

The Birds of Berkshire 2nd Edition

Notes and Corrections October 2017

Here we list amendments to the avifauna that arise from additional information received on some significant records subsequent to the publication of *The Birds of Berkshire* in 2013 and from errors that have come to our attention.

All the species account figures, revised where necessary, are included in the online species account summaries (<http://berksoc.org.uk/county-atlas/distribution-maps/distribution-maps-overview/>). A file giving the data used for the figures in the Avifauna (including any corrections noted below) is provided to facilitate future revision and analysis (<http://berksoc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Atlas-BoB-2nd-ed-figures.xlsx>).

At the time of writing of *The Birds of Berkshire* 2nd edition, the 2008 and later annual reports had not been published and the adjudication of records by the Berkshire Records Committee was incomplete. In these corrigenda we have taken account of the committee's subsequent adjudications and significant records from the reports now published for 2008 – 2012. Whilst we attempted to include here significant records up to July 2013, there are some that may have been missed. Anyone seeking to update the avifauna should refer to the annual reports for this period to supplement the species accounts in the avifauna.

Finally, readers should note that the aim of the avifauna is to portray the normal status of each species in the county; examples of extreme dates, high counts and other unusual observations are often given in species accounts, but it is not intended as an exhaustive catalogue of freak observations!

Corrections and additional comment to the published text are shown below in **bold** (insert) and ~~strikethrough~~ (delete).

Neil Bucknell & Renton Righelato (Editors), October 2017

p 56 For map key, see <http://berksoc.org.uk/county-atlas/distribution-maps/species-richness-map/>

p 83 Photo labelled Snelsmore Common shows similar heath at Wishmoor Bottom

p 100 inset box, Scarce visitors: Record not accepted by Berkshire Records Committee "~~Red-rumped Swallow Apr 2010.~~"

Whooper Swan. p 111 para 1 ln 1: Additional record: a single bird was photographed at Leverton in December 2010. The record of two Whooper Swans flying over West Ilsley on 22nd October 2010 was deemed unacceptable by the Berkshire Records Committee in 2014. "~~Two flew over West Ilsley on 22nd October 2010~~ **A single bird was photographed at Leverton in December 2010**"

Bean Goose. p 112 para 2 line 17: Additional information: One of the party of four at Wigmore Lane from 5th January 1997 remained until 30th April. A single bird was at Great Meadow Pond from 17th December 2011 to 5th February 2012. The record of a Bean Goose at Dinton Pastures in December 2010 was deemed unacceptable by the Berkshire Records Committee in 2014. "~~and another flying over Dinton Pastures on 8th December 2010~~ **A single bird was at Great Meadow Pond from 17th December 2011 to 5th February 2012.**"

Pink-footed Goose. p 113 para 1 ln 8: The record of four birds seen flying over Englefield on 4th December 2009 was deemed unacceptable by the Berkshire Records Committee in 2014. "~~earliest winter record was 4th December 2009 and the~~"

White-fronted Goose. p 113 para 2 ln 8: The record of a bird on 10th October 2010 at Winkfield Row was deemed unacceptable by the Berkshire Records Committee in 2014. ~~DELETE "one at Winkfield on 16th October 2010 and"~~

Brent Goose. p 120 para 2 ln 6: "~~and, later, a party of 72 which may have been additional birds.~~" This record of a possible additional flock of 72 at Queen Mother Reservoir on 5th November 1994 included in the first edition of *The Birds of Berkshire*, was subsequently deemed unacceptable by the Berkshire Records Committee. p 121 para 3 ln 3: Other long staying records are of what was thought to be the same bird in the Wraysbury area from 28th December 2000 to 26th March 2001 and a record of a first winter bird at Horton Fields from 1st February to 21st March 2006. "~~The longest stay was~~ **Longer stays include what was thought to be the same bird in the Wraysbury area from 28th December 2000 to 26th March 2001, a record of a first winter bird at Horton Fields from 1st February to 21st March 2006 and..**"

Shelduck. p 125 para 2 ln 17 "Reports have recorded breeding from between two and ~~ten~~ **ten** sites annually, with an apparent decline after 2002."

Mandarin Duck. p 129 para 2 add at end: "**Some high counts worthy of note are at least 400 at Windsor Great Park in September 1985, at least 240 there in October 1990 and 194 in August 2005.**"

Wigeon p 130 para 2 ln 14 "~~Summering Wigeon have been recorded during the period May to July most years since 1980 and each year since 2000;...~~"

Gadwall p 133 ln 2 "~~The highest counts have been at the Wraysbury and Horton Gravel Pits, with a peak of 1004 in December~~ **January 2011.**"

Pintail p 138 Figure 12 caption: ~~Five yearly totals~~ **Annual averages** of estimated numbers of birds arriving.

Garganey p 139 Figure 14: 1996-2005 and 2006-11 columns should be ~~16~~ and **13** respectively.

Shoveler p 140 para 1 ln 7: ~~Breeding....1940s~~ **Five pairs were reported to have bred at Slough Sewage Farm in 1922 (Radford, 1966), with sporadic breeding in the 1930s and 1940s.** Figure 16 caption: Shoveler: average winter maxima. WeBS data ~~at~~ **all** Berkshire sites.

Jackdaw p 344, Table 4: updated with additional information now available for the 2011-12 period.

Year	Highest Count	Place	Date
2011	1,000	Great Meadow Pond	13th March
2012	500	Four sites in mid and east Berkshire	January, September, October

Raven p 350 ln 2: ten sites in ~~2009~~ 2010.

Goldcrest p 351 para 2, ln 9: ..bird is given by a survey in ~~2005~~ of four blocks of woodland in south east Berkshire, which found a total of 525 singing males in 2005 and 630 in 2007.

Firecrest: The 2010 east Berkshire survey, published in 2014, found 72 territories. Figure 127 has been updated with this figure. Figure 127: 2010 column for east Berkshire 72.

Bearded Tit p 363 para 2 ln 9: "at Thatcham Marsh from 1965/6 to ~~1974/5~~, when 1975/6, after which". p 363 para 3 ln 8-9: "Singles were seen at Brimpton-Burghfield Gravel Pits in October 1976 and Brimpton Gravel Pits in May 1990, three were at" p 363, para 3 ln 11: "March 1978 and one in December ~~1975~~ 1985,"

Woodlark p 365, para 2 add to end of account: "Surveys of the Thames Basin heaths in east Berkshire found 27 territories in 1996 and 41 in 2007."

Sand Martin p 367 para 4 ln 5: "have been one at Wraysbury Gravel Pits Queen Mother Reservoir on 25th February". p 369 para 1, ln 6-7: "...the highest being about 500 at Cookham in September ~~2000~~ and at Theale"

Wood Warbler p 377: Figure 128: minor amendment to the post 2000 counts of singing birds and autumn passage migrants (Appendix).

Chiffchaff p 380 para 2, ln 13: "13 were at Wraysbury Gravel Pits in December 1984, 11 at Slough Sewage Farm in February 1996 and at least eight...."

Willow Warbler: p 381 para 2 add to end of para: "Surveys of the Swinley Forest SPA showed a decline from 168 territories in 2002 to 51 territories in 2008, which may reflect changes in the local habitat quality as well as the general decline in southern England."

Dartford Warbler p 388 para 2 ln 5: "Hurley. Dartford Warblers were recorded at Slough Sewage Farm in five of the years from 1991 to 1998 in autumn or winter. Most recently.."

Reed Warbler p 396 para 2, ln 4: from 1994 to 2011, between ~~31st~~ March 2nd and 24th April.

Waxwing p 398, para: add to end of para: "Counts in Figures 130 and 131 are the sum of maxima for individual sites in any month without allowance for movement between sites, which could not be measured; they are likely therefore to overestimate actual numbers in the County."

Dipper p 406, ln 2: "breeding occurred there the following year in 1979, when after"

Ring Ouzel p 406 para 3 ln 1: "Apart from the February record mentioned above, the earliest spring passage..."

Mistle Thrush p 415: Breeding status map caption: Mistle Thrush Breeding Status: 2011 (1989): Confirmed: 187 (277) Probable: 68 (66) Possible: 87 (32).

Spotted Flycatcher p 416 ln 1: "evidence was recorded in just over under a third of tetrads"

Bluethroat p 420 ln 2: "has been recorded on just three occasions, all in the autumn."

Pied Flycatcher p 420 para 1 ln 7: than ~~49~~ 47 of which (~~24~~ 23%)

Redstart p 424: Figure 139 is re-presented using corrected data for some of the survey years provided by the surveyor of the east Berkshire heaths, D J Barker (website).

Whinchat p 425 para 1 ln 5: "of this the last century."

Wheatear p 430 para 2. Ln 17: "Reservoir on 4th May 2012. The highest recorded spring counts were 30 at East Ilsley on 26th March 1984, 26 at Greenham Common on 3rd May 2002 and 23 at Reading Sewage Farm on 3rd April 1986. The spring migrant map..." para 4, add to end of para: "The latest Berkshire Wheatear record is of one, possibly of the race *O. o. leucorhoa*, at Queen Mother Reservoir on 27th November 2011."

Tree Pipit p 442 para 1 ln 18-19: "and there were over ~~110~~ 100 territories in east Berkshire heathland in ~~2000~~ 2001."

Common (Mealy) Redpoll p 461 Replace species account text with: Until 2001, Lesser Redpolls were considered to be the race of Common Redpoll native to north west and central Europe, the latter being present in much of the boreal zone of the northern hemisphere. The decision was taken to allocate full species status to Lesser Redpolls, which are distinguishable by their smaller size and darker plumage (Knox et al, 2001), although subsequently DNA analysis has shown no significant difference between individuals attributed to both species, and some individuals have proved impossible to separate even when handled by ringers (Collar, 2013). Nonetheless both species remain on the BOU's British List, so are treated as separate species in this book.

During winter, birds exhibiting the characteristics of the Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea*, the race of Common Redpoll present in central and northern Scandinavia, are occasionally observed in Berkshire. Many records have been of birds associating with Lesser Redpolls. There are county records for 1936, 1963, 1972 (two birds), 1975, 1976 (four birds), 1985, 1986 (two birds), 1988, 1994, 1995, 1998 (a record of two birds at Brimpton), 2002, 2003 (three at Thatcham Marsh) and 2005 (two records). There was an influx in January and February 2006, with records from six locations, including up to three at Sonning and two at Bucklebury. A second influx produced records from four sites in February and March 2009, possibly involving up to eight birds, followed by only three the following winter, between January and March. The winter of 2010/11 produced records of at least 19 birds from six sites, including up to four at Greenham Common. There were also four at Greenham Common on 30th October 2011, three at Padworth Common on 31st December 2011, and two at each of Bracknell and Ashley Hill in the following two months. The increase in the number of records in recent years probably results from an increased awareness amongst observers of the characteristics of the Common Redpoll, and from birds caught for ringing. A total of 18 birds attributed to this species were ringed in the county in the peak years of 2010 and 2011 (Robinson et al, 2015 (2)). The earliest autumn arrival was one at Queen Mother Reservoir on 3rd November 2005.

Snow Bunting p 469 para 2 ln 5: "in November and December 1959,....." p 469 para 2 ln 15: "...from 1976/77 to ~~1987/78~~ 1987/88," p 469, para 3 ln 4: "...on 17th November ~~October~~ 1996." Figure 150 the November column should be 23 birds.

Reed Bunting p 474 conservation status missing: Amber

Corn Bunting p 476 para 2 ln 13: 1993/94, although at Cold Harbour, Binfield; there...."

Appendix II p 488 the Obelisk Pond in Windsor Great Park (Surrey) is at SU9770

Appendix III, p 502: Woodcock % tetrads confirmed: replace "0" with "0.3"

References p 514: add after Robinson, C. 2007

Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A. (2015) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2011. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 11-August-2016).

Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A. (2015) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2010. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 11-August-2016).