THE ESSEX Bird Report

2016

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THE ESSEX Bird Report 2016

Editor: Simon Wood

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List of Officers and Committees

The Essex Birdwatching Society
(Founded 1949)

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Auditor	Connah Goldsworthy, 12 Station Court, Station Approach, Wickford, SS11 7AT

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The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society are ex-officio members of all Committees.

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Editor(s) of the Bird Report, the Recorder(s) and the Identification Panel.

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SECRETARY TO BBO COMMITTEE

G. Smith, 48 The Meads, Ingatestone, CM4 0AE.

Obituary, Malcolm Chettleburgh

1932-2018

Malcolm first developed an interest in birdwatching during a childhood spent at Hainault. As an adolescent, he and some friends formed a group called the Hainault Naturalists. They would meet in each other's houses to discuss their latest sightings and plan field trips to places such as Weald Park, Navestock and Roding Valley Meadows. Occasionally they ventured further afield, to the Essex coast, a relative giving them a lift to Burnham-on-Crouch, from where they would walk the 15 or so miles along the Dengie coast to Bradwell St Peter's. During these walks they often met Walter Linnet, who lived in a small cottage overlooking the saltings, close to the chapel. Walter was the last of the so-called Essex 'Marshmen', hunter-gatherers who made a living by wildfowling, fishing, cockling, samphire-gathering and harvesting other products of the estuary, with a bit of farm work thrown in for good measure.

Malcolm removing a bird from a mist-net in the late 1950s

The immediate post war years saw the setting up of several bird observatories at various points along the British coast, mostly on headlands or offshore islands, the purpose of which was to study bird migration by means of observation and ringing. The recently formed Essex Birdwatching and Preservation Society decided that it would be a good idea to create one in the County and the choice of site eventually alighted on St Peter's, which stands on a promontory overlooking the Blackwater estuary. A wartime Nissan hut in the grounds of Eastlands Farm, at the head of the chapel track, was secured as the first HQ and in 1953 the Observatory opened for business.

Many well-known Essex ornithologists were involved in the setting up of the Observatory, not only Malcolm but Rod Larner (a friend from his Hainault days), Geoff Pyman, Bob Spencer (later to become head of the ringing office at the BTO), Stan Hudgell, Malcolm Ogilvie, Moss Taylor, Philip

Burton, Garth Petit, Gwen Foott, Bob Moss, Percy Hutchings and many more. Mist nets were not introduced, from Japan, until the late 1950s, and the early years were devoted to constructing two large Heligoland traps in an elm and blackthorn thicket alongside the seawall, close to the chapel. Many other enthusiasts were involved in this, Bob Hudson, Kevin Bruce, Alan Old, and Miss Griffiths among them; also, Ken Adams (now the County Botanical Recorder), who can remember crawling through the thicket trying to remove the barbed wire entanglements that were part of the wartime defences.

It was not fully realised at the time how the East Anglian bulge would deflect migrating birds away from the Essex coast but, even so, migrants were attracted to the Observatory area in numbers that can only be dreamed about nowadays and the Observatory continued to thrive. Walter Linnet died in 1958 and, a year later, Malcolm took on the tenancy of the cottage and he continued to pay the rent until four years ago, a sum, in the end, vastly in excess of the £1 a year he was paying at the beginning! Without his generosity the Observatory could not have survived. In 1967 the EBwS funded the construction of a purpose-built hut in the grounds of Linnet's Cottage (as it was by then known), Malcolm being more than happy to have us as neighbours! He helped both with the original construction and, in the late 1970s, with the hut's removal to its current position alongside the cottage, a move made necessary by recent tidal surges that had twice flooded it.

By this time Malcolm was involved in setting up what proved to be four very successful businesses in London, among them a company registration agency, a Japanese hairdresser's and a translation and interpretation company, these in collaboration with his long-standing partner Kyoko (Ko). Always a kind and gentle man he was an appreciative and considerate employer who made many friends both through his work and travels abroad. Although a self-confessed workaholic he still found time to visit Bradwell on a regular basis and remained chairman of the BBO Committee until the end of his life, attending meetings until his early eighties. He was also a long serving Vice-president of the EBwS and a RSPB Fellow. His appreciation of the natural world never lessened with age and he continued to enjoy the birds in his garden in Bayswater as much as those in more exotic locations. He died peacefully in his own home with friends around him.

Graham Smith

Acknowledgements and Editorial

by Simon Wood

I'll start with a very special thanks to Graham Smith who finally hung up his Editor's hat after more years than he would wish me to mention.

I've jumped in rather feet first, having not been involved in editing an Essex Bird Report since 1995, but I haven't sunk without trace and fortunately, with support from everyone, it has been a mostly enjoyable experience, despite the tight deadlines, although I have spent more time in front of a keyboard than I really wanted too. Hopefully, with the streamlined systems now in place, it should become easier from here on...

The Annual Summary has taken a break this year; trying to get the Report back to being published regularly and on time has meant some things have had to give. It may make a return in future but in the meantime I have included a brief summary of the years' weather, month by month, which I hope may give some background information on movements of birds at particular times of year, causes of poor breeding success etc.

The Recorder, Mick Tracey, has not only provided me with support and assistance but also done a magnificent job collating, consolidating and sorting all the data. Alf Mullins has, after a lot of toil and frustration, automated the production of Wetland Bird Survey tables and Gazetteer, which means that sub-editors get these rapidly. Wetland Bird Survey counters/co-ordinators do a fantastic job collecting and inputting their data on line promptly. Special thanks must also go to Howard Vaughan for compiling the East London Birder Forum records. Steve Entwhistle summarised the Mersea Island data and Andy Field the data for Friday Wood Colchester.

Scott Mayson and Heidi Mellan at the British Trust for Ornithology assisted Mick with Birdtrack and Wetland Bird Survey queries, as did Rob Bleach who is the local British Trust for Ornithology Representative (for North Essex).

Members of the Editorial and Identification Panels have reacted very positively to the deadlines and also fielded more questions and queries from me than I can count. Particular thanks go to David Jobbins for managing our file-sharing facility, which at times, seems to have a life of its own.

Graham Smith has written a fitting tribute to Malcolm Chettleburgh, a stalwart of the Essex and particularly Bradwell Bird Observatory scene since the early years of the Society. Dr Simon Cox has again produced an informative report on the birds ringed or colour-ringed in Essex during 2016 and some of the more noteworthy recoveries or sightings. Dougal Urquhart has produced a report on a remarkable Essex first, a Dark-eyed Junco, whilst a fascinating paper charts the first few years of the monumental Wallasea Island Project by the RSPB.

The Identification Panel worked its way through various submitted descriptions and I thank them for all their time and efforts. The Panel has also spent time deliberating certain sub-species and has met to discuss various identification and procedural matters. It intends to meet twice a year in an effort to speed up and simplify the recording process and become more pro-active on identification matters in this new era of rather fluid avian taxonomy. We live in interesting times as far as bird identification is concerned. Digital cameras are revolutionising bird recording and identification. We must attempt to roll with the changes, however uncomfortable it may be...

The sub-editors and proof readers worked to very strict deadlines and are sincerely thanked. Special mention should go to our three new sub-editors Mark Bridges, Barry Jones and Max Hellicar. Sean Nixon has acted as the photographic and art editor and pulled together some fantastic work.

And thanks to all those, of which there are too many to mention, who helped answer many and various questions.

Sub-editors for the Systematic List

Colin Mackenzie-Grieve	Brent Goose to Teal
Paul Brayshaw	Red-crested Pochard to Ruddy Duck
Graham Smith	Red-legged Partridge to Pheasant
Simon Cox	Red-throated Diver to Cormorant
David Jobbins	Osprey to Buzzard
Mark Bridges	Great Bustard to Common Crane
Paul Brayshaw	Stone Curlew to Turnstone
Alf Mullins	Knot to Greenshank
Paul Wood	Kittiwake to Puffin
Graham Smith	Rock Dove to Cuckoo
Chris Balchin	Barn Owl to Short-eared Owl
John Hart	Nightjar to Green Woodpecker
Colin Mackenzie-Grieve	Kestrel to Peregrine
Graham Smith	Ring-necked Parakeet to Raven
Ian Woodward	Waxwing to Bearded Tit
John Sutherby	Woodlark to Swallow
Neil Murphy	Cetti's Warbler to Subalpine Warbler
Mark Bridges	Firecrest to Starling
David Hutley	Ring Ouzel to Mistle Thrush
Sean Minns	Spotted Flycatcher to Wheatear
Max Hellicar	Dipper to Dunnock
David Jobbins	Yellow Wagtail to Rock Pipit
Simon Wood	Chaffinch to Siskin
David Wimpress	Lapland Bunting to Dark-eyed Junco
Barry Jones	Category D and Escapes

Proof Readers

Paul Baker
Paul Brayshaw
Simon Cox
Andy Goodey
David Jobbins
Colin Mackenzie-Grieve
Alf Mullins

We do still need more sub-editors to lighten the load on the existing team. Please contact me if you would like to give it a try.

Artists

Richard Allen
George Brown

Photographers

David Acfield
Simon Cox
Glen Moore
Sean Nixon
Alan Shearman
Simon Wood

We are always looking for good photographs and artwork for the Bird Report. Please contact the Editor for further details.

Front cover photograph: Long-tailed Ducks, Hamford Water, November, Sean Nixon

National Weather 2016

The weather at the start of January was very unsettled, dominated by low pressure, with frequent active depressions and fronts, and record-breaking rainfall totals in north-east Scotland. It was a generally mild month in the south, but it turned colder everywhere for a few days around mid-month, with widespread frosts, and some snow, mainly over high ground and in the north. The last third of January was generally very mild and wet with strong winds, although Scotland was colder at times with wintry showers. Storm Gertrude caused widespread disruption near the end of the month, with damaging winds.

February began with the UK in an unsettled west to south-westerly airflow with frequent rain, especially for western areas. Storm Henry brought widespread gale-force winds on the 1st and 2nd, especially in the north, and then Storm Imogen brought further strong winds mainly to the south on the 7th and 8th. It turned colder around the 15th with some scattered wintry showers and sharp night frosts. After some further rain, there was a mild interlude over England and Wales on the 20th and 21st, but the remainder of the month was generally dry, sunny and cold.

The UK's weather at the beginning of March was dominated by low pressure, bringing wet and fairly cold weather with some short-lived snowfalls, mainly on high ground. There were strong winds in the south-west on the 2nd, associated with Storm Jake, and it was very wet across England and Wales on the 8th. However, high pressure became established from the 13th to the 23rd, bringing dry, settled weather, often with plenty of sunshine for western areas. More unsettled weather then returned during the last week, and Storm Katie brought damaging winds on the 28th, particularly in the south-east.

The UK's weather remained unsettled and dominated by low pressure in April, with frequent showers and some longer spells of rain. This unsettled regime continued into the second week, with low pressure to the south-west in the Atlantic drawing in an easterly airstream. The second half of April was mostly cold, bright and showery with frequent northerly winds, although there was a brief warm sunny spell in central and northern areas between the 19th and 22nd. Sleet and snow fell unusually widely for late-April between the 26th and 29th, with some accumulations even at lower levels in the north-east accompanied by sharp frosts.

May began unsettled and windy with low pressure in charge, but by the 5th a warmer and more settled pattern became established with high pressure close to the UK. For much of the rest of the month an easterly flow prevailed and brought plenty of fine, warm and sunny weather, although it was often cooler near North Sea coasts, and scattered thundery showers sometimes affected western and southern areas. It was particularly warm in the second week. This pattern was interrupted by a brief colder interlude mid-month and an unsettled spell from the 17th to 22nd, but warm and sunny weather re-established itself in many western areas during the last week.

At the start of June, Britain's weather was dry and settled, but often cloudy away from sheltered western areas, with north-easterly winds bringing low cloud in from the North Sea. Showers and thunderstorms increasingly broke out inland after the 5th, although there was further warm sunny weather at times, particularly in the west. From the 10th onwards, the weather was generally unsettled, wet and cloudy with low pressure often in charge. There were also thundery downpours at times, and heavy rain and thunderstorms caused significant disruption in the south-east on the 23rd.

The beginning of July was breezy and showery, with low pressure in charge. Unsettled conditions persisted for much of the first half of the month, with fronts frequently bringing rain to the north and west, although rainfall amounts were generally small in the south. It was generally warmer and sunnier between the 17th and 23rd, with a brief hot spell from the 18th to 20th, which triggered a thundery breakdown in the north and across parts of East Anglia. Changeable weather resumed during the last week, with further frequent belts of rain, but again many southern areas often stayed dry.

August began unsettled with low pressure in charge, and wet in the south. It was generally changeable during the first fortnight, and windy at times in the first week. It was often more settled in the second half, although the 20th had a notably vigorous depression for the time of year, which brought strong winds to many parts of England. Frequent southerly winds brought a spell of high temperatures over much of England, especially East Anglia and the south-east, which peaked on the 24th when a few spots reached close to 34 °C.

At the start of September the weather was changeable with high pressure to the south and a west to south-westerly airflow over the UK. The unsettled regime continued for the first five days, but southerly incursions brought hot and humid weather, especially to the south-east, on the 7th and 13th-15th, separated by a wet spell on the 8th-10th. The 13th saw the UK's highest September temperatures since 1911, but at the same time there were widespread thunderstorms in the west. The second half was changeable with frequent frontal systems interspersed with brief fine interludes, but temperatures generally remained above the seasonal average.

On the first day of October a shallow depression tracked east across Wales and then England, bringing some rain, but after that all parts of the UK became predominantly dry, as high pressure took charge. For much of the time the high was centred over Scandinavia, bringing easterly winds, and restricting temperatures to near the seasonal average but with plenty of sunshine, especially in western areas. As the second week of the month progressed, increasing numbers of showers encroached from the east, and around 15th-17th the weather was more generally unsettled with a depression making its influence felt. Thereafter there was again a build of pressure, giving mostly fine weather, though fog affected parts of England and Wales, particularly in the south, while frontal systems affected north-west Scotland as the month approached its end. The last four days of the month were notably mild over much of England & Wales

At the start of November the weather was quiet and mild in the south, but cold bright weather soon spread from the north. There was another cold northerly incursion between the 5th and 7th, which was followed by some snow even for many low-lying parts of Scotland and northern England on the 8th and 9th. It was generally unsettled between the 9th and 21st, though with several bright showery days. Storm Angus brought wet and windy weather and problems with flooding in the south-west, and a further depression brought heavy rain and more widespread flooding on the 21st. High pressure brought generally dry, settled and cold weather from the 23rd onwards, with frequent sunny spells for most parts.

December started settled with high pressure in charge, and it was often cold and frosty with fog patches, especially in the south. The anticyclone pulled away to the east, and between the 6th and 20th southerly winds prevailed and often brought very mild conditions. Although these brought some rain at times, for much of the time it remained quiet, with fog in places. There was an unsettled spell from the 21st to 26th, which was stormy at times in central and northern Britain, associated with the passage of Storm Barbara on the 23rd and Storm Conor on the 25th and 26th. It generally stayed mild during this spell, but wintry showers affected Scotland at times, especially on the 26th. Settled conditions returned from the 27th, and it turned cold and frosty for a time, especially in the south.

With thanks to the Met Office.

Systematic List 2016

Introduction

In all, a total of 264 species was recorded in 2016 approximately 67% of the Essex List, which now stands at 392 after the addition of this year's Dark-eyed Junco.

The only abbreviations used in the Systematic List are ♂ for male (and ♂♂ for males) and ♀ for female (and ♀♀ for females).

The following books may be referenced in the text:

- Dennis 1996 – *Tetrad Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Essex*. Mike Dennis. Essex Birdwatching Society 1996
- Wood 2007 – *Birds of Essex*. Simon Wood. Christopher Helm, London 2007

Places names have been standardised. The full names and descriptions of sites mentioned in the text can be found in the Gazetteer on pages 144–148. Only those places mentioned in the current Report are now listed in the Gazetteer.

The Systematic List follows the generic order within the BOURC British List 9th Edition (2017) together with changes published in BOURC Reports since. However, the species' splits recognised in that list will not be introduced until the 2018 Report.

The reason for using the new order now, but not the new splits, is Editorial convenience; having just taken over the Editor's role, I wanted to standardise much of what we do as soon as possible. The generic order seemed a sensible immediate change as this does not affect recording but the splits have been left alone until 2018, so watch this space…

Vernacular names are the British (English) ones in the 9th Edition of the List and not the International World Bird List names (but see page 171).

Trinomial Latin names (e.g. *Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus*) are now, where applicable, used and those sub-species occurring within Essex are identified wherever possible. In some cases, the identity of sub-species occurring in the County is uncertain and this is mentioned in the individual status lines (see below). Where it is unknow which sub-species is occurring in the County, the Latin name is marked with an asterix * e.g. *Phasianus colchilus**

In the body of the Systematic List, you will notice a number of coloured numbers and letters, as shown in the species' headings below.

Great Auk *Pinguinus impennis* **UK EX**

Vagrant, especially after alcohol. **EBSIP (3, 2, 5)**

Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* **UK**

Vagrant, although no records for 200 years. **BBRC (5, 0 5)**

Legend

UK – denotes a UK Red List species; Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (2015)

UK – denotes a UK Amber List species; Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (2015)

EX – denotes one of the five Essex Biodiversity Action Plan species (Bittern, Grey Partridge, Stone-curlew, Song Thrush, Skylark)

BBRC (5, 0 5) – the species requires a description that should be forwarded to the British Birds Rarities Committee (see page 171).

EBSIP (3, 2, 5) – the species requires a description that should be forwarded to the Essex Identification Panel (see page 171).

In both instances above the figures in brackets (1, 2, 3) refer to -

1. the total number of Essex records up to and including those detailed in the *Birds of Essex* [Wood 2007], together with any records for that period subsequently accepted by BBRC/BOURC or EBSIP. The numbers relates to the number of individuals not the number of records, so for

example a flock of three Ring-necked Duck would be recorded as three records, not one. Also, individuals recorded in several years e.g. a returning Red-breasted Goose or Black Brant, are only counted the first time of occurrence, not each and every time they arrive.

2. the total number of records since the *Birds of Essex* [Wood 2007] up to and including those in 2016.
3. the total number of Essex records to the end of 2016.

For some rapidly increasing species, or widely wandering and long-lived species these figures are often no more than a best guess given the difficulty in establishing just how many individuals may be involved.

Records are not published in the *Essex Bird Report* until accepted by the British Birds' Rarities Committee (BBRC) or British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC).

Note that where a species has **EBSIP** but no numbers after it in brackets, the species has either recently bred and/or is too common to be able to assess actual numbers occurring, but none-the-less a description is still required by the Identification Panel.

Beneath the species' English and Latin names is a brief description of the species and its sub-species (where appropriate) within the County. The following broad definitions are used -

Abundant	occurs in large numbers in suitable weather and habitat.
Common	occurs regularly or is widely distributed in suitable habitat.
Fairly common	occurs in small numbers in suitable habitat and season.
Locally common	occurs in small numbers but restricted to specific habitats.
Uncommon	occurs annually in small numbers.
Scarce	2-10 records annually or restricted to specific habitats.
Very scarce	1-2 records each year.
Rare	occurs less than annually.
Very rare	11-20 records in the past 50 years.
Vagrant	ten records or less during the past 50 years.

Wetland Bird Survey tables are provided for certain species, the monthly totals being derived from the mid-monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts. In the top left of each table are two numbers. These are, firstly, in blue (e.g. **GB 700**), the qualifying level for a site to be of National importance, and secondly, in red (e.g. **IN 2,500**), the qualifying level for the site to be of International importance (as assessed by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust).

Where a monthly count at a particular site is above the GB threshold then that count is highlighted in blue, e.g. **1,234**, whilst if it exceeds the International threshold then it is highlighted in red, e.g. **5,678**.

The letters 'nc' denote that no count was made or, if it was, that no details were received for that month, whilst a zero indicates that the species was not present. Where **WeBS Total** appears in a table, the figure represents the summed total for that month for all Wetland Bird Survey localities that may not all be listed in the table. Figures for the Stour Estuary include counts for the whole estuary, including the Suffolk shore, in order to include birds that feed in Essex but use Suffolk roosts at high tide when the counts are generally made.

Data was supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland) in association with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

Although Wetland Bird Survey data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of Wetland Bird Survey data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org).

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* UK

Dark-bellied Brent *Branta bernicla bernicla*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland records saw a small increase on 2015. In January a single bird was seen at King George V Reservoir on 2nd and one remained at Hanningfield Reservoir from 3rd to 24th. On 10th April a group of 15 flew north over Springfield Chelmsford. Given how common the species is along the coast, it is perhaps surprising how few are seen flying over inland. In the second winter there was just one report, of three at Abberton Reservoir on 14th December.

Inner Thames: first winter records came from: East Tilbury, 5-9 on four dates 2nd-17th January, singles on 20th February and 31st March and nine on 26th March; and Rainham Marshes, six on 2nd January, singles on 6th February, 28th and 30th March and, in April, 17 on 4th and two on 13th. In the second winter at Tilbury/East Tilbury, 54 were seen on 5th October and 16 on 7th November, with single-figure groups on seven other dates to 10th December. At Rainham Marshes, there were four on 12th August (an unusual date for that location) and at Beckton there were two on 30th October and one on 30th November.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 910 INT 2,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**30690**	**23210**	**33712**	**2249**	**18**	**2447**	**18438**	**25788**	**23673**
Stour Estuary	594	285	909	**954**	0	55	882	**1091**	529
Hamford Water	**6529**	**5823**	**6509**	nc	nc	25	701	**3929**	**2955**
Colne Estuary	**1243**	510	**3303**	490	0	54	34	231	**1021**
Blackwater Estuary	**7295**	**5697**	**9926**	495	0	158	**2588**	**5813**	**7651**
Dengie	**4175**	690	**2396**	71	5	201	512	**4767**	**5025**
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**3060**	**4119**	**1825**	6	6	0	98	**2527**	**1857**
Foulness/Thames	**7793**	**6086**	**8844**	233	7	**1954**	**13583**	**7430**	**3935**

The only non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 3,000+ not otherwise mentioned below were in February and both of 3,000, at East Mersea on 2nd and Deal Hall Dengie on 4th.

Sample counts of juveniles were received for the first winter from Hamford Water (two counts), Bradwell Bird Observatory and Canvey Island. The first three of these gave percentages for juveniles of 1.2%, 1.3% and 1.6% respectively and therefore closely reflected the very low proportion of juveniles which had been reported in the previous autumn. The percentage at Canvey Island was only slightly better, at 4.12%. In autumn and the second winter, the samples received came from Colne Point (9.5%), West Mersea (estimated at 30%), Deal Hall Dengie (5.75%) and Stow Marsh North Fambridge (17.65%), so there was some improvement on the previous breeding season.

The only notable spring count was 1,520 heading north past Frinton-on-Sea in just 45 minutes on 21st March, presumably part of a larger exodus of wintering birds.

In May the species was once again widespread in small numbers through much of the month and along much of the coast, with several counts in the low hundreds in the first three weeks with a late exodus past Frinton-on-Sea of 871 on 26th and 365 the next day. Departure continued into the first week of June, with 45 still at Canvey Island on 1st and 47 at Foulness Island and 60 on Maplin Sands off Foulness Island both on 2nd. At Frinton-on-Sea, 144 flew past on 2nd and 38 on 3rd. Elsewhere in June, reports of 1-2 birds were received from eight sites and there were 1-2 at five sites in July.

As usual in August it was difficult to distinguish between summering and returning birds. A group of seven at Two Tree Island on 1st is particularly difficult to assign to either category. They had either been hiding elsewhere during the summer or were exceptionally early. There seemed to be a small influx mid-month, with nine at Canvey Point on 14th, six on the Roach Estuary on 19th, five at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 21st and eight flying south past Frinton-on-Sea on 24th, so perhaps at least some of these groups represented the first autumn arrivals. Otherwise, apart from 12 past

Frinton-on-Sea on 5th September and a few sightings of 1-3, the return movement increased to a steady trickle in mid-September and came into full flow in the last two weeks of that month, with 22 at Leigh-on-Sea on 15th increasing to 837 on 19th, then escalating to 2,100 on 27th and 3,000 by 6th October. These figures were mirrored at Wakering Stairs, where 500 on 24th built to 3,200 on 30th. Meanwhile at Frinton-on-Sea, after some small counts most days from 11th, 707 flew south on 22nd and 1,982 on 27th.

In October the arrival continued but was unspectacular, the only additional four-figure counts (outside the Wetland Bird Survey) coming from the north-east of the County, where 2,304 and 2,061 passed Frinton-on-Sea on 4th and 5th, with 2,652 past Holland Haven on the latter date.

Pale-bellied Brent *Branta bernicla hrota*

Uncommon winter visitor.

This subspecies was reported from several sites in the first winter period but was very scarce in the second. However even in the first winter the records were mainly clustered in the Colne, Blackwater and Crouch estuaries and it seems very possible that not more than seven birds were present in total.

First winter: Hamford Water, two on 10th January and singles on 30th January and 10th February; Colne Point, one on 13th March; Brightlingsea, one on five dates between 1st February and 11th March and two on 15th March; Cudmore Grove East Mersea, one on 31st January; Fingringhoe Wick, two on 23rd February; Steeple, one on 29th February; Bradwell Bird Observatory, one on 31st January; Deal Hall Dengie, two on 4th February and one on 1st March; Blue House Farm, one on 4th February; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, one on 20th January; Foulness Island, two on 21st February.

Second winter (singles unless stated otherwise): The Naze, five on 9th October; West Mersea, on 10th November; Shoebury East Beach, on 4th November; Wallasea Island, on 16th November; River Roach, on 11th December.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

EBSIP (32, 26, 58)

Rare winter visitor.

First winter period:

Hamford Water	Four	30th January	DLo
Hamford Water	Four	10th February	DLo
Hamford Water	One	22nd January	SC
West Mersea	Adult	3rd January-31st March	mo
Heybridge Gravel Pit	One	28th January	SDW
Deal Hall Dengie	Adult ♂	1st January	DLo
Deal Hall Dengie	♂ and ♀	4th February	DLo
Stow Marsh North Fambridge	One	20th January	AShe

The West Mersea and Deal Hall birds seen early in 2016 had all been seen late in 2015 at the same sites.

Second winter period:

The Naze	Adult	15th October-5th November	mo
West Mersea	Adult	7th October-12th November	mo
Old Hall Marshes	One	23rd November	SG
Bradwell Bird Observatory	One	11th December	DW
Deal Hall Dengie	One	2nd December	DW
Deal Hall Dengie	Two ♂♂	6th December	DW

It seems probable that the birds at West Mersea, Old Hall Marshes and at Deal Hall Dengie in the second winter period were all returning from the previous winter. As has been mentioned in previous reports estimating numbers is very difficult because of the number of presumed returning individuals. A total of four new birds has been estimated for 2016. Several additional unsubstantiated reports were received.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis canadensis*

Common, naturalised, resident.

Breeding records were received from 51 sites (31 in 2015). At Walthamstow Wetlands 165 young were reared from 48 broods (179 from 52 in 2015). At Rainham Marshes 21 pairs produced 15 broods and at Foulness Island there were 26 pairs (but no brood counts). Seven broods were seen at both Hamford Water and Blue House Farm and there were five broods at Mill Green Fryerning. No other site reported more than four broods and there was no breeding survey at Old Hall Marshes.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB (600)*? INT ?	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**2353**	**1943**	**1080**	**837**	**1973**	**2817**	**2144**	**2120**	**1784**
Stour Estuary	0	18	6	3	57	151	13	0	7
Hamford Water	23	15	31	nc	nc	60	22	19	nc
Colne Estuary	104	92	16	8	0	0	17	0	33
Blackwater Estuary	90	77	95	73	0	283	93	**654**	289
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**617**	188	163	142	165	271	561	296	**634**
Foulness/Thames	217	456	216	225	81	224	**629**	220	4
Abberton Reservoir	187	98	41	82	384	**1044**	131	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	450	250	175	45	528	nc	70	440	230
Lee Valley	245	288	102	59	391	352	133	129	189

Single-site counts of 350+ (excluding any made during the Wetland Bird Survey counts tabulated above) were as follows (site maximum in each case): Cattawade Marshes, 385 on 5th February; Mistley Walls, 380 on 27th June; Abberton Reservoir, 786 on 18th July; Hanningfield Reservoir, 528 on 21st August; Blue House Farm, 540 on 20th January; Wallasea Island, 810 on 11th September; Wat Tyler and Vange Wick, 350 on 1st January; Walthamstow Wetlands, 608 on 3rd July; Breach Barns Farm Waltham Abbey, 400 on 24th September. In addition, counts of 250+ were received from Broomhouse Flash Langham, Iltney Farm Mundon, Heybridge Gravel Pit, Paglesham Lagoon, West Canvey Marsh, Bowers Marsh, South Park Ilford and Wanstead Flats.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* UK

Scarce winter visitor but fast increasing naturalised population.

There was again no count of breeding birds in Hamford Water but 45 adults were present there on 19th June and it is likely that the few birds reported from The Naze and Holland Haven in the breeding season were from that population. Elsewhere 1-5 presumed feral birds were seen at this time at half a dozen sites.

In the first winter, the only double-figure count was of an impressive 327 in Hamford Water on 13th March. With such a number it is possible that some at least were continental immigrants but it is perhaps more likely that the resident feral birds were simply augmented by others from the substantial feral population in Suffolk. Otherwise in the first three months 1-2 were seen at seven other localities.

In the second winter the only double-figure count was of 28 at Holland Haven from 29th November to 3rd December, five remaining to 9th December. Elsewhere 1-6 were seen at six other sites.

BARNACLE/CANADA GOOSE *Branta leucopsis/canadensis*

The hybrid flock was present throughout the year at Blue House Farm and nearby sites. Numbers in the first winter peaked at 80 on 20th January and, in the second, at 86 on 15th December. In the breeding season two broods were seen.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser anser* UK

Common, naturalised, resident.

Breeding was reported from 40 sites (25 in 2015, 30 in 2014). No breeding survey of this species was carried out at Old Hall Marshes, which had produced the highest figures in recent years. Elsewhere: Walthamstow Wetlands, 21 broods were found totalling 74 young (24 broods, 72 young in 2015); Hamford Water (where 45 nests were found in 2013), 9+ broods were reported but there was again no full survey; Rainham Marshes, eight pairs producing seven broods; Marks Hall Arboretum, seven broods; Mill Green Fryerning, five; St Osyth Priory Lake, three broods and one additional pair. No other site reported more than three pairs.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,400*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**1185**	**1400**	**816**	**396**	**821**	**1626**	**1810**	**1314**	**1124**
Stour Estuary	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	nc
Hamford Water	375	539	224	nc	nc	185	277	123	81
Holland Haven	2	76	25	8	nc	nc	347	203	32
Colne Estuary	177	211	110	70	0	0	70	190	216
Blackwater Estuary	62	155	207	117	77	126	306	430	128
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	30	116	63	50	36	0	108	204	333
Foulness/Thames	62	78	52	41	13	15	71	7	13
Abberton Reservoir	334	42	42	32	330	1205	295	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	0	0	0	301	nc	182	26	220

Single-site counts of 200+ (excluding any made during the Wetland Bird Survey counts tabulated above) were as follows (site maximum in each case): Cattawade Marshes, 250 on 23rd September; Holland Haven, 347 on 13th October; Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall, 259 on 25th September; Abberton Reservoir, 764 on 18th July; Old Hall Marshes, 270 on 18th July; Chigborough Lakes/Lofts Farm Gravel Pits, 205 on 1st February; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 250 on 28th November; Russell Green Gravel Pit, Boreham, 200 on 16th June; Hanningfield Reservoir, 380 on 12th September; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 200 on 31st December; Wallasea Island, 250 on 3rd October; Vange Marsh, 230 on 25th October; Rainham Marshes, 405 on 2nd October.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* UK EBSIP (518, 162, 680)

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* EBSIP (170, 150, 320)

Scarce winter visitor.

Holland Haven	One	29th October-3rd November	mo
Heybridge Gravel Pit	One	30th October-3rd November and 24th, 26th November	mo

Several other unsubstantiated records were received.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* UK

Scarce passage migrant winter and visitor.

The only record in the first winter was of one at Garnham's Island Hamford Water, on 10th January.

In the autumn there were some unusual records. The first involved a group of about 40 seen

flying over Boreham on the early (but not unprecedented) date of 16th September. This was closely followed by a sighting of 38 (perhaps the same group) flying north over Frinton-on-Sea on 18th September while, at the same site, 18 flew north on 20th October and a further 54 on 3rd November. More typically, the only other record late in the year was of a lone bird, which arrived at Holland Haven on 2nd November and was seen there intermittently to the end of the year.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* UK

European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

The year started well, with a flock of 45 flying south-west over Abberton Reservoir on 1st January and later the same morning 43, presumably most of the same group, flying south and later north-east over Old Hall Marshes. Two more flew past Frinton-on-Sea the same day. Otherwise in the first winter there were just singles at Abberton Reservoir intermittently to 2nd April and, in February, one at Blue House Farm on 1st, two at Reeves Hall East Mersea on 17th and one at Garnham's Island Hamford Water and four at Foulness Point, both on 21st. In March there were two at Belhus Woods Aveley on 1st and another two at Garnham's Island Hamford Water on 13th while one at The Naze on 19th was the last of the winter (a single at Old Hall Marshes on 26th May presumably being of captive origin).

The autumn and second winter saw the best arrival since 2011, though at nowhere near the levels of that year. The influx started in early October, with 24 at Rainham Marshes on 6th and 25 there three days later with, in between, 15 over Wanstead Flats on 8th. Then on 13th at least 38 flew east past Canvey Seafront while, in the north of the County, ten were at Old Hall Marshes and four arrived at Holland Haven, the latter increasing to 27 on 14th-15th. On 16th there were 40 at Garnham's Island Hamford Water, followed on 17th-18th by 19 at Cattawade Marshes and, on 20th, by four at Cudmore Grove East Mersea and 12 at South Woodham Ferrers. On the last day of the month 12 arrived at Howlands Marsh St Osyth.

On 1st November 20 were found at Wat Tyler. Up to 18 of these were seen there on and off for much of the month, although from 26th they transferred to nearby Bowers Marsh, being reported there intermittently until 26th December, apart from a brief return by 17 to Wat Tyler on 10th December. Although it is possible that more than one group was involved, there was no date, among the reports received by the Recorder, on which birds were present at both sites. There were no other significant arrivals in November but a single bird remained at Holland Haven, up to four were at Cudmore Grove East Mersea on and off to mid-month perhaps returning to Howlands Marsh St Osyth where birds were reported again on 11th and on 14th (and in December on 16th and 27th).

December started with 44 flying over Brook Farm Upminster on 2nd. A group of five seen at Blue House Farm on 15th was seen at several sites on the Crouch and Roach to 28th, though 18 on the Crouch on 18th were probably transient. At Holland Haven 12 on 22nd and 23rd could have been the Howlands Marsh St Osyth birds on a jaunt, though 16 at Garnham's Island Hamford Water on 18th and 22 flying south at Frinton-on-Sea on 24th were perhaps new arrivals. The year closed with 45 seen at both Fingringhoe Wick and Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 29th. Other sites recording singles or single-figure groups in the closing months were Brightlingsea, Abberton Reservoir, Bradwell Bird Observatory and Orsett Fen.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* UK

Common resident and winter visitor.

In total, 77 pairs were counted at 56 sites (68 at 44 in 2015). There were eight pairs at Walthamstow Wetlands (seven in 2015), five at Rainham Marshes (four), five at Chigborough Lakes/Lofts Farm Gravel Pits and only two at Old Hall Marshes (seven). No other site reported more than 1-2 pairs.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 740 INT 320	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**441**	**373**	**310**	**309**	**572**	**538**	**510**	**210**	**274**
Stour Estuary	160	152	114	105	71	102	145	18	159
Hamford Water	60	44	50	nc	nc	34	43	34	36
Colne Estuary	11	4	8	10	0	42	8	3	11
Blackwater Estuary	15	14	16	20	11	22	10	16	11
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	40	50	46	45	40	48	33	42	29
Foulness/Thames	87	23	10	22	27	150	92	56	3
Abberton Reservoir	27	27	19	71	308	103	72	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	7	11	9	14	74	nc	63	9	nc
Lee Valley	22	20	26	9	30	22	30	20	17

Three-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts came from five sites, the most notable being of 156 at Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch on 15th December. Otherwise it was, as usual, Manningtree/Mistley which produced the highest figures, the peak non-Wetland Bird Survey figure at that location being 137 on 24th January, while there were 100 at Chigborough Lakes/Lofts Farm Gravel Pits on 7th March, 100 at Bowers Marsh on 30th October and 116 at King George V Reservoir on 13th November.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Another poor year. In the first winter, there were up to eight at Abberton Reservoir for the first ten days of January, followed by three at Wallasea Island from 23rd February to 13th March.

In November, three over Southend-on-Sea on 3rd could have been the same as the three seen at Bowers Marsh three days later while, in the north of the County, two arrived at Abberton Reservoir on 5th and either these birds or another two appeared briefly at Cattawade Marshes on 11th, one bird then (re-?) appearing at Abberton Reservoir on 23rd, to be joined by a second bird for one day on 26th, with one remaining to the year end. The only other record at this season was of a single bird intermittently reported at Vange Marsh from 18th to 31st December.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A single bird was probably present all year in Hamford Water, being reported on the Wetland Bird Survey counts in January-March and September-December but not in between (when there were no counts).

Elsewhere, the few records in the first winter all came from the south of the County, with eight (the highest count of the year) at Rainham Marshes on 8th January, one at Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 17th January and two at Shoeburyness on 25th March.

In the second winter the first birds were three at Abberton Reservoir on 21st October. Then, in November, a group of four very possibly did a coastal tour, two adults and two immatures being seen at both Fingringhoe Wick and nearby Coopers Beach East Mersea on 2nd, at Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven the next day and four birds (ages not recorded) at Thorpe Bay a day later. Otherwise in November there were two at Blue House Farm on 10th and three at Great Stambridge Hall on 11th. In December there was one at Blue House Farm on 1st and two juveniles were seen from Coast Road West Mersea on 5th.

EBR 2015 correction: the first line of the second paragraph should read: "In the second winter an impressive movement was noted at Frinton-on-Sea on 21st November and at Bradwell Bird Observatory the next day."

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Fairly common, but increasing, resident.

Breeding was confirmed (single pairs unless stated) from 11 sites (seven in 2015): Cattawade Marshes, Heybridge Gravel Pit, Mill Green Fryerning (three broods), Shoebury Park, Upminster, Valentine's Park Ilford, Barking Park, Leyton Flats, Walthamstow Wetlands (four broods), Holyfield Lake (one brood and one nest with eggs on 7th April) and Nazeing Gravel Pits.

Reports without confirmation of breeding came from a further 68 sites (51 in 2015). At well over half of these, birds were seen in the breeding season. As in 2015, several of the sites were close together (for example, a dozen were in the Lee Valley) and it is likely that the same birds were being reported from several places. All the same, the continuing increase in locations is striking.

Further evidence of the growth of the Essex population of this species came from the fact that two sites produced counts exceeding the previous highest (of 37): at Abberton Reservoir there were 38 on 8th September and at Valentine's Park Ilford there were 40 on 4th February. Other double-figure counts (site maximum in each case), came from: Mistley, 12 on 17th March; Hanningfield Reservoir, 25 on 18th September; Stubbers Adventure Centre Corbets Tey, 15 on 27th November; Wanstead Flats, 30 on 29th March; Barking Park, 16 on 13th November; Walthamstow Wetlands, 28 on 3rd July.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* UK

Locally common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Coastal breeding was confirmed at 15 sites (eight in 2015). There were eight broods at Rainham Marshes, four at Fingringhoe Wick and 3+ at Wallasea Island. All other sites reported 1-2 broods (including Old Hall Marshes, where there were two). At Foulness Island there were 14 pairs (30 in 2015) but there was no count of broods. Inland, one pair fledged young at Walthamstow Wetlands (two in 2015), a nest was found at Ardleigh Reservoir and a pair fledged young at Mole Hall Widdington.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 610 INT 3,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**4891**	**3749**	**4043**	**1236**	**249**	**1105**	**3147**	**4052**	**4233**
Stour Estuary	495	386	282	146	41	62	307	349	539
Hamford Water	**884**	**669**	514	nc	nc	332	517	**770**	**890**
Colne Estuary	391	157	219	165	0	194	490	164	340
Blackwater Estuary	**1388**	**1502**	**2055**	302	26	378	**1391**	**1873**	**1318**
Dengie	219	26	130	51	25	4	6	24	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**727**	434	366	142	13	15	204	546	**858**
Foulness/Thames	**785**	557	442	400	144	120	232	326	285

Single-site non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 200+ were as follows (site maximum unless stated): Mistley, 450 on 12th February and 650 on 21st November; Colne Point, 202 on 28th January; Wallasea Island, 431 on 13th January and 365 on 16th November; Paglesham East End, 200 on 28th January; East Tilbury, 285 on 18th June (when an adult Shelduck was watched being taken by a seal and drowned).

Inland records away from the breeding sites came from a further 33 locations (19 in 2015). At the major reservoirs there were maxima of 12 at Abberton Reservoir on 14th April, 16 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 8th May, six at King George V Reservoir on 14th April and 20 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 7th April. Elsewhere almost all were either relatively close to the coast or in the Lee Valley, exceptions (all involving 1-3 birds unless stated) being at Broomhouse Flash Langham (20 on 21st March), Langham Waterworks Lagoons (six on the same date), Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, Hatfield Forest, Hatfield Broad Oak, Silver End (six on 15th May), Terling, Boreham and Hazeleigh Hall Wood.

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata*

Slowly increasing, naturalised, resident.

Single broods were seen at Daw's Hall Lamarsh, Cobb's Farm Pebmarsh, Marks Hall Arboretum and Highams Park Lake. Two broods were seen at Strawberry Hill Pond Epping Forest. A pair was again seen prospecting at Terling but breeding was not proved.

Double-figure counts in the first winter (site maximum in each case) came from, Heath Drive Gidea Park, 12 on 7th January; Strawberry Hill Pond Epping Forest, 24 on 31st January; Connaught Water Epping Forest, 11 on 12th February. In the second winter double-figure counts came only from the latter two sites (again site maxima): Strawberry Hill Pond, 41 on 18th December and Connaught Water Epping Forest, 69 on 13th November.

In addition to the sites mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs, reports (all of 1-5 birds) were received from a further 28 sites (25 in 2015). Those away from the south of the County were Great Holland Pits, Dedham, Hatfield Forest, Hatfield Broad Oak, Copford, Abberton Reservoir, Whetmead Witham and Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* UK

Breeds occasionally. Uncommon, but annual, passage migrant.

There were no breeding records and the only bird seen in June was a ♂ at Rainham Marshes on 7th.

The first birds of the spring were pairs at Hanningfield Reservoir and East Tilbury, both on 2nd April. The only other April records involved a ♂ at Old Hall Marshes from 17th to 26th, a ♂ at Lower Raypits Canewdon on 30th and a pair in the Ingrebourne Valley from 30th to 3rd May (with possibly the drake of that pair being seen there intermittently to 24th May). Other May records were as follows: Walthamstow Wetlands, a ♂ on 12th-13th and another on 27th; Rainham Marshes, a second calendar year ♂ on 11th was joined on 14th by an adult ♂, with one or the other being seen to 17th and another ♂ on 27th-28th; Vange, a ♂ on 10th; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, a ♂ on 27th; Bowers Marsh, two on 30th; Hanningfield Reservoir, a ♂ on 2nd and one on 15th; Old Hall Marshes, a ♀ on 5th, two (one ♀) on 9th and two ♂♂ from 17th to 29th; Langenhoe Marshes/Fingringhoe Ranges, a ♂ on 15th; Abberton Reservoir, a ♂ on 20th-21st.

Autumn passage began on 15th July with one at Holland Haven. Thereafter, passage was reported from 16 sites, with maxima of five at Abberton Reservoir on 14th August and at Rainham Marshes on 23rd August and four at Bowers Marsh on 24th July and 4th September. In mid-late August the same three birds seemed to commute between Vange Marsh and Bowers Marsh and they are assumed to be the same for the purpose of the following table:

	July			August				September			
Week commencing	**16th**	**23rd**	**30th**	**6th**	**13th**	**20th**	**27th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**
Week Number	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
Numbers	3	5	3	5	15	9	1	6	5	5	4
Locations	3	2	3	3	6	4	1	3	3	3	2

In an occurrence slightly reminiscent of the very late bird shot at Fingringhoe in 2013 (EBR 2013, p.31), the last bird of the year was seen (alive in this case), at Fingringhoe Wick on 31st October and 2nd November.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* UK

Breeds in small numbers. Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the breeding season (taken as May/June) 37 pairs/nests were reported from nine sites (49 from nine in 2015). In addition, records of two or more birds (but with no mention of pairing) came from a further ten sites in the breeding season (nine in 2015). As usual, much the highest number was reported from Old Hall Marshes, where 75 pairs were counted on an initial survey in April, decreasing to 20 in May/June, but there was no full brood survey and only two broods were eventually reported.

There were ten pairs at Rainham Marshes (which produced seven broods) and two nests were found at Cattawade Marshes. All other reports were of single pairs/broods.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 180 INT 400	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**647**	**595**	**599**	**612**	**750**	**2294**	**3168**	**348**	**287**
Hamford Water	105	18	14	nc	nc	1	48	33	7
Holland Haven	18	15	45	6	nc	nc	0	0	1
Colne Estuary	83	34	17	46	0	0	0	0	25
Blackwater Estuary	166	159	207	122	2	26	20	49	81
Dengie	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	17	92	97	92	16	11	31	5	46
Foulness/Thames	54	138	27	50	4	17	41	35	8
Abberton Reservoir	144	89	143	271	687	2189	2754	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	10	7	6	9	28	nc	205	121	13
Lee Valley	34	28	41	0	11	7	49	76	63

Non-Wetland Bird Survey three-figure counts came from the following sites (only the highest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts at each site being given): Abberton Reservoir, 250 on 3rd January and 400 on 19th December; Old Hall Marshes, 136 on 11th February; Tollesbury Wick, 160 on 21st February; Paglesham Lagoon, 204 on 15th January and 290 on 8th November; Bowers Marsh, 145 on 25th November; Vange Marsh, 133 on 4th April; Rainham Marshes, 160 on 21st February.

GADWALL *Anas strepera strepara* UK

Uncommon breeder. Slowly increasing, fairly common, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed at seven sites (two in 2015). At Rainham Marshes, 14 pairs were counted and three broods were seen. At Blue House Farm, two nests were found and one brood was later seen. At Walton Hall Marshes, two broods were seen. Elsewhere single broods were seen at Cattawade Marshes, Broomhouse Flash Langham, Abberton Reservoir and Hanningfield Reservoir.

Apart from those mentioned above, pairs during the breeding season (taken for this purpose as May/June) were reported (single pairs unless stated) from Old Hall Marshes (15), Stondon Massey, Lower Raypits Canewdon, Foulness Island (five), Bowers Marsh (two), Vange Marsh, Belhus Woods Aveley, Mardyke Valley (two) and Wanstead Park. In addition, breeding season records of two or more birds (but with no mention of pairing) were received from 23 further sites.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 250 INT 600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**635**	**589**	**422**	**221**	**497**	**262**	**344**	**316**	**224**
Stour Estuary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hamford Water	109	116	84	nc	nc	23	66	16	56
Colne Estuary	20	0	8	6	0	1	0	0	6
Blackwater Estuary	4	4	14	17	14	5	2	85	1
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	40	131	106	23	22	19	25	4	9
Abberton Reservoir	158	69	73	94	248	179	50	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	157	177	62	38	155	nc	95	70	83
Lee Valley	102	38	25	16	48	18	66	27	46

The highest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts again came from Wanstead Park, where numbers in the first winter peaked at 200 on 10th January and in the second at 467 on 26th November. Other sites recording non-Wetland Bird Survey three-figure counts (site maximum in each case) were Blue House Farm, 249 on 4th February, and Vange Marsh, 200 on 29th August.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* UK

Erratic breeder. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding was proved at Blue House Farm, where a ♀ with four ducklings was seen on 21st July. Elsewhere in May and June, reports of two or more came from Old Hall Marshes, two to 9th May; Lower Raypits Canewdon a pair and a ♂ to 6th May; Canvey Island, two on 1st May and a ♂ intermittently to 26th June; Bowers Marsh, four on 10th May and up to three, including a pair, to 26th May; Rainham Marshes, up to four, including a pair, on several dates to 26th May and one on 3rd June.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 4,400 INT 15,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**15434**	**10251**	**10390**	**202**	**28**	**9132**	**15770**	**19255**	**14207**
Stour Estuary	910	809	396	19	0	438	410	443	520
Hamford Water	949	585	625	nc	nc	551	1268	2089	1072
Holland Haven	610	515	530	3	nc	nc	26	130	230
Colne Estuary	693	112	1234	2	0	71	730	5	1009
Blackwater Estuary	3701	2412	4369	166	0	2240	**4513**	**5880**	**6843**
Dengie	55	25	6	0	0	523	275	364	40
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	3392	1759	1184	2	0	432	2062	2609	3542
Foulness/Thames	2392	1534	728	4	17	**4683**	**5534**	**7589**	564
Abberton Reservoir	2164	1999	771	6	11	194	685	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	455	450	485	0	0	nc	261	75	258
Lee Valley	113	51	62	0	0	0	6	71	129

Four-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were reported from the following sites (site maximum in each case): Leigh-on-Sea, 3,000 on 29th September; Canvey Point, about 2,000 flew west on 27th November; Wakering Stairs: 1,100 on 30th September. In addition, flocks approximately estimated at 1,000 were reported from Cudmore Grove East Mersea, Lower Raypits Canewdon and Rainham Marshes in January, Wat Tyler in early March, Stow Marsh North Fambridge in late October and Paglesham Lagoon in late November.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* UK

Common and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding season counts of pairs and/or broods came this year (with 2015 figures in brackets where available) from: Pebmarsh/Wormingford, four broods; Ardleigh Reservoir, about five broods on 21st June; The Hythe Colchester, 4+ broods on 17th June; Braintree and Bocking, about 30 pairs; Sawbridgeworth Marsh, five broods on 19th June; Old Hall Marshes, 85 pairs fledged 41 young (87 fledging 24); Heybridge Gravel Pit, six broods; Hanningfield Reservoir, about 12 pairs with 36 ducklings on 29th April; Blue House Farm, 19 broods (18) comprising 129 ducklings; Foulness Island, 46 pairs but no count of fledging (69 fledging 22); Brook Farm Upminster, three broods; Mardyke Valley, seven broods; Rainham Marshes, 34 pairs produced 29 broods (24 producing 17 broods); Walthamstow Wetlands, six broods (six).

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 6,800 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**3092**	**2729**	**2228**	**1343**	**2615**	**2914**	**3242**	**2563**	**2767**
Stour Estuary	122	87	288	28	1	51	42	33	104
Hamford Water	724	521	342	nc	nc	815	718	704	869
Holland Haven	16	8	2	6	nc	nc	10	10	21
Colne Estuary	103	67	138	82	12	70	51	24	116
Blackwater Estuary	245	267	229	189	208	413	311	337	230
Dengie	22	90	19	56	18	6	31	101	14
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	241	211	164	100	157	73	246	282	415
Foulness/Thames	540	494	264	295	210	374	228	207	182
Abberton Reservoir	332	310	271	233	1281	504	689	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	191	128	181	59	238	nc	232	114	91
Lee Valley	286	215	165	109	180	252	248	234	258

Much the largest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts (site maximum in each case) came from Paglesham Lagoon, where second-winter counts peaked at 370 on 28th November. Other three-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts came from: Dovercourt, 115 on 21st January; Mole Hall Widdington, 159 on 25th September; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, 150 on 29th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 200 on 4th September; Blue House Farm, 137 on 22nd August; Tilbury, 134 on 10th November; Mardyke Valley, 123 on 2nd February; Wanstead Flats, 117 on 17th January; Connaught Water Epping Forest, 124 on 1st October. Additionally, estimated counts of 100 came on various dates from Mistley, Terling, West Canvey Marsh, Bowers Marsh, Wat Tyler and Fishers Green Holyfield.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* UK

Breeds occasionally. Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports of breeding and no records at all in May-July.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 290 INT 600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**993**	**839**	**528**	**7**	**2**	**392**	**1192**	**618**	**318**
Stour Estuary	248	**325**	87	2	0	124	65	12	69
Hamford Water	43	22	17	nc	nc	0	61	69	46
Blackwater Estuary	**477**	**383**	**417**	3	0	57	243	**443**	187
Dengie	190	92	0	0	0	3	16	58	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	11	12	5	0	0	0	210	16	16
Abberton Reservoir	23	2	0	2	2	156	**474**	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0	nc	66	20	nc

Although Abberton Reservoir was not counted for the Wetland Bird Survey in November/December, counts of parts of the reservoir were received in those months from other observers, the highest in November being of 300 on 23rd and, in December, 133 on 8th. The highest counts not included in the above table (*i.e.* non-Wetland Bird Survey) came from: West Mersea, 150 on 24th January; Abbotts Hall Farm, 117 on 20th December; Old Hall Marshes, 136 on 11th February; Osea Road Heybridge, 150 on 28th January; Southey Creek Mundon, 200 on 1st January; Blue House Farm, 200 on 4th February.

TEAL *Anas crecca* UK

Breeds occasionally. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports of confirmed breeding. Single pairs summered on Foulness Island and Rainham Marshes. As usual it was difficult to distinguish between late departing, summering and early arriving birds. Small numbers were seen in May/June at a further 24 sites. These included birds unusually far inland (for the time of year) at Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, two on 18th June and three a week later, and Hatfield Broad Oak Marsh, one on 19th June.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 2,100 INT 5,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**14217**	**9333**	**9386**	**1556**	**1067**	**6807**	**15059**	**10263**	**13603**
Stour Estuary	1050	388	155	35	1	286	224	105	439
Hamford Water	**2305**	1377	1046	nc	nc	1777	**2467**	**2955**	**4654**
Holland Haven	140	50	12	12	nc	nc	8	97	405
Colne Estuary	689	297	621	278	0	382	1124	295	735
Blackwater Estuary	**2776**	**2739**	**3800**	400	84	1822	**2987**	**3543**	**4211**
Dengie	30	0	20	0	9	40	2	12	5
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	1973	732	709	194	54	409	1702	1849	**2468**
Foulness/Thames	1752	1969	1716	403	110	501	859	889	468
Abberton Reservoir	**2969**	1354	1017	183	677	1513	**4827**	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	446	378	231	28	120	nc	734	376	182
Lee Valley	59	40	30	11	0	25	37	49	5

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 500+ came from: The Naze, 700 on 20th September; Frinton-on-Sea, 510 flying south on 17th September; Abberton Reservoir, 750 on 3rd January; Old Hall Marshes, 1,000 on 9th January; Lower Raypits Canewdon, 500 on 8th January; Blue House Farm, 680 on 1st December; Tilbury, 730 on 11th March; Rainham Marshes, 2,000 on 12th January.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce, naturalised, resident, uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only breeding records came from Hanningfield Reservoir, where at least one brood was noted. Birds were reported at this site in every month bar October and December, peaking at 50 on 5th June.

Elsewhere: Fingringhoe Wick, ♂ on 1st February; The Hythe Colchester, one on 28th May; Abberton Reservoir, ♂ from 25th March to 2nd April, four on 17th July increased to a peak of ten on 14th August, with a secondary peak of 18 on 27th September and the last on 18th October; Wat Tyler, three on 21st March; Walthamstow Wetlands, two on 24th March and 14th May, singles on 10th July and 1st-8th August; Ingrebourne Valley, pair on 30th April; King George V Reservoir, 15th July; Leyton Flats, three on 20 December.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	2	22	15	26	31	50	29	35	19	1	3	3
Locations	1	2	4	2	2	1	4	3	2	1	2	1

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* UK

Uncommon breeder. Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Reporting of confirmed breeding was much improved with records of 24 pairs from 11 sites (five from five in 2015, 64 from 11 in 2014) as follows (previous year in brackets): Colne Point, one; Old Hall Marshes, at least one; Heybridge Gravel Pit, five; Dengie, St Lawrence to Howe Outfall Dengie,

one; Blue House Farm, two; Paglesham Lagoon, one (one); Bowers Marsh, at least two; Vange Marsh, one; Rainham Marshes, four; Hanningfield Reservoir, two (one); Belhus Woods Aveley, four, one brood.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 380 INT 3,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**1515**	**1760**	**1003**	**297**	**1876**	**1233**	**585**	**107**	**290**
Blackwater Estuary	91	261	120	102	3	2	9	0	14
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	27	17	17	0	2	3	0	0	8
Foulness/Thames	32	61	84	44	7	10	13	2	nc
Abberton Reservoir	1182	1266	562	77	1789	1176	503	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	48	47	163	57	71	nc	18	66	189
Lee Valley	107	52	24	5	0	12	32	28	66

Overall numbers reported were low with only six other counts of 200 or more, all from Abberton Reservoir. The monthly peaks were 1,000 on 29th January, 400 on 13th February and 354 on 12th December.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

EBSIP (8, 3, 11)

Abberton Reservoir	Adult ♂	5th-31st December	mo

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Common, resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reported breeding pairs/broods showed a welcome increase from 2015 with 81 confirmed from 37 sites (39 from 13 in 2015, 117 from 22 in 2014), although there remains a lack of consistency from individual sites year on year. The only sites with more than five pairs were Paglesham Lagoon and Rainham Marshes, both with 12.

Ring-necked Duck (RICHARD ALLEN)

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,100 INT 12,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**2139**	**2405**	**2377**	**1754**	**5018**	**2335**	**1818**	**889**	**739**
Hamford Water	73	82	113	nc	nc	58	31	35	40
Colne Estuary	11	4	24	17	0	0	0	0	1
Blackwater Estuary	24	47	91	87	1	3	4	14	17
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	9	12	14	18	37	12	2	0	1
Foulness/Thames	6	34	46	27	7	24	11	4	nc
Abberton Reservoir	926	1164	1161	799	2969	1883	969	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	486	554	586	494	1830	nc	351	415	227
Lee Valley	446	215	150	115	133	276	386	327	333

Peak counts reported also showed a slight improvement on recent years with 15 non-Wetland Bird Survey reports in excess of 200 from four sites: Abberton Reservoir, 500 on 3rd and 29th January, 300 on 13th February; Hanningfield Reservoir, 486 on 17th January, 290 on 12th September; King George V Reservoir, 1,100 on 19th July, reducing slightly to 1,000 on 6th August, 300 on 2nd November; Walthamstow Wetlands, monthly peak of 560 on 2nd January, then 426 on 24th July increased to a summer peak of 770 on 30th reducing in August from 500 on 7th to 244 on 13th, 330 on 16th December.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* UK

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional in summer.

An excellent year with reports from 14 sites and a strong autumn passage with multiple double-figure counts. All records are given (singles unless stated otherwise): Stour Estuary (Mistley-Wrabness), 23rd October, then an influx in November with three on 8th increasing to 11 on 12th. Three on 27th November was the only subsequent multiple sighting, with a single remaining to 13th December; Hamford Water, 30th November; The Naze, six offshore then north on 6th November; Frinton-on-Sea, two south on 2nd November; Brightlingsea, 26th November, 5th December; Blackwater Estuary, two on 13th March whilst in November a single offshore Heybridge Gravel Pit on 6th heralded a notable influx into the area with four on 13th off Goldhanger increasing to 15 on 27th from a boat trip in the area. Numbers remained high in December with at least ten present off Steeple on 29th. Paglesham Lagoon, 28th November; West Canvey Marsh, 23rd March; 19th November; Canvey Point, 13 west on 7th November; East Tilbury, five on 7th November, two on 19th November – the latter also seen at Thurrock Thameside Mucking to 24th, one on 10th December; Dagenham Chase, ♀ from 9th January to 19th March; Abberton Reservoir, 12th January to 23rd April, one on 21st October increased to nine on 6th November, 15 on 13th, 19 on 19th before peaking at an excellent 21 the following day. Numbers declined thereafter with ten on 30th November and nine on 8th December with a single into the new year; Hanningfield Reservoir, two immature ♂♂ from 2015 remained into April, with one continuing to 11th July when it was joined by a second and promptly departed, two on 8th October, four on 19th November, 26th December; Walthamstow Wetlands, ♂ from 2015 to 7th February – it is assumed that this bird was then that reported from King George V Reservoir up to 24th April, possibly the same ♂ returned on 4th December into 2017.

An estimated summary of all records is given below. This assumes different birds were involved in the Abberton Reservoir and Blackwater Estuary sightings:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	5	5	6	7	1	1	2	0	0	4	82	26
Locations	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	0	0	3	15	5

EIDER *Somateria mollissima mollissima* UK

Declining passage migrant and winter visitor with small numbers in summer.

In total 89 records were received from 24 sites in the year with six double-figure reports, all relating to passage in November (two in 2015, three in 2014, four in 2013).

Early winter/spring multiple counts comprised: Holland Haven, four on 3rd, 8th and 9th January, all passing offshore; Frinton-on-Sea, movements of four on 8th January (same as Holland Haven) and two on 12th and 29th February.

Summer: singles noted at Colne Point on 29th May, Gunners Park Shoebury on 3rd June, Hamford Water on 19th June, Holland Haven on 4th July and Colne Point on 5th July.

Autumn passage was concentrated in November with double-figure counts noted passing the north-east coast: Frinton-on-Sea, 13 on 7th, 23 on 24th, 22 on 26th, 16 on 27th, total 77 in month; nearby Holland Haven similarly also recorded 13 on 7th and 20 on 24th. The next highest total was nine at West Mersea on 1st November.

The only multiple late winter records were groups of two at Gunners Park Shoebury on 14th and Wrabness on 18th and 28th December. The single Inner Thames record involved one at East Tilbury on three dates between 7th-16th December.

Estimated monthly totals with the previous two years' figures for comparison were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	14	4	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	19	121	4
2015	2	13	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	17	33
2014	8	1	1	5	2	1	2	2	2	4	50	12

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

First winter period: the only record concerned a single at Holland Haven on 29th February.

A strong late autumn passage saw a number of birds remaining into the winter: Frinton-on-Sea; five north on 5th October, also seen at Holland Haven; eight south on 27th November, one north on 24th December; Blackwater Estuary, a single on 6th November increased to two on 13th, when one was noted in the Colne off Brightlingsea. Thereafter up to three were noted at various sites in the Colne until at least 14th December. Three off Deal Hall Dengie on the latter date are assumed to be different birds; Hamford Water, at least one present on 13th November; Canvey Point, one on 24th November increased to three on 27th and four the following day, then peaks in December of eight on 2nd and nine on 14th, with three still present on 28th; Stour Estuary (Wrabness-Bradfield), a single noted on four dates from 29th November to 13th December; Roach Estuary, two noted at various locations between 18th-29th December.

Autumn passage gave an estimated annual total of approximately 34 birds (eight in 2015, 26 in 2014, 41 in 2013).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* UK

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor with small numbers in summer.

A better year with a strong autumn passage in November after a couple of quieter years.

Inland and Inner Thames records (singles unless stated otherwise): Abberton Reservoir, 28th March, two on 10th April; Beckton, 30th March, six on 26th November; East Tilbury, noted on 16 dates between 14th October and 24th December with peaks in November of 217 on 7th and 35 on 26th, then up to 30 during the latter month; Mucking Flats, six on 11th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, six on 20th March; King George V Reservoir, 23rd January, 6th February, two on 14th April, 18th July; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, 14th December; Rainham Marshes, 13th February, 18th March increasing to two the next day, then five on 20th (also reported from Barking Bay), nine on 25th, eight on 30th, two on 6th April, six on 11th April with one remaining to 13th, 17th August,

24th November; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 24th November.

Estimated monthly maxima with the previous three years' figures for comparison were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	147	10	48	18	13	35	16	48	292	142	2,727	270
2015	4	16	82	42	163	0	6	57	148	648	281	369
2014	248	4	204	35	207	145	281	152	77	327	690	74
2013	1,120	204	109	1,179	81	546	777	37	354	525	3,412	533

As usual, most records came from regular sea-watching at Frinton-on-Sea where 2,582 were noted between July and December (1,274 in 2015, 1,434 in 2014) with a clear peak in November that was widely observed off the coastal watchpoints. Daily maxima included: 182 on 22nd September, then in November, 221 on 3rd, 109 on 4th, 131 on 5th, 415 on 6th (with 100 and 110 noted at The Naze on the latter two dates), 110 on 7th (with 109 at Holland Haven), 112 on 17th, 127 on 24th, 731 on 27th. Elsewhere: Canvey Point, a total of 800 in November with peaks of 307 on 7th and 400 on 27th (when 130 at offshore Gunners Park Shoebury); East Tilbury, peak of 217 on 7th.

The highest count from the Blackwater Estuary was 30 off Goldhanger on 24th December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* UK

Declining, scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An excellent year, with a strong late autumn passage, resulting in some exceptional flocks on coastal waters.

The only early winter record involved two in the Blackwater Estuary at Salcott on 23rd February.

An early single passed Canvey Point on 17th September before a large influx occurred in early November as follows: Frinton-on-Sea, one north on 2nd, two south on 3rd, one north on 6th and one south on 28th; Holland Haven, one north on 6th (same as Frinton above), one south on 24th; Blackwater Estuary, two off Goldhanger on 6th were the first of a series of sightings to the year end. Peak single site counts were nine at Rolls Farm Tollesbury on 29th November and 11 at Tollesbury Wick on 15th December, with nine still present off Steeple on 29th; Canvey Point, two on 7th and 27th November, with a single the following day; East Tilbury, two on 7th November (assumed same as Canvey Point); Colne Estuary, single present intermittently between 10th November and 11th December with two off Brightlingsea on 30th November; Hamford Water, 13 on 13th November increased to a peak of 26 on 28th, with five remaining to 21st December at least; Two Tree Island, one on 26th-27th November; Wrabness, one on 10th December; Abberton Reservoir, in December, two on 11th-12th, one on 24th.

The peak counts were the largest flocks recorded in the County since 1992 and gave many observers the chance to observe groups of this species. From a County total perspective, it is assumed that the Abberton Reservoir and Colne Estuary sightings relate to the Blackwater flock, although there is the potential for much movement within the County's estuaries. Estimated County totals over the last ten years have been:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	54	5	18	23	14	8	12	12	12	12	17

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula clangula* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 200 INT 11,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**391**	**363**	**346**	**58**	**0**	**14**	**7**	**44**	**103**
Stour Estuary	59	42	3	0	0	0	0	4	76
Blackwater Estuary	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	17
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	nc
Abberton Reservoir	260	292	315	58	0	2	7	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	63	28	28	0	0	nc	0	14	6
Lee Valley	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

The last reported birds of the spring were 58 at Abberton Reservoir on 14th April (a high count for mid-April) with the first returning (or summering) birds being a single at King George V Reservoir from 14th July and six at Old Hall Marshes on 17th only.

There were only five other non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 50 or more, all in the late winter period as follows: Blackwater Estuary (boat count), 90 on 27th November and 3rd December; Goldhanger, 53 on 29th November, 50 on 2nd December; Abberton Reservoir, 50 on 19th December.

Autumn coastal passage was noted between 30th October and 27th November from Frinton-on-Sea, Holland Haven, Canvey Point and East Tilbury. The peak count was seven at the latter site on 27th November.

SMEW *Mergus albellus* UK

Uncommon winter visitor occurring in variable numbers.

Another poor year with low numbers in both winter periods.

Birds were only reported from four areas with the peak monthly counts from the two key sites as follows: Abberton Reservoir, four on 20th January, seven on 15th February, four on 23rd November, five on 27th December; Lee Valley Regional Park, Friday Lake Waltham Abbey, three on 18th January and King George V Reservoir, two on 21st March. In addition, singles were noted at Mistley from 1st to 23rd January, and at Roper's Farm Barling on 26th November.

The last report of the first winter period concerned a single at Highams Park Lake on 30th March with an early returning bird at King George V Reservoir reported on five dates between 9th August and 18th September, echoing the events of 2015.

Estimated monthly numbers were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	11	8	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	6
Locations	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	2

Birds were reported from 11 individual sites within the Lee Valley during the year. Estimates of numbers have assumed the largest single count from any Lee Valley site is that for the entire area.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser merganser*

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 120 INT 2,700	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**46**	**56**	**21**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**7**	**14**
Blackwater Estuary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	nc
Abberton Reservoir	32	43	15	1	0	0	3	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	8	4	1	0	0	nc	0	5	1
Lee Valley	6	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	4

Monthly maxima in addition to the Wetland Bird Survey at the sites holding double-figures were as follows: Abberton Reservoir, 29 on 9th January, 17 on 13th November, 15 on 28th and 30th December; River Colne, Colchester-Wivenhoe, 15 on 21st January, 12 on 24th February, 14 on 20th March, 11 on 28th November and 21st December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 13 on 15th January, 17 on 3rd March, 16 on 31st December; King George V Reservoir, 19 on 6th January, 13 on 23rd February, ten on 6th March, ten on 13th November; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, 12 on 10th January, 18 on 3rd December.

The last reported birds of the spring were two at Little Baddow on 4th May, with the first returning bird being one at King George V Reservoir on 12th September – almost identical dates and locations to 2015.

Coastal movement was noted during November as follows: Frinton-on-Sea, one on 3rd (also seen at Holland Haven), nine on 20th, one on 24th; Canvey Point one on 6th; Gunners Park Shoebury, three on 26th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 84 INT 1,700	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**142**	**94**	**87**	**28**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**92**	**158**
Stour Estuary	52	37	0	24	0	0	0	35	29
Hamford Water	23	1	17	nc	nc	0	0	4	3
Colne Estuary	1	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	14
Blackwater Estuary	65	55	61	1	0	0	0	41	103
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9

The last of the spring was noted at Wrabness on 14th May, with the first returning birds being two at Rainham Marshes on 17th September. There were no summer records received.

Inland records came from: Abberton Reservoir, two on 5th November, with a ♂ then reported on five dates to the year-end; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 22nd-23rd October. Inner Thames records comprised (singles unless stated): East Tilbury, eight on 12th November; Rainham Marshes; 23rd April with two the following day, seven on 9th November, 27th December.

Southbound autumn passage was poor with just 25 noted passing Frinton-on-Sea between October and December (99 in 2015), and a peak of 20 passing Holland Haven on 12th November.

The highest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were: Stour Estuary (Wrabness to Mistley), monthly peaks of 60 on 16th January, 100 on 12th November; Blackwater Estuary (boat counts), 52 on 13th March; 120 on 27th November, 110 on 3rd December.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis jamaicensis*

Much decreased, naturalised, non-breeding visitor.

As with recent years, in view of the sensitivities surrounding this species and the ongoing DEFRA initiative to cull Ruddy Ducks details of specific locations have again been withheld.

Fifteen records were received relating to three ♀♀ at three sites. Two of these related to single day observations, whilst the third lingered between 15th April and 28th May.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa rufa*

Fairly common and widespread, naturalised, resident.

In total 485 records were received (499 in 2015), 118 of which were Birdtrack records from Terling. A total of 135 sites (120 in 2015) was involved, encompassing all corners of the County. At least 35 pairs were reported from 13 sites (24 from 21 in 2015). The only reports of more than two pairs came from Braintree and Bocking with 15 and Henny Street, five. In addition, two or more birds were reported

from 27 further locations during the breeding season (May-July). There were no reports of confirmed breeding. Observers are again encouraged to send in all reports of confirmed/possible breeding.

Outside the breeding season, counts of 25+ were confined to the autumn months, as follows: September: Foulness Island, 300 on 4th; Boreham, 150 on 4th. October: Orsett Fen, 29 on 17th. November: Steeple, 50 on 13th; Saffron Walden, 25 on 13th; Orsett Fen, 42 on 14th; Bulmer area, 35 on 30th. December: Orsett Fen, 83 on 2nd; Tillingham, 30 on 11th; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, 37 on 21st; Breach Barns Farm Waltham Abbey, 35 on 30th; Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 35 on 30th.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix perdix* UK EX

Much declined and now scarce resident.

In total 57 records were received from 39 locations (74 from 31 in 2015). There were no records of confirmed breeding, but single pairs were seen during the breeding season (May-July) at 12 sites, including four in the Wormingford area.

Outside the breeding season, double-figure counts were as follows: September: Abbotts Hall Farm, 18 on 14th. October: Wrabness, 12 on 8th; Mayland Creek, 18 on 16th; Birchanger Wood, ten on 17th. November: Birchanger Wood, ten on 18th. December: Tillingham, 13 on 2nd; Birchanger Wood, ten on 15th.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix coturnix* UK

Scarce passage migrant, subject to influxes.

Four birds were reported from four sites (four from four in 2015).

Bradwell-on-Sea	One	10th June
Roxwell	One	28th July-1st August
Paglesham	One	7th August
East Tilbury	One	26th August

Annual minima for singing territorial ♂♂ plus confirmed breeding pairs are:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Numbers	4	4	4	3	9	12	7	9	7	7	6.6

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus**

Common and widespread naturalised resident, many different sub-species released annually many of which hybridise and naturalise with existing populations.

The species remains a common breeding resident in the County with a total of 1,582 records received (1,554 in 2015, 1,074 in 2014). There was only one report of confirmed breeding, from Gestingthorpe, where two broods were seen (three in 2015).

Counts of 25 or more were reported from: Bulmer, 40 on 13th January, 30 on 30th November and 25 on 11th December; Belchamp Walter, 36 on 10th September.

The release of birds by shoots and their dispersal makes it difficult to assess the permanent population.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: the sole record concerned one on the King George V Reservoir on 2nd November.

Coast and estuaries: counts from Frinton-on-Sea produced a January peak of 257 on 9th but in early February unprecedented numbers were seen from there, with 1,086 flying south on 2nd and 1,019 the following day. There were still 404 on 28th, 234 on 20th March and 50 on 4th April. Elsewhere, there were generally smaller counts, probably of the same birds, at nearby Holland

Black Brant, The Naze, October (SEAN NIXON)

Velvet Scoter, Fingringhoe Wick, November (SEAN NIXON)

Scaup, Hanningfield Reservoir, March (DAVID ACFIELD)

Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes, Abberton, January (SEAN NIXON)

Haven; also, a peak of 203 off the Dengie coast on 24th January. Otherwise, single-figure numbers were seen at various coastal vantage points from the Stour Estuary round to the Thames Estuary, including one at East Tilbury on 13th February.

Summer sightings are infrequent in Essex but single birds were seen off Frinton-on-Sea on 16th May and off the north Dengie coast on 5th June.

Returning birds began with one at Frinton-on-Sea on 17th September but numbers remained small until late November when 45 were seen off Canvey Point and 28 off Frinton-on-Sea on 24th. The largest counts then followed from the latter location peaking at 126 on 24th December.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica arctica* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no inland records.

Coast and estuaries: scarce in the first winter with singles in January at Wrabness on 6th, Holland Haven on 30th and Southend Pier on 9th and 13th, and in February just a single off Frinton-on-Sea on 28th.

In the second winter, the first sightings were on 7th November when one was seen off Holland Haven and three off Canvey Point after which singles were seen on a total of six dates at Frinton-on-Sea, Gunners Park Shoebury, Southend Pier and Canvey Point.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: King George V Reservoir, singles on 2nd and 12th January and 23rd February; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, one on 1st, 3rd and 5th-7th January, conceivably the same as the King George V bird over the same period.

Coast and estuaries: in the opening quarter, single birds were recorded in the Stour Estuary, Hamford Water, off Frinton-on-Sea (two there also on 21st March), the Crouch/Roach complex and Thames Estuary (Southend-on-Sea area). However, West Mersea and the Blackwater Estuary produced many sightings, mainly of 1-2 but four were seen on 24th January and six during a boat trip on 13th March.

Lingering individuals were seen at Old Hall Marshes on 11th and 26th April and on the unusually late date of 13th May at Bradfield on the River Stour.

In the final quarter, singles were seen at Frinton-on-Sea on 4th October and Holland Haven the following day, after which there were single birds in Hamford Water, passing Frinton-on-Sea/Holland Haven and off the Dengie coast; also, at least four in the Blackwater Estuary and at least two in the Thames Estuary including one as far upriver as East Tilbury on 24th December.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa* UK

Scarce, principally autumn, passage migrant. EBSIP (201, 29, 230)

Frinton-on-Sea	One	5th October	PBr

This bird was also seen at Holland Haven. One other unsubstantiated record was received.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and non-breeding visitor.

Monthly totals, allowing for likely duplication and all from coastal sites, are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	1	4	5	4	30	10	3	1	1	1	0	0

Most of the sightings, as usual, came from the north-east Coast (The Naze to Bradwell) but single birds were seen at Rainham Marshes and East Tilbury on 13th February, Canvey Point on 27th May and 4th June, Southend-on-Sea on 17th June and Two Tree Island on 14th July.

In this table, birds seen on different days are summated but it is possible that in some cases the same individuals may be involved. The largest single day count was on 27th May when five passed Frinton-on-Sea in addition to the one at Canvey Point listed above.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Uncommon, principally autumn, passage migrant. EBSIP (152, 73, 225)

Frinton-on-Sea	One	1st January	PBr
Frinton-on-Sea	One	7th January	PBr
Frinton-on-Sea	Four	27th August	PBr
Frinton-on-Sea	One	17th September	PBr
Frinton-on-Sea	One	27th September	PBr
Frinton-on-Sea	One	4th October	PBr

The 4th October bird was also seen off Holland Haven.

A further three records were received from the Thames Estuary but no supporting information was received.

The January records are the first in that month for the County.

Nine records is the best annual total since 2010.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	9	6	1	1	3	6	12	3	6	25	7.2

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* UK

Uncommon, principally autumn, passage migrant.

Inland: one found grounded in Braintree on 4th September was briefly in care before being released at Holland Haven next day. One seen flying north off Frinton-on-Sea shortly afterwards was assumed to be this individual.

Coast and estuaries: Frinton-on-Sea, one on 12th January; Gunners Park Shoebury, one on 8th April and two together on 7th September; Canvey Point, two on 5th and one on 7th September; East Tilbury, one on 7th September: Canvey Seafront, 1+ on 5th October.

There have been only two previous Essex records in January and spring sightings are also infrequent. There may have been some duplication in the Thames Estuary records on 7th September.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* UK

Very rare passage migrant. EBSIP (9, 10, 19)

Frinton-on-Sea	One	27th August	PBr

The second year running the species has been recorded in the County, last year's record also coming from Frinton-on-Sea just one day earlier.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

From the information received, which included some reports of adults in the breeding season in suitable habitat for nesting, one can deduce that the number of pairs holding territory was in the range 130-140, a similar figure to recent years. It seems likely that a few additional pairs go undetected or unreported so that the true total may be around 150 or even higher. The sites holding the most territorial pairs were again Rainham Marshes with 35, Blue House Farm with 17 and Old Hall Marshes with ten.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 160 INT 4,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**349**	**238**	**205**	**103**	**167**	**287**	**349**	**200**	**370**
Stour Estuary	22	10	11	1	0	5	2	0	20
Hamford Water	108	51	32	nc	nc	35	48	21	135
Blackwater Estuary	20	16	22	7	7	50	71	44	30
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	21	34	25	27	18	44	13	22	33
Foulness/Thames	108	87	45	29	65	97	97	77	131
Abberton Reservoir	0	5	18	10	31	38	55	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	28	18	26	9	31	nc	33	10	3

Paglesham Lagoon again held the largest numbers for a single site apart from the large reservoirs, with a peak of 52 on 1st September.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena grisegena* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: Abberton Reservoir, one in full summer plumage on 17th July remained until 9th August; King George V Reservoir, one on 21st August.

Coast and estuaries: in the first winter, singles were seen off The Naze on 6th February; Frinton-on-Sea on 2nd and 14th February and 15th March; Tollesbury Wick on 28th February.

In the closing months, the first sighting was of one at Blue House Farm on 28th October, which was followed by one off The Naze on 17th November. All subsequent reports came from various points in the Blackwater Estuary with single birds on six dates from 27th November-24th December and two on 29th November and both 3rd and 5th December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding season records received included birds in suitable habitat, birds displaying, holding territory, on a nest or with young. From these assorted reports, one can surmise that some 40 pairs definitely bred and a further 15-20 held territory and may also have nested. At Walthamstow Wetlands there were seven broods totaling 14 young; Ardleigh Reservoir had five pairs of which three definitely bred; Old Hall Marshes had five territorial pairs, but another report stated 'two fledged from two pairs'. Numbers at all three of these sites were down on 2015. There were three confirmed breeding pairs in St Osyth and a pair that bred at Terling was apparently the first to have done so there in at least 20 years.

Sites from which more detailed information would be welcome included Coleman's Reservoir Little Braxted where there were 'several apparent pairs, some displaying' and Abberton Reservoir where 'about 20 birds were in pairs, many displaying' but only two breeding pairs were subsequently confirmed.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 190 INT 3,600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**376**	**168**	**347**	**307**	**645**	**1093**	**1396**	**357**	**168**
Stour Estuary	22	0	17	9	2	0	1	61	8
Colne Estuary	1	0	34	4	0	2	7	2	14
Blackwater Estuary	15	25	139	52	6	72	57	121	61
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	9	11	16	20	1	1	4	11	19
Foulness/Thames	99	13	15	21	3	3	4	17	4

GB 190 INT 3,600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	137	76	83	148	508	938	1103	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	49	24	18	30	107	nc	148	50	3
Lee Valley	28	9	7	10	15	69	69	83	51

As shown in the table, autumn numbers at Abberton Reservoir were again impressive though not quite reaching last year's record peak there of 1,276 on 17th November. There was also an estimated count of 500 present there on 3rd January.

There were some sizeable gatherings on tidal waters that did not coincide with the Wetland Bird Survey counts including 430 off Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 19th January, 205 from Old Hall Marshes on 1st February, 200 off West Mersea on 3rd February (these three counts probably involved many of the same individuals), 116 in the Stour Estuary on 25th October and 118 off Canvey Point on 13th December. A count of 32 at Boreham on 4th December was also notable.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus auritus* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

The incidence and distribution are summarised below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
King George V Reservoir	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Wat Tyler	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stour Estuary	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
East Mersea	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Blackwater Estuary	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Other Coastal	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Totals	**19**	**16**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**11**	**10**

There were no reports this year between 26th March and 4th September and none from Hanningfield Reservoir. Numbers recorded in the Tollesbury to Goldhanger stretch of the Blackwater Estuary this year were lower than in recent years but, as shown above, there were more seen from Cudmore Grove East Mersea and these groups are likely to have shifted significant distances during each tidal cycle.

The bird at Wat Tyler was present on 3rd January only and the 'Other Coastal' records relate to single birds passing Frinton-on-Sea, along the River Roach and in the Thames Estuary.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports indicative of nesting though a pair visited Lofts Farm Gravel Pits Heybridge during April; two visited the Walthamstow Wetlands from 9th-12th May and again on 20th June with three on the King George V Reservoir on 26th. There were also records of a single bird at Old Hall Marshes and Heybridge Gravel Pit on 21st June.

The incidence and distribution are summarized below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	1	1	4	7	0	0	1	4	1	1	2	1
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Valley Reservoirs	9	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	1
Stour Estuary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hamford/Naze	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Colne Estuary	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwater Estuary	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Thames Estuary	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bowers Marsh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Chigborough Lakes	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heybridge Gravel Pit	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boreham	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Totals	**11**	**4**	**9**	**12**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**3**

William Girling Reservoir Chingford was for many years the Essex stronghold of this species and nine were recorded there in January. However, the remaining Lee Valley records were all from the King George V Reservoir and Walthamstow Wetlands and it is possible that for reasons of access the William Girling is checked less frequently than in the past. The count of seven at Abberton Reservoir was on 2nd April and the individual at Boreham was present from 26th March-13th April. The Thames records include one at Rainham Marshes on 7th September.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare, but increasing, and now almost annual, visitor. EBSIP (14, 30, 44)

All sightings referred to single birds and it is likely that only a few long-staying individuals accounted for most of the records.

The Naze, on 14th May; Colne Estuary, at The Hythe Colchester on many dates 28th February-21st March and Fingringhoe Wick and Ranges, plus Geedon Saltings Fingringhoe on many dates from 11th August to the year's end; Mersea Strood on 9th and 31st December; Blackwater Estuary, at Old Hall Marshes on 8th July, Tollesbury Wick on 17th July and 5th August; Rainham Marshes, 13th and 28th May and 6th and 11th August; Abberton Reservoir, on several dates 25th February-21st March; King George V Reservoir, 16th, 17th and 21st August; Wat Tyler, Vange Marsh and Bowers Marsh, intermittently from 17th January-10th April and 23rd July-18th December; Buckhurst Hill, on 6th August.

A total of perhaps 5-6 new birds in total, with the Wat Tyler area bird looking very much like a returning individual.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

In the first half of the year there were single birds at Holland Haven on 6th-8th March and 6th May; The Naze on 9th April; Lower Raypits Canewdon on 11th April; Wallasea Island on 6th May, Abberton Reservoir on 26th May, and a fly-over at Coryton on 7th June.

As often happens, there was a small influx in the late summer/autumn with sightings (singles unless otherwise stated) at: Abberton Manor on 6th August; Wallasea Island on 10th-15th August; Rat Island Colne Estuary five on 13th August; Cattawade Marshes, three on several dates 23rd-30th August; East Tilbury, two on 10th September; Walthamstow Marshes, three on 18th September; Thurrock Thameside Mucking also on 18th September; Rainham Marshes on several dates 26th September-8th October; Old Hall Marshes on 13th October.

Finally, one was reported at Fingringhoe Wick on 14th November.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris stellaris* UK EX

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports during May to September. Records in the other months, single birds, unless otherwise stated, are listed below.

First winter: Abberton Reservoir, from 1st -24th January and on 18th March; Hanningfield Reservoir, 13th March; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, intermittent sightings from 2nd January-19th March including two on 16th March; Fingringhoe Wick, on several dates 31st January-24th February; Old Hall Marshes, 5th February; Wat Tyler, from 30th January-19th February, 15th March and 9th April; Rainham Marshes, 23rd January-4th February; Ingrebourne Valley, 7th March.

Second winter: Abberton Reservoir, 1-2 on many dates 7th November to the year's end; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, on several dates 12th October-14th December; St Osyth, 15th November; Rainham Marshes, 7th November and 29th December.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Very rare migrant. **EBSIP (2, 20, 22)**

River Roach	One	11th April	AJL
Rainham Marshes	Two	23rd-25th October	JWa ATw RB
Cudmore Grove East Mersea	One	26th October	DU
Rainham Marshes	One	4th November	mo
Rainham Marshes	One	16th-20th December	mo

The Rainham records are assumed to all relate to the same two birds. The first since 2013.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Details of occupied nests are given below:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
St Osyth	9	17+	18	9+	11	10	9
Foulness Island	5	5	4	4	4	6	2
Beazley End	nc	nc	7	18	18	19	18
North Fambridge Hall	14	8	6	7	6	4	5
Barrow Wood Highwood	nc	5	nc	nc	5	6	7
Mayesbrook Park Dagenham	nc	nc	3	nc	3	3	nc
Ingrebourne Valley	nc	nc	4	6	12	3+	7
Holyfield Lake	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	4	9
Waltham Abbey	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Walthamstow Wetlands	nc	33	30	15	nc	71	66
Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing	32	38	35	38	32	28	33
Chigborough Lakes	10	10	5	6	7	8	10
Langham Treatment Works	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	nc
Abberton Reservoir	19	20	14	6	1	nc	nc
Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges	7	7	7	7	8	5	5
Paglesham	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Childerditch Pond	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	2	2
Fairlop Waters Barkingside	nc	nc	nc	nc	0	1	0
Valentine's Park Ilford	nc	2	1	1	1	1	0
Total	**100**	**144**	**134**	**117+**	**111+**	**174**	**176**

It is likely that the 'no count' entries above are a mixture of active sites for which no figures were submitted and sites that are inactive but this has not been confirmed. The true total for the year is

almost certainly higher than shown making comment on trends inappropriate.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 610 INT 2,700	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**105**	**103**	**111**	**110**	**100**	**157**	**149**	**107**	**88**
Stour Estuary	7	1	1	0	1	6	10	9	16
Hamford Water	10	10	10	nc	nc	27	27	9	8
Colne Estuary	4	8	26	5	1	4	8	3	5
Blackwater Estuary	6	5	3	6	20	24	14	12	11
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	8	14	6	13	12	15	21	15	7
Foulness/Thames	22	12	10	16	25	28	17	22	14
Abberton Reservoir	11	25	27	49	15	30	22	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	8	5	10	2	9	nc	12	17	2
Lee Valley	24	16	15	14	9	16	11	15	21

There were no additional large counts not included above.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea purpurea*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (25, 4, 29)**

Wat Tyler	One	6th-10th April	mo
Hanningfield Reservoir	One	25th May	DA

A further two unsubstantiated records were received, including two in May from Hanningfield Reservoir which perhaps suggest that the individual stayed around for a month or so. Whilst these two records could relate to the same individual, they have been treated as different.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba alba*

Rare, but increasing in all months. **EBSIP**

Records, all of single birds unless otherwise stated, were received in every month except December.

First quarter: Fairlop Waters Barkingside, 2nd January; Paglesham East End, 28th January and perhaps the same at Wakering Common, 12th February and Paglesham Creek, 28th Feb; Rainham Marshes, 23rd and 25th March.

Second quarter: Beckton, 10th April; Rainham Marshes, 20th April and 12th-15th May; King George V Reservoir, 24th April; South Woodham Ferrers, 6th May; Walthamstow Wetlands, 25th May; Frinton-on-Sea, flying south 3rd June.

Third quarter: Dagenham, 8th July; Hanningfield Reservoir, 7th August; Vange, 25th-26th August; Bradwell, 31st August; Mardyke Valley, 1st September; Blue House Farm, 6th September; Great Tey, two on 19th September; Cattawade Marshes, 22nd September and perhaps the same Broomhouse Flash Langham, 26th September; Rainham Marshes, 25th-28th September; Leigh-on-Sea, 29th September.

Fourth quarter: Rainham Marshes, 7th-8th October and three on 23rd October; Great Holland/Holland Haven, 24th-29th October; off Potton Island Great Wakering, 28th October and perhaps the same Crouchside Foulness Island, 13th November; Fingringhoe Wick, 1st November; Abberton Reservoir, 20th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 20th November, Hamford Water, 28th November.

The number of reports continues to increase but it is likely that there were further instances where the same individuals were involved in addition to those suggested above.

However, from 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Great White Egret records.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. First bred in 2000.

Reports of breeding pairs were received as follows with 2015 figures in brackets: Foulness Island, 11 (12), Benfleet Downs, 3+ (0), Chigborough Lakes, ten (12-15), St Osyth, 20 (12+), Paglesham, 20 (ten), Walthamstow Wetlands, 17 broods totaling 39 young (17 broods totaling 43 young), North Fambridge Hall, seven (28), Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges, ten producing 20 young (six), Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, five (five), Abberton Reservoir, no count (2+). We assume that there has been no further nesting at Mayesbrook Park Dagenham, where a pair bred in 2014.

As in recent years, some large counts were received in late summer/autumn with peak numbers from sites recording 50 or more as follows: Cattawade Marshes, 53 on 18th September; Horsey Island Hamford Water, 63 on 18th September; Cudmore Grove East Mersea, 93 on 31st August; Fingringhoe Wick, 50 on 6th September; Goldhanger, 86 on 18th September; Old Hall Marshes, 78 on 19th September; Bradwell, 50 on 13th September; Paglesham Lagoon, 66 on 8th August; Potton Creek Great Wakering, 61 on 15th September; Canvey Point, 85 on 19th August; Tewkes Creek Canvey Island, 85 on 18th September; Two Tree Island/Leigh Marsh, 134 on 29th September; Mardyke Valley, 78 on 6th and 25th October. No doubt some of these counts involved many of the same individuals and some referred to birds at roost sites.

At other seasons, a total of 54 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 17th January was notable.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB ? INT 800	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**296**	**189**	**190**	**241**	**503**	**1128**	**823**	**572**	**294**
Stour Estuary	2	3	5	4	52	68	62	17	19
Hamford Water	68	20	23	nc	nc	161	145	96	54
Colne Estuary	22	11	29	29	40	36	63	28	33
Blackwater Estuary	41	42	56	43	98	306	176	115	62
Dengie	28	0	17	32	63	78	33	92	9
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	16	11	13	27	50	98	69	45	37
Foulness/Thames	108	94	40	85	181	347	231	170	77
Abberton Reservoir	6	1	1	13	14	31	37	nc	nc

Note the impressive total for the Blackwater Estuary and Foulness/Thames in September.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* UK

Common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

The estimated monthly totals, all of coastal records, are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Row A	47	52	141	6	106	293	1	22	134	52	120	34
Row B	60	1	2	0	6	133	3	16	77	16	64	9

Row A includes all sightings between the Stour and Roach estuaries.

Row B refers to the Thames Estuary from Wakering Stairs to Rainham Marshes.

It is likely that in some cases individuals flying out of the Thames Estuary are later counted off the north-east coast and vice-versa, hence the two rows are not summated.

The largest single day counts all occurred in a spell of northerly winds with some rain as follows: 105 on 31st May, 146 on 1st June and 122 on 2nd June all off Frinton-on-Sea, with 107 passing Canvey Point on 1st June and 85 on 2nd June.

It is unusual in Essex for June numbers to be larger than those in either September or October.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis* UK

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no inland records.

The estimated monthly totals allowing for likely duplication were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Totals	7	4	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	6	6

There were reports from the Stour Estuary, Hamford Water, Frinton-on-Sea to St Osyth, West Mersea and the Blackwater Estuary, Dengie Coast, Blue House Farm and the Thames Estuary but all were of single birds apart from up to three in the Stour Estuary in November. A single bird was noted on the barrier wall of Bradwell Power Station where 20 or more could be seen on occasions in the past.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo/sinensis*

***P. c. carbo* is a scarce resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor whilst *P. c. sinensis* is a fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Nest counts were as follows:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Abberton Reservoir	195	150	137	145	184	144	160	166	296	320
Walthamstow Wetlands	129	159+	113	178	226	142	nc	125+	263	274
Netherhall Gravel Pit	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Holyfield Lake	35	32	45	31	27	28	nc	nc	nc	nc
Lofts Farm/Chigborough	6	13	0	2	10	3	2	0	0	0
Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	365	354+	299	356	447	318	?	291+	562	596

Cormorants ceased to nest at Lofts Farm Gravel Pits Heybridge this year, but six pairs bred at nearby Chigborough Lakes. Overall, numbers appear to have stabilised, though at a level well below the peak back in 2007.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 350 INT 1,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**923**	**729**	**453**	**315**	**550**	**970**	**2296**	**1875**	**770**
Stour Estuary	14	5	13	5	13	29	57	5	21
Hamford Water	50	39	25	nc	nc	61	99	**1130**	**386**
Colne Estuary	317	0	12	9	3	10	9	70	67
Blackwater Estuary	152	344	151	16	49	179	185	261	97
Dengie	5	1	15	21	1	23	10	28	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	31	11	2	2	15	13	54	26	16
Foulness/Thames	92	67	45	64	58	136	120	54	76
Abberton Reservoir	136	108	118	148	154	**454**	**1329**	nc	nc

Note the high totals at Abberton Reservoir in October and Hamford Water in November as shown above. In the latter case, all but a few were by Pewit Island Hamford Water attracted to herring shoals. Notable counts not covered by the table included: King George V Reservoir, 224 on 16th August; about 400 at Abberton Reservoir on both 23rd January and 8th May, and 763 on 18th July; Hanningfield Reservoir, 225 on 21st August and 430 on 12th September.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus* UK

Uncommon, but increasing, passage migrant.

A better year with 32 or so individuals reported (18 in 2015, 36 in 2014, 30 in 2013). Most were passing through with only one lingering individual, in the Geedon Saltings/Langenhoe area for an extended period from 2nd August-26th September (assuming only one bird was involved in the series of sightings).

There were 12 spring records, including two in the lower Lee Valley on 25th-26th April. Autumn migration began with one along the north Dengie on 21st August and continued until the final sighting at Canvey Point on 8th October.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	4	7	1	0	0	7	11	2	0	0
Location	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	7	11	2	0	0

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* UK

Uncommon passage migrant. EBSIP (312, 55, 367)

Brook Farm Upminster	One	4th May	RB
Southminster	One	1st September	CH
Alresford Creek	One	1st October	NG

A further six unsubstantiated reports were received.

The last decade has seen an average of slightly over three confirmed Honey Buzzard records annually and whilst on first appearance there appears to be no upward trend similar to that being seen in southern England, the number of unsubstantiated records has increased. The Editor's opinion is that the spread of the Common Buzzard, rather than clouding the issue of Honey Buzzard identification, has helped observer's pick out the less common Honey Buzzard through a far greater familiarity with the commoner species.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus nisus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In excess of 1,800 records were received, approximately the same as in 2015 (1,700 in 2014), confirming a wide distribution in a variety of habitats, including coast and countryside, suburb and town centre.

There was an increase in the number of reports of pairs in suitable habitat in the breeding season, with 49 compared with 35 in 2015. In addition 27 reports of display or other behaviour indicative of breeding were received, eight where breeding was considered possible, and 14 where breeding was confirmed (seven in 2015 and 14 in 2014).

Prey targets included Starling, Collard Dove, Woodpigeon, Blue Tit, Chiffchaff (unsuccessful), Sand Martin (unsuccessful), Mistle Thrush, Reed Bunting and Redshank.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis gentilis*

Rare breeder. Very scarce resident and passage migrant. EBSIP (65, 41, 106)

Old Hall Marshes	♂	3rd March	CJM-G

Only one of 11 sightings reported was supported by a description. Once more, no evidence of breeding in the County was received, but one of the unsupported sightings involved display. The total number of records is comparable with 2015, but in that year two were documented.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus* UK

Fairly common summer visitor, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 20 potential breeding pairs were reported, slightly down on 2015 but still a significant improvement on the low point of 2014. At Old Hall Marshes four nests were monitored (six in 2015), fledging seven young. Four juveniles fledged at Rainham Marshes, while the Hanningfield Reservoir pair produced three.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Confirmed/Probable	20	25	13	23	23	16	23	25	26	20

At the main roosts, peak numbers in the first winter were at Old Hall Marshes, 30 on 17th January, and Langenhoe, eight on the same day. In the second winter Old Hall Marshes held 42 on 18th December, just one short of the site record of 43 on 18th January 2015. Langenhoe held 14 on 30th and 13 on 23rd November.

There was a reduction in the number of sites from which birds were reported, from 130 in 2015, to 97. As has been noted, separating migrating individuals from local dispersals makes a safe assessment of migration problematic.

Inland records were scarce, involving six sites (Abberton Reservoir, Birch, Boreham, Great Baddow, Hanningfield Reservoir, and Hatfield Broad Oak).

An intriguing report is of one said to have taken a Barn Owl at Tillingham.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers of this species in the County appear to have stabilised after a drop last year. There were 17 individuals in January, two more than in 2015, 17 in February and nine in March. There were, however, only four April records (ten in 2015).

In the first winter, lingering birds were noted at many coastal areas, especially on the Colne, Blackwater and Crouch, and on the Thames at Rainham Marshes. Wallasea Island and Foulness Island were the only locations to host three birds. No significant roosts were observed.

In the second winter, there was a similar distribution, with Wallasea Island again the hot spot with up to three individuals on several occasions throughout November and December, and four on 7th December.

While coastal areas were favoured, there were five inland sightings; at Fordham on 12th February, Hanningfield Reservoir on 28th August and 13th November, Brook Farm Upminster on 11th September, and Bulphan Fen on 27th December.

Approximate monthly numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	17	17	9	4	2	0	0	2	5	7	12	12
Locations	13	13	7	4	2	0	0	2	5	7	9	9

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* UK

Has bred on four occasions; otherwise scarce passage migrant. EBSIP

Rainham Marshes	One	17th April	JCo *et al.*
Colne Point/St Osyth	Ringtail	10th-12th May	RAJ

Two reports were supported by descriptions (compared with five, none supported, in 2015). The ringtail that ranged between Colne Point and St Osyth on 10th-12th May was seen by many observers and photographed by some.

There was no evidence of breeding.

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	2	0	1	2	3	2	1	5	7	2	2.5

In addition, a ringtail that flew north over Bradwell Bird Observatory on 15th May could not be conclusively identified as either this species or Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus milvus*

Increasing passage migrant. Recent colonist.

After several years of anticipation, breeding was confirmed at an undisclosed site in north-west Essex, although the number of young was not established. In addition, there was a probable breeding record in the south-west, while a fresh plumaged juvenile seen just north of Chelmsford in mid-August may have bred locally.

Red Kites occurred in every month of the year, although were more scarce in mid-winter. The majority are passage birds with an extended series of records in March, April, May and June. Autumn passage began in earnest in August and continued into October.

The vast majority of sightings were of single birds but there were 12 of three or more. Ten from a location on the M11 on 19th November was notable, and there were two records of five in the same area on 20th March and 6th October. There were two records of four, at Gallions Reach Beckton on 24th May and at Littlebury on 22nd November.

When corrected as much as possible for duplication, more than 470 individuals were reported, up from 228 in 2015 and 180 in 2014.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	13	28	94	72	68	54	35	19	24	33	29	8
2015	6	8	42	78	45	39	26	14	7	7	7	5
2014	4	10	37	27	22	47	6	2	9	3	6	6
2013	6	7	21	66	35	25	14	10	3	8	12	5
2012	2	3	49	20	92	31	5	6	4	3	2	1

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans migrans*

Rare passage migrant. **BBRC (18, 13, 31)**

Thurrock Thameside Mucking	One	30th April	PL

After blank years in 2014 and 2015, one documented record was welcome. A typical fly-over record.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus lagopus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. **EBSIP**

Holland Haven/Frinton	Immature	2015-1st May	mo
Alresford	One	2nd October	DP-D

The Holland Haven bird, lingering from 2015, remained in the area until late spring with frequent excursions to Frinton-on-Sea, where it favoured the golf course. Two other unsubstantiated reports were received.

Annual totals for the last ten winters:

	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	2007/06	Average
Totals	4	2	2	0	6	4	0	1	0	2	2.1

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo buteo*

Common resident, passage migrant and possible winter visitor. Recent (re) colonist.

The number of reports of Buzzard in the County now exceeds 3,000, often of more than one individual, but clearly likely to be distorted by repeat sightings of the same resident birds.

Reports were received of 73 pairs in suitable territories during the breeding season (74 in 2015, 48 in 2014, 33 in 2013). Of these 22 probably bred, with five confirmed. The true figure is almost certainly higher. There were records of five recently fledged young (15 in 2015, 14 in 2014, ten in 2013).

Areas	Breeding Pairs
North-east	three
North-west	two
Central	five
South-east	four
South-west	13

In the first three months of the year, records included 15 at Rettendon on 18th February, at Marks Tey on 14th March and Rainham Marshes on 25th March. Rainham Marshes was the hotspot for autumn migration with 15 on 18th September, 25 on 21st September, and 29 on 22nd October. There were ten at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth on 11th September, and at The Naze on 23rd September, and 12 at Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey on 24th September.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Sightings were reported from 89 sites across the County. Breeding was recorded at Rainham Marshes (five territories) and possibly at six other sites; juveniles were noted at Bowers Marsh, Fingringhoe Ranges, Mardyke Valley, Vange Marsh and Wat Tyler, and on territory at Belhus Woods Aveley.

Approximate monthly occurrence is summarised in the following table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	136	91	135	54	16	8	6	49	47	86	70	88

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 120 pairs/territories were reported from 60 sites (106 from 47 in 2015, 124 from 60 in 2014, 91 from 52 in 2013). Summering was reported from a further 121 locations.

Observers are encouraged to report all possible/confirmed breeding.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,200 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**278**	**252**	**297**	**175**	**238**	**312**	**372**	**254**	**411**
Stour Estuary	2	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	nc
Hamford Water	43	33	84	nc	nc	60	49	33	58
Holland Haven	8	4	5	7	nc	nc	6	7	17
Colne Estuary	22	16	34	21	3	6	7	8	86
Blackwater Estuary	12	10	13	20	11	23	39	33	34
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	14	7	13	14	22	24	10	15	21
Foulness/Thames	39	65	25	35	28	42	53	27	29

GB 3,200 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	3	10	15	12	52	21	20	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	24	12	15	1	25	nc	25	10	28
Lee Valley	37	37	37	25	25	32	37	50	45

Non-Wetland Bird Survey count of 50 or more were reported from: Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 18th January; Bowers Marsh, 100 on 30th October; Takeley, 80 on 30th October. This remains a very under-reported species.

COOT *Fulica atra atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 149 pairs were reported from 67 sites (139 from 106 in 2015, 341 from 67 in 2014, 92 from 39 in 2013). Reports of more than ten pairs came only from Blue House Farm and Mill Green Fryerning. Summering birds were reported from a further 113 locations. Observers are encouraged to send in all records of breeding pairs and broods

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,100 INT 15,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**2831**	**2216**	**1694**	**1083**	**6471**	**2927**	**4216**	**661**	**842**
Hamford Water	68	82	67	nc	nc	68	32	23	41
Colne Estuary	15	20	21	29	3	15	6	11	14
Blackwater Estuary	37	28	87	62	21	25	20	30	33
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	90	81	136	104	130	63	78	22	43
Foulness/Thames	193	179	62	80	77	157	96	68	114
Abberton Reservoir	474	636	640	419	**4310**	**2065**	**1966**	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	1063	599	337	93	**1613**	nc	**1440**	41	60

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

UK

Scarce, less than annual, mainly autumn passage migrant.

EBSIP (125, 32, 157)

Colne Point	Five	25th November	CBa
Cudmore Grove East Mersea	Five, same as above	25th November	DU

A frantic phone-call meant that the observer at Cudmore Grove saw the flock heading south towards Bradwell-on-Sea.

2010 Additional Record

Wallasea/Foulness Islands	Two	23rd December	JRD NG

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus*

UK EX

Very rare passage migrant. Last bred in 1999.

EBSIP

Rainham Marshes	One	12th April	AR
Rainham Marshes	One	13th May	ATw
Bradwell Bird Observatory	One	11th May	JCS

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	3	0	0	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1.6

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus* UK

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In total 88 confirmed or probable breeding pairs were reported from 22 sites (76 from 12 in 2015, 167 from 25 in 2014), although information was again lacking from some traditional sites. Individual locations reporting five or more pairs were as follows (2015 figures in brackets): Cattawade Marshes, seven (20); Old Hall Marshes, 30 (34); Rainham Marshes, seven.

Inland, birds were again noted at various sites in early spring, but the only confirmed/probable breeding was of single pairs at Hanningfield Reservoir, Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham and three pairs at Langham.

Other inland records away from tidal waters comprised (singles unless otherwise stated): Abberton Reservoir, reported in every month between January and August with peaks of eight on 16th March, six on 14th April, and 17th May; Birch, 25th February; Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall, two on 24th April; Terling, 7th June; Boreham, two on 5th March; Writtle, 11th May; Little Baddow, two on 7th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, the breeding pair present from 6th March to 13th June, then occasional sightings to 19th August, joined by a further two on 4th June; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, 22nd March, 13th April; Holyfield Lake, 26th April; Walthamstow Wetlands, 26th April, 8th, 23rd and 25th May, 12th July, 1st August, two on 5th September; Rochford, 12th May; Chafford Hundred Grays, 23rd October; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, one on 12th April. Elsewhere, one at Bow Creek Ecology Park on 18th June was notable.

Southbound diurnal passage was heavier than 2015 with monthly totals of 171 and 168 noted from Frinton-on-Sea in July and August respectively. The peak movement was 161 on 20th July.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,200 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**17786**	**11426**	**8528**	**3497**	**16316**	**4778**	**11451**	**12849**	**10661**
Stour Estuary	65	47	49	43	124	129	77	63	43
Hamford Water	513	954	999	nc	nc	433	510	405	460
Colne Estuary	364	453	224	243	200	257	240	498	277
Blackwater Estuary	889	513	679	546	988	1026	641	784	902
Dengie	2200	50	1300	880	1226	881	1414	450	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	73	120	106	111	27	47	23	30	160
Foulness/Thames	13682	9289	5159	1662	13751	2005	8546	10619	8819

Only two non-Wetland Bird Survey four-figure counts were received, both in September: Shoeburyness, 2,000 on 18th; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 2,000 on 27th. In addition, three colour-ringed individuals were noted at the former site on 21st August originating from the Netherlands (two) and Norway.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

Rare passage migrant. EBSIP (22, 27, 49)

A pair first reported at Vange Marsh on 13th May remained in the area until 1st June being most regularly seen at Wat Tyler whilst also visiting Bowers Marsh. Copulation was noted on several occasions, and eggs laid but ultimately failed although there was an unconfirmed report of a single on 7th June. These birds were observed commuting to Cliffe Kent, where three pairs nested (*Kent Bird Report* 2016). This was the first breeding record for the County.

Elsewhere:

Blue House Farm	One	19th September	BJ

The increase continues with records over the last ten years making up almost half of the entire total. Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	3	6	4	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	2.1

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* UK

Increasing summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reports of confirmed breeding totalled 96 pairs from ten sites (70-73 from ten in 2015, 88 from 11 in 2014). Estimated minimum numbers were as follows: Hamford Water, 20; Holland Haven, three; Old Hall Marshes, ten; Tollesbury Wick, at least one; Heybridge Gravel Pit, one; Blue House Farm, 20; Wallasea Island, 15; Wat Tyler, two; Bowers Marsh, ten; Vange Marsh, 15.

Inland reports away from tidal waters were as follows: Abberton Reservoir, six on 5th January, one on 14th September; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on both 7th March and 16th August; Writtle, 12th March; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, two on 16th April and 5th May.

Birds were also reported from Rainham Marshes in every month with peaks of five on 7th April, six on 14th September, eight on 15th October, five on 23rd November and 22 on 31st December.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 75 INT 730	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**2170**	**2700**	**1824**	**523**	**568**	**1984**	**2761**	**1883**	**1934**
Stour Estuary	1	109	0	20	0	0	0	0	nc
Hamford Water	616	564	176	nc	nc	80	241	469	521
Colne Estuary	71	31	0	2	0	232	314	26	591
Blackwater Estuary	200	448	460	101	1	57	365	520	244
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	49	126	104	66	0	0	210	80	331
Foulness/Thames	1233	1422	1050	326	567	1614	1631	788	247

As usual the largest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts came from the favoured area around East Tilbury, where there were peaks of 904 on 16th January, 1,370 on 24th February, 885 on 13th March, 614 on 29th July, 1,200 on 26th August, 1,603 on 20th September, 1,574 on 2nd October and 956 on 16th December. The only other counts of note were from Fingringhoe Wick, 500 on 23rd February, and Heybridge Gravel Pit, 530 on 2nd March.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* UK

Uncommon resident. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding was again under-reported with a minimum of 123 pairs from 15 areas (90 from 13 in 2015), including 54 at Cattawade Marshes (21 in 2015) and 36 at Old Hall Marshes (42). Inland pairs were reported from Great Stambridge, Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley and Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey. Probable breeding was reported from a further nine sites.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 6,200 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**27698**	**15394**	**2619**	**410**	**1112**	**2443**	**4736**	**11091**	**18479**
Stour Estuary	1126	842	0	0	65	37	77	430	1168
Hamford Water	2890	2295	623	nc	nc	715	480	1206	3507

GB 6,200 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holland Haven	360	390	135	12	nc	nc	140	120	61
Colne Estuary	1057	449	149	35	22	272	293	506	2165
Blackwater Estuary	6934	3929	445	99	375	411	1065	3843	6082
Dengie	3060	40	0	0	0	31	43	1285	400
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	3026	2312	725	23	112	469	939	2611	4254
Foulness/Thames	8830	4710	444	208	147	284	558	873	786
Abberton Reservoir	213	259	86	30	331	223	1081	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	72	7	5	0	59	nc	60	216	40
Lee Valley	130	161	7	3	0	1	0	1	16

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts reflected the high numbers present, with 1,500 or more reported as follows (monthly site maxima in each case): St Osyth, 1,550 on 16th December; Copt Hall Marshes, 2,400 on 5th January; Mayland Creek, 1,633 on 10th January; Blue House Farm, 3,300 on 4th January, 2,315 on 19th February; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 1,500 on 20th January; Lower Raypits Canewdon, 1,500 on 8th January; Vange Marsh, 1,500 on 11th November; Rainham Marshes, 1,520 on 2nd January, 2,150 on 21st February, 1,500 on 18th December.

Inland, counts of 250+ came from the following sites: Abberton Reservoir, monthly peaks of 900 on 8th January, 360 on 18th February, 331 on 17th August, 1,081 on 18th October, 400 on 25th November, 470 on 12th December; Birch, 360 on 18th February; Hanningfield Reservoir, 250 on 14th December; Orsett Fen, 313 on 14th November; 549 on 2nd December; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, 400 on 25th November; 362 on 18th December; M11 near Ugley, 300 on 29th January.

Observed diurnal movement was light with Frinton-on-Sea recording a peak of 297 south on 7th November.

A leucistic bird was again noted at Wat Tyler on 14th February and Vange Marsh on 18th-19th October.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Late spring migrants in May comprised two at Abbotts Hall Farm on 6th, one at Blue House Farm on 16th-17th, then three and two at Colne Point on 24th and 26th respectively, with the only June record being one at Old Hall Marshes on 6th. Autumn passage commenced with two at Colne Point on 13th July with birds becoming more widespread by the end of the month.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 4,000 INT 9,300	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**43058**	**30675**	**15546**	**167**	**703**	**3260**	**3661**	**30808**	**20757**
Stour Estuary	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	nc
Hamford Water	7240	7394	5806	nc	nc	1345	1422	4410	10781
Colne Estuary	433	15	70	30	20	264	25	182	406
Blackwater Estuary	6807	3122	5482	0	52	1027	1507	7905	5260
Dengie	23900	18000	3960	120	418	164	22	16600	1000
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	1851	1355	100	0	163	301	323	561	2734
Foulness/Thames	2827	772	128	17	48	159	327	1140	576

As usual, the highest non-Wetland Bird Survey coastal counts came from the Dengie and Blackwater Estuary area with up to 20,000 near Marsh House Outfall Dengie in January.

The highest inland counts were: Little Waltham, 100 on 16th January; Valentine's Park Ilford, 180

on 4th February; Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall, 140 on 28th February; Blackley Lane Gravel Pit Willows Green, peak of 180 on 16th March; Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 18th November, 165 on 9th December, 100 on 31st December; Richmond's Green Thaxted, 200 on 1st December; Boreham, 120 on 11th December rising to 220 on 31st.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola* UK

Common winter passage migrant and visitor.

Thirty-two records were received from nine sites during June and July. Double-figure counts came in July from: Colne Point, 15 on 24th; Old Hall Marshes, 37 on 26th; East Tilbury, peak of 14 on 22nd.

Diurnal autumn migration was very light with Frinton-on-Sea recording a total of just 39 from July to November (135 in 2015) with a clear peak of 35 on 11th August.

Inland records were restricted to: Walthamstow Wetlands, a juvenile on 1st-2nd October; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 5th October; Abberton Reservoir reported as "present" on 5th November, six on 12th November.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 430 INT 2,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**8665**	**6475**	**5867**	**662**	**2239**	**6223**	**5475**	**17766**	**20945**
Stour Estuary	271	69	141	0	12	110	324	387	234
Hamford Water	1707	968	1197	nc	nc	1992	1248	1562	2483
Colne Estuary	274	106	413	67	60	693	1001	83	249
Blackwater Estuary	2131	2426	1355	108	736	816	1538	1122	6257
Dengie	2975	600	1835	283	750	1925	450	10165	10000
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	235	57	181	11	5	162	170	780	757
Foulness/Thames	1072	2249	745	193	676	525	744	3667	965

There were no non-Wetland Bird Survey counts in excess of 1,000.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* UK

***C. h. hiaticula* is an uncommon resident and common passage migrant and winter visitor whilst *C. h. tundra* is a common passage migrant and winter visitor. There are no ringing recoveries to suggest that *C. h. psammodromus* has occurred as a passage migrant.**

Confirmed or possible breeding pairs totalled 14 from six sites (15 from four in 2015) as follows (2015 figures in brackets): Stone Point The Naze, four; Walton Hall Marshes, two (two); St Osyth Beach, two (two); Colne Point, at least one (ten); Fingringhoe Ranges, four; Old Hall Marshes, one. Observers are again requested to check all potential breeding sites as this species remains under-reported.

Inland records came from seven sites during the year (singles unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, three on 18th January, two on 3rd August then present until 14 on 12th December with monthly peaks of 17 on 24th August, three on 17th September, 48 on 18th October and 20 on 6th November; Little Baddow, two on 30th March, three on 16th April with a single the following day and on 4th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, singles on 24th January and 24th February, then present 16th August to 5th October with monthly peaks of 29 on 24th August, an impressive 83 on 30th September and 85 on 1st October; Parndon Mill Harlow, 14th May; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, two on 21st August; King George V Reservoir, 21st March, 9th August to 9th October with a peak of nine in late August-early September; Walthamstow Wetlands, 11th May, 7th August, two on 5th September; Wansted Flats, 16th December.

In addition, birds were reported from Beckton on 11th April, 11th May (six), 28th August, 13th September (five) and 18th September (30).

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

Kentish Plover, The Naze, June (SEAN NIXON)

Bar-tailed Godwit, Stone Point St Osyth, March (SIMON COX)

Greenshanks, Dagenham Chase, September (ALAN SHEARMAN)

Lesser Yellowlegs, The Hythe, September (SEAN NIXON)

GB 340 INT 730	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**639**	**391**	**203**	**131**	**1981**	**1454**	**1175**	**1158**	**679**
Stour Estuary	32	27	54	0	36	44	18	6	50
Hamford Water	68	93	30	nc	nc	**488**	259	142	196
Colne Estuary	0	0	2	0	87	4	146	1	16
Blackwater Estuary	46	41	34	9	149	206	184	142	42
Dengie	54	0	17	0	**860**	123	12	0	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	63	26	22	0	68	99	305	**663**	192
Foulness/Thames	**373**	204	44	122	**773**	**490**	203	204	183

Seven non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 250+ were reported, all bar two in August and September: Two Tree Island, 300 on 11th February; Canvey Point, 400 on 20th August; East Tilbury, peaks of 378 on 28th August and 420 on 3rd September; Wallasea Island, 621 on 16th November.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius curonicus*

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding was reported from just three sites, although records suggested breeding also occurred at a further three sites. This represents a marked reduction on recent years (14 from 12 in 2015 and 2014) but may just be due to under-reporting.

The first birds of the spring were reported from Boreham on 13th March, the same site and date as in 2015. Numbers slowly increased to the end of the month, with a peak of four at Rainham Marshes on 30th. Other than five at the latter site on 3rd April, all peak spring counts came from Abberton Reservoir with nine on 12th, 14 on 24th, nine on 26th and 30th.

The only double-figure reports in autumn came from Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, with 26 on 5th July and 12 on 1st August. Maxima from other sites recording five or more were: Abberton Reservoir, five on 28th June; Blue House Farm, five from 2nd-8th September; Olympic Park Stratford, five on 3rd July; Bowers Marsh, eight on 8th August; Rainham Marshes, six on 29th August.

The final record of the year came from The Hythe Colchester on 1st October.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (52, 4, 56)**

The Naze	♂	4th June	BCo

The first record since 2010 of this, increasingly, rare visitor.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus* UK

Common passage migrant; occasional in winter.

First winter records (singles in each case) came from the Crouch Estuary (in January and February), Fobbing Marsh on 4th and 31st January, and Old Hall Marshes from January to March.

The first spring migrants were two at the Olympic Park Stratford on 13th March with seven at Blue House Farm on 21st the only other multiple record until April. Numbers built in the last week of the month with passage largely over by mid-May. The highest counts came from Old Hall Marshes, 37 on 28th April and 59 on 9th May and Holland Haven/Frinton-on-Sea Golf Course, 45 on 26th April and 64 on 1st May. Northward movement past Frinton-on-Sea totalled 163 in April, peaking with 54 on 27th, but only 15 in May. A count of ten on Wallasea Island on the late date of 5th June was notable.

Return passage commenced in mid-July and whilst widespread, generally comprised single-figure reports. Peak counts were: Frinton-on-Sea, southerly passage of 74 on 20th July, 59 on 11th August and 117 on 31st August; Dengie, St Lawrence to Howe Outfall, peak of 39 on 24th July; Holland

Haven, 25 on 14th August; Tewkes Creek Canvey Island, 23 on 23rd August. Passage was over by early October, subsequent records relating to a wintering bird at Fobbing Marsh from 28th October to the end of the year, and singles at Old Hall Marshes on 23rd November and Abberton Reservoir on 3rd December.

Additional inland records were received from: Abberton Reservoir, reported between 11th April and 12th May, peak of 28 on 6th May, in August, two on 3rd and one on 17th, one on 10th September; Walthamstow Wetlands, four on 15th April; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 29th April; King George V Reservoir, one on 30th April; Boreham, two on 16th July.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata arquata* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland counts came from (singles unless otherwise stated): Abberton Reservoir, reported from January to April, June and in November to December, peaks of four on 18th January and 14th February, then 30 on 23rd November reducing to ten on 2nd December; Sewardstone Marsh, two on 10th March; Boreham, 21st March; three on 15th July; Hanningfield Reservoir, 30th October.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,500 INT 8,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**4659**	**4785**	**3814**	**2379**	**4766**	**7538**	**5346**	**7669**	**3914**
Stour Estuary	222	276	334	176	13	128	238	407	351
Hamford Water	1211	982	660	nc	nc	845	796	926	853
Holland Haven	20	26	1	5	nc	nc	0	3	0
Colne Estuary	318	247	141	243	3	268	90	32	83
Blackwater Estuary	1022	821	1411	333	1145	1111	1334	811	344
Dengie	222	53	54	208	391	635	115	60	61
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	524	231	276	176	79	233	104	310	330
Foulness/Thames	1116	**2146**	935	1237	**3135**	**4318**	**2669**	**5120**	**1892**
Abberton Reservoir	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	nc	nc

Coastal passage was again prominent in late June and early July with a peak of 67 south past Frinton-on-Sea on 5th July. Only one non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 500 or more was received: Wakering Stairs, 840 on 3rd November.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica lapponica* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few during summer.

Recorded throughout the year, with lowest numbers in June: Dengie Flats, one on 5th; north Dengie, one on 5th; Old Hall Marshes, nine on 6th; East Tilbury, two on 8th; Fingringhoe Wick, two on 8th, five on 14th; Hamford Water, ten on 19th.

Inland records came from just two sites: Abberton Reservoir, 27th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, three on 4th December.

Inner Thames records came from: East Tilbury, recorded in every month from April to December, peaks of 14 on 13th May and 54 on 24th September; Rainham Marshes, January, April, September-October, all singles bar four on 23rd-24th April, multiple birds on nine dates in September, peak six on 18th, two on 2nd and 7th October with a third the following day.

Spring passage was unexceptional with the highest count of birds moving north offshore Frinton-on-Sea in April: 45 on 22nd, 61 on 23rd. However very little passage was observed in autumn with a monthly total of just 38 at this site in August. Elsewhere 400 at Deal Hall Dengie on 27th July increasing to 1,200 at nearby Bradwell Bird Observatory by 12th August were the only records of note.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 620 INT 1,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**3686**	**5870**	**891**	**44**	**1703**	**4551**	**4317**	**5016**	**1965**
Stour Estuary	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	nc
Hamford Water	563	578	370	nc	nc	343	949	705	252
Colne Estuary	4	2	0	0	0	80	23	1	60
Blackwater Estuary	350	164	41	0	105	118	80	58	149
Dengie	1200	950	330	0	700	3500	1000	10	nc
Foulness/Thames	1567	4176	150	44	897	508	2263	4192	1474

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* UK

Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*

Much increased passage migrant and winter visitor.

Counts in the first winter period were low with no counts exceeding 2,000. However, spring passage was improved compared to 2015 with site maxima of: Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 2,977 on 19th March; Heybridge Gravel Pit, up to 2,000 from 24th March, peaking at 2,500 on 12th April.

Late summer and autumn peaks were from traditional sites as follows: Two Tree Island, 4,440 on 20th August; Mistley, 2,875 on 22nd August; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 3,376 on 25th September.

Inland records (singles unless stated) came from: Broomhouse Flash Langham, 120 on 9th January, August peak of 26 on 11th, 15 on 26th September; Abberton Reservoir, singles on 23rd March and 24th July, then present from 17th August to the year end with peaks of 32 on 18th October, 135 on 13th November and 127 on 8th December; Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham, 5th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, one or two reported on 17 dates between 9th January and 28th March, then present from 20th July to 17th December with peaks of 50 on 25th September, 15 on 23rd October, 11 on 6th November; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, 16th August, two on 22nd August; Hatfield Broad Oak, 14th August; Hall Marsh Scrape Waltham Abbey, one on 10th March; Glen Faba Roydon, one on 28th June; King George V Reservoir, one on 16th August increased to five on 21st, then nine on 3rd September; Walthamstow Wetlands, 2nd May;

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 150 NT 470	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**5433**	**4238**	**5515**	**3221**	**5628**	**6495**	**7127**	**6227**	**4652**
Stour Estuary	1390	81	18	2	1058	1265	1125	33	636
Hamford Water	220	1039	89	nc	nc	199	496	430	509
Holland Haven	15	21	14	6	nc	nc	0	1	2
Colne Estuary	318	350	716	1165	1	291	295	37	3
Blackwater Estuary	938	607	2182	130	298	2082	2115	1603	1107
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	1103	340	122	190	71	2	218	549	198
Foulness/Thames	1447	1800	2374	1728	4187	2651	2815	3564	2195

Continental Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*

Vagrant, probably overlooked. EBSIP (0, 3, 3)

There were unsubstantiated reports of up to eight birds at Rainham in late June and July.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres interpres* UK

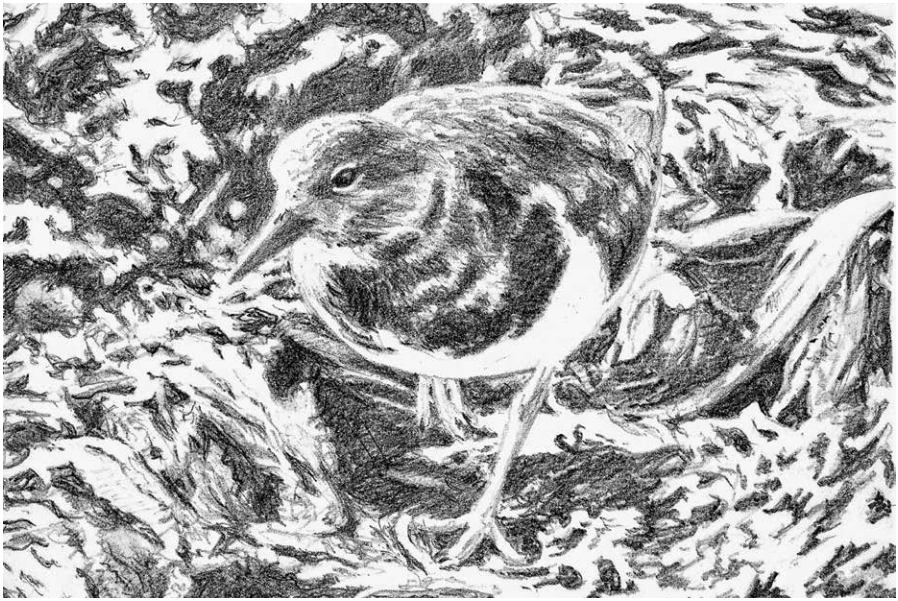
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded throughout the year, with nine June records, all early in the month suggesting a late spring movement: The Naze, nine on 1st, three on 4th and 11th; Colne Estuary, 12 on 1st and 5th; Gunners Park Shoebury, peak of 20 on 3rd June; Southend Pier, seven on 5th. No non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of over 200 were received.

Inland records came from four sites (singles unless stated): Hanningfield Reservoir, 24th January, 9th August; King George V Reservoir, 8th May, 16th August, two on 4th September; Walthamstow Wetlands, 10th May, 28th-29th August; Abberton Reservoir, 14th August, 14th September. A good series of Inner Thames records was also received: East Tilbury, 12 on 16th January, two on 4th September, one on 11th, 16 on 24th October, two on 23rd November and 16th December; Grays, five on 15th April; Rainham Marshes, two on 24th April, one on 7th-8th May with seven on 10th, then reported on several dates each month from August to December, mainly singles but peaks of three on 23rd August, four on 12th September, six on 4th November and two on 28th December; Barking Bay, two on 30th December.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 640 INT 700	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**1069**	**1086**	**771**	**502**	**188**	**746**	**1046**	**2102**	**1334**
Stour Estuary	181	187	99	36	9	0	110	114	126
Hamford Water	167	158	157	nc	nc	110	192	121	186
Holland Haven	0	0	1	0	nc	nc	0	4	1
Colne Estuary	55	4	39	162	4	15	120	24	239
Blackwater Estuary	303	132	290	99	96	357	513	**1450**	301
Dengie	137	40	81	7	53	122	54	87	55
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	32	34	4	3	7	0	12	36	12
Foulness/Thames	194	531	100	195	19	141	45	266	414



Turnstone (GEORGE BROWN)

KNOT *Calidris canutus islandica* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few during summer.

Inland records were received from (singles unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, 17th November and two on 9th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 3rd-5th September, 4th-9th October; King George V Reservoir, 4th September.

The only June record was a single at East Tilbury on 18th. There were reports from ten sites in July with double-figure counts from: The Naze, 11 on 23rd; Deal Hall Dengie, 30 on 27th.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,200 INT 4,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**37308**	**24277**	**13271**	**139**	**362**	**1586**	**6082**	**39216**	**50157**
Stour Estuary	2750	501	12	0	0	2	415	2507	800
Hamford Water	**4844**	**3787**	940	nc	nc	213	1251	**4590**	**4420**
Colne Estuary	55	45	45	55	25	403	561	294	60
Blackwater Estuary	**9000**	**4591**	237	32	130	133	949	**6185**	**14930**
Dengie	**14500**	**4500**	**9540**	45	180	670	1100	**15450**	**13000**
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	0	0	0	2	0	20	12	161
Foulness/Thames	**6159**	**10853**	2497	7	25	163	1786	**10178**	**16786**

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first winter period, double-figure counts came from (maximum counts): Old Hall Marshes, 33 on 10th March; Abberton Reservoir, 20 on 21st January; Copt Hall Marshes, 12 on 5th January; Tollesbury Wick, ten on 29th February.

In autumn and the second winter period, the only double-figure counts came from Abberton Reservoir, with a maximum of 30 on 23rd and 30th November and ten at Vange Marsh on 25th August.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 7 INT 12,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**8**	**4**	**35**	**1**	**22**	**19**	**29**	**6**	**2**
Hamford Water	0	0	1	nc	nc	**8**	0	0	nc
Blackwater Estuary	**8**	1	**33**	1	2	3	0	1	1
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	1	0	0	**12**	0	0	0	1
Foulness/Thames	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	nc
Abberton Reservoir	0	2	1	0	1	**8**	**27**	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	0	0	0	1	nc	2	5	nc

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* UK

Passage migrant, rare in spring, regular in autumn in variable numbers.

Spring passage was light, with records from (singles unless stated): Holland Haven on 3rd May; Old Hall Marshes, two on 15th May, singles on five other dates in May; Blackwater Estuary on 1st May; Rainham Marshes on 20th April.

Autumn passage was much stronger than 2015 when the highest count was five. Double-figure counts came from (maximum site counts): Hamford Water, 11 on 31st August; Frinton-on-Sea, 13 on 20th August; East Mersea, 11 on 29th August; Old Hall Marshes, 12 on 21st-22nd August; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 20 on 5th September; Blue House Farm, ten on 22nd-23rd August; East Tilbury, 22 on 3rd September.

Inland autumn records came from (maximum site counts): Abberton Reservoir, seven on 22nd August; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 21st-26th August; King George V Reservoir, single on 8th October.

In the second winter period there were November records from (singles unless stated): Rainham Marshes, 4th, 9th and 13th; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 19th, two on 29th; Two Tree Island, 27th.

Minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	0	0	0	1	9	0	4	351	232	16	7	0
Locations	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	25	27	7	3	0

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce, almost annual, passage migrant. EBSIP (193, 46, 239)

Old Hall Marshes	One	15th May	DJR
Hanningfield Reservoir	One	18th-30th September	mo

One further unsubstantiated record was received.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba alba* UK

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; occasional in summer.

June records were received from: The Naze, two on 1st, one on 11th; Colne Estuary, 11 on 1st and 5th; Gunners Park Shoebury, 70 on 3rd.

Inland records were (singles unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, 6th February, seven on 10th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, 9th September; King George V Reservoir, three on 2nd May, 15th May, 6th August; Walthamstow Wetlands, 10th May.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 160 INT 1,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**1622**	**675**	**1067**	**1776**	**86**	**1341**	**881**	**963**	**840**
Hamford Water	47	41	24	nc	nc	154	36	34	69
Colne Estuary	55	0	0	0	4	140	170	15	13
Dengie	0	0	11	0	0	435	2	0	nc
Foulness/Thames	1520	627	1024	1774	82	612	673	909	758

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina alpina/schinzii/arctica* UK

***C. a. alpina* is a very common passage migrant and winter visitor, whilst *C. a. schinzii* is a passage migrant. The status of *C. a. arctica* in the County is uncertain.**

Inland records are summarised as follows: Abberton Reservoir, 1-8 in January, three-figure counts in November-December with a maximum of 325 on 20th November; Boreham, one on 12th March; Hanningfield Reservoir, on numerous dates with a maximum of 15 on 18th September and 5th October; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, singles on 19th March and 21st July; Lee Valley Regional Park reservoirs, single on 2nd April, 1-3 on several dates between July and November.

June coastal records came from Hamford Water, The Naze, Dengie Flats and Wallasea Island.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,500 INT 13,300	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**43617**	**41058**	**33134**	**1627**	**2980**	**7051**	**22817**	**39080**	**37754**
Stour Estuary	2211	394	455	1	16	128	1133	1662	4665

GB 3,500 INT 13,300	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hamford Water	3232	3410	2471	nc	nc	2592	2393	3830	3262
Colne Estuary	2468	215	793	472	6	122	3397	1100	2152
Blackwater Estuary	15081	14015	11782	175	98	320	7583	14202	9092
Dengie	3250	0	7350	410	2185	1650	2890	3720	5025
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	2111	1304	660	1	32	82	657	3611	4774
Foulness/Thames	15256	21720	9622	568	639	2157	4761	10950	8784
Abberton Reservoir	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	nc	nc

The highest non-Wetland Bird Survey count was 9,500 at Wakering Stairs on 3rd November.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* UK

Uncommon, and declining, passage migrant and winter visitor.

First winter records came from: Holland Haven, 1-3 from 1st January-3rd May; St Osyth, one on 25th January, two on 28th January; Burnham-on-Crouch, one on 6th January.

In the second winter period: Holland Haven, 1-4 from 10th September-30th November; Goldhanger, two on 15th December, one on 18th December; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, one on 30th November; Burnham-on-Crouch, one on 18th November; Canvey Point, singles from 12th October-19th November.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Regular autumn passage migrant, very scarce in spring; occasional in winter.

There were no first winter records.

The only spring records were singles at: The Naze on 21st May; Thames Estuary on 1st March; West Thurrock Marshes on 13th March.

There were two at The Naze on 16th July, but the main autumn passage commenced on 3rd August and peaked in late August. There was a minimum of 122 records from 21 sites (58 from 12 sites in 2015) as follows:

	Jul	Aug				Sep				Oct				
Week commencing	**30th**	**6th**	**13th**	**20th**	**27th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**	**1st**	**8th**	**15th**	**22nd**	**29th**
Week number	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Numbers	2	3	13	22	25	18	10	16	4	4	0	4	0	1
Locations	1	3	8	9	8	7	5	7	3	4	0	2	0	1

Sites recording four or more were (maximum counts): The Hythe Colchester, four on 17th September; Blue House Farm, five on 27th August; East Tilbury, six on 29th August.

Second winter period records were (singles unless stated): East Tilbury, 2nd November; Rainham Marshes, 13th and 15th December; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 31st December.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. EBSIP (65, 41, 106)

Holland Haven	One	27th-28th July	DS
Blue House Farm	Juvenile	28th August-7th September	MSi
Hanningfield Reservoir	One	12th September 17th-20th September	BJ

One further record was received without supporting information.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* UK

Very rare breeder. Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no sightings indicative of breeding.

Monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	39	7	33	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	27	12
Locations	27	7	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	25	9

There were 23 occurrences involving more than singles (27 in 2015), 19 of these were in the first half of the year (two unless stated): Hadleigh Downs, 1st January; Ingrebourne Valley, 1st January; Wat Tyler, 1st January; Hamford Water, three on 1st January; Lower Belt, Brentwood, 2nd January, three on 16th January; Great Warley, 2nd January; Gooch's Farm Elmstead, 20 on 9th January; Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, seven on 9th January; Pewit Island Hamford Water, 10th January; Great Warley, three on 16th January; Langdon Hills, 16th January; Bungate Wood Braintree, 14th February; Shut Heath Wood Great Totham, 15th March; Hanningfield Reservoir, 18th March; Blake's Wood Little Baddow, four on 24th March; Roman River Valley Layer-de-la-Haye, 24th March; Wanstead Flats, 24th March.

In the second half of the year multiple occurrence were (two unless stated): Twinstead, 19th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 10th December; Boreham, three on 22nd December.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was a marked increase in numbers, with at least 65 records from 46 locations (42 from 20 locations in 2015).

Monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	16	7	23	9	0	0	0	0	1	11	13	14
Locations	13	5	17	7	0	0	0	0	1	9	9	9

Multiple records in the first winter period were (two unless stated): East Tilbury, 10th April; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, three on 13th March; Sladbury's Farm Little Clacton, three on 25th February; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 24th January; Tilbury to Mucking, 10th April; Rainham Marshes, three on 18th and 21st March; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, three on 14th January.

Multiple records in the second winter period were (two unless stated): The Hythe Colchester 30th December; Abbotts Hall Farm, 6th October; West Thurrock Marshes, 24th November and 24th December; Rainham Marshes, three on 4th November; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 11th December; Abberton Reservoir, 29th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 12th December; Redbridge Lakes Woodford Green, 28th November.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* UK

***G. g. gallinago* is a very rare breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor. The status of *G. g. faeroeensis* in the County is uncertain given the lack of ringing recoveries in Essex.**

There was no evidence of attempted breeding, the only summer record being a single at Colne Point on 1st June.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB ? INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**99**	**69**	**55**	**12**	**9**	**88**	**71**	**50**	**24**
Stour Estuary	5	2	10	0	0	0	10	0	6

Hamford Water	34	11	4	nc	nc	4	11	5	3
Holland Haven	1	0	0	0	nc	nc	4	2	0
Colne Estuary	3	1	0	1	0	26	17	0	2
Blackwater Estuary	5	6	9	3	4	26	11	8	6
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	3	0	0	1	3	12	1	4	4
Foulness/Thames	45	45	14	6	2	7	4	10	1

In the first winter period the only count of 50 or more came from Rainham Marshes where there were 56 on 21st February.

In the second winter period counts of 50 or more were reported from (maximum counts): Ingrebourne Valley, 72 on 31st October; Vange Marsh, 66 on 18th September.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* UK

Very scarce passage migrant. EBSIP (76, 12, 88)

Old Hall Marshes	One	29th May	DJR

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Scarce passage migrant. EBSIP (96, 22, 118)

Abberton Reservoir	One	7th February	SJ

February records are rare in the County. One additional unsubstantiated record was received.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* UK

Common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Reported in all months with minimum numbers as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	30	9	14	61	84	5	239	315	122	24	12	47
Locations	17	8	12	30	36	5	59	68	46	15	7	12

There were no double-figure counts in spring.

In autumn, double-figure counts were received from ten sites (13 in 2015). Maximum counts were: Old Hall Marshes, 16 on 16th August; Rainham Marshes, 15 on 31st August; Beckton, 20 on 24th July and 20th-21st August; Abberton Reservoir, 17 on 17th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 30 on 22nd August; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, 11 on 25th August; King George V Reservoir, 25 on 30th July; Walthamstow Wetlands, 11 on 7th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* UK

Common passage migrant and much increased winter visitor.

Reported in all months with minimum numbers as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	68	43	53	51	4	26	139	206	122	72	49	47
Locations	34	21	32	31	4	12	30	49	39	36	26	26

In the first winter the maximum count was seven at Rainham Marshes on 30th January.

Spring passage was light compared to last year with 126 records in March-June (242 in 2015). The maximum count was five at: Vange Marsh on 5th April; Rainham Marshes on 10th and 20th April; Old Hall Marshes on 6th June.

Autumn passage was also light with 564 records in July-October (1,800 in 2015). Double-figure counts came from (maximum site counts): Langenhoe Marsh, 11 on 18th September; The Hythe Colchester,11 on 16th and 22nd August; Old Hall Marshes, 24 on 26th July; Vange Marsh, 12 on 11th and 15th September; Bowers Marsh, 13 on 4th August; East Tilbury, 15 on 20th August and 7th September; Abberton Reservoir, 12 on 9th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 14 on 8th and 21st August; Ingrebourne Valley, 11 on 26th July; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, 13 on 9th August.

In the second winter period, the highest counts were six at: Bowers Marsh on 25th November and 13th December; Abberton Reservoir on 27th December.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

Very rare passage migrant. **BBRC (9, 6, 15)**

Vange Marsh	Adult	22nd August-4th September	TB
The Hythe Colchester	Juvenile	17th September-2nd October	AM PC

One was also reported from Abberton Reservoir in October but was never substantiated.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus totanus/robusta* UK

***T.t. totanus* is an uncommon resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor, whilst *T. t. robusta* is a common passage migrant and winter visitor.**

A total of 120 pairs was reported (111 in 2015), with breeding records being received from seven sites (seven in 2015). Reports of territorial and/or breeding pairs were received from the following locations (2015 figures in brackets): Broomhouse Flash Langham two (two); Cattawade Marshes, 13 (eight); Hamford Water, 15, two chicks; Old Hall Marshes, 19 (70), four chicks (30); Blue House Farm, ten, one chick; River Roach, one; Rainham Marshes, 60.

There were no four-figure counts except for those listed in the Wetland Bird Survey table.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,100 INT 1,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**6758**	**5766**	**6559**	**2424**	**3145**	**8651**	**7170**	**6796**	**5269**
Stour Estuary	711	237	381	313	59	165	645	501	591
Hamford Water	**1629**	**1213**	1017	nc	nc	**1753**	**1294**	**1451**	**1322**
Colne Estuary	587	223	489	286	180	817	385	148	625
Blackwater Estuary	**1509**	**2083**	**2294**	638	1090	**3237**	**2609**	**2804**	**1324**
Dengie	395	480	245	117	335	76	151	119	100
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	608	397	330	115	179	797	980	479	802
Foulness/Thames	**1315**	**1132**	**1802**	945	**1301**	**1806**	**1106**	**1294**	505

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* UK

Scarce passage migrant.

Estimated monthly numbers were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	0	0	0	0	12	4	5	13	0	0	0	0
Locations	0	0	0	0	6	3	3	7	0	0	0	0

In spring the only reports of more than singles came from Old Hall Marshes with four on 9th May and two on 7th June.

In autumn, reports of multiple occurrences were: Abberton Reservoir, two on 24th August; Bowers Marsh, three from 30th-31st July; Rainham Marshes, two on 23rd August.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* UK

Fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Recorded in every month with estimated numbers as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	27	16	24	25	6	29	69	110	56	44	8	10
Locations	16	10	12	15	2	7	10	17	11	7	7	8

Double-figure counts came from three sites (six in 2015), all in autumn, with peak totals as follows: Old Hall Marshes, 46 on 29th July; Vange Marsh, 17 on 23rd August; Abberton Reservoir, 28 on 9th August.

All the inland records were from Abberton Reservoir. As well as the record listed above, there were singles on 12th April, 29th August, 4th September and 27th November.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* UK

Common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Estimated monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	37	21	31	62	51	9	189	425	426	98	26	13
Inland	1	0	0	16	9	0	13	14	16	2	3	0
Totals	**38**	**21**	**31**	**78**	**60**	**9**	**202**	**439**	**442**	**100**	**29**	**13**
Locations	16	12	16	33	31	6	32	55	49	29	15	8

In spring, the highest count was 16 at Abberton Reservoir on 24th April.

In autumn, counts of 20 or more were reported from (maximum site counts): Mistley, 31 on 20th August; Deep Fleet Parkeston, 29 on 21st August; Frinton-on-Sea, 28 on 20th July; Fingringhoe Wick, 60 on 28th August; Old Hall Marshes, 21 on 13th September; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 52 on 5th September; Crouchside Foulness Island, 25 on 18th September; Leigh-on-Sea, 41 on 29th September; Two Tree Island, 42 on 7th August.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 6*+ INT 3,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**6**	**4**	**4**	**11**	**130**	**144**	**36**	**6**	**4**
Stour Estuary	1	0	2	4	29	22	7	0	1
Hamford Water	0	0	0	nc	nc	28	17	0	nc
Blackwater Estuary	0	0	1	1	46	13	6	2	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	nc
Foulness/Thames	5	3	0	5	46	78	5	4	3

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor: occasional in summer.

Monthly distribution and estimated numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	950	170	7	0	4	8	1	1	4	3	780	5

There were widespread reports around the coast in the first winter period with double-figure counts from: Frinton-on-Sea, southbound passage of 32 on 4th, 30 on 5th, 19 on 9th, 24 on 11th, 71 on 12th, 13 on 13th, 49 on 26th, 463 on 27th, 51 on 28th and 13 on 31st January, 22 on 1st, 13 on 3rd, 48 on 8th, 15 on 13th February; Gunners Park Shoebury, ten on 26th January; Southend Pier, 20

on 9th January; Canvey Point, 20 on 6th February; Thorney Bay Canvey Island, 18 on 3rd January; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 26 on 13th February; East Tilbury, 47 on 2nd and 32 on 8th January, 22 on 13th February; Tilbury, 20 on 3rd January, 13 on 14th February. Numbers dropped rapidly after mid-February and there were only 15 birds reported from mid-February through to the end of March.

There were no records in April and just seven records from May to the end of July: Frinton-on-Sea, two on 30th May, five on 1st and one on 2nd June, one on 12th July; Holland Haven, one on 8th May; Canvey Point, one on 10th May, two on 2nd June.

The first of the autumn was off Frinton-on-Sea on 16 August, but there were only six birds recorded in the County between then and the end of October. In November there were 384 recorded at Canvey Point on 7th, with 98 at East Tilbury on the same date, and 353 south past Frinton-on-Sea on 17th.

Very few were recorded thereafter, with just 18 in the last two weeks of November and five in December.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini*

Scarce, almost annual visitor, mainly in autumn. **EBSIP (113, 36, 149)**

Frinton-on-Sea	Juvenile	5th October	PBr
Holland Haven	Juvenile	5th October	DS

The Frinton and Holland Haven sightings were only ten minutes apart and refer to the same bird. One further unsubstantiated sighting was received.

BLACK-HEADED-GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* UK

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records from the main colonies included (2015 numbers in brackets where known): Hamford Water, no count (2,150 pairs); Abberton Reservoir, 30 chicks ringed on tern raft (85-90 pairs, 73 chicks ringed); Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, 200+ pairs but nests lost to high tides (1+); Heybridge Gravel Pit, minimum 500 pairs (100+); Lower Raypits Canewdon, 300 pairs (100); Blue House Farm, 90+ pairs; Paglesham Lagoon, 82 pairs (80); Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham, 100+ pairs (168).

Non-Wetland Bird Survey four-figure counts were reported as follows: Stour Estuary, 1,300 on 19th November; Frinton-on-Sea, 1,427 north on 21st March; Abberton Reservoir, 2,000 on 2nd and 10,000 on 12th April; Fingringhoe Ranges, 1,600 on 22nd May; The Hythe Colchester, 1,000 on 26th September; Boreham, 2,250 on 13th March; Lower Raypits Canewdon, 1,000 on 17th April; Rainham Marshes, 2,000 on 6th February, 1,479 on 25th September, 2,500 on 9th and 3,000 on 24th November; Thames Barrier Park, 2,300 on 20th March.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 22,000 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**7751**	**9013**	**10700**	**22576**	**12175**	**15412**	**7447**	**5101**	**4689**
Stour Estuary	633	1326	909	224	615	892	239	164	895
Hamford Water	1667	1092	2413	nc	nc	1884	2365	2103	1099
Holland Haven	330	90	815	280	nc	nc	150	125	15
Colne Estuary	159	249	513	214	130	550	84	21	80
Blackwater Estuary	408	863	752	695	1034	1338	646	368	410
Dengie	51	46	26	38	699	986	461	141	1
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	90	167	360	262	177	131	133	30	59
Foulness/Thames	2329	2695	3087	1874	8489	9248	2102	963	1181
Hanningfield Reservoir	165	520	289	74	616	nc	218	424	36
Lee Valley	313	376	403	51	13	55	122	147	122

LITTLE GULL *Chroicocephalus minutus*

Rare summer visitor, fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Monthly distribution and estimated numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	325	5	6	38	5	1	0	16	12	22	6	5

In contrast to 2015 (when there were no records in the first winter period), there were widespread records in early January with double-figure counts coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, southbound movements of 67 on 2nd, 23 on 3rd, 86 on 5th, 57 on 7th and 18 on 9th January; Holland Haven, 52 on 2nd and 20 on 5th January; East Tilbury, 14 on 7th January; Rainham Marshes, 11 on 2nd January. The first spring adult appeared on 26th March at Rainham Marshes. Although there were widespread and regular reports thereafter through to the end of May, there was just one double-figure count: Leez Reservoir Hartford End, ten on 11th April.

Abberton Reservoir hosted the only summer bird on 5th-7th June.

Autumn passage commenced on 20th August with singles at East Mersea and Rainham Marshes. Subsequent passage numbers were low with just one double-figure count from Rainham Marshes: 17 on 6th October.

In the second winter period records (singles unless stated otherwise) came from: Frinton-on-Sea, 7th November, three on 26th December; East Mersea, 30th November, West Mersea, 11th and 15th December; Canvey Point, three 22nd November; East Tilbury, 5th November;

FRANKLIN'S GULL *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Vagrant. **BBRC (1, 2, 3)**

Abberton Reservoir	Second calendar year	9th-16th May	EH *et al.*

The third County record and widely appreciated. The previous records were at Barking Bay, 13th-16th April 2000 and Southend Pier, 29th December 2000 (considered to relate to the same bird) and Canvey Seafront, 29th-30th November 2009. All records to date have related to second calendar year or adult birds.

Franklin's Gull
(RICHARD ALLEN)

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* UK

Increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records came from: Horsey Island Hamford Water, one pair; Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, one pair (unsuccessful); Blue House Farm, one pair fledged two young; Lower Raypits Canewdon, two pairs.

Substantial numbers gathered in the south-east of the County from mid-summer, centred on the Roach Estuary area. Here counts grew from 221 on 30th June to 415 on 8th August (AJL), a new County maximum (previously 281 at Paglesham Lagoon on 9th September 2015). Nearby Fleet Head Great Wakering held 150 on 4th July, Potton Creek Great Wakering, 190 on 24th July and Wakering Stairs, 111 on 28th August, presumably all relating to the same birds.

Double-figure counts are now widespread in the south and south-east of the County from mid-summer onwards but further afield, numbers remain much lower with the highest away from these arease being: Frinton-on-Sea, 11 on 19th July; Brightlingsea, 23 on 4th April; Fingringhoe Ranges, 14 on 22nd May; Bradwell, 18 on 8th April;

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* UK

Common Gull *Larus canus canus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 200 or more came from: Stour Estuary, 800 on 17th March; Frinton-on-Sea, southbound movements of 1,190 on 27th and 593 on 28th January, 234 on 1st February; Abberton Reservoir, 400 on 23rd January, 320 on 3rd February; Rainham Marshes, 291 on 6th February; Nags Head Lane Fishery Brentwood, 350 on 1st February; Wanstead Flats, 1,200 on 21st February, 500 on 10th and 410 on 13th November, 550 on 6th, 665 on 18th and 500 on 21st December; Tillingham, 200 on 29th October; Bulmer, 200 on 9th February; Chappel, 250 on 23rd January.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 7,000 INT 16,400	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**1002**	**1715**	**1236**	**143**	**6975**	**1464**	**676**	**850**	**663**
Stour Estuary	67	306	60	17	2	4	4	15	87
Hamford Water	10	9	31	nc	nc	16	7	12	40
Colne Estuary	5	1	7	0	0	2	2	3	1
Blackwater Estuary	102	564	194	7	13	32	28	29	21
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	11	23	17	1	105	48	11	10	6
Foulness/Thames	472	358	635	116	6768	1296	295	379	416

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* UK

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; a few during summer.

The only three-figure counts received were: Frinton-on-Sea, 210 north on 21st March, 114 south on 24th December; Abberton Reservoir, 150 on 12th December; Wat Tyler, 140 on 29th January; Rainham Marshes, 160 on 2nd February.

The regular leucistic bird was again seen at Pitsea Landfill site on 30th January, 6th and 13th February and 3rd September and at nearby Bowers Marsh on 10th May.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 760 INT 4,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**529**	**248**	**348**	**67**	**84**	**189**	**264**	**520**	**99**
Stour Estuary	8	4	3	1	1	5	36	2	5
Hamford Water	47	41	17	nc	nc	18	26	56	23

GB 760 INT 4,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holland Haven	0	1	0	1	nc	nc	2	3	15
Colne Estuary	2	1	4	0	2	8	6	18	6
Blackwater Estuary	12	19	9	7	5	28	16	44	8
Dengie	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	0	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	1	7	3	0	1	1	2	1	17
Foulness/Thames	438	159	302	52	56	97	144	395	23

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. EBSIP

St Osyth Beach	Juvenile	8th-16th January	RAJ

One unsubstantiated record was also received.

Annual totals for the last ten winters:

	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	2007/06	Average
Totals	2	3	4	5	0	2	3	3	6	2	3.0

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides glaucoides* UK

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. EBSIP (99, 54, 153)

Canvey	One	24th April	PBa
West Canvey Marsh	One	2nd May	PBa
Rainham Marshes	Juvenile	February 27th, 1st and 6th March	mo

Three further unsubstantiated records were received. The Rainham individual is assumed to be the same bird present at the end of 2015

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus argenteus/argentatus* UK

***L.a. argenteus* is present all year round and breeds in small numbers. Passage migrants and winter visitors also occur. *L. a. argentatus* is a common passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Records of summering birds came from (2015 numbers in brackets where known): Hamford Water, 100-200 pairs (no count); West Mersea, five chicks seen on 20 June; Jaywick/Clacton-on-Sea/Holland-on-Sea, scattered pairs on rooftops, no count (no count); Cobmarsh Island West Mersea, 23 chicks (no count); St Osyth Stone/Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, 50-60 pairs, plus one on a floating buoy in the Creek.

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 300 or more came from: Mistley, 200 on 20th November; Frinton-on-Sea, 857 north on 21st March, 427 south on 17th November, 500 south on 24th December; Holland Haven, 320 on 9th April; Abberton Reservoir, 400 on 12th December; Old Hall Marshes, 1,200 flying over on 1st September; Wallasea Island, 300 on 19th June; Bowers Marsh, 500 on 16th April, 400 on 24th May.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 7,300 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**1085**	**1736**	**1437**	**1926**	**1539**	**2621**	**777**	**1062**	**658**
Stour Estuary	89	159	154	132	71	101	76	52	113
Hamford Water	77	152	132	nc	nc	154	128	170	107
Holland Haven	65	75	90	320	nc	nc	35	90	105

GB 7,300 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colne Estuary	50	73	71	5	4	51	13	25	49
Blackwater Estuary	53	76	236	110	235	117	61	74	23
Dengie	24	105	54	130	144	131	97	45	1
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	13	146	76	15	21	46	32	13	103
Foulness/Thames	680	888	599	1168	1041	1950	318	563	152
Abberton Reservoir	12	27	11	0	4	67	2	nc	nc
Hanningfield Reservoir	10	27	0	1	18	nc	11	21	4
Lee Valley	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	nc

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* UK

Locally common late summer and winter visitor to the Thames. Very scarce elsewhere. EBSIP

The Thames Estuary and adjacent areas continue to dominate. Monthly distribution and estimated numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	12	12	5	1	0	0	1	1	11	12	1	3

Records from specific sites were as follows:

Bowers Marsh	One on 19th October.
Creekmouth Barking	Two on 6th September, one on 24th October.
Gallions Reach Beckton	One on 23rd October.
Hole Haven Creek Canvey Island	One on 17th February.
Eagle Pond Leyton	Singles 12th-22nd February, 10th March and 29th October.
Lyle/Thames Barrier Park	A total of nine different birds between 25th September and the end of the year.
Pitsea Landfill	An estimated 17 recorded with a peak count of five on 16th January.
Rainham Marshes	A minimum of 20 recorded, with peak counts of four on both 30th September and 24th October.
Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield	One on 14th February.
Walthamstow Wetlands	Singles 10th-17th January, 14th March and 24th December.
Wanstead Flats	One from 29th January – 12th February.
Wat Tyler	Singles on 6th and 13th February.
West Thurrock Marshes	Two on 13th March.

The monthly distribution and estimated number of birds at the two main sites at Pitsea Landfill and Rainham Marshes was:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pitsea Landfill	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Rainham Marshes	3	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	5	8	1	2

The only records outside the Thames area were all from Holland Haven: singles on 26th and 27th July and 26th August.

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	25	15	20	15	15	20	20	20	30	30	21

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis michahellis* UK

Fairly common late summer visitor and scarce winter visitor, mainly to the Thames EBSIP

Monthly distribution and estimated numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East Tilbury	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	34	12	4	2	0
Tilbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	17	1	0	0	0
Rainham Marshes	18	8	0	1	0	1	45	44	67	27	13	14
Other sites	14	10	18	2	4	0	16	26	41	26	4	12
Total	**32**	**18**	**18**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**135**	**121**	**120**	**57**	**19**	**26**

The vast majority were in the Thames and the peak counts were: East Tilbury, 34 on 20th August; Tilbury, 58 on 22nd July; West Thurrock Marshes, 15 on 16th September; Rainham Marshes, 51 on 30th September; Barking Bay, 12 on 24th October; Lyle Park Silvertown, ten on 31st December.

From 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Yellow-legged Gull records.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus graelsii/intermedius* UK

***L. f. graelsii* is present all year and breeds in increasing numbers, as well as being a common passage migrant. *L. f. intermedius* is a (common?) passage migrant.**

Records of summering birds came from (2015 numbers in brackets where known): Hamford Water, 200-300 pairs (no count); Clacton-on-Sea, two pairs; West Mersea, one pair; Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, about eight pairs (no count).

The only non-Wetland Bird Survey three-figure counts received were: Bowers Marsh, 200 on 16th April, 200 on 24th May, 100 on 30th October; East Tilbury, 100 on 11th September; Rainham Marshes, 100 on 1st February; Hanningfield Reservoir, 100 on 28th February; Chigwell, 100 on 28th June; Roding Valley Chigwell, 120 on 12th Jul.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,20 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Webs Total	**144**	**236**	**330**	**220**	**272**	**316**	**237**	**109**	**120**
Stour Estuary	15	61	36	41	62	57	51	5	47
Hamford Water	24	10	101	nc	nc	41	24	19	12
Holland Haven	3	2	2	6	nc	nc	2	1	4
Colne Estuary	3	4	5	9	5	7	0	0	1
Blackwater Estuary	16	31	125	88	83	86	23	16	1
Dengie	1	1	5	7	0	2	1	2	nc
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	3	3	4	2	16	12	8	2	3
Foulness/Thames	50	94	42	38	77	47	83	32	26

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* UK

Local summer visitor and common passage migrant.

A wintering bird was seen off Old Hall Marshes on 1st and West Mersea on 13th January. This was just the fifth record of wintering in the County and was presumably the individual seen at various sites during December 2015.

The first spring record was two off Frinton-on-Sea on 21st March. Spring passage was very light with only one double-figure count: Canvey Point, ten on 30th May. Autumn passage numbers built up from late July with counts of 20+ coming from: The Naze, 30 on 24th, 26 on 3rd and 25 on 13th August, 26 on 12th and 23 on 28th September; Walton Hall Marshes, 31 on 24th July; Frinton-on-Sea, 22 on 18th September; Canvey Point, 39 on 18th, 36 on 19th, 40 on 27th and 20 on 28th

August, 20 on 5th, 32 on 6th and 20 on 10th 16th September; East Tilbury, 27 on 17th and 48 on 27th August; Tilbury, 109 on 24th August; Beckton, 21 on 16th, 60 on 24th, 23 on 26th and 110 on 27th August, 39 on 14th September.

The last bird of the year flew south past Frinton-on-Sea on 26th October.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* UK

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons albifrons*

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the spring was at Frinton-on-Sea on 22nd April. There were double–figure counts in spring of presumed passage birds from: Colne Point, 26 on 3rd May; St Osyth Beach, 12 on 10th May and Brightlingsea, ten on 14th May.

There was a maximum count of 42 on 1st June at Horsey Island Hamford Water, the main breeding site in the County, but it is not known how many young fledged. Pairs were also reported from St Osyth Stone, Colne Point and Old Hall Marshes, but all were believed to have been unsuccessful.

Double-figure counts post-breeding and during autumn passage were reported from: Horsey Island Hamford Water, 50 on 25th July; The Naze, 26 on 23rd July; Colne Point, 19 on 24th July; Fingringhoe Wick, 17 on 3rd August; Crouchside Foulness Island, 32 on 21st August; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 13 on 28th August; East Tilbury, 29 on 26th and 44 on 28th August.

The last bird of the year was off Wakering Stairs on 30th September.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii dougallii* UK

Rare passage migrant. EBSIP (39, 8, 47)

Canvey Point	Adult	1st-2nd June	mo
Tilbury	Adult	24th August	PL

The bird seen at Canvey Point was photographed and follows one at the same location on 16th September 2015. All recent records have come from the Thames (two at The Naze on 29th August 1999 being the most recent record elsewhere in the County).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo hirundo* UK

Common summer resident and passage migrant.

The first of the spring was at Abberton Reservoir on 28th March.

Three-figure counts of birds on spring passage were reported from: Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 6th May; Rainham Marshes, 100 on 16th, 120 on 22nd and 200 on 23rd April.

Six reports of confirmed breeding were received (2015 figures in brackets where known): Hamford Water, 1+ pairs bred; Daltes Lane Gravel Pit St Osyth, 18 pairs fledged a minimum of 15 young (20 pairs, 30+ fledged); Fingringhoe Wick, two pairs bred; Tollesbury Wick, 12 pairs bred; Abberton Reservoir, 25+ pairs bred on rafts but mostly predated by Carrion Crows (32); Blue House Farm, seven pairs fledged seven young (two pairs, one fledged).

Breeding birds were also reported, without full details from: Old Hall Marshes, Heybridge Gravel Pit, Wallasea Island, Lower Raypits Canewdon, Hanningfield Reservoir, Wat Tyler and Walthamstow Wetlands.

There was a strong passage in autumn with three-figure counts from: Old Hall Marshes, 331 (at an evening roost) on 17th August; Bradwell, 130 on 12th August; Canvey Point, 132 on 19th and 190 on 27th August, 275 on 5th and 725 on 6th September; East Tilbury, 475 on 26th, 297 on 27th and 460 on 28th August; Tilbury, 1,437 on 24th, 178 on 25th, 498 on 26th, 215 on 27th and 253 on 28th August; Barking Bay, 130 on 18th July; Beckton, 160 on 13th, 225 on 19th, 150 on 24th and 100 on 28th August.

The last of the year was at Old Hall Marshes on 17th October.

Franklin's Gull, Abberton, May (SEAN NIXON)

Glaucous Gull, St Osyth, January (SIMON COX)

Forster's Tern, Mistley, November (SEAN NIXON)

Cuckoo, Abberton, May (SEAN NIXON)

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* UK

Fairly common passage migrant. Bred in 1959 and 1960.

Monthly distribution and estimated numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	0	0	0	100	65	0	0	160	150	17	2	0
Inland	0	0	0	170	30	0	1	1	2	1	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**270**	**95**	**0**	**1**	**161**	**152**	**18**	**2**	**0**

Spring passage commenced with two at Rainham Marshes on 6th April. Double-figure counts came from: Abberton Reservoir, 12 on 12th April; Hanningfield Reservoir, 15 on 16th and 60 on 24th April, ten on 22nd May; Rainham Marshes, 15 on 24th April, 12 on 14th and 12 on 30th May; Gallions Reach Beckton, 50 on 24th April, 24 on 11th May; King George V Reservoir, 38 on 24th April; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, 12 on 18th May.

The first of the autumn was at Walthamstow Wetlands on 30th July. Double-figure counts came from: Bradwell, 21 on 4th and 12 on 28th September; Deal Hall Dengie, 15 on 30th September; Canvey Point, 22 on 27th August, 31 of 6th September; Tilbury, ten on 26th August; Rainham Marshes, 12 on 19th, 16 on 28th August, 12 on 18th September; Gallions Reach Beckton, 32 on 14th, 20 on 16th, 11 on 19th and 15 on 20th August.

There were two records in November: juveniles at Old Hall Marshes on 2nd and Frinton-on-Sea on 13th.

FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri*

Vagrant. BBRC (1, 1, 2)

Mistley	First winter	19th-20th November	NH

The second County record (the first being the long-staying bird first seen at West Mersea on 18th November 1998 and last seen on 1st September 2000 in the Blackwater Estuary) and the 21st British record. It was subsequently seen at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk on 21st November and Seabrook, Kent on 26th November.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Very scarce passage migrant. EBSIP (51, 15, 66)

Canvey Point	Juvenile	6th September	JSa
East Tilbury	Juvenile	7th September	PW

Presumed to be the same bird; the first in the Thames since a juvenile at Rainham Marshes on 26th August 2011. The recent trend of autumn records continues (the last in spring was at Abberton Reservoir on 10th May 2007).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger niger*

Fairly common passage migrant.

Monthly distribution and estimated numbers were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	170	77	0	0	0
Inland	0	0	0	4	131	0	0	5	28	1	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**138**	**0**	**0**	**175**	**105**	**1**	**0**	**0**

The first of the spring was at Walthamstow Wetlands on 16th April (the same date as 2015). A strong passage followed with records coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, four on 10th May; Brightlingsea, one on 16th May; River Roach, two on 15th May; Bowers Marsh, two on 26th May; Rainham Marshes, six on 10th, two on 12th May; Abberton Reservoir, two on 24th and one on 26th April, 56 on 5th, five on 6th, seven on 8th, six on 9th, one on 13th, four on 14th, two on 15th May; Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham, one on 13th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, six on 5th, four on 6th, 17 on 7th, one on 9th, one on 10th, eight on 13th May; Walthamstow Wetlands, three on 6th, one on 10th May; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, one on 7th May; King George V Reservoir, six on 11th, one on 12th May.

There were no reports of summering birds and autumn passage commenced on 10th August with one at East Tilbury. Subsequent passage was light with double -figure counts coming from: Abberton Reservoir, 21 on 8th September; Wakering Stairs, 73 on 28th August; Canvey Point, 12 on 2nd and 13 on 6th September; East Tilbury, ten on 26th, 28 on 27th and 53 on 28th August, 17 on 7th September.

The last bird of the year was at Hanningfield Reservoir on 12th October.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* UK

Uncommon, principally late autumn passage migrant.

Although the annual total of records was slightly above average, this was heavily influenced by the significant numbers in January (following on from high numbers in December 2015) and autumn passage numbers were low.

Monthly distribution and estimated number of birds as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	134	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	36	7	19	2

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Number	205	182	205	120	222	234	153	237	98	177	183.3

There were a significant number of birds recorded in the first winter period, mainly in January, with records coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, southerly passage of 11 on 1st, 21 on 2nd, four on 3rd, nine on 4th, 16 on 5th, one on 6th, five on 7th, 11 on 9th, two on 10th, six on 11th, four on 12th, two on 13th and one on 26th January, singles on 1st, 9th and 13th February; Holland Haven, one on 1st, ten on 2nd, one on 4th, seven on 5th, eight on 9th and three on 13th January; St Osyth, one on 1st January; Gunners Park Shoebury, singles on 3rd, 7th and 26th January; Shoeburyness, one on 7th January; Southend Pier, one on 9th January; Canvey Point, one on 29th January; Canvey Seafront, one on 13th February; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, two on 13th February; East Tilbury, four on 2nd January.

In contrast there was just a single record during spring passage: Frinton-on-Sea on 27th March.

A single bird was also seen during summer: Foulness Point on 2nd June.

Autumn passage commenced with singles at Mucking Flats and West Thurrock Marshes on 16th September. Subsequent records came from: Frinton-on-Sea, five on 17th September, two on 4th and one on 5th October; Holland Haven, one on 4th October, two on 12th and two on 13th November; Wrabness/Mistley/Manningtree area, one lingered from 11th-15th October; Gunners Park Shoebury, five on 17th September and three on 7th November; Canvey Point, 27 on 17th and two on 18th September, one on 1st and 14 on 7th November, one on 3rd December; Canvey Seafront, one on 16th October; East Tilbury, one on 24th October, Rainham Marshes, singles on 1st November and 3rd December.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon, principally late autumn, passage migrant. **EBSIP**

Another below average year, with just 16 birds recorded. The monthly totals are shown in the following table, which reflects the generally later occurrence (majority in November) of this species compared to Arctic Skua (majority in August-September).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	11	0

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Number	16	19	45	16	79	100	18	44	54	41	43.2

Only one spring passage record: Frinton-on-Sea, 12th May.

Autumn passage was also very light with records coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, two on 4th October, two on 7th and two on 17th November; Holland Haven, three on 4th October, one on 7th November; Bradwell, one on 2nd November; Gunners Park Shoebury, one on 27th November; Canvey Point, one on 7th September, one 6th and three on 7th and one on 27th November.

From 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Pomarine Skua records.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

UK

Fairly common, principally autumn, passage migrant.

Another poor year in the County with well-below average numbers. Monthly distribution and estimated number of birds recorded as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	38	41	2	6	0

Approximate annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Number	89	87	203	128	253	369	252	271	311	441	240.4

There were no spring records in 2016.

Autumn passage commenced on 17th July with one off Frinton-on-Sea. Passage was very light thereafter with records coming from: The Naze, one on 15th September; Frinton-on-Sea, one on 20th July, singles on 11th and 18th and two on 27th August, one on 17th September, three on 24th November; Holland Haven, one on 27th September, two on 24th November; Wakering Stairs, three on 17th September; Gunners Park Shoebury, two on 17th September; Canvey Point, one on 19th, 26 on 27th and three on 29th August, one on 3rd, five on 5th, seven on 7th and 11 on 17th and five on 19th September, one on 7th November; Canvey Seafront, one on 5th October; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, two on 28th August; East Tilbury, one on 27th August, one on 4th and three on 10th September; Rainham Marshes, one on 17th September and one on 8th October.

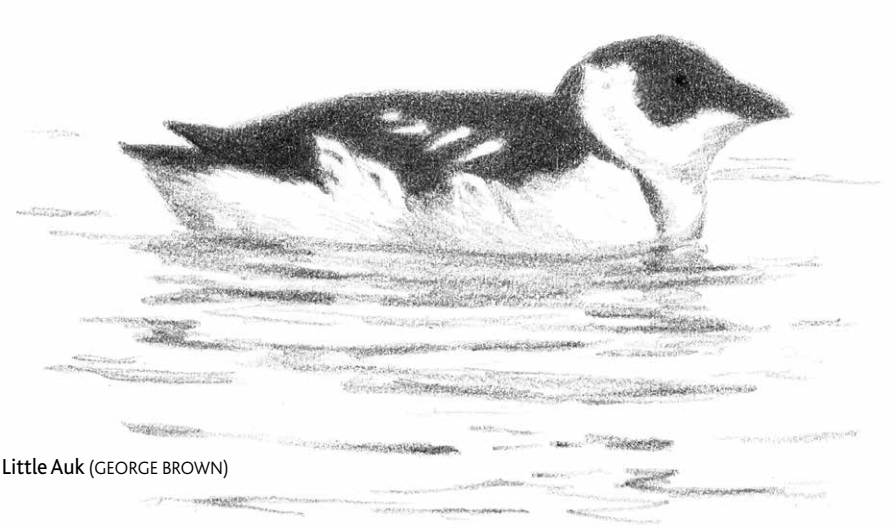
LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant. **EBSIP (147, 46, 193)**

No records in 2016; the first year in the County without a single record since 1987.

Numbers for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Number	0	1	5	1	3	8	3	1	4	5	3.1



Little Auk (GEORGE BROWN)

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle alle*

Scarce winter visitor, but subject to periodic influxes.

The third best year since 2007, but numbers were none-the-less small.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Number	16	21	4	11	3	17	5	5	1	186	26.9

One at Holland Haven on 18th January was the only report in the first winter period.

A small influx to the north-east of the County in November: Harwich, two on 3rd; Titchmarsh Marina Hamford Water, one lingered from 13th-17th; Frinton-on-Sea, four on 3rd, one on 4th and six on 7th; Holland Haven, two on 7th.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge aalge/albionis* UK

Both races are passage migrants and winter visitors.

Monthly distribution and estimated number of birds recorded was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	65	205	1	0	9	4	0	0	4	14	31	26

In the first winter period there was a significant influx in late January to early February. All records: Frinton-on-Sea, one on 4th, three on 9th, 24 on 12th, ten on 13th, three on 18th, four on 27th and four on 31st January, 39 on 1st, an exceptional 111 on 2nd, seven on 3rd, eight on 4th, 21 on 6th, two on 12th, three on 13th and two on 27th February; Holland Haven, two on 9th and two on 13th January, one on 28th February; West Mersea, singles on 10th and 28th February; Old Hall Marshes, one on 10th February; Blackwater Estuary, one on 13th March; Tollesbury Wick, one on 25th February; Gunners Park Shoebury, six on 3rd January; Southend Pier, one on 8th, two on 13th and four on 14th January; Southend Seafront, one on 21st February; Canvey Point, one on 13th February.

Spring passage was very light, with the only records coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, five on 27th May; Maplin Bank off Foulness Island, four on 2nd June; Canvey Point, four on 27th May.

Autumn passage commenced on 7th September with one at Canvey Point. Subsequent records came from (singles unless stated otherwise): Frinton-on-Sea, 27th September, 4th and two on 5th

October; Holland Haven, 4th, 5th and 24th October; St Osyth, 4th October; Brightlingsea, 5th October; Maldon, 8th October; Maplin Bank off Foulness Island, 13th September; Canvey Point, 17th September, 6th October.

Numbers remained low in the second winter period with records from: Frinton-on-Sea, three on 6th, one on 7th and three on 20th November, two on 12th December; Holland Haven, three on 6th, one on 7th, two on 20th and two on 24th November; Colne Point, one on 29th December; Brightlingsea, one on 11th November; Bradwell, one on 2nd November; Gunners Park Shoebury, four on 22nd November, seven on 29th December; Southend Pier, one on 27th November, one on 29th December; Southend Seafront, one on 4th, one on 18th and ten on 24th December; Canvey Point, one on 6th and ten on 7th November, singles on 2nd and 31st December.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda islandica* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. *A. t. torda* may occur in Essex waters but there have been no ringing recoveries to confirm this.

Monthly distribution and estimated number of birds recorded was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	5	0	2	47	18	0	0	2	0	3	1

The only records in the first winter period came from Frinton-on-Sea in February: two on 1st and three on 2nd.

One was on Aveley Pools Rainham Marshes, on 9th-11th April. It was thought that the bird had collided with overhead power lines and it unfortunately died on the last date. This preceded a strong spring showing in the County with records coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, 21 on 27th, seven on 30th and three on 31st May, three on 2nd June; Gunners Park Shoebury, one on 10th April; Canvey Point, one on 23rd and 15 on 27th May, 15 on 2nd June.

The first of the autumn was at Canvey Point on 16th-17th September, with one at Colne Point on 24th September. The only other records before the end of the year were singles at Canvey Point on 7th, 24th and 27th November and Southend-on-Sea on 24th December.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* UK

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. EBSIP (97, 25, 122)

With no records in 2016 this species is becoming increasingly scarce in the County. Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Number	0	1	0	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	1.7

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia livia*

Common resident.

There were no breeding records worthy of mention. The largest flocks at other seasons were as follows: Westcliff-on-Sea, 130 on 5th January, 125 on 1st June, 145 on 26th September and the same number on 21st December; Rainham Marshes, 340 on the landfill site on 23rd November; Valentine's Park Ilford, 100 on both 26th November and 26th December; Wanstead, 100 on 8th December.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas oenas* UK

Fairly common resident and passage migrant.

Recorded during the spring and early summer (April-early July) from around 151 sites (168 in 2015), of which 63 (64) were in the south of the County, 62 (58) in the north and north-east, and 26 (46) in the west and north-west. Twelve nests were monitored at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe (13 in

2015), ten pairs bred in the Braintree and Bocking area, and six on Foulness Island (13). Elsewhere, a total of 24 territories were reported from Wormingford, Lamarsh, the Belchamps, Pebmarsh, Wickham St Paul, and Ridgewell Airfield Ashen. All other reports referred to 1-4 singing ♂♂/ territories.

Reports of three-figure flocks during the early part of the year came from just three sites: Wallasea Island, 120 on 6th January; Colne Point, 100 on 16th February; Boreham, 182 on 11th April.

There were no reports of diurnal passage during the autumn.

Three-figure counts came from three sites at the end of the year: Rainham Marshes, 100 on 20th November and up to 229 in December; Mucking, 113 on 24th November; Wallasea Island, 150 on 6th December.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus palumbus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no records worthy of note relating to the breeding season.

The huge acreages of oilseed rape and winter wheat in the more intensively farmed areas of the County once again attracted some large flocks of hungry pigeons. Gatherings of 500+ during the period January-April were reported as follows: January: Barleylands Billericay, 1,500 on 18th; Great Stambridge, 500 on 28th; Ridgewell Airfield Ashen, 500 on 31st. February: Terling, 500 on 2nd; Belchamp St Paul, 500 on 9th. March: Orsett Fen, 600 on 2nd and 1,000 on 27th. March: Leez Priory Hartford End, 1,000 on 4th; north Dengie, 590 on 13th; Chigborough Lakes/Lofts Farm Gravel Pit, 1,000 on 17th. April: Wat Tyler, 500 on 22nd.

As usual, autumn migration peaked during October and early November, and was most evident in the south of the County but was not so pronounced as in 2015 (all records of 300 and over are given): It began with a count of 486 moving south at West Thurrock between 07.50 and 08.32 on 23rd October. On 2nd November 3,565 moved south along the Mardyke Valley and 1,940 over Chafford Hundred Grays, followed by 11,200 at Rainham Marshes the next day. The movement peaked on 6th when 12,000 flew over Brook Farm Upminster but it petered out quickly thereafter, the only subsequent passage of note involving 600 at Rainham Marshes on 7th and 300 at Leyton on 8th. A count of 350 at Hanningfield Reservoir, on 6th November may have been related to this movement. Elsewhere in the County the only reports of autumn passage came from Frinton-on-Sea, where 96 moved south in October, including 57 on 31st and 467 in November, with 229 on 3rd and 121 on 19th.

There were no counts of note in the closing two months of the year.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur turtur* UK

Rapidly declining summer resident and passage migrant.

It is difficult to be optimistic about the continued presence of this species as a breeding bird in Essex, or indeed Great Britain as a whole. The number of territories or singing ♂♂ continues to decrease, only 33 birds being reported (84 in 2015) from 21 sites (52 in 2015). An increasing number of sightings are now coming from beneath garden bird feeders, so desperate has the situation become on farmland. At one such site in Boreham the number of birds visiting the feeders fell from 14 in 2014 and 2015 to just four this year but in another site, at Weeley, numbers remained constant at six, having fallen from 11 in 2014. On Foulness Island the number of breeding pairs was up slightly to seven pairs compared with six in 2015. The only reports of fledged juveniles were all in August: Fingringhoe Gravel Pit, one on 3rd; Little Maplestead, one on 5th, and Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham two on 9th.

In total, there were reports from around 61 localities (90 in 2015, 100 in 2014) during the summer, of which 39 (51) came from the north and north-east, 17 (14) from the south, and only five (25) from the west and north-west. The figures for the north-west were much reduced on 2015, the reason for which is unclear but may be due to poorer coverage. However, it has undoubtedly disappeared from many parts of inland Essex.

The first sighting of the spring was made at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 20th April while the last of the autumn was seen at Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 29th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

Common resident.

The only reports of more than five breeding pairs came from the Braintree and Bocking area, where 60+ pairs bred, an increase on recent years and the Mardyke Valley, where nine pairs were on territory.

At other seasons flocks of 25+ birds were reported as follows: Wickford Memorial Park, 100 on 17th January; Rainham Marshes, up to 31 January- April and 61 on 23rd November; Hampton Barns Great Stambridge, 56 on 23rd September; Stanford Rivers, 40 on 17th November.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus canorus* UK

Fairly common summer resident and passage migrant.

Both the number of territories/singing ♂♂/ pairs (125) and the number of sites (93) were lower than in 2015 (129 and 105 respectively). Of these, 27 reports came from south Essex (43 in 2015), 61 (47) from the north-east, and four (15) from the north-west. Additional records, without any indication of breeding activity mentioned by the observers, came from approximately 72 further sites during May and June, compared with 90-95 in 2015. Three or more territories/singing ♂♂ were reported from the following sites (with 2015 figures in brackets where available): Foulness Island, 15 (12); Heybridge Gravel Pit 3-4 (3-4); Rainham Marshes, five; Old Hall Marshes, three.

The first bird of the spring was seen at North Weald on 7th April. Later in the season juveniles were seen at Colne Point, Old Hall Marshes, Blue House Farm, Wat Tyler and Rainham Marshes. The latest was the juvenile seen at Blue House Farm on 8th September.

All but one of the records of the scarcer rufous (hepatic) morph ♀♀ were in May, as follows: Brightlingsea, 14th; Abberton Reservoir, 15th, 17th and 27th; Blue House Farm, 16th, Benfleet Downs, 27th; Heybridge Gravel Pit 28th (and 21st June); Fingringhoe Wick, 31st.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
Barn Owl *Tyto alba alba*

Local resident, primarily in low-lying coastal areas.

In total, 658 records involving at least 243 individuals were received from 145 sites (617 records of 206 individuals in 2015, 421 records of 371 individuals in 2014). The Society received reports of 56 breeding pairs and there were also five possible breeders, (44 plus one suspected in 2015, 68 in 2014). However, ringing data from the BTO show a total of 175 Barn Owls ringed in Essex in 2016 of which 168 were chicks suggesting in the region of 65-70 successful pairs with the probability that a few more were unsuccessful or not reported. It is also likely that published totals of breeding pairs in the recent past have underestimated the true County totals.

There was no repeat of the exceptional numbers of 2014, though there appears to be continuing rise in numbers; long term the species is stable or slowly increasing. Breeding was up on 2015, however, by the end of the year sightings had tailed off with only 22 birds reported in December.

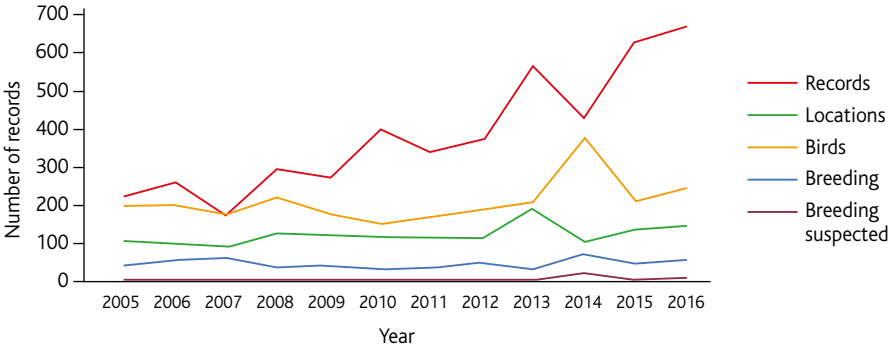
This species has its stronghold in the coastal low-lying areas between the Blackwater and Stour estuaries in the northeast, with far fewer records coming from the western part of the County.

Outside the breeding season, records peaked in January, when 48 were reported (55 in January and February 2015, 32 in December 2014).

Dead birds were reported at Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury on 4th September, on the A120 at Rayne on 10th March and in a water butt at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 30th October.

A fresh pellet was found on the saltings beside a low perch at West Thurrock Marshes on 24th November, an unexpected place for the species to be.

Number of records of Barn Owl from 2005–2016



TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco sylvatica* UK

Common resident.

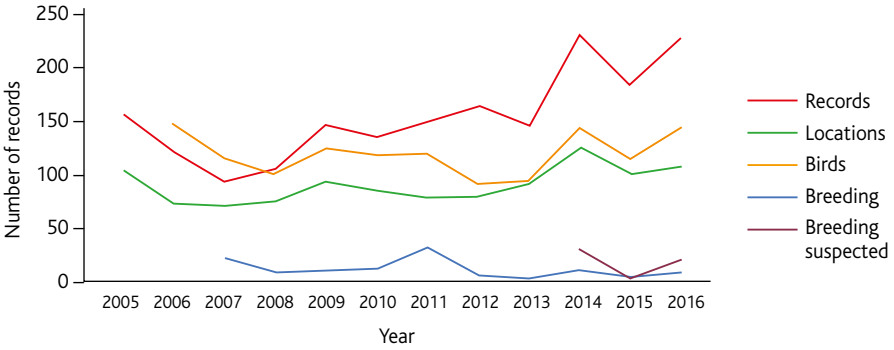
In total, 226 records were received concerning 146 individuals from 109 locations (183 records of 114 individuals from 101 locations in 2015, 229 records of 145 from 126 locations in 2014). 2016 was a bettter year than 2015 but not as good as 2014. However, the ten- yearly average is 117 birds and 146 is a marked improvement on this. Evidence of breeding was worrying low, though it is acknowledged that it is not easy to confirm and the reality may be better than the results suggest. Only 22 sites had birds present during both halves of the year (but this was an improvement on the 14 in 2015). In general the species has a wide distribution in the County.

Breeding was proven for 11 pairs at 11 locations plus a further 21 suspected as breeding (four in 2015 plus ten suspected, 12 pairs in 2014 plus 31 suspected). These figures must surely be a significant underestimate of the County population and illustrate how little quality data is received on some species. The upper valley of the River Colne appears to be one area where this species is doing well and the majority of breeding records received came from this area.

Seven birds were taken into care, two of which were found trapped in chimneys; all of them were successfully rehabilitated. One bird was found freshly dead in a car park at Shut Heath Wood Great Totham on 24th March.

All records are welcomed and hopefully the 2018-2019 BTO survey will clarify the status of this species. Tawny Owls can breed very early and young may have fledged by the beginning of March. It is possible to start recording territorial birds as early as the New Year. Observers are encouraged to record birds holding territory, even if breeding is not proved, to allow the most complete picture of the species' status to be given.

Number of records of Tawny Owl from 2005–2016



LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua vidalii*

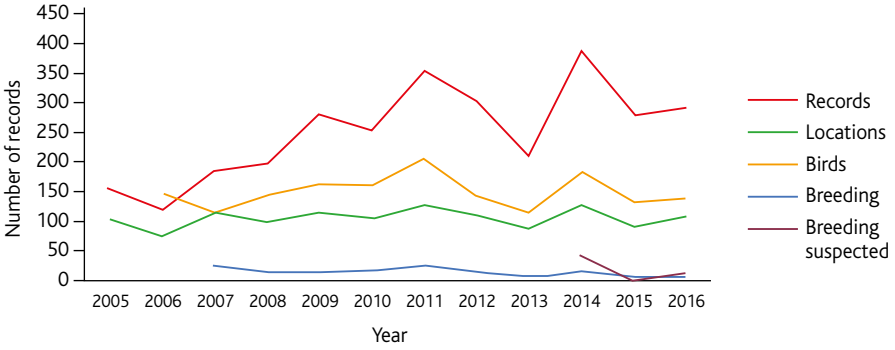
Fairly common resident.

There were 298 records concerning 141 individuals from 112 localities (282 records of 131 individuals from 92 locations in 2015, 386 records of 183 individuals from 128 sites in 2014).

A disappointing seven breeding records were submitted with a further 12 suspected (six plus one suspected in 2015, 16 in 2014 plus 41 suspected). Unlike 2015 breeding was recorded throughout the County. Confirming breeding for this species is not easy and all suspected breeding needs to be reported to the recorder as the figures reported greatly underestimate the breeding population.

Two birds were taken into care during the year. One was found in an air vent at Halstead on 4th July, the other was found at the roadside in Thorrington on 30th June. Both were successfully rehabilitated and released.

Number of records of Little Owl from 2005–2016



LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus otus*

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 17 records concerning 14 birds, all from seven locations (15 records of six birds from four sites in 2015, ten records of 13 birds from eight locations in 2014).

There was successful breeding at two locations in 2016 (none in 2015, four in 2014).

Once again there was no evidence of a winter roost in either winter period or any significant evidence of migrants, though one was heard calling in the Lee Valley on 14th November.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus flammeus* UK

Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

In total, 615 records concerning 111 individuals from 83 locations were received (474 records of 119 individuals from 62 locations in 2015, 231 records of 74 individuals from 45 locations in 2014). The majority of records came from coastal areas.

Having bred in the County in 2012 and 2013, this was the third year running without a breeding record, though a pair was seen jousting in May and two birds remained at one site until mid-June. Single birds seen in July and September presumably summered.

Monthly maxima (excluding known recently fledged birds) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016 totals	46	30	31	36	19	2	1	0	1	32	19	32
2015 totals	28	32	21	23	1	0	1	3	11	63	46	33
2014 totals	14	0	7	5	2	2	3	4	10	30	35	29

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013 totals	21	25	19	15	2	1	1	1	1	16	12	11
2012 totals	83	66	75	67	41	12	6	10	16	36	25	16
2011 totals	3	8	9	16	1	0	0	0	8	70	73	89
2010 totals	8	3	4	7	1	0	0	1	11	19	20	7
2009 totals	14	6	11	12	1	0	0	0	1	5	2	7

January saw higher numbers than in December 2015, although some of these had moved on by February with the majority of wintering birds departed in May. In the second winter period migrant birds appeared from 8th October.

The highest count for the first winter period was six at Rainham Marshes on 22nd February. In the second winter period there were nine in the air together on Wallasea Island on 28th December.

One was found long dead at Blue House Farm on 18th April.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus* UK

Rare passage migrant and summer visitor. EBSIP

A second blank year in a row, although one unsubstantiated record was received.

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0.6

SWIFT *Apus apus apus* UK

Common summer resident and passage migrant.

Probable breeding totalled 60-61 pairs in 12 locations (64 from 22 in 2015). The Braintree and Bocking area (with 18 pairs) and Westcliff-on-Sea (13 pairs spread over eight places) contributed the lion's share. Whilst acknowledging the difficulties, it is disappointing that the increasing energy put into the Save our Swifts campaign has not yielded any uplift to breeding observations.

The first sighting of the year was a single bird on the fairly early date of 6th April over Leigh-on-Sea, but this was followed by a gap until 15th April before the spring migration started to kick in. The final sighting of the year was two birds over Walthamstow Wetlands on the unexceptional date of 19th September.

There was a solitary four-figure count during the year: "1,000s"+ at Hanningfield Reservoir on 24th April. Also, unlike previous years, there were no reports of large movements past Frinton-on-Sea. The total of birds passing throughout the whole of July was only 813, contrasting with five individual days in 2015 when the count surpassed 1,000.

The Swift database has increased by some 150 records this year, so a reduction in reporting is not likely to be the explanation for the apparent decline in the large gatherings. Prevailing weather systems and lack of timely insect hatchings over waterways may have contributed. The outcome is clearly an issue for concern. All records would be appreciated to help with monitoring the status of this species in Essex.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis ispida* UK

Fairly common resident and passage migrant.

Confirmed and probable breeding totalled 14 pairs at 13 locations (21 from 18 in 2015). A pair at Rainham Marshes was reported to have produced two broods. In the first winter period 121 records were received from 100 locations (172 from 67 in 2015) and in the second period 126 records from 97 (235 from 90).

The database for 2016 totalled some 1,350 records (over 1,200 in 2015). Inevitably there are duplications in the records – multiple reports by different observers and sightings of the same bird

over adjacent days etc. Last year showed a welcome uplift in the number of reports and this has been more than matched by the present year. Yet the number of breeding records has dropped, as have the number of winter records, although the number of winter locations has increased.

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from a single year but a possible explanation is that observer effort is being maintained (more reports, more locations) but the species itself continues to show a decline. The Kingfisher is susceptible to environmental and climatic factors and is in decline nationally. All records would be appreciated (particularly of breeding and winter sightings) so that a better idea can be obtained on what is happening in the County.

Taking individual sites, four birds were noted in Chafford Gorges Grays on 12th February and 24th May and four also at Rainham Marshes on 8th April, 21st September and 13th November.

HOOPOE *Upopa epops epops*

Scarce passage migrant **EBSIP (194, 28, 222)**

Colchester	One	12th April	SNw

This matches the three preceding years' single records. There were no records in 2012, but 2010 and 2011 were exceptional years with five records in each. The usual pattern is 0–3 records per annum. Most observations are of spring overshoots.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla torquilla*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. **EBSIP**

Old Hall Marshes	One	21st-24th August	mo
Holland Haven	One	1st September	MR *et al.*
Frinton-on-Sea	One	7th September	PBr

A poor year for the species but there were a number of other reports which would have brought the numbers up to the level of a typical year had they been substantiated. The usual bias towards the north-east of the County and autumnal records is self-evident. The Old Hall Marshes bird had the good grace to stay for four days and remain mostly near the car park, allowing many observers to achieve an annual tick.

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	3	4	8	13	4	5	10	5	9	1	6.2

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor comminutus* UK

Scarce resident.

No confirmed breeding reports were received. Probable breeding totalled eight pairs in seven locations (four from four in 2015). Essentially all the breeding evidence came in the form of pairs observed in suitable habitat or courtship behaviour (drumming).

Overall there were 67 reports from 27 locations (90 from 30 in 2015). Again selected locations dominated the numbers: 13 records from Shut Heath Wood Great Totham and nine from Belhus Woods Aveley.

Whilst the uplift in probable breeding records is encouraging the overall numbers are much less so. The species is hanging on in established strongholds with only random sightings elsewhere. Unsurprisingly there were only five reports received after 8th May and three of these were autumn sightings at Abberton and Hanningfield Reservoirs – a welcome opportunity to catch up with this elusive species if missed in the breeding season.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major anglicus/major*

***D. m. anglicus* is a common resident whilst *D. m. major* may occur as a rare passage migrant.**

Submitted records totalled around 1,850 (1,870+ in 2015). Confirmed or probable breeding occurred in 110 territories at 73 locations (79 from 50 in 2015). The evidence points to increased reporting of breeding activity for a species that is widely regarded as substantially under-reported in recent years. The highest location count was 13 observed at Dunton Plotlands on 1st June.

A bird seen at The Naze on 6th October was most likely a local-wanderer, although a possible continental migrant cannot entirely be ruled out..

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis viridis*

Common resident.

Confirmed or probable breeding totalled 78 records from 51 locations (78 from 46 in 2015). The overall database for the year is a little lower than previously at 2,400+ (2,700+ in 2015).

The underlying conclusion remains as before. For a largely sedentary species there is an imbalance between the low number of breeding reports and the high number of sightings. Only five days during the whole year passed without a single record being posted. The highest individual location count was 11 in the Mardyke Valley on 1st September and again on the 9th September. The species is clearly well established in the County.

All breeding reports would be welcome.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus* UK

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed for 18 pairs at 18 sites (27 at 20 in 2015). In addition, four pairs on Foulness (five in 2015) and three pairs at Rainham Marshes (three in 2015) were reported without express confirmation of breeding, whereas in 2015 breeding had been established at those sites. Assuming that those pairs bred, the figures were closely similar to 2015 (and anyway are presumably mainly a reflection of observer diligence rather than any real measure of breeding success across the County). Fledging was confirmed at eight sites. In addition, 25 pairs were reported from a further 22 sites (24 from 21 in 2015) during the breeding season (taken as April/July) but without confirmation of breeding. Again these figures must be primarily a measure of observer coverage.

Reported sightings continued to increase, with a total of 2,882 (2,794 in 2015). The great majority came through BirdTrack and will therefore have involved multiple sightings of the same individuals during repeated surveys. Double-figure counts came almost monthly from Foulness Island, with a peak in the first half of the year of 19 on 10th April and, in the second, 21 on 18th September. At Rainham Marshes there was a maximum of 11 on 31st August. No other site recorded double-figures but there were six at the King George V Reservoir on 6th August and up to seven on Wallasea Island on several dates throughout the year.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

Rare passage migrant and summer visitor. EBSIP (28, 5, 33)

Vange Marsh	Second calendar year ♀	14th-29th May	SAr

This delightful bird showed superbly well to all comers and, particularly later in its stay, also visited neighbouring Wat Tyler, Pitsea, Pitsea Hall Marsh and Bowers Marsh.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius aesalon* UK

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of sightings during the year, 265, was similar to 2015 (258) but from a reduced number of sites, 45 (58 in 2015). The available evidence as usual pointed to the same few birds being responsible for multiple records at neighbouring sites. No more than two birds were recorded at any

one site on any one day but there were at least three individuals at Wallasea Island in November – an adult ♂, a first-year ♂ and at least one ♀.

The last bird of the spring was one at Fingringhoe Wick on 29th May, after three reports from other sites in the second week of that month. There were no summer records and the first of the autumn was at East Tilbury on 28th August, after which there was then another gap until one flew south at Canvey Point on 17th September, following which arrivals came more steadily.

Inland, it was again only Abberton Reservoir which produced multiple sightings, with singles on 1st and 3rd January (a ♀ or immature), 24th February, 30th October (♀), 20th and 22nd November and 3rd and 7th December. The November bird was sexed as a ♀ on its second appearance while the December bird was a ♂. Elsewhere, almost all the inland records came in January, with a ♀ at Ardleigh Reservoir on 1st, a ♂ flying west at Terling on 15th, one at Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 17th and one at Writtle on 25th. The only other records were both in November, one at Hanningfield Reservoir on 18th and a ♀ at Wanstead Flats on 28th.

Estimated monthly totals are given below. As in 2015 they assume, for example, that sightings on the two sides of the outer Colne Estuary, at Colne Point and Mersea Island, involved different birds and that the same was true for sightings from the two sides of the outer Blackwater, at Bradwell and Old Hall Marshes, unless proved otherwise. By way of counterbalance, it is again assumed that, as has appeared to be the case in the past, there was some movement between close or adjacent sites (for example between Abberton Reservoir and Copt Hall Marshes/Old Hall Marshes/Tollesbury Wick and between Blue House Farm, Wallasea Island and Foulness Island) unless birds were seen at both sites on the same date. It is also assumed that, at any given site, only one bird was involved in all of the month's sightings unless proved otherwise:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	15	6	8	8	4	0	0	1	6	16	17	10
Locations	22	13	10	8	4	0	0	1	6	13	21	16

There seems to have been a bit of an exodus from the County – perhaps onward movement further south – between December 2015 (when 22 were estimated to be present) and January 2016. This continued into February and appears to have been repeated at the end of the year, between November and December 2016.

Red-footed Falcon
(RICHARD ALLEN)

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*

Uncommon breeder, fairly common passage migrant.

Breeding was confirmed from just one site (three in 2015), though pairs probably bred at six other sites, three of which were new. In addition, birds were seen in summer at six of the sites at which they had been present in one or more of the previous three breeding seasons. The table below uses the same pair numberings as the Essex Bird Reports from 2012-2015 and shows the status in 2016 of the pairs listed for the previous year(s). Sites where no birds were seen in the last two years (2015 and 2016) are omitted:

Pair one	Established	Singles on six dates in July
Pair two	Established	One pair raised three young.
Pair three	Re-established	No midsummer sightings.
Pair four	Established	Looked for but none seen.
Pair five	Established	No midsummer sightings.
Pair six	Established	One pair present May to September and breeding considered likely.
Pair seven	Established	One bird seen on one date in late June.
Pair nine	Established	Single bird(s) seen on three dates in late June/July.
Pair 13	First reported in 2012	Single birds seen several times in late June/July
Pair 17	First reported in 2013	No reports received.
Pair 18	First reported in 2013	Two birds on one date in late July.
Pair 21 and 22	First reported in 2014	Single birds seen in late June and early July and a family party in late August.
Pair 23	First reported in 2014	One pair summered and probably nested.
Pair 24	First reported in 2014	Two birds on 19th June and singles on three further dates in late June/early July.
Pair 25	First reported in 2016	Two pairs present in late July and breeding considered probable.
Pair 26	First reported in 2016	A calling juvenile in late July.
Pair 27	First reported in 2016	Two birds present all summer. Probably bred.

Apart from these breeding records, birds were seen between mid-June and the end of July at a further 48 sites (45 in 2015). At six of these sites two (and, in one case, three) birds were seen, but in every case just on one day in this period. All other mid-summer sightings were of single birds.

The first confirmed records of the spring were two birds at Rainham Marshes and one flying north at Bradwell Bird Observatory, all on 10th April, and one at King George V Reservoir on 13th. As in 2015, a steadier trickle of April birds appeared from 19th, all being singles apart from two at Walthamstow Wetlands on 26th and three at Abberton Reservoir on 30th.

As usual the heaviest passage of the spring took place in May. The highest count came from just inside the Essex recording area at Hooks Marsh Waltham Abbey, 16 on 16th, the only other double-figure count being of ten at Rainham Marshes on 12th, all counts from other sites being of 1-5. Applying the very cautious method referred to below, an estimated minimum of 25 birds passed through Rainham Marshes during the month.

There were no double-figure counts in autumn. The highest day count was seven at Rainham Marshes on 30th August and again on 8th September, with conservative minima of 11 and 13 passing through that site in August and September respectively. No other site reported more than four birds on any one day. Eleven birds in total were seen in October, with the latest at Birch Lake on 10th.

The number of reports received of this species continues to be remarkably consistent year on year,

Hobby (RICHARD ALLEN)

with 691 records from 144 sites (664 from 149 in 2015, 673 from 155 in 2014). As usual the actual number of birds involved will have been substantially lower than the number of records submitted. As in 2014 and 2015, the following totals make no allowance for duplication between sites but (by way of counterbalance) assume that, at any given site, the same birds lingered all month unless the pattern of records for that site (e.g. an obvious departure followed a few days later by an influx) clearly indicates otherwise:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	0	41	138	51	46	78	100	11	0	0
Location	0	0	0	27	62	40	39	52	59	10	0	0

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus peregrinus*

Uncommon resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Pairs were observed in the breeding season at nine sites (six in 2015). Breeding was successful at three sites (three in 2015), eight juveniles being fledged in total (seven in 2015). At a fourth site, a fledged juvenile was found on the ground beneath the nest and subsequently had to be put down by the RSPCA, as it had a fractured clavicle. No evidence of breeding was obtained for the remaining pairs. Four previously occupied sites were not used in 2016.

The number of observations increased slightly, with 951 records (854 in 2015), though still well short of the high of 1,118 in 2012. Almost all observations were of one or two birds, but there were four on the Dengie on 10th January. Elsewhere, there were day counts of three at four further sites outside the breeding season.

Inland observations came from 47 sites (54 in 2015), 17 of which were inside the M25 and a further ten in the Lee Valley north of that motorway. Most of the rest were not far from the coast or estuaries. The only reports in the north-west came from Saffron Walden, Richmond's Green Thaxted and Takeley, while in the centre north there was one sighting at Gestingthorpe. As usual, the relative lack of observer coverage in these areas will have been a contributory factor.

Sightings again pointed to individual birds covering considerable areas. The following table has been prepared using the same assumptions as in 2014 and 2015, in particular that the same individual is responsible for all sightings of a single bird at any given location during the month unless ageing and/or sexing shows more than one bird to have been involved and, second, that sightings at multiple locations along (or close to) the Stour, Colne, Blackwater and Crouch estuaries refer to the same individual(s) using the full length of the relevant estuary. For the much longer Thames estuary, a similar approach has been adopted but dividing the estuary loosely into three sections and assuming duplication only within each section. The table therefore gives estimated monthly minima of birds. It includes birds reported near possible and probable breeding sites during summer months but not confirmed breeders.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	34	28	33	32	17	13	22	17	28	23	27	29
Locations	51	38	34	44	20	12	25	23	33	36	41	42

It is noticeable that the cautious approach to estimating outlined above (and with additional detail given in Essex Bird Report 2014 page 93) is producing lower totals than previously. It could therefore be overly conservative, though it has also coincided with years when the total number of sightings has been down. To improve the accuracy of the tabulated figures, observers are again encouraged to record the age and sex of birds seen.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri borealis/manillensis*

Scarce but increasing, naturalised, resident and visitor. First bred in 2004.

Breeding pairs were confirmed at four sites (2015 figures in brackets): Mardyke Valley, nine (six); Belhus Woods Aveley, three (one); Hangman's Wood Little Thurrock, one (one); Orsett Fen, three (one). One or more birds were seen at a further 23 sites during the period May-July (30 in 2015).

During 2016, reports were received from 70 sites (74 in 2015). The majority were again within the M25 but with increasing numbers in the areas between Grays and Basildon and between Weald Park and Epping. Outside this area, reports of single birds came from Hanningfield Reservoir on 2nd April, Boreham on 14th and 28th April, and Westcliff-on-Sea on 30th March.

Despite increases in some area numbers overall were much lower than in 2015, perhaps because fewer birds were coming across the Thames at dusk to roost on the Essex side.

All counts of 50 or more are given: Belhus Woods Aveley, 52 on 3rd January, 84 on 3rd and 69 on 21st August, 81 on 5th September and 82 on 7th November; Dagenham Chase, 160 on 30th January; Highams Park Lake, 70 on 6th and 50 on 12th March, 55 on 1st June; Codham Hall Farm Great Warley, 50 on 21st October; Claybury Park Woodford Bridge, 110 on 16th November; Buckhurst Hill, 80 on 22nd December.

It seems likely that this successful feral species will expand northwards to the rest of Essex in the near future.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus*

Vagrant. **BBRC (1, 1, 2)**

Hythe Colchester	First calendar year	27th-28th October	JLv

This was the second County record, the first being at Sandbeach Outfall, Dengie from 23rd-28th October 1988. Sadly, for the many observers eager to see it, this year's bird did not prolong its stay.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor excubitor*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. EBSIP

Heybridge Gravel Pit	One	2015-18th March	SDW
Frinton-on-Sea	One	8th October	PBr
Colne Point	One	11th-12th October	CBa, SC
Point Clear St Osyth	One	16th October	SN
Colne Point	One	22nd October	CBa
Old Hall Marshes	One	27th and 29th October	CJM-G SH

Another good year, with six records, albeit one was a long stayer from 2015. A further three reports were received without descriptions. How many birds were involved in the October records is difficult to say. The two Colne Point birds were regarded as different.

Annual totals for the last ten winters:

	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	2007/06	Average
Totals	5	1	4	1	6	2	0	1	5	0	2.5

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator senator*

Very rare passage migrant. EBSIP (18, 5, 23)

Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth	One	16th July	Photo ID

This was the 23rd Essex record and the first since 2011. Like the Isabelline Shrike, above, a short staying bird that was seen by only a lucky few.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* UK

Very scarce passage migrant and summer visitor. Bred 1978, 1989 and 1991. EBSIP

Rainham Marshes	♂	10th June	HV DDL

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	3	0	1.1

JAY *Garrulus glandarius rufitergum/glandarius*

***G. g. rufitergum* is a common resident whilst *G. g. glandarius* may occur as a rare passage migrant.**

A much under-recorded species, with confirmed breeding records coming from just nine sites (four in 2015), all but one in the south of the County. Five pairs were present in the Braintree and Bocking area, four in Belhus Woods Aveley and two in the Mardyke Valley, the remaining reports all being of single pairs. It was, however, reported from around 81 other sites during the breeding season (May-July). As reported in the 2015 *Essex Bird Report*, there is some evidence that this species may be in decline in parts of Essex, particularly the north-west, where many woodland areas have been denuded of a shrub layer by a combination of lack of recent coppicing and deer damage. Thus, all records of confirmed breeding would be welcome.

In autumn, a single bird moved south at Frinton-on-Sea in October and four in November, and ten were present at The Naze on 3rd October.

Elsewhere, more double-figure counts were reported than usual, namely, 12 in the Mardyke Valley on 2nd January and 12th August, and 13 on 6th October; ten in Hockley Woods on 19th January;

ten at Connaught Water Epping Forest on 7th March; 12 in Norsey Wood Billericay on 1st April; 20 in Wanstead Park on 7th April; 12 in Sutton Road Cemetery Southend-on-Sea on 20th May; ten at Hanningfield Reservoir, on 23rd September. It is possible that some of the above birds seen in spring and autumn were also on migration,

MAGPIE *Pica pica pica*

Common resident.

The species remains under-recorded in the breeding season, with breeding confirmed from just ten areas (17 in 2015) although probable/possible records were reported from many others. An estimated 40+ pairs was present in the Braintree and Bocking area, six at Belhus Woods Aveley and five in the Mardyke Valley. No other reports were of more than 1-3 pairs

Counts of 30+ birds came from just four locations, all in the south of the County: Chafford Gorges Grays , 99 on 2nd January and 66 on 1st November; Rainham Marshes, 100 on 15th January; Wat Tyler , 45 on 21st January; Claybury Park Woodford Bridge, 40 on 28th November; Mardyke Valley, 31 on 9th December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*
Jackdaw *Corvus monedula monedula*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The species is widely reported during the breeding season but very few confirmed breeding records are received.

Breeding was reported from eight sites (ten in 2015) including 60+ pairs in the Braintree and Bocking area, where the population is thought to be stable. Elsewhere, there were 22 pairs in the Mardyke Valley, four in both Belhus Woods Aveley and Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges, and three in Hangman's Wood Little Thurrock.

Roost and pre-roost counts were similar to those in 2015 with five sites recording 500 or more birds: Chigborough Lakes, 1,000 on 1st January; Codham Hall Farm Great Warley, 500 on 15th January; Boreham, 550 on 28th December; Roding Valley Chigwell, 500 on 17th July; Brook Farm Upminster, 800 on 1st September, 900 on 25th October and throughout much of November.

A further 16 sites recorded counts of 100-450 birds.

The only indication of autumn migration came from Frinton-on-Sea, where ten flew north on 22nd October and three south on 2nd November.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 302 nests was counted at nine rookeries compared with 363 at ten in 2015. There were just two sites holding 50 or more nests: St Osyth Priory, 90+ (110 in 2015); Braintree and Bocking area, 75+ spread across several rookeries. It has been many years since the last County survey of rookeries was undertaken, so all counts would be welcome.

Three-figure counts, in excess of 300 birds, involving both roosting and feeding flocks were: Chrishall Grange, 300 on 27th January; Brook Farm Upminster, 600 in March, August and October-December; Hainault Forest, 340 on 24th November; Bulmer, 400 on 24th December

No significant spring or autumn passage was noted.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone corone*

Common resident and migrant.

Like other corvids, Carrion Crows are severely under-recorded when breeding. Nesting was confirmed from just 11 sites (15 in 2015), the majority involving single pairs. Counts of over three pairs came from just three sites: Braintree and Bocking area, 15+; Mardyke Valley, nine; Belhus Woods Aveley, four.

The only reports indicating migration came from Frinton-on-Sea, where a total of 23 flew north on three dates in March, including 15 on 13th.

Montagu's Harrier, St Osyth, May (SEAN NIXON)

Red-footed Falcon, Vange Marsh, May
(ALAN SHEARMAN)

Isabelline Shrike, The Hythe, October (SEAN NIXON)

Greenish Warbler, The Naze, June (PAT COX)

There were no counts of more than 200, the largest flocks reported being 140 at Eastwood Sewage Works on 1st April and 147 at Orsett Fen on 2nd December.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix cornix*

Rare winter visitor. EBSIP

Bulmer	One	24th December-2017	HO

There was one further record unsubstantiated report.

Annual totals for the last ten winters:

	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	2007/06	Average
Totals	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.3

RAVEN *Corvus corax corax*

Scarce resident and visitor. EBSIP

The Raven is now commoner in Essex than at any time since the late 19th century. Sightings in Metropolitan Essex and the west of the County are now not uncommon but the species remains scarce east of Ongar and north of the A13.

There were 12 unsubstantiated records from this area, four of which were close to Hatfield Forest, where three young fledged in 2014.

It is difficult assessing the number of birds involved in observations in the Metropolitan area but a pair was reported from Rainham Marshes on numerous occasions and 1-2 birds from: Mardyke Valley in January; Belhus Woods Aveley in March; Wanstead Park and Wennington in May; Loughton in September; Bedfords Park and Chafford Hundred Grays in October; and Wennington again, in November.

From 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Raven records.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus garrulus*

Almost annual winter visitor and passage migrant in highly variable number.

There was just a single record during the first winter period, one in Chelmsford on 26th January.

Around 46 birds were observed in the second winter, assuming all gaps of more than one day between passage records at Frinton-on-Sea related to different birds, although this may well be an over-estimate as it does not account for possible movement of the same individuals between different Essex sites.

Four records occurred in October, all of singles, with the earliest seen in Chelmsford on 8th October. They were then seen at four sites in November, with a maximum count of 11 at Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 13th, and at six sites in December, maximum of eight at Harold Hill on 31st.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*
Coal Tit *Periparus ater britannicus*

Common resident.

At least 37 pairs/territories/singing ♂♂ were reported from 29 sites (21 from 14 in 2015), including Thorndon (five) and Braintree and Bocking area (4+), and further sightings without breeding information occurred during March to July at an additional 53 sites. The increase in breeding records probably relates to improved reporting rather than a real change as the total number of sites at which the species was recorded, 76, was similar to 2015 (82).

Records from unusual locations suggesting local movement occurred at The Naze, 19th February and at Frinton-on-Sea, three north on 27th April.

The highest counts were: Broaks Wood Gosfield, 12 on 18th November; Strawberry Hill Pond Epping Forest, 12 on 10th September; Weald Park, ten on 16th January; Epping Forest Burial Park, eight on 4th April.

Continental Coal Tit *Periparus ater ater*

Rare migrant but subject to periodic influxes EBSIP

The ringed individual seen at Black Notley from 1st November 2015 remained in the area until 31st January and was then seen again on 27th and 28th March.

One was picked up long dead at Great Bardfield on 7th February. It had been ringed as a first calendar year bird in Belgium on 27th September 2015.

Several other unsubstantiated records were received of birds showing characteristics of this race. Observers are reminded that this subspecies is an Identification Panel bird species and a description of what is a subtly different race are required. Particular attention should be paid to the colour of the mantle and underparts.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris dresseri* UK

Scarce, sedentary resident.

The Marsh Tit remains scarce, following long-term declines, although the species is continuing to survive at favoured sites. At least five breeding pairs were recorded this year and it was observed at a total of 35 sites, the latter being the highest number since 2008 (see table in 2015 Essex Bird Report).

Breeding was confirmed at just one site, Terling, where a pair was observed taking food to a nest, though a suspected family group was seen at Belchamp Water, where there were two territories. Elsewhere, probable breeding also occurred at Prestons Lake Pebmarsh, (one territory) and Birchanger Wood (one pair). Other records, within the species' breeding areas, during the breeding season (March to July) came from a further 12 sites: Shut Heath Wood Great Totham; Gosfield Wood; Mann Wood Great Leighs; Lyonshall Wood Great Waltham; Great Dunmow; Prior's Wood Takeley; Stansted Mountfitchet area - three sites; Hatfield Broad Oak; Hatfield Forest and Farnham.

Outside the breeding season, it was reported from 19 additional sites (11 in 2015), with movement/dispersal suggested by records from Hanningfield Reservoir on 13th March, Dagenham Chase, 20th March and Bradwell Bird Observatory, on 31st March. One was at Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers on 29th April, a very unusual date to be outside the species' usual range.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus obscurus/caeruleus*

***C. c. obscurus* is an abundant resident that only disperses locally. *C. c. caeruleus* is probably a rare passage migrant.**

A minimum of 172 pairs/singing ♂♂ was recorded from 13 sites (147 from 13 in 2015), although as usual in recent years, the majority of breeding counts were made by the same observer in the south-west of the County; however the increase most likely reflects different sites being covered rather than a genuine change. Breeding was confirmed at a further 21 sites. Counts of eight or more pairs/singing ♂♂ came from (2015 figures in brackets): Braintree and Bocking area, 40; Dunton Plotlands, 22; Orsett Fen, ten (13); Mardyke Valley, 25 (28); Belhus Woods Aveley, 29 (21); Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges eight (ten).

Counts of 40+ birds were made at just four sites (11 in both 2014 and 2015): Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 45 on 9th February and on 29th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 50 on 28th March; Dunton Plotlands, 51 on 9th June; Chafford Gorges Grays, 55 on 11th January.

GREAT TIT *Parus major newtoni/major*

***P. m. newtoni* is a very common resident whilst *P. m. major* is a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.**

A minimum of 137 singing ♂♂/ territories was reported from 11 sites (80 from 12 sites in 2015; although not directly comparable as different sites were covered).

Breeding was confirmed at nine further sites. Counts of 10+ territories were made at four sites (two in 2015): Braintree and Bocking area, 30; Dunton Plotlands, 18; Mardyke Valley, 25 (24); Belhus Woods Aveley, 24.

Counts of 30 or more were made at six sites (ten in 2015): Flitch Green Little Dunmow, 30 on 28th March; Farnham, 30 on 25th August; Hayes Hill Farm Holyfield, 30 on 6th February; Dunton Plotlands, 48 on 1st June; Mardyke Valley, 30 on 2nd December; Chafford Gorges Grays, 35 on 4th December.

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus pendulinus*

Very rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (5, 11, 16)**

Magnolia Park Hawkwell	Adult ♀	7th-17th March	DH

This was the 16th Essex record and the first since 2011.

This is just the third record away from Rainham Marshes; the others were at North Ockendon in 1982 and Cudmore Grove East Mersea in 1997.

Following much debate, this individual was ultimately considered an adult female.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus biarmicus* **EX**

Variable breeding population. Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding records came from seven sites: Old Hall Marshes, bred, no count; Hanningfield Reservoir, two pairs; Blue House Farm, pair probably bred; Vange Marsh, three+ pairs; Bowers Marsh, present throughout summer with six on 23rd and 26th May, juveniles seen 23rd June; Wat Tyler, two pairs; Rainham Marshes, five pairs. Breeding also seems likely to have occurred at Fingringhoe Ranges, counts of eight on 1st May and 24 on 22nd May.

Wintering records occurred at nine sites during the first winter (also nine in 2015) and 16 sites during the second winter (six in 2015). Double-figure counts were made at two sites in each winter period: Old Hall Marshes, 11 on 11th February; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 15 on 19th January and 20 on 1st December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 12 on 22nd December.

Spring movement was noted from five sites. As usual, autumn movement occurred more widely with records from 12 sites. Early records included singles at Chafford Gorges Grays on 15th August and the Mardyke Valley on 26th August, and nine were seen at Osea Road Heybridge on 7th September; however most of the observed passage was in October (eight sites, including eight at East Tilbury on 22nd).

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea arborea*

Uncommon passage migrant. Sporadic breeder (Bred 1961 and 1990). **EBSIP**

Seven reports received.

East Tilbury	One	20th October	PW

A further six unsubstantiated records were received. Observers are reminded that a photo and/or description is required by the Identification Panel.

Annual totals for the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Totals	1	3	4	5	9	0	0	1	1	6	3.0

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis arvensis* **UK EX**

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of recorded territories for 2016 was 551 from 94 sites (582 from 47 in 2015, 722 from 63 in 2014) with the Stour Valley from Cattawade to Ridgewell Airfield Ashen producing 219 territories. However, there were several sites that historically have supported good numbers of territories in the past but for which no records were submitted this year.

Locations reporting ten or more singing/territorial birds in the County were as follows (2015 figures in brackets): Bulmer and Gestingthorpe, 20 (15); Henny Street and Middleton, 17 (12); Pebmarsh, 12; Wormingford, 68 (58); Langham, ten; Ardleigh Reservoir to Little Bromley, 18; Flitch Green Little Dunmow, ten; Abberton Reservoir, 30 (40); Tollesbury Wick, 22; Mundon, 15; St Peter's Chapel to Marshhouse Dengie, 19; Barking, 13; Orsett Fen, 28 (21); Vange Marsh, ten; Bowers Marsh, 12 (ten); Wallasea Island, 30 (ten); Rainham Marshes, 46.

The largest count reported in the first winter period was 120 at Iltney Farm Mundon on 24th February, followed by 85 at Rainham Marshes on 25th January. There no other records exceeding 50 birds but there were a further 22 records of 25 or more birds from mainly coastal sites.

Autumn/second winter three-figure counts were recorded as follows: Wallasea Island, 100+ in steady passage west on 22nd October and 100 on 11th December; Wormingford Airfield, 200 on 3rd November; Bulphan Fen, 100 on 27th December. Elsewhere counts of 50 or more were noted as follows: Wallasea Island, 50+ on 8th October; Frinton-on-Sea, 52 south in 1.5 hours on 10th October, 65 south in five hours on 20th October and 69 north in 2.5 hours on 25th October; Wanstead Flats, 60 on 21st and 22nd October; Coploe Hill Strethall, 55 on 28th October; Bowers Marsh, 86 on 1st December; WigboroWick Farm St Osyth, 60 on 16th and 22nd December. There were a further 34 records of 25 or more birds, once again from mainly coastal sites.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris flava* UK

Scarce but annual visitor and passage migrant.

Just three birds reported this year (only one last year).

Deal Hall Dengie	Two	21st and 24th October	DW DLo
Wakering Stairs	One	26th-27th October	DLo RH

Annual totals for the last ten winters:

	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	2007/06	Average
Totals	1	2	3	1	5	13	5	1	1	6	3.8

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia riparia*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Reports of confirmed territories were: Ardleigh Reservoir, seven nest holes still being used in July, but 80 birds (40 pairs?) were reported at nest holes in April; The Naze, 20; Great Leighs, 15; Fingringhoe Gravel Pit, 100; Olympic Park Stratford, ten. Other records received were; Takeley, 20 recently fledged; Fingringhoe Wick, 60+ at nest holes in new quarry and 100 in gravel bank on road coming out of reserve (perhaps the same?); Walthamstow Marshes, "present" in suitable habitat; Mill Meads Stratford, five recently fledged; Mill Wood Chafford Gorges Grays, two nest building. A record from Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall mentions that 20 birds seemed to be prospecting during April and May but there were no occupied holes, possibly because the banks where they used to nest in the past had become unstable.

The first bird of the spring was one reported from Belhus Wood Aveley on 13th March. Single-figure counts were the norm most days towards the end of March when low double-figure counts were starting to be recorded at some locations. Numbers remained low for the rest of March exceptions being: Abberton Reservoir, 60 on 28th; Vange Marsh, 140 on 30th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 70 on 30th.

Counts of fifty or more birds reported in April were as follows: Vange Marsh, 70 on 5th, 80 on 22nd, 50 on 23rd; Hanningfield Reservoir, 120 on 8th, 100 on 29th; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 54 on 9th, 120 on 23rd, 50 on 30th; Fingringhoe Wick, 200 on 12th; Abberton Reservoir, 150 on 12th, 50 on 17th April; Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers, 120 on 18th; Walthamstow Wetlands, 100 on 27th; Rainham Marshes, 50 on 27th; Frinton-on-Sea, 75 south in 1.75 hours on 29th.

Reports for May of 50 or more birds were: Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham, 80 on 13th; Silver

End, 100 on 15th; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 50 on 20th; and there were two reports in June of 50 birds each at Old Hall Marshes on 26th and Fingringhoe Wick on 28th.

The large numbers of birds reported during July could suggest they were dispersing early from their nest sites due to successful early breeding, or possibly even nest failure. Counts of 100 or more for July as follows: Fingringhoe Wick, 100 on 9th, 11th and 21st; Maydays Farm West Mersea, 500 on 9th; St Lawrence, 150 on 9th; Frinton-on-Sea, 190 south in 1.5 hours on 13th; East Tilbury, 345 west on 15th; Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury, 387 on 16th; Wakering Stairs, 163 west on 17th; Rainham Marshes, 200 on 30th; Colne Point, 200 on 30th. There were a further six reports of 50 or more birds.

August counts of 100 or more were: Colne Point, 200 on 6th, 100 on 13th; Frinton-on-Sea, 243 south in three hours on 11th, 166 south on 12th; Gunners Park Shoebury, 100 south-west on 12th; Blue House Farm, 175 on 20th; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 100 on 20th; Abberton Reservoir, 200 on 22nd. A further three reports were received of 50 or more birds.

September reports of 50 or more birds were: Bowers Marsh, 60 on the 4th; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 150 on 5th; Walthamstow Wetlands, 50 on the 6th; Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges, 56 on 8th. Smaller numbers trickled through to the end of the month and the first day of October.

The last bird of the year was at Leigh-on-Sea on 2nd October.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Although the Swallow was widely recorded around the County during the spring and summer months, there were only 196 confirmed breeding pairs/territories reported from 72 sites (149 from 29 in 2015, 214 from 35 in 2014) with some sites reporting multiple broods. Recently fledged juveniles were reported from another seven sites. There were also 19 sites reported to have suspected breeding but with no confirming details. Any breeding site records should be submitted to the County Recorder.

Locations reporting ten or more territories were: Stansted Mountfitchet, ten; Braintree and Bocking area, ten; Frowick Hall Farm St Osyth, ten (ten in 2015); Thorpe Cross, 18 broods (8-9 broods in 2015); Bradwell Bird Observatory, 12.

The first birds of the year were three reported from Lee Valley Park Farms Waltham Abbey on 11th March. There were no more records until 23rd March when birds started to trickle into the County in mostly single-figure counts. Numbers started to increase in early April with Abberton Reservoir reporting 150 birds on 6th. Medium to high double-figures were then reported throughout the County for the rest of the month. However, there were reports of 100 or more from: Walthamstow Wetlands, 300 on 16th; King George V Reservoir, 110 on 16th and 18th; Abberton Reservoir, 250 on 22nd; Hanningfield Reservoir, 200 on 24th; Abberton Reservoir, 100+ on 25th and 26th; Holland Haven, 100+ on 29th. Three-figures were reported in May from: St Lawrence to Howe Outfall Dengie, 105 on 8th; Abberton Reservoir, 100+ on 14th. The only three-figure count in June was from Hanningfield Reservoir, 100+ on 13th.

During July, there were several high double-figure counts recorded and three-figure counts were recorded twice late in the month which could have been the prelude to autumn migration: St Lawrence to Howe Outfall Dengie, 465 on 24th; Colne Point, 200 on 28th.

Autumn passage was evident from mid-August with south-bound birds reported at Frinton-on-Sea; 422 in 2.5 hours on 12th, 107 in 2.25 hours on 14th, 235 in three hours on 21st, 169 in 1.5 hours on 23rd, 292 in 1 hour on 30th, 346 in 2.25 hours on 31st. There were a further 11 counts of 100+ from eight sites during the month. As usual migration was heaviest in September with two counts of 1,000 or more: Holland Haven, 1,000+ on 19th, of which 227 were trapped and ringed; Frinton-on-Sea, 1,372 south in six hours on 22nd. There were a further 30 three-figure counts during the month with 500 or more recorded on four occasions: Frinton-on-Sea, 500 south in 0.5 hour on 23rd; The Naze, 600+ also on 23rd; Frinton-on-Sea, 901 south in three hours on 25th; Wakering Stairs, 692 on 30th. Three-figure counts for October were: Bradwell Bird Observatory, 120 on 2nd; Frinton-on-Sea, 118 south in 1.5 hours on 10th. November records were: Wakering Stairs,

one on 3rd; Frinton-on-Sea, two south on 6th; Canvey Seafront, three west on 6th; Holland Haven, seven on 6th. The last bird of the year was one at Brook Farm Upminster on 18th November.

There was an interesting sighting of an albino or leucistic bird reported in July from Walton Hall Marshes and The Naze on 24th, and again from the The Naze on 26th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum urbicum* UK

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Reports were received of 237 pairs from 31 sites (107 from 18 in 2015, 199 from 29 in 2014), with some reporting multiple broods. This is a vast improvement from 2015, which may have been due to under reporting. There were also a number of reports from various sites indicating that breeding was a probability but not confirmed. The request for breeding records to be submitted to the County recorder is repeated here again. Double-figure breeding counts came from: Braintree and Black Notley area, 70; Lamarsh, 15 (20 in 2015); Little Bromley Hall and Badley Hall Great Bromley 11; Ingatestone, 15; Stambridge, 19.

The first record of the year came from Manningtree Railway Station on 14th March. There were no more reports until 25th March when there were single birds at Hanningfield Reservoir and Gunners Park Shoebury. Single-figure counts were then reported daily from several locations to the end of the month with the exception of 120 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 30th. The first week of April saw more single-figure counts, exceptions being 40 at Stansted Mountfitchet on 5th and 50 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 6th. During the rest of April birds were reported throughout the County, including six counts of 50 or more: Little Baddow, 70 on 16th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 50 on 18th, 150 on 24th, and 100 on 29th; Walthamstow Wetlands, 55 on 26th, and 50 on 27th. With more widespread reports in May there were only two reports of 50 or more: Abberton Reservoir, 200 on 14th; Stanford Rivers, 50 on 14th. There were three reports of 50 or more in June: Hanningfield Reservoir, 80 on 2nd; Vange Marsh, 50 on 2nd; Chafford Hundred Grays, 60 on 18th.

There were 38 late summer congregations and autumn passage reports of 100 birds or more. These included seven records of 300 or more birds, all in September: West Bergholt, 300 on 2nd; Hanningfield Reservoir, 500 on 17th; Buckhurst Hill, 500 on 17th; Walthamstow Wetlands, 800 on 17th; Sewardstone, 400 on 18th; Rainham Marshes, 400 on 21st; Colne Point, 500 on 23rd. There were two records of 50 or more birds in October, both on 2nd: Hanningfield Reservoir, 50; Rainham Marshes, 51. Numbers fell rapidly during the month and very soon single-figure counts were being reported at mostly coastal locations. With no reports in November the last record of the year was of one at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 30th October.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti cetti*

Locally common and increasing breeding resident.

This species continues to increase its presence with some 428 singing ♂♂/apparently occupied territories reported from 123 sites (262 from 86 in 2015). Records were mainly from the coast, Lee and Ingrebourne valleys, with the Thames marshes being a particular stronghold.

Counts of six or more (2015 figures in brackets): Judas Gap Flatford, six; Cattawade Marshes, eight; Brightlingsea, ten; St Osyth, nine; Howlands Marsh St Osyth, six; Old Hall Marshes, six, (13); Chigborough Lakes, six; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 12 (eight); Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers, 11; Canvey Wick, eight; West Canvey Marsh, six (11); Vange Marsh, six (ten); Bowers Marsh, 15 (seven); Thurrock Thameside Mucking, seven; Rainham, 66 (33); Mardyke Valley, seven; Ingrebourne Valley, 26 (62); Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, six (five); Walthamstow Wetlands, six.

In total, 1,923 records were received covering some 176 sites (1,086 from 97 in 2015).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*
Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus*

Common resident.

Reports of territorial pairs or evidence of confirmed breeding came from around 50 sites (51 in 2015) but it was common and widespread throughout the County during the summer months. The only sites that reported more than 1-2 pairs were: Belhus Woods Aveley, nine pairs; Braintree and Bocking area, 15+ pairs; Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges, three pairs; Chigborough Lakes, three pairs; Fishers Green Holyfield, five pairs; Heybridge Gravel Pit, four pairs; Mardyke Valley, seven pairs; Orsett Fen, four pairs; Rainham Marshes, 11 pairs.

Counts of 30+ were recorded from 15 sites: Abberton Reservoir, 30 on 30th October; Belhus Woods Aveley, 50+ on 1st January, 31 on 21st August and 46 on 16th October; Chafford Gorges Grays, 31 on 24th May and 30 on 1st November; Chigborough Lakes, 50+ on 13th January; Fishers Green Holyfield, 50+ on 25th March; Frinton-on-Sea, 40+ 23rd October; Hanningfield Reservoir, 32 on 23rd January; 30-40 during November and December; Dunton Plotlands, 34 on 16th November; Hall Marsh Waltham Abbey, 40+ on 16th January; Waterworks Leyton, 30+ on 18th August; Mardyke Valley, 46 on 14th June and 30-40 between October and December; Pod's Wood Tiptree, 32 on 31st January; St Osyth, 39 on 27th June; Terling, 30 on 29th January; Thorley Wash, 30 on 17th September.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* UK

Scarce passage migrant. Bred until 1991.

Walthamstow Wetlands	♂	27th April
Chafford Hundred Grays	One	11th May
Holland Haven	One	7th August
Weald Park	One	25th August

An average year by recent standards.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Uncommon passage migrant. EBSIP

In the first winter period, one was found at Gidea Park on 25th January, the same location in which one was found on 12th April by the same observer. Whilst it is possible the records relate to the same bird, they are treated as separate individuals.

The autumn saw an unprecedented arrival, which began on 20th September when singles were found at Dovercourt and Frinton-on-Sea. A further 33 individuals were recorded over the next five weeks, arrivals peaking in the first week of October, and the last of the autumn being at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 30th October.

	September		October			
Week commencing	**19th**	**26th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**
Week number	38	39	40	41	42	43
Numbers	2	3	22	3	2	3
Location	2	3	17	3	2	3

All of the records were of singles, apart from:

Wakering Common	Three	6th-9th October
Holland Haven	Two	8th-14th October
Frinton-on-Sea	Two	8th-15th October

Not surprisingly, a wintering bird was found in the County, at Wanstead Flats from 8th-31st December.

Remarkably, most records came from the well-watched south-west of the County, illustrating a broad arrival from the north-east and a continuing movement to the south-west.

North-west	North-east
0	14
18	6
South-west	South-east

Numbers of individuals for the last ten years are as follows:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Average
Total	38	8-10	5+	6	3	3	2	1	6	8	8

The change in national status of this species is remarkable. A total of 38 birds is 25% of the total ever recorded in Essex and was part of an estimated arrival of 4,500 birds nationally.

Consequently, from 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Yellow-browed Warbler records.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (39, 14, 53)**

Frinton-on-Sea	One	26th October	PBr
Bradwell Bird Observatory	One	30th October	DW
Deal Hall Dengie	One	8th November	RMP
The Naze	One	22nd-24th December	BCo

An excellent year and the best since 2004 when four were also recorded.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*

Vagrant. **EBSIP (4, 3, 7)**

Wivenhoe	One	23rd October	GDE
Rainham Marshes	One	29th-30th October	SHv

Like Yellow-browed Warbler, a record year nationally for this species, and the first "multiple" arrival in Essex.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* UK

***P. t. trochilus* is a common, but declining, summer resident and passage migrant, whilst *P. t. acredula* is probably a fairly common passage migrant.**

Between late April and June, around 84 pairs/singing ♂♂ were reported from 56 sites (99 from 63 sites in 2015) supporting potential breeding habitat. Counts of four or more came from: Fordham Estate, four; Ingrebourne Valley, four; Pages Wood Upminster, six; Tiptree, four.

The first spring record was from Dagenham Chase on 28th March, with the main spring arrival in the County from 3rd April onwards. Passage was very light with no more than ten birds at any one site.

Autumn passage peaked as usual in late August. All double-figure counts are listed: August: Chigborough Lakes, 22 on 30th; Frinton-on-Sea, 26 on 14th and ten on 23rd; Gunners Park Shoebury, 30 on 23rd; Holland Haven, 30 on 14th and 20 on 23rd; Rainham Marshes, ten on 10th; The Naze, 14 on 23rd; Wanstead Flats, ten on 9th, 14 on 14th and ten on 25th; September: Wanstead Flats, ten on 5th.

The last of the year was one at Belhus Woods Aveley on 16th October.

Dusky Warbler (RICHARD ALLEN)

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita collybita/abeitinus*

***P. c. collybita* is an abundant summer resident and passage migrant, whilst *P. c. abeitinus* is probably a passage migrant. Small numbers, of uncertain subspecies, occur in winter.**

Between late April and June, around 661 pairs/singing ♂♂ were reported from 210 sites. Double-figure counts of singing males or pairs came from (2015 figures in brackets): Bedfords Park, 13; Beeleigh, 12; Belhus Woods Aveley, 14 (28); Braintree and Bocking area, 20; Chigborough Lakes, ten; Fingringhoe Ranges, ten; Fingringhoe Wick, 17 (30); Fordham Estate, 25; Friday Wood Colchester, 20; Great Henny, 17; Hanningfield Reservoir, 14; Dunton Plotlands, ten; Mardyke Valley, 17 (20); Rainham Marshes, 12.

During January and February birds were reported from 52 sites (37 in 2015), all 1-2 except for up to six at Chigborough Lakes; Olympic Park Stratford, five; Rainham Marshes, three; The Naze, seven.

Spring passage was disappointing, with no indication of marked migration in coastal areas.

Autumn double-figure counts were noted from August through to mid-October with 20 or more seen as follows: August: Wanstead Park, 30 on 12th. September: Frinton-on-Sea, 24 on 22nd; Gunners Park Shoebury, 22 on 30th; Walthamstow Marshes, 20 on 3rd; Wanstead Flats, 25+ on 21st; October: Gunners Park Shoebury, 20 on 8th; The Naze, 40+ on 1st; West Canvey Marsh, 23 on 21st.

In November and December it was reported from 44 sites (52 in 2015), all records involving 1-4 birds apart from five at Beckton on 26th November, six at Olympic Park Stratford on 31st December and 12 at Creekmouth Barking on 30th December.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (15, 13, 28)**

Rainham Marshes	One	9th January-19th February	SHv
Colchester	One	11th March	SN
Waterworks Leyton	One	23rd March-10th April	JP
Rainham Marshes	One	25th November	JWt

A good year. A further three unsubstantiated records were received.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*

Vagrant. **EBSIP (2, 1, 3)**

The Naze	One	4th June	SC PC

This was only the third Essex record and the first since 2004. It was discovered in a mist net and seen briefly after its release, before disappearing into private land.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer resident and passage migrant.

Some 330 territories from 58 sites (271 from 73 in 2015) were reported, localities with six or more singing ♂♂ were as follows (2015 figures in brackets): Judas Gap Flatford, 11 (20); The Naze, eight; Langenhoe/Fingringhoe Ranges, 62 (21); Old Hall Marshes, 12 (14); Heybridge Gravel Pit, ten (17); north Dengie, 15 (20); Blue House Farm, six (35); Rainham Marshes, 102 (41). The species appears to be well recorded in a few main locations but appears to show worrying declines elsewhere.

The earliest reports were from East Tilbury and Rainham Marshes on 2nd April, with the main arrival from 12th April.

The last reported bird was at East Tilbury on 1st October.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus scirpaceus*

Locally common summer resident and passage migrant.

Some 894 singing ♂♂/territories were reported from some 95 sites (653 from 118 in 2015), with ten or more (2015 figures in brackets) from: Judas Gap Flatford, 23 (15); Langenhoe/Fingringhoe Ranges, 130 (32); Chigborough Lakes, 12; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 22 (30); Old Hall Marshes, 34 (31); Mundon, 14 (11); St Lawrence to Bradwell Bird Observatory, 35 (19); north Dengie, 14; Burnham-on-Crouch, 12; Blue House Farm, 26 (51); Stow Marsh North Fambridge, ten (13); Hanningfield Reservoir, 19; Vange Marsh, 20 (26); Bowers Marsh, 20; Belhus Woods Aveley, 12; Ingrebourne Valley, ten; Olympic Park Stratford, ten; Mardyke Valley, 11; Rainham Marshes, 193 (56).

The first report in spring was one at Rainham Marshes, on 3rd April, with the main arrival from 17th April.

In autumn, there were very few large counts: Old Hall Marshes, ten on 17th August declining to four on 15th September; Holland Haven, 20 on 19th August. The last was at Holland Haven on 11th October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia naevia* UK

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

There was a very modest recovery in the fortunes of this species, with 19 reeling ♂♂ considered to have established territories at nine sites (five at four in 2015), although several more were reported singing on spring passage. This was the best total since 2011 but still barely half the 37 in that year. Counts of two or more as follows (2015 figures in brackets): The Hythe Colchester four; Bowers Marsh, two; East Tilbury, two; Rainham Marshes, six (two).

The earliest report was from Old Hall Marshes on 8th April.

There were just two autumn records, the last at Rainham Marshes, on 17th August.

In total, 125 records were received covering some 24 sites (52 from 17 in 2015)

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Small numbers winter.

Some 885 singing ♂♂/territories from some 226 sites were reported (1,053 from 246 in 2015), sites with 15 or more as follows (2015 figures in brackets): Fingringhoe Wick, 20 (18); Fingringhoe Ranges, 17 (16); Friday Wood Colchester, 17 (29); Braintree and Bocking area, 15; Hanningfield Reservoir, 16 (32); Dunton Plotlands, 18 (36); Belhus Woods Aveley, 16 (28); Mardyke Valley, 18 (26); Rainham Marshes, 17; Sawbridgeworth Marsh, 16; Great Henny, 18.

There were 46 reports of some 31 individuals from 29 sites (46 individuals in 2015) in the period from January to the first week in March, with two birds reported from Halstead, South Benfleet and Wickford.

Numbers of obvious migrants reported in spring were again pretty high with double-figure counts in April coming from numerous well-scattered locations.

In autumn, the highest double-figure inland counts were from Chafford Gorges Grays,16 on 15th August; Walthamstow Marshes, 13 on 3rd September; Mardyke Valley, 15 on 19th September; Wanstead Flats, ten on 28th August and ten on 1st October. Received counts at coastal watch-points were about average, the September maxima being: Creeksea, 14 on 7th; Bradwell, eight on 21st; Gunners Park Shoebury, 11 on 30th; The Naze, 15 on 15th. October: The Naze, 21 on 1st, 16 on 15th and Frinton-on-Sea, 22 on 8th.

In the last two months, there were 30 records of 31 individuals from 21 sites (26 individuals in 2015) with two or more reported from: Chingford, two; Corringham, three; Cranham, four; Rainham Marshes, two; Walthamstow, two; West Mersea, two and Wickford, two.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Declining summer resident and passage migrant.

Reports of some 118 singing ♂♂/territories were received from 74 sites (101 from 67 in 2015). Sites with three or more (2015 figures in brackets): Borley, three (two); Pebmarsh, three (two); Gosfield, seven (eight); Friday Wood Colchester, three (two); Hanningfield Reservoir, nine (two); Langford, three (two); Stondon Massey, three (one); Fishers Green Holyfield, four (eight).

The earliest spring record was from Rainham Marshes on 13th April, with the main arrival from 27th onwards.

In autumn, the only site to report more than single birds was Gunners Park Shoebury with three on 17th August, dropping to one on 27th August.

The last record was from Rainham Marshes on 8th October.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (54, 5, 59)**

Holland Haven	One	3rd-4th September	MR

Another poor year after one in 2015, one in 2014, a blank year in 2013 and also just one in 2012.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Declining summer resident and passage migrant.

Reports of some 163 territories were received from 77 sites (221 from 125 in 2015). Sites with four or more: Abberton Reservoir, eight; Abbotts Hall Farm, six; Braintree and Bocking area, five; Fingringhoe Wick, five; Fordham Estate, four; Heybridge Gravel Pit, six; Ingrebourne Valley, four; Old Hall Marshes, five; Orsett Fen, six; Rainham Marshes, four; Two Tree Island, six.

In spring, the first record was from four well-scattered locations on 11th April, with the main arrival commencing on 13th April. Passage was fairly steady, with a high count of 11 from Canvey Wick on 21st April.

In autumn, the highest counts received were: August: Chigborough Lakes/Lofts Farm Gravel Pit, eight on 26th; Old Hall Marshes, 12 on 29th; The Naze, nine on 23rd. In September, the highest numbers were: Old Hall Marshes, 12 on 13th; The Naze, 15 on the 13th. The last report was a bird at The Naze on 9th October.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis communis*

Summer visitor and passage migrant.

Some 1,015 singing ♂♂/territories from 173 sites (1,203 from 211 in 2015) were reported. Sites with 15 or more singing males being (2015 figures in brackets): Wormingford, 15; Wrabness, 18; The Naze, 26 (17); Langenhoe/Fingringhoe Ranges, 41 (43); Bradwell, 24; north Dengie, 21; Braintree and Bocking area, 25 (22); Old Hall Marshes, 27 (17); Lower Raypits Canewdon, 20; Two Tree Island, 15; Rainham Marshes, 93 (26); Orsett Fen, 31; Mardyke Valley, 21; Sawbridgeworth Marsh, 22; Bulmer/Belchamps, 17 (26); Fordham Estate, 23.

In spring, the first record was on 3rd April from Rainham Marshes with the main arrival commencing around 12th April. Passage was good and peaked around 19th April to 7th May, with double-figure counts coming from several widely scattered sites.

Autumn passage was again high, as in recent years. The highest counts in August were: Old Hall Marshes, 25 on 29th; Wanstead Flats, 20 on 25th; Gunners Park Shoebury, 20 on 23rd; Rainham Marshes, 13 on 26th; The Naze, 17 on 23rd. September: Colne Point, ten on 6th; The Naze, 20 on 13th; Wanstead Flats, six on 23rd. The last records were from Gunners Park Shoebury and Holland Haven on 8th October.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata dartfordiensis*

UK

Scarce visitor.

EBSIP (46, 59, 105)

East Tilbury	♂	2015-19th January	PW
Rainham Marshes	One	2015-21st March	mo
Rainham Marshes	♂ and two ♀♀	2nd January	mo
Rainham Marshes	♂ and ♀	13th January-18th February	mo
Jaywick	Immature ♂	12th-25th January	SC
Frinton-on-Sea	Immature	23rd October	PBr
Colne Point	One	10th November	KM

Another excellent year following the six in 2015. A further three unsubstantiated records were received.

SUBALPINE WARBLER or MOLTONI'S WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans cantillans/albistrata/iberiae/inornata* or *Sylvia subalpina*

Vagrant.

EBSIP (10, 2, 12)

Gunfleet Sands off Clacton-on-Sea	Adult ♂	10th May	HG

This individual was photographed on a wind farm support boat, where it spent much of the day, before flying off as the boat reached Brightlingsea harbour.

Although the photographs were sufficient to identify the bird as a Subalpine or Moltoni's Warbler it was not possible to identify it to a particular species.

Dartford Warbler (RICHARD ALLEN)

FIRECREST

Regulus ignicapilla ignicapilla

Breeds occasionally. Otherwise, uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Once again there were no confirmed breeding records, although singing ♂♂ were reported from 11 sites across the County (four in 2015 and one in 2014) between 11th February and 4th May.

Records were received from 15 sites in January and 11 in February (six in January 2015 and five in February 2015, 11 in both months in 2014). Long- staying birds were at Sunnymead Farm/Cockaynes Wood Wivenhoe, Dagenham Chase, Bedfords Park, Hockley Woods, Wanstead Flats, Leyton Flats and Snaresbrook. The latter two sites are adjacent; the records may have involved the same birds.

Up to five birds were recorded at six coastal sites in March with five at The Naze on 30th and four, both there and at Bradwell Bird Observatory, the previous day. During April, up to three (at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 18th) occurred at eight coastal locations. Inland there were 1-2 at 14 sites in March and single birds at 13 sites in April.

Singles were at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 4th May, and at Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 30th, the last of the spring.

The first autumn record was a single bird at West Mersea on 13th September (the only record for this month). The main passage movement took place during October with up to four birds recorded at five coastal sites and, with the exception of six birds at Wansted Park on 18th, up to two birds were at a further 14 inland sites.

In November and December, records came from five and four sites respectively. All records were of single birds except for three at Wanstead Park on 13th November, three at Hockley Woods on 4th December and two there on 11th December. Single birds were at Brightlingsea, Mardyke Valley, Dunton Plotlands, Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, Highams Park, Hatch Wood Epping Forest and Wansted Park.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 75 singing ♂♂/territories was reported from 55 sites (42 from 28 in 2015), but the species was observed during the period April – July at a further 58 sites.

In January and February, a minimum of 560 birds was reported from 194 sites (250 from 116 in 2015). Counts of ten or more were received from: Wanstead Park, ten on 5th and 9th January; Hockley Woods, 40 on 6th January, 12 on 9th January, 15 on 10th January, 20 on 11th January, 15 on 13th January, 12 on 14th January, ten on 25th January and 29th February; Bedfords Park, 20 on 17th January; Hanningfield Reservoir, 21 on 23rd January; Colchester, ten on 24th January.

Spring passage was light, the only double-figure figure counts coming from: Cockaynes Wood Wivenhoe, ten on 10th March; Danbury area, ten on 15th March; Bradwell Bird Observatory, ten on 27th March and 12 on 30th March.

Autumn passage was also light, with single-figure counts throughout September.

Seven coastal sites reported double-figure figure counts through October; Gunners Park Shoebury, ten on 5th, 15 on 7th, 15 on 8th and 12 on 9th; East Mersea, 12 on 6th; Frinton-on-Sea, 144 on 8th, 22 on 9th, 16 on 16th and 12 on 26th; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 20 on 9th, 12 on 12th and 11 on 19th; The Naze, 37 on 8th, 40 on 9th (38 ringed), ten on 12th, 21 on 15th, 21 on 22nd, 28 on 24th, 25 on 29th and ten on 30th; Holland Haven, ten on 8th; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, 18 on 20th. A total of 84 were ringed at The Naze during October. Double-figure figure counts of between ten and 26 were received from a further ten inland sites during October.

Following the autumn influx, numbers in November and December were, as in 2015, higher than usual for these months, with 1,126 birds reported at 105 sites (660 from 140 in 2015; 229 from 86 in 2014; 102+ from 46 in 2013). The highest counts came from: Dunton Plotlands, 27 on 6th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 20 on 14th November and 10th December; Hockley Woods, 30 on 11th December; Belhus Woods Aveley, 19 on the 13th December.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus/troglodytes*

***T. t. indigenus* is an abundant and widespread resident. *T. t. troglodytes* may occur as a rare passage migrant.**

The Wren's current UK population estimate is the highest for any species and, on the latest figures, represents one in ten of the UK's breeding birds.

Abundance can vary sharply from year to year and numbers in the UK can be greatly depleted by cold winters.

Singing ♂♂ were reported from 112 sites, a noticeable increase in reports over previous years. Nest building was observed at The Pines Stifford Clays, Braintree area and Stansted Airport Lagoons

Siberian Chiffchaff, Colchester, March (SEAN NIXON)

Grasshopper Warbler, The Hythe, July (SEAN NIXON)

Dartford Warbler, St Osyth, January (GLEN MOORE)

Spotted Flycatcher, Beeleigh Abbey, June (SIMON WOOD)

Takeley, whilst breeding was confirmed from Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, Chigwell, Hanningfield Reservoir, Olympic Park Stratford and Walthamstow Wetlands.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea caesia*

Sedentary resident, currently stable.

A total of 27 pairs/singing ♂♂ was reported from 21 sites. Breeding records were received from Stansted Mountfitchet, South Green Fingringhoe and Belchamp Walter with juvenile birds reported at a further four sites: Leyton Flats, Terling, Wanstead Park and Pebmarsh. Breeding is almost certainly under-recorded for this species, which was seen at a further 50 sites between April and July, and at 51 more sites during the rest of the year.

Whilst ten territories were located at Stansted Mountfitchet, elsewhere counts of between three and six birds were reported from a further 20 sites and a highest count of nine was received from Thorndon Park North on 2nd April.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris britannica*

Common resident.

A total of 39 pairs/singing ♂♂ was reported from 30 sites. Breeding records were received from six sites: Westley Heights Langdon Hills, Friday Wood Colchester, Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, Chigborough Lakes, Takeley and Langdon Hills.

Breeding is almost certainly under-recorded for this species, which was seen at a further 64 locations between April and July, and at 80 more sites during the rest of the year.

Counts of between three and five birds were reported from 19 sites, with the highest counts received coming from: Fryerning, six on 27th February and Shut Heath Wood Great Totham, seven on 10th March.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* UK

Abundant but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

No breeding counts were received but breeding was confirmed at 18 sites.

The largest post- breeding flocks of juvenile birds reported were at Colne Point, 200 on 14th–18th June and Bradwell Bird Observatory, 700 on 13th July. Post- breeding flocks of between 25 and 100 birds (with 30–60% young birds) were reported from seven sites, with one flock of 140 reported from Fordham Hall on 26th May with 58% young birds.

Notable first winter flocks: East Mersea, 800 on 2nd February; Blue House Farm 1,800 on 11th February.

The highest counts in the autumn were: Colne Point, 1,000 on 11th September; Wanstead Flats, 2,000 on 22nd October; Beckton, 1,380 on 22nd October; Great Stambridge, 1,600 on 24th October; Stow Marsh North Fambridge 1,500 on 24th October; Frinton-on-Sea, 2,437 on 31st October.

During the second winter, three sites reported four-figure counts: Wat Tyler, 1,000 on 20th November; Frinton-on-Sea, 1,041 on 7th November, 1,165 on 8th November; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 1,000 on 22nd December.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus torquatus* UK

Passage migrant.

A wintering individual was at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, from 2nd January with the last reported sighting being 12th April.

Records during spring migration were received from 13 localities (25 in 2015, 18 in 2014) and involved 16 birds (42 in 2015, 24 in 2014). The earliest spring arrival was a ♂ at Abberton Reservoir on 3rd April and the latest was one at Rewsalls Marsh West Mersea, on 27th April. The majority of records were of single birds, although there were three at Dagenham Chase on 15th April.

Autumn passage was more in line with historic records and an improvement on last year, with records coming in from 27 sites (17 in 2015, 29 in 2014 and 16 in 2013).

Sightings involved 80 individuals (26 in 2015, 85 in 2014 and 65 in 2013). The first of the autumn was one on the undercliff at Frinton-on-Sea on 2nd October, with the last record, another single, at Beckton on 6th November. Most records were of 1-3 birds, but there were nine on 6th, seven on 7th and four on 11th October at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth whilst on 8th there were four at Wanstead Flats, five at Frinton-on-Sea, seven at Brightlingsea and The Naze and eight at Gunners Park Shoebury

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Sites reporting double-figure counts of 15 or more singing ♂♂/ territorial ♂♂/pairs in the breeding season were as follows: Braintree and Bocking area 75+; Mardyke Valley, 24; Rainham Marshes, 21; Olympic Park Stratford, 21; Friday Wood Colchester, 19; Orsett Fen, 15.

In the first winter the largest counts were not particularly high compared to last year with the highest being 36 from Sudbury to Brundon on 20th February; 34 at St Lawrence to Howe Outfall Dengie on 21st February; 30 at both North Weald Common and Woodham Fen South Woodham Ferrers on 6th and 8th January respectively. All other reports related to flocks of 25 or less.

There were no reports indicative of spring passage.

Autumn passage was again down on the same period last year with the monthly total from Frinton-on-Sea of 541 being just under 700 down, the highest single report from this site being 205 south pre-dawn on 8th October. Elsewhere a series of counts from The Naze peaked in October at 57 on 26th while 32 were reported at Walthamstow Wetlands on 22nd October. At Frinton-on-Sea the number counted passing in November was up on last year's 279, with 595 south in 40.25hrs. There were 200 at Deal Hall Dengie, on 8th November. The only other reports of 30+ during November came from: The Naze, peaking at 61 on 5th; Alresford, 37 on 4th; Wivenhoe, 35 on 14th; North Weald Common, 30 (rising to 40 on 6th December) on 8th and Old Hall Marshes, 30 on 13th.

The only December counts of more than 30 came from: Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 50 on 30th; Braintree, 31 on 31st and Sudbury to Brundon, 30 on 10th.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* UK

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Has summered.

During the first winter period three-figure flocks were reported from 27 sites (40 in 2015 and 23 in 2014). The largest were 500 at Cranham Marsh and 460 at Hammond's Road Little Baddow on 21st January. Other larger flocks of note were 400 at Dollery Wood Belchamp St Paul on 31st January; 370 at Wormingford on 4th February; 350 at Icknield Way Chrishall Grange on 27th January and 300 just west of Maldon and at Holyfield Hall Farm, on 10th and 3rd February respectively.

In addition, there were counts of 200+ at nine further sites. In January: 200 in Chigborough Lakes and Lofts Farm Gravel Pits area on 4th-8th; 200 at Canvey Wick on 4th; 200 at Stow Marsh North Fambridge on 20th; Tillingham on 23rd; 250 at Wigboro Wick Farm St Oysth on 2nd; 271 at Woodham Fen South Woodham Ferrers on 8th. In February: Hayes Hill Farm Holyfield, 200 on 6th; Birch, 251 on 9th; Ashlyns Farm North Weald, 200 on 9th. The last report in the spring was of two birds at Bridge End Finchingfield on 2nd May.

The first record of the autumn was five at Thorley Wash on 17th September. Three-figure counts in October came from seven locations: Wigbro Wick Farm St Osyth, 120 on 12th; Colne Point, 127 on 15th; Frinton-on-Sea, 171(monthly total); Highlands Boulevard Leigh-on-Sea, 110 on 20th; Wanstead Flats, 146 on 22nd; Roxwell, 105 on 23rd.

There were six three-figure flocks in November, the largest being 300 at Great Chesterford on 5th and 150 at Dedham on 29th.

The only four-figure count of the year came from Old Hall Marshes where numbers peaked at 1,000 on 9th December, with the next largest December counts being 700+ on West Canvey Marsh on 9th and 625 at Blue House Farm on 15th. Also, in December, flocks of 200+ were seen at Orsett

Fen on 2nd and 26th, Thurrock Thameside Mucking on 10th; and Iltney Farm Mundon on 12th. The majority of the remaining counts were below 150.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus iliacus/coburni* UK

***T. i. iliacus* is a common winter visitor and passage migrant. *T. i. coburni* is probably a very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Leaving aside yet another significant return movement (see below), the species was again widespread in the first winter but generally in small numbers, with three-figure flocks being found at five sites in the period (three in 2015 and 12 in 2014). The only flock of 200+ was 250 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 20th January. There were 182 at Orsett Fen on 25th January, 150 at Wormingford on 4th February and 100 at both Chigborough Lakes and Holyfield Hall Farm, on 8th and 16th January respectively.

As with 2015 the return movement was primarily noted at Frinton-on-Sea, where the monthly March total was 991 in 31.75hrs. However, this was principally due to 806 flying north in just one and a half hours on 23rd. Other March three-figure flocks of note were: 420 at St Clere's Hall St Osyth, on 24th; 350 at Lamarsh on 10th; 240 at Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures, on 26th. All other counts were of less than 200.

The last birds of the spring were both reported on 8th May along the north Dengie between St Lawrence and Howe Outfall.

The first report of the autumn involved four over Frinton-on-Sea in 4.5hrs on 13th September.

During October the earliest large passage movements were reported on 8th at Frinton-on-Sea, with 305 birds heading south in 4.5hrs and 270 heading west over Langdon Hills on 9th. There was, once again, a fairly concentrated passage in mid/late month. This began on 20th with reports of 300 at Wanstead Flats, 282 at Wivenhoe, 261 at Frinton-on-Sea, 200 at Collier Row Romford, 180 at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, and 100+ south-west over Leigh-on-Sea. Frinton-on-Sea continued to see movements with 100 south in 15 minutes on 21st and a further 109 north-east in 3.5hrs on 22nd. There were also 100 seen at Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey, on 21st, while Rainham Marshes recorded a monthly total of 925.

By far the largest movement of the autumn occurred on 1st November when 1,100 flew south in one hour over Frinton-on-Sea, the majority of the monthly total for this site (1,545). Otherwise, November was, as usual, quieter, with only three additional three-figure counts: Deal Hall Dengie, 100 on 8th; Rainham Marshes, 135 on 12th; Dedham Vale, 120 on 28th.

In December the species was, as at the start of the year, widespread in small numbers but five flocks of 200+ were reported with, as last year, Orsett Fen holding one of these, which peaked at 367 on 26th, whilst others were reported from: Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 250 on 26th; Rainham Marshes, 240 (peak count) on 9th; Wanstead Flats, 220 on 8th; Olympic Park Stratford, 217 on 9th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos philomelos/clarkei* UK EX

***T. p. clarkei* is common and largely resident, whilst *T. p. philomelos* is a passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The reported total of possible, probable and confirmed breeders (using BTO criteria) was at least 295 at 236 sites. These figures are included here because this is a Red List species but as usual, they will be primarily a reflection of observer coverage rather than of the actual population present in the County. Double-figure breeding counts were: Belhus Woods Aveley, 14; Mardyke Valley, 14.

In the first winter, double-figure counts came from five sites, the highest being of 20 at Wanstead Flats on 6th January.

Autumn passage reports were not as impressive as 2015, with the highest count being a monthly total of 279 in October from Frinton-on-Sea (compared to 603 for the same period last year). Double-figure October counts came from a further 15 sites, the highest being a nocturnal count of 97 over Chafford Hundred Grays on 3rd. Only Mardyke Valley and Dunton Plotlands held flocks of more than a dozen birds during November, with 13 on 2nd and 15 on 6th respectively. In December there were no reports of more than a dozen birds at any site.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus viscivorus* UK

Locally common resident and partial migrant.

The total of possible, probable and confirmed breeders (using BTO criteria) was at least 66 at 51 sites. Like Song Thrush, records are summarised because this is a Red List Species, and the number of breeders reported here will bear little relation to the actual population in the County.

The only sites reporting two or more territories were Belhus Woods Aveley, Hangman's Wood Little Thurrock and Orsett Fen, all two; Mardyke Valley, three.

The first winter saw just one double-figure figure count, 16 at Terling on 4th February.

A post-breeding flock of 30 was reported at Wall Wood Great Hallingbury on 28th August. Flocks of 15 were found at Paglesham Lagoon on 15th September and Thorley Wash on 17th November, with 12 at Wanstead Park on 5th December.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata striata* UK

Declining summer resident and passage migrant.

Eight pairs were proved to have bred, a slight improvement on the past two years (five in 2015, six in 2014) all single pairs. There were pairs, singing ♂♂ or single birds present at a further 16 sites (22 in 2015, 17 in 2014) in the breeding season, with singing ♂♂ or pairs showing nesting or feeding behaviour from eight sites and single birds at a further eight sites. Most of the reports relating to breeding birds came from large gardens, churchyards, woodland or parkland.

Spring passage was, at least inland, a little heavier than usual, with the first bird on 4th May at Wanstead Park. Inland during May there were two birds recorded at Mole Hill Sudbury to Brundon and Little Easton, as well as single birds at Greensted-juxta-Ongar, Rayne, Prittlewell and Rainham Marshes. Despite the heavier than normal passage inland, passage was very light on the coast with, in May, a single bird at Holland Haven on 20th, two birds at Frinton-on-Sea on three dates: 8th, 10th and 22nd, and the last bird of the spring on 1st June at Colne Point.

In autumn, passage lasted from early August to late September but with a marked peak in the third week of August and the first week of September. Reports in August came from 24 sites (excluding for this purpose sites holding confirmed or probable breeders) and were mainly of 1-2 birds. Counts of three or more were only made at three sites with three at Marks Hall Arboretum and Gunners Park Shoebury and 12 at Weald Park on 25th August.

In September reports came from 32 sites. Most records were of 1-3 birds, but counts of four or more were made at the following sites: Wanstead Flats, four on 3rd, seven on 5th, eight on 6th, five on 11th, four on 21st; Stansted Mountfitchet, four on 6th and five on 5th and Great Warley, five on 11th.

The last bird of the year was at West Mersea on 29th September.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula melophilus/rubecula*

***E. r. melophilus* is an abundant, widespread and relatively sedentary resident whilst *E. r. rubecula* is a relatively common passage migrant and also winter visitor in small numbers.**

There were several counts of 20+ during the early part of the year (site maximum in each case) : 20 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on 13th January, 20 at Sudbury to Brundon on 13th March, 20 at Olympic Park Stratford on two dates, 22 at Epping Forest Burial Park on 15th March, 22 at Mardyke Valley on 2nd January, 23 at Dunton Plotlands on two dates, 24 at Chafford Gorges Grays on two dates, 25 at Fishers Green Holyfield on 25th March and 28 at Belhus Woods Aveley on 20th March.

Singing birds were recorded in most months, including the winter, with streetlights often encouraging ♂♂ to sing, even at night. Some ♂♂ began to establish territories in March. Singing ♂♂ and territories were recorded across the County from urban to rural and inland to coastal locations. Counts of 15 or more singing ♂♂ or territories were as follows: Olympic Park Stratford (15), Mardyke Valley (15), Highams Park Lake (17), Dunton Plotlands (18), Orsett Fen (19), Friday Wood Colchester (23), Braintree and Bocking area (25), Rainham Marshes (26) and Belhus Woods Aveley (28).

Autumn migration was again evident along the coast during September and October. Peak counts were all in October: The Naze, 50 on 15th, 52 on 22nd and 40 on 24th and 68 on 26th; Frinton-on-Sea, 53 on 4th, 104 on 8th and 37 on 15th.
Away from the coast there were also several high counts suggestive of either a good breeding season or an influx of continental birds (site maxima in each case); Sudbury to Brundon, 32 on two dates in October; Olympic Park Stratford, 39 on 8th October; Walthamstow Wetlands, 45 on 22nd October; Chafford Gorges Grays, 34 on 1st November and Mardyke Valley, 34 on 2nd November. Two inland sites also produced the highest counts of the closing months, with 30 at North Weald Common on 4th December and 100 at Hanningfield Reservoir also on 4th December.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos* UK

Summer resident and passage migrant.

The first record of the year came from Cockaynes Wood Wivenhoe on 5th April. In total, 119 singing ♂♂ were reported from 47 sites (175 at 52 in 2015, 148 at 54 in 2014). If an accurate overall count, it would suggest a real drop in numbers in the last two years. Numbers appeared down at traditional sites such as Friday Wood Colchester, 19 singing ♂♂ in an incomplete survey (32 in a complete survey in 2015) and Fingringhoe Wick, 15 singing ♂♂ (30 in 2015). Other counts of five or more singing ♂♂ were as follows: Tilbury, five: Wrabness, five; Loshes Meadow Twinstead, five; Wakering Stairs, five; Abberton Reservoir, six; and Backwarden Danbury, six. There was little evidence of definite breeding.

The last records of the year and the only two autumn records were five at Canvey Wick and one at Cudmore Grove East Mersea both on 6th August.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca* UK

Rare spring, but fairly common autumn, passage migrant.

There was just one spring record, a male, at Low Lane Walthamstow on 19th April.

Autumn passage started on 16th August with a single bird at Burnham-on-Crouch. With a minimum of 27 birds at 16 sites (41 at 19 in 2015, 28 at 17 in 2014), it was a reasonable autumn passage. The stronghold was again Wanstead Flats, where birds were seen on at least ten dates between 26th August and 23rd September. The majority at that site were singles but there were two on 2nd and 3rd September and three on 4th and 5th.

Otherwise the most productive site was The Naze with singles on three dates and two on 24th August. At Frinton-on-Sea there were singles on 20th August, 13th and 15th September, while nearby Holland Haven had singles on 28th August, 29th August, 31st August and 7th September. The only other site with more than a single bird was East Mersea with two on 28th August. The last bird of the year was a single on 23rd September at Wanstead Flats.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* UK

Small breeding and wintering population. Passage migrant in small numbers.

In the first winter period there were single birds at four sites. One wandered along coastal north-east Essex visiting St Osyth Beach, Seawick and Jaywick whilst the other three were at the Olympic Park Stratford, Abberton Reservoir and, more unusually, in Tiptree.

Reports of birds likely to have been on spring passage (as distinct from breeders) were received from 18 sites (eight in 2015, six in 2014, 23 in 2013). Passage lasted from March to May and was mostly coastal, but some were in the south of the County and the Lee Valley. Singles were recorded inland at Chelmsford on 23rd March, South Woodham Ferrers on 31st March and Hanningfield Reservoir on 9th April. Most records were of single birds, but two were recorded at Peartree Farm Bicknacre on 6th March and Holland Haven on 20th March.

Reports of singing ♂♂ came from just one site in the Metropolitan area, Olympic Park Stratford where there were an estimated four territories recorded.

A ♀/first year was at Frinton-on-Sea on 21st June, the only record in that month away from the Olympic Park Stratford.

There were three records of birds in July, with singles at The Naze on 9th, Holland Haven on 23rd and The Hythe Colchester on 29th, either over-summering birds or early returning migrants.

Autumn passage was lighter than spring passage with birds at 14 sites (15 in 2015, 14 in 2014) but very similar to the previous two autumns. The passage lasted from September to early November, with the majority of birds from coastal sites, except a single at the Olympic Park Stratford in October and two singles in October at Abberton. Passage peaked with 13 birds at ten sites in October. All were singles, except two birds at West Mersea on 26th October.

The only obvious wintering bird in the second winter period was a single bird at Abberton Reservoir on several dates.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* UK

Regular passage migrant in small numbers. Formerly bred.

The first spring migrant was seen at Holyfield Hall Farm on 2nd April. Subsequently, reports were received of a minimum of 40 birds from a further 20 sites (13 in 2015, nine in 2014) between 3rd April and 3rd May. Most records were of single birds and largely recorded in the south of the County or the Lee Valley. Counts of multiple birds were two at Dagenham Chase on 12th April, three at Beckton on 9th April, four at Wanstead Flats on 12th April and the largest count of the spring was eight, also at Wanstead Flats, on 9th April. The last bird of the spring was recorded at Rainham Marshes on 3rd May.

A ♂ at Ambresbury Bank Epping Forest on 2nd June was in suitable breeding habitat and perhaps raises hopes of birds returning to breed in their former haunts.

An unseasonable bird was seen at Rainham Marshes on 28th June, but the first bird of the autumn was again at Rainham Marshes on 30th July. Passage was a little down on the previous year, with a minimum total of about 75 birds at 33 sites (89 at 36 in 2015) but still up on the year before that (63 at 29 in 2014). Birds were mainly confined to the coast and south of the County.

Counts of more than two birds were only recorded in September, with three at Great Warley on 7th, three at Warley Place Great Warley on 11th, and five on 5th and six on 11th, both at Wanstead Flats. The last bird of the year was one inland at Great Tey on 21st October.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* UK

Regular passage migrant. Has bred.

The first spring record was a single bird at Rainham Marshes on 14th April. Passage was at its highest level since 2013 with 40 birds from 22 locations (29 from 17 in 2015, 27 from 17 in 2014). These were mostly on the coast, in the south of the County or in the Lee Valley. Most records were of single birds, but two or more were recorded at Rainham Marshes on six dates, with a maximum of five on 30th April. There were also two at Old Hall Marshes on 27th April, three at Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 29th April and two at Camps End Ashdon on 10th May. The last spring sighting was one at Abberton Reservoir on 15th May.

Although no breeding behaviour was observed, there were several birds recorded in mid-July, which may indicate

Whinchat (RICHARD ALLEN)

local breeding or early dispersal from further afield. A juvenile was recorded at Holland Haven on 13th July and 15th July and another single un-aged bird at Bowers Marsh on 17th July. Moreover, two recently fledged juveniles at Old Hall Marshes on 26th July were considered by the observer to be so young that he thought they were likely locally bred.

The earliest definite autumn migrant was a single at Holland Haven on 25th July. Passage really did not begin until mid-August in any numbers and peaked in the first week of September, one week later than in 2015. Numbers were also down on 2015.

Passage during the main period is estimated and summarised in the table below. In compiling the table, it has been assumed that, for any given site in any given week, the total number of birds occurring was equal to the highest number counted on any one day unless there was evidence to indicate that birds had moved on and been replaced by others.

	August				September				October
Week commencing	**8th**	**15th**	**22nd**	**29th**	**5th**	**12th**	**19th**	**26th**	**3rd**
Numbers	4	19	36	49	66	50	29	39	6
Locations	4	10	16	21	20	21	11	16	4

Counts of six or more in autumn were as follows: August: Wanstead Park, six on 25th; Maydays Farm West Mersea, ten on 30th; September: Maydays Farm West Mersea, six on 3rd; Wanstead Park, eight on 7th; Wanstead Flats, six on 11th; Old Hall Marshes, nine on 13th; Blue House Farm, six on 17th. The last bird of the year was at Maldon on 9th October.

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola*

Small breeding population. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

A further recovery to at least ten (possibly 12) pairs at seven localities, with four pairs at East Tilbury, 1-3 pairs at Fingringhoe Ranges MOD and single pairs at Colne Point, Two Tree Island, Rainham Marshes, Thurrock Thameside Mucking and Bowers Marsh. Breeding was confirmed at three of the sites, with juveniles seen at Colne Point, East Tilbury and Bowers Marsh. It was also good to see breeding in north-east Essex coastal locations away from the usual places in the south of the County.

Stonechat (RICHARD ALLEN)

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Pairs/Territories	10-12	5	5	5	3	2	6	6	9	12
Locations	7	3	5	3	2	2	5	6	6	7

In the first and second winter periods numbers were much higher than in 2015, perhaps reflecting the exceptionally mild conditions during both winters.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	118	116	32	27	23	54	235	124	136
Locations	56	46	17	15	9	25	67	51	45

The highest counts in the autumn were as follows: August: Bowers Marsh, seven on 23rd August; Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury, six on 17th August. October; Colne Point, seven on 8th; Old Hall Marshes, ten on 26th; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, seven on 15th; St Lawrence Marsh to Marsh House Dengie, ten on 17th; Tollesbury Wick, ten on 17th; Rainham Marshes, 13 on 24th.

The highest counts of the first winter period were: Rainham Marshes, 14 on 23rd and 31st January; Wallasea Island, six on 23rd January; Holland Haven, seven on 30th January; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, six on 20th January; East Tilbury, six on 9th February. In contrast to 2015 there were several high counts in the second winter period: November: Rainham Marshes, nine on 13th; Old Hall Marshes, six on two dates. December: Blue House Farm, six on 15th; Rainham Marshes, 15 on 16th; Wallasea Island, six on 9th; Abberton Reservoir, six on 9th; Old Hall Marshes, six on 17th; Bradwell Bird Observatory, six on 14th; North Fambridge to Althorne, nine on 15th.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant. Occasionally breeds.

The earliest spring migrant was a single bird at Frinton-on-Sea on the comparatively late date of 16th March. Spring passage can best be tabulated as follows:

	March	April					May
Week commencing	**24th**	**31st**	**7th**	**14th**	**21st**	**28th**	**5th**
Numbers	21	72	76	48	32	72	10
Location	11	27	23	22	17	24	7

Double-figure counts only came from Rainham Marshes with 22 on 3rd April, 23 on 12th April, 13 on 16th April and 16 on 3rd May. The last of the spring was at Colne Point on 2nd June.

There were three records in July, but it is unclear if they were indicative of breeding, over-summering or simply early migrants. The three records were at Bowers Marsh on 7th, Boyton Cross Roxwell on 15th and three at Colne Point on 17th.

Autumn migration commenced with single birds at Benfleet Creek and Holland Haven on 25th July. The migration was prolonged but poorer than in 2015. Counts of eight or more were as follows: Holland Haven, eight on 18th August and eight on 8th October; The Naze, eight on 29th August; Rainham Marshes, ten on 31st August and 1st September, 11 on 3rd September and eight on 13th September; Bradwell Bird Observatory, eight on 7th September; Blue House Farm, ten on 18th September and 14 on 19th September. The final sighting of the year was of a single bird at Rainham Marshes on 28th October.

	August				September				October	
Week commencing	**8th**	**15th**	**22nd**	**29th**	**5th**	**12th**	**19th**	**26th**	**3rd**	**10th**
Numbers	15	34	48	83	65	64	45	46	56	18
Location	10	13	23	30	28	20	17	20	22	12

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*

Passage migrant.

Six birds showing characteristics of this race were reported (six in 2015), four in spring and two in autumn. In spring there were single birds at Hanningfield Reservoir and Hyde Hall Rettendon both on 27th April and two together at Beckton on 30th April. The autumn birds were one at Henny Street on 5th October and one at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 9th October.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus domesticus* UK

Abundant resident.

A widely reported species with 2,632 records received from across the County during the year. Of these, 59 indicated possible breeding, with a further 68 records indicating probable breeding. There were 40 records confirming breeding, the highest counts being 50 pairs in Braintree, 30 pairs in Grays and 27 pairs at Pebmarsh. Please could observers note confirmed records of breeding.

Fourteen records of three-figure counts were received from eight sites during the year (eight sites in 2015, nine sites in 2014), the highest count being of 123 birds in Upminster on 15th December. An additional 85 records were received involving counts of 50-100 individuals from across the County throughout the year.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus montanus* UK

Declining passage migrant. Bred until 1999.

No birds were recorded in the first winter period, with the year's first records being single birds at Great Burstead on 22nd March and Holland Haven on 25th March.

Autumn passage was noted from six sites across the County, with the peak count in the north of the County being 21 on 26th October at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth. The highest number recorded in the south was 18 migrating south-west through Gunners Park Shoebury on 15th October. Other records of migrants during this period consisted of one at Brightlingsea on 10th September, two at Frinton-on-Sea on 13th September with 11 following the coast south at the same site on 30th September. Three were at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 10th October and one lingering at Gunners Park Shoebury from 17-18th October. Three were present at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, on 20th October, which had increased to 14 on 25th. Three passed Frinton-on-Sea on 20th October, with a single there on 22nd. Six were recorded at Rainham Marshes on 22nd October, with two at the same site on 26th. A single bird was at Frinton-on-Sea on 28th October with four recorded there on 2nd November. Two were recorded at Rainham Marshes on 3rd November, with the year's final record of a single from the same site on 6th November.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis occidentalis/modularis* UK

***P. m. occidentalis* is an abundant and widespread resident prone to some southward movements outside the breeding season, whilst *P. m. modularis* is likely to be a passage migrant and winter visitor.**

A widely reported species across the County in 2016, with 2,847 records received. Records of possible breeding (singing ♂♂) were received from 247 sites across Essex, including 22 territories at Rainham Marshes and 14 territories at both Belhus Woods Aveley and Mardyke Valley, as well as 13 territories at Orsett Fen.

Probable breeding was recorded from 77 sites, the highest count being 25 pairs in suitable nesting habitat in Braintree, however very few records of confirmed breeding were received. Please could observers note confirmed records of breeding.

It is often unclear whether individuals recorded during periods of passage are locally dispersing birds or migrants from further afield. However counts of presumed passage migrants were noted in autumn, with 100 at Frinton-on-Sea being a clear arrival on 8th October, the highest count of Dunnock in the County from a single site in 2016. There were also 36 at Frinton-on-Sea on 15th October, with counts from the same site including 30 on 4th October, 28 on 29th October, 22 on

26th October and 18 on 17th September respectively. The only other record of presumed coastal passage was of 15 at Gunners Park Shoebury on 3rd October. In addition to these records, another 45 records of 15 of more birds were received throughout the year, the highest count during winter being of 30 at North Weald on 6th December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* UK

Declining summer visitor.

A slight improvement with 35 pairs confirmed or probably breeding at five locations (23 at nine in 2015). Fourteen pairs were located on Foulness Island, up from five in 2015 but still below the 24 reported in 2014. There were a further 43 records of possible breeding at ten locations, but this still appears to reflect a long-term decline, both in the County and nationally.

The first of the year was on Wallasea Island on 25th March. Double-figure counts during April were at: Abberton Reservoir, 14 on 3rd, 35 on 10th, 15 on 25th and 26th, 16 on 10th, 12 on 12th, ten on 11th; Blue House Farm, 12 on 5th; Bradwell, ten on 17th and 27th; Lee Valley Riding Centre Leyton, ten on 21st, 20 on 22nd; Walthamstow Marshes, 20 on 22nd; Lower Raypits Canewdon 20 on 17th; Old Hall Marshes, 15 on 26th; Rainham Marshes, 30 on 26th; Wallasea Island, ten on 13th and 21st.

Double-figure counts in May were as follows: Abberton Reservoir, 25 on 6th, 30 on 8th, ten on 14th; Bradwell, 15 on 11th; Marsh Road Burnham-on-Crouch, 12 on 2nd and 29th; north Dengie, 60 on 8th; St Osyth, ten on 1st; Wallasea Island, ten on 6th. June double-figure counts came from north Dengie, 28 on 5th; Wallasea Island, 15 on 16th and 13 on 15th; Mountnessing, ten on 19th. In July there were 26 on the north Dengie – the only count in excess of ten.

Autumn migration was concentrated at ten locations reporting 30 or more individuals, notably Wallasea Island, peaks of 200 on 25th, 150 on 26th, 60 on 16th August; Rainham Marshes, 53 on 19th September, 34 on 25th September; Old Hall Marshes, 40 on 5th, 30 on 6th September; King George V Reservoir, 55 on 18th September, 30 on 22nd; Gunners Park Shoebury, 38 on 24th; Frinton-on-Sea, 111 on 17th September; North Fambridge-Althorne, 50 on 22nd August; East Tilbury, 30 on 10th September; Bradwell, 40 on 8th August; Blue House Farm, 80 on 18th September, 50 on 20th August and 22nd August, 45 on 2nd September, 35 on 6th September.

In October there were records from eight sites, with the last at Stow Marsh North Fambridge on 24th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Scarce summer visitor.

Bradwell	♀	8th May
Middlewick Farm Dengie	♀	13th May
Abberton Reservoir	♀	20th May
King George V Reservoir	One	17th August
Wallasea Island	One	28th August

Channel Wagtail *Motacilla flava x flavissima*

A ♂ showing characteristics of this hybrid form was at Rainham Marshes on 26th April.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea cinerea* UK

Increasing resident breeder and passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding was recorded at eight sites and considered probable at a further eight, with breeding possible in a further eight (confirmed at six and considered probable at three in 2015).

Most counts in the first three months were of 1-2 birds, with the following exceptions: Hanningfield Reservoir, four on 13th March; Harold Wood Sewage Works, four on 17th January and three on 1st February; Olympic Park Stratford, three on 17th January and four on 19th March; Brightlingsea,

three on 9th February; Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury, three on 17th January; Vange Marsh, three on 4th March; Wanstead Park, three on 18th March.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	146	108	114	65	44	167	168	88	103
Locations	76	58	56	41	20	53	78	69	37

Records of four or more birds in autumn were as follows: August: King George V Reservoir, 12 on 23rd; Tollesbury Wick, four on 5th. September: Frinton-on-Sea, 12 on 17th, 11 on 13th, ten on 30th, five on 3rd, 15th and 22nd, four on 24th; The Naze, five on 15th. King George V Reservoir, five on 25th; Wakering Stairs, five on 30th; Gunners Park Shoebury, four on 30th. October: Olympic Park Stratford 14 on 2nd.

At the end of the year, records of three or more birds came from: Walthamstow Wetlands, five on 1st December; Creekmouth Barking five on 26th December; Whetmead Witham, five on 22nd December; Rainham Marshes, four on 14th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, three on 26th December; Ilford, three on 21st November; King George V Reservoir, three on 2nd November; Tilbury, three on 14th December.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*
Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding was received for 36 pairs at 17 sites (six pairs at six in 2015) with possible breeding at a further 29.

Major roosts during the first winter period were reported from: Whetmead Witham, 200 on 12th February; Harold Wood Sewage Works, 50 on 5th January, 100 on 17th January, 150 on 1st February; High Street Epping, 91 on 1st January, 65 on 27th January, 65 on 3rd February; Hanningfield Reservoir 80 on 9th January; Abberton Reservoir, 70 on 10th January; Copford Sewage Works, 50 on 1st January; Wat Tyler, 50 on 23rd January. Reports of roosts of 20-49 birds came from ten other locations.

There was a light spring passage, with seven past Frinton-on-Sea on 24th March, 21 past there on 30th March, ten over Heybridge Gravel Pit on 21st March, and 55 at Bowers Marsh on 10th March.

Autumn migration past Frinton-on-Sea peaked at 107 on 25th October with 359 noted during the month. Counts of 20 or more during September and October were as follows: The Hythe Colchester, 50 on 26th September; Hanningfield Reservoir, 43 on 25th September, 30 on 13th October; The Naze, 22 on 3rd September, 40 on 13th September, 35 on 12th September, 25 on 24th September, 38 on 1st October, 34 on 29th October; Southend-on-Sea, 40 on 18th October, Colne Point, 33 on 11th October; Walthamstow Marshes, 33 on 15th October; Chelmsford, 30 on 4th October; Wycke Hill Stables Maldon, 30 on 14th October; Olympic Park Stratford, 22 on 15th October, 20 on 16th October, 30 on 23rd October; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth , 22 on 10th October; South Woodford Cricket Club Woodford Bridge, 21 on 19th October; Tilbury, 20 on 1st September.

Records of 50 or more birds at the end of the year came from: Hanningfield Reservoir, 70 on 17th November, 50 on 18th November, 200-300 on 20th November; Whetmead Witham, 200 on 22nd December; High Street Epping, 50 on 16th November, 120 on 19th December; The Naze, 76 on 10th December, 60 on 22nd December and 50 on 27th December.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Fairly common passage migrant.

The first of the year was at Mayland Creek on 10th April. Spring passage continued through April with one record in early May. In total 23 were identified with records from seven sites (17 from 14 in 2015).

In April there was one record of eight, at Walthamstow Marshes on 23rd, one record of six, at

Wallasea Island on 8th, and there were two records of two: at Abberton Reservoir on 13th and at Lawling Creek Maylandsea on 17th. All other records were of single birds.

There were no summer records and the first report of the autumn was at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 5th September. Passage was light, with 31 birds at 12 sites (17 from eight in 2015, 19 from 11 in 2014). The last record of the year was of one at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 31st October.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

Rare passage migrant. EBSIP (21, 9, 30)

Frinton-on-Sea	One	28th October	PBr

The first record since 2012.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* UK

Common resident and passage migrant.

The number of breeding territories fell to 76 from 18 sites (144 from 12 in 2015), which, if a trend, requires careful observation. Only four confirmed breeding pairs were recorded. The highest counts (with 2015 figures where available) were 17 at Rainham Marshes, 14 at Old Hall Marshes (nine), and 11 on Foulness Island (four).

First winter counts of 30 or more from January to mid-March came from five sites (down slightly from eight in 2015): Orsett Fen, 54 on 25th January; Havering-atte-Bower, 50 on 23rd January; Claygate Lane Aimes Green 40 on 2nd January; Broomhouse Flash Langham, 35 on 15th February; Wormingford, 32 on 4th February. Counts of 20 or more came from another three sites.

Spring passage was notable with 129 past Frinton-on-Sea in March, including 61 on 30th, but only 15 in April. Other counts in excess of ten included: Wanstead Flats, 30 on 22nd March; Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, 18 on 23rd March; Leyton Flats, 18 on 23rd March; Blue House Farm, ten on 24th March, 12 on 8th April, 14 on 13th April, 14 on 18th April, 17 on 1st May; King George V Reservoir, 15 on 17th March; Wormingford, 15 on 5th April; Olympic Park Stratford, 14 on 19th March, 12 on 24th March; North Fambridge to Althorne, 14 on 8th April; North Fambridge, 11 on 21st March.

Autumn migration was heavy with 4,188 past Frinton-on-Sea during September, including 2,294 on 17th September alone, and 977 during October. Other counts in excess of 80 were reported from Holland Haven, 350 on 19th September; Wakering Stairs, 222 on 30th September; The Naze, 120 on 15th September; Colne Point, 100 on 18th September; Wallasea Island, 100 on 23rd October; Bradwell, 81 on 25th September; Canvey Point, 80 on 16th September; Gunners Park Shoebury, 80 on 30th September; Wanstead Flats, 80 on 19th September.

Reports were received from 91 sites in the last two months of the year (78 in 2015). Counts of 40 or more came from Hanningfield Reservoir, 120 on 14th November, 100 on 17th November, 24th November, 27th November, and 17th December, 50 on 18th December and 80 on 26th December; Bulmer to Belchamp Hall, 50 on 17th December; north Dengie, 81 on 18th December; Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 40 on 30th December.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis trivialis* UK

A rare and decreasing summer visitor and passage migrant.

A ♂ held territory in the area where breeding occurred in 2015, but there was no further evidence.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	17	32	1	0	0
Locations	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	11	8	1	0	0

The first reported migrant was at Bradwell on 30th March.

In autumn, two were at Langdon Hills on 15th August and at Fleet Head Great Wakering on 26th

August. At Frinton-on-Sea, 14 were seen in association with a large pipit movement on 17th September. The last bird of the year was at Rainham Marshes on 9th October.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*

UK
EBSIP

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	17	11	17	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	9
Locations	11	6	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4

All records were of one or two birds except for Rainham Marshes, which remains the hotspot for this species in Essex. Peak counts there were four on 31st January, four on 20th February, seven on 20th March, five on 3rd April, seven on 7th November, and six on 6th December.

The last bird of the spring was at Rainham Marshes on 15th April, and the first of the autumn was at the same site on 16th October.

From 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Water Pipit records.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Winter visitor to the coast. Scarce passage migrant inland.

First winter records came from 51 sites (46 in 2015), with counts of five or more recorded as follows (site maximum in each case): North Dengie, 11 on 10th January and six on 21st February; Rainham Marshes, 11 on 31st January, nine on 13th February and six on 18th March; Old Hall Marshes, 13 on 9th February; Tollesbury Wick, five on 25th February; Wivenhoe, seven on 4th February; Goldhanger, six on 11th January; Mill Beach Heybridge six on 11 January; Paglesham, six on 13th February; Heybridge Gravel Pit, five on 25th January and 9th February; The Hythe Colchester, five on 8th March. There were two April records, both at Rainham Marshes, on 3rd and 22nd.

The first arrivals of the autumn were two at Frinton-on-Sea and one at Rainham Marshes on 17th September. Counts of five or more were recorded at: Bradwell, 12 on 12th; Colne Point, 12 on 8th October, eight on 2nd November; Frinton-on-Sea, 12 on 26th October out of a total of 46 during the month; north Dengie, seven on 17th October, ten on 18th November; Holland Haven, five on 26th October; The Naze, five on 29th October; St Osyth, ten on 5th November; Goldhanger, nine on 17th November, eight on 15th December; Heybridge Gravel Pit, six on 18th November, nine on 15th December; Old Hall Marshes, nine on 27th and 2nd November; Hamford Water, eight on 15th November; south Dengie, eight on 18th November; The Hythe Colchester, eight on 28th October; Wivenhoe, eight on 16th November; Wallasea Island, seven on 13th December; Bradwell, six on 14th December; Lawling Creek Maylandsea, six on 18th December; Rainham Marshes, six on 24th October, five on 23rd November, and 13th December; Althorne to Burnham, five on 18th November; Barling Marsh, five on 27th December.

Of interest, a colour-ringed bird on the path near Tilbury Power Station on 16th November was one of a series ringed between 17th October and 7th November in north-west Norway.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs gengleri/coelebs*

***F. c. gengleri* is an abundant resident whilst *F. c. coelebs* is a common passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Breeding records do not call for comment.

Outside the breeding season, it was generally a poor year again, although spring passage was the best for several years.

The first winter saw just three counts in excess of 50, all in February (24 in 2015 and 13 in 2014): in cut-down game cover just north of Chigborough Lakes, c150 on 23rd; Langham, 75 on 15th; Walthamstow Marshes, 52 on 28th. There were a further three counts of 50.

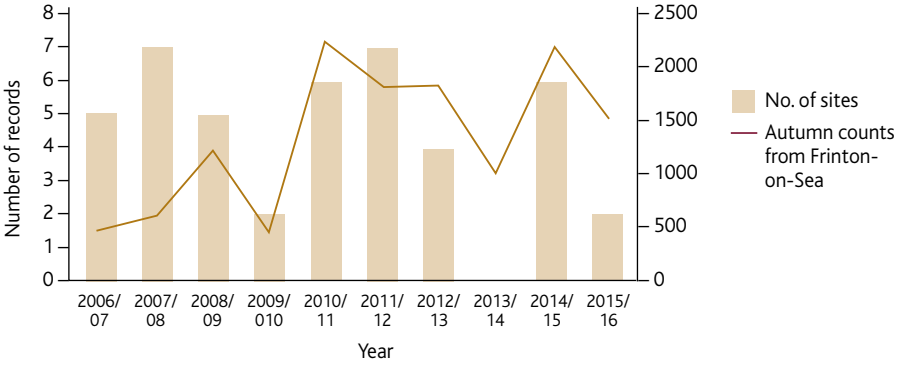
Spring passage, predominantly during March, was highlighted by an impressive count of 617 north over Frinton-on-Sea in just 1.5 hours on 16th March during east/north-east winds as well as 173 north in 1.25 hours the following day in similar conditions. A total of 906 were recorded over Frinton-on-Sea during March, all heading north. Elsewhere there were 75 still near Chigborough Lakes from 17th-20th March, a maximum of 65 in a Boreham garden from 8th-17th March and 50 around the Bradwell Bird Observatory feeders in early March. Migration continued into April with 50 at Sunnymead Farm, Wivenhoe on 13th and 58 along the north Dengie coast on 10th.

Autumn passage was, by recent standards, poor. At Frinton-on-Sea, where visible migration is most evident, monthly totals were (2015 figures in brackets): September 92 in 57 hours (52); October 652 in 59.75 hours (1,509); November 377 in 40.25 hours (73) – a total for the three months of 1,121 (1,863). Peak counts in October were 157 north in 2.5 hours, during east winds, on 25th October, 117 north in four hours, in north winds, on 9th October and 60 north in 3.5 hours in similar conditions on 22nd. Visible migration counts from Metropolitan Essex over 21st and 22nd October produced signs of a large westerly overland movement: Wanstead Flats, 260 on 21st and 520 the next day; Walthamstow Wetlands, 157 on 22nd; Bulphan, 50 on 22nd. Elsewhere, apart from 70+ at Lion Creek Canewdon on 8th October, there were no other counts of more than 50 during autumn passage.

December was, once again, very quiet, albeit less so than 2015 with four sites holding 50 or more: Docura's Farm Little Horkesley, 150 in game-crops on 19th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 100 on 4th December; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, 65 on 21st December; Fingringhoe Wick, 50 on 18th December.

A simple analysis of the number of sites holding flocks of 100+ Chaffinch during December to February shows no clear trend over the last decade. Additionally, there is some correlation apparent between the number migrating over Frinton-on-Sea in the autumn and the number of flocks of 100+ in the following winter, although clearly it is not always the case.

No. of sites holding flocks of 100+ Chaffinch during winter (Dec-Feb) from 2006/07 to 2015/16 and annual autumn totals migrating over Frinton-on-Sea



BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

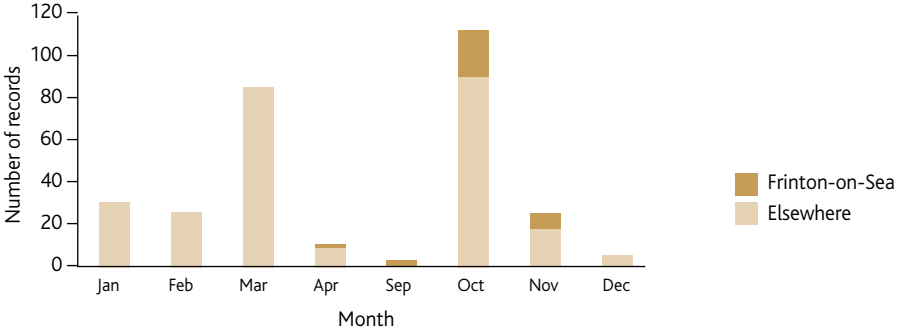
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Another poor year all round with both passage and wintering numbers generally remaining low. In all, Brambling were recorded from 32 sites in the first winter (15 in 2015) and 32 in the second winter period (48 in 2015).

In the first winter period, the only double-figure counts were 14 ringed at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on 19th February and ten at Whitepark Farm Boxted on 17th January. Passage was evident in March with, by far the highest count of the period, c50 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 26th March involving small flocks of birds moving across the south lagoon, up to six in a Boreham garden

on 8th and 2-3 at Bradwell Bird Observatory from 30th March-6th April. Birds were recorded at seven locations during April with the last two of the first winter period coming from: Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 18th; Boreham, 28th.

Monthly totals of Brambling during 2016



Autumn passage began on 28th September with two over Frinton-on-Sea, then two over two days later. Thereafter there were records of single birds from coastal localities during the first week of October. The 8th saw five over King George V Reservoir and five over Frinton-on-Sea the next day. Thereafter the only counts of more than five came from: Gunners Park Shoebury , eight on 15th October; Wanstead Flats, eight on 22nd October; Frinton-on-Sea, seven on 30th November. Visible migration over Frinton-on-Sea accounted for about 20% of the County total in October, with the aggregate total there being 34 (158 in 2015).

Brambling currently winter in the County in exceptionally small numbers with just six at five locations being recorded in December.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes* UK

Very uncommon, and local, resident; rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of just eight individuals is even lower than last year's low.

Coombe Wood Thundersley	♀	6th January-11th February
Langdon Hills	Two	9th-10th October
Wanstead/Leyton Flats	One	19th October
Frinton-on-Sea	One flew north	25th October
Frinton-on-Sea	One flew north	31st October
Connaught Water Epping Forest	One	7th November
Woodford Green	One	12th November

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata* UK

Declining resident.

The species was recorded from just over 100 locations during the breeding season. In the north of the County, around the Bures-Wormingford-Boxted area, 27 territories were located. Elsewhere, there were odd pairs reported from across the County, with four pairs in the Braintree and Bocking area. Very few pairs were confirmed as breeding.

During the first winter period, counts of more than five birds came from 11 sites (seven in 2015) with the highest counts being eight at: Seventy Acres Lake, Holyfield on 2nd January; Wrabness on 20th January; Fingringhoe Wick on 31st January; Chigborough Lakes on 23rd February. In addition,

there were two locations recording seven birds and six recording six birds.

One at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 25th September was the only evidence of possible migration; the species is rare there.

During the second winter period, seven sites recorded counts of more than five birds, the highest being eight at Fingringhoe Wick on 1st November and Broak's Wood, Gosfield on 18th November whilst there were two sites recording counts of seven and five recording six.

Numbers appear to be higher than last year.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus*

Very rare passage migrant **EBSIP (16, 2, 18)**

Walthamstow Marshes	Singing ♂	3rd-20th July	JP SLF

The first since 2009 and the first ♂ since 1999.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris chloris*

Common but recently declined resident and passage migrant.

Recorded from a similar number of sites to last year, c200, during the breeding season. A total of 761 records were received covering the breeding season but little further meaningful can be said...

As in 2015, there were just two counts in excess of 50 during the first winter period: 60 in Priory Park, Southend-on-Sea on 30th January; 55 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on 28th January.

During March, passage was suggested by a build-up in numbers at Bradwell Bird Observatory with 50 on 2nd and 40 still present from 23rd-27th, whilst nearby there were 40 along the north Dengie on 13th. Otherwise passage was not discernible.

There was no post breeding flocks of note. Indeed, the highest July/August count involved just 16 between St Lawrence and Howe Outfall Dengie on 24th July, with the only other double-figure counts being 11 south over Frinton-on-Sea on 31st August (perhaps early local migrants?) and ten in the Olympic Park Stratford on 3rd July.

Autumn passage was poor. At Frinton-on-Sea, a total of just 161 were recorded, 43 in September and 118 in October (six and 393 respectively in 2015) with peak counts of 70 north in four hours on 9th October and 27 south in four hours on 30th September. The largest single day count of the autumn came from Gunners Park Shoebury where there were 80 on 18th October; 33 there on 15th October was the only other count over 20.

The second winter period saw just two counts of 50 or more: 70 in Priory Park Southend-on-Sea on 2nd December and 50 at the same location on 22nd December.

All in all a poor year for the species, which continues to struggle following the *Trichomonosis* epidemic that has so badly affected it.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris pipilans/flavirostris* **UK**

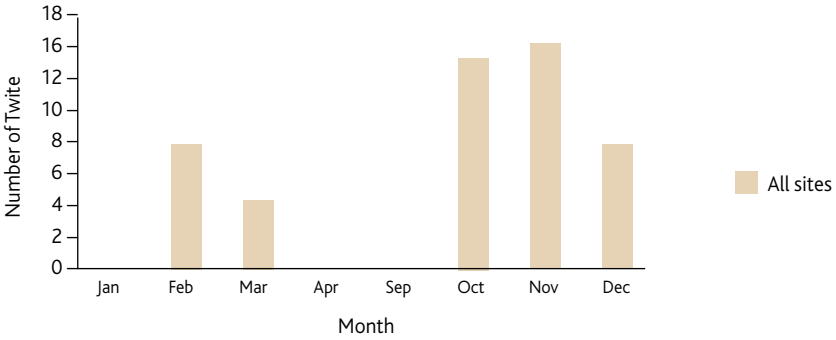
Both sub-species are uncommon passage migrants and winter visitors.

For the first time since the species was mentioned in an *Essex Bird Report* (1951), there were no double-figure counts, the highest being nine at Old Hall Marshes on 10th February and Wallasea Island on 12th and 14th December. At the former, birds were present from 10th February to 11th March and then on 29th October and 8th November, whilst on Wallasea Island birds were present from 7th December to the end of the year.

Other sites recording the species, all on single dates were: The Naze, two on 9th October; Holland Haven, five on 23rd October; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, five on 24th October; Blue House Farm, eight on 10th November; St Osyth, six on 16th December.

With minimum County totals of nine in the first winter and 35 in the second, this is probably the worst year on record for Twite in Essex since the formation of the Society. Back around 1980, the Essex wintering population stood at around 5,000 individuals (Wood 2007), so the decline since then has been dramatic, albeit not just confined to Essex.

Monthly totals of Twite during 2016



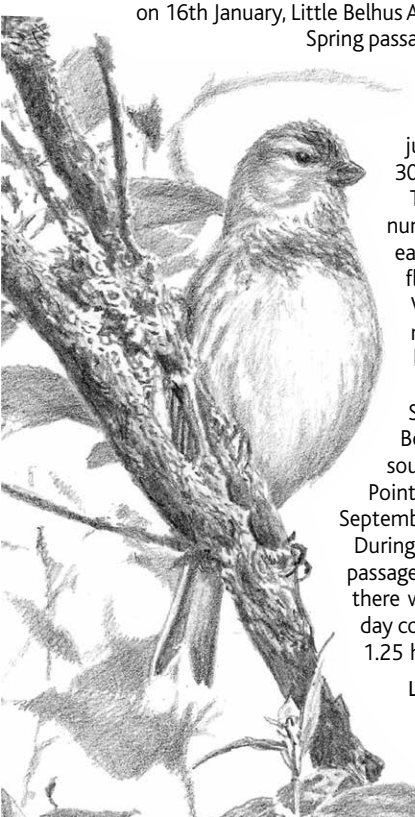
LINNET *Linaria cannabina cannabina* UK

Common but declined resident and passage migrant.

The species was reported from a similar number of sites to last year, c250.

Very little can be said regarding breeding numbers, apart from diligent surveying by one observer who noted 77 territories along the Stour river valley from Wrabness to Clare and 16 territories around Wormingford (18 in 2015). In all, breeding, or possible breeding, was reported from approximately 60 sites across the County, again predominantly in coastal areas and river valleys.

During the first winter period, five sites (two in 2015) produced three-figure counts: Colne Point, 200 on 29th January and 150 on 20th February; Rainham Marshes, 100 on 16th, 120 on 17th and 140 on 23rd January; Bulmer area, 150 on 9th February; Great Loveney Hall Farm Mount Bures, 130 on 16th January, Little Belhus Aveley, 151 on 26th January.



Spring passage saw just three three-figure counts: Tollesbury Wick, 107 on 30th April; Boreham, flocks of 185 and 125 flew east on 17th and 25th March respectively. Numbers over Frinton-on-Sea during April and May totaled 161 (157 in 2015) with the highest day totals being just 38 north in 1.5 hours on 2nd May and 36 north in one hour on 30th April. There were no other spring passage counts of more than 30.

There were no obvious post-breeding flocks, albeit increasing numbers in late July and early August could have been aggregations of early breeders, as well as early migrants. There were two three-figure flocks at this time: 100 in St Lawrence Bay on 6th August and 200 on Wallasea Island on 14th August. Passage appeared to pick up around mid-August with five sites recording counts of 50 or more, the highest being 80 over Colne Point, on 27th August.

As usual, numbers built up slowly, particularly from about mid-September with three sites, Colne Point, Frinton-on-Sea and Mill Beach Heybridge recording three-figure counts, the highest being 163 south over Frinton-on-Sea in two hours on 10th and 131 over Colne Point, on 19th. In total, 715 were recorded over Frinton-on-Sea during September.

During the principal passage period, Frinton-on-Sea recorded a light passage (with 2015 figures in brackets) with a total of 348 in October (226); there were no observations from Frinton-on-Sea in November. The peak day counts were 126 north in four hours on 9th October and 139 south in 1.25 hours on 31st October. Elsewhere, eight sites (seven on the coast)

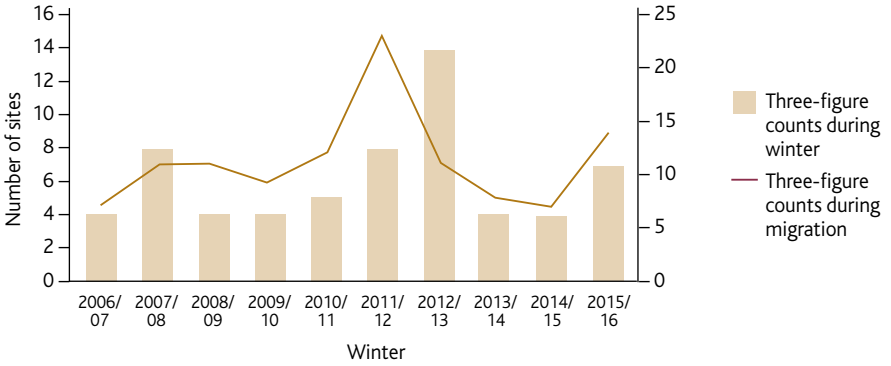
Linnet (GEORGE BROWN)

recorded three-figure counts, including counts of 200 at Colne Point, on 8th October, Rainham Marshes on 1st October and Mersea Strood on 11th November. The sole inland site, Twinstead, held 120 on 9th November.

During the second winter period, there was just one three-figure count, 300 at Bowers Marsh, on 18th December. Counts of more than 70 came only from Boreham where up to 85 were present during the last ten days of the year.

A simple statistical analysis of the occurrence of Linnet flocks in autumn and winter, shows high autumn numbers do not necessarily lead to high numbers in winter.

No. of sites recording three-figure flocks of Linnet during passage and winter in 2016



COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea flammea*

UK

Scarce, but regular, winter visitor.

EBSIP

Chigborough Lakes	Two	1st-4thJanuary	SDW
Chigborough Lakes	One	1st-10th January	SDW
Gambles Green Terling	Two	3rd January	GBB
Boreham	One	26th December	GE

A further five unsubstantiated records involving nine birds were received.

Annual totals for the last ten winters:

	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	2007/06	Average
Totals	4	0	6	0	0	1	0	26	4	1	4.2

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

UK

Formerly resident, now a scarce and decreasing passage migrant and winter visitor.

Double-figure counts came from 19 sites (nine in 2015 and 14 in 2014) with a further site producing three-figure counts: Bulmer area, 125 on 10th January with 120 on 13th.

Of the 19 sites, only at Chigborough Lakes did counts exceed 50, with a peak of 70 present from 4th-9th January. The next highest count came from Ingrebourne Valley, where there were 32 on 1st January.

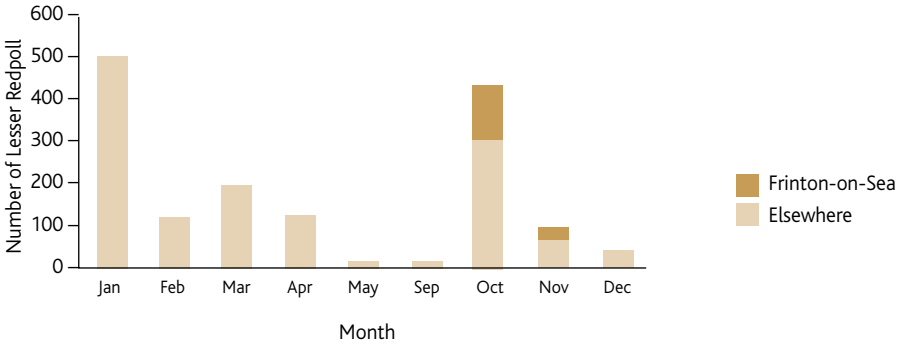
Birds were reported from four sites in May: Ingrebourne Valley, four on 1st May; Langdon Hills, four on 1st May; Lofts Farm Gravel Pit Heybridge, two on 3rd May; Wanstead Park/Lake, singles on 4th and 7th May. There was no evidence of breeding.

The first autumn birds, a flock of five, were over both Rainham Marshes and Upminster on 18th September (same birds perhaps?) and another was over Wanstead Flats on 27th September. The

main autumn movement began around 8th October and was not particularly strong. Peak counts, in excess of 20 at Frinton-on-Sea were: 64 north in 2.5 hours on 25th October; 32 S. in 2.5 hours on 4th November. There were just five counts of 20+ from four sites elsewhere: The Naze, 25 on 25th and 29th October; Canewdon, 40 on 14th October; Thorndon Park North, 20 on 29th October; Wanstead Flats, 32 on 21st October.

The second winter saw very low numbers, with just two sites holding double-figure flocks: Sunnymead Farm, Wivenhoe, ten on 19th December; High Wood North Weald, 12 on 24th December.

Monthly totals of Lesser Redpoll during 2016



COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra curvirostra*

Has bred. Irregular visitor in very variable numbers.

A quiet year with just nine records involving 19 birds, the majority occurring in mid-summer as birds dispersed from breeding areas outside the County. Singles occurred at Brightlingsea on 16th March, Rainham Marshes on 7th April, Thorndon Park North on 28th May, Gidea Park, on 28th June and The Naze on 29th October with three at Shut Heath Wood Great Totham on 14th March and over Frinton-on-Sea on both 11th and 30th June and the highest count, of five birds, flying south-west over Langdon Hills on 5th July.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis britannica*

Common but declined resident and passage migrant.

Records came from over 200 sites during the breeding season, but as mentioned previously, this is a surprisingly inconspicuous species whilst breeding so there is little to comment on.

There was a slight improvement in numbers present in the first winter over 2015 with counts of 50+ coming from eight sites, with 50 at Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey on 16th January, Rainham Marshes on the same date, Roding Valley Chingford on 29th January and Middleton on 12th February. There were 60 at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 19th February, 75 at Harold Wood Sewage Works on 17th January and Hampton Barns Great Stambridge on 24th January and the sole three-figure count, 100 at Rainham Marshes on 15th January.

Small numbers were evident on passage in the spring over Frinton-on-Sea with 43 over during March, 28 in April and just eight in May. The largest number in the spring was a count of 60 in the Mardyke Valley on 7th April. There was no other count over 30.

Post breeding gatherings of 100+ were noted from just two sites (five in 2015): Rainham Marshes, 120 from 22nd July with numbers peaking at 260 on 23rd August; Olympic Park Stratford, 120 on 23rd July. A total of 40 over Frinton-on-Sea during August suggest the start of the autumn passage.

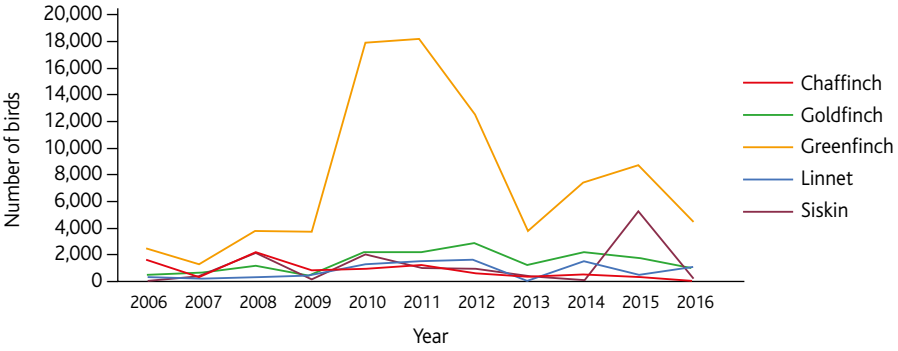
Autumn passage over Frinton-on-Sea was much reduced on the last couple of years, and perhaps

less than average (2015 figures in brackets): September 198 (275), October 3,954 (7,274) and November 434 (1,191). Peak counts from here were: 967 north in four hours on 9th October, 532 north in 2.5 hours on 25th October and 471 south in 2.5 hours on 28th October. Elsewhere on the coast, 343 passed south-west over Gunners Park Shoebury on 15th October and there were 100 over Holland Haven on 9th and 150 on 17th October. Elsewhere, three-figure counts came from a further four sites: Alresford, 150 on 1st October; Rainham Marshes, 138 on 4th September; Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures, 150 on 17th September; Olympic Park Stratford, a peak of 180 on 17th September.

Second winter numbers appeared poor with no three-figure counts, the highest being just 60 at Rainham Marshes on 18th December; there were 52 at the same location two days previous.

Goldfinch is the most numerous finch to pass over Frinton-on-Sea in the autumn, its numbers none-the-less fluctuate markedly each year, as do the principal other species that occur there.

Annual totals of autumn passage finches over Frinton-on-Sea, 2006–2016



SERIN *Serinus serinus*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (14, 16, 30)**

Frinton-on-Sea	One flew north	20th September	PBr
Heybridge Gravel Pit	♂	3rd November	SSy

A further two unsubstantiated records were received.

SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

Very rare breeder. Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Despite records occurring throughout the summer, none were suggestive of breeding, following last year's probable breeding at Braxted Park.

The first winter period saw double-figure flocks occurring at just over 40 sites, a significant improvement on the same period last year. Interestingly, numbers at the end of 2015 were not significant, despite the substantial autumn migration. One wonders why numbers were low in December, then increased during January and February? Perhaps a gradual return north? Only two sites recorded counts of more than 50: Belhus Woods Aveley, 56 on 11th February and Holyfield/Hooks Marsh/Friday Lake area, 80 on 23rd January and 19th February.

Not surprisingly there was a strong return spring passage during March. At Frinton-on-Sea, a total of 840 flew north in 31.75 hours, with peak counts being 340 north in 1.5 hours on 16th and 136 north in 1.5 hours on 13th, with 96 on 24th and 98 the next day. On 17th, 95 flew north-east over Boreham. The only site to record 40 or more was Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey on 3rd March. A further 25 sites recorded double-figure flocks.

Reasonable numbers continued moving through during the first ten days of April with three sites recording double-figures, the highest being 21 at Copford on 1st April, on feeders. Thereafter numbers dropped although the species remained widespread in small numbers throughout the month. There were a couple of records during May with two over Frinton-on-Sea on 3rd May and one over Stansted Mountfitchet on 17th May.

The three June records probably represent return migration/dispersal of juveniles or non-breeders from the Breckland population: Walthamstow, one on 12th; Frinton-on-Sea, five south on 13th in 0.5 hours; Waltham Abbey, four on 18th.

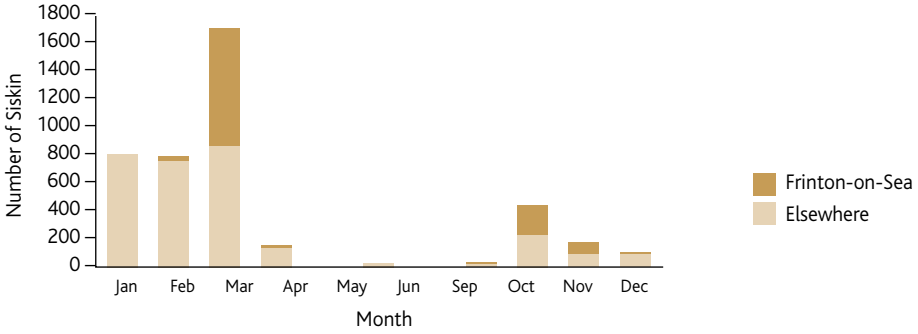
In stark contrast to 2015, there was no sign of a significant passage in July with a single record of three over Frinton-on-Sea in 0.5 hours on 8th July (a total of in excess of 500 in 2015). Thereafter passage was generally weak, with no further records until September, during which there were no double-figure counts, the highest being just five south on 2nd and five north on 17th September over Frinton-on-Sea where the monthly total was a meagre 23 (1,622 in 2015).

October passage was stronger than the previous month with double-figure counts from eight sites, the highest being 60 north over Frinton-on-Sea in 2.5 hours on 25th and 31 south over there on both 8th (in 4.5 hours) and 28th (in 2.5 hours). In all a total of 206 flew over in 59.75 hours (1,160 in 48.5 hours in 2015). Elsewhere the highest counts came from Wakering Common where 16 flew over on 11th and Bradwell Bird Observatory, 15 moving north on 9th. The largest single day movement of the autumn was on 4th November when 93 flew south over Frinton-on-Sea in 2.5 hours. Elsewhere, double-figure counts came from: Rainham Marshes, 15 on 14th; Fingringhoe Wick, ten on 26th; Nayland Pumping Station, ten on 27th.

The second winter period was very quiet with double-figure counts from just five sites, the largest being 30 at Weald Park on 27th December. Fourteen south over Frinton-on-Sea on 4th December suggested that passage was still occurring.

The monthly distribution of records was significantly different from 2015, reflecting the continuation of the good passage and wintering numbers at the end of the 2015, which continued into 2016, followed by a relatively poor autumn.

Monthly totals of Siskin during 2016



LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus* UK

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers. EBSIP

All records were from coastal and estuarine sites in the autumn and second winter period. In September the earliest were two at Frinton-on-Sea on 17th and three on 22nd with one at Stow Marsh North Fambridge on 23rd. In October one was seen on Wallasea Island on 11th and two at Thurrock Thameside Mucking on 30th. November birds (both singles) were present at Mersea Strood on 11th and Deal Hall Dengie on 15th. Two were at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth from 16th to 22nd December, with four there on 24th.

From 1st January 2018, the Identification Panel will no longer consider Lapland Bunting records.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis/insulae* UK

***P. n. insulae* is a passage migrant and local winter visitor with *P. n. nivalis* perhaps also, rarely, occurring.**

Numbers were smaller but birds more widespread than in 2015 and all were from coastal sites and the inner Thames at Rainham Marshes. In the first winter period the only notable flock was 12 on 22nd February at Jaywick. Previously Jaywick and St Osyth appear to have shared a flock of seven birds from 10th to 28th January.

Colne Point held the largest flock during the second winter period with nine on 4th December. In December Jaywick held eight on 7th and six on 27th. Otherwise, reports of more than single birds came in November from East Mersea with three on 6th and 10th and two at Frinton-on-Sea on 30th, and in December there were two at Deal Hall Dengie on 6th and two at Colne Point on 11th.

Snow Bunting
(RICHARD ALLEN)

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra calandra* UK

Declining resident.

Singing ♂♂ were reported from 124 territories. Successful breeding with fledgling young out of nests was reported from Blue House Farm (three pairs) and Wallasea Island. Five sites had more than five singing ♂♂ present in the breeding period: Abberton Reservoir, (six) north Dengie (27), Wallasea Island (12), Rainham Marshes (nine) and Wormingford Airfield (nine).

Flocks exceeding 20 were reported in the first winter period from 13 sites as follows: January: 21 at East Tilbury on 4th and 50 there by 7th, 100 on Wallasea Island (5th to 8th: this site then had 40-plus birds through to late March); 43 at Burnham-on-Crouch on 6th; 37 between St Lawrence and Marshhouse Outfall Dengie on 10th; 40 at Paglesham Lagoon on 12th; 40 at Hampton Barns Great Stambridge on 14th; 49 at East Tilbury on 19th; 242 at Stow Marsh South Woodham Ferrers on 20th; 68 at Lawling Creek Maylandsea on 23rd and 35 at Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury on 28th. In February: 41 were at East Tilbury and 30 at Fingringhoe Wick on 9th; 23 at Colne Point on 16th; 80 at Iltney Farm Mundon on 24th; March: 70 at Colne Point on 2nd; 40 at Iltney Farm Mundon on 11th; 48 on Dengie on 13th and 24 at East Tilbury the same day, with 32 there two days later.

Large flocks reported in the second winter comprised the following: in September, Wormingham Airfield, 35 on 1st; 65 on Wallasea Island 7th; 25 at Iltney Farm Mundon on 26th. In October 40 birds were at Lower Raypits Canewdon on 8th; 25 at Wallasea Island, on 10th; 25 were at Bradwell Power Station on 12th and 21st; 45 at Abberton Reservoir on 30th and 60 on Wallasea Island next day with numbers increasing to 260 by the year's end. In November 40 were at Abberton Reservoir on 10th with 85 there ten days later, and 60 were at Hampton Barns Great Stambridge on 13th.

East Tilbury held 21 on 19th and 46 were on Stow Marsh North Farmbridge on 30th. During December 60 were at Iltney Farm Mundon and 32 were at Stow Marsh North Fambridge (12th), this flock peaking at 148 on 22nd, 35 were at Bradwell Bird Observatory (13th), 85 at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth (22nd), 20 on Southey Creek Mundon (27th) with 40 at Fleet Head Great Wakering on 31st.

Corn Bunting
(RICHARD ALLEN)

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella citrinella/ caliginosa* **UK**

***E. c. caliginosa* is a common, but declining, resident, whilst *E. c. citrinella* may be a scarce migrant.**

Singing ♂♂ were present in the breeding period at 234 sites (236 in 2015), though definite successes were confirmed from only two. In the inland north-east, surveying revealed an estimate of 122 pairs including 21 at Wormingford, 14 in the Bulmer/Gestingthorpe area and nine at Wickham St Paul. The 5+ pairs in the Braintree and Bocking area was considered a decline. Other sites with multiple territories were, Abberton Reservoir (three), Belhus Woods Aveley and Brook's Farm Upminster (two), Broomhouse Flash Langham (eight), Fanner's Green Great Waltham (three), Gosfield Airfield (three), Great Henny (seven), Handley Barns and Harding's Farm Mill Green, (three), Orsett Fen (13), Roxwell (four) Upminster (two), Theydon Bois (2-3), Tye Hall Farm Roxwell (five), Westley Heights Langdon Hills (two) and Writtle (three), Ardleigh Reservoir, Boreham, Cherry Orchard Park Rochford, Copford Sewage Works, Doddinghurst, Hullbridge, Ingrebourne Valley, Lower Raypits Canewdon, a farm reservoir at St Lawrence, Terling, Old Hall Lane Tollesbury, Twinstead and, possibly, The Naze. Seventeen were present on the Fordham Estate on May 26th

During the first winter period, flocks exceeding 20 were reported as follows: January: 40 at Leez Priory Hartford End on 1st, 20 at Ardleigh Reservoir on 9th and 20 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe the same day, 50 at Whitepark Farm Boxted on 17th, 20 at Rye Hill Epping Green on 20th with 30 at Fingringhoe Wick the same day, 21 at Orsett Fen on 24th, 20 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on 28th and 50 at Ridgewell Airfield Ashen on 31st. February: 50 in Gestingthorpe area on 9th with 30 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on the same date and 46 there next day, 36 at Langham on 15th and 25 at Sunnymead Farm on 19th. A remarkable 121 were ringed at this latter site up to the end of April, including 49 individuals on 13th April.

Autumn flock numbers were lower, with the first sizeable one being of 16 birds at Orsett Fen on 17th October. Twenty-six were in the Coploe Hill/Redlands area Strethall on 28th October and, in

November, 20 were present at Whitepark Farm Boxted. In December there were 26 at Ridgewell Airfield Ashen on 7th, 50 at Alresford on 23rd, 34 at Orsett Fen on 26th and 20 on Wallasea Island on 28th.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

Very rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (24, 5, 29)**

Wanstead Flats/Bush Wood	One	7th September	RV

The first since 2010.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus* UK

Much declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Singing ♂♂ were reported on 185 breeding territories and sites holding more than one definite breeding territory were: Belhus Woods Aveley (two), Bowers Marsh (15), Cornmill Meads Waltham Abbey (six), Mardyke Valley (four), Orsett Fen (three), Rainham Marshes (54) and Vange Marsh (three). A count between St Lawrence and Howe Outfall Dengie of 59 birds on 5th June indicated widespread breeding likely on the Dengie and southern bank of the Blackwater.

During the early part of the year counts of 30 or more, frequently with flocking, were as follows: In January: 30 at Brightlingsea and the same number at Bradwell Bird Observatory, on 8th; 30 at Hampton Barns Great Stambridge on 16th; 60 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on 28th. Numbers remained high in February: 80 were at Sunnymead Farm, on 9th, 30 were at Old Hall Marshes on 16th, 50 were at Brightlingsea on 15th; 45 remained at Sunnymead Farm on 19th with 70 at Iltney Farm Mundon, on 24th. In March there were 30 at Bradwell Bird Observatory from 3rd-6th. A coastal movement occurred on May 6th when 30, mainly ♂♂, were seen arriving off the North Sea at Frinton-on-Sea.

The autumn and second winter period produced fewer counts of 30 or more. The first was of 30 at Wallasea Island on September 18th. In October, 46 were at Holland Haven on 11th,. November saw 30 at Colne Point on 13th. A total of 112 was counted between St Lawrence and Howe Outfall Dengie on 18th and 30 at Old Hall Marshes on 19th. In December Wallasea Island hosted up to 50 from 11th-22nd. Sixty-seven were present on Stow Marsh North Fambridge on 22nd.

Coastal movement was noted at Frinton-on-Sea with 25 flying south-west on September 30th and 11 birds moving north over the three days from October 15th. A total of 162 was ringed from January to April at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe.

DARK-EYED JUNCO *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* BBRC (0, 1, 1)

Vagrant

West Mersea	First calendar year ♂	8th December	DU *et al.*

The 41st British record and a new addition to the County List, which now stands at 392 species. This was one of two nationally in 2016 and true to many previous records it turned up under feeders in a garden. For a full description please see page 155.

APPENDIX I: Category D Species

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

North America.

Heybridge Gravel Pit	One	2nd February
Abberton Reservoir	One	14th October
Wat Tyler	One	1st January-2nd March
Wat Tyler	One as above	1st November-28th December

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

South-east Europe, central and south-east Asia.

Rainham Marshes	One	On and off all year
Hanningfield Reservoir	One	22nd May-14th June

Both records may have involved the same bird.
A hybrid Ruddy Shelduck/Shelduck was reported from Barking Bay on 23rd July.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

North America.

Abberton Reservoir	One	18th July
Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch	Two	31st October
Valentine's Park Ilford	One	16th January-10th April
Valentine's Park Ilford	One as above	25th October

The last three records perhaps refer to the same two birds.

APPENDIX II: Category E Species

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

Eastern Europe and Russia.

The Naze	One	14th May and 19th July

It is assumed that this was a non-wild bird.

CACKLING (CANADA) GOOSE *Branta canadensis minima*

North America but introduced elsewhere.

Abberton Reservoir	One	25th February

The status of this race in the UK is still under review. However, this bird was clearly not with a classic "carrier" species (such as Greenland Barnacle Goose) so very likely of questionable origin.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

Australia and New Zealand.

There were reports from 12 sites, with a minimum of perhaps ten birds being involved:

Bathside Bay Dovercourt	Two	16th October
The Wade Hamford Water	One	16th October
Manningtree/Mistley	Five maximum	All year
Gunners Park Shoebury	One	1st-13th January
Southend Seafront	One	6th January
Thames Estuary	One	1st January
Hanningfield Reservoir	One	All year
Audley End	One	4th July-28th October

The maximum count of five at Manningtree/Mistley was on 21st and 23rd March.
Numbers over the last ten years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Numbers	10+	12	3-4	11	11	9+	16+	20+	12+	11+
Locations	12	9	3	5	7	11	13	13	12	13

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*

North America.

Hamford/Stour Estuary	One	1st January-10th April

Seven sightings were assumed to all relate to the same individual.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Central Asia.

Cattawade Marshes/ Stour Valley	One	22nd March

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

Northern China, Mongolia and south-east Russia.

Both the 'wild' and domesticated forms were reported throughout the year from Abberton Reservoir.

NENE *Branta sandvicensis*

Hawaii, USA.

Stanford Warren	One	4th October

The world's rarest goose.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Central and South America.

Abberton Reservoir	One	31st July-20th November
Henny Street	One	2nd August
Hainault	One	1st February
Fairlop Waters Barkingside	One	3rd January
Seventy Acre Lake Holyfield	One	4th November

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*
South America.

Hanningfield Reservoir	One	16th March
Connaught Water Epping Forest	One	25th December

PUNA TEAL *Anas puna*
South America.

King George V Reservoir	One	29th October

EASTERN OR INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha/ poecilorhyncha*
Indian sub-continent, China and south-east Asia.

Vange Marsh	One	13th and 22nd August

This was considered either a Spot-billed Duck species, or hybrid.

Hybrid Ducks
Various Aythya hybrids reported including possible Scaup x Pochard, Pochard x Tufted at Thurrock Thameside Mucking on 13th and 19th November.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*
South, Central and North America.

Fobbing	One	19th November
Wickham Bishops	One	13th April

The Fobbing bird was complete with dangling strap.

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug*
Italy, Balkans, Middle East and central Asia.

Potton Island, Great Wakering	One	21st February

The bird was seen with a Mallard kill and was wearing jesses. It was considered a possible hybrid (Saker/Peregrine).

WHITE-CHEEKED TURACO *Tauraco leucotis*
Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Wanstead Park	One	26th January

Possibly the same individual occasionally reported in the area since October 2009.

RED-CHESTED SUNBIRD *Cinnyris erythrocercus*
Central Africa.

Rainham Marshes	One	6th August

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mo = many observers

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Avis, D V
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Aylward, S

Bacon, S
Bagnall, F
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Bailey, S
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Baker, C G
Baker, P (PBa)
Balchin, C (CBa)
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Baldwin, C
Banks, S
Bantock, H
Barber, G
Barker, H
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Beischer, B
Belcher, G
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Bell, D
Bell, T
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Bennett, V
Bernett, P
Bessant, C
Bidwell, A
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Bissett, D J
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Blackmore, K
Blackwell, A
Blanchard, B
Bloys, R
Blurton, D L
Bodini, L
Bonsor, R
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Bourne, T (TB)
Boyes, G
Bradnum, D
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Bradshaw, H
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Bright, J
Bright, J F
Brinton, P
Broad, E
Brolly, M
Brooke, K
Brookes, C M
Broughton, M A
Brown, B
Brown, C
Brown, D
Brown, G
Brown, J
Brown, L
Brown, S
Brown, T
Bruce, M J
Bruty, M
Buchanan, J
Bull, P
Bullock, I
Burchell, T
Burgess, K
Burgum, N
Burrough, R
Burston, P J
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Busby, M
Butler, J
Butler, M
Butler, T
Butson, P

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Calderón, S
Caldwell, C
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Callf, R M
Cameron, T
Camp, J
Camp, J P
Candelin, G W
Canham, T J
Carpenter, B R
Carson, B
Carter, N
Carter, P (PC)
Carter, P M
Cattell, M
Cawdron, D
Ceconi, P
Chambers, D W
Chambers, N
Charles, M
Churches, B
Churchyard, T
Clancy, T
Clark, F C
Clark, J
Clarke, M
Clarke, T
Cock, M
Cockerell, W
Cole, M
Coles, J (JC)
Collier, S
Collins, J
Collins, L
Collins, P
Collins, S
Colson, R
Coombes, B (BCo)
Considine, D
Cook, J
Cook, K
Cook, R
Cooke, J
Coombs, T
Cooper, B
Cooper, W
Copleston, K
Copleston, P
Coppard, G
Corbet, P
Corbett, M
Cordery, R
Corley, P
Cornwell, D
Cornwell, L
Couch, Y
Cornwell, L
Couch, Y
Cowan, D
Cox, A
Cox, N
Cox, P (PC)
Cox, S (SC)
Coxall, S
Crabtree, G
Cracknell, M
Cracknell, P A
Cresswell, M
Cripps, R J
Croft, N
Crooks, B
Cunningham, M
Curson, L

Dagley, J R
Damant, A
Dandridge, P
Daniels, M
Darrell-Lambert, D (DDL)
Davidson, J
Davies, J W
Davies, G
Davies, J
Davies, J W
Davies, M
Davies, P
Dawton, B
Dawton, S
Deane, G
Delve, J R (JRD)
Dent, A
Dent, D
Dent, M
Dickens, J
Dillon, S
Dillon-Hooper, E
Dives, D
Dixon, M
Dobbie, J
Dodd, B
Doe, B
Doe, J
Drake, S
Dron, M
Drummond, L
Duggan, N
Dunn, D
Dunne, R
Dutton, S
Dwyer, P

Eagles, R
Ebbs, L
Edwards, J
Ekins, G
ELBF
Ellam, C
Ellis, A
Ellis, I
Elmer, C S
Elmes, J P
Elsey, N J C
Elsom, S
Elwell, S
Emerson, C
Emmens, R P
Entwistle, S
Epstein, B
Eva, J
Evans, G D (GDE)
Evans, L G R

Fahey, R
Fair, G
Fairley, M
Farrar, A R
Farrar, M
Farrell, C
Farthing, C
Faulkner, S
Fenton-Scott, D
Ferguson, J

Field, A
Field, J
Firmin, R J
Fisher, M
Fisher, S L
Fleming , G A
Flesher, R
Fletcher, D
Fletcher, T
Foot, J
Ford, A E
Ford, E
Ford, K J
Forsyth, C
Forsyth, J
Foulston, D
Fowles, R A
Francis, G L
Fraser, B
Free, S

Gaffney, D
Gage, J
Galt, J
Gannaway, C R
Gannaway, H
Gardiner, A H
Gates, J
Gates, N J F
Gay, S
Gin, C
Given, Q
Gomer, D
Goodey, A
Goodey, B
Gooding, J
Gordon, J D
Gottesmann, D
Gouldstone, A
Gourgey, R
Gowers, J
Graham, H (HG)
Gram, G
Greasby, R T
Greatbanks, S
Green, B
Green, N (NG)
Gregory, M
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Griffiths, D
Griggs, C
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Grimwade, S (SG)
Grimwood, S
Gross , J
Gymer, P

Hack, R
Hale, D
Hale, J
Hall, R
Halley-Frame, V
Halstead, H
Halstead, S
Hamilton, M
Handford, A
Hannam, J C
Harbison, Y
Harbott, A G
Harding, G
Haringey Birder
Harris, A
Harris, C (CH)
Harris, M
Harris, N G
Harris, R G
Harris, S
Harris, S M
Harris, T
Harrison, D W
Harrison, H
Harrison, L
Harrison, R
Hart, P
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Harvey, N (NH)
Harvey, S (SHv)
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Hawksworth, A
Haynes, D (DH)
Haywood, M J
Heal, J
Healey, S
Healey, S J
Heath, P
Heaton, R
Hellicar, M
Herts Website
Hibberd, M
Hicks, J
Hicks, M
Hill, D
Hill, M
Hilliard, DJ
Ho,J
Hoare, J
Hobson, A
Hogg, J
Holland, J
Holmes, A L
Holwell, B
Hopkins, P
Hoskinz, B
Hough, S
Housley, D
Houston, T
Howard, R (RH)
Howell, M
Howell, S
Howey, S
Howie, G
Howie, L
Huckle, S
Hudgell, K
Huggins, S
Hughes, M
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Hull, C
Humble, J
Hunt, G
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Hunting, S (SH)
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Kempa, M
Kennedy, K
Kennelly, A D
Kennelly, T
Keogh, N T
Kerrigan, S
Khan, N
Kilgour, R
King, M
Kinsler, V
Kirkland, M
Kite, P
Knight, D
Kohler, M
Kornjaca, J
Kortlandt, D J

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Larkin, P (PL)
Last, A.J. (AJL)
Lathey, P A
Law, A
Law, D
Lawes, C
Lawler, G
Lawler, L
Lawson, A
Lawson, J
Lay, N
Layfield, A R
Leach, D
Leatherdale, S
Leavett, R
Ledgerton, R J W
Lee, D C
Leeder, E
Leerjet, E
Leifsen, T
Leighton, R
Leport, B
Lethbridge, J
Levy, S
Lewis, C
Lewis, P
Lidgate, W
Lindsay, M
Litvinoff, A
Lodge, C
Love, J (JLv)
Low, D (DLo)
Lycett, I

Mackenzie-Grieve, C (CJM-G)
Macrow, F C
Mann, D
Marchant, J H
Marchant, R H
Marsala, T
Marsden, K (KM)
Martin, J
Martin, J R
Massey, A
Mathias, H
Matthews, D
May, N
Mayson, S B
Mcavoy, S
McCafferty, A
McCleary, M J
McCullough, A
McEwen, R
McGilvray, K L
McGough, D
McLaughlin, J
McManus, K J
McPherson, R
Mee, G
Mellors, A
Merchant, P
Merrick, R
Merryweather, A
Messenger, M
Middleton, A
Midgley, K
Miers, C
Miller, B
Mitchell, D
Mitchell, M
Mitchell, M
Mo, D
Moll, N
Moore, G
Moore, S
Moran, N J
Morgan, D
Morris, G E
Morrison, D
Mortimer, N
Moss, B
Moss, L
Moule, J
Mullins, A (AM)
Munday, L
Murphy, N
Murray, J
Murray, K
Musgrove, A
Musgrove, D
Myhill, R

Nash, N
Nasir, J
Newbound, P J
Newman, S
Newton, S (SNw)
Nice, S

Nichols, S
Nie, P
Nightingale, M
Nixon, S (SN)
North, D
Nowers, M D
Nugent, F

Oakland, M
Oates, S J
O'Brian, T
Oddy, C
Oliver, C
Orchard, M
Osterberg, F
O'Sullivan, F
Outten, M
Overall, K
Owen, D
Owen, H (HO)

Padmore, M
Page, H
Page, S
Paisley, K
Palethorpe, A
Pallash, D
Palmer, J
Palmer, K J P
Palmer, L
Palmer, M
Papps, S
Park, N
Parker, M
Parry-Davies, D (DP-D)
Partridge, J (JP)
Patel, S
Patient, S
Patmore, S
Payne, D
Pearson, P
Peart, R
Pease, R M (RMP)
Peck, TJ
Peers, M F
Pell, J
Peppaitt, R
Petts, D
Phillips, M
Phillips, S
Piccolo, A
Piccolo, T
Pinkham, D
Plant, J
Pollitt, M
Poole, C (CP)
Posen, S
Poskitt, T
Powell, R
Power, A
Price, K
Prideaux, R H
Puttock, B
Pyrah, R J

Radford, M
Rae, A
Rae, S
Rafinski, A
Rainey, H
Ramsbottom, M
Raper, S
Rawlings, N D
Redfern, M
Reed, B
Rees, D G
Reid, A (AR)
Reid, K
Reynolds, A
Rhymes, D J (DJR)
Richard, G
Richards, M
Richardson, R
Rigby, P
Rimmell, M
Rivoire, J R
Roberts, A
Roberts, E H
Robertson, DA
Robinson, E
Robinson, J A
Robinson, L
Robinson, T
Robson, I
Rodger, A
Rodwell, M (MR)
Rogers, L
Rolf, J
Rookes, R
Roscoe, A
Rose, I
Ross-Smith, V H
Ruiz, J
Rumsby, B
Rumsby, M
Rumsby, T
Rush, M
Rutt, P J
Ryland, C
Ryland, G

Sabiniak, G T
Sanford, S
Satchell, S
Saul, C A
Saville, D
Saward, J (JSa)
Scott, A
Seago, R
Seale, J
Seaward, J
Seekins, R
Self, A
Selley, D
Selley, P
Sellwood, J
Senior, N
Seymour-Fairey, D
Shannon, J
Shaw, I
Shayler, D
Shearman, A (AShe)
Shearring, A
Sheldon, R
Shelley, S
Shepherd, D
Shepherd, N
Shepherd-Wells, M
Sherriff, R
Shippey, S
Shorrock, A
Shuttleworth, P
Sillitoe, T
Simmon, J
Simmons, C
Simpson, F
Singleton, M (MSi)
Sketch, P A
Slee, J
Smallwood, J
Smart, J
Smith, D
Smith, D L
Smith, G
Smith, J
Smith, JRT
Smith, K R
Smith, M
Smith, M R
Smith, P
Smith, S
SOG
Sparkes, C
Speller, T
Spence, I M
Spence, L
Spensley, D
Spicer, N
Spooner, B
Spouge, T
Stachnicki, I A
Stallard, B
Stamp, E
Steele, AJ
Stephens, D
Stephenson, D
Stewart, G
Stewart, I
Stile, D (DS)
Street, P
Stroud, A
Stroud, B
Sumner, N
Surridge, D
Sutherby, J C (JCS)
Sutton, G
Swaby, S
Swallow, J L
Swanson, I
Swinney, S

Tanner, A
Tansley, D
Tarbin, I
Taylor, J F
Taylor, L
Taylor, R C
Taylor, R E
Taylor, S
Theobald, R C
Thomas, A
Thorneycroft, T
Thornton, B
Thorogood, D
Thorogood, J
Timms, D
Torrice, D
Townsend, P
Tracey, M
Tranfield, B
Treen, P
Triston, P
Trollope, C E
Tuck, D
Tunnicliffe, K S
Tunnicliffe, K
Turner, HW
Turton, M H
Tusa, F
Tweed, A (ATw)
Twells, G
Twinn, M
Twyford, N
Tyler, D
Tyler, J P
Tyler, P

Underwood, D
Upton, G
Urquhart, D (DU)

Vale, M
Vaughan, B
Vaughan, H (HV)
Vaughan, P
Vicary, P
Viles, D J
Vodden, CH
Vonk, R

Wagstaff, D (DW)
Wakefield, L
Wakerling, V
Walden, R
Walker, A
Wall, S
Walter, R
Wanstead Birders
Ward, J
Wardell, A
Wardman, M
Wasse, J (JWa)
Watling, T
Watling, Y
Watson, I R
Watson, S
Watts, B
Watts, C
Watts, J
Webb, A
WeBS
Weil, J
Wheatcroft, D
Wheeldon, P
Wheeler, M
Whele, J
White, C
White, G
White, L
White, T
Whitehouse, A
Whitelegg, D
Whiteman, P
Whitfield, J
Whitham, J
Whyte, G
Widgery, R
Wilcock, A
Wild, N
Wilkin, D R
Willett, J (JWt)
Willett, J D
Wills, C
Wilson, A
Wilson, P
Winn, A C
Winstanley, A
Womack, G P
Wood, A
Wood, P (PW)
Wood, R
Wood, S D (SDW)
Woodhouse, A
Woodrow, L
Woodward, I D
Woodward, R
Worsey, M
Worsfold, S
WREN Group
Wright, C
Wright, D
Wright, J
Yates, K
Young, B

Earliest and latest dates for Summer Visitors 2016

Species	Arrival Date	Location	Departure Date	Location
Garganey	02-Apr	East Tilbury/Hanningfield	02-Nov	Fingringhoe Wick
Little Ringed Plover	13-Mar	Boreham	01-Oct	The Hythe Colchester
Whimbrel*	13-Mar	Olympic Park Stratford	03-Oct	Wallasea Island
Temminck's Stint	15-May	Old Hall Marshes	30-Sep	Hanningfield Reservoir
Wood Sandpiper	01-May	Blackwater Estuary	30-Aug	Hythe Colchester
SandwichTern*	21-Mar	Frinton-on-Sea	26-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Little Tern	22-Apr	Frinton-on-Sea	30-Sep	Wakering Stairs
Common Tern	28-Mar	Abberton Reservoir	17-Oct	Old Hall Marshes
Arctic Tern	06-Apr	Rainham Marshes	13-Nov	Frinton-on-Sea
Black Tern	16-Apr	Walthamstow Wetlands	12-Oct	Hanningfield Reservoir
Turtle Dove	20-Apr	Bradwell Bird Observatory	29-Sep	Fairlop Waters Barkingside
Cuckoo	07-Apr	North Weald Common	08-Sep	Blue House Farm
Swift	06-Apr	Leigh-on-Sea	19-Sep	Walthamstow Wetlands
Wryneck	~	~	07-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Hobby	10-Apr	Bradwell Bird Observatory/ Rainham Marshes	10-Oct	Birch Lake
Sand Martin	13-Mar	Belhus Woods	02-Oct	Highlands Boulevard Leigh-on-Sea
Swallow	11-Mar	Lee Valley Park Farms Waltham Abbey	18-Nov	Brook Farm Upminster
House Martin	14-Mar	Manningtree Railway Station	30-Sep	Heybridge Gravel Pit
Wood Warbler	27-Apr	Walthamstow Wetlands	25-Aug	Weald Park
Willow Warbler	28-Mar	Dagenham Chase	16-Oct	Belhus Woods
Sedge Warbler	02-Apr	East Tilbury/Rainham Marshes	01-Oct	East Tilbury
Reed Warbler	03-Apr	Rainham Marshes	11-Oct	Holland Haven
Grasshopper Warbler	08-Apr	Old Hall Marshes	17-Aug	Rainham Marshes
Garden Warbler	13-Apr	Rainham Marshes	08-Oct	Rainham Marshes
Lesser Whitethroat	11-Apr	Five scattered sites	09-Oct	The Naze
Whitethroat	03-Apr	Rainham Marshes	08-Oct	Holland Haven/Gunners Park Shoebury
Ring Ouzel*	03-Apr	Abberton Reservoir	06-Nov	Beckton
Spotted Flycatcher	04-May	Wanstead Park	29-Sep	West Mersea
Nightingale	05-Apr	Cockaynes Wood Wivenhoe	06-Aug	Canvey Wick/Cudmore Grove East Mersea
Pied Flycatcher	19-Apr	Two locations in Walthamstow	23-Sep	Wanstead Flats
Redstart	02-Apr	Holyfield Hall Farm	21-Oct	Great Tey
Whinchat	14-Apr	Rainham Marshes	09-Oct	Maldon
Wheatear	16-Mar	Frinton-on-Sea	28-Oct	Rainham Marshes
Yellow Wagtail	25-Mar	Wallasea Island	24-Oct	Stow Marsh North Fambridge
White Wagtail	10-Apr	Mayland Creek	31-Oct	Heybridge Gravel Pit
Tree Pipit	30-Mar	Bradwell Bird Observatory	22-Oct	Rainham Marshes

* overwintering individuals in Systematic List

Latest and earliest dates for Winter Visitors 2016

Species	Departure Date	Location	Arrival Date	Location
Pink-footed Goose	10-Jan	Garnham's Island Hamford Water	16-Sep	Boreham
White-fronted Goose	19-Mar	The Naze	06-Oct	Rainham Marshes
Bewick's Swan	13-Mar	Wallasea Island	03-Nov	Bowers Marsh
Whooper Swan	25-Mar	Shoeburyness East Beach	21-Oct	Abberton Reservoir
Scaup	11-Jul	Hanningfield Reservoir	07-Oct	Hanningfield Reservoir
Velvet Scoter	29-Feb	Holland Haven	05-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Long-tailed Duck	23-Feb	Salcott	17-Sep	Canvey Point
Goldeneye	14-Apr	Abberton Reservoir	14-Jul	King George V Reservoir
Smew	30-Mar	Highams Park Lake	09-Aug	King George V Reservoir
Goosander	04-May	Little Baddow	12-Sep	King George V Reservoir
Red-breasted Merganser	14-May	Wrabness	17-Sep	Rainham Marshes
Red-throated Diver	05-Jun	North Dengie	17-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Black-throated Diver	28-Feb	Frinton-on-Sea	07-Nov	Canvey Point/Holland Haven
Great Northern Diver	13-May	Bradfield	04-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Red-necked Grebe	15-Mar	Frinton-on-Sea	17-Jul	Abberton Reservoir
Slavonian Grebe	26-Mar	Frinton-on-Sea	04-Sep	King George V Reservoir
Bittern	09-Apr	Wat Tyler	07-Nov	Rainham Marshes/ Abberton Reservoir
Hen Harrier	03-May	Old Hall Marshes	05-Aug	Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers
Purple Sandpiper	03-May	Holland Haven	10-Sep	Holland Haven
Jack Snipe	24-Apr	Fairlop Waters Barkingside	19-Sep	Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers
Guillemot	02-Jun	Maplin Bank, off Foulness Island	07-Sep	Canvey Point
Merlin	29-May	Fingringhoe Wick	28-Aug	East Tilbury
Waxwing	26-Jan	Chelmsford	08-Oct	Chelmsford
Shore Lark	~	~	21-Oct	Deal Hall Dengie
Fieldfare	02-May	Bridge End Finchingfield	17-Sep	Thorley Wash
Redwing	08-May	North Dengie	13-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Water Pipit	15-Apr	Rainham Marshes	16-Oct	Rainham Marshes
Rock Pipit	03-Apr	Rainham Marshes	17-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea/Rainham Marshes
Brambling	28-Apr	Boreham	28-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Twite	11-Mar	Old Hall Marshes	09-Oct	The Naze
Siskin	17-May	Stansted Mountfitchet	12-Jun	Walthamstow
Lapland Bunting	~	~	17-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Snow Bunting	02-Mar	Wat Tyler	09-Oct	Wat Tyler

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Totals for Essex 2016

Care should be taken when interpreting these figures, as records from some sites may be incomplete.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brent Goose (Dark-bellied)	30690	23210	33712	2249	18	2447	18438	25788	23673
Canada Goose	2353	1943	1080	837	1973	2817	2144	2120	1784
Greylag Goose	1185	1400	816	396	821	1626	1810	1314	1124
Mute Swan	441	373	310	309	572	538	510	210	274
Shelduck	4891	3749	4043	1236	249	1105	3147	4052	4233
Shoveler	647	595	599	612	750	2294	3168	348	287
Gadwall	635	589	422	221	497	262	344	316	224
Wigeon	15434	10251	10390	202	28	9132	15770	19255	14207
Mallard	3092	2729	2228	1343	2615	2914	3242	2563	2767
Pintail	993	839	528	7	2	392	1192	618	318
Teal	14217	9333	9386	1556	1067	6807	15059	10263	13603
Pochard	1515	1760	1003	297	1876	1233	585	107	290
Tufted Duck	2139	2405	2377	1754	5018	2335	1818	889	739
Goldeneye	391	363	346	58	0	14	7	44	103
Goosander	46	56	21	1	0	0	3	7	14
Red-breasted Merganser	142	94	87	28	0	0	0	92	158
Little Grebe	349	238	205	103	167	287	349	200	370
Great Crested Grebe	376	168	347	307	645	1093	1396	357	168
Grey Heron	105	103	111	110	100	157	149	107	88
Little Egret	296	189	190	241	503	1128	823	572	294
Cormorant	923	729	453	315	550	970	2296	1875	770
Water Rail	5	2	4	0	1	6	6	5	6
Moorhen	278	252	297	175	238	312	372	254	411
Coot	2831	2216	1694	1083	6471	2927	4216	661	842
Oystercatcher	17786	11426	8528	3497	16316	4778	11451	12849	10661
Avocet	2170	2700	1824	523	568	1984	2761	1883	1934
Lapwing	27698	15394	2619	410	1112	2443	4736	11091	18479
Golden Plover	43058	30675	15546	167	703	3260	3661	30808	20757
Grey Plover	8665	6475	5867	662	2239	6223	5475	17766	20945
Ringed Plover	639	391	203	131	1981	1454	1175	1158	679
Curlew	4659	4785	3814	2379	4766	7538	5346	7669	3914
Bar-tailed Godwit	3686	5870	891	44	1703	4551	4317	5016	1965
Black-tailed Godwit	5433	4238	5515	3221	5628	6495	7127	6227	4652
Turnstone	1069	1086	771	502	188	746	1046	2102	1334
Knot	37308	24277	13271	139	362	1586	6082	39216	50157
Ruff	8	4	35	1	22	19	29	6	2
Sanderling	1622	675	1067	1776	86	1341	881	963	840
Dunlin	43617	41058	33134	1627	2980	7051	22817	39080	37754
Snipe	99	69	55	12	9	88	71	50	24
Redshank	6758	5766	6559	2424	3145	8651	7170	6796	5269
Greenshank	6	4	4	11	130	144	36	6	4
Black-headed Gull	7751	9013	10700	22576	12175	15412	7447	5101	4689
Common Gull	1002	1715	1236	143	6975	1464	676	850	663
Great Black-backed Gull	529	248	348	67	84	189	264	520	99
Herring Gull	1085	1736	1437	1926	1539	2621	777	1062	658
Lesser Black-backed Gull	144	236	330	220	272	316	237	109	120
TOTALS	**298766**	**231427**	**184403**	**55898**	**87144**	**119150**	**170426**	**262345**	**252346**

Gazetteer of place names used in the 2016 report

Bold type identifies how the name appears in the Systematic List

Abbreviations :

ECC Essex County Council
EWT Essex Wildlife Trust
FC Forestry Commission
LVRP Lee Valley Regional Park
MOD Ministry of Defence
NT National Trust
RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WT Woodland Trust

Alresford Creek	TM 0619
Althorne	TQ 9199
Ambresbury Bank Epping Forest	TL 4300
Ardleigh	TM 0529
Ardleigh Reservoir	TM 0328
Ashdon	TL 5842
Ashlyns Farm North Weald	TL 5105
Audley End	TL 5237
Aveley	TQ 5680
Backwarden Danbury EWT	TL 7803
Bardfield	TL 6730
Barking Bay/Marsh	TQ 4581
Barking Park	TQ 4485
Barleylands Billericay	TQ 6991
Barling Marsh	TM 9390
Barrow Wood Highwood	TL 6302
Basildon	TQ 7289
Bathside Bay Dovercourt	TM 2532
Beazley End	TL 7430
Beckton	TQ 4481
Bedfords Park Havering-atte-Bower (including EWT Visitor Centre)	TQ 5192
Beeleigh	TL 8407
Belchamp Hall	TL 8240
Belchamp Walter	TL 8140
Belhus Woods Aveley Country Park ECC	TQ 5782
Benfleet	TQ 7786
Benfleet Creek	TQ 7885
Benfleet Downs	TQ 7885
Bicknacre	TL 7802
Billericay	TQ 6794
Birch	TL 9419
Birch Lake	TL 9420
Birchanger	TL 5022
Birchanger Wood and Hall Farm	TL 5022
Birdbrook	TL 7041
Black Notley	TL 7620
Blackwater Estuary	TL 9707
Blue House Farm North Fambridge EWT	TQ 8697
Bocking	TL 7624
Boreham	TL 7509
Borley	TL 8442
Bowers Marsh Bowers Gifford RSPB	TQ 7586
Boxted	TM 0032
Boyton Cross Roxwell	TL 6509
Bradfield	TM 1430
Bradwell Bird Observatory	TM 0308
Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall	TL 8022
Bradwell Power Station	TM 0008
Bradwell-on-Sea	TM 0006
Braintree	TL 7623
Braxted Park	TL 8515
Breach Barns Farm Waltham Abbey	TL 4002
Brentwood	TQ 5993
Bridge End Finchingfield	TL 6731
Brightlingsea	TM 0817
Brightlingsea Creek	TM 0916
Brook Farm Upminster	TQ 5987
Broomhouse Flash Langham	TM 0334
Brundon	TL 8642
Buckhurst Hill	TQ 4193
Bulmer	TL 8440
Bulphan Fen	TQ 6486
Bungate Wood Braintree	TL 8324
Bures	TL 9034
Burnham-on-Crouch	TQ 9496
Burstead	TQ 6792
Camps End Ashdon	TL 6142
Canewdon	TQ 9094
Canvey Island	TQ 8182
Canvey Point	TQ 8283
Canvey Seafront	TQ 8280
Canvey Wick	TQ 7683
Cattawade	TM 0932
Cattawade Marshes/The Splodge RSPB	TM 0932
Chafford Gorges Grays EWT Nature Park	TQ 5879
Chafford Hundred Grays	TQ 6079
Chappel	TL 8928
Chelmsford	TL 7007
Cherry Orchard Park Rochford Jubilee Country Park	TQ 8589
Chesterford	TL 5141
Chigborough Lakes Heybridge EWT	TL 8708
Chigwell	TQ 4493
Childerditch Pond	TQ 6190
Chingford	TQ 3894
Chrishall Grange	TL 4442

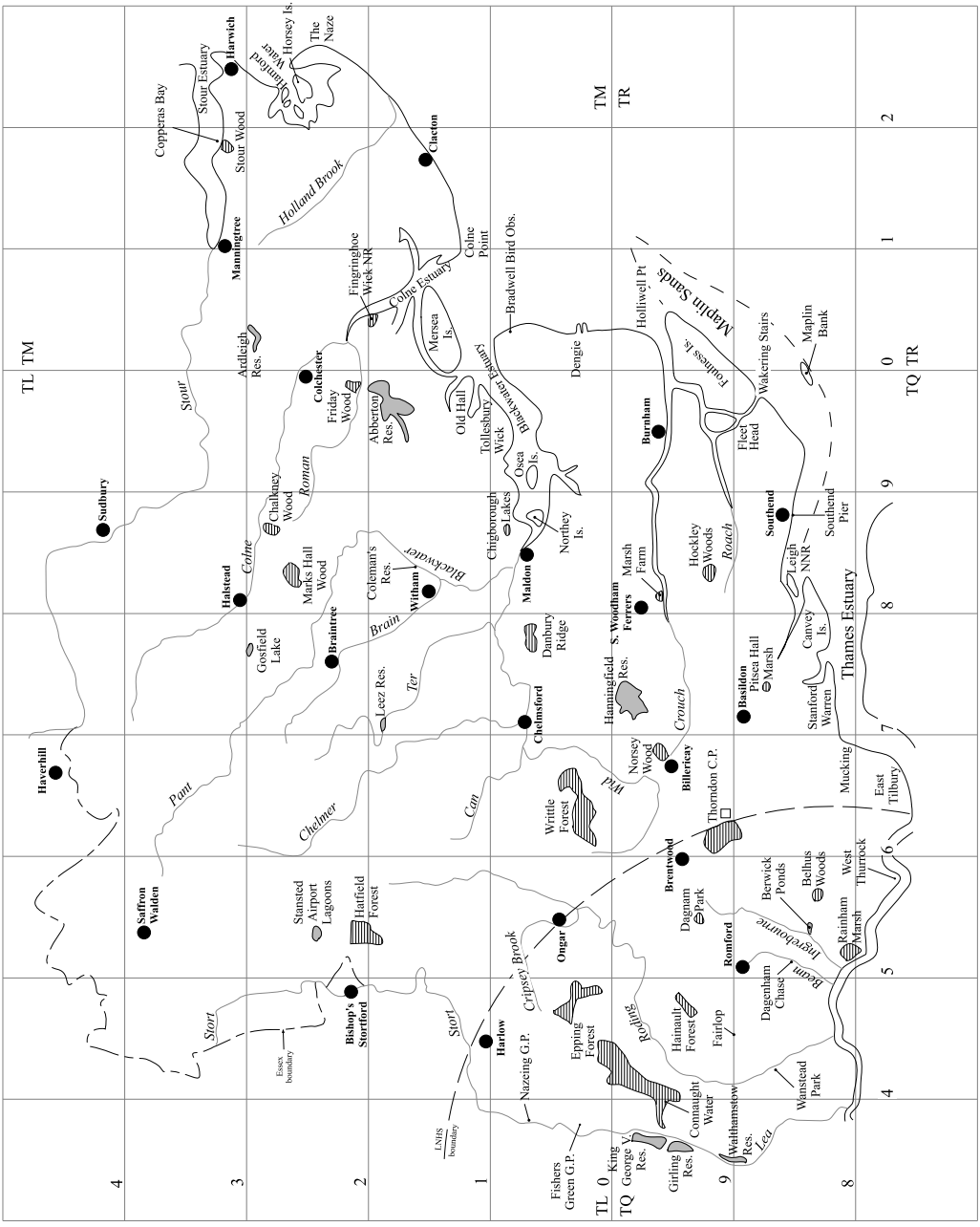
Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek	TM 0916
Clacton-on-Sea	TM 1715
Clare	TL 7645
Clavering	TL 4731
Claybury Park Woodford Bridge	TQ 4391
Claygate Lane Aimes Green	TL 3802
Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury	TQ 6976
Coast Road West Mersea	TM 0012
Cobmarsh Island West Mersea	TM 0012
Cockaynes Wood Wivenhoe EWT	TM 0521
Codham Hall Farm Great Warley	TQ 5988
Coggeshall	TL 8522
Colchester	TL 9925
Collier Row Romford	TQ 4991
Colne Estuary	TM 0617
Colne Point St Osyth EWT	TM 1012
Connaught Water Epping Forest	TQ 4095
Coombe Wood Thundersley	TQ 7888
Copford	TL 9223
Copford Sewage Works	TL 9324
Coploe Hill Strethall	TL 4942
Copt Hall Marshes Little Wigborough NT	TL 9814
Corbets Tey	TQ 5685
Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3801
Corringham	TQ 7083
Coryton	TQ 7482
Cranham	TQ 5787
Creekmouth Barking	TQ 4581
Creeksea	TQ 9396
Crouchside Foulness Island	TQ 9991
Cudmore Grove East Mersea Country Park ECC	TM 0614
Dagenham	TQ 5084
Dagenham Chase Local Nature Reserve	TQ 5185
Daltes Lane Gravel Pit St Osyth	TM 1315
Danbury	TL 7805
Deal Hall Dengie	TR 0197
Dedham	TM 0533
Dedham Vale	TM 0533
Deep Fleet Parkeston	TM 2132
Dengie Flats	TR 0399
Doddinghurst	TQ 5998
Dollery Wood Belchamp St Paul	TL 7943
Dovercourt	TM 2531
Dunton	TQ 6688
Eagle Pond Leyton	TQ 3989
East Mersea	TM 0474
East Tilbury	TQ 6878
Epping	TL 4602
Epping Forest	TQ 4298
Epping Forest Burial Park	TL 3903
Epping Green	TL 4305
Fairlop Waters Barkingside Country Park	TQ 4585
Farnham	TL 4724
Finchingfield	TL 6832
Fingringhoe	TM 0220
Fingringhoe Gravel Pit	TM 0420
Fingringhoe Ranges MOD	TM 0318
Fingringhoe Wick EWT Reserve	TM 0919
Fishers Green Holyfield LVRP	TL 3703
Fleet Head Great Wakering	TL 9589
Flitch Green Little Dunmow	TL 6620
Fobbing	TQ 7183
Fobbing Marsh EWT	TQ 7184
Fordham	TL 9228
Fordham Hall	TL 9227
Foulness Island	TR 0092
Foulness Point	TR 0495
Friday Lake Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3703
Friday Wood Colchester	TL 9821
Frinton-on-Sea	TM 2319
Fryerning	TL 6300
Gallions Reach Beckton	TQ 4481
Gambles Green Terling	TL 7614
Geedon Saltings Fingringhoe	TM 0418
Gestingthorpe	TL 8138
Gidea Park	TQ 5229
Glen Faba Roydon LVRP	TL 3909
Goldhanger	TL 9808
Gooch's Farm Elmstead	TM 0524
Gosfield	TL 7829
Gosfield Airfield	TL 7731
Gosfield Wood	TL 7728
Grays	TQ 6177
Great Baddow	TL 7205
Great Bromley	TM 0826
Great Burstead	TQ 6992
Great Chesterford	TL 5042
Great Dunmow	TL 6222
Great Hallingbury	TL 5119
Great Henny	TL 8637
Great Holland	TM 2119
Great Holland Pits EWT	TM 2019
Great Leighs	TL 7338
Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures	TL 8931
Great Oakley	TM 1927
Great Stambridge	TQ 8991
Great Tey	TL 8926
Great Totham	TL 8612
Great Wakering	TR 9487
Great Waltham	TL 6913
Great Warley	TQ 5890
Greensted-juxta-Ongar	TL 5402
Gunfleet Sands off Clacton-on-Sea	TM 2712

Gunners Park Shoebury EWT	TQ 9384
Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey LVRP	TQ 3798
Hadleigh	TQ 8187
Hadleigh Downs /Castle Country Park	TQ 8086
Hainault Forest Country Park	TQ 4793
Hall Marsh Scrape Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3701
Halstead	TL 8130
Hamford Water	TM 2225
Hampton Barns Great Stambridge	TQ 9091
Hanningfield Reservoir (including EWT Visitor Centre)	TQ 7397
Harlow	TL 4510
Harold Hill	TQ 5492
Harold Wood	TQ 5490
Harold Wood Sewage Works	TQ 5691
Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch	TQ 5386
Harwich	TM 2530
Hatch Wood Epping Forest	TQ 4298
Hatfield Broad Oak	TL 5416
Hatfield Broad Oak Marsh	TL 5417
Hatfield Forest NT	TL 5419
Havering-atte-Bower	TQ 5193
Hawkwell	TQ 8492
Hayes Hill Farm Holyfield LVRP	TL 3803
Henny Street	TL 8838
Heybridge Gravel Pit	TL 8606
High Street Epping	TL 4501
High Wood North Weald	TL 4902
Highams Park	TQ 3891
Highlands Boulevard Leigh-on-Sea	TQ 8286
Hockley	TQ 8492
Hockley Woods	TQ 8391
Hole Haven Creek Canvey Island	TQ 7582
Holland Haven	TM 2117
Holland-on-Sea	TM 2016
Holyfield Hall Farm LVRP	TL 3803
Holyfield Lake	TL 3704
Hooks Marsh Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3701
Hornchurch	TQ 5386
Horsey Island Hamford Water	TM 2324
Howe Outfall Dengie	TM 0202
Howlands Marsh St Osyth EWT	TM 1116
Hullbridge	TQ 8194
Hyde Hall Rettendon RHS	TQ 7899
Icknield Way Chrishall	TL 4439
Ilford	TQ 4486
Iltney Farm Mundon	TL 8804
Ingatestone	TQ 6499
Ingrebourne Valley	TQ 5384
Jaywick	TM 1513
Judas Gap Flatford	TL 8410
King George V Reservoir Chingford LVRP	TQ 3795
Lamarsh	TL 8935
Langdon Hill Country Park	TQ 6985
Langdon Hills EWT	TQ 6587
Langenhoe	TM 0018
Langenhoe Marshes/Fingringhoe Ranges MOD	TM 0417
Langford	TL 8308
Langham	TM 0333
Langham Treatment Works	TM 0134
Lawling Creek Maylandsea	TL 9104
Layer-de-la-Haye	TL 9620
Lee Valley Park Farms	TL 3803
Lee Valley Reservoirs: see Banbury William Girling King George V and Walthamstow/ Walthamstow Wetlands	TM 1012
Leez Priory Hartford End	TL 7018
Leez Reservoir Hartford End	TL 7018
Leigh-on-Sea	TQ 8486
Leyton	TQ 3887
Leyton Flats	TL 3986
Lion Creek Canewdon	TQ 9295
Little Baddow	TQ 7807
Little Belhus Aveley Country Park	TQ 5882
Little Braxted	TL 8314
Little Bromley	TM 0928
Little Bromley Hall	TM 0927
Little Clacton	TM 1618
Little Dunmow	TL 6521
Little Easton	TL 6023
Little Horkesley	TL 9632
Little Maplestead	TL 8234
Little Waltham	TL 7012
Littlebury	TL 5139
Lofts Farm Gravel Pits Heybridge	TL 8606
Loshes Meadow Twinstead EWT	TL 8736
Loughton	TQ 4296
Low Hall Lane Walthamstow	TQ 3688
Lower Raypits Canewdon EWT	TQ 9294
Lyle Park Silvertown	TQ 4079
Lyonshall Wood Great Waltham	TL 7314
Magnolia Park Hawkwell	TQ 8692
Maldon	TL 8506
Mann Wood Great Leighs	TL 7417
Manningtree	TM 1031
Manningtree Railway Station	TM 0932
Maplestead	TQ 7189
Maplin Sands/Bank off Foulness Island	TQ 9883
Mardyke Valley Stifford-Aveley	TQ 5679
Marks Tey	TL 9123
Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers	TQ 8196
Marsh House Dengie	TM 0103
Marsh Road Burnham-on-Crouch	TQ 9596
Marshhouse Outfall Dengie	TM 0304

Maydays Farm West Mersea	TM 0215
Mayesbrook Park Dagenham	TQ 4684
Mayland	TL 9202
Mayland Creek	TL 9103
Maylandsea	TL 9002
Mersea Island	TM 0314
Mersea Strood	TM 0115
Middleton	TL 8739
Middlewick Farm Dengie	TR 0198
Mill Beach Heybridge	TL 8807
Mill Green Fryerning	TL 6401
Mill Meads Stratford	TQ 3883
Mistley	TM 1232
Mistley Walls	TM 1132
Mole Hall Widdington	TL 5431
Mount Bures	TL 9032
Mountnessing	TQ 6397
Mucking	TQ 6881
Mucking Flats	TQ 7080
Mundon	TL 8702
Nayland	TL 9734
Nayland Pumping Station	TL 9734
Naze Walton-on-the-Naze (inc EWT Visitor Centre)	TM 2624
Nazeing Gravel Pits LVRP	TL 3807
Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing LVRP	TL 3908
Norsey Wood Billericay Local Nature Reserve	TQ 6895
North Fambridge	TQ 8697
North Fambridge Hall	TQ 8597
North Ockendon	TQ 5894
North Weald	TL 4903
North Weald Common	TL 5003
Old Hall Marshes Tolleshunt D'Arcy RSPB Reserve	TL 9811
Olympic Park Stratford LVRP	TQ 3784
Ongar	TL 5603
Orsett	TQ 6481
Orsett Fen	TQ 6283
Osea Road Heybridge	TL 8907
Pages Wood Upminster	TQ 5591
Paglesham	TQ 9293
Paglesham Creek	TQ 9394
Paglesham East End	TQ 9492
Paglesham Lagoon	TQ 9290
Panfield	TL 7325
Parkeston	TM 2232
Parndon Mill Harlow	TL 4311
Peartree Farm Bicknacre	TL 7903
Pebmarsh	TL 8533
Pewit Island Hamford Water	TM 2326
Pitsea	TQ 7488
Pitsea Landfill	TQ 7387
Pitsea Marsh	TQ 7487
Point Clear St Osyth	TM 0914
Potton Creek Great Wakering	TQ 9490
Potton Island Great Wakering	TQ 9591
Prestons Lake Pebmarsh	TL 8532
Prior's Wood Takeley	TL 5621
Priory Park Southend-on-Sea	TQ 8787
Prittlewell	TQ 8787
Rainham	TQ 5282
Rainham Marshes RSPB	TQ 5280
Rayne	TL 7323
Redbridge	TQ 4288
Redbridge Lakes Woodford Green	TQ 4290
Reeves Hall East Mersea	TM 0415
Rettendon	TQ 7698
Rewsalls Marsh West Mersea	TM 0313
Ridgewell Airfield Ashen	TL 7542
Roach Estuary	TQ 9893
Rochford	TQ 8790
Roding Valley Chigwell EWT	TQ 4295
Rolls Farm Tollesbury	TL 9508
Roman River Valley Layer-de-la-Haye	TL 9620
Roxwell	TL 6408
Roydon	TL 4010
Rye Hill Epping Green	TL 4506
Rye Meads RSPB	TL 3810
Saffron Walden	TL 5423
Salcott	TL 9413
Sawbridgeworth Marsh EWT	TL 4915
Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield LVRP	TL 3703
Sewardstone	TQ 3898
Sewardstone Marsh	TQ 3798
Shoebury	TQ 9384
Shoebury Park	TQ 9385
Shoeburyness	TQ 9383
Shut Heath Wood Great Totham EWT	TL 8513
Silver End	TL 8120
Silvertown	TQ 4079
Sladbury's Farm Little Clacton	TM 1917
Snaresbrook Waltham Forest	TQ 3989
South Benfleet	TQ 7886
South Green Fingringhoe	TM 0319
South Park Ilford	TQ 4586
South Woodford	TQ 4090
South Woodham Ferrers	TQ 8097
Southend Pier	TQ 8884
Southend-on-Sea	TQ 8685
Southey Creek Mundon	TL 8805
Southminster	TQ 9599
Springfield Chelmsford	TL 7207
St Lawrence	TL 9506
St Lawrence Bay	TL 9603
St Osyth	TM 1215

St Osyth Beach	TM 1212
St Osyth Priory	TM 1215
St Osyth Priory Lake	TM 1116
St Osyth Stone	TM 0815
Stambridge	TQ 8991
Stanford Rivers	TL 5300
Stanford Warren EWT	TQ 6881
Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley	TL 5521
Stansted Mountfitchet	TL 5125
Steeple	TL 9303
Stock	TQ 6898
Stondon Massey	TL 5800
Stone Point The Naze Walton-on-the-Naze	TM 2425
Stour Estuary	TM 1733
Stow Marsh North Fambridge	TQ 8496
Stratford	TQ 3884
Strawberry Hill Pond Epping Forest	TQ 4297
Strethall	TL 4839
Stubbers Adventure Centre Corbets Tey	TQ 5784
Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe	TM 0522
Sutton Road Cemetery Southend-on-Sea	TQ 8887
Takeley	TL 5621
Terling	TL 7715
Tewkes Creek Canvey Island	TQ 8084
Thames Barrier Park	TQ 4179
Thameside	TR 0191
Thaxted	TL 6131
The Hythe Colchester (and Lagoons)	TM 0124
The Naze Walton-on-the-Naze (inc EWT Visitor Centre)	TM 2624
The Pines Stifford Clays	TQ 6180
The Wade Hamford Water	TM 2323
Theydon Bois	TQ 4498
Thorley Wash	TL 4818
Thorndon Park North Country Park (inc EWT Visitor Centre)	TQ 6091
Thorney Bay Canvey Island	TQ 7982
Thorpe Bay	TQ 9185
Thorpe Cross	TM 1921
Thorrington	TM 0920
Thundersley	TQ 7988
Thurrock Thameside Mucking Nature Park EWT	TQ 6980
Tilbury	TQ 6376
Tilbury Power Station	TQ 6675
Tillingham	TL 9903
Tiptree	TL 8916
Titchmarsh Marina Hamford Water	TM 2423
Tollesbury	TL 9510
Tollesbury Wick EWT	TM 0419
Twinstead	TL 8636
Two Tree Island Leigh-on-Sea EWT	TQ 8285
Tye Hall Farm Roxwell	TL 6308
Ugley	TL 5128
Upminster	TQ 5687
Vange Marsh RSPB	TQ 7285
Vange Wick	TQ 7385
Wakering Common	TQ 9587
Wakering Stairs	TQ 9787
Wall Wood Great Hallingbury	TL 5218
Wallasea Island Canewdon RSPB	TQ 9693
Waltham Abbey	TL 3800
Walthamstow Marshes LVRP	TQ 3587
Walthamstow Wetlands LVRP LWT	TQ 3589
Walton Hall Marshes	TM 2623
Wanstead Flats	TQ 4086
Wanstead Park	TQ 4187
Warley	TQ 5992
Warley Place Great Warley EWT	TQ 5890
Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges Grays	TQ 5979
Wat Tyler Country Park Pitsea	TQ 7386
Waterworks Leyton Nature Reserve LVRP	TQ 3686
Weald Park South Weald Country Park	TQ 5794
Weeley	TM 1422
Wennington	TQ 5481
West Bergholt	TL 9527
West Canvey Marsh RSPB	TQ 7784
West Mersea	TM 0012
West Thurrock	TQ 5877
West Thurrock Marshes	TQ 5876
Westcliff-on-Sea	TQ 8686
Westley Heights Langdon Hills Country Park	TQ 6886
Whetmead Witham Nature Reserve	TL 8313
Whitepark Farm Boxted	TL 9733
Wickford	TQ 7593
Wickham Bishops	TL 8312
Wickham St Paul	TL 8336
Widdington	TL 5331
Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth	TM 1114
William Girling Reservoir Chingford LVRP	TQ 3694
Willows Green	TL 7219
Witham	TL 8115
Wivenhoe	TM 0321
Woodford	TQ 4091
Woodford Green	TQ 4192
Woodham Fen South Woodham Ferrers EWT	TQ 7997
Wormingford	TL 9331
Wormingford Airfield	TL 9130
Wrabness	TM 1731
Writtle	TL 6706
Wycke Hill Stables Maldon	TL 8305

Map of Essex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Haverhill
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Stansted Airport
Lagoons
Hatfield Forest
Bishop's Stortford
Harlow
Nazeing G.P.
Fishers Green G.P.
King George V Res.
Girling Res.
Walthamstow Res.
Epping Forest
Hainault Forest
Fairlop
Ongar
Chipsey Brook
Writtle Forest
Norsey Wood
Billericay
Thorndon C.P.
Brentwood
Dagnam Park
Romford
Dagenham Chase
Wanstead Park
Berwick Ponds
Belhus Woods
Rainham Marsh
West Thurrock
East Tilbury
Mucking
Thames Estuary
Stanford Warren
Canvey Is.
Leigh NNR
Southend
Southend Pier
Pitsea Hall Marsh
Basildon
Wakering Stairs
Fleet Head
Maplin Bank
Foulness Is.
Maplin Sands
Holliwell Pt
Burnham
Dengie
Bradwell Bird Obs.
Colne Point
Mersea Is.
Colne Estuary
Fingringhoe Wick NR
Old Hall Marshes
Tollesbury Wick
Blackwater Estuary
Osea Is.
Northey Is.
Maldon
Chigborough Lakes
Danbury Ridge
Chelmsford
Hanningfield Res.
S. Woodham Ferrers
Marsh Farm
Hockley Woods
Roach
Crouch
Blackwater
Brain
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Wid
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Pant
Stort
Roding
Beam
Ingrebourne
Lea
Colne
Roman
Holland Brook
Stour
Harwich
Stour Estuary
Copperas Bay
Stour Wood
Mistley
Horsey Is.
The Naze
Manningtree
Ardleigh Res.
Colchester
Friday Wood
Abberton Res.
Claton
Halstead
Chalkney Wood
Marks Hall Wood
Braintree
Gosfield Lake
Leez Res.
Coleman's Res.
Witham
Essex boundary
LNHS boundary

Essex Ringing Report for 2016

Simon Cox

The BTO database lists a total of 17,141 birds ringed in Essex during 2016, a substantial increase in recent years. It should be pointed out that the 1km square TL3909 is counted as an Essex square although it includes a small fragment of the Rye Meads reserve in Herts and it is thought that a 'single-figure' number of birds ringed there are likely to have been included in the total.

Table 1 Totals of birds ringed in Essex 2016

Species	2016 Total
Greylag Goose	1
Mute Swan	78
Gadwall	4
Mallard	6
Teal	4
Tufted Duck	17
Grey Partridge	1
Little Grebe	1
Grey Heron	13
Little Egret	14
Sparrowhawk	8
Common Buzzard	4
Water Rail	1
Moorhen	10
Coot	37
Avocet	6
Lapwing	7
Ringed Plover	1
Woodcock	1
Redshank	2
Black-headed Gull	2,013
Mediterranean Gull	5
Common Gull	14
Great Black-backed Gull	68
Herring Gull	1,553
Caspian Gull	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	138
Little Tern	3
Common Tern	5
Stock Dove	27
Woodpigeon	51
Collared Dove	22
Cuckoo	1
Barn Owl	175
Tawny Owl	5
Little Owl	10
Swift	2
Kingfisher	14
Great Spotted Woodpecker	47
Green Woodpecker	12
Kestrel	43
Jay	21
Magpie	11
Jackdaw	11
Rook	10
Carrion Crow	2
Coal Tit	104
Marsh Tit	33
Blue Tit	3,038
Great Tit	912
Bearded Tit	1
Skylark	3
Sand Martin	49
Swallow	737
House Martin	28
Cetti's Warbler	34
Long-tailed Tit	367
Willow Warbler	72
Chiffchaff	344
Greenish Warbler	1
Sedge Warbler	169
Reed Warbler	315
Blackcap	448
Garden Warbler	29
Lesser Whitethroat	39
Whitethroat	190
Firecrest	14
Goldcrest	339
Wren	311
Nuthatch	17
Treecreeper	26
Starling	521
Blackbird	565
Fieldfare	13
Redwing	53
Song Thrush	82
Mistle Thrush	1
Spotted Flycatcher	1

Species	2016 Total
Robin	454
Pied Flycatcher	2
Redstart	1
Whinchat	2
Stonechat	3
Wheatear	1
House Sparrow	192
Dunnock	417
Grey Wagtail	5
Pied Wagtail	8
Meadow Pipit	80

Species	2016 Total
Chaffinch	340
Brambling	29
Bullfinch	77
Greenfinch	587
Linnet	83
Lesser Redpoll	79
Goldfinch	702
Siskin	245
Yellowhammer	176
Reed Bunting	322
Grand Total	**17,141**

Table 2 Selected recoveries/controls involving Essex reported during 2016

In the table below, the first line of each entry shows ringing details including the age and sex of the bird if known. The following lines indicate the locations of subsequent reports or captures and the distance of the movement in kms. Note some old recoveries of interest, not reported until 2016, are included. The term control refers to a bird captured and released by another ringer.

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
Pink-footed Goose	Adult ♀	28/04/16	Ekne, Levanger, Nord-Trøndelag, Norway	
NOS 2004762	Field record	12/05/16	Vangsvegen, Straumen, Nord-Trøndelag, Norway	
	Field record	13/10/16	Hunstrup, Viborg, Denmark,	
	Field record	29/10/16	Friesland (various sites), The Netherlands	
	Field record	to 12/12/16	Friesland (various sites), The Netherlands	
	Field record	23/12/16	Houtave (307), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
	Field record	29/12/16	Holland Haven, Essex	1,442
Gadwall	Adult ♂	19/08/11	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
FH19194	Shot	02/03/16	Saint Jaume D'enveja, Tarragona, Spain	1,234
Wigeon	First-year ♂	20/12/63	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
AT83641	Shot	04/06/64	Inta River Mouth, Inta, Russian Federation	3,686
Teal	First-year ♂	12/10/13	Rieselfelder Munster, Munster, Germany	
DEW 5407523	Shot	22/11/16	Hamford Water, Essex	441
Tufted Duck	Adult ♂	28/01/85	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
FR69988	Shot	30/05/16	Berezovskiy District, Khanty-Mansi A.O. Russian Federation	3,986
Little Egret	Nestling	05/05/12	Site Confidential, Essex	
GR58405	Field record	31/05/13	Site Confidential, Cambridgeshire	93
	Field record	05/10/16	Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire	89
Cormorant	Nestling	30/04/05	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
5238326	Field record	12/07/07	Heerenkeet, Zierikzee, Zeeland, The Netherlands	209
	Field record	30/03/10	Havergate Island, Suffolk	56
	Field record	29/03/11	Havergate Island, Suffolk	
	Field record	18/02/15	Colijnsplaat, Zeeland, The Netherlands	207
	Field record	18/08/16	Colijnsplaat, Zeeland, The Netherlands	
Marsh Harrier	Nestling ♂	07/06/15	Site Confidential, Norfolk	
AJ60737	Field record	23/08/15	Near Kenfig, Bridgend, Wales	386

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
	Field record	06/11/15	Near Beckley, Oxfordshire	209
	Field record	17/01/16	Near Clacton-on-Sea, Essex	92
	Field record	14/02/16	Isle of Sheppey, Kent	147
	Field record	01/04/16	Site Confidential, Norfolk	56
	Field record	27/11/16	Buckenham, Norfolk	12
Red Kite	Nestling	10/06/15	Site Confidential, Shropshire	
GR87731	Field record	09/07/16	Site Confidential, Essex	254
Avocet	Nestling	19/06/13	Great Oakley, Essex	
EX65536	Field record	19/06/14	Holland Haven Essex	10
	Field record	04/08/16	Polder Breebaart, Groningen, The Netherlands	425
	Field record	05/08/16	Polder Breebaart, Groningen, The Netherlands	
Avocet	Nestling	19/06/13	Great Oakley, Essex	
EX65535	Field record	25/08/13	Orfordness, Suffolk	33
	Field record	27/04/14	Holland Haven Essex	10
	Field record	11/04/15	Holland Haven Essex	
	Field record	17/03/16	Holland Haven Essex	
	Field record	05/08/16	Polder Breebaart, Groningen, The Netherlands	424
Dunlin	Adult	31/08/08	Bradwell, Essex	
NT92026	Controlled	13/07/16	Ottenby, Sweden	1,125
Dunlin	Adult	29/07/13	Ujscie Wisly, Swibno, Pomorskie, Poland	
PLG JT43662	Field record	08/02/16	Rainham Marshes, Essex	
Green Sandpiper	First-year	07/09/04	Nanjizal, Lands End, Cornwall	
SR25438	Field record	18/04/10	Site Confidential, Essex	469
Caspian Gull	Adult	12/09/09	Rainham Tip	
GC89991	Field record	22/07/10	Arnhem, Lingewaard, Gelderland, The Netherlands	400
Caspian Gull	First-year	22/10/11	Rainham Tip	
GR15619	Controlled	02/05/16	Rz. Wisla, Zastow Karczmiski, Lubelskie, Poland	918
	Field record	22/09/16	Brouwersdam, Scharendijke, Zeeland, The Netherlands	253
Caspian Gull	Nestling	07/06/13	Reddern, Oberspreewald-Lausitz, Brandenburg, Germany	
DEH EA182100	Field record	08/12/14	Dungeness, Kent	918
	Field record	16/01/16	Pitsea Tip, Essex	939
Caspian Gull	Nestling	09/06/15	Reddern, Oberspreewald-Lausitz, Brandenburg, Germany	
DEH EA203120	Field record	30/05/16	Wanstead, Essex	971
Caspian Gull	Nestling	06/06/16	Reddern, Oberspreewald-Lausitz, Brandenburg, Germany	
DEH EA204307	Field record	25/09/16	Thames Barrier Park, Essex	971
Caspian Gull	Nestling	06/06/16	Reddern, Oberspreewald-Lausitz, Brandenburg, Germany	
DEH EA204090	Field record	20/11/16	Thames Barrier Park, Essex	971
Yellow-legged Gull	Second-year	22/02/14	Rainham Tip, Essex	
GR92818	Field record	27/02/14	Blaringhem, Nord, France	179
	Field record	09/04/14	Preverenges, Vaud, Switzerland	720

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
	Field record	23/10/16	Walenstadt, St Gallen, Switzerland	821
Common Tern	Full-grown	06/04/13	La Somone, Senegal	
FPP 4H65723	Freshly dead	03/05/16	Fennes, near Braintree, Essex	4,451
Woodpigeon	First-year	17/09/15	Landguard Point, Suffolk	
FC42170	Shot	07/02/16	Goldhanger, Essex	45
Turtle Dove	Adult ♂	14/06/11	Perry Green Farm, Bradwell, Near Braintree, Essex	
EG59010	Retrapped	12/06/14	Perry Green Farm, Bradwell, Near Braintree, Essex	
	Shot	18/09/14	Santa Cruz, Cordoba, Spain	1,622
Kestrel	Nestling	18/06/16	Everleigh, Wiltshire	
EZ35309	Freshly dead	12/07/16	Holland-on-Sea, Essex	209
Coal Tit	First-year	27/09/15	Bellem, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium	
BLB 14192988	Long dead	07/02/16	Great Bardfield, Essex	233
Sand Martin	Nestling	22/07/16	Applegarthtown, Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway	
Z419956	Controlled	19/09/16	Holland Haven, Essex	481
Sand Martin	Juvenile	19/06/13	Brightlingsea, Essex	
D181986	Controlled	01/08/13	Hiers-Brouage, Charente-Maritime, France	680
Sand Martin	First-year	26/07/13	Pointe D'offoy, Cayeux-sur-Mer, Somme, France	
FRP 7194021	Long dead	22/02/16	Sunnymead Farm, Alresford, Essex	193
Cetti's Warbler	Full-grown ♂	19/09/16	Holland Haven, Essex	
S479287	Controlled	09/10/16	Iken Marsh, Suffolk	46
Chiffchaff	Juvenile	16/08/15	Wenden Lofts, Essex	
HDN824	Controlled	04/05/16	Lista Fyr, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway	790
Chiffchaff	Juvenile	26/07/15	Wenden Lofts, Essex	
EPR470	Retrapped	16/08/15	Wenden Lofts, Essex	
	Controlled	21/04/16	Eernshaven, Groningen, The Netherlands	480
Sedge Warbler	First-year	23/08/16	Holland Haven, Essex	
S272379	Controlled	31/08/16	Terres D'oiseaux, Gironde, France	738
Reed Warbler	First-year	09/10/10	Pitsea Marshes, Essex	
L498448	Controlled	07/05/16	Donington-on-Bain, Lincolnshire	205
Blackcap	Adult ♀	01/08/15	Hadfast, Cousland, Midlothian	
Z615863	Controlled	01/10/16	Holland Haven, Essex	532
Blackcap	First-year ♂	09/10/15	Vilamoura, Faro, Portugal	
POL A393692	Freshly dead, car	30/07/16	Writtle, Essex	1,737
Blackbird	First-year	04/07/14	Ventes Ragas, Silutes, Lithuania	
LIK KV99922	Controlled	31/01/16	Birdbrook, Essex	1,409
Robin	Adult	06/10/13	Lomeland, Eigersund, Rogaland, Norway	
NOS ED97419	Killed by cat	17/10/16	St Osyth, Essex	811
Stonechat	Nestling ♂	28/04/15	Upper Hollesley Common. Suffolk	
D639262	Field record	01/03/16	Colne Point, Essex	42
	(bred on site)	to 08/06/16	Colne Point, Essex	
Dunnock	First-year	16/11/13	Near Mod, Medway, Kent	
D691734	Controlled	28/01/16	Sunnymead Farm, Alresford, Essex	47
Meadow Pipit	First-year	06/10/13	Walberswick, Suffolk	
Z853478	Freshly dead	17/05/16	Walton-on-the Naze, Essex	59

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
Chaffinch	Adult ♂	01/05/15	Lutufallet, Trysil, Hedmark, Norway	
NOS EH92622	Freshly dead	07/02/16	Panfield, Essex	1,254
Chaffinch	Adult ♀	18/04/15	Grimstadvatnet, Hareid, More og Romsdal, Norway	
NOS EE83269	Freshly dead	01/04/16	Bradfield, Essex	1,196
Greenfinch	First-year ♂	20/10/15	Filey Brigg Country Park, North Yorkshire	
VT52761	Controlled	13/04/16	Sunnymead Farm, Alresford, Essex	275
Twite	Adult	09/09/16	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth, West Yorkshire	
S109801	Field record	14/12/16	Wallasea Island, Essex	293
	Field record	18/12/16	Wallasea Island, Essex	
Twite	First-year	09/09/16	Booth Wood Reservoir, Rishworth, West Yorkshire	
S109803	Field record	31/12/16	Wallasea Island, Essex	293
Lesser Redpoll	First-year	12/10/14	Easter Inch Moss, Blackburn, West Lothian	
D957086	Controlled	30/03/16	Sunnymead Farm, Alresford, Essex	537
Goldfinch	First-year ♀	08/03/16	La Maladerie, Steenweck, Nord, France	
FRP 7747666	Controlled	24/12/16	Little Clacton, Essex	170
Siskin	Adult ♀	05/01/16	Clavering Farm Fish Lakes, Essex	
Z672993	Controlled	26/04/16	Drummond, Inverness, Highland	669
	Retrapped	29/11/16	Clavering Farm Fish Lakes, Essex	
Reed Bunting	First-year ♂	26/10/16	Holland Haven, Essex	
S479851	Controlled	26/11/16	Whillets, West Sussex	119

Additional Summaries

Mallard: birds ringed at Abberton Reservoir were shot in France and West Sussex.
Cormorant: additional Abberton-ringed birds (see above) were reported in Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Nottinghamshire and Norfolk.
Avocet: one ringed as a chick at Seal Sands, Teesmouth, was seen on several dates in Essex as well as in Dorset, Devon and West Sussex.
Black-tailed Godwit: the many Essex re-sightings of birds of the Icelandic race *islandica* included three that had been ringed in north-east Scotland on autumn passage.
Sanderling: birds sighted in the Southend-on-Sea area had been ringed in south-west Iceland, The Netherlands (West Terschelling) and Orkney Islands.
Black-headed Gull: birds born in 1989 and 1990 were recorded alive in Essex in 2016. Birds ringed in Finland and Spain were recorded in Essex and three ringed at Pitsea were re-sighted in Belarus. Also, there were two movements linking Essex and Scotland.
Mediterranean Gull: individuals ringed in Hungary, France, The Netherlands and Belgium were reported in Essex.
Common Gull: there were movements linking Essex with Finland, Denmark, Germany and Belfast.
Herring Gull: there were movements linking Essex with Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russian Federation, Germany, France and Scotland.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: there were movements linking Essex with the Faroe Islands, North Atlantic Ocean, Denmark, The Netherlands, France and Portugal.
Great Black-backed Gull: there were movements linking Essex with the North Atlantic Ocean, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands and France.
Siskin: Three more (see above) ringed in Essex in January-early April 2016 were subsequently controlled in Scotland during the spring/summer, maximum distance 672km; another was controlled in Northumberland.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) at West Mersea, 8th December 2016

by Dougal Urquhart

At about 2.30pm on Thursday 8th December 2016 I received a phone call from Dan Murtagh saying that he had an unusual bird feeding under his bird feeders in his back garden in West Mersea, near Colchester. It was an unfamiliar bird to his family and they had tried to identify it from their old Shell bird field guide. However, the closest bird they thought it looked like was a Dark-eyed Junco, which was illustrated in the back section of rare vagrants.

They asked me on the phone how likely this bird could be in their garden; my obvious reply was very rare! Having established that they had checked all the other bird illustrations in the field guide their mystery bird still matched the Dark-eyed Junco. They described, in brief, what the colour of the bird was and the fact it was hopping around on the lawn. Over the phone, this all sounded to me like a possible Dark-eyed Junco although the location in this part of Essex seemed most unlikely.

After the 5-10 minute phone conversation, I told Dan I would be round straight away – a short drive from East Mersea of just ten minutes. I phoned local birder Andy Field before leaving the house to let him know I was checking out a possible Dark-eyed Junco, although he could not join me as he had gone to Colchester.

I arrived at the Murtaghs' house, a small bungalow in the middle of West Mersea, and was ushered into their lounge to look through the large French doors onto the back garden. The garden was a typical mix of small trees, shrubs, herbaceous borders with a lawn nearest the house. The bird was not on view when I arrived but I was told it had been present on and off that morning and into the afternoon up until 20 minutes before I arrived. We stared out and waited for the bird to show and after about 10-15 minutes, the bird in question appeared out of the undergrowth to have a drink

Dark-eyed Junco, West Mersea, 8th December (STEVE GRIMWADE)

from a birdbath just ten metres away in full view. It was very distinctive and stood out from the House Sparrows nearby, displaying its dark grey upperparts contrasting with the clean white belly.

This first view was sufficient for me to confirm it as a Dark-eyed Junco, a species I am familiar with having seen one previously in the UK as well as lots in the USA. It then dropped down onto the lawn and started to feed under the bird feeder where some ten House Sparrows were feeding. The bird was watched feeding for several minutes and the first few photographs were taken through the glass doors as it hopped around the lawn. At one point while the bird rested in a bush, a Sparrowhawk was seen to glide overhead.

The main features of the bird to note were the slate-grey body and throat contrasting with the pure white underparts. The pink-white bill was very distinctive as were the white outer tail feathers. There was a faintest hint of brown on the back and on the wing coverts but the general dark grey colouration seemed to indicate an adult male.

After the bird disappeared into the undergrowth for a few minutes, I explained to Dan and Christine how very rare this bird was in the UK and that there was going to be huge interest from lots of birdwatchers wanting to see it. However, they did not seem very keen on the idea of having lots of birdwatchers coming into their house. Dan was happy for me to contact a few local birders and so I phoned Andy Field again who sped back from shopping in Colchester. I also phoned Andrew Thompson as he was one of the few other birder's numbers on my phone. I tried to contact another local birder and even drove round to his house but he was out.

Having just driven back to Dan's house, I waved down Ian Black (Natural England's Essex site manager at the time) who just happened to be driving past and told him about the bird. He grabbed his bins and came inside with me. Andy Field soon turned up and a few minutes later Andrew Thompson arrived with his wife Thelma and Steve Grimwade.

The bird hadn't shown for about three-quarters of an hour since I last saw it and, after 15 more minutes of waiting, Ian Black left. The five of us were thinking the bird was not going to show and as the light was starting to fade, we thought we would have to try again the following day. Having left the house we stopped to look into the garden from the entrance alongside the house and suddenly the Junco hopped into view feeding back on the lawn again. We all got good views, the Junco continuing to feed just ten metres away for 5-10 minutes. We were all left speechless as the bird performed in front of us. Steve commented that the light was so poor by now that he had to slow his camera speed down to get any reasonable photos. After the bird disappeared back into the undergrowth, we felt that was the last we would see of the bird that afternoon and we said our huge thanks to Dan and Christine.

Before we got back in our cars we had a look at how the area would cope with lots of birdwatchers the next day and we walked through the adjacent property which was a recently boarded up police station and checked out its empty back garden. This area would be ideal for birders to stand in while looking over the garden fence into the Murtagh's back garden.

That evening I made a phone call to get permission for birders to visit the old police station that next day. News was put out that evening that access was being negotiated with the local landowner. Sadly, the Dark-eyed Junco was not seen again despite about 100 birders searching the area the following morning. The Murtaghs also said they did not see it again despite more bird seed being scattered in their garden.

We believe this bird to be an adult winter male Dark-eyed Junco of the Slate-coloured Junco race, due to the predominant slate-grey plumage on the upperparts showing only just a hint of brown in the grey of the back and wing-coverts.

The RSPB's Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project

Malcolm Ausden, Simon Carpenter, Jeff Delve, Rachel Fancy & Chris Tyas

Introduction

The RSPB's Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project, which lies between Southend-on-Sea and Burnham-on-Crouch, is the UK's largest ever coastal wetland creation project and arguably its most innovative. In this article, we describe aspects of Wallasea's design and management, as well as how bird use of the site has been developing.

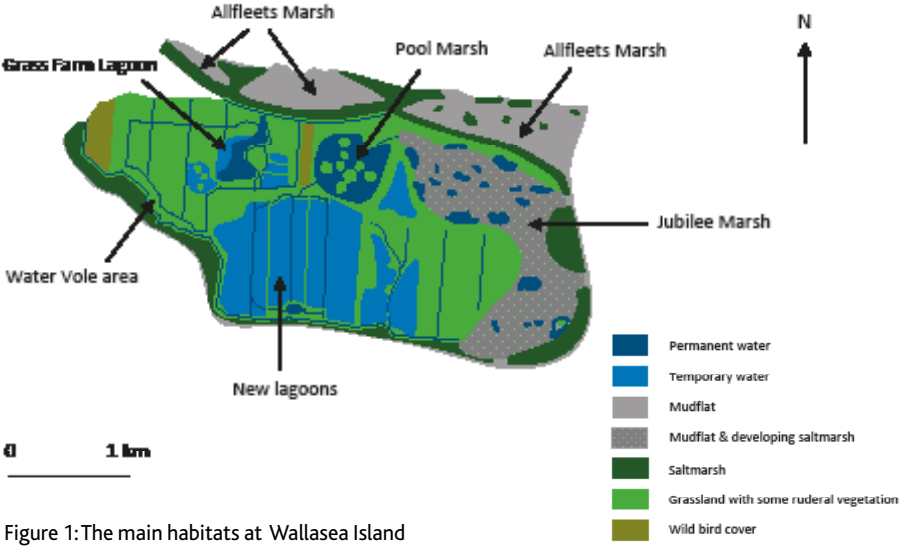


Figure 1: The main habitats at Wallasea Island

An overview of the habitats created at Wallasea

The project has involved creating a ca 670 ha complex of wetland habitats on ex-arable land. These comprise intertidal habitat (mudflat and saltmarsh); saline lagoons and other water bodies; and areas of both brackish and freshwater coastal grazing marsh (Fig. 1). The site has been designed to provide valuable habitat for wildlife both now and in the future, as the climate continues to warm and sea levels continue to rise. We have therefore taken into account both the requirements of high priority bird species that already breed in the area, and of species that we think could regularly breed in Essex in the future. The first group includes Ringed Plover, Redshank and Little Tern. The second group includes Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilt and, far less likely, Kentish Plover.

Spoonbills re-commenced regular breeding in Britain in 2010, but their UK breeding population is still largely confined to one site. At Wallasea, we have designed the shallow lagoons so they should hopefully provide good feeding habitat for Spoonbills. We have also planted scrub on a large island for Spoonbills to nest on. We also hope the lagoons at Wallasea will support breeding Black-winged Stilts, although the lack of freshwater on the island means the salinity of these lagoons is higher than ideal for breeding stilts (see Ausden *et al.*, 2014). The nearest breeding Kentish Plovers to Wallasea are in the Netherlands, where their population has been in long-term decline (Meininger & Arts, 1997; https://www.sovon.nl/nl/soort/4770), but their breeding population further north in Germany has been faring well. At Wallasea, we think we can create similar habitat to that found at Beltringharder Koog, the main Kentish Plover breeding site in North Germany.

Figure 2: A drone's-eye view across the developing intertidal habitat at the south end of Jubilee Marsh at Wallasea. This was taken in September 2018, three years after tidal flooding was introduced to the area. (JEFF KEW)

Intertidal habitat

There are two areas of intertidal habitat that have been created using managed realignment at Wallasea. Managed realignment involves setting back sea walls to allow tidal flooding of the area to the seaward side of them. The first managed realignment area at Wallasea was the 115-ha Allfleets Marsh on the north side of the island. This was created by Defra to compensate for intertidal habitat lost through port development at Lappel Bank in Kent and Fagbury Flats in Suffolk. Allfleets Marsh was opened to tidal flooding in summer 2006. The second area is Jubilee Marsh (Figs. 1 & 2). This comprises about 160 ha, of which about 134 ha is currently intertidal habitat.

The design of Jubilee Marsh is particularly innovative, and involved raising land levels before tidal flooding was introduced. Land levels were raised using three million tonnes of inert material excavated by Crossrail during construction of two 13-mile long railway tunnels beneath London, together with an extra one million tonnes of soil gained from excavating water features elsewhere on Wallasea Island. This was done to reduce the additional volume of sea water that would flow into and out of Jubilee Marsh on each tide, to avoid any adverse impacts of this extra flow of water on the rest of the estuary (see Ausden ***et al.***, 2015 for details). The material from London was transported to Wallasea by ship.

Use of the inert material from Crossrail provided a unique opportunity to design land levels within Jubilee Marsh, so that the area developed into a mixture of mudflat, saltmarsh, lagoons, islands and non-tidal grassland. The areas intended to become saltmarsh and non-tidal grassland were designed with a gently sloping topography, and with an elevation that rises to a metre above the current level of the highest astronomical tides. We did this so that areas of non-tidal grassland and saltmarsh should continue to persist even when sea levels are far higher than at present. Land forming to create Jubilee Marsh began in 2012, and tidal flooding was introduced to the area in July 2015.

Saline water bodies

These comprise an area of regulated tidal exchange (RTE) known as Pool Marsh, and a variety of other saline lagoons. RTE is a system in which the tidal flow of water into and out of an area is regulated using a water control structure, usually a tide gate. The hydrology of RTE areas is

intermediate between that of fully tidal estuarine habitat, and that of saline lagoons, which have only very limited exchange of water with the sea. Important considerations in the design of both the RTE area and other saline lagoons at Wallasea have been the ability to finely manipulate water levels, and to control the salinity of the water. Control over water levels enables suitable water depths to be provided for feeding birds, and the lagoons to be periodically dried out and re-flooded. We will talk about the importance of maintaining suitable salinities later on.

Regulated tidal flooding was introduced to Pool Marsh in September 2015. The last main phase of habitat creation at Wallasea, the creation of about 200 ha of shallow, saline lagoons in the southwest part of the island was completed in autumn 2018. The area of RTE and saline lagoons at Wallasea will form what we think will be the largest complex of shallow, saline water bodies in northwest Europe.

Predator-exclusion fencing

Another innovative feature of the design of Wallasea is its 'underwater' predator-exclusion fence. This encloses a 75-ha area containing coastal grazing marsh, Grass Farm Lagoon and its associated salt pan. The fence is designed to protect wader, gull and tern nests and young from predation by Foxes and Badgers. This fence is located within a water-filled ditch (Fig. 3), and works because Foxes and Badgers are unable to jump, or climb, over the fence from a swimming position. The top of the fence is at, or slightly below, ground level, and so does not interrupt the view across the landscape. It is similar to a ha-ha. The design of the fence is based on fences used to protect nesting terns and gulls on islands that have been pioneered by Sussex Wildlife Trust at their Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Figure 3: A section of the 'underwater' predator-exclusion fence at Wallasea Island. The fence is designed to protect the nests and eggs of ground-nesting birds from predation by Foxes and Badgers. (MALCOLM AUSDEN)

Other habitats

Additional habitats created at Wallasea are an area of densely-packed, steep-side ditches to provide habitat for Water Voles; wild bird cover to provide seed for farmland birds, particularly Corn Buntings; and rough grassland for Adders and Common Lizards that were translocated from areas of the island before they were converted to wetland. This rough grassland also provides excellent hunting areas for raptors.

How bird use of the site has been developing

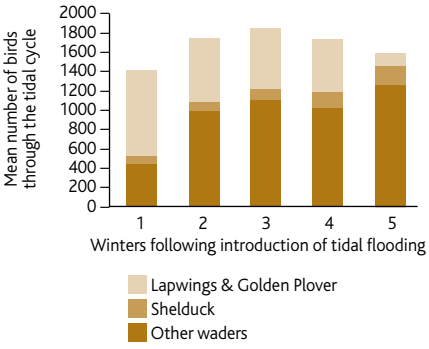
Wintering and passage waterbirds

The value of the two managed realignment areas for birds has been assessed using monthly counts made at hourly intervals from high to low tide, and from low to high tide, during October to March. At Allfleets Marsh, these were carried out during the first five winters following the introduction of tidal flooding, to determine whether the site was achieving its compensatory requirements. At Jubilee Marsh, because of the amount of time needed to carry out repeated, co-ordinated counts through the tidal cycle, we waited until the third winter following the introduction of tidal flooding to do this. This was so we could assess the value of the habitat for birds once their densities were likely to have reached close to maximum levels, based on experience of other sites. The co-ordinated counts on Jubilee Marsh were carried out by RSPB staff and volunteers between 11th January and 6th February 2018.

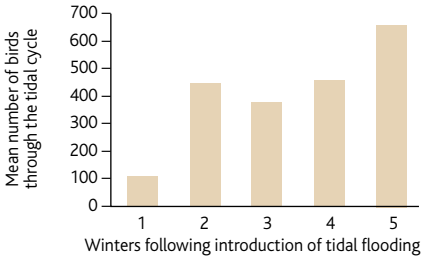
Figure 4: The area of regulated tidal exchange in Pool Marsh at Wallasea is developing well, with densities of fish and invertebrates increasing, and the margins of the lagoon being colonised by Glasswort and other pioneer plant species. This photograph was taken August 2018. (MALCOLM AUSDEN)

Figure 5: Changes in numbers of waterbirds using the 115-ha managed realignment area at Allfleets Marsh during the first five winters following the introduction of tidal flooding.

a: Invertebrate-feeding species – waders and Shelduck



b: Herbivorous wildfowl



Use of Allfleets Marsh by intertidal-feeding waders, invertebrate-feeding Shelduck and herbivorous wildfowl was low during the first winter following the introduction of tidal flooding (Fig. 5). In Fig 5a, we have shown numbers of Lapwing and Golden Plover separately from those of other waders, because Lapwing and Golden Plover mainly use intertidal areas for roosting and loafing, rather than feeding. Changes in the use of Allfleets Marsh by waders and wildfowl largely reflect changes in the abundance of their main invertebrate prey and plant food. Monitoring of invertebrate abundance by ABPmer (unpublished), showed that invertebrate densities were low during the first winter following the introduction of tidal flooding. During this first winter, they mainly comprised Mud Snails, which float in the water and are typically quick to colonise new areas of mudflat, and Ragworms. Similarly, there was little algae, and no saltmarsh plants, for Wigeon and Brent Geese to feed on during this first winter.

From the second winter onwards, numbers of waders and wildfowl increased. The increase in wader numbers reflected an increase in densities of prey, particularly of the bivalves ***Macoma balthica*** and ***Scrobicularia plana*** as well as of the bivalve ***Abra tenuis***. After five years, Allfleets Marsh supported twice the number of birds for which it was intended to provide compensatory habitat. However, bird use has since declined, despite the area of mudflat remaining virtually the same. It is not clear why.

The results of the six co-ordinated, through-the-tide counts on Jubilee Marsh are summarised in Table 1. This shows both the mean number of birds counted at hourly intervals through the tidal cycle, and the mean peak count of each species during each of the six counts. The mean of 2,866 wildfowl recorded using the area is equivalent to a density of about 2,000 birds per km^2 of intertidal habitat. The total Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) high tide count for the whole of Wallasea Island on 6 January 2018 was 13,500 waterbirds.

Table 1: The most abundant waders and wildfowl recorded during six counts carried out at hourly intervals through the tidal cycle on Jubilee Marsh between 11 January and 6 February 2018. Only species with mean peak counts of >100 are shown.

Species	Mean number through the tidal cycle	Mean peak number on each count date
Waders		
Dunlin	333	1,052
Redshank	209	302
Grey Plover	122	483
Lapwing	63	148
Black-tailed Godwit	62	106
Knot	38	165
Avocet	33	110
Total waders	**912**	
Wildfowl		
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	500	1,479
Wigeon	677	1,065
Shelduck	269	410
Teal	157	260
Canada Goose	90	310
Total wildfowl	**1,774**	
Total wildfowl & waders	**2,686**	

Two passerines that we were keen to attract are Shorelark and Twite. There were 11 Shorelarks on Jubilee Marsh in February 2018, and counts of up to nine Twite during winter 2016/17. In coastal areas in winter, both of these species favour Glasswort/Annual Sea-blite-dominated pioneer marsh (Brown and Atkinson 1996; Dierschke 2002; Dierschke and Bairlein 2002 & 2004). This is a fairly rare habitat, but one which we aim to maintain a continuity of at Wallasea through periodically drying out and re-flooding some of the saline lagoons. During their stay at Wallasea, the Twite actually fed mainly on mature saltmarsh, while the Shorelarks spent a large proportion of their time feeding on grass seed along the south facing sea wall, rather than on pioneer saltmarsh.

Shorelark has always been a rare winter visitor to the UK, while numbers of Twite wintering on salt marshes in east and south-east England having declined dramatically in recent decades (Raine ***et al***., 2009). Numbers of both species have declined in the Wadden Sea, just across the North Sea (Dierschke and Bairlein, 2004). Because of their wider decline, neither species is likely to regularly winter at Wallasea, even if the habitat continues to be suitable for them.

Rare waterbird species recorded at Wallasea during the last ten years include:

- Lesser White-fronted Goose - one present with Eurasian White-fronted Geese in February 2017;
- Black Brant - present in the winters of 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17 and 2017/18 (two);
- Red-breasted Goose - one in January 2010;
- Broad-billed Sandpiper - one on Allfleets Marsh in October 2008.

Spoonbills have been recorded in late spring/early summer in each of 2016, 2017 and 2018, but most have been immature birds. A Black-winged Stilt was also present for a single day in June 2017. Other wetland birds of interest recorded at Wallasea in winter or on passage during the last ten years include Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Temminck's Stint and Blue-headed Wagtail.

Breeding waterbirds

Numbers of breeding waders, terns and gulls at Wallasea during 2014-18 are shown in Table 2. The increase in numbers of Avocets, Common Terns and gulls in 2016 was due to them nesting on newly available islands in lagoons in Jubilee Marsh. Further island-nesting habitat was provided in 2017, following flooding of Grass Farm Lagoon and its associated salt pans, which lie within the area enclosed by the underwater predator-exclusion fence. Grass Farm Lagoon and the salt pans supported most of Wallasea's nesting Avocets and Black-headed Gulls in 2018, together with all of its nesting Mediterranean Gulls that year.

Table 2: Numbers of breeding pairs of waders, terns and gulls on Wallasea Island.

Species	Year				
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Oystercatcher	13	6	13	28	16
Avocet	8	14	101	75	88
Little Ringed Plover	0	1	5	3	3
Ringed Plover	0	0	2	0	0
Lapwing	0	0	1	6	9
Redshank	16	8	17	18	11
Mediterranean Gull	0	0	0	*	46
Black-headed Gull	0	0	197	623	1,095
Common Tern	0	0	8	26	43

* At least 100 Mediterranean Gulls arrived in early summer, and some nested and fledged young. However, because the vegetation was already long when they arrived, it was not possible to accurately determine the number of breeding pairs.

Avocets have been reasonably productive when nesting on Grass Farm Lagoon and its associated salt pans, fledging an estimated 0.5 chicks per pair in 2018. This is surprising, given the very low biomass of invertebrate prey present in the still rather inert clay subsoil at the bottom of these water bodies. Many of the Avocets that nested on these lagoons took their young to feed in Pool Marsh, which has developed a higher biomass of aquatic invertebrates (see later).

One of the target breeding species at Wallasea is Ringed Plover, whose UK breeding population has been declining rapidly (Conway ***et al***., 2008). Although two pairs of Ringed Plovers held territory in Jubilee Marsh in 2016, they are not thought to have nested. Little Ringed Plovers have instead taken advantage of the bare and sparsely vegetated areas created at Wallasea. We have been trying to attract Little Terns by using decoys and playing their calls on one of the two ridges in Jubilee Marsh, which have been coated with shingle, sand and Cockle shells to attract nesting terns. This has not, so far, been successful.

Development of the invertebrate and fish fauna in Pool Marsh

It has been a high priority to understand how food supply for birds has been developing in the saline water bodies at Wallasea. This has been to both inform the management of these lagoons, as well as the design of other lagoons there. It has been particularly important to understand how the fish and invertebrate fauna has responded to the current salinity regime. We have therefore carried out detailed monitoring of invertebrates and fish in Pool Marsh, the first large saline water body created at Wallasea (Fig. 6).

A particular challenge at Wallasea has been ensuring that the salinity of the lagoons does not increase too much in summer, when loss of water through evaporation is high and there is little input of freshwater through rainfall. Sea water typically has a salinity of about 35 parts per thousand. Once the salinity of the water increases too high above this level, invertebrate food supply for birds tend to decline. Unfortunately, there is very little freshwater flowing into the site, and the small quantity that is available needs to be used to maintain high enough water levels in the Water Vole area. This means the only way to prevent the salinity of lagoons from becoming too high in summer is by increasing their rate of exchange with sea water. The ability to maintain sufficient exchange of water between the lagoons and the sea, to prevent salinities from rising too high in summer, has been a constant pre-occupation during the design process.

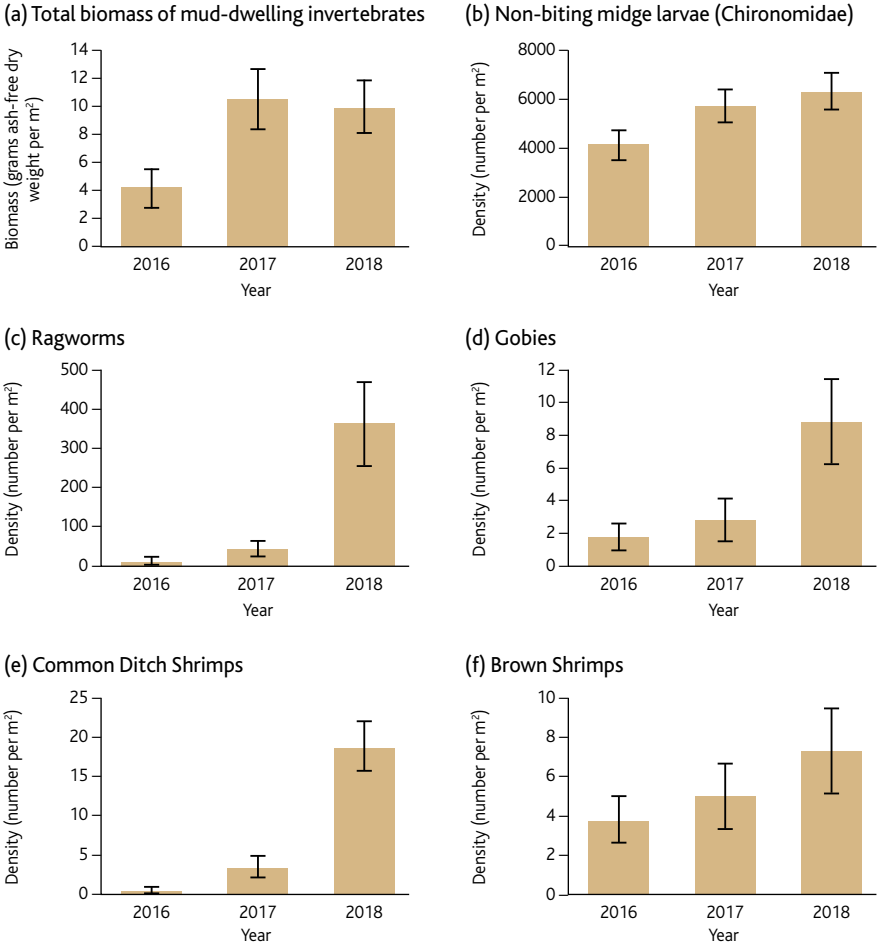
After Pool Marsh was excavated, but before it was connected to the sea via a water control structure, it accumulated rainwater and formed a freshwater lagoon. Pool Marsh was subsequently connected to the sea in September 2015 but, by the following spring, its salinity was still far lower than that of sea water. This salinity gradient attracted large numbers of Three-spined Sticklebacks from the sea into the lagoon to spawn. By the end of May 2016, Pool Marsh contained a very high density of 32 $\pm$ (SE) 10 sticklebacks per m^2, of which about 70% were fry. Lagoons containing high densities of Three-spined Sticklebacks in spring provide important feeding areas for breeding Spoonbills in the Netherlands (Kemper, 1995; Triplet ***et al***., 2008). We will aim to maintain similar salinity gradients in lagoons at Wallasea in spring to attract sticklebacks in to spawn. To accomplish this, we will limit the rate of water exchange with the sea over winter, allowing more rainwater to accumulate within them and thereby decreasing the salinity of lagoons. We will then increase their level of exchange of water with the sea in late winter, with the hope of attracting sticklebacks from the estuary towards this less saline water.

Fig. 6 shows how densities of important prey species for birds in Pool Marsh have been developing in the three years since RTE was introduced to the lagoon. The fauna of Pool Marsh comprises an unusual mix of species. It includes species characteristic of estuaries (e.g. Brown Shrimps, Common Shore Crabs and Mud Snails), species more typical of saline lagoons (e.g. non-biting midge larvae and Lagoon Cockles), and species typically found in both habitats (e.g. Ragworms, Common/Sand Gobies and Common Ditch Shrimps). Of these, non-biting midge larvae, and Ragworms provide particularly important prey for waders, along with Lagoon Cockles and the bivalve ***Abra tenuis***, which are also both colonising Pool Marsh. Meanwhile, shrimps and gobies, which provide important

prey for Spoonbills, egrets, as well as Greenshank and Spotted Redshank, have also been increasing. The composition of the fauna varies within the lagoon. As might be expected, its fauna is more estuarine in nature close to where the lagoon connects to the sea, and more lagoonal in character further away.

Overall, the biomass of mud-dwelling invertebrates in Pool Marsh is now higher than that in most scrapes on RSPB reserves (where it is typically 2-3g ash-free dry weight per m^2 in non-biting midge larvae-dominated lagoons in late summer), and closer to the higher biomass usually found in estuaries. It was a relief that, at the end of the period of exceptionally hot and dry weather during summer 2018, the salinity of the lagoon furthest from its point of exchange with the sea had only risen to 32 parts per thousand. This bodes well for how food supply for birds might develop in the other, more recently created lagoons at Wallasea.

Figure 6: Densities and biomass of important prey species for birds in August in the area of Regulated Tidal Exchange at Pool Marsh at Wallasea. Bars show the mean ± one standard error for 30 samples taken from the mud (a-c) and water column (d-f).



Farmland birds

While the project will create an enormous wetland unlike any other in Britain, it has involved the loss of farmland, which supported good, albeit declining, breeding populations of Skylark, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Bunting and Corn Bunting.

The plan for these farmland birds has involved providing additional breeding and wintering habitat. Two approaches have been used. The first was the appointment of a project officer to encourage and help surrounding landowners to enter land into Higher Level Stewardship agri-environment scheme options, which are aimed at benefiting Corn Buntings and other farmland birds. The second involved providing wintering and breeding habitat for Corn Buntings and other farmland birds on Wallasea Island itself.

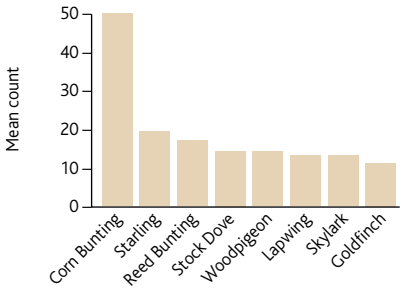
At Wallasea, wild bird cover has been sown since September 2009 to provide seed-rich wintering habitat for farmland birds, and small areas of scrub have been planted in strategic locations. The former was considered particularly important, given the lack of seed-rich stubbles in the surrounding area. The wild bird cover area has consisted of a 16.5-ha block divided into three, together with another 3.5 ha of wild bird cover close to Pool Marsh. Initially, in each year one third of the 16.5-ha block was spring-sown with wild bird cover, one third autumn-sown with wild bird cover, and the remainder left fallow.

Numbers of seed-eating birds using the wild bird cover have been quite variable and not particularly high. The wild bird cover is providing valuable winter food for Corn Buntings (Fig. 7a), although peak counts of Corn Buntings at Wallasea have generally declined (Fig. 7b). The low numbers of most species using the wild bird cover probably reflects, in part, the difficulty of establishing the spring-sown wild bird cover, together with the problems of Black-grass competing with it. During this period, there has also been a good supply of seeds for birds away from the wild bird cover areas, as a result of soil disturbance during construction of the site, and the presence of areas of fallow following cessation of farming. The wild bird cover rotation was changed from autumn 2016 onwards, to try to improve the growth of cereals within it, whose grain is eaten by Corn Buntings. This involved dividing the block into equal areas of autumn-sown wild bird cover, spring-sown wild bird cover, a nitrogen-fixing legume-rich crop and cultivated fallow.

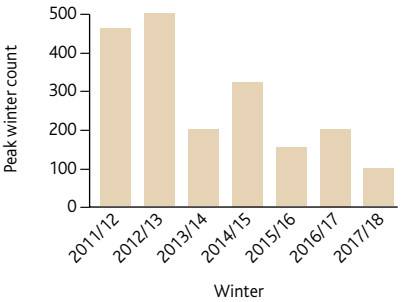
Breeding farmland birds have been monitored in the developing habitats, and on a sample block of existing arable on the island. Territory densities of the four most abundant species are shown in Fig. 8. The results are encouraging, in that the wild bird cover, and grassland plus ruderal vegetation,

Figure 7: Numbers of wintering farmland birds at Wallasea. The top graph shows mean winter counts of the eight most abundant bird species using the 16.5-ha wild bird cover area at Wallasea. Figures are from 17 counts carried out between November and February during winters 2013/14 to 2017/18. The graph below right shows peak winter counts of Corn Buntings on the whole of Walllasea Island.

(a) Mean winter counts of birds on the 16.5-ha wild cover area



(b) Peak winter counts of Corn Buntings on Wallasea Island



appear to have been be supporting higher densities of breeding Skylark, Corn Bunting and Reed Bunting than the arable itself, although this is not the case with Yellow Wagtail. Nevertheless, these habitats will still cover a far smaller area of land than that originally occupied by arable on Wallasea. It is therefore expected that Wallasea Island itself will support smaller, but hopefully more sustainable, populations of these farmland birds.

Wintering raptors

A special feature of Wallasea is its wintering raptors (Fig. 9). Unlike most coastal areas in England, which at best contain only strips of small mammal-rich rough grassland along sea walls and field margins, Wallasea contains some large expanses of rough grassland. This grassland has been attracting good numbers of Short-eared Owls, particularly during the winters of 2011/12, 2014/15

Figure 8: Densities of territory centres of farmland birds on different habitats at Wallasea. Values are means ± one standard error. Grassland and ruderal vegetation includes areas of newly created grassland and ruderal vegetation, together with existing grassland along sea walls & associated borrowdykes.

Notes: Figures are for 2014-16 for the arable, 2015-17 for the wild bird cover (2014 was excluded because no wild bird cover was planted the previous autumn) and 2014-17 for the grassland and ruderal vegetation. For the wild bird cover, densities are given per total area of the wild bird cover block although, as described in the text, usually only two thirds of this contained wild bird cover in any given year. Breeding bird surveys were carried out using four-visit territory-mapping carried out between April and June. The total areas surveyed were: arable 105 ha; wild bird cover 20 ha; grassland & ruderal vegetation a mean of 129 ha, with the area varying slightly between survey years as a result of habitat creation.

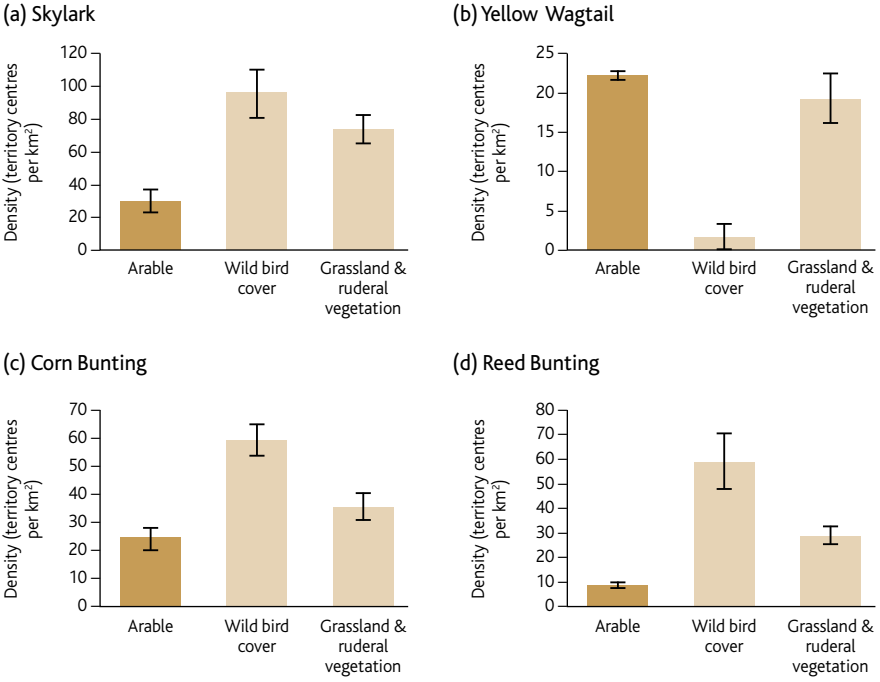
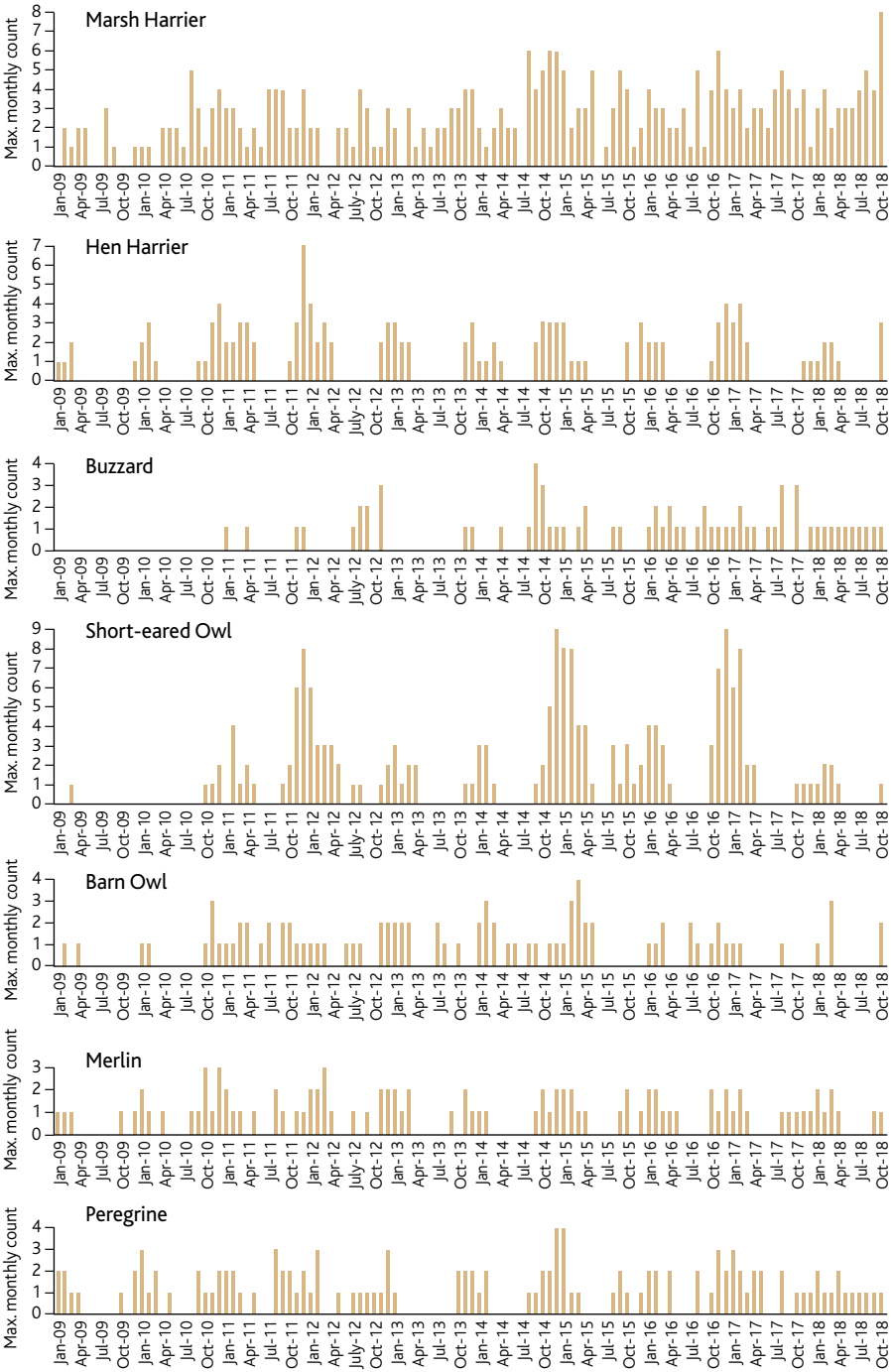


Figure 9 (facing page): Maximum monthly counts of raptors seen at Wallasea Island Wild Coast between January 2009 and October 2018. Records are from the Southend Ornithological Group (SOG) database. Recording effort is thought to have been relatively constant during the period shown. Numbers of Kestrels have been under-recorded and so are not shown.


Marsh Harrier
Hen Harrier
Buzzard
Short-eared Owl
Barn Owl
Merlin
Peregrine
Max. monthly count
Jan-09
Apr-09
Jul-09
Oct-09
Jan-10
Apr-10
Jul-10
Oct-10
Jan-11
Apr-11
Jul-11
Oct-11
Jan-12
Apr-12
July-12
Oct-12
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Apr-15
Jul-15
Oct-15
Jan-16
Apr-16
Jul-16
Oct-16
Jan-17
Apr-17
Jul-17
Oct-17
Jan-18
Apr-18
Jul-18
Oct-18

Figure 10: Some areas of grassland at Wallasea have been managed by mowing sinuous strips in them, to diversify the structure of the grassland with the aim of benefiting reptiles and increasing the accessibility of small mammals to hunting raptors. (JEFF KEW)

and 2016/17 when large numbers were also present elsewhere in southern England. Meanwhile, the congregations of wintering waterfowl and farmland birds have attracted regular Peregrines and Merlins, while the combination of rough grassland, wild bird cover and other habitats has proved attractive to Hen Harriers and Marsh Harriers. Numbers of Marsh Harriers and Buzzards seen at Wallasea have increased during the last decade (Fig. 9). Wallasea is now probably the best place in Essex to see raptors in winter.

The site has also proved attractive to Rough-legged Buzzards. Two juvenile Rough-legged Buzzards were seen during the winter of 2014/15. The first was present in October, with a different individual (as determined from photographs) present from December to April. Another Rough-legged Buzzard roosted with harriers at Wallasea in October and November 2018.

We have been managing some of the areas of grassland by cutting sinuous strips within it (Fig. 10). This has been to diversify the structure of the grassland, and particularly to create open areas next to denser cover to provide suitable habitat for Adders and Common Lizards. These open areas are also expected to increase the accessibility of small mammals to hunting raptors. A similar approach has been used to benefit hunting Montagu's Harriers in the Netherlands, by providing strips of set-aside (which support good densities of small mammals) interspersed with strips of alfalfa, which are periodically mown to increase the accessibility to harriers of small mammals from the adjacent set-aside (Schlaich ***et al***., 2015).

The future

The wetland creation at Wallasea has been a long time in the making. The island was first identified as a possible site for intertidal habitat creation as long ago as 1999. Planning permission for the new wetland was received in 2009, and material from Crossrail began arriving in 2012. The final, main phase of habitat works was completed in autumn 2018.

It is still early days in terms of bird use of the new wetland areas, apart from at Allfleets Marsh. The first nesting islands become available for birds in Jubilee Marsh in spring 2016, and the first nesting islands in Grass Farm Lagoon in spring 2017. Meanwhile, evidence from Pool Marsh suggests that it will take several years for the recently created saline lagoons to develop a good food supply for birds.

Figure 11: The saline lagoons in the south-west of Wallasea Island filling up with water for the first time. November 2018. (JEFF KEW)

We expect the intertidal habitat to develop in a fairly predictable way, based on experience of other sites, with densities of larger bivalves and polychaete worms increasing and hopefully providing improved feeding habitat for birds such as Curlew and Oystercatcher. An issue for waders at many other managed realignment sites is that the sheltered conditions within them have allowed rapid accretion of sediment, which has meant they have often become quickly dominated by saltmarsh. Jubilee Marsh has been designed so it has a through-flow of water and this, together with the wave action over its large area, should help prevent rapid siltation over its entirety and thereby help retain a significant area of open mudflat. As the higher areas of Jubilee Marsh develop into more mature saltmarsh, they should become suitable for nesting Redshank.

In many ways, the most exciting part of the project lies ahead, now that construction of the large complex of shallow saline lagoons in the southwest of the island has been completed (Fig. 11). It is intended to manage these lagoons through rotational drying out and re-flooding. This will involve drawing down water levels at key times of year to provide abundant and accessible food for birds, keeping one or more lagoons dry in spring and summer to provide bare and sparsely-vegetated nesting habitat, and then re-flooding them in autumn to suspend the seeds of annual plants so they become accessible to feeding wildfowl. This will produce an area more reminiscent of Mediterranean salinas and shrimp ponds, which have provided the inspiration for the design of this habitat. This, together with the other habitats at the site, should hopefully provide a bird spectacle quite unlike anywhere else in Britain.

Acknowledgements

We thank our project partners Crossrail, DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Many other people have been involved with the design and development of Wallasea, particularly Jeff Kew, Stephen Hare, Colin Scott, Susanne Armstrong, Mark Dixon, Phil Mcloughlin, Shaun Yeoh, Graham Hirons, Jon Haw, John Sharpe, Helen Brandes, Natalie Holt, Dave Hedges, Yianni Andrews and Helen Deavin. We also thank our volunteers for carrying out bird surveys and helping manage the reserve.

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The Official Essex List and Submission of Records

Simon Wood and Mick Tracey

Below is the official List of species, and sub-species, recorded in the County from circa 991, (White-tailed Eagle and Raven in the famous poem *The Battle of Maldon*) until the end of 2016.

Further information on the make-up of the list can be found below.

Submission of records to the Society is now far easier than at any point in the Societies History. Members can either submit their records via

- The Essex Birdwatching Society Website
- The British Trust for Ornithology's BirdTrack website
- By email to the County Recorder, Mick Tracey, but please ensure that if at all possible you send in the information in the form that is requested by Mick Tracey. If in doubt, please ask Mick for a standard Excel spreadsheet for your use.

The Society welcomes all records, but please be aware that the Recorder, the Recording Committee and the Society, may require descriptions for a number of species which are scarce in Essex, but not sufficiently rare to require a submission to the British Birds Rarities Committee (see below). This description could in its simplest form be **JUST ONE PHOTOGRAPH**, provided the species is identifiable from it. It would help the Society, and particularly those involved in the production of the *Essex Bird Report* if you could send your photo(s), drawings, copies of notebooks, descriptions in as quickly as possible after the observation(s). The Society does not ask for a description because the record is doubted; it is simply standard scientific procedure where a record is slightly out of the ordinary. **In addition, the Recorder may ask for clarification of a record or records of species, not highlighted in the List as requiring a description, should this be considered to be the appropriate (for example, an exceptionally high count or an unusual location or date).**

If a photo(s) and/or description is/are not submitted then the record will not be published in the *Essex Bird Report* or species' totals therein. This is a frustration for all parties involved!

The conservation status of species are also shown by coloured-squares preceding the species' name:

- E UK Red List species–Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC 4), 2015
- UK Orange List species – BoCC 4, 2015
- E Essex Biodiversity Action Plan species

Records of the rarest species (in Categories A, B, C and D of the British List) should be sent to the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) via their website. The BBRC are keen to promote online submission of records, including photographs, drawings, notebook copies etc. Please also ensure a copy of the record is sent to Mick Tracey, the County Recorder so that the Society are kept aware of the record. In the list below those species that require descriptions sent to BBRC are shown in **green type** and have the number of records to date in **orange** in the Essex totals column.

Similarly, those records of species that should be sent to the Essex Identification (EBSIP) are in **blue type** and have the number of records to date in **blue** in the Essex totals column.

More common species on the EBSIP species list, or those that once bred and hence calculating total records is not possible, do not have totals in the **EBSIP** column.

The British List is managed for the British Ornithologists' Union by its Recording Committee (BOURC). In 1997, categorisation was revised to assist protection under national wildlife legislation, especially of naturalised species. Category C was expanded to allow species with different histories of introduction and naturalisation to be distinguished; Category D (not included in the List totals) was reduced in scope, and a Category E (not included in this list) was introduced to enable local and national recorders to monitor escaped species.

Category A

Species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.

Category B

Species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.

Category C

Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.

- **C1** – Naturalized introduced species - species that have occurred only as a result of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
- **C2** – Naturalized established species – species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
- **C3** – Naturalized re-established species – species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.
- **C4** – Naturalized feral species – domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove)/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.
- **C5** – Vagrant naturalized species – species from established naturalized populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelducks *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.
- **C6** – Former naturalized species - species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalized populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*.

Category D

Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D only form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals.

Category E

Species recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List (unless already included within Categories A, B or C).

Category F (list being compiled by BOURC)

Records of bird species recorded before 1800.

The Essex List follows the British List except with regard to Ruddy Shelduck and Snow Goose, which are regarded as Category D species within the County. They are not considered part of the Essex List but details can be found in the Category D section following the Essex List.

Traditionally accepted and commonly used English names have been used in the Essex List, but the International English names listed in the British List, which follows the IOC World List v7.3 which was adopted by the BOURC from 1st January 2018, are also shown.

Because of the increasing interest in sub-species, trinomial Latin names have been introduced throughout the *Essex Bird Report* 2016 and are included in this List. Whilst some sub-species have been recorded in Essex, there are others whose occurrence is most likely but there has never been a confirmed record. It is hoped that with a focus on these sub-species, some of the holes in our knowledge can be filled. Where possible the number of times sub-species have been recorded in Essex has been included (and whether the sub-species requires a description sent to BBRC or EBSIP). Where it is not know which sub-species occurs in Essex, the Latin name is followed by an asterix * e.g. P*hasianus colchicus**

The List also provides the date of the very first confirmed written record of each species/sub-species, the last year in which recorded and the number of years since the last record.

Those species/sub-species with the symbol § after their name are those which represent not only the first Essex record but also the first British record. White-tailed Eagle and Raven are probably also British firsts, although it has to be said that the poem in which they appear, the *Battle of Maldon*, may have been written a century after the event (*circa* 911) and probably "embellished".

The current Essex List (Categories A, B and C) therefore stands at 392 species as of 31st December 2016, with additional 33 sub-species identified. Note that two of the "species" on the list are actually difficult to separate species pairs – Western or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and Subalpine and/or Moltoni's Warbler, as none have, as yet, been identified to species level.

Essex Category D totals 11 species as of the same date, whilst 146 are in Category E.

And finally, *British Birds* Magazine publishes, at the end of every year (usually in October or November), a full listing of the BBRC accepted, and rejected, rarity records. Subscriptions are available from 4 Harlequin Gardens, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7PF. Tel/Fax (01424) 755155 subscriptions@britishbirds.co.uk

	Cons. status	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016			
	R A E				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
1	A	BRENT GOOSE	Brant Goose	*Branta bernicla*		1730	2016	0
		Dark-bellied Brent		*Branta b. bernicla*		1730	2016	0
		Pale-bellied Brent		*Branta b. hrota*		1879	2016	0
		Black Brant §		*Branta b nigricans*	58	1957	2016	0
2		RED-BREASTED GOOSE		*Branta ruficollis*	11	1871	2016	0
3		CANADA GOOSE		*Branta canadensis canadensis*		1836	2016	0
4	A	BARNACLE GOOSE		*Branta leucopsis*		1830	2016	0
5		GREYLAG GOOSE		*Anser anser anser*		1822	2016	0
6	A	BEAN GOOSE		*Anser fabalis*	680	1838	2016	0
		Tundra Bean Goose		*Anser f. rossicus*	320	1838	2016	0
		Taiga Bean Goose		*Anser f. fabilis*	33	1838	2003	13
7		PINK-FOOTED GOOSE		*Anser brachyrhynchus*		1841	2016	0
8	R	WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	Greater White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*		1845	2016	0
		European White-fronted Goose		*Anser a. albifrons*		1845	2016	0
		Greenland White-fronted Goose		*Anser a. flavirostris*	8	1962	1996	20
9		LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE		*Anser erythropus*	3	1986	1986	30
10	A	MUTE SWAN		*Cygnus olor*		1247	2016	0
11	A	BEWICK'S SWAN	Tundra Swan	*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*		1837	2016	0
12	A	WHOOPER SWAN		*Cygnus cygnus*		1730	2016	0
13		EGYPTIAN GOOSE		*Alopochen aegyptiacus*		1868	2016	0
14	A	SHELDUCK	Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*		1730	2016	0

	Cons. status	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016			
	R A E				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
15		MANDARIN		*Aix galericulata*		1947	2016	0
16		BAIKAL TEAL		*Anas formosa*	2	1906	2010	6
17	A	GARGANEY		*Anas querquedula*		1835	2016	0
18		BLUE-WINGED TEAL		*Anas discors*	6	1989	2006	10
19	A	SHOVELER	Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*		1835	2016	0
20	A	GADWALL		*Anas strepera strepara*		1837	2016	0
21	A	WIGEON	Eurasian Wigeon	*Anas penelope*		1714	2016	0
22		AMERICAN WIGEON		*Anas americana*	2	1962	2004	12
23	A	MALLARD		*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*		1714	2016	0
24	A	PINTAIL	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*		1714	2016	0
25	A	TEAL	Eurasian Teal	*Anas crecca*		1714	2016	0
26		GREEN-WINGED TEAL		*Anas carolinensis*	28	1956	2015	1
27		RED-CRESTED POCHARD		*Netta rufina*		1844	2016	0
28		CANVASBACK		*Aythya valisineria*	1	1997	2001	15
29	R	POCHARD	Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*		1730	2016	0
30		FERRUGINOUS DUCK		*Aythya nyroca*	44	1880	2015	1
31		RING-NECKED DUCK		*Aythya collaris*	11	1979	2016	0
32		TUFTED DUCK		*Aythya fuligula*		1821	2016	0
33	R	SCAUP		*Aythya marila*		1830	2016	0
34		LESSER SCAUP	Greater Scaup	*Aythya affinis*	2	2003	2006	10
35		KING EIDER		*Somateria spectabilis*	1	1977	1977	39
36	A	EIDER	Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima mollissima*		1865	2016	0
37		SURF SCOTER		*Melanitta perspicillata*	2	1997	2015	1
38	R	VELVET SCOTER		*Melanitta fusca*		1829	2016	0
39	R	COMMON SCOTER		*Melanita nigra*		1730	2016	0
40	R	LONG-TAILED DUCK		*Clangula hyemalis*		1832	2016	0
41	A	GOLDENEYE	Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula clangula*		1777	2016	0
42	A	SMEW		*Mergus albellus*		1819	2016	0
43		GOOSANDER	Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser merganser*		1830	2016	0
44		RED-BREASTED MERGANSER		*Mergus serrator*		1826	2016	0
45		RUDDY DUCK		*Oxyura jamaicensis jamaicensis*		1958	2016	0
46		RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE		*Alectoris rufa rufa*		1777	2016	0
47	R E	GREY PARTRIDGE		*Perdix perdix perdix*		1600s	2016	0
48	A	QUAIL	Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix coturnix*		1777	2016	0

	Cons. status	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016			
	R A E				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
49		PHEASANT	Common Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus**		1059	2016	0
50		RED-THROATED DIVER	Red-throated Loon	*Gavia stellata*		1777	2016	0
51	A	BLACK-THROATED DIVER	Black-throated Loon	*Gavia arctica arctica*		1840	2016	0
52	A	GREAT NORTHERN DIVER	Common Loon	*Gavia immer*		1813	2016	0
53	A	STORM PETREL	European Storm Petrel	*Hydrobates pelagicus pelagicus*	70	1801	2012	4
54	A	LEACH'S PETREL	Leach's Storm Petrel	*Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*	230	1823	2016	0
55	A	FULMAR	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*		1834	2016	0
56		CORY'S SHEARWATER		*Calonectris borealis*	10	1978	2014	2
57		SOOTY SHEARWATER		*Puffinus griseus*	225	1969	2016	0
58		GREAT SHEARWATER		*Puffinus gravis*	3	1990	2012	4
59	A	MANX SHEARWATER		*Puffinus puffinus*		1866	2016	0
60	R	BALEARIC SHEARWATER		*Puffinus mauretanicus*	19	1975	2016	0
61		LITTLE GREBE		*Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*		1838	2016	0
62	R	RED-NECKED GREBE		*Podiceps grisegena grisegena*		1837	2016	0
63		GREAT CRESTED GREBE		*Podiceps cristatus cristatus*		1838	2016	0
64	R	SLAVONIAN GREBE	Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus auritus*		1838	2016	0
65	A	BLACK-NECKED GREBE		*Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*		1821	2016	0
66		BLACK STORK		*Ciconia nigra*	10	1881	2014	2
67		WHITE STORK		*Ciconia ciconia ciconia*	44	1842	2016	0
68		GLOSSY IBIS		*Plegadis falcinellus*	44	1872	2016	0
69	A	SPOONBILL	Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*		1815	2016	0
70	A E	BITTERN	Eurasian Bittern	*Botaurus stellaris stellaris*		1820	2016	0
71		AMERICAN BITTERN		*Botaurus lentiginosus*	1	1826	1826	190
72		LITTLE BITTERN		*Ixobrychus minutus minutus*	13	1835	1970	46
73		NIGHT HERON	Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*	18	1839	2014	2
74		SQUACCO HERON		*Ardeola ralloides*	1	2004	2004	12
75		CATTLE EGRET	Western Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	22	1995	2016	0
76		GREY HERON		*Ardea cinerea cinerea*		1594	2016	0
77		PURPLE HERON		*Ardea purpurea purpurea*	29	1839	2016	0

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78		GREAT WHITE EGRET		*Egretta alba alba*		2002	2016	0
79		LITTLE EGRET		*Egretta garzetta garzetta*		1950	2016	0
80	A	GANNET	Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*		1830	2016	0
81	R	SHAG	European Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis*		1820	2016	0
82		CORMORANT	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*		1600s	2016	0
		Cormorant		*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*		1600s	2016	0
		Continental Cormorant		*Phalacrocorax c. sinensis*		?	2016	0
83	A	OSPREY	Western Osprey	*Pandion halietus halietus*		1730	2016	0
84		EGYPTIAN VULTURE		*Neophron percnopterus percnopterus*	1	1868	1868	148
85	A	HONEY BUZZARD	European Honey Buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*	367	1837	2016	0
86		SPOTTED EAGLE	Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*	3	1891	1908	108
87		SPARROWHAWK	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus nisus*		1835	2016	0
88		GOSHAWK	Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis gentilis*	106	1100s	2016	0
89	A	MARSH HARRIER	Western Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*		1823	2016	0
90	R	HEN HARRIER		*Circus cyaneus*		1738	2016	0
91		PALLID HARRIER		*Circus macrourus*	2	1993	2011	5
92	A	MONTAGU'S HARRIER		*Circus pygargus*		1832	2016	0
93		RED KITE		*Milvus milvus milvus*		1768	2016	0
94		BLACK KITE		*Milvus migrans migrans*	31	1971	2016	0
95	R	WHITE-TAILED EAGLE		*Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla*	17	c991	2015	1
96		ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD		*Buteo lagopus lagopus*		1836	2016	0
97		BUZZARD		*Buteo buteo buteo*		1830	2016	0
98		GREAT BUSTARD		*Otis tarda tarda*	2	1879	1890	126
99		LITTLE BUSTARD		*Tetrax tetrax*	12	1823	1969	47
100		WATER RAIL		*Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*		1830	2016	0
101	R	CORNCRAKE	Corn Crake	*Crex crex*		1822	2013	3
102		LITTLE CRAKE		*Porzana parva intermedia*	4	1873	1973	43
103		BAILLON'S CRAKE		*Porzana pusilla*	3	1874	2012	4
104	A	SPOTTED CRAKE		*Porzana porzana*	84	1838	2014	2

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105		MOORHEN	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus chloropus*		1863	2016	0
106		COOT	Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra atra*		1819	2016	0
107	A	CRANE		*Grus grus*	157	1888	2016	0
108	A E	STONE-CURLEW	Eurasian Stone-curlew	*Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus*		1832	2016	0
109	A	OYSTERCATCHER	Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*		1730	2016	0
110		BLACK-WINGED STILT		*Himantopus himantopus*	49	1947	2016	0
111	A	AVOCET	Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*		1700	2016	0
112	R	LAPWING	Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*		1668	2016	0
113		SOCIABLE PLOVER	Sociable Lapwing	*Vanellus gregarious*	4	1976	2005	11
114		WHITE-TAILED PLOVER	White-tailed Lapwing	*Vanellus leucurus*	1	2010	2010	6
115		GOLDEN PLOVER	European Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*		1845	2016	0
116		PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER		*Pluvialis fulva*	2	1896	2000	16
117		AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER		*Pluvialis dominica*	1	2004	2004	12
118	A	GREY PLOVER		*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*		1842	2016	0
119	R	RINGED PLOVER	Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*		1838	2016	0
		Ringed Plover		*Charadrius h. hiaticula*		~	2016	0
		Eurasian Ringed Plover		*Charadrius h. tundrae*		~	2016	0
120		LITTLE RINGED PLOVER		*Charadrius dubius curonicus*		1947	2016	0
121		KENTISH PLOVER		*Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*	56	1876	2016	0
122		GREATER SAND PLOVER		*Charadrius leschenaultii**	1	1992	1992	24
123	R	DOTTEREL	Eurasian Dotterel	*Charadrius morinellus*	333	1830	2016	0
124	R	WHIMBREL		*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*		1819	2016	0
125	R	CURLEW	Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata arquata*		1826	2016	0
126	A	BAR-TAILED GODWIT		*Limosa lapponica lapponica*		1547	2016	0
127	R	BLACK-TAILED GODWIT		*Limosa limosa*		1834	2016	0
		Continental Black-tailed Godwit		*Limosa l. limosa*	3	2007	2016	0

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		Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit		*Limosa l. islandica*		1834	2016	0
128		TURNSTONE	Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres interpres*		1826	2016	0
129		KNOT	Red Knot	*Calidris canutus islandica*		1777	2016	0
130		RUFF		*Philomachus pugnax*		1833	2016	0
131		BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER		*Calidris falcinellus falcinellus*	7	1988	2010	6
132		STILT SANDPIPER		*Calidris himantopus*	1	1973	1973	43
133		CURLEW SANDPIPER		*Calidris ferruginea*		1826	2016	0
134		TEMMINCK'S STINT		*Calidris temminckii*	239	1835	2016	0
135		SANDERLING		*Calidris alba alba*		1828	2016	0
136		DUNLIN		*Calidris alpina*		1824	2016	0
		Scandinavian Dunlin		*Calidris a. alpina*		~	2016	0
		Greenland Dunlin		*Calidris a. arctica*		~	2016	0
		West European Dunlin		*Calidris a. schinzii*		~	2016	0
137		PURPLE SANDPIPER		*Calidris maritima*		1833	2016	0
138		BAIRD'S SANDPIPER		*Calidris bairdii*	3	1972	2010	6
139		LITTLE STINT		*Calidris minuta*		1826	2016	0
140		WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER		*Calidris fuscicollis*	11	1964	2011	5
141		BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER		*Calidris subruficollis*	16	1975	2007	9
142		PECTORAL SANDPIPER		*Calidris melanotos*	106	1949	2016	0
143		SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER		*Calidris pusilla*	2	2010	2011	5
144		WESTERN SANDPIPER		*Calidris mauri*	1	1973	1973	43
145		LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER		*Limnodromus scolopaceus*	9	1979	2011	5
146		WOODCOCK	Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*		1735	2016	0
147		JACK SNIPE		*Lymnocryptes minimus*		1838	2016	0
148		GREAT SNIPE		*Gallinago media*	21	1825	1989	27
149		SNIPE		*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*		1735	2016	0
150		TEREK SANDPIPER		*Xenus cinereus*	3	1978	2002	14
151		WILSON'S PHALAROPE		*Phalaropus tricolor*	6	1977	2015	1
152		RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	Red Phalarope	*Phalaropus lobatus*	88	1842	2016	0
153		GREY PHALAROPE		*Phalaropus fulicarius*	118	1838	2016	0
154		COMMON SANDPIPER		*Actitis hypoleucos*		1819	2016	0
155		SPOTTED SANDPIPER		*Actitis macularius*	7	1978	2011	5
156		GREEN SANDPIPER		*Tringa ochropus*		1832	2016	0

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157		SOLITARY SANDPIPER		*Tringa solitaria**	2	1967	1974	42
158		LESSER YELLOWLEGS		*Tringa flavipes*	15	1921	2016	0
159	A	REDSHANK	Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*		1826	2016	0
		Common Redshank		*Tringa t. totanus*		~	2016	0
		Icelandic Redshank		*Tringa t. robusta*		~	2016	0
160		MARSH SANDPIPER		*Tringa stagnatilis*	11	1956	2015	1
161	A	WOOD SANDPIPER		*Tringa glareola*		1835	2016	0
162	A	SPOTTED REDSHANK		*Tringa erythropus*		1832	2016	0
163	A	GREENSHANK	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*		1738	2016	0
164		GREATER YELLOWLEGS		*Tringa melanoleuca*	2	1949	1995	21
165		CREAM-COLOURED COURSER	Cream-colored Courser	*Cursorius cursor cursor*	2	1858	1984	32
166		COLLARED PRATINCOLE		*Glareola pratincola pratincola*	3	1861	2005	11
167		ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE §		*Glareola maldivarum*	1	1981	1981	35
168		BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE		*Glareola nordmanni*	1	1960	1960	56
169	R	KITTIWAKE	Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*		1835	2016	0
170		SABINE'S GULL		*Xema sabini*	149	1862	2016	0
171		BONAPARTE'S GULL		*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*	3	1994	2012	4
172	A	BLACK-HEADED-GULL		*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*		1662	2016	0
173		LITTLE GULL		*Chroicocephalus minutus*		1845	2016	0
174		LAUGHING GULL		*Leucophaeus atricilla**	2	1974	1999	17
175		FRANKLIN'S GULL		*Leucophaeus pipixcan*	3	2000	2016	0
176	A	MEDITERRANEAN GULL §		*Larus melanocephalus*		1866	2016	0
177	A	COMMON GULL	Mew Gull	*Larus canus*		1835	2016	0
		Common Gull		*Larus c. canus*		1835	2016	0
		Russian Common Gull §		*Larus c. heinei*	1	1984	1984	32
178		RING-BILLED GULL		*Larus delawarensis*	30	1979	2012	4
179	A	GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL		*Larus marinus*		1838	2016	0
180	A	GLAUCOUS GULL		*Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus*		1885	2016	0
181	A	ICELAND GULL		*Larus glaucoides*		1887	2015	1
		Iceland Gull		*Larus g. glaucoides*	153	1887	2016	0
		Thayer's Gull		*Larus g. thayeri*	1	2010	2010	6
182	R	HERRING GULL	European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*		1730	2016	0

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		Scandinavian Herring Gull		*Larus a. argentatus*		~	2016	0
		West European Herring Gull		*Larus a. argenteus*		~	2016	0
183	A	CASPIAN GULL		*Larus cachinnans*		1995	2016	0
184	A	YELLOW-LEGGED GULL		*Larus michahellis michahellis*		1973	2016	0
185		SLATY-BACKED GULL §		*Larus schistisagus*	1	2011	2011	5
186	A	LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL		*Larus fuscus*		1838	2016	0
		Common Lesser Black-backed Gull		*Larus f. graelsii*		~	2016	0
		Intermediate Lesser Black-backed Gull		*Larus f. intermedius*		~	2016	0
187		GULL-BILLED TERN		*Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica*	6	1901	2003	13
188		CASPIAN TERN		*Hydroprogne caspia*	7	1959	2015	1
189	A	SANDWICH TERN		*Sterna sandvicensis*		1738	2016	0
190	A	LITTLE TERN		*Sternula albifrons*		1820	2016	0
		Little Tern		*Sternula a. albifrons*		1820	2016	0
		Least Tern §		*Sternula a. antillarum*	1	1991	1991	25
191		BRIDLED TERN		*Onychoprion anaethetus**	2	1991	2006	10
192	R	ROSEATE TERN		*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	47	1973	2016	0
193	A	COMMON TERN		*Sterna hirundo hirundo*		1821	2016	0
194	A	ARCTIC TERN		*Sterna paradisaea*		1867	2016	0
195		FORSTER'S TERN		*Sterna forsteri*	2	1999	2016	0
196		WHISKERED TERN		*Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*	5	1967	2009	7
197		WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN	White-winged Tern	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	66	1912	2016	0
198		BLACK TERN		*Chlidonias niger niger*		1829	2016	0
199	A	GREAT SKUA		*Stercorarius skua*		1820	2016	0
200		POMARINE SKUA	Pomarine Jaeger	*Stercorarius pomarinus*		1828	2016	0
201	R	ARCTIC SKUA	Parasitic Jaeger	*Stercorarius parasiticus*		1837	2016	0
202		LONG-TAILED SKUA	Long-tailed Jaeger	*Stercorarius longicaudus*	193	1842	2016	0
203		LITTLE AUK		*Alle alle alle*		1832	2016	0
204	A	COMMON GUILLEMOT	Common Murre	*Uria aalge*		1861	2016	0
		Scandinavian Guillemot		*Uria a. aalge*		~	2016	0
		West European Guillemot		*Uria a. albionis*		~	2016	0
205	A	RAZORBILL		*Alca torda islandica*		1840	2016	0
206	A	BLACK GUILLEMOT		*Cepphus grille arcticus*	10	1869	1995	21
207	R	PUFFIN	Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	122	1842	2016	0

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208		PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE		*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*	90	1863	1908	108
209		ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON		*Columba livia livia*		1886	2016	0
210	A	STOCK DOVE		*Columba oenas oenas*		1838	2016	0
211		WOODPIGEON	Common Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus palumbus*		1843	2016	0
212	R	TURTLE DOVE	European Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur turtur*		1818	2016	0
213		COLLARED DOVE	Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*		1957	2016	0
214	R	CUCKOO	Common Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus canorus*		1818	2016	0
215		BARN OWL	Western Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*		~	2016	0
		Barn Owl		*Tyto a. alba*		1738	2016	0
		Dark-breasted Barn Owl		*Tyto a. guttata*	10	1843	2002	14
216		SCOPS OWL		*Otus scops scops*	3	1821	1888	128
217		SNOWY OWL		*Bubo scandiacus*	1	1963	1963	53
218	A	TAWNY OWL		*Strix aluco sylvatica*		1832	2016	0
219		LITTLE OWL		*Athene noctua viladii*		1865	2016	0
220		TENGMALM'S OWL	Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus funereus*	1	1877	1877	139
221		LONG-EARED OWL		*Asio otus otus*		1829	2016	0
222	A	SHORT-EARED OWL		*Asio flammeus flammeus*		1587	2016	0
223	A	NIGHTJAR	European Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus*		1738	2015	1
224		WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL §		*Hirundapus caudacutus caudacutus*	1	1846	1846	170
225		ALPINE SWIFT		*Tachymarptis melba melba*	24	1871	2012	4
226	A	SWIFT	Common Swift	*Apus apus apus*		1818	2016	0
227		PALLID SWIFT		*Apus pallidus**	1	2001	2001	15
228		ROLLER	European Roller	*Coracias garrulus garrulus*	4	1865	1976	40
229	A	KINGFISHER	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis ispida*		1838	2016	0
230		BEE-EATER	European Bee-eater	*Merops apiaster*	58	1854	2016	0
231		HOOPOE	Eurasian Hoopoe	*Upopa epops epops*	222	1667	2016	0
232		WRYNECK	Eurasian Wryneck	*Jynx torquilla torquilla*		1818	2016	0
233	R	LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER		*Dendrocopos minor comminutus*		1830	2016	0
234		GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER		*Dendrocopos major anglicus*		1832	2016	0

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235		GREEN WOODPECKER	European Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis viridis*		1838	2016	0
236		LESSER KESTREL		*Falco naumanni*	1	1974	1974	42
237		KESTREL	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*		1890	2016	0
238		RED-FOOTED FALCON		*Falco vespertinus*	33	1873	2016	0
239		ELEONORA'S FALCON		*Falco eleonorae*	1	2008	2008	8
240		MERLIN		*Falco columbarius aesalon*		1829	2016	0
241		HOBBY	Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo subbuteo*		1818	2016	0
242		PEREGRINE	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus peregrinus*		1823	2016	0
243		RING-NECKED PARAKEET	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*		1971	2016	0
		Asian Ring-necked Parakeet		*Psittacula k. borealis*		~	2016	0
		Indian Ring-necked Parakeet		*Psittacula k. manillensis*		~	2016	0
244		RED-BACKED SHRIKE		*Lanius collurio*		1818	2015	1
245		ISABELLINE SHRIKE		*Lanius isabellinus*	2	1988	2016	0
246		LESSER GREY SHRIKE		*Lanius minor*	3	1989	2008	8
247		GREAT GREY SHRIKE		*Lanius excubitor excubitor*		1827	2016	0
248		STEPPE GREY SHRIKE		*Lanius pallidirostris*	2	1994	1996	20
249		WOODCHAT SHRIKE		*Lanius senator senator*	23	1872	2016	0
250		GOLDEN ORIOLE	Eurasian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus oriolus*		1830	2016	0
251		JAY	Eurasian Jay	*Garrulus glandarius rufitergum*		1878	2016	0
252		MAGPIE	Eurasian Magpie	*Pica pica pica*		1838	2016	0
253		NUTCRACKER	Spotted Nutcracker	*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorynchos*	26	1855	1968	48
254		CHOUGH	Red-billed Chough	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	2	1888	1888	128
255		JACKDAW	Western Jackdaw	*Corvus monedula*		1857	2016	0
		Jackdaw		*Corvus m. monedula*		1857	2016	0
		Nordic Jackdaw		*Corvus m. spermologus*	6	2006	2014	2
256		ROOK		*Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*		1838	2016	0
257		CARRION CROW		*Corvus corone corone*		1835	2016	0
258		HOODED CROW		*Corvus cornix cornix*		1835	2016	0
259		RAVEN	Northern Raven	*Corvus corax corax*		c991	2016	0

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260		WAXWING	Bohemian Waxwing	*Bombycilla garrulus garrulus*		1835	2016	0
261		COAL TIT		*Periparus ater*		1890	2016	0
		Coal Tit		*Periparus a. britannicus*		1890	2016	0
		Continental Coal Tit		*Periparus a. ater*	?	1952	2016	0
262		CRESTED TIT	European Crested Tit	*Lophophanes cristatus**	4	1829	1844	172
263	R	MARSH TIT		*Poecile palustris dresseri*		1890	2016	0
264	R	WILLOW TIT		*Poecile montanus kleinschmidti*		1912	2005	11
265		BLUE TIT	Eurasian Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus obscurus*		1884	2016	0
266		GREAT TIT		*Parus major*		1890	2016	0
		British Great Tit		*Parus m. newtoni*		~	2016	0
		Eurasian Great Tit		*Parus m. major*		~	2016	0
267		PENDULINE TIT	Eurasian Penduline Tit	*Remiz pendulinus pendulinus*	16	1982	2016	0
268		BEARDED TIT	Bearded Reedling	*Panurus biarmicus biarmicus*		1738	2016	0
269		WOODLARK		*Lullula arborea arborea*		1832	2016	0
270	R E	SKYLARK	Eurasian Skylark	*Alauda arvensis arvensis*		1865	2016	0
271	A	SHORE LARK	Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris flava*		1862	2016	0
272		SHORT-TOED LARK	Greater Short-toed Lark	*Calandrella brachydactyla**	3	1965	1999	17
273		SAND MARTIN		*Riparia riparia riparia*		1818	2016	0
274		SWALLOW	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica rustica*		1818	2016	0
275	A	HOUSE MARTIN	Common House Martin	*Delichon urbicum urbicum*		1818	2016	0
276		RED-RUMPED SWALLOW		*Cecropis daurica rufula*	24	1969	2015	1
277		CETTI'S WARBLER		*Cettia cetti cetti*		1976	2016	0
278		LONG-TAILED TIT		*Aegithalos caudatus*		1854	2016	0
		British Long-tailed Tit		*Aegithalos c. rosaceus*		1854	2016	0
		Northern Long-tailed Tit		*Aegithalos c. caudatus*	6	1912	2004	12
279	R	WOOD WARBLER		*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*		1821	2016	0
280		BONELLI'S WARBLER sp.		*Phylloscopus bonelli/ orientalis*	1	1988	1988	28
281		HUME'S WARBLER	Hume's Leaf Warbler	*Phylloscopus humei humei*	1	2004	2004	12
		YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER		*Phylloscopus inornatus*		1957	2016	0
		PALLAS'S WARBLER	Pallas' Leaf Warbler	*Phylloscopus proregulus*	53	1960	2016	0
		RADDE'S WARBLER		*Phylloscopus schwarzi*	3	2000	2008	8

	Cons. status	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016			
	R A E				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
		DUSKY WARBLER		*Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*	7	1987	2016	0
286		WILLOW WARBLER		*Phylloscopus trochilus*		1818	2016	0
		European Willow Warbler		*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*		~	2016	0
		Eurasian Willow Warbler		*Phylloscopus t. acredula*		~	2016	0
287		CHIFFCHAFF	Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*		1818	2016	0
		Common Chiffchaff		*Phylloscopus c. collybita*		1818	2016	0
		Siberian Chiffchaff		*Phylloscopus c. tristis*	28	1987	2016	0
288		GREENISH WARBLER		*Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*	3	1983	2016	0
289		ARCTIC WARBLER		*Phylloscopus borealis*	1	2004	2004	12
290		GREAT REED WARBLER		*Acrocephalus arundinaceus arundinaceus*	3	1965	2004	12
291		AQUATIC WARBLER		*Acrocephalus paludicola*	9	1957	2008	8
292		SEDGE WARBLER		*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*		1818	2016	0
293		PADDYFIELD WARBLER		*Acrocephalus agricola**	2	1987	1999	17
294		BLYTH'S REED WARBLER		*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	3	2003	2014	2
295		REED WARBLER	Eurasian Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus scirpaceus*		1819	2016	0
296		MARSH WARBLER		*Acrocephalus palustris*	34	1983	2014	2
297		BOOTED WARBLER		*Iduna caligata*	1	2006	2006	10
298		MELODIOUS WARBLER		*Hippolais polyglotta*	10	1961	2012	4
299		ICTERINE WARBLER		*Hippolais icterina*	26	1962	2009	7
300		GRASSHOPPER WARBLER		*Locustella naevia naevia*		1819	2016	0
301		SAVI'S WARBLER		*Locustella luscinioides luscinioides*	5	1981	2011	5
302		BLACKCAP		*Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*		1818	2016	0
303		GARDEN WARBLER		*Sylvia borin borin*		1819	2016	0
304		BARRED WARBLER		*Sylvia nisoria nisoria*	59	1961	2016	0
305		LESSER WHITETHROAT		*Sylvia curruca curruca*		1819	2016	0
306		ASIAN DESERT WARBLER		*Sylvia nana*	1	1975	1975	41
307		WHITETHROAT		*Sylvia communis communis*		1818	2016	0
308		DARTFORD WARBLER		*Sylvia undata dartfordiensis*	105	1837	2016	0
309		SUBALPINE or MOLTONI'S WARBLER		*Sylvia cantillans/ subalpina*	12	1971	2016	0

	Cons. status R A E	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016 Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
310		FIRECREST	Common Firecrest	*Regulus ignicapilla ignicapilla*		1878	2016	0
311		GOLDCREST		*Regulus regulus regulus*		1738	2016	0
312		WREN	Eurasian Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus*		1874	2016	0
313		NUTHATCH	Eurasian Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea caesia*		1838	2016	0
314		TREECREEPER	Eurasian Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris britannica*		1835	2016	0
315		SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER		*Certhia brachydactyla**	2	1975	2006	10
316		NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD		*Mimus polyglottos**	1	1988	1988	28
317		ROSE-COLOURED STARLING	Rosy Starling	*Pastor roseus*	18	1856	2015	1
318	R	STARLING	Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*		1832	2016	0
319		WHITE'S THRUSH		*Zoothera aurea aurea*	1	1894	1894	122
320	R	RING OUZEL		*Turdus torquatus torquatus*		1831	2016	0
321		BLACKBIRD	Common Blackbird	*Turdus merula merula*		1735	2016	0
322		RED-THROATED THRUSH §		*Turdus ruficollis*	1	1994	1994	22
323		NAUMANN'S THRUSH §		*Turdus naumanni*	2	1990	1997	19
324	R	FIELDFARE		*Turdus pilaris*		1834	2016	0
325	R	REDWING		*Turdus iliacus iliacus*		1831	2016	0
326	R E	SONG THRUSH		*Turdus philomelos*		1676	2016	0
		West European Song Thrush		*Turdus p. clarkei*		~	2016	0
		Continental Song Thrush		*Turdus p. philomelos*		~	2016	0
327	R	MISTLE THRUSH		*Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*		1890	2016	0
328	R	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER		*Muscicapa striata striata*		1818	2016	0
329		ROBIN	European Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*		1838	2016	0
		British Robin		*Erithacus r. melophilus*		~	2016	0
		European Robin		*Erithacus r. rubecula*		~	2016	0
330		BLUETHROAT		*Luscinia svecica*	49	1936	2013	3
		Red-spotted Bluethroat		*Luscinia s. svecica*	6	1957	2002	14
		White-spotted Bluethroat		*Luscinia s. cyanecula*	14	1958	2013	3
331	R	NIGHTINGALE	Common Nightingale	*Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos*		1768	2016	0
332	R	PIED FLYCATCHER	European Pied Flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca*		1822	2016	0
333		COLLARED FLYCATCHER		*Ficedula albicollis*	1	1979	1979	37

	Cons. status	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016			
	R A E				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
334		RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER		*Ficedula parva*	31	1959	2007	9
335	R	BLACK REDSTART		*Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*		1879	2016	0
336	A	REDSTART	Common Redstart	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*		1818	2016	0
337	R	WHINCHAT		*Saxicola rubetra*		1819	2016	0
338		STONECHAT	European Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola hibernans*		1831	2016	0
339		SIBERIAN STONECHAT		*Saxicola maurus**	4	1984	2012	4
340		WHEATEAR	Northern Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*		1819	2016	0
		Northern Wheatear		*Oenanthe o. oenanthe*		1819	2016	0
		Greenland Wheater		*Oenanthe o. leucorrhoa*		1952	2016	0
341		DESERT WHEATEAR		*Oenanthe deserti**	3	1958	2012	4
342		BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR		*Oenanthe hispanica**	2	1989	1997	19
343	A	DIPPER	White-throated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	15	1830	2013	3
		Black-bellied Dipper		*Cinclus c. cinclus*	3	1950	2013	3
344	R	HOUSE SPARROW		*Passer domesticus domesticus*		1808	2016	0
345	R	TREE SPARROW	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus montanus*		1833	2016	0
346		ALPINE ACCENTOR §		*Prunella collaris collaris*	1	1817	1817	199
347	A	DUNNOCK		*Prunella modularis modularis*		1890	2016	0
348	R	YELLOW WAGTAIL	Western Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*		1820	2016	0
		Yellow Wagtail		*Motacilla f. flavissima*		1820	2016	0
		Blue-headed Wagtail §		*Motacilla f. flava*		1834	2016	0
		Grey-headed Wagtail		*Motacilla f. thunbergi*	17	1954	2012	4
		Channel Wagtail hybrid		*Motacilla f. flava x flavissima*		1999	2016	0
349		CITRINE WAGTAIL		*Motacilla citreola citreola*	3	1976	2006	10
350	R	GREY WAGTAIL		*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*		1831	2016	0
351		PIED WAGTAIL	White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*		1876	2016	0
		Pied Wagtail		*Motacilla a. yarrellii*		1876	2016	0
		White Wagtail		*Motacilla a. alba*		1836	2016	0
352		RICHARD'S PIPIT		*Anthus richardi*	30	1968	2016	0
353		TAWNY PIPIT		*Anthus campestris*	16	1951	2012	4
354	A	MEADOW PIPIT		*Anthus pratensis*		1838	2016	0

	Cons. status R A E	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016 Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
355	R	TREE PIPIT		*Anthus trivialis trivialis*		1818	2016	0
356		OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT		*Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*	4	1992	2013	3
357		RED-THROATED PIPIT		*Anthus cervinus*	5	1982	1994	22
358	A	WATER PIPIT		*Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*		1923	2016	0
359		ROCK PIPIT	Eurasian Rock Pipit	*Anthus petrosus littoralis*		1835	2016	0
360		CHAFFINCH	Common Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*		1732	2016	0
		British Chaffinch		*Fringilla c. coelebs*		~	2016	0
		European Chaffinch		*Fringilla c. gengleri*		~	2016	0
361		BRAMBLING		*Fringilla montifringilla*		1835	2016	0
362	R	HAWFINCH		*Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*		1600s	2016	0
363	A	BULLFINCH	Eurasian Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*		1838	2016	0
		Bullfinch		*Pyrrhula p. pileata*		1838	2016	0
		Northern Bullfinch		*Pyrrhula p. pyrrhula*	40	2004	2005	11
364		TRUMPETER FINCH		*Bucanetes githagineus**	1	1985	1985	31
365		COMMON ROSEFINCH		*Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus*	18	1981	2016	0
366		GREENFINCH	European Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris chloris*		1871	2016	0
367	R	TWITE		*Linaria flavirostris*		1820	2016	0
		British Twite		*Linaria f. flavirostris*		~	2016	0
		Scandinavian Twite		*Linaria f. pipilans*		~	2016	0
368	R	LINNET	Common Linnet	*Linaria cannabina cannabina*		1832	2016	0
369	A	COMMON REDPOLL		*Acanthis flammea flammea*		1835	2016	0
370	R	LESSER REDPOLL		*Acanthis cabaret*		c1805	2016	0
371		ARCTIC REDPOLL		*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*	11	1976	2008	8
372	A	PARROT CROSSBILL		*Loxia pytyopsittacus*	7	1861	2013	3
373		CROSSBILL	Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra curvirostra*		1826	2016	0
374		TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL		*Loxia leucoptera bifasciata*	2	1846	1866	150
375		GOLDFINCH	European Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis britannica*		1838	2016	0
376		SERIN	European Serin	*Serinus serinus*	30	1976	2016	0
377		SISKIN	Eurasian Siskin	*Spinus spinus*		1838	2016	0
378	A	LAPLAND BUNTING	Lapland Longspur	*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*		1872	2016	0

	Cons. status R A E	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	Latin Name	Essex Records to 2016 Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
379		SNOW BUNTING		*Plectrophenax nivalis insulae*		1830	2016	0
380		CORN BUNTING		*Emberiza calandra calandra*		1838	2016	0
381		YELLOWHAMMER		*Emberiza citrinella caliginosa*		1877	2016	0
382		PINE BUNTING		*Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos*	1	1992	1992	24
383		ORTOLAN BUNTING		*Emberiza hortulana*	29	1908	2016	0
384		CIRL BUNTING		*Emberiza cirlus*	18	1854	1978	38
385		LITTLE BUNTING		*Emberiza pusilla*	6	1892	1995	21
386		RUSTIC BUNTING		*Emberiza rustica*	1	1966	1966	50
387		YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING		*Emberiza aureola aureola*	1	2002	2002	14
388		BLACK-HEADED BUNTING		*Emberiza melanocephala*	3	1979	1998	18
389		REED BUNTING	Common Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*		1890	2016	0
390		DARK-EYED JUNCO		*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*	1	2016	2016	0
391		BALTIMORE ORIOLE		*Icterus galbula*	1	1992	1992	24
392		ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK		*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	1	1975	1975	41

Category D Species (not part of the Essex List)

All Essex records have been included here whether the report clearly involved an escape or may have been a wild bird.

SNOW GOOSE	*Anser caerulescens*	57+	1911	2016	0
ROSS'S GOOSE	*Anser rossii*	9	1996	2015	1
RUDDY SHELDUCK	*Tadorna ferruginea*	125	1885	2016	0
WOOD DUCK	*Aix sponsa*	69	1960	2016	0
FALCATED DUCK	*Mareca falcata*	3	1994	2006	10
MARBLED DUCK	*Marmaronetta angustirostris*	2	2006	2007	9
WHITE-HEADED DUCK	*Oxyura leucocephala*	3	1995	2003	13
GREATER FLAMINGO	*Phoenicopterus roseus*	8	1963	2011	5
GREAT WHITE PELICAN	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*	4	1975	2000	16
SAKER	*Falco cherrug*	12	1984	2014	2
RED-HEADED BUNTING	*Emberiza bruniceps*	5	1958	2002	14

Category E Species (not part of the Essex List)

Based on the chapter "Appendix 2 Catergory E species" in Wood (2007) and updated to 2016 and includes species for which introductions were attempted in 19th Century.

Modern recording of escapes only began in the mid-1980s so this list is likely to be incomplete.

Some species in this list may also occur in the main Essex List e.g. Common Buzzard, of which examples with jesses have been noted.

Greater Rhea
Red-winged Tinamou
Magpie Goose
White-faced Whistling Duck
Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Fulvous-whistling Duck
White-backed Duck
Red-breasted Goose
Nene
Cackling Goose
Bar-headed Goose
Emperor Goose
Swan Goose
Lesser White-fronted Goose
Black Swan
Black-necked Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Ruddy-headed Goose
South African Shelduck
Australian Shelduck
Pink-eared Duck
Muscovy Duck
Maned Duck
Ringed Teal
Hottentot Teal
Puna Teal
Silver Teal
Red Shoveler
Cinnamon Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Australian Shoveler
Chiloe Wigeon
Cape Teal
White-cheeked Pintail
Red-billed Teal
Yellow-billed Teal
Chestnut Teal
Brown Teal
Rosy-billed Pochard
New Zealand Scaup
Barrow's Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Helmeted Guineafowl
Northern Bobwhite
Red Grouse
Chukar Partridge
Japanese Quail
Silver Pheasant
Swinhoe's Pheasant
Reeves' Pheasant
Golden Pheasant
Indian Peafowl
Chilean Flamingo
Marabou Stork
African Sacred Ibis
American White Ibis
African Spoonbill
Dalmatian Pelican
American Black Vulture
Booted Eagle
Harris' Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Common Buzzard
Black Kite
Purple Swamphen
Crowned Crane sp.
Sarus Crane
Demoiselle Crane
Spur-winged Plover
Masked Lapwing
Silver Gull
African Collared Dove
Red Turtle Dove
Laughing Dove
Diamond Dove
White-cheeked Turaco
Eurasian Eagle Owl
Rock Eagle Owl
Cockatiel
Galah
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Grey Parrot
Senegal Parrot
Monk Parakeet
White-fronted Parakeet
Turquoise-fronted Amazon
Burrowing Parrot
Nanday Parakeet
Scarlet-fronted Parakeet
Mitred Parakeet
Blossom-headed Parakeet
Alexandrine Parakeet
Red-rumped Parrot
Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella
Red-flanked Lorikeet
Budgerigar
Red-headed Lovebird
Rosy-faced Lovebird
Fischer's Lovebird
Masked Lovebird
Crested Caracara
Lanner Falcon
Blue Magpie sp.
RufousTreepie
Mongolian Lark
Red-whiskered Bulbul
Red-vented Bulbul
Spotted Laughingthrush
Red-tailed Laughingthrush
Silver-eared Mesia
Red-billed Leiothrix
Rufous Sibia
Vinous-throated Parrotbill
Hill Mynah sp.
Common Mynah
Chestnut-tailed Starling
Greater Blue-eared Starling
Red-chested Sunbird
Sudan Golden Sparrow
Masked Weaver sp.
Village Weaver
Black-headed Weaver
Red-billed Quelea
Yellow-crowned Bishop
Red Bishop sp.
Zanzibar Red Bishop
Black-winged Red Bishop
Northern Red Bishop
Jackson's Widowbird
Cut-throat Finch
Orange-cheeked Waxbill
Black-rumped Waxbill
Common Waxbill
Orange-breasted Waxbill
Zebra Finch
White-rumped Munia
White-capped Munia
Pin-tailed Whydah
Shaft-tailed Whydah
Chinese Grosbeak
Japanese Grosbeak
Pine Grosbeak
Yellow-fronted Canary
Atlantic Canary
Indigo Bunting

In addition, many varied hybrids mainly, but not exclusively, ducks have been recorded.

Essex Birdwatching Society

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2016

Receipts	£
Subscriptions received	9,615
C.A.F	20
Donations	1,965
Gift Aid/Net Covenants received	0
Sales of Essex Bird Reports	245
Sales of Essex Birding	20
Book sales	14
Essex Field Club fees	8,720
Sales of Birds of Essex	176
Migration conference	520
Victuals	153
Raffles	277
Field Meetings	3,626
Advertising	125
DVD Sales	60
Calendars	224
G W Johnson fee	30
Sales of Essex Breeding Atlas	7
Car Stickers	5
Mugs	55
Swinton Insurance	76
Bank interest	21
	£25,953

Payments	£
Postage and incidentals	
Officers' expenses	89
	89
Lectures	
Fees and films	936
Hire of rooms	450
	1,386
Publications	
Essex Birds	
No. 127	2,,728
No. 128	2969
Essex Bird Report	
2013	4,999
	10,696
Other expenses	
Fixture cards	118
Field trips	3,345
Migration Conference	1,510
Victuals	49
Bradwell Bird Obs - Tea	34
Bradwell Bird Obs - Bird Seed	1,376
Bradwell Bird Obs - Calor Gas	116
Bradwell Bird Obs - Rates	174
Bradwell Bird Obs - Roofing repairs	432
Bradwell Bird Obs - Elsan fluid	16
Donations	3,250
Mugs	120
Feather Flags	95
Insurance	568
Accountancy fees	385
Website	81
Photocopying	130
	11,800
Excess of income over expenditure	1,982
	£25,953

Essex Birdwatching Society

Cash Statement for the year ended 31st December 2016

1st January 2016	£	31st December 2016	£
Balance of Current Account brought forward	4,507	Balance of Current Account carried forward	6,187
Balance of Business Base Rate Tracker Investment Account brought forward	201	Balance of Business Base Rate Tracker Investment Account carried forward	201
Balance on Business Saver Account brought forward	38,576	Balance on Business Saver Account carried forward	39,096
Balance on Field Meetings Cash Float brought forward	60	Balance on Field Meetings Cash Float carried forward	60
Balance on Bradwell Bird Obs Account brought forward	1,223	Balance on Bradwell Bird Obs. Account carried forward	1,005
	44,567		
Excess of income over expenditure	1,982		
	£46,549		**£46,549**

Connah Goldsworthy
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Station Court
Station Approach
Wickford
Essex SS11 7AT

January 2017

Reservoir Permit Holders 2018/19

The Essex & Suffolk Water (E&SW), in conjunction with English Nature, has over recent years restricted access to Essex Birdwatching Society (EBwS) members at both Abberton and Hanningfield Reservoirs.

With regard to Abberton, no permits will be available until further notice following the completion of the major construction work to raise the water level to meet future customer demands and the subsequent sensitive nature of the activity to the environment and habitats of the Special Protection Area (SPA). Society members and the public are requested to strictly observe any signage regarding access restrictions at all times on any part of the site.

At Hanningfield, there are up to ten, non-transferable, permanent permit holders plus four "floating" day permits that are held at the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) Visitor Centre. EBwS members may book a "floating" permit in advance or borrow on the day, subject to availability. The Visitor Centre is open between 09.00 and 17.00 from February to October and 09.00 to 16.00 from November to January, seven days a week, except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Each permanent permit includes a guest permit that allows one other EBwS member to accompany the permanent permit holder in restricted areas, as long as the current ES&W Terms and Conditions are observed at all times by all parties.

The issuing of these permits by E&SW to the advised chosen EBwS members is considered a very special 'privilege' and they must be used to their full potential by active recipients for the regular recording and constant monitoring of the birds at the Hanningfield Reservoir site. This is the reason stipulated by the E&SW for the permits, which are monitored annually by the Society and E&SW.

The ten permits have been distributed at the discretion of the Executive Committee based on continued information and guidance received from the Recorders. All permits are reviewed and renewed on the basis that regular records have been submitted to the EBwS Recorder, unless there are 'special' mitigating circumstances.

- It is mandatory for the holders of all types of permit to:
- Note and observe the current E&SW Terms and Conditions
- Notify the Hanningfield Control Room (01245-400132) when you enter and leave the site
- Notify the EWT Visitor Centre of any bird sightings
- Send their bird sightings to the Society

The following held permanent, non-transferable permits for Hanningfield Reservoir in the year of this Report:

D. Acfield, G.R. Ekins, R. Flindall, N.C. Green, D.Jobbins, S. Satchell, S. Shippey, G. Snowden, W. Swift, J. Tayler, R. Widgery,

Special access conditions have been negotiated with E&SW and EWT if a rarity should be present on either Abberton or Hanningfield Reservoirs.

The ESSEX BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

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