

Systematic List

Edited by Peter Standley

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Observers

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

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 and where for example, a gravel pit complex is named but not the individual pit. A map and guide to the main sites is included at the end of the book to assist with identification. Examples to watch out for are: Burghfield GPs includes Pingewood GP and Smallmead; Thatcham GPs includes Lower Fm GP, Muddy Lane GP and Racecourse GP; Theale GPs includes Theale Main GP, Moatlands GP, Bottom Lane GP, Wigmore Lane GP and Hosehill Lake; Twyford GPs includes Whistley Green GP.

AGE/SEX

Ad	adult
F/s	First summer
Fw	First winter (plumage)
Imm	Immature
Juv	Juvenile
M	Male
Pr	pair
F or fem	Female
Rh	Redhead
R/t	Ringtail
S/p	Summer plumage
S/s	Second summer
S/w	Second winter
W/p	Winter plumage
Y	Young

PLACES/ LOCALITIES

Com	Common
CP	Country Park
FM	Farm
GP	Gravel Pit(s)
Res	Reservoir
R.	River
SF	Sewage Farm
STW	Sewage Treatment Works
E. Berks	East Berkshire
M. Berks	Mid Berkshire
W. Berks	West Berkshire
Dorney W	Dorney Wetlands
QMR	Queen Mother Reservoir

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer**Rare winter visitor*

One juvenile at Twyford GP arrived in milder weather on Dec 23rd 2001 was seen Jan 1st - Jan 2nd (MO) trapped in a small area of ice-free water. The bird was apparently not able to feed or leave, was heard calling several times (DJB) and is assumed to have subsequently died. There were 23 records of Great Northern Diver from 1900 to 1999.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis**Common resident and probable passage migrant*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	6	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	5	-	5
Eversley GP	3	5	2	-	-	1	-	22	-	2	5	5
Dorney W	9	4	9	2	2	6	8	16	14	6	2	10
Lavell's Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	6	9
Lower Fm GP	2	6	12	16	12	13	20	27	25	14	3	1
Old Slade GP	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	6	7	4
Padworth Lane GP	8	7	7	4	1	2	-	12	13	6	4	3
Pingewood GPs	-	-	6	-	-	5	-	6	5	-	-	-
Theale GPs	10	3	3	4	14	19	10	29	27	-	-	-

Counts of up to 4 were received from a further 44 sites with higher counts of 15 on R. Thames, Marlow - Old Windsor late Jan/early Feb (WAS); 6 Datchet Com Feb 20th (BDC); 7 Rapley Lake Mar 16th (DJB) and 7 Marsh Benham Jul 26th (DJB). Breeding was confirmed at Burnthouse Lane GP, Dinton Pastures, Dorney W, Field Fm GP, Lower Fm, Marsh Benham, Mill Pond Swinley Forest, Old Slade GP, Oval Pond Padworth, Padworth Lane GP, Thatcham Marsh, Windsor Great Park and Wasing.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus**Common resident and winter visitor*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	1	1	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Eversley GP	9	6	10	6	6	4	-	-	10	19	25	23
Horton GP	-	1	12	49	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	30
QMR	232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	33	13	5
Theale GP	-	5	14	3	-	-	-	44	43	33	7	-

Counts of up to 15 were received from a further 29 sites. The only count to exceed 15 was 28 at Wraybury GP Feb 20th (BDC). Breeding was confirmed at Aldermaston GP; Benham

Valence; California CP; Cookham; Dorney W; Eversley GPs; Field Fm; Frogmill; Horton Scrapes; Moatlands GP; Muddy Lane GP; Orlitt's Lake; Romney Lock; Summerleaze GP; Thatcham Marsh; Virginia Water and Woolhampton GP.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

One, probably a first winter, Woolhampton GP first reported Nov 28th (CDRH) remained well into 2003 and was seen by many observers. Although the rarest grebe in Berks records now exceed 70.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

One QMR Dec 9th - Dec 25th (JAS, CDRH et al) and 1 Pingewood GP Dec 22nd congregating with Coot and Tufted Duck (MW et al).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant

A total of 8, possibly 9, birds were reported throughout the year. The first was a f/w bird at QMR Jan 1st - 3rd (CDRH, JAS, CL). This was followed by another, possibly the same, f/w bird at Horton GP which was first reported Jan 11th (WAS) and remained in the area until Mar 1st (CL). Late summer records started with 1 juv QMR Jul 31st (CDRH) with another Aug 14th (JAS). Further west at this period, there was 1 juv at Pingewood GP Aug 9th (BTB) with 2 (1 ad+ 1 juv) the following day (MD), these remaining until Aug 28th (BDC,MJF). Four more short-staying birds were reported during the rest of the year: 1 Datchet Com Sep 6th (BDC); 1 juv Theale GP Sep 14th (DHu) until Sep 17th (PBT); 1 Burghfield GP Oct 5th (JA,RP) to 8th (RCr) and 1 Hosehill Lake Dec 11th (TM).

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

Very rare vagrant

One at Shaw, Newbury Sep 9th and Sep 10th was found grounded in torrential rain. The bird was picked up by a member of the public. Thinking the bird had injuries to its legs, they called out Insp. John Evans of the RSPCA who promptly took it to Clive Palmer who runs the Berkshire Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit at Padworth. Clive identified it as a Shearwater, and realised there wasn't much wrong with the bird apart from being storm-wrecked and exhausted. He kept it in captivity to recover quietly overnight, and unable to get it interested in any food, released it successfully in good weather the next morning, along the nearby river (JPM). Yet another record for early Sept conforming to the pattern of previous records for this species in Berks of which there were 12 from 1900 to 1999 (Recorder).

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common winter visitor and now summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	10	19	35	31	56	58	28	19	4	3	12	17
Eversley GP	29	35	34	5	3	-	6	-	7	32	4	29
Dorney W	-	2	15	21	37	50	62	32	4	-	-	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	9	2	1	1	2	16	15	25	10	3
Lower Fm/Thatcham GPs	49	79	30	18	35	59	26	27	7	19	29	29
Pingewood GP	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-
Twyford GP	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	63	50	-

Counts of up to 17 were received from a further 25 sites with higher counts of 56 at Burghfield GPs; 29 over Slough SF on Jan 1st (both DJB), 41 at Summerleaze GP Jan 5th (BDC); 26 Heath Lake Feb 8th (IT); 22 Wraysbury GP Feb 20th; 28 QMR Apr 13th (BDC); 30 Theale GP Jul 24th (RCr) and 32 Bray GP Oct 28th with 25 there Nov 11th (DJB). Breeding (which involves the continental race), still occurs at only one site on the basis of records received (Recorder).

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Uncommon autumn and winter visitor

One Ray Mill Island R. Thames Maidenhead Feb 3rd (MG) and presumably, the same bird two days later at Summerleaze GP (BDC); 1 f/w QMR Dec 8th (JAS).

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce but increasing winter visitor

Another good year involving what appears to have been at least 14 individuals. **First winter:** One Brimpton GP Jan 6th (GEW) was the first to be reported in the year but up to 3 were present at Hosehill Lake during Jan (MO). Others included 1 Old Slade GP Jan 12th (CL); 1 Lavell's Lake Jan 27th (MBu); 1 Horton GP Feb 8th (CL) and 1 at Eversley GP from Feb 10th to 21st (IHB, SFGF). **Second winter:** There were up to 2 at Lavell's Lake, the first report being Aug 18th (RR) and the last Dec 12th (LM). One ad was thought to be bearing a radio tag and probably ringed at Minsmere in 2000 or 2001 (per RSPB). When found dead in Sept 2003, however, it was found to be bearing a French ring. In the late winter, the first report was of a single bird at Hosehill on Nov 26th (BU), records continuing until the end of the year. On Dec 28th BU found 2 at Searles Lane, 1 at Hosehill and 1 at Moatlands GP so 4 seemed to be in the area on one day. Elsewhere there were intermittent reports of wintering birds at Thatcham GP Dec 1st and 17th (ABT) and Brimpton GP Dec 21st and Dec 27th (GEW). There was also 1 at Lower Fm GP Dec 14th - 16th (IW, JL), which may well have been the same as the Thatcham bird. The August arrival reflects the pattern of recent years.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare but increasing winter visitor now occurring other months

First winter: Records started with a single bird reported at Hosehill Lake on Jan 1st (MO), also 1 Padworth Lane GP on the same day (CDRH). Sightings of 1 or more birds around the Theale area continued until April 9th with a maximum of 4 birds reported at Bottom

Lane Floods on Feb 10th (PHi), locations including Pingewood GP and Wigmore Lane GP. Sightings of a single bird were also frequent at Lower Fm, the first date for this location being Jan 16th (MGU) and the last Apr 14th (IW). Records from other areas during this period were 1 Shurlock Row Jan 3rd flying east (WAS); 1 Dinton Pastures Jan 4th (BTB,SH); 1 Eversley GP Jan 4th (JOB,MBu), Jan 6th (MJS) and Apr 20th (AFd, IHB), 1 Midgham Feb 13th (AJT); 1 Sandhurst Feb 24th opposite M&S (JHe) and Feb 27th Lower Sandhurst (PWi); 1 Wraybury GP Feb 27th (THo); 2 Brayfield Fm Flash Mar 6th (ENW); 1 Mar 23rd Padworth Lane GP (JA, RP); 1 Lavell's Lake Apr 13th (BTB), up to Apr 15th (MO); 1 Twyford GP Apr 13th (BTB); 1 Colthrop Mill (K&A Canal) Apr 23rd (GGS); 2 ads over QMR Apr 24th, then 2, possibly the same birds located later in QMR cedar heronry (JAS), finally 2 Dorney W May 13th (S. Pavlou per DJB). **Summer:** 1 over Dorney W Jun 16th (CDRH); 1 at QMR Jun 29th (JM); 1 at Lavell's Lake Jun 30th (MBu); 1 Dorney W Jul 2nd (MTa); 1 Theale Main Jul 16th (PBT). **Second winter:** Records started with 1 Pingewood Sep 10th (RCr) with 2 there Nov 28th (MGM), 29th (PCr) and Dec 4th (MGM); 1 Bottom Lane Floods Nov 17th (D Hunt), Nov 26th (JLe), Dec 1st (MR, PN), Dec 28th (KEM), Dec 29th (JLe), Dec 31st (NRG); 1 Marsh Benham Sep 13th (DJB); 1 Lower Fm Oct 16th (RRK); 1 over Hosehill Lake Dec 15th (JA); 1 Arborfield Dec 16th(MGM); 1 Eversley GP Dec 16th -17th (RJG,J&RW) and 1 Sandhurst SF Dec 23rd (PBT).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Locally common resident and winter visitor in small numbers

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	10	14	14	12	14	6	1	3	2	5	2	6
Home Fm Hungerford	-	-	-	-	-	30	21	23	25	21	-	-

Counts of up to 9 were received from a further 49 sites with higher counts of 11 QMR Sep 13th (BDC); 31 Lower Denford Sep 27th GD); c15 Denford Mill Oct 21st with c20 there Nov 13th (RGS); 13 Cookham Nov 5th (LM) and 18 Denford Dec 11th (RGS). Breeding counts were made at all known heronries as part of the BTO's annual national survey. These produced a total of 55 occupied nests, a high count for Berks. Details (per CR) were: 9 Aldermaston GP (JPM); 1 poss 2 Donnington Park (IW); 3 Englefield (CR); 23 Searles Fm (JA); 3 Theale Main (CR); 16 Twyford GPs (Stephanie and Ian Brown).

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Locally common resident

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newbury (K&A Canal)	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	51	60	57
Twyford GP	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	45	-

Counts of up to 59 were received from a further 42 sites. Large counts were 76 Summerleaze GPs Jan 2nd (BDC); 66 R. Thames Reading Jan 29th (MBu); 105 at the traditional gathering point at Caversham Bridge on Jul 6th (J Warren); 202 Windsor Esplanade Dec 12th with 251 there Dec 27th (DFu).

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Uncommon passage migrant

The only record was of 2 at Lower Fm GP Oct 10th (MJD, V Hassel, R Hardie), a poor year.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Rare winter visitor, but small introduced resident population

All sightings presumably relate to feral birds. 2 were at Cockmarsh Jan 8th — 9th (C Tubb). At Windsor Great Park, there were 3 Great Meadow Pond Feb 23rd, and 27th (RRG); 3 ads + 2 small cygnets May 31st, 2 ad + 2 fledged juvs and a further ad at a second location in Sep with 1 ad Oct 10th and 20th (CDRH). At Virginia Water there was 1 Sep 15th with 2 Sep 18th (WAS).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Scarce winter visitor

One Theale GP Jan 13th (MW) was presumed to be the escapee seen in 2001.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

The only record of truly wild birds was of 2 ads of the European race at Hurst (Lea Fm) found Dec 13th (FC) and on Dec 14th (BTB, CDRH, GR). There was a long staying feral bird at Pingewood GP from Apr 7th - Jun 2nd and for a shorter period at Hosehill Lake from Sep 5th — 18th (MO).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Common introduced and increasing resident

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	-	-	3	3	15	2	8	80	1	15	32	-
Arborfield Hall Fm	-	70	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	25	-
Dinton Pastures	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	50	-	-	-
Frogmill	-	-	9	9	-	-	-	17	32	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	26	-	11	8	15	8	16	111	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GP	-	28	47	20	32	-	31	77	-	-	-	-
Summerleaze GP	-	-	-	20	-	-	30	91	-	-	-	-
Theale GP	79	84	31	19	-	-	-	16	1	90	-	142

Counts of up to 26 were received from a further 36 sites with higher counts of 112 Spade Oak Reach Jan 11th (LM); 30 Sonning Jan 22nd and 40 near Shinfield on floods Feb 27th (DJB); 40 Spade Oak Reach Jun 10th (RCr); 160 Crowthorne Sep 20th (PJC); 75 Cookham Rise Sep 26th (BDC); 52 Brimpton GP Nov 9th (JPM) with 110 there Nov 28th (CDRH); 84 Cockmarsh Dec 5th (WAS) and 107 Charvil Meadows Dec 10th with 127 there Dec 14th (CDRH).

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens**Regular feral visitor to one site where has bred: uncommon elsewhere*

Monthly maxima at the main site were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	16	17	17	15	-	14	-		12	12	-	15

Elsewhere there was 1 Horton GP Mar 1st (CL); 1 on the canal near Kintbury Cress Beds Apr 14th (RGS); 1 Summerleaze GP Aug 29th (BDC) and 5 (1 white & 4 blue phase) Allanbay Park Sep 8th (DJB). The number visiting Eversley GPs from Stratfield Saye has fallen and recent breeding attempts have been unsuccessful so this feral population may now be in decline (Recorder).

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis**Common and widespread introduced resident*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	300	500	-	-	-
Eversley GP	93	118	72	50	44	135	-	-	34	33	130	2
Home Fm Hungerford	-	-	-	8	10	8	-	30	175	-	100	100
Dorney W	-	-	-	-	2	-	33	218	-	-	-	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	15	2	1	9	49	187	70	9	11	21
Lower Fm GP	201	99	18	7	87	83	125	125	35	266	52	200
Padworth Lane GP	134	25	-	12	20	-	36	1	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GP	-	-	75	20	-	-	230	230	-	-	-	-
Thatcham GP	127	73	97	68	60	75	91	101	210	192	120	

Counts of up to 83 were received from a further 25 sites with higher counts of 135 Greenham Com Aug 4th (IWJL); 123 Midgham GP Aug 10th (JPM); 400+ Sonning Aug 20th (DJB); c200 Summerleaze GP Aug 29th (BDC); c250 Cookham Switchback Road Sep 7th (BDC); c150 Cookham Rise Sep 19th (BDC); c120 Widbrook Com Oct 30th (BDC); 136 Brimpton GP Nov 29th (JPM); c300 Cockmarsh Dec 5th (WAS); 100 Summerleaze GP Dec 19th (BDC); 183 Windsor Esplanade Dec 27th (DFu) and 130 Ruscombe Lake Dec 30th (JOB). There appears to have been a decline in recent years possibly due to attempts to control breeding numbers combined with an increase in the number of other feral goose species (Recorder).

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* *Rare**vagrant and localised feral visitor/resident*

All records relate to feral birds. Monthly maxima at the main site were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	219	229	221	206	56	7	1	-	-	-	201	197

Elsewhere there was 1 Lower Fm Trout Lake Feb 16th (DJB,ENW); 1 Pingewood GP Mar 18th (AFd); 1 Theale Main May 1st (DHu); 185 Allanbay Park Sep 8th (DJB); 1 Twyford GP Nov 23rd (JOB); 5 Hurst (Lea Fm) Dec 14th (BMc, RMc) and 9 there Dec 15th (GR). A single bird was present all year at QMR (CDRH). At Eversley GPs, 7 prs attempted to breed but no young survived (MGLG).

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

Scarce passage migrant

One Thatcham GP Jan 12th swimming amongst gulls (IW,JL); 2 QMR Feb 4th (JAS); 3 Burghfield GP Oct 6th (JA, RPo); 1 Theale GP Oct 7th and 9th (BU); 1 Purley-on-Thames Nov 10th (GJS); 8 over in heavy rain Wigmore Lane Nov 12th (LS); 1 Eversley GP Nov 17th (GR) and 1 Twyford GP Dec 8th (BTB).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Now becoming a common introduced resident

The year was notable for a number of double figure counts as follows: 10 Padworth Lane GP Feb 10th (MR); 10 Dinton Pastures Apr 1st (FC) and Apr 5th (JG); 10 Marsh Meadow Jul 1st (DJB); 38 Bourne End Reach Sep 15th (WAS); 15 over Cookham Rise Sep 19th (BDC) and c30 Oct 1st (BB); 18 Hosehill Lake Oct 14th (JLe) and Oct 20th (DK); 13 at Summerleaze GP Sep 27th then 34 Dec 14th(CDRH); 27 at Cockmarsh Nov 19th then 50 Dec 10th (CDRH), a new county high for the species. At eight sites birds were reported throughout the year: Theale GP with a max of 10, 6ad + 4juv Jul 9th (CDRH) and Aug 19th (BU); Twyford GP a max of 4 Aug 3rd (MW); Dinton Pastures a max of 6 Aug 21st (FC); Eversley GP a max of 9 Sep 3rd (BMA); Ray Mill Island R. Thames Maidenhead a max of 4 Jul 12th (LMa); Pingewood GP a max of 7 Aug 1st (MGM) and Windsor Great Park with a max of 8 Apr 3rd (MMc). Occasional sightings came from another 39 locations (4 in W. Berks, 13 M. Berks and 22 E. Berks) and breeding was confirmed at Dinton Pastures, R.Thames at Caversham, Theale GP and Windsor Great Park.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Greenham Com	-	-	4	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Home Fm Hungerford	-	-	-	2	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dorney W	-	1	2	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	12	9	10	6	8	8	6	2	3	2	5	3
Padworth Lane GP	5	2	2	-	12	13	4	-	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GPs	3	1	17	9	13	13	1	1	-	1	-	2
QMR	3	3	6	5	2	4	-	10	2	-	2	-
Thatcham GPs	6	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Theale GPs	5	7	2	4	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	3
Woolhampton GPs	1	3	4	5	6	7	5	8	-	-	2	1

First winter: After 3 at Greenham Com Feb 3rd (GEW) and 1 at Aldermaston GP Feb 27th (JPM) there were widespread records of 1-3 Shelduck from some 24 sites (9W. Berks, 6 M. Berks, 9 E. Berks) throughout March and April (including sites in the above table). Whether this wide distribution reflects just passage or whether it involves birds moving between sites prospecting for nest sites is not clear. Apart from sites in the table more than 3 birds were seen at Bray (4 in Mar), Twyford (4 in Mar) and Crookham Common (4 Mar-Apr). **Summer:** Breeding was confirmed at Brimpton GP; Greenham Com; Hungerford

(Home Fm); Lower Fm; Marsh Benham; Padworth Lane GP (11 ad 2y) Jun 6th (CDRH); Pingewood GP; QMR; Woolhampton GP (7ad2y) Jun 6th (CDRH) and Wraysbury GP. In addition there were records in May from Kintbury, Brunsdon Lock, Colthrop and Dorney W (where there were also 3ad Jun 14th-15th (CDRH)) and in July from Aldermaston GP 2 on 10th (JPM)). **Second winter:** In addition to the monthly maxima in the table there was 1 at Arborfield Hall Fm Oct 16th (DJB).

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Localised and increasing introduced resident

Monthly maxima at the sites where 10 or more occurred were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	1	-	3	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	15	2
Ray Mill Island R Thames Maidenhead	-	2	-	5	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Water	-	2	-	2	10	-	-	6	16	17	8	-

W. Berks: Reported from Lower Fm GP (2 in Jan); 15 at Folly Bridge Inkpen Jan 8th (RF); Padworth Lane GP 1 f Aug 4th (MW); Oval Pond Padworth 6 Mar 4th (GEW) and, for what appears to be the first time, from Hungerford 1 Dec 28th (RGS). **M. Berks:** 14 birds reported from Theale GPs (Jan, Mar, Apr); Twyford GP (Mar); Dinton Pastures/Lavells Lake (Apr-May, Aug-Nov); Ruscombe (Apr); Arborfield (Apr-Jun); R. Thames at Pangbourne (7 Apr 8th (DML)); R. Loddon, Swallowfield (5 May 5th (BMA)); Pingewood GPs (May, Aug); Burghfield GPs; Purley and Thames Valley Park, Reading.

E. Berks: In addition to the main sites in the table, 1-5 were reported widely (but mainly outside the breeding season) from another 10 sites with higher counts of 7 R. Thames at Datchet Jun 17th (WAS); 7-8 at Wraysbury GPs Nov-Dec (MO) and 15 Boulter's Lock, Maidenhead, Dec 13th (DFu).

Breeding, or attempted breeding, was reported at Quarry Wood (1 f on eggs in box Apr 19th (BDC)), R. Thames at Datchet; R. Thames at Maidenhead (Ray Mill Island); R. Thames at Runnymede and Windsor Great Park. Please see the article on Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve (Eversley GP) for more detail on the nesting success of this species there where at least 9 females laid eggs.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Locally common winter visitor and rare summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GP	96	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
Dinton Pastures	350-		-	-	-	1	1	-	122	-	100	50
Eversley GP	207	469	106		-	-	-	5	77	200	303	396
Lower Fm GP	733	42	32	3	-	-	-	5	41	54	42	34
Pingewood GP	-	-	120	10	-	-	1	3	28	100	160	80
Theale GP	370	40	176	2	-	-	-	8	103	140	2	-
Twyford GP	15	41	-	-	2	-	-	2	7	275	20	-

Counts of up to 30 were received from a further 9 sites with higher counts of 205 Summerleaze GP Jan 5th (BDC); 160 Wraysbury GP Sep 13th (CDRH) with 304 there Sep 17th (CDRH); 200 Oct 26th (JOB). Latest date for departure was a pr May 9th Ruscombe (CDRH). The exceptionally high count of 733 in the table for Lower Fm GP was on Jan 12th (IW, JL). A succession of records at Dinton Pastures on 30th Jun (BP), Jul 6th (FC), Jul 18th (MW) might indicate summering there. An earliest date for arrival was possibly Jul 30th at Pingewood, 1 m in eclipse (PBT).

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Common winter visitor now breeding in several locations

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	4	1	12	4	-	-	-	-	24	15	8	-
Burghfield GP	383	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Dinton Pastures/Lavell's Lake	9	-	30	4	2	2	2	13	180	50	29	40
Eversley GP	271	39	10	6	14	21	1	6	24	182	87	96
Lower Fm GP	56	92	64	24	4	6	4	4	38	43	58	51
Old Slade GP	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	2
Padworth Lane GP	-	9	16	22	7	32	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GP	10	-	1	6	3	8	-	29	6	15	25	-
Summerleaze GP	91	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40

Counts of up to 18 were received from a further 24 sites with higher counts of 48 Hosehill Lake Jan 4th (DF); 30 Benham Park Jan 13th (IW, JL); 33 Brimpton GP Mar 21st (JPM); 22 Bottom Lane Flood Apr 6th (BMA); 20 Woolhampton GPs Oct 20th (JPM) and 20 Wraysbury GPs Oct 26th (JOB). Confirmation of breeding came from Eversley GP, Field Fm GP, Moatlands GP, Thatcham Marsh and Woolhampton GP.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

Very rare vagrant

The long-staying bird first seen Nov 17th 2001 remained at Eversley GP until Jan 27th (IHB), only the second county record.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Common winter visitor and rare summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	19	37	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	13
Bray GP	109	1	12	1	-	-	-	-	8	23	20	40
Dinton Pastures/Lavell's Lake	18	52	44	7	-	1	4	29	52	50	73	50
Eversley GP	50	54	40	5	1	-	-	8	13	25	54	56
Horton GP	-	-	89	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	-
Lower Fm GP/Thatcham GPs	105	54	11	7	2	1	1	15	23	33	44	103
Pingewood GP	-	-	6	6	1	1	1	11	16	8	45	80
Theale GP	82	-	35	10	-	3	-	12	70	20	-	-
Twyford GP	220	30	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

Counts of up to 18 were received from a further 21 sites with higher counts of 135 Kintbury (K&A Canal) Jan 19th (DJB); 31 Dorney W Jan 1st (DJB); 24 Green Park Jan 15th (BDC); 34 Wraysbury GP Feb 8th (BDC); 29 Beenham GP Mar 10th (JPM); 150+ Windsor Great Park Oct 26th (CDRH); 30 Kintbury Dec 24th (DR). The max of 220 at Twyford GPs was on Jan 8th (CDRH). Breeding was not confirmed anywhere in the county but an injured male remained at the Pingewood GP until at least the end of June and a single fem was found at Lower Fm on Jun 16th (IW/JL). Other records in summer were of 3 Bottom Lane Flood Jun 6th, lm at Dorney W Jun 20-21st (both CDRH) and 1 at Lavell's Lake Jun 6th (MW).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Home Fm Hungerford	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	150
Lower Fm GP	81	46	10	9	13	13	4	66	112	67	23	59
Pingewood GP	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	170	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	105	4	13
Thatcham GP	200	-	1	86	125	-	35	1	-	200	150	200

Counts of up to 85 were received from a further 30 sites. The only counts to exceed 85, not in the table, were 195 Heath Lake Jan 2nd (TT) and 100+ at Avington Dec 24th (DR).

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor

First winter: At least 27 birds from 8 locations were reported during the first winter. As usual most records were of 1-4 birds, reported in Jan and/or Feb at Lower Fm GP, Burghfield GPs, Eversley GPs, Twyford GPs, Bray GPs and QMR. The only higher count was 9 at QMR Jan 5th (JAS). Last records were 3 at Twyford GPs Mar 3rd (BTB) and 2 at Padworth Lane GPs Mar 23rd (JA). **Second winter:** This period was slightly quieter with 25 birds at 8 locations. Arrivals started early with 2 at Pingewood GP Aug 27th - Aug 31st (PBT) to be followed by 1-4 birds in Sep at Wraysbury and Hosehill Lake, in Oct at Lower Fm GP, Brimpton/Woolhampton GPs, Pingewood GPs and Summerleaze GPs, in Nov at Moatlands GP and in Dec at Pingewood and Brimpton GPs. The only higher count was 6 at Eversley GPs Dec 28th (JHe).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor

Spring: there were 8 records involving 11 birds. One Eversley GP Apr 16th (KBB); lm Dorney W May 2nd (RN et al) and 1 there May 18th (CL); lm Moatlands GP (BU) and 1 Bottom Lane Theale (TM) both May 13th; 3 Pingewood GP Jun 2nd (BTB, GR) and 3 (incl 2m) Dorney W Jun 13th-14th of which lm and 1f were at Slough SF Jun 15th (CDRH). **Autumn:** There were 6 passage records which started with a fem at Dorney W Jul 11th (JOB) to 15th (MO) with another Aug 21st staying until at least the end of the month (MO); 1 Field Fm/Moatlands GP Jul 21st (MW,RCr); 1 Pingewood GP Aug 19th (MMc); 1f Slough SF Sep 12th (CDRH) and 1 Hosehill Lake Sep 15th (MW).

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Locally common winter visitor and rare summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldermaston GP	29	19	31	24	-	-	-	-	-	3	18	2
Bray GP	23	1	4	-	-	-	1	3	8	40	23	38
Burghfield GP	42	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	5	40
DintonPastures/Lavell's Lake	1	-	11	6	-	1	1	1	30	10	7	6
Eversley GP	38	54	28	-	-	3	-	1	6	14	18	4
Domey W	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	4	1	50	10
Lower Fm GP	57	68	95	10	1	-	1	2	56	47	38	23
Pingewood GP	-	-	18	25	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Thatcham GP	38	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	8	21
Hosehill Lake	-	1	40	-	-	-	-	9	30	91	10	-
Twyford GP	30	74	89	-	-	-	-	11	20	8	-	-
Wraysbury GP	77	38	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	77	-

Counts of 20 or more came from one other site: 40 at Field Fm GP Mar 11th (BU). **Summer.** In addition to the June records in the table there were 3 birds at Heath Lake Jun 2nd (IT) and 1m at Woolhampton GPs Jun 2nd (CDRH). In Windsor Great Park after a pr were seen May 31st a fem with 1 well grown duckling was present on Jul 10th (CDRH), the first breeding record since the Atlas survey of 1987-90.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce winter visitor

One or 2, presumably the same birds, were reported throughout the year at (JAS); hfield GP (MO); 3 incl 2m QMR Jan 2nd (CDRH, JAS); 2 Dinton Pastures Jan 10th in clear water on iced-over lake (DML), with sightings of 1 or more continuing until Jan 18th; 1 Pingewood GP Apr 9th (BMc, RMc) and May 4th (MW) and 2 there Dec 13th and 17th (MGM). The usual pattern of records and all birds probably of feral origin or escapees (Recorder).

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, rare summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	127	-	23	1	-	-	-	2	4	125	211	350
Dinton Pastures	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	150	137
Eversley GP	68	68	29	-	4	-	1	4	9	21	37	79
Old Slade GP	60	-	-	1	-	-	4	22	-	13	22	3
Pingewood GP	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	96
Muddy Lane GP	101	102	46	-	-	-	2	4	10	27	43	57
Theale GP	84	48	3	-	1	4	15	3	20	47	88	212
Twyford GP	11	45	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	71	200	-
Wraysbury GP	1	155	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-

Counts of 30 or more came from the following other sites: 203 QMR Jan 1st (JAS); 100 Burghfield GPs Jan 15th (BDC); 38 Woolhampton GP Feb 28th with 36 Nov 11th (JPM); 38 Green Park Reading Nov 28th (PBT); 30 Summerleaze GP Dec 19th (BDC) and 35

Brimpton GP Dec 27th (GEW). Records in Jun came from at least 5 sites but no evidence of breeding was obtained.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Very rare vagrant

There were two records during the year. One 1st winter fem Burghfield GP Jan 20th (MW et al) which was the same bird as recorded in 2001; m Pingewood GP first reported May 13th (MMc) moved on 14th to Field Fm and remained there or Moatlands GP until June 13th (RCr). What is presumed to be the same drake was seen again at Moatlands GP in eclipse plumage Sep 12th (CDRH) but was not subsequently recorded. If only 2 birds were indeed involved they are the 5th and 6th county records.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

Rare winter visitor

The 2001 drake remained and was first resighted at Searle's Fm GP Jan 9th (BMA). The bird was elusive at times but sightings continued (MO) until Feb 23rd (RJB). Another, this time a juv bird, was found at Wraysbury GP Oct 1st and was later relocated at Old Slade GP Nov 1st (CDRH) where it remained until at least Nov 23rd, being seen by many observers. Both records accepted by BBRC (Brit. Birds 95:487 and 96:557). Records for this species in Berks now exceed 30.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Common throughout the year

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	175	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	167	110	-
Brimpton GP	-	55	13	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Dinton Pastures	-	-	250	-	7	-	-	-	105	-	-	140
Eversley GP	151	118	79	53	21	20	22	21	24	67	82	66
Horton GP	-	1	74	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Lower Fm GP	18	69	39	43	18	28	38	28	10	20	36	37
Pingewood GP	-	-	1	10	30	-	-	-	55	-	-	-
Thatcham GP	65	30	34	28	7	11	10	24	11	79	58	46
Theale GP	-	99	68	-	-	32	83	-	20	472	477	414
Woolhampton GP	45	78	90	49	22	20	9	10	8	26	30	24
Wraysbury GP	-	100	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-

Counts of up to 45 were received from a further 34 sites with higher counts of 907-1235 (when surrounding GPs were frozen) between Jan 2nd and 11th at QMR (JAS); 60+ Old Slade Lake Jan 4th (DR); 52 Benham Park Lake Jan 13th (IW,JL) and 69 Windsor Esplanade Dec 12th mainly males (DFu), a high river count. Breeding was reported from most suitable waters.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

First winter: A m QMR Jan 1st — 2nd (JAS) and a f/w m Jan 3rd (JAS, CDRH); 1 fem Horton GP Feb 8th (BDC); 1 fem Eversley GPs Feb 22nd (DJB, ENW); 3 Wraysbury GP Mar 11th - 21st (CDRH); one at Lower Fm GP first reported Feb 9th on Trout Lake (BDC, MW) remained here or at Muddy Lane until at least Apr 15th and was thought to be an escapee but later also reported to have an injured right wing (MO). **Second winter:** Unusually there was an early juv at Brimpton GPs Jun 26th and again Jul 7th (GEW). On more normal dates, there was 1fem at Horton GP Dec 4th to 24th (JOB et al) and 1m QMR Dec 19th - 30th (JAS).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor

An average year with 8 birds reported from 3 sites. One Eversley GP Apr 2nd (MO); at QMR, 1m, 1fem Apr 25th (JAS) 1m Sep 13th (ABT et al), 3 Oct 13th (JAS) and 1 Dec 8th (JAS); 1m Lower Fm GP Jul 13th (ABT).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Rare winter visitor

An exceptional flock of 17 Scoter species arrived at 06.45 hours from the south at QMR Apr 17th. They settled in a tight group on the water before departing towards south/southwest at 0740hrs (JAS). Although the observer considered all birds to be Velvet Scoters (ad males, ad fems and imms) the BRC considers that specific identification of each bird has not been clearly made and that the record should be treated as 17 Scoter sp. at least some of which were Velvet Scoter.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Locally common winter visitor

Numbers were generally rather low. Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GP	16	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Dinton Pastures	7	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	22
Eversley GP	5	6	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4
Horton GP	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Theale GP	18	28	31	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	24	19
Twyford GP	5	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Wraysbury GP	4	24	22	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	22	20

Counts from other sites were small, up to 3 Muddy Lane GP throughout the winter being the only record of significance. Earliest arrival dates were Oct 15th Wraysbury GP (CDRH) and Oct 19th Hosehill Lake (MW); latest departure date was Apr 20th Moatlands GP (JOB).

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

Uncommon winter visitor

Numbers were considerably lower than in some recent previous years. Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lower Fm GP/Thatcham GPs	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Old Slade GP	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Theale GP	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Twyford GP	5	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Wraysbury GP	9	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	13

Elsewhere there were 2 Dinton Pastures Jan 3rd (BTB,FC) and Jan 4th (M Dowty); 1 ad fem and 1f/w at Summerleaze GP Nov 23rd (CDRH); 6 Great Meadow Pond Nov 25th (RRG); 1fem Pingewood GP Dec 8th (RJB) and Dec 13th (MGM); 1fem Lavell's Lake Dec 10th (FC); 1fem Brimpton GP Dec 16th-29th (GEW).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A typical year with 11 birds reported from 3 sites. **First winter:** 2 QMR Jan 6th (JAS); 1 rh Wraysbury GP Feb 17th (BP) until 20th (BDC, MW); 1rh Theale GP Mar 3rd (RJB, TGB). **Second winter:** 5 Wraysbury GPs Nov 20th (CDRH); 1 rh Theale GPs Nov 22nd (ABT); 1 rh Moatlands GP Nov 23rd (JA, RP), 1 Theale GP Dec 16th (CDRH) and Dec 23rd (JOB).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Uncommon winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	45	16	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	34
Lower Fm GP	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	10
Pingewood GP	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Theale GP	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wraysbury GP	8	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9

First winter: Elsewhere there were 3 Romney Lock Jan 1st-Jan 5th with 1 staying until Feb 2nd (WAS); lrh Burghfield GP Jan 14th (DB, LM); 2 Old Slade GP Jan 14th (CL). **Second winter:** At QMR, 1m Nov 23rd (MW); 1m Dec 22nd (JAS); 22 (incl 8m) there briefly Dec 31st (JAS). Elsewhere records were 1 Great Meadow Pond Nov 26th (RRG); 1 Romney Lock Dec 7th (WAS); 1 Twyford GP (JAS)8th (BTB); 4 R. Thames at Ankerwycke Dec 10th (CDRH) and 1 Heath Lake Dec 28th (BMA).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-
Burghfield GP	2	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dinton Pastures	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Eversley GP	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	-
Lower Fm GP/Thatcham GPs	5	5	6	7	5	5	5	12	13	14	11	11
Old Slade GP	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theale GP	1	2	1	3	3	-	-	-	7	2	4	-
Windsor Great Park	-	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	11	7	-	-
Wraysbury GP	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	12	14

Elsewhere there were 3 QMR Jan 2nd (JAS) with 1 there Nov 11th (JAS); 1 Brimpton GP Feb 10th (SG); 1 Dorney W Mar 24th (MMc); 1 Pingewood GP May 13th (GR), with another Jul 20th (RPo) and 2 Dec 23rd (JOB); 1 Hamstead Lock - Benham Lock Jun 2nd (IW,JL) and 2 Twyford GP Dec 20th (MW). Evidence of successful breeding came from Windsor Great Park (3m, 4fem and 4juv Sep 21st (CDRH)) and for the first time, from Lower Fm GP where an adult and ducklings were seen (IW), the first confirmed breeding outside Windsor Great Park.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Rare summer migrant

A dark morph juv was observed moving SW over Burnthouse Lane GPs on Sep 7 (MW) and a raptor, probably this species, flew over Junction 10 of the M4 on Sept 13th (RCr). No descriptions were received for other claimed sightings.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Former rare vagrant, now frequently recorded following its successful reintroduction.

Such is the success of the reintroduction of Red Kites into the Chiltern Hills, they are now a familiar sight over much of Berkshire. Records were received from 123 locations, 63 in W. Berks, 30 in M. Berks and 30 in E. Berks. Birds were regularly reported from several areas, the monthly maxima for these areas were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldworth / Streatley area	3	-	3	3	5	2	3	8	6	9	1	-
Brightwalton / Woolley area	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	5	21	1	1
Cookham area	-	1	3	2	-	7	2	2	1	3	1	1
Hurley / Remenham area	3	2	3	2	1	5	2	2	1	5	3	2
Lambourn Downs	-	2	2	1	-	1	2	8	-	1	3	1
Twyford /Hurst /Dinton Pastures area	2	1	1	2	1	2	5	1	2	2	1	1

There were many reports of 1-5 birds, with counts exceeding 5 being 6 Ashamstead Apr 3rd and 6th (DJB), 7 over Quarry Woods Cookham Dean Jun 10th (E N Wootton per DJB), 8 Sheepdrove Lambourn Aug 26th (MR), 8 Streatley Warren Aug 26th (MR), 6 (a possible family party) on Woolley Down during Sept ((JAS), 6 Aldworth Sep 21st (DJB), 6 Streatley Warren Sep 25th and 30th (CDRH), 21 at Woolley Down Oct 5th (GAS) (the largest count of this species in modern times) and 9 in the Streatley / Aldworth area Oct 24th (CDRH). Although there were no confirmed breeding records GAS did suspect several prs may have nested on the Downs and display was observed at Combe Hill Apr 4th (TPo) and a bird was observed carrying nest material near Stanford Dingley Apr 1st (GAS). Juvs encountered in the autumn included one located at Hambledon Lock near Aston Aug 5th (BDC) and another untagged individual was seen over Cockmarsh Oct 17th (CDRH).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant

A better than average year with 3 records. **Spring:** On Apr 3rd an imm/f at Bury Down from 1640hrs to 1715hrs before moving off to the NE (CDRH) and 1 flew north at 13.01 Apr 22nd at Eversley GPs (MGM). **Autumn:** A male hunting over fields on the Berks / Oxon boundary at Compton Aug 31st (DWL) was the only record.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

A poor year with only 2 records. One (not sexed) flew low N over Home Fm Snelsmore Mar 4th (IW) and a rt was observed over the Lambourn Downs Dec 7th (PBT, MW)

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Rare passage migrant which has summered

The continuing presence of summering birds in Oxon has made this species an annual visitor to Berkshire since 1995. Four records were received this year, an ad male was seen on the Downs May 2nd and Jun 19th (DJB) and Jul 22nd, seen to catch and eat a Skylark (CDRH) and a 1st yr bird was hunting the south side of Bury Down Sep 25th (ABT).

HARRIER SP.

A ringtail seen distantly over the Dorney W Oct 4th (JOB) could not be identified to species.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

Scarce visitor

In the UK Goshawks are essentially sedentary (Brit Birds 75:256) so immatures are more likely to stray into the county. Immatures also have a distinctive plumage whereas with adults there is always the danger of confusion with large female Sparrowhawks and consequently the records committee continues to err on the side of caution and will not accept any records of this species that do not have notes accompanying the record (BRC'ttee). **First winter:** An imm seen flying over Wigmore Lane GPs from Englefield towards Sulhampstead Police Training College Jan 19th. **Autumn:** A male, at first with 2 Buzzards, over a copse on Farnborough Down Oct 12th before moving off westward past the observer. Good views of the bird's powerful build and prominent breast were had (GAS).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread resident

Reported in good numbers throughout the county, although breeding records were few. In spring, display was only reported from Maidenhead Thicket, where 2prs were noted Apr 20th (BDC) with a 5th bird nearby. Breeding was confirmed at Thatcham Marsh (NRG), Farnborough Down (2 juvs Aug 6th: GAS) and Bowdown Wood (2-3 juvs on Aug 24th: GAS). A fem with 2 juvs at Dorney W Aug 30th — Sep 2nd (BDC) and a juv male at Lavells Lake Sep 13th (FC) were probably of local origin. A juv male was found dead at Jealott's Hill Sep 24th (PJC). Prey items included Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Robin, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Starling, Goldfinch and Greenfinch. A Sparrowhawk was also reported chasing a Kingfisher at Twyford GPs Oct 6th (SJo). Finally a fem was caught and ringed at Brimpton GPs Apr 18th (JPM).

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Now a relatively common and widespread resident especially in West Berks

Records were received from 242 locations (141 W. Berks, 43 M. Berks, 58 E. Berks). **W. Berks:** This species is now the most recorded raptor in the region with counts of 10 or more being reported from 6 locations. In the Combe / Walbury Hill area, there were 16-20 on Jan 19th (DJB), 22 on Jan 22th (BDC,DF), 10+ Feb 16th (DJB), 10 Mar 2nd (MW) and Mar 16th (Mmc) and 12 Mar 29th (JOB). Elsewhere 15 were present at Sheepdrove Lambourn Feb 14th (BDC), 10 Chaddleworth Mar 2nd (DJB), 10+ on the Aldworth Downs Mar 23rd (DJB), 10 Brightwalton Mar 24th (ABT) and 10+ in the Pang valley between Frilsham and Stanford Dingley Apr 1st (GAS). **BREEDING:** Evidence of breeding was received from 10 areas. At Brightwalton a pr was observed carrying nest material Apr 6th (GAS) and may have bred nearby. Two y were heard at Seven Barrows Jul 20th (GAS), 4 ads and 2 juvs were located at Sheepdrove Jul 29th (BDC) and y were heard calling at Woodspeen Aug 2nd (GAS). A pr reared 2 y at Home Fm Snelsmore (IW) and work by GAS in the Farnborough / Woolley area, located 5 breeding prs, 4 of which reared 7+ y, the success of the 5th pr is not known. Juvs were also located at Combe (1 on Sept 13th: DJB) and a juv at Lower Fm GP Oct 4th (DJB) may have been of local origin. Display was noted at West Woodhay and Snelsmore Com. **Mid and E. Berks:** The population continues to

increase with counts of 1-4 commonplace. Counts of 5 or more were reported from 9 localities, 6 at Ashley Hill Feb 27th (BDC;CCH) and Mar 23rd (DJB), 5 Shurlock Row Mar 17 (RAI), 5 Tilehurst Sep 1st (GJS), 5 Finchamstead Sep 14th (PBT), 10 Windsor Great Park Sep 21st (CDRH), 6 Moatlands GP Sep 29th, 5 Finchampstead Ridges Oct 7th (MGM), 7 over Cookham Dean Oct 17th (CDRH) and 5 Three Mile Cross Oct 26th (JOB). BREEDING: Displaying birds were seen at Emmer Green (ABT) and Moor Copse NR (MR) in M. Berks and a check of suitable areas in E. Berks in April by CDRH located a minimum of 10 displaying prs. Juvs were seen at 2 sites, 2 ads and 1 juv was located at Hall Fm Arborfield Sep 6th (DJB) and 1 ad with 3 juvs were present at Burnthouse Lane GPs Sep 10th (PBT). Worryingly, a bird seen in Windsor Great Park May 31st (CDRH) with damaged primaries and a drooping leg had presumably been shot.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant

Another record year with records involving 14-15 birds. **Spring:** Heavy passage through SE England was mirrored in Berkshire with an early report of 1 NW over Cookham Mar 26th (BDC) (possibly the earliest ever record for Berks) and was followed by a further 8 records. One was seen flying E over Thatcham Marsh Apr 7th (IW,JL), 1 at Burnthouse Lane GP Apr 14th (JA,RPo), 1 flew NW over Dorney W Apr 16th (S Pavlou), 1 was located at Moatlands GP Apr 17th (RCr,JA,RPo) and 1 at Great Meadow Pond Apr 27th (RRG). Passage continued into May with 1 flying W over Thatcham Marsh May 1st (RF), 1 NW over Theale GPs May 8th (RAd), and finally a late bird heading W along the Kennet valley between Hampstead and Dreweats Locks June 2nd (IW,JL). **Autumn:** An ad circled Newbury Racecourse Jul 18th (CDRH), and there were 2 records Aug 10th (possibly the same bird), 1 at Hosehill Lake (TABCG) and 1 at Lower Fm GP (MGP). A juv flew S over Lavells Lake being mobbed by gulls Sep 16th (FC) and another juv lingered at Wraysbury GPs arriving from the SE at 1041hrs and departing to the S just before noon Sep 22nd (CDRH). Finally, 1 was reported flying over Dinton Pastures Sep 29th (Mr & Mrs Buchanan per FC).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread resident

Counts of up to two were received from 94 sites with higher counts of 4 at Sheepdrove Mar 24th (JPM) and Walbury Hill Aug 5th (JOB). Five were present on the Lambourn Downs Dec 7th (MW). BREEDING: Evidence of breeding was received from only 7 locations (obviously overlooked or ignored by observers). At Lower Fm GP 3 juvs were present Jul 10th (JPM), several juvs were present at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen from Jul 28th into Aug (LS,GS), a family party was located at Greenham Com Aug 4th (IW,JL), 3 including 2 juvs at Home Fm Snelsmore Aug 14th (IW) and a fem with 2 juvs were seen at Dorney W Aug 30th (BDC). A juv was present at Strand Water Sep 21st and a pr reared 4 y at Woolley Down (GAS).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant

The recent trend towards increasing numbers being reported annually in Berkshire continues. Records were received from 10 locations (5 W. Berks, 3 M. Berks, 2 E. Berks)

and involved some 12 birds. **First Winter / Spring:** The popular wintering male and fem continued to reside in the Cold Harbour area throughout Jan and Feb (MO) being joined by a second ad male from Feb 14th (RN,DJB) to Feb 19th (ENW), after this date only 1 male and the fem could be located. The fem was last seen Feb 22nd (BDC) and the male Mar 1st (DJB). Elsewhere 1 was reported from Winter Hill Feb 3rd (PIn), 1 flying S over Englefield Feb 12th (AFd), a male at Eversley GPs Feb 22nd (IHB) and a fem flew N over Greenham Com Mar 22nd (DJB). Last record involved a fem at Catmore Apr 24th (CDRH) **Autumn / Second winter:** A fem photographed at Sheepdrove Aug 28th (JPB) is only the 3rd August record for Berks (previous records being Hermitage Aug 15th 1963 and Freemans Marsh Aug 28th 1973) and was followed by a male at Aldworth Sep 25th (CDRH) and a fem /imm at Bury Down Oct 17th (CDRH, A J Parkes). An imm was located at Pingewood Nov 3rd (RJB). A small falcon seen in flight over Peasemore Oct 20th (MJT) was possibly this species.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant

A good year with records received from 78 locations, 22 in W. Berks, 26 in M. Berks and 30 in E. Berks. The monthly distribution is as follows:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
W.Berks	2	4	4	6	7	9	0
M.Berks	3	9	6	6	18	13	0
E.Berks	5	6	5	8	8	14	3

Spring: An exceptionally early record was received from Brimpton where 1 flew over Apr 4th (GEW) and was followed by 2 at Wishmoor Bottom on the more usual date of Apr 22nd (MW), with the main arrival commencing from Apr 25th. Numbers increased significantly in May and counts in excess of 10 were reported from Dinton Pastures CP with 11 May 23rd and 14 May 27th (FC), 11 were present at Burghfield GPs May 27th (PBT) and 15+ at Wraybury GPs May 31st (CDRH). **Summer:** Breeding was confirmed at 2 sites in E. Berks (PJC) and 1 site in M. Berks (GEW) all rearing 2 y. Birds were also present at another E. Berks site but breeding could not be confirmed (PJC). **Autumn:** Although there were more records during this period, counts were far lower than those in the spring. The only count to exceed 4 birds was 5 over Dinton Pastures Sep 4th (CDRH). There were 3 October records, 1 at Bray GP Oct 1st (WAS), 1 juv at Wraybury GPs Oct 2nd (CDRH) and 1 over Great Meadow Pond Oct 5th (RRG). There were several interesting records involving prey, 1 caught a Swift at Dinton Pastures May 24th (PJC), an ad attacked a male Sparrowhawk that was carrying food over Tilehurst and successfully stole its prey May 31st (GJS) and 8+ were seen taking Cockchafers over QMR Jul 6th (CDRH).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant

The change (for the better) in the status of this species in Berkshire over the last 10 years has been astonishing and can only be bettered by the fortunes of the Common Buzzard. It shows what can happen when harmful pesticides are removed from the environment and strong legal protection put into place. The increasing occurrence of breeding throughout SE England must mean that it is only a matter of time before this species attempts to breed

within Berkshire. Records were received from 39 locations in 2002, (18 W. Berks, 13 M. Berks, 8 E. Berks). The monthly distribution and maximum number of birds is as follows:-

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W.Berks	No. of sites	7	5	3	3	1	2	2	0	1	4	3	2
	Max. no. of birds	8	7	3	3	1	2	2	0	1	4	5	2
M.Berks	No. of sites	5	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	4
	Max. no. of birds	6	2	4	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	4
E.Berks	No. of sites	2	3	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	2
	Max. no. of birds	2	3	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	3

Most records were of single birds, 2 being reported from Walbury Hill Jan 22nd (BDC), Theale Main GP Jan 15th (RCr), 2 imms together Compton Downs Feb 8th (DJB), 1 m 1f together at Lower Fm GP Feb 19th (logbook per NDOC), 1 m 1f together at Combe Nov 7th and 1 ad and 1 juv there Nov 11th (CDRH) and 2 at Theale Main GP Nov 11th (RCr). Birds were regular at several sites. The traditional site at Theale Main GP held birds from Jan to Mar and Aug to Dec and probably involved 3-5 birds including a juv in October. Other popular sites were Lower Fm GP where birds were recorded in Jan-Mar, Jun-Jul and Oct-Nov, Combe area, Jan-Feb and Nov, the Aldworth and Compton Downs, Feb-Mar and Oct, and to a lesser extent Eversley GPs (3-4 records), Dorney W (4 records) and Englefield (3 records). Although still scarce in the summer months there were records for both May and June. One was attacking sparrows near Thatcham May 5th (JW), a fem carrying prey flew over Dorney W May 19th (BDC,CDRH,DJB), 1 was reported to BMc over Thatcham Lakes Jun 14th and 1 was present at Lower Fm GP Jun 30th (JA,RPo). A number of bird species were seen to be taken or chased by Peregrines, these included Golden Plover, Snipe, Black-headed Gull, Common Tern, Feral Pigeon, Wood Pigeon, Fieldfare and Starling.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Common resident in suitable habitat

Records were received from an encouraging 55 locations (32 W. Berks, 8 M. Berks, 15 E. Berks). The monthly maxima from the main areas were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldworth / Compton Downs	11	30	23	10	5	6	20	-	166	-	-	-
Cookham / North Maidenhead	21	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-
Englefield	9	9	4	-	3	-	-	-	4	3	-	-
Hurst area	-	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	20	15	3
Streatley	29	-	34	25	10	-	2	-	1	-	26	-
Woolhampton GPs	-	2	-	5	4	2	-	-	13	4	-	2

Most records were counts of 1-14 birds, higher counts were 21 near Cookham Jan 21st (DFu), 15 Ruscombe Mar 3rd (JOB), 33 Streatley Mar 29th (BMA) and 34 there Mar 30th (DJB), 40+ Aldworth Downs Sep 15th (BMA) and 166 (released birds) Sep 21st (DJB), 20 Broadcommon Hurst Oct 10th and 15 there Nov 6-12th (DJB) and 19 Remenham Hill Nov 12th (SJF,FMF). The sole breeding record was of an ad with 9 chicks at Aldworth Sep 21st (DJB). A bird seen at Lavells Lake May 9th (FC) was the first record for this site for over 10 years. An individual was observed feeding on the flowers of Lesser Celandine at Padworth Lane Apr 14th (DJB).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Localised, declining resident

As with Red-legged Partridge, records were received from a higher than usual total of 47 sites (better observer coverage). As would be expected, the majority of sites (29) were located in W. Berks, 6 M. Berks, 11 E. Berks. The monthly maxima in the main areas were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aldworth / Compton Downs	8	2	2	2	5	2	-	-	9	-	-	-
Burghfield area S of M4	10	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bury Down / West Ilsley	3	-	10	4	6	4	-	10	-	-	-	-
Cold Harbour / Woodlands Park	11	2	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	12	12
Cookham / North Maidenhead	11	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Englefield	6	2	-	2	4	3	2	11	9	-	-	-
Farnborough / Woolley	8	8	1	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	-	-
Lambourn Downs	-	18	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	8	7

Most records were of 1-10 birds, higher counts were 11 Cookham Jan 5th (BDC), 12 Home Fm Snelsmore Jan 16th (IW), 11 Cold Harbour Jan 18th (BTB), 18 Sheepdrove Feb 14th (BDC), 11 Englefield Aug 17th (RCr), 15 Remenham Oct 23rd (DJB) and 12 Woodlands Park from Nov 18th to Dec 18th (DJB). BREEDING: was confirmed at Englefield with 1 ad and 3 small chicks Aug 2nd and a fledged juv Aug 19th (RCr), 1 ad with 3 juvs and 5 juvs nearby on the Aldworth Downs Sep 21st (DJB) and a covey of 13 ads and juvs on GAS's lawn at Farnborough Sep 26th. Despite the better than usual showing, the Grey Partridge has been lost from many areas where it was once fairly common. The large scale changes in land use in the Slough SF / Dorney W area has seen a dramatic decline in numbers: from once being a species that was fairly regularly encountered there throughout the year only a few years ago, there was only 1 record of 1 bird in 2002.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Uncommon summer visitor, regular only on downland

Recorded from 6 sites in 2002, involving c9-10 calling males. After an intriguing record of a male at Cookham Rise that was brought in by a cat Jan 15th (per BDC) and thought by the observer to have been an escape, all records were from fairly traditional downland sites in W. Berks and Englefield in M. Berks. One calling on the Aldworth Downs May 19th (CDRH) was heard subsequently Jun 4th (MMc,BMc,RMc), Jun 25th (MW) and 3-4 heard there Jun 23rd (DJB,FC,ENW) and 1 was calling at Sheepdrove May 26th (MW). One was seen at Englefield May 31st, and heard Jun 6th followed by 2 birds flushed from beside a track there Aug 7th (RCr). At Bury Down, 3 were calling Jul 1st (RD with singles heard there Jul 2nd and 5th (JT) and a calling male seen for 15 mins beside gallops at Lambourn Jul 25th (CDRH) gave the observer his best ever views in the UK.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Widespread, locally abundant resident

Counts of up to 17 were received from 19 sites with higher counts of 50 Streatley Apr 5th (JOB), 100+ Englefield Aug 19th (RCr), and 50+ Ashampstead Dec 10th (JLe). All were probably released birds.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus**Rare and localised introduced resident*

One Maidenhead on Jun 6th (PRa) was presumably a fugitive from a local aviary.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus**Uncommon winter visitor, rare in summer*

Records were received from 38 locations, 16W. Berks, 11 Mid and 11 E. Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagnor Cressbeds	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
Brimpton GPs	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	3	6
Hosehill Lake	9	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	6
Kintbury Cressbeds	5	4	4	3	-	-	-	5	2	3	5	6
Lavells Lake / Dinton Pastures CP	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Thatcham Marsh	7	2	3	2	2	-	5	2	3	4	1	2
Theale area GPs*	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Wraysbury / Horton GPs	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1

* Does not include Hosehill Lake

The high count of 9 at Hosehill Lake occurred Jan 6th (BU), 7 at Thatcham Marsh on Jan 11th (DJB), 6 at Brimpton GP Dec 12th (GEW) and 6 at Kintbury Cressbeds occurred on several dates in Dec (RGS). Away from the main sites, all counts were of 1-3 birds.

BREEDING: Evidence of successful breeding was obtained from Thatcham Marsh with 1 ad and 3-4 juvs Jul 21st (IW,JL,JPM) and 1 ad with 1 juv Aug 23rd (JCh) and a family party of 4-5 birds at Kintbury Cressbeds Aug 13th (RGS).

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana**Rare passage migrant*

One juv found at Lavells Lake on Sep 4th (MW et al) remained to Sep 6th (MO) and is the 4th record for Lavells Lake, the others being, Sep-Oct 1987, Aug 1997 and Aug 1999.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus**Common and widespread resident and winter visitor*

Monthly maxima at the main sites for which records were received were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	9	4	8	13	10	-	-	-	25	22	14	2
Lower Fm GP	24	13	14	13	10	12	19	17	16	16	11	19

Counts of up to 19 were received from a further 21 sites with higher counts of 24 on the R Thames Romney Lock to Datchet Jan 8th (WAS), 20+ at Eton Wick Mar 22nd (JOB) and 23 Slough SF Sep 2nd (DJB). A check of the Maidenhead Ditch from Summerleaze GP to Cookham Rise in July showed the species to be completely absent where previously common arguably due to possible Mink infestation in this area.

COOT *Fulica atra**Common resident and winter visitor*

Monthly maxima at the main sites for which records were received were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	378	52	26	25	26	38	89	116	146	182	234	228
Lower Fm GP	238	137	117	59	56	87	139	125	96	144	131	141

Counts of up to 169 were received from a further 21 sites. The only count received to exceed 169 was c.300 Summerleaze GP Dec 19th (BDC).

CRANE *Grus grus**Very rare vagrant*

One Theale GP Jan 14th circled the pit before drifting off SW toward the Bottom Lane pit (K.Dykes, B.Putt) where conveniently it passed over MWRS who was able to obtain details not discernable while the bird was circling. This is only the 3rd county record and remarkably was to be followed by a 4th when 2 flew south between West and East Ilsley on Apr 7th (KLT, RGW). These are the first records since 2 were seen in 1987.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus**Uncommon but regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GP	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	1	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GP	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	1	-
Theale GP	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere there were 18 records of single birds at a further 11 sites as follows: Burghfield GP Mar 21st (CJ); Mar 27th (MGM) and May 29th (TGB); singles Dorney W Mar 29th (JM); Apr 27th (BAJC, BDC, MMc), May 12th (BAJC), May 20th (D Carter, BAJC); 1 calling over Maidenhead at night Apr 10th (CDRH); Twyford GP Apr 20th (BTB); Horton GP Apr 23rd (DJB, JOB); Charvil Meadows Apr 28th (CDRH); 1 Padworth Lane GP May 4th (RCr); singles Dinton Pastures May 7th (RR) and Jun 28th (BU); Arborfield Jun 3rd (DJS); Lavell's Lake Jul 27th (MW); over Bowdown Wood Aug 4th (MGP); Brimpton GP Aug 4th (CDRH); and Woolhampton GP Dec 30th (IW, JL).

Distribution by month was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	-	-	6	10	8	5	6	5	-	1	1	1
Min. no. of birds	-	-	7	10	10	5	9	5	-	1	1	1

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta**Rare passage migrant*

There were two records, an ad at Woolhampton GPs Mar 9th (TGB) and another ad at QMR Aug 22nd (JAS) continuing the run of occasional records in recent years.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus**Scarce and localised summer visitor*

First recorded from the Downs Apr 3rd (CDRH). In summer, 2 seen and up to 10 were calling at dusk May 7th (DJB), a pr with 2 juvs May 22nd (MGM, MMc), Jun 1st (DJB), Jul 21st and Jul 28th (JOB) and 3 prs and 2 juvs Jun 11th (CDRH). Post breeding gatherings included 17 Aug 11th (BMA), 26 Sep 15th (BMA) and 18 Oct 17th (CDRH), a welcome return to the numbers which used to be recorded, these autumn counts being the highest for over 40 years. 2002 was however, a poor year for breeding success probably due to the wet weather, the RSPB survey recording 6 breeding attempts by 6 prs but only 2 y fledged (RSPB).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius**Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-
Eversley GP	-	-	2	4	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	-	6	2	4	1	5	-	1	-	-	-
Dorney W	-	-	14	18	16	8	8	3	-	-	-	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP/Thatcham GP	-	-	13	18	10	12	11	2	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GP	-	-	5	12	6	4	5	2	-	-	-	-
Brayfield Fm Flash	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slough SF	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-
Summerlease GP	-	-	4	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Theale GP	-	-	2	3	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Twyford GP	-	-	2	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	-	4	4	2	20	-	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere there was 1 QMR Mar 20th (JAS); 1 Strand Water Cookham Apr 1st (BDC); 2 Crookham Com Apr 19th (JPM) with 1 there Apr 24th (DJR); 1 Horton GP Apr 23rd (DJB) and Apr 26th (CL); 1 Lower Padworth May 18th (JLe); 2 R Thames Bray May 18th (BDC). Breeding was confirmed at Eversley GP (2 juvs Jun 1st IHB), Dorney W (juv Jun 19th JOB and 2 juvs all July (MO) with 3 juv Jul 16th (JOB)), Lower Fm GP (3 juvs Jun 16th (IW, JL), 12 birds mostly juvs Jun 30th (JA)), Pingewood GP (1 juv Jul 10th RCx),

Theale GP (sitting Apr 22nd RCr), AWE Aldermaston (1 pr S Ricks) and Woolhampton GP (5 juv Jul 7th CDRH). Displaying birds were noted at Greenham Com. The high count of 18 at Dorney W was made Apr 1st (JOB) and 20 (incl. 5 juvs) at Woolhampton July 7th (CDRH). Extreme dates for arrival and departure were Mar 11th at Bray (CDRH) and Sep 8th at Greenham Com (AJT).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	-	2	3	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
Dorney W	-	-	2	4	15	2	15	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP/Thatcham GP	-	2	6	8	7	7	6	3	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GPs	-	-	4	4	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
OMR	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	-	-
Brayfield Fm Flash	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slough SF	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	1	1	-	-	-

Elsewhere there were singles Hosehill Lake Feb 27th (BU,RCr), Jun 11th and 17th (BU), Jun 25th (PBT) and Jul 10th (JPM); 1 at Lavell's Lake Mar 2nd (BDC); 2 Twyford GP Mar 31st (BTB); ad Summerleaze GP Jul 31st (DJB). Breeding was confirmed at Lower Fm GP (2 juvs Jun 16th (IW, JL), also 7 incl some juvs on Jun 30th (JA)) and an ad bird was noted feigning injury at Greenham Com May 25th (IW,JL) where there was 1 juv Aug 22nd (JPM). At Dorney W, 1 on nest May 2nd was not thought to be successful (DJB). The high counts of 15 were on May 13th Dorney W (JOB) and Jul 15th Slough SF (DJB). Extreme dates for arrival and departure were Feb 9th at Lower Fm GP (JPM) and Oct 31st at QMR (CDRH). A first summer bird, probably of the northern form, was at Dorney W Jun 10th (CDRH).

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common but local winter visitor and passage migrant

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bury Down	40	120	250	150	-	-	-	-	-	130	250	150
Eton Wick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	300	300
Greenham Com	50	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	500	60	200
Dorney W	150	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	500
Lower Fm GP/ Thatcham GP	2000	2000	192	36	-	-	-	-	60	250	1200	1000
Slough SF	-	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	570
Woodlands Park Maidenhead	100	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	25	1
Woolhampton GP	-	80	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	32	-

Counts of up to 80 were received from a further 49 sites with higher counts of 500+ Henwick Jan 12th (IW,JL) and c.930 in the same area Jan 16th (MBu). Other highs included c.300 M4 Junction 7 Feb 3rd (DJB); c.300 Lambourn Park Fm Down Feb 14th (BDC); c.300 Theale GP Feb 14th (LJF); c.300 Heales Lock (K&A Canal) Feb 18th (RF); 230 Broadcommon Hurst Feb 27th (DJB); c.120 Cow Down W. Ilsley Mar 3rd (MMC) with

c.150 there Apr 9th (MMc); 320 Bill Hill Mar 6th and Mar 27th, 100 Mar 28th (DJB); 300+ Hermitage Oct 11th (CDRH); 150 Kintbury Oct 18th (JD); 330 Freemans Marsh Oct 24th (RF); 150 Lillibrooke Manor Cox Green Oct 25th with 300 there Oct 30th (DJW); c.400 Combe Hill Nov 7th (CDRH). Extreme dates for departure and arrival were Apr 24th at Greenham Com (GJS) and an early bird Aug 18th at Horton Fields (CDRH), followed by one over calling at Englefield on 19th (RCr).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Uncommon but regular passage migrant

There were 6 records of 12 individuals reported from 3 sites. In spring there were 3 ads in s/p at Dorney W May 7th (DJB), 1 in w/p at Pingewood GP Apr 6th (KEM, MW et al) and 5s/p briefly at Dorney W May 17th (JOB) with 1 new bird found later and there the next day (CDRH,CL). In autumn there was 1 s/p at Pingewood GP Aug 20th (MGM) and 1 QMR Oct 21st (JAS).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Common breeder, and abundant migrant and winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cookham Switchback Road	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	900
Eversley GP	1100	600	151	13	7	4	98	-	-	16	150	250
Green Park Reading	260	430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600
Lower Fm GP	800	292	75	22	18	100	340	260	80	120	200	500
Slough SF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	300	628

Counts of up to 400 were received from a further 70 sites with higher counts of 1000 at Bray GP Jan 2nd, c500 Binfield Mare Lane Jan 24th, c500 Moss End Jan 26th (all BDC); c500 Jan 28th then up to c1000 at Tickleback Row in Feb (DJB); and c.800 there Feb 11th (DJS); 850 Windsor Great Park Feb 26th (WAS); c.600 Summerleaze GP Nov 19th (BDC); 2000 Hurst Dec 14th with 700+ there Dec 25th (RR); and 1500+ Burghfield GP Dec 27th (RCr). Breeding was confirmed at Aldworth Downs (1 chick); Arborfield (1 chick); Brimpton GP (c.10 prs GEW); Bury Down (15-20 prs GAS); Combe Hill (2 juvs RWa); Englefield (1 chick RCr); Eversley GP (4-6 prs KKB); Greenham Com (2 sitting IW,JL); Home Fm Kintbury (3 chicks SG); Jealott's Hill (3 chicks PJC); Dorney W (1 sitting Jul 15th juv Jul 23rd BDC); Lower Fm GP (1 chick (DJB); Moatlands GP (4 chicks Apr 21st CMc and a second brood of 2 Jun 8th RCr); Peasmore (3 chicks GAS); Pingewood GP (3 sitting RCr); Ruscombe Flood (3 prs, 1 chick DJB); Slough SF (2ad and 1 chick July 5th JOB) and Woolhampton GP (13 juvs Jun 24th JPM). Displaying birds were noted at Dorney W, Home Fm Snelsmore, Kintbury Cress Beds, Waltham St. Lawrence, West Woodhay and Widbrook Com. At Brimpton GP 3 nests were temporarily removed while the field was ploughed and successfully replaced afterwards (GEW).

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

At QMR 1 Jan 13th (CL), and an ad in w/p Apr 22nd and possibly the same bird Apr 26th (JAS). At Lower Fm GP there was 1 Nov 15th and Nov 16th (IW,JLJPM,RHa). An above average number of records.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant

There were 11 records of 16 individuals reported from 4 sites. In spring there was 1 QMR Apr 16th (CL) and 1 in s/p May 28th (CDRH); 1 at Moatlands GP May 11th (JA) and another May 13th and 14th (MO); first 2 then 4 at Pingewood GP May 13th (MGM, FC et al); and 1 in fresh s/p Lower Fm GP May 15th (CDRH) and May 16th (CDRH,ICB,RRK). In autumn there were 4 worn ads at QMR Jul 31st (CDRH) and 2 juvs there Sep 3rd (CDRH).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant, principally in autumn

There were 4 records of 3 individuals reported from 3 sites and a reversal of their more normal distribution. Spring records were 1 Dorney W May 17th (S. Pavlou, CDRH, DJB), 1 May 18th (MO) with toes missing on it's left foot (CDRH), and 1 Eversley GP May 25th (GR). The only autumn record was 1 Slough SF Oct 29th (CDRH).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce passage migrant, predominantly in spring

The only record was of 2 in s/p at Dorney W May 16th (JOB, S Pavlou) and May 17th (MO).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage migrant

Just one record, an ad in near s/p at Dorney W May 20th (S Pavlou et al)

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Very rare vagrant

A juv/f/w was seen and photographed at QMR Sep 20th (JAS). Only the second county record, the first being at Thatcham GP in Nov 1983 (and which was also photographed (Recorder)).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dorney W	-	-	1	1	6	2	4	2	-	-	-	6
Lower Fm GP	-	-	4	5	5	-	1	-	-	2	2	1
Pingewood GP	-	-	1	6	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	1
QMR	-	-	1	2	1	1	3	7	8	3	1	-
Slough SF	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	-	2	2	9
Theale GPs	-	-	1	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-

Elsewhere were 3 s/p Greenham Com May 18th (AJT); 1 f/w Eversley GP May 25th (JMC,JOB), May 26th (MO); 1 worn ad Woolhampton GP Jun 26th (CDRH) with 2 s/p ads Aug 2nd (JPM) and 3 juvs Aug 10th (JPM); 4 juvs Brimpton GP Aug 4th (CDRH) with 2

there Dec 11th (CDRH), 3 Dec 12th (GEW); 2 heard Horton Fields Aug 8th (CDRH); 2 Bray GP Oct 9th (DRi); f/w Greenham Com Oct 28th (CDRH); 7 Charvil Meadows Dec 10th (CDRH) with 12 there Dec 14th (CDRH).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

After 1 winter record QMR Jan 8th (JAS) there were 6 records of 14 individuals reported from 4 sites in spring: 1f at Brayfield Fm Flash Mar 15th (CDRH); 1 Moatlands GP Mar 29th (KEM) and Mar 30th (MW); 1 at Pingewood GP Mar 30th (MO), 3 Mar 31st (BTB,MMC,RJB), and Apr 1st (RCr) and 1 Apr 5th (JA,RPo); 6m 1f at Lower Fm GP Apr 6th (GJS,JA,RPo). In autumn there were 6 records of 7 individuals reported from 3 sites: 1 juv Pingewood GP Aug 23rd (MGM,PBT,RCr) and Aug 24th (PBT); 2 juvs Lower Fm GP Aug 20th and Aug 21st (RRK) with 1m Sep 10th (RF) and a juv Sep 11th (GJS); 1 juv Slough SF Aug 28th to Sep 8th (JOB) and 1m Oct 8th and Oct 9th (CDRH).

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon localised winter visitor and passage migrant

Reported from 6 sites in the first winter and 7 sites in the second, a wider spread than usual with high counts from Horton GPs. **First winter:** 1 Eversley GP Jan 1st (DRi); 1 Bucklebury Ford Jan 7th (PDM); 1 Wraysbury GP Jan 10th (WAS); 1 Edgebarrow Heath Feb 27th (JW-S); 1 Dorney W Apr 1st (MMc). At Horton GP numbers built up from 3 on Jan 13th (DJB, ENW) to a max. in Jan of 8 on 27th (MW), a max. in Feb of 7 on 10th (MW) a max. in Mar of 9 on 1st (CL) and an Apr max. of 4 on 10th with the last record 1 on Apr 17th (CDRH). **Second winter:** At Horton GP 1-2 were reported Oct 23rd (CDRH) to Dec 23rd (CDRH et al) with a max. of 3 Nov 20th (CDRH). Elsewhere there were singles at Lavell's Lake Oct 8th (FC,JOB,RR) to Oct 15th (MO); Lower Fm GP Oct 13th (MJT, B Hollands) and Nov 2nd (JA,KEM,RPo); Windsor Great Park Oct 13th (CDRH); Bray GP Oct 27th (WAS); Old Slade GP Oct 28th (DR) and Wraysbury GP Dec 20th (CL).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Common winter visitor, scarce in summer

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dinton Pastures	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	23	5
Horton GP	17	45	25	29	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	-
Lavell's Lake	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	8	8	24	40
Lower Fm GP	11	3	5	15	1	-	1	6	9	8	10	22
Pingewood GP	-	-	5	7	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	26
Slough SF	-	5	18	-	-	-	-	5	22	24	5	20

Counts of up to 17 were received from a further 31 sites with higher counts of 25 over Green Park Reading Feb 6th, 20 Smallmead Fm GP Mar 2nd (both PBT), c20 Wigmore Lane GP Mar 22nd (JLe) and 31 Edgebarrow Heath Mar 5th (JW-S). The high counts of 45 at Horton GP were made Feb 10th (MW) and of 40 at Lavell's Lake Dec 22nd (FC). A bird, 1 of 3, was seen displaying and heard drumming at Moor Green Lakes, Eversley

Apr 4th (PBT) but not subsequently. Extreme dates for departure and arrival, both from Lower Fm, were May 4th (JLe) and Jul 16th (RRK).

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Localised resident in small numbers; recorded more widely in winter

Recorded from 11 sites in the first winter, 14 sites in summer, and 11 sites in the second winter. **First winter:** 1 Tidmarsh Jan 5th and Jan 19th (JLe); Brimpton GP Jan 6th, Feb 6th (GEW); Eversley GP Jan 6th (MJS); Theale GP Jan 8th (NR); Twyford GP Jan 8th (MW); The Slade Bucklebury Jan 18th (PDM); 3 Kintbury Cress Beds Jan 20th and 1 Apr 7th (RGS); 1 Inkpen Com Jan 26th (MJS); 1 Holly Wood Bucklebury Mar 1st (PDM); 1 Bucklebury Com Mar 4th (CDRH); 1 Warren Row Mar 9th (DJB). **Summer:** (Mostly roding birds): Hell Corner Fm Inkpen Mar 21st (LS); Swinley Forest Mar 29th (BTB), Apr 9th and May 4th (MW); May 16th (DJB) 5 Jun 17th (BMA); 1 Wishmoor Bottom Apr 7th (MMc), 3 Jun 3rd (DJB); 2 Ashley Hill Apr 8th (BDC) and 1 May 2nd (DJB); 2 Bucklebury Com May 2nd, May 4th, 1 May 9th (RCr), 3 May 23rd, 1 May 24th, 3 Jun 18th (GJS), 2 Jun 24th (MBu); 2 Snelsmore Com on the forest floor in daytime May 20th (CDRH), and 3 Jun 13th (JW), 4 Jun 19th (JD), 2 Jul 6th (MJT), 1 heard Jul 20th (GAS); 1 Hungerford Com May 29th (LS); 3 Caesar's Camp May 31st (BMA), 3-4 Jun 1st (BP, JOB), 6 Jun 2nd (DKP); 1 Crookham Com Jun 17th (RRK); 2 Greenham Com Jun 26th (IW,JL,JPM), 1 Jul 13th (MP); 1 Sandleford Jun 27th (AJT); 2 Cranbourne Chase Windsor Forest Jul 13th (BAJC); 6 June 6th Upper Basildon (D Marsh), and 1 West Woodhay Jul 31st (MJT). **Second winter:** Singles at Kintbury Cress Beds Sep 25th and on 4 or 5 occasions during Nov and Dec; Windsor Great Park Oct 5th (BAJC); Spray Wood Brightwalton Oct 22nd (SWi); Combe Wood Nov 11th (CDRH); Tidmarsh Nov 23rd (JLe); Woolley Down Dec 1st (GAS); Padworth Dec 4th (GEW); Lambourn Downs Dec 8th (RRK); Brimpton GPs Dec 19th (GEW) and Burghfield GP Dec 21st (JA). 2 at Decoy Pond Aldermaston Dec 14th (PBT).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Scarce passage migrant

After an early record at Eversley GP Mar 30th (IHB) there was just 1 record in spring, a bird in partial s/p at Pingewood GP Apr 25th (CDRH,RCr). In contrast in autumn there were 11 records involving 13+ individuals from 5 sites: 2 at Slough SF Jul 2nd (JOB) with 1 Aug 18th (DJB), 1 juv Aug 20th (CDRH,JOB,JPH,LJF) to Aug 28th (FC,JOB) with 3 Aug 24th (LJF)

and 1 ad s/p Aug 30th (AJP). A juv Aug 17th (S Pavlou) to Aug 19th (MO) at Dorney W commuted between Slough SF to Aug 28th (MO). Elsewhere, there were 2 over Aldermaston GPs Jul 10th (JPM) and 3 in w/p Lower Fm GP Oct 19th (JA,RPo). There were 2 late autumn/winter records: 1 Lavell's Lake Nov 9th (RR) to Nov 12th (KCr) and 1 Lower Fm GP Dec 23rd (JC, RHa).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Scarce passage migrant

Singles Dorney W Apr 27th (BAJC,MGM,MMc) and May 17th (JOB) and 1 s/p Lower Fm GP May 12th (JA,RPo).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Uncommon passage migrant

There were 11 records of 18 individuals reported from 7 sites. In spring 2 Lower Fm GP Apr 21st (FC); 2 Dorney W Apr 22nd (MMc); 1 QMR Apr 23rd (JAS) with 2 flying west May 14th (CDRH); 5 calling and flying high to north east at Woodlands Park, Maidenhead May 10th (DJB); 1 Moatlands GP Apr 25th (RSt); 1 heard Lower Fm GP Apr 28th (ABT) with 1 over May 12th (JA,RPo); 1 Pingewood GP May 13th (MJT) and 1 heard Upper Bucklebury May 13th (RF). The only autumn record was 1 over Wokingham Aug 20th (PCr).

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Uncommon passage migrant and now summer visitor in small numbers

The only record during the first winter period was 1 Theale GP Jan 14th (BU). In spring passage birds were singles at Bottom Lane Floods Mar 5th (JLe); Lower Fm GP Mar 23rd, Mar 25th (IW,JL,JPM); 22 over Farnborough Down the same day (GAS); 2 Compton Downs Mar 26th (the first recorded birds returning to summering grounds) (CDRH); 1 calling over Brimpton Mar 28th (GEW); 1 Pingewood GP Mar 30th (BTB,JM,MW) with 1 over Apr 5th (BDC), 1 over Swinley Brickpits Apr 8th (EEG), 1 Greenham Com Apr 16th (THW); 1 QMR Apr 17th (JAS); 1 calling over Dorney W Apr 20th (MMc) and 1 Eversley GP Apr 23rd (IHB). Three to 4 prs returned to Wellbottom Down in March and were present throughout the summer. Other prs were present during the summer at Woolley Down and in the Compton/Aldworth area. Single chicks fledged at 2 sites in W. Berks (CDRH). Return passage began in June with 1 Woolhampton GP Jun 15th (JW) and 3 Brimpton GP the same day (BMA); 1 QMR flying west Jun 20th (CDRH); 2 over Cookham Jun 26th (BDC); 1 heard Thatcham GP Jun 30th (IW,JL); 2 flying west Dorney W Jun 30th (DJB); 1 over Hosehill Lake Jul 14th (BU); 1 QMR Aug 10th (JAS) and 3 Aug 16th (CL). There were no records during the second winter.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce passage migrant

There was just 1 record, a juv/f/w at QMR Sep 21st (JAS).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus**Locally common passage migrant and summer visitor in small numbers*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	-	1	2	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Horton GP	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dorney W	-	-	2	4	7	8	2	-	-	1	-	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	1	7	10	5	6	1	-	-	-	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	-	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pingewood GPs	-	-	4	6	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Thatcham GP	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theale GPs	-	2	8	14	6	14	2	1	-	-	-	-
Twyford GPs	-	-	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woolhampton GPs	-	1	2	3	1	4	-	1	-	1	-	1

Singles were recorded at a further 11 sites with higher counts of 4 Ruscombe Mar 15th and Apr 16th (DJB) and 3 Beenham GP Mar 10th (JPM). Breeding was confirmed at Eversley GP (1 chick Jun 28th first breeding record since 1999: BMA), Lower Fm GP (4 chicks Jun 23rd IW,JL). Displaying birds were noted at Greenham Com and Theale GP although reported as no longer breeding at Hosehill Lake at Theale (BU). 2 migrating juv were seen at Slough SF Jul 5th (DJB).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia**Uncommon passage migrant*

A good year with strong passage in August and, exceptionally, a Feb record.

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brimpton GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dorney W	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	4	1	-	-	-
Lavell's Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	4	3	-	-	-
No. at other sites	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	23	1	-	-	-

There were singles Eversley GP Feb 15th (KBB), May 20th (IHB,TC) and Sep 10th (TC); Hosehill Lake May 19th (JA); Thatcham GP Aug 11th (IW,JL);Theale GP Apr 30th and Aug 26th (BU); Woolhampton GP Jul 19th, Aug 2nd and Aug 31st (JPM); 6 juvs Summerleaze GP Aug 7th (DJB); 1 Pingewood GP Aug 9th with 4 there Aug 23rd (MGM); 1 Bray GP Aug 12th (BDC); 1 heard over Winnersh Aug 14th (FC); 2 QMR Aug 29th (JAS); 2 Slough SF Aug 29th (JOB); 2 Great Meadow Pond Aug 31st (RRG). Last record was from Lavell's Lake Oct 6th (FC).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus**Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brimpton GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	3	-	1
Eversley GPs	2	4	5	2	-	1	-	1	4	-	1	1
Horton GP	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	-	2
Dorney W	1	1	2	2	1	7	3	6	2	-	5	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	1	1	-	4	3	4	3	2	1	2
Marsh Benham	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	4	4	3	2	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
Brayfield Fm Flash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slough SF	-	1	1	1	-	9	14	18	7	8	9	2
Theale GPs	2	4	4	4	-	-	1	1	3	2	5	1
Theale, Station Road	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4
Woolhampton GPs	1	-	9	1	-	6	4	10	1	2	2	1

Singles were recorded at a further 16 sites with 3 at Windsor Great Park Oct 26th (CDRH). The high count of 18 Slough SF was made Aug 4th (DJB) and Aug 9th (CDRH). A count of 9 Woolhampton GP Mar 24th is a high count for March (CDRH). The only May record was Dorney W from 8th (JOB, LJF) to 10th (BDC).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola**Scarce passage migrant*

In spring there was an ad at Eversley GP Apr 21st (EN, et al) and Apr 24th (EN) and 1 at Dorney W May 8th (JOB) to May 10th (MO). The only autumn record was a juv at Slough SF Aug 18th (CDRH) to Aug 21st (LJF).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos**Common passage migrant, rare in summer and uncommon in winter*

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dorney W	-	-	-	2	5	1	4	6	1	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP	-	-	-	2	2	1	6	4	2	1	-	-
Padworth Lane GP	4	2	2	2	1	-	1	3	2	1	2	-
Pingewood GPs	-	-	-	4	4	-	2	7	2	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	5	3	2	10	21	2	1	-	-
Slough SF	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	23	1	-	-	-
Summerlease GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
Theale GPs	-	-	-	4	3	-	2	3	2	1	-	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	1	2	1	1	1

Singles were recorded at a further 17 sites. The only counts to exceed 2 were 4 Green Park Reading Aug 21st and 3 Aug 25th (PBT). The high counts, perhaps reflecting an influx, were 21 QMR Aug 4th (JAS) and 23 Slough SF also Aug 4th (DJB).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Scarce passage migrant

There were 8 records of 10 individuals reported from 4 sites. In spring there was 1 Lower Denford May 6th (JD), 1 s/p Lower Fm GP May 12th (JA,RPo), 1 Moatlands GP May 13th (CDRH) to May 15th (BU) and 1 s/p QMR May 12th (JAS). In autumn all records came from QMR with 1 ad Jul 22nd and Jul 27th (JAS), 3 Jul 31st (CDRH), 1 ad Aug 9th and Aug 10th (JAS) and a juv/f/w Sep 20th (JAS) to Sep 23rd (CDRH,JAS).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

There was a good number of records, covering a wide range of dates, locations and ages. First records were an ad winter QMR Jan 3rd (CDRH), a f/w bird at Smallmead GP Jan 16th (MGM) and f/w at Bray GP Jan 30th (DJB). In spring, 1s/p ad QMR Mar 7th (CDRH) (and possibly the same bird crossing between Berkshire and Little Marlow GP, Buckinghamshire Mar 29th and Apr 3rd (BDC)). There was an interesting W. Berkshire record of a f/s bird on a ploughed field at Shefford Woodlands Jul 22nd (CDRH), with another record on the Downs of a f/w near Lowbury Hill Nov 4th (CDRH). Summer dispersal records included an ad in QMR roost Aug 8th, 9th, 19th, and seen close by on Horton Fields accompanied by a juv Aug 9th (CDRH). There was a strong autumn showing at QMR, with 4 different juvs moulting to f/w in Oct, with 2 remaining into Nov, and supplemented by a s/w (Nov 5th) and an ad winter (Nov 25th), in total a minimum of 6 (all CDRH). Further autumn records comprised a f/w bird seen at Lavell's Lake Nov 21st (ADB), and then for two days at Dinton Pastures from Dec 1st (FC) before presumably moving on to Smallmead GPs Dec 4th (MW, MGM). An ad bird at Hythe End Dec 23rd (CDRH) was the last record.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Scarce passage and winter visitor

Records of this nimble and delicate gull were clearly divided into spring and autumn passage. The first record was Lower Fm GP Mar 17th (JW), followed by ads at Theale GPs Apr 2nd (DJB, BTB, CDRH et al) and 30th (BU), and f/s birds at QMR Apr 17th (CDRH), Lower Fm May 4th (SG, JLe), Dinton Pastures May 4th (BTB), Theale Main Pit May 22nd (CDRH, JOB, MGM) and Dorney W May 31st, later the same day at Horton GPs, and Dorney W Jun 1st (all CDRH). Autumn passage began in late Aug, with an ad and juv at Theale Main Pit Aug 25th (BU, MW) and then a sequence of records at QMR, comprising 4 birds Sep 7th (CDRH), 3 juvs Sep 22nd (JAS), and 1 23rd (CDRH), single f/ws on several Oct dates, a movement of 12 birds, mostly ads, heading North-East Oct 15th and 1 ad Oct 25th (CDRH). At nearby Horton Fields there were 2 fw and 1 s/w Oct 23rd and 1 fw, 1 s/w Oct 25th-26th (CDRH). The autumn season extended surprisingly late for this insectivorous and tern-like species, with a f/w lingering in the Widbrook Com area from Nov 13th-23rd (MO) and 1 Lower Fm GP Dec 8th (IW, JL, JPM).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant, which now breeds

This is the most ubiquitous gull species, common in a wide range of habitats rural and urban throughout the year, and now breeding at several sites in the county. High counts in the first winter period were 1100 Burghfield GPs Jan 3rd (JA); 1000 at Mare Lane, Binfield Jan 24th (BDC); c1500 Felix Fm Binfield Jan 28th (DJB); 4000 at Home Park, Windsor Feb 26th (WAS); but really big numbers gathered in regular roosts, with over 7000 counted at Moatlands GP Mar 1st (RCr). Birds were regularly present on the island there from Mar 10th, with 50+ prs nesting on May 19th (BU), and 8+ prs nesting on rafts at nearby Hosehill LNR. 21 chicks were observed on Moatlands island on Jul 26th (DJB) with juvs present at Woolhampton and Lower Fm GPs perhaps indicative of breeding there. Moderate numbers of f/s and s/s and non-breeding ads were regular at several sites throughout the summer, with a flock of 124 passing west over QMR on the evening of May 31st (CDRH). Black-headed Gulls are often seen feeding on the wing when flying insects are present in large numbers, and a flock of 40 were seen feeding on flying ants over Pinkney's Green on Jul 14th (LJF, MJF). Numbers climbed again in the autumn, with 500 at Moatlands GP Oct 11th (RCr) and 500 at Dinton Pastures CP Dec 10th (FC). An almost pure white bird, but with dark under-primaries, was seen at QMR Nov 5th, (thought by observer to be possibly the same bird as seen at Wraysbury in 1986) and there was an albino bird there Dec 19 (CDRH).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Despite being a minority in most mixed gull flocks, occasionally large flocks dominated by Common Gull are found on pasture, playing fields and parkland; it is thought that the "common" in its name refers not to its relative abundance, but to its liking for foraging on grazing land. In line with this habitat preference, the highest count from the first winter period was 400 at Mare Lane, Binfield on Jan 15th (BDC). In the second winter period there was a count of 260, mainly ads, in the gull roost at Moatlands GP on Dec 15th (PBT). As usual, the species was absent in early summer, with the last spring record being one at Horton GPs Apr 17th (JOB) and the first returning bird a single at Theale Main Pit Jul 7th (BU), with 7 together at Dorney W Jul 15th (LM). Autumn records were mainly of small numbers of birds, although there were 12 together at Bray GPs Oct 10th (DRi), 16 together at Moor Green Lakes Nov 23rd (IHB) and 12 at Dinton Pastures Nov 25th (FC).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

This is often the most numerous of the large gull species, with daytime counts of over 100 not unusual, e.g. over 600 were together at Moatlands GP Mar 1st (RCr). The presence of substantial numbers of imms and non-breeders in E. Berks and M. Berks over the summer has become a regular occurrence in recent years, and 200 were estimated at Pingewood GPs May 31st (MJT). These birds linger around the easy food sources provided by landfill sites while they undergo their summer moult, but numbers rise steeply with an influx of returning breeding birds by late summer. An impressive count of over 9000 was made at Theale Main Pit Sep 11th (RCr), with 2200 birds the previous evening passing over Englefield en route to the roost. Similarly, over 1000 were observed heading south-east over Snelsmore Com Aug 27th (RJ), probably to roost at Lower Fm. The September high numbers are not sustained,

and by Oct 28th the numbers roosting in the Theale area had fallen to 2500 (RCr), the roost moving between the adjacent Theale Main Pit and Moatlands GP on a seemingly random basis. Other sites with substantial gatherings include Lower Fm GP, with 1500 Nov 7th (RJ), and of course the large roost at QMR, although no counts were received from this site.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Although common at landfill sites, in gull flocks on agricultural land and in roosts, there were no large counts reported in either winter period. Along with the previous species, increasing numbers of Herring Gull have been summering in Berkshire, and a regular group of imm birds around the gravel pits south of Reading yielded a peak count of 342 at Pingewood GPs May 14th (RCr), with a similar group of 54 imms at Tickleback Row May 29th (CDRH). The presence of ad birds in town centres along the Thames in summer, such as those noted as present in Slough (EG), suggests that inland breeding of the subspecies *L. a. argentatus* may be occurring, although there were no confirmed records. The darker Scandinavian race of Herring Gull *L. a. argentatus* was noted as arriving from early September (CDRH), and by late autumn is almost as abundant as the smaller and paler birds of the native population (*argentatus* usually outnumbers *argenteus* at QMR in mid-winter (CDRH)).

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus (argentatus) michabellis*

Uncommon but increasing autumn passage migrant and winter visitor

This southern counterpart of the familiar Herring Gull is a regular dispersive summer visitor and present in winter in small numbers. Although superficially similar to Herring Gulls, there are distinct structural differences, and the cleaner and more contrasting w/p can make them surprisingly visible in a mixed flock. Birds of mixed ages were present in both winter periods, with up to 7 present around the Burghfield GPs in January (RCr), and lower numbers reported at Pingewood GP; Twyford (CDRH); Lower Fm GP (RRK et al); Mare Lane Binfield (BDC); Summerleaze GPs (BDC); Hurst Green; QMR and Virginia Water, 2 ringed ads Jan 2nd (CDRH). Birds continued to be found amongst mixed gull flocks throughout Mar, although they become harder to pick out as the commoner species assume their fresh white-headed s/p. Unusually, several birds lingered into May, with 1s/w bird at Pingewood GPs May 15th (TGB) and three imm birds at Dinton Pastures May 25th (FC). The first returning bird was a 3rd summer at Dorney W Jun 6th followed by a 3rd summer Pingewood GP Jun 19th 1 ad and 2 sub-ad QMR Jun 20 (all CDRH), an ad and f/s together at Burnthouse Lane GPs Jun 28th, with 1 at Lavell's Lake Jul 3rd (AFd), 2 at Lower Fm GP Jul 11th (MJD), and a group of 6 at Englefield Jul 21st (both RCr). Small numbers of birds were regular at several sites in August and September. The highest count was 23 birds, mainly ads, at Horton Fields Aug 8th, with 12 QMR Sep 26th (both CDRH). Small numbers remained at a number of sites throughout the autumn, including west to Lower Fm GP from Oct 25th (RRK, JC et al) and Newbury Showground Dec 3rd (CDRH). At the end of the year, up to 8 ads were in the roost at Moatlands GP (PBT), with smaller numbers present in the area during the daytime.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus (argentatus) cachinnans*

Rare (under-recorded?) autumn/winter visitor

There were 4 records of this elegant eastern gull in 2002, starting with a f/w at Pingewood GP at the end of a frozen spell on Jan 8th. The next record was a sub-ad bird QMR on Aug 29th,

followed by a juv there Oct 10th, concluding with an ad Horton Fields Dec 4th and again at QMR on Dec 25th (all records CDRH). Given the recent recognition of the occurrence in the UK of this form, and its frequency elsewhere in South-East England, it seems likely it is under-recorded and a growing awareness of field characteristics will produce an increasing number of sightings in the future.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Rare winter visitor

The attraction of rare gulls to join the hordes of commoner species at landfills was confirmed when the Smallmead area hosted both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls in the same week. Even without the reliable and regularly returning ad bird roosting at QMR, in recent years Iceland Gull has been the more frequent of the two white-winged species in Berkshire, which seems to be an inversion of the situation in the 1980's and 1990's. The regular ad roosting at QMR was seen again in the first week of Jan (1st and 7th) and again on Feb 14th (CDRH), and was most probably the bird seen frequently at Hedgerley tip in Buckinghamshire. A s/w bird was found on Jan 14th at Searle's Fm Lane GP (PBT, LM), initially prompting some confusion over the possible recurrence of a leucistic imm gull that was in the area from late August to early November 2001. However, the truly white wings of this gull confirmed it as a s/w Iceland Gull, and it remained for several days (BTB, AH, DFu, HRN), possibly as late as the 26th (MJS).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare annual winter visitor

A fine f/w example of this huge gull was found at Smallmead GP Jan 17th (MGM). Initially seen tantalisingly over the landfill with many other gulls, it came to bathe on the adjacent gravel pit and was then well-watched at Green Park (BTB, MW et al) and at various Burghfield GPs until 25th (PBT). What was presumably the same bird was then seen further west the next day at Lower Fm GP (JPM, IW, JL); thanks to the hide, this is a site that provides closer gull-watching views than most, when gulls gather in the afternoon before moving off to roost sites further east.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

First winter: The highest count was 43 Pingewood on Jan 9th (BMA), with small groups at several sites until the last winter record at Cookham on Mar 27th (BDC). **Second winter:** The first returning birds were 2 Dorney W Aug 20th (BDC). The highest count was an exceptional 218 predominantly (210) ad birds at QMR, late morning (i.e. not in roost) on Dec 25th (CDRH), with up to 100 at Smallmead GP on 27th (RCr) also significant.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce spring migrant and winter visitor

A f/w bird made a prolonged stay at Lower Fm from Feb 7th (MJD et al); despite appearing rather subdued initially, the bird was mobile and was present until the 20th (BHo). At the same time an ad winter bird was at QMR on the 11th (JAS). There was a spring record of an ad bird circling over Horton GPs May 31st and providing a touch of incongruity by briefly

joining a flock of 7 Hobbies (CDRH). Autumn records comprised an imm bird over Lower Fm GP Oct 25th before moving off eastwards (GWO, JC, RRK), and an ad QMR Oct 30th (CDRH) and another ad flew south over Wraybury GP Nov 10th (CDRH).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant, principally in autumn

2002 was a good year for this species, particularly the autumn. The first spring record was a single at Padworth Lane GP on Apr 6th (JA, RPo), followed by three records at QMR, of an ad over with Common Terns on Apr 17th, two ads resting on a buoy on Apr 21st, 3 May 23rd (all JAS). One was at Theale Main Apr 21st (BU). The autumn passage at QMR began with an ad Aug 17th (JAS) and then on 20th a mixed flock of 10 ads and juvs circled early morning, followed by a flock of 7 more birds, arriving from the west and departing north-east, and shortly after a single juv settled briefly, making a total of 18 birds there in a single day. M. Berks recorded a single ad on 18th Moatlands (RJB) and W. Berks had 3 ads moulting to w/p Aug 29th (JC et al). QMR continued its run into September with 2 on 1st (BTB), and then 2 on 3rd, 4 on 6th, and 2 on 22nd (all JAS), with 2 on 13th (CDRH). The total for 2002 was c43 birds, 8 in spring the remainder in autumn.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common passage migrant and uncommon summer visitor

Common Tern was widely recorded across the county, from sites along the Kennet and Avon canal in W. Berkshire, throughout the gravel pits along the M4, along the R. Thames, to Windsor Great Park and at QMR in the east. The first record in 2002 was a single bird at Eversley GPs on Apr 14th (IHB), followed by ones and twos at several sites, until the first main arrival of 10 at Moatlands GP on Apr 18th (JA, CDRH, RPo), growing to 68 by Apr 21st, and a high count of 130 on May 9th (ABT). There was a visible passage through QMR on May 13th, with several sizeable groups being observed arriving and departing to the east or north-east, totalling 74 birds (CDRH). Breeding was recorded at a number of sites, including Lower Fm GP, Padworth Lane GPs, Hosehill Lake (17 prs, BU), Moatlands GP (20 prs, BU), Eversley GPs (14 prs raising 16 y, IHB), QMR (1 pr with 3 chicks Jul 27 and 29th JAS) and Dorney W. Juvs were recorded at many waters, since family groups often move between sites. Autumn gatherings of 20 or more birds were at Dorney W (MW, DJB, DFr) from early August and 30 birds at QMR on Aug 17th (JAS). The last record of the year was a lingering f/w bird at Hosehill Lake from Oct 18th (BU) to Nov 13th (CDRH), one of the latest records for the county.

Monthly maxima at the main sites (i.e. counts above 10) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dinton Pastures / Lavell's Lake	-	-	-	9	30	11	4	2	-	-	-	-
Eversley GP	-	-	-	9	26	28	36	-	-	-	-	-
Dorney W	-	-	-	2	4	14	25	26	3	-	-	-
Lower Fm GP / Thatcham	-	-	-	3	4	5	14	2	-	-	-	-
QMR	-	-	-	7	74	-	5	30	9	-	-	-
Summerlease GP	-	-	-	2	-	-	13	1	-	-	-	-
Theale GP (incl Moatlands GP)	-	-	-	76	130	90	40	30	3	1	1	-
Woolhampton GP	-	-	-	3	16	6	3	3	-	-	-	-

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers

There were a number of spring records from Theale Main Pit and Moatlands GPs, with the earliest being 6 Arctic Terns with Common Terns on Apr 17th (JA, RPo), 1 Apr 19th (MMc, MW), and a highest count of 11 on Apr 30th (ABT). One or two birds were then reported through the first week of May at Theale or nearby Pingewood GPs. Dinton Pastures CP had at least 18 birds with Common Terns at Black Swan Lake May 5th (FC), with 3 present the following morning. A presumed additional arrival of up to 6 birds appeared May 7th (FC, DRi, MW et al).

Recorders note. See comments regarding separation of Common and Arctic Terns in Berkshire Records Committee Report earlier in this report.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Scarce passage migrant

There were two sightings of this diminutive but vocal tern in 2002, both possibly the same bird. A single bird was seen on the May 18th at Dorney W in the evening (CDRH), remaining for several observers, and was seen again early the following morning (BMA). This, or another bird, briefly reappeared May 22nd (DJB).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage migrant

Spring passage of this attractive marsh tern was well below average. The first record was an ad bird at Black Swan Lake, Dinton Pastures May 7th (MO), followed by a single at Dorney W May 13th (DJB, MMc), just 2 for Theale GPs on 17th (BU, RCr), and a late record of 1 in full sp Jun 6th (CDRH). Autumn saw a better showing at Theale GP, with 2 ads and 2 juvs at Moatlands GP Aug 11th (MW, JOB) and 1 juv remaining until 15th (RCr). QMR saw a reasonable passage, with 2 juvs early Aug 7th, a juv followed by an ad Aug 12th, groups of 4 and then 8 juvs departing south Aug 18th and a single juv Aug 19th (all JAS), the last record of the year.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Abundant urban resident

Despite the obvious presence of numbers of feral pigeons in local town centres only 7 records were submitted, none from urban areas. Counts of up to two were received from three rural sites. The only counts to exceed two were 200 Horton Oct 2nd (MW) and 100 at Long Lane Cookham on Dec 17th (BDC).

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor

Counts of up to 50 were received from 40 sites with higher counts of 400-500 Shottesbrooke Park Oct 2nd (DJB); 72 White Waltham Oct 5th (BAJC); 250+ Cold Harbour Oct 18th (DJB); 220 White Waltham Oct 18th with 1000+ there Oct 24th (both DJB); 260+ Theale GP at 07.30 on Oct 29th flying south in three groups 2-3 minutes apart (BU) and 73 Englefield Nov 17th (RCr). BREEDING: Singing birds were reported from numerous places, and prs were present at Strand Water, Cookham on Apr 6th (BDC) and Quarry Woods on Apr 8th (BDC). Breeding

was reported (without details) at Woolley Down (GAS). Nesting prs were reported from barns at Wasing July 10th (JPM) and West Woodhay May 6th, where a pr raised 2 y (RGS). At Moor Green Lakes (Eversley GPs), breeding occurred and details are in the Nest Box survey article at the beginning of this report.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

Counts of up to 300 were received from 27 sites with higher counts of 1000 Farnborough Down Jan 6th to Jan 19th (GAS); c700 Cold Harbour Jan 26th and 1000 Woodlands Park Maidenhead Feb 14th (DJB); c500 Sheepdrove Feb 14th (BDC); c700 Streatley Feb 21st (SPA); c1000 Cold Harbour Mar 2nd (BDC); 1325 over Eversley GP between 07:00 and 07:40 Nov 3rd all heading S to SW (BMA); On Nov 11th 350+ over Larchfield at 0715hrs and 1750 to 2000 over Furze Platt and Pinkneys Green at 0730-0740hrs all heading south (DJB); c 1 500 Sheepdrove Nov 20th (BDC); 977 Wishmoor area Dec 28th (DJB). Despite many records only two mentioned breeding, which was reported from Thatcham and Summerleaze GPs (where a pr nested on top of a Little Owl nestbox (BDC)), but the species is abundant all year and undoubtedly breeds throughout the county.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Widespread and common resident

Relatively few records were received of a species regarded as too common to report, but common throughout the county all year. Only one breeding record was received (Sindlesham, Sept) (BMA). Largest numbers reported: 84 at QMR Sept 21st (CDRH); 31 Dorney W Sept 22nd (BAJC); 52 there Oct 2nd (JOB); 35 at Frogmill, Hurley Oct 14th (SJF, FMF) and 65 at Carter's Lane Sindlesham Oct 18th (DJB). There was a leucistic bird at Compton Sept 18th (CDRH).

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Common but decreasing summer visitor

The earliest report was of 1 bird on Apr 26th at Hosehill Lake (TM). Records, which were fairly regular during the period May to August, came from 15 sites/areas in W. Berks, 11 in M. Berks and 8 in E. Berks. Almost all records were of 1 or 2 birds. Probable breeding was reported from Woolhampton (singing birds present throughout the summer) (JPM) and at Hosehill Lake (pr reported frequently by several observers), but it was confirmed only at Catmore, 1 at nest Jun 12th (CDRH) and Brimpton where one or more prs spent the summer, and where juvs were seen on several occasions from Jul 7th onwards (GEW). Song and display were noted at Waltham St Lawrence May 15th (SPA). The only flock reported was 11 on Aug 29th on overhead wires at Brimpton (GEW). The last bird seen was at Brimpton on Sep 11th (GEW).

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Common but localised resident

Resident and locally common in E. Berkshire, mainly close to the R. Thames from Cookham eastwards. Reports as far up-river as Thatcham in 2002 suggest a westward spread. There were no confirmed reports of breeding, but the presence of ad birds at Frogmill from winter through to the summer when they were seen with juvs suggest that breeding in that area was

likely (SJF/FMF). Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray area	62	2	64	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	28
Cookham area	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	12	-	14	5
Dorney W	-	-	10	-	5	45	37	19	30	-	25	24
Horton area	4	4	4	5	1	-	-	-	2	-	6	10
Slough SF	-	-	10	-	-	-	34	81	-	-	-	-
Wraysbury area	6	62	100	30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Other sites	31	13	5	19	5	14	10	2	24	6	97	3

There were 21 'other sites' the main ones (in terms of numbers seen) being Frogmill, Maidenhead Court and Old Slade GPs.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Common summer visitor

The first bird to arrive was at Hosehill Lake (BU) on Apr 1st. Throughout the year reports came from 64 sites in 54 well separated areas. Reports were almost always of singles but occasionally of 2 birds, although 3 or more were at Thatcham Marsh May 4th (DJB), May 11th and Jun 1st (JPM), at Woolhampton GPs on May 15th (JPM) and at Brimpton on Jun 15th (RCr), 5+ at Swinley Forest May 16th and 3 May 31st (DJB). Over the first 5 weeks from Apr 1st numbers reported in the county were 2, 1, 11, 16 and 20. The table below shows the total numbers reported throughout the summer. With the exception of 1 fem at Woolhampton GPs on 31 May (JPM) all were singing males or of unrecorded sex.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
No of birds	29	38	24	2	3
No of sites	23	26	19	2	3

Breeding was probable in most of the sites (based on the presence of singing males over extended periods). The only confirmed breeding was at Dorney W where a juv was heard in a reed warbler's nest on Aug 1st (JOB). A single juv at Greenham Com Jul 27th (IW) suggests that breeding took place there. The last records were 1 at Frogmill, Hurley Aug 20th (SJF, FMF) and 1 Aug 28th at 'Theale GP (BDC).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Scarce and localised resident

Uncommon resident, mainly in the downs of W. Berkshire. Numbers appear to be stable. Of 90 records received, the majority were of single birds hunting at dusk. The table below shows the distribution of all records.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. Berks												
Number of birds	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	1
Number of sites	2	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	1
M. Berks												
Number of birds	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Number of sites	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
W. Berks												
Number of birds	3	1	2	4	5	11	9	2	2	2	5	3
Number of sites	3	1	2	4	4	11	7	2	2	2	4	3
Total												
Number of birds	6	3	6	5	6	12	11	3	4	3	6	5
Number of sites	6	2	6	5	5	12	9	3	4	3	5	5

The peak in June/July could be due to the need to hunt over a longer period when young are to be fed (Recorder). Breeding reports, or indications of likely breeding were as follows: *Site A in W. Berks*: a pr were present all year (GAS). On May 23rd one was seen carrying prey in late afternoon. On Jul 22nd two ads left a nestbox, but breeding success is unknown (GAS). *Site B in W Berkshire*: one bird was present on Mar 15th (LS) with a pr there May 6th, when there were 4 eggs. Two y fledged in July. A second nest in this area also fledged y. (RGS), where on Jul 17th the 2 nestlings were weighed and measured (JPM). *Site C in W Berks*: one was reported quartering pasture fields near the Thames on Jun 17th. It caught prey that it took along a hedge line and out of sight before returning to continue hunting, so was assumed to be a breeding bird. (MJS).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Widespread and locally common resident

35 observers submitted 177 records from 68 sites - 31 in W. Berks, 33 in E. Berks and 4 in M. Berks. The table shows the monthly numbers reported.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. Berks	Number of birds	11	3	13	11	4	2	8	4	6	4	9	6
	Number of sites	11	2	12	8	4	1	5	3	5	3	3	2
M. Berks	Number of birds	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	3	1	2	1	2
	Number of sites	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	2	1	1
W. Berks	Number of birds	7	1	14	9	1	5	8	11	5	4	3	6
	Number of sites	5	1	10	7	1	4	4	7	3	3	2	4
Total	Number of birds	18	4	28	22	5	8	16	18	12	10	13	14
	Number of sites	16	3	23	16	5	6	9	12	9	8	6	7

Breeding seems to have been widespread to judge by the records of calling birds. At least 19 prs held territory, but evidence confirming breeding was sparse. A pr was present all year at Woolley Down where two y were seen on June 16th (GAS). On Mar 31st one appeared to be occupying (i.e. sitting next to) a nest box at Marsh Meadows, Cookham (BDC). At Frogmill Jun 28th an ad and juv were seen together (SJF/F/VIF). At Dorney W July 9th 2 juvs were seen with 2 ads (BDC).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Widespread resident, common in suitable habitat, including urban areas

100 records, mostly of calling birds, were submitted by 40 observers covering 53 sites evenly spread across the county. They refer to at least 85 different birds, including juvs. The seasonal distribution is shown in the following table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of birds	23	6	6	8	15	6	17	17	11	9	1	5
Number of sites	17	4	4	8	5	5	9	11	9	8	1	4

It is not possible to tell from the records if the high number in January is due to bird activity or to observer effort. As many as 8 birds (of unspecified sex) were calling on Bucklebury

Com May 2nd (RCr). Although most records were of calling birds, there were only 3 reports of calling prs, at Bucklebury Com May 23rd and Jun 18th (GJS), at Tilehurst in August (DML) and Windsor Park (South) Oct 5th (BAJC). Breeding was confirmed at: Boardhouse plantation, Farnborough Down where 2 prs each raised 2+ y, first heard Jul 18th (GAS); West Woodhay Down where on Apr 15th an ad was seen to fly from a nest containing 3 very small young (RGS), Snelsmore Com where fledglings were heard Jul 20th (GAS); and Woolley Down where 3 fledglings were reported Aug 7th (GAS). Breeding failure was reported from Frogmill, Hurley where no breeding occurred at a site where juvs had been heard for the 3 previous years (SJF/FMF).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Resident in very small numbers and scarce winter visitor

A good year, with 13 separate records from 5 well separated locations referring apparently to 3 winter birds and two successful nests (one just over the border in Oxfordshire). **Winter:** One bird at Brimpton GP on Feb 26th was flushed from a low hedge then perched in bare willow (GEW). Two were seen at Wellbottom Down on Mar 19th (ABT) and 1 on the Berks Downs Apr 3rd (CDRH). **Summer:** *Site A.* A nest in W. Berkshire in an old Crow's nest some 40 ft. high up in a rather slender silver birch tree within a small copse of birch was regularly observed by GEW. From Apr 22nd to 27th an ad was sitting on this nest, and by May 2nd sitting rather higher, perhaps on chicks. On May 4th one chick was visible amongst the breast feathers of a partially upright ad (all GEW). *Site B:* One was calling near Boxford on Jun 18th (RJ). *Site C:* In the Downs near Compton c 3 juvs were seen within Berks on May 19th (CDRH) and on the Oxfordshire side of the border 4 juvs were calling in a wood and audible from the Berkshire side of the boundary on 18th Jun (MJT). On May 30th 2 ads were seen and 2 juvs heard calling (MW) at what is presumed to be the same nest.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

19 records were submitted by 9 observers, covering 8 sites, all but one on the Downs, and of which 5 were in the area immediately north-west of West Ilsley. **First winter:** Four birds were in that area Feb 9th (ABT); and two or three at Bury Down, Cow Down or Sheep Down from Mar 2nd (BMA) to 16th (MO). Reports there of 1 or 2 birds continued until Apr 15th (CDRH). Two at Sheep Down on Mar 3rd were described as "One greyish individual and one warmer coloured bird" (BDC). **Second winter:** The first to return after the summer was at Greenham Com Sep 30th where it drifted west just after 6pm (CDRH). Two were at Bockhampton Down, south of Sheepdrove Fm, Oct 2nd (ABT). At Walbury Hill Nov 17th, 1 departed northwards at dusk, gaining height and obviously moving off (CDRH). 1 was in the Lambourn/Bury Down area Dec 17th (ABT) where on Dec 31st (CDRH) 1 was seen hunting in late morning.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Summer visitor in small numbers to suitable habitat

The earliest report was of one at Bucklebury Com on May 11th, a male flushed from its roost (NC), with three there by May 23rd at least one of which was male (GJS). In the birds' stronghold in Berkshire, the heaths in the south-east of the county (Caesar's Camp, Wishmoor, Edgebarrow, Swinley Forest, etc) the first report was 2 at Gorrick

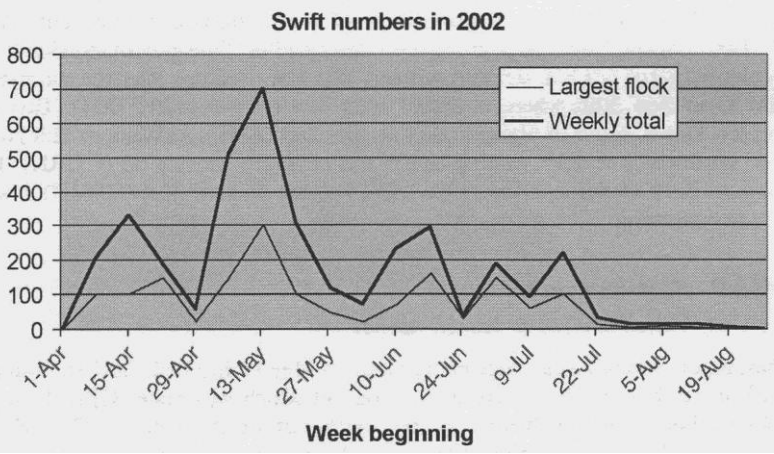
Wood/plantation on May 29th (BTB) followed by 3 possibly 4 birds at Caesar's Camp on May 31st, churring and wing clapping (BMA). The table below summarises the minimum numbers deduced from the 39 records received.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
SE Berks Heaths	5	13	10	1	-
Bucklebury Com	3	3	-	-	-
Combe Hill	-	-	-	-	1
Crookham Com	-	1	-	-	-
Greenham Com	-	4	1	-	-
Snelsmore Com	-	2	2	1	-

Breeding was probable at Snelsmore Com, Greenham Com and Bucklebury Com and in the south-east of the county at Wishmoor, Caesar's Camp, Gorrick Wood Plantation and Edgebarrow Heath, but not confirmed at any site. Other than numerous reports of churring and wing clapping displays, reports relating to breeding were confined to observations of a pr at Greenham Com on Jun 26th and 28th (with 2 other males nearby). The latest was reported were at Snelsmore Com on Aug 27th (RJ) and on Sep 9th at Combe Hill (LS).

SWIFT *Apus apus*
Common passage migrant and (declining?) summer visitor

161 records were received from 62 sites. The earliest was a single bird at Burnthouse Lane Pit Apr 2nd (JA, RP) then after a 3 week gap 2 appeared at Eton Wick (MMc), and 4 at Moatlands GP on 24th with c100 at Moatlands GP Apr 25th (both BU). Highest counts were c400 at Moatlands GP May 13th and c300 at Dorney W May 29th (both JOB) and c200 at Dinton Pastures May 30th (MW) with 200+ Jun 5th at Cold Harbour (DJB), and 7 flocks of c150 were reported in the county over the course of the summer. At Lower Fm GP May 27th there was an unusually plumaged swift with a white face, throat and upper breast (MGP). The latest record was a single bird with a martin flock Sep 11th at Dinton Pastures (FC). The only possible breeding report was from Maidenhead where one entered a hole under roof tiles on a building in the town centre (JEW). The chart below shows the weekly numbers reported in the county. The weekly total is the sum of largest numbers reported at all sites that week. The



Apr 2nd arrival is over a week earlier than previous records for Berks and coincided with a small influx into the UK beginning with a group in Devon on Mar 23rd which included Alpine and Pallid Swift (BB Vol 95 p260) (Recorder).

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Uncommon resident

370 records were submitted covering 76 areas all over the county, usually of one bird, sometimes two, but rarely more than 2. At well watched sites, birds were reported in almost every month (e.g. at Bray GPs, Eversley GPs, Lavell's Lake and Woolhampton GPs). If it can be assumed that this represents a resident population, then, on the basis of the numbers reported, at least 87 birds seem to have been present all year at these 76 sites with a peak of at least 122 in early autumn. This suggests that about 0.4 juvs per pr were reared to independence. In practice it seems likely that there were prs at most of the sites, and that true numbers are under-reported. The table below shows the sum of the maximum number of birds reported at each site in each month, and as a fairly constant group of observers was reporting it probably directly reflects the abundance (or observability?) of the species through the year. An average of 24 birds per month was reported but a distinct dip in numbers from March to July might suggest that half of the population was on a nest during May (or perhaps it shows late winter mortality?) and a distinct rise in August-September, when independent juvs are most common. Despite the statistical inference that breeding was widespread and fairly successful, very few direct observations confirmed this. During March, prs were reported at Kintbury Cress Beds (failed to breed) (RGS), on the Loddon at Lavell's Lake (RD) and on the Thames at Pangbourne (DML). Juvs were seen at Bagnor Cress Beds Aug 26th (IW/JL). At Dorney W May 18th two birds took food to a nest (BDC). At Boveney Lock (Windsor), Romney Lock and on the Thames at Cookham prs bred successfully (WAS), and at Eversley GPs two prs were successful (IHB) and 3 juvs were seen together Jul 4th (BMA).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of birds	22	15	22	17	9	18	25	42	42	23	26	27
Number of sites	17	11	15	15	8	14	18	29	28	16	18	14

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Now only a scarce passage migrant

One was watched briefly from the south-west embankment of QMR on Sep 24th at 3:20pm until it flew into a tree in a nearby garden (ABT et al).

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Common resident

51 observers sent in 294 records from 96 sites all over the county at all times of the year. Records came mostly from gravel pits and farmland, sometimes from heathland and only infrequently from woodland. Most records were of singles, sometimes 2 and occasionally of 3 to 5 birds. In contrast to the other woodpeckers there were no reports of drumming which occurs only exceptionally. Recorded numbers peaked in March and July/August reflecting respectively the peak seasons for calling and for emergence of juvs. Prs were recorded at Brimpton GPs Mar 21st and at Greenham Com Feb 12th. Juvs were widely recorded throughout the whole of July starting with 1 at Inkpen on 1st (GSt), then 1 with 2 ads at

Brimpton GPs (JPM), 2 at Summerleaze GPs, several family parties near The Lookout, Bracknell (BDC), at Quarry Wood 1 with 2 ads (BDC), 1 at Frogmill (SJF/FMF), 1 at Stubbings (BDC) and 1 at Cookham Rise 29th (BDC). A few juvs were reported in August.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident

This species was seen throughout the county throughout the year in or near all types of woodland. There were no marked seasonal fluctuations of observations. Reports from 77 sites came from 38 observers often from peanut feeders in gardens. Highest counts were six at Theale GP Mar 31st (BDC); five at Hell Corner Fm Inkpen Jun 10th (GSt/LS) and six in Crowthorne Woods/Swinley Forest Jul 15th (BDC). Drumming was reported from mid February until early May (and in the last week of December). 4 nests with y were located in Swinley Park and 1 at Upper Star Post, Swinley Forest in May (DJB), there was a nest with y at Prospect School, Tilehurst Jun 19th (DRH). Juvs were seen at Inkpen Jun 10th (GS), Aldermaston GPs Jun 11th (JPM), Frogmill Jun 18th (SJF/FMF), Twyford for most of July (SPA), South Reading on Jul 7th (MBu), Finchampstead Jul 22nd (AFd) and Lavell's Lake July 31st (AFd).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Uncommon resident

44 records came from 37 sites (12 in W. Berks, 12 in M. Berks and 13 in E. Berks) made by 27 observers. The table below summarises these reports. All records were of single birds except for a pr at Prospect Park Reading on Apr 5th (JA) and 4+ at Windsor Great Park on May 31st — 2 ads and at least 2 just-fledged juvs (CDRH).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of birds	4	2	5	9	6	1	1	5	2	2	3	5
Number of sites	4	2	5	8	3	1	1	5	2	2	3	5

Drumming was heard at Warfield Brickworks Ponds on Mar 29th (DJS); at Whitegrove Copse on Apr 5th (1 calling & drumming) (DJS) and at Lavell's Lake Apr 11th (MW). This species is more difficult to find than it was 10 years ago and seems to have declined in number.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Summer visitor in small numbers to suitable habitat, uncommon at other times.

38 observers submitted 90 records from 7 areas in E. Berks and 6 in W. Berks (none in M. Berks).

The sites in the east were Broadmoor, Caesar's Camp, Crowthorne Woods (aka Swinley Forest), Edgebarrow Heath (aka Wildmoor Heath), Surrey Hill, Wellington College and the Wishmoor Area. The areas in the west were Greenham Com (east, west and south), Padworth Lane GP, Snelmore Com and Crookham Com. The table below summarises all reports.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. Berks Number of	0	7	15	17	28	15	1	1	1	0	0	0
Number of sites	0	4	4	2	4	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
W. Berks Number of	8	8	13	13	10	5	4	4	5	1	0	0
Number of sites	1	3	4	4	4	2	3	1	1	1	0	0

The stronghold of this species in Berkshire probably remains in the heaths and forests in the south-east of the county. However there were 41 records altogether from Greenham Com, which appears to reflect the diligence of local observers as much as a particular concentration of birds. The winter record of eight there on Jan 23rd (with skylark and meadow pipit) (IP) is unusual, and observers are encouraged to report all winter sightings of Woodlark. Birds were singing at Greenham Com from Feb 12th, when 3 were there (JPM) with 4 there on 16th (RRK), and song was heard regularly there until Jun 9th (DR). At least 2 and probably more prs spent the summer there and on Sep 14th a family party of 2 ads and 3 juvs was seen (GEW). In E. Berks birds were first reported on Feb 16th with 1 singing at Wildmoor Heath (DJS) and Feb 20th 1 at Wishmoor (JOB). A survey of Swinley Forest by DJB and PJC from Feb to Jun located 20 territories (9 prs and 11 singing males). Birds were also found at Wellington College (1 singing Mar 3rd (DJS)), 2 South Ascot Apr 12th plus 1 singing May 15th (DJB); 1 singing at Whitmoor Bog May 10th and 6 Swinley Brickpits (possible family party) in May (DJB).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

In total, there were 269 records from 41 observers and 61 sites. Large flocks included 70 at Thatcham GPs 1st Jan, 150 at Compton Downs Jan 2nd (DJB), 60 at Bury Down Jan 26th (MW) and 60 Lambourn Downs Dec 7th (MW). Apart from these, all observations of large numbers were at Englefield where bird surveys by RCr produced counts of 232 1st Jan, at least 160, but probably many more, Feb 6th, 70 to 100 between Mar 7th and Mar 24th (mostly singing), 60+ to 120+ (many singing) between 19th and 31st May (RCr) and counts of 100 - 150 through most of June. On Sep 8th there were c80 in the same area reducing to c60 by 28th then rising to 108 Oct 5th and 120+ by Nov 3rd (RCr). 60 were found Lambourn Downs Dec 7th (MW) — the highest count in the second winter period. BREEDING: While the records from Englefield include no formal reports of confirmed breeding, it seems fair to infer that they bred there in strength. Smaller, but significant, numbers of summer records suggest that good numbers bred at Greenham Com (9 singing Jun 23rd — JPM) and Crookham Com (e.g. 33 there, including 10 singing, Apr 19th — JPM). Other records of singing birds indicate that breeding was possible, in smaller numbers, at up to 40 other sites in the county, the majority in the west.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Extreme dates for arrival and departure were Mar 9th, when there was 1 at Lower Fm GP (AHO) and Oct 16th, when a single was seen at Field Fm GP (MGM). Counts of up to 250 were received from 36 sites. Largest flocks were 250 Apr 2nd at Hosehill Lake (BU), 200 at Lower Fm GP Apr 27th (AHO & JOB), 150 at Moatlands GPs Apr 29th (BU), and 150 at Lower Fm GP Apr 26th (RF). From the table below it can be seen that the peak influx was in April and the peak of return was in September. The table below summarises all the season's records.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Number of sites	20	20	10	6	5	5	8	1
Max flock size	60	250	100	70	60	25	100	1
Total of site flocks	243	826	264	187	135	57	202	1

Breeding was reported from near Newbury railway station (RGS); Woolhampton GPs, where c15 prs were excavating nest holes Apr 18th (JPM); Long Lane Cookham (BDC); and Padworth Lane GPs, where there were c 15 nest holes May 31st (JPM).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Abundant summer visitor and passage migrant

Spring: the first of the year was one on Mar 17th at Summerleaze GP (CDRH). Numbers were small (parties of 10 or less), until 30 on Apr 18th at Wraysbury (JOB); 25 at Summerleaze Apr 27th (BDC), followed by 75 at Moatlands GP on 28th (BU), 40 at Lower Fm GPs on 30th and 35 at Muddy Lane GPs on the same day (GJS). The main arrival was sudden and brief, May 13th, when 1150 were over Theale GP (RCr) with 400+ over Pingewood GPs (JA). **Summer:** The only breeding records received were from Inkpen where a pair raised several young between May 12th and late June (GSt/LS). A bird was seen collecting nest material at Maidenhead Moor July 13th (BAJC). During the main breeding period (mid May to end of July) records were few and of small numbers. It is not possible to be sure if this represents under reporting or an actual shortage of breeding in the county. **Autumn:** Departing birds passed through from the second week of Aug, numbers building steadily and peaking in the period Sep 21st to 30th. Largest autumn flocks were 500 or more at Eversley GP on Aug 8th after severe thunderstorms (IC) and large numbers flying south over Fifield in mid afternoon on Sep 21st at c.400/hour (CDRH). Most were gone by Oct 20th when 3 were at QMR (DKP) but 1 was at Sheepdrove on 29th (BDC) and the last reported was on Nov 15th at Upper Bucklebury (RF).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Common and widespread summer visitor

Spring: The first arrival was one on Mar 18th at Theale GP (DHu), followed by 1 on 6th Apr at Hosehill Lake (BU) and 3 near Hungerford on Apr 7th (DR) after which small number were reported almost daily. The influx grew steadily and peaked in late April with 150 at Moatlands GP on 30th (RCr), 100 at Dinton Pastures May 2nd (MM) and 200+ Moatlands GP May 25th (RCr), with a further 100+ at Hosehill Lake on 26th (BU). **Summer:** Breeding was recorded at Colthrop Mill where there were 46 nests on a old water tower on 21st May (GGS), in old aircraft hangers at Greenham Com (due for demolition soon) where c20 nests were occupied on 23rd June (JPM) and in Windsor Gt Park where food was carried to a nest on 13th Sep (BDC). **Autumn:** The autumn movement was much greater than the spring migration. It built up from mid August to a peak in late September. Significant numbers reported were 300 Lower Fm GP Aug 16th (MGP), and in September 200 at Kintbury on 1st (LS), 150 at Dinton Pastures on 3rd (FC), 100 at Lower Fm GPs on 14th (IW/JL), 200 at Lavell's Lake on 18th (MW) with 400 at Dorney W on the same day (JOB) and 500 over Dinton Pastures on 23rd (FC). Thereafter numbers declined with 10 at Wraysbury GPs on 15th Oct (CDRH), 2 at Kintbury the day after that (RGS), singles at Twyford and Caversham on 18th Oct and 15th Nov (SPA &WE) and finally one at Sheepdrove on 30th Nov (MW) a late record for Berkshire.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Rare vagrant

One seen in the Compton Downs on Sep 29th on the ground 50 yards inside Berkshire border (I. Lewington per CDRH) and in the air on Oct 5th (MW). Observed more frequently in Oxon. Only the 5th county record.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Locally common summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant

Summary: During the year birds were reported from 16 sites, namely Burnthouse Lane, Bury Down, Caesar's Camp, Combe Hill/Wood, Crookham Com, Crowthorne Woods (area), Edgebarrow Heath, Eling, Fence Wood, Greenham Com, Hermitage, QMR, Snelsmore Com, Warren Fm, Wishmoor Area and Wraysbury GPs. The Wishmoor Crowthorne Woods - Caesar's Camp area was the principle area. The table below illustrates the distribution, excluding DJB's survey (see below).

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of sites	1	9	7	6	1	1	1
Number of birds at:							
Crowthorne Wood & Wishmoor	1	9	10	4	0	7	2
All other sites	0	11	10	6	3	0	0

Spring: An early bird was singing at Wishmoor Bottom on Mar 23rd (DRi) followed by 5 in other part of Crowthorne Woods on Apr 5th(DJB). Earliest arrivals at other sites were 1 at Snelsmore Com on Apr 6th (IW/JL) (increasing to 6 by 14th, JPM), 1 at Warren Fm on Apr 15th (BDC), 1 at Crookham Com on Apr 19th (JPM) and 2 at Greenham Com on May 4th (JLe). One at Pingewood GP on Apr 8th (BDC), 1 at QMR on Apr 12th (JAS) and 1 Wraysbury GP May 27th (CDRH), were presumably on passage. A comprehensive survey of Swinley Forest, Swinley Park and South Ascot by DJB located a total of 61 territories (54 in Swinley Forest, 1 in Swinley Park and 6 in South Ascot/Swinley Brickpits area) with breeding confirmed or suspected at several sites. This shows that the species has declined from the mid to late nineties, probably due to scrub encroachment in certain areas. The latest record was of 2 on Sep 7th at Wishmoor Bottom (DJB).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Abundant migrant and winter visitor and locally common breeder

There were 227 unique records from 54 sites/areas from 41 observers. 204 of these records from 39 sites were of fewer than 40 birds. **First winter:** largest counts were 60 at Lower Fm GPs on 8th Mar (DJB) with 36 there on 23rd Feb (BDC), 33 at Greenham Com on 12th Feb (JPM), 30 at Green Park, Reading on 13th Feb (PBT) and 30 at Padworth Lane GP on 1st Jan (MES).

More modest counts of 12 on 9th Jan (PJC) and 15 on 1st Jan (BTB) came from Jeallot's Hill and Twyford GPs respectively. **Summer:** At Greenham Com Mar 22nd there were c150+ including 15+ in song (DJB) and regular reports there through the summer mean that breeding was probable. Regular reports of song were received from Walbury Hill, including 2 singing plus 5 others (Jun 28th) and 1 pr plus 1 singing Jul 26th (both DJB), from the Lambourn Downs, where 3 were singing Jun 12th (DJB), from Crookham Com, where there were 4 prs Apr 19th (JPM), and Woolley

Down where breeding was reported by reliable observers but the evidence was not stated. At Lowbury Hill 2 were singing Jun 1st (DJB) and 3 were in song flight Jul 1st at Bury Down (R Jacobs). Apr was seen carrying food Dorney W Jun 1st (CDRH) and July 31st (JOB). **Second winter:** Largest flocks: In September there were c200 at Bray on Sep 21st (CDRH); c160 at Maidenhead on Sep 21st (CDRH); c120 at Englefield on Sep 28th (with 60+ there Oct 5th) (RCr); c100 at Ashley Hill on Sep 23rd (DJB) and 70 at Dorney W on 30th (JOB). On October 2nd there were c100 Horton Fields (MW, FC), preferring fields of Kale over the adjacent stubble field (FC); 300+ on 7th was the peak number there (CDRH) and at Dorney W there were 60 on 1st rising to 70 on 8th (JOB). Numbers declined after this with c40 at Wishmoor Bottom on 9th Nov (JOB) and c60 at Irish Hill, Kintbury on 29th Dec (DR).

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

All records were in the autumn. Birds were present at QMR, where they fed along the waters' edge, from Sep 19th to Nov 29th (JAS). Numbers reported there were generally 1 or 2 (JAS, CDRH, DKP), peaking at 4 on Oct 20th (MW). One at Pingewood GP from Sep 28th to Oct 3rd (KEM) kept to the edges of the middle pit and 1 was at Bottom Lane Floods, Theale on Sep 30th (DHu). One (possibly 2) heard flying south over Dinton Pastures on Oct 16th (FC), and 1 was at Greenham Com on Oct 28th (CDRH).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

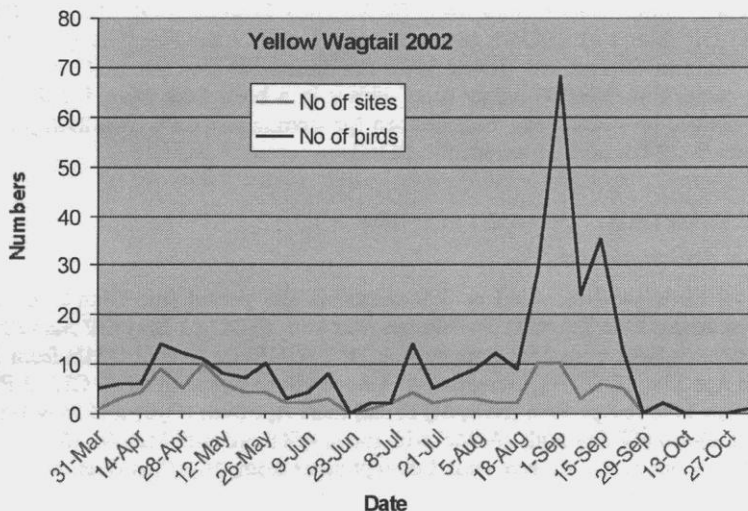
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Two singles were reported during the year, at Woolhampton GP on Mar 24th/25th (CDRH) and an ad in w/p at Pingewood GP on Mar 29th/30th in flooded field (KEM, et al).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Common passage migrant and localised summer visitor in small numbers

43 sites were visited by 44 observers who submitted 184 records. **Spring passage:** the earliest were 5 at Brayfield Fm Flashes Mar 31st which flew off towards Bray GP (BDC), then one at QMR (JAS) and 4 at Pingewood GPs (BTB) both Apr 4th, followed by almost daily reports from then on. Most reports were of 1 or 2, but larger numbers were 6 at Padworth Lane GP Apr 28th (JLe), 4 at Englefield May 19th (RCr) and 4 at Woolhampton GPs May 20th (CDRH). **Summer:** The chart below shows the sum of the numbers reported at all sites week by week though the summer, giving a likely indication of abundance in Berkshire for 2002. **BREEDING:** At Padworth Lane GP birds were present from Apr 14th (DJB) with 3 prs there on Apr 28th (JLe). At Brimpton GP birds were reported from Apr 17th (GEW), a pr was present on Jul 23rd (GEW) and on Aug 3rd 4 juvs. were west of gravel pit (GEW). At Dorney W there were 2 birds on Apr 17th (MMc), 2 ads and 2 juvs on Jul 23rd (BDC), 1 ad with 3 juvs on Aug 4th (DJB). At Englefield 2 birds were present Apr 20th, on May 19th a pr plus 2 males were there, and on Jun 2nd a pr were taking food to y in nest (RCr). At Aldermaston on May 10th 1 male was present (RCr) with five birds there Jun 15th including 1 carrying food (RCr). At Church Fm, Waltham St Lawrence a pr carried nest material Jun 18th (SPA). At Weathercock Hill in the Berkshire Downs 2 ads and 3 juvs were present Jul 13th (MW). **Autumn:** a very active autumn passage began in early August (see chart opposite) with 9 at Dorney W on 11 th (DJB) followed by c30 there on 29th (DJB) and 9 on 30th (WAS). At QMR birds were present all month with a max. of 10 on 13th (JAS). At Cockmarsh 14 were present Aug 29th (WAS).



In September at Dorney W from 2nd to 14th there were between 11 and 20 birds. After that there were singles at QMR Oct 2nd (DJB) and Englefield Oct 5th and Nov 3rd (RCr).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor

Records came from all over the county wherever there is suitable waterside habitat. Reports from still water (lakes and gravel pits) are more common outside the breeding season. 360 records were received from 56 observers covering 95 sites. Almost all records were of 1 to 4 birds. Larger numbers included: 5 (a pr + 3 juvs) Romney Lock during June (WAS), family party composed of a pr with 3 juvs on K&A canal between Hamstead Lock and Dreweats Lock (IW JL) and 6, (2 ads and 4 juvs), at Hambleton Lock, R. Thames Aug 5th (BDC). There were 7 or more at Slough SF Aug 25th (DJB) and a group of 6 ad males and fems was at Holme Green 4th Oct (SdT). A summary of records is given in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	20	17	32	23	13	23	11	19	22	21	19	21
Total number of birds	35	25	49	52	18	49	18	43	33	39	26	25

Apart from the records of juvs (above), which in some cases may have been passage birds, evidence of probable breeding was provided by the presence of prs at 25 or more sites including long staying prs at Boulter's Lock from Feb 26th to at least Jun 1st (WAS) and White Waltham SF from March to July (DJB). Observers reported breeding on the R. Lodden at Eversley, Wokingham SF, Marsh Benham and Kintbury Mill (nature of evidence not provided). A pr was feeding y Jun 8th at Hamstead Marshall (DR).

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Counts of up to 44 were received from 33 sites with higher counts of 100+ Wokingham SF Jan 24th (DJB), 100+ Sandhurst SF Feb 2nd (DJS), c200 at Maidenhead Feb 20th roosting

in bushes near railway station clock tower (MWO); 60+ Lower Fm GP Mar 3rd (KEM); c70 Burghfield GP Mar 17th (BDC); c80 south over Lavell's Lake Aug 27th (FC); 50 Dorney W Sep 30th, and 60 Oct 3rd (JOB); 300+ Sandhurst SF Dec 6th (MGM). Evidence of breeding came from West Woodhay (nest with y in a barn 14th May, IW/JL), Englefield (recently fledged juvs 20th May, FC), Inkpen (pr feeding juvs on a lawn 29th Jun, GSt/LS) and Dorney W (2 ads and 3 juvs 4th Jul, BDC).

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant

At least 12 birds were recorded at 7 locations in the period mid March to early May. **Spring/summer:** One Brayfield Fm Flashes Mar 18th (BDC); 1 Bray GP Mar 22nd (DRi); 1f at Tickleback Row from Mar 24th to Apr 1st (CDRH); 1 or 2 QMR from Mar 28th (DKP) to Apr 17th (CDRH), increasing to 3 Apr 19th to Apr 28th (JAS, CL); 2 Pingewood GP from Apr 15th to Apr 19th (RCr, MJT) still there Apr 29th (DJB) and May 1st (MGM); 1m and 1 f Dorney W Apr 20th (MMc) with the m still there until May 4th (MW). **Autumn:** 4 Greenham Com Sep 30th were with, but kept apart from, 40+ Pied Wagtails (CDRH).

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irregular and scarce winter visitor

There was one in a garden (fleeting) at College Town Feb 1st (JHe).

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

As this is an extremely common bird, the records (86 from 20 sites) mainly represents observer coverage and diligence, so they have not been analysed. Systematic observations at Lavell's Lake by MW indicate that there were 9 territories in quite a small area (the exact survey area is not known, but the public area next to the lake is approximately 50 by 300 metres).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Widespread resident

This is another species that is so common that the 54 records from 21 sites tell us little of the true picture of its distribution. It is an abundant breeding bird in the whole county. A leucistic Dunnock near Hungerford in early November caused some confusion before being correctly identified (WA, CDRH). Notable counts were 10 Eversley GP Mar 17th (JOB) and 20 Streatley Apr 5th (JOB). There were no breeding records.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident

Only 64 records for this extremely common and familiar species from 8 observers. Breeding was presumably widespread, but reports were of 1 taking food to a nest at Smallmead GPs (BDC), a pr feeding y at Ray Mill Island, Maidenhead (BDC) and ad + 2 juvs at Twyford (after a pr had been present for weeks) (SPA). Most reports were of 1 or 2, but reports of notable numbers were 10 Heath Lake, Crowthorne Jan 12th (IT); 10 Theale GP Apr 3rd (JOB) and 20 in a small area at Maidenhead Thicket Apr 20th, many of them singing males (BDC).

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Uncommon and local passage migrant and summer visitor

Spring: The first to arrive was one singing at Theale GPs 3rd Apr (JOB, MJS), then 2 were singing at Burghfield GPs 5th (JA, RPo) with no fewer than 11 there on 6th (RCr). There were no more reports until 17th Apr when 1 sang at Greenham Com (NC), after which they were reported (singing) regularly, as the table below indicates.

Month	April			May				June					
Week to	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
No of sites	4	0	7	8	9	9	7	6	6	5	3	1	1
No of birds	14	0	13	18	14	15	8	7	6	6	6	1	1

Breeding: Apart from regular singing at 11 sites (Brimpton reedbeds, Brunsdon Lock (K&A Canal), Burghfield GPs, Woolhampton GPs, Woolhampton (R Kennet), Crookham Com, Dinton Pastures CP, Greenham Com, Hosehill Lake, Thatcham Marsh and Theale Main Pit) the only indications of breeding were a juv Brimpton reedbeds 4th Jul (JPM), another Hosehill Lake 5th July (CDRH), a family party at Hosehill Lake Jun 11th (BU) and 1 ad and 2 juvs (and another bird calling nearby) at Brimpton GPs 7th Jul (GEW). Latest was 1 Theale Main Pit 4th Aug (RJB). There were 89 records from 29 sites throughout the year.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor

BREEDING; Reading: Again bred town centre where males were singing May 2nd, May 4th, May 6th, May 16th, May 23rd and May 25th. A fem was seen May 2nd. An ad male with 2 recently fledged juvs were found June 2nd (CDRH) and Jun 3rd (BMc&RMc). A fem present nearby 4th Oct to Nov 3rd (GJS). **Aldermaston:** There were several singing within AWE and 3 prs confirmed breeding (S. Ricks). **Passage/dispersal:** 1 was at Lower Fm GP Jan 19th (JW); 1 Crowthorne Apr 23rd (MGM), Im Field Fm GP May 4th (RCr, KS, KEM), a fem was seen at Frogmill Oct 18th (SJF,FMF); an imm or fem was reported from Wokingham SF Nov 25th (DJB) and another was at QMR Dec 15th (CDRH).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

There were 31 records, mostly of 1 or 2 birds, mainly from the stronghold of the species in the heaths and forest of south-east Berks. **Breeding:** A survey of Swinley Forest from Wishmoor to Caesar's Camp by DJB located 44 prs or singing m. Breeding was confirmed at 11 sites, including a count of 7 breeding prs located Jun 2nd (MMc). Nest sites varied from holes and cavities in trees to those built on the ground, usually under fallen trees or branches. One nest at Wishmoor in an old woodpecker's nest has been used for 4 consecutive years (DJB). **Passage:** Other records, all apparently of birds on passage, were: m Brimpton GPs 18th Apr (JPM); 1 fem ringed at Brimpton GPs May 7th (JPM); 1 m feeding in a garden at Newbury Apr 19th (JL); 1 f/w White Waltham SF Aug 9th (DJB); 1 Snelsmore Com Aug 13th (BC,RC); 1 f/w Twyford Aug 16th (DJB); 2 fems Sheepdrove Aug 22nd (BDC) and 2 at Fawley Sep 13th (JD), the latest report.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Common passage migrant and rare summer visitor

The species was reported from 25 sites fairly evenly spread over Berks. As usual, there was a short spring passage of small numbers in late April early May and a longer, stronger return passage late Aug to early Oct. The table below shows the weekly maximum at the most active sites and the county weekly totals.

Date (W/E)	April		May		Aug	Sep					Oct	
	21 st	28 th	5 th	12 th	25 th	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th	6 th	
Slough SF	0	0	0	0	5	3	4	2	4	0	0	
Greenham Com	0	0	2	0	3	1	2	6	0	0	6	
Dorney W	0	2	1	0	4	2	1	4	4	3	1	
Burnthouse Lane GPs	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	
No of other sites	1	0	5	1	2	3	7	6	3	2	4	
No of birds (other sites)	1	0	5	1	4	3	16	13	5	3	4	
Total of birds at all sites	1	3	8	1	17	10	24	26	15	6	11	

Spring: the first arrival was 1 Eversley GPs Apr 21st (IHB) followed by 1 Burnthouse Lane GP (JOB) and 1 Dorney W Apr 27th (BAJC, MGM, MMc) and 2 Apr 28th (MMc). Other spring reports were from Aldworth, Dorney Woodlands, QMR, R. Pang at Bucklebury (pr), Greenham Com, Wishmoor and Hosehill Lake. All spring reports but one were of males. There were no reports from early May to late August suggesting no breeding occurred. **Autumn:** after reports of a juv at QMR (JAS) and 2 birds at Slough SF (JOB) Aug 21st, passage numbers built up quickly (as the table shows). Largest movements were 5 Slough SF and 4 Dorney W (the same ones?) 24th Aug (JOB, LJF); at least 3 QMR (JAS), 3 Greenham Com (IW/JL) and 3 Slough SF (DJB), all Aug 25th; 3 Moor Green Lakes (GR), 4 Brimpton GPs (GEW) and 4 Slough SF (JOB), all Sep 8th. At Englefield, there were 5 Sep 11th (RCr) and at Greenham Com, 6 on 13th Sep (DJB). Between 14th and 22nd Sep were 3 or 4 almost every day at Dorney W (JOB). The last movement was 2nd/3rd Oct, with 1 Dorney W (JOB), 6 Greenham Com (CDRH), 3 QMR (MW) and 1 Wraybury GPs (CDRH). The last was 1 on the gallops Woolley Down Oct 6th (GAS). 38 observers submitted 109 records.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; breeds locally in small numbers

The 245 records from 59 observers at 55 locations are approximately summarised in the table.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. Berks Heaths	Max Number	0	2	18	14	26	38	5	8	23	9	0	3
	No of locations	0	1	3	5	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	3
Berkshire Downs	Max Number	7	3	21	2	2	2	0	0	3	7	4	0
	No of locations	4	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	0
Greenham Com	Max Number	1	2	6	3	2	5	6	7	7	3	6	4
	No of locations	16	19	22	1	0	0	0	4	3	29	35	20
Other areas	Max Number	11	7	12	1	0	0	0	1	2	12	13	9
	No of locations	24	26	67	20	30	45	11	19	36	48	45	27
Whole County	Max Number	16	11	20	9	6	4	2	3	7	16	15	13
	No of sites												

The Berkshire Downs area extends from about Farnborough to Aldworth. The E. Berks Heaths include all the sites south of Bracknell and east of Crowthorne, mainly known as

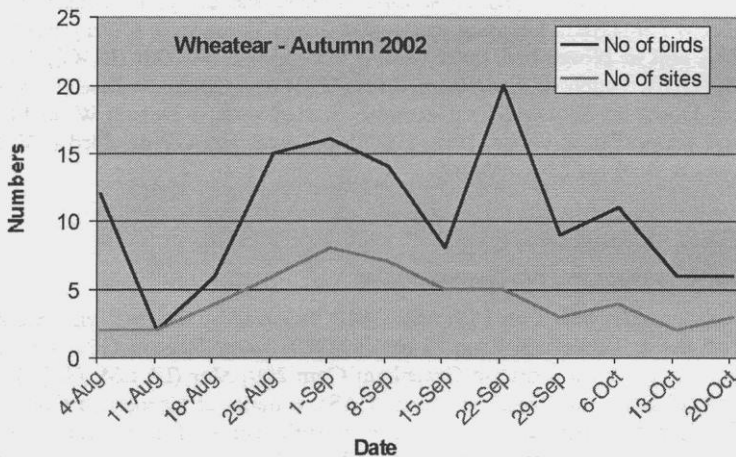
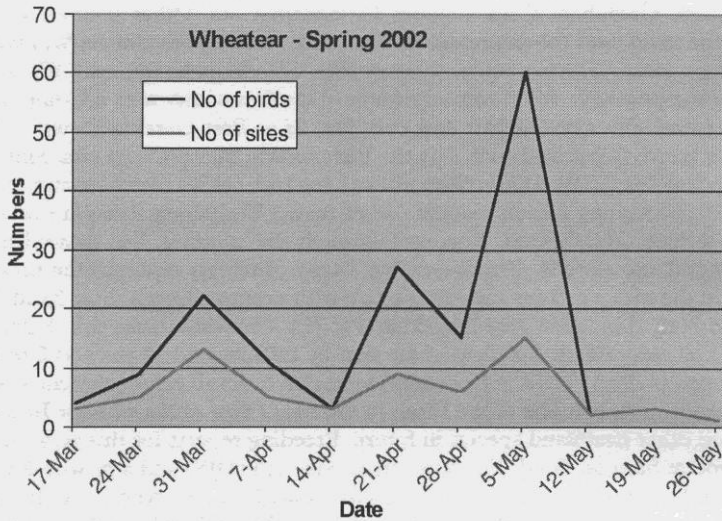
Swinley Forest. Greenham Com includes Crookham Com. Other sites are too many to name, but the main ones (birds present in 3 or more months) are Dorney W, Eversley GPs, the Cookham area, Horton GPs, Lower Fm GP, Slough SF and Wraysbury GP. **Winter/spring passage:** Main concentrations in the first winter were 4 Compton 19th Jan (MW), 10 Lower Fm GP (IW/JL) 2nd Feb, 2m, 2f at East Garston Down (DJB) and 4 Edgebarrow Heath (DJS) 2nd Mar, 7 in the Bury Down, Sheep Down area Mar 3rd (MO) rising to 12 Mar 9th (JOB). 1m, 1f Sheepdrove Mar 16th (MW) may have summered there. **Summer:** All breeding season records (other than 1 Wraysbury Apr 24th to 27th, JOB) were from 4 sites. *Sheep Down.* Reported through the summer, but showed no signs of rearing a brood successfully. *Greenham Com.* Many observers reported the presence of at least 3 prs in the area e.g. 3 prs including a fem with nesting material Mar 22nd (NC), a pr with 3y Jun 30th (JA), ad + 2juv Aug 31st (IW, JL). *Crookham Com.* 1pr + 2m + 1f Mar 19th (JPM). *Swinley Forest.* A survey of the area by DJB located 12 prs and 2 territorial m. This is a decrease of c50% since 1999 and seems due to scrub encroachment at several key sites. A scheme to clear much of the scrub in the MoD area of Broadmoor Bottom should help this and other heathland species in future. Breeding reports for this area included a pr carrying food at Simons Wood, Finchampstead May 4th (DJS) and a pr with 2 y there Aug 1st (a second brood presumably) (KCr); at Wishmoor, 2prs each with 3 juvs Jun 1st (DJB); 7 including 3 juvs June 5th (JOB) and a pr with 3 juvs Jul 15th (BDC). A pr with 4 juvs was at Wildmoor Heath Jun 3rd (DJB). At Wishmoor there was the year's largest count of 17 (incl 6 juvs) Sep 7th (DJB). **Autumn passage/winter:** There were 6 Wraysbury GPs Oct 28th (CDRH) and in November, there were 4 Sheepdrove on 20th (BDC), 4 Cookham Rise on 11th (DJB), 3 each at Crookham Com (JPM) and Cookham Rise (DJB) on 15th, and 5 Warren Down on 30th (ABT). December started with 4 Dorney W on 1st (BDC), then 4 Strand Water, Cookham on 19th (BDC), 3 Lower Fm GP on 23rd (IW/JL, RHa) and 4 Greenham Com on 27th (IW/JL).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant and rare summer visitor

Spring: Passage began with 1 on 15th Mar QMR, followed by singles 16th, 18th and 19th (JAS), and singles at Greenham Com (a male) (IW/JL) and Horton GPs (CL) on 16th. Large numbers were: 8 (or more) at Greenham Com 29th Mar (IP, LM, IW/JL) with 3m, 1f there 3rd Apr (NC), 6 at QMR 16th Apr (JAS), 6 males at Crookham Com 19th Apr (JPM). At Dorney W in Apr there were 2m + 2f 19th, 3m + 1f 20th, and 3m + 3f 28th (MMc). Peak passage was in the first few days of May when there were 9 at Greenham Com (GEW), 6 West Ilsley (CDRH) and 7 Dorney W on 1st (DJB, JOB), 26 at Greenham Com 3rd (GEW) with 7 still there 4th (PHi) and 4 at Wishmoor also 4th (CL). The chart below shows the pattern of movement. **Autumn:** An early return passage bird, which was starting to moult, was at Lower Fm GP 6th Jul (JA, RPo) followed by 1 QMR Jul 31st (CDRH). The main movement took place from late August to early October. Significant records (over 3 birds) were 4 at Greenham Com (MGP) and QMR (BTB) on Aug 25th, 5 Dorney W 27th/31st Aug (JOB), and 4th Sep (DJB), 14 Aldworth Downs 21st Sep (DJB), 6 Lowbury Hill Sep 30th (CDRH), 4 near Starveall's Fm, Aldworth 29th Sep (ABT). Birds were present at QMR on 12 days during October with a peak of 4 on 8th and 10th (CDRH, JAS, CL). The latest was 1 on 23rd Oct QMR (JAS).

Note: where the sex of the birds was reported, spring records showed a ratio of about 2 males for every fem, while autumn records were almost all of fems and juvs (only 2 males out of more than 20 identified). Are moulted males in autumn being recorded as fems?



RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant

1 male was at Pingewood GP Apr 7th with a large flock of Fieldfares (JOB et al), seen again on 8th (AFd). Another male at QMR Apr 11th also stayed until the following day (JAS).

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident and common winter visitor

Because this is a very common breeding bird throughout Berks, only 88 records were submitted. The only counts of more than 8 were 12 in a garden at Twyford throughout December (SPA), 5 prs in a garden in Crowthorne 23rd Feb (PJC), 10 at Streatley 5th Apr

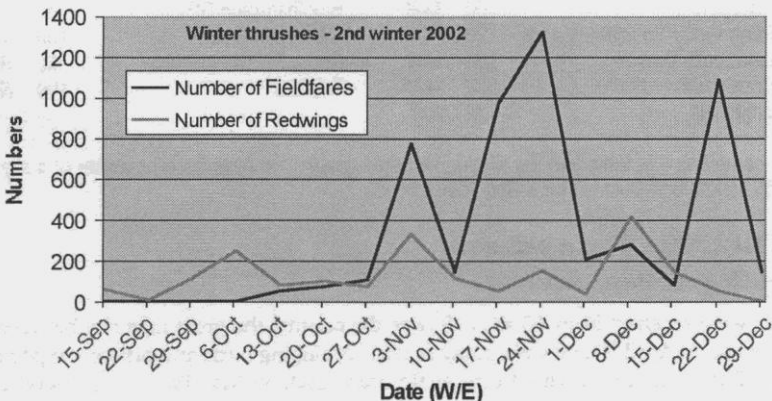
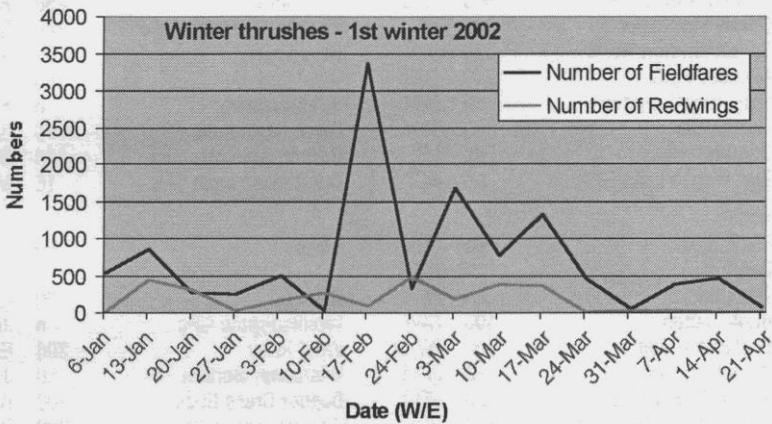
(JOB) and a group of 3 males, 4 fems and 3 juvs seen regularly in a Twyford garden throughout July (SPA). An interesting report from Tilehurst on 30th May was of a fem catching, killing and eating newts in the shallows of a garden pond (DML).

WINTER THRUSHES *Turdus iliacus* & *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitors

The charts below illustrate the abundance during the first and second winters of the two common species of thrushes that migrate to the UK in winter (Fieldfare and Redwing). The numbers shown in the charts are the sums of the maximum numbers reported in each area of the county in each week. Note the difference of scale on the numbers axis when comparing these charts.

The availability of data from the COBRA database has allowed a more thorough statistical analysis of the reports than in the past, but data from a single year is not enough to reveal a pattern or trend. In autumn 2002, Redwings arrived about 3 weeks ahead of Fieldfares (as usual) and left in the following spring about 4 weeks earlier (also typical). The charts illustrate that Fieldfares were reported much more than Redwings, but this may be because Fieldfares are more visible and easier to count. Fieldfares form large, obvious flocks in open



fields and avoid woodland and gardens, whereas Redwings are often found in lightly wooded and suburban habitats as well as in fields. However the large differences in peak numbers suggest that there were in fact more Fieldfares.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor, very rare in summer

229 records were received from 94 sites. The tables list just the largest flocks week by week through the first and second winters. The last reported in the first winter were 3 Pingewood GPs Apr 21st (RJB, DJB) and the first to return were 24 on Oct 8th at Denford (RDW).

First winter

Date W/E	Place	No	Obs	Place	No	Obs
06-Jan	Lowbury Hill	130	DJB	Pang Valley (Bucklebury area)	120	PDM
13-Jan	Eastbury Grange	230	DJB	Shottesbrooke Park	200	DJB
20-Jan	Streatley -on-Thames	150	SPA	Twyford	100	SPA
27-Jan	Englefield	200	RCr	Bury Down	15	MW
03-Feb	Englefield	220	RCr	Streatley Downs	150	SPA
10-Feb	Kintbury Cress Beds	5	RGS	Eversley GPs/EGP	5	TKI
17-Feb	Wellbottom Down	1100	DJB	Sheepdrove	550	BDC
24-Feb	Woolley Down	125	GAS	Twyford GPs	100	BDC
03-Mar	East Garston Down	800	GAS	Sandhurst	250	RJG
10-Mar	Oakley Fm, Hurst	300	IT	Wraysbury Heron Lake	120	MMc
17-Mar	Broadcommon Hurst	800	DJB	Bury Down	200	JOB
24-Mar	Allenbay Park	250	DJB	West End	100	DJB
31-Mar	Ridgeway Compton	40	MW	Sindlesham	8	BMA
07-Apr	Combe Hill	200	TPo	Burnthouse Lane GPs	170	JA, RPo
14-Apr	Combe	200	LS	Burnthouse Lane GPs	140	MMc
21-Apr	Burnthouse Lane GPs	56	RCr	Burnthouse Lane GPs	16	MJT

Second winter

Date W/E	Place	No	Obs	Place	No	Obs
13-Oct	Denford	24	RDW			
20-Oct	Tilehurst	25	MJS	QMR	20	MW
27-Oct	Brightwalton	100	SWi	Woolhampton GPs	6	JPM
03-Nov	Snelsmore Com	300	IW, JL	West Ilsley	200	GAS
10-Nov	Greenham Com	80	JPM	Wishmoor Bottom	60	JOB
17-Nov	Shottesbrooke Park	250	BDC	Bagnor Cress Beds	200	IW, JL
24-Nov	Strand Water Cookham	500	BDC	Summerleaze GPs	300	BDC
01-Dec	Sheepdrove	100	MW	Woolhampton GPs	30	RR
08-Dec	Pang Valley Bucklebury area	120	PDM	Lambourn Downs	100	MW
15-Dec	Lambourn Downs	100	MW	Home Fm Hungerford	60	RGS
29-Dec	Cockmarsh	300	WAS	Twyford	100	NA
05-Jan	Englefield	26	RCr			

NOTE: Since compiling this table and the Winter Thrushes graphs we have become aware of a significant record of 550 Fieldfare at Cold Harbour Dec 16th (DJB).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident and winter visitor

120 records were received from 60 sites all over the county, the great majority between New Year and the end of April. There were many records of singing birds and prs were reported too often to list. There was a nest with 4 eggs at Romney Lock on Mar 1st (WAS). Food carried

to a nest was reported from Woolhampton GPs Mar 19th (JPM), Brimpton GPs Apr 7th (GEW) and Aston Aug 5th (BDC). High counts were 10 at Bray Wick Jan 10th (DFu); six at Eversley GP Jan 12th (IT) with 11 singing there between the car park and Grove Hide (about a mile) Jan 27th (BMA), 9 singing near the Kennet & Avon Canal, Theale Mar 19th (RCr) and at Burghfield GP, 9 singing Mar 23rd, 11 singing (+ 2 others) Mar 28th and 13 singing Apr 24th (RCr). A survey in the Cookham area recorded a total of 40 singing in an area of 9 square kms, including 15 at Cookham Rise and 16 at Cookham Dean all Feb 5th (BDC).

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor

There were 162 records from 77 sites. Counts of over 50 came from 22 sites, of which 7 sites had over 100. Higher counts were of 220 Shottesbrooke Park Jan 13th (DJB); c200 Inkpen Jan 19th (DJB), 150 Cookham Dean Feb 5th (MTu); c300 Twyford GP Feb 21st (BDC) with 150+ Dec 18th (DJB); c200 (with Fieldfares) at West Woodhay in gardens Mar 9th (LS); 300+ Broadcommon, Hurst Mar 15th to 18th (DJB) and c150 Cockmarsh Dec 17th (WAS). Extreme dates for departure and arrival were Apr 13th at Twyford GP (JOB) and Sep 14th at Winnersh (FC).

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident

121 records came from all over the county. High counts were 40 Pingewood GP Aug 14th with 43 Sep 3rd (PBT); 27 Twyford Sep 27th (DJB); a flock of 24 feeding in short grass at Crookham Com Oct 21st (JPM) and 25 Wishmoor Bottom Oct 24th in a large flock with Fieldfares and Redwings (MD). There were numerous reports of prs and singing males, but the only breeding confirmation was from Crookham Com where 1 was carrying food Apr 19th (JPM). Records submitted do not show whether numbers are stable or declining and more information on density, or changes in density would be welcome (Recorder).

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

Scarce, localised resident

All records, once again, came from the Kennet Valley. Thatcham March remained the stronghold with the highest counts 16 singing males 3 April (DJB), 9+ May 27th (CDRH) and 13 Oct 4th (DJB). Breeding was confirmed there when several juvs were caught and ringed (IWJL). Elsewhere, the spread of the species westwards along the Kennet from Thatcham appears to be virtually complete with 10 singing males between Thatcham and Hungerford. Eastwards reports were confined to Woolhampton, Aldermaston, Theale and Burghfield GPs.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant

On Apr 22nd there were singles at Lowbury Hill (ABT) and Wraysbury (CDRH). At Wraysbury, one or two were reeling until May 4th (MO). One at Lower Denford April 23rd was followed by another on the Downs at Aldworth, May 4th (MW), and finally one at Freeman's Marsh May 8th (RF) which was also heard in the same area May 29th (LS), June 16th and 19th (RF).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer and passage migrant

First arrival was at Burghfield Mill Mar 31st (BDC) followed by birds at Main Pit, Theale Apr 3rd (AFd), Eversley GPs Apr 4th (JOB) and Hosehill Lake, also 4th (BU). An influx was noted mid April when 10 were at Wraysbury 16th and 17th rising to 15 on 27th (JOB). 15 were at Hungerford Marsh 17th (RGS), 20 were at Thatcham Marsh 20th (IW, JL) and 12 were at Woolhampton GP on 29th (JPM). The species was widely reported throughout the summer from most river valley sites. In July DJB reported up to 6 prs in Maidenhead Ditch with at least 4 prs breeding. Last records were singles at Wraysbury GPs, Oct 2nd (CDRH) and Dorney W Oct 9th (JBa).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Two early birds were found at Hosehill Lake Apr 6th (IT). Singles were next found at Kintbury Cress Beds Apr 16th (RGS) and Burghfield Mill Apr 18th (BU). Highest counts were from Brimpton GPs where 13 were present Jul 11th (GEW) and Thatcham Marsh where 21 were caught and ringed Jul 21st and Aug 11th, and 19 on Sep 8th (IW, JL). Breeding records included Maidenhead Ditch where of 5 nests found 3 were empty but 2 had eggs and 3 family parties were recorded (DJB). 5 additional records of juvs or family parties were received from Bottom Lane Floods, Green Park, Lavell's Lake, Moatlands GP and Strand Water. Last report was from Lower Fm Oct 11th (PML).

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Resident in small numbers in suitable habitat, rare away from breeding sites

Apart from one at Strand Water, Cookham, Jan 5th (BDC), and one at Finchampstead Oct 8th (KCr), all records came from Greenham Com or the E. Berks heaths. *Greenham*: this species was recorded throughout the year with a maximum of 5 males holding territories (NC). *E. Berks*: at Wildmoor at least 3 territories were occupied with at least 4 birds present and a juv was seen on Aug 12th (DJS). In Swinley Forest 16 territories were located (DJB, PJC), an increase over the 14 in 2001. Breeding was not confirmed but nest building (Mar 27th JOB) and juvs (Sep 7th DJB) indicated success. The birds are fairly common on the MoD ranges in autumn with counts of 10 Oct 18th and 14 Dec 28th (DJB).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

First arrivals were 2 at Hosehill Lake April 24th (BU) and 1 Wraysbury GPs the same day (MMc), closely followed by singles at Bill Hill (DJB) and Main Pit Theale, on 23rd. Reported from 31 sites, mostly of up to 3 birds, but 4 at Mortimer May 2nd (BDC), at Dorney W Aug 1st (JOB), Twyford Aug 27th (DJB) and Summerleaze GP Aug 29th (BDC) with 5 at Cockmarsh Aug 13th (WAS). An ad fed 2-3 juvs at Eversley GPs Jul 30th (BMA). The last date was Sept 23rd at Woolhampton (JPM).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

After an early bird in song at Thatcham Marsh on Mar 31st, (IW, JL), others appeared at Eversley GPs Apr 6th (IHB) and Hosehill Lake Apr 11th (BU). Whitethroats were reported from 56 sites across the county during the summer. There were some high territorial counts: IHB reported 19 territories at Eversley GPs (compared to 13 in 2001), and 31 singing males were counted at Mortimer May 13th (BDC). Survey work by DJB in Swinley Forest showed 37 prs or singing males. Elsewhere breeding was confirmed at Brimpton GPs, Dorney W, Seven Barrows, Theale Main GP, Slough SF and Cookham. The last recorded date was 2 at Crookham Com on Sept 19th (JPM).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

Arrived at three sites on Apr 21st: Dinton Pastures (BTB), Hosehill Lake (BU) and Eversley GPs (JOB). Widely reported after this from 29 sites the highest counts being at least 10 in May at Eversley GPs (BMA) and at least 6 at Lavell's Lake May 12th (LJF, MJF). A survey in Swinley Forest in May located 32 prs or singing males with 13 more nearby (DJB). A family party was found at Wraysbury GPs Aug 13th (BDC, CCH). The last reported bird was at Hosehill Lake on Sept 1st (JA).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer migrant, and increasing winter visitor

First winter: Reported from 40 sites Jan-mid March, involving at least 63 birds, consisting of 33 males, 22 fems and 8 unspecified (MO). **Summer:** Although singing males were occasionally heard from mid February, there was a noticeable increase from Mar 21st when 2 were singing at Dinton Pastures (PJC), then 4 Burghfield on 23rd, rising to 7 on 28th (RCr) and singles were also at Binfield (JG) and Eversley GPs (IT) on 23rd. Widely reported after these dates, highest counts were 11 at Wraysbury GPs April 10th (WAS), 10 at Horton GPs Apr 13th (BDC), 20 at Burghfield GPs April 24th (RCr), 10 at Eversley GPs in May (BMA) and 13 were ringed at Woolhampton GPs Aug 31st (JPM). In Swinley Forest and nearby 55 prs or singing males were located (DJB). **Second winter:** Small numbers were reported until Oct 6th then after 1 at Arborfield Mill Oct 31st (DJB) and 1 Lavell's Lake Nov 2nd (RR) ones and twos were recorded at 25 sites consisting of 20 males, 10 fems and 2 unspecified.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and scarce but increasing winter visitor

First winter: Up to 13 birds were reported from 10 sites across the County but no records were received for 15th to 28th Feb. **Summer:** From Feb 28th, when a bird was singing at Charvil (SH), birds were reported in early March from Eton Wick on 1st (CDRH), Twyford GPs on 2nd and 3rd (BDC, BP, BTB), Burghfield GPs (MGM) Eversley (IHB) and Woolhampton (JPM) all on 5th. Although one cannot be sure, these records appear to indicate an early Mar influx to be followed by a more notable influx at the end of March/beginning of April when there was 20 at Wraysbury GPs on Mar 23rd (RRG), 12 at Crowthorne Woods (JOB) and 11 at Dinton Pastures (RR) on 27th, 16 at Burghfield GPs on 28th (RCr), 17 at Thatcham Marsh on April 3rd (DJB), and 13 at Kintbury on 4th (DR). A survey by DJB of

Swinley Forest and local areas found 96 singing males. Chiffchaffs were widely reported during the summer. Noteworthy autumn counts came from Thatcham Marsh where 32 were present Sept 13th (DJB), and 12 were ringed on Sept 8th (IW, JL), 20 at Twyford Aug 27th (DJB), 15 at Main Pit Theale Sept 6th (RCr), 10 at Crookham Com on Sept 13th (JPM) and 12 at Greenham Com on Sept 28th (IW, JL). Records continued until Oct 23rd with one at Lavell's Lake (MW). **Second winter:** After 1 at Lavell's Lake Nov 2nd (RR), ones and twos were noted at 19 sites with 3 at Bray GP on Dec 3rd (WAS) and Dec 20th (CDRH) and 7 at Sandhurst SF on Dec 6th (MGM). Although one of the birds at Bray GP on Dec 20th had the plumage characteristics of the Siberian race *P.c. tristis* it was calling like a European race bird (CDRH).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Abundant summer visitor and passage migrant

First reported from Thatcham Marsh Mar 29th (RRK), then Bucklebury Com (DJR), Lower Fm GP (JPM, IW, JL) and Muddy Lane GP (IW, JL) all on 30th, and Hosehill Lake (MMc) and Twyford (SPA) on 31st. Widely reported after this date with Wraysbury Scrub holding over 30 Apr 16th — 18th (JOB), 10 at Wishmoor July 15th (BDC) and 20 at Moatlands GP Aug 18th (MW). DJB in his survey of Swinley Forest found 168 singing males with 25 in other locations nearby, showing the importance of the area for a species believed to be declining in south east England. The last recorded date was Sep 19th at Crookham Com (JPM).

GOLD CREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident and winter visitor

Records covered every month of the year with the highest count of 15, in birch trees at Greenham Com West on 9 Nov (IW, JL). Several counts of 10 were noted at other sites, including, Dinton Pastures (FC), Lavell's Lake (MGM) and Snelsmore Com (IW, JL) during September, October and November. DJB found them abundant in Swinley Forest. Newbury Ringing Group confirmed breeding at Thatcham Marsh and family parties of up to 5 were seen at The Lookout, Bracknell on 15 July (BDC).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Scarce visitor in all seasons

Only Jan and Dec failed to produce records and for the second year in succession, record numbers have been recorded in summer. **First winter:** The only record involved 1 in a Crowthorne garden Feb 23rd (IT). **Spring/summer:** Birds returned to their summering sites in late Mar with 1 singing at Wishmoor Mar 16th (DJB) and 17th (BTB). This species was again surveyed in E. Berks by DJB, 43 singing males or prs were located in four woodland areas. Additionally, there were 2 singing males in Cranbourne Chase Apr 5th (EEG) and 1 at Hot Hill throughout Jun (DJS). In M. Berks, 2 sang at an undisclosed site during Apr and May (MGM, MW). In W. Berks, 1 sang at High Copse, Frilsham on May 23rd (RCr) and single males were reported from Hermitage (ABT) and Greenham Com (MC) in Mar, and Bucklebury Com in Jun (HC). Im ringed at Crookham Common Sep 6th (JPM) is more likely to be a migrant. Compared with the latest British Birds Rare Breeding Birds Report (2001) the Berks total of 50

singing males/prs could represent 28% of the total known British population. Although no prs were confirmed to have bred, a juv ringed at Great Meadow Pond Aug 15th (RRG) was probably of local origin. **Autumn/winter:** Another garden bird was found in a Tit flock at Forest Park Bracknell Oct 14th (TS) and 1 was ringed at Silwood Park Nov 16th (RRG).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

The first record, later than usual, was 2 singing Swinley Forest May 15th (DJB) then 1 on May 16th at Streatley-on-Thames (SPA), and 1 May 19th in a half walled garden at West Woodhay House (RGS). Thereafter, new sightings were numerous and widespread. A survey of Swinley Forest by DJB located 14 prs or singing males in May/June. Nearby at Swinley Park, 6 prs or singing males were located and 2 were heard in South Ascot. Family parties were reported from: Winterbourne Jun 16th, 1 pr and a juv (MJT); Streatley, Jul 25th, a pr feeding a juv (SPA); Marsh Benham, Jul 26th, a pr feeding 3 juvs (DJB); Remenham, Aug 5th a party of 5 (BDC) and White Waltham Aug 28th, 4ads, 3juv (DJB). Birds were recorded at 39 sites from Kintbury in the West to Dorney W in the East but with a distinct westerly bias. The latest record was on Sep 26th, a single bird at Shurlock Row (RAL).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor

Only one record for the year, at Wishmoor a singing m was found on May 4th (PH, JLe, G Evans, JA).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Widespread and common resident

Widely reported throughout Berkshire, at least 8 post breeding flocks of over 20 birds were recorded (MO) with the highest counts 50 at Thatcham Marsh Sep 13th (DJB), 23 at Cookham Dean Sep 2nd (BDC) and at Thatcham Marsh where the same number was caught and ringed as necessary on Aug 11th (IW/JL). 31 were at Horton GP Sep 7th (BDC).

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Locally common resident

While thinly distributed, records came from over 60 locations. There was a distinct westerly bias with just 5 sites identified in M. Berks and 9 in E. Berks. At least seven gardens provided enjoyable viewing of the species including one that stayed from Jun 9th to Aug 10th at Crookham Com (JPM). The same garden saw a pr of juvs with a flock of juv Great Tits Jun 23rd. A suspected family party of 5 was recorded at Marsh Benham Jun 28th (DJB) and a fem was ringed with 10 juv in a nestbox at Silwood Park Jun 1st (RRG). 4 birds, one carrying food, were seen at Moor Copse Jul 10th (JLe). 6 birds were at Combe Wood Aug 28th (BDC, MJF). Winter records included 7 seen at Combe Wood Feb 16th (DJB, ENW), 4 Bowdown Wood Feb 23rd (BDC), 5 Warren Row Mar 9th (DJB), 4 birds at Hamstead Park Dec 27th (DR) while 3 were seen at Bottom Lane, Theale Nov 3rd (JA) with a further 3 at Windsor Forest Dec 27th (DJB).

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Uncommon and local resident

Only 37 records of this species were received covering 17 sites, of which just 2 were of confirmed records in M. Berks and none in E. Berks. Most records came from Combe Wood where 1-2 birds were seen at various times of the year and 6 were located Apr 1st (CL) and 2 ad and juv on Jul 30th (CDRH). A pr feeding y was found at West Woodhay Down on Jun 29th (IW, JL). Winter records started well with a first record for Hosehill Lake, Theale on Jan 1st (BU), a single bird at Inkpen Com on Jan 26th (MJS). Second winter records included 3 at Bottom Lane GPs Nov 30th (JOB), a ringed bird at Bagnor Cress Beds also Nov 30th (NDOC) and another there Dec 28th (NRG). Finally there were 2 at Moor Copse BBOWT Reserve Dec 30th (JLe).

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Common resident

Counts of up to five were received from 24 sites. The only count to exceed five was 9 in Crowthorne Woods/Swinley Forest July 15th in 2 family groups (BDC). A pr fed y in an open fronted garden nest box at Brimpton Apr 28th (GEW).

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Abundant resident

Counts of up to ten were received from 24 sites. Higher counts were 40 at Theale GP Aug 18th (MW); almost 100 from Aug 18th to Aug 20th in a Tilehurst garden (JLe), with another 100 appearing on Sep 29th. 50 in another garden at Tilehurst on Aug 18th (DML); 30 at Dorney W on Sep 9th (JOB). Breeding evidence from the Moor Green Lakes Nest Box Survey, detailed in this report, showed 33 y being reared from five nesting attempts.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Abundant resident

Counts of up to ten were received from 19 sites. This species is often observed but rarely counted. Breeding evidence from the Moor Green Lakes Nest Box Survey, detailed in this report, showed 80 y produced from seventeen nesting attempts.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Widespread common resident

A noisy bird in spring the species was often observed and counts of up to four were received from 48 sites including many garden records. Higher counts were of 6 Maidenhead Court Jan 6th (DFu); 8 at Warren Row Mar 9th (DJB); 6 Quarry Wood Apr 8th (BDC); 10 Virginia Water Sep 15th (BDC); and 6 Cookham Fultness Wood Dec 17th (BDC). One interesting report was of a Nuthatch grappling a Blue Tit in its talon on Jan 29th at Limberlost, Crookham (JPM). A bird was recorded lining its nest hole entrance with mud in time honoured fashion at Moor Copse BBOWT Reserve on Mar 27th (MR).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident

Possibly under recorded because it is such a quiet species, the Treecreeper generated 83 records from 52 sites. A very high count of 18 came from Searles Lane GPs Jan18th (JOB) and 8 were found at Quarry Wood Jul 27th (RAL). Many records were garden birds and several instances of sightings in mixed tit flocks occurred outside the breeding season.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

Rare passage migrant

A singing male located in oak trees at Clayfield Copse near Caversham May 19th (BTB et al) was the first record since a pr at Rapley Lake May 29-30th 1992 and is the 8th record and 10th bird since 1950. Although elusive the bird was seen by many during its single day stay and was one of the rarity highlights of 2002. On the few occasions when good views were obtained the black lores identifying the bird as a male could be seen. It was also heard by CDRH to give a Jay-like cackling call which some books say is only given by females.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Former summer visitor, now a rare passage migrant

A juv bird caused much excitement for four days at Slough SF from Aug 21st to 24th. The bird was found at 7.40 a.m. on 21st by JOB in the company of 2 Whinchats and stayed reliably in the same place until at least 17.00 on 24th when JOB was the final observer.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident and uncommon passage migrant

The highest count was from Dinton Pastures where 6 ads were seen together on Oct 1st (SdT). Also of interest was 1fem with 3m displaying Mar 25th at Strand Water, Cookham (BDC). Elsewhere reported from many sites, with counts of up to 5 birds.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Abundant resident

Many reports with counts of up to 22 birds. Higher counts were c80 at South Hill Park, Bracknell Jan 15th (WAS) and 67 Broadcommon, Hurst Nov 23rd (DJB).

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Abundant resident

The outstanding report was of c2500 birds at Mare Lane, Binfield Jan 24th (BDC). Elsewhere there were counts of c450 Jan 24th Moss End (BDC), 220+ Englefield Aug 17th (RCr) and c200 Burchett's Green Jan 29th (BDC).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant resident

Flocks of up to 300 birds were recorded at 22 sites, with the highest counts being c350 at Mare Lane Binfield (BDC), 500+ Englefield (RCr), c300 Burchett's Green (BDC) all Jan 24th, 500+ Bracknell SF Feb 17th (DJB) and 300 at Englefield Aug 17th (RCr).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Abundant resident

Much the highest count was c500 birds at Burchett's Green Jan 2nd (BDC). Other large flocks included c200 at Cookham Long Lane Jan 19th as they headed north-east at dusk to roost (BDC), c200 at Strand Water, Cookham Aug 29th (BDC), c100 at Mare Lane, Binfield Jan 24th (BDC), c100 at Moss End Jan 24th (BDC) and 100 at Eton Wick South Field Oct 24th (JOB). 26 other sites held flocks of up to 40 birds. A leucistic bird (chocolate brown with fawn wings and tail) was seen at Aldworth Mar 12th and subsequently at Compton in Apr and Sep (CDRH).

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Scarce visitor (breeds Wiltshire)

A good number of sightings from several observers in the west of the county. Early in the year, at Walbury Hill Jan 19th, 1 bird was seen at 1130 hrs being joined by a second at 1145 hrs, the pr then did a display flight moving west over Combe Gibbet landing briefly before leaving to the west at 1200 hrs (DJB). A pr was soaring at Lowbury Hill Mar 23rd after interaction with Red Kites (DJB) 2 were at Greenham Com on Apr 13th mobbing a Buzzard (MGP) and 2 at Cow Down Compton, Apr 14th (CDRH). At Walbury Hill, 3 birds (1 ad and 2 poss juvs) Jul 26th (DJB) were seen on 27th on the south-west side of hill calling, tumbling and gliding in updraft and later, near the car park, one was seen on a sheep! (ABT). Again on 26th at Combe Hill, there were 2 ads and 2 juvs (DJB) and records of birds in this area continued until a juv was seen Aug 9th (BMc,RMc). 1-2 Walbury Hill seen Sep 21st (RRK) and 2 at Combe Nov 7th and 11th (CDRH). One Woolhampton GP Dec 25th being mobbed by Jackdaws (DR).

CORVID sp.

Large mixed flocks were seen at several sites with counts of c350 at Bisham Jan 2nd (BDC), 500+ (one-third Rooks, two-thirds Jackdaws) feeding in horse pasture at Limberlost, Crookham Jan 28th (JPM). The largest flocks were c800 at White Waltham Jan 29th (BDC) and a similar number at Moss End Jul 17th, mostly Jackdaws (BDC).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

Good size flocks consisting of up to 350 birds were reported from over 30 sites. Higher counts were c550 Strand Water, Cookham Sep 21st (BDC) and c2000 Langley Hill, Tilehurst Nov 14th (MJS), but much the largest count came from Brimpton where an estimated 6000 birds came to roost Nov 25th (GEW).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Common resident

The largest single flock was of 45 birds at Lower Fm GP Aug 1st (SG), with smaller flocks of c40 at Seven Barrows Feb 14th (BDC), up to 40 at Swallowfield Sep 8th (NA), 30+ at Englefield Jul 14th (RCr), 26 at Cookham on Jul 31st paying daily visits to garden (BDC) and 22 in a Pinkneys Green garden Aug 31st (LJF). On Dec 19th at Cookham Rise there were a number of flocks consisting of 30, 20, 15, 10, 15, 6, 15 birds totalling 111 in all (BDC). Elsewhere counts of up to 18 were received from 14 sites. Of interest was one aberrant bird seen amongst a flock reported from Beenham at Jul 7th which was described as "chunky, but with a chestnut cap", suggesting a possible hybrid, as this was an area where Tree Sparrows used to be reported (JPM).

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Scarce resident and winter visitor

This now rarely reported species provided very few sightings. Lucky observers in Frogmill on Mar 23rd reported 1 bird on peanut cage in the garden (SJF,FMF), while 1 was at Eling May 17th singing in the hedgerow running along the western edge of Eling Hill Cottage (MW). At Cookham Rise 3 flew south Oct 17th, 4 were seen Nov 4th and there were 2 in the same area Nov 11th visiting maize strips planted for game birds (CDRH).

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

The highest counts were c400 at Quarry Wood Dec 17th (BDC), 100+ at Shottesbrooke Park Nov 10th with c250 there Dec 25th (DJB), 200+ at Arborfield Hall Fm on Nov 16th (DJB), c150 at Cookham Long Lane on Jan 29th with c200 there on Feb 12th, c100 at Sheepdrove on Feb 14th (BDC), 100+ birds as part of a mixed fmch flock at Englefield Dec 27th (RCr) and 51 at West Woodhay Lakes Jan 27th (SG). Elsewhere counts of up to 40 were received from 28 sites.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon winter visitor

First winter: Good sized flocks reported from a few locations, particularly around the Eversley/Finchamstead area where the largest count came from fields east of the B3016 with at least 200 (possibly 250) with Chaffinches Feb 5th (MGM). Other reports from this area were c150 Jan 9th (CDRH), a similar number in trees on the north side of a recently cut maize field at Eversley GP Jan 19th (JOB) and flocks of around 100 birds Feb 3rd in trees near the pumping station on Longwater Road (GR) and in horse paddocks w of Longwater Lane Feb

10th (JOB). Elsewhere there were 25 in a Crowthorne garden Feb 14th (PJC), 20 at Padworth Lane GP Mar 17th feeding with Chaffinches, Linnets and Redwings (NS) and in the Wishmoor area up to 20 at Upper/Lower Star Posts Apr 5th (DJB), c20 at Wishmoor Bottom Apr 9th (CDRH) with 19 there Apr 14th (DJB). Counts of up to six were received from 32 sites. Latest report was Apr 20th at Wishmoor (IT). **Second winter:** A flock of 90+ birds was seen with other finches at Wishmoor Bottom Nov 24th (PBa), with 22 in beech trees at Wishmoor Cross Dec 22nd (NGO) and in the same area 30+ Dec 17th (CDRH). Earliest report was Oct 18th at Swinley Forest (MGM/DJB).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Common, widespread resident and winter visitor

The highest first winter counts were 100+ at Lower Denford Mar 14th on sunflower seeds (RGS) and 60 in the pre-roost gathering at Berkshire Brewery, Reading Mar 25th (GJSu). Second winter high counts were 100 as part of a mixed finch flock at Bury Down Sep 8th (SG), 100+ at Englefield Nov 3rd (RCr), c100 at Lower Denford Dec 21st on sunflower seeds (RGS) and c70 coming to roost at Inkpen Dec 25th (DR). Counts of up to 35 were received from 28 sites.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Common and widespread resident

The largest flocks were 120+ Pingewood GP Aug 25th (JOB), 100 as part of a mixed finch flock at Bury Down Sep 8th, and c100 at Field Fm GP Aug 26th (BU). There were 80 singing in dead tree at Woolhampton GP Aug 18th and 19th (JPM). Elsewhere counts of up to 30 were received from 29 sites and counts of 45-80 from Wigmore Lane (Jan), Burghfield GPs (Jan), Thatcham (Jan), Twyford (Feb and Nov), Crowthorne (Feb-Mar), East Garston Down (Mar), Burnthouse Lane GP (Aug), Greenham Com (Sep), Cockmarsh (Sep), Cookham (Nov) and Speen Moor (Dec).

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce summer visitor

Winter: Many reports of flocks containing up to 80 birds were received from some 65 sites covering both winter periods. In the first winter period the largest flocks were recorded in the Theale GP area with c200 there Jan 10th in two flocks (JLe), 150 there Feb 17th (RJB), 100+ Jan 3rd and 20th (JA) and 100 17th Feb (TGB). In Crowthorne Woods there were 100+ 5th Mar (MGM) and again on Apr 5th (DJB), while there were 120 at Kintbury on Jan 19th (DJB) and 100 at Eversley GPs on Jan 6th (BMA) and again Feb 12th (PBT). In the second winter period the largest flock was again reported from the Theale GP area with c200 Dec 22nd (JA). The latest first winter gathering was on May 6th at West Woodhay House (RGS) with some 60+ birds feeding in treetops. **Summer:** Records included 5 Wishmoor Bottom Jun 21st (CL), 5 juvs in a Finchampstead garden Aug 4th (AFd), 4 juvs in a Crowthorne garden Jun 2nd (IT), 2 over a Crowthorne garden Jun 22nd (PJC) and 6 in the Wishmoor area July 15th (BDC).

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common resident and more widespread passage migrant and winter visitor

The Linnet was reported from 56 sites spread around the County. First winter period counts included 250 at West Woodhay Lakes Jan 27th (SG), c225 at Inkpen Beacon/Hill Jan 15th (BDC), c200 Combe Hill Jan 19th (DJB), 225 at Walbury Hill Jan 22nd (BDC), 250 Compton Downs Mar 30th (DJB) and c200 at Hungerford Park Fm Apr 7th (DR). During the period 1 May to 30 August, birds were reported from 21 sites across the county. Breeding evidence was sparse but 2 birds carrying nest material were seen in a count of 41 at Crookham Com on 19 Apr (JPM). Dorney W held 2 ad and 4 juv 21 May (JOB) and a 'small family party' of 6 was seen there 9 June (BAJC) and 4 ad and 6 juv Jul 6th (BDC). Family parties or juvs were reported from Hosehill Lake, Twyford, Seven Barrows, and Stubbings nr Maidenhead (AF, BDC, SPA). The largest second winter gathering was a flock of 200 at Farnborough Nov 30th (ABT). Otherwise, whilst widespread, counts did not exceed double figures in November or December.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis flammaea*

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor and sporadic breeder

First winter: Numbers were low during Jan-Feb with the only count over 20 being 40 at Eversley GPs Feb 2nd (IT). **Spring Passage:** Numbers began to build in Swinley Forest from early Mar with c40 Mar 5th (MGM). By the end of Mar the species was abundant with counts of over 100 regular. Numbers peaked in Apr with counts suggesting that over 1000 may have been present to mid Apr (DJB,WAS, DML). Numbers then declined into May and while 100+ were present May 8th (DJB) the last record of 1 was May 16th (DJB). Elsewhere, there were 70 at Heath Lake Mar 23rd (IT). **Second winter:** Returning birds were first noted at Lavell's Lake Oct 16th (MGM) and Wishmoor Bottom Oct 18th (DJB). Again numbers were low with few counts exceeding 15, the highest being 20 at Eversley GPs Nov 9th (GR) and 20 Bracknell Dec 24th (JOB).

MEALY REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Rare winter visitor

One seen at close range from hide at Eversley GPs Feb 22nd (PBT).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Regular winter visitor in variable numbers and occasionally breeds

First winter/spring: Small numbers were present in Swinley Forest with high counts of 27 Feb 24th (DJB), c50 near Caesar's Camp on Mar 9th (DKP), 50+ Upper Star Post Apr 5th (DJB), 20 Wishmoor Bottom Apr 9th (CDRH), c25 Lower Star Post Apr 24th (MMc), 32 Broadmoor Bottom May 4th (PJC) and 45 Wishmoor area May 8th (DJB). Breeding was evidenced when a group of 8 incl juvs were at Wishmoor Bottom May 12th (BMA). Records continued to May 31st when 5 flew over Caesar's Camp (DJB). **Autumn/Second winter:** A flock of 26 over Gorricks Wood on Aug 15th (PJC) was the first record of a late summer influx noted throughout the county. 14 flew over Twyford GPs Aug 29th (FC) and records from 1 to 25 in Sep came from Bowdown Woods, Swinley Forest, Pingewood GPs, Gorricks Wood, and Snelsmore Com. Oct had one record, 2+ at Windsor Great Park (CDRH) but records of up to 10 in Nov/Dec came from Wishmoor Bottom, Combe Wood, Widbrook Com, Swinley

Forest, Dinton Pastures, Hermitage and Ufton Nervet. A high count followed of 30 Round Oak Piece, Mortimer Dec 23rd (PHi).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common and widespread resident, occasional passage migrant

Single birds or small groups were recorded at over 100 sites throughout the county. The largest groups consisted of 9 birds at Eversley GPs Mar 6th (MGM), 9 at Thatcham Marsh Jan 30th (JPM), 8 in the Wishmoor Area Dec 28th (DJB), 8 at Lavells Lake Oct 17th (MW) and 8 at Thatcham Marsh Mar 8th (DJB). Juvs were found at Brimpton GPs, Lavell's Lake, Pingewood GPs and Eversley GPs in Aug/Sept.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Uncommon local resident

The small number of sightings reflects the probable decline of this species, allied to its elusive nature. There were only 2 records in 2002: 3-4 birds in mixed woodlands at a site in W. Berks on Mar 12th (CDRH) and 1 Windsor Great Park Dec 31st (DKP, BTB, MW).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

A f/w bird was found by CDRH Oct 2nd at QMR, which moved between a fence, where it obligingly sat for 5 minutes, and Horton fields. Later that day it was seen again on Horton fields (WAS, CDRH). The same bird was seen again in flight as fields were being ploughed at Horton on Oct 7th (CDRH). Possibly the same imm bird was found in a ploughed field at Eton Wick Oct 20th (DAC et al). Records for this species in Berkshire have now exceeded 20.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Common resident and winter visitor

Flock numbers were low in early 2002 with nothing in double figures until 10 were seen at Aldworth Downs July 21st (JPM). Counts of up to 9 were received from 53 sites with a westerly bias in evidence, despite which the highest count was c. 100 at Cookham, Long Lane Nov 22nd (BDC) where 45 were found by the same observer Dec 17th. In W. Berks there were c.75 at Seven Barrows Feb 14th (BDC), 30 at Winterbourne Nov 17th in a mixed flock (MJT) and 30 at Lambourn Downs Dec 7th (MW). The species is common on most of the Downs and with most records in Mid and E. Berks coming from Strand Water Cookham (where juvs were seen twice), Burnthouse Lane, Eversley GPs, Larks Hill Bracknell and Summerleaze GPs (MO).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common resident and passage migrant

Widely distributed in suitable habitat, it was reported from 49 sites, mainly along the Thames, Kennet Valley, Dorney W and adjacent gravel pits. All double figure counts were from outside the breeding season, higher counts include:- around 20 Hosehill Lake all Jan at feeder (BU), c40 Finchampstead Jan 9th (CDRH), at least 30 Eversley GP Jan 27th with Chaffinches on maize stubble (BMA,IHB), 23 Woolhampton GP Feb 6th at feeder with 25 there Feb 15th

and 35 Mar 5th (JPM), about 25 Long Lane Cookham Nov 22nd (BDC), 50 Lambourn Downs Dec 7th (MW) then 20 plus at Wishmoor Cross Dec 28th (DJB).

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Common but increasingly local resident and locally common winter visitor

The great majority of reports came from downland sites with only a few from E. Berks from Dorney W, Cold Harbour, Eton Wick and Waltham St Lawrence. Highest counts in the first winter period included 30 Farnborough Down Jan 1st with 60 there Jan 6th (GAS), at least 120 Compton Downs Jan 2nd with 56 there Feb 8th (DJB), 45 at Farnborough Down Feb 16th with 30 there Mar 2nd (GAS), 35 Ridgeway at Compton Mar 2nd (DJB) and a late group of 43 Farnborough Down Apr 14th (GAS). During Apr-Jun singing males were present at 4 sites in E. Berks and throughout the Berkshire Downs. Family parties were reported from East Garston July 29th and Sheepdrove on the same date (BDC) and from Cold Harbour Aug 3rd (DJB). In the second winter counts of about 30 came from Compton Downs Oct 11th and Lowbury Hill Nov 4th (CDRH) and in E. Berks of 16 at Cold Harbour Oct 24th (JO'B).

ESCAPES

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

One Romney Lock, Windsor Jan 1st - Jul 31st (WAS); 1 Lower Fm GP Jan 19th (JW) with 3 there Mar 26th (GRW) and 1 Dec 22nd (JW); 2 Twyford GP Nov 10th (BDC) then on many dates to Dec 15th (MW); 3 Eversley GP Nov 28th (IHB); 3 Ruscombe Dec 7th (DJB) and Dec 10th (CDRH) with 2 there Dec 30th (JOB); 2 R. Thames, Wargrave Dec 9th (DJB). The widespread nature of these records points to a fair level of mobility but has anyone seen one in flight? (Recorder)

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

Un-ringed ad at Theale GP Aug 18th (CDRH) and Sep 19th (LM).

CHINESE (SWAN) GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

One at Padworth Lane GP apparently bred with a Canada Goose Jan 1st (JPM, MES) then on many dates to Oct 13th (JPM); 3 Mill Pond, Bracknell Mar 13th (JOB).

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Widely reported from some 13 locations but no evidence of breeding within Berks (so where?). Records from main sites were as follows: *Theale GPs area*: 4 from Jan 10th (TM) to Feb 8th (DJB) with 6 Feb 3rd (MW) and again on both Jun 10th (RCr) and Jul 7th with 7 on Jul 9th, 2 from Aug 11th to Sep 8th (MO) and 1 Sep 21st (MW). *Pingewood GPs*: (which could involve Theale birds) 3 Feb 28th (AFd), 4 in Mar (KEM), then 1-4 on several dates Jul 30th to Aug 31st (MO). *Lower Fm/Thatcham area*: 2 Feb 2nd (SG), Feb 4th (GJS) and Feb 9th, 16th and 23rd (MO). *Bisham/Cockmarsh area*: 1 Jan 11th (LM), 3 Feb 25th (BDC, DFr) and again Mar 8th and 15th (CDRH), 1 Apr 5th (DJB) and 1 Nov 1st (LM) and Nov 19th (CDRH) and finally 4 Dec 5th (WAS) rising to 8 on Dec 10th (CDRH). Also recorded (max no. in brackets): Donnington (3 in Jan/Feb), Wokefield Park (2 in Feb), Dinton Pastures/Lavell's Take (3 in Aug), Summerleaze GP (1 in Aug), Bray GPs (4 in Sep) and Tickleback Row (4 in Nov).

ROSS'S GOOSE *Anser rossii*

Un-ringed ad Summerleaze GP Aug 1st, Aug 5th, Aug 7th (DJB), Sep 10th (CDRH), Sep 21st (BDC), dates from Oct 1st to Oct 31st and Dec 19th (CDRH). What was presumably the same bird was recorded at Cookham Sep 7th and Sep 19th (BDC), Widbrook Com Oct 30th (BDC) and Cockmarsh Nov 19th and Dec 10th (CDRH).

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

One at Windsor Great Park Jun 16th (WAS) and an un-ringed ad male at Bray GP Aug 26th (MW) which may have reached an untimely end on Aug 29th as a road kill on the M4 adjacent to Bray GP appeared to be this species (CDRH).

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Fem at Lavell's Lake Oct 22nd (MW).

CHILOE WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix*

One Dorney W. Jun 14th (CDRH).

ROSY-BILL POCHARD *Netta peposaca*
Fem at Summerleaze GP Mar 31st (CDRH).

FALCON Sp.
One Greenham Com Dec 11th was a Lanner Hybrid (CDRH).

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*
One over QMR Oct 28th (CDRH).

EASTERN ROSELLA PARAKEET *Platycercus eximius*
One in Sandhurst during January and February (PWi).

HYBRID S

Snow Goose x ?
Three "blue type" birds Allenbay Park Sep 8th (DJB).

Canada Goose x Barnacle Goose
Singles at Allenbay Park Sep 8th (DJB) and Lower Fm GP Dec 1st (JW).

Emperor Goose x Farmyard Goose
One Horton GP Dec 5th (CDRH).

American Wigeon-type hybrid
Male Summerleaze GP Nov 23rd (CDRH).

Mallard x Gadwall
Male Wraysbury GP Oct 31st, Nov 3rd and Nov 14th (CDRH).

AYTHYA HYBRIDS

Lesser Scaup type
Male Pingewood GP Apr 14th (CDRH).

Scaup type
Fem Eversley GP Jan 1st (DJB) and Jan 2nd (JMC); fem Twyford GP Mar 2nd (BDC);
fem Theale GP Oct 16th (CDRH) and Nov 5th (PBT).

Partridge hybrid
Two birds in a mixed covey of Red-legged and Grey Partridges at Pingewood GP Dec 22nd (BTB,MW) showing characteristics of both species.

Earliest and Latest Dates of Summer Migrants

SPECIES	ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
Hobby	Apr 4 Brimpton	GEW Oct 5 Great Meadow Pond RRG
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 11 Brayfield FmFlash CDRH,BDC	Sep 8 Greenham Common AJT
Common Tern	Apr 14 Eversley	IHB Nov 13 Theale GP CDRH
Turtle Dove	Apr 26 Hosehill Lake	TM Sep 11 Brimpton GP GEW
Cuckoo	Apr 1 Hosehill Lake	BU Aug 28 Theale GP BDC, MJF
Nightjar	May 11 Bucklebury Common	NC Sep 9 Combe Hill LS
Swift	Apr 2 Burnthouse Lane	JA Sep 11 Dinton Pastures FC
Sand Martin	Mar 9 Lower Farm GP	AHo Oct 16 Theale GP MGM
Swallow	Mar 17 Summerlease GP	CDRH Nov 15 Upper Bucklebury RF
House Martin	Mar 18 Theale GP	DHu Nov 30 Sheepdrove MW
Tree Pipit	Mar 23 Wishmoor Bottom	DRi Sep 7 Wishmoor Bottom DJB
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 31 Brayfield Fm Flash	BDC Nov 3 Englefield RCr
Nightingale	Apr 3 Theale	JOB,MJS Aug 4 Theale GP RJB
Redstart	Apr 7 Wishmoor	DJB, MMc Sep 13 Fawley JD
Whinchat	Apr 21 Eversley GP	IHB, JOB Oct 6 Woolley Down GAS
Wheatear	Mar 15 Queen Mother Res.	JAS Oct 23 Queen Mother Res. JAS
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 22 Two sites	ABT, CDRH Jun 19 Freemans Marsh RF
Sedge Warbler	Mar 31 Theale GP	BDC Oct 9 Jubilee River JBa
Reed Warbler	Apr 6 Hosehill Lake	IT Oct 11 Lower Farm GP PML
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 24 Two sites	BU, MMc Sep 23 Woolhampton GP JPM
Whitethroat	Mar 31 Thatcham Marsh	IW, JL Sep 19 Crookham Common JPM
Garden Warbler	Apr 21 Three sites	BTB, BU, JOB Sep 1 Theale GP JA
Blackcap	Mar 21 Dinton Pastures	PJC
Chiffchaff	Feb 28 Charvil	SH Oct 23 Lavell's Lake MW
Willow Warbler	Mar 29 Thatcham Marsh	RRK Sep 19 Crookham Common JPM
Spotted Flycatcher	May 16 Streatley (-on-Thames)	SPA Sep 26 Shurlock Row RAL

Latest and Earliest Dates of Winter Migrants

SPECIES	DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Golden Plover	Apr 24 Greenham Common	GJS Aug 18 Horton Fields CDRH
Rock Pipit		Sep 19 Queen Mother Res. JAS
Fieldfare	Apr 20 Pingewood	JOB Oct 8 Denford RDW
Redwing	Apr 13 Twyford GP	JOB Sep 14 Winnersh FC
Brambling	Apr 20 Wishmoor	IT Oct 18 Crowthorne MGM
Siskin	May 6 West Woodhay	RGS Aug 31 Finchampstead PBT
Lesser Redpoll	May 7 Thatcham Marsh	RF Oct 16 Lavell's Lake MGM