built a nest in Honeysuckle over a door at Foxhold, Crookham Com (JPM). Young were being fed on the R Kennet near Woolhampton Apr 27th (JPM) and at Widmead Lock May 4th (GRW; HMG). An adult with 1juv was located on the R Loddon at Sandford Fm on May 15th (MBu), a pair with 2 juvs were found some distance away from water at a timber merchant at Swinley Park on May 21st (DJB), 1pr with 3 young at Wokingham STW on Jun 12th (DJB) and there were 3 juvs being fed at Hungerford STW Jul 23rd (BDC). A pair was feeding young on the Kennet at Kintbury on Jul 29th (DR). Breeding also occurred at Midgham (NDOC), Romney Lock, Old Windsor and Boulters Lock (WAS). Occasionally, records came from seemingly unusual locations such as The Boars Head Inn car park, Friar St, Reading May 21st (GS), a regular site in fact, or 1 visiting DJB's garden Pond in Woodlands Park on Oct 20th and 3 at Hall Place, Burchett's Green Nov 23rd (BDC). Outside the breeding season the highest counts involved 5+ at Wokingham STW on Oct 22nd and 6-7 there on Dec 3rd (DJB).

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

A common and widespread resident.

2000 The familiarity of Pied Wagtails throughout the county does lead to the tendency by many observers to overlook the species. Therefore few records of interest were received. At Lower Fm GP, regular counts were made and the monthly maxima is shown in the table below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	6	10	4	6	6	20	20	25	15	2	2

Only 3 counts exceeded 50 birds, these being c200 Reading town centre on Jan 15th (VF; LFo), 80 Caversham on Oct 12th (TGB) and c100 Littlewick Green on Nov 12th (RAL). **Breeding:** This was only confirmed from Beenham (JPM), Inkpen (LS; GSt), Lower Fm GP (IW; JL), Snelsmore (IW), Wokingham SF, where 1pr reared 5 yng from a nest situated inside the engine of an active JCB digger (DJB) and Woolhampton GPs (JPM).

2001 Most records received were of 1-49, higher counts being as follows. A roost in Reading town centre consisted of 100+ during early Jan (VF), 56 Cockmarsh on Jan 8th (BDC), 142 at Borough Marsh, Wargrave on Feb 25th (ABT) and 100+ roosting at

Hungerford on Mar 8th (RGS). Up to 50 were present on Pingewood GPs on Jun 26th (RCr) and 62 at Arborfield Garrison on Aug 20th (JAt). Flock sizes increased from Sep with 50 at Slough SF on Sep 4th (MMc), 50 at the Kennet School Thatcham on Sep 9th (GJS), 50 roosting in Newbury on Sep 14th (SG), 167 at Englefield on Oct 7th with 109 still present on Oct 20th (RCr), 50 Thatcham on Oct 16th (GJS), 200+ going to roost in a Kintbury reedbed on Nov 6th (GS; LS) and 55 roosting at Kintbury STW on Dec 26th (DR). **Breeding:** To emphasize just how overlooked this species is, there was only 1 reported breeding record, a pair feeding 2 young at Brimpton on Aug 2nd (GEW).

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

An annual passage migrant in small numbers usually in the spring.

2000 Spring: One male was located at Lower Fm GP on Mar 26th (KEM) and was followed by 3 males there on Apr 13th (ICB) and 1 still present on Apr 15th (IW; JL). A male at Dorney W on Apr 16th (DJB) was the only other spring record. **Autumn:** An unprecedented number of records occurred from Sept to mid Oct with 1 f/w QMR from Sep 11th-16th (CDRH), 1 Lower Fm GP on Sep 30th (IW; JL; JPM) and 1 Englefield on Oct 12th (TM). These are the first autumn records since 1 was found at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 17th 1989.

2001 As is typical, all 13 records were in spring. Finchampstead Mar 15th (RAI) and Mar 25th (GR), Irish Hill Kintbury Apr 13th (DR), Lower Fm GP Apr 14th (IW; JL), Borough Marsh, Wargrave Apr 15th (ABT), Englefield May 4th (BU), Pingewood GPs 1f/s male May 14th (CDRH), Ruscombe May 22nd (CDRH) and Winterbourne May 25th (MJT). At Horton GP Apr 16th, 2m were together (CDRH) and records from QMR included 2m Apr 16th (CDRH), 2m 1f Apr 18th and 3m 1f Apr 20th (all CDRH).

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

2000 The only record was of 1 seen flying low to the east over Tilehurst and calling on Dec 27th (MGM). This record coincided with a late December influx into the north and east of Britain.

2001 The previous year's late influx resulted in 8 records in the first winter/spring, most surprisingly in April. Records commenced with 5 by the K&A Canal at Theale Main GP on Jan 14th (MJS), a confiding flock of 15 were then at South Hill, Bracknell Jan 26th (M Dowty et al) with 11 there on Jan 28th (BTB). Five were in a Binfield garden Apr 10th (P Banks) and 35 were at Jealott's Hill Apr 17th (P Edwards). Three reports in Bracknell on Apr 27th were a 'large flock' at Caesar's Camp at 1745hrs (H Ginn) then 53 less than 2 miles away at Forest Pk at 1815hrs (GR) and 40 at White Grove Copse 2 miles to the north (A Seago), possibly being the same flock. The last of the year was a single at Forest Pk, Bracknell on Apr 28th (MMc; Afd).

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant resident.

2000 The only records of note were 20+ at Ravenswood Meadows Crowthorne on Jan 24th (DJS), 12 Wraysbury GPs on Mar 23rd and 13 there on Apr 29th (PNe). A check of the surrounding area at Bulls Lock (K&A Canal) produced 7 singing males on Apr 5th (ICB).

2001 The abundance of this species results in few records, most being ones and twos, widely spread over the county. However 5 were at Braywick Park Mar 16th (DF) and 18 singing males were at Wraysbury GPs Apr 8th (PNe), whilst 6 were at Larks Hill, Bracknell in Jul (JOB). The only breeding record came from Hell Corner Fm (LS).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Common and widespread resident.

2000 The only records of note involved an albino present in Boundary Rd Newbury on Feb 23rd and nearby on Apr 7th (SG) and a total of 11 juvs ringed at Wraysbury GPs on Jun 10th (RRG).

2001 A survey of Cookham Rise gardens revealed 20 individuals Mar 19th (BDC) whilst 13 singing males were counted at Wraysbury GPs Apr 18th (PNe). Birds were seen almost daily in a Twyford garden (SPA) and 6 were at Larks Hill Jul 5th (JOB). Breeding pairs were recorded from Aldermaston (JPM), Hell Corner Fm (LS), Cookham Rise (BDC) and Upper Bucklebury (RAL). One individual was observed fighting with a Robin in Thatcham (JW).

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

An abundant resident.

2000 There was a pair nest building in a log pile on Jan 31st (GEW). Counts of singing birds on Apr 7th by BDC located 16 at Maidenhead Thicket and 10 at Pinkneys Green Brickworks. Ten were at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 29th (PNe) and 24 juvs were ringed there on May 27th and Jun 10th (RRG). Other counts included 8 at Heath Lake Sep 2nd (IT) and 12 at Pinkneys Green Brickworks Sep 30th (BDC).

2001 Widely reported in ones and twos, with 24 singing males counted at Wraysbury GPs Apr 8th (PNe). Breeding records came from a Twyford garden (SPA) and Hell Corner Fm (LS). At Wraysbury GPs 4 juvs were ringed May 19th, another 19 birds on Jun 2nd, whilst 20 were noted as present Nov 10th (RRG).

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

A locally common summer visitor rarely encountered away from its summering sites during passage. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 26 locations, 20 in W Berks, 5 in M Berks and 1 in E Berks. As in previous years the Kennet Valley is the most important area for this species with all but 2 occupied sites being in or adjacent to the valley, Dinton Pastures CP and Wraysbury GPs being the exceptions. **Spring:** First reported on the early date of Apr 7th with 1 singing at Jubilee Lake Thatcham (GGS) and followed by 1 singing at Burghfield GPs on Apr 9th (TGB). The main arrival occurred during mid to late April with all of the regular sites occupied by early May. Most sites held 1-3 singing males with higher counts of 10 singing at Burghfield GPs on Apr 21st-23rd (JA), 4 Hosehill Lake Apr 22nd (BMA), 5 Brimpton GPs area on May 1st (RCr) and 5+ at night at Thatcham Marsh on May 13th (DJB). **Breeding:** This was suspected at Brimpton GPs where up to 3prs were involved (GEW). However the only confirmed breeding occurred at Wraysbury GPs where

an adult with 2 juvs were located on Jun 9th (CL). **Autumn:** This species is extremely elusive when on migration, the only records later than June were of 1 calling at Aldermaston GP on Jul 11th (JPM) and 1 at Hosehill Lake on Jul 31st (BU). As Nightingales were not surveyed this year, the total of 58 singing males located is well down on the 111 found in 1999.

2001 Records were received from 8 locations in W Berks, 4 in M Berks and 1 in E Berks. The low site total in W Berks may be partly due to the Foot and Mouth restrictions imposed in the spring. **Spring:** First arrivals appeared on Apr 7th with singles singing at Hosehill Lake (RCr) and Burghfield GPs (JA). The first W Berks report came from Brimpton GPs with 1 singing on Apr 12th (JPM). By the end of April most sites were occupied. As usual the Burghfield GPs area held the highest densities with 15 singing on Apr 29th (JA). Most sites held



1-2 singing males and apart from Burghfield GPs higher counts involved 5+ singing at Dinton Pastures on May 13th (LM), 4 singing at Hosehill Lake on May 15th (BMA) and surprisingly up to 3 at Wraybury GPs during May (CL; JAS). **Breeding:** This was confirmed at 2 sites with family parties seen at Dinton Pastures on Jun 10th (LM) and Hosehill Lake on Jul 1st (BU). **Autumn:** As usual there were very few records and none after Jul 15th when 1 was seen at Hosehill Lake (MW; JA)

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A scarce passage migrant and rare summer and winter visitor. (Schedule 1 and Amber listed)

2000 Breeding: Although there were no confirmed records this year, 3 singing males were located in Reading town centre on May 11th (RCr) and birds continued to reside at the AWE at Aldermaston with song heard on Jun 29th (G Saunders). **Autumn:** Single 1st winters were noted at Woodlands Park on Oct 22nd (DJB; BTB) and QMR on Nov 7th (JAS).

2001 All 6 records centred on Reading Town with birds in both Merchants Place and Friar Street, the latter hosting a pair in late Jun (MO). Breeding was not confirmed and if the two locations represent 2 separate territories, it is still one less pair than the previous year. Surprisingly there were no passage or winter records.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A scarce passage migrant and locally common summer visitor. (Amber listed)

2000 Spring: Passage was light with the first, a female, at Cox Green Maidenhead on Apr 13th-14th (DJW). There followed single males at Whiteknights Park on Apr 14th (PG) and Twyford GPs on Apr 16th (BTB). Singing males were first reported back in Swinley Forest on Apr 20th with 2 at Wishmoor (DJB). **Summer:** Although not thoroughly surveyed this year in Swinley Forest, pairs or singing males were located at 34 sites and breeding was confirmed at 8 of these (DJB). Nest sites included a nest with 5 young situated on the ground under a fallen branch of which all successfully fledged, an old woodpeckers nest in a pine stump which was also used in 1999 and a natural cavity c10ft up an oak tree. Five pairs were observed feeding young, the nest site not being located (DJB). A pair carrying food at Wishmoor on Jun 4th (BMA) probably refers to one of the above sites. Elsewhere there was an intriguing report of a female on the perimeter fence of Greenham Com on Jun 3rd (ICB). **Autumn:** Passage was more marked with reports coming from 7 locations involving up to 14 individuals. Birds were first encountered on Aug 15th with 2 males at Combe Hill and 1f at Walbury Hill (AG). A 1st winter was located at Slough SF on Aug 20th (DJB) and 4 birds were ringed at Wraysbury GPs, 1m on Aug 26th, 3 on Sep 2nd, and 2 re-trapped on Sep 9th (RRG). Further records involved males at Combe Hill on Aug 30th and Walbury Hill on Aug 30th and Sep 9th (AG), 1m at Twyford GPs on Aug 30th (MO) and again on Sep 4th (JOB), 1m at Wishmoor Bottom on Sep 3rd (BMA) and 1 f/imm at the Arthur Jacob NR Horton on Sep 7th (CDRH).

2001 Spring: Of the 34 records for the year, 26 came from E Berks, and indeed the first of the year, a male on Apr 7th, was at Wraysbury GP (JAS), closely followed by another male heard singing at Wishmoor Bottom Apr 8th (DJB). The first W Berks record was yet another male at Woolhampton Apr 22nd (DKe). Spring records from gardens included a male in Maidenhead Apr 11th (TF) and a female at Woodley Apr 29th (ABT). **Summer:** Casual records from the stronghold of Swinley Forest indicated at least 5 or 6 territories in the Wishmoor area including a pair with 4 juvs, another pair at a nest plus 3 separate males, all on Jun 2nd (BDC) and a male carrying food Jun 3rd (JOB), but more detailed work by DJB revealed 51 pairs/singing males and 3 confirmed breeding sites plus a further singing male in Swinley Park. **Autumn passage:** Early migrants were present at Hosehill Lake on Jul 15th (BU) and Jul 22nd (MJS), both female/f/w types and at Wraysbury GP a male was trapped towards the end of Jul (RRG). Reports continued into August with 2 at Inkpen Hill on Aug 22nd and 2 more at Greenham Com Aug 27th (AG). Domestic settings again drew passage birds with a female in a Tilehurst garden Sep 20th (GJS) and another female in a Southcote garden Sep 28th (RHS) which also proved to be the last record of the year.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon passage migrant, formerly more frequent.

2000 Records were received from 27 locations, 11 in W Berks, 4 in M.Berks and 12 in E Berks. **Spring passage:** Birds were reported from 9 sites involving a minimum of 13 individuals. Passage began with a male at Great Shefford on Apr 22nd (RPr) and ended with 1m at Slough SF on May 10th (CDRH). Between these dates all records involved 1-2 birds and although a better showing than in 1999 is still poor compared to average spring totals of 26 birds during the period of 1988 to 1992. This mirrors the decline this species has undergone nationally in recent years. **Autumn passage:** More frequently reported during this period with a minimum of 46 birds being reported from 22 locations. The first

involved a single at the Thames Valley Park on Jul 18th (BMA). Following reports involved 1-2 birds with the exception of 3 at Dorney W on Aug 24th-25th (CDRH), 3 Walbury Hill on Sep 6th (CDRH) and 3 at Brimpton on Sep 16th (GEW). Late records involved 2 at Brimpton on Oct 3rd-6th (GEW) and 1 at Eversley GPs on Oct 7th (IHB) and Oct 8th (BMA).

2001 Spring passage: A poor spring with only 2 records submitted, this may be in part due to the F&M restrictions imposed at this time. Both records were on Apr 29th when 1m and 1f appeared at Twyford GPs (BTB) and 1 on the perimeter fence of the Theale motorway services (KEM). **Autumn:** After an early returning male at Woodlands Pk on Jul 13th (DJB) it was not until late Aug that passage became evident. At Brimpton GP 5 were located in nearby maize on Aug 20th then 1-2 were present on several dates to Sep 6th with 3 there on Sep 1st (GEW). Singles were also seen at Horton GP on Aug 22nd (CL), Eversley GPs Aug 23rd (IHB), Slough SF (CDRH) and QMR on Aug 26th (JAS). Two were located at Twyford GPs on Aug 27th (BTB) and 1j at QMR on Aug 28th increased to 2j and 1ad on Aug 29th (JAS). Passage peaked during September with singles located at 6 sites and higher counts of 3 at Woolhampton GP on Sep 1st (MR), 2 at Greenham Com on Sep 6th (JPM) and 3 there on Sep 22nd (IW; JL) and 2 at Eversley GPs on Sep 29th-30th (IHB; BMA). Seven birds were noted in October with singles at Greenham Com on 3rd (JPM), Wraysbury GPs on 8th and 18th (CDRH), Aldworth on 9th (CDRH), Kintbury on 12th (JD), Swinley Forest on 15th (GR) and Dorney W on 18th (CDRH). For the first time since at least 1974, there were 3 November records, 1 at Eversley GPs (BMA) and Dorney W (CDRH) on Nov 4th and 1 at Dorney W on Nov 25th (MMc), the latest record since 1 at Thatcham March on Nov 27th 1976.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Locally common summer visitor, uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. (Amber listed)

2000 Records were received from 36 locations, 18 in W Berks, 4 in M Berks, and 14 (4 in Swinley Forest) in E Berks. The monthly distribution of non breeding birds is shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No of Locations	7	10	9	0	0	1	1	2	6	13	9	12
No of Birds	13	16	25	0	0	1	1	2	11	35	27	29

First winter/Spring passage: Birds were reported from 23 sites, with most counts involving 1-3 birds. Larger counts involved 9 at Jealott's Hill on Mar 1st (BMA) and 4 at Beedon Com on Mar 5th (ICB). **Summer:** Birds were present at 8 locations, 2 in W Berks and 6 in E Berks, with breeding confirmed at 5 of these. In W Berks a wintering pair at Lower Fm GP continued into the spring. Nest building was observed on Mar 11th (IW; JL) and 1 was carrying food on Apr 13th (ICB). However young were never seen and the site was abandoned by late April. Better news came from Greenham Com where 3 pairs were present in April and 1pr with 3 young was seen on May 6th (IW; JL). A count by NC on May 16th located 8 pairs and further breeding records involved 1m with 2 juvs May 20th, 1 adult with 2 juvs Jul 1st and a family party on Jul 29th (IW; JL). In E Berks most reports were from Swinley Forest where birds were present in 4 separate areas. Birds began to return to breeding areas by mid Feb with 1pr at Caesars Camp on Feb 17th (DJS). Numbers increased with peaks of 2 pairs and 3 males at Broadmoor Bottom on Mar 12th (DJB), 7 pairs and 3 males at Wishmoor Bottom on Apr 17th (DJB), 1pr and 2 males

at Butter Hill on May 8th (DJB) and 2 males and 3 females at Caesars Camp on May 21st (WAN). Breeding was confirmed at Wishmoor where 1pr was feeding young on May 19th and a different pair with 2+ juvs on Jun 7th, 1m with 1 juv at Broadmoor Bottom on Jun 11th and 1pr with 3juvs at Caesars Camp on Jun 18th (DJB). High counts from Wishmoor Bottom of 19 including 6 juvs on Aug 28th (DJB) and 20 including several juvs on Sep 3rd (BMA) involved juvs from second broods. Elsewhere a male summered at Wildmoor Heath NR (MBu; JOB) and an adult with a juv was located at Swinley Brickpits on Jul 21st (DJW). **Autumn passage/Second winter:** Early dispersal from breeding sites involved 1 at Lower Fm on Jul 28th (SG) and a juv at Slough SF on Aug 10th (DJB). Counts of 5 or more came from Combe Hill with 5 on Sep 22nd (DJB), Walbury Hill with 5 on Oct 6th (RGS), Slough SF with 5 on Oct 8th (DJB), Eversley GPs with 6 on Oct 14th (IHB), Cookham Rise with 5 (2m,3f) on Nov 9th (BDC), Nov 16th (4m,1f) and Dec 18th-20th (3m 2f) (DJB) indicating that 7 birds were present in this area and there were 7 at Greenham Com on Nov 17th (DJB).

2001 Records were received from 51 locations (includes 5 sites from within Swinley Forest), 20 in W Berks, 10 in M Berks and 21 in E Berks. The monthly status is shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	5	5	1	1	1	3	1	2	4	10	6	6
W Berks number of birds	9	10	1	1	2	11	5	9	15	23	14	11
M.Berks sites	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	4
M Berks number of birds	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	9	6
E Berks sites	3	5	2	7	6	6	2	-	5	8	7	8
E Berks number of birds	10	12	2	32	61	64	9	-	13	26	12	19
Total number of sites	10	11	4	8	7	9	3	2	10	21	18	18
Total number of birds	22	23	4	33	63	75	14	9	27	55	39	36

* The low counts for March was due to F&M restrictions and in Jul-Sep to low observer coverage especially in E Berks.

First winter: Reported from 16 locations with most records involving 1-2 birds. Higher counts came from the farmland between Summerlease GP and Cookham where 2prs were present on Jan 5th-8th and 1m3f on Feb 21st (DJB), 3 Wraysbury GPs on Jan 13th (BDC), 4 Greenham Com on Feb 10th (DJS) and 3 at Eversley GPs on Feb 13th (IT). **Spring:** Most areas where Stonechats frequent were out of bounds due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak, so reports were few and far between until restrictions were lifted in April. Birds were returning to their breeding grounds by early April with 4prs at Wishmoor Bottom on Apr 8th increasing to 10 pairs by the month end (DJB). **Summer:** Breeding was confirmed at 2 W Berks locations; at Greenham Com at least 2 pair's summered and 2 juvs were located on Jun 2nd (AG) and a pair with 4 juvs was noted on Aug 19th (SG). The adjacent Crookham Com also held breeding pairs, a pair with 1+ juvs was located on Jun 4th (JPM) and 3juvs were present on Aug 30th (AG). In E Berks a survey of the Swinley Forest by DJB found pairs or singing males at 18 locations and breeding was confirmed at Caesars Camp (2prs rearing 8y), The Town (1pr 4y), Butter Hill (2pr rearing 7y) and Wishmoor (4prs rearing 8+y). Elsewhere there were June records from Eversley GPs with a pair on Jun 17th (BMA) and the Compton Downs, a female on Jun 23rd (MW). **Autumn/Second winter:** Post breeding dispersal had begun by early Sep with single juveniles seen at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 3rd and Dorney W on Sep 30th (CDRH). However large numbers could still be found on the Heaths with 13 on Greenham Com on Sep 6th (JPM) and 6+ at Wishmoor Bottom on Sep 29th (BMA). Passage peaked in October with 1-4 birds seen at 15 sites, higher

counts being 6 at Greenham Com on Oct 20th (NDOC) and 7 at Slough SF on Oct 28th (DJB). Birds were recorded on 30 sites during Nov-Dec and although most reports were of 1-4 birds 6 were on Bury Down on Nov 23rd (MW) and 5 were wintering on the farmland between Summerleaze GP and Cookham (BAJC; CDRH).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant.

2000 Spring: Although reported from 23 locations throughout the county, actual numbers were low. Passage began with single males at QMR (CL) and Snelsmore Com (RC) on Mar 13th. Only 4 further singles were reported in March and it was not until mid April that counts exceeding 3 birds were reported, these being 5 at Greenham Com on Apr 16th (IW; JL), 4 Field Fm GP on Apr 26th (BU) and 6 at Greenham Com on May 4th (PH). Passage continued to mid May, the last being 1 at Wraysbury GPs on May 20th (RRG). **Autumn:** Birds were located at 22 locations throughout the county, passage beginning with single juveniles at QMR on Jul 15th (JAS) and Sonning on Aug 6th (AT). Numbers mirrored those of the spring with high counts of 4 at Lowbury Hill and Bottom Lane on Aug 15th (MR), 5 Weathercock Hill Lambourn on Sep 22nd (DJB) and 5 at QMR on Sep 29th (JAS). Birds continued to occur into October with 1 at Englefield on Oct 1st (RCr) and 1-3 at QMR to Oct 19th when 2 were present (JAS). Individuals showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* were found at Wraysbury GPs, a male and female on May 8th (CDRH) and at QMR, a single on Sep 24th (JAS).

2001 Sightings of passage Wheatears had something of an eastern bias with 70 reports from E Berks and 39 from each of Mid and W Berks. Less than a quarter of records related to spring birds (F&M restrictions). **Spring:** The first 2 were at Bury Down Mar 8th (GDS) and it was another 10 days before more birds arrived with 3 males at Dorney W Mar 18th (CDRH), 2 on a ploughed field in Burnthouse Lane the same day (PBT) and no less than 4m and 1f at Green Park, Reading also on the 18th (PBT). Other good numbers moving through included 6m and 4f near Twyford GPs Mar 25th (FC), 4 at Englefield Mar 29th (MR) and 4 at Horton GP Mar 31st (JAS). Where gender was noted for spring records, the totals were 25 males and 18 females. The only records for Jun were a male at Crookham Com 4th to 7th (JPM) and 1 near Eversley GPs Jun 8th (D Callam). **Autumn:** A more pronounced passage than spring but mainly in ones and twos, commencing with 1juv QMR Jul 29th and another there Jul 31st (JAS). The same site had daily records throughout August comprising 1 bird on 15 days, 2 on 9 days, 3 on 5 days, 4 on 1 day and 6 on Aug 10th (JAS). How many individual birds were involved is however pure conjecture, but presumably at least 10. September around QMR presented a similar picture but with 4 being the highest count, on Sep 4th and 15th (JAS). Elsewhere, autumn birds in W Berks were recorded from 11 sites with 5 on Crookham Com Aug 30th (JPM), 8 at Greenham Com mid August (RF) and no less than 20 at Wellbottom Down Aug 19th (GDS). Mid-Berks passage centred on Englefield with 1 or 2 on several dates but 3 Oct 6th (RCr) whilst Eversley GP had 2 Aug 10th (G Randall) and Twyford GPs had 2 Aug 27th (BTB). Less usual sites for autumn records included 1 in the middle of a Calcot housing estate Sep 15th (CMcE; DMcE) and 1 in a school car park at Warfield Oct 2nd (DJB). The last for W Berks were singles at Crookham Com Oct 12th (JPM) and at Greenham Com the same day (JPM). By coincidence, this date was also the last for M.Berks with 1 at Englefield (RCr). However, records of 1 to 3 continued at QMR throughout October and into the next month, when the last for the year was recorded on Nov 6th (JAS). Sightings of

Greenland Wheatear (*leucorhoa*) were restricted to 3, including 2 males, at Hawthorn Hill, May 11th (CDRH) and a male at Bottom Lane GP May 15th (CDRH; RCr).

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

An abundant resident and winter visitor.

2000 Evidence of second winter immigration was provided at Beedon where 15 were counted on Nov 3rd and 12 on Nov 29th (ICB). Elsewhere a count of 50 was made at Thatcham Marsh on Dec 29th (IW; JL) and 10 were in SPA's garden in Twyford on Dec 31st.

2001 Only 69 records were received and the first involving fledglings was Apr 29th in Maidenhead (DF). Among the more unusual nest sites reported was one in the base of a rhubarb patch in Cookham (BDC) and inside a shed at Hell Corner Fm (LS). A male was in full song on Nov 24th in Upper Bucklebury (RF) and winter groupings included 20 or more at Wraysbury GP Nov 24th (RRG), 10 at Lower Fm GP Dec 15th (IW; JL) and 12 in a Twyford garden Dec 23rd (SPA).

FIELDFARE *Turdus philomelos*

A common winter visitor which has bred.

2000 Common and widespread in both winter periods. The table below shows the number of flocks of 100 or more reported during both winter periods.

Flocks of 100+	Jan 1-15	Jan 16-31	Feb 1-14	Feb 15-29	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31	Totals
W Berks	3	0	3	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	6	19
M Berks	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
E Berks	3	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	4	17
Totals	7	1	4	5	6	0	2	2	1	2	11	41

First winter/spring passage: Flocks of 100-300 were reported from 18 locations with higher counts of 400 at Stokes Fm Wokingham on Jan 2nd (DJS), 1100 near Shurlock Row on Feb 1st (DJB), 350 Farnborough on Feb 5th (GDS) and 350 at Cookham on Feb 29th (BDC). Passage was evident from March to mid April with 300 between Farnborough and West Ilsley on Apr 9th (GDS) being the highest count. Flocks of 80 at West Woodhay on Apr 13th (LS; GSt) and 50 at Home Pk, Windsor on Apr 17th (TBo) were the latest departure dates. **Autumn passage/Second winter:** First report was 1 at Kintbury Cressbeds on Oct 31st (RGS) with birds becoming widespread by mid November. An influx occurred during the second half of December when high counts of 350+ on the Compton Downs on Dec 17th (RCr), c400 at White Waltham on Dec 20th (DJB) and 500 at Cookham Rise on Dec 27th (BDC) and Dec 30th (CDRH).

2001 First winter: Twelve localities hosted flocks of 100 or more, with 100+ at Englefield (RCr) and Walbury Hill (SG) on Jan 1st, c200 at Cold Harbour on Jan 2nd (DJB) and Feb 13th (LJF), 200 Widbrook Com and 100 Cookham Rise on Jan 12th (BDC), 150 Sulhamstead on Jan 15th (TM) 300+ West Woodhay on Jan 20th and 200 there on Feb 27th (LS; GS), c300 Home Park Windsor on Feb 2nd (TBo), 110 Windsor Great Pk on Feb 18th (TBo), 100+ Wasing Lane Aldermaston on Feb 27th (JPM), 800+ Tickleback Row on Mar 20th (DJB) and 120 at Old Slade NR on Mar 23rd (DR). Birds departed early this year, the latest reports were 9 at Bray GP on Apr 4th (MMc) and 1 at Frogmill,

Hurley on Apr 6th (SJF; FMF). **Second winter:** Early birds involved 1 at Hermitage on Oct 5th (RF) and 4 over Winterbourne on Oct 19th (MJT). Passage peaked at the end of Oct when 210 birds in 3 flocks flew south over Thatcham Marsh (IW; JL), c100 in 4 flocks on the Lambourn Downs (RRK) and 112 at Eversley GPs (IT) all on Oct 28th. A further 10 localities hosted flocks of 100 or more during Nov-Dec with 100 at Datchet on Nov 14th (DJB), c100 Compton Downs (in 3 flocks) on Nov 15th (JPM), 130+ Tyle Mill Padworth on Nov 21st (PDM), 100+ Bennets Hill Burghfield on Nov 24th (JA), c200 Cookham Rise on Nov 27th (BDC) and c100 there on Dec 6th-7th (BDC; LJF), 120+ flying west over Englefield (RCr) and c100 Culham Court Remenham Hill (SJF; FMF) both on Nov 28th, 300 Strand Water on Dec 1st (BDC), c200 roosting at Summerleaze GP on Dec 23rd (BDC) and c1000 visiting an orchard in Bisham on Dec 27th (BDC).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

A common resident that has recently declined. (Red listed)

2000 The recent national decline of this species has prompted more observers to check the status of the Song Thrush in their areas. Birds were noted in 131 locations, 27 in W Berks, 14 in M Berks and 90 in E Berks. The high total in E Berks is mainly due to a comprehensive survey carried out by DJS in SE Berks where birds were found in 63 localities and involved 114 singing males. The highest concentrations found were of 9 singing at Gorrick Wood during Apr-May, 6 singing by the Nine Mile Ride Bracknell on Apr 19th and 5 singing at Holme Green on May 3rd (DJS). Elsewhere high counts involved 9 singing males in the Cookham area on Feb 23rd (BDC) and 8 were reported from Chieveley on Apr 27th (ICB) and Hungerford Newtown on May 20th (LS). Evidence of breeding was reported from Inkpen (LS; GSt) and Newbury (GRW). Results from the Berkshire Bird Index, shows that birds were present in 83.3% of the 1 Km squares covered with 222 birds recorded. In the second winter signs of immigration came from Burchett's Green Agricultural College where c50 were present on Nov 4th (PNe) and Thatcham Marsh were c15 were present on Dec 29th (IW; JL).

2001 Records of this species have increased in recent years, and over 180 reports were received compared to typically 20 or so previously. There were several accounts of singing birds in January and February, a well-documented phenomenon, including 2 on adjacent territories in Cookham Dean Jan 9th, and 2 others competing at Hell Corner Fm Jan 31st. **Breeding:** Successful breeding was restricted to young observed at Hell Corner Fm (LS), Snelsmore Com (NDOC), Frogmill,



Song Thrush by Helen Chadburn

Hurley (SJF; FMF), Broadmoor Bottom (DJB), Braywick (DJB) and at Cookham Dean where one juv was unfortunately taken by a Magpie (D Fry). **Non-Breeding:** Most other records were of ones and twos, or up to 6 spread out over larger sites although 5+ were together on the Maidenhead Ditch near Cookham on Jan 16th (DJB), 38 were counted at Twyford GPs on Feb 17th (BTB), 6 together at Wickham on Apr 16th (DR) and 7 at West Woodhay on Dec 29th (SG). Daily monitoring in a Twyford garden revealed singing on 14 days in April, 22 days in May and 8 in Jun (SPA). Another individual was in full song in Calcot on Christmas Eve (RCr).

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

A common winter visitor.

2000 Like the Fieldfare, birds were widespread throughout the county in both winter periods. However, numbers were lower with counts of 100 or more being reported from 6 locations in the first winter and 7 in the second winter. **First winter:** Flocks were most frequently reported in January with 100+ at Moatlands GP on Jan 1st (JA), 100+ Inkpen on Jan 8th (LS; GSt), c200 Tickleback Row on Jan 9th (DJB), 140 Burchett's Green on Jan 15th (PNe) and c200 Eversley GPs on Jan 15th (IHB). Further 3 figure counts occurred at Eversley GPs, with 133 on Feb 27th (IT) and 150 at Bowdown Woods on Mar 15th (GDS). Birds lingered at several sites in April, a party of 16 at Quarry Woods on Apr 2nd (BDC) included 1 singing bird, 1-2 were at Farnborough Down on Apr 10th (GDS), 1 Windsor Pk on Apr 12th (TBo) and finally 1 at Eversley GPs on Apr 22nd (IHB). **Second winter:** First reported on Sep 24th with 2 at Cockmarsh (BDC), further early records were received from this area with 1 at Cookham Rise on Oct 4th and 2 at Cookham Dean on Oct 5th increasing to 150 on Oct 6th (BDC). Numbers increased during November with 250 at Eversley GPs on Nov 4th (IHB), 100 at Strand Water on Nov 9th (BDC) and 100 at Hungerford Com on Nov 28th (LS; GSt). High counts continued into December with c200 at Winter Hill on Dec 21st (BDC), 320 at Kintbury on Dec 25th (DR) and 175 at Quarry Woods on Dec 27th (BDC).

2001 Like Fieldfare, birds were widespread in both winters although the average flock size was smaller. **First winter:** Counts of 100 or more were received from 8 locations; 100+ Englefield on Jan 1st (RCr), 150 Cookham Rise on Jan 6th (DJB), c140 Twyford GPs on Jan 7th (LJF), c200 Widbrook Com on Jan 12th (BDC), c100 Hurst on Jan 15th (DJB), 100+ West Woodhay on Jan 15th and Feb 27th (LS; GS), 125 Old Slade NR Jan 16th (BDC) and 100+ Hell Corner Fm Inkpen on Mar 9th (LS). Sub-song was heard at Bowsay Hill on Feb 14th (BDC) and full song was reported from Avington on Feb 18th (RGS) and Thatcham Marsh on Feb 27th (RGS). Nine were ringed at Wraysbury GPs on Jan 6th (RRG). Birds had departed by the end of March with 30+ at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen on Mar 28th (LS) and reports of 4 at Bray GP (MMc) and 3 at Woodlands Park (DJB) on Mar 29th the last records. **Second winter:** The first returning birds arrived in late Sep with 1 at Eversley GPs on Sep 25th (IHB), 5 south over Greenham Com on Sep 29th (IW; JL) and 1 Thatcham Marsh on Sep 30th (NDOC). Passage increased during Oct with heavy overnight passage occurring over Tilehurst on Oct 17th (MGM), 435 flying SW over the Maidenhead/Bray area on Oct 18th (CDRH), 110 south over Wishmoor on Oct 19th (DJB) and c100 Thatcham Marsh on Oct 28th (IW; JL). Later high counts involved 100+ at Wraysbury GPs on Nov 10th (RRG), 108 at Tyle Mill Padworth on Nov 21st (PDM) and c200 along the K&A Canal at Dreweats Lock on Nov 25th (IW; JL).

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

A common, possibly declining resident. (Amber listed)

2000 Spring/Breeding: Survey work from February to early April by BDC in the Cookham area, located 9 singing males and 1 occupied nest. Elsewhere 3 singing males were present at West Woodhay on Apr 2nd (LS; GSt). Breeding was confirmed at Calcot, 2ads 1juv on May 2nd (PRB); Greenham Com, family party on Jun 13th (GRW); Inkpen, 1ad 1juv on Jun 23rd (LS; GSt); Southcote, 1pr 4juvs on Jun 28th (PRB) and Bottom Lane floods where 5 adults and 11 juvs were present on Jul 13th (RCr). **Autumn:** The usual scattering of post breeding flocks involved 16 at Bray on Jul 23rd (RAn; JAn), 18 Inkpen Jul 29th (LS; GSt), c20 Home Pk Windsor throughout Aug (WAS) and 20 at Donnington Grove on Aug 27th (IW). One bird was guarding the berries on a Holly tree at Stanmore on Nov 7th (ICB).

2001 First winter: The only count to exceed 4 was 5 at Edgebarrow School Crowthorne on Feb 18th (IT). One was traditionally guarding Ivy berries from winter competitors in Brimpton Jan 17th with 2 there on Mar 18th (GEW). The first report of song came from Hell Corner Fm Mar 11th (LS). **Breeding:** Juveniles were recorded from the early date of Mar 18th with a recently-fledged bird at Green Park, Reading (PBT). 2 juvs were in a Hurley garden in mid Jun (SJF; FMF), 3 were noted at Eversley GPs Jun 17th (BMA) and evidence of a potential second brood was an adult carrying food Aug 1st on Crookham Com (JPM). Groups of 11 at Eversley GPs on Jun 17th (IT), 10 at Hell Corner Fm Jun 28th (LS) 8 Bray cricket pitch on Jul 19th (Ran; JAn) and 7 at Stanlake Meadow, Twyford on Jul 28th (NA) were either large family parties or the commencement of post-breeding gatherings. **Autumn/Second Winter:** Post breeding flocks were noted at West Woodhay with 28 on Jul 22nd increasing to 70 on Jul 26th (LS; GS). August flocks included 16 Cookham Dean on 2nd (BDC), 30 at Englefield on 7th (GJSu), 15 at Warfield on 9th (DJB), and 14 at Basildon Park on 19th (JLe). Other notable groups were 19 Emmer Green Sep 2nd (ABT), 13 Greenham Com Sep 29th (IW; JL), 13 at Hermitage Oct 5th (RF) and 17 at Eversley GPs Nov 4th (IHB). 1 bird was singing in very poor weather on Widbrook Com Nov 26th and 2 others the following day in Cookham Rise (BDC).

CETTIS WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

A scarce but increasing resident and rare passage migrant. (Schedule 1)

2000 Still confined to the Kennet Valley where records were received from 13 locations. Thatcham Marsh remains the species' stronghold with birds being reported there throughout the year. High counts of singing males at this site involved 8 on Mar 4th (DJB), 9 on Apr 21st (IW), 7 May 2nd (DJB) and 5 on Jun 27th (BDC). An estimated 14 males held territories during the breeding season (NDOC) and breeding was confirmed when a juvenile was ringed on Jul 2nd (IW; JL). Elsewhere birds were regular at Kintbury Cressbeds with 2prs present from Jan-Mar then reducing to 3 birds to the years end (RGS) and breeding was probable with 1 juv ringed in July (RGS). Single singing males were also reported from Bottom Lane Theale on Feb 27th (RJB), Copse Lock on Mar 10th (GDS), Hambridge Rd Newbury on Apr 8th (DJB), Apr 13th and 19th (SG), Hungerford Fishery on Apr 22nd (DR), Port Down Hungerford on Apr 22nd (DR), Hamstead Lock on Apr 24th, May 1st and 29th (IW; JL), Marsh Benham on May 13th (RF), Kintbury on Jun 29th (JD) and by the K&A Canal at Theale Main GP in late December (TABR).

2001 As usual, most (73) of the total number of records (91) came from 20 reedbed and wetland sites in the NDOC area between Aldermaston and Hungerford. Many reports

involved just single birds or occasionally two. The main site for the species continues to be the Thatcham Marsh area with peak counts of 15 singing on Apr 21st (JPM), 7 on May 19th (IW; JL) 8 later in the year on Oct 14th (NRG) and 14 (13 singing) on Oct 29th (DJB). Nearby up to 7 were heard in the Hambridge area Newbury on Apr 13th-14th (SG). Six from Bulls Lock to Thatcham Station on Apr 14th included 4 singing males and a pair greatly agitated by a Mink (JPM). A bird ringed at Thatcham on Aug 13th 2000 was recovered at Uskmouth in Gwent Oct 13th. **Breeding:** Juveniles were ringed at Kintbury Cress Beds in Jun and Jul (RGS) and another 5 juvs were ringed on Thatcham Marsh during Jul (NRG) An interesting ringing account came from Brimpton where a bird trapped and ringed having believed to be singing earlier turned out to have a brood patch, inviting the question from the observer (JPM) “do females sing?” [BWP states that females do sing occasionally]. With local movements and different count dates at different sites, it is difficult to assess overall numbers but there seems to have been as many as 33+ singing birds in April and May (NDOC). In M.Berks; singing birds were reported from 2 sites in the Burghfield GPs area. At Searle’s Lane GP 1 was singing on Apr 8th (JA) and May 15th (CDRH) and from Oct 13th (MW) to Nov 21st when 2 may have been present (RJB). Another was heard at Cottage Lane on May 13th-14th (ABT; PBT) increasing to 5 singing in the area on May 25th (ABT) and 1 was singing at Burghfield Mill GP on Oct 14th (BU).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

A scarce summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from only 4 locations involving 7 reeling males. First reported from Thatcham Marsh where 1 was reeling on Apr 18th to mid May with 2 reeling on Apr 30th (IW; JL) and May 13th (DJB). A bird ringed at this site on May 24th (IW) was the last report from Thatcham Marsh. After no records in 1999, reeling males were located at Wraysbury GPs with 1 on Apr 23rd (LJF; MJF) to May 20th (RRG) and 2 reeling there on Apr 25th (DHo) and Apr 29th (RRG). Elsewhere 2 were reeling on the downs near Streatley on May 6th (PH) and 1 was reeling at Eversley GPs on Jun 6th to Jun 16th (IHB). Breeding was not confirmed in what was the second consecutive poor year for this species in Berks. The Table below shows the number of reeling Grasshopper Warblers for the period 1990-2000 and shows how numbers can fluctuate from year to year. It should also be recognised that a proportion of these singing males were migrants and did not summer in the county.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Thatcham Marsh	1	8	4	0	1	2	1	4	1	0	2
Wraysbury GPs	2	1	0	0	0	12	8	4	3	0	2
Other Sites	7	11	10	9	6	6	10	15	12	6	3
All Sites	10	20	14	9	7	20	19	23	16	6	7

2001 A better year for this species with at least 14 birds being reported. **E Berks:** After 1 reeling at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 18th (JAS) numbers built up to at least 5 on Apr 28th and possibly 6 present during May (RRG et al) of which 5 were reeling on May 2nd, 4th (JAS) and 8th (JOB). Six were ringed at this site, the highest number caught since the 7 of 1996 (RRG). The last Wraysbury record was 3 on Jun 16th (RRG). Another bird was heard reeling at Horton GP Apr 26th (JAS) and at Wishmoor Bottom where a reeling bird was located Apr 26th (ABT; BTB) and was still present on May 5th (MW). **M.Berks:** A reeling bird arrived at Lavell’s Lake May 3rd (RAL et al) and was both seen and heard regularly until May 23rd (FC). However, 2 birds were reeling there on May 16th (BMA). Another bird was reeling nearby, by the R Loddon at Sandford Fm on Jul 4th

(MW) to Jul 15th (R Dawson). **W Berks:** The first encountered here was a reeling bird near Thatcham Marsh LNR which was caught and ringed Apr 28th (NRG) with further reports of reeling on May 6th, 19th and 27th (JPM; IW; JL). What was presumably a migrant was heard at Wellbottom Down near Lambourn on Aug 19th (GDS) and finally, another migrant was flushed twice from long grass near Brimpton on what turned out to be the last date for the year, Sep 1st (GEW).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A locally common summer visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Records were received from 27 locations, 12 in W Berks, 10 in M Berks and 5 in E Berks. **Spring:** Hosehill Lake hosted the first returning record with 1 singing on Apr 7th (BU), quickly followed by 1 singing at Moatlands GP on Apr 8th (MM). Sightings slowly increased until Apr 20th-22nd when a notable influx took place with high counts of 6 singing at Moatlands GP on Apr 20th (DJB), 15+ singing at Thatcham Marsh on Apr 21st (IW), 8 Brimpton GPs (JPM) and 25 at Wraysbury GPs (RRG) both on Apr 22nd. Numbers remained high during May-July with the largest counts coming from Thatcham Marsh, 14 ringed May 13th and 19 ringed including 12 juvs on Jul 2nd (IW; JL) and from Wraysbury GPs, 35 on May 20th and 20 on Jul 8th (RRG). **Breeding:** Evidence of breeding (the presence of juvs) was found at Brimpton GPs, Kintbury Cressbeds, Thatcham Marsh, Wraysbury and surprisingly the Berkshire Downs where after a singing male was located by the Ridgeway on May 5th (DJB), breeding was confirmed on Jul 17th (CDRH) some 180 metres above sea-level. However, on the negative side numbers in the west of the county were down on previous years (per NDOC) and ringing returns at Wraysbury GPs suggest a poor breeding season. **Autumn:** Birds continued to be seen into September with late birds at Brimpton GPs, 2 f/w on Sep 12th (JPM) and singles at Lower Fm GP on Sep 30th (JW; IW; JPM) and Oct 15th (BTi; JW) the latest date since 1 at Theale GPs on Oct 26th 1991.

2001 Spring: The first found was at Horton GP Mar 29th (JAS; CL) quickly followed by a flurry of single birds at six other locations in early April. Clearly, observers marked their first and early dates well as almost half of the total of 132 submissions were for April, with only a handful of reports for May, by which time distribution was fairly widespread. Higher counts in this period included 10 Hosehill Lake NR Apr 22nd (JA), 15+ singing Wraysbury GP Apr 28th (AVM), and the same number ringed at Thatcham Marsh LNR May 19th (NRG). A peak of 40 were ringed at Wraysbury GPs May 5th (RRG). **Breeding:** Proof of successful breeding was limited to the ringing of 7 juvs at Thatcham Marsh LNR during Jun (NRG), 2 very small young in a nest at Kintbury Cress Beds Jul 7th (RGS) but a juv ringed at this same site Sep 9th was probably a migrant as there were no records in Aug (RGS). An adult was seen carrying food to a nest site at Strand Water Jul 15th (BDC). At Wraysbury, numbers had dropped to 12 by Jun 9th when 9 were ringed, none of which were fledglings (RRG). Reports of birds using Maize crops came from three locations. The last of the year was a lone individual at Wraysbury GP Oct 8th (CDRH).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A locally common summer visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Records were received from 25 locations, 9 in W Berks, 8 in M and 8 in E Berks. **Spring:** First reported from Thatcham Marsh where 2-3 were singing on Apr 18th (GGS). This was followed by 2 singing at Old Slade STW on Apr 19th (DR) and

1 at Hosehill Lake on Apr 21st (MO) before the main influx from Apr 22nd. Birds were present in most areas of suitable habitat during May/June with high counts of 15+ singing at Thatcham Marsh on May 2nd (DJB), 8 at Thames Valley Park on May 5th and 9 there on Jun 26th (IT), 10 Hosehill Lake on May 14th and 29th (TGB), 10+ Brimpton GPs on Jun 6th (JPM) and 10+ territories at Old Slade STW on Jun 30th (DR). **Breeding:** This was confirmed at 4, possibly 5 sites. A nest with 1 egg was located at Brimpton GPs on Jun 14th and juvs were seen from Jul 15th (GEW). Juveniles were heard at Kintbury Cressbeds on Jun 24th and 18 juvs were ringed during July (RGS). The first juvs to be ringed at Thatcham Marsh was 4 on Jun 24th and of the 376 Reed Warblers to be trapped at this site during the summer, at least 79 were juvs (IW; JL). A pair bred by the R Lambourn at Great Shefford (RPr) and 9 juveniles trapped at Wraysbury GPs on Jul 29th (RRG) were probably of local origin. **Autumn:** Passage was in evidence from August to October with a peak from late Aug to mid Sep. At Wraysbury GPs 77 birds were trapped on Aug 26th (RRG) and 18 were caught at Thatcham Marsh on Sep 10th (IW; JL). Late records involved 1 at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 23rd (RRG), 6 ringed at Thatcham Marsh on Sep 24th (TW; JL), 1 Kintbury Cressbeds on Oct 8th (RGS) and finally 1 in streamside vegetation at Eton Wick on Oct 15th (TBo).

2001 Spring: The first two arrivals were both on Apr 19th, at Wraysbury GP (JAS) and at Hosehill Lake (BU; RCr). Birds were then found progressively at 30 locations across the county, including 8 singing at Lavell's Lake May 8th (PML), 20+ pairs at Hosehill Lake on May 20th (BU), 8 singing Bray GP Jun 1st (PNe) and 5 at Eversley GPs Jun 1st (IHB). Apart from the 20 pairs at Hosehill Lake, the largest numbers were found by the ringing groups. **Breeding and Ringing:** The NRG trapped 39 at Brimpton GP, including 1 originally ringed at South Stoke Oxon in 1994. At Thatcham Marsh, another 8 were caught and ringed, but it was not until Jun 30th that the first juv was ringed here. RGS ringed 3 at Kintbury Cress Beds, which did include 2 juvenile birds. Meanwhile, in M.Berks a family party was observed at Hosehill Lake on Aug 30th (LM) while in the east of the county, RRG trapped 16 autumn birds, out of a total of 42 processed at Wraysbury, and 59 at Great Meadow Pond. At Old Slade NR, near Poyle, DR had already reported low numbers prior to the complete desertion when the reedbed was drained in Jul. **Autumn:** A handful of birds could still be found at the end of September but by far the latest was a single at Thatcham Marsh on Oct 29th (DJB), the latest date ever recorded in the county.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Local but increasing resident in suitable heathland habitat, also a rare dispersing passage migrant and winter visitor. (Schedule 1 and Amber listed)

2000 With continuing mild winters this species has finally broken free from its SE Berks stronghold and is now showing signs of spreading into suitable habitat in W Berks. **First winter:** All reports were from the SE Berks heaths; *Broadmoor Bottom*; after a male on Jan 2nd (PJC), maximum counts involved 3 birds on Jan 9th (DJB) and Feb 13th (PJC). *Wishmoor*; 1 was located on Jan 9th (DJB), 2 on Feb 13th (PJC) and 3 on Feb 20th (DJB). *Caesars Camp*; again present in this area with 2 on Jan 27th (DJS) and singles on 4 dates in Feb (JOB; DJS; WAN). *Wildmoor Heath*; this under-watched site produced 2 records in Feb with 1 on the 6th (JOB) and a surprisingly high count of 7 on the 26th (DJS). **Spring/Summer:** In the Swinley Forest birds were regularly reported from Caesars Camp where 1 pair summered (DJS; WAN; JOB) and the Wishmoor/Broadmoor area, where survey work by PJC and DJB located 8 pairs or singing males. Breeding was

confirmed in Wishmoor Bottom when a female was observed feeding young on May 19th (DJB). Numbers at Wishmoor were down on the previous year and may have been due to excessive removal of scrub leading to lack of cover and to possible predation from the Great Grey Shrike that was present from Feb to the end of April. Elsewhere a pair was located at Butter Hill on Mar 17th (DJB) and 2 were present at Wildmoor Heath on May 6th (RCr). Exciting news was received from Greenham Com where after a male was located on Mar 16th (JPM) a pair was confirmed to be present in April and May (MO) and breeding was confirmed when the female was observed carrying food on May 16th (NC). **Autumn/Second winter:** Apparently most common in Wishmoor Bottom where high counts of 16 on Aug 28th (DJB), 8 Sep 3rd (BMA), 7 Oct 22nd and 10+ on Dec 15th (DJB) were made. Elsewhere 1 was reported near to Caesars Camp on Oct 8th (GR) and at Wildmoor Heath, 1 on Dec 10th (JOB) and 2 on Dec 17th (PJC). Away from the heaths, 1f/imm was reported in a Wokingham garden on Oct 21st (A Ford) and 1 was associating with a Stonechat at Kintbury on Dec 23rd to at least Dec 28th (AG). The table below shows the change in status that this species has undergone since 1990.

Year	1990	91	92	93	94	95	96*	97	98	99*	2000
No of occupied locations in spring/summer	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	3	6
No of territories	0	1	1	3	3	3	6	4	8	16	12
No of confirmed breeding pairs	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	7	2
No of occupied non breeding season locations	1	2	1	3	3	4	3	4	7	7	6
Min no of birds noted in non breeding season	1	3	2	7	5	10	6	5	37	30	36

* Indicates years when the species was comprehensively surveyed.

2001 The fortunes for Dartford Warblers continue to improve with records from 3 sites in W Berks and 7 in the East (4 in Swinley Forest). **First winter:** In W Berks the 2000 Kintbury individual was still present on Jan 1st (AG), 2 were present on Greenham Com on Jan 5th (JPM) and a male was reported from a site to the north of the R Kennet on Jan 6th (MJT). In E Berks, 10 were present in the Wishmoor/Broadmoor area on Jan 14th (DJB), a male was frequenting Caesars Camp on Feb 9th & 18th (DJS), 5 were located at Wishmoor Bottom on Feb 9th (DJB) & 18th (MW) and a pair were at Wildmoor Heath NR on the same day (IT). Away from the heaths, a male was located in Home Park Windsor on Feb 21st (WAS) **Breeding:** At least 1 pair bred on Greenham Com, 2 seen feeding 2 fledglings Jun 2nd (IW; JL). From casual records, a minimum of 2 males and 2 females were at Wishmoor Bottom but the heathland survey by DJB and PJC revealed 12 territories, 1 at Butter Hill, 1 Caesars Camp, 4 Broadmoor and 6 in Wishmoor Bottom where 2 pairs were feeding young on Jun 3rd (DJB). **Second winter:** Counts of 6 were made at Wishmoor Bottom on Oct 19th and Nov 2nd (DJB) and 8, mostly associating with Stonechats were there on Dec 16th (CDRH). Nearby 1 was reported from Wildmoor Heath NR on Nov 21st (MBu). Birds were still calling at Greenham Com on Dec 15th & 18th (GEW) whilst 1 was at Broadmoor Bottom Dec 16th (DJB). Away from these traditional sites, a male was found near Widbrook Com, Cookham Dec 1st (BDC et al) which stayed until the end of the month (MO).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Records were received from 35 locations, 15 in W Berks, 9 in M Berks and 11 in E

Berks. The table below shows the monthly status of this species with the number of known singing males shown in brackets.

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Number of known occupied sites	14	15	7	4	11	8
Minimum number of birds	16 (9)	21 (10)	19 (6)	5	60	28 (1)

Spring: Passage began in late April with 1 singing at Muddy Lane GP Thatcham on Apr 21st (IW; GRW) and was quickly followed by the main arrival from Apr 22nd into early May. In recent years this species has become scarce with most records involving just 1 bird. This year was no different, higher counts involved 3 at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 29th (PNe), 6 (5 trapped) there on May 6th and 9 (8 trapped) on Jun 17th (RRG). Two were present at Winkfield on May 30th (DF) and 3 territories were located at Eversley GPs (IHB). **Breeding:** Although there were several records involving juvs/1st winters in July and August, these probably refer to passage birds. The only report confirming local breeding came from Theale Main GP where an adult with 2 recently fledged juvs was seen on Jun 6th (TGB). **Autumn:** Passage was generally light throughout the county with counts of 1-3 birds at 17 sites including 1 singing at Theale Main GP on Sep 6th (RCr). However the ringing programme by RRG at Wraysbury GPs during Aug-Sep, produced a total of 62 birds trapped and ringed over 7 dates, with a high of 22 on Aug 5th and ending with 1 on Sep 30th. This bird and 1 at Lower Fm GP also on Sep 30th (JPM; IW; JW) were the latest departures since 1995.

2001 The first sighting was on Apr 17th at Wraysbury GP (JAS). After this, the 100 records for the year were evenly spread across the county, most from regularly-watched sites suggesting many will have gone un-noticed in other suitable habitat. 45 records came during April and May after which silent breeders and fewer migrants will have reduced sightings. **Breeding:** The only confirmed breeding records involved a family party at Theale Main GP (JLe) and recently fledged juvs at Warfield (DJB) both on Jul 31st. However 1 was seen with nest material at Hosehill Lake on the early date of Apr 26th (MR) and shows how quickly birds pair up and attempt breeding after arrival. Other reports of juvs came later (and must be presumed to be migrants) with 1 ringed at Brimpton on Aug 22nd (JPM) and several were among the 10 at Wraysbury GPs on Aug 25th and the 12 birds ringed there during Sep (RRG). Both totals were well down on previous years. The last was a juv at Crookham Com on Sep 20th (JPM).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

A common and widespread summer visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Spring/Summer: First reported on Apr 14th with a singing male at Eversley GPs (IHB) and 2 at Wraysbury GPs (CL). Further records occurred on Apr 16th at Thatcham Marsh (ICB) and Theale Main GP (RCr) and at Englefield on Apr 18th (RCr) before the main arrival from Apr 20th. From April to June birds were reported from 45 locations, 1-6 birds at 38 of these and higher counts of 10+ singing at Horton GPs on Apr 22nd (DJB), 21 singing Wraysbury GPs on Apr 29th (PNe), 25 there on May 6th (RRG) and 16 singing on Jun 25th (PNe). Nine were singing at Brimpton on May 1st and Jun 3rd (RCr), 8 singing at Wargrave Marsh on May 15th (DJB), 19 territories were located at Eversley GPs on Jun 1st (IHB), 8 singing on Aldworth Downs on Jun 3rd (BDC) and the species was reported as common at Slough SF during Apr-Jun (DJB). Breeding was only confirmed at Irish Hill where a family party was found on Jul 11th (AG). **Autumn:** Although passage

was in evidence throughout the county, it was in the east where the highest concentrations occurred. At Slough SF 30-40 were present on Aug 20th (DJB) whilst at Wraysbury GPs, c25 were noted on Aug 8th (RRG) and trapping by RRG resulted in 74 birds being ringed during Aug-Sep including 15 ringed on Sep 2nd. This site hosted the final record for the year with 1 ringed on Sep 23rd (RRG).

2001 The first of 158 records for the year was on Apr 3rd at Horton GPs (JAS) followed Apr 8th with singles at Eversley GPs and Thatcham Marsh. By the end of that month, sightings had been made at over 20 locations in East and M.Berks and 1-3 were reported along the R Kennet between Hamstead Marshall and Aldermaston by early May. The larger spring counts included 12 Wraysbury GPs on Apr 28th and 25+ there on May 12th (RRG), 6 singing along the K&A Canal at Woolhampton/Midgham on Apr 29th (RF), 15 Lavells Lake May 3rd (PML), 10 Wishmoor/Broadmoor May 6th (DJB). **Summer:** Numbers remained high at several locations with highs of 12 at Dorney W and 18 singing at Wraysbury GPs on Jun 24th (BDC). **Breeding:** Juveniles were noted at Frogmill Hurley (SJF; FMF), at 3 nests on Seven Barrows Lambourn (BDC), Bray GP (PNe), Lavell's Lake (PML), Twyford GPs (PML), Streatley (SPA), Woolhampton GP (JPM) and Brimpton GP (GEW; JPM). An adult was seen carrying a faecal sac at Strand Water on Jul 15th (BDC). **Autumn:** Two birds trapped at Wraysbury GPs had been ringed there in 1995 and 1996 respectively, an era in which about 4 times the number of Whitethroats used to be processed here (RRG). Groups of up to 6 in various places in August were probably family parties or migrants, including the 20 found around Wraysbury GP Aug 4th (RRG) and the 11 records in September which included the last, on the 22nd, at Brimpton GP (GEW).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Records were received from 37 locations, 20 in W Berks, 8 in M Berks and 9 in E Berks. **Spring:** First reported at Old Slade NR where a singing male was present on Apr 19th (DR). The main arrival occurred from Apr 21st into May with records coming from 28 sites during this period. Most reports involved 1-5 birds, the only higher count being 12 at Eversley GPs on Apr 24th (BMA). **Summer/Breeding:** Summering was confirmed at 18 sites with 16 territories at Eversley GPs on Jun 1st (IHB) being the highest count. Breeding was confirmed at 4 locations, at least 2 pairs bred at Woolhampton GPs (JPM), 1pr at Slough SF (RN), a pair with 1-2 young at Dinton Pastures CP on Jul 20th (SPA) and 4 adults and 1juv at Strand Water on Jul 21st (BDC). **Autumn:** The highest counts were received from Wraysbury GPs where the RRG logged 78 birds from Jul 29th to Sep 2nd of which 63 were ringed. Peak counts were 25 on both Jul 29th and Aug 5th and shows the early time of year that this species undertakes return passage. Only 3 September records were received, 4 were ringed at Wraysbury GPs (RRG) and 1 seen at Twyford GPs (BTB) both on Sep 2nd and 1 at Bray GP on Sep 11th (CDRH).

2001 Wraysbury GP provided the first sighting, on Apr 7th (JAS), a date beaten only in recent times by one on Apr 6th in 1998, (although there was an exceptional record of Mar 23rd 1975). Most spring sightings were of ones or twos but higher counts of singing birds involved 7 at Burghfield GPs Apr 29th (JA) 3 at Aldermaston May 3rd (JPM) and near Hamstead Lock on May 7th (IW; JL), 6+ Eversley GPs May 7th (BMA) and 5 at Bulls Lock, Thatcham May 19th (IW; JL). No less than 25 were counted at Wraysbury GPs May 19th (RRG). **Breeding:** The only likely successful breeding record was of a juv ringed at Brimpton GP Jul 9th (JPM). **Autumn:** Passage through Berks at this time can go by relatively

un-noticed. However, an impressive count of 40 was made at Wraysbury GPs on Aug 11th (RRG). Otherwise records were usually of just single birds. The last seen was a 1st year bird at Kintbury Cress Beds, ringed on Sep 9th by RGS.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common and widespread in summer and a regular winter visitor

2000 Winter: Records were received from 38 locations, 9 in W Berks, 14 in M Berks and 15 in E Berks. The winter distribution is as follows:

Areas of Berkshire	First winter - Jan – Mar 10th				Second winter - Nov – Dec			
	West	Mid	East	Total	West	Mid	East	Total
Minimum number of males	4	8	9	21	3	2	7	12
Minimum number of females	3	5	6	14	3	4	3	10
Minimum number birds not sexed	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2
Total	7	14	16	37	6	7	11	24

Nearly all records involved 1-2 birds, the exception being 3 (1m 2f) seen in a garden at Maidenhead Court throughout Feb (DF). These wintering Blackcaps were able to take advantage of several different varieties of food from ivy berries, apples and insects to fat balls, peanuts and bird seed. Wintering birds remain into early March overlapping with spring migrants; the latest report of a presumed wintering bird was in a Cookham Garden on Mar 21st (BDC). **Spring/Summer:** As both spring arrivals and winter departures sing at this time of year, it can be difficult to differentiate between the two. The first record of what was probably a spring migrant occurred on Mar 10th when a singing male was located at Marsh Benham (GDS). The main arrival was underway by Mar 20th and birds were widespread by the month's end. From April onward Blackcaps became common with high counts of 20+ regularly at Wraysbury GPs through Apr-May (RRG). There were 12 singing at Dinton Pastures CP on Apr 8th (IT), 9 singing at Burghfield GPs on Apr 29th (TGB), 12 singing at Eversley GPs on Jun 1st (IHB) and 10 singing at Braywick Pk on Jun 26th (BDC). **Autumn:** Ringing operations at Thatcham Marsh, Kintbury Cressbeds and Wraysbury GPs produced the highest counts with a total of 17 ringed over 3 dates at Thatcham (NRG), 15 ringed at Kintbury from Sep 10th-17th (RGS) and 201 ringed at Wraysbury GPs from Jul 15th to Sep 30th with a peak of 52 ringed on Sep 2nd (RRG). Elsewhere 12+ were noted at Theale Main GP on Sep 17th (RCr). October records were received from 7 localities, the latest being 1 at Kintbury Cressbeds on Oct 22nd (RGS). November heralded the return of wintering birds with 1 in a Caversham garden from Nov 1st-5th (J Roberts) the earliest and being quickly followed by a male in a Maidenhead garden on Nov 5th (BAJC).

2001 Throughout the year, 110 records came in from W Berks, 51 from M. Berks and 137 from East Berks. **First winter:** Up until mid March, a good number of records of over-wintering birds were received. The table shows the geographical and gender distribution during that period. It is difficult to be sure when migrants arrive, but assuming continental birds have left by the middle of March, there was a singing male in Bracknell Mar 23rd (DJS) which might have been the first, followed by 93 new arrivals recorded during April. Birds were noted utilising a variety of foodstuffs including apples, seed-feeders, berries of Ivy, Rowan, Elderberry, Cotoneaster, Honeysuckle and Holly, flowers of Mahonia and Cherry, and a beetle! **Breeding:** A pair was observed nesting in Blagrave Woods, whilst juvs were recorded at Hurley, Moor Copse, Brimpton GP (where 2 were ringed), Thatcham Marsh and Woolhampton GP (with up to 5 here). **Autumn:** Although

up to 50 were noted at Wraysbury GPs during August and September, only 37 were trapped and ringed. **Winter:** The distribution of birds recorded in December is shown in the table. The total of 20 is most likely a significant under-estimate.

Site	Jan		Feb		Mar		Dec	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
W Berks	2	4	4	5	5	1	2	2
M. Berks	2	2	0	3	4	3	4	5
E Berks	4	7	2	6	3	7	2	5
Totals	8	13	6	14	12	11	8	12

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce and decreasing passage migrant and summer visitor. (Amber listed)

2000 A slightly better showing than in 1999 (when there were just 2 records) with 7 records involving 10-11 birds. The first report involved a singing male at Bucklebury Com on Apr 24th (DJR) and was followed by 1 singing at Mill Pond in Swinley Forest on Apr 30th (WAN). Both birds were not reported subsequently so it can be presumed that they were migrants. Nineteen days elapsed before the next record, a singing male at a traditional site near to Rapley Lake on May 19th (DJB) and 20th (BTB; EN) quickly followed by 1 singing at Snelsmore Com on May 21st (MJT) to May 27th (IW). The final spring record involved a singing male and possibly a second bird at Poppy Hills on Jun 11th (DJB). Surprisingly there were 2 autumn records both on Aug 6th. At Snelsmore Com, 4 birds that were possibly juveniles were seen (IW; JL) and a 1st winter was ringed at West Woodhay Down (RGS), this points to a light passage occurring through W Berks at this time. The table below shows the spring/summer status of Wood Warblers since 1990:

	1990	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	2000
Number of singing males*	14	10	10	3	6	5	13	7	5	2	5
No of prs confirmed as breeding	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

* includes passage as well as territorial males

The table shows that numbers are in a slow decline with many traditional sites long since abandoned. However numbers were at low levels in the early nineteen eighties and recovered with at least 20 singing males reported in 1984. It is hoped that eventually the national decline will come to a halt and recover so that Wood Warblers will continue to sing in Berkshires woodlands.

2001 A woefully poor year with just a single sighting of this delightful bird by MGM at McIlroy Park, Tilehurst on Aug 28th. Perhaps a sign of the times.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

A common and widespread summer visitor and a scarce but increasing winter visitor.

2000 Winter: Birds were reported from 29 locations, 9 in W Berks, 9 in M Berks and 11 in E Berks. The winter distribution is shown in the table below:

Area of Berkshire	January - February				November - December			
	West	Mid	East	Total	West	Mid	East	Total
Number of sites	3	6	5	14	7	7	8	22
Minimum number of birds	3	7	6	16	7	7	12	26

As the table shows, nearly all records involved just 1 bird, the exceptions in the first winter being 2 at Burghfield GPs on Jan 1st (DKe) and 2 Wraysbury GPs on Jan 19th (CL). In the second winter, counts of 4 were reported from Wraysbury GPs on Nov 24th (CL) and 26th (CDRH) and 2 were present at Horton GPs on Nov 10th and Dec 29th (CL). **Spring:** With late wintering birds overlapping with spring migrants, the exact date of first arrivals can be unclear. This year there appeared to be an early return of spring migrants with 2 at Bottom Lane GPs Theale (RGB) and singles singing at Brimpton GPs (GEW) and Dinton Pastures CP (BTB) all on Mar 5th, birds being reported in increasing numbers after this date. There were 5 counts that exceeded 7 birds during this period, 8 were reported from Bottom Lane on Mar 18th (PNe), 21 at Wraysbury GPs on Mar 19th (DMo), 8 singing at Hungerford Marsh on Mar 25th (RGS), 7+ singing at Thatcham Marsh on Mar 26th and 13 at Dinton Pastures CP on Apr 8th (IT). High numbers were maintained throughout the summer with birds present in most areas of suitable habitat. **Autumn:** Passage began in late July and peaked in mid September. At Wraysbury GPs an exceptional influx occurred on Sep 9th when a c400 birds were present, 69 of which were ringed (RRG). Elsewhere the highest reported count was 10 at Dorney W on Sep 16th (CDRH). Passage continued into October, the last departing birds probably overlapping with early returning wintering birds between the dates of Oct 20th and Nov 4th. Ringing resulted in 8 ringed at Thatcham Marsh on Sep 17th (IW; JL), 38 were ringed at Kintbury Cressbeds between Jul 29th and the end of Sep (RGS) and 253 were trapped and ringed at Wraysbury GPs between Jul-Sep (RRG).

2001 A total of 286 records were received, almost exactly shared equally between the three sectors of the county. As with Blackcap, winter records continue to increase. The table below shows the distribution of birds in each month, however it must be stressed that this species is generally under recorded during the summer months. **First winter:** Most reports involved 1-3 birds the exception being 5 at Eton Wick on Jan 14th (CDRH). **Spring:** The sudden reduction in February records may suggest that birds present in January have moved on and that March records reflect genuine summer migrants arriving although foot and mouth restrictions could have had a distorting effect. If so, the first was on Mar 6th at Braywick (DJB) followed by 1 at Reading Mar 8th (MBu). Most of the remaining March arrivals came after the 19th. There were no significant spring gatherings; groups of 5 to 10 were spread out over some of the larger sites. **Autumn:** Ringing activity produced larger numbers with 30 ringed at Kintbury Cress Beds between Sep 1st and Nov 28th (RGS). Of the 13 trapped at Wraysbury GP in Jun, 10 were juvs (RRG), and although some 50 birds were present there in September, the 31 trapped that month compares to over 170 in the previous year (RRG). There was no obvious break in sightings during autumn and winter months. There was good correlation between birds recorded in Dec 2000 and Jan 2001.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks	2	-	17	47	14	11	16	17	51	11	7	1
M. Berks	4	2	17	17	3	1	-	18	27	12	4	6
E Berks	10	-	27	45	13	38	6	29	38	31	8	3
Totals	16	2	61	109	30	50	22	64	126	54	19	10

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

2000 Spring: Records began in late March when birds were reported from 7 localities the earliest being 1 at Eversley GPs on Mar 24th (IHB) and 1 singing at Bray GP on

Mar 25th (DJB). Birds were widespread by mid April with most sites holding 1-5 singing males. Higher counts involved 8 at Thatcham Marsh on Apr 8th (IW; JL), 10 Wraysbury GPs also on Apr 8th increasing to 40 on Apr 29th (RRG), 6 Dinton Pastures on Apr 14th (TGB), 9 Eversley GPs on Apr 21st (IT) and 9 at Wishmoor Bottom on May 21st (TGB). Of 24 ringed at Wraysbury GPs during April, no less than 21 were re-traps from previous years (RRG). **Summer:** Birds continued to be reported throughout the county, with the highest count being 40 at Wraysbury GPs on Jun 10th (RRG). The lack of breeding records is probably due to lack of coverage of this species breeding habitat at this time of year. **Autumn:** Passage was in evidence from late July onward. At Wraysbury GPs 20 were noted on Jul 29th (RRG) and numbers peaked on Sep 14th when c35 were present (WAS). Ninety four were ringed at Wraysbury during Aug-Sep (RRG). Elsewhere 10 were ringed at West Woodhay Down on Aug 6th (RGS) and 7 were at Datchet Com on Aug 26th (BDC). The last record involved a single at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 30th (RRG).

2001 A total of 175 records were received with 75% from West and E Berks and 25% from M.Berks, reflecting the availability of suitable habitat in each sector. The first arrival noted was 1 in song at Horton GP Mar 24th (JAS). This was followed by 8 other March birds at 4 other sites. Whilst regarded as an abundant summer visitor it is interesting that a breakdown of records by month reveals that few records were received for July (when adults are moulting):

Site	Apr	Apr	May	May	Jun	Jun	Jul	Jul	Aug	Aug	Sep	Sep
Weeks	1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4
Total Birds	59	92	41	20	40	22	1	15	42	19	17	1
Total Sites	29	21	10	7	6	9	1	4	3	8	6	1

By the end of April, some 100 birds or more had been detected, a number nowhere near replicated in subsequent months, even allowing for ringing records which account for many of the E Berks records in May/June and probably largely related to the level of observer interest in the species. Larger groupings included 7 singing Snelsmore Com on Apr 15th (JPM), 8 singing Widmead Lock Thatcham Marsh Apr 27th (JPM; MES), 20 Swinley Forest Apr 29th (JOB), 8 singing Crookham Com May 4th (JPM), 25 Wraysbury GP May 19th (RRG) and 18m Wishmoor Bottom on Jun 6th (BDC). **Breeding:** Song was recorded well into Jun at various sites but there were no confirmed breeding records. **Autumn:** A juv in a tit flock at Frogmill Hurley Aug 15th (SJF; FMF) and 1 ringed at Kintbury Cress Beds Aug 26th (RGS) are likely to have been migrants. The largest Aug count was 40 at Wraysbury GPs on Aug 11th (RRG). Several birds could be found in September including 7 at Brimpton on the 1st (GEW), 1 Hell Corner Fm on the 8th (LS), 2 Englefield on the 12th (RCr) and 1 Bray GP on the 12th (BDC). The last of all was at Brimpton GP Sep 21st (JPM).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

2000 Reported throughout the county, although scarce on the downland to the NW it is described as abundant by DJB in the Swinley Forest and neighbouring woodlands in SE Berks. Most records were of 1-7 birds with higher counts of 8 at Windsor Park on Jan 23rd (PNe), 9 Bisham Woods on Apr 1st (PNe) and 9 roosting together at Whiteknights Pk on Jun 9th (PG). Evidence of an autumn influx was provided by reports of 30 at Wraysbury GPs on Oct 14th (RRG), 12+ Thatcham Marsh on Oct 22nd (IW; JL), 12 Bagnor Cressbeds on Oct 29th (IW; JL), 12 Combe Wood on Nov 9th (ICB) and 13 Eversley GPs on Nov 12th

(BDC). Breeding was only confirmed at Inkpen (LS; GSt). An unusual observation involved 1 bird foraging in a grass field with 16 Long-tailed Tits on Jan 28th (GEW).

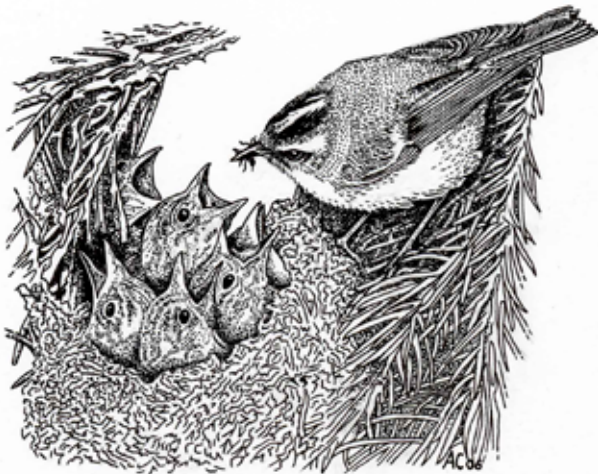
2001 Of the 89 records of this under-recorded species, 50% were from W Berks sites and 30% from E Berks. In Jan, birds were observed on garden feeders in 2 locations. The only double-figure counts of the year came from Horton GP Mar 27th with around 20 (JAS) and Englemere Pond Apr 8th with 10 (JOB), with the same number at Wraysbury GP Oct 6th (RRG). **Breeding** There was nest building in a Finchampstead garden (PML), a nest at Swinley Park (DJB) and a report of breeding at Hell Corner Fm (LS). The only juvs reported were 4 in a family party at Finchampstead Jun 6th (AFd), and 3 with ads at Datchet Com Jun 24th (BDC). 2 being fed in a Brimpton garden Aug 8th (GEW) were presumably a second brood. 6 were ringed in October at Kintbury Cress Beds (RGS).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Scarce summer, winter and passage migrant. (Schedule 1 and Amber listed)

2000 In what was a poor year for this species, only 3 records involving 3 birds were received. One visited a Crowthorne Garden on Feb 2nd (DJS), a migrant was found in a hedgerow on the Streatley Downs on Apr 8th (PND; DJB) and finally 1 was located in lakeside bushes at Theale Main GP on Dec 29th (KEM; MJS). There was no attempt to survey this species in the Swinley Forest this year, thus contributing to the low number of records.

2001 First winter: The 2000 Theale bird remained until Jan 3rd (BU) and a migrant was located at Horton GP on Mar 27th (JAS). **Summer:** At least 2 singing males were found at Wokefield Com during the period May 1st to Jul 31st (MGM). In E Berks, a survey of the forest lands by DJB located a total of 43 singing males or pairs (a total of national importance). This exceeded all previous records (the highest total of singing males being 16 in 1983). Breeding was confirmed at 3 sites and was probable at 5 others by the beginning of July (DJB) and at a further site on Jul 30th a pair were observed feeding a juv in the nest



*Firecrest by
Andrew Cowdell*

(CDRH; PES) while nearby another pair were feeding a fledged juv (CDRH); this appears to be the first sighting of young in the county and as such, the first proof of breeding success.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

A locally common summer visitor and passage migrant, which has shown signs of decline in recent years. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 50 locations, 20 in W Berks, 14 in M Berks and 16 in E Berks. The monthly distribution is shown in the table.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
W Berks, No of sites	5	14	4	7	2
W Berks, Min no of birds	10	19	8	37	2
M Berks, No of sites	3	1	4	4	5
M Berks, Min no of birds	3	1	27	29	5
E Berks, No of sites	6	8	1	2	3
E Berks, Min no of birds	9	8	6	3	4

Spring: An early report of 1 at Inkpen on May 1st (DR; MJSt) is the earliest record since 1996. A further report from Inkpen occurred on May 7th (LS; GSt) but it was not until May 13th that birds were reported elsewhere in the county with 1 at Winterbourne (MJT) and 2 singing at Sunninghill Pk (DJB), the main arrival appearing after this date. **Breeding:** Confirmed breeding records were received from Inkpen with a pair breeding in MJSt's garden and what was probably a different pair with young was located on Jul 16th (LS; GSt), 1pr bred at Radley Bottom (DR) and an adult was feeding 2 juvs at Burchett's Green on Jul 5th with 3ads and 3 juvs there on Jul 16th (PNe). A family party at Bagnor Cressbeds on Aug 20th (IW) were probably migrants. A pair failed when their nest was washed out at Beedon on Jul 5th (ICB). **Autumn:** There were several high counts, indicating good passage from late July through August. A party of 6 adults and 10 juvs visited Prospect Pk Reading on Jul 29th (JA) and was followed by c20 at Moor Copse Tidmarsh on Aug 7th (JLe), 15 Barton Court Kintbury on Aug 12th (AG) and 8 at Woolley Down on Aug 20th (GDS). Late records occurred on Sep 23rd with singles at Theale Main GP (MJS) and Great Shefford (RPr). Finally 1 was present at Eversley GPs on Sep 24th (IHB; GR).

2001 Records were received from 53 locations, 29 in W Berks, 12 in M Berks and 12 in E Berks. **Spring:** The first appeared at Dinton Pastures on the early date of Apr 29th (BTB) and was followed by a report from Bottom Lane Theale on May 4th (TABR) and a singing male at Surrey Hill on May 11th (DJB). Birds were fairly widespread by early June however no records reported more than 2 birds. **Summer:** Survey work in E Berks located 10 territories in Swinley Forest and 11 in Swinley Park (DJB). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at Streatley (SPA) Boxford (DR), Winterbourne, Woolley Down area, Snelsmore Com and Farnborough (all GDS), Ufton Nervet (BDC) and Bottom Lane, Theale (JLe). Family parties or juvs were also noted at Brimpton (GEW), Burghfield Mill GP (BU), Eton Wick/Dorney W (CDRH; MMc) and Arborfield (JAt) from mid August onwards and so could refer to migrants. **Autumn:** Passage began in August and an influx occurred from Aug 15th when 12 birds were reported from 5 localities including 5+ at Bottom Lane (JLe). Six were noted at Streatley on Aug 16th (SPA), 8 were at Finchampstead on Aug 20th (GR) and 10+ at Prospect Pk Reading on Aug 27th (JA). Passage had declined by Sep, 3 at Hungerford Trout Fm on Sep 6th (DR) being the highest count. The latest report involved a single at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen on Sep 21st (LS).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A scarce but annual passage migrant and a rare summer visitor.

2000 The run of poor years continues with, like 1999 only 2 records received, both in the spring. A male was present at Whiteknights Park on Apr 17th-18th (PG et al) and a female with a BTO ring on its left leg graced MJT's Winterbourne garden on Apr 21st. The table below shows the yearly status of this species since 1990 and the importance of Whiteknights Pk for spring migrants.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No of males in spring	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	2	1
No of females in spring	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
No of birds not sexed in spring	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of birds in summer	0	1pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of birds in autumn	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	0	0	0
Total no of records	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	3	2	2
Whiteknights Pk records only	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1

2001 Only a single bird in spring, found at Twyford GPs by BTB Apr 7th, and which stayed just until the following day (MO).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common and widespread resident.

2000 Counts exceeding 25 birds were reported from Wraysbury GPs where 50 were present on Jan 15th (RRG), 31 at Cookham Moor on Jun 7th (BDC), 28 at Lavells Lake on Jul 26th (BDC), 20-30 at Aldermaston GPs on Oct 5th (JPM), 50 Wraysbury GPs on Oct 14th (RRG), 30 Shurlock Row on Dec 17th (RAL) and c35 in 2 flocks at Thatcham Marsh on Dec 29th (IW; JL). An unusual report concerned 16 foraging in an open field at Brimpton on Jan 28th (GEW) and there were several garden records with 24 in RCr's Tilehurst garden on Oct 26th being the highest count. Nest building was first observed on Mar 4th at Brimpton GPs (GEW).

2001 For a widespread species, somewhat under-recorded, with just 91 reports received. The only breeding records were of nest-building on the early date of Feb 21st in Brimpton (GEW) and groups of 9 and 12 juvs respectively at Cookham Dean and Cookham Rise in June (BDC). Winter hunting parties included 14 at each of Windsor Home Park (TBo) and Bray GP (MMc) and 24 at Windsor Castle (TBo), all in Jan. Post breeding gatherings were mainly between 15 and 20 individuals (5 such records) but there were 40+ at Wraysbury GP on Aug 11th and 50+ on Oct 6th (RRG).

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

A locally common resident which has declined in recent years especially in Mid and E Berks. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 43 locations throughout the county. Although a better showing in E Berks, in the west only 34 occupied sites were found compared with 46 in 1999. **W Berks:** Most records involved 1-3 birds with higher counts of 4 reported from Kintbury on Jan 1st (DR), at a garden feeder at Kintbury Mill throughout Jan (DR), Bucklebury Com on Jun 11th (DJR) and in Combe Wood on Jul 19th (ICB). Breeding was



Marsh Tit – John Andrews

confirmed at Inkpen Com, a pair feeding young on Jun 15th (LS) and a pair with 3 juvs at W Berks GC on Jul 19th (ICB). **M. Berks:** Regularly reported only from Bottom Lane Theale with high counts of 3 on Jan 18th (BTB), 4 Mar 18th (PNe) and 3 Sep 6th (RCr) and from Moor Copse Tidmarsh where a maximum count of 3 occurred on Aug 6th (JLe). Singles at Theale Main GP on Apr 23rd (MW) and Aug 28th (RCr) probably refer to wandering birds from Bottom Lane. **E Berks:** All records came from an area from the NW to the SW of Maidenhead. One was located in Bisham Woods (PNe) and 2 at Warren Row (DJB) on Jan 8th, 1 was near Great Wood White Waltham on Mar 11th (DJB), 2 at Quarry Woods on Apr 2nd (BDC), 1 Pinkneys Green Brickworks on Apr 7th with 2 there on Sep 30th (BDC), 1 regularly visited a garden bird table in Shurlock Row from Oct 27th to the years end and nearby up to 3 were present in neighbouring woodland on Nov 16th (RAI).

2001 The spread of records reflects fairly well the distribution of the species with 52 sightings W Berks (28 Locations), 20 from M. Berks (7 sites) and just 1 record from each of 6 different sites in E Berks. A few records were received of birds using garden feeders in Twyford (LFo; VFo), Kintbury (DR) and Hell Corner Fm (LS). **Breeding:** The only record of successful breeding was 2ad and 1 juv at Walbury Hill Jul 23rd (BDC). The majority of records were of ones or twos but 6 at Moor Copse Sep 16th may also have indicated successful breeding. There were also 4 or 5 at Westrop Green, Cold Ash Dec 28th (DR). [Marsh Tit records are frequently a reflection of observer cover rather than the distribution of the species (Recorder).]

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

An uncommon resident in W Berks and scarce in M. Berks, and now appears absent from E Berks where the last record was in 1991. (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 17 locations, 16 in W Berks and 1 in M Berks, **W Berks:** Most counts were of 1-2 birds, the only higher counts were 3 at Bagnor Cressbeds on Feb

6th and Dec 12th (IW; JL) and 3 singing at Combe Wood on May 14th (IW; JL). Single singing males were also reported from Farnborough Down on Mar 10th (GDS), Thatcham Marsh on Mar 26th and Apr 30th (IW; JL), Bagnor Cressbeds on Apr 2nd (IW; JL), Greenham Com on Apr 16th (IW; JL), K&A Canal near Hamstead Lock on May 1st (IW; JL) and Hungerford Marsh on Jul 4th (RF). Breeding was confirmed at Woolhampton GPs where a family party of 1-2ads and 3-4juvs was found on Jun 15th (GEW). **M.Berks:** Reported from Bottom Lane where singles were noted on Jan 1st (RCr), Mar 3rd (BDC; RCr), Apr 23rd (RCr) and 2 there on Sep 17th (RCr).

2001 The scarcity of the species outside W Berkshire is reflected in the paucity of sightings, with a single bird at the only regular site in M.Berks, Bottom Lane, Theale on Feb 25th (KEM), song there on Mar 25th (JA) and 1 on May 5th (RCr; KS, KEM). In the west, 22 reports were not many, but they were spread over 16 different locations, mostly with ones and twos. However, 3 were at Snelsmore Com Apr 29th (JW) and also at Combe Hill Jul 31st (CDRH), and no less than 6 were counted at Sheepless Hill, Combe Wood Dec 28th (IW; JL). 1 was ringed at Brimpton GP Aug 22nd.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

A common resident in suitable habitat.

2000 Although scarce in the NW of the county, Coal Tits were frequently reported elsewhere and are the most numerous tit species in the Swinley Forest (DJB) where 40-50 were feeding on Beech mast at Wishmoor Cross on Dec 16th (PJC).

2001 The Berkshire Atlas indicated occupancy of 75% of all tetrads and a stable population in the early 90's. With only 54 records from just 18 sites, it is obvious that this species is under recorded, so difficult to assess the current status. However at least 5 family parties were noted in Swinley Park on Jun 23rd (DJB)

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

An abundant resident.

2000 The only counts to exceed 15 birds involved 20 juvs in a Crowthorne garden on Jul 16th (IT) and 18 at Strand Water on Jul 26th (BDC)

2001 No significant counts submitted this year, with 12 the highest number, at Larks Hill, Bracknell May 14th (JOB). The only unusual report was of a pair nesting in the Sand Martin bank at Hosehill LNR (BU).

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

An abundant resident

2000 The highest counts received were 16 at Strand Water on Aug 24th (BDC) and 15 in Bisham Woods on Sep 14th (BDC).

2001 Very few records submitted. In mixed feeding flocks tended to be less numerous than Blue Tit. One pair used a Tawny Owl nest box in Quarry Wood, Cookham for breeding (BDC).

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Common and widespread resident in suitable habitat

2000 Widely reported throughout the county with high counts of 17 in Windsor Great Park on Jan 23rd (PNe), 5 Combe Wood on Mar 4th (DJB), 4prs plus 5 calling in Quarry Woods on Apr 2nd (BDC) and 6 there on Sep 1st (BDC). **Breeding:** Was confirmed in Swinley Forest (DJB), Englemere Pond (JOB), Inkpen (LS; GSt) and was reported from Whiteknights Park (PG).

2001 Reported from many suitable woods, parklands and on garden feeders. 10 were counted in Bowsey Hill Woods in Feb (BDC) and a pair raised 5 young in a Crookham Com nest box, and were ringed (JPM). Breeding was also confirmed at Hosehill Lake (PG) and there were 4+ family parties in Swinley Park on Jun 9th (DJB). One was seen tussling with a Blue Tit high up in Quarry Wood, Cookham in March. Both birds were still interlocked when they collided with the ground and the struggle continued on the woodland floor for about 30 seconds (BDC).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Common woodland resident

2000 Records were received from throughout the county with most involving 1-3 birds. Higher counts were 4 at Bottom Lane on Jan 3rd (JA) and 5 at Windsor Great Park on Jan 23rd (PNe). **Breeding:** This probably took place at Pinkneys Green Brickworks, where a pair was observed nest building in a garage door frame on Apr 7th (BDC) and was confirmed at Brimpton where adults were feeding young in a garden sited nest box on Jun 17th (GEW). An adult was feeding a juv at Thames Valley Park on Jun 28th (IT).

2001 With 105 records from 45 sites, spread evenly across the county, this secretive species continues to hold the interest of observers. The only sites to record more than 3 birds were Bowsey Hill Wood with 4 on Feb 14th (BDC), Moor Copse with 5 Aug 28th, potentially a family party, (JLe) and 4 Pinkneys Green Wood Nov 14th (BDC). **Breeding** Birds were seen carrying nest material in Blgrave Woods Apr 15th (MJS), a family party was noted at Swinley Park on Jun 23rd (DJB) and 2 juvs were with adults at Dinton Pastures Jun 30th (MMi).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce winter visitor

2000 One found at Wishmoor Bottom on Feb 19th (PJC) was the only record this year. The bird was seen by MO as it remained in the area until Apr 29th (DJB; BTB; RCr) a stay of 70 days and the latest departure date recorded for Berks. The bird, a male, was even heard to sing on Apr 16th (DJB). The status of Great Grey Shrike since 1990 is shown in the table below.

Winter	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
No of birds in the Wishmoor/ Broadmoor area	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
Birds elsewhere in Berks	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	0
Total no of birds	1	1	1	2	2	5	0	0	0	2	1

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

A common resident and uncommon passage migrant, prone to occasional autumn influxes.

2000 Records were received from throughout the county, most involving 1-5 birds. Higher counts were 11 at Heath Lake on Mar 5th (IT), 6 Maidenhead Thicket on Apr 23rd (PNe), 6 at Wraysbury GPs on Jun 25th (PNe), 9 (2 family parties) in Quarry Woods on Sep 1st (BDC), 7 Bisham Woods on Sep 14th (BDC) and 10+ feeding on acorns at Home Pk Windsor on Nov 20th (TBo).

2001 Widely reported in groups of up to 4 or 5, especially when actively searching for and burying acorns in autumn. The largest count was of 7 at Wraysbury Apr 8th (PNe).

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Abundant resident

2000 One of our most familiar birds, Magpies have adapted well to 21st century living. Birds can be found throughout Berkshire in all habitats from downland to busy town centres. Most often seen in ones and twos, larger congregations have now become more regular. Counts of 15+ were reported from 5 locations, c40 were roosting at Twyford GPs on Jan 4th (DJW), 30 were present at Brimpton GPs on Feb 18th (GEW), 32 at Old Slade STW on Feb 24th (DR), 18 at Twyford GPs on Aug 18th (BDC), 18 at Caversham on Oct 14th (TGB) and 15+ at Muddy Lane GP on Dec 3rd (GJS). No counts were received from Slough SF this year, a site that has regularly held 40-60 birds in recent years.

2001 A total of 68 records were submitted, over half of which were from 1 site, Lower Fm GP (IW; JL) with a highest count of 7 on Sep 1st. Larger groups elsewhere included 15 at Larks Hill Jul 3rd (JOB), 18 Windsor Home Park Jan 12th (TBo) and 30 at each of Summerleaze GP Dec 23rd and Bisham Dec 27th (BDC). But the largest gathering by far was a roost of 65 at Ravenswood Meadow, Crowthorne Jan 7th (DJS). There were 60+ at Slough SF Jul 11th in 1998, but this latest group appears to be the highest county flock size recorded up to this time. (This record was broken twice however in 2002).

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Common resident

2000 Reported from throughout the county with counts of up to 100 birds regular. Higher counts involved 200 at Burchett's Green on Mar 11th (PNe), 350+ at Englefield on Aug 6th (RCr), c500 Tickleback Row on Oct 27th (DJB), several hundred in fields by Hurst Tip on Nov 1st (IT), c200 Burchett's Green on Nov 4th and Dec 17th (PNe), 138 Padworth Lane GP on Nov 10th (JPM) and c120 at Long Lane Cookham on Dec 22nd (BDC). No counts were received from the Smallmead landfill site, where this species is present in considerable numbers. (The now filled Wraysbury landfill, had counts of up to 5000 birds in the nineteen eighties). High numbers are resident in Windsor Great Park where the ancient oaks provide numerous nest sites.

2001 Apart from a small number of breeding records, including the use of buildings (LS) and ancient Birch (JPM), most accounts were of large gatherings, which seem to form in almost every month of the year. A flock of 300 was at Windsor Home Park on Jan 12th (TBo) and one of 350 was at Burchett's Green College of Agriculture on Feb 14th (BDC). 600 were at Newbury on Mar 7th (SG). Summer gatherings included 500 at

Knowl Hill in June (BDC) and a similar number at Freemans Marsh in July (BDC), whilst 700 were together at East Ilsley on Aug 14th (BDC). Winter flocks included 600 Bisham Dec 27th (BDC) and 1000 at Coles Fm, Bucklebury the following day (DR). No counts were received from the traditional Wraysbury or Baynes/Bowdown roost areas.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant resident

2000 Frequently encountered in the more open areas of rural Berkshire with counts regularly reaching 3 figures. There were 4 counts that exceeded 1000 birds, 1000+ were near Leckhamstead on Jan 16th (IW), c2000 at a pre-roost gathering on Greenham Com on Dec 1st (GEW), c2500 in fields by J13 of the M4 on Dec 2nd (RE Scott) and 2000+ on the Compton Downs on Dec 17th (RCr). **Breeding:** There were nest counts from 14 rookeries. In W Berks 36 were counted at Great Shefford (RPr), 30 by the K&A Canal Aldermaston (JPM), 8 at Inkpen (LS; GSt), 47 at Stanmore (DR), 117 nests at 4 rookeries in the Kintbury area (DR) and a new rookery was formed in Andover Rd Newbury with a max of 13 birds present (GRW). In E Berks there were 68 nests in 2 rookeries in Pinkneys Green (BDC), 40 at Home Pk Windsor (TBo), 30 at Furze Platt Maidenhead (BDC) and 3 at a new site at Old Slade NR (DR). This data represents only a small number of known rookeries in Berks, for instance, there was no count from the large rookery close to Dinton Pastures on the B3030.

2001 With only 25 records submitted, the number of Rookeries is significantly under-represented, in fact, only 5 being mentioned. High counts in the first winter included 300 at Field Barn Fm, Beenham Jan 25th (JPM) and 500 at Burchetts Green College of Agriculture Feb 14th (BDC). Later in the year, with flocks boosted by the young of the year, there were 750-1000 at Greenham Dec 27th (GJS) and a dramatic gathering of 1700 at Coles Fm, Bucklebury the following day (DR).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Abundant resident

2000 Few records were received of this familiar species. High counts came from Burchett's Green with 250 on Jan 15th, c300 on Mar 11th and c200 on Nov 4th (PNe); elsewhere 110 were present near Colnbrook on Aug 28th (DR). Data from the Berkshire Bird Index shows that Carrion Crows were present in 98.6% of the 1km squares surveyed in 2000.

2001 Over half the 75 records came again from Lower Fm GP (IW; JL). Large groups could be seen right up to the breeding season with some 200 at Burchett's Green College of Agriculture Feb 14th (BDC) and 230 at Colnbrook Meadows Apr 27th (DR). Flocking of juvs in autumn resulted in the highest count, with 550 at BGCA Nov 23rd (BDC). One was noted pecking the rump of a feeding Rabbit at Farnborough Down (GDS) but whether this was due to a sore patch or parasitic infection could not be determined.

CORVUS Sp.

2001 Apart from flocks included in the individual species accounts above, multi-species gatherings included 400 near Streatley in Feb, mainly Rooks and Jackdaws, with 600 there in Nov (SPA). But the most significant by far was an amazing roost of c10,000 Rooks and Jackdaws at Widmead Lock on the Kennet & Avon Canal, Thatcham Dec 7th (GEW) which must have been quite a spectacle.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Rare but increasing visitor.

2000 The run of records from the south west of the county continued in 2000. Two were flying NE over Combe Hill on Aug 29th (DJB) and what may have been the same birds were seen flying over this site on Sep 9th (AG).

2001 From the regular haunts around W Berks came 2 reports, 1 West Woodhay Jan 20th (LS; GS) and 2 near Combe Gibbet Aug 21st (CDRH). [Just over the border with Hants there were 2 on Beacon Hill Sep 16th (AG), who had noted 4 at the regular breeding site near Highclere, Hants on May 1st]. Away from this downland, 1 was over Brimpton GP Jul 26th (GEW) and another was recorded over Pingewood GPs Jul 29th (BMA; RJB).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident and abundant winter visitor which has declined in recent years (Red listed)

2000 First winter: Large numbers were present in the Theale area with c4000 roosting at Searle's Lane GP reedbeds on Jan 2nd (DJB; ENW), 12000+ at Moatlands GP on Jan 18th (RCr) and c8000 roosting at Theale Main GP on Feb 3rd (BU). Elsewhere the only flock to exceed 450 occurred at Strand Water where c500 were present on Feb 29th (BDC). **Second winter:** Up to 3000 had returned to the roost at Theale Main GP by Sep 24th (BU), otherwise counts were low with 2 flocks of 750 and 600 in the Cookham area on Nov 9th (BDC) being the highest.

2001 A total of 105 reports were received, mainly of flocks, with groups of 200 or more at Cookham, Wraysbury and Burchett's Green in both winter seasons. By far the largest flocks were 2000 to 3000 seen roosting at Theale Main Pit in both February and November (BU) and 2500 at Englefield (RCr). Nonetheless, this is a dramatic reduction on the 5-figure roosts of a decade ago. Juvs were first noted on May 5th (RGS) and an albino individual was reported from Wokingham SF Jun 4th-19th (DJB)). Reports of the mimicking capabilities of the species included imitation of Canada Goose, Skylark and Blackbird (TBo) and of 18 other clearly recognisable species including Pied Wagtail, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker, Cuckoo and Wigeon (BDC).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

A locally common though declining resident (Red listed)

2000 As in 1999 SPA monitored the numbers of House Sparrows visiting her Twyford garden. The monthly maxima are shown in the table:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	21	12	12	10	25	40	35	35	16	8	10

Analysis of the counts for the 2 years show that even in a garden where food is provided, the population, especially in winter, has shown signs of decline. Elsewhere a check of the Cookham Rise area on Feb 28th-29th, located up to 180 birds (BDC) and a thorough survey of College Town Sandhurst in May recorded a minimum of 128 singing males (DJS) (see article earlier in this report). Other relevant counts involved 40 at Pinkneys Green on Apr 1st (PNe), 40 Burchett's Green Jul 16th (PNe), c110 Lea Fm, Pinkneys Green on Sep 14th (BDC) and c80 at Summerleaze GP on Dec 14th (BDC).

2001 Reported from only 24 locations, mostly less than 20 per report. The biggest number was 55 spread over 4 separate gardens in Cookham Mar 19th (BDC). Again SPA monitored the population in her Twyford garden where the monthly maxima (shown in the table) were well down on those for 2000:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	7	10	7	8	12	20	12	12	10	8	7

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Formerly a locally common resident. Recent declines have changed its status to that of a rare visitor (Red listed)

2000 After no records in 1999, birds were reported from 2 areas in 2000. One was located at North Street, Beenham on Mar 25th (JOB; G Newport) and 3 were present at Old Slade STW on Aug 14th (DR), the first recorded there for 3 years at what was once a regular site for this species.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

2000 First winter: Counts exceeding 100 birds were reported from Brimpton, 100+ on Jan 1st (JPM); Eversley GPs, c100 Jan 5th (TGB), Cookham Rise, 350 Jan 26th and 300 Feb 11th (BDC) and Burchett's Green, 100 Mar 11th (PNe). **Second winter:** There were counts of c100 from Eversley GPs, Nov 18th (IHB); Wishmoor Cross, Dec 15th (DJB) and Cookham Rise, Dec 27th (BDC). The only count to exceed this was c150 at Hall Fm Arborfield on Dec 18th (DJB).

2001 The largest flocks in the first winter were 200 at White Place Fm, Cookham on Jan 12th (BDC) and 100 at Brimpton GP on Feb 11th (MW). In the second winter period, 230 were at Sheepdrove, Lambourn Sep 18th (JPB), c100 at Long Lane, Cookham on Nov 27th increasing to c300 on Dec 6th (BDC) and 100 at Slough SF on Dec 23rd (DJB). Ten were ringed at Wellington College (RRG). One trapped at Wraysbury had been ringed at the same site in April 1995 (RRG).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Annual winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers

2000 First winter/Spring passage: An increase was noted from the previous year with records received from 27 locations, 6 in W Berks, 10 in M Berks and 11 in E Berks. Most reports were of 1-50 birds, higher counts being 300+ at a West Woodhay corn dump on Jan 15th (LS), 200+ still present on Jan 18th (JPM), 100 at Ufton Green on Feb 25th (GEW) and 60 in the Swinley Forest on Apr 16th (WAN) a lower than usual number for this area in spring. There were 2 records in May, 1 in a Bracknell garden on May 2nd (WAN) and 1 near Caesars Camp on May 8th (DJB). A feature of this first winter period was the frequency of garden records. Birds were reported from 11 gardens in the south and east of the county with high counts of 20 in WAN's Bracknell garden on Feb 6th and Apr 2nd and at PHM's Wokingham garden where 50-60 were present from Feb 24th peaking at c100 on several dates in March. **Second winter:** Bramblings were almost absent during this period, 2 were

at Wishmoor Cross on Nov 5th (PJC) increasing to 10 there on Dec 15th (DJB) and 1 was located at Winterbourne on Dec 19th (MJT).

2001 A fairly typical year with more records in the second half than the first. **First winter:** Their scarcity in the 2000/01 winter continued with less than 20 birds in the county. Winter Hill had 6 on Jan 5th (BDC; J Lyford) and 1 was on Wishmoor Feb 10th (PJC). A female was at Holly Wood, Bucklebury on Mar 18th (PDM) whilst migrants in April included 2 at Broadmoor Bottom on the 8th (DJB), a male in a Crowthorne garden on the 17th-18th (BMA) and 2 at Wishmoor Bottom on 28th – the last of the season (DJB). **Second winter:** The first noted were 2 in fields between Eversley GPs and Longwater Lane on Oct 19th (GR) increasing to 50 by the 28th (JOB) and this group eventually grew to 100 by the end of Dec (GR et al), staying into 2002. A few counts of 1-3 birds were reported from a handful of other locations and higher counts were noted at Bray GP where 5 flew NW on Nov 11th (CDRH). 10 at Halfway near Kintbury on Dec 31st (AJP) completed the season.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident and winter visitor

2000 There were 4 counts of over 50 birds, those being 60 present at Sulham on Feb 13th (DML), c250 at Cold Harbour on Sep 15th-16th (DJB), c100 Pinkneys Green on Sep 30th (BDC) and 80+ on the Compton Downs on Dec 17th (RCr). Like most species associated with farmland, Greenfinches have shown signs of decline in recent years. The lack of winter stubble and cessation of growing crops such as Flax has diminished the amount of food available during the critical winter months thus causing flocks to become smaller and less frequently encountered. It is hoped that new farming stewardship schemes may reverse this trend.

2001 First Winter The largest flocks were 30 Bagnor Cress Beds on Jan 7th (IW), 25 at each of Swinley Brick Pits on Feb 5th (DJS) and Cookham Rise on Mar 19th (BDC), 60 at Lower Denford on Apr 15th (RGS) and 25 at Eversley GPs on Apr 25th (RJB). **Second Winter** By Oct 7th, 50 had gathered at Englefield (RCr) and 110 were counted at Remenham Hill Oct 25th (DJB).

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Common and widespread resident

2000 A good year with numerous records of flocks of up to 50 birds. Counts exceeding 50 involved 50-60 at Brimpton on Jan 1st (JPM), 80+ Burghfield GPs on Jan 4th (JA), 65 at Twyford on Jan 27th, 100+ there on Feb 9th and 109 on Mar 3rd (SPA), 57 at BMA's Crowthorne garden on Jan 29th increasing to 60-70 during Feb-Mar (BMA), 60 Eversley GPs on Mar 1st (BMA), 80 West Woodhay on Mar 31st (LS), c80 Widbrook Com on Aug 24th (BDC) and c100 at Strand Water on Sep 10th (BDC).

2001 First winter: The largest flocks were reported from gardens with up to 60 in BMA's Crowthorne garden throughout Jan-Feb and counts of 40+ on Jan 1st, 60 on Feb 12th and 50+ on Mar 20th in SPA's Twyford garden. **Autumn/Second winter:** Post breeding flocks were encountered from Aug 18th when 50-60 were present on Greenham Com (IW; JL) with 40 still there on Sep 6th (JPM). At Pingewood GPs, 70+ were noted on Aug 21st

(RCr) and 60+ there on Oct 10th (BU), 50 were mobbing a Sparrowhawk at Woolhampton GPs on Sep 1st (SG), 40 still present there on Sep 14th (JPM) and 75+ were at Field Fm GP on Sep 23rd (BU). After the high count of c100 on Combe Hill on Oct 13th (DJB) flock sizes decreased, with 40 at Strand Water on Dec 6th (BDC), the only count to exceed 35 in Nov-Dec.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce summer resident.

2000 Jan/Feb: Reported throughout the county at this time, usually in flocks of up to 50 birds. Larger flocks involved 150 at Brimpton GPs on Jan 12th (GEW), 120 Eversley GPs on Jan 15th (JMC) and Feb 19th (IHB), 80 Lavells Lake on Jan 28th (DJB) and c100 at Bottom Lane, Theale on Feb 5th (DJB). **Mar/Apr:** 130 were present at Bottom Lane on Mar 2nd (RCr). Otherwise the highest concentration of birds were to be found in Swinley Forest where c200 were located at Caesars Camp on Mar 17th (DJB), and c100 were noted on Apr 2nd (WAN) and Apr 7th (DJB). Siskins were abundant in the Wishmoor area on Apr 20th (DJB) but by the month's end most birds had moved on. It was during this period that the first evidence of breeding was observed, a pair collecting nest material at Wishmoor on Mar 12th (DJB). **May/Jun:** Most reports came from Swinley Forest. A pair was located at Wishmoor on May 6th (RCr) and was followed by confirmed breeding records at Surrey Hill where 1 ad 2 juvs were seen on May 19th (DJB), 11 inc 5+ juvs at Wishmoor on May 21st (TGB) and 14 inc several juvs there on Jun 7th (DJB) who also located 2 juvs at Caesars Camp and 1 pr with 4 juvs on the Devils Highway the same day. Elsewhere 2 were at Woolhampton GPs on May 23rd (JPM) and a juv visited SPA's Twyford garden on May 29th. **Sep/Oct:** Returning birds were first reported on Sep 13th when 15 visited the Thames Valley Park (IT) and was followed by 1 at Greenham Com on Sep 23rd (IW; JL). Numbers began to build during Oct with high counts of c30 at Bagnor on Oct 14th (MJT) and Theale Main GP on Oct 21st (MJS). **Nov/Dec:** Siskins were fairly widespread during this period with high counts of 170+ in 3 flocks at Bottom Lane on Nov 19th (JA) and 100 at Eversley GPs on Dec 23rd (IHB).

2001 Of the 200 reports, 50% were from east of the county. **First winter:** Only a quarter of W Berks records came in this period, mainly of 10 or less, but in February there were 20 at Bagnor Cress Beds (IW; JL) and 25 at Dunn Mill (RGS). M.Berks flocks included 100 at Bottom Lane on Jan 1st (RCr) and c50 at Burghfield GPs on Jan 31st (BAJC) and Feb 3rd (MJT). Further east, there were around 50 at Strand Water on Jan 5th (BDC), at Eversley GPs on Jan 22nd (JJW), at Ashley Hill on Feb 14th (BDC) and at Swinley Brick Pits on Feb 23rd (DJB). A high garden count involved 20-30 at Crowthorne on several dates during March (BMA). There were far fewer records in April with 1 in a Crowthorne garden on the 1st (IT) and 2 at Tilehurst on the 3rd (JLe). However, it is in April that numbers of migrant birds peak in Swinley Forest with counts of 100+ in the Caesars Camp area on the 13th and 150+ in the Wishmoor area on the 20th (DJB). **Summer/Breeding:** The only records received were all from SE Berks where breeding was confirmed 4 locations, 3 in Swinley Forest (DJB) and 1 in Swinley Park (DJB; PES). **Second winter:** Records of returning birds commenced Sep 18th with 3 at Sheepdrove (JPB), and was followed by counts of 50 at Wishmoor on Oct 14th (BMA), 30+ at Bottom Lane, Theale on Oct 21st (MJS) and Hosehill Lake on Oct 28th (BU). A flock of some 80 birds took up residence at Thatcham Marsh from Oct 28th to at least Dec 30th (NRG), c50 were noted at Bagnor Cressbeds on Nov 18th (IW; JL) and a possible influx occurred in mid Dec when 40 appeared at

Twyford GPs on Dec 16th (BTB), 30+ Bottom Lane also on Dec 16th (JA), 50+ along the Emmbrook in Wokingham on Dec 17th (DJB) and 50 at Eversley GPs on Dec 19th (JD).

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common though declining resident and winter visitor (Red listed).

2000 First winter: Although widespread, counts exceeding 100 birds came from just 4 locations with 200 at Eversley GPs on Jan 5th (TGB), c200 Brockhampton Down on Feb 26th (DJB), 200 Englefield throughout March, increasing to 250+ on Apr 5th (RCr) and 100+ Compton Downs on Apr 6th (ICB) and Apr 8th (DJB). **Summer:** Under reported during this period. At least 30 pairs were present on Greenham Com on May 8th and Jun 2nd (DJB). Other records at this time were generally of 1-2 pairs. **Autumn/Second winter:** Large flocks were more frequently reported. Flocking began in Aug with c200 at Aldworth on Aug 19th (MO). In Sep 150 were present on stubble at Cold Harbour on Sep 15th-16th (DJB) and 200+ on Weathercock Hill Lambourn on Sep 22nd (DJB). Greenham Com hosted 100 on Oct 4th (GEW) and the Cold Harbour flock had increased to 200 on Oct 20th (DJB). A reduction in numbers was noted in Nov-Dec but 100+ were to be found at Cookham Rise on Dec 18th (DJB) and Rack Marsh Bagnor on Dec 30th (IW; JL).

2001 First winter: Several groups of 25-50 were reported with higher counts of 100 near Summerleaze GP Jan 5th (LM), 150 at Thames Valley Park also Jan 5th (IT), 120+ near Furze Platt, Maidenhead on Jan 8th increasing to c300 by Jan 17th (DJB) and 250 at Cold Harbour Feb 8th (DJB). **Summer:** A few reports of single figures but 50 were on Crookham Com Jun 4th including 1 pair mating, and juvs were noted there by mid July (JPM) and 75+ were at Woodlands Pk on Jun 8th (DJB). The only other breeding records were of 2 nests at Hosehill Lake in May (BU) and 2 juvs netted at Wraysbury GP (RRG). **Second winter:** Post-breeding flocks included 150 Crookham Com Aug 23rd (JPM), 100+ on rape at Farnborough on Aug 29th (GDS) and 300 Greenham Com Sep 12th (MBu). Winter visitors contributed to flocks of 100+ at Englefield on Oct 9th increasing to 140+ on Oct 30th (RCr), 120 at Compton Nov 15th (JPM), 90+ at Field Fm GP on Nov 17th (BU), c300 near Brimpton GP Nov 19th (GEW) and 120 at Heath Lake on Dec 13th (IT).

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce in summer (Amber listed)

2000 The monthly distribution and status is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites	25	10	12	9	2	1	0	0	0	3	11	9
Minimum no of birds	178	40	133	875	31	1	0	0	0	17	63	206

First winter/Passage: Records were received from 36 locations throughout the county with most reports in Jan-Feb being of 1-15 birds. Higher counts involved 20 at Dinton Pastures CP on Jan 5th (BTB), 20 Brimpton GPs on Jan 12th (GEW) and 40 at Eversley GPs on Jan 15th (IHB; IT). Through March and April birds began to leave their wintering sites. However, flock sizes began to increase in Swinley Forest where birds took advantage of a good cone crop. Numbers in the forest increased from late March with 50 noted in the Wishmoor area on Mar 20th (BDC; CL). In April several flocks of 100+ were reported with c100 at Surrey Hill on Apr 7th (DJB), c150 Broadmoor danger area on Apr 16th (PJC; DJB)

and at least 500 in the Wishmoor area on Apr 20th (DJB). Numbers then declined although 100 were still present on Apr 30th (WAN). **Summer:** Passage was still evident in early May with 30+ at Wishmoor on May 6th (RCr; KEM). After this date birds became almost absent from Swinley Forest, the only reports being 1 at Wishmoor Cross on May 13th and 1 flying over Caesars Camp on Jun 18th (DJB). There were no reports elsewhere. **Autumn passage/ Second winter:** Records were received from only 14 locations throughout the county with the first returning birds noted in Oct when 10 were present at Eversley GPs on Oct 14th (GR), 1 ringed at Kintbury Cressbeds on Oct 26th (RGS) and 6 at Brimpton GPs on Oct 28th (GEW). Flock sizes in Nov-Dec were generally below 25, the exceptions being 30 at Brimpton GPs on Dec 15th-26th (GEW), 50 Eversley GPs on Dec 16th (IHB), 30 Twyford GPs on Dec 31st (BTB) and 80 at Bottom Lane Theale also on Dec 31st (PNe).

2001 First winter: There were January flocks of 30 at Bottom Lane on 6th (MW) and 26th (LJF), 10 Brimpton GP on 7th (GEW) and 30 at Burghfield GPs on 20th (MW). February saw 20+ at Burghfield GPs on 3rd (MJT) and c30 at Eversley GPs on 8th (DJS). **Spring:** Passage birds created larger gatherings in the SE of the county including 200 in the Caesar's Camp area Apr 13th (DJB), 70+ at Wishmoor on Apr 21st (RCr) with 150 at Whitmoor Bog on the same day (DJB) and 90 along the Devils Highway on May 4th (DJB). Elsewhere the highest count involved 30 in 2 flocks at Snelsmore Com on Apr 15th (JPM). Birds were last seen on May 8th when 10+ were present at Wishmoor (DJB). **Second winter:** After 1 flying over Twyford on Sep 29th (SPA), single figure counts were made at 20 locations but the only larger groups were 10 at Wishmoor Bottom on Oct 19th (DJB) and 50 at Eversley GPs Nov 10th (IHB).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

A regular visitor which is prone to seasonal influxes, breeds irregularly (Schedule 1)

2000 Birds from the 1999 influx persisted into 2000. Reports came from several sites throughout the county as follows: **W Berks:** Present at Cold Ash where birds were reported on 4 dates from Jan-Mar with a maximum of 4 on Jan 15th and Mar 10th (RF) and 11 on Apr 28th (RF). Elsewhere a male was reported at Upper Bucklebury on Apr 24th (M Storey per RF). **M. Berks:** A party of 5 including 2 males were present at the Decoy Heath/Valentine Wood area on Jan 2nd (DJB; ENW) and 3 at Aldermaston on Feb 13th (DKe) may refer to this area. **E Berks:** Most records were for Swinley Forest where Crossbills were regularly encountered from January to June with most reports being of 1-20 birds. Higher numbers involved c100 on Mar 12th (WAN), 23 on May 19th (DJB) and 30 on May 21st (WAN). Singing males were encountered during this time from Caesars Camp (DJS), Wishmoor (BDC) and Rapley (DJS). Breeding was confirmed when a newly fledged juv was being fed by a male at Wishmoor on Apr 16th (DJB) and further sightings of 3 juvs at Wishmoor on Apr 27th (CDRH) and 1juv there on May 21st (BMA; TGB), 2+ juvs at Upper Star Post on May 19th (DJB), several juvs at Caesars Camp on May 21st (WAN) and 3 there on Jun 7th (DJB). Crossbills began to leave Swinley Forest during June, the only later records being 15 at the Lookout on Jul 2nd (DJW) and 1 over Broadmoor Bottom on Dec 30th (DJB). Elsewhere birds were noted at South Ascot, 3 on Jan 28th (PES); Wildmoor Heath, 5 on Feb 4th (DJW) and 4 Mar 5th (BAJC); Cookham Dean, 1 over on Mar 10th (BDC) and Crowthorne where 2 flew over on Apr 15th and 7 over on Oct 25th (PJC).

2001 W Berks: Reported from 2 possibly 3 sites; 1 flying over Weathercock Hill Lambourn on Jun 18th (CDRH) was followed by an unconfirmed report of 12 at Cold Ash during Aug (per RAL) and lastly 2 heard at Upper Bucklebury on Dec 19th (RF). **E Berks:** Birds were

reported from 8 localities 4 of which were in Swinley Forest. After a report of 1 at Cookham Rise on Jan 13th (M Gostling per BDC) all records to the end of June came from Swinley Forest where birds were reported from Broadmoor Bottom, 1 on Feb 18th, 2 Apr 8th (DJB); Upper Star Post, 6 on May 4th, 8 May 30th (DJB); Lower Star Post, 4 on May 11th, 12 May 24th (DJB) and the Wishmoor area where birds were regularly seen by MO with highs of 4 on Feb 18th (MW), 6 on Apr 14th (PJC), 12 on Apr 29th (JOB) and 6 on Jun 3rd (JOB). Breeding was confirmed when juvs were noted within the flock of 12 at Lower Star Post on May 24th (DJB). The last record from this area occurred on Jun 29th with 1 over Wishmoor (DJB). Elsewhere 2 were located in Windsor Forest on Jul 20th and 1+ there Jul 23rd (CDRH), 2-3 were in Swinley Forest on Jul 30th (CDRH), 6 over Crowthorne on Aug 2nd (MGM) and finally 1 over PJC's Crowthorne garden on Aug 5th (PJC).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident that has declined in recent years (Red listed).

2000 Widely reported throughout the county with records from 82 locations, 31 in W Berks, 21 M Berks and 30 in E Berks. As normal, most counts were of 1-2 birds with few counts exceeding 8 birds. They were 8+ by the R Loddon at Hurst Jan 19th (DF; DJW), 14 (10m 4f) Thatcham Marsh Mar 4th (DJB) and 11 at Crookham Com Dec 14th (BDC). Breeding was confirmed at Aldermaston GPs (JPM), Ascot (DCa), Bottom Lane Theale (RCr), Cookham Dean (BDC), Inkpen Com (LS), South Reading (MBu), Thatcham Marsh (IW; JL) and Twyford GPs (DJB). Ringing at Wraysbury GPs by RRG included 11 birds trapped and ringed during Sep (RRG).

2001 There were over 220 records across the county, but no evidence of winter influxes, and no double figure counts. With a species that seems to pair for life, most sightings of 2 birds (46) involved a male and a female, with just 6 records of either 2 males or 2 females. Reports of more than 5 were 6 at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 1st, 7 Oct 6th and 8 Nov 24th (RRG), 8 were at Lavell's Lake Sep 13th (MW). **Breeding:** Juvs were reported from Brimpton and Woolhampton, each with 2 (JPM), 3 at Theale Main Pit (RJB) and 4 at Maidenhead Thicket (BDC). A pair was observed nesting at Hosehill Lake on May 12th (BU).

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Now a rare and declining resident, formerly more widespread (Amber listed)

2000 The only evidence of this species was of one at an E Berks site where CDRH located recently split cherry stones on Jul 20th.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

A Locally common, though declining resident and winter visitor (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from 59 locations, 33 in W Berks, 9 in M Berks and 17 in E Berks. The monthly site distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	4	3	5	13	12	9	2	4	0	1	1	3
M.Berks sites	1	2	2	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
E Berks sites	3	4	5	4	4	1	3	2	2	4	2	4
Minimum number of birds reported	31	174	92	91	49	41	16	37	30	18	12	128

The lack of W Berks records for Jul-Nov, probably reflects the lack of coverage that existed in areas such as the Downs at this time of year. **Winter:** Flock sizes during this period were usually below 20 birds. Counts exceeding 20 were c110 feeding on Maize at East Garston on Feb 26th (DJB), 40 Jealott's Hill during March (PJC), 24 Widbrook Com on Aug 24th (BDC), 33 Cookham Rise on Dec 6th (BDC) and 35+ at Warfield on Dec 27th (DJS). **Breeding:** Singing males were reported from 22 locations with the highest concentrations occurring on the Compton Downs where 30-40 (many singing) were present on Apr 8th (DJB) and 11 singing at Brimpton on Jun 3rd (RCr). But breeding was only confirmed at Beedon where an adult was observed feeding young on Jul 5th (ICB).

2001 The 136 reports were mainly from east and west Berks, with just 13 records from the middle of the county. **First winter:** Generally, numbers were disappointing, the highest counts being; 40 at Larks Hill Warfield all Jan (DJS), 60 Cookham Rise Jan 24th (BDC), 40 Pinkneys Green Jan 27th (PNe) and 30 Eversley GPs on Feb 8th (DJS). **Summer:** Song was heard at 19 locations, the largest concentration being 20 singing along the Ridgeway from Aldworth to Blewbury Down on Jun 24th (DJB). The only accounts of juvs were from Cold Harbour, 1 on Jul 3rd (DJB) and Streatley Warren, 1pr with 1juv on Aug 30 (SPA). A male known to be breeding nearby was ringed at Brimpton GP in June (JPM). **Second winter:** Flock-wise, the picture was even less inspiring, the only double-figure counts being 10 Eversley GPs on Oct 14th (JOB), 50 Larks Hill Nov 18th (M Sales), 40 Cookham Rise Nov 27th (BDC) and 26 Strand Water on Dec 1 (BDC)

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Locally common though declining resident and winter visitor (Red listed).

2000 Records were received from 60 locations, 24 in W Berks, 16 in M Berks and 20 in E Berks. The monthly site distribution is as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	3	4	6	11	8	8	2	3	3	3	0	3
M.Berks sites	0	3	7	7	5	6	5	1	3	1	1	1
E Berks sites	7	8	8	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	1	7
Minimum number of birds reported	27	53	122	72	71	47	24	18	21	27	2	143

First winter: Numbers were fairly low during Jan-Feb, higher counts occurred in March with 20 at Jealott's Hill during Mar (PJC) and 59 at Brimpton GPs on Mar 3rd (GEW). Unusually 5 visited a Crowthorne garden on Jan 29th with 4 there in Mar-Apr (BMA). **Spring/Summer:** Singing males were reported from 24 locations. High counts were received from Hosehill Lake where 12 pairs were present on May 18th (BAJC), 6 territories were located at Eversley GPs on Jun 1st (IHB), 6 were singing at Thatcham Marsh on Jun 10th (IW; JL) and at Woolhampton GPs on Jun 23rd (JPM). Breeding was confirmed at Brimpton GPs (GEW), Englefield (RCr), Strand Water (BDC), Woolhampton GPs (JPM) and Wraysbury GPs (RRG). **Autumn/Second winter:** Numbers were low through Aug-Nov, the maximum count being 15 at Brimpton GPs on Oct 1st (JPM). However an influx occurred in December with 20+ at Woolhampton GPs on Dec 14th-26th (JPM), 40+ Englefield on Dec 15th (RCr), c20 Wishmoor Cross on Dec 15th (DJB), 20 Wraysbury GPs on Dec 26th (PNe) and c20 Cookham Rise on Dec 27th (BDC).

2001 Slightly more reports (149) than for the more common Yellowhammer, with a fair number of roost counts. **First winter:** Several small flocks were reported; larger counts involved 60 at Woolhampton GPs on Jan 14th (RCr; RRG), 20 at Englefield on Jan 14th

(RCr), 20 along the Maidenhead Ditch on Jan 17th (DJB), 32 at Hosehill Lake on Feb 15th (BU) and 30 at Brimpton GP on Feb 18th (GEW). **Spring/Summer:** Although reported in small numbers at many wetland sites, the only count of significance came from Brimpton GP where 18 (15m, 3f) were noted on Apr 7th (JPM). Breeding occurred at Brimpton where 6 juvs were seen on Aug 9th (JPM) but there were no confirmed records from elsewhere. **Autumn/Second winter:** The only double-figure counts were: 10 Brimpton GP Sep 28th (JPM), 12 Englefield Oct 20th (RCr) and 27 Cookham Rise on Nov 27th (BDC).

CORN BUNTING *Malaria calandra*

Locally common but declining resident (Red listed)

2000 Records were received from an encouraging 27 locations, 18 in W Berks, 1 in M. Berks and 8 in E Berks. **W Berks:** Corn Buntings are only to be found on the downland to the north of the Kennet Valley. During the first winter sizable flocks were located at Upper Lambourn, 64 on Jan 21st (BTB) and Farnborough Down, 62 on Feb 13th (GDS). Smaller flocks of up to 25 were reported from a further 4 sites. In spring singing males were present at 9 sites, most numbering up to 5 birds but with higher concentrations at Superity Fm Compton where 12 males were located on Mar 12th (IW; JL), Park Fm Down Lambourn where 10+ were singing on May 16th (DJB) and along the Ridgeway north of Compton where 8 were singing on Jun 10th (DJB). Second winter numbers were low (lack of observer coverage?) with 10 on the Compton Downs on Dec 17th (RCr) the highest count. **M. Berks:** Only reported from Englefield where 2 were singing on Apr 23rd (PH) to at least May 31st (RCr) with 1 singing to Jul 20th (RCr). Breeding was confirmed at this site when a juvenile was located on May 29th (RCr). **E Berks:** Apart from a singing male at Eton Wick on Apr 24th (TBo), all records came from an area to the north and west of Maidenhead and are as follows: Summerleaze GP; 2 on Feb 15th and 2 Aug 24th (DJB), Cold Harbour; 7 (5 singing) on Feb 19th (DJB), 6 Mar 4th (EN), 4 singing Apr 30th (DF), 3 singing throughout May, 7 Jun 15th, 1 Jul 31st, 4 Aug 4th and 25 Oct 19th (DJB), Littlewick Green; 1 on Mar 4th and 1 May 29th (PNe), White Waltham SF; 2 singing on Mar 14th (DJB), Shurlock Row; 1pr on May 4th and 1 on May 12th-31st (RAI), Remenham Hill; 2 on May 16th (EN), White Waltham Airfield; 1 singing Jun 5th (DJW). It is clear from the records above that in mid and E Berks perhaps the only viable population left is in the Cold Harbour/White Waltham area. It is hoped that this population will persist for the foreseeable future.

2001 E Berks: The small and declining population centred at Cold Harbour attracted many observers, with song first reported on Mar 5th increasing to 8 singing on May 27th (DJB). Breeding was confirmed on Jul 3rd when of the 12 birds present 1 was carrying food (DJB). Elsewhere, singles were singing at Woodlands Park on Mar 29th to Jun 8th with a pair there on Apr 24th (DJB), 1 sang at White Waltham airfield Jun 5th with 1-2 there on Nov 7th (DJB), 2 were singing at Eton Wick Apr 15th (TBo) and 2 were present on Nov 14th (DJB), 1 Knowl Hill on Apr 13th (PNe), a male at Littlewick Green on Jun 29th (PNe) and finally 3 were located at Remenham Hill on Nov 3rd (DJB). **W Berks:** The Downs naturally featured in most records, the largest gathering being 40 at Farnborough Down Mar 5th (GDS). More flocks could be found in the second winter with 30 at Aldworth on Oct 9th (CDRH), 12 near Lambourn Oct 28th (RRK) and 21 at Bury Down Nov 23rd (MW).

REPORTS OF SPECIES CONSIDERED TO BE ESCAPES

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

2000 One Lower Fm GP from Feb 6th regularly to Nov 11th (IW; JL) with 2 there on Sep 7th (RCr; MW) to Sep 16th (MO), 2 Muddy Lane GP Feb 24th (GGS) and Mar 19th (GJS), 1 on the Kennet at Kintbury on Feb 27th, May 22nd and Aug 15th (MO), 2 Hosehill Lake on Mar 17th (TM) and 1 on Oct 28th (MR; MW), 1 on RThames at Wargrave during Apr (RAi), 2 Donnington Grove on Apr 29th (IW), 1 Great Shefford all May (RPr), 1 Padworth Lane GP May 11th (JPM), 1 RThames at Caversham Jun 14th and 30th (TGB), 2 Wraybury GPs Oct 28th (LM) to 31st (CDRH), 1 RThames at Eton Nov 20th (DJW) and 1 over Crookham Com on Nov 21st (JPM)

2001 One was on the K&A canal at West Mills, Newbury Mar 21st (RGS) and may have been the same as 1 at Kintbury Mar 23rd (JD). A Mute Swan had teamed up with 1 at Thatcham Marsh GP Apr 22nd (RGS) and 1 was recorded on the RThames at Windsor later that month (MMc) and again there in November (LM). Other single birds were at Wraybury GPs Apr 28th (AVM), Eversley GPs May 4th (IHB) and Lower Fm GP Jul 1st (IW; JL; RF).

CHINESE (SWAN) GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

2000 One on the R Kennet at Padworth on Oct 22nd, Oct 30th, Dec 30th and Dec 31st (JPM).

2001 One was at Padworth Lane GP Apr 8th (JLe), having stayed over in the area from 2000. It was also seen there Oct 31st and Dec 14th (JPM)

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

2000 One Hosehill Lake on Jun 22nd (RCr), Jul 24th (CDRH; RCr) and Jul 25th (LM).

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

2000 One Summerleaze GP Jan 10th (LM) to Apr 21st (BDC), 3 Tickleback Row Feb 10th (DJB), 5 Eversley GPs Feb 21st, 2 there Mar 15th (IHB) and 6 on Nov 4th-12th (MO), 3 Hungerford Park Feb 28th and 1 Apr 26th (JD), 1 West Woodhay Lake on Mar 4th and Apr 1st (RGS), 1 Padworth Lane GP Mar 19th-22nd (RCr; JPM), 1 Hosehill Lake Mar 19th and Apr 18th (TABR), 1 Home Fm Hungerford Mar 23rd (RGS), 1 Kintbury Cressbeds Mar 27th (RGS), 1 Bottom Lane floods Apr 4th (RCr) to Apr 23rd (TABR), 1 Cranemoor Lake Apr 19th and 3 on May 5th (MR), 3 Twyford GPs Aug 19th (EN) and 27th (CDRH), 1 Hurst Tip Aug 27th (BDC), 1 Cockmarsh Sep 11th (BDC), Sep 26th (CDRH) and Dec 21st (BDC) and 1 Thames Valley Pk on Nov 8th (IT).

2001 In Mid and E Berks, a roaming group of 6 birds were reported from Eversley GPs in January and the Theale area in August (RCr). What were probably a different 3 were at Summerleaze, Cockmarsh and Bray sites in April, August, September and December (MO) and probably the same party was at Twyford GPs Aug 7th (CDRH). In the West of the county, 2 were at Lower Fm GP Jan 1st and Jun 10th, whilst 3 were present Dec 18th. Singles were reported at Marsh Benham May 28th and at Padworth Lane GP Aug 12th. (MO)

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

2000 Pair Windsor Park on Feb 9th (DF; DJW) and Mar 11th (TBo), 3 Moatlands GP on Jul 10th (TABR), 1 female Dorney W Aug 10th (DJB) to Aug 14th (CDRH) and 1 Wrybury GPs on Dec 30th (CDRH).

2001 A bird seen grazing by The Long Walk in Windsor on Feb 18th was probably the same bird seen by the R Thames in Windsor on Feb 21st (both TBo). One seen on Rose Kiln Lane floods on May 1st (PBT) was thought to be an escapee from the nearby brewery collection. A female bird was at Woolhampton GP on Jun 13th (JPM).

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Localised introduced species.

2000 One drake Warfield Lake on Jun 1st (DJB) and 5 (2m 3f) at Whiteknights Pk Lake on Dec 29th (MBu).

2001 Whiteknights Lake and Maiden Erleigh Lake were the only sites from which reports were received. The only sighting at Maiden Erleigh was of 5 birds on Mar 26th (PG). A male and a female were seen at Whiteknights Park, Reading in April, October and November (MBu) and there was a count of 9 on Oct 10th (PG).

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

2000 The usual 2 at Lavells Lake in Mar (LM) and Apr (BDC). One Hosehill Lake on Jul 25th (LM).

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*

2000 One Whiteknights Lake on Apr 9th (PG), 1f Burghfield GPs Apr 22nd (TGB) and 1f Green Park Reading on May 17th (CDRH), all records probably refer to the same individual.

CHILOE WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix*

2000 One Burghfield GPs on Dec 30th (TGB)

2001 One was at Burghfield GPs Feb 5th (CDRH), probably the Dec 2000 bird.

CHESTNUT TEAL *Anas castanea*

2000 A female at Ruscombe on May 24th and Jun 3rd (CDRH)

CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera*

2000 One Lower Fm GP on Oct 1st (RF)

2001 A male consorted with a male Shoveler at Fobney Water meadows May 21st (CDRH)

CAPE TEAL *Anas capensis*

2001 One was discovered at East Ilsley in both May and June (CDRH)

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

2000 One Wraysbury on Jan 26th (CDRH)

2001 One flew over Cockmarsh Aug 31st (BDC) and another was at Moatlands GP at a much more typical time of Sep 11th (CDRH) who observes that most of his dozen or so records for the species have been during this month.

NANDAY (BLACK-HOODED) PARAKEET *Nandayus nenday*

2000 Two Compton on Aug 2nd (CDRH). This species could be found living ferally in Windsor Park 20 years ago.

WHITE-CAPPED WATER REDSTART *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

2000 One at Rowdown Fm Peasemore on Aug 19th (IW; JL)

ZEBRA FINCH *Taeniopygia guttata*

2000 One Cold Ash on May 15th (RF)

ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL *Estrilda melpoda*

2001 Meadow Brook School in Warfield hosted 1 on Jul 13th (DJB)

REPORTS OF HYBRIDS

GOOSE Sp.

2001 A possible hybrid was with Barnacle/Snow Goose flock at Eversley GP Nov 11th (PBT). Described as being small size and with orange legs probably excludes Snow Goose. Bill small and grey red, nape dark grey and a dark cap with a suggestion of a bar behind the eye - some Bar-headed Goose influence?

GREYLAG × CANADA GOOSE

2000 One Dinton Pastures CP on Mar 4th and Apr 1st (LM)

CANADA × BARNACLE GOOSE

2000 One Dorney Wetlands Aug 17th-18th (CDRH).

2001 One Bottom Lane GP Theale May 22nd (CDRH)

BAHAMA PINTAIL × WOOD DUCK

2001 Two together at Whistley Mill GP Twyford Jul 19th (CDRH)

RED CRESTED POCHARD × GADWALL

2000 One Field Fm GP Jul 25th (CDRH).

Aythya Hybrids

TUFTED × POCHARD

2000 A male Brimpton GPs Mar 19th (GEW) resembling Lesser Scaup and a male Twyford GPs Apr 21st (DJB; ENW) and May 3rd (DJB) resembling Ring-necked Duck.

2001 Female Eversley GPs May 9th (CDRH) and a Scaup-type male Wraysbury GPs Oct 16th which was presumed to be the same distinctive individual seen there in Oct 1992 (CDRH). A male of the Lesser Scaup type was at Bray GP Nov 23rd (CDRH).

FERRUGINOUS HYBRID

2000 Male Old Slade GP Aug 28th which moved to Heron Lake, Wraysbury Aug 30th had no evidence of Pochard or Tufted and was possibly 75% Ferruginous (CDRH). (See article following in this report).

GLAUCOUS × HERRING GULL

2000 A first winter was at QMR on Jan 21st and Apr 20th (CDRH)

2001 An imm was in the QMR roost on Jan 16th (CDRH)

A PERPLEXING 'FERRUGINOUS-TYPE' HYBRID IN EAST BERKSHIRE

By Chris Heard

In recent years many Berkshire birders have had the opportunity to observe one or more Ferruginous Duck hybrids (of Pochard×Ferruginous parentage). But a rather more confusing hybrid in August 2000 deserves further discussion.

The puzzle started on the 27th August. I was standing by the roadside at the northern end of Wraysbury Reservoir, chatting with Andrew Moon, when a flock of about 25 Pochard flew over from the north. This was a bit odd, because there was not much *Aythya* habitat in that direction, but more interesting - in retrospect - was a smaller duck with white wing-bars in amongst them, which we assumed was a Tufted Duck.

I wasn't consciously looking for that duck, but the following day (the 28th) found me at Old Slade NR (a couple of miles NNE of Wraysbury Reservoir) where I located a Ferruginous-type duck, with a flock of about 40 Pochard. It was small and dainty, with white eyes and white undertail-coverts, but it was also notably a *very dark* brown - showing comparatively little chestnut tone to the body plumage. I was also worried by the rather small bill and rounded head-shape, but there was no evidence of any Pochard features - so I phoned it out (via Birdline South East) as a "Ferruginous Duck or hybrid". There was no sign of it the following day, but I then relocated it at Wraysbury GPs (on 30th). A few other observers saw it this time but it departed overnight and has not been reported since.

Description

Small size obvious - no larger than the smallest Tufted (direct comparison on 30/8). Bill structure similar to Tufted, head-shape also similar but evenly rounded with no hint of a crest - not even a bump (head feathering was immaculate, so not an effect of moult).

Head & neck dark brown - the colour of 'Bournville Plain' chocolate - the head with a slight purplish gloss in bright sunlight. Breast slightly browner and flanks dark chestnut; small area of blackish-brown lateral tail-coverts, in front of white undertail-coverts - the typical Ferruginous Duck pattern but perhaps not as sharply defined as usual. Belly area whitish (clearly demarcated) and undertail-coverts snow white. Mantle, rump and (sharply pointed) tail all brownish black; tertials blackish with a slight greenish gloss; upperwing dark with clear, all-white wing-bar; underwing extensively white.

Eyes: white. Bill: dark grey with subtly paler subterminal band and blackish tip (slightly more than nail - but normal extent for female/immature Ferruginous). Legs/feet: dark grey.

Discussion

This duck - more than any other *aythya* hybrid that I have seen in the past 30 years - serves to emphasize Keith Vinicombe's words (in *Brit. Birds* 93: 4-21) that: "An apparent Ferruginous Duck should always be checked for signs of hybridity and, if it shows ANY anomalous feature, no matter how small, it should not be claimed as such."

On most of the traditional identification criteria this bird was a pretty good fit for a Ferruginous Duck: small size, white eyes, white undertail-coverts, white wing-bar and a bill-pattern unlike Pochard or Tufted Duck. It also bore a strong resemblance to a published photo of a Ferruginous Duck (by Tom Ennis, on page 4 of the 2000 booklet edition of the BOU British List). However, the atypical head/bill structure and the very dark head & body coloration clearly indicated a hybrid (although undoubtedly with a high percentage of Ferruginous Duck). The most frequent of the Ferruginous hybrids - the Pochard×Ferruginous Duck (so-called 'Paget's Pochard') - is very unlikely as I have seen several of these, and studied many photos, and the anomalous features of this bird were in fact the *opposite* of what might be expected from that parentage. The Tufted×Ferruginous Duck cross usually produces a Baer's Pochard-like hybrid which, in published photos at least (eg 'A study of certain *Aythya* hybrids' in the Wildfowl Trust's 17th Annual Report; E. & B. Gillham's 'Hybrid Ducks' book), looks quite distinctive due to its obvious crest, blackish breast etc.

Another possibility is that it was an escaped hybrid between Ferruginous Duck and some other *Aythya* species. But nothing about its behaviour suggested a captive origin and its apparent arrival with Pochard and prompt departure does suggest a wild origin. Perhaps it was a naturally occurring back-cross between a Ferruginous Duck and a Ferruginous hybrid.

There have been about 30 records of Ferruginous Duck in Berkshire, up to 2003, but assessment has been rather uneven. Between 1958 and 1968 Ferruginous Duck records were judged by the British Birds Rarities Committee, but BBRC then dropped the species because of a perceived problem of escapes. Locally, I am only aware of two obvious escapes in recent years: a drake on the Thames at Marlow in Feb 1994 - which came to bread and as a result found itself hooked by a fisherman! (pers obs) and a long-staying drake present on the Jubilee River from Dec 2005 to April 2007 at least - which was also attracted by the offer of 'food'. Ferruginous Duck was reinstated as a BBRC rarity between 1999 and 2005 and, significantly, the three Ferruginous accepted for Berkshire during this period were outnumbered by at least four Ferruginous hybrids.

Appendix

As mentioned above, the vast majority of Ferruginous hybrids involve the Pochard×Ferruginous cross; the following guidelines should help in their detection:

Some features characteristic of FERRUGINOUS×POCHARD hybrids.

- 1 **Size** - Ferruginous Duck is the smallest *aythya* on the British List (and females average smaller than drakes) so if the bird is approaching Pochard in size it is likely to be a hybrid.
- 2 **Upperwing** - A definite grey or brownish tone to the wingbar is wrong for pure Ferruginous, as is a white trailing edge to the secondaries (a Pochard characteristic).
- 3 **Undertail** - Restricted white on the under-tail coverts or dark tips to some of these feathers is worrying (although *juvenile* Ferruginous may have dark marks in this area).
- 4 **Bill-pattern** - A broad black tip and/or prominent pale subterminal band is never shown by adult drake Ferruginous (but females & immatures may show it to a lesser extent).
- 5 **Flanks & mantle** - A definite demarcation between the breast and flank coloration is characteristic of the hybrid, as is a similar tone on the mantle (true Ferruginous has a much darker mantle/back).

First Dates of Arrival and Departure

2000 Summer

SPECIES	ARRIVAL		DEPARTURES	
Hobby	Apr 22	QMR	DJB	Oct 11 QMR JAS
Stone Curlew	Mar 31	The Downs	RCr	Sep 8 The Downs SPA,PA
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 11	Lower Fm GP	IW,JL	Sep 13 Horton GP CDRH
Ringed Plover	Feb 19	Lower Fm GP	IW,JL	Sep 21 Slough SF CDRH
Common Tern	Apr 9	Woolhampton GP	DKe	Oct 2 Wraysbury GPs CDRH
Turtle Dove	Apr 22	Bottom Lane Theale	PH	Sep 24 QMR CDRH
Cuckoo	Apr 16	Several Sites	MO	Aug 12 Lambourn Downs RPr
Nightjar	May 9	Mortimer	RCr	Jul 31 Padworth Com GEW
Swift	Apr 16	Bray GP	PNe	Sep 12 Romney Lock WAS
Sand Martin	Mar 10	Woolhampton GP	NRa	Oct 10 Inkpen LS,GS
Swallow	Mar 26	Hosehill Lake	RJB	Oct 31 QMR JAS
House Martin	Apr 3	Theale GPs Twyford GPs	RCr BTB	Nov 18 Sandhurst RJG
Tree Pipit	Apr 8	Lower Fm GP	DJB	Sep 3 Wishmoor BMA
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 15	Padworth Lane GP	RCr	Nov 10 Beenham JPM
Nightingale	Apr 7	Thatcham Lakes	GGs	Jul 31 Hosehill Lake BU
Redstart	Apr 13	Cox Green Maidenhead	DJW	Sep 9 Wraysbury GPs RRG Walbury Hill AG
Whinchat	Apr 22	Great Shefford	RPr	Oct 8 Eversley GPs BMA
Wheatear	Mar 13	QMR Snelsmore Com	CL RC	Oct 19 QMR JAS
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 18	Thatcham Marsh	IW,JL	Jun 16 Eversley GPs IHB
Sedge Warbler	Apr 7	Hosehill Lake	BU	Oct 15 Lower Fm GP JW,BTi
Reed Warbler	Apr 18	Thatcham Marsh	GGs	Oct 15 Eton Wick TBo
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 21	Muddy Lane GP	IW,GRW	Sep 30 Wraysbury GPs RRG Lower Fm GP JPM,IW,JW
Whitethroat	Apr 14	Eversley GPs Wraysbury GPs	IHB CL	Sep 23 Wraysbury GPs RRG
Garden Warbler	Apr 19	Old Slade GP	DR	Sep 11 Bray GPs CDRH
Blackcap	Mar 10	Marsh Benham	GDS	Oct 22 Kintbury Cressbeds RGS
Wood Warbler	Apr 24	Bucklebury Com	DJR	Aug 6 West Woodhay Down RGS Snelsmore Com IW,JL
Chiffchaff	Mar 5	Several Sites	MO	<i>Wintered</i>
Willow Warbler	Mar 24	Eversley GPs	IHB	Sep 30 Wraysbury GPs RRG
Spotted Flycatcher	May 1	Inkpen	DR,MJst	Sep 24 Eversley GPs GR,IHB

2000 Winter

SPECIES	ARRIVAL		DEPARTURES	
Goldeneye	Oct 28	Hosehill Lake	MR,MW	May 19 Dinton Pastures IT
Smew	Nov 23	Twyford GPs	IT	Mar 20 Wraysbury GPs RRG,CDRH
Goosander	Sep 2	Wraysbury GPs	RRG	Apr 15 Eversley GPs IHB
Golden Plover	Aug 12	Lower Fm GP	MJD	Apr 23 Lower Fm GP BJE,IW
Jack Snipe	Sept 22	Burghfield Mill GP	TABR	Apr 22 Lower Fm GP IW,JL,HMG
Snipe	Aug 8	Muddy Lane GP	GJS	Apr 22 Lower Fm GP MO
Fieldfare	Oct 31	Kintbury Cressbeds	RGS	Apr 17 Home Pk Windsor TBo
Redwing	Sep 24	Cockmarsh	BDC	Apr 22 Eversley GPs IHB
Brambling	Nov 5	Wishmoor Cross	PJC	May 8 Caesars Camp DJB

Siskin	Sep 13	Thames Valley Park	IT		<i>Summered</i>	
Lesser Redpoll	Oct 14	Eversley GPs	GR	Jun 18	Caesars Camp	DJB

2001 Summer

SPECIES

ARRIVAL

DEPARTURES

Garganey	Apr 8	Bray GPs	MMc	Oct 25	Searle's Lane GP	MGM
Hobby	Apr 19	Curridge	IW	Oct 17	Theale GPs	JOB
Stone Curlew	May 5	The Downs	BTB	Sept 11	The Downs	CDRH
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 14	Bray GPs	CDRH	Sept 20	Slough SF	JOB
Ringed Plover	Feb 9	Lower Fm GP Padworth Lane GP	IW,JL,GJS JPM	Oct 9	Lower Fm GP	CDRH
Common Tern	Apr 6	Theale Main Pit	MGM	Oct 14	Thatcham Marsh	IW,JL
Turtle Dove	Apr 28	Theale Main Pit	MJS,GJSu	Sep 4	Theale GPs	TABR
Cuckoo	Apr 8	Chamberhouse Marsh	JPM	Aug 29	Brimpton	GEW
Nightjar	May 5	Caesar's Camp	MW	Jul 12	Bucklebury	JLe
Swift	Apr 16	Eton College	JAS	Sep 6	Pingewood GPs	PBT
Sand Martin	Mar 10	Smallmead GP	JAt	Oct 18	Summerlease GP	CDRH
Swallow	Mar 22	Horton GP	JAS	Oct 27	Finchampstead	PBT
House Martin	Mar 25	Burghfield GPs	JA; RPo	Oct 14	QMR	JAS
Tree Pipit	Apr 2	Field Fm GP	MGM	Sep 8	Greenham Com	IW; JL
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 24	Twyford GPs	FC; BTB	Oct 28	QMR	JAS
Nightingale	Apr 7	Hosehill Lake	RCr	Jul 15	Hosehill LNR	MW; JA
Redstart	Apr 7	Wraysbury GPs	JAS	Sep 28	Southcote	RHS
Whinchat	Apr 29	Twyford	BTB	Nov 25	Jubilee R., Eton	MMc
Wheatear	Mar 8	Bury Down	GDS	Nov 6	QMR	JAS
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 18	Wraysbury GPs	JAS	Sep 1	Brimpton GP	GEW
Sedge Warbler	Mar 29	Horton GP	JAS; CL	Oct 8	Wraysbury GPs	CDRH
Reed Warbler	Apr 19	Wraysbury GPs Hosehill Lakes	JAS BU	Oct 29	Thatcham Marsh	DJB
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 17	Wraysbury GPs	JAS	Sep 20	Crookham Com	JPM
Whitethroat	Apr 3	Horton GP	JAS	Sep 22	Brimpton GP	GEW
Garden Warbler	Apr 7	Wraysbury GPs	JAS	Sep 9	Kintbury Cress Beds	RGS
Blackcap	Mar 23	Bracknell	DJS	Nov 10	Maidenhead	BAJC
Chiffchaff	Mar 6	Braywick	DJB		<i>Wintered</i>	
Willow Warbler	Mar 24	Horton GP	JAS	Sep 21	Brimpton GP	JPM
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 29	Dinton Pastures	BTB	Sep 21	Hell Corner Fm	LS

2001 Winter

SPECIES

ARRIVAL

DEPARTURES

Wigeon	Aug 27	Hosehill Lake	MW	Apr 21	Moatlands GP	MW
Goldeneye	Aug 28	Theale	CDRH	Apr 21	Hosehill Lake	RCr
Smew	Nov 18	Hosehill Lake	BU	Mar 18	Twyford GPs	BTB
Goosander	Nov 11	QMR	JAS	Apr 15	Eversley GPs	IHB
Golden Plover	Aug 24	Lower Fm GP	SG	Apr 17	Kintbury	DR
Jack Snipe	Sep 30	Horton GP	CDRH	Mar 25	Horton GP	JAS
Fieldfare	Oct 5	Hermitage	RF	Apr 6	Hurley	SJF; FMF
Redwing	Sep 25	Eversley GPs	IHB	Mar 29	Woodlands Park	DJB
Brambling	Oct 19	Eversley GPs	GR	Apr 28	Wishmoor Bottom	DJB
Siskin	Sep 18	Sheepdrove Fm	JPB		<i>Summered</i>	
Lesser Redpoll	Sep 29	Twyford	SPA	May 8	Wishmoor	DJB

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

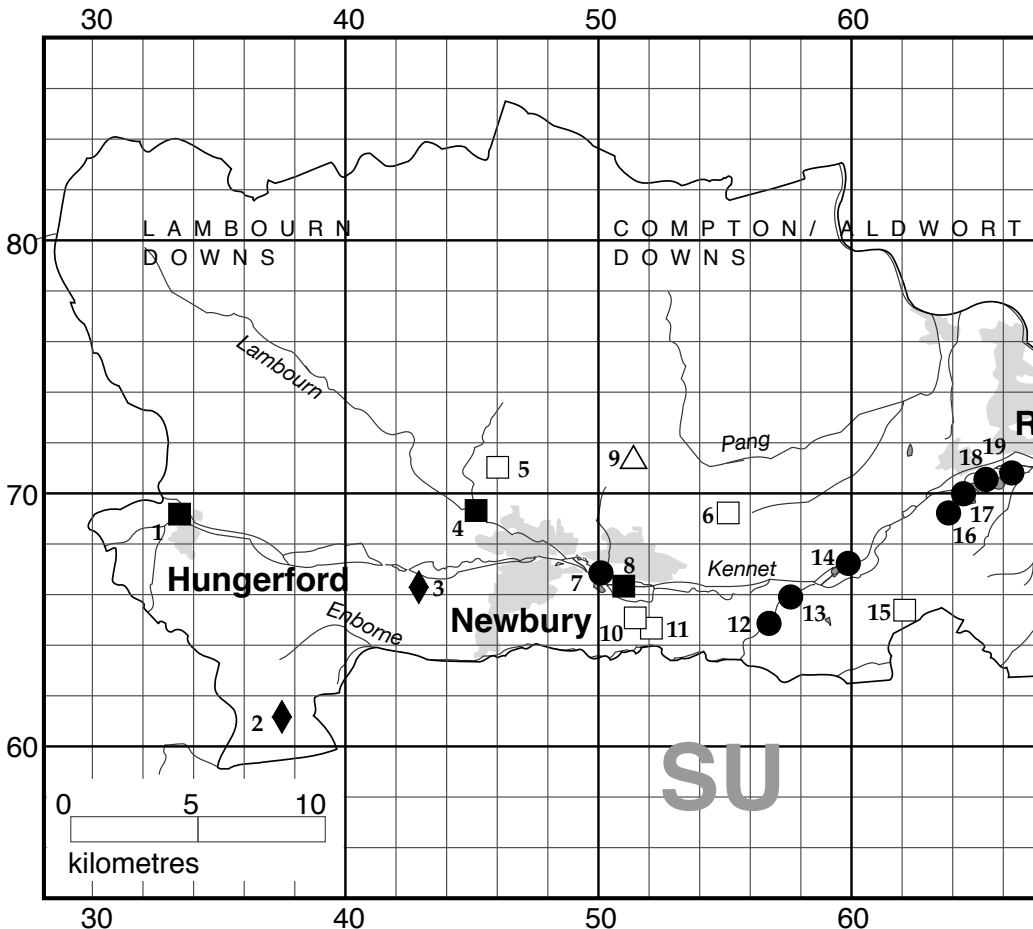
AC	Angela Chapman	DR	David Rear	KS	Ken Spring
ADB	Adam Bassett	DRI	Dave Rimes	L&PB	L&P Boswell
AFd	Alan Ford	EEG	E E Green	LFO	L Forster
AG	Anstace Gladstone	EG	Ed Griffiths	LG	Les Goatley
AH	A Horscroft	EN	E Napper	LJ	Laurence Jackson
AJP	Andy Parkes	ENW	E N Wootton	LJF	Les G Finch
AT	Andy Tomczynski	ET	E Thomas	LM	Lin Matthews
AVM	A V Moon	FC	Fraser Cottington	LS	Lesley Staves
BAJC	Bernard A J Clark	FMF	F M Farnsworth	MAS	M A Scott
BB	Bill Beglow	GAS	Graham A Scholey	MBA	Martin Baron
BD	Diann Butler	GEW	Gordon E Wilson	Mbu	Maurice Budden
BDC	Brian D Clews	GGs	G G Spence	MC	M Clay
BF	B Fitzpatrick	GJS	Graeme J Stewart	MDow	Malcolm Dowty
BFr	Brian Frost	GJSR	G Rowland	MES	Mary Stacey
BH	Barry Howes	GJSu	Graham Sumner	MET	M E Taylor
BJE	Brian J Emms	GR	Gary Randall	MF	M Fuller
BMA	Bruce M Archer	GRW	Gordon Webb	MG	Martin Gostling
BMc	Brendan McCartney	GS	G Selman	MGM	Mike McCarthy
BP	Brian Pavey	GSt	G Staves	MJD	Martin J Dear
BTB	Bryan T Bennett	HH	Hayley Hughes	MJF	Martin J Finch
BTi	B Tinson	HMG	H Maurice Goodship	MJH	M J Hallam
BU	Brian Uttley	ICB	Ian C Bell	MJS	Mike J Smith
CAB	Catherine Briggs	IHB	I H Brown	MJSt	Michael J Stabler
CCH	Colin Humphrey	IP	Ian Paine	MJT	Mike J Taylor
CDRH	Chris D R Heard	IT	Ian Twyford	MM	Martin Mitchell
CHF	Charles Flower	IW	Ian Weston	MMc	Mike McKee
CJ	C Jones	JA	John Andrews	MPr	M Prince
CL	Chris Lamsdell	JAL	J A Lucas	MR	Martin Raper
CMc	C McEwan	Jan	Janet Anstis	MSa	Mick Sales
CMR	Chris Robinson	JAS	John A Simpson	MSt	M Stratton
CMW	Chris Weedon	JAt	Jon Atkinson	MW	Marek Walford
CW	C Wise	JAW	J A Wright	NA	N Adam
DAC	D A Carter	JBu	Jim Burnett	NB	Nora Bisset
DB	David Broadley	JC	John Crispin	NBu	N Butler
DBLJ	D B L James	JD	John Dellow	NC	Nigel Cleere
DBy	David Byrne	JEW	L E Warren	NG	Nicholas Godden
DCa	D Carey	JF	John Field	NJB	N J Bucknel
DCal	Dave Callam	JG	Jacqui Goodey	NR	N Rampton
DCB	David Bassett	JH	Jan Haseler	PA	P Adam
DE	D Edwards	JJW	J J Walling	PAF	Pam Fuller
DES	David Smallridge	JL	Jan Legg	PBT	Paul Bright-Thomas
DF	David Fuller	JLe	John Lerpiniere	PCM	P C Marston
DFr	Derek Fry	JM	Julian Mitchell	PDM	Peter D Mann
DHo	D Housley	JMC	John Clark	PEd	Peter Edwards
DJ	Dave Jarrett	JO	Jerry O'Brien	PES	P E Standley
DJB	Derek J Barker	JP	Jonathan Pomroy	PG	Peter Gipson
DJR	Debbie J Reynolds	JPB	Jason P Ball	PH	Peter Hickman
DJS	Des J Sussex	JPM	J Pat Martin	PHM	P H May
DJW	D J White	JRSt	J Stockbridge	PJC	Patrick J Crowley
DKe	Derek Kelway	JW	Jon Wilding	PK	Pat Kenchington
DKP	D K Parker	JWB	John W Bleloch	PML	Peter Lamsdale
DL	Duncan Long	JWS	Jonathan Spencer	PN	P Naylor
DMc	D McEwan	KBB	K B Briggs	PND	P N Dwyer
DML	Dot M Lincoln	KEM	Ken Moore	PNe	Peter Newbound
DMo	D Monk	KM	Kevin Monaghan	PR	Paul Rainsden

PRB	P R Blackford	TGO	George Osmund	M Hoit
RAI	Roy Allis	Tho	Tony Hooton	J Holloway
RAL	Bob Lyle	TM	Tim Marlow	C Horn
RAn	Ray Anstis	TS	T Stacey	T Hulsey
RB	Richard Benyon	VAC	Vince A Chambers	P Ind
RBa	Reg Barber	VE	V Edwards	R Kaye
RC	Ron Crockford	VFo	V Forster	D Lee
RCr	Richard Crawford	VS	Verity Small	C Lindsay
RD	Roger Dobbs	WAN	W A Nicol	AP Marks
RDa	Rick Dawson	WAS	W A Stacey	H Matthews
RDW	Rupert Wilson		D Abbot	T G Maynard
RF	Roger Frankum		B Allen	P Nee
RFu	R Fuller		N Anderson	G Newport
RGS	Reg G Smith		G Anderton	P Niblock
RHa	Roger Hand		R Anyer	J Nickson
RHS	Roger H Stansfield		N Ashman	J Norton
RJB	R J Burness		M Atwood	T G Osmund
RJG	Robert J Godden		M Ayres	S Pavlou
RL	R Lee		P Banks	M Peacock
RMc	Ruth McCartney		J Baxter	R Pook
RN	R Ness		A Bell	R Pope
RPo	Roland Povey		M Booth	M Poynter
RPr	Richard Price		M Britnell	R Preston
RRi	Renton Righelato		G Brynat	J Roberts
RRK	Rob R Keel		P Burton	C Rose
S&BC	Stafford/Bradley Cross		T Campbell	G Saunders
SBu	Simon Burden		H Clews	C Sayer
SC	Steve Cox		G Cubbley	J Schmidt
SCC	Steve C Coulson		P Davis	R E Scott
SD	S Dean		K Dean	A Seago
SG	Stephen Graham		M Fowler	M R W Sell
SHu	Steve Hughes		P Gaines	J Simmons
SJF	S J Farnsworth		P Gasson	G Smith
SNP	Sarah Priest		E C Gates	D Spinks
SPA	Shirley P Adam		Dr Gilbert	G Stevens
SR	Stephen Runnacles		H Ginn	M Storey
TAG	T A Guyatt		Richard Gompertz	P Thompson
TB	Tony Barnes		G Grant	P D Tilbury
TBo	T Bowman		M Grunwell	K Tubb
TC	Trevor Crompton		M Gurr	A Tyrrel
TD	T Donegan		K Haines	P Warren
TF	T Finnigan		R Haines	R Watts
TGB	T G Ball		T Hemmett	C Wilcox

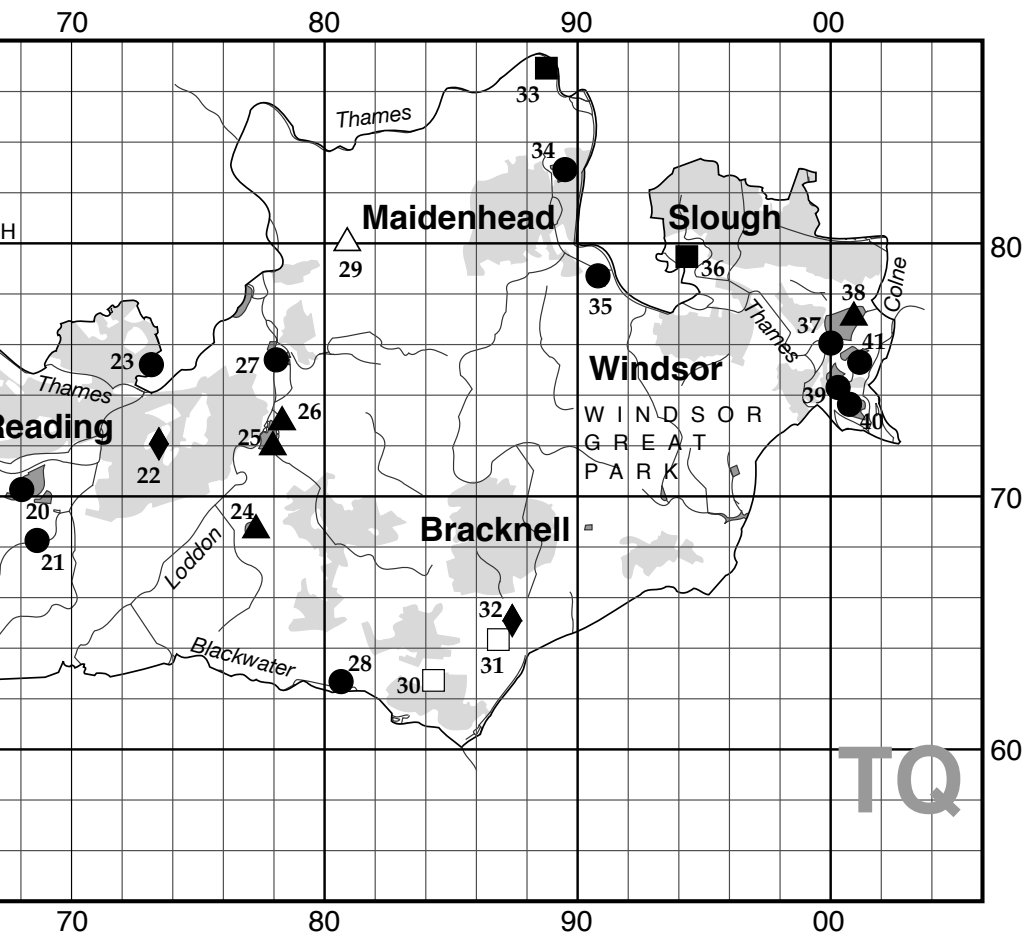
Where several observers report the same bird(s) the letters (MO) are used.

Observers that do not have their initials in the initials column are not individually identified in the 2000/2001 Bird Report but have still contributed to the data compiled to produce the Report by sending their records to the various county groups, the Recorder, the berksbirds.co.uk website or the Berks Bird Bulletin.

Records were also received from the following sources for which we are very grateful: Moor Green Lakes Group Report (MGLR), Newbury District Ornithological Club (NDOC), Newbury Ringing Group (NRG), Reading Ornithological Club (ROC), Runnymede Ringing Group (RRG), Theale Area Bird Conservation Group (TABG), Theale Area Bird Conservation Group Report (TABR).



- | | | | | | |
|----|------------|---|----|-------------|--|
| 1 | SU 333 686 | Freeman's Marsh | 23 | SU 735 745 | Caversham Lakes/Henley Road GP - Oxon |
| 2 | SU 375 616 | Walbury Hill/Combe Wood | 24 | SU 773 685 | Bearwood Lake |
| 3 | SU 428 662 | Hamstead Park | 25 | SU 780 725 | Dinton Pastures Country Park |
| 4 | SU 452 694 | Bagnor Cress Beds | 26 | SU 783 730 | Lavell's Lake |
| 5 | SU 460 710 | Snelsmore Common | 27 | SU 783 757 | |
| 6 | SU 555 690 | Bucklebury Common | | and 785 750 | Twyford Gravel Pits |
| 7 | SU 502 665 | Thatcham /Muddy Lane/ Lower Farm GPs | 28 | SU 807 625 | Moor Green Lakes (Eversley Gravel Pits) |
| 8 | SU 505 665 | Thatcham Marsh | 29 | SU 807 800 | Bowsey Hill |
| 9 | SU 515 715 | Fence Wood | 30 | SU 842 625 | Wildmoor Heath (aka Edgebarrow Heath) |
| 10 | SU 500 646 | Greenham Common | 31 | SU 877 630 | Swinley Forest (Wishmoor area) |
| 11 | SU 526 643 | Crookham Common | 32 | SU 875 655 | Swinley Forest, Crowthorne Woods (Caesar's Camp and The Lookout) |
| 12 | SU 568 652 | Brimpton Gravel Pits | | | Cockmarsh |
| 13 | SU 570 660 | Woolhampton Gravel Pits | 33 | SU 885 870 | Summerleaze Gravel Pits |
| 14 | SU 596 668 | Aldermaston Gravel Pits | 34 | SU 895 825 | Bray Gravel Pits |
| 15 | SU 620 648 | Padworth Common | 35 | SU 908 788 | Dorney Wetlands, Slough Sewage Farm and Jubilee River |
| 16 | SU 697 648 | Hosehill Lake | 36 | SU 935 795 | |
| 17 | SU 635 703 | Theale Gravel Pits (Wigmore Lane area) | 37 | TQ 000 760 | Datchet Common Gravel Pits |
| 18 | SU 655 705 | Theale Gravel Pits (Theale Main) | 38 | TQ 008 770 | Queen Mother Reservoir |
| 19 | SU 665 707 | Theale Gravel Pits (Moatlands and Field Farm) | 39 | TQ 005 745 | |
| | | | | and 010 735 | Wraysbury Gravel Pits, (Sunnymeads) |
| 20 | SU 680 705 | Burghfield Gravel Pits (Searles Farm) | 40 | TQ 010 735 | Wraysbury Gravel Pits (Village Pit) |
| 21 | SU 688 685 | Pingewood Gravel Pits (Burnthouse Lane) | 41 | TQ 010 755 | Horton Gravel Pits |
| 22 | SU 735 720 | Whiteknights Park | | | |



The main areas for birdwatching in Berkshire are the river valleys of the Kennet, Lambourn, Loddon, Blackwater and the Thames, the areas of downland around Walbury Hill, Lambourn, Compton and Aldworth and the forests and heathlands in the south and east of the county.

This map shows the general area of the Lambourn, Compton and Aldworth Downs and Windsor Great Park but includes most other frequently mentioned sites visited regularly by birdwatchers. For further detailed site information try www.berksbirds.co.uk or www.birdsofberkshire.co.uk where maps and site descriptions can often be found. Sites on this map have been given a number, a map reference (approximate centre) and one of the following symbols:

- Gravel Pits
- Commons and Heaths
- Marshes and Sewage Farms
- ▲ Lakes and Reservoirs
- △ Downland and Parkland
- ◆ Woodland

Please note that inclusion of a site does not guarantee free or safe access.

