

The Birds of Richmond Park National Nature Reserve 2006-2015



**A summary of ten years of records by the
Richmond Park Bird Recording Group**

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mute Swan	Res	Up to three pairs breed annually.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Greylag Goose	U	Occasional visitors. Forty seen on 28th November 2015.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canada Goose	Res	Common resident. A few birds breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Egyptian Goose	Res	Feral population established since breeding in 2001.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Shelduck	U	Occasional visitors, becoming more common.			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mandarin Duck	Res	Several pairs breed over a wide area of the Park each year.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Eurasian Wigeon	RegWV	Early winter visitor in small numbers. Few remain after turn of year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	RegWV	Common winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Teal	RegWV	Winter visitor in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard	Res	Numbers swollen by winter visitors.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pintail	RareWV	Male on Lower Pen Pond on 26 December 2015	✓				✓					✓
Garganey	Rare	Single drake on Upper Pen Pond 23rd April 2011.						✓				
Shoveler	RegWV	Small number seen in winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Crested Pochard	RegV	One pair bred in 2007 & 2008.	✓	✓	B	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pochard	RegV	Small summer population, occasionally breeds.	✓	B	✓	B	B	✓	B	✓	B	✓
Tufted Duck	Res	Small summer population. A few pairs sometimes breed. Numbers increase in Winter.	B	✓	B	B	✓	B	✓	B	B	B
Common Scoter	Rare	Passage migrant. Four drakes at Pen Ponds on 13th April 2009 were the first since 1948.				✓						
Goosander	Rare	Female at Pen Ponds early December 2015. First since 2003.										✓
Goldeneye	Rare	Last sighting on 27th February 2014.						✓	✓		✓	
Smew	RareWV	Pair at Pen Ponds on 2nd February 2015.										✓
Ruddy Duck	Rare	Once seen regularly at Pen Ponds, a Defra authorised national cull has all but exterminated these feral birds in the UK.	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Red Legged Partridge	Rare	Only two sightings in ten years.							✓		✓	
Pheasant	U	Lost as breeding resident. Now an occasional visitor.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Spoonbill	Rare	Six over the Park 12th September 2013. First record since 1976.								✓		
Little Grebe	U	No longer breeds. Becoming less common.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	Res	Present in small numbers at Pen Ponds all year.	B	B	B	B	✓	B	B	B	B	B
Red-necked Grebe	Rare	Single on 5th October 2013 only the fourth Park record.								✓		
Black-necked Grebe	Rare	Passage migrant.							✓			
Gannet	Rare	A juvenile flew over on 4th October 2008.			✓							
Cormorant	RegV	Regular visitor to Pen Ponds and often seen overflying the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	U	One or two seen in winter on Beverley Brook.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Egret	Rare	One flying over on 26th November 2012 was Park first.							✓			
Grey Heron	Res	Breeds on Upper Pen Pond island.	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	B	B	B
Honey Buzzard	Rare	Passage migrant flying over.			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Kite	U	Uncommon visitor, but increasingly seen.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsh Harrier	Rare	Passage migrant occasionally seen overflying the Park.	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	
Hen Harrier	Rare	A female or juvenile seen over Pond Slade on 31st Oct 2008.			✓							
Montagu Harrier	Rare	Over Pond Slade on 18th April 2011. Only third record for Park.						✓				
Sparrowhawk	Res	A few pairs usually breed.	B	B	B	✓	B	B	Pb	B	B	Pb
Common Buzzard	RegV	Increasingly frequent visitor and passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rough Legged Buzzard	Rare	One was photographed over Pen Ponds on 27th October 2007.		✓								
Osprey	Rare	Passage migrant.		✓			✓				✓	
Kestrel	Res	Several pairs usually breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Merlin	Rare	One flew over on 25th September 2015 - first since two in 1952.										✓
Hobby	RegSV	Summer visitor. A pair now breeding in the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	B
Peregrine Falcon	U	Now breeding locally and being seen in the Park occasionally.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	Res/Sc	Elusive resident breeder, often heard in Pen Ponds reedbed.	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B	Pb	B	Pb	B
Moorhen	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Coot	Res	Breeding resident with larger numbers in winter.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Stone Curlew	Rare	Rare visitor. One on March 28th 2010.					✓					
Oystercatcher	Rare	One overflying on 19th April 2014 was only the third Park record.										✓
Grey Plover	Rare	One overflying in May 2008 was the 2nd Park record.			✓							
Lapwing	Sc	Scarce visitor to Pen Ponds. Flocks may overfly in harsh winters.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Ringed Plover	Rare	Rare visitor. At least 3 in Summer 2014. Only 3 previous records.									✓	
Dunlin	Rare	Last seen 1987 until one at Pen Ponds on 12th September 2009.				✓						
Jack Snipe	Rare	Rare in winter and on passage.			✓				✓		✓	
Snipe	Sc	Elusive, occasionally seen in winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodcock	RegWV	Small numbers in Park each winter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whimbrel	Rare	Passage migrant. 25 flew over on 22nd August 2014.			✓	✓					✓	✓
Curlew	Rare	Seen flying over.	✓	✓						✓		
Bar-tailed Godwit	Rare	One flew low over Pen Ponds on 21st June 2012.							✓			
Ruff	Rare	Low over Pen Ponds 24th September 2013. Last recorded 1997.								✓		
Redshank	Rare	Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor.							✓		✓	
Spotted Redshank	Rare	One low over Pen Ponds on 9th July 2012. Only 2nd Park record.									✓	
Greenshank	Rare	Rare migrant at Pen Ponds.				✓					✓	✓
Green Sandpiper	U	Occasional passage migrant and rare winter visitor.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood Sandpiper	Rare	Passage migrant. One on 10th September 2015 only third record.										✓
Common Sandpiper	RegWV/Sc	Passage migrant in couples and singles at the Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mediterranean Gull	Rare	Rare winter visitor. Four Park records in total.	✓	✓								✓
Black Headed Gull	RegV	Common visitor to Pen Ponds outside of the breeding season.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Gull	RegWV	Fairly common winter visitor, especially to Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black Backed Gull	RegV	Fairly regular visitor to Pen Ponds in small numbers. Usually seen overflying to and from their roosting sites.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Herring Gull	U	Occasional visitor to Pen Ponds. More seen overflying.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow Legged Gull	Rare	Rare visitor. One in Jan 2009 on Pen Ponds. 2 sightings in 2013.				✓				✓		
Great Black Backed Gull	UWV	Mainly overflying to and from roosting sites to the west.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Sandwich Tern	Rare	Rare visitor. Two seen in 2015, the first since 1992.										✓
Common Tern	RegSV	Passage migrant and post-breeding summer visitor. Few pairs now nesting on tern rafts installed at Upper Pen Pond.	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B
Black Tern	Rare	2015 sighting only the seventh ever, last seen in 1993.										✓
Feral Pigeon	Res	Common resident breeder at Pembroke & White Ash Lodges.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Stock Dove	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Wood Pigeon	Res	Common resident breeder. Numbers supplemented in winter by continental birds.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Collared Dove	U	Occasional visitor. One pair usually breed.	✓	B	B	B	B	B	B		✓	✓
Turtle Dove	Rare	Passage migrant. One at Holly Lodge on 7th July 2015.					✓					✓
Ring-necked Parakeet	Res	Abundant resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cuckoo	Sc	Passage migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barn Owl	Sc	Highly elusive, but occasionally seen after dark.				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Little Owl	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tawny Owl	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Long Eared Owl	Rare	A pair attempted (unsuccessfully) to breed in Spring 2009. The first confirmed record for the Park.				✓						
Short Eared Owl	U	Occasional passage migrant.			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nightjar	Rare	Passage migrant.	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓
Common Swift	RegSV	Common summer visitor. Nests in buildings outside the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hoopoe	Rare	Individual seen on 6th July 2012 only the 6th record.							✓			
Kingfisher	Res	Regularly seen along Beverley Brook and at Pen Ponds.	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B	✓
Wryneck	Rare	Passage migrant. 2014 sighting first since 1957.									✓	
Green Woodpecker	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Res	Uncommon and elusive resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓
Woodlark	Rare	Passage migrant.			✓							
Skylark	Res	Breeding population variable and under threat in recent years. Number of wintering birds varies with the weather conditions.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Sand Martin	RegSV	Passage migrant and summer visitor to Pen Ponds in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow	RegSV	Common passage migrant. Two or three pairs now breed.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	✓	B
House Martin	RegSV	Common passage migrant. A few feed over the Park in summer.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	U	Passage migrant.	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	Res	Occasionally breeds. Otherwise a Winter visitor and passage migrant.	B	B	B	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	B
Rock Pipit	Rare	Single bird at Pen Ponds on 19th March 2015, the first since 1949.										✓
Yellow Wagtail	U	Passage migrant that rarely land in the Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	Res	Fairly common on Beverly Brook and occasionally elsewhere.	✓	✓	B	B	✓	B	B	B	B	B
Pied Wagtail	Res	Occasionally breeds in the Park. Regular small numbers in winter. White wagtail (continental form of pied) seen 2015.	✓	B	B	✓	B	✓	B	B	B	✓
Waxwing	RareWV	Unpredictable irruptive visitor to UK, rarely seen in the Park.								✓		
Wren	Res	Abundant resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dunnock	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Robin	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Black Redstart	Sc	Scarce passage migrant, occasionally found in Holly Lodge paddocks.	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Redstart	U	Uncommon passage migrant. Last bred in the early 1970's.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whinchat	RegSV	Passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stonechat	Res	A small population supplemented by passage migrants.	B	B	B	B	B	✓	B	✓	B	✓
Northern Wheatear	RegSV	Passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring Ouzel	U	Occasional passage migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackbird	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Fieldfare	RegWV	Winter visitor. Large numbers arrive in October, but by the turn of the year they become scarce.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Redwing	RegWV	Common winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	Res	Resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Grasshopper Warbler	Rare	Passage migrant.	✓		✓			✓			✓	
Sedge Warbler	U	Passage migrant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	✓
Reed Warbler	RegSV	Summer visitor. A small number breed in the Pen Ponds reedbed.	B	B	B	B	B	✓	B	B	B	B
Blackcap	RegSV	Common breeding summer visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Garden Warbler	Sc	Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor.	B	B	B	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Whitethroat	U	Passage migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Whitethroat	RegSV	Breeding population now well established and spreading.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dartford Warbler	Sc	One or two winter visitors.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Wood Warbler	Rare	Passage migrant.				✓						
Chiffchaff	RegSV	Common breeding summer visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Willow Warbler	RegSV	Fairly common passage migrant. Rarely breeds.	✓	B	✓	B	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓
Goldcrest	Res	Resident. Numbers increase in winter.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Firecrest	Rare	Passage migrant.		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Spotted Flycatcher	RegSV	Regular passage migrant in small numbers.	B	B	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	✓	✓	✓
Pied Flycatcher	Rare	Passage migrant.		✓				✓				

Species	Status *	Key: ✓ = Observed, B = Breeding, Pb = Probably Bred	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Long Tailed Tit	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Blue Tit	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Great Tit	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Coal Tit	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Nuthatch	Res	Common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Treecreeper	Res	Fairly common resident breeder.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Golden Oriole	Rare	Passage migrant, seen only three times in past twenty years.	✓									
Red Backed Shrike	Rare	Passage migrant.			✓		✓					
Jay	Res	Common breeding resident. Autumn influx from the continent.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Magpie	Res	Common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Jackdaw	Res	Abundant breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rook	Rare	Only a single bird overflying seen each year reported.			✓		✓				✓	✓
Carrion Crow	Res	Common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raven	Rare	Three seen on 4th December 2013.			✓						✓	✓
Starling	Res	Common, but decreasing breeding resident and winter visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
House Sparrow	U	Once common, eight together reported in November 2015.	✓	✓	✓							✓
Chaffinch	Res	Fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Brambling	U	Scarce autumn migrant in small numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Greenfinch	Res	Fairly common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	✓	B
Goldfinch	Res	Fairly common resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Pb	✓	✓
Siskin	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linnet	U	Scarce passage migrant. A few birds overfly each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Redpoll	RegWV	Winter visitor in variable numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mealy Redpoll	ScWV	The 'continental' redpoll is a scarce winter visitor.			✓		✓	✓	✓			
Common Crossbill	ScWV	Scarce visitor during irruptive years.				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Bullfinch	U	Occasional winter visitor.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Hawfinch	Rare	Single bird seen with greenfinches in April 2010.					✓					
Yellowhammer	Rare	Bred in the Park until the mid 1970's.				✓						
Ortolan Bunting	Rare	Single bird on 5th May 2011 near Holly Lodge. Only 2nd sighting.						✓				
Reed Bunting	Res	Fairly common breeding resident.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Park Status Key *

Res	Resident
RegSV	Regular Summer Visitor
RegWV	Regular Winter visitor
U	Uncommon
UWV	Uncommon Winter visitor
Sc	Scarce
ScWV	Scarce Winter Visitor
Rare	Rare Occurrence

Additional species (excl. escaped or non-naturalised feral exotic species) seen in the prior ten -year period 1995 to 2005:

Ringed Plover (1999), Kittiwake (found dead, 1995), Bee Eater (6 over, 1995), Brent Goose (17 over, 2005), Bittern (2001-2004), Ring-billed Gull (2002), Great Grey Shrike (2002), Woodchat Shrike (2005)

Totals (excluding escaped or non-naturalised feral exotic species)

Number of species recorded in 10 year period: 169, of which 64 are thought to have bred.

Number of species recorded since records began in 1921: 209

Richmond Park is an ancient parkland with an area of almost 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares) comprising diverse habitats such as ancient trees and decaying wood, grasslands, bracken, wetlands and waterbodies (including the Pen Ponds). Consequently it attracts a wide variety of birds, both resident and migrating. The populations of some species resident in the Park, namely skylark, little owl, jackdaw, all three woodpeckers, reed bunting and stonechat, are significant in the London context. As these records show, some species are in decline locally, as well as nationally, but the Park can often reward the alert observer, occasionally with a species never before or rarely seen within its confines or airspace.

Compiled for the Richmond Park Bird Recording Group by Jan Wilczur and Nigel Jackman, 2016. Sources: RPBRG and LNHS records.